

### Chapter-3

## Ancient India and The world

Earlier it was often considered that India did not have any relation with the other countries of the world. But now it has been established by the discoveries related to history and archeology that India had close commercial and cultural ties with other countries of the world from Indus civilization period to the tenth century AD.

Since Indus civilization to the period of Gupta Empire India held the commercial and cultural relations with western countries like Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome. After Harshvarndhana in South India, at the time of the extension of Chola empire up to the 10th century AD, in comparison to the Western countries India had kept close commercial, Political and cultural relation with central Asia and South East Asia, that's Why India was recognised as "Greater India"

India was not so small or confined earlier what it is shown now in the geographical and political boundaries of the world map. It was bigger. In ancient times the geographical borders of India were much extensive. Today's Afghanistan situated in North West of India was a part of it. India's culture and mode of life were dilated in the whole central Asian region. Here in the east, India's geographical borders were stretched up to Burma (Myanmar). Further more east to Bay of Bengal in south east of India- Malaya, Java, Sumatra, Burma (Myanmar) Borneo, Bali, Champa, Hindchina (Indochina) Siam Cambodia and Surinam etc. group of islands and Sri Lanka all were parts of India only. These territories were ruled under the lordship of Indian kings. The inhabitants of these islands subsisted just like Indians. The actual circumstance since ancient times to almost tenth

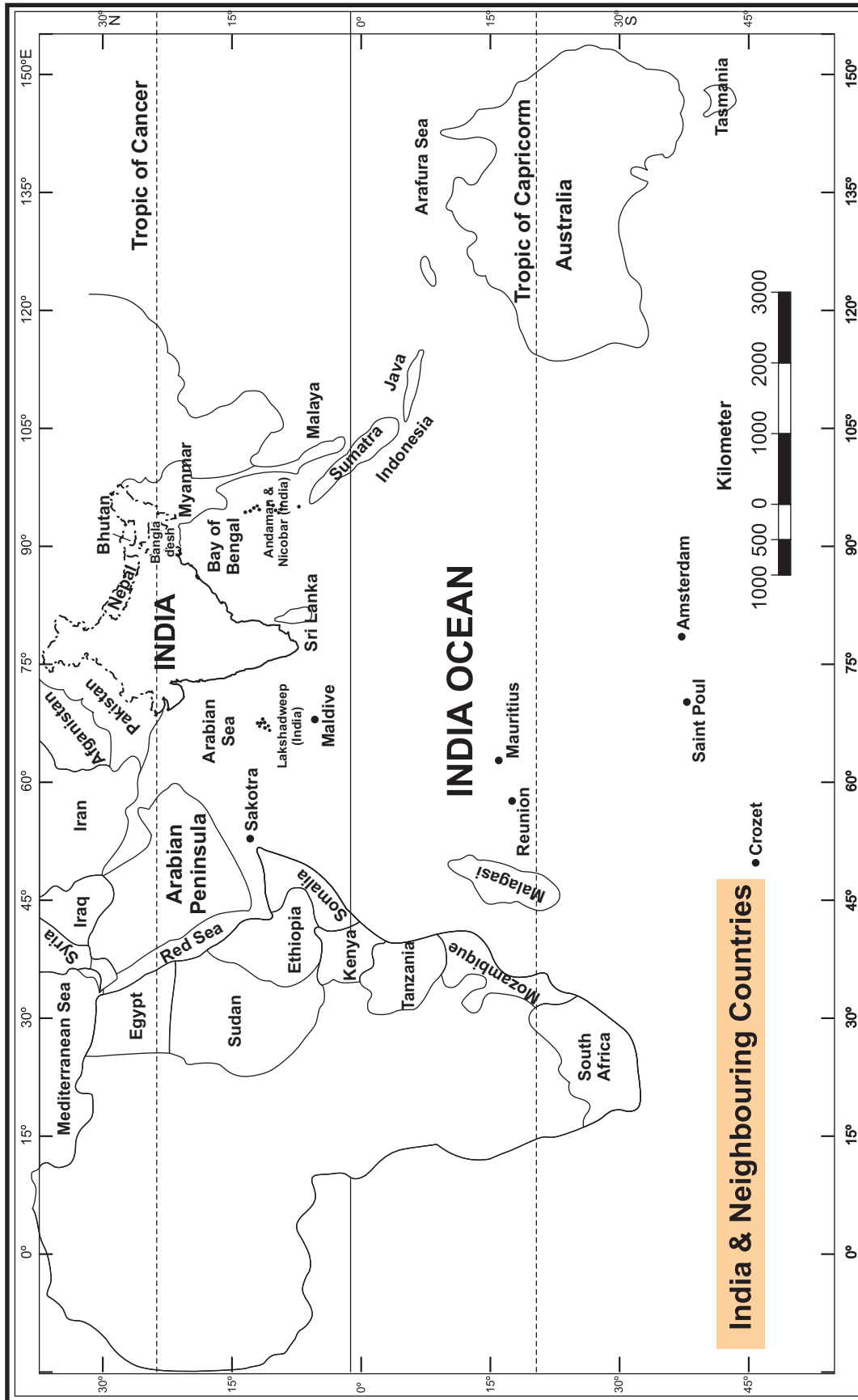
century was such as that life in India flourished from the west of India to the terrains of mid Asia and from Burma in east and the isles of South East Asia to the Tibet in the North to Sri Lanka in the South. India and Indian culture were mirrored in the manifold aspects of life. Where upon India was mirrored big and bigger than the big too. The word 'big' is called Vrihata (Gigantic) in Sanskrit. So the historians call this terrain of Asia as "big from bigger India" or the "Vrihata Bharat" where the Indian culture was stretched from olden times to the 10th century.

Concisely in Greater India we include the nations where Indians held the cultural and political dominance. The reasons for publicity of Indian culture in Greater India are mentioned as -

**(i) Geographical reasons :** The top most reason for it was the geographical situation of India. India is situated in the middle of southern part of Asia. That was the ultimate reason for holding the natural relation with other nations.

**(ii) Economic Reasons :** India was an advanced country in ancient times and goods manufactured here kept a great demand in foreign countries. Indian traders went to foreign lands to sell their commodities. Many traders from India settled in foreign lands and many kept intercommunication. The dissemination of Indian culture and civilization was natural in those countries because of the settlement and intercommunication of those traders in the concerned nations.

**(iii) Religious factors :** Before the rise of Buddhism the traders who had settled in the south east Asia due to economic matters disseminated the religious



Map 3.1 : Indian and Neighbouring Countries

assumption of Hindus. After the rise of Buddhism many Buddhist propagators went to the alien countries from time to time for evangelistic issues.

The religious propagators not only disseminated the religion but also spread the Indian culture and civilization. The Chola kings further more sent Hindu religious propagandists to the South East islands. Along them many Indian scholars, artists also went in those nations and propagated the Indian culture, language, literature, art and religion there.

**(iv) Political factors :** In olden days many kings and princes went to the parts of South East Asia and established their states and colonies. Indian ideology, language culture and civilization were easily propagated in foreign land by this type of Kingdoms and colonies. Indian civilization and culture was disseminated to central Asia and North East and South East Asia in the background of all these factors.

**Central Asia :** In ancient times the region of central Asia was in the complete dominance of India. The places like Khotan, Kucha, Karashapur, Turfan etc were the important centres of Indian civilization. The relics, sculptures, wall paintings and the stones described in the ancient literature and the names of kings found in the archaeological excavation reveal clearly that Indian religion, language, script and artistic flair had a lot of hype in these parts.

Khotan was a very big center of Indian culture and civilization. Followers of Mahayana stream of Buddhism lived there in a great number. The number of Indian people settled there was so high that they imbibed the locals into their traditions. Koocha was also a prime center of Indian culture like Khotan. Almost all of its people followed Buddhism. About 1000 stupas and Monasteries were built there and the Sanskrit language, Indian astrology, Ayurveda and art were in vogue.

The names of the rulers at there also had Indian origin like - Hardeva, Swargdeva etc. Like Khotan and Koocha the city of Kara and Turfan too were important centers of Indian civilization. Both two were separate states. About Kara city it is

said that it had been an important part of Kanishka's empire. Buddhism had been propagated into the area of Turfan till the 5th century. The relics of Buddhist cloisters, stupas and sculptures were found here in the excavation, so the impact of Indian culture and civilization can be acknowledged by them. When Islam entered in the eighth century, Indian culture and civilization disappeared rapidly from here.

**Afganistan :** In ancient times Afganistan was also a part of India. Indian settlements were expanded there in the Rigvedic period. Afganistan was a part of Indian empire in the Maurya Dynasty too. Substantially in the ancient times Afganistan was a part of north India where people spoke language of central India. Buddhism had flourished here. Besides Buddhism Hinduism also had a great impact.

**China :** The reference of ancient relations between India and China is revealed by Mahabharat, Manusmriti and the play Abhigyan Shakuntalam of Kalidasa. But the interchange had commenced between India and China in the view of religious and cultural prospective during the first century B.C.. Almost in 65 B.C., the Chinese king Meengi took away two Buddhist mumpers Dharmaratna and Matang with him from India. They continued translating Buddhist volumes in Chinese language. With the ambient dissemination of Buddhism in China, Indian architecture sculpture and drawing also layed great impact. Indian Mathematics Astrology, Medication and music too had got a lot of type. Several Buddhist temples, cave temples were also built in China. Many wall paintings by emulating Indian genre were made and a lot of idols in Indian style were also made. It was the China from where the Buddhism spread up to Korea and Japan.

**Tibet :** India's nearest neighbour in the north Tibet is owed. India in the field of civilization and religion. The king of Tibet Tsongkhapa established marital relations with India. Buddhism was greatly publicised there and Buddhist temples and monasteries were also made. They adopted Sanskrit language and Indian script Brahmi and Kharosthi,

many Tibetan students came to India for their study.

**Srilanka:** India and Srilanka have the relationship since ancient times. At first in Indian history it is mentioned in Valmiki Ramayana when Rama conquered Srilanka. By the history of Mauryan period it is revealed that emperor Ashok had sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Srilanka for the propagation of Buddhism and there the king Tissa granted government protection to Buddhism and he got himself converted to it also. Consequently Buddhism had become a local religion there. Side by side the religion Pali language and the script Brahmi also got publicised in Srilanka. Concurrently the literature art, and the public life were also got influenced by Indian culture and the glimpses of all that can be seen even today.

**Burma :** Now a days Burma is known as "Myanmar Indian culture had been disseminated here even before the first century. Here in Arakan, Tagong, Shrikshetra, Yaton, and Pegu the Hindu way of life was developed considerably. Many scriptures of Burma are written in Sanskrit and Pali. Several memorials of Hindu deities are found in Burma. Hindu religion had an almost effect in the "Maan" Province of Burma. State of Pagan was established between 9th to 10th century. King Aniruddha was very famous here at that time. Here Buddhist replaced the Brahminism during the reign of Pagan dynasty. The Ananda Temple of Burma is built by Indian architects. Several names in Burma (Myanmar) coincide with Hindu culture even today.

**Kamboj :** Kamboj or komboida was earlier called as Foonan. An Indian named Koudinya established his rule in first century A.D. and married a damsel named Sobha of Nagirace there. Only he made the local people learn how to dress up there. In the regime of the descendant of Koudinya Combodia progressed and Indian culture was disseminated there.

In the early 9th century during the period of Jai Verma's descendants Indian language Sanskrit, Philosophy, literature mathematics and astrology got a lot of publicity there. The king of the same dynasty



### Angkorvat Temple

Suryavarma II built the famous temple of Vishnu named Angkorwat. This temple is the best example of Indian architecture, like wise Jai Verma VII got built one more Vaishnava temple named Angkorhome.

The archives and other historical residues of Combodia reveal that the names of these cities were similar to the Indian cities like Tamrapur, Adhyapur, Vikramapur etc. The promulgation of oblation activities was also present there and the education work was performed in the Ashramaas according to the ancient Indian education system. Idol worshiping of Shiva, Vishnu, Uma Saraswati, Brahma, Ganga, Chandi, Laxmi, Ganesha etc. was prevalent and Vedas, Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and other etc. Indian literature was also in a great hype. Amongst all the temples of Shiva and Vishnu are more in number.

**Champa :** In ancient times there was a state named Champa in the eastern part of Combodia or Combos which holds the modern name Vietnam today. This was also a colony of India in olden days. Hindu Shrimar was the first king of it. Many Hindu dynasties ruled for a long time in this state too, Bhadravarma, Gangraj, Panduranga, Bhriku and Harivarma. It is known through the ancient historical remains and traditions of Champa that a caste system like India was present there and the marriage system was also just similar to India. The custom of holding Yagyopaveet was also existed. The custom of 'Sati' prevailed in royal families and widows spent simple



life. Indian festivals were celebrated in this state. The official language of Champa was Sanskrit and Indian religion, philosophy, literature and grammar etc. were studied a lot there, the 'Shaiva doctrine had a great publicity there. Bhadravarman had built a temple in Myson. Besides Shiva other Indian deities, Ram and Sita too were worshiped there and their temples were made. Chalukya style of architecture was followed in the temple. Buddhism was also got publicised later in Champa greatly and several Buddhist temples were built.

**Malaya** : Malaya which is now called Malaya has witnessed development of many Hindu kingdoms in ancient times. Karamrang Kalashpur, Katah, and Pahang etc were the prime states amongst them. Ruins of ancient temples and articles inscribed on idols in Sanskrit language are found in the various parts of this peninsula which show a total impact of Indian culture in Malaya. Names of kings here resemble to Indian origin as Gautam, Samundra, Vijay Varman etc. Buddhism was also propagated here and Buddhist stupas (Mounds) were built. Families of such Brahmins still exist there whose ancestors immigrated from India. August king of Chola empire Rajendra Chola in South too held the mercantile control over this group of islands.

**Siam** : Siam now a days is called Thailand after the name of Thai race, but the effect of Thai race was not existed before thirteenth century. Indians were dominating prior to them and the Indian civilisation and culture possessed the complete influence. Mahayana ideology of Buddhism and the Hindu religion were mostly prevalent there. Their rulers had built Buddhist temples and monasteries. Here the language. Pali was also in circulation and the architecture and art were also got impacted and inspired by Indian art.

**Java** : Indians had set up their colony in Java of present Indonesia by 65 BC. According to the narration of Fa-hien Hinduism had been spread in Java till the early 5th century and Brahmins had the sway there. These worshippers of Shiva were found

in a great number. The relics related to hundreds of Buddhist and Hindu temples have been found there in Java. The impact of Hindu kingdoms and Indian culture in Java lasted before the attack of Kubla Khan in the 15th century. With the attack of Kubla Khan Islam had spread there and Indian civilization and culture started reducing afterwards.

**Sumatra** : Its current name is Indonesia. In olden times this island was known as a golden island. The rule of Vijaya dynasty lasted here between 4th to 7th century. This was a Hindu clan. Sumatra progressed a lot in this period. Rajendra Chola I of South India also held the supremacy here. Shri Vijaya Nagar was important center of Indian culture and religion. Buddhism too was greatly recognized here. The Hindu king here in 15th century also got converted into Islam, so the impact of Hindu culture started dwindling.

**Bali** : Hindu Kingdom was established in Bali situated in Indonesia in the 4th century. Buddhism and Hinduism both were popular here and Shiva and Vishnu were worshipped.

Though Islam also entered here but their culture had not got affected much by Islam, therefore residues of Hindu religion and Indian culture are still found there.

**Bornio** : Hindus had established their kingdom in Bornio (Bukalpur) in the 4th century. In that period Mool Verma was the ruler there, he was a devotee of ancient Indian culture, so the roots of Indian culture were also fixed there. Idols of Shiva, Ganesha Durga, Nandi, Mahakala and Buddha have been found from Bornio. Effect of Indian religion and culture is clearly manifested there.

**Lovadesh** : Lovadesh is currently known as Laos. Here we found a city Love Puri by the name of love the son of God Rama. The ancient deity of Love Desha is called Bhadrashwara. Shaiva religion once had a great impact there. The first king of Love Desha was Shrivarman. Shrivarman was his son who settled down a town named Shresthpura.

The festivals like Varsh Pratipada Vyas

Poornima, Vijaya Dashmi were once very popular here, after the arrival of Buddhism many cloisters and stupas were made here. 'Shalivahana Era' was also prevalent here which still holds its impacts. It has been made clear by the aforecited descriptions that Indian civilisation and culture had got disseminated a lot before the rise of Islam in central Asia and South east islands. Indians had promulgated their religion and culture with love and empathy.

### **Trade commerce and Industry in Greater India:**

**(A) Commerce :** India was a prosperous country in olden days. Our nation was known by the name of golden bird. Indian villages were self reliant financially. Traders from many parts of the world came to purchase goods made in India. Business was made through both sea and land routs Trade with Tibet, China, Iran and Arab was operated through land route. Tamralipti was a leading port in the east. Indian bussinesmen went to the countries like China, Lanka Java and Sumatra Through the sea port. A perfect system of intercommunication was available for ships on the sea ports. Foreign businessmen brought gold, silver, gemstone red and diamond jewellery and they carried cotten, silk brocading, tobacco and spices etc. with them in return. In ancient India foreign trade seemed to be in a developed state, the leader of the business community who went foreign land for trade was called Sarthwah. Sweet liquor and fig from western countries, silk from China and the wool from Nepal were sent for, Clove and sandalwood were conveyed to Shrilanka and then exported to western countries from there. Pearl, precious stones scented products, clothes, spices indigo, medicines cococonuts etc. were the important items of export. Gold coins were imported inlieu of all these things

Domestic trade was also stood at the advanced stage in ancient India. For the facilitation of domestic trade, suitable highways and water ways were available, water ways were more handy for commercial point of view. Trade was operated

through the water ways of Ganga, Brahmputra, Narbada, Godavary, Krishna and Kaveri rivers. Big sized boats were made for this purpose. Land route was also used for the trade.

**(B) Industry :** Industries of Indian ancient India is consdered in the advanced stage of that time. Influence of Indian artisans was world wide. The identification of the art of indian artisan is revealed by the fact that a muslin cloth having the length of 20 yards and width a yard could be passed through a ring only.

The textile industry was the most advanced industry in India. The factoreis were available in Benaras, Vatsa, Banga, Madura etc for the business of cotton fabric.

Except cotton fabrics, woolen and silk clothes too were made in adequate quanity. In chanakyas 'Arthshastra' many types of woolen blankets are mentioned. According to Meghasthaneeze Indians put on fine clothes made up of muslin on which brocading work was performed. Bengal was famous for manufacturing muslin clothes. The fabricks contained diverse colours.

In ancient India the second major industry was related to the metals.

After mining smelting and cleaning of the different types of metals diverse utenisls.weapons, ornaments, sculptures etc. were made by them Gold, Silver, Copper, Iron, Zinc had the prominence in metals The work of with drawing diverse kind of gems, Mukta (nacre) gempeld pearls etc. from the ocean was also perpermed These gems were used in ornaments.

The timber work was also in advanced stage. Big boats and shops made of timber, doorways and furniture for the house, hackery, chariots, boxes, other goods of household doublebed toys, etc were made. In other industries smithery, leather work, ivory made items, house building, sugar, salt, production of indigo blue etc. also were in blooming state.

**(C) Commerce and economic organisations :** In the early period of ancient India the trade was run by commodity exchange later the coins were introduced. commercial exchange was done by the coins. Gold, silvers and copper coins were in use. The gold coin

was called Nishak, Dharn was the silver and the copper coin was called Mashak and Kakani. The currency moulding was done in government mint.

In ancient time the professional trade unions had developed. Trade unions were called 'Shreni' or "Gana". The chairman of the shreni was called 'Mukhiya'. The trade unions protected their commercial interests. They had different categories for the different professions. There were individual rules for the management of their relevant businesses. They also worked as modern banks. They gave loans on interest and kept the funds on interest. Trade and art were encouraged by trade unions.

## **(2) Art in Ancient India :**

**(i) Architecture :** The monuments of Indian architecture are found in four forms stambha, stupa, Bhawan, Guhagrih.

**(a) Stambha :** As the excellent sample of Indian architecture almost 30 stambhas (Pillars) built by emperor Ashoka are found from various parts of India. Experts of architecture from India and foreign countries consider these pillars as the excellent examples of ancient Indian architecture. These stambhas have the structure of proboscis (Shape of elephant proboscis) thin at upper side and thick at down side usually they are heavy and long. They have the length up to 40 to 50 feet. Every stambha (pillar) is made up of a single stone. A special polish is coated around them whose smoothness, polish and brightness is astonishing. Its polish glitters like mirror even today. The stone pillar of (Stambha) Sarnath is most graceful amongst all.

**(b) Stupas and Buildings :** Stupas are the dome type monuments, resembling elevated mounds of bricks or stones. Stupa of Sanchi near Bhopal in central India is most famous amongst all. By looking at the art and beauty of architectural monuments and buildings the Chinese traveller Fa-hien wrote that the people of this universe cannot build them, they might have built by the gods. Many stupas are found in south eastern Asian countries.

**Guhagriha :** (Cave houses ) In architectural monuments the cave houses have their own importance. Construction of community halls, residential houses, houses for worship by cutting hard rocks is a unique style of Indian architecture.

**(ii) Sculpture :** The sculpture of ancient India is excellent in the expression of glorification, intellectuality, natural beautification, physical beautification, artistic beautification and architectural skill. Among the idols made in ancient times the Varah incarnation idol of Udaigiri, idols showing the birth of Shri Krishna in Pathari, idol of Vishnu sleeping on Shesh Shaiya (bed) of a typical snake in Deogarh temple and the idol showcasing the many tableaux of Krishna's life in Mandore (Jodhpur) all are very charming. Additionally the stone idols of Buddha at Mankuvar and Sarnath, Huge copper image of Buddha in Sultanganj, four images, of lions on the Ashoka stambha of Sarnath are the excellent examples of Indian sculptural art. In Cambodia of greater India the idols of Vishnu, Shiva, Brahma, Saraswati, Laxmi, Ganesha etc are appearing in beautiful form.

**(iii) Drawing :** Drawing of caves at Ajanta, Gwalior, and Bagh are considered as the matchless examples of Indian drawing. It is revealed by the pictures of Ajanta that no area of life was left untouched by the Indian artist. Diverse type of body configurations, facial expressions, gestures, contours, miscellaneous hairstyles, appearances etc. are painted beautifully. In Ajanta's painting the painting of a "Princes at the death door" is so serious that the mind can not remain unaffected after watching it. Many scenes of palaces, plants, creepers, leaves and the scenes from Buddha's life are painted in the caves of Ajanta. The painting of Ajanta was so excellent that no one can emulate it in real.

**(iv) Art of Music :** Music too was not remained untouched in the domain of Indian arts. After getting protection from Indian emperors all three parts of musical arts singing, playing musical instruments and dancing had got the substantial progress. In ancient times there were many centers available for getting musical education.

**(v) Seal Art :** We can see ample artistic beauty with Indianness and nationality in the seals of ancient Indian rulers. Various types of made up seals of gold and silver were got constructed by the rulers at their own level.

## **(3) Education in Ancient India :**

India is called the universal educator. World's



first university was set up in 700 BC at Taxila where 10,000 students from all the world studied in about more than 60 subjects. 400 hundred years before christ a second university was established in Nalanda. For education of knowledge the scholars like Megasthenes, Hui-shan, Fa-hien etc came to India. Besides Taxila and Nalanda, Ujjain, Benaras, Rajgriha and Patliputra were also the centres of higher education. Other than Dharmashastra, the education of politics, ethics, grammar, Veda upnishada, literature, astrology, medicine etc was also given to the students of greater India who came here for study.

#### 4. Literature of Ancient India :

Three languages were popular in ancient India: Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali language. We can divide ancient Indian literature into three parts on the basis of language.

**(i) Sanskrit literature :** Veda, Vedanga, Upanishada, Smriti, Sutra, Sahitya are important in the Sanskrit literature. Mudraraksas of Vishakhadatta, Kiratarjuniyam of Bharavi, the play named Swapnavasavadatta of Bharata, and Kautilya's Arthashastra etc. are the distinguished creations in Sanskrit literature. Bhartrihari has written superordinate volumes of ethics and grammar named Vakyadeep, Shrinagar Shataka and Neetishataka. Poet Laureate of Sanskrit Kalidasa enjoys the important place amongst the optimal poets of the world. To decide the best among all his creations is very difficult. Kumarsambhavam and Raghuvansham are the two epics of Kalidasa. Meghadutam and Ritusamhara are his two long narrative poems (Khandakavya) and Vikramavarshiyam, Malvikagni-mitram and Abhijan Shakuntalam are his three plays. The stories of Panchatantra are very great contribution to the world by India. Veda, Purana, Ramayana, Mahabharata etc. were the books prevalent in India.

**(ii) Jain Literature :** The Jain religion has contributed Indian civilization and culture significantly in the field of literature. The Agam literature of Jainism is written in the Prakrit. The Jain scholars have created excellent literature in different ages, which is available today in the form of a great treasure. Among these writers Hemachandra of Gujarat was very notable. The Jain

writers wrote their books not only in Prakrit, Sanskrit and in the Apbharnsha languages but also in Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. The Jain writers enriched Indian literature at one side and at the same time they carried the Indian spiritual musings to the general public also.

**(iii) Buddha literature :** Ample literature has been created in Sanskrit and Pali related to Buddhist philosophy and ideology by the followers of Buddhism. Further literature was created in Sanskrit and dialects on the basis of Buddha's life. Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, Abhidhamma Pitaka, Avadana-shataka, Divyavadana, Manjushrimulka, the epic Buddhacharita and the Jataka literature are prominent among the Buddhist volumes. All these have enriched the Indian literature and helped in the development of languages.

**(5) Science :** The iron pillar situated in New Delhi since 1600 years is the proof of India's scientific and technical advancement. It is a center of attraction for metallurgists.

The higher knowledge of metallurgy in ancient India is recognized by this iron pillar of Kutumbminar in Delhi. Its amazing when we look at this pillar of 24 feet high, weighing 200 kg which is still standing without being rusted bearing the rains and sunlight from hundreds of years. A stone pillar situated in Keshav mandir Bellur (Karnataka) weighing 20,000 kg and having a height of 40 feet is the example of higher knowledge of Indians about the gravity and the theories of physics.

It is standing without any support and foundation on the plain ground. Indians had the deep knowledge of physics, Chemistry and Botany too.

**(6) Mathematics :** Discovery of zero is the largest contribution of India, that was used in the fifth century by Aryabhatta. The decimal system which presents the revolutionary base for the development of mathematics by using the decimal to express the fraction with the integers was formal in India substantially which came in to force into the whole world by the medium of translated books from Sanskrit to Arabic and Latin after the seventh century.

Aryabhatta had the knowledge about the process of finding out square root and cube root, the circumference of a circle, perimeter of triangle and



quadrilateral, the formulas of finding out the area, the diagonals intersecting each other in a cyclic quadrilateral and their uses arithmetic and geometric progression and their integration etc. More than, the ratio of circumference and diameter showing the actual value of famous constant  $\pi$  up to the four places after the decimal was discovered by Aryabhatta. Four of Aryabhatta's books were translated into Latin at the latter half of seventh century, Bhaskara Charya had given the knowledge that if a positive natural number is divided by the zero the quotient would be infinite all the time.

The books *Leelawati* and *Siddhanta Shromani* of Bhaskaracharya are the invaluable treasure of the world. Pythagorean theorem which is prevalent now a days in the field of Mathematics had been propounded 2100 years before by Bodhayana which was known as the *Chitta Pramaya* then.

**(7) Astrology and Astronomy :** On the basis of Mathematics astrology had also witnessed the progress. Aryabhatta was a Mathematician as well as an Astrologer too. Only he had propounded the principle that earth revolves on its axis and made clear about the reasons solar and lunar eclipses by identifying various planets and constellations. The fundamental astronomical theories about 12 zodiacs by observing the rotation of moon around the earth and the revolving of earth on its axis, 27 constellations, lunar month of 30 days, year of 12 months, adjustment of the difference of lunar and solar year by the use of an extra month (*Purushattam* *Masht*) were propounded by the astronomers. Varahmihir Kanad, Nagarjuna, Vagbhatta were the prime astrologers of ancient India.

**(8) Ayurveda :** Ayurveda is the oldest medical procedure of the world which is endowed by India. Dhanvantari is considered as the father of Ayurveda. In the world Indians were at the forefront about medicine and chemistry. Purifying the metals and making *Bhasm*, preparing medicines with herbs, production of different natural colours are the functions practiced since ancient times. Nagarjuna possessed the knowledge about many chemical reactions. Nagarjuna invented the *Rasa* procedure of medicine (Making *Bhasma* of various metals and other things and using them as medicines) and

introduced the new method in the medical field.

Shushruta is considered as the first surgeon (plastic surgeon) of the world. He had the knowledge about surgeries caesarean. Cataract organ transplant stone etc. He had the knowledge of anesthesia too. He describes about more than 100 equipments used in surgeries. Charaka also had an important place in medical science.

Thus the ancient India has an exclusive and important place in the culture and civilization of the world. This is evident from the above history of greater India related to the Indian literature, art, Science, Maths, Astrology, Astronomy Ayurveda trade, Commerce and Industry etc.

### Important point

1. In ancient times India was famous by the name of the 'golden bird'.
2. The part of Asia where the Indian culture was extended from ancient time to the 10th century is called greater India.
3. Greater India was spread up North-East, South-Central part of Asia, North East and South East Asia.
4. Hindu temples and Buddhist stupas are found almost everywhere in greater India.
5. Pearls, precious stones, fragrant material, clothes, spices, medicines etc were the main goods export.
6. Trade unions were called *Shreni*, *Shresthi* or *Gana*.
7. Architectural movements of India are found in four forms *Stambha* (Pillar) *Stupa* (Mound) buildings or temple, and *Guligriha* (cave house).
8. The statue made on the Sarnath's pillar of Ashoka is an excellent example of Indian sculpture.
9. Taxila and Nalanda universities and Ujjain, Benaras, Rajgriha and Patliputra were the famous center of higher education.
10. Three languages Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali were popular in ancient India.
11. In the world of Mathematics Decimal point and zero are the discoveries of India which is a gift to the world from India.
12. In Medical science Shushruta was the first plastic surgeon of the world.
13. In greater India due to spread of Buddhist and Muslim religion, the spread of Indian culture has declined.

### Objective type Questions

1. Which country was called Golden Bird in ancient time.  
(a) China (b) India  
(c) Egypt (d) Greece
2. What is Nishk ?  
(a) Gold coin (b) Silver coin  
(c) Copper coin (d) None of the above
3. Kumarsambhavam and Raguvansham epics are written by -  
(a) Kalidasa (b) Koutilya  
(c) Bharavi (d) Vishakhadutta
4. Where is the stone pillar situated standing without any foundation on a plain -  
(a) In Sarnath (b) In Delhi  
(c) In Bellur (Karnataka) (d) In Mankuvar
5. The books Lilawati and Siddharat Shiromani are written by -  
(a) Bhaskaracharya (b) Bodhayana  
(c) Aryabhata (d) Nagazjuna

### Very Short Answer type Questions

1. Where are the temples of Angkorwat situated?
2. What is the ancient name of Vietnam?
3. In which region of greater India the name of cities were alike Indian cities?
4. What were the trade unions called.
5. Which is the world's first university?
6. Where is the iron pillar situated ?
7. Who determined the actual value of pi ?
8. Who propounded the "Chhiti" theorem ?
9. Who explained the reasons of solar and lunar eclipses first of all ?
10. Write the names of Indian astrologers ?
11. Which is the most ancient medication system of the world?

12. Who invented the Rasa process of medicine?
13. Who is considered as the first surgeon of the world?
14. What was the ancient name of Thailand ?
15. In which direction is Tibet situated?

### Short Answer type Questions

1. Describe the foreign trade in greater India.
2. Which were the major industries of greater India? Mention them.
3. Why are the pillars excellent examples of Indian architecture? Clarify.
4. Describe the achievements of India in the fields of astronomy and astrology.
5. Which books were composed in Sanskrit literature in ancient India?
6. Which were the centres of Indian culture and civilization in greater India? Write their names.
7. In which languages Buddhist and Jain literature were composed?

### Essay type Questions

1. What is greater India? Explain.
2. Describe the structure of greater India.
3. Describe the art of ancient India.
4. Which is the gift of India in the field of mathematics?
5. Clarify the achievement of India in the field of science and medication.
6. Describe trade and commerce in greater India.
7. Describe the propagation of Indian culture in Cambodia.

### Answer to objective type question

1. (B) 2. (A) 3. (A) 4. (C) 5. (A)