

HISTORY CHAPTER-6

CLASS-7

TOWN ,TRADERS AND CRAFTSPERSONS



Administrative Centres

- The perennial river Kaveri flows near this beautiful town.
- One hears the bells of the Rajarajeshvara temple built by King Rajaraja Chola.
- there are palaces with *mandapas or pavilions*.
- *Kings holds court in these mandapas.*
- The town is bustling with markets selling grain,spices, cloth and jewellery.
- Water supply for the town comes from wells and tanks.

Learning Objectives

In this Chapter you will learn about :

- Many towns combined several functions
- Traders Big and Small
- A Closer look Hampi, Masulipatnam and Surat
- New Towns And Traders.



Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centres

- 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.
- a large number of priests, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near the temple to cater to its needs and those of the pilgrims.

A Network of Small Towns

- From the eighth century onwards the subcontinent was dotted with several small towns.
- 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.
- There were streets for different kinds of artisans such as potters, oil pressers, sugar makers, toddy makers, smiths, stonemasons, etc.
- 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.

Traders Big and Small

- There were many kinds of traders. These included the Banjaras.
- Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations.
- Since traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests.
- There were also communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country.
- 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

- The craftspersons of Bidar were so famed for their inlay work in copper and silver that it came to be called Bidri.
- The Panchalas or Vishwakarma community, consisting of goldsmiths, bronzesmiths, blacksmiths, masons and carpenters, were essential to the building of temples.
- Weavers such as saliyars and Kaikkolars emerged as prosperous communities, making donations to temples.

Hampi

- Hampi is located in the Krishna-Tungabhadra basin, which formed the nucleus of the Vijayanagara
- Empire, founded in 1336. The magnificent ruins at Hampi reveal a well-fortified city. No mortar or cementing agent was used in the construction
- 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.

A gateway to the West

- Surat in Gujarat was the emporium of western trade during the Mughal period along with Cambay.
- The gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz.
- Surat has also been called the gate to Mecca many pilgrim ships set sail from here.

About Surat

- The city was cosmopolitan and people of all castes and creeds lived there. In the seventeenth century the
- Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat.
- In 1689, on average a hundred ships of different countries could be found anchored at the port at any given time.
- There were also several retail and wholesale shops selling cotton textiles. The textiles of Surat were famous

Surat began to Decline

- 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 and
- competition from Bombay (present-day Mumbai) where the English East India Company shifted its headquarters in 1668.
- Today, Surat is a bustling commercial centre.

MASULIPATNAM

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

NEW TOWNS AND TRADERS

- The English, Dutch and French formed East India Companies in order to expand their commercial activities in the East.
- The English emerged as the most successful, commercial and political power in the subcontinent.
- Decline in the independence of craftspersons they now began to work on the system of advances.
- Weavers no longer had the liberty of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns.
- Rise of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras
- Merchants and Artisans and Craftspersons moved to Black Towns.
- White rulers occupied the superior residences. (fort St. George, St. William)

Summary

- Different Towns, many towns combined several functions.
- Administrative Centres-Thanjavur the capital city of Cholas.
- Temple Town and Pilgrimage Centres
- A Network of Small Towns.
- Traders Big and Small
- The craftspersons of Bidar, Panchalas, Saliyar and Kaikkolars
- A closer Look-Hampi, Masulipatnam and Surat

Thank you