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Q7(a)

**Elaborate the causes, consequences and other concerns of growth of urban settlements in India.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India

Industrialization and Urbanisation in India: Evolution of modern industry in India; Growth of urban settlements in India; Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization; Informal sector, child labour; Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

**Core demand of the question**

- Elaborate the causes, consequences and other concerns of growth of urban settlements in India

**Revision summary**

Towns grow from rural labour push and industry-service pull.

**Census towns** and natural increase add silent urbanisation.

Consequences include informal work, class-split housing and pollution.

Concerns are eviction, migrant civic gaps and weak local government.

Urbanism remains caste-shadowed, not a clean Wirth city.

**Introduction**

Indian urban settlements grow because agrarian surplus labour, industry, and services pull people into towns. Consequences are a new way of life and a new map of eviction, heat, and informality.

**Body****Causes**

- **Agrarian class change:** tiny holdings, Green Revolution labour-saving, and distress push worker-peasants out.
- Planned and unplanned industry, ports, and now IT-services pull them in, the mixed-economy city's hunger for cheap hands.
- Natural increase inside towns and reclassification of **census towns** add growth without a mayor's speech.
- Transport corridors and education dreams thicken Beteille's middle class in metros.

**Consequences**

- Wirth-type density and diversity, mixed with jati housing and festival publics.
- Informal work, slums, and gated colonies as one disharmonic urbanism.
- Pressure on water, green cover, and air; heat islands that cook the poor first.
- **New civic politics:** municipal votes, resident associations, and waste conflicts.

## Other concerns

- Urban displacement for projects, the concern of growing eviction dynamics.
- Migrant citizenship without portable rations, exposed in Corona.
- Crime, women's safety, and POSH-thin informal workplaces.
- **Governance lag:** 74th Amendment on paper, parastatal real estate on the ground.
- Peri-urban caste-agrarian belts become neither village nor serviced city.

## Sociological close

- Urban growth is not a neutral modernisation. It reorganises class, caste, and federal local power.

## Flow diagram

Agrarian push -> Urban growth  
Industry services -> Urban growth  
Urban growth -> Informal gated split  
Urban growth -> Displacement heat

## Conclusion

Urban settlements grow from agrarian push and industrial-service pull. Consequences are opportunity, informality, and ecological stress. Concerns are displacement, migrant rights, and a municipality weaker than the market.

## Facts & figures

### Census towns

Settlements that become urban in statistics before they become serviced cities.

### Gated-slum dualism

Class consequence of Indian urban growth.

### 74th Amendment

Municipal decentralization often bypassed by development authorities.

### Peri-urban belt

Agrarian land converted without urban citizenship.