

Chapter 1

Glorious India (Bharat) - Beginning to 1206 AD

From the earliest period, the history and culture of India (Bharat) has been prestigious. India (Bharat) was known as the 'World Guru' and the 'Golden Sparrow'. Accepting the world as family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam) and praying for the welfare and good health of mankind (Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarv Santu Niramayah) are our ideals.

On the basis of excavations and archaeological remains Indian (Bhartiya) culture appears to be of universal nature. Indian (Bhartiya) regions across sea were known as 'Dipantar'. Indians (Bhartiyas) travelling on powerful ships established their political and cultural empire by travelling to Brahmadesh, Siam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, Borneo, Phillipines, Japan and Korea. The ports and naval power of ancient India (Bharat) were highly developed. Scholars have mentioned about ships, sailing in the waters of Indus (Sindhu) river about 6000 years ago. Indians (Bhartiyas) travelled in various countries of the world via waterways as well as roadways and introduced Indian (Bhartiya) religion and culture to residents of distant countries. These courageous people propagated Indian (Bhartiya) philosophy, astrology, architecture, military science, political science, music and vedic treatises, all over the world. Thus we notice an extremely developed manifestation of the ancient Indian (Bhartiya) civilization.

Indus (Sindhu)-Saraswati Civilization, Vedic Civilization, civilization and culture prevalent during the time of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* have been a part of the Golden Period of India (Bharat). The Vedas are regarded as the encyclopaedia of knowledge. The Indus (Sindhu) - Saraswati Civilization is the best civilization in respect of its architecture. The

Ramayana and the *Mahabharata* have been renowned texts representing the ideals and policies of India (Bharat). Our Mahajanapada age has been the ideal of Republican and Constitutional system. Existence of various Janapadas is evident in Post Vedic period. By this time, iron was extensively used in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar. The technique of using iron significantly transformed the lifestyle of people and as a result, tendency of sedentary life settlement consolidated in the society. Development of agriculture, industries, trade and commerce was instrumental in the decline of the ancient tribal system and small Janapadas were replaced by large Janapadas. With the advent of 6th century BC, Janapadas were evolved in the form of Mahajanapadas.

In the beginning of the 6th century BC, sovereign rule was completely absent in North India (Bharat). India (Bharat) was divided into several Independent states. These states were larger and more powerful than the states of post Vedic Period.

(i) Mahajanapada Period (600-325 BC)-

Several large and powerful independent states were established during the 6th century BC in north India (Bharat). These states were known as the Mahajanapadas. As per the Buddhist text *Anguttarnikay* 16 Mahajanapadas existed at that time –

S.No.	Mahajanapadas	Capital
1.	Kashi	Varanasi
2.	Kuru	Indraprastha / Hastinapur
3.	Anga	Champa
4.	Magadha	Rajgriha/ Girivraja

5.	Vajji	Videha and Mithila
6.	Malla	Kushawati (Kushinara)
7.	Chedi	Shaktimati (Sotthivati)
8.	Vatsa	Kaushambi
9.	Kosala	Ayodhya (divided into two parts in Buddhist period, Saket- the capital of Northern part; Shravasti – the capital of Southern part)
10.	Panchala	Capital of Northern Panchala- Ahichhatra, capital of Southern Panchala –Kampilya
11.	Matsya	Virat Nagar
12.	Shoorsen	Mathura (Methora/ Shoorsenai)
13.	Ashsak	Potan or Pateli
14.	Avanti	Capital of Northern Avanti- Ujjaini, capital of Southern Avanti- Mahishmati
15.	Gandhara	Taxila
16.	Kamboja	Rajpur/Hatak

Among the above 16 Mahajanapadas, two types of states were present- Monarchy and Republic. Kosala, Vatsa, Avanti and Magadha were the most powerful monarchies of that time. Several republics also existed in 6th century BC, major were – Shakyas of Kapilvastu, Bhagas of Sunsumagiri, Bulis of Allakapa, Kaalams of Kesaputta, Koliyas of Ramagram, Mallas of Kushinara, Pava of Mallas, Moriyas of Pippalivan, Lichhavis of Vaishali, Videhas of Mithila.

Major Janapadas of Rajasthan-

In Rajasthan many Janpadas emerged with the evolution of Vedic civilization. Tribes of the Punjab like Malav, Shivi, Arjunayan etc. which were famous for courage and valour, migrated to Rajasthan as a result of Greek invasion. Thus the roots of Janapada administration system were laid

down in the Eastern part of Rajasthan.

Chief Janapadas of Rajasthan were as follows:-

Jaangal–

In the *Mahabharata* period, the present districts of Bikaner and Jodhpur were known as Jangladesh. At some places, these have been described as Kuru-Jangla and Madreya-Jangla. Ahichatrapur was the capital of this Janapada, which is now called Nagour. The king of Bikaner owned Jangladesh so he called himself 'Jaangladhar Badshah'. 'Jai Jangaldhar Badshah' is also inscribed in the royal symbol of Bikaner state.

Matsya-

The region surrounding present Jaipur was called Matsya Mahajanapada. Its expanse was from the surrounding hills of Chambal to the Jangal region of river Saraswati. Alwar and parts of Bharatpur were also included in this region. Viratnagar, which is known as Bairath at present, was its capital. Exact information about the Matsya Janapada before the reign of Maurya king Bindusara is not available. It has been mentioned in the *Mahabharata* that a king named Shahaaj ruled the states of Chedi and Matsya. In the beginning, Matsya remained a part of Chedi but later on, it became a part of the huge Magadha empire.

Shoorsen-

This Mahajanapada was situated in the modern Brij region. Mathura was its capital. Ancient Greek authors called this state 'Shoorsenoi' and its capital as 'Methora'. According to the *Mahabharata*, Yadu (Yadava) dynasty ruled here. Most of the parts of Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli districts came under Shoorsen Janapada. Eastern part of Alwar district was also in Shoorsen. Vasudeva's son Lord Krishna was linked with this Janapada.

Shivi-

Shivpur was the capital of Shivi Janapada and King Sushin had defeated it along with other tribes in the battle of ten kings. Ancient Shivpur has been identified with a place called Shorkot in present Pakistan. With passage of time, Shivi tribe

of Southern Punjab began to reside in Mewar region of Rajasthan.

Nagari, situated near Chittorgarh, was the capital of this Janapad. Shivi coins have been excavated from various places of Mewar. Five cave edicts written in Brahmi script have been excavated from places near Mandsaur. From these edicts, we come to know about the expansion of Shivi Janapada from the West to South east.

Despite the prevalent Republican Administration System, the actual administrative authority of these Janapadas was in the hands of aristocratic families. The representatives of these families managed all the administrative affairs as chiefs of Santhagara Sabha (General Assembly). The members of Santhagara could express their opinion on specific issues. This was called "Anayuvirodh". The topics of disputes were voted upon. Multi-coloured bars were used in the process of voting. Santhagara was the supreme organization of the Janapadas. Basic principles of state policies were determined in this assembly. In large republics, provincial assemblies were also existed apart from central assemblies. With time, these republics declined due to mutual conflicts and factions. To an extent the expansionist policies of contemporary monarchies were also responsible for the decline of these republics.

(ii) Maurya, Shunga, Satavahana, Gupta, Vardhan, Pal, Rashtrakuta, Pratihara, Pallava and Chalukya Dynasties -

Maurya Dynasty-

One of the 16 Mahajanapadas, Magadha developed into an empire during the period of Haryanka dynasty and with lapse of time, Magadha established its control over almost entire North India (Bharat).

Establishment of Maurya Dynasty-

Around 326 BC, a despotic ruler of Nanda dynasty, Ghananand ruled Magadha. At that time, Northwest India (Bharat) was terrified by Alexander's Invasion. The subjects were suffering from the atrocities of their king. People of the state were dissatisfied with him because of exorbitant

taxes. In such conditions, Magadha was in need of a person who could eliminate the problems which had arisen due to foreign invasions and establish the ideals of an all-powerful emperor by uniting the state. Soon, Kautilya's student Chandragupta emerged on the political horizon of India (Bharat) and he established a new dynasty called Maurya dynasty.

Chandragupta Maurya (322 BC-298 BC)-

With the help of guru Chanakya, Chandragupta ascended the royal throne of Magadha at the age of 25, by defeating Ghananand who was the last Nanda ruler. Through his extensive victory campaign, Chandragupta Maurya established the first pan India (Bharat) empire. In 305 BC, he defeated a Greek ruler Seleucus Nicator. After a treaty, Seleucus took 500 elephants from Chandragupta and surrendered Eastern Afghanistan, Baluchistan and the region in the western side of Indus (Sindhu) river to Chandragupta. Seleucus also got his daughter Helena married to Chandragupta and sent Megasthenes as his ambassador in Chandragupta's court. Parts of Kabul, Herat, Kandhar, Baluchistan, Punjab, plains of Ganga and Yamuna, Bihar, Bengal, Gujarat, Vindhya and Kashmir were included in the Great Kingdom of Chandragupta. It is evident from the Tamil treatises *Ahananuru* and *Murananuru* that Chandragupta invaded South India (Bharat). In old age he took initiation of Jain religion from Bhadrabahu. In 298 BC, he died in Shravanbelagola (Mysore) by fasting.

Bindusara (298 BC-272 BC)-

Bindusara was the son and successor of Chandragupta who was called Amitrochates by Greek authors. In the *Vayu Purana*, he has been called Bhadrasara and in Jaina texts, he has been called Singhasena. He conquered the distant South Indian (Bhartiya) regions and included them in Magadha Empire. According to *Divyavadana* (an anthology of Buddhist tales in Sanskrit) revolts took place in Taxila during his reign and to crush these revolts, earlier Ashoka and then his elder brother Susima were sent. In the royal court of Bindusara, Greek ruler Antiochus first appointed a person

named Diamachus, as his ambassador. According to Pliny, Egyptian king Philadelphus (Ptolemy II) had sent an Egyptian Ambassador Dionysius to Bindusara's court.

Ashoka (273 BC-232 BC)-

According to Jain hearsay, Ashoka occupied Magadha's rule against the wishes of Bindusara. From Maaski and Gujjara records discovered from Southern India (Bharat), his name is found to be 'Ashoka'. In the records, Ashoka has been adorned with titles such as Devanampriya and Devanampriyadarshi. Ashoka was married to the princess of Vidisha who gave birth to Ashoka's daughter Sanghamitra and his son Mahendra. His queen Karuvaki is also mentioned in the records inscribed by Ashoka.

After seven years of coronation Ashoka included various regions of Kashmir and Khotan in his empire. During his reign, apart from Tamil region, whole India (Bharat) and a large part of Afghansistan were included in the Mauryan Kingdom. In his eighth year of coronation, Ashoka invaded Kalinga in 261 BC, and 1 lakh people died. On the basis of Hathigumpha records, it is estimated that at that time, Nandaraja was the ruling Kalinga. This mass killing distressed Ashoka to such an extent that he renunciated weapons forever. Dhauili (or Toshali) was made the capital of Kalinga under Magadha kingdom. Under the influence of Shraman Nigrodh and Upagupta, Ashoka was initiated into Buddhism and adopted Dhammaghosh instead of Bherighosh. According to Kalhana's Rajatarangini, Ashoka was a worshipper of Shiva before embracing Buddhism. Later, he came under the influence of Moggaliputratissa. In Barabar hills, Ashoka built four caves for the residence of Ajivikas, i.e., Sudama, Chopaar, Vishwajhopdi and Karna. He undertook a religious journey to Bodhgaya in the tenth year of his coronation and to Lumbini (Kapilavastu) in the twentieth year of coronation. It is evident from Rummandei records that Ashoka had reduced the rate of tax from 1/6 to 1/8. Chola, Chera, Pandya and Kerala have been described as the four neighbouring independent states in

inscriptions of Ashoka. In minor rock-edict associated with his coronation, Ashoka has called himself as Buddhhashakya.

Dhamma-

Ashoka established ideals for the moral development of mankind. These were called Dhamma. Definition of Ashoka's Dhamma has been given in the second and seventh rock edicts. According to him, shunning sinful actions, welfare of the world, compassion, charity, truth and purity of actions is Dhamma. The essential conditions of following Dhamma include saintly nature, performing works of public welfare, shunning all evils, good behavior, compassion, charity, gratitude, non violence, obeying one's parents and elders, respect for one's guru, being chairtable towards one's friends, acquaintances, relatives, brahmins and the needy, etc. According to the third rock edict, there was also a provision of moderately accumulating and moderately spending money. According to Bhabru rock edict, Ashoka expressed his belief in the Buddha's Triratnas, namely, Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha (Council).

In minor rock edicts of Sanchi (Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh) and Sarnath (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh), Ashoka ordered the Mahamatras of Kaushambhi and Pataliputra to ostracize such Bhikshus and Bhikshunis who tried to create schism in the Council. In the First Edict, it was ordered that no animals should be killed for any Yajna.

Dhamma Yaatra (Religious Travel)-

Before Ashoka's reign, kings used to go for Vihara Yastras (Forest Travels) during which, they used to kill animals for their entertainment. In place of such travels, Ashoka arranged for Dhammayaatra, in which travels were made to Buddhist pilgrins and Brahmins, Shramanas and needy people were given gold in charity.

Anusandhaan-

During Ashoka's reign, the state employees- Pradeshikas, Rajjukas and Yuktaks were sent on travel for propagation of religion

every fifth year. This was called Anusandhan.

Dhamma Mahamatra-

In the 13th year of coronation, Ashoka appointed Dhamma Mahamatras- whose major responsibility was to propagate religion among the masses, to inspire them for deeds of public welfare and charity, releasing prisoners from imprisonment or reducing their tenure of punishment, providing financial assistance to their dependants etc.

Rock Edicts-

Ashoka was the first Indian (Bhartiya) ruler to address his subjects through edicts. He got inspiration to do so from Dara (Darius first)- the ruler of Iran. Most of the edicts of Ashoka are in Brahmi script, while the edicts found in Mansera and Shahbajgadi in northwest India (Bharat) are in Kharoshti script. On one pillar brought from Topra to Delhi, seven edicts have been inscribed. Greek king Antiochus II is mentioned in the Second and Third Edicts. James Prinsep was the first person to successfully interpret the edicts of Ashoka.

Influenced by Ashoka, king Tissa of Tamparni (Sri Lanka) adopted the title of Devanampiya. He also invited emperor Ashoka on the occasion of his Second Coronation. Ashoka's son Mahendra carried a part of Bodhivriksha and attended this ceremony. This is regarded as the beginning of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. After ruling for 40 years Ashoka died in 232 BC.

Successors of Ashoka and fall of the Mauryan Dynasty-

For 50 years after Ashoka, weak successors continued to rule. After Ashoka, Kunala became the king, who has been called Dharmavivardhana in Divyavadana. According to Rajatarangini, Jalok was the ruler of Kashmir at that time. According to Taranath, Ashoka's son Virasena had become an independent ruler of Gandhar. As Kunala was blind, Magadha's administration was in the hands of his son Samprati. Kunala's son Dhashratha also ruled over Magadha. He had given the Nagarjuna caves to Ajivikas in charity.

Brihadratha was the last Mauryan ruler. His Brahmin minister Pushyamitra Shunga

assassinated him and founded the Shunga dynasty in Magadha.

Mauryan Administration-

A centralized government system was established for the first time in India (Bharat) during Mauryan period. Despite centralization of power in the hands of the king, he was not autocratic. Kautilya has described seven components of the state, namely, Raja, Amatya, Janapada, Durga, Kosha, Sena and Mitra. The king used to appoint the Chief Minister and priest after duly checking their character and background. This process was known as Upadha Parikshana. These people used to be dignified members of the Council of Ministers. Apart from the Council of Ministers, there was also Parisha Mantrina, which was also a form of Council of Ministers.

Central administration-

18 departments called Tirtha have been mentioned in *Arthashastra*. The President of these Tirthas is known as Mahamatya. Minister (mantri), priest (purohit), Commander (senapati) and Prince (Yuvaraj) were the most important Tirthas.

Samaharta-

His responsibility was to collect revenue, keep record of income, expenditure and prepare the annual budget.

Sannidhata (Treasurer)-

He was responsible for building treasuries and granaries in various parts of the kingdom. 26 department heads have been mentioned in *Arthashastra*, which include-Koshadhyaksha (treasurer), sitadhyaksha (agriculture), Pandyadhyaksha (trade) Sutradhyaksha (tailoring and weaving), Lunadhyaksha (slaughterhouse), Vivitadhyaksha (pastureland), Lakshanadhyaksha (issuing currency), Mudradhyaksha, Pautvadhyaksha, Bandhanagaradhyaksha, Atvika (head of the forest department), etc. Yukta and Upayukta were lower level employees under the control of Mahamatayas and heads.

Provincial Administration-

In Ashoka's reign, five provinces of

Magadha kingdom have been mentioned. These include–Uttarapatha (Taxila), Avantirashtra (Ujjaini), Kalinga (oshali) Dakshinapatha (Suvarnagri) and Madhya Desh (Patalipura) . Provincial administration was administered by royal officers named 'Kumara' or 'Aryaputra' . The provinces were divided into 'Vishaya' , which used to be under the control 'vishayapati'. 'Sthanik' was the administrative head of the district and he used to be under the control of 'Samaharta' . 'Gopa' used to be the smallest administrative unit and he used to handle the administration of ten villages. An officer called 'Pradeshtri' used to function under Samaharta, and used to monitor the working of Sthaniks, Gopas and village officers.

City Administration-

According to Megasthenes, city administration was handled by a council of 30 members, who were divided into 6 committees, with five members in each committee. The first committee was responsible for monitoring industry and artistic activities, the second committee looked after foreigners, the third committee kept records of births and deaths, the fourth was responsible for trade and commerce, the fifth committee used to monitor sales of manufactured goods, the sixth committee would collect one tenth of the sale in the form of sales tax.

Military System-

For organizing the army, there was a separate military department, which was divided into six committees consisting of five members in each committee. These committees used to look after the five departments of the army which included-Paidal (infantry), Ashva (cavalry), Hathi (soldiers on elephants), Ratha (soldiers on chariot) and the naval force. Military affairs were monitored by Antpal. He was also responsible for management and monitoring the bordering regions. According to Megasthenes' (Indica) Chandragupta Maurya had a huge army adorned with 6 lakh soldiers on foot, 50 thousand horsemen, 9 thousand elephants and 800 chariots.

Judicial System -

The emperor used to be the supreme head of judicial system. Village courts were present at lower level, in which the Gramini and GramVraddha used to pronounce judgements. Sangraharan, Dronamukh were the courts on Local and Janapada level, respectively. Above all there was a Central Court of Pataliputra. Apart from Gramansangha and king's court, all the other courts were of two types:

1. Dharmsthiya- The work of pronouncing judgement in these courts was in the hands of three Dharmasthas who were experts of religious scriptures or a Vyavharik and three Amatyas. Dharmsthiya used to be a type of civil court. Cases associated with theft, robbery and loot, also known as 'Sahas' were placed in front of Dharmsthiya courts. Cases associated with abusing, defamation, beating, etc. were also brought in these courts which were called 'Vak-Parushya' or 'Dand-Parushya'.

2. Kantakshodhan- These were criminal courts. Three Pradeshtris and three Amatyas used to judge disputes between the state and concerned person. The city magistrate was called 'Vyavharik Mahamatya' and the district magistrate was called 'Rajjuk'. According to Chanakya there were four main parts of law : Dharma (religion), Vyavahara (behaviour), Charitra (character) and Shashan (administration).

Maurya Society -

We get information about the social system of Mauryan period through texts such as – Kautilya's 'Arthashastra', Megasthenes's 'Indica' and from Ashoka's rock edicts. Kautilya has regarded Varnashram system as the foundation of social organization. Kautilya has also mentioned about the occupations of these four Varnas (castes). Apart from these four Varnas, Kautilya has also mentioned about several other castes such as- Nishad, Parshav, Rathkar, Kshata, Vedehak, Sut, Chandal etc. Megasthenes has divided the Indian (Bhartiya) society into seven castes in his book 'Indica'. These include Darshanik (philosophers), Kisan (farmers), Karigar or Shilpi (craftsmen or sculptors), Sainik (soldiers) Nirikshak (inspectors), Sabhasad and Shasak (ministers and



Map 1.1 Mahajanapadas



Map 1.2 Maurya Dynasty



Fig 1.3 Sanchi Stupa



Fig 1.4 Ashoka pillar

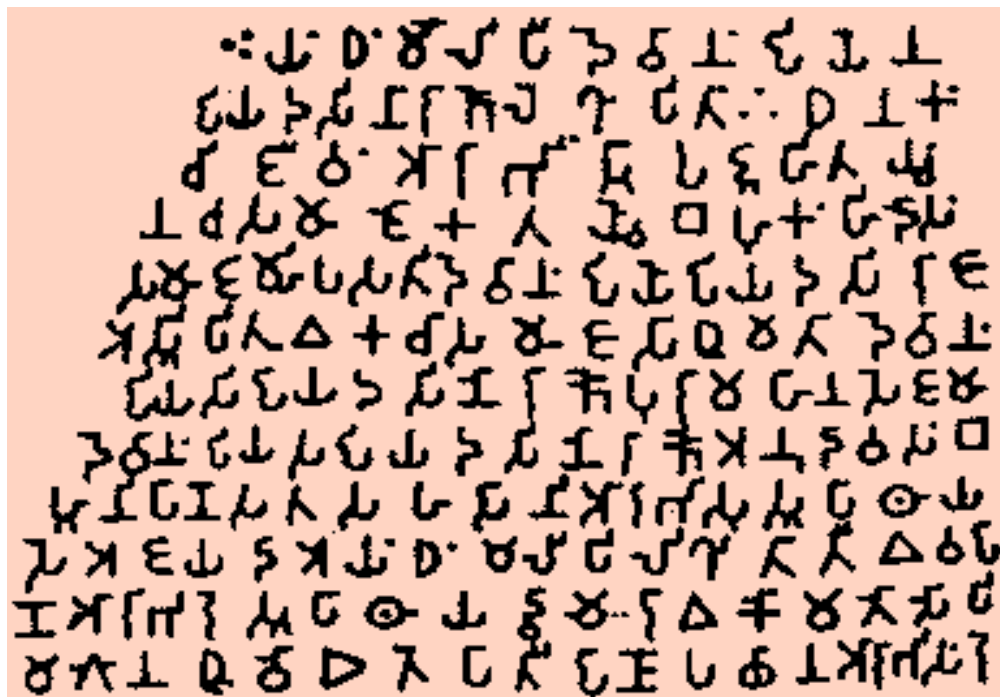


Fig 1.5 Ashok's rock edict-script



Map 1.6 Ashoka's Empire

administrators). In his classification, Megasthenes has ignored the difference of caste, colour and occupation.

During Maurya period, the condition of women cannot be said to be progressive, but still, they were in a better position as compared to Smriti period and they were allowed to remarry and perform Niyoga.

Shunga Dynasty- This dynasty was founded in 185 BC by Pushyamitra Shunga. He was the chief commander of Maurya king Brihadratha. Pushyamitra assassinated him and occupied the throne. He ruled till 151 BC. He conquered several wars and performed Ashvamedha Yajna twice during his reign. Renowned Sanskrit grammarian Patanjali was his priest in the yajna.

After Pushyamitra, Agnimitra, Jyeshthamitra, Bhadrak, Bhagwat and Devabhuti were the major rulers of Shunga dynasty. Devabhuti was dethroned by Amatya Vasudeva around 73 BC.



Fig. 1.7 Coins of Satavahana Period

Satavahana Dynasty-

A person named Simuka laid the foundation of Satavahana Dynasty in 60 BC in Andhra (the valley of rivers Godavari and Krishna). This Dynasty is known by the name of Andhra as well as Satavahana dynasty.

Simuka's reign is regarded till 37 BC. After that, his son Satakarni I became the ruler. Satakarni I took the Satavahana dynasty to great heights. Satakarni I performed the Ashvamedha Yajna and through this, he established his indisputable empire

across entire South India (Bharat). His capital was Pratisthan (modern Paithan) situated on the banks of river Godavari. After some time of the death of Satakarni I, due to the invasions made by Shakas, the power of Satavahanas started declining and the rule of Shaka Kshatrapa dynasty began in Maharashtra, which is known as Western Kshatrapa Dynasty. Gautamiputra Satakarni who was the 23rd ruler of Satavahana dynasty, eliminated the power of Western Kshatrapas and re-established the power,

prosperity and rule of his dynasty. Vasishthiputra Pulumavi got married to the daughter of Shaka Mahakshatrap Rudradaman I, but Rudradaman snatched entire kingdom from him, which he occupied by defeating the Western Kshatrapas. Yagyasri (Satakarni) who was the 27th ruler of Satavahana dynasty, reoccupied some parts of region from the Kshatrapas of Ujjaini and reestablished the glory of his dynasty. Yagyasri circulated several types of currencies and ships were inscribed on some of them. This shows that his empire extended till the oceans. All the rulers of this dynasty were followers of Hinduism. They established the system of Vedic Yajnas and Varnashram system in the society and continuously fought against the foreign invaders – the Yavanas and the Shakas. They provided huge grants to Buddhist and Jaina Viharas and rest houses. In their period, trade and commerce, agriculture and other industries developed significantly and currencies made of silver, copper, lead and bronze were in circulation. They were the first to establish the practice of granting land (Agrahar) to the Brahmins. The Satavahana kings built many Chaityas and Viharas in Western Deccan. Karla Chaitya is the most famous among them. This Chaitya is 40 metre long and 15 metre high and is an excellent example of Chaitya architecture.

Gupta Dynasty (275 AD-550 AD)-

Kushana Dynasty almost declined in North India (Bharat) in about 230 AD, then a larger part of land came under the occupation of Shaka Murands, who continued to rule till 250 AD. After that, Gupta Dynasty came into power in 275 AD. Sri-Gupta

was the founder of this dynasty. In Prayaga Prashasti, Samudragupta has described himself as the great grandson of Sri-Gupta. After Sri-Gupta, Ghatotkacha became Gupta ruler. His title was 'Maharaja'.

Chandragupta I (320 AD – 335 AD)-

After Ghatotkacha, his son Chandragupta I became a Gupta ruler. He attained the title of 'Maharajadhiraja'. He married the Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi. In 319 AD, Chandragupta I started an era, which is famous by the name of Gupta era (Samvat).

Samudragupta (335 AD – 380 AD)-

Chandragupta I appointed Samudragupta as his successor. His ideals were conquering and unifying India (Bharat). He believed in imperialism. His court poet Harisen has described about his victorious military expeditions in records of Allahabad Prashasti. These records are inscribed on the same pillar, on which Ashoka's Edicts are inscribed. The rulers and countries which were won by Samudragupta can be divided into 5 groups – The states of Ganga-Yamuna Doab, states of Eastern Himalayas, the bordering states of Eastern Vindhya region, Eastern Deccan and states of South India and Shaka and Kushana states. As per Allahabad Prashasti, he was never defeated in any battle. Samudragupta possessed a very powerful navy, by which he strengthened his foreign relations. 'Ashvamedha Parakrama' can be seen inscribed on his coins. He also excelled in fine arts. He has also been called an excellent poet. He excelled in music also. His image of playing Veena has been inscribed on a coin. He was a devotee of Lord Vishnu, but had equal respect for other religions.

Chandragupta II (380 AD – 412 AD)-

Chandragupta II was the son of Samudragupta. He has also been called Devaraja or Devagupta. He expanded his empire through marriage alliances and victories. He got his daughter married to Vakataka king Rudrasena. After his death, Prabhavati became the real ruler by making her younger son sit on the throne.

Chandragupta II also conquered Western Malwa and Gujarat. He made Ujjain his second capital. After attaining victory on Shakas, he adorned the title of 'Vikramaditya'.

Kumaragupta Mahendraditya (414 AD – 455 AD)-

After Chandragupta II, his son Kumaragupta became the ruler. Kumaragupta has been regarded as the founder of Nalanda University. His empire expanded from Saurashtra to Bengal. In the last days of his rule, he had to face revolt from Pushyamitra.

Skandagupta (455 AD – 467 AD)-

Although he was not the eldest son, Skandagupta became the successor of the kingdom. It is evident from Junagarh Rock Edicts that Skandagupta renovated the Sudarshan Lake which was built by Mauryan rulers. It has been mentioned in Junagarh inscription that while ascending the throne, Skandagupta had to confront the Malechch Hunas. Finally, Skandagupta defeated the Hunas.

Cultural Achievements of Gupta Dynasty-

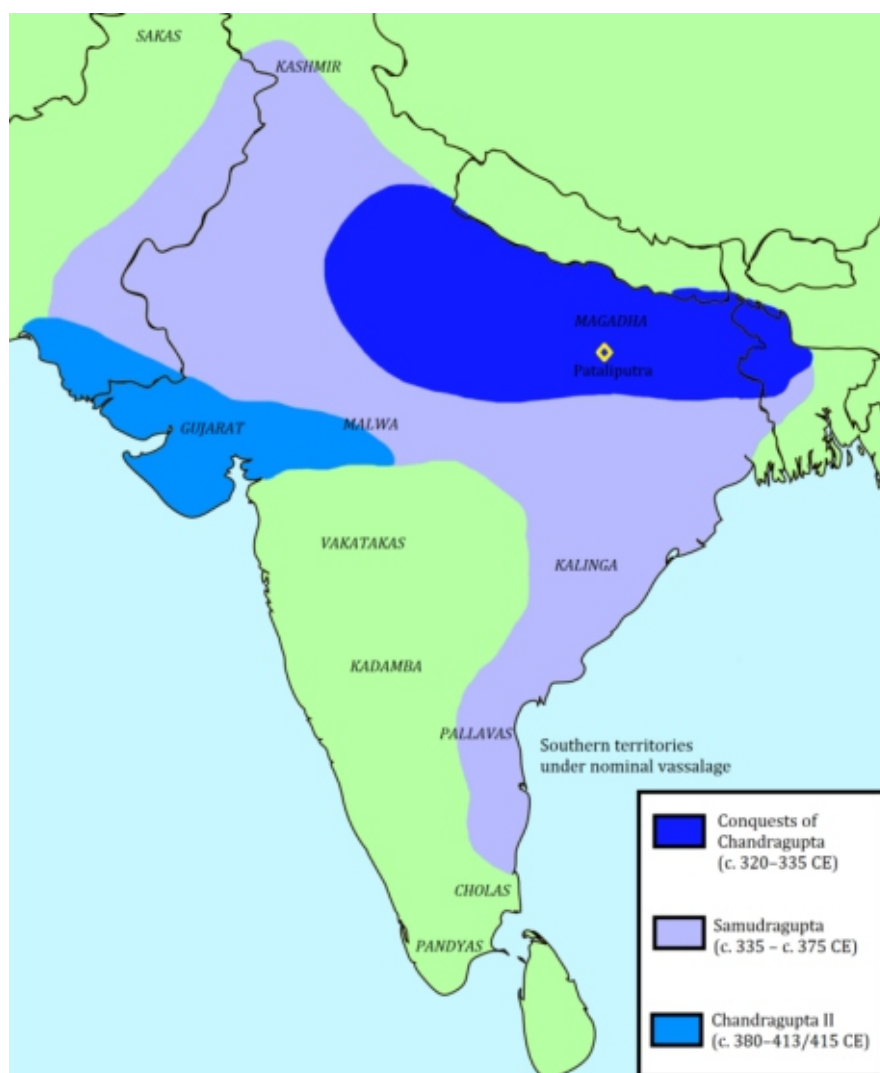
Gupta dynasty has great importance in the cultural history of India (Bharat). Gupta rulers were followers of Vedic Religion. Samudragupta and Kumaragupta I had even performed Ashvamedha Yajna. They also supported Buddhism and Jainism. The Chinese pilgrim Fa Hien visited India (Bharat) during the reign of Chandragupta II. As per his description, Gupta Empire was excellent in administration and crimes rarely took place. The burden of taxes was also less. Sanskrit was the official language. Kalidasa – the composer of the play *Abhigyan Shankutalam* and the great epic *Raghuvansham*, Shudraka – the writer of the play *Mrichchhkatikam*, Vishakhadatta – the writer of the play *Mudrarakshasa* and the renowned koshkar Amar Singh were all present in Gupta period. *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Manu Samhita* composed in their present form in Gupta period. Great Mathematicians Aryabhata. Varamihira and Brahmagupta significantly

contributed in the development of mathematics and Astrology during the Gupta period. The decimal system was invented in this period, which later reached Europe through the Arabians. Evidence of architecture, painting and metallurgical science of the time is evident from the remains in Jhansi , Kanpur, Ajanta caves ,the iron pillar at Delhi, the 80 feet tall copper statue of the Buddha in Nalanda and from the 7½ feet tall copper statue of the Buddha in Sultanganj.

Society in the Gupta Period-

Society was traditionally divided into four parts during the Gupta period. The place of

Brahmins was regarded to be the highest. Their duties were - studying, teaching, performing yajnas and charity. The Kshatriyas were responsible to protect the nation. Vaishyas were in the occupation of trading and commerce. Shudras were service providers. In Gupta period, the bond of occupations with castes weakened. Despite this, the basis of castes remained prevalent. Women had an important place in the society. In religious activities, the presence of wife along with the husband was mandatory. Women were educated. Veil (purdah) system was not prevalent. At this time, eight types of marriages were prevalent. The practice of Swayamvara was there. Mudravashakti,



Map 1.8 Gupta Empire



Fig 1.9 Gold coin circulated by Samudragupta



Fig 1.10 Gold coins circulated by Chandragupta Maurya

Karana, Ambashtha, Parshava were the mixed castes during Gupta period, Kayastha was a section class during Gupta period, but later, it emerged in the form of a caste. Women have been depicted ideally in literature of Gupta period. In case of not having a son, the wife had the primary right to her husband's property.

Vardhan Dynasty (Pushyabhuti Dynasty)-

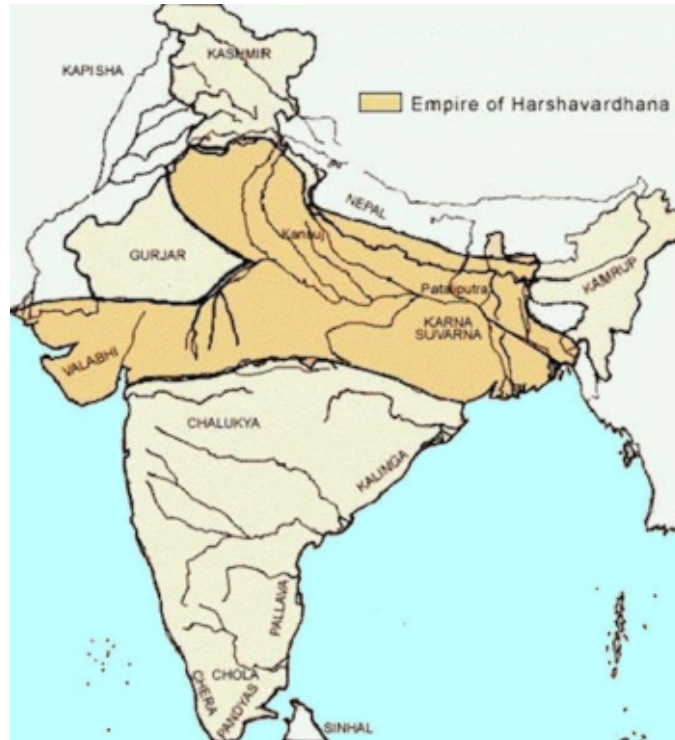
This dynasty began in 6th century AD near Thaneswar with Pushyabhuti, who was a devoted worshipper of Shiva. Three kings were born in this

dynasty – Prabhakaravardhana, Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana. After the death of Prabhakaravardhana, his elder son Rajyavardhana ascended the throne, but shortly after his coronation, he was to engage in several battles and was assassinated by Gaur ruler Shashanka in 606 AD. After this, his younger brother Harshavardhana (606-47 AD) became the ruler, who ruled for forty years and expanded his empire. He did not have any children, so Pushyabhuti dynasty ended with his demise.

Situation was extremely critical at the time Harsha ascended the throne. Gaur (Bengal) ruler Shashanka had assassinated his elder brother Rajyavardhana younger sister Rajashri went away to an unknown place to save her life. Soon, Harshavardhana was successful in finding the whereabouts of his sister. He entered into an alliance with king Bhaskar Verman of Kamrupa and sent a large army against Shashanka, though in

the South, his armies were forced to return from the banks of river Narmada around 620 AD by king Pulakeshin II. The boundaries of Harsha's empire extended from snow laden mountains in the North, till the banks of river Narmada in the South, Ganjaam in the East and Ballabhi in the West. Kannauj was the capital of this huge empire.

Harsha took the title of Maharajadhiraja. He was a worshipper of Shiva and the Sun god.



Map 1.11 Harshavardhana's Empire



Fig 1.12 King Harshavardhana

Later, he was inclined towards Mahayana Buddhism. Once in every five years, he used to organize a large ceremony at the confluence of rivers Ganga and Yamuna, performed charity and other works of public welfare. The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang also attended the sixth ceremony of this kind.

Pala Dynasty-

The beginning of this dynasty is estimated to be around 750 AD in Bengal from Gopala. Dharmapala who was the second ruler of Pala dynasty is considered to be the most powerful ruler of this dynasty. He extended his empire up to Kannauj and even after getting engaged in a tripartite struggle with the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas, he remained successful in protecting his kingdom. His son and successor Devapala also emerged victorious in several battles. He shifted his capital from Pataliputra to Bengal. The ambassador of king Bal Putra Deva of Sumatra had attended his royal court. After Devapala (810 – 850 AD), the power and might of Pala dynasty started to fade due to weakness of the rulers and invasions by Gurjar – Pratihara rulers. During the reign of 9th king Mahipala-I, the Chola king Rajendra Verman-I had occupied the area till river Ganga around 1023 AD. By the middle of 12th century, the strength of Pala dynasty weakened.

Kings of the Pala dynasty were followers of Buddhism and during their reign the Buddhist educational centres developed significantly. The very famous Mahaviharas of Nalanda and Vikramshila got protection from them. The famous Buddhist monk Atisha was present during the reign of tenth Pala king Nayapala, who had visited Tibet on an invitation of the king. Kings of Pala dynasty were great lovers of art and architecture. They gave patronage to great sculptors like Dhiman and Vitpal. Many reservoirs were built during the Pala period are still present in Dinapur district.

Rashtrakuta Dynasty-

This dynasty was founded by Dantidurga in 736 AD. He made Nasik his capital. There were 14 kings in this dynasty. Dantidurga was a lord under

the Chalukyas of Vatapi. He eliminated the rule of Chalukyas in the South by defeating the last Chalukya king Kirti Verman-II. Krishna-I built the famous Kailashnath temple of Ellora. Dhurva, the fourth ruler of the dynasty, defeated the Gurjar-Pratihara king Vatsaraja and the fifth ruler Govinda III defeated the Gurjar-Pratihara king Nagabhata II and Pala king Dharmapala. He expanded the empire of Rashtrakutas from Malwa region to Kanchi. The sixth ruler Amoghavarsha was peace-loving and he ruled for about 64 years. He made Manyakheta (Malkhed) as the capital of Rashtrakutas. Arabian traveller Sulaiman considered Amoghavarsha amongst the world's four greatest kings of that time. Krishna III and Indra III defeated Mahipala, the then ruler of Kannauj and forced him to flee. During the reign of the twelfth ruler Krishna III, a long struggle started between the Rashtrakutas and the Chola kings of the South.

Rashtrakutas were overthrown by the Chalukyas of Kalyani. Chalukya king Tailapa defeated Karka II of Rashtrakuta dynasty in 973 AD and established control of Manyakheta. Rashtrakuta kings were supporters of Hinduism. They built huge temples. They were nurturers of Sanskrit and Kannada literature. The Arabians have addressed the kings of this dynasty as Balhara (Balaraja).

Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty-

This dynasty was founded by a lord the name of this Nagabhata in 725 AD. His kingdom started from Gujarat, therefore the name of this dynasty came to be known as 'Gurjara-Pratihara'. Nagabhata-I was extremely brave. He successfully confronted the invasions of the Arabians who came from Sindh. Vatsaraja was the first king of this dynasty who took the title of Emperor. Vatsaraja's son Nagabhata II invaded Ganga valley around 816 AD, occupied Kannauj and made it his capital. Nagabhata II was defeated by Rashtrakuta king Govinda III, however, his descendants continued to rule Kannauj and its surrounding regions till 1018-19 AD. Bhoja I was the greatest ruler of this dynasty. He is also known

as Mihira Bhoja. He was the grandson of Nagabhatta II. Arabian trader Sulaiman visited India (Bharat) during his time. The next ruler was Mahendrapala, who was the disciple and protector of the great poet Rajashekhara – the composer of a play called Karpuramanjari. Mahendra's son Mahipala was badly defeated by the Rashtrakuta king Indra III. During Mahipala's reign, the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty began to decline. After him, the other rulers – Bhoja II, Vinayakapala, Mahendrapala II, Devapala, Mahipala II and Vijayapala somehow managed to maintain their rule till 1013 AD. During the time of invasion of Mahmud Ghaznavi, Rajyapala was the king of Kannauj. He ran away without confronting Ghaznavi. Later, he accepted the sovereignty of Mahmud. The neighbouring Rajput rulers were annoyed by this event. After Mahmud Ghaznavi had returned, the Rajput kings defeated and killed Rajyapala under the leadership of Chandela king Ganda of Kalinjar and Trilochanapala ascended the throne. After the rise of Gahadvala (Rathore) dynasty in Kannauj, the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty was eliminated forever in the second quarter of 11th century. The rulers of this dynasty didn't allow the Arabians to advance further.

Chola Dynasty (Northern Chola Region)-

This was one of the three major states of ancient Dakshinapatha. The other two were – Pandya and Chera (Kerala). In the inscriptions of Ashoka, this region has been described as an Independent Region. The residents of Chola region spoke Tamil. They produced high quality literature in Tamil language. Kular composed by Thiruvalluvar is an excellent example of this development. Karikala (around 100 AD who was the First ruler of Chola dynasty, and laid the foundation of Puhar or Pugar town, fought against the Sinhalas and built a dam on the banks of river Kaveri with the assistance of Sinhali prisoners of war. He shifted the capital of Cholas from Urugpur (Urugur) to Kaveripatnam. Chola king Vijayalaya's son and successor Aditya (around 880-907 AD) had defeated the Pallava king Aparajita Verman. Aditya's son Parantaka-I had completely crushed the power of the Pallavas. He had also occupied

Madurai which was the capital of the Pandyas.

Chol Rajraj I (985AD– 1013 AD)-

He became all powerful ruler of South India (Bharat) by occupying entire Madras (Chennai), Mysore, Coorg and Sinhala Dweep (Sri Lanka). He built a Shiva temple named Rajarajeshwara (Brihadeshwara) in his capital Tanjore. His son and successor Rajendra I (1016 AD – 1044 AD) possessed a strong naval power, had conquered Pengu, Martban and Andaman-Nicobar islands. He waged a war against Mahipala, the ruler of Bengal and Bihar. His armies crossed Kalinga and reached far off to Ganga by proceeding through Or (Orissa), Southern Kausal, Bengal and Magadha. In order to commemorate this victory, he took the title of 'Gangaikonda'. His son and successor Rajadhiraja (1044 AD – 1054 AD) was killed during the battle of Koppam while fighting against Chalukya king Someshwara. But, Veer Rajendra (1034 AD – 1069 AD) defeated the Chalukyas in the battle of Kudal-Sangamam and avenged the earlier defeat. Soon after, a battle of succession began among the Cholas. As a result Rajendra Kulottunga – I (1070 AD – 1122 AD) ascended the throne. Rajendra Kulottunga's mother was a Chola princess and his father was the ruler of Chalukya kingdom. In this way, Kulottunga established a new dynasty named Chalukya-Chola dynasty. He ruled for forty years.

Chola Administration-

Chola administration was based on the Gram Panchayat system. To facilitate administration, the Chola kingdom was divided into six provinces, which were known as Mandalam. Kottam was the sub unit of Mandalam, Nadu was the sub unit of Kottam, Gram and Kurram. In inscriptions, the assembly of Nadu has been called Nattar and the units of the town have been called as Nagartar. Village representatives were regularly appointed every year. Every Mandalam was fully independent, but there was no Central Legislature present to control the power of the king. About one-sixth of land produce was received by the king in the form of lagan (land revenue). This lagan could be paid in the form of grain or gold coins. The gold coins which were

circulated during the Chola period were called 'Kasu' and it weighed 16 ounces. Along with large military power, the Chola kings also possessed a strong naval force. Chola kings initiated various large irrigation schemes and built many roads.

Chola Art-

The Cholas promoted the architectural style of the Pallavas. Various features of Dravidian

architectural style of the Cholas are as follows – Quadrate Vimanas, Mandapas, Gopuras, large halls adorned with artistic pillars, traditional lions (Chali) for decoration, brackets and joint pillars, etc. The Shiva temple (Rajarajeshwara temple) of Tanjore built by Rajaraja-I is an excellent example of Dravidian architecture. The system of canals in South India (Bharat) is a gift from Cholas. Temples of Chidambaram and Tanjore are the best among



Map 1.13 Rashtrakuta, Gurjara-Pratiharas, Chola empire



Fig. 1.14 Chola Temple

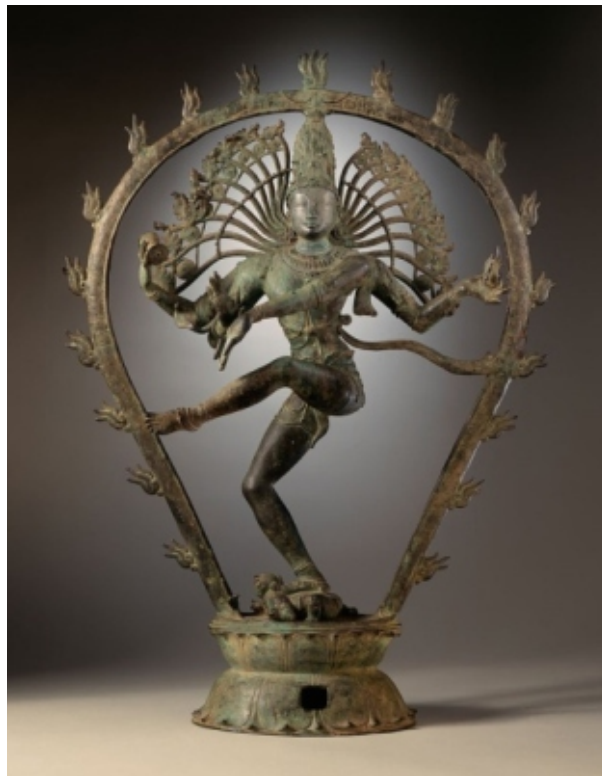


Fig. 1.15 statue of Nataraja (Shiva)

Chola temples. The bell metal statues of Nataraja Shiva built during Chola period are regarded to be the best. Gopuram style temple architecture was developed in this period.

Society-

Chola kings were the followers of Shaiva sect. In the records of royal kings, performance of ashvamedha yajna has also been mentioned. Women used to be the property owners in the society. Dasa and Devadasi systems were also prevalent.

Pallava Dynasty-

Rulers of this dynasty ruled the present day districts of Arcot, Madras (Chennai), Trichinapalli

and Tanjore. In the inscriptions, the mention of First Pallava king is Vishnugopa of Kanchi. Simhavishnu ascended the throne in the Second half of sixth century AD. After that, the Pallavas ruled for about two centuries. Major Pallava kings included MahendraVerman-I (around 600–625 AD), arsimhaVerman-I, NarsimhaVerman-II, ParameshwarVerman-II, NandiVerman, NandiVerman-II and Aparajit.

Mahendraverman was a great architect. He built many temples of carved stones. Mahendraverman–I also wrote a play named Mattavilasa Prahasana. He also got dug the Mahendra pond. He was defeated by Chalukya king Pulakeshin-II in around 610 AD. Mahendra's



Map 1.16- Pallava Empire



**Fig 1.17 Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)
style of architecture of Pallava period**

son and successor NarsimhaVerman (Mahamalla) defeated Pulakeshin II in 642 AD and occupied his capital Vatapi, but the Chalukyas took revenge of their defeat in 655 AD. Chalukya king Vikramaditya-I defeated the Pallava king Parameshwarverman and occupied his capital Kanchi. The preceding Pallava rulers established a town named Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) and built five chariot temples over there. Here, rock – cut statues have been carved. Pallava rulers built temples in Kanchi too. Some of the Pallava rulers were worshippers of Vishnu, while others worshipped Shiva.

Chalukya Dynasty -

Chalukya king Pulakeshin – I had performed Ashvamedha Yajna. Chalukyas of Vatapi ruled from 550 AD to 757 AD, excluding 13 years from (642 AD – 655 AD). Among the Chalukya rulers, the fourth king – Pulakeshin II- was the most famous ruler. He occupied the throne in 608 AD. His empire extended from river Narmada in the North to river Kaveri in the South. He was defeated by the Pallava king NarsimhaVerman in 642 AD. Pulakeshin's son Vikramaditya II re-established the glory of the Chalukyas. Chalukya king Vikramaditya II defeated the Rashtrakuta king in 973 AD and founded the New Chalukya Dynasty by making Kalyani his capital. This dynasty ruled from 973 AD to 1200 AD. The Chalukya kingdom of Kalyani remained in conflict with Chola rulers for a long



Fig 1.18 Temple of Pallava Period

time. Chola king Rajadhiraja defeated Sattashreya, a Chalukya king. But, Someshwar I avenged this defeat by not only defeating the Chola king Rajadhiraja in the battle of Koppam, but also assassinated Rajadhiraja in this battle. The seventh king Vikramaditya VII, who was famous by the name of Vikramanka, occupied Kanchi and provided protection to the renowned poet Bilhana who also wrote a book named reestablished Vikramankadevacharita, based on the life of Vikramaditya. Despite being Hindus, the Chalukya kings of Vatapi and Kalyani gave patronage to Buddhism and Jainism. The Chalukya kings built temples. Famous jurist Vijnaneshwara, who had composed the 'Mitakshra' interpretation of Yagyawalakya Smriti, lived in Kalyani which was the capital of the Chalukyas. Mitakshra is regarded as an official book of Hindu laws.

(iii) External Invasions and Assimilations – Shakas, Hunas and Kushanas-

Shaka was a warrior tribe of Central Asia which had occupied the entire region of Western Afghanistan and Baluchistan. From here, The Shakas came to India (Bharat) through Bolan Pass in around 71 AD. In the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, Shaka colonies have been mentioned along with the Kambojas and Yavanas. In the writings of Kalkacharya, invasion of Shakas on India (Bharat) has been described, and they have been addressed as Sagakul (Shaka clan). They established the Shaka rule in Saurashtra by occupying Indus (Sindhu) region. It is clear from

the excavated coins and edicts that one of their branches established its domination in Uttarapath and Mathura along with lapse of time they spread in Avanti, Saurashtra and Maharashtra.

Maues and Azes have been among the Shaka rulers of Taxila. The Shaka power was demolished by the Pallavas in Taxila. Hammamas and Hagaan were the initial Shaka Kshtrapas of Mathura. In Singha-Sheershak-inscription obtained from Mathura, the later Shaka king Rajbul has been called Mahakshatrapa. The Shakas of Mathura had expanded their empire up to Eastern Punjab. The Kushanas demolished the Shaka power in Mathura. Two rulers of Shahrat dynasty of the Shakas – namely Bhumak and Nahapan are famous. These Shaka rulers annexed several regions from the Satavahanas and they established their rule in Maharashtra, Kathiawar and Gujarat. During the reign of Nahapan, India (Bharat) had cordial trade relations with the western countries. It is evident from the coins excavated from a place called Jogalthambi, that Nahapan was defeated by Gautamiputra Satakarni. In Nasik inscription, Gautamiputra Satakarni has been described as the destroyer of Shahrat dynasty. King Chastan, who established the Shaka dynasty in Ujjaini, is mentioned among the Shaka rulers of Ujjaini and Kathiawar. In their edicts and coins, the rulers of this dynasty used the Shaka era. Chastan's grandson Rudradaman was an important ruler. We find information about him from Junagarh inscription. Rudradaman's empire extended up to East-Western Malwa, Dwarika, Junagarh, Sabarmati River, Marwar, Indus (Sindhu) valley, Northern Konkan and Vindhya mountain range. It is evident from the excavated coins that Chastan's dynasty ended in 305 AD.

Hunas-

Huna was a barbaric tribe of Central Asia, just like the Shakas, entered India (Bharat) from North-Western frontier. They were also called 'Daityas'. First, they invaded India (Bharat) during the reign of Skandagupta in around 458 AD, and were defeated. After some time, a chief named Toramana destroyed the Gupta empire and gained

the title of Maharajadhiraja by gaining control of Punjab, Rajputana, Sindh and Malwa. Toramana's son Mihirakula's reign began from 510 AD and Sialkot was his capital. Mihirakul hated the Buddhist bhikshus. He destroyed various monasteries and stupas. Malwa king Yashodharman defeated him. After his defeat, he went to Kashmir and established his empire there. After the invasion of the Hunas, the Gupta Empire came to an end and the political unity of India (Bharat) ended. The country was again divided into small parts.

Kushan Dynasty-

Kushans are also known as Yuezhis or Toccharians. Yuezhi tribe was divided into five parts. One of these tribes ruled some parts of India (Bharat).

Kujula Kadphises I (15 AD – 65 AD)-

He established the glory of his tribe. He merged Southern Afghanistan, Kabul, Kandhar and a part of Parthia in his empire. He also adopted Vedic religion.

Vima Kadphises II (65 AD – 75 AD)-

He ruled a large part of India (Bharat). He was the follower of Shaiva sect. On some of his coins, image of Tribhuj, Trishuldhari, Vyaghracharmagrahi, protector of Nandi - Lord Shiva – have been inscribed. He circulated gold coins in his name for the first time in India.

Kanishka-

He is regarded as one of the important rulers of India (Bharat). According to tradition, Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kundalvana in Kashmir under the Presidentship of Acharya Parshva in Kanishka's time. His first capital was Peshawar (Purushpur) and his second capital was Mathura. He started a new era in 78 AD, which is renowned in the name of Shaka era. Kanishka conquered Kashmir and established a town named Kanishkapur. He also gained victory over Kashgar, Yarkand and Khotan. A gold coin which has been excavated from Mahasthan (Bogra) has a standing statue of Kanishka inscribed on it. Another statue

of Kanishka has been found in Mathura. In this statue, he is wearing a robe up to his knees with heavy boots. On a copper coin, Kanishka has been shown performing sacrifice at an altar. In the royal court of Kanishka, Buddhist intellectuals like

Parshava, Vasumitra and Ashvaghosha, famous mathematicians like Nagarajuna and renowned surgeons like Charak were present. The Mahayana sect of Buddhism advanced and spread during Kanishka's reign.



Fig. 1.19 Kushan Empire

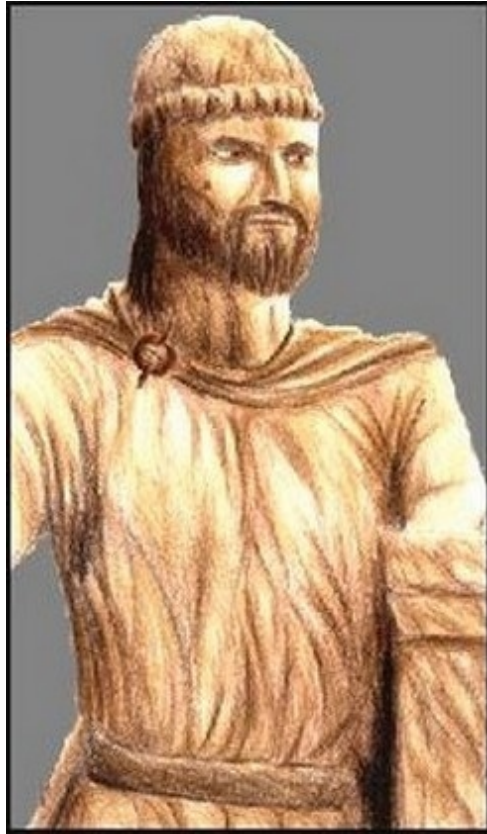


Fig. 1.20 Kanishka



Fig. 1.21 Coins of Kushan Period

In North India (Bharat), the Kushan kings ruled till 230 AD. At that time, India's (Bharat's) trade with Rome was extremely profitable as a result India became very prosperous.

Assimilation-

Shaka, Hunas and Kushanas – all three were foreign tribes. Indeed, they ruled India (Bharat), but gradually, they assimilated into Indian (Bharatiya) society and culture. Due to the liberalist policy of the Indians (Bharatiyas), these barbaric tribal clans became a part of society. The Kushana rulers were ardent followers of Vedic religion and they remained loyal towards Shaivite sect. Service of Buddhism done by Kanishka made him one of the greatest kings to rule India (Bharat).

Important Points

1. Information about the Republics (Mahajanapadas) is obtained from the *Mahabharata*, Buddhist Literature and Chanakya's *Arthashastra*.
2. Kabul, Herat, Kandhar, Baluchistan, the Punjab, Ganga-Yamuna Plains, Bihar, Bengal, Gujarat, Vindhya and part of Kashmir were included in the vast empire of Chandragupta Maurya.
3. The ideals which were laid by Ashoka for the purpose of moral upliftment of mankind came to be known as Dhamma. According to him, renouncing evil actions, welfare of all, compassion, charity, truth and purity of actions is Dhamma.
4. Most of Ashoka's records are in Brahmi script, though his rock edicts from North-west India (Bharat) are in Kharoshti script which have been derived from Aramaic. James Pricep was the first person to become successful in interpreting the rock edicts of Ashoka.
5. According to Kautilya, the seven components of a state are – Raja, Amatya, Janapada, Durga, Sena and Mitra.
6. All the Satavahana rulers were ardent followers of Hinduism. They established Vedic Yajnas and Varnashrama system and confronted the Yavanas and the Shakas.
7. According to Allahabad Prashasti, Samudragupta was never defeated in any

battle.

8. Aryabhata, Varamihira and Brahmagupta significantly contributed to the development of mathematics and astrology in the Gupta period.
9. Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty was founded by a lord named Nagabhatta in 725 AD. As his empire was established in Gujarat, hence the name Gurjara-Pratihara was conferred on this dynasty.
10. Chola ruler Rajadhiraja I built a Shiva temple named Rajarajeshwara (Brihadeshwara) temple in his capital Tanjore. Bell metal statues of Lord Shiva built in Chola period are regarded as excellent works of sculpting.
11. In Nasik records, Satavahana ruler Gautami Satakarni has been described as 'the destroyer of Shaharat dynasty' because he had destroyed the Shakas.
12. Kanishka started a new era in 78 AD which is known by the name of Shaka era.

Very Short Answer Type Questions -

1. Which were the major Mahajanapadas of Rajasthan?
2. What was the name of the Greek ambassador who visited Bindusara's court?
3. What is the name of Ashoka as per the *Puranas*?
4. Who was the last Mauryan Ruler?
5. What was the work of an officer named 'Samaharta'?
6. Write the name of the book written by Kautilya.
7. Name the ruler in whose reign Patanjali was present.
8. What is the name of the most powerful ruler of Satavahana Dynasty?
9. Who was the author of 'Allahabad Prashasti'? In which ruler's court was he present?
10. Name the lake built by the Mauryas which was renovated by Skandagupta.
11. Write the names of literary creations of Harshavardhana.
12. Name the religion which was followed by rulers of the Pala dynasty.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the Republics mentioned in the Mahajanapadas.
2. Write the essence of Ashoka's Dhamma.
3. Elucidate the cultural contribution of Samudragupta.
4. Give a brief description of Rashtrakuta Dynasty.
5. Write a short note on Chola administration.
6. What do you know about Pallava dynasty?
7. Mention the contribution of Kanishka.
2. Give a description of administration and society of Mauryan period.
3. Describe the major rulers of Gupta dynasty and write a short note on cultural achievements during this period.
4. Give a detailed description of Chola and Chalukya empires of the South.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the Mahajanapadas and give an introduction of the major Janapadas of Rajasthan.