

The growing number and size of towns/cities in India: Emerging issues from 2011 census data

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Abstract:

India is urbanizing rapidly and about 377 million people live in 7935 towns/cities(census, 2011) across the country which constitutes about 31.2 % of the total population. The number of towns has significantly increased from 5161 in 2001 to 7935 in 2011. During the fifties and sixties of the twentieth century, the country experienced rapid growth of its urban population. But during the last few decades India has experienced urban deceleration. The country has experienced a noticeable slowing down of the rate of urbanization and urban growth in the past two decades(1981-1991 and 1991-2001). But there has been an urban turn around in 2011 which reported an acceleration of urbanization. For the first time since independence, the absolute increase in urban population exceeded to that of the increase in rural population though 69% of the total population live in rural areas which is highly significant. There is high inequality in the distribution of the urban population by size class categories. About 70% of the total urban population(265 million) live in 468 towns which is also reflected in Gini Index and Lorenz curve. Against this background, the recently released 2011 census data provides an opportunity to explore and analyse this urban turn around.

Objectives

1. To study the levels and trends of urbanization in India by size class distribution
2. To analyze the tempo(change in the degree of urbanization) of urbanization in India.
3. To study the inequality in the distribution of urban population by size class categories.

Data and methods:

The present study is entirely based on the census data during the period of 1951 to 2011. Various census volumes on rural-urban distribution of population, directory of towns, General population table and cities and other related census volumes have been utilized. Degree and tempo of urbanization have been computed. The tempo or speed of urbanization refers to the change in the degree of urbanization over a specified period of time. It is calculated by using the exponential growth curve.

Gini Concentration Index and Lorenz curve:-

One of the dimensions of urbanization process is the concentration of urban population in few urban areas. Concentration refers to the unevenness in the distribution of the urban population. Gini Concentration Index and Lorenz curve are used to measure the inequality in the distribution of urban population. Gini Index measures the proportion of the total area under the diagonal that lies between the diagonal and the Lorenz curve. The higher value of Gini shows the level of concentration is more in the bigger cities than the smaller cities.

$$G_i = [\sum X_i Y_{i+1}] - [\sum X_{i+1} * Y_i]$$

X_i = cumulative proportion of urban population

Y_i = cumulative proportion of urban localities

n = number of urban localities.

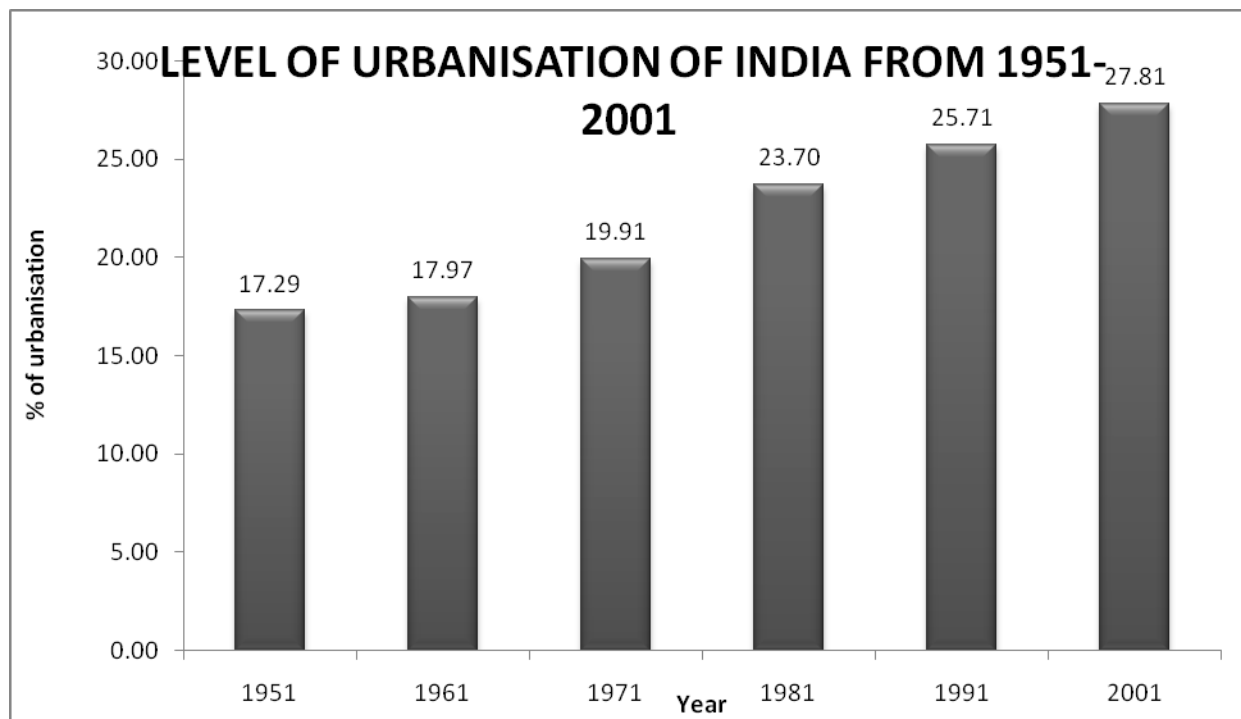


Figure-01

Table – (01) TRENDS IN URBANIZATION IN MAJOR STATES OF INDIA, 1961-2001

India/State	Percent urban			Rate of urbanization					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-01
A.P.	17.44	19.31	23.32	26.89	27.30	1.02	1.88	1.43	0.15
Assam	7.21	8.82	9.88	11.10	12.90	2.01	1.14	1.16	1.51
Bihar	8.43	10.00	12.47	13.14	13.35	1.71	2.21	0.53	0.15
Gujarat	25.77	28.08	31.10	34.49	37.36	0.86	1.02	1.03	0.80
Haryana	17.23	17.67	21.88	24.63	28.92	0.25	2.14	1.18	1.61
Himachal P.	6.34	6.99	7.61	8.69	9.80	0.98	0.86	1.32	1.20
J & K	16.66	18.59	21.05	23.83	24.81	1.10	1.24	1.24	0.40
Karnataka	22.33	24.31	28.89	30.92	33.99	0.85	1.73	0.68	0.94
Kerala	15.11	16.24	18.74	26.39	25.96	0.72	1.44	3.42	-0.16
M.P.	14.29	16.29	20.29	23.18	24.82	1.31	2.20	1.33	0.69
Maharashtra	28.22	31.17	35.03	38.69	42.43	0.99	1.17	0.99	0.92
Orissa	6.32	8.41	11.79	13.38	14.99	2.85	3.38	1.26	1.14
Punjab	23.06	23.73	27.68	29.55	33.92	0.29	1.54	0.65	1.38
Rajasthan	16.28	17.63	21.05	22.88	23.39	0.80	1.77	0.83	0.22
Tamil Nadu	26.69	30.26	32.95	34.15	44.04	1.25	0.85	0.36	2.54
U.P.	12.85	14.02	17.95	19.84	21.02	0.87	2.47	1.00	0.58
W.B.	24.45	24.75	26.47	27.48	27.97	0.12	0.67	0.37	0.18

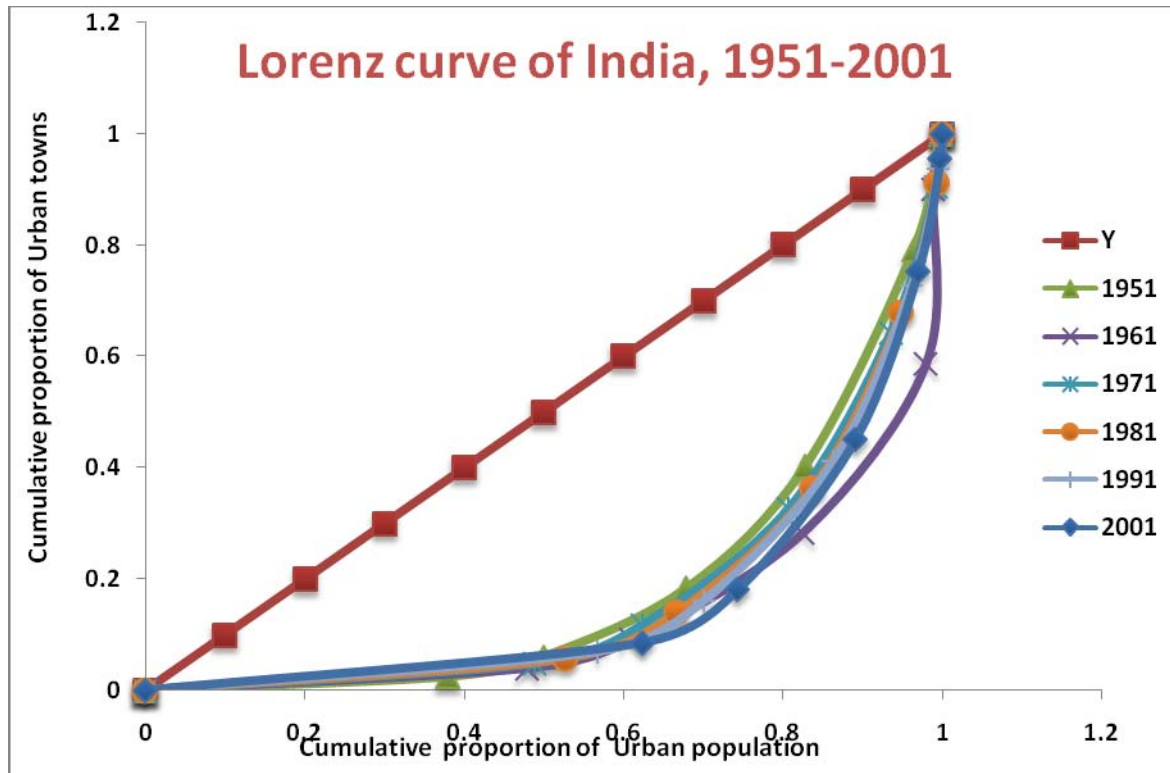
PROJECTED LEVEL OF URBANIZATION IN DIFFIRENT REGION OF INDIA						
Table-03	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026
	% Ur.	% Ur.	% Ur.	% Ur.	% Ur.	% Ur.
INDIA	27.82	28.90	30.02	31.15	32.29	33.44
NORTH	32.57	24.74	35.61	37.27	39.00	40.82
Delhi	93.18	94.41	95.43	96.28	96.97	97.53
Haryana	28.92	31.23	33.63	36.13	38.70	41.33
H.P.	9.81	1.04	11.04	11.71	12.43	13.17
J & K	24.81	25.80	26.82	27.87	28.93	30.02
Punjab	33.92	36.22	38.59	41.01	43.48	45.98
Rajasthan	23.38	23.64	23.91	24.17	24.43	24.70
Uttaranchal	25.67	26.99	28.36	29.77	31.22	32.70
CENTRAL	22.11	22.77	23.43	24.11	24.80	25.51
Chhattisgarh	20.09	21.55	23.09	24.70	26.38	28.14
M.P.	26.46	27.07	27.68	28.30	28.94	29.58
U.P.	20.78	21.36	21.95	22.55	23.16	23.78
EAST	18.78	19.01	19.25	19.51	19.81	20.12
Jharkhand	22.24	22.76	23.29	23.83	24.37	24.93
Bihar	10.46	10.49	10.52	10.55	10.58	10.61
Orissa	14.99	15.86	16.77	17.71	18.71	19.74
W.B.	27.97	28.22	28.48	28.74	29.00	29.26
NARTH EAST	15.66	16.61	17.64	18.75	19.93	21.17
Arunachal P.	20.77	25.92	31.91	38.61	45.69	52.99
Assam	12.90	13.89	14.95	16.08	17.27	18.54
Manipur	26.58	26.13	25.64	25.19	24.75	24.30
Meghalaya	19.58	20.08	20.64	21.17	21.72	22.32
Mizoram	49.61	51.37	53.19	54.94	56.72	58.42
Nagaland	17.24	17.23	17.25	17.31	17.36	17.38
Sikkim	11.09	12.15	13.56	14.84	16.20	17.91
Tripura	17.07	17.99	18.97	19.99	21.07	22.17
WEST	40.77	42.55	44.36	46.18	48.02	49.84
Goa	49.78	54.16	58.52	62.77	66.80	70.64
Gujarat	37.36	38.83	40.33	41.85	43.38	44.92
Maharashtra	42.43	44.33	46.25	48.17	50.11	52.04
SOUTH	33.37	35.20	37.02	38.80	40.51	42.14
A.P.	27.30	27.51	27.72	27.93	28.14	28.35
Karnataka	33.99	35.57	37.19	38.84	40.51	42.21
Kerala	25.96	25.75	25.54	25.32	25.11	24.90
Tamil Nadu	44.04	49.23	54.43	59.53	64.44	69.06

Size and Class wise Urban Population Distribution in India, 1951-2001

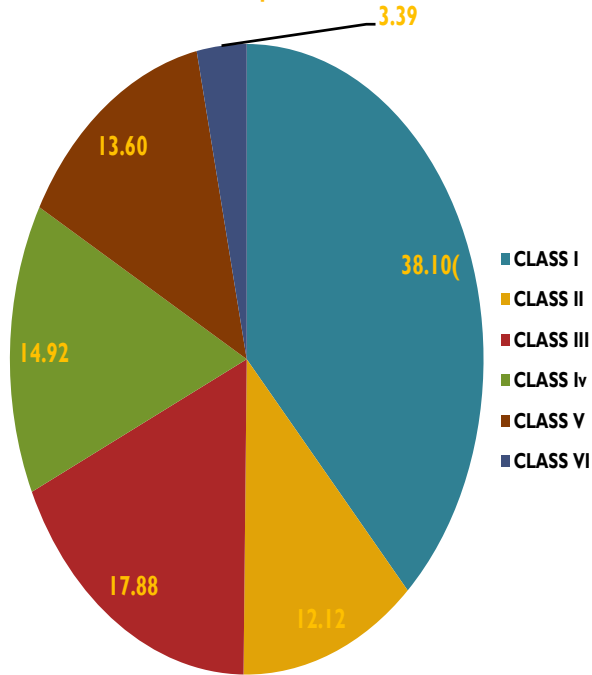
INDIA	1951		1961		1971		1981		1991		2001	
SIZE OF	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population	No. of City/Town	Share of urban population
CLASS I	74	38.10	107	47.97	151	48.92	226	52.66	322	56.68	441	62.29
CLASS II	111	12.12	139	13.01	219	13.48	325	13.98	421	13.33	496	12.04
CLASS III	375	17.88	518	21.51	652	18.28	883	17.04	1161	16.35	1387	14.72
CLASS IV	670	14.92	820	15.43	988	12.81	1247	11.21	1451	9.77	1564	7.90
CLASS V	1189	13.60	847	0.87	820	5.68	920	4.40	971	3.43	1042	2.76
CLASS VI	638	3.39	268	1.22	296	0.83	348	0.72	289	0.45	231	0.29
Total	03057	100.00	02699	100.00	3126	100.00	3949	100.00	4615	100.00	5161	100.00

Gini concentration Index (Z)

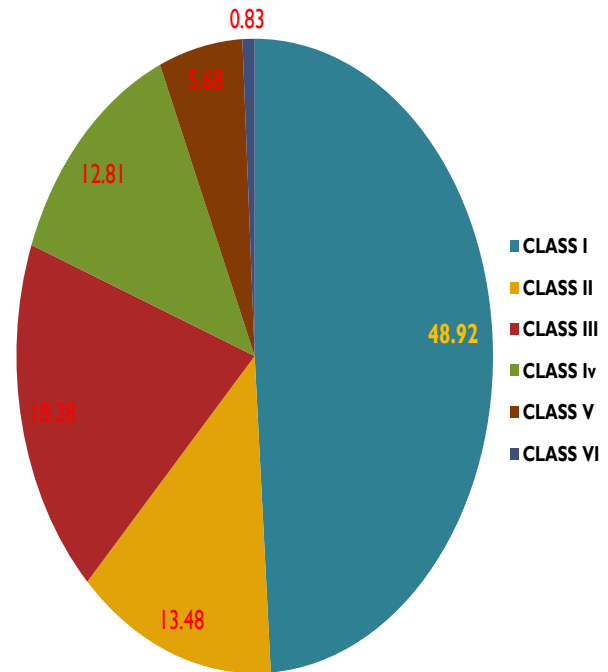
Year/Name	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
India	0.62	0.71	0.64	0.66	0.66	0.67
Andhra P.	0.58	0.56	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.56
KERALA	0.55	0.47	0.53	0.55	0.45	0.54
KARNATAKA	0.58	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.68	0.66
TAMIL N.	0.58	0.60	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.67



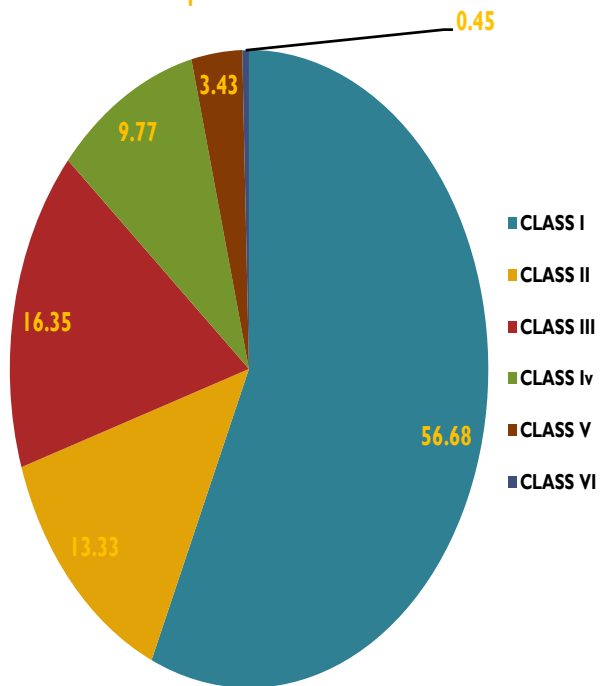
Share of Urban Population of India in 1951



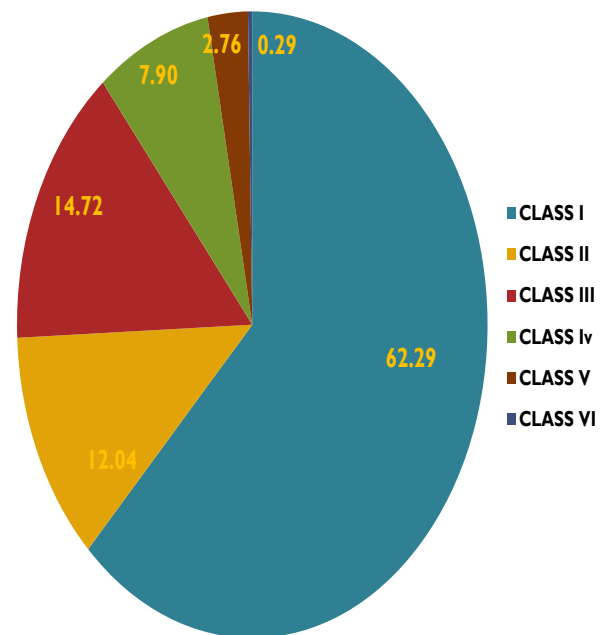
Share of Urban Population of India in 1971



Share of Urban Population of India in 1991



Share of Urban Population of India in 2001



PROJECTED URBAN POPULATION OF SOUTHERN STATE, 2001-2026					
Year	India	Andhra P.	Kerala	Karnat.	Tamil N.
2001	27.82	27.31	25.96	33.99	44.04
2006	28.90	27.51	25.75	35.57	49.23
2011	30.02	27.72	25.54	37.19	54.43
2016	31.15	27.93	25.32	38.84	59.53
2021	32.29	28.14	25.11	40.51	64.44
2026	33.44	28.35	24.90	42.21	69.06

PROJECTED FIVE YEAR GROWTH RATE IN DIFFERENT REGION OF INDIA, 1951-2026					
Name	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011	2011 to 2016	2016 to 2021	2021 to 2026
INDIA	10.98	10.21	9.44	8.64	7.57
NORTH	12.87	12.08	11.38	10.61	9.70
CENTRAL	11.76	11.00	10.25	9.34	8.10
EAST	8.16	7.06	6.48	5.92	5.03
NORTH EAST	12.02	11.60	11.28	10.58	9.64
WEST	11.53	10.82	9.89	9.04	8.08
SOUTH	10.05	9.08	8.19	7.14	6.10

PROJECTED FIVE YEAR GROWTH RATE IN SOUTHERN STATES, 2001-2026					
Name	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011	2011 to 2016	2016 to 2021	2021 to 2026
India	10.98	10.21	9.44	8.64	7.57
Andhra P.	6.29	5.46	4.82	4.20	3.41
Karnataka	10.24	9.44	8.78	7.79	7.01
Kerala	3.48	2.96	2.31	1.62	1.01
Tamil Nadu	14.28	12.65	11.15	9.53	7.98

Data Highlights- 2011 census

Population (in Crore)

	2001	2011	Difference
India	102.9	121.0	18.1
Rural	74.3	83.3	9.0
Urban	28.6	37.7	9.1

- For the first time since Independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas
- Rural – Urban distribution: 68.84% & 31.16%
- Level of urbanization increased from 27.81% in 2001 Census to 31.16% in 2011 Census
- The proportion of rural population declined from 72.19% to 68.84%

Growth Rate of Population (in %)

	1991-2001	2001-2011	Difference
India	21.5	17.6	-3.9
Rural	18.1	12.2	-5.9
Urban	31.5	31.8	+0.3

The slowing down of the overall growth rate of population is due to the sharp decline in the growth rate in rural areas, while the growth rate in urban areas remains almost the same.

Growth Rate of Population (in %)

	1991-2001	2001-2011	Difference
EAG	25.0	20.9	-4.1
Rural	23.5	18.7	-4.8
Urban	31.6	29.9	-1.7
Non EAG	18.9	15.0	-3.9
Rural	13.2	5.7	-7.5
Urban	31.5	32.7	+1.2

Though the growth rate of population in rural areas of EAG(Empowered Action Group, States) is nearly 3 times that in rural areas in non EAG States, it is for the first time that significant fall of growth rate is seen in the rural areas of EAG States

Population by Rural Urban Residence – India - 2011

Persons:

- Total : 1,210,193,422
- Rural: 833,087,662
- Urban: 377,105,760

Rural Urban Distribution

Persons (in %):

- Total : 100.0 %
- Rural: 68.84 %
- Urban: 31.16 %

Number of UAs/Towns and Out Growths(OGs)

Type of Towns/UAs/OGs	Number of towns 2011	Number of towns 2001
Towns	7,935	5,161
Statutory Towns	4,041	3,799
Census Towns	3,894	1,362
Urban Agglo.	475	384
Out Growths	981	962

Number of UAs/Towns and Out Growths (OGs):

At the Census 2011 there are 7,935 towns in the country. The number of towns has increased by 2,774 since last Census. Many of these towns are part of UAs and the rest are independent towns. The total number of Urban agglomerations/Towns, which constitutes the urban frame, is 6166 in the country.

Population of UAs/Towns:

1. The total urban population in the country as per Census 2011 is more than 377 million constituting 31.16% of the total population.

2. *Class I UAs/Towns: The UAs/Towns are grouped on the basis their population in* Census. The UAs/Towns which have at least 1,00,000 persons as population are categorised as Class I UA/Town. At the Census 2011, there are 468 such UAs/Towns. The corresponding number in Census 2001 was 394.

3. 264.9 million persons, constituting 70% of the total urban population, live in these Class I UAs/Towns. The proportion has increased considerable over the last Census. In the remaining classes of towns the growth has been nominal.

4. *Million Plus UAs/Towns: Out of 468 UAs/Towns belonging to Class I category, 53* UAs/Towns each has a population of one million or above each. Known as Million Plus UAs/Cities, these are the major urban centres in the country. 160.7 million persons (or 42.6% of the urban population) live in these Million Plus UAs/Cities. 18 new UAs/Towns have been added to this list since the last Census.

5. Mega Cities:

Among the Million Plus UAs/Cities, there are three very large UAs with more than 10 million persons in the country, known as Mega Cities. These are Greater Mumbai UA (18.4 million), Delhi UA (16.3 million) and Kolkata UA (14.1million). The largest UA in the country is Greater Mumbai UA followed by Delhi UA. Kolkata UA which held the second rank in Census 2001 has been replaced by Delhi UA. The growth in population in the Mega Cities has slowed down considerably during the last decade. Greater Mumbai UA, which had witnessed 30.47% growth in population during 1991-2001 has recorded 12.05% during 2001-2011. Similarly Delhi UA (from 52.24% to 26.69% in 2001-2011) and Kolkata UA (from 19.60% to 6.87% in 2001-2011) have also slowed down considerably.

Proportion of urban population in different states of India, 2011

Name of state	Projected urban, 2011(%)	Census figure, 2011(%)	Difference(%) (census projected)
India	30.02	31.16	+1.14
Delhi	95.43	97.50	+2.07
Haryana	33.63	34.79	+1.16
Himachal Pradesh	11.04	10.04	-1.00
Jammu & Kashmir	26.82	27.21	+0.39
Punjab	38.59	37.49	-1.10
Rajasthan	23.91	24.89	+0.98
Uttarakhand	28.36	30.55	+2.19
Chhattisgarh	23.09	23.34	+0.25
Madhya Pradesh	27.68	27.63	-0.05
Uttar Pradesh	21.95	22.28	+0.33
Jharkhand	23.29	24.05	+0.76
Bihar	10.52	11.30	+0.78
Odisha	16.77	16.68	-0.09
West Bengal	28.48	31.89	+3.41
Arunachal Pradesh	31.91	22.67	-9.24
Assam	14.95	14.08	-0.87
Manipur	25.64	30.21	+4.57
Meghalaya	20.64	20.08	-0.56
Mizoram	53.19	51.51	-1.68
Nagaland	17.25	28.97	+11.72
Sikkim	13.56	24.97	+11.41
Tripura	18.97	26.18	+7.21
Goa	58.52	62.17	+3.65
Gujarat	40.33	42.58	+2.25
Maharashtra	46.25	45.23	-1.02
Andhra Pradesh	27.72	33.49	+5.77
Karnataka	37.19	38.57	+1.38
Kerala	25.54	47.72	+22.18
Tamil Nadu	54.43	48.45	-5.98