INTRODUCTION

The Geography has been studied since ancient time. Up to 1940 stress was not given on Urban Geography. After World War II, Human geography has developed and according to it urban geography was developed.

Urban Geography as a distance study is a recently developed branch of Human Geography, dealing with the study of compact nonagricultural settlements, mainly towns and cities. It concerns with the spatial dimensions of urban centers.

Urbanization is one of the most dynamic and dominant force influencing contemporary history. Urbanization is causing profound changes in regional demography, socio-economic patterns and political equations. As a science of human settlement, Urban Geography deals with the complex urban areas which possess sharp internal differentiation. It concerns about delineation of urban activities which are expressed in characteristic association of intensive land use and human occupancy features. Thus man is the pivotal point in Urban Geography and the study itself under the cultural environment made by man.

The Geographic study of settlement in India is quite recent. Urbanization in India is rapidly increasing after independence. It brings in its wake vast social, economic and cultural imbalance between the rural and urban areas supported by them. Since urbanization is associated with socio-economic transformation, it has assumed considerable significance in an under development country like India. To focus the phenomenon of urbanization on the ecological and demographic aspect of human special distribution is to pursue sharply define and highly important ramified interest.

In ancient times, eminent geographers have studied Urban Geography e.g. Strabo has stressed on situation of cities, in his book, "Geography". In 1793 William Fredrick Mortin has described cities in Great Britain in his book "New Systems in Geography". In the early-20th century Balsher in 1901 and Kurt Haigsart in 1907 made an important writing on cities. Tower in 1905 and Burgess in 1925 have provided a detailed account of the geographical aspects of American cities in the light of their histro-genetic growth. In 1924 Orusha defined Urban Geography and show that it is separate branch of geography. In the succeeding years the conceptual framework of site and situation was criticized by Aurousseau (1924) and Crowe (1938).
Krobi (1938) tried to prove urban geography. Robert E. Dicknson (1947) studied different cities in detail. He describes origin of cities and effect of different natural factor on their development in their publication. Urban Geography studies are made regarding structure, process and stages of urban settlement as the home of man which determine its physical structure, social and economic characteristics along with traditional process of urban development. Smails (1955) constituted the prime base of urban geography, which remained articulated without any major conceptual change till early 1960s. Berry and Garrison (1956) examined the utility of the rank-size rule for urban population. According to G. Taylor (1961), Urban Geography includes the site, evolution, pattern and classification of towns. Smith (1965) evaluated the classification of settlement. H. M. Mayer (1967), Urban Geography is concerned with interpreting the patterns and relationship, that exist within urban areas on the one hand and between urban areas on the other hand. There are several reviews of the early development of urban geography which have been dealt with by Berry and Harton (1970) and Carter (1974). Above vigorous attempt has been made to demonstrate throughout the series how geographers are basically involved in solving the urban problems.

Urban Geography as a distinct subject is of recent origin and its development took place within last five decades. Urban Geography consists of the study of town and their development in all their geographical aspects. It is much necessary to study cities, because of different problems, such as increasing population, problem of shelter unemployment, electricity, provision of higher education, transport and communication lines, water supply, pollution etc.

The different problems of cities will be solved through surveys and town planning schemes by studying each problem thoroughly and considering other affecting factors. There are, however numerous through studies of cities by geographers which indicate that Urban Geography has a well established scope and developed techniques. For its study, comparative studies aiming at deriving generalization with regard to various aspects of towns are still rare. They lack in theoretical consideration and they have also failed to examine the chain effect of urban centers in a region. So the study of expanding cities has got more importance of urban geography.

Every urban center, large or small is in some degree of the traders and commercial institution because the very tan characters is the provision of good and service for a industrialization and civilization which runs parallel to each other. The present lay industrial
discipline is the offspring of industrialized India. The threat of rapid urbanization and industrialization has given rise to the manifold environmental pollution problems. The rapid population growth and urbanization in the city has created tremendous problem which is the root of all environmental crisis. Among the basic infrastructure facilities transport services appears to be more important as mobility. Today transport has come to be recognized as an integral part of city life! The rural urban migrations, development of industries gave rise to a turmoil condition in social, political and economic life of the Nashik. Due to increasing population, the land under cultivation is reduced. And city is becoming more crowded, which affects city transportation and it is main cause of air pollution. It also affects traffic adversely. Slums are developing due to migration of people. Slum is a spatial problem and higher population density in a small patch of land, which adversely affects living condition or a slum, is thickly populated, squalid part of a city, inhabited by the poorest or lowest class of the people. The consequences of the rapid growth of urbanization have resulted in the development of slums in the Nashik. The slums also deteriorate the surrounding environment of city. The slums are dirty; there is no proper drainage system. It invites many diseases. Population growth is responsible for problem of residence. Therefore, people try to find out residence in surrounding villages and it causes formation of suburbs due to which land under cultivation has been decreased. At the same time deforestation is resulted into ecological imbalance.

Increasing population has also affected the water supply of the city. Per capita water supply is also decreasing. Polluted water from industries and sewage mix with drinking water and created health problems.

The urbanization is associated with socio-economic aspects having significant impact on the development of city. This research work will give direction on the future developments in the urbanization enlisting the present potential of demographic characteristics, occupational structure, suburbs, slums problems, development trend with environmental impact and planning for future development.

Taking into consideration the above aspects, here an attempt has been made to study the Urban Geography of the Nashik city and its environmental problems.
Nashik or Nasik is a city in Maharashtra, India. Nashik is the 4th largest city of Maharashtra and 19th largest city of India. Nashik is the 4th fastest developing city of India and 11th fastest growing city of the world (Ref. TOI Publication Mid 2011). Nashik is the wine capital of India, the best quality of wines is exported all around the world from Nashik. This city is major pilgrimage centre of India. This city has ranked 20th in population. The city has proved to be the best living city in Maharashtra. Nashik is located in the northwest of Maharashtra, 171 km from Mumbai and 210 km from Pune. Nashik is the administrative headquarters of Nashik district and Nashik Division. Nashik, which has been referred to as the "Wine Capital of India", or as India’s Napa Valley, is located in the Western Ghats, on the western edge of the Deccan peninsula on the banks of the Godavari. In addition to supplying the name to the famed Nassak Diamond, the city is known for its picturesque surroundings and pleasant climate.

Nashik is one of the world's holiest Hindu cities. It is also known as the pilgrimage capital of India. Kumbh Mela is held here once in 12 years along with Ujjain, Allahabad and Haridwar in India. Lord Rama along with Lakshmana and Sita spent 4 months of his exile at Tapovan near Nashik. The city came under the rule of Mughal in 16th century and was renamed Gulshanabad. It is also noted for its participation in freedom struggle. Freedom fighters like Veer Savarkar and Anant Kanhere were born in Nashik.

Nashik is located on 20° 0' Northern latitude and 73° 78' East longitude. Nashik is located in northern Maharashtra at 600m (1968 ft) from the mean sea level. The river Godavari originates from Trimbakeshwar (24 km from Nashik) and flows through various parts of the city. The river forms the northern boundary of the city in some areas and then flows through the old residential settlement in the city.

According to the Census of India, 2011, Nashik had a population of 14,86,973. Males constitute 54% of the population and females 46%. Nashik had an average literacy rate of 74%, higher than the national average of 64%; male literacy was 80%, and female literacy was 66%. In Nashik, 14% of the population is under 6 years of age. In the same year (census year 2001) the Nashik Urban Agglomeration had a population of 1,152,326 and thus it was the fourth largest urban area of Maharashtra State after Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. The city's economy is
driven chiefly by the engineering and manufacturing industry (which has been around since the 1970s) as well as the progressive agriculture in area surrounding the city. Auto majors such as Mahindra & Mahindra, BOSCH and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as VIP, Samsonite, CEAT etc. have their plants here and have spawned a huge network of auto component suppliers and engineering ancillary services. It is also a pharmaceutical hub with presence GlaxoSmithKline and Fem. In recent years, Nashik has also carved a niche for itself as India's "Napa Valley" and locally established wine brands such as "Sula" and "Zampa" have attained international acclaim. Modern efforts are on to promote the growth of an export-oriented rose farming and wine industry in the district. It is home to an important thermal power plant (Eklahare) and a National Treasury Printing Press (India Security Press at Nashik Road). There are five "Industrial Zones" in the Nashik area and its outskirts (Satpur, Ambad, Sinnar, Igatpuri and Dindori). Nashik has a number of sugar mills. It is also chief exporter of red onions and pomegranates.

Figure 1: Map of India, Maharashtra, Nashik district and Nashik city.