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CLASS: VI SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE TOPIC: HISTORY CH-3

2025-26

FROM BHARAT TO INDIA

A. Tick the correct option.

1. What was the name used in the Rig Veda to refer to the northwest region of the India Subcontinent? Sapta Sindhava
2. According to the Vishnu Purana, what defines the boundaries of Bharata? North of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains
3. The ancient Chinese writings refer to India as Yintu.
4. Which ancient civilisation first referred to India as 'Hind' or 'Hindu'? Persians

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate word/words.

1. The Rig Veda referred to the northwest region of India as Sapt Sindhava.
2. The Mahabharata uses the term Bharatavarsha to describe the Indian Subcontinent.
3. The term 'Jambudvipa' symbolises the shape of the Indian Subcontinent as an island of the Jamun tree.
4. The ancient Greeks dropped the letter 'h' and referred to India as Indoi.

C. Write 'T' for true or 'F' for false statements.

1. Hiuen Tsang travelled to India during the 7th century CE and translated Buddhist texts into Chinese after returning. True
2. The ancient Chinese referred to India as 'Indoi,' a term derived from Greek influences. False
3. The term 'Bharata' was commonly used for the Indian Subcontinent in

ancient Tamil poetry as well. False

4. The Persian adaptation of the word 'Sindhu' was 'Jambudvipa', which they used to describe India. False

5. The Indian Subcontinent had shifting boundaries and was known by different names over a thousand years of history. True

D. Short answer questions.

1. How did the Mahabharata contribute to our understanding of ancient Indian geography?

The Mahabharata presents a detailed overview of the numerous areas that comprise the subcontinent. The names "Kashmira" (today's Kashmir), "Kurukshetra" (parts of present day Haryana), "Vanga" (now Bengal), "Prāgjyotisha" (today's Assam), "Kaccha" (now Kutch) and "Kerala" demonstrate the geographical and cultural diversity that has long defined this region.

2. What is the significance of the term 'Sindhu' in the context of ancient names for India?

The term 'Sindhu' was the original Sanskrit name for the Indus river. The Persian adapted it as 'Hind' or 'Hindu', which later influenced the Greek adaptation as 'Indoi' or 'Indike', forming the basis for the modern name India.

3. How did ancient Chinese texts reflect the respect for India's culture?

The Chinese term 'Tianzhu', derived from 'Sindhu', means 'heavenly master', reflecting ancient Chinese regard for India as the birthplace of the Buddha.

4. Why did the ancient Greeks drop the letter 'h' from 'Hindu' when naming India?

The Greeks began referring to the region as "Indoi" or "Indike", adjusting the name to fit their own language by omitting the initial "h" sound which did not exist in Greek.

E. Long answer questions.

1. Omitted

2. Describe the significance of the term 'Bhāratavarṣha' in ancient Indian literature. How did it come to represent the entire Indian Subcontinent?

1. The name, "Bharatavarsha," represented the country of the Bharatas, a major Vedic clan first recorded in the Rig Veda, India's oldest and most honoured work.

2. The name "Bharat" is strongly rooted in Indian tradition and literature. It is usually assumed to be inspired by the legendary King Bharata.
3. The Vishnu Purana defines "Bharat" as the land bounded by the ocean and the snowy mountains.
4. The term "Bharat" eventually came to reflect the extensive cultural and geographical identity of the Indian subcontinent

3. How did foreign travellers and conquerors like the Persians, Greeks and Chinese influence the names used to describe India? Explain the transformation of these names in their respective languages.

1. The Indus River, traditionally known as "Sindhu" in Sanskrit, was adapted by the Persians as "Hind" or "Hindu".
2. The Greeks began referring to the region as "Indoi" or "Indike".
3. The ancient Chinese writings refer to India as 'Yintu' or 'Yindu'. This word is derived from 'Sindhu'.
4. The Chinese term "Tianzhu", derived from 'Sindhu', means 'heavenly master', reflecting ancient Chinese regard for India as the birthplace of the Buddha.

4. Complete the following table by filling in the missing information about the different names used for the Indian Subcontinent by both Indians and foreigners along with their meanings and origins.

Name	Meaning	Origin
Sapta Sindhava	Land of seven rivers	Rig Veda
Bharatvarsha	The country of Bharatas	Vishnu Puranas, Mahabharata
Jambudvīpa	Island of the Jamun tree	Ancient Indian texts
Hind/Hindu	Adaptation of Sindhu	Persian Influence
Indoi/Indike	Greek adaptation of Hinc	Greek Influence
Tianzhu	Heavenly master, linked to Buddha	Ancient Chinese texts