Q. Define rural urban fringe? Write the characteristics and problem faced such region?

Ans: **Definition**: Rural-Urban fringe is the boundary zone outside the urban area proper where rural and urban land uses intermixed. It is the area where the city meets the countryside. It is an area of transition from agriculture and other rural land use to urban use. Located well within the urban sphere of influence the fringe is characterized by a wide variety of land use including dormitory settlements, housing of middle income commuters who work in the central urban area. Suburbanization takes place at the municipal boundary of rural-urban fringe.

**Characteristic:**

A. Land use characteristic:
   1) There is constantly changing pattern of land use.
   2) Residential expansion is rapid.
   3) Farms are small with intensive crop production.
   4) Service and other public facilities are inadequate.
   5) Science and business parks development.
   6) Airport expansion.
   7) Speculative building is common.
B. Social characteristic:

1) Segregation: Rural urban fringe also known as “Greenfield site” (undeveloped sites outside the existing built-up urban area) which are favoured by large firms seeking locations for new developments such as headquarters, offices, housing and industrial estates. So there is functional and social segregation of land use.

2) Selective Immigration: The rural urban fringe attracts middle class residents who form a small but powerful and economically important proportion of the city population. Service and other public facilities are inadequate in fringe region which lead to immigration.

3) Commuting: People living in fringe area commute daily to their place of work. This creates the dual problem of traffic congestion in the city. The city govt. is faced with the task of providing transport service handling peak load.

Problems of rural urban fringe:

1) Land use problems: 1) The rural urban fringe is often used for dumping garbage and sewage of the city. 2) Location of industries emitting noxious gases and generating chemical effluents. 3) The fringe is zone of haphazard industrial and residential development. 4) The fringe area suffer concentration of land ownership, speculation on land and rapidly rising land values.

2) Urban amenities and service Problems: 1) Urban facilities such as water supply, sewerage etc. are for the most part are not available because the city provides this service only to the place within the municipality limits. 2) Outside the municipality limits small town and revenue village lack administrative and financial infrastructure. 3) the fringe area served by poor public transport facilities.

3) Administrative problems: The rural urban fringe is a problem area for administration. The Indian territorial administrative system was designed at the time when the phenomena of rural urban fringe is unknown. When the municipal administration was established in 1860, the city ended abruptly and its boundary over decades were relatively static because of static population between 1872 and 1930. After independence the city started expanding very rapidly and generated a transition zone with rural and urban characteristic. The gram panchayats are cosmetic substitute for local govt. and they are administratively and financially weak. So fringe area faced many problems.