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CH- The making of Regional Cultures

* noted :-

- Each region has its kind of language, food, clothes, poetry, dance, music and paintings.
- The chera kingdom of Mahodayapuram was established in the ninth century in the south western part of the peninsula, part of present day Kerala.
- The rulers introduced the Malayalam language and script in their inscriptions.
- The first literary works in Malayalam, dated to about the twelfth century, are directly.
- The best ex- of this process is the cult of Jagannatha (Itinerary, Lord of the world, a name for Vishnu) at Puri, Orissa.

- In the nineteenth century, the region that constitutes most of present-day Rajasthan, was called Rajputana by the British.
- Rajput rulers cherished the ideal of the hero who fought valiantly.
- Stories about Rajput heroes were recorded in poems and songs.
- The term Kathak is derived from Katha, a word used in Sanskrit and other languages for story.
- The Kathaks were originally a caste of story-tellers in temples of north India.
- Under the Mughal emperors and their nobles, Kathak was performed in the court.
- It developed in two traditions or gharanas: one in the court of Rajasthan (Jaipur) and the other in Lucknow.

- The Mughal emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan patronised highly skilled painters.
- With the decline of the Mughal Empire, many painters moved out of the courts of the emerging regional states.
- They retained and developed their distinctive characteristics.
- Basohli and Kangra School of miniature paintings developed in the Himalayas from the seventeenth century.
- Now-a-days, people in Bengal spoke Bengali.
- During the fourth century the Gupta rulers established political control over north Bengal and began to settle Brahmanas in this area.
- From the fifteenth century onwards, temple construction started on a large scale.

Q/ANSWERS

Q1 Match the following:-

Anantavarmam

Kerala

Jagannatha

Bengal

Manodayapuram

Orissa

Lilatilakam

Kangra

Mangalākavya

Puri

Miniature

Kerala

Q2 What is Manipravalam? Name a book written in that language?

Ans. Manipravalam was a language consisting of Sanskrit and the regional language (Malayalam). The book written in that language is Lilatilakam, dealing with grammar and poetics. This book was composed during the 14th century.

Q3 Who were the major patrons of Kathak?

Ans i) Major patrons of Kathak were the Mughal emperors and the Nawabs of Lucknow.

ii) Subsequently, Kathak developed into dance forms with two 'gharans' - one of Rajasthan (Jaipur) and other of Awadh (Lucknow).

iii) Under the patronage of Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Awadh, Kathak grew into a major art form.

Q4 What are the important architectural features of the temples of Bengal?

Ans Bengal developed a typical style in temple architecture. The important architectural features of the temples of Bengal are -

i) The double-roofed (dochala) or four-roofed (chauchala) structure of the thatched huts, resembling the 'Baagha Dome' which became the Bengal style in temple architecture.

ii) In the four-roofed structures, four triangular roofs placed on the four walls move up to

converge on a curved line or a point.

iii) Temples were built in a square platform.

iv) The interior walls are relatively plain and the outer walls are generally decorated with paintings, ornamental tiles or terracotta tiles.

Q5 Why did minstrels proclaim the achievements of heroes?

Ans In the ancient days, the minstrels occupied an important position in the society and they used to record and preserve the stories of Rajput heroes in the form of poems and songs. Ordinary people were attracted by these stories and poems of the minstrels. Minstrels proclaimed the achievements of the heroes to preserve their memory and inspire others to follow their ex. So, the minstrels used to sing about only those brave warriors who chose death on the battlefield rather than accept defeat.

Q6 Why do we know much more about the cultural practices of rulers than about those of ordinary people?

Ans We know more about the cultural practices of rulers than about those of ordinary people because:-

i) Only rulers could afford historians for the purpose of documentation.

ii) In those times only rulers had the resources to preserve ~~their~~ their work.

Q7 Why did conquerors try to control the temple of Jagannatha at puri?

Ans The conquerors such as Mughals, Marathas and the English East India Company tried to control the temple of Jagannatha at puri mainly because of:-

i) The importance of Jagannatha temple increased continuously as a center of pilgrimage.

ii) Its authority in social and political matters also increased simultaneously.

iii) If they have control of the temple it would make the local people to accept their rules.

iv) Most importantly, by gaining control over the temple they could access the huge wealth of the temple collected from the donations of the pilgrims.

Q8 Why were temples built in Bengal?
Ans) Temples were built in Bengal to house the local deities who had gained the recognition of the Brahmanas.

i) To demonstrate power and proclaim their deity.

ii) When social and economic position of people improves they built temples to proclaim their status.

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