

# **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF GOAL OF DEVELOPED INDIA (A PLAN FOR NEXT 25 YEARS)**



Edited by  
**Dr. V. NIRMAL RAJKUMAR**

Organised by

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (CENTRE FOR RESEARCH)  
ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS),  
KARUMATHUR, MADURAI DT, TAMIL NADU - 625 514**



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*Opportunities and Challenges of Goal of  
Developed India  
(A Plan for Next 25 Years)*

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(A PLAN FOR NEXT 25 YEARS)**

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| Sl. No | Paper Title & Author(s)   | Page. No |
|--------|---|----------|
| 33.    | Renewable Energy: Environmental Impacts and Economic Advantages for Sustainable Development<br><i>Dr. G. Vedanthadesikan &amp; S. Sundaram</i>                    | 114      |
| 34.    | Consumer Awareness towards Eco friendly Products in Tenkasi District, Tamilnadu<br><i>Ms. T. Maha Prasanna &amp; Dr. M. Kamini @ Muthukrishnammal</i>             | 118      |
| 35.    | Environmental Challenges in India: Balancing Economic Growth and Ecosystem Preservation<br><i>Dr. V. Rajkumar, Dr. V. Valliammal &amp; Ms. R. Renuka Devi</i>     | 121      |
| 36.    | Impact of Urbanisation on Health in Madurai City with Special Reference to Vilangudi<br><i>Dr. K. Selvalakshmi &amp; Mrs. A. Gracy Rani</i>                       | 125      |
| 37.    | <b>Challenges and Impact of Urbanization in India</b><br><i>Dr. S. Karthikeyan &amp; Dr. P. Mohammed Hither Ali</i>   | 128      |
| 38.    | Balancing Urbanization and Environment in India<br><i>Dr. S. Ivy Jeno</i>   | 135      |
| 39.    | India's Population Paradox: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities<br><i>Dr. K. Jeyanthi</i>  | 138      |
| 40.    | Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Women Entrepreneurs: A Social Work Perspective<br><i>Mr. A. Arockia Maria Michealraja &amp; Dr. A. Jayaraman</i>            | 141      |
| 41.    | Emerging Women Leadership through Dairy Cooperatives: A Case Analysis<br><i>Dr. P. Selvamani &amp; Mr. M. Chandran</i>  | 146      |
| 42.    | Experiential Learning for Women's Empowerment in Tribal Communities<br><i>Dr. R. Venkata Ravi &amp; Mr. C. Seerangan</i>  | 149      |
| 43.    | Unleashing Her Power: Empowering Women to Shape the World<br><i>Mrs. T. Susma &amp; Mr. C. Naresh</i>   | 158      |
| 44.    | Empowerment of Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Tenkasi District, Tamilnadu<br><i>Ms. A. Anushiya &amp; Dr. R. Sriandal Esakkirani</i>                                | 159      |
| 45.    | Transformative Governance Strategies for India's Prosperity in 2047<br><i>Mr. V. Micheal Venish &amp; Ms. Pavithra</i>  | 162      |
| 46.    | Emerging Trends in Indian Democracy and Economy<br><i>Dr. R. Premalatha, Mr. S. Ravichandran &amp; Ms. M. Jeena Verghese</i>                                      | 165      |
| 47.    | The Impact of Limestone Quarrying on the Residents of G.R. Pattinam Village in Perambalur District, Tamilnadu<br><i>Ms. V. Elavarasi &amp; Dr. S. Senthamarai</i> | 169      |
| 48.    | Study of Computer Science Training at School Level<br><i>Dr. Hardik D. Mehta</i>  | 173      |

## CHALLENGES AND IMPACT OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA

Dr. S. KARTHIKEYAN<sup>1</sup> & Dr. P. MOHAMMED HITHERAL<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization are all directly related to urbanization. Urbanization is not just a modern occurrence; it is a historic, quick change in human social foundations that is occurring on a global scale, where mostly rural culture is being swiftly replaced by predominantly urban culture. Urbanisation happens as a result of efforts made by individuals, businesses, and the government to make commuting faster and cheaper and to increase options for employment, education, housing, and transportation. Many people from the countryside relocate to the city in search of financial success and social mobility. However, the picture of urbanisation is not as lovely as it first appears to be. Due to rapid industrialisation, modern cities have grown in a haphazard and unplanned manner. Cities in emerging nations become overcrowded and overpopulated for a variety of reasons, including migration and population growth over the years.

### INTRODUCTION

An indicator of the transition from traditional rural economies to contemporary industrial ones is urbanisation. Population in urban areas is being steadily concentrated (Davis, 1965). According to Kingsley Davis (Davis, 1962), urbanisation is the process of moving from a pattern of dispersed human settlements to one of concentrated urban centres. It is a limited process that a country must go through when it transitions from an agricultural to an industrial society (Davis and Golden, 1954). He identified three stages in the urbanisation process. The first stage is characterised by a rural, traditional society with an emphasis on agriculture and a dispersed habitation structure. Stage 2 is the acceleration stage, during which basic economic restructuring and investments in social overhead capital, such as transportation and communication, occur. When the urban population reaches 70% or higher, the third stage is referred to as the terminal stage. At this point, the amount of urbanisation is essentially unchanged or steady (Davis, 1965). At this point, the growth rates of the urban and overall populations are equal.

### DEFINITION

2011 towns in India were divided into two categories by the Census:

- a) **Statutory towns:** All areas having a municipality, corporation, cantonment board, or notified town area committee, etc., as defined by state legislation, are considered statutory towns.
- b) **Census towns:** Areas with a population of at least 5000 people, at least 75% of the working male population engaged in non-agricultural occupations, and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

### URBAN AGGLOMERATION

The term "urban agglomeration" refers to a continuous urban spread that includes a town, any adjacent Urban Outgrowths (OGs), or two or more geographically contiguous towns. Railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, and military bases that may appear close to a statutory town or city are examples of outgrowths. The central town or at least one of the member towns of an urban agglomeration should necessarily be a statutory town, and the combined population of all the constituent towns should not be less than 20,000, according to the 2011 Indian Census.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Doddarasalah G. and Shivali (2007) have examined Mysore city's population increase and geographic expansion. The purpose of this article is to examine the population increase in Mysore City and to determine the geographical growth of the city. They gathered information from the 1961–2001 Indian census. The analysis showed that natural growth rates were declining and that the IT and other industries were growing. In different decades, the city did not grow physically at the same rate. Urban areas have grown spatially as a result of rising populations and economic activity. Lack of space, inadequate housing infrastructure, deteriorating services, and loss of farmland are all issues brought on by expansion.

Singh, Rana P.B. and R.K. Chaturvedi (2009) focuses on the issue of density patterns and their gradients in minor towns in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, including Ganga, Ghaghara, and Doab. They research variances in population density in the municipalities in the Ballia area. A block-by-block investigation was conducted. They look at nine towns. Additionally, the variation in density was seen.

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## OBJECTIVES

1. To study the urbanization in India an overview.
2. To identify the important characteristics of Urbanization in India.
3. To determine the problems of urbanization in India.
4. To bring out the major issues of urbanization in India
5. To exhibit the difference between advantages and disadvantages of urbanization in India.

## METHODOLOGY

This study based on secondary data. This research is descriptive in nature. Secondary sources such government documents, books, papers, and online journals are used to get the data. For the purpose of describing its trend, the records of the urban population taken from census reports have been compiled. This essay aims to examine the multifaceted repercussions of India's rapidly expanding urbanisation on Indian society.

## URBANIZATION IN INDIA AN OVERVIEW

### Urbanization Prospects:

- The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) report, World Urbanization Prospects, 2018 highlights that future increases in the size of the world's urban population are anticipated to be highly concentrated in just a few countries.
- Between 2018 and 2050, the combined growth of the world's urban population is expected to be 35% driven by India, China, and Nigeria.
- India is expected to have 416 million more urban residents by the year 2050.
- According to the 2011 Census of India, there were 1210 million people living in India, with a 31.1% urbanization rate.

### State-wise Scenario:

#### Number of People Living in Urban Areas:

- Ten States—Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala—comprise more than 75% of the nation's urban population.
- Maharashtra is in first place with 50.8 million people (13.5 percent of the nation's total urban population).
- Tamil Nadu comes in second with 34.9 million people, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 44.4 million.
- States that scored highly include Goa, which has a 62.2% urban population.
- More than 40% of people live in urban areas in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.
- Of the North-Eastern States, Mizoram has the highest urbanisation rate (51.5%).
- States with Low Scores: The levels of urbanisation in Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh continue to be lower than the national average.

**Union Territories:** With urban populations of 97.5% and 97.25%, respectively, the NCT of Delhi and the UT of Chandigarh are the most urbanised, followed by Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep (all above 75% urbanisation).

- The SDGs Goal 11 emphasises urban planning as one of the suggested approaches for achieving sustainable development.
- India's Global Commitments Regarding Urban Development.
- Habitat III in 2016 saw the adoption of the UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda.
- It outlines guidelines for the design, development, management, and enhancement of urban environments.
- According to UN-Habitat (2020), a city's ability to provide social, economic, and environmental value and well-being can be strengthened by the physical characteristics of the city.
- In accordance with the Paris Agreement, India's National Determined Contributions (NDCs) contain a target to lower the GDP's emission intensity by 33 to 35% from 2005 levels by 2030.

### India's Initiatives for Urbanization:

- Schemes/Programmes Related to Urban Development:
- Smart Cities
- AMRUT Mission
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban
- HRIDAY
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban
- Government Initiatives for Slum Dwellers/Urban Poor:
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India)

### Significance of Urban Living

- **Easier Access to Facilities:** Living in an urban area is associated with higher levels of literacy and education, better health, a longer life expectancy, easier access to social services, and more chances for participation in politics and the arts.
- Easier access to hospitals, clinics, and general health services is correlated with urbanisation.
- The quality of emergency care and general health is improved by living close to these services.

**Access to Information:** Additionally, there are advantages to having easier access to media platforms like radio and television that can enlighten the general population about health.

**Individualism:** The abundance of possibilities, social diversity, and absence of parental and social control over decision-making promote increased self-interest and make it easier for people to make their own decisions, choose their own careers, and take independent acts.

### Issues Associated to Urbanization

**Excessive Population Pressure:** While the rural-urban migration quickens the pace of urbanisation, it also places an excessive amount of population pressure on the public services already in place. As a result, slums, crime, unemployment, urban poverty, pollution, congestion, bad health, and a number of abnormal social activities plague the cities.

**Overflowing Slums:** There are roughly 13.7 million slum households in the nation, which is home to 65.49 million people overall. Up to 65% of Indian cities contain nearby slums where residents live in close proximity to one another in modest homes.

**Inadequate Housing:** The housing issue is one of the many social issues caused by urbanisation and arguably the most upsetting. In India, 4.4 people on average occupy each room in urban families, which make up more than half of all households.

**Unplanned Development:** Unplanned development is a component of the paradigm for creating a developed city, which merely serves to reinforce the rich-poor divide already present in urban areas.

**Pandemic-Induced Problems:** The Covid-19 pandemic has made life even worse for slum or urban poor people. Slum dwellers' capacity to make a living was greatly hampered by the abrupt adoption of total Covid lockdown.

**Non-Inclusive Welfare Schemes:** Welfare programmes for the urban poor frequently only help a small portion of the intended recipients. Because slum settlements are not recognised by the government as official settlements, the majority of relief cash and benefits do not reach slum dwellers.

**Sustainable Urbanization for Successful Development:** Sustainable development is becoming more and more dependent on the effective management of urban growth as the globe continues to become more urbanised, particularly in low-income and lower-middle-income nations where the rate of urbanisation is anticipated to be the quickest.

In order to better the lives of both urban and rural residents and to enhance the connections between them by building on their already-existing economic, social, and environmental relations, integrated policies are required.

**Increasing Access to Welfare & Health Facilities:** increasing the effectiveness of welfare and assistance programmes, as well as making sure that everyone has access to free vaccines, has access to food, and has suitable housing in slums.

constructing clinics and healthcare facilities, as well as enhancing sanitation and transport options in slums. supporting local organizations that provide support and have better access to these underserved communities. New Urbanization Strategies: Effective governance and new methods of urban planning are urgently needed. To create an infrastructure that is durable, reliable, and inclusive, necessary steps must be taken. To better grasp the particular difficulties faced by the urban poor, a bottom-up strategy should be used rather than a top-down one.

**Table 1: Indian Population Scenario (1901-2011)**

| Census Years | Number of Urban Agglomeration/towns | Total Population | Urban Population | Rural Population |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1901         | 1827                                | 238396327        | 25851873         | 212544454        |
| 1911         | 1825                                | 252093390        | 25941633         | 226151757        |
| 1921         | 1949                                | 251321213        | 28086167         | 223235046        |
| 1931         | 2072                                | 278977238        | 33455989         | 245521249        |
| 1941         | 2250                                | 318660580        | 44153297         | 274507283        |
| 1951         | 2843                                | 361088090        | 62443709         | 298644381        |
| 1961         | 2363                                | 439234771        | 78936603         | 360298168        |

|      |      |            |           |           |
|------|------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1971 | 2590 | 598159652  | 109113977 | 489045675 |
| 1981 | 3378 | 683329097  | 159462547 | 523866550 |
| 1991 | 3768 | 844324222  | 217177625 | 627146597 |
| 2001 | 5161 | 1027015247 | 285354954 | 741660293 |
| 2011 | 5298 | 1210854977 | 302589674 | 754125896 |

Source: Census Report, Govt. of India, 2011

**Table 2: Sex Ratio of Rural and Urban Population**

|       | Male      | Female    | Total Person | Sex ratio |
|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| India | 150135894 | 135219060 | 285354954    | 900       |
| Urban | 381141184 | 360519109 | 741660293    | 945       |
| Rural | 531277078 | 495738169 | 1027015247   | 953       |

Source: Census Report, Government of India, 2011.

**Characteristics of Urbanization in India**

- Fastest rate of urbanisation, particularly in megacities and Class I and metropolitan areas
- in contrast to tiny cities
- One-third of the space in major urban areas like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai is taken up by informal settlements.
- City planning only paid attention to genuine areas
- Growing regionalism as a result of migration;
- an increase in slums;
- poverty, unemployment, exploitation, inequality, and a decline in quality of life;
- The rural push that leads to urbanisation;
- a population explosion in a few places;
- And the lack of substantial industrialization. Southern India is more urbanised than Northern and Eastern India (development in the service sector).
- The urbanisation guidelines are provided by the five-year plan.

**Various Government Schemes to Tackle Problem of Urbanization**

- The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission, which offers urban conveniences in rural areas.
- In 2005, JNNURM (the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission)
- for the targeted and comprehensive development of urban services and infrastructure
- Rajiv Awas Yojana (2011) for "slum free India"
- The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act made the establishment of ULB mandatory and included provisions for regular elections.
- The National Urban Transport Policy was adopted in 2006 to address the transport needs of city dwellers.
- The Smart City Initiative was launched in 2014 with the goal of creating 100 smart cities.
- Swachh Bharat was launched in 2014 to promote urban cleanliness.

**Besides this some government initiatives are required for:**

- Increased funding sources and local government empowerment
- Green buildings, inclusive communities with effective town planning, the Metro train, and carpooling are all solutions to traffic issues.
- PPP model for infrastructure development, effective waste management for energy generation, linking technology with fair price stores, and police changes to combat organized crime

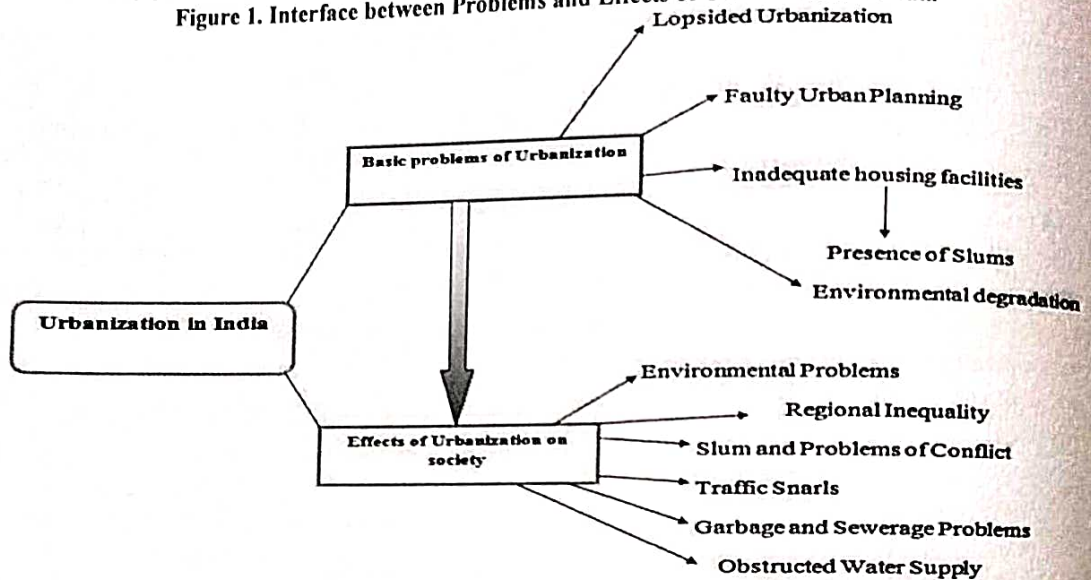
**Problems of Urbanization in India**

Some of the main issues with urbanisation are described below.

- **Overcrowding:** The world's urban population increased from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018, according to the United Nations. This has led to overcrowding in several Indian cities.
- **Unemployment:** Unemployment is a problem related to urbanisation. Finding a job gets more challenging as cities' populations rise.

- **Housing issues:** Unemployment is a problem related to urbanisation. Finding a job gets more challenging as cities' populations rise.
- **Sanitation Issues:** It is becoming increasingly challenging for local governments to build up and maintain the sewerage system as a result of the rapid development of the human population.
- **Water Shortage:** Water scarcity is one of the key issues associated with urbanisation. Since there are more people, it is harder to supply the water demand.
- **Health Hazards:** Living in crowded settings exposes residents to numerous dangers. Diseases of various kinds are caused by poor sanitation, water issues, and living in high-risk areas.

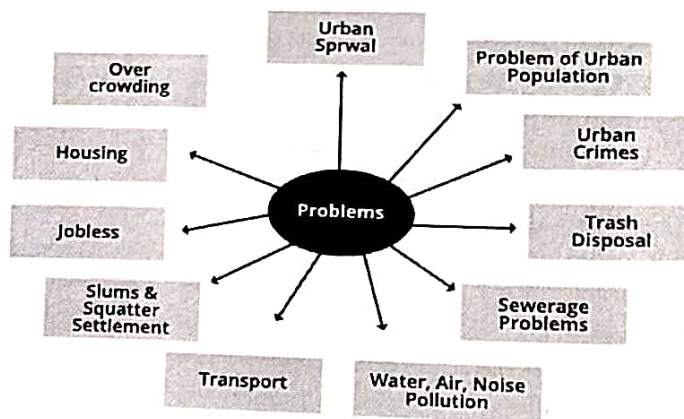
Figure 1. Interface between Problems and Effects of Urbanization in India



(Source: Author)

Sources: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264383323>

Figure 2. Major Issues Related to Urbanization are:



Sources: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/issues-related-to-urbanization-in-india>

### MAJOR ISSUES RELATED TO URBANIZATION IN INDIA

#### a) Overcrowding:

A situation known as overcrowding occurs when there are more individuals present in a given area than what is safe and healthy. Over migration in urban areas is the root of the problem since it causes cities to grow in population and become overcrowded when they reach capacity. People in this circumstance often fight over scarce and limited resources including transportation, water, and energy. The world's urban population increased from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018, according to the United Nations. Numerous Indian metropolises, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore, are plagued by the issue of overcrowding.

#### b) Unemployment:

Unemployment is a side effect of urbanisation. People relocate to metropolitan regions in search of a higher quality of life, more employment opportunities, and better healthcare, but as the population of the city rises, it becomes more

difficult to find and keep jobs. In India, urban unemployment is believed to be between 15 and 25 percent of the labour force, and a large portion of young unemployed people come from affluent, highly educated families. The National Statistical Office (NSO) estimates that India's urban unemployment rate would be 9.3% in 2021.

**c) Slums and Squatter Settlements:**

Although the expense of living in urban areas is typically higher than in rural areas, most people who relocate there are unable to afford such a lifestyle. Due to this circumstance, slums expand as safe havens for people who cannot afford the high rent or do not have enough money to own apartments in urban areas. The World Bank estimates that 35.2% of Indians live in slums, which are characterised by poor housing, overcrowding, a lack of electricity, sanitation, ventilation, roads, and drinking water facilities. Slums are also typically constructed on underdeveloped or undervalued land. They are the breeding ground for numerous social tensions, criminality, demoralisation, and environmental damage. The largest slum in Asia is thought to be Dharavi in Mumbai.

**d) Degradation of environmental quality:**

One of the main reasons for environmental deterioration is urbanisation. People cramming into small areas degrades air quality and contaminates water. There is a high demand for services like housing, food, water, transportation, etc. as cities' populations grow. The quality of the soil is lowered by clearing woods and agricultural land to make way for factories and structures. The water quality is decreased by household waste, industrial effluents, and other wastes that are directly dumped into rivers. The demand for private automobiles rises as the population grows and more people need to travel between locations. The majority of these vehicles run on fossil fuels, which when burned produce massive amounts of air pollution and deteriorate the quality of the air. Large factories and industries are the source of the noise pollution, which ultimately harms people's health.

**e) Health Problems:**

In certain places, poor urban residents' health conditions are worse than they are in rural ones. Due to a lack of essential services like clean water and air to breathe, many people in cities pass away every year. Up to 20 million kids in developing nations perish from consuming contaminated water. Diseases include allergies, asthma, infertility, food poisoning, cardiovascular issues, respiratory failure, cancer, and death are frequently identified in urban areas. A total of 6,00,000 people die each year as a result of water pollution and indoor and outdoor air pollution.

**f) Transport problems:**

As the community gets bigger, the challenges with transport have gotten worse and more complicated. Almost all Indian cities are currently dealing with a severe sort of a transport issue. Due to capacity overload brought on by inadequate road infrastructure, issues like traffic congestion and accidents occur. The issue has been made worse by the underdeveloped and overcrowded public transport infrastructure.

**g) Sewerage Problems:**

Rapid urbanisation causes cities to grow haphazardly and unplanned, and the majority of these cities have inadequate sewage systems. In India, hardly a single city has a fully functional sewage system. Most cities lack adequate systems for processing sewage waste, so they simply drain it into a neighbouring river or the ocean. These practises are widespread in large cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and others. Nearly 78% of the sewage produced in India, according to the GOI, is disposed of in rivers, lakes, or the ocean without being cleaned.

**h) Water problem:**

Water is becoming increasingly scarce due to the rapid urban population expansion, and the water supply is struggling to keep up with the high demand. Due to inadequate sewer systems and a lack of preventative steps for managing local water pollution, the water issues have gotten worse as water pollution has increased. In India, we have reached the point where no city receives enough water to meet residents' daily demands. In 30 Indian towns, there would be a serious water risk by 2050 due to high growth in urban population, according to a WWF analysis.

**i) Trash problem:**

Any Indian metropolis now has a reputation for having mountains of trash outside the city limits. The people who live in these cities face numerous health risks, including dysentery, malaria, plague, jaundice, diarrhoea, typhoid, etc. Additionally, these cities lack proper garbage disposal arrangements and the existing landfills are so full that they cannot accommodate more trash. These dumps are rife with disease, and countless chemicals leach into the area around them, polluting the air and water.

**j) Higher Rates of Urban Crime:**

With the increase in urbanization, the problem of crime also increases. Fringe areas of most cities are the breeding ground for crimes. Many poor people who migrate to cities, for better opportunities, often indulge in crime to meet their daily needs. Not only the poor or slum dwellers; youngsters from well-to-do families also resort to crime facing failure in to make a fast buck and to meet their requirements of a lavish life. Sometimes youngsters also drag to crime facing failure in their life. The increasing crime rate tends to upset the peace and tranquility of the cities and make them insecure for living.

mainly for women. Metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru have accounted for 16.2, 9.5, and 8.1 per cent respectively of the total crime reported from 35 megacities of India.

#### Advantages and Disadvantages of Urbanization in India

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Advantages of urbanization:<br/>The issue of unemployment will be resolved, there will be improved transportation, and there will be more chances for education. Recycling process<br/>Internet connections will be available;<br/>More modernized technology;<br/>Higher average wages in cities.</p> | <p>Disadvantages of Urbanization:<br/>Possibilities of increased levels of pollution, such as noise and air pollution;<br/>increased levels of stress;<br/>Lack of natural places<br/>There is a danger that infections will spread.<br/>Traffic problems will worsen.</p> |
|---|--|

#### CONCLUSION

It is necessary to have a strong economic sector in the urban economy since the megacities have achieved their capacity for employment generation and to prevent overcrowding into the overcrowded slums of megacities, such as Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, and Madras. Small cities that have previously been ignored should get growth efforts and investments in order to reinforce the functional foundation of the urban economy. The correct planning of cities, which entails operational, developmental, and restorative planning, should also be a concern of policy. The upgrading of urban infrastructure, such as roads, traffic, and transportation, should be considered during operational planning.

Urbanization itself is not a problem, but unsustainable and uncontrolled urbanisation will inevitably lead to socio-economic issues. These issues can't be totally remedied, but they do need to be addressed in a planned and scientific way. A country's financial development benefits from urbanisation, yet developing cities and providing the essential services for a healthy lifestyle requires careful planning. To improve the phenomenon of urbanisation, society and the government should collaborate.

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