

LESSON-15

CONTACTS WITH DISTANT LANDS

SOLUTIONS:

EXERCISES:

- Q. 1. Answer each question in a word or a sentence:
 - a) Where can one find the oldest extant Tamil literature?

Ans: One can find the oldest extant Tamil literature from Sangam literature.

b) What is Milindapanho?

Ans: Milindapanho was a Buddhist text, which was written during the reign of Menander. It was a discussion between Menander and a Buddhist sage, Nagasena.

c) What did Indian export to and import from Romans?

Ans: The Indians exported pepper, cardamom, cinnamon etc. and imported gold and silver coins from Romans.

Q. 2. Answer each question is about 30 words.

a) Why was there a great change in the mode of trade route in 45 AD?

Ans: In 45 AD, Hippalus, a Greek sailor discovered the movements of the monsoon over the Arabian Sea. The discovery of the monsoon gave the sailors a better knowledge of navigation. So, there was a great change in the mode of trade route in 45 AD.

b) What was Kanishka's contribution?

Ans: Kanishka was famous for starting the Saka era in 78 AD. He was a great patron of Mahayana group of Buddhism. He organised a Buddhist council at Kashmir. Kanishka took great interest in spreading Mahayana Buddhism to place like Central Asia, Tibet and China. These were the contribution of Kanishka.

c) Write the Buddhist council organised by Kanishka.

Ans: Kanishka organised a Buddhist council at Kashmir. It was presided by Vasumitra .Vasumitra was helped by Ashvagosha.

d) Write about India's trade relation with China.

Ans: From the early centuries of the Christian era, China was connected with north-western India, by sea and land route. These routes further went to Europe. These route from China to Europe through India was known as the Silk Route.

- Q. 3. Fill in the blank by using appropriate terms.
 - a) The Sangam means an association.
- Q. 4. Choose the odd one out.

a) Agasta b) Tolkappiyas

c) Naakirar

d) Kalidasa

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Ans: d) Kalidasa.

Extra Questions:

Q. 1. What was the Sangam Age in the history of Tamil Nadu?

Ans: The period in which the Sangam literature were composed was called the Sangam Age in the history of Tamil Nadu.

Q. 2. Write a short note about the works of the Sangams.

Ans: The Sangam literature has been broadly divided into three categories. They are: the Major Eighteen Anthology Series comprising the Eight Anthologies, the Ten Idylls and the Five Great Epics. Tolkappiyam, a commentary on grammar, phonetics, rhetoric and poetics is dated from the Sangam.

Q. 3. Name the three important Tamil Kingdoms. What were they popularly known?

Ans: The three important Tamil Kingdoms were: Chera, Chola and Pandya Kingdoms. They were popularly known as Moovendar.

Q. 4. What was the common point that the Pandyas, the Cholas and Cheras have in regards to the Romans?

Ans: The common points that the Pandyas, the Cholas and Cheras have in regards to the Romans was that they had trade relations with the Romans.

Q. 5. As the three kingdoms lay near the coast of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, what would be their advantages?

Ans: Their advantages would be having trade relation with other countries, specially Romans through sea route.

Q. 6. What would be their most easiest means of transport?

Ans: Their most easiest means of transport was water transport through sea route.

Q. 7. Why Sangam Period was called Age of Mercantalism?

Ans: The Sangam Period witnessed the growth of long distance exchange by land and by sea, so this period was called Age of Mercantalism.

Q. 8. Who discovered the movement of the monsoon over the Arabian Sea?

Ans: Hippalus, a Greek sailor discovered the movement of monsoon over the Arabian Sea in 45 AD.

Q. 9. Who was the first to invade India?

Ans: The first to invade India was the Indo-Greeks.

Q. 10. What led to the establishment of the "Indo-Greek Kingdom" in India?

Ans: The invasion of the Graeco-Bactrians led to the establishment of the "Indo-Greek Kingdom" in India.

Q. 11. Name the prominent kings of the Indo-Greeks.

Ans: The two prominent kings of the Indo-Greeks were Demetrius and Menander.

Q. 12. Who were the first to issue gold coins in India?

Ans: The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India.

Q. 13. Name the famous art form of the Indo-Greek period.

Ans: The famous art form of the Indo-Greek period was Gandhara art.

Q. 14. When did the Indo-Greek disappear?

Ans: The Indo-Greek disappeared around 10 AD.

Q. 15. Write a brief account of the Sakas.

Ans: The Sakas belonged to the Scythian race of central Asia. They replaced the Indo-Greeks. In the first century, BC, they founded the Saka Kingdom in western Punjab. Gradually, they established their political dominance in Mathura, Ujjain, Taxila, Malwa and Kathiawar. Their most famous king was Rudradaman I. He was famous for his military conquest and public works. He repaired the Sudarsana Lake.

Q. 16. Where did the Parthians come from?

Ans: The Parthians came from Iran.

Q. 17. Who were the Kushanas?

Ans: The Kushanas were the most powerful of the five Yuechi tribes of Central Asia.

Q. 18. Who was the famous king of the Kushanas?

Ans: The famous king of the Kushanas was Kanishka.

Q. 19. Why was Kanishka famous for?

Ans: Kanishka was famous for starting the Saka era in 78 AD.

Q. 20. Write a brief note about the spread of Buddhism.

Ans: During the time of Buddha, Buddhism was mainly confined to Koshala and Magadha. Buddhism spread rapidly when Ashoka embraced the religion and sent various missionaries to different parts of the world. The Kushana king, Kanishka was a great patron of Buddhism. He organised a Buddhist Council at Kashmir. He took great interest in spreading Mahayana Buddhism to places like Central Asia, Tibet and China.