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Post Mauryan Empires







Post Mauryan Empire

The last ruler of Mauryan Dynasty Brihadratha Maurya was killed by his military commander Pushyamitra Shunga which led to the start of Shunga Dynasty.

Shunga Dynasty

Pushyamitra Shunga

- Founder of Shunga Dynasty.
- Capital: Vidisha (presently in Madhya Pradesh).
- He followed Brahmanism and was a devotee of Krishna.
- He patronised Buddhism.
- Son: Agnimitra A play by Kalidasa "Malvikagnimitra" tells a story about love of Agnimitra and Malvika,
- According to Patanjali's book "Mahabhashya", Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashwamedha Yagya (Patanjali was contemporary to Pushyamitra Shunga).



Devbhuti

He was the last ruler of Shunga Dynasty and was killed by his Commander Vasudev.

Kanva Dynasty

Vasudeva Kanva

- Founder of Kanva Dynasty
- Kanva's were known as "Shungabhrityas" which means "Servants of Shungas".



Satvahana Dynasty (60 BC-225 AD)

- Satavahanas were also known as Andhras/Andhrabhrityas (they ruled in Deccan→ Present day: Maharashtra region).
- **Capital**: Paithan/Pratisthan (Maharashtra).
- Greatest ruler. **Gautamiputra Satkarni**.
- This dynasty embraced Brahmanism.
- They had matrilineal society (they took names of their mothers).
- This dynasty started the practice of donating the land to Brahman and Buddhist monks.
- They started lead coins (traded these lead coins with the Romans) and other form of coins such as Copper, Bronze, Potin.

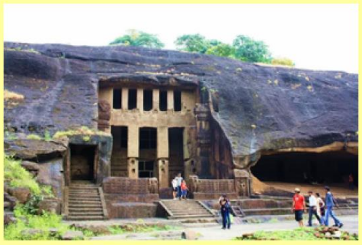


Gautamiputra Satakarni (106 AD-130 AD)

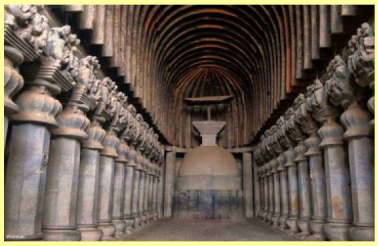
- He defeated Kshatrapa Nahapana, one of the Saka rulers (this is known through Nasik Inscription built by Gautamiputra Satkarni's mother Gautami Balashri after his death).
- Title: Ekabrahmana.
- He claimed to have started the practice of fourfold Varna system.

Architecture

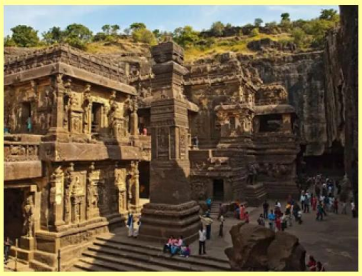
- Many Chaityas, Viharas were cut out from rocks, E.g., In Nasik, Kanheri caves and Karle Chaitya (both in Maharashtra).
- Ajanta and Ellora Caves were first to be built during their reign.
- Stupas built: Amravati and Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh).



Kanheri caves



Karle Chaitya



Ajanta-Ellora



Amravati Stupa

Invasions From Central Asia (2nd Century BC Onwards)

Around 200 BCE, though no empire matched the Mauryas in size, the period was crucial for growing Indo-Central Asian contacts. It saw invasions from multiple tribes located in the region west of China till Iran.

Causes of Invasion

- Building of the Great Wall of China.
- Weakening of the Seleucid Empire.

Menander had his capital at **Sialkot**.



Indo-Greeks

- Greeks were the first to cross Hindu Kush mountain.
- Bactrians are also known as Indo-Greeks.
- Most famous ruler: Meander/Milinda (converted to Buddhism) Dialogue between Milinda and Nagasena (a Buddhist monk) written in Milindapanho.
- They were the first to introduce Gold coins.
- They were first to introduce coins that were attributed to the King (coins had picture of the King).
- They introduced Hellenistic art (seen in Gandhara Art) in North Western region.



Sakas

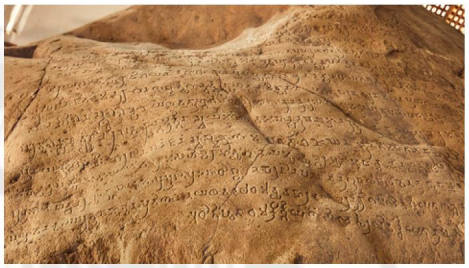
- They ruled in North-West and North India.
- They were also known as Scythians.
- They divided themselves into 5 branches, One of the branches settled over Western part of India that ruled until 4th Century AD (300 AD-400 AD).

Shaka Caalendar

The Indian national calendar, also called the Shaka calendar or Śaka calendar, is a solar Calendar that is used alongside the Gregorian Calendar by Gazette of India

Vikramaditya Parmar

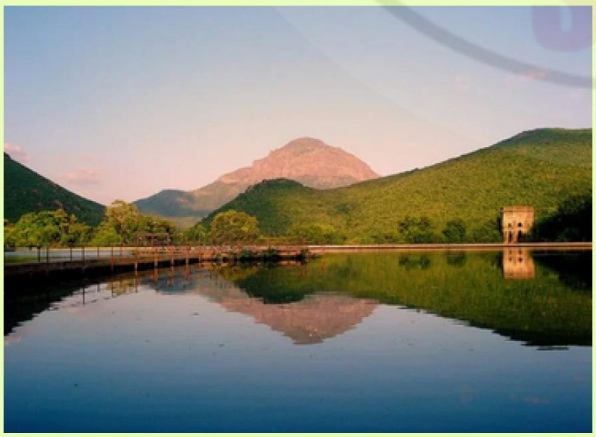
- In 57 BC defeated Sakas (this marked the beginning of Vikram Samvat).
- Vikramaditya became a coveted title
- He was the ruler of Ujjain,



Junagarh Rock Inscription is the earliest rock inscription in Sanskrit language.

Rudradaman I (130 AD-150AD)

- He was the most famous Saka ruler.
- Junagarh Rock Inscriptions (also known as Girnar inscriptions) in Gujarat mentions about him.
- Repaired the Sudarshan Lake which was constructed by: Pushyagupta Vaishya (he was the Governor of Chandragupta Maurya).
- Parthians also came to Indian subcontinent after Sakas. St. Thomas (disciple of Jesus) is said to have visited during Gondophernes (Indo-Parthian King)



Sudarshan Lake

Sudarshan Lake, an ancient irrigation reservoir near Junagarh, Gujarat, was built under Chandragupta Maurya by Governor Pushyagupta, then repaired by Ashoka's governor Tushaspha, and later restored by Rudradaman I and Skandagupta

Kushans (1st-3rd Century AD)

- They were also known as Yuezhis/Tocharians.
- Capital: Purushpura (Peshawar) (first) → Later: Mathura.
- They called themselves Devaputra i.e., "Sons of Gods/King of Kings" (It shows Divinity of King).
- First Dynasty: Kadphises

Rabatak Inscription (Afghanistan) written in Bacterian Language and Greek Script

Rulers



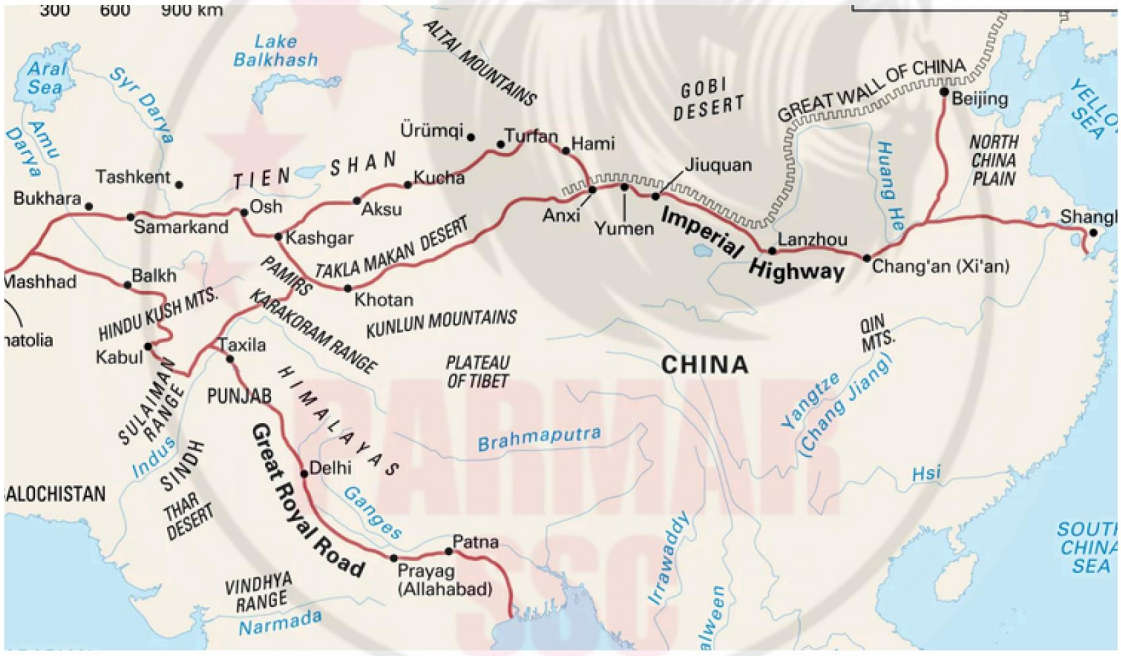
Kujula Kadphises (1st ruler)



Vima Kadphises (2nd ruler)



Kanishka (son of Vima Kadphises)



The Kushans held significant power over the Silk Road, facilitating trade between China, India, and the Roman Empire.

Kanishka

- He started the Saka Era (followed by Govt. of India) in 78 AD when he ascended the throne.
- Started: Purest form of Gold coins.
- He is also known as 2nd Ashoka.
- He patronised 4th Buddhist Council.
- We get to know about him from Rabatak Inscriptions (Found in Afghanistan) which dates back to 2nd Century CE, written in Bactrian language.
- Introduced largest hoard of Gold Coins.



Impact on Indian Society

- They completely immersed themselves in indigenous culture (as warriors or Kshatriyas).
- **Pottery**: Red Ware
- Horseman technique, Turban wearing, and Sherwani wearing were introduced.
- The Kushans introduced the largest hoard of **Gold coins**.

Science

- **Medicine**: Charaksamhita (A book that mentions about different medicines) by Charak (Father of Medicine).
- **Sushruta**: Father of Surgery.
- **Agnivesha Tantra:** An ancient, lost Ayurvedic text.

Polity

Introduced: Satrap system of Government (Satraps were called as "Strategos" (Military General) by Greeks).

Literature

- **Buddhacharitra**: **Ashvaghosha**
- **Mahavatsu** and **Divyadana**
- **Kamasutra**: **Vatsyayana**

Culture

They worshipped Shiva and Lord Buddha.

Under Satrap system kingdom was divided into provinces, each under military governor "Mahakshatrapa" and the governors of lower status were called "Kshatrapas".

Gandhara School of Art vs Mathura School of Art

Gandhara School of Art	Mathura School of Art
Introduced by Kushan Dynasty	It is an indigenous art that was later developed by Kushans
It is a hellenistic style of Buddhist visual art	It deals with imagery subjects from Hinduism + Jainism + Buddhism
Halo behind Buddha's idol is not well developed	Halo is well developed
Grey sandstone is used for art	Red sandstone is used for art