



CHAPTER-6

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT: SETTLEMENT, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

NOTES:

Human are able to modify the natural environment to a certain extent. In early days, they used to survive by hunting and food gathering. They moved from one place to another in search of food. Such type of life is called nomadic life. Later on, people introduced agriculture and domestication of animals which leads to permanent settlement.

Settlement

A settlement is the cluster of houses where people live. The most important factor for the growth of settlement is the availability of water. Topography is also another factor. Plains are sites for town or cities. Natural beauties of a place also play role in the growth of towns.

A settlement may be rural or urban. In rural, people are engaged in occupations such as agriculture, fishing, mining and animal rearing. An urban settlement has a large number of people engaged in industries, trade, transportation, etc.

Rural settlement

Rural settlement varies in size from isolated dwelling to villages.

- (i) Dispersed settlement- The houses are scattered in isolated places, in hilly regions or farmland.
- (ii) Compact settlement- Houses are built close to each other around a center, found in level plains or near rivers, schools and markets are there to serve people.

Patterns of rural settlement

- (a) Linear pattern – When houses are built in a line along a river, railway tract, canal, road. National highway No. 37 of Manipur.
- (b) Circular pattern – Develops around a pond or lake have a semi-circular shape but finally the settlement expands around the water body.

- (c) Rectangular pattern – When two routes cross each other at right angles the houses are built along the routes in all the four directions.
- (d) Triangular pattern – Develops at the confluence of two rivers, land lying in between the two rivers.

Urban settlement

Administrative town – Headquarters of the administrative departments of central and state governments.

Defence towns – centers of military activities

Cultural towns – They are centers of art, culture and education. Shantiniketan, Oxford.

Mining – Developed in the mining areas.

Regional towns – Centers of religious activities. Varanasi, Jerusalem.

Industrial towns – Developed due to setting up of industries. Jamshedpur, Osaka etc.

Market Towns – Act as market points for the exchange of goods. Chicago, Kanpur.

Transport

Transport facilities movement of people and goods from one place to another. It promotes economic activity. Today, the world has become smaller due to development of transportation.

Roadways

It gives us door to door service. Rural areas are best served by roads.

U.S.A has nearly one-third of the total road mileage of the world called highways. In India, roads density is still low as compared to many countries of the world.

Railways - Most important land transport. Carry heavy and bulky goods over long distances. Started with coal engines, the trains now run with diesel or electric engines. Topography, density of population and level of economic development are some of the important factors influencing the development of railways.

India has the fourth largest network of railways.

Waterways

Water transport is the cheapest mode of transport. It is highly useful to promote international trade. Today we have huge boats, trawlers, ships which are fast and highly mechanized.

(a) Inland waterways: It includes navigable rivers, lakes and canals.

River Ganga and Brahmaputra, River Nile, River Rhine.

(b) Ocean transport: International trade is largely dependent on ocean transport.

North Atlantic Ocean route, Panama Canal route, Suez Canal route, Cape of Good hope route.

Air transport: It is the fastest mode of transport, but the costliest. U.S.A is the most advanced country in air transport system.

There are two types of air services, namely domestic and international.

Pipeline transport: Transportation of materials such as oil and gas through pipelines is known as pipeline transport. Oil from Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia is brought through pipelines to the Mediterranean coast.

In India, oil from Kandla port is transported to Mathura refinery through a pipeline, Assam oilfields to Barauni refinery in Bihar.

Communication: Communication means sending messages and ideas from one person to another which helps in exchanging knowledge and ideas.

Communication through postal system was introduced in the twentieth century. India, have a large network of post offices which provide services such as telegram, speed post etc. Courier service is also a type of postal services.

Telephone and Fax machine are widely used in every part of the world. Recently, satellite communication became very helpful, which facilitate the internet for communication. Computers are widely used to send e-mail. In India satellites help us in oil exploration, forest survey, underground water location, agriculture and weather forecasting.

Newspapers, radio and television are the effective means of mass communication which are now used to give information, education.

The whole world is shrinking due to the fast developing means of transport and communication.
