



CLASS - VI - SOCIAL SCIENCE NOVEMBER MONTH NOTES

6. Our Country: India

I. TECHNICAL WORDS :

1. Mountain - A steep or gentle sided hill over 600m high from its surrounding is called mountain.
2. Plain - A plain is a flat and relatively low lying land.
3. Island - A piece of land surrounded by water.
4. Corals - Skeletons of tiny marine animals called polyps.

II. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :

1. Give an account on the neighbouring countries of India.

India shares its international boundary with seven countries. It is bordered by the countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north-west, China, Nepal, Bhutan in the north, Myanmar and Bangladesh in the north-east. Sri Lanka and Maldives are the oceanic neighbours of India. These island countries are situated in the Indian ocean.

2. Name the Union Territories of India.

The Union Territories of India are – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Lakshadweep Islands, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

3. How many States and Union Territories are there in India? Which states have a common capital?

India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories. Punjab and Haryana states have same capital, named Chandigarh.

4. List the main physical features of India.

India can be divided into seven major physical divisions. They are as follows:

- The Great Northern Mountains.
- The Great Northern Plains.
- The Great Peninsular Plateau.
- The Great Indian Desert.
- The Coastal Plains.
- The Eastern and the Western Ghats.
- The Island Groups

5. Give a brief account of the Northern Plains.

The northern plains are located to the south of the Himalayas and to the north of the Peninsular plateau. It is a fertile and flat plain. It is formed by the alluvial deposits laid down by the Himalayan rivers, especially by the Indus, the Ganga, the

Brahmaputra and their tributaries. It is one of the world's largest alluvial plains. Its east west extent is about 2400 km and its width varies from 90 to 100 km.

III. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :

1. Discuss the political division of India.

For administrative purposes, India is divided into 28 states and 8 union territories. These states have been formed mainly on the basis of languages. States and Union Territories of India are as follows:

States: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Union Territories: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Lakshadweep Islands, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

2. Write a note on the location and extent of Indian Peninsula.

India is the seventh largest country in the world in terms of area. It is one of the most populated countries in the world.

Location: India lies in the north-eastern hemisphere. Its latitudinal extent is $8^{\circ}4' N$ to $37^{\circ}6' N$. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.

Extent: The north-south extent of India is about 3214 km. While the longitudinal extent of India is $68^{\circ}7' E$ to $97^{\circ}25' E$ longitudes. The $82^{\circ}30' E$ longitude is taken as the standard meridian of India. It passes through Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The east-west extent of India is about 2933 km.

3. What do you know about the Eastern and Western Ghats of India?

- The Eastern Ghats border the Peninsular Plateau in the east whereas the Western Ghats provide a western boundary to the plateau. These ghats are found between both the coastal and the Peninsular plateau.
- The Eastern Ghats are lower as compared to the Western Ghats. They rise gently from the east-coast.
- Mahendragiri (1500 m) is the highest peak of the Eastern Ghats, whereas Anaimudi (2695 m) is the highest peak of the Western Ghats.
- The Western Ghats are almost continuous while the Eastern Ghats are broken and uneven.

4. Write a note on the island groups in India. Also name their capitals.

An island can be defined as a piece of land surrounded by water. Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar are the main island groups of India.

Lakshadweep Islands: They are located in the Arabian sea. They are known as coral islands because they are formed on corals, i.e., the skeletons of polyps. They consist of a large number of coral islands. Capital of Lakshadweep Islands is Kavaratti.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: They lie in the Bay of Bengal. Most of these islands are volcanic in nature. Barren island, the only active volcano of India, is located in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is Port Blair.

IV. Picture Study :

This is a portion of the Map of India. Look at it carefully and answer the question that follow:



- Name the four physical division of India you can see in the map.**
The Great Himalayas, The Northern Plains, The Indian Desert and The Peninsular Plateaus.
- Into how many ranges are the Himalayas divided? Name them.**
The Himalayas are divided into three main parallel mountain ranges namely the Himadri or Great Himalaya, the Middle Himalaya or Himachal and the Shiwaliks.
- Write two features each of the Northern Plains and the Peninsular Plateau.**
The Northern Plains:
 - These plains are very fertile and flat.
 - They are formed by the alluvial deposits laid down by the Himalayan rivers.**The Peninsular Plateau:**
 - It forms an irregular triangle with a broad base in the north and an apex in the south.
 - It is one of the oldest landmasses of India.
- Name the state which is majorly covered by the Great Indian Desert**
Rajasthan.

V. Source Based Questions:

The Indian peninsula is bound by the Great Himalayas in the north, the Indian ocean in the south, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian sea in the west. India is great in many aspects. It has a glorious past, multiple cultures, languages and religions, a secular government, and it is the world's largest democracy with a vast range of landforms and natural resources.

1. **Name the ocean that lies to the South of India.**
Indian Ocean.
2. **Which feature forms a natural boundary in the north of India?**
Mountain.
3. **The Indian Peninsula is _____ in shape.**
Triangular.
4. **India has _____ states and _____ union territories.**
28, 8

6. From a Kingdom to an Empire

I. TECHNICAL WORDS :

1. Empire - A large kingdom.
2. Inscription - A thing inscribed on a monument or in a book.
3. Official - Relating to authority and its duties, actions and responsibilities.
4. Messenger - A person who carries a message.
5. Province - A Principal administrative division of a country or empire.

II. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing Dhamma.

Ashoka wanted to solve several problems by introducing Dhamma. He wanted to remove many problems such as:

- People in the empire followed different religions. This, sometimes, led to conflicts.
- Animal sacrificing in the Vedic rituals.
- Slaves and merchants were ill-treated.
- Quarrels in families and amongst neighbours.

2. Discuss the several means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of Dhamma.

Means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of Dhamma were:

- Appointing of Dhamma Mahamatta, officials who went from place to place to teach people about Dhamma.
- Got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars and also instructed officials to read aloud those messages to people who cannot read
- Ashoka strictly followed the principles of Dhamma. Hence, inspiring others.
- Sent messengers to different countries such as Sri Lanka, Egypt etc. to spread ideas of Dhamma and the Buddhism.

- Built roads, rest houses and dug wells.
- Arrangement for medical treatment for both humans and animals.

3. Why is the Mauryan Empire said to be the first empire of India?

An Empire means a very big kingdom. The Mauryan Empire is said to be the first empire of India because for the first time, a large part of the country was politically unified under Mauryas. Mauryan empire defeated and unified Magadha, the Punjab, Western and Northwestern India, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, areas west to the Indus and many other territories. Before Mauryans, the country was divided into some small and big kingdoms. Mauryans unified them. Thus, the Mauryan Empire is said to be the first empire of India.

4. What did Megasthenes say about the capital city of the Mauryan Empire?

Megasthenes was the ambassador of Greek ruler Seleucus. He wrote about Pataliputra, the capital of Mauryan Empire that it was a large and beautiful city, surrounded by massive walls. It had 570 towers and 64 gates. The houses were built of wood and mud bricks. The palace was also of wood and was decorated with stone carvings and was surrounded by gardens and enclosures for keeping birds.

5. Write a note on Ashoka's Dhamma.

Dhamma is a Prakrit word for the Sanskrit term, Dharma, meaning religious duty. It emphasizes on non-violence, charity, mercy, truth, tolerance and purity. It did not involve worship of a god or performance of a sacrifice. Ashoka's idea of Dhamma was based on human values and a code of conduct inspired by the noble teachings of the Buddha.

III. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. How is an empire different from a kingdom?

Empires were very big kingdom. Empires are different from kingdoms in the following ways:

- Since Empires were larger than kingdoms, emperors needed more resources than kings.
- Emperors needed bigger army than kingdoms to protect larger area than that of kingdom.
- Emperors needed a larger number of officials who could collect taxes.

2. Write a short note on Chandragupta Maurya

Chandragupta Maurya was the first emperor of the Mauryan Empire by defeating Dhana.

Nand, the last Nanda king and hence, founded the Mauryan Empire. He received the able guidance from a wise man named Chanakya. Following his advice, he was able to seize the throne of Magadha and overthrew the Nandas. He also defeated Seleucus, Alexander's governor who after Alexander's death fought for Chandragupta's empire. He captured many areas such as the Punjab, Western and NorthWestern India, Afghanistan etc. He marked a beginning of new period in Indian history as for the first time, a large part of the country was politically unified under the Mauryas due to him.

3. 'Ashoka was a great emperor in world history'. Justify this statement.

Ashoka was the greatest ruler known in history. He ascended the throne in 273 BC. He was the first ruler who tried to take his message directly to the people through inscriptions. He was the only king in the history of the world who gave up conquest Kalinga after winning a war. Ashoka had a greater economic prosperity. He devoted his life to the moral and material welfare of the people. He decided not to fight any more war rather win the hearts of people by love.

4. Analyse why Ashoka's victory in the Kalinga war did not bring any joy and satisfaction for him.

Ashoka's victory in Kalinga war did not bring any joy and satisfaction to him. The great destruction, death and human suffering in the war filled his heart with sorrow and remorse. This war became a turning point in Ashoka's life. He decided not to fight any more wars but to win the hearts of people with love.

IV. PICTURE STUDY :

This is a picture of an important sculpture of the Ancient Period, which is also relevant today.

1. Identify the sculpture.

Lion capital.

2. Describe its important features.

This is used as national emblem. Its chakra is used on our national flag which indicates progress.

3. When and by whom was it built?

In 273 BC, it was built by king Ashoka.

4. Discuss its relevance in modern India.

It is our national emblem and is used on the currency as the mark of national unity and strength.

V. SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS :

But, Ashoka's victory in the Kalinga war did not bring any joy and satisfaction to him. The great destruction, death and human sufferings in the war filled his heart with sorrow and remorse. This war became a turning point in Ashoka's life. He decided not to fight any more wars but to win the hearts of people with love. He was influenced by the Buddhist principles of compassion, peace and non-violence. He adopted Buddhism. From then onwards, he devoted his life to the moral and material welfare of the people. He adopted the policy of winning people over through Dhamma in place of conquering them through force.

1. Kalinga is the name of coastal.

Orissa.

2. Ashoka adopted _____ after the Kalinga war.

Buddhism.

3. Dhamma is a _____ word.

Prakrit.

4. Ashoka was influenced with the principles of

All of these.

4. Panchayati Raj

I. Technical Words :

1. Panchayati Raj - A system through which people of the rural areas participate in their own government.
2. Gram sabha - Is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a panchayat.
3. Harmony - To live together peacefully.
4. Vaccination - Treatment with a vaccine to produce immunity to an infectious disease

II. Short Answer Type Questions :

1. **What do you understand by the Panchayati Raj System?**
Panchayati Raj System is a process through which people in rural areas participate in their own government.
2. **Discuss the three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj.**
Three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj includes Gram Panchayat at the village level, the Janpad Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti at the block level and the District Panchayat or the Zila Parishad at the district level.
3. **Write a note on the formation of Gram Panchayat.**
Gram Panchayat is an elected body of the villagers. Each panchayat is divided into smaller areas called wards which have elected representatives known as Panch. The members of the Gram Sabha directly elect a Sarpanch who is the Panchayat President. Gram Panchayat is elected for five years and the State Election commission conducts these elections.
4. **What is the Nyaya Panchayat? What is the basic idea of its formation?**
Nyaya Panchayat is a judicial wing of the Panchayati Raj System at the village level. The basic idea of its formation is to provide speedy justice and resolving small disputes at the minimum expenses.
5. **Who is the head of Gram Panchayat? What is he/she responsible for?**
Sarpanch is the head of the Gram Panchayat. He/she has the duty to look after both the village infrastructure and civic amenities and has to maintain them.

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

1. **What is the importance of the Gram Sabha? Why do you think all members should attend Gram Sabha meetings?**
Gram Sabha has many important functions to perform. These are as

follows:

- It elects representatives who form the Gram Panchayat to look after day-to-day working of the panchayat.
- It elects head of the Gram Panchayat or Sarpanch.
- It discusses important matters and problems regarding the village
- It is an important factor in making the gram panchayat.
- It passes the annual budget of the Panchayat.

All members should attend Gram Sabha meetings as they can contribute to solve the matters or problems of their area by presenting it to the panchayat. They will come to know how the panchayat is working and using the income of the village, they can force them to use the same for welfare of the village.

2. Differentiate between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat.

The difference between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat is as follows:

- The Gram Sabha acts as a legislative body whereas the Gram Panchayat is an executive body at the village level.
- All the adult members of the Panchayat form the Gram Sabha. While elected representatives of the Gram Sabha form the Gram Panchayat.
- The Gram Sabha takes decision and the Gram Panchayat implements them.
- The minimum requirement of age for the membership of the Gram Sabha is 18 years old whereas for gram panchayat a member should not be less than 21 years of age.
- The Gram Sabha reviews the work of the Gram Panchayat
- The Gram Sabha can pass a vote of no confidence against inefficient members of the Gram Panchayat.

3. List the functions of the Gram Panchayat.

The Gram Panchayat has the following main functions:

- It involves in the construction and maintenance of water sources, roads, drainage etc.
- It imposes and collects local taxes.
- It implements government programmes related to employment generation and poverty alleviation.
- It provides health and sanitation facilities
- It controls the spread of diseases by vaccinations.
- It provides, primary education in the village.
- It maintains record of birth and deaths in the village.
- It helps farmers to develop and improve their farms and cattle and also helps in providing good quality seeds and fertilizers.
- It looks after the welfare of the weaker sections.
- It organises cattle fairs and village fairs.

4. What are the sources of funding of the Gram Panchayat?

The Gram Panchayat obtains funds in a number of ways:

- It obtains funds from the collection of taxes on houses,

marketplaces, fairs etc.

- It receives government scheme funds through the Janpad and Zila Parishad.
- It also receives donations for community works etc
- It obtains fees for registering the purchase and sale of the cattle, land and other property.
- It has a share of some taxes and fees collected by the state government.
- It obtains funds from the sale of property owned by the community.
- It obtains grants from the state government.

5. Discuss the composition and functions of the Panchayat Samiti.

The Panchayat Samiti has elected members. The term of service is of five years. Some seats are reserved for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and women. The members of Panchayat Samiti elect a chairperson, known as 'Prમુkh'. The Block Development Officer (BDO) acts as the secretary of the Panchayat Samiti.

The functions of Panchayat Samiti are:

- It supervises the working of the Gram Panchayat in that Block.
- It makes plans for the development of the whole block.
- It has a team of experts in various fields who guide the villagers over different developmental issues.
- It arranges funds from the government for development programmes.

6. Write a short note on the Zila Parishad.

The District Panchayat or the Zila Parishad is the highest governing body under the Panchayati Raj system. It works at district level. The people of district elect the Zila parishad. Some seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, other backward classes and women. The members of it elects a president and vice president from amongst themselves. An officer of the rank of a district magistrate is the Chief Executive Officer of it.

Zila Parishad has following main function:

- It supervises the working of the Panchayat Raj System
- It makes development plans at the district level.
- It regulates the money distribution among all the Gram Panchayats with the help of Panchayat Samiti.

IV. Picture Study:

This is a village scene representing an important function of the Gram Panchayat.

1. Name the function.

Road construction and maintaining.

2. Is it a compulsory function of the Gram Panchayat?

Yes, it is a compulsory function of the Gram Panchayat.

3. Mention any two other functions of the Gram Panchayat.

- Imposing and collecting taxes.
- Provides health and sanitation facilities.

V. Source Based Questions :

The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a Panchayat. A Panchayat may include one village or a few villages. Every citizen who is 18 years old and above i.e., whose name is in the voter list, is a member of the Gram Sabha. It is a meeting where people directly participate and seek answers from their elected representatives. It holds meetings at least twice a year. The Gram Sabha acts as the Lok Sabha in the Centre and Legislative Assembly in the state.

1. What is the minimum age to become a member of the Gram Sabha?
18.
2. The Gram Sabha holds its meeting _____ times in a year.
Two.
3. The head of the Gram Panchayat is called
Sarpanch
4. The rules for Panchayati Raj System became effective from
1993