

**Disruption of the Maurya Empire.
Rise of Satavahanas, Kushans etc.**

Q. 1. Who was the founder of the Sunga dynasty ? What was their origin ?

Ans. Pushyamitra was the founder of the Sunga dynasty. In the Malavikagnimitram of Kalidas, the Sungas are represented as the scion of the Baimika family.

Q. 2. Who did build the Garuda Pillar at Basnagar ? What is its importance ?

Ans. The fifth king of the Sunga dynasty was Bhagabhadra. To his court at Vidisha came Heliodorous and ambassador of Antialkidas, the Greek king of Taxila. He professed the Bhagvata religion and erected a Garuda Pillar at Besnagar in honour of Vasudeva.

The Besnagar inscription shows that the Greeks were no longer hostile to the Sungas but cultivated friendly relations with them. Besides, it points out to the fact that some of them were influenced by the Indian culture and adopted Indian religion.

Q. 3. Who was the last king of Sunga dynasty ?

Ans. Dehahuti was the last king of the Sunga dynasty, who was followed by the Kanva dynasty.

Q. 4. Who was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty,

Ans. Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty.

Q. 5. Who was the real founder of the Satavahana's greatness ? Whose achievements are narrated in the Nanaghat Inscription ?

Ans. Sri Satakarni. He was the first ruler to raise the Satavahana power to eminence in the Deccan. He asserted his position as a paramount power by performing the Aswaniedha sacrifice. His achievements are narrated in the Nanaghat Inscription.

Q. 6. Where was the capital of the Satavahanas?

Ans. Paithan or Pratishan.

Q. 7. Who was the greatest among the Satavahana Kings ? Which Saka ruler did he defeat ? What was the achievement of Gautamiputra Satakarni?

Or, Who were the Saka rulers Gautami putra Satakarni fought against ?

Ans. Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest among the Satavahana kings. Gautamiputra Satakarni waged successful wars against the foreigners, defeating the Kshaharata Satrap, Nahapana and Saka Kardainaka Satrap Rudradaman and destroying the power of the Sakas, Yavanas and Parthians. He built up an empire which extended from the Kanarese country in the south to Malwa in the north.

Q. 8. What do you know of the social reforms of Gautamiputra Satakarni ? What was its importance ?

Ans. Gautamiputra Satakarni exalted the Brahmins, depressed the Kshatriyas, promoted the interests of the lowest order and stopped the contamination of the four castes. These reforms were perhaps, a protest against the outlandish practices of the casteless Sakas.

Q. 9. What is the alternative name of the Satavahanas ? What are our sources of the Satavahanas ?

Ans. The Satavahanas are also known as Andhras. Our sources of knowledge of the Satavahanas kings are coins, inscriptions and Matsya Purana.

Q. 10. Who was Kharavela ? From which source can we know his history? To which dynasty did he belong?

Ans. Kharavela was the king of Kalinga (Modern Orissa). We can know his history from the Hathigumpha inscription. Hathigumpha inscription is engraved in a Jaina cave in the Udaygiri Hills in the district of Puri. He belonged to the Chela dynasty. He was a Jaina by religion.

Q. 11. Who was the most important of the Indo-Greek kings of North-Western India ?

Ans. Menander was the most important of the Indo-Greek rulers, his name has been immortalised under the name of Milinda in the Buddhist philosophical treatise entitled Milinda Panha (Five Questions of Milinda).

Q. 12. Where was the original home of the Sakas ?

Ans. The original home of the Sakas was in Central Asia where they lived in the region to the north of the river Jaxartes (Syr Darya).

Q. 13. Name at least three of the famous Satraps who ruled in India ? Ans. (i) Rajuvula of Mathura ; (ii) Nahapana of Maharashtra and (iii) Rudradaman of Ujjain.

Q. 14. Who was the greatest of the Indo-Parthian rulers in India?

Ans. Gondophernes.

Q. 15. Whose achievements have been described in the Junagadh Inscription?

Ans. The achievements of Saka Mahakhatrapa Rudradaman I of Saurashtra have been described in the Junagadh Inscription.

Q. 16. Who were the Kushans?

Ans. The Kushans were a section of the Yeu'e'hi, a nomadic inhabiting the regions of North-Western China.

Q. 17. Who was the first king of the Kushans?

Ans. Kujula Kadphises I.

Q. 18. What was the extent of the Kushan Empire?

Ans. From Kasgar in the West to Bihari-an the East and from Khotan in the North and Kankon in the South the whole area was under the sway of the Kushans.

Q. 19. Name the Kushan King who extended his power up to the Punjab.

Ans. Kadphises II or Vima (Wema) Kadphises.

Q. 20. Who was the greatest King of the Kushans ?

Ans. Kaniska.

Q. 21. Who did introduce the Saka era?

Ans. Kaniska was the founder of the Saka era or Sakabda which begins in 78 A. D. and Kaniska ascended the throne in that year. Though there is a great controversy among the historians about the date of Kaniska's accession to the throne. But it is now generally accepted that his reign began in 78 A. D.

Q. 22. What was the extent of Kaniska's empire in India?

Ans. Both epigraphic and numismatic evidences point out to the wide extent of Kaniska's dominion which stretched from Gandhara to Benaras.

Q. 23. Among the foreign rulers in India, whom do you think the best?

Ans. Kaniska of Kushan dynasty.

Q. 24. What was the greatest achievement of Kaniska ?

Ans. Kaniska helped to spread the Buddhism outside India.

Q. 25. Where was the capital of Kaniska ?

Ans. Purushpur (modern Peshwar)

Q. 26. When and why was the last or fourth Buddhist Council convened?

Ans. Like Asoka, Kaniska convened a Buddhist Council to settle disputed question of Buddhist scriptures and practice. The Council met at Julandhar or Kundalavana in Kashmir and its proceeding were guided by Asvaghosha and Vasumitra. It prepared authoritative commentaries on Buddhist scriptures which were engraved on sheets of copper and placed for safety in a stupa built for the purpose.

Q. 27. Who spread Buddhism in China during the reign of Kaniska ?

Ans. Kasyapa Malanga was the first Indian monk to go to China and to introduce Buddhism there. He went to China during the reign of Kaniska on the invitation of a Chinese Mission sent by Emperor Ming.

Q. 28. Name some of the prominent courtiers of Kaniska.

Ans. Kaniska's court was adorned by many worthies like Asvaghosha, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna and Charaka.

Q. 29. What do you know of Asvaghosha ?

Ans. Asvaghosha, one of the courtiers of Kaniska, was a many-sided genius, a scholar, a poet, a musician and a religious controversialist. His two best known works are Buddha Charita and Sulralankara.

Q. 30. What do you know of Vasumitra ?

Ans. Vasumitra was a courtier of Kaniska. His work Mahavidhasha sastra is an encyclopaedia of Buddhist Philosophy.

Q. 31. What do you know of Charak?

Ans. Charak, the most celebrated author of Indian system of medicine, is reputed to have been the court physician of Kaniska. His famous work is Charaka-Susrula.

Q. 32. What do you know of Nagarjuna ?

Ans. Nagarjuna was one of the great exponents of the Mahayana school, whose philosophical treatises have greatly enriched Buddhist literature. He is the reputed author of Prajna-paramita.

Q. 33. Name at least two of the prominent scientists of the Gupta period?

E/B.A.History3/20

Ans. Aryahhalla and Baraha-Mihir.

Q. 34. What do you know of Gandhara art ?

Ans. The Gandhara school of art nourished in the North-western frontier and West. The region was long occupied by a number of Greek princes and the influx of new ideas they brought produced a novel school of art resembling in style the products of the Gracco-Roman art. In this school the style and technique of the Greek art were applied to Indian (Buddhist) subjects and the result was an Indo-Hellenic school which produced some of the finest sculptures that ancient India has ever produced.

Q. 35. Name some of the colonies founded by Indians in the South-East Asia.

Ans. Champa, Cambodia, Java, Sumatra, Bali and Borneo.

Q. 36. Name the foreign countries which were influenced by Indian culture in the ancient period. Mention also the ancient names of those countries.

Ans. India in the ancient past was a great maritime and colonial power. Traces of Indian culture can be found even today in Vietnam (Champa), Java (Yavadwipa), Sumatra (Suvarnadwipa), Borneo (Varunadwipa), Camboja (Kamboja), Ceylon (Tamraparni), Burma (Indradwipa), Malay (Malayasia) etc.

Q. 37. What and where are the three most famous temples in those countries which show Indian culture ?

Ans. The Buddhist stupa of Barobudur in Java and the Hindu temple of Ankorvat and the Rayon temple.

Q. 38. When did the Gandhar school of art flourish ? Who was the ruler at the time?

Ans. In the field of art and sculpture Kushan age had a record of remarkable progress. Four distinguished schools of art developed at Sarnath, Mathura, Amaravati and Gandhara. The Gandhara art flourished mainly in the Gandhara region. Its special characteristics were happy blending of Greek workmanship with Indian spirit applied to Buddhist subjects. The Gandhara art reached its climax during the reign of Kaniska.

Q. 39. Whose glories have been recounted in Nasik Prasasti ?

Ans. The Nasik Prasasti in Nasik cave Inscription of Gaulami Balasri recounts the glories of king Gautamiputra Satkarni of the Satavahana dynasty. Nasik Prasasti was composed by Kavi Birachandra.

THE RISE OF THE GUPTAS

Q. 1. Who is the founder of the imperial Guptas?

Ans. Chandragupta I.

Q. 2. Who is the greatest of the Gupta monarchs ?

Ans. Samudragupta.

Q. 3. What is the chief sources of the history of Samudragupta ?

Or, Whose achievements have been described in the Allahabad Prasasti ? Who is its author ? Ans. We learn the extent of Samudragupta's conquest from an inscription in Sanskrit verse composed by his court poet Harisena. The inscription is inscribed on the Asoka pillar of Allahabad and known as Allahabad Prasasti.

Beside the Allahabad Pillar inscription there is an epigraph found at Eran in Eastern Mahva. This Eran inscription gives important details of his reign. Samudragupta's performance of the horse sacrifice is known from the gold medals he struck to commemorate this event.

His coins display his skill in music.

A Chinese historian speaks of his friendly relation with King Meghavarmana of Ceylon.

Q. 4. During whose reign was Gupta (Gupta Era) introduced ?

Ans. Chandra Gupta II of Gupta dynasty.

Q. 5. What are the sources of the history of Chandragupta II?

Ans. The Chinese traveller, Fa-hien, gives a valuable account of the state of the country during the reign of Chandragupta II. Other sources are coins, inscriptions and the writings of Bana.

Q. 6. What was the extent of the empire of Samudragupta ?

Ans. Samudragupta's direct rule extended overall the territories bounded on the east by the Brahmaputra, on the west by the Jamuna and the Chambal river, on the north by the slopes of the Himalayas and on the south by the river Narmada. Beyond these limits he controlled the various tribal states in the Punjab and Mahva. Besides these five frontier kingdoms—Nepal, Assam, Davaka- (Eastern Bengal), Samalaja (Dohra of the Brahmaputra) and Kartikpura (Kumaon and Garhwal region) did him homage and paid him tributes.

Q. 7. How is Samudragupta's statemanship been reflected in his attitude towards conquests of south with that of the north India ?

Ans. Samudragupta added his conquests in the northern India permanently with his empire. But he realised the difficulty of retaining effective control over his distant conquests in the south so he did not incorporate them in his empire. There he did not make his empire unwieldy, but managed to make his power felt far and wide without incurring further imperial responsibilities.

Q. 8. Name four of the South Indian kings defeated by Samudragupta.

Ans. Mahendra king of Koshala ; Vyaghraraja of Mahakantar ; Mantraraja of Kourala ; Mahendragire of Pisthapur; Svamidatta of Kottura; Daman of Erandapalla ; Vishnugopa of Kanchi ; Nalaraja of Avamukla ; Hastivarmana of Vengi ; Ugrasena of Palakka ; Kuvera of Devarashtra—all these king of South Indian were defeated by Samudragupta.

Q. 9. What was the religious view of Samudragupta?

Ans. Samudragupta was a Brahmanical Hindu being a worshipper of Vishnu. But he was tolerant of Buddhism.

Q. 10. Who is called the Indian Napoleon?

Ans. Samudragupta.

Q. 11. What was the title of the Gupta monarchs ?

Ans. Maharajadhiraja Parama Bhataraka.

Q. 12. With whom legendary king is Chandragupta II generally identified ?

Ans. Chandragupta II is generally identified with the popular legendary King Vikramaditya.

Q. 13. What is the greatest military achievement of Chandragupta II ? Which Gupta Emperor defeated the Sakas and which title did he assume after the victory?

Ans. Chandragupta II conquered Malwa, Gujrat and Saurashtra from the Western Satraps. These conquests may be regarded as making the highest point of power and prosperity attained by the Imperial Guptas. After defeating the Western Satraps Chandragupta bore the title 'Sakari'.

Q. 14. What are the important achievements of Skandagupta ?

Which Gupta Emperor defeated the Huns ? What is the source from which we know this ?

Ans. Skandagupta successfully resisted the invasions of the Pushyamitras and. Huns. The source of information is Bhitari Pillar Inscription.

Q. 15. Who were the Huns ? What are the results,of their invasion ?

Ans. The Huns were a wild and fierce nomadic tribe of Central Asia who invaded India in the middle of the 5th century. Their attack destroyed the Gupta power and many small Kingdoms were set up in the country. The Hun power came to an end in 450 A. D. and many of the Huns embraced Hinduism.

Q. 16. What were the habits of the people of India, according to Fa-hien, during the days of Chandragupta II ?

Ans. The people led simple and honest lives generally observing the Buddhist rule of conduct. The ahimsa (non-violence) sentiment was strong in mid-India. The people generally abstaining from meat and liquor. Only the Chandals did not observe the rules of purity and they had to live apart.

Q. 17. What was the main source of revenue in the days of the Guptas?

Ans. The revenue was mainly derived from the rent of the crown lands.

Q. 18. What was the. condition of the people and the country in general during the days of the imperial Guptas?

Ans. From Fa-hien's observations we gather that the Gupta empire was prosperous and governed on enlightened principles. Orders were well preserved and even foreigners could travel all over India without molestation. The government was temperate in the repression of crimes and in the matter of religion. The people were not harassed by needless official interference.

Q. 19. What were the cause of downfall of the Guptas ?

Ans. The causes of the downfall of the Guptas were, (i) uprising of the Pushyamitras ; (ii) Invasion of the Huns ; (iii) Disloyalty of hereditary governors; (iv) Dissensions among the princes of the royal house; and (v) The effects of Buddhism.

Q. 21. What period of the history of India is known as the period of Hindu revival or renaissance ?

Ans. The Gupta period.

Q. 22. Name at the least three of the literary personalities of the Gupta age

•Ans. Kalidas, Bisakhadatta and Sudraka

Q. 23. Name at least three works of Kalidas. '

Ans. Aahjnan Sakuntalam ; Raghuvamsani ; Meghduta ; Kumarsam-bhabam; Ritusamhar etc.

Q. 24. Who wrote the Mrichchakatika ?

Ans. Sudraka.

Q. 25. Write a note on the Ajanta caves.

Ans. Caves and frescos at Ajanta represent the highest development of the art of fresco-painting in India. The caves are located in the Ajanla Valley of the state of Maharashtra. In this creative age of Guptas at least two of the finest caves were excavated. The frescoes of the Ajanla caves testify to the depth of insight coupled with the greatest technical skill of the Indian artists. Ellora in the Maharashtra is famous for rock-cut temples.

Q. 26. Which king followed the 'Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha' policy in ancient India and why ?

Ans. Gupta Emperor Samudragupta followed the policy of 'Grahan-Moksha Anugraha' in his conquests in South India. He realised the difficulty of retaining effective control over his distant conquests in the south, so he did not incorporate them in his empire.

Q. 27. Which Gupta king performed the horse-sacrifice ? From which source is it known ?

Ans. Gupta Emperor Samudra Gupta performed the horse-sacrifice. It can be known from Allahabad Prasasti composed by Harisena.

Q. 28. What is Bhukti ?

Ans. Bhukti is an administrative unit which may be compared with a division.

Q. 29. What is meant by Vispati.

Ans. Vis-pali means the ruler of Vis, i.e., district,

Q. 30. Name two notable mathematicians of ancient India.

Ans. Aryabhata and Lilavati.

Q. 31. Name at least two of the Hun leaders who ruled in India.

Ans. Torman and Mihirgula.

Q. 32. Who did inflict severe defeat on Mihirgula ?

E/B.A.History3/23

Ans. Yasodharmana of Mandasor (Western Malwa)

Q. 33. What were the political effects of the Hun invasions ?

Ans. Hun invasions broke up the political system of the Gupta Period with the result that many new kingdoms sprang up into existence.

Q. 34. What were the social-effects of the Hun invasions ?

Ans. Socially, the Huns contributed an important element to the (Population of India. Many of the Rājput clans descended from the Huns and came to be recognised as Kshatriyas. Thus the Indian population came to have a strong infusion of foreign blood.

Q. 35. Mention two eminent scientists of the Gupta era and name one book written by each of them.

Ans. Two famous scientists of the Gupta era were Bagabhatta, the author of Ashtadigamgraha and Barahamihira was the author of Panchasiddhanta.

RISE OF NEW STATES IN NORTH INDIA

Q. 1. What are the sources of the history of the 7th century A.D. ?

Ans. (i) The invaluable accounts of Hiuen-Tsang, the Chinese traveller. (ii) Official Chinese historical accounts ; (iii) The historical romance entitled Harshacharita by Banabhatta ; and (iv) The coins and the inscriptions of the period.

Q. 2. Who is the first prominent king of the Pushyabhuti dynasty of Thaneswar?

Ans. Prabhakarbardhali.

Q. 3. Who is the first independent king of Bengal ?

Ans. Sasanka.

Q. 4. Name the ruling 'family of Rarui j ?

Ans. Maukhan dynasty.

Q. 5. Name the two kings of the Maukhari dynasty?

Ans. Isanvarmana and Grahavarmana.

Q. 6. Who was the greatest Hindu king of North India after the fall of the Imperial Guptas? To which dynasty did he belong?

Ans. Harshavardhana. He belonged to Pushyabhuti dynasty.

Q. 7. What was the name of Harshavardhana Kingdom ? What was his relation with Kanauj?

Ans. The name of Harsavardhana's Kingdom was Thanesar. Kanauj was ruled by his brother-in-law Grahavarmana. After the death of Grahavarmana in the battle against Sasanka, the ruler of Bengal. Kanauj was added to Thanesar by Harshavardhana at the request of Rajyasri, the widow of Grahavarmana.

Q. 8. What was the extent of Harsha's empire?

Ans. The empire of Harsha extended on the west up to the Valabhi Kingdom in Saurashtra (Kathiwar) and on the east to the borders of Assam. Its southern boundary was the Narmada while in the north it included the whole of the upper India except Assam.

Q. 9. What was Harsha's attitude towards religion ?

Ans. Harsha was Hindu with a strong leaning towards Buddhism.

10. What was Harsha's alternative name?

Ans. Shiladitya.

Q. 11. Who was known as the Sakala-Uttar-Path-Nath' ?

Ans. Harshavardhana.

Q. 12. Write the names of the books written by Harshavardhana.

Ans. Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadarsh'ika.

Q. 13. Name the Chinese traveller who visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana ?

Ans. Hiuen Tsang.

Q. 14. Who composed the Aihole Prasasti ? Whose achievements are described in it?

Ans. Poet Ravikirti composed the Aihole Prasasti. The achievements of Pulkeshi II of Chalukya dynasty are described in it.

Q. 15. Name the two kings whom the Chinese traveller called the greatest of the contemporary Indian Kings ?

Ans. Harshavardhana and Pulkeshi II.

Q. 16. Who was Bhaskaravarmana ? What was his relation with Harshavardhana ?

Ans. Bhaskaravarmana was the most famous of the early kings of Kamrup (Assam) who ruled from about 600 to 650 A.D. Early in reign Bhaskaravarmana entered into an alliance with Harshavardhana presumably for the purpose of checking the power of their common enemy, king Sasanka of Bengal.

Q. 17. Who was the king of Bengal with whom Harshavardhana fought? Who were Harshavardhanas allies in this war?

Ans. Sasanka was the king of Bengal with whom Harshavardhana fought. The people of Kanauj and the king of

Kamrupa Bhaskaravarmana were his allies.

Q. 18. What according to Hiuen-Tsarij was the most notable elements of Harsha's administration ?

Ans. Personal supervision of king and the benevolent institutions.

Q. 19. What was the name of Harsha's sister? To whom was she married ?

Ans. Rajyasri. She was married to Grahavarmana of Kanauj.

Q. 20. Where did the religious assembly meet regularly during the reign of Harshavardhana ?

Ans. Paryag (Allahabad)—where the king distributed the wealth of treasury to the holy men of all religions, Hindu, Jaina and Buddhist.

Q. 21. Who was the court poet of Harshavardhana? Write the names of his writings?

Ans. Banabhatta. He wrote Harshacharita and Kadamvari.

Q. 22. What do you know of the Nalanda University?

Ans. The famous University of Nalanda was situated in Bihar. It counted 10,000 students on its rolls. The University provided its students not only free education but also free board and lodging. The revenues of one hundred village were remitted for its endowment.

Q. 23. What do you know of the origin of Rajputs ?

Ans. The Rajputs are mostly of foreign origin. They are descended from Hinduised Gurjara and other foreign tribes.

Q. 24. Who were the Gurjara Pratiharas ? Where did they found a kingdom?

Ans. The Gurjara-Pratiharas were a foreign tribe closely allied to the Huns. They founded an extensive kingdom in Southern Rajputana with Bhinmal as its capital.

Q. 25. Name some of the important kings of the Gurjara-pratihara dynasty.

Ans. Nagabhata II, Mihir Bhoja, Mahendrapala, Mahipala etc.

Q. 26. Name some of the important kings of the Chandellas of Bundelkhand.

Ans. Dhang, Kirtivarmana, Parmal etc.

Q. 27. Who was the most important king of the Parmaras of Malwa ?

Ans. Bhoja.

Q. 28. What were the main political divisions of Bengal in ancient times ?

Ans. Pundravardhana, Karnasuvarna, Samatata and Tamralipta.

Q. 29. What is 'Matsyanyaya' ? When did the period of Matsyanyaya commence in Bengal ? How did the period end ?

Ans. Matsyanyaya means lawlessness, confusion and a period of anarchy. After the death of Sasanka in the early century A.D. Matsyanyaya started in Bengal which ended with the accession of Gopal of the Pala dynasty in 750 A. D. at the choice of the people.

Q. 30. Which religion did the Pala rulers of Bengal patronise ?....

Ans. Buddhism.

Q. 31. Who was the first king or the founder of the Pala dynasty ?

Ans. Gopala.

Q. 32. Who did make Bengal a paramount power in North India ?

Ans. Dharmapala.

Q. 33. Who did found the Vikramshila University in Magadha ?

Ans. Dharmapala.

Q. 34. Who was the greatest king of the Pala dynasty ?

Ans. Devapala.

Q. 35. To whose court did Balaputradeva of Sumatra send an embassy ?

Ans. King Balaputradeva of the Sailendra dynasty, who ruled over Sumatra, Java and Malay peninsula, sent an embassy to Devapala, requesting him to grant five village for the endowment of a monastery which he had built at Nalanda. This request was gracefully complied with.

Q. 36. Name the king of Bengal who is known as the Uttara Pathaswami ?

Ans. Dharmapala.

Q. 37. Name the Pala King who recovered Varendri from the Kaivartas ?

Ans. Ramapala.

Q. 38. Where was the old capital of the Palas ? Where was the new one established ?

Ans. Pundranagari. The new capital was established at Muaghyr.

Q. 39. In whose reign did the Kaivarta revolt take place

Ans. Mahipala II.

Q. 40. Who was the leader of the Kaivarta revolt ? Who was the Pala ruler and who had recovered Varendri from the rebels ?

Ans. Divya or Divyoka. King Ramapala recovered Varendri from the rebels.

Q. 41. From which book the story of Kaivarta, revolt can be gathered ?

Ans. Sandhyakar Nandi's Ramcharita.

Q. 42. Who was the successor of Divyoka?

Ans. Bhima.

Q. 43. Name the Pala king in whose reign Rajendra Chafe of Chola dynasty invaded Bengal.

Ans. Mahipala I.

Q. 44. Which Chola emperor invaded Bengal.?

Ans. Rajendrachola.

Q. 45. Who did overthrow the Pala dynasty ?

Ans. The Senas of Bengal.

Q. 46. What is the importance of the Pala rule in Bengal ?

Ans. The Pala enjoyed a long tenure of power, which endured for four centuries and a half. Under their rule Bengal became one of the great powers of northern India. The kings were patron of arts and letters. The Pala period saw the foundation of the Universities of Somapur. Uddandapur and Vikramshila. Bengali language also nourished for the first time under the Palas. During their reign sculpture both in stone and metal was practised with remarkable success.

Q. 47. Name some of the literary personages of the Pala era ?

Ans. Darbhapani, Kedar Misra, Bhavadeva Bhatta. Sandhyakar Nandi etc.

Q. 48. Name some of renowned artisans of Pala age?

Ans. Bitpal, Dhiman, Sulapani etc.

Q. 49. What do you know of Sree Jnan Dipankara ?

Ans. Student and teacher of Nalanda University, Atish Sree Jnan Dipankara accepted the invitation of the ruler of Tibet and went over to the country to preach Buddhism.

Q. 50. What was the religion of the Palas of Bengal ? Ans. Buddhism.

Q. 51. What is the first specimen! of Bengal literature ? When was it composed ?

Ans. "Bouddha Can O Doha." It was composed during the Pala era.

Q. 52. Who was the real founder of the Sena dynasty of Bengal ?

Ans. Vijoy Sena.

Q. 53. Who was the greatest of Sena kings of Bengal ?

Ans. Vijoy Sena.

Q. 54. Who did introduce the Kaulinya system in Bengal ?

Ans. BallalaSena.

Q. 55. Name the books written by Ballala Sena ?

Ans. Dana Sagar and AdbhutaSagar.

Q. 56. Who was the last king of the Sena dynasty ?

Ans. Lakshmana Sena.

Q. 57. Name the king of Bengal who was defeated by the Muslim invader Ikhtiyar-ud-din bin Bakhtiyar Khalji ?

Or: Who among the Muslims conquered Bengal for the first time ? Who was the king of Bengal at that time ?

Ans. Lakshmana Sena. Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered Bengal for the first time.

Q. 58. When did the Muslims conquer Bengal ? Ans. 1201 A.D.

Q. 59. From which book the Muslim conquest of Bengal can be known ?

Ans. Minhaz-ud-din Siraj's Tabakal-i-Nasiri.

Q. 60. Name the literary personages who adorned the court of Lakshmana Sena ?

Ans. Umapati Dhar and Saran.

Q. 61. Who was the author of Geet Govinda ? What is the theme of the work ? Whose court poet was the author ?

Ans. The author of the Geet Govinda is Jaidev. The theme of the book is ardent devotion to Lord Krishna. Jaidev was a contemporary and perhaps the court-poet of king Lakshmana Sena of Bengal.

Q. 62. Which royal dynasties were involved in the so called tripartite struggle?

Ans. There was a triangular struggle for the possession of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and the land adjoining it among the Pratiharas of Jalor, the Palas of Bengal and the Rastrakutas of the Deccan from the 8th to the 10th century. This is known as the tripartite struggle.

Q. 63. 'Where was the capital of Sasanka of Bengal.

Ans. Karnasuvarna (near Murshidabad).

Q. 64. Where was the capital of the Maukharis ?

Ans. Kanauj or Kanvakuvja was the capital of the Maukharis.

Isanvarmana, Suvavarmana, Avantivarmana and Grahavarmana are the rulers of the dynasty. Grahavarmana, who married Rajya-Sri, the daughter of Pravakarvardhana of Thaneswar, was the last king of the dynasty.

Q. 65. Where was the capital of the Pushyabhuti dynasty ?

Ans. Thaneswar was the capital of the Pushyabhuti dynasty. Pravakarvardhana, Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana were the famous kings of the dynasty. During the reign of Harshavardhana Kanauj or Kanvakuvja became the capital of this kingdom, after the death of Grahavarmana, the brother-in-law of Harshavardhana.

Q. 66. What do you know of the Chandelias of Jejakbhukti or modern Bundelkhand ?

Ans. Chandella dynasty was founded by Nannuka Chandella in Jejakbhukti, Dhanga, (950—1008 A. D.), the ninth king of the dynasty was the most notable king of the Chandella dynasty'. The twelfth king Kirtivarmana (1060—1100 A. D.) was the patron of the author of the celebrated mystical drama Prabadh Chandrodaya. The last notable king of the dynasty was Paramardi (1165—1202 A.D.). He was first defeated by Prithviraja Chauhan and then by -Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who captured the fort of Kalanjar.

The Chandella rulers were great builders. A number of beautiful temples built by the Chandelias can be seen at Khajuraho.

KINGDOMS OF THE SOUTH

Q. 1. Who were the Chalukyas ?

Ans. Probably the Chalukyas were indigenous Kshatriyas who migrated from Ajodhya to the Deccan and carved out a principality for themselves on the ruins of the Vakataka empire.

Q. 2. Who was the first king of the Chalukya dynasty ?

Ans. The first king of the Chalukyas was Jaysingha but the real founder of the dynasty was Pulkesin I.

Q. 3. Where was the Capital of the Chalukya kingdom ?

Ans. Badami (or Vatapi) in the Bijapur district.

Q. 4. Who was the greatest king of the Chalukyas dynasty? When did he reign whose achievements have been described in the Aihole Prasasti?

Ans. Pulakesin II was the greatest of the Chalukya monarchs. He reigned about from 609 to 642 A.D, and was thus a contemporary of Harshavardhana. His achievements are described in the Aihole Prasasti, composed by the poet Ravi Kirti. Perhaps Harshavardhana of North India was defeated by Pulakesin II.

Q. 5. What was the extension of his empire?

Ans. Pulakesin II's authority extended from the banks of the Narmada to the regions beyond the Kaveri.

Q. 6. Name the Chinese traveller who visited the court of Pulakesin II.

Ans. Hsuen-Tsang.

Q. 7. By whom was Pulakesin II defeated and killed?

Ans. Narsimhavarmana of the Pallava dynasty defeated and killed him.

Q. 8. Who did finally overthrow the Chalukya of Vatapi?

Ans. The Rastrakutas.

Q. 9. Who was the founder of the Eastern Chalukyas?

Ans. Kirttija Vishnuvardhana.

Q. 10. What did Hsuen-Tsang remark about Pulakesin II?

Ans. According to Hsuen-Tsang Pulakesin II was a proud king who treated his neighbours with contempt. But his ideas were large and beneficient wide spread.

Q. 11. What was the religion of the Chalukyas?

Ans. The Chalukyas were Hindus although they were tolerant of all religions.

Q. 12. Who was the founder of the Chalukya Kingdom of Kalyan?

Ans. The founder of the Chalukya Kingdom of Kalyan was Taila who in 973 established his power after defeating the Rastrakutas.

Q. 13. Who were the contestants of the Chalukyas of Kalyan?

Ans. The main contestants of the Chalukyas were the Parmars of Malwa of the north and the Cholas on the south.

Q. 14. Who was the greatest king of the Chalukyas of Kalyan?

Ans. Vikramanka or Vikramaditya was the greatest of the Chalukya kings of Kalyan.

Q. 15. Who was the court poet of Vikramanka or Vikramaditya?

Ans. Bilhana.

Q. 16. Name the celebrated jurist who lived in the court of Vikramanka or Vikramaditya of Kalyan

Ans. Vijnaneswar, author of Mitakshara, the learned authority on Hindu law.

Q. 17. Where did the Hoyasala dynasty rule? Who was the real founder of the Hoyasala kingdom?

Ans. The Hoyasalas ruled in Doarsamudra in the extreme south of the Indian Peninsula.

The real founder of the dynasty was Bittiga or Vishnuvardhana.

Q. 18. Who did overthrow the Hoyasala dynasty?

Ans. The power of the Hoyasala was overthrown by Alaud-din Khalji's General Malik Kafur who sacked the Hoyasala capital at Doarsamudra in 1310.

Q. 19. What do you know of the Hoyasala art?

Ans. The Hoyasala developed a new style of architecture different from that of the Chalukyas. The temples they built were polygonal, starshaped, having richly carved plinths. The towers of the temples were pyramidal in shape and were often attached together. The Hoyasala buildings were generally ornamented with an enormous mass of sculpture and statues of very good quality.

Q. 20. Who was the most famous king of the Yadava dynasty of Devagiri?

Ans. Singhana.

Q. 21. Name the Tamil States of the south which are mentioned in the Asokan edict?

Ans. Pandya, Chera or Keralaputra, Chola and Saliyap'utla. "

Q. 22. Which was the oldest state of the south

Ans. Pandya Kingdom.

Q. 23. What was the political condition of early Tamil States ?

Ans. The form of Government was monarchy in the Tamil State but the power of the kings was held in check by the five great assemblies comprising the people, priests, astrologers, physicians and ministers.

Local Government was carried on by the people in the village assemblies which exercised considerable power.

Q. 24. What was the economic condition of the early Tamil States ?

Ans. The people of the Tamil states were well advanced in material civilisation. They were wealthy and prosperous on account of their valuable foreign trade, and the dweller in the cities enjoyed all the luxuries which wealth could purchase. The Tamil lands have active trade with the Romans. Tamil States, specially the Cholas maintained powerful fleets and were frequently visited by the ships from both east and west. I,

Q. 25. What was the social condition of the early Tamil States ?

Ans. The people were divided into five classes—the people, priest, astrologers, physicians and ministers. There was no slavery among the ancient Tamil. The people plied their occupation in peace, the work of fighting being ordinarily done by professional soldiers.

Q. 26. Name the literary works of special merit of the early Tamil States.

Ans. Kural, Epic of the Anklet, the Jewel Belt etc.

Q. 27. What was the first dynasty to be established in the south ?

Ans. The Palavas of Kanchi.

Q. 28. Who was the first great king of the Pallavas ?

Ans. Simhavishnu.

Q. 29. Name some of the most important kings of the Pallava dynasty ?

Ans. Mahendra Varmana I, Narsimha Varmana.

Q. 30. Who was the founder of Mamallapuram, the centre of Seven Pagodas ?

Ans. Narsimha Varmana founded the city of Mamallapuram, which he adorned with beautifully rock-cut Rathas of Seven Pagodas.

Q. 31. Who was the king of the Pallavas when Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller, visited Kanchi, the capital of the Pallavas ?

Ans. Narsimha Varmana.

Q. 32. Who wrote the Mattavilasha the burlesque ?

Ans. King Mahendra of the Pallava dynasty.

Q. 33. Who was the last king of the Pallavas ?

Ans. Aparajita.

Q. 34. What was the religion of the Pallava kings ?

Ans. The Pallava kings were mostly Hindus. But the king were tolerant and various sects lived together in peace as testified by Hiuen Tsang.

Q. 35. What do you know of Pallava art ?

Ans. The Pallava kings were great patrons of architecture and sculpture. The numerous splendid temples at Kanchi still bear eloquent testimony to their achievement in the domain of art. The wonderful Rathas of Seven Pagodas at Mamallapuram, each of which is cut out from a great rock boulder, are marvels of human skill. The relief sculptures on the rocks at the same place are also excellent.

The importance of the Pallava art lies in the fact that it affords the earliest example of architecture and sculpture in southern India.

Q. 36. What is the opinion of Hiuen Tsang about the people of Kanchi ?

Ans. Hiuen Tsang says that the inhabitants of Kanchi were courageous, thoroughly trustworthy, public spirited and imbued with a strong love of learning.