

HISTORY – ANCIENT INDIA

POST MAURYAN PERIOD

- **Fragmented polity** during the post Mauryan period.
- **200 BC to 300 AD.**



Outside rulers

- Indo Greek
- Shaka
- Parthian
- Kushana
- **Pushyamitra Sunga – Magadha** – present day Bihar region.
- Kanva – 1st century BC.
- Both Sunga and Kanva - share same position.
- Far south from Magadha – Satavahana – Suvarnagiri.
- Mutually existing.
- Foreign rule existed in India.
- Shakas – Punjab, Gujarat region.
- Parthians – near to Iran, Persian region.
- Kushana – important foreign rulers – Jammu, Punjab regions.

SUNGA DYNASTY

- **187 to 78 BC.**
- Almost 100-year dynasty.
- Not very powerful and aspirational.
- **Cannot keep up the initial dominance.**

Pushyamitra Shunga

- **Strict Brahman**
- **Follower of Vedic religion.**

E ▶ ENTRI

- Believed in the revival of Vedic religion.
- Not so tolerant towards Buddhism.
- Buddhist stupas and pillars were destroyed.
- Conducted – **two Aswamedha yaga** – mentioned in **Ashokan inscription** as support to the Brahmanical religion.
- **Ayodhya inscription** – later Shunga ruler – 1st century BC – **Dhana deva** – mention about the Pushyamitra Sunga.

- **Patanjali was a head priest** of Pushyamitra Sunga.
- Patanjali was contemporary of Pushyamitra.
- Works of **Patanjali** - **Yogasutra** – **Mahabhashya**.
- **Mahabhashya** - Commentary on **Ashtadhyay of Panini**.
- Panini was a Sanskrit scholar and was a Brahmin.

- **Ashtadhyay** of Panini - Grammatical decoding method.
- Globally accepted work.
- First descriptive linguistic.
- **Father of linguistics - Panini**.
- **Manu smriti** was written during Sunga period.
- Hindu rule law book.
- Compiled in Sunga or Kanva period.
- Creation of world, man and women in society, marriage, human, ritual code of conduct – themes.
- Different codes of conduct for four divisional caste groups.
- Prepared as - **conversation between Prajapati Manu and sage Brigu** – 2700 slokas.
- Standard point of reference for all the future Dharma sastra.
- Pushyamitra – 36 years.
- **Succeeded by his son – Agni Mitra**.
- Began the **rule of ten Shungas**.
- They **conducted war with indigenous and foreign rulers** – Satavahana, Kalinga, Indo Greeks, etc.
- Helped the establishment of **tradition of – royal sponsorship of education and arts**.
- Tradition for the sponsorship of education was initiated when the Hindu philosophical schools developed.
- To promote the Hindu schools of thought.

Royal patronage

- Supported art and architecture.
- **Mathura school of architecture**.
- **Large stone sculptures, art, terracotta figurines, etc.**
- Architectural monuments of shunga still exist.

- No territorial diversity.
- **South to Shunga was Satavahana.**
- Contemporary of Sunga – Satavahana and Indo- Greeks.

- **Ashokavadana – Buddhist text** – give information about Shunga or Pushyamitra Shunga and Buddhism.
- Pushyamitra Sunga was very **hostile toward Buddhism.**
- Stupas were destroyed.
- He persecutes the Buddhist monk and followers of Buddhism.
- Hinduism over Buddhism.
- Chaityas and viharas were destroyed.
- Certain **viharas were converted to Hindu temples** – Nalanda, Bodhgaya, Sarnath, Mathura.
- **Later Shungas – Agnimitra and Vasumitra – tolerant towards Buddhism.**
- **They reconstructed the stupas that was destroyed by Pushyamitra.**
- **Core the great stupa** – 120 diameter was increased - covered with stone casing, topped with balcony and umbrella, encircled with a stone railing. In which its visible in present day.
- **Malvikagnimitra of Kalidasa** – love affair of Malavika and Agnimitra shunga.
- **Last ruler of shunga – Devabhuti** –was **assassinated by Vasudeva Kanva** – 73 BCE.



KANVA DYNASTY

- **Brahmin** centred dynastic rule.
- **Descendants of Rishi Kanva.**

E**ENTRI**

- Testified by *Harshacharitha* – death of last Shunga ruler – that the Devabhuti was assassinated by Vasudeva Kanva.
- Vasudeva's time – Punjab was already with Greeks – gangetic plain with other rulers.
- Central with Satavahana.
- **Vasudeva** was succeeded by – **Bhumi Mitra**.
- Bhumi Mitra – 14 years of reign – succeeded by his son – **Narayana**.
- Then succeeded by – **Susharman**.
- Last rulers of Kanva – Susharman.
- Then **Satavahana occupied Kanva. – 30 BCE.**
- Much details about these Kanva Dynasty are gathered from – **numismatics**.
- Only these four kings of Kanva are known.

- During the time of **Vasudeva Kanva** – many foreign ambassadors accepted the Hinduism.
- Greek ambassador – **Heliodorus**.
- Vasudeva erected a pillar – **Garudadwaj - Bhisla** in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Oldest archaeological evidence on the worship of Lord Vishnu** – God of God – Deva Deva - concepts are mentioned in the pillar – **Garuda is the capital figure** in this pillar.
- **Name of Heliodorus** is also mentioned in this pillar.

SATAVAHANA DYNASTY

- **Deccan region.**
- 1st century BC E to 3rd century CE.
- **Pratisthana or Paithan present day in western Deccan, expanded to eastern Deccan, Andhra, Western Coast** – debated argument of historians.
- Present day – Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat.
- History traced back with the help of puranas and inscription.
- Not that great as Mauryans.
- Considered themselves as degenerated sons of Visvamitra Maharshi – epic Brahman character – or might be to indicate Brahmin lineage.
- Other names - **Andras and Andribityas**.
- **Term Satavahana – originated from Prakrit – means: driven by seven** – implications to Sun God's chariot driven by seven horses – Hindu Mythology.
- **First king – Simuka or Sisuka.**
- **Capital cities varied as per the rulers – Pratishthana and Amaravati.**

- First native Indians to issue their own coins – with the portrait of their rulers.
- Started by Gautam Putra Satakarni.
- He derived the practice from Western Satraps.

E ▶ ENTRI

- Before Satavahana – Indo Greeks also minted coins – but they are not considered as Indian dynasties.
- First in Indian subcontinent to mint gold coins – Kushanas.
- Indo Greeks expanded in two regions – among them the north of Indus River people – minted gold coins.
- Indo Greeks at the down part of River Indus – did not mint gold coins.



- Satakarni was a most important ruler of Satavahana.
 - Coins minted in Prakrit language.
 - Reverse coins – Telugu, Tamil, Kannada.
 - Patronized Prakrit more than Sanskrit.
 - Supported Buddhism and Brahmanism.
 - Amaravati School of Buddhist architecture.
 - Ajanta, Ellora caves – grabbed significance at this period.
 - Successfully defeated foreign invaders.
 - Many ongoing wars with Shakas or Western Satraps.
- Indo Greeks and Shaka's – overlapping territory.
 - Kushanas and Parthians – overlapping territory.

Rulers of Satavahana

- **Satakarni I**
- 70 to 60 CE.
- Third ruler of Satavahana.
- First to expand his territory – by the means of military expansion.
- Chedi dynasty – Kharavela was a ruler – Kalinga – tribal power.
- After the death of Kharavela, Kalinga was annexed by Satakarni I.
- Prevented the expansion of Shungas in Pataliputra.
- Ruled over Madhya Pradesh.

E ▶ ENTRI

- **Lord of Dakshinapantha** –assumed the title - after annexing Godavari Valley.
- Queen – Nayanika – wrote: **Naneghat Inscription** – describe king as – Dakshinapathapati.
- Performed – **Aswamedha**.
- **Revived Vedic Brahmanism in Deccan.**

- **King Hala**
- Compiled **Gatha Saptashati** - Collection of poems – love as the theme.
- Gaha Sattasai – Prakrit.
- Around forty of the poems are contributed by him.
- Hala’ s minister – Gunadhya – **Brihatkatha**.

- **Gautama Putra Satakarni**
- 106-130 AD or 86 to 110 AD.
- Greatest king of Satavahana dynasty.
- Defeated – Greeks, Pahlavas or Indo Parthians, Shakas.
- Defeated Nahapana – important king of western Satraps.
- Kingdom ran from Krishna in the south to Malwa - Saurashtra in the north and Berar in the east to Konkan in the west.
- Mother – Gautami Balasri – hence the name Gautam Putra – Son of Gautami.
- Succeeded by his son – **Vasisthiputra Sri Pulamavi or Pulamavi II.**
- **Ekabrahmana** – saviour of Brahmins – mentioned in **Nasik inscription** – issued by his mother Gautami Balasri.
- Also named as – **lord of Vindhya – tri – samudra Toya – pita – vahaana.**

Nasik Inscription

- **Achievement of Gautama Putra Satakarni.**
- **Commissioned by his mother – Gautami Balasri.**
- Nasik Prasasti – described – ruler-controlled kingdoms of Avanti, Aparanta, Anupa, Saurashtra, Kukura, Akara.
- Defeated Saka king – Nahapana.
- Restored prestige of his dynasty by reconquering large part of former dominions of Satavahana.

Administration

- Entirely based on shastras.
- Inscription of Gautama Putra Satakarni – throw light on the bureaucratic structure of administration.

Rajan or king	rulers
Princes or rajas	names were inscribed on coins
Maharathis	power of granting villages and privilege of having marital relationship with ruling families.

Mahasenapati	military head
Mahatalavara	control finance

Economy

- Agriculture was the backbone.
- They relied on trade and production within and outside India.
- Gave land ownership to brahmins – led to the emergence of feudalism in later period.

Coins

- Minted by native Indian.
- Kushanas minted gold coins
- Indo Greeks – did not mint gold coins.
- Satavahana coins – Excavated from – Vidarbha, Deccan, Western India, western and eastern ghats.
- Die- struck coins.
- Cast coins also existed.
- Silver, lead, copper, potin coins.
- Coins bare the name – Satakarni and Pulumavi.
- No gold coins.
- Only lead coins are minted by Satavahana.
- Portrait coins – silver and lead – Dravidian language and Brahmi script.
- Punch marked coins.
- Importance of maritime trade – indication of ship in the coins.
- Shapes – round, square, rectangle.
- Animal motifs are found – elephant, lion, etc.
- Ship, trees, temples.



lead coin



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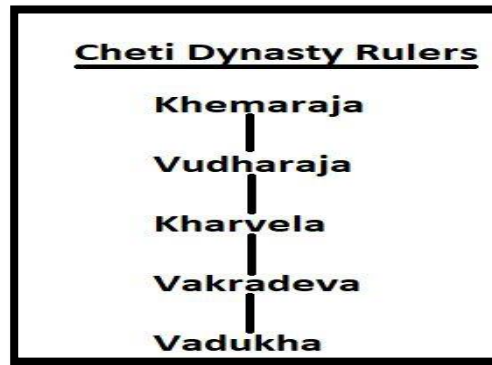
Decline of Satavahana

- Pulamavi IV – last king.
- Ruled until 225 AD.
- Empire fragmented into five smaller kingdoms.



CHEDI DYNASTY

- Tribal dynasty.
- Kalinga area.
- Up their north – Kanva.
- 1st century BC.
- Hathigumpha Inscription – Bhubaneswar – give us information.
- Kharavela – wrote the inscription – third ruler of Chedi.
- Other names of the dynasty mentioned in inscription - **Cheta, Chetavamsa, Mahamegavahana.**



Kharavela

- Capital was **Kalinganagara**.
- Army and military of Kalinga was re installed.
- Lead successful campaigns – **Satavahana, Anga, Magadha**.
- Kalinga was **expanded** from **Ganga to Kaveri** in North to South direction.
- He was a **Jain follower**.
- Even though he was a Jain - Never hesitated in warfare.
- Patronized Jain ascetics by -making provisions, construction of houses or dwelling.

Hathigumpha Inscription

- Ascribed to **Kharavela**.
- **2nd century BC**.
- **Seventeen-line inscription**.
- **Brahmi script**.
- **Udayagiri Hills, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- **Six miles distant from where Dhauli edicts of Ashoka was found**.
- **Inscription says that – dated 165th year of Mauryan kings and 13th year of Kharavela reign**.
- **Provides biographical sketch of the king**.

First foreign rulers of north west India was Kushanas in post mauryan period.
Stupas in Shunga period are – Bharhut and Sanchi.
Satavahana had trade relation with Romans.
Tribal state emerged during post mauryan period.
Besnagar Pillar Inscription near ancient Vidisa.
Sungas assumed the title – Chakravarti.
Shunga kings ruled for almost 112 years.
Indo Greeks – Bactrian region – North west border of India – India and Greek cultural minglings.

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Shakas or Schythians

Mahakshatrapa – military head of Shakas.

