

**Paper: 603**

**Unit 1: North-East India**

## **Rural-Urban Composition**

The division between rural and urban areas is significant in terms of geographical distribution of population. North-East India itself is a region of villages, where 81.73% of the total population is rural. There are 44544 villages. About 90% of the rural settlements are small, having less than 1000 population each.

Arunachal Pradesh has 5589 villages and 27 towns. The villages in this state are generally small each consists of less than 20 households. The villages are isolated from one another and the roads linking them are infrequent. The towns are also small. The states rural population accounts for 77.53% and urban population is 22.47% of the total.

Assam has 26395 villages and 214 urban areas. 85.92% of the total population of the state living in the rural areas. The villages in the plains are of medium size and not as much isolated as in the two hill districts (Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao) of the state. The pressure of population in the plains of the state is very high leading to the growth of some large villages having a population of more than 2000 in each.

Nagaland has in 2011 as many as 1428 villages and 26 towns. There are about 500 villages in the state with a population of 500-1000 in each. Rest of the villages are large with more than 1000 population in each. According to 2011 census, Mizoram has as many as 975 villages and 23 towns. Most of these villages are small and located on isolated hill tops. Mizoram now has 51.51% of the total population living in the villages.

According to 2011 census, Manipur has 69.79% rural population in the state. There are in the state 2588 villages and 28 towns. The villages in the plains are crowded especially around the towns. Tripura's rural population accounts for 73.82% of the state total. There are 875 villages and

26 towns in Tripura as per the census of 2011. Out of the 875 rural settlements units, 276 are small with a population of less than 200 in each. Meghalaya has comparatively large rural population with 79.92% of its population living in the villages as per the census of 2011. There are 6839 villages and 12 towns in the state.

North- East India with extensively hilly topography has a very large proportion of small and isolated villages. Hence, this has obviously affected the socio-economic condition of the rural areas.