

LOCATION AND SITING OF TOWNS

THE LOCATION of town in an area shows its latitudinal and longitudinal position and its significance and importance. Location shows the importance of towns and highlights about the surrounding environment. For example, it may be said that Chennai is located at sea shore of Bay of Bengal.

On the basis of locational aspects the towns may be classified into the following.¹

LOCATION OF TOWNS

Riverside Towns

These are the towns located on river banks. Location of riverside towns is favoured by following reasons:

- (a) Rivers have always been the source of drinking water supply for the human being especially for large population centres during the historical periods;
- (b) Riverside location has religious importance for the sages and pilgrims. For this fact sanctity is always attached with the riverside location of towns;
- (c) The migrant people who successively came to India from drier part of central Asia since the Aryan period upto the present were always in search of water frontage for which riverside is the best location for the towns;
- (d) During the historical periods the problem of defence was an important consideration in the location of towns. The levees along the river embankment provided commanding sites for forts and towns. The protection was given by rivers which was considered as an important advantage;
- (e) Before the construction of metalled road and railway the rivers were the main lines of transport and communication; and

- (f) Rivers also create barriers for land routes and tracks for which crossings began to be used at ferry point and this favoured the location of towns such as at Mokameh in South Bihar (Table 3.1) and Calcutta along the Hooghly river (Fig. 3.1).

TABLE 3.1 : Location of Riverside Towns/Cities of India (1998)

<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Riverside Location</i>
Agra	Yamuna
Allahabad	Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati
Ayodhya	Sarju
Badrinath	Mandakini Ganga
Calcutta	Hooghly
Cuttack	Mahanadi
Delhi	Yamuna
Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra
Ferozpur	Sutlej
Gauhati	Brahmaputra
Haridwar	Ganga
Jabalpur	Narmada
Kanpur	Ganga
Patna	Ganga
Munger	Ganga
Bhagalpur	Ganga
Varanasi	Ganga
Surat	Tapti
Vijayawada	Krishna
Sri Nagar	Jhelum
Nasik	Godavari
Lucknow	Gomati
Kurnool	Tungbhadra
Kota	Chambal
Sekobaghat	Brahmaputra
Shrirangpatham	Kaveri

Source : Collected by Author, 1998.

Interfluvial Location

The interfluvium in between two rivers favours the location of towns because they have the advantage of the convergence of land routes, commanding topography and a central location with respect to a productive region. Sometimes, interfluvial towns are also associated with administrative functions besides the development of trade and commerce.²

Confluence Towns

The meeting place of two or more rivers often gives rise to urban centres. For example, Allahabad developed at the confluence point of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati rivers. The convergence of waterways of such navigable rivers and the commandable sites around them gives rise to urban centres.

Zone of Contact Towns

Some towns have a location in between the differential units of landscape. For example, Jammu, Aurangabad, Sasaram and Nawada developed below northern scarp belt of Chhotanagpur Highlands. On these points the land routes from plain lands and the plateau areas connect each other for the transfer of goods. The other examples of zone of contact towns are Rewari,³ Bharatpur, Gwalior, Jhansi, Mirzapur, Vindhyachal and others.

Break-O-Bulk Towns

Wherever and whenever the terrain changes abruptly due to undulating topography and steepness of slope, the change in the mode of transport forces to dump the goods enbulk, because that has to be carried up to the country either by porters or mules. Hence, the chain of Break-O-bulk towns is found at the meeting point of plain land with the Himalayan region. For example, Hathout (in Nepal), Jammu, Jogindernagar, Kalka, Dehradun, Haldwani, Nepalganj and Viratnagar in India have developed into Break-O-bulk towns.

Hill Stations

Some towns are located in a productive region such as hill stations or resort towns. In such a location the prime consideration is the advantage of climate, health and scenic beauty of the local environment. These towns always produce sugar, wheat and varieties of fruits for their sustenance whereas forest products like kendu leaves come to plain lands from the forest area of Hazaribagh town. In turn Hazaribagh needs sugar, clothes and kerosene oil from northern plains of Bihar and hence the change of differential goods in bulk favoured the location of Break-O-bulk towns. The hill stations also serve the same purpose which could be seen in Table 3.2.

TABLE 3.2 : Mountainous Towns/Cities of India

<i>Towns/Cities</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Height MSL (metres)</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Almora	U.P. (Kumaon)	1,538	Kath Godam station
Nainital	U.P. (Kumaon)	1,950	Naina lake
Lense Down	U.P. (Pauri Garhwal)	1,524	Kotdwar station
Mukteshwar	U.P. (Kumaon)	1,828	Veterinary Research Institute
Mussoorie	U.P. (Dehradun)	2,288	Queen of hills
Simla	Himachal Pradesh	2,136	Kalka station
Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra	1,371	Western ghat
Kasauli	Himachal Pradesh	2,193	Kalka station
Utakamand	Tamilnadu	2,288	Ooti lake
Dalhousi	Himachal Pradesh	2,400	Pathankot
Srinagar	J&K	1,900	Dal lake
Gulmarg	J&K	2,515	48 kms. from Srinagar
Cherapunji	Meghalaya	1,358	Annual highest rainfall in the world (1,142 cms)
Darjeeling	West Bengal	2,177	Everest and Kanchanjanga can be seen
Kalimpong	West Bengal	1,219	Access through Siliguri
Ranchi	Bihar	640	Queen of hills
Shillong	Meghalaya	1,524	Jaintia hills
Kunjur	Tamilnadu	2,053	Nilgiri hills
Panchmadhi	M.P.	1,066	Hill station

Source : Collected by the Authors, 1998.

In IGC abstract volume held in New York Wong Pob Poh (1992) emphasized about appropriate Coastal Sites for resort development (p. 684).

The sea beach resorts of Southeast Asia are at various stages of development. Existing models of beach resort development do not consider adequately the coastal site; the coast is often assumed to be a single entity and the beach is treated as a linear sector. A classification of the coastal sites for Southeast Asian beach resorts is proposed :

- (a) Hard coast beaches
- (b) Gravel beaches
- (c) Low sandy beaches
 - (i) linear
 - (ii) seaward concave: crescentic, zetaform, horseshoe
 - (iii) seaward convex

- (d) High sandy beaches
- (e) Coral beaches
 - (i) no moat/lagoon
 - (ii) with moat/lagoon
 - (iii) cay
- (f) Estuarine beaches
- (g) Artificial beaches.

Significant aspects of the coastal sites will be discussed with reference to examples given above. Although some overlapping of the categories is inevitable, the classification is simple to use. A better understanding of the coastal sites would help to establish an improved model of beach resort development.

Frontier Guard Towns

Some towns of strategic value are located in frontier areas. They are popularly known as frontier guard towns, e.g., Peshawar, Siliguri and Jalandhar. Agra had developed as frontier town for the Mughal homeland against rivalry of Malwa chieftains. Saharanpur developed as a frontier town for Delhi Sultanate in between A.D. 1206 to 1556.

Nodal Towns

The convergence points of rivers, roads and railways give rise to nodal towns. These towns are not supposed to serve the surrounding territory, and their source of support are the passengers passing through the route. New York is an example of nodal town.⁴

Fall Line Towns

The abrupt change of topography gives rise to waterfall, hydro-electricity generation stations and the resultant fall line towns. Such towns are Mohara and Muzaffarabad on the Jhelum river, Jammu on the Chenab, Jogindernagar on the Beas, Bahadurabad on the upper Ganges canal followed by Panchet and Tilaiya on the Damodar and the several fall line towns can be observed on the eastern side of Appalachian Mountains in the U.S.A.

Raw Materials or Mining Towns

In case of industrial towns the nearness of the availability of raw material is a prime factor in its location. For example, Jamshedpur is

located in between the coalfield of Jharia, iron ore of Gua, limestone of Hathibari, water from Subarnarekha and labourers from North Bihar. The cement factory of Dehri-on-Sone is located close to the limestone deposits of Kaimur highlands; Ahmedabad and Sholapur are located amidst cotton belt of the Punjab and Maharashtra Kodarma on the mica belt of Hazaribagh, Kolar on the gold mines of Karnataka and Kalgurdi in the gold mines of west Australian desert. A list of industrial towns in India is shown in Table 3.3.

TABLE 3.3 : Industrial Towns of India (1998)

<i>Towns</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Industry</i>
Jamshedpur	Bihar	Iron and Steel
Barauni	Bihar	Oil Refinery
Bokaro	Bihar	Iron & Steel
Durgapur	West Bengal	Iron & Steel
Bhilai	M.P.	Iron & Steel
Bhadrawati	Karnataka	Iron & Steel
Aligarh	U.P.	Locks
Anand	Gujarat	Cream, milk
Bangalore	Karnataka	Telephone machine tools
Chitranjan	West Bengal	Railway workshop
Chandigarh	Punjab/Haryana	Locomotive
Calcutta	West Bengal	Fan, bulb, lamp
Delhi	Delhi	D.D.T.
Kanpur	U.P.	Cotton textile
Munger	Bihar	Gun factory
Dindigul	Tamilnadu	Cigar and tobacco
Baroda	Gujarat	Glass factory
Ujjain	M.P.	Nylon thread
Suratgarh	Rajasthan	Agricultural machine
Hatia	Bihar	Heavy machine
Pinjour	Haryana	Machine tools
Peramvoor	Tamilnadu	Coach factory
Koyali	Gujarat	Petro-chemicals
Khetri	Rajasthan	Copper processing
Gwalior	M.P.	Utensils of China clay
Gomja	Bihar	Explosive goods
Rourkela	Orissa	Iron & Steel

Source : Collected by Author, 1998.

Seaboard and Bridgehead Location

Quite a large number of towns have sea-board or bridgehead location. The sea-board towns are quite often the convergence points of land and sea routes in the form of port towns. It may be a naval port and sea

resort. The bridgehead towns have the facility of river crossing through a bridge. Such towns may be exemplified by Calcutta, London, Yorkshire and Hajipur. Some of the major port towns of India are listed in Table 3.4.

TABLE 3.4 : Port Towns of India (1998)

<i>Port</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Allepy	West coast	Kerala
Vatkal	West coast	Karnataka
Okha	West coast	Gujarat
Goa	West coast	Goa (Island)
Mangalore	West coast	Run with tides
Malpo	West coast	Fishing port
Chennai	East coast	Cotton textile
Kandla	West coast	Gujarat
Dhanushkodi	East coast	Railway terminal
Cochi	West coast	Kerala
Kojikode	West coast	Kerala
Calcutta	East coast	Run with tide
Mumbai	West coast	Maharashtra
Bhawnagar	West coast	Gujarat
Paradweep	East coast	Orissa
Surat	West coast	Maharashtra
Tutikorin	East coast	Tamil Nadu
Vishakhapatnam	East coast	Andhra Pradesh

Source : Collected by Author, 1998.