

# NCERT Solutions Class 6 Social Science

## (Exploring Society India and Beyond)

### Chapter 5 India: That is Bharat

#### The Big Questions (Page 75)

##### Question 1. How do we define India?

**Answer:** India can be defined as a country which has a rich cultural and spiritual history that dates back to thousands of years to ancient civilizations like the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Vedic Period.

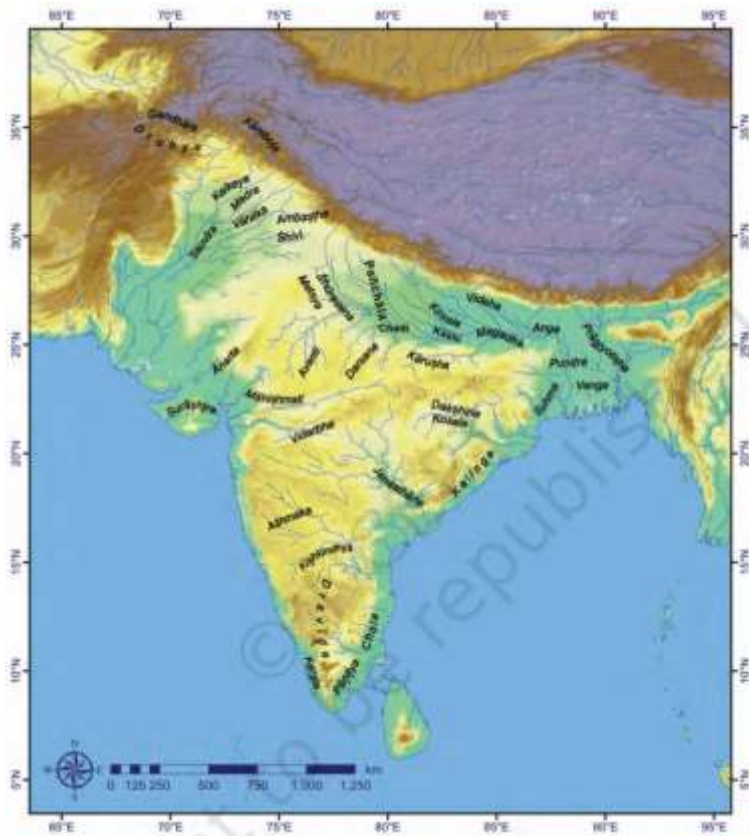
##### Question 2. What were the ancient names for India?

**Answer:** In ancient times, India was known by several different names. One of the earliest names was “Bharat,” derived from the ancient Hindu king Bharata. This name is still used today and is the official Sanskrit name for the country. Another ancient name for India was “Jambudvipa,” which means “the island of the rose apple tree” and was used in early Indian literature.

The ancient Greeks referred to India as “Indike,” derived from the River Indus, which was a significant landmark for them. The Persian Empire also called the region “Hindustan,” which means “land of the Hindus” and was derived from the Sanskrit name “Sindhu,” referring to the Indus River. These ancient names reflect the rich history and cultural heritage of India, showcasing its importance in early civilisations and trade routes.

#### Let's Explore

**Question 1. Do you recognise the names of any regions given in the map (Fig. 5.4) on page 79? List the ones that you have heard of. (Page 78)**



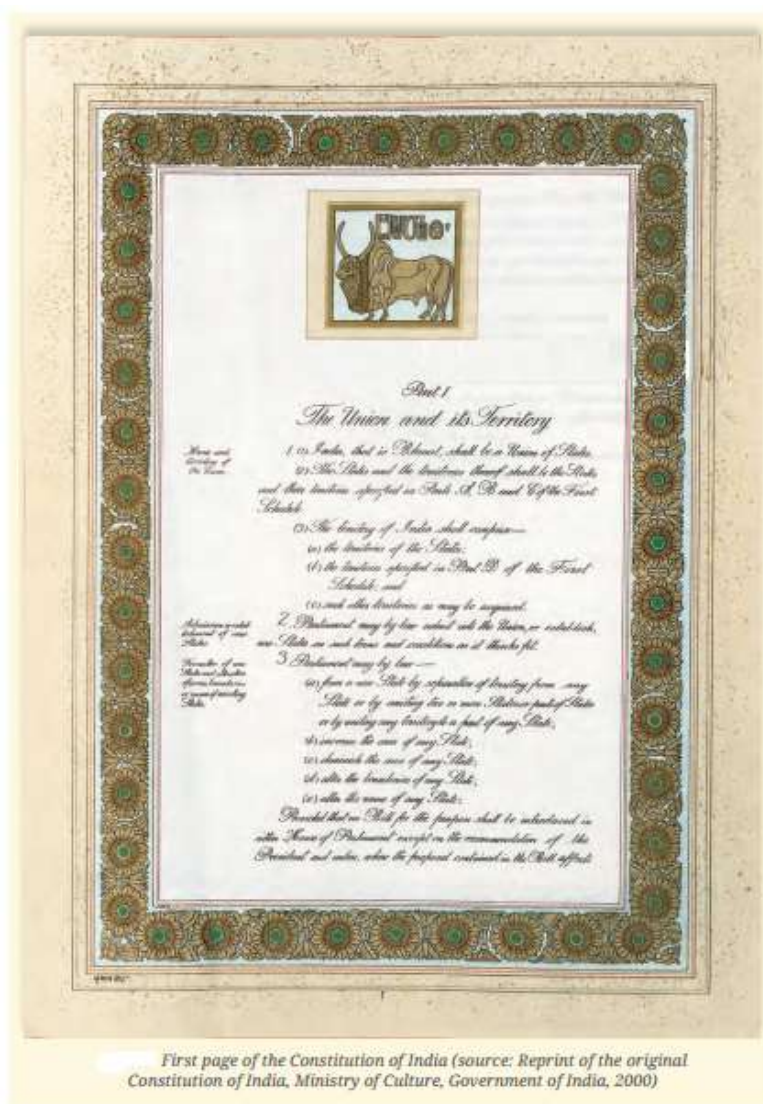
**Answer:** I have heard of the following:

1. Panchala
2. Kashi
3. Anga
4. Vanga
5. Kosala
6. Chedi
7. Kalinga
8. Cholas
9. Pandya
10. Matsya

**Question 2.**

In this reproduction of the first page of the original Constitution of India in Fig. 5.5 (page 82), can you make out the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'?

Answer:



Question 3. Can you complete this table of the many names of India? (Page 83)

Persian	
Greek	
Latin	India
Chinese	
Arabic & Persian	
English	India
French	Inde

Answer:

Persian	Hind, Hidu, Hindu
Greek	Indoi, Indike
Latin	India
Chinese	Yintu, Yindu
Arabic & Persian	Hind, Hindustan
English	India
French	Inde

### Question Answer (Exercise):

**Question 1. Discuss what could be the meaning of the quotation at the start of the chapter.**

**Answer:** Refer to Let's Explore question No. 2

**Question 2. True or False**

**(a) The Rig Veda describes the entire geography of India.**

**Answer:** False

**(b) The Vishnu Purana describes the entire Subcontinent.**

**Answer:** True

**(c) In Ashoka's time, 'Jambudvipa' included what is today India, parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.**

**Answer:** True

**(d) The Mahabharata lists many regions, including Kashmir, Kutch, and Kerala.**

**Answer:** True

**(e) The term 'Hindustān' first appeared in a Greek inscription more than 2,000 years ago.**

**Answer:** False

**(f) In ancient Persian, the word 'Hindu' refers to the Hindu religion.**

**Answer:** False

**(g) 'Bharata' is a name given to India by foreign travellers.**

**Answer:** False

**Question 3. If you were born some 2,000 years ago and had the chance to name our country, what name or names might you have chosen, and why? Use your imagination!**

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

**Question 4. Why did people travel to India from various parts of the world in ancient times? What could be their motivations in undertaking such long journeys? (Hint: There could be at least four or five motivations)**

**Answer:** People travelled to India from various parts of the world in ancient times for many reasons. Here are five key motivations for their long journeys:

(i) India was famous for its spices, silk, and other valuable goods. Traders came from faraway lands to buy and sell these items, which were highly prized in their home countries.

(ii) India was known for its ancient universities like Nalanda and Takshashila, where scholars studied subjects like mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy. Students and teachers travelled to India to gain knowledge and wisdom.

(iii) India is the birthplace of major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Pilgrims from different parts of the world traveled to visit holy sites, temples, and monasteries to seek spiritual enlightenment and blessings.

(iv) Adventurous explorers travelled to India to discover new lands, cultures, and people. They were curious about the rich history, diverse traditions, and the natural beauty of the region.

(v) Kings and conquerors came to India to expand their empires and gain wealth. They wanted to control the rich resources and establish their rule over the prosperous cities and fertile lands of India.

