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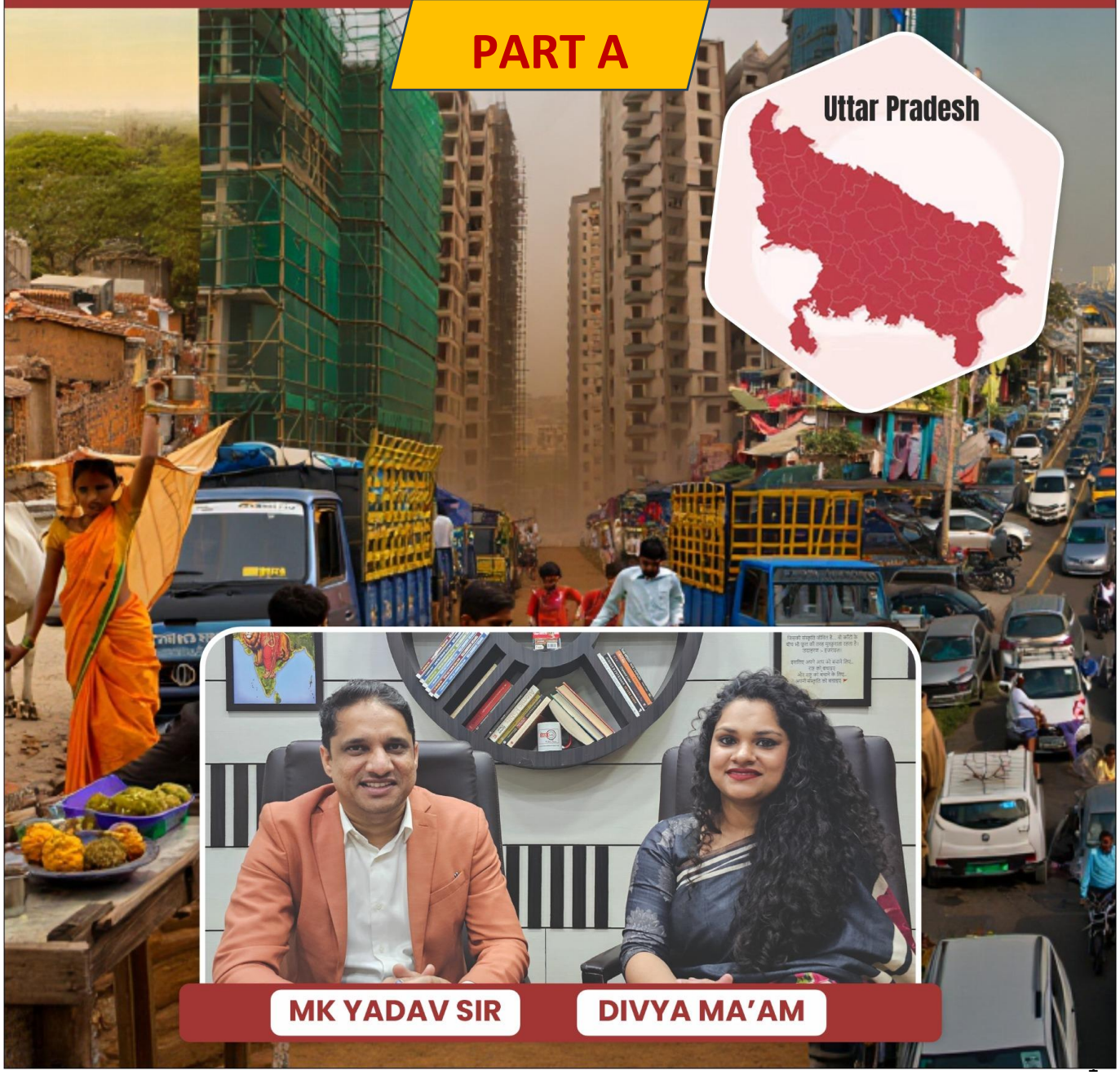
QEP UPPCS MAINS 2025-26

Theme : Urbanisation

PART A



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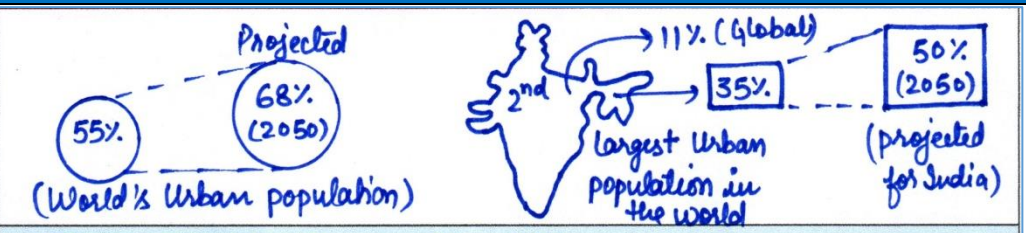
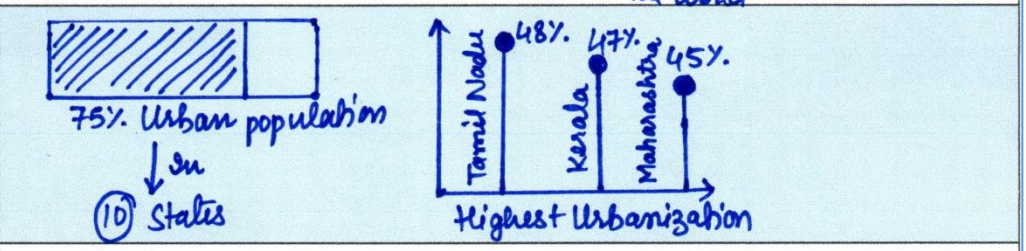
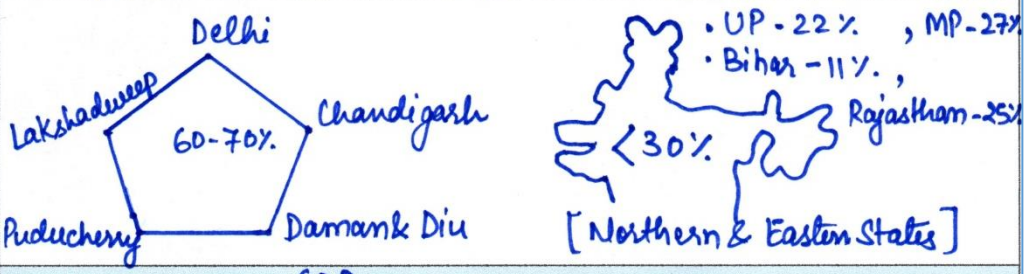
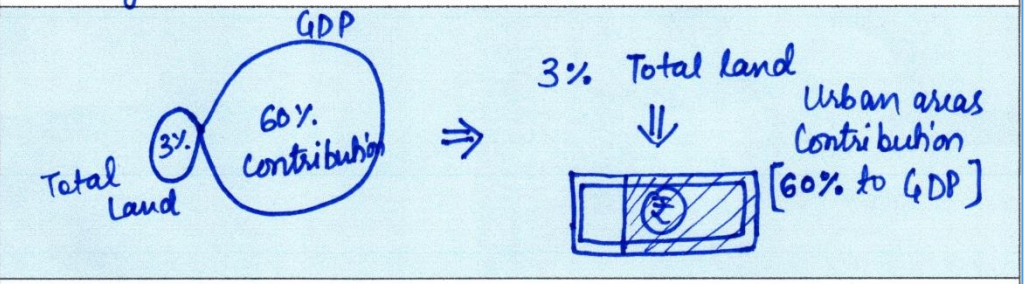
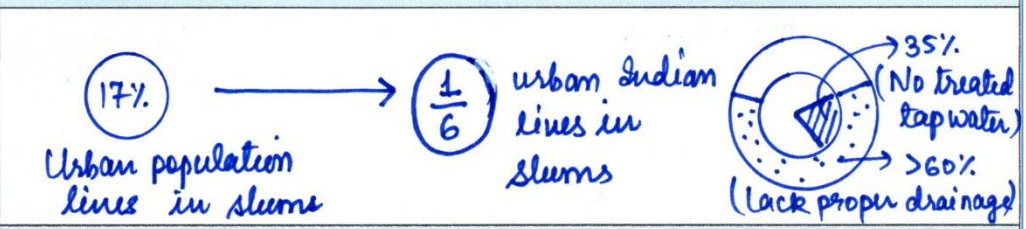
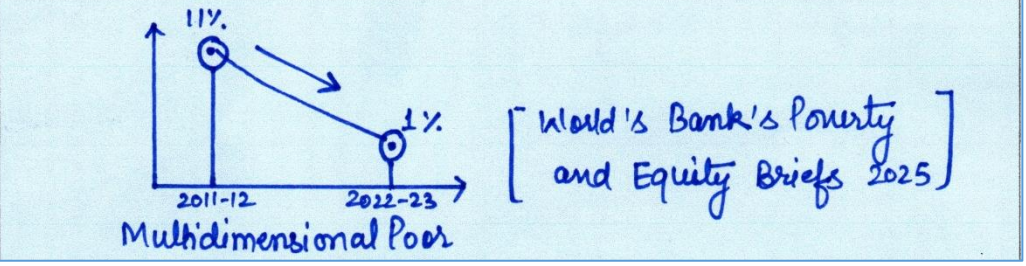
1 FACTSHEET & GRAPHS

GRAPHS BASED FACTSHEET

SUB-HEADING	GRAPH
Urban population	
Uneven pattern of Urbanization (2011, census) - Highest Urbanisation	
Union Territories ↓ Urban population	
Contribution to GDP Economic potential	
Slums in India [2011, census]	
Urban Poverty in India	

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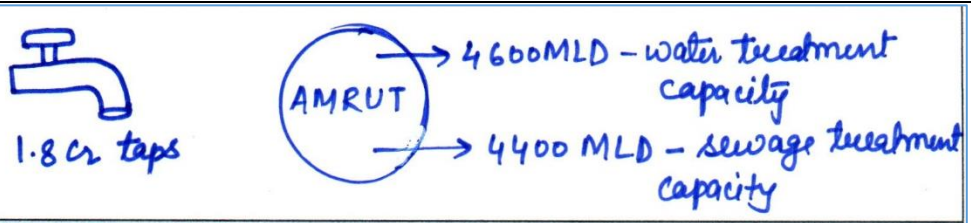
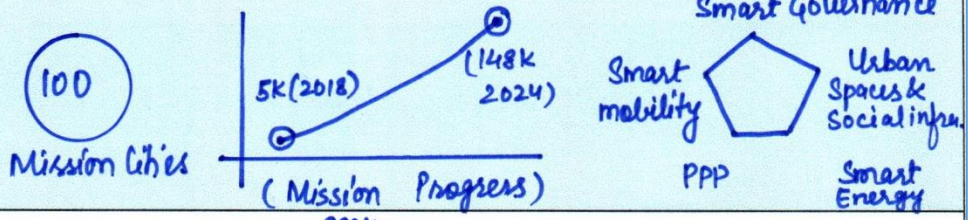
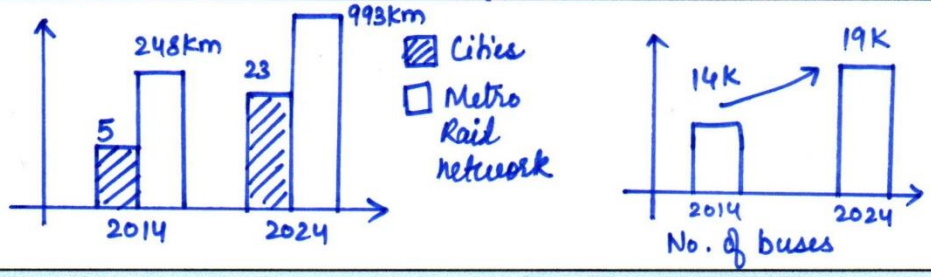
- AMRUT
- Urban Transformation



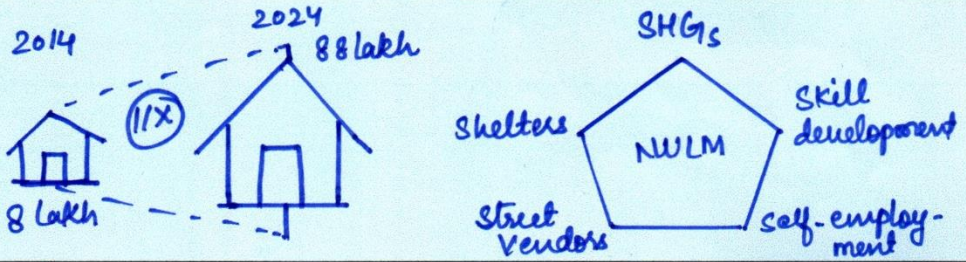
- SMART Cities
- New Cities
- Rapid Urbanization



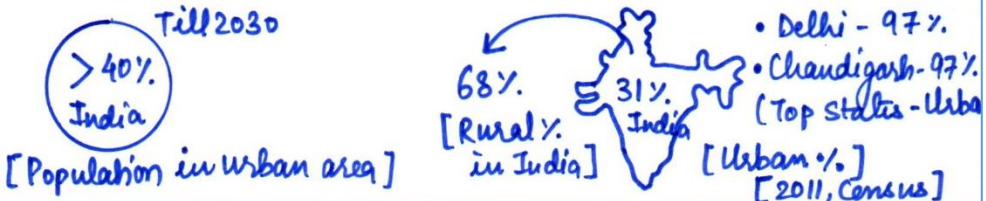
- Urban mobility and sustainability
- Regional Rapid Transit systems



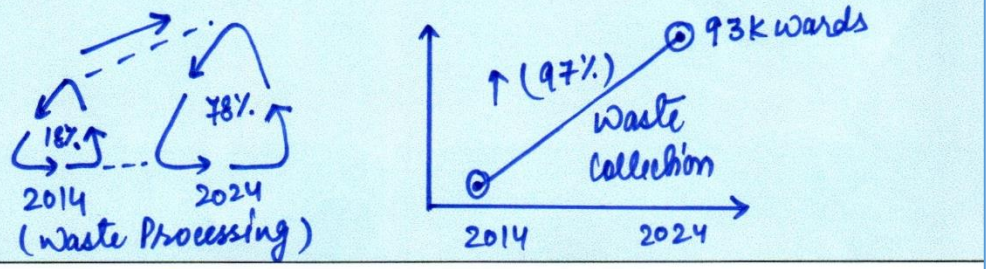
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- National Urban Livelihoods Mission



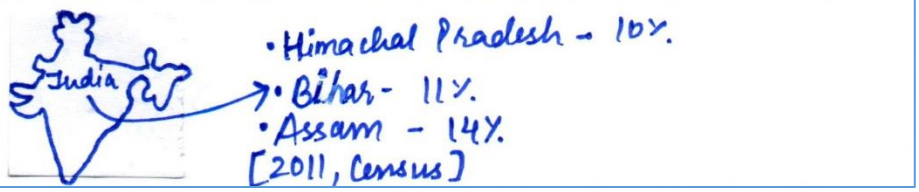
- Rural - Urban population
- Highest Urban - population



- Swach Bharat Mission



- Lowest Urban - population



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FACTS TO GRAPH (PRACTICE SHEET)		
Urban Population [NITI Aayog + MoHUA]	**World** • **55%** of World's Population in urban areas (Projected to increase to 68% by 2050). **India** • About **35%** of India's Total Population in urban areas (Projected to increase to 50% by 2050). • India has **2nd largest urban population** in world (11% of global urban population, MoHUA)	
Uneven Pattern of Urbanisation	• **>75%** urban population in just **10 states** (Maximum percentage in Southern states).	
Economic Potential of Urban Areas	• With just **3% of total land,** Urban areas contribute **60% to India's GDP.** [NITI Aayog]	
Slums in India [Census 2011]	• 17% of Urban population lives in slums (1 in 6 urban Indian lives in slums) • **Sanitation and Hygiene (State of India's Environment, 2019)** - 35% slums in India do not have access to treated tap water. - >60% slum households lack proper drainage connection.	

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Urban Poverty in India	• **Multidimensional Poor** – Nearly 9% Urban Population (NITI Aayog, MPI) • **Urban poverty** – About 12% at the all-India level. - India Employment Report (IER), 2024.	
Internal Migration	• **Rural-urban migration** is the most dominant form of migration and comprises > 25% (NSSO survey)	

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2 KEYWORDS

Sr.#	KEYWORDS FOR USE IN BODY OF THE ANSWER
1	• **Urbanisation as an Engine of Economic Growth** • **Urban centers as 'Accelerators for social and economic progress'** - **Usage**
2	• **'Messy & Hidden' Urbanisation** • **'Uncatered' or 'ignored' urbanization** • **Unplanned urbanisation as a 'Silent Crises'** - **Usage**
3	• **Ghettoization of 'Urban Poor', Slumisation of Indian Urbanisation, Ruralisation of Urban Life** - **Usage**
4	• **Rural-Urban continuum; Rurbanisation;** - **Usage**
	KEYWORDS FOR USE IN WAY FORWARD
5	• **From project-based to area-based/region-based development approach** - **Usage**
6	• **From 'Spatially & Socially Divided' to 'Connected & Inclusive' Urban spaces** - **Usage**

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7	• **From 'Fractional ownership' to 'Responsibility Matrix'** - **Usage**
8	• **From 'Concrete Jungles' to 'Sponge Cities'** - **Usage**
9	• **From 'Urban Sprawl' to 'Densification of Cities'/ 'Compact Cities'** - **Usage**

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KEYWORDS & USAGE (PRACTICE SHEET)

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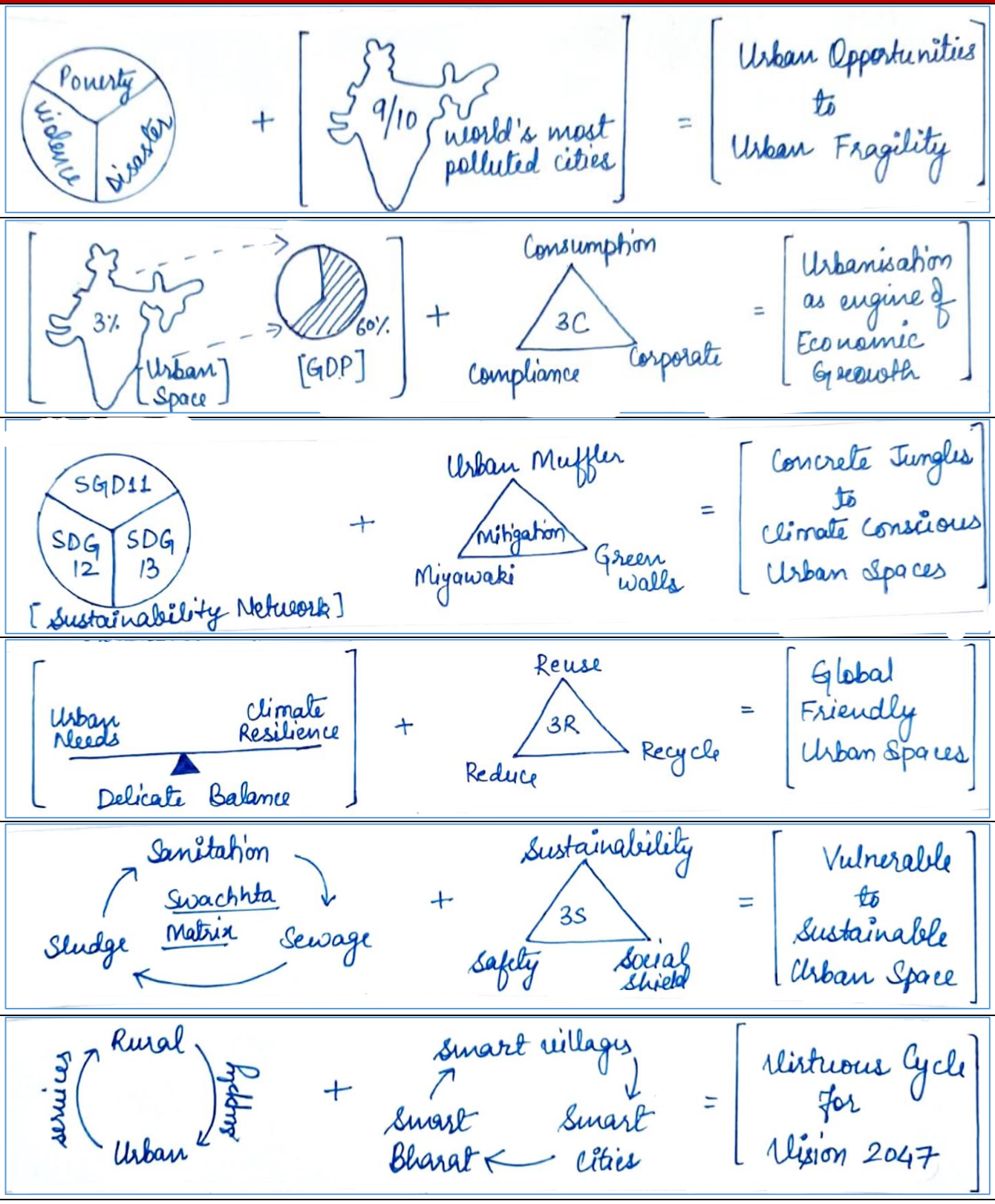
3 BEST FORMULAE IN URBANISATION

FORMULAE BY theIAShub



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FORMULA (ON EXPECTED TOPICS): PRACTICE SHEET
URBAN GOVERNANCE
SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION
EMERGING CHALLENGES OF URBAN INDIA
NEW SOCIAL EVILS OF URBANISATION
TECHNOLOGY & URBANISATION
INTEGRATING RURAL AND URBAN ECONOMIES
ROLE OF NEW TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

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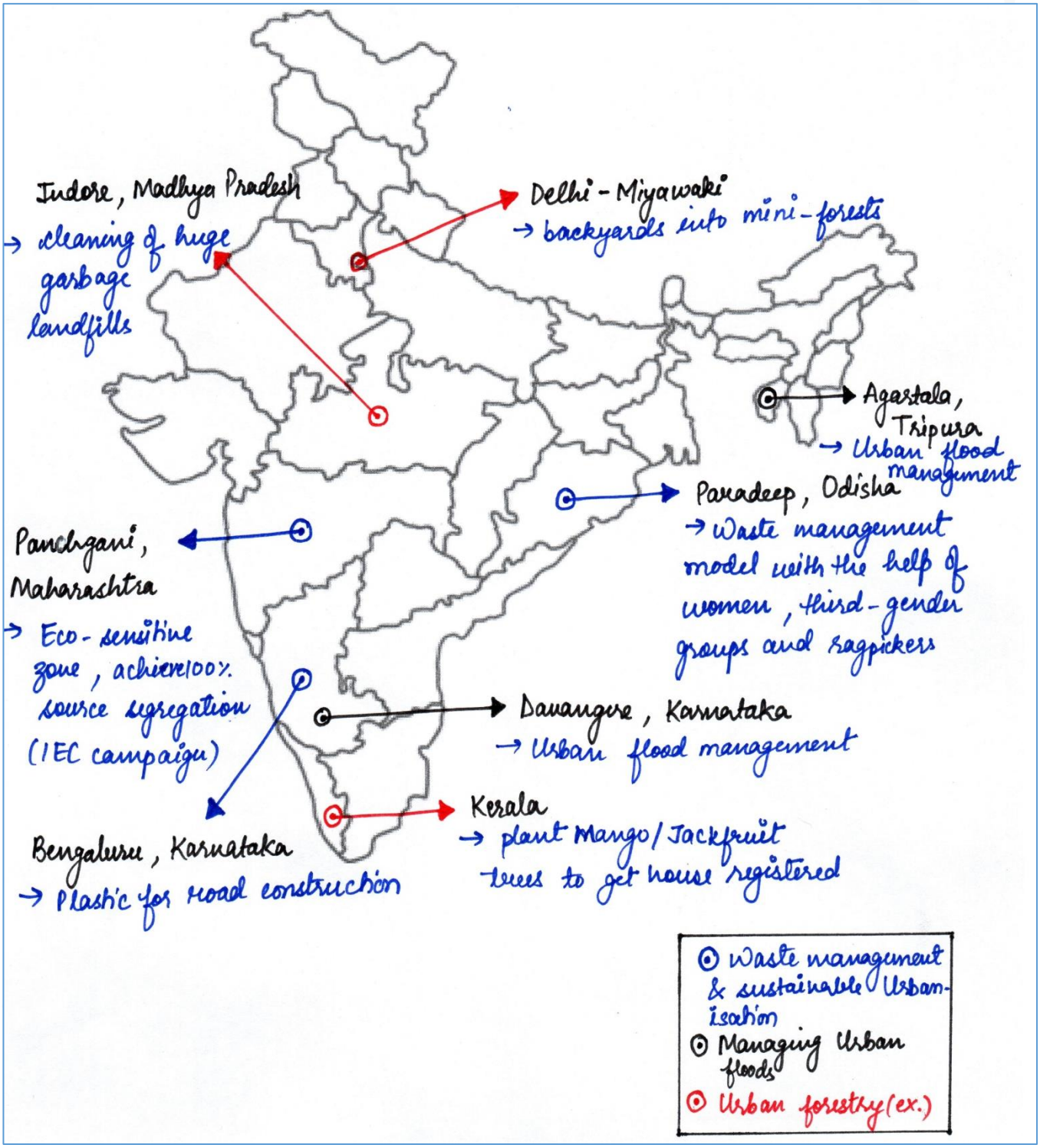
4 CASE STUDIES & BEST PRACTICES

NATIONAL & LOCAL



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INTERNATIONAL

- **Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI): For Flood resilient Cities**
  - **UK:** Sustainable drainage pond in the Newcastle Great Park development site
  - **China:** Ningbo eco-corridor, that creates a "Green Lung" for the city, providing recreation, education, and cultural facilities for the entire city.
  - **USA:** Bioswale in a residential area in Portland. Bioswales are vegetated, shallow, landscaped depressions designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff as it moves downstream.
  - **Netherlands:** Green tram tracks in central Rotterdam.
- **Barcelona, Spain:** Developed 'superblocks' which restrict vehicle traffic and prioritize green spaces and pedestrian-friendly streets.
- **Water-Conscious Urban Development – Fukuoka, Japan:** Fukuoka, the only major Japanese city without a large river, is prone to water shortages. The city developed a system that can simultaneously monitor and control the water flow and pressure to be supplied to each area of the city via **special sensors.**

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5 SPEECHES OF PM, VP & PRESIDENT

5.1 FROM THE SPEECHES OF HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER

- "Post COVID-19 world will need a restart; however, the restart will not be possible without a reset. A reset of mindset. A reset of processes and a reset of practices. A good starting point would be the rejuvenation of our urban centers."
- "It has been our endeavour in India to build urban centres, which have the amenities of a city but the spirit of a village".
- "Urban planning will determine the fate of our cities in Amritkal, and it is only well-planned cities that will determine the fate of India".
- "Our new cities must be garbage-free, water secure, and climate-resilient". India is making the **circular economy** a major tool for urban development.
- With India urbanising rapidly, it is important to build infrastructure that is futuristic.
- Urbanization is not just about buildings; it's about creating a sustainable and liveable environment for people to thrive. Urbanisation should be considered as an opportunity not as an obstacle.

5.2 SOME QUOTES

- Our cities will be the battlegrounds for the fight against climate change. - **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**
- A smart city is a city where humans, trees, birds and other animals can grow with all their glories, imperfections, freedom, and creativity. They are not just cities of technology but cities of love, life, beauty, dignity, freedom and equality.
- Cities are the vibrant hubs of creativity, diversity, and innovation. They are the beating hearts of civilization.
- Urbanization is the bridge that connects the past and the future, weaving together history and progress.

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6 IMPORTANT CONCEPTS/REPORTS/INDICES/RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMIC SURVEY: URBANISATION

ES (2024-25): The global population grew from around **40% in 1980 to more than 55% in 2022**, fuelling economic activity and connectivity. It has highlighted the role of urbanisation in:

- **Infrastructure investment** (Disaster resilient urbanisation, public transport) over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth in India.
- **Role of urbanisation in growth of services sector:** States such as Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala excel in services, with high per-capita service GSVA and service shares in GSVA largely depend on urbanised service-driven economies.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN URBAN AREAS

- With increasing urbanisation and climate change impacts, **comprehensive adaptation action** to address heat stress, urban flooding, and depleting groundwater in cities is required.
- **Steps taken:**
  - **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH)** - to promote low-carbon urban development and bolster resilience against climate change.
  - **AMRUT & AMRUT 2.0:** Aims to enhance ease of living by creating water-secure cities through water conservation, augmentation and rejuvenation. Ex - revitalisation of water bodies, enhancing groundwater recharge.
- **ES (2024-25)** has highlighted the role of **"Vertical Gardens and Environment Sustainability":**
  - **Challenges:** Urban heat island effect, increasing carbon emissions, and heightened air pollution.
  - **Promising solution ➔ vertical gardens,** also called **living walls or vertical greenery systems (VGS).**
    - ✓ **It incorporates:** Vegetation into vertical structures, effectively addressing these issues.
    - ✓ **Benefits:** It enhances the aesthetic appeal of buildings and contribute to environmental sustainability—**improving thermal performance, sequestering carbon, and fostering biodiversity** in densely populated cities.
  - **Practical application:** Income Tax Department's initiative to create **vertical gardens using over seven lakh waste plastic bottles.**

IMPORTANT REPORTS

- **World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action (UN-HABITAT):** It provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunities urban areas face in the context of climate change.
  - More than **2 billion** people in urban areas will experience a 0.5°C rise in temperature.
  - **Need/Recommendations:**
    - ✓ Integrating climate action into urban planning and Supporting bottom-up (Locally-led) climate adaptation.
    - ✓ Strengthening social protection programmes, adopting nature-based solutions.
    - ✓ Revenue raising based on enabling conditions e.g. through debt, creating PPPs, etc.

IMPORTANT CASE STUDIES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REPORT

- **Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC):** Established a **dedicated Electric Vehicle (EV) Cell**. To create an integrated, multi-stakeholder platform for promoting the adoption of electric vehicles.
- **Data & Machine Learning to Mitigate Dengue in Bengaluru**: To improve disease forecasting and response.
- **Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT):** A women-led grassroots organization, addresses climate vulnerability by enabling **community-based adaptation strategies** tailored to local needs. They Introduced **biodegradable polymer-based roofing sheets** that significantly **reduce indoor temperatures by 4–5°C**.

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- **India Infrastructure Report 2023**: Spotlight on the transformative potential of digital technology in shaping the urban landscape of India.
  - It highlights strategies like thematic focus on urban challenges, PPPs financing of projects, Municipal Bonds, Planned urban Transportation.

IMPORTANT ACTS/MEETINGS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

- First National Commission on Urbanization (chaired by **C.M. Correa - 1986**) – Recommendations:
  - It recommended promoting **329 new growth centres** and emphasised **strengthening** the existing **larger metropolises. Focus should be on –**
    1. Creating employment
    2. Opening up hinterlands
    3. Generating wealth with equity
    4. Be engines of growth
    5. Be the catalysts of social transformation and modernisation of the economy and society.
  - It classified the cities based on **economic momentum** into – National priority cities, State priority cities, Spatial priority urbanisation regions and small towns, which serve the rural hinterland.
  - Provide opportunities to **grow small** and **intermediate-level towns** to **reduce** the **migration rush** in the metropolitan centres.
- **High-Level Committee on Urban Planning (MoHUA) (**2022–2024): **Report: Pathways to Amrit Kaal: Envisioning and Realising a New Future for Indian Cities (2024):** Recommended a PM-led national authority, law to regulate planners, large-scale recruitment of urban planners.
- **NITI Aayog Committee on Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity** (2021): Recommended empowering mayors, recruiting urban planners, and a high-powered committee to review urban governance.

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7 URBANISATION: READY-MADE VALUE ADDITION

INTRODUCTION:

Urbanisation	**Trend wise introduction:** According to the World Bank, 40% of the people are living in urban India at present which is projected to be 60% by 2050.
Urban Governance	The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 provided constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India as a three-tier system and mandated the devolution of power to enable them to function as institutions of Self-Government.
Urbanisation and climate change	Urban areas are responsible for 70% of global CO2 emissions, with transport and buildings being among the largest contributors (IPCC, 2022).
Sustainable urbanisation	Sustainable urbanisation means building cities that balance economic, social, and environmental needs, ensuring long-term viability and improving quality of life while minimizing environmental impact.
Urban transportation	As urban areas contributes to more than **60%** to India's GDP, efficient and reliable urban transport systems are crucial for India to sustain high economic growth.

ACADEMIC KEYWORDS BASED CHALLENGES: USAGE

- **Urban-Rural Dichotomy**: The persistent divide between urban and rural areas in terms of access to infrastructure, education, healthcare, and employment has created unequal development.
- **Unplanned Urbanisation**: Poor land use, traffic congestion, and encroachments➔leading to infrastructural stress, inefficient public transport systems, and vulnerability to disasters.
- **Urban Poverty**: The urban economy often fails to absorb the influx of rural migrants, leading to underemployment, informal sector dependency, and poor access to housing, sanitation, healthcare.
- **Ghettoization of Urban Poor**: Perpetuates poverty, limits social mobility, and often results in exclusion from formal service delivery mechanisms.
- **Pollution hotspot:** Cities are major hotspots of **environmental pollution**—from vehicular emissions, industrial effluents, and unmanaged solid waste➔contributes to health crises, loss of human resource.

ACADEMIC KEYWORDS BASED WAY FORWARD: USAGE

- **Greening Cities:** Creating sponge cities, vertical gardens, promote roof gardens and kitchen gardens for greens and medicinal plants.
- **Collective Action:** Citizens, RWAs, NGOs, corporates must collaborate to mainstream biodiversity as a **mass movement** in cities.
- **Promoting Urban-Rural Continuum:** Bridging the urban-rural dichotomy through urban-rural linkages, development of peri-urban areas, and creation of rurban cluster.

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- **Transit-oriented development (TOD)** – to promote compact city forms, reduce travel time, and lower dependence on private vehicles.

- **Smart and Resilient Cities:** Expanding the vision of the smart cities mission to encompass urban resilience and climate adaptation to better prepared for environmental shocks and resource stress.

- **Development of Affordable and inclusive housing** and rental housing models can reduce the ghettoization of the urban poor.

CONCLUSION

- India's urbanisation journey must evolve **from spatially and socially divided cities to inclusive and connected urban ecosystems**.

- Emphasis should shift **from concrete jungles and urban sprawl to sponge cities and compact urban forms**.

- Thus, Urban Governance must be guided by a **responsibility matrix rather than fragmented ownership**, for long-term sustainability and resilience.

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