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A LITERATURE BASED STUDY OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES (ULBS) IN TELANGANA

P.Pavani Reddy, Research scholar, Department of Geography, Osmania University
P Manisha, Faculty of Geography HPS, Begumpet, Hyderabad

Abstract

Telangana is a state that is rapidly urbanizing, and its cities are fueling the state's economic growth. The government is working to further enhance the state's urban regions in order to facilitate economic growth. At the same time, the government is assuring the cities' long-term viability, as well as the welfare and well-being of their citizens. Urban areas account for 38.9% of the state's overall population. According to the National Commission on Population, by 2026, the percentage will have risen to 50%. Urban Local Bodies are in charge of certain urban regions (ULBs). The Telangana Municipalities Act 2019 governs the administration of the state's 141 urban local bodies. The government has launched a number of efforts to improve urban development results in a variety of areas, including water and sanitation, roadways, and poverty reduction. The main aim of this paper is to study the ULBs in Telangana. The study mainly focuses on the secondary data collection from various literature reviews. The outcome of the research will be beneficial for future planning of the state and the areas can be known where the development is needed.

Keywords: urbanizing, Municipalities, ULNBs, Population, sanitation

Introduction

Cities are the engines of economic progress all over the world. Cities, led by Hyderabad, are fueling Telangana's economic growth as well. Telangana's government is committed to promoting long-term urban growth that benefits the state's economy while also ensuring that individuals and communities in urban areas have access to essential facilities and services (such as clean water, health services and transport) (Telangana, 2021). This is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, particularly SDG 11, which strives to create sustainable cities and communities. Telangana is a 'front runner' on SDG 11 according to the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index. Karimnagar (ranked 11th) and Hyderabad (ranked 27th) were among the top 30 cities in India in the Government of India's 2018 Ease of Living Index. Hyderabad has been named India's 'Most Livable City,' as well as Asia's second fastest developing city (Telangana, 2021).

As a result, the government is attempting to hasten the city's development. The new Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Act establishes a 50% quota for women on the GHMC Council and lets citizens to participate more actively in municipal government through Citizens Committees. For the wellbeing of poor people of Hyderabad, the government runs the Annapurna plan, a food security programme, and Basti Dawakhanas, a health programme. The 69-kilometer Hyderabad Metro Rail project is a mass transit solution for the city's increasing traffic congestion and pollution levels (Telangana, 2021).

Urbanization Trends

The state ranks eighth in the country in terms of urbanisation, with 38.9% of the people living in urban areas. Telangana is also one of the country's most rapidly urbanising states. According to the National Commission on Inhabitants, almost to half of the state's population will live in cities by 2026. (Compared to 36 percent in the country) (Telangana, 2021).

Within the state, Hyderabad has the greatest urban population (28.9% of the state's urban population), but other cities such as Warangal, Nizamabad, and Karimnagar are also quickly expanding (Telangana, 2021).

Urban Governance

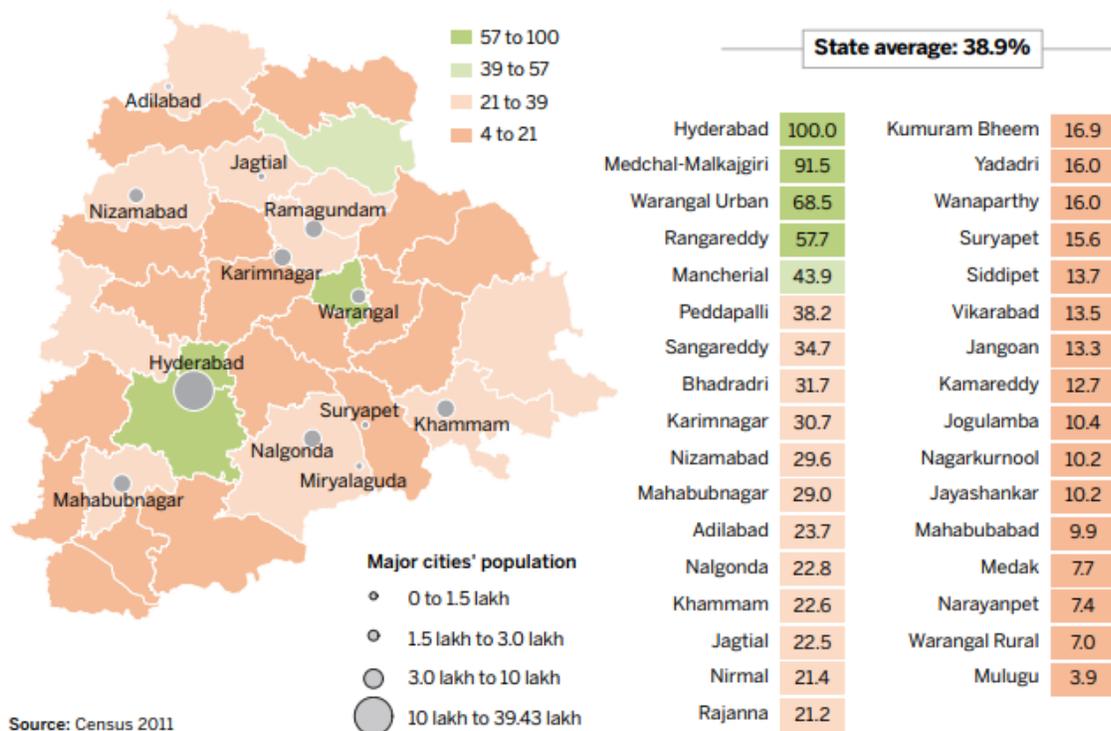
Urban Local Bodies are responsible for numerous aspects of urban governance, including urban planning, land use regulation, water supply, and sanitation, according to the 74th Constitutional Amendment (ULBs). There are currently 141 ULBs in the state, with 97 of them falling under the Telangana Town Planning Act of 1920 and the rest 44 falling under the authority of Urban Development Authorities (UDAs).

The Telangana Municipalities Act 2019 was enacted to promote urban government by guiding the administration of ULBs and municipal corporations across the state (excluding the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), which is governed by a separate GHMC Act) (see section below). In general, the new Act intends to make local government administration more open, timely, responsible, and citizen-centered. The following are some of the Act's most notable features:

- Citizen-centric government: Make urban governance more citizen-centric by establishing at least one Citizen Service Centre in each municipality that provides municipal services on the internet.
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- Promote greenery: Protect the environment through Green Action Plans in each municipality, prepared by District Level Committees which are headed by the District Collector

District-wise urban population

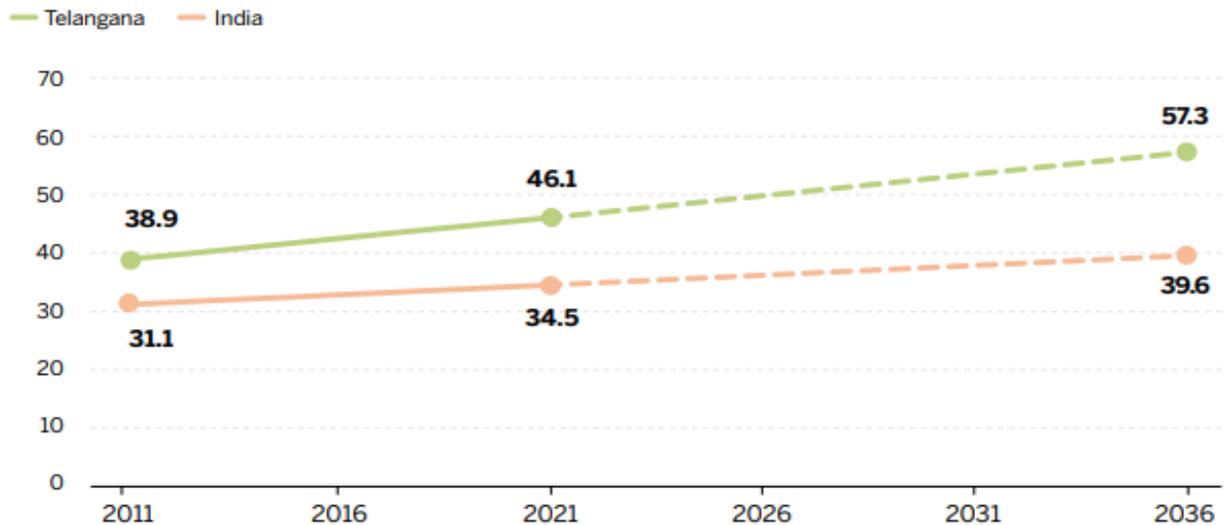
% of urban population



- Conserve water: Municipal governments are required to undertake water audits on a regular basis.
- Improve sanitation: Prepare City Sanitation Plans for all municipalities.
- Improve sewerage systems: Create drain maps and update existing sewage systems.
- Facilitate development: Instantly issue building construction permissions based on self-certification; allow citizens to file a single application under the Telangana State Building Permission Approval & Self Certificate System (TSbPASS) instead of going to different departments for no-objection certificates. The TS-bPASS system has been implemented in all of the state's ULBs, and its key features include:
 - Individual residential buildings with plots up to 75 square yards and heights up to 7 metres do not require planning authorization. Registration is the sole need, and the registration price is merely Re. 1, which can be paid along with the first property tax assessment.
 - Instant online approval for plots up to 500 sq. mtr. and a height of up to 10 metres, via an online-based Self-Certification method.
 - Single-window approval for all building permits in plots larger than 500 square metres and with a height of more than 10 metres, with approval in 21 days.
 - Online Occupancy Certificates for constructions on plots larger than 200 square metres and taller than 7 metres

Urban population projections

Share of urban population (%)



Source: National Commission for Population Report (Nov 2019)

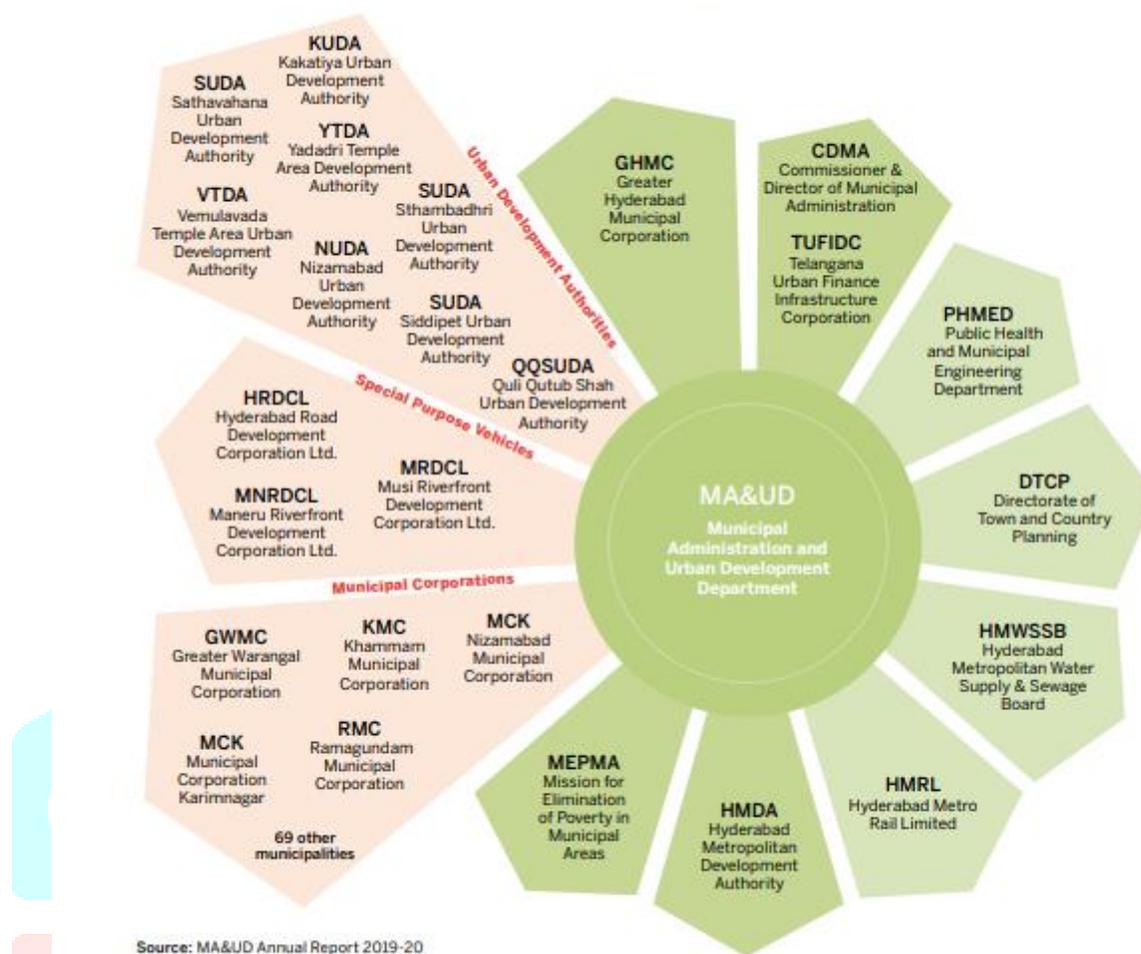
- v. Instant online approval for plots up to 500 sq. mtr. and a height of up to 10 metres, via an online-based Self-Certification method.
- vi. A single-window approval process for all building permits in plots larger than 500 square metres and with a height of more than 10 metres, with approval delivered in 21 days.
- vii. Online Occupancy Certificates for constructions on plots larger than 200 square metres and taller than 7 metres
- viii. Single-window approval for all building permits in plots larger than 500 square metres and with a height of more than 10 metres, with approval in 21 days.
- ix. Online Occupancy Certificates for constructions on plots larger than 200 square metres and taller than 7 metres

Water Supply and Sewerage

In cities, drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are critical for citizen health. In all ULBs, the government is improving the existing water supply and sewerage infrastructure.

The Department of Public Health and Municipal Engineering is in charge of building the water and sewerage infrastructure. The government is dedicated to ensuring that all municipal corporations in the state have access to safe, adequate, sustainable, and treated drinking water under the flagship initiative Mission Bhagiratha (Telangana, 2021).

Urban Institutional Structure in Telangana



Between 2014 and 2019, the state government invested in modernising the sewerage system, expanding the sewer network in ULBs by 710 kilometres. In addition, the state has six sewage treatment plants with a total capacity of 107 million litres per day (MLD).

The government of India's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme has also aided water supply and sewerage projects in the state. One of AMRUT's main goals is to provide universal water and sewerage coverage. AMRUT covers 12 cities and towns throughout the state (Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Mahabubnagar, Miryalaguda, Suryapet, Nalgonda, Adilabad and Siddipet). This initiative has resulted in the completion of 23 water supply projects and three sewerage projects, with four further water supply projects and one sewerage project in the works (Telangana, 2021).

As a result of the government's excellent implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the state was proclaimed open-defecation free (ODF) on October 2, 2019. (SBM). SBM has had a good influence on Solid Waste Management (SWM) in the state's ULBs; more than 90% of households are covered by door-to-door collection services, and ULBs collect more than 89 percent of waste (Telangana, 2021).

MEPMA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Telangana's National Health Mission to establish Mahila Arogya Samithis (MASs) in Slum-Level Federations. In collaboration with the Health Department, the purpose is to promote health education in communities. There have been 7,829 MASs formed so yet. A total of Rs. 1.5 crore was distributed to 2,929 MASs across 42 ULBs.

The government's urban Citizen Services Monitoring system delivers transparent and time-bound services to city residents by acting as a link between municipal officials and residents in resolving grievances in a timely manner. SMS alerts, app notifications, and web access provide citizens with open and free access to the status of their applications. At the same time, the performance of concerned employees is monitored. The system is used by senior officials and heads of departments (HODs) to track the rate at which services are delivered. This system is currently operational in 139 of the state's urban local governments (Telangana, 2021).

The GHMC has simplified the procedure of obtaining licences and approvals for citizens. The Transfer Development Right (TDR) Policy and the Development Permission Management System (DPMS) - Online Building Plan Approval System, for example, have made land purchase easier. As a result, the total built-up area for commercial developments in the city has increased by 100 percent since 2015. GHMC, for example, has made the pet licencing process easier and more convenient by moving it online (Telangana, 2021).

Within the GHMC boundaries, the GHMC has constructed Basti Dawakhanas (Health and Wellness Centers) in collaboration with the Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department. These are built within slums to satisfy the health care requirements of the urban poor by providing access to vital primary health care services and lowering their out-of-pocket health expenses. In Hyderabad, there are currently 224 Basti Dawakhanas in operation, with a total cost of Rs. 30.5 crore (Telangana, 2021).

GHMC is creating parks, theme parks, and urban forest blocks in Hyderabad to improve the health and well-being of the city's population. Thousands of trees are planted in open spaces, railway corridors, service roads, and other areas as part of the government's flagship programme, Telangana Ku Haritha Haram (TKHH).

GHMC, HMDA, the Forest Department, and other organisations have invested a total of Rs. 559.4 crore on urban biodiversity projects since 2014. (Rs. 250 crore on parks; Rs. 158 crore on urban forest parks; and Rs. 151 crore on conservation blocks with the city).

Hyderabad has been designated as one of the world's "Tree Cities" by the Arbor Day Foundation and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (Telangana, 2021).

In acknowledgment of its commitment to growing and sustaining urban forestry, Hyderabad is the only city in the country to receive this honour.

Conclusion

Through action on various fronts, including strengthening urban local governance, expanding infrastructure, and providing basic amenities, the government is attempting to enable the personal and economic growth of the state's urban residents. The government is constantly improving the quality of life for all citizens in Hyderabad and other cities and towns across the state through different acts and legislation. By 2026, nearly half of the state's population will be living in cities and towns, and the government is dedicated to keeping up with the speed of change and setting an example for urban development across the country.

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