In the study of Urban Geography towns occupy an important place on account of their role in political, social and economic life of people. The period under review is recognised for its political peace, social tranquility and cultural grace which led to sustained urbanisation. Several historical and geographical factors made urbanisation a natural rather than an accidental phenomenon. Therefore, an effort was made to investigate into various agricultural, commercial, industrial factors under the specific political and social conditions which contributed to the process of urbanisation.

In Chapter I the subject has been introduced and various sources have been surveyed. Such as Travellers accounts, accounts of Indian writers, autobiographies, biographies, archaeological survey, reports, gazetteer.

In Chapter II Geographical Base leading to urbanisation has been discussed. The effort throughout this work has been to probe into the Mughal Empire's territorial geography and it led to the finding that healthy climate, fertile soil, vast and rich hinterland enabled a continual advance in the process of urbanisation.

Besides God given natural resources there were irrigation facilities and facilities of road and river transport. These imperial efforts boosted the yield of crops both commercial and others.
Trade, transport, communication, art, craft and rudimentary forms of industry developed and accelerated the growth of towns under the direct patronage of the then rulers.

Again, a survey of the mining and use of metals, minting of royal coins contributed significantly to rapid urbanising in several cases.

Mass migration from rural areas in search of employment added to the establishment and strengthening of towns.

Royal patronage to certain crafts and industries were also contributory factors in the development of towns around the forts and camping grounds in those days.

Forests filled with the valuable timber proved a natural gift to urban economy by providing building material for palaces, forts, residence of nobility on the one hand and ship building on the other.

In Chapter III the Economic Base leading to urbanisation has been reviewed. The Mughal period was relatively free from wars and political peace contributed very significantly to all round development of agricultural economy leading to economic and industrial base to
Surplus industrial production in its turn gave quick and sustained rise to trade, transport and commerce which led to the establishment of newer towns and strengthening of the older ones. Such towns with their specific industrial activity were reviewed to illustrate this phenomenon.

Industrial growth during this period was the direct result mainly on account of a) peace and tranquility, b) extension of cultivation, c) development of commerce and trade, liberal facilities to foreign merchants and d) safety and convenience of natural commercial highways. This industrial growth paved way for the growth and extension of numerous towns.

In Chapter IV the fiscal and political base comprising of certain administrative and revenue reforms of the Emperor's have been analysed which contributed significantly to the process of revival or development of existing towns on the one hand and origin of new ones on the other.
centres. These royal townships accelerated trade activity, mobility of transport, developed means of communication, boosted commercial transactions and consequently brought about prosperity to masses.

Revenue reforms of Akbar mobilised state resources which made it possible for the ruler to undertake more developmental activities. This in turn sped up urban growth. Construction of trunk and feeder roads, management of natural calamities and welfare activities by the state gave rise to urbanisation in. Rural masses were attracted by such newer towns, relief centres, royal seat of administration leading to abrupt growth of urbanisation.

Mughals redivided their territorial jurisdictions. Subas into sarkars, sarkars into parganas. The seats of these subas, sarkars and parganas in due course grew up in newer towns and strengthened the existing ones. Mughal's policy of urbanisation led to economic and industrial development which gave rise to state revenue, state revenue was utilised in building infrastructure which further accelerated urbanisation.

In Chapter V the typalogy of towns has been discussed classifying them from administrative, military,
commercial (both inland and port) industrial and religious or cultural points of view.

In Chapter VI some selected towns of the periods were discussed in details as examples of urban growth specific to the period. Here especial mention was made to roads and streets which were very significant in the process of urbanisation.

Chapter VII covers conclusion of the study.

From this study it emerges that urbanisation took place in North India during Medieval Period 1556-1668 A.D. as a result of number of geographical, political, economic and social factors. The geographical factors are always constant but they can be used to advantage depends upon political and economic conditions prevailing. In Mughal period geographical resources were harnessed to the advantage of the society.

Political consolidation resulting in larger territories and larger resources coupled with peaceful conditions contributed a great deal to economic and then urban development.
Administrative reforms based on division of
territory into manageable units e.g. suba, sarkar and
pargana contributed to town development.

On the social plain religious revivalism and
tolerance, emergence of sufis and saints, religious teaching
all led to development of towns particularly those which
were associated with saints, shrins and religious teaching.