



**CLASS –VII**

**Social Science**

**Date:-21/04/2020**

- ➔ Read the Chapter “A Thousand Years of History” for 2 times and write down new words in your notebook.



**Please check next page.**

## OBJECTIVES

In this chapter we will learn about:

- Geographical boundaries and maps
- Origin of Hindustan
- Various sources of history
- Changing conditions and inventions
- Various dynasties and their conquests
- Evolution of religions
- Thousand years of history

When one mentions India, it is often to speak about its rich cultural and historical heritage. India's history dates back thousands of years. The Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the oldest known civilisations. Our scriptures and written records belong to a time when other civilisations were still in their infancy. India, has evolved over the centuries, gone through tumultuous political and social reforms, been conquered, ravaged, restored and finally emerged as a nation with a distinct character of its own. Let us trace Indian history during its most exciting phase from 700 to 1750 AD.

## Geographical boundaries and Maps

There are records of Indians using some form of maps or drawings during ancient times even as early as the Indus Valley Civilisation. Numerous survey instruments and measuring rods have been excavated from historical sites strengthening this belief. The Pole Star and other constellations had been discovered and charted by Indian scholars long before their importance was realised by others, and used for navigational purposes. The earliest maps showing historical areas in India are not very accurate or reliable as India was not yet discovered by the Europeans. With the conquest of Alexander the Great, India was discovered and geographers started including India in their maps. The western coast of

Ptolemy had considerable knowledge of the Indian Ocean, and Sri Lanka, mainly because of the active trade route from the western coast of India.



A replica of the world map as made by Ptolemy.

India was better known because of Greek exposure, but the interior remained unexplored and unknown. It was in the Middle Ages that cartography developed in India. Islamic geographers worked on maps made by Ptolemy and improved upon them. The Persian geographer Abu Rayhan Biruni did extensive work in India, mapping cities and measuring the distances between several cities in the western parts of the subcontinent. European scholars depended heavily on the knowledge of



Babylonian map of the world made sometime in 500 BC, is one of the oldest remains of a map. It was engraved on a slab of stone.



The Ain-i-Akbari has detailed records of administration during the reign of Akbar. The fourth book is devoted to science, social customs and literature, and included the map of Akbar's empire.

natives, therefore volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica used maps made by native Dravidians of India. It was during the Mughal era that the seamless globe was invented. **Muhammad Salih Thattvi** created a massive, seamless celestial globe using a secret wax casting method in the Mughal Empire. This globe is inscribed with Arabic and Persian inscriptions. It is considered a major feat in metallurgy.

Colonial rule in India introduced the use of modern cartographic methods. Warren Hastings was presented the first raised relief map of Nepal, where the mountains were shown as raised and topographical differences were highlighted with different colours. The **British Survey of India** was established in India in 1767 and used the local knowledge of several people like the legendary **Nain Singh** and **Mani Singh**. The importance of cartography in understanding history is because it helps us to visualise areas covered during that period by the cartographer. Ptolemy could give details about the western coast because only these areas had been conquered or discovered.

## Origin of Hindustan

A word that has had different interpretations is Hindustan. Indian history has been written in many languages, like Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and even English. The earliest traders from Persia and Middle

### Did you know?

The seamless globe was invented by Ali Kashmiri Ibn Luqman in 998 AH (1589 - 90 CE) in Kashmir.

East referred to the lands lying between the Ganga and the Yamuna as **Hindustan** because it was dominated by Hindus. Later, when Persian historians wrote about these areas, which were ruled by Sultans, they

Hindustan meant the land of Hindus. It was derived from the Persian word 'hindu', which referred to the Indus river, and 'stan', which meant land.



Map of Hindustan in 1831

referred to this area as Hindustan, giving the word a more geographical connotation. With the arrival of Mughals, the boundaries changed and so did its reference. When Babur used the term Hindustan to describe lands beyond the Indus that he had conquered, he used it to show the difference between his native land and the new land. It had more cultural implications than geographical or political.

## Various sources of history

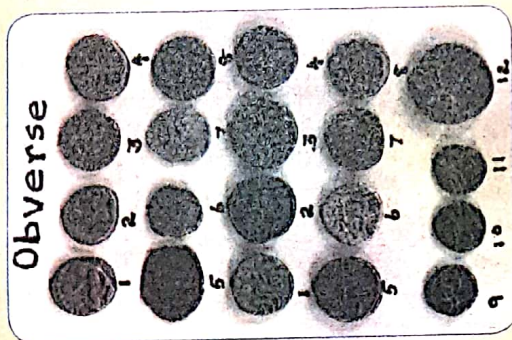
How does one find out what happened thousands of years ago? We have scriptures, manuscripts, texts, travelogues of travellers and explorers, data and items collected from various exploration sites and of course history books. All these are sources, which help us know about history. Inscriptions, coins, and archaeological structures are also rich sources of information.



## Inscriptions

Inscriptions are a rich source of information about societies that existed. However, they do not go beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, and others belong mainly to the Mauryan dynasty. Inscriptions were either written on stone slabs or metal plates, depending on importance of the person and the document. A lot of these inscriptions have been found south India. Ashoka made use of inscriptions on pillars erected at various parts of his kingdom. A majority of these were in South India.

Every emperor in the past had sovereign right bestowed by virtue of the Khutbah to mint coins with his name. The coins had his name on one side and his title on the other. These coins are historically significant as they give us a lot of information about the empire.



Collection of coins from various Muslim rulers

## Coins and archaeological sources

Coins help us to understand the sequence of history depending on dates and information that can be inferred from them. The markings on the coins tell us about the ruler, the monetary system, the economy and details about special events in society. Coins seem to have come into existence sometime in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC during the reign of the Mauryas. The earliest coins in India were punch-marked coins made of silver and copper. They were called punch-marked because symbols were punched on

the coins. From the later part of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and till the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC came the cast copper coins. But they have been almost found everywhere in the subcontinent except in south India.

We also have the die-cast silver coins (2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) showing major Greek influence. These had the names of the rulers, including their portraits on one side and religious symbols on the other side.

Then we have the gold coins of the Kushans (1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century AD). Then we have the coins from the Sultanate period which had (13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century AD) pictorial motifs because image engraving was forbidden by Islamic faith. Thereafter, the coins had inscriptions, with the king's name, title and the date.

### Quick Facts

The *rupiya* which later came to be known as the rupee was introduced by *Sher Shah Suri* which was later on standardised and perfected by the Mughals.

Coins have helped us to gather information about the economic history of a kingdom, trade and commerce, religion and culture as well as the political history of dynasties, kingdoms and rulers.

The other sources of information are archaeological remains. Every dynasty had its distinct style, sometimes due to a mingling of cultures and religions. The excavations of Indus Valley Civilisation have given us valuable information about their degree of development and scientific application. Mughal architecture reveals love for beauty and creativity of some rulers, and the Rajputana architecture brings to fore their



3<sup>rd</sup> century BC silver coin of the Mauryan Empire, called the Rupyarupa, with symbols of wheel and elephant inscribed.



cultural pride. Images, monuments, frescos, help in understanding various aspects of the history of a particular period, dynasty or rulers.

### Activity-1



Prepare a table of coins currently in use. List them in the table. Also collect 5, 10, 20, 25 paisa coins that were used earlier.

## Book and journals

Another source of information of history is books and journals written by innumerable foreign travellers who visited India regularly. Magasthenes' *Indica*, Hieun Tsang's *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, Ptolemy's *Geography*, are all valuable as each has contributed to understanding socio-cultural conditions of those ages. What needs to be remembered while depending on such sources is that they are personal experiences of people and can be biased. Moreover some of the texts were reproduced by scholars and students, who unwittingly brought changes to the original. Therefore, relying on only one source for all information about a specific period of history is not advisable.

Recording of texts and manuscripts, chronicles of rulers and their teachings, became widespread with the development of writing instruments and discovery of paper. From carving on metal or stone, the fine art of writing developed. Initially, skin of animals was used for writing parchments. Paper was first developed by the Chinese and was spread across the world by the Arabs around 751 AD. With the discovery of ink, writing gained popularity.

## Changing Social and Political Conditions

Apart from the major inventions of this period of history, there were important changes in social, political, economic and cultural systems in society. The thousand years from 700 to 1750 AD saw many

inventions taking place. Mechanical clock, vertical windmill, the watermark were some of the noteworthy inventions. Cannons, plate armour and steel crossbows changed the profile of wars. The most important inventions were those of paper and the spinning wheel, both influencing the course of history in their own ways. This period of world history is also referred to as the **Age of Exploration** due to adventurers seeking new lands and trade routes. Vasco de Gama, Christopher Columbus, Magellan were pioneers in this field. Most of the inventions occurred either in Greece or Rome or in China. Traders and travellers from these lands visited India bringing with them knowledge from their lands.

Sometime between 850 AD to 1000 AD the Chinese were the first to discover gunpowder and use it effectively in war. Babur used it very effectively to fire his guns and field artillery in the first Battle of Panipat against Ibrahim Lodi.



One of the cannons used by Babur

With increased interaction, the idea of moving from one place to another in India also gained significance. Traders, scholars, artists from the Indian subcontinent travelled both within India and overseas in search of better opportunities. Farming techniques also underwent changes during this period due to the introduction of the watermill. Many new crops like tea, coffee, potato, corn, all gained entry and acceptance into the Indian diet. More and more areas were being covered under agriculture. This period also saw the emergence of indigenous groups of people becoming politically strong. The Varna system was transformed from an occupation based social classification to a more rigid hereditary caste system. The warrior class



or Kshatriyas gained social importance because of the continuous state of war. As scholars and the learned class in society, the Brahmins assumed a superior position in social hierarchy. The *jati system* gained a more definite structure. Societies became more complex social organisations. There were clear social hierarchies, laws governing people of the kingdom, and also administration at various levels.

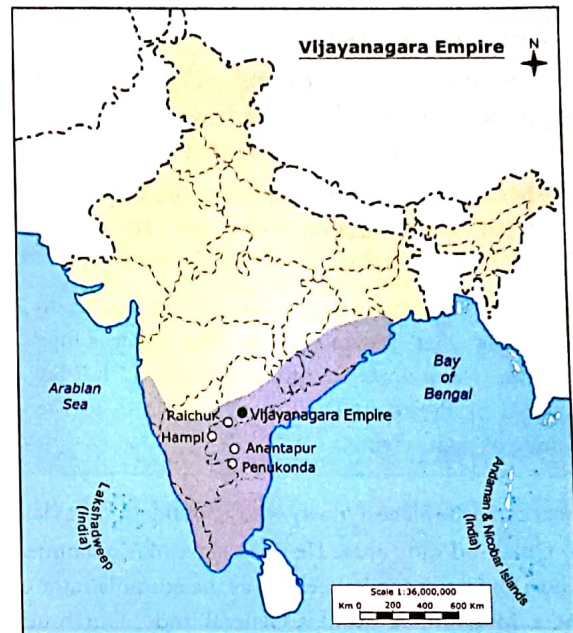
## Dynasties and Conquests

While the north-west regions were ruled by the Shahi dynasty, the Kashmir kingdom extended between the rivers Indus and Jhelum. There were many small kingdoms in hilly regions which existed for several centuries in spite of being engaged in constant battles for supremacy. Then came Muslim invaders who conquered regions in the north-west and gradually spread to large parts of the Gangetic plains. The Pratihara dynasty ruled from Kanauj between 750-920 AD, while the Rashtrakutas, the most powerful dynasty ruling from Latur, and later from Malkhed, between 753 – 973 AD, controlled most of northern India. The Kushans, the Satvahanas, the Chalukyas (who ruled Karnataka and central India), the Kakatiyas of Warangal, the Hoysalas of Halebidu, the Pallavas (who ruled further down south from Kanchipuram) and the Cholas, who covered most of peninsular India and Southeast Asia, ruled southern India during different, or overlapping periods. The Vijayanagar Empire rose to power around 1343, after the decline of these kingdoms.

In 715 AD India was attacked for the first time by a Muslim, Muhammad bin Qasim, who attacked Sindh.

### Quick Facts

The Vijayanagara empire at its peak was larger than the area shown in the map. According to Paes, a Portuguese visitor, who had visited the above empire in 1520, and Renaissance cities of Italy, "it is so rich and beautiful that you would hardly find a similar empire anywhere else."



Map of the Vijayanagar Empire

### Activity-3

On a map of India and the neighbouring countries, mark the areas which were under the Cholas and Mahmud of Ghazni.

After Muhammad bin Qasim's attack, for almost 300 years the Muslims were restricted by Gurjara kings from advancing further into India. **Mahmud of Ghazni** ascended the throne in 997 AD and persistently attacked India seventeen times between 1001-1027 AD. His objective was to loot the immense wealth of India and to spread Islam. He looted the Somnath temple in Saurashtra and extended his empire from Kashmir to Kangra, Mathura, Gwalior, and Kanauj. **Muhammad Ghori** who had invaded India between 1175-76 AD, faced a crushing defeat at the hands of Prithviraj Chauhan. However, later he invaded, defeated and killed not just Chauhan but also the rulers of Kanauj, Kangra, Thanesar, Mathura, Gwalior, Kashmir and Punjab.



### Did you know?

Somnath Temple, first of the Jyotir Lingas, was attacked, looted and destroyed several times from 1297 AD to 1701 AD, the last being by Aurangzeb.

The statue of Somanath was destroyed by Mohammad Ghajni on Friday, the 11th of May 1025 AD, and so his title of 'Statue Destroyer'.

Sardar Vallabhai Patel renovated the Somanath Temple after independence. The Jyotir Linga statue was reinstated on Friday the 11th May 1951, by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad, to the tune of Vedic chants.

Next came the **Slave dynasty** whose foundation was laid by Qutab-ud-din Aibak. He was a slave of Mohammad Ghori and had been left behind as the administrator of India. Muhammad Khilji, a General under Qutab-ud-din, broke away and invaded Bihar and Bengal bringing it under his control. After Qutab-ud-din's death, his son-in-law Iltutmish continued expanding the kingdom and conquered Ranthambore, Ajmer, Gwalior, Banaras and Kanauj. His daughter, Razia Sultana, was the only woman to have ruled Delhi. Ulugh Khan Balban was one of the greatest military rulers of the Slave dynasty. His death saw the decline of the Slave dynasty and the rise of the **Khilji dynasty**.

Jalaluddin Khilji was the first noble on throne. He was killed by his nephew Alauddin Khilji who went on to extend the empire over northern India and large parts of southern India. After his death, the Khilji dynasty came to an end and saw the rise of **Tughlaq dynasty**. Under Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultanate extended from Peshawar in the north to Madurai in the south, and from Sindh in the west to Assam in the east. We will study about some of these dynasties in detail later.

## Evolution of religions

India has often been referred to as the birth place of major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Each has undergone transformation from its original form due to the changing social,

### Did you know?

Sikhism was founded in the fifteenth century by Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The nine successive gurus continued to take Sikhism forward. The Guru Granth Sahib is considered as the tenth Sikh Guru.



political and cultural conditions. What we know today as Hinduism is a combination of several forms of worship that were followed by many tribes and nomadic communities. They worshipped forms of nature and Mother Goddess, practised animal sacrifice and burial rituals. The Vedas and Upanishads were regarded as holy texts by the Hindus. Vedanta or the end of the Vedic period occurred during 600 BC. The Vedic period was dominated by the four Vedas and a transformation of the nomadic society to a settled societies which was predominantly agricultural. With this began the dominance of Brahmans as they were the learned class. The interpretation of holy doctrine was left to the Brahmans. Buddhism and Jainism developed from a non-Vedic stream of Hinduism and spread across India during Magadha rule. While Buddhism spread under Ashoka the Great in 3rd century BC, Jainism saw its golden period under emperor Kharavela of Kalinga in 2nd BC. However both these religions began to decline during Gupta period. The Mahabharata and Ramayana, the two epics of Hinduism, were also produced during this period. The **Bhakti Movement** was the outcome of this

The statue of Bahubali or Gomateshwara is carved out of a single block of granite and is 55 ft in height. It was built around 983 AD by Chamundaraya, a minister of Ganga dynasty. This statue is located in Shravanabelagola in Hassan district of Karnataka.



Statue of Bahubali at Shravanabelagola



dominance of Brahmins, who had placed themselves as the medium to reach god. The Bhakti Movement believed that anyone could pray to god, directly, irrespective of class, caste or creed.

Islam gained entry into the Indian subcontinent with increased trade with Arabs and traders from the Middle East. There is evidence of interaction between Arabs and Indians of the Malabar Coast. Islam gained prominence with conquests by Muslim invaders around 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. Rulers of Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire helped spread it further with the help

of Sufis, who through their teachings helped to lessen the gap between Islam and native traditions. These Sufis propagated that there is only one God and all religions help reach this God. Sufi saints like Nizam-ud-din Auliya, Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, Amir Khusro and Shah Jalal are revered even today. In present day India, people from all religions have faith in these Sufi saints and visit their *dargahs* on special occasions. The reason for the widespread acceptance of Sufi saints, is their practice of non-violence, also taught in Hinduism. They saw beyond the caste system and embraced all equally. This allowed many to move away from the restrictions of the Hindu caste system.

The Sanchi Stupa was constructed by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka more than 2000 years ago, primarily to spread Buddhism. It is an example of the architectural wealth, beauty and richness of India.



The Great Stupa at Sanchi

## Thousand Years of History

The period from 700 to 1750 AD is the most fascinating time in history as it was constantly evolving. It is during this period that societies changed from semi-nomadic to settled; from primarily hunters to agricultural; from regional alignments to expansionist ambitions. Traders were no longer restricted and they travelled far and wide. With this came new knowledge, practices and beliefs. Religion underwent a transformation due to changing political patronage and changes in social norms. It was a continuously changing society, which resulted in new ideas. This period is often referred to by historians as medieval period of history — differentiating it from ancient or pre-historic and modern history.

## Around this Time

- In 825 AD, the Buddhist temple of Borobudur on the island of Java was completed around this time under the supervision of an architect named Gunadharma.
- On April 13, 837 AD people had the best view of Halley's Comet in 2000 years.

## Summary



- Cartography was practiced in ancient times.
- Islamic geographers and cartographers developed the first proper maps of the Indian subcontinent.
- The British established the Survey of India and introduced modern cartographic methods.
- Hindustan as a word has been in use since ancient times though the context has changed.
- Sources of history include inscriptions, coins, architecture and journals and books written by foreign travellers.



- The invention of paper and ink increased the maintenance of journals.
- The thousand years from 700 to 1750 AD saw many inventions and discoveries, both in India and other parts of the world.
- Indian kingdoms increased trade leading to the spread of new and progressive ideas.
- Changing economic conditions further strengthened the role of the Varna system, making it hereditary and rigid.
- This period also saw several conquests and invasions.
- Small kingdoms fought for regional supremacy, while Muslim invaders came to conquer and also spread Islam.
- Religions underwent a transformation from primitive methods of worship to prescribed rituals.
- The Bhakti Movement started as a response to growing domination of Brahmins in Hinduism.
- Sufism helped in the propagation of Islam in India during the rule of the Mughals.

## Exercises

### 1. Choose the correct option.

- (a) Vedanta period is the  
 (i) end of Vedas    (ii) beginning of Vedic traditions    (iii) dominance of Vedic culture
- (b) Sikhism originated in  
 (i) 12<sup>th</sup> century AD    (ii) 4<sup>th</sup> century BC    (iii) 15<sup>th</sup> century AD
- (c) Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated by  
 (i) Mohammad bin Qasim    (ii) Mahmud of Ghazni  
 (iii) Mohammad Ghori
- (d) The capital of the Pratihara dynasty was  
 (i) Latur    (ii) Kanauj    (iii) Malkhed
- (e) Vasco de Gama and Christopher Columbus were  
 (i) explorers    (ii) traders    (iii) scientists

### 2. Match the columns.

Column A	Column B
(a) The Cholas ruled over	(i) invaded India between 1175-76
(b) Nizam-ud-din Auliya, Hazrat Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chisti and Amir Khusro	(ii) under Emperor Kharavela of Kalinga in 2BC
(c) Muhammad Ghori	(iii) most of peninsular India and Southeast Asia
(d) Paper making spread by Arab traders	(iv) Sufi saints
(e) Golden period of Jainism	(v) 751 AD



### 3. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) As the learned class, the \_\_\_\_\_ gained dominance in the society. (Kshatriyas/Brahmans/traders)
- (b) The \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom extended between Indus and Jhelum rivers. (Kashmira/Kangra/Kanauj)
- (c) Vijayanagar Empire rose with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the other dynasties of the south. (rise/emergence/decline)
- (d) Muhammad Ghori invaded India \_\_\_\_\_ times. (7/11/21)
- (e) The greatest military ruler of the Slave dynasty was \_\_\_\_\_. (Jalaluddin Khilji/ Ulugh khan Balban/ Muhammad bin Tughlaq)

### 4. Put a (✓) mark if the statement is correct and (X) if incorrect.

- (a) Razia Sultana belonged to the Slave dynasty. ( )
- (b) Qutab-ud-din Aibak started the construction of Qutab Minar. ( )
- (c) Buddhism spread under the patronage of Ashoka the Great. ( )
- (d) Jalaluddin Khilji was a Sufi saint. ( )
- (e) Muhammad bin Qasim was the first known Muslim invader to India. ( )

### 5. Project

Make a relief map of your locality, using clay and colours to show different types of architecture.

### 6. Group Discussion

How do you suppose the domination of Brahmans changed the character of Indian society, especially for the Hindus?

### 7. HOTS

- (a) How did some of the inventions of the period 700 AD to 1750 AD impact the kingdoms in India?
- (b) In what ways did India contribute to religions of the world?

### 8. Short answer questions.

- (a) Explain the term Hindustan and its origin?
- (b) Describe briefly the development and use of cartography in medieval India.
- (c) How did invention of paper and ink influence history?
- (d) Write a short note on the advent of Islam in India.
- (e) Write briefly about various dynasties that ruled northern India between 700 and 1750 AD.

### 9. Long answer questions.

- (a) Write in detail how the invasions by various Muslim invaders brought about changes in medieval India.
- (b) What were the changes that major religions underwent from 700 to 1750 AD?
- (c) Elaborate on various sources of history.