Concept in one line

A major port is a port that the Union declares to be one by law and runs through a Major Port Authority (Kamarajar Port is run as a company).
As at 7 November 2026: 14 major ports, of which 12 are operational.





Major port

A major port is a port that the Union declares to be one by law and runs through a Major Port Authority.

Kamarajar Port

Kamarajar Port is run as a company.



As at 7 November 2026

14 major ports



12 are operational



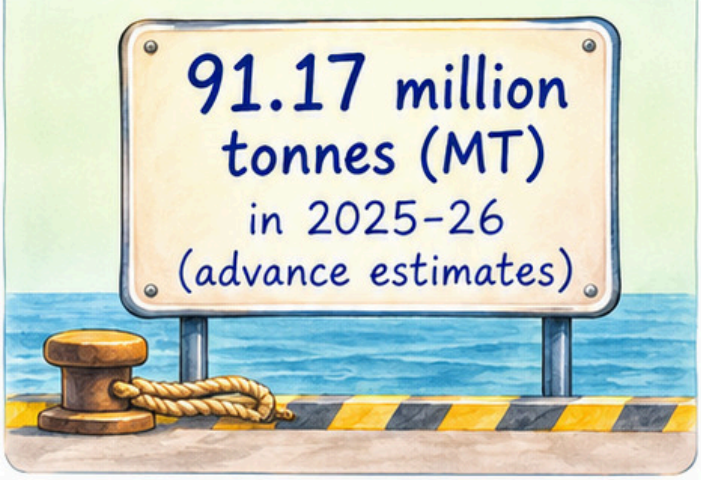
Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam is the State's only major port; it handled 91.17 million tonnes (MT) in 2025-26 (advance estimates), fourth among the major ports, and every other port of the State is a non-major port under the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board.

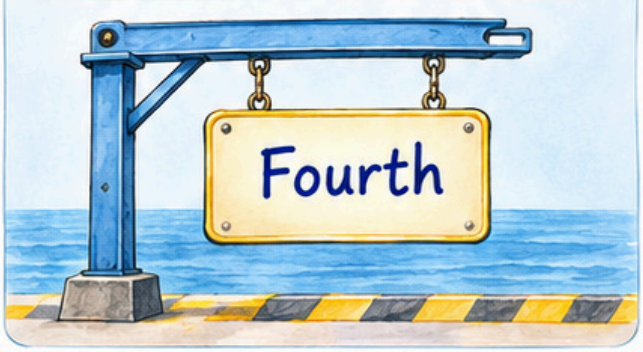
Major port



Cargo handled



Rank among major ports



Other ports

Every other port of the State is a non-major port under the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board.



Major ports (India)



Operational major ports



2.1 Major and non-major ports: the Constitution and the law

Point	Major port	Non-major port
Entry in the Seventh Schedule	Union List, Entry 27: "Ports declared by or under law made by Parliament or existing law to be major ports, including their delimitation, and the constitution and powers of port authorities therein." 	Concurrent List, Entry 31: "Ports other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament or existing law to be major ports." 
Who controls it	The Union, through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways 	The State Maritime Board or the State Government 
Law for its management	The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 	The Indian Ports Act, 2025, in force from 1 April 2026 
Number (as at 7 November 2026)	14, of which 12 are operational 	About 200, of which around 65 handle cargo 

2.1 Major and non-major ports: the Constitution and the law

Non-major ports fall under Concurrent List Entry 31, not the State List. State Governments or State Maritime Boards administer them.



Non-major ports are also called minor ports. Most of the 200 that do not handle cargo are "Port Limits" used mainly by fishing vessels and small ferries.



14 major ports



12 operational



2.2 The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021

The Act provides for the regulation, operation and planning of major ports. It came into force on 3 November 2021, and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 stands repealed.



Each major port is now run by a Major Port Authority. Its administration, control and management are vested in the Board of that Authority.



The Board, in a line (section 3(1) of the Act):

- a chairperson
- a deputy chairperson
- one member each from the State Government
- the Ministry of Railways
- the Ministry of Defence
- Customs
- two to four independent members
- one ex officio member nominated by the Centre
- two members representing the employees

The Centre appoints the chairperson and the deputy chairperson on the recommendation of a selection committee.

The Board, or its committees, fixes the rates of the port, a task done earlier by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports.



An Adjudicatory Board set up by the Centre takes the place of that Tariff Authority.



Parliament passed the Bill in two steps: the Lok Sabha on 23 September 2020 and the Rajya Sabha on 10 February 2021.



2.3 Kamarajar: the major port run as a company

The 12 operational major ports comprise 11 Port Authorities and one company, Kamarajar Port Limited.



The port was incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 in October 1999. It was commissioned on 1 February 2001, and commercial work began on 22 June 2001 with the unloading of thermal coal.



It was planned mainly to handle thermal coal for power stations in Tamil Nadu.



Kamarajar is India's first corporatized major port and a company of Chennai Port Authority.



It is an artificial harbour protected by two breakwaters.



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2.4 Four renamed major ports

Old name	New name	Date	Milestone
Tuticorin Port Trust 	V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust	27 January 2011	The Union Cabinet approved the renaming; the change of name took effect on 11 February 2011.
Ennore Port Limited 	Kamarajar Port Limited	25 February 2014	The Registrar of Companies, Chennai issued a fresh certificate of incorporation in the new name.
Kandla Port Trust 	Deendayal Port Trust	25 September 2017	A notification under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 replaced "Kandla" with "Deendayal".
Kolkata Port 	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata	24 June 2020	Gazette notification S.O. 2020(E), after the Cabinet's approval announced on 3 June 2020.

2.4 Four renamed major ports

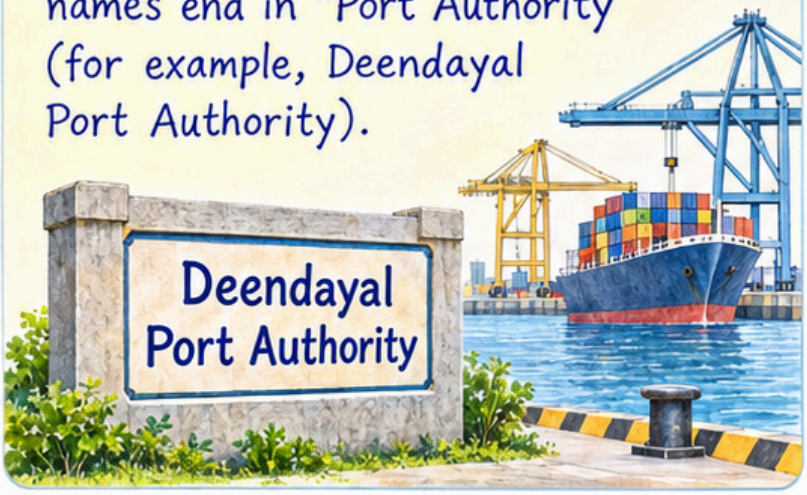
V.O. Chidambaranar Pillai (1872 to 1936) was from Ottapidaram, near Tuticorin. He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company, and in 1906 he started India's first indigenous shipping service, between Tuticorin and Colombo.



The Kandla notification marked the close of the centenary celebrations of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.



Under the 2021 Act the Port Trusts became Port Authorities, so today's names end in "Port Authority" (for example, Deendayal Port Authority).



14 major ports



12 operational



2.5 The major ports, from west to east



Port	State	Coast	Former name	Key feature
Deendayal	Gujarat	West	Kandla	On the Gulf of Kutch; first in cargo in 2025-26
Mumbai	Maharashtra	West	None	Fifth in cargo in 2025-26
Jawaharlal Nehru	Maharashtra	West	None	Third in cargo in 2025-26; with the Maharashtra Maritime Board it proposed the Vadhavan port (proposal in 2019)
Mormugao	Goa	West	None	The highest growth of cargo in 2025-26 (14.96 per cent), but the smallest cargo of the 12
New Mangalore	Karnataka	West	None	50.05 MT in 2025-26
Cochin	Kerala	West	None	The lowest growth of cargo in 2025-26 (0.84 per cent),
V.O. Chidambaranar	Tamil Nadu	East (Gulf of Mannar)	Tuticorin	Named after V.O. Chidambaranar Pillai
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	East	None	Kamarajar Port Limited is "A Company of Chennai Port Authority"



2.5 The major ports, from west to east

Port	State	Coast	Former name	Key feature
Kamarajar	Tamil Nadu	East	Ennore	Incorporated as a company in October 1999
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	East	None	Inner harbour built by the Bengal Nagpur Railway between 1927 and 1933
Paradip	Odisha	East	None	Second in cargo in 2025-26
Syama Prasad Mookerjee	West Bengal	East	Kolkata	India's first major port and its only riverine major port; it came under a Trust on 17 October 1870



- Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port comprises two dock systems, the Kolkata Dock System and the Haldia Dock Complex, counted together as one major port.

- "None" denotes no former name specified in this table.

- Tamil Nadu has three major ports and Maharashtra two. Every other State in the table has one. The west coast has six operational major ports and the east coast six.



2.5 The major ports, from west to east

The two major ports that are not yet operational.

Two ports outside the 12 have been notified as major ports and are not yet working:

- **Galathea Bay**, an international transshipment port planned in Great Nicobar Island (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
- Notified as a major port; not yet operational.



- **Vadhavan**, near Dahanu in Palghar district, Maharashtra.
- A Gazette notification of 19 February 2020 (S.O. 758(E)), issued under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, declared Vadhavan Port a major port "with immediate effect".
- The Union Cabinet approved the project on 19 June 2024 at an estimated cost of Rs 76,220 crore, and the Prime Minister laid its foundation stone on 30 August 2024.
- Phase I is expected by 2030 (target stated in August 2025).



2.6 Cargo and rank, 2025-26

2025-26 figures: advance estimates. 2024-25 figures: provisional.



Rank	Port	Cargo in 2025-26 (MT)	Share of major-port cargo (per cent)	Growth over 2024-25 (per cent)
1	Deendayal	160.11	17.50	6.63
2	Paradip	156.45	17.10	4.02
3	Jawaharlal Nehru	102.01	11.15	10.74
4	Visakhapatnam	91.17	9.97	10.34
5	Mumbai	75.15	8.22	9.50
12	Mormugao	20.84	2.28	14.96
Total	All 12 major ports	914.73	100.00	7.00

- In 2024-25 the 12 handled 854.86 MT (provisional).
- Of the 2025-26 total, overseas cargo was 76.67 per cent and coastal cargo 23.33 per cent.

Key takeaway

- Deendayal and Paradip are close at the top. Rankings refer to 2025-26 advance estimates.



2.7 Policy in brief

- Sagarmala:

the Union Cabinet approved the concept on 25 March 2015. It aims to promote port-led development, through five components: coastal shipping and inland water transport, port modernisation, port connectivity, port-led industrialisation and coastal community development.



- Maritime India Vision 2030:

a roadmap launched in 2021, with over 150 initiatives and a projected investment of Rs 3 to 3.5 lakh crore across ports, shipping and inland waterways.



- Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:

released by the Prime Minister in 2023, with more than 300 initiatives and an investment of nearly Rs 80 lakh crore.



Chronology of the major-port system





Date	Event
17 October 1870	The port at Kolkata comes under a Trust
1927 to 1933	The inner harbour at Visakhapatnam is built
1963	The Major Port Trusts Act is passed
October 1999	Ennore Port Limited is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956
22 June 2001	Commercial work begins at Ennore with thermal coal
27 January 2011	The Cabinet approves renaming Tuticorin Port Trust as V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust
25 February 2014	Ennore Port Limited becomes Kamarajar Port Limited
25 March 2015	The Cabinet approves the Sagarmala concept
25 September 2017	Kandla Port Trust becomes Deendayal Port Trust
19 February 2020	A Gazette notification declares Vadhavan Port a major port
24 June 2020	Gazette notification renames Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
2021	Maritime India Vision 2030 is launched
10 February 2021	The Rajya Sabha passes the Major Port Authorities Bill



chronology of the major-port system

Date	Event
3 November 2021	The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 comes into force; the 1963 Act stands repealed
2023	Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 is released
19 June 2024	The Union Cabinet approves the Vadhavan port project
30 August 2024	Foundation stone of Vadhavan port
2025-26	The 12 operational major ports handle 914.73 MT (advance estimates)
7 November 2026	14 major ports; 12 operational



Three common exam traps

1. "India has 12 major ports" or "India has 13".

As at 7 November 2026 there are 14 major ports, of which 12 are operational. The cargo table counts only the 12 that work. Galathea Bay and Vadhavan have both been notified as major ports, but neither is operating yet. Do not confuse these counts with the roughly 200 non-major ports, of which about 65 handle cargo.



2. "The biggest major port is Mumbai."

FALSE.

By cargo in 2025-26 (advance estimates), Deendayal came first. Mumbai was only fifth, behind Visakhapatnam. Rankings depend on the year and cargo basis; advance estimates may be revised.



3. Mixing up the two visions.

Maritime India Vision 2030 came first, in 2021, with over 150 initiatives. Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 followed in 2023, with more than 300 initiatives. Sagarmala is older than both (2015) and is a pillar of both.



Rural and urban population

The Census of India counts a place as urban if it is a statutory town or a census town and treats every other place as rural, and by the provisional figures of 2011 about 31 per cent of India's people lived in urban areas.

Urban and rural : schematic view



Urban area



Rural area

Urban: statutory towns and census towns.

Rural: all other places.

In provisional Census2011 figures, about31% of India's population lived in urban areas.

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Census figures: year and geographical base

India, Census 2011: final population 1,210,854,977; provisional population 1,210,193,422. Provisional urban share: 31.16%.

Final population	1,210,854,977
Provisional population	1,210,193,422
Provisional urban share	31.16%

A 2011 population figure belongs to the geographical boundaries used for that figure.

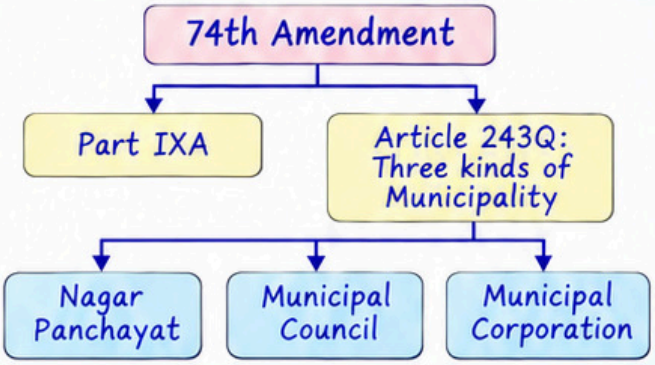
Census concepts

- Statutory town
- Census town
- Outgrowth
- Urban agglomeration
- City

Urban agglomeration (example)



The 74th Amendment added Part IXA. Article 243Q provides for three kinds of Municipality.



Andhra Pradesh, Census 2011 final: undivided State 84,580,777; recast present State 4,95,77,103.

Andhra Pradesh, Census 2011

Undivided State	84,580,777
Present State (recast)	4,95,77,103

These are different geographical bases.



2.2 Urban and rural: the Census definitions (1/4)

The Census uses two units: "the unit of classification in this regard is 'town' for urban areas and 'village' for rural areas."

Census units:

- Two units: 'town' and 'village".
- 'Town' is the unit for urban areas.
- 'Village' is the unit for rural areas.

Meaning of the units (Census):

Town (urban area)



Unit for urban areas

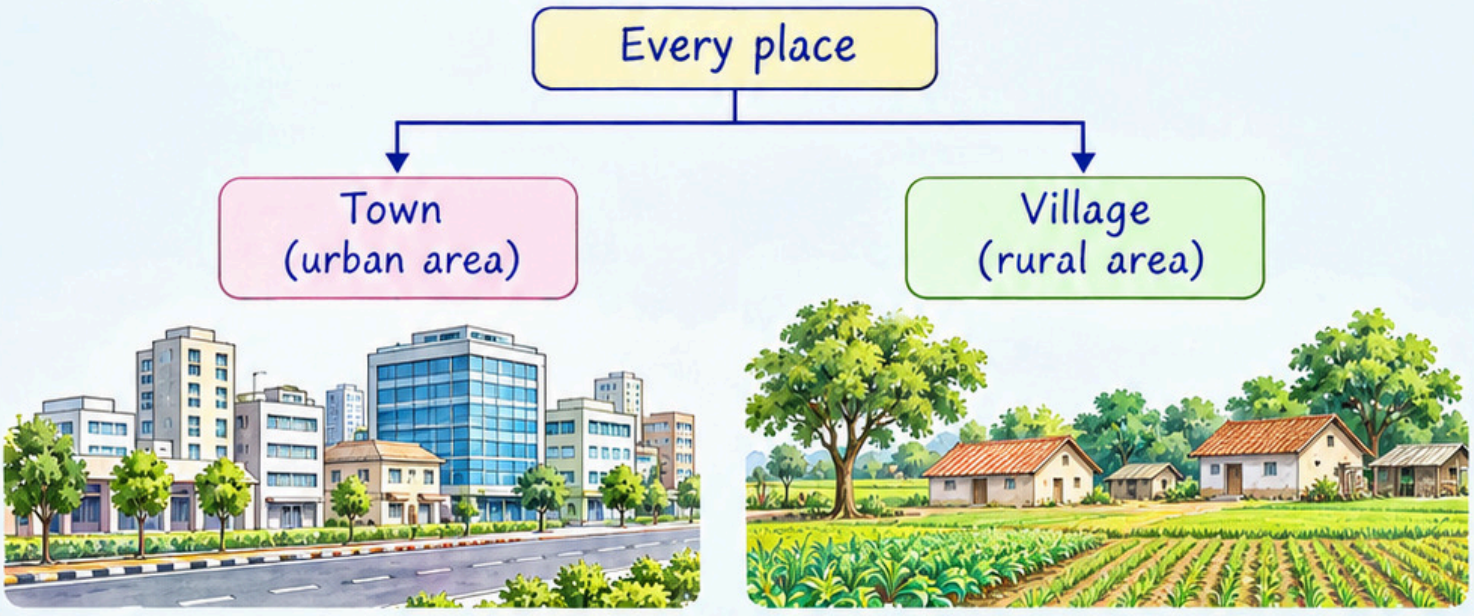
Village (rural area)



Unit for rural areas

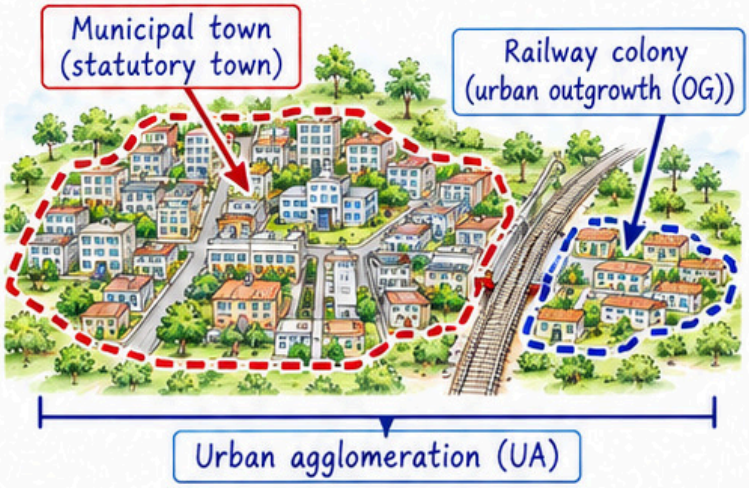
Classification of places (Census):

Every place is one or the other.



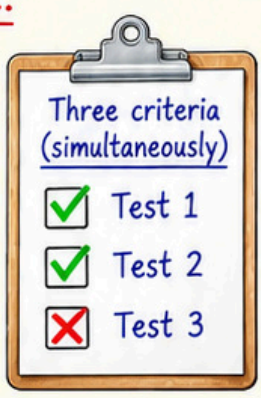
Term	Census definition	Example (illustration)
Urban area	Two kinds: statutory towns, and other places that pass three tests (census towns)	**Both kinds below** Urban area → Statutory town → Census town
Statutory town	A place with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee. It is notified under law by the State or Union territory government and is urban whatever its population	A small cantonment governed by a cantonment board is urban even with fewer than 5,000 people 
Census town	A place without such a body that has all three: (a) a population of at least 5,000; (b) at least 75 per cent of the male main working population in non-agricultural pursuits; (c) a density of at least 400 persons per sq km	A large village with a gram panchayat, 6,000 people, 450 persons per sq km and 80 per cent of its male main workers outside farming 
Outgrowth (OG)	An urban spread near a city or statutory town, outside its statutory limits but within the revenue limits of a contiguous village	"railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, etc." 

2.2 Urban and rural: the Census definitions (3/4)

Term	Census definition	Example (illustration)
Urban agglomeration (UA)	"a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban outgrowths (OGs) or two or more physically contiguous towns together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns." For 2011 it must contain at least one statutory town and at least 20,000 people as per the previous Census	A municipal town together with the railway colony just outside its limits 
Rural area	Every place that is not a town; its unit is the village	A village with a gram panchayat that fails even one of the three tests 

The three tests are joint.

The Census's words are "satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously". A place that passes two tests and fails the third stays rural.



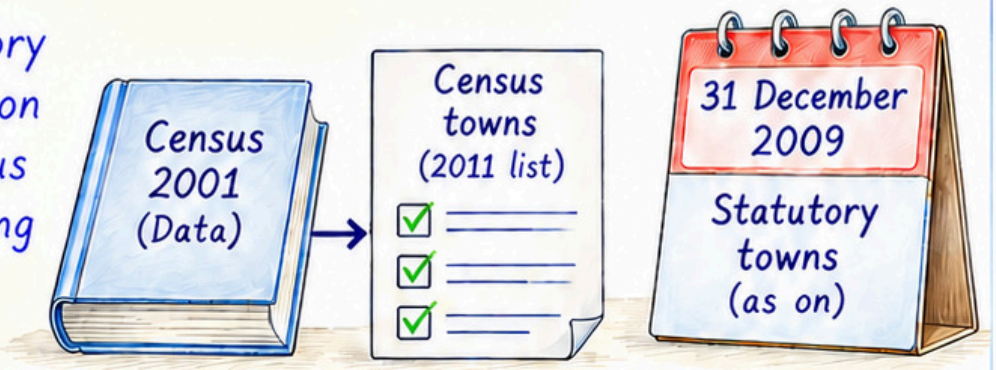
"Male main working population".

The 2011 test counts the male main working population. The Census's 2001 wording said only "male working population". Women workers are not counted in this test.



2.2 Urban and rural: the Census definitions

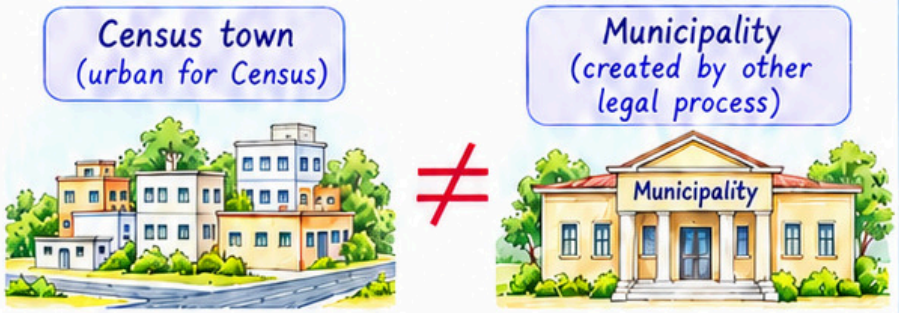
For Census 2011, statutory towns were identified as on 31 December 2009. Census towns were identified using Census 2001 data.



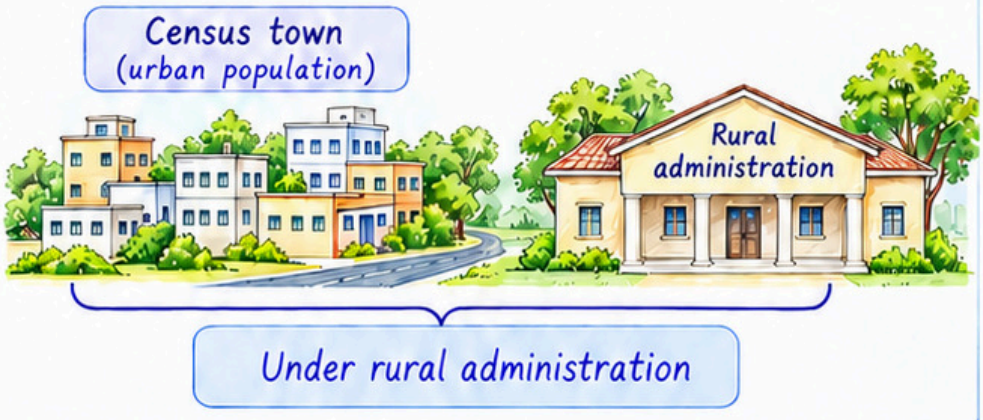
A selected census town was not declassified when the new Census data showed that it no longer met the criteria. → Retains census-town status

Census status and municipal status are different.

Under Article 243Q, the Governor specifies transitional, smaller and larger urban areas.



Classifying a place as a census town does not itself create a municipality. Census towns may remain under rural administration.

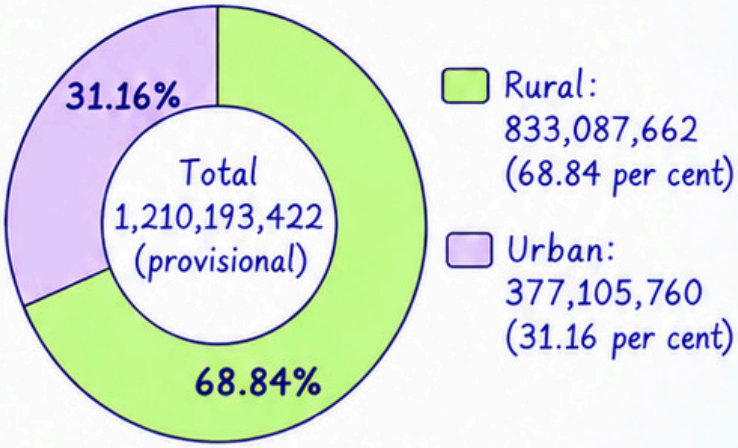


2.3 India in 2011: rural and urban

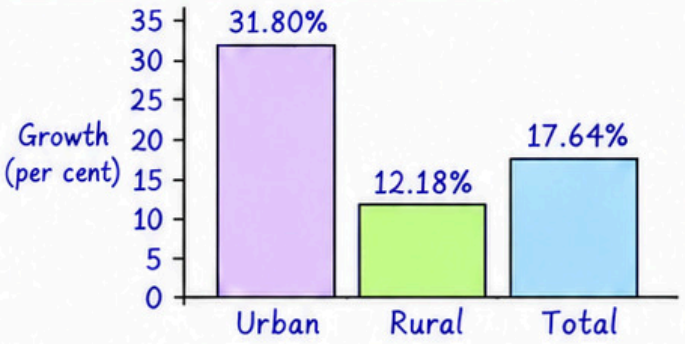
These Census 2011 figures are provisional: they add up to the provisional total of 1,210,193,422, not the final 1,210,854,977.

- **Rural population:** 833,087,662 (68.84 per cent).

- **Urban population:** 377,105,760 (31.16 per cent, up from 27.81 per cent in 2001).



Decadal growth, 2001–11:



The final total growth is 17.7 per cent; do not mix the two.

- **Towns:** 7,935 (provisional) in 2011 against 5,161 in 2001: 4,041 statutory towns and 3,894 census towns.



- In 2001 India had 286.11 million urban people in 5,161 towns.



So in 2011 roughly two out of three Indians still lived in rural areas, but the urban population was growing well over twice as fast.



2.4 India and Andhra Pradesh compared

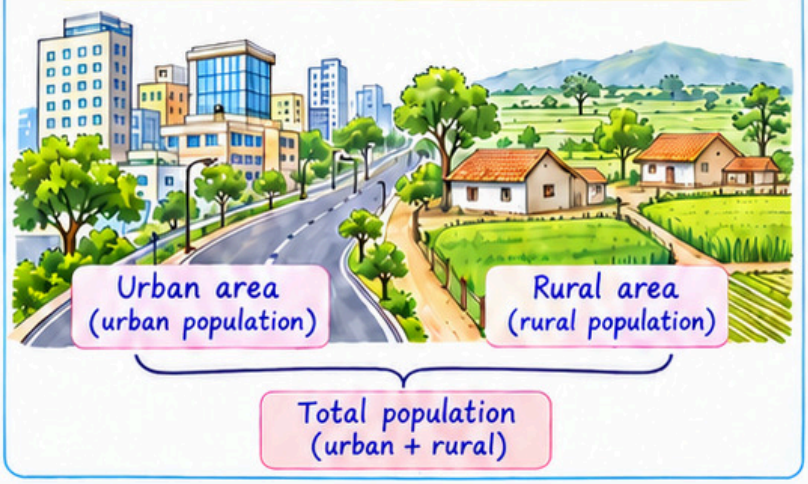
India and Andhra Pradesh compared on two geographical bases: undivided Andhra Pradesh and the present State recast to 2011 boundaries.

Keep final and provisional totals separate. Distinguish the undivided State from the present State.

Measure	India	Andhra Pradesh	Year	Base
Urban share	31.16 per cent	33.49 per cent	2011	Provisional; undivided State
Urban share	31.16 per cent	29.47 per cent	2011	AP recast for the present State
Urban share	27.81 per cent	27.30 per cent	2001	Undivided State
Urban share	27.81 per cent	24.13 per cent	2001	AP recast for the present State
Rural population	833,087,662	56,311,788	2011	Provisional; undivided State
Urban population	377,105,760	28,353,745	2011	Provisional; undivided State
Rural decadal growth	12.18 per cent	1.64 per cent	2001-11	Provisional; undivided State
Urban decadal growth	31.80 per cent	36.26 per cent	2001-11	Provisional; undivided State

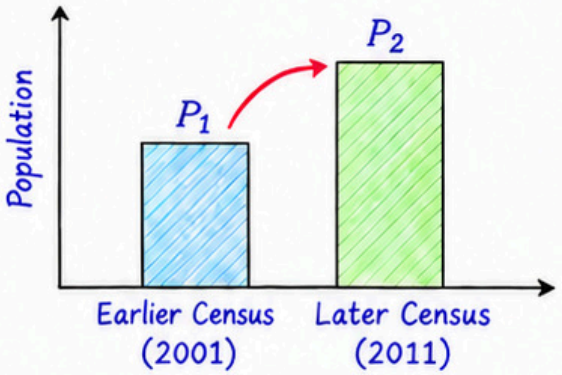
Key measure: Urban share

$$\text{Urban share} = \frac{\text{Urban population}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$$



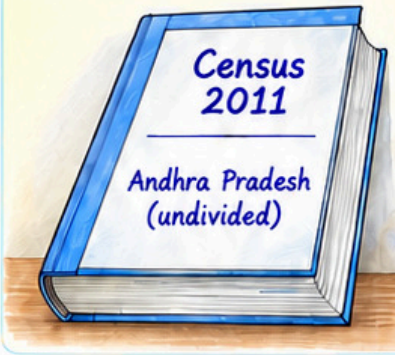
Decadal growth

$$\text{Decadal growth} = \frac{\text{Population in later Census} - \text{Population in earlier Census}}{\text{Population in earlier Census}} \times 100$$



2.4 India and Andhra Pradesh compared

The Census of 2011 was taken before the State was divided in 2014. Its "Andhra Pradesh" is the undivided State. In the provisional paper that State had 84,665,533 people; the final figure is 84,580,777.



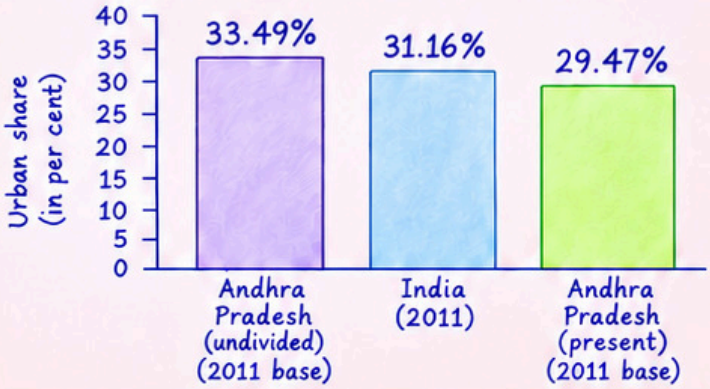
Andhra Pradesh (undivided) – 2011 Population	
Provisional	: 84,665,533
Final	: 84,580,777

The present State's figures are recast: the 2011 data of the areas that now form Andhra Pradesh, 4,95,77,103 people in all On this recast base: 1,46,10,410 urban people out of 4,95,77,103, or 29.47 per cent.

Andhra Pradesh (present)

Present Andhra Pradesh (2011 base)	
Total population	4,95,77,103
Urban population	1,46,10,410
Urban share	29.47%

So "Andhra Pradesh's urban share in 2011" has two correct answers, and they fall on opposite sides of India's 31.16 per cent: the undivided State was above it, the present State below it. Always ask which State and which base.



The two States are not the same areas, so the gap between 33.49 and 29.47 is not a change over time. Both figures describe 2011.

Andhra Pradesh (undivided) (2011 base)

Andhra Pradesh (present) (2011 base)

Growth in the undivided State: its rural population barely grew in 2001–11, while its urban population grew faster than India's.



Rural population (undivided State): barely grew (2001–11)



Urban population (undivided State): grew faster than India's (2001–11)

Undivided AP rural: barely grew

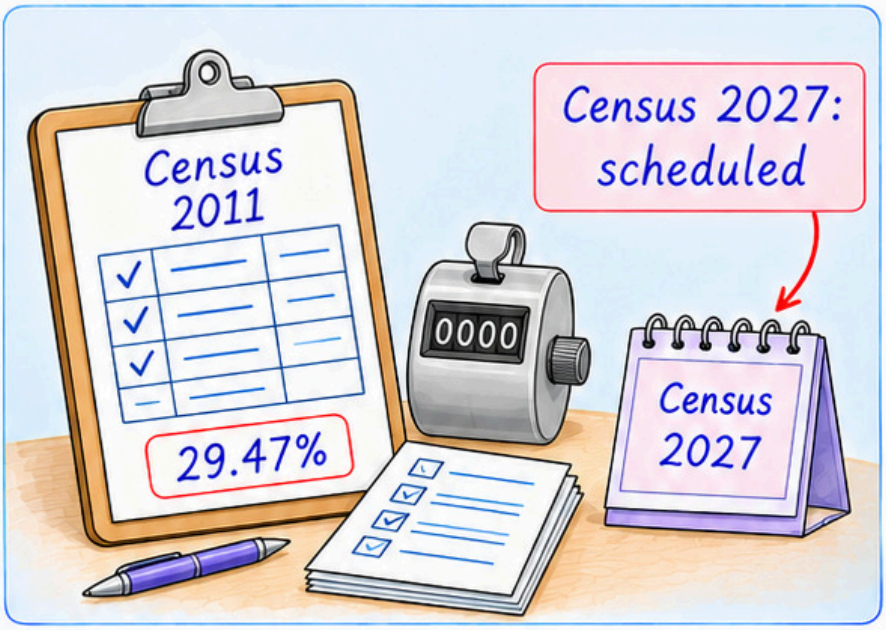
Undivided AP urban: grew faster than India urban

Period:2001–11

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2.4 India and Andhra Pradesh compared

The present State's urban share was 29.47% in Census 2011. No newer Census population count is available as of 7 November 2026. Census 2027 is scheduled.



Within the State, Visakhapatnam was the most urbanised district of 2011 and Srikakulam the least.



Visakhapatnam (most urbanised)

Srikakulam (least urbanised)



District comparison uses 2011 district boundaries.

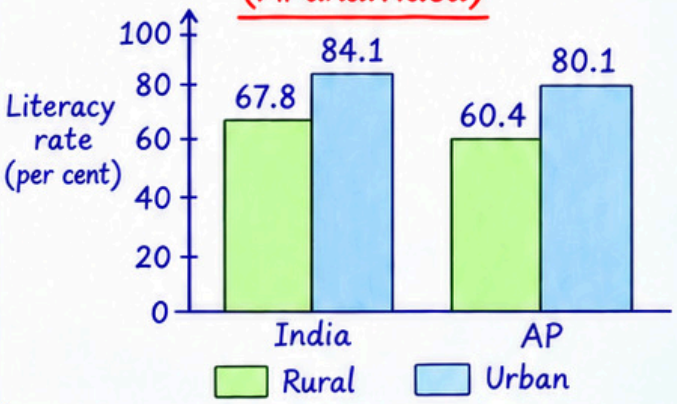
2.5 The rural-urban contrast

The rural-urban contrast refers to the systematic differences in key social indicators between rural and urban areas, such as literacy and sex ratio, which are evident in India and in Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Census2011 | AP: undividedState |
Keep final and provisional figures separate.

Measure	India rural	India urban	AP rural	AP urban	Base
Literacy rate, final (per cent)	67.8	84.1	60.4	80.1	Census 2011; AP undivided
Literacy rate, provisional (per cent)	68.91	84.98	61.14	80.54	Census 2011, provisional; AP undivided
Sex ratio, females per 1,000 males	949	929	—	—	Census 2011
Child sex ratio, 0-6 years, provisional	919	902	942	946	Census 2011, provisional; AP undivided

Literacy rate; final2011: rural vs urban (APundivided)



Sex ratio: definition and computation

Sex ratio = number of females per 1,000 males.

$$\text{Sex ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of females}}{\text{Number of males}} \times 1{,}000$$

Example: If females = 949 and males = 1,000,

$$\text{Sex ratio} = \frac{949}{1{,}000} \times 1{,}000 = 949.$$

Rural and urban areas: illustrative contrast



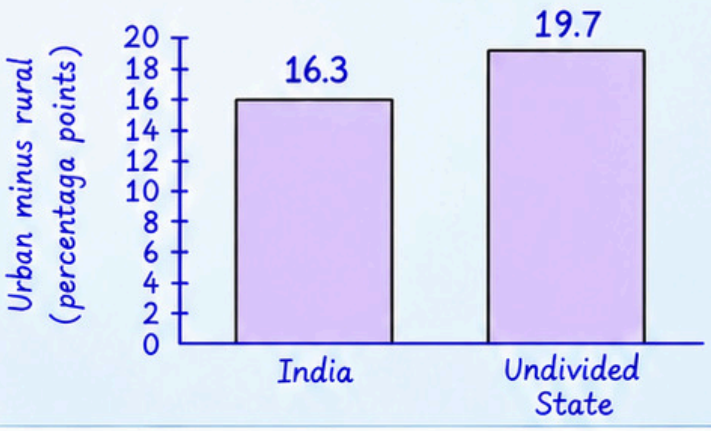


2.5 The rural-urban contrast

Literacy:

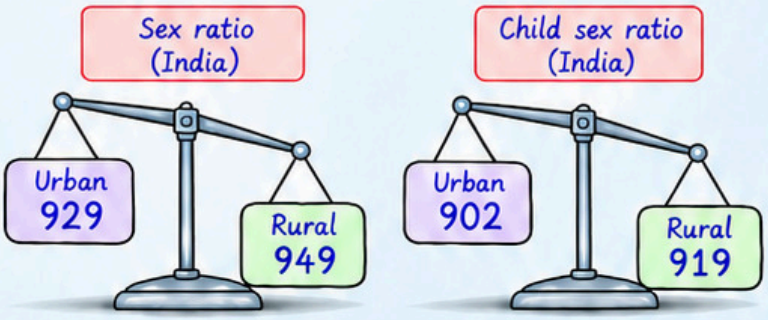
Urban areas lead in both. On the final figures the gap is 16.3 points for India and 19.7 points for the undivided State.

Literacy gap (Urban - Rural)



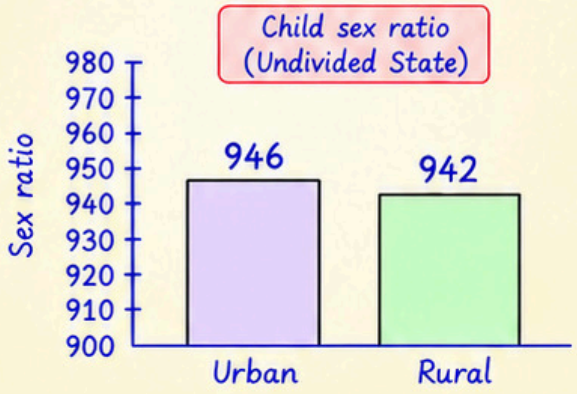
Sex ratio:

In India the urban sex ratio (929) is lower than the rural (949). The child sex ratio is also lower in urban India (902 against 919).



Andhra Pradesh differs on the child sex ratio:

In the undivided State the urban figure (946) was a little above the rural (942).

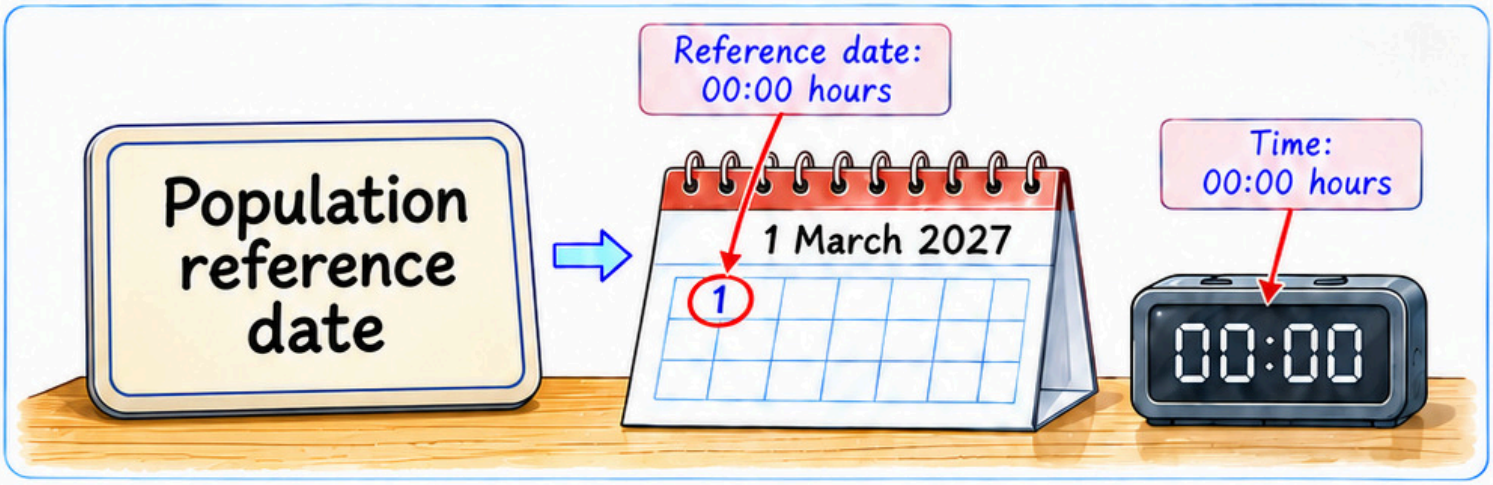


Present State:

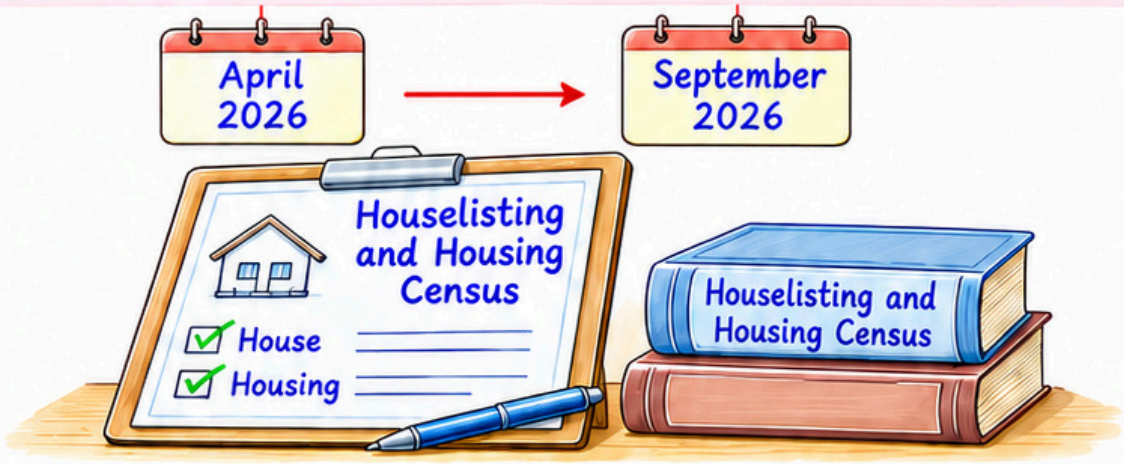
For the present State recast to 2011 boundaries: sex ratio 997 (India 943); literacy 67.35% (India 72.98%). Keep these totals apart from the undivided State's rural and urban figures.

2.6 Census 2027

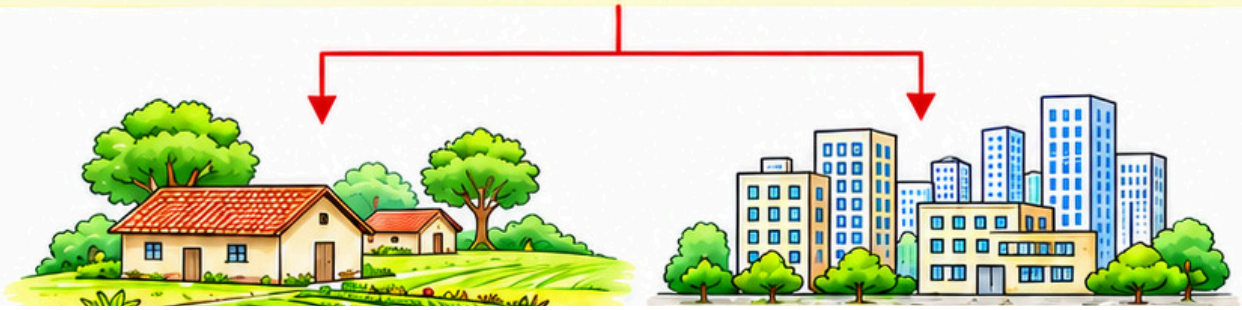
Census 2027 reference date for most of India: 00:00 hours, 1 March 2027.



Houselisting and Housing Census was scheduled for April–September 2026. By 12 August 2026, it had been completed in 31 States and Union territories; completion elsewhere was then scheduled by September 2026. In Manipur, a deferral was reported on 30 October 2026.



Census 2027 will provide the first rural-urban enumeration of the present State of Andhra Pradesh as a separate State.



The rise of census towns, 2001–2011 (1/3)

Kind of town	2001	2011	Increase
Statutory towns	3,799	4,041	242
Census towns	1,362	3,894	2,532
All towns	5,161	7,935	2,774



What the numbers show:

- Census towns nearly tripled (2.86 times), while statutory towns grew by only about 6 per cent.
- Of the 2,774 extra towns, 2,532 (about 91 per cent) were census towns.
- Census towns were about a quarter of all towns in 2001 (26 per cent) and about half in 2011 (49 per cent). Statutory towns were still slightly more numerous in 2011.
- These counts use the provisional 2011 release. Statutory towns remain more numerous than census towns.

Absolute increase in the number of towns

Increase = Count in 2011 − Count in 2001

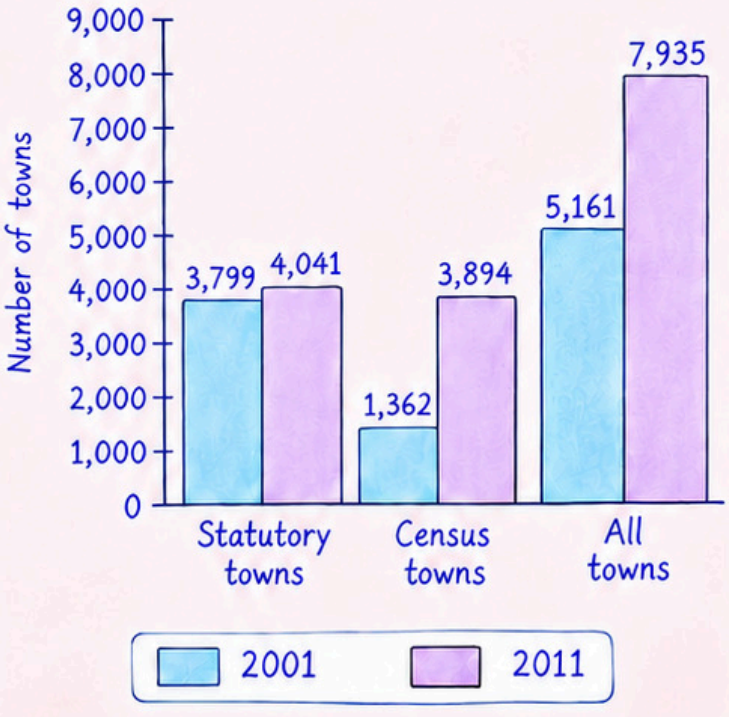
Statutory towns = 4,041 − 3,799 = 242

Census towns = 3,894 − 1,362 = 2,532

All towns = 7,935 − 5,161 = 2,774



Number of towns: 2001 and 2011



The rise of census towns, 2001–2011 (2/3)

Urban: 377,105,760 grew by 31.80 per cent in the decade, so the increase was 377,105,760 × 31.80 ÷ 131.80, about 91.0 million. This matches the 286.11 million urban people of 2001.



Increase (Urban) = 377,105,760 × 31.80 ÷ 131.80
≈ 91.0 million

Urban (2001) = 286.11 million

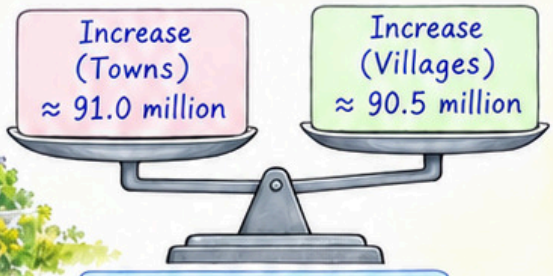
Rural: 833,087,662 grew by 12.18 per cent, so the increase was 833,087,662 × 12.18 ÷ 112.18, about 90.5 million.



Increase (Rural) = 833,087,662 × 12.18 ÷ 112.18
≈ 90.5 million

On provisional 2011 figures, India added about 91.0 million urban residents and 90.5 million rural residents during 2001–11. Urban additions exceeded rural additions for the first time since Independence, by about 0.5 million.





Margin ≈ 0.5 million

- Provisional figures (2011).
- First time since Independence.
- Margin ≈ half a million.

Reclassification expands the urban population



Places previously classified as rural became census towns. Reclassification contributed to growth in the counted urban population.

The rise of census towns, 2001–2011 (3/3)

Much of India's new urban growth came from places being reclassified as urban, not only from cities swelling.

Urban growth from reclassification



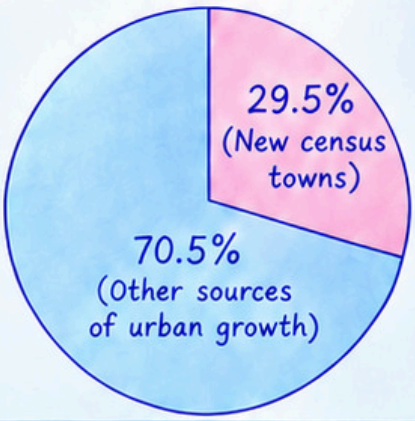
A base estimate indicates, the new census towns accounted for about 29.5 per cent of the growth of the urban population in 2001-11.

Share in growth of urban population (2001–11)

Share of new census towns

$$= \left(\frac{\text{Growth due to new census towns}}{\text{Total growth of urban population in 2001-11}} \right) \times 100$$

$$= 29.5\%$$



Urbanisation through reclassification was greater than urbanisation through migration during 2001-11.

Sources of urbanisation (relative size)

Reclassification > Migration

Qualitative comparison: no ratio specified

Census towns are urban in the Census but may still be governed as rural areas. They need suitable governance arrangements for future growth.



Three key distinctions

1. Mixing provisional and final figures.

The rural and urban provisional counts add up to the provisional total of 1,210,193,422, not to the final total of 1,210,854,977, and the urban share of 31.16 per cent is worked out on that provisional total. In the same way, the undivided State's provisional population was 84,665,533 and its final population 84,580,777; its provisional total growth was 11.10 per cent and is final growth 11.0 per cent. Quote a figure with the set it comes from.

Provisional vs Final

Set	Total population	Urban share (%)
Provisional	1,210,193,422	31.16
Final	1,210,854,977	–

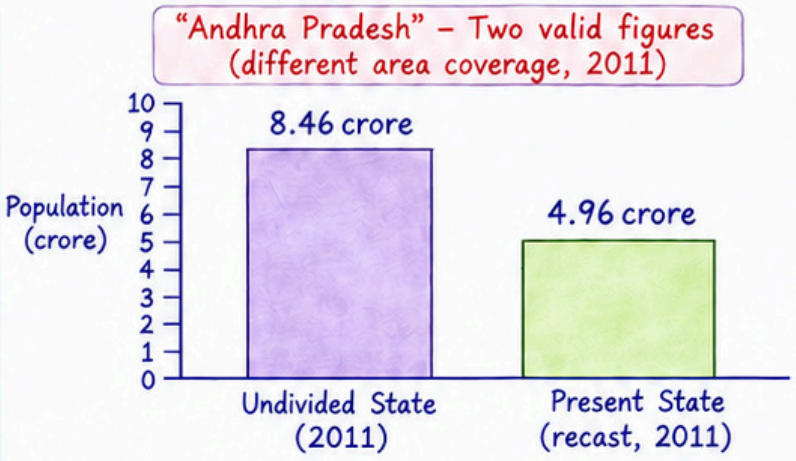
Undivided State – Population and Growth

Set	Population	Total growth (%)
Provisional	84,665,533	11.10
Final	84,580,777	11.0

Urban share (provisional) = 31.16 per cent of 1,210,193,422.

2. Asking "Andhra Pradesh" without asking "which one".

The undivided State had about 8.46 crore people in 2011. The present State recast to 2011 boundaries had about 4.96 crore. These figures cover different geographical areas, not different years.



3. Thinking a census town is a municipal town.

A census town is urban only in the Census count. It has no municipality; the Governor, not the Census, specifies urban areas under Article 243Q. An outgrowth, too, is not a town by itself: it is counted as part of an urban agglomeration with the town it adjoins.

