



## CLASS – VII

### HISTORY CH- 6 TOWNS, TRADERS AND CRAFTSPERSON

#### STUDY MATERIAL

One of the most interesting aspects of the medieval period in the seventeenth century was the growth of urbanisation.

Many medieval towns combined several functions – they were administrative centres, temple towns, as well as centres of commercial activities and craft production.

#### **Administrative Centres:**

(i) In Thanjavur, the perennial river Kaveri flows near this beautiful town. The Rajarajeshvara temple built by King Rajaraja Chola is very famous. The townspeople all praise its architect Kunjaramallan Rajaraja Perunthachchan who has proudly carved his name on the temple wall. Inside is a massive Shiva linga.

(ii) Besides the temple, there are palaces with mandapas or pavilions. Kings hold court in these mandapas, issuing orders to their subordinates. There are also barracks for the army.

(iii) The town bustled with markets selling grain, spices, cloth and jewellery.

- Water supply for the town came from wells and tanks.
- The Saliya weavers of Thanjavur and the nearby town of Uraiyur were busy producing cloth for flags to be used in the temple festival, fine cottons for the king and nobility and coarse cotton for the masses.
- Some distance away at Svamimalai, the sthapatis or sculptors made exquisite bronze idols and tall, ornamental bell metal lamps.

(iv) Usually a samanta or, in later times, a zamindar built a fortified palace in or near these towns. They levied taxes on traders, artisans and articles of trade and sometimes “donated” the “right” to collect these taxes to local temples, which had been built by themselves or by rich merchants. These “rights” were recorded in inscriptions that have survived to this day.

#### **Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centres:**

(i) Thanjavur is an example of a temple town.

(ii) Temple towns represent a very important pattern of urbanisation, the process by which cities develop. Temples were often central to the economy and society.

(iii) Rulers built temples to demonstrate their devotion to various deities. They also endowed temples with grants of land and money to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals. Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also made donations.

(iv) Temple authorities used their wealth to finance trade and banking. Gradually, a large number of priests, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near the temple to cater to its needs and those of the pilgrims. Thus, grew temple towns.

(v) Towns emerged around temples such as those of Bhillasvamin (Bhilsa or Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh), and Somnath in Gujarat.

(vi) Other important temple towns included Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu, and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

(vii) Pilgrimage centres also slowly developed into townships. Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh) and Tiruvannamalai (Tamil Nadu) are examples of two such towns.

(viii) Ajmer (Rajasthan) was the capital of the Chauhan kings in the twelfth century and later became the suba headquarters under the Mughals. It provides an excellent example of religious coexistence.

(ix) Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, the celebrated Sufi saint who settled there in the twelfth century, attracted devotees from all creeds. Near Ajmer is a lake, Pushkar, which has attracted pilgrims from ancient times.

### **A Network of Small Towns:**

(i) From the eighth century onwards the subcontinent was dotted with several small towns.

(ii) These probably emerged from large villages.

- They usually had a mandapika (or mandi of later times) to which nearby villagers brought their produce to sell. They also had market streets called hatta (haat of later times) lined with shops.
- Besides, there were streets for different kinds of artisans such as potters, oil pressers, sugar makers, toddy makers, smiths, stonemasons, etc.
- While some traders lived in the town, others travelled from town to town. Many came from far and near to these towns to buy local articles and sell products of distant places like horses, salt, camphor, saffron, betel nut and spices like pepper.

(iii) Usually a samanta or, in later times, a zamindar built a fortified palace in or near these towns. They levied taxes on traders, artisans and articles of trade and sometimes “donated” the “right” to collect these taxes to local temples, which had been built by themselves or by rich merchants. These “rights” were recorded in inscriptions that have survived to this day.

### **Traders Big and Small:**

(i) There were many kinds of traders like the Banjaras. Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations, with headmen who negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses.

(ii) Since traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests. There were several such guilds in south India from the eighth century onwards – the most famous being the Manigramam and Nanadesi.

(iii) These guilds traded extensively both within the peninsula and with Southeast Asia and China.

(iv) There were also communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country.

(v) Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and, in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa; and spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China.

(vi) The towns on the west coast were home to Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders.

(vii) Indian spices and cloth sold in the Red Sea ports were purchased by Italian traders and eventually reached European markets, fetching very high profits.

(viii) Spices grown in tropical climates (pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, dried ginger, etc.) became an important part of European cooking, and cotton cloth was very attractive. This eventually drew European traders to India.

### **Crafts in Towns:**

(i) The craftspersons of Bidar were famous for their inlay work in copper and silver; it came to be called Bidri.

(ii) The Panchalas or Vishwakarma community, consisting of goldsmiths, bronzesmiths, blacksmiths, masons and carpenters, were essential to the building of temples. They also played an important role in the construction of palaces, big buildings, tanks and reservoirs.

(iii) Similarly, weavers such as the Saliyar or Kaikkolars emerged as prosperous communities, making donations to temples.

(iv) Some aspects of cloth making like cotton cleaning, spinning and dyeing became specialised and independent crafts.

### **A Closer Look: Hampi, Masulipatnam and Surat:**

#### **The Architectural Splendour of Hampi:**

(i) Hampi is located in the Krishna-Tungabhadra basin, which formed the nucleus of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded in 1336.

(ii) The magnificent ruins at Hampi reveal a well-fortified city. No mortar or cementing agent was used in the construction of these walls and the technique followed was to wedge them together by interlocking.

(iii) The architecture of Hampi was distinctive.

- The buildings in the royal complex had splendid arches, domes and pillared halls with niches for holding sculptures.
- They also had well-planned orchards and pleasure gardens with sculptural motifs such as the lotus and corbels.
- In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Hampi bustled with commercial and cultural activities.
- Moors (a name used collectively for Muslim merchants), Chettis and agents of European traders such as the Portuguese, thronged the markets of Hampi.
- Temples were the hub of cultural activities and devadasis (temple dancers) performed before the deity, royalty and masses in the many-pillared halls in the Virupaksha (a form of Shiva) temple.
- The Mahanavami festival, known today as Navaratri in the south, was one of the most important festivals celebrated at Hampi. Archaeologists have found the Mahanavami platform where the king received guests and accepted tribute from subordinate chiefs. From here, he also watched dance and music performances as well as wrestling bouts.

(iv) Hampi fell into ruin following the defeat of Vijayanagara in 1565 by the Deccani Sultans – the rulers of Golconda, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar.

### **A Gateway to the West: Surat:**

(i) Surat in Gujarat was the emporium of western trade during the Mughal period along with Cambay (present day Khambhat) and somewhat later, Ahmedabad.

(ii) Surat was the gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz. Surat has also been called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from here. The city was cosmopolitan and people of all castes and creeds lived there.

(iii) In the seventeenth century, the Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat. According to the English chronicler, Ovington who wrote an account of the port in 1689, on average a hundred ships of different countries could be found anchored at the port at any given time.

(iv) There were also several retail and wholesale shops selling cotton textiles. The textiles of Surat were famous for their gold lace borders (zari) and had a market in West Asia, Africa and Europe.

(v) The state built numerous rest-houses to take care of the needs of people from all over the world who came to the city. There were magnificent buildings and innumerable pleasure parks.

(vi) The Kathiawad seths or mahajans (moneychangers) had huge banking houses at Surat. It is noteworthy that the Surat hundis were honoured in the far-off markets of Cairo in Egypt, Basra in Iraq and Antwerp in Belgium.

(vii) However, Surat began to decline towards the end of the seventeenth century.

This was because of many factors:

- the loss of markets and productivity because of the decline of the Mughal Empire,
- control of the sea routes by the Portuguese
- competition from Bombay (present-day Mumbai) where the English East India Company shifted its headquarters in 1668.

Today, Surat is a bustling commercial centre.

### **Fishing in Troubled Waters: Masulipatnam:**

(i) The town of Masulipatnam or Machlipatnam (literally, fish port town) lay on the delta of the Krishna river. In the seventeenth century, it was a centre of intense activity.

(ii) Both the Dutch and English East India Companies attempted to control Masulipatnam as it became the most important port on the Andhra coast. The fort at Masulipatnam was built by the Dutch.

(iii) The Qutb Shahi rulers of Golconda imposed royal monopolies on the sale of textiles, spices and other items to prevent the trade passing completely into the hands of the various East India Companies.

(iv) Fierce competition among various trading groups – the Golconda nobles, Persian merchants, Telugu Komati Chettis, and European traders – made the city populous and prosperous.

(v) As the Mughals began to extend their power to Golconda, their representative, the governor Mir Jumla who was also a merchant, began to play off the Dutch and the English against each other.

(vi) In 1686-1687, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb annexed Golconda. This caused the European Companies to look for alternatives.

(vii) It was a part of the new policy of the English East India Company that it was not enough if a port had connections with the production centres of the hinterland. The new Company trade centres, it was felt, should combine political, administrative and commercial roles.

(viii) As the Company traders moved to Bombay, Calcutta (present-day Kolkata) and Madras (present-day Chennai), Masulipatnam lost both its merchants and prosperity and declined in the course of the eighteenth century, being today nothing more than a dilapidated little town.

## New Towns and Traders:

- (i) In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, European countries were searching for spices and textiles, which had become popular both in Europe and West Asia.
- (ii) The English, Dutch and French formed East India Companies in order to expand their commercial activities in the east.
- (iii) Initially, great Indian traders like Mulla Abdul Ghafur and Virji Vora who owned a large number of ships competed with them. However, the European Companies used their naval power to gain control of the sea trade and forced Indian traders to work as their agents.
- (iv) Ultimately, the English emerged as the most successful commercial and political power in the subcontinent. The spurt in demand for goods like textiles led to a great expansion of the crafts of spinning, weaving, bleaching, dyeing, etc. with more and more people taking them up.
- (v) Indian textile designs became increasingly refined. However, this period also saw the decline of the independence of craftspersons. They now began to work on a system of advances which meant that they had to weave cloth which was already promised to European agents.
- (vi) Weavers no longer had the liberty of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns. They had to reproduce the designs supplied to them by the Company agents.
- (vii) The eighteenth century saw the rise of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, which are nodal cities today.
- (viii) Crafts and commerce underwent major changes as merchants and artisans (such as weavers) were moved into the Black Towns established by the European companies within these new cities.
- (ix) The “blacks” or native traders and craftspersons were confined here while the “white” rulers occupied the superior residencies of Fort St George in Madras or Fort St William in Calcutta.

## TEXTUAL QUESTION AND ANSWERS

### Q1: Fill in the blanks:

- a. The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Ajmer is associated with the Sufi saint \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Hampi was the capital of the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire.
- d. The Dutch established a settlement at \_\_\_\_\_ in Andhra Pradesh.

- Ans:** (a) The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in 1010 A.D. .  
(b) Ajmer is associated with the Sufi saint Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti .  
(c) Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.  
(d) The Dutch established a settlement at Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

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### Q2: State whether true or false:

- (a) We know the name of the architect of the Rajarajeshvara temple from an inscription.
- (b) Merchants preferred to travel individually rather than in caravans.
- (c) Kabul was a major centre for trade in elephants.
- (d) Surat was an important trading port on the Bay of Bengal.

- Ans:** (a) True  
(b) False  
(c) False  
(d) False
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**Q3: How was water supplied to the city of Thanjavur?**

**Ans:**

- Water was supplied to the city of Thanjavur **from tanks and wells.**
  - The perennial **river Kaveri** flows near this town. This river also fulfills the need for water of the city.
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**Q4: Who lived in the “Black Towns” in cities such as Madras?**

**Ans:**

- The eighteenth century saw the **rise of** Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
  - **Black Towns established by the European** companies within these new cities.
  - Merchants and artisans (such as weavers) were **moved into the Black Town** in cities such as Madras.
  - The “blacks” or native traders and **craftspersons were confined** here while the “**white**” rulers **occupied the superior residencies** of Fort St George in Madras or Fort St William in Calcutta.
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**Q5: Why do you think towns grew around temples?**

**Ans:** Towns grew around temples because of the following reasons:

- Temple towns represent a very **important pattern of urbanisation**, the process by which cities develop.
  - Temples were often **central to the economy and society.**
  - Rulers built temples to **demonstrate their devotion to various deities.** They also endowed temples with grants of land and money to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals.
  - Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also **made donations.**
  - Temple authorities used their **wealth to finance trade and banking.** Gradually a large number of priests, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near the temple to cater to its needs and those of the pilgrims. Thus grew temple towns.
  - Towns emerged around temples such as those of **Bhillasvamin** (Bhilsa or Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh), and **Somnath** in Gujarat.
  - Other important temple towns included **Kanchipuram** and **Madurai** in Tamil Nadu, and **Tirupati** in Andhra Pradesh.
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**Q6: How important were craftspersons for the building and maintenance of temples?**

**Ans:** Craft persons played an important role in the building and maintenance of Temples due to the following reasons:

- The **Panchalas** or **Vishwakarma** were major craft communities, consisting of Bronze smiths, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, carpenters and masons contributed to building temples.
- The Craft persons were also **helpful in the making of idols of temples and designing** the walls and roofs of the temples.
- Craftspersons played a crucial role in the **building and adorning of temples** with gold, silver, alloy-work and textile and wood products.
- Craftspersons also **catered to the needs of pilgrims**, thereby forming an important part of the ongoing trade.
- Prosperous craft persons like weavers also **made donations** to temples.

**Q7: Why did people from distant lands visit Surat?**

**Ans:** People from distant lands visited Surat due to the Following reasons:

- **Gateway for trade:** Surat was the gateway with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz.
- **Gate to Mecca:** Surat has also been called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from Surat.
- **Emporium of western:** Surat in Gujarat was the emporium of western trade during the Mughal period in the seventeenth century. The Portuguese, Dutch and English had also set their factories and warehouses at Surat.
- **The textiles of Surat:** There were also several retail and wholesale shops selling cotton textiles. The textiles of Surat were famous for their gold lace borders (Zari) and had a market in West Asia, Africa and Europe.
- **The city was cosmopolitan:** The city was cosmopolitan and people of all castes and creeds lived there. The state built numerous rest houses for people from all over the world who came to the city. There were magnificent buildings and innumerable pleasure parks.
- **City of huge banking houses:** The Kathiawad seths or mahajans (moneychangers) had huge banking houses at Surat.
- **Surat Hundis:** It is noteworthy that the Surat hundis were honoured in the far-off markets of Cairo in Egypt, Basra in Iraq and Antwerp in Belgium.
- **Major Ancient Port of India:** Surat was a major port of that time. According to the English chronicler Ovington who wrote an account of the port in 1689, on average a hundred ships of different countries could be found anchored at the port at any given time.

**Q8: In what ways was craft production in cities like Calcutta different from that in cities like Thanjavur?**

**Ans:** The differences between **craft production in cities like Calcutta** and **Thanjavur** were as under:

<b>Craft production in Calcutta</b>	<b>Craft production in Thanjavur</b>
Craft production in cities like Calcutta was formally <b>organized and planned</b> by the European companies.	In Thanjavur, the craftspersons were <b>independent</b> .
Craftspersons in Calcutta were <b>not free to sell</b> their own crafts and textiles.	In Thanjavur, the craftspersons were <b>free to sell</b> their products.
In Calcutta, craftspersons <b>worked on a system of advances</b> .	In Thanjavur, <b>crafts were developed on the interest of craftspersons</b> .
The craftspersons at Calcutta had to reproduce <b>the designs supplied to them by the Company agents</b> .	The craftspersons of Thanjavur had their <b>own creative and specialised designs</b> .
Merchants and artisans (such as weavers) in Calcutta were <b>moved into the Black Towns</b> established by the European companies within new cities.	The craftspersons of Thanjavur were <b>free to move and live anywhere</b> .

## CLASS – VII

### CIVICS CH- 6 UNDERSTANDING MEDIA

#### STUDY MATERIAL

- Media is the plural form of the word ‘medium’ and it describes the various ways through which we communicate in society.
- Media refers to all means of communication; everything ranging from a phone call to the evening news on TV can be called media.
- TV, radio and newspapers are a form of media. Since they reach millions of people across the world, or masses, they are called mass media.
- Media is a very effective tool that can help people be more informed and aware of the happenings all over the world. Media also helps people put across their points of view.

#### • **Media and Technology:**

(i) Life without media is difficult. The Cable TV and the Internet are a recent phenomena. These have been around for less than twenty years.

(ii) Both print media and electronic media have played an important role in social change.

(iii) Changing technology or machines help media to reach more people. For example, it changes the ways in which we think about our lives. It is quite difficult for us to think of our lives without television. Television has enabled us to think of ourselves as members of a larger global world.

(iv) Balanced report is essential in media which has to report independently.

(v) Media is far from being independent. This is because of the control of government over media called censoring and because big business houses control the media. They may influence the media to broadcast news their way.

#### • **Media and Money:**

(i) The different technologies that mass media use are expensive.

(ii) In a news studio, it is not only the newsreader who needs to be paid but also a number of other people who help put the broadcast together.

(iii) A lot of money is spent on getting the latest technology. To meet this cost, a lot of money is required.

(iv) Media thus has come to be owned by big corporate.

(v) Media uses advertising as a tool to raise revenue. One way in which the mass media earns money is by advertising different things like cars, chocolates, clothes, mobile phones, etc.

#### • **Media and Democracy:**

(i) Media plays a very important role in providing news and discussing events taking place in the country and the world.

(ii) New stories of media inform people about important events in the country.



(iii) if they wish to, people can take action on the basis of these news stories. Some of the ways in which they can do this is by writing letters to the concerned minister, organising a public protest, starting a signature campaign, asking the government to rethink its programme, etc.

(iv) A balanced report is one that discusses all points of view of a particular story and then leaves it to the readers to make up their minds. 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.

(v) Reasons for media not being independent and unbiased:

- The first reason for media not being independent is the control that the government has on the media. When the government prevents either a news item, or scenes from a movie, or the lyrics of a song from being shared with the larger public, this is referred to as **censorship**.
- Secondly, the media's continual need for money and its links to advertising means that it becomes difficult for media to be reporting against people who give them advertisements.
- Thirdly, the media also tends to focus on a particular aspect of a story because they believe this makes the story interesting.
- Also, if they want to increase public support for an issue, they often do this by focusing on one side of a story.

• **Setting Agendas:**

(i) The media also plays an important role in deciding what stories to focus on.

(ii) By focusing on particular issues, it influences and shapes our thoughts. It is said the media sets the agenda for people.

(iii) Very recently, the media reported alarming levels of pesticides in cold drinks. This report led to safety standards being set for colas.

(iv) Media plays a very important role in our lives as it tells us about working of government.

(v) There are several instances when the media fails to focus on issues that are significant in our lives. For example, drinking water is a major problem in the country. Every year, thousands of people suffer and die because they do not get safe drinking water. However, we seldom find the media discussing this issue.

(vi) We need to ask the following questions when analyzing data from the news:

- What is the information I am learning from this report?
- What information is not being provided?
- From whose point of view is the article being written?
- Whose point of view is being left out and why?

### TEXTUAL QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Q1: In what ways does the media play an important role in a democracy?**

**Ans:** The media plays an important role in a democracy in the following ways:

1. The media is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy as it is a watchdog of the government's way of functioning.
2. The media provides news and help people to discuss important events taking place worldwide. We get to know how the other democracies are working worldwide. It is on the basis of this information that citizens can learn how the government works, and they can take actions on stories.

3. They can do this by writing letters to the concerned minister, organising a public protest, starting a signature campaign, asking the government to rethink its programme etc.
  4. An independent media provides a balanced and reliable report on the incidents without any bias towards the government. A balanced report is one that discusses all points of view of a particular story and then leaves it to the readers to make their minds. So an independent media is important for a democracy.
  5. The Government controls the media in the name of censorship. By this certain news item cannot be shared with the public.
  6. Sometimes the media is even controlled by business houses which give a lot of money to the media for advertising their products.
  7. Media provides a platform for people to express their opinions, especially on national and international issues.
  8. If the media wants to increase public support for an issue, they often do this by focusing on one side of the story.
  9. The media brings social awareness about economic, political, social and cultural events.
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**Q2: Can you give this diagram a title? What do you understand about the link between media and big business from this diagram?**

**Ans:** "Corporate Controlled Media" can be a suitable title for the diagram.

The diagram provides us with two interesting aspects:

- In order to promote their products, business houses place advertisements in various media like newspapers, TV, radio etc. These advertisements influence the readers or viewers to buy products. Thus, money invested by the big business houses in advertisements comes back to them by sale of their products. It also indicates products' advertisements increase the cost of the products. The business houses thus earn huge profits.
  - Big corporates own TV channels, magazines and other media industries. They advertise their products through various media and influence people to buy their products. Since the business giants own the media houses, there are high chances of unfair reporting about their products. This may lead to customers making wrong buying decisions.
  - Media's continual need for money and its links to advertising means that it becomes difficult for media to be reporting against people who are giving them advertisements.
  - Media is thus no longer independent because of its close links with business.
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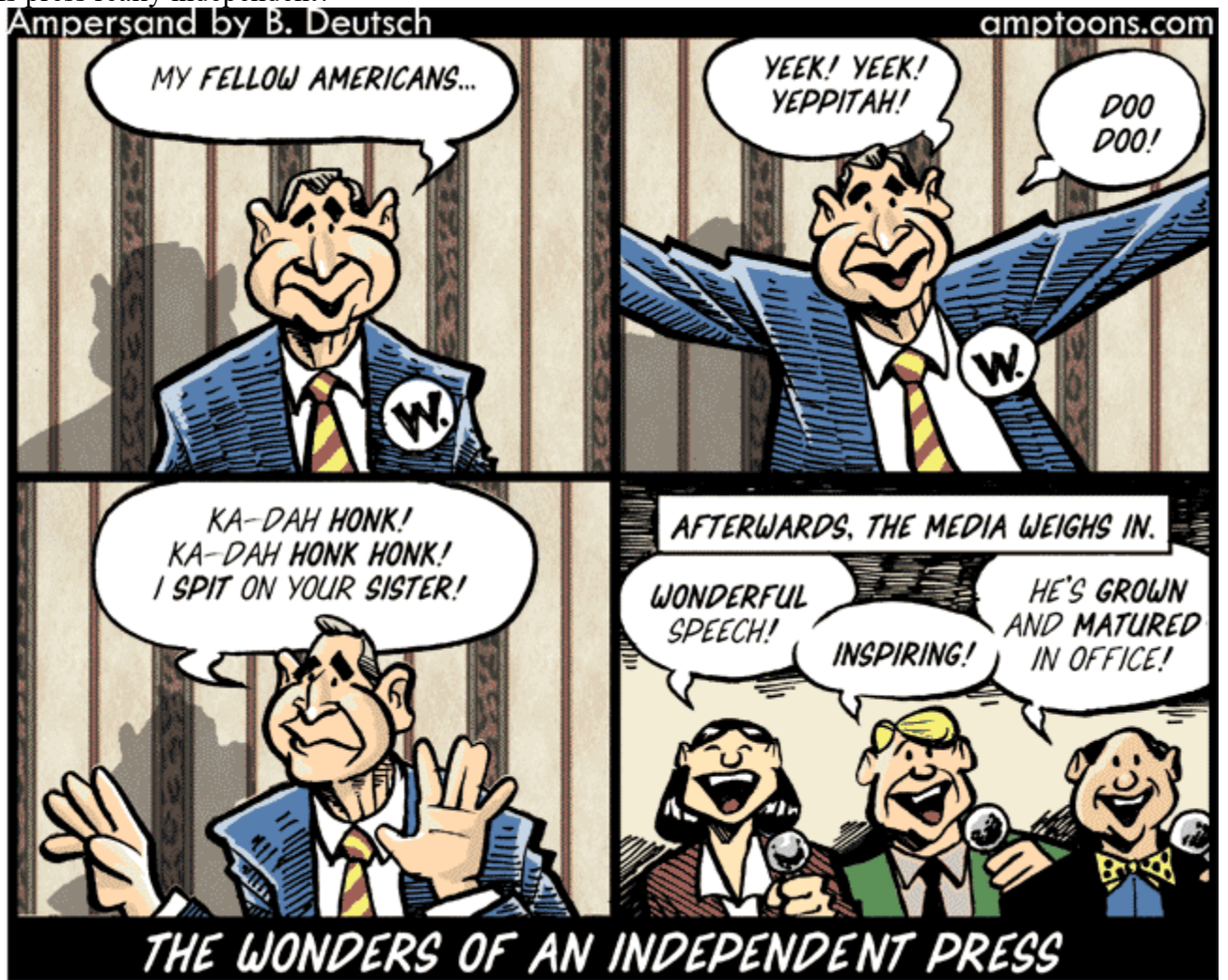
**Q3: You have read about the ways in which the media 'sets the agenda'. What kind of effect does this have in a democracy? Provide two examples to support your point of view.**

**Ans:** It is evident that media has an immense influence on the people by focusing on a few issues. This can have a negative effect on our democracy. The media also plays an important role in deciding what stories to focus on, and therefore, decides on what is newsworthy. Sometimes, it misses out on more significant events and covers unnecessary events that may attract people. Due to the significant influence it plays in our lives and in shaping our thoughts, it is commonly said that media sets the agenda. If the media focuses on one side of the issue, it can influence our thoughts and actions. People may make biased decisions. Rather, media should provide a balanced report and leave it to the audience to decide. A balanced report will help people in a democracy make the right informed decisions.

Examples:

1. On a positive note, media highlighted social crimes under the name of "honour killing" by "caste panchayats" or narrow-minded families and communities. This helped people become aware of the social issue.

2. India is the second most agriculture led country after USA. On a negative side, media (especially private channels) hardly broadcast programmes on agriculture to educate farmers. Rather these channels air "SaasBahu serials" 24 hours a day. Even news channels have dedicated shows to cover "Page 3 masala", but they hardly run any show on technical education.
3. Is press really independent?



**Q4:** As a class project, decide to focus on a particular news topic and cut out stories from different newspapers on this. Also watch the coverage of this topic on TV news. Compare two newspapers and write down the similarity and differences in their reports. It might help to ask the following questions—

- a. What information is this article providing?
- b. What information is it leaving out?
- c. From whose point of view is the article being written?
- d. Whose point of view is being left out and why?

**Ans:** Take two different newspapers. For example, "The Times of India" and "Hindustan Times". Go through both the papers of the same day. Choose any particular news heading in both the papers. Also watch the different TV Channels for this particular news heading, and answer the questions given with the help of newspaper cuttings and news watched on different TV channels. Try to find out which is more biased than the other and why?

## CLASS – VII

### GEOGRAPHY CH- 6 NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

#### STUDY MATERIAL

- Natural vegetation is the plant life of a region.
- There is a close relationship between height of land and the character of vegetation. With the change in height, the climate changes and that changes natural vegetation. The growth of vegetation depends on temperature and moisture. It also depends on factors like slope and thickness of soil.
- Natural vegetation is of three types: forest, grasslands and shrubs.
  - **Forests:** These are areas where temperature and rainfall are plentiful to support a tree cover.
  - **Grasslands:** Which grow in the region of moderate rain.
  - **Shrubs:** Thorny shrubs and scrubs grow in the dry region.
- The changes in the type of natural vegetation occur mainly because of the changes of climatic condition.

#### • Forests:

Forests are of six types: Tropical Evergreen, Tropical Deciduous, Temperate Evergreen, Temperate Deciduous, Mediterranean Vegetation, and Coniferous forests.

- **Tropical Evergreen Forests:**
  - These forests are those which occur in the region near the equator and close to the tropics.
  - These regions are hot and receive heavy rainfall throughout the year.
  - As there is no particular dry season, the trees do not shed their leaves altogether. This is why they are called evergreen.
  - The thick canopies of the closely spaced trees do not allow the sunlight to penetrate inside the forest even in the day time.
  - Hardwood trees like rosewood, ebony, mahogany are common here.
- **Tropical Deciduous Forests:**
  - Tropical deciduous are the monsoon forests found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in central America.
  - These regions experience seasonal changes. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water.
  - The hardwood trees found in these forests are sal, teak, neem and shisham.
  - Hardwood trees are extremely useful for making furniture, transport and constructional materials.
  - Tigers, lions, elephants, langours and monkeys are the common animals of these regions.
- **Temperate Evergreen Forests:**
  - They are located in mid-latitudinal coastal region.
  - They are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents, that is, in south east USA, South China and in South East Brazil.
  - They comprise both hard and soft wood trees like oak, pine, eucalyptus, etc.
- **Temperate Deciduous Forests:**
  - As we go towards higher latitudes, there are more temperate deciduous forests.
  - These are found in the north eastern part of USA, China, New Zealand, Chile and also found in the coastal regions of Western Europe.
  - They shed their leaves in the dry season.
  - The common trees are oak, ash, beech, etc.
  - Deer, foxes, wolves are the animals commonly found. Birds like pheasants and monals are also found here.
- **Mediterranean Vegetation:**
  - The west and south west margins of the continents have Mediterranean vegetation.

- It is mostly found in the areas around the Mediterranean sea in Europe, Africa and Asia, hence the name.
- This kind of vegetation is also found outside the actual Mediterranean region in California in the USA, south west Africa, south western South America and South west Australia.
- These regions are marked for hot dry summers and mild rainy winters.
- Citrus fruits such as oranges, figs, olives and grapes are commonly cultivated here because people have removed the natural vegetation in order to cultivate what they want to.
- There isn't much wildlife here.
- **Coniferous Forests:**
  - In the higher latitudes (50° - 70°) of Northern hemisphere, the spectacular Coniferous forests are found. These are also called as Taiga.
  - These forests are also seen in the higher altitudes. These are the trees which are found in the Himalayas in abundance.
  - They are tall, softwood evergreen trees. The woods of these trees are very useful for making pulp, which is used for manufacturing paper and newsprint.
  - Match boxes and packing boxes are also made from softwood.
  - Chir, pine, cedar are the important variety of trees in these forests.
  - Silver fox, mink, polar bear are the common animals found here.
- **Grasslands:**
  - **Tropical grasslands:**
    - These occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics.
    - The vegetation grows in areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall.
    - The grass is tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type.
    - Elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer, leopards are common in tropical grasslands.
  - **Temperate grasslands:**
    - These are found in the midlatitudinal zones and in the interior part of the continents.
    - Usually, grass here is short and nutritious.
    - Wild buffaloes, bisons, and antelopes are common in the temperate region.
  - **Thorny Bushes:**
    - Thorny bushes are found in the dry desert like regions.
    - Tropical deserts are located on the western margins of the continents.
    - The vegetation cover is scarce here because of scanty rain and scorching heat.
  - **Tundra Vegetation:**
    - Tundra vegetation growth of natural vegetation is very limited here.
    - It is found in polar regions of Europe, Asia and North America.
    - The animals have thick fur and thick skin to protect themselves from the cold climatic conditions.
    - Seal, walruses, musk-oxen, Arctic owl, Polar bear and snow foxes are some of the animals found here.

### TEXTUAL QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Q1. Answer the following questions.**

- i. **Which are the two factors on which the growth of vegetation mostly depends?**
- ii. **Which are the three broad categories of natural vegetation?**
- iii. **Name the two hardwood trees commonly found in the tropical evergreen forest.**
- iv. **In which part of the world tropical deciduous forest is found?**
- v. **In which climatic conditions are citrus fruits cultivated?**
- vi. **Mention the use of the coniferous forest.**

vii. In which part of the world is seasonal grassland found?

Answers:

- i. **Temperature and Moisture** are the two factors on which the growth of vegetation mostly depends. It also depends on factors like slope and thickness of soil.
- ii.

**The three broad categories of natural vegetation are:**



(a) **Forest:** Which grow where temperature and rainfall are plentiful to support a tree depending upon these factors, dense and open forest are grown.



(b) **Grassland:** Which grow in the region of moderate rain.



(c) **Thorny shrubs and scrubs:** Thorny shrubs and shrubs grow in the dry region.

- iii. **Rosewood, Mahogany and Ebony** are hardwood trees that are found in tropical evergreen forests.
- iv. Tropical Deciduous forests are the monsoon forests found in the large part of **India, northern Australia and in Central America.**
- v. **Climatic conditions required for cultivation of Citrus fruits:**
  - Orange, figs, olives and grapes are Citrus fruits.
  - **Hot dry summers and mild rainy winters-** Such type of Climatic conditions required for cultivation of Citrus fruits
- vi. **The uses of coniferous forest are:**
  - The Wood of these trees are very **useful for making pulp, which is useful for manufacturing paper, newsprint and cardboard**
  - **Matchboxes and packing boxes** are also made from softwood.
  - Wood of these forests is also used **for making decorative pieces.**
  - The wood of these forests is also used for **making particle board and plywood**
- vii. **Temperate grasslands** are also known as **Seasonal grasslands** These are found in the **mid-latitudinal zones and in the interior parts of the continents.**

**Q2. Tick the correct answer:**

**(i) Mosses and lichens are found in:**

(a) Decorative vegetation (b) Tropical evergreen forest (c) Tundra vegetation

**Ans: (c) Tundra vegetation.**

**(ii) Thorny bushes are found in:**

(a) Hot and humid tropical climate (b) Hot and dry desert climate (c) Cold polar climate

**Ans: (b) Hot and dry desert climate.**

**(iii) In the tropical evergreen forest, one of the common animals is:**

(a) Monkey (b) Giraffe (c) Camel

**Ans: (a) Monkey**

**(iv) One important variety of coniferous forest is:**

(a) Rosewood (b) Pine (c) Teak

**Ans: (b) Pine**

**(v) Steppe grassland is found in:**

(a) S.Africa (b) Australia (c) Russia

**Ans: (c) Russia.**

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**Q3. Match the following:**

(i)	Walrus	(a)	Softwood tree
(ii)	Cedar	(b)	An animal of the tropical deciduous forest
(iii)	Olives	(c)	A polar animal
(iv)	Elephants	(d)	Temperate grassland in Australia
(v)	Campos	(e)	A citrus fruit
(vi)	Downs	(f)	Tropical grassland of Brazil.

**Ans:**

(i)	Walrus	(c)	A polar animal.
(ii)	Cedar	(a)	Softwood tree
(iii)	Olives	(e)	A citrus fruit.
(iv)	Elephants	(b)	An animal's tropical deciduous forest.
(v)	Campos	(f)	Tropical grassland of Brazil
(vi)	Downs	(d)	Temperate grassland in Australia

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**Q4. Give reasons.**

**(i) The animals in polar region have thick fur and thick skin.**

**Ans:** The animals in polar region have thick fur and thick skin to **protect themselves from the cold climatic conditions.**

**(ii) Tropical deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season.**

**Ans:** Tropical deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season to **conserve water and survive in harsh weather conditions.**

**(iii) The type and thickness of vegetation changes from place to place.**

**Ans:** The type and thickness of vegetation changes from place to place, **because of the variation in temperature, moisture, altitude, rainfall and thickness of soil.**






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**Q5. For fun.**

**(i) Collect pictures and photographs of forests and grasslands of different parts of the world. Write one sentence below each picture.**

**(ii) Make a collage of rainforest, grassland and coniferous forests.**

**Answers:**

Forests and Grasslands	Description
	<p><b><u>Tropical Evergreen Forests :</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These forests are also called tropical rain forests.</li> <li>• These forests are found in those areas which receive over 200 cm of annual rainfall.</li> <li>• These thick forests occur in the region near the equator and close to the tropics and also known as Equatorial Forests</li> <li>• Trees like Rosewood, Ebony and Mahogany are found here.</li> <li>• These forests are found in the Amazon basin of South America, Zaire(Congo) basin of Africa, New Guinea and western Ghats and Assam areas of India.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Tropical Deciduous Forests:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trees of these forests shed their leaves during the dry season.</li> <li>• Tropical deciduous forests are the monsoon forests found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in central America.</li> <li>• These regions experience seasonal changes. Examples of trees found in these forests are Teak, Neem and Shisham.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Temperate Evergreen Forests:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These forests grow in the Northern as well as the Southern hemisphere.</li> <li>• The temperate evergreen forests are located in the mid-litudinal coastal region.</li> <li>• They are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents.</li> <li>• They comprise both hard and softwood trees like Trees like oak, pine and eucalyptus, etc.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Temperate Deciduous Forests:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These forests grow in areas between 30° to 60° latitudes having West European type of climate.</li> <li>• As we go towards higher latitudes, there are more temperate deciduous forests.</li> <li>• These are found in the northeastern part of USA, China, New Zealand, Chile and also found in coastal regions of Western Europe.</li> <li>• They shed their leaves in the dry season. Examples of trees found here are oak, ash and beech.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Grasslands:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics.</li> <li>• This vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall.</li> </ul>





### **Coniferous Forest:**

- In the higher latitudes(50° - 70° ) of Northern hemisphere the spectacular Coniferous forests are found.
- These are also called as Taiga. These forests are also seen in the higher altitudes.
- Chir, pine and cedar are important varieties of trees found here.

### **In text Questions**

**Page No. 39**

**Q. Now can you tell why Salima saw changes in the natural vegetation as she climbed higher and higher? What type of vegetation did she see in the Himalayas starting with the foothills and going to the higher altitudes?**

**Ans:** Salima saw changes in the natural vegetation as she climbed higher and higher **due to change in altitude, and related climatic conditions such as temperature, precipitation, low air density. A form of soil also changes as she climbed higher and higher.**

- **At the foothills**, Salima saw deep jungles of Sal and Teak. In the lower part of the **foothills** region she saw short grassy areas, bushes and deciduous trees. She also saw broad leaved forests.
- As she climbed higher, she could **see coniferous trees such as Pines on the mountain slopes.**
- And at higher altitudes, she found land was covered with short grass and snow. She also feel that this place was extremely cold. The growth of vegetation was very limited, only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs she found here.