



PURA Initiative

Why in News

The Pune Rural Administration has been able to implement the **Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) initiative** amid [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

Key Points

- PURA was **mooted by the former President Dr. Abdul Kalam in January 2003** as a way of empowering and accelerating rural development.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** implemented the PURA scheme on a pilot basis in seven clusters for a period of three years (2004- 05 to 2006-07).
- **PURA 2.0 as a [central sector scheme](#) was launched in 2012** focussing on the development of potential growth centres such as **census towns**.
- **Objective:** 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.
- In **2014-15**, the government made **no allocation to the PURA scheme** and instead **introduced the [Rurban Mission](#)** with an initial allocation of **Rs. 100 crore**.
 - The aim of the Rurban Mission is to **create 300 rural growth clusters** across the country.

Source: [TH](#)

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