A TALE OF INDIAN CITIES: 1981-2010

Kausik Gangopadhyay[1]
Banasri Basu[2]

We estimate the Zipf's law in the context of 2011 census and 2010 estimates of city sizes. The power law exponent in case of a Pareto distribution should be close to -1 and this holds good for 2010 estimates like previous estimates done for during the years 1981-2001. We have made the lower bound of the upper tail to grow as the average growth rate of the urban population. Tsallis q-exponential distribution, a more generalized distribution, is also fitted in this data set with similar results. Moreover, the power law exponent shows moderate rise during 2001-2010. Interestingly, this has also been observed in one of our earlier works, where the Chinese data between 1990 and 2000 has given rise to such phenomenon. We trace the cause to formation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and population migration in that context.

For further details, including copies of working papers, please write to:

Research, Conference & Publications Office,
IIM Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kozhikode 673 570, Kerala, India

Phone: (91)0495 2809238
Email: rcp@iimk.ac.in

---

[1] Assistant Professor, Economics Area, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kozhikode– 673570, email: *kausik@iimk.ac.in*
[2] Physics and Applied Mathematics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, 203, B.T.Road, Kolkata 700 108, email: banasri@isical.ac.in