History Part – 8, 9

8] SUNGA DYNASTY NOTES

- The founder of the dynasty, Pushyamitra Sunga, overthrew the Mauryas; either in 187 B.C. or 184 B.C.
- After him there were nine other rulers. Among them, Agnimitra, Vasumitra, Bhagvata and Devabhumi were the prominent ones.
- The names of the first two were associated with some events in political history, whereas the latter two were known for their long rule, they being 32 and 10 years respectively.
- The founder of the Sunga dynasty was PushyamitraSunga, who was the commander-in-chief under the Mauryas. He assassinated the last Mauryan ruler and usurped the throne.
- The most important challenge to the Sunga rule was to protect north India against the invasions of the Bactrian Greeks from the northwest who advanced up to Pataliputra and occupied it for some time.
- Pushyamitra succeeded in regaining the lost territory.
- Pushyamitra also fought a campaign against Kharavela of Kalinga who invaded north India.
- Pushyamitra was a staunch follower of Brahmanism. He performed two asvamedha sacrifices.

- Buddhist sources refer him as a persecutor of Buddhism, but there is enough evidence to show that Pushyamitrapatronised Buddhist art.
- During his reign the Buddhist monuments at Bharhut and Sanchi were renovated and further improved.
- After the death of Pushyamitra, his son Agnimitra became the ruler.
- The last Sunga ruler was Devabhuti, who was murdered by his minister VasudevaKanva, the founder of the Kanva dynasty.
- The Kanva dynasty ruled for 45 years. After the fall of the Kanvas, the history of Magatha was a blank until the establishment of the Gupta dynasty.
- The rule of the Sungas was important because they defended the Gangetic valley from foreign invasions.
- In the cultural sphere, the Sungas revived Brahmanism and horse sacrifice.
- They also promoted the growth of Vaishnavism and the Sanskrit language.
- It can be assumed that the Sunga rule was a brilliant anticipation of the golden age of the Guptas.

Effect of Sunga's

- Defended Gangetic valley from foreign invaders, revived brahamanism, vaishnavism, horse sacrifice & use of Sanskrit language. Hence, Sunga rule was a brilliant anticipation of golden age of Guptas

Mauryan Last King : **Brihadratha** → KILLED BY **PUSHYAMITRA SUNGA** (Commander in chief of Mauryan Army)

PUSHYAMITRA SUNGA → **Founder of Sunga Dynasty**

⇓

Agnimitra ⟹ **DEVABHUTI → Last Sunga King Killed By His Minister Vasudeva Kanva**

Vasudeva Kanva → **Founder of Kanva dynasty** → Supplanted by **Satavahanas**

9] KUSHANA DYNASTY NOTES

ORIGIN OF KUSHANA DYNASTY

- Branch of Yuchis or Tocharians tribe from north central Asia basically from neighbourhood of China
- They 1st occupied Bactria or North Afghanistan, displacing Shakas & then gradually moved upto Kabul valley & seized Gandhara by crossing Hindukush range, replacing rule of Greeks & Parthians from these areas.
- Finally they setup their authority over lower Indus basin & Greater part of Ganga basin
- Founder of Kushana dynasty was Kadphises 1 who issued coins in Kabul valley in his name.
- His son Kadphises 2 issued gold coins with high sounding titles like " Lord of whole world " & spread his kingdom to the east as far as Mathura.

Kujula Kadphises (AD 30-AD 80)

- Kujula Kadphises was the first Yueh Chi chief who crossed the Hindukush Mountains and laid down the foundation of the Kushana Empire.

- He established himself in Kabul and Kashmir and is credited for defeat of Last Greek Kings.
- He adopted the epithet of Dharma-thida.
- Another epithet adopted by Kujala Kadphises was *Sachdharmathida,* which is coterminous with SatyaDharma Sthitha.
- Both of the above epithets show that he was interested in both Buddhism as well as Shivaite.

Vima Taktu or Sadashkana (AD 80 -AD 95)

- Vima Taktu or Sadashkana was / were son/ sons of Kujula Kadphises and it is not sure who among them ruled after Kujula Kadphises or whether this refered to a single person.
- He is considered to be the predecessor of Vima Kadphises as well as Kanishka-I.
- He is credited for expansion of Kushana Power into the North West of India.

Vima Kadphises: (AD 95-AD 127)

- The Rabatak inscription is written on a rock in the Bactrian language and the Greek script. It was found in 1993 at Rabatak, in Afghanistan.
- This inscription mentions that Vima Kadphises was son of Vima Takto and the father of Kanishka.
- He was one of the most important kings of the Kushana Empire who is **best known for issuing large number of Gold Coins**.
- Vima Kadphises was probably the **first to introduce the Gold Coins in India**in addition to the Copper and Silver coins.
- **This testifies the prosperity of the Kushana Empire.**
- Vima is also known to have maintained the Silk Route and trade with all sides including the China, Alexandria, and Roman Empire.

Kanishka : (AD 127 – AD 151)

- Considered the greatest Kushana king and also a great king of ancient India.
- Son of Vima Kadphises.
- His kingdom included Afghanistan, parts of Sindhu, parts of Parthia, Punjab, Kashmir, parts of Magadha (including Pataliputra), Malwa, Benaras, perhaps parts of Bengal, Khotan, Kashgar, Yarkhand (last three in modern China). His empire covered Gandhara, Peshawar, Oudh, Pataliputra, Kashmir and Mathura. His kingdom also included parts of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- His main capital was Peshawar, then known as Purushpura.
- After the capture of Pataliputra, he is said to have taken away the Buddhist monk Ashvaghosha with him to Peshawar.
- The scholars in his court included Parsva, Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna, Charaka and Mathara. He also patronised the Greek engineer Agesilaus.
- Kanishka convened the fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalvana in Kashmir.
- He patronised Buddhism although he was very tolerant in his religious views.His coins contain a mix of Indian, Greek and Zoroastrian deities.
- He was also a patron of art and architecture. The Gandhara School of art flourished under him.
- He also propagated Mahayana form of Buddhism and he was largely responsible for propagating it in China.
- It is not known how he died.

Significance of Kushana Empire

- Sanskrit literature began to be developed during this time. The fourth Buddhist council was held in Sanskrit.
- Ashvoghosha is considered to be the first Sanskrit dramatist.

- During this time, three distinct schools of art flourished: Gandhara School in northwest India, Amaravati School in Andhra and the Mathura School in the Ganges valley.
- Trade prospered between India and China, and India and the Roman Empire.
- The Kushanas controlled large parts of the Silk Route which led to the propagation of Buddhism into China. It was during this time that Buddhism began to spread to Korea and Japan also.
- Many towers, Chaityas, towns and beautiful sculptures were built under the patronage of the Kushana kings.
- Kushanas were foreign invaders to begin with, but they were completely indianised in ways and culture.
- It is said that the Kushana period in Indian history was a perfect forerunner to the golden age of the Guptas.

Impact of Kushanas on Art and Culture

- Kushanas are considered to be the great patrons of art.
- Two schools, viz. Mathura School of Art and Gandhara School of Art flourished in the Kushana Era.
- Kushana had a cultural influence of the Hellenistic Greeks and this impact is seen these schools of arts as well.

The Gandhara School of Sculpture:

- Most significant feature of Kushan period
- Main centre of Art – territory of Gandhara :: NW frontier >> called as Gandhara school of art
- Mahayanism >> responsible for the growth of this art
- Main theme of Gandhara Art – Mahayanism
- Gandhara art – lively commentary on the life and deeds of Lord Buddha.

Progress of Literature:

- Great patrons of learning and literature
- Many scholars of Sanskrit language were patronized
- Kushans – foreigners >> made sanskrit as state language
- Created congenial atmosphere of royal patronage for the production of Sanskrit literature
- Inscription also written in Sanskrit
- Ashvagosha: Pioneer of literary awakening– greatest scholar of time of Kanishka >> well versed in philosophy, music, literature, religion and debate :: owing to his versatile abilities 4 th Buddhist council was held in Kashmir during the reign of Kanishka
- Books of Ashvagosha – Buddhacharitha, Saundaranand, Sariputra Prakarana, Vajrasuchi
- Buddhacharitha – imp poetic composition of Buddhism.

Nagarjuna :

- Great scholar and philosopher
- Known as the best exponent of "Mahayanism" or new theory of Buddhism
- Book – "Prajna Parmita Sutra" >> unique book on philosophy and science
- Explained "Theory of relativity": called as "Indian Einstein"

Vasumithra :

- Vasumitra – Buddhist theologist
- Kanishka convened the 4th buddhist council under the presidentship of Vasumitra
- Compiled "Mahavibhasa Shastra" – valuable book on Buddhist philosophy.

Charaka :

- Charak – reputed royal physician in the court of Kanishka
- Celebrated author of Ayurvedic science
- Book – "Charak samhitha": unique work on Ayurvedic science

Decline of kushana empire :

- Kanishka was succeeded by his son Vasishka.
- Vasishka was followed by Huvishka and Kanishka II (son of Vasishka).
- Kanishka II was followed by Vasudeva I.
- Vasudeva I was the last great king of the Kushanas. After his death the empire disintegrated away. He probably died in 232 AD.

SUNGA DYNASTY QUESTIONS

1. The founder of the Sunga dynasty was
   (A) Devabhuti
   (B) Agnimitra
   (C) Patanjali
   (D) Pushyamitra Sunga

2. How many years did the sunga rulers ruled ?
   (A) 12 years
   (B) 112 years
   (C) 212 years
   (D) 50 years

3. Pushyamitra was a staunch follower of
   (A) Buddhism
   (B) Hinduism
   (C) Jainism
   (D) None of these

4. The son of Pushyamitra is

(A) Patanjali
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Vasudeva Kanva
(D) Devabhuti

5. Who was the protagonist of Kalitdasar's Malavikagnitra Drama?
(A) Patanjali
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Vasudeva Kanva
(D) Devabhuti

6. The last Sunga ruler was Devabhuti
(A) Vasudeva Kanva
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Patanjali
(D) Devabhuti

7. Patanjali belongs to whose period ?
(A) Devabhuti
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Patanjali
(D) Pushyamitra Sunga

8. Devabhuti was murdered by his minister
(A) Vasudeva Kanva
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Patanjali
(D) Pushyamitra Sunga

9. Patanjali?
(A) The hero of Malavikagnitra drama
(B) Sanskrit language grammarian
(C) Tamil language grammarian
(D) Devabhuti's minister

10. Which is the southern border of the Pushyamitra Sunga?
(A) Narmada River
(B) Asmakam
(C) Hindu kush mountain

(D) China River

KUSHANA EMPIRE - QUESTIONS

1) Which is the strongest empire established in India after the fall of Maurya?

(A) Kushana Empire

(B) Gupta Empire

(C) Satnavas Empire

(D) Harsha Empire

2) Kushana's were

(A) Peacock is involved in the breeding profession

(B) Belong to ancient chatriyar family

(C) A subdivision of the ethnic group of China's Yuchi tribe

(D) Raman or Krishna followers

3) Kanishka supported?

(A) Buddhist religion of the Hinaylana

(B) Mahayana Buddhist religion

(C) Both (A) and (B)

(D) None of these

4) Who is the greatest king of the Kushana dynasty?

(A) Nagarjuna

(B) Kadphises

(C) Heraios

(D) kaniska

5) By whose teachings did Kanishka embrace Buddhism?

(A) Asvagosha

(B) Nagarjuna

(C) Heraios

(D) Charaka

6) Who convened the fourth Buddhist council ?

(A) Charaka

(B) Asvagosha

(C) Nagarjuna

(D) kaniska

7) Who led the fourth Buddhist convention?

(A) Nagarjuna

(B) Asvagosha

(C) Charaka

(D) kaniska

8) Who was the founder of the Kushana empire?

(A) Kadphises II

(B) Kadphises I

(C) Charaka

(D) kaniska

9) Who was the ruler after the death of Kadphises II?

(A) Charaka

(B) Kadphises I

(C) Sushruta

(D) kaniska

10) Who is the reason for the new dimension of Gandhara sculpture?

(A) Kadphises II

(B) Kadphises I

(C) Charaka

(D) kaniska

11) Who is the author of books like Buddhacharita and Saundarananda?

(A) Nagarjuna

(B) Asvagosha

(C) Charaka

(D) kaniska

12) Which of the following statements is / are correct ?

1) Kanishka, ruled from 178 AD to 220 AD.

2) Kanyakkar conquered the Sagars and the King of Gujarat.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

13) Which of the following statements is / are correct ?

1) Kaishka created Purushapuram (i.e) Peshawar and made it as his capital city.

2) Kanishka was the founder of the Saka era which starts from 78 A.D

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

14) Which of the following statements is / are correct ?

1) Kanishka was called as Ashoka II.

2) His involvement in Buddhism was his attempt to spread Buddhism.

(A) 1 and 2 is correct and 2 is correct explanation for 1

(B) 1 and 2 and 2 is not a correct explanation for 1

(C) 1 Only

(D) 2 Only

15) Which of the following is / are wrong ?

1) Vasumitra - Sutrasamuccaya

2) Nagarjuna - *Mahavishasa*

3) Charaka – *Charaka samhita*

4) Sushruta - Sushruta Samhita

(A) 1,2 and 3

(B) 1 and 2

(C) 3 and 4

(D) 1,2,3 and 4

16) Which book tells us about surgical procedures?

(A) Sushruta Samhita

(B) *Charaka samhita*

(C) *Mahavishasa*

(D) Sutrasamuccaya

17) Who is present in the kanishka's court?

(A) Agisala

(B) Charaka

(C) Sushruta

(D) All of these

18) Which of the following statements is / are correct ?

1) Kanishka invaded China on one occasion.

2) Kanishka lost to the famous Chinese commander Panjoo.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

19) What are the following statements were related to the Hinaylana Buddhism?

1) Buddha was worshiped as God.

2) It was called the shortest way.

3) They used the Sanskrit language.

4) Ashoka supported hinaylana buddhism

5) No idol worship were there

(A) 1 and 3

(B) 2 and 5

(C) 3,4 and 5

(D) 1,2,3 and 5

20) Which religion did Kanishka and Heraios embraced?

(A) Mahayana Buddhism

(B) Hinaylana Buddhism

(C) Both (A) and (B)

(D) None of these

21) Where is the Fourth Buddhist Council convened ?

(A) Pataliputra

(B) Rajgriha

(C) Purushapuram

(D) Kundalvana

22) In which countries did monastic groups be sent to spread Mahayana Buddhism?

(A) Tibet

(B) China

(C) Both (A) and (B)

(D) None of these

23) Kanishka supports charaka because he is a

(A) Philosopher

(B) Doctor

(C) Buddhist scholar

(D) Architect

24) In kanishka court Agisala was a

(A) Philosopher

(B) Doctor

(C) Buddhist scholar

(D) Architect

25) Who won the magadha ruler and brought the Buddhist philosopher Asvagosha with him?

(A) Sushruta

(B) Ashoka

(C) Bindusara

(D) Kaniska