UNIT 3

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS

Structure

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3.1 INTRODUCTION

In this course so far, you have learnt about the meaning of urban geography, development of concept and approaches in urban geography. All that helps in understanding how urban geography as a sub-discipline has grown over time. You will now learn about the origin and evolution of urban centres in the world and in the Indian-subcontinent as well. You should know that the first cities appeared thousands of years ago in areas where the land was fertile. Such cities are founded in the historic region known as Mesopotamia around 7500 B.C.E., which included Eridu, Uruk, and Ur. These cities were among the many communities between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers (the so-called Fertile Crescent). Cities were also formed along the Nile River in Egypt, the Indus River Valley on the Indian subcontinent, and the Yellow (or Huang) River in China, as people began to cultivate crops and settle in communities.

You know cities in Mesopotamian geographical location become significant as the city construction followed after the technological changes of Neolithic times, during which men acquired the art of cultivation. The development of farming made it possible to accumulate food surpluses, a factor of crucial importance for the evolution of cities. Later cities had origins in the Indus and Yellow River valleys in parts of Asia. Similarly, rise of cities and urban centres occurred in various other regions such as the Mexican civilization. Adams stated that “every high civilization other than possibly the Mayan did ultimately produce cities. And in most civilizations urbanization began early” (1960).
Today the European landscape is dotted with cities. In the ancient and early medieval periods, Europe had only a handful of main cities. Over the next millennium this changed dramatically, and cities started to appear on an unprecedented scale. With the appearance of towns in the middle Gangetic basin in the sixth century B.C. a second urbanization began in India and cities further evolved thereafter. Early medieval India witnessed a rise of cities mostly in the western parts of the country.

Bosker argued that there are no common factors which always worked in rise of cities everywhere and “the exact geographical features of importance mentioned are many, and they often differ between different parts of the world at different points in history” (2022). You know, the rise of the Greek, Roman and Europe’s key cities after the decline of first civilizations manifested itself in various urban forms, design, structure and political and economic systems. Later, the age of explorations played a key part in the rise and growth of cities. A new wave of cities developing international roles took place in the 11th and 12th centuries, as part of what is sometimes called the “commercial revolution” (Clark). In the sub-continent of India, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the towns were built by Rajputs and Mughal rulers in most of northern region. Much changed in the world after the industrial revolution which brought unprecedented changes in urban system and many cities had gone through tremendous technological shifts in Europe and America. Sjoberg (1965) argued that “…large scale urbanization began only about 100 years ago”. In addition, the twentieth century has seen an unprecedented rate of urbanization, increase in numbers and growth of cities and metropolitan cities in the world. The world is highly urbanized now more than ever before. However, there are geographical variations in urbanization and growth of urban centres.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

After completing the study of this unit, you should be able to:

- Acquaint yourself about the origin of cities and their evolution throughout the history. Which have been only the few regions where cities originated first in the world?
- To know about various geographical, cultural socio-economic factors which played a key part in the process of urbanization.
- To learn more about urbanization and urban growth that took place in different parts of world and the processes such as industrial revolution that caused them.

### 3.2 ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF TOWNS: ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, AND MODERN

1. **Ancient:** The people in ancient times preferred to dwell primarily in the area which was rich in water resources and fertile land, which lead to the first urban revolution. Development of ancient towns took place where there was availability of land and water transport, safety from enemies and presence of free trade zone in nearby area. The origin of major towns in ancient cultural regions is given below.
• **Mesopotamian Cities**

Sumeria is believed to be the earliest identified city which was located in Southern Mesopotamia. Earliest settlement such as *Jericho* displays fortification and concentration of settlement like early features of such cities. Some cities in true sense developed along the valleys of river Tigris and Euphrates. Agriculture flourished in this area ranging from hilly terrain to lowlands. Many cities such as Eridu, Uruk, Ur, Lagash, and Al’Ubaid flourished from the period of 5300 B.C. to 3100 B.C. Each Sumerian city had a hinterland which supplied food to them. These cities were surrounded by a wall for defense purpose and also demarcated area between privileged class and less privileged class. In the City Center, *Temenos* which was a compound for elite people used to be located. This was largely composed of a temple and supporting structures. These temples were also a source of employment as they contained priestly class, scribes, and record keepers and all non-agricultural aspect of society.

• **Cities of Nile Valley**

The evolution of cities in Nile Valley is believed to be around 3500 B.C. but the pace of development was slow. Located at the western flank of Memphis was the oldest city of this valley. This was the first territory of ancient Egypt. Though the development of Egypt was influenced by Sumerian Civilization, but its development was primarily a result of political structure. The civilization of Nile Valley was fully controlled by *Pharaoh*, the monarch of ancient Egypt. These cities were primarily for the satisfaction of Pharaoh’s need mainly the need of construction of Grand Tombs. The city was developed to construct the places to bury Pharaoh. Once the Pharaoh was buried, the city used to be abandoned.

• **Indus Valley Cities**

In Indus Valley Civilization was once a developed civilization located primarily at the bank of River Indus in the western part of the sub-continent India. This civilization is believed to be developed around 5000 B.C. but the urban civilization peaked around 2500 B.C. to 2250 B.C. Archaeological excavation have revealed many cities with well-developed modern day urban features. Major cities of this civilization were Harappa, MohenjoDaro, Lothal, Dhaulavira, etc. Indus cities give the reflection of first planned cities. These cities have broad straight roads crossing each other at right angle. Unlike the Sumerians, the Indus Valley civilization is believed to be a large kingdom. Each city had a citadel probably for the ceremonial purpose. These cities had varied housing types ranging from single-room to impressive large houses. These cities had developed drainage system and regular water supply.

• **Northern China**

The longest continuation of civilization is found in China which is situated along the Huang Ho River as per Shan culture. This civilization dates back to 1500 B.C. This was a literate society which was stratified and the divine king was at the top of society who was supported by a warrior class. These cities were probably walled and king’s palace was located in the center. The Han
period started in 200 B.C. which gives the impression of a flourished and continuation of great civilization.

2. Medieval

During the medieval ages towns and cities were centres of power in Europe and also elsewhere and land-resources used to be at the core of the wealth of the empires. In order to attract merchants from neighborhood, the Duke of Saxony founded the city of Lübeck in 1159. This city was situated on the western side of Baltic Sea. It emerged as a nucleus of German trading system. Confederation of towns known as the Hanseatic League was developed which consisted of many important towns like Hamburg, Lüneburg, Cologne, Danzig and Riga. The Russian city Novgorod was also once a major centre. The trade and commerce was imbibed in the urban structure of Lübeck. Though the town has medieval cathedral and monasteries but it was dominated by central market place. The main causes of growth of these towns were the influx of immigrants coming for employment purposes. Many new towns such as Tumbez, Vinague, Quito, etc. emerged out of administrative efforts in the north and north-west parts of South America. Sanghai, Hangchow and Peking developed in China. Originated in 723 A.D., Peking became the largest city of the world in 15th century. In the Sixteenth century, Tokyo emerged out as the castle town of Japan. Kyoto, Kamakuta and Hiroshima also developed during the same period.

Medieval period in India started with the fall of Harsh Vardhan in 647 A.D. Though this period was marked with war, devastation and insecurity of trade, India also witnessed the growth of many towns. Many Rajput rulers established forts at several places and these fort areas gradually developed as fort towns during early medieval times. Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Ajmer, etc. in present day Rajasthan, Bulandshahar, Hapur, Moradabad, etc. in Uttar Pradesh, Cuttack in Odisha, Firozpur, Palwal, Faridabad, etc. in Punjab and Haryana are some such major towns of the period. Delhi was developed as an important town of the Sutlej-Yamuna divide. In the southern part of India, the emphasis of the rulers was on the establishment of temples and places of worship. Gradually people started settling around these temples and these areas emerged as important towns. Some such towns are Madurai, Kanchipuram, Tanjavur, present day Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli etc. Viyanagram emerged as an important town of this period in South India. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the towns such as Agra, Lahore, Delhi, Allahabad etc. built by the Mughals were famous for their concentration of populations, their monumental buildings and their imperial grandeur and wealth. The centre of city had a bazaar for commerce and trade activities, located little away from the fort.

3. Modern

The development of urban places in modern times is very dynamic in nature. Establishment of industries became the main cause of urbanization after the Industrial Revolution. The presence of transport and electricity gave opportunity to people living in rural areas to move to the urban areas. The concentrations of industries lead to concentration of people at one place. Prior to 1800, only 20% of Europe’s population was urban. By 1850, it
increased to 50% in England. By the beginning of the twentieth century, France also had 50% population living in urban areas. Post 1945, the urbanization of Europe reached 80%. During the same period North America, Japan and Australia also witnessed rapid increase in the number of towns. The largest European city in 1800 was London followed by Paris. In 1790, U.S.A. had only two towns with a population more than 25000. For understanding it conveniently, the growth of modern period cities in the United Kingdom, Europe, America, India etc. can be divided into four phases:

(i) **1800-1880:** During this period, two types of towns emerged. The first was new industrial cities such as Manchester and second older capital cities as London. The industrial cities had a large number of industries and population working therein. However, the old cities did not witness large industrialization rather a change was noticed in the size of town and people’s way of living. Capitalists controlled the functions of the industries and ultimately the functions of the city.

(ii) **1880-1914:** This was the phase of heavy industrialization based on new innovations in the field of electricity, automobiles, chemistry, media, etc. The cities in many parts of Europe such as Hungary, Italy, Austria, Sweden, colonial cities in India including Calcutta etc. which were growing at slow pace witnessed a rapid growth rate. New way of planning and management became widespread in towns.

(iii) **1914-1950:** This was the era of two world wars. During this period, cities were the focus of conflicts and struggle between various ideologies. This period witnessed uprising of many towns such as St. Petersburg in 1917, Vienna and Berlin in 1919 and destruction of many towns such as Warsaw of Poland, Cologne of Germany, Tokyo and Osaka of Japan, etc.

(iv) **1950-Present:** Post war phase witnessed reconstruction of and development of cities and towns. America and Western Europe witnessed an unprecedented growth in urbanization and number of cities. The centrally planned economies in communist controlled Eurasia played a major role in urbanization, industrialization and growth of cities. Not only in Europe, U.S.A. and Mexico witnessed high increase in urban population but also newly independent countries of Asia and Africa too witnessed extreme growth in urbanization and the number of urban settlements. Some of the largest cities of the world are located in such newly emerging economies found in Latin America, Asia and Africa etc.

**SAQ I**

a) Describe in brief the origin of earliest/ancient cities with suitable examples.

b) Discuss major towns and cities that emerged during medieval and modern period.

### 3.3 COLONIAL, POST-COLONIAL AND THIRD WORLD URBANIZATION
You will now understand the nature of colonial, postcolonial and third world urbanization. With the establishment of industries in Europe started a new era in the world where resource requirements made Europeans to start moving out of their nations in search of raw materials, labour force and a big market. Merchants, traders and entrepreneurs started entering in the resource-rich regions of less developed countries. With the establishment of industries in colony nations, colonizers also developed railways and other facilities for interior movement and communication purposes. However, many of existing cities of such regions did not grow further and expand economic bases caused by selective urbanization. As countryside around colonies which used to be agriculturally efficient, the colonial new economic system affected the existing economy in the wake of their growing markets and industrialization needs. The changing scenario of agricultural system, made unemployed and poor people migrate to new urban places- colonial urban centres for employment and for occupational changes. This gave rise to growing urbanization during colonial periods. This also led to the cultural exchange and advantages to a class of people who were the followers of the western lifestyles. The colonial urban growth system was largely determined by the rise and expansion of imperialism. Imperialism refers to the imposition of the power of one state over the territories of another frequently by military force (see, King 2009). During the colonial period, in the long run, countries became dependent on the colonial forces economically and the way politically they were ruled and controlled. Cities such as Bombay, Calcutta, Madras etc in India, many European trading cities in China, West and coastal Africa, coastal Latin America etc. saw the development of new towns and cities during colonial periods. With the expansion of the railway networks, railway workshops and railway colonies were established away from the civil stations or civil lines. You know now the new towns included hill stations, ports, forts, cantonments, government’s offices and service and trading centres. New urban built environment had such major elements: cantonment, civil stations, railway zones, government offices, judiciary set up and modern educational institutions. Colonial cities reflected the mercantile culture of the new rulers. In India, political power and patronage shifted from Indian rulers to the merchants of the East India Company. Indians who worked as interpreters, middleman, traders, and suppliers of goods also had an important place in these new towns. Table 3.1 shows urbanization during the colonial period in India. An important feature is that the percentage share of urban population remained largely low throughout the period.

**Table 3.1: Trends in Urbanization in India: 1891-1941**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>No of Towns/UAs</th>
<th>Percentage of urban population to total population</th>
<th>Annual Exponential Growth Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>10.84</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>10.29</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>11.18</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>2072</td>
<td>11.99</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>13.86</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Census of India reports)
By the middle of the twentieth century, after World War II, several of the colonies became independent and major economic (urban) centers of such independent countries continued to grow further in the postcolonial period. Many satellite towns and suburbs also developed in the hinterland and around such major urban centers. Thus, postcolonial cities refer to those cities in what were previously colonial societies.

With the former colonies in Africa and Asia gaining independence since the late 1940s, the states of the post-colonial South became increasingly important actors in the confrontation between the socialist East and the capitalist West. You know that military, economic, and technological modernization were essential means for postcolonial nations in the new confrontation. The Soviet Union, the United States, their European allies, the Non-Aligned Movement and China had provisions to allocate significant resources in the form of development aid. Thus, the postcolonial urbanization is associated with public policy, programmes and schemes directing the pace of urbanization, urban growth and urban planning and management in such countries including India. Migration from rural to urban and from small urban centres to large urban centres became one of the important factors in fueling cities during postcolonial period. In the context of politico-economic forces affecting the postcolonial urbanization in a country like India, it may be grouped into two phase: national (1950-1990), and global (post-1990). The former phase witnesses an urbanization largely influenced by the national policies and also characterised by accelerating rates of urban growth, and promotion of urban growth centres. The later phase is where global economic forces play a key part in urbanization, urban growth and development and planning under the process of globalization.

The urban system developed at the periphery of the capitalist nations or rich countries is termed as the third world urbanization. The Third World includes all countries of Africa (except South Africa), Asia (except Japan and the USSR), and Latin America and the Caribbean, and some states and territories of Oceania. Many of the cities here developed due to the monopoly of capitalist economies and the nature of globalization. Export from these nations has also expanded industrialization in the third world countries. This has also given rise to informal economy in neo-colonial cities and increasing share of poor people in the informal sector. Urbanization is reaching a new high in the contemporary world with the rise of mega cities (beyond 15 million inhabitants) such as Calcutta, Dhaka, Cairo, Shanghai and Mexico. From 1910 to World War II the urban population in all the Third World countries grew more rapidly than the total population. Both rates of growth were moderate compared to subsequent rates. Total Third World population grew by about .9%/year while the urban population grew at 2.2%/year. From 1950-80 total population grew at 2.2% and the urban population by 4.6%. The urban growth took place in the absence of economic developments capable of explaining or justifying it. Urban growth accounted in large part for the extraordinary increase in cereal importation to the Third World. In 1980 it was estimated that 26.5% of the population in Africa, 63.1% in Latin America, and 25.4% in Asian countries excluding China were urban. A characteristic of third World urbanization is the strong concentration of population in large cities; 43% of the urban population currently lives in cities with a population of over 500,000.
SAQ 2

a) Describe major characteristic features of colonial urbanization.

b) Discuss in brief the nature of third world urbanization.

3.4 THEORIES OF URBAN ORIGIN

Harold Carter (1972) provided a detailed perspective on geography and urban origins. According to him social scientists, including archaeologists, have proposed four explanations for the emergence of towns. Some characteristic features of each explanation are given in the forthcoming sections.

(i) Hydraulic Theories or Environmental Basis of Urbanism

Studies identified the importance of irrigation for urban development particularly in the semi-arid climate of Middle East. It suggested that large-scale water management was required for centralized co-ordination and direction. Three main characteristics of a ‘Hydraulic Society’ were identified and these are: i) Permits an intensification of agriculture; ii) Involves a particular division of labour; and iii) Necessitates co-operation on large scale.

(ii) Economic Theories or The Growth of Markets

Two closely interrelated interpretations can be given of economic theories of urban origin. The first can be called ‘mercantile’ for it views the city as the product of long-distance trade, while the second can be called ‘market’ for it interprets the city as the centre created by a region to focus its internal processes of exchange. The theory put forward the idea that large scale trading and network of merchants and traders enabled the growth of towns. These trading activities required a strong administration to control the production and distribution of goods. Such organizations may have power beyond the trade and have control over the other functions of the city as well. The need to increase production for trade enabled more people to engage in the process and lead to the concentration of population in particular areas and helped in the development of towns.

(iii) Military Theories

This theory suggested that the origin of the city was due to the concentration of people to protect themselves from the external enemies and threats. The origin of cities lay in the need for people to gather together in search of protection. Once that agglomeration has been brought about, overseen by a military establishment, then the other changes characterizing urbanization took place. In support it is adduced that defence centres and towns are co occurring.

(iv) Religious Theories

This theory believed that well developed power structure is required for the formation and perpetuation of urban places. The power was concentrated in the hands of a religious elite class, who were responsible for the distribution of surplus products. These religious centers became the axle of the process
of social transformation. The population around these centers started concentrating and the urban areas emerged.

SAQ 3

Describe the major theories of urban origin.

3.5 LOCATION AND SITES OF TOWNS

Location

Location is the most important characteristic for the growth and development of towns. Location is stated precisely in terms of latitude and longitude in geography. It is also referred in terms of distance and direction from other points. On the basis of locational aspects, towns can be classified in the following types:

- **Riverside Towns:** They are the towns which were primarily located on the river banks. Rivers have been the point of interest for humans’ survival and progress: drinking water, agriculture, housing construction, gardens etc. Many rivers are associated with religious practices and pilgrimage and the sanctity got attached to the river banks. These rivers also provided a good way for transportation. In India, river banks became the most important and preferred location for the settlements. Example: Agra, Ayodhya, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Cuttack, Chennai, Coimbatore, Varanasi, Guwahati etc. in India.

- **Interfluvial Location:** Interfluvial sites between the two rivers are also another important location for town establishment citing to its advantage the convergence of land routes, commanding topography and a central location with respect to a productive region. These towns are associated with administrative functions, trade and commerce. Cities in doabs of Punjab are suitable examples of Interfluvial locations.

- **Confluence Towns:** The confluence zones of two or more rivers have been the center of growth of urban centers. The navigability of these rivers and fertile soil around the area give rise to the urban centers. Example: Prayagraj (Allahabad).

- **Zone of Contact Towns:** The towns located between the differential units of landscapes are called Zone of Contact Towns. These are important for town location because at these points land routes from plain and plateau connect with each other for transfer of goods. Example: Jammu, Aurangabad, Sasaram, Nawada, Rewari, Bharatpur, Gwalior, Jhansi, Mirzapur cities etc. in India.

- **Hill Stations:** The scenic beauty and climate of hill stations act as preferred location for the establishment of the towns. In such a location the prime consideration is the advantage of climate, health and scenic beauty of the local environment. Example: Almora, Nanital, Mussoorie,
Simla, Dalhousie, Gulmarg, Darjeeling, Ranchi, Shillong, Panchmadi cities etc.

- **Nodal Towns:** The nodal towns emerge to provide services to the people passing through the routes where rivers, roads or railway transportation meets such as Howrah.

- **Mining Towns:** Availability of raw materials for heavy industries has been the prime factor for the location of towns. Whenever mining activities start at the location of availability of raw material or natural resources, the labour moves to these places for employment and it leads to concentration of settlements. These gradually emerge as important locations for the growth of towns. Example: Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Bhilai, Chitranjan, Calcutta, Dindigul, Baroda, Hatia, Pinjor, Khetri, Rourkela cities etc.

- **Seaboard and Bridgehead Towns:** The port sites where land and sea-routes meets, gives a preferred point for the location of towns. This can also be a naval port having strategic significance. The bridgehead towns have facility of bridge to cross any river. Example: Alleppy, Vatkal, Okha, Goa, Mangalore, Chennai, Coch, Paradweep, Surat, Tutikorin, Visakhapatnam cities etc.

**Site**

You know site is the birthplace of the town. Site is the actual space and the environment that is occupied by a town. Site is the major determinant of the morphology of a town. The pattern of settlement follows the pattern of the site. Smailes stated that “in the initial stage the advantages of site are most stimulating to urban growth”. In urban geography, several aspects are considered to study the site of a town. Thus, there are a numbers of factors which influence the site of any town. Some of these major factors are discussed below.

(i) **Nodality**

The significance of any urban place as a node or focus of routes is denoted by the term nodality. Nodality is imparted by the convergence of various routes. The towns are situated at the sites where routes from the different directions join each other. Sometimes routes are also developed after the establishment of town giving nodality to those towns. The nodality of a place is not only important for the establishment of new towns but also it acts as an important factor for the re-establishment of old towns.

(ii) **Safety and Security**

You know, from the ancient periods, safety has been important consideration for human settlements. Ancient settlements were located where there was natural protection from the wild animals, natural phenomenon and enemies. Later the towns were developed around the castles which assured the security of the site. Athens in Greece, Madrid in Spain, etc. developed at such sites. River banks also became preferred for town establishment as they
provided protection from one side. The safety of the site accelerated the growth of towns.

(ii) Abundance of Potable Water

Humans found the site appropriate to settle which had abundance availability of water resources lakes, rivers, streams etc. All the human activities are dependent on water. Therefore abundant availability of potable water attracted the people since ancient times. Paris, Moscow, Chicago, Varanasi, Haridwar, etc. are such towns located near the abundant availability of water.

(iii) Levelled Plain Ground

Levelled plain grounds are always preferred over undulating land or hilly terrain. These areas are believed to be most suitable as they provide sufficient place for the further extension of the town. These areas are also preferred because they provide more opportunity for the growth of transport system. At plane ground cheap transportation network can be easily developed and the town grows and emerges as an important trade center.

(iv) Functional Base

The functional base of town is also an important factor for the siting of any town. The growth of any town is attributed to the function it performs for its surrounding area. Transport, administration, trade, commerce, industries, etc. are fundamental function of the town and they define their relationship with the surrounding area. Those towns which have favorable site for the development of functional base witness rapid growth in their development.

3.6 FACTORS OF GROWTH OF TOWNS

Now you will know which factors play an important role in the growth of towns. There are various factors which influence the growth of towns. However, nature and degree of growth patterns differ across regions of the world. Some of the major factors of growth of towns are discussed in the following section. Modern period is witnessing rapid growth of towns.

(i) Population Growth: The present era is of the rapid growth of population. Thus population needs better amenities to sustain a better life. In order to get access all this, the people tend to stay and concentrate at the towns. This leads to the demand of services in a particular area leading to the development of that place. Thus high fertility, rapid migration to avail the services provided by the town and consequent rapid growth of population is believed to be one of the important factors influencing the growth of towns in developing world.

(ii) Industrialization: When a heavy industry is established at any particular place, it sees a high influx of people for employment. This leads to the concentration of population in the area around. This creates a multiplier effect also as many associated industries with forward and backward linkages get established at that place. The industries supplying semi-finished products in the form of inputs to the main industry are those which are supposed to be industries with a forward linkage to the main industry. Those which process the products which
come out from the main industry are supposed to have backward linkage with the main industry. Skilled labour, better market, close link with other manufacturers and availability of ancillary service such as wholesalers and advertisement agencies also adds up to creating a cycle of development and attracting more and more people.

(iii) **Commercialization**: The commerce and trade has remarkably impacted the growth of town. With the development of industries, commerce and trade also developed. Business persons and traders get attracted towards the cities for higher profit. This economic pull also leads to agglomeration and the growth of towns. Large cities such as New York (U.S.A), Bangalore (India), etc. have large proportion of people involved in tertiary or service sector so that they can easily share more specialized services easily.

(iv) **Development of Transport**: Development of transport and its network is an important factor for the growth of towns. Transport and urban growth are strongly related. In fact, there is a reciprocal relationship between transport and urban growth. Development of transport network allows people from nearby areas to move to the place of their work. In fact, the transport map and the map of urban centres in a region are congruous.

(v) **Better Amenities**: Towns and cities offer a wide range of amenities to people. Along with better employment, towns provide better health services, education facilities, entertainment and recreation facilities, easy access to market, etc. which attracts the people from rural areas. It causes rural to urban migration. With the increase in population in such towns, the size of towns also expands.

(vi) **Surplus Resources**: The towns have surplus resources which tend to satisfy the needs of a large population. This acts as pull factor for people living in surrounding rural areas. They come to the urban centres and involve in the functions of the town. This leads to the growth of towns.

(vii) **Policies**: Government policies also impact the growth of towns. Better policies attract more investments in the towns leading to creation of more employment opportunities. Better policy framework also determines the political stability of the area. The regions with political stability attract the people seeking better opportunity of life and livelihood which helps in the growth and development of towns.

(viii) **Religious-Cultural Significance**: The religious and cultural significance of a place attracts people from the different parts. This ultimately leads to the development of connecting transport network, facilities for tourists and other associated activities. This leads to the development of the place as a node.

### 3.7 SUMMARY

In this unit you have studied so far:

An in-depth understanding of origin and growth of towns and cities across the world. Beginning with earliest cities in terms of what factors and forces
determined their origin and evolution, it helps students to know systematically how such cities grew. Dealing with changes in urban centres from earliest cities to the modern urban centres is historically described. A specific discussion on colonial, postcolonial and third world urbanization offers a deeper understanding of cities that grew in different historical time periods. The factors and processes that shaped their growth and dominance in urban systems is also studied. Studying location and site in the origin of towns provides explanation about how towns grew at a place they are in, and what circumstances caused their further growth. Lastly, major factors of growth of towns are discussed.

### 3.8 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Discuss in detail origin of towns and cities in ancient, medieval and modern world.

2. Describe major characteristic features of colonial and postcolonial urbanization.

3. Discuss in detail the major theories of urban origins.

### 3.9 ANSWERS

**Self-Assessment Questions (SAQ)**

1. a) The people in ancient times preferred to dwell primarily in the area which was rich in water resources and fertile land, which lead to the first urban revolution. Development of ancient towns took place where there were availability of land and water transport, safety from enemies and presence of free trade zone in nearby areas. These are Mesopotamian cities, Cities of Nile Valley, Indus Valley cities, Northern China cities. After the decline of such civilizations, cities originated and evolved in different parts of the world: Greek, Roman, European, American, and South Asian region.

   b) The trade and commerce was imbibed in the urban structure of such cities. In Europe, though a town has medieval cathedral and monasteries, it was dominated by a central market place. The city has merchants and craftsmen concentrated together in their own areas and their living places were above their shops. The main causes of growth of these towns were the influx of immigrants coming for employment purposes. In India, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the towns built had a bazaar for commerce and trade activities, located away from the fort.

2. a) With the establishment of industries in Europe started a new era in the world where resource requirements made Europeans to start moving out of their nations in search of raw materials, labour force and a big market. Merchants, traders and entrepreneurs started entering in the resource-rich regions of less developed countries. Though the main aim of these persons was to drain the resources and wealth from the area they occupied and conquered, the process also led to the development of colonial towns and military bases at foreign lands. With the establishment
of industries in colonized nations, colonizers also developed railways and other facilities for interior movement and communication purposes.

b) The Third World includes all countries of Africa (except South Africa), Asia (except Japan and parts of the USSR), and Latin America and the Caribbean, and some states and territories of Oceania. Many of the cities developed due to the monopoly of capitalist economies and recent globalization. Export from these nations created the industrialization in the third world countries. This has also given rise to informal economy in neo-colonial cities and poor people got involved in the informal sector. Urbanization is reaching a new high in the contemporary world with the rise of mega cities (beyond 10 million inhabitants) such as Calcutta, Dhaka, Cairo, Shanghai, Mexico.

3. Several social scientists, including archaeologists, have proposed four explanations for the emergence of towns. Some characteristic features of each explanation are given in the forthcoming sections. These theories are: hydraulic theories, economic theories, military theories, and religious theories.

**Terminal Questions**

1. Refer to Section 1.1 & 1.2
2. Refer to Section 1.3
3. Refer to Section 1.4

### 3.10 REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS