

Settlements

Sudarshan Gurjar

Classification of settlements

- There is no consensus on what exactly defines a village or a town.
- Although population size is an important criterion, it is not a universal criterion.
- Many villages in densely populated countries of India and China have population exceeding that of some towns of Western Europe and United States.
- The basic difference between towns and villages is that the people in towns are engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors, while in the villages most of the people are engaged in primary sectors.
- The census of India, 1991 defines urban settlements as "All places which have municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee and have a minimum population of 5000 persons, at least 75 per cent of male workers are engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and a density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometres are urban.

Compact or Nucleated settlements **संहत बस्ती**

- These settlements are those in which large number of houses are built very close to each other.
- Such settlements develop along **river valleys and in fertile plains.**
- Communities are closely knit and share common occupations.

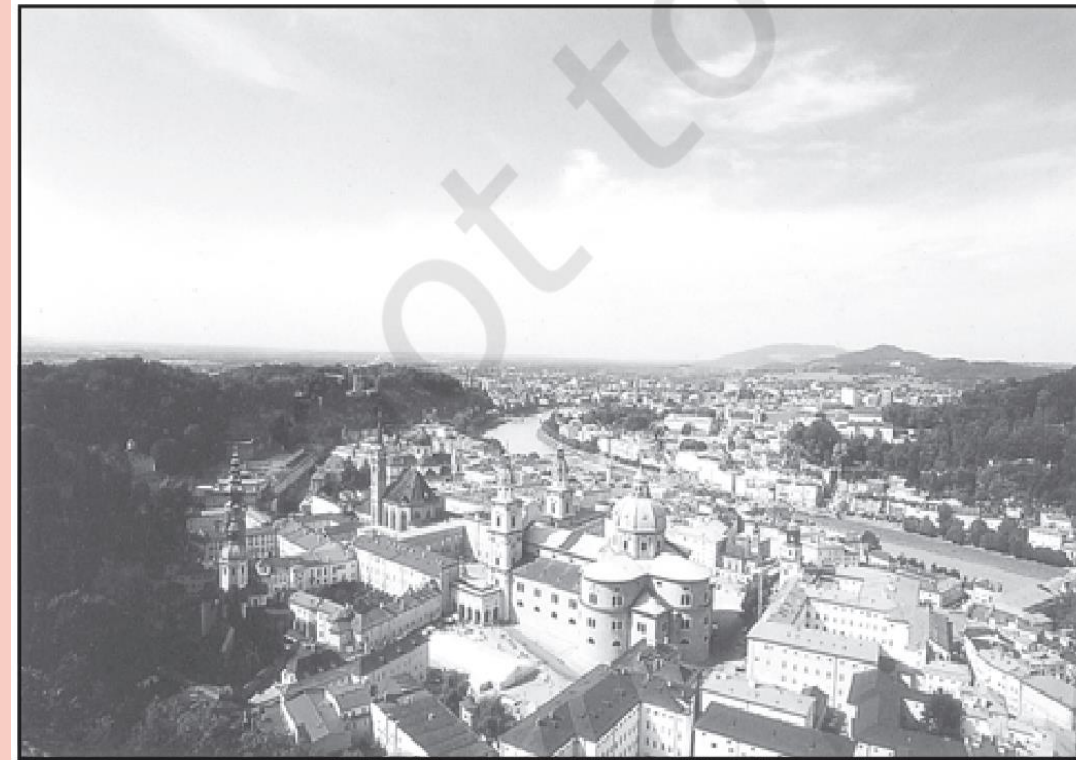


Fig.10.1 : Compact Settlements

- **Dispersed Settlements**

प्रकीर्ण बस्ती

- In these settlements, houses are spaced far apart and often interspersed with fields.
- A cultural feature such as a place of worship or a market, binds the settlement together.



Fig. 10.2: Dispersed Settlements

- **Rural Settlements**

- Rural settlements are most closely and directly related to land.
- They are dominated by primary activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing etc.
- The settlements size is relatively small.

Some factors affecting the location of rural settlements

Water Supply

Land

Upland

Building Material

Defence

- **Rural settlements may be classified on the basis of a number of criteria:**

- On the basis of setting: The main types are plain villages, plateau villages, coastal villages, forest villages and desert villages.
- On the basis of functions: There may be farming villages, fishermen's villages, lumberjack villages, pastoral villages etc.

- **On the basis of forms or shapes of the settlements**

- These may be a number of geometrical forms and shapes such as Linear, rectangular, circular star like, T-shaped village, double village, cross-shaped village etc.

- **Linear pattern** रैखिक प्रतिरूप

- In such settlements houses are located along a road, railway line, river, canal edge or along a levee.



Fig.10.6 : Linear pattern settlement

- **Rectangular pattern** आयताकार प्रतिरूप

- Such patterns of rural settlements are found in plain areas or wide inter montane valleys. The roads are rectangular and cut each other at right angles.

- **Circular pattern** वृत्ताकार प्रतिरूप

- Circular villages develop around lakes, tanks and sometimes the village is planned in such a way that the central part remains open and is used for keeping the animals to protect them from wild animals.

- **Star like pattern** तारे के आकार का प्रतिरूप

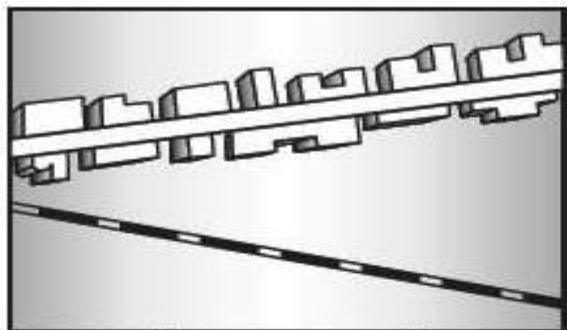
- Where several roads converge, star shaped settlements develop by the houses built along the roads.

- **T-shaped, Y-shaped, Cross-shaped or cruciform settlements** 'टी' आकार, 'वाई' आकार, क्रॉस आकार

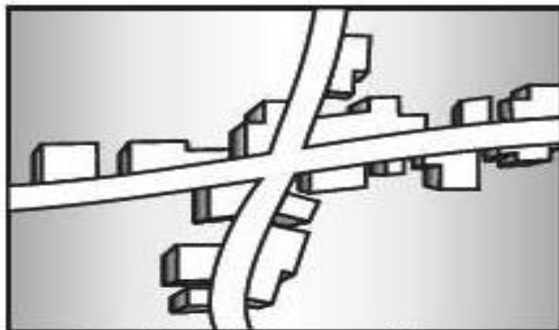
- T-shaped settlements develop at tri-junctions of the roads while Y-shaped settlements emerge as the places where two roads converge on the third one and houses are built along these roads.



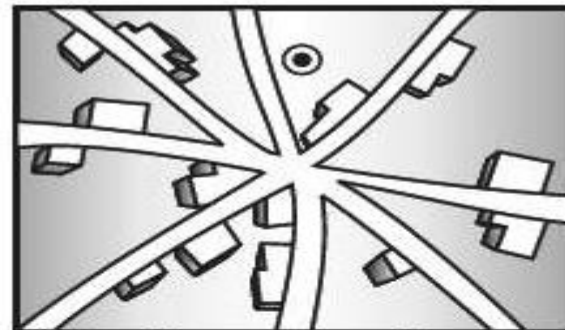
Fig.10.7 : Y shape settlement



रैखिक प्रतिरूप



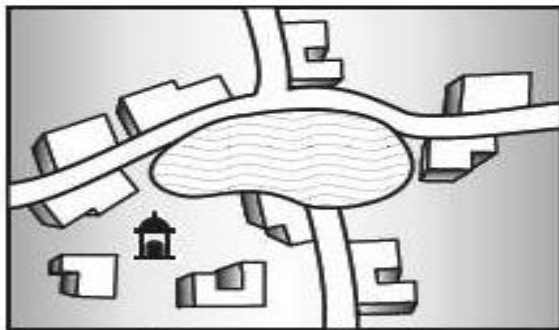
चौक पट्टी प्रतिरूप



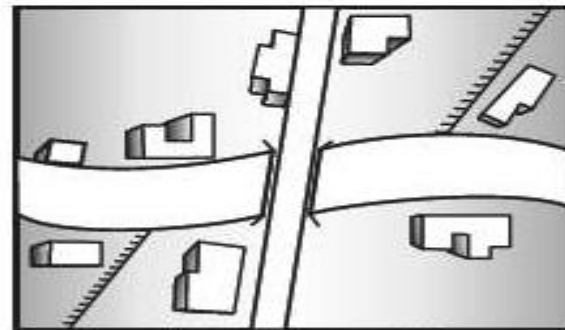
तारे के आकार का प्रतिरूप



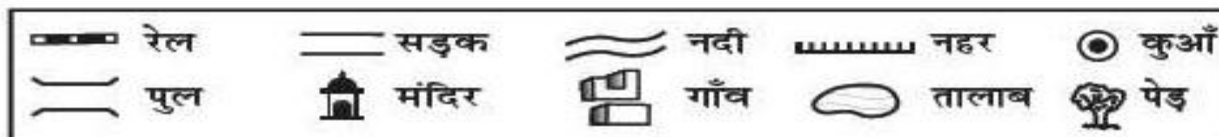
टी आकार प्रतिरूप



वृत्ताकार प्रतिरूप



दोहरा प्रतिरूप



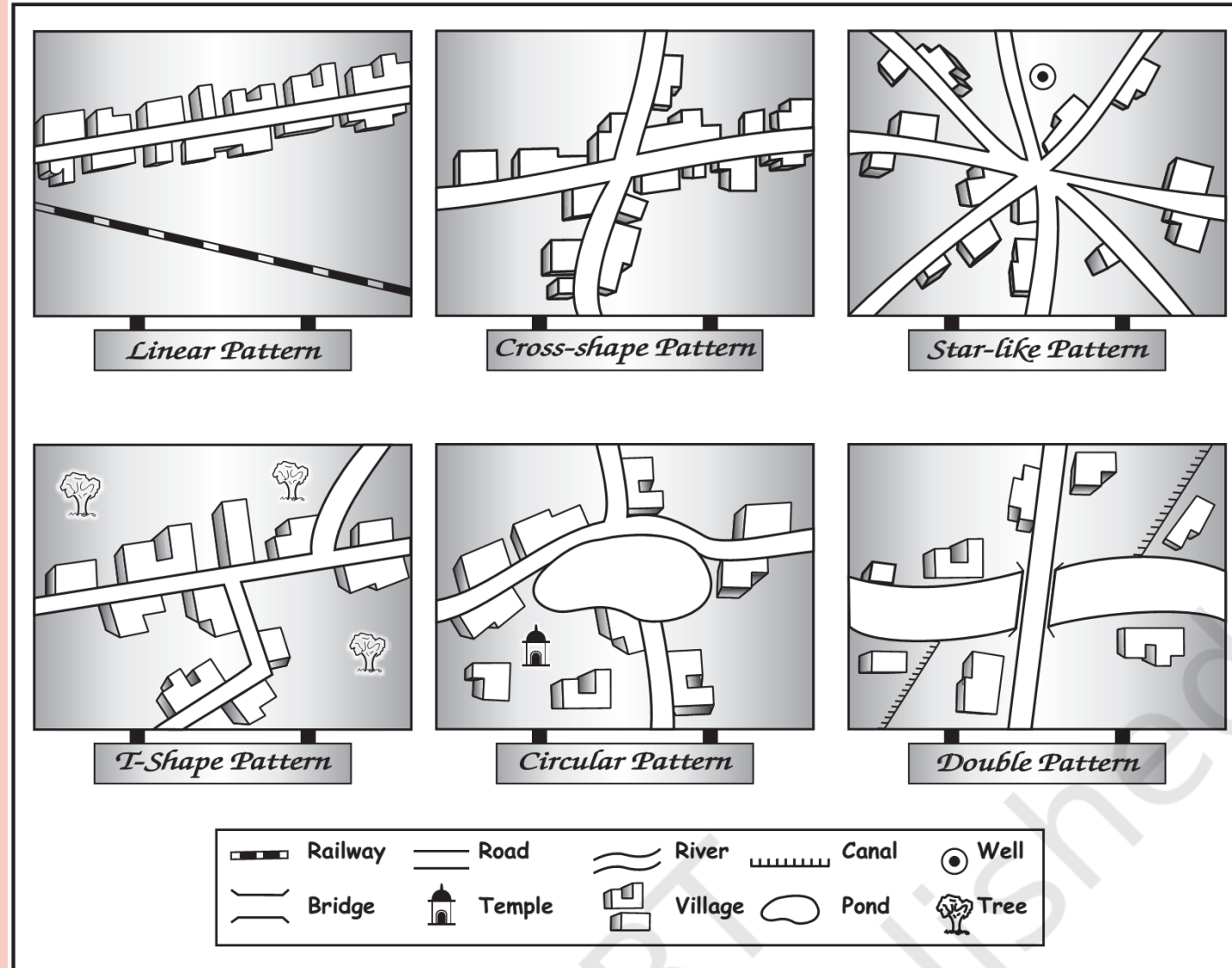


Fig. 10.5: Rural Settlement Patterns

- **Double village**

दोहरे ग्राम :

- These settlements extend on both sides of a river where there is a bridge or a ferry.

Rural Settlements in India

There are various factors and conditions responsible for having different types of rural settlements in India

- **Clustered Settlements**

- The clustered rural settlement is a compact or closely built up area of houses.
- In this type of village, the general living area is distinct and separated from the surrounding farms, barns and pastures.
- The closely built-up area and its intervening streets present some recognisable pattern or geometric shape, such as rectangular, radial, linear, etc.
- **Such settlements are generally found in fertile alluvial plains and in the north-eastern states.**
- **Sometimes, people live in compact village for security or defence reasons, such as in the Bundelkhand region of central India and in Nagaland.**
- **In Rajasthan, scarcity of water has necessitated compact settlement for maximum utilisation of available water resources.**



Fig. 4.1 : Clustered Settlements in the North-eastern states

Semi-Clustered Settlements

- Semi-clustered or fragmented settlements may result from tendency of clustering in a restricted area of dispersed settlement.
- More often such a pattern may also result from segregation or fragmentation of a large compact village.
- In this case, one or more sections of the village society choose or is forced to live a little away from the main cluster or village.
- In such cases, generally, the **land-owning and dominant community occupies the central part of the main village, whereas people of lower strata of society and menial workers settle on the outer flanks of the village.**
- Such settlements are widespread in the **Gujarat plain** and some parts of **Rajasthan**



Fig. 4.2 : Semi-clustered settlements

- **Hamleted Settlements**

- Sometimes settlement is fragmented into several units physically separated from each other bearing a common name.
- These units are locally called panna, para, palli, nagla, dhani, etc. in various parts of the country.
- This segmentation of a large village is often motivated by **social and ethnic factors**.
- Such villages are more frequently found in the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and lower valleys of the Himalayas.
- **It is fragmented into several units and there is no Nucleus place in a village.**
- **They don't have common place like religious place, water bodies, play ground etc.**
- **They are self dependent and isolated. The carrying capacity of hamleted rural settlement is lower due to extreme climate, low fertility of soil, lack of modern technologies, political instability, social inequality, economically backward**
e.g. Tribal group . (Bhil, santhal, Gond,Tharu etc).



- **Dispersed Settlements**

- 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.
- Extreme dispersion of settlement is often caused by extremely fragmented nature of the terrain and land resource base of habitable areas.
- Many areas of Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have this type of settlement

- **Urban Settlements**

- The first urban settlement to reach a population of one million was the city of **London** by around. A.D. 1810
- By 1982 approximately 175 cities in the world had crossed the one million population mark.
- Presently **54 per cent** of the world's population lives in urban settlements compared to only 3 per cent in the year 1800.

- **Classification of Urban Settlements**

- Some of the common basis of classification are size of population, occupational structure and administrative setup.

- **Population Size**

- It is an important criterion used by most countries to define urban areas.
 - The lower limit of the population size for a settlement to be designated as urban is 1,500 in Colombia, 2,000 in Argentina and Portugal, 2,500 in U.S.A. and Thailand, **5,000 in India** and 30,000 in Japan.
 - Besides the size of population, **density of 400 persons per sq km** and share of non-agricultural workers are taken into consideration in India.
 - In Denmark, Sweden and Finland, all places with a population size of 250 persons are called urban.
 - The minimum population for a city is 300 in Iceland, whereas in Canada and Venezuela, it is 1,000 persons.

- **Occupational Structure**

- In some countries, such as India, the major economic activities in addition to the size of the population in designating a settlement as urban are also taken as a criterion.
 - Similarly, in Italy, a settlement is called urban, if more than 50 per cent of its economically productive population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
 - India has set this criterion at **75 per cent**.

- **Administration**

- The administrative setup is a criterion for classifying a settlement as urban in some countries.
- For example, in India, a settlement of any size is classified as urban, if it has a **municipality, Cantonment Board or Notified Area Council**.

Location

- Location of urban centres is examined with reference to their function.
- Strategic towns require sites offering natural defence; mining towns require the presence of economically valuable minerals; industrial towns generally need local energy supplies or raw materials; tourist centres require attractive scenery, or a marine beach, a spring with medicinal water or historical relics, ports require a harbour etc.
- Locations of the earliest urban settlements were based on the availability of water, building materials and fertile land.

- **Types of Urban Settlements**

- **Town**

नगर

- The concept of 'town' can best be understood with reference to 'village'.
 - Population size is not the only criterion.
 - Functional contrasts between towns and villages may not always be clear-cut, but specific functions such as, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and professional services exist in towns.

- **City**

शहर

- A city may be regarded as a leading town, which has outstripped its local or regional rivals.
 - Cities are much larger than towns and have a greater number of economic functions.
 - They tend to have transport terminals, major financial institutions and regional administrative offices.
 - When the population crosses the one million mark it is designated as a million city.

- **Conurbation**

सन्नगर

- The term conurbation applies to a **large area of urban development that resulted from the merging of originally separate towns or cities.**
- Greater London, Manchester, Chicago and Tokyo are examples.

- **Megalopolis**

विश्वनगरी

- Megalopolis signifies 'super-metropolitan' region extending, as **union of conurbations.**
- The urban landscape stretching from Boston in the north to south of Washington in U.S.A. is the best known example of a megalopolis.

Kolkata Megalopolis - Some areas of Presidency, Medinipur and burdwan divisions. Population 65 million.

Delhi Megalopolis- National Capital Region (India). Population 46 million.

Mumbai Megalopolis - Mumbai Megalopolis includes Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune Metropolitan Region and Nashik Metropolitan Region. This area is also known as golden Triangle of Maharashtra

- **Million City**

मिलियन सिटी

- The number of million cities in the world has been increasing as never before.
- **London** reached the million mark in 1800, followed by Paris in 1850, New York in 1860, and by 1950 there were around 80 such cities.
- In 2016, there were 512 cities with at least 1 million inhabitants globally.
- By 2030, a projected 662 cities will have at least 1 million residents.

- **Distribution of Mega Cities**

- A **mega city or megalopolis** is a general term for cities together with their suburbs with a population of **more than 10 million people**.
- **New York** was the first to attain the status of a mega city by 1950 with a total population of about 12.5 million. The number of mega cities is now 31.
- The number of mega cities has increased in the developing countries during the last 50 years vis-à-vis the developed countries.