

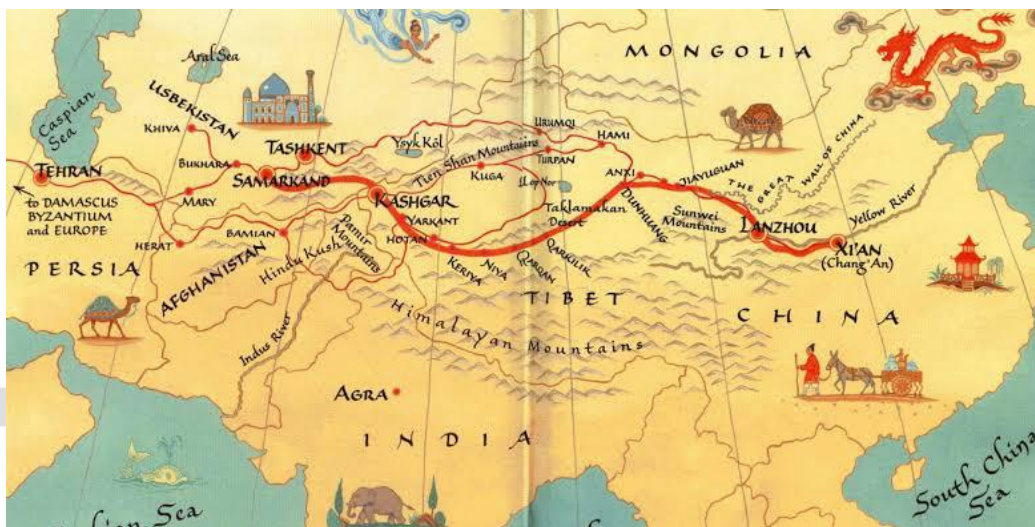
HISTORY: CLASS-6: SUMMARY

CHAPTER 9 - INDIA AND WORLD

Points of Discussion

- Contacts of India with South East Asia (Burma, Malaya, Cambodia, and Java)
- Arabs in India

INDIAN CONTACTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD



A. CONTACTS WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA

- By the seventh century A.D., Indian's contact with south-east Asia had grown considerably. It had begun with the Indian merchants making voyages to these islands to sell their goods and to buy spices. These spices brought much wealth to the Indian merchants because they were sold to traders from western Asia.
- Trade had increased and some merchants settled down in these countries. Gradually, some aspects of Indian culture were accepted by the people of south-east Asia.
- The earliest contacts were with **Burma** (Suvarnabhumi), **Malaya** (Suvarnadvipa), **Cambodia** (Kamboja) and **Java** (Yavadvipa). Grand temples which were similar to Indian temples, such as the one at Angkor Vat in Cambodia, were built and many Hindu customs were practised.
- The trade route between China and western Asia ran through central Asia. This was called the "Old Silk Route" because Chinese silk was one of the main articles of trade. Indian traders took part in this trade.
- However, the culture of south-east Asian countries was not an imitation of Indian culture. In the villages, the old way of life continued. The aspects of Indian culture which were accepted were combined with their own old culture.
- Grand temples were built in many of these countries. A new type of literature developed, which combined Indian influences with local traditions.
- The art and architecture in these countries were influenced by both Hindu and Buddhist religions. Though there were many similarities, the culture of these countries had their special features. These countries also contributed to Indian culture.



B. ARABS IN INDIA

- The period from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries (1206-1526 CE) saw the arrival of Islamic institutions and Islamic culture in India.
- The geographical location of Arabia facilitated trade contact between India and Arabia.
- **RISE OF ISLAM**: Islam arose in Arabia and soon spread to many parts of Asia and Africa.
 - It was propagated by the Prophet Muhammad, who saw it as a means of unifying the tribes of Arabia.
 - He also believed that he was revealing the truth of God to man. He objected to people worshipping idols and stones and taught the worship of one supreme God. He gave a set of rules to his followers which emphasized prayer, personal cleanliness, keeping fasts and being generous in charity. He also insisted that everyone was equal in the eyes of God and that there were no distinctions of class and caste. Muhammad died in 632. A.D.
 - Islam was first brought to India by the Arabs.
- The Arab dominion was vast and the Arabs now became a bridge between the ancient peoples and cultures of West Asia, and Greece and the cultures of Europe. India, too, felt the influence of Islam which was brought to our country by the Arabs. The Arabs came to India In 712 A.D., the Arabs conquered Sind and threatened western India, but were held back by the local rulers of what is now Rajasthan.

Thus, in the eighth century A.D., India had a flourishing civilization and people lived well. Indian culture was not restricted to India alone. Other people in other lands knew about it. Sometimes, when contacts became close, they even contributed to Indian culture. The Arabs introduced not only Islam but also several new cultural influences to India, which were to grow and develop in later centuries. Thus, on the one side, India was exporting its culture, and on the other side, it was importing a new culture.