



HARAPPAN CIVILISATION (2500 – 1800 B.C.)



Geographical Area

POLITICAL

- **Who were rulers?**
 - The Priestly class or
 - The Mercantile class
- **Nature of political organisation**
 - Main Ruler
 - Supportive Ruler
 - Centralised Structure
 - Decentralised Structure



SOCIAL

- Priestly class
- Mercantile class
- Common man
- Condition of women, children (girl & boys)

Economic

First Urbanisation

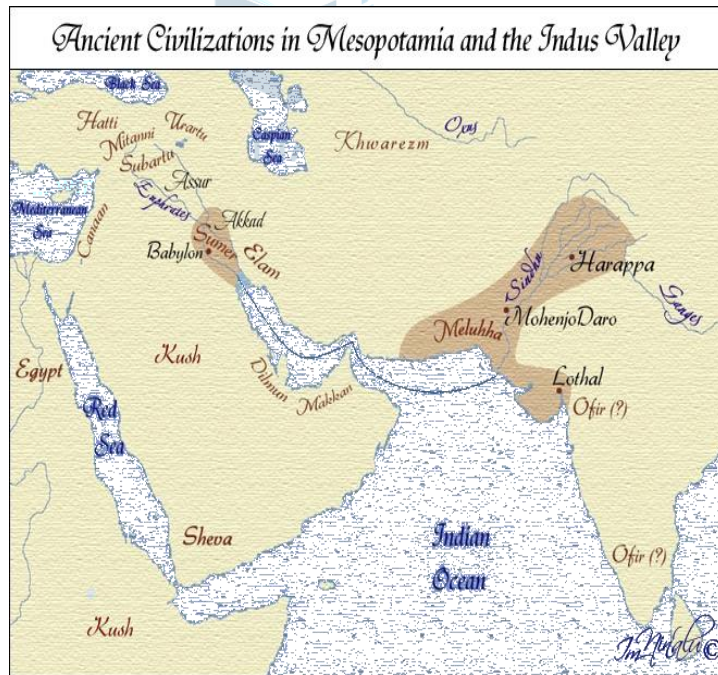
Trade

Religion

- Worship of Nature

CAUSES OF DECLINE

- Aryan Invasion
- Mismatch of supply and demand of food grains
- Change in rivers course
- Decline in foreign trade



- Natural Disaster (earthquake)

CONTINUITY WITH PRESENT ERA

- Bull worship
- Worship of Shiva (Proto-type)
- Worship of Nature
- Female figurine, bull, Horned Deity, Pipal-sacred.
- Differences between Mesopotamia & IVC
 - Mesopotamian city had a number of temples, each owning land & participating in trade

- Mesopotamian merchant's houses are not on lavish Indus scale & had miserable sanitary arrangements

PUZZLES

- Why the Indus merchant did not adopt writing upon clay tablets from Iraq?
- Why did they not take over the better foreign tools?
- Why not use canal irrigation & deep ploughing for agriculture?
 - 1) Proto-Australoid
 - 2) Mediterranean
 - Most primitive
 - Might have arrived in India in late neolithic times
 - Head is small
 - 3) Mongoloid
 - 4) Alpines
 - 5) Armenoid
 - short headed with a markedly convex high bridged nose
 - Evolved in SW Asia
 - Might have migrated from Persia & Persian Gulf
 - Lothal
 - 6) Nordics
 - Head is massive
 - Chitpavan or Konkanastha Brahmin
 - Indo-Aryans

QUESTIONS

- A. The decline of Harappan civilisation was caused by ecological degradation rather than external invasion. 2015 (20M)
- B. Do you think the Harappan civilisation had a diversity of subsistence base? 2014 (15M)
- C. The ancient civilisation in Indian subcontinent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia & Greece in that its culture & tradition have been preserved without to the present day. Comment 2015 GS (12 ½)
- D. To what extent has the urban planning & culture of the Indus Valley civilisation provided inputs to the present day urbanisation? Discuss 2014 (10M)
- E. The continuity of Indus Valley Civilisation into later ages was not confined to the religious & spiritual field alone. Analyse the statement. 1997
- F. Explain why majority of the known Harappan settlement are located in the semi arid areas with saline groundwater 2016
- G. Discuss the water management & its conservation planning in the Harappan (Indus – Saraswati) cities 2013 (20M)
- H. Explain majority of known Harappan settlement are located in semi-arid areas with saline ground water. 2016 20 M

*Bronze- Stone tools –difficult to clear forest

*Potentialities of the place for food production

- Proximity to trade routes
- Source of raw material & mineral resources
- Use of river for transportation
- Lothal – arid coastal plain
- Suktagendor – Makran coast.
- Harappana- Access to Hindukush & N.W. Frontier.
 - -Access to precious stones such as Turquoise & lapis-lazuli from Afghanistan.

- The settlement of Jodhpur ,Bagor & Ganeshwar in Central Rajasthan were in close proximity of khetri-mines.
- I. Discuss water management & its conservations planning in the Harappan (Indus-Saraswati cities). 2013 20 M.
- Transitional zone between rainfall region of western Asia & monsoon rainfall region of south Asia.
 - Bullocks & oxes
 - Mohenjodaro - Hundreds of well dug
 - - Great Bath.
 - Several sights in western Sind lie close to natural spring or artesian wells.
 - Allahdino-water from stone-lined artisans wells was utilised.
 - Gujarat-no winter rainfall.
 - Dholavira-bunds were constructed across the channel of minor rivuletes to pond the several flow & diverts it into reservoir in the city.
 - Harappans & Mohenjodaro- Waste water management system.

CHALCOLITHIC

Q.5. In the absence of written script, chalcolithic pottery gives us a fascinating insight into the culture & lifestyle of the people of those times comment critically. 2013, 15M.

- Pottery was both rotating wheel made & hand made.
- It was decorated with naturalist design such as birds , animals & fishes
- Mohoa pottery –might have been used for drinking by upper strata of society & not every body – social stratification.

NEOLITHIC AGE 7000 BC

- Polished stone tools
- Widely used metal was copper
- Late Stone Age
- Neolithic

Q. Delineate and account for the regional characteristics of the Neolithic period in India.

Q. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. 2015 12.5 M GS I

a) Middle Eastern Region:-

- Chopani-Mando – earliest evidence of pottery.
- Belan Vlley (6000 B.C.)
- Koldihawa – Rice Forming community
- Mahagara

b) Northern Region:-

- Burzahom (250B.C.)
- Evidence of agriculture and domestication of animal have not been found.
- Placing of dog in grace of master, pit dwelling north Chinese Neolithic culture.

C) South of river Godavari:-

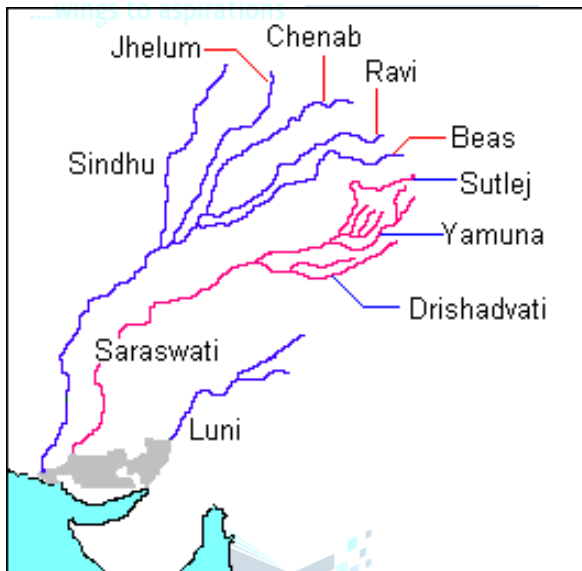
- 2500 B.C. – 1500 B.C.
- Stone axes & stone blades.
- Fire Baked earthen figurines suggest that they kept large no of cattles .
- Reddish brown pottery, red wave & grey Wave indicate different phases of Neolithic culture.
- Millet.
- Houses made in circular or rectangular shape of mud & reed.
- Piklihal

D)Mid – Gangetic valley:-

- 2500 – 1500 B.C.
- Chirand
- Microlithic ground cells, bone tools, semi-precious stones.

RIGVEDIC PERIOD 1500 – 1000 BC

Geographical area



Vedic Saraswati as drawn by Valdiya

POLITICAL

- Tribal or Tribes
- Who were rulers
 - Priestly class or
 - Warrior class
- Battle of ten kings
- Separation of temporal from spiritual power

SOCIAL

- Priestly class
- Warrior class
- Common man
- Condition of women, children (girls & boys)
- Male had more important role

- Women slaves but in household activities
- Purushsukt

VARNA

- Ritual status
- By the middle of first millenium, dvija
- Caste would be the result of people being conquered, subordinated or encroached upon by caste society already observing varna distinctions.
- Then there was a re-allocation of status

ECONOMIC

- Source of income was war booty
- Nomadic People

RELIGION

- Worship of nature
- Personification of natural forces
- Terracotta figurine are alien
- Fertility cults meets with strong disapproval
- Life after death was envisaged in terms of either punishment or reward
- Metempsychosis – souls being reborn in plants

Indo – Aryan

- Indo-Aryan is of the Indo-European family of language
- Indo-Aryan language also incorporated elements of Dravidian & Munda
- Northern Syria
 - i. A treaty between Hittites & Mitannis (1400 BC)
 - ii. Indra, Mitra, Nasatya, Varuns.
 - iii. No reference of Agni & Soma

RIG VEDA

- Hittites & Mitanni Treaty (1380 BC)
 - Mitanni had come from East
 - Names of leaders, military & equestrian terminology appears to be derived from Sanskrit
 - Mitanni art shows peacock & peacock like griffins

LITERATURE

- Rigveda – 1500-1000 BC (2nd millennium BC)

Samveda

Yajurveda

Atharweda

- Brahmans – exegesis on the rituals
- Upanishad
- Aranyaka
- Sutra
 - Grihyasutra

– Shrautasutra – public rituals performed for establishing status

– Dharmasutra – sacred duty in accordance with caste regulations

➤ Mahabharat (900 BC)

- Societies adhering to clan & lineage organisation
- It marked the termination of clan-based societies

➤ Ramayan

- More closely on the endorsement of monarchy
- The theme of exile represents migration & settling of communities in forested areas

➤ Religion

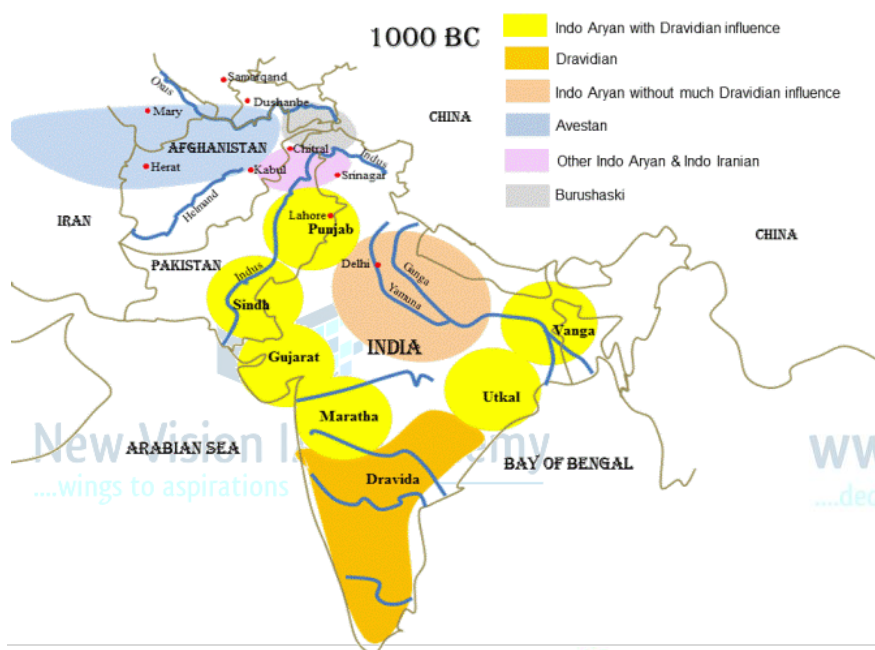
- How did Indo-Aryan become the dominant language of Northern India?

• Power

- Effective technology
- Claims to the ritual superiority

Q. “ Archaeology known of no Aryans, only literature knows of Aryans” Examine critically. 2015 (15M)

LATER VEDIC PERIOD 1000-600 BC



GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

POLITICAL

- State formation
 - What were the reasons for state formation?

SOCIAL

- Brahman
- Kshatriya
- Vaishya
- Shudra

- Condition of women

ECONOMIC

- Agriculture developed
- To some extent trade

RELIGION

- Worship of Nature
- New Gods formed
- Religious sacrifices

UPANISHAD

- Around 600 B.C.
- Salvation by knowledge or realisation rather than by faith or works. Their ethics are fundamentally pragmatic
- Karma & Rebirth were emphasised
- More contribution of kshatriyas than Brahman in creation of Upanishad
- Kshatriyas were testing the efficacy of yajna or sacrifices. That led to development of upanishadic through.
- Chhandogya & Brihadranyaka Upanishad- oldest one.

Q. "The Upanishadic principles embody the epitome of the Vedic thought" Discuss 2014 15M

Q. Examine the view that sacrifice was a ritual and a form of social exchange in India. 2010

Q. Evaluate various views regarding human settlement as gleaned from Vedic sources. 2013

Q. Evaluate the conceptual basis of the Vedic deities. 2011

Q. "The Varna concept may always have been largely a theoretical model & never an actual description of society" Comment in the context of Ancient India. 2013

URBANISATION 600 B.C.

Urban Revolution

- The size of urban settlement.
- Social stratification.
- Wealth Distributions.
- Trade Relations.
- V. Gordan Child.

PERSIA (600 BC)

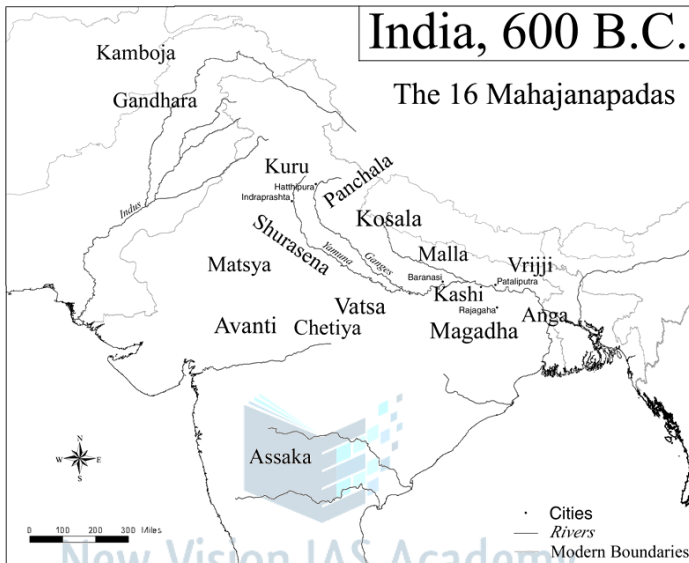
- Achaemenid Emperor of Persia, Cyrus 530 BC- Kamboj
- Perhaps the rock inscription of Ashoka was inspired by rock inscription of Darius
- Script- Kharoshti- Aramaic
- Achaemenid asendancy in NW India was ended by Alexander of Macedon in 330 BC
- Irrigation
- Iron-agriculture & craft activities
- Agriculture surplus

- Collecting and redistributing of surplus
- Possibly, the mobilisation of labour for the extension of agriculture took precedence over urban construction
- The evolution towards the state required a new relationship between those who laboured & those who managed their labour
- Untouchables – hereditary status

a) Economic deprivation

- Clan loyalty weakened giving way to caste loyalty
- Rise of wealthy traders

b) Social disability



Geographical Area

POLITICAL

- Mahajanapada
- Monarchy
- Republican

SOCIAL

- Brahmans
- Kshatriya
- Vaishya
- Shudra

- Untouchable
- Condition of women
- Amrapali
- Little clay cart – Vasantsena, Charudatta
- Ramgarh cave inscription (Religious prostitution)- just after Ashoka

1. Ancient India contained one class of women who were not bound by the rules and restrictions which limited the freedom of the high caste wife. Explain

ECONOMIC

- Second Urbanisation

Trade

- Alagankulam- NBPW
- Punch-marked coins
- Ujjain, Vidisha, Tripuri – Pratishthana
- Tamruk

- NBPW (Northern Black Polished Ware)

- Bhrigukachchha

- Usury
- Brahmi script

RELIGION

- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Ajivika
- Charvak

RELIGION & IDEOLOGIES

- Jainism
 - The purification of soul is the goal of living
 - To achieve, purification of soul, required balance living

• Buddhism

- It was atheistic
- Origin of state
- Buddha denied the existence of atman of soul

BUDDHIST LITERATURE

- Early literature was in Pali
- Suttapitaka (Dialogue between Buddha and followers)
- Vinaypitaka (Rules of monasteries)
- Upanishads

PANINI

- Ashtadhyayi (500 BC) – grammar of Sanskrit

- Why grammar was written at this time?

- To prevent further changes in Sanskrit introduced by the currency of non-Aryan language
- To provide structure for the learning of language
- Oral tradition be given from the north-west.

Gana – Sangh (Oligarchy)

➤ Characteristics

- Power was diffused
- Stratification of society was limited
 - Kshatriya rajakula
 - Dasa karmakars
 - Ramification of administration & coercive authority were not extensive

- No democracy

- Republic – it conceded social stratification but was distinct from monarchy

CHARVAKA



- He believed that only the world perceived by the senses was real

- The existence of God was denied

- Also denied the truth of Vedas

Q. How far it correct to say that changes in post Vedic economy gave birth to new religious movement in India? 2015 (20M)

Q. Trace the role of guilds & trade organisations in the development of early Indian economy 2015 (15M)

Q. Buddha's teaching to a large extent could be helpful in understanding & resolving the problems of today's society. Analyse critically. 2014 (15M)

• Throw light on the technical achievement during the ancient period.

• Semi-transparent silk

• NBPW pottery

• Mauryan art

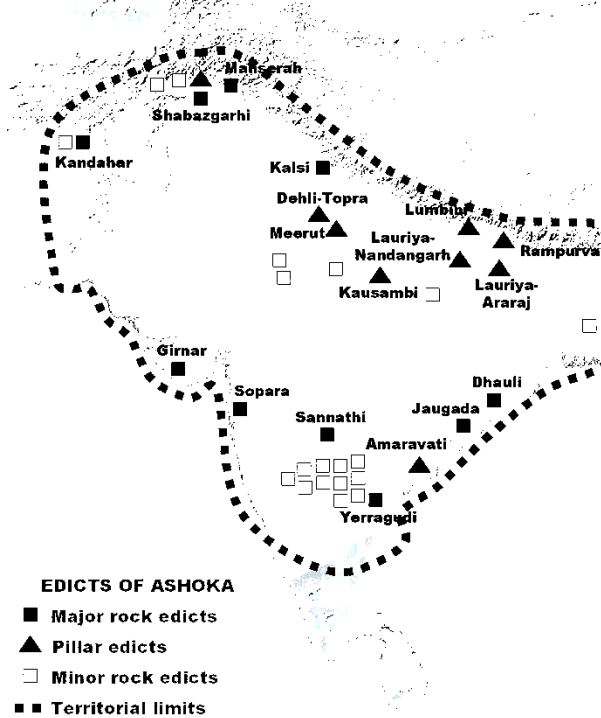
• Gupta Iron Pillar

MAURYA DYNASTY 320 BC

Political structure

- Highly centralised bureaucracy
- King supported by council of ministers

EDICTS OF ASHOKA



EDICTS OF ASHOKA

- Major rock edicts
- ▲ Pillar edicts
- Minor rock edicts
- Territorial limits

— Religious aspect

Economy

- Pataliputra as economic centre
- Source of Royal Treasury
- Couldn't exploit resources in South India

Social

- Buddhism got religious support
- Further deterioration in women's status
- Womens were employed as royal bodyguard

Religion

- Dhamma Policy
 - Political aspects
 - Economic aspect

ARTS, ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE

- Rock Edicts
- Cave Edicts
- Arthashastra

CAUSES OF DECLINE

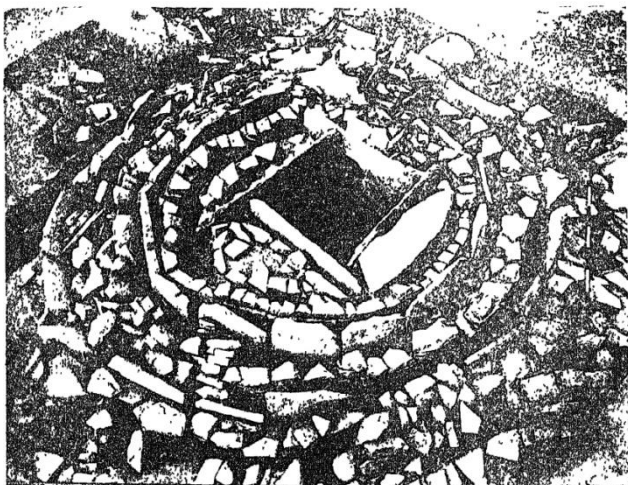
- Ashoka's Dhamma Policy
- Exhaustion of State Treasury
- Neglect of North-West frontier policy
- Division of Empire
- Brahmanical reaction policy

Q. Delineate the nature & impact of India's contact with western Asia & the mediterranean world during the Mauryan period 2015 (15M)

Q. Discuss different interpretations of historians about the nature of Ashoka's 'Dhamma'. Did his principle of 'Dhamma- Vijay' render the Mauryan Empire militaristically weak? 2014 (20M)

MEGALITHIC CULTURE (300 BC-500 AD)

- Source
 - Megalithic burials
 - Inscription in Tamil Brahmi
 - Sangam literature
- Megalithic burials
 - Menhirs (Sarna)
 - Dolmens
 - Urn burials (Black & Red Ware Pottery)
 - Stone circle
 - Rock cut chambers (Kerala)
- Megalithic people had enough time & enough regular food surplus to produce monuments
- The purpose of monument is not clear
- Megalithic people had some cattle
- Megalithic always closer to rougher microliths
- The 'thin microliths' people could have processed only their skins: deer, sheeps, goats, hare



17.1 Megalithic Burial

- Iron-implements hoes, horse trapping
- Black & red ware pottery
- Perhaps the beginning of irrigated rice-cultivation in South India

Sangam literature (200 BC – 300 AD)

- Ettutogai
- Pattupattu
- Awareness of environment & the correlation of activities to ecological perception
- Not mention social ordering of Varna

- **Economy**

- Perhaps the beginning of irrigated rice cultivation
- Roman trade – pepper
- Iron-technology was not the marker of full fledged sedentary peasant farming
- The initial thrust towards urbanisation & the formation states may have resulted from the increasing demands of trade
- Little evidence of clearing forest

- **Changes**

- **Mutation of barter into trade**

- Clan based agriculture becoming peasant cultivation
- Use of non-kin labour organised by chiefs
- The chiefs acquiring wealth through means other than raids.

Q. In what ways can the Megalithic culture be considered a foundational phase of history of peninsular India? 2014 (15M)

Q. Discuss the extent, settlement pattern & subsistence economy of megalithic culture.2010, 30 M

A) Extent:-

- Nagpur in Maharashtra.
- Nagarjunkonda on bank of river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh
- Maski on the bank of Tungabhadra in Karnataka
- Adichannallur in TN & Kerala

B) Settlement:-.

- It evolved from the earlier Neolithic or chalcolithic culture of peninsula .
- Living in one area for very short time.
- Wide distributions of identical type of iron object testing to the movement of fairly tightly knit group of iron workers.

Q. Megalithic people were the original builder of the Harappan civilisation. Critically examine.

- Harappa-Proto-Austroloid 2500-1700
- Megalithic (Mediterranean- West Asia) – civilisation
- After Aryan invasion a) UP b) Southernmost south
- Megalithic (500 BC – 100 AD)

INDO – GREEK 200 BC – 350 AD

- Indo-Greek coins
 - Aesthetic excellence
 - Precise economic value



- Providing information on centre of exchange
- Inscriptions
 - Record donation or grants
- Rulers
 - Demetrius (acquired large area of South Afghanistan, the Punjab & Indus Valley)
 - Menander (150- 135 BC)
- Emerging religious sects & cults
- Royal eulogies & annals

SCYTHIANS/ SHAKAS

- Burial chambers
 - Vast graves constructed of timbers have an almost architectural quality
 - Variation in size reflecting social differentiation
 - Grave goods- weaponry, horse trapping, gold
- Chinese silk
 - Entered India & eastern Mediterranean
- Rules
 - Mauves or Moga (80 BC) established power at Gandhar
 - Azes annexed Indo-Greek territory from Hippostratus
 - Azes- Krita, Malava or Vikramaditya samvat (58 BC)

RUDRADAMAN (150 AD)

- i. Junagarh inscription
- ii. Was Rudradaman deliberately aligning himself with Brahmanism?
- iii. It is ironic that the use of Sanskrit in inscription should have begun with person whose varna status could be questioned

- Yuechi/ Kushan
 - Kanishka – 78 – 144 AD
 - 78 AD – Shaka era
- Satavahan
 - Satkarni (50 BC)
 - Gautamiputra Satkarni
 - Vasisthiputra Pulayami or Shri Pulamavi
 - Satavahan refrained from taking imperial titles
 - Some Satavahan king uses matronymics

IKSHVAKUS

- Located in Krishna Valley
- Built magnificent city – Nagarjunkonda
- Gender division of patronage

i. The King performed Vedic sacrifice

ii. Women of royal family were generous donors to the Buddhist Sangh

• **TRADES**

- The decline of the Kushanas was contemporary with the decrease in Roman commercial interest in central Asia
- Ujjain was linked via Bhokardan, Kotalingals, Dhulikatta & Peddabunkur to Amravati.
- The trapping of South-East Asia by Indian traders was in part spurred by Roman trade
- The Roman demand for spices, textiles, semi-precious stones

• **SHRENI / GUILD**

- Production & exchange were facilitated
- Shreni was not identical with European guild
- Shreni offered status & degree of security to artisans
- Royalty invested its money in commercial activities
- The endowment created a nexus between royalty, Shreni & Sangh
- Shrenis were profitable & socially acceptable
- Paucity of high value Roman coins in north India

• **WRITERS**

i. Diodorus – Library of History

ii. Strabo's – Geography

iii. Arrians – Indika

iv. Pleny the Elder – Natural History

v. Ptolemy – Geography

• **IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES**

- Bhasa-Swapnavasavadatta
- Charak
- Shushruta

• **GANDHAR ART**

- In N-W, at Jalalabad, Begram, Taxila, Swat Valley the preferred stone was schist
- Apollo like face
- Greek gods were depicted paying obeisance to the Buddha
- Stucco was a popular technique
- At Bamiyan, monasteries were decorated with an abundance of stucco image of Buddha

- **INNOVATIONS IN BUDDHISM**

- The popularity of Buddhism was its readiness to assimilate local cults
- The deification of the Buddha
- Worship of Buddha image
- The concept of Bodhisattva
- The notion of transferring merit

- **VEDIC BRAHMANISM**

- Some of the Vedic gods had passed into oblivion
- Some lost their pre-eminence
- Vedic Brahmanism became differentiated from sects such as the Bhagavata & Shiva
- The notion of trinity

Q. The economic impact of the Roman trade was more evident in southern India, the impact of Romano-Greek ideas & artifacts was more evident in the north. Elaborate.

- Technical words
- Buddhism
- Divinity of Kingship (Temple)

GUPTA DYNASTY 320 – 550 AD



Q. Discuss the provincial & district administrative unit of the Gupta Empire with the designation & functions of officers. 2014 (15M)

POLITICAL

- King
- Provincial Governor
- Samudragupta's South Indian expedition
- Vakatakas Empire – Prabhavati Gupta
- Loose federation

- **ECONOMY**

- Gupta made initial attempt at restructuring the agrarian economy – land grants to individuals
- Granting land as a support to kingship could be more efficacious than the performance of a sacrifice
- Agrahara
- Brahmadeya

- Gupta period economy having feudal characteristics
- It has been argued that there was a decay in urban centres
 - i) The Hun invasion of Roman Empire
 - ii) The insufficiency of agricultural produce
 - iii) If there was a tapping of new resources, trade routes may have bypassed areas that were once important
 - iv) The Indian merchants had become more assertive in central Asia & South-East Asia
- In some part of the sub continent, the gupta age was the concluding phase of the economic momentum that began in the preceding period

SOCIAL/ RELIGIOUS

- Revival of Hinduism
- Worship of Shakti
- Trantrism
- Deterioration in status of women (Iran Inscription)
- Society
 - It is evident from inscription that some degree of mobility among jatis was accepted
 - Mandasor inscription (436 AD)
 - Kalidasa – Shakuntala
- Shakta-Shakti cult
 - The consorts male deities were worshipped
 - In Buddhism, Vajrayana or Thunderbolt vehicle

VAISHNAVISM & SHAIVISM

- Image emerged as the focus of worship, centred on puja, superseded the Vedic sacrifice
- Bhakti-becoming the most widespread form of the puranic religion
- The puranic religion had a wider appeal
- It underlined the individual's participation in the religion

ART, ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coins • Temple • Kalidas • Golden age in Indian History • Metallurgical development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajanta - Rock cut Buddhist caves - The caves were decorated with sculpture & some contain mural painting |
|---|--|

- In the process of mutual political dependency links were forged between the emerging kingdom & the chiefdoms
- Rise of smaller states drawing on local sources of power & emerging as a centre of authority
- The possibility of multiplying intermediaries at various point in the structure led to a wider diffusion of income from land
 - It weakened the kings position
 - As land constituted property, it allowed the brahman to appropriate the authority of the kshatriya & establish a ruling lineage

SOCIAL/ RELIGION

- Increasing the power of a class of people who were variously called samants, ranak, rautta (Rajput)
- Shudras condition worsened
- Marriages between different caste were frowned upon
- Individuals & groups can rise in varna scale & they can also fall
- Kayastha caste
- Remarriage was allowed under certain conditions
- Daughters had the right to succeed to the properties of a widow
- Growth of a feudal society strengthened the concept of private property

ART, ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE

- Hiue – Tse – Tsang
- Nagnanda
- Harshacharit

Q. “ Tantrism, if not in practice, at least on conceptual level challenged patriarchy”. Examine Tantrism specially keeping in mind the above context 2015 (15M)



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