

Traders, Kings and Pilgrims

I. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct option to complete the statements given below:

- (i) Puhar was an important port on the
(a) West coast (b) East coast (c) Malabar coast (d) None of the above.
- (ii) The most fertile river valley was
(a) Kaveri (b) Yamuna (c) Ganga (d) None of the above.
- (iii) The capital of the Pandyas was
(a) Madurai (b) Mudumalai (c) Patliputra (d) Ujjain.
- (iv) The Satavahanas became an Important dynasty
In (a) Northern India (b) Eastern India
(c) Southern India (d) Western India.
- (v) The rulers who ruled over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago were
(a) Pandyas (b) Cholas (c) Kushanas (d) Cheras.

Ans: (a) — (b), (iii) — (a), (ii) — (a), (iv) — (d), (v) — (c).

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to complete each

sentence. (i) Gold, and were in abundance in South

India.

(ii) Gautamiputra Shri Satakami and other Satavahana rulers were known as lords of the

(iii) The famous Kushana ruler organised a Buddhist council.

(iv) The older form of Buddhism was known as

(v) Buddha's attainment of enlightenment was shown by sculptures of the tree.

(vi) Anyone could follow the path of

(vii) Xuan Zang, a Chinese Buddhist pilgrim took the route to return China.

(viii) was the most famous Buddhist monastery.

(ix) The two major centres of power of the Kushanas were and

(x) The images of deities were placed within special homes or places known as

Ans:

(i) spices, precious stones (ii) dakshinapatha

(iii) Kanishka (iv) Kanishka

(v) peepal (vi) Bhakti

(vii) land (viii) Nalanda

(ix) Peshawar, Mathura (x) temples.

III. TRUE/FALSE

State whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- (i) Fa Xran started his journey back home from Nalanda.
- (ii) Pepper, a very important spice grown in South India was known as black gold in the Roman Empire.
- (iii) Muvendar is a Bengali word meaning three chiefs.
- (iv) Puhar or Kaveripaltinam was the port of the Pandyas.
- (v) The statues of Buddha were made in Mathura and Taxila.
- (vi) Bodhisattvas were persons who had attained enlightenment. Ans. (i) False, (ii) True, (iii) False, (iv) False, (v) True, (vi) True.

IV. MATCHING SKILL

Match the items in column A correctly with those given in column B. Column B

| Column A | Column B |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (i) Gautamiputra Shri Satakarni | (a) A poet who wrote a biography of the Buddha |
| (ii) Mahayana | (b) Satavahanas |
| (iii) Ashvaghosha | (c) Controlled the Silk Route |
| (iv) Bhakti | (d) A new form of Buddhism |
| (v) The Kushanas | (e) It emphasised devotion and individual worship of a god or goddess |

Ans. (i)—(b), (ii)—(d), (iii)—(a), (iv)—(e), (v)—(c).

V. VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Where can evidence of trade be found?

Ans: Evidence of trade can be found in the Sangam poems.

2. What was South India famous for? [Imp.]

Ans: It was famous for items like gold and precious stones and spices like pepper. Q. 3.

How can you say that Rome had a flourishing trade with south India? Ans. Many Roman gold coins have been found in south India.

4. Name the three ruling families of south India

Ans: The Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas.

5. How did the chiefs use the tribute that they collected from neighbouring areas? Ans:
They kept some of the wealth for their use and distributed the rest amongst their supporters.

6. Who were the supporters of the chiefs?

Ans: Their family members, soldiers and poets.

7. Name the items that the chiefs gave to the poets as a reward. Ans:

Precious stones, gold, horses, elephants, chariots and fine cloth.

8. Why do you think Gautamiputra Shri Satakami wanted to control the coasts? Ans:

He wanted to do this to become more efficient and powerful

9. What qualities of silk make it a highly valued fabric?

Ans: Silk has rich, glossy colour and smooth texture.

10. How is making silk a complicated process? [V. Imp.]

Ans: Raw silk is extracted from the cocoons of silk worms, spun into thread and then woven into cloth.

11. Who were the earliest rulers of the subcontinent to issue gold coins? Ans:

The Kushanas were the earliest rulers to issue gold coins

12. Who was Kanishka? Mention one of his achievements. [V. Imp.]

Ans: Kanishka was the famous ruler of the Kushana dynasty. He organized a Buddhist council where scholars used to discuss important issues,

13. Who were Bodhisattvas?

Ans: They were holy persons who had attained enlightenment.

14. Name the countries where the worship of Bodhisattvas became popular. Ans:

Central Asia, China, Korea and Japan

15. Name some Chinese Buddhist pilgrims.

Ans: Fa Xuan, Xuan Zang and I-Qing.

16. Mention the important feature of later Hinduism. [V. Imp.]

Ans: The worship of deities like Shiva, Vishnu and goddess Durga became popular

17. What was given much importance under the system of Bhakti? [V. Imp.]

Ans: The devotion and individual worship of a god or goddess were given much importance under the system of Bhakti.

VI. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who was Gautamiputra Shri Satakami? How do we come to know about him? [Imp.]

Ans: Gautamiputra Shri Satakami was the famous ruler of the Satavahana dynasty. We come to know about him from an inscription composed by his mother. According to this inscription he and other Satavahana rulers were known as lords of the dakshinapatha, which was used as

a name for the entire southern region. He sent his army to the eastern, western and southern coasts

2. How did the knowledge of silk spread far and wide? [V. Imp.]

Ans: China was the first country where silk took its birth. Although the country kept the- methods of making silk a closely guarded secret for a long time, people of other regions ultimately came to know about them.

- Some people from China went to distant lands on foot, horseback and on camels and with them they carried silk.
- Sometimes, Chinese rulers sent gifts or silk to rulers in Iran and west Asia. From there the knowledge of silk spread further west.

3. Why was silk so expensive? [Imp.]

Ans: Silk had to be brought from China. It was a long journey and the traders had to cross dangerous roads through mountains and deserts. People living along the route often demanded payments from the traders for giving them permission to pass through.

4. Write a brief note on the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims.

Ans: Fa Xuan, Xuan Zang and I-Qing were the famous Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who came to India to visit places associated with the life of the Buddha. They also visited famous monasteries. These pilgrims left an account of their journey. They mentioned the dangers that they had to face on their way to monasteries that they visited. They also mentioned the books that they carried with them. These pilgrims also carried with them the statues of the Buddha.

5. What was the Bhakti system of belief? [V. Imp.]

Ans: According to the Bhakti system of belief, if a devotee worships the chosen deity with a pure heart, the deity will appear in the form in which he/she may desire. Therefore, the deity could be thought of as a human being, lion, tree or any other form. Once this idea gained acceptance, artists made beautiful images of these deities.

VII. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What do you mean by Silk Route? What was its significance? [V. Imp.]

Ans: The route through which the traders carried silk with them is known as silk Route. .Silk was first invented in China and the methods of its making were kept a high secret for several years. But the traders ultimately spread the knowledge of silk far and wide. Everyone got attracted to it because of its fine texture. Wearing silk became a fashion amongst rulers and rich people in Rome. In India too, the rulers tried to control the Silk Route. This was because they could benefit from taxes, tributes and gifts that were brought by traders travelling along the route. The Kushanas were the best known rulers who controlled the Silk Route. During their rule, a branch of the Silk Route extended from Central Asia down to the seaports at the mouth of the river Indus, from where silk was shipped westwards to the Roman Empire.

2. How did Buddhism grow during Kushana dynasty? [Imp.]

Ans: Kanishka was the most reputed Kushana ruler. During his reign Buddhism spread to a great extent. He organised a Buddhist council where scholars used to gather to discuss major issues. Ashvaghosha was a renowned poet in his court. He wrote the biography of the Buddha. Mahayana Buddhism emerged as a new form. This had two special features. Earlier, Buddha's presence was shown in sculpture by using certain signs. Now, statues of Buddha were made. Mathura and Taxila became prominent places where several statues of Buddha

were made. The second distinct feature was a belief in Bodhisattvas, who were sacred people and had attained enlightenment. The worship of Bodhisattvas gained popularity in Central, Asia, China and later to Korea and Japan. Buddhism also spread to western and southern India. It also spread south eastwards to Sri Lanka, Myanmar. Thailand and other parts of South east Asia including Indonesia.

3. What was Bhakti movement? Why did it become more popular? [V. Imp.]

Ans: Bhakti movement was a new way of worship. Bhakti means devotion to a particular deity. During the post vedic era some deities like Shiva, Vishnu and Durga became popular among the devotees. This inclination towards deities came to be known as Bhakti movement. It became popular because in this, there was no discrimination among the worshippers or devotees. There was no difference whether one was rich or poor, high or low, man or woman. Everyone was allowed to worship the deities of his/ her own choice. Bhakti movement discarded the performance of elaborated sacrifices.

