

#1. Introduction: [1] 187 BC, the Mauryan Empire met its end → rise of many regional kingdoms [2] invasions by various groups of people based in Central Asia and western China [3] invaders were Indo-Greeks, the Scythians or the Shakas, the Parthians or the Pahlavas and the Kushanas

- The Shungas:** [1] Pushyamitra Sunga was Brahmin army chief of Brihadratha, the last king of the Mauryas killed Brihadrath formed Shunga dynasty [2] Stupas at Sanchi and Barhut were renovated. He built the sculptured stone gateway at Sanchi [3] Pushyamitra Sunga patronised the Sanskrit grammarian Patanjali. **Agnimitram:** Was Pushyamitra's son who succeeded him to the throne + Agnimitra is the hero of Kalidasa's poem, Malavikagnimitram + Shunga dynasty ended with assassination of last king Devbhuti by Vasudev Kanva.
- Effects of Sunga rule:** Hinduism was revived under the Sungas + The caste system was also revived with the rise of the Brahmanas + The language of Sanskrit gained more prominence during this time.

#2. Foreign Invasion of India:

- The Bactrians or the Indo-Greeks (2nd century BC):** [1] After the death of Alexander in 323 BC, → Greeks came to settle on the northern western borders of India with Bactria [2] famous ruler: Menander also called Milinda [3] Discussion between Milinda and Nagsena (Nagarjun) has been compiled in a book called Milindpanho (written in Pali) [4] Milinda accepted Buddhism as his religion [5] capital was Sakala (sialcot) now in Pakistan.
- The Shakas (Scythians) (1st century BC to 4th century AD):** originally belonged to central Asia + empire extended North-West and Gujarat region + most famous of all the Shaka rulers was Rudradaman + he is credited with renovation of Sudarshan lake + issued Girnar or Junagarh inscription written in Sanskrit
Satrap System of Shakas: The Satrapa system was similar to the Iranian Achaemenid and Seleucid systems → kingdom was divided into provinces, each under military governor 'Mahakshatrapa' (Great Satrap) → The governors of lower status were called 'Kshatrapas' (Satraps) + The governors had the right to mint coins and issue their own inscriptions.
- The Parthians (1st century BC to 1st century AD):** The Parthians were of Iranian origin + This dynasty ruled Afghanistan, Pakistan and northern India, during the 1st century AD + The most renowned Parthian king was Gondophernes in whose reign St. Thomas came to India to propagate Christianity + The Indo-Parthian rule in India ended and soon Kushanas overpowered them.
- The Kushans:** The Kushanas, originally belonged to western China + They are also called Yueh-chis + Kushanas after defeating Shakas and Pahlavas created a big empire in Pakistan.

Kanishka: Considered the greatest Kushana king + Son of Vima Kadphises + started a new era, now known as the Shaka era + His empire extended from Central Asia to north India and included Varanasi, Kaushambi and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh + His main capital was Peshawar, then known as Purushpura + Buddhist monk Ashvaghosha belonged to his court + his court included Parsva, Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna, Charaka and Mathara + He also patronised the Greek engineer Agesilaus + Kanishka convened the fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalvana in Kashmir + His coins contain a mix of Indian, Greek and Zoroastrian deities + The Gandhara and Mathura School of art flourished under him + He also propagated Mahayana form of Buddhism and he was largely responsible for propagating it in China.

Significance of the Kanishka: Sanskrit literature began to be developed during this time + The fourth Buddhist council was held in Sanskrit + Ashvaghosha is considered to be the first Sanskrit dramatist + Trade prospered between India and China, and India and the Roman Empire + The Kushanas controlled large parts of the Silk Route which led to the propagation of Buddhism into China

Religious beliefs of Kanishka: In the beginning he was not a follower of Buddhism + His early coins bear the images of the Persian, Greek and Hindu gods → under Buddhist monk Asvaghosha influence embraced Buddhism.

Trade and Commerce: with Romans, Chinese and with south India.

Kushan Polity and administration: whole empire was divided into provinces, each ruled by a mahakshatrpa (a military governor), who was assisted by a kshatrpa + Kushan introduced the concept that King is divine (Devputra) and his rule is legitimate as ordained by the Gods + In the Kushana realm the commander of the army was known as the Dandanayaka (danda=army, nayaka=leader/captain).

Kushan impact on Society: Devputra + beginning of the feudal system + beginning of the Kshatrpa system + hereditary dual rule when both father and the son ruled the same kingdom at the same time

Impact of Central Asian contact on India:

Impact of Indo Greek (Bactrian Greeks) (2nd century BC)

Indo Greeks issued first gold coins in India by the Kings + They developed trade routes between India Mediterranean regions + influenced Gandhara School of art + idol worshipping in Buddhism was influenced from Greeks + moulded coins + portrait-coinage style + astronomy + influenced Indian theatres (character of a clown, Vidushaka, and the use of curtain, which is called 'Yavanika' in Sanskrit) + Yunani medicines.

Impact of the Central Asian contacts on Indian society: sub caste emerged in the Indian society + Bifurcation of Buddhism into two sects under Kushan ruler Kanishka + Huge donation from foreign invaders to Buddhist monks corrupted Buddhist Sangha.

Science and technology: Medical science: Charaka in his book Charaksamhita included many herbs from Central Asian sources + Glass making became prominent + Minting of gold coins under Kushans + art of leather shoes developed under Kushans.

#3. The Satvahanas: [1] founded by Simuka → rose to power in middle of the first century BC after killing Kanva king [2] kingdom majorly comprised present **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana** [3] Two of the capitals were Amaravati and Pratishtana (Paithan) [4] They are also called Andhras [5] Gautamiputra Satakarni (first century AD) is considered to be the greatest of the Satavahana rulers [6] The Satavahans were Brahmanas and worshipped gods like Vasudeva Krishna [7] also called Andhras and Dakshinapatha Pati [7] patronised Prakrit more than Sanskrit [8] Nanaghat Inscription belong to Satvahanas [9] Nagarjunkonda and Amaravati became important Buddhist centers during the Satavahana Era

Satvahana Administration: Mostly inspired from **Mauryan** administration + Satavahana kingdom was divided into subdivisions called **aharas** or rashtras, meaning **districts** + The lowest level of administration was a **grama** which was under the charge of a **Gramika** + first in Indian history to make **tax free land grants to Buddhists and Brahmanas** to gain religious merit + Prakrit as official language + first time the regular practice of imposing a cess on salt production called **Lonakhadakam**.

Guilds: basically, associations of merchants and craftsmen + They elected their head and framed their own rules regarding prices and quality etc + regulate their business on the basis of mutual goodwill + also served as banks and received deposits.

Satvahana Religious beliefs: Brahmins + also supported Buddhism + Constructed important stupas like Amravati and Nagarjunakonda + The Nagarjunakonda stupa contains Buddhist monuments and also the earliest Brahmanical brick temples.

Literature: The official language of the Satvahanas was Prakrit + script was Brahmi + One Prakrit text called Gathasaptasati, is attributed to a Satavahana king called Hala.

Coins: Language: Prakrit + use of Ujjain symbol + made up of Copper, Silver, Lead and Potin and few Gold also + Lead was most common + coins carried portrait of Kings and also image of Ships.

Important Satvahana rulers:

- 1) Simuka: founder of Satvahana dynasty.
- 2) Hala: compiled the Gatha Saptashati+ Hala's minister Gunadhya composed Brihatkatha.
- 3) Gautamiputra Satkarni: greatest king of the Satavahana dynasty+ Son of Balashri+ mentioned in Nasik inscription of his mother+ described as Ekabrahmana.
- 4) Vashistiputra Pulumayi: married to the daughter of Rudradaman I (Junagadh inscriptions)
- 5) Yajnashri Satkarni: issued coins with motif of Ship.

Trade and commerce in Post Mauryan period:

There were two major internal land routes in ancient India.

- 1) Uttarapatha, connected northern and eastern parts of India with the north.
- 2) Dakshinapatha, connected the peninsular India with the western and northern parts of India.

What was Dakshinapatha?

The Dakshinapatha was the major route that connected north and south India.

Started from Kaushambi near Allahabad → Ujjain → Pratisthan (Paithan) which was capital of Satvahnas.

What was Uttarapatha?

This route started from Kabul in Afghanistan to Chittagong in Bangladesh. It covered Khyber Bypass and connected cities like Rawalpindi, Amritsar, Attari, Delhi, Mathura, Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata, Dhaka and Chittagong. Important ports of India on the western coast were (from north to south direction) **Bharukachchha, Sopara, Kalyana, Muziris, etc.** Ships from these ports sailed to the Roman Empire through the Red Sea + Prominent ports on the eastern coast of India were **Tamralipti (West Bengal), Arikamedu (Tamil Nadu Coast)** etc.

Trade with West and Central Asia: Thriving trade between India and Greek-Rome; Initially was carried on land route but frequent intrusion of Persian in land route shifted focus to Sea route; The best account of Indo-Roman trade is given in the book called Periplus of the Erythrean Sea which was written in the first century AD by an anonymous author; Main requirements of the Romans were the Indian products such as spices, perfumes, jewels, ivory and fine textiles, i.e. muslin. Spices exported from India to the ; Roman empire included pepper, also called yavanapriya (perhaps because of its popularity among Romans and Greek).