# Consultation paper on City-Level Statistical Reports for Million-Plus Cities.

## 1. Introduction

India is undergoing a phase of rapid urban transformation, with cities increasingly emerging as the primary drivers of economic growth, innovation, and employment generation. Despite this structural shift, the availability of official statistics at the city level remains limited, which constrains evidence-based urban policy formulation and planning. In this context, the National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), proposes to develop and disseminate dedicated city-level statistical reports for million-plus cities using data from ongoing national surveys. This consultation paper seeks to invite comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the proposed framework, indicators, and dissemination strategy.

## 2. Background

India's official statistical system has traditionally focused on producing estimates at the national and state/UT levels. While certain sub-state estimates are generated, there is no systematic mechanism for regular dissemination of statistics at the city level, particularly with respect to labour market indicators and enterprise characteristics of the unincorporated sector. At the same time, major surveys conducted by NSO, namely the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), already have the capability to generate such estimates. Both surveys adopt sampling designs in which each million-plus city is treated as a separate stratum, thereby enabling statistically robust estimation at the city level. However, these estimates are not currently compiled and disseminated in a structured, dedicated format.

## 3. Rationale for City-Level Reports

A combination of policy imperatives, economic realities, and data gaps drives the proposed initiative. With increasing emphasis on decentralised governance, urban local bodies require granular data to support planning, service delivery, and targeted interventions. Cities account for a significant share of national income and host a large concentration of both formal and informal economic activities, making them critical units of economic analysis. However, the absence of reliable and consistent city-level statistics limits the ability to assess labour market conditions and the structure and performance of the unincorporated sector. Additionally, the development of city-level Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates requires robust underlying data, which this initiative seeks to support.

## 4. Coverage

The proposed reports will cover 47 million-plus cities identified as per the Population Census 2011. These cities are distributed across various States and Union Territories and represent diverse demographic and economic characteristics. Each of these cities will be treated as an independent unit for statistical estimation, consistent with the existing sampling design of the surveys. A list of state-wise million-plus cities covered in these reports is given in Annexure.

## 5. Major indicators for million-plus cities

The proposal envisages the preparation of two complementary thematic reports based on PLFS and ASUSE data, respectively, to provide a comprehensive picture of urban labour markets and enterprise dynamics.

### A. Employment Profile of Million-Plus Cities (PLFS-based)

The first report will present labour market conditions for persons aged 15 years and above. The indicators proposed to be included in the report are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Proposed Indicators – PLFS-based Report**

| Sl. No. | Indicator | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) | Proportion of persons in the labour force (ps+ss and CWS) |
| 2 | Worker Population Ratio (WPR) | Proportion of employed persons (ps+ss and CWS) |
| 3 | Unemployment Rate (UR) | Proportion of unemployed persons in labour force (ps+ss and CWS) |
| 4 | Activity Status Distribution | Distribution of population as employed, unemployed, and out of labour force |
| 5 | Status in Employment | Distribution among self-employed, regular wage/salaried, and casual labour |
| 6 | Industry Distribution | Distribution of workers by broad industry categories |

The report will include analytical insights such as inter-city comparisons, gender and sectoral patterns where feasible. Sub-state estimates will be presented wherever statistically reliable, along with appropriate measures of reliability.

### B. City-Level Profile of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE-based)

The second report will present a detailed profile of the unincorporated sector in million-plus cities. The indicators proposed to be included are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Proposed Indicators – ASUSE-based Report**

| Sl. No. | Category | Indicator |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | General Characteristics | Number of establishments |
| 2 | | % of proprietary and partnership establishments |
| 3 | | % of hired-worker establishments |
| 4 | | % of female-owned establishments |
| 5 | | Sectoral composition (manufacturing, trade, services) |
| 6 | Employment | Number of workers |
| 7 | | % of hired workers |
| 8 | | % of female workers |
| 9 | Economic | GVA per establishment |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | | GVA per worker |
| 11 | | Emoluments per hired worker |
| 12 | Formalisation | % registered establishments |
| 13 | Technology | % using the internet for business |

The final set of indicators will be refined in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for enterprise surveys.

The proposed reports will rely on the existing sampling frameworks of PLFS and ASUSE, wherein each million-plus city is treated as a separate sampling stratum. Estimates will be generated using established survey estimation techniques, ensuring consistency with national and state-level estimates. Appropriate measures of statistical reliability, such as sampling errors, will be provided where necessary. Sub-state estimates will be included only where they meet acceptable standards of statistical robustness.

The proposed initiative is expected to significantly enhance the availability of granular urban statistics and strengthen the evidence base for urban policy and planning. By providing reliable city-level data, it will support targeted interventions in employment and enterprise development, contribute to the development of city-level GDP estimates, and improve understanding of urban labour markets and the unincorporated sector. It will also facilitate academic research and informed public discourse.

The reports are proposed to be released on an annual basis and disseminated through official platforms in the public domain. The outputs will be presented in user-friendly formats, including analytical narratives, tabular datasets, and summary highlights, to ensure accessibility for policymakers, researchers, and the general public.

## 6. Issues for Consultation

Stakeholders are invited to provide their views on the proposed framework, including the adequacy of coverage, the relevance and comprehensiveness of the proposed indicators, and the need for additional disaggregation, such as gender, sector, or enterprise characteristics, consistent with available data in PLFS and ASUSE. Suggestions are also invited on methodological aspects, including ways to improve the reliability and comparability of estimates. Feedback may also be provided on dissemination formats, potential use cases in policy formulation, research, and planning, and any other aspects relevant to the proposed initiative. Based on the feedback received, the framework and indicators will be further refined.

**ANNEXURE**

## Annex: List of Million-Plus Cities (Municipal Corporations) (Population Census 2011)

| Sl. No. | City | State/UT |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Greater Visakhapatnam | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2 | Vijayawada | |
| 3 | Patna | Bihar |
| 4 | Bhilai Nagar | Chhattisgarh |
| 5 | Raipur | |
| 6 | Delhi | Delhi |
| 7 | Ahmedabad | Gujarat |
| 8 | Rajkot | |
| 9 | Surat | |
| 10 | Vadodara | |
| 11 | Faridabad | Haryana |
| 12 | Srinagar | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 13 | Dhanbad | Jharkhand |
| 14 | Ranchi | |
| 15 | Bengaluru | Karnataka |
| 16 | Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh |
| 17 | Gwalior | |
| 18 | Indore | |
| 19 | Jabalpur | |
| 20 | Aurangabad | Maharashtra |
| 21 | Greater Mumbai | |
| 22 | Kalyan-Dombivli | |
| 23 | Nagpur | |
| 24 | Nashik | |
| 25 | Navi Mumbai | |
| 26 | Pimpri Chinchwad | |
| 27 | Pune | |
| 28 | Thane | |
| 29 | Vasai-Virar | |
| 30 | Amritsar | Punjab |
| 31 | Ludhiana | |
| 32 | Jaipur | Rajasthan |
| 33 | Jodhpur | |
| 34 | Kota | |
| 35 | Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 36 | Coimbatore | |
| 37 | Madurai | |
| 38 | Greater Hyderabad | Telangana |
| 39 | Agra | Uttar Pradesh |
| 40 | Allahabad (Prayagraj) | |
| 41 | Ghaziabad | |
| 42 | Kanpur | |
| 43 | Lucknow | |
| 44 | Meerut | |
| 45 | Varanasi | |
| 46 | Howrah | West Bengal |
| 47 | Kolkata | |