7 UP cities make it to Niti Aayog's list of top 10 aspirational districts

LUCKNOW: At least seven districts of Uttar Pradesh have made it to the list of top 10 best performing aspirational districts in the 'delta rankings' released by NITI Aayog for August 2021.

These districts include Siddharthnagar, Bahraich, Sonbhadra, Shravasti, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot and Chandauli.

"There are 112 districts from across the country which are part of NITI Aayog's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' Programme and are assessed on the basis of progress made across 49 key performance indicators under five broad socio-economic themes like health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and infrastructure," a government official said.

The districts are monitored on a real-time basis through a dashboard maintained by Niti Aayog.

"The delta ranking signifies the efforts undertaken by the state government and the respective district magistrates to improve the condition of underdeveloped districts. Fatehpur, working on the standards set by the NITI Aayog, has achieved second spot in the field of development in the country. It was followed by Siddharthnagar (third), Sonbhadra (fourth), Chitrakoot (fifth), Bahraich (seventh), Shravasti (eighth) and Chandauli (ninth)," the government spokesperson said.

He added that among these eight districts, Chitrakoot and Bahraich excelled as per NITI Aayog's standards. As a result, NITI Aayog has allocated an additional budget for development works in these districts. "In overall delta rankings, Chitrakoot has secured fifth position in the country on parameters like education, health and nutrition," he said.

The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018 as part of the government's efforts to raise the living standards of citizens and ensure inclusive growth for all, the spokesperson said, adding that the programme aims at development of backward districts in the country.