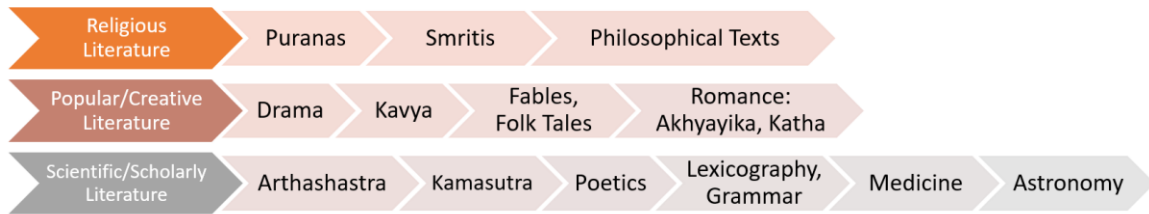


Prelims Master Program (2023-24) – Ancient, Medieval, Art and Culture
Handout 14: Gupta Era (Art and Culture)

GUPTA LITERATURE



Religious Literature

Religious texts: Puranas

Puranas are extremely important popular religious books with encyclopedic collection of sacred & secular. They were written in different periods, i.e., before, during and after the Gupta age.

Why were Puranas written?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vedic sacrificial rituals → assimilation of numerous ideas, local traditions and folklore A large pantheon of gods, interlinked mythology Sectarian doctrines of supreme deities (Trimurti/Shiva/Vishnu/Devi) To popularize ideas of idol-worship and bhakti Attempt to reconcile bhakti with orthodox beliefs and varnashramas. To assimilate non-Aryan culture within the great tradition To give legitimacy to the new dynasties (Genealogical and dynastic records of kings.)
Characteristics	Pancha-Lakshana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarga, Prati-Sarga, Vamsha, Manvantara, Vansh-anucharita
18 Mahapuranas: (Padmapurana classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaishnavite Sattvik Puranas: Vishnu (typical, classic), Narada, Bhagvata, Garuda, Padma, Varaha Rajasic Puranas devoted to Brahma: Brahmanda, Brahmavaivarta, Markandeya (oldest), Bhavishya, Vaman, Brahma Tamasic Puranas for Shiva: Matsya, Kurma, Linga, Shiva, Skanda, Agni
18 Upapuranas (Examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome of local cults and different religious sects Vishnu-dharmottara <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaishnava text from Kashmir Often quoted by Al Biruni Apart from usual religious themes – fine arts (dancing, singing, painting, sculpture) Brihad-dharma Purana Kalki Purana – deeds of Vishnu at the close of Kali Age

Mindboggling conception of time in Purana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four yugas (krita, treta, dvapara, kali) of thousands of years each • Four yugas = mahayuga,; 1,000 mahayugas = kalpa. • Every kalpa is divided into 14 manvantaras, each with a Manu. • Periodic destruction and re-creation, Cyclical decline and revival of dharma
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Religious texts: Dharmashastra/ Smritis:

- Ancient Indian law books, composed by prominent jurists.
- Basis - varnashramadharma
 - They fix the **rules of social interaction** and **individual behaviour in accordance with age, caste and gender**. Most of these rules favour upper caste males, who enjoy **rights and privileges**, while most duties and obligations are reserved for lower castes and women.
- Examples
 - Post-Mauryan Era: Manu (oldest, most comprehensive, popular), Yajnavaljya
 - Gupta Era: Narada, Brihaspati, and Katyayana Smritis
 - Post Gupta: Vishnu Smriti

Creative/Popular Secular Literature

Famed Navratnas in the court of Chandragupta II (historical contemporaneity is doubtful)

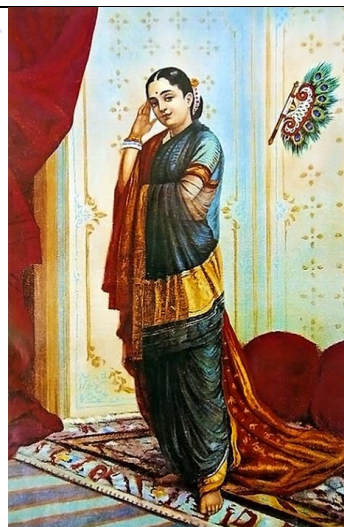
Kalidasa	Poet and Playwright
Dhanvantari	Medicine
Shanku	Geography
Vararuchi	Grammarians
Ghatkharpar	Ghatkarpar-kavya
Varahamihira	Pancha-Siddhantika, Brihat Samhita
Amarasimha	Amarkosha Trikhanda (3 part work on origin of Sanskrit Grammar)
Kshapanaka	Poet, literature Dvatrishatika
Vetala-Bhatta	Niti-Pradeepam, Singhasan Dva-trimshika

Drama

Bhasa (<u>Post-Mauryan era</u>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total 13 plays: Variety of topics Pratijna-Yaugandharayana and Swapna-vasavadatta Daridracharudattam - early version of Mrcchakatika Ramayana Plays: Pratima Natak, Abhishek Natak Mahabharat Plays: Madhyam Vyvayog, Urubhanga Duta Vakya, Karnabharam Many of Bhasa's plays are staged in Koodiyattams even now...!!!
Kalidasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Dramas – AS, MA, VU 2 Mahakavya – RV, KS 2 Kavya – MD, RS Revised Setubandha (Prakrit Mahakavya of Pravarasena II Vakataka king)
Vishakhadatta (a courtier in Gupta era?)	Mudrarakshasa – most well-known Devichandrguptam Abhisarika-vanchita (only name known)
Shudraka (from Ujjayini?)	Charming Prakarana Plays (not based on Epics) Mrichchhakatikam – Charudatta and Vasantasena Vasavadatta Bhana (satire) – Padma-Prabhritaka
Mentha (6 th c, from Kashmir)	Hayagrivavadha (lost today)



Vasantsena sculpture in National Museum



Vasantsena by Raja Ravi Varma

Drama performance

- Select performances for elite audiences consisting of kings and wealthy patrons.
- For the public, dramas were performed in popular festivals. Nagarakas were supposed to organize and participate in social gatherings (goshtis) and festivals (samajas) that included dramas.

Kavyas

Mahakavyas (5/6)	
Kalidasa	Kumarasambhavam
Kalidasa	Raghuvamsham
Bharavi (6 th c) (Aihole mention)	Kiratarjuniya
Magh (7 th c)	Shishupalvadha
Bhatti (7 th c) (Valabhi)	Bhattikavya (Ramayana + Grammar)
Sriharsha (11 th c)	Naishadhiya-charita
Jain Stotras	
Matanga Divakar (Manatunga)	Author of Bhaktamara Stotra of Jaina
Siddhasena Divakara	Kalyanamandira Stotra
Shatakas	
Bhartihari	Shatakatraya – Shringara, Niti, Vairagya Vakpadiya
Amaru	Amaru shataka
Mayura	Mayura shataka (aka Surya Shataka)
Bana	Devi shataka to compete with Mayura
Other Kavyas	
Ghatkarpar	Ghatkarpar-kavya (Opposite of Meghadootam)
Buddhaghoshala (not Pali scholar)	Padya-chudamani
Bhaumaka (Kashmiri poet)	Ravanarjuniya (story + Ashtadhyayi rules)
Mentha (in court of Matrigupta of Kashmir)	Hayagrivavadha

(3) Fables, Popular Folklore: Panchatantra

- **Nidarshana:** Shows through illustration what should/not be done
- Traditionally, it is narrated by a sage named **Vishnusharman**
 - Three princes are instructed in niti through many engaging stories.
- Originally called Panchatantra but that work is now lost. Its date and authorship are uncertain. In Gupta era, it was known by the name of Brihatkatha. In Post-Gupta era, its regional versions appeared:
 - Brihatkatha Manjari of Kshemendra
 - Kathasaritsagara of Somdeva
 - Hitopadesha in South
- Wide popularity in India, translated across the world.

Scientific/Scholarly Texts: Secular Literature

- **Arthashastra:** Kamadaka's Nitisara
- **Kamashastra:** Vatsayana's Kamasutra
 - Description of 64 arts and crafts including music, dance, makeup, decoration, drama, love-making, etc.
- **Poetics and metrics (Kavya-Kriyakalp) – overlap with dramaturgy.**
 - The concepts of Alankara (embellishments), Gunas (characteristics) and Rasa gained more clarity. The characteristic beauty (Saundaryam/Shobha) associated with poetry and the means of creating highly enjoyable poetry came into discussion.
 - Bhatti, Dandin, Bhamaha
 - Varahamihira's Brihatsamhita (general astrology) and Brihat-Jataka (on horoscope) employ many alamkars illustrations.
- **Language and Grammar**
 - Bhartrihari's Vakyapadiya (5th c CE) on the philosophy of language
 - Chandra-vyakarana and Jainendra-vyakarana
 - Amara Simha's Namalinganushasana (Amarkosh)
 - Buddhist poet in Navaratna
 - Lexicons can be traced back to Vedic Nighantus, but his work threw off all previous works into oblivion.
- **Medicine**
 - Vagbhata: Ashtanga-samgraha, Ashtanga-hridaya-Samhita
 - Vagbhata is good for Kaliyuga, but others were good for other eras
 - Stands next to Charaka and Sushruta.
 - His works are referred by Itsing.
 - Veterinary
 - Hastyayurveda of Palakapya
 - Ashvashastra
- **Astronomy and Mathematics**
 - **Aryabhatta** (Arya-bhataiya, Dasha-gitika-sutra, Aryashta-shata)
 - First to treat Maths as a separate subject:
 - Dealt with involution, evolution, area, volume, progressions, algebraic identities, indeterminate equations.
 - Remarkably accurate value of pie – 3.1416
 - Decimal notation system – did he invent it? Only **Bakhshali manuscript** has the oldest zero but date is uncertain.
 - Astronomy:
 - First to hold that Earth was sphere and rotated around its own axis; eclipses were not work of Rahu but shadow of Earth on Moon.
 - Both these views (heliocentrism and eclipse reason) rejected and condemned by later astronomers like Varahamihira and Brahmagupta
 - **Varahamihira** of Avanti
 - **Brihadsamhita**, an encyclopedia on various branches of knowledge on architecture, temples, planetary motions, eclipses, timekeeping, astrology,

seasons, cloud formation, rainfall, agriculture, mathematics, gemology, perfumes and many other topics. Quoted by Al Beruni centuries later.

- **Pacha-Siddhanta**

Paitamaha Siddhanta	Pre-scientific period
Surya Siddhanta	Mayasura (Mamuni Mayan)
Romaka Siddhanta	Of Roman empire, by Srishena
Paulisa Siddhanta	Paulisa (Greek)
Vasishtha Siddhanta	Vishnuchandra

- **Brahmagupta**

- One of the most accomplished of the ancient Indian astronomers
- First to give rules to compute with zero.
- As no proofs are given, it is not known how Brahmagupta's results were derived.
- Books:
 - Brahmasiddhanta (systematic discussion on instruments, awareness of idea of perpetual motion, defined zero, multiplication of two negative numbers),
 - Khandakhadya (astronomical handbook),
 - Dhyana-graha
- Translated into Arabic

- **Bhaskara I** (Maitraka court, 7th century)

- Fame rests on the commentary on the works of Aryabhata.
- Authored the astronomical works:
 - Mahabhaskariya (Great Book of Bhaskara)
 - Laghubhaskariya (Small Book of Bhaskara)
 - Aryabhatiyabhashya (a commentary on the Aryabhatiya)
- Remarkably accurate approximation for the sine function (trigonometry)

- **Chemistry**

- **Nagarjuna**, the famous Buddhist Mahayana scholar, was also a chemist and metallurgist. He revealed that gold, silver, iron, copper and other metals have medicinal properties, and thus invented Rasa therapy.
- **Varahamihira** discussed the use of mercury and iron in treatment of diseases.

- **Metallurgy**: No literary work has survived

- **Shilpa-shastra** (architecture and sculpture): Brihadsamhita, Vishnu-dharmottara Purana, Shilpashastra, Manasara

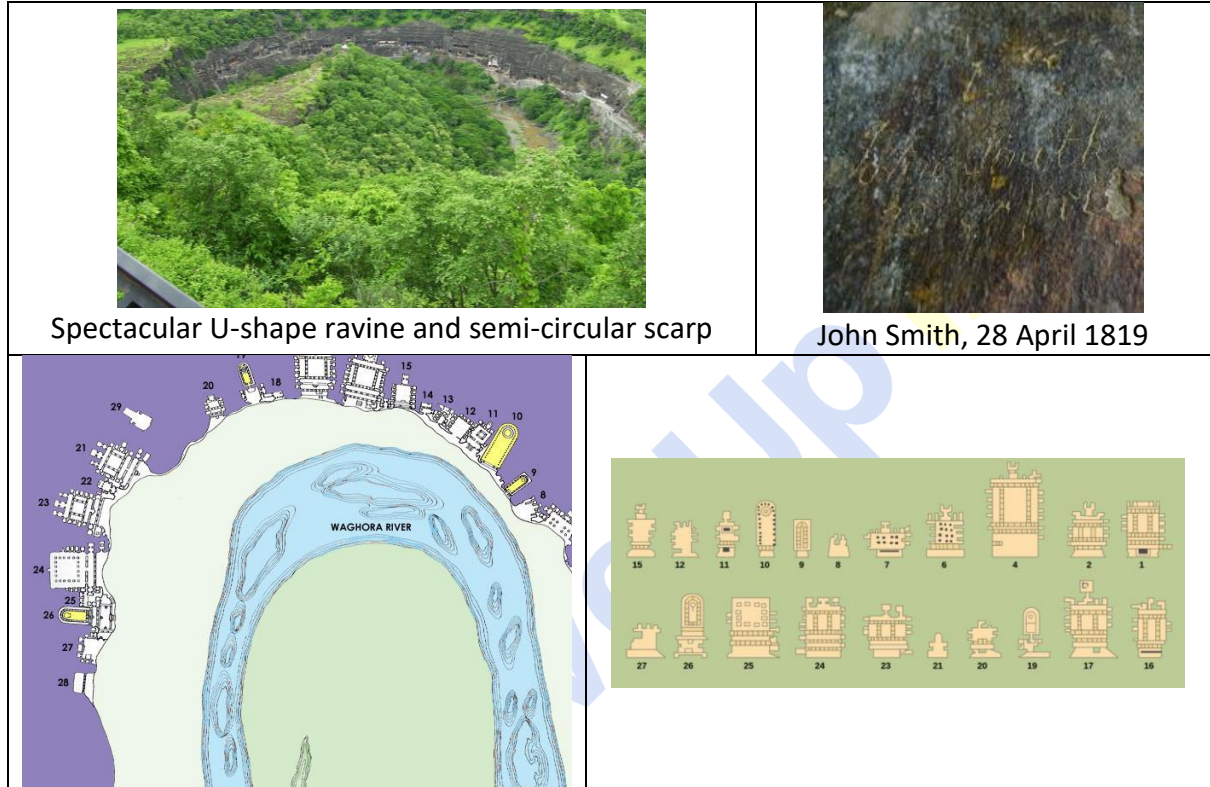
Visual Arts
Rock-cut Caves

(1) Magnificent Ajanta:

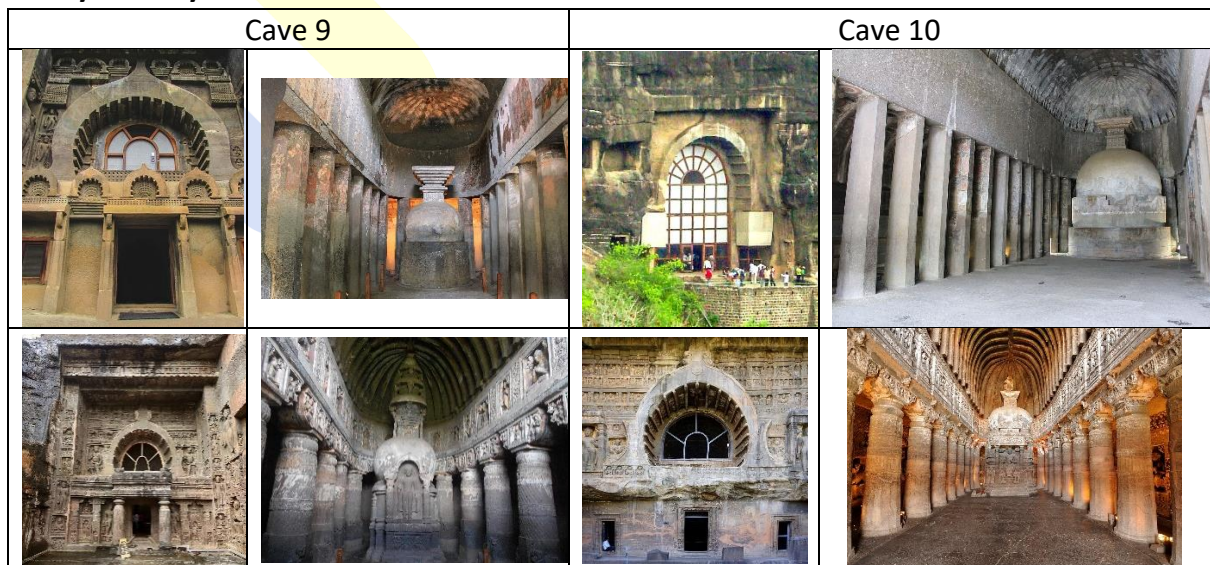
- Housed a prominent monastic community with lavish patronage from Vakataka elites
- Exquisite sculptures, beautiful murals on walls, ceilings, doorframes, pillars.

Phase	Patrons	Era	Religion	Chaitya	Vihara
Early	Satavahana	200 BC-300 CE	Hinayana	9, 10	8, 12, 13, 15
Later	Vakatakas	450-700 CE	Mahayana	19, 26	1-5, 14, 16-17, 23-24, 28-29

Extraordinary burst of creative activity and munificent patronage during Vakatakas.



Chaityas: Early and Later

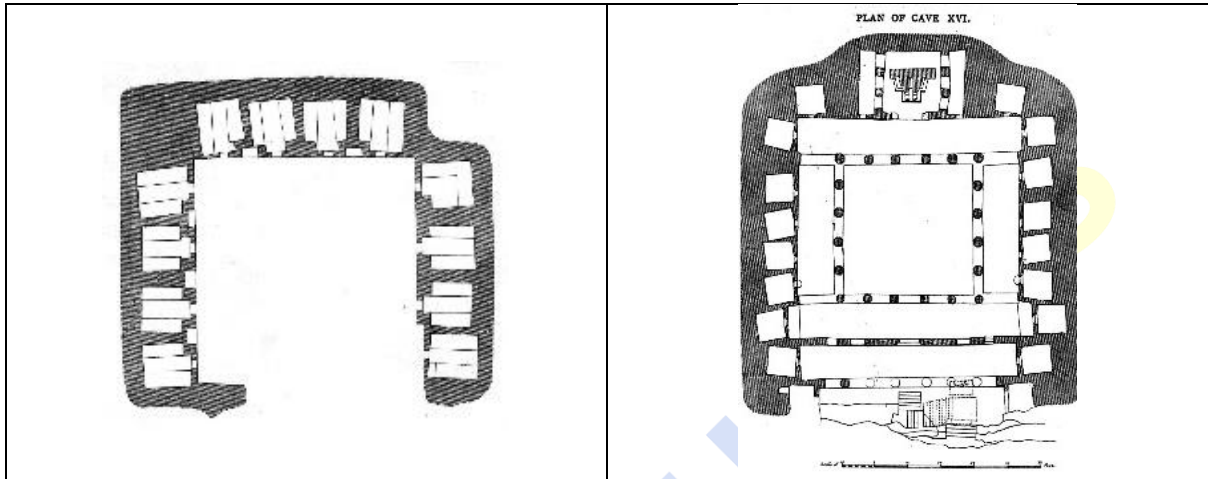


Cave 19	Cave 26
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Ajanta Chaitya Cave 19 and 26

- No influence of wooden prototype: Great Chaitya window solely as to admit light.
- Sculptural motifs: Buddha and Bodhisattvas
- Stupa transformed: large, tall, medhi>anda, Buddha sculpture.
- World Famous Murals

Viharas: Early and Later

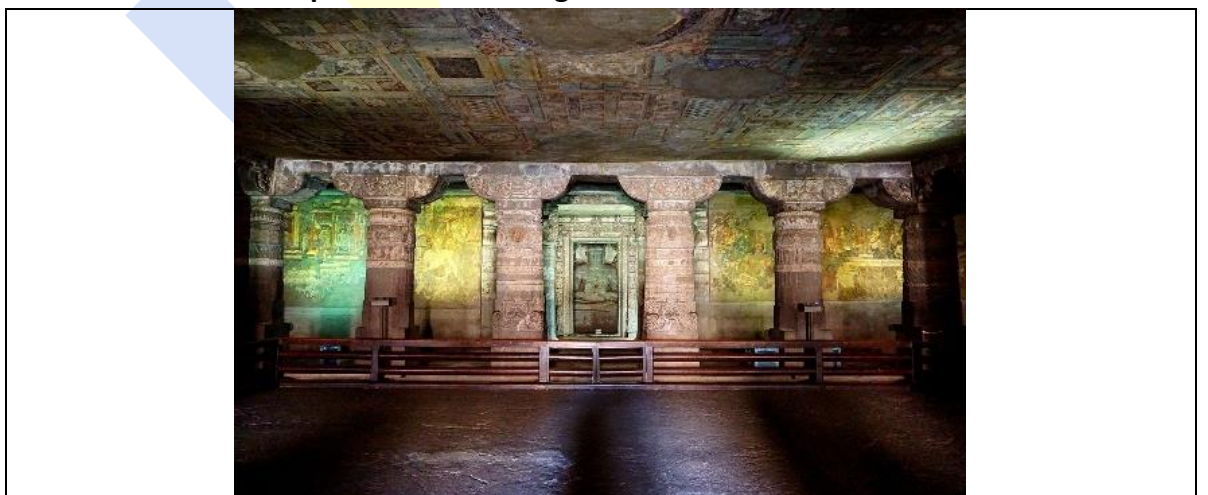


“Crucial Caves” 16

Climax of pillars and ceiling - Diversity of pillars



Cave 1: Wonderful sculptures and Paintings



Ajanta Sculpture

- Large figures are awe-inspiring in dim light.
- Natural poses
- Circular representation
- Hierarchical narrative

Limitation of Ajanta in Later Stages

- Heavy and somewhat lifeless
- Overcrowded, overdecoration, lack subtlety.
- Absence of plain surfaces to set off the carving
- Lack of motif on larger scale to serve as focal point.



Nagaraj in comfortable Sukhasana



Buddha begging Yashodhara and Rahul

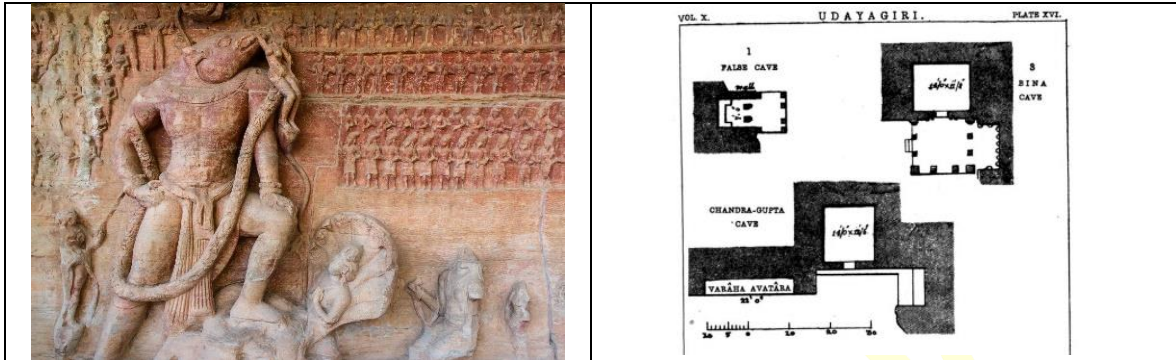


Temptation of Mara, Cave 26

Other Contemporary Caves

1. Udayagiri (MP):

- a. Oldest surviving Hindu temple iconography: Vaishnav, Shaiva, Shakti
- b. Difference with Buddhist caves
 - i. Garbhagriha cave + structural mandapa
 - ii. Not as magnificent
- c. Udayagiri has many sundials. Thus, it was an important location for astronomical study and calculation of solstices etc.



2. Bagh Caves (MP)

- a. 9 Buddhist caves – Only 5 survived
- b. Contemporary and similar to Ajanta
- c. All viharas, no chaitya
- d. Cave 4 most famous called Rang Mahal



Gupta Era Murals/Painting

It is a subtle medium of expression of human feelings. In ancient India, it was not only hobby but was a social accomplishment. It was also a yoga, called as samadhi-karma (as it required concentration of mind i.e., dhyana)

Pre-Gupta painting: Long Tradition, Now Partly Lost



- Satavahana Era (very few surviving today)
 - Ajanta, Bedsa, Kanheri, Aurangabad, Pitalkhora
 - Already quite developed, shows centuries of development
- Gupta-Vakataka Era: Ajanta, Bagh, Badami (Chalukya doman)



Literary References: Developed Theory

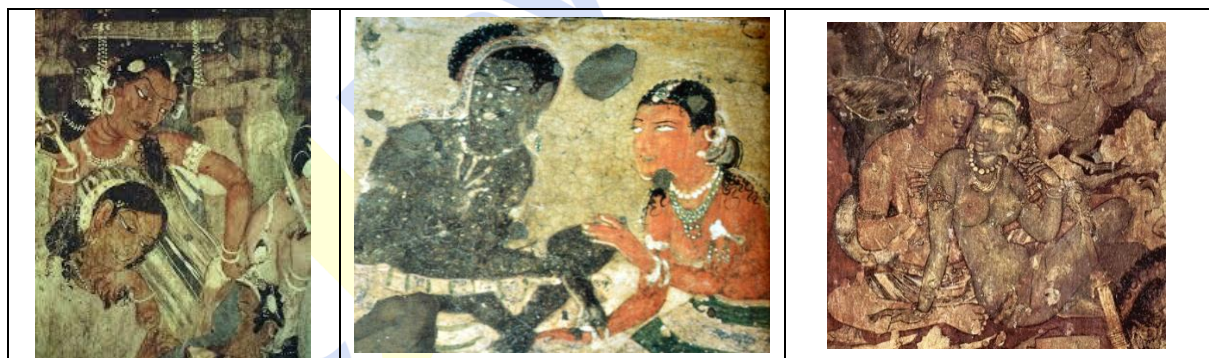
Kamasutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 arts essential for a citizen to know • Picture galleries (chitrashala) in palaces and houses of rich people.
Kalidasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portraits (pratikriti): Malavika, Shakuntala, Shiva drawing Parvati's portrait etc. • Various kinds of brushes/pencils (shalaka, vartika, tulika, kurcha etc)
Vishnudharmottara Purana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four forms of painting – realistic (yathavat chavi), lyrical (vainika), sophisticated (nagara) and hybrid (Mishra). • Surface preparation called vajra-lepana.
Yashodhara's commentary on Kamasutra	Roop-Bheda Pramanani Bhava Lavanya-Yojnam Sadrishyam Varnika-Bhanga, Iti chitra Shadangam

Ajanta paintings cover not only the walls and ceilings but also time span of 700 years thus showing changes in style.

Early Satvahana/Hinayana Phase (200 BCE – 200 CE)	Later Vakataka/Mahayana Phase (450 CE – 650 CE)
	
Buddha through symbols Jataka stories Floral and animal motifs	Higher degree of craftsmanship and draughtsmanship

Thematic analysis

Monks employed artists to spread message of Buddha. They turned the stone walls into picture galleries by painting vast panorama of contemporary life which includes narratives, portraits, decorations.



Stylistic Analysis

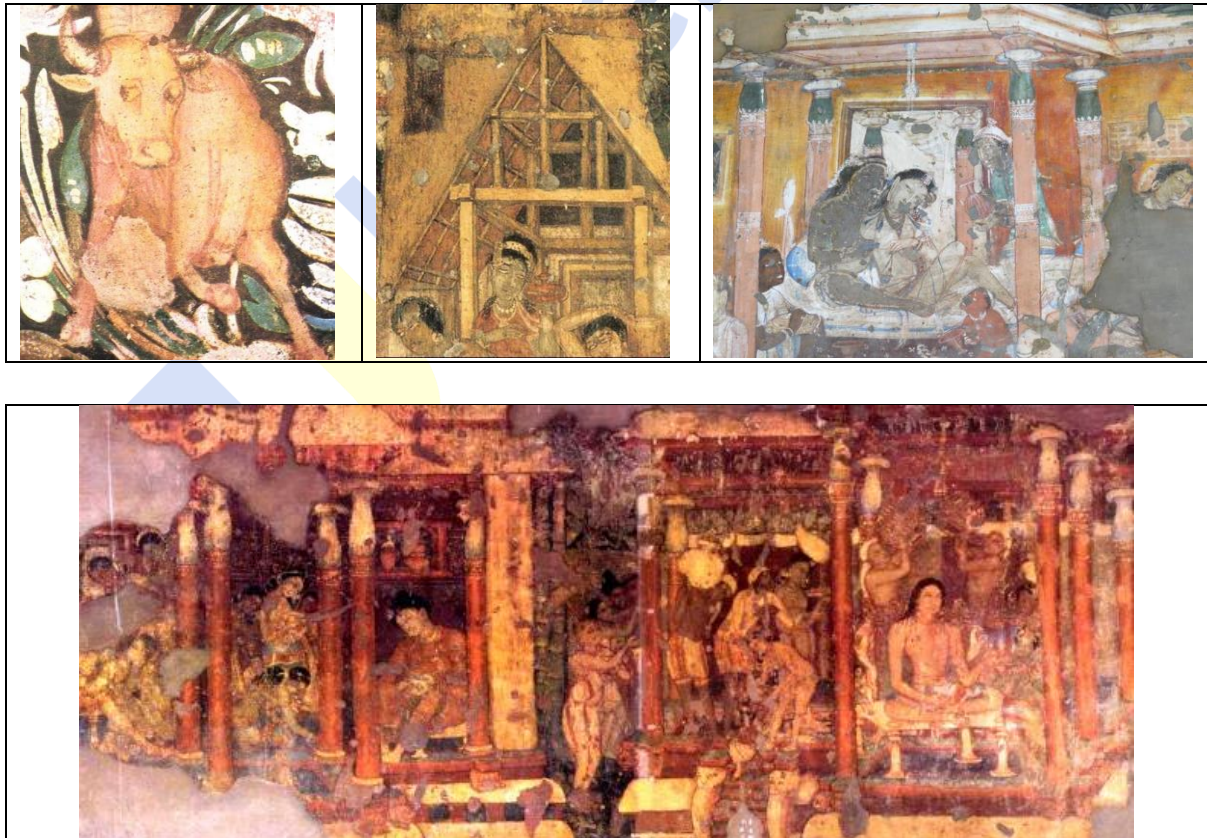
- Slender, well-proportioned limbs, elegant poses, expressions: closer resemblance to Amaravati
- Half-open eyes, lyrical movement of fingers, bhanga poses: suggestion of absorption in delicate dance positions
- Women: narrow waists, full breasts, arched eyebrows, lotiform eyes
- Ornamentation: Striking resemblance with Satvahana phase at Sanchi/Ajanta

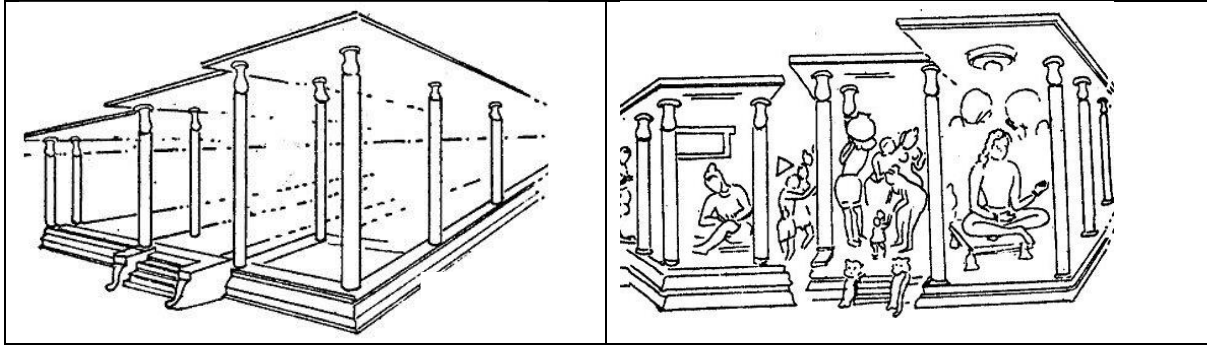


Animals and Birds



Technique

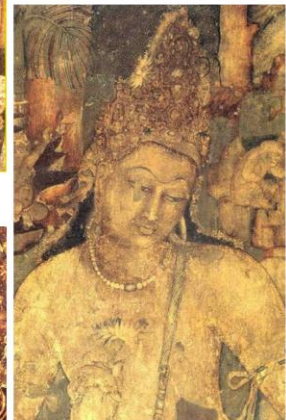




Animnonnata



Nimnonnata



Chaya-tapa
Bodhisattva Padmapani,



Patraja



Binduja



Ujjotana

Cave 1: Padmapani and Vajrapani



Other Contemporary Murals

Bagh (MP)

- Masterpiece of tempera murals.
- Walls, ceilings, pillars are painted but very few survived.
- Surviving frescoes belong to avadanas and jatakas most probably
- Broadly like Ajanta, but simpler and plainer. Compared to Ajanta, they lack spirituality, but the same materialistic and town life is reflected.



Later Influences

- Badami caves
- Nalanda palm-leafs
- Thang-ka cloth paintings
- Sigiria, Champa (Wat Si Chum), Bamiyan, Dun Huang (Magao)



Part C Sculpture

Continuation of Mathura/Gandhara, also introduction of new style

- Found from various parts of North and Central India.
- It was sculpted both independently and structurally
- Its subjects are varied, covering Buddhism, Jainism, Vaishnavism and Shaivism.
- The materials used are marble, sandstone, mud and terracotta.

Style: New canon of beauty; new aesthetic ideal: Refined and graceful

- Classical age: Production of remarkable images
 - Sculptors visualized the invisible
 - Perfection after efforts of the centuries
 - Definite types evolved
 - Formulation of ideals of beauty
 - Highly developed aesthetic sense
 - Masterly execution by skilled hands
- Working for higher ideal: Grasp of true aims and essential principles of art
 - Closer harmony between outer forms and inner conception
 - Combines beauty and strength
 - Serene, spiritual – Illustrates metaphorical idea of Buddha
- Human figure as the pivot
- No foreign influence whatsoever.
- Growing likeness of form (not sectarian): Continued after the Gupta period.
- Not only models of Indian art for all time to come but also ideals for art in the Far East






Red dots: the three main schools of Gupta art were located in Mathura, Varanasi and Nalanda.^[1] White dots: secondary or peripheral locations.




Tribhanga Krishna-Govardhana (Varanasi)



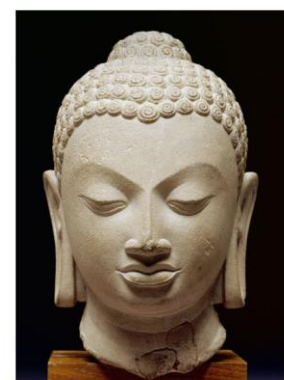
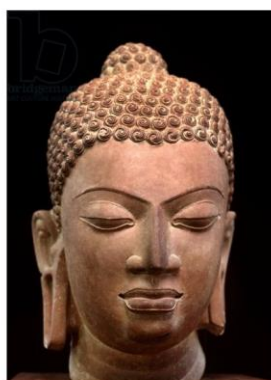
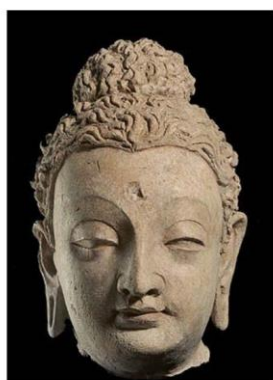
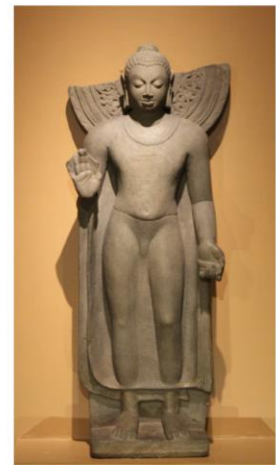
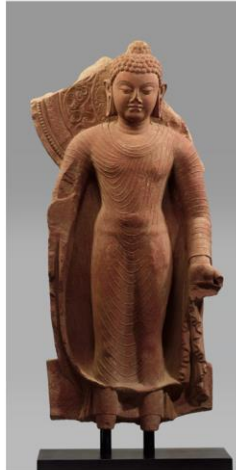
Early Gupta Style: Sophistication of Mathura	Proper Gupta style: Sarnath/Benares Style	Late Gupta: Declining phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kushana influence Mathura was the main centre Examples – Mankunwar Buddha, Lakulisha Mathura pillar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarnath as the great art centre produced among the greatest works of art ever produced in India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained grandeur but heavy. Eran sculptures by Maharaja Matrivishnu
		

Sarnath Buddha

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowish sandstone Decorated halo depicted divinity Advanced, mature, delicate, wax-like carving Rich expression: serene spirituality, superb beauty, bodily charm Indigenous clothes No element of eroticism 	
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Other Buddhas from Gupta era

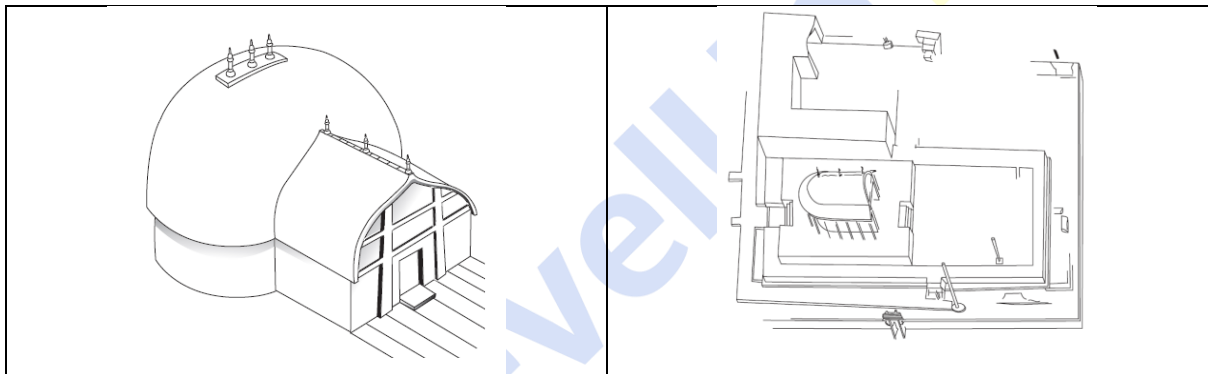
		
Gandhara: Bamiyan	Devni Mori, Akhnoor	Sultanganj



Part D: Temple Architecture

Origin of temple architecture?

- A shrine/temple is basically a demarcated sacred space for worship or veneration.
- The earliest shrines in the subcontinent simply consisted of a fenced-in space or tree. Some of them were associated with the worship of *yakshas* and *yakshis*, and *nagas* and *nagis*.
- It is from the period of the Kalpasutras onwards that there are references to the house of god (devakula, devayatana or devagrha).
- During c. 200 BCE–300 CE: More permanent structures
 - Practice of image worship and bhakti
 - Emergence of Puranic literature
 - Patronage from different sections of society
 - Land grants to Buddhist and Brahmin priests → Agriculture expansion → tribal assimilation
 - Mostly of ground plans survived;
 - Besnagar, Nagari, Sanchi, Nagarjunkonda



Evolution:

Stage 1: Small simple structure

- Plain-square shape plan
- Flat roofed
- Small garbh-griha (10 by 10, just to house an idol)
- Garbha-griha with only one door and no window
- Low pillared mandapa in front
- Ornamentation – Plain walls, intricate carving on doorways



Temple 17, Sanchi complex
Kankali Devi or Vishnu temple, Tigawa (near Jabalpur)

Stage 2 – Larger, some additions

- Raised Platform/plinth added
- Longer and deeper pillared mandapa in front
- Covered ambulatory path
- Still flat roof



Parvati temple, Nachna Kuthara (MP)
Shiva Temple, Bhumra Khoh

Stage 3 – Addition of Shikhara

- Raised platform.
- Deep pillared mandapa
- Short shikhara above garbh griha
- Carved door jambs
- Sculptures on temple walls.



Dashavatar Vishnu Temple, Deogarh
Gop Temple, Gujarat


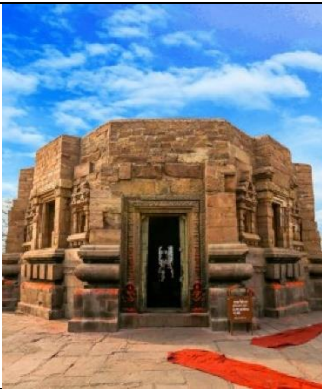

Stage 4

Classic tri-ratha projections
Although an elaboration on the earlier temples, they have a very modest appearance compared to temples built in later centuries.



Brick Temple, Bhitargaon (UP),
Brick Laxman Temple, Sirpur

Some more examples:

		
Ancient Mahabodhi temple prior to restoration	Octagonal Mundeshwari Temple, Bihar	Circular Maniyar Math, Rajgir

Door Jambs (temples not survived):

	
Dah Parbatiya, Assam	Vishnu Temple, Eran
	Gupta era fragment of a door jamb, Pawaya (MP)

Stupas built during Gupta Era

		
Rock-cut Stupa in Ajanta	Chaukhandi Stupa (between Gaya and Sarnath)	Kesariya Stupa (East Champaran)

Practice Questions: Gupta Era

With reference to the history of India, the terms 'Kulyavapa' and 'Dronavapa' denote- [2020]

- (a) measurement of land
- (b) coins of different monetary value
- (c) classification of urban land
- (d) religious rituals

With reference to scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statement: [2020]

- 1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
- 2. Amarasingha is associated with Harshavardhana.
- 3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at (2017)

- 1. Ajanta
- 2. Badami
- 3. Bagh
- 4. Ellora

With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to (2014)

- a) An assembly of village elders
- b) A religious sect
- c) A style of temple construction
- d) An administrative functionary

The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the (2012)

- a. Three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- b. Three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- c. Three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- d. Three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

Consider the following historical places (2012)

- 1. Ajanta caves
- 2. Lepakshi temple
- 3. Sanchi stupa

Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

There are only two known examples of paintings of the Gupta period in ancient India. One of these is paintings of Ajanta caves. Where is the other surviving example of Gupta paintings? [2010]

- (a) Bagh caves
- (b) Ellora caves
- (c) Lomas Rishi cave
- (d) Nasik caves

'Mrichchhakatika' an ancient Indian book written by Shudraka deals with: [2003]

- (a) the love affair of a rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan
- (b) the victory of Chandragupta II over the Saka Kshatrapas of western India
- (c) the military expeditions and exploits of Samudragupta
- (d) the love affairs between a Gupta king and a princess of Kamarupa

From the third century AD when the Hun invasion ended the Roman Empire, the Indian merchants relied more and more on the [2000]

- (a) African trade
- (b) West - European trade
- (c) South- East Asian trade
- (d) Middle Eastern trade

From the third century AD when the Hun invasion ended the Roman Empire, the Indian merchants relied more and more on the [1999]

- (a) African trade
- (b) West - European trade
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Which one of the following ports handled the North Indian trade during the Gupta period? [1999]

- (a) Tamralipti
- (b) Broach
- (c) Kalyan
- (d) Cambay

The silver coins issued by the Guptas were called: [1997]

- (a) Rupaka
- (b) Karshapana
- (c) Dinara
- (d) Pana

Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer: [1996]

List-I

- A. Vishakhadatta
- B. Varahamihira
- C. Charaka
- D. Brahmagupta

List-II

- 1. Medicine
- 2. Drama
- 3. Astronomy
- 4. Mathematics

Codes:

- (a) A-1; B-3; C-4; D-2
- (b) A-2; B-1; C-3; D-4
- (c) A-2; B-3; C-1; D-4
- (d) A-3; B-4; C-1; D-2

Fresco paintings in the Ajanta caves were done, while which of the following dynasties was flourishing? (1992)

- a. Gupta
- b. Shunga
- c. Kanva
- d. Maurya

Gupta architecture is represented by many brick temples and the temples of Bhitargaon is most notable for its well preserved and moulded bricks of excellent design, this temple has (1992)

- a. A tall gopuram
- b. A pyramidal roof
- c. An apsidal plan
- d. Double basement

The Nagara style of temple architecture is associated with (1986)

- a. North India
- b. South India
- c. East India
- d. None of the above

Ajanta paintings depict (1984)

- a. Ramayana
- b. Mahabharata
- c. Jatakas
- d. Panchatantra

Ancient Indian art and architecture reached its zenith during the period of (1983)

- a. Rajputs
- b. Mauryan
- c. Guptas
- d. None of the above

Idol worship was started in (1980)

- a. Gupta period
- b. Vedic period
- c. Epic period
- d. Maurya period

Ajanta caves are located in the state of (1979)

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Gujarat
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. West Bengal

1. Which of the following Gupta temples is/are dedicated to Lord Vishnu?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bhumra temple | 2. Tigawa temple |
| 3. Nachna Kuthara temple | 4. Deogarh temple |

Codes:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 2 and 4 |
| (c) 4 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

2. Consider the following -

1. Eran inscription
2. Devadasi system

Which of the above mentioned show decay in women condition during Gupta period?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) both 1 and 2 | (d) neither 1 nor 2 |

3. Consider the following -

1. Mathura
2. Sarnath
3. Nalanda

Which of the above mentioned was/were centres for sculpture in the Gupta age?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

4. Consider the following statements-

1. Gupta rulers issued gold coins in highest numbers.
2. Temple architecture started during Gupta period.

Which of the statements above mentioned is/are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) both 1 and 2 | (d) neither 1 nor 2 |

5. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta period-

1. Gupta rulers took titles such as "Parambhattaraka", 'Parmeshwara', 'Paramdevta', and 'Maharajadhiraj'
2. Village assembly was known as "Panchmandali" in Central India.
3. Feudal lords played considerable role in local administration.

Which of the statements above mentioned is/are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 1 and 3 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

6. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta period-

1. Mahattar
2. Asthakuladhikari
3. Gramika
4. Kutumbin

Above mentioned were the type of

- (a) Rural officials

- (b) Different caste groups
- (c) Different groups of artisans
- (d) None of these

7. Smriti literature contains-

1. Purana
2. Ramayana
3. Mahabharata
4. Dharamsutra
5. Vedanga

Code:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 4 and 5 only
- (c) All of the above
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta period-

1. Text 'Navanitakam' was written on 'Ayurveda'.
2. Text 'Hastayurveda' was concerned with the treatment of elephants.
3. Amarsingh was one of the nine luminaries at the court of Chandragupta

Which of the statements above mentioned is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

9. Which of the following texts were written by Varahmihira

1. Panchasiddhantika
2. Vrihatasamhita
3. Vrihadjataka
4. Laghujataka

Code:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. Consider the following -

Term	Related to
1. Nividharma	-Land Grants
2. Udranga	-Water tax
3. Bhatta	-Police Tax
4. Kulyavapa	-Measurement unit

11. Which of the above mentioned is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) All of the above
- (d) 2 and 3

12. Which one of the following statements about Chandragupta II is not correct? (NDA 2009 II)

- a) Kalidasa and Amarsingh were famous scholars in his court
- b) He expanded his empire both through matrimonial alliances and conquests

- c) He married a Naga princess, named Kubera Naga
- d) He married his daughter Prabhavati to an Ahom prince

14. Which one the following was the official language of Gupta period? (NDA 2009 II)

- a) Pali b) Magadhi c) Prakrit d) Sanskrit

15. The themes of the murals of the Ajanta Caves are (NDA 2011, II)

1. Decorative designs which include a variety of animals, trees and flowers
2. Portraits of various Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
3. Narrative scenes portraying Jataka stories

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

16. Which one among the following cities was the best producer of silk cloth under Gupta reign? (NDA 2022, II)

- a) Pataliputra
- b) Murshidabad
- c) Ghazipur
- d) Varanasi

17. Which one among the following is not correct about the cave paintings at Ajanta? (NDA 2012, II)

- a) Scenes have no dividing frame and blend into each other
- b) Scenes are both religious and secular in nature
- c) The influence of Gandhara art is seen
- d) Scenes mostly depict tales from Jatakas

18. Consider the following statements about the Nagara style of Temple architecture (NDA 2017, II)

1. This style of temples is commonly found in the area between Himalayas and Vindhya
2. The most striking feature of this style is its pyramidal Shikhara

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

19. Fa-Hien's mission to India was to (CDS 2009, I)

- a) Learn about the administrative system of the Gupta kings

- b) Understand the social position of women during the Gupta period
- c) Visit the Buddhist institutions and to collect copies of Buddhist manuscripts
- d) Get full knowledge about the condition of peasants during the period of Gupta kings

20. Which two of the following plays did Kalidasa write before writing Abhijnanashakuntalam? (CDS 2009 II)

- 1. Vikramorvashiya
- 2. Malavikagnimitram
- 3. Swapnavasavadattam
- 4. Kadambari

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2 b) 1 and 3 c) 1 and 4 d) 3 and 4

21. Consider the following statements regarding Vakataka dynasty:

- 1. Vindhyashakti established the Vakataka power.
- 2. Pravarsena-II composed a poetic text "Setubandh".
- 3. Rudrasena-II was married to Prabhavati, daughter of Chandragupta-II.

Which of the above mentioned is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above

22. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is located at: [BPSC 2023]

- (a) Bagh (b) Ellora (c) Ajanta (d) Badami

23. Consider the following statements: [BPSC 2023]

- 1. Fa-Hien was a Chinese pilgrim who visited India during the reign of Harsha
- 2. Hiuen Tsang was a Chinese Buddhist monk who visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. Match the List I with List II [BPSC 2023]

List I	List II
a. Charaka	1. Mathematics
b. Brahmagupta	2. Medicine
c. Varahamihira	3. Playwright
d. Vishakhadatta	4. Astrology

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

	a	b	c	d
(a)	2	1	4	3
(b)	1	2	3	4
(c)	3	2	4	1
(d)	1	4	3	2

25. Nitisara, an early book on politics, was written by [BPSC 2023]

- (a) Kautilya (b) Kamandaka (c) Charaka (d) None of them

26. According to Chinese source, Meghavarman, the ruler of Srilanka, sent a missionary to which of the following Gupta kings for permission to build a Buddhist temple at Gaya?

[BPSC 2023]

- (a) Chandragupta I (b) Samudragupta (c) Chandragupta II (d) None of them

27. In which dynasty did Chandragupta II marry his daughter Prabhavati and strengthened his position? [RPSC 2023]

- (a) Lichhavi (b) Kadamba (c) Vakataka (d) Naga

28. With reference to the Puranas, which one of the following statements is correct? [UPPSC 2022]

(1) Information about the Mauryan dynasty is found in the Vishnu Puran.

(2) Vayu Puran throws light on the Gupta's governance system.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 (c) Neither 1 nor 2 (d) Only 1

29. Buddhist caves are not situated in which of the following place? [MPPSC 2022]

- (a) Ajanta (b) Bagh (c) Sanchi (d) Bulsar