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## URBANIZATION PROCESS, TREND, PATTERN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN INDIA

Amit Kumar & Ambrish Kumar Rai

### **Abstract:**

*The study attempts to understand the Urbanization Process, Trend, Pattern and its Consequences based on census data during 1901-2011 in India. The regional variations in the distribution of urban population are significant. Results show that India urban population has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 37.71 crores in 2011 due to rapid industrialization and rural to urban migration. Percent urban has increased from 11% in 1901 to 31% in 2011; Urbanization in India has been relatively slow compared to many developing countries. India is at acceleration stage of the process of urbanization According to 2011, Census of India; Goa is the highly urbanized state with an urban population of 62.1 percent. The numbers of million plus cities have increased from 9 in 1951 to 23 in 1991 and to 50 in 2011. Share of Metropolitan cities population has increased 18.9 percent in 1951 to 42.3 percent in 2011 Rapid urbanization raises many issues that might have both positive and negative impacts on the environment. The monitoring urbanization is a vital role of planner, management, governmental and non-governmental organizations for implementing policies to optimize the use of natural resources and accommodate development at the same time minimizing the impact on the environment.*

**Keywords:** Census Component, Degree Of Urbanization, Tempo, Metropolitan City, Urbanization,

### **Introduction:**

Urbanization is a form of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. It is long term continuous process. The objective of this paper is to understand the extent, trend and pattern of urbanization and also the consequences in the socio-economic context in India by using data from Census of India 1901-2001, NSSO etc. It is an attempt to outline urban growth process and its consequences which have severe implications on

policy issues. Before attempting an analysis of pattern and trends in urbanization in India, it becomes imperative to trace the process of urbanization in India through history because what distinguished India most, from many other countries of the world is its long tradition of urbanization dating back as far back as about five thousand years, when Indus Valley Civilization saw the birth of the earliest urban settlement in human history. In India, the urban tradition continued throughout these

centuries and during the ancient period of our history there were many well planned, big and beautiful cities in different parts of the country. In ancient and medieval times it was a cultural phenomena and many a times it happens due to political development because the rise and fall of new dynasties and kingdoms but in recent times, it is complementary of industrialization and socio-economic transformation ,hence it becomes a socio- economic phenomenon.

Urbanization can be defined as “as a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in the demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society. Urbanization is a Progressive concentration of population in urban unit (Kingsley Davis-1965). These changes manifest themselves in the increasing concentration of population in human settlements, larger than villages, in the increasing involvement of the people in the secondary and tertiary production functions, and in the progressive adoption of certain social traits which are typical of traditional rural societies”.

Urbanization is not only accompanying to industrialization, but it is also interlinked with modernization and these three sometimes work in conjunction. The process of urbanization in developed countries has been very slow but steady and it has been accompanied by agricultural and industrial revolution, higher per capita income and high standard of living, whereas in developing countries the rate of urbanization is very fast and it is not accompanied by industrialization but rapid growth of service sector in the economies (Helen Macbeth & Paul Collinson-2002). In the countries of third world urbanization has not been accompanied by modernization as well as industrialization, i.e. a case of pseudo urbanization ‘or over-urbanization’. In most of the developing countries, the modern process of urbanization is a recent phenomenon, and it is still unfolding. As this process is still unfolding in the developing countries, it is revealing special features. The study of different aspects of urbanization is imperative in order to have a proper understanding of the urbanization phenomena as well as policies to deal with it.

### **Importance of Study of Urbanization:**

It is pertinent to identify the main issues which are concern with the process of urbanization in India and other developing countries as well. These are economic, demographic, political and social and Cultural. Urbanization has been viewed as an important factor in the areas of economic transformation, orchestrating the breakdown of the feudal order and taking societies to higher levels of social formation. Urbanization is intrinsically connected and irrevocably enlaced with the development process, as an essential strand in the contemporary economic system. At the same time, some scholars argue that “urbanization is not merely a concomitant of industrialization, but a concomitant of the whole gamut of factors underlying the process of economic growth and social change.

### **Urban Definition**

Urbanization in India has been relatively slow during the last century the period as compared with many other developing countries. In India the definition of “Urban” remained more or less same for the period 1901-1951. However in the 1961 Census,

several modifications were made, and the definition of ‘town’ adopted for the 1961 Census was much more rigorous and further, this new definition was followed all over the country uniformly. From 1981 onwards while calculating the proportion of workers in non-agricultural activities, the workers in occupation of fishing, livestock, hunting, planting and orchards have been included in agricultural workers whereas such workers were included in the category of non-agricultural worker at the time of 1961 and 1971 Censuses. The Census of India recognizes all those settlements as urban which

- Either have a statutory status like municipal committee/corporation/notified area committee/cantonment board, estate office, etc.
- or fulfil all the following three conditions simultaneously;
  - (i) A population of more than 5000;

- (ii) More than 75 percent of the male working population is engaged in non-agricultural activities; and
- (iii) Density of population is more than 400 persons per square kilometre.

In some cases, the directors of census operations in states or union territories, in consultation with the concerned state governments, union territory administration and the census commissioner of India, were allowed to include some places having distinct urban characteristics within the urban category even if such places did not strictly satisfy all the criteria mentioned earlier. While the Census of India applies the demographic and economic criteria in identifying towns at every census, it is the state governments that decide on the civic status of the settlement. The settlements that are granted urban civic status qualify as towns in the census as per the first criteria. In every census, several new towns are added to or removed from the roster of towns if they do not satisfy the earlier-mentioned criteria.

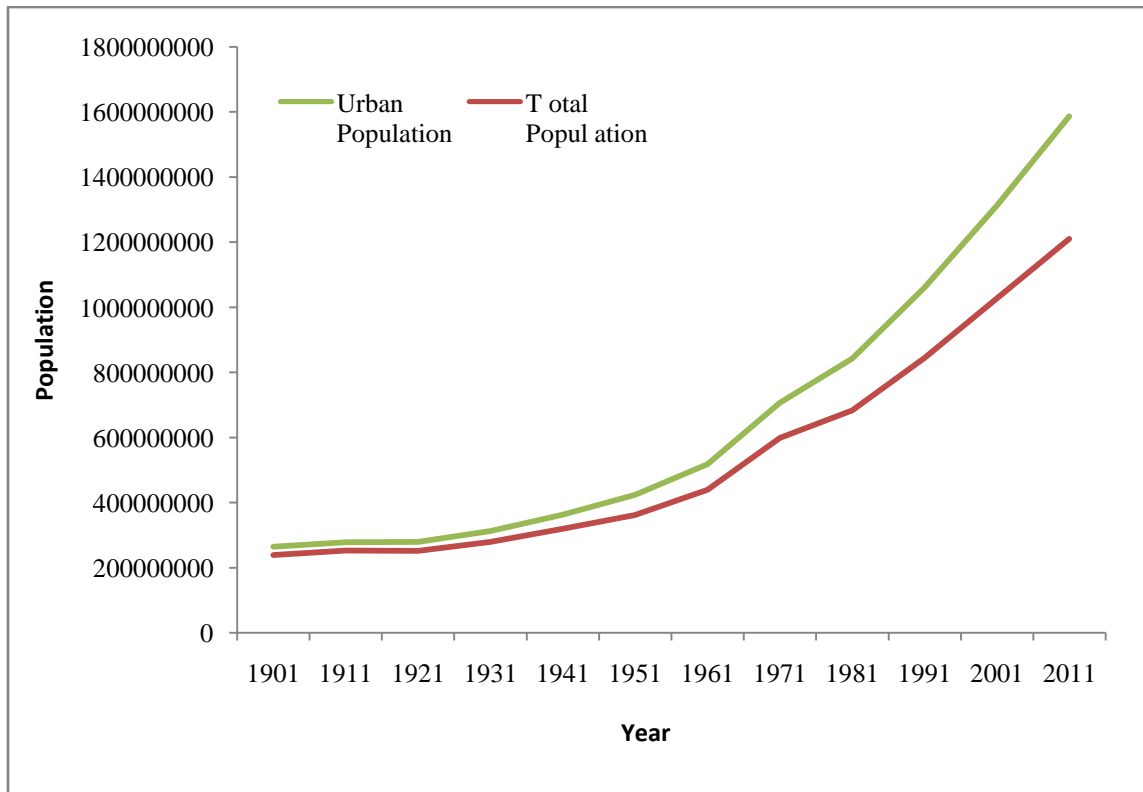
As many urban residents also live outside the municipal boundary, the Indian Census uses the concept of an 'urban agglomeration' (UA) to measure urban population at the town and city level. A UA consists of the population of the core urban centre living within its municipal boundary, as well as the population of contiguous towns and adjoining urban outgrowths (OGs). OGs are areas around a core city or a statutory town that are fairly large and already urbanized such as a railway colony, university campus, port area, military camp, among other examples, but are not included within the municipal boundary of the core city or town. The municipal boundaries are also changed from time to time as decided by the state government, but it is a time-consuming process as notification has to go through the offices of Deputy Commissioners and District Magistrates for due processing. However, in the absence of changes in the municipal boundaries, the application of the concepts of UA and OG by the Census takes into account any spill over of urban population outside the municipal boundary.

### **Volume and Trend of Urbanisation in India**

India shares most characteristic features of urbanisation in the developing countries. Number of urban agglomeration /town has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 7935 in 2011. Number of the total population has increased from 23.84 crores in 1901 to 121.7 crores in 2011 whereas number of the

population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 37.71 crores in 2011. (Table 1) This process of urbanization in India shows in Fig 1. It reflects a gradual increasing trend of urbanization. India is at acceleration stage of the process of urbanization.

**Fig 1: Process of Urbanisation in India**



**Table: 1 Population of India by Residence 1901-2011**

Census Years	Number of Urban agglomeration/town	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural Population	Urban Population in %
1901	1827	238396327	25851873	212544454	10.84
1911	1825	252093390	25941633	226151757	10.29
1921	1949	251321213	28086167	223235046	11.18
1931	2072	278977238	33455989	245521249	11.99
1941	2250	318660580	44153297	274507283	13.86
1951	2843	361088090	62443709	298644381	17.29
1961	2363	439234771	78936603	360298168	17.97
1971	2590	598159652	109113977	489045675	19.91
1981	3378	683329097	159462547	523866550	23.33
1991	3768	844324222	217177625	627146597	25.72
2001	5161	1027015247	285354954	741660293	27.78
2011	7935	1210193422	377105760	833087662	31.16

Sources: Various Census reports

**Degree of Urbanization:**

The degree or level of urbanization defines as the relative number of people who live in urban areas. Percent urban  $[(U/P)*100]$  and percent rural  $[(R/P)*100]$  and urban-rural ratio  $[(U/R)*100]$  are used to measure degree of urbanization. These are most commonly used for measuring degree of urbanization. The ratio U/P has lower limit 0 and upper limit 1 i.e.  $0 < U/P < 1$ . The index is 0 for the total population

equal to the rural population. When whole population is urban, this index is one. When 50 percent of the population is rural, it means that there is one urbanite for each rural person. The urban-rural ratio has a lower limit of zero and upper limit  $\infty$  i.e.,  $0 < U/R < \infty$ . Theoretically upper limit will be infinite when there is no rural population (R=0) but this is impossible. From table 2, it is clear that percent urban has increased from 11% in 1901 to 31% in 2011,

whereas percent rural has shown the gradual decrease from 89% to around 69% over a century. Urban-rural ratio that is a simple index measuring number of urbanites for each rural person in an area unit experiences an increasing trend during hundred years in the process of urbanization in India. The urban-rural

ratio for India in 2011 turns out to be around 45, meaning that against every 100 ruralites there are 45 urbanites in India in 2011. All these indices pinpoint that India is in the process of urbanization (Sovani, 1966), and it is at the acceleration stage of urbanization.

**Table: 2 Table 4 Degree/Index of Urbanization 1901-2001**

<b>Census years</b>	<b>Rural Population in %</b>	<b>Urban Population in %</b>	<b>Urban- Rural Ratio(percent)</b>
<b>1901</b>	89.16	10.84	12.16
<b>1911</b>	89.71	10.29	11.47
<b>1921</b>	88.82	11.18	12.58
<b>1931</b>	88.01	11.99	13.63
<b>1941</b>	86.14	13.86	16.08
<b>1951</b>	82.71	17.29	20.91
<b>1961</b>	82.03	17.97	21.91
<b>1971</b>	81.76	19.91	22.31
<b>1981</b>	76.66	23.33	30.44
<b>1991</b>	74.28	25.72	34.63
<b>2001</b>	72.22	27.78	38.48
<b>2011</b>	68.84	31.16	45.27



**Pace of Urbanization:**

Urbanization in India has been relatively slow compared to many developing countries. The percentage of annual exponential growth rate of urban population (table 3) reveals that in India, it grew at faster pace from the decade 1921-31 to until 1951. Thereafter it registered a sharp drop during the decade 1951-61. The decades 1961-71 and 1971-81 showed a significant improvement in the growth which has thereafter steadily dropped to the present level (3.16%). The sharp drop in urban

rate during 1951-61 was mainly due to the declassification of a very large number of towns during that period. Rural growth has been fluctuating since 1901. The decline in rural population growth was within a small range during 1981-91 and 2001-2011. During the process of urbanization it is natural that  $rgtp > rgup > rgrp$ , (table 3) where  $rgtp$  = rate of growth of total population,  $rgup$  = rate of growth urban of population,  $rgrp$  = rate of growth of rural population. This fact is supported in case of Indian urbanisation also since 1911.

**Table: 3 Annual Growth rate of Population by Residence**

Year	Annual growth rate(%) of total population(rgtp)	Annual growth rate(%) of Urban population(rgup)	Annual growth rate(%) of total Rural population(rgrp)
1901-1911	0.54	0.03	0.60
1911-1921	-0.03	0.76	-0.13
1921-1931	0.99	1.61	0.91
1931-1941	1.25	2.42	1.06
1941-1951	1.17	2.93	0.81
1951-1961	1.78	2.09	1.71
1961-1971	2.66	2.77	2.63
1971-1981	1.25	3.16	0.66
1981-1991	1.91	2.66	1.65
1991-2001	1.78	2.39	1.54
2001-2011	1.51	2.43	1.10

Tempo of urbanization refers to speed of urbanization and is measured as a change registered in the level or degree of urbanization over the years. From the following table 4, it is clear that tempo or speed of urbanization is not uniform over the years. It shows a fluctuating trend over the years 1901-1981 and a declining trend during 1981-91, 1991-

2001. Once again a increased during 2001-2011. Again it is required to mention tempo of urbanization measured as a percent will tend toward zero as the urban population reaches the 100 percent level, since the urban and total population growth would become the same.

**Table: 4 Tempo of Urbanisation 1901-2011**

Year	Growth rate of percent urban(PU)(tempo)	Growth rate of percent rural (PR) (tempo of PR)
1901-1911	-0.52	0.06
1911-1921	0.83	-0.10
1921-1931	0.70	-0.09
1931-1941	1.45	-0.21
1941-1951	2.21	-0.41
1951-1961	0.39	-0.08
1961-1971	1.03	-0.03
1971-1981	1.59	-0.64
1981-1991	0.98	-0.32
1991-2001	0.77	-0.28
2001-2011	1.15	-0.48

*Tempo of PU =  $1/n [ \ln (PU_{t+n} / PU_t ) ] * 100$ , where  $\ln$  = natural log,  $PU_{t+n}$  and  $PU_t$  = percent urban in  $t+n$  th census and  $t$  th census respectively,  $n$  = census interval=10. \*Tempo of PR =  $1/n [ \ln (PR_{t+n} / PR_t ) ] * 100$ , where  $\ln$  = natural log,  $PR_{t+n}$  and  $PR_t$  = percent rural in  $t+n$  th and  $t$  th census respectively,  $n$ = census interval=10*

**Patterns of urbanisation in India**

**Table: 5-Level and Trend of Urbanisation across States, 1971-2011**

States	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	Change from 1971-2011
Karnataka	24.31	28.91	30.91	33.98	38.57	14.26
Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08	33.49	14.18
Arunachal Pradesh	3.7	6.32	12.21	20.41	22.67	18.97
Assam	NA	9.88	11.08	12.72	14.08	4.2
Bihar	10	12.46	13.17	10.47	11.3	1.3
Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	NA	20.08	23.24	3.16
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	21.05	23.83	24.88	27.21	6.16
Goa	26.44	32.46	41.02	49.77	62.17	35.73
Gujarat	28.08	31.08	34.4	37.35	42.58	14.5
Haryana	17.66	21.96	24.79	29	24.25	6.59
Himachal Pradesh	6.99	7.72	8.7	9.79	10.04	3.05
Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	22.25	24.05	1.8
Kerala	16.24	18.78	26.44	25.97	47.72	31.48
Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.31	23.21	26.67	27.63	11.34
Maharashtra	31.17	35.03	38.73	42.4	45.23	14.06
Manipur	13.19	26.44	27.69	23.88	20.21	7.02
Meghalaya	14.55	18.03	18.69	19.63	20.08	5.53
Mizoram	11.36	25.17	46.2	49.5	51.51	40.15
Nagaland	9.95	15.54	17.28	17.74	28.97	19.02
Orissa	8.41	11.82	13.43	14.97	16.68	8.27
Punjab	23.73	27.72	29.72	33.95	37.49	13.76
Rajasthan	17.63	20.93	22.88	23.38	24.89	7.26

Sikkim	9.37	16.23	9.12	11.1	24.97	15.6
Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.98	34.2	43.86	48.45	18.19
Tripura	10.43	10.98	15.26	17.02	26.18	15.75
Uttar Pradesh	14.02	18.01	19.89	20.78	22.28	8.26
Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA	25.59	30.55	4.96
West Bengal	24.75	26.49	27.39	28.03	31.89	7.14
<b>Union Territories</b>						
Delhi	89.7	92.84	89.93	93.01	97.5	7.8
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.77	26.36	26.8	32.67	35.67	12.9
Chandigarh	90.55	93.6	89.69	89.78	97.25	6.7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NA	6.67	8.47	22.89	46.62	39.95
Daman & Diu	NA	NA	46.86	36.26	75.16	28.3
Lakshadweep	NA	46.31	56.29	44.47	78.08	31.77
Pondicherry	42.04	52.32	64.05	66.57	68.31	26.27
<b>All India</b>	20.22	23.73	25.72	27.78	31.16	10.94

Source: Census of India

In order to understand the dynamics of urban development in a large country like India, it is important to examine the changes in the levels and pace of urbanisation across states. At the state level, the pattern of urbanisation is full of diversities, but economically advanced states more or less show higher levels of urbanisation. All the southern states, including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West

Bengal, have higher levels of urbanisation than that of national average, but small states like Goa continue to top the list among states (62% urban), followed by Mizoram (51.5%). Among the large states, Tamil Nadu continues to be ahead of the others, with levels of urbanisation at 48.4% in 2011. States that lag behind are Himachal Pradesh with an urban population of 10%, followed by Bihar

(11.3%), Assam (14%) and Orissa (16.6%). Other states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand also continue to have lower levels of urbanisation than the national average. However, a reversal noticed in the declining trend in urban population Growth rate at the national level is a major feature revealed by the 2011 census, there are only 15 states and union territories which show an increased urban population growth rate during 2001-2011 as compared to 1991-2001. Among them, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand are the major states. A very high urban population growth has occurred in the states of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh while urban population growth rates have increased to 6.5% per annum in Kerala and 3% per annum in

Andhra Pradesh during 2001-11 compared to just about 1% per annum during 1991-2001. In both Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, as well as in West Bengal and Gujarat, a large number of new towns have emerged as a result of rural-to-urban classification in 2011.

### **Urban Morphology**

The growth of urban population in metropolitan cities is marked with a declining trend. In metropolitan cities is marked with a declining trend. During 1971-81, it was 4.2 % and 3.5 % in 2001- 2011. Hence 0.7% is a change in growth of urban population in metropolitan cities. Likewise, a change in growth of urban population of class II towns is noticeable. For example, this change is 2.5% during 1971-2011. In class III towns, the change of 0.8 % is observed. While in class IV+ towns, the change is only 0.3%. The variations in Indian urban structure is also noticeable.

**Table: 6 Growth of Urban Population by City Size (Percent Per annum)**

Type of cities size and class	Gross Increase			
	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
Cities	4.4	3.7	3.5	2.7
Metropolitan Cities	4.2	4.9	4.2	3.5
Class I	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.6
Class II	4.1	2.8	1.6	1.6
Class III	2.4	3.0	1.9	1.6
Class IV+	1.9	1.3	1.0	1.6

*Class I: Greater than 1, 00,000 population*

*Class II: 50,000--1, 00,000 population*

*Class III: 20,000---50,000 population*

*Class IV+: (10,000--- 20,000 population Class V: 5,000---10,000 population Class VI: less than 5000 population)*

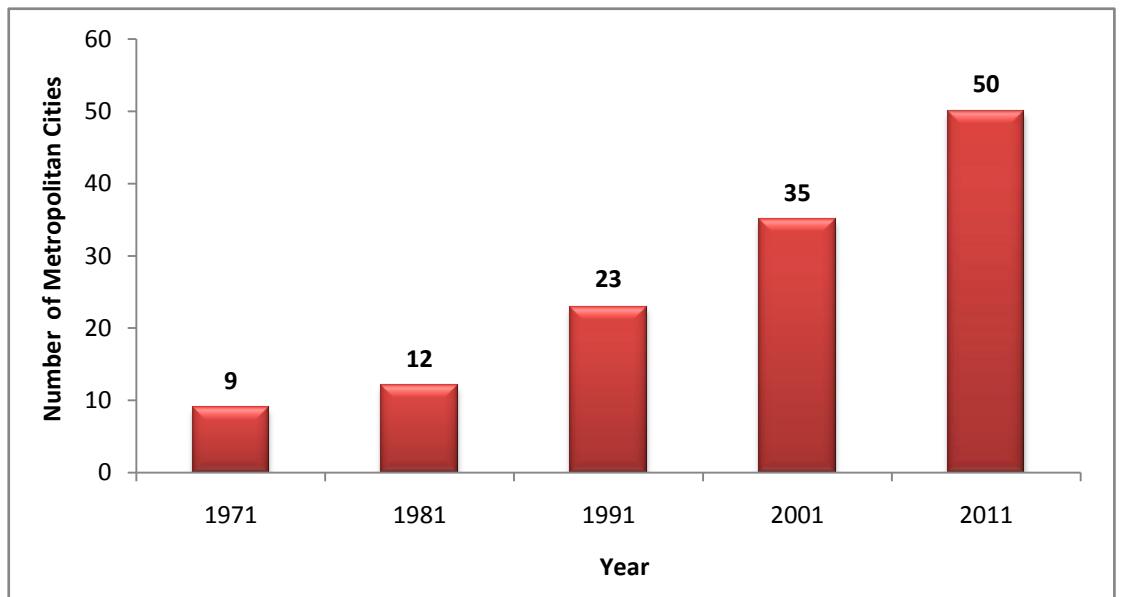
*Metropolitan City: - Census Commission defines a metropolitan city one having a population of over 4 millio*

### **Contribution of Million -Plus cities in urbanization, India**

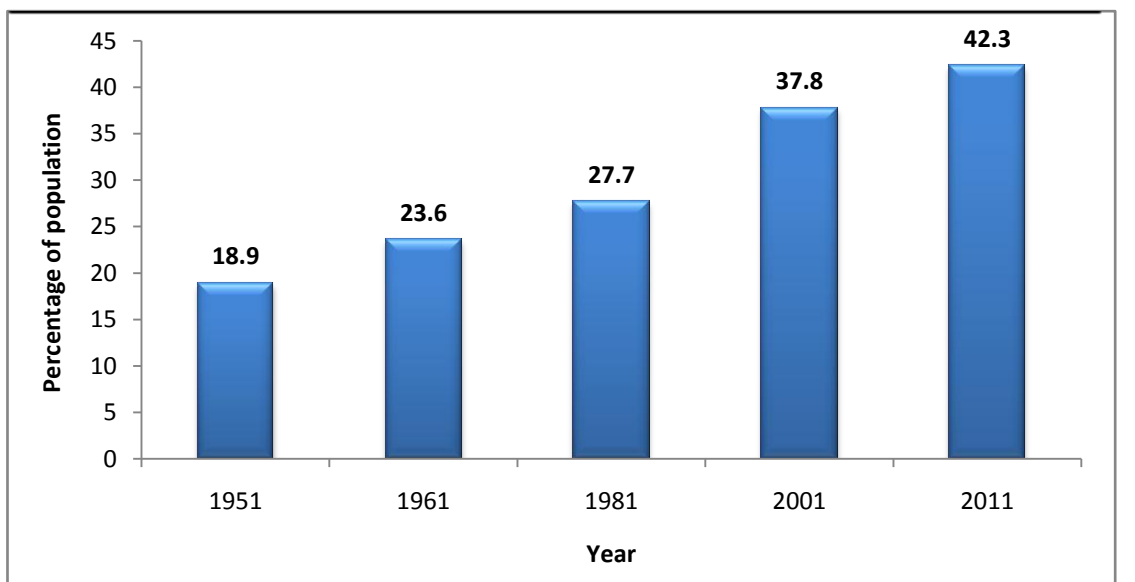
We can see that metropolitan cities have been increased very fast over the period. For example, numbers of million plus cities (figure 2) have increased from 9 in 1951 to 23 in 1991 and to 50 in 2011. About 37% of the total urban population live in these million-plus/ UA cities.

Figure 3 shows that contribution of metropolitan cities in urbanization of India. It is noticeable that metropolitan cities have increased in share of urban population in Indian. It observed that Metropolitan cities shared 18.9 percent population in total urban population in 1951, and this share increased 42.3 percent in 2011.

**Figure: 2 Number of Metropolitan Cities, 1971-2011**



**Figure: 3 Metropolitan Cities: Population (percent of urban total)**



### Components of Urban Growth

In many developing countries, the lack of adequate data on rural to urban migration as well as reliable data on natural increase precludes the disaggregation of urban growth by its various components (Brockhoff 1999). There are four main components of urban growth, namely:

- a. natural increase;
- b. net migration to urban areas;
- c. reclassification of settlements as towns or its declassification as a result of changes in the nature of economic activities and acquisition of urban characteristics;
- d. the extension of boundaries of cities and towns.

Table 7 presents the estimated contribution of the four components of urban growth for the decades 1971-1981 to 1991-2001. The natural increase in urban areas of the initial population as well as of the intercensal migrants continues to be the largest contributor to the urban growth (58 per cent) during 1991-2001, although its share has

declined by about five percent compared to the previous decade. The estimation of natural increase includes the natural increase of intercensal migrants as suggested by Visaria (1997). A recent study by Premi (2006b) did not take this factor into account, and as a result, the contribution of natural increase was underestimated at 53 per cent during 1991-2001. Further, Premi's use of the provisional population figures of the 2001 Census resulted in an overestimation of the contribution of the net reclassification from rural to urban areas (14 per cent compared to 12 per cent in the present study). However, in both studies, the net contribution of migration is estimated based on the POLR data derived from migration tables and the results are similar.

Table 7 shows that the contribution of migration towards urban growth remained stable at around 20 percent during the last three decades. It may be seen that in spite of the decline in the growth of migration during 1981-1991, its share remained almost static from 1971-1981 to 1981-1991. This is because while rural to urban migration had declined during the 1980s, the



counter stream of urban to rural migration had also declined drastically. As a result, the net migration to urban areas increased from 9.3 million in the decade 1971-1981 to 10.6 million in the decade 1981-1991. Thus, the contribution of migration to urbanization remained unaffected in the 1980s and indeed remained stable over the last three decades. The slowing down of urbanization could be more correctly attributed to the reclassification of towns and to some extent, to the limited geographical expansion of the existing towns by jurisdictional changes during the 1980s. The share of net reclassification (population of new towns minus declassified towns compiled directly from census sources) has declined from nearly 19 percent in the decade 1971-1981 to 17 percent in the decade 1981-1991. Also, the contribution of jurisdictional changes (estimated here as residual) declined from 13 percent in 1971-1981 to nearly two percent in the decade 1981-1991.

During the 1990s, the slowing down of urbanization could be attributed to the decline in the share of natural increase as well as to the reduction in the share of net reclassification of settlements. Although the number of new towns has gone up from 856 in 1991 to 1138 in 2001, the number of declassified towns has also increased from 93 in 1991 to 445 in 2001. Thus, the net addition of new towns was 693 in 2001, lower than the net addition of 763 towns in 1991. This shows that the role of the net reclassification of settlements in lowering the urban growth increased during the decade 1991-2001. However, the jurisdictional changes declared by the respective state governments or the Census of India recasting towns into urban agglomeration forms gained importance in India's urbanization as early as the 1970s (Shaw 2005).

**Table: 8 Contribution of the components of urban growth, India, 1971\_2001**

Components	Population in million			Percentage distribution		
	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001
Urban increment	49.9	56.8	68.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Natural increase (of initial population plus intercensal migrants)	24.9	35.4	39.3	50.0	62.3	57.6
Net reclassification from rural to urban	9.3	9.8	8.4	18.6	17.2	12.3
Net rural-urban migration	9.3	10.6	14.2	18.6	18.7	20.8*
Residual (jurisdictional changes)	6.4	1	6.3	12.8	1.8	9.2

*Notes: (i) Census was not held in Assam in 1981 and in Jammu and Kashmir in 1991. The decade 1971-1981 excludes Assam; the decade 1981-1991 excludes Assam and Jammu and Kashmir; and the figures of 1991\_2001 exclude Jammu and Kashmir. (ii) Net reclassification means population of new towns minus declassified towns. The figures up to 1991 are taken from Census of India (1991a, p. 37). The figures for 1991-2001 are derived by the same procedure using data on new and declassified towns based on Census of India (2001). (iii) Net rural to urban migration figures are derived from Migration Tables of the respective years based on place of last residence with duration 0-9 years. See Census of India (1981); Census of India (1991b); Census 2001 migration data are available on compact disk. (iv) Natural increase is estimated exponentially by the authors based*

*\*There were 2.9 million migrants unclassifiable by rural and urban streams of migration with duration 0-9 years in the 2001 Census, 1.8 and 1.1 million of them located in rural and urban areas, respectively. On the assumption that 1.1 million enumerated in urban areas belong to rural to urban streams, the share of net rural to urban migration would increase to 15.3 million during 1991\_2001 and the contribution of migration will go up to 22.4 per cent. Consequently, the residual showing jurisdictional changes in urban areas will decline from 9.2 per cent to 7.7 per cent for the decade 1991-2001.*

Although the share of jurisdictional migration to urbanization remained unaffected in the 1980s and indeed remained stable over the last three decades. The slowing down of urbanization could be more correctly attributed to the reclassification of towns

and to some extent, to the limited geographical expansion of the existing towns by jurisdictional changes during the 1980s. The share of net reclassification (population of new towns minus declassified towns compiled directly from census sources)

has declined from nearly 19 percent in the decade 1971-1981 to 17 percent in the decade 1981-1991. Also, the contribution of jurisdictional changes (estimated here as residual) declined from 13 percent in 1971-1981 to nearly two percent in the decade 1981-1991.

During the 1990s, the slowing down of urbanization could be attributed to the decline in the share of natural increase as well as to the reduction in the share of net reclassification of settlements. Although the number of new towns has gone up from 856 in 1991 to 1138 in 2001, the number of declassified towns has also increased from 93 in 1991 to 445 in 2001. Thus, the net addition of new towns was 693 in 2001, lower than the net addition of 763 towns in 1991. This shows that the role of the net reclassification of settlements in lowering the urban growth increased during the decade 1991-2001. However, the jurisdictional changes declared by the respective state governments or the Census of India recasting towns into urban agglomeration forms gained importance in India's urbanization as early as the 1970s (Shaw 2005). Although the share of the jurisdictional change has declined in the 1980s, it has

re-emerged as a significant factor in the 1990s. The 2001 Census shows that as many as 221 towns were merged with the neighbouring towns and cities during the 1990s. Such mergers are significant in the process of areal expansion of adjacent cities and towns, often involving the incorporation of rural areas between them. It may not be incorrect to point out that India's future urbanization would be much more influenced by this factor given the sluggish emergence of new towns, the low contribution of migration, and the declining trend in the natural increase in urban areas.

The contribution of net migration in urban growth during the 1990s at the national level is estimated to be nearly 21 percent. Out of this, about eight per cent was contributed by inter-state net migration, and the remaining 13 per cent is added by the net intra-state migration in the urban areas. At the state level, the share of migration in urban growth is observed to be much higher in some of the smaller states and UTs. Among the major states, Gujarat tops the list with 36 percent of urban growth contributed by migration, closely followed by Maharashtra and Haryana. The state of Punjab stands on par with the national

average in terms of the contribution of migration to urban growth. Most of the northern and north-eastern states reveal much lower contribution of migration than the national average. The most important fact emerging from the analysis of the components of urban growth of major states is that the less urbanized states are growing mostly through natural increase, whereas the contribution of migration continues to be higher in more urbanized states, though even in these states, it contributes not more than one-third of the urban growth..

### **Consequences of Unbalanced Urbanization**

The consequences are more severe and it lead to the process of urbanization is preceding a pace without commensurate growth in industrialization and the rise in the level of overall economic development. Unplanned urban growth, for instance, causes growth of slums and squatter settlements, varying affects on environmental degradation and increased the burden on existing infrastructure. The general problems which are the by-product of the certain kind of an urbanization characteristic of low-income countries are:

1. Shortage of houses
2. Critical inadequacies in public utilities viz, power, water, health facilities, sanitation etc
3. Deteriorating urban environment, urban unemployment, congestion etc
4. Acute poverty
5. Slums proliferation

**Shortage of Houses:** The problem that perhaps causes the most concern to the majority of urban dwellers is that of finding an appropriate place to live in. According to Tenth Five Year Plan, the nation needed twenty-two million additional houses. Inadequate housing that forces more than fifty percent of our population in some metropolis to live in slums, all these severely decrease the quality of life and lower the well-being of urban population (Approach Paper for 11th Plan- Govt. of India).

**Critical Inadequacies in Public Utilities:** Massive problem have emerged due to rapid growth of urban population without a corresponding increase in urban infrastructure like safe drinking water, preventive health

services, sanitation facility, adequate power supply and provisioning of basic amenities. Minimum basic facility is also not available for many cities. The existing urban health services are under tremendous pressure to meet the demands of all needy people. The quality of life for the bulk of urban population involves many avoidable hardships. Poor urban infrastructure congested roads, poor public transport, improper treatment of sewage, uncollected solid waste are the general feature of urban settlements. According to Urbanization report of World Bank only fifty-eight percent of urban population of India has access to improved sanitation facilities.

**Deteriorating Urban Environment:**

India is the world's fifth-largest producer of global warming gas and emissions (USA leads the race). The problem of pollution is more severe in big cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai. In India, urban areas are more developed and industrialized than the rural areas, and this attracts still more people to the urban areas. Thus there is more pressure on facilities like transport services, housing and drainage facilities, as well as more production of other goods

required by the urban population, which in turn results in the release of large amounts of wastes and pollutants. The rapid growth in urban population, which affects patterns of production and consumption, is the principal source of pressure on the environment. The environment has to sustain the basic human needs for survival and also the conversion of raw materials into products and services. Urban centres and mega-cities in particular cause many environmental problems like the declining and contaminated water supplies, accelerating atmospheric pollution, severely inadequate sanitation facilities and enormous quantities of solid and liquid waste for disposal. A common and general instance that could be cited here is the contamination of water and rising level of toxins in almost all major rivers of India due to heavy disposal of sewage wastes, excreta and chemical wastes. Due to the large migration of population to urban areas the threat to the environment becomes inevitable, and it leads not only to environmental degradation but also the increasing vulnerability to infectious disease and congestion.

**Poverty:** The Planning Commission has updated the poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2011-12 based on the recommendations of the Tendulkar

Committee using Household Consumer Expenditure Survey 2011-12 data of the National Sample Survey (NSS) 68th round.

**Table: 9 Numbers and Percentage of Poor, 2004-05-2011-12**

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
	<b>Poverty ratio (per cent)</b>		
<b>2004-05</b>	41.8	25.7	37.2
<b>2011-12</b>	25.7	13.7	21.9
	<b>Number of poor (million)</b>		
<b>2004-05</b>	326.3	80.8	407.1
<b>2011-12</b>	216.5	52.8	269.3
	<b>Annual average decline 2004-05 to 2011-12 (percentage points per annum)</b>		
<b>2011-12</b>	2.32	1.69	2.18

**Source:** Planning Commission (Estimated by Tendulkar Method).

Accordingly, with the poverty line at all India level at monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) of ` 816 for rural areas and ` 1000 for urban areas in 2011-12, the poverty ratio in the country has declined from 37.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12. In absolute terms, the number of poor declined from 407.1 million in 2004-05 to 269.3 million in 2011-12 with an average annual decline of 2.2 percentage points during 2004-05 to 2011-12 (Table 13.4). The Planning Commission constituted an

Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan in June 2012 to ‘Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty’. The term of the Expert Group has been extended up to 30 June 2014.

**Slums Proliferation:** Rapid urbanizations with lack of adequate housing led to the proliferation of slums across cities. The pace of urbanization is not matched by adequate housing and other basic facilities, and this resulted in rapid proliferation of slums and slum

population. Resulting emergence of uncountable slums and slum dwellers across the mega cities need utmost attention from the government and policy making bodies, which increased to fifty-five million in 1991 and in 2001 the total number of people living in slum reached to about seventy-five million and it is about twenty six percent of total urban population in 2001. 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. It also reveals that the urbanization of the country has created the most brutal and inhuman living conditions of the people, with vast sections of the population living in squatter settlements. People who are living in slums are under conditions of multiple deprivations. They tend to experience the highest rates of unemployment, under-employment, malnutrition, morbidity and mortality. Some other facts are that the crime and social unrest is high in the slum areas. In

consequence, the long-standing presumption that living conditions are better in larger cities than in the countryside is only true where efficient city management and governance occur (Brockerhoff and Brennan 1998). Unfortunately, they lack in many countries included India.

### **Conclusion & Policy Implication:**

According to the UN-HABITAT 2006 Annual Report, in regard to future trends, it is estimated 93% of urban growth will occur in Asia and Africa and mainly in two Asian countries, India and China. By 2050 over 6 billion people, two-thirds of humanity, will be living in living in towns and cities.

With the country's growing population concentrating on less and less land and linking together more and more tightly in an expanding network of large cities, the well established geographical concepts of inhibited area, state population and population density are gradually becoming less meaningful and pertinent. The blind forces of urbanization, flowing along the lines of least resistance, show no aptitude for creating an urban and industrial pattern that will be stable, self-sustaining, and

self-renewing. Neither the blotting-out of the landscape nor the disappearance of the city is the climax stage of urbanization. Rather, it is the farsighted and provident balancing of city populations and regional resources so as to maintain in a state of high development all the elements (social, economic, and agricultural) necessary for their common life. In India policies towards urbanization have traditionally been negative and since independence no government has ever made any sincere effort to implement an uniform and coherent urban reform policy for better management of this concurrent issue. It must be changed so that the process of urbanization is regarded as a positive force in the development of the country. Policies concerned with urbanization and urban development must pay special attention to increase the access of the poor to urban incomes and amenities so that they also take advantages of urbanization. There

should be a mechanism for sustainable urban environmental management so that the urban environment will be supportive to the needs of a rapidly increasing urban population. The urbanization is always a supportive force for economic and social development and it should be welcomed, indeed we must seek out creative and sustainable ways to accelerate it in the interest of both common masses and our environment.

**Note:** Metropolitan City: - In India, the Census Commission defines a metropolitan city one having a population of over 4 million.

**Definition:**

Class I: Greater than 1, 00,000 population

Class II: 50,000--1, 00,000 population

Class III: 20,000---50,000 population

Class IV+: (10,000--- 20,000 population

Class V: 5,000---10,000 population

Class VI: less than 5000 population)



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