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Start Time:

End Time:

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# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- II

### (ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential 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 Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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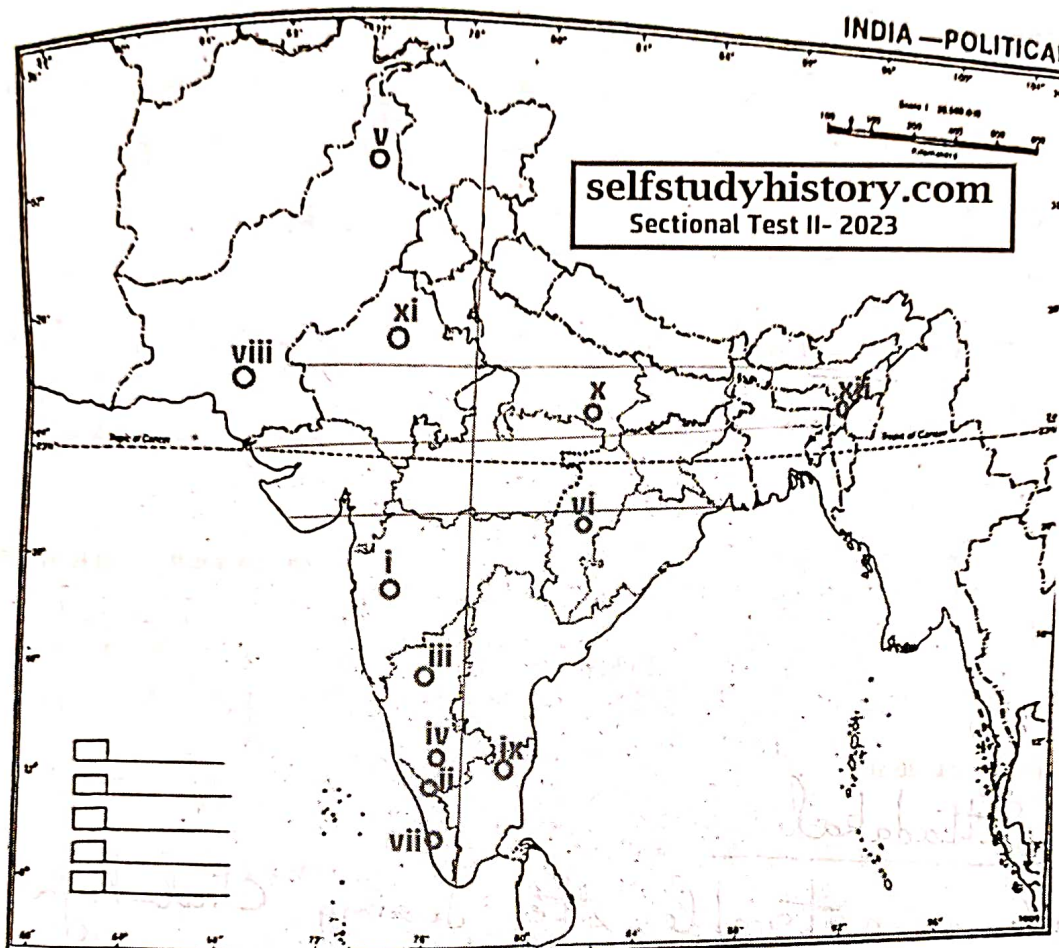
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Comments after evaluation

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ANSWER SHEET  
SECTIONAL TEST-II  
(ANCIENT INDIA)

Q.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. [12x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Chalcolithic site

Jorwe

↳ Located in Maharashtra.

↳ Part of Jorwe culture (1400 - 700 BCE)

↳ Copper tools found - arrowheads, celts, etc.

↳ Microliths discovered - burins, lunates etc.

(ii) Petroglyph cave site

(iii) World heritage site

Pattadakal

- ↳ Famous temple site during Chalukyas (5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- ↳ Consists of Nagara, Dravida and hybrid temples.
- ↳ Virupaksha temple with pyramidal vimana ⇒ Dravida
- ↳ Papanatha temple with curvilinear Shikhar ⇒ Nagara



(iv) Jain site

Shravan belagola

- ↳ Major Jain centre in ancient India.
- ↳ Bhadrabahu → founder of Digambara sect migrated here in 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
- ↳ Chandragupta Maurya died here while fasting
- ↳ Gomateshwara statue of Bahubali — tallest free standing monolithic statue.

(v) Political and cultural centre

Taxila

- ↳ capital of Gandhara Mahajanapada in 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
- ↳ Major learning centre → Taxila university — Chanakya was an alumnus
- ↳ Connected Uttarapatha with Chinese silk route.

(vi) Ancient religious site

Sarnath

- ↳ Consist of assemblage of temples of various religions.

- ↳ Temples, shrines, sculpture related to Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism found.
- ↳ Huien Tsang visited this place in 7<sup>th</sup> century CE.

(vii) Ancient port

Muziris / Muchiri

- ↳ Major port of ancient Cheras during Sangam age (300 BC - 300 CE)
- ↳ Sangam text talks about large Yavana ships docking at its port.
- ↳ Periplus gives detail account of items traded at this port.

(viii) Harappan site

Chanhudaro

- ↳ Only harappan site without a citadel and wall fortification.
- ↳ Major lead making centres - leads in various stages of preparation found.

↳ Also important shell and weights making centre.

(ix) Megalithic site

At the site of the megaliths, a large number of megaliths were found. The megaliths are made of large stones and are arranged in a circular pattern. The megaliths are found in a large number of places in the region. The megaliths are found in a large number of places in the region. The megaliths are found in a large number of places in the region.

(x) Mesolithic site

Mirzapur

The site of the Mesolithic site is located in the region of Mirzapur. The site is located in the region of Mirzapur. The site is located in the region of Mirzapur. The site is located in the region of Mirzapur.

(xi) Palaeolithic site

Didwana

- ↳ Located in Rajasthan.
- ↳ Contains lower and middle palaeolithic levels found.
- ↳ Large core tools found - cleavers, choppers, axes.
- ↳ Was a habitations cum factory site - raw material sourced from Aravallis

(xii) Neolithic site

Daojali Hading

- ↳ One of the few sites properly excavated in North East.
- ↳ Located in cachar district of Assam
- ↳ Contains microliths, bone tools.
- ↳ Rice was cultivated here



Q.3 (a) Describe the contribution of the Pallavas in the field of literature, art and architecture. [15 Marks]

The Pallavas rose to prominence in the post Gupta-Vakataka era (after 6<sup>th</sup> century CE) and established a large and powerful southern empire.

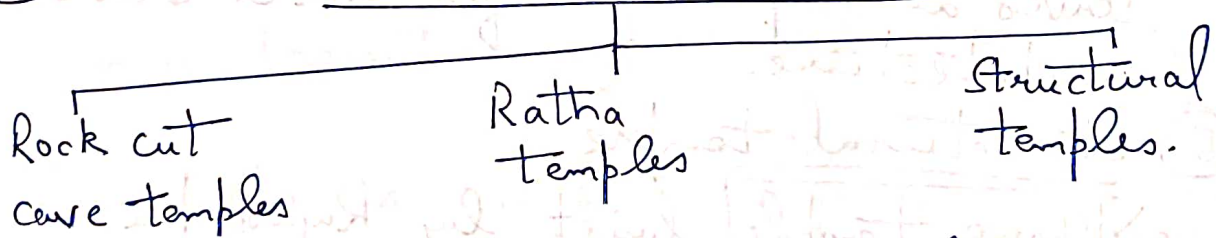
They provided huge impetus to art and architecture as well as literature.

### Contribution in Architecture

① Pallavas are considered as pioneers of dravidian temple architecture which reached apogee under Cholas.

②

### Pallava architecture



Mahabalipuram consist of an assemblage of all types of Pallava temples.

### 3. Rock cut cave temples (Mandapas)

a) Built under Mahendravarman I in 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> century CE.

b) Contains a pillared verandaha and square garbha griha inside.

Eg. Varaha cave temple, Durga mahisaisur mardini mandapa etc

### 4. Ratha temples

a) Built under Narsimhavarman I patronage.

b) 5 ratha temples at mamallapuram — Dharmaraja, Arjuna, Bhima, Draupadi and Sahadeva rath.

c) Dharmaraja ratha with pyramidal vimana served as inspiration for later dravida architecture.

### 5. Structural temple

a) Shore temple built by Rajasimha

b) Consist of 3 temples — 1 big, 2 small

c) Dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva

## Contribution in art and literature

### ① Sculpture

- a) Descent of Ganges — a giant stone relief at mamallapuram
- b) cleft in wall cleverly used as path of Ganges.
- c) Bas relief of durga at durgu mahisasur-mardini mandapa ⇒ exquisite carving

### ② Paintings

- a) Sittanavasal Jain caves — depicts nymphs, ponds, lotus, animals.
- b) Painted on walls, ceilings, pillars

③ Played a major role in refinement and promotion of Tamil literature.

Thus Pallavas created a congenial environment for thriving architecture and culture which was later perfected by Cholas and Vijaynagara empire.



Q.3 (b) Evaluate the account of Fa Hien as a source of history of Ancient India. How his account can be compared with the account of Hiuen Tsang? [15 Marks]

Fa Hien was a Chinese Buddhist monk who visited major Buddhist sites in ancient India during the reign of Chandragupta II in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century CE.

His book 'a record of Buddhist Kingdoms' provides interesting insights into ancient India.

### Fa Hien accounts

- ① Fa Hien provides an idealistic and idyllic viewpoint of Indian society.
- ② He states that people are prosperous, generous, contented and do not eat meat and drink alcohol.
- ③ He also talks about a large festival in Pataliputra which includes a procession around the town. Even king participated in it.



④ He also talks about chandalas and that they had to strike a wood piece before entering town.

⑤ However, Fa Hien provides minimal information about polity and economy as he was mainly focused on visiting buddhist site.

### Hiuen Tsang accounts

He provides a vivid description of Harsha era (7<sup>th</sup> century CE) in his book 'Si-Yu-ki'.

① Political — Talks about king's daily routine and his frequent tours around the kingdom.

② Defence — Talks about the composition of Harsha's army — consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephant, chariots etc.

③ Economy — Tsang informs us that the people were taxed lightly — about  $\frac{1}{6}$ <sup>th</sup> produce

↳ Also the king divided the revenue into 4 parts — wages, endowments, religious purpose and personal use.

④ Buddhism — Tsang talks about a grand Buddhist council at Kammyaj and also his experiences in Nalanda.

Thus, it is clear that Hsung Tsang's accounts are far richer in content as compared to Fa Hien as <sup>he</sup> covered ~~as~~ all aspects relating to that era.

Q.3 (c) Discuss Ashoka's Dhamma with its various interpretations by historians. What methods did Ashoka adopt for its propagation? [20 Marks]

Ashoka's Dhamma was a set of instructions issued by the king inscribed on stone & pillars throughout the kingdoms.

### Features of Ashoka's Dhamma

#### ① Ahimsa

In rock edict 1, Ashoka bans animal sacrifices and ceremonies performing the same.

#### ② Criticism of rituals

In rock edict 9, Ashoka criticises meaningless rituals performed by women which yielded no result.

#### ③ Good social conduct

Ashoka instructs everyone to treat parents, strangers and even slaves and servants with respect.



#### ④ Religious tolerance

a) Ashoka forbids people to demean others faith

b) Also he asks people to treat brahmanas and Shramanas with respect.

#### ⑤ Duties of king

a) Ashoka project himself as paternalistic ruler and asks people to follow him like father ⇒ Pandahar inscription

b) In rock edict 2 ⇒ ashoka mentions planting trees, herbs and digging wells.

#### Various interpretations by historians

① Haraprasad Shastri argues Dhamma to be anti-brahman due to banning of sacrifice and interference by Dhammamahamatas.

② Romila Thapar contends Dhamma as a political tool used by Ashoka to



unify diverse ethnic and linguistic groups within his empire.

↳ She argues that Ashoka never abandoned army and abolished death penalty → indicating an element of force/coercion.

③ R.S. Sharma tells us that the basic nature of Dhamma was to maintain social order and promote tolerance and was not narrow sectarian faith.

④ Upinder Singh argues that although Dhamma was inspired by Buddhism it contained some novel features and Ashoka's own innovation.

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Methods used by Ashoka for its propagation

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- ① The inscribed rocks and pillars were distributed throughout the kingdom and located on major trade routes.
- ② Pillars were carved in circular — to be read from all sides

③ Ashoka created a special cadre of officers — Dhammamahamatas to spread dhamma among common people ⇒ mentioned in Rock edict 5

④ In Rock edict 6, Ashoka talks about undertaking Dhammayatas to major Buddhist pilgrim sites like Lumbini (Lumbini inscription)

⑤ Ashoka also sent dhamma dutas in neighbouring kingdoms. (Eg.) Mahendra and Sanghamita sent to Sri Lanka.

Thus in these ways, Ashoka promoted dhamma and left an indelible impact on Indian history and culture.

Q.4 (a) Give the political and economic outlook of the Kushanas and the Satavahanas based on the numismatic evidence of the period. [15 Marks]

The Kushanas and Satavahanas dominated the post Mauryan era (200 BC - 300 CE) in the North and Deccan respectively. Coins play an important role in decoding their politico-economic trends.

### The Kushanas

#### ① Political trends

a) The coins were issued in the name of 2 rulers — father and son  $\Rightarrow$  indicate cojoint rule

(Eg)  $\rightarrow$  Coins of Vima Kadaphises and Kanishka

b) Coins contain the portrait along with name and metrics of the King  $\Rightarrow$  important of reconstructing genealogy.

c) Coins contains various deities on the reverse — Buddhist, Brahmanical, Iranian, Greek  $\Rightarrow$  reflect religious eclecticism of rulers



d) Coins contain various scripts - Brahmi, Kharoshthi, Greek  $\Rightarrow$  Indianization of rule

## ② Economic trends

a) Large number of high purity gold coins issued  $\Rightarrow$  prosperity within kingdom.

b) Also, low denominational copper coins issued  $\Rightarrow$  deepening of money economy.

## The Satavahanas

### ① Political trends

a) Contains king's portrait and inscription in Brahmi  $\Rightarrow$  reconstructing genealogy.

b) Contains the emblem of Satavahanas - four circles and a cross.

c) Counter-struck coins of Nahapana  $\Rightarrow$  indicate victory over Western Shakas. by Gautamiputra Satakar-  
ni.



## 2. Economy

- a) Large number of low denominational potin coins issued  $\Rightarrow$  deepening of money economy.
- b) Large number of different coins found  
— Roman Denarii and Shaka silver coin  
 $\Rightarrow$  flourishing trade
- c) Inscription of boats on coins of Yajna Sri Satkarni  $\Rightarrow$  indicate importance of maritime trade.

Thus diverse information is available about this era by analysis of numismatic evidence and is useful in comparison with later eras like Guptas.

Q.4 (b) What were various factors responsible for the decline of the Gupta Empire? Explain. [15 Marks]

The imperial Guptas established a large and powerful Northern empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE which subsequently declined at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> century due to various reasons.



### Causes of decline

#### ① Financial Crisis

a) According to R.S. Sharma the Gupta era was an age of financial crisis due to decline of long distance trade and debasement of coinage.

b) Mandasori inscription mentions migration of guild of silk weavers from Lata (Gujarat) due to decline in trade.

## ② Feudalism and Land grants

a) R.S. Sharma argues that land grants created a class of intermediaries and eroded king's power.

b) However this idea has been rejected by B.D. Chattopadhyay and Upinder Singh

## ③ Weak Successors

a) After, the reign of Kumargupta, no powerful king emerged in the kingdom.

b) Majority of kings had less than 10 years of reign like Purugupta, Buddhagupta

## ④ Huna invasions

a) Invasion of Alchon Huns under Toramana severely weakened the Gupta empire.

b) Loss of Gujarat led to decline of trade due to lack of access to ports.

Thus a variety of reasons were responsible for decline of Gupta which led to increasing secessionist tendencies in the regional kingdoms which culminated in disintegration of the empire



Q.4 (c) Delineate the rise of Feudalism during the period of later Guptas and discuss its main features. [20 Marks]

Feudalism is considered as the dominant theme of late ancient era and early medieval era by many historians, the seeds of which were sowed during Gupta era.

Rise of feudalism during <sup>Later</sup> Gupta era

① Conquest of Samudragupta — created a complex web of political relations and a hierarchical structure.

↳ Gupta's stood at the apex of such structure and adopted titles like 'Rajadhiraja'

② Many inscriptions of local rulers are dated in the era of their lords — reminiscence of vassalage system.

### 3. Land grants

a) R.S. Sharma believes land grants as the major reason behind the rise of feudalism.

b) During Gupta era only priests payed in land grants but during Harsha's time even officials paid in land grants.

c) R.S. Sharma argues payment of officials in land grants depicts weakness of king and his inability to directly levy taxes.

d) This only became prominent in the later centuries with Cholas assigning villages to temples as 'Devadana'.

e) Land grants increased oppression of villages at the hands of Brahmana donees  $\Rightarrow$  similar to serfdom in Europe.

## Main features of feudalism

- ① The vassals paid tribute, supplied armies and visited courts of their lords ⇒ known from Allahabad Prashasti
- ② Matrimonial relations were also established between vassals and lords.
- ③ Wide variety of exemptions granted under Brahmadeya lands —
  - a) Exemptions from paying taxes.
  - b) Non interference by soldiers and policemen.
  - c) Permanent and inheritable rights.
  - d) Rights over water resources, forest, pastures.
  - e) Judicial rights
    - ↳ 'sa-dash-aparadha' ⇒ try and levy fines
    - ↳ 'sa-chauroddha' ⇒ levy fines for theft.



- ④ D.D. Kosambi argues that feudalism was a 2 way process —
- a) from top — By Samantas (Vasals)
  - b) from bottom — By landed classes and Brahmanas.

However, the feudalism hypothesis has faced major opposition from scholars like B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Deyell, Harbans Mukhia and Upinder Singh.

Thus a deeper and comprehensive analysis of the era is required to determine the macro-economic trends.