

COMPLETE ANCIENT HISTORY NOTES – FROM KANISHKA TO JAIN LITERATURE

1. Kanishka and His Court Scholars

- Kanishka, Kushana ruler, great patron of Buddhism, art, and literature.
- Scholars associated with his court:
 - Ashvaghosha (author of Buddha-charita).
 - Nagarjuna (Mahayana philosopher).
 - Vasumitra (president of 4th Buddhist Council).
 - Charaka (famous physician, author of Charaka Samhita).

2. Arthashastra – Main Concerns

- Written by Kautilya/Chanakya.
- Focus areas:
 - Administration and governance.
 - Economy, taxation, trade.
 - Espionage system.
 - Warfare, diplomacy, fortification.
 - Law and justice, crime & punishment.

3. Rashtrakutas – Correctness of Statements

Statement 1: They were ardent Shaivites and did not support other religions → Incorrect.

- They supported Jainism, Buddhism, Vaishnavism along with Shaivism.

Statement 2: They promoted only Sanskrit scholars → Incorrect.

- They promoted Kannada literature (like Amoghavarsha's Kavirajamarga).

About Rashtrakutas

- Capital: Manyakheta.
- Great kings: Dantidurga, Krishna I, Amoghavarsha.
- Built Kailasa Temple at Ellora.

4. Matching (Chalukyas, Gangas, Hoysalas, Pandyas)

- Chalukyas → Pattadakal Temples.
- Eastern Gangas → Sun Temple, Konark.
- Hoysalas → Keshava Temple, Somnathpur.
- Pandyas → Eastern Gopuram of Chidambaram Temple.

5. Hoysalas – Brief Notes

- Dynasty in Karnataka (10th–14th century CE).
- Capitals: Belur, Halebidu.
- Famous rulers: Vishnuvardhana, Veera Ballala.
- Architecture: Soapstone temples – Hoysaleswara, Chennakeshava.
- Contemporaries: Cholas, Yadavas.
- Predecessors: Western Chalukyas.

6. Pandyas – Brief Notes

- Ancient Tamil dynasty (Madurai region).
- Famous rulers: Nedunjeliyan, Maravarman Sundara Pandya.
- Trade with Romans.
- Contemporaries: Cheras & Cholas.

7. Common Element among Rajgriha, Vaishali, Pataliputra

- Correct Answer: Places where Buddhist Councils were held.
- Rajgriha → 1st Council
- Vaishali → 2nd Council
- Pataliputra → 3rd Council

8. Mahasanghikas – Brief

- Liberal Buddhist sect after first schism.
- Believed Buddha was divine.
- Based mainly in Andhra region.

- Basis of Mahayana Buddhism.

9. Major Rock Edicts – Correct Statements

- Statement 1: Major Rock Edict 13 → Ashoka's remorse after Kalinga War → Correct.
- Statement 2: MRE 10 → Visit to Lumbini → Incorrect (This is in Pillar Edict).
- Statement 3: MRE 12 → Dhammamahamattas officers → Correct.
- Statement 4: MRE 12 → Tolerance to all sects → Correct.

10. Harappan Standardization – According to Kenoyer

- Reason: State-controlled production and strong administrative mechanisms.
- Standard weights, bricks, seals ensured uniformity across cities.

11. Ancient Indian Coins

- First coins with names & images: Indo-Greeks (e.g., Menander).
- First gold coins: Kushanas (not Ushanas).
- Maximum gold coins issued by: Guptas (especially Chandragupta II).

12. Mahayana – Personalities

- Nagarjuna → Key philosopher of Mahayana.
- Kanishka → Patron of Mahayana; convened 4th council.
- Others:
 - Kashyap → Elder monk; early Buddhism.
 - Matanga → Buddhist monk, early Chinese translation.
 - Menander → Indo-Greek king, converted to Buddhism (Milindapanho).

13. Jain Literature – Correctness

Statement 1: Sacred books known as Agamas or Siddhantas → Correct.

Statement 2: Earliest Jain texts in Ardhamagadhi (eastern Prakrit) → Correct.

14. Vajrayana Buddhism

- Late Buddhist sect using tantra, mantras, mandalas.

- Patronized by Pala kings.

15. Ajivikas

- Fatalistic sect founded by Makkhali Gosala.
- Believed everything is predetermined (Niyati).
- Patronized by Mauryan king Bindusara.

16. Sthaviravadins (Theravada)

- Conservative school.
- Buddha seen as human.
- Arhat ideal.

17. Mahasanghikas

- Liberal school.
- Buddha seen as divine.
- Basis for Mahayana Buddhism.