Pattern of settlement is defined as the relationship between one house or building to another. It can be identified by reading and observing a local scale map. The patterns of settlement deals with compact and semi-compact only, as dispersed has its own shape. The socio-cultural factors like caste structure or a functional need of people has a close bearing on its shape and size.

The rural settlements are classified under following patterns: Rectangular, Linear, Circular, Semi-circular, Star-like, Triangular, and Nebular Pattern. The settlements is linear in valleys and mountainous areas, rectangular in fertile plains, circular near the lakes and ponds, triangular at cross roads and in exceptional cases it resembles the nebular form and on river terraces it is star-type.
RURAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

Patterns of rural settlements indicate the way the houses are placed in relation to each other. The position of the village, the neighbouring topography and terrain impact the size and shape of a village. Rural settlements may be classified based on some criteria:

* **Based on the setting:** The main classes are plain villages, coastal villages, plateau villages, desert villages and forest villages.

* **Based on functions:** There may be farming villages, lumberjack villages, fisherman’s villages, pastoral villages etc.

* **Based on forms or configurations of the settlements:** These may be a number of geometrical patterns and shapes such as Linear, rectangular, T-shaped village, a circular star-like village, double village, cross-shaped village etc.

- **Linear pattern:** In such settlements houses are established along a road, river, railway line, canal edge of a valley or along leeve.
• **Rectangular pattern:** Such models of rural settlements are found in plain regions or wide intermontane valleys. The roads are rectangular and cross each other at right angles.

• **Circular pattern:** Circular villages grow around lakes, tanks and sometimes the village is organised in such a way that the central part remains accessible and is used for keeping the animals to guard them against wild animals.

• **A star-like pattern:** Where several roads meet, star-shaped settlements emerge by the houses built along the roads.
• **T-shaped, Cross-shaped or cruciform settlements,**

**Y-shaped:** T-shaped settlements emerge at tri-junction of the roads while Y-shaped settlements develop as the places where two roads meet on the third one and houses are built along these roads. Cruciform settlements grow on the cross-roads and houses spread in all the four directions.

![Cross-shape pattern](Image)