

CHAPTER-13

A SHELTER SO HIGH!

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Check your map. Which states would one pass through while traveling from Mumbai to Kashmir?

ANSWER:

We pass through states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir when traveling from Mumbai to Kashmir.

2. Gaurav Jani passed through several states while going from Mumbai to Delhi. Find the capital cities of these states. Was there any other big town on his way?

ANSWER:

Gaurav Jani, when going from Mumbai to Delhi, would have passed through Maharashtra: Mumbai, Gujarat: Gandhinagar, Rajasthan: Jaipur, and Haryana: Chandigarh. So, some of the big cities on his way would be Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh, etc.

3. Is Manali a plain or a hilly area? In which state is it?

ANSWER:

Manali is a hilly area, and it is situated in Himachal Pradesh.

4. Have you ever stayed in a tent? Where? What was it like?

ANSWER:

Yes, I stayed in a tent when I was on vacation to Manali. It was a thrilling experience for me.

5. Imagine that you were to stay alone in a small tent for two days and could take with you only ten things. Make a list of those ten things.

ANSWER:

If I were to stay alone in the tent for 2 days, then I would carry things like blankets, clothes, food, repellents, water, a protection guard, a first aid kit, a camera, a torch, woolen clothes, shoes, etc.

6. What are the different types of houses that you have seen?

ANSWER:

I have seen different types of houses like cave houses, castles, apartments, single-family detached houses, carriages, etc.

7. During winter, Tashi and his family live on the ground floor. Why would they be doing so?

ANSWER:

During winters, Tashi and his family would live on the ground floor because their ground floor has no windows, which would keep them warm from the outside weather.

8. What is the roof of your house like? What is the roof used for?

ANSWER:

My rooftop is flat in shape. We use the rooftop for drying clothes, storing food items, etc. During summer, we sleep on the rooftop since it is hot inside the house.

9. At what height is the place where you live?

ANSWER:

I live in a place where it is situated at a height of 350 meters above sea level.

10. Why did Gaurav Jani say – “This place is so high that it is difficult to breathe normally?”

ANSWER:

The air usually becomes thinner to breathe when going to high altitudes. Hence, the oxygen levels would have gone down, so Gaurav Jani said so.

11. Have you ever been to a hilly place? Where?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have been to a hilly place located in Himachal Pradesh.

12. At what height was it? Did you have any difficulty breathing there?

ANSWER:

Yes, breathing became difficult when I reached a height of 1654 meters.

13. Which is the highest place you have been to?

ANSWER:

The highest place I have been to was Keylong pass.

14. For the Changpas, their animals are a very important part of their life. Is any animal part of your life? For example, as a pet or as a helper in farming.

ANSWER:

Yes, my pet dog is an important part of my life.

5MARK QUESTIONS

1. List five ways in which different animals are a part of your life.

ANSWER:

Five ways in which different animals are a part of life are

- Cow – It produces milk.
- Ox – It helps the farmers in farming.
- Sheep – Its fur is very useful in making woollen clothes.
- Dog – It protects and guards our house.

2. You read that in Changthang, the temperature drops below 0°C. Look at newspapers on the TV to find cities in India or abroad where the temperature drops below 0°C. In which months do you expect to see this?

ANSWER:

In India, the cities which drop below 0o C are Leh, Ladakh, Kashmir, Manali, etc. Abroad, places like Switzerland, Ottawa, Siberia, Antarctica, etc., see a drop in temperature below 0o C. This usually happens in the months of December and January.

**3. Are there different types of houses in the place where you live?
If yes, think about the reasons.**

ANSWER:

Yes, there are different types of houses in the locality I live in. Depending on the budget, people have built their buildings – very rich people have constructed bungalows, middle-class people own an apartment, and poor people build huts.

4. Can you guess the similarities and differences between the life of the Bakarwal people and the life of the Changpas?

ANSWER:

Here are a few similarities between the lives of the Bakarwal people and the lives of the Changpas.

They live in the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir.

- They keep moving from one place to another.
- They earn their livelihood by selling the fur obtained from these animals.
- They eat the meat of animals like sheep, yak, goats, etc.
- The differences between the lives of the Bakarwal people and the lives of the Changpas are that:
- The Bakarwal people graze any type of goat or sheep at any place. And stay at low altitudes only.
- But Changpas graze only special types of goats at high altitudes because their wool is very soft, which is very costly. They live at high altitudes only.

5. Describe how these shelters suit the needs of the people who live there.

ANSWER:

The shelters are built as per the needs of the people who live there. The houses which are built using stone and wood provide good warmth during the winter season. Houses on water, i.e., the boathouse, provide all the comforts required by the occupants. Tents that are built at high altitudes by the Changpas are good for people who keep wandering a lot.

6. How are these different from the house you live in?

ANSWER:

The houses which we live in are built as per our requirements and depend on the weather conditions. We use cement, bricks, stone, wood, etc., to construct a house. But in the case of Changpas or Bakarwal people, they build tents and keep wandering. Hence, our houses are different from theirs.

7. Explain the construction of a Changpa tent (Rebo) and its significance in protecting from extreme cold.

ANSWER:

The Changpa tent, or Rebo, is cone-shaped and woven from yak hair strips stitched together. It is held up by two wooden poles and has a design that is more than a thousand years old. The tent is placed on higher ground, and the ground is dug about 2 feet deep. The design and construction of the Rebo protect the Changpas from extreme cold, providing suitable shelter in challenging conditions.

8. Discuss Gaurav Jani's observations and experiences in Jammu regarding houses.

ANSWER:

In Jammu, Gaurav Jani observed houses similar to those in Mumbai—constructed with cement, bricks, steel, and glass. These houses were strong but lacked the uniqueness and cultural diversity seen in Leh and Srinagar. This observation highlights the contrast between urban and rural housing styles in different regions.

9. Reflect on Gaurav Jani's overall journey and his feelings upon returning to Mumbai.

ANSWER:

Gaurav Jani's journey was filled with diverse experiences, from the high mountains of Ladakh to the houseboats in Srinagar. He learned about different cultures, lifestyles, and unique shelters. Upon returning to Mumbai, he felt a mix of emotions, including happiness for the new experiences and memories captured in his camera. The journey had broadened his perspective, and he expressed a desire for future adventures with Loner.

10. Explain the lifestyle and housing of the Changpa tribe. How do they adapt to their surroundings?

ANSWER:

The Changpa tribe leads a nomadic lifestyle, continuously moving with their goats and sheep. They depend on these animals for milk, meat, skin for tents, and wool for various purposes. The Changpas adapt to their surroundings by grazing their goats at higher and colder places, where the goats' fur becomes softer. Their mobile shelters, such as the Rebo tent, are designed to withstand extreme cold conditions.

11. Discuss the process of making pashmina shawls and the significance of the goats in Ladakh.

ANSWER:

Pashmina shawls are made from the fine hair of goats found at high altitudes in Ladakh. The goats shed some hair in summer, which is handwoven to create the shawls. The goats are significant to the Changpa tribe as they provide wool for the shawls, and a family with more animals is considered wealthier and more important.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Gaurav Jani and his motorcycle, _____, are constant companions during their travels. **(Loner)**
2. The journey from Mumbai to Delhi covered a distance of _____ kilometers, taking three days. **(1400)**
3. In Leh, Gaurav Jani observed houses made of stones, coated with mud and lime, designed to protect against the _____. **(cold)**
4. The Changpa tribe, living in Ladakh, depends on their goats for _____, meat, skin for tents, and wool for various purposes. **(Milk)**
5. The Changpa tent, known as _____, is cone-shaped and woven from yak hair strips. **(Rebo)**
6. Pashmina shawls are made from the fine hair of goats found at high altitudes, and the goats shed this hair in _____. **(Summer)**
7. The Changpas graze their goats at higher and colder places to obtain softer and finer wool for making _____ shawls. **(Pashmina)**

8. Srinagar is known for its unique houses, including houseboats on Dal Lake and houses with intricate wood designs called _____.

(Khatamband)

9. Gaurav Jani observed that houses in Jammu were similar to Mumbai, made of _____, bricks, steel, and glass. **(cement)**

10. The Changpa tribe uses a special term, _____, for the flat grassy land at an altitude of almost 5000 meters. **(Changthang)**

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of Gaurav Jani's motorcycle?

- a) Wanderer
- b) Explorer
- c) Loner
- d) Roamer

Answer: c) Loner

2. How long did it take Gaurav Jani to cover the distance from Mumbai to Delhi on his motorcycle?

- a) 1 day
- b) 2 days
- c) 3 days
- d) 4 days

Answer: c) 3 days

3. What materials are used to make the houses in Leh, as mentioned in the chapter?

- a) Cement and glass
- b) Stones and mud
- c) Wood and bricks
- d) Steel and aluminum

Answer: b) Stones and mud

4. Which tribe in Ladakh relies on goats for milk, meat, and wool?

- a) Ladakhi
- b) Changpa
- c) Bakarwal
- d) Kashmiri

Answer: b) Changpa

5. What is the name of the cone-shaped tent used by the Changpa tribe?

- a) Yurt
- b) Tepee
- c) Rebo
- d) Igloo

Answer: c) Rebo

6. What is the main source of wool for the world-famous pashmina shawls?

- a) Sheep
- b) Yak
- c) Goat
- d) Alpaca

Answer: c) Goat

7. Which city is known for its houseboats on Dal Lake and houses with khatam band designs?

- a) Leh
- b) Srinagar
- c) Mumbai
- d) Delhi

Answer: b) Srinagar

8. What type of houses did Gaurav Jani observe in Jammu, similar to Mumbai?

- a) Stone houses
- b) Wooden houses
- c) Mud houses
- d) Modern houses

Answer: d) Modern houses

9. In which state did Gaurav Jani experience a cold desert environment?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Gujarat

Answer: b) Jammu and Kashmir

10. What is the term used by the Changpa tribe for the flat grassy land at a high altitude?

- a) Highlands
- b) Plateau
- c) Tundra
- d) Changthang

Answer: d) Changthang

SUMMARY

In "A Shelter so High!," Gaurav Jani recounts his two-month journey across diverse landscapes, exploring the highest roads in India.

Accompanied by his motorcycle, Loner, Gaurav departs from Mumbai, navigating through Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan before reaching Delhi. Dissatisfied with the urban similarities between Delhi and Mumbai, he eagerly anticipates encountering distinct architectures in the northern regions.

Upon reaching Leh, Gaurav marvels at stone and mud houses designed to combat extreme cold. His journey unfolds through challenging terrains in Jammu and Kashmir, where he encounters the nomadic Changpa tribe. These resilient people depend on their goats for sustenance and create unique Rebo tents to withstand harsh conditions.

Gaurav delves into Ladakh's cold desert, where he meets Namgyal and gains insights into the Changpas' nomadic lifestyle. The narrative transitions to the significance of pashmina wool, intricately crafted by the Changpas, and Gaurav's interactions with diverse houses in Srinagar, including houseboats and traditional wooden structures.

Returning to Jammu, Gaurav reflects on the cultural diversity of housing styles. The journey concludes with Gaurav's mixed emotions as he returns to Mumbai, having learned and documented unique experiences and diverse shelters. The narrative captures the essence of cultural richness, nomadic lifestyles, and architectural diversity across the regions traversed by Gaurav and Loner.