

*Following travellers visited India during the reigns of some famous rulers.*

**Megasthenes** (350BC-290BC) was a Greek envoy at the court of Chandragupta Maurya. He has given a reliable account of the civil and military administration of the country under Chandragupta Maurya's rule.



**Fa-Hien** (337-422) was the earliest Buddhist pilgrim from China who visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II to collect Buddhist relics and sacred literature. He stayed in India from AD 401 to 410.



**Hiuen-Tsang** (602-664) was the famous Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who came to India during the rule of Raja Harsha Vardhana and wrote about his reign. He stayed in India from AD 629 to 644.



**Al-Biruni** (973-1052) was an Arab scholar in the court of Mahmud Ghazni. He accompanied Mahmud to India during his expeditions and wrote an account of India.



**Ibn-e-Batuta** (1304-1368) was an Arab traveller. He wrote about the details of the reign of Mohammad bin Tughlaq (AD 1325 to 1361) of which he was an eyewitness.



## SOCIAL REFORMERS

**Raja Ram Mohan Roy** was the only man in his time to realise the significance of the Modern Age. He realised that there could be no progress without proper scientific education. He believed that women had the right to discover their own identity. He condemned the practice of Sati. He founded Brahma Samaj to reform the society.



**Keshab Chandra Sen** was one of the first Indians to sow the seeds of secularism in our country. He believed that all religions were equal. Each religion could teach us something valuable. He treated girls as 'little mothers' who must be respected and given all opportunities of good education.

## SAINTS

**Narasimha Mehta** used to sing songs in praise of the Lord. He believed in equality. He lived with the sweepers even when people of higher castes avoided touching them. His name is mentioned in the song, 'Vaishnava jana to tena kahiye'. He lived in Junagarh, Saurashtra.



**Dadu Dayal** was a devotee of God and was born in Ahmedabad in 1544. He was so absorbed in his devotion that the people forgot what caste he belonged to. Both Hindus and Muslims became his disciples.

**Charaka**, one of the best known physicians in Indian Ayurvedic medicine, knew the fundamentals of genetics even 2,000 years ago. He knew the factors determining the sex of a child.

## EDUCATIONIST

**Brahmagupta** was the first to use Mathematics to solve problems in astronomy and treat zero as a number.

## POLITICAL LEADER

**Porus (Parvateshwar)** was a Hindu king of Punjab. He was a man of gigantic and powerful build. He extended his power by aggressive ambition and proud courage. He was defeated by Alexander. But Alexander, who admired his opponent's chivalry and gallantry, returned his kingdom.



## EXERCISE-2

A. Tick (✓) the right option.

- Who is India's longest-serving Prime Minister?  
a. Indira Gandhi       b. Jawaharlal Nehru       c. Dr. Manmohan Singh
- Which is the second highest civilian award in India?  
a. Padma Vibhushan       b. Padma Bhushan       c. Padma Shri
- He was India's only acting Prime Minister.  
a. Gulzari Lal Nanda       b. Morarji Desai       c. Charan Singh
- An Arab scholar in the court of Mahmud Ghazni.  
a. Megasthenes       b. Ibn-e-Batuta       c. Al-Biruni
- A social reformer who condemned the practice of Sati.  
a. Narasimha Mehta       b. Raja Ram Mohan Roy       c. Keshab Chandra Sen

B. Write the name of major Indian awards.

- Highest award in cinema.
- Highest award for military services.
- Highest civilian award.
- Highest national sports award.
- Second highest civilian award.

Dada Saheb Phalke  
Paramvir Chakra  
Bharat Ratna  
Arjuna Award  
Padma Vibhushan

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. Fa-Hien..... was the earliest Buddhist pilgrim from China who visited during the time of Chandragupta II.
2. Ibn-Batuta..... wrote about the details of the reign of Mohammad bin Tughlaq.
3. Megasthenes..... was a Greek envoy at the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
4. Al-Biruni..... was an Arab scholar in the court of Mahmud Ghaznavi.
5. Hsien-Tsang..... was the famous Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who came to India during the rule of Raja Harsha Vardhana.

D. Match the following.

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|-----------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 1. Keshab Chandra Sen | • | → | 4. Educationist        |
| 2. Dadu Dayal         | • | → | 2. b. Saint            |
| 3. Charaka            | • | → | 5. c. Political leader |
| 4. Brahamagupta       | • | → | 1. d. Social reformer  |
| 5. Porus              | • | → | 3. e. Scientist        |