Urban Settlements: Census Definition and Categories

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Census Definition of Urban Settlement

Census of India 2011

Provisional Population Totals
Urban Agglomerations and Cities

Data Highlights

This data release covers the total population, population (0 to 6 years) and number of literates for each UA/City with a population of 1 Lakh and above as per the provisional population totals of Census 2011.

Definitions:

Towns:

For the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area is as follows;

1. All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.
2. All other places which satisfied the following criteria:

    i) A minimum population of 5,000;
    ii) At least 75 per cent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
    iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.

Categories:

The first category of urban units is known as Statutory Towns. These towns are notified under law by the concerned State/UT Government and have local bodies like municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees, etc., irrespective of their demographic characteristics as reckoned on 31st December 2009. Examples: Vadodara (M Corp.), Shimla (M Corp.) etc.

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The second category of Towns (as in item 2 above) is known as Census Town. These were identified on the basis of Census 2001 data.

Urban Agglomeration (UA): An urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths (OGs), or two or more physically contiguous towns together with or without outgrowths of such towns. An Urban agglomeration must consist of at least a statutory town and its total population (i.e. all the constituents put together) should not be less than 20,000 as per the 2001 Census. In varying local conditions, there were similar other combinations which have been treated as urban agglomerations satisfying the basic condition of contiguity. Examples: Greater Mumbai UA, Delhi UA, etc.

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Out Growths (OG): An Out Growth (OG) is a viable unit such as a village or a hamlet or an enumeration block made up of such village or hamlet and clearly identifiable in terms of its boundaries and location. Some of the examples are railway colony, university campus, port area, military camps, etc., which have come up near a statutory town outside its statutory limits but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town.