

HISTORY

Chapter 6: Towns, Traders and Craftspersons



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. When did Murshidabad became the capital of Bengal?

- (a) In 1703
- (b) In 1704
- (c) In 1709

Question 2. Which town been called the gate to Mecca?

- (a) Surat
- (b) Somnath
- (c) Bombay

Question 3. contain copper and tin.

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze

Question 4. What did the Indian traders bring from Africa?

- (a) Gold and ivory
- (b) Spices
- (c) Cloths

Question 5. Vasco da Gama was a resident of:

- (a) Portugal
- (b) Spain
- (c) Italy

Question 6. Who was mulla Abdul Ghafur?

- (a) Trader
- (b) Farmer
- (c) Samant

Question 7. Who had huge banking houses at Surat?

- (a) Surat seths
- (b) Kathiawad seths
- (c) Aggarwals



Question 8. When did Hampi fall into ruin?

- (a) 1555
- (b) 1560
- (c) 1565

Question 9. Which cities were gateways for trade?

- (a) Khambat, Ahmedabad and Surat
- (b) Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Surat
- (c) Surat, Ahmedabad, Kachh

Question 10. 'Bidar' is:

- (a) Art on baked earth
- (b) Art on cloth
- (c) Inlay art on Metal

Question 11. How was water supplied to the city of Thanjavur?

- (a) Wells
- (b) Tanks
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of these

Question 12. The fort at Masulipatnam was built by whom?

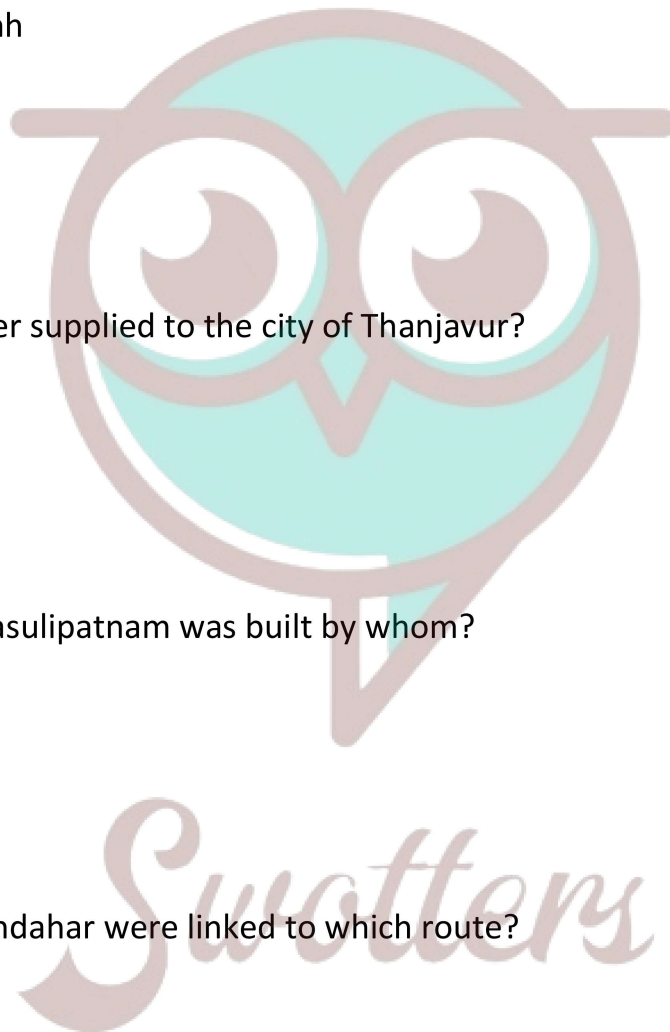
- (a) Dutch
- (b) English
- (c) French
- (d) Portuguese

Question 13. Kabul and Qandahar were linked to which route?

- (a) Silk Route
- (b) Cape Route
- (c) Suez Canal Route
- (d) Cotton Route

Question 14. Hampi was the capital of which empire?

- (a) Mughal
- (b) Vijayanagara
- (c) Mewar



(d) None of these

Question 15. Which of the following is an example of a temple town?

- (a) Ajmer
- (b) Thanjavur
- (c) Berar
- (d) Delhi

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in _____.
2. Ajmer is associated with the Sufi saint _____.
3. Hampi was the capital of the _____ Empire.
4. The Dutch established a settlement at _____ in Andhra Pradesh.
5. Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also made _____.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. We know the name of the architect of the Rajarajeshvara temple from an inscription.
2. Merchants preferred to travel individually rather than in caravans.
3. Traders formed guilds to protect their interests.
4. Kabul was a major centre for trade in elephants.
5. Ajmer (Rajasthan) was the capital of the Chauhan kings in the twelfth century.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. What do temple towns represent?
2. Why did the rulers endow temples with grants of land and money?
3. How did pilgrims contribute to the temples?
4. What is bronze?
5. What is bell metal?
6. How did temple authorities use their wealth?
7. What did the Indian traders bring from Africa?
8. Name a few Indian spices which became an important part of European cooking.
9. What do the ruins of Hampi reveal?
10. Why has Surat been called the gate to Mecca?

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. What did Ibn Battutah say about cash crops and industries based on them?
2. What was the status of Kashmir in the field of crafts during the medieval period?
3. What do you understand by the term 'karkhanas'?
4. Write a short note on the Mughal karkhanas.
5. What was the status of Kashmir in the field of crafts during the medieval period?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. How was Hampi in its heyday in the 15-16th centuries? When did it fall into ruin?
2. What made the city of Masulipatnam populous and prosperous?
3. Why was Surat termed as "Gateway to the west" in Medieval India?
4. Describe the life of various trading communities in Medieval India.
5. Describe the trade activities of the big and small traders belonging to the medieval time.

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (b) In 1704
2. (a) Surat
3. (c) Bronze
4. (a) Gold and ivory
5. (a) Portugal
6. (a) Trader
7. (b) Kathiawad seths
8. (c) 1565
9. (a) Khambat, Ahmedabad and Surat
10. (c) Inlay art on Metal
11. (c) Both a and b
12. (a) Dutch
13. (a) Silk Route
14. (b) Vijayanagara
15. (b) Thanjavur

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. the early eleventh century.

2. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
3. Vijayanagara
4. Masulipatnam
5. Donations.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. Temple towns represent a very important pattern of urbanisation.
2. They did so in order to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals.
3. They made donations.
4. Bronze is an alloy that contains copper and tin.
5. Bell metal contains a greater proportion of tin than other kinds of bronze. This produces a bell like sound.
6. They used their wealth to finance trade and banking.
7. They brought gold and ivory from Africa.
8. Pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, dried ginger.
9. The ruins at the Hampi reveal a well-fortified city.
10. Surat has been called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from here.

➤ **Short Answer :**

1. Ibn Battutah said that the Indian soil is so fertile that it produced rice, sugarcane, sesame and cotton in abundance. They founded the base of various village industries such as oil-processing, making of jaggery, weaving, etc.
2. Kashmir's status in crafts was very good as Kashmir became an important centre of making paper and wood binding trades. Various crafts such as stone cutting, stone polishing, bottle making, window cutting and gold beating also developed in Kashmir and other regional art and craft centers.
3. Karkhanas' were factories or organised groups of people manufacturing articles; they

were the most important centers of production. These karkhanas supplied material for the royal household.

4. The karkhanas in the Mughal period were known as Buyutat also. Together with storing and manufacturing articles for the royal household and nobles' requirements, the mint, public treasury, treasury, department of construction of monuments, repairing, roads and artillery also came under Buyutat.
5. Kashmir's status in crafts was very good as Kashmir became an important centre of making paper and wood binding trades. Various crafts such as stone cutting, stone polishing, bottle making, window cutting and gold beating also developed in Kashmir and other regional art and craft centers.

➤ Long Answer :

1. In its heyday in the 15-16th centuries Hampi was an important centre of commercial and cultural activities. Moors, which was a name used collectively for Muslim merchants, Chettis and agents of European traders such as the Portuguese, visited the markets of Hampi.

Temples were the hub of cultural activities. Temple dancers known as devadasis performed before the deities, royalty and masses in the many-pillared halls in the Virupaksha, a form of Shiva, temple. The Mahanavami festival was one of the most important festivals celebrated at Hampi.

Hampi fell into ruin following the defeat of Vijayanagara in 1565 by the Deccani Sultans.

2. The city of Masulipatnam was a centre of intense activity during the 17th century. Both the Dutch and English East India Companies attempted to control this city as it became the most important part on the Andhra coast. Qutb Shah rulers of Golconda imposed royal monopolies on the sale of textiles, spices and other items in order to prevent the trade passing completely into the hands of the various East India Companies. This led to a fierce competition among various trading groups such as the Golconda nobles, Persian merchants, Telugu Komati Chettis and European traders. As a result the city became populous and prosperous.
3. Surat was the emporium of western trade during the Mughal period. People in Surat used to trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz. There were a number of religious pilgrims who used to set sail on ships to Mecca from Surat. It was a cosmopolitan city and people of all castes lived in the city. Portuguese and the Dutch had their factories and warehouses at Surat. According to an English chronicler, on an average a hundred ships of different countries could be found anchored at the port at a given time. There were several retail and wholesale shops selling textiles to the western traders in the city. The Surat hundis were honoured in far off places like Egypt, Iraq and Belgium.
4. **There were many kinds of traders in Medieval India:**
 - Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations with headmen who

negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses.

- There were also communities like the Chettians and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country.
 - Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and, in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa, and spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China.
5. There were many kinds of traders. These included the Banjaras and several traders especially horse traders. The traders usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests. There were several such guilds in South India from the eighth century onwards—the most famous being the Manigramam and Nanadesi. These guilds traded extensively both within the peninsula and with Southeast Asia and China.

There were also communities like the Chettiyars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the major trading groups of the country. Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, South east Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa; and spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China.

The towns on the west coast were home to Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders. Indian spices and cloth sold in the Red sea ports were bought by Italian traders and eventually reached European markets, fetching high profits. This ultimately drew European traders to India.

Swotters