

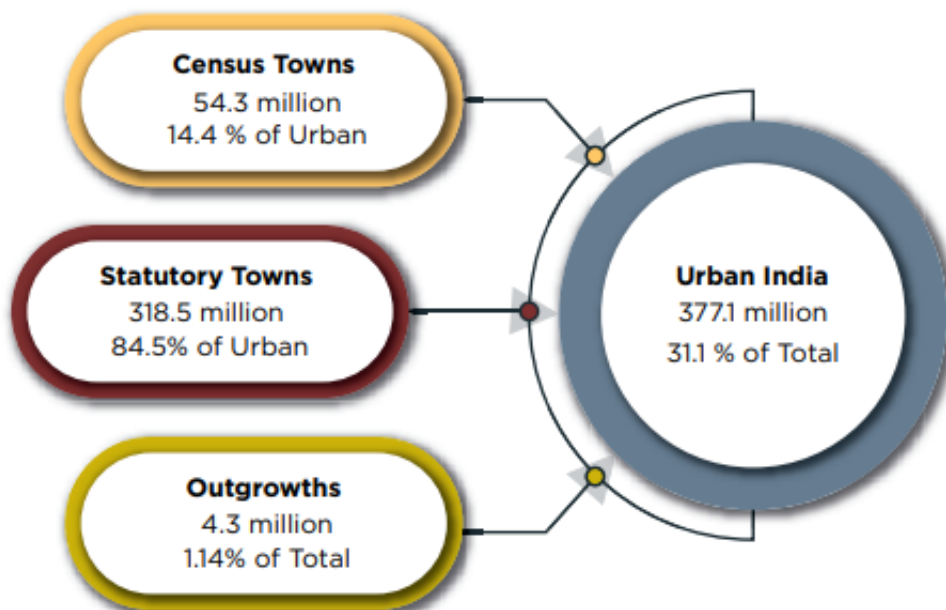


Urban Planning Reforms: NITI Aayog

Why in News

Recently, [NITI Aayog](#) has launched the report titled '**Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**'.

Composition of Urban Population



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Key Points

- **Urbanisation in India:**
 - **Urbanisation Level (National):**
 - India's population stood at 1210 million in 2011, with an urbanisation level of **31.1%**. ([Census of India 2011](#)).
 - Urbanisation is **an increase in the number of people living in towns and cities.**
 - The **distribution of urban centres and the pace of urbanisation is not uniform** across the country.
 - **Over 75% of the urban population of the country is in 10 States:** Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala.
 - **State-wise Scenario:**

- **Above National Average:** Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have attained over 40% urbanisation.
- **Below National Average:** Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh continue to be at a lower level of urbanisation than the national average of 31.1%.
- **Union Territories:** NCT of Delhi, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep, show above 75% urbanisation.

▪ **Need for Reforming Urban Planning Capacity:**

- **Increasing Urbanisation:** India's urban population is 11% of that of the world.
 - However, **in absolute numbers, the urban population in India is more than highly urbanised countries/regions** like the United States, Japan, Western Europe, and South America.
 - During 2011-36, urban growth will be responsible for 73% of the rise in total population in India.
- **Urbanisation is Central to India's Economy:** Urbanisation contributes nearly 60% to India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
 - However, there exists large, untapped economies of scale.
- **India's National Growth Targets:**
 - **Economic Growth Target:** USD **5 trillion economy** by 2024.
 - **Employment Target:** Total workforce estimated to be 0.64 billion by 2030, of which 0.26 billion to be **employed** in urban areas.
 - **Infrastructure Targets:** Creation of 11 large industrial corridors as part of the **National Industrial Corridor Programme**, several multi-modal logistic parks, etc.
 - **Environmental Protection Targets:** **River rejuvenation, clean air in cities**, etc.
- **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP):** The urban sector has a significant share of 17% in the **NIP**.
 - NIP facilitates infrastructure projects in the country with a projected investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during the period 2020-25.
- **India's Global Commitments:**
 - **SDGs (Goal 11):** Promote urban planning as one of the recommended methods for achieving sustainable development.
 - **UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda:** It was adopted at Habitat III in 2016. It puts forth principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas.
 - **UN-Habitat (2020)** mentions **spatial sustainability**, as a concept. It suggests that the spatial conditions of a city can enhance its power to generate social, economic and environmental value and well-being.
 - **Paris Agreement:** India's **National Determined Contributions (NDCs)** includes the goals to reduce the emission intensity of the country's GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level.

▪ **Recommendations:**

- **Planning of Healthy Cities: Central Sector Scheme '500 Healthy Cities Programme'**, for a period of 5 years, wherein priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.
 - The Programme can lead to **optimum utilization of urban land** as well.
- **Re-engineering of Urban Governance:** To bring in more institutional clarity and also multi-disciplinary expertise to solve urban challenges.
 - The **formation of an apex committee at the state level is recommended** to undertake a regular review of planning legislations (including town and country planning or urban and regional development acts or other relevant acts).

- **Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector:** These include the adoption of fair processes for procuring technical consultancy services, strengthening project structuring and management skills in the public sector, and empanelment of private sector consultancies.
- **Measures for Strengthening Human Resource and Match Demand-Supply:** The constitution of a 'National Council of Town and Country Planners' as a statutory body of the Government of India.
 - Also, a '**National Digital Platform of Town and Country Planners**' is suggested to be created within the National Urban Innovation Stack of MoHUA.
- **Citizen Outreach Campaign'** for demystifying urban planning.
- Strengthening **Urban Planning Education System.**

Schemes/Programmes Related to Urban Development

- **Smart Cities:** To promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of Smart Solutions.
- **AMRUT Mission:** To ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban:** Aims at making urban India free from open defecation and achieving 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in 4,041 statutory towns in the country.
- **HRIDAY:** The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), aims to bring together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner & with the objective of preserving the heritage character of the City.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban:** Addresses Urban housing shortage among the Urban Poor including the Slum Dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to eligible urban poor.

Source: PIB

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/urban-planning-reforms-niti-aayog>