



Developing clusters of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature.



Bridging the rural-urban divide, viz. economic, technological and those related to facilities and services; and stimulating local development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment.

NATIONAL RURBAN MISSION (NRuM)¹

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) or the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) launched in February 2016 aims to create 300 rural growth clusters across the country. In its first phase, 100 clusters will be taken up; thereafter more clusters will be identified based on the progress of the scheme.

RATIONALE

Large parts of rural areas in the country are not stand-alone settlements but part of a cluster of settlements that are relatively proximate to each other. These clusters typically illustrate potential for growth, have economic drivers and derive locational and competitive advantages, making a case for

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concerted policy directives. Such clusters, once developed, can be classified as Rurban to optimize their advantages from an economic view point as well as to avail benefits from the provision of infrastructure.

RURBAN CLUSTER

A cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of 25,000 – 50,000 in plains and coastal areas; and 5,000 – 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas within a single Block or Tehsil as far as practicable. Such clusters will be developed by provisioning of training linked to economic activities, developing local entrepreneurship and skills and by providing necessary infrastructure amenities.

DESIRABLE COMPONENTS

A Rurban Cluster would typically have skill development training linked to economic activities, agro-processing, agri-services, storage and warehousing, mobile health units, upgraded school/higher education facilities, sanitation, provision of piped water supply, solid and liquid waste management, village streets and drains, street lights, inter-village road connectivity, public transport, LPG connections, digital literacy and citizen service centres. Agriculture and allied activity components would be given special emphasis during development.

BUDGET OUTLAY

The Mission has a budget outlay of Rs.5,142.08 crores for the period 2015-16 to 2019-20 with a provision for a maximum of 30% of project capital cost (or Rs.30/15 crores whichever is less for plain/hilly areas respectively) as Critical Gap Funding (CGF) to supplement funds mobilized through convergence of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Sector Schemes and State Schemes.

INTEGRATED CLUSTER ACTION PLANS (ICAP)

ICAP is a key document covering baseline studies outlining the requirements of a cluster and the key interventions needed to address the needs and to leverage its potential. ICAP will be prepared by the state government in consultation with District Collectors/Zilla Parishads and Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure stakeholder participation. The action plan will enunciate the following:

- A strategy for the cluster, integrating the vision for each Gram Sabha identified within the cluster
- The desired outcomes for the cluster under the National Rurban Mission
- The resources to be converged under various Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored and State Schemes
- The Critical Gap Funding required for the cluster
- A detailed spatial plan for the entire cluster, delineating the cluster areas and comprising of well-planned layouts as per planning norms

DETAILED PROJECT REPORTS

These reports will identify components of each project for implementation and will contain details of design and costing of the project per extant norms.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

The National Rurban Mission will have institutional arrangements at the Centre, State, District and Cluster levels with a Nodal Agency and Technical Support Agencies positioned at the state level. Panchayati Raj Institutions will be consulted on activities to be undertaken and Gram Sabhas of all participating Gram Panchayats will adopt the Mission through resolutions. PRI Members will be involved at all states of the project cycle (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and also for maintenance of assets created during implementation. MPs and MLAs will be involved during key project events.

EMPOWERED COMMITTEES

Empowered Committees will be constituted at central, state and district levels, including an Expert Group at the central level comprising of eminent persons in the relevant sectors to provide recommendations and inputs for policy formulation. ICAPs submitted by states and CGF will be reviewed and approved by the Empowered Committee at the central level.

¹ National Rurban Mission, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India