

## **SATAVAHANAS**

- The Satavahanas correspond to the Deccan and Central Indian region who succeeded the Mauryas in these regions after a gap of a century.
- They were probably the Andhras mentioned in the puranic texts although we do not find any archeological or numismatic evidence to support this statement.
- The earliest inscription of the Satavahanas relates to the 1st Century BCE when they defeated the Kanvas and established power in parts of central India.
- From the upper Godavari valley their power extended over Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and their arch rivals were probably the Shakas controlling upper Deccan and western India.
- The greatest Satavahana ruler was probably Gautami Putra Satakarni (CE 106-130) who called himself the only Brahmana.
- Around 8000 silver coins of Nahapana were found near Nashik which were re-struck by Satakarni which suggests military conflict between the two.
- The Satavahana rule probably lasted till the early decades of 3rd century CE.
- Vashishti Putra Pulamai was the successor of Satakarni who set up his capital at Paithan or Pratishthan (by river Godavari, Aurangabad district Maharashtra)

### **SATAVAHANA ADMINISTRATION**

- The primary sources include Dharmashashtra text.
- The king was upholder of dharma, who assumed the qualities of mythical heroes Rama, Bheema, Arjuna, etc. It meant, the attribute of divinity got attached to the position of the king.
- Some of the Mauryan administrative structures continued. Districts were called Ahara (as in Ashoka's period)
- On similar lines officials were known as Amatyas and Mahamatras.
- Their administrative divisions were known as Rashtra and high officials were known as Maharashtrikas.
- A certain military and feudal system is noticeable for example the Senapati was appointed as the provision governor.
- The administration of the ruler's areas was placed in the hands of Gaudmika, the head of a military regiment.
- We find a military character of the Satavahana rule from the common use of the terms such as 'Kataka' and 'Skandhavara'
- Satavahana kingdom had three grades of feudatory, the highest was a Raja, having the right to strike coins, the second grade was Mahabhoja and third grade was Senapati.

**SATAVAHANA RELIGION**- They were Brahmanas and glorified Brahmanism by performing Vedic

sacrifices such as Ashvamedha and Vajpeya.

- A number of Vaishnava gods such as Krishna and Vasudeva were worshipped.
- They were also patrons of Buddhism which is understood by the grant of land to the Buddhist monks.
- Buddhism was popular among the artisan class.
- Nagarjuna Konda and Amravati in Andhra Pradesh were important Buddhist Centres. They flourished under Satavahanas and later their successors Ikshvakus.
- Similarly Buddhism flourished in Nashik and Junnar areas in western Deccan Maharashtra supported by the trading class.

### **SATAVAHANA ART, CULTURE AND CRAFT**

- It was a fusion between local elements such as megalith culture and northern ingredients.
- We find Iron hoes from this period also sickles, spades, axes, socketed arrowheads as well as daggers have been found.
- Ancient gold workings has been found in the kolar fields.
- The Satavahanas may have used gold as bullion although primarily lead, potin, copper and bronze were used to make coins.
- The Andhra region was famous for its cotton products.
- The Satavahana phase bears evidence of Buddhist Chaityas and rock cut cave architecture. They are found at Karle, Nashik and Krishna Godaveri region of Andhra Pradesh.
- Famous stupas were built at Amravati and Nagarjuni Konda over some relics of Buddha.
- Amravati Stupa contains a number of sculptures depicting various scenes from the life of buddha.
- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit and all their inscriptions were written in Brahmi Script.
- One Prakrit text called Gathasaptasai or the Gathasaptasati is attributed to Satavahana king Hala.
- This text was retouched much later, probably after the 6th Century.