



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034**

**CLASS –VII**

**SUBJECT: - SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Number of Blocks:** 3

**Topics: Town, Traders and Craftpersons**

**Subtopics:**

- Administrative Centers
- Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centers
- A Network of Small Towns
- Traders Big and Small
- Crafts in Towns
- A Closer Look: Hampi, Masulipatnam and Surat

**Instructional Aid:** MS Word, NCERT Pdf, Audio-visual aid, Flow Chart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkbUreDBW9E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLZdSqvRdUc>

**Learning Outcomes:** Each student will be able to:

- Identify and locate importance trading centers in India
- Examine the features of administrative pilgrimage centers
- Analyse the important sites of trading centers and architecture of Surat, Hampi and Masulipatnam

**Reference Book:** Our Past II (NCERT History book class VII)

**Chapter Link:** <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?gess1=6-10>

**GUIDELINES:** Read the notes and the Chapter 6 of History- 'Town, Traders and Craftpersons and follow the instructions given below.

All the questions given below are to be done in the Social Science Notebook.

## Block 1- Lesson Development

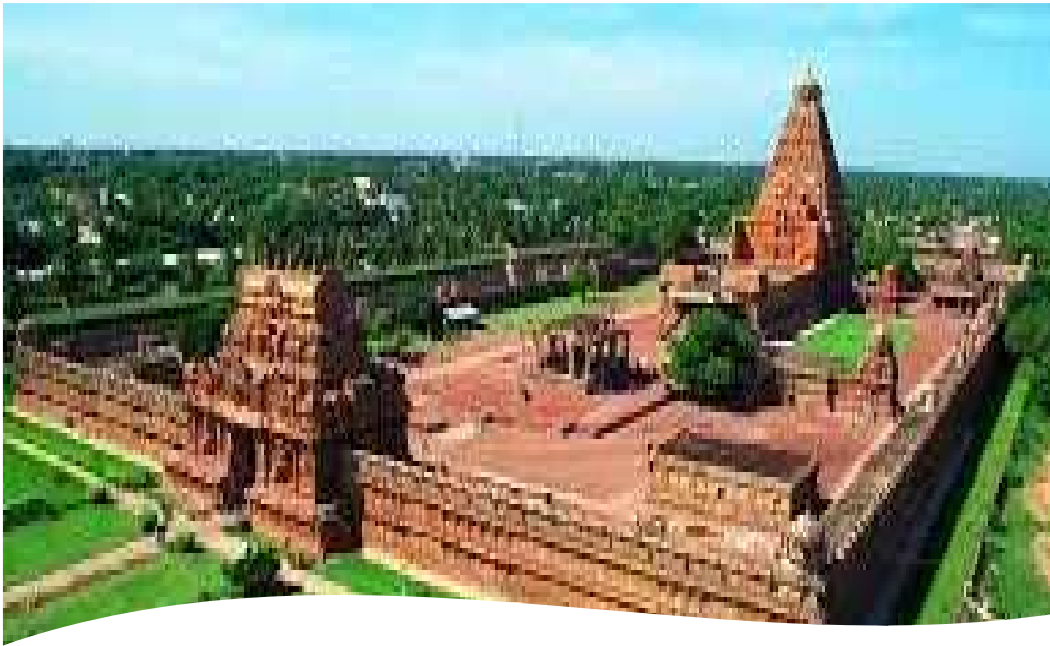
# Administrative Centers

- Thanjavur, the capital of the Cholas, Temples were built by King Rajaraja Chola. The perennial river Kaveri flows near this beautiful town.
- Besides the temple were palaces with mandapas or pavilions.
- Kings held court in these Mandapas- issued orders to their subordinates.
- Barracks for the army were there.
- There were markets selling grain, spices, cloth, and jewellery.
- Water supply came from wells and tanks.
- The Saliya weavers of Thanjavur and Uraiyur produced cloth for flags to be used in the temple festival,
- Sculptors made exquisite bronze idols and tall, ornamental bell metal lamps.



Rajarajeshvara temple

# Temple Towns and Pilgrimage Centers



Thanjavur

- Thanjavur-example of a temple town-represents a very important pattern of urbanization, the process by which cities develop.
- Temples were central to the economy and society.
- Rulers built temples to demonstrate their devotion to various deities.
- Temple authorities used their wealth to finance trade and banking.
- Temple towns grew as many priests, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near the temple to cater to its needs and those of the pilgrims.
- Other examples of Temple Towns are -
  - Bhillasvamin (Bhilsa or Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh)
  - Somnath in Gujarat
  - Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu
  - Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

Pilgrimage centers developed into townships- Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh) and Tiruvannamalai (Tamil Nadu) are examples. Ajmer (Rajasthan) Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti, Pushkar Lake Near Ajmer attracted pilgrims from ancient times.

# A Network of Small Towns

From 8th century onwards subcontinent was dotted with several small towns that had a

- ✓ Mandapika (or mandi of later times) to which nearby villagers brought their produce to sell.
- ✓ Market streets called hatta (haat of later times) lined with shops.

A samanta or, in later times, a zamindar built a fortified palace in or near these towns who levied taxes on traders, artisans and articles of trade-sometimes “donated” the “right” to collect these taxes to local temples.



A City Market

## Block 2- Lesson Development

# Traders-Big and Small



Many kinds of traders including:

- **Banjaras**-Several horse traders formed associations and their headmen negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses.
- As traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they travelled in caravans-formed guilds to protect their interests. For example: Manigramam and Nanadesi.
- Communities like the **Chettiars** and the **Marwari Oswal** went on to become the principal trading groups of the country.
- 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 sold textiles and spices in these ports -in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa.



- ❖ Spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from **Southeast Asia and China**.
- ❖ Towns on the west coast were home to **Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders**.
- ❖ Indian spices and cloth sold in the Red Sea ports were purchased by **Italian traders**-eventually reached European markets, fetching very high profits.
- ❖ Spices are grown in tropical climates (pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, dried ginger, etc.) became an important part of European cooking, and cotton cloth-eventually drew **European traders** to India.

## Crafts in Towns

- Crafts persons of Bidar were famed for their inlay work in copper and silver.
- It came to be called Bidri.
- Panchalas or Vishwakarma community, consist of goldsmiths, bronze smiths, blacksmiths, masons, and carpenters.
- They were essential to the building of temples, construction of palaces, big buildings, tanks, and reservoirs.
- Weavers such as the Saliyar or Kaikkolars emerged as prosperous communities made donations to temples. Aspects of cloth-making like cotton cleaning, spinning, and dyeing became specialized, independent crafts.



**Bidri Work**



**Work of Saliyar Weavers**

# A Closer Look: Hampi, Masulipatnam and Surat

---

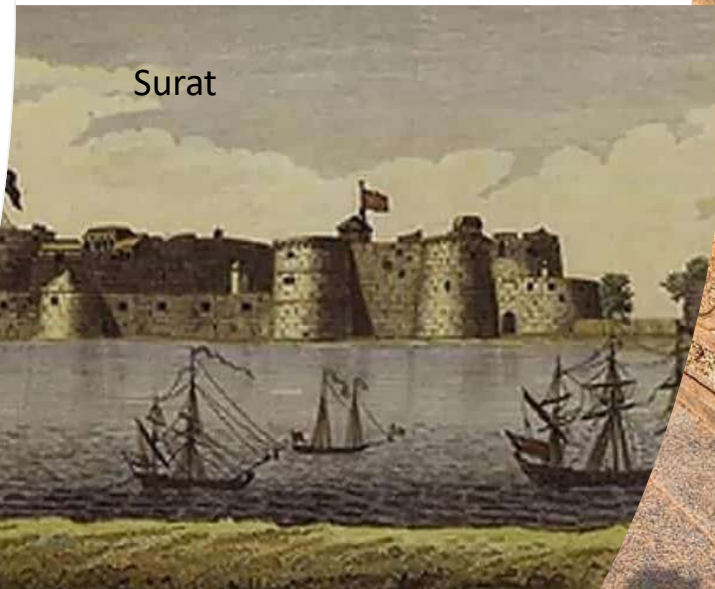
Masulipatnam



Hampi



Surat





## The Architectural Splendour of Hampi

- Hampi located in the Krishna-Tungabhadra basin formed the nucleus of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded in 1336.
- Hampi ruins reveal a well-fortified city-No mortar or cementing agent was used in the construction of its walls. The technique followed was to wedge them together by interlocking.
- Architecture of Hampi was distinctive buildings in the royal complex. They had splendid arches, domes, and pillared halls with places for holding sculptures, had well planned orchards and pleasure gardens with sculptural motifs such as the lotus and corbels.
- In the 15th-16th centuries, Hampi bustled with commercial and cultural activities-Muslim merchants, Chettis and agents of European traders such as the Portuguese, packed the markets of Hampi.



# Hampi Festival

- Temples were the hub of cultural activities-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
- Hampi, fell into ruin following the defeat of Vijayanagara in 1565 by the Deccani Sultans—the rulers of Golconda, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar.



## Block 3- Lesson Development

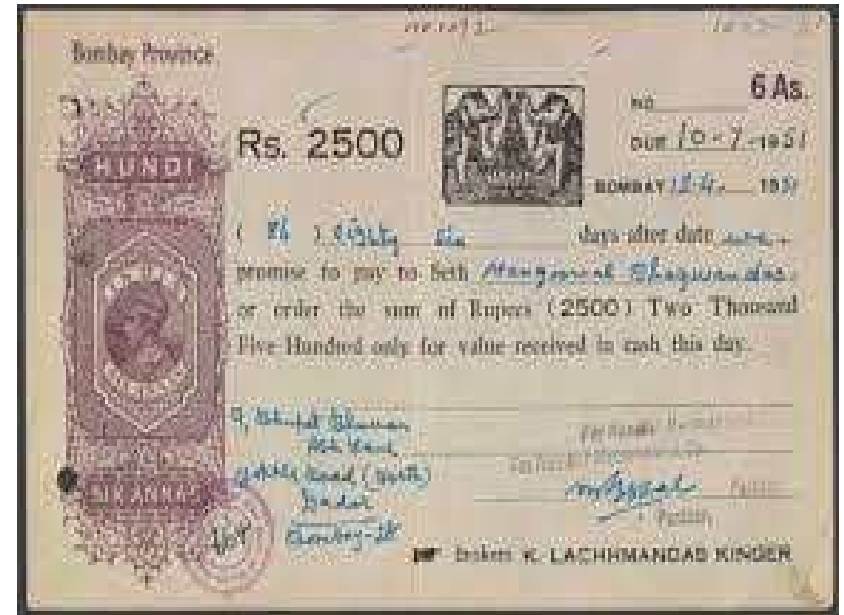
### A Gateway to the West: Surat

- Surat in Gujarat, the emporium (a place where goods from diverse production centers are bought and sold) of western trade during the Mughal period.
- Surat, the gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz- also called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from here.
- The people of all castes and creeds lived here.
- In the 17th century the Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat.
- According to the English chronicler Ovington (wrote an account of the port in 1689), on an average a hundred ships of different countries could be found anchored at the port- 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.
- It built numerous rest-houses to take care of the needs of people from all over the world who came to the city. It had magnificent buildings and innumerable pleasure parks.



# A Gateway to the West: Surat

- ✚ The Kathiawad Seths or Mahajans (moneychangers) had huge banking houses at Surat.
- ✚ Surat hundis (is a note recording a deposit made by a person) were honoured in the far-off markets.
- ✚ However, Surat began to decline towards the end of the 17th century 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.



Hundi

# Fishing in Troubled Waters: Masulipatnam

- Town of Masulipatnam or Machlipatnam (fish port town) lying on the delta of the Krishna river was a center of intense activity in the 17th century.
- Dutch and English East India Companies attempted to control Masulipatnam because it became the most important port on the Andhra coast.
- Fort at Masulipatnam was built by the Dutch.
- Qutab Shahi rulers of Golconda imposed royal monopolies on the sale of textiles, spices, and other items to prevent the trade from passing completely into the hands of the various East India Companies.
- Fierce competition among various trading groups (the Golconda nobles, Persian merchants, Telugu Komati Chettis, and European traders) made the city populous and prosperous.



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

- ✚ Mughals began to extend their power to Golconda. In 1686-1687, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb annexed Golconda causing the European Companies to look for alternatives.
- ✚ 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 during the 18th century.

# New Towns and Traders

- 16th and 17th centuries-European countries searching for spices and textiles, popular both in Europe and West Asia-The English, Dutch and French formed East India Companies to expand their commercial activities in the east.
- Initially great Indian traders like Mulla Abdul Ghafur and Virji Vora who owned many 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.
- English emerged as the most successful commercial and political power in the subcontinent.
- Increase in demand for goods like textiles led to a great expansion of the crafts of spinning, weaving, bleaching, dyeing, etc.



# New Towns and Traders

- ✓ This period also saw the decline of the independence of crafts persons as they began to work on a system of advances. They had to weave cloth which was already promised to European agents. Weavers no longer had the liberty of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns and had to reproduce the designs supplied to them by the Company agents.
- ✓ 18th century saw the rise of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras-nodal cities today. Crafts and commerce underwent major changes-merchants and artisans (such as weavers) were moved into the Black Towns established by the European companies within these new cities.
- ✓ The “blacks” or native traders and crafts person were confined here while the “white” rulers occupied the superior residencies of Fort St. George in Madras or Fort St. William in Calcutta.





## Assignment

### Q1. Multiple choice Questions:

1. Tanjavur is situated on the river:

- (a) Kaveri
- (b) Krishna
- (c) Mahanadi
- (d) Godavari

2. Associations or unions of persons of any particular craft, to protect their interests was termed as

- (a) emporium
- (b) factor
- (c) guilds
- (d) sthapatis

### **Q1. Multiple choice Questions:**

3. Hampi was the capital of which Empire of the following?

- (a) Vijayanagara
- (b) Mughal
- (c) Mewar
- (d) None of these

4. The part of the town where artisans and merchants of Indian origin used to live was called

- (a) administrative town
- (b) port town
- (c) commercial town
- (d) black town

5. The people from distant land visited Surat because

- (a) it was the Gateway to West Asia
- (b) it was a beautiful place
- (c) it was the pilgrim center
- (d) none of the above

Q2. Fill in the blanks:

1. The textiles of ..... were famous for Zari/gold lace.
2. *The sculptors of \_\_\_\_\_ made bronze idols and ornamental bell metal lamps.*
3. Crafts persons of Bidar were famous for their \_\_\_\_\_ work.
4. Baniyas and Bohras traded with the ports of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Q3. Examine the reasons why temple towns grew in the medieval period.

Q4. Write a note on Hampi highlighting its architectural, commercial and cultural activities.

Q5. Why did both the Dutch and English East India Companies attempted to control Masulipatnam?

Q6. Imagine yourself to be living in any of the old towns discussed in the lesson. Describe the architecture of your town along with the social and economic life of people around you.