

# District Planning for Tapping Developmental Potential

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Good Morning to you all

**At the outset, I earnestly thank the organization for giving me this privilege of inaugural speech.**

## I. Genesis

- ✚ Planning, as a mundane - part of human life, has been with us since primitive stages of civilization.
- ✚ As a highly developed, esoteric science, it can be traced to War communism and NEP in Soviet Russia since 1917.
- ✚ Planning by genetics goes to defence and urban society - regional economics.
- ✚ Planning - more particularly Economic Planning - in India goes back to 1935 - Planned Economy for India - by the highly reputed civil engineer and 1st Bharat Ratna - Dr. M. Vishweshwarayya. We had Bombay (Industrial plan) as also Gandhian plan (Agarwal). It was in 1937 that Pt. Nehru constituted National Planning Committee.
- ✚ All these exercises finally culminated in the establishment of Planning Commission of India, by a cabinet resolution in 1950 followed by a long period of national and state level planning till 2014, when Planning Commission was replaced by Neeti Ayog - shorn of its financial powers, with only academic guidance as mandate.

## II. Need

District planning is required to supplement national and state level planning. According to 1984 working group - it is "Area based sub-state planning". It is a creative response to higher level stimuli, with flexibility".

## III. District Planning is characterized by

- ✚ Regional affinities
- ✚ Sub-regional element
- ✚ Capability, authority and skills building up.

It is basically application of planning with objective, schemes and programmes focused on the geographic area of district - an administrative unit, historically and basically a homogeneous territory with a complex of natural and demographic resources.

## IV. Basic Objectives -

Fundamentally, District Planning should lead to

- a) Alleviation of Poverty
- b) Higher Productivity and
- c) Full employment in the respective area.

## V. Components -

District Planning has following main and sub-components

- A. Spatial (Area) component
- B. Economic component involving
  - ✚ resources (material)
  - ✚ Demography
  - ✚ Agro-economics
  - ✚ Socio Economics aspects
  - ✚ Infrastructure
  - ✚ Sectoral profile
  - ✚ ULG
- C. Administrative Component - Variously known as
  - ✚ District Panchayat Body
  - ✚ District Planning Committee
  - ✚ Zilla Parishad
  - ✚ Zilla Planning Board
  - ✚ District Development Council
  - ✚ District Planning & Development Council – Maharashtra
  - ✚ District Planning & Monitoring Committee

## VI. Evolution of District Planning In India:

- |         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1951-56 | Community Development Blocks   |
| 1956-61 | District Development Council   |
| 1957    | Balwantrai Mehta Committee- VP |

- |      |                                   |      |         |                             |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------------|
|      |                                   | - TP |         | ii) Hanumant Rao- DP Cell + |
|      |                                   | - DP |         | DPDC                        |
| 1967 | Administrative Reforms Commission |      | 1983-84 | District Credit Plan        |
|      | - 1967 (Sarkaria)                 |      | 1985    | G.V.K. Rao Committee -      |
|      | -Resource Transfers               |      |         | Zilla Parishad - supreme    |
| 1969 | Planning Commission Guide lines   |      |         | Urban bodies - Secondary    |
| 1978 | i) M.L. Dantwala - VP + BP + DP   |      |         |                             |

- |      |                                   |   |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1992 | 73, 74 CAA<br>constitutional base | Resource base - assured<br>status as Govt. unit<br>unfirmed |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|

**VII. Urbanization: Rate 2.28%**

- VIII. 20/29 States** Have adopted DP  
 6/7 Union Territories

**IX. DPDC - working**

- + Guardian Minister
- + Other local Ministers
- MLAs
- MLCs
- + District Officers
- + Local Experts
- + ULG – officers
- Representatives

It is a heterogeneous crowd

**X. Main Problems**

- + Land Use Planning very important
- + Infrastructure - Level - maintenance
- + NP - SP - DP - Co-ordination
- + Resources - mostly transferred CG SG LG
- + MIS - not fully evolved

**XI. ISRO - Bhuvan - Indian Geo Platform - 2 D, 3D Maps**

**XII.**

National Resources Data Management System (NRDMS)  
 National Spatial Data Infra-Structure (NSDI)  
 Survey of India - 1767  
 National Atlas and Thematic Mapping - NATMO  
 District Statistical Abstracts (D of E & S)  
**Gross root planning** - Pranning from Below.