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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class IX

22.7.24

Subject:- History and Civics

Chapter 5 The Sangam Age

Ms. Rameet

Good Morning Students!

This lesson is of Class IX for the subject of History Chapter 5 The Sangam Age starting on Page No. 55 of your textbook titled Total History and Civics ICSE 9 and is being submitted to you on 22.7.24.

Students, this week we will study about South India. The term Sangam Age was the time period when there were three literary gatherings held and Tamil literature was composed. These assemblies were held in the city of Madurai. The Sangam literature deals with the wars and heroic deeds of the three kingdoms of Cheras, Pandyas and Cholas.

Sources:- We will study about the Tirukkural and the Megaliths.

1. Tirukkural :- It was written by Tiruvalluvar. It consists of 133 chapters grouped into three sections, each dealing with a particular topic namely — Aram (Dharma), Porul (Artha) and Inbam (Kama).

2. Megaliths — The word 'Megalith' means large stone. Megaliths were box like structures erected with stone slabs resting on each

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other. The Megalithic culture is mostly common for its burials. These are also known as memorial stones. The Megaliths contain not only skeletons of people who were buried. Iron tools, arrows, pottery, sickles have been found. It gives us an idea of the culture and sources of livelihood of megalithic people.

We will briefly study about the three kingdoms - the Chera, the Chola and the Pandya. The Chera (Kerala) kingdom extended along the Western coast. The Sangam Literature in Tamil gives names of many ancient rulers such as Udayanjerak, Nedunjerak and Senguttavan.

The Pandyan kingdom comprised the present districts of Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram. Though the Sangam literature provides a long list of kings, the most prominent ruler was Nedunjeliran. He ruled in the early years of the third century AD. He defeated a confederacy of rulers which included the Cheras and the Cholas.

The Cholas, like the Cheras and the Pandyas are known from very early times. They were based in Kaveri delta and spread along the Coromandel coast. The most important ruler of Sangam Cholas was Marikalan. The Chola kingdom

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gained greatly both in territory and influence under him.

Let us take a short break. You are requested to read the above given assignment very carefully understand the questions and write the answers in your notebooks.

1. Name an important ruler of the Chola kingdom?
2. What are megaliths?
3. Where was the location of the Pandyan kingdom?

Answers

1. Karikalan
2. Megaliths are box like structures erected with the stone slabs resting on each other without any mortar.
3. The Pandyan kingdom during the Sangam Age comprised the present districts of Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram.

We will now continue our lecture and study about the society of the Sangam Age. According to the Tamil literature there was basically division between the high born and the low born. The Tolkappiyam mentioned four castes — Brahmanas, kings, traders and farmers. The Brahmanas were highly respected in the society. Many Brahmanas served the king as judicial officers, although most

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of them were trained to be the priests. The ruling class was called 'arasar'. They had marriage relations with the Vellalars, propertied people owning bulk of the land. Another class was that of Kadaisayar who worked as agricultural labourers.

Position of Women:- Although women got good education, their status in family/society was not equal to that of men. They did not have the right to inherit property. The worship of Kannagi or Pattini cult suggests that the vow of chastity was regarded as the greatest of feminine virtues.

Economy

Agriculture was the main occupation. Land was held by individuals as well as by state. The rulers had big income from trade transactions also. We have the information that foreigners visited the coastal towns for trade. Roman coins of gold and silver found in southern peninsula, suggest that Indo-Roman trade brought gains to the Indian merchants. There were other occupations also like spinning, weaving, ship building, tanning, etc.

Home Assignment

1. Short Answer Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10
2. Structured Questions 1(b, c); 2(a, b); 3(b)