



**Government of Karnataka**

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**(Revised - 2023)**

**PART - 2**



**SIXTH STANDARD**

**ENGLISH MEDIUM**

**KARNATAKA TEXTBOOK SOCIETY (R.)**

6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. □□

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### *Introduction to the Chapter*

The Rajput, Karkota and Ahom dynasties played an important role in Indian history from 650 to 1200. This Chapter describes the contributions of these dynasties to art, architecture and literature. It also briefly narrates the history of some prominent Rajput dynasties such as the Gurjara Pratihara, the Pala, the Chauhan and the Guhila, besides social and economic conditions of the Age.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the important rulers of Karkota Dynasty and their achievements.
- 2 Appreciating the contributions made by the Rajput dynasties to art, architecture and literature.
- 3 Understanding achievements of the Rajput dynasties.
- 4 Marking on the map the historical places associated with the Rajput Age.
- 5 Appreciating the achievements of Ahom rulers and also their contributions in art.

## **KARKOTA EMPIRE OF KASHMIR**

The Karkota rulers of Kashmir built a model state and gave an efficient administration through which they created an awesome image for themselves in the history of the world. Founded in 625 by Raja Durlabhvardhana, Karkotas were one of the strongest of empires of India. The empire which existed for 230 years



Lalithaditya

(625 to 855) covered the Himalayan mountain ranges and held its sway upto Central Asia. Paraspore or Parihasapura was their capital and they were the worshippers of Sun God. The famous Marthanda sun temple in Kashmir highlights the glory of the rulers of this dynasty.

The prominent and most influential ruler of this dynasty was Lalithaditya who came to power in 724. His rule of 36 years included the present day Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakand and Bihar states. His period is considered as the 'Golden Age' in the history of Karkota dynasty. Lalithaditya made unique contributions to art and culture.

The Age of Karkotas was considered the age of Shaiva Siddantha. Shaivasuthra was written by Vasugupta. Great philosopher and poet, Abhinavagupta belonged to this period. Thrika and Koula traditions developed during this period. It was a golden era in the history of Kashmir. Kalhana was the court poet of Lalithaditya.

## **Rajputs**

The Rajputs claim their descent from the ancient Kshatriya dynasties such as the *Surya-vamsa* and *Chandra-vamsa*. Well-known for their valour and adventurous spirit, the Rajputs ruled in north India for about five centuries. The Age of Rajputs is indeed memorable in several respects. The Rajputs were the ones who boldly faced the invasions of the Arabs, the Turks, the Afghans and the Mughals and defended India.

### ***The Rajput character***

The Rajputs were distinctive in their character. The traditional values of protecting the orphans, the weak, the women and the cows were dear to them. Defending those who sought protection was considered their bounden duty. They sought inspiration from the songs composed over the heroic deeds of their ancestors.

The Rajput women were known for their valour and self-respect. When men died fighting in the war, their widows collectively ended their lives in order to escape being disgraced by the enemies. This practice is known as *jauhar*.

### **Art and Architecture**

The contribution of the Rajput Age to art and architecture is quite rich. Their beautiful temples, magnificent palaces and formidable forts have survived even now. Following are some of the notable structures built by them.

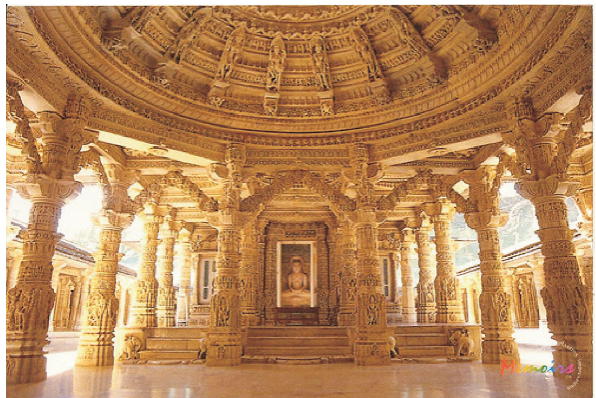
*Kandariya Mahadeva temple at Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)*: This is a world-renowned structure. Of the 85 temples at Khajuraho only 22 remain today.



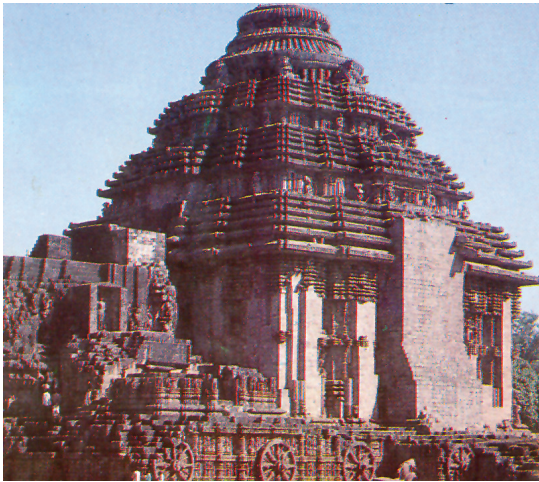
*Kandariya Mahadeva temple, Khajuraho*

- *Dilwara temples, Mount Abu (Rajasthan)*: These are delicately carved marble temples.

- *Sun temple, Konarak (Odisha)*: This temple is unique in several respects. It resembles sun chariot and is one of the magnificent and huge temples of India. It has 24 wheels which have been beautifully carved.



*Dilwara temple, Mount Abu*



**Sun temple, Konarak**

- *Gwalior fort (Madhya Pradesh):* This gigantic fort has been described as "the necklace pearl of the Indian forts". Within the fort is a two-storeyed palace built by Raja Mansingh for his beloved queen Mriganayane. On the walls of rocks outside the Gwalior fort several statues have been carved out. Among them, there is a huge statue of Vrishaba (Adinath), the first Jain Tirthankara.

- *Hawa Mahal, Jaipur (Rajasthan):* Jaipur city is popularly known as the 'Pink City' because all the buildings of the city have been painted pink. It is one of the beautiful cities of the world. The

- *Lingaraj temple: Bhubaneswar (Odisha):* This temple is 1000 years old. Its impressive tower rises to a height of 180 feet.



**Lingaraj temple, Bhubaneswar**



**Gwalior fort**

five-storeyed Hawa Mahal at Jaipur is an attractive structure.

- *Udaipur Palace (Rajasthan):* Udaipur is a lovely city. The palace at Udaipur is the biggest in Rajasthan.



**Hawa Mahal, Jaipur**



**Udaipur Palace**

- *Miniature paintings:*

The Rajput rulers patronised the art of painting. The artists decorated the walls of temples and palaces and illustrated the books with miniature paintings which are known for their colour

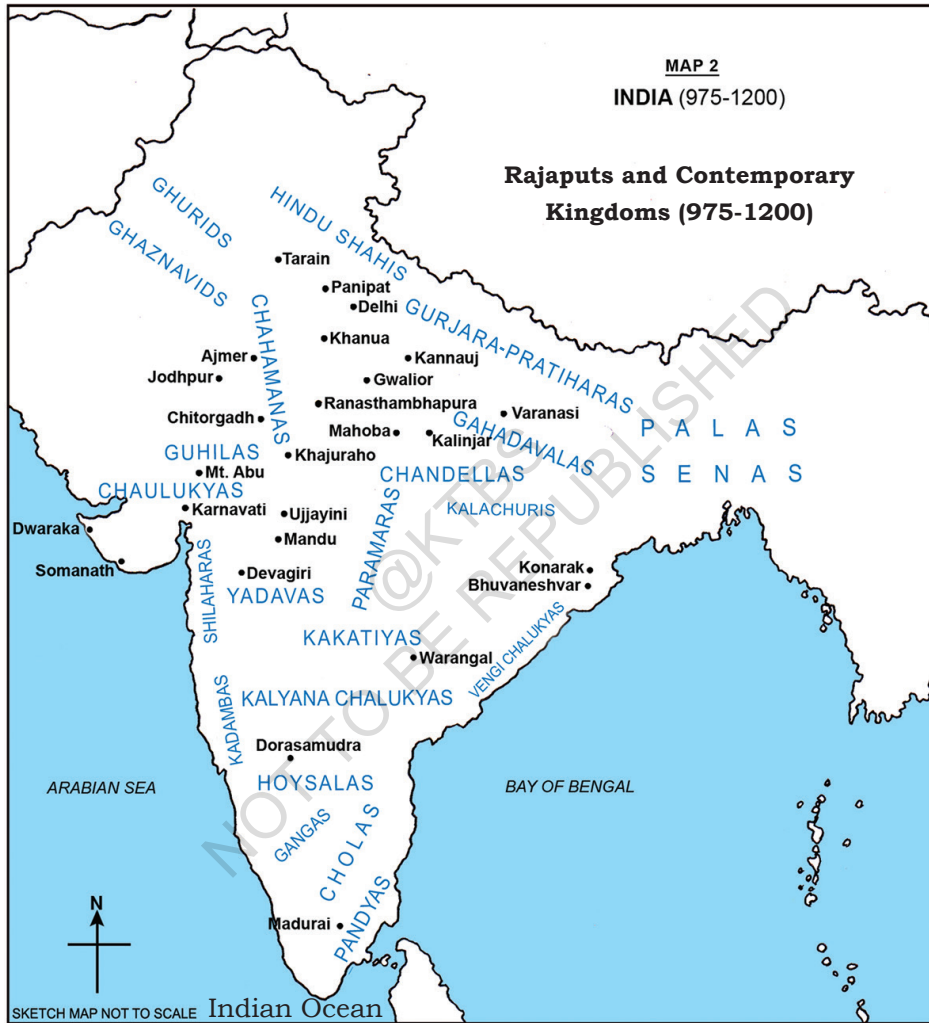
combination and delicate line drawings.

*Literature:* Sanskrit literature flourished during the Rajput Age. Gujarati, Hindi and Rajasthani languages developed. Chand Bardai's *Prithviraj Raso* is a famous



**Rajput miniature painting**

Hindi work of the period. Many of the Rajput rulers were themselves scholars. They patronised poets. Jayadeva, who wrote *Gita Govinda*, was in the court of the Sena rulers. The Rajput dynasties supported Nalanda, Kashi, Vikramashila, Ujjayini and other ancient higher centres of learning.



**Activity:** Collect more details about the ancient universities of India from the internet and prepare a report.

### **Rajput Dynasties**

Several Rajput dynasties played an important role in



Indian history. Among them, let's take up four prominent Rajput dynasties, namely, the Gurjara Pratihara, the Pala, the Chauhan and the Guhila, for study.

*The Gurjara Pratihara:* The Gurjara Pratiharas were ruling from Avanti (Ujjayini in Madhya Pradesh). The famous ruler of the dynasty was *Nagabhata*. He built a vast empire. He is credited for having defended India from the Arab invasion.

*King Bhoja* was a great ruler of the dynasty and was also a man of letters. He captured the famous city of Kannauj. He earned fame by defeating the Palas of Bengal. The Arab traveller Sulaiman, who visited India during his time, calls him “a great king having an efficient cavalry”. He also describes him as “the enemy of the Arabs”.

*The Palas:* The Palas ruled for about four centuries. *Dharmapala* was the most important ruler of the dynasty. His kingdom was one of the great kingdoms of the time in north India. His memorable achievement was the capture of the famous city of Kannauj. The Pala dynasty was overthrown by Vijayasena, a ruler of Karnataka origin. The dynasty which he established was known as the *Sena dynasty*.

The Palas were followers of Buddhism. They patronised Hindu Dharma. They showed special interest in the spread of education. The Universities of Uddandapura and Vikramashila were founded by them.

*The Chauhans:* *Prithviraj III* was the well-known ruler among the Chauhans. Delhi was his capital city.

*The fascinating story of Prithviraj Chauhan marrying Samyukta, the beautiful daughter of Jayachandra, the king of Kannauj, has been narrated in several literary works of the period. There was enmity between Jayachandra and his relative Prithviraj. However, Samyukta and Prithviraj loved each other.*

*Jayachandra did not invite Prithviraj for the swayamvara of Samyukta. In order to insult Prithviraj, Jayachandra placed at the entrance of his palace a statue of the former to appear to be a palace guard. Samyukta, setting aside all the princes assembled for the swayamvara to seek her hand, went to the palace gate and garlanded the statue of Prithviraj.*

*Prithviraj, who was hiding all the time behind the statue, rushed Samyukta to his place on his horse and married her. This episode, however, further embittered the relations between the two royal houses.*

When Muhammad Ghori invaded India, Prithviraj opposed him. He got the support of several Rajput rulers against the common enemy. However, Jayachandra of Kannauj refused to join him. In the battle that took place Prithviraj defeated Muhammad Ghori. But he granted him mercy and let him off. Next year Muhammad Ghori challenged Prithviraj. In the second battle that ensued Prithviraj was defeated. At this hour of crisis, Prithviraj mounted his horse and tried to escape. However, he was captured by the enemy soldiers. Muhammad Ghori ordered him to be killed. Soon Delhi came under Muhammad Ghori. This paved the way for the establishment of the rule of the Sultans at Delhi.

There are many legends about Prithviraj, and his heroic deeds have been described in the Hindi poem called *Prithviraj Raso* by Chand Bardai.

**The Guhilas:** Guhilas (Guhilots) belonged to a lineage of great warriors. *Khommana*, a ruler of the dynasty, defended his kingdom from the Arab military expedition and took the title of *Bappa Rawal*. Another notable ruler of the dynasty was *Rana Kumbha* who fought against the Sultans of Delhi and defended his kingdom. He built 32 forts to keep his kingdom safe and secure. The magnificent victory tower (*Vijaya Sthambha*) at Chittorgarh was erected by him.



**Victory Pillar,  
Chittorgarh**

The well-known ruler among the Guhilas was *Rana Sanga* or Rana Samgrama Simha. A hero of a hundred battles, he had 80 scars of war on his body. He constantly fought against the sultans of Delhi.

**Economic conditions:** • From the time of the Guptas, it was a practice to grant lands to those who were in king's service. This practice continued during the Rajput Age and gave rise to *zamindari* system. The *zamindari* system added to the difficulties of the tillers of land.

- Towns had craftsmen and traders. The *vaishyas* (merchants) were engaged in business and banking.

- Foreign trade flourished. The Arabs traded at the ports on the west coast of India. Spices, cotton and diamonds were exported from India. Horses were imported from Central Asia and Arabia.

- The income of the kingdom was mostly spent on building forts and temples. This provided employment to thousands of people.

*Social conditions:* • There were several social classes in society. These were based on hereditary professions.

- Women were held in high esteem. They were cultured and they studied literature, Sanskrit language, dance, music, painting and embroidery work.

- Rajputs undertook pilgrimages to holy places and bathed in holy rivers. Pushkar, the centre of worship of Brahma near Ajmer, was an important place of pilgrimage. A huge annual fair and festival was being held at Pushkar, and it continues even now. ❀



***Camel fair at Pushkara***

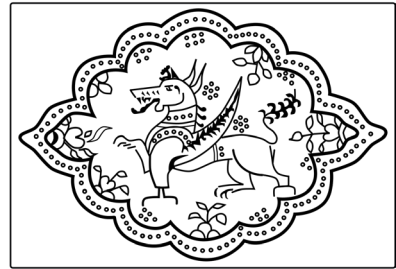
## AHOM DYNASTY

Ahom rulers had ruled over the parts of modern Assam for 598 years. (1228-1826). The dynasty was started by Shan prince Sukapa. His ancestors crossed Patcoy mountains and settled in Assam. The king was called Aasam raja and the citizens were called Kavopha. The King was appointed with the approval of Pathramantris or Manthrimandala. They had the power of removing a king. In the 14th century there was no suitable person to become a king. Hence, they did not have a king on 3 occasions. The manthrimandala took over the charge.

Ahom kings were considered Divine kings. The king Sukapa belonged to Kunjung dynasty. He was the grandson of Lyungdon, the king of the abode. Sukapha came down earth to rule Mangrimongram. The rulers called themselves Indra vamsha Kshatriya. Suhungmung (1497-1539) had the title of 'Swarga Narayana'. In the epic 'Burunji', and in "SwargaNarayanaMaharajorJonmakatha" section it was described that 'Ahom kings were the descedents of Hindu Gods'.

After incarnation, King acquired AHOM. Then the kings added Singha or Simha to their names. Bitharul Phukan, an army was kept ready to safeguard the state, king and the capital.

In its 600 years of rule, we have identified three important rulers- Sukapha- the founder of Ahom Dynasty, Suhang



**Emblem of Ahom  
Dynasty**



**Sukapha**

Mung-the one who extended the empire, and Supatha- the one who strived for the overall development of the kingdom. Lacit Borphukan became a famous commander in chief of the army.

**The Queens of Ahom:** The queens also took part in the administration of the kingdom. The chief queen was called Boor kuvari and the other queens as Parvtiya kuvari, Rajdangiya kuvari and Tamuli kuvari. The queens were usually belonged to Ahom. Coins were printed the names of king and the queen on both the sides.

### **Fight with the Moghals:**

The Moghuls could not establish their supremacy over the north east because of the powerful Ahom dynasty ruled there. The Moghuls had a long desire of acquiring the fertile Assam. They invaded Ahom between 1615-1682 – seventeen times. They captured Guwahati(Pragjyothishapura). Later King Chakradwaja Singha defeated Moghuls and captured Guwahati. Lasith Borphukan had organized a strong river navy with 70000 soldiers against the Moghuls. Hence the Moghuls could not defeat Ahom Kingdom completely.

### **Naval Force of Ahoms:**

Ahoms Kept their Navy along Brahmaputra River on its west coast and drove the enemies away. They were experts in the naval fighting. They built navy ships. They knew guerilla warfare. Therefore the Islamic rulers could not defeat them easily.

### **Chronology**

The Age of Karkota Dynasty - 625 - 855

The Age of Rajputs - 650-1200

The Age of Ahom Dynasty - 1228 - 1826

## Exercises

### *Discuss in groups and answer*

- 1 Name the prominent ruler of Karkota Dynasty?
- 2 State the character of the Rajputs.
- 3 Name any three famous structures of the Rajput Age. Where are they located?
- 4 Name the poets who composed *Prithviraj Raso* and *Gita Govinda*.
- 5 Write a note on Prithviraj Chauhan?
- 6 Who was Bappa Rawal?
- 7 Write a short note on Rana Samgrama Simha.
- 8 Write a note on the social conditions during the Rajput Age.
- 9 Who was the prominent ruler of Ahom Dynasty?

### **Activities**

- 1 *Collect the photos of Rajput temples, palaces and forts and write a short note on each.*
- 2 *Mark the centres of Rajput architecture on the map.*
- 3 *List the names of writers and poets of the ancient Kashmir and their works.*
- 4 *Read the life history of Lait Borphukan.*





### *Introduction to the Chapter*

During the 11-12th centuries the Turks repeatedly invaded Indian territories. These invasions finally culminated in the establishment of the rule of the Sultans of Delhi (1206-1526). This Chapter briefly states the policies of the sultans, their administration, socio-economic conditions of the period and the contributions made by them to architecture and literature.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding how the Turkish invasions during the 11-12th centuries finally led to the establishment of the rule of the Delhi Sultans.
- 2 Understanding the impact of the rule of the Sultans on the economic, social and cultural life of the people.
- 3 Marking on the map places associated with the Sultanate period.

Beginning from the 8th century, there were repeated invasions from across the north-western borders of India. These invasions aimed at looting the wealth, acquiring territories and spreading Islam.

*The Arab invasion:* The Arabs were the first to invade the Indian territories. They invaded Sindh in A.D. 712. As a result of their victory, the provinces of Sindh and Multan came under their control. With this, the Islam started taking roots in the newly conquered lands. However, the Arab aggression soon cooled down due to the opposition from the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir.

*The Turkish invasion - Mahmud Ghazni:* Three centuries after the Arab invasion, Mahmud Ghazni attacked India. Of Turkish origin, Mahmud was the Sultan of Ghazni, a small



kingdom in Afghanistan. He invaded India for seventeen times, looting and destroying prosperous cities and wealthy temples. Among such temples included Sri Krishna temple at Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and the rich and sacred temple of Somanath (Gujarat).

**Activity:** *There is a lot of difference between the early invasions and later by Ghors and Mughals. What impact did these invasions make on the life in India. Discuss and prepare a report.*



**Mahmud Ghazni**



**Muhammad Ghori**

*After Independence the Somanath temple was rebuilt on a grand scale (1951). It was inaugurated by none other than the first President of Free India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.*



**Somanath temple, Gujarat**

**Muhammad Ghori:** During the last quarter of the 12th century Muhammad Ghori, who was ruling a kingdom in Afghanistan, invaded India and secured the provinces of Sindh and Punjab. When he made further advances into Indian territories, *Prithviraj Chauhan*, the king of Delhi and Ajmer, routed him in a battle. However, Muhammad was spared from death penalty. The very next year Muhammad came to India and fought with Prithviraj and defeated him. Muhammad ordered him to be killed. Delhi came under the control of Muhammad Ghori. Before returning to Afghanistan he transferred the conquered territories to his general by name Qutbuddin Aibak. Aibak started ruling as sultan of Delhi.

### **The Slave Dynasty**

**Qutbuddin** was the first sultan of Delhi. He had originally been a slave and hence the dynasty founded by him is known as the 'Slave' dynasty. He strengthened the Turkish rule in India by defeating his enemies. To mark his victory he started constructing *Qutb Minar* at Mehrauli near Delhi. Later it was completed by Sultan Iltutmish.



**Qutbuddin Aibak**



**Sultana Raziya**

*The only female ruler during the Sultanate period was Raziya. A daring sultana, she dispensed justice in the royal court. She dressed herself as a man and led army in the battlefield. Intolerant of a woman's rule, the nobles rebelled and killed her.*



**Qutb Minar, Delhi**

## **The Khalji Dynasty**

After the Slave dynasty, the Khalji dynasty came to power. Alauddin Khalji was the strongest of all the sultans of Delhi. His rule was based on military power.

**Policies:** Alauddin introduced several reforms in administrative, military and economic fields. He regulated the price of goods commonly consumed. He banned consumption of liquor and gambling in Delhi. The guilty were severely punished.

**Military campaigns:** Alauddin aspired to conquer entire India. In the first instance, he conquered north India by his military strength. To south India he sent *Malik Kafur*, a slave who was close to him, with a huge army. Malik Kafur invaded the four major kingdoms of south India and looted their capitals.



**Alauddin Khalji**

*The kingdoms conquered by Malik Kafur were the Yadavas of Maharashtra (capital Devagiri), the Kakatiyas of Andhra (Warangal), the Hoysalas of Karnataka (Dorasamudra) and the Pandyas of Tamil Nadu (Madurai).*

Malik Kafur, continuing his military march, proceeded upto Rameshwaram. All along the route his army destroyed several places of worship and looted wealth. Never before had such a huge quantity of wealth of south India flowed to Delhi.

Alauddin patronised *Amir Khusrau*, *Amir Hasan* and other Persian poets. He built a new fort in Delhi known as *Siri*. *Alai Darwaza* in Delhi, a grand structure, was his contribution to architecture.



***Alai Darwaza, Delhi***

Alauddin's last days were tragic. There were several revolts in the palace to overthrow him. Finally, Malik Kafur, out of greed for power, killed his master and declared himself sultan. But he too was killed by his enemies. Within a short time, the Khalji rule ended and the Tughlaqs came to power.

### **The Tughlaq Dynasty**

Muhammad bin Tughlaq was the most notable sultan of the Tughlaq dynasty. He was a scholar. Lacking practical sense, he took decisions in haste. He could be easily enraged. He was a man of strange character.

*Administrative experiments - Transfer of capital:* To improve the functioning of the administration Muhammad undertook



***Muhammad bin Tughlaq***

several experiments. One such experiment was the transfer of capital from Delhi to Devagiri (Maharashtra). He was of the view that the capital should be centrally located. Devagiri, 700 miles from Delhi, was renamed Daulatabad. He passed strict orders that all the residents of Delhi should move to the new place. The residents of Delhi, who were forced to leave their homes, faced untold misery in the course of their journey to a far place in the south. A large number of them died on their way. Anyway, after shifting the capital he realized that he had committed a grave mistake. So he ordered reshifting of the capital and the people to Delhi. However, only a few survived to return to Delhi.

Another reform of Muhammad was that in place of silver coins he issued token coins of copper with the *same* face value. But he failed to pass order that only the government had the authority to mint copper coins. Consequently people themselves began to mint copper tokens. The government could not meet the demand for silver coins in exchange for token coins. Muhammad soon realized his folly and ordered that old coins should be used. This experiment proved a great failure and weakened the financial condition of the state. Discontented by Muhammad's rule, people revolted. While he was putting down a revolt in Sindh province, he died of fever.

*After the Tughlaq rule, the Sayyid and the Lodi dynasties ruled from Delhi for a short period. The last Lodi ruler Ibrahim was defeated in the battle of Panipat by Babur who laid the foundation of the Mughal rule.*

### *Conditions of the Delhi Sultan's Period*

- **Administration:** Although the Hindus formed the majority under the sultanate, the administration functioned on Turkish lines. The army formed the backbone of the state. The sultans were absolute. Balban, a notable sultan, declared that he was Allah's representative and hence accountable to Allah alone.

The sultans, however, had to face frequent revolts of the local rulers, and were always fearful of losing power.

- **Economy:** The burden of land revenue heavily fell on the peasants. Muhammad bin Tughlag further increased the land revenue and got it collected mercilessly. Consequently peasants revolted everywhere.

Weaving was a major occupation of the people. The cities provided employment to a large number of workers on account of brisk building activities taking place there.

The sultans were importing mainly horses for the army. At the same time, a large number of Indians enslaved by the sultans were being exported.

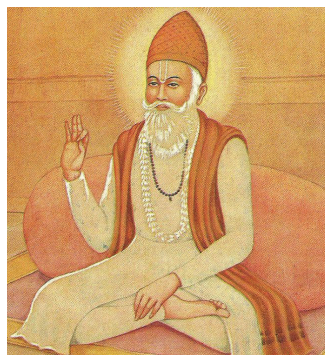
*Alauddin Khalji even fixed the price of slaves who were sold in the market. The number of slaves under the sultans was indeed shocking. While Alauddin Khalji had 50,000 slaves under him, Firuz Shah Tughlaq owned 1,80,000 slaves.*

**Architecture and literature:** The main structures built by the sultans were the famous *Qutb Minar* (17 m tall), *Alai Darwaza*, an impressive entrance, *Quwwat-ul-Islam* mosque and the *fort of Siri*. All these are in Delhi.

During the sultanate period, the Urdu language evolved. *Amir Khusrau* and *Amir Hasan* were great Persian poets of the period. Amir Khusrau was a great musician and evolved musical instruments such as *tabla*, *sitar* and others. The poet *Jayasi* wrote *Padmavat* in Urdu



**Amir Khusrau**



**Kabirdas**



**Meerabai**

which was a *sufi* poem. Ramananda, Kabirdas, Raidas and Meerabai belonged to this period.

### **Chronology**

Arab invasion of Sindh	-	712
Mahmud Ghazni's invasions	-	1000-1026
Battles of Tarrain (Between Muhammad Ghori and Prithvi Raj Chouhan)	-	1191-1192
Rule of Delhi Sultans	-	1206-1526
Qutbuddin Aibak	-	1206-1210
Raziya Sultana	-	1236-1240
Alauddin Khalji	-	1296-1316
Muhammad bin Tughlaq	-	1325-1351
Battle of Panipat and beginning of the Mughal rule	-	1526

**New Word :** Minar - A long tower

### **Exercises**

#### **Discuss in groups and answer**

- 1 What were the results of Mahmud Ghazni's invasions?
- 2 What were the achievements of Muhammad Ghori?
- 3 State the achievements of Qutbuddin Aibak.
- 4 State the policies of Alauddin Khalji and their results.
- 5 Why did the policies of Muhammad bin Tughlaq fail?
- 6 What were the social and economic conditions during the rule of the Sultans of Delhi?
- 7 What were the contributions of the Delhi Sultans to architecture and literature?

#### **Activities**

- 1 *Collect the pictures of the monuments of the period of Delhi Sultans, with brief notes.*
- 2 *Mark on the map places associated with the Sultans of Delhi.*





## **Religious and social reform movements**

### *Introduction to the Chapter*

- Between the 8th and 16th centuries many religious and social reform movements were witnessed in India. These were led by religious leaders who aimed at regeneration of religious and social life of the people.
- In this Chapter the life, teachings and reforms of Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Basaveshvara and Madhvacharya, who were in the forefront of the reform movements, have been briefly stated.
- Don't you know about Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa? What are their contribution to the society? Like the Dasas the saints of north India also awakened the people through their teachings. Let us study about them.
- In this Chapter the meaning and features of the Bhakti cult have been explained. The Bhakti saints such as Sri Chaitanya, Guru Nanak and Meerabai and the Sufi saints have been introduced. In addition, the harmony that the Bhakti cult established among different religious groups, and the contribution it made to the growth of the regional languages have been dealt with.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the teachings and reforms of the religious leaders.
- 2 Understanding the importance and relevance of their reforms.
- 3 Understanding the contributions of the Bhakti saints to social harmony.
- 4 Understanding the teachings of the saints, and imbibing a liberal outlook.



The saints of India not only guided the people through their teachings but also undertook active religious and social reforms. Their reforms eradicated ignorance and evil practices among the people. Their impact is felt even at present.

*Have you listened to the stotra Bhajagovindam? Do you have the practice of singing it? Who has composed it?*

## **Sri Shankaracharya**

Shankaracharya was born at Kaladi in Kerala. An extraordinary boy, by the time he was eight, he studied the four Vedas.

*Shankara's parents were Shivaguru and Aryamba. He propounded Advaita philosophy.*



**Sri Shankaracharya**

### **Shankaracharya's reforms**

Shankaracharya condemned certain orthodox practices prevalent in his times and reformed them. He established four monasteries (*mathas*) at Badari (Uttarakhand), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) and Sringeri (Karnataka). These served as Dharmic centres for uniting Indians.



**Badrinath temple, Badarinath**

Shankaracharya wrote several hymns and devotional songs in Sanskrit. His *Bhajagovindam* is popular among the people even today. Astonishingly, he achieved all these during his short life span of just 32 years.

## **Sri Ramanujacharya**

Ramanujacharya was born at Sriperambudur near Chennai. He studied religious scriptures (*shastras*) at Kanchi.

*Ramanujacharya's parents were Keshava Dikshita and Kantimati. He propounded Vishishtadvaita philosophy.*

Ramanujacharya travelled to different parts of India and spread *Srivaishnavism*, the religious sect founded by him. He declared that salvation (*mukti*) may be attained through devotion (*bhakti*) and surrender (*prapatti*) to God. The Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana welcomed him to his kingdom.



**Sri Ramanujacharya**



**Cheluvanarayana temple, Melukote**

## **Reforms of Ramanujacharya**

- Ramanuja condemned casteism.
- Ramanujacharya was responsible for building several grand temples in south India including a few at Melukote (Mandya district).

## **Sri Basaveshvara**

The role of Basaveshvara in the social and religious reforms in Karnataka was indeed revolutionary. He hailed from Basavana Bagewadi in Vijayapura district. Refusing to undergo *upanayana* ceremony, he was given *linga diksha*. After his early schooling, he went to Kudalasangama for further studies.

*Basaveshvara's parents, Madarasa and Madalambike, belonged to Bagevadi agrahara. He propounded Shaktivishishtadvaita philosophy.*

By his talents Basaveshvara became the treasurer of the Kalachuri ruler Bijjala at Kalyana. In Kalyana he began to preach progressive ideas. However, these were opposed by the orthodox section of the society. Disappointed, he left Kalyana and moved to Kudalasangama where he stayed upto the last.

## **Reforms of Basaveshvara**

- Basaveshvara aimed at building the society on a casteless basis.
- 'Work is Worship' (*Kayakave Kailasa*) was one of his important teachings.



**Sri Basaveshvara**

**Activity :** Select three *vachanas* of Basaveshvara and write a paragraph on casteless society he dreamt of.

*Kayaka means work done as if it were service to God. Sharing the fruits of Kayaka with everybody in an equitable way is dasoha. The aim of Basaveshvara was to instil work culture (Kayaka) among the people.*

- Basaveshvara condemned caste system, idol worship and *yajna-yagas*. By stating that one's body itself was the temple, he stopped exploitation by the temple priests.
- By upholding the greatness of women, he gave self-confidence to womanhood which had lost its voice.
- Basaveshvara started an assembly known as *Anubhava Mantapa* which served as a forum for the *sharanas*.
- Basaveshvara composed more than a thousand *vachanas* which conclude with the refrain *Kudalasangamadeva*.

**Vachana literature:** The *vachana* is a distinct literary form. The *vachanas* are such that they may be read like prose or sung like poems. The *vachanas* were also composed by Jedara Dasimayya, Allamaprabhu, Chenna Basavanna, Akka Mahadevi and others. These *sharanas* came from different communities. The teachings of the *vachanas* were relevant even today present.

### **Sri Madhvacharya**

Madhvacharya was born at Pajaka (Belle) village near Udupi.

*Madhva's parents were Madhyagheha Bhatta and Vedavati. He propounded Dvaita philosophy.*

After accepting *sanyas*, Madhvacharya toured different

parts of India twice for the purpose of spreading his teachings. He worshipped Lord Vishnu.

### **Reforms of Madhvacharya**

- Madhvacharya composed many works in Sanskrit relating to Madhva philosophy.
- He appointed eight of his disciples to perform regular pujas of Lord Sri Krishna at Udupi. Eight Mathas were later established.
- He preached the simple path of *Bhakti*.



**Sri Madhvacharya**

*Madhvacharya set up a system under which each pontiff would worship Lord Krishna for a period of two months in rotation. Later Sri Vadiraja Swami extended the period of rotation (paryaya) to two years.*

Apart from the *Ashtamathas*, the Uttaradi, Vyasarayya and Raghavendra *Mathas* are also religious centres of the Madhva principles. The influence of the teachings of Madhvacharya was felt in Karnataka, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

### **BHAKTI MOVEMENT**

Ours is a land of saints and sages. Hundreds of saints have taken birth here from time to time. They brought about social harmony and encouraged the people to walk the right path. They also exposed the social ills.

The saints preached the path of *bhakti* or devotion towards God. They believed that *Bhakti* is the only way to earn His mercy. This approach to God is known as the *Bhakti cult*.



**Sri Krishna temple, Udupi**

## Features of the Bhakti Movement

- The Bhakti cult condemned discrimination between the high and the low. It declared that all human beings are equal.
- The Bhakti saints opposed and ridiculed outdated customs and practices.
- The Sufi saints proclaimed that religion meant love of all and service to mankind. They maintained that there is only one God, not many.
- The saints took up the task of uniting the hearts of the people.

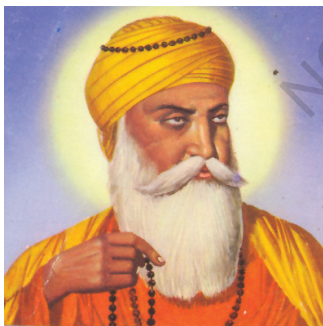
### The Bhakti saints

**Sri Chaitanya:** He was born in West Bengal. Chaitanya decried caste discrimination. He preached that *Bhakti* was the only path to the realization of God (*mukti*).

His teachings were rooted in love, brotherhood and charity. He travelled all over India spreading the message of love.



**Sri Chaitanya**



**Guru Nanak**

**Guru Nanak:** Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He was born in Punjab. He emphasized what was common to Hinduism and Islam. His songs called *Japji* are in the *Granth Sahib*, the holy book of the Sikhs. Sikhism emphasises the importance of chanting God's name and doing good deeds. It also stresses equality between men and women. Nanak questions: "How

can a woman, who gives birth to kings and prophets, be inferior to men?" He declared: "Even if I have a lakh tongues, I will chant the name of one God on all those tongues". Nanak

visited Karnataka during his journey. The place in Bidar where he stayed is called the *Nanak Zhara*.

**Meerabai:** Saint Meerabai, who is revered as the Radha of Kaliyug, was a great composer of songs too. She was born in a royal family of Rajputs in Rajasthan. During her young age, she was very fond of playing with the idol of Lord Krishna given to her by her grandfather. She considered Lord Krishna as her God. Her mother-in-law strongly objected to her worship of Krishna. Meera could not withstand this and, leaving the palace forever, she went to Brindavan, the holy place associated with Lord Krishna. The feelings of *bhakti* and love are prominent in her compositions. *Giridhar Gopal* is the deity of her heart. Through her *bhajans*, which are popular and sung all over India even today, Meerabai finds a permanent place in the hearts of millions.



**Meerabai**

### *Other prominent Bhakti saints*

- **Kabirdas:** Kabir condemned the injustice of the caste system, idol worship, pilgrimage, fasts, vows and all other religious rituals. He declared that he was the child of Allah and Rama.
- **Tulsidas:** His famous epic poem is Ramcharitamanasa.
- **Surdas:** He was another saint-poet. He was born blind. Sur Sagar is his famous book of poems.

**Sufi Movement:** The Sufi cult originated in Arabia and later spread in India. The sufi saints wore coarse woollen clothes (*suf*) as a badge of poverty. Hence they were called the sufis. Gradually the sufis were influenced by Yoga, Vedanta and Buddhism. Many of them (for example, Baba Budan) were worshippers of Dattatreya. The sufi saint of Bijapur,

Budan-al-din wrote songs in praise of Lord Krishna.

The sufis preached that religion meant love and service to mankind. They expressed their *bhakti* by means of singing and dancing. Both these practices were forbidden by the orthodox Muslims. There were even women among the sufis such as *Biya* who is revered even today.

*Nizamuddin Auliya* is India's leading sufi saint. He settled in Delhi and lived a life of poverty. A mosque with a thatched roof was the centre of his activities. He rejected a village donated by the Delhi sultan, and remained away from politics. He preached the message of good conduct and compassion to the devotees who came to see him.



***Nizamuddin Auliya***

*Bandenawaz* is a famous sufi saint of Karnataka. His *darga* which is attractive, is in Gulbarga. The Hindus called *Bandenawaz Keshav Chaitanya* and worshipped him.

***Chisti*** : The Chisti is an important sufi sect. Its founder, *Moyinuddin Chisti*, came to Ajmer and established his centre. Piety, service to one's guru and walking the right path are the qualities of his followers. The Chistis were sincerely interested in harmony between the Hindus and the Muslims. They wrote in regional languages. *Salim Chisti* of Fatehpur (in Agra) is a well-known Chisti.



***Salim Chisti's tomb, Agra***



## **The influence of Bhakti Movement**

- The Bhakti saints were responsible for creating harmony between the Hindus and the Muslims.
- The Bhakti saints composed literature in the local languages. As a result, Indian languages were enriched.

## **Chronology**

Shankaracharya	-	8-9th century
Ramanujacharya	-	11-12th century
Basaveshvara	-	12th century
Madhvacharya	-	13-14th century
Sri Chaitanya	-	1486-1534
Guru Nanak	-	1469-1538
Meerabai	-	1498-1546
Nizamuddin Auliya	-	1238-1325
Moyinuddin Chisti	-	13th century
Bandenawaz	-	15th century
Salim Chisti	-	16th century

## **New words**

*Zhara* - sweet water spring.

*piety* - devotion towards God.

## **Let's know**

Sri Chaitanya's birthplace: Navadweep (Nadiya) in West Bengal. Guru Nanak's birthplace: Talawandi in Pakistan. Meerabai: the only daughter of Ratansingh of the Rathod family of Jodhpur.

## Exercises

### Discuss in groups and answer

- 1 What were the reforms made by Shankaracharya?
- 2 What were the social reforms made by Ramanujacharya?
- 3 What are the teachings of Basaveshvara?
- 4 State the importance of *vachana* literature. Name some *vachanakaras*.
- 5 What are the contributions of Madhvacharya?
- 6 What did the Bhakti saints preach?
- 7 What are the songs of Guru Nanak called?
- 8 Who are the leading Sufi saints of India?
- 9 State the influence of the Bhakti Movement.
- 10 What was the path preached by the saints?
- 11 Which is the holy book of the Sikhs?

### Discuss

The relevance of the teachings of the Bhakti saints.

### Activities

- 1 Listen to Bhajagovindam.
- 2 Read the biographies of Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Basaveshvara and Madhvacharya.
- 3 Collect any ten vachanas of Basaveshvara.
- 4 Collect the names of vachanakaras and their pen-names.
- 5 Dress yourselves as Acharyas, saints and Sharanas and narrate their teachings on the stage during celebrations in the school.

- 6 "Steal not, kill not..." (ಕಳಬೇಡ, ಕೊಲಬೇಡ). What are the values found in this vachana? Do we find these values being practised in our society? Discuss.
- 7 Collect the teachings of Sri Shankara, Sri Ramanuja and Sri Madhva.
- 8 Collect the pictures of the Bhakti saints with details.
- 9 Read the biographies of Sri Chaitanya, Guru Nanak, Meerabai, Tulsidas, Kabir, Surdas and the Sufi saints.
- 10 Listen to Meera bhajans.
- 11 Find out more information about sufism from the internet. Discuss their influence on India's multi-religious society and their relevance in the present context, and prepare a report of one page.

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## **VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE**

### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Due to the military campaigns of the Sultans of Delhi, the empires of south India, namely, the Seuna (Maharashtra), the Hoysala (Karnataka), the Kakatiya (Andhra Pradesh) and the Pandya (Tamil Nadu) declined. Without a strong political authority, the culture and social life crumbled. At such troubled times, the Vijayanagara empire emerged. It protected and nourished the Hindu Dharma and culture in south India, and flourished in great glory for three centuries (1336–1646).

In this Chapter, the major achievements of the prominent emperors and the battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi (1565), which was the cause for the decline of the empire, have been described. In addition, the contribution of the empire towards literature and art are also described.

The Bahmani kingdom was founded (1347) shortly after the establishment of Vijayanagara empire (1336). The river Krishna formed the common boundary for both these kingdoms – the Bahmani kingdom was in the north and the Vijayanagara empire in the south of the river. The fertile land between the Krishna in the north and the Tungabhadra in the south is the *Raichur doab*. The two powers fought constantly to acquire the *doab*. Over a period of time, there arose in - fighting for power among the sultans of the Bahmani kingdom. As a result, the kingdom broke into five Shahi dynasties (1489). Among them, the Adil Shahi of Bijapur was prominent.

The achievements of the Bahmani sultan Firuz Shah and his famous prime minister, Mahamud Gavan, have been described. In addition, the remarkable contributions of the Bahmani dynasty and the Adil Shahis have been explained.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the achievements of the Vijayanagara rulers.
- 2 Appreciating the greatness of the literary works, music, architecture and sculpture of that time, and lending a hand in protecting them.
- 3 Appreciating the significant work done by the Vijayanagara emperors towards preserving and nourishing Dharma and culture.
- 4 Marking on the map important places associated with the empire.
- 5 Understanding the contributions of Firuz Shah and Mahamud Gavan.
- 6 Appreciating the great contributions of the Bahmani and Bijapur sultans to literature, art and sculpture.
- 7 Marking on the map important historical places relating to the Bahmani kingdom.



**Emblem of Vijayanagara empire**

Look at the map of the Vijayanagara empire. It is really vast, isn't it? It was one of the greatest empires of that time in the world.

**THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE  
DURING KRISHNADEVARAYA**  
[16th Century]



As a result of the military campaigns of the Sultans of Delhi many prosperous kingdoms of south India declined. The religious, economic and social lives of the people were thrown into utter confusion. At this crucial juncture, the Vijayanagara empire was established, and it took upon itself the task of protecting and nourishing the Hindu Dharma and culture. It ruled for about three centuries and upheld the principle of *Sarva-dharma-samabhava*. Hampi, in Ballari district, was its capital.

### ***Harihara and Bukka***

Harihara and Bukka, the sons of Sangama, founded the empire on the southern bank of the river Tungabhadra.

*Harihara, Bukka, Kampana, Marappa and Muddappa were the sons of Sangama. The empire was ruled by kings of the Sangama, the Saluva, the Tuluva and the Aravidu dynasties. The boar (varaha) was the royal emblem of the Vijayanagara empire. The family deity was Lord Virupaksha. Hinduraya Suratrana was the title adopted by the emperors.*

Harihara and Bukka were the first two kings of Vijayanagara. Harihara started building the new capital in Hampi.

During the reign of Harihara, the Bahmani kingdom was established. Since then, there were frequent wars between the Vijayanagara kings and the Bahmani sultans.

### ***Devaraya II (Proudhadevaraya)***

The reign of Proudhadevaraya, the well-known king of the Sangama dynasty, is a very significant period. The fame of the empire spread everywhere. Internal peace and prosperity prevailed. Trade and commerce flourished.

Proudhadevaraya suppressed the revolts of the leaders of the border areas. He fought against the sultans and expanded

his kingdom. He recruited Muslims to his cavalry. The Persian ambassador, *Abdul Razak*, has recorded thus: "There is no king like Devaraya in the whole of India". Further he stated that the king's army had lakhs of soldiers.

Devaraya was an able administrator, a brave warrior and a scholar. He got the beautiful temple of *Hazara Ramaswamy* built at Hampi. Devaraya's religious policy was *Sarva-dharma-sambhava*. He constructed a mosque in the capital. The Jaina and Vaishnava temples were also constructed during his reign. The Veerashaiva sect became popular. A rich literature flourished both in Kannada and Sanskrit.

### **Krishnadevaraya**

Krishnadevaraya, a ruler of the Tuluva dynasty, was a noble emperor and a valiant soldier. During his reign, the boundaries of the empire extended upto the river Krishna in the north and the sea coasts in the east, west and south.

**Achievements:** Krishnadevaraya was a capable administrator. He spent a quarter of the revenue of the empire on charity and social welfare. Agriculture and commerce prospered in his time. Commodities were inexpensive.



**Bronze sculpture  
of Krishnadevaraya  
with his wives**

Krishnadevaraya was a scholar well-versed in both Sanskrit and Telugu. He composed *Amukta Malyada* in Telugu and *Jambavati Kalyana* in Sanskrit. His title was *Kannada-rajya-ramaramana*.



## **Ramaraya**

The Vijayanagara empire, which ruled gloriously for a long time, lost its power after the death of Krishnadevaraya. But the empire recovered its glory under Ramaraya, a mighty general and an able administrator.

### **Battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi**

**Causes:** Over a period of time, the Bahmani kingdom became weak and split into five kingdoms. The sultans of these kingdoms sought Ramaraya's intervention in their in-fighting. Ramaraya took advantage of the disunity among the sultans, and extended the borders of his empire upto the north of the river Krishna. This provoked the sultans to engage in battle with him. Moreover, the sultans were envious of the prosperity of Vijayanagara. The sultans, who had till then engaged in-fighting, forgot their political differences and united. They declared war on Vijayanagara. The resultant war is called the *Battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi*. It was the most destructive battle in the history of south India. The battle field was between the villages of Rakkasagi and Tangadagi on the banks of river Krishna.

Though he was eighty years of age, Ramaraya led the army and faced his enemies with courage. In the first round, the Vijayanagara won. But later, a sudden volley of cannons from the opposite side scattered the Vijayanagara forces. Besides, Ramaraya's Muslim commanders betrayed him and joined the enemy forces along with their troops. Ramaraya was killed. His soldiers ran away from the battlefield.

*Ramaraya's younger brother, Tirumala, rushed to the capital and, with the immense royal wealth loaded on elephants, escaped to Penugonda in Andhra Pradesh. Without anyone to protect the capital, it fell into the hands of the enemies. The sultans' armies plundered the wealth of Vijayanagara. Later, the Aravidu dynasty ruled from Penugonda, Chandragiri and Vellore upto 1646.*

**Consequences:** Many important political changes took place in south India after the decline of the Vijayanagara empire. The northern areas of the empire became a part of Bijapur and Golkonda kingdoms. In Karnataka, the Chieftains in Keladi, Mysore and Chitradurga became independent.

### **The glory of the capital city as seen by the foreign travellers**

Many foreign travellers who visited the capital city Hampi have been enchanted by its magnificence and economic prosperity, and have praised it heartily.

- The Portuguese traveller, *Domingo Paes*, has this to write about the capital: "There cannot be another city like this on earth which has such an abundance of all kinds of commodities." He has recorded that varieties of pearls, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and expensive cloth used to be easily available there.
- The Persian (Iran) ambassador, *Abdul Razak*, who had visited the capital, was full of praise for the noble nature of Devaraya. About Vijayanagara, he exclaimed: "The eyes have not seen nor the ears heard about another glorious city like Vijayanagara!"

### **Society, Economy and Culture**

**Society:** In the *Grama Sabha*, representation was given to members of all castes. In towns, the Muslim organization called *Hanjaman* existed. Its representatives were given a high place in the city assembly.

Women were employed for writing accounts of the women's quarters of the palace, keeping watch, serving the king and the queen, and so on. There used to be female wrestlers who gave public performances. The popular *Navaratri festival* was celebrated with great pomp in the *Mahanavami dibba* (hillock) of the capital.

**Economy:** Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Vijayanagara was a centre for international trade. Merchants from various parts of the world used to come there. Foreign travellers have described that pearls and diamonds used to be sold in heaps in shop. Goods used to be exported and imported from many harbours along the east and west coasts of the empire.

**Religion:** All religions received charities from the empire. The rulers had granted freedom to the people to practise their religion without any hindrance, mosques were built for the Muslims who were also recruited into the army in Vijayanagara. The Vijayanagara emperors had flourishing trade relations with the Portuguese. They encouraged Christianity too.

**Literature:** Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu literature flourished during the Vijayanagara period. The great Kannada poets, *Kumaravyasa*, *Chamarasa* and *Ratnakara Varni*, were of this period. The Vijayanagara period was a Golden Era of Telugu literature.

*Kumaravyasa (Naranappa) was a poet of strong sentiments. He wrote Karnata Bharata Katha Manjari. Chamarasa's Prabhulingaleele is the biography of Allamaprabhu. It is a remarkable work. Ratnakaravarni's Bharatesha Vaibhava is a work written in an attractive style.*

**Music:** The Vijayanagara emperors patronised dance, painting and music. The name *Carnatic music* came to be used from that time for the south Indian system of music. The Saints of the period used music to preach the path of Bhakti. This path came to be called the *Dasa Pantha*. Among the *Dasas Purandaradasa* and *Kanakadasa* were prominent.

*Purandaradasa, who composed lakhs of songs, is known as the Father of Carnatic Music (Karnataka Sangeeta Pitamaha). Kanakadasa came from an ordinary background. Mohana Tarangini, Ramadhanya Charitre, Nalacharitre and Haribhaktisara are his important works.*

**Activity:** *Collect more information about the Haridasas who propagated Bhakti Pantha in Karnataka and prepare an essay of about a page.*

**Sculpture:** During the Vijayanagara period, granite was extensively used in the construction of buildings. Tall towers (*Raya-Gopuras*) and beautiful marriage halls (*kalyana mantapas*) were built for all the existing temples in south India. Construction of hundreds of such structures provided employment to thousands of people.

**Hampi:** There are many beautiful temples in Hampi. Some of them are the *Hazara Ramaswami temple, Vijaya Vittalaswami temple, Krishnaswami temple* and the *Achyutaraya temple*. It is interesting to know that when the short pillars of Vittala temple are tapped, we can hear seven notes of music.



***Hazara Ramaswamy temple, Hampi***

- The *Vidyashankara temple* of Sringeri, the *Thousand-pillared temple* of Rameshwara and the *Thousand-pillared basadi* of Mudabidri (*Tribhuvana Tilaka Chudamani*) belong to the Vijayanagara period.



***Vidyashankara temple, Sringeri***

- ***Monolithic Sculture:*** It was in this period that the style of sculpting huge monolithic idols came into practice. The monolithic idols in Hampi are – *Sasivekalu Ganesha*, *Kadalekalu Ganesha* and *Lakshminarasimha*. The monolithic chariot in front of Vittalaswami temple is immensely beautiful. The monolithic statues of Bahubali in Karkala and Venur are a testimony to the exquisite skill of the sculptors of this Age.



***Sasivekalu Ganesha, Hampi***

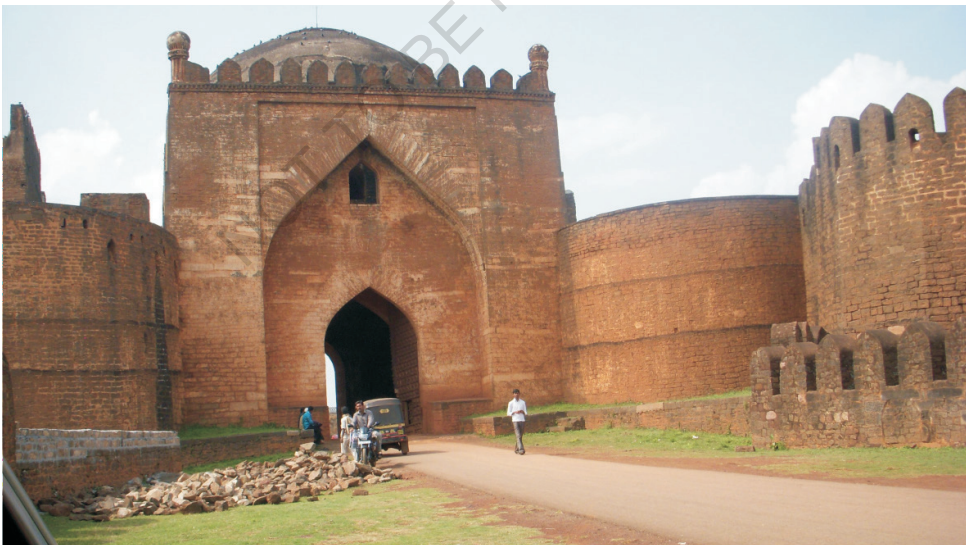


***Lakshminarasimha, Hampi***



*Stone chariot, Hampi*

## **BAHAMANI KINGDOM**

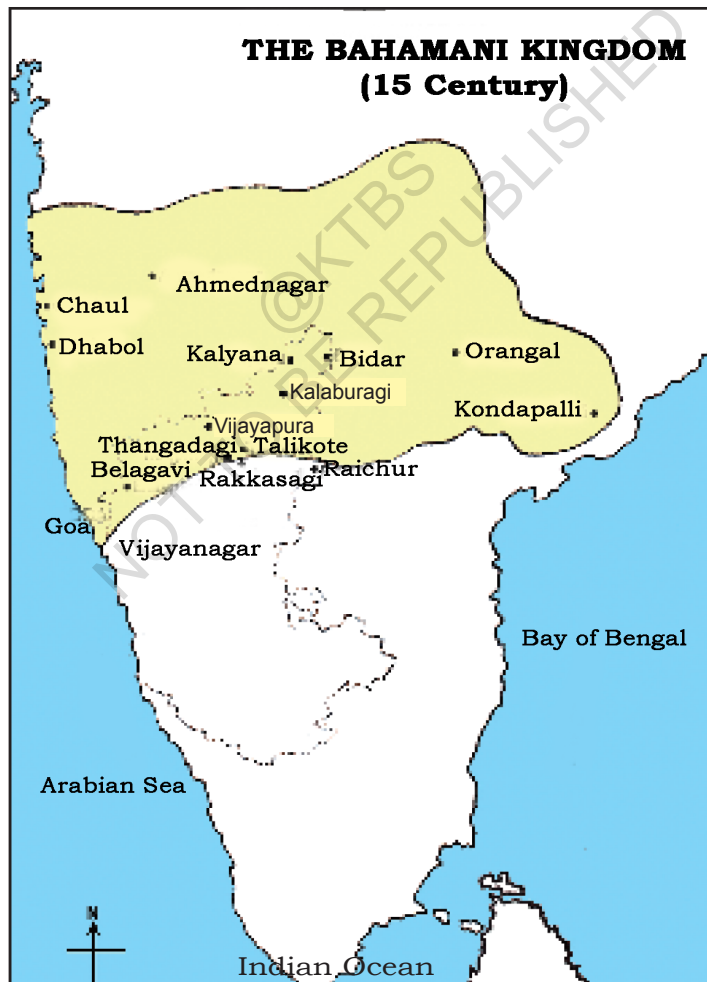


*Fort, Bidar*

The city of Bidar is a historical place situated in the northern-most part of Karnataka. It flourished as the capital of the Bahmani Sultans for about a century. Look at the magnificent fort of Bidar.

Look at the map of the Bahmani kingdom. It comprised parts of modern Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The river Krishna formed its boundary in the south. Initially Kalburgi, and later Bidar, became its capital.

The Bahmani kingdom and the Vijayanagara empire were neighbours, and they often engaged in battles with each other.



## ***Firuz Shah***

Firuz Shah was the greatest emperor of the Bahmani Dynasty. He was just, generous and pious.

Firuz Shah was a writer and a polyglot. He was an expert in geometry and religious texts. He established an astronomical observatory at Daulatabad in Maharashtra. He improved the beauty of the capital, Kalburgi, and built a new city called Ferozabad on the banks of the river Bhima. He gifted a number of villages to the sufi saint Bandenawaz who had visited him. He developed harbours. This gave impetus to foreign trade.

## ***Mahamud Gavan***

Mahamud Gavan was the prime minister of Mahamud III. He achieved greater fame than the Bahmani sultans. Coming from a Persian background, he served selflessly.

### ***Achievements***

- Being an expert in warfare, Gavan expanded the kingdom by his successful conquests.
- He provided a good administration which was based on Muslim law.
- He improved the tax collection and made postal system more efficient.
- He fixed the land revenue, based on the fertility of the soil and irrigation facilities.
- He abolished taxes which proved harsh.
- Being a scholar himself, Mahamud Gavan established a *Madrassa* (college) at Bidar. It encouraged study of the Islamic faith and law. Study of astronomy, mathematics, history etc. was also carried on here.
- The students were given free education and hostel facilities. There were around 3000 manuscripts in the *Madrassa* library.



In short, Mahamud Gavan contributed much for the growth and progress of the Bahmani kingdom. In spite of this, the chieftains of the kingdom were envious of his achievements. They hatched a plot against him and got him executed. On his grave are engraved the words: *Innocent Gavan was murdered.*

After Gavan's death, there was in-fighting for power. As a result the kingdom got divided into five new kingdoms.

*These five kingdoms were: Adil Shahi of Bijapur; Barid Shahi of Bidar; Kutb Shahi of Golkonda; Nizam Shahi of Ahmadnagar; and Immad Shahi of Berar. Among these, the first two had capitals in Karnataka.*

### *Society*

The administration was carried on according to the Islamic law. The Sultan was the head of administration and the chief justice. He was also the chief of the army and religious head. He was regarded as the representative of God on earth.

Muslims were being appointed to most of the top positions in the administration. The officials were given *jahagirs* (gifts of land). But Hindu *jahagirdars* were small in number.

As per the traditional Hindu custom, the Sultans used to collect one-sixth of the produce of the land as tax. Rice, wheat, maize and pulses formed the staple food.

The members of the royal family and the chieftains led a luxurious life. The conditions of the common people were not good. There were Jain and Christian communities in the kingdom. The Sufi Sect was very powerful.

## **Cultural contributions of the Bahmanis**

**Literature:** The Bahmani Sultans patronized scholars from foreign countries. As a result, Arabic and Persian literature flourished. Bandenawaz, a famous Sufi Saint and writer, belonged to this period. The language used by foreign scholars came to be known as *Dakhani*. Later, this language led to the development of Urdu.

**Architecture:** Bahmani history is noted for its architectural contribution. Their buildings in Kalaburagi, Bidar and other places combined both Hindu and Muslim styles. This style has become famous as *Dakhani style*. Their first structure was the *Jami Masjid* of Kalaburagi. It was constructed by Mahamud Shah. Its auditorium, with several small minarets is very attractive. There are tombs of the Sultans near Kalaburagi with huge domes. The *tomb of Bandenawaz* is another important structure.



***The Madarasa of Gavan, Bidar***

The *Solahkhamb mosque* and the beautiful palaces in the fort of Bidar are famous. These buildings are decorated with delicate wooden carvings. The twelve tombs in Ashtur

near Bidar are very impressive. The most important structure of the Bahmani period is the *madrasa* built by Gavan. It is 76 m. (250 ft.) long and has three storeys. The mosque inside the *madarasa* is in good shape even today. It proclaims its glory of more than five centuries.

## THE ADIL SHAHIS OF VIJAYAPURA

Among the Shahis, the Adil Shahi of Vijayapura is prominent. The Adil Shahis ruled in Karnataka for about two centuries.

**Ibrahim II:** Ibrahim II was an eminent ruler of Vijayapura. The kingdom not only expanded during his time, but it also prospered immensely. Trade and commerce flourished. Being a tolerant ruler, Ibrahim extended his patronage to many Hindu scholars, poets and musicians. He got the Datta temple in his fort renovated and made arrangements for regular worship there. He worked towards Hindu-Muslim cultural unity. He wrote a book in Urdu named *Kitab-i-Navras* and attempted to popularize Hindu music among Muslims. The book begins with songs in praise of Hindu gods like Ganapati, Saraswati and Bhairava. He himself was an excellent musician. *Ibrahim Roza*, a magnificent building, was his contribution.



***Ibrahim Roza, Vijayapura***

Ibrahim's successor Mahamud got the splendid structure of *Gol Gumbaz* constructed at Vijayapura. *Asar Mahal* is another structure built by him.



*Gol Gumbaz, Vijayapura*

After Mahamud, the Vijayapura kingdom declined. The invasions of the Mughals in south India and the harassment given by the Marathas to the Vijayapura kingdom were the causes for this. When Aurangzib captured Vijayapura, the Adil Shahi rule came to an end.

### *Architecture*

The Adil Shahi structures occupy an important place in the architectural history of Karnataka. They are of three kinds: palaces, mosques, forts and tombs.

- The *Vijayapura fort* is a massive structure with 96 bastions (towers) and six main entrances. Among the palaces, *Gaganmahal* is magnificent. There are rooms with colourful paintings in *Asar Mahal*.
- The *Juma Masjid* in Vijayapura is attractive.

• Mausoleums are the most impressive among the Adil Shahi structures. Among the twin structures of Ibrahim Roza, one building is a mosque and the other one is a tomb. Roza has been described as the *Taj Mahal of the Deccan*. Mohamud wanted to build a structure bigger than the Roza and so he constructed Gol Gumbaz around a tomb. At the centre of the structure is a huge dome. Inside the dome is the ‘whispering gallery’. Modern architects have been astonished at the ability of the dome to repeat the ‘whispers’. The Gol Gumbaz is the fourth largest structure in the world and the largest in India. It is one of the architectural wonders of the world.

### **Chronology**

Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire	- 1336
Period of rule of the empire	- 1336-1646
Krishnadevaraya’s reign	- 1509–1529
The Battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi	- 23 January, 1565
The Bahmani kingdom	- 1347–1489
Construction of the Bidar <i>madrassa</i>	- 1461
The period of reign of the Adil Shahis	- 1489–1686
Construction of Ibrahim Roza	- 1626
Construction of Gol Gumbaz	- around 1650

### **New words**

**Fakir** - Muslim saint.

**bastion** - the structures or towers for soldiers to stand and keep watch on a fort.

**Parsi** - language of Persia.

**Dakhan** - an area in south India (Deccan).

**mausoleum** - a structure built around a tomb.

**polyglot** - knowing or using several languages.

## Exercises

### Discuss in groups and answer

- 1 Which is the famous historical building in Bidar?
- 2 Who was Mahamud Gavan?
- 3 Where is Solahkhamb mosque located?
- 4 Who was the greatest among the Adil Shahi rulers?
- 5 Which structure of the Adil Shahis is referred to as the *Taj Mahal of the Deccan*?
- 6 Why is Gol Gumbaz famous?
- 7 Who was the greatest king of the Sangama dynasty?
- 8 Who was the greatest emperor of Vijayanagara?
- 9 Which are the important temples of Hampi?
- 10 What is the name of Kumaravyasa's work?
- 11 Name the works of Krishnadevaraya.
- 12 Give the name of the Persian ambassador who visited Vijayanagara. What did he say about Vijayanagara?
- 13 Name the foreigners who visited Vijayanagara.

### Activities

- 1 Collect photographs of the Bahmani Shahi and the Adil Shahi architecture, and write a short note on each.
- 2 Prepare an album of pictures of the temples, churches and mosques in India which represent the remains of Hindu, Christian and Muslim cultures.

- 3 Collect pictures of and information about the architecture and sculptures of the Vijayanagara era.
- 4 Collect songs of Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa, and poems from Gadugina Bharata and sing them in groups.
- 5 Collect information about Haridasas of Bhakthi Movement in Karnakata and write an essay about one page.
- 6 Collect pictures of important monuments of the Vijayanagara period and collect information about them.
- 7 Go on an educational trip to Hampi, and write an essay about your experiences.





## **The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire**

### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Babur invaded India in 1526 and after overthrowing the Delhi Sultanate, established the Mughal rule. In this Chapter, the reign of Akbar and Aurangzib have been described. Their administration and contributions to culture are also delineated. At the end, the causes for the decline of the empire are mentioned.

The Chapter further describes Shivaji's childhood and ideals and how he repulsed the Mughals and the Adil Shahis of Vijayapura by his spirit of courage and adventure and built an independent Maratha kingdom. It also describes the main features of his administrative system and his extraordinary personality.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Appreciating Akbar's liberal policies and achievements.
- 2 Understanding how Aurangzib's narrow-minded policies led to riots in the country and ultimately to the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- 3 Appreciating how the Mughal emperors enriched the fields of literature and art.
- 4 Marking on the map historical places relating to the Mughal era.
- 5 Appreciating the life, adventures, character and achievements of Shivaji.
- 6 Marking on the map places associated with Shivaji.



*Can you identify this monument?*



***Taj Mahal, Agra***

This is the world-famous Taj Mahal. This architectural wonder in marble is a great contribution of the Mughals.

The founder of the Mughal dynasty was *Babur*. He was ruling a small region in Afghanistan called Kabul, and was waiting for an opportunity to attack India which was rich and prosperous.

*Babur belonged to the Mongol race. The word 'Mughal' comes from 'Mongol'. Rose was introduced to India by Babar.*

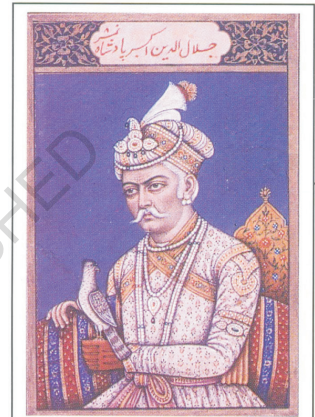
Taking advantage of the growing weakness of the Delhi sultans, Babur invaded Delhi and ended their reign. But he could not stop at that because the Rajputs and the Afghans resisted him strongly. The brave warrior that he was, Babur, with his powerful weapons, forced the opposing armies to retreat.

Soon Babur conquered Delhi, Agra and the surrounding areas and established his kingdom. But he died soon. His son, *Humayun*, ascended the throne.

*Humayun:* Though Humayun managed to overpower his enemies in the beginning, he had to face defeat at the hands of the Afghan chieftain, *Sher Shah Suri*. Having lost his kingdom, he fled to Persia and stayed there for fifteen years. When the Afghan rule in India weakened, Humayun invaded India and conquered Delhi. However, he died within a short period thereafter.

## **Akbar**

Humayun's son, Akbar, had always aspired to build a vast empire in India. With this intention, he tried to persuade the mighty Rajput kings to support him. Some among them joined hands with him. But *Rana Pratap Simha* of Mewad opposed Akbar tooth and nail. He was a proud and brave warrior. Later, a fierce battle between the Rana and Akbar took place at *Haldighat* (Rajasthan). Though Rana Pratap Simha was defeated in the battle, he did not bow down to Akbar.



**Akbar**

*A huge bronze statue of Rana Pratap Simha riding on his favorite horse, Chetak, and fighting in the battlefield, was set up at Haldighat after Independence. An ardent patriot, Rana Pratap is loved by all Indians.*

Thereafter, Akbar engaged himself actively in military campaigns for many years. As a result, he conquered Gujarat, Bengal, Kashmir, Kabul and other areas, and built a vast empire.



**Rana Pratap Simha**

## *Akbar's achievements*

**Administration:** Akbar was an able administrator and a broad-minded ruler. He possessed many of the qualities needed for a great king. He was not a despotic ruler. He realized that in order to preserve his vast empire, it was necessary to win the trust of his Hindu subjects who formed the majority. He appointed Hindus to high posts in his court. He withdrew the personal tax called *jiziya* which was imposed by the earlier Muslim kings on Hindus, and also the tax levied at pilgrimage centres. Akbar banned the slaughter of cows and sati practice. He also opposed child marriage. Akbar's land revenue policy was well received by the people. It was framed by his revenue minister, *Raja Todarmal*.

**Religious policy:** Akbar was tolerant of other religions. He constructed a prayer hall (*Ibadat Khana*) in his new capital, Fatehpur Sikri, where he discussed religious matters with leaders of various Islamic sects. He invited Hindu, Jaina, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian leaders to discuss their views on religious issues. As a result of such discussions, he evolved a new sect called the *Din-e-Ilahi*. It incorporated some of the best principles of different religions. However, it could attract only a handful of followers.

**Activity:** *Din - e - Ilahi did not take off and become popular as a religion. Organise a symposium and collect reasons for its failure.*

**Patronage to arts:** Akbar patronised literature and art. *Faizi*, *Abul Fazl* and *Birbal* were the distinguished poets in his court. The immortal singer, *Tansen*, adorned his court. Akbar's contributions to architecture and painting are also remarkable.



*Jahangir* and *Shah Jahan*, who succeeded Akbar to the throne, continued his policies to a great extent. *Shah Jahan* achieved fame by getting the famous *Taj Mahal* built at Agra, the mammoth *Red Fort* at Delhi and other stately palaces.

## **Aurangzib**

Shah Jahan's son, Aurangzib, is the last well-known Mughal emperor. He ruled for a long period of fifty years. During this period, the empire expanded in all directions, but at the end it declined rapidly.

**Religious policy:** Aurangzib was an orthodox Muslim. He stayed away from drinking wine, gambling, entertainment and music. He lived a simple life.

Aurangzib gave up the liberal policy of Akbar. He reimposed the *jiziya*. He banned Hindu religious fairs, religious teaching and celebrations. He ordered many temples to be destroyed. Among such temples were the famous Somanath temple (Gujarat), the Shiva temple at Kashi (Uttar Pradesh) and the Krishna temple at Mathura (Uttar Pradesh). These measures created social unrest and led to rebellions.

*The Sikh rebellion: The Sikhs were provoked by Aurangzib's religious policy. The Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur, was publicly executed in Delhi. His son Guru Govindasimha organised the Sikh community into a militant sect. The members were designated as Singh (lion). They had to possess the five k's at all times. These were: Kesh: long hair; Kanga: comb; Kirpan: sword; Kachcha: a pair of knicker-bockers; and Kara: steel bracelet. This custom is prevalent among Sikhs even today.*

**Rebellions:** The Sikhs and the Rajputs strongly opposed Aurangzib in north India. Shivaji rose in revolt in the Deccan. The revolts continued for a long time and as a result Aurangzib lost enormous wealth, a large part of his army and worst of all, his prestige. Many provinces of his empire became free. The Deccan wars sapped Aurangzib's economic power as well as military strength. Being exhausted, he died in the Deccan. With his death, the Mughal empire was greatly weakened.



**Guru Govindasimha**



**Golden temple, Amritsar**

### **The Mughal Administration**

The emperor and possessed all civil and military powers. His judicial decision was final in all matters.

The empire was divided into provinces (*subas*), districts (*sarkars*) and taluks (*paraganas*). The *kotwal* looked after law and order in the cities.

*Revenue system:* Akbar's minister, Raja Todarmal, framed the land revenue system. Under the system, the land revenue was fixed on the basis of the fertility of the soil.

### *Cultural Contributions*

*Literature:* The Mughals patronized Persian literature in a special way. There were famous historians like Abul Fazl, Nizamuddin and Badauni in Akbar's court. *Akbar-nama* is an important literary work of Abul Fazl. Darashukoh, the Mughal prince, was an extraordinary scholar. He translated the *Bhagavadgita*. Though Hindi literature did not receive royal patronage, it flourished on account of the efforts of the Bhakti saints. *Ramacharitamanas*, the well-known work of Tulsidas, is of this period.

*Architecture:* Humayun's tomb in Delhi was constructed during the early period of Akbar's reign. He built a new capital near Agra and named it *Fatehpur Sikri*. The magnificent palaces, mosques and pavilions of this place attract tourists from all over the world. The entrance to the Jami Masjid (*Bulund Darwaza*) here is the tallest in India. It is 40 m. tall.



*Humayun's tomb, Delhi*

The Mughal architecture attained its glory during the reign of Shah Jahan. *Moti Mahal*, the palace that he built in Agra fort, is extremely beautiful. The *Taj Mahal* at Agra shows Mughal architecture at its best. This wonderful monument was built in the memory of his queen, *Mumtaz Mahal*. It was Shah Jahan who got the famous Red Fort built at Delhi.



**Fort, Agra**



**Red fort, Delhi**

**Painting:** A new school of painting known as ‘Chikani painting’ emerged during the period of the Mughals. There were more than a hundred artists in Akbar’s court. The art of painting reached its peak under the patronage of Jahangir.



Aurangzib, who was orthodox in outlook, did not encourage painting.

*Music:* Music received special patronage during Akbar's reign. The large number of musicians in his court were divided into seven groups. Each day a particular group gave a music recital. Tansen was the most remarkable musician of Akbar's court. Jahangir and Shah Jahan also extended patronage to music. But Aurangzib banned music. However, music lingered in the hearts of people.

### *The Decline of the Mughal empire*

The empire began to decline towards the end of Aurangzib's reign. The reasons for the decline are:

- The chieftains became corrupt.
- Intense fighting took place among the claimants to the throne.
- The provincial governors took advantage of the situation and declared their independence.
- Aurangzib's desire to convert India into an Islamic state met with opposition everywhere.
- The prolonged warfare with the Sikhs, the Rajputs and the Marathas fully exhausted the resources of the empire.
- In the meanwhile, *Nadir Shah*, a Persian invader, raided Delhi. He looted the wealth amassed by the Mughals over a period of two centuries. He carried away the world-famous *Kohinoor Diamond* and the *Peacock Throne* of Shah Jahan. The treasury of the Mughals became empty.

## The Marathas

### Chhatrapati Shivaji

Shivaji is a well-known personality in the history of India. He lived in the 17th century. It was an age when the Hindu Dharma and culture were being threatened by hostile forces. In north India, the Mughal emperor Aurangzib was ruling on religious basis. At the same time, most parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka were under the dominance of the Adil Shahis of Vijayapura. Even under these hostile circumstances Shivaji aspired to build an independent Maratha kingdom.



**Chhatrapati Shivaji**

#### *Shivaji's childhood*

Shivaji was born in the hill-fort of Shivner near Pune (Maharashtra). His father *Shahji Bhosle* was serving as a high ranking officer at Vijayapura under the Adil Shahis. Hence Shivaji grew up under the care of his mother *Jija Bai* who moulded his character. She infused in his mind the ideals of Dharma and patriotism by narrating inspiring stories from the Mahabharata, the Ramayana, the *Puranas* and *kavyas*. Shivaji's *guru* was *Dadaji Kondadev* and *Tanaji Malasure* taught him the art of war and entrusted him with a great mission.

Shivaji started his career by raising an army composed of the Maratha leaders and the *Mavals*, the hardy youths from the Sahyadri hilly regions.

***Early adventures of Shivaji:*** At the age of 19, Shivaji captured the fort of Torana which was under the Adil Shahis. Soon he captured Raigad, Simhagad, Pratapgad and other

forts one by one. Enraged by this, the Vijayapura sultan sent a large army under his commander *Afzal Khan* in order to punish Shivaji. However, Shivaji avoided a direct fight with the Khan and hid himself in the fort of Pratapgad. Failing to bring him out of his stronghold, the Khan invited him to a conference and plotted to kill him. However, Shivaji discovered the plot of his enemy well in advance and killed him on the spot.

*When the two met, as they embraced each other, Afzal Khan tried to thrust a dagger into the body of Shivaji. But Shivaji immediately killed his enemy by rendering his body with the steel claws (vyaghranakh) which he had worn in self-defence.*



**Tiger Claws**

**Defeat of the Mughal commander:** The growing power of Shivaji disturbed the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. He instructed *Shayista Khan*, his governor in the Deccan, to suppress Shivaji. However, he was repulsed by Shivaji.

*Accordingly, Shayista Khan proceeded against Shivaji with a huge army. But Shivaji avoided opposing him openly. Hence he occupied Pune and went on waiting there for two years. At last one day Shivaji, with his small group of followers, entered the residence of the Khan at dead of night and made a surprise attack. In the attack the Khan lost his thumb and barely escaped from Pune with his life. This daring adventure immensely enhanced the prestige of Shivaji*

**Raja Jay Singh sent to the Deccan:** A year after this daring incident, Shivaji besieged the rich port of Surat which was under the Mughals, and collected huge wealth from the place. At this Aurangzeb was disturbed. In order to capture Shivaji he sent his Rajput commander *Raja Jay Singh*. In the military

conflicts between the two, Shivaji was defeated and compelled to surrender several forts to the Mughals. After concluding an agreement with the Mughals, Shivaji proceeded to Delhi to visit Aurangzeb's court at Agra. Strangely, at Agra Shivaji was imprisoned. However, Shivaji did escape from Agra and returned to his capital.

### *How did Shivaji escape?*

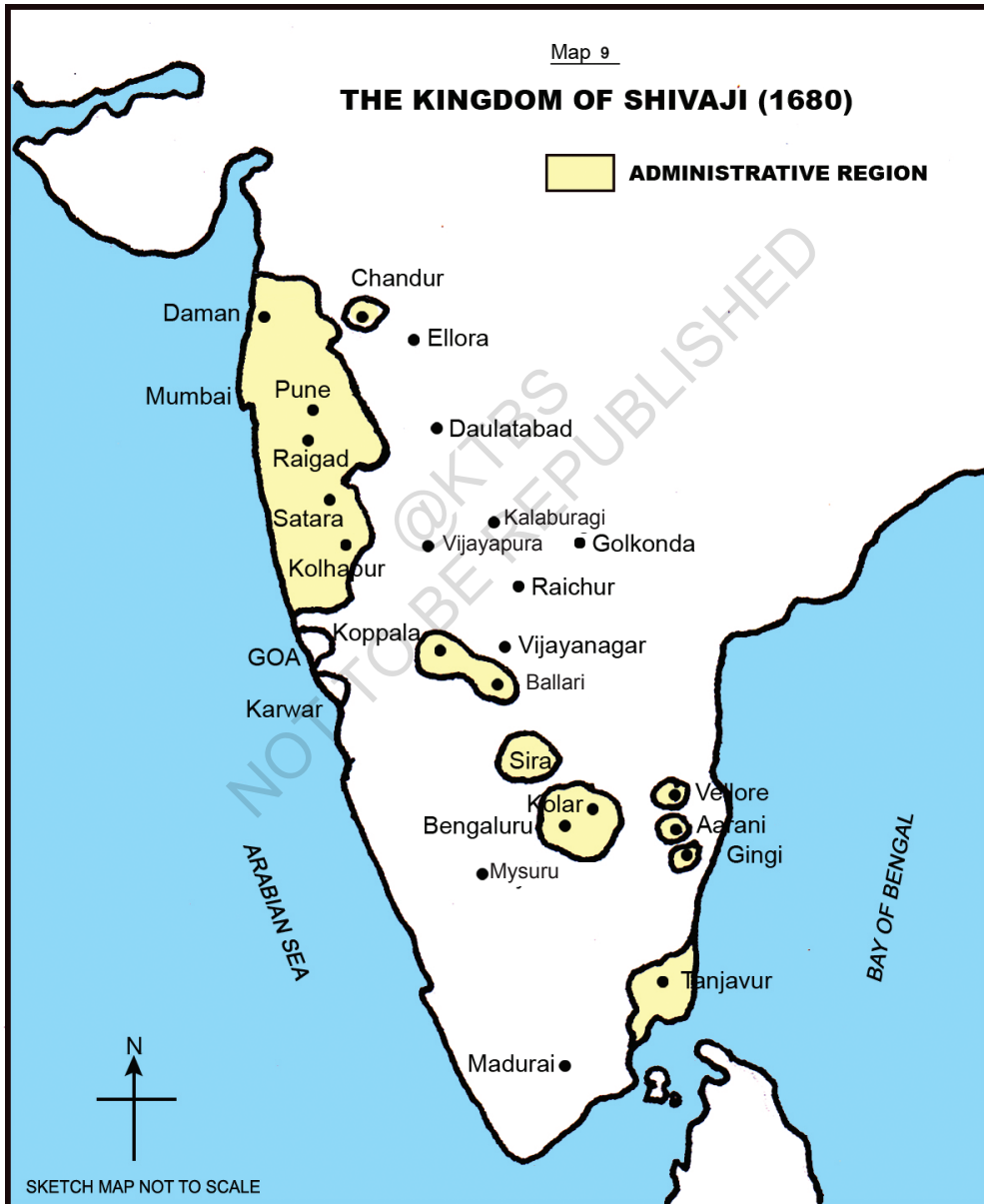
*Being shrewd, Shivaji resorted to a grand plan to effect his escape. He pretended to be ill and in that pretext began sending out of his house baskets of fruits and sweetmeats for the mendicants and the poor, as thanks-giving offerings for his "recovery". After a few days, when the guards had relaxed their vigilance, Shivaji and his son concealed themselves in two empty baskets and slipped out of Agra. After a long journey he reached his capital Raigad. It was indeed a daring adventure!*



**Fort of Shivaji, Raigad**

During the next two years, Shivaji strengthened his position further. He recovered the forts surrendered to the Mughals. He also besieged Surat again and amassed huge wealth.

*Coronation of Shivaji:* Shivaji crowned himself king at Raigad with great pomp and splendour. He assumed the title *Chhatrapati*. He called his kingdom *Hindavi Swaraj*. Later he conquered Jinji, Vellore and parts of Mysuru kingdom. He collected enormous wealth from these vast territories. But Shivaji did not live long to witness the Maratha expansion.



## Shivaji's administrative system

In the smooth functioning of the administration, Shivaji was assisted by a team of eight ministers known as *Ashtapradhans*. The prime minister was called the *Peshwa*.

*Revenue administration:* The government gave loans to the farmers to purchase cattle and seeds for sowing. Irrigational facilities were provided to the agricultural lands. The state collected one-third of the produce as land revenue.

*Military administration:* Shivaji paid special attention to the military administration. His army composed of infantry, cavalry, navy and artillery. Shivaji's army was known for its discipline. During the war, the Brahmanas and cows were let free.

*Forts:* Shivaji employed guerilla method of warfare. The forts were the excellent places of shelter for the guerillas. Out of 240 forts under his command, 111 forts were built by him.

• *Guerilla warfare: a small group of soldiers fighting against regular army by means of surprise attacks.*

• *Women captured in the war had to be handed over to their guardians. During the course of the war, the soldiers were not to attack mosques. Copy of the Holy Quran when found was required to be respectfully returned to the concerned.*

### *Shivaji's personality and character*

- Shivaji's life was marked by a high standard of morality. His respect for other religions was worthy of being imitated.
- Even from his childhood, Shivaji had imbibed great leadership qualities. He fought force with force and deceit with deceit.

- Shivaji's military system was remarkable. He was an expert in guerilla warfare. In brief, Shivaji was an ideal ruler. ❁

*Shivaji's guru Samartha Ramdas once begged for alms from him. Shivaji, without a second thought, offered the kingdom to the guru. Ramdas, after accepting the offer and then returning it, blessed Shivaji and said, "Rule the kingdom on my behalf". With the support of saint Ramdas about 1200 gymnasiums had been established in Maharashtra.*

### **Chronology**

Babur	-	1526-1530
Akbar	-	1556-1605
Aurangzib	-	1659-1707
Shivaji	-	1627-1680

### **New words**

*jiziya* - the tax that the Muslim kings levied on every Hindu

*kotwal* - the person who guards the fort

*Haindavi Swaraj* - Hindu Swaraj

*Chhatrapati* - emperor

*infantry* - soldiers who fight on foot

*cavalry* - soldiers who fight on horseback

*artillery* - armed forces that use large guns

## Exercises

### *Discuss in groups and answer*

- 1 Who is the famous Rana of Mewad who opposed Akbar?
- 2 Which emperor got Fatehpur Sikri constructed?
- 3 Who is Tansen?
- 4 Who wrote *Ramacharitamanas*?
- 5 Mention one of the causes for the decline of the Mughal empire.
- 6 Where was Shivaji born?
- 7 How did Jija Bai mould the future of Shivaji?
- 8 Why did the Bijapur sultan hate Shivaji?
- 9 Who was Shayista Khan? What was the result of his conflict with Shivaji?
- 10 Where was the coronation of Shivaji held? What was the title he assumed on the occasion?
- 11 Write a note on the forts of Shivaji.
- 12 What are the qualities you appreciate in Shivaji?

### *Activities*

- 1 *Collect pictures of the Mughal architecture and write a short note on each.*
- 2 *Mark on the map the historical places of the Mughal period.*
- 3 *Discuss the contradictions in the policies of Akbar and Aurangzib, and prepare a report on it.*
- 4 *Mark on the map places associated with Shivaji.*





# CIVICS

## Chapter 17

## DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY



### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Our Constitution contains directions to the State in the form of certain principles. The Chapter examines them.

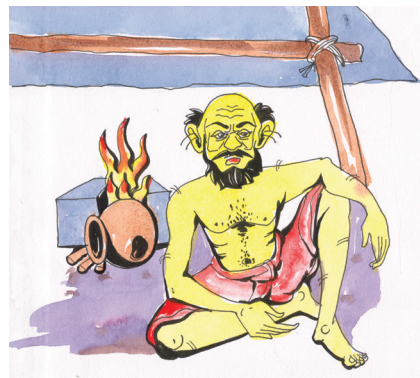
### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the importance of the Directive Principles.
- 2 Understanding how the Directive Principles are helpful in achieving the ideal of a Welfare State.

In order to achieve the ideal of a Welfare State, the Indian Constitution has specified certain principles. They serve as guidelines to the State to frame policies. These principles are known as *Directive Principles of State Policy*. Their intention is that whoever comes to power and governs the country must keep these Directive Principles in mind.

Following are some of the Directive Principles to be followed by the citizens of Republic of India.

1. **Social Justice:** The State is expected to be fair and reasonable and assure social, economic and political justice to the citizens.
2. **Social Justice to the weaker sections of society:** Social Justice means providing adequate means of livelihood; preventing economic exploitation; giving facilities for their educational and economic development; and providing free legal aid.



**Social Justice - a  
house to live in**

**3. Women and child welfare:** This includes equal pay for equal work; maternity relief to women; protecting children from exploitation and providing opportunities for their healthy development; and giving free and compulsory primary education.



**Women and child welfare**



**Free and compulsory primary education**

**4. Labour welfare:** The State has to promote the welfare of workers: right to work; conducive atmosphere for work; minimum wages to the workers; and opportunities to participate in the management of industries.



**Labour welfare**



**Help to the needy**

**5. Help to the needy:** It is the duty of the State to assure means of livelihood to the aged, sick and unemployed.

**6. Uniform Civil Code:** The State will try to secure a Uniform Civil Code for all the citizens.

### *7. Prohibition of consumption of liquor:*

The consumption of liquor affects the health. It destroys the economic conditions of the family especially of the poor and leads to the exploitation of women. Hence the State has been directed to prohibit the consumption of liquor.



***Prohibition of consumption of liquor***



***Cattle - the wealth of our nation***

### *8. Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry:*

"The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle" states The Directive principle of The constitution. Accordingly, The Karnataka Government has passed an Act in 1964 for the prevention of slaughter of cattle. (Many States, including Karnataka have enacted legislation to prevent the slaughter of cattle).



***Development of agriculture***



***Modern agriculture***

**9. Environment:** Environment protection and development eg, Protection of Environment from Mining and Industrial pollution.



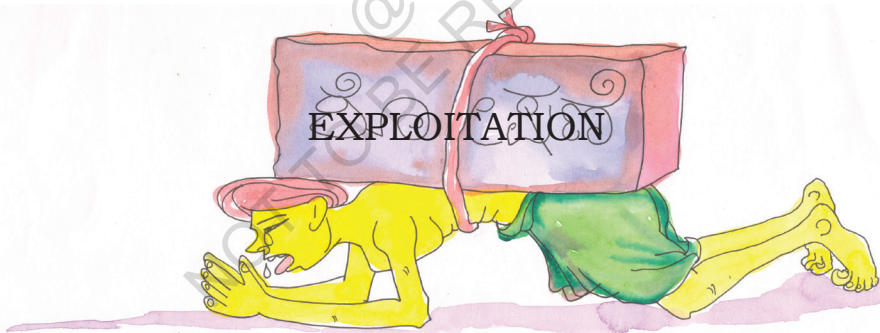
*Environment protection*

**10. Protection of places of historical interest:** Protecting and maintaining places of historic interest is the duty of the State. eg, Hampi, Beluru, Halebidu, Pattadakallu etc...

**11. Promotion of international peace and amity** is another responsibility of the State.

### *What is Social Justice?*

*Social Justice means assuring protection to all citizens and treating them equally irrespective of caste, religion, sex, language, colour, place of birth and status. Payment of minimum wages, eradication of bonded labour and exploitation of children and equal right and respect to the women come under the purview of social justice.*



### **Exploitation**

In this way, the Constitution has given directions and suggestions to the State. If these are not implemented by the State, the citizens cannot appeal to a court of law. (For example, although six decades have elapsed since the commencement of the Constitution, consumption of liquor has not been prohibited throughout India). ❀

**Activity:** *To what extent have the Directive Principles been put into practice in our State? We have been experiencing various kinds of exploitation of the weak. Organise a debate on the subject and make a list of opinions which come out of the debate.*

## Exercises

### Discuss in groups and answer

- 1 What is meant by Directive Principles of State Policy?
- 2 What are the directions given by the Constitution to the State towards women and child welfare?
- 3 Why did the Directive Principles enjoin the State to prevent the slaughter of cattle?
- 4 What is the need for a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens?
- 5 Why did the Directive Principles enjoin the State to prohibit consumption of liquor and intoxicating drugs?

### Discuss

- 1 Social Justice to the weak.
- 2 Prohibition of consumption of liquor.
- 3 Protection of places of historical importance.
- 4 What are the steps to be taken to implement the right to education effectively?

### Activities

- 1 *Identify the persons in your locality who are socially and economically weak. Discuss with your classmates why they happen to be weak.*
- 2 *Conduct a group discussion on the subject, "Ill-effects of consumption of liquor and drug on the youth", and collect opinions.*
- 3 *When the rights of the child are violated, we can call the child helpline 1098. Conduct a group discussion on the subject and collect opinions.*





### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Our Constitution has specified certain Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens. These have been introduced in this Chapter.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the difference between natural rights and Fundamental Rights.
- 2 Understanding the significance of the Fundamental Rights given to the Indian citizens by the Constitution.
- 3 Comprehending the eleven Fundamental Duties and preparing oneself for adopting them.
- 4 Finding the methods to restore one's Rights when one is deprived of them.

*What are Rights?* The privileges given to a citizen are his rights. Some rights are *natural rights* (for example, right to live and right to self-protection); and some others are *legal rights* (for example, right to equality and right to education).

For the growth of individuals and the progress of the country, certain freedoms and fundamental rights are inevitable. Hence the Indian Constitution has given six Fundamental Rights to every citizen of India.

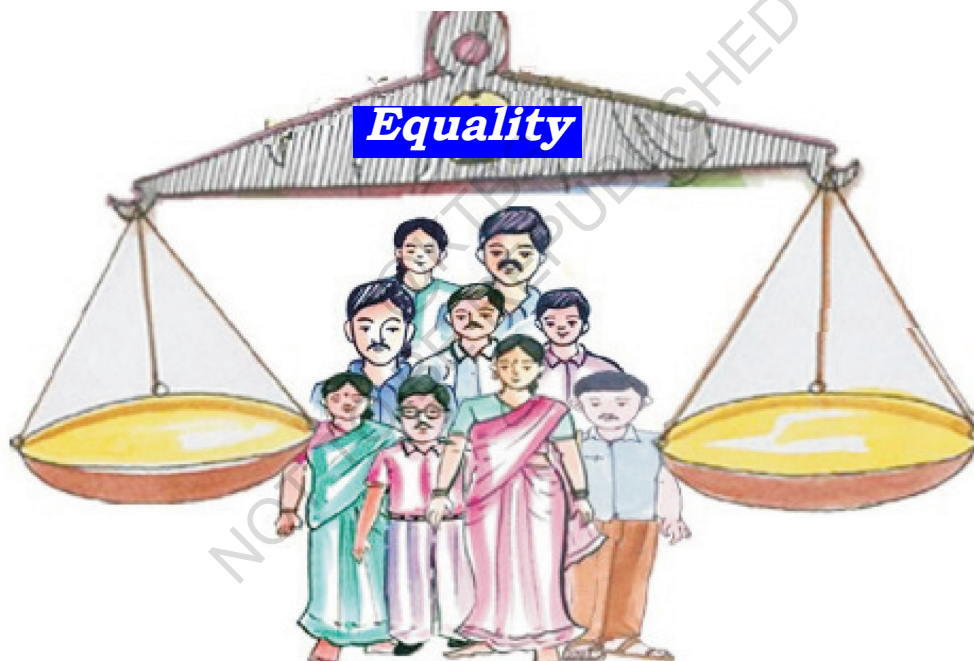
## **Fundamental Rights**

Fundamental Rights are those rights *specified* as well as *protected* by the Constitution. These Rights cannot be violated by anybody.

The six Fundamental Rights given to all citizens are:

- 1 Right to equality
- 2 Right to freedom
- 3 Right against exploitation
- 4 Right to freedom of religion
- 5 Cultural and educational rights
- 6 Right to Constitutional remedies

*1 Right to equality:* Under this Right, all are equal before the law and that nobody is above the law. All should get equal protection of the law.



***All are equal before the law***

The Right to equality guarantees that all citizens should be treated as equals irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. No citizen shall be subjected to any restrictions with regard to access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment. There should be no restriction on the use of well, tanks, roads and places of public resort.

Further, all citizens enjoy equal opportunity to take up government service. No persons should be prevented from entering public places of worship of their respective religions and offering prayers.

**2 Right to freedom:** The Constitution has given six freedoms, namely,

- 1 Freedom of speech and expression.
- 2 Freedom to assemble peacefully.
- 3 Freedom to form associations.
- 4 Freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- 5 Freedom to reside and settle in any part of India.
- 6 Freedom to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.



### ***Freedom of Speech***

**Activity :** *To what extent is the right to speech important? It is grossly misused. Organise a debate on the topic and prepare a brief report.*

Although freedom is a Fundamental Right, no individual can enjoy *absolute* freedom. The Constitution itself has specified certain circumstances under which individual freedom may be curtailed. For example, by taking shelter under the freedom of speech, nobody can speak irresponsibly about others.



**3 Right against exploitation:** The aim of this Right is to prevent exploitation of women, children and the weak. The Union and State Governments have enacted several laws to prevent exploitation. For instance, both giving and receiving dowry is punishable under the law; the system of bonded labour is considered as a form of forced labour, and has been prohibited; employment of children in mining, manufacture of beedi and fire-works and such other dangerous occupations are prohibited. Education to the children upto the age of fourteen is made compulsory.



***Child labour has been prohibited***

**4 Right to freedom of religion:** Every citizen has a right to practise his religion. But one has to keep in mind the interests of public order, morality and health. The Constitution states that nobody should be converted to another religion by means of force, fraud or allurement.



***Freedom of Religion***

**5 Cultural and educational rights:** This Right protects the interests of religious and linguistic minorities. They have the right to protect their language, script or culture. They may establish and administer their own educational institutions. However, the minority educational institutions are bound by the Government regulations.



### **Cultural and educational rights**

**6 Right to Constitutional remedies:** When rights are violated, the citizens may appeal to the court of law for their protection. This Right is known as the Right to Constitutional remedies.

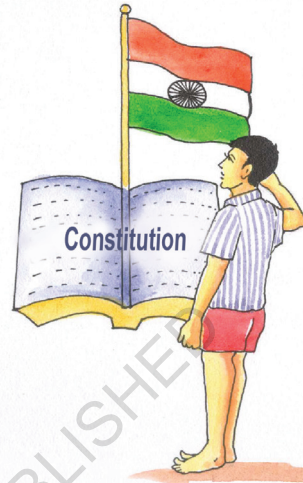
*On any matter relating to Fundamental Rights, a citizen may file a petition in the High Courts or the Supreme Court. Such petitions are known as Writ Petitions.*

### **Fundamental Duties**

The Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens are like two faces of a coin. The Fundamental Duties are one's obligations towards the country. When the citizens voluntarily perform them, the country is sure to make rapid progress.

Eleven Fundamental Duties of Citizens are given in the Constitution. They may be summarised as follows:

- 1 To respect the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem.
- 2 To follow the noble ideals which inspired our National Struggle for Freedom.
- 3 To protect the integrity of India.
- 4 To defend the Motherland when called upon to do so.



***Respecting the Constitution,  
National Flag and National Anthem***



***Defence of the country***

- 5 To promote the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.



**We are all Indians**

- 6 To preserve our rich heritage and historical monuments.  
7 To protect and improve the natural environment.



**Protection of environment**

**Activity:** “Role of students in the protection of the environment”. Organise a group discussion on this topic and collect the opinions of the speakers.

- 8 To develop scientific temper and the spirit of inquiry.  
9 To safeguard public property.  
10 To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activities.  
11 To provide opportunities for education by the parent or guardian to his child/ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

The Government cannot legally enforce Fundamental Duties when the citizens are found not performing them. For the progress of the country, all citizens are expected to voluntarily perform the Fundamental Duties.

### **New words**

**fraud** - criminal deception to gain money or personal advantage.

**alluring** - tempting.

### **Exercises**

#### **Discuss in groups and answer**

- 1 What is meant by Fundamental Rights?
- 2 Why should we voluntarily perform Fundamental Duties?
- 3 What is meant by Right to Equality?
- 4 How does the social and economic exploitation take place? Give examples.
- 5 State any three Fundamental Duties of Citizens.

#### **Discuss**

- 1 Importance of Fundamental Rights.
- 2 The duties to be performed by the students in the school.
- 3 Right to information.

#### **Activities**

- 1 *Asking the students to speak for a minute or two on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties.*
- 2 *Asking the students to narrate instances of citizens failing to perform Fundamental Duties. (For example, throwing waste materials in the public tank; stealing the stones of ancient fort, or not exercising voting rights).*
- 3 *In our culture duties are given more importance than rights. Is this acceptable to you? Discuss.*





### *Introduction to the Chapter*

From ancient times, Indians were patriotic. Building upon nationalism and patriotism that were inspired during the Freedom Struggle, we have to fill the hearts of the Indians with love for the nation and achieve national integration. In this chapter, various facets of national integration, concepts of diversity and unity; and the challenges to national unity have been explained.

### *Competencies*

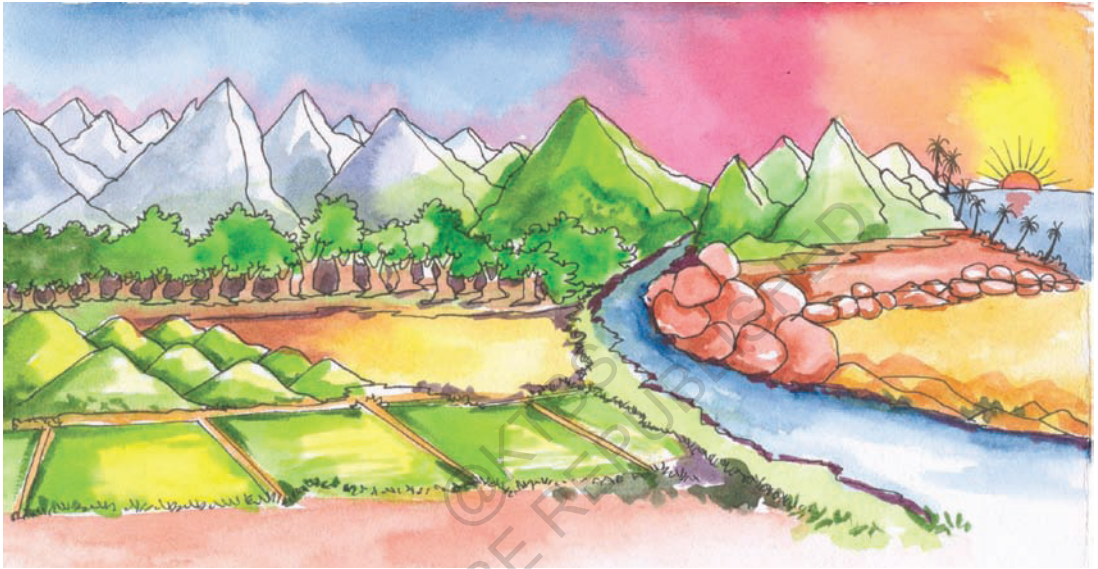
- 1 Understanding that the concept of national integration includes the idea of national unity and solidarity.
- 2 Understanding the significance of national integration.
- 3 Understanding that national integration is possible in spite of differences in sect, religion, language, gender etc.
- 4 Understanding the challenges thrown up by casteism, communalism and regionalism to national integration.

***Meaning of National Integration:*** National integration is being free from hatred, jealousy and prejudice towards other persons or communities. It involves respecting each other and living in harmony. It refers to an attitude that we all belong to one nation and to one family as equals.

### ***Diversity***

In India diversity is manifested in the form of geographical diversity, bio-diversity and human diversity.

- **Geographical Diversity:** There are high mountain ranges, long rivers and vast plains in India. Some regions are too cold and some are too hot. Besides, there are scorching deserts, thick forests, cool lakes, cascading waterfalls, lovely sea coasts and hundreds of small islands. These are the gifts of nature to us.



**Geographical diversity**

- **Bio-diversity:** India's bio-diversity is enormous. Only a few countries of the world have been endowed with such a diversity.

*To date, 47,000 plant species have been identified and described. There are about 90,000 species of animals. This figure includes 1,232 species of birds and 2,546 species of aquatic animals. A colourful family of birds is the priceless possession of India.*

- *Human diversity:* In this vast land, there are people belonging to different communities. They differ in their appearance, build, language, clothing, food habits, customs and traditions, castes and religions. One has to go round the length and breadth of the land to understand and appreciate the variety. Truly, Indians are a colourful people.

### ***Unity in Diversity***

There is a cultural awareness among us that we are all one. In this country we see a worshipful attitude towards rivers and mountains. People who live in south India consider Kashi, the Ganga, Badari, Kedar holy. People from the north too consider the river Kaveri, Tirupati, Shreeshaila, Rameshwara and Kanchipuram holy. It is a common practice throughout the country to worship snakes and cows and trees like the Banyan and others.

Sanskrit was a prominent literary language of ancient India. The scripts of all languages of Indian origin have evolved from the Brahmi script which is as ancient as the Ashokan period. The influence of Sanskrit can be seen on Hindi, Kannada, Telugu and other languages. In fact, during the course of the debate in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar argued that if there was any language worthy of being considered as national language, it was Sanskrit.

The *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* are two great epics of India. They have influenced deeply our drama, music, sculpture, literature, folklore and art. Treating elders and women with respect, being hospitable to the guests, and showing brotherly love are some of the values practised throughout India.



‘Live and let live’ is the motto of the Indians. There is no intolerance about any religion. Minority communities like the Parsis and the Jews have learnt the regional languages and mingled well with the people around them. Yet, they have not given up their religious practices.

India is known for its Principle of Tolerance. This quality has fostered emotional unity. What strikes us is that all sorts of differences and diversities have been harmonised by a single principle of Oneness.

### *Threats to National Integration*

- *Casteism*: Casteism is considering one's caste superior to others and opposing other castes. Unfortunately, casteism has spread to all fields. (You might remember what you learnt about casteism and communalism in the earlier class.)

- *Communalism*: Communalism is a conviction that one's religion is superior to all others and fighting for one's religion. Communalism destroys peace. It also brings harm to life and property of individuals. More importantly, it destroys trust and harmony among people. By preventing people of different religions from coming together, communalism retards national progress.

- *Regionalism*: Regionalism is another threat to national integration. The individuals' concern for and loyalty towards their own region and narrow-mindedness is called regionalism. We should always feel that ‘We are Indians first’. If regional interests are allowed to grow, national unity will greatly suffer. ❀

## Exercises

### *Discuss in groups and answer*

- 1 What is meant by *Unity in Diversity*?
- 2 What are the factors which promote national unity?
- 3 What are the factors which threaten national unity?

### *Discuss*

What are the measures that may be taken to promote national integration?

### *Activities*

- 1 *Make a list of the problems in your area which prevent unity among the people, and find solutions to them.*
- 2 *We all know that in India we are facing several problems relating to national integration. How to overcome them? How to really promote integration in the country? Organise a debate and prepare a list of suggestions offered.*





### *Introduction to the Chapter*

In this Chapter, our National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, National festivals and important days of celebrations are introduced.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the significance of the National Flag.
- 2 Understanding the code of the National Flag and following it.
- 3 Understanding and appreciating the meaning and significance of the National Emblem.
- 4 Understanding the background and significance of the National Anthem and National Song.
- 5 Competency of singing the National Anthem and National Song properly.
- 6 Understanding the importance of National festivals and important days of celebrations.

**National symbols:** Generally, a country adopts certain symbols to represent its culture, traditions and values. These are called national symbols. The national flag and the national emblem are the main national symbols of a country. Similarly, every country has its own national anthem. Some countries have a national animal, national bird and also a national flower. All these symbols inspire and promote feelings of patriotism and unity in the citizens.

### **Our National Flag**

The flag is an emblem of the country. It is a symbol of freedom, patriotism, unity and loyalty. The heart of every citizen is filled with pride when he/she sees the flag flying high on the flag-mast.

**Description of India's tricolour flag:** Our flag consists of three colours. It has bright saffron at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom. There is a blue-coloured wheel in the centre of the white band. The wheel has 24 spokes. The diameter of the wheel is the same as the width of the white band.



**National Flag**

*The flag is rectangular in shape. The proportion of its breadth to its length is 3:2. All the three bands are of the same width. The flag should be of either cotton or silk, and hand-woven out of hand-spun yarn.*

**Importance of the National Flag:** What do the colours of our flag denote? Saffron colour stands for sacrifice and selflessness. White stands for truth, peace and purity. Green stands for green earth and symbolises agricultural and industrial prosperity. The wheel is a replica of the wheel in

the Asoka pillar at Sarnath. *Asoka Chakra* is Dharmachakra; it is also a symbol of continual movement.

### *Code of the National Flag*

- The flag should not be dirty or torn.
- When hoisting the flag, care should be taken to ensure that saffron color is at the top.
- No other flag should fly higher than the National Flag.
- The flag should be hoisted upto the top of the flag pole.
- The National Flag should be hoisted after sunrise, and should be lowered before sunset, and thereafter kept folded.
- The flag should be flown at half-mast at the time of national mourning.
- The flag should be held in the right hand while marching.
- The flag should not touch the ground.

*Plastic flags should not be used.*

### **Our National Emblem**

Observe our National Emblem. It is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Capital means top part of a pillar. Since there are lions at the top of Ashoka's pillar, the capital of the pillar is known as *Lion capital*. The lion capital of Sarnath pillar is our National Emblem.

In the original capital, there are four lions standing back to back mounted on an abacus. There are four wheels



सत्यमेव जयते  
**National Emblem**

on the abacus facing four directions. In between the wheels are sculptures of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion. The wheel on the abacus is called the *Dharmachakra* (Wheel of Law). A similar wheel is found on the white band of our National Flag.

The Government of India adopted the National Emblem on 26 January, 1950. In the Emblem, only three lions are visible. Below the abacus are inscribed the words *Satyameva Jayate* (Truth alone triumphs) from *Mundaka Upanishad* in Devanagari script.

### **Our National Anthem**

The song *Jana-gana-mana* is our National Anthem. It was composed by Rabindranath Tagore in 1911 in Bengali language. Only the first five stanzas of this lengthy song were adopted as the National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January, 1950. The full version of the National Anthem is sung in 52 seconds. A short version consisting of first and last lines of the stanza is also sung on certain occasions. This takes approximately 20 seconds.

It is the duty of every Indian to honour the National Anthem. Showing disrespect or obstructing its playing is a punishable offence under the law.

- While singing the National Anthem, we should stand in attention.
- It should be sung with correct pronunciation and in proper tune.

### **Our National Song**

*Vande Mataram* is given importance equal to the National Anthem in our Constitution. During national programmes, *Vande Mataram* is sung as a prayer in the beginning and *Jana-gana-mana* is sung at the end.

*Vande Mataram* was composed by the famous writer *Bankimchandra Chatterji*. This song, which appears in his novel '*Anandmath*', achieved the status of National Anthem during the Freedom Struggle. It describes the beauty of our Motherland and our love towards it. The song inspired intense patriotism among millions of Indians during Freedom Struggle.

*There have been many patriots who laid down their lives for the sake of the nation, with the song Vande Mataram on their lips. It was not just a song for the Indians then; it was a flame which lit their hearts. However, some leaders were against adopting it as National Anthem. In the Constitution it was adopted as National Song.*

### **National Animal, Bird and Flower**

The tiger is our *National Animal*. It is very attractive and enormously powerful. The peacock is our *National Bird*. With a glistening blue breast and neck, and a fan-shaped crest of feathers in bronze-green, it is an attractive and colourful bird. The lotus, which occupies a special place in Indian culture, is our *National Flower*.



**National Animal**  
**Tiger**



**National Bird**  
**Peacock**



**National Flower**  
**Lotus**

*National Calendar: Several calendars are in use in India. They are based on different traditions. Therefore, the Government of India introduced a common calendar applicable to the entire country on 22 March, 1957. The uniform calendar is known as the 'National Calendar' (Rashtriya Panchanga).*

*The well-known scientist Meghnad Saha played a major role in the preparation of the National Calendar. The National Calendar is based on the Saka era which commences 78 years after the Christian era. Chaitra is the first month according to this Calendar. The New Year begins on 22 March in a normal year, but in a leap year, it begins on 21 March.*

- *The Government of India uses dates according to both the National and the Christian calendars in its communications and records.*

## **National Festivals**

The festivals that are uniformly celebrated all over the country are known as *National Festivals*.

- **Republic Day:** The Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January, 1950. This day is celebrated every year as the Republic Day. People who have rendered meritorious services to the nation in different fields are given awards on that day. After the President hoists the flag in the presence of distinguished guests, the parade begins. The parade held in New Delhi is majestic. Important programmes are held in the capitals of all States.

- **Independence Day:** India celebrates its Independence Day on the 15th of August every year. A special function is arranged at the Red Fort in New Delhi. This is done because when India was declared Independent, its flag was hoisted here for the first time. Every year the Prime Minister of India hoists the flag on the Red Fort. Thereafter, he addresses the the people gathered there and the countrymen. Independence Day is celebrated all over the country. Flags are hoisted in all cities, towns and villages, and people salute them.





***Republic Day Parade***

***Gandhi Jayanti:*** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as ‘*Mahatma*’, is honoured all over the world. Under his leadership, the Freedom Struggle received a new impetus. As a tribute to his memory his birthday on 2nd October is celebrated as the Gandhi Jayanti all over the country. The birthday of our former Prime Minister Shri Lalbahadur Shastri, who was born on the same day, is also celebrated on the same day.



***Mahatma Gandhi***

## Celebrations

• *Ambedkar Jayanti*: Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India. He performed his role brilliantly. In his memory, 14th of April is celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti every year.



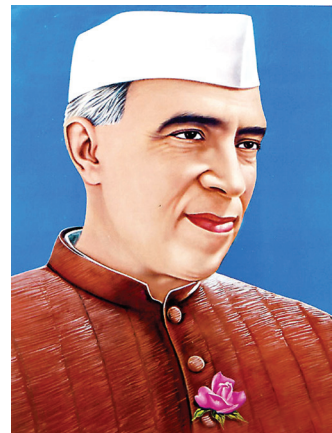
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**



**Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**

• *Teacher's Day*: Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, was a great scholar and teacher. In memory of this noble teacher and philosopher, 5th of September is celebrated as Teacher's Day in India every year.

• *Children's Day*: The birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, is celebrated as Children's Day on November 14 every year. Nehru was a nature lover. The red rose was his favourite flower.



**Jawaharlal Nehru**

- *The Youth Day - Swami Vivekananda*

By inspiring the youth, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) led the nation towards a new horizon. He removed blind faith being followed in the name of religion, and spread progressive thoughts. By establishing Ramakrishna Mission, Swamiji gave a new dimension to monastic life. He called upon the Indians thus: “Let the poor, ignorant, illiterate and sick be thy God. Understand that serving them is the highest form of Dharma”.



**Swami  
Vivekananda**

The Central Government has declared January 12 as Youth Day. The Karnataka Government has announced a new youth policy for their advancement.

- *Karnataka Rajyotsava*: The Kannada areas in the States of Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad, and Kodagu and Mysore states were brought under a single administration, and a Kannada-speaking State was created on 1st November, 1956. It was then called *Mysore State*. This day is celebrated every year as Karnataka Rajyotsava Day. On November 1, 1973 Devaraj Urs, who was the Chief Minister at that time, renamed the Mysore State as *Karnataka State*.

## Exercises

### *Discuss in groups and answer*

- 1 What does the white colour in our National Flag symbolize?
- 2 What is the significance of the writing below our National Emblem?
- 3 Who composed our National Song?
- 4 What are the guidelines given in the of Flag Code?
- 5 Which are our National Festivals?
- 6 Name some of the important days of public celebration.

### *Activities*

- 1 *Collect the national flags of different countries.*
- 2 *Listen to the national anthems of other countries.*
- 3 *Sing the full version of the National Song.*
- 4 *Identify the local festivals of your area.*



# GEOGRAPHY

**Chapter  
21**

**ASIA**



## *Introduction to the Chapter*

Study of location, extent and physical setting - Regional divisions of Asia - Physiography - Major rivers and agriculture - Climate and natural vegetation - Important minerals - Population growth, distribution and density.

## *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the location, extent, physical setting and contrasting features of Asia.
- 2 Understanding the regional divisions and highlights of their contrasting features.
- 3 Describing the major physiographic divisions of Asia.
- 4 Understanding the relationship between the rivers and agricultural activity.
- 5 Knowing the relationship between climate and natural vegetation of Asia.
- 6 Understanding the occurrence of major minerals, growth, distribution and density of population.

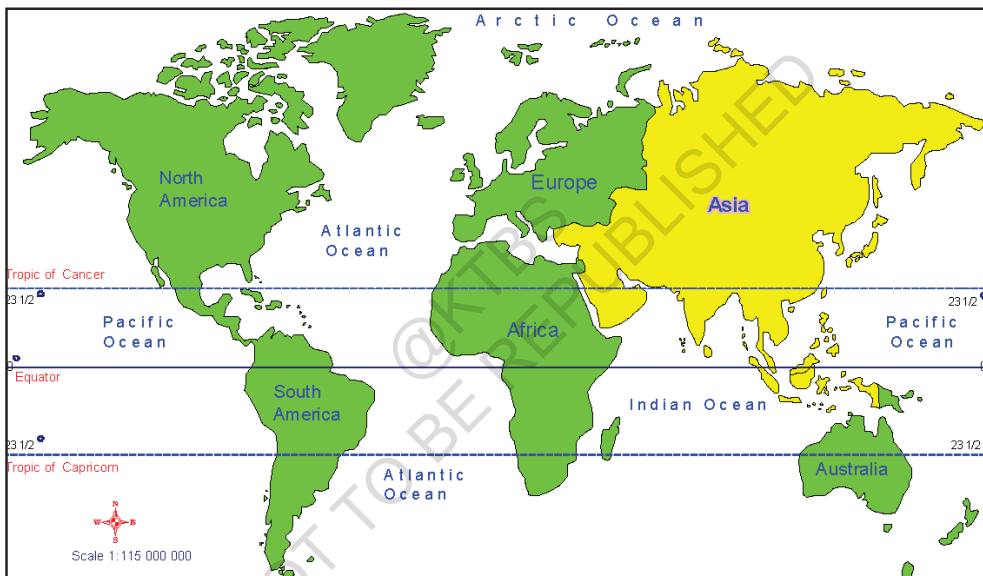
## **1. Location, Extent and Physical Setting**

*Introduction:* Asia is the largest of all the continents. Hence it has the greatest variety in terms of physical features, climate, vegetation, wild life, soils, etc. It has the highest mountains, plateaus, vast fertile plains, deserts, river systems and lakes. There is diversity in languages, religions, uneven distribution of population and density. That is why it is often called a “*land of contrasts*”.

**Activity:** Asia is a continent of contrasts. Do you know why it is called so? Discuss this topic in groups and prepare a report.

**Location:** Asia lies between 1°.16' North to 77°.41' North latitudes and 26°.04' East to 169°.40' West longitudes. The Equator passes just south of Malaysia. The Tropic of Cancer passes through Arabia and India.

**Extent:** Asia's total geographical area is approximately 44 million km<sup>2</sup>. It covers 33% of the land surface of the world. Asia almost wholly lies in the northern hemisphere.



### **Location of Asia in the world**

**Physical setting:** The continent of Asia is bounded by oceans on three sides and by land on one side. It is bounded by the Arctic Ocean in the north, the Pacific Ocean in the east and the Indian Ocean in the south.

The border between Asia and Europe is traditionally drawn as a zig zag line passing down the spine of the Ural mountains, and through the Caspian Sea, Caucasus mountain and the Black Sea.

Europe & Asia together are known as 'Eurasia'



### ***Location, and Physical Setting of Asia***

The boundary separating Asia and Africa is along the Suez canal and the boundary between Asia and Australia is usually placed between the island of New Guinea and Australia.

## **2. Regional Divisions Of Asia**

There are 48 countries in Asia. They are usually grouped into following five major regional divisions.

**1. East Asia** includes China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia. They are between the vast expanses of Russia to the north and the countries of South Asia and South-East Asia to the south.

**2. South-East Asia** comprises of Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Brunei. This is a region of Peninsulars and islands, i e., Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Borneo, Papua etc. To the west of it lies the Indian Ocean and to the east of it the Pacific Ocean.



### ***Regional Divisions of Asia***

**3. South Asia** includes the countries of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Srilanka and the Maldives. India is a giant among these countries. The Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean are the water bodies which are to the south. To the north are the Himalayan mountains. Myanmar is to the east and Afghanistan is to the west.

**4. South West Asia** includes the following countries: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Yemen. This region is to the south of the Black Sea with the Mediterranean Sea to the west and India to the east. This regional division includes desert and semi-desert areas. They are rich in petroleum and natural gas.



*5. Central Asia* extends from the Caspian Sea in the west to China in the east, and from Kazakhstan in the north to Iran and Afghanistan in the south. It comprises of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Siberia (Russia).

### **3. Physiography**

The physiography of Asia comprises of a series of high mountains. They are the dominant landforms. Besides, there are alluvial lowlands and islands arcs.

*Major Physical Divisions:* On the basis of structure and relief features, Asia can be divided into five major physical divisions.

- 1 The North-Western Lowlands.
- 2 The Central Highlands.
- 3 The Southern Plateaus.
- 4 The Great Plains of Rivers.
- 5 The Island Groups.

*1. The North-Western Lowlands:* They are the most outstanding relief features of Asia. They extends from Bering Strait to the Caspian Sea. They are between the Arctic Ocean and the central highlands. They are vast triangular lowlands known as the 'Siberian Plain'. The general slope is towards the north. This plain is crossed by the Lena, the Ob, and the Yenise rivers. They flow northwards into the Arctic Ocean.

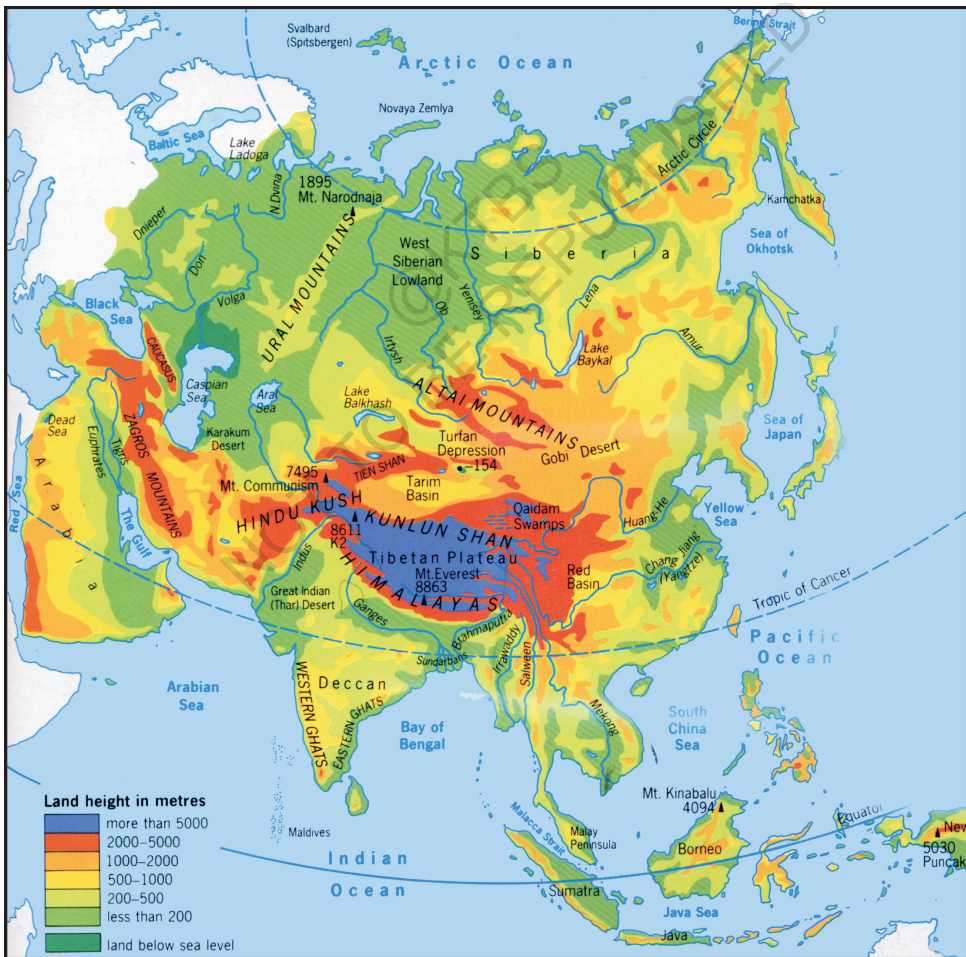
*2. The Central Highlands:* They form the second great physical division. They lie to the south of the North-western lowlands. The Central Highlands stretch from Asia Minor to Bering Strait. Various mountain ranges radiate from the Pamir Knot in all directions. The eastern ranges include the Himalayas, the Kunlun, the Karakoram, the Tianshan, the Altai, the Sayan, the Yablonovy, the Khingan and the Stanovoy. The western ranges comprise of the Hindukush, the Sulaimans, the Kirthars, the Elburz, the Zagros, the Caucasus, the Pontine and the Taurus mountains.

The Himalayas are fold mountains which extend south-west from the Pamirs. They are the loftiest mountains in the world. Mt. Everest, in the Himalayas, is the highest peak in the world.



**Mt. Everest**

There are many plateaus in between mountain ranges. Examples: Tibet, Mangolia, Iran, Anatolia etc. Many rivers of Asia originate in these highlands.



**Physiographical Divisions**

*3. The Southern Plateaus:* They are the old plateaus made of hard crystalline rocks. They comprises the Plateau of Arabia, the Deccan plateau (India) and the Plateau of Yunnan (Indo-China) and Shan Plateau (Myanmar).

The Plateau of Arabia occupies the entire Arabian Peninsula. It is dry region.

The Deccan Plateau occupies a large part of the Indian peninsula. It lies between the central mountains, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. It slopes to the east and most of its rivers flow in that direction.

The Yunnan Plateau is situated to the South-West of China. It is a high block consisting of lime-stone. The Shan Plateau is a continuation of Yunnan Plateau.

*4. The Great Plains of rivers:* This region consists of plains of the rivers of Asia which either flow into the Indian Ocean or the Pacific Ocean. All these rivers have their sources located in the central highlands. They form fertile plains by depositing alluvium. The major plains in this division are the Tigris-Euphrates in Syria and Iraq, the Indo-Gangetic plain in India and Pakistan, the Irrawady plain in Myanmar, the Menam and the Mekong in Indo-China, the Si-Kiang, the Yang-tse-Kiang (Chiang-Jiang) and Hwang Ho Plains in China. Since these plains are fertile they are densely populated.

*5. The Island Groups:* Numerous islands are found in South-East Asian and the Pacific coast of the continent. They extend from Kamchatka peninsula in the north to Philippines and Borneo in the south. They are arranged in festoons. They enclose five seas, namely, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea.

*The island festoons are* - (i) the Kurile Islands, (ii) the Japanese Islands, (iii) the La Chu Islands and (iv) the Borneo and Philippines Islands. These islands are of volcanic origin and have fertile soil, deep valleys and steep conical peaks.

## 4. Major Rivers and Agriculture

*Rivers of Asia:* Asia is a land of mighty rivers. Asia is surrounded by the Arctic, the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. The majority of rivers of this continent flow into any of these three oceans. Thus the rivers of Asia can be divided into four groups;

*1. Indian Ocean Rivers System:* The major rivers of this groups are: the Tigris and the Euphrates of Syria and Iraq, flow into the Persian Gulf. The Sindhu, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra of India, rises in the Himalayas and flow southward into the Indian Ocean. Rivers Sittang, Salween and Irrawadi of Myanmar flow into the Bay of Bengal.

*2. Pacific Ocean Rivers System:* It includes the rivers of Amur (Russia), Hwang Ho, Chiang Jiang (Yangtse Kiang) and Sikiang of China, which drain eastward into the Sea of Okhotsk, the Yellow Sea and the China Sea respectively. Mekong and Menam of Indo-China flow into South China Sea.



**Rivers of Asia**

**3. Arctic Ocean Rivers System:** It includes Ob, Yenisei and Lena which are the three biggest rivers of this group. These rivers rise in the Central Highlands, flow northwards, and fall into the Arctic Ocean.

**4. Inland Rivers System:** The major rivers which drain into inland seas are the Volga and the Ural which flow into the Caspian Sea, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya which flow into the Aral Sea.

### *Agriculture of Asia*

Agriculture is the most important occupation in Asia. About three-fifths of the people are engaged in agriculture. Agricultural products account for a major share of Asia's export.

There is a close relationship between the river systems and farming in Asia. Agriculture is largely practised in river basins (except in Siberia) because of fertile soil and water supply through irrigation.

In many Asian countries, most of the farmers use hand tools and animals for cultivation. They follow intensive farming. Other types of farming are also in practice, e.g., irrigation farming, dry farming, plantation farming, mixed farming etc. In recent years modern implements, fertilizers, high-yielding varieties of seeds etc. have become widespread in some countries. But still there are many countries which have low-yield per hectare due to many reasons.

**Crops:** A variety of crops are grown in Asia. Rice and wheat are the chief staple food crops. China and India are the leading producers of rice and together they produce more than 90% of the world rice. Japan, Bangladesh, Thailand and South East Asian countries are other major producers of rice. China, India, Pakistan and Asian Russia are the leading wheat producing countries.



**Rice Crop**

Most of the world's natural rubber and tea come from Asia. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are the top natural rubber producers. The leading tea producing areas are China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Thailand.



**Tea estate**



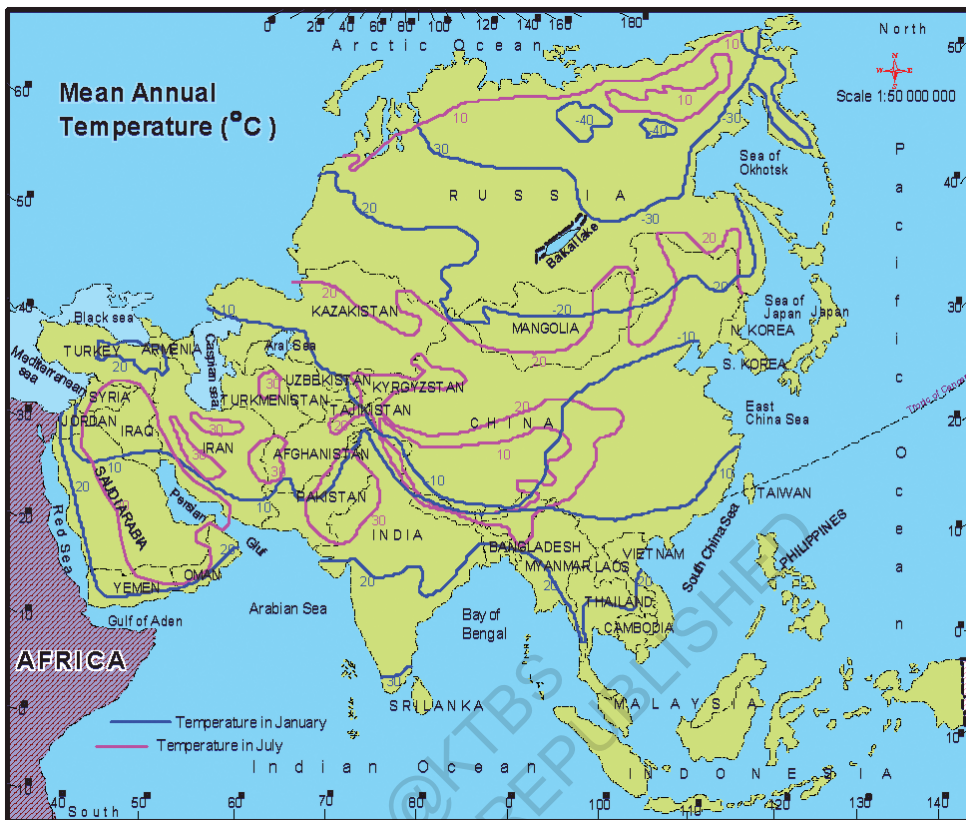
**Coffee estate**

The other important crops of Asia include cotton, jute (fibre crops) and sugarcane. China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are the leading producers of cotton. Jute comes mainly from Bangladesh, China and India. The sugarcane producing areas are in India (second largest producer in the world), Indonesia, Philippines and Bangladesh.

Asia is also famous for the production of coffee, cocoa, millets and variety of pulses, spices, oil seeds etc.

## **5. Climate and Natural Vegetation**

**Climate:** As mentioned earlier, Asia is a very vast continent. It extends from the Equator to the Polar region. As a result, Asia has a wide variety of climates. Asia has some of the coldest lands in the world (Polar), as well as some of the hottest areas (Central and Southwest), the driest as also the wettest. The varied climate of the continent is due to several factors such as size, latitudinal extent, physical features, monsoon winds etc.

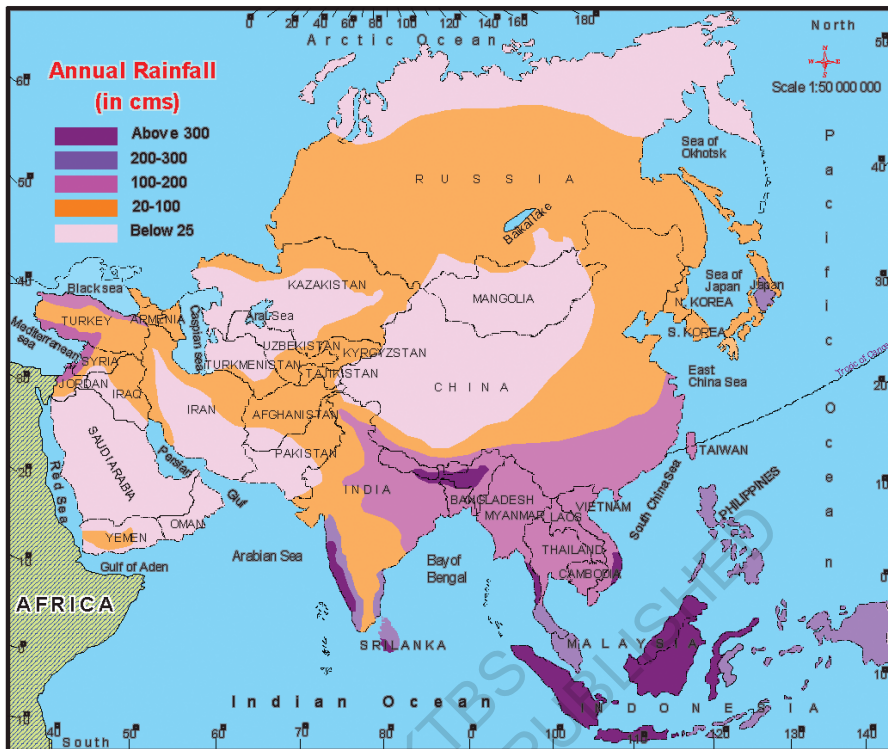


### ***Distribution of Annual temperature***

**Temperature:** It varies from one region to another and from one season to another. In January, the southern countries are less cold, but the northern countries experience bitter cold. Verkhoyansk in Siberia is the coldest place.

In July, a greater part of the continent is hot, with the exception of northern Siberia and the high mountains and plateaus of Central Asia. In some places the temperature rises beyond 40° c.

**Distribution of Rainfall:** Most of the rainfall in Asia is caused by the summer (southwest) monsoons (a warm moist winds). But the monsoons do not reach the central part of Asia, which is dry throughout the year. In winter the Westerlies cause rainfall in the Western Asian countries. Eastern parts of China, the Philippines, Malaysia etc. receive rainfall from tropical cyclones.



***Distribution of Annual rainfall***

**Winter Season:** The period from October to March is winter in most parts of Asia as a greater part of Asia lies in the northern hemisphere. The rays of the sun are slanting in the northern hemisphere during this season. So, most of Asia experiences very low temperature and become extremely cold.

The atmospheric pressure is high in central Asia and low over the Indian Ocean. Winds, therefore, blow from the land to the sea. They are dry and do not cause rainfall. Hence there is little rainfall in winter.

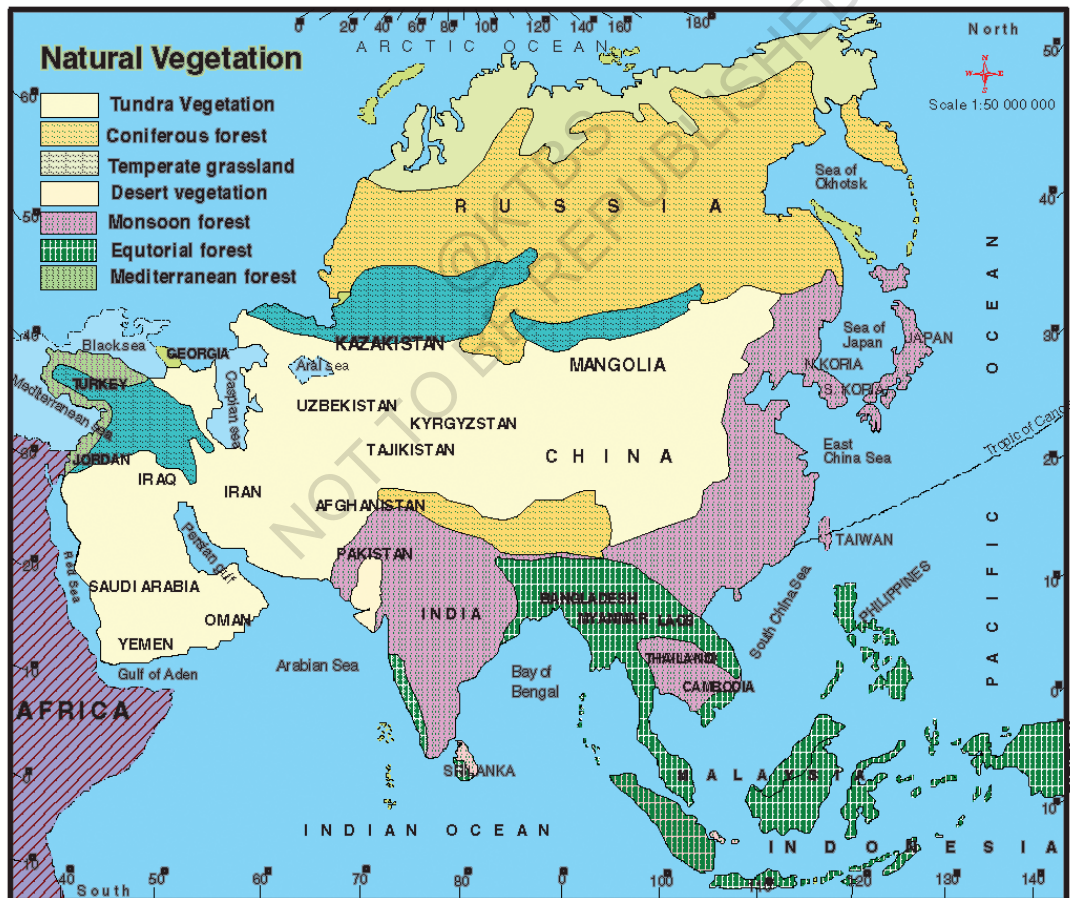
**Summer Season:** The conditions are reversed during summer. It starts in April and ends in September. The sun shines vertically in the northern hemisphere. So most of Asia has high temperature and it causes low pressure in Central Asia. Winds therefore blow from the sea towards the land. They cause heavy rainfall to most parts of the Asia.



- Verkhoyansk in Siberia has  $-51^{\circ}\text{c}$  and Oymyakni has  $-71^{\circ}\text{c}$  temperature in January.
- Mawsynram in Meghalaya (India) receives highest rain fall in the world (1187 cm).

### Natural vegetation

Natural vegetation of Asia is closely associated with climate. But other factors such as landforms, soils and interference of human beings also have influence on types of vegetation and its distribution. There is great diversity in the vegetation of Asia. It can be divided into seven major types as follows:



**Natural vegetation**

*1 The Tundra vegetation* is found in a narrow belt along the Arctic coastal areas. This belt is mostly covered by snow and ice. So plant growth is limited and restricted to mosses and lichen.

*2 Coniferous forests* are found to the south of the Tundra and is also known as 'Taiga forests'. Fir, spruce, larch and pine are the common trees found here. They are soft wood trees.



***Taiga forest***

*3 Temperate grasslands (steppes)* are found mainly to the west of Central Asia and in a fringe of deserts and semi-deserts. The low rainfall encourage low growth of grass.

*4 Desert vegetation* occurs in tropical and temperate deserts of Asia, e.g., Arabia, Iran, Thar desert etc. Only some thorny plants, bushes and poor grass grow here. Near the oasis date and palm trees are found.



***Monsoon forest***

**5 Monsoon forests** are found in the South, South-East and East Asia. Since this region has high temperature and sufficient rainfall, forests grow here. Teak, sal, banyan, bamboos, sandal and many varieties of hardwood trees are found here. They shed their leaves in autumn.

**6 Equatorial forests** are mainly found in the East Indies and heavy rainfall areas of the monsoon lands. They are evergreen and trees are quite tall. Mahogany, ebony, rubber, bamboo and rosewood are the main trees.



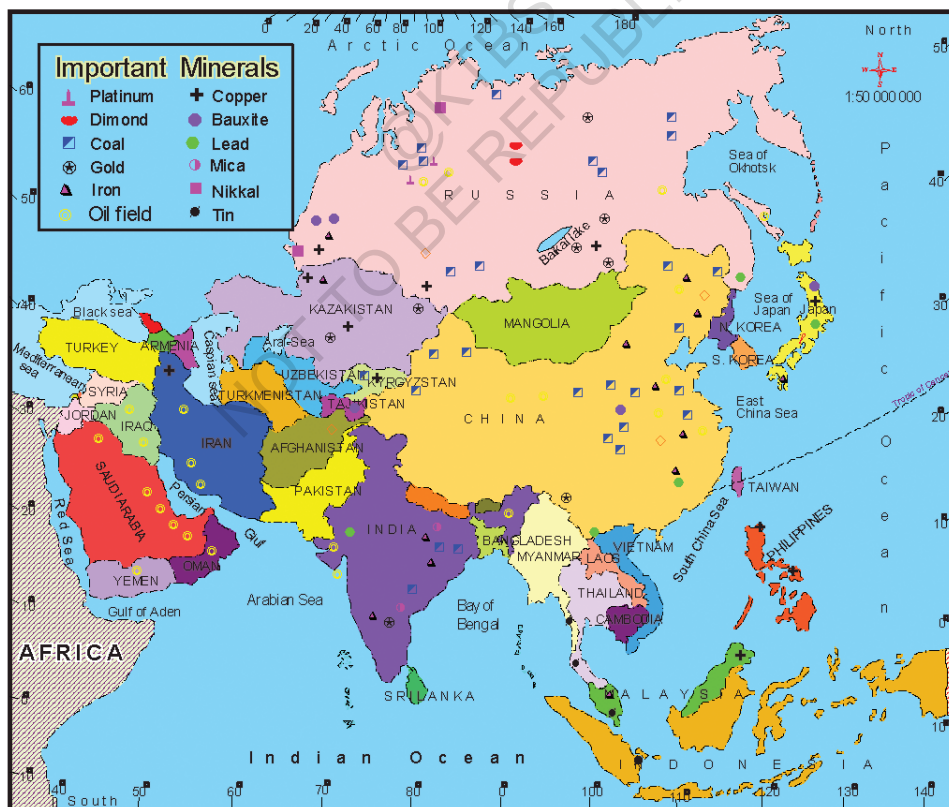
***Equatorial forest region***

*7 Mediterranean vegetation* occurs in South-West Asia. The important trees are olive, figs and oak. They are short trees. Shrubs also grow here.

## 6. Important Minerals

Since Asia is the largest continent, it has a large and varied mineral deposits. The important minerals are as follows:

*Iron ore* is the main raw material for the production of iron and steel. Asia is rich in iron ore reserves and has about 30% of world's reserves. China is the leading producer. India, Turkey, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Pakistan are the other important iron ore producers. Korea, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Japan, and the countries of South-West Asia are poor in iron ore reserves.



**Important minerals**

*Manganese* is considered to be the most important of the ferro-alloy metals. It is essential for the production of good quality steel. In Asia, manganese is found in abundance in Transcaucasia, Central Asia, Siberia, China and India. China is a leading producer of manganese in Asia.

*Bauxite* is the main source of aluminium which is one of the non-ferrous metals. The largest bauxite reserves are found in Kazakhstan and South Central Siberia. Fairly large bauxite areas are also located in China, India, Indonesia, Turkey and Malaysia.

*Coal* is a fossil fuel mineral of plant origin. It is an important source of energy. Asia is rich in coal reserves. But they are unevenly distributed. The largest reserves are found in China, India, Indonesia, Siberia and the Central Asian countries.

China is the largest possessor and producer of coal in the world. India is the second largest producer of coal in Asia. Recently the Kuznetsk Basin in South Central Siberia has become a big producer of coal. Smaller deposits of coal are found in Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Japan, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

*Petroleum* is a mineral oil and a very important source of power for automobiles, railways, ships and aeroplanes. Southwestern Asia has the largest petroleum reserves which are located in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE). These countries have about half of the world's petroleum deposits and produce nearly 25% of the world's petroleum.

Some countries of Eastern and South Eastern Asia also have petroleum reserves, i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Myanmar, Saravak, India, Vietnam etc. Recently Siberia has increased its production of petroleum.

- *The term 'petroleum' is derived from two Latin words: 'Petra' means 'rock' and 'oleum' means oil. So petroleum is rock oil.*
- *Saudi Arabia is the largest producer of petroleum in the world.*

Central Asia also possesses considerable deposits of petroleum, i.e., in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan, etc.

### *Major Industrial Regions*

Despite its large size and rich mineral and agricultural resources, the continent of Asia is generally less industrialized than Europe. The main reasons for this situation are lack of technology, capital, conservative attitude towards industrialization and large population which is engaged in agriculture.

An area dominated by industries and industrial activities is called "Industrial Region". Industries are concentrated in some areas where there are favourable factors for their location. Major industrial regions of Asia are as follows:

*Japan:* There are four major industrial regions in Japan.

- 1 *The Keihin Region* is the greatest industrial region of Japan. It includes Tokyo, Kawasaki and Yokohama cities. The important industries are textiles, engineering, shipbuilding, paper and cement.
- 2 *The Hanshin Region* includes Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto. It is dominated by textiles.
- 3 *The Ise Bay Region* spreads around Nagoya city and is dominated by textiles and engineering industries.
- 4 *The Kita Kyushu Region* includes Yawata, Kokura and Moji. The industries are steel, ship-building, machinery, chemicals and textiles.

**China:** Since it is an agriculture country industrial development is limited. After the communists came to power, attempts were made to industrialise China. Its major industrial regions are:

- 1 *Manchuria* region is dominated by iron and steel, engineering and chemicals.
- 2 *Beijing* region has developed metallurgical, engineering, shipbuilding, textiles and chemical industries.
- 3 *Shanxi-Baotou* region has Iron and Steel and farm machine producing industries.
- 4 *Chang-jiang* region is dominated by textiles, shipyards, steel plants and engineering.
- 5 *Wuhan* region is famous for the metallurgical and heavy industries.

**India:** Its major industrial regions are: (1) Hooghly-Kolkata region, (2) Mumbai-Pune region, (3) Ahmedabad-Vadodara region, (4) Madurai-Coimbatore-Bengaluru region, (5) Chotanagpur region, (6) Delhi-Meerut region, (7) Vishakapatnam region and, (8) Kollam-Thiruvananthapuram region.

The other Asian industrial regions are located in South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

## **7. Population of Asia**

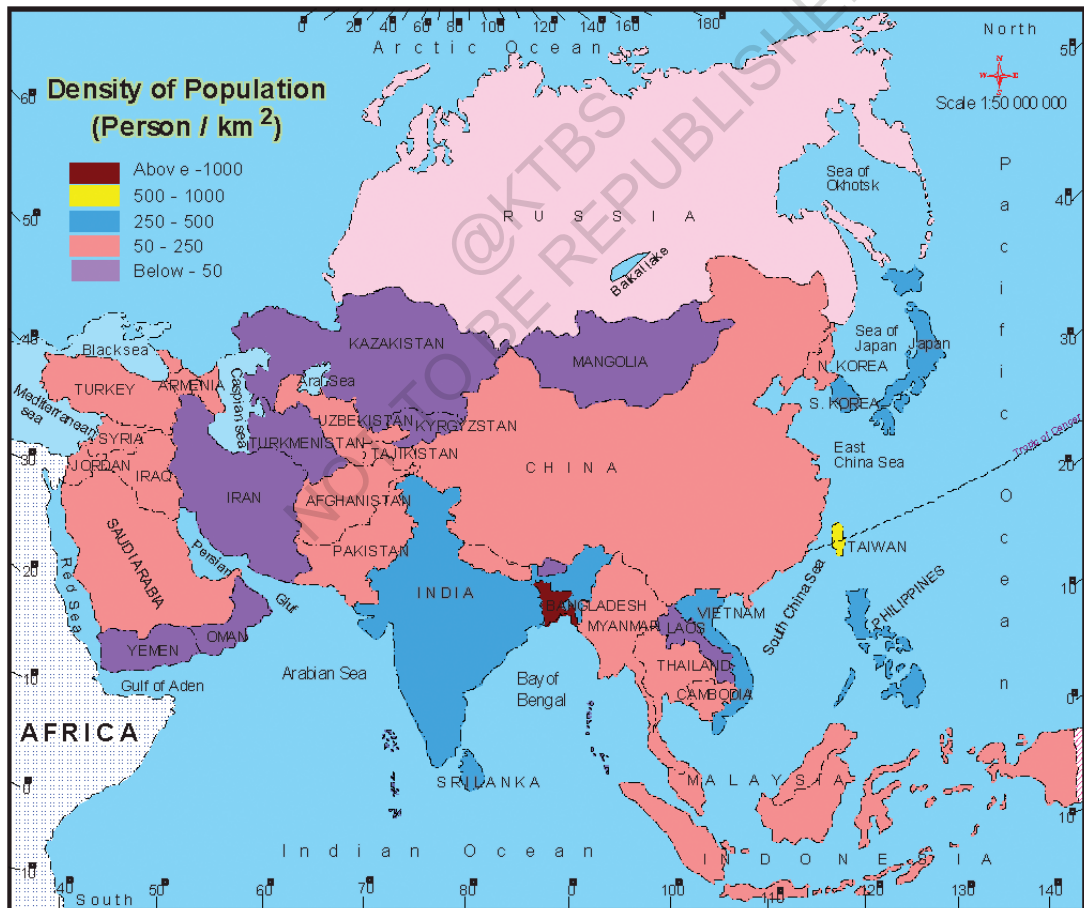
**Growth:** Nearly 4.2 billion people live in Asia, constituting 60% of the world's population. So Asia is densely populated. In 1950 the population of Asia was 1.4 billion. The rate of growth was high until recently. Now it has been decreasing.

**Distribution and density:** The distribution of population in Asia is very uneven. Look at the population map of Asia (Map 11.10). You will find that a greater part of Asia is very sparsely populated but some areas are very densely populated.

The average density of population of Asia is 150 persons per Km<sup>2</sup>, but it is not uniform all over the continent.

The sparsely populated areas includes the northern and eastern parts of Siberia which are very cold, the deserts of Arabia, Iran and Thar in India (too dry) and the highlands of Central Asia.

The densely populated parts of Asia include the great plains of India, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Korea and Java island in Indonesia. Most of these are fertile level land or river basins. Also high density of population is found in Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia.



*Density of Population in Asia*



## ***New Terms***

autumn, billion, coniferous, fossil fuel, folded mountains, knot, limestone, lichens, mosses, oasis, raw materials, taiga, tundra.

### ***Do you know?***

- *The highest point of Asia is Mt. Everest (8,848 m).*
- *The lowest point of Asia is the Dead Sea (305 m below sea level).*
- *The Karakoram Range contains the largest glaciers of the world.*
- *Tibet is the highest plateau in the world and is often called the 'Roof of the World'.*
- *Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland water body.*
- *Lake Baikal in southern Siberia is the world's deepest lake.*
- *The smallest country in Asia (both area and population) is the Maldives.*

## **Exercises**

### ***Discuss in groups and answer***

- 1 'Asia is a land of contrasts'. Why?
- 2 What is the physical setting of Asia?
- 3 Which are the major physical divisions of Asia?
- 4 Which are the highest mountains and plateaus in Asia?
- 5 In which season are the rains plentiful in Asia?
- 6 Which are the major staple food crops of Asia?

- 7 Which is the most important fossil fuel in Asia?
- 8 Which parts of Asia are very sparsely populated? Why?
- 9 What are the industrial regions of Japan?

### **Activities**

- 1 *Study the map of Asia from your Atlas and list out the mountains, plateaus, plains and rivers.*
- 2 *Collect information and pictures on major rivers of Asia and their details: sources, length, tributaries, dams, deltas etc., and mark them on the outline map.*
- 3 *Observe your surroundings and list the crops, vegetation and water bodies, if any.*

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### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Study of location, extent and physical setting - Physiographic and climatic divisions - Natural vegetation, farming, dairying and fishing - Mineral and industries - Population growth, distribution and density of Europe.

### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the location, size and physical setting of Europe.
- 2 Identifying the physical and climatic divisions of Europe.
- 3 Understanding the influence of climatic regions on natural vegetation.
- 4 Knowing how the minerals determine the industries of Europe.
- 5 Interpreting the factors affecting the uneven distribution, density and migration of population.

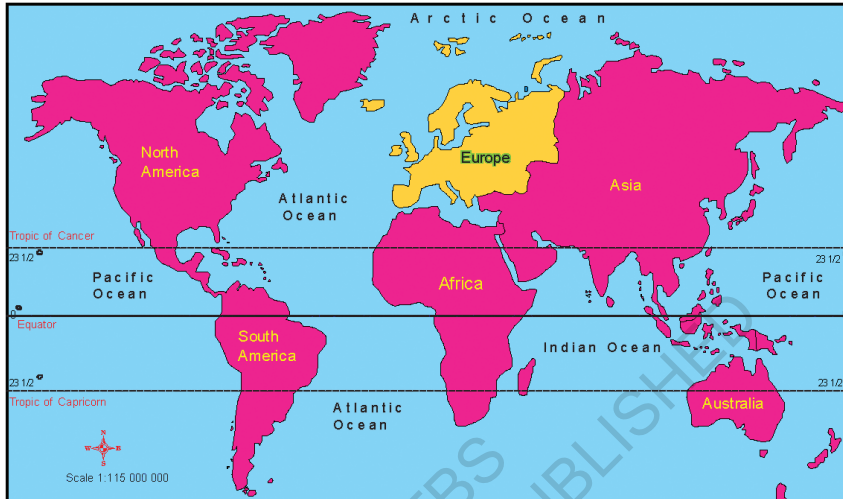
*Introduction:* Europe is one of the most densely populated and urbanized continents of the world. It is also a prosperous and highly industrialized continent. In area, it ranks sixth among the continents. It has a complex and diverse physical setting and socio-cultural and political situation. Europe has 56 large and small countries.

### ***1. Location, Extent and Physical Setting***

*Location:* Europe lies between 10° West and 60° East longitude and from 36° North to 72° North latitude.

*Extent:* Europe (including the European portion of Russia) is the second smallest continent with a total area of 10.4 million Km<sup>2</sup>. It is about three times the size of India. This continent occupies about 7% of the Earth's surface, but it has a quarter of the world's total population.

*Physical Setting:* Europe is a peninsula of Asia. Water bodies surround Europe on three sides: to the north is the Barents Sea, to the west is the Atlantic Ocean and to the south is the Mediterranean Sea.



***Location of Europe in the world***



***Location, extent and physical setting***

To the east of Europe lies the continent of Asia which is separated from it by the Ural mountains, the Caucasus mountains, and the Caspian Sea. To the south of it lies Africa.

The above mentioned boundaries are not barriers between the Asia and Europe. Hence together Asia and Europe are known as 'Eurasia'.

## **2. Physiography**

The physiography of Europe is unique. The western and southern parts are mountainous, characterized by snow covered peaks, gorges, valleys, plateaus and plains. But the eastern part of the continent consists largely of a stable platform with limited change in relief.

The highest point of Europe is Mt. Elbrus (5633 mt.) in the Caucasus mountain. The lowest point of the continent is the shore of the Caspian Sea which is 28 meters below sea level.



**Mount Elbrus**

Actually, Europe is a large peninsula of the Asiatic land mass. It has numerous peninsulas, such as the Scandinavian, the Iberian, the Jutland, the Balkan Peninsula, etc. Thus, very often Europe is known as the 'Peninsula of Peninsulas'.

Europe has a highly indented irregular coastline of 80,500 km, which is longer than that of Asia. Thousands of islands lie off the coast of the continent. Two of the largest islands are Britain and Ireland. Other important islands are Shetland, Foeroes, Orkneys, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Crete and Channel island.

## ***Physiographic Divisions***

On the basis of topography the continent of Europe is generally divided into four major divisions. They are -

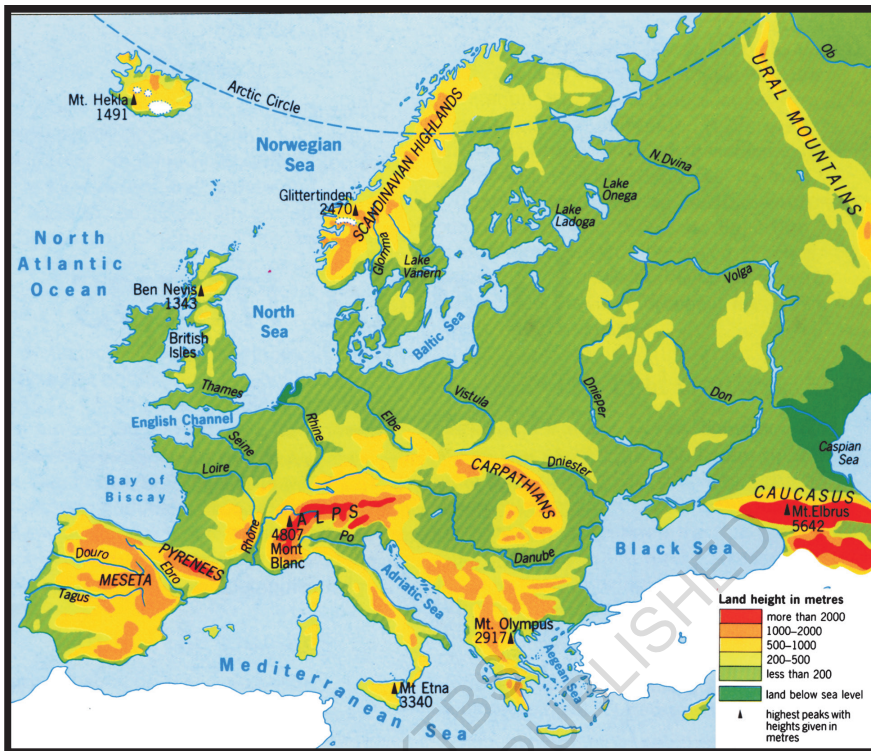
- 1 The Northwestern Highlands.
- 2 The North European Plains.
- 3 The Central Uplands.
- 4 The Southern Mountains.

*1 The Northwestern Highlands:* This region includes the oldest mountains located in Finland, Sweden, Norway and extending to Britain and Iceland. These are really the relic mountains which have undergone glacial erosion and become low mountains. They are made of ancient rocks. The general elevation is 2000 m. in Scandinavia and 600 m. in Ireland and Scotland. Goldho Piggen (2469 m) in Norway is the highest peak in Northern Europe. The Ben Nevis (1343 m) in Scotland and Snowdon (1085 m) in Wales are the other peaks. This region has gentle slope in the north and are crossed by many rivers.

*2 The North European Plains:* It is also known as the Central Lowlands. It extends from the Ural Mountains in the east to the Atlantic Coast in the west. It occupies a greater part of Europe. It includes European Russia, Poland, Northern Germany, the Netherlands (Holland), Denmark, Belgium, Northern France and the eastern parts of England.

It is broad in the east and narrow in the west. In the Netherlands and Belgium, some parts of this plain are below sea level. It is a depositional plain formed by the deposition of sediments brought by various rivers.

This region is not flat like the Indo-Gangetic plain of India. In certain places there are gently rolling areas and at other places it is broken by low mountain chains and hills. It has some of the world's most fertile farmlands.



### ***Physical divisions***

**3 The Central Uplands:** This upland consists of old rocks, eroded old mountains, hills and high plateaus. Their average height is not more than 600 mt. above the sea level.

The uplands extend from Ireland in the west to Russia in the east. They include the Meseta plateau in Spain and Portugal, the Massif Central and Vosges in France, the Black Forests in Germany and several low ranges in Czech and Slovakia Republics.

Some parts of this region are forested. Most of the land is rocky and has poor soil for farming. But river valleys provide the best farm lands.

**4 The Southern Mountains:** They are also known as the 'Alpine Mountain System'. It includes several mountains - the Sierra Morena in Spain as well as the Pyrenees which form the boundary between France and Spain.

These mountains run parallel to one another from the Atlantic Coast in the west to the Caspian Sea in the east. They are young folded mountains like the Himalayas.

The famous Alps are the most important. Mount Blanc is the highest peak (4807 m) in the Alps. The Alps cover parts of Southeastern France, Northern Italy, most of Switzerland and a part of Germany, Austria and Slovenia. The Apennines, cover much of Italy, the Dinaric Alps cover Croatia, Bosnia and Yugoslavia and the Balkans of Bulgaria, the Carpathians are in Northern Slovenia.



**Mount Blanc**

### **3. Climatic Regions and Natural Vegetations**

Most of the continent of Europe has 'Temperate Climate'. The main factors affecting the climate are latitude, relief, winds and position. However, the winds that blow across the continents from the Atlantic Ocean have great effects on the climate of the continent. This is because of the Gulf Stream, a warm ocean current and also the strong westerlies.

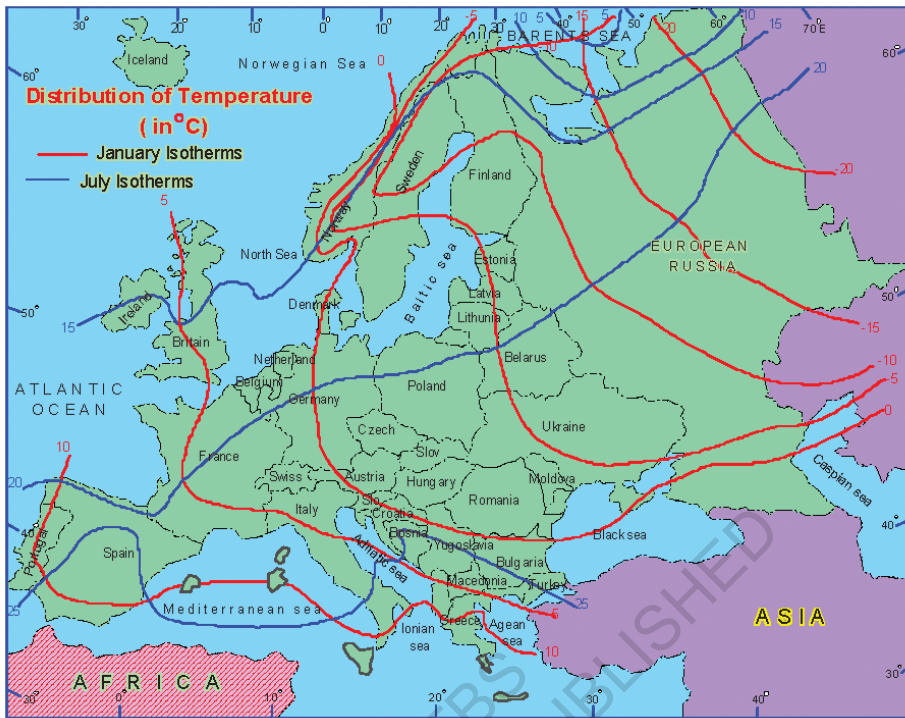
In general, Northern Europe has longer but colder winter and shorter but cooler summers than Southern Europe. The winters are also longer and colder and the summers are shorter and hotter in the east than in the west.

#### **Climatic regions**

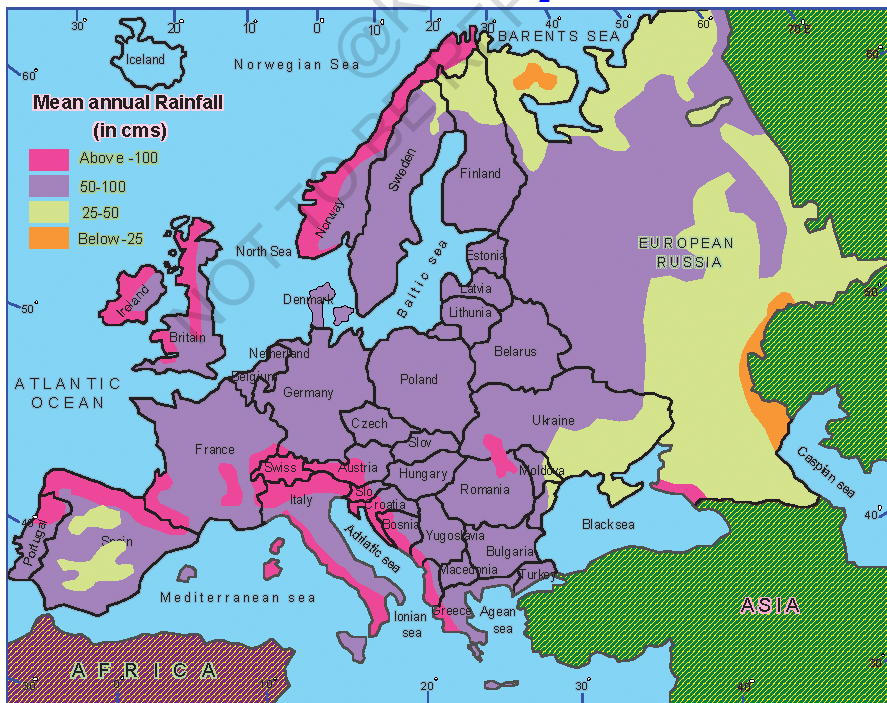
Europe can be divided into four climatic regions:

**1. Maritime Northwest Europe:** This climatic region extends from the coast of Norway to northern Spain and inland towards Central Europe. The mild winters, cool summers, and ample rainfall, cloudy and foggy days are the main characteristics of this type of climate. There is moderate temperature in both summer and winter (18°C and 10°C) and well distributed rainfall (75 cm.)





*Distribution of temperature*



*Distribution of Annual rainfall*

**2 Continental Climate:** This climate mainly prevails in Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. This climate is characterized by cold winters and warm summers (-12°C and 10°C). The average rainfall is 50 cm. Rainfall is maximum in early summer as convectional rain.

**3 Mediterranean climate:** This type of climate is characterized by hot, dry, sunny summers and mild winters with some rain. The average winter temperature is 8°C and summer temperature is 22°C. The average annual rainfall varies from 75 to 100 cms. This type of climate is mainly found in southern-most part of Europe adjoining the Mediterranean Sea.

**4 Mountainous Climate:** The Alps and Caucasus mountains have this type of climate. It is controlled by altitude, angle of the sun rays, and winds. The temperatures range from -4°C in winter to 16°C in summer. The average rainfall is 50 cm on the leeward side and above 200 cms on the windward side of the mountains. At high altitudes the temperature is below freezing point.

### **Natural Vegetation**

Europe has been settled by man for a long time and is very densely populated. Hence, the natural vegetation has been almost entirely removed, except in the higher and more unfavourable areas. There are six types of vegetation in Europe as given below.

**1 Tundra vegetation** consists of lichens and mosses. It occupies a narrow zone in Iceland and northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland. Vegetation of similar type is found at higher altitude in the Alps and northern Urals.

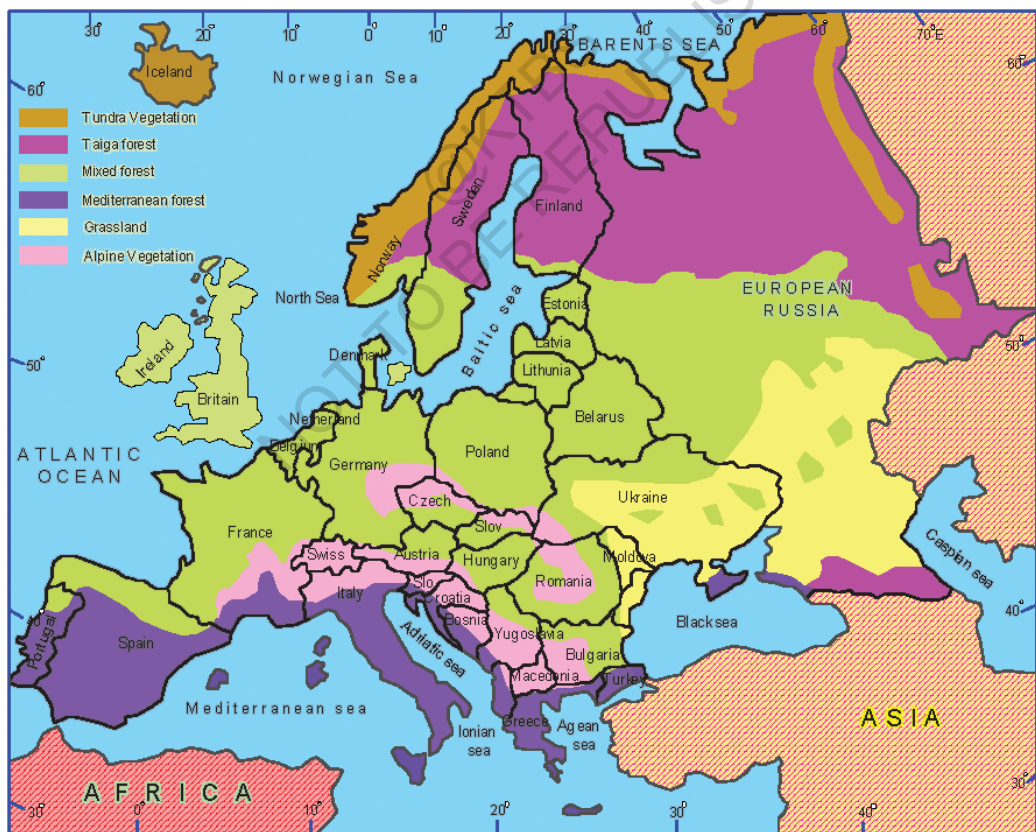
**2 Taiga forests** is also called Coniferous forests. It occurs mainly in high latitudes, covering Norway, Sweden and Finland. Only a few varieties of trees are found here, e.g., Scots pine, spruce and larch. They are cone - shaped trees and have needle-shaped leaves.

**3 Mixed forests** are found in the south central regions. These include deciduous and coniferous trees. The main species are oak, ash, elm, poplar, willow, beech etc.

**4 Mediterranean vegetation** is common along the Mediterranean Sea coast. This is broad leaf evergreen type. The trees do not shed their leaves in autumn. Trees of this type include the cork oak, olive, laurel etc.

**5 Grasslands** are found in the areas south of the deciduous forests, e.g. in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and European Russia. It is scattered wooded and steppe type grass.

**6 Alpine vegetation** covers the highlands of Southern Europe such as the Alps, Pyrenees, Balkan, Carpathian and the Dinaric mountains.



**Natural vegetation**

#### 4. Farming, Dairying and Fishing

**Farming** : Agriculture is still a very important occupation in Europe even after industrialization. The continent is fortunate in having a vast level, fertile and well irrigated land. The climatic condition is also favourable for agriculture.

Most of the countries have more than 50% of their land under farming except the Scandinavian countries. The average size of holdings in Europe is 10 hectares.

Mixed farming is practised in West European countries. It involves the cultivation of crops and the keeping of livestock. The arable land is used for growing fodder crops for cattle, poultry farming, piggery and the growing of a variety of fruits and vegetables. The cultivation of food grains is also very important. Intensive farming is practised.

In southern Europe, because of Mediterranean climate, the type of farming is different. There is a combination of cereals, fruits, vegetables and livestock farming.

Depending upon a vast market specialized type of farming has developed. The agriculture is commercial and well organised near densely populated urban areas. On the whole less than 10% of the people are engaged in agricultural activities.

Depending upon relief, soil and climatic conditions, the availability of market and farm labour a great variety of crops are grown in different parts of Europe.

*Wheat* is the important staple food crop of Europe. The Paris basin, the great plains of Europe, the plains of Hungary, the lowland countries and the Po river basin in Italy are the main wheat producing areas of Europe.

*Maize* is the second major cereal crop of Europe. France, Romania, Italy, Hungary, Germany and Spain are the major producers of maize. *Rye* is another food crop, which is largely

used for making bread and liquor. The leading producers of rye are Poland, Germany, Czech and Slovakia Republics. Europe is an important producer of barley. It is used as food grain, feed for cattle and for liquor. *Oats* is also grown in some nations. Rice is grown to a small extent as a summer crop.

*Sugar beet* and *potatoes* are the two root crops of Europe. Sugar beet is used both for the production of sugar and as fodder for cattle.

*Potatoes* grown mainly in the plains of Central and Eastern Europe. Europe is leading producer of potatoes in the world. Flax is the fibre crop of Europe.

Fruits such as grapes, apples, figs, oranges, lemons, plums, pomegranates, chestnut etc. are grown on the hill slopes. Bulgaria is famous for roses, vegetables and horticultural crops.

***Dairying:*** It is highly organised in the mixed farming system of Europe. The cool humid climate, dense urban population, good means of rail and road transportation, great bio-technological development, refrigeration, mechanization of commercial dairying and ample pastures have encouraged the development of dairying in Europe.



***Dairying***

Dairying is greatly developed in Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and Britain. But Denmark is more important for dairying. The European countries export their dairy products, e.g., cheese, condensed milk, butter, chocolate. etc.

**Fishing:** Throughout history fishing has been an important part of European diet. Fishing is particularly important in the shallow seas. The main fishing grounds are near North-West Europe. The most intensively fishing region is the North Sea and the countries include Norway, Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. The two most famous fishing grounds of the North Sea are the Dogger Bank and the Great Fisher Bank. The people of Norway are great fishermen.

Seals and whales are caught in the polar regions. Norway is the largest producer and exporter of fish in Europe. The shortage of farm land and food grains have encouraged fishing in Europe.



**Fishing grounds of Europe**

## 5. Minerals

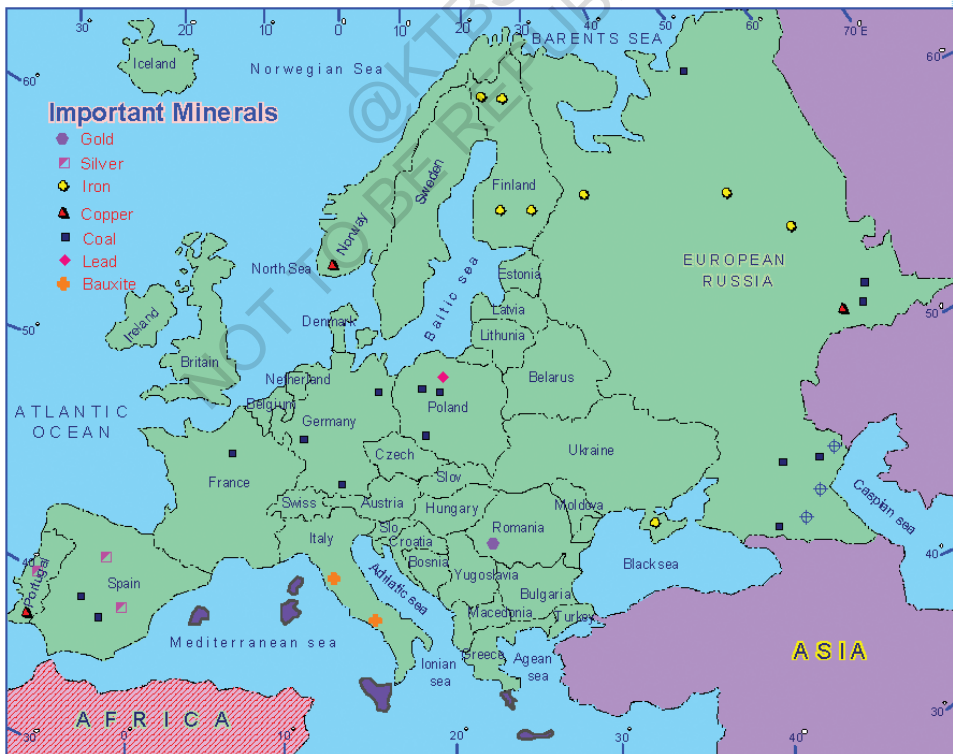
Europe has a variety of minerals and power resources.

Europe produces a large amount of *iron ore*. Nearly all European countries have iron ore reserves. It has 5% ore resources of the world. France, Germany, Spain, Britain and Sweden are the outstanding iron ore producing countries.

*Copper* is mainly produced in Bulgaria and Poland.

Europe is poor in petroleum and natural gas. The major oil producing areas of Europe are the North Sea, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany.

*Coal* is the major source of power in Europe. Its deposits are found all over the continent, except in Scandinavian and the Mediterranean countries. The *bauxite* and *potash* are also found in same places.



**Distribution of Important minerals**

## ***Important Industries***

***Iron and Steel Industry:*** Modern age is the age of iron and steel. This heavy industry produces iron and steel which is basic for a large number of subsidiary industries. The important iron and steel producing areas are - (1) Germany: Ruhr, Saar, Weser river basins and Berlin area; (2) Britain: Black country, Sheffield, North-eastern Coastal and South Wales area; and (3) France: Lorraine, North Western and Eastern border areas, and upper Silesia of Poland, Po Valley and Lombardy plain of Italy.

***Cotton Textile:*** Europe has also developed many agro-based industries. Cotton textile industry is one of them. It is widely distributed throughout Europe using raw cotton which is imported from other countries. Britain is the birth place of modern cotton textile industry. Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire are important centres of cotton textiles. Germany and France are other major producers of cotton textiles.

Britain, Germany, France, Belgium and Italy are famous for high quality silk and woollen textiles and synthetic fibres.

***Ship - building:*** This is a branch of heavy engineering and essentially an assembling industry. The main favourable factors for ship - building are: technological excellence, good harbour sites, industrial progress etc.

Germany is Europe's leading ship - building country. Sweden, Britain, and France are the other ship - building countries of Europe.

***Automobile Industry:*** The industry includes manufacturing of cars, trucks, buses, scooters etc., and any other vehicles which are run with a motor engine. Automobile industry is an assembling industry. It is highly technical and expensive industry. Germany, France, Italy and Britain are the major producers of automobiles in Europe.



## 6. Major Industrial Regions of Europe

There is a sort of triangle in which the major industries of Europe are located. It is known as the *Industrial Heart of Europe*.

This triangle extends from the North Sea to the middle of Poland and from the Po valley of Italy in the South to Sweden in the north. Following are the industrial regions of Europe:

- 1 The Industrial Regions of Britain.
- 2 The Western Triangular Industrial Region.
- 3 The Paris Industrial Region known as the Industrial Heart of Europe.
- 4 The Lorraine-Saar Industrial Region.
- 5 The Upper Rhine Region.
- 6 Eastern Germany to North-West Czech and Slovakia.
- 7 The Upper Silesia, includes Western Poland and middle part of Czech Republic area.
- 8 Southern Scandinavia consists Stockholm.
- 9 Northern Italy situated in Po Valley.

## 7. Population

The population of Europe is quite large as compared to its size. It has 11% of the world's land area (excluding Russia) but has one fifth of the world's population. Its total population is 738.2 million (2010). The population is mostly urban.

**Distribution:** The pattern of population distribution in Europe is not uniform. The most populous countries are Germany, Britain, Italy and France. Northwest Europe has low density of population. The Alps, Caucasus and the semi - dry land of the South Eastern parts are also sparsely populated.

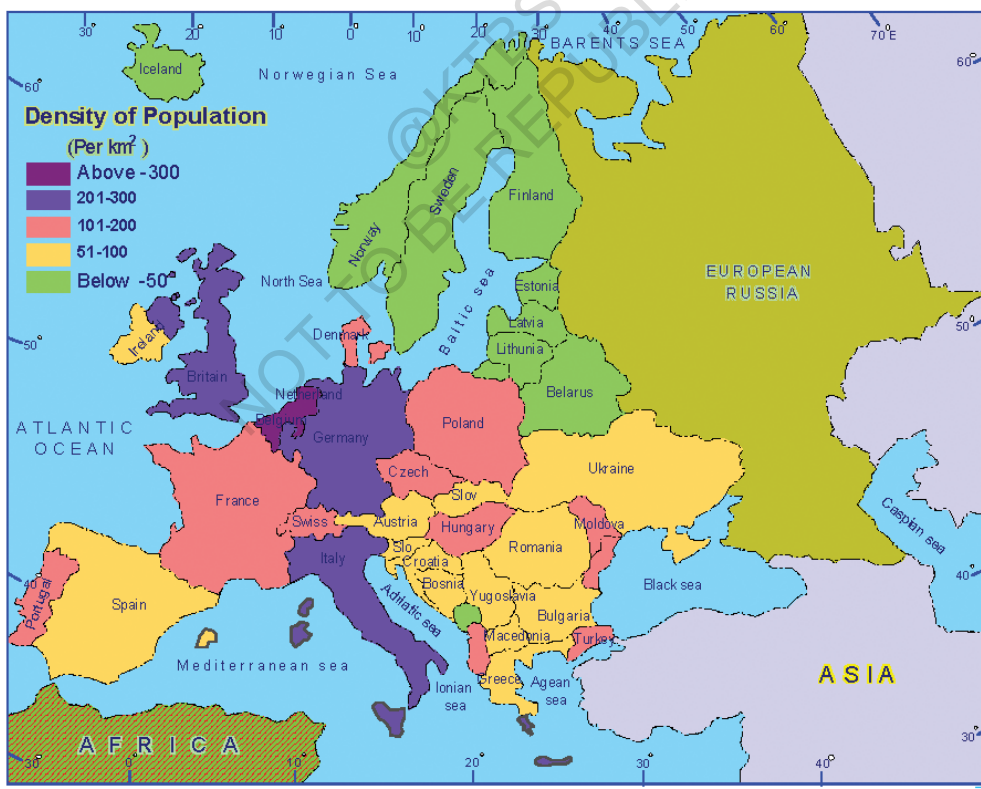
The densely populated countries among the countries of Europe are Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands etc. This is due to industrialization, transportation facilities, natural resources and technological progress.

**Growth:** European countries are characterized by low and declining growth of population. The growth rate varies from place to place.

**Migration:** During the last 200 years, some Europeans have left for the other countries. And the people of other countries have migrated to Europe for various reasons and settled here.

After the Second World War people from other continents and countries started migrating to the Britain. Most of the immigrants have been Italians.

Germans had migrated to many countries before the Second World War. Germans can be seen as a minority in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czech and Slovakia Republics and Yugoslavia.



*Density of population*

**Density:** The average density of population in Europe is 950 persons per km<sup>2</sup> whereas in Iceland it is 3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The northern European areas are more populated.

The most densely populated areas in Europe are - the industrial districts, Belgian and German coal fields, the Greater London, the Netherlands, the Rhine Valley, North Italy and the coastlands of Spain.

The sparsely populated areas are - Central France, mountainous areas, Balkan belt and the highlands of Scotland.

### **New terms**

Alpine, Alps, Taiga, automobiles, flax, foggy, maritime, Massif, Meseta, migration, peninsula, textiles.

### **Let's know**

- *Scandinavia: region of North Europe, usually defined as comprising of Norway, Sweden and Finland.*
- *Britain or Great Britain is the largest island in Europe comprising of England, Scotland and Wales. With Northern Ireland, it constitutes the United Kingdom (UK).*
- *For more than 500 years Europe has been the heart of the world.*
- *Black Forest is not a forest, it is a mountain region in southwestern Germany. Its name comes from its dark interior, the higher parts being thickly forested.*

## Exercises

### *Discuss in groups and answer*

- 1 What is the geographical location of Europe?
- 2 'Europe is known as a Peninsula of Asia'. Why?
- 3 Name the physiographic divisions of Europe.
- 4 Mention the names of important mountains and peaks in Europe.
- 5 What are the major climatic regions of Europe?
- 6 Mention the major types of natural vegetation of Europe.
- 7 Name the countries which are famous for dairying in Europe.
- 8 What are the staple food crops of Europe?
- 9 Mention the major fishing grounds in Europe.
- 10 Mention the important minerals in Europe.

### **Activities**

- 1 *On the outline map of Europe mark the physiographic divisions of Europe.*
- 2 *With the help of your teacher locate the important mountains and peaks of Europe.*
- 3 *Observe your surroundings and list out the landforms, vegetation and crops cultivated.*
- 4 *On the outline map of Europe show respective nation's capitals, places of tourism and Industrial areas.*





### *Introduction to the Chapter*

Study of location, extent and physical setting of Africa - Physiography of the continent - Water resources: Rivers - Climate, natural vegetation and animal life - Agriculture and industries - Precious minerals - Growth, distribution and density of population.

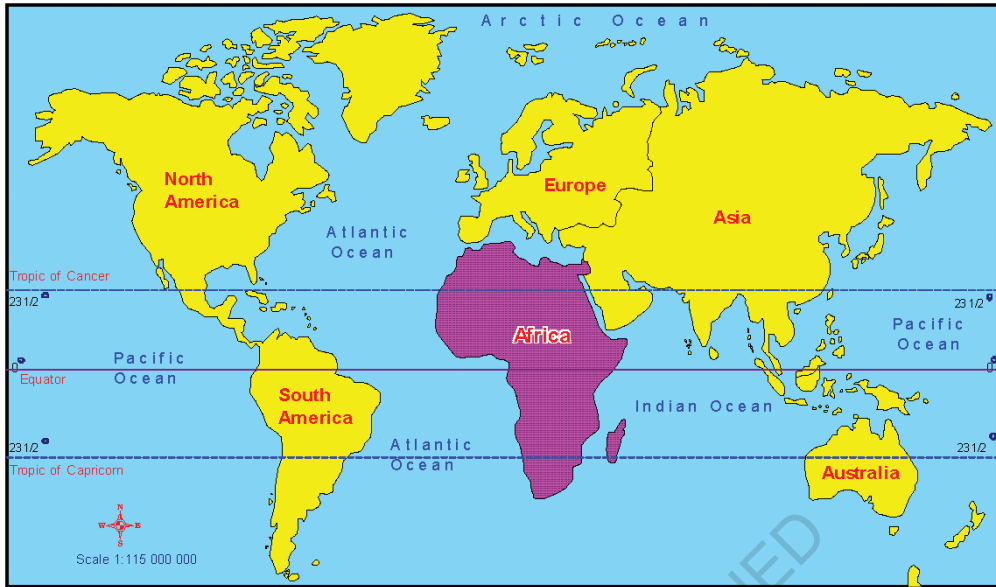
### *Competencies*

- 1 Understanding the location, size and physical setting and physical divisions of Africa.
- 2 Highlighting the major river systems, climatic regions, natural vegetation and animal life of Africa.
- 3 Describing agriculture, industries and precious minerals.
- 4 Knowing the growth, distribution and density of population.

*Introduction:* Africa is the second largest continent after Asia. It is also second in respect to population. It was called 'dark continent', not because of the predominance of black people (Negroes), but because of the obstacles to explore its interior. The plateau rim extends to the coast and in the north, the Sahara desert was a formidable obstacle to reach the interior. There are 52 countries in Africa.

### ***1. Location, Extent and Physical Setting***

*Location:* Africa lies between 37° North and 35° South latitude and 17° West and 50° East longitude. It is very interesting to note that the Equator almost passes through the centre of Africa. Hence, it is known as 'the Central Continent'. Both the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn passes through Africa. The prime meridian cuts across Africa on its western side.



***Location of Africa in the world***



***Location, physical setting of Africa***

**Extent:** The total area of Africa is 30.4 million km<sup>2</sup>. The continent measures about 8000 km from north to south and about 7400 km from east to west. Its northern extremity is Al-Ghiram point (Tunisia) while its southern-most point is Cape Agulhas (South Africa).

**Physical Setting:** Africa is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the Mediterranean Sea, on the east by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

In the northeast, Africa is joined to Asia by Sinai Peninsula, though it is now separated by the Suez Canal. Africa is separated from Europe by the Strait of Gibraltar and the Arabian Peninsula by the Red sea. The coast line of Africa is 30,500 Km. long.

## 2. Physiography

The physiography of Africa is largely a reflection of its geological structure. The whole continent can be considered as a vast plateau made of ancient crystalline rocks. It rises

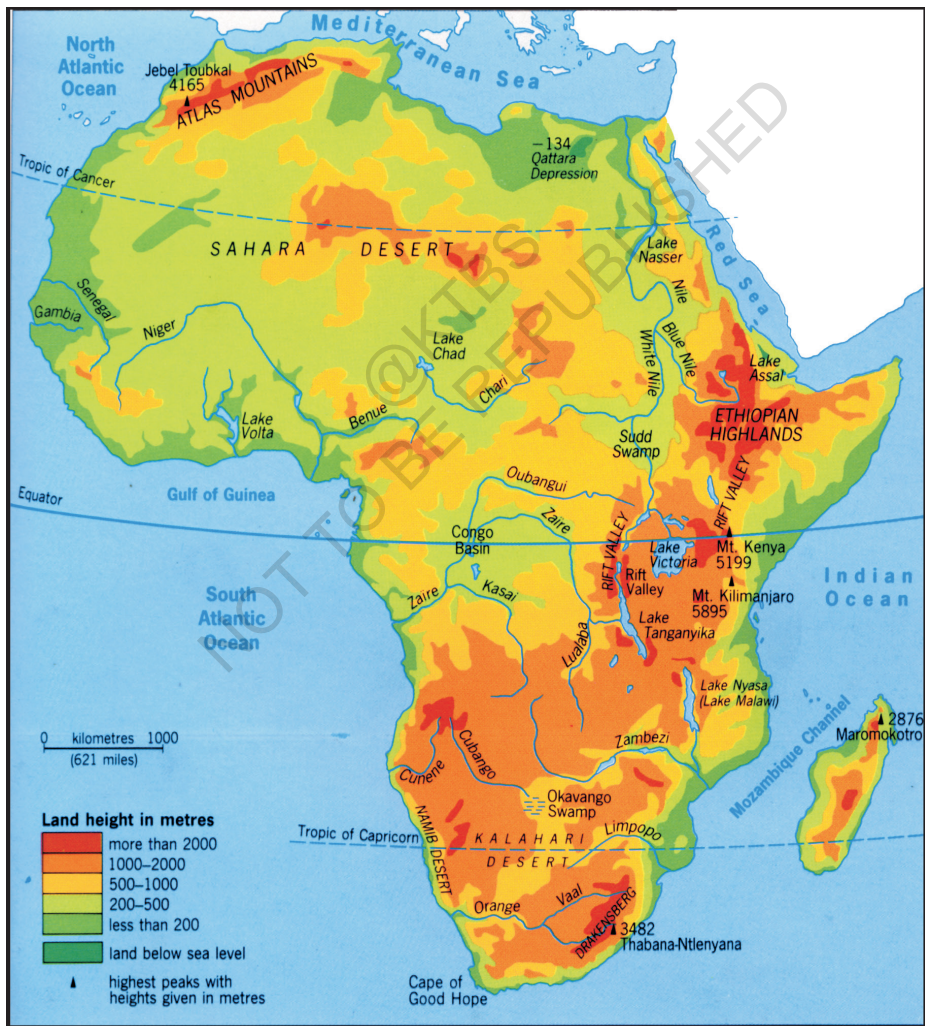


**The Great Rift Valley**

steeply from narrow coastal fringe. Hence it is difficult to enter the interior of the continent. The plateau is higher in the southeast and slopes gently towards northeast. When compared to its size Africa has fewer high mountains and fewer lowlands than any other continents.

The coast line of Africa is almost straight and it includes a few large basins, estuaries and natural harbours. There are no bays and inlets that cut deeply into the coast.

*The Great Rift Valley* : A flat-bottomed valley formed by the sinking of the land between two normal faults or deep slopes is called Rift Valley. The rift valley of Africa (Map:15.3) is long (6900 km.) and therefore, known as the Great Rift Valley. It is in Y-shaped and is one of the most striking and distinct topographical features of Africa. It stretches from Mozambique in the south, through Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia into the Red Sea, Gulf of Aquaba, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and ends in the Valley of Jordan in Syria.



**Physiography of Africa**



*The Basins of Africa:* There are five important basins in Africa. They are as follows:

- 1 The *Sudan basin* is drained by the White Nile and Blue Nile rivers. This is world's most extensive marshland known as 'Sudd'.
- 2 The *Chad basin* is occupied by Lake Chad. This basin is a swampy area and the Sahara desert encroaches upon it.
- 3 The *Djoul basin* consists of Western Sahara Desert and is found along Mauritania-Mali boundary. It is drained by River Niger.
- 4 The *Congo (Zaire) basin* is a great structural basin and occupied by a plateau. River Congo and its tributaries flows across it. It is a forested area.
- 5 The *Kalahari* basin is mostly a desert and Steppe area. It is surrounded by plateau rims.



**Major basins of Africa**

*Lakes:* Africa has numerous lakes of great economic potential. There are eight large lakes. These lakes are of aesthetic attraction to the tourists. The largest and deepest lakes are found in East Africa. These lakes are generally associated with the Great Rift Valley. Lakes Albert, Edward, Kivu, Tanganyika and Nyasa lie to the west of the rift valley. And lakes Rudolf (Turkana), Natron and Eyasi are to the east of the rift valley.

Lake Tanganyika is the second deepest lake in the world. It is about 1,436 m deep. Lake Victoria, which lies between

the two limbs of the Great Rift Valley, is the largest lake of Africa with an area of 69,481 km<sup>2</sup>. River Nile has its source from it.

**Mountains:** The continent of Africa does not have many mountains. However some small ranges break the monotony of the flatness of Africa. Atlas Range, Drakensberg and Kilimanjaro range are major mountains of Africa.

**Atlas range:** These are fold mountains like the Himalayas and are a continuation of the mountains of southern Europe. They stretch across parts of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Its highest peak is Mt. Toubkal.

**Drakensberg mountain:** They are found along the southeastern coast. They are not true mountains but the tilted edge of the plateau.

**Kilimanjaro range:** It is in East Africa. It has the highest peak of Africa with a height of 5,895 m. Although situated close to the Equator its peak is always snow covered because of its great height. Besides these the Ahaggar, the Tibesti, the Ruwenzori, the Cape range and the east African mountains are other mountain ranges in Africa.



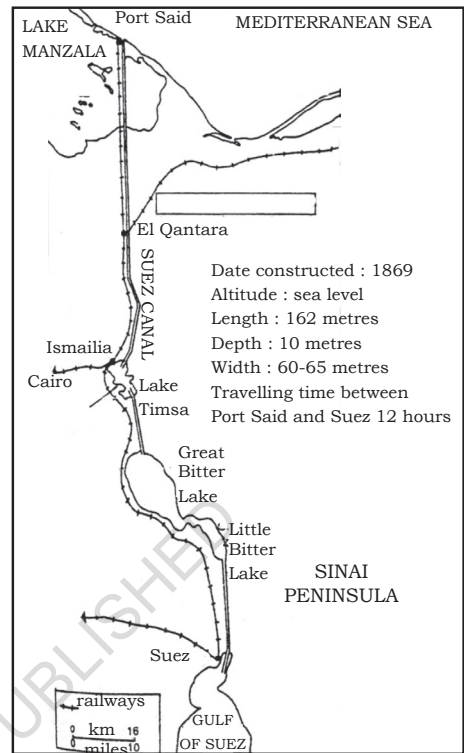
***Mt. Kilimanjaro***

*The highest point of Africa is Mt. Kilimanjaro and lowest point is Lake Assal (Djibouti).*

**Isthmus of Suez:** A narrow strip of land joining two large landmasses is called 'Isthmus'. The Isthmus of Suez is very important. It lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, linking the continents of Africa and Asia.



***Isthmus of Suez***



***Suez Canal***

It is located in Egypt (Africa) and the famous Suez Canal is cut through it. This canal connects Africa with Asia. This is the biggest man made canal linking the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea. The Suez canal is one of the busiest ocean routes in the world and connecting Europe with Asia by short distance.

### ***3. Water Resources***

#### ***Rivers of Africa***

The river systems of Africa have their own peculiarities. Most of the rivers have cut deep gorges in their upper courses. There are water falls, rapids etc. Many rivers are nonperennial due to seasonal variations in rainfall. This makes river navigation difficult. Few rivers are perennial. Inland rivers are many.

Africa has four mighty rivers: the Nile, the Congo, the Niger, and the Zambezi the Senegal, the Orange and the Limpopo are the other important rivers of Africa.



### ***Rivers of Africa***

***The Nile:*** The Nile is the longest river in the world with a length of 6,650 km. It originates in Lake Victoria as White Nile

flows northwards through the Sahara Desert and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. The basin of the Nile is very fertile. It provides life for millions of people who use its water for irrigation. Its major left bank tributary is the Al-Ghazal and the largest right bank tributaries are the Sobat, Blue Nile and Atbara.

The Blue Nile rises in Lake Tana in Ethiopia and joins the White Nile at Khartoum. Among the dams constructed across river Nile, the longest is the Aswan dam. The Nile forms the world's famous delta.

*The Congo:* Congo (Zaire) is the second longest river in Africa. The people of Africa call it by different names. At its head waters it is called Luapula and elsewhere it is known as Lualaba. It flows for about 4640 km. across the middle of Africa through the huge equatorial forest. It empties into the Atlantic Ocean without creating a delta. It has the famous Livingstone Falls.

*The Niger:* It is the third longest river in Africa. The source of this river is in the highlands on the West Coast. It also empties into Atlantic Ocean. It is non-perennial river. It is about 4000 km. long.

*The Zambezi:* It is the fourth longest river in Africa and one of the major rivers in the southern part of Africa. It rises in central Africa and flows southeastwards. It empties into the Indian Ocean. It has numerous rapids and waterfalls along its course.



**Victoria Falls**

The most spectacular of which is the Victoria Falls. The river

flows through many deep gorges of which Kariba Gorge is the most famous. This river is about 3500 km. long.

*The Senegal* river rises in the Fouta Djallon plateau of Guinea. Then it flows northwestward for about 1640 km. and joins the Atlantic Ocean. It marks the border between Mauritania and Senegal.

#### **4. Climate, Natural Vegetation and Animal Wealth**

##### *Climate*

Africa is called central continent. It lies both in the Northern and the Southern hemisphere. The Equator passes through the middle of the continent and divides Africa into two parts. Because of the direct rays of the sun, the climate of Africa is predominantly tropical.

A number of factors influence the climate of Africa, i.e., ocean currents, the absence of mountains, east-west extent and location. The cold ocean currents that flow along the western Sahara (Canaries current) and on the western coast of the Kalahari (Benguela currents) modify the temperature of the adjoining coastal lowlands. These two cold currents do not pick up much moisture. But the southeast coast is washed by the warm Mozambique current, would carry more moisture and causes rainfall.

The absence of high mountains and other weathers divides permit the free circulation of tropical air. Hence change in climate occurs very gradually.

Rainfall also plays a dominant role in Africa's climate. Rainfall is heaviest along the Equator. Here the mean annual rainfall exceeds 200 cm. and decreases away from the Equator. In the Sahara, the Kalahari and the Namibia deserts, the rainfall is only 15 cms whereas Cameroon is the wettest place of Africa, with 1016 cm of rainfall.

## *Climatic Regions*

On the basis of climatic condition, Africa can be divided into eight climatic zones. They are given below:

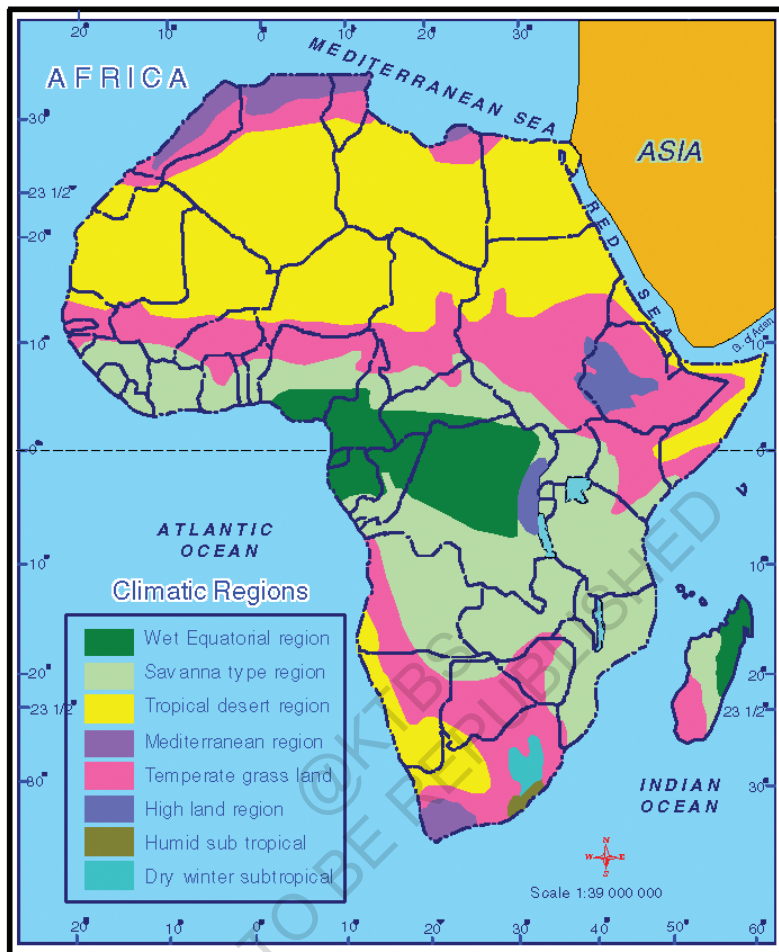
- 1 The Wet Equatorial Climatic Region.
- 2 The Savanna Type Climatic Region
- 3 The Tropical Desert Climatic Region.
- 4 The Mediterranean Climatic Region.
- 5 The Temperate Grassland Type
- 6 The Highland Climatic Region.
- 7 Humid Sub-tropical Climatic Region.
- 8 Dry winter Subtropical Region.

*1 The Wet Equatorial Climatic Region:* It is found in the low lands, on either side of the Equator and extends from the Congo basin to Guinea. The climate of this region is hot and wet throughout the year. There is heavy downpour of rain every afternoon. Rain is of convectional type. Hot and humid conditions result in unpleasant climate.

*2 The Savanna Climatic Region:* It covers parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad and Niger. Because a large area of Sudan is in this region, it is also known as Sudan type. It has high temperature and heavy rainfall in summer. Temperature is lower in the eastern highlands than in the lowlands.

*3 The Tropical Desert:* Africa's Northern and Southern hemispheres have deserts. In this region summers are hot and winters are cool. There is great difference between day and night temperature than between summer and winter seasons. Climate is too dry. Rainfall is scanty. There are rarely any clouds.

*4 The Mediterranean Climatic Region:* Northern coast and southern tip of Africa has this type of climate. It includes Morocco, Northern Algeria and Cape Province. It is hot and dry in summer and wet in winter. This is the only climatic region which gets rain only in winter.



***Climatic Regions of Africa***

**5 The Temperate Grassland Region:** It is also known as 'High Veldts'. In Dutch, Veldts means field. It is situated in the interior of South Africa. Because of the distance from the sea it experiences great difference between the summer and the winter temperature. Summers are hot and winters are cold, both seasons have scanty rainfall.

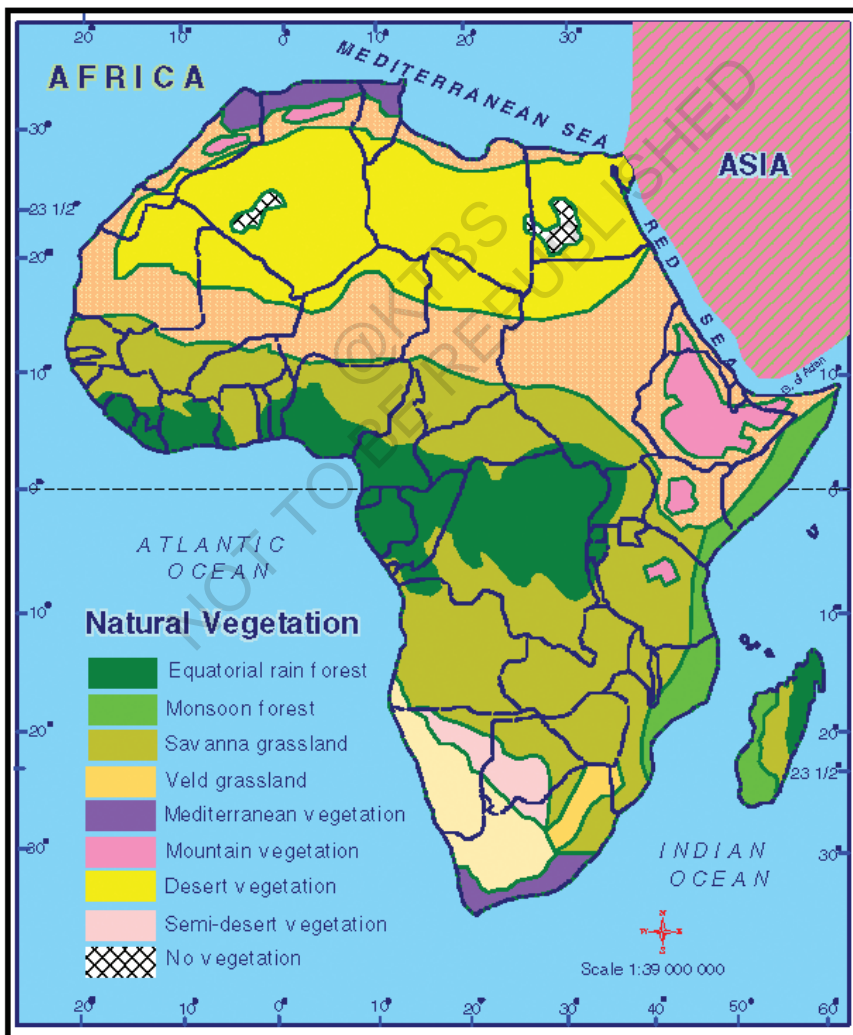
**6 The Highland Region:** This region, is found in the Ethiopian highland and East Africa. Due to high elevation the climate is cooler in this region. Rainfall is scanty and occurs mainly in summer.



**7 Humid Sub - tropical Region:** It is situated along the Drakensberg mountains and extends upto the coast, including Madagascar. During summer the weather is too hot and it rains and during the winter it is cold and dry.

**8 Dry Winter Sub - tropical Region:** It is found in South east Africa. Summers are hot and wet whereas winters are mild and dry. Rainfall is similar to that of the Wet Equatorial Climate. But temperatures are modified by altitude and frost.

### **Natural Vegetation**



**Natural Vegetation**

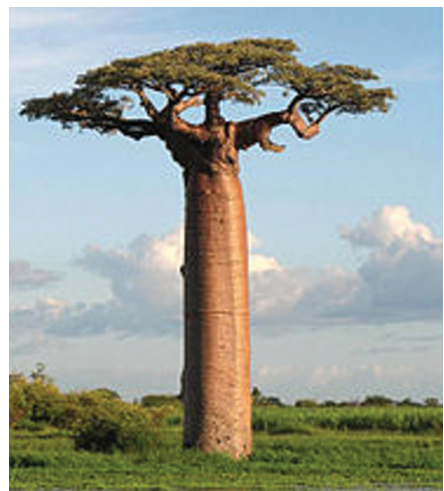
There is great diversity in the natural vegetation of Africa because of differences in climate, soil, topography and interference of human beings. In many parts of the continent natural vegetation has been modified by human interference. Most of the forests and grasslands have been cleared and burned for many purposes. So, at present, in Africa natural vegetation is not all 'natural'.

Due to the hot and wet climatic conditions, the Equatorial region has dense forest. Trees grow to greater heights. The salient characteristics of Equatorial evergreen forests are its broad leaves and epiphytes.

Individual species of trees are scattered but among them are valuable tropical hardwood, tree such as rubber, rose wood, ebony, cinchona, oil-palm, teak and silk cotton. Mangrove swamps clog many estuaries.

To the north and south of the Equatorial evergreen forests are the Savannas with their Acacia trees and Baobabs. As a rainfall decreases, the Savannas give way to scrubby grassland, thorn bush and eventually in the Mediterranean climatic zone to pine, juniper, cork, cedar, fig and olive trees.

Mountain vegetation is found in the higher parts of the plateau and desert vegetation is mainly found in the Sahara and the Kalahari deserts. The Karoo area of South Africa is famous for shrub land. A special type of vegetation called 'Sudd' (means barrier) is found in the river valleys of the Nile and other rivers.



***Bottle - shaped tree (Baobab)***

## *Animal Wealth*

Africa is best known for the enormous diversity and richness of its wild life. This is due to the great variation in climatic conditions, soils, relief features, forests and land connections with Asia and Europe.

The rain forest is the home of many animals. Chimpanzee, a variety of monkeys, Gorillas, Bison, Leopard and other hoofed animals are found here.



### ***Important wild animals***

Crocodiles and Hippopotamus are found in rivers, swamps and bright colourful birds, e.g., kingfishers, ostrich, shoebill, eagles, etc. are commonly found here.

The zebras, wilder beasts, giraffes, rhinoceros, elephants, impala, cheetahs, and African lions are found in the tropical grassland. A large number of aquatic life is also found in Africa.



***Impala and Addax***

In desert areas scorpions, lizards, desert fox, various kinds of insects, donkeys, horses and addax are found.

The camel is the most important and the best known desert animal. It is often called the *ship of the desert*.

### *Ostrich*

*This is the native species of South Africa found in the plains and the Kalahari desert, and is the largest living bird. Its egg is large. It cannot fly. But, it is the fastest running bird. It is the only bird that has only two toes on each foot.*



**Ostrich**

## **5. Agriculture and Industries**

Agriculture is one of the most important economic activity in many countries of Africa. Nearly 75 per - cent of the work force is engaged in agriculture.

Other than the Equatorial region, agriculture in most of the countries of Africa is of subsistence type. The use of modern gadgets like machines, chemical fertilizers and pesticides is limited. Most of the agricultural activities are done by manual labour. The yield per hectare is also low.

The staple food crops occupy most of the cultivated areas. Maize, millets, rice, cassava, sweet potato, peanuts and starch crops dominated the cropping pattern. Plantation agriculture is important in the countries with Equatorial climate. Coffee, for example, is a major export item of Burundi, Cocoa of Cote-D-Ivoire, Ghana and peanuts of Gambia. Other major cash crops includes cotton, sugarcane, banana, tea, oil-palm, tobacco and citrus fruits. These are produced on large estates and plantations.

The countries of Sahel (Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Northern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia) frequently suffer from droughts and starvation.

Africa has large varieties of fruit crops. In the tropical and Mediterranean regions citrus fruits like olives, lemon, orange, grapes are common. In East Africa cashew trees are grown. Zanzibar islands and Tanzania are the largest producers of cloves.

Maize is the only cereal which is important here. Rice and sugarcane are grown in small areas. Cash crops like coffee, palm tree, groundnut are grown in Central, Eastern and other parts of Africa. Coffee has been cultivated in Ethiopia for thousands of years. Egypt produces good quality cotton.

Commercial cattle rearing is most advanced in the areas of European settlements, such as South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Africa possesses about 15% of the total cattle population.

Reasons for the backwardness of agriculture in Africa are: old methods of farming, which is purely subsistence in nature, outdated implements, illiteracy, tribalism, lack of capital and foreign investment.

### *Industries - Reasons for poor development*

The continent of Africa is rich in water, forest and mineral resources. But the distribution of these resources is, however, not uniform. The economy of most of the countries is agrarian in character.

The process of industrialization is slow. In fact up to the middle of the last century the resources of Africa used to be drained from Africa by the Europeans. This is the major reason for the poor development of industries.

The countries in which the process of industrialization has accelerated during the few decades are Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria and South Africa.

The inadequacy of infrastructural facilities, insufficient capital, technology, unskilled labour force, a small purchasing power and political turmoil are the main barriers in the development of the industrial sector in most of the African countries.

After achieving independence, most of the African countries have concentrated on light industries including textile, pharmaceuticals, food processing, leather products and beverages.

Heavy industries including manufacture of petrochemicals, iron and steel, rubber products and cement are concentrated in South Africa. There are integrated iron and steel plants in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Zimbabwe. Other industries of Africa include electric motor, transport equipments, tractors and battle aeroplane assembling.

## ***6. Precious Minerals***

Africa is very rich in minerals. It is the world's largest producer of diamond, gold and platinum.

*Diamonds:* Nearly 80% of the diamonds found in the world come from Africa. Botswana, Zaire and South Africa are the producers. The other leading producers of diamond are Angola, Namibia and Ghana. Diamonds are divided into two types - Gem diamonds and industrial diamonds. Industrial diamonds are mainly used for abrasive purposes and cutting tools.

**Gold:** South Africa has about half of the gold reserve of the world. The main area is Witwatersrand (Transvaal) and in Orange Free State. More than 50% of the world's gold production comes from South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



***Important minerals***

## ***7. Population: Growth, Distribution and Density***

Africa is considered as the birth place of human beings and the use of tools. According to the anthropologists and scientists, the Homo sapiens appeared for the first time in the continent of Africa to the east of Lake Victoria in Kenya and Ethiopia. At present Africa has people of diverse races and ethnic groups. In fact Africa contains mostly Negroid race and its sub - groups. It has also many different people of Negroids and their languages and cultures.

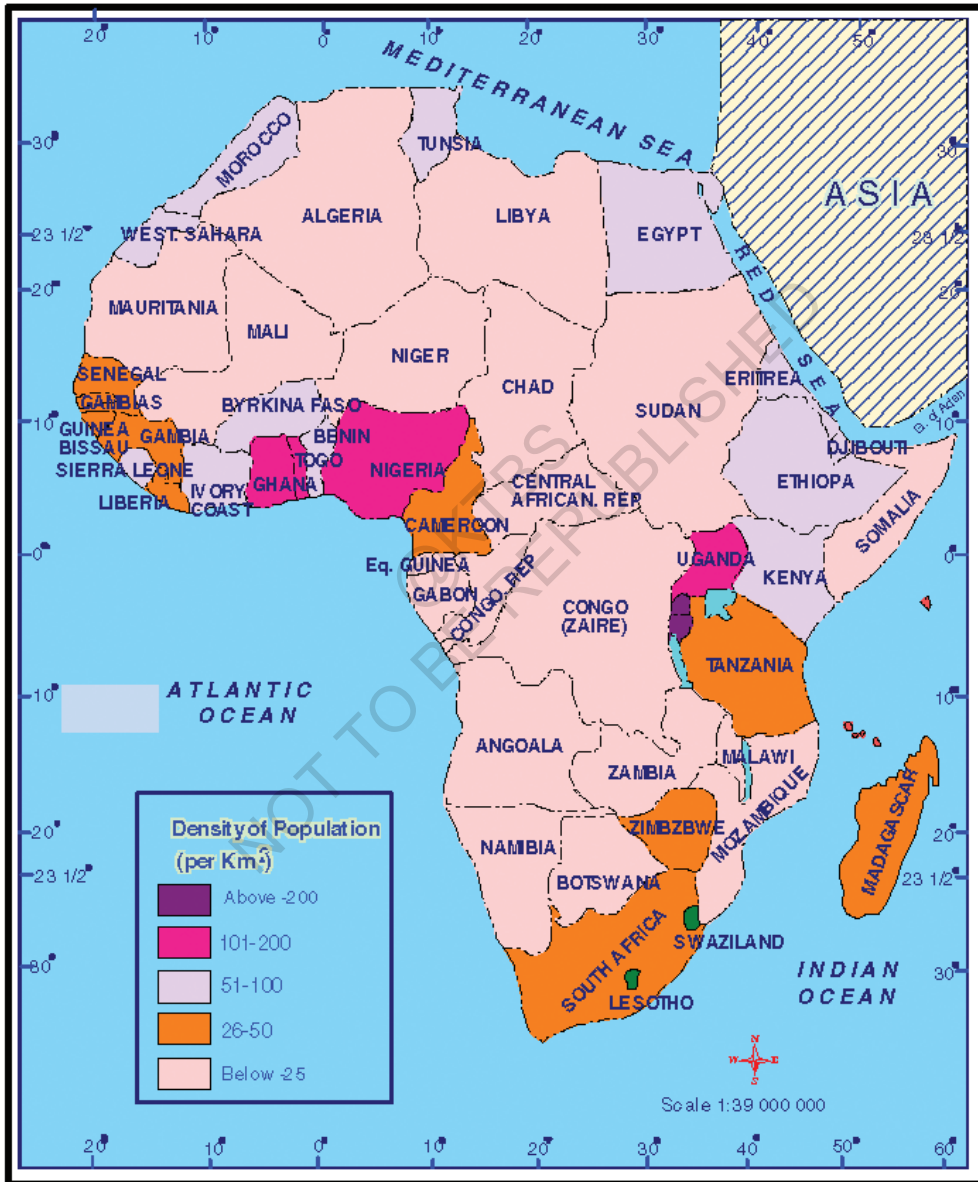
Nearly 1051 million people live in Africa. Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Zaire and South Africa are the most populous states. The death rate has declined in most of the countries of Africa during the last few decades due to improvement of food and medical facilities and sanitary conditions. But the birth rate is fairly high. Consequently there is explosion of population. The population of Africa is now increasing at a rate equal to or perhaps slightly above, the average for the world as a whole.

In some of the countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, Chad, Niger, Mali etc., the life expectancy is even less than 50 years.

The outstanding feature of the population of the continent is that it is most unevenly distributed. The highest densities occur along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, in the lower valley of river Nile (Egypt), in the highlands of East Africa and Madagascar, along the northern coast and in the urban and mining areas of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zaire.



The lowest densities are found in the deserts, high mountains and thick equatorial forests. In the deserts of Sahara, Liberia and Algeria, the density of population is as low as one person per 15 km<sup>2</sup>.



*Distribution of Population*

The People of Africa belong to four groups: (1) Pygmies, Bushmen and Masai who live to the South of Sahara desert. (2) The Arabs who live in North Africa. (3) The Indians who live in South Africa and East Africa. 4. The Europeans who live in the fertile land of river basins.

### ***New terms***

Precious, Swamp Bay, Desert, Rift Valley, Capricorn, Cancer, Isthmus, Savanna, Prime Meridian, Life expectancy, Sudd, Sahel.

### ***Let's know***

- *Though the Nile river flows mostly in the Sahara Desert, the water never dry up in its course because of plenty of rain in its catchment areas.*
- *The Sahara is the largest desert in the world, covering northern part of Africa.*
- *The highest temperature recorded has been 58°c in El Azizia, Libya.*
- *Addax is a kind of antelope with long and twisted horns. It never drinks water. It gets water from the plants and the food its eats.*
- *The Baobab tree is a bottle shaped tree. The trunk of this tree is swollen to store water. It can store water from 1000-12000 litres. Thirsty travelers often drink waters from this tree.*

- *Africa produces 24% of the world's coffee.*
- *More than 50% of world cocoa is produced by Africa.*
- *Pygmies are among the shortest people in the world. They live in the Congo basin.*
- *Africa has the highest fertility rate and the lowest life span in the world.*
- *There are more than 800 languages in Africa.*
- *Africa is rural in nature. It is the least urbanized continent.*

### **Exercises**

#### ***Discuss in groups and answer***

- 1 Why was Africa called *the Dark Continent*?
- 2 Africa is known as the *Central Continent*. Why?
- 3 What is Isthmus?
- 4 Name the basins of Africa.
- 5 Which is the highest peak of Africa?
- 6 Mention the types of natural vegetation of Africa.
- 7 Which is the longest river of Africa?
- 8 Name the important food crops of Africa.
- 9 Which African countries are rich in diamond reserves?

## *Activities*

- 1 On outline map mark the important lakes found in the Great Rift Valley of Africa.*
- 2 On outline map show the important rivers and mountains.*
- 3 Collect pictures of Baobab trees found in Karnataka.*
- 4 Compare the African addax and our Indian deer and write a note.*

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