

**PROCESSES, PATTERNS AND TRENDS OF URBANISATION IN  
NORTH-EASTERN STATES OF INDIA**

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**CERTIFICATE**

I, Saraswati Kerketta certify that the dissertation entitled “Processes, Patterns and Trends of Urbanisation in North-Eastern States of India” for the degree of **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY** is my bonafide work and may be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

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## **CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION**

# INTRODUCTION

## **1.1 Introduction**

Cities are as old as civilisation (Smailes 1969) and they are undoubtedly one of the most striking expressions of any civilisation, that completely dominate the region in which they lie and in that sense the world may be envisaged as becoming increasing a collection of towns and cities (Hudson, 1977). It is believed that cities have come into existence circa 5000BC (Knowles and Wareing, 1976). At that time cities were very small in size and were surrounded by rural environment and agricultural fields. As of today we observe that many cities have come up and urbanisation has become an universal phenomenon. Moreover, the bulk the of population particularly of developed countries reside in cities (Tripathy, 1998).

Urbanisation is now considered as a symbol of economic and social development (Mohan,R. 1998). Those countries, which are more urbanised, believed to be more developed with the growing influence of modernisation and cultural change. Today, urbanisation is being accepted as a life style, which has become the essential part of growth and determines the material progress and social prosperity of human life.

In general urbanisation is the process of population concentration and identifies two elements in the process 1) The increase in the size of individual concentration due to growth of urban population and 2) The increase in the number of points of concentration. (Elridge, 1956). Urbanisation is a complex phenomenon. It defies any single or any general explanation. Urbanisation process may be broadly said to be characterised by such self evident factors as: a) mobility of population from agricultural to non-agricultural areas, b) concentration of population in new place of habitation or a place characterised by a new way of life, c) a particular mode of habitation and the non-agricultural (i.e. industrial, commercial etc.) pattern of economy.

India has a long history of urbanisation. But the pace of urbanisation has increased in the present century particularly due to industrialisation and

emergence of new administrative and commercial centres particularly after independence. According to 2001 Census, India's level of urbanisation is 27.3 percent. However, this figure is very low in terms of the average standard of western countries and the whole world. A difference in the level of growth of urbanisation is also seen among various states and union territories of India. The geographical vastness and different levels of economic development had influenced urbanisation in India. This can also be seen in the seven North-Eastern states i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura in the recent past.

### **1.2 Objectives**

An increasing level of urbanisation is an important index of socio-economic development. The main thrust of the work is to probe into pattern, processes and trends of urbanisation and functional classification of towns in North-Eastern states so, the main objective of the present study will be:

1. To determine the processes of urbanisation in North-East India
2. To analyse the levels and trends of urbanisation in the region vis-à-vis the rest of India over time.
3. To identify the regional pattern, distribution and growth of towns and cities in different size classes in the North-East.
4. To classify the urban centres into functional categories.

### **1.3 Research Questions and Methodology:**

Q: Do the North Eastern states show differences in level and trends of urbanisation?

Methodology:

A) Percentage Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population

$$\text{Percentage Decadal Growth rate} = \frac{(P_1 - P_0) 100}{P_0}$$

$P_1$  = Urban population in the current Census year

$P_0$  = Urban population of the base year

B) Level of Urbanisation = Urban population / Total population \* 100

Q: What are the spatial pattern of distribution and growth of towns over time in the different size classes in North-East India?

Methodology:

A) Tempo of Urbanisation:

$$TA = \frac{1}{n} (P_{u_{t+n}} - P_{u_t})$$

Where, TA=Tempo of urbanisation

n = Numbers of year passed between two times

Pu = Percentage of urban population at the year t and t+n

B) Gini's Concentration Ratio:

$$G_i = (\sum X_i - \frac{1}{n} \sum Y_i) - (\sum X_{i+1} - Y_i)$$

G<sub>i</sub> = Gini concentration ratio

X<sub>i</sub> = Cumulative proportion of population

Y<sub>i</sub> = Cumulative proportion of units

n = Number of class intervals.

Q: Which process of urbanisation has contributed in the emergence of present pattern of urbanisation?

Methodology: Annual Exponential Growth Rate:

$$r = \ln (P_t/P_o) * 100$$

r = Annual exponential growth rate

P<sub>t</sub> = Total population of current year

P<sub>o</sub> = Total population of base year

t = number of years passed between two point of time

Q: Does the North-Eastern states of India show any peculiar feature regarding the functional classification of towns? Up to what extent there is diversification in the functions of Towns and cities in North East India?

Methodology:

i) Functional classification based on Census 1991.

ii) Functional Diversification of towns.

## **1.4 Data Base**

For the study most of the data will be taken from Census of India, mainly for population related data.

1. Census of India, General Population Table 1971, 81,91,2001.
2. Census of India, Primary Census Abstract for India for all North-Eastern States, 1971,1981,1991,2001.
3. Census of India, Village and Town Directory for all North Eastern States 1971, 1981,1991, 2001.
4. Sample Registration System Data, 1981, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2004.
5. NEDFI data bank.

## **1.5 Need of the Study**

Rapid urbanisation has been a worldwide phenomenon in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the global context, India's urban population is only 27 percent, which is not of much significance. The analysis of internal migration is essential in understanding not only the process of urbanisation but also overall process of economic development. Likewise, the study of industrialisation and growth of urban infrastructure is also essential.

The available literature on the processes, pattern and trend of urbanisation in the North-East India is scanty, perhaps due to the reason that, except for a few towns, urban life in north-eastern states are mostly confined to the capital towns, although overall urbanisation has been growing. The North-Eastern states have a low share of urban population but the growth rate recorded had been very significant since independence. The pattern of urbanisation in this region varies from that of rest of the country because for a long duration it was almost isolated from rest of country a narrow belt of Siliguri, also known as the Siliguri Neck or "Chicken Neck" which is just twenty kilometres wide, provides the only link between this region and rest of country.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

North-East India is a neglected region by most of the scholars. Out of the major portion of the mainstream literature that is available for post independence period very few scholars had tried to study the dynamics of urbanisation in the North –

Eastern states. Even most of the literature on the urbanisation process in the North-East India mostly talks about Assam and neglects rest of the states in the North-East. Consequently, there is heavy shortage of literature regarding the study of urbanisation process in North-East region.

### **1.7 Review of Literature**

The study of urbanisation is the study of different aspects of urban centres like their evolution, growth and distribution, their economic characteristics, social and demographic characteristics, their functions. Therefore the literature reviewed deals with different aspects of urbanisation. Keeping all this in view we can study the literature on urbanisation under separate heads as given below:

- a) Concept of urbanisation.
- b) Factors of urbanisation.
- c) Urbanisation in India with particular reference to study area.
- d) Trends, patterns and processes of urbanisation
- e) Urban Problems

#### **1.7 (a) Concept of Urbanisation:**

Mumford (1938) has identified the geographical place as an economic organisation and industrial process and thereafter of social action and aesthetic symbol of collective unity. According to Davis and Golden (1954), “urbanisation represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life and is a basic product of economy and technological development”. According to Thompson (1955), urbanisation as the movement of people from rural to urban areas. It is characterised by movements of people from small communities to generally larger whose activities are primarily concerned in government activities, trade, manufacture or allied interests.

Wirth (1957) has provided relatively more analytical definition when he treats urbanism as distinctive characteristics of urban life. Anderson (1969) has suggested that possession of various kinds of goods like television, radio, telephone, electric devices in the home, the kitchen, the many articles with which the home is decorated, especially, type of books and pictures make people life urbanised. Gosal (1972) has provided detailed description about towns. According to him urban place acts as a



central place for its umland. It is a locale of district human settlement characterized by complexity of human life and economic activities. Mandal (1982) has provided an extensive definition of urbanisation. He used certain demographic, social and economic parameters and categorised them into four terms and explains that urbanisation involves a) concentration of people at one place b) population shift (migration) from rural to urban areas c) occupational shift from agricultural to non-agricultural and d) land use shift from agricultural to non-agricultural. Singh and Singh (1988) has chosen certain socio-economic parameters to define urbanisation means the proportion of total population concentrated in urban settlements. It is also the contemporary, political, social, economic and cultural processes prevailing in a region. According to Ramachandran a city is a focal point of a wider region and every town and city has its concomitant tributary areas. He also said that towns and cities not only exist on their individual productive base but also on the basis of mutual exchange of goods and services between the city on one hand and rural village on the other.

#### **1.7 (b) Factors of Urbanisation:**

Dayal (1959) opined that rural poverty and unemployment push people from rural areas, whereas higher wages and better living condition are pull factors, which increase the urban population. About urbanisation Bougue and Zachariah (1962), are of the opinion that in India and in fact almost everywhere in the world the rate of reproductive change is not very different in rural areas from urban areas, and very less urbanisation takes place as a result of vital processes alone. They have cited an example of Calcutta city where they registered the number of deaths was always greater than the registered number of urban births up to 1951. Jack P. Gibbs (1966) while discussing about the characteristics of urbanisation, has pointed out the characteristics, such as the size of urban population in the urban units, distribution of urban population by class of urban units etc. He suggested that for finding out the changes in the characteristics of urbanisation one should look into the size of metropolitan population, the number of metropolitan areas and the percentage of total national population in the metropolitan area.

N. Sharma (1972), based on his study of the degree of urbanisation and the level of economic development suggested that level of economic development is an offspring

of composite function of primary secondary and tertiary economic activities. He emphasised on the association between the process of urbanisation and increase in the secondary and tertiary activities but he argued that urbanisation must not be divorced from primary activity. M. K. Premi (1981) in his article "The Role of Migration in the Urbanisation Process in Third World Countries- A Case Study of India", has provided a broad analysis of the factors of urbanization and identifies them as a) natural increase in urban areas. b) Net rural to urban migration. c) Relocation of rural settlements to urban areas due to the extension of municipal boundaries. d) the emergence of new points of concentration. He also pointed out that the first three components indicate the concentration of urban activities in the already existing urban centres, while the emergence of new towns and cities suggest a dispersal of urban function over a wider geographical area. In their research paper, the authors Rana P. B. Singh and R. L. Singh (1981), has analysed urban change during the period of 1971-81 with the help of studying a number of urban centres, urban population and its decadal variation. During 1971-81 highest growth (46.01) was noticed which was the result of pull factors. In case of Indian urbanisation earlier push factors played dominant role. The urban agglomerations are increasing rapidly. In 1901 there was only one urban agglomeration, which reached twelve in 1981. But it was expected that by AD 2001 the regional pattern would change. The western and eastern parts and the coastal areas of Bengal were supposed to be most urbanised region. With the increase in the level of urbanisation the problems like crime, congestion etc. will also increase.

Ashish Bose (1983) has pointed out that because of high urban birth rates and rapidly declining death rates, push factors operates in urban areas, which he named as 'push back factor'. He has also pointed another type of push back factor, which is the absence of social security in urban areas. P. C. Tiwary et al (1983) has done a comparative study of hills and Tarai and Bhabhar regions of Himalaya using composite index for ranking. He has proved that the physio-climatic diversity play vital role in determining the evolution and growth of central places over the region.

Charls M. Becker et al (1992) have analysed the trend of urbanisation in India and there relationship with economic growth since 1960. To identify the interaction among cities and rural areas in and between India and rest of the world they have used the

technique of general equilibrium analysis. They have developed a model of Indian experience since 1960 that estimates the as it was and allows for the production of different scenario. The result shows that rapid increase in urban population during that decade; while there has been decline in the growth of urban labour force since then. According to the authors the structural and institutional arrangement provides less favourable conditions for city growth in India and this is the primary attribute rather than unfavourable economic and demographic conditions. In her study Dr. R. Pant (1993) has analysed the trend of urbanization in the central Himalayan region with special reference to Kumaon. In her study Dr. Pant found that urbanisation process in Kumaon was very slow while Tarai and Bhabhar region of Nainital district gathered momentum due to the industrial development.

Davis Clark (1998) has presented his view that urban development has two separate per-requisites viz: (i) generation of surplus products to sustain people engaged in non-agricultural activities and (ii) the achievement of social development. He has also pointed out that the increase in the pace of urbanisation in developing countries is due to new economic order in the world. This is due to the investment done by multinational and transnational corporation in urban areas, which attracts cheaper labour from countryside. Tripathi (1998) has provided an analytical study about urbanisation process in Uttar Pradesh. The process of urbanisation in Uttar Pradesh has been progressing well and it is mainly due to the economic development in the field of industries, commerce and agriculture inputs, transport and communication. Progress of urbanisation is also helping in the betterment of several civic amenities in the state.

### **1.7(c) Urbanisation in India in general and North-East States in Particular**

A. S. Jauhari (1962) studied the growth of early urban settlement in Sutlej- Yamuna divide between the pre-historic and early historic periods. The divide contains a few numbers of towns whose history dates back to thousands of years. Also the earliest urban centres have completely decayed and are represented by mounds of varying heights. According to the author chronologically the settlements can be divided into three groups:

- i) Early pre-historic or Indus valley civilisation (2500 BC-1500 BC).
- ii) Early Vedic Period (1500 BC -500BC).
- iii) Iron Age (500 BC-647 BC)

The author investigated the urban settlement of Satluj-Yamuna divide from 647 AD to 1947 AD. He divided the whole period into 5 groups –i) 1967 AD-1192 AD ii) 1192 AD-1707 AD iii) 1707 AD-1803 AD iv) 1803 AD-1881 AD v) 1881 AD-1943 AD.

He analysed the details of towns with cultural phases. The Partition has been instrumental in bringing about vast expansion of new existing towns and cities, though small-scale outward expansions of the towns build up areas has been normal feature in all developing towns in the region. Yet the post-partition aerial expansion of the pre-existing urban habitat has been specially rapid in the fringe areas of the large number of towns and took the form of residential industrial, civic and commercial suburban largely on planned basis. V. G. Sadasyuk (1974), in her article “Urbanisation and Spatial Structure of Indian Economy” tries to see side by side the growth of towns and the process of economic rationalisation. Sadasyuk says that India is in the phase of transition. She is trying to build up her self-sufficient growth structure through balanced development of various regions. This balanced economic growth imparts a special significance to the study of the ecology of urbanisation in this country. She tried to visualize the focal point of socio-cultural, economic, administrative and other activities as well as stabilising the process of region formation.

Sita. K. (1980) in her article has pointed out that south Konkan has low level of urbanisation and is dominated by small towns. The trend in urbanisation is shown by cartographic techniques and by locating the mean centre of urban population at successive census periods from 1901-1971. It was noticed that urbanisation process is showing a declining trend in some period due to declassification of urban centres. Moonis Raja (1985) has described the urban scene in India. He has also suggested that a holistic approach should be followed for studying the process of urbanisation. He has given much importance to the need of the study of the vertical shift of workforce as well as the horizontal mobility because in development process it becomes very significant. In his article “Is India Over-Urbanised” the author Mohit Bhattacharya (1986) has tried to probe that whether India is over-urbanised or there are some other factors due to which it appears to be over-urbanised. The urban population in India is massive in size, which gives rise to the beliefs that India is an over-urbanised country. A clear-cut picture can be presented by comparing India with developing nation in

different aspects. If we look at the industrialisation process, diversification of economy, level of income India it is found that it possess 80 percent of the attributes of developing nations. Deterioration of urban infrastructure and services cause the illusion of over-urbanisation. It is mainly due to inappropriate policies with the city and not because of inefficient city size or inefficient high rate of urbanisation.

Dwivedi, R. L. (1986), in his article has pointed that KAVAL towns are the five largest cities of Uttar Pradesh in the Ganga valley. The presence of fertile land, river and forts attracted people to settle down in these areas. Later on, increase industrialisation; effective transport facilities have contributed in the origin and growth of these towns. During the period of eighty years (1901-81), the urban population has increased many folds. Varanasi and Kanpur employ large share of workers in industry. The share of workers is higher in trade in Agra and Varanasi. Lucknow employs more in services. Household industries dominate in Varanasi, were the large scale industries are more found in Kanpur Lucknow is the capital of the state and Allahabad is recognised as the secondary capital of the state where large numbers of people are employed in government and other offices.

Ganguly (1995), through light on the increasing urban problems of overcrowding, growth of public health and sanitation system, growing unemployment among educated youths and consequent frustration among them. Vimal Khawas (2001) in his study has pointed out that North-East region of India lags behind the national average in terms of level of urbanisation .In some states like Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram the pace of urbanisation is very fast were as this situation is reverse in Manipur. There is top-heavy structure like the mainland of India Since last two decades medium towns are showing increasing trend. Dutta, Lahiri, Kuntala, and Gopa, Samanta (2001) have focused on the fact that at present there are 35 million cities while in beginning of 20th century there was only one million town i.e. Calcutta. All the million cities are different from each other and there positions in regional economies are very diverse. The younger million cities with sound industrial bases have grown at much faster rate than the older ones. There is declining importance of four mega cities. Till date, much of the urban planning in India has been oriented to cater the needs of established mega cities.

Sekhar, S. (2001) in her study has highlighted the fact that colonial cities have come in existence due to cultural contact between an industrial European colonial power and traditional agrarian economy. It can be grouped under the following phases of colonial urbanisation: a) 1500-A.D. Mercantile Colonialism: Trade of usually national product of local region, b) 1850 A.D-Industrial colonialism: Creation of new urban hierarchies, c) 1920 A.D.-Late Colonialism: High Depth and nitrification of settlement and settlements based on planning, d) 1950 A.D- Neo colonialism: Rapid Growth of indigenious, urban population and heavy pressure on urban amenities.

#### **1.7(d) Trends, patterns and processes of urbanisation:**

K. N. Singh (1966), Studied the spatial of central places in middle Ganga valley. He compared the pattern with that of south-west Wisconsin and south England as observed by Brush and Bracy. The study reveals that highly underdeveloped economic and transport patterns that operate between few urban centres and widely scattered rural settlements is neither close nor frequent. The author has tried to investigate the relationship between population size and centrality index and grading them into various size and order. The study concluded by saying that the evolutionary aspect of settlement pattern in general is the key factor behind the parallelism of spatial pattern if service centre in the region although recognizably the three regions have diverse socio-economic and cultural patterns. C. T. Kurien et al. (1979) have attempted to analyse the process behind the striking growth of new towns and the rapid increase in urban population in Tamil Nadu. For the analyses, examined the Salem and Thanjavur districts in particular, he also investigated into two aspects namely wet and dry condition as the basis of division between the region. He stated in Salem district the process of urbanization is affected by the industrial development (textile industry) in wet region but in dry region that is Thanjavur, we see that the region has grown up rapidly and spatially showing high concentration, where one finds a large proportion of loosely moving rural population.

Hanumappa, H. G. (1981), in his article he has studied the socio-economic structure of Hospet town, which is functionally related to primary activities. Author says that planning of urban area is based on knowledge of both social and economic characteristics and not only the physical needs of the town but the neighbouring villages also. This is particularly true in case of small and medium class towns than the large town and million cities.

Peterson (1979) has stated the process of urbanisation in developing countries. He feels that the rise in urbanisation process is mainly due to natural increase of the urban population. In his study he has surveyed and collected data from 29 developing countries and has found that 24 of them have faster of natural increase as compared to the net migration. Ghosh, S. (1987) has forwarded his opinion that urbanization does not occur evenly over space and time. It is because factors leading to urbanisation changes from one region to another and from one period of time to another. Like in ancient time towns grew due to surplus of agricultural products and concentration of political power. But, today, organized commerce and manufacturing technology are the new forces of urbanisation.

According to author N. D. Singh (1986), during the decade 1971-1981 it is seen that there is a shift in the functional specialisation in towns in Manipur. On the basis of the distribution of workers the towns of Manipur are categorised as monofunctional, bi-functional and multifunctional. Monofunctional towns dominate Manipur. In 1981 there were 21 monofunctional towns out of 32 towns. Monofunctional towns have weak economic base and lack in dynamism. Only two towns were bi-functional in 1981. And there were 10 multifunctional towns in 1971 as well as in 1981. Except Imphal, most of the towns are new which are in there early stage of development. Many of them have agriculture as basic function for there rural hinterland they play the role of central places by performing certain functions and services. In his article,

Deka, P. (1986) has thrown light on the spatial and temporal pattern of urbanisation in the North-Eastern states of India. All the states experience high growth of urban population as compared to the national average. In the growth rate of urban population is very fast in some states. In 1981, Manipur was the most urbanized state (26%), which was followed by Mizoram (25%). But the growth of urban population was higher in Mizoram (225%), followed by Manipur (164%) during 1971-1981. among all the north-eastern states Meghalaya was the only state in the region showing relatively slower growth of urban population and degree of urbanisation. In his article the author K. C. Mahanta (1989), had traced the growth of Dibrugarh town. He has also tried to evaluate the influence of town on the life of people who are living in the surrounding areas of Dibrugarh town. According to the study it had little impact on the day-to-day life of people. It is mostly occupied by the people migrated from the

northern part of India. The existence of town in the area did not affect the life style of villagers for a long time. But now the affect is realized. It can be seen through rural-urban migration, education, occupation; concept of health care etc. the rural-urban migration has increased manifolds. Likewise, there is a spread of education, diversification of occupation. The villagers have started visiting medical practitioners instead of going for witchcraft or sorcery. It has also affected the kinship pattern.

Ramachandran, R. (1989), has observed that it was due to British policy that the few major port cities were developed which were at that time small urban canters which collected the regional surpluses from the hinterland and exported it to the colonist countries. He also observed that other than few port towns, Britishers have created several hiss stations to look after the plantation economy, introduced railway network for efficient collection and distribution of goods and opened up few mining sites, which indirectly led to the development of few industrial townships. Due to the colonizers policy of exploitation of wealth, only a few settlements got transformed into huge urban centres, which they have used, for their own benefits. British rule had a negative impact on the urbanization process of India and this was the period when urban stagnation and slow growth was a feature of colonial period.

Weinstein, J. (1991), in his article explores some of the complexities of India's urban growth since its first post-independence census of 1951. Two level of analysis are persuade as they affect one another, the demographic changes on one hand and changes in living condition on another hand. The author has arrived to the conclusion that the process of 'erosion' of traditional society is occurring, but in a slow pace. the intermediate regional capitals are experiencing most rapid growth, though the growth is occurring in all size class cities . R. K. (2001), in his study reveals the regional pattern of urbanisation in Jharkhand which is identified on the basis of five indicators viz. a) decadal urban growth, b) percentage of urban population to total population, c) percentage of population of towns (>20,000 persons) to total urban population, d) urban centres of over one lakh population and e) relative distance between urban centres. Among the five indicators almost all are unfavourable for the development of the area. In terms of urbanization it can be said that there are only few developing pockets. The western part is quite backward and the rest is underdeveloped.



### **1.7(e) Urban Problems:**

Readdy, I. and Bhaskar, U. while attempting to redefine process in India, the author have tried to obtain the rate to increase in urban population and growth in number of cities from 1911-1981. They have also worked on growth of urban population in different size class of urban centres for 1981. Some of the serious problems associated with large cities are housing shortage, growth of slums, congestion insufficient civic amenities, inadequate transport facilities and pollution. They have also suggested some measures to tackle these problems. These are related to introduction of developmental programs in the backward regions in order to check the rural-urban migration, provision of better housing facilities to urban dwellers, improvement in living conditions in the slums, reduction in pollution levels by relocation of industrial sites and environmental education to city dwellers.

Kundu, A. (1980) reflecting on urban problems states that the large urban agglomeration in India has expanded beyond the limits of their economic base. The top heavy structure is reflected clearly when we see more and more of its urban population is tending to agglomerate in a disproportionately small number of urban conurbations. In the settlement pattern the base is being represented by thousands of village facing virtual stagnation and the apex by a few metropolitan cities and class one town, which suggests an extremely inefficient organization of space. This has generated a wide range of stress and strain within the Indian policy. Bhattacharya, M. (1990) in his article has proposed to indicate the urbanisation trend in India and has also focused on some of the major problems resulting from the urbanisation process. The census report of 1971 unbalanced distribution of urban population among the states. In case of civic amenities the supply varies from locality to locality. Its supply is irregular in the economically depressed classes and localities. The urbanisation trend and problem in urban areas specially the bigger ones caught the attention of national planners at times of formulation of third five-year plan. The main objective of third five-year plan was to promote orderly growth of population in bigger cities and smaller towns. New tools and techniques are being tried out to come to firm grip within the problem of urban areas. Ganguly, J.B. (1995)<sup>ku</sup> Throws on increasing urban problems of crowding and growth of slums, scarcity of water supply, inadequacies of public health and sanitation system, growing unemployment among educated youths and consequent frustration them.

Nagpaul, H. (1996), In his book has highlighted the facts that there is an urgent need to develop indigenous strategies to improve the living condition in terms of education, housing, income and health which is miserable for large part of population. The majority is devoid of these facilities .He has presented the theoretical framework of industrialisation, modernization and urbanisation. The beaurocratic administration can help to deliver the basic amenities of life on the wider scale .The metropolitan cities have experienced structural changes especially in four metropolitan cities of India. In future it will lead to some basic problems. The author has forwarded several suggestions to reduce it .The rise in the level of urbanisation has led to the increase in the gap between rich and poor. The author pleads for launching a war against poverty by introducing various programs and which will result in wider distribution of modern benefits. It will also help in preventing concentration of wealth and income. In India first five year plan was introduced in the year 1952. It has brought considerable change in all aspects of society. Still small percentage of population has benefited mostly out of this programme. Modernisation, industrialisation and urbanisation are not successful in solving the problem of unemployment, poverty, ill health and environmental problems. Therefore, there is an urgent need of suitable indigenous economy and social planning, development of appropriate planning and its implementation.

According to Warter Ellen (2001) Poverty is a deficiency of necessities essential for human survival and existence. The author has challenged the threatening urban poverty as a conceptual category. He has discussed that the urban poverty alleviation strategies are different in north and south. The difference is mainly because of the conceptualisation of urban poverty is different .He has also talked about the concept of urban poverty in historical perspectives. In his article ‘The Population Problems of India in the 21<sup>st</sup> century’,

Ashish Bose (1997) has reviewed a number of problems related to population that India would face in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are issues like employment, energy and water supply, relations between fertility and illiteracy and high level of infant mortality the relation between falling mortality and raising the level of morbidity, regional demographic imbalances, rapid urbanization and weakening infrastructure, information and communication issues and the extreme difference in the size and manageability of the various states of India.

In his book the author Narobam Deva (1998), has tried to find out the organization of urban settlement of Manipur, which is based on 32 urban centres in the state in the year 1981. Imphal became the capital of the kingdom of Manipur. The origin & development of settlement started from the central valley of Manipur. Imphal is the primate city of the state. If we see the rank size of Imphal it is more than 8 times greater than the second ranked town. It has become the economic focus of the state and therefore attracted migrants from different parts of Manipur. The rank size distribution of urban centres shows the irregularity in the hierarchy of urban settlements. About two-third of the urban centres have agro-based economy. There is a high degree of centralisation of functions in Imphal, which has resulted in imbalance in economic development and regional pattern. Finally, he has suggested some measures to overcome the obstacles in development. According to him transport and communication links should be improved intensive survey should be undertaken to assess the land use pattern, characteristics of settlement etc., integrated economic development, decentralize administrative offices etc, it can help in reducing the imbalance in regional pattern of urban settlement in Manipur. V. P. Dubey et al. (1998), have provided an analytical study about the urban problems in Punjab After independence there was large-scale influx of migrants. Consequently, pressure on urban infrastructure has increased tremendously. Cities in Punjab are growing faster and the urban population tends to concentrate in the large towns. With rapid pace of urbanisation and industrialisation urban pollution is also on increase. Also the transport facilities have not increased proportionately. Ramachandran, C. (1998), in his article has highlighted the rising air pollution in Hyderabad and Secundrabad city as a result of increase in number of vehicles in late eighties and nineties. There is significant rise in the density of vehicles per square kilometres, which has resulted in more traffic jams, and emission of higher level of HCs and CO.

Alam, K. et al. (2001), in their book the authors have focused on the growing problems like economic, demographic, infrastructure, ecological etc. There was rapid growth of population after it became the capital of Assam. It includes internal as well international migration. After becoming capital it became the central place of transport, trade and administration in the state. Rapid population growth is accompanied with parallel expansion in the economy. Increase in industrial and commercial activities in Guahati has led to an increase in air water and soil pollution,

which has become a serious concern. The drainage system has become inefficient especially during the flood season. These issues should be explained in scientific manner so that it may contribute to planned growth.

According to De, U. S. and Dandekare, M. M, natural disaster is caused due to weather related processes. The impact of natural hazards is further exacerbated due to rising population. The greatest increase population is expected in the mega cities of the developing countries. Its impact can be reduced by adopting various measures like improved prediction and warning against extreme weather events, greater awareness among public for warnings, identification of vulnerable zones, scientific planning of the city, improved measure health and sanitation to prevent disease during summer and rainy seasons. Nisha Singh (2001), seeks to draw attention to the problems of slums of Delhi and the need of multi-dimensional approach towards development so that they are enabled to live better life. Most of the slum dwellers live in a marginal, sub-humane condition. Since 1950, several policies have been introduced but the scheme has not fully reached the target group. The problem is viewed as the problem of unauthorised encroachment of public land. These slum dwellers are providing small services, which are of utmost demand in the cities. The lack of comfortable habitation leads to lack of capacity building, growth and empowerment of these persons. The author suggests. The author suggests that the problem of slum has to be solved with a mix of regulatory measures, proper land management provision of socio-economic services, and dispersal of economic activities and creation of opportunities of economic development in smaller urban areas.

### **1.8 Study Area**

The area selected for this study is the seven North-Eastern states of India. North-East India comprises of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The geographical extent of this entire region is between 21.57-29.30 north latitude and 88-97.30 East longitudes. This region is connected with the rest of India only through narrow corridor in North Bengal.

**a) Physical Background:** North East India is most hilly. About 70% of the region is hilly and the topography varies within each state. The plains of this region are mainly made up of separate landmasses-the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley in

Assam and the Tripura plains in the south. In Manipur the valley small comprises only 10% of the total area of the total area of the state. The flora and fauna of this region is numerous and varied. The Brahmaputra and Barak Valley forms the major river system in this region.

In Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the annual intensity of rainfall reaches the maximum of about 1080 cm around Cherrapunji and Mawsynram (having the highest rainfall in the world). It is significantly low in the rain shadow area of Nagaon district in Assam. About two-third of the annual total rainfall occurs during the four monsoon months of June to September.

**b) Demographic Background:** At present, the population at the N.E region constitutes about 3.75% of the total population of the country. The region is marked by uneven spatial distribution of population among the constituent states, the primary reason being the plains and valleys offer more congenial conditions for absorption of population than the hills and difficult terrain.

**c) Urbanisation Process in North-Eastern States:** Urbanisation in these regions has a long history that started before the Britishers. The earliest urban characters were mainly the capital cities built by different rulers. With the advent of Britisher and subsequent colonization of the Indian soil, centres for collection and other related activities along with development of administrative activities. Partition of India affected the towns by changing the population size and area of towns. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw tremendous pace in the level of urbanisation in this region. Although there are states, which are still struggling in this regard, states like Mizoram are witnessing urbanisation above the national average.

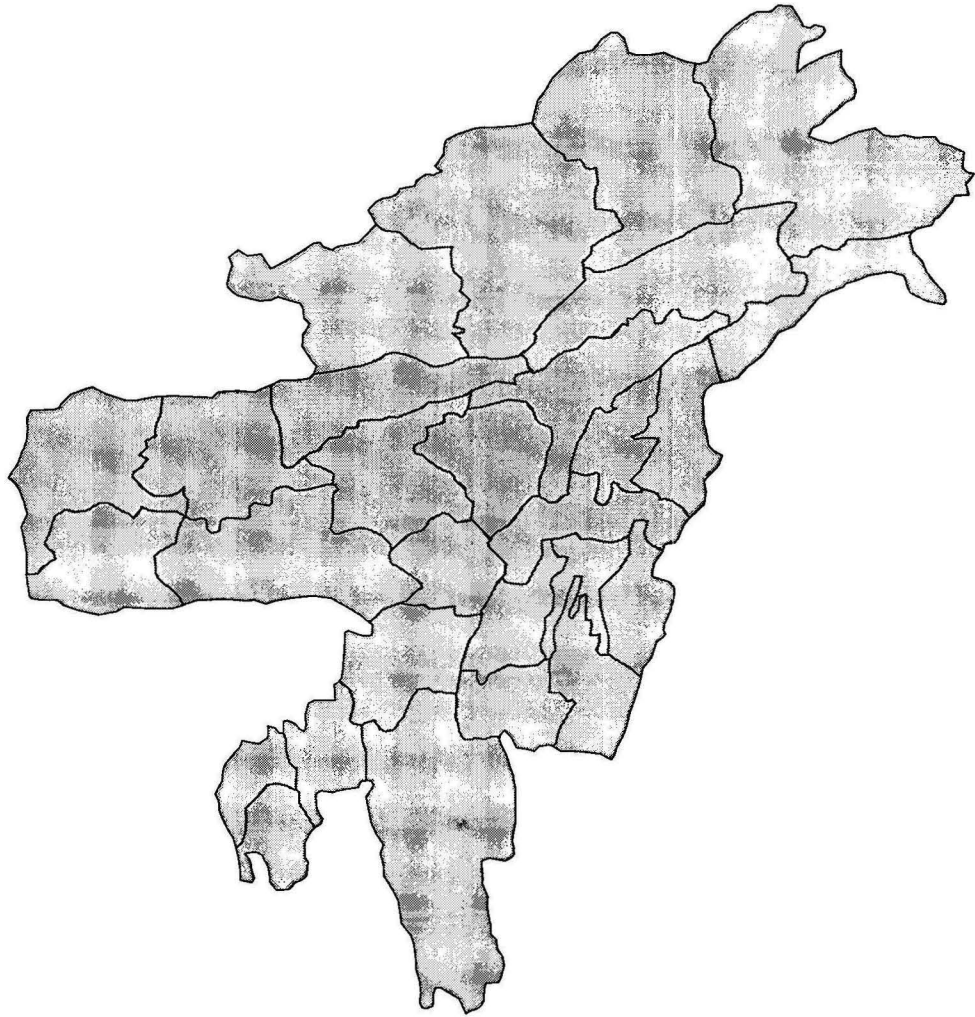
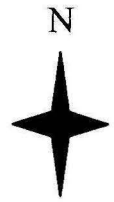
The trend in the level of urbanisation across the states highlights some peculiar features different from rest of India. The states like Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were without urban population in the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century and that as of today they are most urbanised states in the region. States like Manipur with high level of urbanisation right in the onset of the century saw tremendous decline in the major part of the century. There are a number of states that are still struggling to get urbanised and are relatively behind in the ladder.

## **Arunachal Pradesh**

Arunachal Pradesh is 24<sup>th</sup> state in Indian Territory, bounded by Bhutan in west, Myanmar in east, China to the north and North-East and the plains of Assam to the south. Arunachal is the largest state area-wise in the North-East region. The region has remained isolated since 1873 when the British stopped free movement. After 1947, Arunachal became the part of the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA). Its strategic significance was demonstrated by the Chinese invasion in 1962, and the Indian government subsequently broke up the agency giving statehood to all the territories surrounding Assam. It is spread over an area of 83578 sq. km. The land is mostly mountainous with the Himalayan range along the northern border criss-cross with ranges running North-South. These divide the state into five-river valley: the Kameng, the Subansiri, the Siang, the Lohit and the Tirap. All these are snow fed from the Himalayas. Siang, which is known as Tsangpo in Tibet, becomes Brahmaputra. After Dibang and Lohit in the plains of Assam joins it. Thousands of species of flora and fauna covers more than 60% of its total area. The tree of great size, plentiful climbers and abundance of cane and bamboo makes it evergreen. The wild life includes elephants, tigers, leopards, jungle, white gibbons, red pandas, musk etc.

There are 26 major tribes and a number of tribes living in the state. The first group of people is Monpas and the Sherdukpens of Tawang and west Kameng districts. They follow the Lamaistic tradition of Mahayan Buddhism. The second group of people are Adis. Akas, Apatanis, Bangnis, Nishings, Mishmis, Mijis, and Tangsas etc. who worship the sun and the moon, the original ancestor for most of the tribes. The third group comprises of Notces and Wanchos who live in the adjoining Nagaland in Tirap district.

**Study Area**



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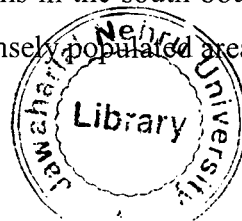
The whole population of Arunachal Pradesh can be divided into three cultural groups on the basis of their socio-political religious affinities. The Monpas and Sherdukpens in Kameng and Tawang districts, who met the Tibetans in the north adopted Lamaisam of the Buddhist faith, while the Kamptis in Lohit district practice Mahayana Buddhism. The second group Noctes and Wanchosin Tirap district, converted to Hindus. The third group comprises of Adi, Akas Apatanis and Nishings, maintain their ancient beliefs and indigenous concept of nature and worship-the Donyi-Polo.

For about 35% of population of Arunachal Pradesh, agriculture is the main occupation. The main crop is rice, grown on the valley bottom and on some terraced slopes. Maize, millets, pulses, potatoes, wheat and mustard are the important crops. There is no large scale manufacturing industry, though some coal and lignite are mined. The principle industries are forest-based industries. Deposits of dolomite, limestone, graphite, quartzite, kyanite, mica iron -ore, copper ore have also been reported.

### Assam

Assam is the gateway to the North-East. Known in the ancient lore as the kingdom of Pragjyotisha and Kamrup, the capital having been Pragjyotishpura situated in or near Guahati. The name Assam is of recent origin. It came into use after the conquest of Ahoms. Assam comprises an area of 78,523sq.km. Except for the district of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hill. Assam is generally composed of plains and river valleys. The Brahmaputra valley is the dominant physical feature of Assam. The elongated valley of river Brahmaputra wholly occupies northern part of Assam

Nature has ungrudgingly blessed Assam with an abundance of wealth of rare and near extinct wildlife. It forms the part of global bio-diversity "hotspot", out of 41 listed endangered species of wildlife is founding Assam which includes Golden Langur, Hoolock Gibbon, Pygmy Hog, Hispid Hare, Clouded Leopard, Gangetic Dolphins etc. The ethnic origin of Assamese varies from Mangoloid tribe to those of directly of Indian stock .At present most of the Assam's live in the valley and foot hills in the north and the lower ranges of hills and mountains in the south bound the valley. The central part of Assam and the Barak valley is densely populated area.



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About 63% of the states work force is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. More than 79% of the total cropped area is utilized for food crops production. Rice is the principle food crop. Jute tea, cotton, oilseed, sugarcane, potato, and fruits are the main cash crops. Forest accounts for 22.41% of total states area Assam holds a unique position in respect to mineral oil production Assam has three refineries at Digboi, Noonmati, and Bongaigaon and the fourth one is a petro-chemical complex at Numaligarh. Assam is the largest producer of the golden colored Muga Silk.

### **Manipur**

Manipur means the 'land of gems' .It was once princely state under the British rule in 1891.A democratic form of government with Maharaja as the executive head was established in 1947,under the Manipur Constitution Act. The territory became full-fledged state with the integration on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1972.The valley of Manipur is spread over an area of 22,356 km. The climate of Manipur is healthy .The rainfall varies from 149 cm in the valley to 380 cm in the western hills. The cultivable area in the valley is full of clay and silt. The hilly regions are largely composed of slates and shales having letritic soil in the low hills. The natural vegetation occupies an area of nearly 67%of the total geographical area. The wet forest, the temperate forest and the pine forest occur between 900-2700 m above sea level. The Hooklock Gibbon, the Slow Loirs, clouded Leopard, the spotted Lingshang, four different types of Hornbill etc forms only a part of rich natural heritage of the state.

Manipur is a place where different waves of races and culture met through the ages, which ultimately mingled together. The major part of population is of Manipuries known as Meities. There are 29 tribes inhabiting Manipur hill may broadly be divided into Nagas and Kukis. Agriculture is the main activity of the people. About 88% of the total working population in the hills and 60%of the working population in the valley depends entirely on the agriculture and allied pursuits like animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry. The staple food is rice and the minor agriculture produces are tobacco sugarcane, mustard, etc. Handloom industry is the largest cottage industry in Manipur, with the finished items often been exported.

## **Meghalaya**

Meghalaya, is a Sanskrit word meaning “the abode of cloud”, was created as an autonomous state on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1970. The full fledged state of Meghalaya came into existence on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1972. It is bounded by Assam on north and east, and on south and east by Bangladesh. It occupies a total area of 22429 sq. kms. The three physical divisions in the state are Garo (western), Khasi (central), and Jaintia (eastern) hill divisions. Meghalaya is endowed with a rich variety of flora and fauna. Of about 17000 species of orchids in the world 3000 varieties are found in Meghalaya. Animals and birds that are found in the state are elephants, tigers, bear, jackal, leopard, golden langurs etc.

According to census the total population of the state in 2001 was 2,306,069 persons. The sex ratio in the state was 974 females per thousand males. The fairly high sex ratio in the state can be attributed to the existing matrilineal society in some tribes. Meghalaya is mainly a Christianly-dominated state. Before the arrival of Christian missionaries the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, most natives followed tribal religion.

Meghalaya is basically an agricultural state in which about 80% of its population is dependent primarily in agriculture for livelihood. The major food crops are rice and maize, besides Meghalaya is also known for its oranges, pineapple, banana jackfruit, temperate fruits like plums, peaches and pears etc. The popular cash crops are turmeric, ginger, black pepper, tapioca; short staple cotton, jute and Mesta, mustard and rapeseed. The rich mineral deposit including mica gypsum and coal are unexploited.

## **MIZORAM:**

Mizoram is a mountainous region, sandwiched between Myanmar in the east and south and Bangladesh and Tripura in the west with northern frontier touching Assam and Manipur states. It has an 1100 km international boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Mizoram was one of the districts of Assam till 1972. In 1972 it became a Union Territory. It became the 23<sup>rd</sup> state of the Indian Territory on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987.

The hills are steep with an average height of 900 meters. The highest peak of Mizoram is the Blue Mountain with a height of 2210 m. The tropical forest have a wide variety of flora and fauna. The jungles are the homes to tigers, wild boars, leopards, monkeys, sambars and elephants.

Historians believe that the Mizos are the part of the great waves of Mongolian race spilling over the eastern and southern India centuries ago. Mizos are of Mongoloid origin, speaking dialect of Tibeto-Burman origin. The five major tribes are-Lushei, Ralte, Hmar, Paihte, Pawi. These tribes have maintained their respective dialects. They came under the influence of the British missionaries in the 18th century and today the majority of Mizos are Christians by faith. The literacy rate is second highest in the country. The Mizos are close-knit society with no class distinction and discrimination on grounds of sex, status or religion. Mizos are agriculturists, practicing “Jhum Cultivation” or slash and burn system of cultivation. Agriculture is the mainstay for about 60% of population of Mizoram. Maize and paddy are cultivated in the hill slopes. Pulses, sugarcane, tobacco, ginger, potato, banana and pineapple are other crops grown in the state. Forests account for nearly 21% of the area. Mizoram has no major industry. The cottage industry comprises of handloom and handicrafts.

### **Nagaland**

Nagaland is the 16th state of India. It received the designation of state on 1st December, 1963. Prior to 1st December; 1957 Naga Hills district was one of the districts of Assam. The total area of the state is 16,579 Sq. Km. It is bounded by Assam in the north, North-West and west Burma and Arunachal Pradesh in the east and Manipur in the south. Accepting some plain areas on its south-western side like Dimapur plain, the rest of Nagaland is completely a hilly region. The hills are the continuation of the Burma Arc being joined with the sub-Himalayan ranges in the north and stretching into the hills of Manipur. There are plenty of hill streams flowing in the different parts of the state. The important rivers of Nagaland are the Dhansiri, the Diyung, the Tizu, the Dikhu, the Jhanji, the Zungki, the Tejang and the Langnyu. The climate of the state is comparable with that of the hill regions of the country. According to the Statistical Handbook of Nagaland the average rainfall of the state is 1,791.13 mm. Forests cover a large part of land. Among the animals most

common are the wild boar, Himalayan black bear, barking deer, jackal, jungle cat, royal Bengal tiger, wolf leopard, python, elephant, land tortoise etc. The Nagas who are demographically Mongoloid are divided into nearly 40 tribes. Some of them are Angami, Sema, Lotha, Ao, Tangkhul, Rengma etc. The total population of the state, according to 2001 census is 19,88,636 persons and the population density is 120 persons per sq. km. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main occupations of the Nagas. Secondary sector is not well developed; mainly industries are based on local forest product. The state possesses natural oil reserves. Coal and limestone are now commercially extracted in the state.

### **TRIPURA:**

Tripura is the ancient home of Bodos. The latitudinal extent of the state ranges between 22.56°degrees north to 24° 32' degree north and between 91° 0'and 92° 20'degree east longitude. The present area of the state is 10,066 sq. km. It is encircled on almost three sides by Bangladesh; it is linked with Assam and Mizoram in Northeast. About 56.52% of the total geographical area is forested which can roughly be divided into four types, viz, Sal, Garjan, Bamboo and miscellaneous species.

According to 2001 census, the total population of the state is 3,191,168 and the density is 304 persons per sq. km. The highlands are the area of sparse population whereas the plains are densely populated. There are people of all religious groups. Hindus are predominant probably because of the ancient rulers were Hindus. Tripura lacks a firm industrial base, there are some small scale manufacturing units. Rice is the main crop. Jute, tea, cotton and tea are some important cash crops. Sugarcane, mustard and potatoes are also grown. Exports from the states include plywood pulp; articles manufactured out of bamboo, timber and canned fruit.

### **1.9 Chapterisation Scheme**

1. Introduction
2. Processes and pattern of urbanisation in North-East India.
3. Levels and trends of urbanisation in India and North-Eastern states.
4. Regional pattern of distribution and growth of towns in North –East India
5. Functional classification of towns North-Eastern states.
6. Conclusion.

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**CHAPTER II**  
**PROCESSES OF URBANISATION IN**  
**NORTH-EAST INDIA**

# Processes of Urbanisation in North East India

## **2.1 Introduction**

There can be hardly any single definition of urbanisation, which is acceptable to all. In the demographer's view the level of urbanisation of a country or region usually denotes the proportion of population enumerated in urban areas at a given point of time. Geographers study the urban pattern with the help of mapping, interpreting and projecting the distribution of population employment, social and economic characteristics, tariff moment and physical facilities. Sociologists take it as a causal factor leading to modernisation or as a process of diffusion of certain modernization traits. Similarly, economists think it as a product of increasing specialization and advancing technology, which results from the primary to tertiary activities.

Lampard, L. L. (1965), gives a broad but conceptually meaningful definition. According to him "urbanisation is a way of ordering a population to attain a certain level of subsistence and scarcity in a given environment". Defining broadly, V. L. S. Prakash Rao says, "Urbanisation is a process which relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural occupations and concentration of non-agricultural land uses in a specialized area, a place as a consequence of population, occupational and land use shifts". According to the Census Monograph (1984), "Urbanisation is a socio-economic outcome of the process of economic development and industrial growth. It represents the spatial dimension of the process of economic fracturing units and localities become increasingly specialised." All the above views, however, bring down to the core meaning of urbanisation, i.e. it is a process through which a predominantly rural population gets urbanised.

The process of urbanisation can broadly be classified into two types: a) the self-induced process, and b) the superimposed process. When urbanisation occurs due to

the forces that arise out of local conditions, it can be self-induced. Under such circumstances villages with certain advantages transform themselves into urban centre; the effect of such urbanisation is experienced by the whole region although the intensity varies from place to place. The Indus valley or Mesopotamian urbanisation was through such process.

Superimposed urbanisation occurs due to the impact of a foreign culture to a region. The effect is the rapid transformation of an individual settlement. The impact upon the region is very little initially. But the spread effect is seen in the later period. The self-induced urbanisation depends upon surplus production. An agricultural society, due to some technological breakthrough, may start producing more than necessity of food production. This result in two things that did not exist before: a) emergence of group of people who can control surplus production and b) the surplus goods that is not necessary used for consumption can be used for trade or for other purpose. This creates three main urban characteristics of leisure, power and commerce.

## **2.2 Processes of Urbanisation**

At a given point of time, there is not a single but several processes of urbanisation at work. All the processes of urbanisation are interlinked. Broadly, these processes can be classified into the following categories:

1. Historical Processes
2. Geographical Processes
3. Demographic Processes
4. Economic Processes and
5. Political and Administrative Processes.

### **2.3 Brief History of North East India**

The early history of the region is quiet obscure. The people in the region had a mixture of Dravidian origin, but in the river valley of Brahmaputhra the inhabitants were of Mongolian origin who had migrated from Western China, through several channels, mostly along the banks of Brahmaputra. The main channel of movement was most probably along the banks of Brahmaputhra. Each group of immigrants was forced from behind to move westward or turned towards the hills of Assam range.

#### **Legends from Hindu sources:**

The region was first mentioned in the epics of Gangetic India. Various places mentioned in Mahabharata are identified with sites in the region. The temple of Kamakhya is famous from very ancient times. *Kalika Purana and Jogani Tantra* preserves the name of many kings along with *Naraka* who was the reputed founder of famous city of *Pragyajyothishapura* or the modern Guahati.

#### **Hieun Tsaing's Description:**

Hieun Tsaing a Chinese pilgrim provides the first reliable source of the history of region. He visited the region in 640 A.D. At that time, Bhaskar Varman was the king of Kamarupa who followed Brahminical religion. Kamarupa had perhaps achieved the zenith of its power during the time.

The period between the Kamarupa kingdom and the arrival of Ahoms in 13<sup>th</sup> century, the land experienced instability because no single power could hold sway. Ahoms entered Assam through the eastern hills in 1228. Thereafter, the next 6 centuries belonged to Ahoms who founded the powerful dynastic rule with their capital in Sibsagar of upper Assam. The power of Ahom continued to grow and their territory expanded. There was almost constant warfare between them and their neighborhood.

Meanwhile Mughal Emperors challenged the unprecedented rise of the power of the Ahomes. Several militant expeditions were led by Mughals but all in vein. The last battle between Mughals and Ahoms was fought at Saraighat where Ahoms defeated Mughals under its general Lichit Barphukan.

Burmese invaded the region through the eastern borders. They became the ruler of the land until the arrival of British power. In 1862, they were forced to cede by the treaty of Yandaboo. Britishers appeared in the scene in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They continued to rule the region till 1947 when the country achieved its independence.

#### **2.4 Historical Process of Urbanisation:**

*“We shall not obtain the best insight into things until we actually see them growing from the beginning”.*

Aristotel

It is very difficult to know exactly when and where did the first settlement evolved in North East India. Earlier the hunting and food gathering based population depended totally on natural resources like forest and forest products. Gradually the people started agricultural activities. But slash and burn agriculture did not helped much for the production of surplus agricultural goods. Despite of this fact, it contributed to settlement of the people in the region. Gradually the technological improvement resulted in surplus production of food. Consequently a part of population pursued other economic activities. The change in the economic system along with the political system subsequently changed the social structure and settlement morphology.

The historical account of very few towns is available in North East India. Very small number of towns evolved in ancient times in this region. These towns were mainly the capital of ruling classes. Guahati is one of those towns. Guahati occupies an important place in the history of the North-East India. Various literature talks about the growth

and importance of Guahati city. Guahati, in ancient India was popularly known as *Prayagjyotishpura*. At present Guahati is popularly known as the Gateway of North-East.

As it is the biggest city of the region, the growth of Guahati is dealt in detail. It is followed by the historical growth of other towns. *Pragyajyotishpura* is mentioned in the ancient literature of India. The Kalika Purana, a work of the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. says- “Formerly Brahma stayed here and created stars; hence the city is called as *Pragyajyotishpura*, a city which is equal to the city of Indra”. Gait (1963), writes “*Prayagjyotishpura* means former or eastern and Jyotisha, a star, astrology, shining. *Pragyajyotishpura* may therefore mean the city of Eastern Astrology.

According to Adi Kand in Ramayana, *Amurtaja established Pragyajyotishpura*. The Kiskinya Kanda of the same epic refers to Narakas capital of *Prayagjyotishpura* as being situated in the Varaha mountain in the sea. The Varaha mountain here refers to the hilly area extending from Kamakhya to the old Pandu railway station and the sea means *Lauhitya Sagar*. (viz The Brahmaputra). It is also confirmed by *Brihatsamhita* (5th century A.D.) that the town of Prayagjyotishpura in Kamrupa existed. Naraka, the earliest king of Kamarupa established his capital at *Prayagjyotishpura* and seems to have been powerful and prosperous king.

*Pragyajyotishpura* was the center of solar cult and astronomical culture. According to Kalika Purana first calculation of stars was made here. The *Markandya Purana* refers to the existence of sun temple known as *Guruvisala* in Prayagjyotishpura. The ancient archeological remains in and around Guahati such as *Navgraha* temple, the evidence of an observatory on Sarania hill. This belief is supported by stone images of God Surya (Arun God) found throughout the length and breadth of the town.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. the present capital town was established on the southern outskirts of the present Guahati, the city was comprised with present Beltola and Narkasur hill. During 11-13 century A.D. the city included the northern bank of Brahmaputra (north Guahati) evidence of which is found from the *Kanibarasi* rock inscription, the *Asvakalanta* temple, etc. The city was well protected by natural barriers like hills and rivers and man made defenses like earthen fortification and mounds with well guarded entrances or chowkis on both the banks. Because of its importance many ruling dynasties made this place as their capital town. "Huge tanks in the neighborhood of Guahati and bricks and mortar found in every direction beneath the soil show that it must once have been a place of great importance" (Allen, 1905).

These were supposed to have been constructed by Pala kings who ruled the lower and central Assam in the 17<sup>th</sup> century A.D. After the disappearance of Palas, the next dynasty about which we have certain record is the Koch. Guahati was once the capital of Koch King who was succeeded by the Ahoms during the last part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Koch King Parikshit (1593-1614) mounted cannons at Pandunath, one of the ancient towns on the west of Kamakhya hill, and built a town at North Guahati. The Chinese pilgrim Yuan Chawng visited *Pragyajyotishpura* in 640 A. D. during the regime of Bhaskarvarman. According to him *Pragyajyotishpura* was 6 miles in circuit and the kingdom was 1675 miles around. The inhabitants were simple, hospitable, tolerant and lovers of learning.

#### **Guahati in Ahom Period (1625-1826 A.D.)**

Ahom rulers extended their reign up to the Kamrup district. In the year 1625 A.D. they took over this district from Koch rulers. During their rule that the old name *Prayagjyotishpura* was lost and Guahati was the new name given to the place. Ahom king appointed a viceroy to rule over Kamrup and Guahati was selected as the



constituted regional headquarters of the king's viceroy. Thus, new history was created through the action of Ahoms in the city of Guahati. In fact, it was the most important city in the western part of their kingdom and was highly fortified city.

During the Ahom period Guahati became the provincial capital of the western region and served as the bulwark against the Muslim invasion. Mir Jumla entered Gargaon the capital of Assam in 1662 A.D. But they were very badly defeated in the hands of Ahom soldiers and retreated in 1663 A. D. down to the valley of Brahmaputra and after facing lots of hardship reached Bengal. Four years later Guahati was once again occupied by Ahoms but they could control it only for the duration of 5 years. In 1672 Muhammad found themselves able to reoccupy the town. In 1681 Ahom king Gadadar Singha reoccupied Guahati and from 1681 onwards Guahati continued to be the provincial capital of the western region of the Ahom king till 1826 A.D.

#### **Guahati During the British Period (1826-1947):**

When British took the administration of Assam in 1826 the south Guahati was given more importance because of the administrative strings of Calcutta. The British shifted the capital to Shillong. As the sanitary condition was very bad at that time and mortality rate among British troops was quite high. For this reason the administration constituted a town for the first time in 1836 (Rao, 1965), in Guahati. The successful working committee in Guahati attracted the attention of government and eventually Guahati was constituted as 1st class municipality in the year 1878. The area occupied as municipality at that time was 6.5 sq. km. with a total population of 11,492 people. It was connected by Shillong with a narrow earthen road. Gradually several roads were constructed.

The other important towns in North-east India were Sibsagar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Silchar, Shillong, Kohima, and Dimapur etc. But not much detailed information is found

regarding the evolution of these towns. Almost all of these towns started developing as urban centers after the arrival of British in these places.

**Sibsagar:** Sibsaagar was once the capital of the Ahom rulers who dominated Assam for more than 600 years. They ruled Assam virtually uninterrupted for 6 centuries until their kingdom fell to the British, in 1826.

**Jorhat :** Jorhat also known as Jorehaut, means two hats or mandis-“Macharhat” and “Chowkihat” which existed on the two different banks of the river Bhogdoi during the 18th Century, Jorhat was the last capital of the Ahom Kingdom. In the year 1794 the Ahom King Gaurinath shifted the capital from Sibsaagar while Rangpur to Jorhat. This town was a flourishing and commercial metropolis but completely destroyed after a series of the Burmese Invasions since 1817 till the arrival of the British force in the year 1824 under the Stewardship of David Scott and Captain Richard.

The British Rule, though, was not free from rebellions and revolutions, contributed to reemergence of this historical town. The British system of administration came into vogue in the year 1839 with an established Police Thana. In 1885, a narrow gauge train services Jorhat Provincial Railway had come into operation and ultimately became instrumental in rapid growth of the tea industry.

Though, the Civil Sub-division under Sibsaagar district at Jorhat was formed in 1869, this great place was declared as administration headquarters of the undivided Sibsaagar district in 1911 which comprised of the present Sibsaagar, Jorhat and Golaghat and parts of Karbi-Anglong district.

**Tezpur:** Historical ruins of 8th-9th century dot the surrounding areas of the town. They bear resemblance to the Gupta period art. Accordingly there are plenty of myths as well. The ruins of Da Parbatia are a suitable example of the architecture around the 4th Century AD.

Modern Tezpur was founded by the British colonial administration in 1835 as the headquarters of Darrang district. After independence of India in 1947, it remained the headquarters of Darrang district. During the Indo-China war of 1962 the Chinese army came close to the town and the town had to be evacuated. In 1983 a part of the district was carved out to form a separate district, named Darrang. Tezpur became the headquarters of the new district of Sonitpur.

**Silchar:** Present Cachar district was also controlled by Britishers. It was administered from Cherrapunji which was the head quarters of the agents of Governor General. Lieutenant Fisher found it difficult to administer from Cherrapunji. Soon the head quarter was shifted to Silchar for the sake of convenience. Since then Silchar evolved as a urban centre.

**Shillong:** Shillong was a very small village until 1864, when it became the new civil station of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Before the entrance of British in this region it had a little urban base. The emergence of Shillong as a urban center is deeply linked with its contact with colonial economy. It had a huge variety of flora and fauna. Its suitable climate attracted British to shift the capital of this region to Shillong. It remained the summer capital of eastern Bengal and Assam for many years. In January it became the capital of newly formed state of Meghalaya.

**Imphal:** For a long time majority of the Manipuri people lived in the hills of the state. But gradually there was a shift of people from hills to the valley of Imphal due to its favorable conditions Imphal. Later on it became the site for royal palace for a long time. It became the centre of administration which was accompanied by few trading centres. As other North-Eastern states it was also occupied by British.

**Kohima:** Kohima was the first seat of modern administration as the Headquarter of Naga Hills District (then under Assam) with the appointment of G.H. Damant as

Political Officer in 1879. When Nagaland became a full fledged state on 1st December 1963, Kohima was christened as the state capital.

In short we can say that urbanisation has a long history in this region. From the ancient time most of these towns were administrative centres of the region, controlled by one or the other power. They were essentially of rural character made up of the palaces, high walls, temples, pailions etc. With the advent of British and subsequent colonisation of the country centres for collection of other related activities started along with the development of administrative activities. In the historical time frame, the post- independence period was most important phase for evolution and development of urban centres. The region saw tremendous pace of urbanisation in this period.

### **2.5 Geographical Process of Urbanisation**

The emergence of towns and urban centers can be explained in several ways since the factor that operated were different in different region. It may be noted that that the net addition of urban population in a geographical area can be divided into three components. These components are (1) Net increase in the population of already existing towns, (2) Addition due to extension in urban areas. This extension can be in two ways. (i) New towns can emerge as a part of urban agglomeration, (ii) extension through emergence of as isolated town, (3) the reduction in the number of towns due to declassification of towns. We can define new towns according to the following criteria:

- a) Those place, which have been developed as town or city in a planned way by the government agencies.
- b) Any settlement that fulfills the criteria fixed by the census to be regarded as urban and has a definite process of evolution from rural to urban settlement.

### Emergence of New town in North Eastern States of India:

In 1981, the total number of new towns in the entire North-East was 59. It included two towns in Arunachal, ten towns in Assam, twenty four towns in Manipur, 10 towns in Meghalaya and four towns each in Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Manipur shared maximum number of new towns in 1981. The class wise distribution shows that in the entire North-East the new towns were added only in the last three classes. In other words, we can say that all newly evolved towns were small towns. There was maximum growth of class V towns in 127 towns followed by class VI and class IV towns. The state wise breakup of the towns shows that Arunachal had both new towns in class V category. Assam had six new towns in class IV, four in class V and 1 in class IV category. Manipur shows highest growth in class VI towns, i.e. fifteen followed by class V and class IV towns.

State	Number of Towns Added / Declassified	Class of Towns			Total Number of New Towns Added	Total Number of Towns Declassified	Net increase in Number of Towns
		IV	V	VI			
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	2	0	2	0	2
<b>Assam</b>	No. of Towns Added	6	4	1	11	1	
	No. of Towns Declassified	0	1	0	0	0	10
<b>Manipur</b>	No. of Towns Added	1	8	15	24	0	24
<b>Meghalaya</b>	No. of Towns Added	2	5	3	10	0	10
<b>Mizoram</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	4	0	4	0	4
<b>Nagaland</b>	No. of Towns Added	1	3	0	4	0	4
<b>Tripura</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	2	2	4	0	4
<b>North-East India</b>	No. of Towns Added/ Declassified	10	28	21	59	1	58

Source: Census of India, 1981, General Population Table, Series. 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, and 25.

Meghalaya has five new towns in class V category followed by Class VI and class IV. Mizoram has all 4 new towns in class V category. Nagaland had three class V towns and Tripura has 2 new towns each Class V and VI category.

Only one town, namely, Radhakrishana was declassified in 1971. Therefore, the net increase in the number of town was fifty eight. In 1991, the total number of new towns was fourtee nine. Maximum growth of new towns was seen again in class V category followed by class VI, class IV and class III town. Mizoram had 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all new towns in North East. It was followed by Assam.

State	Number of Towns Added/Declassified	Class of Towns				Total Number of New Towns Added	Total Number of Towns Declassified	Net increase in Number of Towns
		III	IV	V	VI			
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	0	2	2	4	0	4
<b>Assam</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	3	5	5	13	0	13
<b>Manipur</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	1	5	0	6	7	
	No. of Towns Declassified	0	1	1	5		7	-1
<b>Mizoram</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	0	5	11	16	0	16
<b>Nagaland</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
<b>Tripura</b>	No. of Towns Added	3	3	2	0	8	0	8
<b>North-East India</b>	No. of Towns Added/Declassified	3	7	21	18	49	7	42

Source: Census of India, 1991, General Population Table, Part II (a) Series. 3, 4, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24.

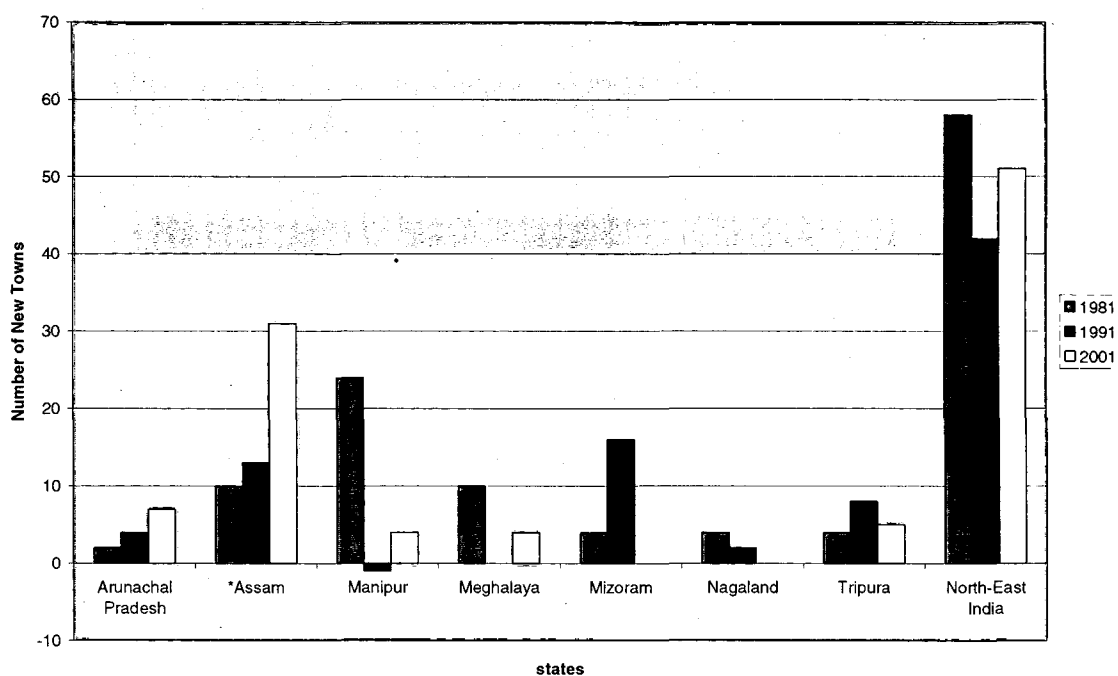
There was an addition of three class III towns in Tripura. In class IV category, Tripura and Assam had three towns each and one town in Manipur. Arunachal had two towns each in class V and VI category. Assam had three new towns in class IV category and five towns each in Class V and VI category. Manipur had six new towns in which five were class V towns and only 1 town was class IV town. In Mizoram out of the sixteen new towns 11 were class VI towns and rest five were class V towns. Nagaland had only two class V towns. Tripura had three towns each in class III and class IV category

**Table: 2.3 Net Increase in the Number of Towns in 2001**

State	Number of Towns Added/Declassified	Class of Towns				Total Number of New Towns Added	Total Number of Towns Declassified	Net increase in Number of Towns
		III	IV	V	VI			
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	2	4	1	7	0	7
<b>Assam</b>	No. of Towns Added	1	3	26	6	36	5	
	No. of Towns Declassified	0	1	1	3		5	31
<b>Manipur</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	0	3	1	4	0	4
<b>Meghalaya</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	4	0	0	4	0	4
<b>Tripura</b>	No. of Towns Added	0	2	5	0	7	2	
	No. of Towns Declassified	0	1	1	0		2	5
<b>North-East India</b>	No. of Towns Added/Declassified	1	11	38	8	58	7	51

Source: Census of India, 2001, General Population Table, Part II(a) Series. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

**Fig. 2.1 Net Increase in the Number of Towns in 1981, 1991 and 2001**



Including two towns in Class V group. Manipur registered seven declassified towns. Therefore net increase in the total number of urban center was 42.

Finally in 2001, 58 new towns evolved in the region. But the net increase in the region was 51 because 7 towns were declassified. Like 1981 and 1991 there was maximum number of new towns in class V category (38 towns), followed by Class IV towns. Assam had maximum number of new towns, 26 out of 36 new towns in Assam are class V towns.

Arunachal had 7 new towns, all of them are small towns, Manipur, and Meghalaya has each 4 small new towns. Tripura has seven new towns out of which 2 are class VI and 5 are class V towns. Seven towns were declassified in 2001; five of them are from Assam and remaining from Tripura.

### **Reason for the Emergence of New Towns**

The unprecedented increase in the number of urban centers in 1981 can be explained in terms of definitional factor, since the Notified Area Committee (NACs) were not included in the list of local self bodies that should automatically qualified as census town (as per Registrar Generals instruction) in 1971. About 90% of new towns identified were NACs. In the following decades the large scale administrative changes led to the sharp increase in the number of new towns. The rural urban migration seems to have a big role to play in all the decades. A section of workforce is pushed out of the rural economy, which is absorbed, by urban centers. According to Prof. A. Kundu, it must be mentioned that a number of settlements gets declassified and reclassified as urban centers in each census, owing to the change in the in the non-agricultural employment of there workers.

### **Net Increase in the Total Urban Area:**

It is an important improvement in the geographical process of urbanization. The following table shows the change in total urban areas in square kilometers. It can be



that there is manifold increase in the total urban area of the states in the last 3 decades. The total urban area in North East India was 622sq.km in 1971 (excluding Arunachal Pradesh). In 1981, it rose to 76Sq.km (excluding Arunachal Pradesh). In percentage, there is 13.44% increase in urban area. In the next decade, 657sq.km of area was added to the total urban areas of North East (excluding Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram). In 1991 these was 93% increase in the urban area of North-East India.

Table: 2.4 Change in the Total Urban Areas of the State		
	Total Urban Areas (in sq.km.)	Percentage Increase in the Total Urban Area
Assam		
1971	434.53	77.21
1991	770.01	
Arunachal Pradesh		
1971	N.A	0.00
1981	N.A	0.00
1991	N.A	0.00
Manipur		
1971	45.9	
1981	151.35	229.74
1991	145.33	-3.98
Meghalaya		
1971	38.13	
1981	84.78	122.34
1991	153.82	81.43
Mizoram		
1971	21.39	
1981	319	1391.35
1991	N.A	
Nagaland		
1971	41.8	
1981	108.84	160.38
1991	147.24	35.28
Tripura		
1971	40.51	
1981	41.94	3.53
1991	146.81	250.05
North-East India		
1971	622.26	
1981	705.91	13.44
1991	1363.21	93.11

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part II(a). 1971, 1981, and 1991.

Assam had largest urban area in 1971, whereas Mizoram had only 21Sq.km under urban areas. In 1981 Mizoram witnessed sharp increase in the total urban area. It rose to 319 Sq.km from 21sq.km in 1971. There was an addition of 2.97 Sq.km under Urban area. Tripura on the other hand had only 3.53% increase in its area under urban centers. It must be noted that in 1981, Assam was not included along with Arunachal Pradesh. Finally, in 1991 once again Assam had largest area under urban settlement. It was 170 Sq. km. Tripura showed 250% increase in its urban area. There was an addition of 140.57 Sq. km in 1991.

The increase in the urban areas is mainly because of the net increase in the number of towns in all states. States showing tremendous increase in the number of towns is also witnessing rapid increase in its urban area.

## **2.6 Demographic Process:**

The demographic factors like the growth of population, i.e. the natural growth and the migratory trend also play an important role in determining the magnitude of urbanisation. The regional differences in the rate of natural increase and consequent migratory trends give a particular direction in the process of urbanisation in an area. Moreover, a change in the definition of urban areas adopted by census operations and inclusion of some fringe areas within such towns are responsible for such a high rate of increase in urban population. In this section, firstly, growth of population in the North-East region will be discussed and it will be followed by a discussion on natural growth of population in urban areas and finally growth of population due to migration.

The annual exponential growth rate in Arunachal Pradesh was 8.74% in 1971-81. It rose to 9.82% in 1981-91 and then dropped during 1991-2001 to 7.23%. All other states showed an upward trend in 1971-81 but it slowed in the following decades. In

all the states, the annual exponential growth of population is higher than the annual exponential growth of urban population of the respective states.

<b>Table: 2.5 Annual Exponential Growth Rate in North-East India—1971-2001</b>				
<b>Country/State</b>		<b>1971-81</b>	<b>1981-91</b>	<b>1991-2001</b>
<b>India</b>	Total	2.20	2.14	1.93
	Rural	1.77	1.82	1.64
	Urban	3.79	3.11	2.71
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	Total	3.01	3.14	2.39
	Rural	2.71	2.44	1.43
	Urban	8.74	9.82	7.23
<b>Assam*</b>	Total	2.10		1.73
	Rural	1.99		1.53
	Urban	3.33		3.24
<b>Manipur</b>	Total	2.81	2.57	2.63
	Rural	1.16	2.42	1.21
	Urban	9.76	2.98	3.12
<b>Meghalaya</b>	Total	2.78	2.84	2.67
	Rural	2.36	2.78	2.55
	Urban	4.95	3.13	3.19
<b>Mizoram</b>	Total	3.96	3.34	2.53
	Rural	2.33	0.00	1.85
	Urban	11.71	9.59	3.27
<b>Nagaland</b>	Total	4.06	4.45	4.98
	Rural	3.42	4.25	4.98
	Urban	8.50	5.49	4.99
<b>Tripura</b>	Total	2.77	2.95	1.49
	Rural	2.71	2.45	1.28
	Urban	3.29	6.26	2.58

\*The annual exponential growth rate for Assam is calculated for 1971-91.

In almost all the North-East states, the annual exponential growth of urban population is much higher than the annual exponential growth rate total; urban population of India. In 1971-81, the annual exponential growth rate of urban population in Arunachal, Manipur and Mizoram is very high (78%). In 1981-91, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram experienced very high growth rate in urban areas. In 1991-2001, the growth rate in all the states has declined except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. All other states have approximately 3% growth rate but still it is comparatively higher than the India as a whole.

### **Growth of Urban Population Due to Natural Increase:**

The discussion in this section is based on SRS data available for many point of time.

One of the very important factors responsible for the growth of urban population is the natural growth. The following tables based on SRS Bulletin shows that natural growth rate in urban areas are lower than the rural areas. In 1981, India recorded a growth of 19.2/1000 people in the urban areas. Assam Meghalaya and Tripura recorded lower growth rate in urban population as compared t the national average. Only Manipur had the higher growth rate than the national average.

	Rural	Urban
India	21.9	19.2
Assam	20.8	5.2
Arunachal Pradesh	20	N.A.
Manipur	20	19.9
Meghalaya	26.1	14.2
Mizoram	N.A.	N.A.
Nagaland	16.1	N.A.
Tripura	19.4	9.4

Source: SRS Bulletins. /

In 1995, 1996, and in 1997 the growth rate in Arunachal, Manipur and Meghalaya is higher than growth rate of India. In 2000, all the states registered decline in growth rate and it is also lower than national average.

Country/State	Year	Total	Rural	Urban
India *	1995	19.3	20.2	16.1
	1996	18.5	19.6	15.1
	1997	18.5	19.3	15
Assam	1995	19.7	20.2	15.1
	1996	18	18.7	14.9
	1997	18.3	18.7	14.8
Arunachal Pradesh	1995	21.6	22.2	16.9
	1996	21.9	22.5	16.7
	1997	21.7	22.3	16.8
Manipur	1995	19.1	19.6	17.8
	1996	18.1	18.6	16.8
	1997	18	18.7	16.4
Meghalaya	1995	21.8	22.7	18.6
	1996	20.7	21.7	17.2
	1997	20.3	21.3	16.9
Mizoram	1995	N.A	N.A	N.A
	1996	15.4	15.6	14.9
	1997	15.1	15.4	14.7
Nagaland	1995	N.A	N.A	11.7
	1996	N.A	N.A	11.9
	1997	N.A	N.A	11.8
Tripura	1995	22	23.2	16.1
	1996	21.2	22.4	15.4
	1997	20.9	21.9	15.4

Source: SRS Bulletins.

Country/State	Total	Rural	Urban
India *	17.3	18.3	14.4
Assam	17.4	17.9	12.6
Arunachal Pradesh	16.3	16.4	11.8
Manipur	12.7	13.6	10.2
Meghalaya	19.3	20.9	10.7
Mizoram	11.7	12.6	10.7
Nagaland	N.A.	N.A.	9.2
Tripura	11.1	11.6	8.4

Source: SRS Bulletins, Vol. 35. No.2, Oct 2001.

Country/State	Total	Rural	Urban
India *	16.3	17.8	13.3
Assam	16.3	17.6	8.7
Arunachal Pradesh	16.6	17.2	13.7
Manipur	9.6	9	11.5
Meghalaya	17.8	19	12.5
Mizoram	13.9	17.5	10.3
Nagaland	10.2	9.5	13.6
Tripura	9.4	10.1	6.2

Source: SRS Bulletins, Vol. 40, No.1, April 2006.

In 2004, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland showed rise in the urban growth, through the country witnessed a decline in the urban growth. Among all North-East states Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland has shown the growth rate slightly above the national average.

The wide gap between the birth rate and death rate of population in all North-East states is very important factor for pushing the growth rate of population to a high level. With the growth of medical science, the death rate started falling rapidly but there was no marked fall in the birth rate.

Total migration in India (according to place of birth was 30% of total population in 2001. The percentage of migrating population is higher than the national average in urban areas 36%.

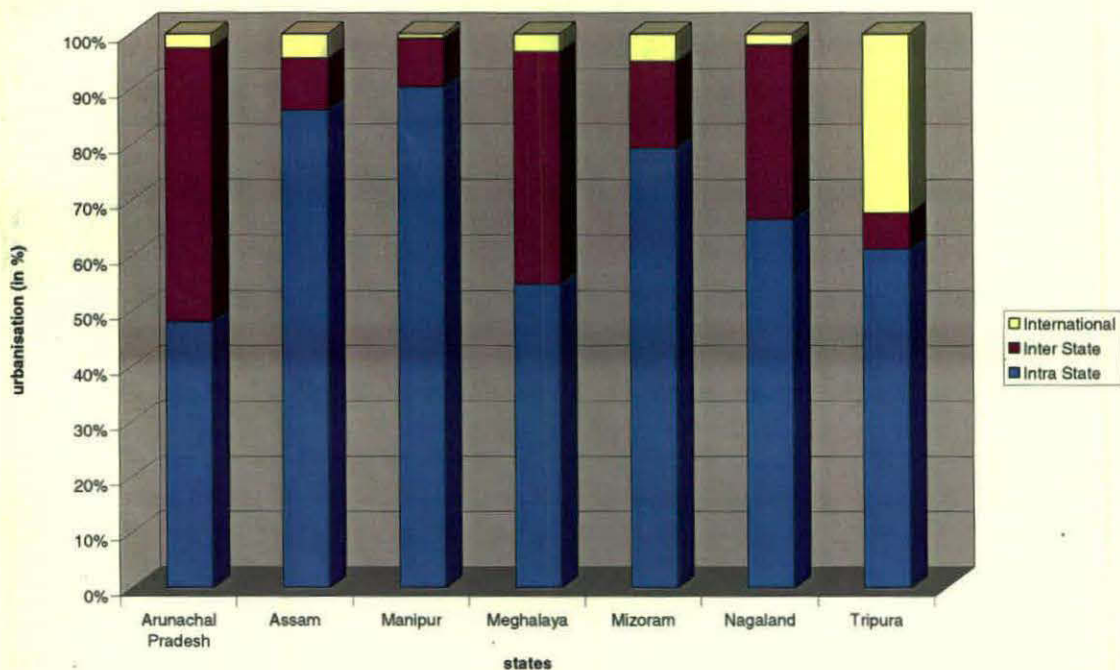
In general, intra state migration is higher among all three types of migration. However, it is comparatively lower in urban areas than the state averages except Mizoram where intrastate migration is slightly higher in urban areas Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya have total migration less than national average whereas Mizoram and Tripura have almost equal magnitude of migration to national average. In case of urban areas, the national average of migrants is 36%. It is higher than the percentage of total migration of the country. Same trend is can be seen in all

states except Manipur. Manipur records slightly lower percentage of migrants in urban areas.

Country/State	Intra State	Inter State	International Migration	Total Migrants
India	84.21	13.79	2.01	29.86
Arunachal Pradesh	51.65	42.07	6.28	36.94
Assam	89.34	7.78	2.87	24.87
Manipur	94.26	5.14	0.6	16.63
Meghalaya	70.86	25.69	3.45	15.46
Mizoram	78.59	14.82	6.59	29.29
Nagaland	73.98	23.8	2.22	18.06
Tripura	61.38	6.7	31.93	29.35

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables, 2001

**Fig. 2.2 Share of Intra State, Inter-state and International Migration to the total Migration, 2001**

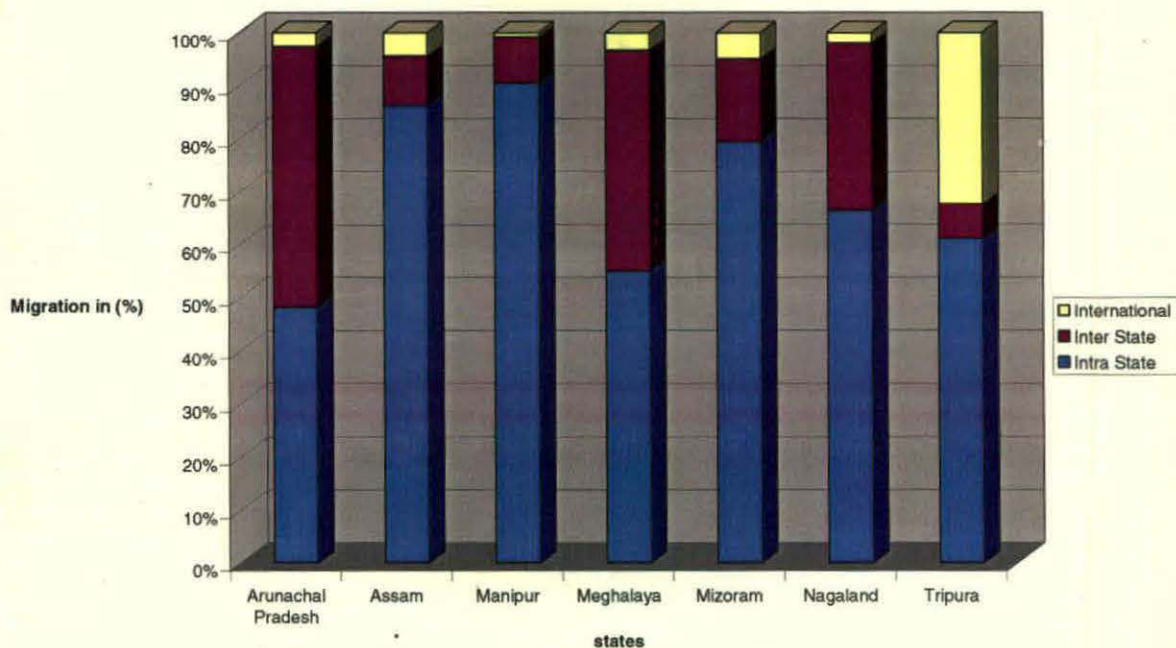


**Table: 2.11 Share of Intra State, Inter-State and International Migration in Total Urban Migration (2001)**

Country/State	Intra State	Inter State	International Migration	Total Migrants
<b>India</b>	69.30	27.68	3.02	35.76
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	48.16	49.27	2.57	61.47
<b>Assam</b>	76.89	8.32	3.94	43.40
<b>Manipur</b>	90.50	8.72	0.78	16.36
<b>Meghalaya</b>	54.92	41.77	3.31	25.79
<b>Mizoram</b>	79.40	15.64	4.96	36.64
<b>Nagaland</b>	66.56	31.47	1.97	45.46
<b>Tripura</b>	61.26	6.40	32.34	41.10

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables, 2001.

**Fig 2.3 Share of Intra-state, Inter-state and International Migration to the total Urban Migration, 2001**



Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have very high percentage of intra state migration. Arunachal Pradesh has lowest share of intra state migration among all the seven states in North-East India. It is only 48% in urban areas and 52% in total migration. Tripura (61%) precedes it.

Inter state migration in India is only 14% of total migration. However, it is two times in the urban areas. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya have comparatively



higher percentage of intra state migration. In urban areas, also Arunachal Pradesh has highest percentage of inter state migration, i.e. 49% followed by Meghalaya (42%). Manipur, Tripura and Assam have very low share of interstate migration in their total migration.

In case of international migration, its share in total migration is quiet small. In India, international migrants share only 2% of the total population. Tripura has comparatively very high percentage of international migration (32%). Whereas Manipur has very negligible proportion of migratory population (i.e. <1%).

It is stated earlier that Arunachal and Tripura has lower intra state migration. However, these states have higher interstate migration and Tripura has quiet high international migration.

In the following table, intra-state migration is classified in 2 groups (1) intra district migration (2) Inter District migration. In the case of inter state migration and international migration the state/countries, which have major, share is calculated. The share of intra district migration is quiet high in India. Nevertheless, in urban places both intra district migration and inter district migration is almost equal. Except Mizoram, the proportion of intra district migration in urban areas is higher than inter district migration. Mizoram have almost equal share of intra district and inter district migration.

**Table 2.12 Share of Intra District and Inter District Migration**

Country/State	Total Migration		Total Urban Migration	
	Intra District	Inter-District	Intra-District	Inter District
India	70.29	29.71	49.1	50.9
Arunachal Pradesh	74.98	25.02	57.4	42.6
Assam	66.17	23.17	42.42	34.47
Manipur	77.12	22.88	62.64	37.36
Meghalaya	82.63	17.37	71.87	28.13
Mizoram	58.52	41.48	49.22	50.78
Nagaland	71.25	28.75	62.31	37.69
Tripura	82.71	17.29	75.97	24.03

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables, 2001.

Fig. 2.4 Share of Intra-state and Intra-district Migration to the Total Intra-state Migration

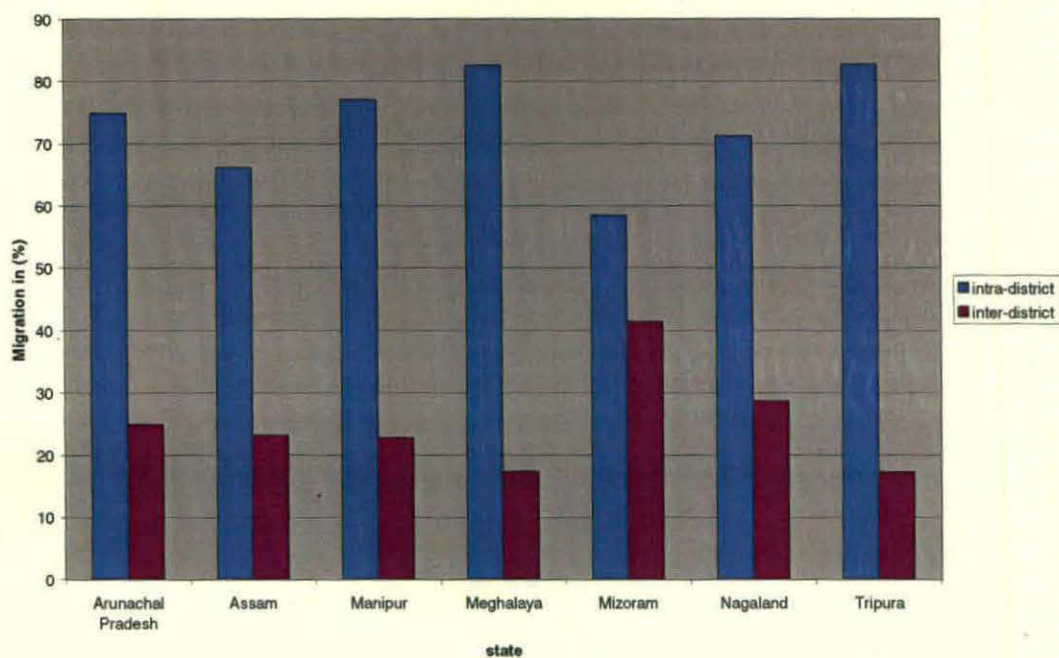
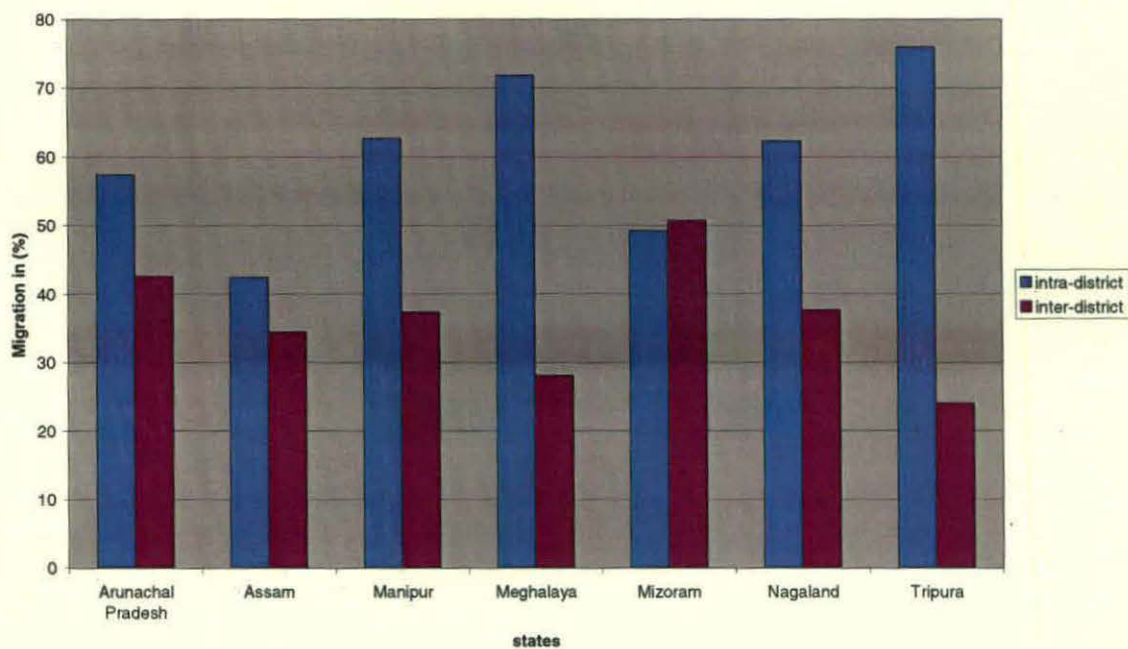


Fig. 2.5 Share of Intra-district and Inter-district Migration to the Total Urban Intra-state Migration, 2001



In case of inter-state migration, maximum share of inter-state migrants comes from Assam. In Tripura, Assamese and Mizo-migrants have common share in total inter state migration of the state. Assam has 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of inter state migrants from Bihar followed by West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The table shows a unique feature in remaining all North-East states has lower share of migrants in urban areas compared to total migrants from Assam. This means, the Assamese migrants have settle more in the rural areas a compared to the urban areas. Only Manipur migrants in Mizoram and Nagaland show this striking of pattern in migration. In all other cases, the migrants from all states tend to settle more in the urban areas. Bihar is another to have second largest share of migration in four states including Assam. Assam, which has largest share of migrants from Bihar in total interstate migrants.

If we consider intermigration 100 percent, then 61percent of immigrants are from Bangladesh followed by Pakistan (21%) and Nepal (10%). In each case of urban areas all, the countries have lower percent of share. This means than the immigrants in India have settled more in rural areas than in urban areas.

Meghalaya and Tripura have maximum share of immigrants from Bangladesh, 86.16 percent, 52 percent and 99.69 percent respectively. In Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, it is 2<sup>nd</sup> important country from where the people have migrated to the respective states. Nepal share 57 percent of total immigrants and 89 percent of total urban immigrants in Arunachal Pradesh while more than 3/4<sup>th</sup> of immigrants in Nagaland come from Nepal. Myanmar is another important country from where immigrants belong. More than 1/2 of the urban population in Manipur and 3/4<sup>th</sup> in Mizoram comes from Myanmar.

Normally, it is seen that immigrants tends to migrate in urban areas. North-East states also shows same trend except Bangladeshi immigrants in Arunachal Pradesh and

Meghalaya, immigrants from Nepal in Assam and Manipur and immigrants from Myanmar in Mizoram, which tends to settle in the rural areas.

In short, we can say that short distance migration make up the largest share of migrants. As North-East states have common border with 5 countries. International migration is common feature in this region. Migration from Bangladesh and Nepal is more common in most of the states. Bihar is the largest contributor of migrants from rest of India; Assam is the largest supplier of migrants in North-East India.

Coming to the reasons of migration, employment appears to be primary cause of migration among males, followed interestingly by marriage, except in Manipur and Nagaland, where education takes the second spot. For females, marriage and family movement are invariably the main reasons. Percentage of rural to urban and urban to urban migration is more or less same in Indian context as well as in North-East.

From the above discussion, it is clear that the natural growth in most of the states is lower than the national average. Therefore this does not contribute much to the urban growth. Migration is not doubt more responsible for the growth of urban population. The natural growth of population is lower than national average for most of states. Therefore, migration is more dominant factor for the growth of urban population in North-East states on India.

### **2.7: Economic Process of Urbanisation:**

According to the classical view of urban centers were characterised as an economic parasite depended on the agriculture surplus produced by the hinterland. It is applicable in case of emergence of ancient towns/cities in a predominantly agricultural society. However, today cities are center of productive activity. It serves its own residents as well as its hinterlands. No city can exist by itself. It is essential

for a city to develop economic terms/relations with its hinterland and other urban centers of country and the world for its survival. The type of economic production of the city determines the characteristics of urbanisation.

Primary production though generally do not support large towns/urban settlements but many small towns have a substantial part of work force engaged in agricultural activities. The commercial variety of agriculture has given rise to many urban centers in India for example tea plantation in India. It has given rise to thousand of settlements with modern factories for tea processing. Several towns have emerged at the edge of forests, as the forests are the source of variety of products like timber, firewood, etc.

Trade and commerce were vital components of the process of urbanisation in the ancient times. The earliest cities of the world evolved to provide tertiary services to the hinterland. In case of North-East India, it is a dominant factor, which is playing major role in the urbanisation process. The employment in tertiary sector is more than the employment in both primary and secondary sector. Many cities/towns have developed at the edges of important trade routes.

Surprisingly, the economy and society of North-East India was very advanced in ancient times. The economy has passed through several stages. Once upon a time, its economy was quiet developed but due to several reasons, it could not maintain it. In short, first we will try to understand the economic background of the region then relate it with the urbanisation process.

Silk was the most important product of trade, which was supplied through famous silk route from china to Middle East. Sericulture as originated in China. It is believed that Assam was the second region that developed this industry. Kautilya, in his popular

work *Arthasasthra* mentioned Chinese silk, spoke of 'Cinapatta', which he meant Chinese Silk. Our ancestors already knew 'Patta' a variety of silk. By 700 A.D, Assam's silk industry has reached its pinnacle of perfection. There is enough proof to substantiate that direct trade existed between North East India with south and South East China. Kautiliya's *Arthasastra* mentions about several industries producing textile, metal products, glass and wood works, leather products etc.

The archeological evidences found in recent years indicated that 'Cowries' which were used in eastern India in ancient times were found in Yunnan. Yunnan and Sichuan were important market for precious and semi-precious stones brought from India.

Not only the Indian sources but also Chinese sources give us idea about the exchange of goods between North-East India and China. Sichuan cloth, Square bamboo sticks, salt, iron, copper, lead tin, gold and silver were imported from China.

Kautiliyas *Arthasastra* also mentions about the silk of Assam. *Suvarnakudya* if the place mentioned were excellent silk fabrics were produced. It is identified with Sunkodiha. Till the recent time, it remained as an important mart of Tibet-India and India-Bhutan.

The historical records of China talk us that Chinese Emperor Wu, attempted to open trade route from the capital to the North-East India. However, the hostile rule of Yunnan did not allow it pass through his territory. The ruler of Yunnan was jealous on the establishments to trade route between India and China. Direct trade between two countries would have earned as an intermediary. Han emperor Ming conquered Yunnan (AD 58 till AD75). The trade route was then reopened between India and China.

In mediaeval period, Mughals repeatedly attempted to conquer the region. These efforts were guided was solely guided by the interest of growth in trade and the

expansion of the empire. The course of history was changed with the entry of Britishers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the discovery of tea. They looked westward because booming market of tea was in the west. The East India Company was interested in annex the region to exploit the natural resources of the region. There was little development of infrastructure to maximize the British interest. Railway lines were initiated to link the remote tea gardens. Therefore, it passed through thick forests instead of placed of human habitation. Roadways and telecommunications networks were established to serve the administrative interest.

Despite of enough opportunity for the development of the region, it failed to respond. There are several cause to which led to the decline of the region. Ahom Empire declined due to highly inefficient system of resources management, Ahoms adopted. Barter System, the economic system that acted against the rise of market economy. Ahoms adopted the strategy of political and economic isolation, consequently the region lacked demonstration effect from outside world.

In the later stage, the plantation revolution was not accompanied by the rise in agriculture productivity and surplus. With the growth of plantation in Assam, the land availability for agriculture expansion was hampered. The tea planters occupied vast tracts of wastelands. British leased the wastelands to Europeans at a very nominal fee. The government of Assam did not receive any compensation for the leased out wasteland. The British ignored the village economy. There was no interaction between the plantation sector and the village economy. Cheap products like textiles were imported at the cost if village handicrafts. Transport and communication served only British interest and villages remained completely untouched.

The situation in the post independence period is not mush different. Large investment in oil and petrochemical industries was done without have any impact on local

industries. The technology of production has not improved because of scarcity of capital and small size of market. Sluggish growth of manufacturing sector is partly responsible for the slow pace of growth in income in North-East India.

Through the land-man ratio is not favorable for absorbing large part of work force, higher proportion of work force in North-East India is engaged in primary activity. In north East India, the village economies are largely neglected inspite of its huge potential and necessities. Although North East India is predominantly an agricultural region but the development of the agricultural sector in the region has been totally neglected. Agricultural operation in the region has not yet been modernized. Basic facilities required for the modernization of agriculture, viz., irrigation, supply of basic inputs like HYV seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. have not yet been provided adequately in the rural areas of the region. Due to lack of agricultural research and absence of intensive cultivation, the agricultural sectors have largely remained underdeveloped. Moreover, in the absence of the availability of alternative employment opportunities due to lack of industrialization and more particularly due to lack of adequate development of small, cottage and village industries in the rural areas, and growing number of rural people did not find sufficient avenues for gaining employment in the rural areas itself. Thus there is continuous outflow of rural population to the urban areas of the state in search of gainful employment. There is political unrest and insurgency in many North-East states; this has also led to slow pace of economic development. There is lack of investment in this region specially the private investment is very low. Transport and communication bottleneck another cause for disrupting economic activities mainly in rainy season.

From the above discussion, it can be conclude that there were ample opportunities for development of region from the ancient time but it could not utilize the opportunities due to various reasons. In ancient times Guahati was a flourishing river port along



with Pandu. These parts attracted for exchange of native commodities with China. The historical sources mentions about very few urban centers like Pragjyotishpura, Pandu, and Sunkodiha etc. Ahoms established some administrative towns. British developed some new town with development of administrative unity and established some auxiliary industries. Like installing of sawmills, coal mining, etc. railway stations were developed. In post independent period tertiary sector developed very fast. As there was lack of industries, several new towns like in Arunachal Pradesh developed with boom in tertiary sector. Various small towns still are dominated by primary activities. Therefore, different kind of economic activities or diversification led to evolution of different kind of towns. It can be improved by solving the problems like transport and communication bottlenecks and, insufficient investment of capital etc. The development of trade with neighboring countries under 'Look East Policy' can change the course of development of this region.

## **2.8 Political and Administrative Processes**

Urbanisation has a long history in this region that started before the advents of British in these region .The earliest urban centers were mainly capital towns build by different rulers. They were essentially rural in character mainly made up of the palaces, high walls, temple, etc. With the arrival of British and subsequent colonization of the Indian soil, centre for collection and other related activities started. Partition of India affected the towns by changing the population size and area of towns. Majority of North-Eastern hill cities are not planned. They grew historically as a trade and administrative centers.

There were 28 districts in 1971whivh raised to 62 I 2001.There was massive reorganization of the administrative boundaries in this region in the post independence period .It resulted in creation of many new states like Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur etc. With the division of states and district new urban

centers evolved as capital towns, district headquarters, sub division head quarters etc. The administrative centers in the space develop themselves as urban areas like towns and cities because they cater the needs of people living in the town as well as in the neighboring areas.

The historical and archeological evidences suggest that few capital administrative towns like *Pragjyotishpur* Silchar etc. even before the arrival of British. But urbanisation in its proper sense was started after the annexation of the region by the British during the early nineteenth century i.e. 1826. Introduction of urbanisation process is perhaps the most significant of all the changes brought about by the colonial rulers in this region. The strategic importance of North-East India increased under the British rule. The colonial expansionist policies resulted in the increase in the number of urban centers along with the development of tea plantation in this region. The urban centers were established to exploit the natural resources like forest and forest products. The prime concern of British was to promote tea plantation and establish army cantonment to maximize the profit. The changes brought by the British Empire are experienced in Assam and Meghalaya. In the post independence period the growth of urban centers can partly be attributed to the investment of government in the district and taluka headquarters and the programmes of 'gap filling approach' of government i.e. transfer of funds from state to local bodies.

In Arunachal Pradesh the process of urbanization is not the outcome of the complex interaction of socio-economic and demographic forces of tribal society. Rather it is the result of political and administrative development in the territory. In 1971, the process of urbanisation started in the state.

The first four towns Bomdila, Pasighat, Tezu and Along were all administrative headquarters. In 1974, with the shifting of capital from Shillong to the twin capital of Naharlogun and Itanagar came into existence. The administrative set-up has gone

through many changes in the state. In Arunachal Pradesh All the towns are administrative towns.

In Meghalaya Shillong is comparatively older than other towns. Initially British came to Meghalaya to build trading centres. The British realized that there was acute need for an army base to control the region. Shillong was the most suitable place to suit the purpose due to variety of consideration ranging from strategic to climatic. It became the summer capital of the region. Till 1971 Census it was the capital of three states- Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. There were only two districts in Meghalaya in 1971-Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In 2001 the number of districts raised to 7. The most rapid growth as seen in Mizoram where the urban population has almost doubled and the number of towns almost quadrupled from 6 to 22 during 1971-2001. The federal government carried out large scale administrative reorganization of the districts in order to sharpen the counter-insurgency operations. Another reason was the easy distribution of goods like food products in the settlements which were scattered in the hills. For these purposes several villages were regrouped into urban centers.

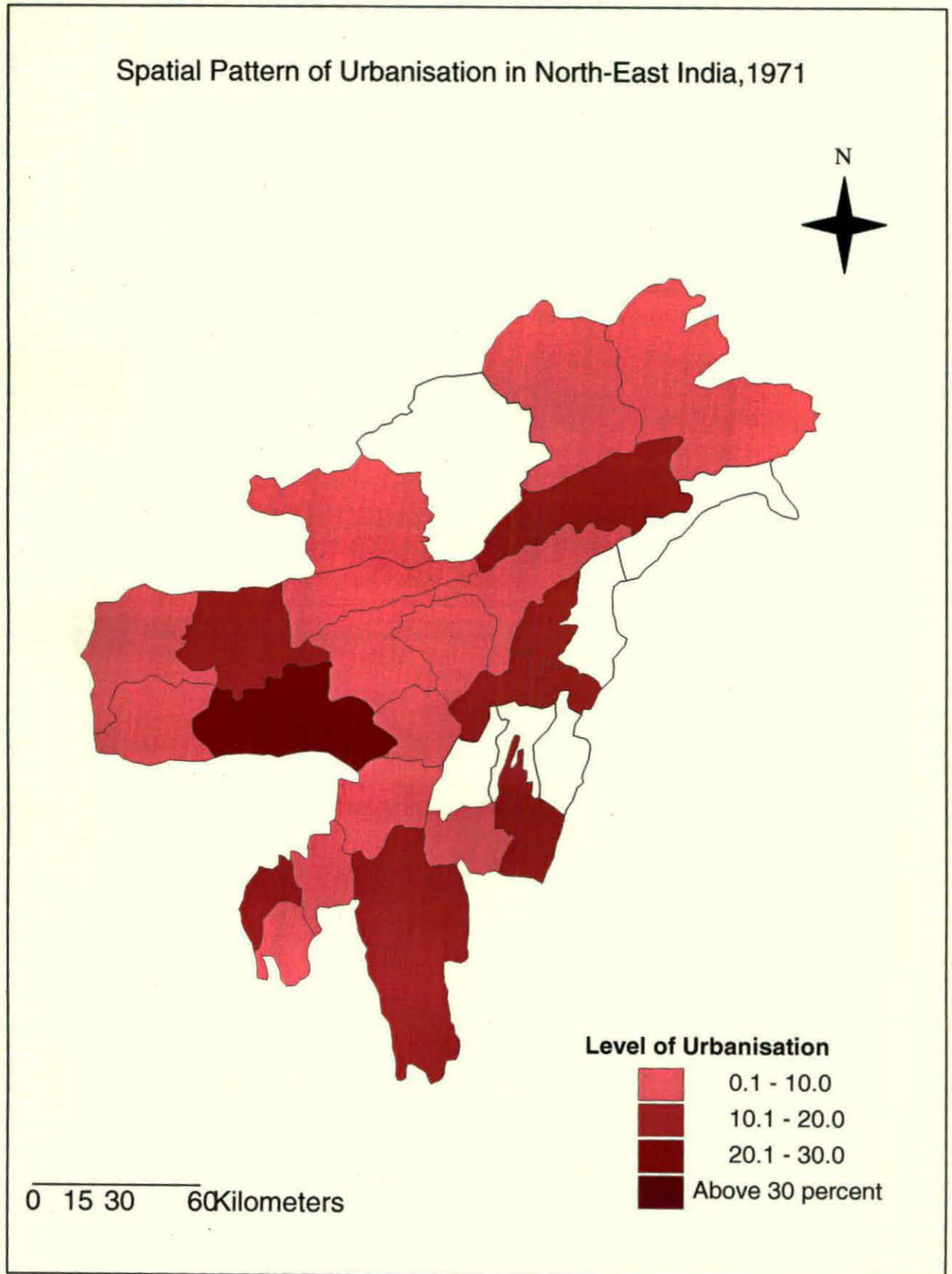
## **2.9 Spatial Pattern Of Urbanisation**

The pattern at the state level gets substantially modified when the analysis is extended to lower spatial units, i.e., the districts. It is clear from the following table that as many as seven districts confined to the highland areas of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh are yet to experience any urban development. Likewise, in another three districts located north of the Brahmaputra, the level of urbanisation is negligible, accounting for less than five percent of the total population. Over one-third of the districts, most of which are located in the Brahmaputra valley, the Cachar and Tripura plains: and the Meghalaya plateau, the level of urbanization ranges between five and ten percent.

On the other hand, high level of urbanisation is noticed in the hilly tracts of the region. Over forty percent people live in urban areas in two northern districts of Mizoram and Imphal districts in Manipur valley. The share of urban population ranges between thirty and forty percent in two more districts in Manipur valley and one district each in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, supporting the capital towns of these states.

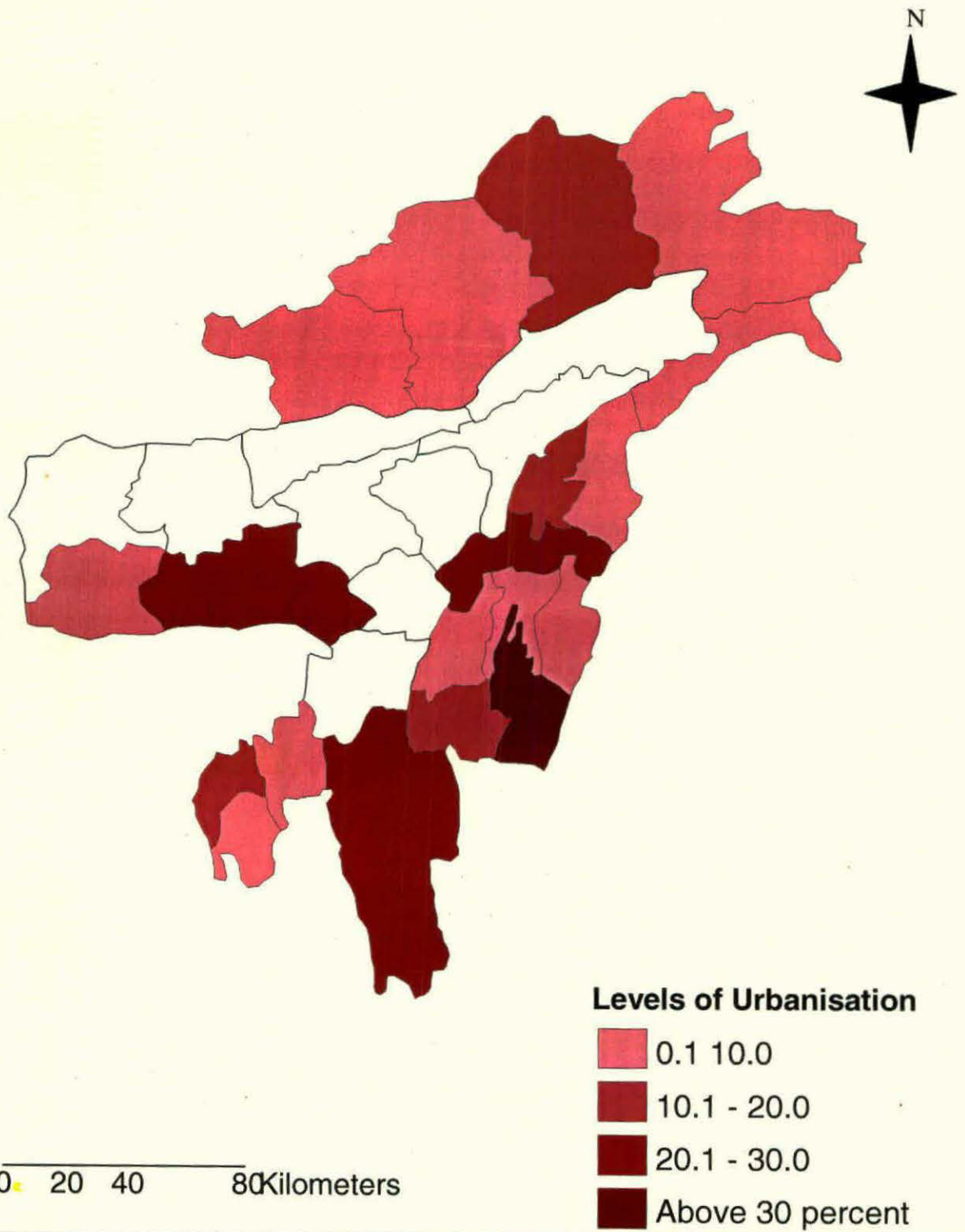
Lower Subansari districts in Arunachal Pradesh and West Tripura district in Tripura too record a relatively larger proportion of urban population. These two districts contain in them the capital townships of Itanagar and Agartala respectively. The urban proportion varies between twenty and thirty percent in these two districts. Significantly, the hilly tracts of the north Cachar hills to record a similar proportion of urban population in sharp contrast to the adjoining plains.

Spatial Pattern of Urbanisation in North-East India, 1971



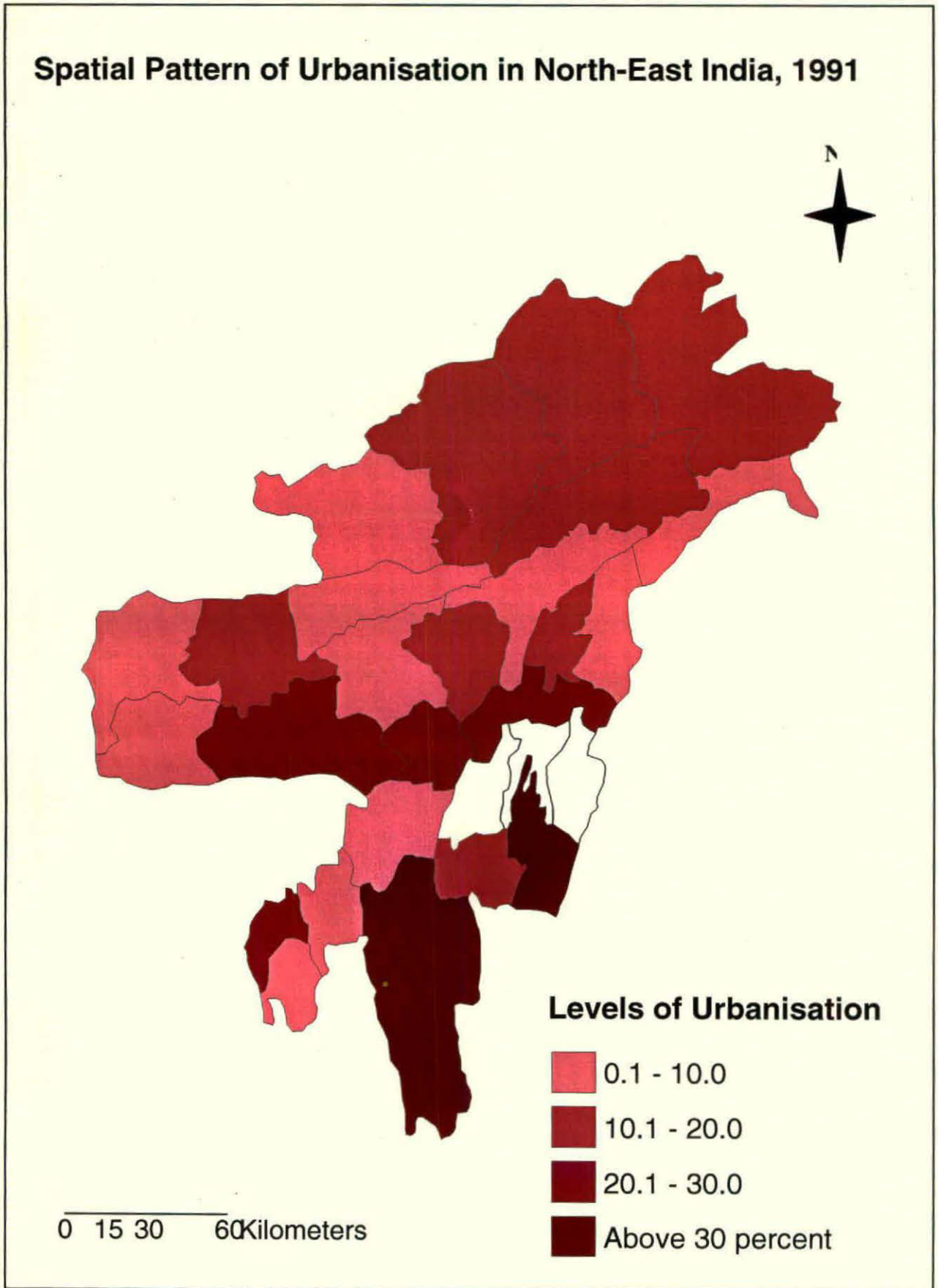
Map No.3

### Spatial Pattern of Urbanisation in North-East India, 1981



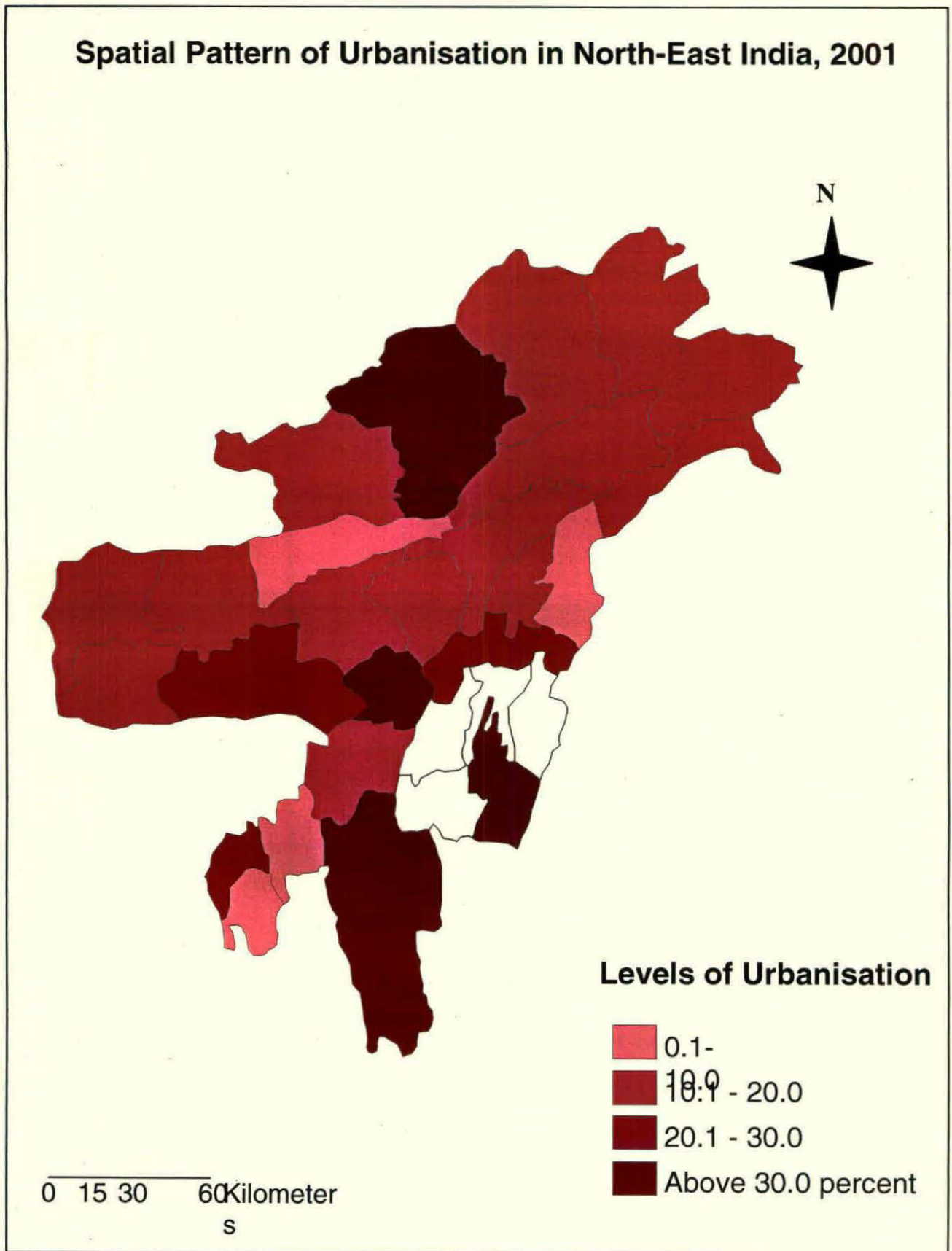
Map No.4

**Spatial Pattern of Urbanisation in North-East India, 1991**



Map No.5

**Spatial Pattern of Urbanisation in North-East India, 2001**





	<b>Level of Urbanisation</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Districts</b>
<b>Zone of High Concentration</b>	>30%	Manipur	Manipur Central
<b>Zone of Medium Concentration</b>	20.1-30%	Meghalaya	United Khasi and Jaintia Hills
		Nagaland	Kohima
		Mizoram	Mizo District
<b>Zone of Low Concentration</b>	10.1-20%	Arunachal Pradesh	Siang
		Nagaland	Mokokchung
		Manipur	South Manipur
		Tripura	West Tripura
<b>Zone of Very Low Concentration</b>	<10%	Arunachal Pradesh	Kameng, Subansari, Lohi, Tirap
		Manipur	Manipur, North, Manipur, West, Manipur East
		Meghalaya	Garo Hills District
		Nagaland	Tuensang
		Tripura	North Tripura, South Tripura

	<b>Level of Urbanisation</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Districts</b>
<b>Zone of High Concentration</b>	>30%	Mizoram	Mizo District
		Manipur	Manipur Central
<b>Zone of Medium Concentration</b>	20.1-30%	Assam	North Cachar Hill District
		Meghalaya	United Khasi and Jaintia Hills
		Nagaland	Kohima
		Tripura	West Tripura
<b>Zone of Low Concentration</b>	10.1-20%	Assam	Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Mirik Hill District
		Arunachal Pradesh	Subansari, Siang, Lohit
		Manipur	Manipur South
		Nagaland	Mokokchung
<b>Zone of Very Low Concentration</b>	<10%		Goalpara, Nowgong, Darrang, Sibsagar, Cachar
		Assam	
		Nagaland	Tuensang
		Tripura	North Tripura, South Tripura

	<b>Level of Urbanisation</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Districts</b>
<b>Zone of High Concentration</b>	>30%	Mizoram	Mizo District
		Manipur	Manipur Central
		Assam	North Cachar Hill District
		Arunachal Pradesh	Subansari District
<b>Zone of Medium Concentration</b>	20.1-30%	Meghalaya	United Khasi and Jaintia Hills
		Nagaland	Kohima
		Tripura	West Tripura
<b>Zone of Low Concentration</b>	10.1-20%	Arunachal Pradesh	Kameng, Siang, Lohit, Tirap
		Nagaland	Mokokchung
<b>Zone of Very Low Concentration</b>	<10	Assam	Darrang
		Nagaland	Tuensang
		Tripura	North Tripura, South Tripura

The spatial pattern in the levels of urbanisation in the region reveals two strikingly divergent trends: the valley and plateau pattern and the hilly pattern. Barring a few notable exception, the urban growth in the valley and the plateau remains uniformly low. Districts with capital towns and oil establishments stand out as pockets of high urbanisation. South of Brahmaputra is slightly more urbanisation than the north.

Spatial variation in the level of urbanisation in the hilly tracts gets highly accentuated depending upon local differences in topography and altitude. Areas of very high level of urbanisation stand as islands amid or in close proximity to areas without a semblance of urbanisation. Significantly, higher level of urbanization in the hilly areas is by and large restricted to the river valleys of varying width. This pattern is remarkably clear in Manipur Himalayas wherein the plateaus is virtually rural whereas nearly half the population in the adjoining valley lead an urban life. Likewise, the small river valleys of Lohit, Dibang and Subansiri in Arunachal Himalayas are being urbanized very fast while the neighboring highland areas continue to be entirely rural. The Mizo hills provide another pocket of very high urbanisation. Unlike other areas in the hilly tracts, the valley character of urban

development is modified here, primarily due to the less imposing relief of the Himalayan ranges in Mizoram. Urban development in Naga hills is confined to the low altitude foot-hills zone.

The process of urbanisation in the North-East seems to have been restricted to the administrative centers and the valleys in the hilly areas. In the Brahmaputra valley, the process of urbanisation is yet to take off in areas with a strong concentration of tribal population.

## **2.10 Conclusion**

North-East India has a very long history of urbanisation. Various processes of urbanisation, which are interlinked, have resulted in the present pattern of urbanisation. In ancient times there were very few towns, which were basically the capital towns of various rulers. The advent of Ahoms is remarkable in the history of North-East India. They build capital towns, which possessed rural characteristics. They shifted their capital from one place to another. British developed some new towns for exploiting natural resources of the region. The number of towns was very few before independence. But it rose mainly in the post-independent. Period with the diversification of economy, change in the occupational pattern, rapid growth of urban population etc. Due to the advancement in the medical sciences, death rates in the region has declined but birth rate did not declined in the same pace Consequently, the natural growth of population increased.

Migration has played vital role in the urbanisation process. Interstate migration is very high in all states. The migrants tend to migrate to the urban centers. Inter-state migration is not less important in theses states. After in independence, people migrated to this region from the neighboring states .The main purpose of migration was employment. With the emergence of laborer based in industries the demand for

workers raised rapidly. A large number of laborers migrated to North-East India from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

They region covers more than 90%of international boundary of India. There is high influx of international migrants including large scale of illegal migrants Assam, Tripura; Meghalaya received large number of migrants from Bangladesh. Migrants from Myanmar and Nepal are also found in large numbers.

Economic processes also plays vital role in the evolution and growth of urban centers. Economically North-East India was once very prosperous region of India. The historical evidences suggest that international trade existed between India and China, Bhutan and Myanmar etc. The world famous 'Silk Route' passed through this region. The advent of British changed the course of history. British developed several administrative towns, cantonments and garrison to fulfill their interests. Post independence period witnessed several administrative and political changes. Several towns developed due to planned effort of central and state government. This resulted in the evolution of various urban centers like capital cities, district headquarters. The planned effort of the state government in state like Mizoram grouped several villages in order to tackle the problem of insurgency in the state. These processes of urbanisation together have given rise to the present pattern of urbanisation in North East India. Only Mizoram shows very high concentration of urban population since 1991. Most of the districts show low or very low level of urbanisation. Those districts, which have capital towns of the state, show high concentration of urban population as well as number of towns. Few towns have successfully shifted from one level to another.

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**CHAPTER-III**  
**TRENDS AND LEVELS OF URBANISATION IN**  
**NORTH-EASTERN STATES**

## Trends and Levels of Urbanisation

### **3.1 Introduction**

Rapid urbanisation has been a worldwide phenomenon in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the global context, the level of urbanisation of 27.72% is not much significant. The level of urbanisation is the proportion of urban population to the total population of a region. We can express it in two ways (a) Percentage of urban population to total population (b) Percentage decadal growth rate. It is independent to the size of number of urban settlements, their average size etc. the level of urbanisation is one of the most important characteristics of urbanisation. It has been rightly remarked that level of urbanisation reflects the level of development of a nation. It varies from region to region and from place to place in a country.

Kingsley Davis, in his book 'The Population of India and Pakistan' which was published in early 1950s, had described Indian population as highly immobile population. He pointed out that the main factor of immobility as the prevalence of caste system, joint family, lower level of education, agriculture based economy, traditional values, poor transportation facility etc. all these factors restricted the people to migrate from their native villages to other areas. Whereas according to Ashish Bose, in the first six decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century the factors which were responsible for slow growth of urban population were namely, race, rainfall, plague, attachment to village life a famines.

Though the level of urbanisation in the country was not very high but it experienced a very high growth of urban population. According to 1901 Census only 10.84% of population was urban. It implies that the urban population had increased more than and folds in last 100 years. But the urban population shows fluctuating trend from decade to decade. The following table supports this statement



**Table 3.1 Volume and Level of Urbanisation in India (1901-2001)**

Year	Total Population	Total Urban population	% of urban population to total population	Decadal Growth of urban Population
1901	238396327	25851873	10.84	-
1911	252093390	25941633	10.29	0.35
1921	251321213	28086167	11.18	8.22
1931	278977238	33455989	11.99	19.14
1941	318660580	44153297	13.86	31.97
1951	361088090	62347709	17.29	41.38
1961	439234771	87936603	17.97	26.41
1971	598159652	109113977	18.24	38.23
1981	683329097	159462547	23.33	46.02
1991	844324222	217177625	25.72	36.19
2001	1027015247	285354954	27.78	31.13

Source: Census of India, Provisional Population Tables, India, 2001

Table no.3.1 shows that 1911 witnessed negative growth rate of urban population. It was 10.84% in 1901, which decreased to 10.29% in 1911. It was because of the famine and plague that occurred in 1901-1911. In 1921 it raised to 11.18%. The decade 1911-1921 was associated with influenza epidemic. In 1931, again there was negligible increase in the level of urbanization, it was only 11.99%. 1921-1931 was the decade of agricultural depression. There for, in the span of first 30 years i.e., 1901-1931 there was slight increase in the level of urbanisation. It was mainly after 1931 that the urbanisation process gained momentum and the urban population increased in faster rate. In 1941, it was 13.86% and the growth rate was 31.97% during 1931-41, the decade 1941-51 records one of the highest growth urban population i.e. 41.42% and the percentage of people in urban areas was 17.29%. This tremendous rise in urban population is attributed to massive migration across international borders due to partition of the country and also due to comparatively loose definitions of urban centers in the census conducted till 1951. There after in 1961 there was a marginal increase in urban population (17.97%), and the decadal

growth rate of urban population was only 26.41%. the fall in the growth rate of urban population was mainly due to the conceptual change in the definition of urban centers. Consequently, as many as 803 towns were declassified which had a population of 4.4 million. In 1971, it went up by 19.91% and the decadal growth rate was 38.23% (1961-71). In terms of economic development the decade 1961-71 was not a normal one. During this decade there was Chinese aggression in 1962, the Pakistan aggression in 1965 and again in 1971. Apart from this there were severe drought spells and other natural calamities and massive immigration from Bangladesh. This was the period when Green Revolution was started in some parts of India as a result of food shortage in the country.

In 1981 the urban population of India was 23.34%. Census of 1981 recorded 1054 new towns, which was one of the major or main causes of the increase in the urban population. It was reflected in the decennial growth rate of urban population, which was 46.14% during 1971-81. Till now, it is the highest growth rate of urban population recorded by India Census. However, in the year 1981-91 the decennial growth rate in India showed a declining trend after reaching the peak in 1971-81. In 1981-91 it was 36.19% and the level of urbanization was 25.72%. It reached 27.78% in the year 2001, and the decadal growth rate for the year 1991-2001 was 31.13% showing the continuation in the trend.

There is not only variation in the level of urbanisation in India and fluctuation in the decadal growth rate of urban population but there is also inter state variation in these terms. For the last several decades a significant portion of urban population is concentrated in six large states viz, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujrat, Punjab and West Bengal.

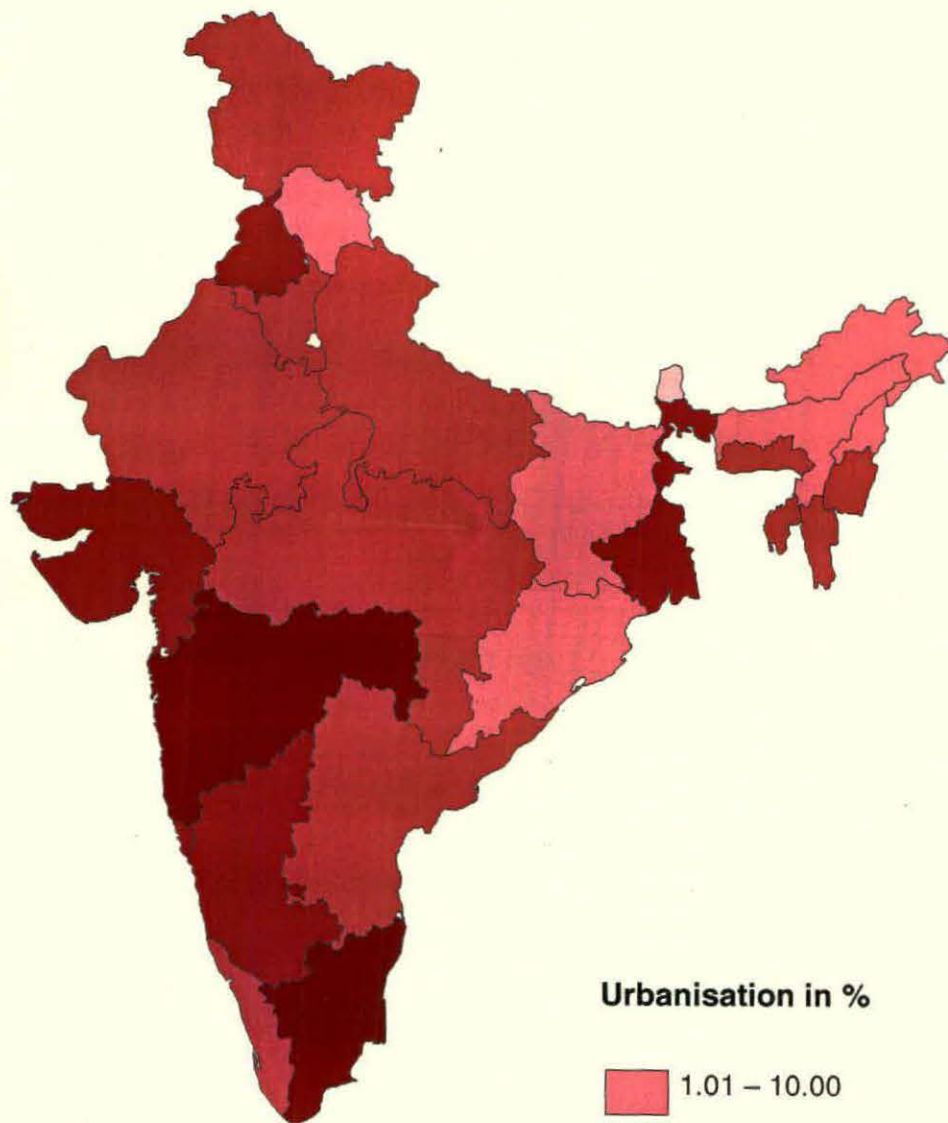
From the above table it is clear that since 1971 these major six states shared a large percentage of urban population of the country. Till date, they continued to be most urbanised state of India. But their relative positions have changed from 1971 to 2001.

**Table 3.2 Percentage of Urban Population to Total Population**






Country/State	1971	1981	1991	2001
India	19.19	23.31	26.1	27.78
Mizoram	-	25.17	46.20	49.60
Goa	-	32.03	41.02	49.77
Maharashtra	31.16	35.03	38.73	42.40
Gujarat	28.09	31.08	34.40	37.35
Tamil Nadu	30.27	32.98	34.20	43.86
Karnataka	24.30	28.91	30.91	33.98
Punjab	23.76	27.72	29.72	33.95
West Bengal	24.74	26.49	27.39	28.03
Manipur	-	26.44	27.69	23.88
Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08
Haryana	17.65	21.96	24.79	29.00
Jammu & Kashmir	18.61	21.05	23.83	24.88
Rajasthan	17.62	20.93	22.88	23.88
Madhya Pradesh	16.28	20.31	23.27	26.67
Kerala	16.25	18.78	26.44	25.97
Uttar Pradesh	14.03	18.01	19.89	20.78
Meghalaya	-	18.03	18.69	19.63
Nagaland	9.91	15.54	17.28	17.74
Tripura	-	10.98	15.26	17.02
Orissa	8.39	11.82	13.43	14.97
Bihar	9.99	12.46	13.10	10.47
Arunachal Pradesh	-	6.32	12.21	20.41
Assam	9.20	9.88	11.08	12.72
Sikkim		9.12	16.23	11.10
Himachal Pradesh	6.94	8.70	7.72	9.79

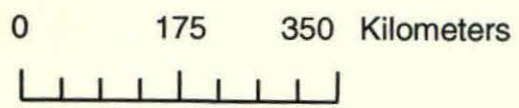
Source: Census of India, Provisional Population Tables, India, 2001

# Map No.5 Levels of Urbanisation in India, 1971

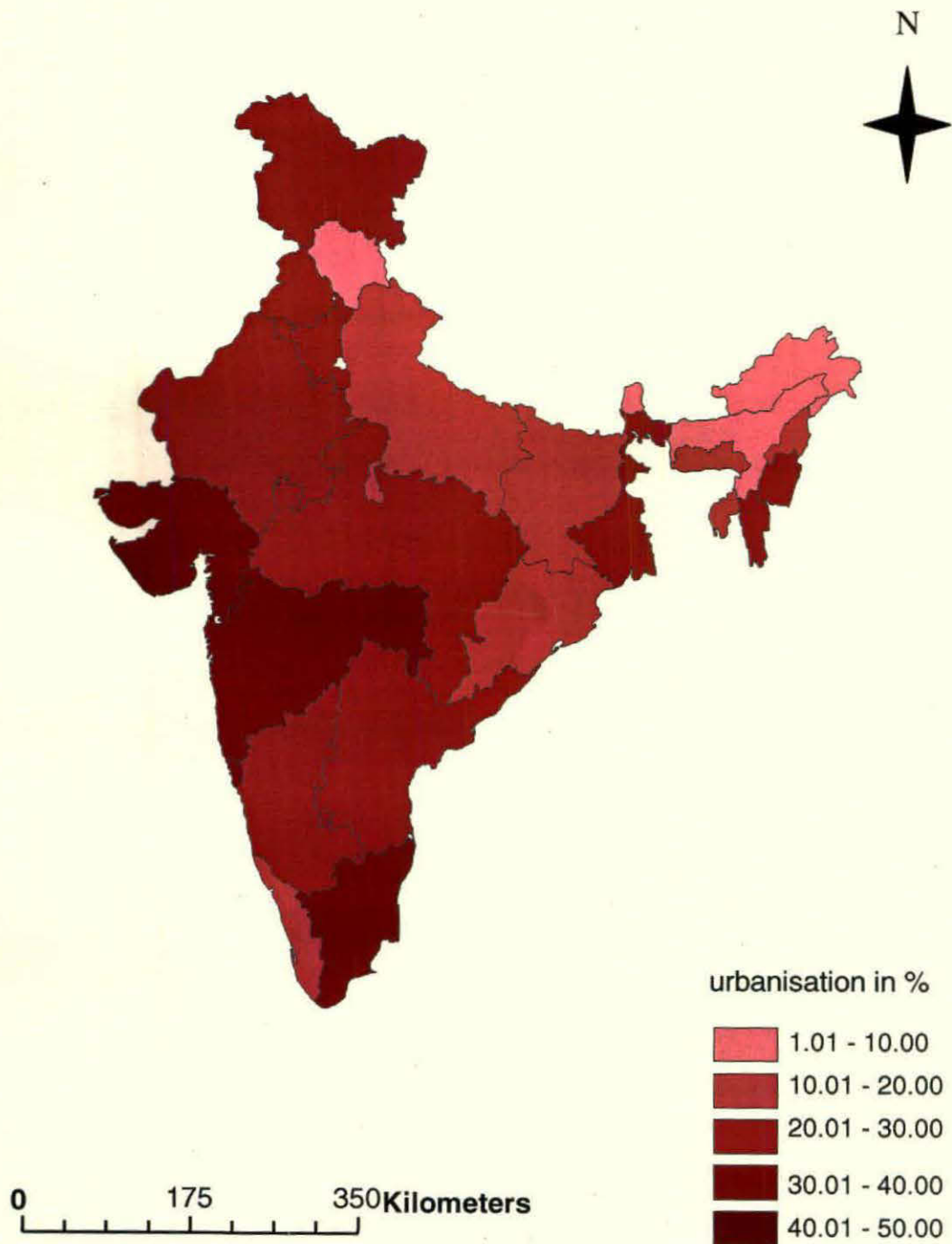


### Urbanisation in %

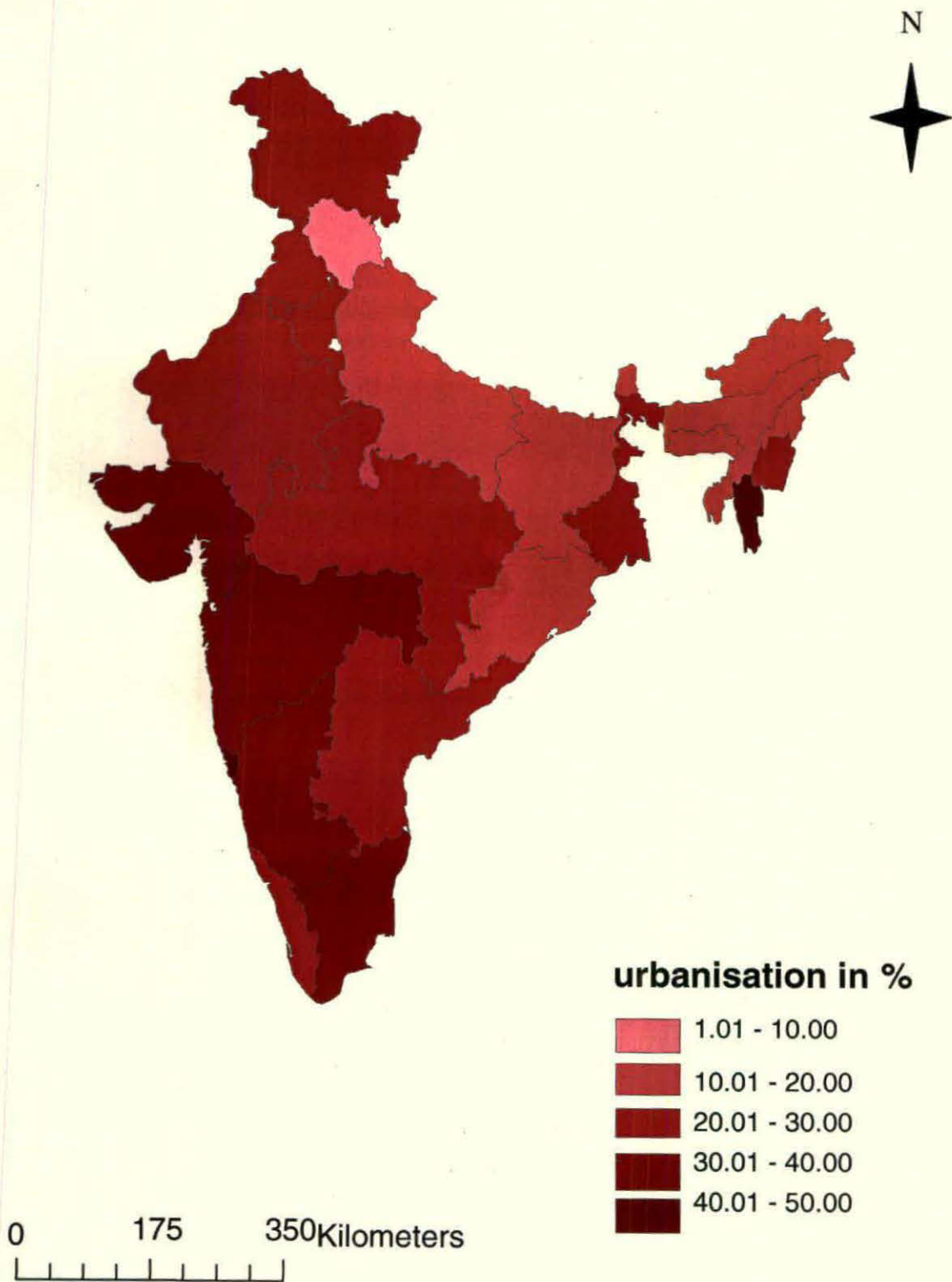
-  1.01 - 10.00
-  10.01 - 20.00
-  20.01 - 30.00
-  30.01 - 40.00
-  40.01 - 50.00



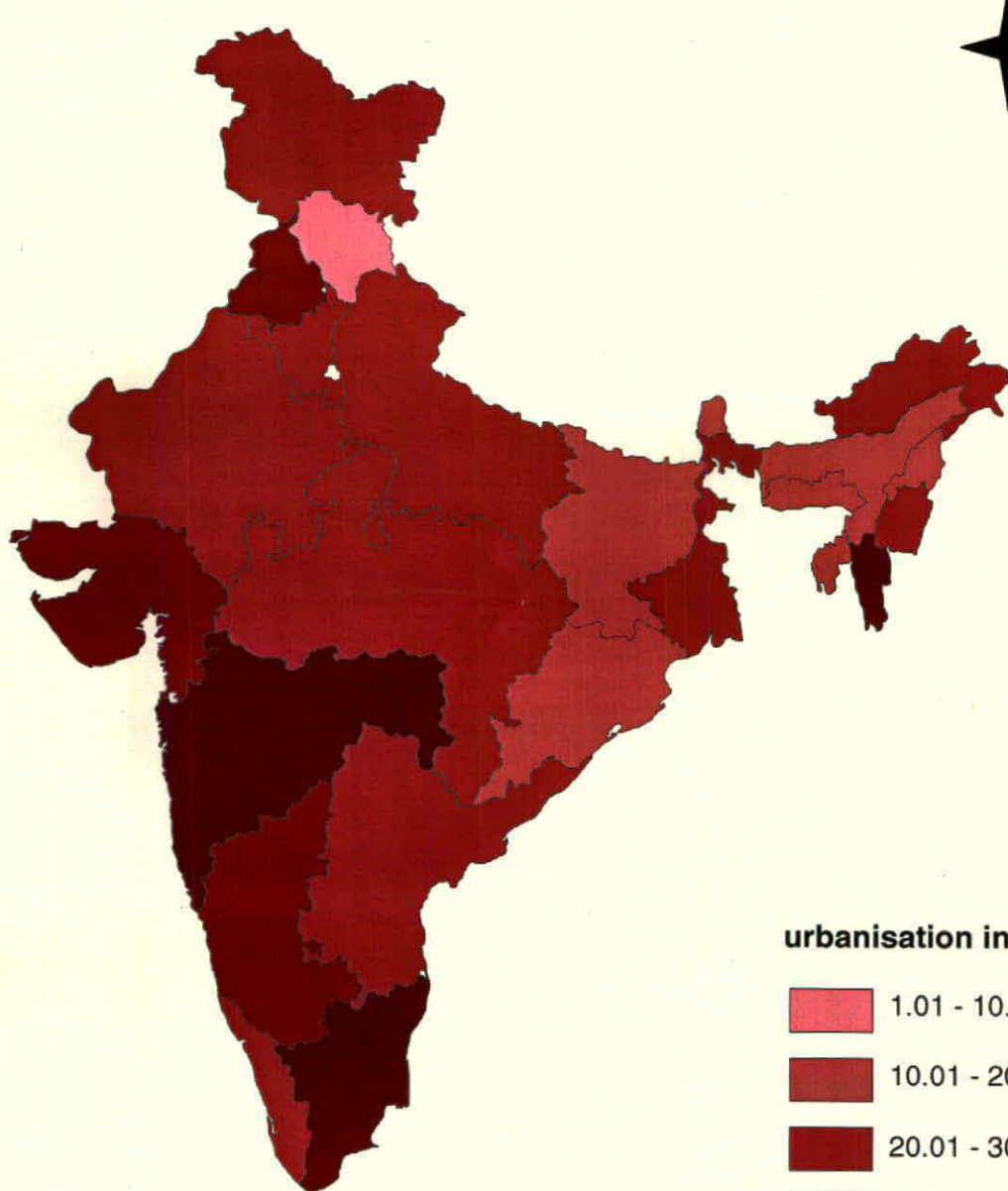
Map No. 6 Levels of Urbanisation in India, 1981





**Map N0. 7 Levels of Urbanisation in India, 1991**



# Map No. 8 Levels of Urbanisation in India, 2001



**urbanisation in %**

	1.01 - 10.00
	10.01 - 20.00
	20.01 - 30.00
	30.01 - 40.00
	40.01 - 50.00

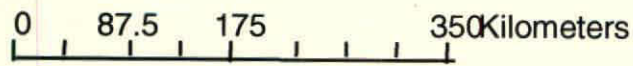
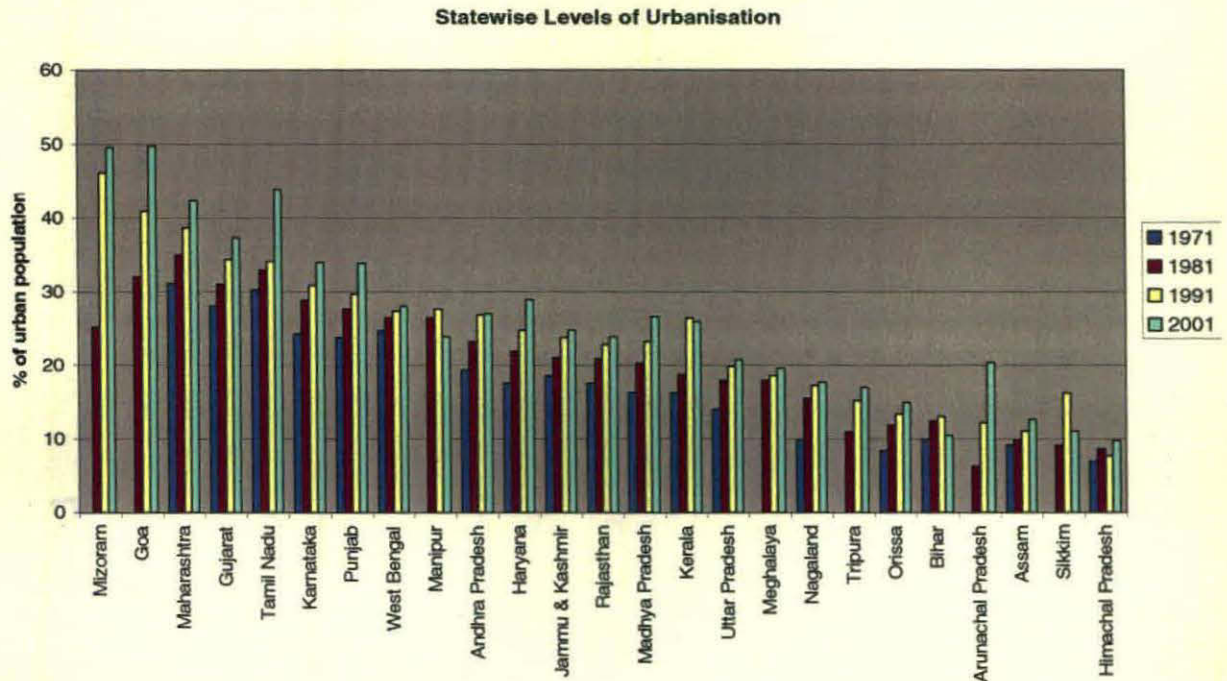


Fig. 3.1



In 1971, Maharashtra was the most urbanised state of India with 31.165 of urban population and continued to be leading state till 1991. In 1971, it was followed by Tamil Nadu (30.27%), Gujarat (28.09%), and Punjab (23.76%). In 1981, the first three states viz Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat retained their position. Among the next three states Karnataka surpassed West Bengal by having 28.91% of urban population. It was followed by Punjab (27.72%) and West Bengal (26.49%). In 1991, Maharashtra was once again the leading state with 38.73% of urban population followed by Gujarat (34.40%), Tamil Nadu (34.20%), Karnataka (30.91%), Punjab (29.72%) and West Bengal (27.39%). But in 2001, Tamil Nadu emerged as the most urbanized state with 43.86% of urban population in the state. It was followed by Maharashtra (42.40%), Gujarat (37.35%), Karnataka (33.98%), Punjab (33.95%) and West Bengal (28.03%). All the five states except West Bengal have shown remarkable progress in terms of urbanization. There is very slow growth of urban population in West Bengal. In 1971 it was 24.74% followed by 26.49% in 1981, 27.39% in 1991 and 28.03% in 2001.

Some of the smaller states like Goa and Mizoram have shown very fast growth of urban population. Goa registered 49.77% of urban population in 2001, which was



32.03% of 1981. Likewise, Mizoram has recorded 49.6% in 2001, which was 25.17% in 1981. Among the three newly developed states, Uttaranchal is the most urbanised state with 25.59% of urban population followed by Jharkhand (22.25%) and Chhattisgarh (20.08%), according to 2001 Census. All these states have urbanization level less than that of national average.

The least urbanized states in the largest states are Bihar (10.47%), Assam (12.72%) and Orissa (14.97%). Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have also urban population less than national average with 23.38% and 26.46% respectively.

### 3.2 Levels of Urbanisation In North-Eastern States:

The level of urbanisation in northeastern states is still below the national average except Mizoram. In 1971 all the states had urbanisation level below national average (19.91%). But in 1981 Manipur and Mizoram managed to overcome this situation with 26.44% and 25.17% of urban population respectively. It continued to have proportion of urban population more than the national average till 1991. In 2001, Goa recorded highest level of urbanisation followed by Mizoram.

**Table 3.3 Statewise Level of urbanisation in North-East India**

State	1971	1981	1991	2001
Assam	8.87	NA	11.08	12.90
Arunachal Pradesh	3.69	6.32	12.79	20.75
Manipur	13.19	26.44	27.52	24.11
Meghalaya	14.55	18.03	18.59	19.58
Mizoram	11.36	25.17	46.09	49.63
Nagaland	9.95	15.54	17.21	17.22
Tripura	10.43	10.98	15.29	17.05
India	19.91	23.34	25.72	27.70

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Series I, Part II, 1971, 1981, 1991.

The above table showing the level of urbanisation of northeastern states reveals that for the first two decades Arunachal Pradesh reported only 3.70% and 6.32% of urban population respectively, which was lowest among all the seven states. Meghalaya, on the other hand, recorded highest level of urbanisation (13.19%) among all seven

states. In 1981 Manipur surpassed Meghalaya and registered highest level of urbanisation (26.44). It was first time that the two states. Namely, Manipur and Mizoram recorded the level of urbanisation more than national average. In 1991, Mizoram surpassed Manipur became the leading state with highest level of urbanisation. Assam was least urbanised state with only 12.90% of urban population.

The table also shows the widening gap between the states in level of urbanisation. In 2001, in one hand there is Mizoram with 49.63% of urban population and on the other hand there is Assam with only 12.90%. This gap was smaller in 1971, where the Arunachal Pradesh with lowest level of urbanization was only 3.69% and Meghalaya with 14.55% was leading state in northeast.

### **3.3 Trends of Urbanisation In North East India:**

The trend in urbanisation varies from state to state. In last 30 years (1971-2001) there was negligible increase in the proportion of urban population in Assam. This shows that the trend in urbanisation is stagnant. Before 1971, Arunachal Pradesh had entirely rural population. In 1970 process of urbanisation started and now it is showing increasing trend. Manipur shows fluctuation in the trend in urbanisation. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> most urbanized state, this is the only state to show declining trend in urbanisation. Meghalaya is showing the moderate growth in proportion of urban population from 1971 to 2001.

Mizoram shows massive change in the level of urbanization from 11.36% in 1971 to 49.63% in 2001. This shows a rapid increase in the trend of urbanization. Nagaland and Tripura have registered moderate pace of growth of urban population.

### **3.4 Districtwise Levels And Trend of Urbanisation In Assam:**

**ASSAM:** In 1971 there were 10 districts in Assam. The districts of Mizo were transferred to Mizoram in 1972 when it became a Union Territory.

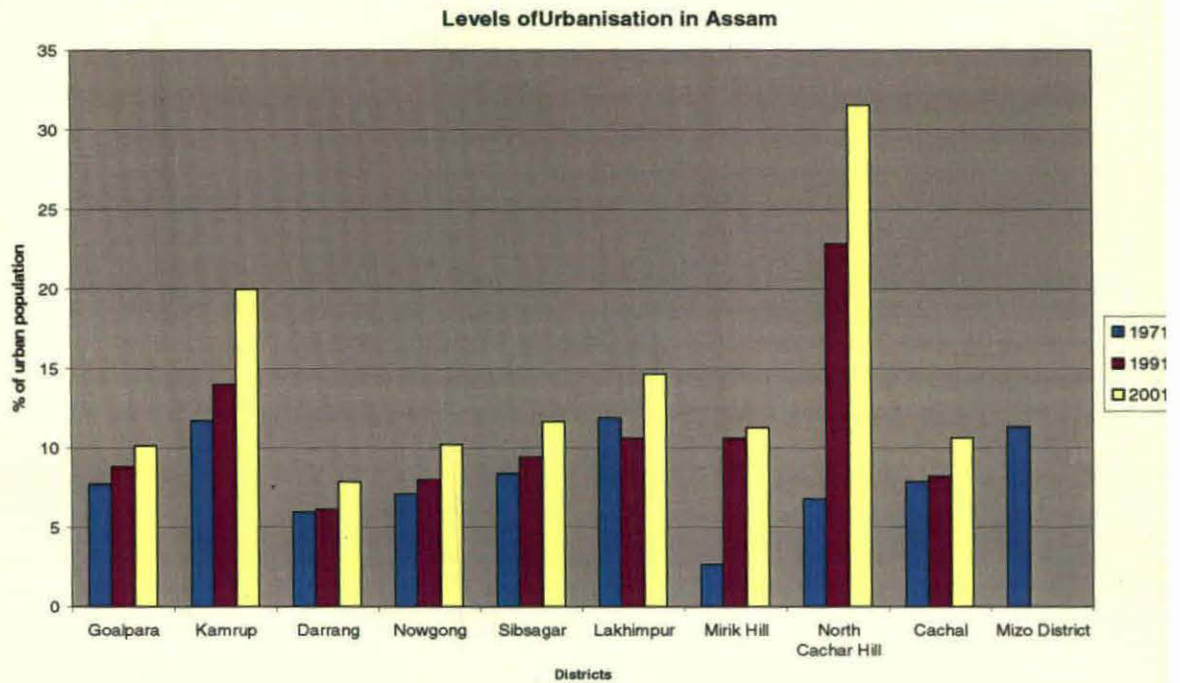
**Table 3.4 Districtwise Level of Urbanisation in Assam**

District	1971	1991	2001
Goalpara	7.74	8.85	10.14
Kamrup	11.74	14.02	20.00
Darrang	5.97	6.16	7.87
Nowgong	7.09	8.00	10.23
Sibsagar	8.42	9.46	11.69
Lakhimpur	11.91	10.62	14.66
Mirik Hill	2.68	10.63	11.30
North Cachar Hill	6.83	22.86	31.60
Cachar	7.91	8.23	10.66
Mizo District	11.35		

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part –II (A), 1971, 1991, 2001

The above table shows that in 1971, there were 3 districts, which had higher level of urbanisation as compared with the state average. These districts were Kamrup (11.74%), Lakhimpur (11.91%) and Mizo district (11.35). On the other hand Mirik Hill district Darrang who had low level of urbanisation. In 1981 Census was not conducted in Assam. In 1991, North Cachar Hill district showed highest level of urbanisation (22.86%). It is to be noted that the Census was conducted after 20 years in 1991. Mirik Hill district showed an increase up to 10.63% from 2.68% in 1971. Rest of the districts showed slight increase in the level of urbanisation. In 1971, Lakhimpur, showed the highest level of urbanisation, but in 1991, it showed a declining trend. In 2001, Cachar district recorded highest level of urbanisation in the state with 31.60%. Only Cachar and Lakhimpur districts had urban population had urban population more than the state average. In 2001, Darrang district recorded lowest level of urbanisation with only 7.

Fig. No. 3.2



It can be said that the trend in urbanisation in Assam is stagnant because the districts, which has large share of population like Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong; Lakhimpur had low level of urbanisation. Though the level of urbanisation in Cachar district has risen in tremendous speed but its effect is not reflected in the level of urbanisation of the state i.e. 72.0% of the total urban population.

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH:** In case of Arunachal Pradesh there were only 2 districts namely Subansari and Tirap, which were entirely rural. Siang and Lohit had urban population more than state average and Kameng had only 3.68% of the urban population, which was only 0.01% less than the state average.

**Table 3.4 Districtwise Level of Urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh**

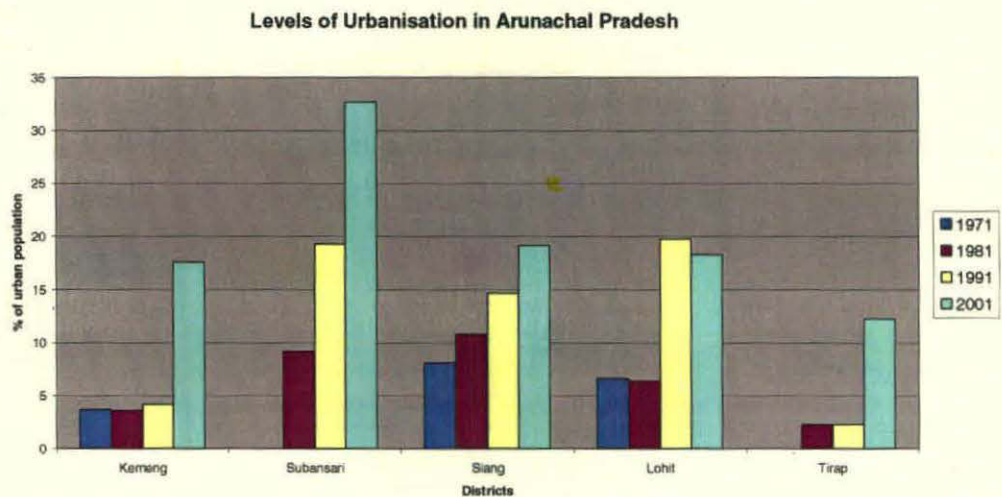
District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Kameng	3.68	3.60	4.18	17.61
Subansari	-	9.20	19.30	32.72
Siang	8.14	10.81	14.70	19.19
Lohit	6.65	6.41	19.78	18.32
Tirap	-	2.29	2.29	12.26

State	3.69	12.79	12.79	20.75
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Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part -II (A), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001

In 1981, Tirap continued to be completely rural district. But Subansari recorded 9.20% of urban population from 0% in 1971. Kameng had recorded level of urbanisation less than state average.

Fig. No. 3.3



The level of urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh has increased continuously mainly because of a) increase in the number of administrative units. It is said that in Arunachal Pradesh the process of urbanisation is state induced. In 1971-81 the state emerged as a union territory. The capital was shifted from Shillong to Itanagar. It led to high rate of growth of urban population in the state due to large scale migration, intra-state, inter-state and international migration. Because the capital shifted to Subansari district, as a result the level of urbanisation raised high in this district.

## MANIPUR:

Manipur: In 1971, North, West and East Manipur districts were completely rural. Only central Manipur and South Manipur had urban population of 17.04% and 8.87% respectively. All the districts had urban population in 1981. In 1981, Manipur central had highest level of urban population 33.56% whereas Manipur North, West and East had low level of urbanisation. The level of urbanisation in Manipur South is less than state average.

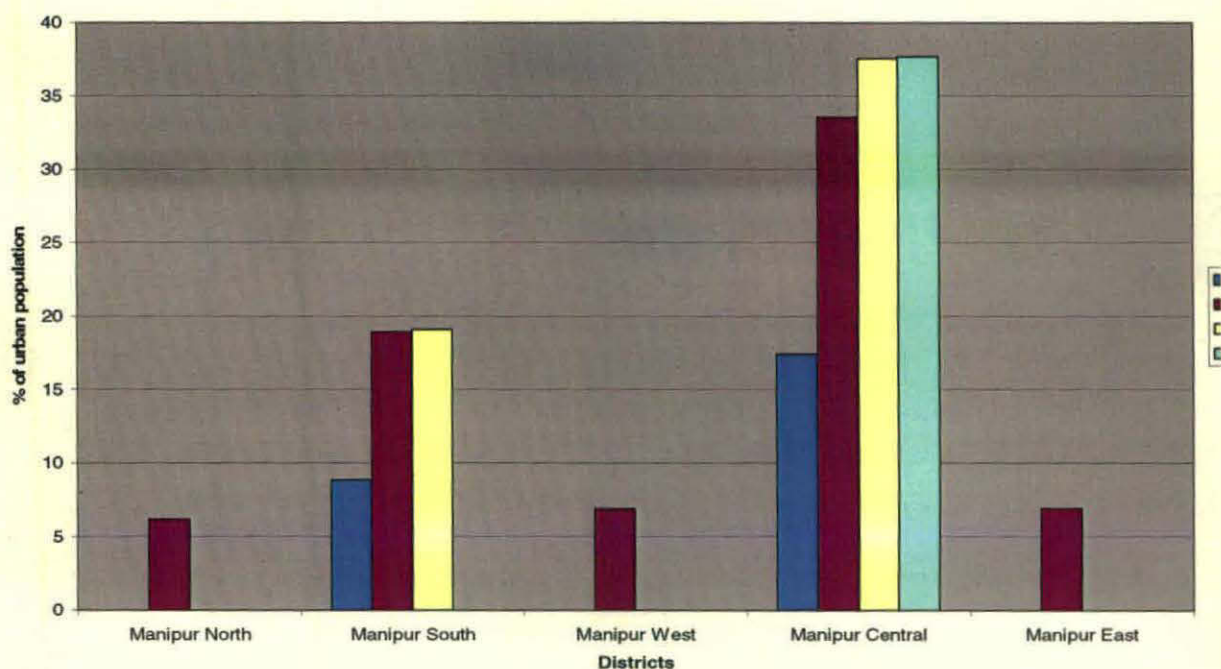
**Table 3.5 Districtwise Level of Urbanisation in Manipur**

District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Manipur North	-	6.19	-	-
Manipur South	8.87	18.93	19.11	-
Manipur West	-	6.88	-	-
Manipur Central	17.40	33.56	37.55	37.69
Manipur East	-	6.95	-	-
state	13.19	26.44	27.52	24.11

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part -II (A), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001

**Fig. 3.4**

**Levels of Urbanisation in Manipur**



In 1991 and 2001 the three districts viz. north, West and East Manipur had no urban population because of declassification of urban centers. In 1981, small towns emerged in these districts which were unable to continue as an urban unit in next two decades. Manipur central which lies in the valley, the urban population is concentrated in this district.

**MEGHALYA:** in 1971 there were only two districts in Meghalaya, namely Garo Hill and United Khasi and Jaintia Hill.

**Table 3.6 Level of Urbanisation Meghalaya**

District	1971	1981	1991	2001
<b>Garo Hill</b>	3.80	8.62	9.56	11.90
<b>United Khasi and Jaintia Hills</b>	21.76	23.79	24.06	24.19
<b>state</b>	14.55	18.03	18.59	19.55

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part –II (A), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001

The district of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills had greater proportion of urban population again the state as a whole. It is due to the existence of Shillong, the capital of the state. Garo Hills district, had proportion of urban population to total population less than the state average in all four decades.

The low level of urbanisation in Garo district is because of existence of small urban centers in this district. The level has increased due to emergence of new administrative units in both the districts.

In 1980's the capital of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh was shifted to Guahati and Itanagar respectively. Consequently the level of urbanization increased at a slower rate.

**NAGALAND:** Kohima district of Nagaland was more urbanised as compared to other districts in all four decades. In 1971, Kohima stood first regarding the level of urbanisation. Mokokchung was slightly above the state average (10.35%). Tuensang was entirely rural.

**Table 3.7 Districtwise Levels of Urbanisation in Nagaland**

District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Kohima	19.38	21.21	25.08	26.65
Mokokchung	10.35	15.08	15.02	16.79
Tuensang	-	8.06	8.30	6.86
State	9.95	15.54	17.21	17.22

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part –II (A), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001

The level of urbanisation in Mokokchung district was slightly above the state average (10.35%). Tuensang was entirely rural till 1981. Kohima jumped from 19.38% (1971) to 21.21%. Mokokchung also registered high level of urbanisation (15.08%) and Tuensang also entered among the urbanised district of the state with 8.06% of urban population. Mokokchung witnessed slight decline in the urban population from 15.08% (1981) to 15.02% (1991). There was slight increase in the level of urban population in Tuensang district (8.31%). In 2001, Kohima with 26.65% of urban population was still leading the other districts. Tuensang registered decline in the level of urbanisation as a result of out migration. Kohima district had substantial share of urban population because it had the large urban centers like Kohima. Kohima is the capital and administrative head quarter of the district and state and Dimapur is the commercial hub of the state. In rest two districts because of unsuitable topography only administrative units emerged as the urban centers.

**MIZORAM:** The union territory of Mizoram was formed in the year 1972. There was only one district i.e. Mizo Hill district in 1971 which was a part of Assam.

**Table 3.8 Districtwise Levels of Urbanisation in Mizoram**

District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Mizo Hill	11.36	25.17	46.09	49.63

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part –II (A), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001



The data shows the rapid increase in the level of urbanisation. The main factor responsible was i) expansion of area of existing towns ii) addition of new towns iii) net migration. Due to rearrangement in the administrative set up the number of urban units has raised from 2 to 22 in three decades.

**TRIPURA:** In Tripura West Tripura district (14.58%) is followed by North Tripura district (17.68%) and South Tripura district (6.32%) in terms of level of Urban. The level in West Tripura increased from 15.50% in 1981 to 24.41% in 1991 and 26.74% in 2001. In 19071-81 there was large scale immigration from West Bengal and Bangladesh.

**Table 3.9 Districtwise Levels of Urbanisation in Tripura**

District	1971	1981	1991	2001
West Tripura	14.58	15.30	24.41	26.74
North Tripura	6.78	6.92	8.74	9.07
South Tripura	6.31	7.26	5.85	7.05

Source: Census of India, General Population Table, Part -II (A) , 1971,1981,1991,2001.

In 1981-91 there was increase in the number of urban centers because of creation of number of notified areas during this period.

The emerging trend shows that the level of urbanisation is increasing in each decade except Manipur in 2001. Mizoram has become one of the most urbanised states whereas Assam is growing at snail pace.

### **3.5 Tempo of Urbanisation:**

The concept of tempo of urbanisation refers to the change in the level of urbanisation over a period of time. This shows the speed of urbanisation. Therefore it is an important method to measure the speed at which urbanisation is taking place. In 1971-81, among all the six states, except Assam, Mizoram recorded highest tempo of urbanisation 1.325 followed by Manipur (1.325), Nagaland (.559), Meghalaya (0.348) and Arunachal Pradesh (.263). Tripura recorded lowest tempo of urbanisation i.e. 0.055. Assam had a tempo of 0.11 for two decades. In 1981-91 Arunachal recorded

highest tempo of 6.47 followed by Mizoram (2.09). Arunachal Pradesh again recorded highest tempo in 2001 (0.796), on the other hand Manipur had negative tempo of urbanisation (-0.341). So, like the trend and pattern, tempo of urbanisation also varies from state to state.

### 3.6 Statewise Tempo Of Urbanisation

The factors, which affect the level and trend of urbanisation, are common; therefore, it is not discussed here as it has been already explained under the sub-heading of levels of urbanization and trend of urbanisation.

**Table 3.10 Statewise Tempo Of Urbanisation**

State	1971-81/1971-91*	1981-91	1991-2001
Arunachal Pradesh	0.263	6.47	0.796
Assam	0.1105		0.182
Manipur	1.325	0.108	-0.341
Meghalaya	0.348	0.056	0.099
Mizoram	1.381	2.092	0.354
Nagaland	0.559	0.167	0.001
Tripura	0.055	0.431	0.176

\*

#### **Arunachal Pradesh:**

The tempo of urbanisation was 0.268 in 1971-81, 6.46 in 1981-91 and 0.796 in 1991-2001. In three decades it was highest in 1981-91 because Arunachal Pradesh was converted into a state during this period. Secondly, the capital was shifted to Itanagar (prior to this Shillong was the common capital for Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam) and thirdly, many administrative units evolved as a result of conversion of UT as a full-fledged state.

**Table 3.11 Districtwise Tempo of Urbanisation: Arunachal Pradesh**

State /District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Arunachal Pradesh	0.263	6.47	0.796
Kameng	-0.008	0.058	1.343
Subansiri	0.92	10.1	1.342
Siang	0.267	0.389	0.447
Lohit	0.051	1.337	-0.146
Tirap	0	0.299	0.927

The district level analysis shows that Kameng had negative tempo of urbanisation whereas Tirap was entirely rural till 1981 but in 2001 it had highest tempo because of emergence of Itanagar as the capital of the state and Dimapur as the commercial hub of the state. In the same year Lohit registered negative tempo.

**Assam:**

North Cachar district had highest tempo of urbanisation in both period,1971-91 and 1991-2001.It was followed by Goalpara in 1971-91 and Kamrup in1991-2001.North Cachar district of being a hill district showed highest tempo of urbanisation because of the influx of migrants from the neighboring country.

**Table 3.12 Districtwise Tempo of Urbanisation :Assam**

State/District	1971-91	1991-2001
Assam	0.1105	0.182
Goalpara	0.0555	0.129
Kamrup	0.114	0.598
Darrang	0.0097	0.17
Nowgong	0.0457	0.225
Sibsagar	0.052	0.223
Lakhimpur	-0.064	0.138
Mirik Hill	0.397	0.067
North Cachar	0.801	0.874
Hill District		
Cachar	0.016	0.242

North Cachar Hill district is followed by Kamrup district in 1991-2001 because Guahati the capital of Assam lies in this district and there is concentration of urban population in the capital city as it is functionally diverse and attracts large number of immigrants.

**Manipur:**

Manipur as a whole shows a declining trend in each decade regarding the tempo of urbanisation.In 1991-2001 it experienced a negative growth It shows stagnant condition in process of urbanisation in the state. The table shows that Manipur Central has grown fastest in all decades.

**Table 3.13 Districtwise Tempo of Urbanisation :Manipur**

State/District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Manipur	1.325	0.108	-0.341
Manipur North	0.619	-0.619	0
Manipur West	0.688	-0.668	0
Manipur South	1.006	0.081	-1.911
Manipur Central	1.616	0.399	0.041
Manipur East	0.695	-0.695	0

It is because of evolution of new towns in the district and secondly because of existence of capital town in the district. Three district namely East, West and North districts lost all urban centres in 1981. The town in Manipur South district was declassified in 1991.

### **Meghalaya**

The pace of urbanisation was slowed down in decades. There were only 2 districts in the state in 1971 out of which in Garo Hill district the speed of urbanisation was faster.

**Table 3.14 Districtwise Tempo of Urbanisation : Meghalaya.**

State/District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Meghalaya	0.348	0.056	0.099
Garo Hill District	0.482	0.094	234
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District	0.203	0.027	0.013

United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district continuously witnessed decline in the pace of urbanisation. The trend in tempo of urbanisation may be contributed to the transfer of large towns i.e. Guahati and Itanagar to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh respectively. Most of the towns which were added were medium towns which could not contribute much to rise the speed of urbanisation in the state.

**Mizoram:**

Mizoram had only one district i.e. Mizo district in 1971. In 1981-1991 the tempo of urbanisation was highest in all three decades. It was because of the rearrangement in the administrative set up of the state.

**Table 3.15 District wise Tempo of Urbanisation: Mizoram**

State/District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Mizoram	1.381	2.092	0.354
Mizo district	1.381	2.092	0.354

The urban population did not increase much in 1991-2001, consequently the tempo of urbanisation declined in this period.

**Nagaland:**

Nagaland is also experiencing decline in tempo of urbanisation. It is marginal in case of 1991-2001. The district wise analysis shows in Kohima and Tuensang district whereas Mokokchung shows fluctuating trend in the pace of urbanisation.

**Table 3.16 District wise Tempo of Urbanisation: Nagaland**

State/District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Nagaland	0.559	0.167	0.001
Kohima	0.183	0.447	0.097
Mokokchung	0.473	-0.006	0.177
Tuensang	0.806	0.025	0.145

It declined to -0.006% in 1981-91 from 0.473 in 1971-81. But in the next decade it rose to 0.145%.

**Tripura:**

Like the level of urbanisation in Tripura, the tempo of urbanisation is also showing fluctuating trend. In 1981-91 the tempo increased but declined in 1991-2001. If we see the district wise pattern then similar pattern is seen in all district. South Tripura witnessed negative trend in 1981-1991.

**Table 3.17 District wise Tempo of Urbanisation: Tripura**

State/District	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Tripura	0.055	0.431	0.176
WestTripura	0.072	0.911	0.233
NorthTripura	0.014	0.182	0.033
SouthTripura	0.93	-0.141	0.12

### 3.7 Urban Growth by Size Class in the Northeast India

The pattern and pace of growth of towns in the last three decades can be explained through growth of towns by size class and growth and distribution of urban population in different size class. The following table shows the percentage share of towns in each size class and its respective share of population In North-East India there were 109 towns, 73 towns (excluding Assam), 193 towns and 245 towns in the census year 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively.

**Table 3.18 Classwise Distribution of Towns and Population in North-East India**

Class	Class wise share of Number of Towns				Class wise Share of Urban Population			
	1971	*1981	1991	2001	1971	*1981	1991	2001
I	1.83	2.73	3.63	3.26	12.9	35.28	33.87	27.31
II	5.5	1.37	3.63	4.89	22.53	6.78	10.54	6.58
III	11.93	10.96	17.61	19.18	22.33	18.49	23.28	30.39
IV	33.94	17.81	31.61	28.98	25.75	15.87	20.45	21.86
V	28.44	35.62	27.98	35.98	13.5	16.28	9.32	9.96
VI	18.35	30.14	15.54	7.75	3.03	9.12	2.53	3.9

Source: Census of India, Rural Urban Distribution ,1971,1981,1991,2001.

The following table shows the number of towns in different size class, its share in

total number of towns, its share in urban population and the class wise decadal growth in number as well as in its population. There were 109 towns, 73 towns, 193 towns and 245 towns in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively in the northeastern region of India. The number of towns in 1981 excludes towns in Assam. There is a net increase of 136 towns in four decades. The class wise distribution of towns shows that in 1971 only two towns were supporting a population over 100000 each. The percentage share of urban units was lowest but it supported 12.90% of urban population. The number rose to 8 in 2001, still having lowest share in the number of urban center. But it supported more than 1/4th urban population. The decadal growth was 250% in 1971-91, but there was tremendous increase (552%) in class I towns. In 1981, Agartala and Shillong managed to enter in to class I towns. Excluding Assam, the percentage share of class I category was 2.73% and its population share was 35.28%. In 1991, with 3 more towns the total number of towns in class I category rose to 7. The towns which were included in this category were Dibrugarh and Silchar in Assam and Aizawl in Mizoram. In 1991, class I towns accounted 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of total urban population with only 3.63% of urban centre in this category.

**Table 3.19 Classwise Distribution of Towns and Population in Assam**

Class	% Increase in Number of Towns (1971-91)	% Change in Population	% Change in Number of Towns(1991-2001)	% Change in Population (1991-2001)
I	250	552.62	14.28	33.59
II	16.66	16.3	71.42	76.8
III	161.53	159	35.13	40.21
IV	64.86	97.4	16.39	20.47
V	74.19	72.12	62.96	43.01
VI	33.33	51.76	-36.66	16.85

Source: Census of India, Rural Urban Distribution, 1971, 1991, 2001

In 2001, with addition on Nowgong the number rose to 8 with 27.31% of urban population. During the period of 1991-2001, both the percentage share of urban units as well as percentage share of population has increased in a slower rate of 14.28 and 33.59% respectively. Class I towns are multifunctional in nature and thus is preferred by most of migrants which lead to concentration of population in large towns. Small

number of class I towns support large part of urban population which indicates that North Eastern states have top heavy structure similar to the rest of the country.

The net increase of class II town is 6 in four decades. In 1971 there were 6 towns in this category which included Agartala, Dibrugarh, Nowgaon, Lakhimpur, Cachar and Shillong. In 1981 Agartala was the only class II town excluding the urban center in Assam. In 1991, 7 towns have their population between 50000-99999 persons, out of which Assam had 5 and Nagaland had 2 towns. In 2001, 12 towns were under this category. Assam had 9 out of 12 towns, Nagaland had 2 and Meghalaya had 1 class II town. In 4 decades only were added in this group The share of number of towns and its population shows a declining trend .In 1971, it shared 5.50% of towns and in 2001, it was 4.89% likewise its population share was 22.53% which dropped to 6.85% The decline in its population was much sharp than in its number .Its decadal growth was around 16% in 2 decades and about 70% in all decades.

In 1971, its percentage share of number of towns was 11.93% and the number of towns was 13 out of 109 towns in the region In 1971, 22.33% of urban dwellers were residing in this category. This number rose to 8, 34 and 47 in 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively. In 1981, the number of class III towns in Assam is excluded .In these category, 34 towns were added in this category in a period of four decades. The percentage increase in number of towns was 161.53% in 1971-91. and 35.13% in 1991-2001. In 2001, class III towns occupies largest chunk of urban population. The growth of urban population in 1971-91 was 159% and in 2001 it was 40.21%.

In case of class IV towns, there were 37 (33.94%) towns in 1971. It had largest number of towns among all class of towns and it supported more than a quarter of urban population of the state. Therefore, not only in terms of number of urban centers but also in terms of share of urban population it was highest among all the classes. In 1981, excluding Assam there were 13 towns, (17.81%) in this group and its population share was 15.87%. In 1991, it increased to 61 (31.61%) in number. In total numbers, it was highest but the population share was only 20.45%. In other words 31.61% of towns supported only 20.45% of population. In 2001, the number rose to 71 (28.98%) but there was slight increase in its population .The percentage share of urban population has decreased continuously, this shows that the relative importance of



class IV towns has declined. In 1971-91 percentage increase in number of towns and its population was 64.86% and 97.40% respectively both witnessed a slight increase in the 1991-2001. This phenomena has taken place seen because of the movement of some of class IV towns into class III category. The migrants also tend to migrate to large towns instead of smaller ones.

Class IV towns constituted 28.44% of urban centres in 1971. There is an addition of 57 towns in this category during 1971-2001. This category has gained largest of towns as compared to other groups in the period of four decades. Since 1981, class IV towns have continuously retained the topmost position in terms of number of urban centers. Its percentage share of urban units was 35.62% in 1981, 27.98% in 1991 and 35.92% in 2001. But the percentage share of population is quite low. It was 16.28% in 1981, 9.32% in 1991 and 9.96% in 2001. The decadal growth of towns and its population in 1971-91 was almost same, 74.19% and 72.12% respectively. It shows that there is a balance in the population growth and growth in number of town. But this balance is disturbed he next decade. In 1991-2001 the percentage increase in number of towns was 62.96% it is higher than the increase in population i.e.43.01%. Class IV towns shows a slow growth till 1991. But in 2001 it experienced a negative growth in the number of towns. In 1971, it shared only 3.03% of urban population of the region. In 2001; its share of population was 3.9%. The population in class VI towns is stagnant. In four decades it has gained only 0.87% in its population. The class VI towns in the North East is nothing but overgrown villages which have acquired some features of an urban center. A large number of class VI towns has shifted to class V category which has led to negative growth in class VI towns.

### **3.9 Statewise Urban Growth By Size Class:**

The growth in number and size of towns is a good indicator of urbanisation. A study of the growth and distribution of class highlights the concentration of population in different size class town. High concentration of population in large cities is often associated with high level of urbanisation and vice-versa.

**Arunachal Pradesh:** There were only 4 towns in 1971. Out of these, 3 were class VI towns (Along, Tezu and Bomdila) and only one class V town (Pasighat). The respective share of class V and VI town were 25% and 75%. Class V towns shared

29.59% of urban population and rest of 70.4% formed the part of class VI towns. In 1981, 2 new urban centers evolved namely, Old Itanagar and New Itanagar. Therefore, the total number of towns in the state rose to 6. Old Itanagar and New Itanagar emerged as class V towns. Along and Tezu which were class VI towns in 1971, jumped to class V category. Consequently, the number of urban units in class V category raised up to 5 (83.33%) which shared 90.41% of urban population. There was only one class VI town (16.66%) with 9.58% of urban population. There was no upward or downward movement of Bomdila (class VI town) in the class hierarchy in 1981.

Classes	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	0	0	0	17.64	0	0	0	37.65
IV	0	0	50	41.17	0	0	66	43.23
V	25	83.33	50	35.29	29.59	90.41	34	15.4
VI	75	16.66	0	5.88	70.4	9.58	0	3.72

Source: Census of India, Arunachal Pradesh, Rural-Urban Distribution, Paper II, 1971,1981,1991,2001.

In 1991, census both class IV and V towns had 5 towns each. In 1991, New Itanagar, Old Itanagar, Tezu, Pasighat and Along shifted to class IV. Zero, Namsai, Konsa and Riong emerged as new urban centers in class V category. Bomdila shifted to class V category. 50% of class V towns shared 66% of urban population of the state and 34% of population was in class VI category. It shows uneven distribution of population in both classes of towns. In 2001, the total number of towns raised to 17. For the first time, the state had class III towns with movement of Itanagar and Pasighat to class IV towns. Naharlagum was considered as town in 2001 and it falls in class iii category. There were 7 (41.17%) class IV towns and 6 (35.29%) class V towns and Basar in Siang district was the only class VI town having 5.88% share of urban units and 3.72% of population. The population share of other classes is class III towns shared 37.65%, class IV had 43.23% and class V had 15.4% of population.

In 1971-81, the percentage change in class V town was 400% in no of population and

601.9% in its population. Whereas in class VI towns the percentage change in number of urban centers as well as in population was negative -66.66% and 68.13% respectively. In 1981-91 class IV towns were first registered. There is 100 percent gain in class VI town both in terms of population and number of towns contrary to this there was 100 loss of class VI towns both in population and number of towns. There was no change in class V towns in its number, as it was 5 in both decades but 1.82% of gain in its population. In 1991-2001 there was 100% gain in class III and class VI towns both in population and number of towns. In case of class IV and v towns there was 40% and 70% respectively and there is 33.02% increase in the population of class IV towns and 4.01% decrease in the population of class V towns.

### Assam

Assam has largest number of urban units. It was 72 in 1971. This number has gone up to 91 in 1991, 125 in 2001. There was only one class I town in Assam, namely Guahati in 1971 which accommodated 10.13% of urban population. In 1991, with inclusion of Dibrugarh and Silchar the percentage share of class I town rose to 3.29% with 33.81% of urban population of Assam. The number of class I towns has further gone up to 4 with addition of Nawgaon in 2001. In this period class I town, which accounted for 3.25 of towns had 35.63% of population. It shows top-heavy structure.

From the table it is observed that the percentage change in number of class I town was quite high in 1971-91 i.e. 200% increase. But it should be noted that the change has taken place in 3 decades. In 1991-2001 only 33.33% of towns were added. In terms of population 1971-91 experienced tremendous increase of 562.4% of population while in 1991-2001 44.11% growth was registered.

**Table 3.21 Class wise Distribution of Number of Towns and Its Population Assam**

Class	%Share of Towns			Classwise Share of Urban Population		
	1971	1991	2001	1971	1991	2001
I	1.38	3.29	3.2	10.13	33.81	35.63
II	5.55	5.49	7.2	20.01	14.3	17.22
III	15.27	20.87	19.2	27.42	23.56	20.86
IV	33.33	37.39	28.8	26.12	20.61	15.21
V	33.33	19.78	34.4	14.16	5.68	9.58
VI	11.14	13.18	7.2	2.13	2	1.37

Source: Census of India, Assam, Rural-Urban Distribution, Paper II, 1971,1981,1991,2001.

Class II towns were 4 in number in 1971, which rose to 9 in 2001. The percentage share was 5.55, which increased to 7.2 in 4 decades. This means that in 4 decades there was marginal increase in share of class I towns in Assam. In case of population share of class ii towns, it was 10.13 in 1971, which slightly increased to 17.22 percentages in 2001. There was an increase of 25% and 80% in the number of towns having population above 50,000 and less than 1 lakh in 1971-91 and 1991-2001 respectively. Approximately 42% and 65% of population was increase in 1971-91 and 1991-2001.

The number of class iii towns has gone up from 11 (15.27%) in 1971 to 24 (19.2%) in 2001. the population share had decreased from 27.42% to 21% in 1971 and 2001 respectively. There was 73% increase in number of towns with almost similar increase in its population (71%) in 1971-91. and 1991-2001 26.135 increase in number of towns and 21.14% increase in population was registered.

There was all total 24 towns in class IV category. Till 2001 there was an addition of 12 towns. But the percentage share of towns has decreased from 33.33 to 28.8% in 4 decades. This group of towns had more than one fourth of urban population in 1971 but in 2001 it was only 15.21%. The decadal growth in number of towns (1971-91) was 41.66% and in 1991-2001 it was as low as 5.88%. if we see the population change in the class there was 56.67% growth in 1971-91 and very marginal growth (1.58%) in 1991-2001.

The number and the percentage share of class V towns shows fluctuating trend. In 1971 it was 24 in absolute terms (33.33%) but in 1991 there was a decrease of 6 towns and its percentage share declared 19.78%. In 2001 with 43 (34.4%) towns it registered highest number of towns among all 6 classes of towns. Similar trend was seen in its population share. In 1971 its share was 14.16%, which decreased to 5.68% in 1991 and again rose to 9.58% in 2001. There was 20% increase in population despite of negative growth in number of towns in 1971-91. But the decadal growth rate has shown a tremendous increase of more than 130% in both its number and population share. This is because of emergence of new towns in this category due to notification from the state government.

Finally, class VI towns have shown a decline in its percentage share in the number of towns in the state. The actual number of towns shows similar trend as class v towns. It was 8, 12, and 9 in 1971, 1991, and 2001 respectively. Its percentage share of urban population has declined from 2.13% to 1.37% during 1971- 2001. This group had 50 percent increase in its number during 1971-91 and 86 percent in its population but in the next decade both experienced a negative growth.

Class IV and V towns share more than 63% of towns. But in case of population class I towns. But in case of population, class I towns alone shares about one third of population since 1991 followed by class III towns with 20% of population. The growth in urban population is the result of large-scale immigration. Migrants became determining factor in the election; hence their stay or departure from the state became a serious problem. The immigrants are mainly from Bangladesh. Illegal migration is also responsible for the phenomena. Lack of big industries shows small number of big towns, and neglect of village economy has compelled people to migrate to the urban areas.

### **Manipur:**

Manipur had 8 towns in 1971. Imphal was the only class I towns, which contributed 70.93% of total urban population of the state. Although the number of towns under class I remain unchanged till 2001. But the contribution of this group has shown steadily decline in both number as well as total urban population. There were numbers class ii, iii, and IV town. Class V and VI towns having 4 towns (50% of towns) and 3 towns (37.5%) provided 22.18% and 6.89% of total urban population respectively. In 1981 with addition of 24 towns, the number of urban center suddenly increased to 32. The distribution being one town under class I, two under class III, four under class IV, nine under class V and sixteen under VI with no towns under class II category. Thus, in 1981, 78.13% of towns in the state belong to the category of small towns having population less than 10,000 persons. In 1981, for the first time the state registered class III towns and class IV towns. Kakching and Churachandpur which were earlier class V towns now have shifted to class III category. Thoubal and Nambol jumped to class IV category from class V in 1981. Moirang was another town in class IV category which was first time treated as a town in 1981 census. The percentage of population was 41.7% followed by class V towns (16.72), class

VI(16.65%). Class III towns had lowest share of urban population (11.28%) The decadal growth in 1971-81 was 100% in class III and IV towns, both in terms of its number and its population. In case of class I towns there was no change in its number but there was 55.07% in its population. This means only a single town has gained 55% of its population in one decade. The number of towns increased by 200% and 81.25% in class IV and V towns respectively. And their population has increased 98.98% and 4.96% respectively.

Classes	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	12.5	3.125	3.22	3.03	70.93	41.7	39.26	38.56
II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	0	6.25	9.67	12.12	0	11.28	18.04	19.64
IV	50	12.5	16.12	21.21	0	14.63	14.85	17.33
V	37.5	28.13	54.87	48.48	22.18	16.72	24.26	20.94
VI	0	50	16.12	15.15	6.89	15.65	3.59	3.53

Source: Census of India, Manipur, Rural-Urban Distribution, Paper II, 1971,1981,1991,2001.

In 1991, there was massive decline in class VI towns, 11 towns were reduced from 16 towns in 1971. The percentage share of class VI town also declined to 16.12% and percentage of population also reduced to 3.59%. There was a negative growth of -68% in 1981-91 in both its number and population.

Most of the towns like Oinam, Siphong, Sekmai, Wanging were shifted to class V groups of towns. Class IV and V towns occupied 16 and 55 percent of towns in the state. Its population share was quite low 25 percent for class V towns. Class IV shared 15 percent of population. The population almost doubled in a decade in class V town.

In 2001 two more towns were added. Class V has shown a negative growth in its number in 1991-2001 and a very slight increase in its population (1.7%). There is an addition of one more town in class III and two towns in class IV category Till 2001 there was not a single class II town in Manipur.

### **Meghalaya:**

In 1971, Meghalaya had 6 towns one each in class II, V and VI towns. The respective share of population was 59 percentage, 31 percentage, 6 percentage and 3 percentage

of total urban population in class IV, V, and VI towns .The number has doubled in1981.Class V and VI towns are showing 200% of growth in its number In this decade Shillong was shifted to class I category, consequently a vacuum was created in class II category. Shillong alone occupied 45% of urban population. Class V and VI towns together had 50% f the towns but contrary to this only 13% of the urban dwellers were there in this group with the upward movement of Shillong, class II towns experienced a negative growth. There was 33% decline in class IV town as Tura entered in class III category.

Classes	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
<b>I</b>	0	8.33	8.33	6.25	0	45.05	39.91	29.26
<b>II</b>	16.66	0	0	6.25	59.56	0	0	12.99
<b>III</b>	0	25	33.33	31.25	0	32.20	37.74	31.46
<b>IV</b>	50	16.67	33.33	50	31.16	9.78	15.48	24.39
<b>V</b>	16.66	25	25	6.25	6.067	7.84	6.87	1.90
<b>VI</b>	16.66	25	0	0	3.21	5.13	0	0

Source: Census of India, Meghalaya, Rural-Urban Distribution, Paper II, 1971,1981,1991,2001.

In 1991 there was no change in number of towns in the state. There was only upward movement of some of the towns. There were no class IV towns in this decade Class III and IV towns, if combined had 66% of towns and had 53% of population. Class I town had 40% of urban population In case of percentage change class IV experienced largest changed. In his category of town was doubled and there was 119% increase I its population, this means its population was also doubled. Class VI towns experienced negative growth because the towns were shifted to other classes.

#### **Mizoram :**

There is tremendous increase in the number and population of towns in Mizoram. There were only two towns in 1971, one each in class III and V Aijawl was class III town having 84% of population Lungleh was class IV town with 16% of population. In 1981 4 new towns were added. Aizwal became the first, class ii towns of the state in 1981 sharing 62% of urban population, Lungleh jumped to class iv category. It had

15% of urban population of the state. There were 4 class vi towns namely Kolosib, cahmphai, Saiha and Serchip which altogether had 24% of urban population. There were no class I, III, and VI towns. The class wise decadal growth of towns was 100% in class II and IV towns. There was negative growth in class III towns and more than 300% growth in class V towns.

**Table 3.24 Classwise Distribution of Number of Towns and Its Population Mizoram**

Class	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Pop.(in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	0	0	4.55	4.55	0	0	48.83	52.15
II	0	16.67	0	0	0	61.88	0	0
III	50	0	9.09	9.09	84.06	0	17.74	16.81
IV	0	16.67	13.64	22.73	0	14.48	12.84	17.78
V	50	66.67	22.73	27.27	15.94	23.64	10.05	8.45
VI	0	0	50	36.36	0	0	10.54	4.80

Source: Census of India, Rural Urban Distribution, 1971,1981,1991,2001

In 1991, there was a sudden growth of towns, 16 new towns were added, it was the result of massive rearrangements in the states administration out of 16 new towns, and 11 were class VI towns. The state was divided to form more number of districts, consequently, large number of statutory towns evolved.

#### **Nagaland:**

Kohima, Mokokchung and Dimapur were three urban centers in Nagaland in 1971. Kohima was the only class III town and rest two was class IV towns. Kohima has 42% of total urban population of the state and rest was shared by Mokokchung and Dimapur. In 1981, Dimapur became class III town and the number of class iii town became 2. Tuensang was new town in class IV category. Wokha, Mon and Zunheboto evolved as class V towns. Class III occupied a major chunk of urban population i.e. 56%. One fourth of the population comes under class IV town.



**Table 3.25 Classwise Distribution of Number of Towns and Its Population Nagaland**

Class	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
II	0	0	22.22	22.22	0	0	52.15	51.09
III	33.33	28.57	22.22	44.44	41.92	55.91	22.01	35.50
IV	66.67	28.57	33.33	33.33	58.08	25.17	17.60	13.41
V	0	42.86	22.22	0	0	18.93	8.24	0
VI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Census of India, Nagaland, Rural Urban Distribution, 1971,1981,1991,2001

In 1991, class V category experienced a negative growth rate of -33.33%. There was further movement of Dimapur and Kohima to class II town and more than one half of urban population was concentrated in this group both in 1991 and the next decade. It was followed by class III towns which had 228.35% had maximum decadal growth. The total number of urban centers did not changed in 2001. Till 2001, there was no class VI town in the state.

**Tripura:**

Tripura had six towns in 1971. Agartala was the only class II town having 49% of urban population of the state. Dharmanagar, Kailashar, Beloni and Radhakishorepur were class IV towns, which constituted 43% of population. Khowi was only class v town with 6% of urban population. In 1981 Agartala became a class I town and Dharmangar class III town. Udiapur and Khowi were included in class IV group. But there was no change in number of number of towns in this group because Dharmanagar was shifted to class III town and Radhakishorpur was declassified. But there was 28.57% of decadal growth of population Amarpur and Sonamura were 2 class V towns with 24% of urban population.

**Table 3.26 Classwise Distribution of Number of Towns and Its Population in Tripura**

Class	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	0	10	5.56	4.35	0	60.49	37.32	34.81
II	16.67	0	0	0	48.98	0	0	0.00
III	0	10	22.22	26.09	0	9.52	27.53	33.39
IV	66.67	40	38.89	39.13	43.34	23.80	25.08	22.92
V	16.67	20	22.22	30.43	7.67	6.19	7.92	8.88
VI	0	20	11.11	0	0	0	2.15	0.00

Source: Census of India, Tripura, Rural Urban Distribution, 1971,1981,1991,2001

There was 49.4% increase in its population during 1971-91. There were 2 class VI towns in 1981, Kamalpur and Sabroom having 6.2% of population. In 1991 and 2001 there were 18 and 23 towns respectively in the state. There was no change in number of towns in class II group and I. But there was 20.71% increase in population of class I town. Class IV towns were largest in number. Its share was 25% in 1991 and 23% in 2001.

The peculiar features of low level of urbanisation, decadal growth rate and tempo of urbanisation in most of the states is attributed to -:

- a) Some social factors particular to this region like the rigidity to mix with different tribes. Tradition based multi-ethnic, multi-social and multi-tribe society, which are not easily open to modernisation process, ultimately which would lead to stagnation of urban population or slow growth of its population.
- b) Political instability which is faced by most of these states is also responsible for poor urban development.
- c) Poor inter-regional communication due to harsh geographical conditions.
- d) Almost non-existence of big industries, plants etc, which normally encourage people to move from rural to urban areas for employment opportunities act as deterrents.
- e) Poor sanitation and urban management in urban areas and deficient urban infrastructure, less diversified economy of the urban area other than the small market towns and services which are not strong enough to attract the rural people to migrate to the urban centers.

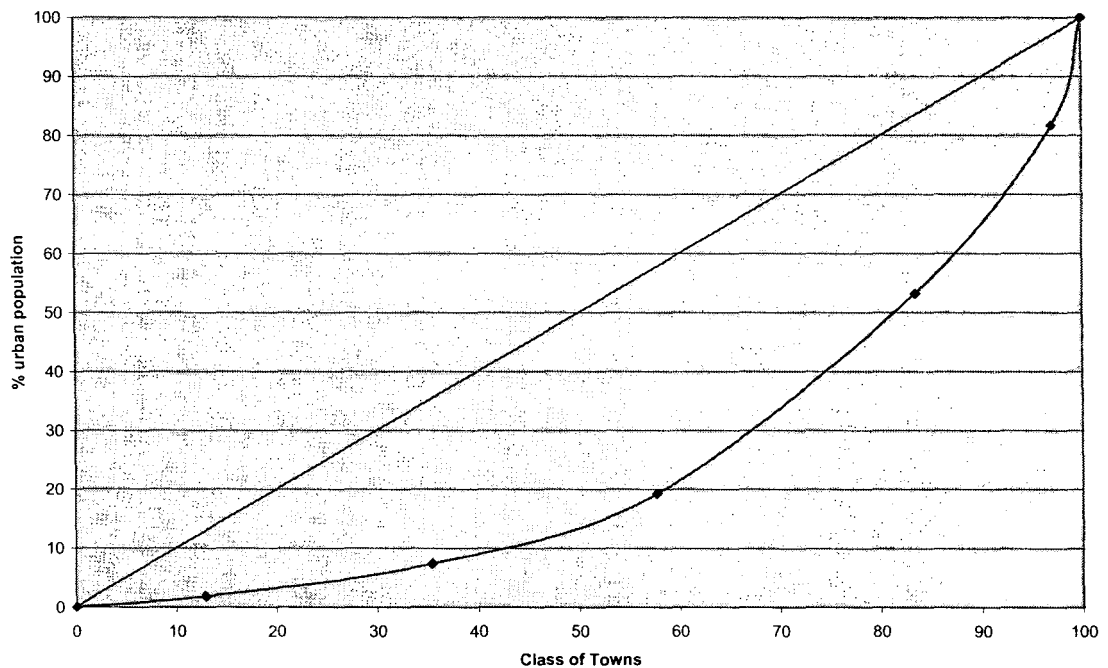
### **3.10 Concentration of Urban Population:**

The table of Gini Concentration Ratio presents the present class wise distribution of population for India and seven North-Eastern states. Which in 2001 shifted to class V. Between 1971 and 2001, the number of cities in North-Eastern states have grown many fold averaging 126%. Arunachal Pradesh reported first urban population in 1971 when the concentration of population was highest in class IV cities. The concentration shifted to the highest city class size (i.e. class V) both in 1981 and 1991 which in 2001 shifted to the second highest city class size (i.e. class IV). Assam and Mizoram show highest concentration in Class I cities during 1991 and 2001 compared to 1971.

Nagaland represents highest percentage of urban population in the highest city class size of 1981, 1991 and 2001. in 1971 however, the concentration was more in the lower of the two city size classes. The situation in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland indicate that, in recent years more and more people from rural areas and also from the remaining towns are being attracted to the cities. For Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura the proportion of urban population living in the largest cities declined during the decades 1981-91 and 1991-2001 owing to a faster pace of population growth in the other categories of towns besides the addition of a relatively large number of new towns in the smaller city size classes.

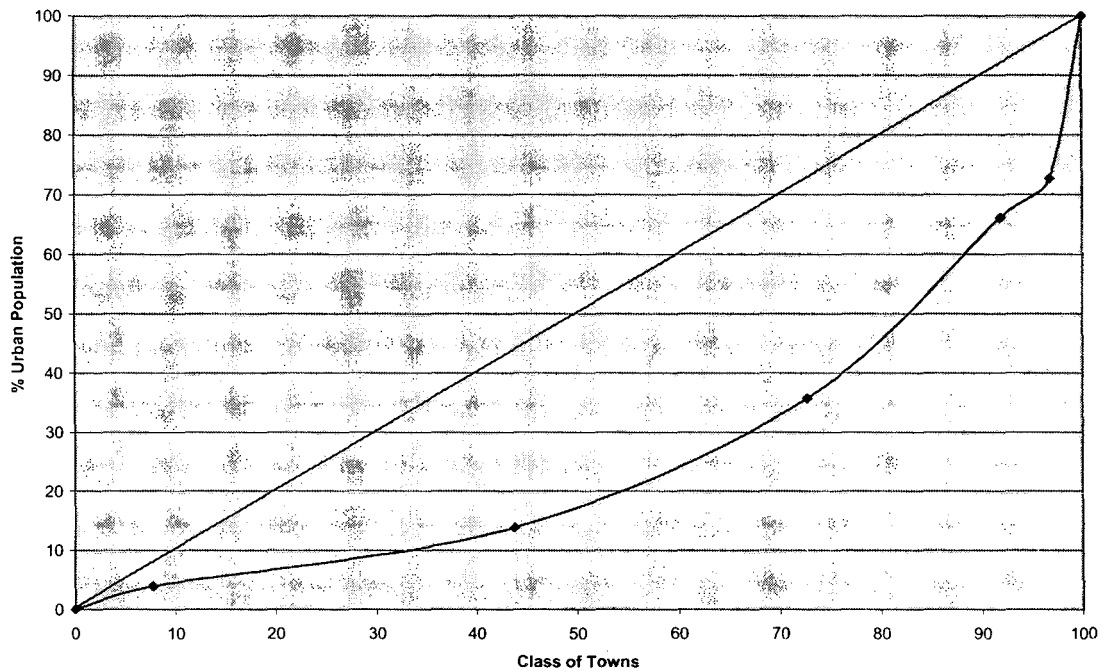
**Fig. No. 3.5**

**Classwise Distribution of Towns and Urban Population in North-East India-1971**



**Fig. No. 3.6**

**Classwise Distribution of Urban Population in North-East India-2001**



**Table 3.27 Gini Concentration Ratio For North East India**

Region/State	1971	1981	1991	2001
North-East India	0.49	0.56	0.56	0.46
Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.07	0.16	0.31
Assam	0.4	-	0.55	0.59
Manipur	0.63	0.57	0.55	0.57
Meghalaya	0.49	0.55	0.48	0.82
Mizoram	0.34	0.51	0.66	0.69
Nagaland	0.09	0.33	0.38	0.37
Tripura	0.47	0.63	0.49	0.49

One of the dimensions of urbanisation process is this concentration (uneven distribution) of urban population in a few urban areas. The Lorenz curve and Gini concentration index is used to study the concentration of urban population.

To plot the Lorenz curve, the proportional distribution of urban population and number of urban localities are calculated. Cumulative proportion of urban population  $x$  and cumulative proportion of urban localities  $y$  are calculated. The value  $y$  is plotted against  $x$  and a smooth curve is drawn. For comparison, a diagonal line is drawn at 45

degree to the condition of equal distribution. The curve should follow the diagonal if urban population and urban localities are evenly distributed.

Gini concentration index measures the proportion of the total area under the diagonal and that lies between the diagonal and the Lorenz curve. This index calculated for each of the Northeastern states reveal a marginal increase in concentration in 2001 as compared to 1971. The Lorenz curves substantiate the same.

### **3.11 Conclusion:**

In short it can be mentioned that the trend of urbanisation in the North East is similar to other part of the country. But the spatial pattern reveals the fact that the hilly areas, homeland of tribes are experiencing rapid urbanisation whereas its plain counterparts remain largely rural.

The following features emerge as from the above discussion:

1. Firstly, as compare to national average the north-eastern states is relatively behind in terms of level of urbanization. State of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were almost rural till 1961. But the tempo of urbanization shows that the states are growing not fast and except states like Mizoram.
2. The level of urbanisation varies from state to state. For example Mizoram with 49.63% in 2001 and Assam on the other side with 12.90%.
3. The pace of urbanization remained slow throughout the three decades.
4. High level of urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram can probably be explained in terms of regrouping of villages by the administrative/government organizations.
5. The highland region is experiencing unprecedented urban growth and is fast outpacing the level of urbanization found in the state dominated by plains and plateaus. Therefore in case of North-East states, topography of the region does not influence much in the process of urbanization.
6. Decadal growth rate varies from one state to another. Arunachal Pradesh witnesses very high decadal growth rate which led the state to achieve 20.75% of urban population from just 3.69% in 1971. in Manipur it is lowest. The common thing to be noted is that all the states are showing a decline in growth rate in 2001 as compared to earlier decades.
7. These states show top heavy structure with major concentration of population

in class I towns. There is a tendency of towns and people to concentrate in and around and districts with the capital city of the state. The growth rate of different class towns shows a decline in small towns.

8. Gini concentration ratio also shows that there is uneven distribution of population in different size class towns.
9. Development as such has not played a significant role in urbanization. Concentration of population is more a consequence of distress migration.

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**CHAPTER-IV FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF  
TOWNS OF NORTH EASTERN STATES**

## CHAPTER 4

### FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF TOWNS IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a discussion on the dominant functions performed by all towns in North East India and functional classification of towns for the year 1991. As the data provided by census on distribution of workers in 1981 and 2001, has been categorised in 4 groups, (i) Cultivable labourers (ii) agricultural labourers (iii) household labourers and (iv) other services. The fourth category includes (a) livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities (b) mining and quarrying (c) manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs in non-household industry (d) construction (e) trade and commerce (f) transport storage and communications and (g) other services. These 7 categories were separately presented in 1971 and 1991. So, functional classification based on 9 industrial categories is not possible for 1981 and 2001. Therefore in the second part of this chapter the data for 1991 has been clubbed to make it comparable with 1981 and 2001. In 1971, Census produced data for industrial classification of towns which was based on total workers. In 1981, Census introduced the concept of main workers and started grouping the workers according to total main workers. On this ground the data of 1971 is not comparable with the following decades. So, 1971 is not considered for any sort of comparison.

Chapter is presented in two parts. This functional classification of the towns is the first part which is divided into second parts i.e. theoretical background and functional classification of towns in 1991. The second part discussed about the trend of different sectors in three decades.

## 4.2 Functional Classification Part I

A good number of attempts have been made in the past and present functional classification of towns and cities in different regions of the world. Initially, the urban centres were classified as market towns or sea port. It was a form of functional classification. The industrial development of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century resulted in increasing diversity of towns functional. In the year 1840, in Britain the committee of the Health of Towns proposed to classify towns into 5 groups, namely metropolis, manufacturing towns, populous sea port towns, great waterway towns and country and other considerable island towns, not being the seat of particular manufacturers. Since the time of classifications attempts to suggest groups of towns linked by common functional have become more elaborate and statistically more sophisticated.

At the same time, great effort have been made to understand the logical bases of classifications and nature of towns function, Harold Centres, in his book 'The study of Urban Geography (1972)', discussed the different attempts on the functional classification from the simple general statements to the contemporary multivariate analysis. They briefly discussed below.

### Methods of Functional Classification

General Description: this method of classifies the earlier stage on the analysis of town function. Classes are established in descriptive term only. This includes M. Arousseau's work in his paper 'The Distribution of Population: A Constructive Problem', he classified towns into 6 classes which are also subdivided. The following table demonstrates the functional classifications of cities.

Classification after M. Arousseau 1971:

Class I: Administration

Class II: Defence

Class III: Culture

Class IV: Production

Class V: Communication

Class VI: Recreation

Aurousseau's scheme, although subject to many criticism, makes an important stage in the development of functional classification study. Similarly, other works such as Mckenzie's are worth mentioning under this method of classification.

Statistical Description: the stage in the consideration of town functions introduces objective, statistical material into the problem of classification. The most consistently used data have been occupation or employment ratios. This classification, studies based on the 'Principle of Statistical Description' can be found in the earliest stage 7 urban geography as for example in Marinelli's work. But the most widely quoted work is of chauncy D. Harris (1943) in which a functional classification of the cities of U.S.A. was outlined. Eight classes of towns were recognised, namely, manufacturing, retail, wholesale, transport, mining, university, resort and retirement and diversified. One example would be sufficient to indicate the principle used. Transport centres are defined as towns where transportation and communication contain at least 11 percent of the gainful workers, and workers in transportation and communication equals at least one third the number in manufacturing and mechanical industries and at least two third the number of trade. The example illustrates the problem of diagnosis otherwise it has been the most known reference done very systematically.

Ashok Mitra attempted a functional classification based on a industrial categories. He excluded agricultural workers. It was an authentic and pronounced classification done by the Indian scholar. After him several other scholars have tried to classify Indian towns in a more or less same fashion of his classification, Town were classified under 3 headings (i) Manufacturing town, (ii) Trades and Transport towns and (iii) service towns. He excluded cultivators and agricultural labourers from the census industrial categories of workers. The triangular co-ordinate's method is an effective and elegant device which was used by him.

It may be noted that a majority of other classification do not present any major methodological or conceptual departure from Harris, nor do they demonstrate a technique.

Ashok Mitra had attempted a functional classification of town using a industrial workers; data he excluded agricultural data and divided the functions of towns into 3 major ones viz. manufacturing, trade and transport and services.

Statistical Analysis:- the next step with functional classification linked with the attempt to offset criticism directed at Harris scheme. This means that the classes recognized have to be derived statistically from the raw material.

In Harris scheme there is an implied and subjective comparison of the particular city with the average city in order to derive a critical figure. This process becomes the basis for many schemes of statistical analysis, where local conditions are compared with national average conditions. A good average of such a procedure is in the calculation of location quotients. This measures the local significance of an industry by relating the ratio of its local employment to the national average. L. L. Powell attempted to use this concept in the study of “The Functional Study of New Zealand Town” in 1953. a more fully developed and more logical scheme is that of H. S. Nelson, who in 1955, set out ‘A Service Classification of American Cities’. In his classification the occupational groups are selected from the census returns. These related to manufacturing, retail trade, professional services transportation and communication, personal service, public administration, wholesale trade, finance, insurance and real estate and mining. R. S. Dick working in Queensland, Australia adopted a similar technique but expressed his results completely by including the percentage employment as well under this method of functional classification the problem of diagnostic ratio must be related to the particular circumstances and character of those being investigated. They can not be put forward as the universal application; international comparability is still far off.

All the classifications discussed above are more or less satisfactory methods of associating things so that the understanding becomes easier. So far the methods that have been briefly discussed above either fall in the quantitative or qualitative methods. On the other hand studies employing quantitatively standards of classification are far more numerous. Under this scheme classification, for a number of industries, categories are used as the basic data in establish groups of towns with similar functional classification a good example of Indian census classification of town. The problem of functional classification of towns on a scale where functions of

towns of different countries can be compared is because the statistics for any two countries may not be comparable because of variations in both the time census are taken and in the definition and number of industrial categories for which data are enumerate. Consequently it seems ideal to speculate on the rigorous functional classification of the world's town, although the need and purpose of functional classification of towns and cities is described succinctly. Cities serve many fold ~~functions~~ in the economy and culture of the people. All cities have functions peculiar ~~to their site and situation, to the people whom they serve and their development in their history, hence cities can be classified more efficiently on the basis of their functions.~~

#### **4.3 Functional Classification Part II**

After the first census of post independence era an attempt was made in 1951 in some states to classify towns according to their functions relying on the superintendent himself. At 1961 census, a composite classification based on predominant functions of a town was attempted by A. Mitra, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India then. This was based on individual classification of towns. But as indicated earlier, due to non-availability of town level data on industrial classification of workers into 9 industrial categories. This exercise could not be continued in the 1981 census. But in 1991 census, with the restoration of 9 fold industrial classifications of workers at town level, a functional classification of town has been undertaken once again by the census authorities with slight modification in the methodology as well as in the broad functional categories.

The methodology adopted in 1971 and 1991 are almost same. However in 1991 the dominant functions of urban agglomeration as a unit is a new addition to classification.

For making the functional classification of towns in 1961 by Ashok Mitra assumed that the cities and the towns were engaged in non-primary activities only. He followed the triangular coordinate's method which implies that non-primary activities had to be divided into three functional categories. Consequently after excluding cultivators, agricultural labourers, and those engaged in plantation, forestry, fishing, logging,

hunting and animal husbandry, the remaining workers were classified into following three categories:

1. Manufacturing	Household industry, Manufacturing other than household industry and construction
2. Trades and Transport	Trade and commerce and transport, communication and storage
3. Services	Other Services

Forestry, fishing, plantation, mining, quarrying etc. falls under both urban and non-urban activity. While mining and plantation can bring about the establishment of urban centres, forestry and fishing generally do not.

Methodology Adopted in 1981 Census: The 1981 classification is largely based on Sekhar Mukherji's techniques diversified for the study of migration and circulation. Together with classification, it worked out the hierarchy of towns, based on functions. The methodology involved factor analysis –cum distance analysis-cum-hierarchical cluster analysis. Working with the data matrix of 1466 (number of towns) X9 (category of workers) computer assistance was imperative. The complicated process of analysis and the large number of classes makes the application difficult. It is comparatively difficult than the method adopted in the earlier census.

#### **Functional Classification Based on 1991 Census:**

Dr.M.K.Jain, Deputy Registrar General (SS) of India has attempted a functional classification of Indian cities following Ashok Mitra's (1971) methodology. Apart from identifying classes by type of activity 3 other classes of mono, bi and multi-functional categories were also recognised. The method adopted was as follows:

For each town the percentages of workers under these 5 classes of economic activities to the total number of workers are calculated. If the percentage under any five categories is equal to or exceeds 40%, such town is regarded as 'mono-functional towns'. If the percentage is less than 40 in all the categories and if the figures against any two add up to 60 or more, then such a town is regarded as 'bi-functional' and these two predominant activities are arranged in order of their importance. If no 2 sectors added up to 60% or more, largest sector were combined and the unit was classed as multi-functional.

#### **4.4 Functional Classification of Towns in North-Eastern States**

This exercise attempts to bring out salient features in regard to different functional categories. A detailed analysis has been presented in different section at two levels. That is, the dispersal of number and their population of cities and towns classified into 5 main functional categories i.e. primary activity, industry, trade and commerce, transport and communication and services as well as into 3 broad types, monofunctional, bifunctional and multifunctional.

The analysis presented in different sections covers the following aspect:

- i) Distribution of urban areas and their population according to main functional types.
- ii) Class wise distribution of urban centres according to three broad functional types.
- iii) Distribution of urban areas and population according to the broad functional types.

A classification of the cities/towns according to the main functional types as given in the following table shows that almost one third of the urban settlements in the North East India had primary activity as the predominant or the leading economic function. This was followed by industry (29%). Of the remaining three categories trade accounted for 19% of towns were as industry and transport and communication accounted for 6.38% and 1.95% of urban areas respectively.

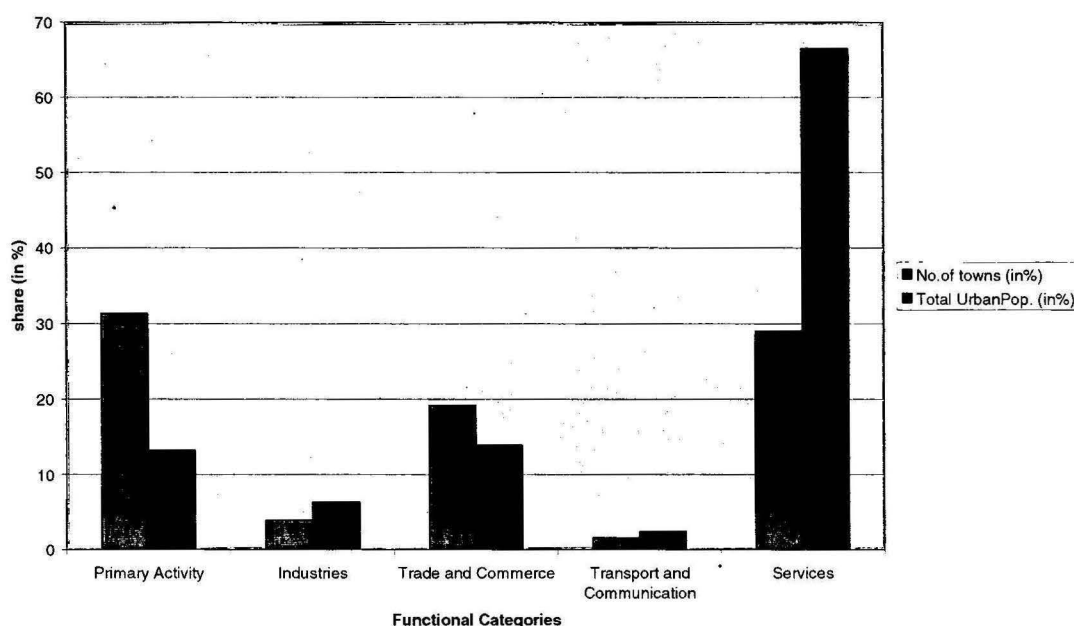


Table 4.2 Classification of Towns in North-East India According to Leading/Predominant Functions (1991)

Predominant/Leading Function	Number of Towns (in %)	Total Urban Population(in %)
Primary Activity	31.38	13.24
Industries	3.88	6.38
Trade and Commerce	19.14	13.94
Transport & Communication	1.59	2.47
Services	29	66.46

Source: Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, Part II-B (i), Series I, 1991.

Fig.4.1: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in North East India



The percentage of distribution of population living in such places indicates that inspite of the fact that nearly one third of the cities/town have primary activities either as predominant or the dominant functions, the proportion of urban population living in such places was however substantially low i.e. approximately 13.24%. On the other hand, two third of the urban population was enumerated in nearly 29% of towns which had services as the predominant or leading function. Of the remaining 3 categories 14% of the population is found in 19% of towns having trade as the

predominant or leading functions. About 4% of the total urban population is found in 6.38% of towns which have industries as leading or predominant functions. And finally transport towns had (1.59% of total urban units) 2.47% of population. There was uneven distribution of population in the cities /towns with different leading functions.

#### **4.5 State-wise Distribution of Cities/Towns and their Population According to Main Functional Types-;**

Assam: - In North East India Assam is the most important state in terms of number of urban centres and urban population. It occupied 46.28% of urban centres and 55% of urban population of North East. In this state a large variety of economic activities highly varies in the state. It is not commonly found in rest of the six states.

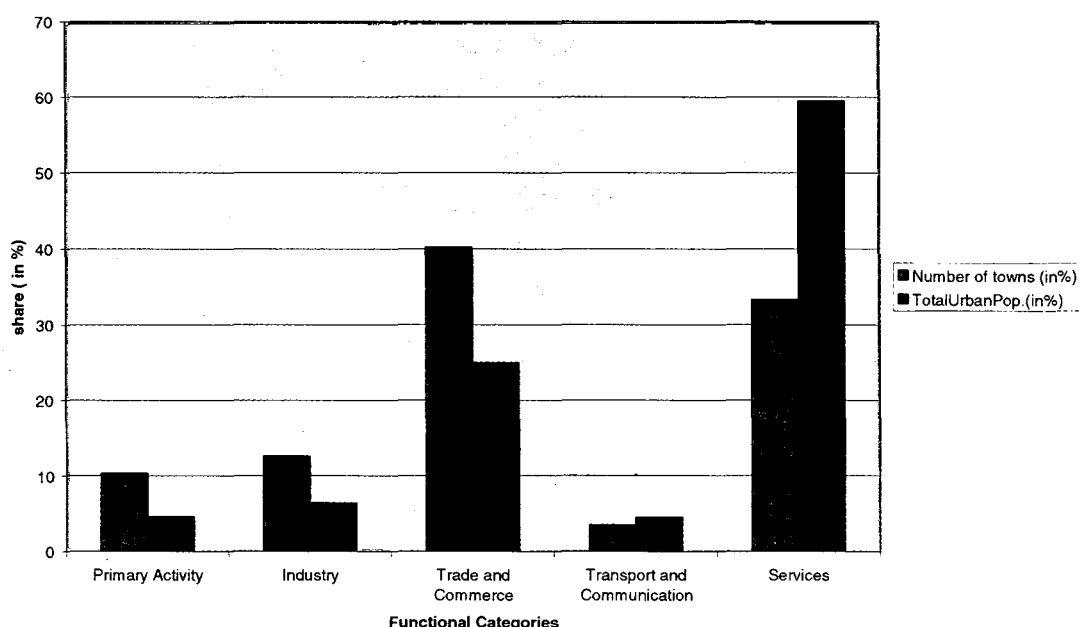
The following table shows that trade and commerce was the predominant or leading functions in 2/5<sup>th</sup> of the cities/towns of Assam. It is followed by services, which covered one third of the urban units of Assam. Out of remaining 3 categories, industry shared 13% of the urban centres. Primary activity was predominant or leading functions in 10.34% of towns. Lastly transport services were predominantly leading functions in only 3.45% of towns.

Table 4.3 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions -Assam

Predominant/Leading Function	Number of Towns (in %)	Total Urban Pop. (in %)
Primary Activity	10.34	4.64
Industry	12.64	6.44
Trade and Commerce	40.23	24.94
Transport and Communication	3.45	4.48
Services	33.33	59.5

Source: Census of India, General Economic Table, Part II-B (i), Series I, 1991.

Fig.4.2: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in Assam



The distribution of population living in these towns showed that trade and commerce occupied 40% of towns in the state but the proportion of population living in these towns 2/5 were comparatively low, it was only 25%. On the other side nearly 3/5<sup>th</sup> of population was registered in 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of total number of towns having services as predominant/dominating function. The town having industry as the predominant or dominating function accommodated 6.44% of urban population. Industry shared approximately 13% of towns and 6.4% of population. The towns having primary activities and transport as leading factor had more or less equal proportion of population (approximately 4.5%). The state possessed 10% of urban centres, which had its dominant/ leading function as primary activity. There were only 3.45% of transport towns in Assam.

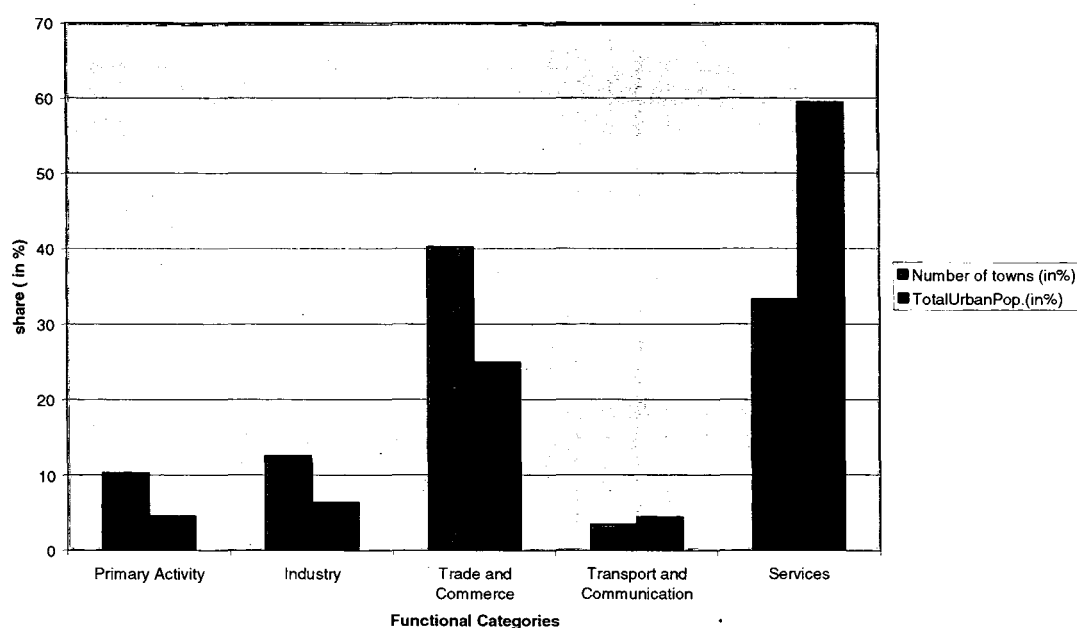
Arunachal Pradesh: In Arunachal Pradesh there were 10 towns in 1991. Unlike Assam the towns in this state perform limited economic activities. Out of 10 towns 9 towns had services as predominant or leading function. Only one town i.e. Namsai town had industry as leading function.

Table. 4.4 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Arunachal Pradesh

Predominant/Leading Function	Number of towns (in %)	TotalUrbanPop.(in%)
Primary Activity	0	0
Industry	10	7.21
Trade and Commerce	0	0
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	90	92.79

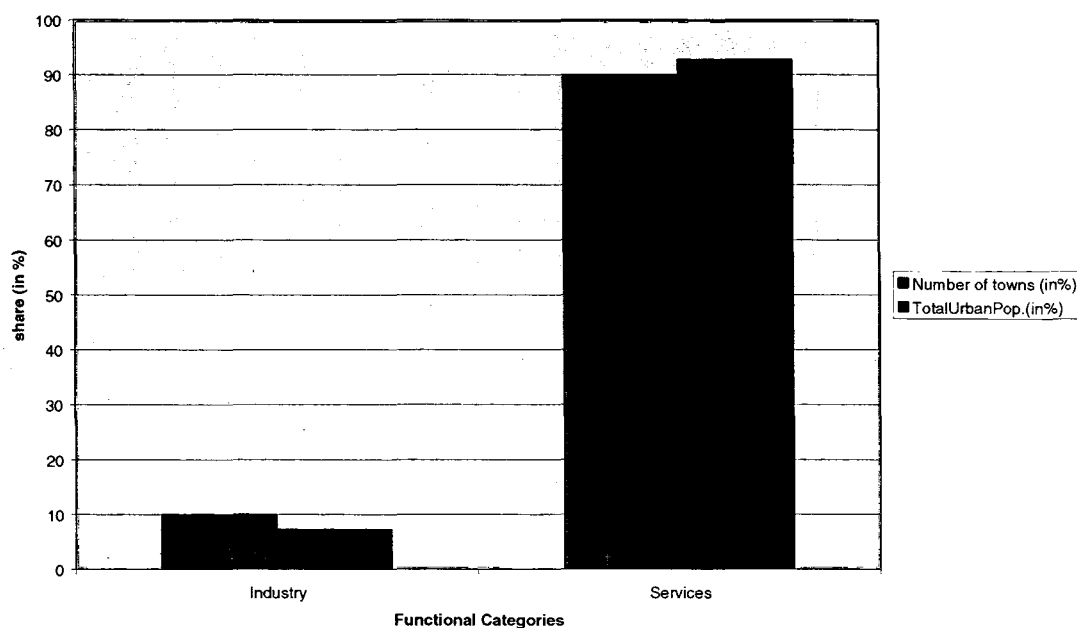
Source: Census of India, Arunachal Pradesh, General Economic Tables , Series 3, 1991.

Fig.4.2: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in Assam



The table shows that 92% of population was enumerated in 90% of towns had service as predominant or dominating factor. Rest 10% of towns had industry as predominant function shared 7.2% of urban population in the state. It is clearly visible that majority of towns and its population were enumerated was concentrated around services. The other sectors are yet to be started. This skewed nature of functions of towns is because of lack of infrastructure, technical knowledge and topographical constrains.

Fig. 4.3: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in Arunachal Pradesh



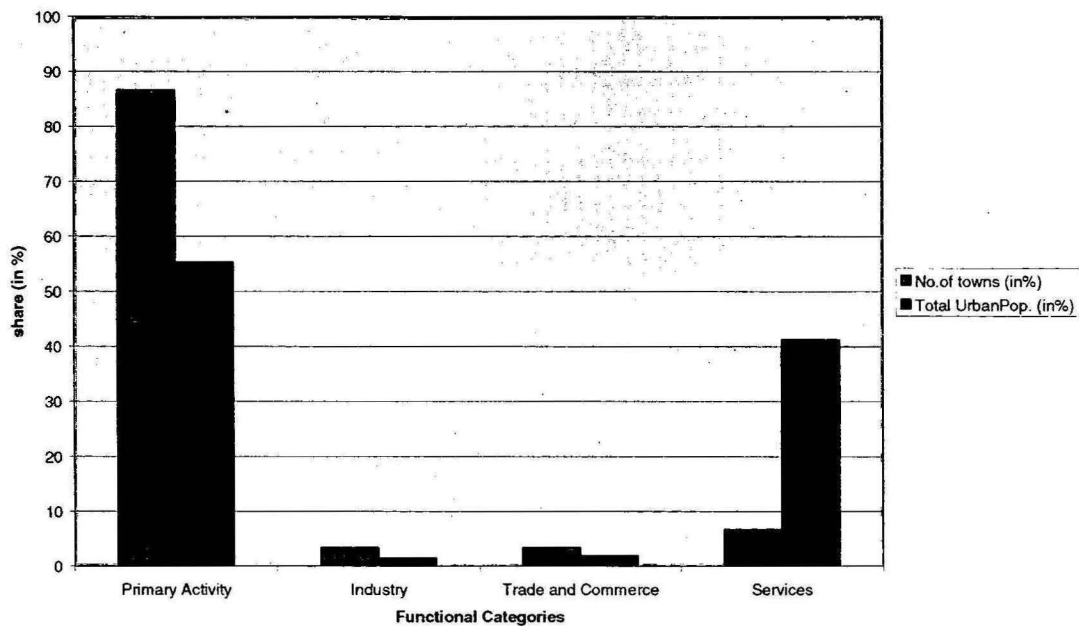
Manipur: Manipur is the second state to have largest number of towns and urban population in the North East India Assam. A primary activity was the predominant or leading function of the more than 4/5<sup>th</sup> of urban units in Manipur. Service towns shared only 6.67% of total number of towns in the state. There were equal number of towns having trade and industry as predominant or leading. Manipur had no town having transport as leading or predominant factor.

Table 4.5 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Manipur

Predominant/Leading Function	No. of towns (in%)	Total UrbanPop. (in%)
Primary Activity	86.67	55.34
Industry	3.33	1.45
Trade and Commerce	3.33	1.91
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	6.67	41.3

Source: Census of India, Manipur, Primary Census Abstract, Part II-B, Series 15, 1991

Fig. 4.4: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in Manipur



The table shows that there is no match between numbers of urban centres in each category and proportion of its population. Approximately 1/2 of the population is enumerated in 4/5<sup>th</sup> (87%) of towns having primary activity as leading or predominant factor. Contrary to this 41% of population was residing in only 6.67% of towns having service as predominant or leading factor. 3.33% of towns both in industry and transport occupy 1.45% and 1.91% of total urban population of the state. It can be concluded from the above discussion that very large number of towns having primary activities as predominant or leading function had lower share in the urban population. Only 6.67% of urban centres had services as predominant or leading function which accommodated comparatively very high proportion of population.

#### Mizoram

Like Manipur, Mizoram also shows similar pattern of functions of urban areas. Out of 22 towns 20 towns (90.91%) had primary activities as the predominant or leading functions. Only 2 towns namely Aizawl and Saiha which formed 9.09% of towns in the state had services as predominant or leading functions. There were no towns having industry, transport and trade as most important function. This may be due to the fact that large number of towns emerged not because of economic development/growth but because of administrative factors. As stated in the previous

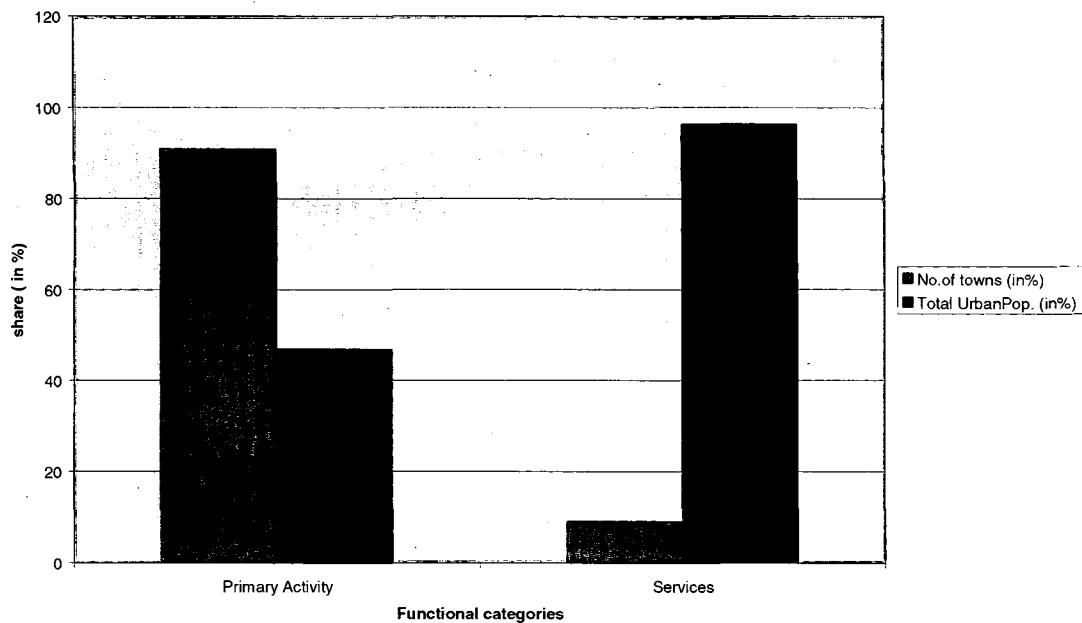
chapters the government attempted to solve the problem of insurgency and also to accelerate other developmental activities in the state. The settlements were clustered into large villages many of them were set up along the highways. These new small towns still reflect its rural characteristics.

Table 4.6 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Mizoram

Predominant/Leading Function	No.of towns (in%)	Total UrbanPop. (in%)
Primary Activity	90.91	46.87
Industry	0	0
Trade and Commerce	0	0
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	9.09	96.36

Source,Census of India, Mizoram,General Economic Table, Series 17,1991

Fig. 4.5: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to the Five Main Functional Categories in Mizoram



But the scenario was opposite in case of its population enumerated. The towns with primary activity as predominant or leading functions (91% of towns) accommodated only 46.87% of urban population whereas less than 10% of towns having services as leading or predominant factors had 96% of urban population.

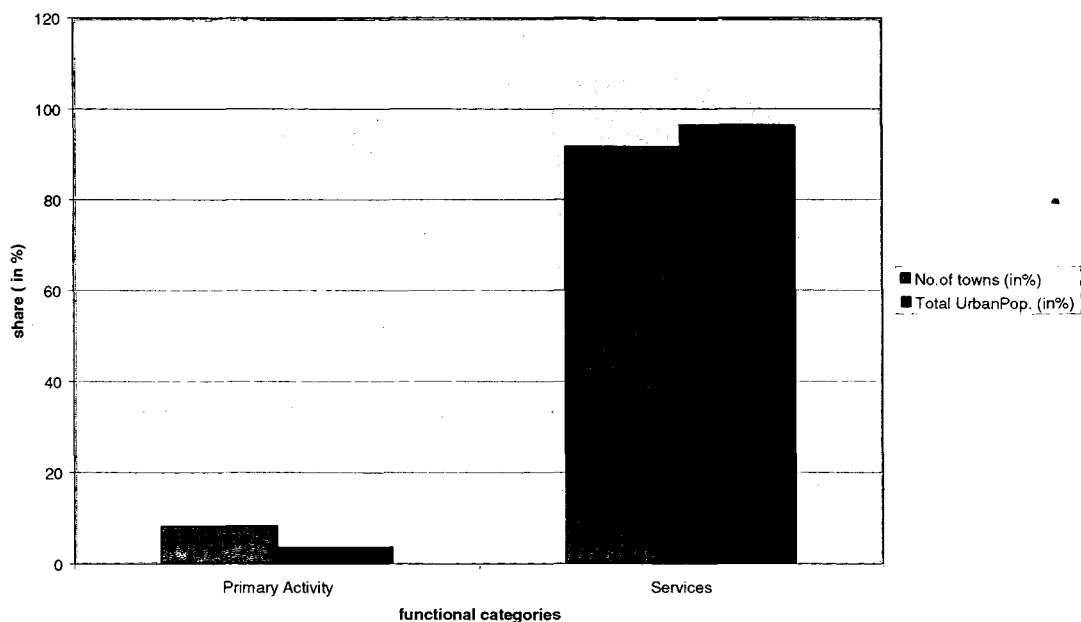
Meghalaya: Meghalaya had small number of towns which are involved in very limited economic functions i.e. only primary activity and services.

Table 4.7 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Meghalaya

Predominant/Leading Function	No. of towns (in%)	Total UrbanPop. (in%)
Primary Activity	8.33	3.64
Industry	0	0
Trade and Commerce	0	0
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	91.66	96.36

Source: Census of India, Meghalaya, General Economic Table, Series 16,1991.

Fig. 4.6: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to Five Main Functional Categories in Meghalaya





Only one town namely William Nagar, which constitutes 8.33% of towns, had primary activity as predominant function. Rest of all towns has service as the predominant or leading function. There were no towns in rest 3 categories. In terms of proportion of urban population about 4% of population resided in only one town having primary activity as predominant function. Approximately 96 percent of population was enumerated in 92 % of towns

Nagaland:

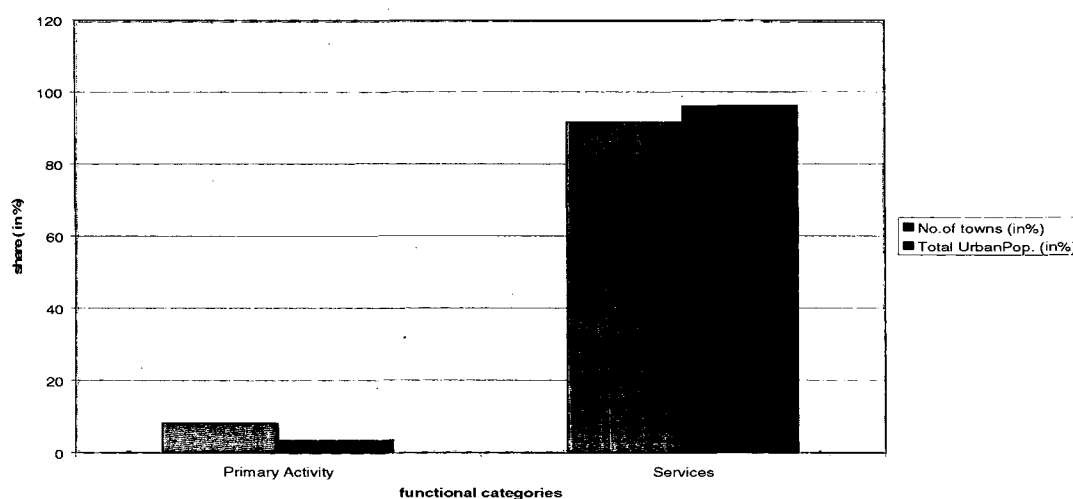
Nagaland is the only state in the whole North East India where services are predominant or dominating function in all the urban centres of the state.

Table 4.8 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Nagaland

Predominant/Leading Function	No.of towns (in%)	Total UrbanPop. (in%)
Primary Activity	0	0
Industry	0	0
Trade and Commerce	0	0
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	100	100

Source: Census of India, Meghalaya, General Economic Table, Series 18,1991.

Fig. 4.6: Share of Towns and Total Urban Population According to Five Main Functional Categories in Meghalaya



There is complete absence of towns with other four functions as predominant or leading once. It is obvious that all its urban population is enumerated in the town having services as predominant or dominating function.

#### Tripura

In Tripura, very small proportion of urban centres was included in the first category. Only 11 percent of urban centres had primary activity as predominant or leading function.

Table 4.9 Classification of Towns According to Leading/Predominant Functions in Tripura

Predominant/Leading Function	No.of towns (in%)	Total UrbanPop. (in%)
Primary Activity	11.11	10.03
Industry	0	0
Trade and Commerce	0	0
Transport and Communication	0	0
Services	88.89	89.97

Source: Census of India, Tripura, General Economic Table, Series 24,1991

On other hand, 89 percent of towns had services as predominant or leading function. The population share in both the categories was almost similar to that of its share in the number of urban canters. 10 percent of population was enumerated in 11% of towns whereas 89% of towns accommodated 90% of urban population.

In short we can say that except Assam and Manipur showed the concentration of urban centres in one two functions. Among the states, almost all the towns in the states are concentrated in primary activities and services. Towns having primary activity as dominant or leading function support small proportion of urban population.

#### 4.6 The Size Class Differentials in the Main Functional Type of Cities/Towns

Assam:The table indicates variation from one class to another. In one hand class one towns had all cities concentrated in the last functional group i.e. services. But on the

other hand class IV towns had some share in each functional category. Most probably this may be because of their total numbers.

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
I	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
II	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
III	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
V	82.35	5.88	5.88	0.00	5.88
VI	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Census of India, Assam, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II, Series.4, 1991

There were only 3 class I towns in 1991 whereas 32 towns were included in class IV category. In first two classes of towns, there was not a single town to have primary activity, industry and trade and commerce as the main function. In last two classes there were no town with transport and communication as leading function.

Manipur: In Manipur, it can be seen that only primary activity has dominant in class I, III, IV and VI towns. An only class V town which occupied 56% of the urban centres of the state had showed comparatively diversified function of towns.

Class of Towns	Classwise Share of Towns (in %)				Classwise Share of Urban Population (in %)			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
I	12.5	3.125	3.22	3.03	70.93	41.7	39.26	38.56
II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	0	6.25	9.67	12.12	0	11.28	18.04	19.64
IV	50	12.5	16.12	21.21	0	14.63	14.85	17.33
V	37.5	28.13	54.87	48.48	22.18	16.72	24.26	20.94
VI	0	50	16.12	15.15	6.89	15.65	3.59	3.53

Source: Census of India, Manipur, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II, Series.4, 1991

Meghalaya:

In case of Meghalaya the table shows that all the towns from class I to V had services as predominant function. Only class VI towns showed a difference. Two third of class VI towns had services as predominant/leading factor. Remaining one third of the town had primary activities as predominant/leading function.

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
I	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
III	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
IV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
VI	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.66

Source; Census of India, Meghalaya, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (B), Series.16, 1991.

Other functions did not operated as dominating functions in any town. almost all the towns concentrated around services as main function.

Mizoram:

In Mizoram Aizawl was the only one class I urban centre which had services as the predominant function. Class III, IV, V and VI towns had primary activity as the main function.

Table 4.13 Classwise Distribution of Towns According to Main Functional Categories Mizoram

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
I	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
III	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV	66.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.33
V	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VI	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source; Census of India, Mizoram, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (B), Series.17, 1991.

One third of the towns had services as predominant function. Majority of the towns in Mizoram were mainly engaged in primary activities.

Nagaland: Nagaland had 9 towns in 1991. All the towns had services as the predominant or leading function.

Table 4.14 Classwise Distribution of Towns According to Main Functional Categories Nagaland

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
II	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
III	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
IV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100

Source; Census of India, Nagaland, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (B), Series.18, 1991

Tripura: In Tripura services was the predominant or leading function for most of the towns in all the classes. Only two towns in the state had primary activity as predominant/ leading function.

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
I	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
III	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	75
IV	20	0.00	0.00	0.00	80
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
VI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100

Source; Census of India, Tripura, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (B), Series.24, 1991

#### **Arunachal Pradesh:**

Out of 10 towns in 1991, 50% were class IV towns and rest of 50% were class V towns. In case of class V towns all towns had services as predominant/ leading function whereas 80% of class VI towns had services as predominant or leading function. Only one town had industry as predominating function.

Table 4.16 Classwise Distribution of Towns According to Main Functional Categories Arunachal Pradesh

Class of Towns	Primary Activities	Industry	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Services
IV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
V	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	80.00

Source; Census of India, Arunachal Pradesh, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (A & B), Series.3, 1991

Interstate variation is seen in the pattern of predominant or dominating functions of towns in the region. Except Assam, Manipur and Mizoram all four states had services

as the most important function in all the class towns. Assam shares half of the urban settlements in North East India, had some or the other town in all functional categories. In Manipur there is dominance of primary activity in all class towns except Imphal (class I town). Mizoram also witness a similar pattern. All the class I towns in the region had services as predominant/ leading function. In Mizoram Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura there was no town with industry, transport and communication and trade as leading function.

#### **4.7 Extent of Functional Diversification in the Urban Centre**

This section analyses the class wise distribution of cities/towns according to the broad functional types. It is intended here to analyse the extent of functional diversification of urban places in North-East India by considering the percentage distribution of workers into first three leading economic activities in each of the town. The broad classifications are mono-functional, bi-functional and multifunctional towns.

The figure given in the following table pertaining to the distribution of percentage of urban centres in its population according to three broad classifications reveals that 60% of cities/towns account for 42% of urban population. These towns/cities were classified under mono-functional category. This was followed by 23% of urban places comprising approximately 45% of urban population which were bi-functional in nature. The third category i.e. multifunctional towns comprise less than one fifth of urban centres as well as urban population.

As regard to the classwise distribution of mono, bi and multifunctional towns it is noticed that mono-functional towns (108 cities/towns) 4 were class I towns, and 6 were class II towns. Fifty six percent of mono-functional towns were from class III and IV category of towns.

Out of 44 bi-functional towns 17 were class IV towns. In the remaining size classes this number varied from 3 in class I to 10 in class III towns.

Finally, out of 35 multi functional towns, class IV and V together accounted for 34%. It was followed by class III category. There was not a single mono-functional town in class one category. The state wise pattern of distribution of mono-functional, bi-

functional and multifunctional urban centres according to size class varied from one state to another.

Table 4.17 : Functional Diversification of Towns:

Region/States	Broad Functional Categories	Percentage Share of Towns	Percentage Share of Urban population
North-East	Mono-Functional	59.57	42.19
	Bi-Functional	22.87	45.17
	Multi-Functional	17.55	12.64
Assam	Mono-Functional	27.59	15.95
	Bi-Functional	39.08	61.72
	Multi-Functional	33.33	18.33
Arunachal	Mono-Functional	100	100
	Bi-Functional	0	0
	Multi-Functional	0	0
Manipur	Mono-Functional	90	96.5
	Bi-Functional	6.67	3.32
	Multi-Functional	3.33	1.18
Meghalaya	Mono-Functional	22.22	6.13
	Bi-Functional	61.11	91.51
	Multi-Functional	16.67	2.36
Mizoram	Mono-Functional	100	100
	Bi-Functional	0	0
	Multi-Functional	0	0
Nagaland	Mono-Functional	88.89	72.54
	Bi-Functional	11.11	27.46
	Multi-Functional	0	0
Tripura	Mono-Functional	66.67	43.34
	Bi-Functional	22.22	36.65
	Multi-Functional	11.11	19.99



Source: Census of India, Functional classification of Urban Agglomeration/Towns in India, 1991, Occasional Paper No.3, 1994

#### 4.8 State-wise Functional Classification of towns According to Three Broad functional Types:

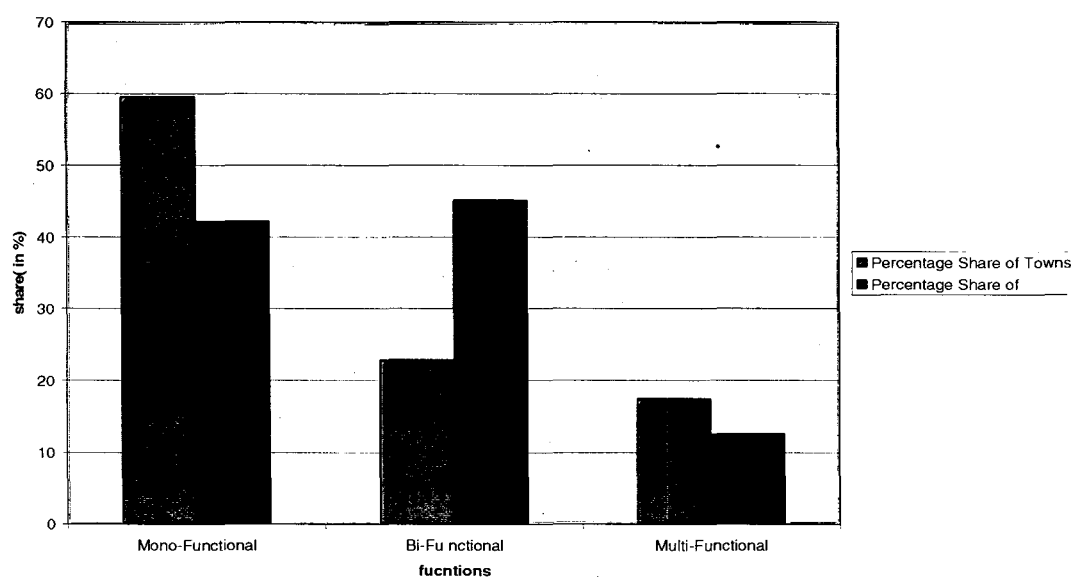
Arunachal Pradesh:

In Arunachal Pradesh all the towns were mono-functional in nature. Namsai was only town to have industry as predominant function, remaining all the towns had services as predominant function. The class wise distribution of urban centres shows that 50% of towns were class IV towns and the remaining 50% were class V towns. All the towns in Class IV as well as class V category were monofunctional. In short, it can be said that there is very high concentration of workers in the fourth category that is services.

Assam:

The following reveals that 39% of bi-functional towns accounted for 61.72% of urban population. It was followed by 27.59% percent of monofunctional urban centres, which accommodated 16% percent urban population. A multifunctional town accounted for one third of total number of towns but there share of urban population was 18.33% percent.

Fig. 4.8: Share of Towns and Urban Population According to Mono, Bi, and Multifunctions in North- East India



The distribution of number of towns and its population can be explained from the size class distribution of towns according to three broad functional categories. Class I, II and III towns share a major chunk of urban population. 100% percent of class I towns, 83% of class two towns and 45% of class III towns are bi-functional. Therefore the percentage share of population is also large .The table shows that large number of small towns having small population size is included in this category.

The table shows that 100% of class I towns were bi-functional (service –cum-trade and commerce)in Assam. Among class two towns,5 out of 6 towns were bi-functional. Only Dhubri was multifunctional. In class III category 45% of towns were bi-functional. From class I to IV towns, bi-functional towns occupied the larger share. Class V had approximately 3/4<sup>th</sup> of towns in multifunctional category.

Table 4.18 Class wise Distribution of Mono,Bi and Multi Functional Towns

State/Broad						
FunctionTypes	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
Arunachal Pradesh						
Mono Functional				100%	100%	
Bi Functional						
Multi Functional						
Assam						
Mono Functional			30%	31.25%	20	41.66
Bi Functional	100	83.33	45	37.75	13.33	33.33
Multi Functional		16.66	25	31.25	73.33	25
Manipur						
Mono Functional	100	100	100	82.35	100	
Bi Functional				11.76		
Multi Functional				5.88		
Meghalaya						
Mono Functional	100		100	66.66	33.33	
Bi Functional				33.33	33.33	
Multi Functional					33.33	
Mizoram						

Mono Functional	100	100		100	100	100
Bi Functional						
Multi Functional						
Nagaland						
Mono Functional		50	2	3	2	
Bi Functional		50				
Multi Functional						
Tripura						
Mono Functional	100	25	50	80	100	
Bi Functional		25	33.33	20		
Multi Functional		50	16.66			

Source: Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, Part-II (B), 1991.

Manipur: There is dominance of mono-functional towns in Manipur. About 90.5% of towns are functional in nature supported 96% of urban population of the state. About 7% of towns were bi-functional with 3% of urban population. Remaining 3% of towns were multifunctional towns which accommodated 1.118% of urban population the towns. In Manipur had weak economic base and thus resulted in limited diversification of economic activities.

Mono-functional towns are dominated by primary activities except Imphal and Moreh. There were only two bi-functional towns both were class IV towns. These towns had small population base.

The classwise distribution shows that 100% of class I, II, III and V towns and 82% of class IV towns are mono-functional, 11% and 9% of class IV towns are bi-and multifunctional towns respectively.

#### Meghalaya

In Meghalaya 3/5<sup>th</sup> of towns are mono functional accommodated 91% of urban population. It is followed by 2 bi-functional towns. It supports 6% of population. It is followed by one multifunctional town which supports 2.3 percent of urban population of the state. The size class distributions shows that 100% of class I and III towns and 66% and 33% percent of class IV and V respectively were mono-functional where

services was the predominant function. One third of class IV towns were bi-functional.

#### Mizoram

It is interesting to find that 100% of the towns in Mizoram are mono-functional. Aizawl and Saiha are the only towns having services as predominant function. Remaining 20 towns have primary activity as predominant function.

The classwise distribution also explains the same situation. All class I, II, IV, V, and VI towns are mono-functional.

#### Nagaland :

The following table shows that approximately 89%<sup>^</sup> of towns are mono-functional which accommodates 72% of urban population. Only one town i.e. Dimapur is bi-functional with remaining 27% of urban population.

The classwise distribution of mono, bi, and multifunctional towns shows that in class II towns, Kohima is mono-functional town. There is predominance of services. Dimapur is a bi-functional town where services were leading function. In all class III, IV and V towns services was predominant function and all the towns were mono-functional towns.

#### Tripura:

67% towns in Tripura were mono-functional. It accommodated 43 percent of urban population. It was followed by 22 percent of bi-functional towns, which supported 37% of urban population. Finally 11 percent of multifunctional towns accommodated 20% of urban population of the state.

The class wise distribution shows that 100% of class I town was mono-functional. Among class III towns 2 were multifunctional and 1 each was in mono-functional, one third was bi-functional and Pratapgarh was the only multifunctional town. In case of class V towns 80% were mono-functional and Singri was only bi-functional town. All class VI towns were mono-functional. As 100% of class I towns were mono-functional (service towns). The number as well as proportion of population was also high in mono-functional.

Almost one third of the towns were grouped in the first category i.e. primary activity. But it accommodated less than one fifth of total urban population.

Service towns shared largest proportion of urban population. In Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura had largest share of number of towns and its population in services. In Manipur and Mizoram larger proportion of towns and its population have primary activity as the predominant function. The size class bread up shows that all class I towns of North East India has 100% concentration of workers in services. Except Mizoram and Manipur, small towns in 5. All other states are concentrated around services. In Manipur and Mizoram small town were concentrated in the fourth category. As regards to the extent of functional diversification, it is noticed that 60% of such places accounting for 42% of population are mono-functional in character. Beside, approximately one fourth of towns are bi-functional which support 45% of urban population. Multi-functional towns are in numbers and they also support smaller share of urban population (13%).

The class wise break up of mono, bi, and multi-functional town shows that in North East in all classes more than 45% of towns are mono-functional. It is followed by bi-functional towns. Multifunctional towns are prominently seen in small towns.

#### **4.9 State wise Trend of Economic Activities in North East India**

The next section of present chapter deals with the trend of economic activities under four categories i.e. cultivable labourers, agricultural labourers, household and others.

The fourth category which includes -

livestock, fishing, hunting and plantation orchards and allied activities,

Manufacturing, processing and servicing and repairs in non-household industry,

Construction,

Trade and commerce,

Transport and communication and Other services.

Therefore it is natural that the proportion of workers engaged in this category will be very high. All the states in North East India shows more than 80% of workers engaged in this category. The state wise trend of economic activities is as follows:

Arunachal Pradesh: -

In all 3 decades services occupied more than 90% of main workers. It was followed by cultivable labourers, which experienced declining trend in 3 decades (5.45% in 1981 to 4.18% in 2001). Agricultural labourers and household industry are showing fluctuating trend. The proportion/percentage of agricultural labourers raised in 1991. But in case of household industry declined in 1991 but again rose in 2001.

The town-wise distribution of workers in different sector shows that share of cultivable labourers varies from 1 town to another. All the towns except Bomdila and Itanagar and Namsai and Khonsa are experiencing a decline in the category.

Agricultural Labourers: - In 1981 Pasighat (3.14%) recorded highest share of agricultural labourers in its total work force among all the towns in 1981. it was replaced by Roing (3.90%) in 1991. In 2001 Tezu overtook Roing with (2.36%) of agricultural labourers. Like class all the towns witness declining trend except Itanagar.

The household industry consists of weaving, bamboo works and silver smithry. Non of the towns had more than four percent of workers engaged in household industry till 1991. In 2001, it declined below 3 percent. All the towns except Bomdila and Tezu are showing declining trend.

In the fourth category New Itanagar town recorded highest proportion of main workers (99.06%). But in the next decade Khonsa became the leading town in this category. The Arunachal lacks large-scale industries. The industries are mainly based on forest products like plywood factories, saw mills etc.

#### **Assam:-**

Like Arunachal Pradesh Assam also witness the predominance of main workers in urban areas in the 4<sup>th</sup> category. In the state, urban areas had 3.74% of cultural labourers in 1991 which reduced to 1.38% in 2001.

The second category i.e. agricultural labourers varied from in 17.4% in Harman to 0% in Jagiroad Paper Mill and Mahur in 1991. In 2001, Herman experienced significant decline in agricultural labourers as in 2001 there was a shift to the fourth category. In this year Kokamokam had 5.4% which was the largest share of workers in this category. In the other extreme there were Badarpur Railway town, Maibong,

Moranhat, Sonari, Amkingaon, Namrup, Chota Haibor, Tiju and Binji with 0% of agricultural labourers.

Proportions of main workers in household industry in Assam were 1.45% in 1991, which rose to 2.22% in 2001. Some of the important household industries in Assam include cottage industries especially weaving and spinning, bell metal work brass work etc. In 1991, Sulakuchi registered 65.8% of workers in household category. But in 2001, there was a decline of 12% in this category. Sulakuchi registered exceptionally very large percentage of workers in this category. It is well known for cottage industry mainly for the production of silk cloths.

New Borgaigaon Railway colony, Dulaijan Oil town, Namrup, Dokamokam and Amingaon had no workers in this category in 1991 but in 2001 all the towns had registered workers in this group. In case of Namrup and Dokamokam it is clear from the table that there is a shift of cultivable labourers and agricultural labourers workers to household industry and others

The fourth category includes largest share of main workers in urban areas. In 1991 the state had 93% of workers in this category. After one decade there was an increase of 3% of workers in this category. There are several towns having large and medium industries.

Industries are not well developed in Assam. Only 13.79% of main workers are engaged in industries. Digboi employs more than 40% of main workers in industry. It has the oldest oil refinery in the country. Namrup in Dibrugarh district has 59% of workers in industries.

In 2001, several new towns emerged in the map of Assam. In 2001, all the towns have shown an increasing trend in the fourth category which indicates shift of workers in urban areas towards the secondary and tertiary sector. Dibrugarh, Digboi Oil Town, Durbin, Chabua and Dokamokam are exception to this.

#### **Manipur:-**

The work force, which is engaged in economically productive work in urban areas, increased from 21% in 1981 to 25% in 2001. About one third of the workforce was cultivable labourers in 1981. But in the following decade the share of fourth category i.e. others increased rapidly. After two decades there was an increase of 24% in this category especially during 1991-2001. Agriculture was the most important sector,

which contributed about 57% of net domestic income of the state in 1980s. In 1981 about 31.8% of main workers in urban areas were absorbed by this category. Mao Maran had maximum share of workers in this category (78.56%). It was followed by Kumbi (68.77%), Karong Senapati (63.89%). All the towns of Thoubal district except Yaripok had more than 50% of workers in this group. In all the towns, Imphal city recorded only 2.26% of main workers in this group. It was followed by Loktak Hydro Electric Project town (1.43%). Mao Maran and Karong Senapati town which had highest percentage of workers engaged in this category were declassified in the next decade. The share of agricultural labourers in total work force first increased in 1991 but decreased in 2001. Reverse is the case in household industries.

In 1991, some towns experienced increase or growth of cultivable labourers, while other witnessed a decline in it. In Bishnupur district except Kumbi and Bishnupur all other towns experienced growth in this category. Some trend is observed in other district as well.

In 2001 the state experienced substantial decrease in the share of cultivable labourers. Andro, which was the leading town in 1981 in terms of cultivable labourers continued to be as town with maximum proportion of workers in this category. But it also witnessed decline. There is steep decline in the share of cultivable labourers to total main workers in all the towns.

In 1981, the share of agricultural labourers varied from Lamsai (25%) to 0.5% in Mao Maran district. The share of agricultural labourers in the work force of the urban centres did not increased more than 7.4% in any decade. In 2001 Sikhong Sekmai had 25.35% of agricultural labourers on the other extreme Porompat town had no agricultural labourers.

Cultivable labourers and agricultural labourers are not decreasing at a faster rate because of lack of diversification of economy. Lack of diversification of the economy as compelled the main workers to be employed as cultivable labourers and agricultural labourers.

In 1981, 14.49% of main workers in urban areas were employed in household industry, in 1991 it was reduced to 1.52% but in 2001 it rose to 9.4%. Liolng in Imphal West district had 37.14% of workers in household industry. On the other hand



Mao Maran had only .05% of household workers. In 1991, Lamjotongba replaced Lilong with 20.69% of household workers. Heroik had least household workers (75%). With the sharp rise in percentage of household workers in Sekmai Bazar in 2001 (20.65% in 2001) and it became the leading town with maximum household workers. Oinam had only 1% of household workers which was lowest among all. Sekmai Bazar witnessed a sharp increase in 2001 (20.65%) from 2.64% in 1991.

The share of the fourth category of economic activities has dominated in each decade. It has also raised its share in every decade. In 1981 it was 48.39% in the next decade it reached up to 58%. In 2001 about 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the main-workers were employed in this category. This is a positive indicator of process of urbanisation as workers are shifting from primary activity are adopting other economic activities. In 1981 Loktak Hydro Electric Town have 96% of workers were engaged in this category. Kumbi had lowest proportion of workers in this category (15.13%) as majority of main workers were being engaged in agriculture. In the state the share of main workers in first three categories are gradually declining. In 2001 many towns have sharply raised the level of other workers.

#### **Mizoram:-**

Agriculture is the main stay at the people in Mizoram. More than 70% of the total population in the state is engaged in some or the other form of agricultural activities. In the urban areas also, there is substantial share of agricultural labourers and cultivable labourers. In the newly developed towns in 1991 there was large number of agricultural towns in the state.

In 1981, out of 6 towns, 3 towns had more than 45% of cultivable labourers. Serchip had maximum of 61.21% of cultivable labourers. The share of Agricultural labourers in the total workers declined in each decade. Likewise household industry also demonstrate decline in each decade other economic activities also follows the trend opposite to cultivable labourers. In other words, the main workers employed as other workers first declined in 1991 (59.44% in 1991 from 69.65% in 1981) and again rose in 2001 (70.20%). It may be concluded that there is a shift of cultivable labourers to the fourth category.

Household industry employs very small proportion of main workers. In 1981 it was 2.56% for all the urban areas of the state. In 1991 it declined to 1.88%. In 2001 it further declined to 1.80%. In 2001, Aizawl has exceptionally high (12.55%) of household workers. 37% of the towns have less than 1% of household workers

In case of other economic activity it has been continuously increasing in each decade is showing an increasing trend in each decade Aizawl the capital city of Mizoram has been the leading town in terms of its share of other economic activities. It was 81% in 1981, 84% in 1991 and 92% in 2001. In the lower limit was Champai (32% in 1981). In 1991 Kolasib surpassed it with only 6.65% of workers. In 2001, Khawhai has lowest percentage of workers in this category (9%). All the towns except Aizawl showed a declining trend in 1991. But all these towns showed a rise in other workers in 2001.

The district headquarter provides employment opportunity mainly in government offices, schools and other secondary and tertiary sector.

#### **Meghalaya:-**

The economy of Meghalaya is predominantly based on agricultural sector. Agriculture and allied activities engage nearly two-third of total main worker in Meghalaya. But in case of urban areas it occupies only 3.4% of total workers. The share of agricultural labourers first rose in 1991 and then declined in 2001. Household industry shows a rise in 2001. Town wise trend shows that other workers has increased slightly in all towns except Williamnagar and Nongstiong. All towns in 2001 witness rise in the share of main workers.

The fourth category of economic activities dominates over other activities. It was approximately 93% in 1981 and 1991 but rose to 98% in 2001. The share of other categories is not more than 3-4 in any of three decades.

#### **Nagaland:-**

Cultivable labourers first increased then decreasing. Household and others declined in 1991 and then rose in 2001. Agricultural labourers' shows continuous increase household industry and other economic activity first declined in 1991 and then rose in 2001.

The other economic activities share the largest chunk of main workers. Like household industry it first experienced decline and then rose in later decade. There are small numbers of large and medium industries. Only Phek town is an exception for

this where it decreased in 1991. In the fourth category the detail information of various sectors shows that service sector dominates over the other sector. Dimapur is an exception to this because 30% workforce of this is engaged in trade and commerce while services involved 32% of workers. Kohima has largest percentage of workers in this sector. There are small numbers of large and medium industries.

In the North Eastern states one third of the towns have primary activities as the main function. But these towns supports less than one fifth of total urban population.

Service towns support two third of the urban population but their proportion in total number of towns is less than one third of total towns.

The table shows that about 90% of the urban workforce was engaged in the fourth category in 1981. Manipur and Mizoram have comparatively lesser share in the fourth category because these states have substantial share of its workers engaged as cultivable labourers and agricultural labourers. But gradually the fourth group has increased the proportion of workers. Till 2001, these two states have more than 15% of workers engaged in cultivation. The household industries indicated a decrease in its share in 1991 but increased in 2001. In case of agricultural labourers initially it increased in 1991 but again decreased in 2001.

#### **Tripura:-**

The state of Tripura has largest share of workers in other services. In 1981, 92.18% of workers were employed in this category, which declined slightly in 1991 (89.34%) but rose in 2001 (95.76%). Agricultural labourers showed a reverse trend. In the 1991 and 2001 except Semanau (13.74%) all the towns experienced decline in the share of cultivable labourers.

There is declining trend in agricultural labourers as all the towns except Soramura and Udaipur. Most of the towns have less than 2% of workers engaged in household industry. Udaipur and Sabroom are two towns, which experienced rise in household workers in 1991. In 2001 Gandhigram, Badhrghat, Belonia and Sabroom the percentage of household workers rose. In all other towns household industry is showing a declining trend in its share in total main workers.

Finally the 4<sup>th</sup> category, which includes leading activities in all the four decades Agartala, was the leading town. Except Udaipur and Gandhigram in 1991 and 2001 respectively all towns are showing increasing trend.

#### **4.10 Conclusion:**

The functionally classified towns and their spatial distribution reveal interesting phenomena particularly in 6 states barring Assam. While the North East Region as a whole depicts a different picture which is highly skewed in nature. The state of Assam dominated the scene of the distribution of functionally classified towns by virtue of having a large number of towns. The discussion reveals the fact that except Assam, most of the towns were functionally dominated either by services or primary activity.

The towns of Manipur and Mizoram are classified under primary activity while Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh were classified under services. The domination of single function is characterized by the 6 states from 1961 onwards.

The study of the nature of functional changes of towns in the North-East states during 1961-71 and 1971-91 reveals very interesting phenomena. In the former decade, the diversification of functional characteristics dominated the scene by state of Assam. A large number of towns had diversified from mono-functional to bi-functional. The transformation from mono-functional to bi-functional from 1971-1981 to 1991-2001 has reduced.

The specialisation of towns function in both period dominated by Assam followed by Tripura. The States of Meghalaya and Nagaland had one town each which transformed into more specialised function.

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## **CHAPTER-V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

## CHAPTER. 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present chapter incorporate the chapter wise summery of the main findings and conclusion that are derived from the study.

The first chapter attempts to formulate the objectives, research, methodology and database to be incorporated. A broad overview of literature has also been provided in this chapter, which helped in formulation of framework of the dissertation. This chapter also includes the limitations of study and an overview about the study area.

The second chapter studies the process and pattern of urbanisation in the study area. It is evident from this chapter that during ancient period very few urban settlement were present in these of states. This situation did not changed much before the independence. Historically, Guwahati was the seat of Ahom rulers. It flourished continuously till now. The archeological records establish the connection of North East Region with neighboring countries. The urban centers in the ancient period were rural in characteristics. In the ancient time this region was very prosperous but due to inefficient management it could not maintain its prosperity. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the British govern imposed several rules and regulation s to gain maximum benefit from the region. They established several towns for administrative and commercial purpose. The number of towns increased rapidly in the post independence period due to administrative factors, definitional change of the urban areas by the census, increased level of migration etc. The total urban area increased manifold in the recent past. In demographic processes the contribution of natural increase is not very significant. Migration on the other hand has played a vital role in the growth of urban population. Intra-state migration is high than inter-state and international migration. This means short distance migration occurs more frequently. North East India covers more than 90% of international border of India. Consequently the region experience large-scale international migration.

In many cases like Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram it appears as induced or superimposed urbanisation. In these states the urban centres evolved not as a result of transformation of rural agrarian societies to the urban ones but mainly due to planned efforts of central and state government.

To analyse the spatial pattern of urbanisation, each state has been divided into four categories i.e. zone of high, medium, low and very low concentration of urban population. The urban population is unevenly distributed over the space. In 1971, there was not a single district having high concentration of urban population. There were six districts namely, Subansari, Tirap, North, West, and East Manipur and Tuensang, which were completely rural. Three of them were in Manipur. Out of remaining 22 districts, 15 districts had very low concentration of urban population. In the next decade Manipur Central was registered in the first category. In the next decades all the six districts experienced very low concentration of urban population, which had zero percent of urbanisation in 1971. In 1991 and 2001, Mizo District was registered in the first category. In 2001 North Cachar Hill districts managed to have high concentration of urban population. The pattern shows the gradual shift of towns in the next categories. In 1971, there were 15 districts with very low concentration of urban population, which declined to 8 in 2001.

The valley and plateau areas generally have low concentration of urban population except some areas. The topographical factors like altitude, climate, and terrain controls the pattern of urbanisation.

While studying the processes and pattern of urbanisation it is quite necessary to find out the trend of urbanisation in the region. North East India as a region shows similar trend of urbanisation, which is experienced by India as a whole. The level of urbanisation in North East India is lower than the national average. The level of urbanisation varies within the different states. In 2001 the level of urbanisation achieved by Mizoram is 49.63% whereas Assam only recorded 12.90% of urban population. The tempo of urbanisation remained low in all three decades as compared to national average. The decadal growth rate is quite high. The class wise trend shows top-heavy structure of urbanisation. Class one cities, which are only 9 in number till 2001, accommodates about one half of urban population in the region. It is proved by Gini Concentration Ratio. There is a tendency of the towns and people to concentrate in and around the districts with the capital city of the state.

The fourth chapter deals with the functional classification of towns in the North East India. The North Eastern states are mainly agrarian in nature. It is also reflected in the



urban areas. About one third of the towns have primary activities as the dominating/leading function. But it supports less than one third of total number of towns but it accommodates two third of the urban population. Large towns in these seven states are specialised in services. Except Assam and Manipur the urban centers do not have diversified functions. They concentrate around any one of two functions that is primary activities and services. Manipur and Meghalaya show a complete dominance of primary Manipur and Meghalaya show a complete dominance of primary activities. On the other side Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are dominated by services. There were no towns in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, which have industry, trade and commerce and transport and communication as the leading function. More than 60% of towns were mono-functional followed by bi-functional and multi-functional towns. Therefore it can be said that there is very low level of diversification in the functions, of North-Eastern towns. The trend of economic activities in last three decades shows that the 'other' category shares maximum proportion of main workers. As large numbers of activities are included in this category, therefore it is natural to have higher proportion of main workers. The trend shows that there is a gradual shift of main workers from first three categories that is cultivable labourers, agricultural labourers and household industries to the fourth category. As urbanisation means a gradual shift from rural agrarian economy to modern urban economy. Therefore, it can be concluded that it is a positive indication of the process of urbanisation. Urbanisation in North East India is not only desirable but also essential for generating economic growth and social change.

Finally, it can be concluded that urbanisation process started long before, but it gain momentum after independence. Throughout its history, towns have been imposed on rural landscape. The process of urbanisation started in Assam, but is lag behind as compared to other states. The post independence period witnessed sharp increase in the number of towns and concentration of urban population. The pace of urbanisation is highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. It is not due to gradual shift from rural to urban settlement because of its changing function. Till date these states have concentration of workers in primary sector. The rapid increase in number of urban centres is recorded mainly due to political and administrative factors. The state government clubbed several villages to form small urban centres. The classwise distribution of urban centres shows that these states have large proportion of small

towns. Striking feature of urbanisation is seen in Manipur. The urban centres are concentrated mainly in the Central Manipur district. This district registers high level of urban population. The people tend to concentrate in Manipur valley rather than other hilly districts. Due to definitional changes of urban areas there was a sharp increase in the number of towns in 1981. But it could not be maintained in the next decades. In 1991 all the towns in three districts were declassified. In 2001, only Manipur Central district was urbanised. Manipur is the only state to register a declining trend in urbanisation. Remaining all the states are showing increasing trend. Due to lack of technological know how, capital investment, and geographical conditions, the functions perform by urban centres are not diversified. Transport and communication bottlenecks also restricts in developing new industries.

Thus it can be concluded that the North-East region exhibits different level and pace of urbanisation during 1971-2001. It is due to process of urbanisation in this region, which is related to physical and cultural factors. As most of the states except Assam are hilly so the physiographical condition puts limitation on the development of heavy industries. The terrain can support small towns and small-scale industries. The region has rich flora and fauna. The alluvial tracts of Brahmaputra basin can support agricultural activities. As man land ratio is not suitable and the indigenous technique of cultivation does not suites the terrain or the topographical conditions. Therefore small-scale industries will definitely help in reducing disguise unemployment, distress migration and low level of income. It is necessary to access the carrying capacity of the towns. Trades, marketing and transport facilities are to be planned according to the regional character. It is necessary to accelerate industrialisation; commercialisation and to introduce improved infrastructure facilities. As these components are related with the economic development which is again related to urbanisation processes.

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## Appendix

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and Towns in Arunachal Pradesh 1991							
Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional	Functional
						Classification	Diversification
Bomdila	5	20	11	4	60	Services	Mono-Functional
Ziro	16	13	11	1	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Naharlagun	7	15	14	6	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Itanagar	8	20	6	2	63	Services	Mono-Functional
Along	10	13	13	3	62	Services	Mono-Functional
Pasighat	15	19	13	5	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Roing	11	11	17	7	54	Services	Mono-Functional
Tezu	6	18	14	5	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Namsai	8	50	12	4	27	Industry	Mono-Functional
Khonsa	3	17	11	3	66	Services	Mono-Functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and Towns in Assam 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional	Functional
						Classification	Diversification
Guwahati City	5	17	26	14	37	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Dibrugarh	6	18	28	16	32	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Silchar	4	17	34	10	35	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Jorhat	17	15	29	7	32	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Naogaon	6	24	34	9	27	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Tinsukia	5	24	37	13	21	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Dhubri	9	23	29	10	29	Service-cum-TR & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
Tezpur	5	20	31	9	35	Services-cum-Trade & Com.	Bi-functional
Bongaigaon	2	17	26	38	18	Trs. & Comm cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Lumding	6	10	26	42	16	Trs & Com	Momo-Functional
Karimganj	3	16	33	8	39	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Goalpara	13	19	21	12	35	Service-cum-TR & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
North Lakhimpur	13	18	28	11	30	Services-cum-Trade & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
Diphu	16	22	18	5	38	Services-cum-Ind	Bi-functional
Sibsagar	27	15	26	7	24	Pr.Act.cum-Tr & Com-cum-Services	Multi-Functional

Digboi	7	44	20	6	24	Ind	Mono-Functional
Hojai	9	17	46	7	22	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Barpeta Road	5	22	46	8	19	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Golaghat	6	19	38	7	31	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Kokrajhar	14	19	26	6	36	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Haflong	15	13	11	7	54	Services	Mono-Functional
Hailakandi	9	16	27	9	39	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Berpeta	4	20	29	10	36	Tr. & Com	Bi-functional
Mankachar	24	19	30	9	19	Tr. & Com-cumPr. Act-cum-Services	Multi-Functional
Margherita	14	32	30	6	17	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
Mariani	3	24	32	27	15	Tr. & Com-cum-Trs. & Comm-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
Mangoldoi	11	18	29	6	36	Services cum-TR & Com	Multi-Functional
Rangia	9	10	23	13	45	Services	Mono-Functional
Gauripur	10	24	30	8	28	Tr. & com. Cum services-cum Ind	Multi-Functional
Namrup	2	59	14	2	22	Ind	Mono-Functional
Nalbari	7	20	33	7	33	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Lanka	17	20	35	9	18	Tr. and Com-cum-ind. Cum -Services	Multi-Functional
Rangapara	4	15	43	23	15	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Bilasipara	13	24	37	8	19	Tr. and Com-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
duliajan Oil Town	35	15	5	7	37	Services-cum-PR. Act.	Bi-functional
Badarpur	2	10	25	39	25	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Chapar	39	12	24	5	20	Pr. Act.-cum-Tr. and Com	Bi-functional
Tangla	6	17	46	10	21	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Dhekiajuli	17	16	35	6	26	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Marogapm	34	13	18	5	30	Pr. Act.-cum-services	Bi-functional
Kharupatia	4	19	54	8	15	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Doom Dooma	5	19	47	7	21	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Naharkatia	18	20	32	12	16	Tr. and Com-cum-ind. CumPr. Act.	Bi-functional
Biswasnath Charali	11	19	37	5	27	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Sulkuchi	2	71	10	2	16	Ind	Mono-Functional
Jagirroad	14	34	28	9	15	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
Dergaon	5	9	16	3	68	Services	Mono-Functional
Nez Hajo	26	19	23	7	24	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Sapatgram	8	34	34	7	16	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
North Guwahati	23	13	12	12	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Howli	20	20	35	6	18	Tr. and Com-cum-pr. Act. Cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Sonari	16	17	37	8	23	Tr. and Com-cum-service. Cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Udalguri	16	18	28	7	30	services-cum-Tr. and Com-cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Makum	22	30	23	7	17	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Abhayapuri	7	21	23	10	38	services-cum-Tr. and Com	Bi-functional
Dhing	24	18	29	5	24	Tr. and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Gossaigaon	18	12	32	8	31	Tr. and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional

Bijni	5	21	45	6	24	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Basugaon	16	19	40	6	18	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Bokajan	19	30	28	5	18	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Lakhipur	30	17	23	3	27	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Dhemaji	25	15	23	4	32	services-cum-pr.act.Tr. and Com-cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Lala	25	13	26	8	28	services-cum-Tr. and Com-cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Bihpuria	19	14	39	6	22	Tr. and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Nazira	31	13	26	3	27	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Donkamokam	78	5	4	0	13	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Sarthebari	13	31	28	3	25	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum-services	Multi-Functional
Bohari	16	23	39	5	16	Tr. and Com-Cum -ind.	Bi-functional
Sorbhog	20	14	30	16	20	Tr. and Com-cum-pr. Act.-cum-services	Multi-Functional
Pathsala	22	18	25	8	27	services-cum-Tr. and Com-cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Pokakhat	21	17	29	5	27	Tr. and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Golokganj	12	23	36	9	20	Tr. and Com-cum-ind.-cum-services	Multi-Functional
Chabua	5	19	47	7	23	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Maibong	9	26	18	7	40	Services	Mono-Functional
Amingaon	14	27	16	17	26	Ind.-cum-services-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Palasbari	12	25	27	12	24	Tr. and Com-cum-ind.-cum-services	Multi-Functional
Tihu	8	16	30	11	36	services-cum-Tr. and Com	Bi-functional
Dokmoka	56	10	19	1	13	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Moranhat	8	23	39	5	26	Tr. and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Jagiroad Paper Mill	0	92	1	1	6	Ind	Mono-Functional
Raha	24	10	31	9	26	Tr. and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Hamaren	41	17	11	0	30	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Lakhipur	13	9	44	7	27	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Howraghat	17	11	25	4	44	Services	Mono-Functional
Amguri	8	21	38	10	22	Tr. and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Mahur	12	27	20	9	32	services-cum-ind.-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Jogighopa	29	33	9	2	26	Ind.-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Manipur 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Imphal	7	24	20	5	45	Services	Mono-functional
Churachandpur	43	13	9	2	34	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thoubal	66	14	2	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Kakching	69	12	5	1	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Mayang Imphal	74	14	2	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Nambol	63	18	3	1	15	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Moirang	65	15	6	1	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lilong Thoubal (NAC)	65	9	2	2	22	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Samurou	61	12	5	2	20	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar	72	15	2	1	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Moreh	35	5	43	7	10	Tr. And com	Bi-functional
Ningthoukhong	52	24	5	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lilong Imphal West	36	31	6	2	25	Pr. Act.-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
Kakching Khunou	78	9	3	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Bishnupur	51	17	11	3	18	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lamjaotongba	17	34	14	6	29	Ind.-cum-services	Bi-functional
Kumbi	77	10	2	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Yairipok	69	9	2	2	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Andro	91	3	1	1	5	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Wangoi (NP)(NAC in 81,91)	66	19	2	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Jiribam	23	20	16	4	37	Services-cum-Pr. Act.-cum-Ind.	Multi-Functional
Lamsang	75	9	4	1	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Wangjing	74	8	4	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sikhong Sekmi	69	17	5	2	7	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Oinam	77	10	2	1	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Kwakta	80	7	3	2	8	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sekmai Bajar	68	6	9	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Siugnu	77	7	6	1	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lamlai	77	6	3	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Heirok	85	3	3	0	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Mizoram 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Zawlnuam	67	3	6	2	22	Services	Mono-functional
Mamit	76	4	3	0	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lengpui	83	2	4	0	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Vairengte	67	8	4	1	23	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Bairabi	84	4	2	0	12	Services	Mono-functional
Kolasib	57	7	8	2	27	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
N.Kawnpui	78	2	5	2	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Darlawn	72	4	5	1	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Saitual	76	4	4	2	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sairang	71	3	7	0	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Aizawl	18	14	17	4	48	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Khawzawl	78	3	4	0	15	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Champhai	70	4	6	2	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Khawhai	90	1	2	0	7	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Biate	81	1	1	1	16	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Serchip	70	5	4	1	20	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thenzawl	75	9	2	1	12	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
N.Vanlaiphai	71	2	3	1	23	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Tlabung	44	3	12	0	41	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lunglei	43	7	6	1	43	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Hnahthial	65	2	6	1	25	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Saiha	39	7	8	2	44	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sairang	71	3	7	0	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cies and towns in Meghalaya 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Tura	15	11	17	6	51	Services	Mono-functional
Shillong	5	14	20	7	53	Services	Mono-functional
Cherrapunjee	22	25	14	5	33	Services-cum-Ind.cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-functional
Jowai	3	11	22	4	59	Services	Mono-functional
Nongstoin	35	12	11	3	39	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Baghmara	24	15	21	2	38	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Williamnagar	42	10	8	1	40	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Nagaland 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Mon Town							Mono-functional
Tuensang	22	6	12	1	59	Services	Mono-functional
Mokokchung	15	11	20	3	51	Services	Mono-functional
Zunheboto	21	8	16	2	53	Services	Mono-functional
Zunheboto	21	8	16	2	53	Services	Mono-functional
Dimapur	11	17	30	10	32	Services-cum-Tr. & com.	Bi-functional
Chumukedima	16	9	8	2	65	Services	Mono-functional
Kohima	10	7	9	2	72	Services	Mono-functional
Phek	21	8	6	1	64	Services	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Tripura 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Agartala	3	10	21	8	58	Services	Bi-functional
Badharghat	16	23	14	10	38	Services-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
Teliamura	33	14	21	6	27	Pr. Act.-cum-Services-cum-Tr.&Com.	Multi-Functional
Jogendranagar	8	25	23	15	29	Services-cum-Ind.-cum-tr. & Com.	Multi-Functional
Dharmenagar	6	13	27	14	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Udaipur	10	10	23	5	52	Services	Mono-Functional
Barjala	30	17	9	8	36	Services-cum- Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Kailashnagar	9	6	20	6	59	Services	Mono-Functional
Kumarghat	35	12	14	6	33	Pr. Act.-cum-Services	Bi-functional
Pratapgarh	4	23	27	14	33	Services-cum-Tr.& Com.-cum-Ind.	Multi-Functional
Belonia	9	9	25	5	53	Services	Mono-Functional
Khowai	15	9	24	4	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Singarbil	33	9	24	4	48	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Amarpur	18	9	21	4	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Sonamura	23	9	18	8	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Gandhigram	19	24	11	5	40	Services	Mono-Functional
Sabroom	17	5	14	2	62	Services	Mono-Functional
Kamalpur	14	5	18	2	60	Services	Mono-Functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and Towns in Arunachal Pradesh 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Bomdila	5	20	11	4	60	Services	Mono-Functional
Ziro	16	13	11	1	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Naharlagun	7	15	14	6	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Itanagar	8	20	6	2	63	Services	Mono-Functional
Along	10	13	13	3	62	Services	Mono-Functional
Pasighat	15	19	13	5	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Roing	11	11	17	7	54	Services	Mono-Functional
Tezu	6	18	14	5	58	Services	Mono-Functional
Namsai	8	50	12	4	27	Industry	Mono-Functional
Khonsa	3	17	11	3	66	Services	Mono-Functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and Towns in Assam 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr & Com	Trs & Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Guwahati City	5	17	26	14	37	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Dibrugarh	6	18	28	16	32	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Silchar	4	17	34	10	35	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Jorhat	17	15	29	7	32	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Naogaon	6	24	34	9	27	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Tinsukia	5	24	37	13	21	Services-cum-TR. & Com.	Bi-functional
Dhubri	9	23	29	10	29	Service-cum-TR & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
Tezpur	5	20	31	9	35	Services-cum-Trade & Com.	Bi-functional
Bongaigaon	2	17	26	38	18	Trs. & Comm cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Lumding	6	10	26	42	16	Trs & Com	Momo-Functional
Karimganj	3	16	33	8	39	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Goalpara	13	19	21	12	35	Service-cum-TR & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
North Lakhimpur	13	18	28	11	30	Services-cum-Trade & Com-cum-Ind	Multi-Functional
Diphu	16	22	18	5	38	Services-cum-Ind	Bi-functional
Sibsagar	27	15	26	7	24	Pr.Act.cum-Tr & Com-cum-Services	Multi-Functional
Digboi	7	44	20	6	24	Ind	Mono-Functional



Hojai	9	17	46	7	22	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Barpeta Road	5	22	46	8	19	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Golaghat	6	19	38	7	31	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Kokrajhar	14	19	26	6	36	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Haflong	15	13	11	7	54	Services	Mono-Functional
Hailakandi	9	16	27	9	39	Services cum-TR & Com	Bi-functional
Berpeta	4	20	29	10	36	Tr. & Com	Bi-functional
Mankachar	24	19	30	9	19	Tr. & Com-cumPr. Act-cum- Services	Multi-Functional
Margherita	14	32	30	6	17	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
Mariani	3	24	32	27	15	Tr. & Com-cum-Trs. & Comm-cum- Ind	Multi-Functional
Mangoldoi	11	18	29	6	36	Services cum-TR & Com	Multi-Functional
Rangia	9	10	23	13	45	Services	Mono-Functional
Gauripur	10	24	30	8	28	Tr. & com. Cum services-cum Ind	Multi-Functional
Namrup	2	59	14	2	22	Ind	Mono-Functional
Nalbari	7	20	33	7	33	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Lanka	17	20	35	9	18	Tr. and Com-cum-ind. Cum - Services	Multi-Functional
Rangapara	4	15	43	23	15	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Bilasipara	13	24	37	8	19	Tr. and Com-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
duliajan Oil Town	35	15	5	7	37	Services-cum-PR. Act.	Bi-functional
Badarpur	2	10	25	39	25	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Chapar	39	12	24	5	20	Pr. Act.-cum-Tr. and Com	Bi-functional
Tangla	6	17	46	10	21	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Dhekiajuli	17	16	35	6	26	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Marogapm	34	13	18	5	30	Pr. Act.-cum-services	Bi-functional
Kharupatia	4	19	54	8	15	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Doom Dooma	5	19	47	7	21	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional
Naharkatia	18	20	32	12	16	Tr. and Com-cum-ind. CumPr. Act.	Bi-functional
Biswasnath Charali	11	19	37	5	27	Tr. and Com-Cum -Services	Bi-functional
Sulkuchi	2	71	10	2	16	Ind	Mono-Functional
Jagirroad	14	34	28	9	15	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
Dergaon	5	9	16	3	68	Services	Mono-Functional
Nez Hajo	26	19	23	7	24	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr. and Com	Multi-Functional
Sapatgram	8	34	34	7	16	Ind-cum-Tr & Com	Bi-functional
North Guwahati	23	13	12	12	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Howli	20	20	35	6	18	Tr. and Com-cum-pr. Act. Cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Sonari	16	17	37	8	23	Tr. and Com-cum-service. Cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Udalguri	16	18	28	7	30	services-cum-Tr. and Com-cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Makum	22	30	23	7	17	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Abhayapuri	7	21	23	10	38	services-cum-Tr. and Com	Bi-functional
Dhing	24	18	29	5	24	Tr. and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Gossaigaon	18	12	32	8	31	Tr. and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Bijni	5	21	45	6	24	Tr. & Com	Mono-Functional

Basugaon	16	19	40	6	18	Tr.& Com	Mono-Functional
Bokajan	19	30	28	5	18	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Lakhipur	30	17	23	3	27	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr.and Com	Multi-Functional
Dhemaji	25	15	23	4	32	services-cum-pr.act.Tr.and Com- cum-ind	Multi-Functional
Lala	25	13	26	8	28	services-cum-Tr.and Com-cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Bihpuria	19	14	39	6	22	Tr.and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Nazira	31	13	26	3	27	Pr. Act.-cum-services-cum-Tr.and Com	Multi-Functional
Donkamokam	78	5	4	0	13	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Sarthebari	13	31	28	3	25	Ind.-cum-Tr. And Com.-cum- services	Multi-Functional
Bohari	16	23	39	5	16	Tr.and Com-Cum -ind.	Bi-functional
Sorbhog	20	14	30	16	20	Tr.and Com-cum-pr. Act.-cum- services	Multi-Functional
Pathsala	22	18	25	8	27	services-cum-Tr.and Com-cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Pokakhat	21	17	29	5	27	Tr.and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Golokganj	12	23	36	9	20	Tr.and Com-cum-ind.-cum- services	Multi-Functional
Chabua	5	19	47	7	23	Tr.& Com	Mono-Functional
Maibong	9	26	18	7	40	Services	Mono-Functional
Amingaon	14	27	16	17	26	Ind.-cum-services-cum-Tr.and Com	Multi-Functional
Palasbari	12	25	27	12	24	Tr.and Com-cum-ind.-cum- services	Multi-Functional
Tihu	8	16	30	11	36	services-cum-Tr.and Com	Bi-functional
Dokmoka	56	10	19	1	13	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Moranhat	8	23	39	5	26	Tr.and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Jagiroad Paper Mill	0	92	1	1	6	Ind	Mono-Functional
Raha	24	10	31	9	26	Tr.and Com-cum-services-cum-pr. Act.	Multi-Functional
Hamaren	41	17	11	0	30	Pri. Act.	Mono-Functional
Lakhipur	13	9	44	7	27	Tr.& Com	Mono-Functional
Howraghat	17	11	25	4	44	Services	Mono-Functional
Amguri	8	21	38	10	22	Tr.and Com-cum-services	Bi-functional
Mahur	12	27	20	9	32	services-cum-ind.-cum-Tr.and Com	Multi-Functional
Jogighopa	29	33	9	2	26	Ind.-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Manipur 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Imphal	7	24	20	5	45	Services	Mono-functional
Churachandpur	43	13	9	2	34	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thoubal	66	14	2	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Kakching	69	12	5	1	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Mayang Imphal	74	14	2	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Nambol	63	18	3	1	15	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Moirang	65	15	6	1	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lilong Thoubal (NAC)	65	9	2	2	22	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Samurou	61	12	5	2	20	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar	72	15	2	1	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Moreh	35	5	43	7	10	Tr. And com	Bi-functional
Ningthoukhong	52	24	5	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lilong Imphal West	36	31	6	2	25	Pr. Act.-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
Kakching Khunou	78	9	3	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Bishnupur	51	17	11	3	18	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lamjaotongba	17	34	14	6	29	Ind.-cum-services	Bi-functional
Kumbi	77	10	2	1	9	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Yairipok	69	9	2	2	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Andro	91	3	1	1	5	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Wangoi (NP)(NAC in 81,91)	66	19	2	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Jiribam	23	20	16	4	37	Services-cum-Pr. Act.-cum-Ind.	Multi-Functional
Lamsang	75	9	4	1	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Wangjing	74	8	4	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sikhong Sekmi	69	17	5	2	7	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Oinam	77	10	2	1	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Kwakta	80	7	3	2	8	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sekmai Bajar	68	6	9	1	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Siugnu	77	7	6	1	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lamlai	77	6	3	2	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Heirok	85	3	3	0	10	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectoral Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Cities and towns in Mizoram 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Zawlnuam	67	3	6	2	22	Services	Mono-functional
Mamit	76	4	3	0	17	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lengpui	83	2	4	0	11	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Vairengte	67	8	4	1	23	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Bairabi	84	4	2	0	12	Services	Mono-functional
Kolasib	57	7	8	2	27	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
N.Kawnpui	78	2	5	2	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Darlawn	72	4	5	1	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Saitual	76	4	4	2	13	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sairang	71	3	7	0	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Aizawl	18	14	17	4	48	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Khawzawl	78	3	4	0	15	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Champhai	70	4	6	2	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Khawhai	90	1	2	0	7	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Biate	81	1	1	1	16	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Serchip	70	5	4	1	20	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Thenzawl	75	9	2	1	12	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
N.Vanlaiphai	71	2	3	1	23	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Tlabung	44	3	12	0	41	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Lunglei	43	7	6	1	43	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Hnahthial	65	2	6	1	25	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Saiha	39	7	8	2	44	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional
Sairang	71	3	7	0	19	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Ciies and towns in Meghalaya 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Tura	15	11	17	6	51	Services	Mono-functional
Shillong	5	14	20	7	53	Services	Mono-functional
Cherrapunjee	22	25	14	5	33	Services-cum-Ind.cum-Pr. Act.	Multi-functional
Jowai	3	11	22	4	59	Services	Mono-functional
Nongstoin	35	12	11	3	39	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Baghmara	24	15	21	2	38	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Williamnagar	42	10	8	1	40	Pr. Act.	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Ciies and towns in Nagaland 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Mon Town							Mono-functional
Tuensang	22	6	12	1	59	Services	Mono-functional
Mokokchung	15	11	20	3	51	Services	Mono-functional
Zunheboto	21	8	16	2	53	Services	Mono-functional
Zunheboto	21	8	16	2	53	Services	Mono-functional
Dimapur	11	17	30	10	32	Services-cum-Tr. & com.	Bi-functional
Chumukedima	16	9	8	2	65	Services	Mono-functional
Kohima	10	7	9	2	72	Services	Mono-functional
Phek	21	8	6	1	64	Services	Mono-functional

Sectora Distribution of Main Workers (in %) and Functional Categories of Urban Ciies and towns in Tripura 1991

Name of Towns/Cities	Pr.Act.	Ind	Tr &Com	Trs &Comm	Services	Functional Classification	Functional Diversification
Agartala	3	10	21	8	58	Services	Bi-functional
Badharghat	16	23	14	10	38	Services-cum-ind.	Bi-functional
Teliamura	33	14	21	6	27	Pr. Act.-cum-Services-cum-Tr.&Com.	Multi-Functional
Jogendranagar	8	25	23	15	29	Services-cum-Ind.-cum-tr. & Com.	Multi-Functional
Dhar-menagar	6	13	27	14	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Udaipur	10	10	23	5	52	Services	Mono-Functional
Barjala	30	17	9	8	36	Services-cum- Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Kailashnagar	9	6	20	6	59	Services	Mono-Functional
Kumarghat	35	12	14	6	33	Pr. Act.-cum-Services	Bi-functional
Pratapgarh	4	23	27	14	33	Services-cum-Tr.& Com.-cum-Ind.	Multi-Functional
Belonia	9	9	25	5	53	Services	Mono-Functional
Khowai	15	9	24	4	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Singarbil	33	9	24	4	48	Services-cum-Pr. Act.	Bi-functional
Amarpur	18	9	21	4	48	Services	Mono-Functional
Sonamura	23	9	18	8	41	Services	Mono-Functional
Gandhigram	19	24	11	5	40	Services	Mono-Functional
Sabroom	17	5	14	2	62	Services	Mono-Functional
Kamalpur	14	5	18	2	60	Services	Mono-Functional

<b>Major Supplier of International Migrants to the North Eastern States</b>			
<b>States</b>	<b>Supplier Countries</b>	<b>Total Migrants (in %)</b>	<b>Total Urban Migrants (in %)</b>
<b>Assam</b>	Bangladesh	86.14	88.10
	Nepal	9.39	8.56
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	Nepal	56.95	89.32
<b>Manipur</b>	Mayanmar	20.34	52.72
	Nepal	36.36	28.34
<b>Mizoram</b>	Mayanmar	80.76	78.99
	Nepal	11.01	16.57
<b>Meghalaya</b>	Bangladesh	51.07	39.23
	Nepal	44.86	51.65
<b>Nagaland</b>	Nepal	70.38	80.40
	Bangladesh	6.90	6.56
<b>Tripura</b>	Bangladesh	99.69	99.62
	Pakistan	0.13	0.15