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Hierarchy of settlements in India

Functions of rural and urban settlements

# Hierarchy of settlements in India

- Based on the population size, the census of India classifies urban centers into **six** classes .

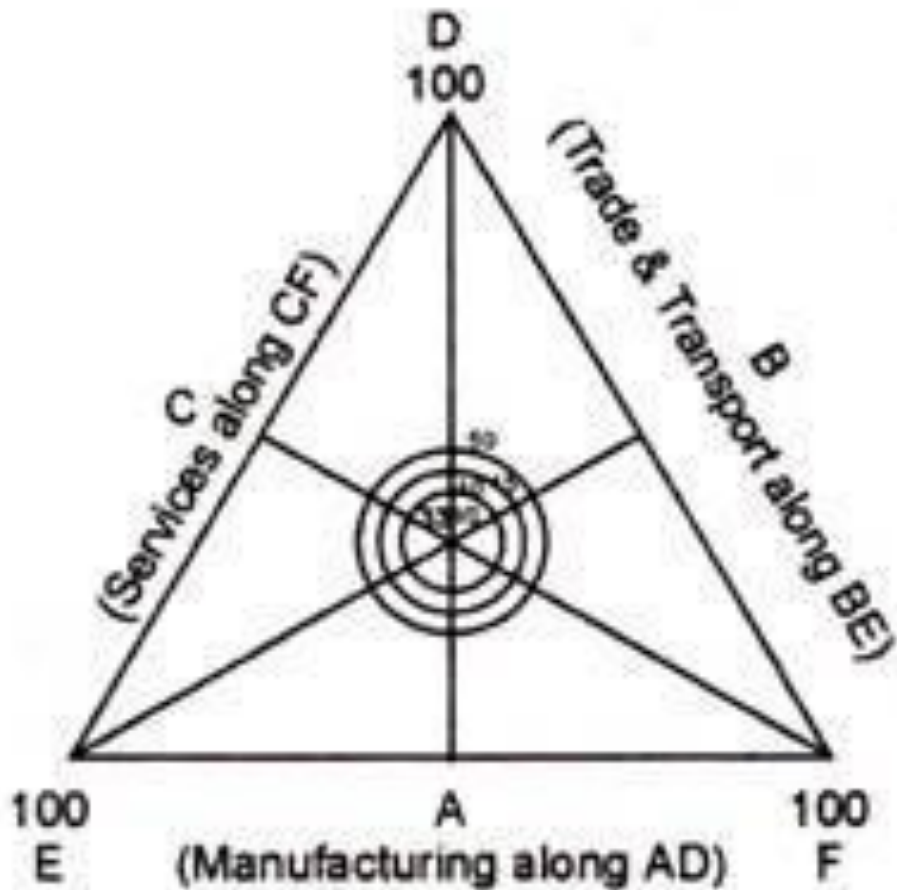
S.No.	Classes & Population
1	Class I 100,000 and above
2	Class II 50,000 to 99,999
3	Class III 20,000 to 49,999
4	Class IV 10,000 to 19,999
5	Class V 5,000 to 9,999
6	Class VI less than 5000

- The cities with population beyond five million are known as **mega cities**.
- Urban agglomeration forms in a situation when a town and its adjoining urban areas outgrowth, or two or more contiguous towns with or without their outgrowth, or a city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowth together forming a contiguous spread.
- More than 60 per cent of urban population in India lives in Class I towns.
- Out of total 423 cities, 35 cities/urban agglomerations are metropolitan cities and six of them are mega cities.

# Mitra's Classification of Indian Cities

- Ashok Mitra, a former Registrar General of the Census of India, attempted a comprehensive classification of all Indian Cities. He grouped the seven industrial categories' of workers into three broad groups:
  - (a) Manufacturing Town (percentage of workers in III, IV, V and VI put together is greater than the percentage in VII + VIII or in IX).
  - (b) Trade and Transport Town (percentage of workers in VII + VIII is greater than IX or in III + IV + V and VI put together).
  - (c) Service Town (where percentage of workers in IX is greater than workers in III + IV + V + VI or percentage in VII + VIII).
- Degree of specialization in each of the three basic groups (a, b, and c) was identified by a triangular method on a graph.

## Classification of Indian Cities



- The values of all the three groups are then plotted, and a point for each town within the triangle's perpendiculars was located. Three circles from the in centre point ( $33\frac{1}{3}$ ) are drawn proportionately to represent 40, 45 and 50 values respectively.
- These show increasing tendency for specialization. The points within the first circle show highly diversified functions; points between first and second circle are moderately diversified; points between second and third represent specialized predominant function; and the points outside the outer (third) circle show highly specialized predominant function.

- The classification of 2,528 towns shows that as many as 736 were agriculture, (total number of workers exceeding the number of workers in three non-agricultural groups), and out of 1,792 non-agricultural towns, 655 were manufacturing towns, 708 as trade and transport towns, and 429 as service towns.
- Mitra's classification, on the whole, brings the major categories of cities with their specialization. It distinguishes three broad functional categories - manufacturing, trading and service (administration) among cities.
- Majority of cities show no clear specialization in one economic activity and have diversified economic base. The diversified city with multiple functions constitutes the most common and representative type of cities.

# FUNCTIONS OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

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- The people living in the rural areas all over the world are engaged and dependent on various primary occupations, viz, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and mining.
- the functions of most of the peoples of rural settlements are generally agricultural. Apart from cultivation of crops and domestication of animals the rural settlements perform other functions.
- The village panchayats (in India) and village councils in other countries perform some administrative and judicial functions. In the socialist countries like Russia, North Korea, and China, the village councils decide when certain crops should be sown, irrigated, or harvested.

- In the rural settlements where fishermen live, the main activity is fishing. The fishing villages are sited on rivers, lakes and sea - coasts and the people look to the water rather than the land to get their livelihood. Although the main occupation of these villages is fishing but this may be combined with some agricultural activity.
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- There are numerous rural settlements in the forest areas, which the dominant economic activity is gathering of forest products and lumbering.
  - The fishing, mining or lumbering villages are like agricultural settlements in which there are a few shops and some small – scale administrative functions, but they differ from towns, as do all villages in the relatively narrow range of their activities and their lack of commercial and industrial development. Along with these functions, dairying will become an important economic activity in all most all parts of the country.



- Nowadays, the increases in communication, electric power, and machineries in each and every field besides the rise in education have brought many small rural settlements for greater contact, interactions, and increased trade.
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# FUNCTIONS OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS

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- Classification can be based on geographical location, stage and the size of population. But in many ways the most meaningful basis of classification is that of function, determined principally by occupational structure.
- Urban centers being the focus of human population perform certain essential functions.
- These functions are naturally influenced by that site, situation the environmental conditions of urban centers in which they are located.

- The functional interpretation of towns has become significant aspect of urban study as it provides a good basis for the regional planning.
- Functional classification of urban settlements urban settlements under the categories of functions.
  - Ancient City
  - Medieval City
  - Modern City

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  - Administrative City/Town
  - Industrial City
  - Transport City
  - Commercial City
  - Mining City
  - Cantonment City
  - Educational City
  - Religious City
  - Tourists' City

- Varanasi, Prayag (Allahabad), Pataliputra (Patna), Madurai, etc. are the examples of ancient city.
  - Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Agra, Nagpur, etc. are the examples of medieval city.
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- Surat, Daman, Panaji, Pondicherry, etc. are the examples of modern city.
  - Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Dispur, etc. are the cities developed after the independence of India.
  - Ghaziabad, Rohtak, Gurgaon, etc. are the satellite towns that have been developed around Delhi.

- The town or cities performing administrative works are categorized as **administrative** towns/cities. For example, the national capital (New Delhi) and the capital of all states and Union Territories are the administrative towns/cities.
- The towns/cities that developed because of the industrial development are known as **industrial** towns/cities. For example, Mumbai, Salem, Coimbatore, Modinagar, Jamshedpur, Hugli, Bhilai, etc.
- The towns/cities primarily engaged in export and import activities are known as **transport** towns/cities. For example, Kandla, Kochchi, Kozhikode, Vishakhapatnam, etc.
- The towns/cities primarily engaged in trade and business are known as **commercial** towns. For example, Kolkata, Saharanpur, Satna, etc.
- The towns that developed because of the mining activities are known as **mining** towns. For example, Raniganj, Jharia, Digboi, Ankaleshwar, Singrauli, etc.

- The towns that developed as garrison towns are known as **Garrison Cantonment** towns. For example, Ambala, Jalandhar, Mhow, Babina, Udhampur, etc.
- The towns that developed because of the development of educational institutions are known as **educational** towns. For example, Roorkee, Varanasi, Aligarh, Pilani, Allahabad etc.
- Some towns mark their development with the existence of religious shrines. Such towns are known as **religious** towns. For example, Varanasi, Mathura, Amritsar, Madurai, Puri, Ajmer, Pushkar, Tirupati, Kurukshetra, Haridwar, Ujjain, etc.
- The towns that developed because of the influx of tourists are known as **tourists'** towns. For example, Nainital, Mussoorie, Shimla, Pachmarhi, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udagamandalam (Ooty), Mount Abu, etc.