

UNIT: 2 -THE POST - MAURYAN INDIA

CLASS : VI

SUBJECT : SOCIAL (HISTORY)

I. Choose the correct answer

- The last Mauryan emperor was killed by_____.
(a) Pushyamitra (b) Agnimitra (c) Vasudeva (d) Narayana
- _____ was the founder of Satavahana dynasty.
(a) Simuka (b) Satakarani (c) Kanha (d) Sivasvati
- _____ was the greatest of all the Kushana emperors.
(a) Kanishka (b) Kadphises I (c) Kadphises II (d) Pan-Chiang
- The Kantara School of Sanskrit flourished in the ____ during 2nd century BC.
(a) Deccan (b) north-west India (c) Punjab (d) Gangetic Valley
- Sakas ruled over Gandhara region
(a) Sirkap (b) Taxila (c) Mathura (d) Purushpura

II. Match the statement with the reason and tick the appropriate answer

- Assertion (A):** Colonies of Indo-Greeks and Indo-Parthians were established along the north-western part of India.

Reason (R): The Bactrian and Parthian settlers gradually intermarried and intermixed with the indigenous population.

- Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is correct but R is not correct.
 - A is not correct but R is correct.
- Statement I:** Indo-Greek rulers introduced die system and produced coins with inscription and symbols, engraving figures on them.
Statement II: Indo-Greek rule was ended by the Kushanas.
 - Statement I is wrong, but statement II is correct.
 - Statement II is wrong, but statement I is correct
 - Both the statements are correct.
 - Both the statements are wrong.

- Circle the odd one

Pushyamitra, Vasudeva, Simuka, **Kanishka**

Reason:

- ❖ All of the three generals assassinated their kings.
- ❖ Kanishka followed Buddhism, whereas the other three rulers were not followers of Buddhism.

- Answer the following in a word

1. Who was the last Sunga ruler?

Devabhutu

2. Who was the most important and famous king of Sakas?

Rudradaman

3. Who established Kanva dynasty in Magadha?
4. Who converted Gondophernes into Christianity?

Vasudeva
St. Thomas

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Gonduphres was the founder of Indo-Parthian Kingdom.
2. In the South, Satavahanas became independent after Asokas death.
3. Hala is famous as the author of Sattasai.
4. Susarma was the last ruler of Kanva dynasty.
5. Kushana's later capital was Peshavar or Purushpura.

IV. State whether True or False

1. Magadha continued to be a great centre of Buddhist culture even after the fall of the Mauryan Empire. **True**
2. We get much information about Kharavela from Hathigumba inscription. **True**
3. Simuka waged a successful war against Magadha. **False**
4. Buddhacharita was written by Asvaghosha. **True**

V. Match the following

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Patanjali | - | Second grammarian |
| 2. Agnimitra | - | Malavikagnimitra |
| 3. King Kharavela | - | Kalinga |
| 4. Demetrius | - | Indo-Greek |
| 5. Gondophemes | - | Indo-Parthians |

VI. Find out the wrong statement from the following

1. The Kushanas formed a section of the yueh-chi tribes who inhabited northwestern China.
2. **Kanishka made Jainism the state religion and built many monasteries.**
3. The Great Stupa of Sanchi and the railings which enclose it belong to the Sunga period.
4. Pan-Chiang was the Chinese general defeated by Kanishka.

VII. Answer in one or two sentences

1. What happened to the last Mauryan emperor?

1. The last Mauryan emperor, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his own general, Pushyamitra Sunga.
2. He established his Sunga dynasty in Magadha.

2. Write a note on Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitra.

Agnimitra is said to be the hero of Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitra (Agnimitra was the son of Pushyamitra)

3. Name the ruler of Kanva dynasty.

The Kanva dynasty produced four kings and their rule lasted only for 45 years. The Kanvas rulers were:

- Vasudeva
- Bhumi Mitra
- Narayana
- Susarman

4. Highlight the literary achievements of Satavahanas.

The Satavahana king Hala was himself a great scholar of Sanskrit. Hala is famous as the author of Sattasai (Saptasati) 700 stanzas in Prakrit.

5. Name the places where Satavahana's monuments are situated.

- Gandhara, Mathura, Amaravati, Bodha Gaya, Sanchi and Bharhut were known for splendid monuments and art.
- The Mathura School of Sculpture produced images and life-size statues of the Buddhist, Brahmanical and Jain deities.

6. Give an account of the achievements of Kadphises I.

- Kadphises I was the first military and political leader of the Kushanas.
- He overthrew the Indo-Greek and Indo-Parthian rulers.
- He established himself as a sovereign ruler of Bactria.
- He extended his power in Kabul, Gandhara and upto Indus.

7. Name the Buddhist saints and scholars who adorned the court of Kanishka.

- Kanishka was an ardent Buddhist.
- His court was adorned with a number of Buddhist saints and scholars, like Asvaghosha, Vasumitra and Nagarjuna.

VIII. Answer the following

1. Who invaded India after the decline of the Mauryan empire?

- ❖ The break-up of Mauryan empire resulted in the invasions of Sakas, Scythians, Parthians, Indo-Greeks or Bactria Greeks and Kushanas from the north-west.
- ❖ In the South, Satavahanas became independent after Asoka's death.
- ❖ There were Sunga and Kanva in the north before the emergence of Gupta dynasty.
- ❖ Chedis (Kalinga) declared their independence.
- ❖ Though Magadha ceased to be the premier state of India, it continued to be a great centre of Buddhist culture.

2. Give an account of the conquests of Pushyamitra Sunga.

- ❖ Pushyamitra Sunga established his Sunga dynasty in Magadha.
- ❖ He extended his kingdom westward to include Ujjain and Vidisha.
- ❖ He successfully repulsed the invasion of Bactria king.
- ❖ He thwarted an attack from the Kalinga king, Kharavela.
- ❖ He also conquered Vidarbha.

3. Write a note on Gautamiputra Satakarni.

- ❖ Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest ruler of the family.
- ❖ In the Nasik prashasti, published by his mother Gautami Balasri, Gautamiputra Satakarni is described as the destroyer of Sakas, Yavanas (Greeks) and Pahlavas (Parthians).
- ❖ The extent of the empire is also mentioned in the record.
- ❖ Their domain included Maharashtra, north Konkan, Berar, Gujarat, Kathiawar and Malwa.
- ❖ His silver coins are suggestive of Andhras' skill in seafaring and their naval power.
- ❖ The Bogor inscriptions suggest that South India played an important role in the process of early state formation in Southeast Asia.

4. What do you know of Gondopharid dynasty?

- ❖ Indo - Parthian kingdom or Gondopharid dynasty was founded by Gondopernes.
- ❖ The domain of Indo-Parthians comprised Kabul and Gandhara.
- ❖ The name of Gondopernes is associated with the Christian apostle St. Thomas.

- ❖ According to Christian tradition, St. Thomas visited the court of Gondophernes
- ❖ St. Thomas converted Gondophernes to Christianity.

5. Who was considered the best known Indo-Greek King. Why?

- ❖ Menander was one of the best known Indo-Greek kings.
- ❖ He is said to have ruled a large kingdom in the north-west of the country.
- ❖ His coins were found over an extensive area ranging from Kabul valley and Indus river to western Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Milinda Panha, a Buddhist text, is a discourse between Bactrian king Milinda and the learned Buddhist scholar Nagasena.
- ❖ This Milinda is identified with Menander.
- ❖ Menander is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

6. Who were Sakas?

- ❖ Sakas as nomads came in huge number and spread all over northern and western India.
- ❖ They were against the tribe of Turki nomads.
- ❖ They were Scythians, nomadic ancient Iranians.
- ❖ They were known as Sakas in Sanskrit.
- ❖ The Indo - Greek rule in India was ended by them.

7. Give an account of the religious policy of Kanishka.

- ❖ Kanishka was an ardent Buddhist.
- ❖ His empire was a Buddhist empire.
- ❖ He adopted Buddhism under the influence of Asvaghosha, a celebrated monk from Pataliputra.
- ❖ He was as equal as the exponent and champion of Mahayanism.
- ❖ He made Buddhism as the state religion.
- ❖ He built many stupas and monasteries in Mathura, Taxila and many other parts of his kingdom.
- ❖ He sent Buddhist missionaries to Tibet, China and many countries of Central Asia for the propagation of Buddha's gospel.
- ❖ He organised the fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalavana near Srinagar to sort out the differences between the various schools of Buddhism. It was only in this council that Buddhism was split into Hinayanism and Mahayanism.

IX. HOTs

1. The importance of Gandhara School of Art.

- ❖ The Gandhara School of Art had developed in the first century A.D along with Mathura School during the reign of Kushana emperor Kanishka.
- ❖ Both Sakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara school which is known for the first sculpture representations of the Buddha in human form.
- ❖ The art of the Gandhara school was primarily Mahayana.
- ❖ The Gandhara school of Indian Art is heavily indebted to Greek influence.
- ❖ The Greeks were good cave builders. The Mahayana Buddhist learnt the art of carving out caves from them and became skilled in rock cut architecture.

2. Provide an account of trade and commerce during the post-Mauryan period in South India.

- ❖ Kadphises II maintained a friendly relationship with the emperors of China and Rome.
- ❖ He encouraged trade and commerce with foreign countries.
- ❖ His coins contained the inscribed figures of Lord Siva and his imperial titles.
- ❖ The inscriptions in the coins were in the Kharosthi language.

X. Activity

1. Prepare an album with centres of archaeological monuments of Satavahanas and Kushanas.

Satavahanas :

- ❖ Several metal figurines and unique bronze objects were found from Bramhapuri.
- ❖ A bronze statue of the standing Buddha discovered in Oc-Eo (an archaeological site in Vietnam) resembles the Amaravati
- ❖ The later Satavahana kings issued lead or bronze coins depicting ships with two masts.
- ❖ A stone seal discovered in NakhonPattom in Thailand has the same design.
- ❖ Gandhara, Madhura, Amaravati, Bodh Gaya, Sanchi and Bharhut were known for splendid monuments and art.
- ❖ The Mathura School of Sculpture produced images and life-size statues of the Buddhist, Brahmanical and Jain deities.

Kushanas :

- ❖ Kanishka's coins portray images of Indian, Greek, Iranian divinities.
- ❖ He encouraged Gandhara school of art as well as Mathura school of art.
- ❖ His greatest contribution to Buddhist architecture was the Kanishka stupa at Peshawar, Pakistan.
- ❖ Several Buddhist statues are directly connected to the reign of Kanishka like Bodhisattva statues.
- ❖ Arrange a debate in the classroom on the cultural contribution of Indo-Greeks Sakas and Kushanas.

Indo-Greeks:

- ❖ Indo-Greek rulers introduced a die system and produced properly shaped coins with inscription, symbols and engraved figures on Indo-greeks.
- ❖ Indians learnt this art from Indo-greeks.
- ❖ The Gandhara school of Indian art is heavily indebted to Greek influence.
- ❖ The Greeks were good cave builders. The Mahayana Buddhist learnt the art of carving out caves from them and became skilled in rock-cut architecture.

Sakas:

- ❖ Rudradaman's Junagadh/Gimar inscription was the first inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
- ❖ In India, the Sakas were assimilated into Indian society.
- ❖ They began to adopt Indian names and practice Indian religious beliefs.

Kushanas :

- ❖ Kanishka was a great patron of art and literature. His court was adorned with a number of Buddhist saints and scholars, like Asvaghosha, Vasumitra and Nagarajuna.
- ❖ He founded the town of Kanishkapura in Kashmir and furnished the capital of Puiushapura with magnificent public buildings.
- ❖ The Gandhara school of the art flourished during this time.
- ❖ The most favourable subject of the Gandhara artists was the carving of sculptures of Buddha.
- ❖ Buddhist learning and culture was taken to China and Mongolia from Takshashila.
- ❖ The great Asiatic culture mingled with Indian Buddhist culture during the Kushana time.

XI. Answer Grid.

Who wrote Brihastkatha? Ans. Gunadhya	Name the Satavahana ruler who performed two Asvamedha sacrifices. Ans. Satakami
How many years did the Satavahanas rule the Deccan? Ans. About 450 years.	Who laid the foundation of Saka era? Ans. Mogain (or) Moa's
What was the favourite subject of the Gandhara artists? Ans. Carving of Sculptures of Buddha	Where did Kanishka organise the fourth Buddhist Council? Ans. Kundalavana near Srinagar

