

Urbanisation in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh: Statistical Trends and their Causes and Implications

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Growing urbanisation is a global reality. As per the 12th Five Year Plan India is going to have 600 million people in urban areas by the year 2031. Urban share in the GDP of India has already crossed the level of 52 percent during 2004-05, and is expected to rise to 62-63 percent during 2009-10. This paper examines the levels and trends in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It also explores the causes and implications of urbanisation in these two states and argues for strengthened planning for urban infrastructure with participation of in-migrants and the original residents of urban areas. Using the UN Manual VIII model based on URGD it is projected that by the year 2051, 53.68 percent population of India will be living in urban areas. The corresponding levels of urbanization in the states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh will be 46.34 and 29.02, respectively. The paper highlights the differences in causes and implications of urbanization in the two states and discusses new challenges present before the urban planners. At the end, using the theory of ecological modernization, the paper suggests that there is a need to study urban planning from the perspectives of the local communities, i.e., those who have been affected by new rules and regulations, control mechanisms for the protection of the wildlife, and the expansion of markets (in the form of tourism sector) to the area. There is also a need to study civic ecological processes through which urban population adapts to changing ecology, earthquakes, and conflicts.