

# Classification of Urban Settlements

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# What is an urban settlement?

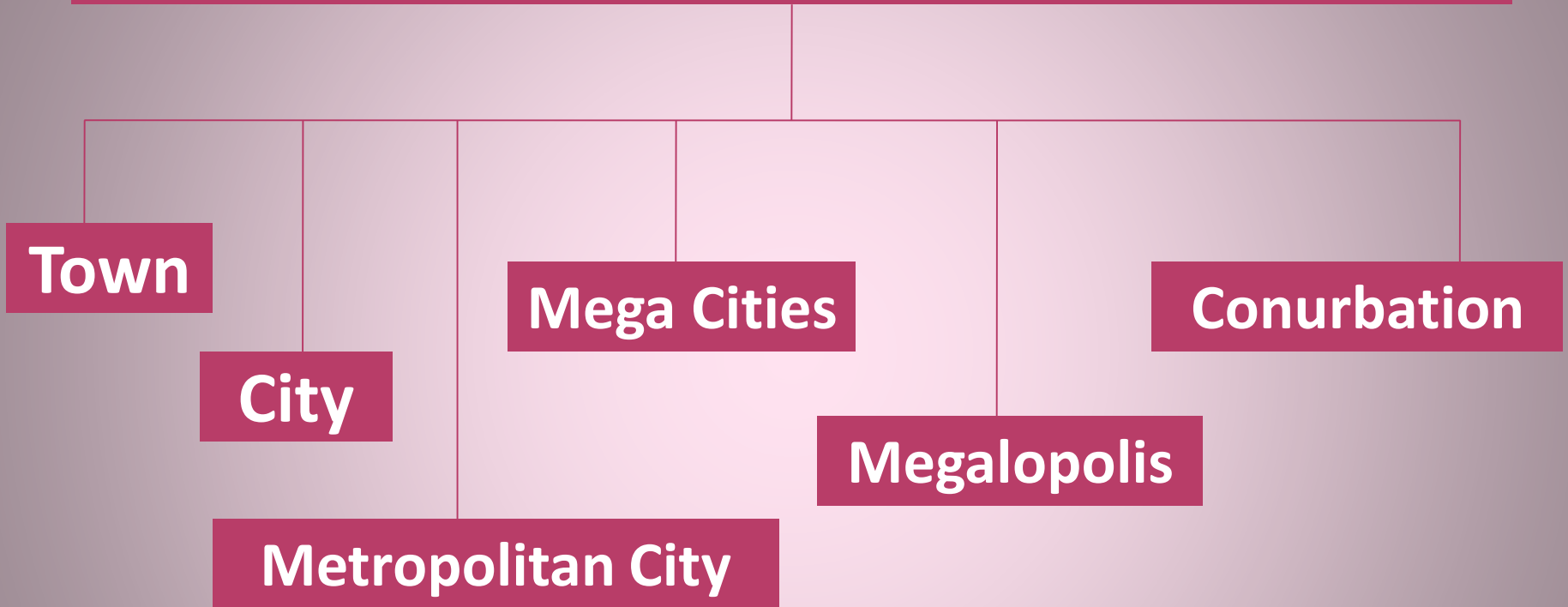
*An urban settlement has a large population size and a high population density where secondary activities like manufacturing and tertiary activities such as trade are dominant.*

# Types of Urban Settlement

**Urban settlements may be classified on various bases-**

- A. On the basis of population**
- B. On the basis of location**
- C. On the basis of pattern**
- D. On the basis of function**

# Types of urban on the basis of population



**1. Town:** A human settlement that is larger than a village but smaller than a city is known as town. It is a place having a municipality or an administration of a notified committee and the population may range between 2000 to 20000. Population size is not the only criterion to designate a settlement as town. Specific functions such as, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and professional services exist in towns.

**2. City:** City, a large and permanent human settlement, may be regarded as a leading town.

According to Lewis Mumford, “the city is in fact the physical form of the highest and most complex type of associative life”.

It is an urban centre having population between one lakh to one million.

Cities are much larger than towns and have a greater number of economic functions. Generally a city has transport terminals, major financial institutions and regional administrative offices.

**3. Metropolitan city:** Metropolitan Cities are those Cities which have population in between one million to five million.

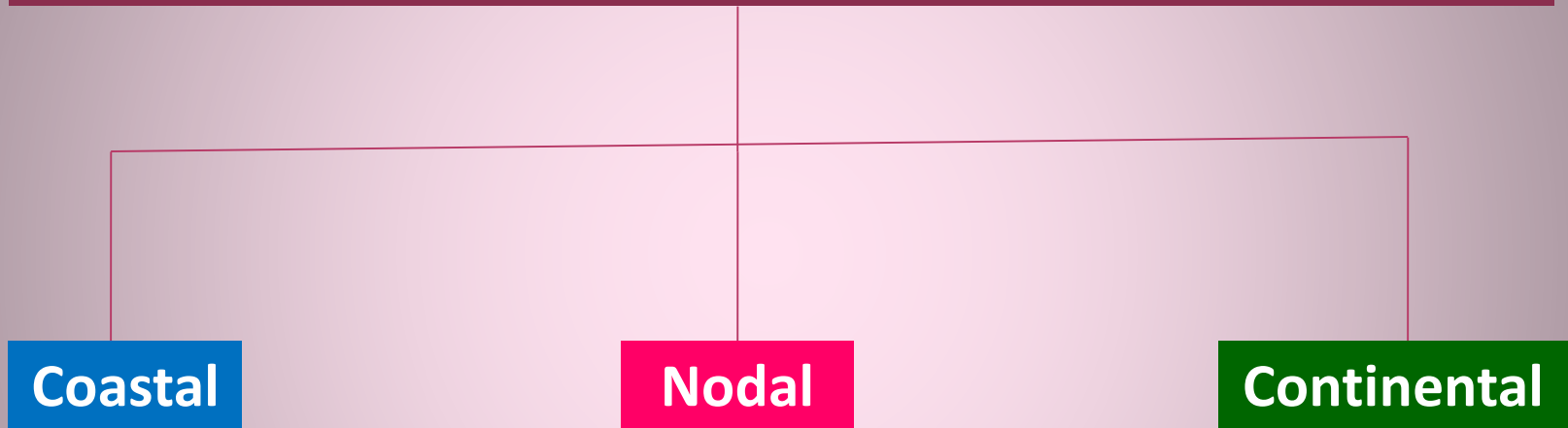
**4. Mega Cities:** Cities having more than 5 million population are metropolitan cities.

**5. Megalopolis:** A very large, heavily populated city or urban complex having more than 5 million population is known as Megalopolis.

A megalopolis is formed from the coalesce of chain of metropolitan areas. Each of these metropolitan areas again has grown around a substantial urban nucleus.

**6. Conurbation:** A conurbation is an extended urban area, comprising a number of cities, large towns, and other urban areas which have merged to form one continuous urban and industrially developed area, through population growth and physical expansion.

## Types of urban settlement on the basis of location





**1. Coastal :** When a town is located on the coast it is called coastal town. Mumbai in Maharashtra, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu are a few examples of coastal town in India.

**2. Nodal:** Nodal town develop at the convergence points of rivers, roads and railways. These towns do not serve the surrounding territory. The passengers who pass through these routes are the source of support to these towns. New York is an example of nodal town.

**3. Continental:** When a town is surrounded by land only it may be designated as continental such as Kabul in Afghanistan and Kathmandu in Nepal.

## Types of urban settlement on the basis of pattern

**Linear**

**Circular**

**Square**

**Net/Reticulum**

**Fan**

**Star/ Radial**

**Arrow**

**1. Linear:** It is type of settlement that has grown in a line. The line doesn't have to be straight, but will normally follow a road, a river, the coast or the valley floor. Thus this type of pattern includes all urban settlements where the buildings are built along pre-defined lines varying from straight to curved ones.

**2. Circular:** When urban settlements occur on all sides of some lakes, ponds, wells, a fort, temple, meander bank and bend of a stream they are known as circular settlements.. When the houses are constructed along these sites, the settlement takes the shape of circle and hence is known as circular pattern.

**3. Square:** Square or rectangular cluster-with straight streets running parallel or at right angles to one another.

**4. Fan:** This is seen where some focal points or line is situated at one end of the town. A focal object may be a tank, a riverside, a road, an orchard, a well or even a place of worship. In delta areas or at the base of mountains settlement found at the centre head extent is fan shaped pattern on all sides.

**5. Net/ Reticulum:** Isolated homes with a central court yard found in different parts of India. Net type of settlements is irregularly distributed in the villages.

**6. Star/ Radial:** In urban settlements where the dwellings are spread out in several directions from a central point, either around a big water body or where many routes join together is known as star or radial settlements. A settlement acquires a star-like pattern when streets radiate from a common centre.

**7. Arrow:** On the meeting of the roads or two rivers arrow head pattern of settlements occur. Triangular pattern is a special feature of this type of settlement and is found on any triangular patch of land.

# Types of urban settlement on the basis of function

Administrative

Cultural

Production

Tourism

Defence

Collection

Residential

Transfer &  
Distribution

**1. Administrative Town:** Towns supporting administrative headquarters of higher order are administrative towns.

The major examples of administrative towns are New Delhi, London, Washington D.C. Cairo, Tokyo etc.

**2. Defense Towns:** Defense has been an important function of towns in the past as well as the present. The main purpose of defense town is to provide necessary security and protect the integrality and sovereignty of the country.

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. are religious towns whereas Oxford, Cambridge, Aligarh are the most suitable example of educational towns.

**4. Collection Towns:** The mining towns, fishing ports and lumbering centres fall under the category of collection centres/towns.

For example, Zawar near Udaipur (Rajasthan), Bjiadela (Madhya Pradesh) and Digboi (Assam) etc.

**5. Production Towns:** Urban places, town and cities in which some kind of manufacturing industry is the major function is known as a production towns.

For example, Jamshedpur, Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur, Dhanbad and Bhadravati in India, Pittsburgh in USA, Magnitogorsk in Russia and Birmingham in UK are dominated by large steel plants.

**6. Residential Towns:** In some towns, the chief function is simply to house a concentration of population. Example – all suburbs of major cities of the world.

**7. Tourism or Recreational / Resorts Towns:** The urban places which cater to the recreation needs of people are known as resorts or recreation towns. These urban places may be based on health-giving water (hot springs), seaside recreation, mountain climbing, cultural attractions, historical monuments, sports facilities, national parks and attractive scenery.

There are numerous examples of recreational or resort towns i.e. Ooty, Manali, Bern, Athens, Florence, Venice, Jaipur, Agra, Pattaya, Ho Chi Minh, Vienna, Denpasar, Barcelona, Las Vegas etc.

**8. Transfer and Distribution Towns:** The main functions performed at transfer centres are the trade, commerce and services.

Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Indore, Bhopal, Patna, Lucknow, Ludhiana and Hapur in India, Norwich in England, Alexandria in Egypt, and Kumasi in Ghana are some of the examples of such towns.



**Thank You**