

Assessment of Urbanisation's Trends and Patterns: A Global Perspective

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ABSTRACT

Urbanisation is defined as an index of transformation from agrarian economies to modern industrial ones. In the world, the majority of the population lives in urban settlements with 55.29 per cent in 2018, though the definition of urban settlements differs from continent to continent or country to country. In fact, the variation in the number of criterions has also been observed between the countries of the same continent. Therefore, to compare the urbanisation level between different countries by using national criteria is broadly non-comparable due to the variation in the definition of 'urban settlement'. India describes the definition of 'urban settlement' more specifically and in a more meaningful manner. Thus, the analytical research has been carried-out to analyse the urbanisation pattern, assess the level of urbanisation, and study the urbanisation trend at both the levels i.e. international (continent-wise) and national (state-wise).

Keywords: *Urbanisation level, urbanisation pattern, urban settlement, urbanisation trend.*

INTRODUCTION

According to Davis & Golden (1954), urbanisation is described as the ratio of urban population to the total population. It, usually, refers to the share of urban population from the total population, which resides in urban settlements. It is a process of becoming urban, moving to urban settlements, shifting from agriculture to non-agriculture pursuits, and corresponding changes in the behaviour patterns (Pandit, 1972). Therefore, urbanisation is also described as an index of transformation

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from agrarian economies to modern industrial economies (Datta, 2006). In fact, the continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining Out-Growths (OGs) form an Urban Agglomeration (UA), which constitute a part of urban population and included in the estimation urbanisation level (Gupta, 2013). So, it is important to define the urban settlement precisely based on the urban characteristics. Additionally, there is no uniform definition of 'urban settlement' throughout the world; it varies from country to country (Bhagat, 2011). Hence, there is a need to understand the concept of urbanisation in a holistic manner along with the understanding of some concepts related to it.

The research paper tries to study the definitions, and analyse the pattern and level of urbanisation at both the levels i.e. international (world) and national (India). The second section explains the research methodology by defining the source of secondary data collection along with the time-period and research type. The third section compares the variation in the definition of 'urban settlement' in the most populated countries of the world and describes the change in the definition of 'urban settlement' in India over a period of time. The fourth section studies the continent-wise pattern and level of urbanisation. The fifth section analyses the urbanisation trend, interprets the urbanisation pattern, and highlights the impact of change in the definition of 'urban settlement' at national and state levels. The last section concludes the research paper briefly.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analytical research has been carried-out to understand the urbanisation level, pattern, and trend at both the levels, i.e. international level (world) and national level (India). For world level analysis, the data collected and published by (i) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in 2018; and (ii) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in 2019 has been analysed for seven continents (233 countries). Whereas, for national level analysis, the data collected and published by (i) Census of India; and (ii) Indiastat website for the year 2011 has been analysed for 28 States and eight Union Territories (UTs). The whole research is carried-out in three stages. In the first stage, the variation in the definition of 'urban settlement' is studied at international and national levels based on the United Nations criterions by using UNSD (2019) data. Later on, at the international level, the two most populated countries from each of the continents have been identified to review the variation in the definition of 'urban settlement'. While, at the national level, the change in the census definition of 'urban settlement' is reviewed, i.e. until 1951 and after 1951. In the second stage, at international level, the continent-wise pattern of urbanisation

is studied for seven continents (22 sub-continents) based on the data set of UNDESA (2018). Further, the country-wise urbanisation level is analysed to identify the top five urbanised countries in the world. In the third stage, at national level, the urbanisation trend of India has been assessed since 1901. Besides, at state level, the urbanisation pattern and urbanisation level of 28 states and eight UTs are calculated and analysed.

ASSESSMENT OF URBANISATION

Definition of Urban Settlement

The definition of urban and rural settlements is not uniform throughout the globe, and it varies from country to country. It is difficult to have a uniform definition of 'urban and rural settlement' throughout the world. Hence, United Nations (UN) has identified five major criterions to define the urban settlements, i.e. (i) *Administrative Status*: based on administrative, historical, or political considerations instead of on statistical considerations; (ii) *Demographic Characteristic*: based on population threshold or a minimum population density or both; (iii) *Local Government Area*: based on agglomerations, or localities having some form of local government, excluding population threshold; (iv) *Urban Characteristics*: based on established street patterns, contiguously aligned buildings, and public services (piped water supply, sewer system, provision of electricity, school, hospital, etc.); and (v) *Predominant Economic Activities*: based on workforce engaged in non-agricultural pursuits (Gupta, 2013). The majority of countries in the world define urban settlements based on the aforesaid criterions.

Out of 233 countries, (i) 121 countries are using administrative criteria (amongst these, 59 countries adopt administrative criteria as the only criterion), (ii) 108 countries are using demographic criteria (amongst these, 37 countries adopt demographic criteria as the only criterion), (iii) 69 countries are using urban characteristics criteria (amongst these, 8 countries adopt urban characteristics criteria as the only criterion), and (iv) 38 countries are using economic criteria to define the urban settlements (UNDESA, 2018a). In the world, majority of the countries follow either one-fold criteria (104) or two-fold criteria (66). Further, there are 12 countries with no or unclear definition of 'urban settlement'; whereas, 12 countries are entirely urbanised (Table 1).

The number criteria also varies from continent to continent or country to country. For instance, Nigeria (Africa Continent) follows one-fold criteria; USA (Northern America Continent) follows two-fold criteria; and India (Asia Continent) follows four-fold criteria. The

variation in the number of criteria has also been observed between the countries of the same continent. For instance, China follows one-fold criteria, but India follows four-fold criteria, and both are located in the same continent, i.e. Asia (Table 2).

TABLE 1: CRITERIA USED BY COUNTRIES TO DEFINE 'URBAN SETTLEMENT'

S. No.	Number of Criteria	Countries using such Criteria	
		(in no.)	(in %)
1.	One Criteria	104	44.64
2.	Two Criteria	66	28.33
3.	Three Criteria	28	12.02
4.	Four Criteria	11	4.72
5.	Entirely Urban Population	12	5.15
6.	Unclear / No Definition	12	5.15
7.	Total Countries	233	100.00

Source: Authors Calculation. Data from UNDESA, 2018a.

TABLE 2: CONTINENT-WISE DEFINITION OF 'URBAN SETTLEMENT' IN MOST POPULATED COUNTRIES

S. No.	Continent / Country	Criteria		Definition
		(in no.)	(description)	
A.	Asia			
1.	China	1	Administrative Status	As per the regulation on the classification of urban or rural residence for statistical purposes.
2.	India	4	Administrative Status; Demographic Characteristics; and Predominant Economic Activities	(i) Statutory Towns (STs): all places with municipal corporation, municipal area committee, town committee, notified area committee or cantonment board; (ii) Census Towns (CTs): All places having (a) population 5,000 or more, (b) at least 75 percent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, and (c) density of at least 400 per square kilometre or 1,000 persons per square mile.

(contd.)

B.	<i>Africa</i>			
3.	Nigeria	1	Demographic Characteristics	Towns with 20,000 inhabitants or more.
4.	Ethiopia	1	Demographic Characteristics	Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.
C.	<i>Europe</i>			
5.	Russian Federation	2	Demographic Characteristics; Predominant Economic Activities	On the basis of number of inhabitants and the predominance of non-agricultural workers and their families.
6.	Germany	1	Demographic Characteristics	Communes with at least 150 inhabitants per square kilometre.
D.	<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>			
7.	Brazil	1	Administrative Status	Area inside the urban perimeter of a city or town, as defined by municipal law.
8.	Mexico	1	Demographic Characteristics	Localities with 2,500 inhabitants or more.
E.	<i>Northern America</i>			
9.	USA	2	Demographic Characteristics	Agglomerations with 2,500 or more inhabitants and a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile or more.
10.	Canada	2	Demographic Characteristics	Areas with (i) 1,000 or more inhabitants, and (ii) a population density of 400 persons per square kilometre or more, based on population counts from the recent population census.
F.	<i>Oceania</i>			
11.	Australia	2	Demographic Characteristics and Urban Characteristics	Significant Urban Centres representing concentrations of urban development with 10,000 inhabitants or more.
12.	Papua New Guinea	1	Demographic Characteristics	Centres having 500 inhabitants or more, excluding separately located schools, hospitals, missions, plantations, rural settlements, and rural villages regardless of population size.

Source: Author. Data from UNDESA, 2018a and UNSD, 2019.

Note: The urban area definition of Antarctica is not considered as it has zero population.

Moreover, the threshold limit of a single criteria such as population size varies from as low as 200 in Greenland, Iceland, and Norway to 50,000 in the Republic of Korea (UNDESA, 2018a & UNSD, 2019). Therefore, to compare the level of urbanisation between different countries by using national criteria is broadly non-comparable due to the variation in the definition of 'urban settlement'. However, at the same time, India is the country that describes the definition of 'urban settlement' more specifically and in a more meaningful manner by using three major criteria to define an 'urban settlement', i.e. administrative status, demographic characteristics, and predominant economic activities.

Definition of 'Indian Urban Settlement'

In India, there are two types of urban settlements, i.e. (i) Statutory Town (ST), and (ii) Census Town (CT). STs are the places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc, and are notified by the state government. CTs are defined based on the three-fold criteria, i.e. (a) minimum population of 5,000; (b) at least 75 per cent of the male main working population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and (c) minimum population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre or 1,000 persons per square mile (Census of India, 2011a). However, the definition of 'urban settlement' has been changed multiple times by the Census of India based upon the administrative status, demographic characteristics, and predominant economic activities.

Before 1951, the urban settlements of India were defined based on the four-fold criteria, i.e. (i) every municipality of whatever size; (ii) all civil lines, which are not included within the municipal limits; (iii) every cantonment; and (iv) every other continuous collection of houses, permanently inhabited by not less than 5,000 persons. The definition of urban settlements was ambiguous in nature, which led to the revision in the definition. In 1951, the revised definition followed the two-fold criteria, i.e. (i) places with at least 5,000 population; (ii) places having smaller population with certain urban characteristics. In fact, the revised definition is vague and not able to define the characteristics of Indian towns. Therefore, to remove the vagueness and ambiguousness from the definition, again the four-fold criteria was introduced with different criteria in 1961, i.e. (i) all the places with a city corporation, municipality, cantonment board or notified town area committee; (ii) all other places which satisfied the following criteria: (a) minimum population of 5,000; (b) at least three-fourth of the occupation of the working population should be outside of agriculture, and; (c) population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre or 1,000 persons per square mile. This

definition seemed to be more balanced with less ambiguity. In 1971, no major change been made except the one in subpart (c) of part (ii) i.e. at least 75 percent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits' (Aijaz, 2017). The new definition is based on (i) administrative status; (ii) population size; (iii) workforce in predominant economic profile; and (iv) population density. Since 1971, the Census of India is following almost the same definition to define the urban settlements.

Urbanisation Pattern Across the World

The total population of the world was 7,632.8 million in 2018. Out of which, majority of the population resides in Asia followed by Africa and Europe with 59.55 per cent (4,45.1 million), 16.87 per cent (1,287.9 million), and 9.73 per cent (742.6 million) respectively. Whereas, Antarctica is the only continent of the world with zero population. The major portion of the world's total population resides in urban settlements with a share of 55.29 per cent (4,219.8 million). The urbanisation level in different continents of the world varies significantly. Northern America is the most urbanised continent of the world followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe with 82.17 per cent (299.0 million), 80.68 per cent (526.1 million), 74.45 per cent (552.9 million) urbanisation level respectively. While, Africa is the least urbanised continent followed by Asia with 42.52 per cent (547.6 million) and 49.86 per cent (2,266.1 million) urbanisation level respectively (UNDESA, 2018a and UNDESA, 2018b). Nevertheless, in terms of absolute number, Asia has the largest number of people residing in the urban settlements because of its large population size (4,545.1 million) despite having a low urbanisation level. Additionally, out of all the sub-continent (22), the most and least urbanised sub-continent are Australia / New Zealand and Melanesia with an urbanisation level of 86.10 per cent (25.4 million) and 19.39 per cent (3 million) respectively; and both the sub-continent are located in the Oceania continent of the world (Table 3).

At country level analysis, the contribution of China's urban population is highest in the world's total urban population with 19.84 per cent (837.0 million) followed by India and United State of America (USA) with 10.92 per cent (460.8 million) and 6.37 per cent (268.8 million) respectively. Out of the 233 countries, the top five urban populated countries cumulatively accounted for 44.95 per cent (1,896.7 million) of the world's total urban population (Table 4). Whereas, the cumulative account of the top 10 and 15 urban populated countries increased to 56.81 per cent (2,397.4 million) and 64.00 per cent (2,700.5 million) respectively (UNDESA, 2018a & UNDESA, 2018b).

TABLE 3: CONTINENT-WISE URBANISATION LEVEL IN 2018

S. No.	Continent / Sub-Continent	Total Population		Urban Population		Urbanisation Level (in %)
		(in million)	(in %)	(in million)	(in %)	
1.	Asia	4,545.1	59.55	2,266.1	53.70	49.86
1.1	Eastern Asia	1,653.9	21.67	1,039.8	24.64	62.87
1.2	South-Central Asia	1,963.3	25.72	710.9	16.85	36.21
1.3	Central Asia	71.9	0.94	34.6	0.82	48.18
1.4	Southern Asia	1,891.5	24.78	676.3	16.03	35.75
1.5	South-Eastern Asia	655.6	8.59	320.4	7.59	48.87
1.6	Western Asia	272.3	3.57	195.0	4.62	71.63
2.	Africa	1,287.9	16.87	547.6	12.98	42.52
2.1	Eastern Africa	433.6	5.68	121.3	2.87	27.98
2.2	Middle Africa	168.5	2.21	83.5	1.98	49.53
2.3	Northern Africa	237.8	3.12	123.6	2.93	52.00
2.4	Southern Africa	66.0	0.86	42.0	0.99	63.62
2.5	Western Africa	382.0	5.00	177.2	4.20	46.39
3.	Europe	742.6	9.73	552.9	13.10	74.45
3.1	Eastern Europe	292.0	3.82	203.2	4.82	69.62
3.2	Northern Europe	104.8	1.37	86.1	2.04	82.16
3.3	Southern Europe	151.9	1.99	108.6	2.57	71.52
3.4	Western Europe	194.1	2.54	155.0	3.67	79.86
4.	Latin America and the Caribbean	652.0	8.54	526.1	12.47	80.68
4.1	Caribbean	44.2	0.58	31.5	0.75	71.32
4.2	Central America	179.6	2.35	134.2	3.18	74.72
4.3	South America	428.2	5.61	360.4	8.54	84.15
5.	Northern America	363.8	4.77	299.0	7.09	82.17
6.	Oceania	41.3	0.54	28.1	0.67	68.17
6.1	Australia / New Zealand	29.5	0.39	25.4	0.60	86.10
6.2	Melanesia	10.5	0.14	2.0	0.05	19.39
6.3	Micronesia	0.5	0.01	0.4	0.01	68.72
6.4	Polynesia	0.7	0.01	0.3	0.01	44.45
7.	Antarctica	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00
8.	Total World Population	7,632.8	100.00	4,219.8	100.00	55.29

Source: Authors Calculation. Data from UNDESA, 2018b.

TABLE 4: COUNTRY-WISE URBANISATION LEVEL IN 2018

S. No.	Country	Total Population (in million)	Urban Population		Level of Urbanisation (in %)
			(in million)	(in %)	
1.	China	1,415.0	837.0	19.84	59.15
2.	India	1,354.1	460.8	10.92	34.03
3.	United States of America	326.8	268.8	6.37	82.26
4.	Brazil	210.9	182.5	4.33	86.57
5.	Indonesia	266.8	147.6	3.50	55.32
6.	Top 5 Urban Populated Countries	3,573.5	1,896.7	44.95	53.08
7.	Rest of the World	4,059.3	2,323.1	55.05	57.23
8.	Total World Population	7,632.8	4,219.8	100.00	55.29

Source: Authors Calculation. Data from UNDESA, 2018b.

In the top five urban populated countries of the world, Brazil is the most urbanised country as its 86.57 percent population lives in the urban settlements, followed by USA and China with 82.26 percent and 59.15 percent level of urbanisation respectively. The lowest level of urbanisation in the top five countries is observed in India, which is just 34.03 percent. Furthermore, in 2018, the average level of urbanisation in the top five urban populated countries of the world was 53.08 percent, which was less than the world's average, i.e. 55.29 percent. India's low urbanisation level is one of the major reasons behind it. Interestingly, in the top 10 urban populated countries, the highest urbanisation level is also observed in Brazil (86.57 percent), which defines the urban area based on the administrative area (one-fold criterion). While, India (34.03 percent) is the least urbanised country in the top 10 urban populated countries of the world because of the high threshold limit of all the criteria (four-fold criteria) as compared to the remaining countries. Thus, from the analysis, India seems to be less urbanised as compared to the other most populated countries of the world.

Urbanisation Trends and Pattern in India

At the national level, the assessment of urbanisation has been carried-out by analysing the trend and pattern of urbanisation. In order to review the urbanisation trend, the 'Census of India' data has been studied and analysed at national level since 1901. The urbanisation trend helps to understand the process of urbanisation throughout the nation. Whereas,

in order to review the urbanisation pattern, a single point data has been studied and explored at the state level for the census year of 2011. The urbanisation pattern helps to understand the process of urbanisation within the nation, i.e. at state level.

Urbanisation Trend

In India, the level of urbanisation has been increased from 10.82 percent (25.8 million) to 31.16 percent (377.1 million) from 1901 to 2011 respectively. At the same time, the number of urban settlements has increased from 1,827 to 7,933 in 1901 to 2011 respectively. Since 1901, the maximum growth in the increase in the number of towns has been recorded in the last census decade (2001-11), i.e. 53.71 percent (Table 5). As a result of which, an absolute increase of 2,772 towns has been observed in 2011 (Datta, 2006 & MoUD, 2015). Approximately 32.8 percent (29.9 million) of the urban growth has occurred due to the reclassification of rural settlements into CTs from 2001 and 2011 (Pradhan, 2017). The analysis shows the gradual increase in the urbanisation level of the nation since 1901 continuously.

TABLE 5: TREND OF URBANISATION IN INDIA, 1901-2011

S. No.	Census Year	Towns (in no.)	Growth Rate of Towns (in %)	Total Population (in million)	Urban Population		Urban Growth Rate (in%)
					(in million)	(in %)	
1.	1901	1,827	-	238.4	25.8	10.82	-
2.	1911	1,825	-0.11	252.1	25.9	10.27	0.39
3.	1921	1,949	6.79	251.3	28.1	11.18	8.49
4.	1931	2,072	6.31	278.9	33.4	11.98	18.86
5.	1941	2,250	8.59	318.6	44.1	13.84	32.04
6.	1951	2,843	26.36	361.1	62.4	17.28	41.50
7.	1961	2,363	-16.88	439.2	78.9	17.96	26.44
8.	1971	2,590	9.61	548.2	109.1	19.90	38.28
9.	1981	3,378	30.42	683.3	159.5	23.34	46.20
10.	1991	3,768	11.55	846.4	217.6	25.71	36.43
11.	2001	5,161	36.97	1,028.6	286.1	27.81	31.48
12.	2011	7,933	53.71	1,210.8	377.1	31.16	31.81

Source: Authors Calculation. Data from Datta, 2006 and MoUD, 2015.

Interestingly, the definition to define urban settlement is different from state to state in India, which in turn affects the urbanisation level of the nation. According to the definition of state governments, India's level

of urbanisation was 26.69 percent (323 million) in 2011. Whereas, as per the definition of Census of India, the level of urbanisation has increased to 31.16 percent (377 million) in 2011. According to the estimates of the Agglomeration Index of 2008, the level of urbanisation was 55.3 percent in 2010. As per the analysis of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, India seemed to be more urbanised than ever before with an urbanisation level of 63 percent in 2015 (Aijaz, 2017).

Urbanisation Pattern

In India, there are 28 States and eight Union Territories. As per the Census of India (2011), out of the total population of the nation (1,210.2 million), majority of the population lives in the 28 states with 97.3 percent (1,177.6 million); whereas, only 2.7 percent (32.6 million) lives in eight UTs of the nation. The same pattern has been observed in case of the urban population. The percentage of the urban population resides in the 28 states and eight UTs of the nation is 94.1 percent (354.9 million) and 5.9 percent (22.2 million) respectively. In 2011, the average urbanisation level of the nation is 31.16 percent (Census of India, 2011b). Based on the analytical analysis, it is observed that the average urbanisation level of eight UTs is more than the average urbanisation level of 28 states i.e. 68.09 percent and 30.14 percent respectively (Table 6).

TABLE 6: STATES AND UTs SHARE OF URBANISATION, 2011

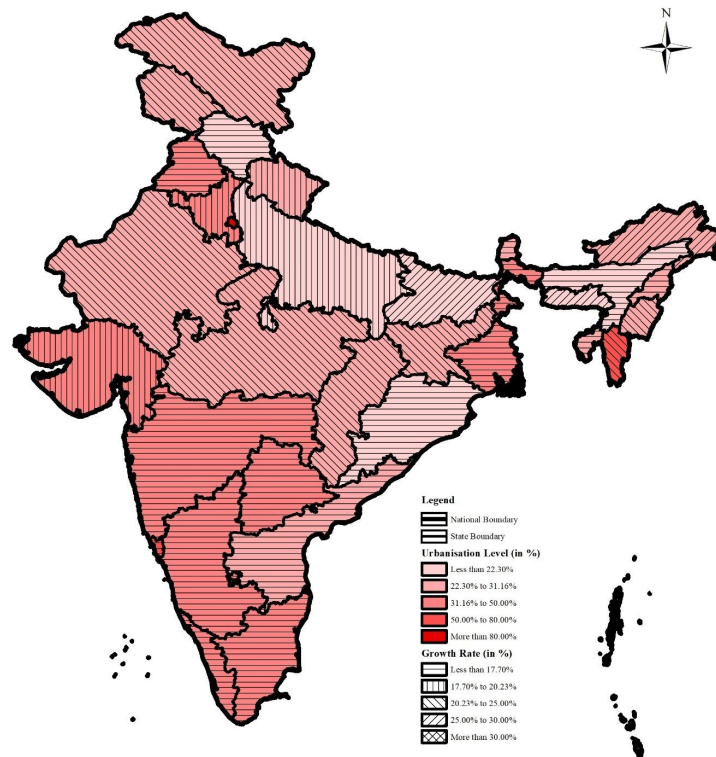
S. No.	State / UT	No.	Population		Urban Population		Urbanisation Level (in %)
			Total (in million)	Share (in %)	Total (in million)	Share (in %)	
1.	State	28	1,177.6	97.3	354.9	94.1	30.14
2.	UT	8	32.6	2.7	22.2	5.9	68.09
3.	Grand Total	36	1,210.2	100.0	377.1	100.0	31.16

Source: Authors Calculation. Data from (i) Census of India, 2011b; and (ii) Telangana Forest Department, 2014.

To understand India's pattern of urbanisation more comprehensively, the spatial analysis has been carried-out at national level. Out of the eight UTs, the highest urbanisation level is observed in Delhi followed by Chandigarh and Lakshadweep with 97.71 percent (16.36 million), 97.32 percent (1.02 million), and 78.12 percent (0.05 million) respectively. Whereas, out of the 28 states, the highest urbanisation level is observed in Goa followed by Mizoram and Tamil Nadu with 62.21 percent (0.91 million), 52.41 percent (0.57 million), and 48.40 percent (34.92 million) respectively. The urbanisation level of smaller states seems to be higher than the larger states such as Goa, Mizoram, etc. (Census of India,

2011b). The Southern and Western states seem to be more urbanised as compared to rest of the nation (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1: India's Pattern of Urbanisation, 2011



Source: Author's Calculation. Data from (i) Census of India, 2011b; and (ii) Telangana Forest Department, 2014.

Note: The growth rate of (i) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Ladakh; (ii) Ladakh; (iii) Telangana is considered equal to the growth rate of (i) Dadra and Nagar Haveli; (ii) Jammu and Kashmir; and (iii) Andhra Pradesh respectively as the aforesaid UT/State has been re-formulated after census 2011.

Further, out of the eight UTs, the maximum population growth rate is noticed in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu followed by Puducherry, and Ladakh with 55.88 percent (0.34 million), 28.08 percent (0.85 million), and 23.40 percent (0.06 million) respectively. Whereas, out of the 28 states, the maximum population growth rate is noticed in Meghalaya followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar with 29.95 percent (0.59 million), 26.03 percent (0.32 million), and 25.40 percent (11.76 million) respectively (Census of India, 2011b). Therefore, North-Eastern and Eastern states have shown a higher growth rate as compared to the rest of the nation in the last decade.

CONCLUSION

Urbanisation is measured as the percentage of urban population living in the urban settlements. The world's level of urbanisation was 55.29 percent (4,219.8 million) in 2018. The definition of 'urban settlement' differs from continent to continent. In fact, different countries within the same continent have defined 'urban settlement' differently such as India follows four-fold criteria; whereas, China follows one-fold criteria but both are in the same continent, i.e. Asia. However, majorly, the 'urban settlement' definition depends upon the five criterions, i.e. (i) administrative status, (ii) demographic characteristics, (iii) local government area, (iv) urban characteristics, and (v) predominant economic activities. In the tally of top five most urban populated countries, India seems to be less urbanised due to the high threshold limit of four-fold criteria. However, at the same time, India is the country that describes the definition of 'urban settlement' more specifically and in a more meaningful manner. In addition, the criterions to define urban settlement are not uniform in India and differ from state to state. As per the state government, the urbanisation level of India is 26.69 per cent (323 million) in 2011; whereas, as per the Census of India, it is 31.16 percent (377.1 million) in 2011. Also, the urbanisation level of smaller states seems to be higher than the larger states. Moreover, based on the Census of India (2011), the Southern and Western states are more urbanised as compared to rest of the nation. Whereas, the North-Eastern and Eastern states have shown a higher population growth rate as compared to the rest of the nation in the last decade, i.e. 2001-11. Therefore, it is difficult to have a uniform or common definition of 'urban settlement' throughout the world or continents or sub-continents or country, and sometimes, even within the same country such as India.

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