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## Growth of Urban Centres in Haryana: A Temporal Analysis

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### **Abstract:**

*Urban growth is an increase in the number of people who live in towns and cities. It is the outcome of concentration of population in response to the availability of diverse amenities and facilities in the urban centre. Due to urban growth, Haryana, as one of the developed states of India, has seen a considerable change in the number of urban settlements during 1901-2011 period.*

*The study of urban growth by size class of towns is helpful in understanding the stages of urban development in a country/state. The present paper, therefore, is a modest attempt to investigate the urban growth by size class of towns in Haryana since 1901. It is based on census data from 1901-2011.*

*Urban population of Haryana recorded more than 15 times increase; from 5.7 lakh in 1901 to 88.2 lakh in 2011. A large part of increase in urban population is attributed to emergence of new towns to take the total number of towns to 154 in 2011 as compared to 54 in 1901.*

*In order to provide a meaningful analysis of the changes in size-class composition of urban population, the various categories of urban centres have been divided into four groups: (i) cities (the urban centres with population of one lakh and more); however, the cities with population of 10 lakh and more, i.e. one million and above, are termed as million plus cities; (ii) large towns (the urban centres with population of 50,000 to 99,999); (iii) medium towns (the urban centres with population of 20,000 to 49,999); and (iv) small towns (the urban centres with population of <5000 to 19,999).*

*Though, the small towns (having population of less than 20,000 persons) predominate in the hierarchy of towns, but the proportion of urban population residing in these towns is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 percent in 2011. By comparison, about three-fourth (68.02 per cent) of the total urban population of the state is living in the cities and million-plus cities as per 2011 census. This shows that the majority of population prefers to live in cities and million-plus cities mainly because of better urban amenities and employment avenues available there.*

**Key words:** urbanisation, post-independence, era, hierarchy, cities, statehood, influx, partition, development, industrial hub

### **1. Introduction**

Urban growth is an increase in the number of people who live in towns and cities, measured either in relative or absolute terms. It is different to urbanization which is the process by which there is an increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas.

Urban growth is the outcome of concentration of population in response to the availability of diverse amenities and facilities in the urban centre. Subsequently, urban population is found distributed among the settlements of varying sizes from smaller towns to giant cities as per their functional importance (Pacione, 2001).

Urban centres do not grow in isolation, rather in response to changing situation. Small towns might have been villages but with the passage of time they gradually become urban centres by virtue of their nodality, function and services – local as well as central (Verma, 2006). In its evolving pattern, small and intermediate towns grow slowly as compared to large cities in early phase of urbanization, but in latter phase, small towns grow as the consequence of congestion and crowding in large and intermediate towns. Therefore, growth of towns follows the cycle of urbanization from the phases of smaller town, intermediate town and primate city (Geyer and Kontuly, 1993).

The study of urban growth by size class of towns is helpful in understanding the stages of urban development in a country/state. Haryana as one of the developed states of India has seen a considerable change in the number of urban settlements during 1901-2011 period. The present paper, therefore, is a modest attempt to investigate the urban growth by size class of towns in Haryana since 1901.

#### Literature Cited

As compared to voluminous literature available on urbanisation in India and abroad, the studies dealing with various aspects of urbanization and urban growth in Haryana are only a few. The notable contributions are of Krishan and Chandna (1973), Chandna (1982), Bhagat (1992) and Sangwan (2008).

## 2. Objectives

Following basic objectives have been taken to pursue the present research work:

- To explain the trend of demographic change in the urban settlements;
- To describe the distribution of urban population by size class of towns
- To explain the variation in the number of urban settlements by size class.

## 3. Data Base and Methodology

To accomplish the above objectives, the data on the growth of urban centres by their size class have been obtained mainly from secondary sources like census publications and occasional papers published by Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, Chandigarh and Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, New Delhi. The present study will cover a period of 110 years (1901-2011) for which a reliable and continuous data on various demographic attributes and growth of urban centres in Haryana are available.

As per Census of India, the urban centres have been divided into six groups, viz. *cities* (the urban centres with population of one lakh and more) comprising Class-I towns; however, the cities with population of 10 lakh and more, i.e. one million and above, are termed as *million plus cities*; *large towns* (the urban centres with population of 50,000 to 99,999) comprising Class-II towns; *medium towns* (the urban centres with population of 20,000 to 49,999) comprising Class-III towns; and *small towns* (the urban centres with population of <5000 to 19,999) comprising Class-IV (10,000-19,999), Class-V (5,000-9,999) and Class-VI (< 5000) towns. These three categories of towns have been grouped together in order to provide a meaningful analysis of the changes in size-class composition of urban population.

To comprehend this task, methodological tools adopted include mainly ratio and percentage to arrive at meaningful conclusions.

## 4. Growth of Urban Centres: A Temporal Analysis

In 1901, the urban population of Haryana was only 5.7 lakh persons which has become 88.2 lakh in 2011, registering more than 15 times increase in its urban population. So, Haryana is experiencing rapid rate of population growth and urbanization. The urban population increased from 28.92 per cent in 2001 to 34.79 per cent in 2011, registering a net gain of 5.87 per cent. The per cent share of urban population (34.79 per cent) was a little more than the national average (31.16 per cent). Haryana has 9<sup>th</sup> place among states, which are having proportion of urban population more than the national average. Though, the urban growth has been very slow especially during the pre-Independence period, but it gained momentum particularly in the post-Independence period.

The growth rate of urban population was only -2.44 percent in 1901-11 and remained quite sluggish till 1931-41 (2.23 per cent). But urban growth picked up fast since 1941-51 decade when it was 3.16 per cent and attained the level of 4.71 per cent in 1991-2001.

A detailed analysis of urban growth in the state is made by dividing the entire reference period into two sub-periods; Pre-Independence (1901-1951) and Post-Independence (1951-2011).

## 5. Pre-Independence Period

During this period, the urban growth remained quite slow. In 1901, the urban population of Haryana was only 574,074 persons, accounting for 12.42 per cent of the total population in the state. Thus, only one out of each 8 persons in Haryana was an urbanite in 1901 as against one in ten persons in the country as a whole. This reveals that Haryana was at a low level of urbanisation in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In all, there were 54 towns in Haryana comprising total urban population of 574,074 persons in 1901. There was no Class I town in 1901. Ambala (78,638 persons) was the only town of Class II category, which accounted for 13.70 per cent of the total urban population of Haryana in 1901. It was an important railway junction and cantonment area and known for trade and commerce. The Class III towns were five in number viz. Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Rewari. Together these towns accounted for 23.34 per cent of the total urban population. The class IV towns, containing 25.50 per cent of the total urban population of the state, were 10 in number, viz. Hisar, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Sirsa, Kaithal, Jagadhari, Hansi, Palwal, Narnaul and Shahbad. In the same way, the number of Class V and VI towns was 24 and 14 containing 28.65 and 8.81 per cent of the total urban population respectively (Table 1).

Size Class of Towns/Cities	Population Size	Number of Towns	Percent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	10,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
City/Cities			
Class I	1,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
Large Towns			
Class II	50,000-99,999	1	13.70
Medium Towns			
Class III	20,000-49,999	5	23.34
Small Towns	<5,000-19,999	48	62.96
Class IV	10,000-19,999	10	25.50
Class V	5,000- 9,999	24	28.65
Class VI	Below 5,000	14	8.81
Classes I-VI		54	100.00

Table 1: Haryana: Urban Population by Size Class of Towns/Cities, 1901

Source: Computed from Census Publications

Table 1 reveals that the *small towns* accommodated the largest proportion of urban population (62.96 per cent) in Haryana in 1901. At that time, mostly population (87.58 per cent) was living in rural areas dependent on agricultural activities.

During **1901-11** decade, urban population in the state registered an absolute decrease of 124,370 persons (-21.66 per cent). This amounts to nearly one-fifth of the total urban population (574,074 persons) in the state in 1901. The share of the urban population in total also declined; 12.42 per cent in 1901 to 10.77 per cent in 1911.

As many as 18 towns were declassified reducing the number of towns to 36 in 1911 from 54 in 1901. These eighteen towns were Kalanaur, Kahnaur, Butana, Baroda, Kharkhoda, Dujana, Hathin, Baund, Kaliana, Rori, Rania, Ellenabad, Maham, Pataudi, Safidon, Ladwa, Pundri and Fatehabad.

In fact, this was a decade of overall decline in population of Haryana mainly because of the spread of epidemics like *Plague* and *Cholera* resulting into a large number of deaths both in urban and rural areas.

The decade **1911-21** had recorded a nominal increase, i.e. 7 per cent, when its urban population increased by 31,491 persons from 449,704 in 1911 to 481,195 in 1921. The proportion of urban population also increased marginally from 10.77 per cent in 1911 to 11.31 per cent in 1921, against the national average of 11.18 per cent. The *small pox* of 1912, *plague* of 1916, *malaria* of 1917 and *influenza* of 1918 were responsible for high rate of mortality both in rural and urban areas which had neutralized the natural increase in population.

The town of Farrukhanagar was declassified during this decade (1911-1921). However, as many as four new towns, viz. Dujana, Maham, Pataudi, and Safidon, came up to take the number of towns in the state to 39 in 1921.

During the next decade (**1921-31**), urban population registered an absolute increase of 83,548 persons that is only a marginal increase from 11.31 per cent in 1921 to 12.38 per cent in 1931. The 17.36 per cent increase in urban population was because of the control over the calamitous diseases and an increase in the number of towns. As many as two new towns like Tohana and Gharaunda were added to take the number of towns to 41 in 1931.

The urban population further accelerated during **1931-41** when the number of towns increased to 45 in 1941 where 13.39 per cent of the total population had been recorded. The 25 percent increase in urban population during the decade was partly due to availability of better medical facilities and also to the depression in agricultural prices in rural areas which compelled certain people from agricultural families to migrate to urban places in search of new avenues of employment. The four new towns added in 1941 were Ambala Cantt., MandiDabwali, Narwana and Farrukhnagar.

The decade **1941-51** was marked by important events on the Indian scene. First half of this decade was spanned by continuation of the World War II and later half was occupied by events like post-war industrial unrest followed by partition of the sub-continent in 1947. The latter event had a direct bearing on urbanisation in Haryana because whole of the present state of Haryana was then a part of the Punjab - partitioned between India and Pakistan. Displaced population from newly born country, Pakistan, was settled in different districts of present Haryana. The displaced persons showed a distinct tendency of settling down in urban places. As a result, they were rehabilitated in large number of towns like Panipat, Sonipat, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Palwal, Rewari, Ambala, Hisar, Bhiwani, Hansi and Shahbad, all of which saw a sudden expansion in their physical as well as population size. Some new industrial towns, such as Faridabad, Yamunanagar and Nilokheri were also raised in addition to establishment of industrial areas in towns like Panipat and Sonipat. The refugee population with an urban background gave an incentive to trade in big as well as small towns. Consequently, two kinds of change could be perceived on space. First, the towns, which experienced refugee settlement, grew rapidly. Second, they experienced a phenomenal change in their population composition. The net impact of all these developments was a boost to the process of urbanization in the state.

Urban population registered a sharp increase during this decade and the proportion of urban population increased to 17.07 per cent in 1951 from 13.39 per cent in 1941, recording a growth of 37.19 per cent in urban population during 1941-51. This increase is attributed to: (i) emergence of 17 new towns to take the total number of towns to 62 in 1951 as against the 45 in 1941; (ii) sharp increase in the population of existing urban centres due to settling of displaced persons; and (iii) reclassification of towns which stood declassified since 1911.

The decade of 1941-51 (particularly the year 1947) can rightly be called a landmark in the history of growth of urban population in Haryana. The decadal increase in urban population (37.19 per cent) in Haryana was near to the national average (41.43 per cent). Moreover, as many as 17 new/ reclassified towns emerged and urbanisation entered into the new locations.

In all, there were 62 towns in Haryana comprising total urban population of 9.68 lakh persons in 1951. Even in 1951, there was no Class I town in the state. There were only 6 *large towns* (Class II) at that time, but they accounted for the highest proportion (39.62 per cent) of total urban population of Haryana. The *medium towns* (Class III) were eight in number. Together these towns accounted for 23.04 per cent of the total urban population. Though the number of *small towns* was more than three times (48) that of *large* (6) and *medium* (8) towns, but contained a little more than half of the population (37.34 per cent) of these towns if combined together (Table 2).

Size Class of Towns/Cities	Population Size	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	10,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
City/Cities			
Class I	1,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
Large Towns			
Class II	50,000-99,999	6	39.62
Medium Towns			
Class III	20,000-49,999	8	23.04
Small Towns	<5,000-19,999	48	37.34
Class IV	10,000-19,999	12	17.65
Class V	5,000- 9,999	18	13.95
Class VI	Below 5,000	18	5.74
Classes I-VI		62	100.00

Table 2: Haryana: Urban Population by Size Class of Towns/Cities, 1951

Source: Computed from Census Publications

## 6. Post-Independence Period

The post-Independence period witnessed a reversal in urbanisation trend in the state; from earlier sluggish growth to fast growth of urban centres. Of the total urban population of 82.7lakh that was added in the state during the reference period from 1901-2011, 78.5 lakhi.e. 95.15 per cent occurred during 1951 to 2011. More than half (47.7 lakh) of this was added only during the last two decades of 1991-2001 and 2001-2011. The total number of 92 urban centres emerged during post-Independence period, whereas more than half (60 urban centres) out of the total of 154 urban centres in the state emerged only during last two decades of 1991-2001 (12 urban centres) and 2001-2011 (48 urban centres). At present, there are 154 urban centres in total which are spread over 21 districts, as against the 61 urban centres scattered in 7 districts in 1966 at the time of the formulation of Haryana as a separate state.

During the decade of **1951-61**, though the urban population registered an impressive absolute increase of 3.39 lakh persons, but the proportion of urban population increased marginally to 17.23 per cent in 1961 from 17.07 per cent in 1951. This absolute increase was nearly two and a half times of the total increase (131,871 persons) in urban population during the entire period of four decades (1901-41) of pre-Independence era. Three towns namely Kaithal Mandi, Karnal Civil Lines and Ambala Civil Lines were declassified for not satisfying the new definition laid down in 1961 census. Two towns of Uklanamandi and Pehowa were added to the list of towns in 1961, thus taking the strength of towns to 61 in 1961 recording 35.02 per cent decennial growth in urban population during 1951-61 (Table 3).

As a significant development, the first and foremost Class I town emerged in the state in 1961. Ambala Cantt. has achieved this distinction containing 8.07 per cent of the total urban population in the state. The *large towns* had the highest proportion (36.22 per cent) of urban population, followed by *medium* (28.39 per cent) and *small* (27.32 per cent) towns. However, the number of *small towns* (42) was more than two times that of *medium* (11) and *large towns*(7) combined together (Table 3).

Size-Class of Towns/Cities	1961		1971	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
City/Cities				
Class I	1	8.07	2	12.82
Large Towns				
Class II	7	36.22	9	39.75
Medium Towns				
Class III	11	28.39	14	26.06
Small Towns	42	27.32	40	21.37
Class IV	15	15.68	15	12.54
Class V	15	8.24	20	7.84
Class VI	12	3.40	05	0.99
Classes I-VI	61	100.00	65	100.00

Table 3: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns/Cities, 1961 and 1971

Sources: i) Census of India (1991), General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164

ii) Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131

The decade of 1961-71 was full of activities in Haryana. The state got full statehood on 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 1966. This induced new zeal and enthusiasm among the masses, bureaucracy and the leadership in the state. They showed their renewed faith in development of the state. Administrative and developmental activities started expanding on large scale resulting into the emergence of new urban centres. Thus, the tempo of urban growth in Haryana continued during 1961-71 when it experienced decadal growth of 35.58 per cent in its urban population and the number of towns increased to 65, accommodating 17.67 per cent of the total population of the state, in 1971.

During this decade (1961-71), after Ambala Cantt., Rohtak emerged as another city of Haryana and both the cities accommodated 12.82 per cent of urban population. There were nine large towns, namely Karnal, Hisar, Panipat, Faridabad Township, Ambala, Bhiwani, Yamunanagar, Sonipat and Gurgaon and still had the highest proportion (39.75 per cent) of urban population. If cities and large towns are combined together, they contain more than half (52.57 per cent) of the total urban population of the state in 1971 (Table 3).

Out of the total of 65 towns, 40 were small towns, revealing their predominance in the hierarchy of towns in the state. However, the proportion of urban population contained in these small towns was only 21.37 per cent (Table 3). In absolute terms, the increase of 46.5 thousand persons in urban population during this decade was practically the same as total urban population (48 thousand) in the state in 1921.

The momentum of urbanisation further increased in the state during 1971-81, as the administrative and developmental activities expanded on large scale resulting into the emergence of new administrative centres. As many as 16 new towns emerged, to take the number of towns to 81 in the state. The number of cities (Class I towns) increased to 9 in 1981 containing highest proportion (47.02 per cent) of urban population (Table 4) as compared to 2 in 1971 consisting of only 12.82 per cent of total urban population (Table 3). In absolute terms, the increase of 10.5 lakh persons in urban population during this decade was a little bit more than the total urban population (9.6 lakhs) in the state in 1951.

The decade (1981-91) took urban population in the state to 40.5 lakh, registering an increase of 43.41 per cent. The proportion of urban population also increased to 24.63 per cent from 21.88 per cent in 1981. Fifteen new towns were added, taking number of towns to 94 because two towns of Jharsa and Rania have been declassified as rural in 1991. Out of these 15 towns, there were 8 census towns and 7 statutory towns. Bilaspur, Dharuhera, Dundahera, Farakhpur, Kheri Sampla, Mustafabad, Pinjore (rural) and UnchaSiwana have been treated as census towns for the first time in 1991 census. Whereas, Cheeka, Narnaund, Punhana, Siwani, Ellenabad and Kharkhoda have been notified as statutory towns. Tosham NAC, which had been declassified in 1981 census, again got the status of a town with a municipal committee in 1991 census.

With the upgradation of Gurgaon and Sirsa as Class I towns, the number of cities increased to 11 in 1991 comprising highest proportion (52.93 per cent) of urban population, which is more than half of the total urban population of the state. In 1991, the cities were followed by large towns (Class II towns) in terms of the proportion of urban population (18.99 per cent) (Table 4). However, the large towns had the maximum urban population (39.75 per cent) amongst all towns of the state in 1971. It explains that roughly one fourth of the towns of Haryana in Class I and II categories were responsible for three-fourth of the total urban population of the state in 1991.

Size-Class of Towns/Cities	1981		1991	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
City				
Class I	9	47.02	11	52.92
Large Towns				
Class II	7	16.84	11	18.99
Medium Towns				
Class III	15	17.72	18	13.14
Small Towns	50	18.42	54	14.95
Class IV	25	12.04	31	10.78
Class V	23	6.11	21	3.94
Class VI	02	0.27	2	0.23
Classes I-VI	81	100.00	94	100.00

Table 4: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns/Cities, 1981 and 1991

Sources: i) Census of India (1991), General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164

ii) Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131

Thanesar, Ambala Sadar, Narnaul, Palwal and Jagadhari having the status of *medium towns* (Class III towns) and Panchkula Urban Estate having the status of *small town* (Class IV town) in 1981 census have been upgraded as *large towns* (Class II towns) as per 1991 census. There were 31 Class IV towns which outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes in 1991 census. But these towns comprise only 10.78 per cent of the total urban population. Similarly, in terms of numerical strength, the number of Class V towns (21) was next to Class IV towns, but the proportion of urban population accommodated by them was merely 3.94 per cent (Table 4).

Out of the total of 94 towns, 54 were *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons), which accommodated only 14.95 per cent of the total urban population in the state (Table 4).

During the last decade (1991-2001) of 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was an increase of about 21 lakh persons in the urban population of Haryana recording the decennial growth rate of 50.82 per cent. The addition of population in urban areas during 1991-2001 was a little more than half of the total urban population of Haryana in 1991, explaining accelerated tempo of urban growth rate.

Fourteen new towns were added, taking the number of towns to 106 because two towns of HMT Pinjore and Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony have been declassified in 2001. Out of these 106 towns, there were 84 statutory towns and 22 census towns containing 28.92 per cent of the total population of Haryana.

With the upgradation of Panchkula Urban Estate, Ambala, Jind, Bahadurgarh, Thanesar, Kaithal, Rewari and Palwal as Class I towns, the number of *cities/Us* increased to 20 in 2001 comprising 69.37 per cent of urban population, which is about three-fourth of the total urban population of the State. Total urban population of *cities* (44.36 lakh persons) in 2001 is more than the total urban population of the state (40.55 persons) in 1991. Faridabad Municipal Corporation with total population of 10.55 lakh persons emerged as the first *million-plus city* of Haryana in 2001 census claiming 17.25 per cent of the total urban population of the state (Table 5).

The share of the state's urban population in *large towns* (Class II towns) is only 6.79 per cent, whereas *medium towns* (Class III towns) account for 12.98 per cent. There were 36 towns in Class IV, which outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes in 2001 census. But these towns comprise only 8.68 per cent of the total urban population of the state (Table 5).

Out of the total of 106 towns in Haryana, 53 were *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons) which accommodated only 10.86 per cent of the total urban population in the State (Table 5).

Size-Class of Towns/City	2001		2011	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	1	17.25	1	15.99
City				
Class I	19	52.12	19	52.03
Large Towns				
Class II	7	6.79	11	7.99
Medium Towns				
Class III	26	12.98	45	14.87
Small Towns	53	10.86	78	9.12
Class IV	36	8.68	34	5.80
Class V	16	2.11	36	2.97
Class VI	1	0.07	8	0.35
Classes I-VI	106	100.00	154	100.00

Table 5: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns, 2001 and 2011

Sources: i) Census of India (1991), General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164

ii) Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131

iii) Census of India (2011), Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana

During the first decade (2001-2011) of 21<sup>st</sup> century, there was an increase of about 27 lakh persons in the urban population of Haryana recording the decennial growth rate of 44.25 per cent. The addition of population in urban areas during 2001-2011 was a little less than half of the total urban population of Haryana in 2001, explaining accelerated tempo of urban growth rate.

Forty eight new towns were added, taking the number of towns to 154 in 2011. Out of these 154 towns, there were 80 statutory towns and 74 census towns containing 34.79 per cent of the total population of Haryana.

Unlike the increasing trend in the number of *cities* and *million-plus cities* during post-Independence period of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number remained unchanged in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The number of *cities* and *million-plus cities* was 20 in 2001 comprising 69.37 per cent of urban population, but it remained the same in 2011 containing marginally lower proportion of urban population (68.02 per cent)(Table 5).

The noteworthy point of this decade is that though there is an alarming increase in the number of *medium towns* (Class III towns) from 26 in 2001 to 45 in 2011 and they outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes of towns, but these have experienced only a marginal increase of 1.89 percent of the state's urban population (from 12.98 per cent in 2001 to 14.87 per cent in 2011).

Like previous census years, though the *small towns* outnumber in numerical strength (78) in 2011 also, but the proportion of urban population contained in these *small towns* is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 per cent in 2011(Table 5).

### 7. Variation in the Number of Urban Settlements

The unequal opportunities of employment, the functional differentiation and the difference of physical setting give rise to changes in the status of towns. Haryana has seen a considerable change in the number of urban settlements during 1951-2011 period. The total number of settlements and temporal variation can be observed from Table 6.

As compared to other size classes of towns, the Class IV and V towns outnumber in numerical strength and are continuously increasing in number with certain ups and downs. However, the number of Class VI towns is on continuous decrease from 1951 onwards, except an increase of 7 towns in 2011. This reveals a comparatively high growth of urban settlements and urbanisation in Haryana. However, the low rate of urbanisation is evident from the fact that only a very few towns have raised their status to be included in Class I and II categories and *small towns* still dominate the scene.

Size Class	Number of Urban Centres							Temporal Variation					
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	1951 -61	1961 -71	1971 -81	1981 -91	1991 - 2001	2001 - 2011
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
City													
Class I	Nil	1	2	9	11	19	19	1	1	7	2	9	Nil
Large Towns													
Class II	6	7	9	7	11	7	11	1	2	-2	4	-4	4
Medium Towns													
Class III	8	11	14	15	18	26	45	3	3	1	3	8	19
Small Towns	48	42	40	50	54	53	78	-6	-2	10	4	-1	25
Class IV	12	15	15	25	31	36	34	3	0	10	6	5	-2
Class V	18	15	20	23	21	16	36	-3	5	3	-2	-5	20
Class VI	18	12	5	2	2	1	8	-6	-7	-3	0	-1	7
Classes I-VI	62	61	65	81	94	106	154	-1	4	16	13	12	48

Table 6: Haryana: Number of Urban Centres and Temporal Variation by Size - Class, 1951-2011

Source: Computed from,

Census of India (1991), Towns and Urban Agglomerations 1991 with their population 1901-1991, Part II-A (ii), A Series, Series-1, India, Statement-13 pp. 73-79.

Census of India (2001), Final Population Totals, Urban Agglomerations and Towns, Series 1, India, pp. 59-70.

Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statements-1 &amp; 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131.

Census of India (2011), Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana

### 8. Distribution of Urban Population by Size Class of Towns

The distribution of urban population in different size class of towns reveals the variation and the greater concentration of urban population from small to large size urban centres (Table 7).

Size Class of Towns/ Cities	Per cent Urban Population to Total Population						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	17.25	15.99
City/Cities							
Class I	Nil	8.07	12.82	47.02	52.92	52.12	52.03
Large Towns							
Class II	39.62	36.22	39.75	16.84	18.99	06.79	7.99
Medium Towns							
Class III	23.04.	28.39	26.06	17.72	13.14	12.98	14.87
Small Towns	<b>37.34</b>	<b>27.32</b>	<b>21.37</b>	<b>18.42</b>	<b>14.95</b>	<b>10.86</b>	<b>9.12</b>
Class IV	17.65	15.68	12.54	12.04	10.78	08.68	5.80
Class V	13.95	8.24	7.84	6.11	3.94	02.11	2.97
Class VI	5.74	3.40	0.99	0.27	0.23	0.07	0.35
Classes I-VI	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 7: Haryana: Percentage of Urban Population by Size Class of Towns, 1951-2011.

Source: Computed from,

Census of India (1991), Towns and Urban Agglomerations 1991 with their population 1901-1991, Part II-A (ii), A Series, Series-1, India, Table A-4, pp. 203-1157.

Census of India (2001), Final Population Totals, Urban Agglomerations and Towns, Series 1, India, pp. 59-70.

Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statements-1 &amp; 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131.

Census of India (2011), Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana



Table 7 reveals that the majority of the population prefers to live in cities and million-plus cities, mainly because of better urban amenities and employment avenues available there. This tendency has become more distinct in the last two decades (1981-91 and 1991-2001) of 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is again significant to point out that Class VI urban centres are going to lose their identity in the coming years because of the continuous decrease in the proportion of urban population in these towns from 5.74 per cent in 1951 to 0.35 per cent in 2011. The tendency of concentration from small to medium and large urban centres is evident by the fact that the population of Class V towns has considerably been reduced to 2.97 per cent in 2011 from 13.95 per cent in 1951. This type of tendency certainly reflects the imbalance of distribution, but at the same time, it indicates the more definite and dynamic pattern of urban development.

### 9. Concluding Remarks

In 1901, the urban population of Haryana was only 5.7 lakh persons, accounting for 12.42 per cent of the total population in the state. Thus, only one out of each 8 persons in Haryana was an urbanite in 1901 as against one in ten persons in the country as a whole. In all, there were 54 towns in Haryana in 1901. But there was no Class I town in 1901. Ambala (78,638 persons) was the only town of Class II category, which accounted for 13.70 per cent of the total urban population of Haryana in 1901.

The share of urban population in total moved up to 28.92 per cent from 12.42 per cent during this period. By comparison, India's urban population has grown by eleven times: from 26 million in 1901 to 285 million in 2001. Urban proportion has also moved to 28.92 per cent from 10.85 per cent during this period. The pace of urbanisation has, thus, been fast in the state as compared to India as a whole.

In 1901, the *small towns* accommodated the largest proportion of urban population (62.96 per cent) in Haryana. At that time, mostly population (87.58 per cent) was living in rural areas dependent on agricultural activities.

The decade of 1901-11 was a decade of decline not only in Haryana's urban population- which declined from 12.42 per cent in 1901 to 10.77 per cent in 1911, but also in its rural counterpart mainly because of the spread of epidemics like *Plague* and *Cholera* resulting into a large number of deaths both in urban and rural areas. Consequently, as many as 18 towns were declassified (reducing the number of towns to 36 in 1911 from 54 in 1901).

During the next three decades of 1911-21, 1921-31 and 1931-41, the increase in urban population was at a very slow rate. The proportion of urban population increased marginally from 10.77 per cent in 1911 to 13.39 per cent in 1941 and the number of towns increased from 36 in 1911 to 45 in 1941.

The decade of 1941-51 (particularly the year 1947) can rightly be called a landmark in the history of growth of urban population in Haryana. The proportion of urban population increased to 17.07 per cent in 1951 from 13.39 per cent in 1941, recording a decennial growth of 37.19 per cent, which was near to the national average (41.43 per cent). This increase is attributed to: (i) emergence of 17 new towns to take the total number of towns to 62 in 1951 as against the 45 in 1941; (ii) sharp increase in the population of existing urban centres due to settling of displaced persons; and (iii) reclassification of towns which stood declassified since 1911. Consequently, as many as 17 new/ reclassified towns emerged and urbanisation entered into the new locations.

The post-Independence period witnessed a reversal in urbanisation trend in the state; from earlier sluggish growth to fast growth of urban centres. Of the total urban population of 82.7 lakh that was added in the state during the reference period from 1901-2011, 78.5 lakh i.e. 95.15 per cent occurred during 1951 to 2011. More than half (47.7 lakh) of this was added only during the last two decades of 1991-2001 and 2001-2011.

The total number of 92 urban centres emerged during post-Independence period, whereas more than half (60 urban centres) out of the total of 154 urban centres in the state emerged only during last two decades of 1991-2001 (12 urban centres) and 2001-2011 (48 urban centres).

In terms of proportion of urban population to total population, the *large towns* (Class II towns) dominated the scene in the state over a period of three decades from 1951-1971. However, in terms of numerical strength, the *large towns* (22) were less than seven times that of *medium* (33) and *small towns* (130) combined together over this period.

Though the *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons) outnumber in numerical strength in all the six decades from 1951 to 2011, but the proportion of urban population contained in these *small towns* is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 per cent in 2011. This type of tendency certainly reflects the imbalance of distribution but at the same time it indicates the more definite and dynamic pattern of urban development.

Ambala Cantt. got the distinction of becoming the first and foremost *city* of the state in 1961 census. Rohtak achieved the status of being the second *city* of the state in 1971. Faridabad Municipal Corporation with total population of 10.55 lakh persons emerged as the first *million-plus city* of Haryana in 2001 census claiming 17.25 per cent (about one-sixth) of the total urban population of the state.

At present, there are 20 cities, including the *million-plus city* of Faridabad Municipal Corporation, comprising the highest proportion (68.02 per cent) of urban population which is a little less than three-fourth of the total urban population of the state. This shows that the majority of population prefers to live in cities and *million-plus cities* mainly because of better urban amenities and employment avenues available there.

According to 2011 census, Faridabad (M.Corp.) (14.14 lakh persons), being the industrial capital of the state, is the largest city of the state of Haryana, and is followed by the cities of Gurgaon (8.87 lakh), Rohtak (3.74 lakh persons), Hisar (3.07 lakh persons), Karnal (3.02 lakh persons) and Panipat (2.96 lakh persons).

Haryana registered more than 15 times increase in its urban population from 5.7 lakh persons in 1901 to 88.2 lakh in 2011. This was concomitant with a rise in the number of towns from 54 to 154.

Spatially, Ambala was the most urbanised (37.19 per cent) district of Haryana in 1951 and was followed by Karnal (25.72 per cent) and Yamunanagar (22.06 per cent). By contrast, Faridabad was the least urbanised district with 6.24 per cent of urban population and was followed by Sonipat (10.28 per cent) and Gurgaon (10.62 per cent),

With more or less variation, the same situation continued upto 1971. But during the decade of 1971-81, there was a spurt in the growth of urban population in Faridabad district because of its development as industrial hub of Haryana. Consequently, Faridabad became the most urbanised district in 1981 with 41.43 per cent urban population. It has retained its prime place of having the highest proportion (48.57 per cent and 55.65 persons) of urban population to total population in the state in 1991 and 2001 census respectively. Now, it is followed by the districts of Panchkula (44.49 per cent), Panipat (40.53 per cent), Yamunagar (37.73 per cent) and Ambala (35.20 per cent). All these districts are centres of industry, trade and commerce which form the basis of higher urbanisation in the districts attracting in-migration.

On the opposite end of the scale, Mahendragarh remained the least urbanised district of the state with only 13.49 per cent urban population and is followed by the districts of Fatehabad (17.63 per cent) and Rewari (17.79 per cent).

The factors which gave an impetus to the growth of towns in Haryana are the increased agricultural production due to Green Revolution, excessive increase in dairy products due to White Revolution and expansion of agro-based as well as agro-oriented industries. Besides, a number of manufacturing industries had sprung in the crescent around Delhi and along the Grand Trunk Road. As a consequence, the towns of Sonipat, Bahadurgarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Palwal experienced an unprecedented increase in their population during the decades of 1971-81, 1981-91 and 1991-2001. Another factor having a bearing on the urbanisation process was the establishment of urban estates-residential, industrial and commercial, and Industrial Model Townships (IMTs) by the urban development authorities like HUDA, Housing Boards and HSIDC.

In nutshell, despite the sluggish growth in pre-Independence period, the growth of urban population in Haryana got acceleration during the post-Independence period especially after its formation as a separate state in 1966.

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