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MAINS 2027 EDITION

FREE SAMPLE

UPSC CSE MAINS

GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL

PAPER I
Human Geography

+

PAPER II
Indian Geography

Settlement Geography Notes

One book for both papers: Settlement Geography of Paper I and Settlements of Paper II, checked against the official syllabus and PYQs.

Compiled by Arvind KrS

RURAL SETTLEMENTS · URBAN MORPHOLOGY · CITY REGIONS · SLUMS · TOWN PLANNING

32	7	178	146
Chapters	Units	Previous year questions	Diagrams and figures



IN THIS BOOK

01 Rural Settlements

02 Urban Developments and Hierarchy

03 Urban Morphology and Indian Cities

04 Functional Classification of Towns and Cities

05 City Regions, Conurbations and Urban Sprawl

06 Slums, Town Planning and Urban Problems

07 Settlement Concepts and Theory

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Geography Optional — Settlement Geography

Paper I + Paper II · Human Geography + Indian Geography

Mains 2027 Edition · Compiled November 2026

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Questions or corrections: support@lotusarise.com

The outline map of India on the cover and on the chapter and unit pages is decorative and not to scale.

How to read these notes

Every chapter is marked against the questions UPSC has actually asked on it, so the points that matter most stand out on the first read and are quick to find at revision.

Slums are the city's affordable housing and its labour reserve.

Yellow marker: key point. A point that carries the ideas UPSC has asked about in this chapter. Read these first, and make sure each one is in your answer.

A slum is a densely built urban area of poor-quality, overcrowded housing with inadequate water, sanitation and services, and often insecure tenure.

Blue marker: definition. The cleanest definition of a term, ready to open an answer with.

The National Sample Survey also counts **non-notified slums**: compact clusters of at least 20 households of poorly built, crowded tenements.

Saffron underline: PYQ term. A key term or phrase that appears in this chapter's previous year questions.

Slums: Definition, Concept and Characteristics

PYQ 2026 · 2022 · 2019 +10

PYQ tag on a heading. The years in which UPSC asked about this section. Sections without a tag are background or linking material.

PYQ RADAR **13** questions Last asked **2026**

PYQ radar. At the start of each chapter: how many times the topic has been asked, and how recently. The contents page shows the same count for every chapter.

Suggested method. First read: the whole chapter. Revision: the yellow and blue marks, the tagged headings and the PYQ list at the end of the chapter. Last week before Mains: the PYQ list alone, answering each question in your head from the marked points.

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UNIT 02 | 6 CHAPTERS | PAPER I + II

Urban Developments and Hierarchy



Paper I: *Hierarchy of urban settlements; concept of primate city and rank-size rule.*

Paper II: *Urban developments.*

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GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL

PAPER I + II · SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

Urban Development in India: Growth, Policy, Small Towns and Hill Stations



PYQ RADAR **6** questions Last asked **2024** 2024 · 2023 · 2017 · 2010 · 2001 · 1991

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01	Urban Growth Since Independence	02	Urban Policy Through the Plans
03	Class I and Class II Towns in Balanced Urban Development	04	Small and Medium Towns
05	Hill Stations	06	Urban Built Environment and the Biophysical Landscape
07	Migration, Regional Disparity and the City	08	Corridors and the Next Phase
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- **Urban development** means the growth of towns and cities in **number, size, function and services**, together with the policies that steer that growth.
- India's urban story runs through **colonial port cities, planned new towns, metropolitan growth and census towns**, with national policy moving from housing to master plans, small towns, local self-government and city missions.
- The central problem is **balance**: a few large cities hold most urban people while **small and medium towns** lag behind.

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01 Urban Growth Since Independence

PYQ 1991

Scale of Growth

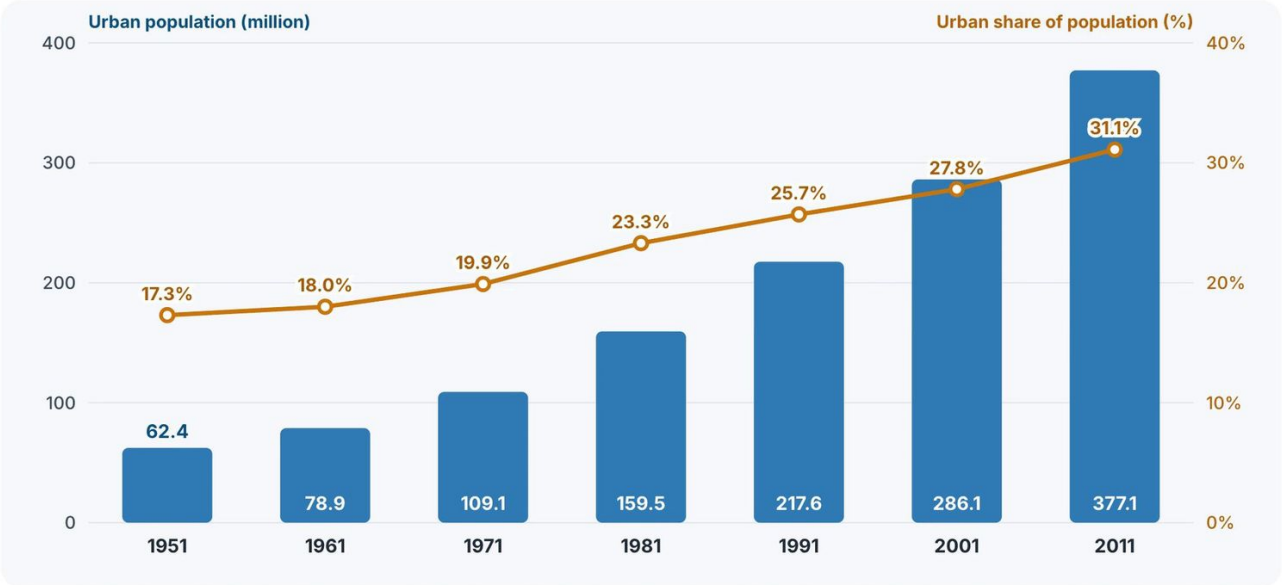
CENSUS	URBAN POPULATION (MILLION)	URBAN SHARE (%)	DECADAL URBAN GROWTH (%)
1951	62.4	17.3	41.4
1961	78.9	18.0	26.4
1971	109.1	19.9	38.2
1981	159.5	23.3	46.1
1991	217.6	25.7	36.5
2001	286.1	27.8	31.5
2011	377.1	31.1	31.8

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SETTLEMENTS · URBAN DEVELOPMENTS

India's Urban Growth, 1951–2011

Urban numbers rose sixfold in sixty years, yet the urban share of the population grew slowly.



1951–91
- Up about 3.5 times
- Urban share up 8.4 points

Peak of 1971–81
- Decadal growth of 46.1%
- Highest since Independence

2001–11
- 91 million people added
- Census towns: 1,362 to 3,892

Data: Census of India, 1951–2011.

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The Four Decades from 1951 to 1991

- Urban population rose about **3.5 times**, from 62.4 million to 217.6 million, a gain of **155 million**.
- The urban share rose only **8.4 points**, because rural population was growing fast as well.
- **1951–61 (26.4%)**: the slowest decade.
  - The **stricter 1961 definition** of a town declassified many small places, so part of the slowdown is statistical.
- **1961–71 (38.2%)**: public-sector industry, new steel towns and state capitals drew migrants.
- **1971–81 (46.1%)**: the **peak** of urban growth.
  - High natural increase combined with rural-to-urban migration and many newly classified towns.
- **1981–91 (36.5%)**: growth slowed.
  - **Natural increase** became the main source, with its share of urban growth peaking at about **62%**.
- Growth was **top-heavy**: the Class I share of urban population rose from 44.6% in 1951 to 65.2% in 1991.

After 1991

- Liberalisation shifted growth towards **services and metropolitan regions**: Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Gurugram.

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- **2001–11** added **91 million** urban people, the largest addition in any decade, and for the first time more than the rural addition.
- The sources of growth changed in that decade:
  - The share of **natural increase** fell to about **44%**, roughly 40 million people.
  - **Reclassification of villages** and **net migration** supplied the rest, and they explain why urban growth sped up.
- **Census towns** rose from 1,362 to **3,892**, against 4,041 statutory towns. Much of this growth took place away from the metros.

02 Urban Policy Through the Plans

PERIOD	FOCUS	MAIN INSTRUMENTS
First and Second Plans (1951–61)	Housing and refugees	Refugee towns, slum clearance, Delhi Development Act (1957)
Third Plan (1961–66)	**Turning point** towards planned towns	Master plans and land-use control
Fourth and Fifth Plans (1969–79)	Metropolitan pressure and land	HUDCO (1970), Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act (1976; repealed in 1999)
Sixth Plan (1980–85)	**Small and medium towns**	IDSMT, launched in 1979–80
Seventh Plan (1985–90)	Cities recognised as **engines of the economy**	National Commission on Urbanisation (1988)
Eighth Plan (1992–97)	Local government and big-city infrastructure	74th Constitutional Amendment (1992), Mega City Scheme (1993–94)
Tenth and Eleventh Plans (2002–12)	Reform-linked investment	JNNURM (December 2005), UIDSSMT (2005–06), Rajiv Awas Yojana pilot
After the Plans (from 2015)	Missions and outcome-based finance	Smart Cities, AMRUT, PMAY-Urban, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Urban Challenge Fund

- The **National Commission on Urbanisation** identified **329 Generators of Economic Momentum** and **49 Spatial Priority Urbanisation Regions**, an attempt to direct growth by regions.
- The **74th Amendment** gave urban local bodies constitutional status and provided for District and Metropolitan Planning Committees.
- The **Mega City Scheme** covered Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
- **JNNURM** tied central funds to reforms and City Development Plans. **UIDSSMT** carried the same idea to smaller towns and replaced IDSMT.

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- Today's **urban programmes** have brought large gains in toilets, tap connections, metro networks and housing sanctions.
- **Evaluation**:
  - Investment has favoured **large cities**, which can raise funds and prepare projects.
  - Planning powers are often held by **State parastatals**, not elected city governments.
  - Plans have dealt with parts of the city, while growth is happening at the scale of the **city region** and the **rural-urban fringe**.

03 Class I and Class II Towns in Balanced Urban Development

PYQ 2010

- **Class I towns** (1,00,000 and above): 468 units with **70.2%** of the urban population in 2011.
- **Class II towns** (50,000–99,999): 474 units with only **8.5%**.
- **Roles of Class I towns**:
  - Centres of **industry, finance, higher education and specialised health care**.
  - Links between the national economy and global markets.
  - Their weight has made the **urban hierarchy** top-heavy: the 52 million-plus units alone hold 42.3% of urban people.
- **Roles of Class II towns**:
  - **Market and service centres** for their rural hinterland: wholesale markets, colleges, district hospitals and banks.
  - **Intermediate steps** for migrants and for the spread of innovation down the hierarchy.
  - Sites for **agro-processing** and small industry at lower land cost than the metros.
- **Contribution to balanced development**:
  - A strong middle tier reduces the **pull of the metros** and spreads jobs across regions.
  - Class I towns outside the metros can act as **counter-magnets**, as planned in the National Capital Region for Hisar, Bareilly, Gwalior and Patiala.
  - Backward regions gain when a **growth centre** links the villages around it to wider markets.
- **Limits**:
  - Class II towns have weak finances and poor connectivity, so many do not generate growth on their own.
  - Without jobs, smaller towns lose educated youth to larger cities.

04 Small and Medium Towns PYQ 2017

- There is no single definition. A common usage takes **small towns** as those up to 50,000 people and **medium towns** as 50,000 to 2,00,000. Classes III to VI (below 50,000) held about **21%** of urban people in 2011.

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- Their share has fallen sharply: towns below 20,000 held 47% of urban people in 1901 and about **10%** in 2011.

Problems

- **Narrow economic base**: dependence on a single market, mill, mine or office makes them vulnerable.
- **Weak finances**: a small tax base, and little ability to borrow or prepare large projects.
- **Poor services**: water supply, drainage, sanitation and solid waste lag behind those of larger cities.
- **Unplanned growth**: many have no current master plan and few trained planners.
- **Governance gap in census towns**: they are urban in character but run by **panchayats**, without urban powers or finance.
- **Out-migration of skilled youth**, along with poor links to expressways, airports and higher education.
- **Neglect in policy**: the big-city bias described above.

Prospects

- **Close link with the rural economy**: they can supply inputs, credit and markets, and process farm produce.
- **Specialised clusters**: Sivakasi (fireworks and printing) and Morbi (ceramics) show how a small place can reach national markets.
- **Lower cost of land and labour** than metros, which suits small industry, logistics and warehousing.
- **Subaltern urbanisation**: many small places grow by their own trade and enterprise, outside the metropolitan orbit.
- **Better connectivity**: highways, rural roads and digital networks bring markets and services closer.
- **Tourism and pilgrimage**: heritage and religious towns can gain from missions such as HRIDAY.
- **Policy support**: AMRUT 2.0 covers water supply in **all statutory towns**, and the Rurban Mission targets clusters of villages with urban potential.

05 Hill Stations PYQ 2001

- **Hill stations** are high-altitude towns developed mainly by the British in the nineteenth century as **summer retreats, sanatoria and administrative seats**.

Geographical Background PYQ 2001

- **Climate**: temperature falls with height, so places at 1,000–2,300 m offered relief from the summer heat of the plains.
- **Health**: Europeans feared the tropical plains and their diseases, and doctors recommended the hills. **Sanatoria** and army convalescent depots came first.
- **Relief**: ridges and spurs with gentle tops, springs and forests offered sites for building.
- **Situation**: each lay within reach of a seat of power or a large British population: Shimla for the north, Darjeeling for Calcutta, Ooty for Madras, and Mahabaleshwar and Matheran for Bombay.

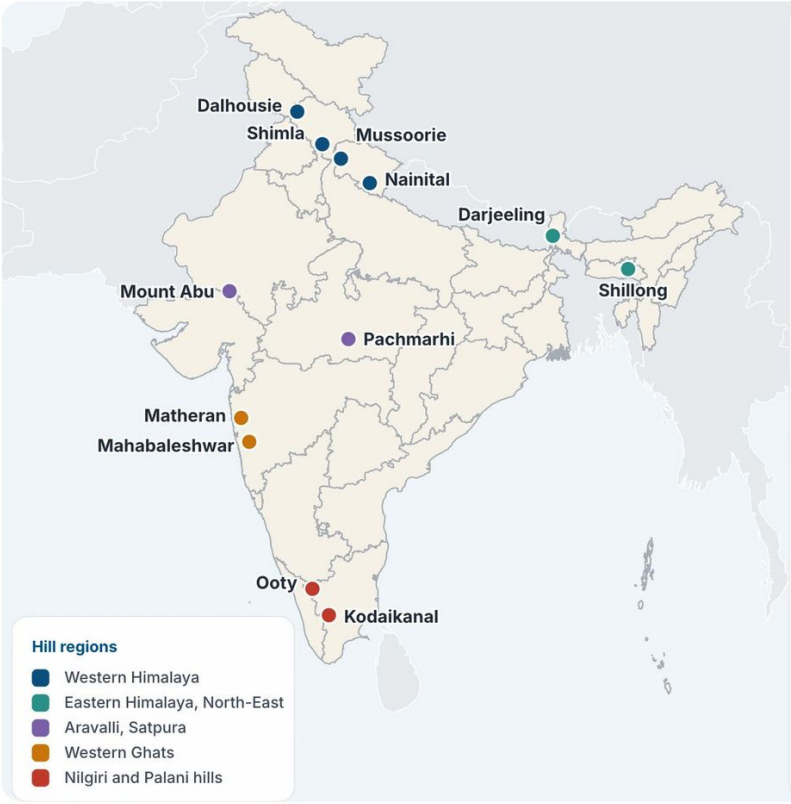
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- **Economy**: tea in Darjeeling and the Nilgiris and timber in the Himalaya supported hill towns, and **mountain railways** later improved access.

SETTLEMENTS · URBAN DEVELOPMENTS

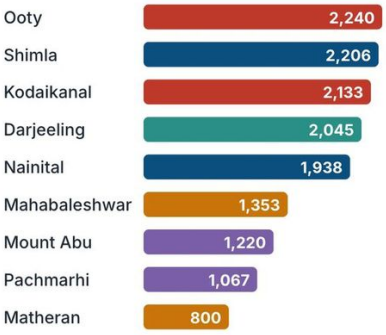
Major Hill Stations of India

Most lie in the Himalaya, with smaller groups on the highest blocks of the Peninsula.



Height above sea level

Metres, approximate



Pattern

Largest cluster in the Himalaya, near the northern plains and summer capital. Peninsular stations are fewer, on the highest blocks near presidency towns: Ooty for Madras; Mahabaleshwar and Matheran for Bombay. Darjeeling served Calcutta.

Why the hills
- Cool summers
- Fear of disease on the plains

Morphology
- Roads follow the contours
- Mall and church on the ridge

Today
- Tourism, schools and services
- Stress on water and slopes

Selected stations, not a complete list. Boundaries: Survey of India outline (datameet).

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Distribution

REGION	HILL STATIONS	BEGINNINGS AND HEIGHT
Western Himalaya	**Shimla**, Dalhousie, Mussoorie, Nainital	Shimla: first British cottage 1819, summer capital 1864, 2,206 m. Dalhousie: 1854. Nainital: 1841, 1,938 m
Eastern Himalaya and North-East	**Darjeeling**, Shillong	Darjeeling: leased from Sikkim 1835, 2,045 m
Aravalli	Mount Abu	About 1,220 m, Rajasthan's only hill station

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REGION	HILL STATIONS	BEGINNINGS AND HEIGHT
Satpura	Pachmarhi	Noticed by James Forsyth in 1857, 1,067 m
Western Ghats	**Mahabaleshwar**, Matheran	Mahabaleshwar: acquired 1828, 1,353 m. Matheran: 1850, about 800 m
Nilgiri and Palani hills	**Ooty**, Coonoor, Kodaikanal	Ooty: John Sullivan from 1819, sanatorium by 1827, 2,240 m. Kodaikanal: 1845, above 2,100 m

- The Himalaya has the largest cluster, because of its height and its closeness to the northern plains and the summer capital.
- The peninsular stations are fewer and lie on the **highest blocks** near the presidency towns.

Characteristics

- **Morphology**: roads follow the contours, with a **Mall and church on the ridge** and the **bazaar on lower slopes**.
- **Segregated plan**: European bungalows occupied the best sites, while Indian workers and traders lived below.
- **Functions**: administration, recreation, health, boarding schools, army depots and now tourism.
- **Seasonal rhythm**: population and business swell in summer.
- **Mountain railways**: Darjeeling (1881), Nilgiri (Coonoor 1899, Ooty 1908) and Kalka–Shimla (1903) are World Heritage railways.

Present Problems

- **Tourism beyond carrying capacity**: Shimla ran short of water in the peak season of 2018.
- **Unsafe construction on steep slopes**: landslides in Shimla in 2023 killed dozens of people.
- **Deforestation, traffic, waste and sewage**, with fragile slopes and springs under stress.
- **Matheran** points to another path: it is an eco-sensitive zone that keeps private vehicles out.

06 Urban Built Environment and the Biophysical Landscape

PYQ 2023

- Big cities replace **soil, vegetation and water** with concrete, asphalt and steel. This changes the climate, hydrology and ecology of the place.
- **Climate**: dark, sealed surfaces and waste heat form an **urban heat island**, and tall, closely spaced buildings reduce wind and night-time cooling.
- **Hydrology**:
  - **Impervious surfaces** increase run-off and reduce groundwater recharge.
  - Building on wetlands and drains worsens floods, as in **Mumbai (2005)** and **Chennai (2015)**.

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- **Water bodies**: lakes are filled in or become sewage sinks. **Bellandur Lake** in Bengaluru frothed and caught fire repeatedly between 2015 and 2018.
- **Vegetation and biodiversity**: green cover shrinks and fragments. Studies by the Indian Institute of Science estimate that **Bengaluru's built-up share rose from about 8% in 1973 to about 78% in 2017**, with heavy losses of tree cover and water bodies.
- **Air and soil**: traffic, construction dust and industry raise particulate levels, and landfills and sealing damage soils.
- **Relief**: hills are cut, valleys filled and floodplains built on, as along the Yamuna and on the Aravalli near Gurugram.
- **Responses**: protected wetlands and floodplains, urban forests, permeable surfaces, compact transit-oriented growth and heat action plans are the core of **sustainable cities**.

07 Migration, Regional Disparity and the City

PYQ 2024

- Migrants move from **lagging to leading regions**: chiefly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar towards Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat and the southern cities, in search of work. In this sense **migration in India** reflects regional disparity.

CONSEQUENCE	PLACE OF ORIGIN	PLACE OF DESTINATION
Demographic	Fewer young men, higher sex ratio, more elderly and children	Low sex ratio, young age structure, rapid growth
Economic	Remittances, less underemployment; loss of labour and skills	Cheap labour for industry and construction; informal sector growth
Social	New ideas, girls' schooling; strain on left-behind families	Cultural mixing; slums, exclusion, tension with local people
Land and services	Fallow land and feminised farming	Pressure on housing, water and transport; fringe expansion

08 Corridors and the Next Phase

- **Urban corridors** now link city regions: Delhi–Mumbai, Bengaluru–Chennai and Ahmedabad–Vadodara–Surat, supported by freight and expressway projects.
- **Regional rapid transit**, starting with the Delhi–Meerut corridor, extends labour markets across the **metropolitan region**.
- **Greenfield towns** such as Dholera, GIFT City and Amaravati add a new layer of planned growth.
- The next census, referenced to **1 March 2027**, will give the first official count of Indian urban growth since 2011.

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Previous Year Questions

2001	Provide the geographical background and characteristics of the distribution of Hill Station of India.
1991	Analyse the extent of urban population growth in India in the last four decades.
2010	Outline the roles of Class 1 and Class 2 towns in the urban process of India and indicate their contribution towards balanced urban development.
2017	Small towns in India have problems and prospects of their own. Elaborate.
2023	Urban built environment in big cities of India creates key changes in biophysical character of the landscape. Discuss.
2024	Migration is the reflection of regional disparities. What socio-economic and demographic consequences are experienced at the place of origin and destination?

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UNIT 06 | 4 CHAPTERS | PAPER I + II

Slums, Town Planning and Urban Problems



Paper I: *Problems and remedies of urbanisation; sustainable development of cities.*

Paper II: *Slums and associated problems; town planning; problems of urbanisation and remedies.*

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Slums and Associated Problems



PYQ RADAR **13** questions Last asked **2026**
2026 · 2022 · 2019 · 2016 · 2013 · 2009 · 2007 · 2004 · 2000 · 1996 · 1994 · 1993 · 1990

CONTENTS

01 Slums: Definition, Concept and Characteristics
02 Slums in Numbers
03 Factors Contributing to Slum Formation
04 Associated Problems of Slums
05 Government Initiatives for Slums in India
06 Case Studies
07 Previous Year Questions

- A **slum** is a densely built urban area of **poor-quality, overcrowded housing** with **inadequate water, sanitation and services**, and often **insecure tenure**.
- Slums are a **by-product of rapid, unplanned urbanisation**. Cities grow faster than land, housing, jobs and services can be supplied to the poor.
- In 2022, 1.12 billion people (24.8% of the world's urban population) lived in slums or informal settlements. In India, **Census 2011 counted 6.55 crore slum dwellers**, about one in six urban Indians.

01 Slums: Definition, Concept and Characteristics

PYQ 2026 · 2022 · 2019 +10

Definitions

- **UN-Habitat** defines a **slum household** as one lacking one or more of five conditions:
  - **Safe drinking water**: shared taps, tankers or unsafe sources raise water-borne disease.
  - **Improved sanitation**: no private or adequately shared toilet.
  - **Sufficient living area**: more than three persons per room counts as overcrowding.
  - **Durable housing**: walls and roofs of tin, plastic, mud or scrap that give little protection from weather and hazards.
  - **Secure tenure**: no legal protection against eviction.

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- **India, legal definition**:
  - The **Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956** lets governments declare as slums areas whose buildings are unfit for human habitation.
  - The causes may be dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement and design, narrow or faulty streets, or lack of ventilation, light and sanitation, where these are **detrimental to safety, health or morals**.
- **Census of India (2011)** recognises three types in all statutory towns:

TYPE	BASIS	POPULATION, 2011
Notified slums	Notified as slums by a State, UT or local government under any Act	2.25 crore
Recognised slums	Recognised by government or a housing/slum board but not formally notified	2.01 crore
Identified slums	A compact area of at least 300 people or 60–70 households of poorly built, congested tenements in an unhygienic environment with inadequate infrastructure, identified by census officers	2.28 crore

- The **National Sample Survey** also counts **non-notified slums**: compact clusters of at least 20 households of poorly built, crowded tenements. Its 69th round (2012) estimated 33,510 slums in urban India.

Slum, Squatter Settlement and Shanty Town PYQ 1994

- A **slum** is defined by its **condition**: poor housing and services. It is usually older and more stable, and is often found in the inner city.
- A **squatter settlement** is defined by its **legal status**: dwellings built **without permission on land not owned** by the builders. Squatter settlements are often newer and on the periphery, along railway lines or on vacant public land. They grow by overnight invasion or by gradual accretion.
  - They range from 10–20 dwellings to agglomerations of thousands of houses, and their services fall below the adequate minimum.
- A **shanty town** is defined by its **fabric**: makeshift huts of cardboard, tin, sacking and scrap. It is typical of mass rural–urban migration in the developing world.
- In practice the three overlap: many squatter settlements become consolidated brick slums over a generation.
- **Local names**:
  - In India: bustee (Kolkata), jhuggi-jhopri (Delhi), chawl and jhopadpatti (Mumbai), cheri (Chennai).
  - Abroad: favela (Brazil), barriada (Peru), kampung (Indonesia), gecekondu (Turkey), bidonville (French-speaking North Africa).

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Characteristics

- **Physical**:
  - **Unplanned, informal** growth on marginal land: riverbanks, railway lines, drains, hill slopes and vacant public land.
  - **Very high densities**, with one- or two-room homes and narrow lanes.
  - Walls of mud or brick and low roofs of corrugated sheet, tin, bamboo matting, polythene, sacking or thatch, often with no windows.
  - Poor ventilation and light.
- **Environmental**:
  - Open drains, stagnant pools and heaps of waste.
  - Few open spaces and contaminated water.
  - **Shallow hand-pumps** serve slums without piped water, and often stand in stale pools. Waste seeps down and contaminates the groundwater they draw on, bringing dysentery, diarrhoea, typhoid and jaundice.
  - Shallow pit latrines overflow, and nullahs used as open toilets breed flies and mosquitoes.
- **Services**:
  - Shared taps and community toilets.
  - Irregular electricity, and poor schools, health care and transport.
- **Economic**:
  - Mostly **informal work**: construction, domestic service, vending, home-based manufacture, recycling.
  - Low and irregular incomes.
  - Many slums are also **production centres**. Dharavi's leather, pottery, garment and recycling units are an example.
- **Social**:
  - Largely migrants and their descendants, often grouped by caste, region or religion.
  - A **sex ratio of 928** females per 1,000 males in 2011, below the national 943. Literacy was 77.7%, against 85.4% in urban India.
  - Strong informal networks.
  - Stigma and exclusion from the formal city.
- **Legal**: **insecure or no tenure**, which brings constant fear of eviction and exploitation by landlords, "slumlords" and land mafias.

Types of Slums

- **By location in the metropolis**:
  - **Inner-city tenements**: Mumbai's chawls, Delhi's katras in the walled city, Kolkata's bustees.
  - **Corridor slums** along railway lines and nullahs.
  - **Riverbank and floodplain** slums: the Yamuna pushta in Delhi, the Cooum in Chennai.
  - **Hill-slope** slums in Mumbai and on Rio's favela hillsides.

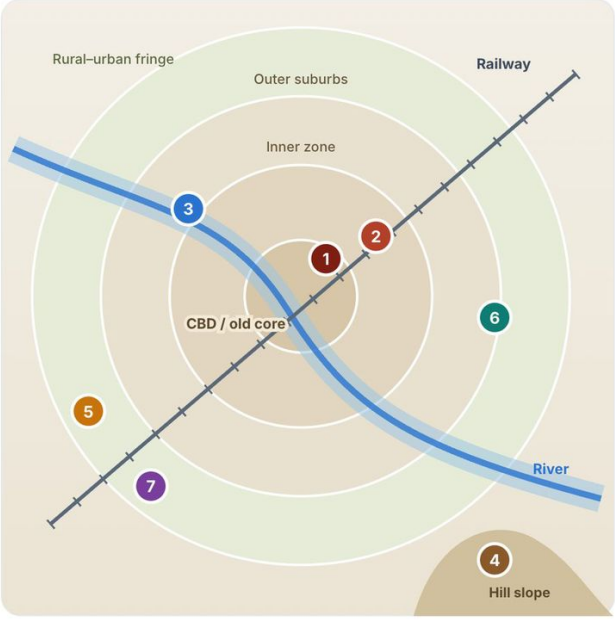
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  - **Peripheral squatter colonies** near new industry and construction.
  - **Urban villages**: Delhi's lal dora areas.
  - **Resettlement colonies** that decay into slums: Bawana and Savda Ghevra in Delhi.
- **By prospects (Charles Stokes, 1962)**:
  - **Slums of hope**: newcomers on their way up the urban ladder, improving their homes over time.
  - **Slums of despair**: people trapped by poverty, caste, disability or age, with deteriorating conditions.
- **By legal status**: notified, recognised and identified (India); authorised and unauthorised.

SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY · SLUMS

Slum Types and Their Position in the Metropolis

Slums occupy the land nobody else wants or can yet claim: the decaying core, transport and drainage corridors, hazard zones and the fringe.



Where slums form in a metropolis

1. **Inner-city tenements** — Old, decayed core housing: Mumbai chawls, Delhi katras, Kolkata bustees
2. **Along railway lines** — Squatting on public land beside tracks and yards: Mumbai, Delhi
3. **River banks and drains** — Floodplains and nullahs: Yamuna pushta (Delhi), Cooum banks (Chennai)
4. **Hill slopes** — Unstable, steep sites: Mumbai's hill slopes, Rio's favelas
5. **Peripheral squatters** — Fringe colonies near new industry and construction sites
6. **Urban villages** — Villages engulfed and densified without plans: Delhi's lal dora areas
7. **Resettlement colonies** — Distant relocation sites that decay: Bawana, Savda Ghevra (Delhi)

Local names
India: bustee (Kolkata), jhuggi-jhopri (Delhi), chawl, jhopadpatti (Mumbai), cheri (Chennai)
Abroad: favela (Brazil), kampung (Indonesia), gecekondu (Turkey), bidonville (Maghreb)

By legal status (India)
Notified under a Slum Act; recognised by government without notification; identified by census officers (300+ people or 60–70 households in congested, insanitary tenements).

By prospects (Charles Stokes, 1962)
Slums of hope: newcomers climbing the urban ladder. Slums of despair: people trapped by poverty, caste or disability, with little chance of moving out.

Slum and squatter
A slum is defined by its condition (poor housing and services); a squatter settlement by its illegality of tenure. Many sites are both.

Schematic; Indian examples are illustrative. Census of India 2011 definitions of notified, recognised and identified slums. lotusarise.com

Slums in the Indian Context

- In India, **slums** are closely tied to **informal housing and unauthorised construction**. They reflect the mismatch between fast urban population growth and slow provision of land and infrastructure.
- They are not only the homes of new migrants. Many are decades old, with second- and third-generation residents, brick houses, shops and workshops.

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- They supply the city's construction workers, domestic workers, drivers, vendors and waste-pickers. The formal city depends on this labour but does not house it.
- Despite poor conditions, slums often give **better access to work, schools and hospitals** than the villages migrants left. This is why they keep growing.

How Slums Develop

PYQ 2016 · 2004

- **John F. C. Turner (1968)** showed that migrants first choose location over quality. "**Bridgeheaders**" want cheap rooms near jobs in the inner city. Later "**consolidators**" want ownership and space, and move to the periphery to build.
- A slum typically passes through these stages:
  1. **Arrival and occupation**: families rent rooms in old inner-city tenements, or squat on vacant public land, by overnight invasion or gradual accretion.
  2. **Consolidation**: huts of plastic and tin are rebuilt in brick. A rental market appears as early settlers let rooms to newcomers.
  3. **Densification and vertical growth**: upper floors are added, open spaces are built over and lanes narrow. Densities rise steeply.
  4. **Recognition**: the slum is notified or recognised, often before elections. Taps, toilets, lights and paved lanes follow.
  5. **Upgrading, redevelopment or eviction**: depending on land value and politics, the slum is improved in place, rebuilt as towers, or cleared.
- Slums on **high-value central land** face the strongest pressure for redevelopment. Those on **hazardous or low-value land** tend to persist without services.

02 Slums in Numbers

PYQ 2026 · 2022 · 2019 +10

The World

- UN-Habitat put the world's slum population at 1.12 billion in 2022, 24.8% of urban residents. This was 130 million more than in 2015.
- Over 85% live in three regions:
  - Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (362 million).
  - Central and Southern Asia (334 million).
  - Sub-Saharan Africa (265 million), where 53.6% of urban people live in slums, the highest share of any region.
- Brazil's 2022 census counted **16.4 million people (8.1%)** in 12,348 favelas and urban communities. Rocinha (72,021 people) is the largest.

India

- Census 2011:
  - **6.55 crore** people in 1.39 crore households lived in slums in 2,613 towns, out of 4,041 statutory towns.

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  - That was **17.4% of India's urban population**, 22.4% of the population of the slum-reporting towns and 5.4% of all Indians.
- **States with the largest slum populations**:
  - **Maharashtra (1.18 crore)** and undivided Andhra Pradesh (1.02 crore) together held a third.
  - West Bengal (64 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (62 lakh), Tamil Nadu (58 lakh) and Madhya Pradesh (57 lakh) followed.
  - Tamil Nadu had the most slum-reporting towns (507).
- **Slum share of the urban population**:
  - Highest: undivided Andhra Pradesh 36.1%, Chhattisgarh 32.0%, Madhya Pradesh 28.4%, Maharashtra 23.3%, Odisha 22.3% and West Bengal 22.1%.
  - Lowest: **Keralam (Kerala) (1.3%)**, Goa (2.9%), Assam (4.5%) and Jharkhand (4.7%).
  - Manipur and three small UTs reported no slums.
- Cities: **Greater Mumbai** had 52 lakh slum dwellers, 41.8% of its corporation's population. This is the largest number and among the highest shares of any Indian city.
  - Hyderabad, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai each had roughly 15–25 lakh slum dwellers. Counts vary with the city boundary used.
  - **38% of slum households** were in the 46 million-plus cities, and in 19 million-plus cities over a quarter of households lived in slums.
- **Households:**
  - **1.37 crore** slum households, 17.4% of urban households.
  - Maharashtra 24.5 lakh, undivided Andhra Pradesh 24.2 lakh, Tamil Nadu 14.5 lakh and West Bengal 13.9 lakh. Those four and Madhya Pradesh held 64%.
  - Highest share of households: undivided Andhra Pradesh 35.7%, Chhattisgarh 31.9%, Madhya Pradesh 28.3%. Lowest: Keralam 1.5%.
- **Trend:**
  - Census 2001 gave the first detailed slum data: **5.24 crore people in 1,743 towns**.
  - A government committee projected **10.4 crore by 2017**, far above the census count.
  - UN-Habitat's *State of the World's Cities 2010/11* credited India with lifting 5.97 crore people out of slum conditions.
- **Amenities, Census 2011:**

AMENITY	SLUM HOUSEHOLDS (%)	ALL URBAN HOUSEHOLDS (%)
Tap drinking water	74.0	70.6
Electricity	90.5	92.7
Latrine within premises	66.0	81.4
Closed drainage	36.9	44.5

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AMENITY	SLUM HOUSEHOLDS (%)	ALL URBAN HOUSEHOLDS (%)
Permanent house	77.7	84.3
Owned house	70.2	69.2
Television	69.6	76.7
Computer	10.4	18.7
Mobile phone only	63.5	64.3

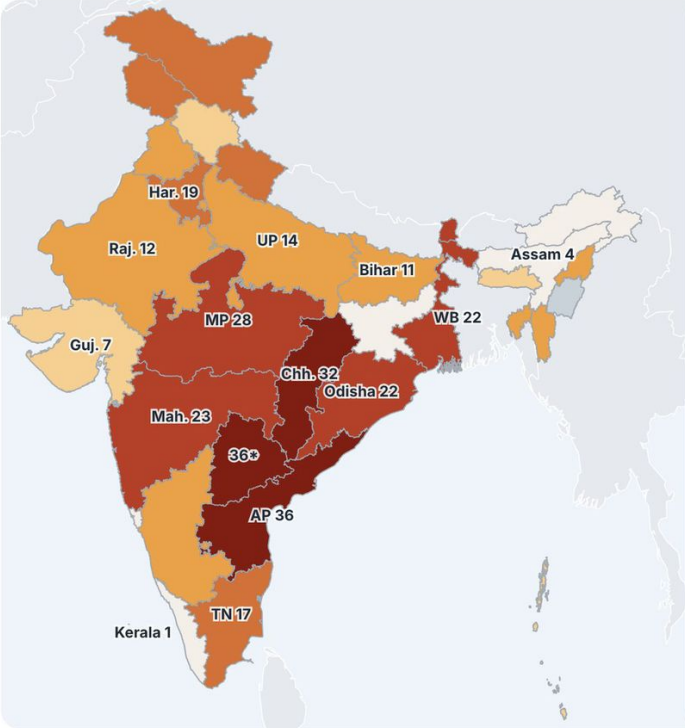
- Slums came close to the rest of the city on water and power, but lagged on **toilets and drainage**. Television and phones had spread faster than sanitation.
- **Data gap**: no slum count has been made since 2011. The next census, with enumeration referenced to 1 March 2027, will give the first update.

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SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY · SLUMS

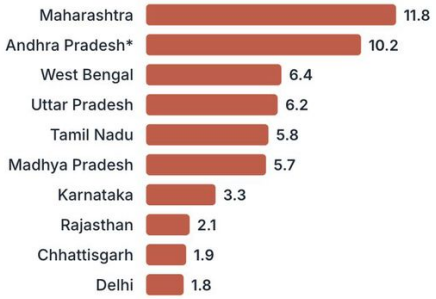
Slums in India: Where and How Many

One in six urban Indians lived in a slum in 2011, but the share ranged from over a third in undivided Andhra Pradesh to about 1% in Kerala.



Slum population, Census 2011

Millions; 6.55 crore in 2,613 towns, 17.4% of urban India



By legal status (Census 2011)



Largest city	Greater Mumbai: 52 lakh slum dwellers, 41.8% of the corporation's people
Highest share	Andhra Pradesh* 36%, Chhattisgarh 32%
Lowest share	Kerala 1.3%, Goa 2.9%

Map: slum population as % of the State's urban population

Under 5 · 5–10 · 10–15 · 15–20 · 20–30 · 30 and above · No slums reported

Deccan and central belt

Andhra Pradesh–Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha: large shares in mining, industrial and fast-growing towns.

Largest numbers

Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh* together hold a third; West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh follow. 38% of slum households are in million-plus cities.

Low shares

Kerala and Goa: a dispersed rural–urban continuum and better housing; low shares in Assam and Jharkhand partly reflect fewer notified slums.

Census of India 2011, Primary Census Abstract for Slums. *Undivided Andhra Pradesh; Telangana and Ladakh shown with their 2011 parent State's value. Boundaries: Survey of India outline (datameet).

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03 Factors Contributing to Slum Formation

- **Rapid urbanisation and rural–urban migration**:
  - Migrants arrive faster than cities can house them, so they settle near work in informal settlements.
  - Push: small holdings, agrarian distress, landlessness, caste oppression, floods and droughts.
  - Pull: jobs, wages, education and health care in the metropolis.
  - Migrants without savings or documents **cannot enter the formal housing market**.
- **Housing shortage and lack of affordable housing**:
  - India's urban housing shortage was estimated at 18.78 million units (2012), **96% of it in the economically weaker and low-income groups**.

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  - **High construction costs**, private builders' focus on the high-end market, and small, slow public housing leave the poor with little option but unauthorised land.
- **High land prices and vertical growth**:
  - Land is scarce in the centre. Prices rise with demand, speculation and low permitted floor space.
  - **Vertical growth** of offices and high-income towers pushes land values beyond the reach of the poor. Their only foothold is marginal land, or crowding into existing slums.
  - **Market-led redevelopment** with extra floor space can create **"vertical slums"** of poorly maintained rehabilitation towers.
- **Land pressure from population growth and economic expansion**:
  - IT-led and industrial growth in cities such as **Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune** has sharply raised demand for land.
  - As land grows scarce, informal housing spreads into **peri-urban and interstitial spaces**, often without basic services.
- **Planning and governance failures**:
  - Outdated master plans that ignore the poor and fail to reserve land for them.
  - Weak enforcement, institutional fragmentation and corruption.
- **Urban poverty and inequality**:
  - Informal, low-wage work and no social security mean even long-term residents cannot afford planned housing.
  - The slum is a **survival strategy**: cheap rent close to jobs.
- **Natural increase within slums**: high fertility, young age structures and limited access to education, health care and family planning add to growth and densification.
- **Political economy**:
  - Slums are vote banks. Regularisation before elections encourages more encroachment.
  - **Real-estate interests**, disputes over land ownership and fears of displacement delay redevelopment.
- **Industrial location**: factories, ports and construction sites attract labour without providing housing. Slums grew in the industrial States and mining towns of the Deccan and central India.
- **Lack of balanced regional development**: stagnant rural regions keep sending surplus labour to a few metros.

04 Associated Problems of Slums PYQ 2013 · 1990

Health

- **Communicable diseases** thrive with poor sanitation, open drains and contaminated water: cholera, typhoid, diarrhoea, hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria and dengue.
- **Overcrowding** speeds the spread of respiratory infections.
- Malnutrition and higher infant and maternal mortality follow from poor diets and limited health care.

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- **Pandemics**: COVID-19 (2020) showed the risk of **density plus shared facilities**.
  - Social distancing and handwashing are hard where one toilet seat serves dozens of people. A 2014 study of Mumbai's slums found about one seat per 81 persons.
  - Dharavi contained its first wave through intensive **tracing, testing and isolation**, using community health workers and local leaders.
  - The lockdown destroyed informal livelihoods and triggered mass reverse migration.

Environment

- **Encroachment on fragile land**: riverbanks, wetlands, floodplains, mangroves, hill slopes and forest edges.
- **Pollution**:
  - Untreated sewage and solid waste pollute drains, rivers and groundwater.
  - Slums along the Yamuna in Delhi, the Mithi in Mumbai and the Cooum in Chennai both suffer from and add to river pollution.
- **Indoor air pollution** from biomass and kerosene cooking. Dependence on firewood also adds to deforestation. Exposure to toxic emissions where slums adjoin industry or dumpsites.
- **Fire and hazard risk** from crowded, flammable structures.

Basic Amenities and Infrastructure

- Chronic shortages of water, sanitation, electricity, paved lanes, drainage and transport.
- **Overloaded networks** and frequent breakdowns.
- **Unsafe structures** of temporary materials, vulnerable to fires, floods and collapse.

Economic

- **Informal, insecure work** with low wages and no social security.
- **No access to formal credit or insurance**, so dependence on moneylenders and debt traps.
- **Evictions** destroy homes, businesses and the links between home and work.
- Limited skills and education restrict mobility.

Social

- **Stigma and exclusion** in housing, jobs and services.
- **Crime, substance abuse, domestic violence and juvenile delinquency**. These are linked to poverty and overcrowding, not to slum dwellers as such.
- **Vulnerability of women and children**: trafficking, child labour, abuse, and lack of safe toilets.
- **Stress and poor mental health** from insecurity.

Legal and Governance

- **Insecure tenure** brings exploitation by land mafias and speculators, and the threat of eviction.

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- **Lack of formal recognition** cuts residents off from services and welfare.
  - Identified and non-notified slums often get no municipal services at all.
- **Weak enforcement and corruption** allow slums to expand.

Location-Based Risk

- **Flood-prone and landslide-prone sites**:
  - Mumbai's hill-slope slums have repeated landslides in the monsoon.
  - Chennai's riverbank slums flooded in 2015.
- **Heat stress** under tin roofs.
- **Climate change** concentrates disaster losses on the urban poor.

Are Slums an Urban Menace? PYQ 2007

- **The case for "menace"**:
  - Disease, pollution and crime.
  - Encroachment on public land and on flood channels.
  - Strain on services, and an unsightly city image.
- **The case against**:
  - Slums are the **city's affordable housing** and its labour reserve. They house the workers that formal housing ignores.
  - They are economic hubs, as Dharavi's workshops show.
  - **Slums of hope** are stepping stones for migrants.
  - The "menace" is a failure of **land, housing and planning policy**, not of slum dwellers.
- Most researchers and UN-Habitat now favour **upgrading and inclusion over clearance**.

05 Government Initiatives for Slums in India PYQ 2026

Phases of Policy

- **Clearance and relocation (1950s–1960s)**:
  - The **Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956** gave the legal basis to identify, notify, improve or clear slums, first in the Union Territories.
  - Relocation to the periphery often moved poverty without ending it.
- **Improvement in place (1970s–1990s)**:
  - **State Slum Acts**: the Maharashtra Slum Areas Act of 1971 allowed slums to be declared, improved and redeveloped.
  - **Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (1972)**: taps, drains, street lights and toilets.
  - **Urban Basic Services for the Poor (1990)**: community-based services for slum dwellers.

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  - The **National Slum Development Programme (1996)** gave central assistance to States in proportion to their slum population.
- **Rehabilitation with the market (1990s–2000s)**:
  - **Mumbai's Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (1995)** under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority.
    - Eligible families get **free flats in situ**. Developers are paid in extra floor space (FSI) and transferable development rights (TDR).
  - **Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (2001)**: shelter, with community toilets under its Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan component.
  - Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor: interest subsidies for economically weaker sections.
- **Mission era (since 2005)**:
  - **JNNURM (2005)**:
    - **Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP)** in the mission cities.
    - The **Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)** in smaller towns, which merged the earlier NSDP and VAMBAY.
  - **Rajiv Awas Yojana (2011)**: "slum-free cities" through slum mapping, property rights and in-situ redevelopment. Its implementation phase was approved in 2013, and it was subsumed in 2015.
  - **PMAY-Urban (2015)**: "Housing for All" through four verticals.
    - The verticals were **in-situ slum redevelopment**, credit-linked subsidy, affordable housing in partnership and beneficiary-led construction.
    - 1.22 crore houses had been sanctioned by December 2025.
    - **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (2020)** for migrants were added after COVID-19.
  - **PMAY-U 2.0 (2024)**: 1 crore more houses over five years with ₹2.30 lakh crore of central assistance.
    - Its four verticals are beneficiary-led construction, affordable housing in partnership, affordable rental housing and an interest subsidy.
    - There is no separate slum vertical. Landless beneficiaries can be given **land rights (pattas)**.
- **Supporting missions**:
  - AMRUT 2.0 (2021): universal water taps and sewer or septage coverage.
  - SBM-Urban 2.0 (2021): toilets, waste management and used water.
  - Smart Cities Mission (2015–2025): services, housing and governance that reach slums indirectly.
  - **HRIDAY (2015)**: heritage conservation with better living conditions in old inner-city quarters, which often include slum pockets.
  - DAY-NULM (2014): livelihoods and shelters for the urban homeless.
  - PM SVANidhi (2020): loans to street vendors.
  - National Urban Health Mission (2013).
- **State tenure reforms**: the **Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act, 2017** and its Jaga Mission gave land-right certificates and upgraded slums with drone-based mapping.

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SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY · SLUMS

Slum Policy in India: Seven Decades

Policy moved from clearing slums to improving them, then to market-led rehabilitation and finally to tenure and housing-for-all missions.



From bulldozer to tenure
Clearance moved people but not poverty; upgrading in place and secure tenure proved cheaper and kept livelihoods intact.

Market-led redevelopment
Free flats paid for by extra floor space: fast, but builders pick profitable sites and towers can become vertical slums.

Housing for all
PMAY-U 2.0 shifts to rental housing and subsidies; preventing new slums needs serviced land and affordable rent near jobs.

Compiled from Government of India and State programme documents; years are of launch, enactment or award. lotusarise.com

Redevelopment in the Megacities

CITY	AGENCY OR SCHEME	APPROACH
Mumbai	Slum Rehabilitation Authority (1995); Dharavi project	Free in-situ flats funded by extra FSI and TDR; township-scale PPP for Dharavi
Delhi	DDA in-situ rehabilitation ("Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan")	Flats built on or near the cluster site; 3,024 flats at Kalkaji (2022)

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CITY	AGENCY OR SCHEME	APPROACH
Kolkata	Bustee improvement since the 1970s; Thika Tenancy Act (2001)	Services and paving in bustees; tenancy reform, little demolition
Chennai	Slum Clearance Board (1970), now Urban Habitat Development Board	Tenements, then large resettlement estates at the edge (Perumbakkam)
Hyderabad	2BHK Dignity Housing (2015)	Free two-bedroom flats in large colonies
Bengaluru	Karnataka Slum Development Board	Notification, upgrading and housing under PMAY

- **Common lessons**: in-situ schemes keep jobs and networks; peripheral resettlement estates (Perumbakkam, Savda Ghevra) cut people off from work and services.

Challenges in Implementation and Redevelopment

- **Demand side**:
  - **Affordability**: the poorest cannot pay even subsidised prices or EMIs.
  - **Access to finance**: no income proof, credit history or collateral.
- **Supply side**:
  - **Land scarcity**: UN-Habitat projected India's urban population at **600–675 million by 2030–35**, about 675 million by 2035. A later UN estimate gives about 568 million by 2030. Stringent land-use controls, fragmented ownership and opaque land records add to the scarcity.
  - **Rising construction costs**: reported to be up by nearly **80% over the past decade**, which makes affordable projects less viable.
  - **Regulatory delays**: many clearances from local bodies, State departments and environmental authorities.
  - **Tenure disputes** over encroached, railway, port or defence land.
  - **Litigation and political resistance**, and disputes over eligibility cut-off dates, so many residents are excluded.
  - **Location**: housing far from jobs leaves units vacant. Relocated families lose their livelihoods.
  - **Quality and maintenance**: rehabilitation towers with poor light, ventilation and upkeep.
  - **Misuse**: illegal subletting or sale of allotted units, and the re-emergence of slums.
  - **Overburdened infrastructure** when densities rise without matching services.
- **Programme delivery**:
  - Delays in execution and weak coordination between agencies.
  - Financial constraints and dependence on private developers.
  - **Limited coverage**, with a focus on select cities.
  - Little community participation in planning and execution.

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Suggestions for Improvement PYQ 2016 · 2004

- **Upgrade in situ** wherever the site is safe. Relocate only from hazardous sites, nearby and with livelihoods planned.
- **Fit the model to the place**: local demographic, social and spatial conditions should shape each scheme, not a uniform template.
- **Secure tenure first**: land rights or long leases, as in Odisha. Families then invest in their own homes.
- **Supply land and housing ahead of demand**:
  - Sites and services schemes and inclusionary zoning.
  - Rental housing for migrants.
  - Reserving land for the economically weaker sections in master plans.
- **Community participation and partnership**: Ahmedabad's slum networking and the community toilets built in Pune and Mumbai by NGOs with slum women's groups.
- **Decentralised services**: community-managed toilets, small sewage and waste plants, and solar power.
- **Finance**: flexible subsidies, microfinance and self-help group credit, and cross-subsidy from land value capture.
- **Curb misuse**: post-allotment monitoring and firm oversight to stop illegal subletting and transfer of flats.
- **Livelihoods and skills**: mixed-use rehabilitation that keeps workshops and shops.
- **Data**: GIS and drone mapping of every slum, and a census update.
- **Prevent new slums**: balanced regional development, growth of small towns, and rural employment.

06 Case Studies

India

- **Dharavi Redevelopment Project, Mumbai**:
  - Dharavi is a notified area of about 254 ha, built on filled-in marshland between railway lines and Mahim Creek. It is one of Asia's largest slums. Long called Asia's largest, it is now often placed behind Orangi in Karachi.
  - The project was awarded in 2023 to a special purpose vehicle: Adani group 80%, Maharashtra 20% through the Slum Rehabilitation Authority. As a public–private partnership, it cross-subsidises rehabilitation housing through commercial development.
  - A master plan was approved in 2025, and the first construction permission issued in January 2025. Over 1.13 lakh structures were numbered in the eligibility survey.
  - Rehabilitation towers (10,432 flats of 350 sq ft) began on railway land at Matunga in 2026. Completion is targeted for 2032.
  - **Issues**:
    - Eligibility of upper-floor and post-cut-off residents, and relocation of the ineligible to distant sites.
    - Survival of Dharavi's informal industries.
    - Land transfers and litigation.

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- **Mumbai Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (1995)**:
  - Free in-situ flats paid for by extra floor space and TDR to developers.
  - It produced large numbers of units, but also vertical slums, poor construction, exclusion errors and loss of workshops.
- **Ahmedabad Slum Networking Programme (mid-1990s)**:
  - In-situ upgrading with water, sewerage, drainage, paved lanes, lights and waste collection.
  - A partnership of the municipal corporation, NGOs and residents with cost sharing.
  - Results: better health and school attendance, and greater security of tenure.
- **Odisha's Jaga Mission**: land-rights certificates under the 2017 Act, and drone-mapped upgrading of slums in many towns. **Bhubaneswar** was known early for such certificates, which cut the risk of eviction. Tenure security is the base for investment.
- Indore: in-situ redevelopment under PMAY-U with strong municipal leadership, minimal displacement, GIS-based slum mapping and integrated water, sanitation and waste services.
- **Delhi's resettlement colonies** (Bawana, Narela, Savda Ghevra): legal plots, but distance from work, long commutes and weak services.
- **Pune and Mumbai community toilets**: designed and run by NGOs with women's savings groups, which improved maintenance and use.
- **Rajiv Awas Yojana pilots** in several cities, including Jaipur and Patna: mapping and tenure, limited by funds and implementation.

Abroad

- **Kibera, Nairobi**:
  - About 256 ha. The 2019 census counted 185,777 people in Kibra, far below the older claims of 0.6–1 million.
  - Most residents are tenants of structure owners on government land.
  - The **Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme** with UN-Habitat (2004) moved Soweto East residents to decanting sites and new flats.
- **Rocinha and the favelas, Rio de Janeiro**:
  - Consolidated hillside favelas.
  - Upgrading under **Favela-Bairro (1994)** and federal PAC works (2007), with debates over titling and policing.
- **Orangi Pilot Project, Karachi (1980)**:
  - Founded by **Akhtar Hameed Khan**.
  - Residents built and paid for their own lane sewers, with technical help. It became a model of **low-cost, community-led sanitation**.

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SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY · SLUMS

Three Slums Compared: Dharavi, Kibera and Rocinha

Slums differ in site, density, economy and legal status; upgrading has moved from clearance to tenure, services and in-situ redevelopment.

	Dharavi Mumbai, India	Kibera Nairobi, Kenya	Rocinha Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	253.7 ha notified area at the city's centre	**185,777** residents of Kibra (2019 census)	**72,021** residents, Brazil's largest favela (2022)
Site	Filled-in marsh and creek land between rail lines, Mahim Creek	About 256 ha of valley land, south-west of the city centre	Steep hillside between wealthy São Conrado and Gávea
People	1,13,315 structures numbered in the redevelopment survey (2024–)	Older estimates of 0.6–1 million were far above the census count	30,371 households; Brazil has 16.4 million in 12,348 favelas
Economy	Leather, pottery, garments, recycling: home-workshop units	Tenants of absentee structure owners; informal trade, casual work	Consolidated brick houses, shops, services; strong local markets
Policy	Redevelopment SPV (2023): Adani 80%, State 20%; master plan 2025; rehab towers from 2026, 350 sq ft	Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme with UN-Habitat (2004); Soweto East decanting and new flats	Favela-Bairro upgrading (1994), federal PAC works (2007); titling and policing debates

The world's slum population, 2022

1.12 billion people, 24.8% of urban residents (UN SDG 11.1.1)



Over 85% of slum dwellers live in these three regions.

53.6% of Sub-Saharan Africa's urban people live in slums, the highest share of any region

+130 m slum dwellers added 2015–22

Sources: Dharavi Redevelopment Project and Maharashtra government (2025–26); Kenya census 2019 and UN-Habitat; IBGE census 2022; UN SDG Report (2022 data).

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- **The lesson of the cases**: success came with **tenure, participation, services and livelihoods kept together**. Clearance or towers alone recreated slums elsewhere.

Previous Year Questions

1990	Write short note: Growth of urban slums and problems associated with them.
1993	Distinguishing features of an urban slum and its position in metropolitan area.
1994	Write short note: Slums and squatter settlements.
1996	Factors for the growth of slums in the metropolitan cities of India.

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2000	Discuss the environmental impact of the growth of slums in Indian cities.
2004	How do slums develop? Give concrete suggestions for their improvement.
2007	"Slums are urban menace." Elucidate with India cities as examples.
2009	How do the 'push' and 'pull' factors operate for the emergence of slums in the metropolises of India.
2013	Define slums and explain their problems.
2016	How do slums develop? Give concrete suggestions for their improvement.
2019	Correlate the price of land, vertical growth of cities and the growth of slums in large cities of India.
2022	Examine the role of high population concentration in Indian slums in making them more vulnerable during pandemic conditions like the COVID-19.
2026	Explain the government initiatives for the redevelopment of slum areas in the mega cities of India.

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01 **Rural Settlements** 6 chapters · from page 6

02 **Urban Developments and Hierarchy** 6 chapters · from page 83

03 **Urban Morphology and Indian Cities** 2 chapters · from page 186

04 **Functional Classification of Towns and Cities** 2 chapters · from page 231

05 **City Regions, Conurbations and Urban Sprawl** 5 chapters · from page 273

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