

# GEOGRAPHY

## Chapter 7: Human Environment - Settlement, Transport and Communication



## Human Environment - Settlement, Transport and Communication

### Human Settlement

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Humans modify the environment of the place where they live. As they settle down, they construct houses, buildings and roads.

**Settlements** are places where people live and build their homes. Initially, man lived in caves or on trees. As man learnt to grow crops, he began to settle down in one place. Many civilisations developed in the river valleys due to the availability of fertile lands and water. As the settlements began to grow, trade and commerce developed and means of transportation became advanced.

Settlements are of two types, permanent settlements and temporary settlements.

#### Temporary Settlement

- The settlements which are occupied for a short period of time are known as temporary settlements.
- Temporary settlements are generally found in deep forests, deserts and mountains.
- Main occupations of the people living in temporary settlements are hunting, gathering and shifting cultivation.
- Temporary settlements are lesser in number than permanent settlements.



In regions of hot climate, people live in thick mud walled houses with thatched roofs

#### Permanent Settlement

- Permanent settlements are occupied by the people for a longer period of time.
- In these settlements, people build houses to live in.

- Most of the settlements around us are permanent settlements.

### Rural Settlements and Urban Settlements

Settlements can also be categorized as rural and urban settlements. The differences between these two types are:

Rural Settlements	Urban Settlements
Settlements in villages are known as rural settlements.	Settlements in cities are known as urban settlements.
In these settlements, people build houses which suit the environment. For example, in Kerala where the rainfall is heavy, people build houses with slanting roofs. Similarly the places where water accumulates, houses are constructed on stilts, i.e., on raised a platform.	In these settlements, many closely spaced high rises buildings are built generally due to lack of enough space
Main occupation of the people is cultivation and fishing.	People in these settlements are engaged generally in secondary and tertiary activities.

Other types of settlements are the compact settlements and the scattered settlements.

In a compact settlement, houses are built on a plain level close to each other, while in scattered settlements only a few houses are built over a large area. This kind of settlement is generally found in hilly regions, dense forests and regions with extreme climate.



Compact Settlement



Scattered Settlement

## Transport

People travel from one place to another using various means of transport. After the invention of wheel, travelling and transportation of goods became easier. Today, there are many means of transport. In our country, animals such as donkeys, bullocks, mules and camels are used for transportation. In the mountainous regions, llamas and yaks are used for travelling. Apart from animals, roads, railways and waterways are increasingly used as means of transportation.

### Roadways

- Roads are the most common means of transport especially for short distances.
- There are two kinds of roads- metalled (pucca) and unmetalled roads (kutchra).
- Since the lands in the plains are leveled, it is easier to build roads here.
- With the advancement of technology, roads have been also built in deserts and difficult and rugged terrains such as mountains and forests.
- The Manali-Leh highway in the Himalayan Mountains is one of the highest roads in the world.
- While subways or underpaths are built underground, flyovers are built over raised structures.



Roads are the most common means of transport

### Railways

- Railways are an efficient means of transportation by which people travel over longer distances.
- They carry heavy goods and people over long distances quickly and cheaply.
- The railways in India have developed rapidly due to the invention of the steam engine during the industrial revolution.
- The introduction of super fast trains has now made the journey faster.
- The Indian railway network is the largest in Asia.

- Technological advancements have enabled the laying of railway lines in difficult mountain terrains, though these are few in number.



The Indian railway network is the largest in Asia

### Waterways

- Waterways have been in use since ancient times.
- They are effective today as they help in the transportation of heavy and bulky goods over a long distance.
- Water transport is of mainly two types- inland waterways and sea routes.
- Rivers and lakes which can be navigated are used for inland navigation. The Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers in India are used for inland navigation as these are perennial rivers. The Great Lakes in North America and the River Nile in Africa are also used for inland navigation.
- Oceanic and sea routes are mainly used for transporting merchandise and goods from one country to another.
- Sea routes are connected with ports, where ships are harboured and loading and unloading of cargo is done.
- Some important ports of the world are:
  - Mumbai, Shanghai and Singapore in Asia
  - Cape town in South Africa and Lagos in Nigeria
  - Rotterdam and London in Europe
  - Sydney in Australia
  - Los Angeles and San Francisco in North America





The Shanghai Port in China

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### Airways

- This is the fastest and costliest means of transportation and was developed in the twentieth century.
- It is the only means of transport which can reach the isolated places in the world. Helicopters are used for accessing highly inaccessible areas. They are also used for rescuing people during natural calamities.
- The only disadvantage of airways is that it is the costliest means of transport and is not affordable to the common people.
- Some of the major airports of the world are Mumbai, Delhi, Heathrow, Frankfurt, Cairo and Paris.



The Heathrow Airport in London, UK

### Communication

- Communication is the means by which information is exchanged.
- New and faster means of communications have been developed in recent times.
- Today, the means of communications are used for providing information, education and information to the people.

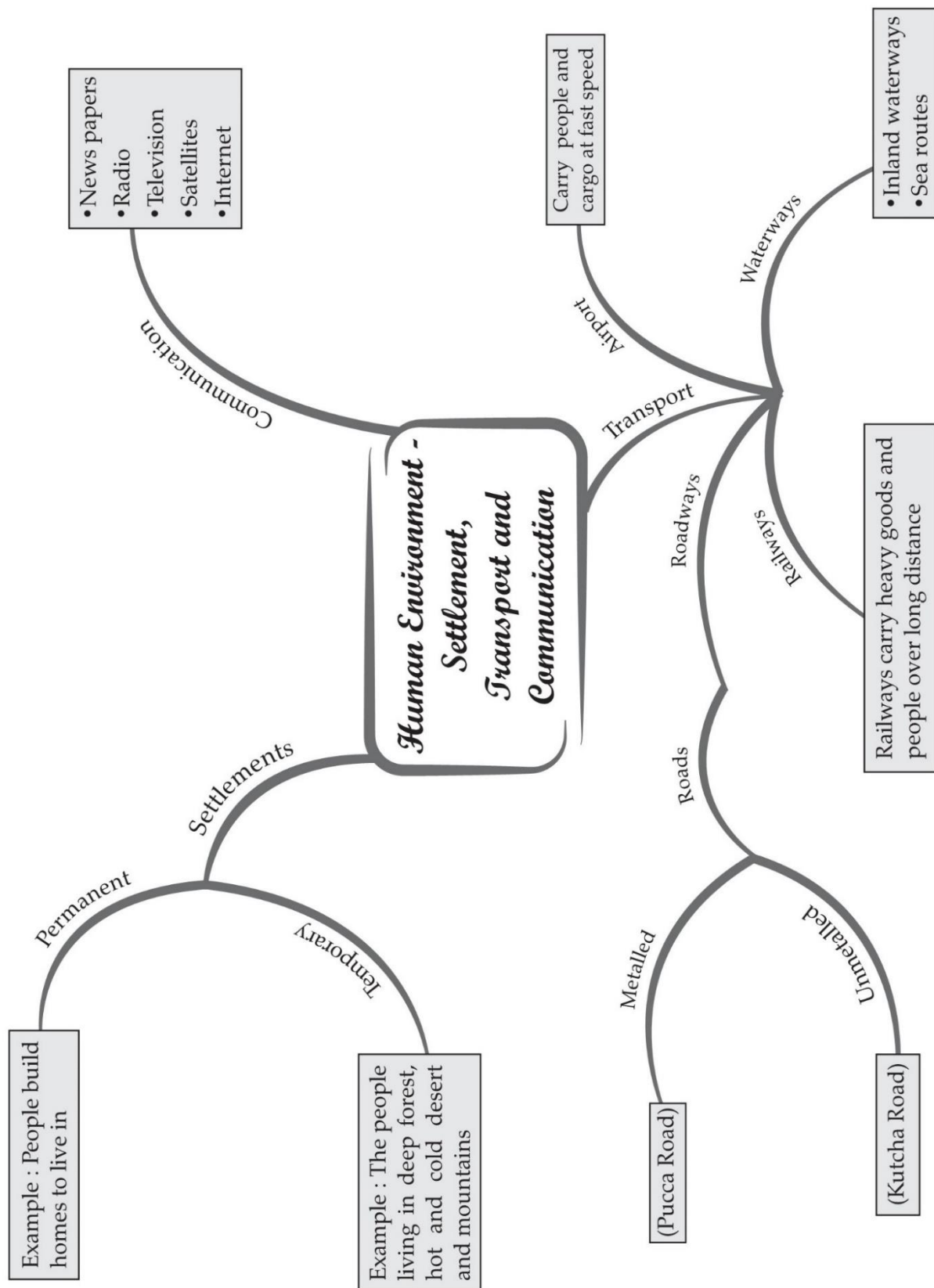
- Through newspapers, television and radio, a large number of people are able to receive information within a short period of time. As these reach a large number of people, these are called mass media.
- Satellites have made communication faster. They have also helped in the unearthing of various deposits of minerals and other natural resources such as oil fields, underground water etc.
- Wireless telephonic communications through mobiles and instant messaging have become very popular today.
- Through Internet, information now reaches people within a few seconds. Moreover, we can also reserve rail or air tickets, shop and order groceries from the comfort of our homes.
- Due to the faster means of communication, our society has become global today.



Satellites have not only helped in faster communication but also in the unearthing of various mineral and natural deposits

## MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE

## CHAPTER-7





## Important Questions

### ➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. Yaks are found in:

- (a) China
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Tibet

Question 2. The great lakes are found in:

- (a) South America
- (b) North America
- (c) India

Question 3. An urban settlement is called:

- (a) Compact
- (b) Scattered
- (c) Unmettled

Question 4. Andes Mountain is situated at:

- (a) North America
- (b) Latin America
- (c) South Africa

Question 5. Golden quadrilateral connects:

- (a) Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram
- (b) Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata
- (c) Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram

Question 6. Which of the following made travel faster?

- (a) Ships
- (b) Buses
- (c) Aeroplanes

Question 7. Which of the following modes of transport are the cheapest for carrying heavy and bulky goods over long distances?

- (a) Roadways
- (b) Waterways

(c) Airways

Question 8. Which of the following has the largest railway network in Asia?

(a) India

(b) China

(c) Russia

Question 9. Air traffic is adversely affected by:

(a) Bad weather

(b) Good weather

(c) Both (a) and (b)

Question 10. Underground roads are called:

(a) Roadways

(b) Subways

(c) Flyovers

Question 11. Which type of vehicle does not pollute the environment?

(a) Cycle

(b) Bus

(c) Aeroplane

(d) None of these

Question 12. In which environment do people built slanting roofs of their houses?

(a) Heavy rainfall

(b) Bright sunlight

(c) Heavy cold

(d) None of these

Question 13. Where did the Yaks were found?

(a) Tibet

(b) China

(c) Myanmar

(d) Bhutan

Question 14. How have satellites proved themselves helpful?

(a) Oil exploration

- (b) Survey of forest
- (c) Underground water
- (d) All of the above

Question 15. Which is not a means of communication?

- (a) Telephone
- (b) Book
- (c) Table
- (d) Letter

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. Air travel is very expensive due to high cost of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The place where a building or a settlement develops is called its \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Yaks are found in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are the cheapest modes of transport.
5. Helicopters are proved to very useful in the time of calamities for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. The plains have a dense network of roads.
2. Bus does not pollute the environment.
3. Early human beings depended entirely on nature for food, clothing and shelter.
4. Andes Mountains is in North America.
5. The satellites have made communication even faster.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. Where is the railway network well developed?
2. Which type of transport is used for short distance?
3. Why did settlements grow near the river valleys?
4. What are called temporary settlements?
5. What do people living in temporary settlements practise?
6. Why do people who rear animals move from place to place?
7. Differentiate a compact settlement from a scattered settlement.
8. Where are scattered settlements found?

9. Name the materials used in building houses in rural areas?
10. Name some animals used for carrying goods in India.

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. Human settlements become larger. How?
2. What is difference between permanent and temporary settlement?
3. Suggest some natural condition for selection of an ideal site.
4. Distinguish between compact and scattered settlement.
5. Which type of house is very common in areas of hot climate?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. Today's world is shrinking. How?
2. Write a short note on airways.
3. How settlements become a necessity? What are its different types?
4. Give a detailed description of waterways.
5. What are the major means of transport? Explain each of them.

**ANSWER KEY –**

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (c) Tibet
2. (b) North America
3. (a) Compact
4. (b) Latin America
5. (b) Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata
6. (c) Aeroplanes
7. (b) Waterways
8. (a) India
9. (a) Bad weather
10. (b) Subways
11. (a) Cycle
12. (a) Heavy rainfall
13. (a) Tibet

14. (d) All of the above
15. (c) Table

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. fuel
2. site
3. Tibet
4. Watreways
5. rescuing

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. The railway network is well developed in the plain areas.
2. Roads are used for short distance.
3. Settlements grew near the river valleys because plenty of water was available there and land was fertile.
4. Settlements which are occupied for a short time are called temporary settlements.
5. They practise hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation and transhumance.
6. They move from place to place in search of new pastures according to changes in seasons.
7. A compact settlement is a closely built area of dwellings wherever flat land is available. In a scattered settlement dwellings are spaced over an extensive area.
8. Scattered settlements are found in hilly tracts, thick forests and regions of extreme climate.
9. Stones, mud, clay, straw, etc.
10. Donkeys, mules, bullocks and camels.

➤ **Short Answer :**



1. With the development of trade, commerce and manufacturing, human settlement becomes larger.
2. Settlement which is occupied for a short time is called temporary settlement. Settlements where the people build homes to live in are called permanent settlement.
3. **The natural condition for an ideal site are:**
  - i. Favourable climate
  - ii. Availability of water
  - iii. Suitable land
  - iv. Fertile soil
4. A compact settlement is closely built area of dwelling, where flat land is available. In scattered settlement dwelling are spaced over an extensive area. This type of settlement is mostly found in hilly tracts, thick forest and region of extreme climate.
5. Thick mud walled house with thatched roof are very common in areas of hot climate. Local materials like stones, mud, clay, straw are used to construct houses.

### ➤ Long Answer :

1. With the every passing day the world is shrinking, and the globalisation process is taking place. Advancement in communication, transportation, and communication technology has played a major role in making a world a smaller place. Computer networking and fax machine allow world business to conduct negotiations within a second. Travelling abroad which once required days at sea, now only takes hours in the air. With the right equipment, people can talk to friends and family from the other side of the world. Technology advancement seems to make the world a smaller place to live hence we can assume that world is shrinking.
2. Airways is the fastest mode of transport today. It is very expensive due to high cost of fuels. It is the only mode of transport to reach the most remote and distant areas especially where there are no roads and railways. Helicopters are useful in most inaccessible areas and in time of calamities of rescuing people and distributing essential. Some important airports are Delhi, Mumbai, New York, London, Paris, Frankfurt and Cairo.
3. Settlements are places where people build their homes to live in. Early human beings did not need to develop settlements because they lived on trees and in caves. When they started to grow crops, it became essential to have a permanent home. Thus, settlements began to grow near the river valleys as water was available and land was fertile. By and by settlements became larger because trade, commerce and manufacturing developed.

**Settlements can be permanent or temporary:**

- **Temporary Settlement:** Settlements which are occupied for a short time are called temporary settlements. The people living in deep forests, hot and cold deserts and mountains often dwell in such settlements. These people are engaged in hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation and transhumance.
  - **Permanent Settlement:** Under permanent settlements people build homes to live in.
4. Waterways are the cheapest mode of transport. They carry heavy and bulky goods over long distances. They are mainly of two types—inland waterways and sea routes.
- **Inland Waterways:** Navigable rivers and lakes are used as inland waterways. Some important inland waterways are the Ganga-Brahmaputra river system, the Great Lakes in North America and the river Nile in Africa.
  - **Sea routes:** Sea routes and oceanic routes are mostly used for transporting merchandise and goods from one country to another. These routes are connected with the ports. Some important ports are Singapore, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney etc.
5. **There are four major means of transport:**
- i. **Roadways:** Roads are the most commonly used means of transport. Roads are of two types—metalled roads also known as pucca roads and unmetalled roads also known as Kutch roads. The plains have a dense network of roads. Roads built underground are called subways or underpasses. Flyovers are built over raised structures.
  - ii. **Railways:** The railways carry people and bulky goods. They cover long distances quickly and cheaply. The railway network is well developed over the plain areas. With the development of advanced technological skills we have now railway lines laid in difficult mountain terrains also. The Indian railway network is well developed and the largest in Asia.
  - iii. **Waterways:** Waterways are the cheapest means of transport. They carry heavy and bulky goods over long distances. They are of two types—inland waterways and sea routes. Navigable rivers and lakes are used as inland waterways—for example, Ganga-Brahmaputra river system. Sea routes and oceanic routes are mostly used for transporting merchandise and goods from one country to another.
  - iv. **Airways:** Airways are the most expensive means of transport. It is the only mode of transport to reach the most remote and distant areas especially where there are no roads and railways. Helicopters are useful in most inaccessible areas and in times of calamities.