

Trends and Patterns of Urbanization in India: A State Level Analysis

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ABSTRACT : *Level of urbanization in the country was not very high but it experienced a very high growth of urban population. According to 1901 Census, only 10.84 percent of population was urban. This implies that the urban population has increased many folds in last 100 years. But the urban population shows fluctuating trends from decade to decade. Table 4.3 supports this statement. This Paper deals with the levels and pattern of urbanization in India in 2001. 1911 witnessed negative growth rate of urban population. It was 10.84 percent in 1901, which decreased to 10.29 percent in 1911. It was because of famine and plague that occurred in 1901-1911. In 1921, it rose to 11.18 percent. The decade 1911-1921 was associated with influenza epidemic. In 1931, again there was negligible increase in the level of urbanization, it was only 11.99 percent. 1921-1931, was the year of agricultural depression. Therefore, in the span of first 30 years i.e., 1901-1931 there was slight increase in the level of urbanization. It was mainly after 1931, that the urbanization process gained momentum and the urban population increased at a faster rate. In 1941, it was 13.86 percent and the growth rate was 31.97 percent during 1931-41. The decade 1941-1951 records one of the highest growth urban population i.e. 41.42 percent and the percentage of urban population in urban areas was 17.92 percent. However, in the year 1981-1991 the decennial growth rate in India showed a declining trend after reaching the peak in 1971-1981. In 1981-1991, it was 36.19 percent and the level of urbanization was 25.72 percent. It reached 27.78 percent in the year 2001, and the decadal growth rate of the year 1991-2001 was 31.13 percent showing the continuation in the trend. India has 27.7 percent urban population in the 2001 census. In the states, Goa has the highest level of urbanization with half of the population as urban, while half of the population of India has the lowest level of Urbanization about ten percent. Southern and western states have higher percentage of urbanization compared to the north, north-eastern and eastern states. Mizoram is an exception in the north-eastern region, which has second place very close to Goa. Himalayan States show very low level of urbanization. The states, such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat are highly urbanized as well as highly industrialized among Indian states. The eight states having population 10 million and above in Class-I cities/UAs, in which three from South, two each from west and north and one from east region.*

KEYWORDS: *Urbanization, Migration, Trends, Growth*

I. INTRODUCTION

Rapid Urbanization has been a worldwide phenomenon in the 20th century. The level of urbanization is determined as the proportion of urban population to the total population of a region. We can express it in two ways: (a) Percentage of urban population to the total population of a region (b) Percentage of decadal growth rate. The level of Urbanization is one of the most important characteristics of urbanization. It has been rightly said that the level of urbanization reflects the development of a nation. It varies from region to region and from place to place in a country. In the global context, the level of urbanization i.e. 27.72 percent, in India is not much significant. However, there can hardly be a single definition of urbanization, which is universally acceptable. According to a demographer the level of urbanization of a country or region usually denotes the proportion of population enumerated in urban areas at a given point of time. Geographers study the urban pattern with the help of mapping, interpreting and projecting the distribution of population, employment, social and economic characteristics and physical facilities. Sociologists usually take it as a factor leading to urbanization or as a process of diffusion of certain modernization traits. Similarly, economists take it as a product of increasing specialization and advancing technology, which results from the primary and tertiary activities. Kingsley Davis, in his book 'The population of India and Pakistan (1950)', has described India's population as highly immobile population. He pointed out many factors

leading to immobility, such as, the prevalence of the caste system, joint family, lower level of education, agricultural based economy, traditional values, poor transportation facility etc. all these factors forced the people to migrate from their native villages to other areas where as according to Ashish Bose in the first six decades of the 20th century, the factors which were responsible for slow growth of the urban population were namely, race, rainfall, plague, attachment to village life, famines. India is one of the countries in which urban centers and urbanization flourished as early as 3000 B.C. The urban centers of Mohen-jodaro and Harappa may be cited as the examples of pre-historic urbanization in India. During the Ancient and Medieval Periods of Indian History, numerous towns and cities developed mainly because of Socio-Economic, geopolitical and cultural regions. The arrival of British and their occupancy of power through the east India Company led to the development of many cities and towns in the country. Though some of the towns could develop as industrial centres during the British period. The British also established many cantonments at the strategic points to administer the country. Famines, partition of the country, railway construction, epidemics, and decay of handicrafts, growth of new industries, trade and commerce, the creation of landless labour class, settlements of landlords in towns and backwardness of villages were responsible for urbanization in India. The process of urbanization recorded a steadily growth after 1921, it got a quantum jump after Independence. During the last more than 50 years not only the old cities and towns expanded in terms of size of population, density and area, several hundred new towns have emerged and developed. There has been a steady growth in the size and proportion of urban population as well as in the numbers of urban centers in India since Independence. From 1951 to 1991, India's urban population has more than triple from 62.4 million to 217.2 million in 2001. The pace of urbanization had increased in the present century particularly due to the industrialization and emergence of new administrative and commercial centers particularly after independence. The decentralization of industries and commercial activities has played an important role in the development of many cities in India. This is the reason why the level of urbanization in census 1951 was 17.6 percent, which had increased up to 27.3 percent, according to the census of 2001 as shown in the figure number 4.1 and table number 4.1.

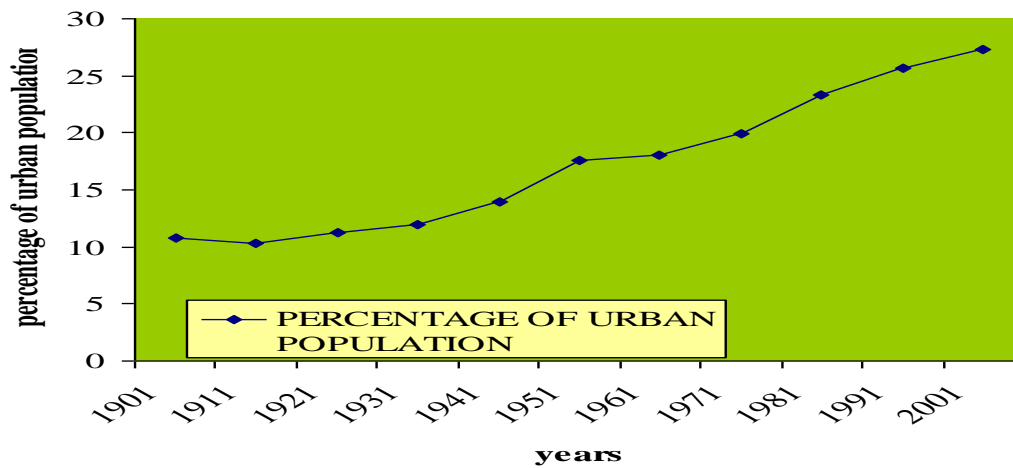
In 1901, there was only 10.8 percent urban population in India, which increased up to 27.3 percent in 2001. In 1911 the percentage of urban population falls down to 10.3 as compare to the previous decade. After that a slight increase in urban population was seen, in 1921 it was 11.2 percent only, which was only 12 percent in 1931. It jumped up to 13.9 percent in 1941, in a short span of ten years it reached up to 17.6 percent, in 1981 it reached up to 23.3 percent, the figure for 1991 was 25.7 percent, in the last census it was 27.3 percent, which was more than the total population of USA and several other countries.

Decadal percentage of urban population in India (1901-2001)

Year	Urban Population (in Percent)
1901	10.8
1911	10.3
1921	11.2
1931	12
1941	13.9
1951	17.6
1961	18
1971	19.9
1981	23.3
1991	25.7
2001	27.3

Source: Various Publications of Census of India

**PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION IN INDIA
(1901-2001)**



In 1981, India had 12 million plus with a population of 42.1 million, accounting for 6.2 percent of the country's population. By 1991, the number of million plus cities had nearly doubled to 23, with a total population of 8.4 percent of India's population. According to 2001, the state of Goa is most urbanized with 49.77 percent of its population living in the urban centers, followed by Mizoram (49.5 percent), Tamil Nadu (43.86 percent), Maharashtra (42.40 percent), Gujrat (37.35 percent), Karnatka (33.98 percent), Punjab (33.95 percent), Haryana (29 percent), West Bengal (28.03 percent) respectively. In all these states, the proportion of urban population is higher to that of the National average of 27.78 percent. In the states of Andhra Pradesh (27.08 percent), Kerala (25.97 percent), Uttaranchal (25.59 percent), Jammu and Kashmir (24.88 percent), Manipur (23.88 percent), Rajasthan (23.38 percent), Jharkhand (22.95 percent), Andhra Pradesh (20.41 percent), Uttar Pradesh (20.78 percent), Chatisgarh (20.08 percent), the proportion of urban population is below the National Average. Himachal Pradesh (9.79 percent) has the lowest proportion of urban population in the country. The Union Territories of Delhi (93.01 percent), Chandigarh (89.78 percent) and Pondichery (66.57 percent) respectively are the most urbanized among the States/UT in the country as in the Table 4.2.

Table 4.1 shows that 1911 witnessed negative growth rate of urban population. It was 10.84 percent in 1901, which decreased to 10.29 percent in 1911. It was because of famine and plague that occurred in 1901-1911. In 1921, it rose to 11.18 percent. The decade 1911-1921 was associated with influenza epidemic. In 1931, again there was negligible increase in the level of urbanization, it was only 11.99 percent. 1921-1931, was the year of agricultural depression. Therefore, in the span of first 30 years i.e., 1901-1931 there was slight increase in the level of urbanization. It was mainly after 1931, that the urbanization process gained momentum and the urban population increased at a faster rate. In 1941, it was 13.86 percent and the growth rate was 31.97 percent during 1931-41. The decade 1941-1951 records one of the highest growth urban population i.e. 41.42 percent and the percentage of urban population in urban areas was 17.92 percent.

This tremendous rise in urban population is attributed to massive migration across international borders to comparatively loose destinations of urban centers in the census conducted till 1951. There after in 1961 there was a marginal increase in urban population 17.97 percent and the decadal growth rate of urban population was only 26.41 percent. This increase in the growth rate of urban population was only due to conceptual changes in the definition of urban centers, consequently as many as 803 towns were declassified which has a population of 4.4 million.

Decadal Growth, Density and Percentage of Urban Population in India

States	Percent decadal growth	Percent of urban population	Population density
INDIA	21.34	27.78	325
Andhra Pradesh	13.86	27.08	275
Arunachal Pradesh	26.1	20.78	13
Assam	18.85	12.72	340
Bihar	28.43	10.47	880
Chatisgarh	18.06	20.08	154
Delhi	46.31	93.01	9294
Gujarat	22.48	37.35	258
Goa	14.89	49.77	363
Himachal Pradesh	17.53	9.79	109
Haryana	28.06	29	477
Jammu & Kashmir	29.04	24.88	99
Jharkhand	23.19	22.25	338
Maharashtra	22.57	42.4	314
Madhya Pradesh	24.34	26.67	196
Manipur	30.02	23.88	107
Meghalaya	29.94	19.63	103
Mizoram	29.11	49.5	42
Nagaland	64.41	17.74	120
Orissa	15.94	14.97	236
Punjab	19.76	33.95	482
Karnatka	17.25	33.98	275
Kerala	9.42	25.97	819
Rajasthan	28.33	23.38	165
Sikkim	32.98	11.1	76
Tripura	15.74	17.02	304
Tamil Nadu	11.19	43.86	478
Uttar Pradesh	25.8	20.78	689
Uttaranchal	19.2	25.59	159
West Bengal	17.84	28.03	904
<i>Source: Census of India 2001</i>			

In 1971, it went up by 19.91 percent and the decadal growth rate was 38.23 percent during 1961-1971. In terms of economic development the decade 1961-1971, was not a normal one. During this decade there was Chinese aggression in 1962, the Pakistan aggression in 1965 and again in 1971. Apart from this there were severe drought spells and other natural calamities and massive immigration from Bangladesh. This was the period when Green Revolution had started in some parts of India as a result of food shortage in the country.

Volume and level of urbanization in India (1901-2001)

Year	Total Population	Total Urban Population	Percent of Urban Pop. to Total Pop.	Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Pop.
1901	23839627	25851873	10.84	-
1911	252093390	25941633	10.29	-0.35
1921	251321213	28086167	11.18	8.22
1931	278977238	33455989	11.99	19.14
1941	318660580	44153297	13.86	31.97
1951	361088090	62347709	17.29	41.38
1961	439234771	87936603	17.97	26.41
1971	598159652	109113977	18.24	38.23
1981	683329097	159462547	23.33	46.02
1991	844324222	217177625	25.72	36.19
2001	1027015247	285354954	27.78	31.13

Source: Census of India, Provisional Population Tables, India, 2001

In 1981, the urban population of India was 23.31 percent; Census of 1981 recorded 1054 new towns, which was the main reason in the increase of urban population. It was reflected in the decennial growth rate of urban population, which was 46.14 percent during 1971-1981. Till now, it is the highest growth rate in urban population recorded by the Indian Census. However, in the year 1981-1991 the decennial growth rate in India showed a declining trend after reaching the peak in 1971-1981. In 1981-1991, it was 36.19 percent and the level of urbanization was 25.72 percent. It reached 27.78 percent in the year 2001, and the decadal growth rate of the year 1991-2001 was 31.13 percent showing the continuation in the trend. There are not only variations in the level of urbanization in India and fluctuation in the decadal growth rate of urban population but there is also inter-state variation in these. For the last several decades a significant portion of urban population is concentrated in six larger states, i.e., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujrat, Punjab and West Bengal. From the above table it was clear that since 1971 these major states shared a large percentage of urban population of the country. Till date, they continued to be the most urbanized states of India. But their relative positions have changed from 1971-1981.

Spatial Pattern of Urbanization Concentration in India

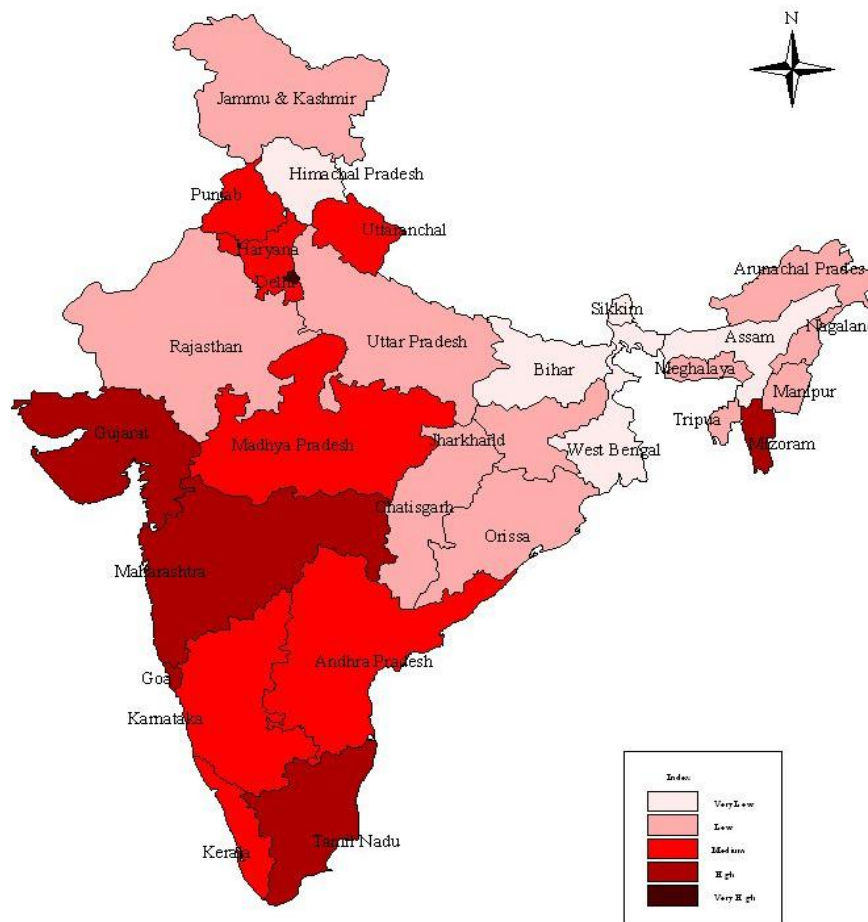
The concentration of population in cities and towns depends on several factors, for instance the ecological setting, initial population size, economic structure, functional characteristics, relationship with the hinterland etc. are the major factors, which effect the growth of population of urban centers, industrialization, employment opportunities, accessibility created by the new methods of transport and development in trade and commerce are other factors, which cause an overall urban growth of a region. A town can be taken as an indicator of economic development and social change. So the spatial pattern of urbanization can be best index to show the development of a region. In order to bring out the distributional pattern of towns as well as urbanization pattern. The states can be broadly divided into five zones on the basis of their level of urbanization and they are:

- Zone of very high concentration (Above 60 percent)
- Zone of high concentration (45-60 percent)
- Zone of medium concentration (30-45 percent)
- Zone of low concentration (15-30 percent)
- Zone of very low concentration (Below 15 percent)

Level of Urbanization in India in 2001

The urbanization level is more or less similar to other developing countries, but it varies significantly across the states. In the states, Goa has the highest level of urbanization with half of the population as urban, while half of the population of India has the lowest level of Urbanization about ten percent. Southern and western states have higher percentage of urbanization compared to the north, north-eastern and eastern states. Mizoram is an exception in the north-eastern region, which has second place very close to Goa. Himalayan States show very low level of urbanization. The parameters of economic development highly explain the urbanization level in any region, state or country. The level of industrial development is important factor to determine the urbanization in a region. The states, such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat are highly urbanized as well as highly industrialized among Indian states. In these states, cotton textile industries, petro-chemicals, sugar industries and export import activities trough ports.

STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN POPULATION IN DIFFERENT STATES OF INDIA (2001)



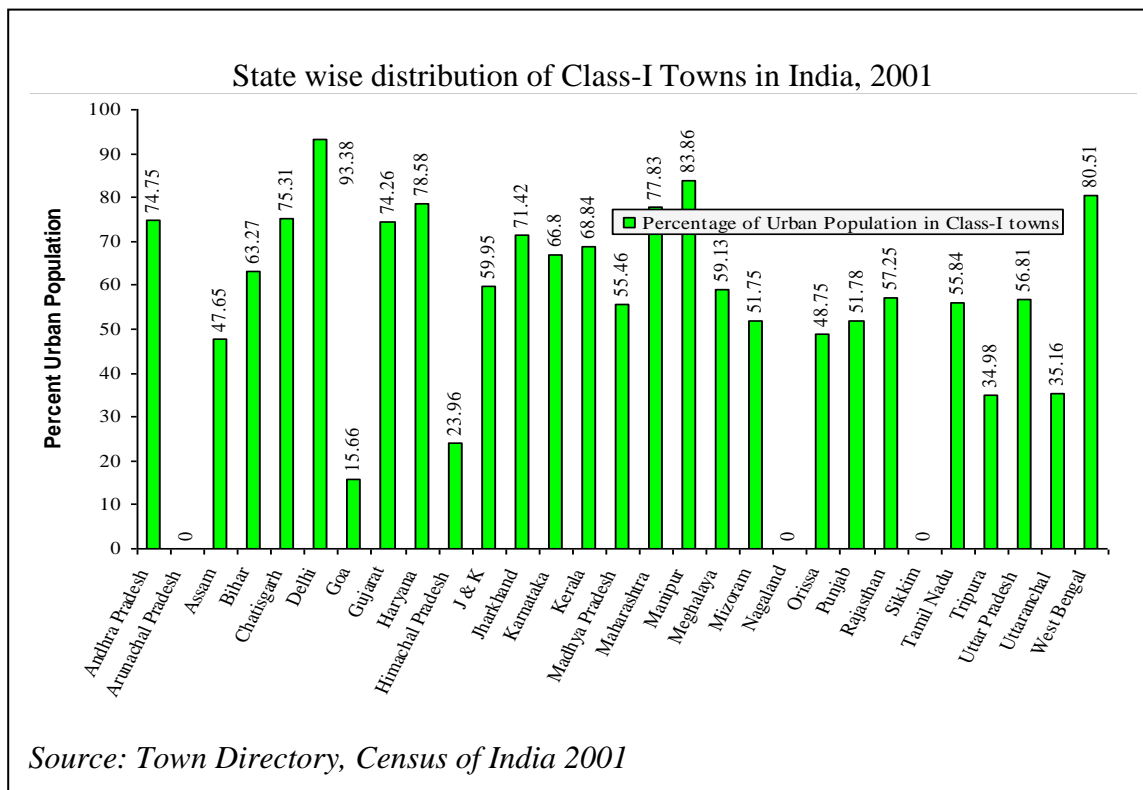
Spatial pattern of Urbanization in Class-I and Class-II towns

Spatial pattern is largely governed by the physical, economic, social, cultural and political factors. Under the influence of above factors the distribution of urbanization is effected. The cities/UAs with population one lakh and above are well distributed, but dense population pockets of India has comparatively higher concentration, the Sutlej-Ganga plain, economically developed western region and Southern India have higher concentration of cities/UAs. Hill region of Central India, Himalayan region and other less dense parts of country has lower concentration of Cities/UAs. Some states and Union Territories have no city/UAs in 2001. In terms of number of cities/UAs, Uttar Pradesh is placed first with 52 cities, followed by the Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra with 39

and 34 cities respectively. Larger, states have off course higher number of cities/UAs. The states of larger population have also higher number of cities/UAs. Lastly, dense and larger population states with high economic development have certainly higher number of cities. Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are good examples of higher no of cities/UAs.

A. Class-I Cities

The urban population in Class-I towns is increasing at the faster rate. The population in Class-I Cities in various states varies according to size of population, density, urban population and economic and industrial development. The eight states having population of 10 million and above in Class-I cities/UAs, are three from South, two each from west and north and one from east region. Maharashtra is placed first in urban population living in Class-I cities followed by Uttar Pradesh. The population of city/UAs in Delhi comprises 12.8 million where only one class one city. Uttar Pradesh has 52 Class-I cities where 56.81percent urban population is living. Andhra Pradesh has 50 Class-I cities comprising of 74.75percent of urban population living in Class-I cities. West Bengal also has 50 Class-I cities having a larger proportion of urban population i.e. 80.51 percent. Maharashtra with 39 Class-I cities having 77.83 percent urban population Manipur has only one Class-I city with 83.86 percent population living in the urban areas. Haryana with 20 Class-I cities has a population of 78.58 percent living in the urban areas while Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh has no Class-I cities.



B. Class-II Cities

Again Uttar Pradesh has 52 Class-II towns, and it has higher number of Class-II towns according to the Census of India, 2001. Andhra Pradesh with 51 Class-II towns has a total urban population of 12.94 percent living in the urban areas. Tamil Nadu has 50 Class-II towns with a total urban population of 9.32 percent in this class. Maharashtra ranks at fourth number with respect to the total number of Class-II cities, Gujarat with 34 towns and it has only 10.15 percent urban population living in the Class-II cities. Nagaland ranks on top with a total percentage of 49.63 percent urban population living in the only two Class-II towns of the state. Goa has two Class-II towns, with a population of 29.01 percent. Among other states; Jharkhand has 17 Class-II towns with a population of 17.09 percent.

**State-Wise Distribution of Class-I and Class-II Towns
and the share in Urban Population in 2001**

States	No of Class I and Class II Towns	I		II	
		No.	Percent of urban pop.	No.	Percent of urban pop.
Andhra Pradesh	101	50	74.75	51	12.94
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	13	6	47.65	7	11.91
Bihar	32	19	63.27	13	10.94
Chatisgarh	12	7	75.31	5	12.1
Delhi	26	17	93.38	9	4.95
Goa	3	1	15.66	2	29.01
Gujarat	52	29	74.26	33	10.15
Haryana	27	20	78.58	7	4.01
Himachal Pradesh	6	1	23.96	0	0
J & K	7	2	59.95	5	8.07
Jharkhand	24	7	71.42	17	17.09
Karnataka	57	30	66.80	27	12.11
Kerala	30	10	68.84	20	15.21
Madhya Pradesh	51	26	55.46	25	11.75
Maharashtra	84	39	77.83	45	8.76
Manipur	1	1	83.86	0	0
Meghalaya	1	1	59.13	1	13.03
Mizoram	1	1	51.75	0	0
Nagaland	2	0	0	2	49.63
Orissa	22	14	48.75	8	14.70
Punjab	32	14	51.78	18	14.43
Rajasthan	45	19	57.25	26	12.88
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	77	27	55.84	50	9.32
Tripura	1	1	34.98	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	102	52	56.81	52	12.41
Uttaranchal	7	3	35.16	5	18.38
West Bengal	79	50	80.51	29	3.38

Source: Town Directory (Census of India 2001)

II. CONCLUSION

Rural urban migration is a major factor of urbanization process. The rate of growth as well as the number of agglomeration increasing rapidly. Rural urban migration is the predominant factor of urbanization. In broader perspective, the shift of people from rural areas to urban areas mainly reflects the process of Industrialization changes, it brings into the demands for the labor force. Also in rural areas unequal land distribution, landlessness, agriculture and mechanization, natural calamities have strongly influenced the urbanization process. In many aspects cities are compared favorably with the rural areas through an 'urban bias'. In many states which is responsible for systematically favoring the cities. The strong urban bias is higher standard of living or income better, better employment opportunities. Improved prospects for social mobility and variety and quality of services draw people to the cities. The migration is primarily from 'backward' rural areas to 'advanced' urban areas. The great majority of people move towards cities for economic reasons and the urban areas attract peoples from the rural counterparts. India has 27.7 percent urban population in the 2001 census. In the states, Goa has the highest level of urbanization with half of the population as urban, while half of the population of India has the lowest level of Urbanization about

ten percent. Southern and western states have higher percentage of urbanization compared to the north, north-eastern and eastern states.

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