

Chapter-3

Foreign Invasions and Assimilations (Aatmsatikaran)

Mauryan Dynasty came to an end after the assassination of emperor Vrihadrath, the last emperor of Mauryan Dynasty, by Pushyamitra Shunga in 185 B.C. The period after 200 B.C. could be named as Post Mauryan Bharat. This period although no large empire was established in this period but this period is very important from the historical point of view because in this period, Bharat had established cultural relations with central Asia and many foreign elements merged with Bharatiya society. Numerous Greeks became followers of Indian religions and many Greeks gradually adopted Bharatiya way of life. With passage of time they became a part of Bharatiya ethos and finally the characteristics of Greeks assimilated and merged with the mainstream of Bharatiya society. One kingdom did not rule during the post Mauryan period rather many regional kingdoms had their own kings. For the convenience of study, these ruling groups can be divided into two groups:

1. Foreign rulers
2. Indian rulers

Among the foreign rulers Greeks (also known as Indo-Greeks or Hind yavan), Shak, Kushan, and Hun kingdoms were prominent among Indian rulers, mainly Shung dynasty, Kanv dynasty, Chedi dynasty and Satvahan dynasty were significant.

Post Mauryan period denotes the period that tells the history from the decline of Mauryan dynasty to the rise of Gupta dynasty. This was the time when Mauryan kingdom was declining and

there were regular foreign attacks, on the other hand many Indian kings were struggling for their existence. This time North and South India remained subjugated under Indian rulers but North West boundaries of India became the entrance for foreign invaders. Greeks, Shakas, Hun and Kushan entered from North western Bharat

Sources of Information

To know about the period after the defeat of Mauryans, Gargi Samhita, Mahabhashya of Patanjali, Divyavadan, Malvikagnimitra of Kalidas and Harshcharitra of Banbhatt & "Rajtarangini" of historian Kalhan are the main source of information.

Highly intellectual philosophers, scientists and writers started in the court of king Kanishka of Kushana dynasty. Poet Ashwaghosh of Kanishka's court wrote many books in Sanskrit like Budhacharitra, Saudranand Mahakavya and Suryalankar and Sareeputra Prakaran. Nagarjun, the propounder of sHunyawad, relativity & madhyamik sutra, was a famous philosopher of this era who provided relevant knowledge in this regard.

Apart from Charak Samhita of Maharishi Charak, Chinese historical text & the travelogue of the Chinese traveller Hiuen-Tsang, Tibetan historian Taranath, Buddhist intellectual Vasumitra and Buddhist literature Tripitak, 'Milindpanh' also provide information about the foreign invasions. The coins of Kaushambi, Mathura & Sarnath also give us right information. These coins are very significant source as rulers names have been

engraved on them. Many Account of Greek authors like Nearcus, Onesicritus and Aristobulus are also major sources to collect information of this era.

Greek invasion & Political Condition of India

When the ruler of Maqdonia, Alexander reached India with his armed forces, the political condition of North Western India was the same as before the Persian Invasion on India. Whole north west region of India was divided into small states. Gandhar in the North of Kabul, Paurav in the mid of Jhelum and Chinav, Takshshila in the region of Rawalpindi and Peshawar, in the West of Kashmir, in the middle part Beas of Ravi and river, Kath, nearby Kshudrak, same as Malav, Musak, Sambos at the confluence rivers Ravi and Chinab. There were total 25 states spread over North Western region of India. Some of them were republic and some were under monarchy rule. Monarch were against the republicans. Paurav and Takshila and Takshila and Abhisar were enemies. In the same way Kshudrak and Malav and Abhisar and Paurav had bad relations. After defeating the ruler of Persia in the battle of Arabela in 331 B.C., king of Macedonia, Alexander moved towards India in such political condition.

Entry of Alexander in India

After arrival of Alexander towards India rulers of the border States, filled with the patriotism of India, sacrificed themselves for the protection of their homeland but few traitors and betraying rulers like Shashigupt and Aambhi supported Alexander. Conquering Seestan and Afghanistan, Alexander entered India via Kabul valley. He firstly conquered Haveli and Paash and then crossed Hindukush where Shashigupt welcomed him. From here he divided his army into two parts. The first part of his army was sent under his faithful commander Heyfistiyan and Pardikas to make a bridge on the Indus River and the other part of army moved towards Indus under his leadership. Till then Alexander did not reach India but the ruler of Takshshila, Aambhi sent an invitation to invade

India. In his invitation he had given assurance to support him which encouraged Alexander to invade India.

During this time he had to fight the states situated on the North West India. Greek writer Arian described that first of all he encountered the rulers Ashmakks was in North-West India. Great resistance shown by Ashmakks but finally Alexander won the war and he imprisoned around 40 thousand slaves. After this he attacked on Gaurio of Nisa. They surrendered without any resistance in front of Alexander. Then he attacked Ashwakayan, who were also called Asskenus by greeks writer. That time the king of Ashwakayans was Hasty or Ashtak. They decided to defend and fight from their Massag fort. Geographical and natural point of view, the fort was quite safe. The fort was surrounded by a valley. In that way, fort was impregnable. Alexander invaded this fort many times but he failed and once he got injured also. But suddenly one arrow struck the king Ashtak and he died. Then the queen, Klyopis, surrendered and Alexander established his victory on Ashwak's State. Alexander deceived Ashwakanand killed seven hundred soldiers.

Alexander steps ahead from Massag. In between he attacked many people of different tribes and creeds. Conquering all the places finally he met his army when was busy in preparing bridge on Indus River. Then with his whole army he crossed the Indus River and reached Takshshila. There king Aambhi was waiting to welcome him. He welcomed him and gifted silver in huge amount and also sheep, oxen etc. Alexander added few more things with it from his side and returned him with all due respect. Many other Indian Kings also surrendered in front of him. Ruler of North West Kashmir Abhisar also assured Alexander to give him full support but later on he went to Porus side.

Resistance of King Porus(Puru)

After Takshila, Alexander decided to conquer the Paurav state situated between Jhelam

and Chenab rivers. King of Takshshila also wanted this because of old hostility. So to encourage Alexander he gave his five thousand soldiers to Alexander. Then Alexander sent a message to Porus to surrender before him. Alexander, who was highly ambitious, moved ahead through Jhelum River. On the other side of the Jhelum River, Porus was ready with his army to attack. It was rainy season. Rivers were flooded. That is why Alexander had to wait to attack on Porus. Secondly he did not want to attack from front side. He wanted to attack by deception. Within a few days he got that chance. One day there was heavy rainfall. So Alexander crossed the Jhelum River in mid night and attacked Porus. Porus also came forward to face his enemy. It was a boasting war between Greeks and Indians. War was in full swing morning. Porus and Indian army fought bravely in this roaring battle. Greeks were getting trembled and trying to run away from the battle field. But suddenly there aroused a mess among Indian army. Indian soldiers were on the elephants and Greeks were on horses. Due to the heavy rains & slippery mud, during the battle, suddenly elephants lose their control and started crushing their own army. At this crucial time Indian archers who were on foot also faced problems because of heavy rains.

Under these circumstances, Greek soldiers who were on horses started attacking with agility on Indian soldiers by their arrows. The scene of battle suddenly changed. Now Greeks became more over powering. But Indian soldiers did not lose their courage and spirit. King Porus sat on the huge elephant and supervised his army. He was badly injured, blood started flowing but he was committed towards his patriotism and was ready to give his life for his country. He did not escape and when he fainted Greek soldiers imprisoned him. Then proudly Alexander asked Porus that what kind of behaviour he wanted then the Porus answered that Just like a king should behave with a king. He was so impressed with his bravery that he returned his state and let him free. Though some historians believe that this is Alexander's political strategy that

through his act he wanted to make him his friend and walk desired to walk ahead towards other enemies. King Porus also got impressed with his act and they became friends.

Local Resistance For Alexander's Army

After conquering small states of North East Punjab, Alexander, moved towards central India, but near Beas river the soldiers of his own army refused to proceed. The fact was that the soldiers were tired of fighting for long. Many of them were sick and they wanted to go back to their families and friends. Apart from this they had an idea about the strength of army of Nanda king of Magadh, state. And they already had an experience of the bravery of Indian soldiers in Porus. These were the reasons that they doesn't want to go forward. Looking at his army in this mental state, Alexander tried to persuade his soldiers but he failed and forcibly he had to return to his country.

Return of Alexander

After 19 months of Indian visit, Alexander returned via Jhelum route. This time also he conquered Punjab but when he reached the confluence of rivers Ravi and Chenab he faced the attack of Shibies and Agrashraries. These attacks were tough struggle for him. Then he had to fight against the joint attack of Malavs and Kshudraks. This was a difficult period for Greeks as they were not ready to fight but Alexander convinced them for the battle against Malawa and Kshudraka. Greeks were surprised to see such resistance. Once when Alexander got hurt then his soldiers were ready to fight for their king but they cruelly assaulted the children and women of Malavs. Saddened with this cruelty Malavs and Kshudraks sent a treaty proposal. Alexander accepted the proposal and left his trustworthy person general Philips there and returned to his country. When he reached the mouth of Indus River again he faced the resistance of the people of the state Messicannes, Sambos and Acksicanes. Alexander left India in 325BC where he divided his army into two parts. one part of his army

under the leadership of Niararcus, went to Greece through sea route and other part under his leadership through Kabul, reached Susanagar in Greece in 324 B.C. There he suffered high fever and at the age of 32 years, he died in 323 B.C.

Indo Greek

The invasion of Alexander on Western India was failed in respect of India and Greece. After the death of Alexander the commanders of Greek army struggled a lot among themselves for the sake of sovereignty in India. Under this struggle, Antiochus 3rd, the successor of Seleicush Nicketor, expedited against India in 306 BC. After crossing Hindukush, he crossed valley of Kabul and encountered King Subhagsen. Subhagsen surrendered and this known as the beginning of Backtrian Greek state. Because beyond Hindukush mountain, the area near North Afghanistan and Iran were two states known as Bactria and Parthia. The western region of Bactria was very fertile and the king of the region was Antiochus III. These Bactrian Greeks entered in India establishing on the ground of North West and finally they merged with Indian society and were known as Indo Greek.

After Antiochus III, Demetriyas, Ukeytiedes, Heliyoelis, Apolojetum, respectively but they were not so important. The great Greek ruler of India was Menander.

Manander

According to strabo, Manander was the greatest among the Indo Greek rulers. According to the book written in Pali language, Milindpanh or questions of Milind, Manander was born in Kalsi village which was situated in Alasand Isand, 200 plan away from Shakal, the capital of Manader. Shakal is present day Siyalkot in Pakistan. Fortunately this description has been given in the book, Milindpanh, "Shakal is a place which is a big centre of trade and a heaven of beauty, water facility was there & many hills, many gardens, lakes, wells, rivers, mountains, jungles were there. Intellectual people created this plan and natives had no idea

about the torturous life because all enemies and opponents were suppressed. The security was strong, many burjs and walls, trench around the royal gate made the fort secured. All shops were beautifully decorated. There are many palaces as high as Himalayan peak. The roads are filled with elephants, horses, vehicles and travelers and the crowd of Brahmins, samants, servants loud teachers of every group were welcomed with slogans. Many shops sold Varanasi clothes and other familiar things and other kinds of clothes. Various kinds of flowers and perfumes decorated the market which filled the sweet fragrance everywhere. Numerous jewellery was also adorned by the art traders.



Menander Gautam Buddha Gandhar Art

In Milindpanh, he is related with some royal dynasty. But it seems that he was a common man. The possibility seems that because of Marriage there could be some relation with the royal family. According to Prof. Raipson, he married the daughter of Demetrious. His son Strato was minor at the time of his death. His queen Agathoclea looks after the royal wok. This study was based on the coins of that period..

It is written by Greek writers that Menander was a great conqueror. It is said that he conquered more states than Alexander. Various kinds of coins are found especially in western districts of Uttar Pradesh and also in Kathiyawar. Around 20 km from the confluence of the rivers Panjkor and Swat, there was Vajeer state from where many evidences of existence Menander's rule are found. These are in

two parts. One is about state of Menander. These evidences shows that the state of Menander spread over the Peshawar state and Northern Kabul. There were no independent kings of Takshila and Pushkarawati at that time.

It is mentioned in Milindpanh, that menander was a follower of Buddhism. It is said that because of the torture of king of Shung, Raja Pushyamitra, many buddhists took shelter under Menander kingdom. It is written in Divyavadan that Pushyamitra declared that who so ever bring the head of Buddha Bhikshu will be awarded with one hundred deenars, whereas Menander was a staunch follower of Buddhism. So he had given shelter to all the Buddhists whoever came to his kingdom.



Coins of Menander

In Milindpanh, there is a conversation given between Buddhist Nagsen and Menander who asked so many philosophical in-depth questions & Nagsen gave satisfactory answers of all the questions. As a result Menander adopted Buddhism. Scholars unanimously believed that Mohandar's Dynasty was established after the death of Demetrius in 165 B.C., that's why Menander's dynasty seen after the time of Pushyamitra. It is explained in 'Milind Panh' that Menander was alive even after 500 years of 'Parinirwan'. Prof. Rapson explained correctly that the fame of Menander as a great & Justice loving ruler was not limited up to the Indian boundaries. After two decades of Plutarc told Greeks that after his death, for saving the residue, how competition arose among the cities of his

dynansty. Raipson wrote. In this way not only Menander create his image as a great ruler but also he got fame as a philosopher as "Kuruvanshi Janmejey & Raja Janak of Videh" who have been described in Upnishad.

Greek Invasions & its Effects

Because of early death of Alexander, Greeks were not able to establish Permanent Kingdom. In comparison of invasion of Alexander, Indo Greek persons had more control in North Western border areas. The Greek of Bactria ruled in these states for around two decades that's why there was sufficient time for exchange of cultures though the contribution of India Greeks extended up to North Western areas even then its Indian impact cannot be ignored. Actually Greeks especially assimilated in the main stream of Indian Society.

Currency (Coins)

There was an important impact of Indian Bactrian rule on currency. Before the influence of Greeks, Indian Silver marked coins were technically less superior. The name of any person or date is not mentioned on it. Indian Greek rulers were the first one to introduce moulded gold coins with the name of king, designation & date. They were better because of advance technology. As the Greeks were resilient, they used Indian technology for their experiment.

Art & Sculpture

In the field of Art & Sculpture, the effect of Greeks can be observed very closely. The role of Indian Greeks in terms of cultural part is very important because they introduced Hellenistic art in North Western India which is later on converted into Gandhar art style. With the combination of Indians & Greeks, the art of famous Gandhar style was developed. During the rule of Indian Greeks, astronomy, literature, building construction & religion left their impact. Along with it, due to the opening of water & land routes, the trade & commerce between India & Greece expanded.

Trade and Commerce

Indian gems, elephant tooth, spices & fine clothes were in high demand in Greece where as in Indian market, luxurious materials & makeup-cosmetics were available in ample quantity. As one of the tradition, King Eutychides IV organized an exhibition in Greece in 166 A.D. In the exhibition, he exhibited Indian spices and material made up of elephant teeth. During this time large quantity of coins at least 30 Indo Greek rulers name revealed. Kabul in north and in Mathura near Delhi, the coins of Menander are found. The history of Indo-Greek can be written with the help of these coins. The legend is written on these coins in Greek language, after that Kharoshthi & Brahmi script is also mentioned on it. These proofs are sometimes difficult to understand because the name of some rulers was same. That's why it was not an easy task to differentiate the coins of one dynasty from another. Coins especially of silver were minted as per Indo Greek technology and are a good example of workmanship. It had effect upon the coins issued by local rulers & were distributed in large areas of his kingdom. They had highlighted the increasing business relations in this era.

Cultural Effect & Assimilation

As per Dr. J.N. Bannerjee regarding the Indo Bactrian state in India, the second victory of Greeks were more important than the victory of Alexander. There were sufficient cultural relationship between Indians & Greeks for around two decades & both have reaction on each other. It was not only the impact of Greek civilization on Indian civilization or Indian civilization impact on Greek civilization. So many Indian religious traditions and ideologies were accepted by Greeks. A lot of Greek people followed Indian religions. Greek people subsequently adopted Indian rituals. In the end, Greek assimilated in the main stream of Indian society and culture.

Shakas (Sithians)

They were basically the residents of Central Asia. They were replaced from their native land by the Western Chinese people of U- Chi caste. From then they tried their luck in India.

After Greeks the next arrival of foreign tribe from Central Asia was Shak people. Their residence was at Sathya & because of that they were called as Sithians. During first century BC, after defeating by Kushanas, Shakas gain victory over Parthians and they crossed Bolan pass & resided in Sindhu valley & western Indian region. Initial political history of Shaks in India was not very clear even then it can be stated that 5 branches of Shakas established their superiority. Coins and other sources, related to different branches of Shaka, were available. One branch was in Afghanistan whose capital was at Kapisha. Second branch established in Punjab whose capital was Takshshila. Third branch was established at Mathura, who ruled for there for two centuries. Fourth branch established their kingdom in western India which was continued till the beginning of Fourth century with capital at Ujjain. Fifth branch of Shakas established their kingdom in Upper Dacca, with Nasik as capital.

Shakas of Northern Eastern region didn't face any strong opposition neither from the Indian rulers nor from the public. But in Indian literature and tradition in 56 B.C. the description of final victory of the king of Ujjain Vikramaditya on Shakas is available. To commemorate historical victory in 57 B.C. in east Vikram era was started which becomes the source of strong evidence of Indian astrology. One of the historical victories on Shakas, Vikramaditya became so respectable (Pratishtha) & popular that his name was used as a great title. Every king was eager to hold that title "vikramaditya". As a symbol of great King, the tradition of holding the title of Indian king Vikramaditya popularized. Gupta king Chandragupta II was the most popular king among all those kings who had already held the title of Vikramaditya. In five branches, Nasik & Ujjain branch was the most important.

Basically Shaks were the residents of Central Asia & slowly and gradually they established their empire in Western India. Shakas from Nasik & Ujjain were most popular. Nahpan was the most popular Shak from Nasik who defeated Saatvahans & captured their big area. But in 124 A.D. Gautami Putra Satkarni killed Nahpan. The details of military success & repair of Sudarshan Lake is available in the inscription of Junagarh. After his death, the kingdom of Shakas Ujjain declined

Shak Ruler (Rudradamana)

Among in the descendent of Shak rulers, Rudradamana the son of Jaidaman I (130-150 A.D.) was the most famous ruler. Among all Shaka dynasties settled in India in different states only the rule of western India's (Gujrat) branch continued till Four centuries. The revenue from the port of Gujrat for foreign trade gave them huge prosperity resulting which they floated silver coins in huge quantity. Among all Shak rulers, Rudradamana I was the most popular ruler. In this regard, the maximum information received from Junagarh inscription. This inscription was written in Shak Samvat 72 i.e. 150 A.D.

Even being foreigner, for the first time he released such long Juagarh inscription in pure Sanskrit language. It is clear that Rudradamana encouraged Sanskrit language. It is mentioned on the same inscription on which on a set of fourteen inscriptions of Ashoka & two inscriptions of Gupta king Skandgupt are also mentioned.

Renovation of Sudarshan Lake

In the Article of Junagarh inscription, along with the renovation of Sudarshan lake and, the detailed description of achievement of Rudradamana is presented/ mentioned. It is explained that the Governor of Chandragupt Pushyagupt constructed Sudarshan Lake near Girnar for public welfare. During the Ashoka period, many canals were connected with this lake for irrigation purpose. For centuries, this lake was

the main source of irrigation which was helpful to the farmers of Saurashtra. During the reign of Rudradamana, due to heavy rains the dam the lake broke down and cracks were found. Its renovation was very tough and expensive. But even after the opposition of his courtiers, he got renovated the dam by using huge amount from his personal fund for the betterment of his people & no extra tax was imposed on public. The renovation of Sudarshan Lake was laid down by Suvishakh, the then Governor of Saurashtra.

Expansion of Dynasty

In Junagarh Inscription, we find description of the victory of Rudradamana was given in such a way that he captured Aakr (Eastern Malwa) , Awantika (Western Malwa) Anoop (Narmada coastal state), Trivrit (Northern Kathiawad), Maru (Marwad), Kutch Sindhu (Western area of lower Indus Valley), Eastern coastal area, Kukur (Western central Indian areas) Nishad (Vindhyachal) , Northern Konkan & Arawali mountain ranges. According to Nasik Inscription captured areas belonged to Gautami Putra Shatkarni. It seems definite that these areas were captured by Rudradamana from the decendents of Gautamiputra.

Whatever the case may be but during Rudradamana's Dynasty included Sindhu Souveer (Multan the area of delta) of Sindhu river) , Malwa Gujrat Kathiyawad , Northern Konkan, Western Rajasthan & state of Sindh.

Administration

Junagarh Inscription highlights on Rudradamana's administration. His large empire was divided into Provinces, whose administrative control came under the regional rulers. The renovation of Sudarshan lake was conducted by the regional governor Suvishakh of Pahalav dynasty. For assisting the king in administrative work, the minister's cabinet was available. Ministers who gave suggestions in management were termed as Secretary & persons who executed the government

orders & execution of policies were termed as Karmasachiv. The features of ministers (Amatya) were explained as the praising of the Suvishakh. His arrangement and tax system was based on religion.

Personality

Junagarh Inscription explained the personality of Rudradamana in a very clear way. In these records, the main traits of his personality have been revealed. He was an ideal of public welfare. Even after the opposition of his own ministers, he used his personal funds & spent huge amount of money for the renovation of Sudershan Lake. He did not impose any extra or unvalid tax on public. He was the follower of high principles & person of public welfare. He always protected the person who pleaded for safety & taken oath for not to kill any person except during the war. He made his people safe from dacoits, wild animals and diseases. He was a skilled army leader & a warrior. He was skilled in arms and literature. He was having good knowledge of music and literature, and was promoter of Sanskrit & culture, poeticalism, semantic knowledge of justice & good horse rider and elephants and expert in sword & shield fight. Along with it he had a good & impressive physical appearance. This is confirmed by his coins. Conclusively, Rudradamana was a multi talented personality & even though his independent rule, he owned the title of 'Mahashatriya' like that of Pushyamitra has been called as military commander when he was a king. His personality in itself proves that Rudradamana and his subsequent rulers were till this time. The successors of Rudradamana were weak ruler. The name of Damajad comes as successor of Rudradamana.



Rudradamana Statue of Kanishka Withouthead

Kushanas



Kushana Empire

Though historians are not unanimous on the origin of Kushanas, it is believed that Kushanas were related to U-chi caste of Kas-su district of Western China. Around 165 B.C. after the ouster of these tribes from their motherland, U-chi reached Tahia state of Aanshi river valley after different fights. Shaks were the rulers of Tahia at that time. U-chi tribe defeated Shaks & conquered Bactria. During their stay at this place, U-chi divided into 5 branches. Among all the branches, Kushana branch was the most powerful one. That's why they defeated other four branches and included those states in their kingdom. That's why the word 'kushana' word has been used in place of U-chi. The founder of Kushana clan was Kajulkadfisiz whose state was in Bactria & Gandhar state. His successor was Vim Kandfis who had expanded his empire up

to Mathura of Indian state and held the title of 'Maharaja'. Chinese Scripts throw light on the initial history of Kushanas. Along with it, Indian literature & archeological materials- coins, records, statues & other ancient monuments received after excavation gives wide and authentic information about the Kushana Clan.

Kanishka (78-101 A.D.)

Kanishka was the greatest king of all the Kushan Kings but the date of his coronation is not clear among all scholars. According to many scholars his coronation period is 78 A.D. We can imagine the greatness of Kanishka that his kingdom was expanded over from Axsus River in West and Ganges River in the East and in Central Asia from Khurasan to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

Kanishka's Military Achievements

Kanishka was a great king of Kushan dynasty. Under his rule, kushan dynasty reached at its peak. Kanishka was a great conqueror, efficient administrator and a lover of art. When he became the King it was a small kingdom which included Afghanistan, part of Indus, Parthia, Bactria and part of Punjab. The previous kings were defeated by Chinese rulers. After the death of Vim Kadphises, due to anarchist situations Kushan state became very weak and unstable. At the time of the death of Vim, Kanishka was among those commanders who were trying their luck in India.

Victory on Parthia

Information related to the battle between Parthia and Kanishka came into light through the sources from Chinese scripts. Chinese literature tells us that Parthia ruler attacked Kanishka due to two reasons, firstly Bactria state was very important for trading and secondly Airyana was under his rule previously but later Kunshan had taken over. So he wanted to get it back from Kushans. Dr. Smith believes that Kanishka defeated some foolish king of Parthians might be Khusro. After this battle the whole of Parthia was taken over and became an important part of Kushan kingdom.

Subjugation of Patliputra (Magadh)

According to the description by Chinese and Tibetan writers that Kanishka attacked Saket(Ayodhya) and Patliputra. According to the tradition of Buddhist Kanishka defeated the king of Patliputra and demanded punitive tax but when the king failed to give requisite tax, Kanishka brought wooden almutensit(Bhikshapatra) of Buddha and a Buddhist scholar, a learned Ashwaghosh with him. According to Satyaketu Vidyalankar, the credit of ending the rule of Saatvahan kingdom from Magadh goes to Kanishka. Some scholars claim that Bengal and Orissa were also under his rule because some currency was found in these areas.

Victory over Kashmir

Kanishka liked Kashmir very much. According to Dr. Smith, Kanishka conquered kashmir in his initial of ruling. But there is no proof available of the battle between the king of Kashmir and Kanishka. Various evidences declare that Kashmir was conquered by Kanishka. Ancient historian of Kashmir, Kalhan, explained in his famous book, Rajtaringini that the Kanishka was the king of Kashmir. Kanishka organised Fourth Buddhism council in Kashmir. Kanishka constructed many viharas and a town named as Kanishkapur which is now known as Kanirpor near Baramula was also built by him.

Victory over Ujjain

It is believed that Kanishka fought against the ruler of Shaks also. Possibility is that Kanishka defeated the king named Shak Kshtrap Chashtan. After this battle western Indian ruler already accept his sovereignty and also some parts of Malwa also came under his Kingdom.

Victory over Central Asia

Chinese historical scripts reveal that approximately in 90AD, Kanishka sent his large army to fight against Paan Chau, a commander of Haan Han dynasty. He got great success in this war resulting conquered Kashger, Yarkand and Khotan

of Central Asia.

Attack over China

Chinese Turkistan was already conquered by Kanishka who expanded his dynasty in north upto the hills of Pamir. It reached the boundary of Haan kingdom of From the description of HiuenTsang it had cleared that Kanishka sent his army to the north of Pamir in China.

According to Chinese literature, Kanishka sent his messenger to the king of China, Ho-Ti(Haan dynasty), and conveyed the marriage proposal with the daughter of King for the sake his Kingdom's safety. But the commander of the Chinese army, Pan-Chao, considered it as an insult and imprisoned the envoy. When Kaniska came to know about this he sent his army with 70000 cavaliers under the leadership of commander Shi to invade China but the weather was not favourable and as they reached till Khotan, one part of the army was demolished. It became very easy to conquer for Chinese troops. After defeat by China, Kanishka was forced to pay tax every year to china. One legend is famous related to this when Kanishka said few time before his death, 'I controlled all three directions but only north side did'nt come for surrender.'

Hiuen-Tsang described that after some time Kanishka took revenge of his defeat. He wrote that 'Kanishka's kingdom was spreaded over the east of sung-Lin Hills(Khotan, Kashger, Yarkand) and Chinese tribes, residing on the west of Yellow River, were very much with him and they sent their prince as poisoned in at the court of Kanishka.' As ruler it was his great victory.

Attack on Peshawar

Kanishka established his capital at Purushpur or present Peshawar. This was the central place of his kingdom because his kingdom was spread over Central Asia. Kanishka decorated his capital with many monuments, general palaces and Buddha Viharas.

Expansion of Kushana Empire

In this way after conquering many states

Kanishka established a grand empire. Apart from above victories the boundaries of his empire could be seen in his currency, Scripts and literary sources. From the scripts found in Mathura, Kaushambi and Sarnath indicate that he belongs to the Eastern Region but his empire was spread over North regions. Kashi and Sarnath were the main parts of this side of his empire. The inscriptions found in Sindh and Punjab indicate his sovereignty over there. Chinese sources justified the sovereign over Gandhar. Some currency and statues of Mathura School of Art were found in Madhya Pradesh also. In this way Kanishka'a empire was spread from Bihar in the East to Khurasan in West and Pamir in North to Konkan in South.

Administration

According to Dr. B.N. Puri, Kushans were autocrat rulers. Kanishka's empire was large but very less information is known, about the administration. His kingdom was based on the Kshatrap system just like Greeks and Shakas. His kingdom was administered by the different Kshatrap regions. The inscriptions of Sarnath cleared that the capital of one was Mathura and the capital of another one was Kashi. Mahakshatrap Kharpallan was the provincial king of Mathura and Vansper was another provincial king in Kashi. The nature of governance was military and organization was also not very strong. "The Judge and Magistrate was the important post of his administrative system.

Kanishka as Patron of Buddhism

In Indian history Kanishka was recognized not only as a great ruler but also a protector of Buddhism. In Buddhist literature Kanishka has been mentioned as second Ashoka because he promot and gave protection provided publicity and dissemination to Buddhism. Before adopting Buddhism, Kanishka believed in Irani, Greeks and Hindu gods and Goddess respectively. Evidences of this is that previously the coins had images of God of Iran, Mihir, Agni, Ahurmajda, Greeks Gods like Helyos, Hariclese and Hindu Gods and

Goddess like Sun, Moon, Shiv etc. the image of Lord Buddha was also found on some of his coins. Buddha scholar Ashwaghosh inspired him and to adopt the Buddhist religion and knowledge from him. Kanishka became follower of Buddhism very soon and for the upliftment of his religion he started taking steps like Ashoka. He had given the Buddhist state protection & shelter. And many stupas and viharas were constructed in Kanishkpur, Purushpur, Mathura and Takshila. For the promotion of Buddhism he sent many Buddhist monks to Central Asia, China, Tibet & Japan. It has been written in Rajtarangini that Kanishka did many promotional works for Buddhism. Hiuen-Tsang also described him as a patron and promoter of Buddhism. He arranged Fourth Buddhist Conclave which indicates his efforts for the promotion of Mahayana cult of Buddhism. Being Buddhist he was very tolerant king and gives respect to every religion which also reflected in his coins.

Division of Buddhism and Fourth Buddhist Conclave

Conclave was an important incident in his kingdom. In order to solve rift/schism regarding controversial principles of Buddhism, this conclave was organized in Kundalvan of Kashmir. Around 500 Buddhist scholars participated in this conclave. The president of this conclave was famous scholar Vaasumitra and Vice president was another Buddhist Scholar Ashwaghosh. This conclave lasted for 6 months and the literature was studied very carefully. Comments had written on Tripitakas and compiled into one volume and named as Mahavibhash. All commentaries were inscribed on copper plates and kept in Stupa Mahavibhash has been called the encyclopedia of Buddhism and all schools were accorded the religious status. According to Tibetan historian Taranath, many controversies with regard to Buddhist principles had been removed in 18 schools of that period.

The main result of fourth Buddhist

conclave was the division of Buddhism into Heenyana and Mahayan. To promote Buddhism among general public and in foreign countries rules and principles were given practical approach of the religion. Under this, idol worship or religious rituals were accepted, which had given birth to the new sect of Buddhism, known as Mahayana whereas basic Buddhism was known as Heenyana only. Kanishka had given royal patronage to Mahayan cult. Under Heenyana, Mahatma Buddha was the great saint but according to Mahayana cult, Lord Buddha was the incarnation of God. All religious rituals were started in temples. Good deeds were important in Heenyan whereas in Mahayana, the worship of Bodhisattvas were important. In Heen-Yana they were using Pali language but in Mahayana they started using Sanskrit language. After the birth of this new cult of Buddhism, this religion became very popular among common man because its principles were simple and it was easy to understand and follow for the family also. Like other religions idol worship became common in Buddhism also. And because of royal patronage given to Mahayana branch, it became easier to spread the religion in Central Asia.

Promotion of Art & Literature

Kanishka was not only great ruler but also was highly intellectual and quiet lover of art and literature. He built many Viharas and Stupas which show his love for art. But his best contribution was towards sculpture. His most famous statues were found in Peshawar, Mathura, Kanishkpur and Takshila. He also established the Sirmukh Nagar at Takshshila within which there was large hall and garden. Mathura became the centre of art and from this place one statue (without head) was found which is now kept in Mathura museum. From the point of view of the Art and Sculpture and architecture, during his time three new schools were developed i.e. Mathura, Amravati and Gandhar. But with the rise of Mahayana cult, the craft of sculpture took new turn. Gandhar, peripheral territory, had great Greek impact and due to this the effect of Greek God and Goddesses

also reflected in Buddhist statues. That is why this art is known as Indo Greek art. But these kinds of Buddhist statues were prepared in Gandhar, so it is also known as Gandhar Art. This kind of art had given birth to new kind of School which is a big gift of Kanishka Kingdom.

Highly intellectual philosophers, scientist and writers in his court. The most famous man of his court was poet Ashwaghosh, who had become immortal by writing epic 'Budhcharitra' in Sanskrit. There are many more compositions like Saudranand, Sutralankar and Saariputra Prakaran. Nagarjun, originator of sHunyawad and relativism, was one of the great scholars of Kanishka kingdom. He was not only philosopher but a scientist also. He presented principle of Relativity in his book, 'Madhyamik Sutra'. He is also known as 'Indian Einstein'. Charak was a royal Vaidya (Doctor) and his book 'Charak Samhinta' was a priceless wealth of Ayurveda. Vasumitra, Parshv and Sanghrakshak were other famous intellectuals in his Court. Under his kingdom Sanskrit literature got a high level of progress. One of his minister Manther was famous politician and of sharp intellect.

Coins

Many coins have been found in large number of this period. Many gold and copper coins were started by Kanishka 1st, Huvishka & Vasiska. The interesting part of these coins was that the coins were engraved with the God and Goddess of different regions.

Kanishka as a Constructor/ Erector

Kanishka was also a great builder of many monuments. Artifacts have been found in Peshawar, Mathura, Kanishkapur and Takshila. Sirmukh city of Takshila was also established by him. It included many buildings, gardens and other structures. At that time Mathura became a big centre of art. The main relic of this period is a statue of Kanishka without his head.

Progress in Science

As we have already studied that Kaniska was a great protector of education and literature so during his period different forms of literature was getting developed. For the first time many articles were published in Sanskrit. Ashwaghosh, Bhaas and Shudrak were great writers of this era. Apart from Sanskrit language and its progress, other languages like Pali and Prakrit language also got support and many books were written in these languages. With the development of Buddhism numerous compositions were formed like Divyavadan, etc. Kanishka kingdom was the patron of philosophers, Scientists and intellects. Charak and great Sushurut was the great surgeon of that era. Nagarjun, the scientist, had given the principle of Relativity. In contact with Greeks, many Indian Astrologers had created new principles and astronomy had got its scientific significance. In contact with the Central and Roman states, industrial development advanced for instance Kushan period's copper coin was the imitation of Roman gold coins.

Gandhar Art (50BC-500AD)

Kushan period is famous for the progress of Gandhar art. The sculpture art of Gandhar is also known as Greeko Roman, Greeko Buddhisht, Hind Yunani. Though these arts have great influence on of Greek Roman art it was developed by Indians. It was originated and developed in Gandhar city so it was known as Gandhar art. At Gandhar, Indian sculptors came into contact with the Asian, Roman and Greek art and this gave birth to new art. In this art statues of Buddha were sculpted in the mix style of Greek and Roman art. In his period, Mahayana cult gets risen and adopting Buddhism by many foreign rulers, Buddhist statues were erected in their own way and these statues were very much like Greek Gods, 'Apolo'. Greeks had a significant role in advancing Indian Sculpture art. The subject was Indian but the artists were Greeks. They had primacy of ornamented and decorated in Greek

style. They were bruised with brown or grey stones, later selected and used to be used plaster. Filled, frozen eyes, curly hair, long mustache an attempt has been made to bring the figure of Buddha closer to reality. Under Kushan period, Gandhar school and Amravati school of Sculpture had developed and have given us the best examples of art.

Shaka Era

Kanishka is remembered not only for his victories. Most of the historians agree that when he had taken power in his hand then from 78 AD new Shaka era was started by him which is still continuing in India. It is known as Shaka Era (Shak Samvat).

Development of Foreign Trade (Economic Condition)

Under this period India became very strong from economic point of view as there was a huge development in foreign trade. Economic prosperity was visible in the life style of general people. Road and river connectivity had given impetus to internal trade whereas sea route had given push to foreign trade. Land route was connected by Patliputra and Tamralipti and ships sailed to Burma and Sri Lanka. The routes were developed for a better connectivity from Central and West Asia. A route connected with Takshila to Kabul and Kandhar to Iran. Kushans had controlled over silk route which was from China to Roman kingdom via Central Asia. This silk route became the big source of income for the Indian traders. In this way Indian traders got linked with the region of Southern Arabian Sea and Red Sea. Resulting to this Kushan kingdom and Roman Kingdom both became prosperous in this era.

In the meanwhile Indian traders started participating as mediator with Chinese silk traders. Indian traders bought silk from China and sold to Roman traders. Many articles like spices, clove, black pepper, fragrances, medicines, cotton or silk clothes were exported to Rome. Indian soft muslin cloth became famous among Romans. The centre of

this trade was Kerala. Later on gold coins were coming from Rome in large numbers. These currencies were found in many excavations. Apart from China and Rome, Burma, Java, Sumatra, Champa are the South East Asian countries where India had good trade relations. With the increase of trade, currency was also increased. Indo Greek rulers and Kushan rulers started gold coins. With the increase in trade and currency, many towns were developed. The proof of the growth of urban culture due to urbanisation was found in India and Central Asia. We have already studied that Kanishka was a great or and he established many towns like Kanishkpur and Sirmukh. Purushpur was his first capital and later Mathura became his second capital which was the symbol of cultural prosperity. Seven levels of Kushan period's culture have been excavated from Sonkh region of Mathura. Many monuments found belonging to Kushan period from Jalandhar, Ludhiyana and Ropar of Punjab.

Religious Life

One misconception came into light during the post Mauryan period where these rulers compare themselves with God. They hold a position of 'the son of God'. Although for the social acceptance of foreign rulers, religious acceptance was important. This method already existed in contemporary Roman, Greek and Iranian method. They engraved their image on the coins which prove from royal principle to God's rule.

Social Life

Society is prosperous in Kushan period. Women were free in society. They had their own rooms. Attires were not of same type. Gandhar people generally wore dhoti. They wore belt on their waist and tied turban on their head. Society was prosperous, and filled with many activities. It was clear through inscription of Mathura that the life was full of activities. The uses of many musical instruments, dramas or magical literatures were

described in those inscriptions.

Aims & Effect of Kushan Empire

After the downfall of Mauryan Dynasty this became the first kingdom which was spread over not only whole of North India but also reached till Central Asia. This time India had good relations with foreign countries also.

In this period, religion, society, sculpture and literature achieved great heights especially the rise of Mahayana cult of Buddhism, origin of Gandhar art and statues of Lord Buddha. H.G. Raulinson has rightly said that 'Kushan period was an important era of Indian cultural history.'

This period was the time of Art and Literature, science & knowledge or erectors. Kushan period had given rise to Indian cultural History. Numerous Kushans became followers of Indian religions. They adopted Indian culture and assimilated with the Indian society.

Evaluation of Kanishka

Through sources it is known that for 23 years Kanishka ruled the kingdom and he was continuously busy with the battles or wars. By frustrating his act his commander killed him. He was a great leader, great ruler and a great fighter. In his military success he was better than Samudragupt. Just like Harshvardhan, he was promoter of Buddhism and was a great builder like Ashoka. For improvement in Buddhism he was also organized a council like Ashoka. He always compared with the great Ashoka. He was great conqueror and also a lover of artistes. His court was adorned with intellectuals. According to Indian historians, Greek engineer was also there in his court. He contributed in the rise of Sanskrit language. Kaniska was also famous because of his gold currency. That shows that his kingdom was very prosperous. He had a good & friendly relation with Roman empire. Indian Clothes, jewelry and cosmetics were exported from India. Bactria became the main centre of trade route in Kanishka's

kingdom. Achievements given above prove Kanishka as a great ruler in Ancient India.

Downfall of Kushan Kingdom

Kushan Kingdom was at the highest peak at the time of Kanishka 1st. Not only Indian rulers but also central Asian rulers were scared of him. But his greatness was not secured by his successors. His most of states got into the hands of Indian rulers like Malav, Naag or Kurind castes. Few people believed that the downfall of this kingdom was to assimilation of many castes into Indian castes. The same thing happened to the Sushan kingdom of Iran.

HUNS

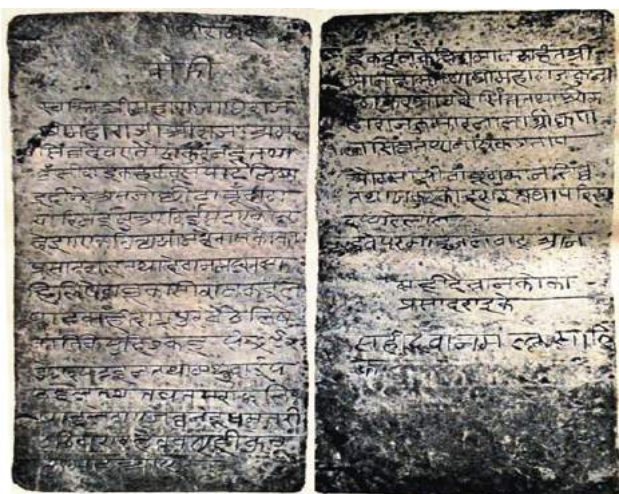
There is a difference of opinion among historians on the question about the origin of Huns. Most of the historians believed that huns came from central Asia like Mongols. They were uncivilized and cruel people and their purpose of attack was to rob the Indian wealth. Some historians believe that they are the sub caste of Gurjars or nomads. Some believe them as ancestors of Rajputs. Basically it is believed that the origin of Hun is from Caucasus. From there they spread to Middle and South Asia. They entered India from Western region. The period was around 450 AD. They started gold coins. These people had relations with Hunnav state of China.

Skand Gupta and Invasion of Huns

Huns was recognized in Indian political scenario when they encountered a challenge by Skand Gupta after facing many attacks by them. Though Skand Gupta was successful in his mission it was not a very great victory. Even the last days of Skand Gupta also went in fear and struggle against their attacks. After a period when Gupta kingdom was getting weak, the king of Huns Raja Tormar invaded Malwa and decided for a permanent stay in India. Mihirkul, the son of Torman, took over Punjab also.

Hun King, Torman

Torman was the greatest king of all Hun kings. His son Mihirkul invaded and there was a lot of bloodshed at Mathura and Takshila. According to the Jain Script Kuvlayamal, Torman ruled his kingdom from Pavaiya city, near Chandrabhaga River. Historians identify this place is near Gwalior.



Script of Hoon Rulres

Suppression of Huns by Yashoverman:

Tortures of Huns were faced by the joint effort of local rulers Yashovermon and Baladitya. This period was 528 A.D. By their attack Huns lost their fight and power but they did not return to their native place, Middle Asia. They adopted Hindu culture and merged with Indian culture and traditions.

Religion

It is believed that the religion of Huns was Shaiv as they had given the slogan, 'har har Mahadev.' This clan was of brave and courageous people. It is also a fact that they merged with the Indian ethos. So it justified that the Rajputs of 8th Century had the mixed blood of Huns.

Aims and Effects

Huns were known as the Invader and Massacre of middle Asia. Initially they were perceived as cruel but later on they adopted Indian

culture and traditions and became a member of Indian mainstream society. By these attacks the weakness of Gupta rulers also exposed. With this a series of Western and Central Asian invasion also began.

Points to remember

- The Central Administration was disturbed in Post Mauryan period which was again established in the Gupta period.
- Buddhism was divided into two branches i.e. Heenyana and Mahayana under Kanishka rule of Kushan period.
- Due to the advent of Greeks, beautiful coinage system had started.
- Alexander praised the valour of King Porus.
- There were given conversation of Menander and Buddhists Scholar Nagsen in the book Milindpanh.
- Under Gandhar school of Art of Sculpture, curly hair of Mahatma Buddha was described.
- There were five branches of Shaka rulers among whom the most important was Nasik and Ujjain.
- Foreigners were already assimilated in Indian society.
- Menander was Hind Yavan ruler.
- Rudradaman was great Shaka ruler.
- Most popular king of Kushans was King Kanishka.
- The period of Kushan was prosperous and flourishing.
- The victory of Rudradaman was described in Junagarh inscription.
- Kanishka was the follower and promoter of Buddhism.
- Maharishi Charak and Sushrut were the Royal Physicians.
- There were two branches in Shakas, i.e. Parthian and Bactrian

Questions for Exercise

Multiple choice questions (Choose the correct option)

1. Famous book of ancient historian Kalhan was -
 - (a) Indica
 - (b) Surya Alankar
 - (c) Rajtarangin
 - (d) Divyadan
2. The author of Charak Samhita, Maharishi Charak was gracing which ruler's court:-
 - (a) Kaniska
 - (b) Rudradama
 - (c) Sikander
 - (d) Chandragupta
3. What was the name of famous ruler of Shaks from the following:
 - (a) Yashovardhan
 - (b) Rudradaman
 - (c) Harshvardhan
 - (d) Ashok
4. Tripitak is related to:
 - (a) Buddhism
 - (b) Jainism
 - (c) Christianity
 - (d) Muslim
5. Junagarh Scriptures provides information of:
 - (a) Chinese ruler
 - (b) Kushan ruler
 - (c) Greek ruler
 - (d) Shak ruler
6. The division of Buddhism took place during the period of:
 - (a) Prithviraj
 - (b) Rudradaman
 - (c) Udayraj
 - (d) Kanishka
7. Fourth Buddhism conclave of Buddhism was held at _____ :
 - (a) Peshawar
 - (b) Kundalvan (Kashmir)
 - (c) Ujjain
 - (d) Mathura
8. Against the _____ whom maximum struggle was fought by Huns
 - (a) Chandragupta
 - (b) Ghatotkach

- (c) Skandgupta
- (d) Samudragupt

Short Answer Questions (Answer in maximum two lines)

1. Name the book of Meghasthanese?.
2. Whoas the follower of Zeroism?
3. Alexander was the ruler of which state?
4. Against whom had Hindu Raja Porus Fought?
5. "Milindpanh" book is about which ruler?
6. With the combination of Indian and Greek art, which new was form of sculpture art was developed?
7. Which Chinese group defeated Shaks?
8. Which sobriquet was given to the rulers for courage and resistance?
9. What is the name of the ruler who renovated the Sudarshan lake?
10. Who was the promoter of Sanskrit language?
11. Who was the founder of Kushan Dynasty?
12. From Acksis river to Ganga river at the east and from Khurasan to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in Central Asia" who ruled the whole region?
13. Buddhism was divided in which two sects?
14. Which conclave was preside over by the Buddhist Scholar Vasumitra?
15. The road spreading from China to Rome exhibits the prosperity of foreign trade?
16. Who was known as Indian Einstein?
17. Which southern port is related to Patliputra?

Short Answer Questions (Answer in maximum 8 lines)

1. Which Indian rulers fought against after joining hands with Hun ruler, Torman?
2. Write the name of foreign invaders respectively.
3. Write the sources of the information of foreign invaders in short.
4. Write the composition of great poet Ashwaghosh.
5. Write in your own words about the Indian political conditions during Greek Invasions.
6. "Resistance of King Puru or Porus was filled with courage and bravery" Explain this sentence.

7. After the death of Alexander which Greek ruler started invading in second phase and what was the result?
8. Write 15 lines on King Menander.
9. Write the characteristics of Greek currency in the field of coins.
10. "Shak ruler Rudradaman will be remembered for public welfare." write in short in favour of this argument.
11. For the upliftment of Buddhism after Ashok, utmost credit goes to Kanishka. Explain.
12. Kushan ruler Kanishka was the patron of scholars, litterateur and philosophers. Name them.
13. Which period was known as the advanced period for Foreign trade and why
14. Gandhar art was the novel form of Indian sculpture art. Write its characteristics.
15. Describe the military campaign of Kanishka.
16. Draw the effects of Greek invasions.

Essay type questions

(Answer in 4-5 pages approx.)

1. Write in detail on Assimilation of foreigners in the section of Indian society.
2. Evaluate that Kanishka was a great ruler and write the characteristics of the tenure of Kanishka, Kushan ruler.
3. Write the achievements of Indian Greek ruler Menander.
4. Explain the Society, religion, trade and commerce of Kushans.
5. "Shak ruler Rudradaman was a great King". Explain.

Answers: (Multiple choice questions)

- 1 (c) 2. (a) 3.(b) 4. (a)
- 5 (d) 6 (d) 7 (b) 8 ©
