

## Chapter-6 Colonialism and the City

- Important Dates:-

- i. *Construction of Shahjahanabad began in 1639.*
- ii. *In 1792 Delhi College established.*
- iii. *In 1803, British gained control of Delhi after defeating Marathas.*
- iv. *In 1800s, many cities such as Machlipatnam, Surat and Seringapatnam de-unbanised.*
- v. *From 1830 to 1857 is referred to as Delhi Renaissance.*
- vi. *In 1877 Delhi College was shut down.*
- vii. *In 1877 a durbar organised in Delhi to acknowledge Queen Victoria as Empress of India.*
- viii. *In 1888 Lahore gate Improvement Scheme planned by Robert Clarke.*
- ix. *In 1911 a durbar held in Delhi to celebrate the coronation of King George in England.*
- x. *Delhi became the capital of India in 1912.*
- xi. *In 1936 Delhi Improvement Trust setup.*

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- Question & Answer

1. *What is meant by de-urbanisation?*

*De-urbanisation is a process in which a city begins to decline. That means trades, and other activities begin to stop here and people move out to other places.*

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2. *Why did the British choose to hold a grand Durbar in Delhi although it was not the capital?*

*The British choose to hold a grand durbar in Delhi although it was not its capital due to the symbolic importance of Delhi. The British realised that Mughals were still important and people saw them as their*

leader. Therefore it was important to celebrate British power in the city the mughals had earlier used and the place which turned the centre of 1857 revolt.

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3. *How did the old City of Delhi change under British rule?*

*The British wanted Delhi to forget its Mughals past. The area around the Fort was completely cleared of gardens, pavillions and mosques. One-third of the city was demolished and its canals filled uop. The old city of Delhi had a population of a 90 persons per acre. In 1888 Lahore gate Improvement Scheme was planned by Robert Clarke to draw residents away from the old city to a new square market. Streets in this redevelopment were of identical width, size, etc.*

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4. *How did the Partition affect life in Delhi?*

*The partition after Independence led to feirce rioting in Delhi. Thousands of people were killed and looted and their homes looted. As streams of Muslims left Delhi for Pakistan an equally large number of sikh and Hindus from Pakistan took their place. Delhi became a city of refugees. The skills and occupation of refugees was different from those of the people they replaced. They had to take new jobs such as hawkers, vendors, carpenters, and ironsmith. An urban culture largely based on Urdu, was overshadowed by new tastes and senseibilities in food, arts, and dresses.*

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• **Extra Questions:-**

1. *What do you understand by urbanisation?*

*Urbanisation means growth and development, marked with concrete buildings and industrilisation, that is conversion of villages to cities.*

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2. *How old is the history of urbanisation in India?*

*The history of urbanisation in India goes back to the Indus Valley Civilisation.*

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3. *Name some important towns and cities of ancient India?*

*Some important towns and cities of ancient India were Patliputra, Kannauj, Mathura, Varanasi, etc.*

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4. *During whose times was Delhi known as Indraprastha?*

*Delhi was known as Indraprastha during the Mahabharat and was the Capital of Pandavas.*

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5. *Name a few independent states that were setup as a result of weakening of the Mughal Empire?*

*The new independent states that emerged as a result of the weakening of the Mughal Empire were Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad, Mysore, etc.*

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6. *Account for de-urbanisation as a result of British policies?*

*British policies aimed at making Indian economy serve the needs and interests of British capitalism which ruined handicrafts. As a result, Traditional cities which produced handicrafts de-urbanised. Old trading cities also declined when trade started to flow to another new ports. Similarly earlier centres of regional powers fall when local rulers were defeated by the British.*

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7. *Name three large cities that developed during British rule?*

*Three large cities that developed during British rule were:-*

- i. Madras.
  - ii. Bombay.
  - iii. Calcutta.
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8. *Who lived in the white areas in Delhi?*

*British lived in the well-laid white areas in Delhi.*

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9. *Who designed Delhi? From where were the ideas taken from? Name some important buildings build?*

*Two architects Edward Lutyens, and Herbert Baker designed Delhi. The features of these buildings were borrowed from different times on India's imperial history and the overall look was Classical greece. The central dome of the Vicerel Palace was copied from stupa at Sanchi, and the red sandstones and carved screens were taken from Mughal architecture.*

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10. *How were the urban cities administered under the British rule?*

*Under the British rule Municipalities were setup to look after civil administration and civic problems. They used to collect taxes to fulfil these obligations. District magistrate was the chairman of municipality who was assisted by other officers. The Inidan police Act of 1861 was an important step for ensuring uniform and effective police administration in India. Indian Penal Court was drawn up in 1860 to chart out various catagories of crimes. Police and jail systems used today are same as in British period except some changes.*

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11. *Identify three differences in the city of New Delhi and Shahjahanabad?*

*Three differences between the city design of New Delhi and Shahjahanabad were:-*

- i. In New Delhi there were broad roads streets lined with sprawling mansions set in the middle of large compounds. Whereas Shahjahanabad had crowded places, narrow cyclones, etc.*
- ii. New Delhi had more trees, parks than Shahjahanabad ensuring fresh and adequate supply of good air.*
- iii. The new city had a clean and healthy environment than the chaos of old Delhi.*