1. What do you mean by urbanization? Discuss the main challenges of urbanization.

**Ans:** Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban residency, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas. Although the two concepts are sometimes used interchangeably, urbanization should be distinguished from urban growth: urbanization is "the proportion of the total national population living in areas classified as urban," while urban growth refers to "the absolute number of people living in areas classified as urban."

The basic health and well-being of the inhabitants of the world's cities is being robbed as a result of unregulated environmental pollution, shrinking green areas, inadequate housing, overburdened public services, a mushrooming of makeshift settlements on the outskirts lacking in both infrastructure and services, mounting anomie — and the sheer numbers of neighbors who do not know neighbors.

Beijing, a city of over 17 million inhabitants, exemplifies this social alienation. Until the early 1980s, the Chinese capital was constructed as a multitude of siheyuans, or one-story complexes built around a common courtyard that were inhabited by three or four families who shared a single kitchen and water spigot. These courtyards were connected by narrow streets called hutongs that formed a grid from north to south and east to west. This open structure greatly facilitated contact between neighbors, encouraged the sharing of resources, fostered relations between contiguous families and enabled the elderly to care for children and share with them their passion for songbirds. Because of these characteristics, these almost idyllic structures were described as "collections of small rural villages."

Until the mid-1980s, only a few skyscrapers disrupted the harmony of the landscape. Today, that panorama has the look and feel of the ultimate modern city, where, with few exceptions, these "small rural villages" have been supplanted by sterile, towering skyscrapers. This striking change is not limited to external structures. It has dramatically altered the fabric of human relations as well. Physical isolation has led to an increase in crime, destroyed the local sense of solidarity and contributed to the fragmentation of what were once cohesive family groups.

As the distance between home and the workplace has also increased considerably, workers now find themselves devoting what was once valuable family time to exhausting commutes in overcrowded buses or subways. According to Chen Xitong, a former mayor of Beijing, "The capital is growing increasingly ugly, and it is steadily losing its Chinese character. Most of the modern high-rise buildings, with their boring concrete facades, look like dominoes set down in the landscape without plan and without imagination."

The urbanization process in Colombia — unlike that characteristic of most other Latin American countries — was stimulated, and to some extent defined, by episodes of violence, which occurred principally in rural areas. Since the 1980s, violence has been an inescapable fact of Colombian civilian life.

Between 1948 and 1957, an undeclared civil war known as "La Valencia" took root in the country. Over 250,000 political homicides were committed during this time, a result of the long-standing rivalries between supporters of the traditional Liberal and Conservative parties. These events set the stage for the extremely violent nature of today's society, which claims the young among its chief victims.

As landless peasant families were uprooted and displaced by successive waves of violence, they fled masss to the country's main cities, where the majority among them now reside in poverty-stricken marginal areas.

As a result of the violence, either witnessed or experienced first-hand, many of Colombia's young generation have internalized the culture of aggression into which they were born.

Colombia's case is certainly not unique. More recently, the rural poor in many other countries throughout the world have been uprooted by violence and forced to flee toward the large urban centers.

2. Distinguish between evolution of urbanization in the North and the South.

**Ans:** The population of the Northern states was more than twice that of the Southern states. Despite the fact that many people, in both the Northern and Southern states, worked on farms during the time before the Civil War, the Northern became both more industrialized and more urbanized, while plantation agriculture remained the focus in the South. The industrial transformation which took place in the North caused the two territories' economies to develop very differently. Transportation improved via railroad development and manufacturing exploded in the North, making it attractive to opportunity seekers looking for improved wages in the North and West states. The cities in the areas offering manufacturing jobs experienced major population growth which triggered extensive housing and urban development, and provided an economic environment conducive to the establishment of a middle-class made up of skilled and white-collar workers.

Southern states continued to invest in plantations and relied on slave labor to meet their production needs. Slavery occurred in the North, as well, but was outlawed in the non-border Union states, while slavery continued in Union states bordering Southern slave states. Northern states felt slavery should be outlawed, though, many did not wish to compete with former slaves for job opportunities and this sentiment was used politically in anti-Black campaigns in the region. Northern Union states desired to cease the expansion of slavery in the West, while Southern states, still dependent on slave labor to drive their economies, put great