

## URBAN PROBLEMS |

### Structure

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### 13.1 INTRODUCTION

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Now, in Unit 13, we will look at some of the biggest problems in urban areas, such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, pollution, slums, waste disposal, traffic management, health care, safe drinking water, safety, crime control, security, and others.

#### Major Urban Problems

In addition to the natural increase in urban population, a majority of the problems of urban sphere is related to the unemployment and continuous immigration of population towards cities from rural area. Uneven development and lack of opportunities are at the core of rural-to-urban migration. The cumulative effects of excessive concentration of population and mismanagement of the basic amenities and infrastructure, leads to various issues and challenges in urban areas.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes

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

- highlight the major urban problems;
- list the factors and different types of migration;
- correlate unemployment with the poverty, cleanliness, and crime of the city;
- distinguish the different types of pollution; and
- provide the solution to tackle the issues of urban areas.

## 13.2 MIGRATION AND HOMELESSNESS

Migration is simply the movement of people from one place to another. Migration is defined as a movement from one migration-defining area to another, typically comprising the crossing of administrative boundaries and a change of residence (UN, 1993). That can be temporary, permanent or semi-permanent. In the broader perspective, in most of the developing and less developed nations historically, migration has been associated with high dependence on agriculture in rural and less profit or outcomes from that sector, slow rate of development, and less diversification of the different sectors of the economy in the rural area. Major factors for the urban in-migration are as following:

### 1. Push factors of Rural Area

This means that the factors that motivate or force the people to leave their own village or birth place. The high population growth rate in rural areas resulted in surplus labours which ultimately increase the pressure of population over agricultural land leading to unemployment, and lack of basic necessities and promoting out-migration. Low literacy, dependence on agriculture and low income for the most population result in extreme poverty.

The slow tempo of technological and economic change in rural agriculture and the rural economy as a whole restricted rural employment opportunities. Contrariwise, in many instances even enhanced and mechanised forms of agricultural practices have led to the loss of agricultural labour, resulting in forced migration.

### 2. Pull Factors of Urban Area

This means the factors that attract the population towards it. Migrants to the city are attracted by urban-pull factors like job opportunities, educational facilities, higher wages, dominance of service and industrial sectors, high living standards and scope of economic and social advancement.

Therefore, factors of migration include push factors related to the place of origin (rural areas) and pull factors associated with the place of destination (urban areas). However, different factors, such as economic, social, and cultural, influence an individual's decision to migrate. In majority of the cases, economic factors have primarily influenced different forms of migration.

### 13.2.1 Types of Migration

Broadly migration can be categorised in four main types. They are:

- Short Distance: Migration within district boundary.
- Medium distance: Those who cross the one district boundary but not the state boundary.
- Long Distance: When a person resides in the state other than his/her state of birth/Place of Last Residence.
- International: immigrants who are born or residing in a foreign country.

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal are the prominent source state for rural to urban migration.

**Table 13.1: Rural Urban Migration in India**

Migration streams	Volume in million		Growth rate ( in percentage)
	2011	2001	
Rural-Rural	69.1	53.3	29.6
Urban-Rural	11.4	6.2	84.6
<b>Rural-Urban</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>56.8</b>
<b>Urban-Urban</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>130.3</b>

Source: *Census of India, 2011 (Provisional Migration Table)*

**Table 13.2: Homeless Population in India**

### INDIA'S HOMELESS POPULATION

Massive spike in urban homelessness

	HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS*			HOMELESS POPULATION		
	2001	2011	%age Change	2001	2011	%age Change
India	4,47,552	4,49,787	0.49	19,43,476	17,73,040	-8.76
Rural	2,59,742	1,92,891	-25.73	11,64,877	8,34,692	-28.34
Urban	1,87,810	2,56,896	36.78	7,78,599	9,38,348	20.51

\*Mean household sizes fell across the board between 2001 and 2011: 4.34 to 3.9 for India as a whole, 4.48 to 4.3 for Rural, and 4.14 to 3.7 for Urban.

**MOST HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS IN 2011**

Uttar Pradesh	72,452
Maharashtra	57,480
Andhra Pradesh	42,812
Madhya Pradesh	37,822
Rajasthan	37,341

**INCREASE IN HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS**  
Given its area, numbers in Delhi are most striking

	2001	2011	%age Increase
Jharkhand	2,559	6,121	139.19
Delhi	10,044	23,175	130.73
Uttar Pradesh	43,043	72,452	68.32
West Bengal	19,385	28,647	47.91
Jammu & Kashmir	2,130	3,076	44.32
Bihar	6,940	9,818	41.46
Rajasthan	27,196	37,341	37.30
Punjab	8,579	9,853	14.85
Uttarakhand	2,940	3,273	11.32
Assam	3,126	3,293	5.3

**HOMELESS & BEGGARS**  
Only a fraction of homeless are categorised as 'beggars'

	Homeless	Beggars	%age of beggars
2001	19.43 lakh	6.3 lakh	32.42%
2011	17.73 lakh	3.7 lakh	20.86%

Source: Census 2001, 2011

(Source: Census of India 2001 and Census of India 2011)

When an individual migrates from rural to urban area house to stay is one of the basic requirements. The rate of urban expansion and in-migration towards the cities are unmatched that make the huge proportion of urban population homeless or rented population. There is very positive correlation between higher number of migration towards cities and the greater number of homeless migrants.

Consequently, homeless population will pose a significant obstacle to urban development. Moreover, once the migrants get a job in the destination city, it is easy to sustain the expense on rent; otherwise it becomes problematic to get a house, and this situation ultimately leads to unemployment, poverty, and slums, among other issues.

**SAQ I**

- a) What is the difference between push and pull factor?
- b) What is the number of houseless populations in India?

## 13.3 UNEMPLOYMENT

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Issues of unemployment and poverty are inter-related. NSSO defines unemployment as a situation in which all those who owing to lack of work, are not working but seek work through employment exchanges, intermediaries, friends or relatives. They also seek work by making applications to prospective employers or express their willingness or availability for work under prevailing conditions of work and remunerations (NSSO). Simply unemployment occurs when a person actively seeking work is unable to obtain employment. The unemployment rate is frequently used as an indicator of the state of the economy.

**Some types of unemployment are:**

**Disguised Unemployment:** It is a phenomenon in which more individuals are employed than are actually required. It is most prevalent in India's agricultural and unorganised sectors.

**Seasonal Unemployment:** Seasonal unemployment is unemployment that occurs during specific times of the year. In India, agricultural labourers are infrequently employed throughout the entire year.

**Structural Unemployment:** It is a type of unemployment caused by a mismatch between the skills of available employees and the skills required by available jobs. Many individuals in India are unable to obtain employment because they lack the necessary skills, and their low education level makes it difficult to train them.

**Cyclical Unemployment:** As a result of the business cycle, unemployment increases during recessions and falls during periods of economic expansion. This phenomenon is predominant in capitalist economies.

Poverty persists in urban areas among the unemployed and laid-off workers, migrants, and those who do not have working opportunities and saving. Mainly predominant among the migrant non-farmers uneducated workers and women looking for employment in urban area. Inadequate skills and low wages contribute to the unemployment and underemployment of the urban impoverished. They work in informal sector without having insurance coverage or other social security. Unemployment among the educated youth is another major issue. For that purpose there is requirement of employment generation schemes and programmes like job training and microfinance organisations. Otherwise, they tend towards poverty and marginalisation.

## 13.4 POVERTY

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Poverty is a state or condition in which an individual or community lacks the financial resources and basic necessities for a subsistence level of living. Poverty is characterised by a level of income from employment that is insufficient to meet fundamental human needs. There are social, economic, and political dimensions to poverty. It denotes the inability of population to afford basic livelihood needs like shelter, education, clothing, clean and safe water, health care, etc. due to a lack of economic opportunities and a

correspondingly inadequate income. It also refers to the inability to participate in decisions affecting their social and economic existence. In 2011, 21.9% of India's population was living below the national poverty line. In 1979, the Alagh Committee demarcated poverty based on nutritional requirements. It considered that people consuming less than 2400 calories per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in urban areas are poor. Subsequently, various committees, including the Lakdawala Committee (1993), the Tendulkar Committee (2009), and the Rangarajan Committee (2012), estimated poverty. According to the Rangarajan committee report (2014), the poverty line is estimated to be Rs 1,407 per capita per month in urban areas and Rs 972 per capita per month in rural areas. Lack of employment, social security and absence of livelihood sustenance are the key characteristics of poverty in rural and urban area. The urban poor struggle predominantly with food and water insecurity, contributing to urban poverty's high cost. In poverty absence of money and high cost of living in cities lead to informal settlements and a lack of essential amenities, resulting in low household investment costs. In the absence of improved access to employment opportunities, urban impoverished are thus perpetually trapped in the poverty trap. This has numerous effects on urban poverty.

### **13.4.1 Types of Poverty**

There are two main types of poverty:

**Absolute Poverty:** It is a condition in which a household's income falls below the minimum level required to maintain essential living standards (food, shelter, and housing). This condition enables comparisons between distinct nations and also over time. The "dollar a day" poverty line was introduced in 1990 to assess absolute poverty by the standards of the world's poorest countries. In October 2015, the World Bank revised the daily minimum wage to \$1.90.

**Relative Poverty:** It is defined from a social perspective as the standard of life compared to the economic standards of the surrounding population. Consequently, it is a metric of income inequality. Typically, relative poverty is assessed as the proportion of the population whose income falls below a predetermined percentage of the median income.

### **Effect of Poverty over Urban Poor**

Poor people living in informal settlements are susceptible to communicable diseases and epidemics due to the lack of safe drinking water facilities, sanitation, and inadequate participation in garbage collection services. Erosion of human capital, as health effects are a significant outcome or consequence;

As hawkers, vendors, labourers, household labourers, scavengers, etc., participation is limited to the informal economy. As a consequence of their poverty, the poor suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards mainly due to residence in the hazards and disaster - prone area.

### **13.4.2 Major Problems Facing Urban Poor**

**Employment:** In terms of employment opportunities, the urban poor are perpetually disadvantaged due to their primarily deficient skill sets. In most

cases, they are underemployed or employed in the informal sector for minimal pay. They lack health insurance and job security that increase the vulnerability further.

**Infrastructure and Basic Services:** For urban poor without tenure security, access to fundamental urban services is severely constrained, as are affordability issues. Water connection, electricity, sewage and drainage network-reach to slum pockets is inadequate, resulting in the impoverished having to pay more for these facilities.

**High Transportation Cost and Time:** In a majority of the case, urban poor have to live in the outskirts of the cities due to less rent and affordable housing for them, but predominant job opportunities are in the inner part of the city; therefore poor populations have to expand more time on traveling. Their incomes are so less that it is hard for them to afford fast modes of transportation services like metro.

**Vulnerable to Disasters:** The urban poor and their dwellings are frequently located in natural hazard zones, placing them at a greater risk for disasters and health problems. Inadequate access to water, sanitation, and ventilation increases their susceptibility to disease. In the event of a flood, they are disproportionately affected, as the majority of slum enclaves are located along rivers; the same is true in the event of an earthquake, as they reside in overcrowded housing with no escape routes.

### **Urban Slums and Housing**

The Report of the Committee on Slum Statistics (Census of India, 2011) compiled by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation defines slums as "compact settlements of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly-built tenements, mostly temporary in nature, typically with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions". Usually, slums are characterised by poor housing, lack of clean water and sanitation, insufficient light and air, congestion, vulnerability to disasters, etc. For the purposes of the census, the Registrar General of India classifies as slums all areas designated as such by state Slum Acts, Housing and Slum Boards, whether notified or unnotified, and containing at least 300 individuals or 60-70 households. India has a population of 65.49 million individuals who reside in 13.7 million slum households. Approximately 65 percent of Indian cities have slums where people reside in small houses next to one another.

### **13.4.3 Problems Resulting from Ignoring Slum Development**

- People living in slums are susceptible to contracting waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera, as well as more terminal diseases such as cancer and HIV/AIDS.
- In addition, women and children residing in slums are vulnerable to becoming victims of social ills such as prostitution, begging, and child trafficking. Inhabitants of slums, regardless of gender, frequently fall victim to such social ills.

- Crime Incidence: Slum areas are also commonly believed to be places with a high crime incidence. This is due to the government's disregard for education, law and order, and government services in shanty areas.
- Poverty: The majority of slum dwellers in a developing nation earn their livelihood from the informal sector, which neither provides them with financial security nor sufficient earnings for a decent standard of living, thereby trapping them in a vicious cycle of poverty.
- Overpopulation and inadequate infrastructure: water, sanitation, waste collection, health services, street lighting.
- Poor health standards and a lack of schools.
- The unplanned development of slums.
- Lack of tenure security discourages slum residents from investing in their own housing.

Recognising the importance of affordable housing for the poor and the need to improve their quality and condition of living number of significant programmes were also initiated at the national level, such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PM- Awas Yojana- Urban, and others.

Poverty is characterised by lack of income, inadequate access to essential amenities, and lack of participation in public affairs. Consequently, slums are a manifestation of destitution. Lack of tenure security, constant fear of eviction, susceptibility to natural disasters, insecure employment, overcrowding and unhealthy living conditions, etc., are some of the causes of urban poverty's most severe manifestations. It is more related to housing-poverty than income-poverty. Shelter-poverty is largely the result of significantly distorted land markets, inadequate regulation for protecting property rights, and the absence of strategies to include economically and socially disadvantaged segments in urban planning. Thus, certain colonies are the most visible manifestation of this housing deprivation. It is necessary to care for this segment of society as it currently exists. Moreover, as existing cities expand and as new cities are formed, greater care should be taken to include or accommodate economically disadvantaged sections.

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## SAQ 2

- a) What are the major problems faced by the urban poor?
  - b) Discuss the different types of poverty.
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## 13.5 URBAN POLLUTION

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The introduction of detrimental substances into the environment is pollution. These hazardous substances are known as pollutants. Pollutants are produced by natural (like volcano ash) and human induced factors (like factory runoff). Air, water, and land are degraded by pollutants.

### **13.5.1 Air Pollution**

Air pollution is caused by the presence of undesirable gases such as sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide in high concentrations. Principal causes of air pollution include:

- Particulate matter in the air that consists of both solid and liquid particles, such as dust, sprays, vapour, and smoke.
- Smoke emitted by chemical and paper mills, brick kilns, refineries, and smelting plants, as well as the combustion of fossil fuels in large and small factories that disregard pollution regulations.
- Leaks of potentially hazardous and long-term toxic gases. For instance, the Bhopal gas disaster.
- Automobile emissions have become a significant contributor to urban air pollution. Cities are experiencing an increase in vehicle emissions, dust from construction debris, industrial refuse, and the burning of municipal and garden waste. Likewise, respiratory diseases such as asthma are common.

Air pollution has negative effects on human health, animal welfare, and vegetation.

#### **Threat posed by urban air pollution:**

- The demand for air purifiers has increased dramatically.
- Children are most affected: Our urban children are growing up with underdeveloped airways due to poverty.
- Percentage share of respiratory diseases has drastically increased over the time.

#### **Efforts to Decrease Air Pollution**

- Increase the greenery of the city. For example, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has experimented with urban forests; the city's 43rd urban forest was inaugurated in June 2021, with over 20,000 trees in 7,625 square metres. Chandigarh contains approximately 1,800 parks.
- Miyawaki technique could also be utilised by civil society. In Chennai, the NGO Thuvakkam, with a volunteer force of 1,800, has been able to cultivate 25 Miyawaki forests, resulting in the growth of over 65,000 trees. These plantations are currently being replicated in cities such as Tuticorin, Vellore, and Kanchipuram.
- Encourage air shed management: With an emphasis on comprehending meteorological, seasonal, and geographical air quality patterns across a large region. In the United States, the passage of the Air Quality Act in 1967 led to the division of California into 35 districts with similar geographical and meteorological conditions, and the regulation of pollution at the state level. This strategy was effective in reducing emissions by 98% from 2010 to 2019.
- Harsh penalties for polluting vehicles.

## **13.5.2 Land and Water Pollution**

Organic and inorganic industrial wastes and effluents discharged into rivers and sludge landfills cause water and land pollution in urban areas.

Urbanisation is a necessary evil for industrialisation. The industries that pollute the most are paper, pulp, chemical, textile and dyeing, petroleum refineries, tanneries, and electroplating. These industries release dyes, detergents, acids, salts, and heavy metals like Lead and Mercury, as well as pesticides, fertilisers, synthetic chemicals with carbon, plastics, and rubber, into water bodies. In India, fly ash, 209 phosphor-gypsum, and iron and steel slags are the most common types of solid trash. Biomedical waste and technological waste also add to land pollution because they 'cannot be broken down by living things.

### **Factors Contributing to Water Pollution**

- Putting water that 'has not been cleaned into freshwater bodies: 72% of the sewage from cities in India's freshwater areas is not treated. The Central Pollution Control Board says that more than half of the 351 river parts on 323 rivers are dirty. Every day, more than 4,000 septic trucks dump their waste in the Ganga. Each of these trucks holds 5,000 litres of human waste.
- Riverine Pollution: It is caused by waste from unapproved colonies that 'has not been cleaned, waste from factories, sewage water from approved colonies, and pollution from different states.
- Lack of planning: As of May 2021, only 16 Indian cities had told international institutions about their plans to fight climate change, and only 8 of those cities had real goals linked to sustainability in their urban master plans. Only 43 per cent of the Indian cities asked, planned to adapt to climate change in their master plans, and only five had a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

### **Management Measurements**

- Improving sewage treatment plant capacity by assuring drainage network connections. The City Corporation of Mangalore (MCC) has facilities for treating wastewater that are connected to the end-users. The MCC offered to give these industrial end-users in the city's special economic zone treated water if they agreed to pay about 70% of the costs of running and maintaining the pumps and sewage treatment plant.
- Investing in a sewerage network is a viable solution to the issue of untreated refuse and sewage water in unauthorised colonies. Consider Alandur, a small suburb of Chennai in 2000, which lacked underground sewage lines and relied on septic containers for most of its homes. Late in the 20th century, the local government worked with local resident welfare groups to hold campaigns to collect deposits (ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500) for building a sanitation network.
- In addition to protecting "blue infra" areas, which function as natural sponges for absorbing surface runoff and recharging groundwater, a systems-based approach should be adopted. At the household level, we

can encourage people to use rainwater harvesting, urban roof terrace greening, urban roof water retention containers, and green corridors around residential buildings.

- With an emphasis on verdant landscaping and rain gardens, municipalities could be encouraged to make existing roads permeable to water. Policymakers should advocate for "sponge cities" and integrate disaster planning at the municipal level and beyond. There is an imperative need for a paradigm shift amongst citizens and policymakers to manage the problem.

### **13.5.3 Noise Pollution**

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's noise pollution mandate, noise is defined as unwanted sound. Generally speaking, noise pollution is defined as the consistent exposure of humans and other living organisms to sound levels that are harmful. In addition to rising levels of air and water pollution, noise pollution, particularly road-traffic noise pollution, is a significant issue for urban residents. Because of more cars, buildings, and people, the quality of the environment in cities is getting worse, which indirectly affects the quality of life in cities. People who live in cities and are constantly exposed to loud noises can feel a lot of stress in their hearing, non-hearing, and brain systems. It can cause serious problems with your body and mind, such as irritation, poor performance and behaviour, high blood pressure, heart problems, tiredness, headaches, and sore throats, among other things. According to the UNEP Annual Frontier Report 2022, Dhaka is the most noisy metropolis in the world, followed by Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Asansol, Jaipur, Kolkata, New Delhi, and Moradabad are among the top five noisiest cities in the globe from India. According to the WHO, approximately 1.1 billion young people (aged 12 to 35) are at a risk of noise-induced hearing loss.

#### **Causes of Noise Pollution**

- **Industrialisation:** Increasing industries in urban areas are a significant source of noise pollution today, as they employ a variety of machines that are capable of producing a great deal of noise.
- **Inadequate Planning of Urban Areas:** Improper and poor urban planning contributes significantly to the creation of noise pollution, primarily in developing nations due to overcrowded housing, limited space, inadequate parking facilities, and frequent disputes over basic amenities, which disrupt the social environment.
- **Social Events:** During numerous social events, people frequently play music at maximum volume, which worsens living conditions and causes noise pollution. The use of loudspeakers to play music at weddings and other public events causes unwanted noise in the vicinity.
- **Automobiles and transport:** An increase in the number of vehicles on the roadways is one cause of noise pollution. For instance, heavy noise from traffic congestion, underground trains, aircraft, etc. can cause hearing impairment.
- Numerous construction activities, including mining, the construction of bridges, dams, and structures, etc., contribute significantly to noise pollution.

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## Measures of Management

- Worker protection: Provide employees in a variety of industries and construction sites with hearing protection, such as ear muffs or cotton plugs.
- To enforce acoustic zoning by separating human settlements from industrial areas, airports, and train stations.
- In terms of traffic management, highway traffic should be rerouted via by-passes and overpasses and should not be permitted to enter cities.
- Along highways and in factories, decibel instruments should be installed for the purpose of measuring and regulating noise pollution.
- To soundproof machinery in industrial facilities, soundproof chambers should be installed for machines that produce loud noise.
- Creation of a “green belt” to combat noise pollution: It has been observed that plants are effective noise absorbers, particularly for higher-frequency noise. In urban areas, a verdant belt of vegetation and open spaces in general may be as valuable for noise abatement as they are for air purification.
- Educational institutions, hospitals, and essential offices should have designated quiet areas.

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### SAQ 3

- What do we mean by air pollution?
  - Suggest the measures to manage air pollution in Indian City?
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## 13.6 URBAN PROBLEMS OF BASIC SERVICES

Individual poverty may be easier to overcome than an environment with limited access to essential services, public health care, and other factors that contribute to human development. The latter perpetuates the destitution of individuals. It leads to the growth of slums. People who are not poor sometimes live in colonies because rent control rules have made it so hard for low-income people to find a place to live. In slum areas with a private economy, whole towns have grown up. Not only does this hurt the environment in a big way, but it also hurts the work of people who live in slums. These factors, among others, pose persistent obstacles to urban development.

### 13.6.1 Clean Water, Sanitation, and Health Care

Inadequate coverage, irregular supplies, low water pressure, and poor water quality are problems with water supply in the cities of India and many other developing countries. The difficulty of delivering water to a city's population is expanding rapidly due to the rapid increase in urban population and the city's continued expansion. Universal access to potable water and toilets in the home is still a distant objective in several regions. Numerous unserved households purchase water from private vendors, whose product quality

varies. These households pay an average of ten to twenty times more than residents for piped water. As a result of limited access to pure water, poor drainage, and a lack of adequate waste-water collection and treatment infrastructure, urban residents living in poverty are not only subjected to significantly increased health risks, but also face very high costs.

Sanitation is the secure management of human excreta, including its safe confinement, treatment, and disposal, as well as hygiene-related practices. Other parts of environmental sanitation that need an integrated approach are the management of solid waste, the breakdown of industrial and other dangerous wastes, drainage facilities, and the management of potable water supplies. It emphasises the need to educate them on the advantages of a hygienic and clean environment.

Many people in urban India defecate in the open every day. Sanitation is important because of this, especially for the poor in cities. A lot of poor people in cities still use public toilets because their sewage systems are not good enough. Many public toilets with running water do not connect to the city's sewer system. Poor maintenance of public toilet forces many individuals to defecate in the open air. The lack of tenure rights discourages the poor from investing in sanitation.

The National Urban Sanitation Policy examines the development of city sanitation policies. The National Urban Sanitation Policy aims to make all of India's towns and cities 100% clean, healthy, and livable. This will improve public health and the environment for all the country's people. The Swachh Bharat Mission prioritises affordable and hygienic sanitation facilities for the urban poor in order to improve the cleanliness of cities and towns. Due to health consequences, the lack of essential services for the urban population has an indirect effect on their financial assets. As a result of personal illness or caring for a sick family member, the poor suffer the most, as many of them may lose their income and, in many instances, their employment as well. In addition, if they do not have access to free and effective health care, they may use their savings to purchase medications, etc. In addition to its direct effect on health, the absence of sanitation harms other aspects of human development. It affects education access and achievement, both physiologically and practically, because repeated illnesses stunt intellectual development and many adolescent girls drop out of school, thereby reinforcing the barriers created by gender inequality.

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#### SAQ 4

Discuss the problems in the way of clean water for urban poor?

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### **13.6.2 Waste and Garbage Management Concerns**

Most of the garbage that is dumped is not handled, and rules about how to get rid of garbage are rarely followed. The Municipal Solid Waste Rules have been in place since 2000, but they have not been enforced well enough. Today, waste is collected by urban local bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations, and private

companies. However, not much attention has been paid to how garbage is disposed of. Typically, urban local bodies collect solid waste from roadside bins to transfer stations using open vehicles with manual loading. The next step is transportation to open disposal sites. The expansion of the city limits has resulted in formerly remote old dump sites becoming a part of the metropolis. Modern practices of solid-waste collection and management have a negative effect on the livelihoods of scavengers and ragpickers who perform rag collection and sorting in large numbers. Bottles, syringes, and needles are being resold on the market as a result of unregulated recycling operations, which poses a threat to public health. In an economy that is growing quickly, it is important to find new jobs for these people while looking for more efficient ways to collect, sort, and get rid of solid waste.

We can divide solid garbage into the following three groups:

**Municipal or Household Waste:** It is made up of trash from homes, building and demolition sites, sewage waste, and trash from the street. Most of this trash comes from residential and business buildings. Certain municipal areas in India have prohibited the use of plastics and other harmful materials. Certain varieties of household waste are hazardous. Examples of hazardous household waste include obsolete batteries, shoe polish, paint tins, old medications, and medicine bottles.

**Industrial-Waste:** The hazardous nature of industrial and hospital refuse is due to the presence of toxic substances. Dangerous pollutants may be extremely toxic to humans, animals, and plants; they are corrosive, extremely flammable, or explosive; and they react when exposed to certain substances, such as gases. In the industrial sector, the metal, chemical, paper, pesticides, dye, refining, and rubber products industries are the largest producers of hazardous waste.

**Bio-Medical Waste:** Hospital waste is made when people or animals are diagnosed, treated, or immunised, as well as when study is done in these areas. It can include things like needles, contaminated waste, disposables, anatomical waste, cultures, unused medicines, chemical waste, and other things. This includes things like disposable needles, swabs, bandages, body fluids, human waste, etc. This trash is very contagious and poses a serious threat to human health if it is not handled carefully and scientifically.

**Importance of Waste Reduction:** Every day, garbage is made in every home. We tend to get rid of things we no longer need or are no longer useful to us. There are different kinds of solid waste based on where they came from. In today's polluted world, it is important to learn how to deal with waste properly. Important method for managing municipal solid waste is separation. Composting is an essential waste management and treatment method. Various municipal-waste treatment and disposal methods are currently employed in an effort to address the expanding size of cities and the rise in problems such as the production of plastic refuse. The rag-picker is a common sight in all cities and serves an important role in the separation of this waste. Household garbage can be recycled and reused to prevent the formation of waste at its source and reduce the amount of garbage thrown into community dustbins.

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## SAQ 5

- a) What are the different types of waste?
  - b) Why waste management is significant?
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### **13.6.3 Vehicles Overcrowding and Traffic Management**

Traffic is essential to the structure and existence of our city. The amount of traffic on the road is more than it can handle. So, the best way to handle traffic is to build and plan so that peak-hour traffic can move through the streets. This means knowing where the traffic coming through the streets is coming from and where it is going. Also, it is important to have strict parking rules and a road use tax to stop people from using their cars when they do not need to. Introduction of a networked, frequent, and universally accessible public transport system is an additional crucial method for reducing traffic congestion.

#### **Major issues of Urban Transport System:**

- Poor road quality and maintenance.
- Insufficient or absent traffic signals and signage.
- Inadequate infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Lack of sufficient mobility facilities.
- Animals and street vendors congest the pedestrian walkways.
- Buses, auto-rickshaws, and even motorcycles are overcrowded.
- Accidental fatalities and injuries.
- Pollution of the environment and congestion.

In recent years, the infrastructure for managing traffic in big cities has gotten better, but the situation is worse in small and medium-sized towns, which lack stop signs, traffic lights, lane markings, and other signs that tell drivers what to do and where to go. In addition, there are no prioritised public transport systems, such as bus and rail transport. Our transportation policy should prioritise the improvement of transit services, metro rails, and coordination between various modes of transportation.

#### **Concerns of Safety, Security, and Criminal Activity**

Crime and violence are the one of the major dangers to people who live in cities. These problems make towns dangerous places for people to live. Food, homes, jobs, and infrastructure are all being pushed to their limits because of how quickly cities are growing. These forces lead to a lot of conflicting situations that make people do unsocial things. Inequalities in opportunities lead to disparities in income between and within groups, and the resulting conflicts contribute to an increase in criminal activity. This affects senior citizens, women and single mothers, infants, etc., the most.

Other significant threats to human security include both natural and man-made disasters. These are caused by congestion, the presence of industries in densely populated residential areas, and inadequate infrastructure facilities.

## 13.7 SUMMARY

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In this unit you have studied so far:

In this Unit, we have talked about some of the problems and issues that come with urban growth. We talked about the most important ones here: issues and challenges related to migration and homelessness, the growing need for housing in cities, unemployment, poverty, slums, land, water, and air pollution caused by industrialisation and urbanisation, safe drinking water, sanitation, and health care, waste and garbage management, vehicles and traffic management, safety, security, and crime control.

## 13.8 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

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1. Why do people migrate from rural to urban areas?
2. What are the different criteria for deciding the poverty line in India?
3. What are the effects of poverty on urban poor?
4. Briefly discuss the problems of slums.
5. Describe the major types of pollution in urban areas.
6. What are the major issues of urban transport system?

## 13.9 ANSWERS

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### Self-Assessment Questions (SAQ)

1. a) Push factors motivate or force the people to leave their own village or birth place on the other hand pull factors attract the population towards it.  
b) More than 17 lakhs.
2. a) Unemployment, scarcity of infrastructure and basic services, high transportation cost and time, vulnerability to disasters and problem of urban slums and housing are the major problems faced by urban poor.  
b) There are two main types of poverty:  
Absolute Poverty: It is a condition in which a household's income falls below the minimum level required to maintain essential living standards (food, shelter, and housing).  
Relative Poverty: It is defined from a social perspective as the standard of life compared to the economic standards of the surrounding population. Consequently, it is a metric of income inequality.
3. a) The presence of detrimental substances like sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, dust particles, etc. into the air is air pollution.  
b) The greenery of the city increased to manage air pollution.

- Miyawaki technique could also be utilised by civil society.
  - Air shed management can be encouraged.
  - Harsh penalties can be imposed on polluting vehicles.
4. Inadequate coverage, irregular supplies, low water pressure, and poor water quality are problems in the way of clean water for urban poor.
5. a) Different types of wastes are municipal or household waste, industrial-waste and bio-medical waste.
- b) Every day, garbage is generated in every home. We tend to get rid of things we no longer need or are no longer useful to us. Therefore, in today's polluted world, it is important to learn how to deal with waste properly.

### **Terminal Questions**

1. Refer to Sec. 13.2 and answer.
2. In 1979, the Alagh Committee demarcated poverty based on nutritional requirements. Considered that people consuming less than 2400 calories per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in urban areas are poor. Subsequently, various committees, including the Lakdawala Committee (1993), the Tendulkar Committee (2009), and the Rangarajan Committee (2012), estimated poverty. According to the Rangarajan committee report (2014), the poverty line is estimated to be Rs 1,407 per capita per month in urban areas and Rs 972 per capita per month in rural areas. Refer to Sec.13.4.
3. Poor people living in informal settlements are susceptible to communicable diseases and epidemics due to the lack of safe drinking water facilities, sanitation, and inadequate participation in garbage collection services. Erosion of human capital, as health effects are a significant outcome or consequence; As hawkers, vendors, labourers, household labourers, scavengers, etc., participation is limited to the informal economy. As a consequence of their poverty, the poor suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards mainly due to residence in the hazard and disaster prone area. Refer to Sec.13.4.1 and answer.
4. Refer to Sec. 13.4.3 and answer. Elaborate on points below:
  - People living in slums are susceptible to contracting waterborne diseases.
  - Women and children residing in slums are vulnerable to becoming victims of social ills such as prostitution, begging, and child trafficking. Inhabitants of slums, regardless of gender, frequently fall victim to such social ills.
  - Crime Incidences in slum areas
  - Poverty of slum dwellers where people earn their livelihood from the informal sector..
  - Overpopulation and inadequate infrastructure: water, sanitation, waste collection, health services, street lighting.
  - Poor health standards and a lack of schools.
  - The unplanned development of slums.

- Lack of tenure security discourages slum residents from investing in their own housing.
5. Discuss about air, land and water and noise pollution. Refer to Sec. 13.5.
  6. Refer to Sec. 13.6.3 and answer. Your answer should elaborate on the following points.

Poor road quality and maintenance.

- Insufficient or absent traffic signals and signage.
- Inadequate infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Lack of sufficient mobility facilities.
- Animals and street vendors congest the pedestrian walkways.
- Buses, auto-rickshaws, and even motorcycles are overcrowded.
- Accidental fatalities and injuries.
- Pollution of the environment and congestion.

## 13.10 REFERENCES AND FURTHER SUGGESTED READINGS

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