

PREHISTORIC PERIOD IS DIVIDED INTO:-

- i) Paleolithic (Old Stone Age)
- ii) Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age.)
- iii) Neolithic (New Stone Age.)
- iv) Metal Age.

Dating of prehistoric period is done via Carbon dating.

(i) Carbon dating → Loss of carbon in a material (organic) over a period of time.

(ii) Second method is dendro-chronology → counting of no. of rings of a tree.

Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) (Before 10,000 BC)

→ These sites are widely found in places near water sources.

→ Food was obtained by hunting animals & edible plants.
∴ these people are called hunter gatherers.

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) (Between 10,000 BC to 6000 BC)

→ Use of bow and arrow began in this period for killing big as well as small animals.

→ Domestication of animals started as they lived at one place for longer duration.

Neolithic (New Stone Age tools) (b/w 6000 BC to 4000 BC)

→ Chief characteristics features of this period are the practice of agriculture, domestication of animals, polishing of stone tools & manufacturing of pottery.

→ emergence of village communities.

→ people used clothes made up of cotton & wool.

Metal Age (Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone) period + Iron Age)

(New tech of smelting metal ore & crafting metal artifacts is an important development in human civilization.)

↳ People began to travel for long distances to obtain metal ores. This led to network of Chalcolithic cultures and the Chalcolithic cultures were found in many parts of India.

↳ Harappan culture is a part of Chalcolithic culture only.

HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION (aka Indus Valley Civilization or Indus Civilization.)

↳ Harappa was the first discovered site (in West Punjab)

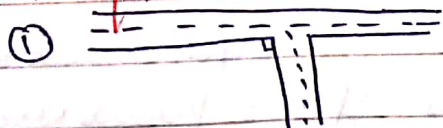
↳ Mohenjodaro (Largest city) (200 Hectares)

EVOLUTION OF HARAPPAN CULTURE

↳ Imp. Stages of evolution:-

- (i) Pre-Harappan Stage → (located in Eastern Baluchistan.)
→ (Nomadic people began to live settled life) (agg.)
- (ii) Early Harappan Stage → (Transition from rural to urban life) (agg.)
- (iii) Mature Harappan Stage → (great cities emerged, elaborate town planning)
- (iv) Late Harappan Stage → (Decline of the Indus culture started)
↳ (Lohan) (platform of trade b/w rest of India)

STRUCTURE/FEATURES OF HARAPPAN CIVILISATION.



Streets & lanes cutting at right angles thus divided city in rect. blocks

② Harappa, Mohenjodaro & Kalibangan each had its own citadel built on a high podium of mud brick

- ③ No Stone buildings.
- ④ Large scale use of burnt bricks.
- ⑤ Underground drainage system connecting all houses to the street drains (covered by stone slabs.)
- ⑥ Great Bath (39 ft length, ~~23~~ 23 ft breadth & 8 ft depth.)
 - ↳ Side rooms for hanging clothes.
 - ↳ Must have been a ritual bathing site.
- ⑦ Largest building → Granary (15 ft by 50 ft) (4x6)

⑪

ECONOMIC LIFE

- ⊙ Main Crops → Wheat, Barley, Sesame, mustard & cotton.
- ⊙ Sheep, goats & buffalo were domesticated.
- ⊙ No use of horse.
- ⊙ Bronze & Copper vessels were there.
- ⊙ Gold & Silver ornaments ✓
- ⊙ Internal (within India) Trade was extensive.
- ⊙ Foreign Trade → Mesopotamia, Aq. & Iran.
- ⊙ Copper, Gold, Tin imported.
- ⊙ Exports included peas, wheat, Barley, cotton, terracotta figures, ivory products.
- ⊙ Bactrian type trade.
- ⊙ Seals reveal use of Buffalo & oxen for land & ships & boats for river transport.
- ⊙ Many seals were found in Mesopotamia (evidence.)

(iii)

SOCIAL LIFE

- ☆ Dress 2 pieces both for men & women.
- ☆ Ornaments ✓ (gold, silver, Cu, Bronze, stones)
- ☆ Cosmetics ✓
- ☆ Fishing was regular occupation.
- ☆ Hunting + Bull fighting were other pastimes.
- ☆ Weapons of war ✓ (swords, dagger, bows, axes, etc.)

(iv)

SCRIPTS

- ↳ (400 to 600 signs.) (40 to 60 basic rest are variants)
- ↳ Written from Right to left
- ↳ Language of Harappa :-

- (i) Dravidian (Concluded by Paspola)
- (ii) Brahmi (other scholars)

(v)

Religion

- @ Chief male deity → Pashupati (proto-Shiva)
 - ↳ Sitting in a Yogic Posture (3 faces + 2 Horns.)
 - ↳ Surrounded by 4 animals (→ elephant → rhino, → tiger → Buffalo)
 - ↳ 2 deer appear on his feet.

@ Chief female deity → Mother Goddess.

@ Linga Worship ✓

@ Tree, animals worshipped ✓

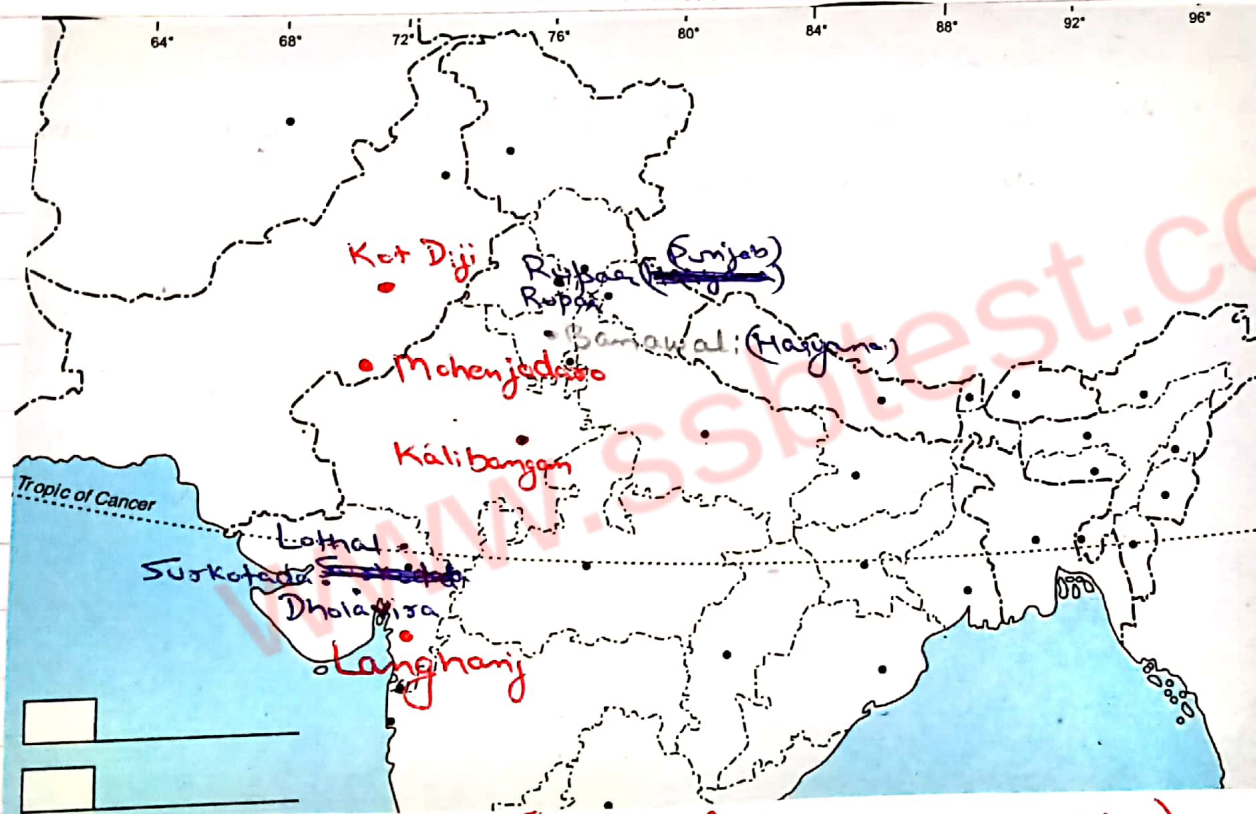
@ ~~Belief~~ Belief in Ghost & evil. ✓

Burial Methods :- (i) Use of Coffin. (ii) Pot Burials.

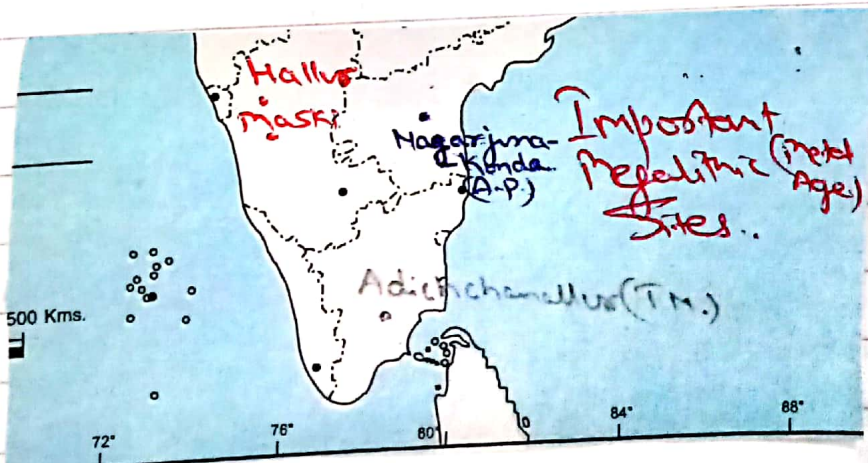
Decline of Harappan Culture (Many theories.)

- ① Natural Calamities (flood, drought.)
- ② decreasing fertility of soil, occasional earthquakes.
- ③ Blow delivered by Aryans as they had swift horses & superior weapons. (Mention in Rig Veda.) (Destruction of forts.)

EXCAVATION SITES



Langhanj → Gujarat (Mesolithic remains)



LESSON 3

THE VEDIC CULTURE

INTRODUCTION : (ARYAN'S ARRIVAL)

City of Harappa declined by 1500 BC.



Around this period, speaker of Indo-Aryan ^{language,} Sanskrit entered the northwest India.



they were mainly a cattle keeping people so they moved from Northwest to the Indo-Gangetic plains in search of pastures.



By 6th Century BC, they occupied the whole of N. India which was referred to as Aryavarta.

1500 - 600 BC.
Early or Rig Vedic Period → 1500-1000 BC
Later Vedic Period → 1000-600 BC

- Indo Aryan's language → Sanskrit.
- Aryans have come from Arctic region, Germany, Southern Russia, Central Asia to various parts of India from South West region of India.

VEDIC LITERATURE (Veda → Superior Knowledge.)

- **Rig Veda**
→ 1028 hymns (Mantras.) (Sing in praise of various gods.)
- **Yajur Veda**
→ it consists various details of rules of sacrifices
- **Sama Veda** (Book of chants.) (origin of Indian music)
→ it is set to tune the chanting during sacrifices.
- **Atharva Veda**
→ details of rituals.

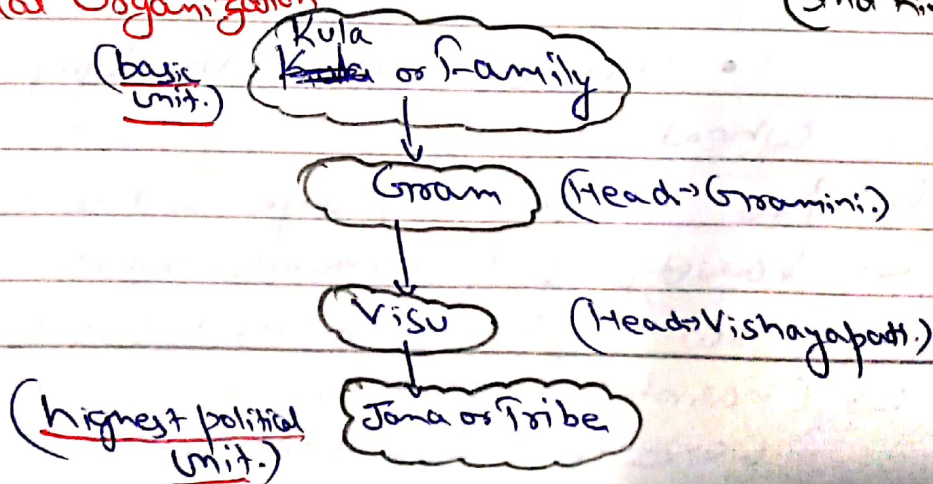
OTHER SACRED WORKS like beside Vedas...

- **Brāhmanas** → details of prayer and sacrificial ceremony.
- **Upanishads** → philosophical texts with topics like, the soul, mysticism of nature.
- **Aranyakas** → (are forest books dealing with ritual, sacrificial rites.)
- **Ramayana** → Author → Valmiki
- **Mahabharata** → Author → Vedavyasa.

I RIG VEDIC AGE or EARLY VEDIC PERIOD (1500-1000 B.C.)

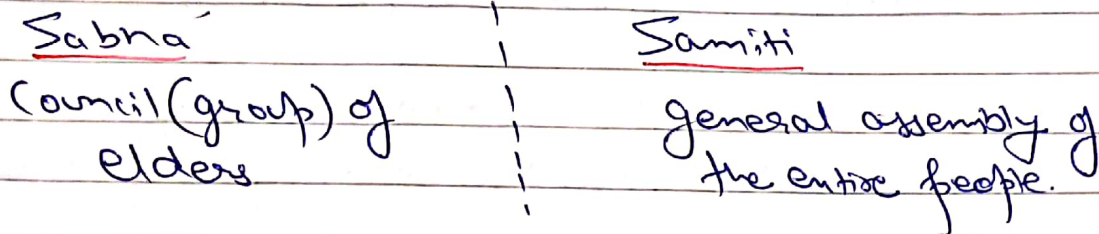
(It refers to Sapta Sindhuv or the land of 7 rivers) (Sind River + Indus + Saraswati.)

(a) Political Organization



→ King of the Kingdom was assisted by purohita or priest and Senani or commander of the army in his administration.

→ 2 popular bodies



(b) SOCIAL LIFE

↳ Patriarchy Society. (Controlled by men.)

↳ Basic Unit of Society → Grahama (Head = Grahapati)

- ↳ Monogamy practiced in middle & lower class
- ↳ Polygamy practiced in Royal & Noble families

↳ Women were given Importance...

- equal opportunities as men for their spiritual & intellectual development.
- Women poet like Apala, Viswawasa, Ghosa, Lopamudra, etc..

- Women could attend popular assemblies

↳ wheat, barley, milk, ghee etc. (chief foods)

↳ No child marriage & no sati.

↳ Variety of ornaments worn.

↳ Cow eating banned (Sacred cow.)

↳ Chariot racing, horse riding, music & dance were favourite pastimes.

(C) ECONOMIC CONDITION.

(i) Wealth = No. of Cattles an individual have.

Various Occupations.

- (ii) practiced Agriculture.
- (iii) Carpentry (with availability of woods from forest.)
- (iv) Spinning of Cotton & wool.
- (v) Gold Smithy → ornaments.
- (vi) Pottery

↳ Trade was imp. activity.

↳ Prior, via barter system but later via Nishka were used as media of exchange in large transactions.

(d) RELIGION

Gods :-

- (i) INDRA. (most popular.) (THUNDER.)
- (ii) AGNI (FIRE) (intermediary b/w gods & people)
- (iii) VARUNA (RAIN) (to hold natural order.)
- (iv) VAYU (WIND)
- (v) PRITHVI (EARTH)

↳ No temples, No idols.

↳ Female Gods like • Aditi
• Ushas.

↳ Ghee, milk, grain were offered to gods.

II

LATER VEDIC PERIOD (1000-600 B.C.)

- ↳ In this period they manoeuvred towards east.
- ↳ One important development during this period is the growth of large Kingdoms.

↳ Eg..

Kuru Kingdom

↓
Pashikshat and Janamejaya
(famous rulers.)

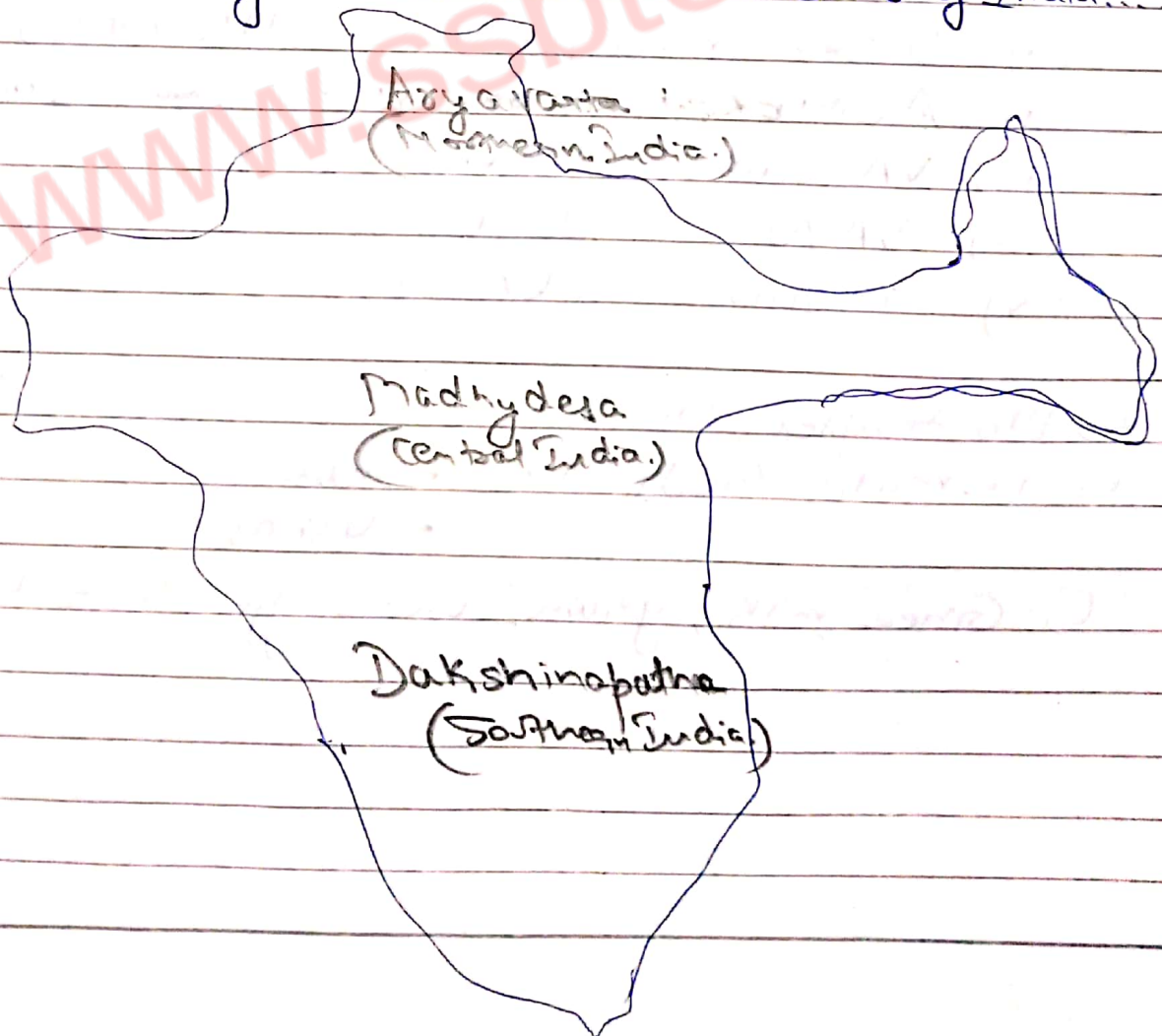
Panchala Kingdoms

↓
Puruhana Jairol;
(popular king of the
Panchalas.)

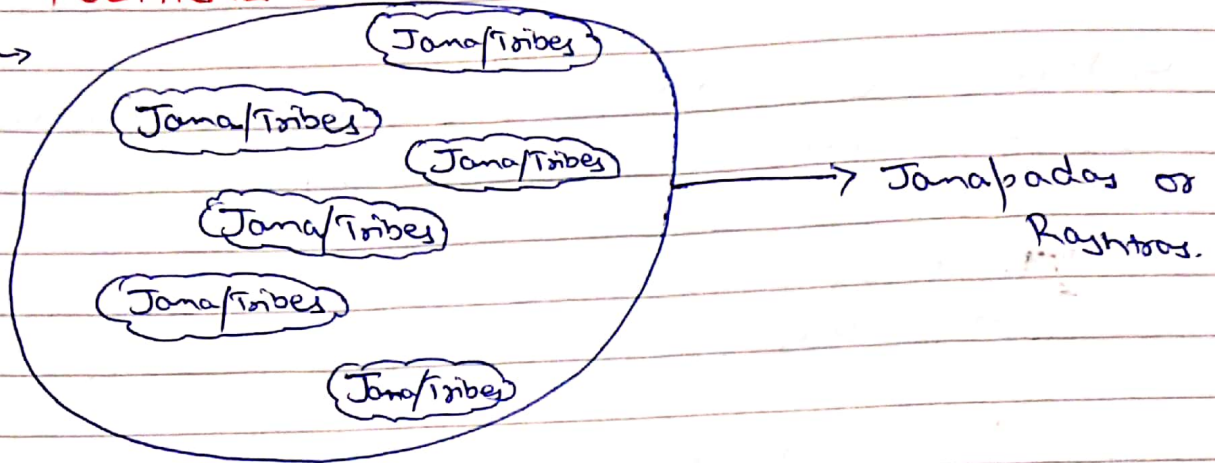
↳ Famous ruler of Kasi Kingdom was Ajatasatru.

↳ Ruler of Videha (capital Mithila) was Janaka.

↳ Basically there were 3 divisions of India...



(I) POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.



↳ Various Rituals done by Ruler to strengthen their positions:-

- Rajasuya (consecration ceremony.)
- Asvamedha Ceremony (horse sacrifice)
- Vajpeya (chariot race.)

↳ Other term, Rajavisrajanan (Atilabhuranapathi) → lord of the earth.

Ekrat or Samrat → Sole ruler.

↳ except for existing purohita, Senani and gramani new officials like treasury officer, tax collector & Royal Messenger was included.

(II) ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

↳ Iron was extensively used.

↳ Agriculture became chief occupation.

- Cleared forest for more land.
- Knowledge of manure improved.

↳ → Specialization in Industrial Activities.

↳ Carpentry, pottery made great progress.

↳ "Baniya" came into existence (hereditary merchants).
"Vaisyas"

↳ Gold (Satamana) and Silver (Krishnala) were the coins.

III) SOCIAL LIFE

↳ There were 4 divisions of Society:- (or Varna System)

Higher class { 1) Brahmins
2) Kshatriyas

(highest status.)

Lower class { 3) Vaishyas
4) Sudras.

↳ Power of Men increased

↳ Women were suppressed

• they became inferior.

• lost their political rights of attending assemblies.

↳ Child marriages became common.

↳ According to Aitareya Brahmana "A daughter has been described as a source of misery".

IV) RELIGION

↳ INDRA & AGNI lost their importance.

↳ Prajapati, Vishnu & Rudra were worshipped.
(creator) (protector) (Destroyer)

↳ Prayers importance declined.

↳ Sacrifices became important.

↳ Priesthood became a profession.

↳ led to Rise of Buddhism & Jainism (due to practice of sacrifices)

↳ Upanishads insisted on true knowledge rather than rituals (useless.)

JAINISM

AND

BUDDHISM.

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LESSON 4 JAINISM AND BUDDHISM

CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF JAINISM & BUDDHISM

- ↳ Religious unrest in India in 6th century.
 - ↳ Indifference created by the 4 classes system in Vedic period.
 - ↳ Complex Rituals & Sacrifices
 - ↳ Teachings of Upanishads were highly philosophical.
 - ↳ Sacrificial ceremonies were too expensive.
 - ↳ Superstition confused people.
- "Vaishyas extended chief support to these new religions."

JAINISM

Vardhamana Mahavira (539-467 B.C.)
(24th Tirthankara of the Jains.)

born at
KUNDAGRAMA, Vaishali

Siddhartha
(Father)

Trisala
(Mother)

- ↳ At age of 13 years old he wandered for 12 years
- ↳ In 15th year of his penance, he attained the knowledge of KEVALA GINANA.
(therefore he was called Mahavira and Jina.)

- ↳ Preached doctrines for 30 years & died at the age of 72 at Pava Rajagriha (Bihar.)

TEACHINGS OF MAHAVIRA TRIRATNAS (3 Gems) (3 principles of Jainism.)

RIGHT FAITH → • Belief in the teachings & wisdom of Mahavira.

RIGHT KNOWLEDGE → • There is no God,
• Everything exists have a Soul & existing without a creator.

RIGHT CONDUCT →

- Not to injure life.
- Not to lie.
- Not to steal.
- Not to acquire property.
- Not to lead immoral life.

- * Ahimsa was strictly followed.
- * All objects have souls & possess life & feel pain when they are injured.
- * Practice of Agriculture was considered sinful as it causes injury to the earth, worms & animals.
- * Self torture, nudity, starvation was carried out as the mark of renunciation.

SPREAD OF JAINISM

- Mahavira Organised Sangha (Monks + lay followers) (both men & women)
- Chandragupta Maurya, Khosavela of Kalinga & dynasties like the Gangas, the Kadambas, the Chalukyas & the Rashtrakutas patronized Jainism.

Svetambaras
(White clad.)
led by → Bhadrabahu
&
Chandragupta
Maurya

Digambaras
(Sky-clad or Naked.)
led by → Satthalabahu

↳ 1st Jain Council at Pataliputra by Shulabahu
(beginning of 3rd century.)

↳ 2nd Jain Council at Valabhi
(in 5th century AD.)

→ (Twelve Angas was completed in this council.)

BUDDHISM

GAUTAMA or SIDDHARTHA

(Born in 567 BC)

at LUMBINI GARDEN, KAPILAVASTU

SUDDODHANA (Father)
(Sakya clan)

MAYADEVI (Mother)

↳ Brought up by his Aunt Prajapati Gautami.

↳ Married Yasodhara (Son → Rahula.)

↳ left home at 29 yrs, wandered for 7 years
& sat under Bodhi tree at Bodhi Gaya
for intense penance, got enlightenment at 35.

↳ Delivered first sermon at Sarnath, Benares.

Died ⇒ 80 years old at Kusinagara.

IMPORTANT DISCIPLES

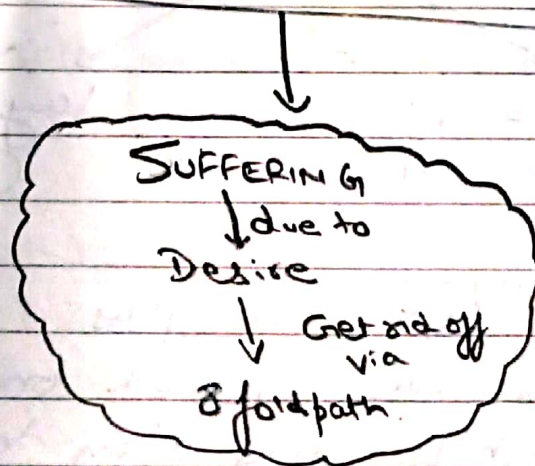
Sariputta, Moggallanna, Ananda,
Kassapa & Upali.

- ↳ Didn't involve himself in controversies regarding quests like souls, Karma, rebirth, etc.
- ↳ Focussed on practical problems confronting man.

TEACHINGS OF BUDDHAS.

4 Noble Truths of Buddhas are:-

- The world is full of suffering.
- Cause is desire.
- Get rid of desire, suffering will be removed.
- Can be done by following eight fold path.



8 fold paths :-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| → Right view | → Right Conduct | → Right Mindfulness |
| → Right resolve | → Right livelihood | → Right Concentration |
| → Right speech | → Right effort | |

↳ He neither accepts god nor rejects the existence of God.

Same thing

- ↳ KARMA
- ↳ Condition of Man depends upon his own deed.
- ↳ Soul is not there.
- ↳ AHIMSA.
- ↳ No anger & hatred for anyone.
- ↳ His religion emphasized on purity of thought, word and deed.
- ↳ No blind faith.
- ↳ He was against any social distinctions like Caste system.
- ↳ Buddhism was more a social than religious revolution.
- ↳ taught code of practical ethics & laid down social equality.

SPREAD OF BUDDHISM.

2 kinds of Disciples

Monks
(Bhikkhus)

lay worshippers
(Upasikas.)

- ↳ Monks ^{organised} into Sanghas for spread of Buddhism.
- ↳ Sanghas was governed on democratic lines.
- ↳ Membership was open to all.
- ↳ Sariputta, Moggallana & Ananda were famous monks.
- ↳ 200 yrs after Buddha's death, Ashoka embraced Buddhism. (helped in spreading it in West Asia & Ceylon.)

↳ Magadh, Kosala, Kuru Sambu embraced this religion.

BUDDHIST COUNCILS

COUNCILS

1st

→ Rajagriha (Chairman → Mahakassapa)
(Ajatasattu was also there.)

2nd

→ Vaishali (held in reign of
Kassapa.)

3rd

→ Pataliputra (under the patronage of Ashoka)
Pres. → Moggalliputta Tissa.
↳ (Final version of Tripitakas was completed
in this council.)

4th

→ Kashmir by Kanishka
(Chairman → Vasumitra.)

↳ (Ashvaghosha participated in
this council.)

↳ New School of Buddhism called
Mahayana Buddhism was est.

↳ Convened by Kanishka ^{to discuss}
Buddhist theology.

Buddhism preached by Buddha & Ashoka
was called Hinayana.

Buddhist text → Tripitakas

namely Sutta, the Vinaya
Abhidhamma Pitakas, etc.,

Language → Pali.

CAUSES FOR THE DECLINE OF BUDDHISM.

- ↳ Revival of Brahmanism
- ↳ Rise of Bhagavatism.
- ↳ Use of Pali given up in 1st Century A.D.
- ↳ Sanskrit (elite language) adopted by Buddhists.
- ↳ Mahayana Buddhism started Idol worship & offerings, started leading to
- ↳ Attack of Huns in 5th & 6th Century.
- ↳ Attack by Turkish invaders in 12th Century.

CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN CULTURE.

- ↳ Concept of Ahimsa
- ↳ Architectures (Sanchi Stupas, Grayastupas, Bharhut stupas, etc.)
- ↳ Promoted education through Taxila, Nalanda & Vikramasila Univ.
- ↳ lang. of Pali & other local languages.
- ↳ Promoted Indian Culture to other parts of Asia.

MAURYAN
DYNASTY

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LESSON - 6

THE MAURYAN EMPIRE.

↳ For the 1st time political Unity was achieved.

LITERARY SOURCES for EVIDENCE OF THIS PERIOD.

① KAUTILYA'S ARTHASASTRA (Book)

↳ Also called 'Indian Machiavelli' or 'Chanakya' or 'VishnuGupta'.

↳ Written in Sanskrit

↳ Had 3 parts (i) deals with King, Council & dept. of Govt.
(ii) Civil & Criminal law.
(iii) Diplomacy & war.

↳ Most important literary source for history of Mauryans.

② VISAKADATTA'S MUDRARAKSHASA.

↳ a drama in Sanskrit.

↳ Describes C. Maurya with Kautilya overthrow Mauryas.

↳ picture of socio-economic condition under the Mauryas.

③ MEGASTHENES' INDICA.

↳ Greek ambassador in Court of C. Maurya.

↳ Details of Mauryan Administration & military organization.

↳ picture on social life.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES.

EDICTS OF ASOKA

↳ Written in Pali language & in some places Prakrit was used.

↳ Brahmi script was employed for writing. In N.W. India inscriptions were found in Karosthi.

14 Major Rock Edicts.

XIII Rock edicts → War with Kalinga

Pillar Edicts VII → efforts to promote his dharma within his kingdom

POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE MAURYAS.

CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA (322-298 B.C.)

↳ Founder of Mauryan Empire.

↳ At 25 years of age captured Pataliputra from Dramad

↳ Assisted by Chanakya or Kautilya or Vishnu Gupta.

↳ In 305 B.C. he marched against Selucus

Nikeas (Alexander's General) defeated

by C. Maurya. C. Maurya took territories

as well as ~~the~~ Nikeas's daughter was married to the Mauryan Empire. C. Maurya gifted 500 Elephants to Nikeas

↳ Chandragupta embraced Jainism towards the end of his life,
• Gave throne to his son Bindusara.

↳ Went to Sravana Belgola (Mysore) along with Jain monks led by Bhadrabahu...
& starved himself to death.

BINDUSARA (298-273 B.C.)

↳ Was called "Amittagatha" (meaning → slayer of enemies) by Greeks.

↳ Conquered the Deccan upto Mysore.

↳ Supported "Ajivikas" (belief in Karma, etc.)

↳ Appointed Asoka (his son) as Governor of Ujjain.

ASHOKA THE GREAT (273-232 B.C.)

• Acted as Governor of Ujjain during Bindusara's revolt.

• Struggle for 4 years for accession to the throne (273 B.C.) and his actual coronation 265 B.C.

• Killed his 99 brothers including the elder brother Susima.

↳ Spared the youngest brother Tissa.

↳ Most Important event of Ashoka's reign was his victorious war with Kalinga in 261 BC.

As per Rock edict XIII: "A hundred & fifty thousand were killed and many times that number perished...."

After the Kalinga war Ashoka embraced Buddhism under the influence of Buddhist monk, Upagupta.

ASHOKA & BUDDHISM.

↳ Conversion to Buddhism was gradual & not immediate.

↳ About 261 BC Ashoka became Sakya Upasaka (Lay Disciple.)

& 2½ yrs later, a Bikshu (monk.)

• Grave digging →

Visited Bodhi Gaya & organised Missions



Appointed special officers called Dharma Mahamattas to speed up the progress of Dharma.



Sent a mission to Sri Lanka under his son (Mahendra) & daughter (Sangamitra) who planted the original Bodhi tree.



Convened 3rd Buddhist Council at Pataliputra in 240 BC.

EXTENT OF ASOKA'S EMPIRE. (map on page 63)

Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras were not the part of Mauryan empire hence it was the boundary in S. India.

Kashmir was part of Mauryan Empire.

ASHOKA'S DHAMMA.

- Ashoka embraced Buddhism & spread it. Dhamma was basically way of life, code of conduct and a set of principle for the people to be abided by.

Main features of Ashoka's Dhammas were:-

- ① • Service to monarch
• Practice Ahimsa
• Truth
• Respect teachers & relatives.
- ② • Ban animal sacrifice
• Avoid useless ceremonies & rituals.
- ③ • Social welfare
• Social well being
- ④ • Humane treatment of servants & prisoners.
- ⑤ • No animal hunting.
• Liberty to Brahmins.

- ⑥ • Tolerance among all religions. (Secularism.)
- ⑦ • No war, conquest through Dhamma.

↳ Ashoka never equated Dhamma & Buddhist teachings.

↳ Buddhism was his personal belief, while Dhamma signifies general code of conduct.

Estimate of Ashoka.

"Amidst the tens and thousands of names of monarchy that crowd the column of history, the name of ASOKA shines and shines almost alone, a star".

"The Greatest of Kings"

↳ A practical man of

↳ Dhammas appeals to humanity even today.

↳ Ashoka Died in 232 BC

LATER MAURYAS.

Division of Mauryan Empire → Western & Eastern

Western parts
Kunala (Son of Ashoka)

Eastern parts
Dasaratha (Grandson of Ashoka)

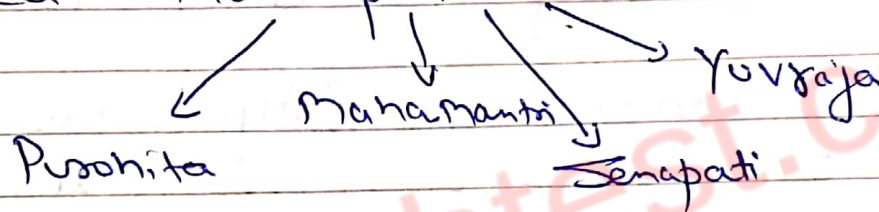
Bactrian invasion

The last Mauryan King was Brihadratha, who was assassinated by Pushyamitra Sunga.

MAURYAN ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

→ King Used to take advice of council of ministers called **Mantriparishad**.



→ Civil Servant like **Amatyas** to look after day to day administration.

{ Amatyas = IAS officers of India (Now.) }

Method of selection of Amatyas was given by **Kautilya**.

→ Asoka appointed **Dhamma Mahamatyas** to supervise the spread of Dhamma.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

- **SAMHARTA** Chief of Revenue Department (ensured revenue collection.)
- Land Revenue was fixed as $\frac{1}{6}$ of the produce.
- Diff. revenues collected from land, irrigation, customs, shop tax, jerry tax, forests, mines & pastures, license fee from craftsmen, etc..

ARMY

- ⊙ Controlled by Senapati. (was well organized)
- ⊙ Salaries were paid in cash.
- ⊙ According to Greek Author Pliny...
 - 6 lakh Infantry,
 - 30 thousand cavalry
 - 9 thousand elephants.
 - 8 thousand chariots.

+
Navy & Transport & Supply wings.

- ⊙ Each wing controlled by Adyaksahas or Superintendents.
(अध्यक्ष)
(अधक्ष)

- ⊙ Megasthenes mentions 6 boards of 5 members each to control the 6 wings of the military.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY.

- Controlled retail & wholesale prices.
- Controlled foreign trade.

JUDICIAL & POLICE DEPT.

- Both Civil & Criminal Courts exist. (Subordinate courts are also there.)
(Chief Justice of Supreme Court = Dharmaadikarin)
- Various punishments such as fines, imprisonment, mutilation & death were given to the offenders.
- Police stations in all the principal centres.
- Jail & Jail officials were also there.

CENSUS.

- ⊙ Regular census of both People & animals was taken/carried out.
- ⊙ Municipal officials kept a check on Immigrants & abroad going people.
- ⊙ Data collected was cross checked by the spies.

PROVINCIAL & LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

- • Mauryan Empire was divided in 4 provinces with their capital at Taxila, Ujjain, Suvarnagiri & Kalinga.
- • Provincial governors were responsible for maintenance of law & order & collection of taxes. They were appointed from Royal families.

→ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
Incharge → Rajukas (or modern collectors.)

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION.

Incharge → Gramani. (head of 1 village.)

Gopa (head of 10 to 15 villages)

→ Nagarika or city Superintendent maintained law & order.
6 committees (with 5 members each)
1. Birth & Death Registration 2. Foreigners 3. Industries.
4. Manufacturing 5. Trade 6. Taxes

MAURYAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE.

- ↳ Use of stone started, prior these were monuments built by woods only & they perished with time.
- ↳ Ashoka Pillar with tops crowned with figures of animals like lion, elephant and bull, are the finest specimen of Mauryan (Time) Art.
- ↳ Sarnath pillar (4 lions standing back to back) is most magnificent & also adopted as State Emblem.
- ↳ ~~Sanchi~~ ^{Sanchi} Stupa built with brick but later enlarged after the time of Ashoka.
- ↳ Caves were residences of monks.
eg. → Caves at Barabar Hills near Bodhi Gaya.

DECLINE OF THE MAURYAS

Many say that non-violence policy of Ashoka let down his Army in wars while conquering.

- Traditional approach attributes that
- Ashoka's policies & weak successors.
 - inadequate political & economic institutions.
- But since Ashoka was more a pragmatist than an Idealist. (practical man = Not Ideas driven.)

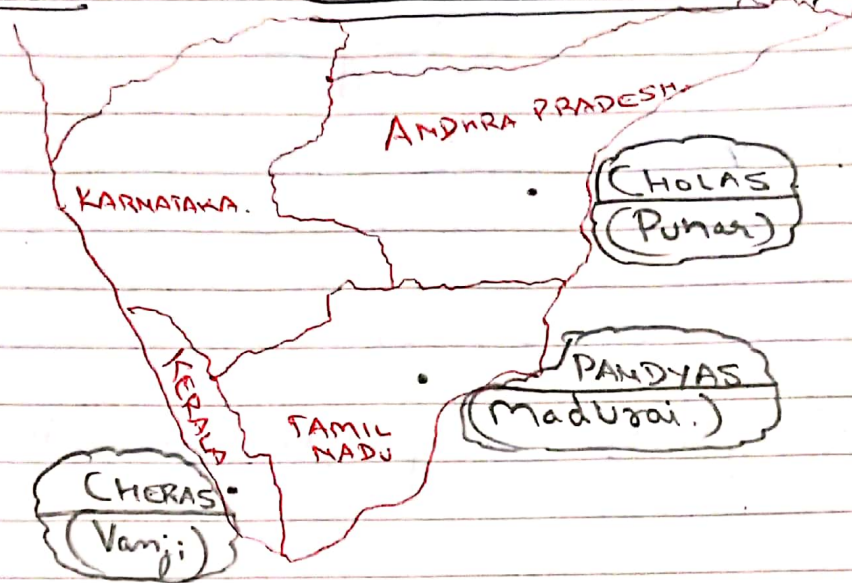
Weak successors, partition of empire & administrative abuse after Ashoka's reign.

Pushyamitra Shunga drove away the Mauryans & est. Shunga Dynasty.

SANGAM → Academy of Tamil Poets.

LESSON 8

SANGAM AGE



TOLKAPPIYAM (authored by TOLKAPPIYAR) → Earliest Tamil Literature
(info. about socio-economic condⁿ of the Sangam period.)

<u>CHERAS (Kerala)</u>	<u>CHOLAS (A.P.)</u>	<u>PANDYAS (T.N.)</u>
→ (Capital → Vanji.)	→ (Capital → Puhar.)	→ (Capital → Madurai.)
→ Imp. Sea → Tondi & Musiri ports	→ Famous King → KARIKALA. (defeated confederation of Cheras, Pandyas in the battle of Venni.)	Rule declined due to invasion of Kalabhras.
→ <u>Pugalar</u> inscriptions		
Royal emblem → <u>Bow</u>	<u>Siger</u>	<u>Cap</u>

SANGAM POLITY

- King assisted by large body of ^{officials like} Ministers, etc.
- Military Administration was also efficiently organized.
- Roads & highway maintained & well guarded to prevent smuggling.
- Land revenue & custom duty → chief source of foreign trade.

SANGHAM SOCIETY. Deity

TOLKAPPIYAM refers to five fold division of Lands.

① Kurinj; (hilly tracks)

Chief Diety → Murugan; occupation → Hunting, honey collection.

② Mullai (Pastoral)

Chief Diety → ~~Indira~~; Mayon (Vishnu);
occupation → Cattle rearing, etc.

③ Marudam (Ageri)

Chief Diety → Indira
occupation → ageri.

④ Neydal (Coastal)

Chief Diety → Varman.

Chief occupation → fishing & salt manufacturing.

⑤ Palai (Desert)

Chief Diety → Korravai
Chief occupation → Robbery.

RELIGION

Primary Diety → Seyon or Murugan.

POSITION OF WOMEN.

- Women poets flourished & contributed in Tamil literature.
- Love marriages. ✓
- Sati practice was prevalent.

FINE ARTS.

- Poetry, Music, Dancing.
- Experts in folk song & dance.
- Koothu → most popular entertainment of people.
- found variety of Yajths & drums.

ECONOMY.

- Agri. → Chief occupation.
- Rice → Common crop.

Jack fruit & pepper → famous in Chera
Paddy → Chola & Pandya.

- Handicrafts were quite popular.
- Both internal & foreign trade well organized.
(External trade by S. India & Greeks.)

Imports → Gold
Horses
Sweet Wines.

Exports.
Cotton fabrics,
Spices like pepper, ginger,
Cardamom, Cinnamon &
turmeric, ivory products,
pearls & stones.

Port City → Auhar.

GUPTA EMPIRE.

(Gupta Period → Golden Age.)

LESSON - 9

GUPTA EMPIRE

(Gupta period → Golden Age.)

SOURCES

Book on rise of Guptas.

Devichandraguptam
&

Mudrakshyam

Written by → Visakhadatta

CHANDRAGUPTA - I (320 - 330 A.D.)

SRI GUPTA (founder.)



GHATOTKACHA



CHANDRAGUPTA - I

(first to be called Maharajadhiraja
(the great King of Kings).)

→ Strengthened his position by matrimonial alliances of the Licchavis (Married Kumaradevi of Licchavis)

→ founder of Gupta era in 320 AD.

→ Meherauli Iron Pillar inscription.

SAMUDRA GUPTA (330-380 A.D.)

(Other Names → INDIAN NAPOLEON, RESTORER OF THE ASVAMEDHA.)

ALLAHABAD PILLAR INSCRIPTION.

- Describes personality & Achievements of Samudragupta.
- Engraved on Ashokan Pillar.
- Written in Classical Sanskrit, using the Nagari Script.
↳ Consists of 33 lines composed by Harisena.

- ↳ ○ Info. about 3 stages of his military campaign.
 - (i) Against some rulers of N. India. (Def. Nagars.)
 - (ii) Dakshinapatha expedition against S. Indian rulers. (Def. → Defeated.)
(Defeated 12 rulers, did not destroy & annex those kingdoms. Instead, he defeated rulers & insisted them to ack. his power. He gave them back the kingdoms.)
 - (iii) 2nd Campaign against rulers of N. India. (Def. 9 Kings.)

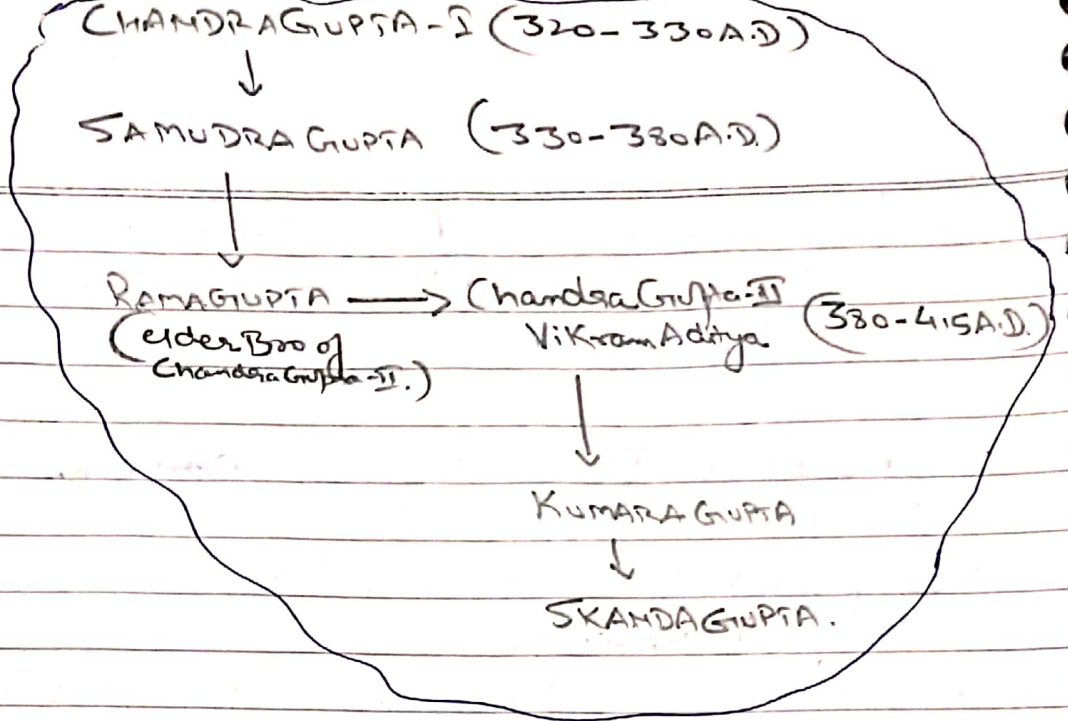
- After these military victories, he performed Asvamedha Sacrifices.
He issued gold & silver coins with the legend

"Restorer of the Asvamedha."

- AKA "INDIAN NAPOLEON."

ESTIMATES OF SAMUDRAGUPTA.

- It speaks of his magnanimity to his foes, his polished intellect, his poetic skill & his proficiency in music.
- Calls him Kaviraja (due to ability in composing verses.)
- His image depicting him with Veena (Gandhin coins.)
- Credits of Sanskrit literature & learning goes to him.
- follower of Vaishnavism, interested in Buddhism & was patron of Vasubandhu (Buddhist scholar.)



CHANDRAGUPTA II (380-415 A.D.) VIKRAMADITYA.

Married KUBERANAGIA (Naga Princess of C. India.)

His daughter married to Rudra Sena II (Vakataka Prince.)

(Vakatakas occupied a geographical Strategic position in the Deccan.)

CONQUESTS OF WESTERN INDIA.

- Greatest Military Achievements → War against Sakas stop of Western India.

After victory, performed horse sacrifice & assumed the title **Sakasi** (Destroyer of Sakas.)

- Empire reached Arabian Sea & its ports enabling trade from Western countries. (Ujjain Imp alternate capital city.)

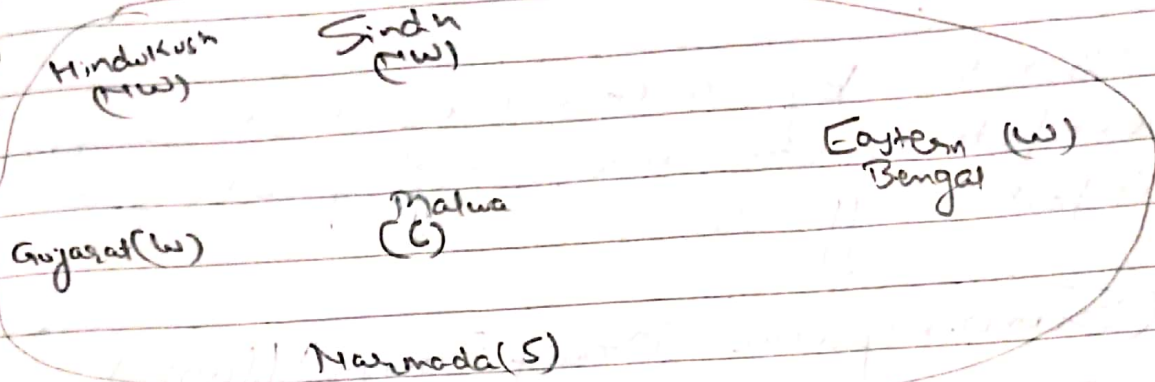
Exports (to west)

Cotton → Bengal
 Spices & Sandal → S. India.
 Indigo → Bihar
 Silk → Benares
 Scents → Himalayas.

Imports (from west)

Gold.

OTHER CONQUESTS.



FAHIEN (Famous Chinese Pilgrimage) VISIT.

- provides info. on religious, social & eco. condⁿ of Guptas.
↳ eco. condⁿ was prosperous.
- Never mentioned the name of Chandragupta-II.
↳ Not interested in political affairs, but in religion.
↳ had Buddhist angle of observing things.

ESTIMATES OF CHANDRAGUPTA-II VIKRAMADITYA.

- ○ Took Gupta empire at its peak.
- ○ promoted artistic activity.
- ○ promoted great literary figures like Kalidasa.
- ○ Gupta period is referred to as a golden age.

KUMARAGUPTA (SON & SUCCESSOR OF CHANDRAGUPTA-II)

- performed an Ashvamedha Sacrifice.
 - laid foundation of Malanda University (had international reputation)
 - At end of his reign Pushymitra of Sunga dynasty defeated Gupta Army.
- Gupta power totally disappeared due to Hun invasion & later by rise of Yashodharman in Malwa.

ABOUT GUPTAS

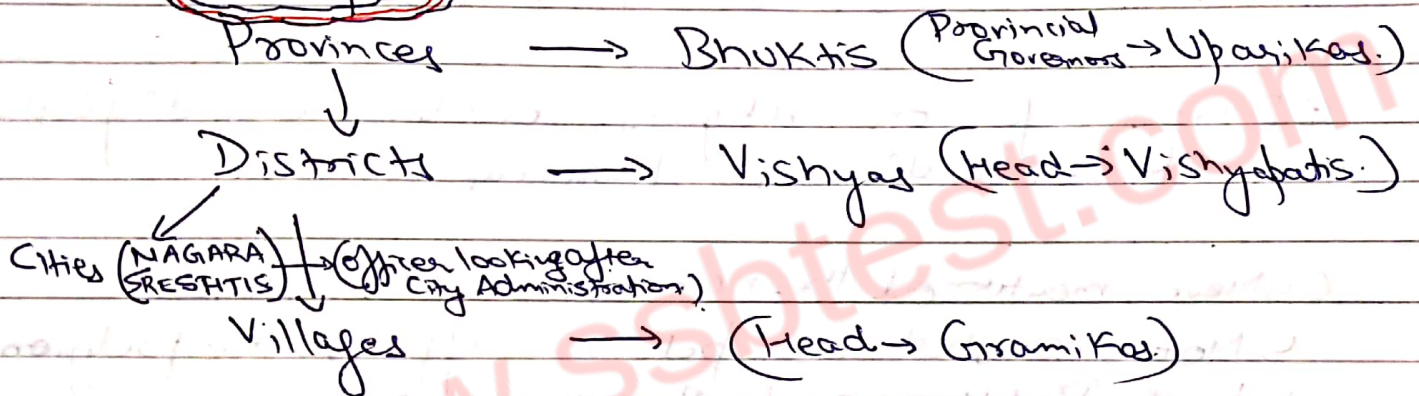
ADMINISTRATION
SOCIAL LIFE
ARTS & CULTURE
ARTS & ARCHITECTURE
LITERATURE
SCIENCE

I GUPTA ADMINISTRATION.

* King assisted by a council of Chief Ministers, a Senapati or Commander in chief of the army & other important officials.

* (Sandirigaha → Minister of Foreign Affairs.)

Setup



* Administration was mild & Benevolent

- People enjoyed personal freedom (No state interference)
- No severe punishment, only fine...
- No spy system.
- Roads kept safe for travelers.
- No thieves & crime was negligible.

On the whole administration was more liberal than that of Mauryas.

II SOCIAL LIFE.

- Brahminy occupied top ladder of the society.
- Untouchability had begun during this period.
- Position of women become miserable
- Practice of Swayamvar given up & Manusmriti suggested early marriages for girls.

- Brahmanism (generally followed) has 2 branches - Vaishnavism & Saivism.
- ↳ Most Gupta Kings were Vaishnavites (performed ^{Asvamedha} ~~Sacrifices~~ _{Sacrifices}.)
- Progress of Brahmanism led to the neglect of Buddhism & Jainism.
- In western & southern India Jainism flourished.
- Buddhist scholars like Vasudeva Bandhu were patronized by Gupta Kings.



ART & ARCHITECTURE.

- Nagara & Dravidian styles of art evolved during this period.

STATUES

- Temple at Deogash near Jhansi.
- Sculptures in the temple at Gashway near Allahabad.
- Buddha statue unearthed at Sarnath.
- Bhitari Monolithic pillar of Skandagupta
- Delhi Iron pillar made up of anti-Rust materials.

PAINTINGS

- Bagh Caves near Gwalior.
- Mural paintings of Ajanta (life of Buddha)
- Sigiriya at Sri Lanka (influenced by Ajanta style.)



LITERATURE.

- ↳ Sanskrit — (Nagari; script evolved from Brahmi script.)

BOOKS

Court of Chandragupta II, adorned by celebrated Navaratnas.

one way **KALIDAS works** Shakuntala (Sanskrit Drama)

Plays. → Malavikagnimitra & Vikramorvasiya

Epic → Raghuranga & Kumarasambhara

Lyric → Ritusamhara & Meghaduta.

Imp. Books of Gupta Age.

Visakhadatta (Author)

Mudrarakshasa

Devichandraguptam.

} Sanskrit
Drama.

Sudhaka (poet)

Mrichchakatika (rich in humour & pathos.)

Bharavi (Author)

Kavitajiniya → Story of conflict b/w Arjuna & Siva.

Subhantu

Vasavadatta.

Vishnu Sharma

☞ Panchatantra stories.

Amarasimha (Buddhist Author)

Compiled a lexicon called Amarakosa.

18 Puranas composed in this period.

Mahabharata & Ramayana were given final touches & written in the present form during this period.

SCIENCE

- Gupta period witnessed a brilliant activity in the sphere of mathematics, astronomy, astrology & medicine.

ARYABHATA

(Great Mathematician & astronomer.)

Book → (ARYABHATIYA. in 499 A.D.)

- Deals with math & astronomy, explaining occurrence of Solar & Lunar eclipses.
- He was 1st to declare that Earth was spherical & it rotates on its own axis.

VARAHAMIHIRA

Book → ① Pancha Siddhantika. (5 Astronomical systems.)

- ② Brihad Samhita (in Sanskrit, deals with a variety of subjects like astronomy, astrology, geography, physics, weather, animals, marriage & love.)
- ③ Brihadjataka (standard work on astrology.)

LESSON - 10 HARSHAVARDHANA (606 - 647 A.D.)

SOURCES

⊙ Decline of Gupta was followed by a period of political disorder & disunity in North India.

⊙ In the beginning of 7th Century AD. Harshavardhana succeeded in establishing a large Kingdom in N. India.

⊙ Other Chief sources ^{to know} about his history.

Books

Harshacharita
Radambhara

Written by Bana (Court poet of Harsha)
(Bana or Bana Bhakta)

⊙ Dramas written by Harsha are:-

- . Ratnavali
- . Nagananda
- . Prayagdasika

NALANDA UNIVERSITY.

- ① 2 were famous → Hinayana Univ. of Valabhi & Mahayana Univ. of Nalanda.
- ① One of the most famous educational Institution.
 - 3000 Students.

Nalanda = giver of Knowledge.

founder → Kumaragupta I.

Head of institution → Dharmapala

① Patronized by ^{his} Successor & Harsha.

① Professors were called Panditas.

① Free coaching & living.

↳ Maintained with revenue from 100 to 200 villages.

① Had diff. religious subjects like Vedas, Hinayana doctrine, Sankhya & Yoga.

General subjects like grammar, astronomy, medicine, art, etc.

① Medium → Sanskrit.

① Entrance Exam was there (only 30% cleared it.)

① Discussion was laid emphasis more than lectures.

① Observatory & library (3 buildings huge.)