

Chapter : 8

Villages, Towns and Trade

Very short answer questions:

Question: 1 Why was Mathura town famous?

Answer: Mathura is famous because it is the birthplace of Krishna.

Question: 2 Name the three different kinds of people living in the villages.

Answer: R Vellalar, Grambhogaka, Kadasiyar.

Question: 3 What were the earliest coins of India called?

Answer: Punch-Marked coins.

Question: 4 What was sangam literature?

Answer: Sangam literature is the collection of poems and is the earliest known literature of south Bharat.

Question: 5 What was the extent of Kaniska's empire?

Answer: Kanishka's empire extended from the north-west and Kashmir, to the east of the

ganges Valley?

Question: 6 How was Mahayana Buddhism different from Hinayana Buddhism?

Answer: In Mahayana Buddhism the followers of this sect worshipped the Buddha as god. They laid a lot of emphasis on religious rites and rituals. They worshipped innumerable Bodhisattvas. While Hinayan sect followed a simple style of Prayers. They worshipped the Buddha but not as god. They laid less importance on religious issues and gave more importance to pure life.

Short answers questions:

Question: 1 What steps were taken to increase agricultural production?

Answer: Between 1000 and 600 BCE, people spread eastwards into the Indo-Gangetic plains. This period marked the beginning of the Iron Age in North Bharata. Better tools and weapons could be made with iron as it was harder than copper. They made lances, spear-axes, bows and arrows and ploughshares with iron.

Question 2 Give one example of how iron tools helped in growth of agriculture.

Answer: With the help of iron tools, farmers were able to clear the dense forests of the middle and lower Ganga Valley. Iron tools helped in quarrying stones for erecting megalithic monuments and in digging wells and irrigation tanks.

Question 3 Why did the Chinese pilgrims visit India?

Answer: The Chinese Pilgrims visited India to study Buddhism, collect Buddhist texts and to visit Buddhist monasteries.

Question 4 Highlight the characteristics of the Mahayana form of Buddhism.

Answer: The followers of Mahayana Buddhism sect worshipped the Buddha as god. They laid a lot of emphasis on religious rites and rituals. They worshipped innumerable Bodhisattvas.

Question 5 Why was silk an expensive item of trade?

Answer: Silk was extremely expensive item of trade because it had to be transported all the way.

from china across dangerous routes, mountains and deserts. People who lived near silk route frequently requested payment for letting trades pass through these routes.

Long answer questions :

Question: 1 How did the iron technology help in growth of agriculture?

Answer: The use of iron technology was of crucial importance to the expansion of agriculture based settled life. With the help of iron tools, farmers were able to clear dense forests of the middle and lower Ganga valley.

Question: 2 Who was gramabhojaka? What function did he perform?

Answer: In the northern part of country, the village headmen was called the gramabhojaka. He was often the largest landowner. He had slaves and hired workers to cultivate the land. Since he was powerful, the king often used him to collect taxes from the village. He also functioned as a judge and sometimes as a policeman.

Question: 3 Why was Mathura important as a religious centre?

Answer: Mathura was an important religious centre. It was the main centre for the worshipping of Lord Krishna. The Buddhist monasteries and Jaina shrines were also present. It is one of the sapta puri, the seven cities which were regarded as holy by Hindus.

Question: 4 Write a short note on the silk route.

Answer: The land route along which Chinese silk was transported to the Mediterranean region and Rome became famous as the silk route. Traders usually travelled on foot, along with caravans, or processions of camels, horses and carts loaded with goods. During the rule of central Asia rulers, Indian traders participated actively in the trade along the silk route.

Question: 5 What measures did Kanishka take to extend his kingdoms?

Answer: Kanishka extended his kingdom through inheritance and conquest. Kanishka's kingdom covered an area extending from Bactra (now in Uzbekistan) in the west to Patna in the Ganga River valley in the east and from the Pamirs

Date

/ /

Saath

Crow in Tajikistan) in the north of central
Bharat in the south.