



**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE &  
GENERAL STUDIES**

# **Ancient History** **(Part-2)**

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## Ancient Indian History (Part- 2)

1.	The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins which can definitely be attributed to the kings. They were the first to issue gold coins in India.
2.	Chanakya : He is also known by Vishnugupta, Kautilya, was born around 350 BC and is known for his being the chief architect of Mauryan Empire and writing the pioneering work in the Economics and Political Science that is Arthashastra. He is known as Indian Machiavelli in the western world.
3.	Rajyavardhana has been mentioned as Parama- Saugata in Harsha's Madhuvana and Banskhera inscriptions.
4.	Mricchakatika, is a ten-act Sanskrit drama written by Sudraka.
5.	Nagananda is one of the best Sanskrit dramas in five acts dealing with the popular story of Jimutavahana's self-sacrifice to save the Nagas, written by king Harsha(Vardhana Dynasty).
6.	The Mudrarakshasa ("The Signet of the Minister") is a historical play in Sanskrit by Vishakhadatta that narrates the ascent of the king Chandragupta Maurya to power in Northern India.
7.	Ratnavali is a Sanskrit drama about a beautiful princess named Ratnavali, and a great king named Udayana, written by Indian emperor Harsha(Vardhana dynasty).
8.	The First Buddhist Council was held at Saptaparni cave near Rajagriha in 72 AD, during the reign of Emperor Ajatsatru. It was held under the Presidentship of Mahakassapa to compile the Dhamma Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka.
9.	The Maitrak King, Bhattarka established the Vallabhi University in Gujarat.
10.	Emperor Samprati was the grandson of Emperor Ashoka, who reigned from 224–274 BCE. And accepted Jainism.
11.	The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram and Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram built by Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman II.
12.	In the major Rock Edict V, Ashoka mentioned "Every Human is my child". He had concerns about the policy towards slaves. This rock edict also refers to the appointment of Dhamma-mahamatta for the first time in the twelfth year of his reign.
13.	Devatadhyaksha was appointed to perform the duties related to religious institutions.
14.	The ritualistic teachings attached to the hymns of the Vedas were known as the Brahmanas.
15.	The founder of Sunga dynasty, Pushyamitra Sunga is recorded to have performed two Ashvamedhas to promote orthodox brahamical faith during his rule.



16.	Fa-hein, the first Chinese Buddhist traveller and monk, came to India during the reign of Gupta emperor Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya). And wrote the book “Si-Yu-Ki” that gives a detailed account of the political and social conditions of that time.
17.	The gold coins issued during the reign of Chandragupta Vikramaditya were known as Dinara.
18.	The battle of ten kings was fought between Sudas, a Bharata king of the Tritsu family and the confederacy of ten well-known tribes- Puru, Yadu, Turvasa, Anu, Druhyu, Alina, Paktha ,Bhalanas,Shiva and Vishanin. In the bloody and decisive battle on the banks of River Purushni, the Bharatas emerged victorious. The reason behind the war is the rivalry between Vishwamitra and Vasishtha.
19.	The Indus valley people knew the use of copper, bronze, silver, gold but not iron.
20.	The Neolithic sites in Odisha include Kuchai in Mayurbhanj district, and the recently excavated site of Golbai Sasan on the banks of Mandakini River.
21.	The Lumbini Pillar Edict in Nepal is known as the Rummindei Pillar Inscription .The Lumbini Pillar Edict recorded that sometime after the twentieth year of his reign, Ashoka travelled to the Buddha’s birthplace and personally made offerings. He then had a stone pillar set up and reduced the taxes of the people in that area.
22.	There is a close resemblance between various types of terracotta games-men found in Lothal and modern chessmen. That led some scholars to claim that Chess had its origin in games of the Indus Valley Civilization. However, other scholars believe that Chess originated in India as Chaturanga between 400 BC to 400 AD.
23.	Kujula Kadphises was the first Yueh Chi chief who crossed the Hindukush Mountains and laid down the foundation of the Kushana Empire. He adopted the epithet of Dharma-thida and Sachdharmathida.
24.	The famous ruler of Kushana Empire, Vima Kadphises is best known for issuing large number of Gold Coins. He is known to have maintained the Silk Route and trade with all sides including the China, Alexandria and Roman Empire.
25.	Kushan emperor Kanishka is credited with the initiation of the Saka era on his accession to the throne in 78 A D.
26.	“Tat Tvam Asi” is a Sanskrit phrase that is one of the Mahāvākyas (Grand Pronouncements) in Vedantic Sanatana Dharma. It originally occurs in the Chandogya Upanishad, a Sanskrit text embedded in the Chandogya Brahmana of the Sama Veda of Hinduism.
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28.	Satavahana kings are noted for issuing bilingual coins featuring Middle Indo-Aryan language on one side, and Tamil language on the other side.



29.	Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana with an aim of securing authentic Buddhist scripts. The Kannauj assembly (643 AD) was held in the honour of Hiuen Tsang and to popularise Mahayana sect of Buddhism. He stayed in India for about fifteen years and recorded his experience in his book titled "Si-Yu-Ki". The book throws lights on the religion, customs, traditions, etc. of the country.
30.	After the death of Buddha, Buddhism was divided into two sects namely Mahayana and Hinayana. Hinayana, found mostly in the South and West covering Indo-china and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Early work written in Pali (e.g. Kamma, Dhamma).
31.	Shatapatha Brahmana is a commentary on the Sukla Yajurveda. It is described as the most complete, systematic, and important of the Brahmanas. It contains detailed explanations of Vedic sacrificial rituals, symbolism, and mythology.
32.	Some of the scholars in the Court of Kanishka were Parsva, Vasumitra, Asvaghosa, Nagarjuna, Charaka and Mathara. Charaka has been called the Court Physician of Kanishka, though it is very much disputed.
33.	The Austric languages of India belong to the Austro-Asiatic sub-family, which are represented by languages of the Munda or Kol Group, spoken in central, eastern and north-eastern India and languages of the Mon-Khmer group like Khasi and Nicobarese.
34.	The story of the birth of Kartikeya as narrated in the Kalikapurana and the Kumarasambhava
35.	Increasing pride of birth, characteristic of feudal society, and the accompanying self-sufficient village economy, which prevented both spatial and occupational mobility, gave rise to thousands of castes in India during the early medieval Period. The Guptas and the Kushanas played a major role in the introduction and practice of feudalism in India, and are examples of the decline of an empire caused by feudalism.
36.	Tat Tvam Asi comes from Chandogya Upanishad.
37.	While Sankara propounded Advaita, Ramanuja is associated with Visishtadvaita, and Madhva advocated Dvaita.
38.	The Vedic people were probably not familiar with cats and camels. Tiger was not known, but the wild animals like lion, elephant and boar were known to them. The early Aryans were familiar with certain animals such as goats, dogs, pigs etc.
39.	The Buddhist literature Oldest manuscripts on bark or palm leaf known in India are Buddhist. They are written to pass on the knowledge. The pitakas are written on leaves. The earliest written record in India dates from the reign of Asoka and his edicts.
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41.	Nalanda was supported by the income from a number of villages which the monastery acquired over the years through donations. These villages and estates covered the expenses of the university, which was thus able to provide free educational facilities and residence for most of its students.
42.	Animistic religions such as voodoun are based on items in nature having spiritual value. Syncretic religions are ones that have integrated the beliefs of two or more other religions. An example would be Sikhism, drawing from both Hinduism and Islam. Please don't confuse it with tribalism.
43.	Rummindei Pillar Inscription says that The Beloved of the Gods, the king Piyadassi, when he had been consecrated twenty years, came in person to find referenced the place where Buddha Sakyamuni was born. He caused a stone enclosure to be made and a stone pillar to be erected. As the Lord was born here in the village of Lumbini, he has exempted it from tax, and fixed its contribution at one-eighth.
44.	Under Cholas, the general assemblies were of three types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ur, comprising the tax-paying residents of an ordinary village.</li> <li>• the sabha, whose membership was open only to the Brahmans of the village or else was found exclusively in villages gifted to brahmans;</li> <li>• the nagaram, found in centres of trade and commerce, since it was devoted entirely to serving the interests of the mercantile community.</li> </ul>
45.	The Chola economy was based on a three- tiered system. At the local level, agricultural settlements formed the foundation. Groups of these communities were, in turn, linked to commercial towns called "nagaram," which acted as redistribution.
46.	Avanti itself was a Mahajanapada and its capital was Ujjain.
47.	The nickname of Kanchipuram is "The City of Thousand Temples"
48.	Tripitaka or Three Baskets is a traditional term used for various Buddhist scriptures. It is known as pali Canon in English. The three pitakas are Sutta Pitaka, Vinaya Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka.
49.	Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon at Sarnath. At the age of 80, he finally attained at Kusinara (lying in Mallas). It is believed that his last words were, "All composite things decay, strive diligently".
50.	The first Buddhist council was held under the patronage of king Ajatshatru at Rajgriha in 483 BCE. This council was held just after the death of buddha. The president of the first council was monk Mahakassapa.

