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**EPRA International Journal of
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URBANIZATION IN INDIA: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND NEED OF SMART CITIES

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is a process of which towns and cities are formed and population shifts from rural to urban residency and gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas. Urbanization creates social, economic and environmental changes which provide an opportunity for sustainable uses of resources and sustainable development.

The rate of migration of rural to urban areas is increasing across the world. A study reveals that about 70 percent of the world population will be living in cities and India is no exception from that. Due to adoption of the strategy of mixed economy, the process of urbanisation accelerated in India since independence. Since the growth rate of population is very high in India, people migrated from rural areas to urban areas for their livelihood and thereby the no of urban towns and cities have drastically increased.

KEYWORDS: *Urbanization, environmental changes, mixed economy, employment*

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a process of which towns and cities are formed and population shifts from rural to urban residency and gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas. Urbanization creates social, economic and environmental changes which provide an opportunity for sustainable uses of resources and sustainable development.

The rate of migration of rural to urban areas is increasing across the world. A study reveals that about 70 percent of the world population will be living in cities and India is no exception from that. Due to adoption of the strategy of mixed economy, the process of urbanisation accelerated in India since independence. Since the growth rate of population is very high in India, people migrated from rural areas to urban areas for their livelihood and thereby the no

of urban towns and cities have drastically increased. The rapid increase in urban population in India is leading to many problems like increasing slums, environmental damage, decrease the standard of living of urban people, unhygienic sanitation, problem of clean drinking water, housing etc. According to the data published by World Bank, India is urbanizing at the rate of 2.324 percent annually with approximately 33.54 percent of urban population in 2017. An another survey by UN state of World Population Report in 2007 stated that India's urban population is expected to rise to 40.76 percent by 2030. To cope up this huge no of urban population India will need about 500 new cities to accommodate the urban population.

With increasing urbanization and its impact on socio-economic status of people and environment,

the Indian government has realised the need for cities that can cope with the inherent challenges of urban living and an announcement of ‘100 smart cities’ has made in 2014. A smart city refers a highly advanced city in terms of overall infrastructure, sustainable real estate, communication and market viability. Smart cities offer people a superior way of life and sustainable and faster economic development. Thus the strategy ‘100 smart cities’ is an innovative idea initiated by the government of India towards the improving of quality of life and creates the opportunities for investment for faster economic growth.

2. OBJECTIVES

The growth rate of population in India is too high to facilitates a sustainable occupation to its people. Thereby the process of migration from rural to urban areas for better livelihood influences the urbanization of India at a huge rate. This paper tries to analyse the trend and of urbanization in India and also the magnitude of the strategy of smart cities initiated by GOI in relation to faster urbanization process.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is basically analytical in nature. To describe the trend of urbanization in India, tables and diagrams are presented with help of statistical packages. Data are collected from various government website, newspapers and articles.

4. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Trends of urbanisation in India

After independence, India have witnessed a rapid increase of urbanization due to industrial revolution and the invention of new technologies which increases the living standard of the people of urban areas. Infrastructure of urban areas grows rapidly as a result of the development of public sector. Again the major strategy of urbanisation of 11th five year planning boost up the rate of urbanization in India. Growth of employment opportunities in urban areas is attracting people from rural to urban areas and people move out for economic advancement to areas offering better job opportunities.

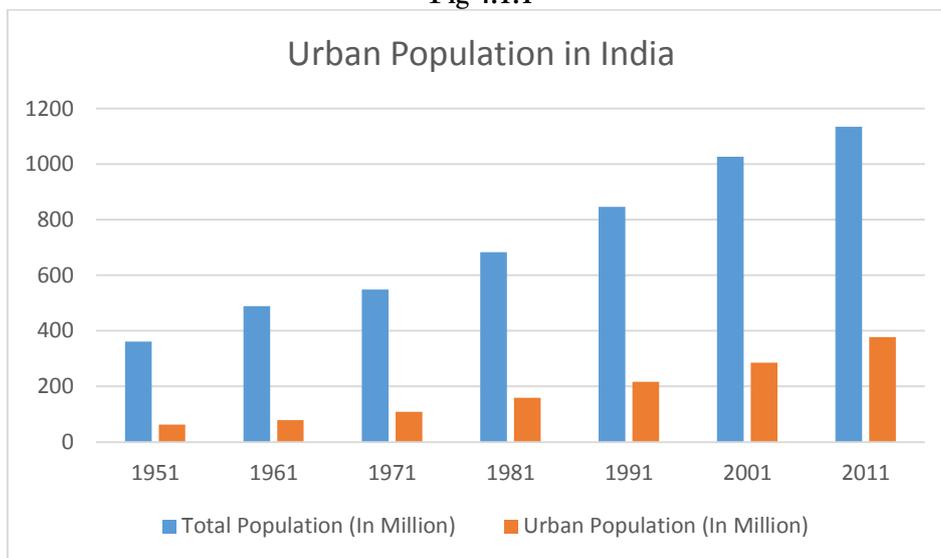
Urban India has grown at an unprecedented way since last two decades. With the help of following table and diagram, the rapid rate of urbanization can be explained.

**Table no-4.1.1
Trends of India’s urbanization**

Census Year	Total Population (In Million)	Urban Population (In Million)	Proportion of Urban Population (In Percentage)	Annual Exponential Growth Rate of Population (Percentage)
1951	361.09	62.44	17.3	
1961	489.23	78.94	17.97	2.34
1971	548.16	109.11	19.91	3.23
1981	683.33	159.46	23.34	3.79
1991	846.39	217.18	25.72	3.09
2001	1027.02	286.12	27.86	2.75
2011	1134.25	377.10	31.16	2.76

Source: Census of India

Fig 4.1.1



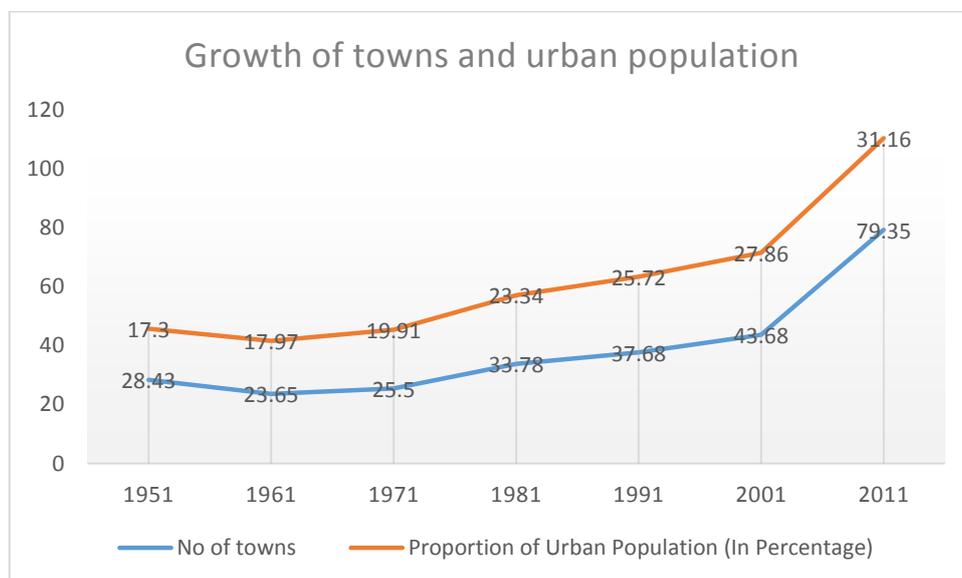
From the table and diagram it is clear that rate of growth of urban population is far above than the rate of growth of total population in the country.

In relation to the increasing no of urban population the no of cities also growing at a faster rate.

Table-4.1.2
No of towns in India (00s)

Year	No of towns
1951	28.43
1961	23.65
1971	25.50
1981	33.78
1991	37.68
2001	43.68
2011	79.35

Fig 4.1.2



The growth rate of towns and urban population has significantly increases in the decade of 2001-2011 as government of India initiated the special strategy for urbanisation during 11th five-year planning.

As urbanization depends on several factors such as social, political, economic, historical etc., therefore the rate of urbanization in India varies region to region. Among the all states and union territory of India, Delhi is the most urbanized state with 97.5 of urban population. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; India (2018), states that Mizoram is the most urbanized state among North- East with 51.5 percent of urban population. The proportion of urban population continues to be the lowest in Himachal Pradesh with 10.0 percent followed by Bihar with 11.3 percent of urban population. In terms of absolute no of population living in urban areas, Maharashtra continues to lead with 13.5 percent of total urban population of the country.

4.2Challenges of Rapid Urbanization in India

Though urbanization has been an instrument of economic, social and political progress, it has led to serious socio-economic problem. With rapid growth of urbanization India faces lots of problem. It has put heavy pressure on public utilities like housing, sanitation, transport, water, electricity, health, education and so on. Moreover, poverty, unemployment and under employment among the rural immigrants, beggary, thefts, dacoities, burglaries and other social evils are on high rate and urban sprawl is rapidly encroaching the precious agricultural land. The rapid urbanization demands a huge no of housing but the current rate of housing construction is very slow which makes the problem further complicated.

Table:4.2.1
Housing with basic facilities in Urban areas (Percentage)

Types	2001	2011
Housing having safe drinking water	90.0	91.4
Housing having electricity	87.6	92.7
Housing having toilet	73.7	81.4
Housing having one room	35.1	32.1
Housing having two rooms	29.5	30.6
Housing having three rooms	17.1	18.8
Housing having more than three rooms	18.3	18.5

Source: Office of Registrar General; Ministry of Home Affairs

Table:4.2.2
Housing with Tenure Status in Urban Areas (Percentage)

Types	NSS 65 th Round	NSS 69 th Round
Owned	61.5	61.1
Rented	35.1	35.4
Others	3.3	3.4

Source: National Sample Survey

Urbanization leads another problem of urban unemployment which was 5.8 percent in 2009-10 on current daily status basis. As of July 2018, the CMIE estimates the urban unemployment rate is 6.5 percent. Similarly, the slum population of India also increases as people are migrated to urban areas. Census 2011 estimated about 1.3 urban slum household.

Again with traffic bottleneck and traffic congestion, almost all cities and towns of India are suffering from acute form of transport problem. Transport problems increase and become more complex as the town grows in size.

4.3 Need of Smart Cities

Rising urbanization in terms of employment, business, finance, production and services required a new perspective to look at the nature and function of the cities. Thus by focusing challenges of rapid urbanization Government of India introduced new strategy of '100 Smart Cities' in 2014 with the aim of sustainable and exclusive development. Under this strategy the core infrastructure elements of a smart city would include: (i) adequate water supply, (ii) assured electricity supply, (iii) sanitation, including solid waste management, (iv) efficient urban mobility and public transport, (v) affordable housing, especially for the poor, (vi) robust IT connectivity and digitalization, (vii) good governance, especially e-governance and citizen participation, (viii) sustainable environment, (ix) safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children, and the elderly, and (x) health and education. Further, the Smart Cities strategy focuses on four strategic components of 'area-based development' that are: (i) city improvement, (ii) city renewal, (iii) city extension, and (iv) pan-city initiative in which smart solutions will be applied covering larger parts of a city. Thus the strategy of smart cities provides core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment

and application to smart solution of the problems of urbanization.

With an initial endowment of Indian Rupees 3205 crores is funded for this Strategy. As of January 2018, 99 cities have been selected to be upgraded under this mission.

The strategy of smart cities also faces challenges. The success of this depends on its residents, entrepreneurs and visitors of the cities becoming actively participated in energy saving and implementation of new technologies.

5. CONCLUSIONS

There's no doubt that growing interest in smart cities has led to lots of social, theoretical and technological discussions. However, implementation and initiatives have been far less in comparison to the hype. The problem lies with the numerous hindrances on way to the adoption of Smart City solutions. But the Smart cities mission is an opportunity to learn from and improve upon the failures in urban governance to enhance the quality of life of the Indian people.

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