CHAPTER - II

POST-INDEPENDENCE TRENDS OF URBANISATION AND PATTERNS OF URBAN GROWTH

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2.1 INTRODUCTION :

Urbanisation as a process is three dimentional and pyramidal in structure. At the base it is the process of rural urbanisation and at the apex it is metropolitization. In between these lies commercilization which links the two. In industrial society three dimentions are integrated functionally. In the developing country like India, the apex is little heavy, the base is sub-standard and the link is very weak.

The State of Maharashtra in various phases of history has shown growth of urbanisation from ancient times, alongwith the rapid progress in many fields during the present century. Since independence, the state has made a significant mark on the economic front. This progressive state shows rapid growth of urban population and ranks first in respect of urbanisation in the country.

Although, urbanisation is a process of agglomeration of people and activities in a geographical space, the measurement of urbanisation in India is mainly on the basis of demographic criteria (Ashish Bose). Urban areas differ from the rural in administrative, economic, social and physical aspects. The convergence and intensity of movement of people and goods strengthen the basis of distinction between rural and urban. The causes of the disproportionate rural-urban distribution of people may be

linked up uneven process of urbanisation in both developed and developing countries. Urbanisation is geared with industrialization and processes in two ways, the enlargement of existing urban units and the multiplication of points of agglomeration.

In the present chapter an attempt has been made to bring out the salient features of the trends of urbanisation and growth patterns of urban system of the State of Maharashtra since independence. With this objective the spatial and temporal trends of urbanisation have been studied. In order to identify the trends of urbanisation the period of 1951 to 1991 (post independence) is considered. To identify growth pattern, the comparative trends of urban growth, stages of urbanisation spatial analysis of urban growth, degree of urbanisation and the urban growth characteristics of districts have been analysed. Trends of urban growth at national and state level have been compaired.

2.2 GROWTH OF POPULATION - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS :

Growth of population of a region may be explained as absolute growth or percentage growth. A comparative analysis of the growth of total, rural and urban population of India and Maharashtra, reveals that the general growth of population in India is speedily increasing since independence. India has total population of 361 millions in 1951, which has increased

to 439 million, 548 million, 685 million in 1961, 1971 and 1981 respectively. In 1991, it has increased to 844 millions. This clearly shows that 482 millions are net added during four decades.

Comparatively, Maharashtra's total population is increasing with faster rate. The State of Maharashtra has 32 million population in 1951, which has speedily increased to 39 million in 1961, 50 million to 1971 and 62 million in 1981. In 1991, it reached upto 78 million, means during 1951 to 1991, in 40 years, there is net addition of 46 millions into the total population of Maharashtra (Table 2.1).

The growth rates of both Maharashtra and India are also significant. For the decade 1951-1961, the growth rate of India's total population was 21.64 percent, while in 1961-71 the growth rate has increased to 24.79 percent and further it remained stagnant in 1971-1981 decade (Table 2.2). In 1981-1991 decade growth rate of total population is slightly decreased. On the other hand in Maharashtra, the growth rate of total population was 23.60 percent in 1951-1961 decade which is considerably high than the country's growth rate. In the decade 1961-1971, the growth rate of total population in the study area indicates the increase (27.45 percent) but for the next decade (1971-1981), there is decline in the decade; 1981-91 has witnessed the growth rate of 25.43 percent, which is also more than national growth rate for the same period. The percentage growth rate of

GROWTH OF TOTAL RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION
IN INDIA AND MAHARASHTRA
1951 TO 1991

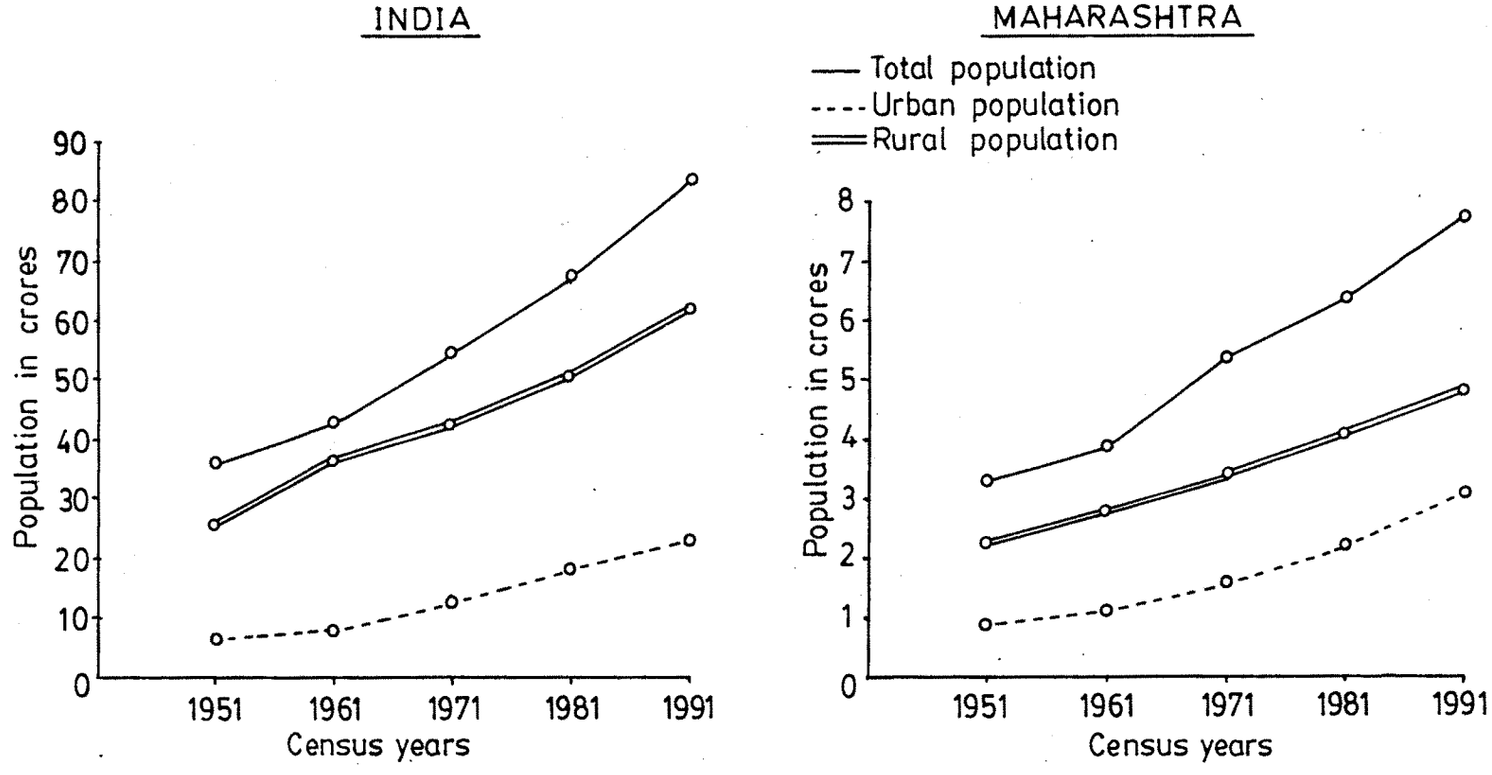

Fig. 2.1

Table 2.1 : Growth of total, rural and urban population in India and Maharashtra (1951 to 1991).

	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
INDIA					
Total	361,088,090	439,234,771	548,159,652	685,184,692	844,324,222
Rural	259,000,049	359,772,165	421,951,334	501,952,169	627,146,597
Urban	61,920,879	77,835,939	126,966,534	183,188,507	217,177,625
MAHARASHTRA					
Total	32,002,564	39,553,718	50,412,335	62,784,171	78,748,215
Rural	22,801,551	28,391,157	34,701,024	40,790,577	48,251,563
Urban	9,201,013	11,162,561	15,711,211	21,993,594	30,496,352

Table 2.2 : Percent growth rate of population of India and Maharashtra (1951 to 1991).

	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991
INDIA				
Total	21.60	24.82	24.79	23.50
Rural	38.91	17.28	18.96	19.71
Urban	25.70	37.42	45.23	36.19
MAHARASHTRA				
Total	23.60	27.45	24.54	25.43
Rural	24.51	22.22	17.55	18.42
Urban	21.32	40.75	33.99	38.73

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total population of Maharashtra for 1951 to 1991 was 145.9 percent. This indicates that since independence the growth rate of total population of the State of Maharashtra remained higher than the growth rate of national population (Fig.2.1).

2.3 GROWTH ANALYSIS OF URBAN POPULATION :

In respect of urbanisation, Maharashtra is one of the leading state in India. From the demographic point of view urbanisation means the proportion of urban population to total population of the region. The growth of urban population in the study area when compared at national level indicates a different trend. In the decade 1951-1961, the percent growth rate of urban population in India was 25.70 percent, at the same time in Maharashtra, it was 21.32 percent. In the next decade (1961-1971), the growth rate of urban population in India raised to 37.42 percent. In the same decade, the growth rate in Maharashtra was 40.75 percent (Table 2.2). In the decade 1971-1981 the growth rate of urban population in India is 45.23 percent while in Maharashtra it is 33.99 percent, which increased upto 38.73 percent in 1981-1991 decade. But in 1981-91 decade the growth rate of India's urban population is decreased by 9 percent. It indicates the gradually increasing trend of urban population growth rate in India upto 1981. There is fall by 6.76 percent in the growth rate of urban population in Maharashtra during 1971-81 decade, but in next decade, it increased.

Inspite of this decline in growth rate of urban population in Maharashtra, the state has a highest urbanisation during the last three decades. The decadewise urban population growth rate in Maharashtra reveals the oscilating trend. The comparative analysis of study area indicates that the absolute growth of urban population during 1951 to 1991 is 21 millions.

2.4 RELATIVE GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION :

The comparison of the trend of growth at national level is not sufficient to give the clearcut idea where the urbanisation is apparently increasing in the study area. Therefore the study of patterns of regional urban growth in the context of national level growth is essential. In the present analysis 'Shift and Share technique' of Fuches has been used for calculating the relative gains and losses of population. The gain or loss of urban population has been calculated by the following formula.

$$GS = Ys - Hs \quad \ldots\ldots \quad I$$

$$HS = Xs \frac{Y}{s} \quad \ldots\ldots \quad II$$

Where, GS = is gain or loss

Xs = the value of urban population in initial year in the state or district

Ys = the value of urban population in the initial year in Maharashtra or India

X = the value of urban population in the initial year in the State or India

Hs = the abstract number presenting value in the state

If the district had grown at the state's rate, the difference between the actual value Ys and Hs can be converted into percentage gain or loss by the following formula.

$$\frac{(\ Ys - Hs\ )}{Ys \text{ or } Hs} \times 100 \qquad \ldots\ldots \text{ III}$$

Larger of the two terms in the numerator is always used in denominator as consequence, the range is limited to plus or minus of hundred percent. If Hs is larger than Ys, there will be loss and Hs is smaller than Ys, there will be a gain. The formula is used for analysing the decadewise gain or loss of urban population of Maharashtra as well as for each districts of Maharashtra.

With the application of above method gains and losses of urban population of the study region have been calculated. The details of gains and losses of urban population is given in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 : Decadewise percent gain or loss of urban population in districts of Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Name of the District	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991
1	2	3	4	5	6
	MAHARASHTRA	- 3.71	2.67	14.27	14.90
1	Thane	8.10	15.37	22.73	39.14
2	Raigarh	- 9.58	2.36	- 1.07	10.71
3	Ratnagiri	- 6.12	-18.85	-26.75	18.98
4	Nashik	5.80	2.12	- 1.53	18.30
5	Dhule	- 8.85	- 4.65	2.67	- 5.97
6	Jalgaon	-29.70	- 9.67	- 5.70	- 3.85
7	Ahmednagar	-27.70	- 4.12	5.98	9.02
8	Pune	-15.33	10.83	50.73	20.63
9	Satara	-18.33	2.55	-16.01	-13.86
10	Sangli	-44.50	6.01	- 8.90	- 7.66
11	Solapur	- 8.73	-15.22	11.45	-20.60
12	Kolhapur	- 3.38	2.31	1.67	0.8
13	Aurangabad	7.80	5.04	14.83	22.32
14	Parbhani	-10.90	3.56	2.04	6.31
15	Bid	- 5.76	7.91	9.55	3.66
16	Nanded	- 7.16	4.82	3.05	10.63
17	Osmanabad	-18.91	6.27	14.36	11.37
18	Buldhana	1.14	- 9.79	- 9.50	11.34
19	Akola	3.0	- 3.76	- 7.47	11.82
20	Amravati	- 5.63	- 5.94	- 7.69	-27.53
21	Yeotmal	2.67	- 0.10	- 2.33	- 1.54
22	Wardha	- 0.82	- 9.04	-12.61	- 8.08
23	Nagpur	12.72	- 4.24	1.73	0.3
24	Bhandara	19.04	- 5.46	- 4.07	-16.66
25	Chandrapur	-18.59	20.35	11.06	27.41

The growth of urban population of State of Maharashtra, when compared with national level, it obviously indicate that there is loss of urban population during first post independence decade (1951-61). The loss is -3.71 percent. In the next decade there is gain of 2.67 percent at national level. A gain of 14.27 percent and 14.90 percent has been witnessed in 1971-81 and 1981-91 decades. The trend of gains and losses of urban population after independence shows that there is loss of urban population at the beginning but in the successive decades there is a considerable gain at the national level.

This trend is also found in the districts of Maharashtra. In the 1951-61 decade only few districts like Thane, Nasik, Aurangabad, Nagpur have gain in the urban population when compared to state. Remaining all districts have loss in urban population. But in the next three decades almost all districts gaining the urban population. In 1981-91 figures show that except some exceptions, all districts are gaining urban population at state's growth rate. Means, it clearly shows, all districts are urbanising.

2.5 GROWTH CHARACTER OF DISTRICTS IN MAHARASHTRA :

In order to understand the growth character of each district in Maharashtra, we have calculated the decadewise growth rate of the districts for 1951-1961 decade to 1981-1991 decade. The growth rate of districts has been calculated by Gibb's (1966) formula, which is given below -

$$r = \frac{(p_2 - p_1) / t}{(p_2 + p_1) / 2}$$

Where, r = the rate of change

p_1 = the urban population size of district in the initial period of time

p_2 = the urban population of district at a later period of time

t = the number of years or decades

The calculated growth rates have been classified into four classes of growth. The places having more than 50 percent growth rate are classified as places having very high growth rate. The growth rate of 50 percent to 25 percent indicates moderate growth rate and the places having less than 25 percent rate indicate low growth rate. The places which show negative growth rate are classified as negative growth rate. Table 2.4 gives decadewise percent growth rate of every district.

By the Table 2.4, it reveals that in 1951-1961 decade there is no one district having very high growth rate. Greater Bombay, Jalgaon, Nagpur and Bhandara districts have moderate growth rate. Raigarh, Satara, Sangli, Osmanabad and Chandrapur show negative growth rate. Remaining 15 districts have low or very low growth rate.

In the next decade (1961-1971) Chandrapur has high

Table 2.4 : Decadewise percent growth of urban population in districts of Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Name of the State / District	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991
1	2	3	4	5	6
	MAHARASHTRA	19.20	33.80	33.30	32.30
1	Gr.Bombay	13.90	35.90	31.90	18.30
2	Thane	27.59	19.75	57.00	77.60
3	Raigarh	- 9.90	35.65	39.00	42.85
4	Ratnagiri	7.04	12.73	1.78	21.05
5	Nashik	24.91	31.13	38.78	38.11
6	Dhule	9.75	28.58	32.89	25.89
7	Jalgaon	39.15	21.02	26.89	28.88
8	Ahmednagar	14.63	29.22	33.22	40.99
9	Pune	11.81	34.39	38.90	34.64
10	Satara	- 1.25	35.84	15.44	17.24
11	Sangli	-39.33	5.85	31.76	24.10
12	Solapur	20.22	17.09	21.83	21.53
13	Kolhapur	10.23	35.60	34.27	23.16
14	Aurangabad	26.17	41.47	48.03	55.93
15	Parbhani	7.5	36.35	34.64	32.55
16	Bid	13.04	41.29	42.32	35.59
17	Nanded	11.60	38.12	35.67	42.78
18	Osmanabad	- 1.90	40.81	36.96	43.55
19	Buldhana	20.38	23.23	22.84	33.03
20	Akola	22.03	29.59	25.03	33.08
21	Amravati	13.24	27.34	24.79	28.93
22	Yeotmal	21.68	33.25	31.72	30.42
23	Wardha	18.18	24.04	18.95	20.23
24	Nagpur	33.22	29.09	32.08	31.97
25	Bhandara	39.64	27.84	28.57	14.67
26	Chandrapur	- 1.04	56.46	43.92	56.60

growth rate; Sangli, Thane, Ratnagiri, Solapur have low growth rate, while Osmanabad, Bid, Aurangabad have 40 percent growth rate.

In the decade 1971-1981, the analysis of growth rate indicate that Thane has highest growth rate (57 percent); Ratnagiri, Satara, Wardha have very low growth rate and all other districts have moderate growth rate.

In the recent decade (1981-1991), Thane, Aurangabad, Chandrapur have very high growth rate and Gr.Bombay, Satara, Bhandara have low growth rate.

The analysis of the decadewise growth rate of districts of Maharashtra indicates that during last four decades nearly all districts have continuous upward growth rates means all districts having more and more urban population. Greater Bombay, Pune, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nagpur districts have little decrease in the growth rate. During last 3 decades there is fluctuation in growth rates of above districts. But after 1961, there is no any district, which show negative growth rate, means all districts are urbanising after independence. Aurangabad has comparatively high growth rate and urbanising little but faster than the rest of the districts.

2.6 DEGREE OF URBANISATION :

Degree of urbanisation is the proportion of urban population to total population of the region. It can be

expressed in terms of percentage. Degree of urbanisation is the most important character of urbanisation. The degree of urbanisation has been calculated by using the following equation.

$$\text{Degree of Urbanisation} = \frac{\text{Urban population of the areal unit}}{\text{Total population of the areal unit}} \times 100$$

With the help of above equation the degree of urbanisation has been obtained for all districts. They are classified into various classes. Table 2.5 gives details of degree of urbanisation and Fig.2.2 shows distribtwise degree of urbanisation in Maharashtra.

High degree of urbanisation in 1951 is observed (excluding Bombay) at Pune and Nagpur districts where the degree of urbanisation is more than 40 percent. In 1961 only Nagpur has witnessed high degree of urbanisation while in 1971 Pune, Nagpur and in 1981 Thane, Pune, Nagpur have high degree of urbanisation. In 1991, high degree of urbanisation is observed for Thane district where the degree of urbanisation is 64.75 percent followed by Nagpur and Pune (Table 2.5).

In 1951, moderate degree of urbanisation (40 to 20%) is observed at 9 districts namely Thane, Nashik, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, Jalana, Akola, Amravati and Wardha are included while in 1961, 8 districts of Maharashtra are included in moderate

Table 2.5 : Degree of Urbanisation.

Sr. No.	Name of the District	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Thane	27.51	30.21	36.24	44.22	64.75
2	Raigarh	10.56	10.07	12.08	14.12	17.80
3	Ratnagiri	08.05	08.09	08.39	08.40	08.96
4	Nashik	25.87	25.60	28.64	31.01	35.50
5	Dhule	18.44	15.97	17.31	19.52	20.52
6	Jalgaon	31.76	22.50	23.65	25.13	27.42
7	Ahmednagar	15.23	10.55	11.08	12.99	15.82
8	Pune	42.78	38.10	41.84	47.35	50.75
9	Satara	13.62	11.08	13.16	13.05	12.88
10	Sangli	28.74	15.64	18.63	21.84	22.84
11	Solapur	31.23	27.94	27.35	29.39	29.78
12	Kolhapur	21.21	19.27	21.49	24.77	26.39
13	Aurangabad	10.32	14.14	16.70	22.08	32.77
14	Parbhani	15.26	13.82	16.05	18.73	22.46
15	Bid	10.47	09.85	11.60	15.47	17.93
16	Nanded	15.66	14.43	16.32	18.71	21.71
17	Osmanabad	13.14	10.57	12.49	15.40	15.18
18	Buldhana	16.50	16.55	17.56	18.49	20.62
19	Akola	22.10	22.09	23.53	24.89	28.67
20	Amravati	27.43	26.13	27.55	29.25	32.97
21	Yeotmal	11.98	12.61	13.62	15.09	17.17
22	Wardha	23.35	23.63	24.51	24.98	26.57
23	Nagpur	46.79	52.06	54.32	56.59	61.18
24	Bhandara	08.58	10.74	11.38	13.09	13.12
25	Chandrapur	09.15	07.72	10.18	12.72	28.05

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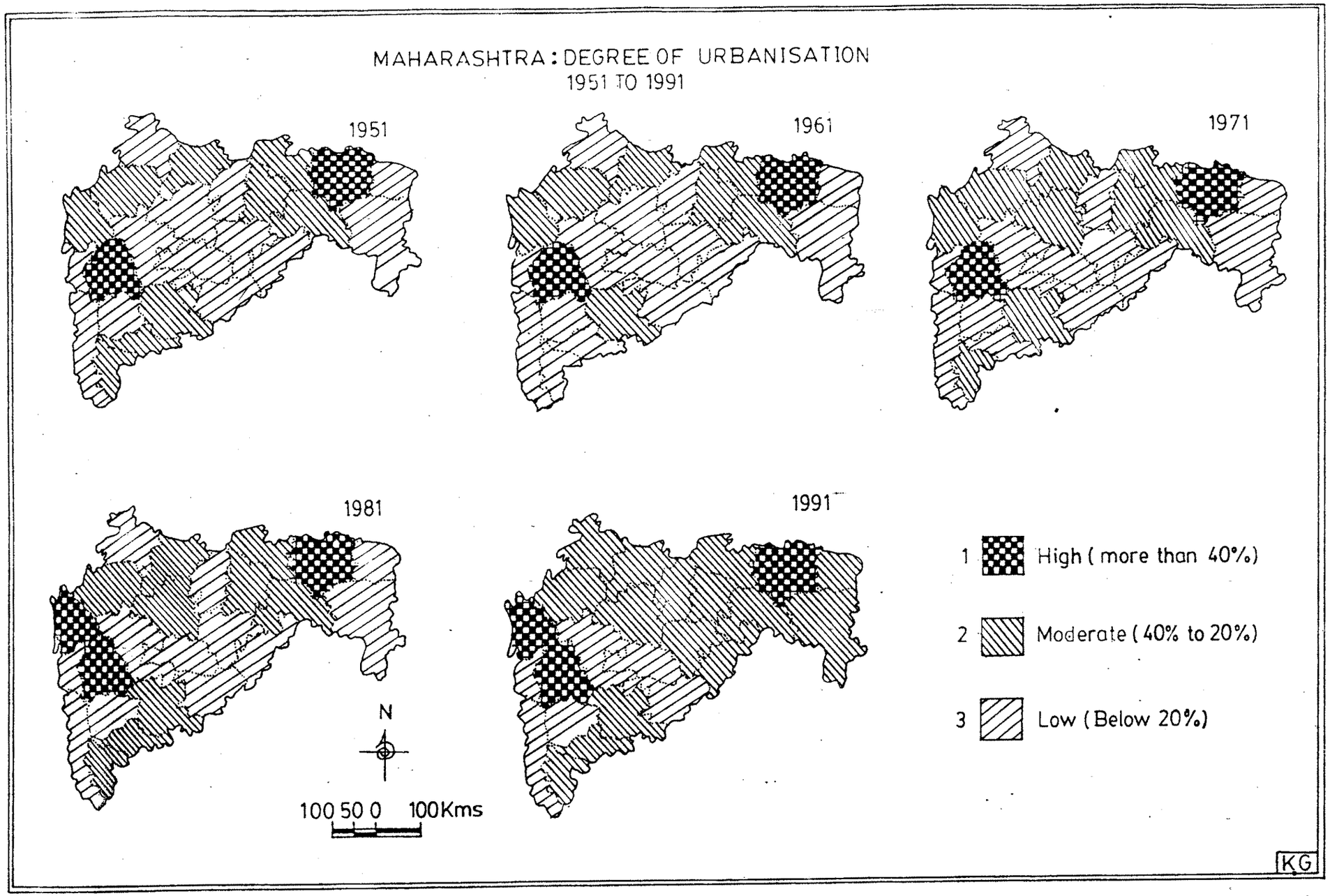

MAHARASHTRA : DEGREE OF URBANISATION
1951 TO 1991
1951
1961
1971
1981
1991
N
100 50 0 100Kms
1 High (more than 40%)
2 Moderate (40% to 20%)
3 Low (Below 20%)
KG

Fig. 2.2

degree of urbanisation. They are Thane, Pune, Nashik, Jalgaon, Solapur, Akola, Amravati and Wardha. In 1971 and 1981, 8 and 9 districts are included in moderate degree of urbanisation respectively. But in 1991, 14 districts are included in this category.

Most of the districts of Maharashtra have low degree of urbanisation (below 20 percent). In 1951, the number of districts in this category is 14, in 1961 - 16 districts, 1971 - 15 districts and 1981 - 13 districts are included in low degree of urbanisation. In 1991, only 8 districts namely, Raigarh, Ratnagiri, Ahmednagar, Satara, Bid, Osmanabad, Yeotmal, Bhandara have very poor share of urban population.

Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Yeotmal are the districts where the degree of urbanisation is low from 1951 to 1991. But there is one common thing that all districts are urbanising more or less from 1951 to 1991. The same growth trend is observed for all districts.

2.7 DEGREE OF URBAN CONCENTRATION :

Degree of urban concentration is also one of the important indicator of urbanisation. The degree of concentration of urban population is measured by the following simple equation.

Table 2.6 : Degree of urban concentration.

Sr. No.	Name of the District	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Thane	102.53	107.01	116.00	124.66	167.60
2	Raigarh	36.73	35.79	38.82	39.80	46.13
3	Ratnagiri	27.82	28.49	26.92	22.88	42.68
4	Nashik	89.80	89.12	91.66	87.42	91.96
5	Dhule	63.96	56.38	55.44	55.03	53.16
6	Jalgaon	110.40	99.80	75.96	70.84	71.03
7	Ahmednagar	52.76	37.31	35.57	36.62	40.98
8	Pune	148.73	134.10	133.97	133.35	131.34
9	Satara	47.26	39.12	42.30	36.79	33.41
10	Sangli	99.65	55.28	59.61	60.64	59.17
11	Solapur	108.59	96.86	87.82	82.85	74.61
12	Kolhapur	73.63	68.14	68.91	103.66	68.39
13	Aurangabad	48.93	49.92	53.52	62.22	128.70
14	Parbhani	53.00	48.75	51.60	52.77	58.18
15	Bid	36.20	34.69	37.17	43.58	46.45
16	Nanded	54.33	50.88	51.28	52.72	56.24
17	Osmanabad	45.70	37.42	40.06	43.38	92.33
18	Akola	76.86	78.06	75.32	70.14	74.27
19	Buldhana	57.14	58.54	56.08	52.12	53.49
20	Amravati	95.13	92.59	88.46	82.43	85.49
21	Yeotmal	41.46	44.50	48.36	42.51	44.58
22	Wardha	80.80	83.80	78.52	70.42	67.51
23	Nagpur	163.17	184.90	174.03	159.54	160.10
24	Bhandara	27.98	37.88	36.53	36.90	33.98
25	Chandrapur	31.72	27.17	32.69	35.83	75.09

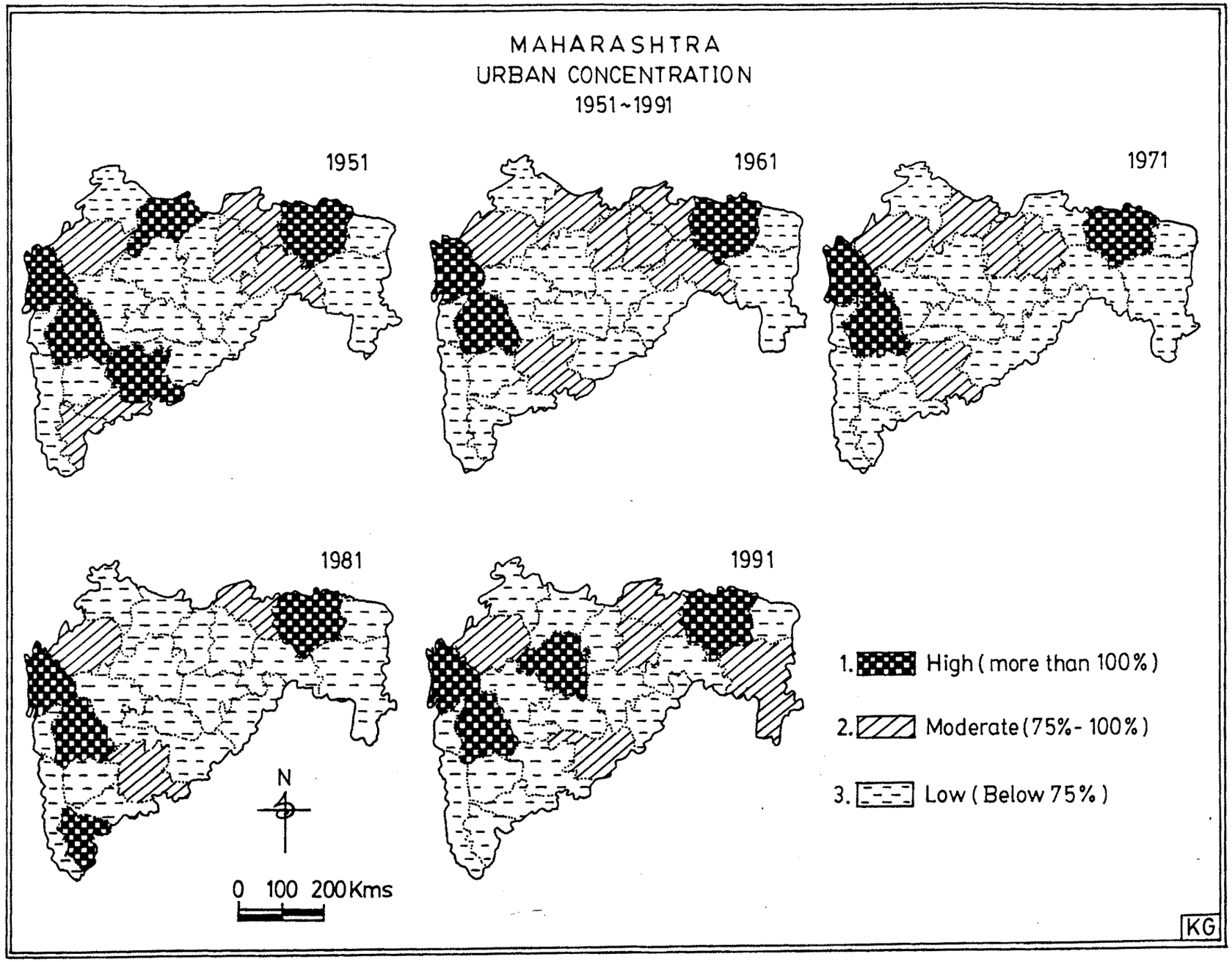

MAHARASHTRA
URBAN CONCENTRATION
1951-1991
1951
1961
1971
1981
1991
N
0 100 200Kms
1. High (more than 100%)
2. Moderate (75%- 100%)
3. Low (Below 75%)
KG

Fig. 2.3

$$DC = \frac{Pi}{PI} \times 100$$

Where, DC = is the degree of concentration,
Pi = is the percentage of urban population of areal unit,
PI = is the percentage of urban population of study area (Gibbs, 1966).

In this method the areas having values less than 100 are supposed to have no concentration, but in the case of urban population, we have considered the values which are less than 100, to indicate the poor concentration of urban population. In 1951, Thane, Jalgaon, Solapur, Pune, Nagpur have high concentration of urban population, and same trend to next decades. Bhandara, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Chandrapur districts have very poor urban population and remaining all districts have moderate concentration. In 1991, out of 25 districts Thane, Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur districts have high concentration of urban population. Thane has highest degree of urban concentration (167.60 percent). Nashik, Osmanabad, Amravati and Chandrapur districts have moderate urban concentration e.g. 75 to 92 percent. Remaining all districts have very poor urban population. Aurangabad has high degree of urban concentration in 1991 only, means it is urbanising faster than all other districts. Table 2.6 gives details of urban population concentration. Fig.2.3 shows the degree of urban concentration in districts of Maharashtra.

2.8 LEVELS OF URBANISATION :

The levels of urbanisation and urban growth or decline of a region may be studied by the analysis of data of percentage of urban population to total population, which brings out salient features of regions stages or levels of urbanisation. Table 2.7 shows the levels of urbanisation both in Maharashtra and India.

Table 2.7 : Percentage urban population to total population.

Sr. No.	Census Year	Maharashtra %	India %
1	1951	28.75	17.29
2	1961	28.22	17.97
3	1971	31.17	19.91
4	1981	35.03	23.34
5	1991	38.73	25.72

By the above table, it reveals that Maharashtra has a short fall in urbanisation in 1961. Since 1961, there is steadily upward growth of urbanisation. The same upward trend is observed during next decades. Compare to India, state has higher percentage of urban population throughout all census years. A sharp rise in percent share of urban population after independence is due to development of economy and industrialization in the region.

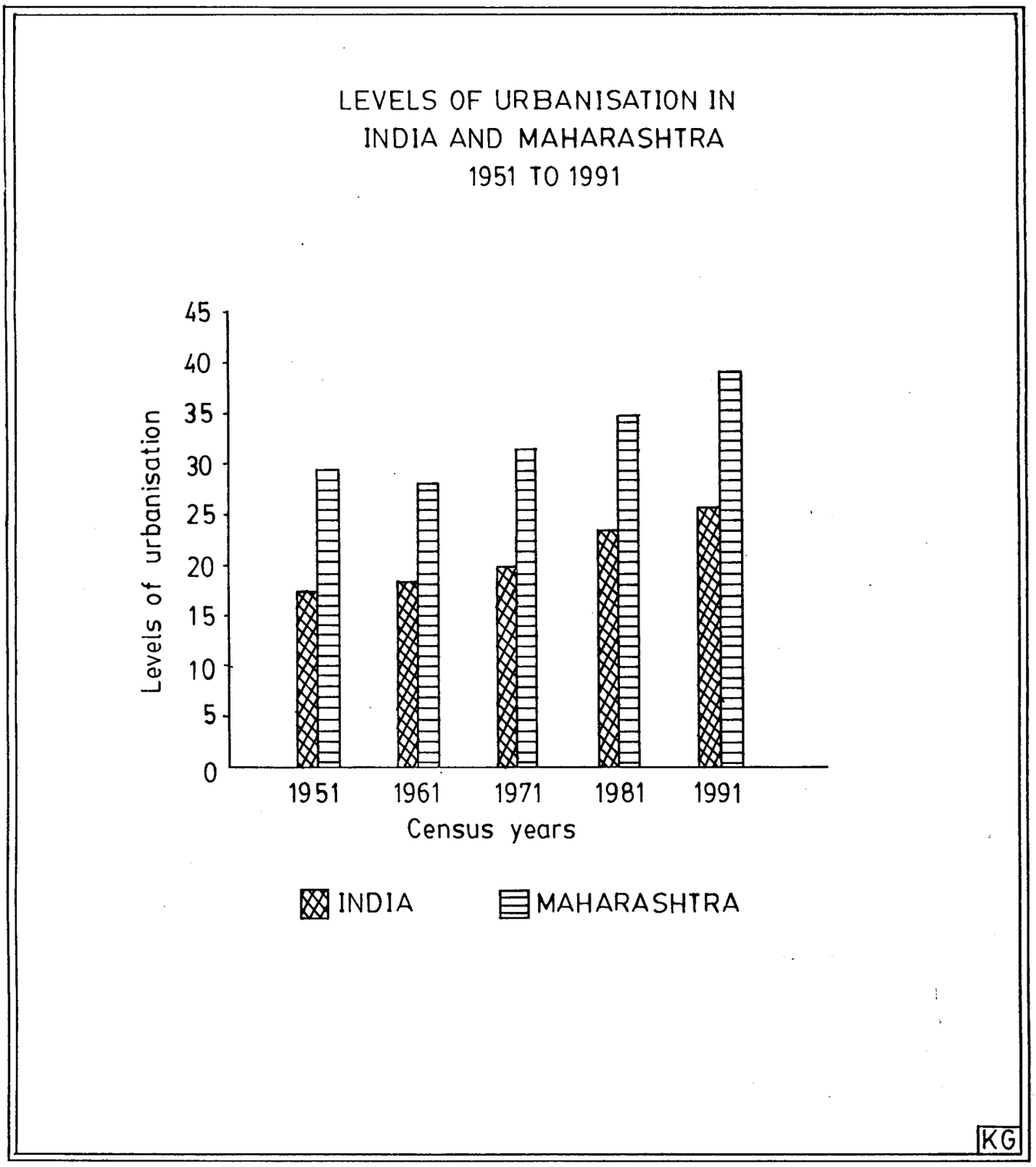

LEVELS OF URBANISATION IN
INDIA AND MAHARASHTRA
1951 TO 1991
Levels of urbanisation
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1951
1961
1971
1981
1991
Census years
INDIA
MAHARASHTRA
KG

Fig.2.4

Industrialization has undoubtly accelerated, the process of urbanisation by way of rapid growth of urban population. The growth is by two ways - by rapid growth of older cities and impact of 'pull' factor and due to emergence of new urban units. The table shows that the State of Maharashtra has higher levels of urbanisation than the country as a whole (Fig.2.4).

2.9 CHANGES IN NUMBER AND SIZE OF TOWNS :

Cities have an important role to play in the life of people living in that area. They are the indicators of urban growth, so the changes in number of towns and changing sizes of cities are very important in the study of urbanisation. The classwise structure and distribution of towns which is indicated in Table 2.8 clearly highlights how various classes of towns have gained additional number of towns during the last 40 years.

By the table, it reveals that the rate of increase in number of towns is also high. The number of towns in Maharashtra in 1951 was 383, which was reduced to 266 in 1961. This decrease was a universal phenomena, since there was a change in the definition of town. In the next decades the number of towns are increased upto 289, 307 in 1971 and 1981 and 336 towns are in 1991.

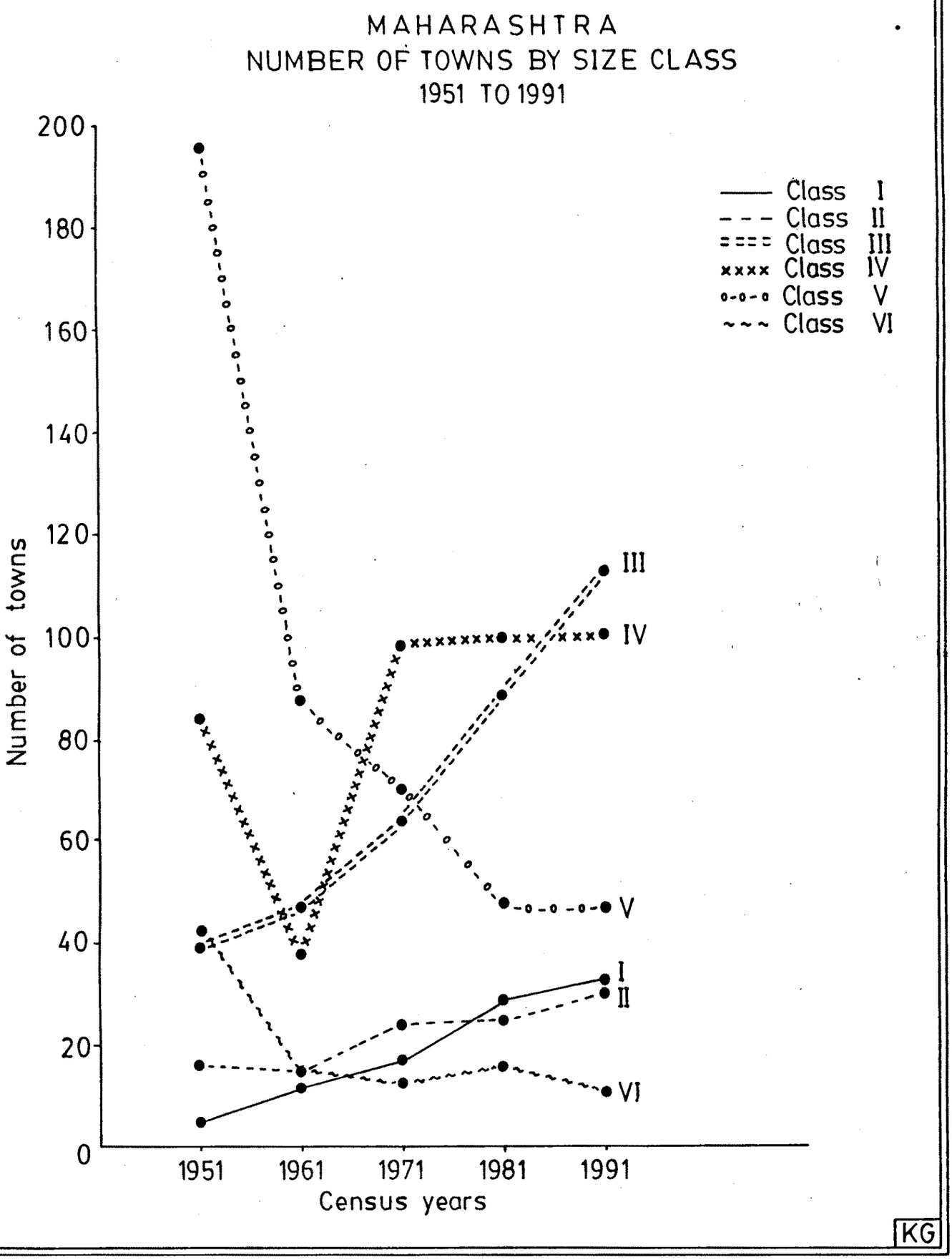

MAHARASHTRA
NUMBER OF TOWNS BY SIZE CLASS
1951 TO 1991
Class I
Class II
Class III
Class IV
Class V
Class VI
Number of towns
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1951
1961
1971
1981
1991
Census years
III
IV
V
I
II
VI
KG

Fig. 2.5

Table 2.8 : Population share in each class and classwise distribution of urban centres in Maharashtra.

Class	1951		1961		1971		1981		1991	
	No.of towns	% of population	No.of towns	% of population	No.of towns	% of population	No.of towns	% of population	No.of towns	% of population
I	5	40.47	12	65.90	17	70.80	29	75.20	33	77.00
II	16	11.87	15	6.78	25	6.90	25	5.90	31	6.48
III	39	13.03	47	11.40	65	11.10	89	10.30	113	10.40
IV	84	12.80	38	10.60	98	8.10	100	6.10	101	4.13
V	196	15.05	88	4.70	70	2.70	48	1.50	47	1.02
VI	43	1.80	15	0.5	14	0.13	16	0.20	11	0.10
Total	383		266		289		307		336	

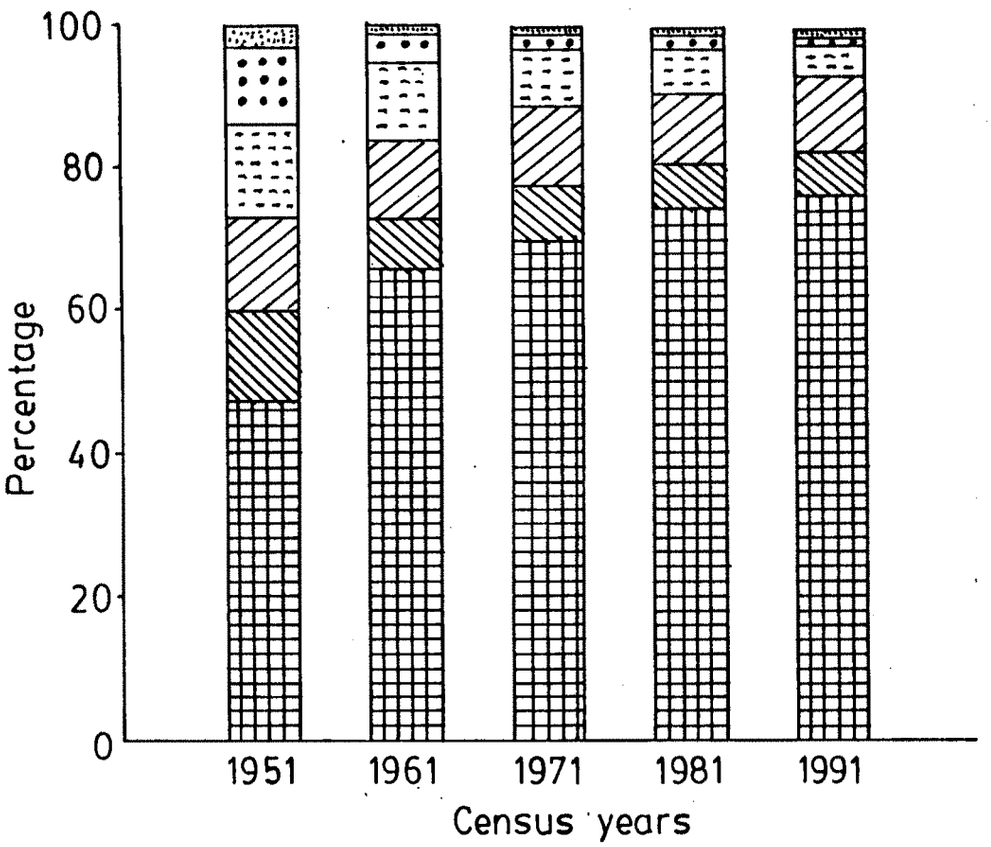
One most important feature of growth of towns in various classes indicates that since 1951 to 1991, there is a continuous growth in the number of towns in class I to class IV towns. On the other hand, the number of towns in class V and class VI indicates steady decline. This clearly indicates that towns are gaining more population and they are eluvated to higher order class (Fig.2.5).

The size class structure of towns indicates very interesting pattern. In 1951, there were 383 total towns of which only 5 are classified as class I towns and nearly 323 towns were of small size group (IV, V, VI) and of these small towns more number was found in the class V category. In 1961, the number of class I towns has increased to 12, but the total number of towns in Vth and VIth class category was reduced considerably. In the next decade, the total number of towns as well as higher class towns were increased. Comparatively, the number of small towns has changed insignificantly.

2.10 POPULATION SHARE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES OF TOWNS :

The analysis of percentage of population in different size class of towns for the last four decades indicate that the percentage of population living in class I cities has the highest share of urban population and it has continued to increase since

PROPORTION OF URBAN POPULATION
BY SIZE CLASS, 1951 - 1991.



Size class of cities / towns

I Class I (1,00.000 and above)
II Class II (50,000 - 99,999)
III Class III (20,000 - 49,999)
IV Class IV (10,000 - 19,999)
V Class V (5,000 - 9,999)
VI Class VI (Below 5000)

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Fig.2.6

1951. In 1991, nearly 77 percent of total urban population of Maharashtra lives in class I cities. The percent share of population living in small and medium class towns is continuously decreasing. This fact clearly shows that the urbanisation in Maharashtra is increasing at the cost of agglomeration of population rather than dispersal of points (Fig.2.6).

2.11 EXISTING PATTERN OF URBANISATION :

The important characteristic of present urbanisation trend in Maharashtra indicates the urban concentration. This concentration is either in large cities or in few identified areas. Such identified areas are -

i) major highways and rail routes;
ii) areas of leading industries;
iii) metropolitan nucleus;
iv) prosperous agricultural belts and
v) pockets of mineral resources.

Major highways and rail-routes offer nodes for the development of urban centres. Since last four decades several important towns and town agglomerations have developed along the railways and highways. One important fact must be noted that inspite of the locational advantage, most of the routes are intimately linked with urban complex and these nodes act as feeders to the industrial zone.

The industrial nucleus of major cities like Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad have offered number of opportunities for development of small industrial towns. During last three decades several new towns have developed in the environs of Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad.

Some of the towns have flourished as the centres of leading industries in which the Bombay-Pune corridor plays an important role. The second promising corridor is between Bombay and Nashik. The industrial zone of Kolhapur, Sangli, Miraj, Ichalkaranji, Satara, Karad has also stimulated the growth of urban centres and will develop more in future.

Prosperous agricultural areas of Western Maharashtra, where irrigation and development of technology brought overall prosperity to the region and several agrobased industries have given rise to many small towns in the area. Increase in per capita income and development of transport in such prosperous areas encouraged the growth of many market towns of rural service centres. In the recent years, in some areas few towns have developed mainly as the centres of mining or centres of mineral base industries.

2.12 CONCLUSION :

The analysis of post independence trends of urbanisation and patterns of urban growth clearly indicates that the general growth of population in Maharashtra indicate a higher trend.

Regarding urbanisation and urban growth, one observes that the urban growth of Maharashtra is increasing in the every successive decade. One observation must be kept in mind that though the percentage of urban population is increasing, this high percentage is not because the number of towns is increasing, but it is because of the fast growth of existing towns.

Considering the relative growth of urban population in each district of Maharashtra, as compared to the State of Maharashtra, one finds that out of 25 districts of Maharashtra, most of the districts of Western Maharashtra have gained population during 1961-71 decade. Excluding Chandrapur all districts of Vidharbha indicate loss in urban population. The same trend is followed for most of the districts of Western Maharashtra and Vidharbha in next decade (1971-81). In Vidharbha, only Nagpur district indicates 1.73 percent gain during this period. In the present decade (1981-91), there are 17 districts, where gains of population are indicated. They include Buldhana, Akola, Nagpur, Chandrapur districts of Vidharbha. In Vidharbha, Chandrapur district shows very high gain of urban population during last three decades.

In respect of urban concentration, one finds that there are few districts, where urban concentration is very high. They include Thane, Pune, Solapur, Jalgaon, Amravati and Nagpur. As compared to these districts other districts show low urban

concentration in 1961. In 1971, there are only four districts, where high degree of urban concentration is observed. In 1981, the same four districts indicate high degree of urban concentration, but in 1991 six districts of Maharashtra namely Thane, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Osmanabad and Nagpur have high degree of urban concentration.

Concluding the salient features of degree of urbanisation in districts of Maharashtra one may observe that from 1961 onwards there are few areas where degree of urbanisation shows very high rate of growth. Constant high degree of urbanisation is observed in Thane, Nashik, Pune, Amravati, Solapur, Wardha, Akola and Nagpur. In the recent years high rate of urban growth is observed for Thane, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra. This sudden change in the rate of growth of urban growth is the result of development of large scale industries in this part of Maharashtra.

The classwise structure and distribution of towns clearly indicates that various classes of towns have gained additional number of towns during last fifty years. One most important feature of growth of towns in various classes indicates that since 1951 till 1991, there is a continuous growth in the number of towns in class I to class IV towns. On the other hand the number of towns in class V and class VI indicates steady decline. This clearly shows that towns are gaining more population and they are eluvated to higher order class.

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