Chapter 2: Human Settlements

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 Which one of the following towns is NOT located on a river bank? (a) Agra (b) Bhopal (c) Patna (d) Kolkata

(b) Bhopal. Agra, Patna and Kolkata are all river-bank towns, whereas Bhopal is the one that does not lie on a river bank.

Q2 Which one of the following is NOT the part of the definition of a town as per the census of India? (a) Population density of 400 persons per sq km. (b) Presence of municipality, corporation, etc. (c) More than 75% of the population engaged in primary sector. (d) Population size of more than 5,000 persons.

(c). The census definition requires at least 75 per cent of male workers to be in non-agricultural pursuits, so a majority engaged in the primary sector is not part of it. The other three conditions (density of 400 persons per sq km, a municipality or similar body, and over 5,000 people) are included.

Q3 In which one of the following environments does one expect the presence of dispersed rural settlements? (a) Alluvial plains of Ganga (b) Arid and semi-arid regions of Rajasthan (c) Lower valleys of Himalayas (d) Forests and hills in north-east

(d) Forests and hills in north-east. Dispersed settlements appear as isolated huts or small hamlets in remote jungles and on small hills, caused by fragmented terrain. Fertile alluvial plains and water-scarce Rajasthan favour compact villages, and the lower Himalayan valleys have hamleted settlements.

Q4 What are garrison towns? What is their function?

Garrison (cantonment) towns are those that emerged as military stations, such as Ambala, Jalandhar, Mhow, Babina and Udhampur. Their main function is to house and support the armed forces and defence-related activities.

Q5 What are the main factors for the location of villages in desert regions?

In desert regions such as Rajasthan, scarcity of water is the main factor. Villages locate near available water sources and form compact settlements so that the limited water can be used to the maximum. Security can also favour compact villages.

Q6 Discuss the features of different types of rural settlements. What are the factors responsible for the settlement patterns in different physical environments?

Rural settlements in India are of four broad types. Clustered settlements are compact, closely built-up areas, distinct from surrounding farms and pastures, with patterns such as rectangular or linear. They are found in fertile alluvial plains and the north-eastern states, and in water-scarce Rajasthan. Semi-clustered settlements arise when lower strata and menial workers live on the outer flanks of a main village; they are widespread in the Gujarat plain and parts of Rajasthan. Hamleted settlements are split into physically separate units sharing one common name (panna, para, palli, nagla, dhani), found in the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and lower Himalayan valleys. Dispersed settlements are isolated huts or small hamlets in remote jungles and on hill slopes, found in Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala. The responsible factors are physical features (terrain, altitude, climate, water availability), cultural and ethnic factors (social structure, caste, religion) and security against theft and robbery. Fragmented terrain causes dispersion, while scarce water or defence needs favour compact villages.

Q7 Can one imagine the presence of only one-function town? Why do the cities become multi-functional?

No, it is hard to imagine a town with only one function. Towns are known for a dominant or specialised function, such as administrative, industrial, transport, commercial, mining, garrison, educational, religious or tourist, but each town also performs a number of other functions. Cities are not static; their functions change because of their dynamic nature. As a specialised city grows into a metropolis, industry, business, administration, transport and other activities all become important. Growth attracts population, trade and services, and the functions become so intertwined that the city cannot be placed in one particular functional class. Mumbai, for instance, is an industrial city but is also a major commercial, port and administrative centre, and a city that began as a centre of education may also grow into a trading or administrative hub.