

* Select and write one most appropriate option out of the four options given for each of the questions [41]

1. The northwest region of India was known as

- (A) Sapta-Sindhava (B) Hindava (C) Aiyavarta (D) Hindukush

Ans.: (A) Sapta-Sindhava

2. The word Sindhu refers to

- (A) Indus River (B) Saraswati River (C) Ganges River (D) Sutlej River

Ans.: (A) Indus River

3. The Mauryan emperor who used the name of Jambudvīpa to describe India was

- (A) Chandragupta Maurya (B) Ashoka
(C) Samudra Gupta (D) Bindusara

Ans. : B

4. The term Jambudvīpa refers to which tree

- (A) jamun tree (B) pipal tree (C) mango tree (D) coconut tree

Ans.: (A) jamun tree

5. The snowy mountains referred to in the Vishnu Purana are

- (A) The Western Ghats (B) The Himalayas
(C) Aravalli mountains (D) Khasi mountains

Ans. : B

6. The Indian Constitution was first written in

- (A) English (B) French (C) Hindi (D) Tamil

Ans.: (A) English

7. The Persian emperor who came to India in the 6th century BCE was

- (A) Cyrus (B) Darius (C) Alexander (D) Megasthenes

Ans.: (A) Cyrus

8. The Greek referred to India as

- (A) Hind (B) Yintu (C) Indoi (D) Inde

Ans. : (C) Indoi

9. What does the term 'Sapta Sindhava' mean?

- (A) Land of the seven rivers
(B) Land of the seven mountains
(C) Land of the seven oceans

(D) Land of the seven forests

Ans.: (A) Land of the seven rivers

10. Which ancient Indian text defines Bharata as 'The country that lies North of the ocean and South of the snowy mountains'?

(A) Rigveda (B) Mahabharata (C) Vishnu Purana (D) Bhagavad Gita

Ans. : (C) Vishnu Purana

11. What does the term 'Jambudvipa' mean?

(A) Land of the rose apple tree
(B) Island of the fruit of the jamun tree
(C) Land of the mango tree
(D) Island of the coconut tree

Ans. : B

12. According to the Indian Constitution, what are the two names used to refer to the same country?

(A) India and Hindustan (B) India and Bharat
(C) Bharat and Hindustan (D) Hindustan and Jambudvipa

Ans. : B

13. How did the ancient Greeks modify the name 'Hindu'?

(A) Added the letter 'H' (B) Dropped the letter 'H'
(C) Changed it to 'Indoi' (D) Kept it unchanged

Ans. : B

14. What was the Chinese term for India, meaning 'Heavenly Master'?

(A) Yintu (B) Yindu (C) Tianzhu (D) Sindhu

Ans. : C

15. Who was the Chinese scholar who traveled to India in the 7th century?

(A) Xuanzang (B) Buddha (C) Confucius (D) Lao Tzu

Ans. : A

16. Which of the following statements are correct?

I. The first foreigners to mention India were the Persians.

II. Xuanzang traveled to India and translated Buddhist texts from Sanskrit to Chinese.

III. The ancient Greeks named India 'Indoi' or 'Indike' without modifying the original name.

(A) I and II only (B) II and III only (C) I and III only (D) All of these

Ans.: (A) I and II only

17. Consider the following statements.

Statement I The Rigveda is the most ancient text of India.

Statement II Bharatavarsha refers to the entire Indian Subcontinent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) Both statements are true
- (B) Both statements are false
- (C) Statement I is true, statement II is false
- (D) Statement I is false, statement II is true

Ans.: (A) Both statements are true

18. Assertion (A): The Mauryan king Ashoka used the term Jambudvīpa in his inscriptions.

Reason (R): The term was used to represent the extent of his empire. There are two statements Assertion and Reason given above. Mark your answer according to the code given below.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Ans. : (C) (A) is true but (R) is false.

19. Assertion (A): Fa- Hien was a famous trader who came to India during the period.

Reason (R): This was because there was a lot of demand for Indian goods like spices and muslin cloth. There are two statements Assertion and Reason given above. Mark your answer according to the code given below.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Ans. : B

20. Assertion (A) The term 'Jambudvīpa' was used by Ashoka to refer to the entire Indian Subcontinent.

Reason (R) This is a common tree native to India.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true

Ans. : B



21. Assertion (A) The Indian Constitution recognises only "India" as the official name of the country.

Reason (R) The Constitution begins by stating "India, that is Bharat".

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true

Ans. : (D) A is false, but R is true

22. Assertion (A) The name "Bharata" originates from the Rig Veda.

Reason (R) The Rig Veda mentions the names of several rivers and peoples.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true

Ans.: (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

23. Assertion (A) The ancient Indians had a clear understanding of their country's geography.

Reason (R) A 2,000-year-old Tamil poem praises a king, saying his name is known from Cape Kumari in the South, the great mountain (Himalayas) in the North, and the oceans in the East and West.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true

Ans.: (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

24. Assertion (A) The Rigveda gives the North-West region of the subcontinent the name 'Sapta' Sindhava.

Reason (R) The Persian emperor conquered the Indus River region and adapted the term "Sindhu" to create these names.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true

Ans. : B

25. What does the term 'Sapta Sindhava' refer to?

- (A) Land of seven cities
- (B) Land of seven rivers

(C) Land of seven mountains

(D) Land of seven oceans

Ans. : (B) Land of seven rivers

26. Which ancient text mentions the region 'Kashmira'?

(A) Rig Veda

(B) Mahabharata

(C) Vishnu Purana

(D) Upanishads

Ans. : (B) Mahabharata

27. Which name was used by Emperor Ashoka to describe the entire Indian Subcontinent?

(A) Bharat

(B) Hindustan

(C) Jambudvipa

(D) Yindu

Ans. : (C) Jambudvipa

28. What does the term 'Bharata' mean in the context of the Vishnu Purana?

(A) Country of the Bharatas

(B) Land of the seven rivers

(C) Island of the jamun tree

(D) Heavenly master

Ans.: (A) Country of the Bharatas

29. The first foreigners to mention India were from which country?

(A) Greece

(B) China

(C) Persia

(D) Egypt

Ans. : (C) Persia

30. What name did the ancient Greeks use to refer to the region of India?

(A) Indoi

(B) Yintu

(C) Hind

(D) Bharat

Ans.: (A) Indoi

31. Who is the Chinese traveler mentioned in the text who traveled to India in the 7th century CE?

(A) Confucius

(B) Xuanzang

(C) Laozi

(D) Mencius

Ans. : (B) Xuanzang

32. What is the meaning of the term 'Jambudvipa'?

(A) Land of the Bharatas

(B) Island of the fruit of the jamun tree

(C) Land of seven rivers

(D) Heavenly master

Ans. : (B) Island of the fruit of the jamun tree

33. Which ancient text uses the term 'Bharatavarsha'?

(A) Rig Veda

(B) Vishnu Purana

(C) Mahabharata

(D) Upanishads

Ans. : (C) Mahabharata

34. What does the Persian term 'Hind' refer to?

(A) A religion

(B) A river

(C) A geographical region

(D) A city

Ans.: (A) A religion

35. By what name is the northwest region of the Indian subcontinent referred to in the Rig Veda?

(A) Jambudvipa

(B) Bharatavarsha

(C) Sapta Sindhava

(D) Hindustan

Ans. : C. Sapta Sindhava

Explanation.

In the Rig Veda the northwest region of the Indian subcontinent is referred to as 'Sapta Sindhava/' meaning 'land of the seven rivers.

36. Who were the first foreigners to refer to India as 'Hind'?

(A) Greeks

(B) Chinese

(C) Persians

(D) Arabs

Ans. : C. Persians

Explanation.

The Persians were the first foreigners to refer to India as 'Hind', derived from 'Sindhu'.

37. Which of the following words was NOT used by the Chinese to refer to India?

(A) Tianzhu

(B) sindhu

(C) Yintu

(D) Yindu

Ans. : B. sindhu

Explanation.

The Chinese refer to India as 'Yinlu' or 'Yindu' and 'Tianzhu' in several texts.

38. Which emperor is known to have used the term 'Jambudvipa' in inscriptions?

(A) Ashoka

(B) Chandragupta

(C) Harsha

(D) Arjuna

Ans. : A. Ashoka

Explanation.

'Jambudvipa' was used by the great Mauryan king Ashoka to represent his realm in the third BCE.

39. Which part of the Indian Constitution mentions the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'?

(A) The preamble

(B) The first article

(C) The appendix

(D) The second article

Ans. : B. The first article

Explanation.

The Indian Constitution uses the phrase 'India, that is Bharat' right at the beginning.

40. Xuanzang was a/an scholar.

(A) Indian

(B) Persian

(C) Greek

(D) Chinese

Ans. : D. Chinese

Explanation.

Xuanzang was a Chinese scholar, who visited India in 7th century CE.

41. When was the term 'Hindustan' first used in a Persian inscription?

- (A) 1,800 years ago (B) 2,500 years ago (C) 500 years ago (D) 1,000 years ago

Ans. : A. 1,800 years ago

Explanation.

The term 'Hindustan' was first used in a Persian inscription about 1,800 years ago.

*** Assertion - Reasoning based questions.**

[8]

42. Assertion (A): The term 'Bharata' is used to describe the entire Indian Subcontinent in the Vishnu Purana.

Reason (R): 'Bharata' refers to the land north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
(D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans.: (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

43. Assertion (A): The term 'Hindu' was originally a geographical term in ancient Persian.

Reason (R): The ancient Persians adapted the term 'Sindhu' to 'Hindu' to refer to the Indus River region.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
(D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans.: (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

44. Assertion (A): The Mahābharata uses the term 'Jambudvīpa' to refer to a specific region in India.

Reason (R): 'Jambudvīpa' means 'the island of the fruit of the jamun tree'.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
(D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans. : (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

45. Assertion (A): Xuanzang visited India in the 7th century CE.
Reason (R): He traveled to India to collect Buddhist texts and meet scholars.
- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 - (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 - (C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
 - (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans.: (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

46. Assertion (A): The term 'Hindustan' was first used about 1,800 years ago.
Reason (R): It was used by most invaders of India to describe the Indian Subcontinent.
- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 - (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 - (C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
 - (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Ans.: (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

47. Assertion: The name 'Bharat' is of recent origin.
Reason: In South India, India is referred to as 'Bharatam'.
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 - (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. : D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Explanation.

The word Bharat has been derived from the term 'Bharata', that first appeared in Rig Veda several years ago.

48. Assertion: Emperor Ashoka used the name 'Jambudvipa' to describe the whole of India.
Reason: 'Jambudvipa' was used to describe present-day India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, as well as parts of Afghanistan.
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. : B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

Explanation.

The name 'Jambudvipa' was used to describe a vast region that included present-day India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and the name was popularised by Emperor Ashoka.

49. Assertion: Chinese speakers refer to India as 'Yintu' or 'Yindu'.

Reason: The Chinese name for India 'Yintu' or 'Yindu' is derived from the word 'Sindhu'.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. : B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

Explanation.

The Chinese name for India 'Yintu' or 'Yindu' is derived from the word 'Sindhu', in the following way:

Sindhu - Hindhu - Indu - Yindu

* Fill in the blank with correct answer.[1 Mark each]

[36]

50. The word Sindhu refers to the _____ River.

Ans. : Indus

51. _____ was the name of a Rig Vedic tribe.

Ans. : Bharata

52. _____ was one of India's most famous texts.

Ans. : Mahabharata

53. In the South, India is known as _____

Ans. : Bharatam

54. The Indian Constitution came into force in _____.

Ans. : 1950

55. Persians were the inhabitants of ancient inhabitants of _____

Ans. : Iran

56. _____ was the Chinese traveller's who came to India in the 7th century CE.



Ans. : Hiuen Tsang

57. The French referred to India as _____

Ans. : Inde

58. _____ was the Chinese scholars who came to India in the 7th century CE.

Ans. : Xuanzang, (Hiuen Tsang)

59. India is an _____ land.

Ans. : Ancient

60. It had _____ names in the course of it's history.

Ans. : Many

61. Names given by ancient Indians was _____ and _____.

Ans. : ambudvipa and Bharata

62. Foreigners adopted names derived mostly from the _____ or River.

Ans. : Sindhu or Indus

63. This led to names like _____ and _____.

Ans. : Hindu, Indoi

64. Eventually the name _____ came to be used.

Ans. : India.

65. In the course of history, India has been called by many names, both by its _____ and by visitors from outside.

Ans. : inhabitants

66. Historical names of India are found in the accounts of _____ and _____.

Ans. : travellers, pilgrims

67. The Indian Constitution begins by stating _____ that is Bharat".

Ans. : India

68. Kurukshetra, listed in the Mahabharata, corresponds to parts of present-day _____.

Ans. : Haryana

69. Xuanzang, a Chinese scholar, spent _____ years exploring India, meeting scholars and collecting Buddhist texts.

Ans. : 17

70. The term "Hindustan" was first used by the Persians _____ years ago to refer to the Indian sub-continent.

Ans. : 1800

71. The Rig Veda gives the northwest region of the Subcontinent the name _____.



Ans. : Sapta Sindhava

72. The Mahabharata uses the terms 'Bharatavarsha' and _____ to describe the Indian Subcontinent.

Ans. : Jambudvipa

73. The term 'Jambudvipa' means _____.

Ans. : the island of the fruit of the jamun tree

74. The Indian Constitution mentions 'India, that is _____.

Ans. : Bharat

75. The ancient Greeks named the region _____ or 'Indike'.

Ans. : Indoi

76. The first foreigners to mention India were the _____.

Ans. : Persians

77. 'Bharata' is mentioned in an ancient text called the _____.

Ans. : Vishnu Purana

78. Xuanzang travelled from China to India in the _____ century CE.

Ans. : 7th

79. The term 'Hindustan' was first used in a Persian inscription some _____ years ago.

Ans. : 1800

80. The word 'Sindhava' comes from 'Sindhu', which refers to the _____.

Ans. : Indus River

81. Sindhu refers to the _____ river.

Ans. : Indus

82. The ancient Greeks referred to India as ' _____ ' or 'In dike'

Ans. : Indoi

83. The _____ uses the phrase 'India, that is Bharat' right at the beginning.

Ans. : Indian Constitution

84. The name 'Hindustan' was first used in a _____ inscription.

Ans. : Persian

85. Xuanzang returned to China from India after _____ years.

Ans. : 17

* State if the following are true or false.[1 Mark each]

[26]

86. Ashoka used the term "Bharatavarsha" to refer to India.



Ans. : false

87. The Persians were the first foreigners to mention India and they named it "India" in their earliest records.

Ans. : false

88. This name, 'Bharata' remains in use even today.

Ans. : true

89. The Indian Constitution, was first written in English

Ans. : true

90. The RigVeda describes the entire geography of India.

Ans. : False

91. The Vishnu Purana describes the entire Sub-continent.

Ans. : True

92. In Ashoka's time, 'Jambudvipa' included today's India, parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Ans. : True

93. The Mahabharata lists many regions, including Kashmir, Kutch and Kerala.

Ans. : True

94. The term 'Hindustan' first appeared in a Greek inscription more than 2,000 years ago.

Ans. : False

95. In ancient Persian, the word 'Hindu' refers to the Hindu religion.

Ans. : False

96. 'Bharata' is a name given to India by foreign travellers.

Ans. : False

97. The term 'Bharata' was first used in the Rig Veda.

Ans. : true

98. Xuanzang traveled from China to India in the 6 th century CE.

Ans. : false

99. 'Hindustan' was first used in a Persian inscription about 1,800 years ago.

Ans. : true

100. 'Jambudvipa' means 'the land of the seven rivers'.

Ans. : false

101. The Persians referred to India as 'Hind', 'Hidu', or 'Hindu'.

Ans. : true



102. The Mahabharata was written from a few centuries BCE onward.

Ans. : true

103. 'Yintu' and 'Yindu' are terms used by the ancient Chinese to refer to India.

Ans. : true

104. The Rig Veda refers to 'Bharatavarsha' as the land of the Bharatas.

Ans. : false

105. The term 'Bharat' is used in the Indian Constitution.

Ans. : true

106. 'Tianzhu' was a term used by the ancient Chinese that could also be understood as 'heavenly master'.

Ans. : true

107. The Rig Veda was written in medieval period.

Ans. : false

108. The term 'Bharatavarsha' is used to describe only the southern part of India.

Ans. : false

109. 'Bharata' in the Rig Veda refers to one of the main Vedic groups of people.

Ans. : true

110. Persians mention India as 'Yintu' or 'Yindu' in several texts.

Ans. : false

111. Hiuen Tsang travelled from China to India in the 7th century CE.

Ans. : true

*** Answer the questions.[1 Mark each]**

[38]

112. What is the meaning of the word 'Tianzhu'? From which Indian word has it been derived? What does this word signify?

Ans. : The word 'Tianzhu' means 'heavenly master'. It has been derived from the word 'Sindhu'. It signifies the respect the ancient Chinese had for India.

113. Who was Hiuen Tsang? When did he come to India?

Ans. : Hiuen Tsang also known as Xuanzang was a Chinese Buddhist monk who came to India in the 7th century C.E. He collected many Buddhist texts from various parts of the country and returned to China after 17 years.

114. Several Chinese scholars have visited India over the centuries. Name any two of them.

Ans. : Two famous Chinese travellers who visited India were Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang), Hsuan Tsang etc. Their accounts are considered to be one of the most



authentic sources of history.

115. Which Indian emperor used the term 'Jambudvipa' to describe India? What does this term mean for him?

Ans. : (i) Emperor Ashoka used the term 'Jambudvipa' in many inscriptions.
(ii) He used the term to describe present-day India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan.

116. What is the importance of the phrase 'India, that is Bharat', mentioned in the very beginning of the Constitution?

Ans. : The phrase 'India, that is Bharat' in the Indian Constitution highlights the continuity of the country's ancient identity (Bharat) with its modern identity (India), acknowledging its historical roots and beliefs.

117. Why are names important?

Ans. : Names are important as they provide a unique label and are the fundamental identities that are carried over years or even ages. They further reflect cultural and historical contexts, facilitate communication, and symbolise deeper meanings.

118. What is Rig Veda?

Ans. : The Rig Veda is India's oldest religious text written several thousand years ago.

119. Which area is known as Sapta Sindhava'?

Ans. : The northwest region of the Sub-continent is known as 'Sapta-Sindhava' or land of the seven rivers.

120. Name any three regions mentioned in the Mahabharata.

Ans. : Kashmir, Vanga and Kaccha were three regions mentioned in the Mahabharata.

121. When do we first come across a name for the entire Indian Subcontinent?

Ans. : We first come across a name for the entire Subcontinent in the Mahabharata.

122. What are the two terms used in the Mahabharata to describe the Indian Subcontinent?

Ans. : The Mahabharata has used the terms 'Bharatavarsha' and 'Jambudvipa' to describe the Indian Subcontinent.

123. What does the term 'Bharata-varsha' mean?

Ans. : The term Bharatavarsha means "the country of the Bharatas".

124. What does the term 'Jambud- vipa' mean?

Ans. : The term 'Jambudvipa' means the island of the fruit of the jamun tree .

125. Which emperor has used the name Jambudvipa to describe the Indian Subcontinent?



Ans. : The famous Mauryan emperor Ashoka has used the name Jambudvipa in one of his inscriptions to describe the whole of India.

126. What names did the Persians use to refer to India?

Ans. : The Persians referred to India as 'Hind', 'Hidu' or 'Hindu' which are adaptations in their language of the term 'Sindhu' which was what region of the Indus River was called.

127. What names did the ancient Greeks use to refer to India?

Ans. : The ancient Greeks named the region 'Indoi' or 'Indike'.

128. What names did the Chinese use to refer to India?

Ans. : The Chinese have referred to India as 'Yintu' or 'Yindu'.

129. When was the term 'Hindustan' first used to describe India?

Ans. : 1800 years ago, the term Hindustan was used in a Persian Inscription to describe India.

130. The Indian Constitution was first written in which Language?

Ans. : The Indian Constitution was first written in English.

131. What name does it use to describe India?

Ans. : The Constitution refers to India as Bharat.

132. What name does the Hindi version of the Constitution use to describe India?

Ans. : The Hindi version of the Constitution refers to India as 'Bharat Arthath India'.

133. What does 'Sapta Sindhava' mean?

Ans. : 'Sapta Sindhava' means the land of the seven rivers. In the Rigveda, it refers to the North-West region of the Indian sub-continent. The term signifies the importance of rivers in ancient Indian geography and culture.

134. What is the meaning of 'Bharatavarsha'?

Ans. : 'Bharatavarsha' refers to the entire Indian sub-continent, named after the ancient Vedic tribe 'Bharatas'. It means the country of the Bharatas, encompassing present-day India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

135. What does the Indian Constitution state about 'India' and 'Bharat'?

Ans. : The Indian Constitution states that 'India' and 'Bharat' are interchangeable names for the same country. The Constitution's preamble affirms, 'India, that is Bharat', recognising the country's diverse cultural and historical heritage. This equivalence reinforces national unity, acknowledging the coexistence of multiple names for a single nation.

136. What is the origin of the name 'Bharata'?

Ans. : The name 'Bharata' originates from the Rigveda, where it refers to an ancient Vedic tribe. The term gained significance through mentions of kings named Bharata



in later literature. Over time, 'Bharata' became synonymous with the Indian sub-continent, representing the country's geographical and cultural identity.

137. Who were the first foreigners to mention India and what name did they use?

Ans. : The Persians, ancient inhabitants of Iran, were the first foreigners to mention India. In the 6th century BCE, a Persian emperor conquered the Indus river region, known as 'Sindhu'. As a result, they named India 'Hind', 'Hidu', or 'Hindu' in their earliest records and inscriptions, adapting the term 'Sindhu'.

138. How did the ancient Greeks refer to India?

Ans. : The ancient Greeks adopted the Persian name and called India 'Indoi' or 'Indike'. They dropped the letter ' H ' as it didn't exist in their language, evolving the term from Sindhu to Hindhu to Indoi/Indike.

139. What names did the ancient Chinese use to refer to India?

Ans. : The ancient Chinese used multiple names to refer to India, including 'Yintu' or 'Yindu', derived from 'Sindhu'. Additionally, they employed 'Tianzhu', meaning 'heavenly master', demonstrating respect for India as the land of Buddha.

140. In Rig Veda, what does the term 'Sapta Sindhava' refer to?

Ans. : 'Sapta Sindhava' refers to the land of the seven rivers/ particularly referring to the northwest region of the Indian subcontinent.

141. Name the two terms which were mentioned in Mahabharata to refer to the Indian subcontinent.

Ans. : Bharatavarsha and Jambudvipa.

142. What is the literal meaning of the term 'Jambudvipa'?

Ans. : The term 'Jambudvipa', first mentioned in Mahabharata literally means 'the island of the fruit of the Jamun tree'. This term was used to refer to the Indian subcontinent.

143. From which river was the term 'Hindu' derived?

Ans. : The term 'Hindu' was derived from the Indus River, which was earlier known as Sindhu, by the Persians.

144. Which was the common term used by most invaders of India to describe the Indian subcontinent?

Ans. : Hindustan

145. 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!

Ans. : If I were born 2,000 years ago, I would have chosen names that reflect the country's natural beauty, cultural richness and mythological significance.

Some of the names which I have would have chosen are as follows

- **Aryavarta** It is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Arya', meaning noble, to honor the

ancient Indo-Aryan civilisation.

- **Bharatamrita** This word combines 'Bharata' and 'amrita', which together mean immortal, to signify the land's eternal essence.
- **Dharmakshetra** It refers to 'Land of Dharma', reflecting the country's spiritual and philosophical heritage.
- **Mahabhumi** It signifies 'Great Land' or 'Subcontinent, acknowledging its vastness and majesty.
- **Swarnaloka** It translates to 'Land of Gold,' symbolising prosperity, richness, and cultural wealth.
- **Vidyodaya** It means 'Rise of Knowledge,' honoring the ancient wisdom, sciences and philosophies.

I would have also considered names that evoke the country's natural beauty, such as

- **Himalayagrama** It refers to Village of the Himalayas, acknowledging the majestic mountain range.
 - **Gangaikonda** It is named after the sacred Ganges River, symbolising spiritual growth.
 - **Marutvana** It means 'Forest of the Winds', reflecting the land's diverse ecosystems.
- These names blend geography, culture, mythology and natural beauty, capturing the essence of ancient India.

146. How do we define India?

Ans. : 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.

147. What were the ancient names for India?

Ans. : The ancient names for India were 'Bharatavarsha', 'Jambudvipa' and Bharata.

148. Consider the physical map of the Indian Sub-continent at the start of the chapter. What are its natural boundaries that you can make out?

Ans. : I can make out the following natural boundaries from the physical map of the Indian sub-continent at the start of the chapter

- **Northern and North-Eastern Boundary** This boundary is made by the Himalayas.
- **North Western Boundary** The Hindukush mountains form the North-Western boundary of the Indian sub-continent.
- **Bay of Bengal** It forms the Eastern boundary of the sub-continent.
- **Arabian Sea** It forms the Western boundary of the Indian sub-continent.

149. Have you identified the 'snowy mountains'? Do you think this brief description of Bharata is correct?

Ans. : Yes, I have identified the 'snowy mountains'. It is used for the Himalayan mountain which is snow laden in most part of the year.



Yes, I think this brief description of Bharata is correct to a huge extent as the natural Southern boundary of India is made by the Indian ocean and the Northern boundary is made by the snow laden Himalayas.

* very short answer questions. [2 Mark each]

[20]

150. 'Hindustan' is a common term used for India today. What is the origin of the term 'Hindustan'?

Ans. : The term 'Hindustan' originated with the Persians around 1,800 years ago. Initially, it referred to the Indian sub-continent, encompassing present-day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Later, invaders adopted the term to describe the region. 'Hindustan' is a relatively recent name compared to other foreign designations for India, such as 'Hind' or 'Indoi'.

151. What do the two terms 'Bharat-avarsha' and "Jambudvipa" mean?

Ans. : The term "Bharatavarsha" means country of the "Bharatas". The name "Bharata" first appears in the Rig Veda referring to one of the main Vedic groups of people. The term 'Jambudvipa' 'means' the Island of the fruit of the jamun tree. The Jamun tree native to India is also called 'jambul tree' and 'Malabar' 'plum tree'.

152. How did 'Jambudvipa' come to mean the Indian Subcontinent?

Ans. : The jamun tree is a common tree to be found throughout the Indian Subcontinent. Consequently Jambudvipa came to mean the Indian Subcontinent. The term Jambudvipa is used by Ashoka to represent his empire in the 3rd century BCE and then repeated in many subsequent inscriptions reinforcing the concept of the Indian Subcontinent being referred to as Jambudvipa.

153. Who were the first foreigners to mention India? What were the three names they gave India and why?

Ans. : The first foreigners who mentioned India were the Persians. In 535 BCE the Persian emperor Cyrus invaded India and control over the northwest region of India known as 'Sindhu' after the Indus River. Therefore, the Persians referred to India as 'Hind', Hidu, or Hindu which are adaptations in their language of the word 'Sindhu'.

154. How did the concept of 'Jambudvipa' emerge? How it has been interpreted?

Ans. : The concept of 'Jambudvipa' emerged gradually, initially referring to a specific region. Later, it came to represent the Indian subcontinent, symbolising the country's geographical and cultural identity.

Ashoka's inscriptions mention 'Jambudvipa', highlighting its significance in ancient Indian thought. The term's evolution reflects India's diverse cultural and historical heritage, influenced by various literary and philosophical works. 'Jambudvipa' became synonymous with India, representing its unique blend of geography, culture and history.



The concept of 'Jambudvipa' has been interpreted in various ways, including geographical, cultural and spiritual perspectives. Its evolution demonstrates the dynamic nature of Indian thought, shaped by diverse influences and historical developments.

155. What is the significance of the Mahabharata in Indian history? What is the impact of this significance?

Ans. : The Mahabharata holds immense significance in Indian history, providing profound insights into ancient Indian geography, culture and society. This epic text mentions various regions, shaping India's cultural and religious heritage. Its influence extends beyond literature, impacting art, philosophy and ethics. The Mahabharata's exploration of human nature, morality, and duty continues to resonate with Indians, making it a cornerstone of Indian identity.

The Mahabharata's significance extends to its impact on Indian art, architecture and performing arts. Its stories and characters have inspired countless works of art, literature and popular culture. The epic's themes and values continue to shape Indian thought and society.

156. How did ancient Persians influence the naming of India?

Ans. : (i) Ancient Persians controlled the region of the Indus river, which was earlier known as 'Sindhu'.

(ii) Therefore, they referred to India as 'Hind', 'Hidit' or 'Hindu', which are derived from the word 'Sindhu'.

(iii) This Persian adaptation later led to the names used by the Greeks and even influenced the term 'Hindustan'.

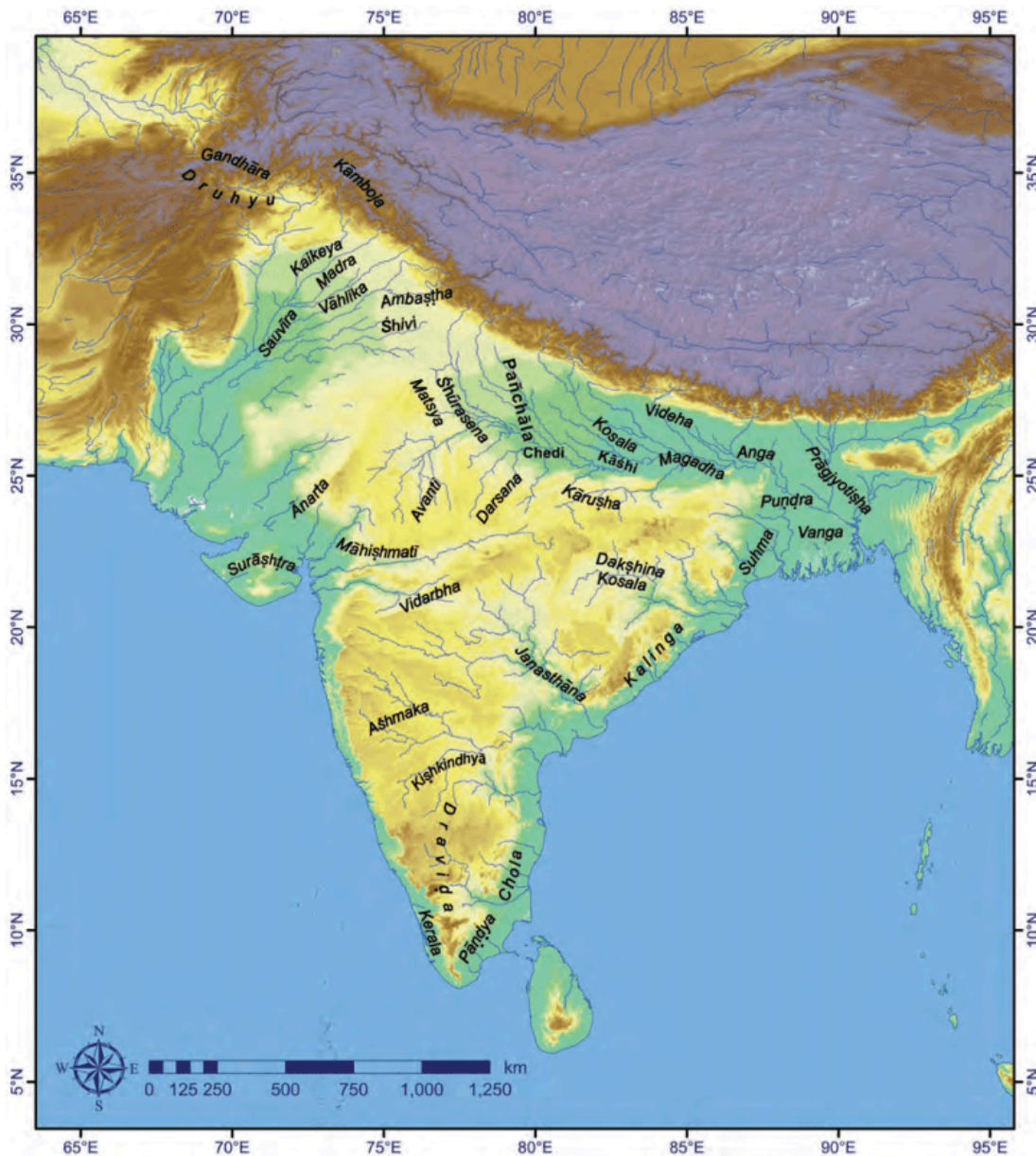
157. Who was Xuanzang, and what made him significant in the context of Indian history?

Ans. : Xuanzang was a Chinese scholar who travelled to India in the 7th century CE, studied Buddhist texts and returned to China after 17 years. He is significant because he translated many Sanskrit texts into Chinese after his return, contributing to cultural exchange between India and China, and even influenced other scholars to do the same.

158. Do you recognise the names of any regions given in the map? List the ones that you have heard of.

Student Bro





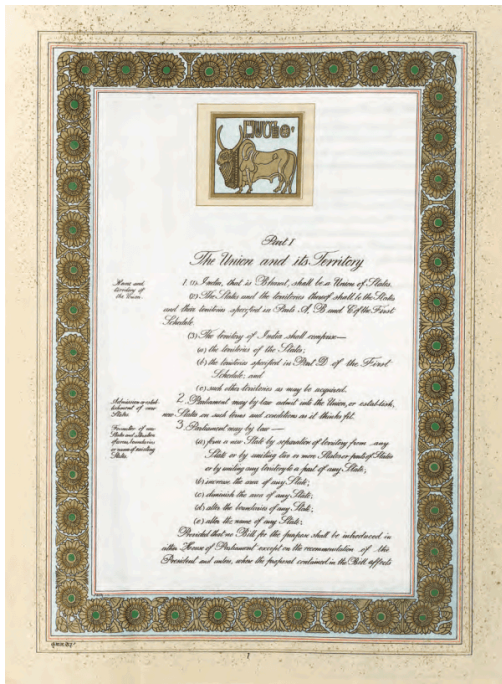
Ans. : I have heard the names of the following regions given in the map

- Panchala
- Magadha
- Kosala

Most of these regions are related to the legendary folk tale of Mahabharata and some are connected with the lives of Buddha.

159. In the given reproduction of the first page of the original Constitution of India, can you make out the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'?

Student Bro



Ans. : Yes, I can make out the following phrase from the first page of the original Constitution of India.

India, that is Bharat, shall be a union of states. The states and the territories there of shall be the states and their territories specified in parts A, B and C of the first schedule

*** Answer short answer questions. [3 Mark each]**

[36]

160. Comment on the significance of the Rigveda. How its significance impacted the Indian philosophy, spirituality and culture?

Ans. : The Rigveda's significance lies in its status as India's most ancient text, providing invaluable insights into ancient Indian geography, culture and society. Mentioning 'Sapta Sindhava', it highlights the region's early naming conventions. As a foundational text, the Rigveda shapes India's cultural and religious heritage, influencing subsequent literary and philosophical works. Its ancient wisdom continues to inspire and inform Indian thought and identity, demonstrating the enduring relevance of this sacred text.

The Rigveda's significance extends to its impact on Indian philosophy, spirituality and culture. Its hymns and verses have inspired countless generations of Indians, shaping their worldview and values. The text's exploration of human existence, nature, and the divine continues to resonate with Indians, making it a cornerstone of Indian civilisation.

161. How did the ancient Chinese demonstrate their respect for Indian culture and spirituality through their naming conventions?

Ans. : The ancient Chinese exhibited profound reverence for Indian culture and spirituality through their naming conventions, reflecting a deep admiration for India's spiritual and philosophical heritage. By calling India 'Tianzhu', meaning

'heavenly master', they acknowledged India as the land of Buddha and a spiritual hub. The use of 'Yintu' or 'Yindu', derived from 'Sindhu', further demonstrated their respect.

Chinese scholar Xuanzang's 17-year exploration of India, collection of Buddhist texts, and translations from Sanskrit to Chinese solidified cultural ties. This reverence reflects the significant impact of Indian spirituality and culture on ancient Chinese thought and society, underscoring the enduring legacy of Indo-Chinese cultural exchange.

162. In the course of its history, India has been called by many names by its inhabitants. Explain the statement.

Ans. : The Rig Veda referred to the northwest region of the Subcontinent as the land of the seven rivers or Sapta- Sindhu. The Indus River was known as 'Sindhu'. Later the Mahabharata uses the , two terms Bharatavarsha and Jambudvipa to define India. Bharatavarsha means the country of the Bharatas. The Bharata were one of the main Vedic tribes of the Rig Vedic Age.

The second term used was Jambudvipa wherein jambul refers to a species of fruit widely available in the Indian Subcontinent and dvipa means continent. Ashoka also refers to the whole of India as Jambudvipa. However in the course of time Bharata became the name generally used. The Vishnu Purana also mentions the name Bharata in its text. In north India, India is known as Bharat while in South India the word "Bharatam" is used.

163. The many different names which the foreigners have used for India have been derived from the word 'Sindhu'. Discuss the above statement.

Ans. : The Persian emperor Cyrus conquered the north west part of India which was known as 'Sindhu' at that time. The Persian equivalent to the word Sindhu was 'Hind', 'Hidu' or Hindu. This was how India was referred to in the earliest Persian records and stone inscriptions. The Greeks dropped the letter 'h' of the Persian words as this letter does not exist in the Greek language.

Therefore the Greeks came to call India 'Indoi' or 'Indike'. The Chinese interactions with India led them to refer to India as Yintu, or Yindu also derivatives from the word Sindhu. In recent times, the term Hindustan is being used to refer to India. But this term was first mentioned 1800 years in a Persian Inscription. Later invaders began commonly to use this term to describe India.

164. Mention how ancient and foreign accounts contributed to the naming and understanding of the unified Indian subcontinent.

Ans. : (i) Ancient texts like the Rig Veda, Mahabharata and Vishnu Purana called Indian subcontinent with names such as 'Sapta Sindhava/ 'Bharatavarsha/ and 'Jambudvipa'.

(ii) These names were important as they provided a collective identity to all the regions that fell within the specified boundaries and these texts altogether

highlighted the geographical and cultural unity of the area.

(iii) Foreign accounts, especially from Persians and Greeks, introduced names like 'Hindu' and 'Indoi/' based on their interactions with the region, which later influenced terms like 'Hindustan.'

(iv) These names gave global recognition to the Indian subcontinent.

(v) Together, these sources helped shape the understanding of India's identity over the years.

165. Discuss the impact of foreign Invaders and scholars on the naming and perception of India in ancient times. How did the Persians, Greeks and Chinese contribute to India's global recognition?

Ans. : Foreign invaders and scholars played a pivotal role in shaping India's global recognition in ancient times, with the Persians, Greeks and Chinese significantly contributing to its perception as a spiritual and cultural hub in the following ways

- The Persians, who conquered the Indus river region, named India 'Hind', 'Hidu', or 'Hindu', adapting the term 'Sindhu', reflecting cultural exchange and trade.
- The Greeks adopted this name, calling India 'Indoi' or 'Indike', demonstrating the spread of ideas and cultural exchange.
- The Chinese referred to India as 'Yintu' or 'Yindu', derived from 'Sindhu' and 'Tianzhu', meaning 'heavenly master',

showcasing their reverence for Indian spiritual heritage. Scholars like Xuanzang further facilitated cultural exchange, translating Buddhist texts and introducing Indian knowledge to China.

These interactions

- contributed to India's global recognition, shaping its perception as a spiritual and cultural hub
- demonstrated the enduring legacy of Indo-Persian, Indo-Greek and Indo-Chinese cultural exchange
- highlighted India's significance in ancient global networks of trade, ideas, and cultural exchange.

The names given by these civilisations reflect the profound impact of foreign invaders and scholars on India's global recognition, underscoring the country's enduring cultural and spiritual significance in ancient times.

166. Describe the evolution of the name 'Bharatavarsha'.

Ans. : Originating in the Mahabharata, the name 'Bharatavarsha' underwent significant evolution. Initially, it referred to the kingdom of the Bharatas, an ancient Vedic tribe. Over time, the term expanded to encompass the entire Indian sub-

continent, including present-day India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This evolution reflects the dynamic nature of India's naming conventions, influenced by literary, cultural and geographical developments. The Mahabharata's usage of 'Bharatavarsha' solidified its significance, making it a widely accepted name for the region. The term's evolution demonstrates the complex and multifaceted nature of India's identity, shaped by " various historical and cultural factors.

The name 'Bharatavarsha' has been used in various contexts, including ancient texts, inscriptions and literary works. Its evolution highlights the country's rich cultural heritage and the diverse perspectives of its inhabitants. The term's widespread acceptance underscores its significance in shaping India's national identity.

167. What is the definition of Bharata according to Vishnu Purana? Mention the importance of this definition.

Ans. : Vishnu Purana defines Bharata as the region bounded by the ocean and the Himalayas. This definition highlights the importance of natural features in shaping India's identity. Bharata refers to the entire Indian sub-continent, encompassing present-day India.

The Purana's definition emphasises the significance of Bharata's geographical boundaries, demonstrating the ancient Indian understanding of their country's physical and cultural landscape.

The definition of Bharata in Vishnu Purana underscores the importance of geography in shaping Indian identity. The text's emphasis on natural features highlights the country's diverse physical landscape and its impact on cultural development.

168. What was the significance of the Persian conquest of the Indus River region in the 6th century BCE and how did it impact the naming of India?

Ans. : The Persian conquest of the Indus river region in the 6th century BCE marked a pivotal moment in India's history, with far-reaching consequences for its naming and global recognition. By adapting the term 'Sindhu' to create 'Hind', 'Hidu', or 'Hindu', the Persians established the first foreign reference to the sub-continent. Initially, these terms denoted the geographical region, not the religion. This naming convention influenced subsequent foreign references, shaping India's perception and identification by other civilisations.

The Persian conquest facilitated cultural exchange, trade and the spread of ideas, integrating India into the ancient world. The conquest's impact extended beyond naming, as it introduced Indian culture, philosophy and trade to the Persian Empire, fostering a rich cultural exchange.

169. Can you complete this table of the many names of India ?

Persian	
Greek	

Latin	India
Chinese	
Arabic & Persian	
English	India
French	Inde

Ans. :

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

170. Discuss what could be the meaning of the quotation at the start of the chapter.

Ans. : The quotation at the start of the chapter is as follows

In India at a very early time the spiritual and cultural unity was made complete and became the very stuff of the life of all this great surge of humanity between the Himalayas and the two seas. -Sri Aurobindo

The quotation by Sri Aurobindo suggests that

- **Unity was achieved early** India attained spiritual and cultural unity at a very early stage in its history.
- **Comprehensive unity** This unity encompassed the entire region between the Himalayas and the two seas (Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea), indicating a vast geographic span.
- **Depth of unity** Unity became an integral part of daily life, permeating every aspect of human existence.
- **Spiritual and cultural dimensions** The unity encompassed both spiritual and cultural aspects, indicating a shared sense of identity, values and beliefs.
- **Enduring impact** The phrase 'very stuff of life' implies that this unity has had a lasting impact, shaping the essence of Indian society.

In essence, Sri Aurobindo's quotation highlights India's unique achievement of profound spiritual and cultural unity, transcending regional and geographical boundaries and becoming an integral part of its collective identity.

171. 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)

Ans. : People traveled to ancient India from various parts of the world for various reasons such as follows

- **Trade** To exchange goods like spices, textiles and precious stones.
- **Spirituality** To explore India's rich spiritual heritage and visit sacred sites.

- **Knowledge** To study subjects like mathematics, astronomy and medicine at esteemed universities.
 - **Conquest** To expand empires and gain riches.
 - **Cultural Exchange** To foster diplomatic relations and learn from India's culture.
- Additionally, some traveled for adventure, economic opportunities, refuge, or health and wellness. India's diversity and richness attracted people from around the world.

* Long answer questions [4 Mark each]

[12]

172. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow.

It is interesting to note that different parts of the country adopted a similar definition for India. For instance, a poem of ancient Tamil literature, from about 2,000 years ago, praises a king whose name is known “from [Cape] Kumari in the South, from the great mountain in the North, from the oceans on the East and on the West...”

You can now recognise ‘the great mountain in the North’, and it should not be difficult to identify ‘Cape Kumari’. It looks like ancient Indians knew their geography well!

(i) What value is reflected in the ancient Tamil poem’s description of the king’s realm ?

- (a) Military conquest
- (b) Geographical unity
- (c) Cultural diversity
- (d) Economic prosperity

(ii) What does the poem reveal about ancient Indian culture’s attitude towards geography ?

- (a) Indifference to geographical boundaries
- (b) Importance of trade routes
- (c) Value of geographical knowledge
- (d) Focus on religious sites

(iii) What cultural value is showcased in the poem’s praise of the king’s widespread recognition ?

- (a) Regionalism
- (b) National pride
- (c) Religious tolerance
- (d) Social hierarchy

(iv) What does the ancient Tamil literature indicate about the knowledge of geography in ancient India ?

- (a) Ancient Indians had limited geographical knowledge.
- (b) Ancient Indians had a detailed and accurate understanding of their geography.
- (c) Ancient Indians were unaware of their geographical boundaries.
- (d) Ancient Indians confused the locations of various geographical features.

Ans. : (i) Geographical unity

(ii) Value of geographical knowledge

(iii) National pride

(iv) Ancient Indians had a detailed and accurate understanding of their geography.

173. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows.

But when do we come across a name for the entire Indian sub-continent? Because ancient Indian texts are difficult to date, this is not an easy question to answer. The Mahabharata uses the terms

'Bharatavarsha' and 'Jambudvipa', and scholars generally agree that this long poem was written from a few centuries BCE onward.

The first term, 'Bharatavarsha', clearly extends to the entire Subcontinent, and the text includes the names of numerous rivers and peoples. 'Bharatavarsha' means 'the country of the Bharatas'. 'Bharata' is a name that first appears in the Rigveda, where it refers to one of the main Vedic groups of people. In later literature, several kings named 'Bharata' are mentioned.

(i) What are the challenges faced by the scholars in determining when the Indian sub-continent was first referred to by a single name ?

(ii) How does the term 'Bharatavarsha' contribute to our understanding of ancient Indian geography and identity ?

(iii) What significance does the name 'Bharata' hold in ancient Indian literature and how does its evolution reflect the development of Indian identity ?

Ans. : (i) Scholars face significant challenges while determining the exact time when the Indian sub-continent was first referred to by a single name, primarily due to the difficulty in dating ancient Indian texts with precision. The ambiguity surrounding the chronology of these texts makes it hard to determine the earliest occurrence of a unified name for the sub-continent.

(ii) The term 'Bharatavarsha' significantly enhances our understanding of ancient Indian geography and identity by denoting the entire sub-continent, encompassing diverse regions, rivers and peoples. This comprehensive designation implies a unified identity, showcasing ancient Indians' thorough understanding of their vast territory and its various components. Moreover, 'Bharatavarsha' highlights the existence of a collective consciousness, transcending regional boundaries and fostering a sense of shared heritage.

(iii) The name 'Bharata' is deeply meaningful in ancient Indian literature, reflecting the growth of Indian identity. Initially, it referred to a specific tribe, then became linked to legendary kings, symbolising leadership. Eventually, 'Bharata' represented the entire sub-continent, embodying a unified national identity. This evolution shows how Indian identity expanded from tribal to national, highlighting the lasting impact of 'Bharata' on India's collective identity.

174. Comment on the geographical understanding of ancient Indians.

Ans. : Ancient Indians possessed a clear understanding of their country's geography, as evident from texts like the Rigveda, Mahabharata and Vishnu Purana. These texts describe the region's boundaries, rivers, and mountains, showcasing a comprehensive knowledge of the sub-continent's geography."

The Rigveda mentions 'Sapta Sindhava', highlighting the significance of rivers in shaping India's identity. The ancient Indians' geographical understanding was not limited to physical features; they also recognised the cultural and regional diversity within the sub-continent.

The Mahabharata mentions various regions, such as Kashmira, Kurukshetra and Vanga, demonstrating an awareness of India's complex geography. This understanding reflects a sophisticated appreciation of the sub-continent's ecological, cultural and political landscape.

Additionally, ancient Indians recognised the strategic importance of geographical features, such as the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean, in shaping the sub-continent's climate, trade and cultural exchange.

* Long answer questions [5 Mark each]

[10]

175. Imagine you are a traveller in ancient India. Write a story about your journey across the Indian sub-continent, mentioning the different regions you visit.

Ans. : The following is the story of my journey as a traveller across the ancient Indian sub-continent. My travels took me to the majestic Kashmira, nestled in the Himalayas, where I wandered through lush meadows, discovering ancient temples and mysterious ruins that whispered tales of a bygone era.

From Kashmira, I ventured to Kurukshetra, the legendary battlefield of the Mahabharata. As I walked, I felt the weight of history beneath my feet. I visited the sacred lake of Brahmisar, where the Pandavas are said to have camped, and the Jyotisar, where Krishna delivered the divine sermon of the Bhagavad Gita.

Next, I journeyed to Vanga, where I sailed along the rivers, watching artisans weave magic on their looms. I listened to the sweet melodies of the veena and savored the flavors of local delicacies, like the sweet rice cakes and spicy fish curries.

In Pragjyotisha, I discovered a hub of ancient wisdom, where sages shared secrets of the universe and scholars debated the mysteries of life. I attended discourses on the Vedas and learned about the intricacies of Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of medicine.

As I traveled South, I braved the scorching deserts of Kaccha, where resilient nomads shared their stories of survival and courage.

Finally, I arrived in Kerala, a tropical paradise of swaying palms and serene backwaters. I cruised along the tranquil waters marveling at the intricate carvings on the ancient temples.

Throughout my journey, I encountered diverse cultures, languages and traditions, yet a common thread of warmth and hospitality bound them together. Ancient India's rich tapestry left an indelible mark on my heart, and I carried its memories with me forever.

176. You are a historian tasked with explaining the evolution of India's names to a curious reader. Write a clear and concise explanation.

Ans. : India's names have evolved over time, reflecting its diverse cultural, geographical and historical contexts as follows

- 'Sapta Sindhava' (Land of Seven Rivers) in the Rigveda (1500 BCE) referred to the North-Western region, emphasising the importance of rivers in ancient Indian civilisation.
- 'Bharatavarsha' (Country of the Bharatas) and 'Jambudvipa' (Island of the Jamun Tree) in the Mahabharata (400 BCE) denoted the entire sub-continent, highlighting its geographical boundaries and cultural identity.
- Foreigners adapted these names, reflecting their perspectives and interactions with ancient India
- Persians (6th century BCE) : 'Hind', 'Hidu', or 'Hindu' (from Sindhu/Indus river), emphasising the region's connection to the Indus Valley.
- Greeks (3rd century BCE) : 'Indoi' or 'Indike' (dropping the ' H ' sound), showcasing their phonetic adaptations.
- Chinese (2nd century BCE) : 'Yintu' or 'Yindu' (from Sindhu), demonstrating their cultural exchange and trade.
- Tianzhu (Heavenly Master) term of respect, highlighting India's reputation as a land of spiritual wisdom.

This evolution of names reflects the dynamic interplay between ancient India's internal developments and external interactions, shaping its identity and legacy.

*** case - based/data -based questions**

[8]

It is interesting to note that different parts of the country adopted a similar definition for India. For instance, a poem of ancient Tamil literature, from about 2,000 years ago, praises a king whose name is known "from [Cape] Kumari in the south, from the great mountain in the north, from the oceans on the east and on the west.." You can now recognise 'The great mountain in the north', and it should not be difficult to identify 'Cape Kumari'. It looks like ancient Indians knew their



geography well!

Q.1. Which geographical feature is referred to as 'the great mountain in the north', in the Tamil Poem?

- (a) The Himalayas (b) The Vindhya Range
(c) The Satpura (d) The Karakoram

177. What does 'Cape Kumari' refer to in the Tamil poem?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Coimbatore (d) Kanyakumari

178. 'Ocean on the east' most likely refers to which of the following?

- (a) Indian Ocean (b) Bay of Bengal (c) Arabian Sea (d) Mediterranean Sea

179. What can be inferred from the ancient Tamil poem mentioned in the passage?

- (a) It solely mentions religious sentiments
(b) It demonstrates the grammar of Tamil literature.
(c) It highlights a clear understanding of India's vast geography in the past.
(d) It tells about the ruling dynasties of South India.

Ans. : 1.A. The Himalayas

Explanation.

"The great mountain in the north" refers to the Himalayas, which is the highest mountain range in the world and is a significant geographical feature of northern India.

2.D. Kanyakumari

Explanation.

'Cape Kumari' refers to Cape Comorin, which is commonly known as Kanyakumari. It is the southernmost tip of India.

3.B. Bay of Bengal

Explanation.

Bay of Bengal is to the east of India, Arabian Sea to the west and the Indian Ocean is to the south.

4.C. It highlights a clear understanding of India's vast geography in the past.

Explanation.

The Tamil poem in the passage is an ancient piece of literature as it was written some 2,000 years ago. The poem clearly reflects geographical awareness of that time.

The most popular reference to a geographical area being described as Bharat is in the Vishnu Purana- "Uttaram yat samudrasya, Himadreshchaiva dakshinam, varsham tad Bharatam nama Bharati yatra santatih", meaning, the country that lies to the north of the ocean and to the south of the snowy mountains is called Bharata as there dwell the descendants of Bharat. In Hindu scriptures Bharatvarsha is identified as part of a larger geographical entity called Jambudweepa.

Bharata, whose descendants were said to be living in a particular area in Vishnu Purana, is commonly thought to be King Bharata, the son of Dushyant and Shakuntala, and an ancestor of Kauravas and Pandavas. That also explains the name



of the 'Mahabharata' which chronicles the war between Bharata's descendants. In the Vedas, Bharata is the name of a tribe. King Sudasa of the Bharata tribe fights a war against the Puru tribe of which the Bharata tribe was a part. Later, Kuru dynasty emerged from the Bharata lineage in which King Bharata was born.

Q.1. What is the geographical location of Bharat, according to the Vishnu Purana?

- (a) North of the snowy mountains and south of the ocean.
- (b) North of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains.
- (c) East of the snowy mountains and west of the ocean.
- (d) West of the snowy mountains and east of the ocean.

180. The term 'Bharatavarsha' was mentioned in which ancient text?

- (a) Rig Veda (b) Mahabharata (c) Vishnu Purana (d) None of these

181. In Hindu scriptures, Bharatvarsha is identified as a part of which larger geographical entity?

- (a) Jambudweepa (b) Aryavarta (c) Indraprastha (d) Bharata

182. In Vishnu Puaran, who is commonly thought to be the 'Bharata'?

- (a) A Vedic sage (b) An ancient tribe
- (c) A king from the Kuril dynasty (d) The son of Dushyant and Shakuntala

Ans. : 1.B. North of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains

Explanation.

The Vishnu Purana describes Bharat as lying to the north of the ocean and to the south of the snowy mountains.

2.B. Mahabharata

Explanation.

'Bharatvarsha' was mentioned in the Mahabharata to describe the entire Indian subcontinent.

3.A. Jambudweepa

Explanation.

Bharatvarsha is identified as a part of the larger geographical entity called Jambudweepa in Hindu scriptures.

4.D. The son of Dushyant and Shakuntala

Explanation.

In Vishnu Purana, 'Bharata' is commonly thought to be the son of Dushyant and Shakuntala and an ancestor of Kauravas and Pandavas.

* Match the following.

[15]

183. List I	List II
A. Kashmira	1. Parts of Bengal
B. Kurukshetra	2. Parts of Haryana
C. Vanga	3. Roughly today's Assam
D. Pragjyotisha	4. More or less today's Kashmir

Ans. :

List I	List II
A. Kashmira	4. More or less today's Kashmir
B. Kurukshetra	2. Parts of Haryana
C. Vanga	3. Roughly today's Assam
D. Pragjyotisha	1. Parts of Bengal

184.

Column A	Column B
1. Kashmira	(a) Parts of Bengal
2. Kurukshetra	(b) More or less today's Kashmir
3. Vanga	(c) Roughly today's Assam
4. Pragjyotisha	(d) Parts of Haryana today

Ans. :

Column A	Column B
1. Kashmira	(b) More or less today's Kashmir
2. Kurukshetra	(d) Parts of Haryana today
3. Vanga	(a) Parts of Bengal
4. Pragjyotisha	(c) Roughly today's Assam

185.

Column A	Column B
(1) Sapta Sindhava	(i) Island of the fruit of the Jamun tree
(2) Bharatavarsha	(ii) Land of the seven rivers
(3) Jambudvipa	(iii) The Indian subcontinent
(4) Hind	(iv) Persian name for India

Ans. :

Column A	Column B
(1) Sapta Sindhava	(ii) Land of the seven rivers
(2) Bharatavarsha	(iii) The Indian subcontinent
(3) Jambudvipa	(i) Island of the fruit of the Jamun tree
(4) Hind	(iv) Persian name for India

Student Bro

