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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

Table 10.1: Percentage of World's Population Living in Urban Areas

Year	Percentage
1800	3
1850	6
1900	14
1950	30
1982	37
2001	48

Classification of Urban Settlements

- The definition of urban areas varies from one country to another. Some of the common basis of classification are size of
  - population,
  - occupational structure and
  - administrative setup.

- ***Population Size***
  - It is an important criteria used by most countries to define urban areas. The lower limit of the population size for a settlement to be designated as urban is
    - 1,500 in Colombia,
    - 2,000 in Argentina and Portugal,
    - 2,500 in U.S.A. and Thailand,
    - 5,000 in India and
    - 30,000 in Japan.
  - Besides the size of population, density of 400 persons per sq km and share of non-agricultural workers are taken into consideration in India.
  - Countries with low density of population may choose a lower number as the cut-off figure compared to densely populated countries.
  - In Denmark, Sweden and Finland, all places with a population size of 250 persons are called urban. The minimum population for a city is 300 in Iceland, whereas in Canada and Venezuela, it is 1,000 persons.

- *Occupational Structure*
  - Similarly, in Italy, a settlement is called urban, if more than 50 per cent of its economically productive population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
  - India has set this criterion at 75 per cent.
- *Administration*
  - The administrative setup is a criterion for classifying a settlement as urban in some countries. For example, in India, a settlement of any size is classified as urban, if it has a municipality, Cantonment Board or Notified Area Council. Similarly,
  - In Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Bolivia, any administrative centre is considered urban irrespective of its population size.
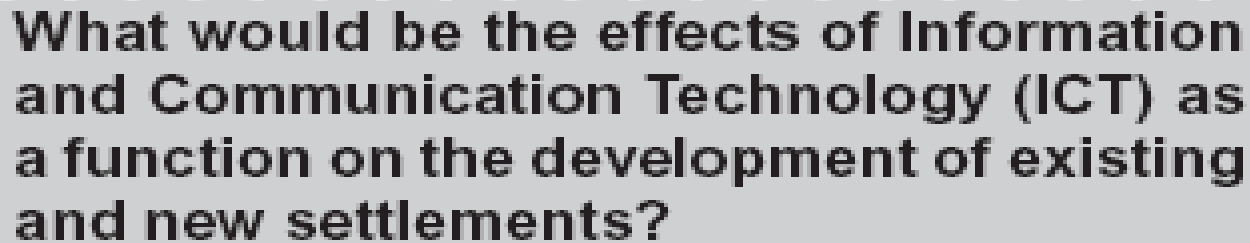
- *Location*
- Location of urban centres is examined with reference to their function. For example, the sitting requirements of a holiday resort are quite different from that of an industrial town, a military centre or a seaport.
  - Strategic towns require sites offering natural defense;
  - Mining towns require the presence of economically valuable minerals;
  - Industrial towns generally need local energy supplies or raw materials;
  - Tourist centres require attractive scenery, or a marine beach, a spring with medicinal water or historical relics, ports require a harbour etc.

- Locations of the earliest urban settlements were based on
  - the availability of water,
  - building materials and
  - fertile land.
- Today, while these considerations still remain valid, modern technology plays a significant role in locating urban settlements far away from the source of these materials.
  - Piped water can be supplied to a distant settlement, building material can be transported from long distances.
  - Apart from site, the situation plays an important role in the expansion of towns. The urban centres which are located close to an important trade route have experienced rapid development.

Functions of Urban Centres

- The earliest towns were centres of administration, trade, industry, defence and religious importance.

What would be the effects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a function on the development of existing and new settlements?

Activity

Prepare a list of cities where earlier functions have been replaced by newer ones.

- In spite of towns performing multiple functions we refer to their dominant function. For example, we think of
  - Sheffield as an industrial city,
  - London as a port city,
  - Chandigarh as an administrative city and so on.
- Most of the early nineteenth-century fishing ports in England have now developed tourism.

- Towns and cities are classified into the following categories.
  - *Administrative Towns*
  - *Trading and Commercial Towns*
  - *Cultural Towns*

CLASSIFICATION OF TOWNS ON THE BASIS OF FORMS

- An urban settlement may be linear, square, star or crescent shaped.

- In fact, the form of the settlement, architecture and style of buildings and other structures are an outcome of its historical and cultural traditions.

- While most cities in developed countries are planned, most urban settlements of developing countries have evolved historically with irregular shapes.

Do You Know

Urbanisation means the increase in the proportion population of a country who live in urban areas.

The most important cause of urbanisation is rural-urban migration. During the late 1990s some 20 to 30 million people were leaving the countryside every year and moving into towns and cities.

Developed countries experienced rapid urbanisation during the nineteenth century.

Developing counties experienced rapid urbanisation during the second half of the twentieth century.

Addis Ababa (The New Flower)

- The name of Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, as the name indicates (*Addis*-New, *Ababa*-Flower) is a 'new' city which was established in 1878.

Fig. 10.8: Morphology of Addis Ababa

Fig. 10.9: Skyline of Addis Ababa

- ***Addis Ababa (The New Flower)***
  - **Location:** The whole city is located on a hill-valley topography.
  - **Roadways:** The road pattern bears the influence of the local topography. The roads radiate from the govt headquarters Piazza, Arat and Amist Kilo roundabouts.
  - **Markets:** Mercato has markets which grew with time and is supposed to be the largest market between Cairo and Johannesburg.
  - **Educational Institutions** A multi-faculty university, a medical college, a number of good schools make Addis Ababa an educational centre.
  - **Railways:** It is also the terminal station for the Djibouti-Addis Ababa rail route. Bole airport is a relatively new airport.
  - **Reasons for its rapid growth:** multifunctional nature and being a large nodal centre located in the centre of Ethiopia.
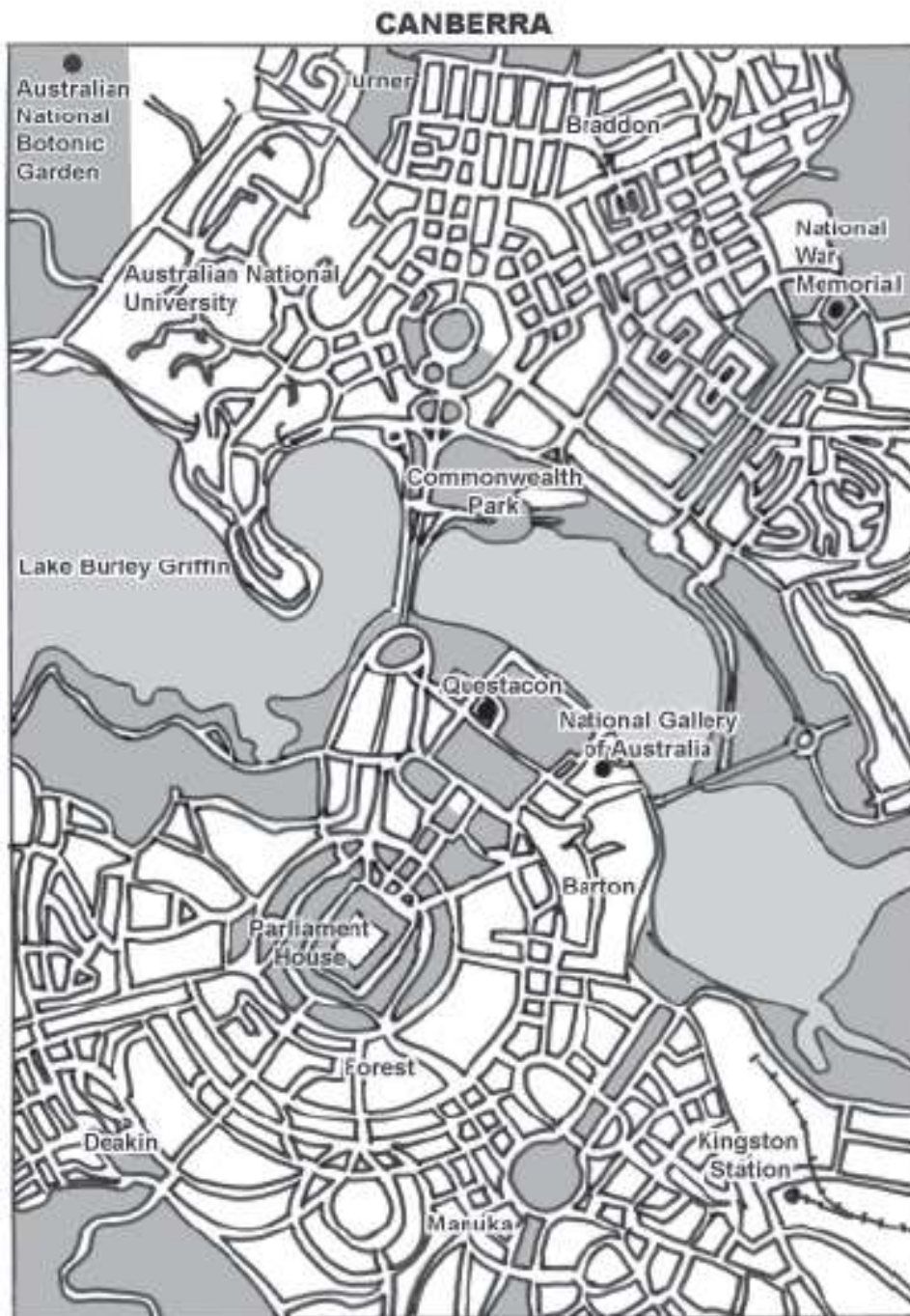
Canberra

- Canberra was planned as the capital of Australia in 1912 by American landscape architect, **Walter Burley Griffin.**

- He had envisaged a garden city for about 25,000 people taking into account the natural features of the landscape.

- There were to be five main centres, each with separate city functions.

- During the last few decades, the city has expanded to accommodate several satellite towns, which have their own centres.

- The city has wide-open spaces and many parks and gardens.

CANBERRA

Australian National Botanic Garden

Turner

Braddon

National War Memorial

Australian National University

Commonwealth Park

Lake Burley Griffin

Questacon

National Gallery of Australia

Parliament House

Barton

Forest

Kingston Station

Deakin

Manuka

Fig. 10.10 : Morphology of a planned city – Canberra

Types of Urban Settlements

- ***Town***

- 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***
- 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***
- 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. Can you find out an example from India?

- ***Megalopolis***

- This Greek word meaning "great city", was popularised 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__*
- 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.

Table 10.2: Continent-wise Distribution of Million Cities

Continent	Early 1950	Mid 1970s	Mid 2000
Europe	23	30	58
Asia	32	69	206
North and Central America	16	36	79
South America	8	17	43
Africa	3	8	46
Australia	2	2	6
World Total	84	162	438

Source: www.citypopulation.de/World.html

Distribution of Mega Cities

- A mega city or megalopolis is a general term for cities together with their suburbs with a population of more than 10 million people.

- New York was the first to attain the status of a mega city by 1950 with a total population of about 12.5 million.

- The number of mega cities is now 25.

- The number of mega cities has increased in the developing countries during the last 50 years vis-à-vis the developed countries.

Table 10.3: Mega Cities of the World
(as on 28. 01. 2006)

Sl. No.	Name of the City	Country	Population (in millions)
1.	Tokyo	Japan	34.2
2.	Mexico city	Mexico	22.8
3.	Seoul	South Korea	22.3
4.	New York	U.S.A.	21.9
5.	Sao Paulo	Brazil	20.2
6.	Mumbai	India	19.9
7.	Delhi	India	19.7
8.	Shanghai	China	18.2
9.	Los Angeles	U.S.A.	18.0
10.	Osaka	Japan	16.8
11.	Jakarta	Indonesia	16.6
12.	Kolkata	India	15.7
13.	Cairo	Egypt	15.6
14.	Manila	Philippines	15.0
15.	Karachi	Pakistan	14.3
16.	Moscow	Russia	13.8
17.	Buenos Aires	Argentina	13.5
18.	Dhaka	Bangladesh	13.3
19.	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	12.2
20.	Beijing	China	12.1
21.	London	G. Britain	12.0
22.	Tehran	Iran	11.9
23.	Istanbul	Turkey	11.5
24.	Lagos	Nigeria	11.1
25.	Shenzhen	China	10.7

Source: www.citypopulation.de/World.html

Problems of Human Settlements in Developing Countries

- The settlements in developing countries, suffer from various problems, such as
    - unsustainable concentration of population,
    - congested housing and streets,
    - lack of drinking water facilities.
- They also lack infrastructure such as,
    - electricity,
    - sewage disposal,
    - health and
    - education facilities.

Activity

Rural/Urban Problems

Can you identify the problems faced by your city/town/ village in terms of any one of the following?

Availability of potable water.

Electricity supply.

Sewerage system.

Transportation and communication facilities.

Health and educational infrastructure.

Water and air pollution.

Can you think of solutions to these problems?

Problems of Urban Settlements

- People flock to cities to avail of employment opportunities and civic amenities.

- It creates severe congestion.

- It results in Shortage of housing, vertical expansion and growth of slums.

- In many cities an increasing proportion of the population lives in substandard housing, e.g. slums and squatter settlements.

- In most million plus cities in India, one in four inhabitants lives in illegal settlements, which are growing twice as fast as the rest of the cities.

- Even in the Asia Pacific countries, around 60 per cent of the Urban population lives in squatter settlements.

What is a Healthy City?

World Health Organisation (WHO) suggests that, among other things, a 'healthy city' must have:

A 'Clean' and 'Safe' environment.

Meets the 'Basic Needs' of 'All' its inhabitants.

Involves the 'Community' in local government.

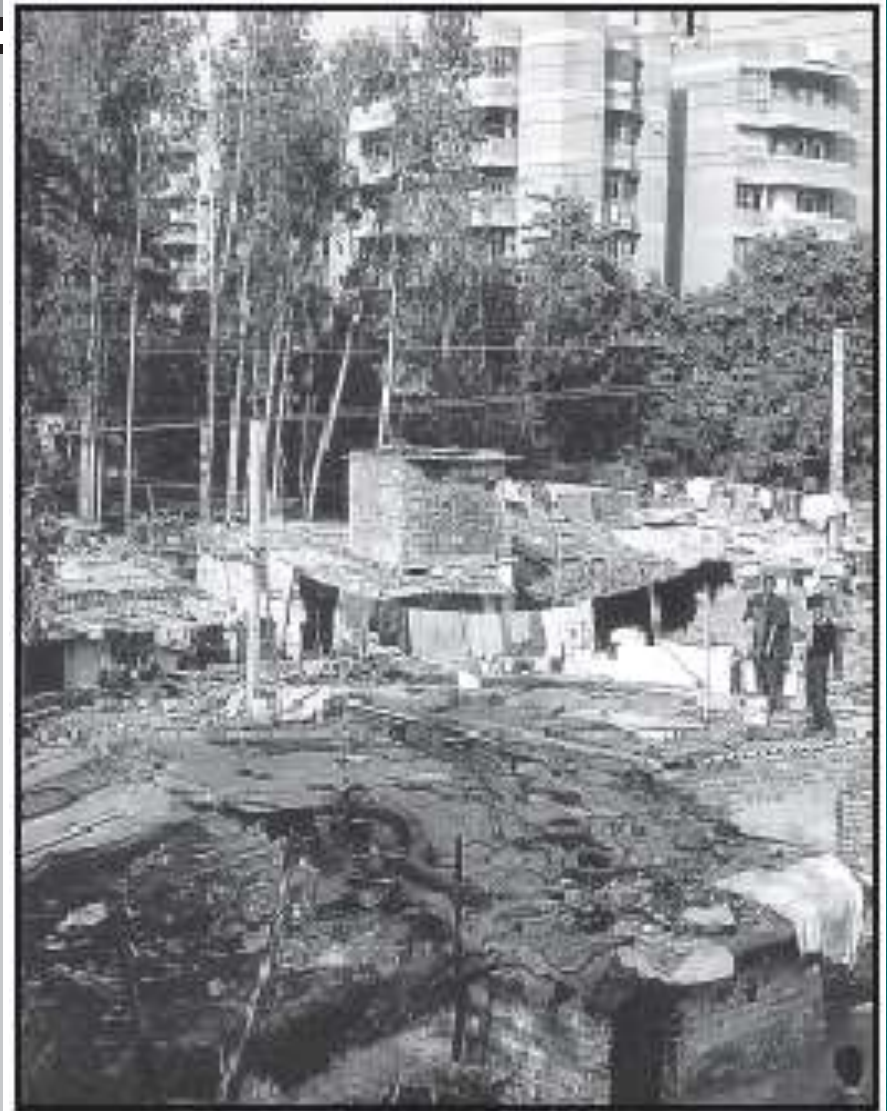Provides easily accessible 'Health' service.

Fig. 10.11: Slums

- *_Economic Problems_*
  - The decreasing employment opportunities in the rural as well as smaller urban areas of the developing countries.
  - The enormous migrant population generates a pool of unskilled and semi-skilled labour force.
- *_Socio-cultural Problems_*
  - No adequate social infrastructure catering to the basic needs of the huge population.
  - The available educational and health facilities remain beyond the reach of the urban poor.
  - Health indices present a gloomy picture in cities of developing countries.
  - Lack of employment and education tends to aggravate the crime rates.
  - Male selective migration to the urban areas distorts the sex in these cities.

- *<u>Environmental Problems</u>*
  - Wastage and disposal of a huge quantity of water and all types of waste materials.
  - Inability to provide the minimum required quantity of potable water and water for domestic and industrial uses.
  - An improper sewerage system creates unhealthy conditions.
  - Massive use of traditional fuel in the domestic as well as the industrial sector severely pollutes the air.
  - Untreated disposal of domestic and industrial wastes into the general sewerages or unspecified locations.
  - Huge concrete structures erected to accommodate the population create heat islands.

Urban Strategy

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has outlined these priorities as part of its 'Urban Strategy'.

Increasing 'Shelter' for the urban poor.

Provision of basic urban services such as 'Education', 'Primary Health care', 'Clean Water and Sanitation'.

Improving women's access to 'Basic Services' and government facilities.

Upgrading 'Energy' use and alternative 'Transport' systems.

Reducing 'Air Pollution'.

Conclusion

- Cities, towns and rural settlements are linked through the movements of **goods, resources and people**.

- Urban-rural linkages are of crucial importance for the sustainability of human settlements.

- As the growth of rural population has outpaced the generation of employment and economic opportunities, rural-to-urban migration has steadily increased, particularly in the developing countries, which has put an enormous pressure on urban infrastructure and services that are already under serious stress.

- It is urgent to eradicate rural poverty and to improve the quality of living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements.

- Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages of rural and urban areas by balancing their different economic, social and environmental requirements.

Assignment

- 1. 'Location of urban centres is examined with reference to their function.' Substantiate the statement giving five suitable examples.

- 2. Compare and contrast Addis Ababa and Canberra.

- 3. Classify urban centres on the basis of their population size.

- 4. Enlist five major problems faced by the human settlements in developing countries.

- 5. Enumerate various strategies suggested by UNDP for urban areas