

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Write a short note on the Cholas.

Ans. The Chola ruled in the Kaveri delta with Uraiyur as their capital and Puhar as a seaport for trade. The most powerful Chola king was Karikala. Agriculture and trade flourished under his rule.

Q.2. Who were Sungas?

Ans. In 185 BC, Pushyamitra Sunga attacked and defeated the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha and captured Magadha. He established the Sunga dynasty which ruled for over 100 years. They spread Buddhism.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How were Kushanas great rulers?

Ans. The Kushanas were nomadic tribes of North-West China or Tajikistan driven by Hunas, the tribe of China. On coming to India, they defeated the IndoGreek, Parthians and Shahas. They established a powerful kingdom in North India. They were centered around Taxila and Peshawar, though later they spread their empire to Kashmir, Punjab, U.P. and even today's Rajasthan. They adapted to Indian conditions and followed Buddhism. Their greatest ruler was Kanishka.

Q.2. How did trade flourish under the foreign invaders in India?

Ans. Trade flourished during this period. The Kushanas, the Indo-Greeks, the Parthinians and the Satavahanas issued a number of gold, silver and copper coins to promote trade. Broach, Kalyan and Sopara were the important port cities which helped in promotion of trade with other countries. Development of crafts and centres of art and learning like Taxila and Ujjayani also helped in promotion of trade.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Which religions flourished after the coming of rulers from distant lands in India?

Ans. In India, Buddhism and Hinduism were the two main religions. Buddhism was divided into two cults—Hinayana and Mahayana. Hinayana was the simpler and older form of Buddhism which worshipped Buddha as a scholar. Mahayana was a new form of Buddhism with rituals and ceremonies where Buddha was worshipped as God. Menander, the IndoGreek ruler and Kanishka, the Kushana ruler followed Buddhism and gifted land to Buddhist monks for monasteries. Hinduism was patronised by Satavahana ruler who worshipped Vishnu, Shiva and Mother Goddess. Hinduism, by this period, witnessed a seesaw change. Emphasis was now placed on loving devotion to God called Bhakti.

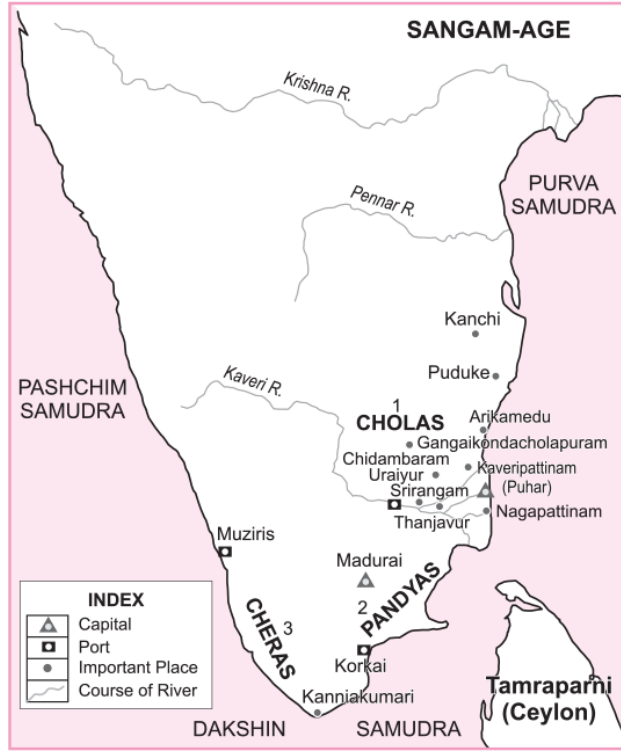
Q.2. How did Bhakti gain popularity in India during this period?

Ans.

- i. During this period, worship of certain deities became a key feature of Hinduism.
- ii. These deities were Shiva, Vishnu and goddesses like Durga.
- iii. These deities were worshipped through Bhakti, an idea which became quite popular at that time.
- iv. Bhakti is normally understood as a person's devotion to his or her chosen deity.
- v. Anyone whether rich or poor, belonging to the so-called 'high' or 'low' castes, man or woman, could follow the path of Bhakti.

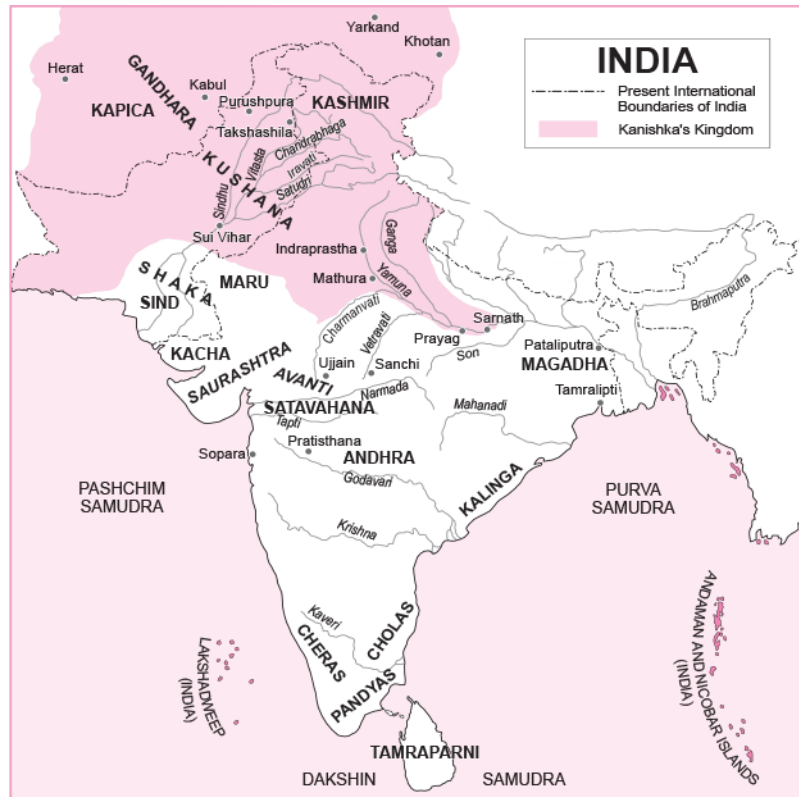
Q.3. On an outline map of India, show 'Southern kingdoms'.

Ans.



Q.4. On an outline map of India, mark Kanishka empire.

Ans.



Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Write a note on Indo-Greeks.

Ans. The Indo-Greeks or Bactrians were from Northern Afghanistan. Their King Demetrius II captured Punjab. The Indo-Greek introduced coins with images of rulers for the first time. Later Menander became the king and made Sakala his capital.

Q.2. Write a note on Parthians.

Ans. The Parthians came from Central Asia and ruled over North-west India with Gandhara as their capital. Gondopherenes was their most important ruler. They were defeated by Kushanas.

Q.3. Write a note on 'significance of Silk Route' with the help of a map.

Ans. The most important reason for development and prosperity during this age was the Silk Route. Since silk was the main item of this route, it was called Silk Route. The Chinese were the first carriers of silk to other parts of the world. The main branch started from China, ran across Central Asia and ended on the West Asian provinces of the Roman Empire. It was through this route that India exported peach, ivory, textile and precious stones to other countries. It even imported gold, glass, tin and copper through this route. Many Indian rulers tried to control the Silk Route. They gave protection to merchants on this route. In return, merchants gave them a share in profit. It was a profitable route leading to prosperity of India.

