

Class 6 - Social Studies

Chapter 5: India, That Is Bharat

Case Study Based Questions

Case Study 1

The word 'Sindhu' originally referred to the Indus River. Different civilisations who came into contact with this region adapted the word into their own languages. The Persians called it 'Hind'/'Hidu'/'Hindu'. The Greeks, who had no 'h' sound in their language, dropped it to say 'Indoi' or 'Indike'. The Chinese changed the word further into 'Yintu' or 'Yindu'.

- Which original word did all these later names come from?
- Why did the Greeks drop the letter 'h' from 'Hindu'?
- Name any two civilisations mentioned in the passage that adapted the word 'Sindhu'.

Case Study 2

Emperor Ashoka, who ruled around 250 BCE, left behind many stone inscriptions. In one of these, he used the term 'Jambudvīpa' to describe the whole of India. At that time, this term covered not just today's India but also parts of what are now Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

- Which term did Ashoka use for the whole of India in his inscriptions?
- Around which year can Ashoka be dated?
- Name any two present-day countries that were once part of Ashoka's 'Jambudvīpa'.

Case Study 3

The Vishnu Purāṇa contains a Sanskrit verse that says: 'The country that lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains is called Bhārata.' This description was widely accepted, and a similar idea appears in an ancient Tamil poem from about 2,000 years ago, which praises a king known from Cape Kumari in the south to the great mountain in the north.

- According to the Vishnu Purāṇa, what are the two natural boundaries of Bhārata?
- Which ancient language's poem also gives a similar description of the land?
- What does this similarity between two very different texts suggest about ancient Indians?

Case Study 4

The Indian Constitution is the document that lays down the basic principles and laws of the nation. It was first written in English and came into force in 1950. Right at the beginning, it uses the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'. The Hindi version of the Constitution mentions the same idea as 'Bhārat arthāth India'.

- In which language was the Constitution first written?
- In which year did the Constitution come into force?
- What phrase does the Constitution use to describe the name of the country?

Case Study 5

Xuanzang was a Chinese scholar who travelled all the way from China to India in the 7th century CE. He visited many parts of India, met scholars, and collected Buddhist texts. He stayed in India for 17 years before returning to China, where he translated the Sanskrit manuscripts he had brought back into Chinese.

- In which century did Xuanzang travel to India?
- How many years did Xuanzang spend in India?
- What did Xuanzang do with the manuscripts after returning to China?

Case Study 6

Xuanzang was a Chinese Buddhist scholar who set out on a long and difficult journey from China to India in the 7th century CE. During his travels, he visited many parts of India, met famous scholars, and collected a large number of Buddhist texts. After spending 17 years in India, he returned to China, where he spent the rest of his life translating the Sanskrit manuscripts into Chinese.

- What was Xuanzang's profession/background?
- How many years did he spend travelling and living in India?
- What did Xuanzang do with the manuscripts once he returned home?

Case Study 7

In the 6th century BCE, a Persian emperor launched a military campaign and gained control of the region around the Indus River, which was then known as 'Sindhu'. Because of this contact, the earliest Persian records and stone inscriptions refer to India as 'Hind', 'Hidu' or 'Hindu' — all adaptations of the word 'Sindhu' in the Persian language.

- In which century did the Persian emperor gain control of the Indus region?
- What was the Indus region earlier called?
- Name any two Persian adaptations of the word 'Sindhu' mentioned in the passage.

Case Study 8

An ancient Sanskrit verse from the Vishnu Purāṇa reads: 'uttaram yat samudrasya himādreścaiva, dakṣiṇam varṣam tad bhāratam nāma...' which translates to: 'The country that lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains is called Bhārata.'

- From which ancient text is this verse taken?
- What two natural features are used to describe the boundaries of Bhārata?
- What is the English translation of the verse telling us about Bhārata's location?

Case Study 9

The chapter presents a table of the many names of India in different languages: Persian and Arabic use 'Hindustān'; the Greeks used 'Indoi'; the Latin term is 'India'; the Chinese used 'Yindu' or 'Tianzhu'; the English term is 'India'; and the French term is 'Inde'.

- What is the Latin term for India, as given in the table?
- What is the French term for India?
- Which two languages/civilisations share very similar terms with English 'India'?

Case Study 10

Before the modern name 'India' became common, the region had many earlier names given by its own inhabitants, such as 'Jambudvīpa' and 'Bhārata'. Of these, 'Bhārata' became widespread over time and is still the name of India in most Indian languages today, appearing in the Constitution as 'Bhārat'.

- Name the two ancient names given by India's own inhabitants, as mentioned in the passage.
- Which of these two names became more widespread over time?
- In which document does the name 'Bhārat' officially appear today?

Case Study 11

Figure 5.1 in the chapter shows a carved scene from the north gate of the Great Sanchi Stupa, depicting everyday rural life in India about 2,300 years ago. Such carvings, along with ancient texts, help historians understand what life was like long before written records became detailed.

- From which monument does this carved scene come?
- About how many years ago does the scene belong to?
- Besides carvings like this, name one other kind of source mentioned in the chapter that helps us learn about ancient India.

Case Study 12

Different ancient texts describe different amounts of Indian territory. The Ṛig Veda only names the northwest region as 'Sapta Sindhava'. The Mahābhārata lists many regions spread across the

Subcontinent. The Vishnu Purāṇa, however, gives a clear boundary description covering the entire Subcontinent as 'Bhārata'.

- Which of these three texts covers the smallest area?
- Which text gives a clear boundary for the whole Subcontinent?
- What does this progression (from Ṛig Veda to Mahābhārata to Vishnu Purāṇa) tell us about how the idea of 'India' developed?

Case Study 13

The word 'Sindhu' passed through many languages over the centuries. It became 'Hindu' in Persian, 'Indoi' in Greek (after the 'h' was dropped), 'India' in Latin, and 'Yindu' in Chinese. Each civilisation that came into contact with the Indus region adapted the word slightly differently.

- What is the original word from which all these names developed?
- Why did the Greek version drop the sound 'h'?
- Which of these forms is closest to the English word used today?

Case Study 14

The Indian Constitution, first written in English, opens with the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'. The Hindi version says 'Bhārat arthāth India'. This phrase places two names for the country side by side right at the very start of the nation's most important legal document.

- In which language was the Constitution first written?
- What phrase does the English version use?
- Why might it matter that this phrase appears right at the beginning of the Constitution rather than somewhere in the middle?

Case Study 15

Throughout history, people travelled to India from various parts of the world for different reasons. Traders came seeking valuable goods; religious scholars like Xuanzang came to study and collect Buddhist texts; some came out of curiosity to explore a new land; and some invaders came seeking conquest or wealth.

- Name one reason why traders might have travelled to India.
- Name one reason why a scholar like Xuanzang might have travelled to India.
- Suggest one more possible motivation for ancient travellers to India, apart from those mentioned in the passage.

Answer Key

Case Study Based Questions

Case Study 1:

- a. All the names came from the original word 'Sindhu', referring to the Indus River.
- b. The Greeks dropped the 'h' because the letter/sound 'h' did not exist in the Greek language.
- c. Any two of: Persians, Greeks, Chinese.

Case Study 2:

- a. Ashoka used the term 'Jambudvīpa'.
- b. Ashoka can be dated to about 250 BCE.
- c. Any two of: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan.

Case Study 3:

- a. The ocean (to the south) and the snowy mountains, i.e. the Himalayas (to the north).
- b. An ancient Tamil poem.
- c. It suggests that ancient Indians across different regions had a shared and fairly accurate understanding of the geography of the Subcontinent.

Case Study 4:

- a. The Constitution was first written in English.
- b. It came into force in 1950.
- c. It uses the phrase 'India, that is Bharat' (Hindi: 'Bhārat arthāth India').

Case Study 5:

- a. He travelled to India in the 7th century CE.
- b. He spent 17 years in India.
- c. He translated the Sanskrit manuscripts he had collected into Chinese.

Case Study 6:

- a. He was a Chinese Buddhist scholar (traveller/monk).
- b. He spent 17 years in India.
- c. He translated the Sanskrit manuscripts he had collected into Chinese.

Case Study 7:

- a. In the 6th century BCE.

- b. It was called 'Sindhu'.
- c. Any two of: 'Hind', 'Hidu', 'Hindu'.

Case Study 8:

- a. It is taken from the Vishnu Purāṇa.
- b. The ocean and the snowy mountains (the Himalayas).
- c. It tells us that Bhārata lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains.

Case Study 9:

- a. The Latin term is 'India'.
- b. The French term is 'Inde'.
- c. Latin ('India') and French ('Inde') are very similar to the English term 'India'.

Case Study 10:

- a. 'Jambudvīpa' and 'Bhārata'.
- b. 'Bhārata' became more widespread and is still used in most Indian languages.
- c. It appears in the Indian Constitution.

Case Study 11:

- a. It comes from the north gate of the Great Sanchi Stupa.
- b. It belongs to about 2,300 years ago.
- c. Ancient texts (such as the Ṛig Veda, Mahābhārata, Vishnu Purāṇa) or inscriptions/accounts of travellers and pilgrims.

Case Study 12:

- a. The Ṛig Veda covers the smallest area (only the northwest region).
- b. The Vishnu Purāṇa gives a clear boundary for the whole Subcontinent.
- c. It shows that the idea of 'India' as one complete, connected land grew gradually over a long period of time, from naming a small region to describing the entire Subcontinent.

Case Study 13:

- a. The original word is 'Sindhu'.
- b. Because the Greek language did not have the 'h' sound/letter.
- c. The Latin form, 'India', is closest to the modern English word.

Case Study 14:

- a. It was first written in English.
- b. It uses the phrase 'India, that is Bharat'.
- c. Placing it at the very beginning shows that the identity and name of the nation were considered a foundational matter, to be established before anything else in the document.

Case Study 15:

- a. Traders travelled to India seeking valuable goods to trade.

b. Scholars like Xuanzang travelled to study and collect religious (Buddhist) texts.

c. Any reasonable answer, such as: seeking wealth or land, military conquest, curiosity/exploration, or spreading their own culture/religion.

CBSEClassWorksheets