



## Aspirational Blocks Programme

**For Prelims:** Aspirational Blocks Programme, Aspirational District Programme, SDG, NITI Aayog

**For Mains:** Government Policies and Interventions

### Why in News?

Recently, **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)** has been launched during the **2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Chief Secretaries** held from 5<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

### What is Aspirational Blocks Programme?

- It is a development initiative aimed at **improving the performance of areas that are lagging on various development parameters.**
- It was announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23.**
- It will **initially cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories, with over half of these blocks located in six states** – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- The ABP is based on the [Aspirational District Programme \(ADP\)](#).

### What is Aspirational District Programme?

- **About:**
  - It was launched in 2018 which aims to **transform districts** that have shown relatively **lesser progress in key social areas.**
  - Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that **are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.**
    - It covers 112 districts across the country.
  - At Government of India level, **programme is anchored by NITI Aayog.** In addition, individual Ministries have assumed responsibility to drive progress of districts.
- **Broad Contours of the Programme:**
  - **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes)
  - **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors),
  - Competition among districts through monthly [delta ranking.](#)
    - The delta ranking of the Aspirational Districts combines the **innovative use of data with pragmatic administration**, keeping the district at the locus of inclusive development.
- **Objectives:**
  - It focuses **on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement and measuring progress** by ranking districts on a monthly basis.
  - Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by **competing with, and learning from others** in the **spirit of competitive & cooperative**

### **federalism.**

- The Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all - **“Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas”**.
- The ADP is essentially aimed at **localizing [Sustainable Development Goals](#), leading to the progress of the nation.**

#### ▪ **Parameters for Ranking:**

- The ranking is based on the incremental progress made across 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under **5 broad socio-economic themes** -
  - **Health & Nutrition (30%)**
  - **Education (30%)**
  - **Agriculture & Water Resources (20%)**
  - **Financial Inclusion & Skill Development (10%)**
  - **Infrastructure (10%)**

#### ▪ **Various Programmes:**

- Various programmes such as - **Saksham Bitiyan Abhiyan**, [Anemia Mukta Bharat](#) and [Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum](#), are some of the flagship initiatives that have been taken up by **NITI Aayog** in this regard.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Years Question (PYQ)**

### **Q. Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the (2019)**

- (a)** Department of Science and Technology
- (b)** Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c)** NITI Aayog
- (d)** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Ans: (c)**

**Exp:**

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship based on a detailed study and deliberations on innovation and entrepreneurial needs of the country.
- AIM is envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between Central, State and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing the establishment and promotion of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels - higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, SME/MSME industry, corporate and NGO levels.
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

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

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/aspirational-blocks-programme>