

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-55529**

Title: Driving India's Economic Future: The Role of Urban Growth Hubs and Global Best Practices

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr.P.Manochithra

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Manuscript Title:

Driving India's Economic Future: The Role of Urban Growth Hubs and Global Best Practices

Overall Recommendation:

☒ **Minor Revision**

1. Summary of the Manuscript

The manuscript examines the role of urban growth hubs in shaping India's economic future, with a particular focus on infrastructure development, governance mechanisms, financing gaps, and global best practices. It provides a comprehensive discussion of India's urbanization trends, challenges faced by urban local bodies, infrastructure financing constraints, and policy initiatives. The paper also includes a comparative analysis of BRICS nations and derives policy-relevant lessons for India. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach, drawing extensively from government reports, policy documents, and recent statistics.

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2. Originality

Rating: Good

- The topic is **highly relevant and contemporary**, especially in the context of India's urban transition and Vision 2047.
- While the subject area has been widely discussed in policy literature, the **integration of urban economics, real estate, infrastructure finance, and BRICS comparison** adds incremental originality.
- However, the manuscript would benefit from **clear articulation of what is new** beyond synthesis (e.g., a conceptual framework, model, or structured policy roadmap).

Suggestion:

Explicitly highlight the novel contribution in the introduction (e.g., "This study contributes by...").

3. Technical Quality / Methodological Rigor

Rating: Fair to Good

- The manuscript is **rich in data, statistics, and policy references**, which strengthens its empirical grounding.
- However, the study lacks a **clearly defined research methodology**.
- The analysis is largely **descriptive**, with limited analytical or inferential structure.
- Tables and comparative sections are informative but not analytically interpreted in depth.

Suggestions:

- Add a short **Methodology / Research Design** section explaining:
 - Nature of the study (descriptive, analytical, policy review)
 - Data sources (government reports, secondary data)
 - Analytical approach

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- Strengthen the BRICS comparison using **explicit evaluation criteria** (governance, financing, sustainability).

4. Clarity and Organization

Rating: Good

- The manuscript is **logically structured**, with clear chapter-wise progression.
- Concepts such as PPPs, municipal bonds, ESG, AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission, etc., are well explained.
- Language is generally clear and accessible.

Areas for Improvement:

- Some sections are **lengthy and repetitive**, particularly in policy descriptions.
- Minor grammatical and stylistic issues are present.
- Excessive numerical data at times interrupts narrative flow.

Suggestions:

- Reduce repetition across chapters.
- Improve academic tone by shortening long paragraphs.
- Edit language for conciseness and consistency.

5. Significance and Practical Relevance

Rating: Excellent

- The paper is **highly significant for policymakers, urban planners, economists, and real estate professionals**.
- Strong practical relevance due to:
 - Focus on infrastructure financing gaps
 - Discussion on ULB capacity constraints
 - Use of real-world examples and schemes
- The policy recommendations are actionable and timely.

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Strength:

The linkage between **urbanization, infrastructure finance, and real estate development** is particularly valuable.

6. Use of Literature and References

Rating: Good

- The manuscript draws extensively from:
 - Government reports
 - Economic surveys
 - Policy documents
- However, **peer-reviewed academic literature is limited.**

Suggestions:

- Incorporate recent journal articles on:
 - Urban economics
 - Infrastructure finance
 - Smart cities and sustainability
- Standardize citations and ensure a consistent referencing style (APA/Harvard, as per journal norms).

7. Tables, Data, and Presentation

Rating: Good

- Tables (e.g., BRICS comparison, scheme analysis) are informative and relevant.
- Data is current and policy-oriented.

Suggestions:

- Add brief **interpretive commentary after tables.**
- Ensure all tables are properly numbered and titled.

8. Ethical Considerations

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Rating: Satisfactory

- The study relies on secondary data and publicly available sources.
- No ethical concerns observed.

9. Major Strengths

- Highly relevant and policy-driven topic
- Comprehensive coverage of Indian urban challenges
- Strong integration of finance, governance, and infrastructure
- Useful comparative international perspective

10. Areas Needing Improvement

- Lack of explicit methodology
- Overly descriptive sections
- Limited engagement with academic theory
- Need for sharper articulation of contributions

11. Final Recommendation

Recommended for publication after Minor Revisions

With improved methodological clarity, tighter academic writing, and stronger theoretical grounding, the manuscript has the potential to make a **valuable contribution to urban development and economic policy literature.**