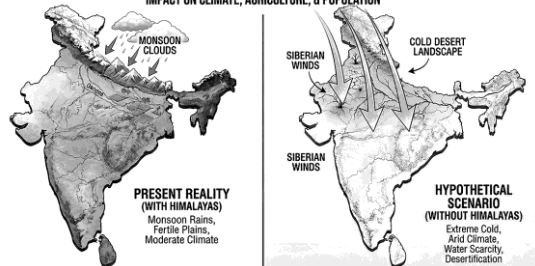


PART-1

Chapter 1. Geographical Diversity of India

NCERT

1. Two of the most important geographical features of India are the Himalayan Mountains and the Indo-Gangetic Plains (Answers may differ).
 - (a) The Himalayan mountain range forms a natural barrier and protects the country from extremely cold winds coming from Central Asia.
 - (b) They also help maintain a moderate climate suitable for human life and agriculture in the region by forcing Monsoon bearing winds to produce rainfall.
 - (c) Various rivers which feed the Gangetic plains originate in the Himalayas.
 - (d) The Indo-Gangetic Plains are among the most fertile regions in the world because rivers deposit alluvial soil every year.
 - (e) The region is ideal for agriculture and supports a very large population. These plains have historically been centres of settlement, trade, and civilisation.
2. If the Himalayas did not exist, I believe India's physical and human geography would appear very different. Cold winds from Siberia and the Arctic would blow directly into the subcontinent, making the climate in Northern India much colder and drier. The monsoon winds would not be blocked and there would be no rainfall in the region. Larger parts of India would become cold deserts like Ladakh. Many major rivers that originate in the Himalayas might not exist. This would reduce the water availability in Gangetic plains. The absence of the Himalayas would therefore change India's climate, vegetation, agriculture, and population distribution significantly.
(Students may also draw a poster describing these conditions based on their opinion)

INDIA WITHOUT THE HIMALAYAS: A GEOGRAPHICAL TRANSFORMATION
IMPACT ON CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE, & POPULATION

3. India is called a “mini-continent” because -
 - (a) It harbours various physical features, climates, ecosystems, and cultures within one country.
 - (b) Physical features like the mountains, deserts, islands, plains, coastal ghats, lagoons, estuaries and deltas are all found in India.
 - (c) This diversity results in different types of weather, crops, languages, lifestyles, and traditions. Due to these multitudes, it is often described as a mini-continent.
4. The Ganga originated at the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas and flows through states like Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal before finally flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
 - (a) Along its journey, it causes the formation of fertile plains through the deposition of alluvial soil.
 - (b) In the mountains, it is a rich source of water for drinking, small-scale farming, and generating hydroelectric power.
 - (c) In the cities where it flows, it facilitates irrigation, transport and supplies water for domestic use and religious practices.
 - (d) Fishermen and farmers depend upon it for their livelihoods.

The river thus supports livelihoods, culture,

agriculture, and ecosystems along its entire course.

5. The southern part of India is called a peninsular plateau because-

- (a) It is a large, elevated plateau which comprises very old and stable rock formations from the Cretaceous period.
- (b) It is triangular in shape and surrounded by water on three sides — the Arabian Sea to the west, the Bay of Bengal to the east, and the Indian Ocean to the south, making it a peninsula.
- (c) This peninsular plateau is rich in minerals and has gently sloping land with rivers such as the Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri flowing eastward.

6. The Sundarbans, located in West Bengal extending into Bangladesh, is the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest. It is an interesting UNESCO World Heritage Site because it is a vast wetland where the Bay of Bengal (sea), the delta (land) and Ganga (river) come together to form a unique geographical feature. It harbours tidal waterways, mudflats and dense mangrove forests which are home to exotic and endangered flora and fauna species like the Ganges Dolphin, Olive Ridley turtles and the famous Royal Bengal Tiger. Not just diverse geographical features, it is also a repository of rich cultural traditions passed down through generations among the local communities. The mangrove forests act as a barrier for storms. They are shore stabilizers and nutrient and sediment traps.

7. Answers may differ.

I live in Uttar Pradesh. After consulting both physical and political maps of India, I inferred that it is located in the Northern Plains, specifically the Indo-Gangetic Plain near the Yamuna River. This region is flat, fertile, and densely populated. Its location has historically made it an important centre for administration, trade, and culture.

8. Different Food preservation methods in India can be discussed as follows-

- (a) Food preservation methods are adapted to climate and local resources. Sun-drying is common for vegetables, spices, papad, and fish in northern India. This method is used to preserve seasonal vegetables and use them during the off season.
 - (b) In states located on the coast, salting and pickling help prevent spoilage (from humidity).
 - (c) People also preserve food by fermenting (such as pickles and batters), storing grains in airtight containers, or using oil and spices as natural preservatives.
 - (d) These methods reduce wastage, ensure food availability during off-seasons, and reflect traditional knowledge passed down through generations.
9. Despite its physical diversity, India's geography has played a major role in uniting people.
- (a) Rivers (for example, Ganga and Yamuna) have acted as cultural and economic links, encouraging travel, trade, and shared traditions.
 - (b) Mountain passes enabled transportation in indomitable terrains and interaction with neighbouring regions, while plains enabled easy movement and communication.
 - (c) Seasonal monsoon patterns influence agriculture similarly across the country, creating shared rhythms of life such as festivals linked to harvests.
 - (d) Trade routes along coasts and rivers encouraged the spreading of ideas, languages, and cultural practices.

Thus, while geography creates diversity, it also fosters connections that strengthen unity.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Seventh
2. Himachal
3. Indus

B. Match the Following

1. Himadri – d. Great Himalayas
2. Shivaliks – e. Outer Himalayas
3. Himachal – b. Lesser Himalayas
4. Deccan – c. Southern Plateau
5. Tapi – a. West-flowing river

C. State True/False

1. True
2. False
3. True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Formation of the Himalayas
2. (c) The Gangetic Plains
3. (b) Minerals

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. The Northern Plains were formed by alluvium — sediment deposited over millennia by the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Indus river systems.

This alluvial soil is rich in minerals like potash and lime, making the region extremely fertile and earning it the name India's 'breadbasket'.

2. The Western Coastal Plain is narrower, with the Western Ghats running close to the sea, creating steep slopes and waterfalls. The Eastern Coastal Plain is wider, with major rivers like the Godavari, Krishna and Mahanadi forming broad, fertile deltas as they flow into the Bay of Bengal.
3. The plateau is rich in minerals, supporting mining industries, and its rivers (Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri) provide water for extensive agriculture across the region.
4. The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger, supporting rich biodiversity; its dense mangrove root systems also act as a natural shock absorber, reducing the impact of cyclones and storm surges on inland settlements.

Chapter 2. Understanding the Weather

NCERT

1.

Instrument used	Element of the Weather
1. Hygrometer	d. Humidity
2. Anemometer	c. Wind direction and Speed
3. Barometer	b. Atmospheric Pressure
4. Thermometer	e. Temperature
5. Rain Gauge	a. Precipitation

2. As Jyotsna is packing for Mumbai where temperature is 29°C and humidity is 84%, I would advise Jyotsna to pack light, loose, and breathable cotton clothes. This is because the temperature experienced is warm and humidity is very high, which can make her feel sticky and uncomfortable. She should also carry:

- A cap, hat and sunscreen
- Comfortable footwear to walk around
- Water bottles to stay hydrated
- An umbrella or raincoat since Mumbai experiences rainfall in June

This will help her stay comfortable and prepared for humid and possibly rainy weather.

3. Best site for setting up a rain gauge is on an open ground with elevated platform. This is because -
- The rain gauge needs to be placed in an open area away from buildings, walls, and trees so rainfall is not blocked.
 - An elevated platform prevents water splashing from the ground from entering the gauge again and affecting the reading.
 - It ensures accurate measurement because wind flow is less obstructed.
 - Other sites are unsuitable because Terrace/verandah/compound wall may cause obstruction in collection of water or splashing. Vegetable garden may have plants blocking rainfall.

4. Weather Report Script (Jammu & Kashmir- 01-02-2025)

Good evening viewers! Here is the weather update for Jammu and Kashmir for today, February 1, 2024.

Across the region, temperatures remained quite low, reflecting usual winter conditions. Maximum temperatures ranged roughly between about 1°C and 8°C in most stations. Pahalgam recorded one of the lowest maximum temperatures, while Muzaffarabad reported relatively higher values.

Minimum temperatures in several areas were around or below freezing. Humidity levels were generally high, mostly above 90 percent in many stations, suggesting moist atmospheric conditions.

Some locations reported precipitation in the form of rainfall and snowfall, with Gulmarg and surrounding hill stations experiencing snow accumulation. Qazigund was the wettest place in the region. Overall, the region experienced cold and cloudy weather with chances of precipitation in higher altitudes.

That's the weather update for today. Stay warm and safe.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- Barometer
- Meteorology
- Anemometer

B. Match the Following

- Troposphere – b. Layer where weather occurs
- Hygrometer – a. Measures humidity
- Rain Gauge – d. Measures rainfall
- Atmospheric Pressure – c. Weight of the air

5. Meteorology – e. Study of weather

C. State True/False

1. False
2. True
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Hygrometer
2. (b) It decreases.
3. (b) Saturated with water vapour

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. Weather refers to the day-to-day condition of the atmosphere at a place (such as today being

sunny or rainy), while climate refers to the average weather pattern of a region observed over a long period, typically 25–30 years.

2. Wind affects temperature, moves clouds and moisture, and influences activities like sailing, flying and drying crops — for example, strong winds can make it unsafe for fishermen to go out to sea.
3. Accurate predictions allow timely evacuation and safety preparations before cyclones or floods, and they help emergency services and government agencies allocate resources and plan relief operations in advance.

Chapter 3. Climates of India

NCERT

1.

Column A	Column B
1. Latitude	b. Creates different climates in the north and south
2. Altitude	c. Keeps higher places cooler
3. Proximity to the ocean	d. Moderates the temperature
4. Monsoon Winds	a. Brings wet air to India during summer

2. (i) Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at a particular place and time. It has various elements and can change daily. Climate, on the other hand, is the average weather condition of a place over a long period of about decades.
- (ii) Places near the ocean have milder temperatures because water heats up and cools down more slowly than land. In summer, the sea absorbs heat slower than land, the sea breeze keeps coastal areas cooler. In winter, land cools down faster,

and the warm breeze from the sea keeps coastal areas warmer.

Therefore, coastal areas have moderate temperatures.

(iii) Monsoon winds affect the climate in following ways-

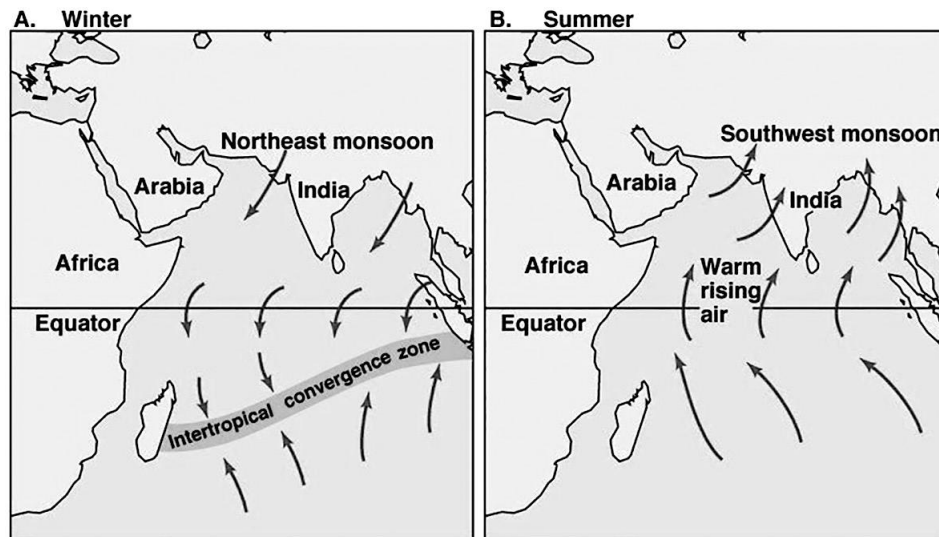
- (a) They bring heavy rainfall during the summer season.
- (b) They facilitate agriculture by providing water for crops.
- (c) They have a strong influence on the temperature and humidity across India.
- (d) They are known for causing seasonal changes like wet summers and dry winters.
- (iv) Chennai is near the sea and close to the Equator (low latitude). It remains warm and pleasant throughout the year under the moderating influence of the sea. Leh is located at a high altitude in the mountains (Himalayas). Higher places are cooler because temperature decreases with

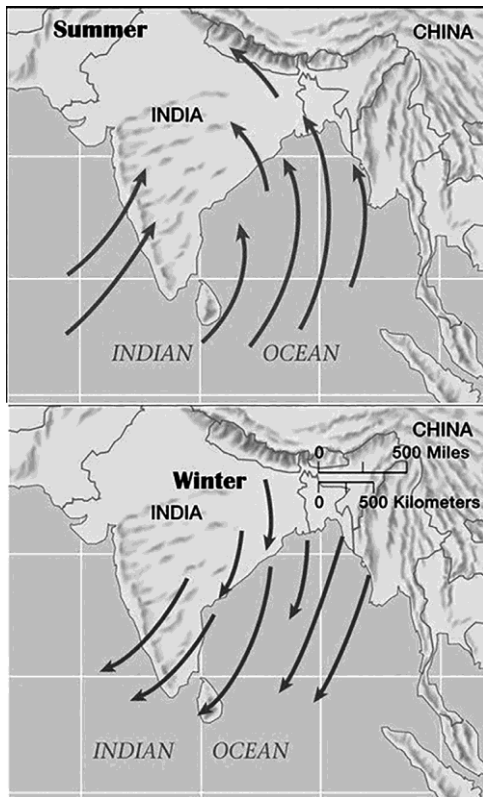
altitude.

3. Climate-

City	Location	Climate	Effect on Climate
Leh	In the mountains	Cold desert	High altitude, makes it very cold
Chennai	Near sea	Tropical Coastal	Proximity to sea moderates the conditions; hot & humid
Delhi	Deep inside the country	Continental type	Very hot summers, cold winters
Panaji	Near sea	Tropical	Moderate temperature, heavy rainfall
Jaipur	Desert	Hot and Dry	Very hot summers, low rainfall

4. Monsoon Cycle in Summers and Winters





5.



6. Diary entry of a Farmer-

Dear Diary,

15 June

Today I went to inspect my fields during the evening. Dark clouds have begun appearing in the sky. It seems like we are going to have monsoon rains soon. I have cleaned the irrigation channels and repaired the bunds around my farm to prevent soil from washing away during the rainy season. I bought seeds from a government aided store which promised that their quality was great and would yield better than our local seller's seeds. I have also stored our stock of fertilizers safely. I am hopeful that the rains will be timely this year. A good monsoon means a good harvest. I will finally be able to buy a new tractor if I get a good yield this year!

7. A cyclone is a powerful storm which is accompanied by very strong winds and heavy rainfall. It usually forms over warm ocean waters where the temperature of the sea remains high. When a low air pressure system is formed and strong winds begin to move over the ocean, a cyclone starts to develop. As it gains strength, it moves towards coastal areas and can cause great damage. There are several factors behind the formation of cyclones. High sea surface temperature provides energy to the storm. Low air pressure helps the storm system to rise and grow. Strong winds over oceans enable the storm to become stronger and cause greater damage.. Cyclones have serious impacts on people and the environment. They can cause heavy flooding and destroy houses and buildings located in coastal regions. Since they cannot rotate around as storms once they hit landfall, the coastal regions are the most affected regions. Crops are often damaged, leading to loss for farmers. In severe cases, cyclones can cause loss of life. Power outages are also common, affecting communication, hospitals, and daily life. Although cyclones cannot be stopped, their impact can be reduced with proper research and preparation from the government and society. Individuals should follow weather warnings issued by monitoring centres, keep emergency kits ready, and stay indoors during storms. Communities can build cyclone shelters,

conduct safety drills, and protect coastal trees like mangroves, which reduce the force of strong winds and waves. The government plays an important role by improving early warning systems, strengthening disaster response teams, and building strong infrastructure.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Tropical (hot and humid)
2. Northeast
3. Microclimate

B. Match the Following

1. Vasanta – b. Spring
2. Varṣhā – e. Rainy Season
3. Śiśira – a. Winter
4. Grīṣhma – c. Summer
5. Śharad – d. Autumn

C. State True/False

Answers

1. False
2. True
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) The revolution of the Earth around the Sun and the tilt of its axis
2. (c) The Ladakh region
3. (c) Replacement of natural vegetation with concrete and asphalt
4. (c) They force the moisture-laden monsoon winds to rise.
5. (c) Shorter and warmer winters

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. The Southwest Monsoon (June–September) brings moisture-laden winds from the southwest (the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal) onto the

Indian landmass, giving most of India's annual rainfall. The Northeast Monsoon (October–December) is the retreating monsoon, when winds reverse and blow from the northeast, picking up moisture over the Bay of Bengal and bringing rain mainly to the southeastern coast, especially Tamil Nadu.

2. The Himalayas act as a massive barrier, blocking cold winds from Central Asia and keeping the subcontinent warmer than other regions at similar latitudes. They also force monsoon winds to rise and release rainfall, trapping the rains within India instead of letting the clouds pass over into Central Asia.
3. A cyclone is an intense, rotating storm system with very strong winds and heavy rainfall, formed over warm ocean waters. In India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is responsible for tracking and forecasting cyclones.

Chapter 4. New Beginnings - Cities and States

NCERT

1. Answers may vary.

Through this quote, Kautilya describes the features of a strong and well-organized kingdom in Arthashastra. He recommends that a kingdom should have-

- (a) Strong defence – the capital and frontier towns should be fortified to protect the kingdom from enemies
- (b) Enough resources – the land should be fertile and capable of supporting the citizens and travellers during difficult times such as famines
- (c) Suitable Geographical location and natural wealth—the kingdom should have cultivable land, mines, rivers, forests, elephants, pastures, and cattle.
- (d) Reliable water sources for domestic usage and irrigation
- (e) Good transport, interconnection between the city and other important trade centres.
- (f) Productive economy – there should be many kinds of goods and economic activities.

These ideas are still very relevant today. Modern countries, including India, also focus on defence, natural resources, water supply, transportation networks, and economic development. However, during Kautilya's period, his idea of an ideal state was a monarchy. Today many countries are democracies where leaders are elected by the people.

2. In early Vedic society, there were political organisations. The ruler or raja was not always an absolute monarch. They were often chosen or approved by assemblies such as the sabha (council of elders) and samiti (general assembly of people) which had the power to advise, support, or even oppose the ruler. Kingship was only sometimes hereditary. The ruler's authority depended on public support and military capability.

Later, this changed and the position of the ruler became a matter of inheritance. The throne became a coveted aspiration and thus, various wars and coups were organised to take hold of them

3. Historians rely on a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mahajanapadas. Some of these are-

- Archaeological sources including the remains of cities, fortifications, tools, pottery, and settlements; sites like Rajgir or Ujjain reveal urban planning, architecture, and technology used in the period
- Literary sources like Vedic texts, Buddhist texts (Tripitaka), Jain texts (Angas) which provide information about political systems, rulers, social structure, and religious practices. Such texts often described Mahajanapadas, trade routes, and city planning in detail.
- Numismatic sources including Punch-marked coins made of silver, indicate development of trade and economy during the period. Symbols on coins provided clues about local authority and culture.
- Inscriptions and seals: Though only some such objects were found in this period, they help understand administration, communication, and identity markers. Each type of source provides a different perspective, and together they help historians build a comprehensive picture of ancient Indian life.

4. The development of iron metallurgy was a turning point in the 1st millennium BCE and played a key role in causing the Second Urbanisation. This was important for the following sectors-

- (a) Agricultural expansion: Iron tools like ploughs and axes were stronger and more efficient. This led to a rise in agricultural productivity and yield. Iron tools also made

it easy to clear dense forests, especially in the Gangetic plains. This helped in conversion of forest land to agricultural and residential landmaking it conducive for building houses and establishing factories. More food production led to surplus which supported non-farming populations like artisans, traders, and administrators.

- (b) Growth of towns and cities: With surplus food and specialized occupations, more urban centers developed. Thus, improvement in iron metallurgy led to the rise of Mahajanapadas and trade hubs. Trade routes expanded, connecting different regions.
- (c) Military strength: Iron weapons made armies stronger and more effective which helped kingdoms expand and maintain control. This made it possible for citizens across the region to develop holistically.
- (d) Social and economic changes: The improvement of Iron metallurgical technology led to the rise of new professions. Growth of markets and monetisation (use of coins) also led to holistic development and economic growth. Iron technology was a foundation for urban growth, enabling agricultural surplus, trade expansion, and political consolidation, all of which contributed to the rise of cities and states.

- 5. Metallurgy – e. The science of working with metals

C. State True/False

- 1. False
- 2. True
- 3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. (c) The fertile land suitable for agriculture
- 2. (b) Odisha
- 3. (b) For protection and control of trade

E. Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. This period saw the "Second Urbanisation" — the re-emergence of cities, larger territorial states (janapadas and mahājanapadas), the use of iron tools, punch-marked coins, and expanding trade networks, after centuries of rural life following the decline of the Harappan Civilisation.
- 2. The Jāti system, in which occupation-based social groups often followed hereditary professions, with skills and trades passed from one generation to the next within families.
- 3. The Gaṇa-saṅgha (republic), where rulers/leaders were chosen through assemblies rather than inherited by birth; one example is the Vajji (or Vṛjji) mahājanapada.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- 1. Second
- 2. People (jana)
- 3. Gaṇa-saṅghas

B. Match the Following

- 1. Sabhā – c. A smaller, elite assembly
- 2. Samiti – a. A larger, broader assembly
- 3. Jāti – b. Occupation-based social group
- 4. Gaṇa-saṅgha – d. A republic

Chapter 5. The Rise of Empires

NCERT

1. Some features of an Empire are as follows-

- (a) A large territory which covers many regions and peoples
- (b) Governed by an emperor with centralized administration to make laws and issue standard currency
- (c) Hosts residents or citizens with diverse cultures, languages, and religions; encourages art and religions
- (d) A strong army for expansion and security of the citizens
- (e) Officials/Governors to manage distant areas
- (f) Maintain communication networks and other infrastructure
- (g) Controlled access to resources etc

A kingdom has a smaller territory which shelters a more homogeneous group of citizens as compared to that of an Empire. It is ruled by a king and its administrative setup is less elaborate and complex. Power is often limited to a specific region in a kingdom. A kingdom may or may not have a military of its own- it might still have police and some soldiers depending upon its size. An empire is much larger, more diverse, and more organized than a kingdom. It requires stronger administration and military control.

2. To transition from Kingdoms to Empires, following factors change -

- (a) Military strength (for more conquests and expansion)
- (b) More elaborate and efficient administration
- (c) More economic resources to manage agriculture, trade and commerce
- (d) Strategic alliances with neighbouring kingdoms
- (e) Strong leadership

Other factors include people to people relationships, soldiers with more skills to fight and conquer far off lands, intercountry trade and commerce to fulfill needs, decentralised government with capable officials to rule over as representatives. The ruler of an empire encourages art, literature and religions and centres of learning along with regulated access to resources.

3. Alexander the Great is an important king because -

- (a) He created one of the largest empires of the ancient world by conquering far-off lands from Memphis in Egypt to Hydaspes in Asia.
- (b) He spread Greek culture across Asia and encouraged trade and cultural exchange.
- (c) His campaigns connected the Eastern and the Western Worlds.
- (d) He was a brave and exceptional warrior and campaigned against the Persian Empire to avenge earlier Persian invasions of Greece.
- (e) He opened new avenues for explorers and traders by travelling to new lands.

4. Importance of the Mauryas & Kautilya's Ideas in early Indian history can be described using the following points -

- (a) It was the first large empire in India which united its territories.
- (b) It established a strong centralized governance in the subcontinent.
- (c) It promoted trade, roads, and administration.

5. Some of Kautilya's key ideas are-

- (a) Strong state and strict law enforcement
- (b) Importance of spies and intelligence

- (c) Efficient taxation system
 - (d) Welfare of people is a ruler's ultimate duty
- Kautilya's Saptang (seven features of an ideal kingdom) must create a settled, well-protected and prosperous kingdom to be maintained through warfare and through alliances for peace. He was focused on the significance of law and order in society. He was aware of the perils of corruption and wanted kings to maintain strict laws to prevent it.

Most of his ideas are still relevant today. Some of these are-

- (a) Governments using intelligence agencies for espionage and security
 - (b) Efficient Tax systems
 - (c) Public welfare policies for promoting the wellbeing of the citizens in society
 - (d) Strong Government putting the welfare of the citizens first - to gain legitimacy
6. Ashoka and his empire stands out in Indian history. This is because he transformed from a conqueror to a ruler guided by peace and morality at the sight of destruction and bloodshed. He displayed an emotional maturity and intelligence like no other ruler in history. After the Kalinga War, he was deeply affected by the suffering caused by war. Instead of continuing expansion, he adopted Dhamma (moral governance), emphasizing non-violence, compassion, and justice.

Ashoka focused sincerely on the welfare of his people. He built roads, hospitals, rest houses, and planted trees. He also appointed special officers called Dhamma Mahamatras to look after public welfare and moral conduct. He was very transparent and communicative with people. He used edicts and inscriptions which were carved on rocks and pillars to dispel information, motivate citizens towards brotherhood and peace and spread information about dharma. These were written in simple language so common people could understand them. Ashoka also showed religious tolerance. He respected all religions, including Buddhism, Brahmanism,

Jainism, and others. Instead of forcing one belief, he encouraged mutual respect.

His influence continues in modern India. The Ashoka Chakra in the Indian national flag and the Lion Capital of Sarnath as the national emblem reflect his legacy. His ideas of non-violence and tolerance still inspire leaders and societies worldwide.

7. After reading this edict, I concur that Ashoka was tolerant of all religious sects, values and beliefs. The edict clearly proves that he was supportive of all religious sects, and appointed officers to look after the needs and requirements of different communities. He encouraged harmony rather than conflict and respected every school of thought equally. He appointed officers of Dhamma for all sects, Buddhism, Brahmins, Ajivikas and the Jains.

This proves he respected diversity and promoted peaceful coexistence.

8. Answers may vary. Do it Yourself.
You can take hints from this sample.

The Brahmi script is one of the earliest writing systems in India. It was used in various Ashokan inscriptions as a means to communicate his instructions and messages to his subjects.

It is written from left to right.

It also forms the basis for many modern scripts like Devanagari, Tamil and Bengali.

To decorate your report/project - you can use the following-

- (a) Brahmi letters in various colours and styles
 - (b) A short visual comparison with modern alphabets
 - (c) Pictures of Ashokan edict- focus on the symbols or letters
9. If I were to undertake a journey from Kauśhāmbī to Kāveripattinam (3rd century BCE), I would have to travel by foot, bullock cart, or river boats because no new modes of transport have been invented yet. It would take about more than 3 months depending upon the weather, rainfall and terrain with some stretches consuming more time than others.

I would have to cross forests, agricultural fields, rivers and deserts. I would also have to face wild animals, stretches of vegetation and follow ill-defined trade routes through cities and forests. I would have to stop at towns, inns, or monasteries to rest at night due to the fear of robbers and bandits.

I would take this route as a solo person travelling-
Kauśhāmbī → Central India → Deccan Plateau
→ South India → Kāveripattinam

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Chandragupta Maurya
2. Indika
3. Dhamma

B. Match the Following

1. Bimbisara – d. Early Magadha Ruler
2. Dhana Nanda – a. Last Nanda Ruler
3. Chanakya – b. Adviser to Chandragupta
4. Megasthenes – c. Greek Ambassador
5. Sreṇī – e. Guild

C. State True/False

1. True
2. False
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) To communicate his policies and Dhamma to the people
2. (c) To organise and regulate crafts and trade
3. (c) State planning for famine relief through granaries.

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. Chanakya was a skilled strategist and adviser who guided Chandragupta Maurya in overthrowing the Nanda dynasty and establishing the Mauryan Empire; he is also credited with authoring the Arthashastra, a treatise on statecraft and governance.
2. He inscribed his messages on rocks and pillars placed across the empire in accessible scripts like Brahmi, and also sent emissaries to spread the principles of Dhamma to distant regions and other kingdoms.
3. After Ashoka, the empire faced weaker successors and difficulties in managing such a vast territory, possibly along with financial strain, leading to gradual fragmentation and decline of central control.

Chapter 6. The Age of Reorganisation

NCERT

1. The period after the decline of the Maurya Empire is known as the era of reorganisation because during this period, the Indian subcontinent experienced major reorganization in various ways-

- (a) Political power became fragmented and new kingdoms emerged in different parts of India.
- (b) In the absence of a strong central rule, any regional powers such as the Shungas, Satavahanas, Indo-Greeks, and Kushanas rose to prominence.
- (c) These kingdoms reorganized the administration, trade, and cultural life according to their needs.
- (d) This period also saw expansion of trade networks and development of new artforms, literary works, architectural marvels, and schools of thought.

Thus, it was a time when India reorganized itself politically, economically, and culturally.

2. Sangam literature is a collection of ancient Tamil texts which were composed in South India between the 2nd and 3rd centuries. These works possess valuable insights into the political, social, and economic life of the time. They were written by poets and scholars who gathered in assemblies known as Sangams; the term Sangam was derived from the word Sangha meaning association. They comprise poems that describe the lives of kings, warriors, traders, and common people highlighting themes such as love, war, bravery, and nature.

Sangam literature also gives significant information about India's intercontinental trade with countries like Rome, Egypt, Indonesia and describes the prosperity of cities and ports. These works mention important dynasties like the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas. They are important historical sources that help us

understand early South Indian society, culture, and traditions in great detail.

3. Rulers of the Satavahana dynasty included their mother's name in their titles. This dynasty exhibited matrilineal influences inside a patriarchal structure. For example, rulers like Gautamiputra Satakarni, Vashishthiputra Pulumavi inherited their throne from their fathers but they frequently adopted their mother's names.

This was done to give importance to the mother's lineage, to show respect and legitimacy and to also highlight royal family connections and alliances forged by matrimony.

4. Answers may vary.

Out of the many kingdoms mentioned in the chapter, I found the Kushanas the most interesting. The Kushan Empire, one of the most influential kingdoms from the post-Maurya period, was founded by the Kushanas, who originally belonged to Central Asia. The Kushan Empire included vast parts of present-day India, Pakistan, and Central Asia. Its strategic location made it an important center for trade along the Silk Route, connecting India with China, Rome, and Central Asia. This led to great economic prosperity.

One of its greatest rulers was Kanishka who was known for his patronage of Buddhism. He supported the spread of Mahayana Buddhism and organized a Buddhist council. The dynasty's reign also saw remarkable developments in art and culture, especially the Gandhara school of art, which combined Indian and Greek influences. The Kushanas issued gold coins, showing their economic strength and advanced trade system. Their rule encouraged cultural exchange between different regions.

Reasons for my choice:

I chose them because this dynasty played a major role in connecting India with countries

and regions across the globe and promoted cultural and religious growth. Its contributions to trade, art, and religion make it a significant part of history

5. Name of Kingdom: Nyaygarh Royal Title: Nyayveer Chakravarti Royal Emblem and reasons behind my choice: Wheel of time with a pair of scales (to represent law and order, justice and peace)

Values promoted by my rule in my kingdom

- (a) Peace and Non-violence
- (b) Equality and Justice
- (c) Respect for all religions and Tolerance
- (d) Environmental protection

Important Rules and Regulations prevalent in the kingdom-

- (a) All citizens equal in the eyes of law
- (b) Free education and basic healthcare
- (c) Strict punishment for injustice, corruption and stealing
- (d) Protection of nature and animals

Some unique features of my kingdom:

- (a) Green cities with trees and clean water
- (b) Advanced roads and communication systems
- (c) Public welfare would be the top priority
- (d) Encouragement of art and culture

6. Map Activity

On an outline map of India, you can mark the following-

- (a) Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh)
- (b) Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh)
- (c) Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) – Art center
- (d) Taxila (Pakistan region) – Education and trade
- (e) Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra) – Rock-cut architecture

You can use symbols like:

- (a) Circle → Stupa
- (b) Square → City

- (c) Star → Important site

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Shunga
2. Khāravēla
3. Gautami Balashri

B. Match the Following

1. Pushyamitra Shunga – c. Founder of Shunga Dynasty
2. Khāravēla – a. Chedi King
3. Kanishka – b. Kushana King
4. Karikala – d. Chola King
5. Heliodorus – e. Indo-Greek Ambassador

C. State True/False

1. True
2. True
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Maritime trade with the Roman Empire
2. (b) Khāravēla
3. (c) Sculptures made from red sandstone

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. After the fall of the Mauryan Empire, its vast unified territory broke up into several smaller regional kingdoms (like the Shungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas, and southern kingdoms), each developing its own governance, culture and art, marking a period of political reorganisation rather than one central empire.
2. The Satavahana administration was headed by a hereditary king, supported by officials who managed different parts of the kingdom. Their inscriptions and coins also show the importance of local administration, royal authority and the role of rulers in supporting religious institutions and economic activities.
3. The Gandhara school used grey schist stone and showed strong Greco-Roman influence (wavy hair, realistic drapery similar to Greek/Roman statues), while the Mathura school used local red sandstone and depicted more rounded, indigenous Indian features and styles.

Chapter 7. The Gupta Era - An Age of Tireless Creativity

NCERT

1. Greetings from Pāṭaliputra! Life here is vibrant and full of excitement. Just yesterday, I

witnessed a grand gathering in our royal court. Scholars, poets, and artists had assembled to share their knowledge and skills with the courtiers. Curiosity and creativity filled the

darbar, as learned men discussed subjects like astronomy, mathematics, and medicine.

These days, our town is abound with traders from distant lands who carry silk, spices, and precious stones with them. As a result, the streets are always noisy and markets are full of life. However, people live peacefully, and there is a strong sense of order under the king's rule. Taxes are reasonable, allowing prosperity to flourish. Crime is controlled and treatment meted out to wrongdoers is deterring and proportional.

There is a lot of emphasis on education. Many students travel far to study at famous centres of learning. I have seen young learners studying

scriptures, science, and literature under wise teachers. Art and architecture has been thriving. Monuments are beautifully built. People are also creating a lot of intricate sculptures these days.

Festivals are celebrated with great joy. Just a couple of weeks ago, we welcomed the harvest season with drums, dance and merriment. Music and theatrical performances are common during such occasions. Religion has a central role in our lives!

I would say that this is an age of progress and harmony. I feel fortunate to live in such a glorious time. I hope one day you may visit and witness this splendour yourself.

Warm regards,

Raghu- a citizen of Patliputra

2. Chandragupta II was also known as Vikramaditya because of his military conquests and to signify his bravery and success in expanding the Gupta Empire.

3. Periods of peace, like during the Gupta Empire, directly support various elements of socio-cultural life including literature, culture and knowledge. Since the empire was stable and well-governed, people did not have to protect themselves from attacks or worry about their livelihoods or scarce resources. They could focus on education, art, and scientific discoveries instead of conflicts.

During this age,

- (a) Various works of art including Literature were composed (e.g., works of Kalidasa)
- (b) Advances were made in mathematics (concept of zero, decimal system)
- (c) Astronomy and medicine developed significantly
- (d) Marvellous monuments including temples, sculptures, Ajanta paintings were constructed. Architecture reached great heights.

Thus, peace allowed creativity and intellectual growth, making the Gupta period a “Golden Age.”

4. A scene from a Ruler's Court during the Guptas
Characters: A King, Minister, Scholar, Poet;
Setting:

Royal Court

King: Welcome, learned scholars. I have been meaning to meet you all. There are various questions plaguing me. What new information do you bring for me?

Scholar 1: Your Majesty, I present new findings in astronomy. Scientists have found that Earth rotates on its axis. It takes a fixed amount of time to do it.

King: How does that change what we already know?

Scholar 1: Well, we can now calculate the length of day and night. We can predict the time of sunset and sunrise.

Minister: What? We will be able to plan our days based on these calculations. It will be

greatly helpful for our marches and tours. This knowledge will also help in agriculture. Our country will be prosperous.

King: That's wonderful. Have my nobles prepare a report for me to read and understand. Scholar, kindly help my nobles with its preparation. Here is your reward and my appreciation for your hard work. Let's move on.

Poet: O King, I offer a poem praising your just rule and wisdom.

A crown is heavy, but his heart is strong,

Knowing the right, and correcting the wrong.

He does not boast of power's might,

But guides his people into light

His greatness lives in quiet peace,

Making the prosperity of his land increase.

King: Wonderful! Let knowledge and art flourish in our kingdom. Reward him generously!

5. Match the two columns:

Column A	Column B
1. Kanchipuram	(d) Known as 'a city of a thousand temples'.
2. Ujjayini	(e) A prominent centre of learning in ancient India.
3. Udaygiri	(b) Famous for rock-cut caves featuring intricate carvings of Hindu deities, especially Vishnu.
4. Ajanta	(a) Known for vibrant cave paintings that depict the Jataka tales
5. Pataliputra	(c) Capital of the Guptas

6. The Pallava dynasty was an ancient South Indian dynasty which ruled mainly over parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, with their capital at Kanchipuram.

They were known for their contributions to temple architecture, especially in the construction of rock-cut temples.

7. I recently visited the Udaygiri Caves in Madhya Pradesh with my teachers and classmates. There

are about a cluster of 20 rock-cut caves of great historical importance (protected by ASI) denoted to Hindu Gods Vishnu and Shiva from 3rd-5th century BC. One of the caves is a Jain temple. The construction is impressive, with detailed carvings and strong stone structures that have stood for centuries.

These caves have been associated with Gupta Emperor Chandragupta II from the inscriptions it exhibits and preserves. This site offers an insight into the political, social and religious life in the Gupta Empire.

Inside, we observed artefacts such as sculptures and inscriptions with iconography of Hinduism and Jainism. Udayagiri's enigma extends to its role as a meeting point for influential dignitaries. Aply dubbed the 'sunrise mountain', this place has been a bastion of religious reverence for ages. Traces of its illustrious past linger in archaeological relics like the Udayagiri Lion Capital, hinting at the erstwhile presence of a Sun Temple on this hallowed ground.

We traversed the labyrinthine corridors, marvelling at the architectural ingenuity and artistic finesse of the monument. Ruins, inscriptions, and ingenious water systems stand as witnesses of the craftsmen's brilliance. At the zenith, we viewed a panoramic vista which made us wonder about the stories and narratives told and enshrined within these hallowed halls.

This visit helped me understand history better, as I could see real examples instead of just reading from books and imagining the caves. I could see real-life examples from ancient India- their lifestyle, practices and customs. It made learning more interesting and meaningful. I realized how important it is to preserve such heritage sites for future generations.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Harisena

2. Faxian
3. Kanchipuram

B. Match the Following

1. Āryabhaṭa – c. Rotation of the Earth
2. Varāhamihira – a. Bṛīhat Samhitā
3. Kālidāsa – b. Meghadūtam
4. Prabhāvatī Gupta – d. Vākāṭaka Regent
5. Faxian – e. Chinese Traveler

C. State True/False

1. False
2. False
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) To be dharaṇi-bandha or the unifier of the Earth
2. (c) Land grants to local rulers and chiefs
3. (c) He patronized arts and culture
4. (b) Houses of charity with food and medicine for the needy
5. (c) Southern India

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. He proposed that the Earth rotates on its own axis, causing day and night; and he made a highly accurate calculation of the length of a year, very close to the modern value.
2. As a Gupta princess married into the Vākāṭaka royal family, she later served as regent for her sons, maintaining strong political and cultural ties between the two dynasties and extending Gupta influence into Vākāṭaka territory.
3. Invasions by the Hūṇas, which weakened the empire militarily and economically; and the gradual loss of central control as local chiefs and governors granted land became increasingly independent.

Chapter 8. How the Land Becomes Sacred

NCERT

1. David Suzuki's statement as given in the question emphasizes that our perception of nature determines our behavior toward it. If we begin to consider natural elements like mountains, rivers, and forests as sacred or living entities rather than just products of nature or resources, we will

develop a sense of respect, responsibility, and care toward them. For example, if a river is seen as a goddess of an essential vein of land through which water (essential for sustenance like blood) flows, we will avoid polluting it. Similarly, if forests are viewed as sacred groves, we will think about protecting them rather than cutting them for timber. Thus, humans will begin to see

themselves as part of nature, not just its user or master. Its implications are as follows -

- (a) Air: Humans will endeavour to reduce pollution and protect atmospheric balance.
- (b) Water: We will prevent contamination and conserve water resources.
- (c) Land: Avoid overexploitation and maintain soil fertility
- (d) Trees: Promote afforestation and prevent deforestation
- (e) Mountains: Humans will work hard to protect ecosystems from mining and destruction by avoiding excessive and

unnecessary construction.

2. Answers may vary.

Sacred Sites and their Stories

In my neighborhood, there are various sites revered as sacred. Some of these sites include hills, temples, rivers, and ancient groves that are deeply respected by our community. These places are considered sacred because people believe that divine powers or spiritual energies reside there. Various legends, myths, and historical events are associated with these sites, often passed down through generations. For example, a temple located on the Giri hilltop is linked to local gods (in the form of stones which appeared overnight), while the river flowing alongside is worshipped as life-givers.

Elders in the community often narrate stories of miracles and traditions connected to these places. Sacred groves located close to my neighborhood are also protected, as cutting trees there is considered disrespectful to our community god. Ladies and Gents in our community tie sacred threads around a Mahua tree and pray for prosperity and wellbeing of their families. Such groves also serve as centers for festivals, rituals, and gatherings, bringing people together.

This practice helps preserve cultural heritage and environmental balance. By respecting these sacred places, people maintain a strong connection with their traditions and nature, ensuring their protection for future generations.

3. Natural elements like rivers, mountains, and forests are considered sacred because they are essential for life and survival. All of these elements are sources of resources significant for human sustenance. For example, rivers provide water for drinking, agriculture, and daily use. Forests offer oxygen, medicinal plants, and shelter for wildlife. Mountains influence climate, store water in glaciers, and act as natural barriers.

In many traditions, these elements are seen as divine or living beings, deserving respect and reverence. This belief helps prevent their overexploitation and promotes conservation by human beings. Thus, their sacred status ensures that people treat them with care, recognizing their importance in maintaining ecological balance and sustaining human life.

4. People visit a tīrtha (pilgrimage site) for spiritual and cultural reasons. A tīrtha is believed to be a place where the earthly and divine realms meet. When humans visit such places, they seek blessings, peace, and spiritual growth for themselves and their families. Pilgrims perform rituals, prayers, and offerings to express devotion and gratitude. Many believe that visiting tīrthas helps cleanse sins and bring inner peace. It also allows people to connect with their cultural roots and traditions.

Additionally, pilgrimages often involve journeys that encourage discipline, reflection, and exchange of ideas, cultural practices and beliefs among each other.

5. Ancient pilgrimage routes played a significant role in improving the local economy and promoting trade in the region. As pilgrims traveled long distances, they created demand

for food, shelter, and goods along the way. This led to the growth of markets and towns along these routes. Merchants would use these routes to sell items like textiles, spices, and handicrafts. Travelers from different regions also led to the exchange of ideas, culture, and technology among themselves.

Sacred sites continue to boost local economies today by attracting tourists and supporting businesses such as hotels, shops, and transport services.

6. Sacred places strongly influence the culture and traditions of nearby communities in the following ways-

- (a) They become centers for religious festivals, rituals, and ceremonies that are celebrated with great enthusiasm.
- (b) They also inspire unique artforms, music, dance, and architecture. For example, a blend of temple designs, sculptures, and devotional songs often develop around sacred sites.
- (c) They help preserve traditions, strengthen social bonds, and create a shared identity among people. Over time, these practices become an integral part of the community's cultural heritage.

7. Answers may vary. Do it Yourself. Students can add the following details in this project-

- Location of the site
- Nature of the site
- Significance of the site in terms of its religious relevance, social and cultural values
- Beliefs or values of people who visit
- Economic importance
- Cultural and Social significance
- Perspective of people/what they gain from this travel

8. 'A tīrthayātrā (pilgrimage) has two important aspects:

- (a) It helps individuals develop faith, devotion,

and inner peace. Pilgrims seek blessings and spiritual purification.

- (b) It promotes unity, cultural exchange, and understanding. People from different regions meet, share traditions, and strengthen social bonds.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Pilgrimage (tīrtha yātrā)
2. Nadīstuti Sūkta
3. Sacred Groves

B. Match the Following

1. Takht Sri Patna Sahib – c. Sikhism
2. Mahabodhi Stupa – a. Buddhism
3. Devarai – b. Sacred Grove
4. Taranaki Maunga – e. Maori Sacred Mountain
5. Fire Temple – d. Zoroastrianism

C. State True/False

1. False
2. False
3. True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) They are associated with divine beings and purity in religious texts.
2. (b) Shiva and Sati
3. (b) Recognising the sacredness of geography in law.

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. Pilgrims travelling long distances to sacred sites often used the same routes as traders, which helped spread language, customs, and ideas across regions, connecting diverse parts of India through a shared network of movement and exchange.
2. The Peepul tree holds special religious significance in Hinduism, Buddhism (as the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment), and Jainism, making it a shared symbol of spiritual awakening across these traditions.
3. When natural features are seen as sacred, people develop a deep emotional and spiritual attachment to their land and its rivers, mountains and forests, encouraging them to protect and preserve their local environment as part of their cultural identity.

Chapter 9. From the Rulers to the Ruled: Types of Governments

NCERT

- The different types of government that we've studied in the chapter are:
 - Democracy
 - Monarchy
 - Dictatorship
 - Theocracy
- India has a Democratic Government. The form of government prevalent in India is called a democracy because-
 - It is understood as 'rule of the people' where people elect the government and are sources of power and authority.
 - The elected government works for the people and by the people.
 - The term Democracy comes from 'Demos' meaning people or citizenry while 'Kratia' means rule, power or authority.
 - In a democracy, citizens have rights and freedoms. The government is given powers by the Constitution which is a social contract made by the people. Thus, power ultimately lies with the people.
- An independent judiciary is significant in a democracy and important because:
 - It protects the Fundamental Rights of its citizens and ensures that their rights are not violated by the government.
 - An independent judiciary enables judges to give decisions without the pressure or influence of the government.
 - It prevents the executive and legislature from acting unfairly or illegally. This maintains justice, equality, and rule of law.
- Yes, a democracy is considered better than other forms of government because-
 - People have the right to choose their government. This makes the government popular and widely accepted. Decisions taken by the government are accepted

without much resistance.

- It ensures freedom, equality, and citizen participation.
- The government remains accountable to the people and policies are made keeping citizens' interests in mind instead of their selfish motives.
- Decisions reflect the needs and opinions of citizens.

5.

S. No	Practice in the country	Type of Government
I	All citizens are treated equally before law	Democracy
II	The government refers to the religious leaders for each and every decision it takes.	Theocracy
III	After the queen's death, her son became the new king.	Monarchy
IV	The ruler is not bound to follow any constitution. He makes all the decisions as per his choice.	Dictatorship

6. Countries and the types of government they have-

S. No	Country	Type of Government
1	Bhutan	Constitutional Monarchy
2	Nepal	Federal Democratic Republic
3	Bangladesh	Democracy
4	South Africa	Democracy

5	Brazil	Democracy
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7. Some hurdles faced in a democracy in achieving its values and ideas are-

- Corruption and arbitrary misuse of power by leaders
- Citizens' lack of awareness of their duties and rights
- Inequality among citizens, groups and communities
- People from different backgrounds, class, caste, religion and gender are treated differently.
- Since democracy involves decision making through majority/consensus, the process is slow and time consuming, due to debates and procedures
- People do not vote or engage in decision making since they do not know much about issues, processes and procedures of governance

These hurdles can be overcome in the following ways-

- Promotion of education and awareness among the citizens
- The government must enforce strict laws against corruption in office. This can help reduce nexus building and loss of accountability.
- Ensure equality and justice for all
- Encourage active citizen participation by forming decision making groups closer to the citizen through online forums, workshops, local selfgovernment posts etc.
- Improve transparency and accountability in the decision making process.

8 Differences among Democracy, Monarchy and Dictatorship are as follows-

- In a democracy, power lies with the people and leaders are chosen through elections. Citizens have rights and freedom in a democracy.
- In a monarchy, all political power lies with a king or queen. The position of the head of government is hereditary. People have

limited role in decisionmaking

- In a dictatorship, power lies with one ruler. There are no popular elections held. Citizens have limited freedom in a monarchy. People's rights are often restricted.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- Dictatorship
- Representative democracy
- Constitutional monarchy

B. Match the Following

- Power held by religious leaders – c. Theocracy
- Rule by a small, wealthy elite – d. Oligarchy
- Citizens vote on every issue directly – b. Direct Democracy
- Hereditary rule by a king or queen – e. Monarchy
- Absolute power without citizen rights – a. Dictatorship

C. State True/False

- False
- False
- True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

- (c) Democracy
- (b) Representative Democracy
- (b) The government must explain its decisions and can be changed by the people.

E. Short Answer Type Questions

- In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch is head of state but must follow a constitution, with actual governance carried out by elected representatives. In an absolute monarchy, the monarch holds unlimited power with no constitutional checks.
- Under a dictatorship, a single leader holds power without being accountable to the people, meaning citizens often have limited freedoms, no real say in governance, and no legal way to remove a leader who governs poorly.
- Citizens can raise public awareness on issues, join civic or community organisations, engage in peaceful protests or petitions, communicate with elected representatives, and stay informed and involved in local governance bodies.

Chapter 10. The Constitution of India – An Introduction

NCERT

- The Constituent Assembly of India consisted of representatives from different regions, communities, religions, languages, and social

backgrounds. It was important to have a diverse set of representatives because-

- It ensured that the Constitution reflected the aspirations and needs of all sections of Indian society.

-
- (b) It helped include different viewpoints, prevented domination by any one group, and promoted the idea of unity in diversity.
- (c) Because its makers were heterogeneous, the Constitution became more inclusive, democratic, and representative.
2. (a) Reflects Universal Adult Franchise (Right to Vote)
- (b) Reflects Equality of all and Secularism
- (c) Reflects Right to Education for every child
- (d) Reflects Equality and Non-discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, creed or gender
3. The statement “All citizens are equal before the law” is a fundamental value/principle enshrined in the Indian Constitution. It entails that every individual is subject to the same laws, regardless of their caste, religion, gender, or social status in India. No one is above the law, and all are entitled to equal protection of the law.
- However, in practice, inequalities and discrimination may still exist in society. Political, social and economic disadvantages affect vulnerable sections of society. They have limited resources and opportunities for growth and development. This affects their capacity to demand for justice and fair treatment in front of the law. However, several measures have been taken to increase their access and improve their conditions- including affirmative action, availability of free legal counsel etc. Therefore, while it is a constitutional ideal, continuous efforts are required to ensure that it is fully realised in everyday life.
4. India adopted Universal Adult Franchise from the very beginning of its Independent existence

because it strongly believed in the principles of equality and democracy. Every adult citizen, irrespective of caste, gender, education, or wealth, was given the right to vote and to assert their claims of citizenship in the country. This decision reflected that the supreme power in Indian democracy rested with the citizens of the country irrespective of their social stature. It also reflected the trust of the leaders in the people and their commitment to creating an inclusive political system. It also ensured that all sections of society had a voice in governance.

5. The Indian Constitution was greatly influenced by our freedom struggle which called for the inclusion of values such as freedom, equality, justice, and self-rule (swaraj) in it. Indians fought against colonial oppression and suffered centuries of exploitation, oppression and violence to the hands of the British. As a result, their core objective post Independence was to live in a country which was free of discrimination, oppression and allowed for their growth and development as a society. They demanded basic human rights from their political leaders that later became part of the Constitution as fundamental rights.

India's civilisational heritage also played an important role. Ancient ideas such as dharma (duty and justice), tolerance, and respect for diverse beliefs, schools of thought and customs influenced the framing of the Constitution. Secularism and significance of diversity were deeply ingrained in the fabric of Indian society and constitution.

Thus, the Constitution reflects a blend of modern democratic ideals and traditional Indian values.

6. India has made significant progress in achieving the ideals of the Constitution, but these goals have not been fully achieved. Problems such as inequality, discrimination, corruption, and lack of social, political and economic awareness among citizens still exist.

As responsible citizens, we can contribute by-

- (a) Respecting others' rights and dignity

- (b) Following laws and performing our duties
- (c) Promoting equality and harmony
- (d) Participating actively in democratic processes
- (e) Speaking out against injustice

7. Across

2. Legislature
7. Fundamental Duties
8. Supreme Court
9. Republic
10. Amendment

Down

1. Constituent Assembly
3. Preamble
4. Constitution
5. Helium
6. Fundamental Rights

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. 26 November 1949
2. France (French Revolution)
3. Preamble

B. Match the Following

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad – c. President of the Constituent Assembly
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – a. Chairman of the Drafting Committee
3. Prem Behari Narain Raizada – b. Calligrapher of the Constitution
4. Nandalal Bose – d. Artist who illustrated the Constitution
5. Begum Aizaz Rasul – e. Advocate for women's

equality in the Assembly

C. State True/False

1. False
2. False
3. True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) To provide a framework for governing a country
2. (b) Because it can be amended or changed overtime
3. (c) The Directive Principles of State Policy

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. The experience of organising protests, debating strategies, and facing repression during the freedom struggle taught Indians which rights and freedoms mattered most, and these lessons were directly translated into constitutional guarantees.
2. Fundamental Rights are legally enforceable,

meaning citizens can go to court if these rights are violated; Directive Principles of State Policy are guidelines for governance aimed at social and economic welfare, but are not legally enforceable.

3. Fraternity emphasizes a sense of brotherhood and unity among all citizens regardless of religion, caste, or region, encouraging people to see themselves as part of one nation and reducing social divisions.

Chapter 11. From Barter to Money

NCERT

1. The barter system is an ancient method of exchange in which goods and services were directly exchanged without the use of money as an intermediary. During ancient times, when there was no currency or standard unit of measurement and exchange, people exchanged goods and services based on their requirements

and needs.

Common commodities used in barter included grains, cattle, salt, spices, clothes, tools, handicrafts and metals. For example, a farmer would exchange his wheat for cloth from a weaver.

2. The barter system had several drawbacks. Some of them are-

- A) It required a double coincidence of wants, where both parties would have to need each other's goods in order to exchange them. Such double coincidences were hard to arrange all the time.
- B) There was no common measure of value to measure goods in order to exchange. For example, how much wheat could be exchanged for a buffalo or a coat?
- C) Goods were often difficult to store and transport. They would perish in the pursuit of a suitable exchange.
- D) It was difficult to divide goods into smaller units to exchange them. For example, if a person had some leather, he could not exchange it for a dog because a dog could not be divided or broken down into pieces to facilitate such an exchange.

These limitations led to the development of money as a medium of exchange.

3. Ancient Indian coins had the following salient features-
 - A) Coins were usually made of metals such as gold, silver, and copper. They were standardised to all quantify the same value.
 - B) Coins often had symbols, punch marks, or images of deities, kings and queens. They were also marked with phrases, important statements and names of kingdoms.
 - C) Some coins bore the names or titles of rulers. They represented authority and authenticity of the issuing authority.
 - D) They were used for trade, taxation, and administration.
4. Money has evolved through different stages. They are as follows-
 - A) Barter system (exchange of goods) where there was no common medium of exchange
 - B) Commodity money (where cowrie shells, grains and other everyday items were used as currency to buy and sell goods)
 - C) Metal coins which were standardised and

issued by the highest authority (usually the king) in a kingdom

- D) Paper currency- notes, cheques and demand drafts
- E) Plastic money- Cards etc
- F) Digital payments (UPI, online transfers and netbanking)

This transformation has made transactions more efficient, convenient, and secure.

5. To ensure acceptance of Indian coins in foreign trade, ancient rulers likely-
 - A) Maintained standard weight and purity of coins across Kingdoms and provinces to make trade simpler
 - B) Used precious metals to make them attractive and valuable to foreign rulers
 - C) Issued coins with recognizable symbols and inscriptions
 - D) Promoted trade relations with other regions to enable trade through standardised currency

These measures helped build trust in Indian currency.

6. Value of 60 paṇas (Arthaśāstra) was equal to one adhaka of grain per day for a year. So 60 paṇas was equal to 3 kg grains per day for a year.

The statement indicates that one paṇa had considerable value, as it could be exchanged for a significant quantity of grain needed for daily consumption. It shows that money or currency was closely linked to basic necessities required for survival everyday. The fine of 100 paṇas, which was higher than the annual salary of 60 paṇas, indicates that helping others was considered very important. It shows that ancient Indian society encouraged social responsibility, cooperation, and moral values. It discouraged selfish behaviour rooted in exclusive personal behaviour.
8. Do It Yourself
9. The Reserve Bank of India uses various security features such as-

- A) Watermark: The Mahatma Gandhi Series of banknotes contain the Mahatma Gandhi watermark with a light and shade effect and multi-directional lines in the watermark window.
- B) Security Thread: New notes contain a readable, windowed security thread alternately visible on the obverse with the inscriptions 'Bharat' (in Hindi) etc., but totally embedded on the reverse. The Rs.500 and Rs.100 notes have a security thread with similar visible features and inscriptions 'Bharat' (in Hindi), and 'RBI'. When held against the light, the security thread can be seen as one continuous line.
- C) Latent Image: On the obverse side of notes, a vertical band on the right side of Mahatma Gandhi's portrait contains a latent image showing the respective denominational value in numeral.
- D) Microlettering: This feature appears between the vertical band and Mahatma Gandhi portrait. It contains the word 'RBI' in Rs.5 and Rs.10. The notes of Rs.20 and above also contain the denominational value of the notes in microletters.
- E) Intaglio Printing: The portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, the Reserve Bank seal, guarantee and promise clause, Ashoka Pillar Emblem on the left, RBI Governor's signature are printed in intaglio i.e. in raised prints, which can be felt by touch, in Rs.20, Rs.50, Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000 notes. A special feature in intaglio has been introduced on the left of the watermark. This feature is in different shapes for various denominations and helps the visually impaired to identify the denomination. These features help prevent counterfeiting and misuse of currency.
- C) Which payment method do you prefer: cash or digital? Do you accept UPI payments like Google Pay or PhonePe?
- D) Why do you prefer this method?
- E) What benefits have you noticed from digital payments?
- F) Have you faced any problems (network issues, fraud, delays)?
- G) Do customers prefer digital or cash more?
- H) Do you think digital payments will completely replace cash? Why/why not?
- I) What improvements would you like in digital payment systems?

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Gold
2. Portability
3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B. Match the Following

1. Store of Value – a. Currency that can be saved for future use
2. Medium of Exchange – c. Something widely accepted for payment
3. Barter – b. System of trading goods without money
4. Divisibility – e. Can be divided into smaller units
5. Portability – d. Easy to carry

C. State True/False

1. False
2. False
3. False

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (c) Ease of finding a double coincidence of wants

10. Conduct Interviews in groups. Do It Yourself.

Some questions are as follows-

- A) What type of shop/business do you run?
- B) How long have you been in this business?

2. (b) Coins were easily accepted as a medium of exchange.
3. (b) The existence of ancient trade links.

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. Both parties must want exactly what the other has to offer at the same time; for example, a potter needing food cannot trade his pots unless he finds a farmer who specifically wants pots and has surplus food to trade.

2. Coins could be minted in different denominations and sizes, allowing people to make transactions of any value, whether large or very small, unlike bulky or indivisible goods.
3. A single authority ensures the value and trustworthiness of currency remains consistent and standardized across the country, preventing counterfeit or unregulated currency from undermining the economy.

Chapter 12. Understanding Markets

NCERT

1. A market is a place where buyers and sellers come together for the exchange of goods and services. The main features of a market are
 - a) the presence of buyers and sellers
 - b) the practice of buying and selling of goods
 - c) the process of price determination through demand and supply
 - d) Transactions and competition among sellersMarkets can be physical or virtual. They can be of different types and might sell different goods and offer various services.

During a visit to a vegetable market nearby, I observed various features which are reflective of a market. Some significant features include sellers offering similar products but with immense variety. Buyers were comparing prices and quality of goods before purchasing.

Bargaining was an important element because both buyers and sellers wanted to maximise their profits. Prices varied slightly from one seller to another. Freshness and quality of goods influenced buyers' choices.

2. The epigraph by Adam Smith which says, "Prosperity emanates from the market that develops when people need goods and services that they can't create themselves" entails that individuals act in their own self-interest and also perform activities which lets them maximise their own profits. Thus, as Adam said, only a market where sellers aim to maximize profits, while buyers seek to purchase goods at the lowest possible price is an efficient market which will develop and grow very well. This interaction between buyers and sellers leads to the efficient functioning of markets and proper price determination. This will lead to efficient

transactions beneficial for both parties which would contribute to longevity of such markets.

3. If a seller is earning a good profit from buying guavas from the farmer, the latter would realise that the demand of his mangoes is increasing in the market. To utilise this opportunity, he would try to increase his production of guavas in the next season. He may buy more land and arrange more resources to grow more guavas.

The farmer will consider the demand for guavas and sell more guavas at a better price too. However, if by looking at him and copying his actions, all the farmers began to increase their production of guavas, the supply may increase exponentially. This may lead to a drastic fall in prices and they might incur a loss.

4. The following markets are marked with their criteria-

1. Physical market – Requires physical presence of buyers and sellers
2. Online market – Buyers and sellers meet virtually and can transact at any time
3. Domestic market – Lies within the boundaries of a nation
4. International market – Goods and services flow outside the nation's boundaries
5. Wholesale market – Deals in bulk quantities
6. Retail market – Serves the final consumers with goods and services

5. Prices are generally determined by the interaction between buyers and sellers. They are also dependent on the equation between the demand and the supply of goods and services.

However, some products such as luxury cars, designer clothes, and rare artworks remain expensive and maintain their high prices even when demand is low. This is because of their high production cost, brand value, exclusivity, and limited supply. Cars and other important luxury products require a high amount of capital for production and maintenance. Despite their high prices, customers continue to buy them. These goods are often targeted at wealthy consumers and are considered status symbols by society members.

6. The family may have purchased beans from the supermarket despite higher prices due to better quality, proper packaging, fixed prices, and a clean shopping environment. The family may not have been able to trust the cartowner. They might have not enjoyed the process of bargaining. There is a possibility that they did not have a good shopping experience due to the warm weather. Factors such as convenience, weather, trust, hygiene, and comfort also influence buyers and their decisions to buy their goods, not just their prices.

7. In certain districts, farmers sometimes throw away tomatoes, because of their excess supply due to large production and conducive environment. This leads to a sharp fall in prices and demand. The cost of transporting and storing the produce may be higher than the selling price in some cases which forces the farmers to throw away their produce instead of spending money in storing it. In such situations, wholesalers can help by purchasing goods in bulk and transporting them to other markets. To reduce wastage, better storage facilities, food processing, and government support should be provided.

8. I recently visited a carnival organised by my school where students had organized-

- A) Various stalls to sell handmade items and goods
- B) Activities such as street food stalls including snacks, beverages and soups,
- C) Fair games including throwing the rings, hitting the targets etc
- D) Other items

They set prices for their products and sometimes negotiate with buyers to maximize their profits. They may offer discounts or attract customers through creative selling techniques. They may often use boards and interesting performances to attract customers. Such activities help students understand how the market functions and works.

9. 5 Products Observed by the students are as follows-

1. Milk packet
 - Certification: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India logo
 - Ensures food safety and quality
2. Packaged biscuits
 - Certification: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
 - Shows it is safe for consumption
3. Cooking oil
 - Certification: Agmark
 - Indicates quality of agricultural products
4. Electric iron
 - Certification: Bureau of Indian Standards (ISI mark)
 - Ensures safety and standard quality
5. Gold jewellery
 - Certification: Bureau of Indian Standards (Hallmark)
 - Confirms purity of gold

Some products did not have certification logos, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, local handmade items and other loose/unpackaged goods. There could be various reasons for this including,

- A) Goods are unpackaged or sold loose (no labeling required)
 - B) They are locally made or small-scale products.
 - C) Certification may not be mandatory for all items
 - D) The producer may not have applied for certification Certification marks help us identify safe and quality products and make informed choices as consumers. We must use our judgment and awareness while buying.
10. A soap label manufactured by students should include -
- A) Product names including a short description, Brand name and logo, all ingredients including additions and toxins, Manufacturing date and expiry date, Price (MRP), Weight, Manufacturer's details, and other usage instructions.

- B) It should also include certification marks and information about the benefits of the soap to help consumers make informed choices.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Price
2. Wholesaler
3. FSSAI

B. Match the Following

1. Needs – c. Something required for survival
2. Market – a. A place for buying and selling goods
3. Wholesaler – e. Buys in bulk from producers
4. Exports – b. Goods sold to other countries
5. Consumer – d. The final user of a product

C. State True/False

1. False
2. False
3. True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (c) To sell goods directly to consumers
2. (c) India buying crude oil from Saudi Arabia.
3. (b) To guarantee farmers a minimum income for their produce.

E. Questions

1. The government mandates certification marks like FSSAI (food safety) and ISI (quality standards) on products, and sets regulations and conducts inspections to check that businesses follow these standards.
2. When demand for a product is high but supply is limited, prices tend to rise; when supply exceeds demand, prices tend to fall — for example, onion prices rise sharply when heavy rains damage the crop and reduce supply.

3. Public goods are goods and services provided by the government for the benefit of all citizens, generally not restricted to those who pay directly; examples include public roads and street lighting, or public parks and government schools.

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Chapter 1. The Story of Indian Farming

NCERT

1. Farmers in Kerala mainly grow rice because-

- The state receives heavy rainfall, experiences warm temperatures, and has fertile soil which is ideal for paddy cultivation. Rice needs plenty of water and humidity to grow properly.
- Punjab has cooler winters, moderate rainfall, and flat fertile plains that are suitable for wheat cultivation. Wheat grows best in dry and cool weather. Farmers also follow traditional farming patterns based on climate and availability of irrigation.
- If the crops were swapped, rice would not grow well in Punjab's dry conditions without extra water, and wheat would struggle in Kerala's humid climate. This could reduce crop production and cause losses to farmers. Therefore, crops are grown according to the natural conditions of each region for better yield and food production.

2. Match the Column

Column A	Column B
a. Kharif Crops	(ii) Crops grown during the monsoon
b. Rabi Crops	(i) Crops during the winter
c. Alluvial Soil	(v) Soil rich in nutrients
d. Terrace Farming	(vi) Methods of farming on hill sides
e. Alpine Soil	(iii) Thin, rough, and rocky soil found in mountainous regions
f. Zaid Crops	(iv) Crops grown in summer

3. Certain crops grow well in specific regions because-

- Every crop needs different climatic conditions, soil types, and water supply

to grow. Temperature, rainfall, sunlight, and soil fertility affect crop growth. For example, rice grows best in warm and wet regions, while wheat requires cool weather and moderate rainfall. Cotton grows in black soil, and tea grows well on hill slopes with heavy rainfall.

- Farmers also choose crops suitable to local traditions and available irrigation facilities. Regions with fertile alluvial soil support crops like wheat and sugarcane. Mountain areas are suitable for terrace farming and crops such as tea and fruits.
 - If crops are grown in unsuitable conditions, farmers may suffer production losses. Therefore, natural conditions decide which crops can thrive successfully in a region.
4. Modern technology has greatly improved farming methods and increased agricultural production in the following ways-
- Farmers now use tractors, harvesters, and seed drills to save time and labour. Improved seeds and fertilizers help crops grow faster and healthier.
 - Irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation save water and provide proper moisture to crops.
 - Weather forecasting helps farmers plan farming activities better. Mobile phones and the internet allow farmers to learn new techniques and check market prices easily.
 - Drones and sensors are also being used to monitor crop health. Technology like this has reduced hard physical work and increased efficiency in farming.
 - As a result, farmers can produce more food and earn better incomes. Modern farming methods also help in reducing wastage and improving food security.
5. Sustainable agriculture is important because it protects the environment while meeting the food needs of people. It focuses on making

prudent usage of natural resources so that future generations can also benefit from them. Sustainable farming reduces the excessive use of chemicals, saves water, and improves soil fertility. It encourages organic farming, crop rotation, and eco-friendly irrigation methods. This type of farming also helps protect biodiversity and ensures long-term food production without damaging nature. Farmers benefit through lower costs and healthier crops. It also helps in dealing with climate change and conserving natural resources from being exploited and polluted for commercial benefits. By promoting balance between agriculture and the environment, sustainable farming supports healthy living and economic stability for society.

6. Despite many advances, Indian farmers continue to face several serious challenges. These are-

- (a) Landholdings are decreasing in size due to division among family members generation after generation. Small landholdings make it difficult for farmers to earn sufficient income, use large machines like tractors and harvesters and invest in modern technology.
- (b) Farming families have depended on multiple sources of income including animal rearing and livestock etc. They collected forest produce and grew fruit and timber trees on field bunds. However, today these sources are not enough to ensure a decent quality of life.
- (c) Weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable, leading to irregular rainfall and extreme weather events. These events increase the risk of crop failure and heavy financial losses.
- (d) Many farmers are forced to take loans during difficult times due to crop failure and production losses. When they are unable to repay these loans, they fall into debt traps.
- (e) Pests and diseases can destroy crops and reduce income. Limited storage and transport facilities often lead to food wastage
- (f) If agriculture suffers, the entire economy can be affected because farming supports many industries and provides food for the

population.

7. FOR

Traditional irrigation methods such as canals, wells, tanks, and rainwater harvesting have been used for centuries and are closely connected with nature. These methods are economical because they require less machinery, electricity, and fuel. Farmers in rural areas are able to easily use and maintain them without depending on expensive technology. Traditional methods also help in conserving groundwater and maintaining soil fertility because they distribute water slowly and naturally. In many villages, these systems encourage community participation and cooperation among farmers. Moreover, they are environmentally friendly since they do not cause excessive water wastage or pollution. They do not exploit any resources beyond the capacity of the locality.

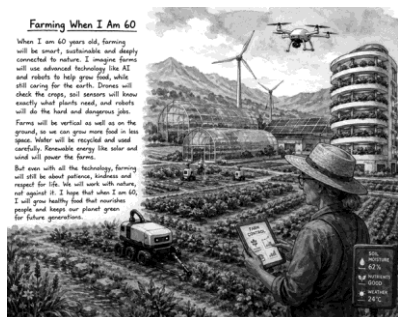
Therefore, traditional irrigation methods are sustainable and suitable for small farmers.

Against

Modern irrigation methods such as drip irrigation and sprinkler systems are more efficient and scientific compared to traditional methods. They save a large amount of water by supplying it directly to the roots of plants, reducing wastage. These methods are especially useful in areas facing water scarcity. Modern systems also increase agricultural productivity because crops receive the exact amount of water needed for healthy growth. Farmers can irrigate large fields quickly with less labor and time. In addition, advanced irrigation techniques reduce soil erosion and allow farmers to use fertilizers more effectively. Although the initial cost is high, modern irrigation methods are more reliable and productive in the long run.

In my opinion, modern irrigation methods are better than traditional ones because they are more efficient, save water, and improve crop production. However, traditional methods still have importance in rural and economically weaker areas due to their low cost and eco-friendly nature. A balanced approach that combines the wisdom of traditional systems with the efficiency of modern technology would be the best solution for sustainable agriculture.

8. 60 years later, farming would look very different. My farm is beautiful, dotted with green fields, solarpowered tractors, and drones watering crops. Farmers use modern machines while protecting nature. There are rivers, trees, and windmills near the fields. Crops grow in neat rows, and animals graze peacefully. Smart irrigation systems save water, and farmers monitor crops using their AI enabled mobiles, geo-tagging and computers. Villages are clean and eco-friendly due to the installation of smart trash cans. There are penalties for exploiting natural resources beyond their means and polluting the land. Farming in the Future represents a balance between technology and nature in agriculture. It shows how farming can become more productive while remaining environmentally friendly. Such farming will help feed people, protect natural resources, and improve farmers' lives.



9. The Ganga Basin faces many problems such as water pollution, industrial waste, plastic dumping, and excessive use of fertilizers. Rapid urbanization and deforestation also harm the river ecosystem. Floods and soil erosion affect farming and human settlements.

These issues reduce water quality and harm aquatic life and human health.

Certain Solutions suggested by my group include-

- Treating industrial waste before releasing it into rivers, reducing plastic use, and promoting organic farming.
- Planting more trees near riverbanks can reduce soil erosion and flooding.
- Public awareness campaigns should encourage people to keep rivers clean. Government policies should support

sustainable water management and strict pollution control.

- Community participation is also important for protecting the Ganga Basin. These steps can help restore the health of the river and ensure safe water for future generations.
10. Many traditional crops such as rice, wheat, pulses, millets, and barley are still commonly used in homes today. These crops have been grown for centuries and remain important parts of our daily diet. Rice and wheat are staple foods, while pulses provide protein and nutrition. Millets are becoming popular again because they are healthy and require less water to grow. The continued use of these crops shows that ancient agricultural practices still influence modern life. It also proves that traditional crops are nutritious, reliable, and suitable for different climatic conditions. From these observations, we can conclude that agriculture has changed over time, but many traditional crops continue to remain valuable for food security and healthy living

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- Threshing
- Mehrgarh
- Zaid
- Vrihi
- Sikkim

B. Match the Following

- Phad System – c. A community-based irrigation system using small canals, found in Maharashtra
- Laterite Soil – d. Soil type that is rich in iron and ideal for crops like ragi and groundnut
- Beejamrit – a. An organic paste made from cow dung and urine used to treat seeds
- Zaid Crops – e. Crops grown in the short summer season between Rabi and Kharif
- Contour Ploughing – b. Ploughing along the natural curves of a slope to prevent soil erosion

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (c) Textile manufacturing
2. (b) Black soil
3. (b) Multiple cropping
4. (c) Tamil Nadu
5. (b) To offer crop insurance and compensate farmers for losses due to natural disasters.

E. Short Answer Questions

1. Archaeological findings, such as rice husk impressions and grain remains found at Harappan sites, provide evidence that rice was being cultivated in parts of the subcontinent as early as the 3rd millennium BCE.
2. Kharif crops are sown at the start of the monsoon (around June–July) and harvested in autumn (e.g., rice); Rabi crops are sown after the monsoon in winter (around October–November) and harvested in spring (e.g., wheat).
3. It was a simple wooden plough with a funnel

attached that could open the soil, drop the seed, and cover it back — all in one pass, saving farmers time and labour while ensuring correct seed depth and spacing.

4. Rain-fed agriculture depends entirely on rainfall for water, without irrigation support; a major challenge is that crop yields become unpredictable and vulnerable to failure when the monsoon is delayed, insufficient, or excessive.
5. Organic farming avoids synthetic chemical fertilisers and pesticides, relying instead on natural methods like compost and biological pest control; Sikkim is recognised globally as India's first fully organic state.

Chapter 2. India and Her Neighbours

NCERT

1. A maritime neighbour is a country that shares sea boundaries with another country instead of land borders. India has several maritime neighbours because it is surrounded by the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal. These neighbouring countries are connected to India through sea routes, trade, culture, and travel. Two important maritime neighbours of India are Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Sri Lanka lies to the south of India and is separated by the Palk Strait. The Maldives is located southwest of India in the Indian Ocean. India shares strong

cultural, economic, and historical ties with both countries.

2. Buddhism has created strong cultural and spiritual links between India and many neighbouring countries. Buddhism began in India with the teachings of Gautama Buddha and later spread to countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Tibet. Many Buddhist pilgrims from these countries visit important places in India such as Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar. India also shares religious festivals, monasteries, and traditions with these nations. For example, Sri Lanka

follows Theravada Buddhism, which was introduced from India by Emperor Ashoka's son Mahinda. Bhutan and Tibet also have strong Buddhist traditions influenced by Indian culture. These shared beliefs have increased friendship, tourism, and cultural exchange among countries. Buddhism continues to connect people through peace, compassion, and spiritual understanding, making it an important link between India and its neighbours.

3. An open border policy means that people can cross the border between two countries freely without requiring visas or passports for normal travel. India and Nepal share such an open border policy. This policy allows citizens of both countries to travel, work, trade, and live in each other's countries easily. People living along the border benefit greatly because they can visit relatives, attend markets, and find employment without difficulty. Trade and cultural exchanges have also increased because of this arrangement. Many Nepali citizens work in India, while Indian traders and tourists visit Nepal regularly. The open border strengthens friendship, trust, and cooperation between the two countries. However, it also requires careful management to prevent illegal activities. Overall, the policy supports economic growth and close social relations between the people of India and Nepal.
4. The statement means that neighbouring countries are connected not only by borders but also through culture, history, trade, religion, language, and friendship.

Countries may share traditions and lifestyles that create strong bonds between people. For example, India and Bhutan share close cultural and spiritual ties through Buddhism. India supports Bhutan in education, trade, and development projects, while Bhutan maintains friendly relations with India. Festivals, food habits, and cultural practices in both countries also show similarities. Even though geography makes them neighbours, their cooperation and mutual respect strengthen their relationship further. Similarly, India and Nepal share open borders, common religious beliefs, and family connections. Therefore, neighbouring relationships are built not only through location but also through emotional, cultural, and

economic connections that bring people closer together.

5. India has helped smaller neighbouring countries in many ways through economic, humanitarian, and technical support.
 - (a) India provides financial aid, medical assistance, educational opportunities, and disaster relief during emergencies.
 - (b) For example, India helped Nepal after the 2015 earthquake by sending rescue teams, medicines, and food supplies.
 - (c) India also supports Bhutan by helping in the development of hydropower projects and infrastructure.
 - (d) During the COVID-19 pandemic, India supplied vaccines and medicines to neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. India also helps improve trade, transport, and communication facilities in neighbouring nations.
 - (e) Scholarships and training programmes are provided to students and professionals from nearby countries. These efforts strengthen friendship, regional cooperation, and mutual development. India's support reflects the importance of peaceful and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries.
6. Shared challenges encourage countries to work together and find common solutions. Problems such as natural disasters, climate change, pollution, health emergencies, and water management affect many neighbouring countries. By cooperating, countries can share resources, knowledge, and technology to solve these issues more effectively. For example, during earthquakes, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic, India helped neighbouring countries with rescue operations, medicines, and vaccines. Rivers flowing through multiple countries also require cooperation for proper water management and flood control. Such collaboration strengthens friendship and trust among nations.
7. If borders were drawn only according to culture and human connections, the map of South Asia would look very different. Regions sharing common languages, religions, food

habits, and traditions might form larger cultural zones instead of separate countries. Areas with shared festivals and lifestyles would appear more connected. For example, parts of India and Nepal share similar Hindu traditions and languages, while India, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka share Buddhist cultural links. Punjab in India

and Pakistan also have common language and food traditions. Trade routes, rivers, and migration paths would become more important than political boundaries. Such a map would highlight unity among people instead of separation.

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS: BORDERS OF FRIENDSHIP

1. INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

Label India's neighbours on the map.

2. CULTURAL FLOWS BETWEEN INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

Arrows show the exchange of food, festivals and languages.

AFGHANISTAN

- Dry fruits, nuts
- Kabuli Pulao
- Persian words in Hindi/Urdu

CHINA

- Tea
- Chinese food
- Buddhism

NEPAL

- Dal Bhat
- Hindu & Buddhist festivals
- Open border marriage ties

PAKISTAN

- Basmati rice
- Sufi music
- Urdu language
- Festivals like Eid

BHUTAN

- Red rice
- Buddhism
- Traditional art & culture

INDIA

BANGLADESH

- Hilsa fish
- Bengali language
- Pihela Boushah (Bengali New Year)

MYANMAR

- Bamboo products
- Buddhism
- Festivals like Thingyan

SRI LANKA

- Tea, Spices
- Buddhism
- Tamil language & culture

→ Food → Festivals → Languages → Culture & Traditions

3. NEW "BORDERS OF FRIENDSHIP"

Imagined borders that connect neighbours through rivers, trade routes and cultural zones.

Bound by nature, connected by culture, strengthened by friendship.

4. FLAGS OF INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

Collect pictures of the flags and write your observations.

Country	Flag Description
INDIA	• Tricolour shows courage, peace and prosperity. • Ashoka Chakra represents progress.
AFGHANISTAN	• Black: strength • Red: bravery • Green: hope • Emblem shows Islamic culture.
PAKISTAN	• Green: peace and progress • White: purity • Crescent & star Islamic symbol.
CHINA	• Red: happiness and good fortune • Yellow stars: unity of people.
NEPAL	• Only non-rectangular flag in the world. • Symbols: moon (peace) & sun (energy).
BHUTAN	• Yellow: spiritual power • Orange: secular power • Dragon: purity.
BANGLADESH	• Green: nature and youth • Red circle: rising sun and freedom.
MYANMAR	• Yellow: solidarity • Green: peace • Red: courage • White star: purity.
SRI LANKA	• Lion: courage • Maroon: strength • Orange: religion • Green: minorities.

OBSERVATIONS

- ✓ Most flags use green, red, yellow – colours of nature, courage and prosperity.
- ✓ Many flags have stars, moon, sun or symbols showing culture and beliefs.
- ✓ Our neighbours may have different languages and religions but share many common values.
- ✓ Friendship, trade, rivers and culture bind us together beyond political borders.

OUR PROMISE

Let us build borders of friendship, not walls of distance.
Together we grow, together we prosper.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- 11,100 km
- Xuanzang
- Katas Raj
- Krishna
- Sundarbans
- Persia

B. Match the Following

- Sri Lanka – c. Neighbour separated by Palk Strait, where Buddhism was introduced by Mahendra and Sanghamitra
- Nepal – e. Himalayan nation with open border

and 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India

- Afghanistan – b. Country where India built the Afghan Parliament building
- Indonesia – a. Country where the Garuda appears on currency, showing Indian influence
- China – d. Country where Indian merchants built temples in the port city of Quanzhou

C. State True/False

- False
- True
- True
- True
- True

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (a) Palk Strait
2. (c) Bangladesh
3. (c) Vajrayana
4. (b) Afghanistan
5. (b) Myanmar
6. (d) Maldives

E. Short Answer Questions

1. The Himalayan mountain range forms the boundary between India and China. Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh are two Indian Union Territories/states that share this border.
2. It is a visa-free border crossing connecting Dera Baba Nanak in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, allowing Indian

Sikh pilgrims to visit this holy site without needing a visa.

3. Oman's strategic location at the meeting point of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea makes it important for maritime security; India and Oman conduct joint naval exercises, reflecting deep historical and strategic ties.
4. The International Solar Alliance is a coalition of countries working to promote solar energy use; the Maldives, one of India's maritime neighbours, is a member of this alliance.
5. It allows citizens of both countries to move freely across the border without passports or visas, permitting them to live, work, and own property in each other's territory, which benefits trade, family ties, and daily life for border communities.

Chapter 3. Empires and Kingdoms: 6th to 10th Centuries

NCERT

1. Dear Friend,

I hope you are well in Kanchipuram. Life in Kannauj has become difficult because the Pālas, Pratīhāras, and Rashtrakutas are constantly fighting to control our city. Many soldiers pass through the streets, and people often fear attacks and destruction. Trade and farming are disturbed, and taxes have increased because each ruler wants wealth to support wars. Markets sometimes remain closed, and common people suffer the most during these conflicts. At the same time, the rulers also try to improve the city because Kannauj is important and wealthy. Temples and public buildings are protected to show their power and greatness. I feel that rulers should focus more on peace and the welfare of people instead of endless battles for control.

I hope your city remains peaceful and prosperous.

Your friend,

A Citizen of Kannauj

2. The system in which emperors controlled only core regions and governed other areas through subordinate vassals had both advantages and challenges.
 - (a) One major advantage was that rulers could manage large territories more easily through vassals. Local vassals understood regional customs and could collect taxes, maintain law and order, and protect borders efficiently.
 - (b) This system reduced the burden on the emperor and allowed quicker local administration. It also helped maintain loyalty by giving local rulers some freedom and authority.

- (c) However, the system also created many challenges. Vassals sometimes became too powerful and rebelled against the emperor. They could stop paying taxes or refuse military support during wars. Communication between distant regions was difficult, making control weaker.
- (d) Rivalries among vassals could also lead to conflicts and instability. Therefore, while the vassal system helped rulers expand their kingdoms, maintaining unity and loyalty remained a major challenge.
3. The invasions of the Hūnas and the Arabs differed in their aims, methods, and impact on India.

The Hūnas invaded mainly to capture territory and wealth. They used violent military attacks and caused destruction in many regions of northwestern India. Their invasions weakened existing kingdoms, especially the Gupta Empire, and created political instability. The Arab invasions, especially in Sindh under Muhammad bin Qasim, had both political and religious aims. The Arabs wanted to expand trade, political influence, and Islam. Unlike the Hūnas, Arab rule encouraged cultural exchange and contact with West Asia. Arab scholars learned Indian mathematics, astronomy, and medicine, while Indian trade with Arab regions increased. Although conflicts occurred, the Arab presence also led to the spread of ideas and knowledge. Thus, the Hūnas mainly caused destruction, while the Arabs created both political change and cultural interaction.

4. If I were a common citizen watching Harsha's Prayāga assembly, I would feel surprised and deeply impressed by his generosity. It would seem unusual for a powerful king to donate most of his wealth to the poor, religious institutions, and scholars. His actions would make me respect him as a kind and compassionate ruler who cared about the welfare of his people rather than personal luxury.

At the same time, I might also wonder how the kingdom would manage its expenses after such large donations. Still, Harsha's generosity would inspire people to value charity and

helping others. The assembly would appear grand and memorable, showing the king's power as well as his religious devotion. Many citizens would probably praise him for his kindness and consider him an ideal ruler who believed in serving society and supporting religion and education.

5. The Ālvārs and Nāyanārs were important Bhakti saints of South India who spread devotion through songs and poems. One famous Ālvār was Nammālvār, a devotee of Lord Vishnu. He composed beautiful Tamil hymns expressing love and devotion towards God. His poems taught equality, faith, and spiritual surrender. A well-known Nāyanār was Appar, a devotee of Lord Shiva. He travelled widely and sang devotional songs encouraging people to follow the path of bhakti and kindness. His hymns became part of Tamil Shaiva literature.

A translated poem by Nammālvār:

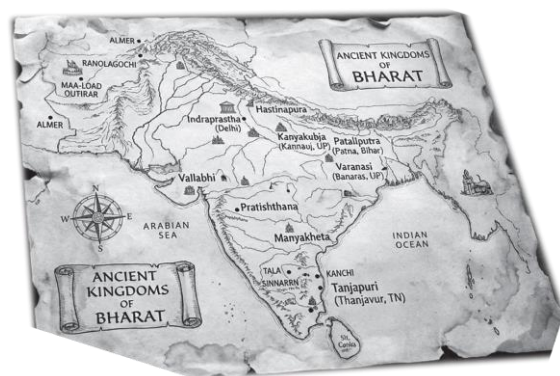
"May my heart always sing the praise of the Lord who protects all beings."

A translated poem by Appar:

"The name of Shiva removes sorrow and fills life with peace."

Ālvārs and Nāyanārs played a major role in spreading the Bhakti movement and making religion more accessible to common people.

6.



7. Match the Columns

Column A	Column B
----------	----------

a. Rāshtrakūtas	(iii) Mānyakheta
b. Gurjara-Pratīhāras	(v) Kānyakubja
c. Cholas	(ii) Tanjāvūr
d. Harshavardhana	(iv) Ujjayinī
e. Pallavas	(i) Kānchī

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Vardhana (Pushyabhuti)
2. Xuanzang
3. Rashtrakutas
4. Pallava
5. Shravanabelagola
6. Brahmagupta

B. Match the Following

1. Kadambari – d. An early novel written by Banabhatta
2. Badami – a. Capital of the Chalukyas, famous for cave temples
3. Vikramashila – b. A major centre of learning founded by Dharmapala
4. Samantas – c. The term for subordinate rulers who managed local administration
5. Rajatarangini – e. Historical chronicle of Kashmir's rulers written by Kalhana

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (c) Harshavardhana
2. (b) Vikramashila
3. (c) Rashtrakutas
4. (c) Muhammad bin Qasim
5. (c) Abhinavagupta
6. (b) Vengi

E. Short Answer Questions

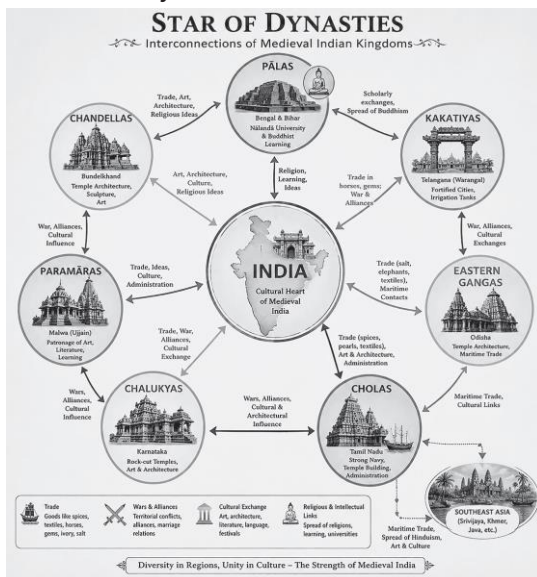
1. "Maharajadhiraja" means "great king of kings," a title indicating supreme sovereignty over subordinate kings; Harshavardhana was described by this title in the Banskhera copper plate inscription.
2. The Pala dynasty (King Dharmapala) founded Vikramashila University, located on the banks of the River Ganga. Its admission process was strict because each of its six colleges had a dvarapandita (gatekeeper-scholar) who examined visitors at the entrance — only those who passed could enter.
3. Pulakeshin II was a powerful ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. Harshavardhana tried to expand his kingdom south of the Narmada River but was stopped and defeated by Pulakeshin II.
4. The Meguti Hill inscription provides important historical evidence of Chalukya achievements; it was composed by the court poet Ravikirti in praise of King Pulakeshin II.
5. They provide detailed evidence of a systematic election process for village sabha members, including rules on eligibility, disqualification for corruption, and sealed ballots — showing a sophisticated tradition of local self-governance.
6. Mahavira (the mathematician, not the Jain teacher) wrote the first mathematical text independent of astronomy; he composed it at the court of the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I (Amoghavarsha Nripatunga).

Chapter 4. Turning Tides: 11th and 12th Centuries

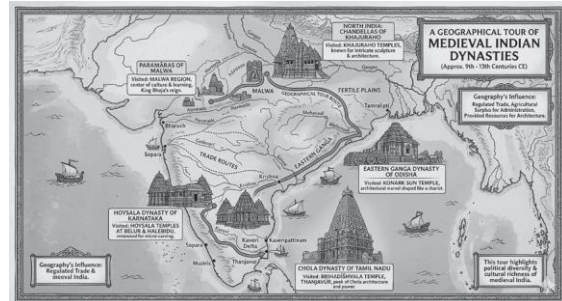
NCERT

- This period is regarded as a major transition in Indian history because important political, cultural, economic, and religious changes took place.
 - Powerful regional kingdoms such as the Cholas, Hoysalas, Eastern Gangas, and Chandellas emerged and strengthened their rule. Trade with Southeast Asia and the Arab world expanded greatly, and temple architecture reached new heights. At the same time, invasions by Turkic rulers introduced new political systems and military methods into India.
 - Two examples of change are the rise of strong regional dynasties and the expansion of maritime trade. Another important change was the beginning of Turkish invasions in north India.
 - Two examples of continuity are the continued importance of agriculture and land grants, and the ongoing influence of religion and temple-centred culture. Thus, the period combined old traditions with new developments, making it an important phase of transition in Indian history.

2. A “star of dynasties”



3.



- Rājendra I's naval expedition travelled from the Chola kingdom in South India to Southeast Asia, especially regions near Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. Using a map, the approximate distance from Tamil Nadu to these regions can be estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 kilometres by sea. This long journey demonstrates the strength and skill of the Chola navy. Their ships crossed the Bay of Bengal and controlled important trade routes. The expedition strengthened India's trade and cultural connections with Southeast Asia. It also proved that the Cholas were among the greatest maritime powers of medieval India. Their naval achievements increased economic prosperity and spread Indian influence abroad through trade, religion, language, and art.

5. Match the Column

Column A	Column B
a. Eastern Gangas	c. Konark Sun temple
b. Chandellas	d. Kandāriyā Mahādeva temple
c. Paramāras	e. Bhojeshwar temple
d. Hoysalas	a. Belur
e. Cholas	b. Brihadīśhvara temple

6.

Dynasties Present in Both Chapters	Dynasties that Disappear from the Previous Period	Dynasties that Appear in This Chapter
Cholas	Harshavardhana's dynasty	Ghaznavids
Western Chalukyas	Pallavas	Ghūrids
Eastern Chalukyas	Pushyabhutis	Hindu Shāhis
Pāṇḍyas	Vākānakas	Senas
Pratīhāras	Maitrakas	Eastern Gangas
Rashtrakutas (mentioned as earlier power)	Early Gurjara rulers	Kākatīyas
Hoysalas		
Paramāras		
Chāhamānas (Chauhans)		
Chaulukyas (Solankis)		
Chandellas		

Some powerful dynasties such as the Cholas and Chalukyas continued across both periods. Dynasties like the Pallavas and Pushyabhutis faded away after the earlier period. New regional and foreign powers such as the Ghaznavids, Ghūrids, Hoysalas, and Kākatīyas became important in the 11th–12th centuries.

7. (i) Importance of Nālandā

Nālandā was one of the greatest centres of learning in ancient India. Students from India, China, Tibet, and Southeast Asia studied subjects such as Buddhism, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy there. The university had large libraries, skilled teachers, and thousands of students. It encouraged intellectual exchange and helped spread Indian knowledge and culture across Asia.

(ii) Effects of its destruction

The destruction of Nālandā caused a major loss to education and culture. Valuable manuscripts and books were destroyed, and many scholars had to leave. Buddhist learning declined greatly in India after this event. Cultural and intellectual exchanges with other countries also weakened. The destruction of such universities reduced opportunities for advanced education and harmed India's rich scholarly tradition.

8. Mahmud of Ghazni mainly carried out raids into India to gain wealth, treasure, and political prestige. He attacked rich cities and temples such as Somnath but did not try to establish permanent rule in India. His campaigns focused on plunder and strengthening his empire in Afghanistan.

Muhammad Ghori, however, aimed at territorial expansion and long-term political control in India. He defeated Indian rulers in battles such as Tarain and laid the foundation for Turkish rule in north India. His victories eventually led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Thus, Mahmūd's raids caused destruction and economic loss, while Muhammad Ghūrī's campaigns brought long-lasting political changes. Their different motives shaped the outcomes of their invasions and influenced the future history of India.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

- Khyber
- Al-Biruni
- Hanamkonda
- UNESCO
- Bhaskaracharya (Bhaskara II)
- Chaulukya

B. Match the Following

- Mahmud of Ghazni – c. Carried out 17 raids in India, destroyed the Somnath temple
- Muhammad Ghuri – a. Defeated Prithviraja III at the Second Battle of Tarain

3. Prithviraja III – d. Chahamana ruler who won the First Battle of Tarain
4. Bakhtiyar Khilji – e. Led campaigns that destroyed Nalanda and Vikramashila universities
5. Basavanna – b. Founder of the Lingayat movement, composed short poems called vachanas

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Mahmud of Ghazni
2. (b) Al-Biruni
3. (b) Belur and Halebidu
4. (c) LilaVati
5. (c) Prithviraja III
6. (b) The Ganga to the Godavari

E. Short Answer Questions

1. Jayapala was a ruler of the Hindu Shahi dynasty, which controlled the region around the Khyber Pass and resisted early invasions from Central Asia.
2. The Khyber Pass, a major route through the Hindu Kush mountains, served as both an

invasion route for armies entering India from Central Asia and a vital trade and cultural link between India and Central Asia.

3. The Hoysalas and the Kakatiyas rose to prominence in south India during this period.
4. The Shrivijaya Empire was a powerful maritime kingdom in Southeast Asia that controlled important trade routes. Rajendra Chola I launched a naval expedition against it to protect and assert control over these routes, ensuring continued prosperity for Chola maritime trade.
5. Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher-saint in Kalyana who founded the Lingayat movement, which rejected caste distinctions and encouraged people from all backgrounds to worship, debate, and compose devotional poems (vachanas) together as equals.
6. After Mahmud's death, the Ghaznavid Empire gradually weakened and declined, eventually losing much of its power and territory to rising regional powers, including the Ghurids.

Chapter 5. India, a Home to Many

NCERT

1. Trace the routes on the world map–
Do it yourself.

Different communities reached India through land and sea routes. The Parsis travelled from Persia to Gujarat by sea across the Arabian Sea. Tibetan refugees crossed the Himalayan mountains into northern India. Arab traders

sailed through the Indian Ocean to Kerala, while Jewish communities arrived through coastal trade routes. These journeys involved difficult physical geographies such as deserts, mountains, rivers, forests, and seas. Migrants had to face harsh climates, storms, and long travel distances. Despite these hardships, India's location and cultural openness attracted many communities. Mapping these routes shows how

geography influenced migration and cultural exchange throughout history.

2. Indian culture welcomes people of different backgrounds because of-
 - (a) Values like tolerance, compassion, and respect for all religions
 - (b) Ideas such as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (“the world is one family”) and Atithi Devo Bhava (“guest is like God”) encourage acceptance and hospitality.
 - (c) Indian society has historically allowed communities to practise their own languages, traditions, and faiths freely. This openness helped migrants like Parsis, Jews, Tibetans, and Syriac Christians preserve their identity while becoming part of Indian society.
 - (d) Diversity is seen as a strength rather than a threat. These values promote peaceful coexistence and harmony among people from different cultures.
3. Many migrant communities contributed greatly to India. For example, several members of the Parsi community excelled in industry, law, science, and the armed forces. Ratan Tata strengthened Indian industry, while Sam Manekshaw became a respected army chief. Tibetan communities preserved Buddhist traditions and introduced the Sowa Rigpa system of medicine. Jewish communities contributed to trade and education. Syriac Christians helped spread learning and healthcare in Kerala. Siddis enriched Indian music, dance, and sports with African cultural influences. These communities became an important part of India’s social and cultural life while maintaining their own traditions.
4. Do it Yourself

A class project on migrant communities can help students understand India’s diversity. Each group may study one community such as Parsis, Jews, Tibetans, Siddis, or Syriac Christians. Students can collect information about their migration history, traditions, language, dress, religion, and contributions to India. The findings

can be presented through posters, dramas, songs, paintings, or role-play activities. Such projects encourage teamwork, creativity, and respect for cultural diversity. They also show how India became a “home to many” through acceptance and coexistence. This activity helps students appreciate the importance of unity in diversity.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
2. Synagogues
3. Zoroastrianism
4. Siddi
5. Digvijaysinhji (Jam Sahib of Nawanagar)
6. Dalai Lama

B. Match the Following

1. Bene Israel – (ii) Jewish community that settled along the Konkan coast after a shipwreck
2. Siddis – (i) Community of African origin, known for unique music and dance blending African and Indian traditions
3. Armenians – (iv) Received royal patronage from Akbar; Abdul Hai served as Chief Justice
4. Mappila Muslims – (iii) Community that built the Cheraman Juma Masjid, India's oldest mosque
5. Baha'is – (v) Followers of Baha'u'llah; built the Lotus Temple in New Delhi

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Bene Israel
2. (a) Arab traders
3. (c) Parsis

4. (c) Upliftment of women through education and sustainable farming
5. (c) Poland
6. (b) Ayurvedic practices along with inputs from China, Central Asia, Persia, and Greece

E. Short Answer Questions

1. The Bene Israel settled along the Konkan coast of Maharashtra, while the Cochin Jews settled in Kochi, Kerala.
2. Persecution means the systematic mistreatment or oppression of a group, often based on religion. Syriac Christians faced this in West Asia under the Roman and Persian Empires due to religious conflicts, prompting many to seek refuge in India.
3. Both traditions share common linguistic and

religious roots, with similarities in ritual practices like fire worship, and the Avesta (Zoroastrian scripture) shows notable parallels with the Rigveda.

4. Armenians served as physicians, traders, and diplomats in the Mughal court; Abdul Hai, an Armenian, was appointed as a judge by Akbar.
5. Tibetan refugees primarily settled in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh) and parts of Karnataka; they preserved Sowa Rigpa, the traditional Tibetan system of medicine.
6. "Atithi Devo Bhava" means "the guest is equivalent to God," reflecting India's tradition of treating guests and migrants with great respect and hospitality, seen in India's historical willingness to shelter persecuted communities.

Chapter 6. The State, the Government, and You

NCERT

1. The statement is generally true because in most democracies, the people elect their representatives and the head of the state is not a hereditary ruler. A republic is a country where power belongs to the citizens, and leaders are chosen through elections. In democracies like India, citizens vote for representatives, and the President is elected rather than born into power. However, some democratic countries may still have constitutional monarchs, such as the United Kingdom, where a king or queen exists along with elected governments. Therefore, while many democracies are republics, not all democracies follow exactly the same structure.
2. Decentralisation means distributing power among central, state, and local governments. It

is important in India because the country is very large and diverse. Local governments understand regional problems better and can respond quickly to people's needs. Decentralisation also encourages public participation, allowing citizens to take part in decision-making through Panchayats and Municipalities. It reduces the burden on the central government and improves efficiency in administration.

This system strengthens democracy because power is shared instead of being controlled by one authority. It also ensures development reaches villages and towns more effectively.

3. Power should be shared among all members of the student council rather than being controlled only by the president. Shared decision-making allows different opinions to be heard and prevents

misuse of authority. It also teaches teamwork, responsibility, and democratic values.

- (a) Rules about food or language: The student council should not control personal choices such as food or language because students have individual rights and freedoms. Rules should focus only on maintaining discipline and fairness in school
 - (b) Dangers of unchecked power: If the student council becomes too powerful and there are no checks and no restrictions on its power, unfair decisions may be made. Students' rights may be ignored, and some members may misuse power. Democracy works best when authority is balanced and accountable.
4. (a) Parliament of India is an important institution because it represents the people and makes laws. However, it should not have unlimited power. In a democracy, power must be balanced among Parliament, the executive, and the judiciary
- (b) No, Parliament cannot make laws that violate citizens' fundamental rights. The Constitution protects people from unfair laws.
- (c) If there are no limits, laws may become unjust or discriminatory. Citizens' freedoms could be threatened, and democracy may weaken.
- (d) Neither is absolutely more powerful. Parliament makes laws, while the Supreme Court of India checks whether laws follow the Constitution. Both institutions balance each other and protect democracy. Neither is the holder of absolute power.
5. Families interact with different levels of government in daily life. For example, local governments handle water supply, roads, sanitation, and property taxes. State governments manage schools, hospitals, and transport services. The central government deals

with defence, international affairs, railways, and national schemes. Common challenges include long procedures, delays, lack of information, and overcrowded offices. Sometimes people face difficulties in accessing online services or understanding official processes. Despite these issues, government institutions are important because they provide essential public services and support citizens' needs. This exercise shows how democracy connects governments with everyday life.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Sovereignty
2. Judiciary
3. Information
4. Rights
5. States

B. Match the Following

1. Silent Valley Movement – c. Example of citizen activism protecting environment
2. C.B. Muthamma – a. First woman to join the Indian Foreign Service
3. Gram Panchayat – b. Local self-government in villages
4. Political Executive – e. Elected leaders like Prime Minister and Chief Ministers
5. Permanent Executive – d. Officers selected through competitive exams like UPSC

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (c) Political parties
2. (b) A condition without government where the powerful exploit the weak
3. (c) Chief Minister
4. (b) The President, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha
5. (b) Right to Freedom of Religion

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. A state is a politically organised body of people living within a defined territory, under a government, with the authority to govern themselves independently. Its four essential components are population, territory, government, and sovereignty.
2. Sovereignty means a state has the final and supreme authority within its own borders, with no outside power able to override its decisions; it is the most essential feature because without it, a territory would simply be controlled by someone else.
3. Central Government (national defence, foreign affairs), State Government (police, public health), and Local Government (garbage collection, streetlights).
4. An independent judiciary ensures that laws are interpreted and disputes are resolved fairly without political pressure. It protects citizens' Fundamental Rights and ensures that the government acts according to the Constitution.
5. The RTI Act (2005) allows citizens to request information about government actions and expenditure, helping hold public authorities accountable and promoting transparency.
6. A democracy is a system where power ultimately rests with the people through elected representatives (e.g., the UK, a democracy with a hereditary monarch as head of state). A republic is a state where the head of state is elected rather than hereditary (e.g., India).

Chapter 7. Infrastructure: Engine of India's Development

NCERT

1. In the last decade, my area has seen the construction of better roads, flyovers, metro lines, hospitals, schools, and internet facilities. In cities, widened highways and the development of rapid rail and metro connectivity have improved travel and business opportunities. It has had the following benefits-
 - Faster travel and reduced traffic jams

- Easier access to schools, hospitals, and markets
- More employment opportunities due to better transport
- Improved internet and communication services for students and workers

If I could build something for the community, I would build:

- A modern public library with free Wi-Fi

- A community health centre
 - Parks and sports grounds for children and elderly people
 - Rainwater harvesting systems and clean public toilets
2. Infrastructure such as ports, highways, railways, and airports helps the economy grow and creates many jobs. It creates direct jobs including construction workers, engineers, architects, drivers, airport staff, railway employees, security guards and maintenance workers.

Indirect Benefits are as follows-

- Shops, hotels, and restaurants grow near highways and airports
 - Farmers can transport goods faster and earn better profits
 - Tourism increases, helping local businesses
 - Delivery and online businesses become more efficient
 - For example, a highway connecting villages to cities helps farmers sell crops more easily and creates transport-related jobs.
3. It is important to protect the environment while building roads, airports, or factories because careless construction can cut down forests, increase pollution, harm wildlife, water sources, cause floods or soil erosion. Yes, development and environmental protection go together hand in hand by:
- Planting trees along roads
 - Using solar energy and green technology
 - Building rainwater harvesting systems
 - Creating wildlife crossings on highways
 - Using electric public transport
 - “Sustainable infrastructure” helps people while also protecting nature
4. Good infrastructure is extremely important during disasters like floods, earthquakes, or cyclones. Strong roads and bridges help rescue teams reach affected areas quickly. Airports and railways transport medicines, food, and relief materials. Communication systems help people

receive warnings and emergency information. Proper drainage systems reduce waterlogging during floods. Earthquake-resistant buildings save lives. Modern infrastructure improves disaster management and reduces damage.

5. Yes, people sometimes damage public property by scribbling on walls, breaking streetlights, damaging benches, parks and by throwing garbage in public places. Its consequences are as follows-

- Public places become dirty and unsafe
- Government money is wasted on repairs
- Tourists and visitors get a bad impression
- Citizens cannot properly use facilities

Some solutions to prevent it are-

- Spreading awareness through schools and campaigns
- Installing CCTV cameras in public places
- Imposing fines for damaging public property
- Encouraging community participation and cleanliness drives
- Teaching children the importance of civic responsibility

6. a.



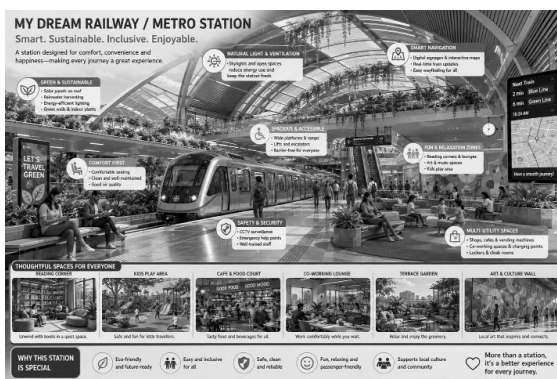
b.



c.



d.



7. Modern infrastructure uses technology to improve daily life. Some examples of Innovations are-

- Electric vehicles (EVs)
- Solar-powered streetlights
- Smart traffic management systems
- Hyperloop and bullet train technology

- Green buildings with energy-saving designs
- Smart water supply systems
- Drone-based delivery services
- Intelligent public transport apps
- Floating solar farms and smart grids

These innovations can reduce pollution, save time, and improve mobility and convenience for communities.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Energy
2. Public Works (PWD)
3. NH 44 (Srinagar to Kanyakumari)
4. Fuel
5. Ports
6. Online (digital)

B. Match the Following

1. NH-44 – Connects Srinagar to Kanyakumari
2. Cold storage – Keeps crops fresh for longer time
3. Metro trains – Run on underground and elevated tracks
4. Fibre-optic cables – Carry digital information
5. Ports – Handle loading and unloading of ships

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Transport systems
2. (b) Dhola-Sadiya Bridge
3. (c) Airways
4. (c) Communication networks
5. (b) Reduced air pollution

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. Local roads connect villages and towns to markets, schools, and hospitals, enabling people to travel for work, education, and healthcare, and allowing goods to move efficiently.
2. Cold storage preserves perishable crops for longer, reducing spoilage and allowing farmers to sell at better prices; irrigation ensures a reliable water supply regardless of rainfall, increasing yield and allowing multiple cropping cycles.
3. It enables timely warnings and alerts to reach affected areas, helps coordinate rescue and relief operations, and keeps citizens connected with emergency services during a disaster.
4. Metro systems run on electricity rather than fossil fuels and reduce the number of private vehicles on roads, lowering air pollution and traffic congestion.
5. Good transport infrastructure allows defence forces to quickly reach difficult or remote terrains, including border areas, ensuring rapid deployment during emergencies.
6. E-governance uses digital technology to deliver government services online, making processes like applying for documents or filing complaints faster, more transparent, and more accessible.

Chapter 8. Banks and the Magic of Finance

NCERT

1. Financial infrastructure includes banks, ATMs, digital payment systems, stock markets, insurance companies, and financial institutions that help manage money and economic activities. It allows people to save, borrow, invest, and transfer money safely. Physical infrastructure such as roads, transport, electricity, and communication systems supports the functioning of financial services. For example, internet connectivity and electricity are needed for online banking, ATMs, and UPI payments. Similarly, businesses use roads and transport systems to deliver goods while banks provide loans and financial support for trade and industries. Together, financial and physical infrastructure strengthen economic growth, improve employment opportunities, and support daily life.
 2. A bank account helps people save money securely and access financial services such as loans, ATM facilities, online payments, and interest on savings. It also allows people to receive salaries, scholarships, pensions, and government benefits directly. Digital banking and UPI payments make transactions faster and safer than carrying large amounts of cash. Having a bank account encourages financial discipline and inclusion. In India, schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana have helped millions open bank accounts. While everyone should have the opportunity to open a bank account, it should not be forced without proper awareness and access. Rural areas need better banking facilities and digital education.
- Financial literacy is important so that people can use banking services safely and confidently.
3. Compound interest means interest is calculated on both the original amount and previously earned interest. For savers, it is beneficial because their money grows faster over time. Fixed deposits and savings investments become more valuable with compound interest. It encourages long-term saving and financial planning. However, for borrowers, compound

interest can become expensive because unpaid interest keeps increasing the total loan amount. People taking education, home, or business loans may face financial pressure if repayments are delayed. Therefore, compound interest can be both helpful and risky depending on the situation. Savers benefit through wealth growth, while borrowers need careful planning to avoid debt problems. Understanding compound interest helps people make better financial decisions regarding savings, investments, and loans in everyday life and future planning.

4. Financial infrastructure helps money move between households and businesses through banks, loans, digital payments, stock markets, and investment systems. Households save money in banks, and banks use those savings to provide loans to businesses for production and expansion. Businesses pay wages and salaries to workers, who then spend or save money again, creating a continuous economic cycle. Digital payment systems such as UPI and online banking make transactions quick and convenient. Governments support this flow by building strong banking networks, promoting financial inclusion, and creating secure digital payment systems. Schemes like direct benefit transfers and low interest loans also encourage economic activity. Efficient financial infrastructure strengthens trade, employment, investment, and economic growth by ensuring smooth movement of money between citizens, businesses, and government institutions.
5. Fixed deposits usually earn higher interest than savings accounts because the money remains locked in the bank for a fixed period. Banks can use these longterm deposits to provide loans and make investments more confidently. Since customers cannot withdraw the money easily before maturity, banks reward them with higher interest rates. Savings accounts, on the other hand, allow frequent deposits and withdrawals, so banks must keep enough cash available at all times. This flexibility reduces the interest banks can offer. Fixed deposits encourage long-term saving and financial planning because people earn better returns over time. Higher interest on fixed deposits benefits savers who do not need immediate access to their money. Thus,

different interest rates reflect the different levels of flexibility and stability offered by banking services.

6. Sahil received ₹10,000 as prize money, and his father promised 12% interest every year for 3 years if he did not spend it. Using compound interest:

$$A = P(1 + r/100)^n$$

$$A = 10000(1 + 12/100)^3$$

Therefore, after 3 years, Sahil would have approximately

₹14,049.

7. Stock markets help mobilise individual savings by allowing people to invest money in companies through shares. Instead of keeping all savings idle, people can invest and earn returns if companies grow successfully.

Companies benefit because issuing shares helps them raise large amounts of capital for expansion, technology, and production. Investors become partial owners of the company and may receive dividends or profit from rising share prices. Stock markets also encourage economic growth by supporting industries and business development. In India, stock exchanges such as the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange play important roles in the economy. However, investments involve risks, so people should study carefully before investing money in shares or securities.

8. Digital payments are fast, convenient, and reduce the need to carry cash, but they also increase the risk of cyber fraud. To balance convenience and safety, people should follow secure banking practices. They should never share OTPs, passwords, PINs, or bank details with strangers. Strong passwords and two-factor authentication improve account security. People must avoid clicking suspicious links or responding to fake calls and messages. Banks and governments should spread awareness about cyber safety and strengthen digital security systems. Reporting fraud quickly through helplines such as 1930 and cybercrime portals can prevent further losses. Financial literacy and responsible use of technology are essential for safe digital banking. By combining awareness, strong security

measures, and careful behaviour, digital payments can remain both convenient and secure for users.

9. Most family members and neighbours save money through bank accounts, fixed deposits, savings schemes, and digital wallets. Many regularly use UPI, ATMs, and online banking for shopping, bill payments, ticket booking, and money transfers. Most people prefer UPI because it is quick, convenient, and reduces the need to carry cash. However, some elderly people still prefer cash transactions because they find digital systems difficult to use. A few people shared experiences about fake calls and messages asking for OTPs or bank details.

After realising it was a scam, they immediately blocked their accounts and informed the bank. The biggest lesson they learned was never to share personal banking information with strangers. One surprising insight was how quickly digital payments have become common even in smaller towns and villages.

10.



11. Learning to fill cheques helps students understand banking procedures and financial responsibility. A cheque must include the date, name of the person or organisation receiving payment,

amount in words and numbers, and the account holder's signature. Writing cheques carefully is important because mistakes may cause rejection by the bank. Cheques are commonly used for paying utility bills, school fees, rent, and business transactions. By observing parents or guardians fill out cheques, students can learn how banking systems work. Even though digital payments are increasing, cheques are still important in financial transactions. Understanding cheque usage improves financial literacy and confidence in handling money responsibly. It also teaches the importance of accuracy, security, and proper documentation in banking and everyday financial activities.

12. A cash withdrawal slip is used to withdraw money directly from a bank account. To withdraw ₹10,000, the slip must include the account holder's name, account number, date, branch name, and the amount in both words and numbers. The amount section should be written as “` 10,000” and “Ten Thousand Rupees Only.” The account holder must sign the slip correctly for verification. Some banks may also ask for a mobile number or identity proof for security purposes. Filling withdrawal slips carefully helps prevent mistakes and fraud. Students learning this process understand how banks manage financial transactions safely. Even with the growth of ATMs and digital banking, withdrawal slips remain useful for direct cash transactions inside bank branches.

TIME FOR EXERCISE

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Deposit
2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
3. Current
4. Stock exchange
5. Cheque
6. 50 crore

B. Match the Following

1. Savings Account – c. Regular account with interest and withdrawal limits
2. Current Account – d. Business account with unlimited transactions, no interest
3. Fixed Deposit – a. Higher interest rate for money locked for fixed period
4. Debit Card – b. Used at shops to deduct payment directly from bank
5. NABARD – e. Supports rural development and funds small farmers

C. State True/False

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

D. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (a) Banks charged very high fees for opening accounts
2. (c) Recurring Deposit Account
3. (b) Guardians of treasure, like Kubera, the God of Wealth
4. (b) Nepal
5. (c) Report immediately via helpline 1930 or cybercrime portal

E. Short Answer Type Questions

1. A bank is a financial institution that accepts deposits from people with surplus money and lends this money to those who need it, while also providing services like savings accounts and loans.

2. Deposits are money customers place into their bank accounts for safekeeping. They benefit account holders by keeping money safe and earning interest, and benefit banks by providing funds that can be lent at a higher interest rate.
3. A savings account is for individuals, earns interest, but has monthly withdrawal limits; a current account is for businesses, allows unlimited withdrawals, but earns no interest.
4. The Reserve Bank of India is India's central bank, established in 1935. Two important functions: printing and issuing currency, and regulating and supervising other banks.
5. UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is a fast, secure digital payment system for instant transfers using QR codes or phone numbers; it is popular because it is quick, convenient, and works well even for small transactions.
6. A stock market is a platform where shares of publicly listed companies are bought and sold.
7. Shares represent a unit of ownership in a company. Companies issue shares to raise capital for expanding their business in exchange for giving investors a stake in ownership and profits.