

## Trend and Pattern of Urbanisation in India

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### Abstract

Urbanization or Urban Drift is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of global change.. It is a long term process.

At the moment, India is among the countries of low level of urbanization. Number of urban agglomeration/town has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 5161 in 2001. Number of population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 28.53 crores in 2001. Only 28% of population was living in urban areas as per 2001 census. Over the years there has been continuous concentration of population in class I towns.

On the contrary the concentration of population in medium and small towns either fluctuated or declined. The graduation of number of urban centers from lower population size categories to class I cities has resulted top heavy structure of urban population in India. India's urbanization is often termed as over urbanization, pseudo- urbanization. The big cities attained inordinately large population size leading to virtual collapse in the urban services and followed by basic problems in the field of housing, slum, water, infrastructure, quality of life etc. Urbanization is a product of demographic explosion and poverty induced rural-urban migration. Urbanization is occurring not due to urban pull but due to rural push. Globalization, liberalization, privatization are addressing negative process for urbanization in India.

### Introduction

Urbanization is defined by the United Nations as movement of people from rural to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration. India and her neighbors are going through a tortuous process of urbanization - slow, messy and partly hidden. This is seen in severe problems of livability and congestion, making cities unattractive for rural migrants. As a result, whatever benefits urban agglomerations could have offered in terms of economic advance are getting diluted.. The World Bank argues in this report that "urbanization leads to concentration of economic activity, improves productivity and spurs job creation, specifically in manufacturing and services." This has the "potential to transform ... economies to join the ranks of richer nations in both prosperity and livability," it says.

Quantification of urbanization is very difficult. It is a long term process. Kingsley Davis has explained urbanization as process (Davis, 1962) of switch from spread out pattern of human settlements to one of concentration in urban centers. It is a finite process--- a cycle through which a nation pass as they evolve from agrarian to industrial society (Davis and Golden, 1954). He has mentioned three stages in the process of urbanization. Stage one is the initial stage characterized by rural traditional society with predominance in agriculture and dispersed pattern of settlements. Stage two refers to acceleration stage where basic restructuring of the economy and investments in social overhead capitals including transportation, communication take place. Proportion of urban population gradually increases from 25% to 40%, 50%, 60% and so on. Dependence on primary sector gradually dwindles. Third stage is known as terminal stage

where urban population exceeds 70% or more. At this stage level of urbanization (Davis, 1965) remains more or less same or constant. Rate of growth of urban population and total population becomes same at this terminal stage.

### **World Urbanization**

The urban population (UN, 1993) was estimated to be 2.96 billion in 2000 and 3.77 in 2010. It was estimated that nearly 50 million people are added to the world's urban population and about 35 million to the rural population each year. The share of world's population living in urban centers has increased from 39% in 1980 to 48% in 2000. The developed countries have higher urbanization level (76% in 2000) compared with developing countries (40% in 2000). The urbanization level has almost stabilized in developed countries. Africa and Asian countries are in the process of urbanization.

Over 54% of the world's population now lives in urban areas, creating 80% of global GDP, consuming two-thirds of global energy and accounting for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, according to World Bank data not included in this report. Nearly a billion urban dwellers are poor and deprived of decent housing and basic services.

### **Definition of urban area in india**

Urban areas have been recognized as “engines of inclusive economic growth”. Of the 121 crore Indians, 83.3 crore live in rural areas while 37.7 crore stay in urban areas, i.e approx 32 % of the population. The census of India, 2011 defines urban settlement as :-

All the places which have municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee

All the other places which satisfy following criteria :

- a. A minimum population of 5000 persons ;
- b. At least 75 % of male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits ; and
- c. A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometer

The first category of urban units are known as Statutory town. These town are notified under law by respective State/UT government and have local bodies like municipal corporation, municipality, etc, irrespective of demographic characteristics. For example- Vadodara (Municipal corporation), Shimla (Municipal corporation)

The second category of towns is known as Census Town. These were identified on the basis of census 2001 data. Cities are urban areas with more than 100,000 population. Urban areas below 100,000 are called towns in India

### **Similarly Census of India defines:-**

**Urban Agglomeration (UA):** An urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths (OGs), or two or more physically contiguous towns together with or without outgrowths of such towns. An Urban Agglomeration must consist of at least a statutory town and its total population (i.e. all the constituents put together) should not be less than 20,000 as per the 2001 Census. In varying local conditions, there were similar other combinations which have been treated as urban agglomerations satisfying the basic condition of contiguity. Examples: Greater Mumbai UA, Delhi UA, etc.

**Out Growths (OG):** An Out Growth (OG) is a viable unit such as a village or a hamlet or an enumeration block made up of such village or hamlet and clearly identifiable in terms of its boundaries and location.

Some of the examples are railway colony, university campus, port area, military camps, etc., which have come up near a statutory town outside its statutory limits but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town.

Each such town together with its outgrowth(s) is treated as an integrated urban area and is designated as an 'urban agglomeration'. Number of towns/UA/OG 2011, according to Census

2011 Census are :-

1. Statutory Towns	—	4,041
2. Census Towns	—	3,894
3. Urban Agglomerations	—	475
4. Out Growths	—	981

### History of Urbanization in India

In 1687- 88, the first municipal corporation in India was set up at Madras. In 1726, Municipal Corporation were set up in Bombay and Calcutta. In 1882, a resolution was passed and according to which, panchayat were to be formed at village level, district boards, taluq boards and municipalities also came into existence. At that time Lord Ripon was Viceroy of India, and for this Lord Ripon is known as father of local self-government in India.

Urbanization since independence has been focused through respective five year plans as follows:

First two plan focused on institution and organization building and same was instructed to the states to do.

For ex. Delhi development Authority, Town and country planning organization came during this period.

Third plan (1961-66) was turning point in urban planning history, as it emphasized on importance of towns and cities in balanced regional development. So, it advised urban planning to adopt regional approach. It also emphasized the need for urban land regulation, checking of urban land prices, preparation of master plan, etc.

Forth plan (1969-74), continued with the theme of third plan and development plans for 72 urban areas were undertaken. Regional studies in respect of metropolitan regions around Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta were initiated.

During fifth plan, urban land ceiling act was passed in 1976. It also advised the state governments to create metropolitan planning regions to take care of the growing areas outside administrative city limits. Mumbai metropolitan region development authority (MMRDA) in 1974 and Housing and urban development cooperation in 1975 were established. It also emphasized the urban and industrial decentralization.

The sixth five year (1978-83) plan stressed the need to develop small and medium sized towns (less than 1 lakh), and a scheme of Integrated development of Small and Medium towns (IDSMT) was launched in 1979 by central government.

During the seventh plan, some important institutional developments were done, which shaped the urban development policy and planning.

The National commission on urbanization submitted its report in 1988 and 65th constitutional amendment was introduced in Lok Sabha in 1989, this was first attempt to give urban local bodies a constitutional status with three tier federal structure. But it was not passed and was finally passed in 1992

as 74th constitutional amendment act and came into force in 1993.

During Eighth plan, the Mega city scheme was introduced in 1993-94 covering five mega cities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Also IDSMT scheme was revamped through it infrastructural development programs for boosting employment generation for diverting migration from big cities to the small and medium towns.

The ninth plan, continued with the schemes of the eighth plan and also emphasized on decentralization and financial autonomy of urban local bodies. A new program called Swarna jayanti Shahari Rozgar yojna (SJSRY) in 1997 with two sub plan– 1. Urban self-employment program and 2. Urban wage employment programme, i.e. targeting for urban poverty reduction and employment. It was decided by central government to revamp SJSRY in 2013 as National urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

The Tenth plan(2002-07) recognized the fact that urbanization played a key role in accelerating the economic growth in 1980s and 1990s as a result of the economic liberalization and also stressed that without strengthening the urban local bodies, the goal of urbanization cannot be achieved.

The eleventh plan (2007-2012) introduced some innovative changes through capacity building, increasing the efficiency and productivity of the cities, dismantling the monopoly of public sector over urban infrastructure, using technology as a tool for rapid urbanization.

In this direction major initiative launched by central government was JNNURM(Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban renewal mission) in 2005 for focused and integrated development of the urban infrastructure and services, initially for 63 cities. This program was to be continued till 2012, but it has been extended, covering more number of cities.

The 2011 Census was the first one that collected data on people living in slums that have become commonplace in a rapidly urbanizing India. It found that around one out of every six households in urban India (17.4%) is in a slum, and that well over one-third of all slum households in the country (38%) are in cities with a population in excess of a million.

The twelfth five year plan (2012-2017) proposed to consolidate JNNURM

### **Trend of Urbanization in India**

The variation in the share of urban to total population across the states is high. The pattern, however, has undergone significant changes over the past few decades. A large proportion is currently concentrated in six most developed states, namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal, accounting for about half of the country's urban population. This can largely be attributed to colonial inheritance, all these states reporting percentage of urban population much above the national average of 27.8 in 2001. Several studies have shown that the levels of urbanization in the states with high per capita income are generally high, the opposite being the case of less urbanized states (Sivaramakrishna, Kundu and Singh 2005).

The pattern of urban growth across states is significantly different from that of the levels of urbanization. Since Independence until 1991, most of the developed states have shown medium or low growth of urban population. In contrast, high urban growth was registered in economically backward states, viz. Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the states also having low percentages of urban population. The small north eastern states deserve special mention as they too have recorded rapid pace of urbanization due to the process of their becoming economically integrated with the

national economy. This, unfortunately, did not get reflected in their levels of economic development. On the whole, the relationship between level of urbanization and urban growth works out to be negative. However, a couple of developed states like Maharashtra and Haryana may be considered as exceptions, as they have recorded urban growth slightly higher than that of the country.

Year	Number of Towns / Urban Areas	Urban Population (in Thousands)	% of Total Population	Decennial Growth (%)
1901	1827	25851.9	10.84	—
1911	1815	25941.6	10.29	0.35
1921	1949	28086.2	11.18	8.27
1931	2072	33456.0	11.99	19.12
1941	2250	44153.3	13.86	31.97
1951	2843	62443.7	17.29	41.42
1961	2365	78936.6	17.97	26.41
1971	2590	109113.9	19.91	38.23
1981	3378	159462.5	23.34	46.14
1991	4689	217611.0	25.71	36.47
2001	5161	285354.9	27.78	31.13

2011 - 377100.1 2.7631.16

India shares most characteristic features of urbanization in the developing countries. Number of urban agglomeration /town has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 5161 in 2001. Number of total population has increased from 23.84 crores in 1901 to 102.7crores in 2001 whereas number of population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 28.53 crore in 2001. This process of urbanization in India is shown in Fig 1. It reflects a gradual increasing trend of urbanization. India is at acceleration stage of the process of urbanization.

#### Pattern of urbanization in India

An important feature of urbanization in India is dualism—urban growth at macro level is decelerating but in class I cities it is growing. An analysis of the distribution of urban population across size categories reveals that the process of urbanization in India has been large city oriented. This is manifested in a high percentage of urban population being concentrated in class I cities, which have gone up systematically

over the decades in the last century.

The massive increase in the percentage share of urban population in class I cities from 26.0 in 1901 to 68.7 in 2001 has often been attributed to faster growth of large cities, without taking into consideration the increase in the number of these cities.

Undoubtedly, the faster demographic growth is an important factor responsible for making the urban structure top-heavy. Reports about the growth rates for different categories of towns during 1970s and subsequent decades. One can note that the class I cities have experienced a distinctly higher growth rate than lower order towns except those in class VI. Indeed, the latter do not fall in line with the general pattern of urban growth in other size categories as they are governed by factors exogenous to the regional economy.

In the context of demographic dominance of urban scene by class I cities, it is important to note that there were only 24 Class I cities in 1901 that have gone up to 393 in 2001.

While a number of lower order towns have graduated to class I category, the process of rural settlements acquiring urban characteristics has been weak.

The pattern of growth has remained similar over time although there is a general deceleration in urban growth in all size categories in the past two decades. Class I cities have maintained an edge over class II, III, IV and class V towns in terms of the growth rate (of common towns). The gap, however, seems to have widened during 1991–01.

Class I cities in the country experiencing higher population growth as compared to other categories (except VI) is due to both aerial expansion as well as in-migration. Large number of satellite towns has emerged in the vicinity of these cities.

### **Urban Morphology**

As per 1901 census, population residing in urban areas in India was little over 11%. The ratio was less than 28% in the year 2001 and in 2011 over 31% of its people resides in urban towns and cities. Mumbai is the most populous city in India, and the fourth most populous city in the world, with a total metropolitan area population of approximately 20.5 million. Urbanization in India was mainly caused after independence. Economic opportunities are just one reason people move into cities besides more infrastructure facilities in the urban areas.

Maharashtra was the most urbanized state in India till 1991, but stood behind Tamil Nadu in 2001, with the urban-total state population ratio. However, Maharashtra's urban population of 41 million, far exceeds that of Tamil Nadu which is at 27 million, as per the 2001 census. At present Delhi has the highest level of urbanization with 97.5% of its population live in urban areas. Chandigarh is not far behind as its 97.25% reside in urban part of this Union Territory of North India. Again in North India, Himachal Pradesh, hill state, has the least urbanization with about 10% of its people live in urban towns/cities. Urbanization during the last decade was more in Southern India as all its major states had quantum jump in share of urban population, namely Kerala (22%), Andhra Pradesh (6%), Karnataka (5%) and Tamil Nadu (4%).

Mumbai UA accommodates 18.4 million people, and is the largest metropolis by population in India, followed by Delhi with 16.3 million inhabitants. For the top 20 urban agglomerations in India, the population is given in the following Table.

**Top 20 Urban Agglomerations/Cities in India (Census 2011)**

<b>Ran k</b>	<b>Agglomeration s /Cities</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Populatio n</b>	<b>Ran k</b>	<b>Agglomeration s/ Cities</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Populatio n</b>
1	Mumbai	Maharashtra	18,414,288	11	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	2,920,067
2	Delhi	Delhi	16,314,838	12	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2,901,474
3	Kolkata	West Bengal	14,112,536	13	Nagpur	Maharashtra	2,497,777
4	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	8,696,010	14	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	2,358,525
5	Bangalore	Karnataka	8,499,399	15	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	2,167,447
6	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	7,749,334	16	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	2,151,466
7	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	6,240,201	17	Kochi	Kerala	2,117,990
8	Pune	Maharashtra	5,049,968	18	Patna	Bihar	2,046,652
9	Surat	Gujarat	4,585,367	19	Kozhikode	Kerala	2,030,519
10	Jaipur	Rajasthan	3,073,350	20	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1,883,381

The fastest rate of urbanization has been observed for top three urban agglomerations in India. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India. As per report of the technical group on population projections constituted by the National Commission on Population (May 2006), the urbanization in India would be 38.8% by the year 2026. According to a survey by UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. India will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050 as per World Bank. Time will tell whether these projections would be true. If one fits the trend line to the data as below, one gets that India may achieve the urbanization of 39.72% by the year 2050 only, if the trend continues.

**Urbanization trend in the eight states covering half of the India's population**

Empowered Action Group states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha and Rajasthan are home to half of India's population as seen in its recent census, 2011.

Bihar, the third most populous State in India, with a population of 103.80 million persons has recorded the highest decadal growth. Bihar comprise of just 94 thousand sq. km. area and thus its population density is high at 1102 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 25 percent during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 35 percent during the period. Nearly one tenth (11%) of the population comprising 11.7 million persons live in 199 towns and cities. The state has the highest density, but urbanization is the lowest at just 11%.

The State of Jharkhand was created as 28th State of the Indian Union from the erstwhile state of Bihar. The population of the state is 33 millions, which accounts for 2.6% of the total population of the country. It has sizeable Tribal population (26.3%). As per the Census 2011, one fourth (24 percent) of the total population of Jharkhand state is living in 228 towns and cities. Half of the urban population in Jharkhand concentrated in four cities namely Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Bokaro and Ranchi. Jharkhand comprise of just 80 thousand sq. km. area and thus its population density is 414 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 22 percent during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 32 percent during the period.



Census Year	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
All-India	17.29	17.97	19.91	23.08	25.49	27.81	31.16

Uttar Pradesh one of the major state of India comprising of about 241 thousand sq. km. area and is home to over 199.6 million persons i.e. the population density for the state is 828 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 20.1% during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 28.8 percent during the period. Nearly one fourth (over 22%) of the population comprising 44.5 million persons live in 915 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Uttar Pradesh is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.

Uttarakhand comprise of about 53.5 thousand sq. km. area and is home to over 10.1 million persons i.e. the population density for the state is 189 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 19.2% during 2001-2011, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 41.9 percent during the period. Nearly one third (31%) of the population comprising 3.1 million persons live in 116 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Uttarakhand is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.

Madhya Pradesh one of the major state of India comprising of about 3.08 lakh sq. km. area and is home to over 72.6 million persons i.e. the population density for the state is 236 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 20.3% during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 25.6 percent during the period. Nearly one fourth (28%) of the population comprising 20.1 million persons live in 476 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Madhya Pradesh is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.

Chhattisgarh one of the major state of India comprising of about 135 thousand sq. km. area and is home to over 25.5 million persons i.e. the population density for the state is 189 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 22.6% during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 41.8 percent during the period. Nearly one fourth (23%) of the population comprising 5.9 million persons live in 182 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Chhattisgarh is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.

Rajasthan the largest Indian state in terms of area (3,42,239 sq.km.) and is home to over 68.6 million persons. Whereas the population of the state grew by 21.4% during 2001-2011, the growth for urban areas has been much higher at 29.3 percent. One fourth (25%) of the population comprising 17.1 million persons live in 297 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Rajasthan is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.

Odisha one of the major state of India comprising of about 156 thousand sq. km. area and is home to over 41.9 million persons i.e. the population density for the state is 269 per sq. km. The population of the state grew by 14% during 2001-11, whereas the growth for urban population had been much higher at 26.8 percent during the period. Nearly 7 million persons live in 223 towns and cities. As in the rest of the country, the urbanization in Odisha is top heavy i.e. few large cities comprise a large proportion of the urban population.



### Problem of Urbanization

Problem of urbanization is manifestation of lopsided urbanization, faulty urban planning, and urbanization with poor economic base and without having functional categories.

Hence India's urbanization is followed by some basic problems in the field of: 1) housing, 2) slums, 3) transport 4) water supply and sanitation, 5) water pollution and air pollution, 6) inadequate provision for social infrastructure (school, hospital, etc). Class I cities such as Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai etc have reached saturation level of employment generating capacity (Kundu, 1997). Since these cities are suffering from urban poverty, unemployment, housing shortage, crisis in urban infra-structural services these large cities cannot absorb these distressed rural migrants i.e. poor landless illiterate and unskilled agricultural labourers. Hence this migration to urban class I cities causes urban crisis more acute.

Most of these cities using capital intensive technologies can not generate employment for these distress rural poor. So there is transfer of rural poverty to urban poverty. Poverty induced migration of illiterate and unskilled labourer occurs in class I cities addressing urban involution and urban decay.

Indian urbanization is involuted not evolved (Mukherji, 1995). Poverty induced migration occurs due to rural push. Megacities grow in urban population not in urban prosperity, and culture. Hence it is urbanization without urban functional characteristics. These mega cities are subject to extreme filthy slum and very cruel mega city denying shelter, drinking water, electricity, sanitation (Kundu, Bagchi and Kundu, 1999) to the extreme poor and rural migrants.

Urbanization is degenerating social and economic inequalities (Kundu and Gupta, 1996) which warrants social conflicts, crimes and anti-social activities. Lopsided and uncontrolled urbanization led to environmental degradation and degradation in the quality of urban life- pollution in sound, air, water, created by disposal of hazardous waste. Illiterate, low- skill or no-skill migrants from rural areas are absorbed in poor low grade urban informal sector at a very low wage rate and urban informal sector becomes in-efficient and unproductive.

### Suggestions

There should be focussed attention to integrated development of infrastructure services in cities covered under the Mission and there should be establishment of linkages between asset-creation and asset-management through a slew of reforms for long-term project sustainability ; Green building concepts should be implemented.

Along the lines suggested by the **administrative reforms commission** over seven years ago, states should undertake “**activity mapping**” for municipal governments to be clear about which activities are essentially for them to manage, which require them to act as agents for higher tiers of government, and which involve sharing responsibility with other tiers of government. There is no “one size fits all here” – the answer will vary across municipalities.

The office of an **empowered mayor** (instead of the municipal commissioner) must take responsibility for **administrative co-ordination internally between municipal departments**, and externally with state and central government agencies.

Urban planning mechanisms need an overhaul to unify land record keeping, integrate land use with transport planning, and embed municipal plans into district and regional plans.

- -local bodies should fill vacancies
- -time tested master plans should be strengthen instead of preparing quick fix City development plans
- -populist policies and reforms should have their logical conclusion and should be not done in g r e a t haste.
- -land development should be the part of planning of urban development
- -project management skills needs to be enhanced = timely completion of projects
- -more PPP projects

### Conclusion

Urbanization has undermined old forms of political mobilization based on caste and religious identities and favors local issues to be resolved on right based approach. Urbanisation has its impact on all aspects of day-to-day life. Family structure has also been influenced by urbanisation. In the rural society the concept of family living is different from that in the urban society.

In the urban society usually the families are nuclear, a very small percentage of households' have joint families, whereas in rural society most of the households have joint families. This change in family structure is a direct result of urbanisation. In urban areas, especially in the metropolitan cities, people of extremely divergent cultures live together. This has a positive impact. People come to know about each other's culture and they exchange their ideas, breaking the barriers which earlier used to exist between them. This results in cultural hybridisation.

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