



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App

HISTORY - HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1857 TO 1947 CE – DSC 251



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



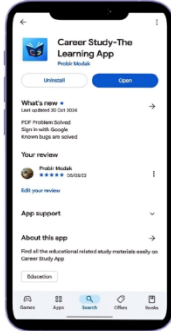
CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App

ABOUT CAREER STUDY:

Career Study is a forward-thinking educational platform designed to empower students across India, with a special focus on the Northeast region. Recognized as a "**Startup**" under the Assam Startup Policy 2016 by the Government of Assam and officially registered under the MSME, Government of India.



At Career Study, we believe in creating opportunities, fostering growth, and inspiring success—one student at a time.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER:

Probir Modak, the founder of Career Study, is an educator and entrepreneur from Silcoorie Camp and currently residing in Silchar, Kathal Road, Probir brings over 8 years of teaching experience and a deep passion for empowering students. His journey began at Assam University, Silchar.



Probir's achievements are deeply rooted in the unwavering support of his family, especially his mother (MAA), whose encouragement and guidance have been pivotal in his journey. Armed with a Master's degree in Economics from Assam University, Silchar.

SUPPORT US:

PLAY STORE – CAREER STUDY

YOUTUBE – CAREER STUDY

FACEBOOK – CAREER STUDY

WHATSAPP – CAREER STUDY



LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App

SEMESTER – IV**HISDSC251T****HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1857 TO 1947 CE****Full Marks = 100 [ESE (70) CCA (30)]**

Unit I

1. Factors responsible for the growth of Indian Nationalism.
2. Growth of political associations before 1885
3. Circumstances leading to the foundation of the Indian National Congress
4. Activities of the Indian National Congress from 1885-1905.

Unit II

1. Partition of Bengal 1905 and Swadeshi Movement.
2. Idea and Formation of Muslim League: Demands and Early Programs
3. Home Rule Movement
4. Revolutionary activities: Bengal & Maharashtra

Unit III

1. Emergence of Gandhi: Regional Movements, Rowlatt Satyagraha
2. Non-Cooperation Movement
3. Swaraj Party: Objectives and activities
4. Simon Commission and Nehru Report.

Unit IV

1. Civil Disobedience Movement
2. Working Class and Trade Union Movement (1920-1935)
3. Tripuri Crisis: Issues and Ideas of Subhash Chandra Bose
4. Quit India Movement.

Unit V

1. Netaji and Indian National Army
2. Revolt of Royal Indian Navy
3. Cabinet Mission
4. Constituent Assembly
5. Circumstances leading to Partition of India.



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



UNIT – I

ONE MARK:

Shungas: Pushyamitra

1. **Who was the founder of the Shunga dynasty?**
 - o Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. **Which dynasty did Pushyamitra Shunga overthrow?**
 - o Maurya Dynasty.
3. **What was the capital of the Shunga dynasty?**
 - o Pataliputra.
4. **Which religion did Pushyamitra Shunga support?**
 - o Brahmanism.
5. **Which famous Buddhist text criticizes Pushyamitra Shunga?**
 - o Divyavadana.
6. **Which Yajna did Pushyamitra Shunga perform to show his power?**
 - o Ashvamedha Yajna.
7. **Who succeeded Pushyamitra Shunga?**
 - o Agnimitra.
8. **Which empire did Pushyamitra Shunga fight against?**
 - o Indo-Greeks.
9. **What was the time period of the Shunga dynasty?**
 - o 185 BCE – 75 BCE.
10. **Which famous poet and playwright is believed to have lived during the Shunga period?**
 - Patanjali.

Political Achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni

11. **Which dynasty did Gautamiputra Satakarni belong to?**
 - Satavahana Dynasty.
12. **Who was the mother of Gautamiputra Satakarni?**
 - Gautami Balashri.
13. **Which title was given to Gautamiputra Satakarni?**
 - "Dakshina Patha Pati" (Lord of the South).



14. **Which major enemy did Gautamiputra Satakarni defeat?**
 - Saka King Nahapana.
15. **Which river became the northern boundary of his empire?**
 - Narmada River.
16. **Which metals were mostly used in Satavahana coins?**
 - Lead, copper, and silver.
17. **Which inscription mentions the achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni?**
 - Nasik Prashasti (Nasik Inscription).
18. **What was the capital of the Satavahanas during his rule?**
 - Pratishthana (modern Paithan, Maharashtra).
19. **Which regions did Gautamiputra Satakarni rule?**
 - Deccan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
20. **Which trade flourished under his rule?**
 - Indo-Roman trade.

Satavahana Administration

21. **What type of government did the Satavahanas follow?**
 - Centralized monarchy.
22. **What was the official language of Satavahana administration?**
 - Prakrit.
23. **What title did Satavahana rulers use?**
 - "Rajadhiraja" (King of Kings).
24. **Which system of governance did the Satavahanas follow?**
 - Feudal system.
25. **Who controlled the administration at the provincial level?**
 - Mahamatras (officials).
26. **What was the role of "Amatyas" in Satavahana rule?**
 - Ministers or advisors.
27. **What were the land revenue officers called in the Satavahana Empire?**
 - Agronomoi.
28. **Which type of land grants were given by the Satavahanas?**
 - Brahmadeya (grants to Brahmins) and Agrahara (tax-free land grants).



29. **Which group played an important role in the economy during the Satavahana period?**

- Guilds (Shrenis).

30. **What was the role of women in administration during the Satavahana period?**

- Some queens issued inscriptions and land grants.

Indo-Greeks: Menander

31. **Who was the most famous Indo-Greek ruler?**

- Menander I.

32. **Which title did Menander take after converting to Buddhism?**

- Milinda.

33. **Which Buddhist text records the conversation between Menander and Nagasena?**

- Milinda Panha.

34. **Which regions did Menander rule?**

- Punjab and Gandhara.

35. **Who was the Buddhist monk who influenced Menander?**

- Nagasena.

36. **Which metal was commonly used in Indo-Greek coins?**

- Silver.

37. **Which script was used in Indo-Greek coins?**

- Greek and Kharosthi.

38. **Which dynasty ruled after the Indo-Greeks in India?**

- Kushanas.

39. **Which Greek ruler is believed to have first invaded India?**

- Demetrius I.

40. **What was the main reason for the decline of Indo-Greek rule in India?**

- Attacks by the Shakas and Parthians.

TWO MARK:

Shungas: Pushyamitra

1. **Who was Pushyamitra Shunga?**

- o Pushyamitra Shunga was the founder of the **Shunga Dynasty**. He was originally a **commander-in-chief** under the last Maurya ruler, **Brihadratha**, whom he later assassinated in **185 BCE**.



2. **Why did Pushyamitra Shunga establish the Shunga Dynasty?**
 - o After **killing Brihadratha Maurya**, Pushyamitra Shunga took over the throne, as the **Maurya Dynasty had weakened** due to internal conflicts and invasions.
 3. **What were the military achievements of Pushyamitra Shunga?**
 - o He successfully **defeated the Indo-Greek king Demetrius** and stopped the expansion of the Greeks into India. He also suppressed several local revolts.
 4. **What was Pushyamitra Shunga's capital?**
 - o His capital was **Pataliputra** (modern-day Patna), but later he ruled from **Vidisha** in present-day Madhya Pradesh.
 5. **What impact did Pushyamitra Shunga have on Indian art and culture?**
 - o He promoted **Brahmanical traditions**, and during his rule, **the Bharhut Stupa and Sanchi Stupa** were renovated and expanded.
-

Political Achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni

6. **Who was Gautamiputra Satakarni?**
 - o He was the **most powerful ruler** of the Satavahana dynasty and expanded the empire across Deccan and western India.
 7. **Which foreign ruler did Gautamiputra Satakarni defeat?**
 - o He defeated **Nahapana**, the ruler of the **Western Kshatrapas (Saka dynasty)**, and recovered large territories.
 8. **What was Gautamiputra Satakarni's title, and what does it mean?**
 - o He took the title "**Dakshinapatha Pati**", meaning "**Lord of the Deccan**", to show his dominance over the southern region of India.
 9. **What information do we get about Gautamiputra Satakarni from inscriptions?**
 - o The **Nasik inscription** issued by his mother, **Gautami Balashri**, praises him as the greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty.
 10. **How did Gautamiputra Satakarni strengthen trade?**
 - He encouraged **trade with Rome and Southeast Asia**, and his rule saw the flourishing of inland and maritime trade routes.
-

Satavahana Administration

11. **What was the structure of the Satavahana administration?**
 - The kingdom was divided into **provinces (Aharas)**, governed by officials like **Amatyas (ministers)** and **Mahamatras (administrators)**.
12. **What was the role of feudatories in the Satavahana administration?**



- The empire had **feudatory kings** (Samantas) who ruled small regions under the main ruler's control.
13. **Which officials managed revenue collection in the Satavahana kingdom?**
- Officials like **Grihapati** and **Rajukas** collected taxes and managed land revenue.
14. **What kind of land grants did the Satavahana rulers give?**
- They donated **villages and lands to Buddhist monks and Brahmins**, known as **Agrahara grants**.
15. **Which type of economy existed during the Satavahana period?**
- The economy was based on **agriculture, trade, and handicrafts**, with coins like **Karshapanas** in circulation.
-

Indo-Greeks: Menander

16. **Who was Menander, and which regions did he rule?**
- Menander, also called **Milinda**, was a famous **Indo-Greek king** who ruled over **Punjab and Gandhara**.
17. **What is the significance of the Milinda Panha?**
- The **Milinda Panha** ("The Questions of Milinda") is a famous Buddhist text recording Menander's **dialogues with Buddhist monk Nagasena**, which led to his conversion to Buddhism.
18. **Why are Indo-Greek coins historically important?**
- Indo-Greek coins introduced **Greek script, realistic portraits, and bilingual inscriptions**, which influenced later Indian coinage.
19. **What was the impact of Indo-Greek rule on Indian culture?**
- Indo-Greeks influenced Indian **art, architecture, and religion**, particularly **Buddhist Gandhara art**.
20. **Which groups replaced the Indo-Greeks in India?**
- The **Shakas (Scythians), Parthians**, and later **Kushanas** gradually ended Indo-Greek rule in India.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Explain the rise and achievements of Pushyamitra Shunga.

Pushyamitra Shunga was the founder of the Shunga dynasty, which emerged after the decline of the Mauryan Empire. He was originally a commander-in-chief under the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha. However, in 185 BCE, he assassinated Brihadratha and declared himself the ruler, marking the beginning of the Shunga rule. The Mauryan Empire had weakened due to internal conflicts and external invasions, which gave Pushyamitra an opportunity to establish his own dynasty.

One of Pushyamitra's major achievements was defending northern India against foreign invasions. The Indo-Greeks, led by Demetrius, attempted to expand their control over India, but Pushyamitra successfully repelled them. He also fought against Kharavela of Kalinga and maintained control over Magadha, Pataliputra, and other regions. His military strength helped stabilize the political situation in India during a time of uncertainty.

Pushyamitra was a strong supporter of Brahmanism and played a significant role in reviving Hindu traditions. He is known to have performed the Ashvamedha Yajna (horse sacrifice), a major Vedic ritual, which symbolized his authority and power. However, Buddhist sources claim that he persecuted Buddhists, though historical evidence for this is limited. Under his rule, Sanskrit literature and Hindu rituals regained importance, setting the stage for future Hindu dynasties.

Overall, Pushyamitra Shunga's rule was marked by military success, the revival of Hindu traditions, and political stability. His leadership helped protect northern India from external invasions and preserved the cultural heritage that had been established during the Mauryan period.

2. Discuss the political achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni.

Gautamiputra Satakarni was one of the greatest rulers of the Satavahana dynasty, ruling during the late 1st and early 2nd century CE. He is best known for his military conquests and efforts to expand and strengthen the Satavahana Empire. At the time of his reign, the Satavahanas faced challenges from foreign rulers, especially the Saka kings who had taken control of many western Indian territories. Gautamiputra led a series of military campaigns to reclaim these lands and successfully defeated the Saka ruler Nahapana.

After defeating Nahapana, Gautamiputra reestablished Satavahana authority over regions such as Maharashtra, Malwa, Gujarat, and parts of Madhya Pradesh. His victory was so decisive that he removed Nahapana's coins from circulation and replaced them with his own. This act symbolized his dominance over the defeated territories. Under his rule, the empire expanded from the Narmada River in the north to the Krishna River in the south, making the Satavahanas one of the most powerful dynasties of the Deccan region.

Apart from his military successes, Gautamiputra was also an able administrator. He strengthened the empire's governance by dividing it into smaller provinces, each managed by local rulers and officials. Trade and commerce flourished during his reign, as the empire maintained strong connections with Rome, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. His rule promoted economic stability, and his coins played a key role in trade transactions.

Gautamiputra is also remembered for his religious policies. He followed Brahmanical traditions but was tolerant of other faiths, including Buddhism and Jainism. His mother, Gautami Balashri, wrote an inscription in Nasik, praising him as a just and powerful ruler. His ability to balance military strength, efficient administration, and religious tolerance made him one of the most influential kings of ancient India.

3. Describe the administration of the Satavahana dynasty.

The Satavahana dynasty, which ruled large parts of Deccan India between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE, developed a well-organized system of administration. The king was the supreme authority and played a central role in governance. He was often referred to as "Rajaraja" and "Dakshinapatha Pati," meaning the ruler of the Deccan region. Despite having absolute power, the king was assisted by a group of ministers and advisors who helped in the administration of the empire.

The empire was divided into provinces known as "Aharas," each governed by an official called "Mahamatra." These provinces were further divided into smaller districts and villages. The village was the smallest unit of administration, and it was managed by a headman called "Gramika." Local governance was important in the Satavahana system, as it allowed efficient management of resources and ensured that people's grievances were addressed.

The military played an important role in the administration of the Satavahana dynasty. The army included infantry, cavalry, and war elephants. The rulers also maintained a strong navy, as trade was a major part of the economy. The Satavahanas actively traded with Rome, Persia, and Southeast Asia, and they controlled important trade routes. They issued coins made of silver, lead, and copper, which facilitated economic transactions.

Religious tolerance was a key feature of the Satavahana administration. While the rulers primarily followed Brahmanism, they also supported Buddhism and Jainism. Several Satavahana kings granted land and resources to Buddhist monasteries, helping Buddhism flourish in India. The combination of strong political leadership, efficient governance, military power, and religious tolerance made the Satavahana administration one of the most successful systems in ancient Indian history.

4. Who was Menander? Discuss his contributions to Indian history.

Menander, also known as Milinda, was one of the most prominent Indo-Greek kings who ruled parts of northwest India during the 2nd century BCE. He was originally a Greek ruler but became deeply involved in Indian culture and religion. He ruled over regions such as Punjab and Gandhara, with his capital at Sagala (modern-day Sialkot in Pakistan).

One of Menander's greatest contributions was his patronage of Buddhism. He is most famous for his conversation with the Buddhist monk Nagasena, which is recorded in the text **Milinda Panha (The Questions of Milinda)**. In this dialogue, Menander asks deep philosophical questions about life, the self, and the nature of existence. This text became an important part of Buddhist literature and reflects the fusion of Greek and Indian thought.

Menander also contributed to Indian history through his administration and trade policies. His rule encouraged the blending of Greek and Indian cultures, which led to advancements in art, architecture, and sculpture. The Indo-Greek influence is evident in the Gandhara style of art, which combines Greek realism with Indian spiritual themes. Additionally, Menander issued coins with Greek and Kharosthi inscriptions, which influenced later Indian rulers.

According to Buddhist sources, Menander eventually converted to Buddhism and may have even abdicated his throne to become a monk. His contributions to Indian culture and philosophy made him one of the most respected Indo-Greek rulers in history. His reign symbolizes the successful interaction between Greek and Indian civilizations.

UNIT – II

ONE MARK:

Kanishka: Conquests & Achievements

1. **Who was Kanishka?**
 - o Kanishka was a ruler of the Kushana dynasty.
2. **Which dynasty did Kanishka belong to?**
 - o The Kushana dynasty.
3. **Which city was Kanishka's capital?**
 - o Purushapura (modern-day Peshawar, Pakistan).
4. **Which regions did Kanishka conquer?**
 - o Parts of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Kashmir, and North India.
5. **Which famous war did Kanishka fight with the Chinese general Pan Chao?**
 - o The war in the Tarim Basin (Central Asia).
6. **What was the significance of Kanishka's conquest of Kashmir?**
 - o He made Kashmir an important Buddhist center.
7. **Which foreign region came under Kanishka's rule?**
 - o Parts of Central Asia, including Bactria.
8. **Which religion did Kanishka promote?**
 - o Buddhism.
9. **Which Buddhist council did Kanishka organize?**
 - o The Fourth Buddhist Council.
10. **In which language were Buddhist texts written during Kanishka's rule?**
 - Sanskrit.

Art & Culture during the Kushana Period

11. **Which style of art developed during the Kushana period?**
 - The Gandhara and Mathura art styles.
12. **What was the main material used in Gandhara sculptures?**
 - Grey schist stone.
13. **What is the most famous feature of Gandhara art?**
 - Greek-style Buddha statues.
14. **Which religion influenced Gandhara art?**
 - Buddhism.



15. **What was the Mathura school of art famous for?**
 - Red sandstone sculptures of Hindu and Buddhist deities.
16. **Which major language was used for inscriptions in the Kushana period?**
 - Kharosthi and Brahmi scripts.
17. **What kind of coins did the Kushanas issue?**
 - Gold and silver coins with Greek and Indian deities.
18. **Which king issued coins with Buddha's image for the first time?**
 - Kanishka.
19. **Which major Buddhist text was compiled during Kanishka's rule?**
 - The Mahavibhasa.
20. **Which Indian city became a center of Kushana culture and trade?**
 - Mathura.

Western Kshatrapas: Rudradaman

21. **Who was Rudradaman?**
 - A famous ruler of the Western Kshatrapas.
22. **Which dynasty did Rudradaman belong to?**
 - The Western Kshatrapas or Shaka dynasty.
23. **Which major Sanskrit inscription mentions Rudradaman?**
 - The Junagarh Inscription.
24. **Which king did Rudradaman defeat?**
 - The Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni.
25. **What was Rudradaman famous for apart from military achievements?**
 - Promoting Sanskrit language and literature.
26. **Which famous lake did Rudradaman repair?**
 - The Sudarshana Lake in Gujarat.
27. **Which language was used for the Junagarh Inscription?**
 - Sanskrit.
28. **Why is the Junagarh Inscription important?**
 - It is the first long inscription written in Sanskrit.
29. **Who was Rudradaman's grandfather?**
 - Nahapana.
30. **What was the main religion followed by Rudradaman?**



- Hinduism, though he tolerated Buddhism and Jainism.

Kalinga Ruler: Kharavela

31. Who was Kharavela?

- A powerful ruler of the Kalinga kingdom.

32. Which dynasty did Kharavela belong to?

- The Mahameghavahana dynasty.

33. Which inscription provides details about Kharavela's life?

- The Hathigumpha Inscription.

34. Which famous Mauryan ruler ruled Kalinga before Kharavela?

- Ashoka.

35. Which empire did Kharavela challenge during his rule?

- The Satavahana Empire.

36. What did Kharavela do to strengthen Kalinga's economy?

- Promoted trade and irrigation projects.

37. Which city became an important cultural center under Kharavela?

- Udayagiri in Odisha.

38. Which religion did Kharavela promote?

- Jainism.

39. Which major Jain symbol did Kharavela restore?

- The Kalinga Jina idol.

40. Which mountain caves are associated with Kharavela?

- The Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves.

TWO MARK:

Kanishka: Conquests & Achievements

1. Who was Kanishka, and which dynasty did he belong to?

Kanishka was one of the greatest rulers of the Kushana dynasty. He ruled over a vast empire, including parts of Central Asia, Afghanistan, northern India, and Kashmir. His reign is known for military conquests, religious patronage, and contributions to art and culture.

2. What were Kanishka's major military conquests?

Kanishka expanded the Kushana Empire through a series of wars. He defeated the Chinese general Pan Chao and conquered parts of the Tarim Basin. He also fought against the Parthians and extended his control over Gandhara, Kashmir, and parts of the Gangetic plains.

3. Why is Kanishka important in Buddhist history?

Kanishka played a significant role in the spread of Buddhism. He organized the Fourth



Buddhist Council in Kashmir, which led to the division of Buddhism into different schools. He also built many Buddhist stupas and monasteries, promoting the religion across Central Asia and China.

4. **What was Kanishka's contribution to trade and economy?**

Kanishka's empire was located along the Silk Route, making it a major center for trade. The trade of silk, spices, and precious metals between India, China, Rome, and Central Asia flourished under his rule. He also introduced gold and copper coins, which helped stabilize the economy.

5. **What was the significance of Kanishka's coins?**

Kanishka issued gold and copper coins with images of Indian, Greek, and Persian gods, showcasing cultural diversity. His coins featured Buddha for the first time, which shows his support for Buddhism. These coins provide valuable information about the religious and cultural influences of his time.

Art & Culture during the Kushana Period

6. **What was the Gandhara School of Art?**

The Gandhara School of Art developed during the Kushana period and was influenced by Greek and Roman styles. It mainly focused on Buddhist sculptures made of grey schist stone, depicting Buddha with detailed facial features, flowing robes, and curly hair, similar to Greek statues.

7. **What were the characteristics of the Mathura School of Art?**

The Mathura School of Art used red sandstone to make sculptures of Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist deities. Unlike Gandhara art, Mathura statues had a more Indian style, with broad shoulders, smiling faces, and symbolic hand gestures (mudras). The famous standing Buddha statues belong to this school.

8. **How did Kanishka promote art and architecture?**

Kanishka encouraged the construction of stupas, monasteries, and sculptures. The Kanishka Stupa in Peshawar was one of the tallest stupas of that time. He also supported both Gandhara and Mathura schools of art, which played a crucial role in the development of Indian sculpture.

9. **What was the importance of the Fourth Buddhist Council?**

The Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir under Kanishka's patronage. It was led by Vasumitra and Ashvaghosha and resulted in the division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana sects. This council also contributed to the development of Buddhist literature in Sanskrit.

10. **Which languages were used in inscriptions during the Kushana period?**

The inscriptions of the Kushana period were written in multiple languages, including Greek, Kharosthi, Brahmi, and Sanskrit. This reflects the multicultural nature of the empire and the influence of different civilizations on Indian culture.

Western Kshatrapas: Rudradaman

11. **Who was Rudradaman, and why is he important?**

Rudradaman was a powerful ruler of the Western Kshatrapas, a dynasty that ruled western India. He is known for his military victories against the Satavahanas and his contributions to



Sanskrit literature and public works. His rule strengthened the position of the Shakas in Indian history.

12. What does the Junagarh Inscription tell us about Rudradaman?

The Junagarh Inscription, written in Sanskrit, praises Rudradaman's military conquests and administrative skills. It mentions his victories over the Satavahanas and his efforts to improve irrigation by repairing the Sudarshana Lake, which helped in agriculture.

13. What was Rudradaman's contribution to literature?

Rudradaman was a great patron of Sanskrit literature. He is credited with promoting Sanskrit as an official language, as seen in the Junagarh Inscription, which was one of the first long inscriptions written in Sanskrit. His support for scholars helped in the growth of classical Indian literature.

14. How did Rudradaman improve irrigation in his kingdom?

Rudradaman repaired the Sudarshana Lake, which was originally built during the Mauryan period. This irrigation project benefited the farmers of Gujarat and ensured a stable agricultural economy. His efforts highlight his concern for public welfare.

15. What was Rudradaman's religious policy?

Rudradaman was a Hindu but followed a policy of religious tolerance. He respected Buddhism and Jainism and allowed their followers to practice freely. His rule reflects the diversity of Indian society during the Western Kshatrapa period.

Kalinga Ruler: Kharavela

16. Who was Kharavela, and which dynasty did he belong to?

Kharavela was a powerful ruler of the Mahameghavahana dynasty in Kalinga (modern-day Odisha). He is known for his military campaigns, administrative policies, and patronage of Jainism. His rule helped in the revival of Kalinga's power after the Mauryan invasion.

17. What is the significance of the Hathigumpha Inscription?

The Hathigumpha Inscription, found in the Udayagiri caves of Odisha, provides details about Kharavela's reign. It describes his military conquests, construction projects, and religious contributions. This inscription is one of the most important historical sources for ancient Kalinga.

18. How did Kharavela strengthen Kalinga's military?

Kharavela expanded Kalinga's power through several military campaigns. He defeated the Satavahanas, invaded Magadha, and brought back the sacred Jina idol that had been taken by the Nandas. His strong army helped him establish dominance over eastern and central India.

19. What was Kharavela's contribution to Jainism?

Kharavela was a great patron of Jainism. He built Jain temples and caves, including the Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves, which were used by Jain monks for meditation. His religious tolerance helped Jainism flourish in Kalinga.

20. What were Kharavela's administrative achievements?

Kharavela improved irrigation, trade, and public infrastructure in his kingdom. He encouraged agriculture by building canals and reservoirs. His administration promoted economic prosperity and cultural development in Kalinga, making it a powerful kingdom during his time.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Kanishka: Conquests and Achievements

Answer: Kanishka, one of the greatest rulers of the Kushan dynasty, ruled during the 2nd century CE. He is widely known for his military conquests, political expansion, and significant contributions to art, culture, and Buddhism. His reign marked a golden period in the history of ancient India, as he successfully expanded the Kushan Empire to include vast territories.

Kanishka's military conquests were extensive and far-reaching. He is believed to have waged wars in Central Asia, conquering regions such as Bactria, Gandhara, and parts of the Tarim Basin in present-day China. His empire stretched from the Oxus River in the west to the Gangetic plains in the east. One of his most significant victories was against the Chinese Han dynasty, which led to his control over parts of Central Asia. His capital, **Peshawar (then known as Purushapura)**, became a major center of trade, culture, and administration.

Apart from his military success, Kanishka was a great patron of Buddhism. He organized the **Fourth Buddhist Council** in Kashmir, which played a crucial role in the spread of Mahayana Buddhism. Under his rule, Buddhism spread beyond India to Central Asia and China. He built numerous stupas and monasteries, promoting Buddhist art and literature. His patronage led to the emergence of the **Gandhara school of art**, which combined Indian and Greco-Roman artistic elements.

Kanishka also introduced an **efficient administrative system**. He issued a variety of coins in gold and copper, which depicted not only Indian deities but also Greek and Iranian gods, reflecting the cultural diversity of his empire. He promoted trade along the Silk Route, strengthening economic ties between India, China, and the Roman Empire.

Thus, Kanishka was not only a powerful conqueror but also a great patron of religion, culture, and trade. His reign played a crucial role in shaping the history of ancient India and influencing the broader Asian world.

2. Art and Culture During the Kushana Period

Answer: The Kushana period (1st–3rd century CE) was a golden age for Indian art and culture. The Kushanas, especially Emperor Kanishka, played a significant role in the patronage and promotion of art, religion, and cultural exchanges between different regions. This period saw the emergence of distinct artistic styles, religious transformations, and the spread of Indian culture across Asia.

One of the most notable contributions of the Kushana period was the **Gandhara School of Art**, which developed in the northwestern parts of the empire, especially in present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. This art style blended Indian, Greek, and Roman artistic traditions, resulting in unique sculptures, particularly of the Buddha. The Gandhara statues had realistic human features, curly hair, and flowing robes, resembling Greek sculptures.

Parallel to Gandhara, the **Mathura School of Art** flourished in northern India. Unlike Gandhara art, which used grey schist stone, Mathura art was characterized by red sandstone. It produced early depictions of Hindu gods, Buddhist images, and Jaina figures. The Kushanas also patronized the **Amaravati School of Art**, known for its intricately carved Buddhist stupas in the Deccan region.

Apart from art, literature and religion flourished during the Kushana period. **Sanskrit** gained prominence, and Buddhist texts like the Mahayana Sutras were compiled. The period also saw the evolution of **Mahayana Buddhism**, which was actively promoted by Kanishka. The construction of stupas, monasteries, and rock-cut caves like those in Ajanta and Ellora played a crucial role in spreading Buddhist teachings.

The **Silk Route trade** flourished under the Kushanas, connecting India with Central Asia, China, and the Roman Empire. This led to a vibrant cultural exchange, introducing new artistic techniques, musical influences, and even medicinal knowledge.

In conclusion, the Kushana period was a time of immense cultural development. Its artistic, religious, and literary contributions left a lasting impact on Indian civilization and influenced neighboring cultures.

3. Rudradaman: The Western Kshatrapa King

Answer: Rudradaman I, the most famous ruler of the Western Kshatrapas, ruled during the 2nd century CE. He is best known for his military campaigns, administrative policies, and contributions to Sanskrit literature. His reign marked a significant period of stability and prosperity in western India.

Rudradaman was a **powerful and ambitious king**. He expanded his empire by defeating the Satavahanas and establishing control over Gujarat, Malwa, and parts of Maharashtra. Unlike many rulers of his time, he did not destroy cities after conquest but instead focused on their development. His rule ensured political stability in western India.

One of Rudradaman's most significant contributions was the **reconstruction of the Sudarshana Lake** in Gujarat. This artificial reservoir was crucial for irrigation and agriculture, benefiting thousands of people. His efforts highlight his focus on public welfare and infrastructure.

He was also a **patron of Sanskrit literature**. The **Junagadh Inscription**, written in pure Sanskrit, is one of the earliest known Sanskrit inscriptions in India. It provides valuable information about his reign and achievements.

Rudradaman's rule ensured economic prosperity through trade and commerce. His **silver coins**, inscribed with Greek and Kharosthi scripts, were widely used in trade with Rome and Central Asia.

Thus, Rudradaman was not just a warrior but also an able administrator and patron of culture, making his reign a significant chapter in Indian history.

4. Kharavela: The Kalinga Ruler and His Achievements

Answer: Kharavela, the legendary ruler of Kalinga, ruled in the 1st century BCE. His achievements are recorded in the **Hathigumpha Inscription**, which provides valuable insights into his military, administrative, and cultural contributions.

Kharavela is famous for his **military conquests**. He launched campaigns against the Satavahanas, the Nandas, and the Western Kshatrapas. He also restored Kalinga's independence, which had been lost after Ashoka's invasion. His victories extended his influence over a vast region.

Apart from warfare, Kharavela focused on **public welfare and infrastructure**. He repaired canals, built reservoirs, and promoted trade. His administration encouraged economic prosperity, making Kalinga a major center of commerce.

Kharavela was a devout **patron of Jainism**. He built temples, caves, and monasteries for Jain monks. His religious tolerance allowed multiple faiths to thrive in his kingdom.

His rule is remembered for its combination of military strength, economic prosperity, and cultural patronage.



5. The Role of Kanishka in the Spread of Buddhism

Answer: Kanishka played a crucial role in spreading **Mahayana Buddhism**. He organized the **Fourth Buddhist Council** in Kashmir, where Buddhist scholars compiled Mahayana texts.

He built numerous stupas, including the famous **Kanishka Stupa** in Peshawar. His patronage helped Buddhist art flourish, leading to the development of Gandhara sculptures.

Through his vast empire and Silk Route trade, Kanishka facilitated the spread of Buddhism to **China, Central Asia, and beyond**. His efforts made Buddhism a global religion, influencing cultures far beyond India.

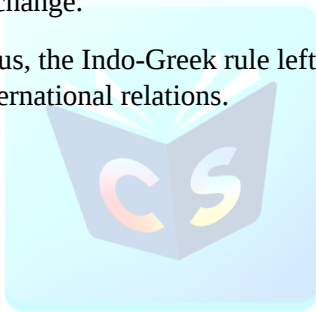
6. The Impact of Indo-Greek Rule in India

Answer: The **Indo-Greeks**, especially Menander, ruled parts of northwest India in the 2nd century BCE. Their rule significantly influenced Indian art, coinage, and culture.

The Indo-Greeks introduced **Hellenistic artistic traditions**, which blended with Indian styles to create Gandhara art. Their coins featured Greek and Indian gods, reflecting cultural fusion.

Their rulers, like Menander, embraced **Buddhism** and played a role in its spread. The Indo-Greek presence contributed to India's interaction with the Mediterranean world, enhancing trade and cultural exchange.

Thus, the Indo-Greek rule left a lasting legacy in Indian history, especially in art, religion, and international relations.



UNIT – III

ONE MARK:

1. Imperial Guptas: Samudragupta & Chandragupta II – Conquests and Achievements

1. **Who was the founder of the Gupta dynasty?**
→ Sri Gupta
2. **Which Gupta ruler is known as the ‘Napoleon of India’?**
→ Samudragupta
3. **Which important source provides details about Samudragupta’s conquests?**
→ Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prashasti)
4. **Who composed the Allahabad Pillar Inscription?**
→ Harisena
5. **Which empire did Samudragupta defeat in his southern expedition?**
→ Pallavas
6. **Which kingdom was ruled by the Naga rulers whom Samudragupta defeated?**
→ Central India
7. **Which foreign ruler did Chandragupta II defeat to extend his empire westward?**
→ Saka Kshatrapas (Western Satraps)
8. **Which city became the second capital of the Gupta Empire under Chandragupta II?**
→ Ujjain
9. **Who was the court poet of Chandragupta II?**
→ Kalidasa
10. **What title did Chandragupta II assume after his victory over the Sakas?**
→ Vikramaditya

2. Gupta Administration

11. **What type of administration did the Gupta Empire have?**
→ Monarchical and decentralized
12. **What was the king’s council called during the Gupta period?**
→ Mantriparishad
13. **Which officer was responsible for village administration in the Gupta Empire?**
→ Gramika
14. **What was the official language of the Gupta administration?**
→ Sanskrit
15. **Which system of taxation was followed during the Gupta period?**
→ Bhaga (land tax) and Bali (extra tax)
16. **What was the head of a province called in the Gupta administration?**
→ Uparika
17. **What was the main source of revenue for the Gupta Empire?**
→ Land revenue



18. **Which officer collected revenue in the Gupta administration?**
→ Kumaramatyā
19. **What were local bodies of administration called during the Gupta period?**
→ Nagarika and Gramika
20. **What was the role of the Sandhivigrahika in the Gupta administration?**
→ Minister of peace and war

3. Art & Architecture, Literature, Science

21. **Which famous iron structure was built during the Gupta period?**
→ Mehrauli Iron Pillar
22. **Which cave paintings are associated with the Gupta period?**
→ Ajanta Caves
23. **Which style of temple architecture emerged during the Gupta period?**
→ Nagara style
24. **Which famous literary work was written by Kalidasa?**
→ Abhijnanasakuntalam
25. **Which Gupta ruler was a great patron of art and literature?**
→ Chandragupta II
26. **Which mathematician wrote Aryabhatiya?**
→ Aryabhata
27. **Who is known as the 'father of Indian medicine' from the Gupta period?**
→ Charaka
28. **Which astronomer first proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis?**
→ Aryabhata
29. **Which classical dance form is mentioned in Gupta-era literature?**
→ Bharatanatyam
30. **Which famous scholar wrote the Amarakosha lexicon during the Gupta period?**
→ Amarasimha

4. The Decline of the Gupta Power

31. **Which ruler's death led to the decline of the Gupta Empire?**
→ Skandagupta
32. **Which Central Asian tribe frequently invaded India during the Gupta period?**
→ Huns (Hephthalites)
33. **Which Gupta ruler tried to resist the Huns but failed?**
→ Baladitya
34. **Which internal factor contributed to the decline of the Gupta Empire?**
→ Weak successors and decentralization
35. **Which major economic issue weakened the Gupta Empire?**
→ Decline in trade with the Roman Empire



36. **Which southern dynasty gained power after the decline of the Guptas?**
→ Vakatakas
37. **Which region saw the rise of local rulers after Gupta decline?**
→ Bengal and Punjab
38. **Which famous Chinese traveler visited India during the Gupta period?**
→ Fa-Hien
39. **What was the main reason for the weakening of the Gupta military?**
→ Constant invasions and internal revolts
40. **Which dynasty rose to power in North India after the fall of the Gupta Empire?**
→ Pushyabhutis (Harsha's dynasty)

TWO MARK:

1. What were the major conquests of Samudragupta?

Samudragupta, often called the *Napoleon of India*, expanded the Gupta Empire through both military conquests and diplomacy. His southern campaign led to the defeat of several rulers in the Deccan, including the Pallavas and the Kalinga kingdom. In northern India, he defeated many small rulers but reinstated them as vassals, ensuring their loyalty. His conquests are recorded in the *Allahabad Pillar Inscription*, composed by his court poet, Harisena.

2. What was the significance of the Allahabad Pillar Inscription?

The *Allahabad Pillar Inscription*, also known as *Prayag Prashasti*, is a detailed record of Samudragupta's military campaigns and policies. It was composed in Sanskrit by Harisena and provides valuable insights into the political landscape of that time. The inscription highlights Samudragupta's diplomatic skills, as he allowed defeated rulers to remain in power under his supremacy.

3. How did Chandragupta II expand the Gupta Empire?

Chandragupta II, also known as *Vikramaditya*, expanded the Gupta Empire by defeating the *Saka Kshatrapas* in western India. This victory helped in establishing Gupta dominance over the prosperous trade routes of Gujarat and Malwa. His expansion made the empire wealthier and stronger, and he also formed strategic alliances through marriage, further strengthening his rule.

4. What were the main administrative divisions of the Gupta Empire?

The Gupta administration was divided into provinces called *Bhuktis*, which were governed by *Uparikas* (provincial governors). These provinces were further divided into *Vishayas* (districts), managed by *Vishyapatis*. The lowest administrative unit was the village, overseen by the *Gramika*. The administration was efficient, with local bodies playing a significant role in governance.

5. What role did the Kumaramatyas play in the Gupta administration?

The *Kumaramatyas* were high-ranking officials in the Gupta administration who assisted the king in governance. They were often appointed as governors of provinces and had both administrative and military responsibilities. Their loyalty was crucial for maintaining stability in the empire.

6. What was the economic system of the Gupta Empire?

The economy of the Gupta Empire was primarily agrarian, with land revenue being the main source of income. Trade flourished both within India and with foreign regions such as Southeast Asia and the Roman Empire. The use of gold coins, known as *Dinars*, indicates a prosperous economy. However, towards the end of the Gupta rule, economic decline was observed due to decreasing trade with Rome.

7. How did the Gupta rulers promote art and architecture?

The Guptas were great patrons of art and architecture. The period saw the development of the *Nagara* style of temple architecture, with prominent examples like the *Dashavatara Temple* at Deogarh. The *Ajanta caves* were also decorated with exquisite paintings during this era. Sculptures and coins from this period reflect a high level of craftsmanship.

8. What is the significance of Ajanta cave paintings?

The *Ajanta cave paintings*, created during the Gupta period, depict scenes from the life of Buddha and Jataka tales. They are considered masterpieces of Indian art, showcasing advanced techniques of shading and perspective. These paintings provide insight into the cultural and religious life of ancient India.

9. What contributions did Kalidasa make to Indian literature?

Kalidasa, the greatest Sanskrit poet and dramatist of the Gupta period, composed several masterpieces, including *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, *Meghadutam*, and *Raghuvamsham*. His works are known for their rich descriptions of nature, human emotions, and deep philosophical themes. His influence on Indian literature remains unparalleled.

10. How did the Guptas contribute to scientific advancements?

The Gupta period was a golden age for science and mathematics. Aryabhata, the great mathematician and astronomer, introduced the concept of zero and calculated the value of π . He also proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis. Medical sciences also advanced under scholars like Charaka and Sushruta.

11. What is the significance of the Mehrauli Iron Pillar?

The *Mehrauli Iron Pillar*, built during the Gupta period, is famous for its rust-resistant composition, showcasing advanced metallurgical skills. It stands as a testament to the technological advancements of the time. Despite being over 1,600 years old, it has not corroded, which remains a mystery to modern scientists.

12. What were the major causes of the decline of the Gupta Empire?

The Gupta Empire declined due to several factors, including weak successors, economic decline, and constant invasions by the *Huns*. Internal rebellions and decentralization also weakened central authority. The empire eventually fragmented into smaller kingdoms.

13. Who were the Huns, and how did they affect the Gupta Empire?

The *Huns*, a Central Asian tribe, frequently invaded India during the late Gupta period. Their repeated attacks weakened the empire's military and economy. Although Skandagupta successfully repelled them, later rulers could not withstand their invasions, contributing to the empire's downfall.

14. What was the role of Skandagupta in defending the Gupta Empire?

Skandagupta was one of the last strong rulers of the Gupta dynasty. He successfully defended the empire against the *Huns* and maintained stability for a short period. However, the continuous wars drained the empire's resources, accelerating its decline.

15. How did trade influence the Gupta economy?

Trade played a crucial role in the prosperity of the Gupta economy. The empire maintained strong commercial links with Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean. The decline of Roman trade impacted the economy negatively, reducing the inflow of gold and leading to economic instability.

16. What were the social conditions during the Gupta period?

The society during the Gupta period was highly stratified based on the caste system. The Brahmins held significant power, while women's status declined compared to earlier periods. However, education and arts flourished, and religious tolerance was maintained.

17. What was the impact of Gupta rule on religion?

The Gupta rulers were predominantly Hindu but followed a policy of religious tolerance. They supported Buddhist and Jain institutions, evident from the construction of Buddhist stupas and monasteries. This period also saw the rise of Bhakti movements in Hinduism.

18. How did the Gupta rulers use coinage to strengthen their economy?

The Guptas issued high-quality gold coins called *Dinars*, which reflected their economic strength. These coins featured images of rulers, deities, and military achievements, symbolizing their power and prosperity. However, during the later years, the quality of coins declined due to economic difficulties.

19. How did the decline of the Gupta Empire affect India's political scenario?

After the fall of the Gupta Empire, India fragmented into several smaller kingdoms, such as the *Vakatakas* in the Deccan and the *Pushyabhutis* in North India. This period of political disunity eventually paved the way for the rise of new powerful dynasties like *Harsha's* empire.

20. What legacy did the Gupta Empire leave behind?

The Gupta Empire is remembered as a golden age of Indian culture, art, literature, and science. Their contributions in temple architecture, mathematics, and governance influenced later Indian kingdoms. Despite their decline, their legacy shaped the future of Indian civilization.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Samudragupta: Conquests and Achievements

Samudragupta, one of the greatest rulers of the Gupta Empire, reigned from **c. 335 CE to 375 CE**. He was the son of **Chandragupta I** and **Kumaradevi**. His rule is known for its military conquests, political expansion, and patronage of arts and culture. His achievements are recorded in the **Allahabad Pillar Inscription**, written by his court poet **Harisena**.

Samudragupta followed an aggressive military policy and expanded the Gupta Empire significantly. His **conquests were divided into four phases**: the **northern campaign**, the **southern campaign**, the **subjugation of frontier states**, and the **establishment of a tribute system**. In the northern campaign, he defeated **nine kings** of the Ganga-Yamuna region, extending Gupta control over parts of present-day **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Bengal**. He then marched south and defeated **twelve rulers** in the Deccan, including the kings of **Kanchi, Vengi, and Pallava territories**. However, instead of annexing the southern states, he reinstated the defeated rulers as his tributaries, ensuring Gupta dominance without direct administration.

Apart from his military successes, Samudragupta was a patron of learning and culture. He was not just a warrior but also a **poet, musician, and scholar**. He was given the title "**Kaviraja**", meaning **King of Poets**. He also promoted **Hinduism** and performed the prestigious **Ashwamedha Yajna**, a ritual that symbolized supreme sovereignty. His coins, depicting him playing the **veena**, highlight his love for music.

Samudragupta's reign marked the beginning of the **Golden Age of the Gupta Empire**. His military prowess, administrative skills, and patronage of culture strengthened the foundation of the **Gupta dynasty**, making it one of the most powerful empires in Indian history.

2. Chandragupta II: Conquests and Achievements

Chandragupta II, also known as **Vikramaditya**, ruled from **c. 375 CE to 415 CE** and is regarded as one of the greatest rulers of the **Gupta dynasty**. His reign was marked by **military expansion, economic prosperity, and cultural advancements**.

One of his greatest military achievements was the **defeat of the Western Kshatrapas**. The Kshatrapas had controlled western India for over three centuries and posed a significant threat to Gupta power. Chandragupta II launched a well-planned campaign and successfully **annexed Gujarat, Saurashtra, and Malwa**, giving the Guptas control over important trade routes and ports. This victory strengthened the empire's economy by **boosting trade with the Roman Empire** and other foreign regions.

Apart from his conquests, Chandragupta II is known for his **efficient administration and promotion of arts and literature**. His court was adorned with **nine great scholars**, known as the **Navaratnas**, which included **Kalidasa**, the famous poet and playwright. The **iron pillar of Delhi**, which remains rust-free even today, is believed to have been erected during his reign, showcasing the advanced metallurgy of the time.

Chandragupta II encouraged **religious tolerance** and supported Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. He also maintained diplomatic relations with foreign rulers, including the **Sassanid Empire of Persia**. His reign is often considered the peak of the **Gupta Golden Age**, characterized by **prosperity, stability, and cultural achievements**.

3. Gupta Administration

The **Gupta administration** was known for its efficiency, decentralization, and stability, which contributed to the prosperity of the empire. Unlike the Mauryas, who had a highly centralized system, the Guptas followed a **feudal system**, where local rulers and governors had significant autonomy.

The **king** was the supreme authority and had absolute power. He was assisted by a council of ministers, known as the **Mantriparishad**. The **Empire was divided into provinces**, called **Bhuktis**, which were governed by **Uparikas** (provincial governors). Each Bhukti was further divided into **Vishayas** (districts), managed by **Vishayapatis**. At the village level, administration was carried out by the **Gramika** or village headman, ensuring smooth governance at the grassroots level.

The **Guptas maintained a strong military** to protect their empire. The army consisted of **infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots**. They also had a strong **espionage system**, which helped in maintaining internal stability.

One of the significant aspects of Gupta administration was the **judicial system**. The king was the highest authority in legal matters, and local disputes were settled by **village assemblies** or guilds. The concept of **dharma (justice)** played a vital role in legal proceedings.

The **Gupta rulers encouraged trade and commerce**, leading to economic prosperity. The government collected **taxes in kind and cash**, ensuring a stable revenue system. The efficient administration of the Guptas allowed them to maintain a **strong empire for nearly two centuries**, setting the foundation for medieval Indian administration.

4. Art and Architecture during the Gupta Period

The **Gupta period (4th-6th century CE)** is often regarded as the **Golden Age of Indian Art and Architecture**. It witnessed remarkable developments in **sculpture, painting, temple architecture, and literature**.

In the field of **architecture**, the Guptas built the first significant **free-standing temples**. Earlier, temples were mostly rock-cut, but the Guptas introduced **shikara-style temples**, which later became a standard feature of Indian temple architecture. Notable examples include the **Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh** and the **Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya**.

Sculpture flourished during this period, with artists creating **exquisite images of Hindu gods, Buddha, and Jain Tirthankaras**. The **Sarnath Buddha statue**, which depicts Buddha in a meditative posture, is a masterpiece of Gupta sculpture.

The **Ajanta and Ellora caves**, famous for their paintings, were also developed during this period. The **Ajanta cave paintings**, depicting scenes from the **Jataka tales**, show advanced techniques of shading and coloring, making them some of the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art.

The Gupta period also made significant contributions to **science, mathematics, and literature**. Mathematicians like **Aryabhata** introduced the **concept of zero**, while scholars like **Kalidasa** wrote literary masterpieces such as **Abhijnanasakuntalam**.

Overall, the artistic achievements of the Gupta period influenced Indian culture for centuries and played a crucial role in shaping the subcontinent's artistic heritage.

5. The Decline of Gupta Power

The **Gupta Empire began to decline** after the reign of **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)** due to internal and external challenges. One of the biggest threats came from the **Hunas (Hephthalites)**, who invaded India from Central Asia. The Gupta rulers, especially Skandagupta, tried to resist them, but continuous attacks weakened the empire.

Apart from external invasions, the empire faced **economic difficulties**. The long wars against the Hunas drained the treasury. The decline in **trade** and the **collapse of Roman trade links** further weakened the economy.

The empire also suffered from **political instability**. After Skandagupta's death, weak successors like **Purugupta and Vishnugupta** failed to maintain control. The **rise of regional kingdoms**, such as the **Vakatakas in the Deccan** and the **Maukharis in North India**, further accelerated the decline.

By the late **6th century CE**, the once-mighty Gupta Empire had fragmented into smaller states, marking the end of one of India's greatest dynasties. However, the legacy of the Guptas continued to influence Indian history, especially in **art, literature, and administration**.

UNIT – IV

ONE MARK:

1 Who were the Hunas?

→ The Hunas were a Central Asian nomadic tribe that invaded India during the **5th and 6th centuries CE**.

2 Which Gupta ruler resisted the Huna invasions?

→ **Skandagupta** successfully repelled the Hunas but exhausted the empire's resources.

3 Which Huna leader invaded India?

→ **Toramana** led the first major Huna invasion into India.

4 Who was the most powerful Huna ruler in India?

→ **Mihirakula**, the son of Toramana, was the most powerful Huna king in India.

5 Which Indian kingdom was weakened due to the Huna invasions?

→ The **Gupta Empire** significantly declined due to Huna invasions.

5 What was one major effect of the Huna invasion on Indian society?

→ The invasions disrupted **trade, economy, and political stability** in North India.

6 Which regions did the Hunas capture in India?

→ They captured parts of **Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and the western Gangetic plains**.

7 What religion did Mihirakula follow?

→ Mihirakula was a **Shaivite Hindu**, but he was notorious for persecuting Buddhists.

8 Which Indian ruler defeated Mihirakula?

→ **Yasodharman of Malwa** and the **Maukharis** played key roles in defeating Mihirakula.

9 Which dynasty rose to power after the decline of the Guptas?

→ The **Maukharis** and **Vakatakas** emerged as powerful dynasties.

10 Where was the Maukhari dynasty based?

→ The Maukharis ruled over **Kannauj** in present-day Uttar Pradesh.

11 Which Maukhari ruler fought against the Later Guptas?

→ **Ishanavarman** fought against the Later Guptas.

12 Who was the greatest ruler of the Maukhari dynasty?

→ **Ishanavarman** was one of the most powerful Maukhari kings.

13 Which dynasty eventually replaced the Maukhari dynasty?

→ The **Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty** under **Harshavardhana** replaced the Maukharis.

14 What was the capital of the Maitraka dynasty?

→ **Valabhi (in Gujarat)** was the capital of the Maitrakas.

15 Who was the founder of the Maitraka dynasty?

→ **Bhatarka**, a former Gupta general, founded the Maitraka dynasty.

16 Which religion flourished under the Maitrakas?

→ **Buddhism and Shaivism** were both patronized by the Maitraka rulers.



- 17 **Which famous Chinese traveler visited the Maitraka kingdom?**
→ **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** visited Valabhi and praised its Buddhist learning centers.
- 18 **What happened to the Maitraka dynasty?**
→ The **Arabs invaded Gujarat** in the 8th century, leading to the dynasty's downfall.
- 19 **Who were the Vakatakas?**
→ The Vakatakas were a **powerful Deccan dynasty** that ruled between the **3rd and 5th centuries CE**.
- 20 **What was the capital of the Vakatakas?**
→ Their capital was **Vidarbha (in present-day Maharashtra)**.
- 21 **Who was the founder of the Vakataka dynasty?**
→ **Vindhyashakti I** founded the dynasty around **250 CE**.
- 22 **Which Vakataka ruler was an ally of the Guptas?**
→ **Rudrasena II** married **Prabhavati Gupta**, the daughter of Chandragupta II.
- 23 **Who was the greatest ruler of the Vakatakas?**
→ **Pravarsena I** expanded the empire and performed the **Ashwamedha Yajna**.
- 24 **Which famous caves were built during the Vakataka period?**
→ The **Ajanta Caves** were commissioned during the reign of **Harishena**, a Vakataka king.
- 25 **Which inscription provides information about the Vakatakas?**
→ The **Ajanta inscriptions** and **Washim plates** provide details about the Vakatakas.
- 26 **Who was the last powerful ruler of the Vakataka dynasty?**
→ **Harishena** was the last significant Vakataka ruler.
- 27 **Which kingdom defeated the Vakatakas?**
→ The **Kalachuris and Chalukyas** eventually ended Vakataka rule.
- 28 **Which title did Vakataka rulers use?**
→ They used the title "**Dharma-Maharaja**", meaning "Righteous King".
- 29 **Which script was used in Vakataka inscriptions?**
→ **Brahmi script** was used in their inscriptions.
- 30 **What was the impact of the Huna invasions on Buddhism?**
→ **Huna king Mihirakula persecuted Buddhists**, leading to a decline in Buddhism in North India.
- 31 **Which region remained a stronghold of Buddhism despite Huna invasions?**
→ **Bihar and Bengal** continued to be Buddhist centers.
- 32 **Which ruler of Valabhi supported Buddhism?**
→ **Dhruvasena II Baladitya** was a strong supporter of Buddhism.
- 33 **Which dynasty came after the Maitrakas?**
→ The **Gurjara-Pratiharas** emerged in Gujarat after the Maitrakas.
- 34 **What was the primary economic activity under the Maitrakas?**
→ **Trade and agriculture** were the main sources of economic prosperity.
- 35 **What led to the decline of the Maukhari dynasty?**
→ **Harshavardhana of the Pushyabhuti dynasty** absorbed the Maukharis into his empire.

- 36 **Which foreign power weakened Indian kingdoms during this period?**
→ **Arab invasions in the 8th century CE** weakened many Indian kingdoms.
- 37 **Which Huna ruler issued coins similar to Gupta rulers?**
→ **Toramana** issued coins that resembled those of the Guptas.
- 38 **Which dynasty ruled simultaneously with the Maukharis in North India?**
→ The **Later Guptas** ruled alongside the Maukharis.
- 39 **Which empire benefited from the decline of the Hunas and Maukharis?**
→ The **Harsha Empire (Pushyabhuti dynasty)** expanded after the decline of these kingdoms.

TWO MARK:

1 **Who were the Hunas, and what was their impact on India?**

The **Hunas** were a Central Asian nomadic tribe that invaded India during the **5th and 6th centuries CE**. Their repeated invasions weakened the **Gupta Empire**, leading to political instability and economic decline. The Hunas also disrupted trade and led to the fragmentation of Northern India into several small kingdoms.

2 **Who was the most powerful Huna ruler in India?**

Mihirakula, son of Toramana, was the most powerful Huna ruler in India. He was known for his **cruelty and anti-Buddhist policies**. Mihirakula expanded Huna rule in **Punjab, Kashmir, and parts of Central India**. However, he was eventually defeated by **Yashodharman of Malwa** and the **Maukharis**.

3 **How did Skandagupta resist the Huna invasion?**

Skandagupta (455–467 CE), the last great Gupta ruler, successfully repelled the Hunas. He fought several battles against **Toramana**, the Huna leader, and managed to defend his empire. However, these wars exhausted Gupta resources, weakened their economy, and contributed to the empire's downfall.

4 **What was the main effect of the Huna invasion on Indian society?**

The Huna invasions led to the **breakdown of centralized administration**, decline of trade, and economic disruption. The Gupta Empire, once strong, fragmented into smaller kingdoms. Buddhism suffered under Mihirakula, while Hinduism and Shaivism gained prominence.

5 **Who were the Maukharis, and where did they rule?**

The **Maukharis** were a ruling dynasty in **Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh)** during the **6th century CE**. They initially served as vassals under the **Guptas**, but later declared independence. The Maukharis played a crucial role in resisting the Hunas and maintaining political stability in North India.

6 **Who was the greatest ruler of the Maukhari dynasty?**

Ishanavarman was the most powerful ruler of the Maukhari dynasty. He defeated the **Later Guptas** and expanded his kingdom in North India. His successors, **Sarvavarman and Avantivarman**, also played important roles in defending the kingdom.

7 **How did the Maukharis decline?**

The Maukharis declined due to **continuous battles with the Later Guptas** and internal conflicts. Eventually, their kingdom was absorbed into the **Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) Empire** under **Harshavardhana**, marking the end of their rule.

8 **Who founded the Maitraka dynasty, and where did they rule?**

The **Maitraka dynasty** was founded by **Bhatarka**, a former Gupta general, in the **6th century CE**.

They ruled from **Valabhi (modern-day Gujarat)** and were known for their **strong military and cultural patronage**.

9 Which Maitraka ruler was famous for his patronage of Buddhism?

Dhruvasena II Baladitya was a well-known Maitraka ruler who supported **Buddhism**. He provided shelter to **Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** and promoted Buddhist learning centers in Valabhi.

10 What led to the decline of the Maitraka dynasty?

The **Arabs invaded Gujarat** in the **8th century CE**, which weakened the Maitrakas. The dynasty eventually collapsed, and their territories were taken over by the **Gurjara-Pratiharas**.

11 Who were the Vakatakas, and what was their significance?

The **Vakatakas** were a powerful dynasty that ruled over the **Deccan region** between the **3rd and 5th centuries CE**. They were known for their close alliance with the **Gupta Empire**, and their rulers promoted **art, literature, and religious activities**.

12 Which Gupta princess married into the Vakataka dynasty?

Prabhavati Gupta, the daughter of **Chandragupta II**, married **Rudrasena II** of the Vakataka dynasty. This marriage strengthened ties between the **Guptas and Vakatakas**, leading to cultural and political cooperation.

13 Who was the most powerful Vakataka ruler?

Pravarsena I was the most powerful ruler of the Vakataka dynasty. He expanded his kingdom, conducted the **Ashwamedha Yajna**, and ruled as an independent emperor. His reign marked the peak of Vakataka power.

14 Which famous caves were built during the Vakataka period?

The **Ajanta Caves** were constructed during the reign of **Harishena**, a Vakataka king. These caves are famous for their **Buddhist frescoes, murals, and intricate carvings**, showcasing the golden age of Indian art.

15 Which script was used in the inscriptions of the Vakatakas?

The **Brahmi script** was used in Vakataka inscriptions. These inscriptions, found in **Ajanta, Washim, and Maharashtra**, provide valuable historical information about the dynasty.

16 How did the Vakataka dynasty decline?

The Vakataka dynasty declined due to **internal conflicts, weak rulers, and invasions by the Kalachuris and Chalukyas**. By the **6th century CE**, their empire had disintegrated.

17 What was the religious policy of the Vakatakas?

The Vakatakas were **Hindu rulers** who patronized **Shaivism and Vaishnavism**. However, they were also tolerant towards **Buddhism and Jainism**, as seen in the Buddhist Ajanta Caves built during their reign.

18 What was the economic impact of the Huna invasions?

The Huna invasions led to **destruction of trade routes, loss of revenue, and economic hardship**. The once-prosperous **Gupta Empire** weakened, leading to **decentralization and feudalism** in Indian society.

19 How did the Maitrakas contribute to Indian education?

The Maitrakas established the famous **Valabhi University**, which was a center for Buddhist and Hindu learning. Scholars from different regions came to study **philosophy, medicine, and literature** at Valabhi.

20 **What was the political situation in India after the decline of the Vakatakas and Maitrakas?**
After the fall of these dynasties, **regional powers like the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Gurjara-Pratiharas** emerged. The decline of centralized authority led to **smaller kingdoms competing for dominance**, paving the way for the medieval period in Indian history.

BOARD ANSWAR:

1. Discuss the Huna invasion and its impact on India.

The **Huna invasion** was a significant event in Indian history that marked the decline of the **Gupta Empire** and introduced new political and cultural elements to the subcontinent. The Hunas were a Central Asian tribe, originally part of the **Xiongnu Confederation**, who migrated westward and invaded various regions, including **India, Persia, and Europe**. In India, the Hunas first attacked during the reign of **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)**. Though he successfully repelled them, their continuous invasions after his death weakened the empire.

The most powerful Huna ruler was **Mihirakula**, the son of **Toramana**. He was known for his **cruelty and destruction of Buddhist monasteries**. Under his rule, the Hunas occupied **Punjab, Kashmir, and parts of Central India**, causing widespread **violence and economic decline**. The continuous invasions disrupted **trade, agriculture, and administration**, leading to the fragmentation of North India into smaller kingdoms.

The impact of the Huna invasions was long-lasting. Politically, they ended the centralized rule of the Guptas and contributed to the rise of **regional powers** like the **Maukharis, Maitrakas, and Vakatakas**. Socially, they influenced the Indian population through intermarriages and introduced **new military tactics**. Culturally, Mihirakula's anti-Buddhist stance led to the decline of **Buddhism in North India**, whereas **Shaivism and Hinduism** gained prominence. Despite their initial dominance, the Hunas were eventually defeated by **Yashodharman of Malwa and the Maukharis**, marking the end of their rule in India.

2. Explain the political achievements of the Maukharis.

The **Maukharis** were an influential ruling dynasty in North India, primarily controlling the **Kannauj region (modern-day Uttar Pradesh)**. Initially, they served as vassals under the **Gupta Empire**, but as the Guptas weakened, the Maukharis emerged as an independent power in the **6th century CE**.

The most powerful Maukhari ruler was **Ishanavarman**, who established **Kannauj as his capital** and expanded his rule over **parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh**. His successors, **Sarvavarman and Avantivarman**, continued to consolidate power, often engaging in battles with the **Later Guptas** and the rising **Pushyabhuti dynasty** of Thanesar. One of their significant contributions was their **military resistance against the Hunas**, preventing further invasions into North India.

Apart from their military successes, the Maukharis were known for their **efficient administration and economic prosperity**. They encouraged **trade, agriculture, and urban development** in their territories. Culturally, they promoted **Sanskrit literature and Hindu traditions**, as seen in their inscriptions. However, their continuous conflicts with the **Later Guptas and the Pushyabhutis** weakened them, eventually leading to their absorption into **Harshavardhana's empire**.

3. Discuss the rise and achievements of the Maitraka dynasty.

The **Maitrakas** were an important ruling dynasty in **Western India**, primarily controlling **Gujarat and parts of Rajasthan**. Their kingdom was centered at **Valabhi**, which became a major political and cultural hub. The dynasty was founded by **Bhatarka**, a former **Gupta governor**, in the **6th century CE**, following the decline of Gupta power.

One of the most significant Maitraka rulers was **Dhruvasena II Baladitya**, who provided refuge to **Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** and promoted Buddhism. He was known for his **strong military**, which helped maintain stability in Gujarat. The Maitrakas were also patrons of **education and religion**, establishing **Valabhi University**, which became a renowned center of **Buddhist and Hindu learning**, attracting scholars from across India.

Economically, the Maitrakas contributed to **trade and commerce**, as Gujarat was a key center for **maritime trade with the Arab world and Southeast Asia**. Architecturally, they built **temples, monasteries, and inscriptions**, which provide valuable historical records. However, their power declined due to **Arab invasions in the 8th century CE**, and they were eventually overthrown by the **Gurjara-Pratiharas**.

4. Analyze the political achievements of the Vakatakas.

The **Vakatakas** were a significant ruling dynasty in **Deccan India** between the **3rd and 5th centuries CE**. They were closely allied with the **Gupta Empire**, and their rule played a crucial role in the political and cultural history of central India.

One of the most powerful Vakataka rulers was **Pravarasena I**, who conducted the **Ashwamedha Yajna** and established his authority over a vast region. Another notable ruler was **Rudrasena II**, who strengthened ties with the Guptas through his marriage to **Prabhavati Gupta**, the daughter of **Chandragupta II**. This alliance helped in maintaining stability in Deccan India.

The Vakatakas were also great patrons of **art and architecture**. The famous **Ajanta Caves**, known for their exquisite **Buddhist frescoes and paintings**, were constructed during the reign of **Harishena**, a later Vakataka king. These caves reflect the dynasty's **support for Buddhism and Indian artistry**. The Vakatakas also maintained an efficient administrative system, which ensured economic prosperity. However, internal conflicts and invasions by the **Kalachuris and Chalukyas** led to their decline by the **6th century CE**.

5. What were the economic and cultural impacts of the Huna invasion?

The **Huna invasion** of India had far-reaching **economic and cultural consequences**. The repeated attacks by the Hunas caused **widespread destruction of cities, temples, and trade centers**, severely affecting the economy. The once-prosperous trade routes of the **Gupta period**, such as the **Silk Road**, were disrupted, leading to a decline in international trade.

Agriculture also suffered as Huna invasions destroyed **irrigation systems and farmland**, leading to **famine and poverty** in many regions. The economic decline contributed to the **fragmentation of North India** into smaller regional kingdoms, making the region politically unstable.

Culturally, the Huna invasion led to the **decline of Buddhism in North India**. Mihirakula, the most infamous Huna ruler, persecuted **Buddhist monks and destroyed monasteries**. This resulted in a shift towards **Shaivism and Vaishnavism**, which gained prominence in the following centuries. However, the Hunas also assimilated into Indian society, adopting local traditions and contributing to the development of **Rajput culture** in later centuries.



6. Explain the role of the Maukharis, Maitrakas, and Vakatakas in shaping early medieval India.

The **Maukharis, Maitrakas, and Vakatakas** were three important regional powers that played a crucial role in shaping the political and cultural landscape of early medieval India. The **Maukharis**, based in **Kannauj**, resisted the Hunas and the Later Guptas, helping to maintain stability in North India. Their military strength and administrative efficiency made Kannauj a significant power center.

The **Maitrakas**, ruling from **Valabhi**, contributed to the spread of **Buddhist and Hindu education**. Valabhi University became a major learning center, rivaling **Nalanda**. Their naval and trade activities strengthened India's connections with **the Arab world and Southeast Asia**.

The **Vakatakas**, ruling over **Deccan India**, were instrumental in the **cultural renaissance** of their time. Their support for **Ajanta Caves** showcased the golden age of **Indian art and architecture**. They also maintained political stability in central India, allowing trade and agriculture to flourish.

Together, these three dynasties helped transition India from the **classical Gupta era** to the **early medieval period**, setting the stage for future regional empires like the **Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Gurjara-Pratiharas**.

1. Discuss the Huna invasion and its impact on India.

The **Huna invasion** was one of the most significant external invasions in ancient Indian history. The Hunas were a nomadic group of **Central Asian origin**, believed to be a branch of the **Hephthalites or White Huns**, who invaded different parts of **Europe, Persia, and India** during the **5th and 6th centuries CE**. Their entry into India had **major political, social, economic, and cultural consequences**.

The Hunas began their invasion of India during the reign of **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)** of the **Gupta Empire**. Skandagupta successfully repelled the first Huna attack, which helped maintain **Gupta supremacy for some time**. However, after his death, the **Gupta rulers became weaker**, and subsequent Huna invasions under **Toramana (490–515 CE)** and **Mihirakula (515–540 CE)** led to the eventual **decline of the Gupta Empire**.

Mihirakula, one of the most infamous Huna rulers, was known for his **cruelty and religious intolerance**. He led campaigns against various regions in **North India**, capturing **Punjab, Kashmir, and parts of the Gangetic plain**. He is particularly remembered for his **anti-Buddhist stance**, as he ordered the destruction of many **Buddhist monasteries and stupas**, leading to the decline of Buddhism in North India.

The impact of the Huna invasion was **multi-faceted**. Politically, it caused the **fragmentation of North India**, leading to the emergence of **regional powers** like the **Maukharis, Maitrakas, and Vakatakas**. The unity that had existed under the Guptas was shattered, allowing **smaller kingdoms to rise in different parts of India**.

Economically, the invasions **disrupted trade routes, agriculture, and commerce**. The destruction of towns and villages resulted in **widespread poverty and famine**. The once-flourishing **Silk Road trade** declined, affecting India's interaction with the **Roman Empire and Central Asia**.

Socially, the Hunas eventually **assimilated into Indian society**. Over time, many of them **adopted Hindu customs and traditions**. Some scholars even suggest that **later Rajput clans** might have been descended from these Huna warriors.

Culturally, the Huna invasions weakened **Buddhism**, allowing Hinduism, particularly **Shaivism and Vaishnavism**, to regain dominance. The destruction of **Buddhist monasteries** in North India forced many monks to migrate to regions like **Nepal and Tibet**, where they helped spread **Mahayana Buddhism**.

Despite their initial military success, the Hunas were eventually defeated by **Yashodharman of Malwa and the Maukharis**. Their rule in India ended, but their invasions had already **reshaped the political and cultural landscape of North India**.

2. Explain the political achievements of the Maukharis.

The **Maukharis** were an important **North Indian dynasty** that ruled parts of **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh**. They initially served as **feudatories under the Guptas**, but as Gupta power declined, the Maukharis **established themselves as independent rulers in the 6th century CE**. Their most notable ruler was **Ishanavarman**, who expanded the kingdom and established **Kannauj as his capital**.

One of the Maukharis' **greatest political achievements** was their **military resistance against the Hunas**. Unlike the Guptas, who struggled against Huna attacks, the Maukharis successfully **repelled Huna advances** and ensured that North India remained politically stable. Their rulers, such as **Sarvavarman and Avantivarman**, engaged in **frequent battles with the Later Guptas and the Pushyabhutis**, trying to expand their influence.

Apart from their military strength, the Maukharis were known for their **efficient administration**. They maintained a **well-organized system of governance**, ensuring **economic prosperity and law enforcement**. Their capital, **Kannauj**, became an important **cultural and trade center**.

The Maukharis also contributed to **religious and cultural development**. They were patrons of **Sanskrit literature and Hindu temples**, supporting **Brahmanical traditions**.

However, their **continuous conflicts with neighboring dynasties** eventually weakened them. The **Pushyabhuti dynasty**, under **Harshavardhana**, absorbed the Maukhari territories into their expanding empire.

Despite their short rule, the Maukharis played a crucial role in shaping **early medieval Indian politics**, laying the foundation for the later prominence of **Kannauj** as a political center.



UNIT – V

ONE MARK:

1. Harsha's Conquests & Administration

1. **Who was the founder of the Pushyabhuti dynasty?**
 - o Answer: Naravardhana.
2. **Who was the most famous ruler of the Pushyabhuti dynasty?**
 - o Answer: Harshavardhana.
3. **Which dynasty did Harsha belong to?**
 - o Answer: Pushyabhuti dynasty.
4. **What was the capital of Harsha's empire?**
 - o Answer: Kannauj.
5. **Who was Harsha's elder brother?**
 - o Answer: Rajyavardhana.
6. **Who was Harsha's sister, whose husband was killed by the Gauda king Shashanka?**
 - o Answer: Rajyashri.
7. **Which South Indian ruler defeated Harsha?**
 - o Answer: Pulakesin II of the Chalukya dynasty.
8. **In which year did Harsha face defeat against Pulakesin II?**
 - o Answer: 618 CE.
9. **Which Chinese traveler visited India during Harsha's reign?**
 - o Answer: Hiuen Tsang.
10. **What was the primary source of revenue during Harsha's rule?**
 - Answer: Land revenue.
11. **Which assembly did Harsha organize every five years?**
 - Answer: Mahamoksha Parishad.
12. **Which religion did Harsha follow in his later years?**
 - Answer: Buddhism.
13. **What was Harsha's military strength?**
 - Answer: He maintained a strong army of 60,000 cavalry, 50,000 infantry, and 5,000 war elephants.
14. **What was the official language of Harsha's court?**
 - Answer: Sanskrit.



15. **Which empire did Harsha establish after the fall of the Guptas?**

- Answer: The Vardhana Empire.

16. **Which region did Harsha first conquer after becoming king?**

- Answer: Kannauj.

17. **What was the duration of Harsha's reign?**

- Answer: 606 CE to 647 CE.

18. **Who wrote the biography of Harsha, 'Harshacharita'?**

- Answer: Banabhatta.

19. **What type of administration did Harsha establish?**

- Answer: A feudal administrative system.

20. **Which river marked the southern boundary of Harsha's empire?**

- Answer: Narmada River.

2. Cultural Contribution of Harsha

21. **Which field did Harsha significantly contribute to?**

- Answer: Literature, religion, and education.

22. **Name a famous Sanskrit drama written by Harsha.**

- Answer: Ratnavali.

23. **Which other plays were written by Harsha?**

- Answer: Priyadarshika and Nagananda.

24. **Which religion did Harsha patronize initially?**

- Answer: Hinduism.

25. **Which religion gained prominence during Harsha's later reign?**

- Answer: Mahayana Buddhism.

26. **Which famous Buddhist monk did Harsha invite to his court?**

- Answer: Hiuen Tsang.

27. **Which university flourished during Harsha's rule?**

- Answer: Nalanda University.

28. **Which city was a major cultural center under Harsha?**

- Answer: Kannauj.

29. **What was the major religious festival organized by Harsha?**

- Answer: The Prayag Assembly.



30. What was Harsha's contribution to education?

- Answer: He promoted Sanskrit literature and Buddhist learning centers.
-

3. Gauda Under Shashanka

31. Who was the first independent ruler of Bengal (Gauda)?

- Answer: Shashanka.

32. Which region did Shashanka rule?

- Answer: Gauda (Bengal).

33. Which ruler did Shashanka oppose?

- Answer: Harshavardhana.

34. Which powerful South Indian dynasty was contemporary to Shashanka?

- Answer: The Chalukyas.

35. Which Buddhist religious symbol is said to have been destroyed by Shashanka?

- Answer: The Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya.

36. What was the capital of Shashanka?

- Answer: Karnasubarna.

37. Who was Shashanka's main ally against Harsha?

- Answer: The Malwa ruler, Devagupta.
-

4. Account of Hiuen Tsang

38. During whose reign did Hiuen Tsang visit India?

- Answer: Harshavardhana's reign.

39. Which book did Hiuen Tsang write?

- Answer: Si-Yu-Ki (Records of the Western World).

40. Which famous Indian university did Hiuen Tsang study at?

- Answer: Nalanda University.

TWO MARK:

1. Who was Harshavardhana, and which dynasty did he belong to?

Harshavardhana was a powerful ruler of North India during the 7th century CE. He belonged to the **Pushyabhuti dynasty**, also known as the Vardhana dynasty. After the assassination of his elder brother, Rajyavardhana, he ascended the throne in **606 CE** and established his rule over a vast empire with **Kannauj as his capital**.



2. What were the major conquests of Harshavardhana?

Harsha expanded his empire significantly after becoming king. He **defeated the rulers of Punjab, Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha** and extended his control over a large part of North India. However, his expansion was halted when he was defeated by **Pulakesin II**, the Chalukya ruler of the Deccan, in **618 CE** on the banks of the Narmada River.

3. How was Harsha's administration structured?

Harsha maintained a **centralized yet feudal** form of administration. His empire was divided into provinces, governed by local rulers under his control. The revenue system depended largely on **land taxes**, and the army was well-maintained with **infantry, cavalry, war elephants, and chariots**. Unlike the Mauryas, he did not rely heavily on a bureaucratic structure.

4. What role did religion play in Harsha's rule?

Harsha was initially a follower of **Shaivism**, but later he became a patron of **Mahayana Buddhism** under the influence of scholars like **Hiuen Tsang**. He built many Buddhist monasteries and organized religious gatherings, such as the **Prayag Assembly**, where he donated wealth to Brahmins and monks.

5. Who was Hiuen Tsang, and why is his account important?

Hiuen Tsang was a **Chinese Buddhist traveler** and monk who visited India during Harsha's reign in **630 CE**. His book, **Si-Yu-Ki (Records of the Western World)**, provides valuable information about Harsha's administration, society, and religion. He described Harsha as a **just and benevolent ruler** and praised **Nalanda University** as a center of learning.

6. What was Harsha's contribution to education and literature?

Harsha was a **great patron of education and learning**. He supported **Nalanda University**, where scholars from different parts of the world studied. He himself was a scholar and wrote three Sanskrit plays: **Ratnavali, Priyadarshika, and Nagananda**. His court poet, **Banabhatta**, wrote the biography **Harshacharita**, which provides insight into his life.

7. What was the significance of the Prayag Assembly?

The **Prayag Assembly** was a grand religious congregation organized by Harsha every **five years** at Prayag (modern-day Allahabad). He invited **Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains**, and donated generously to them. It was an important event that showcased his **religious tolerance and commitment to charity**.

8. How did Harsha's empire decline?

Harsha's empire started declining after his death in **647 CE**. Since he **had no heir**, his empire fell into **political instability**. The regions he controlled gradually came under the rule of local governors and

other emerging dynasties. His defeat by Pulakesin II also marked the **end of his expansionist ambitions**.

9. Who was Shashanka, and what was his role in Bengal's history?

Shashanka was the **first independent ruler of Bengal (Gauda region)** in the early 7th century. He is known for his **conflicts with Harsha and his alleged destruction of the Bodhi tree** at Bodh Gaya. He played a crucial role in shaping Bengal's political identity but faced resistance from Harsha and later rulers.

10. What were the main achievements of Shashanka?

Shashanka consolidated **Gauda and parts of Odisha**, forming one of the earliest **regional kingdoms of Bengal**. He is credited with **strengthening Hindu rule** in the region and resisting northern influences like Harsha. His rule laid the foundation for later Bengali dynasties.

11. What was the role of Nalanda University during Harsha's reign?

Nalanda University was a **renowned center of Buddhist learning** during Harsha's reign. Scholars from China, Tibet, Korea, and Southeast Asia studied there. Harsha **patronized the university**, providing funding and resources to ensure its prosperity.

12. How did Harsha encourage trade and commerce?

Harsha's policies promoted **internal and external trade**. He improved **road networks**, maintained **security for traders**, and established **markets and trade centers**. His empire had economic prosperity, with trade links extending to **China, Central Asia, and Persia**.

13. What was the impact of Hiuen Tsang's visit to India?

Hiuen Tsang's visit provided valuable **first-hand historical records** of India's political and cultural conditions under Harsha. His work describes **the administrative system, religious diversity, social structure, and Nalanda University**, making it a crucial source for historians.

14. What were Harsha's contributions to Buddhism?

Harsha actively promoted **Mahayana Buddhism**, built Buddhist monasteries, and convened **Buddhist councils**. He also sent **Buddhist missions to China** to spread the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism.

15. What was the role of Kannauj in Harsha's empire?

Kannauj became **the political and cultural capital** under Harsha. It was an important **trade and administrative center** and played a key role in his empire's governance and expansion.

16. What were the main literary works of Harsha's court?

The two most significant works from Harsha's court were **Harshacharita** by Banabhatta and the Sanskrit plays **Ratnavali**, **Priyadarshika**, and **Nagananda** written by Harsha himself.

17. What was the system of governance under Harsha?

Harsha followed a **decentralized feudal system**, where local rulers were given autonomy but remained under the king's control. He also appointed governors and officials to manage administration efficiently.

18. What was the significance of the Mahamoksha Parishad?

The Mahamoksha Parishad was a grand religious council organized by Harsha to **discuss religious matters**, encourage debate among Hindu and Buddhist scholars, and promote religious harmony.

19. How did Harsha's policies promote unity in India?

Harsha's rule brought a sense of **political stability** after the decline of the Guptas. He **maintained religious harmony**, promoted **education and trade**, and fostered a sense of **cultural unity across North India**.

20. What happened to Harsha's empire after his death?

After Harsha's death in 647 CE, his empire **disintegrated due to the lack of a strong successor**. The regions he controlled gradually came under the rule of local kings, marking the end of the Pushyabhuti dynasty.

BOARD ANSWER:

1. Describe the conquests and administration of Harshavardhana.

Harshavardhana, also known as Harsha, was one of the most powerful rulers of early medieval India. He belonged to the **Pushyabhuti dynasty** and ascended the throne in **606 CE** after the death of his brother Rajyavardhana. Harsha initially ruled over **Thanesar**, but later, he shifted his capital to **Kannauj**, making it a significant political and cultural center.

Harsha expanded his empire through a series of conquests. He successfully defeated the rulers of **Punjab, Bengal, Odisha, and Bihar**, thereby consolidating his power in northern India. His empire extended from **Gujarat in the west to Assam in the east**. However, his ambition to conquer the Deccan was thwarted when he suffered a major defeat at the hands of **Pulakesin II**, the Chalukya ruler of the Deccan, around **618 CE**. This defeat marked the **southern boundary of his empire**.

Harsha's administration was a mix of **centralized and feudal elements**. He maintained a large standing army and personally supervised the affairs of the state. His kingdom was divided into **provinces (bhuktis)**, **districts (vishayas)**, and **villages (gramas)**. Provincial governors, who were often his relatives or trusted nobles, handled regional administration.

The revenue system was mainly dependent on **agriculture**, and land taxes formed the backbone of the economy. Harsha also maintained **diplomatic relations** with foreign kingdoms, including China, from where the traveler **Hiuen Tsang** visited his court.

One of Harsha's most remarkable traits was his **religious tolerance**. Though he was originally a follower of **Shaivism**, he later embraced **Mahayana Buddhism** and actively promoted it. He organized the famous **Prayag Assembly**, where he generously donated wealth to Brahmins and Buddhist monks.

Harsha's reign was marked by **economic prosperity, stable governance, and cultural growth**. His **death in 647 CE** without an heir led to the **disintegration of his empire**, as local rulers seized control of different regions. Despite this, his legacy as a **benevolent and efficient ruler** remains significant in Indian history.

2. Discuss the cultural contributions of Harsha.

Harsha was not only a great ruler but also a **patron of art, literature, and education**. His reign saw **remarkable progress in literature, architecture, and religious thought**, making it a **golden period of early medieval India**.

One of Harsha's most notable contributions was in the field of **literature**. He himself was a **Sanskrit playwright** and wrote three famous plays: **Ratnavali, Priyadarshika, and Nagananda**. These plays reflect his literary talent and interest in drama and culture. His court poet, **Banabhatta**, wrote **Harshacharita**, a biography of Harsha, which is an important historical source. Banabhatta also wrote **Kadambari**, one of the earliest Indian novels.

Harsha was a **great patron of Buddhism** and built numerous **Buddhist monasteries and stupas** across his empire. He actively supported **Nalanda University**, a premier center for Buddhist learning, attracting scholars from across Asia. The **Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang**, who stayed at Nalanda for many years, praised its academic environment and the patronage it received from Harsha.

Religious tolerance was another key feature of Harsha's rule. Though he personally followed **Buddhism**, he respected **Hinduism and Jainism** and promoted religious harmony. The **Prayag Assembly**, held every five years, was a testament to his inclusive policies, where he distributed wealth to Brahmins, Buddhists, and Jain monks alike.

Art and architecture flourished during Harsha's reign, though not many structures have survived. He encouraged **sculpture and temple-building**, particularly Buddhist stupas. The architectural style of his period showed a **blend of Gupta influences and early medieval features**.

Harsha's contributions also extended to **music and dance**, which were an integral part of court life. Many inscriptions mention **performances and artistic gatherings** at his court, highlighting his deep interest in cultural affairs.

Thus, Harsha's reign was a significant period of **intellectual, literary, and religious progress**, making him one of the most culturally influential rulers of early medieval India.

3. Discuss the rule of Shashanka in Bengal and his conflicts with Harsha.

Shashanka was the first **independent ruler of Bengal (Gauda)** in the early 7th century CE. He played a crucial role in shaping the **political identity of Bengal** and is remembered for his **resistance against Harsha** and the dominance of North Indian rulers.

Before Shashanka's rise, Bengal was divided into several small kingdoms. Around **600 CE**, he consolidated power in **Gauda (modern Bengal and parts of Bihar and Odisha)** and declared himself an independent king. He is believed to have belonged to the **Karna Suvarna dynasty**, though his origins remain unclear.

Shashanka's rule was marked by **constant conflicts with Harsha and his allies**. After Harsha's elder brother, Rajyavardhana, was killed under suspicious circumstances, Harsha marched against Shashanka to avenge his brother's death. However, due to his **strategic alliances and strong military**, Shashanka managed to **resist Harsha's expansion into Bengal** for several years.

One of the most controversial aspects of Shashanka's rule was his **alleged persecution of Buddhists**. Some sources, particularly Buddhist texts, claim that he **cut down the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya**, a sacred site for Buddhists. However, other historians argue that this was **exaggerated by Buddhist scholars** to portray him negatively.

Despite the challenges, Shashanka managed to **maintain Bengal's independence** until his death around **625 CE**. After his demise, Bengal became politically unstable and eventually fell under Harsha's control.

Shashanka's reign laid the **foundation for later Bengal dynasties**, including the **Palas**, who emerged in the 8th century. His rule is remembered for its **strong administration, military strategies, and defiance against powerful rulers** like Harsha.

4. Who was Hiuen Tsang, and why is his account significant?

Hiuen Tsang, also known as **Xuanzang**, was a **Chinese Buddhist monk, traveler, and scholar** who visited India during the reign of Harsha in **630 CE**. His travelogue, **Si-Yu-Ki (Records of the Western World)**, provides a **detailed and valuable account of Indian society, religion, administration, and culture** in the 7th century.

Hiuen Tsang traveled across India for **over 16 years**, visiting major Buddhist centers like **Nalanda University, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Rajgir**. He described Nalanda as **the most advanced center of learning**, where thousands of monks studied Buddhist philosophy, logic, and Sanskrit literature.

He met Harsha at **Kannauj**, where he was **welcomed with great respect**. According to his account, Harsha was a **just, benevolent, and learned ruler** who promoted Buddhism while maintaining religious tolerance.

Hiuen Tsang's writings provide **insight into India's economy, agriculture, and society**. He noted the prosperity of **Kannauj**, the extensive trade networks, and the system of governance. His work is particularly important because it **corroborates Indian inscriptions and literary sources**, offering an outsider's perspective on Harsha's reign.

Hiuen Tsang's accounts remain one of the **most significant historical sources** for understanding early medieval India. His contributions also helped spread knowledge about **Indian Buddhism in China**, strengthening cultural ties between the two regions.

5. Discuss the administrative system of Harshavardhana.

Harshavardhana, also known as Harsha, ruled northern India from **606 CE to 647 CE** and established a well-organized administrative system. His governance was a blend of **Gupta administrative traditions** and his own innovations, ensuring **political stability and economic prosperity**.

Harsha's empire was divided into **provinces (bhuktis)**, which were further divided into **districts (vishayas)** and **villages (gramas)**. Each province was governed by a **governor (Uparika)**, while the districts were managed by local officials. The smallest administrative unit was the **village**, which had its own council for day-to-day governance.

The **king was the supreme authority** in administration, and he personally supervised affairs related to revenue, law, and military. Harsha maintained a **large standing army** that included infantry, cavalry, and war elephants. He also had a strong **espionage system** to gather intelligence about different regions.

Harsha was a **benevolent ruler** known for his **charitable works**. He organized the **Prayag Assembly** every five years, where he distributed his wealth among the needy, monks, and scholars. He was deeply involved in the welfare of his subjects and promoted **education, trade, and religion**.

The judicial system was **fair and structured**, with severe punishments for crimes like **theft and corruption**. However, Harsha believed in **forgiveness** and personally reviewed legal cases.

Harsha's administration was efficient, leading to **economic growth, cultural development, and political stability**. His rule marked the **last major empire in northern India before regional kingdoms emerged**, shaping medieval Indian governance.

6. Explain the significance of the Prayag Assembly in Harsha's reign.

The **Prayag Assembly** was a grand religious and charitable event held by **Harshavardhana every five years at Prayag (modern-day Allahabad)**. This assembly was a **symbol of Harsha's generosity, religious tolerance, and administrative efficiency**.

The assembly was attended by **thousands of people**, including Brahmins, Buddhist monks, Jain ascetics, scholars, and common citizens. **Hiuen Tsang**, the Chinese traveler who witnessed one such assembly, recorded that Harsha personally distributed his **wealth, food, and clothes** to the poor and religious figures.

One of the unique aspects of the Prayag Assembly was its **inclusivity**. Harsha, though a Buddhist follower, ensured that **followers of all religions were equally respected**. He honored **Hindu priests, Buddhist monks, and Jain scholars** by offering them gifts and donations.

The event was also significant because it showcased **Harsha's political strength and diplomatic relations**. Rulers and ambassadors from different parts of India and abroad attended, reinforcing Harsha's position as a powerful emperor.

Apart from charity, the Prayag Assembly had a **cultural and intellectual dimension**. Poets, scholars, and artists performed and debated various philosophical and literary topics, making it a center for **knowledge exchange**.

The Prayag Assembly reflected **Harsha's commitment to public welfare, his religious tolerance, and his vision of a prosperous kingdom**. It remains one of the most **remarkable events in Indian history**, highlighting the **benevolent and generous nature** of his rule.



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App



CAREER STUDY
The Learning App

SUPPORT US:

PLAY STORE – CAREER STUDY

YOUTUBE – CAREER STUDY

FACEBOOK – CAREER STUDY

WHATSAPP – CAREER STUDY



LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.