

Class 6th Chp-5 India that is Bharat

Q1) How do we define India?

Ans.

- India is a very big and diverse country in Asia, with a long history.
- It's the 7th largest country, surrounded by other countries like Pakistan and China, and also by oceans.
- In the north, there are huge mountains called the Himalayas.
- The middle part has very fertile plains, especially near the Ganga River.
- The western part has a big desert, and the southern part has a high land called the Deccan Plateau and beaches.

Q2) What were the ancient names for India?

Ans) In ancient times, India was known by several names.

- One of the earliest names was **Bharat**, derived from the ancient Hindu texts. This name is still in use today and is one of the official names of the country.
- Another ancient name for India was **Jambudvipa**, which means “the island of the fruit of the jamun tree,” and was used in Buddhist scriptures.
- The ancient Greeks referred to India as **Indoi**, derived from the river Indus.
- The Persian Empire also called the region **Hindustan**, which means land of the Hindus, derived from the Sanskrit name **Sindhu**, referring to the Indus River.
- The ancient Chinese referred to India as **Yintu**, again derived from the river **Sindhu**.

Q3) In the reproduction of the first page of the original Constitution of India, can you make out the phrase ‘India that is Bharat’?

Ans) Yes, the original Constitution of India contains the phrase “India that is Bharat”. The phrase is found in the very first article of the Constitution, which reads: India that is Bharat, shall be a union of States.

This phrase establishes that both ‘India’ and ‘Bharat’ are official names of the country. Bharat is derived from ancient Sanskrit texts and signifies the historical and cultural identity of the nation, while India is more commonly used in international contexts.

Exercise

Q1) Discuss what could be the meaning of the quotation at the start of the Chapter.

“In India at a very early time the spiritual and cultural unity was made complete and became the very stuff of the life of all this great surge of humanity between the Himalayas and the two seas”.

Ans) In ancient times, India developed a strong sense of spiritual and cultural unity, which became a deep and natural part of everyday life for the people living throughout the land—from the Himalayas in the north to the oceans in the south.

Q4) Why did people travel to India from various parts of the world in ancient times? What could be their motivation in undertaking such long journeys?

Ans) People travelled to India from various parts of the world in ancient times for many reasons. Here are five key motivations for their long journeys:

1. **Trade** – To buy and sell valuable goods like spices and silk.
2. **Education** – To study at famous universities like Nalanda and Takshashila.
3. **Religion** – To visit holy sites of major religions like Hinduism and Buddhism.
4. **Exploration** – To discover new lands, cultures, and traditions.

5. **Conquest** – To expand empires and gain control over India's wealth.