



# Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

## Why in News

According to the Lok Sabha, [Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission \(SPMRM\)](#) has performed significantly well in the last four years.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- It is a [Centrally Sponsored Scheme \(CSS\)](#), launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to **deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas**, which also include development of economic activities and skill development.
  - A predecessor to SPMRM was the **Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), announced in 2003**.
- Main objective of the scheme is **bridging the rural-urban divide**-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.

### ▪ Background:

- According to the **2011 Census**, India has more than 6 lakh villages while there are around 7,000 towns and urban centres. Out of a total population **the rural population accounts for 69% and urban population 31%**.
  - About 70% of the population lives in rural areas and **about 50% of the overall labour force is still dependent on agriculture** that is not productive enough.
  - The [GDP \(Gross Domestic Product\)](#) contribution of **agriculture to the nation is only about 14%** while for **industries and services sector (employers of people living in urban areas), it is 26% and 60%** respectively.
- Large parts of rural areas in the country are not stand-alone settlements but part of a **cluster of settlements**, which are relatively proximate to each other. These clusters **typically illustrate potential for growth, have economic drivers and derive locational and competitive advantages**.
- These clusters, once developed, **can then be classified as 'Rurban'**. Hence taking cognizance of this, the Government of India, has launched the SPMRM, **aimed at developing such rural areas by provisioning of economic, social and physical infrastructure** facilities.

### ▪ Rurban Clusters (Non-Tribal and Tribal):

- They are identified **across the country's rural areas showing increasing signs of urbanization** - i.e. increase in population density, high levels of non-farm employment, presence of growing economic activities and other socioeconomic parameters.
- For the purposes of SPMRM, **Rurban areas refer to a cluster of 15-20 villages having about 30 to 40 lakh population**.
- The clusters will be **geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats** with a **population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain** and coastal areas and a population of **5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas**.

#### ▪ Role of states:

- The **State Government identifies the clusters** in accordance with the Framework for Implementation prepared by the MoRD.
- For the selection of clusters, the MoRD is adopting a scientific process of cluster selection **which involves an objective analysis at the district, sub district and village level**, of the demography, economy, tourism and pilgrimage significance and transportation corridor impact.

#### ▪ Progress:

- Out of 300 rural clusters, 291 Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPs) and 282 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been developed by States /UTs with a proposed investment of Rs. 27,788.44 (Critical Gap Fund + Convergence Fund).
- Out of total 76,973 projected works, a total of 40,751 **(55%) works are either completed or near completion.**

#### ▪ Significance:

- SPMRM growth clusters are playing a role in **reducing urban migration** by ensuring that basic infrastructure, utilities are provided and industrialization is promoted.
- It is very relevant for **ensuring transformational developments** as against transitional developments in India's rural development sector.

### Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas

#### ▪ About:

- PURA was **mooted by the former President Dr. Abdul Kalam in January 2003** as a way of empowering and accelerating rural development.
  - PURA 2.0 as a **central sector scheme** was launched in 2012 focussing on the **development of potential growth centres** such as census towns.
- It was launched in order to ensure Provision of livelihood opportunities and urban amenities in rural areas to bridge the rural - urban divide.

#### ▪ Mission:

- Holistic and accelerated development of compact areas around a potential growth centre in a Gram Panchayat (or a group of Gram Panchayats) through **Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework** for providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to improve the quality of life in rural areas.
- Amenities and economic activities provided under PURA include **Water and Sewerage**, Construction and maintenance of Village streets, Drainage, **Solid Waste Management**, **Skill Development**, village street lighting, **telecom**, **electricity generation**, village linked tourism, etc.

**[Source: PIB](#)**