

Chapter – 1

Historical Background of Commerce in the Sub-Continent

I. Choose the Correct Answer

Question 1.

The place where the goods are sold is

- (a) Angadi
- (b) Market
- (c) Nalangadi
- (d) Allangadi

Answer:

- (a) Angadi

Question 2.

Hindrance of place is removed by

- (a) Transport
- (b) Warehouse
- (c) Salesman
- (d) Insurance

Answer:

- (a) Transport

Question 3.

Who wrote “Arthasasthra”?

- (a) Kautilya
- (b) Chanakya
- (c) Thiruvalluvar
- (d) Elangovadigal

Answer:

- (a) Kautilya

Question 4.

Trade and Commerce was common to Dynasty.

- (a) Pallava
- (b) Chola
- (c) Pandiya
- (d) Chera

Answer:

- (c) Pandiya

Question 5.

..... was first sultan who paved way in the dense forest and helped traders to move from one market place to others place for their commercial caravans.

- (a) Balban
- (b) Vasco da Gama
- (c) Akbar
- (d) Alauddin Khilji

Answer:

- (a) Balban

II. Very Short Answer Questions

Question 1.

What is meant by Barter system?

Answer:

Barter is a system of exchange where goods or services are directly exchanged for other goods or services without using a medium of exchange such as money.

Question 2.

What is meant by Nalangadi?

Answer:

The place where the goods were sold was called 'Angadi' in the Pandiya period. Day market was called as Nalangadi.

Question 3.

What is meant by Allangadi?

Answer:

According to St.Poet Ilango, in Silapathigaram, a Night Market was called Allangadi.

III. Short Answer Questions

Question 1.

Explain the meaning of the term “Vanigam”.

Answer:

The word ‘Vanigam’ has been widely used in Sangam literature like Purananuru and Thirukkural. The earliest trading population of India was the Indus valley people, who used the word ‘trade’. The word vaniyam or vanipam would have had a Dravidian origin.

Question 2.

State the meaning of Maruvurapakkam and Pattinapakkam.

Answer:

Big city like Poompuhar had the ‘Maruvurappakam’ (inland town) and ‘Pattinapakkam’ (Coastal Town), had markets and bazaars where many merchants met one another for the purpose of selling or buying different kinds of commodities and food stuff. These places were always seen as busy with marts and markets with activities related to imports and exports.

Question 3.

What is the role of Sangam in the trade development of ancient Tamil Nadu?

Answer:

Sangam work refers to great traders, their caravans, security force, markets, marts, and guilds of such great traders.

Question 4.

What are the ports developed by the Pandiya kingdom?

Answer:

Tondi, Korkai, puhar, and Muziri were the port towns developed in the Padiya Kingdom. People were engaged in different kinds of fishing pearls and conches and produced salts and built ships. Various check posts were installed to collect customs along the highways and the ports. Korkai, Saliyur, Kayal, Marunguar Pattinam, and Kumari are some of the important Ports.

Question 5.

What was focused in Arthasasthra about the creation of wealth?

Answer:

Arthasasthra focused on the creation of wealth as the means to promote the well-being of the state. Kautilya advocated the maintenance of a perfect balance between State management and people's welfare through trading activities.

IV. Long Answer Questions

Question 1.

What are the hindrances of business?

Answer:

- Hindrance of person:
Manufacturers do not know the place and face of the consumers. It is the retailer who knows the taste, preference and location of the consumers. The chain of middlemen consisting of wholesalers, agents, and retailers establish the link between the producers and consumers.
- Hindrance of place:
Production takes place in one centre and consumers are spread throughout the country and world. Rail, air, sea and land transports bring the products to the place of the consumer.
- Hindrance of time:
Consumers want products whenever they have money, time and willingness to buy. Goods are produced in anticipation of such demands. They are stored in warehouses in different regional

centres so that they can be distributed at the right time to the consumers.

- Hindrance of risk of deterioration in quality:
Proper packaging and modern air-conditioned storage houses ensure that there is no deterioration in quality of products. Goods are protected against insects, rats, evaporation etc.
- Hindrance of risk of loss:
Fire, theft, floods and accidents may bring huge loss to the business. Insurance companies serve to cover the risk of such losses.
- Hindrance of knowledge:
Advertising and communication help in announcing the arrival of new products and their uses to the people.
- Hindrance of exchange:
Money functions as a medium of exchange and enables the buying and selling of any product or service by payment of the right price.
- Hindrance of finance:
Producers and traders may not have the required funds at the time of their need. Banks and other financial institutions provide funds and help in the transfer of funds to enable the functioning of business smoothly.
- Hindrance of developing the exact product:
Research and development help in developing the exact product or service which can satisfy the specific wants of consumers and thus improve the standard of living of the people.
- Hindrance of both selection and delivery at doorsteps:
buyers and sellers do not have surplus then no barter was possible.

Question 2.

State the constraints in barter system.

Answer:

1. Lack of double coincidence of Wants: Unless two persons who have surplus have the demand for the goods possessed by each other, barter could not materialize. If this “coincidence of wants” does not exist, Barter cannot take place.

2. Non – existence of common measure of value: Barter system could not determine the value of commodities to be exchanged as they lacked commonly acceptable measures to evaluate each and every commodity.

3. Lack of direct contact between producer and consumers: It was not possible for buyers and sellers to meet face to face in many contexts for exchanging the commodities for commodities.

4. Lack of surplus stock: Absence of surplus stock was one of the impediments in barter system. If the buyers and sellers do not have a surplus then no barter was possible.

Question 3.

Explain the development of Commerce and Trade in North India.

Answer:

India was prosperous during the medieval period from the 12th to 16th centuries Balban was the first sultan who paved the way in the dense forest and helped traders and their commercial caravans to move from one place to others. Alauddin Khilji encouraged the import of foreign goods from Persia and subsidized the goods. Arabs were the dominant players in India's trade. The trade between central and west Asia was in the hands of Multanis who were Hindus and Khurasanis who were Afghans, Iranians, and so on.

India's handicraft commanded a good foreign market. Indian products were exported to East Africa, Malaya, China, and the Far East. The traders of Malabar, Gujarat, and foreign settlers in the ports of Calicut, Khumbat, and Mangalore controlled a major business sector in port cities. India conducted foreign trade via a land route with Quetta, Khyber Pass, Iraq, and Bukhara.

Question 4.

Briefly explain the coastal trade in ancient Tamil Nadu.

Answer:

Big cities like Poompuhar had the 'Maruvurappakam' (inland town) and 'Pattinapakkam' (coastal town), had market and bazaars where many merchants met one another for the purpose of selling or buying different kinds of commodities and foodstuff. Port towns like Tondi, Korkai, Puhar, and

Muziri were always seen as busy with marts and markets with activities related to imports and exports. In such a brisk trade, people of the coastal region engaged themselves in coastal trade and developed their intercontinental trade contacts.

They were engaged in different kinds of fishing pearls, and conches and produced salts and built ships. Boats like 'Padagu', 'Thimil', 'Thoni', 'Ambu', 'Odampunai', etc., were used to cross rivers for domestic trade while 'Kalam', 'Marakalam', 'Vangam', 'Navai', etc., were used for crossing oceans for foreign trade.

Question 5.

What do you know about the overseas trading partners of ancient Tamil Nadu?

Answer:

Many merchants met one another for the purpose of selling or buying different kinds of commodities and foodstuff. Port towns like Tondi, Korkai, Puhar, and Muziri were involved in imports and exports. People were engaged in different kinds of fishing pearls, and conches and produced salts, and built ships. Kalam, Marakalam, Vangam, Navai, etc. were used for crossing oceans for foreign trade.

Besides the state transport, the infrastructure for shipping such as ports, lighthouse, warehouse etc. was expanded to promote overseas trade. Kaveripattinam was the chief port of the Kingdom of Cholas. The state governments installed check posts to collect customs along the highways and the ports. Cholas had a strong trading relationship with the Chinese Song Dynasty. During 16th & 18th centuries, India's overseas trade expanded due to trading with European Companies.