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Chapter



HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. With size, the economic character and social structure of settlements changes and so do its ecology and technology.
2. Geometric shape compact settlements are found in fertile alluvial plains and in the northeastern states.
3. Compact settlements due to defence are found in the Bundelkhand region of central India and in Nagaland, in Rajasthan is due to scarcity of water.
4. The units called **panna, para, palli, nagla, dhani** are examples of Hamleted settlement.
5. Jamshedpur is an industrial town.
6. Greater Mumbai is the largest urban agglomeration/city of India.
7. More than 60 per cent of urban population in India lives in Class I towns.
8. Out of 423 cities, 53 cities/urban agglomerations are metropolitan cities.
9. Six of them (Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad) are mega cities having 21% of urban population lives in these cities.

Q.1 Define the term human settlement.

Ans. Human Settlement means cluster of dwellings of any type or size where human beings live. For this purpose, people may erect houses and command some area or territory as their economic support-base.

Q.2 Explain the basic differences between rural and urban settlements in India.

Ans. The basic differences between rural and urban settlements are as follows:

1. The rural settlements derive their life support or basic economic needs from land based primary economic activities, whereas, urban settlements, depend on processing of raw materials and manufacturing of finished goods on the one hand and a variety of services on the other.
2. Cities act as nodes of economic growth. Urban settlements provide goods and services to the people of the rural settlements and in return rural settlement provide food and raw materials. This functional relationship between the urban and rural settlements takes place through transport and communication network.
3. Rural people are less mobile (migrate) and therefore, social relations among them are intimate. In urban areas, on the other hand, way of life is complex and fast, and social relations are formal.
4. Rural settlements are small in size because they depend on extensive land for cultivation etc. whereas urban settlements are large and compact.

Q.3 Explain any three factors and conditions responsible for having different types of rural settlements in India.

Ans. Types of the settlement are determined by the extent of the built-up area and inter-house distance. The three factors are:

1. **Physical factors** –

- a. Nature of terrain: - Dispersed type of settlements is found in remote jungles, small hills of Himachal Pradesh. Compact settlements are found in highly productive alluvial plains of Punjab.
- b. Altitude: - Dispersed settlements are found in hills of Meghalaya and clustered and semi-clustered settlements are found in Gujarat plains.
- c. Climate: - due to frequent droughts settlement may become hamleted.

- d. Availability of water: - Scarcity of water in Rajasthan has resulted in development of compact settlements.
- 2. **Cultural and ethnic factors** -
 - a. Caste and tribal structure: - due to ethnic factors settlement may become fragmented and Hamleted e.g. Chhattisgarh.
 - b. Religion - people of same religion prefer to live together making a settlement large or small.
- 3. **Security factors** -
 - a. Defence from invasions and Wild animals: - due to defence from dacoits, wild animals or fear settlements may cluster and form compact settlements.

Q.4 Explain the four types of rural settlements found in India.

Ans. The type of rural settlements in India is determined by the extent of built-up area and the inter-house distance. They are of 4 types: -

1. **Clustered, agglomerated and nucleated settlement**: -
 - a. In this type of settlement the built-up area is compact and inter-house distance is small.
 - b. In this type of village the general living area is distinct and separated from the surrounding farms.
 - c. The closely built-up area and its intervening streets present some recognizable pattern or geometric shape, such as rectangular, radial, linear, etc.
 - d. Such settlements are also formed due to security and defence reasons (e.g. Madhya Pradesh) or scarcity of water or cultivable land (Rajasthan).
2. **Semi-clustered settlements**: -
 - a. Semi-clustered or fragmented settlements may result from tendency of clustering in a restricted area of dispersed settlement.
 - b. It may also result from segregation or fragmentation of a large compact village.
 - c. Some sections of a village society choose or are forced to live a little away from the main cluster or village.
 - d. The land-owning and dominant community occupies the central part of the main village, whereas people of lower status of settle on the outer margins of the village.
 - e. Such settlements are found in Gujarat plain and parts of Rajasthan.
3. **Hamleted settlement**: -
 - a. Sometimes settlement is fragmented into several smaller units physically separated from each other bearing a common name.
 - b. These small units of settlements are known as panna, *para*, *palli*, *nagla*, *dhani* etc.
 - c. This segmentation of a large village is often motivated by social and ethnic factors.
 - d. Hamleted villages are found in the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and lower valleys of the Himalayas.
4. **Dispersed settlement**: -
 - a. Dispersed or isolated settlement pattern in India appears in the form of isolated huts or hamlets of few huts in remote jungles, or on small hills with farms or pasture on the slopes.
 - b. It is caused by extremely fragmented nature of the terrain and land resource base of habitable areas.
 - c. They are found in Meghalaya, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala.

Evolution of Towns in India

Q.5 Describe the classification of Indian towns on the basis of their evolution in different periods.

Ans. Towns in India flourished since prehistoric times. On the basis of their evolution in different periods, Indian towns may be classified as:

1. **Pre-historic towns:** - Towns flourished since prehistoric times in India. Even at the time of Indus valley civilisation, towns like Harappa and Mohanjodaro were in existence.
2. **Ancient towns:** -
 - a. Towns which are more than 2000 years old and have long history of existence are termed as ancient towns.
 - b. These towns developed as religious and cultural centres.
 - c. Important towns are – Varanasi, Ayodhya, Prayag, Pataliputra, Madurai, etc.
3. **Medieval towns:** -
 - a. Towns which emerged during medieval period as headquarters of principalities and kingdoms are termed as medieval towns.
 - b. These are fort towns which came up on the ruins of ancient towns.
 - c. Important towns are – Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Agra, etc.
4. **Modern towns:** -
 - a. **Pre-independence towns:** these towns were developed by the British and other Europeans rulers. They were port towns such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat, Goa, and Pondicherry. Later some hill stations and summer resorts were developed by them such as Shimla, etc.
 - b. **Post-independence towns:** -
 - i. These towns were developed as administrative centres such as Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar.
 - ii. Some developed as industrial towns such as Jamshedpur, Durgapur, Bhilai, Sindri, Barauni.
 - iii. Some old towns also developed as satellite towns around metropolitan cities such as Ghaziabad, Rohtak, Gurgaon around Delhi.

Q.6 What do you mean by urbanization? What is the level of urbanization in India?

Ans. Urbanization is measured as percentage of urban population to total population. The level of urbanisation in India in 2011 was 31.16 per cent, which is quite low in comparison to developed countries. Total urban population has increased eleven fold during twentieth century due to -

1. Enlargement of urban centres
2. Emergence of new towns.

Smart Cities Mission

Q.7 What are the objectives of Smart Cities Mission?

Ans. The objective of the Smart Cities Mission is to

1. Promote cities that provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment and give a decent quality of life to its citizens.
2. One of the features of Smart Cities is to apply smart solutions to infrastructure and services in order to make them better.
3. For example, making areas less vulnerable to disasters, using fewer resources and providing cheaper services.
4. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and
5. The idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model, which will act like a lighthouse to other aspiring cities.

Self Activity: Functional Classification of Towns

- Q.1 What are administrative towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.2 What are industrial towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.3 What are transport towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.4 What are commercial towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.5 What are mining towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.6 What are garrison towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.7 What are educational towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.8 What are religious and cultural towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
 - Q.9 What are tourist towns? What is their function? Name two such towns.
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