

UNIT 1

- **Introduction:**

- Settlements can vary in size from the very small to extremely large. They can be small as one house and as large as a megacity, home to tens of millions of people. That can be permanent or temporary. Settlements start in different places for different reasons.
- A settlement is an existence of occupancy for shelter where people live. Settlement is man's structural transformation towards application to his environment. The study of settlements is largely a product of the twentieth century.
- A settlement is man's first step towards adaptation to his environment. Settlement designates an organized colony of human beings, together with their residences and other buildings, (shops , hotels , banks etc .) , the roads , streets which are used for travel .Settlements are located as advantageously as possible with respect to natural features such as water .fuel , food , protection and drainage and access to transportation and communication .

What Is Settlement Geography?

Settlement geography is the study of human land, water and resource use, population density patterns, and settlement growth.

It is essential to urban planning and urban landscape.

Group of people living together forms a settlement.

Settlement geography studies these villages, towns, etc. and also the types of relationships they generate.

“A human settlement is place inhabited more or less permanent by human groups”

Definition

Jordan (1966) “Emphasizes that settlement geography not completely investigates the distributions, but even more the structures, processes and interactions between settlements and its environment (such as soil, geomorphology, economy or society), which produce them.” “settlement geography describes and explains the settlements,, location, substance, form and structure, as well as the functions and processes that produced them over time.”

Settlement geography is the study of human land, water and resource use, population density patterns, and settlement growth.

Definitions of settlement geography

Settlement geography is a branch of geography that studies human settlements, including their spatial distribution, size, arrangement, and characteristics. Different authors have offered various definitions of settlement geography over time. Here are a few examples:

1. Walter Christaller (1933):

Christaller introduced the concept of "Central Place Theory," which explained the spatial organization of settlements based on their economic functions and hierarchies.

2. Jean Gottman (1957):

Gottman focused on the growth and structure of cities, particularly the interactions between urban areas and their surrounding regions.

3. Brian Berry (1964):

Berry emphasized the spatial patterns of settlements and their relationship with transportation networks and economic activities.

4. Richard Hartshorne (1939):

Hartshorne explored the factors influencing the location of settlements, including physical geography and human interactions.

5. Alan Wilson (1971):

Wilson contributed to the understanding of urban and regional systems, considering factors like accessibility and land use patterns.

Each author's perspective has contributed to the development of settlement geography as a field, and their work has influenced research and understanding of human settlements.

Discovering the Nature of Settlement Geography

Settlement geography is a fascinating niche that explores the impact, development, and growth of human settlements over time, in space and place. Let's explore some definitions by different authors.

What is settlement geography?

1 A Study of Human Settlements

Settlement geography is a sub-discipline of human geography that examines the patterns of human settlements, the spatial distribution of people, and the social, economic, and environmental factors influencing those patterns.

2 Human Habitation and Settlements

The study focuses on human habitation and settlements, their structure, pattern, and function, as well as their interactions with the environment.

Definitions by Different Authors

The Location of Economic Activities

According to Berry (1967), settlement geography is concerned with the location of economic activities in urban and rural areas.

Transformation of Landscapes

Chapin's (1957) definition emphasizes the transformation of landscapes due to human activities, including agriculture, industry, and urbanization.

The Study of Human Settlements

Human ecologist, Turner's (1972) definition, views settlement geography as a study of human settlements, including their global distribution and patterns of human activities.

Microanalysis of Urban Areas

Haggett (1965) focuses on the microanalysis of urban areas, including the study of individual cities, towns, and villages.

Comparison of Definitions

Economic Activities vs Human Habitation

Berry's definition emphasizes the economic activities in settlement patterns while Turner's focuses on human settlements and their distribution globally.

Transformations vs Microanalysis

Chapin's definition broadly ranges over arguments concerning land-use patterns while Haggett concentrates on the study of urban areas and their characteristics.

Definitions by Different Authors

Walter Christaller

He defined settlements in terms of economic centralization and hierarchy.

Jean Gottman

He focused on the relationship between settlements and transport routes, proposing the concept of "urban system".

Park and Burgess

They introduced the notion of the "ecological approach", considering the environmental factors that affect the spatial distribution of population.

Implications of Different Definitions

1

Planning and Development

The different definitions play a crucial role in the planning and development of human settlements, both urban and rural.

2

Mitigating Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts

Settlement geography provides information about the patterns of human settlements that will help to mitigate environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

3

Aligning Policies with the Realities of Human Settlements

The study's various definitions guide policymakers in aligning their policies and practices concerning the realities of human settlements in different spaces and places.

Nature of settlement Geography :

Settlements, facilities built by man in the process of land occupancy and their groupings , from the most expressive feature of the cultural landscape . Settlement clusters or agglomerations may vary in size from a small hamlet and village to metropolis , mega city and megalopolis , and in occupational structure and functional mix from predominantly agricultural and other primary productions to secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities and in their sphere of influence from a village and locality to macro-regions, sometimes of supra - national dimension. The branch of geographical knowledge concerned with the study of patterns and variation in the spatial distribution of settlement features and their groupings on all scales in the present as well as in the past and future may , in general, is called Settlement Geography .

Scope of settlement Geography:

The primary aim of studying settlement geography is to acquaint with the spatial and structural characteristics of human settlements under varied environmental conditions. Settlement site and structure- Internal morphology and external form, field patterns functions and house-types. Settlement geography being an offshoot of social geography or a recent most sprout from the venerable trunk of human geography was mainly concerned with urban settlements before the turn of the twentieth century. As the past is the key to the present and we walk to a certain degree in every village among the ruins of antiquity. The themes form proposed for international symposium had at Varanasi in 1971 out lined below comprehensive subject matter of and approaches to the study of settlement geography in general and rural settlements geography in particular

How can we describe settlements?

Area

How large the area of a settlement is.

Site

describes the actual land upon which a settlement is built.

Population

The size & type of people that live in a settlement.

Function

The **function** of a settlement relates to its economic and social development and refers to its main activities.

Situation

describes where a settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications.

Shape

Describes how the settlement is laid out. Its pattern.

Categories of Settlement:

Based on above discussed factors, human settlement is categorized as follows:

- 1) **Clustered Settlement:** The settlement in which the houses are closely built up and compact is known as clustered settlement. The shape of clustered settlement normally varies from rectangular, radial, to linear. Clustered settlement in India normally found in fertile alluvial plains and in the northeastern states.



2) Semi-Clustered:

The settlement, clustering in a restricted area of dispersed settlement normally looks like semi-clustered. Examples of such settlement can be seen in Gujarat plain and some parts of Rajasthan.



3) Hamleted Settlement:

Some settlement is fragmented into several units and physically separated from each other is known as hamleted settlement. Examples of hamleted settlement can be seen in the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and lower valleys of the Himalayas.



4) Dispersed Settlement :

The isolated settlement is known as dispersed settlement. Examples of such settlement can be seen in parts of Meghalaya, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have this type of settlement.



The Significance of Settlement Geography



Urban and Rural Development

Settlement geography is significant in understanding the patterns of urban and rural settlements and their transformations over time.



Design and Architecture

It also has a bearing on settlement design and architecture and the ecological, social, and spatial implications of settlement patterns.



Agriculture and Land Use

Furthermore, settlement geography helps us understand the diverse activities in rural



Unveiling Patterns: An Exploration of Settlement Geography Classification



Introduction

This presentation explores the classification of settlement geography patterns. Settlement geography is the study of how people occupy and use space. The patterns of settlement geography can be classified based on their size, shape, and density. This classification has important implications for urban planning and development.



Size Patterns

Settlement geography patterns can be classified based on their size. There are four main size patterns: hamlets, villages, towns, and cities. Each size pattern has its own unique characteristics, such as population size, economic activity, and political organization.



Shape Patterns

Settlement geography patterns can also be classified based on their shape. There are three main shape patterns: linear, clustered, and dispersed. Each shape pattern has its own unique characteristics, such as proximity to resources, transportation routes, and natural barriers.



Density Patterns

Settlement geography patterns can be classified based on their density. There are three main density patterns: concentric, sector, and multiple nuclei. Each density pattern has its own unique characteristics, such as land use, social class, and transportation networks.

Urban Planning

The classification of settlement geography patterns has important implications for urban planning and development. By understanding the characteristics of different patterns, planners can make informed decisions about land use, transportation, and infrastructure. This can lead to more sustainable and livable cities.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the classification of settlement geography patterns is a useful tool for understanding how people occupy and use space. By classifying patterns based on size, shape, and density, we can gain insights into the economic, social, and political dynamics of different settlements. This knowledge can inform urban planning and development, leading to more sustainable and livable cities.

Basic concepts of

Urban settlement



TWO TYPES OF SETTLEMENT

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graph TD; A[TWO TYPES OF SETTLEMENT] --> B[RURAL SETTLEMENT]; A --> C[URBAN SETTLEMENT];
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RURAL
SETTLEMENT

URBAN
SETTLEMENT

Type of settlement

- Settlements are divided into two broad categories:
- (1) Rural Settlement: Rural settlements are those where people are mostly engaged in primary economic activities (agriculture, mining, lumbering etc.) (2) Urban settlement: Urban settlements are those where people are mostly engaged in non-agricultural activities (secondary and tertiary economic activities).

the concept of urban settlement

- The settlements that generally have a high population which is mostly dependent on non-agricultural sectors are called urban settlements. Urban settlements are mostly nucleated settlements.

The main characteristics of urban settlements are:

- The main occupation of the people is related to secondary and tertiary sectors. There is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways. Urban settlements are large in size with a high density of population.

Major Problems of Urban Settlement



Major Problems of Urban Settlement

- Urban Sprawl
- Overcrowding
- Slums and Squatter Settlements
- Chronic Problems

Urban Settlements based on Size service and function.

- Town: Places which have less than one lakh population City: Towns with population of one lakh and above are categorized as cities. When the population crosses the one million mark it is designated as a million city.
- The functional classification of towns :
 - (1) Administrative Towns :The major examples of administrative towns are New Delhi, London, Washington D.C. Cairo, Tokyo etc. In India, all the states headquarter are administrative towns.

(2) Defence Towns

- The few examples of defensive towns in India as well as in the worlds are Vishakhapatnam, Nova Scotia, Portsmouth, Peshawar etc.

(3) Cultural Towns:

Towns famous for religious and educational functions are called cultural towns. Places of pilgrimage, such as Mecca, Jerusalem, Varanasi, Badrinath etc.

City	Population (2011)	Population (2001)
Mumbai	12,478,447	11,978,450
Delhi	11,007,835	9,879,172
Bangalore	8,425,970	5,438,065
Hyderabad	6,809,970	3,637,483
Ahmedabad	5,570,585	3,520,085
Chennai	4,681,087	4,343,645
Kolkata	4,486,679	4,572,876
Surat	4,462,002	2,433,835
Pune	3,115,431	2,538,473
Jaipur	3,073,350	2,322,575

1991	1,115	42	2,553	55
1981	1,019	46	2,172	55
1971	772	47	—	—
1961	700	51	—	—
1951	577	54	—	—
1941	483	57	—	—
1931	424	60	—	—

- **Metropolitan Cities: Cities having population in between one million to five million**
- **Mega Cities: Cities having more than 5 million population**
- **Example: Trichy Area**
 - **Metropolis -167.23 km²**

Functions of urban centres:

- **The earlier functions of towns were related to administration, trade and industry, defence and religious.**
- **Large cities have a rather greater diversity of functions.**

Urban

Urban areas have
domination of secondary
and tertiary activities
(Industries)

Densely populated

Cities and towns

Non Agricultural works

Fast and complicated life



Urbanization

Is the increase in
the proportion of
people living in
towns and cities.

Trends and Patterns of World Urbanization

- Causes of urbanization:

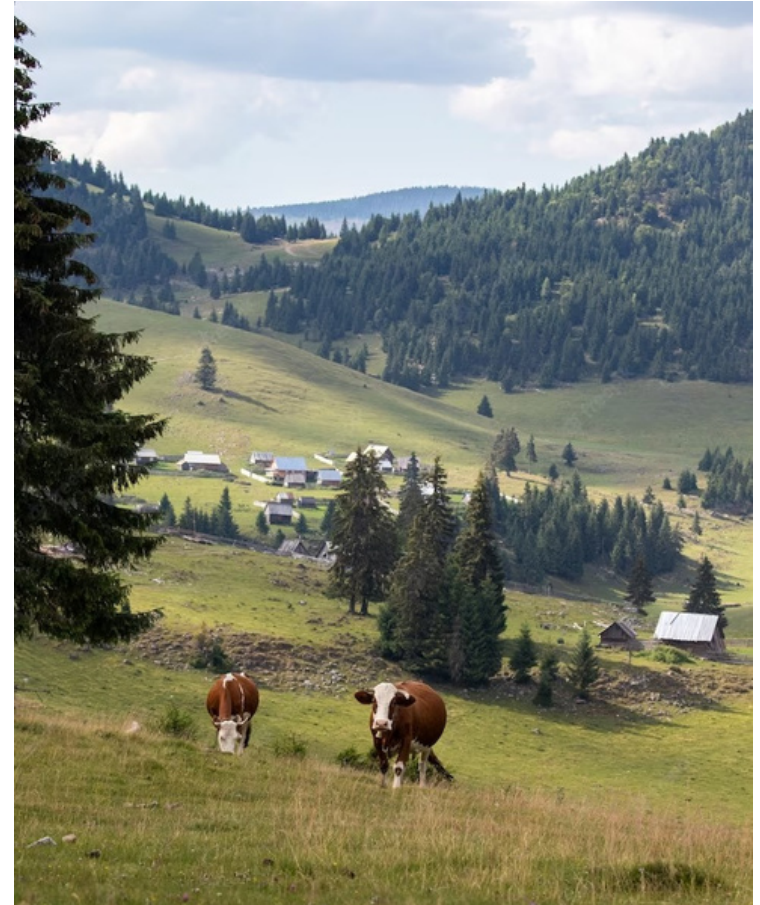
Urbanization is not new. It began in the 1850s in Europe and North America.

However, most urbanization has been in the last 20 years as a result of large rural to urban movements.

For example, in China 150 million people moved from rural to urban areas in just 10 years. This was due to both push and pull factors.

Understanding Rural Settlements

Rural settlements are characterized by small populations, low population densities, and a dependence on agriculture and natural resources. Understanding the unique challenges and opportunities of rural areas is key to developing effective revitalization strategies.



Challenges of Rural Development

Rural development faces challenges such as brain drain, insufficient infrastructure, limited access to markets, and environmental degradation. Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions tailored to the specific needs of rural areas.



Introduction

Revitalizing Rural Settlements:
Strategies for Sustainable Development.

This presentation will explore the challenges and opportunities of rural development, and provide practical solutions for achieving sustainable growth in rural areas.



Opportunities for Rural Development

Rural development also presents opportunities such as tourism, renewable energy, and value-added agriculture. Leveraging these opportunities can create jobs, increase income, and improve quality of life for rural communities.





Strategies for Rural Revitalization

Successful revitalization strategies for rural areas should prioritize community engagement, build on local strengths, and promote sustainable practices. This requires collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society.

Conclusion

Revitalizing rural settlements is a complex but crucial task for achieving sustainable development. By understanding the challenges and opportunities of rural areas, and by implementing innovative and sustainable solutions, we can create a better future for rural communities.

Reference

- <https://youtu.be/Hpu8gq47rMU>
- <https://old.amu.ac.in/emp/studym/99997115.pdf>
- <https://old.amu.ac.in/emp/studym/100009407.pdf>



SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF

SETTLEMENTS

REFERENCE: [HTTPS://WWW.JKCPNL.AC.IN](https://www.jkcpnl.ac.in)

[HTTPS://EGYANKOSH.AC.IN](https://egyankosh.ac.in)



What is Human Settlement

Human settlement is a place where people live. It refers to the totality of the human community with all the social, material, organizational, spiritual, and cultural elements that sustain it.

Origin of Human Settlement

Origin of settlements can be traced back to the caves where people gathered for protection against the natural forces or for defence against rival tribes.

- About 14,000 years ago, the first settlements built with stone began to appear, in modern day Israel and Jordan. The inhabitants, sedentary hunter-gatherers called Natufians, buried their dead in or under their houses, just as Neolithic peoples did after them.
- Sometime about 10,000 years ago, the earliest farmers put down their roots literally and figuratively. Agriculture opened the door to (theoretically) stable food supplies, and it let hunter-gatherers build permanent dwellings that eventually morphed into complex societies in many parts of the world.

<p><i>Stage-1</i></p> <p>Primitive Non organised Human settlement</p>	<p>i. PRIMITIVE MAN (Tree tops,branches,tre holes & cave) Paleolithic - Old stone Age</p>
	<p>ii. NOMED Temporary Shelter (Hunts were built using mammoth bone,wood,straw & rocks.) Mesolithic - Middle stone age</p>
<p><i>Stage-2</i></p> <p>Primitive Organised human settlement</p>	<p>i. FARMERS AND HERDERS Permanent Shelter (Formation of Village) (The roof was usually made from timber beams with reed thatch covering) Neolithic - New stone Age</p>
	<p>ii. CONFLICT BETWEEN MAN-WINNER BECAME THE KING Formation of Town (People started migrating to this town centre for better wages & employments.) Bronze Age</p>



Stage-3

**Static Urban settlements or
Cities**

DUE TO EXCESSIVE MIGRATION

Formation of larger towns and cities
(Development comes out of the front to accommodate more
people giving rise to bigger settlements.)

Iron Age

Evolution of Human Settlement

People settle down in different geographical conditions and adopt themselves to the conditions in the region. Patterns of human settlements evolve in accordance with the natural conditions. Using the resources from the surroundings man constructed houses and started living in them. In the modern era of science and technology, people have made a remarkable progress in the construction of shelter. Settlements have provided man with stability.

◆ Why Human need Shelter

- ★ Safety and security.
- ★ To Protect themselves from predators and enemies.
- ★ To protect themselves from adverse weather conditions like extreme temperature, stormy winds and rain.
- ★ To safeguard Their food supplies and domestic animals.

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Various Stages

Man as Nomad and Cave Dweller

(Up to 10,000 B. C.)

- Earth estimated to be formed about 4 billion years ago
- Homo Sapiens (the one existing species of man) believe to date from about 500,000 B. C.
- Earliest man did not settle anywhere as they wandered around in search of food
- Did not know how to construct buildings so lived in

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Man as Nomad and Cave Dweller

(Up to 10,000 B.C.)

- Later man began to live in caves by the side of rivers, lakes and springs
- Sites protected by rivers, swamps or elevated terrain preferred
- Caves not used as places for fixed residence
- When food gathering in the vicinity became difficult

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Towards Settled Habitation

(Up to 10,000 B. C. - 5,000 B. C.)

- Man learned to practice cultivation
- Could stay at one place and produce food
- Began to settle down near the fields cultivated by them
- Choose fertile lands and where water was available in plenty
- Learned to build huts and mud houses

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Towards Settled Habitation

(Up to 10,000 B. C. - 5,000 B. C.)

- Some of the earliest settlements began to take shape
- Settlements then consisted of groups of houses built by the side of agricultural fields, a shrine and a burial ground.
- Some inhabitants continued to live in caves and

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

The Common Habitat and Onset of Civilisation

- Inhabitants organized as a community under a recognized leader
- Began to get the first lessons of civilized living
- Started learning to provide for themselves the three basic necessities of life - food, clothing and shelter

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Shifting Cultivation

- Shift to new location after experiencing decrease in fertility after successive cultivation
- Later learned that land regained fertility if it is left uncultivated for few years
- Began to cultivate fields by rotation
- Thus managed to stop shifting practice and settled

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Food Surplus

- Learned to make manure out of night soil and animal droppings
- Greatly increased food production
- As food became abundant, health of people improved
- Death rate dropped, birth rate increased and population of many settlements began to multiply rapidly through the natural process

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Beginning of permanent settlement

- Assured food supply through agriculture encouraged man to permanently settle by the side of the fields he cultivated
- Compact settlement since agriculture could support up to 35 persons per sq. km as compared to 15 persons per sq. km applicable to hunting and food gathering societies

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Favorable Locations for Settlements

- Favorable environment for human existence and survival
- Climate not very harsh
- Epidemics not frequent
- Land fertile
- Good quality of water available in plenty

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Why River Valleys

- Land was fertile, water and food (fishes and prongs) extracted from rivers, and soft clay good for constructing huts
- River also used later as means of transportation
- First settlements in the river valleys of India, China, Egypt, and areas known as the Fertile Crescent (modern Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Israel)

Origin and Evolution of Human Settlements

Other Factors Considered for Siting Settlements

- Took care to locate on higher ground for better drainage, protection from floods and reasons of security
- Spacing between settlements to leave space for future expansion

Community Structuring

Division of Labour

- As food became abundant, all the inhabitants were not required to work on the fields
- Others thus began to practice various occupations
- Working population got divided among farmers, cattle and poultry breeders, fishermen, shepherds craftsmen(carpenters, potters, painters, engravers, makers of tools, weapons and other implements), and weavers
- Some engaged in taming and domestication of

Community Structuring

Barter System

- The most ancient form of trading
- Those who were not farmers were supplied food in exchange of goods they produced
- Shepherds got grains in exchange for milk, weavers for cloth, potters for utensils, and craftsmen for tools and implements
- Initially practiced within the community
- Later as river and land routes developed for transportation, goods began to be exchanged across

Community Structuring

Trading

- With transportation, reputation of some of the goods produced by craftsmen of particular villages began to travel far and wide
- As the demand of goods increased, trading of such goods began to grow.
- Traders emerged as a new class of people, trading as a new occupation and market place as the new physical component of settlements.

Physical Structuring

New Physical Features

- The chieftain built for himself a castle which towered over the other buildings, more so because it was built at the highest point in the village
- The rich traders and wealthy farmers built their houses near the castle - the new distinguishing feature and a status symbol
- Relatively poor artisans and ordinary peasants occupied quarters on the periphery
- The community was divided between the rich and the

Physical Structuring

The Walled Settlements

- The strife between the people of the same settlement later supplemented by that between the people of different settlements
- The rich settlements were exposed to the danger of being raided by outsiders
- The wall around the settlement was built in addition to the one already existing around the castle
- This effectively curbed physical spread of settlements
- People living outside moved in

New Community Structuring

Subjugation of Peasants

- The external threat brought forth the necessity of internal unity
- Need for mutually defending themselves
- But the new organization of the community was such that it resulted in the subjugation and exploitation of a large majority of peasants by a small minority of the rich - the so called nobles
- The Chieftain claimed a share in the agricultural surplus in return for the protection provided by him to the community

New Community Structuring

- Placing more resources at the disposal of the Chieftain meant better equipped army and better protection for the community
- Soon the beneficent role of the Chieftain was corrupted by his lust for power
- As his resources increased and he became more powerful, he began to demand a larger share of the agricultural surplus
- Ultimately leaving barely minimum for the survival of the peasant and his family

New Community Structuring

Role of the Priests and New Physical Structuring

- When use of physical power was not enough to ensure complete obedience, the same was achieved by exploiting the religious sensibilities of the people
- The shrine moved within the precincts of the citadel
- Priests were begun to be identified with the Chieftain
- Often, the Chieftain even assumed the role of a priest
- The Chieftain became all powerful and people willingly obeyed whatever he commanded
- He elevated himself to the status of the king - one

Civilization

Language, Art and Technology

- Man developed new skills in art to create carvings, engravings and paintings
- Developed a kind of common language
- Learned the use of metals and acquired an array of new implements
- Used these houses to make bigger houses, temples and tombs

Urban Settlement

Community Structure

- Labour specialisation
- New occupations – teachers, advocates, judges, government servants
- New class of people – philosophers, scientists, administrators, political leaders, dramatists, sculpture artists, architects and town planners
- Distinct social classes
- Non-agricultural occupations expanded at a faster rate

◆ What factors influence human settlement

There are many reasons why humans make the choices they do about building settlements.

➤ Factors include:

Physical Features	Human Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flat land (easy to build)• Fertile soil (for crops)• Forests (timber and housing).• Body of water (transportation routes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of life• Employment• Social network or supports• Common language, religion or culture.

Factors can be push or pull. **Push factors encourage a family to emigrate** (pushes them to leave a location). **Pull factors encourage a family to immigrate** (pulls them in to move to a location).

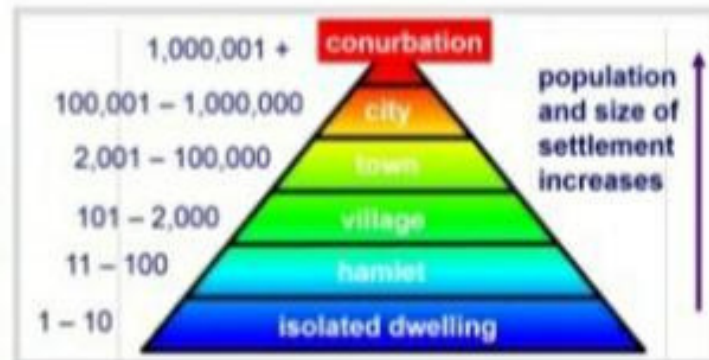
Push Factors	Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● lack of services● lack of safety● high crime● crop failure● drought● flooding● poverty● war	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● higher employment● more wealth● better services● good climate● safer, less crime● political stability● more fertile land● lower risk from natural hazards



Human Settlement in Present day

In Present days we see basically Rural and Urban settlements.

- ❑ A rural settlement is where displaced populations settle on land outside of cities and towns. The population is often dependent on agricultural and pastoral practices, and has fewer community infrastructure systems than in urban settlements. A rural area's population density is very low. *(Figur: Settlement Hierarchy)*
Rural Settlement is classified by:- **Isolated Dwelling, Hamlet and Village.**



- ❑ An Urban settlement is a concentrated settlement that constitutes or is part of an urban area. It is an area with high density of human-created structures. In the urban economy, there is usually no primary industry.

Urban settlement is classified by:- **Town, city & Conurbation.**

Questions:

- Briefly explain about origin and growth of settlement.
- What rural settlement
- Define urban settlement
- State or illustrate static demographic of present human settlements
- Difference between pull and push factors
- Difference between Physical factors and human factors
- Explain any 2 primitive steps of human settlements.



Settlement hierarchy

A settlement hierarchy is a ranking of communities in a region or country by population, kind of service, and variety of services. The settlements are put into a rank order either by population or type and range of services. As you move up the settlement hierarchy, the size of the settlement increases, as does the population and the range of services available.

LEVELS OF SETTLEMENT

Isolated dwelling

The whole settlement consists of only 1 or 2 households.

Village

A group of houses with other buildings, for example a shop, school, etc., in a country area. A village is smaller than a town

City

A permanent and densely settled place with administratively defined boundaries whose members work primarily on non-agricultural tasks

Conurbation

A group of large cities and their suburbs that have strong links connecting them to each other.

A hamlet is a small settlement that has no central place of worship and no meeting point,

Hamlet

A place with many streets and buildings. A town is larger than a village but smaller than a city.

Town

A city and surrounding towns that are in close proximity and have started to merge into each other.

Metropolis

A large conurbation, where two or more large cities have sprawled outward to meet, forming something larger than a metropolis; a megacity.

Megalopolis

NAME OF THE SETTLEMENT	DEFINITION	POPULATION (IN NO. OF PEOPLE)
Isolated dwelling	Isolated dwelling often in rural areas, these tend to be farmhouses or holiday homes.	a few buildings at most
Hamlet	Hamlets have very tiny populations and few services, if any.	< 100 people
Village	Villages start to have some basic services like a petrol station or a village shop.	100 - 1,000
Town	Towns see an increase in services, for example, they would have senior schools and police stations.	1,000-20,000
City	A city with a large population and many services.	3,00,000 - 1 million
Metropolis	A city and surrounding towns that are in close proximity and have started to merge into each other.	1-3 million
Conurbation	A group of large cities and their suburbs that have strong links connecting them to each other.	3-10 million
Megalopolis	Where conurbations have joined to become one large urban area.	10 million +

ISOLATED DWELLING

- Isolated dwellings are farm villages found in rural areas.
- These villages may have one or two homes or families in it and the individual lives on his farm with his farmland surrounding him.
- It has negligible services.



HAMLET

- The word "hamlet", borrowed from the Old French hamel, means "village."
- A hamlet is a type of rural settlement that consists of only a few houses, often clustered together close to the road.
- There may be a temple in a village and it lacks some settlement which is too small to be considered as a town or village.
- It is a small settlement, with a small population usually under 100.
- Hamlets generally arise around a specific site such as a mill or a large farm.



VILLAGE

- A village is a small clustered human settlement or community, having inhabitants between 500 and 2,500, usually found in a rural setting.
- It is larger than a "hamlet" but smaller than a "town".
- Small villages contain households between 90 and 140.
- In villages, settlements of people are found clustered around a central point which is most often a church, a temple or the like, marketplace, or public space.



TOWN

- A town is a human settlement.
- It is a thickly populated area larger than a village but smaller than a city .
- It has fixed boundaries and certain local powers of government.
- The number of dwellers ranges from a few hundred to several thousands.
- In other words a town has less than one lakh population, Town is a place where people live and work.



city

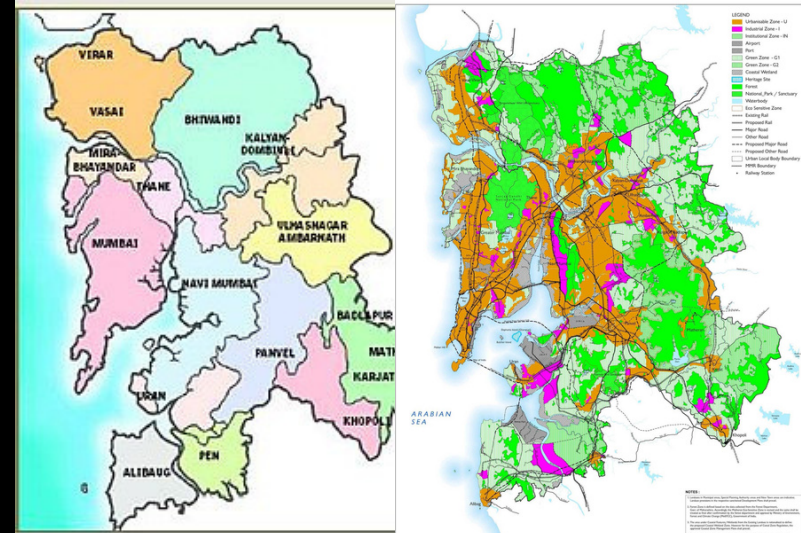
- A city is a large and permanent human settlement. Cities do not have a minimum size nor population, however, they usually have around 1,00,000–3,00,000 inhabitants. Cities are governed by a mayor, and more often than not, a majority of the important administrative offices can be found in cities.
- Example : Madurai city is administered by a municipal corporation established in 1971 as per the Municipal Corporation Act. The city covers an area of 147.97 km² (57.13 sq mi) and has a population of 1,402,000 in 2023.



Madurai city aerial view

metropolis

- A metropolitan area or metro is a region of a densely populated urban agglomeration and its surrounding territories sharing industries, commercial areas, transport network, infrastructures and housing. A metro area usually comprises multiple principal cities, jurisdictions and municipalities: neighborhoods, townships, boroughs, cities, towns, ex-urbs, suburbs, counties, districts, as well as even states and nations like the euro districts. As social, economic and political institutions have changed, metropolitan areas have become key economic and political regions.
- Example : The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) spread over 6,640 sq. km. consists of 9 Municipal Corporations viz. Greater Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivali, Navi Mumbai, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi- Nizamapur, Vasai-Virar, Mira-Bhayandar and Panvel; and 9 Municipal Councils viz. The population of MMR as of 2023 is 21,297,000



The Mumbai Metropolitan Area

conurbation

- A conurbation is a collection of two or more large cities and their suburbs. The cities that belong to conurbations are strongly related to one another. Conurbations commonly have populations of 1–3 million people.
- The term "conurbation" refers to continuous urban growth along a key transportation corridor that connects the city center.
- Conurbation presents a picture of massive urban expansion and is a part of urban ecology. It is functionally integrated with megacities and bigger metropolitan areas.
- They symbolize horizontal urban sprawl, gigantic building constructions, hypermarkets, residential colonies, and slums in between industrial sectors.
- Conurbation encompasses not only physical expansion but also the fusion of diverse civilizations and the formation of a new culture and way of life, which is largely cosmopolitan in nature and represents centrifugal forces.
- For example, Greater London, Manchester, Chicago, and Tokyo and a massive conurbation in India between Agra, Delhi, and Kalka are in the process of development.

The NCR, as of now



The National Capital Region (NCR) includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi as well as many nearby districts in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan. In 2011, this conurbation's population was 21.7 million people. It is the world's third-largest urban agglomeration in terms of population.

MEGALOPOLIS

- A Megalopolis is continuous chain of urban cities or centres that are closely linked.
- A megalopolis is formed when several urban areas that had been separated for a while merge to form one huge metropolitan region over time due to the growth and expansion of the fragmented urban centers. For a region to qualify as a megalopolis it has to have at least 10 million inhabitants, it must be a conglomeration of more than two urban areas, and it has to be well supplied with a developed network of infrastructure. Nearly every continent has megalopolises strewn across different countries.
- Example : There is the Great Lakes megalopolis that stretches from Canada up north to the United States covering numerous provinces and states from each country with a population of 60 million people



The first image consists of The Megalopolis Area of the Great Lakes of America .

The second image consists of The Megalopolis Area of Toronto(Canada) and New York(USA) across Lake Ontario