

Future Growth of Srinagar City

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Abstract: *The unprecedented population growth and migration, an increased urban population and urbanisation is inadvertent in developing countries. Srinagar city is not only the largest urban centre in the state of Jammu & Kashmir but in the whole Himalayan region. The city has been growing at an alarming pace therefore indicating considerable changes. Srinagar city is experiencing the phenomenon of accelerated urbanization induced by large scale development in transport and tourism, growing network of urban amenities and infrastructure developmental*

Keywords: *Srinagar, population growth, Urban sprawl, mountainous, Himalayan, wetlands, agriculture, transport corridors.*

The analysis of increasing population and territorial expansion of Srinagar city during past hundred years show an exponential growth pattern as reflected in Fig. 2b and 3b respectively. This phenomenon of burgeoning population growth and fast areal expansion together with current growth rates being very high, suggest an unmanageable growth of the urban centre in near future. The rising and changing growth pattern of the Srinagar city is graphically represented in the below figures which shows both population growth as well as aerial expansion of the Srinagar city by which we can predict the upcoming changing trends in the city of Srinagar.

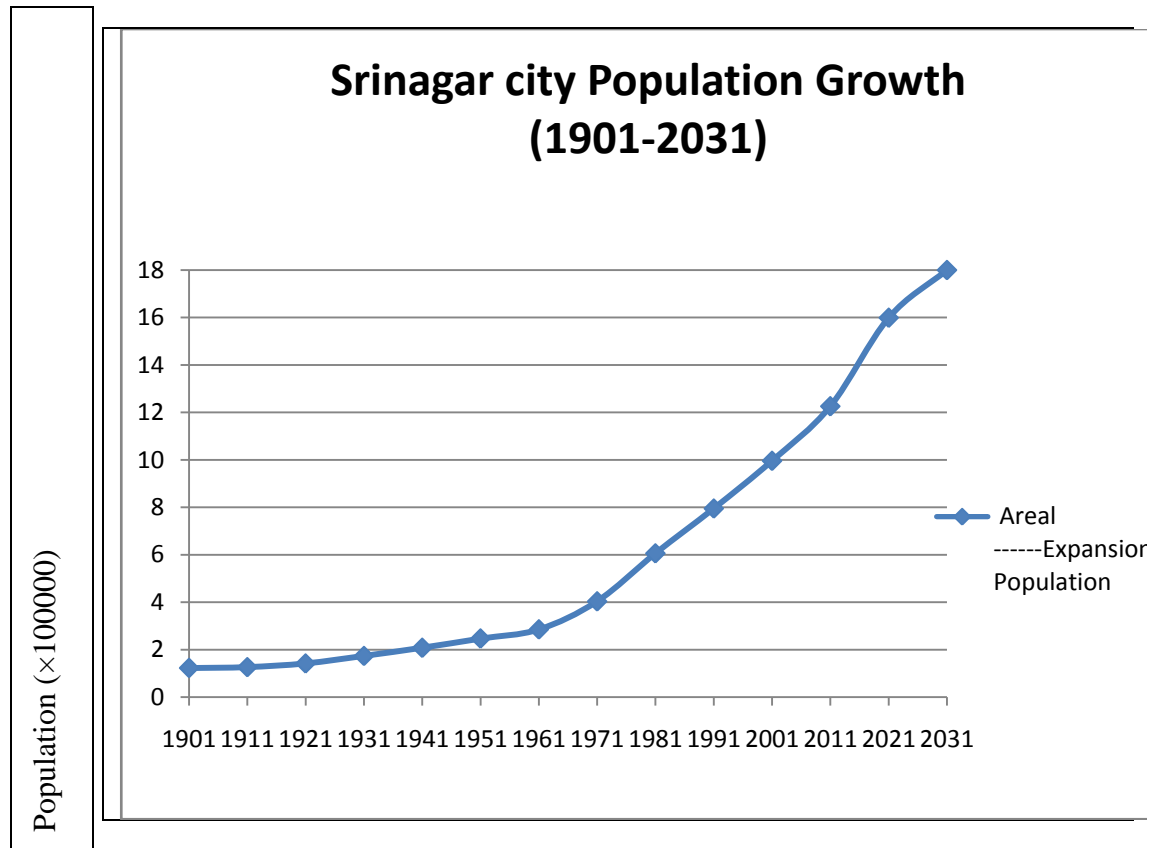


Fig. 5 a

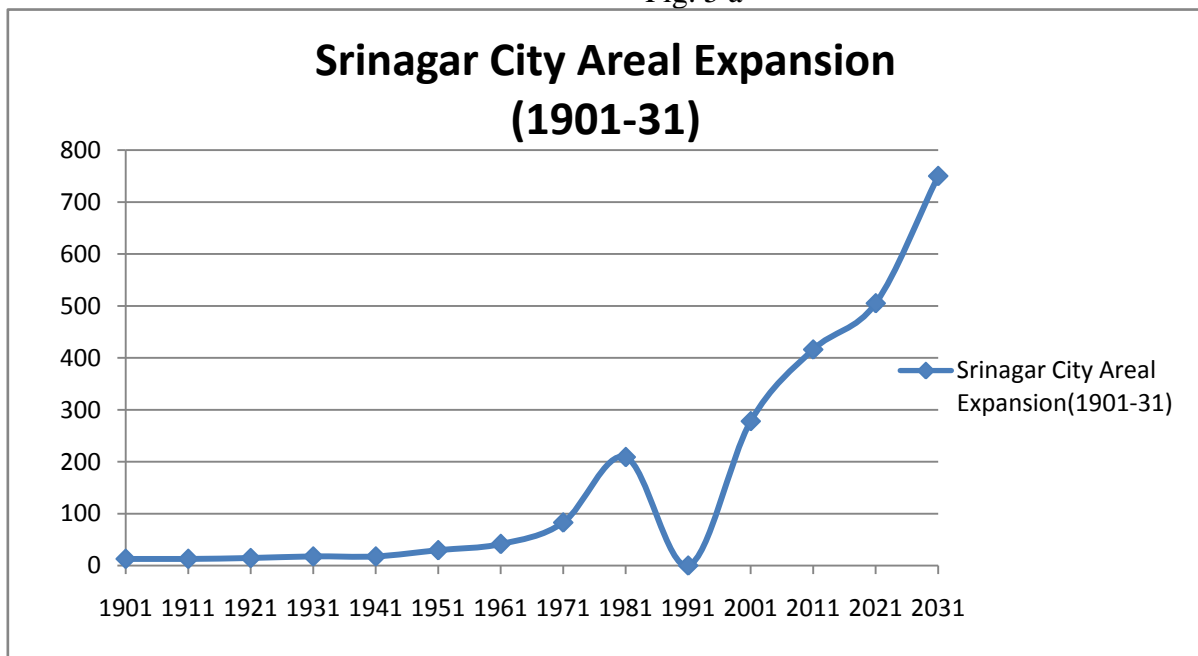


Fig. 5 b

The examination of the past patterns (during last hundred years) of growth and future trends through regression analysis (exponential), the city is projected to cross 1.7

million persons in terms of its population size and sprawl over more than 750 Km² in terms of its spatial extent by the year 2031 as reflected in Fig. 5a and 5b respectively. The immediate areas of development would be the areas in the locality of major transport corridors. Presently this land forms a part of productive agriculture land of our study city and most of the perishable items to the city come from these areas. This phenomenon of unregulated spreading out of the capital city, in turn will put enormous pressure on the already stressed and strained urban amenity composition of the capital city resulting in backlogs in vital sectors and may lead to a scenario of unmanageable urban system.

Regional urban primacy is more pronounced and is developing at an alarming degree with Srinagar emerging as the major city with colossal supremacy upon other towns in whole of the valley of Kashmir. This trend of urbanisation is leading to distorted urban settlement pattern and dis-economies of size and agglomeration. Decline/stagnation of small and medium size towns resulting in dis-equilibrium in human habitation from one end and problem of congestion, over-crowding, deforestation, encroachment, pollution of water bodies, uneconomic use of scarce resources, depressing housing conditions, inadequate neighborhood facilities, lack of diversified economic base and unbalanced economic profile on the further end is the factual reality of the urban Kashmir. Phenomenal one directional resettlement of masses has takes place from countryside areas, petite and middle urban centers to Srinagar city which is obvious from the reality that immigration only constituted about 29.41 per cent out of the three components of residents enlargement in the Srinagar City 1981-91. Recently the urban population has increased from 10.27 lakhs in 2001 to 12.69 lakhs in 2011 (Census of India 2011) with a decadal increasing rate of twenty four percent, thereby showing the alarming increase in urban population which exceeds the city's carrying capacity giving rise to over urbanisation and its associated problems. The stupendous growth in the inhabitants of Srinagar urban centre has led to unprecedented area expansion in the same with slow and sluggish growth in other small and medium sized urban centres. This twin process has made urban growth a very complex phenomenon and a challenging task for city planners to ensure a evenhanded superiority of living and environment to the inhabitants. Urbanisation in the flourishing city is not held at a proper pace and with proper planning. The state lacks the proper land use policy on one hand and the population is increasing on the further end beyond the carrying capability of the city. The growing and unplanned drift of population from rural and small urban centres,

to main city is going on at an astonishingly fast pace. This un-precedented influx of people and unplanned accretion is adding to the intricacies of the main urban centre i.e Srinagar.

With stressed urban amenities, augmented demand for accommodation and transportation, generating ecological troubles and hinders in superiority of urban life. The impact of such a process of urbanisation is directly manifested in the distorted settlement pattern which results in the growth of spurious, unplanned and unhygienic housing units scattered in nearly the entire urban centre with no area being spared. In Srinagar around 3.4 lakh people live in congested houses, decrepit constructions with insanitary living settings, insufficient essential services, pitiable design, and poor aeration. These substandard, deteriorated, decaying and dilapidated housing are usually occupied by the poor, the unemployed and the immigrants shaping akin to the slum environment. The standard of living in slums is extremely pitiable for the reason that of being in the shade of ignorance, distress and alienation. It must be borne in mind that the slum like conditions arising in the Srinagar urban centre are not by birth rather by lack of basic urban services. They arise as an anecdote to the increasing population levels and to survive in the urban scenario giving rise to urban poor. Due to the deficiency of reasonable terrain and comprehensive strategy to tackle their tribulations, the deprived urban masses in Srinagar go through a lot of insufficiencies in terms of admittance to the fundamental facilities and socio-economic needs. Most of these people survive in unofficial lodging areas or in the middle of the city where decrepitude, overcrowding, lack of services and conveniences is a widespread problem.

The definition of Slums adopted for Jammu and Kashmir by Srinagar Development Authority (2011) is as under:

A contiguous area with 10-15 households encompassing akin to slum uniqueness identified as

- 1- **Predominant roof material:** whichever material excluding concrete (DPC/RCC).
- 2- **Accessibility of potable water supply:** not within the location of the census abode.
- 3- **Availability of latrine:** not contained by place of the survey house.
- 4- **Drainage capacity:** without drainage syestem or unwrap drainage.

Slum areas here are to be identified on the grounds of total living conditions. The dilapidated areas (*slums*) in Srinagar have been separated in two groupings viz. Kacha - Packa areas and “Kohperi and Pehaari” (tented/tiny) unlawful construction arrangements.

Excluding a handful of fine localities, the majority of the older inhabited regions in the middle city and conventional town villages have slum situations. The population figures in the slum areas of present Municipal Corporation limits stands at 3.4lacs in view of inclusion of more areas.

Population statistics of Srinagar slums

Total population	2001	2011	Decadal Growth
	Rate(2001-11) %		
Total population	1027670	12,69,751	23.50 %
Slum Population	286084	340577	19.00 %
Households	18425	53215	188.90 %
Identified :	912		
Recognised:	714		
	Total: 1626		

The slum regions in expanding city of Srinagar recognized during the year 1999 in the urban committee limits, then comprising only 33 Municipal constituencies. The population figures in the slum areas of present Municipal Corporation limits stands at 3.4lacs (census of India 2011) in view of inclusion of more areas with the city comprising of 64 wards (S.M.C 2011).

Average household size in city is 5.5 persons, however, more than 30 per cent households in slum areas have size of more than 8 persons and 45 per cent residential houses have 2 – 3 households per residential house.

Slums are normally inhabited by the lowest rung of the social hierarchy, although it is often maintained that neither all slum dwellers are the poorest of the poor nor all the urban poor live in slums. Still a majority of them are placed at the bottom of economic and social hierarchy. This becomes explicit once we look at the educational qualifications of the slum dwellers. The majority of the slum resident of the Srinagar city are illiterate or

have obtained meager education mostly upto primary or middle standards. In case of the Srinagar city slums, about 57% people are illiterate.

The low level of educational attainments shows its impact upon the occupational status of the slum residents as the two variables are intimately related. The respondents in these slums are mostly engaged in the jobs hardly requiring any skill or training. A vast greater part of the slum occupants of the Srinagar city are busied in unorganised sector, generally through self employment. Most of these slum people are busied as construction workers working on the daily wage basis, without a secure income, rickshaw drivers, hawkers, sweepers and small shopkeepers. Since the wages of these informal workers depend upon the demand for labour, thus their economic security is uncertain. About 29 per cent slum people are workers which gives a dependency ratio of 1:2:4. Out of the total workers, 27 per cent are self employed in transport, petty sellers, 10 per cent are running their own household industry, 30 per cent in service sector, 18 per cent work on daily wage basis as casual labourers and 15 per cent are carrying their own business. 21 per cent are living in rented houses and 79 per cent in their own houses.

Srinagar municipal city can be changed into a blissful, designed, prosperous, livable and celebratory city by sustaining appropriate planning such as:

- Reorganization of on the whole infra-structures particularly the institutional and organizational frameworks.
- Implementing planned aforestation by planting trees, creation of gardens and also planting plants and trees in conjunction with the asphalt roads, open road sides, or even on the roofs of buildings for this purpose, rapid growing vegetation have to be used with the intention of provide clean oxygen, harmless life of human beings, animals and other creatures, drain off CO₂, manage the concentration of environment, avoid soil attrition and shield the environment from natural calamities and greenhouse effect,
- Make certain novel improvement of housing structures and shopping centers to take under discussion of the preservation of bio-diversity, precious lands, watersheds, marshlands, and additional resources viz. antiquities, reservoirs and forests.
- Improving the competent and effectual authority supported by the management unity.

- Extension of foot-paths for pedestrian, broadening sidewalk and building of relax places of either sides of road subsequent to some distances.
- Executing severe rules for protecting car parking, signboards, billboards etc.
- Making integrated, congestion free, environmental friendly and cost effective transportation planning.
- Providing precedence on foot walkers inside the city and improving streets which are still underneath the clutch of dominant people.
- Shaping diverse spots from where people can obtain all existing facilities close in hand to decrease intolerable suffering.
- Decentralization of authority and obligations with guarantee and efficiency of the Srinagar municipality.
- Assurance of entertaining amenities by constructing adequate amusing spots, play grounds and mend older spots.
- Ensure fritter management and contamination free surroundings by introducing automobile service for accumulating waste and trash from gate to gate and throw these away as of the city and creating fresh dustbin on the road sides for every 1 km.
- Reforming available drainage structure and creating new septic tanks and maintenance pools to resolve the water sorting difficulty in the community area.
- Execution of the national poverty diminution guidelines for the city poverty.
- Initiating stern laws against child work, drug abuse, and social offenses to the city dwellers.
- Increasing mass consciousness by organising different seminars, guidance programs, workshops, and commemorate some days on the events about the dreadfulness of ecological effects of un-planned urbanisation.
- inspiring reuse and recycling practices besides with use of pollution free energies like solar energy and finally,
- Creating multiplicity, splendor and healthiness by endorsing natural methods, take actions for the organically hygienic environments and organizing the learning procedures to utilize the massive water, energy and nutrient possessions that are

the byproducts of urban-city drainage, sewage dumping and supplementary task and practices of the Srinagar municipality.

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