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*Editor*

**Dr. D. Suresh**




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## **URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN TELANGANA – A STUDY**



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**Abstract:** *Urbanization has become a common feature of Indian society. The growth of Industries has contributed to the growth of cities. As a result of industrialization, people have started moving towards the industrial areas in search of employment. This has resulted in the growth of towns and cities. Urbanization can also be defined as a process of the concentration of population in a particular territory. According to Mitchell urbanization is a process of becoming urban, moving to cities, and changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities. The urban population (% of the total) in India was last measured at 32.75 in 2015, according to the World Bank. Urban population refers to people living in urban areas as defined by national statistical offices. It is calculated using World Bank population estimates and urban ratios from the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects. This page has the latest values, historical data, forecasts, charts, statistics, an economic calendar and news for the urban population (% of total) in India. In this paper, I have discussed urbanization and urban development in Telangana State.*

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**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Causes, Urban Government, Urban Development, Telangana.*

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### **Introduction**

Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India. The population residing in urban areas in India, according to the 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count increased to 28.53% according to the 2001 census, and crossed 30% as per the 2011 census, standing at

31.16%. According to a survey by the UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of the country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. As per World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.

### **Causes of Urbanization**

The migration of people from rural to urban areas is the result of two phenomena push factors and pull factors. Though it seems that these two phenomena are different but they cannot be segregated from one another. The push factors are:

1. As the population increases on agricultural land, many of them find it difficult to survive on that limited land resource, so they look for some other non-agricultural alternative for survival;
2. Limited employment opportunities available in rural areas;
3. An excessive supply of people to be engaged in rural work leads to a decrease in the income of the people;
4. Closed village life creates various difficulties for a certain section of society: they aspire for the security of life and property, greater employment opportunities, better amenities of a comfortable life, more independence and freedom, educational, cultural and medical facilities etc.-in other words better prospects of life;
5. Militant activity in rural areas also causes an exodus of the population from rural to urban areas.

The pull factors are:

1. Attractive civic amenities in the form of educational institutions, roads, water supply, electricity facilities, recreation centres etc.;
2. Better transport facilities in urban areas;
3. Religious centres in India are also urban-centric;
4. Arrangement for the rehabilitation of the refugees is done near the urban areas;
5. Consumerist culture attracts people towards towns and cities;
6. Career advancement opportunities are mostly urban-centric;
7. Belonging to an urban area adds personal glamour to one's personality;
8. A city postulates an open society where every person can have their way without being interfered with by others.

### **Meaning of Urban Area**

An urban area is formally so declared through the statutory establishment of that area of a municipal body, a notified area or a cantonment by definite legislation.

Thus, there are Municipal Acts in different states under which municipal bodies are set up by the state governments in specific areas. There can be other areas also that can be declared as 'urban' by the Census authorities. To be considered an urban unit, as per census definition, a specific geographical area must fulfil the following three conditions simultaneously:

- a) a population of at least 5000;
- b) a density of population of at least 400 per sq. km; and
- c) at least 75% of the working population in that area engaged in non-agricultural pursuits

### **Evolution of Urban Government in India**

The urban government in India emerged out of a centralized system of governance. Ancient India was a land of village republics but cities were also founded by rulers. Very little information is available about the cities and their administration in the Vedic period. During the Gupta period, the towns were governed by a centrally appointed person called 'Purpal'. The Purpal was assisted by a non-official committee, the town committees were a common feature of the ancient Indian administration. In mediaeval times, the rulers at the centre could not look after local affairs. They needed a local agency that could manage local affairs with a local collection of funds. Local administration was carried on by the representatives of the rulers. People were not associated with the management. 'Kotwal' in the Mughal administration managed local affairs without accountability towards the people.

The centralized administration took a turn during colonial administration at the hand of the East India Company whose interest was trade and commerce, sanitary services for the British people, tax collection for the maintenance of police and maintaining law and order in the society. The purpose was not to create local self-government bodies. Local government in India has not grown from below. Even after 1858, Queen's government showed no effort for organizing local government with people's participation or accountability towards them. Lord Rippon's Resolution of 1882 was conceded for the first-time local administration by an elected body with local functions.

The urban government could not strike roots even after hundred years of existence as the western model was imported from a different society. The freedom fighters also did not involve themselves in developing civic amenities but utilized local government to agitate for national freedom.

Though the Constitution of India after much debate in the Constituent Assembly included Article 40 in the Directive Principles to leave the provision of organizing panchayats in rural areas did not give any corresponding duty to the states concerning the creation of urban bodies. The only reference to urban self-government is to be found in two entries: 1) Entry 5 of list 11 of the seventh schedule, viz., the state list says:

'Local government, that is to say, the constitution and powers of Municipal Corporations, Improvement trusts, District Boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for local self-government or village administration. Entry 20 of the concurrent list reads: 'Economic and Social Planning, Urban Planning would fall within the ambit of both entry 5 of the State List and Entry 20 of the Concurrent list. After independence, incomprehensive and inadequate municipal laws, substandard personnel, poor finance and stringent local control suppressed the growth of the urban government. 'The state government followed an ambivalent policy towards the municipal rule while ceding powers on papers, actually put checks and restraints from exercising power by the local bodies. The year 1985 proved to be a landmark year as, during that year, the Ministry of Urban Development was set up at the Union level independently. Earlier it was shifted from one ministry to another. Despite the fast pace of urbanization, there is no well-defined and thorough urbanization policy in India. The Constitution 65th Amendment Bill brought by the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, sought to ensure municipal bodies were vested with necessary powers and remove their financial constraints to enable them to function effectively as units of local self-government. Though it was passed in Lok Sabha, the bill was defeated in the Rajya Sabha in October 1989.

In 1991, the Central government introduced a Constitutional Amendment Bill about municipalities in the Lok Sabha on 16 September. With a few modifications, it was essentially based on the 65<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill. The Act introduces a new part, namely, Part IXA, in the Constitution. This part deals with issues relating to municipalities such as their structure and composition, reservation of seats, elections powers and functions, finances, and some miscellaneous provisions. The 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act thus accords constitutional status to municipalities. The provisions of the Act apply to the states as well as the Union territories. However, about the latter, the President can make certain reservations and modifications. The provisions do not apply to the Schedule Areas and Tribal Areas governed by Articles 244(1) and (2) of the Constitution.

The traditional civic functions of municipalities are being performed by municipal bodies. However, the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment lays down that municipality would go beyond the mere provisions of civic amenities. Now, they are expected to play a crucial role in the formulation of plans for local development and implementation of development projects and programs, including those specially designed for urban poverty alleviation.

### **Role of Urban Local Government in Urban Development**

The urban local government primarily acts as a service agency. It has been aptly elaborated by the Encyclopedia of the social sciences where it read "Municipal Government has risen to a place of high importance in modern political society not only because urban dwellers now form so large an element in the population but

because city administration has developed by its complexity into a problem of great inherent difficulty. The rural district requires very little government; its people are habituated to doing things for themselves. But when great bodies of people massed closely together, they inevitably become more interdependent. To promote their safety, health and convenience they gradually devolve more responsibility upon the public authorities and the larger the community the greater this tendency.

Describing the place of local bodies in the government structure in India, the Rural-Urban Relationship Committee, 1966 observed that the local bodies are important units to help achieve the decentralization of political power and promotion of democratic values. This committee envisaged the following functions for the urban government:

- a) To function as local units of self-government;
- b) To provide local public services and conveniences for healthy living, work and play;
- c) To ensure planned and regulated development of urban areas;
- d) To mobilize local resources and utilize them to the maximum good of the community; and
- e) To promote social, economic and cultural development in an integrated manner.

According to M. A. Muttalib and Mohd. Akbar AliKhan, the local government is expected to perform fourfold development functions. They are:

- a) Promotion of popular participation,
- b) Spurring of economic development,
- c) Social transformation, and
- d) Equitable distribution of the fruits of development.

### **Urban Governance in Telangana**

The 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act 1992 stipulated that the responsibilities of providing citizen services in urban areas and performing administrative tasks like urban planning and land use regulation should fall under the purview of Urban Local Bodies. The Amendment left it to the respective states to enact laws that govern the structure and status of ULBs in their territory. Accordingly, the Government enacted the Telangana Municipalities Act 2019 to guide the administration of ULBs other than GHMC. The Act pushes the ULBs to be more transparent, accountable, and efficient. In tune with the act, some of the identified focus areas are:

1. Promoting Greenery in the urban areas, by demarcating funds towards the 'Green Budget'.
2. Encouraging citizen-centric governance by establishing Citizen Service Centres in the Municipalities.



3. Saving water, improving sanitation and upgrading the sewerage systems to ensure that water resources are well-utilised.
4. Introduction of a single-window online system, called Telangana State Building Permission and Self Certification System (TS-bPASS) to process building certifications in a timely and hassle-free manner.

Sl. No	District	No. of ULBs	Name of Municipality/Municipal Corporation
1	Adilabad	1	Adilabad
2	Asifabad	1	Kagaznagar
3	Hyderabad	1	GHMC
4	Jagitial	5	Dharmapuri, Jagityal, Koratla, Metpalli, Raikal
5	Jangaon	1	Jangaon
6	Jayashankar	1	Bhupalpally
7	JogulambaGadwal	4	Alampur, Gadwal, Leeja, Waddepalle
8	Kamareddy	3	Banswada, Kamareddy, Yellareddy
9	Karimnagar	5	Choppandandi, Huzurabad, Jammikunta, Karimnagar, Kothapalli
10	Khammam	4	Khammam, Madhira, Sattupalli, Wyra
11	Kothagudem	4	Kothagudem, Manuguru, Palvancha, Yellandu
12	Mahabubabad	4	Dornakal, Mahabubabad, Maripeda, Thorur
13	Mahabubnagar	3	Bhoothpur, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar
14	Mancherla	7	Bellampally, Cheenur, Kyathanpally, Luxettipet, Mancherla, Mandammari, Naspur
15	Medak	4	Medak, Narsapur, Ramayampet, Thoopran
16	Medchal-Malkajgiri	13	Boduppal, Dhammaiguda, Dundigal, Ghatkesar, Gundlapochampally, Jawaharnagar, Kompally, Medchal, Nagaram, Nizampet, Peerzadiguda, Pocharam, Thumkunta
17	Nagarkurnool	4	Achampet, Kalwakurthy, Kholapur, Nagarkurnool
18	Nalgonda	8	Chandur, Chityal, Devarakonda, Haliya, Miryalaguda, Nakrekal, Nalgonda, Nandikonda
19	Narayanpet	3	Kosgi, Makthal, Narayanpet
20	Nirmal	3	Bhainsa, Khanapur, Nirmal
21	Nizamabad	4	Armoor, Bheemgal, Bodhan, Nizamabad
22	Peddapalli	4	Manthani, Peddapalli, Ramagundam, Sulthanabad
23	Rangareddy	16	Adibatla, Amangal, Badangpet, Bandlagudajagir, Ibrahimpatnam, Jalpally, Kothur, Manikonda, Meerpet, Narsingi, Pedda-Amberpet, Shadnagar, Shamshabad, Shankarpally, Thukkuguda, Turkayamjal
24	Sangareddy	8	Ameenpur, Andol-Jogipet, Bollaram, Narayankhed, Sadasivapet, Sangareddy, Tellapur, Zaheerabad
25	Siddipet	5	Cherial, Dubbaka, Gajwel, Husnabad, Siddipet
26	Sircilla	2	Sircilla, Vemulavada
27	Suryapet	5	Huzurnagar, Kodada, Neredcherla, Suryapet, Tirumalagiri
28	Vikarabad	4	Kodangal, Parigi, Tandur, Vicarabad
29	Wanaparthy	5	Amarchinta, Atmakur, Kothakota, Pebbair, Wanaparthy
30	Warangal	3	Narsampet, Parakala, Wardhannapet
31	Hanmakonda	1	GWMC
32	YadagiriBhuvanagiri	6	Alair, Bhongir, Choutuppal, Mothkur, Pochampally, Yadagirigutta
33	Mulug	0	No ULBs

Source: *Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, GoTS*

There are 142 ULBs in Telangana, spread across the districts of the state. In addition to the ULBs, the Government notifies the creation of Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) from time to time. The objective of UDAs is to ensure that the process of urbanisation does not occur in an unplanned manner and to therefore provide adequate planning support during the urbanisation process. This involves the creation of master plans and layouts for land use, water use and sanitation facilities, and road networks in newly urbanising areas. Before 2014-15, the only UDAs in Telangana were Hyderabad's HMDA and Warangal's Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA). The following 8 UDAs were created in the state between 2014-15 and February 2022, taking the total number of UDAs in the state to 10:

1. Yadadrigutta Temple Development Authority in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri,
2. Vemulawada Temple Development Authority in Rajanna Sircilla,
3. Satavahana Urban Development Authority in Karimnagar,
4. Nizamabad Urban Development Authority in Nizamabad,
5. Stambhadri Urban Development Authority in Khammam,
6. Siddipet Urban Development Authority in Siddipet,
7. Mahabubnagar Urban Development Authority in Mahabubnagar, and
8. Neelgiri Urban Development Authority in Nalgonda

### **Financing Urban Development**

Urban development requires considerable upfront public investment. While the development of infrastructures such as flyovers and metro services provides a considerable boost to the productivity of the local economy, financing their construction remains a key concern globally. Telangana's Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) benefit from a significant tax base that helps finance the development of its cities. In January 2021, Telangana joined five other states (Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh) in completing Urban Local Body (ULB) reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance, Government of India). This entailed changing the floor rates of property tax rates to reflect the prevailing circle rates in the nearby areas, and updating the user charges as well. This allowed the ULBs to raise resources that could help improve the health and sanitation in the areas that they cover. In addition, the Government would also introduce a mechanism to increase these rates periodically.

### **Urban Development in Telangana State**

Since its formation in 2014, Telangana has strived to create a sustainable and equitable urban biosphere within the state. As per population projections released by the National Commission on Population (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India), 46.84% of the state's population (1.79 crores) is expected to reside

in urban areas in the year 2022. This is projected to further increase to 57.32% (2.2 crores) by 2036- an increase of 10.5% between the two years. In the same period, at the national level, the percentage of urban residents is expected to increase from 34.75% in 2022 to 39.06% by 2036. This reflects a 4.31%-point rise in the share of the urban population in the country as a whole. This implies that in the year 2022, the urban population of Telangana is projected to be 12.1% higher than that of the country, and this gap is expected to increase to 18.3% by 2036. Thus, not only is Telangana more urbanised than India but also, it is urbanising at a faster pace than the country as a whole. More people live in urban areas than in rural areas in 4 districts in the state- Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Warangal-Urban and Rangareddy. The largest urban area in the state is Hyderabad, which occupies only 0.6% of Telangana's total land area, but houses over 20% of the total population of the state. Despite its high population density, Hyderabad has strived to maintain its green cover. As a result, in 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization honoured Hyderabad with the title of the "Tree City of the World". The development of more prosperous urban areas is a primary policy goal of the Government of Telangana, and the goal is being achieved through the 142 Urban Local Bodies present across the state.

### **Urban Infrastructure**

Investments in infrastructure are an essential component of urban development. These investments increase the productivity of urban economic activities, thereby paying for themselves several times over. The Government has undertaken significant investments to build and maintain the infrastructure in the urban areas.

**Pattana Pragathi:** Pattana Pragathi was launched by the Government in February 2020 to provide a strong foundation for better standards of living for the urban population, to make urban areas clean and green, and to provide better services to the urban public at large. Pattana Pragathi was executed in three phases- the first of which focussed on developing urban utility infrastructure, the second on sanitation, and the third on both urban utility infrastructure as well as sanitation. Phases I and II of Pattana Pragathi were implemented in 2020-21, while the third phase was completed in 2021-22. Under Pattana Pragathi, during 2020-21, the Government released Rs. 148 crores each month, of which Rs. 78 crores were allocated to GHMC, while the rest was shared among the 141 remaining ULBs. In 2021-22, the Government has been releasing Rs. 59 crore to GHMC and Rs. 53 crores to other municipalities in the state each month. These funds have been used to address infrastructural gaps to meet the goals of citizen-centric service delivery by the ULBs. Prominent projects address the felt needs in the areas of sanitation and waste management, provision of public toilets, designing public spaces like gardens, markets, graveyards and animal shelters, and making concerted efforts towards greenifying the urban areas.

To improve the sanitation facilities, the ULBs purchased over 2,214 new sanitation vehicles, adding to the existing stock of 2,628 garbage-lifting vehicles in the state.

Taken together, the fleet can collect 100% of the urban garbage produced by these ULBs on any given day. In the same vein, over 37.19 lakh bins were also purchased from these funds.

While garbage collection is essential, the funds were also devoted towards the processing of this garbage. In 29 ULBs, the money was used to create new dumpyards. Additionally, 224 new compost sheds and 206 new Dry Resource Collection Centres (DRCC) have been constructed. Over Rs. 250 crores were utilised for the construction of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) in 71 ULBs. The FSTPs have generated the capacity to process 1,565 kilo-litres of sludge each day.

In addition to the garbage collection infrastructure, the PattanaPragathi funds were also used to build public toilets. The Government accomplished the aim of constructing one public toilet per thousand people in urban areas by building 4,071 new toilets using funds from this scheme.

The ULBs also utilised these funds to meet the targets for Telaganaku Haritha Haram (TKHH)—a government policy to improve urban forestry and increase forest land cover in Telangana from 24% to 33%. Under this scheme, the ULBs established 1,053 nurseries, including 51 Central Nurseries, and added 34.69 lakh tall plants in 2021-22. They also developed 2,265 PattanaPrakruthiVanalu (Tree Parks) with 64.27 lakh plants. Additionally, funds were also used to make the Multi-Layer Avenue Plantation along 723.76 kilometres of road. The new plants added under TKHH are regularly watered, weeded, and maintained to ensure a target survival rate of 90%. Finally, the funds were used to develop utility infrastructure. This includes the construction of 369 open gyms, 1,037 sheds in street vending zones, animal care shelters in 16 districts, 265 VaikunthaDhamams, and integrated veg and non-veg markets (IVNMCs)

The efforts under this scheme have borne fruit, as Telangana ranked second among all states in the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India (MoHUA-Gol). Karimnagar Municipal Corporation received the second prize in this challenge among all cities in India with less than 3 lakh citizens. Telangana's ULBs were also recognised and felicitated during the Swachh Survekshan 2021 conducted by MoHUA-Gol.

### **Telangana State Building Permission and Self-Certification System (TS-bPASS)**

The Government's commitment to easing administrative burdens extends to the development of new buildings as well. In 2020, the Government introduced the TS-bPASS for approving the layouts of buildings. The process is the first in the country to provide fully online services with no touchpoint. It is a single-window system that expedites the approval of building designs, depending on their classification into broad categories. The TS-bPASS was brought in to replace the Development Permission Management System (DPMS). The new rules have eliminated the need to obtain building permits for ground-floor and ground plus one-floor residential buildings. It provides

tentative layout approval through an online application. It also provides for the processing of land use certificates and land conversion certificates.

**Property Tax Waiver:** Recognising the financial costs of COVID-19, the Government provided relaxation on property tax during 2020-21 to reduce the burden on people in major urban centres. Under various relaxations, over 58.6 lakh families received waivers to the tune of Rs 671.58 crore.

**Vaikunthadhamams:** About 265 graveyards (Vaikunthadhamams) have been developed by providing infrastructure facilities like parking, toilets, rainwater harvesting structures, lighting, greenery and CCTV cameras. The government has made a provision for Rs. 200 crores for this scheme during 2021-22.

**Innovative Waste Management Practices:** A 2018 study by the National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) found that Hyderabad has the highest per-capita urban waste generation in the country, producing roughly 0.57 kilograms of urban waste per person per day. To reduce the burden of waste on urban landfills and the ecosystem, the Government has adopted innovative measures to address the problem. The Government of Telangana has commissioned South India's largest Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plant in Jawaharnagar in 2021. The target is to generate 63 MW of electricity from municipal solid waste in Hyderabad. In Phase I, a 19.8 MW plant has been made operational. It is expected to consume 1,200 tonnes of waste each day. Another 15 MW waste-to-energy plant is being planned in Dundigal. The WtE plant has the potential to reduce pressure on the landfill, lower the foul odour in the area, and prevent ground, soil and water pollution. In another instance, GHMC partnered with Ramky Enviro to set up facilities that recycle waste generated by construction and demolition (C&D) in urban areas. 2 plants have been set up in the GHMC area in Public Private Partnership mode so far—at Jeedimetla and Fathullaguda, Hayathnagar—and 2 more are in the pipeline. The plant at Fathullaguda is among the largest C&D recycling facilities in South India. Both plants can handle over 500 tonnes of waste per day and can recycle and recover 90% of the material from construction waste. This is a huge achievement for the state, as the national estimates by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) suggest that currently, only 1% of the construction waste across India is recycled. Since April 2018, 15.26 lakh MT of C&D waste has been collected in these plants, with 7.97 lakh MT collected at the Jeedimetla facility, and 5.38 lakh MT collected at the Fathullaguda facility. C&D waste from these facilities is being utilised for various non-structural purposes such as to create footpaths, road sub-bases, etc. The third innovation in this sector comes from Telangana State Agricultural Industries Development Corporation Limited (TS AGROS). Recognising that urban Telangana produces over 7,000 MT of waste daily, TS AGROS has entered into an MoU with M/s Bhavani Bio organics Pvt. Ltd. & HiMSW Ltd. for the supply of city compost to be used as fertiliser to improve the fertility of Telangana's soils. The Government has instructed all fertiliser companies to supply city compost through TS AGROS alone.

The state's efforts in improving garbage collection have borne fruit, as of 2020-21, data from MoHUA suggests that 100% of Telangana's urban wards have door-to-door waste collection facilities.

**Integrated Markets:** To address the infrastructural deficiencies in the ULBs, the Government has earmarked Rs.500 crore to construct Integrated Veg and Non-veg Markets in all 142 ULBs. Under this allocation, ULBs with a population, of less than 25,000 would receive one integrated market spread over 1 acre, whereas larger ULBs would receive integrated markets spread over up to 2 acres. 5 ULBs (Gajwel, Siddipet, Siricilla, Khammam and Ieeja) have already constructed these markets, whereas the work is underway in 6 more ULBs. Sites for the construction have been identified in the remaining ULBs.

### **Employment in Urban Areas**

As more and more people migrate to urban areas, there is an increasing demand for goods and services in urban areas, which necessitates the development of new enterprises, thus creating a virtuous cycle of more jobs and prosperity. While this virtuous cycle is created by individual demands, it can only be realised and expedited through supportive government policies that ease the process of establishing and running new businesses. According to the World Bank, 80% of the global GDP is generated in the cities. They are hubs for businesses, services, and firms that generate new employment in the economy. The two key indicators that capture the status of employment in urban areas are - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR)<sup>2</sup>. According to Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), 2018-19 & 2019-20, the LFPR of the working-age population in urban Telangana increased from 53.2% in 2018-19 to 57.2% in 2019-20—an increase of 4%. Additionally, the urban LFPR in the state was higher than the national urban LFPR in 2018-19 (51.6%) as well as 2019-20 (53.5%). Telangana had the second-highest urban LFPR among the five southern states in the year 2019-20. Urban Telangana witnessed an increase in WPR from 47.1% in 2018-19 to 51% in 2019-20. This accounts for a 3.9%-point rise in WPR. Telangana's urban WPR is also higher than the national urban WPR in 2019-20 (49.6%).

**Status of Employment in Urban Area:** A comparison of the overall employment status in rural versus urban areas reflects the stark difference in the employment statuses across the two areas in the state. Data from PLFS 2019-20 suggests that in Telangana, urban workers across genders are more likely to have regular salaried jobs, whereas rural workers across genders are more likely to be self-employed or working as casual labourers. Among the urban working males in Telangana, 55.2% have a regular salaried job, compared to only 11.9% in rural areas. On similar lines, while 54.9% of urban working women are likely to have salaried jobs, only 8.4% of their rural counterparts are likely to be employed with salaried work.

**Sectoral Distribution of Employment in Urban Area:** 'Trade and automobile repair' is the largest employment-generating sector, employing over 25% of all working adults

in urban Telangana. The next highest employment is generated by the manufacturing sector (16.13%), followed by the construction sector (9.06%), and transportation & storage (8.45%). Around 66% of all urban jobs in Telangana come from the services sector. In contrast, 70.76% of working adults in rural Telangana are employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing

**Earnings and Wages in Urban vs. Rural Telangana:** Salaried workers make up the largest worker category in urban areas, at 55.1%, and account for 10.4% of rural workers in the state. Data from PLFS 2019-20 suggests that the average salaried person earns 58.3% more in urban areas than in rural areas, with women in urban areas earning more than double their rural counterparts in a month. Similarly, the average earnings of self-employed persons in urban Telangana (who comprise 32.8% of all urban workers) were 33% higher than that of self-employed persons in rural areas of the state (where self-employed persons are the largest worker category, at 54.7% of all workers). Urban self-employed women were, on average, earning more than double the amount earned by rural women in this category. Casual workers comprise 34.9% of the workforce in rural areas and 12% in urban areas. During July-September 2019, the daily earnings of casual workers in Telangana were estimated to be Rs.281.5/day in rural areas, compared to Rs.446.4/ day in urban areas, mirroring the urban earnings premium observed among the self-employed and salaried workers.

**Government Initiatives:** The Government is committed to pursuing policies that create new jobs and upskill people to match the needs of new jobs required particularly in the urban areas. In this regard, the Government has undertaken several initiatives that impart skills and provide employment opportunities to the people, such as the employment Skills Training & Placement (EST&P) program. The skills provided under this program help the urban poor gain salaried employment in the private sector. Of the 37,422 candidates trained under this program till December 2021, 17,233 have been provided employment.

### **Urban Areas and Climate Change**

In 2020, the Government of India published its first assessment of Climate Change and its possible consequences for India. It states that between 1901 and 2018, India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7 degrees Celsius. Further, it projects that, under different assumptions, the surface temperature would increase by 2 to 3 degree scelsius between 2040 and 2070. Hence, by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the projected rise in temperature over India is roughly 4.4 degrees celsius. At the same time, the report projects lower rainfalls, more droughts, and rising sea levels. While climate change is a global challenge, urban areas worldwide have a significant role to play in combating climate change. It is estimated that over 75% of global carbon dioxide emissions arise in the cities. Thus, creating and maintaining sustainable cities is the key to reducing future carbon emissions and limiting the earth's warming.

**Strategic Nala Development Programme:** On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Hyderabad and surrounding districts witnessed over 100 mm of rainfall within a couple of hours. The October 2021 rainfall was not an isolated event—two major high rainfall events were observed in Hyderabad in 2020 as well. In fact, according to a 2021 report by the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), four out of the five highest 24-hour rainfall days for Hyderabad from the last century were witnessed in the previous two decades. To reduce the possibility of flooding in the future, the drainage infrastructure across urban areas in the state must be expanded and improved upon. The stormwater drainage systems should be designed to accommodate the expected changes in precipitation in the future. Hence, the Government has taken up the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) in Hyderabad and 26 other Municipalities/Municipal Corporations to supplement the existing 1,296 kilometres of stormwater drains in the city. The goal is to improve the city drainage systems so that unusual volumes of rainfall in the future do not lead to flooding. The Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 858 crores for the development of the 'Nala Network' across identified high-priority areas in phase-I of the programme. 55 projects under this scheme.

**Green Budget:** In addition to mitigation strategies, the Government has also taken up proactive measures. Since 2020, all ULBs in the state have earmarked 10% of their budget as a 'Green Budget'. The goal of 'Green Budget' is to address urban forestry and the development of green cover in urban areas on a priority basis. This is done by establishing nurseries and plantations and carrying out awareness programmes in urban areas. Taken together, all 142 ULBs in Telangana have set aside Rs. 590.39 crores for the Green Budget in 2021-22. GHMC allocated Rs. 306.67 crores towards the Green Budget in 2021-22. A large share of the Green Budget (47%) is devoted to developing colony parks, followed by upkeep and maintenance of city parks (44%). The development and maintenance of public parks serve many purposes. It provides recreational spaces for the residents, especially the children, and increases the green cover of the city.

**Telangana State Heatwave Action Plan:** Heat waves act like a "silent disaster" that adversely affects the health of the people and animals of the state. According to a recent report by the Revenue (Disaster Management) Department (Government of Telangana), 568 out of 589 mandals of Telangana are susceptible to heatwaves. Hence, Telangana maintains the State Heatwave Action Plan to guide the line departments on how to alter their roles and functions in the event of a heatwave in the state. The plan recognises that the burden of heatwaves is borne disproportionately by construction workers children, women, street vendors and the poor and the marginalised, and suggests measures to minimise the impact of heatwaves on all citizens in general, and on these vulnerable groups, in particular. It suggests altering the working hours in major cities to avoid peak hours, distributing information on how to deal with heatwaves, ensuring shelter facilities for livestock, deploying health teams at major bus stops, and rescheduling load shedding to avoid peak hours.



**Early Warning System for Flood Prediction:** Information from national monitoring networks is often insufficient for local authorities to evaluate flood risk at the local scale, particularly in urban areas. Often, the network density is insufficient and national network stations are situated according to hydrological and meteorological needs. At the time of state formation, the area under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation had 33 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), with a resolution of 10x10 km. To improve the accuracy and efficiency of the early warning system for flood prediction in Hyderabad, the Department of Planning, Government of Telangana, as per recommendations made by Kapil Gupta from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Bombay, installed 99 new Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in the GHMC area, taking the total count of AWS to 132. The resolution of AWS in Telangana has now improved to 2x2 km, and they provide hourly data on rainfall (mm), temperature (degree Celsius), humidity (%), wind direction, and speed of the wind. The data from these stations is transmitted to the main server located at the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), Hyderabad through GSM technology. After quality control, the real-time data and products are disseminated to various users, who use this data to make timely decisions for disaster management.

## Conclusion

Urbanization has undermined old forms of political mobilization based on caste and religious identities and favours local issues to be resolved on right based approach. Urbanization has an impact on all aspects of day-to-day life. Family structure has also been influenced by urbanization. In rural society, the concept of family living is different from that in urban society. In urban society usually, families are nuclear, and a very small percentage of households' have joint families, whereas in rural societies most households have joint families. This change in family structure is a direct result of urbanization. In urban areas, especially in metropolitan cities, people of extremely divergent cultures live together. This has a positive impact. People come to know about each other's culture and they exchange their ideas, breaking the barriers which earlier used to exist between them. This results in cultural hybridization.

As of 2022, over 47% of Telangana's population is expected to be living in urban areas. By 2027, more residents of Telangana would be living in its urban areas than in rural areas. The future of urban development in Telangana is full of opportunities, with a perfect ecosystem in place for experimenting with new technologies and policy proposals. For example, several economists have recently endorsed the idea of creating an urban employment guarantee programme and using the person days generated under the scheme to rejuvenate urban public spaces. On the technological front, the experience of municipalities like Raipur and larger municipal corporations like Bengaluru show the immense potential of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in improving property tax collections. Similarly, the use of smart traffic management systems to reduce road congestion, and on-demand services to improve urban mobility

are areas with ample potential for exploration. Telangana's IT hubs and technologists are well-suited to act as pioneers in deploying meaningful technologies to improve the urban experience. The citizen-centric focus of urban development in Telangana is poised for a future of greater and more inclusive urbanisation.

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