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## SECTION - A

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### OUR ENVIRONMENT

After the long summer vacation, Thoiba came to school. But to his surprise, he could not find the big tree near the school gate. He and his classmates usually used to sit at the foot of the tree. It gave them shade. So they loved the tree. Now the tree was cut and the trunk was on the roadside.

On reaching the school, he again noticed that the lush green field next to his school was dug up. Teachers said that a big building would be constructed there and the tree was cut for an approach road. Thoiba was very upset when he realised that the spacious green field with its soft grass where they used to play football and run after butterflies had gone for ever. He expressed his feelings to his classmates – Shimray, Athikho and Islamuddin. In the assembly, the principal remarked, "See how our environment is changing."

In the class Thoiba asked his teacher, "Sir, what is environment?" "Everything you see in your surroundings, living or non-living," said the teacher.

Thoiba said "That means chair, desks, school, roads, bridge, hills, forests, ponds, buses, televisions, cell phones, my friends – all are our environment !"

"Yes" said the teacher, "but remember, some things are created by nature - for example, rivers, hills, plants and animals. Others are created by man-for example, clothes, books, roads and aeroplanes."

Now you, with your two classmates, make a list of ten objects created by nature and ten things created by human beings.

# CHAPTER-1

## ENVIRONMENT

---

Environment means the surroundings, i.e., place, people, nature and things of an organism. It is not uniform all over, and varies from place to place. The hill environment of Manipur is very different from the environment of the Ganga plain. While the environmental conditions of the Deccan plateau are suitable for cultivation of cotton, they are not so in the Thar desert. Accordingly, the food habits, economic activities, or dresses of the people vary from region to region.

Environment is of two types, i.e., natural environment and human environment. The natural environment includes both biotic and abiotic environment while the human environment refers to the activities and creation of man.

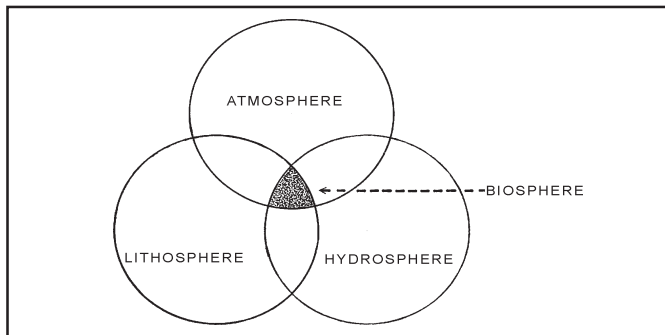
### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The earth is our home and thus, land, air, water, plants and animals together make the natural environment. Broadly, we can divide the natural environment into four spheres - lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere.

**Lithosphere** is the outer layer of the earth consisting of a variety of rocks. It extends as the continents and ocean basins. The continents are composed of rocks rich in silica and aluminium, called **sial**. In the ocean basins, the rocks are mainly rich in silica and magnesium, called **sim**. Lithosphere provides us land to settle and soils for plants. It is also a source of mineral wealth.

**Atmosphere** is the air-envelope that surrounds the earth. It is very dynamic in nature; changes take place frequently. These changes produce weather and climate. The atmosphere provides a setting in which all forms of life are sustained. It is held to the earth by the force of gravity.

**Hydrosphere** is the part of the earth's surface, covered by water rivers, lakes, seas and oceans form this sphere. Water is a very important resource for the living organisms. Oceans modify land temperature. They provide us with food and minerals.



**Fig. 1.1 : Biosphere**

**Biosphere** is the zone of the earth where life exists. Some of the organisms live in the air slightly above the earth's surface. Some organisms live in water to a certain depth while others live on surface. This is a narrow zone of interaction of land, air and water where living organisms survive. Over the centuries, life

form has got diversified. This variety of life forms—plants, animals and micro organisms is known as **biodiversity**.

The biotic and the abiotic environment interact with each other and change with time. Both the environments are dynamic in nature. New species of plants and animals evolve and old species become extinct as they fail to adapt to changing surroundings. The changes may be slow but sometimes they are very sudden.

### **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

Human environment comprises all the human made phenomena. Human beings interact with the environment and change it to fulfil their needs right from the period of animal domestication to the present period of science, technology and industrialisation. Early humans depended on food gathering and animal hunting. With the march of time, man built houses and thus created villages, towns and cities. He developed social institutions like temples, churches and mosques. He constructed roads, railways, bridges canals etc.

After the industrial revolution, there was surplus production of various commodities. Construction of dams and reservoirs, mining, drilling of mineral oils, withdrawal of ground water, mechanisation of agriculture, cloud seeding to induce rainfall, dispersal of cloud to clear airports, and many other activities have been taken up by humans. Now we have modern as well as faster modes of transport

operating on the sea, in the air and on the land. Cellphone, fax, e-mail, internet and satellite facilities made communications speedy and easier across the world.

### **Natural Environment and Human Beings**

Human beings are an important part of the biosphere. But they are capable of influencing and changing the natural environment. With the advancement of science and technology our activities now pose a serious threat to the environment. Human activities like agriculture, industry, transport, road and building construction, etc. have adversely affected the natural environment in a number of ways. The natural environment has been polluted to dangerous levels in some places. The environmental degradation is affecting the survival of human race. It is high time now to initiate steps to stop this environmental damage.

## **EXERCISES**

### **1. Answer the following questions in a sentence :**

- (a) What is environment ?
- (b) What are the different types of environment?
- (c) What is biodiversity ?

### **2. Answer the questions in about 30 words each :**

- (a) Define the major spheres of natural environment ?
- (b) Why should we stop the environmental damage ?
- (c) Why are the oceans important for us ?
- (d) How do the human activities pose a threat to the natural environment ?

### **3. Choose the correct answer :**

- (i) The continent of Africa is composed of rocks rich in  
(A) Sial      (B) Sima      (C) Nife      (D) Granite

- (ii) Which of the following is a biotic environment ?  
(A) Water                      (B) Air                      (C) Plant                      (D) Soil
- (iii) Noise pollution is an environmental problem mainly experienced in  
(A) Desert areas      (B) Hilly areas                      (C) Rural areas(D) Urban areas

**4. Fill in the blanks :**

- (a) The zone of interaction of land, water and air where living organisms live is called .....
- (b) The outer layer of the earth consisting of rocks is called .....
- (c) The atmosphere is held to the earth by the force of .....
- (d) The main activities of early humans were food gathering and .....

**ACTIVITY**

- **List some of the environmental problems of your area and find out how the problems could be controlled.**



## CHAPTER - 2

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT : LAND

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The earth - our homeland is the third of the eight planets that orbit the sun. It is the only planet which supports life. It was formed from a cloud of gas and dust about 4,600 million years ago. It was in the molten state in the beginning but it gradually started cooling and thus the solid outer crust was formed. **Homo sapiens** (modern humans) appeared on the earth about 2.5 lakh years ago. Have you any idea what the earth is made up of ? Now let us have a knowledge of the earth's interior.

### INTERIOR OF THE EARTH

The interior of the earth is not composed of uniform materials. Our knowledge about the earth's interior comes from indirect sources. The most important source is **seismic waves** or the earthquake waves. These waves are generated by earthquakes. They originate from the focus of the earthquake and travel in all directions. There are three types of waves known as P waves (Primary waves), S waves (Secondary waves) and L waves (Long waves). The velocity of P and S waves increases with depth, up to about 2900 kilometres. Thereafter, S waves do not pass whereas P waves pass at a reduced velocity. In fact, S waves are transmitted only through a solid body.

The study of earthquake waves enables us to know the earth's interior. It consists of three concentric layers - the crust, the mantle and the core. The **crust** is a thin, solid layer forming the outer shell of the earth. It is composed of light materials. Its thickness differs from place to place. It includes continental crust about 35 km thick and oceanic crust about 4 to 7 km thick. Beneath some mountains the crust is even 70 km thick. Rocks and soils constitute the uppermost layer of the crust.

A very thick layer called the **mantle** lies beneath the crust. Mantle extends up to 2900 km in depth. It is composed of heavy rocks. Upper part of the mantle, up to 700 km, is **upper mantle**. The **lower mantle** lies beyond 700 km.

The innermost part of the earth is known as **core**. It is composed of heaviest materials, like iron and nickel. The core forms 83% of the volume of the earth and it has a radius of 3470 km. It is also divided into two parts - outer core and inner core. The solid inner core has a temperature of about 4000°C.

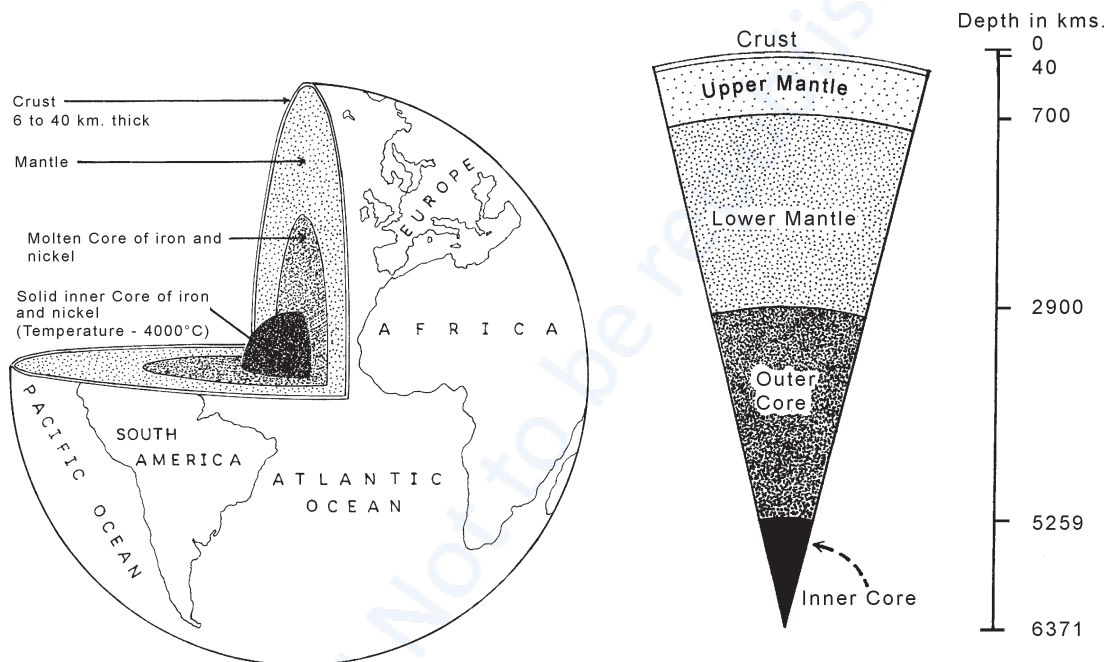


Fig. 2.2 : Interior of the earth

Fig. 2.1 : Earth's internal structure

High temperature prevails in the interior of the earth. Sometimes hot materials from the earth's interior come out through some cracks or joints as lava and form volcanoes. On the land surface lava deposits may create mountains. Fujiyama mountain in Japan is a good example. On the sea floor it creates a new sea-floor.

The crust and the topmost layer of the mantle form the lithosphere. The lithosphere consists of rigid plates bounded by oceanic ridges, trenches and faults. Each plate moves on the underlying **asthenosphere**. The asthenosphere is the molten part of the upper mantle. Where two plates move apart, there are rifts in the crust. When plates move towards each other, one may be pushed under the other and ocean trenches,

mountains etc. are produced. In all, there are **seven** very large plates and several smaller ones. You may ask your teacher to show a map of the tectonic plates.

#### Do you know ?

**The Himalayas including the North Eastern hills have been formed due to collision of plates. The Indian plate moved northwards and collided with the Eurasian plate. The materials between the plates are folded and uplifted to form mountains. This is how the Himalayas and the hills of Manipur were formed.**

### ROCKS AND MINERALS

The materials that make up the earth's crust are called rocks. They may be hard, soft and loose materials. Granite, sandstone, marble, clay, sand, salt and coal are examples. Rocks can be found in different shapes, sizes and colours. They do not possess a definite chemical composition but are a mixture of two or more minerals. Rocks are thus a combination of minerals.

A mineral, on the other hand, has a definite chemical composition, a crystalline form and certain physical properties. Minerals are rock-forming materials. Silicates, quartz and diamond are examples of minerals. Among them, diamond is the hardest mineral. The common salt we use everyday is a mineral. Halite is the mineral name for salt. The number of rock-forming minerals vary from rock to rock. The properties which are useful for identifying minerals include colour, lustre, texture and hardness. Minerals are thus chemical substances found in nature. You may collect names of some other minerals.

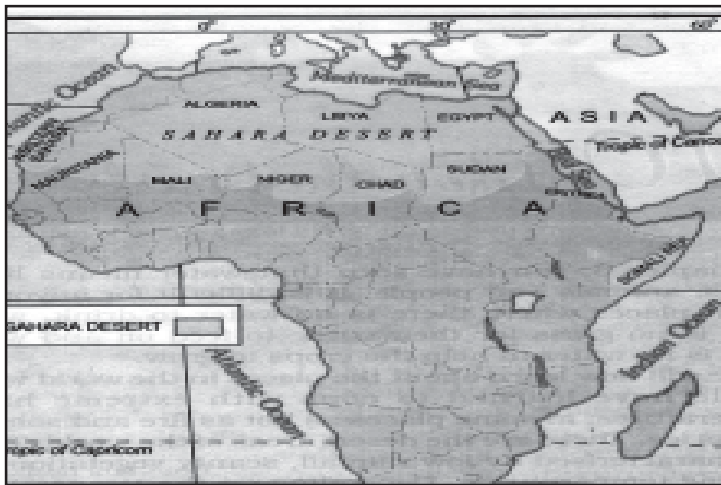
Some rocks are denser, some are harder than others. On the basis of their mode of formation, rocks are classified into three groups—**igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.**

**Igneous** rocks are formed when molten rock called magma cools and solidifies. The word igneous is derived from the Latin word 'ignis' which means fire. The cooling and solidification can happen underground or on the surface. Igneous rocks are parents of all other rocks and are also known as primary rocks. They cover large areas of the earth's crust.

Igneous rocks which solidify deep underground where magma is forced into cracks or between rock layers are called **intrusive rocks**. Granite is an example of this type. In India it is commonly used as a building stone. When igneous rocks are formed on the earth's surface they are called **extrusive rocks**. Basalt is an example. It is largely used as road metal and for building purposes.

Igneous rocks are of magmatic origin. They have no layers and contain no fossils. They have a crystalline structure. Minerals of great economic value are found in them.

Any rock on the earth's surface is exposed to weathering and erosion by



running water, glacier, wind or sea waves. Running water is the chief agent of erosion. Rivers and streams carry rock pieces and deposit them at favourable sites. These deposits are called sediments. These sediments are left buried layer by layer very slowly. Due to pressure from above or because of cementation, the loose materials ultimately

**Fig. 2.3: Igneous rocks**

**A- Magma B- Intrusive rocks C- Extrusive rocks**

become rocks. These stratified rocks are called **sedimentary rocks**. Sandstone, shale, limestone and coal are common sedimentary rocks. Sometimes remains of animals and plants are also found in sedimentary rock layers. They are called **fossils**. Coal, petroleum and natural gas are of organic origin and are sources of energy. Thus they are called fossil fuels. They are found only in sedimentary rocks. You may collect information from your teacher about how the deposits of mineral oil and natural gas are found in the earth's crust.

Sedimentary rocks are the most wide-spread of all the rocks on the land surface. They cover about 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the total land area of the earth.

Igneous as well as sedimentary rocks undergo changes. The process of change is called **metamorphism**. When the original character of the rocks, i.e., colour, hardness and mineral composition is changed due to heat and pressure, it gives rise to **metamorphic rocks**. Granite (igneous) changes into gneiss and sandstone (sedimentary) changes into quartzite. Limestone (sedimentary) is transformed into marble, clay and shale (sedimentary) into slate. The famous Taj Mahal in Agra is built of white marble. Metamorphic rocks are recognised by their great hardness and banded structures.

## **Rock cycle**

Rocks are changed into another type under different conditions. Igneous rock is exposed to weathering and erosion, and changed into sedimentary rocks. These two rocks are changed into metamorphic rocks in course of time. The metamorphic rocks may be forced deep into the earth's interior and melted to form magma. Eventually, the magma forms igneous rock. This process of transformation of the rock from one to another is known as the **rock cycle**.

## **EARTH MOVEMENTS**

You will be surprised to know that our earth is unstable. It is undergoing change. Several areas which now form parts of the land masses were once beneath the sea. Many areas which are now below the sea were once land areas. Landforms are constantly being shaped. These changes are the result of two forces working simultaneously inside the earth and also on the surface of the earth. The forces which originate inside the earth and bring changes on the surface are known as Endogenic or Internal forces. The forces which work on the surface of the earth are called Exogenic or External forces. The Endogenic forces are divided into sudden movements and slow movements.

### **Sudden movements**

These movements bring abrupt changes on the earth's surface. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions cause sudden movements in the earth's crust.

### **Earthquake – A case study**

Earthquakes are vibrations of the earth's surface. They can release energy thousands of times greater than the world's first atomic bomb. The Richter scale (0-9) is used to measure the magnitude or strength of an earthquake. A magnitude of 6 or higher is considered very strong. Earthquakes cannot be predicted.

A major earthquake hit the Bhuj area of Gujarat on 26 January 2001 at 8.46 a.m. It measured 7.9 on Richter scale and the epicentre was at Kachchh. There was extensive damage and nearly 3,48,000 houses were reduced to rubble. About 1,00,000 persons lost their lives.

### **Slow movements**

These movements continue over long periods and bring about a change in the surface level of a place. They continue much longer as compared to our life-

span. The submergence of a Mumbai forest about 10 metres deep is an evidence of such movement. Slow movements are further classified into vertical movements and horizontal movements.

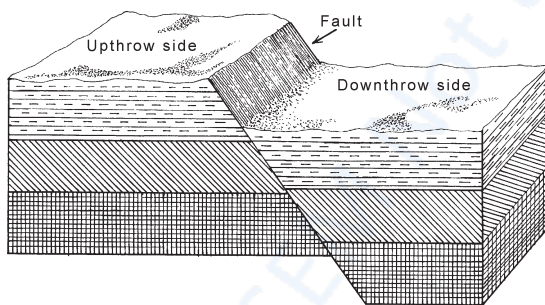
### Vertical movements

These movements are responsible for a rise or a fall of a part of the earth's surface. When a part of the earth's crust rises it is known as **uplift**. When a part sinks it is called **subsidence**. These earth movements build up continents. They are, therefore, known as **continent-building movements**.

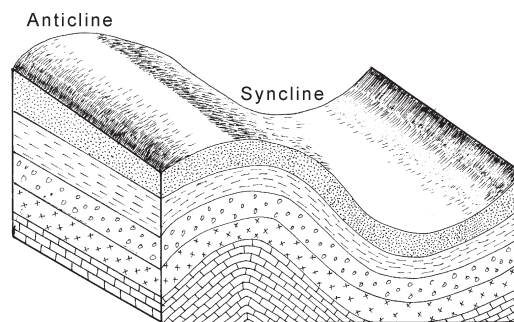
### Horizontal movements

Horizontal earth movements disturb the horizontal arrangement of rock layers. They involve both the forces of compression and tension. These movements are also responsible for the formation of mountains and are, therefore, known as **mountain-building movements**.

The compressional forces lead to the bending of rock layers. This is known as **folding**. The tensional forces are responsible for the breaking of rock strata. This fracturing of rock layers is called **faulting**. You may take the help of your teacher to know how these two forces act.



**Fig. 2.5 :Faulting of rocks**



**Fig. 2.4: Folding of rocks**

Folding occurs through compression. The rock-folds also comprise upfolds called **anticlines** and downfolds called **synclines**. The Himalayas, the Rockies, the Andes and the Alps have been formed due to the forces of compression.

Faulting occurs due to tension. The simple break in rocks is termed as fracture or fault. This is followed by faulting, i.e., vertical movement of the strata. The result is that one side of the strata lies at a lower elevation as compared to the strata on



the other side. Faulting may produce relief features like **rift valleys** and **horsts**. Parts of the Narmada and the Tapi valleys are examples of a rift valley.

## **MAJOR LANDFORMS**

A study of landforms is important for understanding the influence upon man's life. It also gives us an idea about the present distribution of man on the earth and his response to his environment. The major landforms of the earth are mountains, plateaus and plains.

### **Mountains**

A highland of the surface of the earth is called a **mountain**. When its summit is less than 900 metres from the base it is called a hill. On the basis of their origin, the mountains are classified into Fold mountains, Block mountains, Residual mountains and Volcanic mountains.

The Himalayas, the Alps, the Rockies and the Andes are **Fold mountains**. They are known as young fold mountains. The Aravallis are considered to be one of the oldest fold mountains on the earth. The rock-strata of the fold mountains were originally laid down as sediments in narrow elongated sea known as **geosynclines**. It was subsequently uplifted to form these mountains. A **Block mountain** or a **horst** is generally formed when the land between two adjoining parallel faults stands above the surrounding areas. Scientists believe that the Vindhyas and the Satpuras are block mountains. **Residual mountains** are formed due to erosion by rivers, glaciers, wind and other agencies. They have been worn down from previously existing elevated regions. The Nilgiri Hills is an example. **Volcanic mountains** have been formed by the accumulation of volcanic materials. Mt. Fuji Yama in Japan and Mt. Popa in Myanmar are examples.

Mountainous areas are sparsely populated. Standards of living are low and agriculture is uneconomic in these regions. Cost of transport is extremely high. However, they provide forest resources, recreation for people and sites for generation of hydro-power.

### **Plateaus**

A **plateau** is an elevated area. It has a large summit with an even surface. Very often, rivers cut out deep valleys in a plateau region. Such a plateau is known as a dissected plateau.

On the basis of their situation the plateaus are of three types. They are (a) **Intermontane Plateaus** which are enclosed by mountains, (b) **Piedmont plateaus** that are situated at the foot of a mountain, and (c) **Continental plateaus** which rise abruptly from the lowlands or the sea.

The response of man to plateau regions is different because of variations in topography, soil and climate. The lava plateaus are rich in agriculture while some plateaus like the Tibetan plateau are poor in this respect.

### **Plains**

A flat and lowlying land surface is called a **plain**. Some plains are smooth while others are slightly rolling. On the basis of their mode of formation the plains may be divided into uplifted coastal plains, erosional plains and depositional plains.

**Uplifted coastal Plains** are formed by the uplift of a part of the sea floor while **erosional plains** are formed when an elevated tract of land is worn down to a plain by erosion. **Depositional plains** are formed by the filling up of depressions with sediments. The deposition of sediments in a lake basin gives rise to a **lacustrine plain**, a sub-type of depositional plain. The Imphal Valley is an example of Lacustrine Plain.

The plains are teeming with people. They account for more than two-thirds of the world population. They have fertile soils, long growing season, and adequate means of transport and communication. However, the lowlying plains face destruction by floods.

## **EXERCISES**

### **1. Answer the questions in a word or a sentence :**

- (a) Name the layer of the earth in which S waves can not pass through.
- (b) What type of rock is formed when lava solidifies on the surface of the earth ?
- (c) Which force is responsible for the folding of rock strata ?

### **2. Answer the following questions in about 40 words each :**

- (a) How are metamorphic rocks formed ? Give two examples.
- (b) What is a rock cycle ?



- (c) What do you understand by Endogenic forces ?
- (d) Differentiate between vertical and horizontal movements of the earth.

**3. Choose the correct answer :**

- (i) Rift valleys are formed between two
  - (A) Fold mountains
  - (B) Block mountains
  - (C) Residual mountains
  - (D) Volcanic mountains
- (ii) The plateau which is enclosed by mountains is called
  - (A) Continental plateau
  - (B) Dissected plateau
  - (C) Piedmont plateau
  - (D) Intermontane plateau.
- (iii) The Imphal valley is a lacustrine plain because it was formed due to
  - (A) Erosion of a highland
  - (B) Uplift of the sea floor
  - (C) Sedimentation in a lake
  - (D) Draining out of accumulated water.

**4. Give the correct term for the following :**

- (a) The place of origin of an earthquake inside the earth.
- (b) The molten part of the upper mantle.
- (c) Remains of plants and animals found in sedimentary rocks.
- (d) The fracture in rocks involving movement of strata.
- (e) The upfolds of rock strata.

**ACTIVITY**

- **Collect at least 10 rocks from the neighbourhood of your school. Label and categorize them under igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.**

## CHAPTER - 3

## AIR

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We cannot see the air but feel it when it moves. If there was no air, the earth would have been lifeless like other planets. The vast expanse of air which surrounds the earth is called the atmosphere.

### COMPOSITION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere is composed of several gases, water vapour and dust particles. The important gases are nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.

**Nitrogen** is the most plentiful gas. It occupies 78% of the total volume. When we inhale, we take some amount of nitrogen into our lungs. Nitrogen is vital for plant life. **Oxygen** makes up about 21% of the air by volume. Human beings and animals need oxygen to breathe. Green plants produce oxygen. In this way, oxygen content in the air remains constant. Therefore, we should plant new trees before we cut others.

Nitrogen and oxygen together make up 99% of the air. Remaining 1% is made up of gases like carbon dioxide, argon, helium, methane, hydrogen and ozone. Plants absorb carbon dioxide to make their food and release oxygen. Humans and animals release carbon dioxide. The amount of carbon dioxide released by humans and animals is used by the plants. Thus there is a natural balance.

#### Do you know ?

There is increased volume of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Burning of fuels, such as coal, oil and others add billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. This is one of the reasons for getting the earth warmer which is known as **global warming**. It is a serious environmental problem today.

Dust particles such as smoke, fine dust, salt particles and ash are also present in the atmosphere. They are mostly concentrated in the lower layers. Water vapour is another component in the air and plays an important role in climate. It is concentrated in the lower atmosphere.

## STRUCTURE OF THE ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere extends up to a height of 1600 km from the earth's surface. However there is no sharp boundary between the atmosphere and outer space. Based on changes in temperature, the atmosphere is divided into 5 layers.

The **troposphere** is the lowest layer of the atmosphere. It is a denser layer and we live in it. All kinds of weather phenomena occur in this layer due to presence of dust particles and water vapour. Here temperature decreases with height. This layer extends for about 12 km on an average, but is higher over the equator than over the poles.

The **stratosphere** lies above the troposphere. It is a cold and clean layer. The zone of separation between the troposphere and the stratosphere is called **tropopause**. Do you know why aeroplanes fly above the tropopause ?

The **mesosphere** exists above the stratosphere. Ozone is found in upper stratosphere and mesosphere. Ozone layer absorbs ultraviolet rays from the sun. If these rays were to reach the earth, it would be dangerous for our life.

### Do you know ?

**The CFC gases (chlorofluorocarbon) used in refrigerators and air conditioners are the main cause of depletion of ozone.**

Above the mesosphere is the **thermosphere** where the air is very thin. Upper part of mesosphere and large part of thermosphere is called the **ionosphere** where molecules of gases are ions. Ionosphere reflects the radio waves back to the earth's surface.

The **exosphere** is the outermost layer of the atmosphere. It has very thin air. Hydrogen and helium gases predominate in this layer.

## ELEMENTS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The condition of the atmosphere at a particular time and place is called **weather**. It is assessed in terms of temperature, pressure, humidity, wind, rainfall, etc. These are called the elements of weather. We often describe weather as sunny, warm, fine, dull, cloudy and rainy.

**Climate**, on the other hand, is the average weather conditions for a given region over a long period. As climate stands for the composite weather conditions, the individual atmospheric elements which constitute weather are also the elements of climate. Therefore, temperature, pressure, humidity, wind, rainfall etc. are the elements of both weather and climate.

Everyday newspapers, radio and TV carry weather report. They also inform us about the timings of the sunrise and sunset. Weather and climate have great importance in our lives. Our day-to-day activities are regulated by the climatic conditions to a large extent. For example, the house we construct, the clothes we wear and the food we take generally depend on weather and climate. You may collect the weather report from local newspaper for 10 days and see how the weather changes.

### Atmospheric Temperature

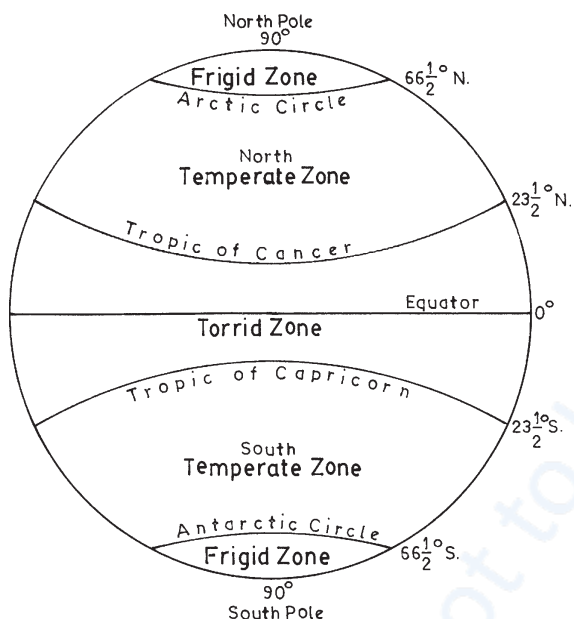
The degree of hotness and coldness of the air is known as temperature. The earth receives heat from the sun. The amount of solar radiation received by the earth is called **insolation**. Insolation varies from place to place. It is more near the equator and much less on the poles. On the basis of heat, the surface of the earth is divided into three **heat zones**.

1. **Torrid Zone** — It lies between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Here the sun's rays are almost vertical throughout the year. So this region is hot throughout the year.

2. **Temperate Zone** — It lies between the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle in the northern hemisphere and between the Tropic of Capricorn and

the Antarctic Circle in the southern hemisphere. This zone receives less amount of heat as compared to the torrid zone. Thus it has mild temperature.

**3. Frigid Zone** — It lies to the north of Arctic Circle in the northern hemisphere and to the south of Antarctic Circle in the southern hemisphere. Here sun's rays are very slanting. These are the coldest parts on the surface of the earth.



**Fig. 3.1: Heat Zones of the Earth**

not remain the same everywhere. It varies from place to place because it depends upon a number of factors. The factors are latitude, altitude, distance from the sea, prevailing winds, ocean currents and slope of the land. The temperature of air also decreases with height. It decreases at the rate of 1°C for every 165 metres of ascent. It is for this reason that Ukhrul is cooler than Imphal.

### Atmospheric Pressure

Air has weight. This weight of the air is called the atmospheric pressure. Air pressure is measured by an instrument called **barometer**. Normal air pressure at sea level is about 76 cm or 1013 millibars.

Atmospheric pressure decreases with height. As we go up, the air becomes

### Heating and Cooling of the Atmosphere

The atmosphere does not get heated directly by the sun's rays. It absorbs very little of the solar radiation. From the ground surface, the heat is transferred to atmosphere through the process of radiation, conduction, convection and advection.

### Factors Controlling Temperature

The temperature is measured by an instrument called **thermometer**. We use either the Fahrenheit or the Celsius scale to measure temperature.

The atmospheric temperature does

thinner and thinner and its pressure also goes on decreasing. This is the reason why high pressure is found at the sea level due to dense air. You also notice that your ears pop up when you travel by aeroplanes. This occurs due to drop in the air pressure.

The atmospheric pressure is not the same everywhere on the surface of the earth due to differences in the heating and cooling of the atmosphere. An area which is hot will always have rising air currents and thus, will form a low pressure area. In a cold region, the cold and heavy air descends downwards and forms a high pressure area.

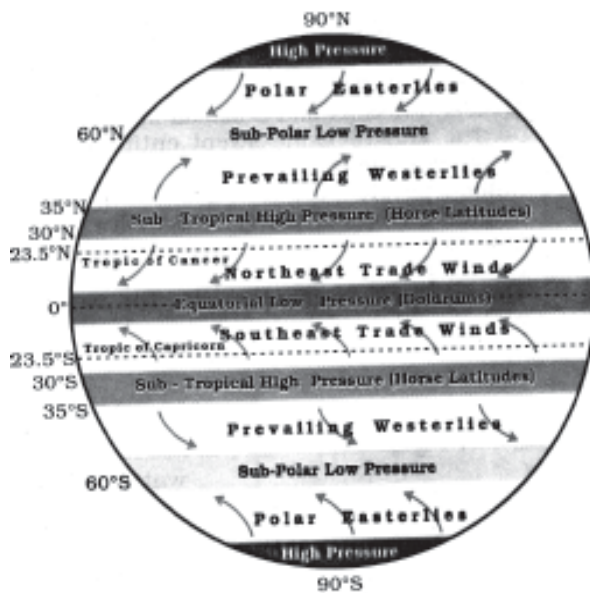


Fig. 3.2 : Pressure Belts and Planetary Winds

The winds which blow throughout the year in a particular direction are called **Permanent** or **Planetary winds**. Examples are the Trade Winds, the Westerlies and the Polar winds. The winds which blow over a particular season are called **Periodic Winds**. Monsoon is a very good example. Indian agriculture depends very much on the monsoons. **Local Winds** blow over a limited area and have local significance. 'Loo' of the Upper Ganga plain and 'Ashit Awan' of Manipur are local winds.

### Cyclone – A case study

A cyclone is an area of low atmospheric pressure in the centre surrounded by high pressure areas on all sides. It is a powerful swirling storm. Cyclones are devastating to low lying coastal areas.

The main **pressure belts** on the earth's surface are Equatorial Low Pressure Belt, Sub-tropical High Pressure Belts, Sub-polar Low Pressure Belts and Polar High Pressure Belts.

### Wind System

Air always moves from a high pressure area to a low pressure area. Such horizontal movement of air is called **wind**. The winds which blow throughout the year in a particular direction are called **Permanent** or **Planetary winds**. Examples are the Trade Winds, the

A cyclone originated as a depression in the sea east of Port Blair on 25 October 1999. It intensified into a super cyclone with a wind velocity of 260 km per hour and hit Orissa on 29 October 1999. The super cyclone swept the entire coast of Orissa.

The damages caused were mainly due to wind velocity, rain and tidal waves. The high velocity winds uprooted trees and destroyed many houses. Power supply and telecom lines were cut off. Heavy rain occurred for three days continuously. The cyclonic winds caused tidal waves that rushed 20 km. inland. They brought massive damage to the coastal area and the standing crops. Many agricultural fields have turned infertile. About 1,00,000 people lost their lives and nearly 13 million people were affected. A large number of livestock were killed.

### **Humidity**

The water vapour present in the air is known as humidity. The amount of water vapour varies from place to place. Due to the heat of the sun water evaporates from the water bodies and enters the atmosphere. As the hot air rises, it reaches higher level of the atmosphere where temperature is much lower. Due to decrease in temperature the water vapour starts converting into water droplets and ice crystals. This process is called **condensation**. The water droplets and ice crystals that float in the air are known as clouds. Clouds are of four types : nimbus (dark clouds), cumulus (white or grey), cirrus (feathery white) and stratus (thin white sheets). When the water droplets grow in size and are unable to float they fall down to the earth as rain. You may take the help of a binocular to see what constitutes the clouds.

Rainfall is very important for the survival of plants and animals. It brings fresh water to the earth's surface. Rainfall is of three types, viz, **Convictional rainfall**, **Orographic rainfall** and **Cyclonic rainfall**. Rainfall is measured with the help of an instrument called **raingauge**.

## EXERCISES

### 1. Answer the following in a word :

- (a) The lowest layer of the atmosphere.
- (b) The layer which sends back radio signals to the earth.
- (c) The incoming solar radiation received by the earth.

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words each :

- (a) Mention the uses of the two most plentiful gases of the atmosphere.
- (b) Give the significance of the ozone layer to human beings.
- (c) How is the atmosphere heated ?
- (d) Name the main pressure belts on the surface of the earth.

### 3. Choose the correct answer :

- (i) The process of conversion of water vapour into water droplets is known as
  - (A) Evaporation
  - (B) Condensation
  - (C) Sublimation
  - (D) Precipitation
- (ii) The condition of the atmosphere at a particular place and time is called
  - (A) Weather
  - (B) Climate
  - (C) Pressure
  - (D) Temperature
- (iii) Based on latitudinal location, Manipur belongs to
  - (A) Tropical zone
  - (B) Torrid zone
  - (C) Temperate zone
  - (D) Frigid zone.



**4. Mark True or False against the following statements :**

- (a) The tropopause is the boundary between the stratosphere and the mesosphere.
- (b) Air pressure is measured by an instrument called thermometer.
- (c) Plant absorbs carbon dioxide to make its food.
- (d) Water vapour is absent in the lower atmosphere.
- (e) Torrid zone is the hottest part of the earth.

**ACTIVITY**

- **Measure the daily amount of rainfall from June to September in your locality. You may take the guidance of your teacher in this project work.**

# CHAPTER - 4

# WATER

---

## FRESH AND SALINE

Water is the fountainhead of life. The earth appears blue from outer space because of its abundant water bodies. The water bodies form a sphere of water called the hydrosphere. Water makes 71% of the earth's surface. Therefore our earth is known as a **watery planet**. Out of the total water available on this earth, about 97.5% is saline. The ocean water is saline but the water in rivers and many lakes is fresh. The Loktak lake in Manipur is a fresh-water lake.

The total amount of water on the earth remains the same. It exists in various forms, i.e., water, ice and vapour. We can not increase the quantity of the water as it is limited. In order to meet the needs of the growing population, we must use water judiciously. Water conservation should be a part of our life. You can prepare a list of uses of water in your daily life.

### Do you know ?

**Fresh water is precious because we need it to live. Of all the earth's water only about 1 % is available as fresh water for human use.**

## Hydrological Cycle

Water evaporates from the oceans and other smaller water bodies and reaches the atmosphere as water vapour. On cooling, this water vapour turns into water droplets and falls to earth as rain. The rain water runs into the sea from where it gets evaporated. Thus it completes a cycle. This is known as **hydrological cycle** or **water cycle**. Hydrological cycle describes the movement of water. It has neither a beginning nor an end.

## Salinity of Oceans

Sea water is salty. This saltiness is called salinity. There are many salts dissolved in sea water. Among the salts, sodium chloride or common salt is the most important. The average salinity of the ocean is 35 per thousand, i.e., 35 grams of salt per 1000 grams of water. In areas where evaporation is high, the salinity is high. In polar areas where evaporation is low, the salinity is also very low. In land-locked seas, the salinity is very high.

## MAJOR WATER BODIES

There are four major oceans on the earth. They are : Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean.

### Pacific Ocean

This is the largest and the deepest ocean on the earth. It is roughly triangular in shape. It covers one-third of the earth's surface and approximately equals in area the other oceans taken together. The deepest part of the ocean is off the Guam Islands and is known as the **Mariana Trench**. It is about 11,000 metres deep. The Pacific ocean has around 20,000 islands in it.

#### Do you know ?

**The highest point on the earth is Mount Everest, about 9 km above sea level. The lowest point is the Mariana Trench about 11 km below sea level in the Pacific Ocean. If Mt. Everest is immersed in the Pacific Ocean, its summit would not rise above the sea level.**

### Atlantic Ocean

This S - shaped ocean covers nearly one-sixth of the earth's surface. This ocean is bordered by North America and South America on the west, and Europe and Africa on the east. This is the busiest ocean providing trade and transport facilities between North America and Europe.

### Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is often called **Half an ocean** because it does not open northwards. The deepest part is the **Sunda Trench**, which is about 7400 metres deep. This trench is situated to the south of Java Island in Indonesia.

## **Arctic Ocean**

This is the smallest ocean. This ocean is almost frozen and is located around the North Pole. It also has a number of islands, especially in the north of Canada.

There is a large water body known as the Southern Ocean around the Antarctica continent. It merges with the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Actually it is not a vast body of water as it remains frozen for most part of the year.

## **DISASTER : A Case study in Manipur**

Disaster is a serious disruption, occurring over a relatively short time involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses. It is sudden or great misfortune. Earthquakes, floods, mudflows, landslides etc. are examples of disaster.

Owing to its geo-climatic, geological and physical features, Manipur is vulnerable to all-major natural hazards (Droughts, Floods, Cyclones, Earthquakes, Landslides, Mudflows, Forests Fires etc.) In addition, occurrence of biological disasters and other technological/human caused hazards such as transportation accidents, forest fires etc. are most likely in the State. Moreover, Manipur is in the foothills of new fold mountain series extending from the Himalayan mountain system and in the earthquake belt, which is the most earthquake prone zone in the country (Seismic Zones).

## **Disaster classifications**

Disaster can be divided into two : 1. Natural Disaster and 2. Man-made Disaster

### **Natural Disaster :**

A *Natural Disaster* is a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss multiple of lives, damage property, injury or other health impacts, social and economic disruptions. It is unpredictable and includes Earthquakes, Landslides, mudflows, volcanic eruptions, floods, draughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizards, tsunamis and cyclones are all natural disasters. The Manipur earthquake of January 4, 2016 was hit by Magnitude of 6.7 with its epicenter located at Thangmeilong

district of Manipur about 30 km west of state capital, Imphal caused widespread damage to built environment, economics losses and human casualties. The worst affected regions are Imphal, Tamenglong, Noney and Thoubal.

### **Man-made disaster**

Man-made disaster is the element of human intent or negligence that leads to human suffering and environment damages. Examples include forest fires, transport accidents, industrial accidents, oil spills and nuclear explosions. Man-made disaster means inability to cope with the disruption in normal life of situation affecting large people. Manipur has frequent man-made disasters.

#### **1. Floods:**

Most of the flood-prone and flood affected areas of Manipur are located in the districts of Imphal Valley. Hilly regions, surrounding the valley region occupies 4,432 sq.km. that is 70% of the total catchment area and area of Manipur Valley, an oval shaped, is 1,900 sq. km., which is 30% only.

Manipur Valley has three catchment areas where rainfall is normally high during summer monsson. Almost two-third population of Manipur is concentrated in the Manipur Valley, which has only 8.2% area of the state. The various rivers, origin from the surrounding hills and mountains, run through the plain and are either fall directly into or indirectly connected (through lakes) with Imphal river which is latter on known as Manipur river. Thus, Manipur Valley is oriented with the Manipur river system and causes flash floods every year. The flood problems in Manipur, espicially valley districts have been becoming worse after commissioning of the Ithai Barrage. Several indigenous fishes have disappeared from Loktak Lake such as the Ngaton, Khabak, Pengba, Tharaak, Ngakra, Ngaatin etc. These fishes migrated from the Chindwin-Irrawaddy river system of Myanmar to the course of Imphal/Manipur River for breeding in the adjoining lakes and streams of Manipur valley. The increase in the water level of Loktak due to Ithai Dam has caused a great damage to the production of paddy crops, aquatic plants that are food crops and commercial importance to the catchment areas. As for instance, the production of about 30 indigenous varieties of aquatic edible plants, e.g Heikak, Yelli, Thangjing, Tharo, Thambal, Loklei, and Pulei had been significantly reduced due to the failure in the germination and extension of their feet to the bottom soil of the lake.

## Disaster Management

The process of organization and management that is implemented before, during or after any type of catastrophic event takes place is disaster management. The management of natural hazards involve disaster research and predictions of the history of the prone area. Prevention, preparation, relief and recovery are four essential parts to disaster management.

### EXERCISES

#### 1. Answer the following questions in a sentence :

- (a) Why is the earth known as the watery planet ?
- (b) Why does Manipur is prone area of frequent floods during rainy season?
- (c) What is disaster?

#### 2. Answer the questions in about 100 words each :

- (a) Explain hydrological cycle or water cycle.
- (b) In what ways are the tides and currents useful to man ?
- (c) Explain disaster management?

#### 3. Choose the correct answer :

- (i) The salinity of ocean is high in area of
  - (A) Low evaporation
  - (B) High evaporation
  - (C) High humidity
  - (D) Heavy rainfall.
- (ii) Natural Disaster is caused by
  - (A) Road Accident
  - (B) Nuclear explosion
  - (C) Deforestation
  - (D) Earthquake.

- (iii) The deepest part of the ocean is found in  
(A) Atlantic Ocean                      (B) Indian Ocean  
(C) Bay of Bengal                      (D) Pacific Ocean

**4. Match the two columns :**

<b>Column - A</b>	<b>Column - B</b>
(a) Busiest ocean	(1) Pacific Ocean
(b) Sunda Trench	(2) Indian Ocean
(c) Largest ocean	(3) Arctic Ocean
(d) Smallest ocean	(4) Atlantic Ocean

**ACTIVITY**

- Trace the world map on a big paper. On it show the warm and cold currents of Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans by using two different colours and label them.

## CHAPTER- 5

# NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

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The natural growth of plant without any interference from human beings is known as **natural vegetation**. Temperature and rainfall are the important factors which control the type of vegetation. Natural vegetation is classified as :

1. **Forests** — in regions of heavy rain
2. **Grasslands** — in regions of moderate rain
3. **Shrubs and scrubs** — in dry regions
4. **Tundra vegetation** — in polar regions

### FORESTS



**Magnolia champaca (Leihao Pambi)**

**Tropical Evergreen Forests** are found in equatorial regions. These areas are hot and receive abundant rainfall throughout the year. The trees are tall and remain green throughout the year. There is a thick undergrowth of plants and creepers. Hardwood trees like mahogany, ebony and rosewood are of commercial value. These forests have spectacular wildlife. There are apes, monkeys, pythons, leopards, crocodiles, lizards, hippopotamus and elephants.

**Tropical Deciduous Forests** are found in monsoon regions of Asia, Central America and northern Australia.



The trees shed their leaves in dry season. By and large they do so to conserve moisture. These forests are less dense than the Tropical evergreen forests. Teak is an important commercial timber. Other important trees are sal, sandalwood and eucalyptus. These forests are also called **monsoon forests**. The native animals are tigers, elephants, bears, leopards and rhinoceros.

**Temperate Evergreen Forests** are mainly found in south-eastern U.S.A., southern China and south-eastern Brazil. They have a mixed variety of trees. The plains have mixed deciduous and coniferous trees while the highlands have only coniferous trees. Important trees are oak, pine, wattle and eucalyptus. These are evergreen trees. The people living in these areas rear cattle, pigs and sheep. These animals provide wool, meat and skins.

**Temperate Deciduous Forests** have moderate temperature and rainfall. Most of the trees have thick trunks and broad leaves. They shed their leaves in autumn and remain leafless through the winter. The important trees are oak, ash, beech, maple and douglas fir. Many forest areas have been cleared to provide land for agriculture and industry. The native animals of these areas consist of deer, foxes, wolves, beavers, etc.

**Mediterranean Forests** are found in areas around the Mediterranean Sea and California in U.S.A. This region experiences wet winter and dry summer. The trees adapt very well to the long dry summer season as they have thick barks and waxy leaves. Important trees are olive, oak, figs, pines and firs. Grapes are extensively grown in this region. Citrus fruits like oranges and lemons are world famous. This region is known as the '**orchards of the world**'.

**Coniferous Forests** are also called the **taiga**. They are evergreen forests. They exist in the northern hemisphere between 50° and 70° latitudes. Trees are tall and conical in shape. They have needle-shaped leaves to reduce transpiration. These soft wood trees are in great demand for paper-making, newsprint, matches and furniture. The important trees are spruce, pine, fir and larch. The animals of this region have fur on their bodies to protect the severe cold. Most of these animals are trapped for fur. They are beaver, silver fox, mink and polar bear.

## **GRASSLANDS**

Extensive grasslands occur in regions of moderate rainfall. Grasslands are divided into Tropical grassland and Temperate grassland.

**Tropical grasslands** occur on both sides of the equatorial region. The grass is 3 to 4 metres tall and is known as '**elephant grass**'. There are trees interspersed in the grass. The region is popular for **safaris** (trips to see wild animals). Herbivores such as elephants, zebras, deer and giraffes along with carnivores such as lions, cheetahs, hyena and leopards are found here. These grasslands are known as **Savanna** in Africa and **Campos** in Brazil.

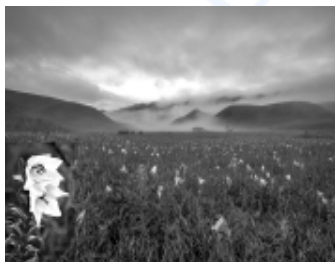
**Temperate grasslands** are found in the interior parts of the continents in temperate regions. The grasses are short and trees are absent. Cattle are reared in these grasslands. The animal life of this region consists of antelopes, wolves, rabbits and wild dogs. These grasslands are called **Steppes** in Eurasia, **Prairies** in North America, **Pampas** in South America, **Veld** in South Africa and **Downs** in Australia.

### **SHRUBS AND SCRUBS**

Shrubs and thorny bushes occur in desert or semi-desert regions where rainfall is very low. The plants have long roots and waxy leaves. **Xerophytes** such as cactus, date palm and thorny bushes are found in deserts. Camel adapts to the desert conditions as it can survive without water for long periods of time. Hyena, fox and wild asses are other animals.

### **TUNDRA VEGETATION**

Tundra type of vegetation occurs in the extreme northern parts of Europe, Asia and North America. During summer there is a short growing season of about three months. Mosses, lichens and wild flowering shrubs are found here. The tundra region is also known as the **cold desert**.



Shiroi Lily

### **SOME INDIGENOUS PLANTS/TREES OF MANIPUR**

Manipur is rich in her flora and fauna and well known for hotspot in the northeast region of India. The vegetation consist a large variety of plants ranging from short and tall grasses, reeds and bamboos to trees of

various species. Teak, Pine, Oak, Uningthou, Leihao, Bamboo, Cane, etc. are important forest resources growing in plenty in the State. Indigenous trees of Tairen, Heikreng, Khok, Uyung, Koubiliya, Tera, Khongnang etc. are growing plenty in the valley districts. Chumbrei, Heikha, Heitup, Heibong, Theibong, Heinoujom and hundreds of fruit bearing trees are abundantly grows in the state. The important species of the bamboos are Khokwa, Utang, Saneibi, Maribob, Watangkhoi, Unal, Khokwa etc. In addition, rubber, tea, coffee, orange, cardamom etc. are also grows in the hills of Manipur.

### WILDLIFE IN MANIPUR

Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur was established in the year 1966 as a Sanctuary and in the year 1977 as a National Park. It is probably the only



Sangai

'floating sanctuary' in the world that comprises 40 sq. km of wetland overgrown with 1.5 m deep 'floating vegetation (called phumdi). The brow-antlered deer, *Cervus eldi eldi*, called **Sangai** in the local Meitei dialect is an endemic, rare and endangered brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur. Other rare wildlife species in Manipur are

Kharsa (hog deer), Sajal (Sambar), Barking deer (red deer) etc.

***How many nation parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are there in Manipur? The state has only one (1) National Park and 2 (Two) Wildlife Sanctuaries in Manipur.***

### NATIONAL PARK

An area, which is strictly reserved for the betterment of the wildlife & biodiversity, and where activities like developmental, forestry, poaching, hunting

and grazing on cultivation are not permitted is called **National Park**. The **Keibul Lamjao National Park of Bishnupur District, Manipur** is a national park. It has an area of 40 km<sup>2</sup> (15.4 sq mi) and the only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part of Loktak Lake.

### **WILDLIFE SACTUARY**

Wildlife Sanctuary is an area, which is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural of zoological significance Sanctuary is espically declared for the purpose of protecting,propagating or developing wildlife or its envionment. There are two sanctuary in Manipur.

1. Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Khongjaingamba Ching Widlife Sanctuary

**Yangoupokpi Lokchao** Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the Indo-Myanmar border at Chandel district which is about 110 km from Imphal. This sanctuary was declared as reserve forest by the State Darbar of Manipur and approved by His Highness in April, 1946. It was re-declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary on the 21st of March 1989. This part of Himalayas is particularly rich endemic bird species such as endangered bird Green Peafowl-Pavo muticus (Wahong Asangba) are still occasionally seen.

**Khongjaingamba Ching** Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Keibul Lamjao National Park of Bishnupur district, established in 2016. Lam-Ok, Barking deer, Wild boar and migratory birds are important.



Nongin

## EXERCISES

### 1. Answer the questions in a sentence :

- (a) What are the main climatic characteristics of the Mediterranean region ?
- (b) Why do trees in the Taiga have needle-shaped leaves ?
- (c) In which region are the Safaris practised ?

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words each :

- (a) Why is there thick growth of vegetation in the Tropical Evergreen forests?
- (b) Where do we find cold deserts of the world?
- (c) What do you mean by 'elephant grass' ?
- (d) Why does Keibul Lamjao National Park is famous in the world?

### 3. Choose the correct answer :

- (i) The temperate grassland found in South America is known as
  - (A) Campos
  - (B) Steppes
  - (C) Pampas
  - (D) Savanna.
- (ii) Xerophytes are found in
  - (A) Prairies
  - (B) Deserts
  - (C) Downs
  - (D) Veld.
- (iii) What type of vegetation do we find in regions of high temperature and heavy rainfall ?
  - (A) Scrubland
  - (B) Grasslands
  - (C) Mosses
  - (D) Forests

### 4. Name two characteristic plants and two animals found in each of these forests.

Forest type	Plants	Animals
(a) Tropical Evergreen forest	.....	.....
(b) Temperate Deciduous forest	.....	.....

- (c) Coniferous forest .....  
(d) Tropical Deciduous forest .....

**ACTIVITY**

- **Make a list of five common trees in your locality and find out their uses**

## CHAPTER - 6

# HUMAN ENVIRONMENT: SETTLEMENT, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

---

Human environment is an important part of the overall environment. Humans can survive even in difficult environment. They are able to modify the natural environment to a certain extent.

In the early days, human groups used to survive by hunting and food gathering. They moved from one place to another in search of food. Such type of life is called **nomadic** life. Later on, people introduced agriculture and domestication of animals. This led to permanent settlement.

### SETTLEMENTS

A settlement is the cluster of houses where people live. There are many factors for the growth of settlements. The most important factor is the **availability of water**. All the ancient civilizations grew along river valleys. **Topography** is also another factor. Plains are sites for towns or cities. Settlements are few in hilly areas. **Natural beauties** of a place also play a role in the growth of towns. It attracts people. Kashmir and Goa are examples.

A settlement may be rural or urban. In rural settlements, people are engaged in the primary occupations such as agriculture, fishing, mining and animal rearing. An urban settlement has a large number of people engaged in secondary occupations such as industries or tertiary occupations like trade, transportation, etc.

### RURAL SETTLEMENTS

Rural settlements vary in size from isolated dwelling to villages. They are generally of two types :



(i) **Dispersed Settlement** — The houses are scattered in isolated places. This type of settlement is generally found in hilly regions or on farmlands where livestock rearing is the main occupation.

(ii) **Compact Settlement** — Houses are built close to each other around a centre. This type is found in level plains or near rivers. Schools and markets are there to serve the people.

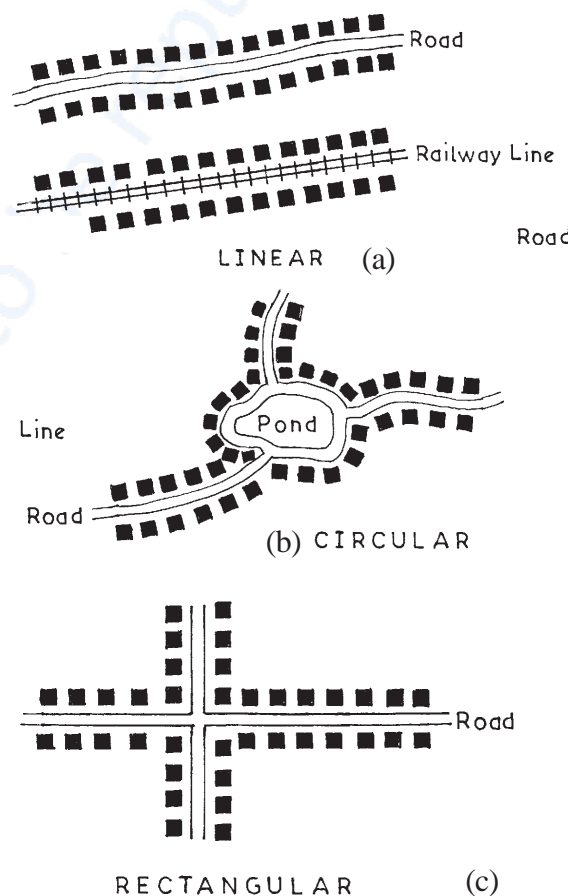
### Patterns of Rural Settlement

The patterns of rural settlement differ from place to place and from region to region. However, they may be classified into the following categories.

(a) **Linear Pattern** — When houses are built in a line along a river or a railway track or a canal or a road, the pattern is linear. Settlement in the hill areas along the National Highway No. 37 of Manipur is an example.

(b) **Circular Pattern** — This pattern develops around a pond or lake or an oasis. In the initial stage such patterns have a semi-circular shape but finally the settlement expands around the water body.

(c) **Rectangular Pattern** — When two routes cross each other at right angles the houses are built along the routes in all the four directions. Such type of settlement is known as rectangular pattern. Most villages in the Great Plains of India fall into this category.

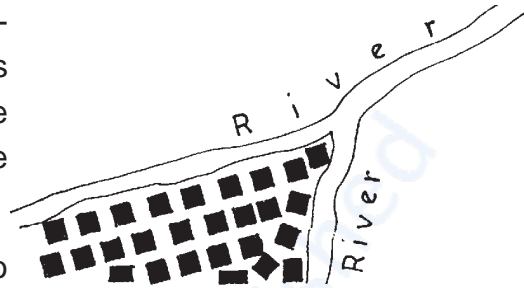


**Fig. 6.1 (a) (b) (c) :  
Patterns of Rural Settlement**



(d) **Triangular Pattern** — This pattern of rural settlement mostly develops at the confluence of two rivers. The village develops on the land lying in between the two rivers.

Sometimes the rural settlement also develops into a **star-like pattern**.



(d) **Triangular**

**Fig. 6.1 (d) : Patterns of Rural Settlement**

## **URBAN SETTLEMENT**

Urban settlements are large in size. They are compact and have amenities such as schools, hospitals, banks, etc. Urban centres can be classified on the basis of their functions.

### **Administrative Towns**

These towns are the headquarters of the administrative departments of Central and State governments. Imphal is an administrative town.

### **Defence Towns**

These towns are the centres of military activities. They have army establishments. Jalandhar is an example.

### **Cultural Towns**

These towns have cultural functions. They are centres of art, culture and education. Shantiniketan in West Bengal and Oxford in the U.K. are examples. Moirang in Manipur is a cultural town.

### **Mining Towns**

These towns are developed in the mining areas. Dhanbad in Jharkhand is a famous mining town in India.

## **Religious Towns**

These towns are centres of religious activities. They have many religious buildings and shops selling religious books. Varanasi in India and Jerusalem in Israel are religious towns.

## **Industrial Towns**

Towns which have developed due to setting up of industries are called industrial towns. Jamshedpur in Jharkhand and Osaka in Japan are industrial towns.

## **Market Towns**

Market towns are dominated by traders. These towns act as market points for the exchange of goods. They are distributing as well as collecting centres. Chicago in U.S.A. and Kanpur in India are popular market towns.

## **TRANSPORT**

Transport facilitates movement of people and goods from one place to another. It promotes economic activity. A better developed transport system in a region ensures wider markets for its agricultural and industrial products. Transport is the life blood of trade and it is the most important factor in the advancement of civilization.

The development of transportation has brought the different parts of the world in close touch with one another. Today, the world has become smaller. There are three modes of transport, viz., land transport, water transport and air transport. On land transport, roads and railways are dominant.

## **Roadways**

Roads may be metalled or unmetalled. It gives us door-to-door service. Rural areas are best served by roads. Construction and maintenance of roads is cheaper than that of railways. Roads can be constructed easily through forests and mountains. However, road transport is more costly than railways.

The U.S.A. has nearly one-third of the total road mileage of the world. It has special roads called **highways** interconnecting important towns separated by large distances. On the highways, the traffic moves very fast as there are 6 to 8 lanes.

Western Europe has also a very dense network of roadways. In England, highways are called **motorways** and in Germany they are called **autobahns**. European Russia also has a dense network of roads.

In India, road density is still low as compared to many countries of the world. The road density is highest in Ganga plain, moderate in the peninsular plateau and low in the Himalayan region and the North Eastern Hills including Manipur.

## **Railways**

Railways are the most important means of land transport. They can carry heavy and bulky goods over long distances. Railways also accelerate the pace of industrialization. Started with coal engines, the trains now run with diesel or electric engines. Construction of railways and their maintenance are very costly. Topography, density of population and level of economic development are some of the important factors influencing the development of railways.

The densest rail network is found in western Europe and eastern U.S.A. The railway network in Africa, Australia and South America was developed primarily to exploit their natural resources. India has the fourth largest network of railways in the world. In the Ganga plain the density of railways is high but over the peninsular India it is moderate. A railway line extends from Silchar to Jiribam in Manipur. The Jiribam railway head is about 220 km from Imphal, capital of the state. Another railway line is Dimapur in Nagaland, about 215 km from Imphal and with this, the state connect with the rest of the country. Recently, a new railway line to be connecting Silchar-Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal is in progress of construction. Some important trans-continental railways (railways running across the continent) are :

- (i) **Trans-Siberian Railway** : This is the world's longest railway line. It connects St. Petersburg in western Russia with Vladivostok in eastern Russia.
- (ii) **Canadian Pacific Railway** : It connects Halifax on the Atlantic coast

- (iv) **Trans-Australian Railway** : It runs along the southern coast of Australia linking Sydney with Perth.

Apart from surface rail network, underground rail services have become very important in cities all over the world. Do you know that in our country Delhi and Kolkata have underground or **Metro rail** services.

## **Waterways**

Water transport is the cheapest mode of transport. It interconnects different countries of the world. It is highly useful to promote international trade. To-day we have huge boats, trawlers, ships which are fast and highly mechanised. Water transport may be inland or oceanic.

**(a) Inland waterways** : It includes navigable rivers, lakes and canals. Some of the important navigable inland river systems are :

- i) The Great Lakes along with St. Lawrence river in North America
- ii) Rivers Seine and Loire in France
- iii) Rivers Mississippi and Missouri in U.S.A..
- iv) River Nile in its lower course (Africa)
- v) Rivers Ganga and Brahmaputra in their middle and lower course (India)
- vi) River Rhine of Germany.

**(b) Ocean transport** : International trade is largely dependent on ocean transport. Important ocean routes are :

- i) **North Atlantic Ocean Route** — It is the busiest route in the world. It connects eastern part of North America with western Europe. Both these regions are highly industrialised.
- ii) **Panama Canal Route** — It connects Pacific Ocean with Atlantic Ocean.
- iii) **Suez Canal Route** — This is the second most important route. It links Asia, Australia and East Africa with western Europe.

- iv) **Cape of Good Hope Route** — It links Asia and Australia with Europe. Its significance has now decreased with the opening of the Suez Canal.
- v) **North Pacific Route** — It connects western North America with east Asia (Japan, Korea and China).

### **Air Transport**

Air transport is the fastest mode of transport. But it is also the costliest mode. Although the sky is limitless, aircrafts have to follow a particular route as different countries allow flights only through a corridor.

The U.S.A. has one of the most technologically advanced air transport system. It has more than 7000 civil airports. European countries have developed air traffic linking many countries of the world. South-East Asian countries and Australia are also highly developed in air traffic. Some countries in Africa and South America still do not have facilities of air transport. In most countries, there are two types of air services, namely, domestic and international. Can you name the air service to which the Imphal - Kolkata flight belongs ?

### **Air**

Bir Tikendrajit International Airport is the second international airport built in the Northeastern region of India, after Guwahati, and the third busiest airport in the north east region after Guwahati and Agartala.

### **Pipeline Transport**

Transportation of materials such as oil and gas through pipelines is known as pipeline transport. There is a dense network of pipelines in U.S.A. for carrying petroleum and gas from the regions of production to the regions of consumption. Oil from Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia is brought through pipelines to the Mediterranean coast. Gas is transported through pipelines in Italy and France.

In India, oil from Kandla port is transported to Mathura refinery through a pipeline. There are pipelines to transport oil from the Assam oilfields to the Barauni refinery in Bihar and the Noonmati Refinery near Guwahati.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication means sending messages and ideas from one person to another. It helps in exchanging knowledge and ideas.

Communication through postal system was introduced in the twentieth century. All countries now have **postal service**. In India, we have a large network of post offices. Our post offices also provide other services such as telegram, speed post, etc. Courier services by private companies are also a type of postal service.

**Telephone** and **Fax** machine (transmitting printed messages and pictures) are widely used in every part of the world. Recently, **satellite** communication became very helpful. The man-made satellites facilitate the use of computers and the **Internet** (network of computers worldwide) for communication. Computers are widely used to send **e-mail** (electronic mail). In India satellites help us in oil exploration, forest survey, underground water location, agriculture and weather forecasting.

Communication network may be at personal or mass level. Newspapers, radio and television are the effective means of **mass communication**. These modes are now used to give information, education as well as entertainment. DDK, Imphal is a television channel of Manipur.

Thus, the whole world is shrinking due to the fast developing means of transport and communication. It has become one big family.

## EXERCISES

### 1. Answer the following questions in a sentence :

- (a) What is meant by the linear pattern of rural settlement ?
- (b) Give one point of advantage of road transport.
- (c) Name the two terminals of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 100 words each :

- (a) Describe the main ocean routes of the world.
- (b) Write about the main trans -continental railway routes.
- (c) Write a note on the pipeline transport.
- (d) Mention the advantages of satellite communication.

**3. Choose the correct answer :**

- (i) In rural settlements people are engaged in
  - (A) Primary occupation            (B) Secondary occupation
  - (C) Tertiary occupation          (D) Quaternary occupation
- (ii) To which type of town does Moreh belong ?
  - (A) Cultural                            (B) Industrial
  - (C) Administrative                  (D) Market
- (iii) The quickest means of communication is
  - (A) Postal service                    (B) Courier service
  - (C) E-mail                              (D) Telegram.

**4. Fill in the blanks with suitable words :**

- (a) For carrying heavy and bulky materials over long distances ..... are the best mode of transport.
- (b) In Germany, highways are called .....
- (c) Metro railways are found in Delhi and .....
- (d) The cheapest means of transport is .....
- (e) In India the Ganga and the ..... are the navigable rivers.

**ACTIVITY**

- Trace the outline map of the world and on it mark and label all the trans-continental railway lines.
- Make a list of ten villages and ten towns of your state.

# CHAPTER - 7

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

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### LIFE IN DESERT REGIONS

There are some areas where the amount of annual rainfall is less than 25 cm. They are very dry and do not support vegetation. Such dry regions that are devoid of vegetation are called **deserts**. They also experience extreme temperatures. Deserts can be of two types — **hot deserts** and **cold deserts**. Here you will learn about Sahara, the hot desert and Ladakh, the cold desert.

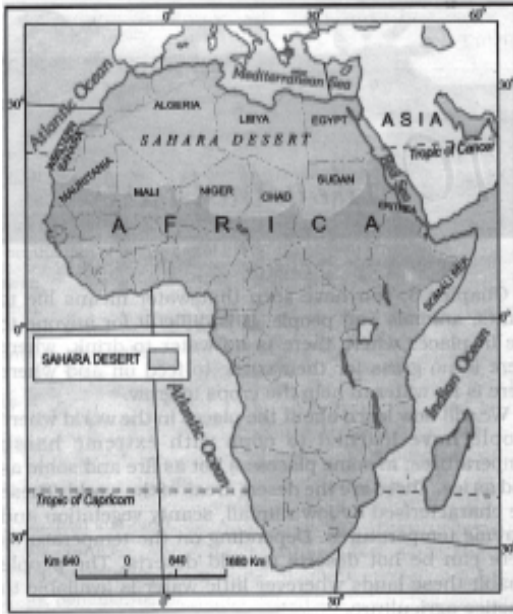
### SAHARA - The Hot Desert

Sahara is the largest desert in the world. It is located in North Africa and extends from the Red Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers many countries such as Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Niger and Chad. The entire region is not sandy, only 1/4 th of the region is covered with sand. The rest of the surface has mountains, plateaus and plains. There are sand dunes and oases in this desert. The river Nile flows along the east and the river Niger along the west of the Sahara. Lake Chad, on the southern border, is the only fresh water lake in this region.

**Climate** : The climate of Sahara is of extreme type. In summer, the temperature shoots up to 55°C, while the winter temperature comes down to freezing point. The total amount of annual rainfall is less than 25 cm. Days are extremely hot and nights are extremely cold.

**Natural Vegetation** : Most parts of the Sahara remain barren. The plants which grow here have adapted to the hot and dry climate. They have long deep roots, waxy leaves and thorny surfaces. The smaller leaves do not allow water to loss through transpiration. Cacti and date palms are the main vegetation cover. Both people and animals eat dates. The leaves of date palms are used as fodder or fuel. Sometimes the leaves are also used to cover roofs. The sap of this tree is used to make wine. Therefore, the desert is not a lifeless habitat.





**Fig. 7.1 Africa : Sahara desert**

**People** : Human settlements are found in the **oases** as water is available there. Some oases are quite big where farming is practised. Cereals and vegetables are grown in such farms. Egyptian cotton, famous world wide is grown in Egypt. To prevent heat, people build thick-walled houses with small windows. White and loose clothes are used to protect from heat.

People are usually nomadic tribes. The camel is the most important animal and is named the **ship of the desert** as it can survive without food and water for long time. The two popular tribes are the **Bedouins** and

the **Tuaregs**. They live in tents and migrate from place to place in search of pastures along with their animals. Some wild animals such as antelopes, jackals, sand-rats, foxes, oryx and gazelles are also found in Sahara.

In the recent decades, life in some parts of the Sahara is changing because of the presence of oil. Libya, Algeria and Egypt have exploited oil for development. Now the people in the desert imports most of their requirements from other countries.

### **LADAKH-The Cold Desert**

Ladakh is located in the eastern part of Jammu and Kashmir, the northernmost state of India. It is also known as **Khapa-Chan** which means **snowland**. The landscape is mountainous. There are two main mountain ranges. One is the Ladakh range and the other is the Karakoram range. Mt. Godwin Austin (K2) on the Karakoram is the second highest peak in the world. The river Indus flows through the central part of Ladakh. Settlement is found only along the river valley. Ladakh is accessible through several mountain passes. Among them **Karakoram Pass** and **Zoji La Pass** are important.

**Climate** : Ladakh lies to the north of the Great Himalayas. So it comes under the rain shadow area of the south-west monsoon. This explains why Ladakh is a desert. In winter, there is heavy snowfall. For about 6 months Ladakh remains cut-off from the rest of India due to heavy snowfall. On the whole, the climate is very harsh, i.e., cold and dry. In summer, the area is warm. Annual precipitation is less than 25 cm.



Fig 7.2: Ladakh

**Natural Vegetation** : Ladakh is a vast sandy desert. Because of severe cold, vegetation cannot thrive. In the lower reaches of the mountains elm, yew, cypress and willow trees are found. Hare, kiang, wild sheep and barasingha are wild animals found in this region. Lizard is the only reptile found here.

**People** : The people of Ladakh are sturdy and hardworking. During summer, wheat, barley and vegetables are grown. They also grow fruits like apple, apricot, walnut and grapes. Goat and sheep rearing is the main occupation of the people. The **Yak** is an important animal found here. It is a beast of burden and also provides milk and wool. **Pashmina** wool is obtained from a special type of goat. It is the main source of their income.

Leh is the only important town of the region which is 450 km from Srinagar. It is air-linked to Srinagar. It is the administrative and commercial centre. Buses ply between Leh and Srinagar in summer only. Kargil is another town of this region.

Ladakh has become a region of tourist attraction. Nowadays it has undergone a great change. Tourism has become the most important industry. The government makes the region accessible to foreign and domestic tourists. In Leh there are many hotels. This kind of development has improved the standard of living of the people of Ladakh.

## LIFE IN TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL REGIONS

### AMAZON BASIN

The Amazon is the world's largest river in terms of volume of water. It receives a large number of tributaries. The river rises in the Andes mountains, flows through Brazil and falls into the Atlantic Ocean. The flow of this river is very powerful. The Amazon river basin lies between the Guiana Highland in the north and the Brazilian Highland in the south. The basin is located in the tropical zone.



**Fig. 7.3: The Amazon Basin**

cinchona (quinine used for the treatment of malaria is made from this tree).

**Wild Life :** The Amazon basin is one of the richest areas in wildlife. It is home to a great diversity of plants and animals. It has two million species of insects, thousands of species of fish and 600 mammals. Jaguar, a ferocious animal, lives here. Alligators lie on the muddy banks of the river. Other animals include monkeys, ant-eaters(tapir), sloths and pumas.

**Climate :** The Amazon basin experiences a very hot and wet climate throughout the year. It rains almost every day and the annual amount of rainfall is 200 cm. The duration of day and night is almost equal throughout the year.

**Natural Vegetation :** The Amazon basin is a rainforest. The hot and humid climate is an important factor for the dense growth of vegetation. The basin has green forests which remain luxuriant and evergreen. These thick rainforests are known as **selvas**. The trees are very tall and the branches overlap. The creepers called **lianas** are there. The forests are so thick that sunlight cannot penetrate. They consist of hard wood species. The important trees are ebony, rosewood, mahogany, rubber and

**People** : Indigenous people in this region are tribals. They live mostly along the river. They make their living by hunting, fishing, food gathering and practising shifting cultivation. Shifting cultivation is also called **slash and burn cultivation**. Manioc is the staple food crop. Their mode of life is in perfect harmony with nature. They live in small thatched huts. The entire village is usually built on a higher ground to avoid waterlogging. **Hammocks** or swinging rest coaches are very popular in these places. These are made out of the hamaca tree.

The advanced people of tribal origin live in villages and their houses are made of mud and wood. Subsistence farming is practised. Some people go to towns to work in industries.

Life in the Amazon has changed much in recent years. More and more people are coming into this region. Forests are cleared to build towns or for grazing. So, many species of plants and animals are being lost. Farmers own big farms and grow crops. Coffee, maize and cacao are important crops. However, destroying the rich vegetation is actually a cause for concern for all of us. Environmental conservationists have expressed serious concern about the future of these forests. It is to be noted that the cutting of trees in the Amazon Basin may have serious effects. The rainforest of the Amazon Basin is a valuable resource to the entire planet.

## GANGA - BRAHMAPUTRA PLAIN



**Fig. 7.4: Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin**

The Ganga - Brahmaputra Basin lies in the northern part of India. It is in the sub-tropical region. It stretches in an east-west direction between the Himalayas in the north and the peninsular plateau in the south. Its length is about 2000 kms. It is a huge depositional plain and is one of the largest plains of the world. The Ganga plain includes the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The Ganga is the



main river of this area and a number of tributaries join it. The main tributaries are Yamuna, Ghaghra, Gomati, Chambal and Son. The Brahmaputra plain is confined to Assam. The Brahmaputra river, also called the **Tsang Po** in Tibet, enters India through Arunachal Pradesh. It is a highly braided river with many riverine islands. It joins the Ganga in its lower course in Bangladesh. The combined river forms a huge delta known as the **Sundarbans**, the largest delta in the world.

**Climate :** The region has the monsoon type of climate. Summers are hot. The rainy season lasts for four months from June to September. The rainfall is more than 200 cm in the Brahmaputra Basin and in the eastern Ganga basin. The Western Ganga Basin receives less rainfall. Winters are cold and dry.

**People :** The Ganga - Brahmaputra Basin has alluvial soils and these soils are very fertile. Farmers practise **sedentary agriculture** on small land holdings. The small land holdings are due to excessive pressure of population on land and law of inheritance. Majority of the farmers use modern technology for cultivation of crops. At present 2 to 3 crops are raised from the same field annually. Wheat and sugarcane are the main crops on the Western Ganga plain, while rice and jute are largely grown in the Eastern Ganga plain and the Brahmaputra plain. Besides **Kharif** (summer) crops and **Rabi** (winter) crops, **Zaid** crops are also grown between April and June if water is available.

The basin is thickly populated. There is a dense network of roads and railways. The movement of goods and people is easy as the entire region is a flat plain. There are numerous towns and cities located here. Delhi, the **National Capital Territory**, is located in this plain. Allahabad, Patna, Kolkata, Dispur, Tezpur are some important towns and cities in the region.

Basically, the plain is an agricultural region. But in recent years various agro-industries have come up. For the development of agriculture and for settlement, the forests from the plain have been cleared off.

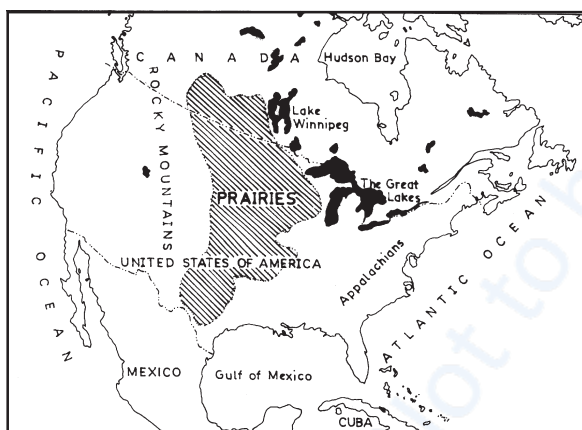
**Do you know ?**

**The Ganga river is being polluted by industrial waste and the sewerage system of towns located close to it. This is actually an issue of serious concern. In order to save the river, the Ganga Action Plan has already been taken up.**

The growth of towns, extension of farms, transport network have changed the plain in the past fifty years. The relationship between human beings and environment has been modified. The life-style of the people living in rural areas is also improving. When compared to the Amazon basin, the life in the Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin is much more advanced.

## LIFE IN THE TEMPERATE REGIONS

The temperate grasslands of the world, viz, Prairies, Veld, Steppes, Pampas and Downs are located between  $30^{\circ}$  and  $50^{\circ}$  latitudes in both the hemispheres in the interior of the continents.



**Fig. 7.5: Prairies of North America**

## THE PRAIRIES

The Prairies are found in the interior parts of the U.S.A. and Canada in North America. They are located between the Rockies in the west and the Great Lakes in the east. They are flat fertile plains having chernozem soils. For the most part, Prairies are treeless.

**Climate :** The region experiences extreme type of climate. Winters are severe with temperature -

$21^{\circ}\text{C}$  and heavy snowfall. Summers are hot with temperature up to  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . So the range of temperature is very high. The amount of rainfall is moderate, about 40 cm annually. This climate is suitable for the growth of grass.

**Natural Vegetation :** The Prairies have short grass and no other vegetation. In spring the grass appears green but in summer becomes brown. Trees are, however, found near the river valleys and on lake shores. Some trees are specially planted around the dwellings of farmers. Why is it so?

**People :** Two major occupations of the people in the Prairies are cattle rearing and farming. In the drier western parts of Canada and the U.S.A., cattle

rearing is common. There are large cattle farms known as **ranches** in the foothill areas of the Rockies. The ranches are fenced. Cattle are the most important animal in such ranches. They are looked after by **cowboys**. The cowboys drive cattle mounting on horsebacks. Buildings are also built on the ranches so as to keep the cattle inside during severe winters.

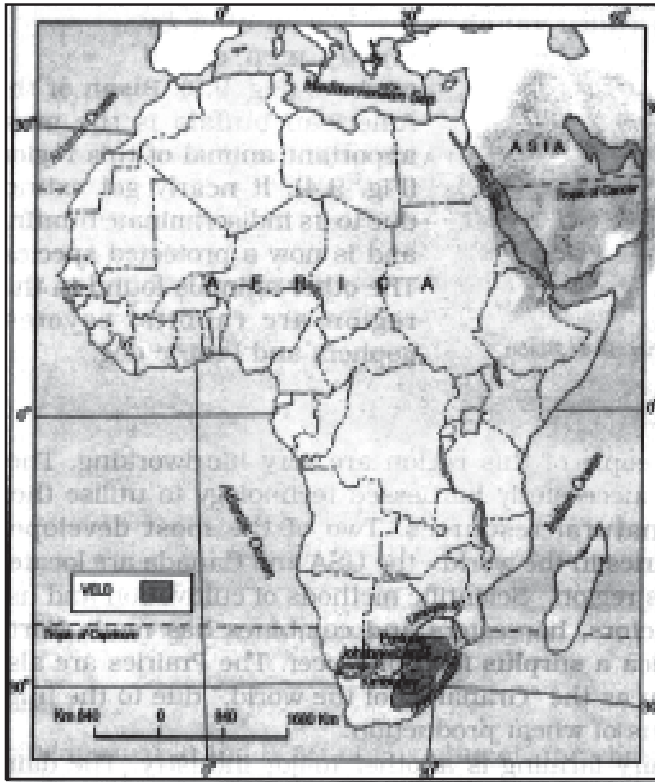
Wheat is the main crop in the Prairies. Barley and oats are also grown here. The farms are very big and equipped with modern machines, radio, telephone, television and internet. All farm-houses have grain collecting sheds called **silos** which are tall steel structures. People staying in the farms are very hard working. In Canada, wheat is sown in spring season and matures in late summer. It is called **spring wheat**. In the U.S.A. it is sown in autumn and harvested in early summer. It is called **winter wheat**. Machines are used to reap and thrash the grains. These machines are called **combines**. The farmers also possess other machines such as tractors, trucks, wagons and seed drills.

The Red Indians were the only inhabitants in these plains. With the opening of the **Canadian Pacific Railway** in 1885 people started to come in hundreds to settle here. Several towns sprang up along the rivers and the railway lines. Winnipeg is one such important city. It is called the **Gateway to Canadian Prairies**.

**Do you know ?**

**In India, the old cities were first existed and later on they were connected by railway lines. But the process was reversed in the Prairies. First the railway lines were constructed and later on towns came up.**

During the past decades, the landscape of the Prairies has been modified by human activities. With more and more new settlers into this area, large areas were used for agriculture and cattle grazing. Grasslands were cleared for construction of roads, railways and towns. As a result, soil erosion affected the region. Wind erosion is also active. The top layer of the soils containing humus is being blown out from this region. To control the situation, government has taken up certain steps to protect the soil.



**Fig. 7.6: Veld in South Africa**

on three sides. The high altitude also makes it so. As one goes from east to west the climate becomes drier. In the Veld the summer is warm and wet, but the winter is cool and dry. Frost occurs for some days during the winter.

**Natural Vegetation :** The climate is too dry for trees. Grass is the natural vegetation here. Scattered trees occur only on elevations and along the course of streams. Further west, the grassland merges with the desert.

**People :** Cattle rearing and mining are the two major occupations of the people in the Veld. Sheep rearing is the most important occupation. In the wetter regions, cattle are reared while in the drier regions, sheep are kept. **Angora goats** and **Merino sheep** of this region are known for their fine quality of wool. Sheep rearing is the most important industry in the Veld region. Now, the region has developed its own woollen industry. Dairy farming is also practised here.

## THE VELD

Life in the Veld is different from that in the Prairies. The Veld is a great expanse of grassland in South Africa, It occupies the eastern part of the plateau of South Africa. It lies between the **Drakensburg Mountains** on the east and the **Kalahari Desert** on the west. The plateau slopes from east to west. The north-eastern part of the plateau is called the High Veld. The High Veld is a ridge which forms the watershed of the region. Then there are the Middle Veld and the Low Veld according to height.

**Climate :** The Veld has moderate climate as it has sea



The Veld is rich in minerals. Gold and coal are found near Johannesburg. The famous diamond mines of Kimberley are on the western borders of the Veld. Pretoria is an important industrial town where iron and steel, railways and medicine industries are located. In the Veld, Johannesburg is the biggest city and also an important centre for commerce and industries.

Maize is the main food crop grown in the Veld. Large quantities of maize are exported. The area is known as **Maize Triangle**. In some places maize grows naturally. Cotton, tobacco and fruits are other important crops. Mixed farming (cultivation of crops and rearing of cattle on the same farm) is also common in many farms.

The Veld is rich in resources. Thus many agricultural and industrial centres sprang up. These human activities have affected its natural environment to a considerable extent.

## EXERCISES

### 1. Answer the following questions in a sentence :

- (a) What are the economic activities of the Bedouins and the Tuaregs ?
- (b) Name the main mountain ranges of Ladakh.
- (c) Which is the largest delta in the world ?

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 40 words each :

- (a) Describe the forest wealth of the Amazon basin.
- (b) Write about the agricultural crops of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin.
- (c) How are the two types of wheat cultivated in the Prairies ?
- (d) Compare the temperature and rainfall conditions of the Sahara desert with those of Ladakh.

### 3. Choose the correct answer :

- (i) The most important occupation of the people in the veld is  
(A) Sheep rearing (B) Mining  
(C) Cattle rearing (D) Woollen industry
- (ii) The thick rainforests in Brazil is known as  
(A) Pampas (B) Downs  
(C) Selvas (D) Oasis
- (iii) Why is sheep rearing on commercial scale not successful in Manipur ?  
(A) Negligible mutton industry (B) Heavy rainfall area  
(C) Hilly rugged terrain (D) Absence of quality sheep

### 4. Write True or False against the following statements :

- (a) Merino sheep is reared for its wool in Ladakh.  
(b) Veld is located in the interior parts of Canada.  
(c) The river Nile flows through Sahara.  
(d) Shifting cultivation is practised in the plains of India.  
(e) Ranches are big cattle farms in the Prairies.  
(f) Sundarbans is the largest delta in the world.

#### ACTIVITY

- **Collect pictures of the crop cultivation practised in the Amazon basin. How do you find the type of cultivation different from that of the Ganga plain ? Make a list.**

**SECTION - B**

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**PEOPLE AND SOCIETY IN  
THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD**

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## CHAPTER - 8

# MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN INDIAN HISTORY

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Do you know that the period from about the **eighth century to the eighteenth century AD** is regarded as the **medieval period** in Indian history? In the European context, the term 'Medieval period' refers to the 'Middle Ages', though the time frame is different.

The history of India you studied last year in class VI included a wide range of early societies - hunters and food gatherers, early farmers, people living in urban areas and early kingdoms and empires. This year, you will be learning about the history of India from about 750 AD to 1750 AD – about 1000 years following the death of Harshavardhana. You will find out more about the spread of peasant societies, rise of regional and imperial state formations - sometimes at the cost of pastoral and forest people, the rise of kingdoms in the north - east part of the country, the development of major religions and regional culture and the arrival of the European trading companies. You will notice that these thousand years of Indian history witnessed considerable changes. The societies and economies were transformed often and economies in several regions reached a fairly high level of prosperity which attracted the European traders. As you study this section of Social Sciences, try looking out for sign of changes and the historical process at work – compare with what you had studied in Class VI - the changes and continuities and look around you to see what else had changed or remained the same.

### A. SOURCES:

**Minhaj-i-Siraj**, a chronicler (in Persian) in the thirteenth century talked about Hindustan as comprising the area of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and the Jamuna. Today, by Hindustan, we understand it as India, the modern nation-state. Do you know why? The context in which any information is produced will change not only with time but with the language and their meaning. Last year, you have learnt about the past – the ancient period of India on the basis of a number of sources. The **coins. inscriptions. architectural monuments and**

**textual records** are still the sources of the medieval period. However, textual records increased considerably in number and variety - perhaps with paper becoming much cheaper. People used paper to write holy books, chronicles of rulers, letters and teachings of saints, petitions and judicial records. The manuscripts were collected by the wealthy persons. The scribes copied the manuscripts by hand as there was no printing press. As they copied, they also introduced small changes here and there. This resulted into a number of discrepancies. Thus, historians have to read different versions of the same text to guess what the author had originally written.

### **Coins:**

Coins have always been an important source for the reconstruction of history. Coins throw light on many aspects, specially names and dates of different rulers and also on the economic conditions of the period. In the medieval times, coins were issued by the Gurjaras, Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Mughal rulers like Akbar and Jahangir.



**Fig.8.1: Coin of Muhammad bin Tughlaq**

### **Inscriptions:**

Inscriptions can be on varied surfaces - on coins, pillars, walls of temples, medals, seals, monuments, copper plates etc. Like coins, they also help us in the reconstruction of history. In the medieval times, we have many inscriptions which throw light on the life of the people. For example, the copper plate inscription, the Uttaramerur throws light on the rural administration of the Cholas. Several Tamil inscriptions of the medieval age mention about a social formation in the south which was opposed to the rigid caste system prevailing in the north.

### **Monuments:**

Monuments include buildings, temples, forts, tombs, mosques etc. They give information about the cultural life of the people. In the medieval period, some of the best examples of monuments are the Jain temple at Mount Abu, Brihadeshwara temple at Tanjore, Khajuraho temples, Qutb Minar, Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, etc.

### Literary Sources :

The literary sources of the period include writings not only in Sanskrit but also in Persian, Arabic and Turkish. A very common literary form are the chronicles which may include autobiographies, biographical accounts and memoirs of kings and rulers. It has been mentioned above about the care one should take while reading the chronicles. These were written in many languages. During the Sultanate period, these were written in Urdu, Sanskrit and many regional languages. During the medieval period, a great number of books had been written e.g. **Baburnama, Humayunama, Tujuk-i- Jahangir, Akbarnama, Ain-i-Akbari**, etc. Even the Ramayana and Mahabharata were translated into Persian.

The age also saw the culmination of the Bhakti movement and literature in regional languages by Kabir and Guru Nanak, two great saints. Besides, the accounts of many foreigners who came to India like that of **Al-Beruni, Bernier, Travenier, Manucci, Ibn-Battuta** etc. are important sources.

#### FOREIN TRAVELERS WHO LEFT ACCOUNTS

Name	From	Period of time
Al-Beruni	Uzbekistan	11 <sup>th</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup> century
Marco Polo	Venetia	1288–1293
Ibn Battuta	Morocco	1334-1342
Niccola Conti	Italy	1420-1421
Mahuan	China	1406
Abdul Razak	Persia	1542-1544
Domingo Paes	Portugal	1552
Fitch	England	1583
Thomas Roe	England	1615-1618
Captain Hawkins	England	1608-1611
Travenier	France	1640

**B . MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE INDIA****I. RISE OF THE ARAB EMPIRE:****A Religious founder founding an Empire**

Have you heard of **Prophet Mohammad**, the founder of **Islam**. It was he who also founded the **Arab Empire**. The Arabs, most of which were traders and herdsman by profession had been a wild, disunited and culturally backward people. Mohammad unified the Arabs.

Mohammad was born in 570 AD at Mecca. After attaining enlightenment at the age of 40, he developed a religious system known as Islam. Islam means submission to God's will. Mohammad often heard of messages from God which he preached to the people. The Quran, the holy book of the Muslims is the collection of these divine messages. The followers of Islam are known as the Muslims.

Mohammad had powerful enemies in Mecca and so he had to flee to Medina in 622 AD. In Medina, he raised an army with the help of the nomadic tribes of Arabia. He then capture Mecca in 630 AD and became its ruler. Subsequently, other tribes of Arabia embraced Islam one after another. In this way, Mohammad unified the Arabs and founded an empire-the Arab Empire.

After the death of Mohammad, the office of **Khalifa** or the representative of the Prophet was established. The Khalifa or Caliph became the religious as well the political and military head of the Arab Empire. All the Khalifas waged Jihad or the holy wars and conquered Syria, Egypt, Spain and west Asia. However, after the assassination of the last Caliph in 662 AD, the Islamic world broke up into two sects - **Shia** and **Sunni**. Meanwhile, a new line of caliphs, the Ummayyads captured power. Muhammad-bin-Qasim invaded Sind and occupied it in 721 AD. It did not have any lasting impact on Indian history. After the Umayyads, the Abbassids

came to power and ruled the Arab Empire for about five hundred years from their capital, Baghdad. Ultimately, the governors of many Arab provinces became virtually independent of Baghdad and the Caliph became only a titular head.

**Shia:** Muslims who believed that Ali, Prophet Mohammad's son-in-law was

the legitimate leader of the Muslim community.

**Sunni:** Muslims who accepted the authority of the early leaders (Khalifas) of the community and the succeeding Khalifas.

## II. FEUDALISM IN EUROPE:

The word '**Feudalism**' had been derived from the Latin word '**Feudum**' meaning land or fief granted by a lord to his vassal or subordinate in return for a service or tax. This unique type of institution having social, political and economic nature developed in western Europe, following the break-up of the Roman Empire. It became the basis of the ancient and medieval society in almost all the countries of the world.

The feudal society was a hierarchical society. The **King** was at the top of the hierarchy with the peasantry forming the last or the lowest class. The king owned all the land in his kingdom. The Lords, each of them maintained his own army which was made available to the service of the overlord. The peasants were of three classes - the **Freeholders**, the **Villeins** and the **Serfs**. The Serfs were just like slaves.

Chart showing the class division of the feudal hierarchy -

- i) **King**
- ii) **Nobles** – Barons  
Earls  
Knights
- iii) **Peasants** – Freeholders  
Villeins  
Serfs

Feudalism started declining from the twelfth century onwards. Many factors were responsible for its decline–

- i) emergence of a new class of rich businessmen
- ii) rise of independent kingdoms in Europe

ii) occurrence of natural calamities like floods and epidemics



- iv) peasants' revolts
- v) rivalry between the Church and the State

**Find out if a similar system like the feudal system prevailed in India also.**

### III. RISE OF THE TURKS

The Turks were the nomadic tribes originally belonging to Turkestan in Central Asia. Important Turkish tribes include the Seljuks, the Ottomans, the Mameluks, the Bulgars, the Khazars etc.

The Seljuks rose to power in the middle of the eleventh century under Tughril Beg. He captured Baghdad in 1055 AD, thereby capturing the administration of the Arab Empire. The power of the Seljuks declined after the death of Sultan Malik Shah in 1092 AD. Then the Ottomans came to power and founded its empire in 1301. The Ottomans brought many parts of Europe under their rule, invaded the Byzantine Empire and captured their capital, Constantinople in 1453 AD. Constantinople was renamed as Istanbul. The most famous ruler of the Ottomans was **Suleiman the Magnificent** (1520-1566 AD). In 1538 AD, he captured Mecca, the holy city of the Muslims. However, after his death in 1566 AD, the Ottoman empire began to decline.

### IV. RISE OF THE MONGOLS:

Have you ever heard of **Chenghis Khan**, the conqueror? He was a Mongol.

Originally, the Mongols, like the Turks were nomadic tribes residing in Mongolia. They were unified by one **Temujin** in 1206 AD. Temujin was also called **Chenghis (Ganghis) Khan**. With the help of a fast moving and ruthless but disciplined army, Chenghis Khan conquered Turkestan, northern China, Korea, Afghanistan, parts of Russia and Persia. Later, his grandson, Kublai Khan completed the conquest of China. Kublai Khan became

the first emperor of the Yuan dynasty. Marco Polo, the famous Venetian traveler had left a book "**The Travels of Marco Polo**" containing a lot of information



**Fig:8.2 Chenghis Khan**

about China during the rule of Kublai Khan. Marco Polo had stayed in the court of Kublai Khan for many years. However, after the death of Kublai Khan, the Mongol empire disintegrated into a number of independent kingdoms. The empire was rebuilt by Timur, the ruler of Samarkand. Timur also invaded Delhi in 1398 AD besides conquering Persia, Georgia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Azerbaijan and parts of Russia. The power of the Mongols reached its zenith under Timur but soon declined after his death.

## V. TRADE ROUTES OF INDIA AND INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE:

Do you know that India has been carrying on trade with other countries since the ancient times. Gold flowed into the country in exchange of the country's textiles, metalware, spices etc. During the medieval times, Indian trade, specially with the west was carried on both land and sea.

Important trade routes of the period were :

- i) A land route through Afghanistan to Central Asia, Russia, Constantinople and beyond. This route was also connected to the famous Silk Route of China.
- ii) A sea route through the Persian Gulf and from there by land to Central Asia and again by sea to Italy.
- iii) A sea route through the Red Sea and from there to Italy by land.
- iv) A sea route to Portugal through the Cape Route (discovered by Vasco da Gama in 1498 AD).
- v) A land route to China and other south-east Asian countries through Manipur etc.

During the medieval times, India's export items to the west included spices, cotton clothes, forest products, precious stones, pearls, indigo etc. In return, India brought in gold and silver. Silk was imported from China. India's spices were in high demand in the European market.

India's foreign trade took a good turn with the discovery of the **Cape Route** by **Vasco da Gama**. Vasco da Gama from Portugal sailed round the Cape of Good Hope and landed at **Calicut** in India in 1498 AD. This route from

## EXERCISES

Foreign trade increased. Spain, Holland, England, France, etc. followed in the steps of the Portuguese to get a share in India's trade.

### 1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:

- a) What, according to Minhaj-i-Siraj did Hindustan comprise of ?
- b) Why are manuscripts not reliable source of history ?
- c) Name the Venetian traveler who had stayed at the court of Kublai Khan, the Mongol king.

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:

- a) Give the name of two monuments.
- b) How are the Shias and Sunnis different ?
- c) State three factors for the decline of Feudalism.
- d) Name three sea routes through which trade was done in the medieval world.

### 3. Choose the correct answer :

- (i) Which of the following was the founder of the Arab Empire?
  - A. Chenghis Khan
  - B. Prophet Mohammad
  - C. Timur
  - D. Tughril Beg
- (ii) The lowest class in a feudal society was
  - A. the Knights
  - B. the Dukes
  - C. the Serfs
  - D. the Barons

**4. Match the following:**

Prophet Mohammad

Suleiman the Magnificent

Marco Polo

Chenghis Khan

Timur

Tughril Beg

Mongols

Seljuks

Samarkand

Arab Empire

Ottomans

Venetia

**ACTIVITY**

- **Collect a map of the world and mark therein two land routes through which India carried on trade with foreign countries during the medieval period.**

## CHAPTER - 9

# RISE OF SMALL KINGDOMS

Last year, you have learnt about Harshavardhana who had built a large empire in north India. He died in 647 AD and north India broke up into a number of small kingdoms. In this unit, we shall study about these kingdoms, most of which were ruled by the **Rajputs**. One of the most distinctive features of this period was the conflicts and struggle for supremacy among these small kingdoms. The **Rajput** clans were the **Pratiharas**, the **Chauhans**, the **Chandellas**, the **Solankis**, the **Tomaras** and the **Guhillas**. Other kingdoms who also rose into prominence in this period were the **Palas** of Bengal, the **Rastrakutas** of northern Deccan and the **Cholas** of southern India.

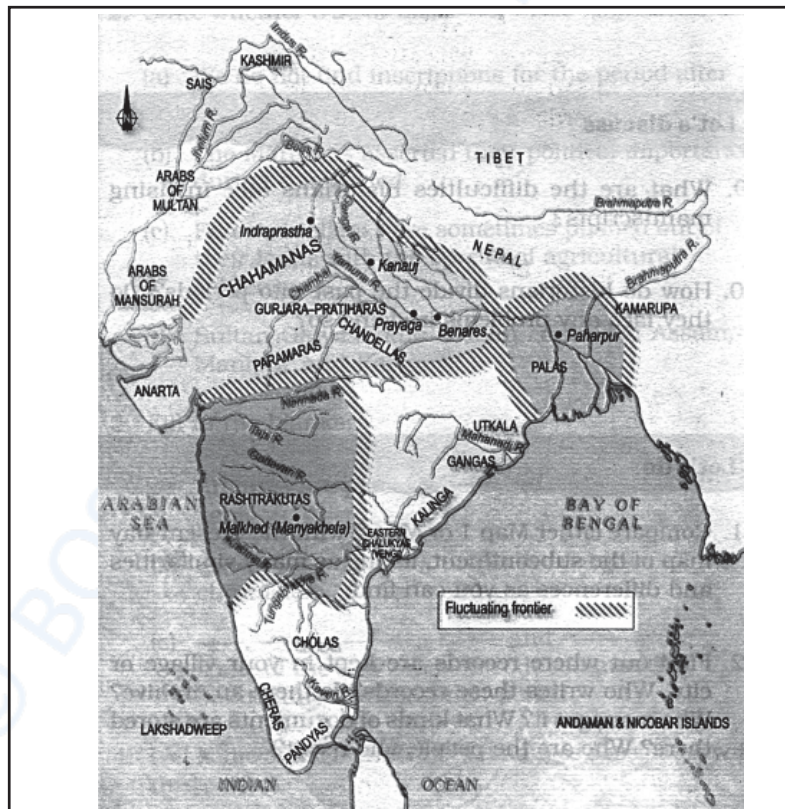


Fig. 9.1 : Map of India after Harshavardhana

whoever controls Kanauj could control the entire Gangetic plains. After Harsha's death, the **Pratiharas**, the **Rastrakutas** and the **Palas** fought among themselves for its occupation. This struggle has been named as the **Tripartite Struggle** as it was the struggle between the three parties for the control of Kanauj. However, none of the powers could control Kanauj. On the other hand, this struggle weakened the three kingdoms and led to their decline.

**i) PRATI HARAS :**

The kingdom of Pratiharas, also known as the Gurjara-Pratiharas was founded by **Nagabhata I** in 725 AD in the region of Avanti. Bhoja was the greatest ruler of the Pratiharas. He captured Kanauj and made it his capital. Later he lost it to the Rastrakuta king, Druva. The Pratiharas dominated the north India in the ninth and tenth century AD. Its rule came to an end as a result of the raids of Muhmud of Ghazni.

**ii) RASTRAKUTAS:**

The Rastrakuta kingdom was founded by **Dantidurga** after defeating Chalukyas of Badami. The Rastrakutas also fought against the Chalukyas of Vengi, the Pallavas of Madurai and the Pratiharas of Avanti.

Most successful among the Rastrakuta rulers were Govind III (793-814AD) and Amogavarsha (814-882 AD). The most important achievement of Govinda III was the annexation of Malwa to his kingdom. However, Amogavarsha ruled for 68 years but was more interested in religion and literature than war. A noteworthy aspect of the Rastrakuta kings was that they built many beautiful buildings and temples. The rock-cut temples at Ellora and Elephanta caves which they had built are very famous.

**iii) PALAS:**

The Pala kingdom was founded by **Gopala** in 750 AD. The Pala dynasty ruled over Bengal and Bihar for nearly four hundred years.

Of the Pala kings, the most powerful and successful was Devapala (810-850 AD). He made extensive conquests, probably extending from the Himalayas to the Vindhya. However, the Pala kingdom began to decline after his death. The Pala kings patronized Buddhism and Buddhist learning. Devapala founded



the Vikramsila University and also revived the Nalanda University.

**iv) CHAHAMANAS:**

Also known as the Chauhans, the Chahamanas were Rajputs who became powerful in the region around Delhi and Ajmer. From Ajmer, they extended their kingdom towards Gujarat as well as the Punjab. Eventually, they came into conflict with the Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Gahadavalas of Kanauj.

The most famous ruler of the dynasty was **Prithviraj Chauhan**, also known as Rai Pithora. He defeated the Chandella king. His deeds of valour and love—especially his elopement with the daughter of a rival Rajput ruler, Jaichandra of Kanauj—continue to be recited by bards even to the present day. His victory over the Afghan ruler, Muhammad of Ghur in the First Battle of Tarain (1191 AD) was much celebrated. But Prithviraj was defeated and killed in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD).

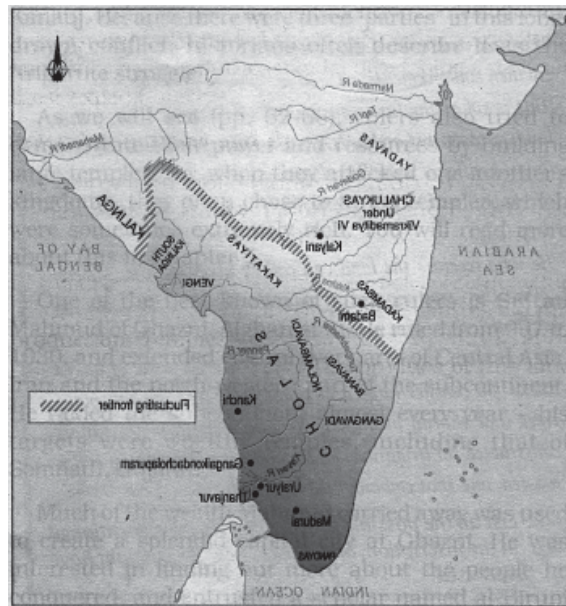
**v) GHAZNAVIDS:**

The Ghajnavids rose into prominence under **Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni**, Afghanistan. Sultan Mahmud ruled from 997 AD to 1030 AD and extended control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and north western part of India. Apart from his conquests, Mahmud was famous for his frequent raids and plunder in the Indian sub-continent—his targets being the wealthy Hindu temples including the Somnath in Gujarat. With the wealth he carried away from India, he built a splendid city at Ghazni. He also entrusted a scholar, **Al-Beruni** to write an account of the Indian sub-continent. This Arabic work known as **Kitab-ul-Hind** remains an important source for historians.

**B. THE CHOLAS: A case study**

The Cholas rose to power in the ninth century in the peninsular India. **Vijayalaya**, a feudatory of the Pallavas founded the Chola Empire. By 850 AD, Vijayalaya had captured Tanjore and by the end of the ninth century, he had defeated the Pallavas of Kanchi and weakened the Pandyas. However, the Cholas had to struggle hard against the Rastrakutas.

The greatest of the Chola rulers were **Rajaraja I** (985-1014) and his son **Rajendra I** (1014-1044). Both the kings followed an expansionist policy. Rajaraja I defeated the Chalukyas of Kalyani, the Pandyas, the Cheras and the Vengis. With a powerful navy, he controlled the Laccadive and the Maldives. Rajendra I occupied the whole of Sri Lanka. Rajendra I is also known as Gangaikonda or the conqueror of Ganga. During their reign, the Cholas controlled the whole of peninsular India. Their expansion also went into Ceylon, Laccadive and Maldivian islands and to the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.



**Fig. 9.2 : Map of peninsular India indicating the area of the Cholas.**

The Cholas became weak after the death of Rajendra I and began to decline. The place of the Cholas were taken over by the Pandyas and the Hoysalas. However, they weakened themselves by fighting against each other. Ultimately, they were destroyed by the Sultans of Delhi in the beginning of the fourteenth century.

### **i) Art and architecture**

The Cholas are famous for its splendid temples. Many of these temples have been built to mark the victories of the Chola kings. Many inscriptions have been found on the walls of the temples giving a historical narrative of their achievements. The big temples at **Thanjavur** and **Gangaikondacholapuram** built by Rajaraja I and Rajendra I respectively are famous for its architecture and sculpture.



**Fig .9.3: Temple of Thanjavur**



The Chola temples often are surrounded by settlements. These were centres of craft production also. Thus the Chola temples were not only places of worship; they were the hub of economic, social and cultural life as well. Among the crafts, making of bronze images was most distinct. The Chola bronze images are among the finest in the world. The famous bronze statue of **Nataraj** belonged to the Cholas.



ii) **Expansion of agriculture:** **Fig. 9.4 : Nataraj**

Many of the achievements of the Cholas were made possible due to the new developments in agriculture. The Kaveri river and many of its tributaries had made the land of the Cholas very fertile, particularly for the cultivation of rice.

Although agriculture had developed earlier in other parts of Tamil Nadu, it was only from the fifth or sixth century that this area opened up for large scale cultivation. Forests had to be cleared in some regions and had to be leveled in other areas. In the delta region, embankments had to be built to prevent flooding and canals had to be dug to carry water to the fields. In many areas, two crops were grown in a year. In many cases, wells were dug and huge rainwater tanks built for irrigation of the fields. The Cholas depended mainly on rainwater for irrigation. Land survey were taken up elaborately for fixing the rates of land revenue. Brahmanas who were granted rent-free lands also help in the expansion of agriculture. With the help of the landless labourers, jungles were cleared and made fit for cultivation. Most of the Chola rulers, as well as the people living in the villages, took an active interest in these activities.

### iii) Administration of the Cholas:

In the administration, the Chola kings were helped by a council of ministers. The whole empire was divided into **Mandalams** (provinces) which were further sub-divided into **Valanadus** (sub-division) and **Nadus** (villages). One of the most remarkable feature of the Cholas administration was the encouragement of the local self government all over the empire.

Settlements of peasants (Ur) became very prosperous with the spread of irrigation agriculture. Groups of such villages formed a Nadu. The Nadu and the village council performed several administrative functions including dispensing justice and collection of taxes.

Rich peasants of the Vellala caste exercised considerable control over the affairs of the Nadu under the supervision of the central Chola government. The Chola kings also gave rich landowners titles like Muvendavelan (a velan or peasant serving three kings), Araiyyur (chief) etc. as mark of respect and entrusted them with important offices of the state and in the centre.

A large number of Brahmana settlements (**Agrahara**) emerged in the Kaveri valley as a result of the land grants given to the Brahmanas known as **Brahmadeya**. Each Brahmadeya was looked after by a Sabha. The Sabha was the assembly of prominent landlords. A copper plate inscription, one of the oldest inscription found from Uttaramerur (Tamil Nadu), dated to 993-94 mentions that the Sabha comprised of the elite and the learned of the community. Their decisions were recorded in detail in the inscription. It also mentions that the sabha had many committees to perform different functions. Inscriptions were also found on the walls of the temples also. Association of traders known as Nagaram also helped in the administration of the town.

Thus, the culture of south India grew due to contributions made by different kingdoms of which the Cholas contributed the maximum. This remained untouched by any foreign influence.

## EXERCISES

### 1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:

- a) Why was the Tripartite Struggle so called ?
- b) Why was Rajendra I also called Gangaikonda?
- c) What, according to you was the most remarkable feature of the Chola administration.

### 2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:

- a) What are the achievements of Prithviraj Chauhan ?
- b) What is Mahmud of Ghazni famous for and why?
- c) Give two examples to show that Rajaraja I followed a policy of expansion.
- d) What was role of Sabha in the administration of a Brahmadeya?

### 3 Choose the correct answer:

(i) Which of the following was also known as Rai Pithora ?

- A. Nagabhatta I
- B. Prithviraj Chauhan
- C. Amogavarsha
- D. Harshavardhana

(ii) The famous bronze statue of Nataraj belonged to

- A. the Palas.
- B. the Pratiharas.
- C. the Rastrakutas.
- D. the Cholas.

**4. Match the following**

Palas	Nagabhatta I
Pratiharas	Dantidurga
Rastrakutas	Rajaraja I
Cholas	Gopala

**ACTIVITY**

- **Collect picture of a Chola temple and a temple in your locality. Find out the similarities and differences between the two and make a report.**

## CHAPTER - 10

### THE SULTANS OF DELHI

The Qutb Minar in Delhi was the highest storeyed building in medieval India. Did you know that it was built by Qutb-ud-Din Aibak, one of the Sultans of Delhi. Previously, Qutb-ud-Din was a slave of Mohammad Ghori who had invaded India. After the death of Mohammad Ghori, his territorial possessions passed into the hands of his slave and viceroy, **Qutb-ud-Din Aibak**. In 1206 AD, Aibak assumed the title of the Sultan of Delhi, establishing the **Sultanate of Delhi** (1206-1526 AD). He also founded the Slave Dynasty. Another four dynasties - Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyid and Lodi ruled at Delhi.



Fig. 10.1 : Qutb Minar

#### THE DELHI SULTANS

<b>SLAVE DYNASTY:</b>	Qutb-ud-Din Aibak	1206-1210
	Iltumish	1210-1236
	Razia Begum	1236-1240
	Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban	1266-1287

<b>KHALJI DYNASTY :</b>	Jalal-ud-Din Khalji	1290-1296
	Ala-ud-Din Khalji	1296-1316
<b>TUGHLAQ DYNASTY :</b>	Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq	1320-24
	Muhammad bin Tughlaq	1325-51
	Firuz Sah Tughlaq	1351-1388
<b>SAYYID DYNASTY :</b>	Khizr Khan	1414-1421
	Mubarak Shah	1421-1433
<b>LODI DYNASTY :</b>	Bahlol Lodi	1451-1489
	Sikandar Lodi	1489-1517
	Ibrahim Lodi	1517-1526

### SOURCES :

Various sources have provided information about the Delhi Sultanate. Besides the **inscriptions**, **coins** and **architecture** etc, specially valuable are the **Tawarikh**. The Tawarikh were written in Persian, the language used in the administration during the Delhi Sultanate. It had been written by learned men; sometimes by secretaries, administrators, poets who had been close with the ruler. However, their ideas were sometimes biased because they often write histories for the Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.

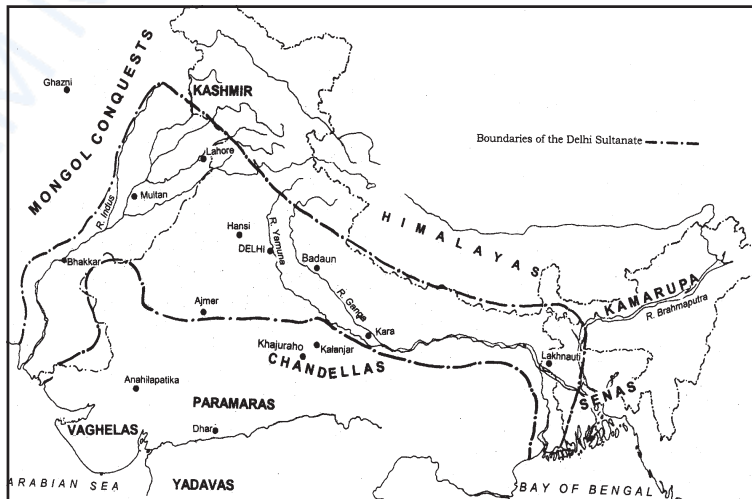


Fig. 10.2 Extent of the Delhi Sultanate

## **A. EXPANSION OF THE SULTANATE:**

In the thirteenth century, the Delhi Sultans' authority was limited to the garrison towns only. So, it had to survive on the trade, tributes and plunder for supplies. The control of the distant Bengal and Sind from Delhi was a difficult task. Rebellion and war, even sometimes bad weather could disrupt the line of communication. Delhi's authority was also challenged by the Mongol invasions from the north-west and also by the provincial governors. It was only during the reign of Giyas-ud-Din Balban, Ala-ud-Din Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq that the Delhi Sultanate could make some expansion.

For the expansion of the empire, the Delhi Sultanate had to consolidate the hinterland of the garrison towns first and then try to control the distant south. For fulfilling the first, military campaigns were sent along the internal frontiers and cleared the forest and expelled the hunter-gatherers from their habitats. This land was given to the peasants and agriculture was encouraged. New fortresses and towns were also established to protect trade routes and to promote regional trade.

Secondly, for controlling the distant south, military expeditions were sent during the reign of Alauddin Khalji and culminated with that of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. In these campaigns, the Sultanate armies captured elephants, horses and slaves, and also carried away precious metals.

Thus, by the time of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultanate armies had marched across large parts of the sub-continent. They had defeated many armies and seized many areas. In these areas, the Sultanate collected taxes from the peasantry and dispensed justice.



## **B. CONSOLIDATION OF THE EMPIRE:**

### **i) THE KHALJIS:**

By the time **Ala-ud-Din Khalji** came to the throne, the Delhi Sultanate was fairly well established in the central portion of the empire - the portion comprising the upper Ganga valley and eastern Rajasthan. This encouraged the Sultans to take up a series of internal reforms and experiments for improving the administration, strengthening the army and providing for the welfare of the people in both the villages and towns.

Can you imagine how difficult it would have been for a ruler to consolidate a kingdom as vast as that of the Delhi Sultanate. It must have required reliable governors and administrators. Iltutmish favoured his special slaves which were purchased for military service, called Bandagans. They were trained to perform certain administrative functions.

The Khaljis and Tughlaqs continued the bandagan system and also raised persons faithful to them as high political positions and appointed them as generals and governors. However these officers were loyal only to their masters and not to their heirs. As a result, whenever a new sultan ascended the throne, conflicts between the old and the new nobility started.

The Khalji and the Tughlaq Sultans appointed military commanders as governors of territories of varying size. Their lands were called **Iqtas** and the holder was called the **Iqtadar** or **Muqti**. The Iqtadars were to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order. In exchange, they collected the revenues of the Iqta. In order to have effective control over the Iqtadars, the post was made inheritable and the iqtas were assigned for short periods. Ala-ud-Din Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq strictly imposed these conditions. Accountants were appointed by the state to check the amount of revenue collected. Steps were taken to ensure that the Iqtadars collected only the taxes prescribed by the state and that he kept the required number of soldiers. The land assigned were also measured by the officers called Amils and careful records were kept. Further, the collectors were to account for each paisa collected and for every default, they were severely punished with imprisonment.

However, the Delhi Sultans found it difficult to control the distant provinces of Bengal and also the southern India, which soon after its conquest became independent. So, many areas remained out of the control of the Delhi. Moreover the Mongols invaded during the reign of Ala-ud-Din Khalji and early years of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's rule. This forced both the sultans to raise a large standing army.

Ala-ud-Din Khalji constructed a new garrison town called Siri for his soldiers. For making the soldiers more efficient, a system of **Huliya** ( a descriptive roll of the soldiers ) and **Dagh** ( branding of horses) were introduced. To keep the soldiers and also the people happy, the markets were regulated. Three markets selling different commodities were set up and the prices of all commodities were fixed. Every merchant were required to register themselves. An official called Shahna-i-Mandi was in-charge of each market. Government warehouses were set up for storage of grains and to make sure that there were enough food grains.

### **C. THE TUGHLAQs: A case study :**

The Tughlaq dynasty was founded by **Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq** in 1320 AD. Most famous of the Tughlaq kings was **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** (1325-51) under whose reign the Delhi Sultanate reached its zenith. Do you know that Muhammad bin Tughlaq has been called an '**ill starred idealist**'. He has been called so because all his 'experiments' had failed due to some reason or the other.

When **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** ascended the throne in 1325, his foremost task was twofold - to consolidate the empire and to check the Mongols. For achieving both ends, he needed a large standing army. For this ,he took up many reforms - 'experiments' like high taxation in the Doab, change of the capital from Delhi to Daulatbad in the Deccan and the introduction of token currency.

The Mongol invasion took place in the early years of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign. Muhammad was successful in defeating the Mongols and this victory emboldened him to plan to attack Transoxiana. This required a large army. To raise money for the army, he imposed a **high taxation in the Doab** area. But the tax was imposed at a time when there was a famine in the area. So, the scheme failed.

Further, Muhammad decided and ordered the **transfer of the capital** from Delhi to Daulatbad (Devgiri). He felt that Daulatbad would be more ideal for controlling both the north and south India. For this purpose, he ordered the whole population of Delhi to shift to the new capital. This was a mistake. Daulatbad was about 1500 kms. from Delhi. Many people died due to the long journey in the heat of summer. Even many of those who reached Daulatbad also suffered untold miseries. Further, it was found that neither the north nor the south could be controlled from Daulatbad. Thereupon, the people were again ordered to go back to Delhi. This made the Sultan very unpopular.

Another 'experiment' was the **introduction of the token currency** in copper. However, measures were not taken up to make the minting of coins a government monopoly and to prevent the minting of the coins in private houses. People began to mint copper coins in large quantities leading to total confusion. The scheme had to be dropped. Then, the Sultan gave gold and silver coins in exchange of the copper coins. This further worsened the situation. The people keep on minting coins for exchanging them with gold or silver. Not only the scheme failed but it also badly affected the economy of the empire.

These 'experiments' made the sultan very unpopular and many rebellions broke out in different parts of the empire. Thus, the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq saw the zenith of the Delhi Sultanate but at the same time, saw the beginning of the disintegration of the Sultanate. Firuz Tughlaq succeeded him but he could not restore the lost prestige and power of the Tughlaqs. Two independent kingdoms—**Bahmani** and **Vijayanagara** arose in the Deccan. Timur's invasion in 1398 AD quickened the end of the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

The **Sayyids** ruled in Delhi after the Tughlaqs from 1414 to 1451 but an Afghan noble, Bahlol Lodi overthrew the Sayyids and founded the Lodi dynasty in 1451. The greatest of the Lodis was Sikandar Lodi. He conquered Jaunpur, Bihar and the Ganga valley. He founded the city of Agra and made it his capital. However, his successor, Ibrahim Lodi was a weak ruler. In 1526, Babur founded the **Mughal** empire by defeating Ibrahim Lodi in the **First Battle of Panipat**, 1526. Thus, the rule of the Delhi Sultanate came to an end in 1526.



Fig.10.3: Tomb of Sikandar Lodi

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) Who were the Bandagans ?
  - b) Why did Muhammad bin Tughlaq transfer his capital from Delhi to Daulatbad in the Deccan ?
  - c) Name the event which quickened the decline of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) State two functions of the Iqtadars.
  - b) How did Ala-ud-Din Khalji try to control the Iqtadars?
  - c) How did the Delhi Sultans try to control the hinterlands of the Garrison towns?
  - d) How was the markets regulated during the time of Ala-ud-din Khalji ?
3. **Choose the correct answer:**
  - (i) Who of the following has been referred to as the 'ill starred idealist' ?
    - A. Razia Begum
    - B. Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban
    - C. Ala-ud-Din Khalji
    - D. Mohammad bin Tughlaq
  - (ii) The garrison town of Siri was constructed by
    - A. Mohammad bin Tughlaq
    - B. Ala-ud-Din Khalji
    - C. Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban
    - D. Qutb-ud-Din Aibak

4. Match the following :

Iltumish	Market regulation
Rezia Begum	Token currency
Qutb-ud-Din Aibak	Bandagan
Ala-ud-Din Khalji	First Muslim lady sultan
Mohammad bin Tughlaq	Qutb Minar

**ACTIVITY**

- Make a visit to the local market and find out if the market is regulated and prices fixed like those under Ala-ud-Din Khalji. Make a report.

## CHAPTER - 11

### THE RISE OF AN EMPIRE- THE MUGHALS



Fig. 11.1: Red fort

Look at the picture in the left. This is the picture of the Red Fort built by **Shah Jahan**. Shah Jahan was a **Mughal** Emperor.

India, a land of diversity of people and culture had always been found to be very difficult for any to rule. However, the Mughals accomplished in creating an empire, extending from Agra and Delhi to the outskirts of the Indian sub-continent.

#### A. GROWTH OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE:

Who are the Mughals ? The **Mughals** are the descendants of the two famous Mongols- Chenghis Khan and Timur. **Babur** established the Mughal rule in India after defeating Ibrahim **Lodi** at Panipat in 1526 AD. And since then, the Mughals had created a unique political, social, religious and cultural system.

#### THE GREAT MUGALS

Babur	1526-1530
Humayun	1530-1540, 1555-1556
Akbar	1556- 1605
Jahangir	1605-1627
Shah Jahan	1627-1658
Aurangzeb	1658-1707

## **BABUR :**

Babur became the ruler at Farghana when he was only 12 years old. After being ousted by the Uzbeks and after years of wandering, he became the ruler of Kabul in 1504 AD. In 1526, he defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the Sultan of Delhi and captured Delhi and Agra. At Khanwah in 1527, he defeated a Rajput confederacy under Rana Sangha, the ruler of Marwar. Later, he conquered Gwalior, Dholpur and other places. Babur died in 1530.



**Fig.11.2 : Babur**

## **HUMAYUN:**

After the death of Babur, the expansion and consolidation of the Mughal empire came in the hands of his son, Humayun. However, Humayun had to face a lot of difficulties. Among the difficulties he had to face, the threat posed by Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and Sher Shah of Bengal and Bihar was the most serious. In 1532, Humayun defeated Sher Shah at the Battle of Chunar and Sher Shah promised to be loyal to the Mughals. The rebellion of Bahadur Shah, the ruler of Gujarat was crushed and Gujarat and Malwa was occupied. However, while Humayun was engaged in Gujarat, Sher Shah had strengthened his position. Humayun suffered defeat in the hands of Sher Shah in the Battles of Chausa (1539) and in Kanauj (1540). Humayun fled to Persia. Humayun became homeless and 'a Prince without a kingdom'. It was in 1555 that Humayun reoccupied Delhi after the death of Sher Shah and re-established the Mughal empire in India. A year later, he died and his son, Akbar, just 13 years old came to the throne.

## **B. RELATION WITH OTHER RULERS:**

Right from the time of Babur up to Aurangzeb, the Mughal rulers campaigned constantly against the rulers who refused to accept their authority. However, some accepted the authority of the Mughals voluntarily. We have seen above that the Rajputs except Rana Pratap of Mewar had made alliances with the Mughals. Even though Rana Pratap was defeated at Haldighati, he had refused to submit to Akbar. It was during the reign of Jahangir that Mewar submitted to the Mughal authority. However, the Rajputs were honorably treated. They were given back their lands as assignments (Watan Jagir). This was to prevent any more enmity from the Rajputs. This policy was followed by other Mughal rulers. When Aurangzeb came to the throne, his policy of religious intolerance against the Hindus became the main reason for the downfall of the Mughal Empire.



### C. AGRARIAN RELATIONS:

The main source of the Mughals was the land revenue. The peasants paid the revenue through the Zamindars - the local headman or powerful chieftain.

**Ain-i-Akbari** tells that under Akbar, Todar Mal, the revenue minister introduced a new system of land settlement. Under this system, the land under cultivation was measured and assessed. The average produce of the land and the average price of the last ten years were calculated. The continuity of cultivation was also taken into account. Then, the revenue was fixed on each crop for the year. Each province was divided into revenue circles, each with a different revenue rates for individual crops. This system came to be known as **Zabti**.

The Ain-i-Akbari also speaks of two other systems, **Gallabaksh** and **Nasq**. The Gallabaksh was the traditional system of assessment. This was done by dividing the crop after it has been cut. Nasq was another system prevailing in some provinces of Akbar like Bengal, Berar and Kashmir. In this settlement, there was no zamindar but it was settled with the peasant directly.

The Zabti system was implemented in most areas of the empire. The only handicap was that it could be implemented only in those areas where the land could be surveyed. It could not be implemented in the distant provinces. The zamindars exercised tremendous influence but the exploitation by the Mughal administrators often led to rebellions. Sometimes the peasants joined the zamindars in the rebellion. These rebellions were the beginning of the decline of the Mughal empire.

### D. AKBAR ( 1556-1605 ): A case study

The main source for the reconstruction of the history of the Mughals during the reign of Akbar is the **Akbarnama**. It was written by **Abul Fazl**, one of the Navratanas of Akbar's royal court. Akbarnama which literally means 'History of Akbar' is a biographical account of Akbar. It is regarded as the most comprehensive history of the reign of Akbar. Ain-i-Akbari is a part of this book. **Ain-i Akbari**, originally the third volume of Akbar Name contains the Ains or rules and regulations which were enforced by Akbar in his administration. It can be regarded as an administrative manual. The book contains a lot of information on the system of government, departments, its ranks etc.



Fig.11.3 : Akbar

under Akbar. In this book, Abul Fazl also provides information on the social conditions, literary activities, law and philosophy of the various communities. In short, the Ain-i-Akbari is the gazetteer of Akbar's reign and so, is indispensable in the study of the history of India.

The greatest of the Mughal rulers was **Akbar** ( 1556-1605). Being crowned as a minor, **Bairam Khan** became his regent.

Akbar's first conflict was with Hemu, the general of Adil Shah, an Afghan. Bairam Khan fought against Hemu in the Second Battle of Panipat, 1556 and defeated him. In 1561, Akbar defeated the ruler of Malwa and conquered the kingdom. Later Gondwana was annexed.

Although the Rajputs had been challenging the authority of the Mughals, Akbar tried to win them over through friendship and marriage alliances. Many Rajputs were given honours and high posts in the administration. He himself married a Rajput princess, Jodha Bai, the princess of Amber. Many Rajput kingdoms made alliances with the Mughals except Rana Pratap of Mewar. **Rana Pratap** was defeated at the Battle of Haldighati in 1576 but he refused to submit to the Mughals.

Gujarat was conquered in 1578 and so also was Bengal. Akbar also conquered Kabul, Kashmir, Kandahar, Baluchistan in the west and Khandesh, Berar and a part of Ahmednagar in the Deccan. Thus, the Mughal rule was firmly established under Akbar.

#### **i) ADMINISTRATION :**

The Mughal administration was a combination of the existing Indian system and the ideas borrowed from Central Asia and Persia.

At the head of the government was the **Emperor**. He was an autocrat and had unlimited powers. He was practically the state and source of all authorities. A council of ministers assisted the emperor in the administration. Important among the ministers were **Wazir** ( revenue minister, also known as the Diwan), **Mir Bakshi** ( in charge of the military administration), **Chief Qazi** ( Chief Justice), **Mir Saman** ( in charge of royal household) and the **Sadr-us-Sadur** (in charge of religion and charities).

The Mughal empire was divided into a number of subahs( provinces). Each subah was divided into sarkars which were further divided into parganas. A group of villages composed a pargana. The head of the provincial administration was the Subahdar. He was assisted by the provincial Wazir, Bakshi and Qazi. The Kotwal was in charge of the Sarkar. A pargana was under the Shiqdar. The village headman was called the Muqadam.

The most important aspect of the Mughal administration was the **Mansabdari system**. Akbar introduced this system in order to bring about an effective administration of the imperial service. Under this system, every officer, whether civil or military was given a **mansab**, meaning rank or a position. The officer was called a Mansabdar. It was a grading system to fix the rank, salary and the military responsibilities. The rank and salary was determined by a numerical value called **Zat**. The higher the zat, the more prestigious was the noble's position in the court and the larger his salary.

The military responsibilities of the Mansabdar was to maintain a specified number of **Sawar** or cavalymen. The Mansabdar brought his cavalymen ( mounted soldiers) for review, got them registered, the horses branded and then received money to pay them as salary. However, salaries were not given in cash but by way of revenue assignments called **Jagirs**. They had the right to collect the revenues even though they did not reside in or administer the jagir. Out of the revenue so collected, the mansabdar was to meet all expenses including the maintenance of his troops. To increase the efficiency of the mounted soldiers, a descriptive roll ( **Chehra**) was maintained and the horses branded( **Dagh** ). You must have noticed that Alauddin Khalji followed this system also. During Akbar's time, the Jagirs were assessed carefully and the revenues collected were almost equal to the salary of the mansabdar. But this was no longer the case under Aurangzeb's reign. The actual revenue collected was often less than the granted sum. This was perhaps because the number of mansabdars had increased but there were less number of jagirs. As a result, many jagirdars tried to extract as much revenue as they can. This increased the suffering of the peasantry.

## ii) **RELIGIOUS POLICY :**

Although the Mughal rulers were followers of Islam, all of them except Babur and Aurangzeb followed a liberal and tolerant policy towards all religions. Akbar was the most liberal of the Mughal rulers.

Akbar's main concept of religion was based on the principle of peace with all or **Sulh-i-kul**. He abolished the Jajiyah and the pilgrim tax which were imposed on the non-Muslims. It was in the **Ibadat Khanna** i.e. the hall of prayer that Akbar called upon all preachers and saints of all religions for discussion with him. He realized that all religions are the same in principle. He wanted a path which would be common to all religions and would unite the people. So he founded a new religion called **Din-i-Ilahi**. The Din-i-Ilahi contains the basic ideals of all religion. It encouraged peace, unity and tolerance. The Din-i-Ilahi died out with Akbar but his policy of religious tolerance has set an example to the future generations.

### iii) ARCHITECTURE:

Akbar built a new capital at **Fatehpur Sikri** near Agra. It is said that Akbar built his capital at Fatehpur Sikri because it was the birth place of the Sufi Saint, Salim Chisti. Salim Chisti was greatly respected by Akbar. Built with red sandstone, the city has a lot of important buildings like Rani Jodha Bai's Palace, Panch Mahal, Rang Mahal, Diwan -i- Khas etc. The Buland Darwaja at Fatehpur is the highest gateway in India and one of the biggest in the world. Another fine example of the architecture is the **Humayun's Tomb** at New Delhi. It is on a raised platform and is full of domes and arches.



Fig.11.4: Humayun's Tomb

### iv) LITERATURE AND MUSIC:

Akbar was a great patron of learning. Due to this patronage, Akbar had many talented men in his court. His court is famous for his Nine Gems ( **Navaratnas**). Some of them were Todar Mal, Birbal, Tansen, Faizi, Abul Fazl, Raja Man Singh etc. Todar Mal helped Akbar in the revenue administration. Tansen's contribution to Hindustani music is well known. The Raga Darbari was composed by Tansen in honour of Akbar. Some of the Hindu poets of the time include Tulsidas, Surdas, and Kesavdas. Tulsidas wrote the famous Ramacharitamans. Though the official language was Persian, regional languages were also encouraged.

Akbar died in 1605 and was succeeded by his son, Salim under the reign name of Jahangir.

#### **E. SUCCESSORS OF AKBAR: Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb:**

**Jahangir** further helped in the consolidation of the Mughal empire. During his reign, Mewar submitted and accepted Mughal authority. Jahangir subdued the Afghans of Bengal, captured the Fort of Kangra and annexed Ahmednagar. However, the emperor was greatly influenced by his wife, Nur Jahan. The real name of Nur Jahan was Mehr-un-nisa but Jahangir called her **Nur Jahan** –the Light of the World. Her rise in influence over the emperor led to many groups in the Mughal court, further leading to conflicts among the nobles. Later, Jahangir's failing health led to an open struggle between Nur Jahan and his son, Shah Jahan.

On Jahangir's death in 1628, **Shah Jahan** was proclaimed as the Mughal Emperor at Agra. You must have seen the Taj Mahal. It was built by Shah Jahan. Shah Jahan's reign was very rich in culture but politically very weak as compared to the reign of Akbar. Shah Jahan is more known for two things-the **Taj Mahal** and the **Peacock Throne**. The Taj Mahal was built in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz. Built in white marble, it is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Peacock Throne from which the emperor dispensed justice is made of gold and studded with precious stones. It was placed at the Diwan-i-Khas in the Red Fort which Shah Jahan built in Delhi. Nadir Shah, the Persian invader took away the throne when he invaded India in 1739. The Moti Masjid at Agra and the Jama Masjid in Delhi are also notable among his buildings. Shah Jahan died in 1666 while still in prison.

Even before the death of Shah Jahan, **Aurangzeb** had come to the throne in 1658 by defeating his brothers and imprisoning his father. Aurangzeb followed a policy of religious intolerance which caused a lot of discontent, leading to the decline of the Empire. Soon after his accession, he faced difficulties from many quarters- the Ahoms of Assam, the Jats of Mathura, the Satnamis of Punjab etc. The Sikhs took up arms against the Mughals. In the process, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed by Aurangzeb. Consequently, Guru Govind Singh, the tenth Guru organized the Sikhs into a military force, the Khalsa and continued to fight against the Mughals. The conflict with the Rajputs led to political instability in the

empire. However, the longest and toughest struggle of Aurangzeb was against Shivaji and the Marathas. Consequently the Maratha State became independent.

Aurangzeb died in 1707 and the age of the Great Mughals came to an end. His successors which came to be known as the **Later Mughals** continued to rule upto 1857. In 1857, Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal king was executed for his involvement in the Great Revolt of 1857, ending more than 300 years of the Mughal rule.



Fig.11.5 : Bahadur Shah Zafar

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) Name the battle in which Akbar defeated Rana Pratap of Mewar.
  - b) For what purpose did Akbar introduce the Mansabdari system ?
  - c) Name the most important source of the history of Mughals under Akbar.
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) Name the two Mongols from whom the Mughals claim their descendancy.
  - b) How did Jahangir try to prevent any enmity with the Rajputs ?
  - c) What steps were taken by Akbar to ensure the efficiency of the mounted soldiers in his army ?
  - d) What was the Zabti system ?



**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) At which of the following was Sher Shah defeated by Humayun ?
- A. Battle of Chunar, 1532
  - B. Battle of Chausa, 1539
  - C. Battle of Kanauj, 1540
  - D. Battle of Haldighati, 1576
- (ii) The Mughal Emperor who built the Taj Mahal is
- A. Babur
  - B. Akbar
  - C. Jahangir
  - D. Shah Jahan

**4. Match the following:**

Babur	Taj Mahal
Humayun	Religious intolerance
Akbar	Ruler of Kabul
Shah Jahan	Sher Shah
Aurangzeb	Mansabdari system

**ACTIVITY**

- Make a chart of the Great Mughals and state their achievements.



## CHAPTER-12

# ARCHITECTURE AS SYMBOL OF POWER

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Imagine yourself travelling back in time to the 12th century AD. How would you feel when observing the Qutb Minar? It would have been very impressive indeed! The height, the building skills, the styles, the materials involved! It would have been an awesome task to have built such a structure in those days.

Why would rulers built such huge structures like the Qutb Minar? As the main duty of the rulers was to look after their subjects, the rulers built many structures for emphasizing their moral right to be rulers and for the use and comfort of his subjects. Generally the structures were of two kinds - i) forts, palaces, garden residences and tombs and ii) structures meant for the public activity including temples, mosques, tanks, wells, caravan sarais and bazaars etc. Besides, domestic structures –large mansions ( Havelis) of rich merchants was also constructed.

### A. SKILLS AND STYLES OF ARCHITECTURE:

The monuments can provide an insight into the skills, styles and technologies involved. The roof, for example was constructed by placing wooden beams on a wide stone slab across the four walls of the room. This style is called the **Trabeate** or **Corbelled**. However it would be a tremendous task requiring great skills if a superstructure has to be built above the room. In the period between the eighth and thirteen centuries, the Trabeate style was used in building of temples, mosques, tombs etc. From the thirteenth century, two distinct styles emerged - i) the superstructure above the rooms, windows and doors the weights were carried by arches and ii) limestone cement began to be used in the construction. This cement when mixed with stone chips turned into concrete and made the construction of the large structures easier.

In the construction of the temples and mosques, different architectural styles developed in India. Before the coming of the Muslims, temple architecture in India was of two styles - **Nagara** style and **Dravida** style. The Nagara style was seen in the temples in the north India and the Dravida style in the south India. The most distinguishing difference between the two styles is the shape and decoration of their Shikharas. In the Nagara style, the tower is beehive shaped while in the Dravida style, it consists of progressively smaller storeys of pavilions. Let us find out the differences by looking at certain temples.

#### i) **NAGARA STYLE:**

The **Nagara** style was developed during the 5th century. The style is characterized by a beehive-shaped and multi-layered tower (Shikhara). The plan is based on a square but the walls are sometimes so segmented that the tower appears in circular in shape. The most prominent example of this style is the temples of **Khajuraho** in Madhya Pradesh.

#### **Khajuraho Temples:**



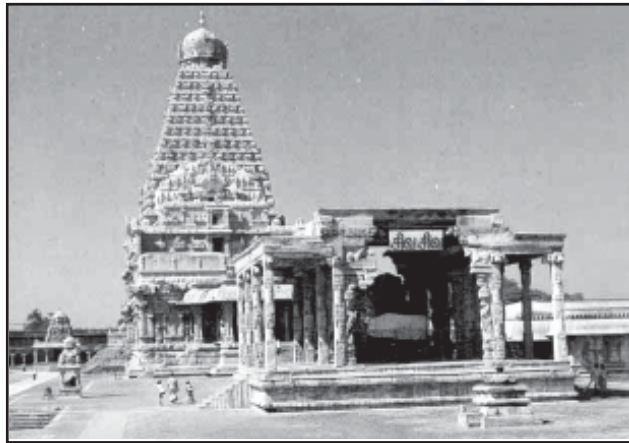
**Fig.12.1:Khajuraho Temples**

The Khajuraho Temples are unique in architecture. Although each of the temples in the complex are different in plan and design, they have some common features. Each one of them have been built on very high platforms, each one have an entrance hall (**mandap**) and a holy place (**garbagriha**). The roofs are pyramidal in shape and made of several layers. The towers (**shikhara**) of the temples are invested beehive-shaped structures with a bulge in the middle. These temples have been built either in granite or combination of granite and light sandstone.

## ii) DRAVIDA STYLE :

In the **Dravida** style of temples, the towers (**vimana**) of the temples are pyramidal in shape and is of a series of layers which diminish as they go up. It has many storey, each bigger than the one on the top. It has an enclosure and a gateway (**gopuram**). The distinct feature of the Dravida style can be seen in the rock cut temples of **Mahabalipuram**. The Kailashnath temple at **Kanchipuram** is another. Both had been built by the Pallavas. The Hoysala kings also erected temples with complicated plans. Carved surfaces in chlorite have been executed with precision. Hoysala temples are found at Belur, Halebid and Sringeri.

### Rajarajeshwara Temple:



**Fig.12.2 : Rajarajeshwara Temple**

Under the **Cholas**, temple architecture in the south reach its zenith. The Rajarajeshwara temple at Thanjavur( Tanjore) have been named after name of the king. He built it in honour of Lord Shiva. This temple, specially its tower is the finest example of Dravida style of architecture. The tower is shaped like a pyramid in 13 successive storey. The temple complex has many structures - the Nandi pavilion, a pillared portico, a large hall etc. The inner walls of the temple are decorated with extensive paintings and sculptures. It also has a fine gateway ( gopuram) to the enclosed walls of the temple.

Under the **Vijayanagara Empire**, the temples had rectangular enclosure walls with towered gateways in the middle of each side.

iii) **VESSARA STYLE:**



**Fig.12.3: The Sun temple at Konark**

It will be noteworthy to mention that in the central part of India, a different style but having certain element of the Nagara and Dravida styles developed. The **Vessara** style, also known as the **Deccan** architecture was started in Karnataka by the **Chalukyas of Badami**. The Chalukya rulers built artistic temples in the honour of Hindu Gods like Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The Vishnu temple at Badami and Pattadakal are fine examples of the Chalukyan architecture. After the Chalukyas, the **Rastrakutas** also patronized architecture. One of the best specimen of Rastrakuta architecture is the rock-cut Kailashnath temple. This temple is famous for its unique architecture all over the world. The temple complex is built in four main parts- the main temple, entrance gate, the Nandi shrine and a group of five shrines surrounding the courtyard. The temple stands on a high platform. The tower is in three diminishing tiers. It has double storey gateway.

The **Sun temple at Konark** is another famous specimen of the Deccan style. It was built by Raja Narasimhadeva. It is included in the World Heritage list.

iv) **ISLAMIC SCHOOL:**

With the advent of the Muslims, a new style of architecture emerged in India. The Muslims had brought in Persian architectural designs and ideas but these were put into effect by the local Hindu craftsmen and architects. Thus, the Muslim

architecture got mixed with the Hindu architectural designs and decorations leading to an **Indo-Persian** school of architecture.

This school produced two types of structure-religious and secular. The religious structures include the mosques and tombs while the secular structures included the palaces, forts and the gates etc.

#### **Under the Delhi Sultanate:**

The Delhi sultans built huge and imposing buildings. In the construction, local craftsmen were used. This mixture of the Turkish and local architecture helped enriched the Islamic architecture. Among the earliest building of this style was the mosque built by Qutb-ud-Din Aibak in Delhi. Called the **Quwat-ul-Islam**, it was engraved with beautiful calligraphy. Later, it was enlarged by Ala-ud-Din Khalji and added with a gateway called **Alai Darwaja**.



**Fig.12.4: Alai Darwaja**

Ala-ud-Din also built a new city called Siri with a lot of attractive buildings. He also built the **Hauz Khas**.

#### **Under the Mughals:**

The Mughal age has been rightly called the **Second Classical Age** due to the cultural developments. It is specially in architecture that the Mughals had made the most remarkable contribution. Salient features of the Mughal architecture are the graceful domes, the small domes at the corners standing on pillars, a pillared Palace hall and the flaunted gateways. Mughal architecture was a mixture of the Persian and Indian styles.

Buildings built by Babur and Humayun was not very impressive. Sher Shah completed the construction of the **Purana Quila** at Delhi. Sher Shah's tomb in Sesaram in Bihar is one of the finest architectural monument in India. Construction of such beautiful and massive buildings was followed by Akbar also.

**Akbar** built the **Humayun Tomb**. The building shows the Persian influence, specially in the building of the dome. However the building use marble and red sandstone instead of bricks and glazed tiles. One of the most distinct features of the Mughal architecture found in the building is the huge gateway. The dome itself is onion shaped. This tomb inspired the builders of the Taj Mahal later. Akbar also built the **Agra Fort** on the banks of river Yamuna. The plan of the fort shows that it was an irregular semi-circle. The fort is surrounded by long and high walls made of sandstone. It has two big ornamental gateways, one each on its western and southern side. A moat surrounds the fort all round. The arched entrance is flanked by two huge bastions projecting from the wall. Later, some important monuments were added – Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Am, Moti Masjid, all built in marble.

#### **B. SHAH JAHAN: A case study:**

The name of **Shah Jahan** and **Taj Mahal** would always be associated in eternity. It is because Shah Jahan had built the Taj Mahal at Agra in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. However, it is not only the Taj Mahal that Shah Jahan had built. He had also constructed the **Moti Masjid** at Agra and the **Red Fort** and the **Jama Masjid** in Delhi. In fact, it was during his reign that Mughal architecture reached its zenith. Although politically not very stable, his reign was marked by great cultural development, not seen under any of the Mughal rulers. His reign, therefore is regarded as the **Golden Age** of Mughal architecture.

#### **Taj Mahal:**



**Fig.12.5 : Taj Mahal**

The Taj Mahal is the finest of Mughal architecture. Built in pure white marble, it took about 22 years to build. The marble has been obtained from Makrana in Rajasthan. Because of its exceptional beauty, it is one of the Wonders of the World.



The Taj Mahal is constructed on an elevated platform on the bank of river Yamuna. The central dome is like an inverted lotus. There are four minarets, one on each corner of the building. In the interior, there are octagonal chambers connected to one another by passages. Both the interior and exterior of the building are carved with beautiful inlay works, screens and calligraphy. The building is surrounded by gardens, pools and fountains which add to the beauty of the Taj Mahal specially when seen under a full moon.

### **Red Fort:**

The Red Fort (Lal Qila) is another famous monument built by Shah Jahan. Its construction began in 1639 and was completed in 1648. It is from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the Prime Minister of India speaks to the nation on the 15th of August, India's Independence Day every year.

The Lal Qila is built of red sandstone and marble. It has strong fortified walls. Two gateways leads to the inside of the fort. One is the Lahori Gate and the other is the ceremonial gate. Main buildings inside the fort include the Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas and Rang Mahal. These buildings are decorated with white marbles and inlaid with precious stones. The whole building is in the form of a parallelogram. An inscription in the Diwan-i-Khas has described the beauty and grandeur of the Red Fort in the following way—

**If there is a paradise on the face of the earth,  
It is this, it is this, it is this.**

### **Jama Masjid:**

The Jama Masjid in Delhi is the biggest mosque in India. It was built by Shah Jahan. Construction of the building began in 1644 and completed in 1658.

Like the Red Fort, the Jama Masjid is built in red sandstone and inlaid in white marble. The building is built on a high platform with three onion-shaped domes. Like in other buildings, this mosque also has four



**Fig.12.6: Jama Masjid at Delhi**



minarets in the four corners. Its courtyard has a reservoir of water in the centre. It is said that the courtyard can accommodate as many as 10,000 people at a time.

Thus, the Mughals had left a legacy of their architectural skills. Though the Mughal power declined in the eighteenth century, their styles and architecture were used and adapted by other rulers.

## EXERCISES

**1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**

- a) Name the style in which the Khajuraho temples were built.
- b) Why has the Mughal age been called the Second Classical Age in Indian history?
- c) Why is it said that the name of Shah Jahan will always be eternally associated with the Taj Mahal?

**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**

- a) Name the two styles of temple architecture found in India.
- b) How did the Islamic School of Architecture develop?
- c) Give three salient features of Mughal architecture.
- d) Why was Shahjahan's reign known as the Golden age of Mughal architecture?

**3. Choose the Correct Answer:**

- (i) Which of the following had built the city of Siri?
- A. Ala-ud-Din Khalji
  - B. Qutb-ud-Din Aibak
  - C. Akbar
  - D. Shah Jahan

(ii) Humayun's Tomb was built by

- A. Babur
- B. Humayun
- C. Akbar
- D. Shah Jahan

4. Match the following :

Qutb-ud-Aibak	Jama Masjid
Ala-ud-Din Khalji	Humayun's Tomb
Akbar	Quwat-ul-Islam
Shah jahan	Siri

#### ACTIVITY

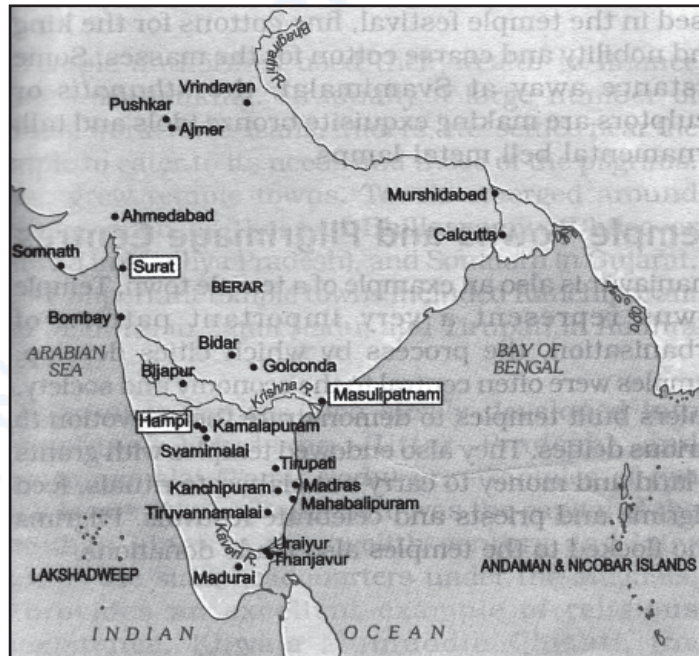
- Collect the pictures of the monuments constructed by Shah Jahan and prepare a scrap book.

## CHAPTER -13

# TOWNS, TRADERS AND CRAFTSMEN

Have you heard of **Thanjavur** in south India. It was a **capital town** and also a **temple town** in the medieval times. What is a capital town ? What is a temple town ? Let us find out!

**Capital towns** are the capital cities and the official seat of the government whether of a state or a kingdom. Thanjavur was the capital of the Cholas in the medieval times. Other capital towns may include Delhi, Ajmer, Kanauj etc. of the Rajput rulers, Lahore, Delhi, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri of the Mughals. **Temple towns** are the pilgrimage centres which represent very important pattern of urbanization. Temples have been built by rulers and endowed with land grants and money. Pilgrims also flocked to the temple and made donations. Gradually a large number of priests, workers, artisans, traders etc. settled near the temple to cater to the needs of everyone. Thus, temple towns grew.



**Fig.13.1 : Some important centre of Trade in central and south india**

Thanjavur is a temple town. Besides, mention can also be made of the temple towns like Bhillasvamin (Bhilsa) in MP, Somnath in Gujarat, Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Tirupati in Andhra, Brindavan, Rishikesh in UP. Ajmer, the capital of the Chauhan kings and later, the Subah HQ under the Mughals is also a pilgrimage centre . Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti had settled there in the 12th century.

## A. PORTS AND PORT CITIES:

Besides the towns which served as capitals and pilgrimage centres, there were **ports** and **port towns** also. Ports are the places near the sea or oceans where ships load and unload the goods. These ports became trade centres where trade activities took place, not only of the local but also with foreign countries. These centres developed into thriving towns and cities, giving birth to port cities. In the western coast of India, important seaports include Surat, Cambay, Broach, Dwarka, Cochin, Goa etc. These seaports had trade links with various countries of Africa, south west Asia and Europe. Important seaports in the eastern coast of India include Tamralipti and Visakhapatnam.

## SEA TRADE:

We have many foreign traveller's accounts containing description of the various trade items of India. Textiles were the most important trade item and India was famous in its trade. Ibn Battuta in his account mentions about the production of silk in Bengal. A kind of cloth used for turbans called Sirbund manufactured in Bengal was very popular among the Europeans. Duarte Barbosa, a Portuguese official in Cochin mentions **Gujarat** to be a leading centre of cotton trade. These cotton textiles were exported to Arab countries. Patola, a kind of silk dyed in natural colours were also very popular in the countries of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Phillipines. In south India, **Malabar**, **Golconda** and **Pulicat** were important textile centres. Golconda was specially famous for Kalamkaris which were exported through the port city of Masulipatnam. Other trade items include hardwood furniture, carpets, ornamental work in cut stones, ivory, tortoise shells etc. Diamonds and pearls were exported from the Deccan. Indian spices were very popular in the European countries.

India also imported goods from outside. Imported items of the period included dry fruits and precious stones from **Europe**, horns from **Kabul** and **Arabia**, high grade textiles from **West Asia**. Raw silk and porcelain from **China** was also imported.

Trading with China and south east Asia was done through the port city of Sonargaon (Dacca in present day Bangladesh). Vijayanagara in the 15th and 16th centuries carried on maritime trade with many countries.

## Traders – Many kinds:

Traders were of many kinds. Besides the traders selling local products, there were the Banjaras. **Banjaras** were trader-nomads -- moving from place to place, buying goods from one place and selling to another. They usually had a caravan. There were also foreign traders.

Traders carried on trade of variety of goods. There were traders, specially horse traders who later on formed associations for their welfare. They formed guilds in order to protect their interest. Several guilds existed in the south India from the eighth century onwards.

There were also communities of traders like the **Chettiars** and **Marwari Oswals**. The Marwari Oswals later on became the chief trading group in the country. The Gujarati traders like the Hindu Baniyas and the Muslim Bohras carried on trade extensively in the ports of Red Sea, Persian Gulf, east Africa, south Asia and China.

In the west coast, there were many Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders. Italian traders purchased Indian spices and textiles which fetched high profits in the European markets. This led many European traders to India.

## B. TRADING TOWNS:

### i) HAMPI- A CASE STUDY:

Hampi is situated in the Deccan in the present state of Karnataka. Founded in the year 1336 AD, it was once the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. Hampi is one of the most splendid historical sites in south India and is a World Heritage site.

It is often said by many travellers to Hampi that in Hampi, every stone has a story to tell. The ruins of Hampi shows excellent workmanship. It shows a fortified city. The walls were well constructed and the technique used was to wedge



**Fig.13.1: Stone Chariot, Vitthala Temple, Hampi**

them together by interlocking. Every building inside the city complex had splendid arches, domes and pillared halls. The pillared halls had niches for holding different sculptures. Well-planned orchards and well-laid out pleasure gardens are other distinctive features. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Hampi was a commercial centre involving not only local merchants but also foreign merchants.

Temple architecture in Hampi was at its best. The Virupaksha temple is a place of interest in Hampi. Cultural activities took place in the temple. Devadasis (temple dancers) used to perform before the deity. The temple is in ruins now but the local people still goes to the temple to worship Virupaksa (Shiva). In 1510, Krishnadeva Raya had repaired it. The temple has many mandapas and murals. It has a gopuram, 50 metres in height. The hall has finely carved columns of animals. The ceilings are decorated with paintings.

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

## **ii) MASULIPATNAM- A CASE STUDY:**

Literally 'Masulipatnam' means 'first fishing town'. The town is also known as Machilipatnam. The town lies on the delta of Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh.

In the seventeenth century, Masulipatnam became one of the most important ports on the Andhra coast. Different European powers like the English, the French and the Dutch tried to control the town. In fact, the fort of Masulipatnam was built by the Dutch.

During the Satavahana rule, Masulipatnam was a flourishing sea port. The Arab traders also found their way to the area. The Qutb Shahi ruler of Golconda had the most important port in Masulipatnam and tried to prevent the various East India Companies of Europe from controlling this port. Masulipatnam was one of the earliest known British settlements in India. Serious struggle thus rose over the possession of the town among various groups – Golconda rulers, Persian merchants, European traders etc. Thus, out of this struggle, the town grew prosperous and populous.

However, in 1686-87, the Mughals in their attempt to extend in southwards annexed Golconda. Consequently, the European trading companies began mov-



ing elsewhere - to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras which have emerged as trading towns. Meanwhile, Masulipatnam lost its trading facilities and prosperity and thus declined in the eighteenth century. Today, Masulipatnam is just a small town.

### iii) SURAT : A CASE STUDY

The port city of Surat lies on the western coast in the state of Gujarat. During the Mughals, it was the most important port city. It was in 1613 that the British had established their first factory at Surat. Surat has always been and continue to be a centre of trade and commerce. Many European trading companies tried to extend their control over this port. In the seventeenth century, the British, the French, the Portuguese and the Dutch had their factories at Surat. An English chronicler, Ovington mentions that about a hundred ships from different countries could be found at the Surat seaport at a given time. Trade was carried on with west Asia through Surat. The Portuguese had the control of the sea-trade through this port city but by 1612, the British had destroyed the supremacy of the Portuguese and took Surat under their control. Since then, Surat had become a thriving town. The textiles of Surat are famous for its cloth-borders and are exported to west Asia and Europe. Rest houses were built for accommodation of the people coming from outside.

However, Surat declined towards the end of the seventeenth century. Perhaps, the decline of the Mughals and the competition from Bombay where the English East India Company had shifted its HQ in 1668 may have led to its decline. Nevertheless, Surat continued to be a bustling commercial town, even today.

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) Why are the Banjaras called trader nomads ?
  - b) The town of Masulipatnam declined in the eighteenth century. Why ? Give one reason.
  - c) Who were the Devadasis ?



**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**

- a) How does a temple town grow ?
- b) How does a port develop into a port city ?
- c) Who are the Banjaras ?
- d) Name three European countries which set up their factories at Surat.

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) Golconda was famous for
  - A. carpets
  - B. ivory
  - C. kalamkaris
  - D. hardwood furniture
- (ii) Which of the following was the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire ?
  - A. Thanjavur
  - B. Hampi
  - C. Surat
  - D. Masulipatnam

**4. Match the following:**

Port	Calcutta
Port city	Hampi
Trading town	Surat
Capital Town	Thanjavur
Temple town	Tamralipti

**ACTIVITY**

- Find out if there is any pilgrimage centre in your state. Are there any shops in the area ? If so, mention what is bought and sold there.

# CHAPTER - 14

## SOCIAL CHANGE : MOBILE AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES

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We all must know that a society is made of individuals, individuals all the time trying to bring changes in their life style. Their efforts further leads to changes within the society. Any society in any part of the world at a given time has not remain static. Much changes have taken place and are still evolving leading to a more complex system. Take, for example, the caste system in India. Originating from the Vedic times, caste system has remained in the Indian social structure but with much changes taking place within. However, this does not mean that this kind of changes and inequalities does not take place elsewhere? The unequal division and unequal distribution of wealth and political power do exist in other parts of the world.

Now, let us find out about the Caste system and its effect on the Indian society down the ages. Was the caste system the only predominant aspect in the Indian social system or was there others ?

### A. SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN ANCIENT INDIA:

It has been mentioned above that the caste system goes back to the Vedic times. It all started when the Aryans came to India. They differentiate themselves on the basis of the colour of the skin ( varna). While the Aryans were of fair complexion, the indigenous people were dark in complexion. Later, the society came to be divided into four- fold caste division – the **Brahmanas** ( Priestly class), the **Kshatriyas** ( Warrior class), the **Vaishyas** ( the producer class) and the **Sudras** ( the servant class ). It was based on the occupation the person was engaged in. There was increasing emphasis on rituals and sacrifices. Due to this, the Brahmanas occupied the highest position in the society. The Kshatriyas often came into conflict with the Brahmanas for holding the top position in the society. The three higher varnas - Brahmanas, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas were entitled

to the sacred thread ceremony (**Upanayana**). The Sudras were deprived of these privileges. By the end of the later Vedic period, the caste system became very rigid and hereditary. New sub-castes have come into being as many new occupations came into existence.

The condition of women in the early Vedic period was good. They could attend assemblies and rituals along with their husbands. However, later, they began to occupy a much lower position.

In the Mauryan times, the four-fold caste division still remained. But in the Gupta times, Indian society came to be composed of many smaller and more numerous sub-groups called Jatis. Jati literally means birth and each jati typically was associated with a traditional job or occupation in the Hindu society.

## **B. SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN MEDIEVAL INDIA :**

In the Rajput period, the caste system became more rigid. The Brahmanas became very powerful and enjoy many privileges like exemption from paying taxes, precedence on the road, lighter punishment etc. During the period, a large number of castes and sub-castes like weavers, fishermen, smiths, cowherds, carpenters etc. emerged.

The condition of women worsened. They were looked down upon. **Polygamy** became very common. The birth of a daughter was not preferred and was regarded as a burden. She was viewed as a guest in the parental house who would be given away to another family after marriage. Socially, a woman was conditioned to become a Sati. Women practiced **Jauhar**, a mass suicide to escape defilement in the hand of the enemy who had occupied the kingdom. This practice called **Satidah** or Sati system along with many other practices came into existence in the medieval Indian society.

### **i) Impact of Islam:**

The advent of Islam is believed to have ushered in a sense of social equality in the Indian society. Perhaps, it was because Islam opposed the worship of many gods and believed in one God - Allah. However, the distinctions on the basis of religions came up. Under the rule of the Muslims, non-Muslims were imposed taxes like the Jajiyah, pilgrimage taxes etc. The condition of women also worsened during the Sultanate and Mughal period.

## ii) Indian society under the Muslim rule:

Under the rule of the Sultans of Delhi, two main castes remained in India – the **Hindus** and the **Muslims**. The Muslims were further divided into the Shias and Sunnis. Ibn Battutah, the Moroccan traveller to the court of Mohammad bin Tughlaq has left a detailed account of the Indian society. According to him, the society was divided into four classes – the aristocracy, the priests, the townspeople and the peasants. The aristocracy were the ruling class. Caste system was followed rigidly. Purdah system was prevalent.

Under the Mughals, the Hindus and the Muslims came closer. Emperor Akbar's new religion, Din-i-Ilahi tried to accommodate the sectarian differences among his subjects. The Bhakti and Sufi movements also greatly helped in bringing harmony between the castes. Bhakti saints like Guru Nanak, Kabir, Chaitanya, Ramananda, etc have all denounced the caste system and embraced men from all castes as their followers. Mirabai was the greatest woman saint of the time. Sufi saints like Khwaja Muin-ud-Din Chisti, Baba Farid, Khwaja Nizam-ud-Din Aulia preached oneness of human beings and believed in the brotherhood of all men.

## C. GROWTH OF TRIBES, NOMADS AND ITINERANTS :

We have seen above that the Indian society was already divided according to the rules of varna . With time, many evils have also crept in to its fold. Although many have tried to do away with the evil practices, some had remained. The efforts continued. However, there were other kinds of societies as well who did not follow the social rules emerging out of the varna system. The tribal societies was one such.

### Who are the tribes ?

Ancient India mentions the existence of tribes in the Mahabharata and in the edicts of King Asoka. In the Mauryan times, they are mentioned as **forest dwellers**. As the name suggests, perhaps, they lived in the forest and lived on the produces of the forest. The members of each tribe were united by kinship bonds. They make full use of the natural resources of the area in which they lived and earned their livelihood. Many indulged in agriculture while others were hunter, gatherers or herders. The most distinctive characteristic of the tribes was that everything was community owned or jointly owned.

Many tribes lived in the forests, hills, deserts etc. in different parts of the sub-continent. Sometimes, they came into conflict with the more powerful caste-based societies. However, in various ways, the tribes retained their freedom and preserved their culture.

Very little information is available about the tribal people. The tribal people did not keep written records.

But, they preserved their rich customs and oral traditions. These oral traditions have now become important sources for reconstructing the history of the tribes. Tribal people are found in almost every region of the Indian sub-continent although the area and influence varied.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the **Khokar** tribe was very influential in Punjab. Later, the **Gakkars** became more powerful. Their chief, Kamal

Khan Gakkar was a mansabdar under Akbar, the Mughal Emperor. In Multan and Sind, extensive areas were under the control of the **Langals** and **Arghuns** before they were subdued by the Mughals. The **Balachis** was another tribe in the north west.

In the north eastern India, there were many tribes such as the **Nagas**, **Ahoms**, **Mizos** and others.



In Bihar and Jharkhand, the **Chero** tribe emerged in the twelfth century. Under Aurangzeb, the Mughals subjugated the tribe. Among important tribes which lived in the region and also in Bengal and Orissa are the **Mundas** and the **Santhals**.

The **Koli** tribe resides in the Maharashtra and Karnataka. The **Bhil** tribe spread over the western and central India. The **Gonds** are found in the present day states of Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

#### **D. THE GONDS: A CASE STUDY**

Have You heard of **Gondwana** ? Gondwana means the land inhabited by the Gonds, in Central India. The Gonds are now distributed over the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhatisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The Gonds are one of the most famous and important tribes in India and are known for their unique customs and traditions. They are mainly a nomadic tribe. Akbar Nama mentions a Gond kingdom of Garha Katanga which had 70,000 villages.

The Gonds lived in villages in groups. They practiced shifting cultivation. They also grow cereals and practiced animal husbandry.

The Gonds had an egalitarian **society**. The main language of the Gonds is Gondi but they also speak Hindi. An aspect worth mentioning about the Gonds is their special skill which had been passed through the generations and that is the secrets of the medicinal plants. They used plants and herbs for curing various ailments, perhaps because there are no proper health facilities in several areas. Another unique custom practiced by the Gonds which have become the subject of great interest among socialists and researchers all over the world is the Gond preference of marriages within the blood relations. Even marriages between brothers and sisters are common.

The Gonds have a centralized **administration** system. The kingdom was divided into **Garhs**, each garh controlled by a Gond clan. This was further divided into units of 84 villages called Chaurasi. The Chaurasi was subdivided into Barhots which were composed of 12 villages each.



Emergence of the large societies also influenced the Gond society also. The Gond society gradually became divided into unequal social classes. Brahmanas received land grants from the Gond rajas. The Gond chiefs also aspired to be recognized as Rajputs. Aman Das, the Gond chief of Garh Katanga assumed the title of Sangram Shah. His son, Dalpat married a Rajput princess, Durgawati, daughter of the Chandella raja of Mahoba. When Dalpat died young, Rani Durgawati, his widow carried on the administration on behalf of their son. In 1565, she strongly resisted the Mughal attack on Garh Katanga but was defeated. The Mughals annexed most part of Garh Katanga. With the fall of Garh Katanga, the Gond kingdoms became much weaker. Later on, they had to struggle against the more powerful kingdoms of the Bundellas and the Marathas but without much success.



**Fig.14.1:A Gond Woman**

#### **E. THE AHOMS: A CASE STUDY**

The Ahoms are the descendants of the ethnic Tai or Shan people who came along with their prince, **Sukaphaa** into Assam. They are also known as Tai-Ahom. Sukaphaa founded the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826) with their capital at Charaideo, present day Sibsagar in Assam. From the thirteenth to the sixteenth century, the Ahoms were engaged in the expansion and consolidation of the kingdom. During the period, they brought a large number of tribes like the Morans, Chutiyas, Nagas, Boranis, Bodos, Kachharis etc. under their subjugation.

The expansion of the Ahoms was not just the result of the military strength but also a result of the social and political outlook. For example, **Suhungmung** (1497-1539) was the first Ahom king to adopt a Hindu name, **Swarga Narayan**. Later on, most of the Ahom kings adopted Swargadeo in the Assamese language. By the middle of the sixteenth century, the Ahoms had subjugated eastern Assam. In the seventeenth century, the Ahoms prevented the Mughal expansion with the Battle of Itakhuli in 1682. The battle also ended the Ahom-Mughal conflict.



The Ahom power started declining in the eighteenth century. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the Burmese invaded their kingdom and succeeded in setting up of a puppet government. However, the Burmese were defeated by the British in the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824-1826). As a result of the war, the **Treaty of Yandaboo** was signed in 1826 converting the Ahom kingdom into a principality. Thus, the Ahom rule came to an end.

One of the important customs among the Ahoms was that the dead body is not burnt but kept in a box. This is called **Maidam**. Later on, Swargadeo Rajeshwara Singh under the influence of Hinduism ordered the dead body to be cremated and not buried. The Tai Ahoms worshipped their deceased forefathers as they are regarded as guardian deities. They also offered every new seasonal crops, vegetables and fruits to the ancestors and take them only after offering them to their ancestor gods. Blood sacrifice and home made rice beer are also required in the worship of their ancestors.

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) Why were the tribal people also called the forest dwellers ?
  - b) What is the most important source for reconstructing the history of the tribe in India ?
  - c) What is Maidam ?
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) What was the condition of women in the later Vedic period?
  - b) How did the Bhakti reformers help in bringing social harmony ?
  - c) What was the social condition of India during the Muslim rule ?
  - d) What was the effect of the emerging large societies on the Gond society?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

(i) Who of the following first adopted the title of Swarga Narayan?

- A. Sukaphaa
- B. Suhungmung
- C. Aman Das
- D. Rajeswara Singh

(ii) The producer class in the later Vedic society was the

- A. Brahamanas
- B. Kshatriyas
- C. Vaishyas
- D. Sudras

**4. Match the following:**

Khokars	Bihar
Langhals	Maharastra
Nagas	Madhya Pradesh
Chiros	North East India
Kolis	Assam
Gonds	Punjab
Ahoms	Multan

**ACTIVITY**

- Visit a tribal village and make a report on their customs and beliefs.

## CHAPTER - 15

# POPULAR BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS DEVELOPEMENTS

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Have you noticed that everyone, particularly the womenfolk worships one god or the other. Have you ever wondered why human beings worship gods - different gods and follow different religions? Such intense devotion or love of God, even if different, has come to develop in India from various Bhakti and Sufi movements that came up in the eighth century AD.

### A. BHAKTI MOVEMENT :

Before the emergence of large kingdoms, different groups of people worshipped their own gods and goddesses. With the growth of trade, towns and empires, new ideas began to develop. People came to accept the idea of birth and rebirth, the idea of inequality among human beings, etc. Out of these emerged new religions like that of Buddhism and Jainism. These religions advocated that the cycle of rebirth and social difference could be removed through personal efforts. There were still others who believed in the idea of a supreme God who could delivered human beings form bondage through intense devotion ( Bhakti). The idea of Bhakti became very popular in the early Christian centuries. Shiva, Vishnu and Durga came to be worshipped as supreme deities through elaborate rituals. At the same time, gods and goddesses worshipped in different parts by different people came to be identified with Shiva, Vishnu and Durga. Shiva came to be worshipped in South India and Kashmir, Shakti (Durga) in the east and Vishnu in the north.

**Bhakti** means personal devotion to God. The Bhakti movement laid emphasis on the union of the individual with God. The idea of Bhakti was first developed in south India by the Saiva Nayanars and Vaishnavite Alvars. Both the sects preached personal devotion to God as a means of salvation. They drew their ideals upon the ideals of love and heroism found in the Sangam literature. Then,

it gradually spread to north India by scholars and saints. Some prominent Bhakti saints were Namadev and Tukaram from Maharashtra, Chaitanya from Bengal, Guru Nanak from Punjab, Kabir and Ramananda from Uttar Pradesh, Mirabai from Rajasthan and Shankardev from Assam.

### **THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF SOME OF THE BHAKTI SAINTS:**

Ramanuja was a follower of Lord Vishnu. He was from south India. Ramanuja taught his followers that the only means of attaining salvation i.e. union with God was through personal devotion. He was perhaps the first to preach the message of love which the people embraced and so, Bhakti became a religion of the masses. His message was taken to the north by his disciple, Ramananda.

#### **RAMANANDA:**

Ramananda, a disciple of Ramanuja was born in Allahabad. However, unlike his teacher, he worshipped Lord Rama and Sita. He had followers of all castes and religions. Of his disciples, mention may be made of Ravidas, a cobbler, Sena, a barber and Kabir, a weaver. Ramananda was the first Bhakti saint to preach in Hindi.

#### **MIRABAI:**

A Rajput princess, Mirabai was another famous Bhakti saint. She was a devotee of Lord Krishna. Her devotion to her Lord was so intense that she considered herself being married to Lord Krishna. However, She was married off into a Rajput royal family. After the death of her husband, she moved to Vrindavan and spent the rest of her life singing bhajans and kirtans in praise of her Lord.

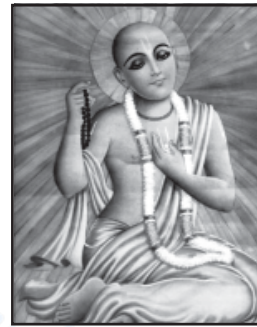


**Fig.15.1 Mirabai**

#### **CHAITANYA :**

Born in Nadia(Bengal), Chaitanya was a great devotee of Lord Krishna. His life changed when he visited Gaya at the age of 22. He was initiated into the Krishna cult by a saint. Chaitanya travelled all over India but he mostly stayed at

Gaya. He popularized the musical gathering called Kirtan as a special form of worship. At the time of Kirtan, he sang devotional songs and danced in praise of God. Chaitanya did not reject the scriptures or idol worship. The teachings of Chaitanya attracted both Hindus and Muslims. People of low castes also joined. His teachings has a great influence particularly in the eastern part of India.



**Fig.15.2: Chaitanya**

### **B. KABIR(1440-1518): A case study**

Kabir was one of the closest disciple of Ramananda. He substituted the worship of Rama instead of Vishnu. Little information is there about the birth and early life of Kabir. It is generally believed that his family belonged to a low status weaver caste recently converted to Islam. Kabir married and adopted the occupation of a weaver. However, he became the greatest saint of his time.

Kabir had a profound conviction that God cannot be seen, named, described or bound. He emphasized the **unity of God**. According to Kabir, God is one, though we called him by different names such as Ram, Hari, Govinda or Allah. He believed in one formless God, rejected the Vedas and the Quran and the supremacy of the Brahmanas and Mullahs. Kabir strongly condemned all forms of ritualistic worship prescribed by the priests, Hindu or Muslim. He also strongly denounced idol worship, pilgrimage and bathing in holy places or even Namaj. He wanted to unite all castes and to do away all the differences among



**Fig.15.3 : Kabir**

people on the basis of religion. He preached the unity of God and the path of love and devotion. Kabir used to sing expressing in verses his love and devotion for God. His Dohas (devotions) had a great appeal on the common people. The followers of Kabir known as Kabirpanthis have codified the non-sectarian teachings of Kabir.

### C. GURU NANAK (1469-1539): A case study

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He was born in Talwandi (Nankana) in 1469 AD. Guru Nanak was a mystic and householder in the tradition of the Sants (Holy men) and the Sufi saints.



Fig.15.4 : Guru Nanak

Nanak believed in one formless creator, one God and also emphasized the need of a Guru for approaching God. According to him, the goal of men is union with God. He was against all rituals and idol worship. He wanted to bring the Hindus and the Muslims together. He preached the message of love, equality between men and women. He stood for the emancipation of women. He declared that women were not inferior to men but had equal responsibilities. Nanak allowed women to attend his sermons. He also started the **Langar** (common kitchen) where all could dine together. Nanak advocated a middle path in which spiritual life could be combined with the duties of a householder. His liberal approach was the bridge between the Hindus and the Muslims.

#### **D. ISLAM AND SUFISM:**

You have already learnt about Islam which were founded by Prophet Muhammad. His teachings were brought into India by the Arab traders. Later, the Turks conquered and ruled over parts of India. They also helped in the spread of Islam in India. What appealed to most of the people in India was Islam's emphasis on equality and brotherhood. According to Islam, there is only one God and that is Allah. It is against idol worship. Later, there arose two groups or sects among the Muslims - Shias and Sunnis. The Shias consider the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, Ali as the spiritual head of Islam. But, the Sunnis believed in the authority of the first three Caliphs or successors of Muhammad. The Shias are more liberal than the Sunnis in their religious views and practices.

The **Sufis** were Muslim mystics. Sufi means one who is pure. The Sufis emphasized love and devotion to God and compassion towards all fellow human beings. The Sufis rejected elaborate rituals and codes of behavior demanded by the Muslim religious scholars. They sought union with God. Like the Bhakti saint poets, the Sufis composed poems to express their feelings and thus, a rich literature developed. They also made themselves popular by chanting musical recitations called Sama. The Sufi saints regarded service to humanity as the main part of their thought.

The Sufis were organized into 12 Silsilahs, each led by a prominent mystic. The link between the master ( Pir ) and disciples( Murids) was a vital part of the Sufi system. Some of the prominent Sufi saints in India were Khwaja Muin-ud-Din Chisti of Ajmer, Baba Farid of Punjab, Nizam-ud- Din Auliya of Delhi, Bandanawaj Gisudaraj of Gulbarga.

**Khwaja Muin-ud-Din Chisti:** It was around 1192 that Khwaja Muin-ud-Din Chisti came to India. He settled at Ajmer, Rajasthan. His belief that devotion to God consist of service to humanity also made him very popular. He encouraged devotional music and Qawalis, which are still popular. He died in 1236 and was buried at Ajmer. Still today, many people - Muslims, Hindus or Sikhs visit his **Dargah**, offer a chadar and seek his blessings every year.

**Baba Farid:** Baba Farid was a disciple of Muin-ud-Din Chisti. He confined his activities to Hausi(Haryana) and Ajodan(Punjab). He preached true love for



God and composed beautiful verses. Both Hindus and Muslims recite the verses composed by him.

**Nizam-ud-Din Auliya:** Nizam-ud-Din Auliya was a disciple of Baba Farid and the greatest Sufi saint. He lived in Delhi during Ala-ud-Din Khalji's time. This Sufi saint was greatly loved and respected by the common people. Like Baba Farid, Nizam-ud-Din also preached love for God. In his view, love for God implied love for humanity. He was buried in Delhi and his dargah attracts a lot of visitors still today.

#### **E. HINDUISM IN MANIPUR:**

When did Hinduism come to Manipur? It is very difficult to say. However, it is generally agreed that the reign of King **Kyamba** (1467-1508) is a milestone in the history of Hinduism in Manipur. It is said that King Kyamba received a tiny image of Vishnu as a present from the king of Pong, Choupha Khet Khomba. One Hindu Brahman was requisitioned for the worship of the Vishnu. In this way, regular worship of Vishnu began in Manipur. However, the worship of Vishnu was confined to the royal family only. No Manipuri king was formally initiated into Vaishnavism until the time of Charairongba (1697-1709). **Charairongba** was formally initiated into Vaishnavism in April, 1704 by a Brahmana named Krishnacharya from Puri, Orissa. The king however, continued to patronize the traditional religion as well.

Vaisnavism in Manipur reached further height in the time of King **Garibniwaj** (1709-1748). Garibniwaj continued to follow the faith of his father, Charairongba but later, changed his belief and embraced another form of Vaishnavism called **Gaudiya Vaishnavism**. Later, he again changed to another form, Ramanandi Vaisnavism. The new faith became the official religion of the land.

The rise of Vaisnavism reached greater height during the reign of **Bhagyachandra** (1763-1798). He followed **Gaudiya Vaisnavism**. He had the image of Sri Govindajee carved out of a jackfruit tree from the Kaina hill and was installed in the Langthabal palace in 1779. Vaisnavism became very popular and people began to adopt this religion. King Bhagyachandra composed the famous dance drama, **Rasa Leela**.



**Fig.15.5 : Govindajee Temple**

In this way, Hinduism came to Manipur and people began to adopt it. However, there were three distinct sects of Vaishnavism in Manipur– Nimandi, Ramanandi and Gaudiya.

**Sects of Vaishnava faith:**

- Nimandi - Founded by one Nimbarka, those who followed Nimandi sect exalted Krishna and his consort, Radha as the only deities to be worshipped. It was Nimandi sect into which Charairongba was initiated.
- Ramanandi - Founded by Ramanandi, the followers of this sect worshipped Ram and Sita as the deities . Garibniwaj followed this sect.
- Gaudiya - founded by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu of Bengal, the followers regarded Krishna as the God-Head. They worshipped god by performing Kirtanas. This sect became dominant during the rule of Bhagyachandra.

**F. ISLAM IN MANIPUR :**

Islam is said to have come to Manipur when Muslims settled down in Manipur during the reign of King **Khagemba** . They were among those who had been taken as prisoners by Khagemba when he defeated a joint force of Kacharis

and Muslims in 1606. They were settled in Manipur as a separate community in Manipur. Their number increased as many more Muslims came at different times from Sylhet and Assam. They took Manipuri women as their wives. They adopted Manipuri as their mother tongue. Today, they are known as **Meitei Pangan**.

A new royal department known as the **Pangan Shanglen** was established to look after the Muslims. Since the time of Khagemba, the office of the Qazi was instituted. The Qazi was to look after the affairs of the Muslims including the Islamic laws. The Qazis contributed significantly to the promotion of social and religious harmony of the kingdom. The Muslims in Manipur followed their religion faithfully. In dress and customs, they maintained strictly the Islamic standards.

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) How, according to the Buddhists can the cycle of rebirth and social difference be removed ?
  - b) Who are the Sufis ?
  - c) What according to the Saiva Nayanars was the means of attaining salvation?
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) What are the major teachings of Guru Nanak ?
  - b) Distinguish between the Shias and the Sunnis.
  - c) State the difference between the Alvars and the Nayanars.
  - d) What did Guru Nanak believe in ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

(i) Which of the Bhakti saints went above sectarian difference and blended the elements of Islam?

- A. Kabir
- B. Mirabai
- C. Chaitanya
- D. Tukaram

(ii) The Muslims came to Manipur during the reign of

- A. Khagemba
- B. Charairongba
- C. Garibiniwaj
- D. Bhagyachandra

**4. Match the following:**

Alvars	Krishna
Muslims	Guru Nanak
Ramandi	Vishnu
Gaudiya	Allah
Sikhism	Siva
Nayanars	Rama

**ACTIVITY**

- Collect and paste pictures of some places of worship in your locality. Look out for the differences and write them down.

## CHAPTER -16

# GROWTH OF REGIONAL CULTURE

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India has been called a land of different cultures. What does this mean ? Perhaps, this means that in India, there are many people of different background, each region having their own distinctive traits.

(Culture: The Oxford Dictionary gives the meaning of ‘Culture’ as the customs, civilisation and achievements of a particular time or people )

Did you know that the identity of a group of people of a particular time has always been defined by the region they live, the language they speak, their distinctive food habits, poetry, music, dance, etc. Many a time we think that these identities have always been there. However, the identity of peoples have been evolved over time and still changing. Since the ancient times, regional cultures have always been strong in India and the same trend continued in the medieval times.

In this unit, we will have an overview of how regional languages, literatures, music and paintings prevailed and developed in India during the medieval period.

### I) GROWTH OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE:

#### a. Sanskrit :

In the early medieval period, Sanskrit continued to be the language of literature in northern India. This is the period of the works of two writers in Kashmir- **Somadeva** and **Kalhana**. Somadev wrote the *Katha-sarit-sagar* and Kalhana wrote the *Rajatarangini*, a history of Kashmir which is the first proper historical work in India. Another famous work of this period is the *Geetgovinda* by **Jayadeva**. *Geetgovinda* is one of the finest poems in Sanskrit literature. One of the earliest works in an early form of Hindi was *Prithviraj Raso* by **Chandbardai**. This work deals with the heroic deeds of Prithviraj Chauhan.

In southern India, this period saw the flourishing of Sanskrit literature also. One of the most important work is the philosophical commentaries of **Shankara**. Another important Sanskrit work of this period is Bihana's Vikramankadeva-Charita, a biography of the Chalukya King, Vikramaditya VI. Under the Vijayangara Kingdom, Sanskrit literature continued to grow.

#### **b. Persian:**

Persian was the court language of the Sultanate. Because of its literature, many Persian words became part of the vocabulary of Indian languages.

A very notable contribution of the Turks was in the field of historical literature in Persian. In ancient India, there was no tradition of historical writing. The Turks introduced the Arab and Persian traditions of historical writing in India and with them, we get a fairly systematic account of Indian history, beginning with the Sultanate of Delhi. There were many historical works in this period. The Tarikh-i-Firozshahi of Ziauddin **Barani** gives a detailed account of the reigns of the Khaljis and the Tughlaqs. Barani also wrote a work on political theory called the Fatwa-i-Jahandari. Perhaps the most outstanding literary figure of this period was **Amir Khusrau**. He was a poet, historian, mystic and composer of music. He was also a disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya. He wrote the Ashiqa, the Nuh Sipahr, the Qiranal Sadayan, the Khazain-ul-Futuh and several works of poetry. He considered Hindawi, the Hindi spoken around the region of Delhi, his mother tongue and composed many verses in it. He composed a number of bilingual quatrains and verses in Hindi and Persian. The healthy tradition started by him continued for centuries after him.

There were also many other notable writings in the Persian language. **Abul Fazl** wrote the Ain-i-Akbari and the Akbar Nama. Ain-i-Akbari gives detail of Indian customs and manners, religions and philosophy, economic conditions and almost every other aspect of life. **Faiz**, Abul Fazl's brother was another great poet of Persian and was responsible for the translation of many Sanskrit works into Persian.

As in art and architecture the Mughal period also saw great developments in literature. **Babur**, the Mughal ruler, was one of the pioneers of Turkish poetry and also the author of a very valuable autobiography in Turkish, Babur Nama which

was later translated into Persian. Gulbandan Begum, sister of Humayun, wrote the Humayun Nama. **Jahangir** wrote his autobiography, the Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri. Hindi literature made significant progress during Akbar's reign. Tulsidas, who has already been mentioned, and Keshavdas, a great poet, wrote on themes of love.

### **c. Dravidian languages :**

The medieval period saw the growth of literature in the Dravidian languages also. Nripatunga wrote a great work of poetry in **Kannada** called the Kavirajamarga. For a few centuries, the Kannada literature was deeply influenced by Jainism. Pampa wrote the Adipurana and the Vikramarjuna-Vijaya, the former dealing with the life of the first Jain Trithankara and the latter based on the Mahabharata. Ponna wrote the Shantipurana a legendary history of the sixteenth Trithankara. Another great Kannada writer was Ranna, a contemporary of Pampa. Pampa, Ponna and Ranna are known as the Three Gems of the early Kannada literature.

In **Tamil**, Kambar wrote the Ramayanam. This was the period of the composition of the great hymns of the Alvars and the Nayanars. The hymns of the Alvars are collected into the Nalayira-Divya Prabandham. Two great Nayanar works are the Thiruvasagam and the Thiruttondattogai.

**Telugu** also produced great religious and secular literature in this period. This included translations of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, work of grammar, science and other secular literature. Krishnadeva Raya, the greatest of Vijayanagara rulers, was also a Telugu and Sanskrit writer. He wrote the Vishnuchittiya.

Literature in **Malayalam** also started growing. Bhasa Kautilyam of the twelfth century is regarded as the first important Malayalam literature.

### **d. Regional languages :**

The regional kingdoms provided a great stimulus to regional languages and literature. The Sultans of Bengal, Gujarat and other states patronized local languages and literature. Bhakti saints preached in the language of the people. Many of them like Kabir were great poets. There were two main forms of Hindi in this period, **Bhojpuri** and **Awadhi**. Kabir wrote his dohas in Bhojpuri. The famous Ramacharitam by Tulsidas was written in Awadhi in this period.



Literature in other languages also developed in this period. In **Bengali**, the Ramayana by Krittivasa and the hundreds of lyrics by the famous poet Chandidas were written under the patronage of the rulers. With Chaitanya, the tradition of writing devotional songs began. Anand Mangal of Bharat Chandra is one of the best literary piece of Bengali literature of the medieval period. Narasi Mehta wrote devotional songs in **Gujarati**. Heroic literature was written in Gujarati. The famous ballads, Alha Udal and the Vishaldeo Raso belong to this period. Commentaries on ancient scriptures, however, continued to be written in Sanskrit. Namdev and Eknath wrote in **Marathi**. Mukundaraja of the twelfth century is regarded as the first poet of Marathi literature. But Jnaneswar is regarded as the father of Marathi literature. In his work, Jnaneswari, he dealt with the philosophy of the Bhagawad gita. In **Asamia** literature, Prahalad Charita and Varuna Vahna of Hem Jaraswati and Harihara Vipra respectively of the thirteenth century were the earliest literary pieces. Sant Bhattadeva (1558-1638 AD) is regarded as the father of Asamia literature.

Although history of **Manipuri** literature can be traced back thousands of years, a momentous change was witnessed during the reign of **Meidingu Charairongba (Pamheiba)** and his successors. The period from the embracing of Vaishnavism by the Meetei king upto the advent of the British is regarded as mediaval period of Manipuri literature. Some of the renowned poets and writers in the court of Meidingu Pamheiba are Angom Gopi, Laishram Aroi, Yumnam Atibar and Nungambam Gobindram. Angom Gopi translated Krittivasa's Ramayana and Gangadas's Mahabharat into Meeteilon. Yumnam Atibar wrote the Shamshok Ngamba, a **historical** account. Wahengbam Madhabram was a renowned scholar during the reign of **Meidingu Chingthangkomba** and **Labainyachandra**. His noteworthy books are Langlon, Mahabharat Birat Parva, Chingthangkomba Ganga Chatpa and Sana Manic. Nabananda Yubaraj, eldest son of Meidingu Chingthangkomba was one of the renowned writer from the royal family. He had translated Virat Parva of Ram Krishnadas into Meeteilon under the title "Virat Shathuplon". Sana Manic, written during the reign of Meidingu Chingthangkomba can be considered as one of the earliest Manipuri **novels**.

The period of the **Delhi Sultanat** saw a great advance in the growth of modern Indian languages and literature. **Braj Bhasha** and **Khari Boli**, forms of Hindi,

began to be used in literary compositions. Many devotional songs were composed in these languages. One of the most significant developments during the medieval period was the birth of the **Urdu** language. This new language soon developed one of the richest literatures as a modern Indian language. It produced great poets like Mir Dard, Mir Taqi, Mir Nasir, Akbarabadi, etc.

## II) GROWTH OF REGIONAL DANCE FORMS:

In the medieval period, Indian dance also developed a rich classical tradition. It became the medium of expression of emotions, of telling a story and of drama. The story of Indian dances can be seen in the temple architecture of the medieval times. Popular images of Shiva in the form of Nataraja symbolizes the influence of this art form on the life of the Indian people. It received the patronage of the emperors and kings and of the common people. Some styles of **classical** dances that have evolved through the centuries are **Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Bharat Natyam, Kathak and Manipuri**. All the styles have developed over a long time. Practically every region and area in the country has also developed rich tradition of folk dance. The rich variety in music and dance forms, classical and folk is a major component of India's cultural heritage.

Some dance forms which are recognized as classical dances

Bharat Natyam	(Tamil Nadu)
Kathak	(Uttar Pradesh)
Kathakali	(Kerala)
Kuchipudi	(Andhra Pradesh)
Manipuri	(Manipur)
Odissi	(Orissa)



**Fig.16.1 Rasa Leela, a Manipuri Dance**

All these dance forms, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, and Odissi use basically the same 'mudras' or signs of hand as a common language of expression and were originally performed in the temples to entertain various Gods and Goddesses. They were also effective in carrying for-

ward the various mythological stories from generation to generation while entertaining the audiences. It eventually became a part of 'Natya Shastra' (Natya Shastra - one of the fundamental treatises on Indian drama and aesthetics.)

With time, the classical dances evolved to include the expressions and themes from social life and experiences. **Bharatnatyam**, popular in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, is said to be revealed by Lord Brahma to Bharata, a famous sage who then codified this sacred dance in a Sanskrit text called the Natya Shastra. **Kathak** is the art to tell a story and is a form of North Indian classical dance, very popular in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Kathak is said to be derived from the word katha, meaning "the art of storytelling." Later, Kathak became courtly entertainment. **Kathakali** from Kerala makes use of colorful masks and costumes and belongs to Kerala. In fact, the colorful and fascinating costumes of Kathakali have become the most recognized icon of Kerala.



**Fig.16.2: Kathak dance**

**Kuchipudi** is the dance drama of Andhra Pradesh that combines Natya, Nritya and Nritta. Kuchipudi exhibits scenes from the Hindu Epics, legends and mythological tales through a combination of music, dance and acting. It is the use of speech that distinguishes Kuchipudi's presentation as dance drama. **Manipuri** dance is the indigenous dance from Manipur. This style is inextricably woven into the life pattern of Manipuri people. The most striking part of Manipuri dance is its colourful decoration, lightness of dancing foot, delicacy of abhinaya (drama), tilting music and poetic charm. **Odissi** from Orissa is a highly inspired, passionate, ecstatic and sensuous form of dance. It too had its origin in the Devadasi tradition.

### **III) GROWTH OF REGIONAL MUSIC:**

In the medieval period, the music also flourished in India. The rulers,

both in the north and the south were great patrons of music. Royal courts had their own musicians and courtesans performing regularly. The musicians were a respected section of the society. The Indian classical music – both **Carnatic** and **Hindustani** reached its zenith during this period. Besides, folk music also found a place.

Under the **Delhi Sultanate**, the Hindustani music was greatly influenced by the Persian and Arabic forms of music. Persian qawali became very popular. New musical instruments like sitar, sarangi, tabla found place in the history of instrumental music.



**Fig.16.3 Sitar**

**( Make a list of musical instruments used in the medieval period and at the present time.)**

Under the **Mughals**, music was a passion for all the Mughal emperors, except perhaps, Aurangzeb. They were great lovers of music. Tansen was a great musician in the court of Akbar. Under the Mughals, Hindustani and Persian music blended together for the first time. Thumri, khayal and ghazal came to be developed. Kabir's dohas and Bhakti songs came to be appreciated by all.

#### **IV) GROWTH OF PAINTINGS:**

In the 14th century, the Islamic influence on the traditional Hindi style could clearly be seen. The traditional style of painting remained only in the western India. Mewar, Ahamedabad and Jaunpur were important centres of art and painting.

The paintings under the Delhi Sultanate show the fusion of the new Persian and the Indian traditional style. Out of these emerged three major styles of art - Mughal, Rajasthani and Deccan schools of painting.

Although the Persian style of painting was seen under Babur and Humayun, Akbar introduced a new style—the **Mughal style**. The Mughal School of Art was essentially a court art, amazingly Indian in character and dynamic in expression and patronized by the Mughal rulers. Its downfall came with Aurangzeb due to his apathy to art. The rapid disintegration of the empire sealed the fate of these arts. The artists began moving to various provincial centres.



**Fig.16.4 : Rajasthani painting**

**Rajasthani paintings** found expression in the centres of Mewar, Amber, Bundi, Jodhpur, Malwa and Gujarat. Its origin dates back to the Sultanate period in early 16th century. The Rajasthani paintings were decorative in composition and colour scheme. Nature in its various aspects has been mostly depicted. Earliest painters of this school are Nithar-Din and Sahib-Din. Raja Jagat Singh I of Mewar was a great patron of art.

The **Deccan style** derived its forms of painting from the Vijayanagar school. Bijapur, Ahamedabad and Golconda were important centres of art. The Bijapur court paintings rose new heights under its king, Ibrahim Adil Shah.

Another tradition worth mentioning are the **miniature paintings**, popularly known as the miniatures. Earliest miniatures were on palm leaves or wood and used to illustrate Jain texts. Great Mughal emperors like Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan patron-



**Fig.16.5: Miniature painting**



ized highly skilled painters. These painters primarily illustrated manuscripts containing historical accounts and poetry in brilliant colours. The illustrations were mainly court scenes, scenes of battles or hunting and other aspects of social life.

However, with the decline of the Mughal empire, many painters moved out of the Mughal courts and moved to different regional states taking with them the Mughal artistic traits. But at the same time, they retained and developed their own distinctive characteristics. They painted the portraits of the rulers and court scenes. Themes from mythology and poems were also portrayed.

Another region which attracted the miniature paintings was **Himachal Pradesh**. Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 and conquest of Delhi resulted in the migration of the Mughal artists to the Himalayan hills. Here, they were given patronage by the rulers leading to the founding of the **Kangra School of Painting**. Inspired by the Vaishnavite traditions, the Kangra painters could infuse a new spirit into the miniatures. Soft colours and a lyrical treatment of the themes were the distinctive characteristics of the Kangra paintings.



**Fig.16.6 : Kangra painting**

#### **V) BENGAL-A case study:**

It was during the rule of the **Palas** that a rich cultural tradition emerged in Bengal. For about four centuries, the Palas ruled in Bengal and during their reign, much cultural activities took place. There were much significant developments in literature, music, dance, etc.

##### **i) Language and Literature:**

Under the Palas, **Bengali, Oriya and Assamese** language developed to a great extent. A specimen of the old Bengali language can be seen in Charyapada songs. These songs preach the practices of Mahayana sect of Buddhism. Upto about 1830, the **Charyapada** are the only evidence of Bengali literature. Before 1300, Bengal used not only Sanskrit but also western Aprabhramsa in its literature.

The **Prakrita Paingala** written in 1400 AD is a fine example of Bengali literature. In 1418, Ramayana was translated into Bengali by Kritivas Ojha Mukhati. **Chandidas** wrote more than 1000 poems based on the devotional love between Krishna and Radha. Sri Chaitanya who led the Bhakti movement in Bengal contributed greatly to Sanskrit and Bengali literature. Various biographies of Chaitanya were written both in Sanskrit and Bengali of which mention can be made of Chaitanya Bhagavat by Brindavan Das, Chaitanya Charitamrita by Krishnadas Kaviraj and Chaitanya Mangal by Jayananda. Many lyrical poets also composed songs based on the Vaishnava tenets and the love of Radha and Krishna.

## ii) **Paintings:**

The earliest evidence of Bengal art goes back to the time of the Palas, Varnas and the Chandras. About two dozen palm-leaf manuscripts have been found and manuscripts like Prajna-Paramita, Sadhana-Mala and Pancharksha contain miniature paintings of Buddhist deities, stupas, places of pilgrimages etc.

Bengal painting reach great heights under two Pala kings- Dharmapala and Devpala. However under the reign of the Delhi Sultanate in Bengal, this art declined. On the other hand, Bengal art prospered under the Mughals. The Mughal Governors residing in Bengal patronized Bengal art.

## iii) **Music:**

The first glimpse of Bengali music-the **Charya** songs is found in a noted Bengali treatise - Sangeetaratnakara written by Sharangadev. Sharangadev, lived in the 13th century. In Geetgovinda, Jaidev has modeled his songs on the love of Krishna and Radha. The **Charya** and '**Geet Govinda**' provide the foundation of Bengali music. Further to this was added the Srikrishna-Kirtan, a book of songs by Boro Chandidas. With the passage of time, music and art in Bengal matured with the fusion of Vaishnava and Hindustani traditions.



## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) State the contribution of the Mughal emperors in the growth of Indian music.
  - b) What was the chief characteristic of the Rajasthani painting ?
  - c) What was the chief characteristics of Kangra paintings ?
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) Name two historical works of the Sultanate period.
  - b) Name two autobiographies written by the Mughal rulers.
  - c) Who are known as the Three Gems of early Kannada literature?
  - d) State the distinct characters of the Mughal style of painting.
3. **Choose the correct answer:**
  - (i) Which of the following is the first proper historical work in the medieval India ?
    - A. Katha-sarita-sagar
    - B. Vikramankadev Charita
    - C. Rajatarangini
    - D. Prithviraj Raso
  - (ii) Tansen was a great musician in the court of
    - A. Humayun
    - B. Akbar
    - C. Jahangir
    - D. Shahjahan

4. Match the following:

Chaitanya Bhagavat	Boro Chandidsas
Chaitanya Chatutamrita	Sharangadev
Chaitanya Mangal	Brindavan Das
Geet Govinda	Krishnadas Kaviraj
Sri Krishna Kirtan	Jayananda
Sangeetaratnakara	Jayadev

**ACTIVITY**

- Make a list of the local languages and dialects recognized by the State Government along with one literary work each.

## CHAPTER -17

# STATES AND KINGDOMS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA SINCE THE 15TH CENTURY

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In the other units, we have learnt many aspects about the people in different parts of India. Don't you want to know something about the kingdoms in the north-east of India, about the kingdom of Ahoms, the kingdom of Kacharis and the kingdom of Manipur. Each of these kingdoms had their own distinctive culture and civilization. In this unit, we will study about these kingdoms.

### A. RISE OF THE AHOMS :

Did you know that the Ahom dynasty was founded in modern day Assam by one **Sukapha** who belonged to the Tai or Shan race. Sukapha was an adventurous man with a large number of followers. After conquering a number of tribes, he established the Ahom kingdom with its capital at **Charaideo** (now in Sibsagar district in Assam ).

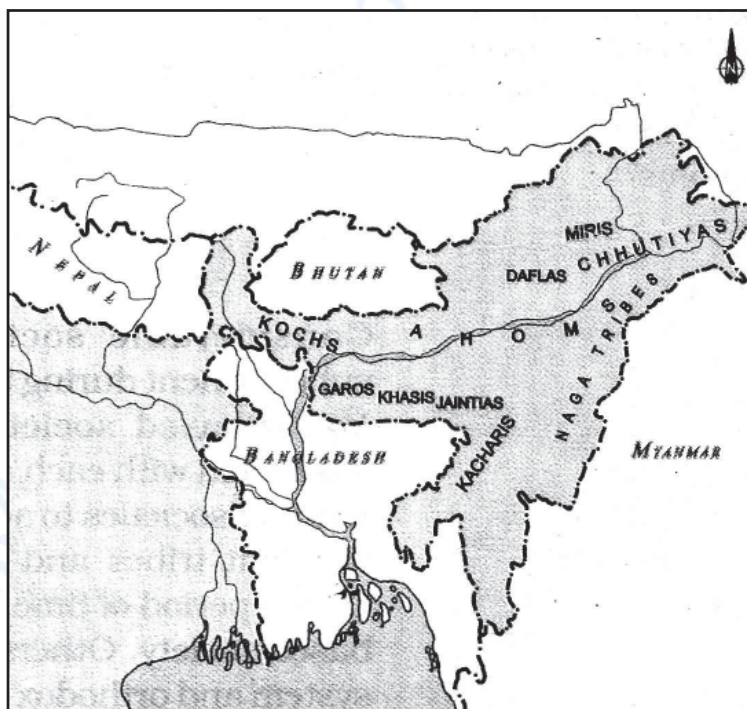


Fig. 17.1 Kingdoms in North East India

During the period between the 13th and 16th century, the Ahoms were engaged in the expansion and consolidation of the kingdom. During the period, they succeeded in subjugating different groups of people particularly the Morans, Borahis, Bodos, Chutias, Nagas, Kacharis etc. By the end of the 16th century, the Ahoms had established a powerful kingdom in the entire Brahmaputra valley.

The Ahom kingdom expanded under many powerful kings. One of the most important kings was **Suhungmung** (1497-1539). He expanded the kingdom far and wide. He was able to annex the Chutia kingdom and also fought many wars with the Kacharis. When the Mughals invaded the Ahom kingdom, he repulsed it successfully. Suhungmung established good relations with the ruler of Manipur. In 1537, he sent royal envoys to the court of Kabomba, the king of Manipur.

**Sushengpha** ( 1603-1641) was another important Ahom king. During his reign, the conflicts with the Kacharis and Mughals continued. Although the Mughals were defeated twice on two occasions, in 1527 and 1619, the conflict between the two continued till 1638.

Another noteworthy king of the Ahoms was **Rajeshwara Singh** ( 1751-1769 ). Rajeshwara had married a Manipuri princess, Kuranganayini. Kuranganayini was the niece of Raja Jai Singh. The Ahom king had extended military help to Jai Singh in driving out the Burmese from Manipur.

The Ahom kingdom began to decline with the accession of Gaurinath as the king of Ahom in 1780. The Moamaria Rebellion also created a lot of problem in the Ahom kingdom. Gaurinath could not suppress the rebellion. In 1792, the British East India Company sent Captain Welsh to assist the Ahoms. There were many factors which led to the decline of the Ahoms - defects in the administration system, weak military system, Moamaria Rebellion, Burmese invasion and the British invasion etc.

## **B. KACHARI KINGDOM**

The Kacharis were the earliest inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley. They are known by different names- Dimasa in north Cachar hills, Bodo in Brahmaputra valley. The Manipuris called them as Mayan Thongnang.

In the early medieval period, the Kacharis extended their territory along the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river and the Dhansri valley. However, the Kacharis had not been in good terms with the Ahoms and had always been in conflict with each other. They suffered defeat in the hands of the Ahoms in 1526 and 1536. The Ahoms even occupied their capital, Dimapur. Eventually, the Kacharis left Dimapur and established their capital at Maibong in north Cachar hills. In 1606, the Kachari king, **Satrudaman** was able to defeat the Ahoms. To commemorate this victory, Satrudaman took the title of Pratap Narayan and changed the name of the capital as Kirtipur. During the 17th century, the Kacharis remain free from the influence of the Ahoms

In 1813, **Govindachandra** became the king of the Kachari kingdom. He repulsed successfully the invasion of the Manipuri king, Marjit. But when Manipur was invaded by the Burmese in 1819, the Manipuri princes fled to the Kachari kingdom and ousted him. Thereupon, Govindachandra fled to Sylhet in Assam and sought the help of the British. Subsequently the Kachari kingdom came under the influence of the British.

### **C. RISE AND GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM OF MANIPUR**

In Class VI, we have learnt about the evolution of the Meitei State. Wasn't it interesting? In this unit, we will learn more about the rise and growth of the Meitei kingdom during the period from the 15th century to the 17th century AD.

During the 15th century, the most notable king of Manipur was **Kyamba** (1467 -1508). His original name was Thangwai Ningthouba. In 1470 AD, Thangwai Ningthouba and Khekkomba, the king of Pong jointly invaded the Kyang kingdom in the Kabaw valley and was victorious. After this victory, he took the new name of Kyamba, conqueror of Kyang. Kyamba and Khekkomba signed a treaty for demarcating their respective boundaries. According to the treaty, a large portion of the Kabaw valley became part of Manipur. Kyamba also repulsed the Mayangs who invaded Manipur from the west in 1504.

**Kyamba introduced the recording of important events in the Cheitharol Kumbaba and modified the Pana system by adding two more Panas- Ahallup and Naharup pana.**

Besides Kyamba, many of his successors also contributed to the growth of the Manipuri kingdom. Among them, king **Kabomba** ( 1524-1542) may be mentioned. Kabomba had defeated the Takhels and dug a canal in commemoration of the victory. But with Tekhao (upper Assam), he established good relations by entering into marriage alliances. In 1536, a road was opened from Tekhao to Manipur. King **Mungyamba** was another who greatly contributed to the growth of the kingdom. He assumed the name of Mungyamba after defeating Mungyang, a Shan principality of Burma in 1563. He also subjugated the Samsok principality in 1592. Thus, Mungyamba could extend the territorial limits of Manipur beyond the Chindwin (Ningthi) river. However, the growth of the kingdom of Manipur reached its zenith during the reign of **Khagemba**.

( **Make a list of the Kings of Manipur from Kyamba to Kabomba** )

#### **D. Meidingu Khagemba (1597-1652): A case study**

Khagemba means Khagi + Ngamba, the conqueror of Khagi (Chinese).

Khagemba was one of the greatest kings of Manipur. He was a great conqueror. He made a number of military expeditions against the Shan principality of the Chindwin basin. He conquer Kyang in 1602, captured Mawao and other Shan principalities in and around the Anggo hills of Kabaw valley and raided Samsok in 1614. The Kyang was again overpowered in 1614. When the Burmese invaded Manipur in 1651, it was successfully repulsed. Thus ,Khagemba established his political authority over many Shan principalities

Do you know that the 'Meitei Pangals'(Manipuri Muslims) are said to have come to Manipur during the reign of Khagemba. Sanongba, the youngest brother of Khagemba had revolted against the king with the help of the Kachari king, Pratap Narayan but failed. Some Muslim mercenaries were hired to invade Manipur. Once again the combined forces of the Kachari king and the muslims was defeated. The Muslim war captives were made to settle in Manipur and came to be known as **Meitei Pangals**. Khagemba even established a separate department to look after the welfare of the Muslims.

Khagemba also carried out many campaigns against the tribes in the surrounding hills and subdue them. Thus, during the reign of Khagemba, the



kingdom of Manipur extended from the Barak river in the west to the Chindwin river in the east and from the Maram hills in the north to Sugnu in the south.

### **Achievements:**

You must have noticed that Khagemba was a great conqueror. However, he was not only a great conqueror but also a nation builder and an able administrator.

Khagemba was the first Manipuri king who used the epithet of **Lainingthou** (Godly king) in 1606, claiming the divinity of kingship of Manipur. He also enhanced the status of the nobles by allowing them to ride on palanquins in state functions and other occasions.

For efficient administration of the state, Khagemba set up many Loishangs (Departments). State granaries were built at different places. He also established a number of markets at various places of his kingdom to facilitate trade and commerce. Agriculture was also encouraged. The '**Taothabi**', a variety of paddy which can be cultivated in swampy areas was introduced. For irrigation, canals were dug and river beds were cleaned for preventing floods. The newly settled Muslims also contributed in the socio-economic development of the kingdom. Apart from the Muslims, many Brahmins and Shans also migrated and settled in Manipur.

Khagemba encouraged education by bringing out many books on various subjects in archaic Manipuri script. He improved the recording in the **Cheitharol Kumbaba** by mentioning the day, date, month and year in which the event occurred.

Inside the **Kangla**, Khagemba constructed a brick wall enclosing the royal gate in 1614. In 1616, he also constructed a five storeyed palace and in 1632 rebuilt the royal gate with bricks. The Kangla (Sanathong) was beautified. In sports, a new style of Polo with modified rules called the Pana style was introduced.



Fig.17.2: The present gateway to the Kangla



Khagemba was a great patron of Sanamahi religion. He was closely associated with many philosopher-scholars of Manipur of the time- Apoimacha, Konok Thenggra, Sala Sana, Khaidem Temba, Yumnam Tomba, etc.

King Khagemba breathed his last in 1652 at the age of 55 years.

## EXERCISES

**1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**

- a) Name the Ahom king who married a Manipuri princess .
- b) By what name was the Kacharis known to the Manipuris ?
- c) Why did the Kachari king Satrudaman take the name of Pratap Narayan ?

**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**

- a) What was the factors for the decline of the Ahoms ?
- b) What was the contribution of Kyamba in the growth of the Manipuri kingdom ?
- c) How did the Manipuri Muslims become part of the Manipuri society ?
- d) How did Khagemba try to bring about an efficient administration?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) Which of the following was the founder of the Ahom kingdom ?
  - A. Suhungmung
  - B. Sukapha
  - C. Sushengpha
  - D. Rajeshwara

- (ii) Konok Thenggra was a philosopher-scholar during the reign of
- A. Kyamba
  - B. Sanongba
  - C. Kabomba
  - D. Khagemba

4. Match the following:

Ahoms	Govindrachandra
Kacharis	Khekkomba
Manipuris	Rajeshwara Singh
Pong	Khagemba

**ACTIVITY**

- Imagine yourself as a peasant in the time of Khagemba, write a few lines of the benefits you may get during his kingship.

# CHAPTER - 18 NEW POLITICAL FORMATIONS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

In the previous units, we have already learned that the rule of the Great Mughals began to decline immediately after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. Perhaps, the intolerant religious policy and the Deccan campaign of Aurangzeb was the most important reasons of the decline. It further worsened with the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739. After the death of Aurangzeb, chaos and confusion prevailed in almost all parts of the declining empire. Consequently, a number of independent states emerged in different parts of India.

## A. RISE OF INDEPENDENT KINGDOMS:

### i) SIKHS:

The Sikhs rose in Punjab under **Guru Har Govind**, the sixth Guru. Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru and the next four Gurus after him had interest only in



Fig.18.1. of Guru Govind Singh Ranjit Singh (1786-1839) who was the Misal towards the close of the eighteenth century. The Sikhs had several principalities called Misals with arms. However, the Sikhs were not united. The Sikhs had several principalities called Misals. Towards the close of the eighteenth century, Ranjit Singh (1786-1839) who was the Misal

religion. But the sixth Guru, Guru Har Govind organized the Sikhs into a militant community. This was to meet the aggressive policy of the Mughals. Guru **Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth Guru had directly confronted Aurangzeb which led to his execution. The execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur had severely hurt the feelings of the Sikhs. **Guru Govind Singh**, son and successor of Tegh Bahadur organized themselves in to the Khalsa Panth for fighting the Mughals with arms. However, the Sikhs were not united. The Sikhs had several principalities called Misals. Towards the close of the eighteenth century,

of the Sukarcharia Misl brought together all the Sikh misls west of Sutlej river under his control. The Misls, east of Sutlej, however could not be brought under his control due to opposition of the British. But Ranjit Singh occupied Kashmir, Ladakh, Multan, Peshawar etc. Thus, a big and powerful Sikh kingdom was founded under Ranjit Singh.

## ii) RAJPUTS:

Have you seen the Jantar Mantar in Delhi ? It is an observatory built by a Rajput king, Raja Jai Singh.



**Fig.18.2 : Jantar Mantar**

The Rajputs had been subdued by the Mughals and most of the Rajput rulers had accepted the overlordship of the Mughals. However, the great Rajput ruler of Mewar, **Rana Pratap Singh** did not submit to the Mughals. He stubbornly resisted the Mughals till his last breath. Another prominent Rajput ruler was **Raja Jai Singh** of Amber. He built the 'Pink City' of Jaipur. Besides, he was a great astronomer. He built astronomical observatories at Delhi, Jaipur, Varanasi, Ujjain and Mathura. The history of the Rajputs came to a close when they were subjugated by the Marathas in the end of the eighteenth century.

## iii) LATER MUGHALS:

The term 'Later Mughals' refer to those Mughal rulers ruling at Delhi after the death of Aurangzeb. They are so named because they did not have the power and prestige of the erstwhile Great Mughals (from Babur to Aurangzeb ).

In the war of succession following the death of Aurangzeb, **Bahadur Shah** was victorious and ruled at Delhi from 1707 to 1712. But after him, all the Mughal emperors were under the influence of the nobles. One common feature of the Mughal administration after Bahadur Shah was the increasing influence of the nobles. It further worsened with the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739. When Muhammad Shah became the ruler, the Mughal empire had started to decline. The successors of Muhammad Shah ruling from 1748 to 1806 were emperors in name only. In the meantime, the Marathas had emerged as the most important power in the country. The last of the Mughals, **Bahadur Shah Zafar** was executed by the British for his involvement in the Great Revolt of 1857. Thus, the Mughal dynasty which had ruled India for more than 300 years came to an end.

( **Make a chronological list of the Later Mughal rulers .** )

**iv) AWADH:**

The kingdom of Awadh was founded by **Saadat Khan**. Saadat Khan had helped the Mughals to in the overthrow of the Sayyid brothers. In 1722, he was made the governor of Awadh. He succeeded in extending Awadh's jurisdiction over Benaras, Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Chunar. He was succeeded by **Safdar Jung**. Safdar Jung later on became the Wazir of Mughal emperor, Ahmed Shah. The rulers of Awadh organized a powerful army. Their authority extend upto Rohilkhand, east of Delhi.

After Safdar Jung's death in 1754, his son **Shuja-ud-Daula** became the subahdar of Awadh under the Mughals. In 1764, he became the Wazir of Emperor Shah Alam II. Later, his alliance with Shiraj-ud-Daula of Bengal and Shah Alam II, the Mughal emperor in the fight against the British in the **Battle of Buxar**, 1764 suffered a crushing defeat. By the **Treaty of Allahabad** of 1765, Awadh became a dependency under the British.

**v) BENGAL :**

Bengal was a Mughal subah for a long time. In 1740, **Alivardi Khan**, the deputy Governor of Bihar had usurped the governorship of Bengal from Sarfaraj Khan, the governor of Bengal. The Mughal emperor was said to have been bribed to recognize Alivardi Khan as the governor of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. After about six years, Alivardi Khan declared the independence of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

vi) **HYDERABAD:**

**Hyder-ul-Mulk**, the commander of the Golconda army had conquered the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh from the Reddy kings. He founded the city of **Hyderabad** to commemorate his victory. His successor, Sultan Mohammed built the famous **Charminar** in 1591.



Fig.18.3:Charminar in Hyderabad

A powerful Hyderabad state emerged under **Chin Qulich Khan**, popularly known as the **Nijam -ul-Mulk**. In 1722, Qulich Khan became the wazir under the new Mughal emperor, Muhammad Shah. However, with the disintegration of the Mughal's gathering momentum, the Nizam took complete control of the Deccan. Practically, the Deccan became independent of the Mughals. The Mughal ruler recognized the Nizam as the viceroy of Deccan and gave the title of 'Asaf Shahi. Thus, the Hyderabad state became virtually independent.

The Nizam was defeated by the Marathas in 1728 and 1738. The Nizam had extended his authority over Arcot, Trichinopoly. He died in 1748. His dynasty came to be known as the Asaf Shahi dynasty and continued to rule until 1748. The rulers of Hyderabad came to be known as the **Nizams**.

## B. MARATHAS: A case study

### i) SHIVAJI

You must have heard about Shivaji. It was he who founded the Maratha kingdom during the reign of Aurangzeb. The Marathas lived in the hilly areas of Konkan and Poona in present day Maharashtra.

**Shivaji** was born near Poona. He was the son of a chief in the court of the Sultan of Bijapur. He was greatly influenced by his mother, Jijabai and his tutor, Dadaji Konkadeva. He had the ambition to become a king himself. So he organized and united the Marathas. He organized a band of men who were trained in guerilla warfare. With their help, he began to capture the forts of the **Sultan of Bijapur**. Because of his activities, his father was captured by the Sultan. In the negotiations that followed, Shivaji killed Afzal Khan, the Sultan's general. Then, Shivaji had to reckon with the **Mughals**. Shivaji went on to attack and plunder Surat, thereby increasing his wealth. Jai Singh was sent by Aurangzeb to subdue Shivaji. Shivaji was captured but he outwitted the Mughals and managed to escape. Finally, he captured Surat. He proclaimed himself as the emperor and adopted the title of Chhatrapati in 1674. The independent **Maratha kingdom** was thus established.



**Fig.18.4 : Shivaji**

After Shivaji, however, the Marathas were divided into two rival groups. A civil war broke out in which **Shahu**, the grandson of Shivaji was victorious. During the reign of Shahu, the power passed into the hands of the Chief Minister or Peshwa.

### ii) RISE OF THE PESHWAS:

**Balaji Viswanath**, a brahmana from Konkan greatly contributed to the success of Shahu. He rose to the position of Peshwa in 1713 and inaugurated an era of Maratha supremacy. In fact, the **Peshwa** Balaji Vishwanath became supreme while Raja Shahu was merely the figurehead.



Under the Peshwa, the Marathas developed a large army which helped in the expansion of the Maratha empire. In 1718, **Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath** entered into a pact with Sayyid Hussain Ali. Under the pact, the Peshwa secured the right to collect **Chauth** and **Sardeshmukhi** in the six Mughal subahs in the Deccan i.e. Aurangabad, Berar, Khandesh, Bidar, Golconda and Bijapur. All the territories which had formed Shivaji's kingdom was assigned to Shahu. In return, Shahu recognized the authority of the Mughals. Shahu also agreed to place a force of 15000 cavalry in the service of the Mughals. To the Maratha chieftains, Balaji gave away distinct areas for collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi. Thus, the foundation of the Maratha confederacy was laid.

**Chauth -meaning one fourth. It was an annual tax imposed by the Marathas. It was nominally levied at 25% on revenue or produce hence the name.**

**Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% levy on top of the chauth as a tribute paid to the king.**

Balaji's expansionist policy was followed by his son, **Baji Rao I** who became the Peshwa in 1720. Under Baji rao I, the Maratha expansion went beyond the Narmada. The Nizam of Hyderabad was defeated and force to recognize the right of the Marathas to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi from the six subahs in the Deccan and several forts. Malwa, southern Gujarat and Bundelkhand was conquered. The Marathas even went on to conduct raids upto the gates of Delhi.

Baji Rao's son, **Balaji Baji Rao** also continued the expansionist policy of his father. During his Peshwaship, the frontiers of the Maratha gradually extended into Rajasthan and the Punjab in the north, into Bengal and Orissa in the east, into Karnataka and Tamil and Telugu areas in the south.

Alongside the endless military expansion, the Marathas also introduced an effective administrative system in the conquered territories. Once the land was conquered, revenue demand was gradually introduced. Agriculture was encouraged and trade developed. Thus, the Maratha power was at its highest in the middle of the eighteenth century.

### C. MANIPUR UNDER GARIBNIWAZ (1709-1748):

In the last unit, we have already studied about the rise and fall of the kingdom of Manipur, specially under King Khagemba. In this unit, we will study about another great king of Manipur, Garibniwaz and his political achievements.

**Garibniwaz** was the eldest son of King **Charairongba** (1697-1709) and queen **Nungthil Chaibi**. He ascended the throne in 1709 AD. His original name was **Pamheiba**. He assumed the title of Mayamba on his accession.

Garibniwaz was the greatest king of Manipur. He was a great conqueror, administrator, a social and religious reformer and a patron of Hinduism.

Garibniwaz first established his authority over the hill villages, thereby expanding his kingdom. Then, he fought against the Burmese. The conflict with the Burmese continued for more than 30 years. One of Garibniwaz's most important war against the Burmese was in 1738. In the war, he had even occupied Sagaing. He also raided the Shan principalities in the Kabaw valley. Garibniwaz invaded Samsok many times between 1717 and 1748 as they had refused to pay tribute to Manipur. The Tripuris invaded Manipur during his reign but was defeated.

#### **Administration:**

Besides being a conqueror, Garibniwaz was also a great administrator. He adopted a sound administrative system. He allocated administrative duties and responsibilities to a number of nobles. Most of the important posts were given to the princes. Land records were properly maintained and land revenues collected effectively.

In the hill villages, the title of Ningthou ( Chief ) was changed to **Khullakpa** (administrator of the village). Some of the Khullakpas were given certain rights and privileges. Each Khullakpa was assisted by a Luplakpa. Sometimes, the Khullakpa was referred to as the **Khunbu** (owner of the Village).

The most important achievement of his reign was **judicial reform**. Previously the king used to sit in the Cheirap but in 1715, he entrusted the administration of justice to his nobles. Perhaps the king desired to free himself from the day to day judicial administration so that he could indulge in extensive military conquests. However, the king remained the highest appellate authority in all cases.

### Religious condition:

As Garibniwaz became a follower of Vaisnavism, Vaisnavism influenced his policy and actions in many ways. He himself assumed the title of **Maharaja** and also created the office of Mantri. Garibniwaz had been initiated to the religion by one Guru Gopal Das. The form he adopted was the **Chaitanya school of Vaisnavism** in which Lord Krishna was the main theme. Later on another preacher named Shanti Das following the **Ramanandi School of Vaisnavism** influenced Garibniwaz so much that Vaishnavism became the state religion of Manipur under Garibniwaz.

( Did you know that the present Ramjee Temple near Ningthem Pukhri (Garibniwaj had dug it ) in Wangkhei (Imphal East) was constructed by King Garibniwaj. Another temple was constructed at the Mongba-Hanba forest and was renamed as Mahabali. )

## EXERCISES

1. **Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**
  - a) Why did Guru Har Govind organize the Sikhs into a militant community ?
  - b) Name the Rajput ruler who built astronomical observatories in different places of India.
  - c) Why are the Later Mughals so called ?
2. **Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - a) How did Peshwa Balaji Viswanath lay the foundation of the Maratha confederacy?
  - b) How did Vaishnavism influence the policy of Garibniwaj in his rule ?
  - c) How did the Hyderabad state become independent of the Mughals ?
  - d) How did Garibniwaj organize the administration of the hills ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

(i) Who of the following founded the city of Hyderabad ?

- A. Shivaji
- B. Safdar Jung
- C. Hyder-ul-Mulk
- D. Nijam-ul-Mulk

(ii) The Jantar Mantar in Delhi was built by

- A. Bahadur Shah Zafar
- B. Raja Jai Singh
- C. Rana Pratap Singh
- D. Baji Rao I

**4. Match the following:**

Sikhs	Balaji Biswanath
Rajputs	Safdar Jung
Later Mughals	Alivardi Khan
Awadh	Rana Pratap Singh
Bengal	Nijam-ul-Mulk
Hyderabad	Guru Har Govind
Marathas	Bahadur Shah Zafar

**ACTIVITY**

- Collect and paste the pictures of the Sikh Gurus .

## **SECTION - C**

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# **DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY**

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## CHAPTER - 19

# DEMOCRACY

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Democracy can be understood both as a value and process/procedure. Liberty, equality and justice are core democratic values. These values/principles/ideals are reflected in all eligible citizens being equal before the law and having equal access to legislative process (indirectly). On the other hand, periodic elections (both direct and indirect) are process/procedure of democracy. Electoral democracy is also known as procedural democracy. In common parlance democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. In such a government power is vested in the people and hence it is governed by the people.

### **Emergence of democracy in modern societies :**

Democracy evolved in Europe with slow process. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the great revolutions of Europe contributed to the development of democracy. In this regard we can mention the Glorious Revolution in England (1688) and the French Revolution (1789). The rule of law was the source of democratic principle. According to Rule of Law, a country should be ruled by laws and not by the whims of a kings or a monarch or a military general. The Great Revolutions demanded the government that it must not violate the Bills of Rights and the Charter of Rights. The idea of accountability or responsibility of the government was established. Their demand was that government must be responsible to the people who elected the rulers. In the beginning the size of voters was very small and limited. However, it extended to the whole adult population of the people and now we have Universal Adult Franchise. That means every adult has the right to vote without any limitations.

Actually democracy has two kinds : Direct and Indirect. Direct democracy was practised in ancient Greek City states which were very small in size. In such direct democracy the whole citizens could participate directly in decision making of the government. But modern democracies cannot accomodate the whole citizens in decision making because of the vastness of the size of the territory and

largeness of population. The growth of the idea of democracy has three phases (a) the idea of responsibility and accountability (b) the idea of universal adult franchise and (c) political equality involving social and economic equality. The whole sections of people joined the struggle for freedom in India. After independence, therefore, India adopted a democratic constitution ensuring liberty and equality to the whole citizens of India.

### **Non-democratic governments :**

When the power to govern is concentrated in a single ruler or a party it is called non-democratic government. In such a government the authority cannot be controlled by customary laws or formal constitutional limitations. The form of government may be either monarchy or dictatorship. It may be absolute or despotic monarchy or limited/constitutional monarchy. Before the revolution of 1789, France had an absolute monarchy. Louis XIV, the French monarch declared, "I am the state". Britain and Japan have limited monarchy. Non-democratic rulers are known as dictatorship or totalitarian states. Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Saddam Hussain of Iraq, Suharto of Indonesia etc. may be called modern dictators. In such governments there is no freedom of speech and expression. The people have no right to criticise the government. Media is kept under the control of the dictators.

### **Evolution of Democratic institutions in Manipur:**

In reality, it is not easy to trace the evolution of democratic institutions in Manipur. The Indians conceived the ideas of liberty and equality - the two ideals of democracy from the western education. Likewise in Manipur also western education influenced the educated youths in the same way. These educated youths were strongly against the feudal system and autocratic rule during the 1930s. There was one political organisation namely Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha (formerly Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha) for which Hijam Irabot was the president. In a session held at Chinga in December, 1938 it adopted a resolution demanding establishment of a responsible government in Manipur. It also demanded that the two separate administrative units of the hills and the plain should be amalgamated into a single unit.

However, Irabot and his associates broke away from the Mahasabha and formed another organisation called Manipur Praja Sammelan. This was because



of difference of opinion among the leaders of the Mahasabha arose over the question of lending support to the Second Nupilal. Consequently many political parties also were formed such as Manipur State Congress, Manipur Praja Mandal and Manipur Praja Sangha. All these parties demanded political reforms. An important question arose whether monarchical rule should continue or not after Manipur got independence in 1947. The political parties took the advantage and strongly pressed for the establishment of a responsible government. To appease them Maharaja Bodhachandra proposed an Elected Advisory Assembly composed of representatives of hills and the plain which was flatly rejected by the parties. They pressed for a Legislative Assembly elected by the people. Finally, the Constitution Making Committee drafted and adopted a constitution which was known as Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947. Under this act although the Maharaja was the head of the State, the executive authority was in the hands of the Council of Ministers. It provided for a Legislative Assembly. The members of the assembly were elected by the people for a term of 3 years on the basis of universal adult franchise. The Act actually did not introduce responsible government. Yet it introduced certain democratic institutions and practices such as legislative assembly and election on the basis of universal adult franchise.

### **Section 1: Why Democracy ?**

Democracy has been accepted as the most popular form of government at least during and after the 20th century. Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practise some kind of democratic politics. Democracy is better because it;

- promotes equality among citizens
- ensures freedom to all citizens
- enhances the dignity of individuals
- improves the quality of decision making
- provides a method to resolve conflicts
- allows room to correct mistakes.

All the democratic countries

(a) have formal constitutions (b) hold elections at regular intervals (c) have political parties (d) guarantee rights of citizens. Above all, democratic countries can address all socio-economic and political problems.

To understand the value of democracy clearly it is better to discuss the following aspects :

Equality is a key feature of democracy and influences all aspects of its functioning. In India all adults irrespective of religion, literacy, poverty or caste or sex are allowed to vote. This is called Universal Adult Franchise and is an essential aspect of all democracies. The idea of Universal Adult Franchise is based on equality. A poor man or a schedule tribe or a dalit is excited to vote equally like the president of India. The principle of one man, one vote is applied equally to the president and the mazdoor.

The Indian constitution recognises every person as equal. This means that every individual in the country including male and female from all castes, religions, tribes, educational and economic backgrounds are treated as equal. There are at present several laws to protect people from discrimination and ill treatment. These laws work to see that people are treated with dignity and as equals. This recognition of equality includes some of the following provisions in the Indian constitution. (a) Every person is equal before the law. (b) No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste, place of birth or sex. (c) Every person has access to all public places including ghats, hotels, cinema halls, wells, roads, schools etc. (d) Untouchability has been abolished.

But in actual practice some persons continue to treat people unequally on the basis of their caste, religion, disability, economic status and because they are women. In democracy dignity or self respect of people must be kept maintained. The mid-day meal programme taken up by the government helps reduce the hunger of poor students who often come to school and cannot concentrate in studies because their stomachs are empty. Issues of equality are central to a democracy. Many of the issues substantially affect the poor and marginalised communities. Therefore, these concern economic and social equality in the country.

### Ponder and Debate

*It is generally accepted that there is a strong relationship between social capital and success of democracy. Social capital is the network of relationships among people based on trust and reciprocity. Emergence of Meira Paibis and other people's networks in Manipur illustrate existence of rich social capital.*

*Discuss and debate why social capital could not be transformed into political capital in Manipur. Why democratic values are in want in Manipur? Ask your teacher, what political capital is.*

### Decision Making Mechanism :

Some people blame that decision making in democracy is very slow and less effective as they cannot be implemented quickly. Non democratic rulers do not care about deliberation in legislatures or worry about majorities and public opinion. Therefore, they can take quick decisions and implementation. However, the quick decision and implementation of a dictatorship may not be accepted by the people and face problems. A dictator usually takes decisions quickly without any deliberation. In democracies more time is taken to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. The result is that the decision is both more acceptable to the people and more effective. A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making by the help of the Right to Information Act.

### Accomodation of differences :

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflict among different groups. But we must evolve mechanisms to negotiate differences. Democracy is best suited to accomodate differences. In democracy differences are peacefully ne-



**Fig 19.1: Voter's in a polling Station**

gotiated on table. Non democratic regimes often give a deaf ear to internal social differences. The majority must consult and respect the views of the minority. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent in democratic government.

### **Enhancing human dignity:**

Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Every individual expects respects from fellow beings. The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Women get reserved seats at least in the Panchayati Raj after long struggles for empowerment and equal treatment. Democracy in India accomodate all social and religious differences. India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. Thus democracy enhances the dignity of human beings specially the women who were once in equally treated.

### **Section 2: Institutional Representation of Democracy**

Representaton is very important in modern democracy. If the process of representation is good, the government could satisfy the wishes of the people. If the process is not good, it cannot do so. In a representative or indirect democracy, governing is done for the people by their representatives. All citizens cannot govern because of the big size of population. Therefore elections are necessary for choosing representatives. Political parties make elections of representatives easier.

### **Universal Adult Franchise:**

The term 'franchise' or 'suffrage' mean used to the privilege of voting. In the early 19th century the right to vote was available to the rich and educated people. The poor were debarred from voting right because they did not pay taxes. Upto the beginning of the 20th century women were excluded from the suffrage. There was manhood franchise only.

As democracies expanded, restrictions upon voting right also started disappearing. Restrictions of the right to vote exclusively to males was inconsistent with democratic priniciples. Nearly everybody, above a certain specified age are qualified to vote. In India the specified age has been 18 years.

All adults above 18 years of age irrespective of religion, literacy, wealth,

caste or sex are allowed to exercise their voting right. This is called Universal Adult Franchise. The idea of Universal Adult Franchise is based on equality. The principle of one man, one vote, which is a political right, is applied equally to all citizens. However, convicted criminals are not allowed to exercise this important political right. The 61st Amendment Act (1989) to the Indian constitution lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years. The principle of adult suffrage is in harmony with the doctrine of popular sovereignty. The right to vote stimulates interest in public affairs. No doubt, voters should be intelligent enough to choose the right candidates as their representatives as MLAs or MPs.

### **Importance of Elections in a democracy :**

In democracy the rulers are elected by the people. Therefore, supreme power rests in the hands of the electorate i.e. the voters. Elections are held at regular intervals at the central level, state level and local levels.

Elections are the means by which voters choose their representatives. Parliament, state assemblies and village panchayats are constituted through elections. The party or the parties which get majority support of the people form the government.

Elections are also the means by which the people exercise control over their rulers. Representatives have to seek the mandate from their constituencies at regular intervals. They have to apprise the voters of their achievements. Those who fail to please the voters' aspirations will not be re-elected.

Elections throw up a variety of issues. The political parties will make a number of promises in their election manifestos to allure voters. Elections are primarily a means of legitimising the right of rulers to govern. Without enjoying the willing support of the masses even dictators cannot hold reins of administration.

Elections are also the means of educating the electorate. Through elections there can be communications between the government and the governed. Rulers can know the people's demands clearly at the time of elections. It is an opportunity to educate the people on important political, economic and social issues. Elections ensure participation of the people in democratic processes. In the past political participation was very low because the voters were not interested in elections. Now in Manipur voters turn out reach more than 80 per cent in the 10th

Assembly election held in January, 2012, Democracy demands from the common people rational conduct and active participation in the affairs of the state. Free and fair elections must be ensured in democracies. Election symbols of political parties are approved by the Election Commission of India.

### **Type of Elections :**

Elections have three types - General Elections, By Election and Mid term Election. The first General Elections in India was held in 1952. General Elections are supposed to be held every 5 years for Lok Sabha and all legislative assemblies simultaneously. However, some of the state assemblies could not hold along with election to the Lok Sabha.

By Election are held to choose a member of the Lok Sabha or legislative assemblies when seat vacancies are caused by resignation or sudden death of a member. Sometimes the Lok Sabha or state assembly may be dissolved before its term is over. To constitute a new house a mid-term poll is required.

To hold the elections smoothly in India there is an independent body called Election Commission of India. To ensure elections is the responsibility of the Commission.

### **Election Procedure :**

Elections are very important in democratic countries. One of the outstanding features of the constitution of India is adult suffrage. Maximum participation of voters in electoral process is to be promoted. The only ground of disqualifications are (i) non residence (ii) unsound mind (iii) criminals. and (iv) corrupt or illegal practice. The Representation of the People Act, 1950 contain the rules and regulations for elections. Elections have to follow certain important procedures.

### **Nomination :**

Election is a contest between candidates of various political parties. The Election Commission fixes and announces the dates for the various elections in our country. The Election Commission appoints election officers. Nomination papers of different candidates has a last date for submission. It will be followed by the process of Scrutiny to check whether the information contained in nomination



papers is correct. If wrong information is given the candidate may be disqualified by the Returning Officer.

Next procedure is the Election Campaign. The technique of election campaign used by the parties and the independent candidates are many. The parties issue their election manifesto which tell the voters what the party is willing to do. The other techniques are public meeting and rallies, street corner meetings, house campaign etc. Campaigning stops 48 hours before the time when polling concludes on the polling day.

After the polling has ended, the ballot boxes or the voting machines are sealed and carried under custody to the counting stations. The candidate who obtains the highest numbers of votes is declared elected.

Elections are very important in democratic form of governments. Elections are also held sometimes in non-democratic countries but they are not regular nor free and fair. Therefore, in elections voters should not be influenced by money power or muscle power. Every voter should be free to choose his or her own favourite candidate. If we want to have good government we should choose only the right candidate.

#### **Secret Voting :**

For secret voting there were secret ballots in the past where the voter had to mark his chosen candidate. Now Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) have replaced the ball of system. The voter has to use the button of the serial number of his favourite candidate secretly. Secret voting is essential for free and fair election.

Candidates may be of two kinds : Party Candidates and Independent candidates. Political parties give organised shape to democratic politics. Candidates have to organise meetings with the voters of the constituency for electioneering.

#### **Political Parties :**

It is almost impossible to run democracy without the political parties. The representative system in the modern state is closely connected with the political party. We can say that parties are essential to the functioning of a political system. Political parties are one of the most important institutions in a democracy. Unlike the past now each and every country has a political party system.



A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold powers in the government. To win power in the government is its principal aim. The members of a political party agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. Political parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than those of other. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections. A party is known by which side it stands for which policies it support and whose interests it upholds. A political party has three components - the leaders, the active members and the followers. The parties must be wedded to democratic principles. They should seek to bring about socio-economic changes through constitutional means.

### **Functions of a political party:**

Basically a political party contests elections and hold political offices. Every political party prepares its programmes and policies which is published in the election manifesto. The parties organise, educate and discipline the electorate. They mould public opinion. Parties form and run the governments. In making laws parties play decisive role. Those parties that cannot win majority in the legislature will act as Opposition. Parties provide people access to the government machinery and welfare schemes.

Party systems can be of different types. Three party systems are commonly found – the single party, bi-party and multi-party systems. In some countries like Russia and China there is only one party that is communist Party. In China other small parties may contest elections but they are under the control of communist party. Bi-party system where there are only two parties are practised in the UK and USA. The multi party system, where several parties exist, is popular in France and India. In democracy Bi-party system has certain advantages than others.

In India we find two types of political parties national parties and regional parties. If a party operates in four or more states it is called national party. Indian National Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the BJP, Nationalist Congress Party, Trinamul Congress, CPI and CPI (M) etc. are examples. There are also some political parties in India which cannot have national influence. Their influence and activities are restricted to particular states or regions. These parties are called Regional Parties. AIDMK and DMK in Tamil Nadu, Telegu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, The Shiromani Akali Dal in the Punjab, the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra,

The National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir and Asom Gana Parishad in Assam and Manipur People's Party are regional parties. Regional parties work over smaller regions. Sometimes regional parties are very powerful in their particular regions.

Those parties which cannot win majority in the legislature will act as opposition party. The disunity of the opposition has been the advantage of ruling party. In the 9th state Assembly the congress party rules in Manipur as if there was no opposition party. Opposition acts as a check on the government. Democratic system is based on check and restriction on government's power. Opposition must ensure that the government does not take authoritarian measures. They organise agitations and strike against the ruling party if required.

#### **Coalition Governments :**

The term 'coalition' is derived from the Latin word 'coalescere' which means "to come together". It means an alliance of political parties forming a government. In India the same political party ruled both at the centre and in most of the states for decades. The Union government tried to undermine the power of the states if they were ruled by a different party. The post 1967 period saw an alarming increase in the number of defections in the country. The period saw the emergence of anti-congress coalition government in several states. This was the beginning of the rise of coalition government.

Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many parties to form a government at the centre. The present United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is also a coalition government taking the help of NCP, Trinamool Congress etc. This trend of coalition government has been increased in the states also. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) which came to power in 1998 was also a coalition government at the centre. The former was led by the Indian National Congress and the latter by the BJP.

It can be said that coalition government was the result of the downfall of big National Parties like the Indian National Congress. It is also indirectly encouraged by defection of parties particularly in the states.

#### **Democracy and the Indian Constitution:**

India and the USA claim themselves to be the most democratic countries in the world. However, the nature of democracy in India is different from that of other democracies. In India many challenges vastly influence the working of the demo-

cratic institutions. Linguistic , Cultural and religious pluralism is an accepted fact. Therefore, the makers of the Indian constitution took utmost care in drafting a democratic constitution.

### **Indian constitution as a living document :**

The Soviet Constitution had four constitutions in its life of 74 years – 1918, 1924, 1934 and 1977. In 1991, the rule of the communist party of Soviet Union came to an end and soon the Soviet Federation adopted a new constitution in 1993. Similarly France also had numerous constitutions in the last two centuries. Finally, in 1958 the 5th French republic came into being with yet another constitution.

But the constitution of India was adopted on 26th November, 1949 and came into force from 26th January, 1950. More than 60 years after that the same constitution continues to function. The makers of our constitution wanted to strike a balance. The constitution must be amended if so required. But it must be protected from unnecessary and frequent changes. They wanted the constitution to be both flexible and rigid. The constitution is not unalterable. These factors made the constitution a living document.

The constitutional laws are basically superior to ordinary laws of the state. It is the source of law. The Indian constitution is the supreme law of the country. No law can be framed against the frame work of the constitution.

The Preamble clearly states the values and ideals of Indian constitution.

1. Source of the constitution – We, the people of India
2. Nature of the state – Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic.
3. Ideals of the Indian Republic :

Justice –Social, economic and political

Liberty – of thought , expression, belief, faith and worship.

Equality– of status and opportunity

Fraternity – assuring the dignity of the individual and the Unity and Integrity of the Nation.

The preamble is the soul of the Indian constitution.

## GLOSSARY

Universal adult franchise : all adult citizens have the right to vote irrespective of their social or economic back grounds

Dignity : thinking of oneself as worthy of respect

Constitution – a document containing the basic rules and regulations for people and the government in the country to follow.

Opposition : elected representatives who does not belong to the ruling party. They play the role of questioning government.

Discrimination : to treat someone differently or make a distinction

## EXERCISES

**1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**

- (a) Why is democracy called government by the people ?
- (b) What is the name of the organisation led by Hizam Irabot ?
- (c) What is an Election Manifesto ?
- (d) What is the principal objective of a political party ?

**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each :**

- (a) Why did India adopt a democratic constitution ?
- (b) State three important functions of a political party.
- (c) What is the significance of equality in democracy ?
- (d) What is a mid term election ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) Which one is not an ideal in the preamble ?  
(A) Educational justice                      (B) Social Justice  
(C) Economic Justice                      (D) Political Justice
- (ii) In which year the National Democratic Alliance Came to power ?  
(A) 1996                                      (B) 1997  
(C) 1998                                      (D) 1999
- (iii) Indian Constitution Come into force ?  
(A) 1949                                      (B) 1950  
(C) 1951                                      (D) 1952

**4. State true or false:**

- (a) Decocracy provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- (b) The Indian constitution does not recognise every person as equal.
- (c) Non democratic rulers do not care about deliberation in legislatures or worry about majorities and public opinion.
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## CHAPTER - 20

# STATE GOVERNMENT

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In India the pattern of government in the Union and in the states is the same. In the Parliamentary government of India the executive head is a nominal head. The executive head is to act on the advice of the council of ministers.

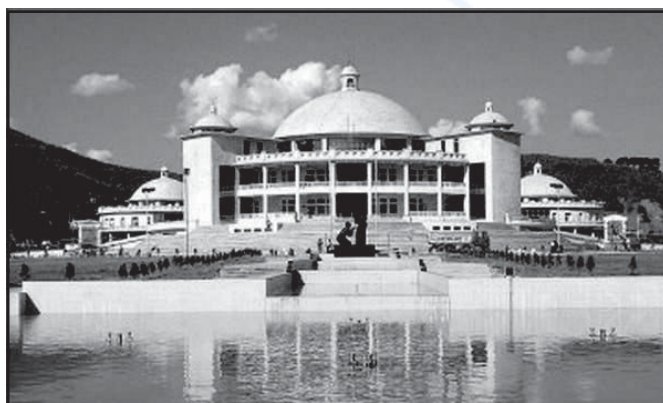
At present the Indian Union consists of 28 states and 7 Union territories. In November 2000 Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand were granted state hood.

### **State Legislature**

The Legislature of every state consists of a governor and one house or two houses of legislatures. States of Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have two houses. One is known as Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and the other as the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad). Manipur has a legislative Assembly with 60 MLAs while Uttar Pradesh has 425 MLAs as the highest while Sikkim as the lowest with 32 members. The term of the legislative assembly is 5 years and the members are elected directly by the people. The assembly can be dissolved earlier by the governor on a request of the Chief Minister. In case of a break down of the constitutional machinery, the state may be kept under President's Rule. The position of the Legislative Council is similar to that of the Rajya Sabha of the Union. Some of the Legislative council members are elected indirectly and some are nominated by the governor. To be a member of the state legislature a person must be a citizen of India and must not be less than 25 years of age in the case of state assembly and not less than 30 years in case of the legislative council. The legislative council is not subject to dissolution but one third of its member shall retire every two years.

The sessions of the legislative assembly are summoned by the Governor of the state. Six months shall not intervene between two sessions. That means there should be at least two sessions in a year. The legislative assembly chooses one of its members as the Speaker and another as Deputy Speaker. The leader of the opposition party is accorded the same status and facilities of a minister of cabinet rank. The Speaker must be impartial and independent. He regulates debates and proceedings of the house.

The legislative assembly has many powers – legislative, financial, control over the executive, election of the president and privileges of the members. In the assembly decision making is done by the majority vote of the MLAs. Its main function is making of laws in the State list and passing of annual budget of the state.



**Fig.20.1 : Manipur State Legislative Assembly**

### **Section 1: State Executive : Its working**

The State executive, like the Union executive is parliamentary. The constitutional head of the state is the governor. He is vested with executive authority. A person may be appointed by the President of India as governor for two or more states.

The state executive consists of the governor and the council of ministers with the chief minister as its head. A person may be appointed as Governor more than



once. Normally, the governor does not belong to the state to which he has been appointed. A Governor holds office for a period of five years. Since the Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President, he is responsible to the latter. The Governor may be regarded as a link between the Union and the state. He may be regarded as an agent of the centre.

The Governor possesses executive, legislative and judicial powers. He appoints the Chief Minister, and other ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. He has the power to appoint Advocate General, Chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission. He has the power to nominate one Anglo-Indian community to the assembly of the state.

The State Governor is a part of the state legislature. He summons and pro-rogues the sessions of the state legislature. On the recommendation of the Chief Minister he can dissolve the legislative assembly. He can reserve any bill passed by the state legislature for consideration of the president. The Governor may promulgate ordinances during the period when the state legislature is not in session. The Governor has the judicial power to grant pardon and reduce the sentence of any person convicted under state law. In the appointment of the Chief Minister and sending a report to the President about failure of constitutional machinery in the state the governor exercises his own judgment. Above all he must give his assent to any bill passed by the state legislative assembly.

#### **The Chief Minister and the Council of Minister :**

The Chief Minister is the head of the government of the state while the governor is the constitutional head of the state executive. The Governor is to act on the advice of the Chief Minister along with the council of ministers. The Chief Minister is the real executive head of the state.

The governor appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers are appointed by him on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Governor summons the leader of the majority party and authorises him to form the government. If no party commands a clear majority he has discretionary power in selecting the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister and the council of ministers are responsible to the state Legislative Assembly. They stay in power as long as they enjoy the confidence of the State Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister selects his ministers and distributes portfolios among them. He has the power to reshuffle the council of ministers when ever he likes. He can ask any minister to resign. If the minister refuses to resign the Chief Minister can advise the governor to dismiss such a minister.

The Chief Minister presides over the cabinet meetings. As chairman of the cabinet he controls the agenda for the meetings. He is the chief spokesman of the government. It is for the Chief Minister to accept or reject proposals for Cabinet discussion.

The agenda of the legislative assembly is determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Chief Minister. All principal announcement of policy are made by him. He can appease an angry house by promising immediate relief or concessions when needed. The position of the Chief Minister will be imposing when his party commands a clear majority in the state legislature. During the 9th assembly O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur commanded the house very effectively because congress party had absolute majority. When it is a coalition government he will be weak in discharging his duties. Again in the elections of the 10th Assembly in Manipur the congress won an overwhelming majority of 42 seats out of 60. This led to easy passing of any resolution in the assembly.

### **Council of Ministers**

While the Governor is the constitutional head of the state, the de facto executive is the council of ministers. The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the governor. The council of ministers is collectively responsible to the legislative assembly. This means the council of ministers has to resign if it is voted out by assembly on a No-Confidence motion.

### **The Council of Ministers perform various functions :**

The ministers formulates the policies of the government. The state executive i.e. the cabinet has to enforce both the state laws as well as union laws. The Governor appoints high ranking state officials on the advice of his ministers. The

government bills are introduced, explained and defended in the assembly by the ministers. The State Budget containing the estimates of income and expenditure is placed before the state legislature by the Finance Minister. A money bill can be introduced in the assembly only by a minister. From the above analysis we can come to the conclusion that the council of ministers is the de-facto executive of the state.

### **The State Judiciary : The High Court**

The High Court exists at the head of the state's judicial administration. Usually every state has a High Court. With the emergence of three new High Court for the states of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh the number of High Courts have risen to 21. Sometimes, two or more states may share a High Courts. Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya will have separate High Courts of their own very soon. With this there will be 24 High Courts. Gauhati High Court has jurisdiction over seven states of north east, namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.



**Fig.20.2: Delhi High Court**

Each High Court consists of a Chief Justice and such other judges as the president of India may, appoint from time to time. The President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state appoints the Chief Justice of a high court. The other judges of the High Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Chief Justice of the concerned state and Governor of the state.

The qualifications of Judges are as under :

- (i) One should be a citizen of India and

- (ii) One should have held a judicial office in India for at least 10 years, or
- (iii) One should have been an advocate of a High Court for at least 10 years.

The Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court hold office till the age of 62. Every High Court has the power of superintendence over all subordinate courts within the state.

### **Subordinate Court :**

The court of the District judge is the highest civil court in the district. The District Judge tries civil cases and hears appeals from lower courts. Criminal cases are tried by the Sessions Judge. The District Judge also acts as sessions judge. Besides, there are Munsif Courts, Revenue Courts, Nyaya Panchayats and Lok Adalats.

### **Section 2: Its functioning : Health care**

In a democratic government people expect the government to work for their welfare. The provision of education, health, employment, housing, electricity, development of roads etc are to be taken up by the state government. We are going to take up health as a topic related to the work of government.

#### **What is health ?**

To remain free of illness and injuries means our health. When people get clean drinking water or a pollution free environment they are likely to be healthy. People will be prone to illness if they do not eat adequate food and live in cramped conditions. It is good to be active and in good spirits. It is not healthy to be dull, inactive and anxious or scared for long. All of these various aspects constitute health care.

To avoid illness we need many facilities such as hospitals, health clinics,, diagnostic centres, laboratories for testing, ambulances, blood banks etc. These are needed by patients. Besides, we need health workers, nurses, doctors and other health professionals who can advise, diagnose and treat illness. Medicines and equipments are also necessary for treatment. Health care facilities is of two categories.

**(a) Public Health Service and (b) Private health facilities.**

In the state of Manipur we have so many civil hospitals run and managed by



**Fig.21.1: Jawaharlar Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences**

the government of Manipur. In the urban area there are two medical colleges namely, RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences ) and JNIMS (Jawaharlar Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences) with treatment facilities. Many students from outside Manipur especially from northeast states come here for medical studies. Even post graduate classes are open in RIMS. In addition to these there are many private health care centres like Shija Hospital and Research Centre, Imphal Hospital, Langol View Clinic. Christian Hospital, Raj Poly Clinic, Babina Clinic etc. in the urban areas.

Of course there are Primary Health centre and dispensaries also in Sub-Urban areas. Most of the districts of Manipur, both hills and plain have hospitals at the district head quarters. Now in Manipur there are many private institutions for giving training to nurses. Every year the state has produced hundreds of doctors and nurses or technicians who are helpful to the treatment of illness. Moreover, under the India Government scheme National Rural Health Missions have reached far flung villages of Manipur. Some thousands of ASHAS are also used for medical care facilities. There are specialists and super specialist doctors in different fields.

The public health service is a chain of health centres and hospitals run by the government. They cover both rural and urban areas and can provide treatment to all kinds of problems-from common illness to special services. At the village and district levels there are at least somebody who can supervise all the health centres.

The health service is called 'public' for fulfilling its commitment of providing

health care to all citizens. The government has established these hospitals and health centres for this purpose. The government also supply the resources needed to run these services obtaining money from the taxes paid by us. One important aspect of health care is that it means to provide quality health care services either free or at low cost. Hence, such facilities are meant for every one. The government must prevent the spread of diseases such as TB, malaria, jaundice, cholera, bird flue etc. This has to be organised by the government with peoples participation for effectiveness.

According to our constitution, it is the primary duty of the government to ensure the welfare of the people and provide health care facilities to all. The government must safeguard the right to life of everybody. Hospitals and medical staff must fulfil their duty of providing the necessary services.

There is a wide range of private health facilities in India. A large number of doctors run their own private clinics. In the rural areas, we find Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs). In Urban areas many of the doctors provide specialised services. There are many laboratories in the urban and sub-urban areas offering special facilities such as x-ray, ultrasound, MRI, CAT- scan etc. There are a number of pharmacies or shops from where we can buy medicines prescribed by doctors. Unlike the public health services, in private owned centres patients have to spend a lot of money for every service that they got.

In India we face a situation where private services are increasing. These are concentrated in urban areas. As these services are run for profit, the cost of these services is very high. Medicines are expensive. Operation fee is also rather high. Most of the people belonging to poor family cannot afford them or have to borrow money when there is an illness in the family. Cheaper methods although available are not used by these private practitioners. Unnecessarily they prescribe medicines, injections or saline bottle for profit. In fact, hardly 20 per cent of the population of the country can afford the expenses. It was reported in a study that 40 per cent of people are admitted to a hospital for some illness or injury have to borrow money or sell some of their possessions to pay for expenses.

Now the question arises whether equality of a democratic country is available in health care or not. For the poor people every illness in the family is a cause of great anxiety and distress. Illness will frequently visit these down trodden families. Basic necessities like drinking water, adequate housing, proper sanitation etc, and therefore, they are more likely to fall ill. The expenses on illness make



them ever worse. Women are not taken to a doctor in a prompt manner as if women's health concerns less important. Therefore, death rate of women at the time of delivery is high in rural and tribal areas.

Health situation of most people in our country is not satisfactory. It is the responsibility of the government to provide quality health care services to all citizens, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. Not only health, the government must take care in providing good services in education, road development, banking facilities, irrigation etc. Only then the meaning of democratic government has its value.

### **GLOSSARY**

Prorogue : bring a session to an end without dissolution

Promulgate : make public, announce officially a decree, a new law.

Ordinance : order given by authority in the absence of session

Portfolio : position and duties of a minister

Agenda : business to be discussed, list of things to be done at a meeting

Assent : official agreement to a proposal, to a bill passed by the legislature

Republic : a country whose head of state is an elected member, not hereditary

Public : an activity or service that is meant for all people in the country organised by the government

Private : an activity or service that is organised by an individual or company for their own profit

Diagnose : determine the nature of disease from observation



## EXERCISES

**1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**

- (a) Name one great revolution taken place in England.
- (b) Why is direct democracy impossible in modern states ?
- (c) Who appoints the Chief Minister of a state ?
- (d) What is health ?
- (e) Why is drinking water so important for us ?

**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**

- (a) What are the functions of the opposition party ?
- (b) State the circumstances under which a state can be brought under Presidential rules.
- (c) What are the judicial functions of the governor of a state.
- (d) What are the functions of the council of Ministers of a state ?
- (e) How does every illness in the poor family cause great anxiety and distress ?
- (f) What differences do you find between public and private health services ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) With the emergence of now three high courts for the states of Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh the number of High Courts have risen to
  - (A) 20
  - (B) 21
  - (C) 22
  - (D) 23
- (ii) The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the
  - (A) State assembly
  - (B) The governor
  - (C) The speaker
  - (D) Chief Justice of High Court

(iii) It is the responsibility of the ..... to provide quality health care services to all citizens.

- (A) NGOs (B) Parents  
(C) Private services (D) Government

**4. State true or false**

- (a) The Governor is to act on the advice of the council of ministers.  
(b) The Chief Minister presides over the proceedings of the state legislature.  
(c) The position of the Chief Minister is imposing when there is a action government

**ACTIVITY**

- With a permission attend the state legislature along with your class master and a teacher in charge and see the proceeding of it
- Pay a visit to the local Primary Health Centre and see if their services are satisfactory

## CHAPTER - 21

# UNDERSTANDING MEDIA

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Media is the plural form of the word 'medium'. It describes the various ways through which we communicate in society. Media is often used to collectively refer to the radio, T.V. newspapers, magazines, internet and several other forms of communication. Media refers to all means of communication, Everything ranging from a cell phone to the evening news on radio and TV can be called media. TV, radio and newspapers are forms of media that reach millions of people or the masses across the country and the world. Therefore, they are called mass media.

We find difficult to imagine our lives without media. In recent years cable television and internet are found in wide use. The technology that mass media uses keep changing. Broadly there are two kinds of media. Newspapers and magazines are print media while TV and radio are the electronic media.

In order to reach more people, technology or machines, and making technology more modern, we have to change them. Changing technology improves the quality of sound and the images that we see. It also changes the way in which we think about our lives. Television has enabled us to think of ourselves as members of a larger global world. Television images travel far distances through satellites and cables. This enables us to view news and entertainment channels from other parts of the world. Most of the cartoon films we see on television are from Japan and the USA. By sitting in a room we can see images of a storm in Florida of USA, earthquake in Japan, Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, a cricket match in Australia and a Football match of world soccer and what not. Television has brought the world closer to us.

### Do you know?

*Media (print) has quite a long history in Manipur. First print journal of Manipur is 'Meitei Chanu', which was edited by Hijam Irabot Singh during 1925-26.*

*Make a list of newspapers published in Manipur. Which is the most circulated newspaper? Request your teacher to take you to a local media house.*

The different technologies used in mass media is very expensive. In a TV studio in which the news reader sits, it has lights, cameras, sound recorders, transmission satellite etc. All of which cost a lot of money. We have read earlier that mass media keep changing its technologies for better results, so a lot of money is spent on getting the latest technology. For all these costs mass media needs a great deal of money. They become a part of big business houses.

Mass media is constantly thinking of ways to make money. Advertising is one way in which it can earn a lot of money. There are different kinds of advertisements for several things like cars, chocolates, washing powders, soaps, clothes, mobile phones and films in the making.

### Section 1: Media and Democracy

Media and democracy are very closely knitted together. In democracy the people have the freedom of speech and expression. Media plays important role in providing news and discussing events taking place in the country and the world. It is on the basis of these information that citizens can learn how government works. If the people wish they can take actions on the basis of these news stories. On these information gathered by them from media they can write letters to the concerned ministers, organise public protest, start signature campaign, ask the government to rethink its programme and policies.

However, it is important that the information supplied by the media must be a balanced one. One news in one newspaper may be in favour of the government policy while the other in another newspaper may go against it. For example, we read different views of newspapers publishing about the tax collection or fund raising steps taken up by the Electricity Department in Manipur State. In One

newspaper the government would be thanked for disconnection of electric lines being unauthorised or for non-payment of taxes. In others the government would be criticised for untimely raising fund without proper supply of electric power to the public.

The fact is that if you read either news paper you would only know one side of the story. Neither of the stories is a bad report. A balanced report is one that discusses all points of view of a particular story. Then it should be left to the readers to make up their mind. Writing a balanced report, however, depends on the media being independent. An independent media means that no one should control and influence its coverage of news.

In Manipur the media is always threatened either by one group of militants or another. One group will ask the media to publish a particular report while another group will ask not to publish. But an independent media is important in a democracy. We take actions as citizens on the basis of information that the media provides. So it is important that the information is reliable and not biased.

### **Media Ethics and Accountability**

However, in reality the media is far from being independent. It is always controlled by the government. In a conflict society like Manipur there is no independence of the media. The government prevents either a news item or a scene of the movie picture. This is referred to as censorship. During the emergency period of 1975 to 1977 the government of India censored the media to a great extent. Beside the government sometimes media is censored by business houses. Media's continual need for money and its links to advertising agencies is the cause. It becomes difficult for media to report against people who give them advertisements. If media want to attract public support for an issue, they often do this by focussing on one side only.

#### **Do you know?**

*To make journalist neutral and accountable in a democracy, standard minimum wages for the journalists are very important. In this context find out the recommendations given by the **Majithia Wage Board**.*

### **Ponder & Debate**

*Given the conflict situation that prevails in Manipur, do you think media is under pressure from various quarters?*

Very recently the media drew the people to alarming levels of pesticides in Coca Cola drinks. They published reports that indicated high level presence of pesticides in the drink. They did this despite the government's resistance by boldly declaring that colas were unsafe. In covering this story, the media positively helped us focus on the issue that affects our lives. We might not even have been aware of it had it not been reported by media. There are also several instances when the media fails to focus on issues that are significant in our lives. Drinking water is a major problem in our country. Every year thousands of people suffer and die because they do not get drinking water. However, this issue have not been focused by the media. In democracy the media has a very important role to play in our lives. Because it is through the media that we hear about issues related to the working of the government. The news report published in the media often may not be complete and one sided. We must analyse them carefully before actions are taken up.

Therefore, media should have ethics and must be accountable. While publishing news items it must be aware of the relationship between government and information. Their information should not be incomplete at the same time it must not go beyond limits.

### **Section 2: On Advertising**

In this modern age we are surrounded by advertisements or ads. We can see them on TV, listen to them on radio, see them on the streets and in newspapers and magazines. Even taxis and ricksaws carry advertisements. In cinema houses, before the start of the main film we see a lot of advertisements.



**Fig.22.1: Advertising a Car**

What do advertisements do ?

Advertisements draw our attention to various products and describe them positively so that we become interested in buying them. Advertising is all about building brands and brand values. At a very basic level, 'branding' means stamping a product with a particular name or sign. This is done in order to differentiate it from other products in the market.

We often see child care soaps in advertisement representing a beautiful image of a mother and a good looking child. We also see handsome film stars in a brand new car advertising for it or a mobile phone etc. All these are related to sale advertisement.

Of course, advertisement may also relate to the advertisement of good posts for the eligible persons – attracting air hostess, film stars etc. These are advertisements for employments in posts.

In this chapter we are more concerned with sales advertisements and not job advertisement.

Daals and pulses are usually sold loose in the market. We usually know daals by their different types like masoor daal, Urad daal etc. These names are not



brand names. When a company takes masoor dall and puts it into a packet, it needs to give a special name like 'Top Taste Daal'. This naming of a product is called branding. Branding is needed so that we do not confuse the daal in that particular packet with the daal sold loose in the market. Branding a name on products is a must in the technique of advertisement.

Similarly in the case of soap, there are many soaps in the market like Lux, Rexona, Dove, Liril, Pears soap etc. Given the many soaps in the market, the company will have to give the soap a different and special name. By doing this they create another brand of soap say Vivel Soap. Mere naming the product may not make us buy it. The manufacturer will try to convince us that their products are better than the others available in the market. This is where advertising comes in.

Sometimes, there are two competitive products of two companies in the same article. Both the companies will try to convince us that their own product is better. This may create confusion to the consumer. So advertisers begin claiming certain special values for their brand. These brand values are conveyed through the use of visuals and words. It gives us an overall image that appeals to us.

In the child care soap advertisement, a personal emotion is being used. As a mother, if you want to show your child you care, then you have to buy this expensive soap. The advertisement uses the mother's concern for her child. It tells the mother that her love and care is best shown through using that particular brand of soap. Because of this, mothers begin to feel that using this soap is a sign of how much they love their child. In this way the advertisement uses the love of a mother for her child to sell this expensive soap. Advertisements often target the personal emotions of consumers. Advertisements often shows us images of the lifestyle of rich people and seldom show us the reality of common lives.

Advertisements play a big role in our lives. We use to buy products based on advertisements. Certain brand products influences the ways in which we think about ourselves. It is, therefore, important to know how advertising works and understand what it does before we choose to buy the products that advertisements sell.

### **Advertising and Democracy :**

In various ways advertising links to issues of equality in a democratic society. To advertise a product is very costly. Usually crores of rupees are spent advertising a brand. Companies have to show the advertisement again and again

to have it stick in people's mind. That means small business companies will not have money to advertise their products. Advertisements make us believe that things that are packaged and have a brand name are far better than that do not come in packets. But this is a wrong idea. Qualities of both are the products same.

Advertising tends to promote a certain lack of respect for the poor who cannot buy the branded products. This is not good in democracy whose people should lead a life of dignity. As citizens of a democratic society, it is important for us to be aware of the strong influences that advertising has on our lives. The consumers are paying more when they purchase a product that has been advertised as fee.

## GLOSSARY

- Censorship : This refers to the powers that government has to disallow media from publishing or showing certain stories.
- Public protest : When a large number of people come together and openly state their opposition to some issues.
- Product : This refers to a thing or service that are to be sold in the market.
- Consumer : This refers to the person for whom the goods or products have been made and who pays money to buy and use them.
- Life style : It refers to people's lives being identified by the products they own, the clothes they wear, the food they eat and the places they live in etc.

## EXERCISES

**1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:**

- (a) By which means does media earn big money ?
- (b) Why technologies or machines should be changed in TV telecast ?
- (c) How does advertising ignore the dignity of the poor ?

**2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**

- (a) How does the media publish two different stories of the same event ?  
Why do they so ?
- (b) Show the ways in which public protest can be expressed.
- (c) Write the relationship between advertising and democracy.
- (d) In what way does advertising appeal to personal emotions ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

- (i) Which country of the following produces most cartoon films ?
  - (A) France
  - (B) Japan
  - (C) UK
  - (D) India
- (ii) It is important that the information supplied by the media must be a .....one
  - (A) false
  - (B) true
  - (C) balanced
  - (D) one sided
- (iii) What is the emergency period in India during which the government censored the media to a great extent ?
  - (A) 1975-77
  - (B) 1976-78
  - (C) 1977-78
  - (D) 1978-79

**4. State true or false:**

- (a) Mass media keep changing its machines and technologies for better results.
- (b) The consumers are paying more while purchasing advertised products as fees of advertisement.

## CHAPTER - 22

# UNDERSTANDING GENDER

### Section 1: Social aspect

The society in which we grow up teaches us what kind of behaviour is acceptable for boys and girls. It tells us what boys and girls can or cannot do. Boys and girls often grow up thinking that these things are exactly the same everywhere. Do all societies look at boys and girls in the same way ?

Definitely not, different roles assigned to boys and girls to prepare them for their future roles as men and women. We see that most societies value men and women differently. Every family prefer male child to girl child. Ours is a patriarchal society and therefore, women are subordinate to men. We learnt the history of Satidah, the forceful cremation of young and old women with the dead bodies of their husbands. In India many social reformers raised voices against this evil practice of the Hindus. Most of the time young wives did not like to burn themselves alive with the dead bodies of their husbands.

In Muslim societies we can see women are kept concealing their faces covered with a veil or burkha. In orthodox families, while they are in family also purdah system is practice. This purdah system gives them safety in one sense. The beautiful women can not show their faces openly when they go out side of the house. Manipur

#### Third Gender or Third Sex

*Third Gender or Third Sex is a concept in which individuals are categorized, either by themselves or by society as neither man nor woman. India recognises transgender as the Third Sex/Gender. We use transgender to refer to individuals who transgress the gender norms.*

*India upholds the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under the Constitution. It upholds equality and condemns discrimination stating that the protection of sexual orientation lies at the core of the fundamental rights and that the rights of the transgender including lesbian, gay and bi-sexual (LGBT) population are real and founded on constitutional doctrine. As a result, Supreme Court has decriminalised Section 377 of the Indian Constitution in July 2018.*

also has male dominated society. The Meiteis celebrate the Swasti Puja and Nahutpa or Birthday of their sons while for their daughters most of the time remain uncelebrated. This is a social injustice. There is no biological difference between men and women. Gender is created by the society not by nature. Women are viewed differently by different societies.

In a research report on Samoan, a part of a large group of small islands in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean children do not go to school. There is hardly any difference between boys and girls. They learnt many things, such as how to take care of children or do household works from older children and from adults. Fishing is a very important activity on the island. Young people learnt fishing experiences.

As soon as babies could walk, their mothers or other adults no longer look after them. Older children with ages of above 5 years take over this responsibility while their elders go to the sea for fishing. Both boys and girls look after their young siblings. But when they become of 9 years in age they join the older boys in learning outdoor jobs like fishing and planting coconuts. Girls have to continue looking after children. But once they become teenagers they have much more freedom. After the age of 14 years girls also go on fishing trips, work in the plantation, learn how to weave baskets. Cooking is generally done by the boys while girls help with the preparations. So, there was no any social difference between boys and girls.

**Do you know?**

*Manipur proudly accepts the other gender or other sex. Since ages, the society has been giving space to the third gender/sex in Shumang Lila or courtyard theatre. In this popular form of theatre, male actors take up the roles of females and vice versa.*

But this cannot be in our society. Grown up boys and girls go to schools. In some less developed villages there are separate schools for boys and girls. The girls' schools are always designed very differently from the boys schools. Girls schools are surrounded by fencing or walls and girl students are kept invisible when seen from outside. For boys playgrounds are kept open within the campus. For the girls a street is simply a way to get straight home. The girls always go in

groups as they are afraid of being teased or attacked. But the boys use the street as a place to stand around idling, to play etc.

It is a fact that societies make clear differences between boys and girls. This begins from a very young age. Boys are given by parents guns, cars etc. to play with while girls are given dolls. Toys become a way of telling children that they will have different futures when they become men and women. Girls are taught by their elders to talk softly and the way to dress themselves. Boys are taught to be tough and not to cry. All these are ways of telling children that they have specific roles to play when they grow up.

Later in life this affects the subjects they can study or the careers they can choose. In some states the seats of cinema houses are arranged separately for male and female on different sides. Similarly in buses seats are kept reserved for girls and women. Thus society is responsible in making social differences between men and women. In many parts of India parents prefer male child to girl child and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio to merely 927 per one thousand boys.

#### **Do you know?**

*Sukanya Samridhi Account (Girl Child Prosperity Account) is a Government of India backed saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.*

*This is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 January 2015 as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign (Save Girl Child, Educate a Girl Child).*

## **Section 2: Economic Aspects**

In most of the families, members think that the work done in the family are not real works. This feeling is not unique to some families only. Across the world, the main responsibility for domestic work and care giving tasks like looking after the family, especially children, the elderly and sick members lies with women. Yet the work that women do within their home is not recognised as work. It is also assumed that this is something that comes naturally to women. It is therefore, not

paid for and the society devalues domestic work. When a Manipuri mother is asked about work she is doing, the reply will be she is doing nothing. This neglects the voluminous tasks she performs in the house.

Many houses particularly in towns and cities employ domestic workers. Most domestic workers are women even though some boys and girls are used sometimes. These workers do a lot of works - sweeping and cleaning, washing clothes and dishes, cooking, looking after young children or the elderly. But wages given to them are very low as domestic work does not have much value. Despite the hard work they do, their employers do not show them much respect. Their work starts at 5 O'clock till 10/11 p.m. at night. For these time consuming and exhaustive work they are ill fed.

In fact, domestic work involves many different tasks. A number of these tasks require heavy physical work. In both rural and urban areas women and girls fetch water from village ponds or reservoirs. In rural areas they carry heavy headloads of firewood or vegetables or fruits from distant farms. Domestic work also involve bending, lifting and carrying. These works are strenuous and physically exhausted but they carry no social values and therefore no wages. They have no time for leisure.

Sometimes, domestic works like cooking and tailoring are done by men outside the house. A man earns a lot as a cook in a hotel. But he will refuse to cook for the family members without payment. Domestic work economic values when done by women in the house. It is a part of large system of inequality between men and women.

It is not that men cannot do domestic work. They simply think that it is for women to attend to these works. In urban areas, poor women work as domestic helpers in middle class houses, while middle class women in offices. In fact, the majority of women do some work in addition to domestic work but their work is not valued and does not get recognition. The equal wages Act provide that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.

There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. Urban areas have become particularly unsafe for women. They are not safe even within their own home from beating, harassment and other forms



of domestic violence. We have read in newspapers that many North East girls and women were not safe while working in companies and other business centres particularly in the night. This frightened the women workers and their income have been minimised.

Getting education was one way in which new opportunities were created for women. Generally common people see women as nurses and men as army officers. Their reason is because they feel that outside the home too women are good at only certain jobs. Many people believe that women make better nurses because they are more patient and gentle. This is linked to women's roles within the family. Similarly it is believed that science requires a technical mind and girls and women are not capable of dealing with technical things. Many people believe in the stereotypes and many girls could not become doctors and engineers.

In most families once girls finish school, they are encouraged by their families to see marriage as their main aim in life. These come in the form of demands from adults. Boys are usually pressurised to think about getting jobs that will pay a good salary.

Going to school is an extremely important part of people's life. Now there is Right to Education for the Indian children. Free and compulsory education is provided by the government of India under the scheme of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. As more and more children enter school every year, we begin to think that it is normal for all children to go to school. In the past, the skill of reading and writing was known to only a few. Most children learnt to work what their families or elders did. For girls, the situation was worse. Even in families where skills like pottery, weaving and craft were taught, the contribution of daughters and women was only seen as supportive. In the pottery trade, women collected the mud prepared the earth for the pots. But since they did not operate the wheel they were not seen as potters. In agricultural field also women are not seen as cultivators although women work more. In the 19th century, many new ideas about education emerged. Before that women could not enjoy even political rights.

Campaign to fight discrimination and violence against women is an important part of the women's movement. Some legal protection has to be given to women who face physical and mental violence. In 1997 the supreme court of India issued a guideline to protect against sexual harassment at the working place and

withing educational institutions. Now there are dowry laws to punish families who seek dowry. Public rallies and demonstrations are very powerful way of drawing attention to injustices.

On 8 March, International women's Day is celebrated by women all over to world. The social and economic status of women have been improved tremendously. Women and girls occupy high positios in the general administration and other allies services. There is no question of general or technical category of works. Now we see lady doctors, engineers, teachers, advocates, nurses, police and military officers even pilots and what not. Women education has been promoted like anything. In Manipur there has been a state commission for women to look after the wretched conditions of women. Still there are some differences in the social condition of women and men.

### **Multiple Roles of Women in Conflict Situation**

Have a discussion in the classroom based on the following excerpts. Is the phenomenon equally applicable in the hill areas of Manipur?

“The disturbing feature about women’s response to the ongoing conflict is their perpetual engagement in fighting against conflict and the multiple roles they take up. Both features affect their well-being and disturb the contours of social capital.

The emergence of the institution of *Meira Paibis* has made participation mandatory for every woman in the valley. The investment of women’s energy into economically non-productive activities, in addition to earning a livelihood, is a direct outcome of conflict. During daytime, she engages in some form of productive work. But by nighttime, she has to take up the social responsibility of keeping vigil over her *leikai* as a *Meira Paibi* for which she is not paid. In between these two sojourns, she has to perform the domestic chores. Thus, health, nutrition, rest and child-care of these women are invariably affected.”

(Excerpts from, Homen Thangjam, “Armed-Conflict and Women’s Well-Being in Manipur”, *Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 2, No.III, July–September, 2005)

## GLOSSARY

Leikai : Locality

Stereotype : When we believe that people belonging to particular groups based on religion, wealth, language are bound to have certain fixed characteristics or can only do a certain type of work, stereotype exists. Stereotypes prevent us from looking at people as unique individuals.

Discrimination : When we do not treat people equally it is discrimination. It happens when people or organisations act on their prejudices. To make a distinction is discrimination.

Sexual harassment : This refers to physical or verbal behaviour that is a sexual nature and against the wishes of a women.

Violation : Disrespect or forcefully breaking of law or rules openly

## EXERCISES

### 1 Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:

- (a) What does the Equal Wages Act Say ?
- (b) Why domestic workers are paid low ?
- (c) Where do the middle class women work ?

### 2. Answer the following questions in 30/40 words each:

- (a) How was satidah practised in the Indian Society ?
- (b) What is purdah system practised in the Muslim Society ?
- (c) Why do the society devalue domestic works ?
- (d) What are the types of work usually done by the domestic workers.

**3. Mark True or False against the following statements :**

- (a) In both rural and urban areas boys and men have to fetch water.
- (b) The works women do is strenuous and physicaly exhausted
- (c) In the pottery trade women are seen as potters.

**4. Fill in the blank by using appropriate word**

- (a) In the past, the skill of reading and writing was known to only a .....
- (b) Going to ..... is an extremely important part of people's life.
- (c) Getting an ..... is one way in which new opportunities were created for women.
- (d) Equal wages should be paid to ..... work.

## CHAPTER - 23

# MARKETS AROUND US

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There are many things you need. Some of them can be obtained in your house and some of them such as your books, notebooks, school uniform etc have to be purchased from the market. The list of the second category is increasing day by day. Today there is no one who can produce all his requirements himself. In fact a market makes us better off. The market enables us to consume through exchange much more than what we would have consumed without exchange. We can produce more than what we need and sell the surplus in the market. With the money we get we can buy other things which we cannot produce. You must have heard the tale of Robinson Crusoe who was shipwrecked on an island. He was compelled to produce everything he needed. When he had a good catch of fish he could not exchange his surplus for something he needed such as a shirt. He had to stitch a shirt himself.

**Make a list of items you need showing those that have to be purchased from the market**

On your way to school you must have passed by many shops. Each of these shops may be selling items which may be the same or different. These shops represent in the simplest form what we call a market. Buyers and sellers meet in the market. Buyers include consumers who buy goods and services and firms that buy labour, capital and raw materials which they use to produce goods and services. A book is an example of a good and teaching by your class teacher is an example of a service. When you buy an ice cream you are buying a good,. When Your parents take you to a doctor when you fall sick and your parents enrol you in a tuition centre they are buying a service. A hotelier hires cooks and waiters. It involves buying labour power. A carpenter buys an electric saw to make furniture. He is buying capital. When he buys wood to produce furniture he is buying raw materials. Sellers include firms which sell their goods and services,

workers who sell their labour services and resource owners who rent land or sell mineral resources to firms. A vegetable vendor sells vegetable. A bookstore sells books. When a law firm advises someone it is selling service. The state electricity department is a seller of electricity. The daily labourers whom you find in Khwairamband near the humped bridge, Thong Nambolbi, waiting for someone to hire them sell their labour power. A doctor sells a healing service. It is clear that no one is exclusively a buyer or a seller. Everyone buys something and sells something in the market to become better off. Buyers and sellers interact to form markets. Goods are sold and bought in a market. When you go to the market what do you do? You visit the shops, check the prices and quality; of course you have to check how much money is in your pocket.

The price of a good is determined in a market through the interaction between buyers who demand and sellers who supply. Consumers demand goods and services and firms supply what the consumer demands. The demand for a good or a service is the amount what the consumers are willing to buy at a particular price. The supply of a good is what the firm is willing to sell at a price. 'When there are many buyers of a good or a service and a few suppliers of the good or service in question, the demand exceeds supply leading to a price rise. Growing scarcity of a good is associated with rising price. When supply exceeds demand, price falls. Buyers want to maximise satisfaction that they get out of the consumption of the good and sellers generally try to maximise the profit. The interaction in the market allows both to be satisfied with the ultimate outcome. Apart from buyers and sellers, speculators constitute another category of operators in any market. Speculators buy up goods likely to be in short supply in the future and sell them at a higher price. When speculators are well organised in any market they can even cause scarcity of the good. During the days of the recent blockade of national Highway 2 formerly 39 the price of petrol rose to Rs 150 per litre, much higher than the price one pays at the petrol pump. This happened because the unscrupulous traders succeeded in cornering most of the supply despite well publicised arrival of many oil tankers through NH-150 and NH-37 formerly 53. That led to the scarcity and subsequent rise in price.

A market is an arrangement that allows buyers and sellers to exchange goods and services. Markets can arise whenever a party wants to buy something another wants to sell. A market place is a location where goods and services are exchanged. The traditional market is an area where the traders set up stalls and buyers browse the goods on sale. Ima market, Paona bazar, Thangal bazar, Paona International market, Singjamei Super market etc are some traditional market places in Imphal. The market facilitates trade. It allows any tradable item to be shown and priced. A market can be organised as an auction, as a commodity wholesale market, as a shopping mall or as a complex institution like a stock market.

When you fall sick you start thinking about the place from where you will receive medicare service. The place that comes to our mind is the lane known as RIMS road leading to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences at Lamphelpat. Medicare centres and pharmacies throng both sides of the road. This is a market for medicare services.

Most markets are regulated by laws and regulations. Sellers should issue cash memos to buyers at the time of transaction. Value added tax has to be paid by the buyer. While barter still exists in remote inaccessible areas, most markets use currency or some other form of money. In barter, goods are exchanged for goods. This used to be the characteristic of markets before the introduction of money. The introduction of money removed the difficulties associated with barter. In fact most of the markets originated in this manner. We have agricultural goods market, garments market, money markets, foreign exchange market etc. In Kolkata there is a famous market for used books in college street. Bombay Stock Exchange is a market for shares of companies. There can be black markets where a good is sold illegally. In virtual markets such as eBay buyers and sellers do not physically interact during negotiation. They interact through the internet.

Look at the convenience of a market! When you need anything you immediately have an idea where that product or service is most likely to be available. That saves your time and money in its search. When you want to buy fish, khwairamband bazaar comes to your mind if you are in the city.



Varieties are more and quality is assured . If you are not in the city, say in Moirang, then you will definitely buy fish from the Moirang market. Fish is definitely more fresh and cheaper in Moirang than in Imphal. But is it worth going to Moirang to buy fish ? The money you pay to buy a good is not the sole price . The time and money spent in its search also should be counted as part of the



**Fig. 23..1 : Fish Market**

price. Going to Moirang needs time and money. You will be back in five hours and have to pay an additional sum of Rs 100 as bus fare. You could have utilised these five hours doing something with economic value. By not doing so you have lost the opportunity for earning some more. If what you are going to pay at Imphal is less than the total cost involved in buying it at Moirang it is not worth it. However if you are going to buy a large amount of fish your savings may exceed the cost of transport and time . If you have to search from where you will buy your needs you have spend more time and probably there may not be any assurance of quality.

Since many people go to the market there is a choice of conveyance also. You may travel by any of the following modes of transport : own vehicle, autorickshaw, rickshaw, bus etc. because sellers will be there, sellers come to the market because buyers will come to the market. Both reinforce each other. Transporters sell their service. In urban areas the rickshaw pullers are gradually losing out to the motor vehicles like auto-rickshaw, and Tata Magics which are cheaper and faster. The autorickshaws parked in front of the Kangla park , the Tata Magics and vans in front of Hotel Classic compete to get as many passengers as possible. This is the market for transport service.

Imagine what could have been if there were no market. How inconvenient it would have been if you had to search for someone willing to buy what you are

selling. A market provides such a meeting place and helps in reducing the transaction cost which one has to pay in the absence of such a place. I can sell and buy what I like. You buy what you need and can afford. Of course the items should be socially acceptable. Even if you like, you cannot sell opium or heroin. You cannot buy them from a pharmacy. You may be arrested for possessing them.

The extent of a market is determined by the boundaries of the market, both geographical and in terms of range of products produced and sold within it. When we think of a market normally a geographical area comes to our mind. Paona International market is situated near the Keishampat junction in front of the Power house. Lots of foreign goods are sold in this market. Whether it is situated in rural area or urban area the basic function of a market is the same.

**Our famous Ima market is situated in the heart of the city. Vegetables, clothes, fish and grocery are sold here.**



**Fig. 23.2 : Inside new Ima market**



**Fig. 23.3 : Old Ima market**

In Thangal bazar also, in the heart of the city, goods produced by industries and construction materials are sold. Most of the products sold in this market are goods produced in factories situated outside the state. You don't go there to buy vegetables. You will probably go to the newly constructed women's market or the makeshift vegetable market at Lamphel.

There are many things you need only in small amounts however essential these may be. You may need a large amount in a year but it is economical to buy small amounts at a time. Which one will you prefer for your family-a 100gm packet

or a 1 kg packet of butter when your refrigerator does not work due to erratic power supply? How much salt do you generally buy for your family even though it is cheap and is needed throughout the year? One or two packets per month. How much potato do you generally buy for your family? A few kgs. per week. If you buy a 100 kg bag of potatoes, price per kg would be much lower than what you have to pay when you are buying two



**Fig. 23.4 : Ima market**

or three kgs. Yet we generally buy them in small amounts. We do this in the retail market. A retailer buys goods in large quantities from manufacturers either directly or through a wholesaler and then sells smaller quantities to the end-users. Most of the shops that one comes across are retail shops. Retail shops cater to the needs of numerous small buyers who are end users. We intend to use ourselves the goods we buy in the retail market. We are not going to resell the small amounts we buy in the retail market.

Wholesale market is another form of market. A wholesaler can be simply a merchant buying and selling produce, can be brokers dealing in orders rather than goods or can be commission agents. A wholesaler may perform many other functions such as storage of the goods and transporting the goods from farm to market more economically. In the retail market one can purchase even very small amount whereas in the wholesale market buying and selling occur in bulk only. You can buy a pair of shoes from retail market. From the wholesale market you buy 1000 pairs. You will find some such sellers in Alu Gali, a popular shopping lane in Khwairamband bazar.

You buy truckloads of rice in the wholesale market. Goods are cheaper in wholesale markets. The money spent in producing the goods is recovered only when these products are sold out in the market. When the money is recovered it is again re-invested in the market completing a cycle. The producer can sell at a lower price in the wholesale market because bulk selling reduces the inventory of

unsold stock . Holding such an inventory is costly because lots of money remain locked up in the unsold stock. The money spent in paying the workers, buying raw materials and machines and in paying interest on loans could have earned more in alternative uses. You can realise the money only when they are sold. Thus what you lose by selling cheap is more than compensated by the saving from bulk selling. You don't need 1000 pairs of shoes however beautiful and cheap they may be. Buying 1000 pairs of shoes does not make any sense if you are going to use them. Some pairs will go out of fashion by the time you come to use them. If you buy a truckload of rice, you need proper storage. Rice easily gets spoilt. Other examples are potato and onions. If you buy a 100 kg bag of potato some portion may be wasted due to improper storage or simple carelessness. If vegetables are not properly stored at the right time they get spoilt fast. What you gain by buying cheap in the wholesale market is lost . You can consume fresh potato by buying them in small amounts when you need them. Of course you end up paying a higher price. Wholesale buying is sensible if you are going to use them up fast or sell them in turn. That is why businessmen generally purchase in the wholesale market and consumers purchase their requirements in the retail market.

Wholesale markets may be classified into secondary and terminal wholesale markets. While the former is located in districts and procure most of its product from rural markets located in production areas , terminal wholesale markets are located in major metropolitan areas where produce is finally channelled to consumers through trade between wholesalers and retailers.

The price of a good is determined in the market by the interplay between quantity demanded by buyers and quantity supplied by sellers. You will find your mother bargaining with the seller whenever she buys anything from the vegetable market. She will offer to buy the item at a price at which the seller is not willing to sell. The exchange will not take place until both parties agree at a price which generally is an intermediate price. There is nothing wrong in this practice. Some shops will refuse to bargain. Prices are normally established by negotiation in wholesale markets but some wholesale markets use the auction system. Most of the tea produced in the tea gardens of Assam are sold through auction where prices are determined on the basis of bidding. Our forest department also



auctions the right to use certain forest areas. The wholesale price should cover the cost of production and as a rule no producer will be willing to sell at a price which is less than the cost of production. A producer has to pay the labourers. The raw materials have to be bought from the market. The suitable machines have to be bought or hired. It is also possible that the producer has borrowed the money from either a money lender or a bank. In rural areas people borrow mainly from the neighbourhood money lender. When we borrow something we have to repay the principal and also pay interest until the repayment is complete. One advantage of borrowing from a nationalised bank is the low interest rate.. Some producers may be very small operating from a small house. Some producers like the Tatas and the Birlas may be spending thousands of crores of rupees to market something. These costs of production have to be recovered. The pricing technique adopted by most retailers is cost plus pricing. A retail price is the retailer's cost plus a mark up amount. The retailer's cost is the wholesale price. Thus when wholesale prices rise, the prices in the retail market are also bound to rise. It is only a matter of time. In suggested retail pricing, retailers charge the amount suggested by manufacturers. You see on packets such prices printed as maximum retail price.

A super market is a self service store offering a wide variety of food and household items, organised into departments. You get many items under one roof. Today when an increasing number of households have working members, time becomes an important consideration in shopping. Because most of the items are available and you can pick them up as per your choice using the trolley buying from a supermarket saves lots of time. After



**Fig.23. 4 : A super market**

taking your needs off the shelves you can pay your bill at any one of the many cash counters in the shop. On the other hand to ensure that super markets provide choice to the consumers and they return regularly, the supermarket should be well stocked with the goods that the customers desire. They also offer a large number of discounts. Imphal is yet to have a super market. A shopping mall, shopping centre, shopping arcade, shopping precinct or simply mall is one or more buildings forming a complex of shop representing merchandisers mostly selling branded items, with interconnecting walkways enabling visitors to easily walk from unit to unit, along with a parking area.

You must have heard about the black market. It is the market for illegal items like heroin, small arms etc. It is thriving in Manipur. Another variant is the grey market where legal items are distributed through illegal networks. For example, the selling of petrol by vendors near petrol pumps is an example of a grey market. Petrol is not an illegal item yet it has to be distributed only through petrol service stations for the safety of the general public. Selling petrol in this manner is illegal. The picture below is a very common sight in Imphal .



**Fig.23. 5 : Grey market of petrol**

Can anyone access a market for a commodity ? In short can we buy anything ? The answer depends on many factors such as availability, convenience, credit, quality, price, income cycle etc. One can buy what is available in the market. You cannot buy Kentucky Fried Chicken in Imphal. Sometimes you cannot buy something because it is inconvenient. sometimes you cannot buy a good because it is costly and beyond your reach. Two decades back people could not afford to buy cars because price was high. Banks used to be wary about giving loans for cars. Now at higher prices we buy more cars because banks are competing to

give us loans for anything. There are loans for buying a computer, loans for buying a vehicle, loans for buying a flat, loans for children's education and so on. Many commercial vehicles bought with bank loans carry the legend 'hypothecated to XXX bank'. The increased availability of bank credit has allowed us to buy many things which normally we would have not bought. Quality also determines whether we buy or not. Most of the consumers are highly quality conscious. We will not buy an expensive imported item from Moreh because there is no guarantee about the quality. We will prefer to buy a more expensive item with an assured level of quality. When consumers are not quality conscious, price level decides whether we buy or not. Price is considered a very important factor behind the demand for a good. The items from Moreh are very popular because these are much cheaper than Indian substitutes. More discriminating consumers will buy less because of poor quality.

**Advertising is very important in markets. You must have seen the big hoardings advertising, for example, Amul butter, Aircel etc. Television programmes are interspersed with advertisements. Big companies spend crores of rupees in advertisement. Our Mary Kom endorses certain health drinks. In fact a major source of earnings of our sportspersons is the endorsement of products. Small retail shops cannot do it but they have their own channel of advertisement by word of mouth. People say that her preparations are tasty and more people come to sample the taste. If it clicks, the chain is repeated. This is how local shops specialise in certain products.**

There are daily markets and weekly markets in Manipur. The markets at Gulathol & Barbekera in Jiribam, Kalapahar, Keithelmanbi in Senapati district are weekly markets. Khwairamband, Singjamei, Kwakeithel bazaar are examples of daily markets. Most states in India regulate the wholesale market for agricultural goods by requiring that farmers sell their produce only in



**Fig. 23.6 : Aircel advertisement**



government authorised markets. Such regulations ensure uniform market prices for agricultural goods and prevent farmers from being exploited by unscrupulous wholesale agents. However Manipur is yet to enact the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act.



**Fig. 23.7 : Market place**

Marketing of agricultural products in Manipur has not been well organised. There are innumerable middlemen working between the producers and the ultimate consumers. The farmers in Manipur operate over small and scattered holdings and as such do not have large quantity of surplus agricultural produce individually. The farm produce is collected in the remote villages and brought to the central point by the women. Some times the villagers sell their produce to itinerant merchants and agents of wholesalers based in Imphal, Singjamei, Thoubal, Kakching etc. As motorable roads do not connect the production centres to the markets farmers generally face lots of difficulties in transporting them. In some remote areas of Tamenglong oranges simply rot because transporting it to the market centres is very costly. There is no cold storage. Due to lack of cold storage facility and adequate transport network, bulk of the oranges is wasted.

If you talk with your grandparents about prices of commodities in their childhood you will be surprised to know that prices were unbelievably low. Before the second world war three sangbais of rice could be had for Rs one only. During the Second World war immediately after the Japanese bombing of Imphal in 1942 the price of rice rose several fold. The purchasing power of rupee dropped from three sangbai per Rupee to 1/26 of a sangbai per rupee. It was mainly due to the disruption of the market during war. In 1961 three kg of rice were available for one rupee. Now it costs Rs 26 per kg.

The following tables show how wholesale and retail prices of some commodities have changed in Manipur over time. Population growth and higher income of the people are important factors behind this rise.

**Table 1:** Wholesale prices of some selected commodities in Manipur

item	Unit	Average price in Rs.		
		1961	2006	2007
Rice ( medium)	Quintal	37.50	1350	1350
Sugar(open market)	Quintal	121.73	2200	1813
Salt	70 kg	7.04	240	300
Mustard oil(imported)	15 kg	40.68	780	933.50
Potato(imported)	Quintal	49.47	900	1125
Onion	Quintal	60.58	850	1625
Arhar dal	Quintal	72.36	3100	3900
Firewood(splitted)	Quintal	5.33	200	200

Source : Statistical handbook of Manipur ,GOM

**Table 2:** Retail prices of some selected commodities in Manipur

item	Unit	Average price in Rs		
		1961	2006	2007
Rice ( local)	kg	0.37	15	15.25
Sugar(open market)	kg	1.27	24.94	23.83
Salt	kg	0.25	8.38	8.88
Mustard oil(imported)	kg	2.81	60.19	63.13
Milk	litre	0.58	16.38	18
Potato(imported)	kg	0.50*	12.38	12.94
Onion	kg	0.62	14.38	19.94
chillies	kg	2.75**	27.97	198.07
Arhar dal	kg	0.75	37.82	39.76
Firewood(splitted)	40 kg	5.99	60.69	75

Note : \* local \*\* dry

Today the state of affairs along the National Highways 2 and 37 has become the most important determinant of prices in Manipur. Most of our requirements are being brought from other parts of India through the National Highway 39. Prices in Manipur can rise substantially when the national highways are closed due to blockades and landslides. Besides the official taxes, businessmen have to pay additional tax to many organizations operating along the National Highways and all these payments are factored in determining the price in the market. In times of scarcity unscrupulous traders try to exploit the situation by enhancing the scarcity even more. We buy the items at high price thinking that tomorrow we may not even get it at any price. Such panic buying makes the situation worse.

### **The story of an apple:**

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. That apart, it is an interesting story how apples from Himachal Pradesh reach you. Though it is a popular fruit here, Manipur does not grow this variety of apple. Our variety, known locally as Heitup, is not as delicious as the apples from Himachal Pradesh. An apple travels a long distance before it is eaten in Manipur. It shows the operation of different segments of the market. Most of the apples we eat here come from Himachal Pradesh where the climate is very suitable for this fruit. From Himachal Pradesh to Imphal and even your locality is a long way.



**Fig.23.8 The delicious apples**

Himachal Pradesh is called the Apple state of the country. Apple is the main fruit crop of Himachal Pradesh and is grown in nine out of the twelve districts. Kinnaur and Shimla are the main apple producing districts of Himachal Pradesh. The normal production of apples ranges from 17 million to 20 million boxes in the state. Apple industry is playing a very important role in modernising the people

living in the state. Almost half the population of Himachal Pradesh is engaged in apple cultivation. It has brought a change in the life style of the people living here. People are now giving a better education to their children. Himachal Pradesh is quickly transforming itself from the most backward state to an advanced one. One remarkable thing of this development is that apples were introduced in this state only about 200 years ago. The soil of Manipur may also be waiting for some such fruits capable of changing our lifestyle.

The sight of branches of apple trees laden with apples is wonderful .



**Fig. 23.9 : Apple trees laden with fruits**

Apple orchards in Himachal Pradesh produce lots of apples and farm labourers are used to pick the fruits from the trees. The apples are packed in crates of various weights. Orchard owners always sell the apples in the wholesale market. From the wholesale markets trucks are used to transport the harvest to the railway station. From the railway stations apples are taken to different parts of the country.

Now apples from China and Australia are also sold in Himachal Pradesh



and other parts of the country. This is how a market operates. The imported apples must be taking advantage of some characteristics of Chinese apples not present in Indian apples such as longer shelf-life. In the case of Manipur the apple crates are brought to the Guwahati railway station in railway containers. From the railway



**Fig 23.10. Labourers transporting apples**

station businessmen buy the apples in smaller amounts and buses, trucks and Tata Sumos are used to transport them to the Imphal market using national highway 2. Good quality apples are sold near the Kasturi Bridge and the Chamber of Commerce hospital in Thangal bazar. Some people may buy it and sell it in your locality. Many people are involved between the phase of plucking it in an orchard in Himachal Pradesh and its actual consumption. Every person involved adds to the price of apple. That is why the price of apple at the orchard is much lower than the price in your locality. If this highway is closed apples will be costlier as it would be brought either through the much longer national highway 37 or by flight. The additional transport cost will be added to the price of apples at Imphal.

What is remarkable is the involvement of many intermediaries between the apple farmer and the consumer. Labourers are needed to pluck, transport, pack and load the apples. Motor vehicles are needed to transport the apples to far off corners of the country. At the end of the chain, apple worth Rs10 per kg in the orchard is sold at Rs 200 to the consumer. Sometimes it is even costlier. The difference does not accrue to the farmer. The high price of apples thus need not benefit the farmer due to the presence of the intermediaries. The intermediaries also cannot be done away with because it involves livelihoods of a large number of poor people who otherwise would remain unemployed.

It is very important to understand the working of the market. The movement of prices affects our standard of living. When prices rise, our standard of living is

bound to fall unless our income also increases proportionately. Sustained increase in price is known as inflation which is currently considered a major challenge of policy makers. One of the major outcomes of inflation is the fall in the purchasing power of money. In an inflationary situation the quantity of anything that can be bought by a certain sum of money keeps on declining. If businessmen correctly anticipate the price rise, they make lots of profit by selling those items which they had bought at a lower price at the new higher price. That is why some commodities disappear from the market on the eve of a price hike. The principle operating in the stock market is the same - buy when it is cheap, sell when it is costly. The government should not be a mere spectator when prices rise substantially. Some prices should be regulated.

#### **Ponder & Debate**

*Bandh and blockeds are regular features in Manipur. What are the impact of these activities on market?*

### **EXERCISES**

- 1. Answer the following questions in one sentence:**
  - (a) What is a market?
  - (b) What is wholesale price ?
  - (c) When you fall sick you visit a doctor. What do you buy from a doctor?
- 2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words each:**
  - (a) Distinguish between a wholesale market and a retail market.
  - (b) Why is advertisement necessary ?
  - (c) How does inflation affect a consumer ?
  - (d) How do prices in Manipur are affected by National Highway 39 ?

**3. Choose the correct answer:**

(i) When only prices rise our standard of living

- (A) Falls (B) Rises  
(C) Remains the same (D) Falls and then rises.

(ii) Apple orchard owners generally sell in

- (A) retail market (B) wholesale market  
(C) black market (D) grey market

(iii) No producer will be willing to sell at a price lower than the

- (A) Cost of production (B) Wholesale price  
(C) Maximum retail price (D) Retail price

**4. Match the following:**

- (a) Consumers buy in (1) The purchasing power of money  
(b) Businessmen buy in (2) The vegetable market  
(c) Inflation reduces (3) The retail market  
(d) Bargaining is a regular feature of (4) Demand and Supply  
(e) Price is determined by (5) The wholesale market

**ACTIVITY**

**Choose an important food item in your local market. Examine the stages from its production to final consumption. How does its price behave? can you explain it?**