

Urbanisation and Urban Life

Urbanisation means the process of developing a village as a town or Kasba. There are many differences between a village and a town. The village has less population whereas the town has more. Cultivation and animal husbandry are the main sources of livelihood in the villages whereas trade and production in the town. The natural environment of the village is free from pollution but in the town it is polluted. Education, transportation, health facilities etc. are more developed in the town. The development of towns from villages is a long term process covering many centuries. According to the sociologist, urban life and modernisation are complementary to each other and the town is considered as a dominating area of modern people. The town provides unlimited possibilities to satisfy the urge of people. Before modern age, trade and religion were the main bases of the establishment of towns. These areas were located on the commercial way or ports and harbours. The religious places attracted a large number of devotees and they strengthened the urban economy.

Medieval feudal social structure and medieval moral value were at their zenith by the 13th century. In spite of many obstructions, this system remained intact till the 16th century. This system controlled, stopped and submerged the new and external forces which wanted to change it. At last a new social and political structure developed which was indebted to ancient tradition but accepted modern political and economic concepts which were facilitated by more practical and inquisitive attitude.

In this background, the urban life flourished. In due course of time, such types of cities developed in which grand parks were created. These cities and busy industrious citizens were foresighted and harbinger of future. These cities were connected with new highways and trades started among them by the roads and waterways.

The process of urbanisation has been very long but the history of the rise of modern cities is about two hundred years old. Three historical

processes played a decisive role in the establishment of cities. Firstly, the rise of industrial capitalist, secondly the establishment of colonial rule on a vast landscape of the world and thirdly, the development of democratic values.

Thus, the attitude of advancement towards urban system developed keeping the rural and feudal system aside. So urbanisation is a modern incident as a life-style of a large part of the masses.

An established social life began from villages. In the process of this transition, permanent cultivation began in place of nomadic life based on hunting, food gathering and temporary cultivation.

Land investment and technical discoveries opened the possibilities of surplus production in agriculture which was imperative for their social existence. So the impact of permanent cultivation made money hoarding possible which created social discriminations. High division of labour originated the necessity of trade and commerce on the basis of these changes, the rise of rural life got a new dimension where people began to live a distinguished socially organised lives.

In the economic and administrative contexts, there are two main bases of rural and urban system — density of population and ratio of agriculture based economic activities. So the density of population is large in towns and cities. The village is also differentiated from towns and cities on the basis of agricultural activities at economic format. In other words, a large part of village population is associated with agricultural activities. Most of the commodities are agricultural products which are the main source of their income. So agriculture based economy was related to life subsistence economy. So the advancement of this class towards cities became possible on the basis of monetary based economy which was competitive and inspired by an industrious attitude. The process of emigration started on the basis of this very social and economic change. A large number of farmer class advanced towards cities in search of new opportunity. At the initial stage, they had immense contribution in the establishment of cities. But in the urban system, this class was neglected because they continued to keep social discriminations. Advancing in this direction, modern cities emerged and the craze of urban life increased. This is the process in which a large part of population began to settle in cities rather than in villages. The size and

and complexity of cities also changed. The city became the centre of political authority and artisans, businessmen and officers began to settle there.

The industrialisation in modern age deeply influenced the nature of urbanisation. Even after many decades of the beginning of industrialisation most of the western towns were village type towns.

If we observe the developmental phases of towns, we can see the process beginning as Kasbas. Artisans, traders, administrators and rulers used to live in Kasbas. Kasbas were influenced by rural life and they strengthened themselves by taxes and surcharges. Most of the Kasbas were fortified which separated them from villages.

Kasba : A Kasba is a small town in rural area, which was the centre of most of the local distinguished persons.

Ganj : Ganj is a small settled market. Both the Kasba and Ganj were related to textile, fruit, vegetables and milk products. They supplied stuffs to cities and army.

With the political and commercial re-organisation in the 18th century, old cities began to deteriorate and new to develop. Cities began to be transformed into metropolitans where the political and economic affairs are looked after and the population is very large.

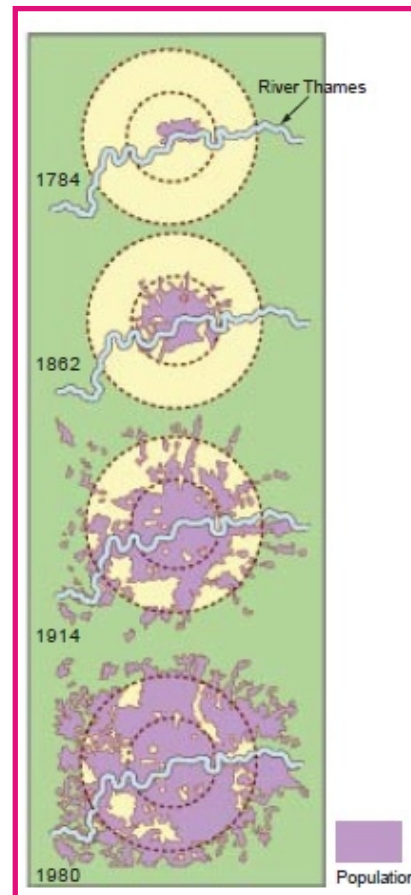
England : Industrialisation immensely influenced the nature of urbanisation. However, by 1850, most of the western cities were of village type. Initial industrial cities like Leeds and Manchester were established towards the end of the 18th century. At a result of textile mills, number of emigrant workers were attracted towards the cities. In 1851, more than three-fourth of the people residing in Manchester were emigrant workers coming from rural areas.

By 1750, one of every nine persons of England and Wales resided in London. It was a giant city where population is upto 6,75,000. Even in the 19th century, the process of expansion of London continued. From 1810 to 1880, their population increased four times from 10 lacs to 40 lacs.

Although there were no large factories in London, it succeeded in attracting a large number of people. Besides the dockyard of London, there were five main industries in London (i) print and stationery industry (ii) textile and footwear industry (iii) metal and engineering industry (iv) wood and furniture industry and (v) industries for manufacturing medical equipment and products for exact measurement like watches and costly metals. In the 20th century, during the First World War, the production of motorcar and electric equipment were started in London and the three-fourth of the jobs in the city were limited in those factories.

Metropolis : A Metropolis is a large and densely populated city of a province or country which is commonly the capital. In the 19th century, London was the city of clerks, shopkeepers, small professionals, skilled artisans, police-men, servants, daily wages workers, hawkers, beggars and the workers who were skilled and did physical work.

Growing interests towards cities changed the form of the old city like London. Since this city is growing as a city of emigrants, a large number of cheap and unsafe houses began to emerge in the city because the factory owners did not provide residence to the emigrant workers. It was a main consequence of emigration.



Expansion of London - the map demonstrating the population of London at four separate periods

Tenements : Tenements are large and crowded apartments, commonly situated in the area of poor people in big cities.

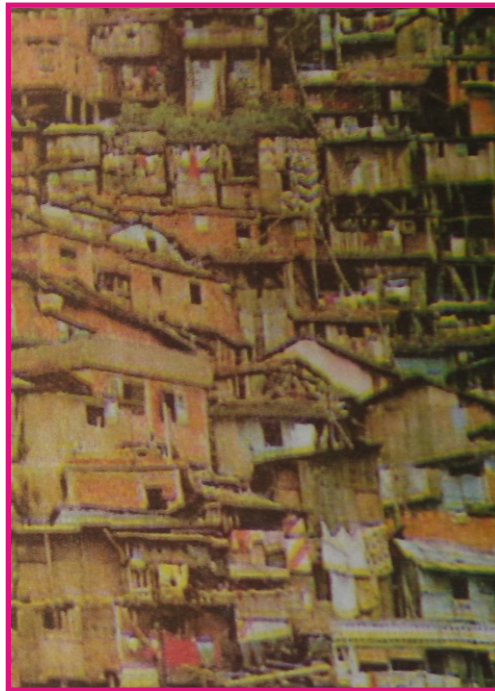


Stangers' Home — The Illustrated News 1870

Charities and night dwellings (rain baseras) for winter were built in many cities where a large number of poor people gathered in hope of food, warmth and roof.

London, on one hand, was a city of sages and rich people but, on the other, only a few people who were socially and economically privileged minorities availed of this opportunity, who could lead completely free and satisfied lives. But most of the people who lived in cities were limited to compulsions and did not avail equal freedom. So the urban life was creating conflicts and discriminating experiences. If there was affluence on the one hand, there was poverty on the other; there was external glittering on the one hand, there were dust and darkness on the other; there was opportunity on the one hand, there was dismay on the other. So as London grew larger, some negative attitudes also grew up. Criminal activities increased and social and moral values fell down.

According to David Thompson, the great effect of industrialisation was change in social and moral values. In the decade of 1870, there were at least twenty thousand criminals in London. According to Henry Mehu, a list of criminals who earned their livelihood by crimes was prepared. Besides it, the census of 1861 revealed that the number of house servants increased and among them, the number of housemaids was more. The number of child workers was also greater up, but the compulsory primary Education Act in 1870 and Factory Act in 1902 made a provision to keep the children out of industrial activities.



The slums in London

On the one hand, there was job in the cities but on the other, semi-skilled workers emerged as a lumpen who subsisted in huts. Efforts were made to provide residence facilities to the poor of the city. The house consisting only one room was dangerous because of lack of ventilation, fear of fire and social turmoil. So, planning for providing residence to workers was started to remove these apprehensions.

Efforts were made to minimise the crowded slums in London, to make the open place green, to control the population and settle the town through adequate planning. Efforts were also made to bridge up the difference between village and town by making a green belt around London. The architect and planner, Ebenezer Howard named this concept 'Garden City' where common plants and trees were planted but only medium artisan could buy their houses there.



New Ardwick — a garden city During world wars (1919-1939), the British government took the responsibility to provide accommodation to the workers' class and about 10 lacs houses were built keeping the small families in mind. During this period, the city became so large that people could not go at their workplace on foot. So public transportation system was adopted. Thus accommodation and transportation system developed through organisation and management so that people could reach at their workplace. Now there was need of public health facilities, cleanliness, safety and police. In the picture you can see, New Ardwick a garden city which was surrounded by greenery. A new community life was developing here. Raymond Anwit and Wary Parker designed it. Transportation system was affected by industrial and commercial working places near residential places and a large public transportation system was developed. It directly influenced the standard of life of the persons working in the city. The change in the public transportation facilities brought social change also.

Thus the transportation facilities in the cities were improved. The underground railways by which a large number of people could reach different sides of the city solved the problems of accommodation too.

The first phase of the first underground railways in the world was dedicated to people on 10th January, 1863. The railway lines were laid between Paddington to Farringdon Street in London. On the very first day, the number of passengers was about 10,000. By the year 1880, the underground railway network spread out and about four crore people annually used to travel by it.

Charles Dickens wrote in 1848 that for the underground railways, houses were demolished, roads were closed, the poor people of London were thrown to roads, but despite these obstructions underground railways became successful. By the advent of the 20th century, some metropolises like New York, Tokyo, Chicago etc. set up well-organised transportation system which connected their suburban areas.

The change in public transportation system brought social change also. Capable, skilled and safe public transportation brought a great change in urban life and also influenced the economy of the city which gave a new shape to the social system.



Advertisement of London underground for Golders Green Station, about 1900

Social change and urban life:

The social life in cities can closely be connected to modernity. In fact, it is an inter expression to each other. Cities are considered the domain of modern people.

These places of dense population provides opportunities to some seers but only a few people got them. But in spite of these compulsions, cities take the principle of 'group recognition' ahead where race, religion, caste, province and group represent urban life. In fact, the gathering of more people at a small place intensifies the recognition and it arouses, on the one hand, the feeling of co-existence and antagonism on the other. If there is the feeling of co-existence on the one hand, there is process of separation on the other which resulted the transformation of mixed neighbourhood into single community. This type of mohallah were called Ghetto.

Individualism

The principle in which individual freedom and right are given importance in place of community.

Ghetto: This word is commonly used in medieval European cities for the colonies of the Jews. These days, it points to the people living together on the basis of particular religion, race, caste or similar recognition. In the process of ghettoization single community neighbourhood takes the place of the neighbourhood of mixed characteristics. It gives a particular country form to the communal riots.

New social groups were formed in cities. The people of all classes began to advance towards large cities. The urban civilisation brought the feeding of individualism not only in men but also in women and completely changed the form and utility of the family. The family relation that had hitherto been strong began to loosened now. The movements for women's right was undertaken. Women could take part in the political activities after about 1970 through the right to vote and right to property for

married women movement. Now the social status of women was changed. Their ideological upliftment could be seen as cultural instances. In the modern age women struggled for equality and became helpful in bringing about a change in several social forms. Historical situations were helpful in the struggle of women but somewhere they created obstructions. For example, during the Second World War, women began to work in factories in western countries. Let's take another example, women got success in bringing about a change in their status through consumer advertisement sector.

In most of the urban societies, women take decision about the commodities of domestic use. So the advertisement sensitised the thinking of woman as a consumer. With the rise in population in the 19th century, a large number of men were also collected through movements like Chatidag movement (a movement for adults) and ten-hour movement (a movement for fixing working hour in factories). The rise of commercial capitalism caused the rise of business class cities. Trade at wide level, production on large scale, monetary economy, urban economy in which salary for work, cash payment for wages, dynamic and competitive economy, free enterprises, tendency to earn profit, currency, banking, exchange of credit bill, insurance, agreement, company, shares, joint stock, authority and so on had been the characteristics of capitalist system. It emerged as a new social power.

Laissez Faire: Economic freedom in which the government had not any kind of interference and the capitalists had full freedom.

New mill owners were previously one individual capitalists. They earned property, honour and influence by their own intelligence, farsightedness and diligence. This class influenced particularly the politics of England.

Middle Class: The rise of towns strengthened the middle class. A new educated class emerged. They emerged as a class getting an average equal income and were accepted as intelligentsia. They remained working in different capacities as teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, clerks, accountants but their ideals of life value were similar and their economic

Working Class:

In modern cities, with the rise of a capitalist class, a working class also emerged. Unlike feudal system, the privileged class began to exploit the proletarians. As a result, two contradictory classes came into existence in the cities. Due to the establishment of factory system in cities, the farmer class who were almost landless began to migrate to the cities in hope of better opportunity for employment. In order to it, some industrial cities like Manchester, Lancashire, and Sheffield etc. came into existence. There was a great number of workers in these cities. But there was a lack of the feeling of public welfare. So some new problems like unemployment, negligency for health etc. came ahead. That is why the working class set up workers' organisation for serving their interests. Afterwards, the parliament enacted some rules. In 1825, the government of England had to accept the increment in workers' salary, lessening the working hours and right to work in an organised way. Since these rules were not implemented, the condition of workers could not be improved. So the workers began to unite themselves through trade union.

Colonial Indian City — Mumbai:

Contrary to the western European cities, the process of urbanisation in India was slow. In the beginning of the 20th century, only 11% people lived in cities and a great number of them lived in presidency cities which were large and multi-useful. There were large harbours, warehouses, army cantonments, educational institutions, museums and libraries in these cities. By the end of the 19th century, Mumbai began to spread fast. In the beginning, Mumbai was the part of seven islands. As the population grew up, these islands were connected together so that more room could be made. Thus a huge city came into existence. Mumbai was the commercial capital of colonial India. Since it had a main harbour, it was a centre of trade whence raw materials like cotton and opium were exported. Due to this trade, not only traders and money lenders (Mahajans) but artisans and shopkeepers also settled in Mumbai. After the opening of textile mills, a fair number of

people advanced towards this city. The first textile mill was set up in 1854 and by 1921, there were 85 textile mills in which about 1,46,000 labourer were working. By 1931, about one-fourth of the population was the resident of Mumbai and the rest were outsiders.

Like London, Mumbai was also a densely populated city. In 1840, the area of London was 155 square yard per capita whereas Mumbai had only 9.5 square yard per capita. In 1872, there lived an

average of 8 people in a house in London whereas in Mumbai, there was an average of 20 people per house.

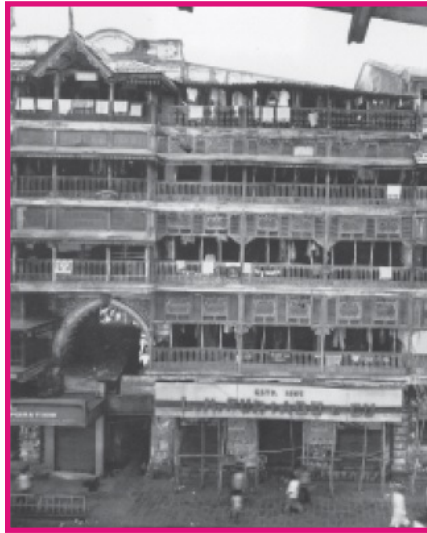
Mumbai was not developed in a well-planned way. Around 1800, Mumbai Fort area was the centre of the city and it was divided into two parts. The native people lived in one part whereas the European on the other. To the north of court population, a European sub-city and industrial belt began to rise. Similarly, there were sub-urban population and cantonment in the south. The other presidential cities also had this type of racial division.

Due to unplanned expansion of the city, the problem of settlement and water supply grew up by 1850. A great number of people came to Mumbai to work in textile mills and settled here. So the residential area of Mumbai came into pressure and about 70 percent people began to live in 'Chawls'. The 'Chawls' in Mumbai were multi-storied building. Unlike the tenements of London, these were the individual property of traders and money-lenders.



Mumbai in 1930

They met the residential needs of the outsiders. These buildings consisted only the rows of rooms and there was no facility of lavatory.



A Chawl in Mumbai

The work of town planning started in London in the fear of social revolution whereas in Mumbai it was started in the fear of plague. In 1898, City of Bombay Improvement Trust was established. In 1918, the rent bill was passed to check the rising rent of the houses in Mumbai but it did not solve the residential problem. Due to lack of land, the expansion of the city created problems in Mumbai and Land Development Project was started to solve them. The first project was started in 1784. William Hornby, the governor of Mumbai, approved the proposal of making a huge coastal wall so that the lower area of the city would be saved from sea water.

By the middle of the 19th century, when the need of more land was felt for commercial purpose, the government and private companies began to make new plannings. In 1964, Bank Bericlamation Company got the contract for developing the area from the Malabar hill to the Western coast of the last side of Kolaba. By the beginning of the 20th century, when the population increased rapidly and the land was surrounded, sea land begin to be developed.

Land Development

To make the poachy and submerged land fit for living, cultivation and other activities.

A successful land development project was started under Bombay Port Trust. The trust made a dry dockyard during 1914-1918 and made a Ballard Estate consisting of 22 acres with the soil which was dug from the dockyard. Afterwards, the famous Marine Drive was developed. The



Marine Drive, the famous place of Mumbai was made by developing the sea land in 20th century

common people and non-residents coming to Mumbai have to face difficulties in their daily life. In conclusion, despite the contradiction of the city, the city always attracts the people who are in search of freedom and new

opportunities which accelerate the city socially and economically.



Singapore Marine

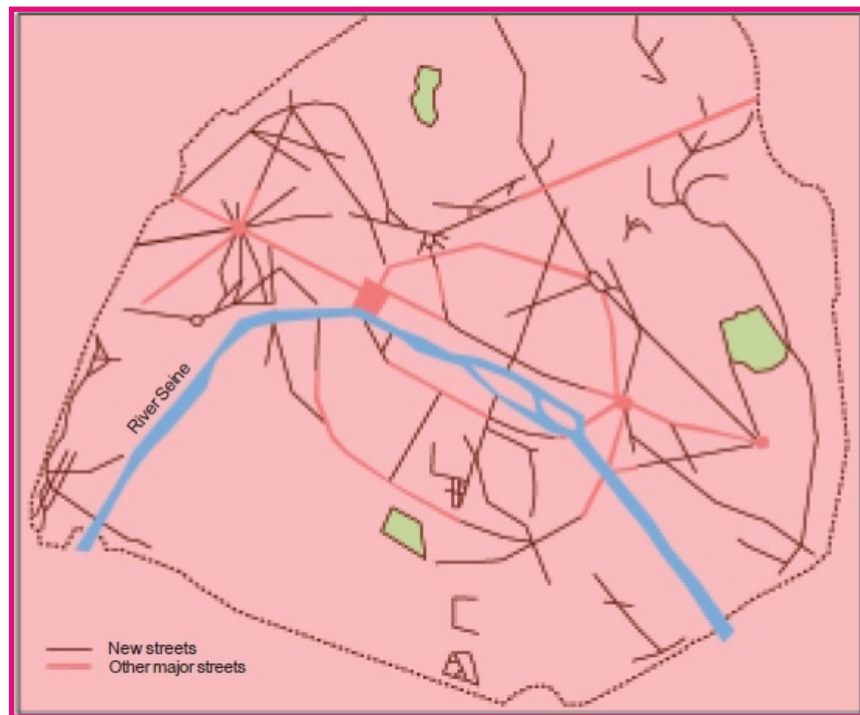
Development of Singapore City:

All the cities in Asian countries had not been developed unplanned and haphazardly. Several cities were systematically set up.

The Singapore of Lee Kuan Yew is an important example. Today, Singapore is a well-planned city which presents the ideal of city development in the world. By the year 1965, Singapore was a main harbour but it was like another Asian cities. The city was constructed for the British because they ruled over there that time. Most of the population used to live in overcrowded dirty houses and filth.

When Singapore got freedom in 1965, under the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew, the President of People's Action Party, a large housing and development programme was started which gave this island country a new dimension. New and well-furnished houses were allotted to about 86 percent people by the government and so the government won their support. Ventilation and all types of facilities were provided in these high residential areas. These buildings changed the social life of the city. Due to outer corridor, the criminal activities reduced and some storeys were left vacant for community programmes.

The arrival of people in the city was controlled. Efforts were also made to keep a close eye on social relations to check the racial and social conflicts among Indians, Chinese and Malaites. Newspapers, magazines and other means of communication were also controlled.



The plan of main roads of Paris made during 1850 to 1870 by Baron Haussmann

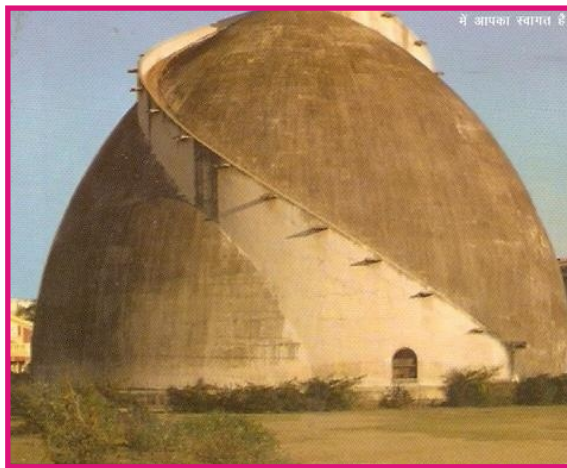
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However, the citizens of Singapore got physical facilities and affluence but it is also assumed that there is lack of challenging political culture in this city. As Baron Haussmann worked for the renovation of Paris, it is an example in the direction of urbanisation. Straight and wide roads or bluebirds (shady roads) were made, open fields were left, trees and plants were planted and the police were posted all over the city. By the year of 1960, one of five working people was deputed in constructive activities. But about 350,000 people came on rods in his re-construction campaign. Some affluent people of Paris also thought that the whole city was monsterly changed. But soon this feeling was changed into pride when Paris began to be known not only as a capital of fine architect but as a centre of social and intellectual progress also.

Patliputra (Patna):

In our state the development of Patna presents an important example of the process of urbanisation. In ancient times, it was a famous metropolis by the name of Patliputra which was counted among the contemporary famous cities.

It was established in the 6th century BC by Ajatshatru, the ruler of Magadh, as an army camp. In the course of time, it became the capital of the Magadh Empire. In the Maurya regime, it was the capital of a large empire from Kandhar to Karnataka. The remains of the Mauryan castle have been found from Kumharar, Patna South. That time the population of this city was about 4 lac. Different aspects of administration and life are available in 'Indica' written by Megasthene. He came to the court of Chandragupta as a messenger.



Golghar



Patna city situated at the bank of Ganga

The pride of this city remained intact even in the Gupta period. Fa-Hien, the Chinese traveller, described the prosperity and beauty of the huge castles of this city. In ancient times, this city was the centre of craft, art, trade, education and cultural activities but it came into deteriorating condition in early medieval period.

In the medieval age, Shershah Suri, a famous Afgan ruler revived the glory of this city. He got a fort built at the confluence of the Ganges and the Gandak in about 1541 because he anticipated the military importance of this place. Abdullah's writing 'Tarikh-e-Daudi' provides a comprehensive description about it. By the period of Akbar, this city had got the status of an important centre of trade. Ralph Fiech, English traveller visited this city and told that the trade of cotton, cotton clothes, sugar and opium was carried on with Bengal and other regions. Besides, these salt-petre and indigo were also exported from Patna on a large quantity. With the European traders, the Khattris of Punjab, the Jain traders of Western India, Iranian, Middle Asian, and Armenian traders were also active in this city. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the population of this city was more than three lacs whereas the cities having the population of one lac were considered important in contemporary Europe. In the Mogul period, several attractive and splendid buildings were built here which can now be seen in the middle and eastern part of the city. In 1666, the tenth and last preceptor of the Sikhs, Sri Govind Singh was born in this city and so it is considered an important religious place.

In the beginning of the 18th century, Azimushan, a Mogul prince renovated this city and named it Azimabad. That time, about one crore rupees was spent on the renovation of this city. Then, this city was eminent among important cultural centres of India.

The developmental phase of modern Patna town started in the second half of the eighteenth century with the establishment of British power in

Eastern India. The opium godown of the Britishers was already existed at a very short distance towards the west of Azimabad. A godown for storage of grains was built in 1786 at a distance of about five miles from here which is today known Golghar. The development of modern Patna began in the area between these two points.

The management of administration of patna town too developed in an order and in 1769 a British Inspector was appointed to look after the government of Bihar region, while several systems for the administration of Bihar were enacted under the Regulating Act 1774 in which the central position of Patna town continued.

Bihar was declared a separate state in the 'Delhi Durbar' in 1911. In 1912, Bihar and Orissa were separated from Bengal and got the status of a state and Patna became its capital. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the development of eastern Patna was started and a new administrative area emerged in which Governor's House, Secretariat, Legislative houses etc. were built.

After the freedom of the country, the population grew rapidly even in the South to Pana. The population of Patna is now more than 12 lac and the area is about 25 kilometre square. It is the largest city of Eastern India next to Kolkata and according to the density of population, it is the 14th largest city of India. At present, it is an important centre of education and trade and its status in cultural activities is also admirable.

The process of urbanisation has been very long. Leaving the rural and feudal system behind and going ahead from agricultural system, a new system came in force that emphasizes on the development of trade, commerce and industries. This developmental order aroused a new consciousness among the people and provided many facilities. But, on the other hand, it created many new problems that need to be solved now. Under this new social structure, on the one hand, there emerged mercantile middle and working class in cities and on the other, it brought the feelings of class discrimination that is contrary to the socialist ideology and it affects the democratic system also. The continuous progress and expansion of cities has influenced our life style in a positive way. It has provided better facilities for education and employment but on the other hand, it has aroused some negative attitudes like competition and opportunism. The formation of the balanced social system is possible only by the synthesis of those ideas with modernisation that we are leaving behind in urban hustle and bustle.

EXERCISE

Objective Questions:

- Which type of attitude emerged in urban system leaving the feudal system behind?
(i) Progressive attitude (ii) Aggressive attitude
(iii) Orthodox attitude (iv) Exploitation attitude
- The city is considered the _____ of modern people.
(i) Limited area (ii) Domain area
(iii) Extended area (iv) All of these
- Which type of hoarding became possible due to permanent cultivation?
(i) Wealth (ii) Knowledge
(iii) Peace (iv) Valuable metal
- Which type of economy came into action influenced by a competitive and industrious attitude?
(i) Livelihood economy (ii) Money-based economy
(iii) Inactive economy (iv) All of these
- In modern times, industrialisation intensively influenced the form of _____.
(i) Villages (ii) Cities
(iii) Kasbas (iv) Harbours
- Which of them has the largest density of population?
(i) Village (ii) Kasba
(iii) City (iv) Metropolis
- The population of London from 1810 to 1880 increased from 10 lac to _____.
(i) 20 lac (ii) 30 lac
(iii) 40 lac (iv) 50 lac

Short answer type questions:

1. By which three processes were modern cities established?
2. On what differences is the classification of society done in rural and urban areas?
3. What are the two important factors of the rural and urban structure in economic and administrative contexts?
4. Mention the characteristics of economic activities related to agriculture in villages.
5. What types of activities are mainly performed in cities?
6. How are urban life and modernisation related to each other?
7. "The privileged class in cities are minorities". How is it assumed?
8. What type of movement or effort produced a new consciousness for civil rights?
9. How did commercial capitalism contribute in the emergence of cities?
10. What was the role of the middle class in the emergence of towns?
11. In which situations did the working class move towards cities?
12. What are the problems created due to emergence of cities?

Long answer type questions:

1. Focus on the background and process of urbanisation.
2. Explain the differences between rural and urban lives.
3. What type of social change occurred in urban life?
4. Discuss the role of business class, middle class and working class in the process of urbanisation.
5. Examine the development of Mumbai as a colonial city.

Project work:

1. Select five types of buildings in your city. Try to know why it was decided to build them. How was the resources managed and who took the responsibility of construction? Mention the architectural aspects of these buildings and mark their similarities and differences with colonial architecture.
2. Collect information about the services provided by local administration. Do they provide the facilities such as water supply, housing, transportation, health and hygiene also? How are the resources for these services managed? What are the policies?

