



14

Officers' Line—the main street in Vellore

Questions

How many different kinds of transport can you see in this photograph? Which kind of transport would you like to try out?

What can you see on this street which you would not expect to see in England?

Where do you think an Ambassador car gets its name from?

Find photographs and information about Vellore on the internet. A good place to start is <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vellore>

Background

This is a photograph of the busy main road in Vellore and if you look closely you can see all of these vehicles:

- A bullock cart – this is the oldest type of transport you can see. Bullock carts have two wheels. They are used by farmers to transport their crop to sell it, but they can be used to carry any heavy loads.
- Bicycles – the cheapest and most popular form of transport.
- Motor bikes - these bikes are usually called "two-wheelers". A two-wheeler can be used to carry surprisingly large loads, here are just a few examples of things which have been seen on a motor bike: a family of two parents and three children; two men and a pile of five (live) goats; crates with 200 eggs; a builder and his friend transporting a new toilet to the building site.
- Cars- there is both a modern car and (on the left) an old-fashioned Ambassador car. The Ambassador was the first car to be made in India (in 1958) and is especially designed to be comfortable on dusty Indian roads.
- Three-wheeler taxi – these three-wheelers are also known as auto rickshaws or tuk-tuks, (yellow vehicle to the right of the bullock cart). The taxis have a canvas roof, a small cabin in the front for the driver and a seat for three people. In fact more than three people can get in the back and you will often see very crowded little taxis with six people in, or huge loads of equipment.



