



Environmental perspectives of urbanisation: A brief review

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Abstract

The precise demographic definition of urbanization is the increasing share of a nation's population living in urban areas and thus a declining share living in rural areas. A nation's urban population can grow from natural increase, net rural to urban migration and reclassification. Over the past 60 years, there is a strong association between economic growth and urbanization and most of the world's poorest nations remain among the least urbanized nations. Kashmir valley is the most urbanized region of Indian Himalayan region. Urban areas provide many potential advantages for improving living conditions through the economies of scale and proximity they provide for most forms of infrastructure and services. Urbanization over the past two centuries has also been associated with pro-poor social reforms in which collective organization by the urban poor had important roles. Srinagar is a primate city while almost all the urban centres fall in its zone of influence. The urban development in the valley is very lopsided and imbalanced with Srinagar witnessing tremendous growth and small urban centres have either recorded sluggish growth or have shown signs of stagnation. This twin process has made urban growth very complex phenomenon and a challenging task for city planners to ensure a reasonable quality of life and environment to the inhabitants. The unplanned and unregulated urbanization is leading to several kinds of environmental change which are more intensive and hazardous in the ecologically fragile Kashmir Himalayas. The heavy concentration of urban centers is found in the Jhelum valley floor and all the large and medium towns are located there along with Srinagar city. The two important problems of urbanization identified in Kashmir valley are; The first one is related to the disproportionate growth and concentration of people in Srinagar city which has given birth to many urban ecological and socio-demographic problems. This has happened largely because of the absence of any planning strategy at the regional level and could be rectified by providing civic amenities, infrastructural facilities and employment opportunities in small and medium towns. This will reduce immigration to Srinagar city as people would be attracted to other towns of the valley. This will also help in maintaining balanced urban development of the region. The second problem relates to the increasing concentration of people in the mountain towns of the valley which have developed mainly on account of tourism. The geographical information system has proved as a very helpful tool for analysing the urban dynamics in the valley and it is recommended that modern techniques of remote sensing and GIS are employed to formulate policies of urban development by analysing their spatio-temporal dynamics of population growth and land use change. To attain the ideal of inclusive growth, it is important that urbanization be socially equitable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable. In this paper, we have discussed the relationship between urbanisation, economic growth and social development in Kashmir valley.

Keywords: Kashmir, urbanization, growth, remote sensing, GIS

1. Introduction

Urbanization is a process of change and its consequences when a society gets transformed from an agrarian economy to an industrial one and from a small homogeneous society to a large heterogeneous one. The process of urbanization relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural occupation and concentration of non-agricultural land uses in a specialized area as a consequence of population, occupational and land use shifts. It leads to the multiplication of points of concentration and to an increase in the size of individual concentrations as one of the most conspicuous aspects of urbanization process. Urbanization thus involves:

- a. Concentration of people at population densities higher than those associated with agricultural populations with only very rare exceptions on either side.
- b. Population shifts (migration) from rural to urban areas.

- c. Occupational shifts from agricultural to non-agricultural and
- d. Land use shift from agricultural to non-agricultural. While population shift implies a physical shift of population from rural to urban, occupational and land use shifts can take place in situ. The distinction between rural and urban settlement is not very easy to comprehend. Quite often it has been asserted that an urban settlement should be disintegrated not only on the basis of defined demographic characteristics but also on the basis of the level of infrastructural facilities.

According to the criteria adopted by Indian Census Department, urban area includes:

- a. All places with a municipality corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee etc.

- b. A Place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously:
1. A minimum population of 5,000.
 2. At least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and
 3. A density of population of at least 400 persons per km².

The hill states of India by and large display low degree of urbanization largely due to the problems related to their terrain and the limitation of such a physiography in terms of mobility of goods, services and people due to poor accessibility. However large proportion of cultivated land and other areas are being encroached upon by the process of urbanization and expansion of infrastructure, services and economic activities in the region. More recently, comparatively less accessible areas of the region are also being affected by process of fast urbanization mainly owing to the extension of road network, development of horticulture, gradual shift from primary resource development practices to secondary and tertiary sectors and the growth of domestic tourism through the publicity and marketing of new tourist sites. Consequently, there has been tremendous increase in size, area, number and complexity of urban settlements in the region resulting in the urban expansion as well as intensification of land use. The urban settlement spectrum of the Kashmir valley is dominated by the urban primary of Srinagar city which is the biggest urban centre of the Indian Himalayan Region. With the result, the very urban settlement hierarchy is not a graded and balanced one. The urban settlement system in the region is regulated and articulated through the Srinagar city, which is the nerve centre of all the socio-economic and political activities. The urban growth is lopsided one as the growth of the medium and small sized towns is experiencing stagnation where as excessive concentration of urban growth and associated activities is taking place in Srinagar city.

The precise demographic definition of urbanization is the increasing share of a nation's population living in urban areas and thus a declining share living in rural areas^[1].

A nation's urban population can grow from natural increase (births minus deaths), net rural to urban migration and reclassification. Nations with rapid economic growth and relatively low rates of natural increase such as China over the past few decades have most of their urban population growth from urbanization; nations with little or no economic growth and high rates of natural increase (including many sub-Saharan African nations during the 1990s) have most of their urban population growth from natural increase^[2].

According to the Committee on Population Projection, population of India will increase continuously, though marginally. However, Population of Goa, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep will start declining after 2025. Many development professionals see urbanization as a problem. Yet, no nation has prospered without urbanization and there is no prosperous nation that is not predominantly urban. Over the past 60 years, there is a strong association between economic growth and urbanization and most of the world's poorest nations remain among the least urbanized nations. Kashmir valley is the most urbanized region of Indian Himalayan region (Mohammad Imran Malik, 2012). Urban areas provide many potential advantages for improving living conditions

through the economies of scale and proximity they provide for most forms of infrastructure and services. This can be seen in the high life expectancies evident in the best governed European, Asian and North and South American cities. Urbanization over the past two centuries has also been associated with pro-poor social reforms in which collective organization by the urban poor had important roles^[3].

But there are still very serious development problems in many urban areas, including high levels of urban poverty and serious problems of food security and of high infant and child mortality^[4].

2. The concept of urbanization

Urbanization refers to general increase in population and the amount of industrialization of a settlement. It includes increase in the number and extent of cities. It symbolizes the movement of people from rural to urban areas. Urbanization happens because of the increase in the extent and density of urban areas. The density of population in urban areas increases because of the migration of people from less industrialized regions to more industrialized areas.

The concept "Urban Sprawl" means increase in spatial scale or increase in the peripheral area of cities. "Urban Sprawl" has its own drawbacks.

- The city and its infrastructure may not be adequately planned.
- Traffic is high with increased time needed for commuting.
- Essential services are not reachable within time.
- City administration becomes extremely difficult.

An excellent example of urban sprawl within our country is that of the city of Bangalore. After the establishment of IT industry in Bangalore, the population exploded from 24,76,355 in 1980 to 42,92,223 in 2001 with influx of 18 lakh immigrants within two decades. The growing population has increased pressure on several resources including civic amenities, residential availability, cost of living, local infrastructure, transport, traffic and administration. Bangalore has lost many of its water bodies (lakes) and consequently the fragile ecosystem has been disturbed due to the ever-increasing need for space, to cater to residences and business establishments.

3. History of urbanization

The beginning of urbanization can be traced back to Renaissance times in 16th century. Turkish assaults resulted in movement of Christians from the east to western European countries. As a result, trade grew and European cities along the coasts developed greatly. A further boost for urbanization was created with the arrival of the "Industrial Revolution". Populations of cities in Europe and USA started to increase significantly in the 18th and 19th centuries. However, urbanization started in Asia only in the first half of the 20th century and in the second half of the 20th century in Africa, when the countries obtained independence from colonial rule.

4. Urbanization in the world today

Today as compared to Asian and African countries, countries such as USA and UK have a higher urbanization level.

Economic forces helped to locate factories and workers in cities. In USA 5% of the population lived in cities in 1800. By 1920 50% of the population lived in cities. In comparison only 17.8% of population of Third world societies lived in cities in 1950. But by 2000, the percentage had increased to 40%. By 2030, the percentage is predicted to increase to 60%.

5. Causes of urbanization

Urbanization usually occurs when people move from villages to cities to settle, in hope of a higher standard of living. This usually takes place in developing countries. In rural areas, people become victims of unpredictable weather conditions such as drought and floods, which can adversely affect their livelihood. Consequently, many farmers move to cities in search of a better life. This can be seen in Karnataka as well where farmers from Raichur, Gulbarga districts which are drought-stricken areas, migrate to Bangalore to escape poverty. Cities in contrast, offer opportunities of high living and are known to be places where wealth and money are centralized. Most industries and educational institutions are located in cities whereas there are limited opportunities within rural areas. This further contributes to migration to cities.

Urbanization brings with it several consequences – both adverse and beneficial. They impact on social and environmental areas.

6. Urbanization – impacts

A. Adverse effects of urbanization

There is increasing competition for facilities due to the high standard of living in urban areas, which has triggered several negative effects. Many people including farmers who move to cities in search of a better life end up as casual labourers as they lack adequate education. This leads to one of the worst problems of urbanization - the growth of slums.

1. Slums

They are urban areas that are heavily populated with substandard housing and very poor living conditions. As a result, several problems arise.

- Land insecurity - Slums are usually located on land, which are not owned by the slum dwellers. They can be evicted at any time by the landowners.
- Poor living conditions - Crowding and lack of sanitation are main problems. This contributes to outbreak of diseases. Utilities such as water, electricity and sewage disposal are also scarce.
- Unemployment - Since the number of people competing for jobs is more than jobs available, unemployment is an inevitable problem.
- Crime - Slum conditions make maintenance of law and order difficult. Patrolling of slums is not a priority of law enforcing officers. Unemployment and poverty force people into anti-social activities. Slums become a breeding ground for criminal activities.

2. Environmental impacts of urbanization

- Temperature - Due to factors such as paving over formerly vegetated land, increasing number of residences and high-rise apartments and industries, temperature increases drastically.

- Air pollution - Factories and automobiles are symbols of urbanization. Due to harmful emissions of gases and smoke from factories and vehicles, air pollution occurs. Current research shows high amount of suspended particulate matter in air, particularly in cities, which contributes to allergies and respiratory problems thereby becoming a huge health hazard.
- Water issues - When urbanization takes place, water cycle changes as cities have more precipitation than surrounding areas. Due to dumping of sewage from factories in water bodies, water pollution occurs which can lead to outbreaks of epidemics.
- Destruction of Habitats - To make an area urbanized, a lot of forested areas are destroyed. Usually these areas would have been habitats to many birds and animals.

B. Benefits of urbanization

Though urbanization has drawbacks, it has its benefits.

- Efficiency - Cities are extremely efficient. Less effort is needed to supply basic amenities such as fresh water and electricity. Research and recycling programs are possible only in cities. In most cities flats are in vogue today. Many people can be accommodated within a small land area.
- Convenience - Access to education, health, social services and cultural activities is readily available to people in cities than in villages. Life in cities is much more advanced, sophisticated and comfortable, compared to life in villages. Cities have advanced communication and transport networks.
- Concentration of resources - Since major human settlements were established near natural resources from ancient times, a lot of resources are available in and around cities. A lot of facilities to exploit these resources also exist only in cities.
- Educational facilities - Schools, colleges and universities are established in cities to develop human resources. A variety of educational courses and fields are available offering students a wide choice for their future careers.
- Social integration - People of many castes and religions live and work together in cities, which creates better understanding and harmony and helps breakdown social and cultural barriers.
- Improvements in economy - High-tech industries earn valuable foreign exchange and lot of money for a country in the stock markets.

7. Future of urbanization

Urbanization is set to stay for a long time. It may slow but surely does not show any signs of stopping. In 1985, 45% of the world population stayed in cities. Scientists estimate that 60% of the world population will be city-dwellers by 2025. The main goal of urban planning is to make all amenities and comforts available to the public without imposing many negative effects on society and environment, aptly referred to as “Sustainable growth”. The cardinal rule is to plan cities beforehand, rather than let them grow spontaneously and haphazardly. During city planning it should be ensured that adequate infrastructure is available to support the population. Residences should be conveniently located near the civic

bodies. This could improve effective provision of the necessary services. Opportunities can be created within rural areas to reduce stress on cities. This also results in a higher standard of living for the people of the country as a whole. Some of the villages in South Kanara district of Karnataka set a good example for this. They have efficient transport and communication system and electricity. Co-operatives have been set up to provide financial aid to peasants. The rural people have been encouraged to engage in cottage industries and commercial activities such as making pickles, handicrafts, sweets and savories. Through cooperative agencies, marketing of these goods also has become easy. This is an efficient method of curbing urbanization, by creating opportunities for people in villages. This reduces the rate of migration. Currently, planning cities for sustainable growth, mainly in the third-world societies, is a major challenge for humanity. Restricting the population boom is another major issue of the third millennium. All these vital factors would decide what the future would look like for humankind and our planet.

8. Projected urban population

The Registrar General of India has projected total and urban population for India and states. It is interesting to know that 67% of total population growth in India in next 25 years is expected to take place in urban areas. Urban population is expected to increase from 286 million in 2001 to 534 million in 2026 (38%).

Of the total increase in population, 50% during the period is likely to occur in seven less developed states, namely, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. But urban growth is going to take place in states of U.P., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat and these will contribute over 45% of urban growth over next 25 years. To understand stress or influence of urbanization in various states, the states have been grouped on the basis of percentage of urban population and share of urban population in 2026. First group identified as highly urban states consists of A.P., Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P. Maharashtra, Punjab, T.N., West Bengal and four other Union Territories (UTs). In this group, by 2026, about 51% of total population will be urban and it will account for about 69% of total urban population. Second group is identified as average urban and this group consists of Chhattisgarh, J&K, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, U.P and Uttaranchal. In this group, 29% of total population will be urban and it will account for 24% of projected total urban population. The third group is termed as low urban and cover states like Bihar, H.P., Orissa, and North-East states. It will have 15% of population living in urban areas and accounting for only 7% of projected total population.

The Challenges of Urbanization in India are unprecedented in scale and significance. The magnitude of the challenge can be understood from the sheer fact that our urban areas may be required to accommodate 250-300 million people in addition to the population that they are already home to at present in about two decades from now. Similarly, the scale of investment required would be of the order of nearly Rs. 50,00,000 Crore over next two decades if basic infrastructure is to be provided. Urbanisation and economic progress are concomitant processes as cities provide large economies of agglomeration. The urban sector contributes around 62%-63%

of GDP which is likely to increase to 75 % by 2021. Over 70 % of new jobs in future shall be largely created in Cities. The link between economic performance of cities and the national economy is increasingly getting stronger. However, in a rapidly changing world, the cities are getting increasingly interlinked and shall have to compete globally in future for employment generation and investments.

In order to ensure competitiveness of our cities and ensure basic services to our citizens, urgent steps are required to harness the opportunity that the scale of urbanization presents and to avoid urban decay. This is inseparably linked to provision of civic amenities and strong local governance consistent with the needs of 21st Century India.

9. The ministry of urban development

It should be a key facilitator of this process as efficient urbanization in the country would need closer cooperation between Union, States and Cities than ever before. Therefore, though Urban Development is primarily a state subject, the Government of India needs to continue to play catalytic role in provision of basic amenities, capacity building, policy formulation and bringing about convergence and synergies.

The vision of the Ministry is “*To facilitate creation of economically vibrant, inclusive, efficient and sustainable urban habitats*”. Consistent with the vision, the Mission is to “*promote cities as engines of economic growth through improvement in the quality of urban life by facilitating creation of quality urban infrastructure, with assured service levels and efficient governance*”.

A. The objectives of the ministry are to

- Facilitate creation of basic urban infrastructure relating to water supply, sanitation and urban transport to improve service levels and coverage by 2017.
- Creating enabling Policy environment for efficient and inclusive urban Governance.
- Facilitate implementation of urban sector reforms under Jawaharlal Nehru national Urban Renewal Mission.
- Capacity building of key stake holders including elected representatives for efficient urban management.
- To facilitate planned development of national capital region.
- Creation of residential facilities for Government officials and office space for Government and administration of CPWD.

B. Functions

- Administration of urban infrastructure and governance component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Schemes for development of Infrastructure in satellite towns, North-Eastern Region Urban Development Programme, Metros etc., for creation of basic urban infrastructure.
- Facilitate Implementation of Urban Sector Reforms through various schemes and Policy initiatives.
- Preparation of Plans for the development of the National Capital Region and coordinate and monitor its implementation.
- Facilitate access to Institutional finance for urban

infrastructure in States in National Capital Region through National Capital Regional Planning Board (NCRPB).

- Coordination of multilateral / bilateral assistance for projects related to urban development.
- Technical assistance through Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO), Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Regional Centres for Urban Studies and Environment and Centres of Excellence.
- Construction and maintenance of Central government residential and official Buildings through Central Public Works Department (CPWD).
- Management of land and built-up properties of Government of India through Land and Development Office (L&DO) and Directorate of Estates.
- Administration of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC).

This Strategic Plan lays down the Ministry's thrust for the next five years on the core area of urban development.

10. Urbanisation status in Kashmir Valley

Kashmir valley is the most urbanized region of Indian Himalayan region. The study of distribution, growth and extent of its urban centers is vital to create a sound economic base as urban centers are reflectors of overall development of a region. The present study has been carried out using geographical information system to analyze the spatial distribution of different size class towns in different physiographic divisions of the valley. The study reveals that Srinagar is a primate city while almost all the urban centers fall in its zone of influence. The urban development in the valley is very lopsided and imbalanced with Srinagar witnessing tremendous growth and small urban centers have either recorded sluggish growth or have shown signs of stagnation. This twin process has made urban growth very complex phenomenon and a challenging task for city planners to ensure a reasonable quality of life and environment to the inhabitants. The unplanned and unregulated urbanization is leading to several kinds of environmental change which are more intensive and hazardous in the ecologically fragile Kashmir Himalayas. The present study will help in devising a balanced urban growth strategy in the region, by reducing the disparities in the levels of socio-economic development.

A. District wise distribution of urban population

There is large variation in the level of urbanization among different districts in Kashmir valley. The level of urbanization in Kashmir valley is 28.7 percent (Census of India, 2011). Among the districts Srinagar maintains its 1st rank since 1901 so far as the percentage of total urban population of the valley is concerned. Srinagar district has only two urban centers but it constitutes more than 60 percent of the total urban population of the Valley and is the highest urbanized district with the level of urbanization of 95.3 percent. Srinagar is vivid testimony of one of the historical cities of the country reflecting the rich and complex historical background. During the modern period (1947- 1997) the city recorded more or less an uninterrupted growth through successive and concerted

efforts after launching Five Year Plans that marked a beginning of the Planning era in the State. The process further got strengthened, as it became the seat of power and summer Capital of the State. The development of most of the administrative, education and medical institutions and residential colonies in and around the commercial hub (Lal Chowk) changed the form and morphological structure of the city. The establishment of a number of education and medical institutions and a number of planned colonies viz Jawahar Nagar, Karanagar, Nursing Garh, Gogji Bagh, Batmaloo, Channapora, Bemina etc. have resulted to the extensive sprawl of the city limits. Anantnag District has the highest Number of towns (12) but accommodates only 13.8 percent of the total urban population of the valley with the level of urbanization of 25.6 percent. The Significant percentage of urban population in Anantnag, Kulgam, Bandipora and Baramulla is because of fertile soil, leveled topography, accessibility and greater interaction with Srinagar as compared to other districts. Kupwara district has the lowest percentage of urban population (3.5 percent) and lowest share of urban population of the valley (1.6percent) owing to its accessibility and hill topography. The newly formed district of Kulgam ranks third (18.5) among the districts as far as the level of urbanization in the Valley is concerned. This is because of the fact that among the newly declared 12 towns in 2011, 6 are from Kulgam district only. The lowest number of urban centers is found in Shopian and Ganderbal districts where the respective district headquarters are the urban centers as they have recently been declared as separate districts.

Growth in the number of towns: It is very difficult to compare the different urban centers so far as their growth is concerned because different urban centers were given the status of town in different censuses and also because definitions and criteria for urban centers have changed through time. Declassification of urban centers is a major problem, which comes in the way of generalization. The growth in the number of towns during 1901-2011 shows an increase of 45 towns. There have been fluctuations in the growth pattern of towns because of the definitional changes, some towns added and some declassified, as for example, in 1911, 11 settlements were classified as towns, but subsequently the towns namely Kulgam, Bandipora, Gulmarg and Uri were dropped in 1921. Again Mattan and Uri were added in 1931 which continued till 1941. It was during 1951 when Mattan was again dropped and in 1961 Pahalgam was freshly added in place of Handwara by matching the position of 1911. However, 4 towns were added in 1971 of which Tral and Kukernag were the new classified towns followed by 7 towns in 1981. In 2001, 11 towns were added to the previous list while in 2011, 12 new towns are included of which 6 towns (50 percent) belong to Kulgam district alone. The temporal increase in the number of towns in different size classes from 1901-2011, clearly shows that as the size of urban centers decreases their number increases. From 1911-1961 (except 1951) highest number of urban centers were class VI towns. In 1971, 1981 and 2011 highest number of towns were class V towns. However, in 2001 class IV towns were dominating. Among the newly classified 12 towns in 2011, 4 are class IV towns and the remaining 8 are class V towns. The total number of towns in the Valley has increased from only one urban centre

in 1901 to 46 urban centers in 2011. The highest growth in the number of urban centers was recorded for 1901-1911 where there was 12-fold increase in the number of towns. However, in 1921 the number of urban centers decreased to 7 and remained constant for 1931 and 1941 while it again decreased to 8 in 1951. From 1961 the number of towns is increasing at an increasing rate. It increased by 34 towns in the last fifty years. It was only in 2001 that the three medium towns of Anantnag, Sopore and Baramulla crossed the population of fifty thousand and attained the status of large towns (class II towns). However, in 2011, Anantnag crossed the mark of one lakh population and becomes Class I town. Thus for the first time we have two class I towns. It is important to note that Srinagar served as the only Class I town for a period of more than a century. Anantnag has the advantages of accessibility, connectivity and interaction which makes its growth so prominent as it serves as an important link connecting Jammu city with the Srinagar city. The class VI towns are generally those statutory towns which are classified mainly on the basis of tourism. Pahalgam and Gulmarg were given this special status from 1961. It is important to mention here that the total population of Gulmarg is only 243 persons. However, Pahalgam crossed the population of six thousand for the first time in 2011. The distribution of urban population by size classes shows that class I towns of Srinagar and Anantnag constitute 67.9 percent of the total urban population followed by class IV towns (11.3 percent). The share of large towns has decreased from 15.64% in 2001 to 6.8 percent in 2001 because Anantnag has now attained the status of Class I town and only two towns of Baramulla and Sopore remain as large towns as none of the medium sized towns attained the status of large town. It is also evident that all the three medium class towns in 1981 qualified the status of large towns in 2001. But only one town has been able to become medium town in 2001 from three small towns in 1981. The class III towns and Class V towns constitute 7.6 percent and 6.2 percent of the total urban population of the valley respectively.

11. Land use, urban and regional planning

Cities are probably the most complex things that human beings have ever created. They are the wellsprings of culture, technology, wealth and power. People have a love-hate relationship with cities. We are torn between our needs for community and privacy and the conflicting attractions of urban and rural life ^[5]. Urban Planning can be defined as the design and regulation of the uses of space that focus on the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment and on the location of different activities within it. From experience across the globe as well as in India it has been observed that planning is best practiced when the decision making power is with local level institutions ^[6]. Unfortunately, in India devolution of power both administrative and financial has not been adequate, and hence land use, urban and regional planning practice is weak due to limited capacities of local and regional level institutions.

12. Conclusion

Many development professionals see urbanization as a problem. Yet, no nation has prospered without urbanization and there is no prosperous nation that is not predominantly

urban. Over the past 60 years, there is a strong association between economic growth and urbanization and most of the world's poorest nations remain among the least urbanized nations. Urban areas provide many potential advantages for improving living conditions through the economies of scale and proximity they provide for most forms of infrastructure and services. But there are still very serious development problems in many urban areas, including high levels of urban poverty and serious problems of food security and of high infant and child mortality. Given the current scenario and huge opportunities in the near future, it is critical for India to act immediately. To attain the ideal of inclusive growth, it is important that urbanization be socially equitable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

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