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# URBAN PROCESS, TRENDS AND LEVELS OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA

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#### Abstract:

The people living in urban areas are known as urban population. Urbanization is a process where rural base economy is converted into modern industrial one. It is worldwide and an inevitable process. It has been introduced as a mark of development. However, sometimes this process brings unwanted situation for the society and hence it's known as mixer or combination of positive and negative impacts. India has a long history of urbanization. The present work is based on secondary sources of data which is mainly collected from census of India. The main objectives of this paper are to understand the process and trends and levels of urbanization in the country through historical perspective by using data from Census of India for 1901 to 2011. At present, compare to other countries of the world, India has low level of urbanization. The Indian urban study shows that most of urban population of the country concentrate in class I towns, but population in medium and small towns either fluctuated or declined. The trends of urban population in India is uneven. The present research work focuses particularly on urbanization process, trends and levels of urbanization in the country. The different tools have been used for calculation of total population growth, per cent rural population and per cent urban population.

#### **Introduction:**

Urban population defines as people living in urban areas. Urbanization is an index of transformation from traditional rural society to modern industrial society (Datta, 2006). It is slow and long term process. The historical evidences show that the process of urbanization is universal and associated with industrial revolution and economic growth of an area. According to United Nations, urbanization is a movement of the people from rural to urban areas with population growth. It is a socio-economic process by which an increasing proportion of population of an area becomes concentrate into town and cities. Kingsley Davis (1965), note that urbanization is a progressive concentration in urban unit. It is considered as inevitable part of economic development. Urbanization process is closely related to spatio-temporal, sectoral change in population as well as economic, social, technological and environmental aspect of the society. Urbanization is not only part of industrialization but it is process of economic growth and social change. The rural-urban migration is one of the most important factor for growing urbanization (Census, 2011). Generally better educational-health facilities, good job opportunities, higher standard of living are pull factor for ruralurban migration. The migration is the key process forurban growth. However, natural growth of populationplay a crucial role in the increasing proportion of urban population in total population. In short natural growth in urban population, migration from rural-urban and some extent urban-urban migration, boundary change declassification are major components of urban growth. Urbanization brings change in size and structure of urban population along with problems such as housing, slums, transport, water supply and sanitation, water-air pollution, social disturbances, etc. Urbanization may cause for economic, social and environmental damages but right support of urbanization is helpful for sustainable development. According to Davis (1965), there are three stages of processes in the urbanization. In the first initial stage rural base traditional society mainly characterized by dominance of agriculture with dispersed settlement pattern. Second stage records rapid growth in restructuring of economy and investment in various sectors and urban population gradually increasing step by step. Third stage is terminal state where urban population exceeds 70 per cent or more and level of

urbanization is more or less constant.

# **Definition of Urban Areas:**

There is no standard definition of urban area; it is varying from country to country. It is important to note that India's urban definition is very broad-based and closely reflects levels of development. India's urban areas are defied on the basis of two criteria (Bhagat, 2011).

As per census of India-2011 towns are classified into two parts:

# I) Statutory Towns:

all the places which have a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. so declared by state law. It means that these towns are notified under government law by respective state or Union Territories.

# II) Census Towns:

places or settlements does not have an urban civic status but satisfies demographic and economic criteria like having minimum population of 5000 with at least 75 per cent male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and density of population at least 400 persons per kilometers.

# Urban Agglomeration:

It is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban Outgrowths (OGs) or two or more physical contiguous town together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns. An outgrowths is a viable unit such as a village or hamlet and clearly identifiable in terms of its boundaries and location. An outgrowths includes railway colonies, university campus, military campus, port area, etc. that may came up near a statuary town or city.

# Process of Urbanization in India with Historical Perspective:

India is the second most populous country in the world after China. India's growing urbanization has a regional as well as world-wide impact. At present India is at an accelerate stage of process of urbanization. India has a long history of urbanization since ancient times, it dating back as far back as about five thousand years, when Indus Valley Civilization (3000-1700 BC) saw the birth of the earliest urban settlement in history of man. During this period, archaeological evidences reveal that the high level planning was existed in the cities of Indus Valley. The settlement had clearly demarked public-private area with an extensive and sophisticated drainage system. These are vague the earliest planned urban settlement on the world(Sanyal, Sanjeev). In India there were many well planned, big and beautiful cities in different parts of the country. According to an estimate the level of urbanization was higher in the part of  $17^{\text{th}}$  century as comparison to late  $19^{\text{th}}$  century. The cottage industries and tertiary activities development in medieval period played an important role in an emergence of number of cities and towns in the country. The damage of local industrial structure during colonialism gave indicative serious blow to the process of urbanization (Bhagat, 2011). During the colonial period, the population flows towards its key ports and administrative towns. The colonial policy of industrialization resulted in the concentration of units producing goods mostly for consumption within the few large cities (Kundu, 2011). In 1687-88 the first municipal corporation in India was set up at Madras (Chennai). In 1726, Municipal Corporation was set up in Bombay (Mumbai) and Calcutta (Kolkata). The first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's deep commitment to modernity meant that he toyed with the idea of building a genuinely modern city that could act as a role model for modern urban dwellers. In the First Five Year Plan (1951-56), the government concentrated on institution-building and on construction of homes for government employees and the weaker sections of society. Third plan (1961-1966) was a turning point in urban planning history of India because towns and cities are considered as an important factor for regional development. The Fourth Plan (1969-74) stressed the need to prevent the further growth of population in large cities and the need for decongestion or dispersal of population. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)

was established for funding to housing and urban development programmes. During the fourth plan (1967-1974), regional study in respect of metropolitan region was started. The Fifth Plan (1974-79) reiterated the policies of the preceding Plans to promote smaller towns in new urban centers. In the 1976, Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act was enacted to prevent concentration of land holdings in urban areas and to make urban land available for construction of houses for the people those belongs to middle- and low-income groups. The sixth plan (1978-1983) stressed on the need to pay attention and develop small and medium size towns those having population less than one lakh. In the same period (1979) central government launched scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). The Seventh Plan (1985-90) stressed the need to entrust the major responsibility of housing construction to the private sector. The Seventh Plan clearly recognized the problems of the urban poor and for the first time an Urban Poverty Alleviation Scheme known as Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) was launched. The national commission on urbanization submitted its report and 65<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment was introduced in Lok Sabha in 1989. The Eighth Plan (1992-97) gave weightage to the role and importance of the urban sector for the national economy. While the growth rate of employment in the urban areas averaged around 3.8% per annum. This was first attempt to give urban local bodies a constitutional status with three tire federal structure and finally passed in 1992 as 74 constitutional amendment act and came into force1993. During 1993-94 the Mega city scheme was introduced which covers Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad cities. IDSMT scheme was revamped through it infrastructure development programs for boosting employment generation for diversion of migration from big cities to small and medium cities. In August, 1996, the Central Government guidelines entitled 'Urban Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) were circulated to all State Governments for adoption. Ninth plan continued and give importance to decentralization and financial autonomy of urban local bodies. The urban self-employment and urban wage employment programme was introduced for targeting to reduce urban poverty and generate employments. This unique programme was started in 1997 known as Swarna Jayanti Shastri Rozgar Yojana and revamp in 2013 as National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). During the 11<sup>th</sup> plan (2007-2012) changes were introduced with the help of increasing efficiency and productivity of cities using modern technology for rapid growth in urbanization and as a result, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission(JNNURM) came into existence in 2005. According to the High Powered Expert Committee (HPEC) appointed by the Ministry of Urban Development, which gave its recommendations to the Government in the year 2011, there is a requirement of investment in urban infrastructure. This programme (JNNURM) was continued till 2012 but it has been extended and covering more number of cities. This programme mainly focused on status of urban poor in the form of housing, water supply, sanitation, urban transport, roar network, etc. **Basic and Important Features of Indian Urbanization:** 

Natural urban population growth, growth of industrialization, growth in statutory and census towns, rural-urban migration, expansion in government services, infrastructural facilities in the urban centers, growth in private sector, history and trend of urbanization etc. give characterized features to India urbanization.

(1) History of Indian urbanization is quite old in the Indus Valley Civilization (3000-1700 BC).

(2) During ancient and medieval periods, urbanization is closely related to administration places, capitals and trading centers.

(3) During colonel period India recorded accelerated rate in urbanization due to industrialization.
(4) From the beginning urbanization in India related to the particular themes for example 1901-1911 famine and plague, 1911-1921 influenza, 1951-1961 planned development, 1991-2001 faster growth in number of million cities, etc.

(5) The nature of Indian urbanization is subsistence; the rural-urban migration is mainly happen for

employment. The people don't think about balanced diet, better housing facilities, they may consume low quality food and living in general condition but they stay in urban areas for the job. This condition adversely affected on quality of urban life, particularly class I cities and metropolitan cities. There are number of slums emerges and extends in the cities.

(7) The more urban population is concentrated in big cities of India on the other hand medium and small towns slashed their proportion in total urban population.

(8) The urban system of India is not spatially and functionally integrated because of break and imbalance in urban hierarchy.

(9) The growth of Indian towns mainly based on tertiary than the secondary sector.

10) The southern states highly urbanized than Northern India because of historical, socio-cultural, educational factor and availability of resources.

# **Objectives:**

Keeping in the view, urbanization is a worldwide and an inevitable process; the main objectives of the research paper are as follows:

1. To understand the processes of urbanization with historical perspective.

2. To study the levels and trends of urbanization in India by using data from 1901-2011 census.

# **Database And Methodlogy:**

The present work is based on secondary sources data which mainly collected from census of India. However, the urbanization data published in various reports like UN's World Urbanization Report, India's Urban Ministry report have been used. Some literature and data regarding urban population have been collected from Books, study reports, journals, newspaper articles, conference proceeding and internet. The research papers of various scholars are also referred. The following tools have been used for different analysis performed in this research study. The degree of urbanization, decadal change in total, urban and rural population, urban-rural ratio have been calculated by using the following formulas:

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Per cent Urban Population (PUR):=(UP/TP)*100
Where.
UP= Urban Population of the respective Census Year
TP = Total population of the respective Census Year
Per cent Rural Population (PRP):= (RP/TP)*100
Where.
RP= Rural Population of the respective Census Year
TP = Total Population of the respective Census Year
Urban-Rural Ratio: (URR) = (UP/RP)*100
Where,
UP = Urban Population of the respective Census Year
RP = Rural Population of the respective Census Year
Decadal Growth Rate of Population by residence calculated by using following formula
Decadal Growth in Total Population: = P2-P1/P1*100
Where:
P2: Population of lateral Census
P1: Population of Previous Census
Decadal Growth in Urban Population: = UP2-UP1/UP1*100
        Where:
        UP2: Total Urban Population of lateral Census
        UP1: Total Urban Population of Previous Census
Decadal Growth in Rural Population: RP2-RP1/ RP1*100
        Where:
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RP2: Decadal Growth in lateral Census Rural Population

RP1: Decadal Growth in Previous Census Rural Population of = RP2-RP1/ RP1\*100 World Urbanization:

# The urbanization has been increased at a rapid rate. However, the process of urbanization has moved rapidly in the entire world since 1800 (Davis Kingsley, 1955). At present (2010) more than 50 per cent (52 %) world population is living in urban areas. The developed countries have higher urbanization than developing and under developing countries (United Nations Report, 2014). No doubt urbanization is worldwide processes but level of urbanization is varying from region to region. The comprehensive urban growth may play a crucial role in sustainable development. The demographic change, level and trends of urbanization is an important elements to urban planner, government policy makers for appropriate urban planning. Therefore, the present work is an attempt to study level, trend and patterns of urbanization in India during 1901 to 2011.

# Urbanization in India:

The level of urbanization in India, explained in terms of percentage of urban population to the total population. The level of urbanization in the country is still relatively low. The process of urbanization in the country is interlinking with industrialization. The states those are highly industrialized and more economically advanced have high proportion of urban population. The highly urbanized status namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are important examples of this experience. Urbanization is the most significant phenomenon of 20th century which affects all aspects of Indian life. The number of total population has increased from 238,396,327 in 1901 to 1,210,193,422 in 2011. As per 1921 (251,321,213 persons) census India has recorded negative change in total number of population (252,093,390 persons in 1911) but increase number of population residing in urban areas from 25,941,633 in 1911 to 28,086,167 in 1921. The population residing in urban areas has increased from 25,851,873 in 1901 to 62,443,709 in 1951. It means that the growth in urban population was only 36 million (36,591,836) in 50 years. But the absolute increase during the next three decades during 1951-1981 was about 94 million (97,018,838).During period 1981-2011, urban population increased about 217 million (217,643,213). The number of agglomeration increased 1827 (1901) to 7935 as per census 2011. The number of million plus cities has increased from 5 in 1951 to 23 in 1991, 35 in 2001 and 53 in 2011. During the period 1901-1911 total population increased from 238,396,327 to 252,093,390 and urban population also increased from 25,851,873 to 25,941,633 but per cent of urban population was decreased from 10.84 to 10.29 (0.55 per cent) due to growth in rural residing from 89.16 to 89.71. It was first negative change in urban population in Indian urbanization history (1901-2011). Up to 1931 urbanization in India was remained near about the same, up 11 to 12 per cent. Table 1, shows that first high growth of urban population (about 2 per cent) for 1931, 1941 census. For census 1941 and 1951 the urban population growth was 3.43 per cent. The Poor growth in urbanization was found between 1921, 1931 (0.81 per cent) and 1951, 1961 (0.68 per cent) census. In urban history of India, first time more than five per cent (5.1 %) urban growth was observed between 1971 and 1981 census. In short, urbanization growth in India is uneven. Table, 2 shows decadal change (absolute and per cent) in total population, urban and rural population. For 1911, 1921 census there is a minus change recorded in total population, per cent of total population, absolute rural population and per cent of rural population.

| Census | Total      | Urban      | Per cent of Urban | Rural      | Per cent of Rural |
|--------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
|        | Population | Population | Pop ulation       | Population | Population        |
| 1901   | 238396327  | 25851873   | 10.84             | 212544454  | 89.16             |
| 1911   | 252093390  | 25941633   | 10.29             | 226151757  | 89.71             |
| 1921   | 251321213  | 28086167   | 11.18             | 223235046  | 88.82             |
| 1931   | 278977238  | 33455989   | 11.99             | 245521249  | 88.01             |
| 1941   | 31866058 0 | 44153297   | 13.86             | 274507283  | 86.14             |
| 1951   | 361088090  | 62443709   | 17.29             | 298644381  | 82.71             |
| 1961   | 439234771  | 78936603   | 17.97             | 360298168  | 82.03             |
| 1971   | 598159652  | 109113977  | 18.24             | 489045675  | 81.76             |
| 1981   | 683329097  | 159462547  | 23.34             | 523866550  | 76.66             |
| 1991   | 844324222  | 217177625  | 25.72             | 627146597  | 74.28             |
| 2001   | 1027015247 | 285354954  | 27.78             | 741660293  | 72.22             |
| 2011   | 1210193422 | 377105760  | 31.16             | 833087662  | 68.84             |

# Table: 1 India: Proportion of Rural and Urban Population to Total Population, 1901-2011

Sources: Census of India

There is no negative change was seen in decadal absolute urban population and per cent of urban population. The highest decadal change in total population (24.80 per cent) was recorded for 1961 and 1971 whereas the highest decadal change in urban population (46.14 per cent) was recorded for 1971 and 1981 census.

| Table: 2 India: Decadal Change i | n Total Population and | 1 by Residence, 1901-2011 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

| Census      | Difference<br>Between<br>Two | Decadal<br>Change in<br>Total | Decadal<br>Change in<br>Absolute | Decadal<br>Change in<br>Urban | Decadal<br>Change in<br>Absolute | Decadal<br>Chang e in<br>Rural |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|             | Census                       | Population                    | Urban                            | Population                    | Rural                            | Population                     |
|             |                              | (Per cent)                    | Population                       | (Per cent)                    | Population                       | (Per cent)                     |
| 1901 - 1911 | 13697063                     | 05.75                         | 89760                            | 00.35                         | 13607303                         | 06.40                          |
| 1911 - 1921 | -772177                      | (-0.31)                       | 2144534                          | 08.27                         | (-2916711)                       | (-1.29)                        |
| 1921 - 1931 | 27656025                     | 11.00                         | 5369822                          | 19.12                         | 22286203                         | 09.98                          |
| 1931 - 1941 | 39683342                     | 14.22                         | 10697308                         | 31.97                         | 28986034                         | 11.8 1                         |
| 1941 -1951  | 42427510                     | 13.31                         | 18290412                         | 41.43                         | 24137098                         | 08.79                          |
| 1951 - 1961 | 78146681                     | 21.64                         | 16492894                         | 26.41                         | 61653787                         | 20.64                          |
| 1961 -1971  | 108924881                    | 24.80                         | 30177374                         | 38.23                         | 128747507                        | 35.73                          |
| 1971 - 1981 | 135169445                    | 24.66                         | 50348570                         | 46.14                         | 34820875                         | 07.12                          |
| 1981 -1991  | 163091942                    | 23.87                         | 57715078                         | 36.19                         | 103280047                        | 19.71                          |
| 1991 -2001  | 182316397                    | 21.54                         | 68177329                         | 31.39                         | 114513696                        | 18.26                          |
| 2001 2011   | 181455986                    | 17.64                         | 91750806                         | 32.15                         | 91427369                         | 12.33                          |

Source: Census of India

| State/UT               | Census |       | Difference between | Previous and Lateral Census |           |
|------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
|                        | 1991   | 2001  | 2011               | 1991-2001                   | 2001-2011 |
| INDIA                  | 25.73  | 27.81 | 31.16              | 2.08                        | 3.35      |
| Jammu and Kashmir      | 23.83  | 24.81 | 27.21              | 0.98                        | 2.4       |
| Himachal Pradesh       | 08.69  | 9.8   | 10.04              | 1.11                        | 0.24      |
| Punjab                 | 29.55  | 33.92 | 37.49              | 4.37                        | 3.57      |
| Chandigarh             | 89.55  | 89.77 | 97.25              | 0.08                        | 7.48      |
| Uttrakhand             | _      | 25.67 | 30.55              |                             | 4.88      |
| Haryana                | 24.63  | 28.92 | 34.79              | 4.29                        | 5.87      |
| Delhi                  | 89.93  | 93.18 | 97.50              | 3.25                        | 4.32      |
| Rajasthan              | 22.88  | 23.39 | 24.89              | 0.51                        | 1.5       |
| Utter Pradesh          | 19.84  | 20.78 | 22.28              | 0.94                        | 1.5       |
| Bihar                  | 13.14  | 10.46 | 11.30              | (-2.68)                     | 0.84      |
| Sikkim                 | 9.10   | 11.07 | 24.97              | 1.97                        | 13.9      |
| Arunachal Pradesh      | 12.80  | 20.75 | 22.67              | 7.95                        | 1.92      |
| Andaman and Nicobar    | 26.71  | 32.63 | 35.67              | 5.92                        | 3.04      |
| Nagaland               | 17.21  | 17.23 | 28.97              | 0.02                        | 11.74     |
| Manipur                | 27.52  | 25.11 | 30.21              | (-2.41)                     | 5.1       |
| Mizoram                | 46.10  | 49.63 | 51.51              | 3.53                        | 1.88      |
| Tripura                | 15.30  | 17.06 | 26.18              | 1.76                        | 9.12      |
| Meghalaya              | 18.6   | 19.58 | 20.08              | 0.98                        | 0.50      |
| Assam                  | 11.10  | 12.9  | 14.08              | 1.8                         | 1.18      |
| West Bengal            | 27.48  | 27.97 | 31.89              | 0.49                        | 3.92      |
| Jharkhand              |        | 22.24 | 24.05              |                             | 1.81      |
| Orissa                 | 13.38  | 17.99 | 16.68              | 1.61                        | 1.69      |
| Chhattisgarh           |        | 20.09 | 23.24              |                             | 3.15      |
| Madhya Pradesh         | 23.80  | 26.46 | 27.63              | 2.66                        | 1.17      |
| Gujarat                | 34.49  | 37.36 | 42.58              | 2.87                        | 5.22      |
| Daman and Diu          | 46.80  | 36.25 | 75.16              | (-10.55)                    | 38.91     |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 8.47   | 22.89 | 46.62              | 14.42                       | 23.73     |
| Maharashtra            | 38.69  | 42.43 | 45.23              | 3.74                        | 2.8       |
| Andhra Pradesh         | 26.89  | 27.3  | 33.49              | 0.41                        | 6.19      |
| Karnataka              | 30.92  | 33.99 | 38.57              | 3.07                        | 4.58      |
| Goa                    | 41.01  | 49.76 | 62.17              | 8.75                        | 12.41     |
| Lakshadweep            | 56.31  | 44.46 | 78.08              | -11.85                      | 33.62     |
| Kerala                 | 26.39  | 25.96 | 47.72              | -0.43                       | 21.76     |
| Tamil Nadu             | 34.15  | 44.04 | 48.45              | 9.89                        | 4.41      |
| Pondicherry            | 64.00  | 66.57 | 68.31              | 2.57                        | 1.74      |

# Table: 3 Level of Urbanization in India, 1991-2011

# Source: Census of India

All Union Territories are highly urbanized except Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Degree of urbanization is high in southern, western and north-eastern states whereas low urbanization level is found in northern and central states. During the period 1991-2001 population growth rate was 21.5 per cent whereas rural and urban population growth rate was 18.1 per cent and 31.5 per cent respectively. But in the next decade 2001-2011, total population growth and rural population growth was declined but urban population growth was increased. For the first time since Independence, the absolute increase in population was more in urban areas that in rural areas.

The proportion of rural population declined from 72.19% to 68.84% and level of urbanization increased from 27.81% in 2001 Census to 31.16% in 2011 Census. The regional variations in the distribution of urban population are significant. A large proportion of urban population is concentrated in the urbanized states, namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. According to 2011, Goa emerges as the most urbanized state in the country with 62.17% of its population within the urban frame. However, Nation capital Delhi has the highest urbanization among the states and union territories. Tamil Nadu has one of the most urbanized state comprising 48.45% urban population, followed by Maharashtra (45.23%), Gujarat (42.58%), Karnataka (38.57%), Punjab (37.49%), and Haryana (34.79%).

The pattern of urban growth across states is significantly different from that of the levels of urbanization. The small northeastern states deserve special mention as they too have recorded high urban growth but unfortunately, was not reflected in their levels of economic development. The developed states attracted population in urban areas due to industrialization and infrastructural facilities but this was largely in and around large cities and industrial centers. Most of the developed states like Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka etc., have registered urban growth above the national average. The backward states, on the other hand, have experienced growth either below the national average or, at most, equal to that. In the post-independence period, the rate of growth of urban population in India has generally accelerated till 1981. The rates of urban population growth and urbanization have also shown a declining trend during 1981-91, 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 period. Another features of Indian urbanization is that there has been a continuous concentration of population in mega cities and decline in medium and small towns and cities because of that class I cities with population of 100,000 or more has gone up and the share of class I cities in urbanization has increased. On the contrary the concentration of population in medium and small towns either fluctuated or declined. It is major cause for urban imbalance and inequality in the distribution of urban population. Since 1961 onward there has been steep rise in the urban population and urbanization ratio so as to reach its highest point during 1971 (24.80 per cent) and 1981(24.66 per cent) census. This was the peak point in the urban growth of the country during the 20th century and beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century. During 1901 to 1931 urban growth was less due to famines, epidemics and high mortality. The period between 1931 and 1961, census 1931 has great importance in the history of urban growth in the country, during this period rapid urban population growth takes place. At the time of 1961 it was the just beginning period of planned development in the country with Five Year Plan which helps to the establishment of big industries. This situation provided ideal base for urban development. After 1961, 1971 and 1981 recorded highest growth in urbanization with the help of economic development. The level of urbanization in India, explained with the percentage of urban population to the total population. It has been very low and reflects the agrarian and predominantly rural character of the Indian population. The process of urbanization in India shows a sharp spatio-temporal variation. The states with higher industrial and economic developments are also the regions of higher urbanization. The states namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are the examples of this experience. All the southern states, along with Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, have higher urbanization levels than the national average, but small states like Goa continue to top the list among states (62% urban), followed by Mizoram (51.5%). Among the major states, Tamil Nadu continues to be ahead of the others, with levels of urbanization at 48.4% in 2011. The state Himachal Pradesh at the bottom with a 10% level of urbanization, 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 urbanization than the national average. Although the reversal 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 in-

creased urban population growth rate during 2001-2011 compared to 1991-2001. 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, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, etc., **Conclusion:** 

Urbanization is a worldwide process and closely related to industrialization, economic development and migration from rural to urban areas. India has a long history since from Indus valley culture. The designing and implementation of five years plans became helpful to improve the urban condition and urban growth in India. In the urban history of India, specific periods are associated with particular theme for example epidemics, planning, high urban growth etc. The urban population growth during 1901-1931 is negligible remained about 11 per cent to 12 per cent but after 1971 to 2011 the growth increased about 3 to 5 per cent. In the history of urbanization in India, during 1911-1921 the country records negative growth in total population for the same period absolute and per cent of urban population growth is positive. After 1981-1991 the decadal population growth in total population continuously decreased but decadal change in per cent of urban population is fluctuated. The states, namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa etc., always remained highly urbanized states in India. It is found that generally southern Indian states are more urbanized than northern and eastern states within the country. The decadal state level data of urbanization shows that uneven tends of urbanization. However, as per earlier mentioned, some states always remain with high level of urbanization than nation's average level of urbanization. **References:** 

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