

## URBANISATION IN RAJASTHAN STATE : 1991

RAJ BALA, Jaipur

**ABSTRACT :** Rajasthan started the post-independent urbanisation story after its re-organisation in 1956. The state had fast rural as well as urban growth, therefore, it still scores low in the level of urbanisation in India. The state had stable urban structure. It showed, clear cut alignment with post-independent administrative hierarchy. The metropolization process had deepened its root. Small towns recorded slow or sluggish growth. Impact of water scarcity is exhibited on class. I cities growth. The regional variations are shrinking in terms of urban growth. Rajasthan towns are still in the process of accumulating economic and other activities, therefore, termed as dynamic in nature.

### INTRODUCTION

Rajasthan is the second largest state in the country having 3.42 lakh sq.km. area. It has 1040 km long international border and is adjacent to the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat. Rajasthan state is administratively divided into 32 districts, 229 tehsils and 237 panchayat samities. There are 37889 inhabited villages and 222 towns according 1991 census.

Rajasthan is predominatly on agrarian state. Agriculture plays an important role in the state's economy as more than 42 per cent of the total income of the state is generated by agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture is still largely dependent on vagaries of monsoon.

Water is a critical resource for state's overall development. State which occupies 10.40 per cent of the country's geographical area is endowed with only 1.04 percent of the total surface water resources of the country. The state is dependent on inter-state agreements and efficient water utilisation by adopting

water saving devices in semi arid and arid regions.

The climate of the state in general is characterised as the driest in the country having a large variation. The rainfall in the state is not only meagre but also shows great variability, growing rise to drought conditions.

Industrial scene in the state is under change considerably. The industrial policy of 1994 is likely to show its impact in the coming years. Power has been given highest priority in the state during Eighth-Five Year plan and about 28.31 per cent of total plan outlay has been earmarked for this.

The on-going programme on conversion of metre gauge railway line into broad gauge will, in the near future, link the state main centres with the remaining part of the country. Under World Bank Assisted Programme, upgradation and widening works of 2 state highways Udaipur-Dabok-Chittorgarh and Sirohi-Mount Abu have been completed. Roads provide a major infrastructure link in the state at present.

But the road density in the state 39.29 km per hundred sq.km (1995-96), is still much below the national average of 62.1 kms per hundred sq.km.

The state's Eighth Five Year Plan allocation amounts to Rs. 11500 crores which is nearly equal to that of Gujarat and higher than many other states like M.P., Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. The impact and role of state in new economic policy and reforms will be reflected in the eighth plan. State government plays an important role in attracting foreign investment and developing infrastructure to facilitate investment. Rajasthan state has declared new industrial, mining and road policy in 1994 for greater resource mobilization and initiatives of private sector participation.

The state is working to overcome the following bottlenecks.

- 1) Desert makes 61 per cent area of the state. The sparse distribution of population makes the unit cost of providing basic services and facilities very high.
- 2) Both water and power, the crucial resources for industrialisation are lacking in the state.
- 3) Agriculture still largely depends on vagaries of monsoon.
- 4) State is still marked by high population growth rate in India.
- 5) State ranks low in the country among social indicators.

### **RAJASTHAN URBANISATION BEFORE 1991**

Rajasthan entered 20 th century with a small urban base. Only 15 per cent population was urbanised. There was only one city. The state is dominated by small towns. The state experienced an urbanisation trend similar to other north Indian states but at a slow pace. The first two

decades 1901-21 were marked by a slow or negative urban growth due to natural calamities of plague, malaria, influenza and famines. The next two decades were marked by slow but positive urban growth. In the next 1941-51 decade the urban growth was dependent on out migration of Muslim population and in-migration of Hindu population.

### **MERGER OF PRINCELY STATES, REORGANISATION OF RAJASTHAN AND URBANISATION**

During 1951-61, the Rajasthan state was under the process of re-organisation. The present state of Rajasthan is the product of successive mergers commencing from March 17, 1948 up to 1956 when the States Reorganisation Act was promulgated. After Independence, the formation of the present Rajasthan started with the merger of the princely states of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli and the chiefship of Neemarana which joined on March 17, 1948 as one territorial unit known as Matsya union. On March 25, 1948 other adjoining states namely, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Banswara, Dungarpur, Kishangarh, Pratapgarh, Shahpura and Tonk also merged with this Union. This resulted in the formation of the former Rajasthan. A month after the formation of the Matsya union, Udaipur joined the Union. By March 30, 1949 other states like Bikaner, Jaipur, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur joined the former Rajasthan, bringing into existence the United States of Greater Rajasthan. In the Sixth stage a part of Sirohi state was also merged with it. However, even at this stage, Ajmer state enjoyed a separate entity as one of the Part "C" states in India. In 1956, with the promulgation of the State Reorganisation Act, Ajmer State along with Abu Road Taluka of the former Bombay State, and the Sunel Tappa region of the former Madhya Bharat merged with Rajasthan and Sirohi sub-division of Kota district was

transferred to Madhya Pradesh. Thus, Integration and the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 brought into existence the present state of Rajasthan.

Due to the merger of various princely capitals and chiefships, they lost temporarily their own image and were in the process of becoming a part of the newly reorganised state. Therefore, during 1951-61, the urbanisation process was moderate in the state in comparison with other states of India.

During 1961-81, the urban population more than doubled from 1.53 million in 1961 to 3.37 in 1981. Being the focal points of administration, the state capitals emerged as important centres. The urban nodes worked as administrative points to expand the social infrastructure in rural areas. With the intervention of the state to develop infrastructure, the impact of harsh climate, drought, and desert conditions became less and less with time. After 1981, the urbanisation process was accelerated.

### URBANISATION : (1981-91)

Rajasthan ranked 15th among the major states of India in terms of the level of urbanisation. The 10.06 million population makes only 22.88 percent population as urban in the state. The state is in the stage where both, rural and urban growth, are fast and the level of urbanisation is not making much headway.

The urban population increased from 7.2 million in 1981 to 10.07 million in 1991, giving a growth rate of 39.62 per cent in comparison to 36.47 per cent for India as a whole. Rajasthan ranks 17th among the states and union territories in terms of urban growth rate during 1981-91. Despite there being a considerable increase in the proportion of urban population to total population (22.88), it still scores a low rank among the states.

### GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION AND ITS CAUSES

The 222 towns and urban agglomerations were accommodating 10.06 million persons. Jaipur is the only million city. Nearly half of the urban population was living in 14 cities, more than one third in 94 medium size towns and the remaining 15 per cent population in 114 towns. The effective urban population is concentrated in a few selected areas. Out of 207 tensils, 53 were entirely rural in 1991. Nearly three-fourths tensils have less than 20 per cent urban population.

The 2.8 million net addition of urban population marked (1981-91) as the decade of highest growth during the present century. Out of this, sixty five per cent increase was due to natural increase and another ten per cent was attributed to the annexation of 26 settlements in the urban area. Remaining one-fourth was the result of rural to urban migration.

The 1981-91 decade witnessed a further fall in the death rate from 15.6 to 10.1 per thousand per annum while birth rate came down from 35.5 to 35.0. It gave an actual increase rate of 2.5 percent per year. The actual growth rate of urban population being 39.62 per cent, the natural increase was estimated to have contributed more than sixty five per cent of the urban growth during 1981-91. The 26 new towns added 2.68 lac population directly to the absolute urban increase.

The rural-urban migration was in favour of large and some medium sized towns. Creation of new districts, tahsils and strengthening of divisional headquarters favoured urbanisation at all administrative levels. The mining activity was further accelerated due to participation of private sector. The defence activity in the desert towns for infrastructure development further accelerated urban trend.

Table 1

## Rajasthan : Social Indicators

Items	Year	Rajasthan	India
Per-capita electricity consumption	1986-87	155	191
Road length per 100 sq.km	1986-87	24.39	49.30
Hospital per thousand sq.km	1986-87	4	10
% of Rural Electrification	1986-87	65	73
% of Rural water supply	1986-87	89.2	93.4
Per-person development expenditure	1986-87	641	729
Perd-capita expenditure on social services	1986-87	194	218

*Source : White Paper on Economic Development of Rajasthan, Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan, March, 1991.*

During 1981-91, the state had progressed under Sixth (1985-90) five year plans. In these two plan period, nearly 75 per cent state budget expenditure was on energy, irrigation, flood control and providing basic social services. The main economic stay of the state was agriculture. The regional disparity in terms of development, however, persisted. The presence of two national wildlife Sanctuaries (Ghana and Ranthambore) in Bharatpur and Sawai Madhopur, had put restrictions on industrial and mining development. Alwar district and its towns are covered under National Capital Region. The Delhi-Jaipur, Jaipur-Abu Road-Ahemdabad railway line was closed for sometime under broad gauge conversion. The state had famines every alternate year during 1981-91. During famines, on one side there is loss of land revenue and on the other side the whole state administration remains busy in famine relief works, and the development works were postponed. In basic social sectors i.e. water supply, electricity, schools, health centres, post-offices and banks, there was extension of services, yet these remained below the national average.

Although, a meagre investment was made in the industrial sector during Sixth and Seventh plan period, there was some development in the industrial sector. The concessions given by the state government encouraged private industrialists to establish new units. The cheap availability of labour, industrial plots in industrial estates and political stability promoted the industrial and mining activities during 1981-91. There was a significant increase in the production of Cement, marble, mineral-based engineering, automobile and cotton textile, industries.

The economic and political situation after mid-eighties was favourable to urban growth. The broad gauge conversion of major lines, starting of new fast trains, connectivity of Rajasthan's major cities with other industrial cities, low crime rate, cheap availability of land had helped urban Rajasthan to move ahead.

#### LEVEL OF URBANISATION

Rajasthan recorded a low level of urbanisation in comparison to other states of India. Only

**RAJASTHAN : LEVEL OF URBANISATION: 1991**

Categories of districts with % of urban population	No. of districts	Name of the districts
1. < 10%	4	Barmer (10.00), Jalor (7.28) Dungarpur (7.30) Banswara (7.72)
2. 10.00-20.00	13	Sirohi(19.51) Bhilwara (19.53) Udaipur (17.10) Chittoragarh (15.61) Alwar (13.95) Bharatpur (19.42) Dholpur (17.19) Sawai Madhopur (14.84) Tonk (19.53) Jaisalmer (15.56) Nagaur (15.98) Bundi (17.36) Jhalawar (15.78)
3. 20.00-30.00	5	Ganganagar (21.05) Churu (28.90) Jhunjhunu (20.54) Sikar (21.03) Pali (21.75)
4. > 30 %	5	Bikaner (39.71) Jaipur (39.53) Ajmer (40.69) Jodhpur (35.50) Kota (36.43)

22.8 percent population is living in urban areas.

Spatially, districts where division headquarters are located experienced high level of urbanisation i.e. more than 35 per cent. The major city of these six districts recorded more than 70 per cent urban population concentration. This indicated that if we exclude, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer and Kota and Udaipur city from their respective districts they will appear highly rural.

**Rajasthan : Concentration of urban Population in the first city of a few districts**

District	Population concentration in the first city of a few districts (%)
Bikaner District	92.54%
Jaipur District	78.13%
Kota District	72.63%
Jodhpur District	87.15%
Ajmer District	57.23%

The shekhawati and post-independent developed district of Ganganagar as a result of irrigation showed 20 to 30% urbanisation level. In Shekhawati region there were small estate capitals which emerged as small towns like Nawalgarh, Mandawa Fatehpur, Lachhmangarh, Dundlod, Ramgarh, Bissau, Churu, Pilani, Sikar, Khetri etc.

The tribal district of Banswara, Dungarpur and the desert district of Barmer record urbanisation level which is less than 10 per cent. Like high level of urbanisation areas, the district having low level of urbanisation district were also dotted with one or two small towns only.

**URBAN SPREAD**

There were 14 urban standard areas in Rajasthan. The urban population of these 14 standard areas contributes nearly 50 per cent urban population of Rajasthan. The villages in the area of influence of these 14 SUA's recorded 62.23 population growth rate during 1981-91. The SUA's have experienced 38.67 per cent growth. This shows that at present, both city and its surrounding areas, are experiencing fast population growth, and

**RAJASTHAN : NEW TOWNS ADDED IN 1991**

Name of the district	Name of the towns	No. of towns	Population
Alwar	Behror, Bhiwadi, Govindgarh	3	39,516
Bharatpur	Sewar Kalan	1	6,838
S. Madhopur	Mahwa	1	13,091
Jaipur	Kishangarh Renwal, Bagru	2	37,110
Bhilwara	Gulabpura, Mandalgarh Beejoliya Kelan	3	45,307
Udaipur	Dhariawad, Rewa Talai, Bhalariya, Rikhabdeo	4	30,686
Kota	Udpura, Satal Kheri	2	15,815
Nagaur	Goredi Chancha	1	7,059
Pali	Marwar Junction	1	9,637
Barmer	Samdari	1	12,853
Sirohi	Bhawri	1	9,099
Dungarpur	Galiakot	1	5,896
Banswara	Paratpur, Borkhera	2	11,945
Jhalawar	Khanpur, Manoharthan Kolvil Rajendrapura	3	24,037
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>2,68,805</b>

appear as dynamic zones gathering economic activities.

**NEW TOWNS : 1991**

During 1981-91 there have been 26 settlements which were converted into urban settlements. Some of them have benefitted from industrial and trade activities like Bhiwadi, Govindgarh, Gulabpura, Behror, Bagru, Marwar Junction, some others developed as small nodal centres.

The 26 existing settlements newly delineated as towns contributed 268 thousand population to the total urban population of the state.

During 1981-91 administratively an effort was made to restrict the change in the status of settlements from rural to urban. Mathura Das committee set up by the state had even

recommended to declassify 85 small towns because of their poor financial conditions.

**DELINING SEX RATIO IN URBAN AREAS**

There has been a marginal though a continuous decline in the sex ratio of the urban areas of Rajasthan.

**RAJASTHAN : URBAN SEX RATIO***Females per 1000 Males*

1901	947
1921	897
1941	897
1961	882
1981	877
1991	879

**RAJASTHAN : SEX RATIO ACCORDING TO THE CATEGORY OF TOWNS : 1991**

Category	(Females per 1,000 Males)
Class I	868
Class II	887
Class III	881
Class IV	899
Class V & VI	918

The class I cities are becoming more male dominated in Rajasthan. The small towns which changed their character from large villages have a high sex ratio in comparison to other towns. Spatially, the industrial city like Kota and Alwar and desert cities like Jodhpur and Bikaner recorded low sex ratio in comparison to cities which were administrative cum service towns.

**SIZE AND URBAN GROWTH**

In Rajasthan, the size of a town and its growth showed a direct correlation. Large Cities are growing fastest. Medium sized towns recorded moderate growth rate. Small towns experienced slow or sluggish urban growth during 1981-

91. Most of the cities have recorded relatively fast growth rate i.e. 30+. Ajmer and Beawar recorded slow growth due to shortage of water supply which now is overcome and is likely to show fast urban growth during 1991-2001.

**RAJASTHAN : GROWTH RATE OF CLASS I TOWNS And URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS: 1981-91**

Name	Growth Rate in (%)
Bhilwara	50.02
Kota	50.00
Jaipur	49.56
Pali	49.44
Bharatpur	49.02
Bikaner	44.69
Alwar	44.14
Sikar	44.00
Udaipur	32.67
Jodhpur	31.59
Ganganagar	30.55
Tonk	29.08
Beawar	18.58
Ajmer	7.22

*Source : Census of Rajasthan 1991, General Population Tables, Part II A.*

**Table 2 :**

**Rajasthan : Classification of towns/Urban Agglomerations by size category in 1991, and growth rate during 1981-91.**

Size Category	Number of towns with a growth rate (%)				
	<15	15 - 30	30 - 45	45 - 60	60+
Class I	1(7.14)	2(14.28)	6(42.86)	5(35.71)	-
Class II	0	5(25.00)	10(50.00)	4(20.00)	1(5.00)
Class III	3(4.16)	21(29.17)	35(48.61)	7(9.73)	5(6.94)
Class IV, V & VI	11	44	26	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>

It exclude new towns

Two-thirds of class II towns showed a growth rate of 30% and above, and the remaining had growth rates between 20 and 30 per cent. The mining and industrial towns like Makrana, Chittorgarh, Dholpur showed very fast urban growth.

**RAJASTHAN : GROWTH RATE OF  
CLASS II TOWNS/URBAN  
AGGLOMERATIONS 1981-91**

Serial order in growth rate	Name	Growth rate in %
1	Makrana	64.08
2	Chittorgarh	59.08
3	Dholpur	54.44
4	Jhunjhunu	53.01
5	Gangapur city	49.67
6	Hindaun	42.32
7	Nagpur	42.06
8	Banswara	41.27
9	Baran	37.43
10	Bundi	35.44
11	Churu	33.47
12	Nawalgarh	32.18
13	Kishangarh	32.11
14	Sawai Madhopur	31.49
15	Hanumangarh	30.72
16	Fatehpur	29.96
17	Sujargarh	27.54
18	Ratangarh	27.01
19	Barmer	23.53
20	Sardarshar	20.51

Among class III towns one-third registered a growth rate less than 30 percent. Lakheri and Rawatsar recorded negative urban growth due to closing down of the cement plant and the thermal station respectively.

Among small towns, two thirds experienced are urban growth of less than 30 percent. The remaining one third experienced growth between 30 and 45 percent. There is a conspicuous decline in the urban growth of small towns in Rajasthan during 1981-91.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS AND  
URBAN GROWTH**

The administrative structure which had been used for implementation of plans after reorganisation of the state in 1956 appears to be a significant force in channelling the growth pattern of towns. Most of Rajasthan towns enjoy an advantage of being the seat of district or a panchayat samiti, headquarters. The state capital records fast growth, closely followed by six divisional headquarters which have witnessed distinctly higher growth rate than district headquarters. The towns deprived of administrative status have registered slow urban growth rate.

The divisional headquarters during 1981-91 acquired higher status than district headquarters. Divisional headquarters : Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Kota and Jaipur were centres of their region and also class I towns. Infact, they represent traditional cultural and economic regions also.

During 1981-96 the number of district headquarters increased from 27 to 32. Most of the district headquarters have services as their main function followed by commercial and industrial activity. The district headquarter tried to accumulate industries and commercial activities besides services.

**Number and Percentage of Urban Population of towns classified by administrative status in each growth category 1981-91**

Administrative status	Decadal growth categories				
	< 15%	15 - 30	30 - 45	45 - 60	> 60%
State capital (1)	-	-	-	1(100.00)	-
Divisional HQ (6)	1(16.66)	-	3(50.00)	2(33.33)	-
District HQ (32)	1(13.22)	4(12.50)	16(50.00)	8(25.00)	1(3.12)

Therefore, the post-independent four level administrative structure has succeeded in over-powering the feudal set up and setting up the tone of urbanisation in Rajasthan.

### SPATIAL PATTERNS

In general there was moderate growth of towns in the state. Every second town recorded a growth rate of more than 30 per cent. The intra and inter-regional variations were less in the growth of towns.

The towns in tribal areas recorded moderate to fast urban growth. Dungarpur and Banswara district got all the industrial concessions available to backward regions. Dungarpur is emerging as an important industrial centre. The large towns in the desert area increased the commercial and defence activities and recorded urban growth rate of over 30%. Jaisalmer because of tourism, Jodhpur because of tourism, defence and oil exploration, Bikaner as a result of dairy, experienced fast urban growth. Ganganagar recorded moderate growth rate during 1981-91 due to bifurcation into two districts.

The towns located in the semi-arid region and west of Aravalis had recorded moderate to slow growth rate during 1981-91. It was mainly due to closeness of this area to the railway track undergoing conversion, and restriction imposed

on polluting industrial units.

The towns east of Aravalis had a mixed pattern of urban growth. The towns located in the National Capital region on national highways and in the mining rich Chambal-Mahi command areas had recorded fast urban growth. The eastern part of Aravalis is influenced by ribbon development of urban areas along national highway Number 8 which is partly converted into four lanes. The adjoining areas of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara have started getting the concentration of modern industries. In the surrounding of wildlife area of Srisika-Ghana Bird Sanctuary and Ranthambore, urban growth was moderate due to restriction on industrial development and mining activities.

In all, the urbanisation moved upward in all types of areas. The regional variation in the growth of towns is not sharp. The intra-regional variations in growth are mainly associated with acceleration of economic activity, transportation network, administrative and government interventions.

### CONCLUSION

Rajasthan state in its demographic cycle is still in the early second stage, where both rural and urban population are experiencing fast population growth rate. But the urban growth during 1981-91 was much faster in comparison

to rural growth. Therefore, the net addition of urban population is 2.8 million. Therefore, the concern is to provide minimum basic urban amenities to the increased population.

**ADDRESS OF THE AUTHOR**

**Raj Bala**  
Professor,  
Urban Development,  
HCM RIPA, Jaipur