METROPOLISES IN INDIAN URBAN SYSTEM: 1901-2011

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Abstract

The present work has examined in geographic perspective metropolises in India that constitute an important component of Indian urban system. There are fifty two metropolises in India as per final totals of Census 2011. The study follows a systematic approach. The urban areas in the country have added 91 million persons in the last decade in which 51.8 million persons that is 56.9 percent have been added by metropolitan cities alone. India at a comparatively low level of urbanisation contains a fairly large proportion of population in its metropolitan cities. In order to comprehend the trend in growth pattern three time periods have been identified: British period (before 1951), post-Independence to initiation of economic liberalisation (1951-1991) and post-liberalisation (1991-2011) period. Succinctly put, nature of urbanisation has radically transformed from a selective growth of a few port cities during the British rule to emergence of large number of metropolises doting the entire length and breadth of country. The post-reform urbanisation in India is economy- driven, top-heavy oriented towards larger cities. It is both an economic and administrative process. An individual million city's strong linkage with the regional and global economy seems to be the determining factor of its growth/ spurt in their population. All this requires a massive investment for providing infrastructure and other civic amenities in metropolises.

Keywords: urbanisation, metropolis, census, urban agglomeration

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanisation is an increase in population and economic activities in the urban areas which leads to further development of towns and agglomerates to contain this rising population. It is a cause and effect of heightened economic progress in a region (Census of India, 2011). It plays an enormous role in social transformation and economic mobility all over the world.

In fact, the process of urbanisation has been transforming the developing countries from 'countries of villages' to 'countries of cities and town'. The share of the world's population living in urban areas increased from just 3 percent in 1800 to 14 percent in 1900. By 1950, it had reached 30 percent (UNFPA, 2007). In 2011, for the first time, more than half of the globe's population (52%) is living in towns and cities. The number and proportion of urban dwellers will continue to rise quickly. Urban population is growing very fast and most of this growth is in developing countries. Historically, the process of rapid urbanization started first in today's more developed regions. The urban population today is growing between two to

three times faster than the rural population and the greater part of it happens to be in the developing world (United Nations, 2012). Urban population of Africa and Asia is expected to double between 2000 and 2030. It will also continue to expand, but more slowly in Latin America and the Caribbean. This vast urban expansion in developing countries has global implications. Cities are already the locus of nearly all major economic, social, demographic and environmental transformations (UNFPA, 2007).

The recent trends of urbanisation in developing countries point towards alarming growth of megacities and other metropolitan areas. This is true in the Indian context as well (Kumari, 1990). The first half of the 21st century is likely to be characterized by large scale urban development. This is quite evident from the current trend and therefore Indian urban geographers should continue endeavouring to appreciate the causes and consequences of processes and patterns of urbanization in different geographical regions (Misra, 2008). The urbanization process in India has continued to be top-heavy, oriented towards large cities.

This is because of higher demographic growth in larger cities, attributable to both natural increase in the resident population and higher net in-migration. In turn, this is consistent with the fact that larger cities are generally more efficient in generating growth and attracting investments, thus attracting more population (Kundu, 2011). In India, the urbanisation has increased faster than expected. This has reversed the declining trend in the growth rate of the urban population observed during the 1980s and 1990s. For the first time since independence, the absolute increase in the urban population is higher than that in the rural population. This has huge implications for providing infrastructure and other civic amenities in urban areas (Bhagat, 2011).

The growth of metropolitan cities in India has been haphazard and largely unplanned. Population explosion is one of the most threatening issues facing contemporary India, particularly the Indian cities. One of the most important reasons for population explosion in the cities of India is the large scale rural to urban migration and rapid urbanization. Due to uncontrolled urbanization, environmental degradation has been occurring very rapidly and causing shortages of housing, worsening water quality, excessive air pollution, noise, dust and heat, expansion of slums, and the problems of disposal of solid wastes and hazardous wastes. The large metropolitan cities present a depressing picture today. The situation in metropolises like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad etc., is becoming worse year by year. The problems of finding space and housing for all have been intensified (Kumari, 1990; Maiti and Agrawal, 2005; Kumar et. al., 2009). The mega cities normally attract people from both rural and urban areas not only from within the country but also from abroad by providing employment opportunities in both formal and informal sectors.

These are the major cities that to a great extent decide the pattern of the Indian economy and policies on various issues (Premi, 2006). The newly emerged metropolitan cities with a sound industrial base have grown at a much faster rate than the older mega cities. The result has been the lessening of the importance of the three traditional mega cities and their regional economy-driven urbanization (Lahiri Dutt, 2001; Sudhira and Gururaja, 2011).

2. INDIAN URBANISATION: 1901-2011

India is at present the second most populous country after China in the world. The world population projections indicate that India's total population will be doubled over the next 30 years and is expected to overtake China to become the most populous country of the world. Population growth in India was slow during the first half of the 20th century; however growth accelerated after its independence. The level of urbanisation has increased from 10.8 percent in 1901 to 31.2 percent in 2011 witnessing a three-fold increase in more than a century (Table

1). The main reason for this slow urbanisation in India is the high rate of rural population growth. The population of India has increased from 238 million in 1901 to 1210 million in 2011. Of this, the rural population stands at 833.1 million and the urban population 377.1 million. In absolute numbers, the increase has been 90.97 million and 90.99 million persons in rural and urban areas respectively in the last decade. It is for the first time that increase in urban population is more than the rural. Although in absolute figure, it is only 13627 persons.

The growth rate of population in the last decade was 12.2% and 31.8% in rural and urban areas respectively with the average at 17.6 percent. In India, growth of urban population during the past decade is reflected in higher growth in metro cities. With economic liberalization and expected higher economic growth, rate of urbanization in India in coming decades is likely to increase. Class I UAs/Towns which have at least 1,00,000 persons have increased from 24 in 1901 to 468 in 2011 (Table 1). The current census enumerated 264.9 million people, constituting 70% of the total urban population, living in Class I UAs/Towns.

The proportion and growth has increased continuously in class I UAs/Towns over the census. The graduation of number of urban centers from lower population size categories to class I cities has resulted in top-heavy structure of urban population in India. In the remaining classes of towns the growth has been nominal. The number of towns has increased by 2774 since last Census. Only 242 statutory towns have been added in the last decade in comparison to 2532 Census towns. Many of these towns are part of UAs and the rest are independent towns. The total number of Urban Agglomerations/Towns that constitutes the urban frame in the country in 2011 is 7935, which has grown from 1827 in 1901 (Table 1).

Table 1. Urban situation in India: 1901-2011

Census Years	Number of Towns/UAs	Cities with population of 1 lakh and above	Urban Population (in millions)	% urban Population	Urban annual exponential growth rate
1901	1827	24	26	10.8	—
1911	1815	21	26	10.3	0.03
1921	1949	27	28	11.2	0.79
1931	2072	33	34	12.0	1.75
1941	2250	47	44	13.9	2.77
1951	2843	71	62	17.3	3.47
1961	2365	95	79	18.0	2.34
1971	2590	139	109	19.9	3.23
1981	3378	204	159	23.3	3.79
1991	4689	273	217	25.7	3.11
2001	5161	350	285	27.8	2.74
2011	7935	468	377	31.2	2.76

Source: **i)** Computed from Census of India 1991, Part-II A (ii) – Towns and Urban Agglomerations classified by population in 1991 with variation since 1901.
 ii) Census of India 2011, Final Population Totals, Registrar General of India, New Delhi.

3. INDIAN METROPOLISES

The Census recognizes three categories of urban places: metropolitan areas, cities and towns. Its typology of urban places is entirely based on the population criterion. Thus, the term 'metropolitan area' is applied to places with a population of ten lakh and above whereas 'city' refers to places with population one lakh and above in India. Lower down the

population size urban places are designated as towns (Ramachandran, 2007). A city with a population of one million is called 'metropolises' or 'metropolitan city'. Ongoing increase in the number of metropolises, that is, cities whose population exceeds one million inhabitants is tremendous. In India not only the size of metropolitan cities has increased dramatically but also their number. These fifty two metropolises are located in 16 states and in one union territory as per 2011 census. Their combined population is 15,95,73,844 which is 42.3 percent of the total urban population of the country. The population of these metropolises ranges from 10,01,694 in Kota (Rajasthan state) to 1,83,94,912 in Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra state). In other words, the largest metropolis is 18 times the size of the smallest in the hierarchy. 9 metropolises are spread over more than one district but within the same state. These account for 47.4 percent population of the total 52 metropolises.

These are 1) Kolkata spread over the districts of Kolkata, South Twenty Four Parganas, North Twenty Four Parganas, Nadia, Harora and Hooghly in West Bengal, 2) Delhi covering the districts of Central Delhi, East Delhi, New Delhi, North Delhi, North-East Delhi, North-West Delhi, South Delhi, South-West Delhi, West Delhi, 3) Greater Mumbai constituting the districts of Mumbai, Mumbai (Suburban) and Thane in Maharashtra, 4) Hyderabad including the districts of Hyderabad, Rangareddi and Medak in Andhra Pradesh, 5) Ahmadabad covering the districts of Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat, 6) Chennai incorporating the districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram in Tamilnadu, 7) Vijayawada spread over the districts of Krishna and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and 8) Jamshedpur including the districts of Purbi Singhbhum and Paschimi Singhbhum in Jharkhand and 9) Srinagar stretched over Badgam and Srinagar.

At the state level, greater concentration of metropolises is found in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala (seven each) followed by Maharashtra (six), Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh containing four each. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan have three each cities with million plus inhabitants. The corresponding number is two in Chhattisgarh, Punjab and West Bengal. The states of Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir contain one metropolises each (Table 3). The rest of the states/union territories are without any metropolis. In 1997, India started the Golden Quadrilateral motorway to connect the country's largest cities – Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. An east–west corridor has also been recently completed, not just improving connections between cities but also opening up the hinterlands (State of the World Cities, 2012/13).

Among 52 metropolises 31 are located along the golden quadrilateral or north-south and east-west corridors and remaining are located on the national and state highways junction. Physiographically, 14 metropolises are located in the Great Indian Plains, 15 are situated in coastal areas and 22 are positioned in the peninsular region. North western Himalayas have only Srinagar as metropolis whereas north-eastern region is without any metropolis. Largely those towns have grown into metropolises that have enjoyed some initial advantage and better geographic location.

4. GROWTH OF METROPOLISES: 1901 - 2011

Urbanisation has become a major issue in 21st century and growth of metropolises is the major concern. Population explosion is one of the most threatening issues facing contemporary large cities which are resulting in large scale rural-urban migration and rapid urbanisation. In this context, census data from 1901 to 2011 and existing literature has been used to concentrate on some aspects of population growth in the metropolises of India. In order to comprehend the growth pattern of metropolises, three time periods have been identified: British period (before 1951), post-Independence to initiation of economic liberalisation (1951-1991) and post-liberalisation (1991-2011) period.

4.1 British period (before 1951)

Since historic times, urbanisation has been instrumental in structuring the spatial landscape of the Indian cities. During British rule, urbanisation was characterised by selective development of a few port cities and their hinterlands. Ramachandran (2007) has associated the urbanisation of this period as a political process with the rise and fall of British Kingdom and dynasties. Cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad were developed to facilitate trade of raw material for the imperial power whereas Delhi functioned as an administrative city. Kolkata was only metropolis in India in 1901. Mumbai was added to this category in 1911 and the number of such cities remained constant at two till 1941. During this period urban population growth was very slow. In the beginning of the century Kolkata and Mumbai recorded slow growth rate of 2.2 and 1.5 percent annually but after 1931 decade both have recorded high growth rate. Kolkata recorded 5.4 and 2.6 percent annually in 1931-41 and 1941-1951 whereas Mumbai recorded 2.9 and 6.3 percent respectively.

The annual exponential growth rate of metropolises during British period (1901-1951) was 2.4 percent which was one of the lowest in the history of Indian census. This period saw frequent epidemics plague, cholera, malaria, small pox and influenza that not only took a toll of millions of human lives but also disrupted the economic life of urban and rural areas alike. The decline of India's exports of cotton, leather, sugar and coffee in the face of growing international competition was also responsible for arresting the growth of many market, manufacturing and port towns (Raj Bala, 1986).

4.2 Post-Independence to initiation of Economic Liberalisation period (1951-1991)

After Independence, urbanisation had entered a new and important phase. In contrast with the British Period that witnessed a period of urban stagnation, the post-Independence period is notable for rapid urbanisation, particularly for one lakh and metropolitan cities. It is characterised by uneven distribution with few larger metropolitan and mega cities growing at a faster rate and containing disproportionate large share of urban population in India (Ramachandran, 2007). Massive public-sector investment in selected pockets, especially during the Second and Third Five Year Plans (1955–65), helped in restructuring the urban hierarchy (Kundu, 2011). Prakash Rao (1983) linked this rapid urbanisation to the advent of industrialisation and later sustained through the development of the tertiary sector. The share of urban population had not extended much in the backward regions of several states like Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and many North-eastern states. It was mainly progressive in industrially and agriculturally state of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

The proportion of urban population living in the metropolises had increased progressively from 18.8% in 1951 to 32.5% by 1991 (Table 2).

Table 2. Growth of metropolises in India: 1901-2011

Census Years	Number of metropolises	Population (in millions)	Decadal increase (percent)	Population of metropolises as % of India's total population	Population of metropolises as % of India's urban population
1901	1	1.5		0.6	5.8
1911	2	2.8	82.8	1.1	10.7
1921	2	3.1	13.4	1.3	11.1
1931	2	3.4	8.9	1.2	10.2
1941	2	5.3	5.7	1.7	12.0

1951	5	11.8	21.3	3.3	18.8
1961	7	18.1	54.0	4.1	22.9
1971	9	27.8	53.8	5.1	25.5
1981	12	42.1	51.3	6.2	26.4
1991	23	70.7	67.8	8.4	32.5
2001	35	107.8	52.8	10.5	37.9
2011	52	159.6	48.9	13.2	42.3

Source: **i)** Computed from Census of India 1991, Part-II A (ii) – Towns and Urban Agglomerations classified by population in 1991 with variation since 1901.
 ii) Census of India, 2011. Final Population Totals, Registrar General of India, New Delhi.

In 1951 census, Kolkata and Mumbai added the Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad in the metropolises list. Ahmadabad and Burhat Bangalore became metropolises in 1961. Kanpur and Pune attained the status of metropolises in 1971. Nagpur, Lucknow and Jaipur acquired the status of metropolises in 1981. 1991 census had 23 metropolises. 11 additional cities: Surat, Coimbatore, Patna, Madurai, Indore, Kochi, Varanasi, Vadodara, Jabalpur, Agra and Dhanbad had attained the status of metropolises in 1991 (Figure 1).
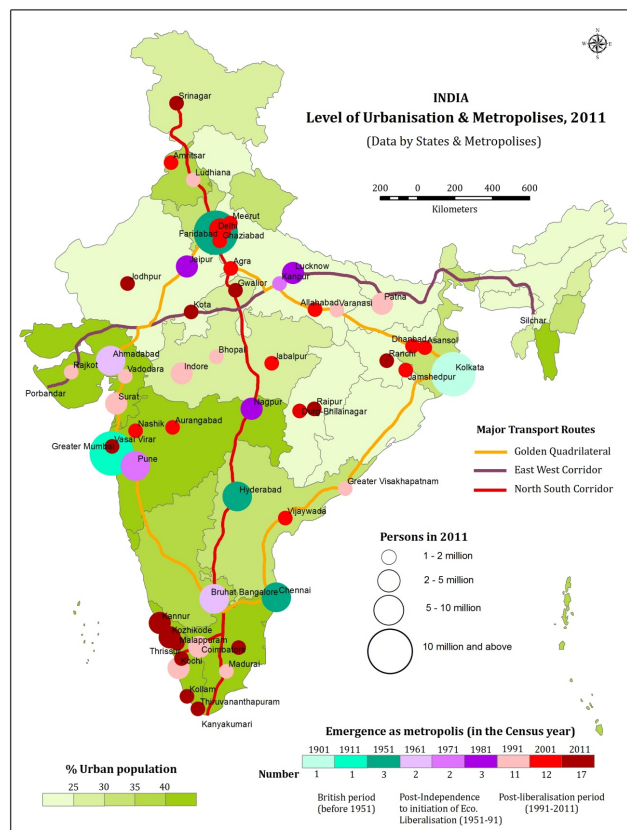

Figure 1: Level of urbanisation and metropolises in 2011.

Among the cities, there is a marked concentration of population in very large urban centres. Over 11.8 million persons were concentrated in five metropolises which are Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad at the time of Independence and progressively increased to 67.7 million persons in 1991 which was six fold increases from 1951. These five cities contained 32.5 percent of the total urban population. During 1951-1991, metropolises recording the exponential growth rate of 3.2 percent annually which was maximum of the entire period. A detailed analysis of the growth of the cities during 1951 -1991 census revealed that large urban centres are continuously growing but newly emerged cities are growing very fast comparatively. The younger million plus cities with a sound industrial base

have grown at a much faster rate than the older million plus cities. An individual million city has its regional economy which seems to be the determining factor of its growth (Lahiri Dutt, 2001). Expansion in Government services, commerce and industry as a result of World War II and migration of displaced person from Pakistan after the partition of the country in 1947 are also accountable for rapid urban growth during immediate post-independence period (Nath, 2007).

4.3 Post-liberalisation period (1991-2011)

India had launched a policy of economic liberalization since 1991. During the post-liberalization phase, the importance of cities and urban centres has been growing in India's economic development. To cite an example, the contribution of urban areas in GDP has increased from 29 percent in 1951 to 63 percent in 2007 and is expected to increase to 75 percent by 2021. However, with increasing economic growth, prosperity is getting concentrated in cities and urban centres, and the rural-urban gaps in income levels and wages and employment opportunities are widening (Bhagat, 2011). It is linked with the globalisation, industrialisation and economic development.

This period has seen tremendous increase in number of urban areas as well as concentration of population in such urban centres. As a result, the 'inner cities' have developed very fast along with the port cities. The proportion of the urban population living in the metropolises has increased progressively from 32.5 percent in 1991 to 42.6 percent in 2011. The number of metropolises has increased from 23 in 1991 to 35 in 2001 and 52 in 2011 (Table 2).

As already mentioned, cities with million plus population are distributed in 16 states and on union territory in India (Table 3).

Table 3. Configuration of metropolises, 2011

State/Union territory	Metropolises	No. of metropolises	Metropolises' population	State urban population	States % urban population	% share of metropolises
Kerala	Kochi UA, Kozhikode UA, Thrissur UA, Malappuram UA, Thiruvananthapuram UA, Kannur UA, Kollam UA	7	12139860	15934926	47.7	76.2
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur UA, Lucknow UA, Ghaziabad UA, Agra UA, Varanasi UA, Meerut UA, Allahabad UA,	7	14025098	44495063	22.3	31.5
Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai UA, Pune UA, Nagpur UA, Nashik UA, Vasai Virar City (M Corp.), Aurangabad UA	6	29927857	50818259	45.2	58.9
Gujarat	Ahmadabad UA, Surat UA, Vadodara UA, Rajkot UA	4	14161800	25745083	42.6	55.0
Madhya Pradesh	Indore UA, Bhopal UA, Jabalpur UA, Gwalior UA	4	6428127	20069405	27.6	32.0
Tamil Nadu	Chennai UA, Coimbatore UA, Madurai UA, Tiruchirappalli UA	4	13278580	34917440	48.4	38.0
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad UA, Visakhapatnam (M Corp.)Vijayawada UA	3	10882077	28219075	33.4	38.6
Jharkhand	Jamshedpur UA, Dhanbad UA, Ranchi UA	3	3662372	7933061	24.0	46.2
Rajasthan	Jaipur (M Corp.), Jodhpur UA, Kota (M Corp.)	3	5186157	17048085	24.9	30.4
Chhattisgarh	Raipur UA, Durg-Bhilainagar UA	2	2187780	5937237	23.2	36.8
Punjab	Ludhiana (M Corp.), Amritsar UA	2	2802428	10399146	37.5	26.9
West Bengal	Kolkata UA, Asansol UA	2	15301405	29093002	31.9	52.6
Bihar	Patna UA	1	2049156	11758016	11.3	17.4
Haryana	Faridabad (M Corp.)	1	1414050	8842103	34.9	16.0

Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar UA	1	1256831	3433242	27.4	36.6
Karnataka	Bangalore UA	1	8520435	23625962	38.7	36.1
Delhi	Delhi UA	1	16349831	16368899	97.5	99.9
India		**52**	**159573844**	**354638004**	**31.2**	**45.0**

Source: Computed from Census of India, 2011, Final Population Totals, Registrar General of India, New Delhi.

In states, all the capitals have attained the status of metropolises excluding Gandhinagar which is the capital of Gujarat. These continue to grow fast in comparison to other cities, because these are the hub of administrative and economic activities and have attracted investment in social and welfare activities. In addition, these are the sphere of governmental activities. Others metropolises are the commercial centres of the regions in which they are located and growing fast from their hinterland. Large cities are extremely congested like; Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi, especially in their central place. They are not likely to maintain the phenomenal growth rate of the last two decades. Their growth rate is slow and these are expending in the peripheral zone. Greater Mumbai UA (18.4 million), Delhi UA (16.3 million) and Kolkata UA (14.1 million) are the largest urban agglomerations in the country. Kolkata UA which holds the second rank in Census 2001 has been replaced by Delhi UA. The growth in population in these mega cities has slowed down considerably during the last decade. Greater Mumbai UA, which had witnessed 30.5% growth in population during 1991-2001, has recorded 12.1% during 2001-2011. Similarly Delhi UA (from 52.2% to 26.7%) and Kolkata UA (from 19.6% to 6.9%) have also slowed down considerably. The process of growth in suburbs or satellite towns for example Gurgaon (563.9%), Ghaziabad (143.6%) and Faridabad (33.0%) is much faster than Delhi.

The larger cities have attracted a significant proportion of migrants in their population as respect their status. Metropolises in Kerala, like Kannur, Kollam, Malapuram and Thrissur have shown abnormal increase in the population registering growth rate more than 100 percent during 2001-2011. This may not be due to natural increase, but due to the twin process of change in the territorial boundaries of these urban agglomerations through incorporation of the surrounding rural areas and merging of the towns into them. Cities like Allahabad, Amritsar, Asansol, Dhanbad, Greater Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Nagpur, Tiruchirappalli and Varanasi have registered growth rate between 10-20 percent indicating stabilization of the population.

Growth of population during 1991-2011 in urban places which were metropolises at the time of the census 1991 and have attained the status in 2011 indicate different growth rate. The fastest growth recorded on those urban centres which are become metropolises in 2001-2011 census in comparison to the existed metropolises (Table 4).

Table 4. Population size and annual exponential growth rate between different time periods (1901-2011)

Metropolises	States/Uts	Annual Exponential Growth Rate		
		1901-51	1951-91	1991-2011
Kolkata UA	West Bengal	2.3	2.1	1.2
Greater Mumbai UA	Maharashtra	2.7	3.4	1.9
Delhi UA	Delhi	3.8	4.4	3.3
Chennai UA	Tamil Nadu	1.9	2.5	4.1
Hyderabad UA	Andhra Pradesh	1.9	3.4	2.9
Burhat Bangalore UA	Karnataka		4.1	3.6
Ahmadabad UA	Gujarat		3.3	3.3
Pune UA	Maharashtra		3.5	3.5
Kanpur UA	Uttar Pradesh		2.6	1.8
Lucknow UA	Uttar Pradesh		3.0	2.8
Nagpur UA	Maharashtra		3.3	2.0
Surat UA	Gujarat		4.6	5.5

Jaipur (M Corp.)	Rajasthan		4.0	3.5
Kochi UA	Kerala		4.2	3.1
Vadodara UA	Gujarat		4.2	2.4
Indore UA	Madhya Pradesh		3.2	3.4
Coimbatore UA	Tamil Nadu		3.4	3.3
Patna UA	Bihar		3.0	3.1
Madurai UA	Tamil Nadu		2.7	1.5
Bhopal UA	Madhya Pradesh		5.9	2.9
Greater Visakhapatnam (M. Corp)	Andhra Pradesh		5.7	2.5
Ludhiana (M Corp.)	Punjab		4.8	2.2
Varanasi UA	Uttar Pradesh		2.6	1.6
Ghaziabad UA	Uttar Pradesh			7.7
Kozhikode UA	Kerala			4.6
Thrissur UA	Kerala			9.6
Agra UA	Uttar Pradesh			3.1
Malappuram UA	Kerala			12.4
Thiruvananthapuram UA	Kerala			3.5
Kannur UA	Kerala			6.3
Nashik UA	Maharashtra			3.8
Vijayawada UA	Andhra Pradesh			2.8
Meerut UA	Uttar Pradesh			2.6
Faridabad (M Corp.)	Haryana			4.1
Rajkot UA	Gujarat			3.8
Jamshedpur UA	Jharkhand			2.4
Jabalpur UA	Madhya Pradesh			1.8
Srinagar UA	Jammu & Kashmir			NA
Asansol UA	West Bengal			2.4
Vasai Virar City (M Corp.)	Maharashtra			13.4
Allahabad UA	Uttar Pradesh			1.8
Dhanbad UA	Jharkhand			1.9
Aurangabad UA	Maharashtra			3.5
Amritsar UA	Punjab			2.6
Jodhpur UA	Rajasthan			2.7
Ranchi UA	Jharkhand			3.0
Raipur UA	Chhattisgarh			4.4
Kollam UA	Kerala			5.6
Gwalior UA	Madhya Pradesh			2.2
Durg-Bhilainagar UA	Chhattisgarh			2.2
Tiruchirappalli UA	Tamil Nadu			1.8
Kota (M Corp.)	Rajasthan			3.1
Total		**2.4**	**3.3**	**3.0**

Source: **i)** Computed from Census of India, 1991, Part-II A (ii) – Towns and Urban Agglomerations classified by population in 1991 with variation since 1901.
ii) Census of India, 2011, Final Population Totals, Registrar General of India, New Delhi.
Note: The population enumeration was not held in Jammu & Kashmir state in 1991.

Natural increase of urban population, in-migration from rural area and smaller urban places and expansion of urban boundaries which include adjacent towns and villages contributed the rapid growth. One of the striking features that emerge from this period is that the growth rate is quite high in the metropolises which are located in western side of north-south corridor. It is high only in the southern region of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh metropolises such as Burhat Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. Reasonably, Southern India is more urbanised than its northern counterpart. The coastal areas is already characterised by a higher degree of urbanisation due to development of port areas, industrialisation and commercialisation (Krishan and Singh, 1996).

5. CONCLUSIONS

The urbanisation has increased faster than expected in India. In 2011, for the first time, the absolute increase in the urban population is higher than the rural population since independence. Importantly, there has been tremendous increase in the number and size of population residing in metropolises. In 1901 only Kolkata was the metropolis. After that the

number of metropolises since 1951 has increased ten folds from 5 in 1951 to 52 in 2011. The metropolises alone account for 42.6 percent urban population in 2011 in comparison to 18.8 percent in 1951.

Thus, the largest cities are generally more efficient in generating growth and attracting investments and are therefore attracting more population. Population growth in metropolitan areas reflects a certain degree of variation. In British period, the process of urbanisation was quite slow. During this period, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai were the only three important cities located on the coastal areas that contained a very high share of urban population of the country. They attracted large number of migrants for their administrative, commercial and manufacturing activities. After 60 years they have maintained their status in terms of all economic activities and employment opportunities. Rapid urbanisation has taken place after Independence which is characterised by uneven distribution with few larger metropolises and mega cities growing at a faster rate and containing disproportionate large share of urban population. All this was the result of massive investments by government and public-sector in capital city and district headquarters during the second and third five year plans that saw advent the industrialisation and development of the tertiary sector.

After economic liberalisation metropolises have registered an extraordinarily large accretion in numbers from 23 to 52 and added nearly 53 million residents in a short span of twenty years. The inner cities have developed very fast along with the port cities. Indian mega cities have noticed a slow growth rate in 2011 census. The fastest growth rate is recorded in that metropolises which have recently joined the metropolises club in 2011 census. Cities like Malapuram, Vasai-Vivar, Thrissur, Kannur, Kollam, Ghaziabad and Kozhikode have seen more than 100% growth rate in the last decade because of jurisdictional change, natural growth and migration. These also have outgrowths, resulting in the expansion of their municipal boundaries resulting into their designation as urban agglomerations.

Metropolises are found dotting the country's landscape except the north-east, which is conspicuous by their absence. These are no longer confined to the coastal areas. They have fast developed in interior land except north-east part of India. The large region of metropolises is seen around Delhi, Greater Mumbai and Kerala's coastal areas.An individual million city's strong linkage with the regional and global economy seems to be the determining factor of its growth/ spurt in their population. Managing growth of metropolises requires intensive planning at micro level with the combined effort of central and state government.

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