Difference Between Metropolitan Cities and Urban Agglomeration

The difference between metropolitan cities and urban agglomeration is given in the table below.

Metropolitan Cities VS Urban Agglomeration	
Metropolitan Cities	**Urban Agglomeration**
Metropolitan cities can be defined as a group of Indian cities that hold over four million people.	Urban Agglomeration refers to an area that constitutes at least a statutory locality.
According to the Census of India, the significant metropolitan cities in India are as follows - Mumbai (populace of more than 18 Million) Delhi (populace of more than 16 Million) Kolkata (populace of more than 14 Million) Chennai (populace of more than 8.6 million) Bangalore (populace of around 8.5 million) Hyderabad (populace of around 7.6 million) Ahmedabad (populace of around 6.3 million) Pune (populace around 5.05 million) Surat (populace around 4.5 million)	Urban Agglomerations (UA) are extensively split into three principal groups - Class I Urban Agglomeration (UA): This unit incorporates a population of at least 1,00,000 people. Million Plus Urban Agglomeration (UA): This area constitutes one million or more population. Nevertheless, approximately 42.6 percent of the Urban residents live in these Million Plus Urban Agglomerations. Mega-Cities: Among the Cities or Million Plus Urban Agglomerations in India, there are three exceptionally large Urban Agglomerations with more than ten million population, known as Mega-Cities.

Metropolitan cities hold a population of more than four million.	It comprises a population of all the constituents put together, approximately 20,000 or more as per the Indian census
A metropolitan area is a densely inhabited urban centre region with its less-populated sharing industry, surrounding parts, infrastructure, and accommodation.	An urban agglomeration refers to a constant urban spread comprising a town and its adjoining outgrowths (OGs).

What are Metropolitan Cities?

The term Metropolitan originated from the Greek phrase metropolitan, denoting citizens of a mother state. A metropolitan area is a densely inhabited urban centre region with its less-populated sharing industry, surrounding parts, infrastructure, and accommodation.

In addition, a metropolitan area generally constitutes numerous municipalities and jurisdictions. As economic, social, and political establishments have transformed, metropolitan regions have become vital economic and political areas. On the other hand, an urban agglomeration refers to a constant urban spread comprising a town and its adjoining outgrowths (OGs), or two or more physically adjacent areas with or without outgrowths such areas.

What is Urban Agglomeration?

An Urban Agglomeration must comprise a statutory area (all towns with a corporation, municipality, cantonment board, reported town area board, etc.)

According to the previous Census, its cumulative population should not be less than 20,000 people. With these two fundamental standards having been fulfilled, below are the different possible cases in which Urban Agglomerations would be formed:

- A town or city with one or more adjacent outgrowths
- Two or more bordering areas with their outgrowths
- A city and more adjoining towns form a continuous spread with their outgrowths

In changing local circumstances, similar other varieties have been deemed urban agglomerations fulfilling the basic requirement of contiguity.

Key Difference Between Metropolitan Cities and Urban Agglomeration

The key difference between metropolitan cities and urban agglomeration is given below.

- Metropolitan cities are categorized based only on their population (1 lakh to 50 lakh), whereas urban agglomerations are not categorized primarily on their population (although they must be urban settlements) but rather on how their population has grown and how other towns have influenced it.
- An urban agglomeration is only a stage of a city's expansion across time and space.
- The metropolitan area is smaller than the urban agglomeration (within the same metropolitan area).