

URBAN SETTLEMENTS**Classification of Urban Settlements**

1. **Population Size:** The lower limit of the population size for a settlement to be designated as urban

Columbia	1500
Argentina, Portugal	2000
U.S.A, Thailand	2500
India	5000
Japan	30,000

Density of population 400 persons per sq km in India.

In Denmark, Sweden and Finland-population size of 250 persons are called urban.

The minimum population for a city is 300 in Iceland, in Canada and Venezuela, it is 1000 persons.

2. **Occupational Structure:** In Italy, if more than 50 percent of its economically productive population is engaged in non-agricultural activities, it is known as urban settlement.

In India, if more than 75 percent are engaged in non-agricultural activities, it is known as urban settlement.

3. **Functions of Urban Centres**
 - a. **Administrative towns**

National capitals, which house the administrative offices of central governments, such as New Delhi, Canberra, Beijing, Addis Ababa, Washington D.C., and London etc are called administrative towns.

b. Trading and Commercial Towns

Agricultural market towns, such as Winnipeg and Kansas city; banking and financial centres like Frankfurt and Amsterdam; large inland centres like Manchester and St. Louis; and transport nodes such as Lahore, Baghdad and Agra have been important trading centres.

c. Cultural Towns

Jerusalem, Mecca, Jagannath Puri and Varanasi etc. are cultural towns.

d. **Health and Recreation Towns** - Miami and Panaji

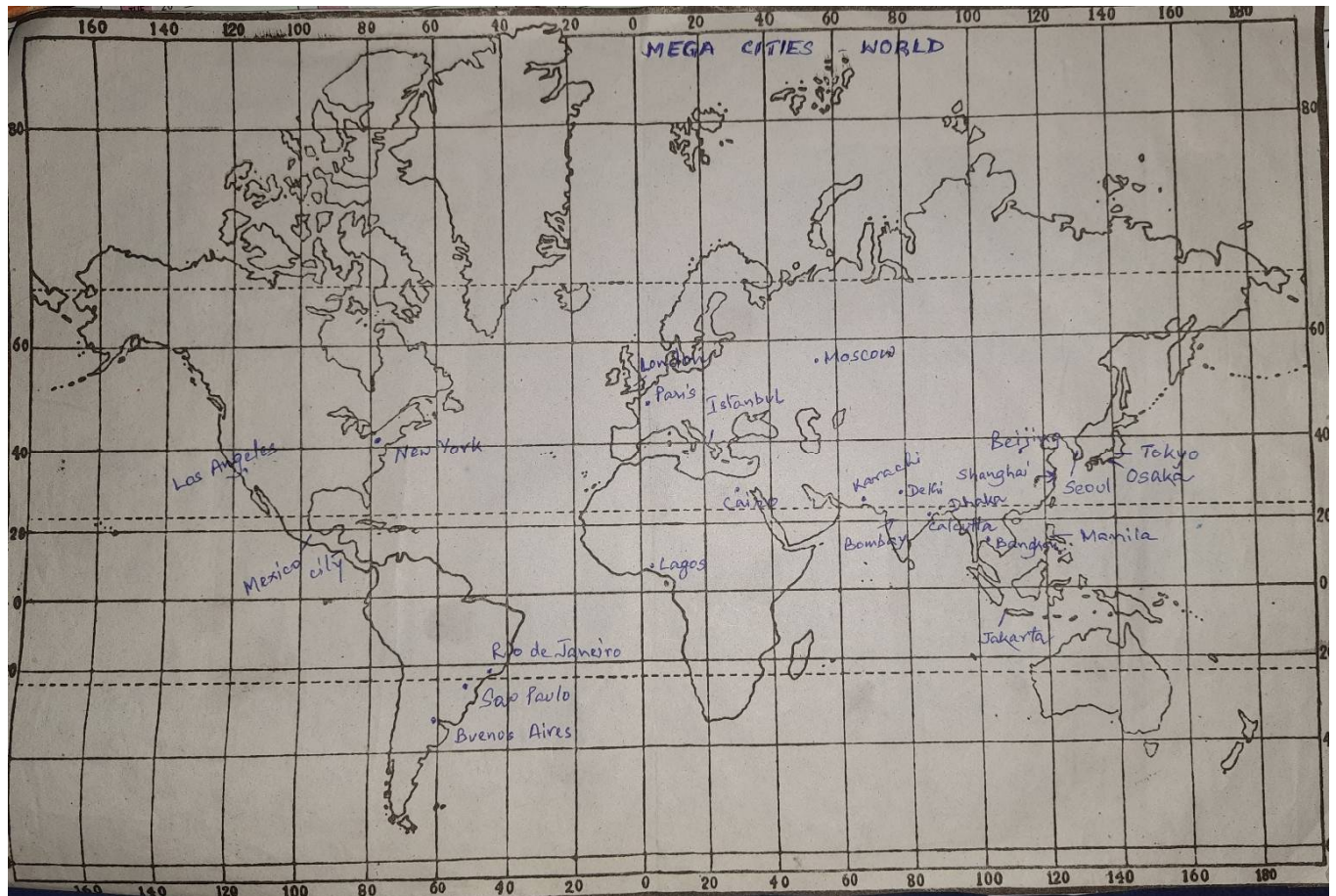
e. **Industrial Towns** - Pittsburgh and Jamshedpur

f. **Mining and Quarrying Towns** - Broken Hill and Dhanbad

g. **Transport Town** - Singapore and Mughal Sarai.

Types of Urban Settlements

1. **Town** - It is a compactly settled area usually larger than a village but smaller than a city.
2. **City** - A city is a large human settlement. It can be defined as a permanent and densely settled place with administratively defined boundaries whose members work primarily on non-agricultural tasks. Cities generally have extensive systems for housing, transportation, sanitation, utilities, land use and communication.
3. **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 through population growth and physical expansion. Greater London, Manchester, Chicago and Tokyo are examples.
4. **Megalopolis** - This Greek word meaning "great city" was given by Jean Gottman and signifies 'super-metropolitan' region extending as a union of conurbations. It is defined as a group of two or more roughly adjacent metropolitan areas, which may be somewhat separated or may merge into a continuous urban region. New York city and surrounding areas including Long Island are an example of a megalopolis.
5. **Million City** - It is a city with one million (or more) inhabitants. Eg: Tokyo (Japan) 27.2 million. London reached the million mark in 1800, followed by Paris in 1850, New York in 1860.



Problems of Urban Settlements

People move to cities to avail employment opportunities and civic amenities. Most of the cities are unplanned, it creates severe congestion. Shortage of housing, vertical expansion and growth of slums are the characteristics of modern cities of developing countries.

Economic Problems

The decreasing employment opportunities in rural and smaller urban areas push the people to big urban areas. It creates a pool of unskilled and semi-skilled labour force, which is already saturated in urban areas.

Socio-cultural Problems

The available educational and health facilities remain beyond the reach of urban poor. Lack of employment and education increase the crime rates. Male selective migration to urban areas disturb the sex ratio in the cities.

Environmental Problems

The large urban population in developing countries disposes of huge quantity of water and all types of waste materials. The domestic and industrial wastes are either let into the general sewerages or dumped without treatment at unspecified locations. Massive use of firewood pollutes the air.