



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## URBAN DYNAMICS IN AHMADANGAR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA STATE

**Dr. Chandrabhan Bhanudas Chaudhari**

Professor & Head, Department of Geography, S.S.G.M. College, Kopergaon (MS)

### INTRODUCTION:

Urbanisation is a dynamic socio-economic concept and a long-term process of modernization. It is an important index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one. At present, every nation, every city and probably every individual in the world are directly or indirectly involved in the continuing process of urbanisation.

The district is the most convenient geographical unit of the state government and the tehsil is the basic unit for the purposes of land revenue, land records, magistracy, treasury, general administration and a large number of other miscellaneous functions. Therefore, understanding the decadal variation in population growth at the district or tehsil level is very important.

### AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

The main aim of this study is to assess the impact of urban population change on the number and distribution of urban centers of various tahsils in Ahmadnagar District of Maharashtra State.

Other objectives are-

1. To measure the growth of towns and their population in Ahmadnagar district.
2. To study the decadal changes and distribution of urban population in the district.
3. To compare growth and share of urban population in Ahmadnagar district with Maharashtra state and India.

### DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

This entire work is based on secondary data (census, gazetteers, and other published or unpublished records). In this paper, at district level, 110 years (1901 to 2011 Census) data has been used for the growth of population. Data is processed and presented through table and graphs. In this study, the following formulas have been used for statistical analysis-

#### 1. Urban Percentage –

$$\text{Urban Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Urban Population}}{\text{Total Population}} \times 100$$

#### 2. Average Population of Town –

$$\text{Average Population of Town} = \frac{\text{Total Urban Population}}{\text{No of Towns}}$$

#### 3. Urban-Rural Ratio –

$$\text{Urban-Rural Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Urban Population}}{\text{Total Rural Population}} \times 100$$

#### 4. Decadal Growth Rate of Population –

$$\frac{\text{Growth Rate of Urban Population}}{\text{Urban Population}} = \frac{\text{Urban Population in Later Census} - \text{Urban Population in Previous Census}}{\text{Urban Population in Previous Census}} \times 100$$

The entire discussion of this paper is divided into two major sections. Section-I discusses the urban population growth of district, state and country. Section-II contains tahsil-wise scenario of urban population in the district.

#### STUDY AREA:

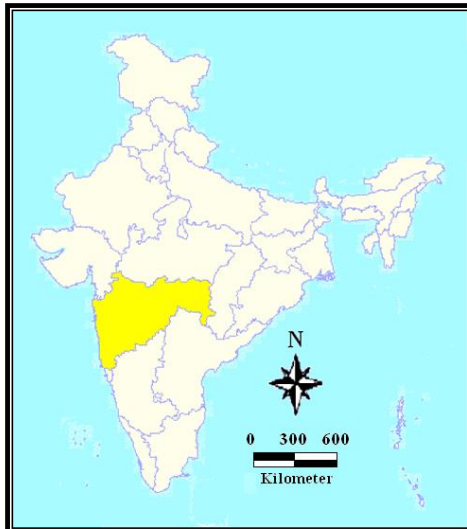
For the present study Ahmadnagar District has been selected with a view to analyzing the growth of urban population due to its political, historical, cultural and geographical complexity. Ahmadnagar District is one of the 36 districts of Maharashtra state. It is most advanced and one of the oldest districts in Maharashtra State.

#### PROFILE OF STUDY AREA (AHMADNAGAR DISTRICT)

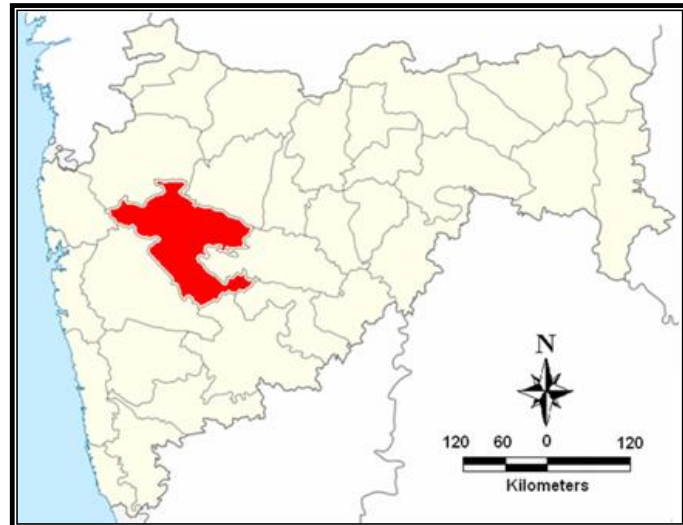
|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1. Establishment of District</b>   | 1818   |
| <b>2. Location</b>  | District in Western Maharashtra and Nashik Administrative Zone   |
| <b>3. Extent</b><br>Latitudinal<br>Longitudinal   | 18 <sup>0</sup> 22' North to 19 <sup>0</sup> 59' North<br>73 <sup>0</sup> 32' East to 75 <sup>0</sup> 37' East   |
| <b>4. Length and Width</b><br>East-West (Mean Distance)<br>North-South (Mean Distance)                              | 210 Km<br>200 Km   |
| <b>5. Total Area</b>  | 17,047.67 km <sup>2</sup> (5.54% of State)   |
| <b>6. Administrative Boundaries</b>   | Bounded by 19th Tahsils of Seven Districts   |
| <b>7. Topographical Regions</b>   | Western Hilly Region<br>Central Plateau Region<br>The Northern and Southern Plain Region                         |
| <b>8. Climate</b><br>Rainfall<br>Temperature<br>Mean Maximum Daily<br>Mean Minimum Daily                            | Monsoon (Hot and Dry)<br>56.87 cm (annual average)<br>39.60 C (Recorded in May)<br>12.20 C (Recorded in January) |
| <b>9. Major Rivers</b>  | Godavari, Bhima, Mula, Pravara, Adhula, Mahalungi, Ghod and Sina   |
| <b>10. Soil Types</b>   | Black, Red, and Laterite Soil  |
| <b>11. Natural Vegetation Type</b><br>Forest Area   | Tropical Dry Deciduous<br>286 Km <sup>2</sup> (1.68%)  |
| <b>12. Administrative Set-Up</b><br>Administrative Division<br>Revenue Sub-Divisions<br>Tahsils<br>Villages + Towns | (Census 2011)<br>Nasik<br>4<br>14<br>1581 + 19   |
| <b>13. Population</b><br>Total<br>Male and Female<br>Rural and Urban  | (Census 2011)<br>45,43,159 (4.04% of the Maharashtra State)<br>23,42,825 & 22,00,334<br>36,30,542 & 9,12,617     |

# LOCATION OF STUDY AREA: AHMADNAGAR DISTRICT

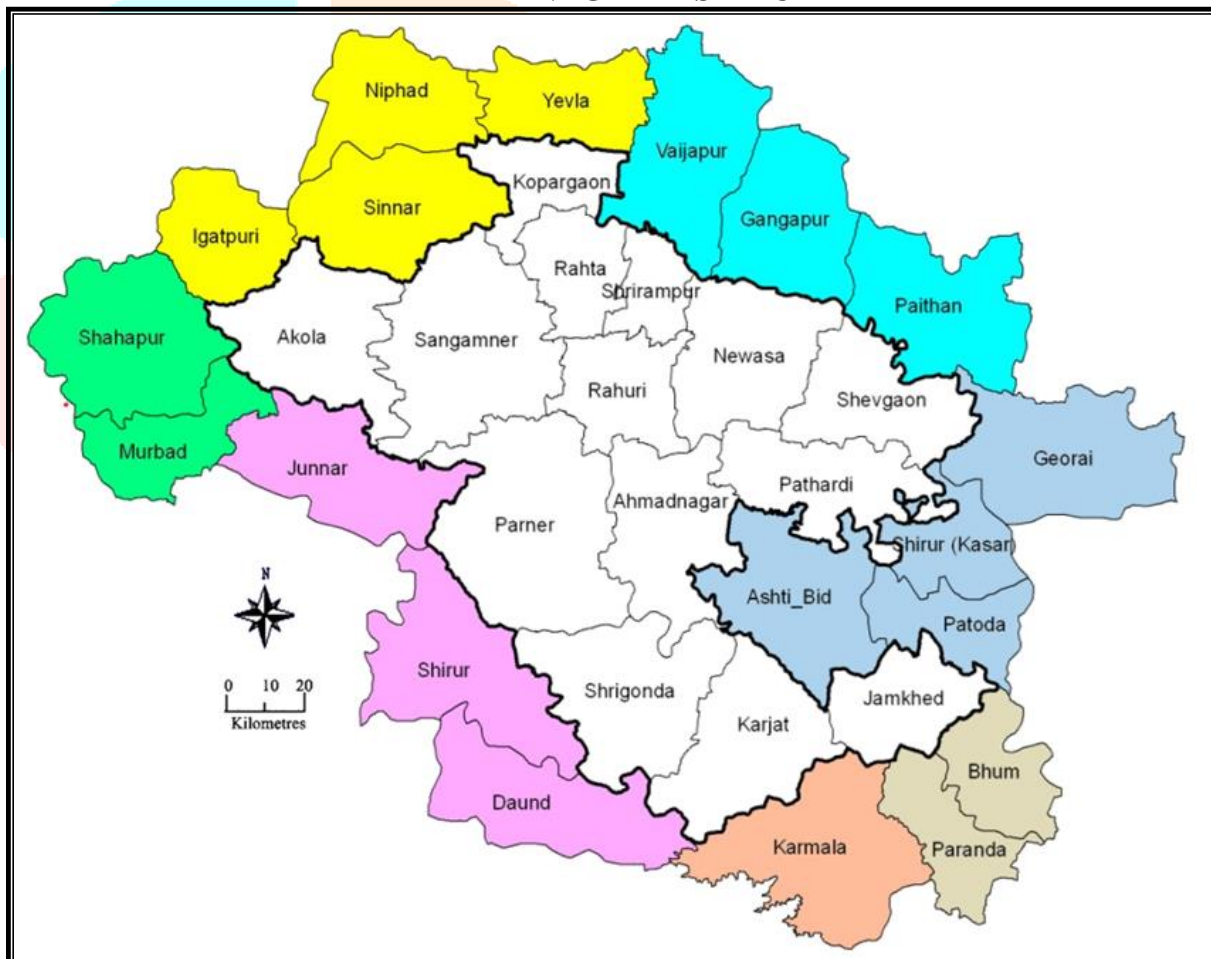
**INDIA**



**MAHARASHTRA**



**AHMADNAGAR DISTRICT**



**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:****RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENTIAL**

As per 2011 Census, Ahmadnagar District is the sixth most populous district in Maharashtra State. It has 5.89 percent of the Maharashtra State's rural population and 1.80 percent of urban population.

Ahmadnagar District lies in villages. Of the 4543159 persons, who constituted district's population in 2011, 3630542 or 79.91 percent lived in 1581 villages and 912617 or 20.09 percent in 19 towns.

According to 2011 Census, out of the total population of the district 1872907 males (79.94%) and 1757635 (79.88%) females are residing in rural areas and remaining 469918 males (20.06%) and 442699 females (20.12%) are residing in urban areas.

From 1901 to 2011 Census, the number of villages and towns in the district has generally increased. But the proportion of rural population and the share of male female population of rural area have been decreased. In contrast the urban proportion and the share of male-female population of urban area have been increased, due to rural-urban migration.

**Table-1: Rural-Urban Population in Ahmadnagar District**

| Year | Rural Population (%) |        |       | Urban Population (%) |        |       | Urban-Rural Ratio (%) |
|------|----------------------|--------|-------|----------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
|      | Male                 | Female | Total | Male                 | Female | Total |                       |
| 1901 | 90.56                | 90.41  | 90.48 | 9.44                 | 9.59   | 9.52  | 10.54                 |
| 1911 | 91.35                | 91.36  | 91.35 | 8.65                 | 8.64   | 8.65  | 9.49                  |
| 1921 | 88.05                | 89.06  | 88.55 | 11.95                | 10.94  | 11.45 | 12.96                 |
| 1931 | 89.87                | 90.56  | 90.21 | 10.13                | 9.44   | 9.79  | 10.88                 |
| 1941 | 89.26                | 89.65  | 89.45 | 10.74                | 10.35  | 10.55 | 11.82                 |
| 1951 | 84.40                | 85.20  | 84.80 | 15.6                 | 14.80  | 15.20 | 17.96                 |
| 1961 | 89.07                | 89.89  | 89.47 | 10.93                | 10.11  | 10.53 | 12.42                 |
| 1971 | 88.40                | 89.49  | 88.94 | 11.60                | 10.51  | 11.06 | 12.47                 |
| 1981 | 86.57                | 87.54  | 87.05 | 13.43                | 12.46  | 12.95 | 14.91                 |
| 1991 | 83.90                | 84.48  | 84.18 | 16.10                | 15.52  | 15.82 | 18.79                 |
| 2001 | 79.78                | 80.46  | 80.11 | 20.22                | 19.54  | 19.89 | 24.83                 |
| 2011 | 79.94                | 79.88  | 79.91 | 20.06                | 20.12  | 20.09 | 25.14                 |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and [www.censusindia.gov.in](http://www.censusindia.gov.in))

Table-2: Urbanisation in Ahmadnagar District in Comparison with the State and Country as a Whole

| Census Year | Area                | Numbers of Urban Centers (Statutory Towns + Census Towns) | Urban Population | Rural Population | Total Population | Rural Population as percentage of Total Population | Urban Population as percentage of Total Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Rural Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Total Population | Average Population of Per Town | District Urban population as a percentage of state's total urban population | State's Urban population as a percentage of country's total urban population |
|-------------|---------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1901        | Ahmadnagar District | 8   | 78221            | 742125           | 820346           | 90.46  | 9.54   |   |   |   | 9778                           | 2.43  | 12.43  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 219   | 3213712          | 16227981         | 19441693         | 83.47  | 16.53  |   |   |   | 14674                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 1827  | 25851873         | 212544454        | 238396327        | 89.16  | 10.84  |   |   |   | 14150                          |   |  |
| 1911        | Ahmadnagar District | 8   | 80236            | 845640           | 925876           | 91.33  | 8.67   | 2.58                                    | 13.95                                   | 12.86                                   | 10030                          | 2.46  | 12.57  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 232   | 3261980          | 18212543         | 21474523         | 84.81  | 15.19  | 1.50                                    | 12.23                                   | 10.46                                   | 14060                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 1815  | 25941633         | 226151757        | 252093390        | 89.71  | 10.29  | 0.35                                    | 6.40                                    | 5.75                                    | 14293                          |   |  |
| 1921        | Ahmadnagar District | 7   | 82531            | 636606           | 719137           | 88.52  | 11.48  | 2.86                                    | -24.72                                  | -22.33                                  | 11790                          | 2.14  | 13.73  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 238   | 3857188          | 16992478         | 20849666         | 81.50  | 18.50  | 18.25                                   | -6.70                                   | -2.91                                   | 16207                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 1949  | 28086170         | 223235043        | 251321213        | 88.82  | 11.18  | 8.27                                    | -1.29                                   | -0.31                                   | 14411                          |   |  |
| 1931        | Ahmadnagar District | 7   | 95081            | 874128           | 969209           | 90.19  | 9.81   | 15.21                                   | 37.31                                   | 34.77                                   | 13583                          | 2.13  | 13.32  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 258   | 4456430          | 19502870         | 23959300         | 81.40  | 18.60  | 15.54                                   | 14.77                                   | 14.91                                   | 17273                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 2072  | 33455989         | 245521249        | 278977238        | 88.01  | 11.99  | 19.12                                   | 9.98                                    | 11.00                                   | 16147                          |   |  |
| 1941        | Ahmadnagar District | 8   | 118725           | 1004315          | 1123040          | 89.43  | 10.57  | 24.87                                   | 14.89                                   | 15.87                                   | 14841                          | 2.09  | 12.84  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 266   | 5669762          | 21162996         | 26832758         | 78.87  | 21.13  | 27.23                                   | 8.51                                    | 11.99                                   | 21315                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 2250  | 44153297         | 274507283        | 318660580        | 86.14  | 13.86  | 31.97                                   | 11.81                                   | 14.22                                   | 19624                          |   |  |
| 1951        | Ahmadnagar District | 13  | 214832           | 1196041          | 1410873          | 84.77  | 15.23  | 80.95                                   | 19.09                                   | 25.63                                   | 16526                          | 2.33  | 14.73  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 383   | 9200737          | 22801827         | 32002564         | 71.25  | 28.75  | 62.28                                   | 7.74                                    | 19.27                                   | 24023                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 2843  | 62443709         | 298644381        | 361088090        | 82.71  | 17.29  | 41.42                                   | 8.79                                    | 13.31                                   | 21964                          |   |  |

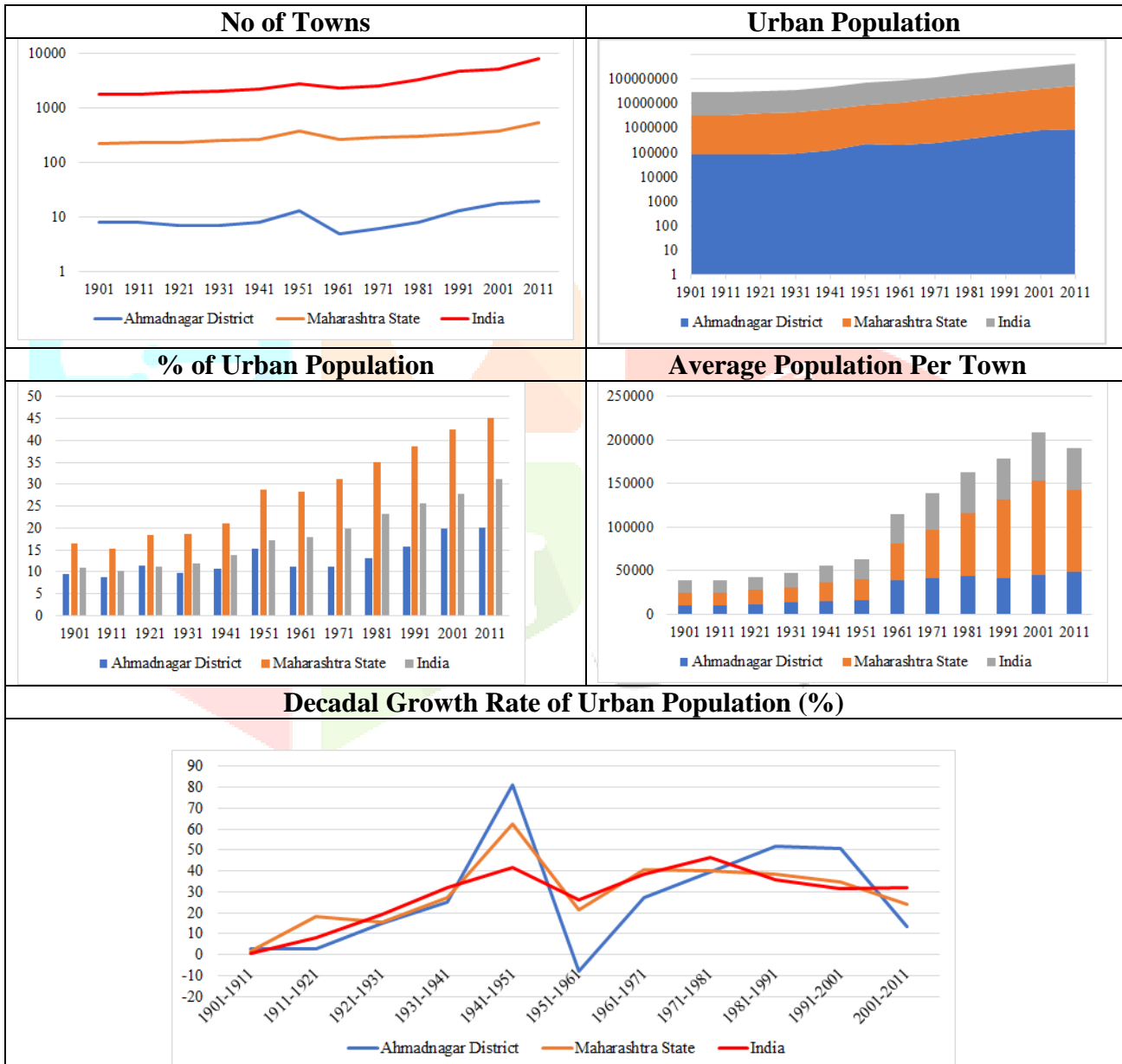
Continue...

| Census Year | Area                | Numbers of Urban Centers (Statutory Towns + Census Towns) | Urban Population | Rural Population | Total Population | Rural Population as percentage of Total Population | Urban Population as percentage of Total Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Rural Population | Decadal Growth Rate of Total Population | Average Population of Per Town | District Urban population as a percentage of state's total urban population | State's Urban population as a percentage of country's total urban population |
|-------------|---------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1961        | Ahmadnagar District | 5   | 197315           | 1588654          | 1785969          | 88.95  | 11.05  | -8.15                                   | 32.83                                   | 26.59                                   | 39463                          | 1.77  | 14.14  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 266   | 11162561         | 28391157         | 39553718         | 71.78  | 28.22  | 21.32                                   | 24.51                                   | 23.60                                   | 41965                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 2365  | 78936603         | 360298168        | 439234771        | 82.03  | 17.97  | 26.41                                   | 20.64                                   | 21.64                                   | 33377                          |   |  |
| 1971        | Ahmadnagar District | 6   | 251500           | 2017617          | 2269117          | 88.92  | 11.08  | 27.46                                   | 27.00                                   | 27.05                                   | 41917                          | 1.60  | 14.40  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 289   | 15711211         | 34701024         | 50412235         | 68.83  | 31.17  | 40.75                                   | 22.22                                   | 27.45                                   | 54364                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 2590  | 109094309        | 438855500        | 547949809        | 80.09  | 19.91  | 38.20                                   | 21.80                                   | 24.75                                   | 42121                          |   |  |
| 1981        | Ahmadnagar District | 8   | 351368           | 2356941          | 2708309          | 87.03  | 12.97  | 39.71                                   | 16.82                                   | 19.36                                   | 43921                          | 1.60  | 13.77  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 307   | 21993594         | 40790577         | 62784171         | 64.97  | 35.03  | 39.99                                   | 17.55                                   | 24.54                                   | 71640                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 3378  | 159716351        | 525468341        | 685184692        | 76.69  | 23.31  | 46.40                                   | 19.74                                   | 25.05                                   | 47281                          |   |  |
| 1991        | Ahmadnagar District | 13  | 533481           | 2839454          | 3372935          | 84.18  | 15.82  | 51.83                                   | 20.47                                   | 24.54                                   | 41037                          | 1.75  | 14.04  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 336   | 30496352         | 48251863         | 78748215         | 61.27  | 38.73  | 38.66                                   | 18.29                                   | 25.43                                   | 90763                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 4689  | 217177625        | 627146597        | 844324222        | 74.28  | 25.72  | 35.98                                   | 19.35                                   | 23.23                                   | 46316                          |   |  |
| 2001        | Ahmadnagar District | 18  | 803697           | 3236945          | 4040642          | 80.11  | 19.89  | 50.65                                   | 14.00                                   | 19.80                                   | 44650                          | 1.96  | 14.37  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 378   | 41019734         | 55732513         | 96752247         | 57.60  | 42.40  | 34.51                                   | 15.50                                   | 22.86                                   | 108518                         |   |  |
|             | India               | 5161  | 285354954        | 741660293        | 1027015247       | 72.22  | 27.78  | 31.39                                   | 18.26                                   | 21.64                                   | 55291                          |   |  |
| 2011        | Ahmadnagar District | 19  | 912617           | 3630542          | 4543159          | 79.91  | 20.09  | 13.55                                   | 12.16                                   | 12.44                                   | 48032                          | 1.80  | 13.48  |
|             | Maharashtra State   | 535   | 50827531         | 61545441         | 112372972        | 54.77  | 45.23  | 23.91                                   | 10.43                                   | 16.15                                   | 95005                          |   |  |
|             | India               | 7935  | 377105760        | 833087662        | 1210193422       | 68.84  | 31.16  | 32.15                                   | 12.33                                   | 17.84                                   | 47524                          |   |  |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and www.censusindia.gov.in)

### Urbanisation in Ahmadnagar District in Comparison with the State and Country-

The urbanisation of Ahmadnagar district is always lower than the state and national average. In 1901, the proportion of urban population in Ahmadnagar district was 9.54 percent and the number of towns was 8. At the same time, the proportion of urban population in the state of Maharashtra was 16.53 percent and the proportion of urban population in India was 10.84 percent. The urban proportion was slightly reduced in 1911. It rose in 1921 but fell again in 1931 due to economic depression. After 1931 this ratio increased till 1951 and it was 15.23 percent in 1951. When the number of towns also increased to 13. Urban areas were redefined in the decade 1951–61, leading to a decline in the number of towns and population in 1961. In 1961, when the urban population of the country was 17.97 per cent, 28.22 per cent in Maharashtra state and 11.05 per cent in Ahmadnagar district lived in urban areas. After 1961, the urban population and the number of towns have steadily increased at all levels. In 2011, the urban population in Ahmadnagar district was 20.09 percent and the number of towns was 19. At the same time, the proportion of urban population in the state of Maharashtra was 45.23 percent and the proportion of urban population in India was 20.09 percent.



The highest urban population growth rate in the period 1901 to 2011 is found in the decade 1941-51. During the decade 1951-61, the rate of urban population growth is found to be low. After 1961 till 1991 the urban population growth rate is found to be increasing. After 1991 till 2011 the urban population growth rate is observed to slow down. During the decade 2001-11, the urban population growth rate of Ahmadnagar district is lower than that of Maharashtra state and India.

From 1901 to 2011, the average population per town in Maharashtra was always higher than the average population per town in India. The average population per town in Ahmadnagar district is lower than Maharashtra state and India. The average population per town in Ahmadnagar district is found to be increasing steadily from 1901 to 2011. The average population per town was 9778 in 1901 to 48 thousand 32 in 2011. After 2001, the average population per town in Maharashtra and India is decreasing, but the average population per town in Ahmadnagar district is increasing.

### Urban Population Growth

During the last century (1901-2001), urban population of Ahmadnagar district increased ten times. In the five subsequent decades before 1951, the growth rate of urban population varied between 2.58 to 80.95 percent per decade. During the decade 1941-51, the growth rate of urban population was highest (80.95%). During the sixth decade (1951-61), due to declassification of towns, the total urban population of Ahmadnagar district actually declined. After 1961, due to rapid industrialization and improvements in transport and medical facilities, the growth rate of urban population also increasing rapidly. During the last four decades (1961-2001), the growth rate of urban population remained between 35 to 50 percent per decade. Urban population of the district, therefore, more than four times during these decades. However, after 2001, due to increase in census towns, the growth rate of urban population has been decreasing.

**Table-3: Decadal Change in Urban Population of Ahmadnagar District**

| Year | Urban Population |        |        | Decade Growth of Urban Population |         |         | Variation Rate of Urban Population |        |        |
|------|------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|      | Male             | Female | Total  | Male                              | Female  | Total   | Male                               | Female | Total  |
| 1901 | 38696            | 39525  | 78221  | -                                 | -       | -       | -                                  | -      | -      |
| 1911 | 40468            | 39768  | 80236  | +1772                             | +243    | +2015   | +04.58                             | +00.61 | +02.58 |
| 1921 | 43550            | 38981  | 82531  | +3082                             | -787    | +2295   | +07.62                             | -01.98 | +02.86 |
| 1931 | 49900            | 45181  | 95081  | +6350                             | +6200   | +12550  | +14.58                             | +15.91 | +15.21 |
| 1941 | 61385            | 57340  | 118725 | +11485                            | +12159  | +23644  | +23.02                             | +26.91 | +24.87 |
| 1951 | 111845           | 102987 | 214832 | +50460                            | +45647  | +96107  | +82.20                             | +79.61 | +80.95 |
| 1961 | 99088            | 88227  | 187315 | -12757                            | -14760  | -27517  | -11.41                             | -14.33 | -12.81 |
| 1971 | 134784           | 116716 | 251500 | +35696                            | +28489  | +64185  | +36.02                             | +32.29 | +34.27 |
| 1981 | 185963           | 165405 | 351368 | +51179                            | +48689  | +99868  | +37.97                             | +41.72 | +39.71 |
| 1991 | 278603           | 254878 | 533481 | +92640                            | +89473  | +182113 | +49.82                             | +54.09 | +51.83 |
| 2001 | 421242           | 382455 | 803697 | +142639                           | +127577 | +270216 | +51.20                             | +50.05 | +50.65 |
| 2011 | 469918           | 442699 | 912617 | +48676                            | +60244  | +108920 | +11.56                             | +15.75 | +13.55 |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and www.censusindia.gov.in)

### Number and Size of Urban Centers / Towns

Census of India defines two types of towns (Urban centers), namely: a) Statutory Towns b) Census Towns

a) Statutory Towns: All places with a municipality, corporation, Cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. so declared by state law.

b) Census Towns: Places which satisfy following demographic criteria: -

- i) A minimum population of 5000;
- ii) At least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
- iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometers.

The number of towns in Ahmadnagar district was 8 in 1901. That number increased to 13 in 1951. In 1961 census, the meaning of the concept of town was changed so that the number of towns was only 5. The number of towns increased steadily after 1961. The number of towns in Ahmadnagar district was 13 in 1991, 18 in 2001 and 19 in 2011. In the last two census decades 1991-2011, Ahmadnagar District has seen an increase of around 46 percent in the number of towns whereas this number for Maharashtra was 59 percent. On the other hand, one can observe that the state of Maharashtra has undergone a huge increase of around 41 percent in the number of census towns where as the number of such towns have decreased at a heavy rate of 20 percent for the country.

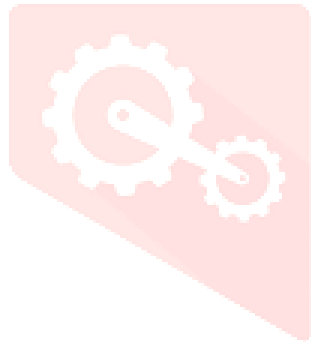


**Table-4: Size of Urban Centers in Ahmadnagar District**

| Town Class   | Population Size           |                                    | 1961          | 1971          | 1981          | 1991          | 2001          | 2011          |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>I</b>     | <b>100000 &amp; Above</b> | Towns                              | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             |
|              |                           | Population                         | 129020        | 148405        | 143937        | 181339        | 307615        | 350859        |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | 65.39         | 59.01         | 40.96         | 33.99         | 38.27         | 38.45         |
| <b>II</b>    | <b>50000 - 99999</b>      | Towns                              | -             | -             | 1             | 1             | 3             | 3             |
|              |                           | Population                         | -             | -             | 55491         | 71368         | 203183        | 220359        |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | -             | -             | 15.79         | 13.38         | 25.28         | 24.15         |
| <b>III</b>   | <b>20000 - 49999</b>      | Towns                              | 2             | 3             | 4             | 6             | 7             | 9             |
|              |                           | Population                         | 44531         | 93915         | 137968        | 212813        | 207739        | 271357        |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | 22.57         | 37.34         | 39.27         | 39.89         | 25.85         | 29.73         |
| <b>IV</b>    | <b>10000 - 19999</b>      | Towns                              | 1             | -             | 1             | 3             | 4             | 5             |
|              |                           | Population                         | 16869         | -             | 10259         | 52614         | 62970         | 63157         |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | 8.55          | -             | 2.92          | 9.86          | 7.84          | 6.92          |
| <b>V</b>     | <b>5000 - 9999</b>        | Towns                              | 1             | 1             | -             | 2             | 3             | 1             |
|              |                           | Population                         | 6895          | 9180          | -             | 15347         | 22190         | 6885          |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | 3.49          | 3.65          | -             | 2.88          | 2.76          | 0.75          |
| <b>VI</b>    | <b>Below 5000</b>         | Towns                              | -             | -             | 1             | -             | -             | -             |
|              |                           | Population                         | -             | -             | 3713          | -             | -             | -             |
|              |                           | % of Total Urban Population        | -             | -             | 1.06          | -             | -             | -             |
| <b>Total</b> |                           | <b>Towns</b>                       | <b>5</b>      | <b>5</b>      | <b>8</b>      | <b>13</b>     | <b>18</b>     | <b>19</b>     |
|              |                           | <b>Population</b>                  | <b>197315</b> | <b>251500</b> | <b>351368</b> | <b>533481</b> | <b>803697</b> | <b>912617</b> |
|              |                           | <b>% of Total Urban Population</b> | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and www.censusindia.gov.in)

An observation of the census data (1961-2011) reveals that the largest number of towns have been included in class III towns. In 1961, about 65 percent of the urban population of Ahmadnagar district lived in Class I towns which constituted more than 20 percent of the district's urban settlements. In 2011, Class I urban settlements accounted for nearly 5 percent and housed nearly 38 percent of the urban population. All other size classes of towns recorded a larger share of urban population in 2011 than in 1961. These figures show the bias of urbanisation towards small towns in the district.



## Geographical Trend

Table-5: Tahsil-Wise Urban Population in Ahmadnagar District

| Tahsil         | Urban Population                 | 1961          | 1971          | 1981          | 1991          | 2001          | 2011          |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Nagar       | Number                           | 129020        | 148405        | 181210        | 222088        | 375957        | 428182        |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 50.48         | 48.88         | 49.52         | 45.99         | 61.97         | 62.6          |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 65.39         | 59.01         | 51.57         | 41.63         | 46.78         | 46.92         |
| 2. Akola       | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 10046         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3.44          |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 1.1           |
| 3. Jamkhed     | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 27654         | 34017         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 20.6          | 21.48         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3.44          | 3.73          |
| 4. Karjat      | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 11659         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 4.94          |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 1.28          |
| 5. Kopergaon   | Number                           | 23764         | 35009         | 47145         | 70421         | 97014         | 101277        |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 12.03         | 20.39         | 24.18         | 29.53         | 31.98         | 29.92         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 12.04         | 13.92         | 13.42         | 13.20         | 12.07         | 11.1          |
| 6. Nevasa      | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
| 7. Parner      | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
| 8. Pathardi    | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 19532         | 22827         | 27211         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 10.51         | 10.62         | 10.54         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3.66          | 2.84          | 2.98          |
| 9. Rahta       | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 17953         | 19019         | 22335         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   |               | 0             | 0             | 8.32          | 7.26          | 7.85          |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3.37          | 2.37          | 2.45          |
| 10. Rahuri     | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 27434         | 53728         | 64816         | 69810         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 13.44         | 21.27         | 21.98         | 21.62         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 7.81          | 10.07         | 8.06          | 7.65          |
| 11. Sangamner  | Number                           | 21729         | 28594         | 40088         | 49061         | 81325         | 87664         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 13.20         | 13.07         | 14.30         | 13.83         | 18.42         | 17.97         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 11.01         | 11.37         | 11.41         | 9.20          | 10.12         | 9.61          |
| 12. Shevgaon   | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |
| 13. Shrigonda  | Number                           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 21646         | 26324         | 31134         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 9.18          | 9.49          | 9.85          |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 0             | 0             | 0             | 4.06          | 3.28          | 3.41          |
| 14. Shrirampur | Number                           | 22802         | 39492         | 55491         | 79052         | 88761         | 89282         |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | 12.8          | 21.94         | 28.15         | 35.38         | 34.61         | 31.05         |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | 11.56         | 15.70         | 15.79         | 14.82         | 11.04         | 9.78          |
| District       | Number                           | <b>197315</b> | <b>251500</b> | <b>351368</b> | <b>533481</b> | <b>803697</b> | <b>912617</b> |
|                | % of Tahsil's Total Population   | <b>11.05</b>  | <b>11.08</b>  | <b>12.97</b>  | <b>15.82</b>  | <b>19.89</b>  | <b>20.09</b>  |
|                | % of District's Urban Population | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>100</b>    |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and www.censusindia.gov.in)

**Table-6: Tahsil Wise Number of Towns in Ahmadnagar District**

| Tahsil          | 1961     | 1971     | 1981     | 1991      | 2001      | 2011      |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Nagar        | 1        | 1        | 2        | 2         | 5         | 6         |
| 2. Akola        |          |          |          |           |           | 1         |
| 3. Jamkhed      |          |          |          |           | 1         | 1         |
| 4. Karjat       |          |          |          |           |           | 1         |
| 5. Kopergaon    | 2        | 2        | 2        | 3         | 3         | 1         |
| 6. Nevasa       |          |          |          |           |           |           |
| 7. Parner       |          |          |          |           |           |           |
| 8. Pathardi     |          |          |          | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 9. Rahta        |          |          |          | 1         | 1         | 2         |
| 10. Rahuri      |          |          | 2        | 1         | 1         | 2         |
| 11. Sangamner   | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1         | 2         | 2         |
| 12. Shevgaon    |          |          |          |           |           |           |
| 13. Shrigonda   |          |          |          | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 14. Shrirampur  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 3         | 3         | 1         |
| <b>District</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and [www.censusindia.gov.in](http://www.censusindia.gov.in))

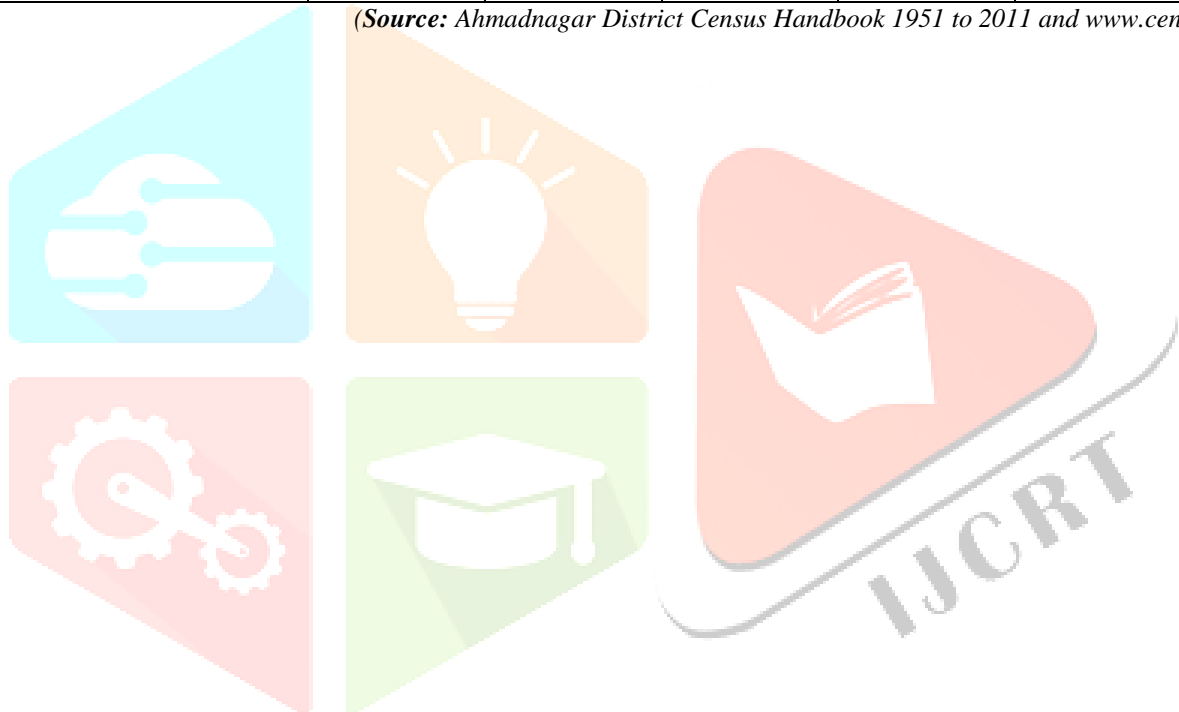


Table-7 Urban Centers in Ahmadnagar District (1961-2011)

|                    | Town                    | Tahsil     | 1961         |              |               | 1971          |               |               | 1981          |               |               | 1991          |               |               | 2001          |               |               | 2011          |               |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                    |                         |            | Male         | Female       | Total         | Male          | Female        | Total         | Male          | Female        | Total         | Male          | Female        | Total         | Male          | Female        | Total         | Male          | Female        | Total         |
| 1                  | Ahmadnagar (CB)         | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               | 22711         | 14562         | 37273         | 23952         | 16797         | 40749         | 25201         | 14733         | 39934         | 16568         | 12418         | 28986         |
| 2                  | Ahmadnagar (M Corp.)    | Nagar      | 63122        | 65898        | 129020        | 80491         | 67914         | 148405        | 75394         | 68543         | 143937        | 94098         | 87241         | 181339        | 159564        | 148051        | 307615        | 178899        | 171960        | 350859        |
| 3                  | Bhingar (CT)            | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 3939          | 3681          | 7620          |               |               |               |
| 4                  | Burhanagar (CT)         | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 3628          | 3257          | 6885          |
| 5                  | Darewadi (CT)           | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 6414          | 4446          | 10860         |
| 6                  | Nagapur (CT)            | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 3994          | 3070          | 7064          | 6359          | 5431          | 11790         |
| 7                  | Nagardeole (CT)         | Nagar      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 7142          | 6582          | 13724         | 9768          | 9034          | 18802         |
| 8                  | Deolali Pravara (M CI)  | Rahuri     |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 13249         | 12071         | 25320         | 15771         | 14569         | 30340         | 15984         | 15013         | 30997         |
| 9                  | Rahuri (M CI)           | Rahuri     |              |              |               |               |               |               | 12152         | 11569         | 23721         | 14639         | 13769         | 28408         | 17876         | 16600         | 34476         | 20140         | 18673         | 38813         |
| 10                 | Warwandi (CT)           | Rahuri     |              |              |               |               |               |               | 1859          | 1854          | 3713          |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 11                 | Jamkhed (CT)            | Jamkhed    |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 14258         | 13396         | 27654         | 17397         | 16620         | 34017         |
| 12                 | Karjat (CT)             | Karjat     |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 6048          | 5611          | 11659         |
| 13                 | Kopargaon (M CI)        | Kopargaon  | 8785         | 8084         | 16869         | 13657         | 12172         | 25829         | 19176         | 17710         | 36886         | 24499         | 23130         | 47629         | 30760         | 29210         | 59970         | 33222         | 32051         | 65273         |
| 14                 | Shirdi (NP)             | Kopargaon  |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 7881          | 7248          | 15129         | 13880         | 12304         | 26184         | 18751         | 17253         | 36004         |
| 15                 | Singnapur (CT)          | Kopargaon  |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 6018          | 4842          | 10860         |               |               |               |
| 16                 | Wari (CT)               | Kopargaon  | 3710         | 3185         | 6895          | 4948          | 4232          | 9180          | 5407          | 4852          | 10259         | 3978          | 3685          | 7663          |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 17                 | Pathardi (M CI)         | Pathardi   |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 10284         | 9248          | 19532         | 11977         | 10850         | 22827         | 14224         | 12987         | 27211         |
| 18                 | Rahta Pimplas (M CI)    | Rahta      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 9115          | 8838          | 17953         | 9697          | 9322          | 19019         | 11438         | 10897         | 22335         |
| 19                 | Rajur (CT)              | Akola      |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 5238          | 4808          | 10046         |
| 20                 | Sangamner (M CI)        | Sangamner  | 11380        | 10349        | 21729         | 15030         | 13564         | 28594         | 20753         | 19335         | 40088         | 25304         | 23757         | 49061         | 31699         | 30259         | 61958         | 33463         | 32341         | 65804         |
| 21                 | Ghulewadi (CT)          | Sangamner  |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 10638         | 8729          | 19367         | 11487         | 10373         | 21860         |
| 22                 | Shrigonda (M CI)        | Shrigonda  |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 11189         | 10457         | 21646         | 13620         | 12704         | 26324         | 16048         | 15086         | 31134         |
| 23                 | Shrirampur (M CI)       | Shrirampur | 12091        | 10711        | 22802         | 20658         | 18834         | 39492         | 28511         | 26980         | 55491         | 36465         | 34903         | 71368         | 41355         | 39900         | 81255         | 44842         | 44440         | 89282         |
| 24                 | Shrirampur (Rural) (CT) | Shrirampur |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 3950          | 3734          | 7684          | 3853          | 3653          | 7506          |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>       |                         |            | <b>99088</b> | <b>98227</b> | <b>197315</b> | <b>134784</b> | <b>116716</b> | <b>251500</b> | <b>185963</b> | <b>165405</b> | <b>351368</b> | <b>278603</b> | <b>254878</b> | <b>533481</b> | <b>421242</b> | <b>382455</b> | <b>803697</b> | <b>469918</b> | <b>442699</b> | <b>912617</b> |
| <b>No of Towns</b> |                         |            | <b>5</b>     |              |               | <b>5</b>      |               |               | <b>8</b>      |               |               | <b>13</b>     |               |               | <b>18</b>     |               |               | <b>19</b>     |               |               |

(Source: Ahmadnagar District Census Handbook 1951 to 2011 and www.censusindia.gov.in)

Table-5 & 6 reveals several facets of the spread of urbanisation in the district-

- i) The number of urban tahsils (which have urban population) increased from 4 in 1961 to 11 in 2011.
- ii) Except three tahsils (viz., Nevasa, Parner and Shevgaon) in the district, all 11 tahsils have urban population in 2011.
- iii) Nagar is the only tahsil in Ahmadnagar district that has a Class-I town. It is the most urbanised tahsil in the district. In every census, this tahsil occupies nearly 50 percent or more urban population of the district.
- iv) The tahsils with less than 10 percent urbanisation are Akola, Karjat, Rahta and Shrigonda. Pathardi has a slightly higher level of urbanisation at 10.5 percent.
- v) In 2001 and 2011, Kopargaon, Jamkhed, Shrirampur, Sangamner and Rahuri Tahsils have more than 15 percent urban population independently.
- vi) In 2011, the highest number of urban population in the district is concentrated in Ahmadnagar Tahsil and the lowest number is observed in Akola tahsil.
- vii) During the six census periods from 1961 to 2011, there were towns in Nagar, Kopargaon, Sangamner, Srirampur tahsil.
- viii) In 2011 maximum 6 towns were in Nagar Tahsil.
- ix) Ahmadnagar )Municipal Corporation( is the most populous town in the district as per 2011 census. This town accounts for 38.44% of the total urban population of the district.
- x) The number of towns in Kopargaon and Srirampur tahsils are found to have decreased as per 2011 census.

## CONCLUSIONS:

1. Urbanisation in Ahmadnagar district is growing at a slow pace compared to India and Maharashtra.
2. During the study period (1961-2011) the urban area, urban population, number of towns and size of towns in the district have been increased.
3. The highest urban population growth rate in the period 1901 to 2011 is found in the decade 1941-51.
4. The average population per town in Ahmadnagar district is lower than Maharashtra state and India.
5. Urban male population in the district is increasing rapidly as compared to female population.
6. Except three tahsils (viz., Nevasa, Parner and Shevgaon) in the district, all 11 tahsils have urban population in 2011.
7. The largest number of towns have been included in class III towns.
8. The number of towns increased steadily after 1961. The number of towns in Ahmadnagar district was 13 in 1991, 18 in 2001 and 19 in 2011.
9. According to 2011 census, Nagar tahsil 6 out of 19 towns and 46.92% of the total urban population of the district are concentrated in Nagar district.
10. As per 2011 census, Nagar tahsil is the most urbanised tahsil in Ahmadnagar district. 6 out of 19 cities in the district and 46.92% of the total urban population of the district are concentrated in this tahsil.
11. Ahmadnagar )Municipal Corporation( is the most populous town in the district as per 2011 census. This town accounts for 38.44% of the total urban population of the district.

In short, the number of towns and population in Ahmadnagar district follows a different trend according to the census and tahsil.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Ahmadnagar - District Census Handbook, 1951 to 2011
2. Arunachalam B. (1967): Maharashtra, A. R. Sheth and Co. Educational Publishers, Bombay.
3. Bhende Asha and Kanitkar Tara (2003) : *Principles of Population Studies*, Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai.
4. Bose Ashish (1978): *India's Urbanisation 1901-2001*, Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited, New Delhi.
5. Chandana R. C. (1996): *A Geography of Population*, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi.
6. Dubey R. M. (1981): *Population Dynamics in India*, Chugh Publications, Alahabad.
7. Ghosh B.N. (1987): *Fundamentals of Population Geography*, Sterling Publishers Private Limited, New Delhi.
8. Intellectual's *Sandarbh Maharashtra* (2004) Volume-I and II, Intellectual Book Bureau, Bhopal.
9. Jaymala Didee, Jog S. R., Kale V.S. and Datye V. S. (2002): *Geography of Maharashtra*, Rawat Publication, Jaipur and New Delhi.
10. Khullar D. R. (2010): *India- A Comprehensive Geography*, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi.
11. Maharashtra-Goa Census 2001CD
12. Maharashtra Development Report-2005, Published by Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai
13. Mamoria C. B. and Goel Anupama (1979): *Economic and Commercial Geography of India*, Shivalal Agarwala and Company Educational Publishers, Agra.
14. Mandal R. B. (1999): *Urban Geography A Textbook*, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.
15. Padey P.N. and Fernandes M. R. (2000): *General Geography of India*, Nirali Prakashan, Pune.
16. Patil T. P. (1998): *Maharashtracha Bhoogol*, Pimpalpure Publishers, Nagpur.
17. Population Reports (2002): *Meeting the Urban Challenge*, Published by the Population Information Program, Center for Communication Programs, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Volume XXX, Number 4.
18. Prasad Rajendra (1990): *Population Geography of India*, Radha Publications, New Delhi.
19. Ramotra K. C. (2004): *Spatial Patterns of Urbanisation in Maharashtra*, Trajectory, Pune, Vol.12 No.1
20. Savadi A. B. (1998): *The Mega State Maharashtra*, Nirali Publication, Pune.
21. Sawant Shashikant B. (1994): *Population Geography*, Mehta Publishing House, Pune.
22. Sharma T. C. and Coutinho O. C. (1983): *Economic and Commercial Geography of India*, Vikas Publishing House PVT LTD, New Delhi.
23. Singh R. L. (1995): *India A Regional Geography*, UBS Publication, New Delhi.
24. Verma L. N. (2008): *Urban Geography*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur.
25. <http://www.Ahmadnagar.nic.in>
26. <http://www.maharashtra.gov.in>
27. <http://www.censusindia.net>