

8. Answer the following questions in short.

- (a) Iron temple at Mehrauli measures over 7 metres in height, this pillar is located at Mehrauli in Delhi. It is made of iron and is said to have been created around the period 400 AD. Although it was built so long ago, the iron on it has not rusted. The pillar weighs about 3 tonnes. It bears an inscription which mentions the name 'Chandra'. Some archaeologists and historians believe that this person is the ruler Chandragupta II of the Gupta dynasty.

- (b) The coastal city of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu has a number of stone temples.

Many of these are monolithic, which means they have been carved from a single rock. Workers would start from the top of the rock and work their way downwards in order to build these monolithic temples. The Mahabalipuram stone temples were constructed during the reign of the Pallava dynasty, around the period 700 AD.

- (c) **Temples at Aihole**-There are many temples at Aihole in Karnataka which date back to around 600 AD. These temples were built during the reign of the Chalukya dynasty. The Durga temple is one of the best known among them. It is known for its beautiful stone carvings.

Bhitargaon temple- This ancient brick temple at Bhitargaon in Uttar Pradesh is believed to have been built during the reign of the Gupta empire.

- (d) **Ramayana is a** famous epic, which is believed to be written by a sage called Valmiki. This epic describes the story of a prince named Rama. His wife's name was Sita and his brother was called Lakshman. The epic tells us about the challenges that Rama has to face. He lives in the forest for sometime, then his wife gets kidnapped and he has to bring her back. Sita too has to face many challenges.

- (e) Mahabharata is believed to be written by a person named Vyasa, the *Mahabharata* is one of the most famous epics. This epic

describes the Pandava brothers and the Kaurava brothers, and the war of Kurukshetra which they fought against each other. The *Bhagavadgita*, a text which is considered to be sacred by some Hindus, is in fact a part of the *Mahabharata*.

According to the *Mahabharata*, Hastinapur was the capital of the Kaurava kingdom. If the Pandavas defeated the Kauravas in the war of Kurukshetra they would gain control over Hastinapur.

9. Answer the following questions (long answer type).

- (a) There are many ancient temples in India that are dedicated to Hindu gods like Shiva, Vishnu and Durga. Usually, each temple is dedicated to one main god or deity. Let us see the various parts of these ancient temples. The image of the deity is kept in a special place called '*garbagriha*' which is inside the temple. Each temple also has a hall known as the '*mandapa*', where large numbers of devotees can gather. Some temples have more than one *mandapa*. In Hindu temples of the northern style, a tower known as a '*shikara*' can be found above the *garbagriha*. In Hindu temples of the southern style a pyramid-like tower known as the *vimana* can be found above the *garbagriha*. Southern style temples also have another tower known as a *gopuram* which is found above their entrance gateway. Building these temples was not an easy task and involved many workers. A number of rulers supported the building of such temples by providing money and other resources.

(b) The two important Tamil epics are

- (i) *Silappadikaram* - This is a Tamil epic created by a poet named Elango Adigal. It tells the story of Kovalan, a merchant who lived in Puhar in south India. He had a wife named Kannagi who was very devoted to him. However, Kovalan fell in love with another woman named Madhavi. Around this time, the kingdom of Madurai was being ruled by a Pandya king. Once, the jeweler at the king's court told the people that Kovalan was a thief. Kovalan was not really a thief, but believing his court jeweler, the king ordered that

Kovalan should be killed. Kannagi was really saddened and angered by this. She sought revenge on the king and finally destroyed the kingdom of Madurai.

- (ii) ***Manimekalai*** – This is another Tamil epic, which was created by a person named Sattanar. This tells the story of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi, two of the characters of Silappadikaram.

(c) Some of the literary works other than the epics are -

- (i) ***Meghadoota*** - This was one of the most famous poems written by Kalidasa, who was a poet and playwright. Meghadoota is written in Sanskrit. It describes a cloud which carries messages between two lovers.
- (ii) ***Abhijnana Shakuntala*** - A play written by Kalidasa, it tells the story of the love between Dushyanta, who is a king, and Shakuntala, who is the daughter of a sage.
- (iii) ***Puranas*** - These are stories from very ancient times. Although these stories have existed from very long ago, it is believed that they were put together by Vyasa. Written in a simple form of Sanskrit, the stories are quite easy to understand. They revolve around many gods, goddesses and kings. Some stories also revolve around the question of how the world was created.
- (iv) ***Panchatantra*** - This is a collection of stories. Vishnu Sharma is believed to be the first person to have written them down in Sanskrit. However, the stories were actually created by many other people and were passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth.
- (v) ***Aryabhatiyam*** - A book on science, this is written by astronomer and mathematician Aryabhatta. It is in Sanskrit. The following are some of the things explained in this book.