

URBAN AREA

TYPES OF URBAN AREA

- An urban area is the region surrounding a city. Most inhabitants of urban areas have non-agricultural jobs. Urban areas are very developed, meaning there is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways.
- "Urban area" can refer to towns, cities, and suburbs. An urban area includes the city itself, as well as the surrounding areas. Many urban areas are called metropolitan areas, or "greater," as in Greater New York or Greater London.

- An **urban area** is a human settlement with high population density and infrastructure of built environment. Urban areas are created through urbanization and are categorized by urban morphology as cities, towns, conurbations or suburbs.
- In urbanism, the term contrasts to rural areas such as villages and hamlets and in urban sociology or urban anthropology it contrasts with natural environment.
- The creation of early predecessors of urban areas during the urban revolution led to the creation of human civilization with modern urban planning, which along with other human activities such as exploitation of natural resources leads to human impact on the environment.

- The world's urban population in 1950 of just 746 million has increased to 3.9 billion in the decades since.
- In 2009, the number of people living in urban areas (3.42 billion) surpassed the number living in rural areas (3.41 billion) and since then the world has become more urban than rural.
- This was the first time that the majority of the world's population lived in a city.
- In 2014 there were 7.2 billion people living on the planet, of which the global urban population comprised 3.9 billion.
- The Population Division of the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) at that time predicted the urban population would grow to 6.4 billion by 2050, with 37% of that growth to come from three countries: [China](#), [India](#) and [Nigeria](#).

- Unlike an urban area, a [metropolitan area](#) includes not only the urban area, but also [satellite](#) cities plus intervening rural land that is socio-economically connected to the [urban core](#) city, typically by [employment](#) ties through [commuting](#), with the urban core city being the primary labor market.
- [European](#) countries define urbanized areas on the basis of urban-type [land use](#), not allowing any gaps of typically more than 200 metres (220 yd), and use [satellite imagery](#) instead of census blocks to determine the boundaries of the urban area.
- In less-developed countries, in addition to land use and density requirements, a requirement that a large majority of the population, typically 75%, is not engaged in agriculture and/or fishing is sometimes used.

DEFINITION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS:

- **The census of India, 1991 defines urban settlements as**
- **“All places which have municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee and have a minimum population of 5000 persons, at least 75 per cent of male workers are engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and a density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometers are urban.**

- EVOLUTION OF Urban Settlements:
- **The first urban settlement to reach a population of one million was the city of London by around. A.D. 1810. By 1982 approximately 175 cities in the world had crossed the one million population mark. Presently 48 per cent of the world's population lives in urban settlements compared to only 3 per cent in the year 1800.**

- BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS
- **The definition of urban areas varies from one country to another. Some of the common bases of classification are size of**
- **population,**
- **occupational structure and**
- **administrative setup.**

- *POPULATION SIZE:*
- **In India the size of population, density of 400 persons per sq km and share of non-agricultural workers are taken into consideration.**
- *OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE*
- **In India if more than 50 per cent of its economically productive population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.**
- *Administration Setup:*
- **For example, in India, a settlement of any size is classified as urban, if it has a municipality, Cantonment Board or Notified Area Council.**

Types of Urban Settlements:

- Depending on the size and the services available and functions rendered, urban centers are designated as
- **town, city, million city, conurbation, megalopolis.**
- *Town (more than 5000ppl):*
- The concept of 'town' can best be understood with reference to 'village'. Population size is not the only criterion. Functional contrasts between towns and villages may not always be clear cut, but specific functions such as, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and professional services exist in towns.

- *City (more than 1 lac):*

- **A city may be regarded as a leading town, which has outstripped its local or regional rivals. In the words of Lewis Mumford, “the city is in fact the physical form of the highest and most complex type of associative life”.**
- **Cities are much larger than towns and have a greater number of economic functions. They tend to have transport terminals, major financial institutions and regional administrative offices.**
- **When the population crosses the one million mark it is designated as a million city.**

- *Conurbation (pop of 2 or more cities combined):*
- **The term conurbation was coined by Patrick Geddes in 1915 and applied to a large area of urban development that resulted from the merging of originally separate towns or cities. Greater London, Manchester, Chicago and Tokyo are examples**

- *Megalopolis (more than 10 million):*
- This Greek word meaning “great city”, was popularized by Jean Gottman (1957) and signifies ‘super- metropolitan’ region extending, as union of conurbations. The urban landscape stretching from Boston in the north to south of Washington in U.S.A. is the best known example of a megalopolis.
- *Million City (more than 10 lacs):*
- The number of million cities in the world has been increasing as never before. London reached the million mark in 1800, followed by Paris in 1850, New York in 1860, and by 1950 there were around 80 such cities. The rate of increase in the number of million cities has been three-fold in every three decades – around 160 in 1975 to around 438 in 2005.

- Town groups
- **The concept of 'Town Group' was first introduced in 1951 to include urban areas adjacent to cities with population of 1 lac and over. In 1961, census defined town group as 'a group of towns which adjoined one another so closely as to form a single inhabited urban locality'.**
- **Further, the census identified town groups only when the aggregate population of the towns in a group exceeded one lakh. In 1961, there were as many as 132 town groups out of a total of 2700 urban pla**

Definition of Town

- **The definition of urban areas has not been uniform all over the country as one would wish. However from 1961 census onwards a uniform and rigid definition was adopted to maintain the comparability and to study the trends of urbanization. In the subsequent censuses viz., 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 the same urban concepts were adopted with some minor changes. In 2001, places were designated as urban or towns on the following principles.**
- **(a) All places with Municipality, Corporation, Cantonment Board, Sanitary Board, Notified Area Committee etc.**
- **(b) All other places which satisfy the following criteria:**
- **i) A minimum population of 5,000 ;**
- **ii) At least 75 per cent of the male working population being engaged in non-agricultural (and allied) activity ;**

- **iii) A density of population of at least 400 per square kilometer (or one thousand persons per square mile)**
- **It is proposed to retain the same definition at the 2011 Census also as this will ensure the comparability with the previous Censuses and also provide the basis for analysis of trends of urbanization in the State.**
- *Statutory towns:*
- **All places which have been notified under the Karnataka Municipal Act and have local bodies like Municipal Corporation, City Municipal Council, Town Municipal Council, Town Panchayat etc., irrespective of their demographic characteristics will be considered as “urban units”.**

- *Non-Statutory towns*
- **Further, all rural units which satisfy the demographic criterion cited above (in Definition of Town 2b) have been identified as urban units based on 2001 Census data in this Directorate. For Census purposes these places are treated as urban units and are called “*Non Municipal Census Towns*’.**
- *District/Taluk headquarters*
- **A district/taluk headquarter which is not a statutory town and fails to satisfy the demographic criterion, is treated as “*rural unit*” only.**

The Urban Agglomeration

- For census 2001, it was decided that the core town or at least one of the constituent towns of an urban agglomeration should necessarily be a statutory town and the total population of all the constituents should not be less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census).
- Urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban outgrowths (OGs), or two or more physical contiguous towns together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns. Examples of Outgrowth are railway colonies, university campuses, port area, military camps etc. that may have come up near a statutory town or city but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town or city.
- For Census of India, 2001, it was decided that the core town or at least one of the constituent towns of an urban agglomeration should necessarily be a statutory town and the total population of all the constituents should not be less than 20,000 (as per 1991 Census). With these two basic criteria having been met, the following are the possible different situations in which urban agglomerations could be constituted.

- **i) a city or town with one or more contiguous outgrowths;**
- **ii) two or more adjoining towns with or without their outgrowths.**
- **iii) a city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths all of which form a continuous spread.**

- **STANDARD URBAN AREA:**
- **A new concept that had been developed for the 1971 Census for the tabulation of certain urban data was the Standard Urban Area.**
- **The essential of a Standard Urban Area are :**
- **(i) it should have a core town of a minimum population size of 50,000,**
- **(ii) the contiguous areas made up of other urban as well as rural administrative units should have close mutual socio- economic links with the core town and**
- **(iii) the probabilities are that this entire area will get fully urbanized in a period of two to three decades.**

- For the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area is as follows:
- All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.
- All other places which satisfied the following criteria:
 - A minimum population of 5,000;
 - At least 75% of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
 - A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometre (1,000/sq mi)

- TYPES OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS

Classification based on Population Size

Class Population

Class I 1,00,000 and above

Class II 50,000 – 99,999

Class III - 20,000 – 49,999

Class IV - 10,000 – 19,999

Class V - 5,000 – 9,999

Class VI - less than 5,000

There is another classification of urban settlements. The classification is as follows:

Town Places which have less than one lakh population

City Urban centres having population between one lakh to one million.

Metropolitan Cities Cities having population in between one million to five million

Mega cities Cities having more than 5 million population

Urban Settlements in India

- The Census of India until 1951 defined an urban settlement as: (i) every municipality, (ii) all civil lines not included within the municipal limits, (iii) every cantonment, and (iv) every other continuous collection of houses inhabited by not less than 5,000 persons. It was customary to treat some places with less than 5,000 inhabitants as towns in former princely states since they were of local importance.
- This definition was modified in 1971 Census to treat all places satisfying the following conditions as towns.
 - 1. All municipal corporations, municipal boards, cantonments and notified areas.
 - 2. All localities though not in themselves local bodies but forming part of a city or town agglomeration.
 - 3. Other places satisfying all the three UN mentioned conditions:
 - (i) Population exceeds 5,000.
 - (ii) At least 75 per cent of the male word population engages in non-agricultural pursuits,

- (iii) The density of population exceeds persons per square km. In 1981 Census some minor changes were incorporated whereby livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchard etc. treated as agricultural activity and places having distinct urban characteristics and physical amenities like industrial area, special project area, large housing colonies, places of tourist interest, railway colonies etc. could be regarded as towns at the discretion of the Director of Census Operations in consultation with the concerned state governments.

- All towns and urban agglomerations, so identified, are grouped into following six classes according to population-size:-
- Class-I Population of 100,000 and above
- Class-II Population of 50,000 to 99,999
- Class-III Population of 20,000 to 49,999
- Class-IV Population of 10,000 to 19,999
- Class-V Population of 5,000 to 9,999
- Class-VI Population of less than 5,000.

- According to the convention of the Indian Census, any urban place with a population exceeding 1, 00,000 is called a city.
- In Urban Geography urban settlements are classified into following six types:
 - 1. Urban Village-It has semi-urban characteristics and is also known as urban center, market town, semi-urban town and rural town. It denotes the transition stage of urban development wherein both rural and urban functions are found in mixed form.
 - 2. Town-it is the smallest unit of urban settlement. Here urban functions are well marked although the possibility of some rural activities is not ruled out.
 - 3. City-the term 'city' has been derived from the Latin word 'civitas'. It is a full-fledged urban agglomeration depicting predominance of urban occupations and complex internal structure.
- In India any town with a population of one lakh or above is termed as city.

- 4. **Metropolis**-meaning 'mother city' is a large city which serves as a regional capital. In India a city having one million or more population is called metropolis.
- According to 1981 Census there were 12 metropolitan cities in the country which increased to 35 in 2001 Census. These include Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Patna, Indore, Vadodara, Bhopal, Coimbatore, Ludhiana, Kochi, Vishakhapatnam,
- Agra, Varanasi, Madurai, Meerut, Nashik, Jabalpur, Jamshedpur, Asansol, Dhanbad, Faridabad, Allahabad, Amritsar, Vijayawada and Rajkot in the descending order of their population-size.

- 5. Megalopolis-it denotes a large urban region formed by the out-growth of many metropolises.
- The term was first used by Jean Gottman for the urban region along the north-eastern sea board of U.S.A. Megalopolis also expresses the full mature stage of urban growth.
- India does not have any such megalopolis because its urbanisation is yet to attain this maturity.

- 6. **Conurbation-it is an urban region consisting of a large metropolis and a number of small towns huddled together.**
- In India such conurbation has been formed by the metropolitan region of Kolkata and 85 big and small towns situated all around it. It lies along the both banks of the Hugli River covering a total area of 569 sq. km. along the right bank of the River it extends from Bansbaria in the north to Uluberia in the south.
- Similarly Kanchrapara and Baj Baj are the northern and southern extremities of this conurbation along the left bank of the river. Fifty-five urban centers of the conurbation exhibit the predominance of industrial activities. Of these 13 specialise in only one industry. Titagarh is famous for its paper industry

- Similarly Batanagar specialises in shoe making and Naihati, Uttarpara, Haliashahr, Bali, Champdani, Kotrang, Uluberia, Bauria, Kamarhati, Bhadreswar and Baj Baj for jute industry.
- Besides Haora is an important centre of rail transport, Kanchrapara of rail workshop, Garden Reach of ship building, Ishapur of rifle making, and Chandannagar of commercial centre.
- Due to paucity of space, transport bottlenecks, power breakdown, industrial recession, industrial lockouts and emergence of slums the region is facing a number of problems which have their bearing on the urban environment and quality of life of the inhabitants