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Journey of Development of Siddharthnagar District of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Siddharthnagar is one of the 75 districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Several important events related to the life of Gautam Buddha occur in this area. In Kapilavastu, Raj Prasad ruins of Buddhist Bihars built in the era of Buddha and the mortal remains of Shakya Muni have been found. The literature review brings into light the fact that almost every important socio-economic and basic amenities parameters are below the national average. For Eg- Health Conditions, Basic Infrastructure like Road, Railway, CIT, Electricity, Housing, and Hospitals etc.

Keywords: Socio-Economic, Basic Amenities, Parameters, Basic Infrastructure, CIT.

INTRODUCTION:

Siddharthnagar is one of the 75 districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is named after prince Siddhartha, the pre-enlightenment name of Lord Buddha, as he spent his early years (till the age of 29 years) in Kapilavastu, Siddharthnagar. The district is known for the ruins of the Shakya Janapada, at Piprahwa which is 22 km away from the district headquarters.

In the year 1897-98, W.C. Pepe during his archeological survey excavated the Piperhava Stupa. This survey was published in the 'Journal of Royal Asiatic Society' in the year 1898. Later in the year 1973-74, the excavation of this site was again done under the guidance of Prof. K. M. Shrivastav and he confirmed the existance of kapilvastu at Piprahwa. The development should be Inclusive and sustainable in nature.

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After the discovery of Kapilavastu, the Uttar Pradesh Government, on the basis of Notification No. -5-4 (4) / 76-135-00-5 (b) dated December 23, 1988 of section-5 dated 29th

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December 1988, Separating northern part of Basti district, cretaed a new district called “Siddharthnagar”.

OBJECTIVES:

Our objectives in this research paper are as under:

- i. To analyze the socio-economic development of Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh since its establishment.
- ii. To enquire in to the factors that positively or negatively affected the journey of development of the district.
- iii. To analyze the performance efficiency and impact of major government initiatives in the development of Siddharthnagar dstrict.

ANALYSIS:

The development should be Inclusive and sustainable in nature. Hence to inquire into the Journey of Development of the Siddharth Nagar District of Uttar Pradesh we started with the study of some important socio-economic parameters which are presented in the **Table- 1** and **Table- 2**.

Table- 1
Education in Siddharthnagar

Year	Literacy Rate (in percentage)		
	Male	Female	Total
2001	56.66	27.08	42.30
2011	70.92	47.41	59.25

Source: Uttar Pradesh District Factbook, Indiatat Publications.

Table- 2
Income in Siddharthnagar

Year	Per Capita Income- PCI (per year)
2011	18601.59
2020	39043

Source: Estimated on the basis of the data collected from Uttar Pradesh District Factbook, Indiatat Publications.

The scrutiny of the **Table- 1** and **Table- 2** reveals the conditions of elementary education and per capita income level in the Siddharthnagar district which are noticeably

lower than the national averages of literacy rate and PCI even after showing improvisation over the years.

Moreover the literature review brings into light the fact that almost every important socio-economic and basic amenities parameters are below the national average. For Eg- Health Conditions, Basic Infrastructure like Road, Railway, CIT, Electricity, Housing, and Hospitals etc. This backwardness in the district results in to low level of industrialization, employment and income generation activities.

Here comes the point that poverty is not created by god it is manmade and it is the responsibility of the policy makers to overcome the reasons and ensure a good life to all its citizens. Keeping in view this fact NITI Aayog started following the 'Bottom to Top Approach' of economic development in place of 'Top to Bottom Approach' which was earlier being followed by Planning Commission.

If we look into the government efforts for the development of the Siddharthnagar, we found two major programmes which directly and efficiently focused on the development of the district.

i.Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

ii.Aspirational District Programme- ADP. (Akankshi Janpad Yojna)

The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was launched on 19th February, 2006. It signifies a new approach to addressing persistent regional imbalances in development. The programme subsumes the Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana (RSVY), a scheme earlier being administered by the Planning Commission. The BRGF Programme covers 250 districts in 27 States.

In 2006, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Siddharthnagar as one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the 34 districts in Uttar Pradesh currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). The list of districts in Uttar Pradesh currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is given in the **Table- 3**.

Table- 3

Districts in Uttar Pradesh Receiving Funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF)

1	Ambedkar Nagar	2	Azamgarh
3	Bahraich	4	Balrampur
5	Banda	6	Barabanki
7	Basti	8	Badaun
9	Chandauli	10	Chitrakoot
11	Etah	12	Farrukhabad
13	Fatehpur	14	Gonda
15	Gorakhpur	16	Hamirpur
17	Hardoi	18	Jalaun
19	Jaunpur	20	Kaushambi
21	Kheri	22	Kushi Nagar
23	Lalitpur	24	Maharajganj
25	Mahoba	26	Mirzapur
27	Pratapgarh	28	Rae Bareli
29	Sant Kabeer Nagar	30	Shravasti
31	Siddharth Nagar	32	Sitapur
33	Sonbhadra	34	Unnao
35	Kanshiram Nagar		

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=113113>

Further the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) 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 and ADP focuses on the commitment of the government to raise the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all – “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas”. 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 ADP is essentially aimed at localizing Sustainable Development Goals, leading to the progress of the nation. The ranking is based on the incremental progress made across 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under some broad socio-economic themes stated in the **Table- 4**.

Table- 4
Socio-economic Themes under ADP

S.N.	Broad Socio Economic Themes
1.	Health and Nutrition
2.	Education
3.	Agriculture and Water Resources
4.	Financial Inclusion
5.	Skill Development
6.	Basic Infrastructure

Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/aspirational-districts-programme>

Table- 5 presents an overview of the performance of Siddharthnagar district under ADP since the inception of the programme. The year-wise improvement of the district along with its Composit Score and Delta ranking in terms of socio-economic parameters represented in **Table- 4** are illustrated in below:

Table-5
Performance of Siddharthnagar District under ADP

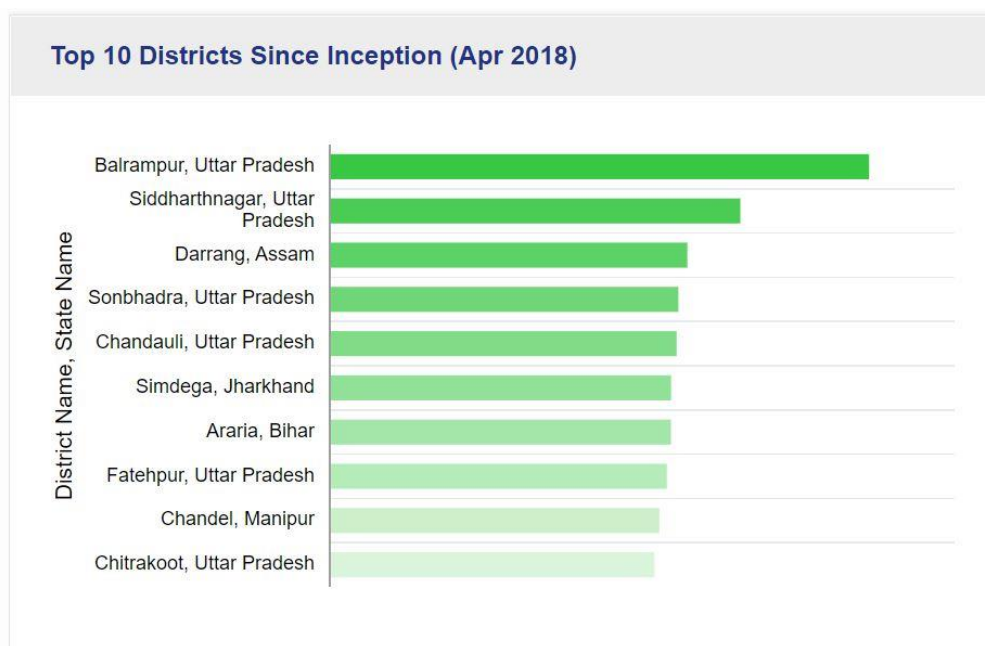
Year	Improvement	Composit Score	Delta Rank
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2018	NA	60	32
2019	35.93	50.3	77
2020	39.47	54.8	38
2021	43.35	55.2	12
2022	46.01	53.2	16

Source: Estimated on the basis of the data published in Annual Report (various years), NITI Aayog.

Moreover this noticeable performance of the Siddharthnagar district is evident with the fact that it is one of the Top 10 best performing districts out of the 120 total districts of the country under ADP. It is evident from the **Figure- 1**.

Figure- 1
Top 10 Districts under ADP



Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/aspirational-districts-programme>

CONCLUSION AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the analysis done in this paper the important findings and policy suggestions are as under:

- Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh is one of the backward districts of the Country and it needs attention on selected parameters of development.
- The Performance of the Siddharthnagar district under major Govt. schemes (BRGF and ADP) has been found satisfactory.
- Even after concrete performance under BRGF and ADP the Siddharthnagar district is still performing below the national average with respect to the parameters stated in the study.
- To overcome the backwardness of the district of Siddharthnagar it is necessary to overcome various socio-economic constraints stated in this paper by implementing suitable policies.

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