

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

MUKUND SINGH CHAHAR

AIR - 273

(CSE 2022)

HISTORY OPTIONAL

 **8448496262**  **iascore.in**

104^{1/2}
250

HISTORY

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions
- There are SIX questions, printed in ENGLISH.
- Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, any FOUR are to be attempted
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

Name Mukund Singh Chahar

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature _____

1. Invigilator's Signature _____

2. Invigilator's Signature _____

7

REMARKS

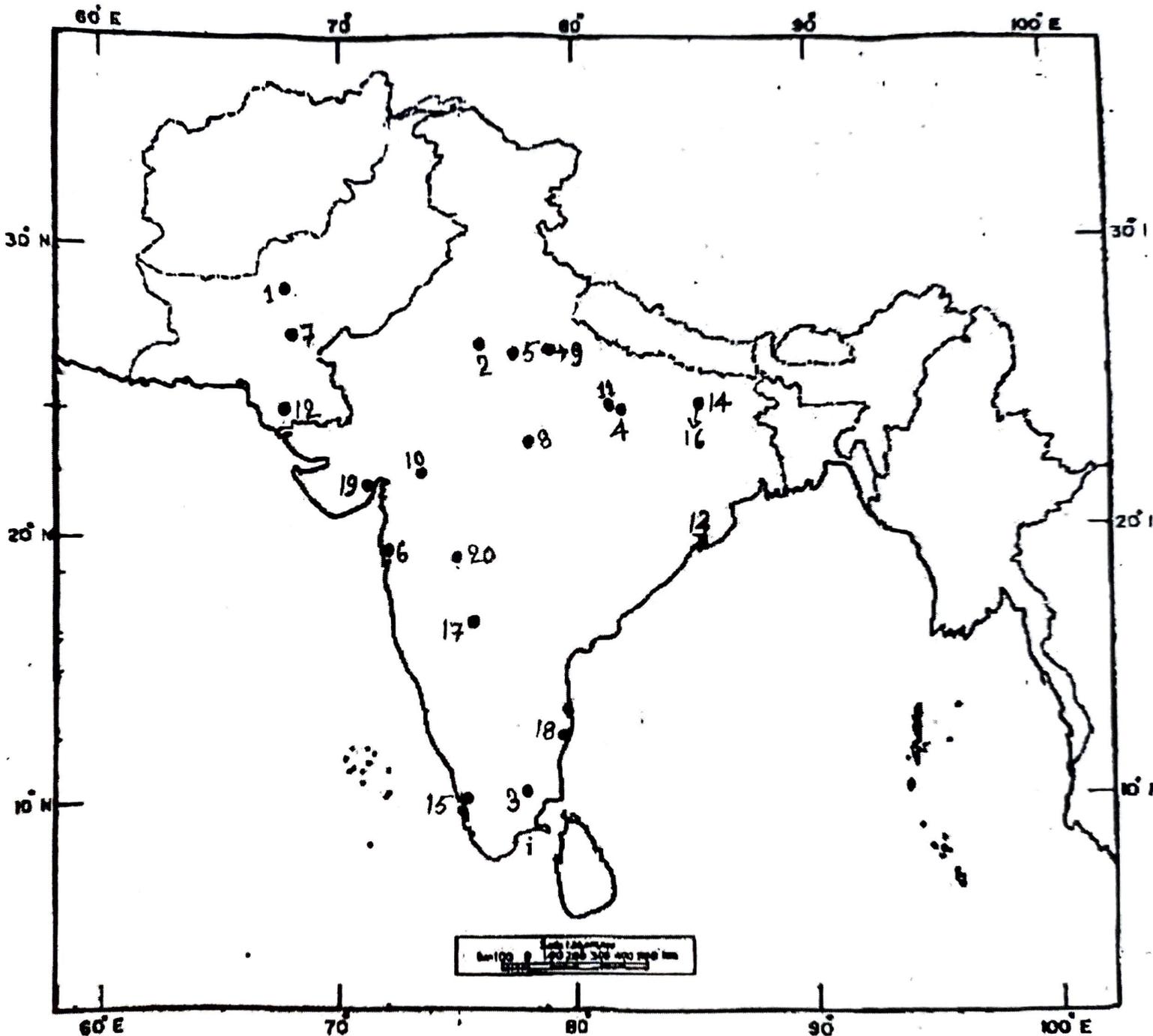
GS SCORE

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1. Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. (2.5×20 = 50 Marks)

- (i) Neolithic factory site
- (ii) Chalcolithic site
- (iii) Cave paintings
- (iv) Paleolithic site
- (v) Political and Cultural centre
- (vi) Trade centre
- (vii) Harappan site
- (viii) Vaishnava cultural site
- (ix) Painted Grey Ware site
- (x) Chalcolithic site
- (xi) Early agricultural centre
- (xii) Early Harappan site
- (xiii) An ancient temple
- (xiv) Political and Cultural centre
- (xv) An ancient sea port
- (xvi) Buddhist centre
- (xvii) Inscriptional site
- (xviii) An ancient capital
- (xix) A Jaina centre
- (xx) An ancient capital

Map-Test: 1



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vii) Mohenjodaro :

- a Harappan site, one of the most prominent sites of the Indus valley civilization.
- Findings such as the "great bath" display its ritualistic importance, while massive number of seals found from it suggest its trade importance.

viii) Eran :

- Heliodorus dedicated a pillar to Vaisknavism on this site, which is near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh.
- Also known for rock cut caves.

Write in point form

ix) ~~Atar~~ Kayatha :

- A Chalcolithic site, known for its findings which present a comprehensive picture of Chalcolithic culture in Madhya Pradesh.

x) Chanudara :

- An important Harappan site, known for the production of carnelian beads, present in present day Pakistan.

xiii) Puri

- An ancient temple in coastal Odisha, it is known for its religious importance even today.

xii) Patliputra :

→ an ancient capital of Magadha Empire, it was known as a "jal durg". It was also known for its excellent connectivity through riverways, thus strategically important.

xiv) Arikamedu:

→ An ancient Indian port, known widely for its importance in the Indo Roman trade for the trade of luxury items.

xv) Sarnath Bodhgaya .

→ known for the "enlightenment" of Buddha, Bodhgaya even today is a widely popular attraction for travellers across the world.

xvii) Ujjain :

→ known as the capital of Cholas, it was primarily important for the trade of cotton in sea-based trade.

2. (a) "Interpretation is as crucial in archaeology as in using literary sources". Discuss it with respect to any suitable sources. (20 Marks)
- (b) Why do you think that Buddhist texts can be considered as a better source of history of contemporary times? (20 Marks)
- (c) How far do you subscribe the view that the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic period was neither smooth nor revolutionary. (10 Marks)

(a) Archaeology is the study of history which usually involves excavation of ancient remains to better understand our past civilizations. But archaeology is not just a science, rather it is much similar to an art form. Similar to an artist who stands before a blank canvas imagining what to imagine, an archaeologist also must use his intricate imagination and understanding to decipher the meaning out of the excavated remains from a site. Thus, the statement "Interpretation is as crucial in archaeology as in using literary sources" fittingly explains the paramount importance of the skill of interpretation in the field of archaeology.

Nicely explained importance of interpretation

But try to write in sheet paragraph

This statement can be further justified by utilizing few examples from our recent past. One such example that comes to mind is James Prinsep & his contribution to deciphering Ashokan edicts. Such examples are also frequently available from the remains of Harappan civilization. After all, without the creative interpretations of the

archaeologists involved, how would it have been possible to understand the real usage of 'seals' in Harappan times for trade and commerce. The dancing bronze statue and the steatite statue of the bearded man would have remained utterly meaningless if not for the radical interpretation from the archaeologists.

Thus, while the importance of interpretation in understanding literary sources can never be understated, one must always keep in mind the importance of interpretation in the field of archaeology as well. It is only through interpretation that we now understand our ancient India in a comprehensive manner, traced through interpreting both archaeological & literary sources.

10 Well tried

you should add more aspects

- ① How interpretation change with time.
- ② Discuss the subjectivity and objectivity in history.
- ③ Write one example and its historiography.

(b) In history, source which provide a comprehensive understanding of the contemporary times are always valued highly. Arguably, Buddhist texts are one such incredible source to rely upon, because of their comprehensive nature. They provide a crucial account of the ancient India, ranging from Mahajanapada times to the glorious Gupta era.

Among the primary sources for the understanding of ancient India, Tripitakas hold their own importance. Originally considered to be written on leaves of tree, they became a source for tracing various landmark events of ancient India. Ranging from discipline for Buddhist monks to Ashoka's Dhamma, they became a crucial source for understanding our past.

One of the most popular sources of history among the Buddhist texts is Jataka Tales. Though filled with certain exaggeration & myths which explain Buddha & his previous births, these tales are crucial in understanding the socio-economic milieu of the period in which Buddhism began to prosper in India.

Later Buddhist texts include famous works such as "Milindpanho". It consists of the conversations between Menander, an Indo Greek ruler, and Nagasena, a Buddhist monk. Though philosophical in nature, it provides spectacular information regarding the period of ancient India where Central Asian invaders had arrived in India during the post Mauryan times, and had made valuable and indelible contribution to the socio-economic landscape of India.

Thus, it can be concluded that Buddhist texts not only shed light on Buddhist traditions of the time, but also serve as wonderful resource to understand the contemporary socio-economic-political landscape. From providing information regarding Ashoka's missionary messengers spreading the message of Buddhism, to the genealogies of South Asian kings to the strict ethical code followed by Buddhist monks mentioned in "Therigatha",

the Buddhist texts provide extensive records of the Indian sub-continent and its social, political & economic history.

Wally tried

your answer is one dimensional

Approach → Limitations of Brahminical Source
 → true + Buddhist Source
 → limitations of " "
 → very fooling so before writing think

19

The transition from Mesolithic ~~and~~ to Neolithic period is a subject of debate among various eminent scholars of the world. While many believed that the arrival of Neolithic period ushered in a revolutionary era, there were some who felt that ~~most of~~ what Neolithic age entailed had ~~been~~ already in practice during the Mesolithic period.

The Mesolithic period saw the arrival of improvements in tools over the paleolithic age. Instead of barely ~~foraging~~ for leaves & fruits while engaging in small game hunting, this period saw ~~improvements in hunting capabilities as well as the~~ ~~beginning of~~ pastoralism. Neolithic age simply continued these trends with regards to ~~pastoralism~~, and thus in many ways ~~deeming~~ the Neolithic age as "revolutionary" seems excessive in this context.

However, a ~~major development~~ in the Neolithic age changed the fate of man forever. The ability to ~~"practice agriculture"~~ first seen on a significant scale in Neolithic age allowed man to live a ~~settled life~~. Coupled with ~~pastoralism~~, the Neolithic man paved the way for the modern man observed today. For the first time, the creative side of man was ~~not~~ also on display as pottery

gradually developed (though mostly simplistic,
with functional use of storing grains).

Thus, it is fair to say that while Neolithic age showed continuity with regards to certain traits, it also marked certain revolutionary improvements over the Mesolithic age, thus marking the beginning towards a settled life.

Well tried

Require more substantive
fact & example

your articulation and comprehension is
good

4. (a) "The relationship between the Indus Valley and Vedic societies is the crux of the current Aryan debate". With respect to the above given statement discuss the Aryan debate in India. (20 Marks)
- (b) How far do you think that Varna system was not that much ideal during its beginning days as it gradually took shape in future? (10 Marks)
- (c) "The conditions were ideal for the state formation in the Mahajanpada period". Critically examine. (20 Marks)

a) The relationship between Indus valley and Vedic societies has been a source of never ending debate among historians over the years. But the answer to the current Aryan debate is ~~somehow~~ hidden behind this mysterious relationship. To simply describe, the current Aryan debate discusses the age old question, were the Aryans invaders or indigenous.

Over the years, various scholars have made attempts to answer this age old mystery. The early attempts to answer this question can be observed in Max Mueller's "Central Asian" origin of Aryan theory, or the "Sapta Sindhu" theory of B. G. Tilak, both attempting to portray Aryans as invaders who had displaced Harappans based on their "superior arms" and "spoked wheels".

However, the later explanations regarding this debate attempt to portray a pole opposite picture.

It is believed that the absence of any solid evidence to suggest mass conspiration amongst the people of Indus valley civilizations and Vedic people suggests that the invasion theory regarding the arrival of Aryans might be misplaced. This argument is further bolstered by theories regarding the natural decline of Indus valley civilization due to changed course of Indus & drying of Saraswati.

Thus, it can be concluded that the Aryan debate in India entails compelling arguments on both sides of the coin. While the invasion theory has been in vogue for many years the recent discoveries regarding the arrival of Aryans paint a different picture which supports the theory that Aryans were in fact indigenous to the

10/11

Indian subcontinent
good conceptual
 for better presentation you can draw a Map of Indian subcontinent and show area of Indus and Vedic culture

b) The Varna System, originally was conceptualized in the Rig Vedic times to categorize society into four different groups based on their occupation. Its original concept entailed an efficient methodology to maximize efficiency of the Rigvedic society by categorizing people based on occupations. In fact, later scholars including Dayanand Saraswati also supported such a classification of society.

However, the later Vedic period saw the morphing of this system into a system that maximized hierarchy and oppression. The "ideal" classification of society transformed into a repressive classification based on birth, where individuals were condemned to their fate of servitude, thus restricting social mobility. The nexus of upper two varnas led by Brahmanas and Kshatriyas legitimized their positions by grand rituals and display of vanity, while the lower varnas, comprising of ~~Vashyas and~~ Shudras were forced to pay excessive taxes and serve the upper two varnas unquestionably. This system of oppression also included the denial of basic human rights such as education to Shudras, who were simply expected to serve

the upper two Varanas to keep the society functioning.

The after effects of the ill conceived later Vedic Varana system are still observed in the Indian society. However, as a democratic people, we have decided to correct these historical wrongs by devising measures such as "affirmative action", thus paving the way for a truly equitable Indian society.

6

Well tried

Very good correlation

c) The Mahajanapada period saw the rise of 16 states (according to Pali texts), and what ensued was a fierce struggle towards domination in which Magadha ultimately prevailed. But the question which must have been a constant source of wonder amongst scholars is that what were the factors behind the rise of these states during the Mahajanapada period. The important factors behind state formation were:

i) Rise of a New agricultural economy in North-East India:

With the help of new and improved tools, the fertile alluvial soils of North India provided a unique opportunity of agricultural expansion which was hitherto absent. This new agricultural economy resulted in increased productivity of lands, leading to "surplus" produce with the state. This "surplus" went on to become the foundation of these new states, whose military forces were now paid & other administrative costs were also taken care of, thanks to the surplus produce.

ii) Improvement in Iron technology:

While Iron was known for quite some time, its widespread applications became possible

Try to write to the point
 Avoid to write in so detail
 Show the skill in essay paper

If you can't write in short paragraphs then underline the main points

thanks to certain metallurgical advance. Iron was then used for making agricultural tools as well as war equipment, thus paving way for a relatively modern society. The hitherto thickly forested areas were now open for agriculture thanks to these tools, thus resulting in major agricultural advance.

iii) Vedic spirit:

For the first time, areas out of Aryavarta such as Magadha came into limelight. Filled with newly instilled spirit of conquest, these recently Vedicized society expanded fiercely and paved the way for formation of states.

Thus, it can be concluded that various factors were at play behind the rise of Mahajanapadas during this period. What followed was a massive struggle for domination amongst these states, and the establishment of the great Magadha state was a direct consequence of this struggle.

10

Propose why + presentation

→

draw Map of India

and - locate the important political Centres.

It should be diversified

5. (a) How far you subscribe the view that Buddhism was more like a social philosophy than a religious philosophy? (20 Marks)
- (b) What kind of society does reflect in Indica of Megasthenes? (10 Marks)
- (c) "Polity during the Sangam age in South India was balance between chiefdom society and state society". Explain. (20 Marks)

a) "Buddhism was more like a social philosophy than a religious philosophy" is an apt explanation of the socio-religious phenomenon called Buddhism. The rise of Buddhism can not be studied in alienation from the socio-economic landscape of its contemporary times. And upon a closer understanding of the factors behind its rise, it becomes clearer why Buddhism is considered by many as a social philosophy.

The later Vedic period saw a ~~major~~ ^{marked} reaction against the orthodoxy and oppression of the Brahmanical religion. Many evils of inequality and privilege and had crept in the Brahmanical religion, and the rise of Buddhism is best observed in the light of these conditions. While the Kshatriyas were discontent due to their inferior positioning in social hierarchy vis-a-vis Brahmins, the Vaishyas resented the constant rebutement of their money making practices by the Brahmanical traditions. The shudras and

Nice
discuss

women constituted the truly marginalized section of the society, which were vehemently oppressed by the restrictions imposed upon them due to Brahmanical traditions. Thus, the rise of Buddhism provided an expression to these socially oppressed classes.

By rejecting the notions of classifications based on caste & caste, the Buddhist doctrines presented a scathing social reply to the orthodox Brahmanical evils. Buddhism allowed entry to all varnas and genders, vehemently rejected ritualism and Brahmanical orthodoxy, and thus presented a fresh alternative to those who were fed up of being socially suppressed.

Thus, while it is fair to enumerate the various contributions made by Buddhism in revolutionizing religion, it is even more apt to understand it as a social philosophy which challenged the notions of social orthodoxy prevailing the later Vedic times, and provided a timely release from the bonds of Brahmanical traditions to the socially shackled classes.

Well tried

You should also discuss → where Buddhism failed as social philosophy

b) "Indica" of Megasthenes is probably one of the most important source to trace Mauryan history. Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador, sent by Seleucus Nikator, to the court of Chandragupta Maurya. In his book "Indica" he chronicled the social-economic-administrative history of Chandragupta Maurya's period.

In Indica, Megasthenes suggest a "7-fold division" of society. Hence many scholars believe this to be a classification "based on occupations". Megasthenes also provided a definitive claim by suggesting that "slavery was absent" during the Mauryan times. ~~Hence~~, historians believe that such an understanding might be misplaced since various sources provide evidence of presence of slaves for doing menial tasks in the society. Thus it is understood that Megasthenes might have suggested an absence of slaves because he perceived slavery in the European context (where bonded slaves worked on manors of their ~~estate~~ lords in a feudal society). In general, Megasthenes is full of praise for the prosperity of the Mauryan times, where widespread

the glorious Mauryan Empire provide a comfortable standard of living for the general population of the empire. Megasthenes further provides information regarding the religious practices of the period as well as information regarding empires even in South India.

Thus, it can be concluded that Megasthenes provides a comprehensive account of the society of the Mauryan times, and his book Indica serves as a crucial resource for tracing socio-economic trends of ancient India.

5

All tried

Impressive presentation

Realisation through visualization

You have knowledge and understanding for better marks

You should write

- ① To the point
- ② with better presentation

The Sangam age is fondly considered as the glorious age of South India. It is widely recognized for the "Sangam texts" during the period which provide incredible accounts of South Indian history. However, the polity during Sangam age presents an equally fascinating balance between chiefdom society and state society.

During the Sangam age, three important kingdoms, Chola, Cheras and Pandya ruled various territories of South India. While these kingdoms frequently fought against each other to establish supremacy, the political arrangements of these kingdoms provide a fascinating case study of balance between chiefdom society & state society.

While the centralizing forces under the rulers of this period constantly wished to assert their supremacy, they were frequently challenged by the autonomous urges of local chiefs, which were always high on ambitions. However, the Sangam age saw a delicately balance between these

chiefs & their central rulers, where powers were carefully divided amongst both the parties. While there was enough devolution of powers to the chiefs to manage their affairs, the central rulers always ensured that their authority was maintained by the rebellious chiefs.

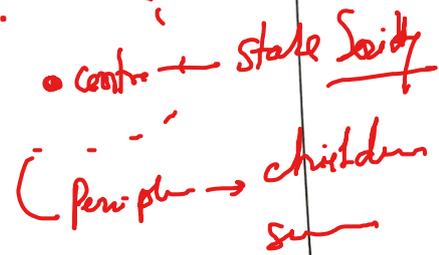
Thus, it is apt to conclude that "polity during the Sangam age in South India was a balance between Chiefdom society and State society".

add to it

Add → ① More name of Sources to know

② Map

③ Diagram



I hope you will apply all these in Next text

otherwise it will be Wastage of my effort

6. (a) "The heterogeneity of the society in India during the post Mauryan period is well reflected in art and architecture of the period". Comment. (20 Marks)
- (b) "Rise of the feudatories was one of the major factors for the disintegration of the Gupta Empire". Evaluate. (10 Marks)
- (c) How far do you subscribe the view that 'integrative model' comparatively describes better the changes which were happening in Early Medieval India. (20 Marks)

a) The post Mauryan period saw a plethora of successors, both indigenous and outsiders, struggling to establish their domination. While the indigenous successors include Shungas and Kanvas, outsiders included Indo Greeks, Shakas, Kushanas and Parthians. The coming together of so many different groups obviously resulted in heterogeneity of society in India, which is well reflected in art & architecture of the period.

The most striking examples of art & architecture during this period are observed in Buddhist traditions. The rise of two different schools of art, Gandhara and Mathura, provide an apt understanding of the variations that had emerged in Indian society. While the Gandhara school was clearly influenced by the Hellenistic art concepts, the Mathura school seemed to emerge from indigenous understanding of art. Portraying Buddha as a Greek God with broad

you should write → Combination of Paragraphs + Point for better presentation.

Remarks

shoulders and flowing hair became a trademark of Gandhara Art, whereas Mathura school of Art was characterized by softer, rounder facial features alongside ~~also~~ use of red sandstone, which was naturally available near Mathura.

In the field of ~~art~~ architecture, while Shunga reign was marked by persecution of Buddhism, in stark contrast, Satavahana patronised beautiful ~~stupa~~ architecture in Nagayimukanda and Amravati. Apart from Buddhism, the pillar dedicated to Vaishnavism by Heliodorus in Esan is a clear indicator of broader religious tolerance during the period.

Thus, it can be summarized that the heterogeneity of the Indian society post Mauryan disintegration is well reflected in the ~~art and architecture~~ of the period. From minting of gold, silver, lead coins by Indo-Greek & Satavahana with identifiable King to ~~Buddhist~~ art & architecture, this period is marked by a unique heterogeneity.

~~Indian society~~ ~~was~~ which was hitherto not observed in Ancient India.

Well tried

In brief discuss the elements of Homogeneity think is a Multidimensional idea.

1) The rise and fall of the glorious Gupta Era has been a source of constant bewilderment to many historians since the years. Though many factors were at play behind the disintegration of Gupta empire, the rise of feudatories is arguably one of the most important factors involved.

During the Gupta Empire, certain feudal practices were born which considerably weakened the position of the central monarch. The practice of giving tax free grants to Brahmanas as well as paying military officials and administrators in land instead of salary gradually resulted in various problems for the Guptas. ~~These tax free lands gradually earned considerable autonomy~~ ^{Change the paragraph} transferred into relatively independent fiefs in the midst of the large Gupta empire. Thus, the rise of feudatories birthed the rise of an era where central authority was constantly challenged by these autonomous feudal forces, who also possessed considerable military ~~might~~ ^{power} to increase the problem of the Gupta monarchs.

However, a thorough ~~eval~~ evaluation of the Gupta empire also ~~present~~ us with certain other factors which were at play. These included:

- The decline of Indo-Roman trade.
- The attacks from Huns.
- Challenge posed by the strong forces of Yashodharman of Malwa.
- Weak successors after Skandagupta.

Thus, it can be concluded that while rise of feudatories was a major factor behind the decline of Gupta, other important factors also played a crucial role in hastening the demise of this glorious empire.

5) well tried

In brief discuss
Role of

feudatories
in Expansion of
Gupta empire
through land
grants.

1) The Early Medieval Indian period is a period of uncertainty and change in ancient India. It has been at the centre of many debates by scholars and many historians have proposed various models to describe the happenings of this period. The "integrative model" is one such model which attempts to describe these changes aptly.

With the end of Harsha's reign, the Indian subcontinent was devoid of a centralized empire. Instead what followed was the rise of many independent states which constantly struggled for establishing their supremacy. Important states of this period include Rashtrakutas, Palas and Pratiharas, and their struggle is widely recognized as the "Tripartite struggle".

This period also saw the rise of feudal trends in India. The earlier trends of centralized and absolutist politics were done away with, and were displaced by an emerging trend where the authority of central ruler was frequently challenged by the autonomous chiefs. The dependence of central ruler for military troops on his feudal chiefs

was a marked deviation from past trends of strong centralized, paid in cash service.

changes in polity were accompanied with changes in society and economy, as proliferation of castes, were coupled with relatively reduced trade.

Thus, it can be summarized that the changing trends of early Medieval India were novel in their entirety, and gradually paved the way for an Indian society which was invaded by central Asian invaders from Northwest (due to lack of unity & attention to science & upgradation).

Well tried

Use it more clearly the other two approaches to understand this period and its limitations