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## **Urbanisation And Population Distribution In India: A Study**

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### **Abstract**

*India boasts the most people of any country, although only a fraction of them live in metropolitan areas. According to official data from 2011, urban areas were home to 31% of the country's total population. However, many people believe that the 31% estimate is much too low. Differences in urbanisation theory may help explain these anomalies. More people live in urban regions if we use the "statistical" definition of urban, which considers factors like population density, area contiguity, and total population of sufficiently dense contiguous areas. This approach solely considers the statistical viewpoint, in contrast to the official classifications for India, which also include an alternate view that takes into consideration the legal borders of metropolitan jurisdictions. The official classifications are counter to this approach. There is merit on all sides, but it has been difficult to find common ground since crucial material for reaching a settlement has not been made public. The ratio of women to males in India is 944 to 1. Female to male population ratio is lowest in Haryana, one of India's poorest states, at 879 to 1000, and most significant in Kerala, one of India's most wealthy states, at 1084 to 1000. Practices such as dowry burning, cruelty towards newborn females, and abortion contribute significantly to the gender difference in birth rates. It's also crucial to think about gender-confirming ultrasounds.*

**Keywords:** *India, Population, Urbanisation, Demographic Change, Rural-Urban*

### **Introduction**

India boasts the most people of any country, although only a fraction of them live in metropolitan areas. According to official data from 2011, urban areas were home to 31% of the country's total population. However, many people believe that the 31% estimate is much too low. Differences in urbanisation theory may help explain these anomalies. If we use the "statistical" definition of urban, more people live in urban regions, which considers factors like population density, area contiguity, and total population of sufficiently dense contiguous areas. This approach solely considers the statistical viewpoint, in contrast to the official



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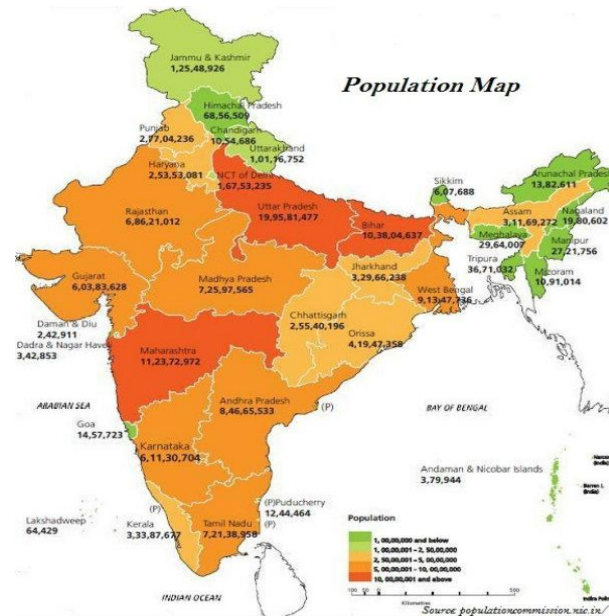
classifications for India, which also include an alternate view that takes into consideration the legal borders of metropolitan jurisdictions. (Alexandri & Jones, 2008)The official classifications are counter to this approach. There is merit on all sides, but it has been difficult to find common ground since crucial material for reaching a settlement has not been made public.

This research has made available to the general public two full sets of gridded estimates for both urban and rural regions, with a resolution of 1 km (or finer). The urban and rural regions of India are represented in one set according to the official meanings of such terms in Indian law. The second set of estimates comes from a statistical view of urbanisation, which makes use of methods that aggregate various data to characterise the urban population. The first set of visuals relied on these methods. Estimates may be made with more precision when remote sensing data is used to evaluate building density. These numbers were derived by the study team analysing the Global Human Settlement Layer using Landsat data. Our findings fill in the missing empirical groundwork for a wide-ranging examination of many competing definitions of urban areas. Here are two photographs we took in 2011 that capture a specific time and place in India's continuous urbanisation process. This rapid urbanisation has serious implications for future generations' health and the environment. Here are a few photos from 2011 that were taken candidly. In order to assess urban location and population at the same time, we construct a grid of people using the same highly-resolved spatial units that have never been used as inputs in any other spatial population dataset. This grid will supplement the other two we've already created to classify cities. (Attri & Tyagi, 2010)

### **Objective of Papers**

1. To study The Evolution of Urbanisation in India
2. To study Rural-Urban Composition
3. To Study Urbanization and Population Growth in India

## Modern India



### The percentage of each Indian state's population that lives in urban areas, as per the 2011 census.

Since the year 1941, India's four most populous cities—Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai—have all seen significant population growth. Because of the economic shift that was brought on by the industrial revolution, people living in cities today have access to a better standard of living than they had in the past. The increase in the size of the public sector resulted in improvements to urban public transit, roads, water supply, electricity, and other important services. (Chaudhry, Bagra, & Singh, 2011)

While the secondary sector's part of India's GDP has been expanding, the agriculture sector has been seeing a decline in its market share. Despite the fact that it accounts for over half of all jobs in the country, agriculture is responsible for just around 18 percent of the gross domestic product. Because of the high cost of inputs and the low profitability of farming, many farmers in India's numerous states are giving up their livelihood. The widespread use of synthetic fertilisers, herbicides, and hybrid seed types is one more factor contributing to the deterioration of soil fertility. Because it is so difficult for them to make a living, a great number of farmers have taken their own lives. (Dwivedi, Rathore, & Dubey, 2009)

Before 1991, the state of Maharashtra had the greatest urbanisation rate in India; by 2001, it had dropped to second position, behind Tamil Nadu; and by 2011, it had dropped to third



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place, behind Kerala. The urban population of Maharashtra was 41 million, whereas the urban population of Tamil Nadu was just 27 million, according to the census completed in 2001. There is a significant geographic disparity in the locations of India's major cities, with over half of the country's 100 most populous places concentrated in only five states: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. This indicates that India's population is highly concentrated in a relatively small number of states. A survey that was published by the World Bank in 2011 found that urban regions make a significant contribution to the GDP of India. (Padmanabhamurty, 2009)

### **Density of Population**

One way to characterise population density is by the total number of people who make up a certain area. It adds much to our ability to comprehend the relationship between population density and land area. In 2011, India had a population density of 382 people per square kilometre. Over the previous half-century, the population density has steadily grown, going from 117 people per square kilometre in 1951 to 382 people per square kilometre in 2011. 117 individuals were packed into every square kilometre in 1951. From as little as 17 persons per square kilometre in Arunachal Pradesh to 11,297 people in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the data shown in Appendix I offers an understanding of the geographic variety of population densities throughout the nation. The following map displays the varying population densities. Variation in population density follows a discernible pattern throughout the country. There are more people per square mile in the southern Indian states of Kerala (859) and Tamil Nadu (555) than in any of the northern Indian states of Bihar (1102), West Bengal (1029), or Uttar Pradesh (828). Many states fall midway in the centre in terms of population density, including Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Union Territories have a substantially higher population density than the sparsely populated hill states of the Himalayas and the North Eastern areas of India (with the exception of Assam).(with the exception of the Andaman and Nicobar islands). In the previous paragraph, it was said that the density of people is an approximate approximation of the interaction between humans and the region that surrounds them. Determining the physiological and agricultural densities is essential for a country like India, which employs a significant fraction of its total people in the agricultural sector. In terms of the amount of



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pressure that the population puts on the total quantity of land that can be farmed, this will provide researchers with a better grasp of the human-land ratio. (Verma, 2017)

### **Growth of Population**

The word "population growth" refers to the change that takes place in the total number of people who reside in a certain location between two specified dates. This change may take place over a period of time or over the course of a single year. A percentage representation of the total cost is shown here. There are two primary drivers of population growth: natural and induced migration. Both of these factors contribute to overall population growth. For an analysis of natural growth, the crude birth and death rates are used, but for an explanation of the induced components of development, the volume of inward and outward movement of people in each particular location is utilised. On the other hand, we will restrict our discussion of the growth of India's population in this chapter to the factors that may be attributed to natural causes. The population growth rates over a decade and over a single year in India are both fairly high, and both of these rates are steadily growing higher and higher over time. India's total population is growing at a rate of 1.64 percent every single year (2011). When the Number of People Will Surely Double The term "population doubling time" refers to the period of time that must pass before a population of any given size may double itself, assuming that its average annual growth rate remains constant. Because the annual birth rate, death rate, and migration rate have all contributed to India's population increase throughout the last century, the growth rate of India's population over that time period has shown distinct tendencies. These tendencies can be broken down into three categories: death rate, birth rate, and migration rate. During the course of this period, there were four distinct phases of development, which may be broken down as follows:

**Table 1: Decadal Growth Rates in India, 1901-2011**



Census Years	Total Population	Growth Rate*	
		Absolute Number	% of Growth
1901	238396327	-----	-----
1911	252093390	(+) 13697063	(+) 5.75
1921	251321213	(-) 772117	(-) 0.31
1931	278977238	(+) 27656025	(+) 11.60
1941	318660580	(+) 39683342	(+) 14.22
1951	361088090	(+) 42420485	(+) 13.31
1961	439234771	(+) 77682873	(+) 21.51
1971	548159652	(+) 108924881	(+) 24.80
1981	683329097	(+) 135169445	(+) 24.66
1991	846302688	(+) 162973591	(+) 23.85
2001	1028610328	(+) 182307640	(+) 21.54
2011**	1210193422	(+) 181583094	(+) 17.64

\* Decadal growth rate:  $g = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_1} \times 100$   
 where  $P_1$  = population of the base year  
 $P_2$  = population of the present year  
 \*\* Source : Census of India, 2011(Provisional)

### The Evolution of Urbanisation in India

Many people believe that a civilization must go through three significant changes before it can develop into the modern industrial one. Many people start their careers in manufacturing after working in agriculture-related service industries. Second, a transition is occurring from the informal to the formal sector, although on a smaller scale. The formal sector, which includes manufacturing and services, is expanding, and is most often but not always situated in major cities. This transition has prompted a corresponding growth in urbanisation. Manufacturing's effect on urbanisation is the same whether it takes place in or near a rural area or not, since it leads to the expansion of existing cities rather than their contraction. Although agriculture's contribution of India's GDP has shrunk significantly, it continues to be a significant employer. In addition, the informal sector has been the dominant engine of growth, even while industrial output and services have increased as a share of overall economic activity. This is true even if there has been development. Since this is the case, it follows that urbanisation occurred gradually throughout time. The urban population has expanded steadily from the colonial period, through independence in 1947 and economic reforms in the early 1990s, and into the current day, as seen by data from the official population census. Figure 1 shows a graph showing how India's population has changed from 1901. More than a threefold increase may be seen in India's urban population between 1901





and 1951. In contrast, established rural communities didn't start sprouting up until 1991. The pace of rural population growth has declined significantly from its peak in the 1960s (when it was over 20% per decade) to its current rate of 11% per decade, which is quite rare. Meanwhile, in the 1970s, the rate of increase of the urban population peaked at 38% per decade, gradually falling to 27% by 1991. The urban population increased by 28% between 2001 and 2011, outpacing the rural population increase of 16%. If the population growth rates shown between 2001 and 2011 in urban and rural regions are extrapolated to the years 2040 and 2050, it is projected that the urban population will have grown to be larger than the rural population. This demographic shift may be realised sooner than expected as a result of urbanisation and the classification of rural regions.(Pacione, 2009)

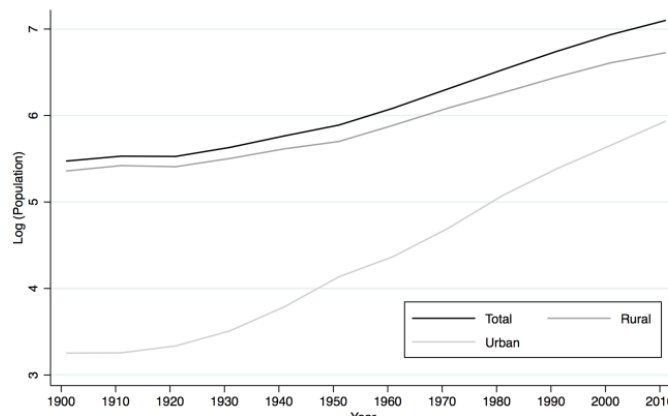


Figure 1: Population Growth in India (1901 - 2011)

Growth in the urban population as a proportion of the total has lagged behind that of other developing and growing countries of comparable affluence. The percentage of India's population that now lives in urban areas is shown in Table 2. The percentage of India's population living in urban areas rose from 10.84% in 1901 to 31.15% in 2011. Less than 30 percent of India's population has moved into urban areas during the last 40 years, with most of that growth occurring in the past 10 years. The demographic and economic changes in India over the last several decades are reflected here. India's economic progress, although comparable to that of other nations, lags behind their. (Khullar, 2016)

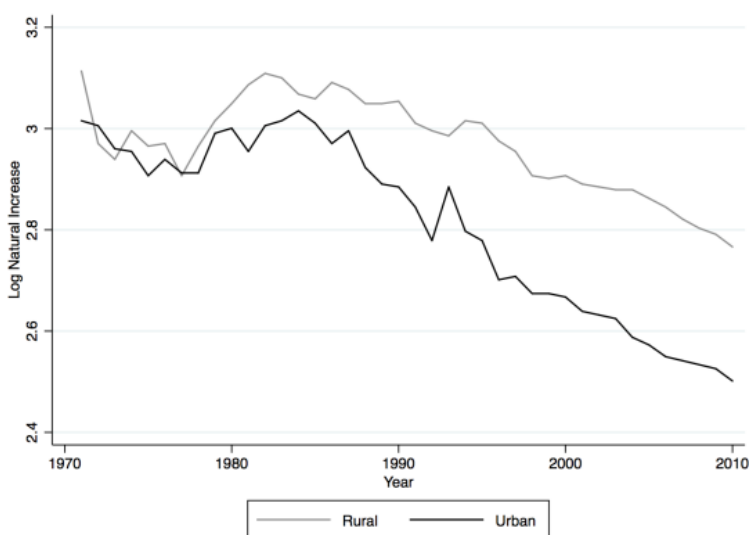


**Table 2: The Urban Population Share**

	1901	1951	1991	2001	2011
TOTAL POPULATION (MILLIONS)	238	361	846	1,028	1,211
URBAN SHARE (%)	10.84%	17.30%	25.72%	27.71%	31.15%

There are three basic explanations that spring to mind when one thinks about the causes of urbanisation in India. The first is a rise in the total population that is expected. The difference between the raw birth and death rates is what constitutes the natural growth. In a population, growth occurs when the birthrate exceeds the death rate, and vice versa when the death rate dominates. Figure 2 shows that during the 1970s, natural increases have decreased in both rural and urban regions. This may account for the slowing of urban population growth before to the 21st century, but it doesn't explain the increase seen between 2001 and 2011.(Chandna, 2014)

**Figure 2: The Population Growth Rate (1971-2010), Both in Rural Areas and Cities**



This leaves two more possibilities for the acceleration of urbanisation seen between 2001 and 2011. The first hypothesis postulates that the increase in the urban population growth rate may be traced to the urbanisation of previously rural areas. This may be the result of the proliferation of new metropolitan areas or the continued spread of existing ones. The second hypothesis is that migration has shifted some people from rural to urban areas, leading to a





higher population concentration in cities. With the existing statistics, it is hard to know which of these variables is responsible for the recent rise in the urban growth rate, and it is quite probable that both factors complement one other. It follows that as cities grow, the cost of living decreases, making it easier for people to make the move from the countryside to the city. (Bhattacharjee, 2016)

### **Urbanization and Population Growth in India**

The city dweller population has increased by almost 50% in the recent decade. As was mentioned before, the rise in the number of census towns categorised according to the criteria established in the 1961 census has been a major reason in this growth. Also, the number of urban agglomerations (defined as a continuous urban spread that includes a town and its surrounding outgrowths) increased by 25%, regardless of whether or not these agglomerations included outgrowths of their constituent towns. Towns (including cities) have witnessed a 14.3 percent drop in population as a consequence of this tremendous urban and suburban boom, whereas rural settlements have seen a 12 percent gain. Putting these figures together, we see that urban areas have increased quickly over the last decade, far faster than they have in the decades before independence.(Bhagat, 2011)

**Table 3: The Urban Population Share**

	2001	2011	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
<i>Number of Administrative Units</i>			
TOWNS	5,161	7,935	53.70%
STATUTORY TOWNS	3,799	4,014	6.40%
CENSUS TOWNS	1,362	3,894	185.90%
URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS	384	475	23.70%
VILLAGES	638,588	640,867	0.40%
<i>Population</i>			
URBAN (MILLIONS)	286	377	31.80%
RURAL (MILLIONS)	743	833	12.20%
<i>Average Settlement Size</i>			
URBAN (POPULATION PER TOWN)	55,439	47,524	-14.30%
RURAL (POPULATION PER TOWN)	1,163	1,300	11.80%



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When compared to the year 2001, it is quite clear that there has been a large increase in the intensity of urban activity, which has led to an increase in the amount of urban activity that has taken place. It would seem that there has been a rise in the overall level of economic activity that has taken place throughout the course of this decade. This is seen more clearly in figure 4, which presents a comparison of satellite photos taken at night over the city of Delhi in the years 2001 and 2011. On the other hand, it is vital to keep the following disclaimer in mind: if the intensity of night lights continues to rise, there will also be an increase in the quantity of light pollution. This will lead to an incorrect attribution of urban activity to areas that are located in close proximity to one another geographically. Because of this, the exposure settings of the night light photographs need to be modified so that the overglow bias is taken into consideration. In the absence of this adjustment, it is possible that we will look at the discrepancies between the two as a maximum for the categorization and reclassification of urban areas during the course of time. This is due to the fact that metropolitan environments are constantly adapting and developing. (Nath, & Aggarwal, 2007)

### **Population Composition**

The study of population composition is a branch of population geography that spans a broad variety of themes and may be broken down into many subcategories. Some of these themes include, but are not limited to: age and sex, place of residence, ethnic traits, tribes, language, religion, marital status, literacy and education, occupational qualities, and a great deal more. Other topics include a great deal more than just these. One of the many subfields that are included in the study of population geography is called population composition. In this portion of the text, we will talk about the many components that make up the Indian population. The rural and urban traits, language, religious perspectives, and occupational patterns of the individuals who make up the Indian population will be discussed as part of the topics that will be studied in this course. (Nath & Aggarwal, 2007)

### **Rural-Urban Composition**

Locational demographics provide valuable insight into the cultural and economic backgrounds of a group. This is especially crucial for a nation where 68.8 percent of the population lives in rural areas (2011). Do you know that out of India's total of 640,867 villages, 93.2 percent, or 597,608, are inhabited? This data comes courtesy of the 2011



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Census. The population of rural regions, however, is not uniformly distributed throughout the country. You may have observed that a substantial chunk of the population in states like Bihar and Sikkim resides in rural regions. Only little more than half of the people living in the Indian states of Goa and Maharashtra live in rural areas. However, with the exception of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the rural population share in the Union Territories is much smaller (53.38 per cent). There is also a large amount of variation in the size of the communities. Fewer than 200 people live in the hill regions of northeastern India, western Rajasthan, and the Rann of Kutch, whereas as many as 17,000 live in Kerala and parts of Maharashtra. The concentration of rural population within States and across States is essentially influenced by the relative degree of urbanisation and the size of rural-urban migration, according to a comprehensive analysis of India's rural population distribution. Despite making up just 31.16 percent of the total population, India's urban population has increased at a far quicker pace than the rural population during the last several decades. The rate of urban population growth has quickened as a direct consequence of progress in both the economy and people's health and hygiene. However, practically every state and Union Territory now has a larger urban population than it had a decade ago. This indicates a rapid increase in the rate of migration from rural to urban areas, as well as the improved socioeconomic conditions in metropolitan areas. Migration from the countryside to the cities is particularly noticeable in the North Indian Plains along the main road and rail connections and in the metropolitan areas of Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru-Mysuru, Madurai-Coimbatore, Ahmedabad-Surat, Delhi-Kanpur, and Ludhiana-Jalandhar. The eastern half of Madhya Pradesh, the flood-prone areas of Peninsular India, and the middle and lower Ganga Plains have all experienced relatively little urbanisation since they are not conducive to agricultural production. (Kamaldeo Narain, 2001)

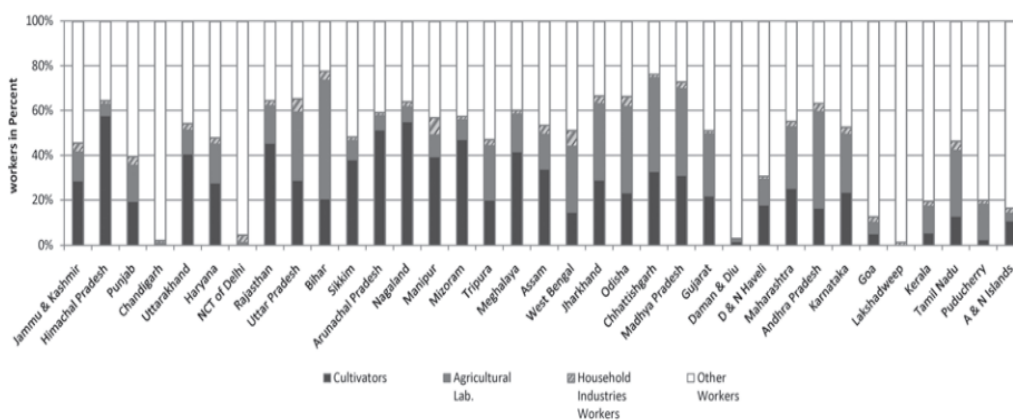
### **Structure of the Population That Is Working**

People in India may be categorised as either major workers, marginal workers, or non-workers according to their level of involvement in the labour sector. It has been noted that in India, just 39.8 percent of the population (2011) is employed (this includes both full-time and part-time workers), meaning that almost 60 percent of the population does not contribute to the economy via their labour. This suggests an economic situation with a higher dependent population proportion, which in turn suggests the existence of a sizeable number of

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unemployed or underemployed people. When people say "work participation rate," what do they mean? Goa has one of the lowest employment rates (about 39.6 percent) among the states and Union Territories, whereas Daman and Diu have one of the highest (roughly 49.9 percent). This degree of variation is regarded as typical. More individuals in Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Meghalaya are employed than in any other state. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have the highest and lowest participation rates, respectively. All of the Union Territories have this characteristic. It is well known that the labour force participation rate tends to be greater in less economically developed areas of a country like India. This is because a significant number of manual employees are needed to complete the economic tasks that are essential for subsistence or near subsistence levels of living. There is a disproportionate number of people working in the primary of India's economy compared to the secondary and tertiary sectors. This is because there are more jobs available in the primary sector. Cultivators and agricultural labourers make up around 54.6% of the labouring population. Household industries employ just 3.8% of the labour force, while other sectors account for 41.6%. These other sectors include the commercial and industrial sectors as well as the construction, repair, and service sectors. There is a gender gap in employment prospects in the nation, with males holding more of the top three jobs compared to women.(Chakraborty, 2000)



**Fig. 1.4 : India – Occupational Structure, 2011**



Categories	Population			
	Persons	% to total Workers	Male	Female
Primary	26,30,22,473	54.6	16,54,47,075	9,75,75,398
Secondary	1,83,36,307	3.8	97,75,635	85,60,672
Tertiary	20,03,84,531	41.6	15,66,43,220	4,37,41,311

**Table 4 : Sectoral Composition of workforce in India, 2011**

### Conclusion

Even though there has been significant advancement in women's job involvement in the secondary and tertiary sectors in recent years, the number of female workers is relatively high in the primary sector. This is despite the fact that there has been tremendous improvement in these areas. In spite of this, there has been some progress made in this area over the course of the last several years. It is vital to take into consideration the fact that over the course of the last several decades, the proportion of individuals working in India's agricultural business has fallen (58.2 percent in 2001 to 54.6 percent in 2011). As a direct consequence of this, a greater proportion of individuals are now actively engaged in the secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. This would indicate that workers are becoming less reliant on occupations based in agriculture and more reliant on jobs based in other industries, which in turn would indicate that there has been a shift in the mix of industries that make up the economy of the country. There is a large degree of variation throughout the country in terms of the work participation rate across a wide range of different industries . Agriculture employs a disproportionately large number of people in some states, such as Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland, for example. This is the case across India. On the other hand, the proportion of the population that is employed in agriculture is much higher in certain states than it is in others, including Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh. In highly urbanised cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, and Puducherry, a disproportionately large percentage of the working population is engaged in different service-related industries. This is because of the high concentration of businesses in these locations. This not only speaks to the limited quantity of land that is available for farming, but it also



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alludes to the extensive urbanisation and industrialization that needs a rise in the number of people working in industries other than agriculture.

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