

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. What factors led to the growth of new cities in the 17th century?

Ans. Many factors led to evolution of cities and trading centres. These factors were as follows:

- (i) Travel was safe for traders as peace and prosperity prevailed.
- (ii) There was a good network of roads for transportation that linked the country. Rivers were also used for efficient transportation.
- (iii) The structure of taxes was uniform.
- (iv) Mandis or places, where farmers sold grains gradually developed into small and big towns.

Q.2. Describe the rise of administrative towns in India.

Ans. (i) Thanjavur was the capital of Cholas located on the banks of Kaveri river.

(ii) King Rajaraja Chola got the famous Rajarajeshwara temple built in Thanjavur.

(iii) The town had bustling markets.

(iv) The Saliya weavers from Thanjavur and Uraiyur used to produce fine quality cloth for temple festival, king and nobility dresses, and coarse cotton for the masses.

Q.3. Describe the rise of temple towns and pilgrimage centres.

Ans. (i) Temple towns were important centres of urbanisation and led to development of cities, economy and society.

(ii) Pilgrims also gave huge donations to temples.

(iii) Temples provided important places of settlement.

(iv) Priests, workers, artisans and traders settled in these towns. These were called temple towns. Towns emerged around temples like Somnath (Gujarat), Madurai in Tamil Nadu, and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

Q.4. How did small towns emerge in India?

Ans.(i) Gradually, from the 8th century onwards, small towns emerged in India. They emerged from large villages.

(ii) They had a 'mandapika' where villagers sold their produce.

(iii) Likewise, there were market streets, called 'hatta', full of shops.

(iv) Similarly, streets were lined with different artisans like potters, sugar makers, toddy makers, smiths, etc.

(v) Many villagers came to buy local articles and sell products like horse, salt, saffron, betel nut and spices (like pepper) from distant places.

Q.5. How did new traders, towns emerge in 16th and 17th century?

Ans. (i) In the 16th and 17th centuries, the British, Dutch and French formed East India companies and began expanding towards the East.

(ii) Thus while Europeans, particularly the British, began controlling sea trade, commerce and political power, Indians began to work as agents for them.

(iii) The increased demand of goods like textiles led to expansion of crafts like spinning, weaving, bleaching, dyeing, etc.

(iv) Bombay, Calcutta and Madras saw the new rise. These are nodal cities today.

(v) Under the new system, Indian merchants and artisans moved into Black Town built by European Companies while the latter lived in superior residencies of Fort St. George in Madras or Fort St. William in Calcutta.