



Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Environmental Management and Law
(July- 2021-2022)

Refer to the timeline for submission date

Total Marks: 50

The world limits and marks allocated to each question are mentioned after the question

Assignment - 1

Question 1:

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Discuss how sustainable urbanization can help in achieving SDG 11.

(10 marks, 800-1000 words)

Question 2:

“Pyramids are generally better than pancakes at meeting three key urban planning objectives: driving prosperity, ensuring livability, and respecting planetary boundaries. Compared with a pancake city, a pyramid city will drive more growth in urban productivity and incomes because it is more economically dense and efficient – its inward and vertical expansion reduce the distances between firms, jobs, and workers. A pyramid is also better at achieving livable urban population densities, accompanied not by crawling traffic and crowded slums, but by efficient transport connections and decent formal housing. And while a sprawling pancake is likely to impose steep burdens on the climate through unmanaged vehicle emissions, a pyramid allows leaders to plan for the city’s future population growth and spatial expansion in ways that will limit or reduce its carbon footprint. But not every pancake can become a pyramid. When a city with low productivity and low incomes adds to its population, it cannot accommodate this growth through a costly vertical layering of built-up area. Instead, such a poor and economically inefficient city can absorb newcomers only by crowding them into low-built quarters and by spreading outward where land is cheapest. Such a city will remain a pancake – and it will continue to expand in two dimensions, rather than three, as long as its economy remains sluggish and its average resident household remains poor.”

[World Bank Report, Pancakes to Pyramids – City Form to promote Sustainable Growth, May 2021, pp. 73]

Critically analyse the above statement and comment on the following:

A) What defines pyramid and pancake cities? What are the traits of both of them? Explain by giving suitable examples.

[Hint: Dharavi and Mexico example as stated in the Report]

[10 marks, 800-1000 words]



B) Urbanisation will continue to grow and it is important to understand how cities are built and managed to determine their liveability and sustainability. What all do policy makers need to know to make the cities more liveable and how can it be applied in planning of Indian cities? Use case studies to justify your answer. What actions need to be taken to ensure that the planning is done in consonance with the objectives of UN Sustainable Development Goal 11.

[15 marks, 1000-1200 words]

Question 3:

Write a short note on the following:

- a) The economics of urban infrastructure.
- b) Difference between urban growth and urbanization.
- c) Green belts in urban landscape.

(5 marks each, 500-800 words each)