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NAME	Mobile No.	Email ID

Start Time:

End Time:

ANSWER SHEET

FULL TEST- IV

(ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 250

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There are EIGHT questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.

Question No. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE 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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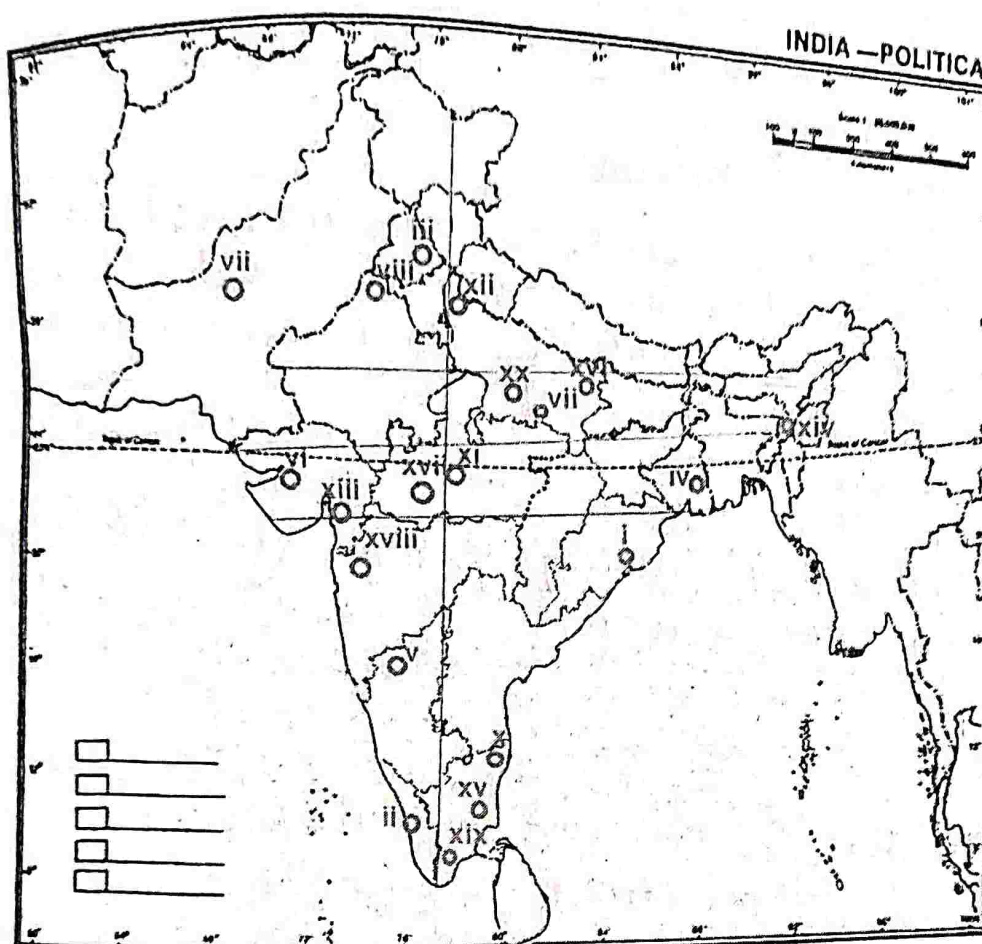
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Comments after evaluation

SECTION A

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 serially. [15x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) An early fortified city

Sisupalgarh

- Important fortified city during Kharavela, king of Chedi dynasty.
- Dhauveli inscription of Ashoka nearby.
- City massively planned. Huge burnt brick fortifications found.
- Compared by then writers to ancient Rome.

(ii) An ancient sea-port

Muziris - Kerala

- Important ancient port trading with ancient Rome and other western world
- Gold coins, pottery, precious stones and artefacts recovered
- Famous document of 'Muziris Papyrus' named after this port
- Flourished during Kushanas, Satavahanas, 200 BCE - 300 CE.

(iii) A site known for Buddhist remains

Sanghol - Present day Punjab

- Famous Buddhist pilgrimage
- visited by Hiuen Tsang.

(iv) Terracotta centre

Birbhanpur - west Bengal

(v) A Neolithic-Chalcolithic site

Hunsgi - Karnataka

- stone slabs, bricks found
- ~~stone~~ pottery recovered - BRW Pottery.
- Megalithic remains, urns, burials also found.
- Remains of grains found that reveal traces of agriculture
- Bronze, copper artefacts found, beads also recovered.

(vi) Harappan site

Surkotada - Gujarat

- Famous Harappan site
- ~~A~~ Remains of Horse, Horse bones recovered.
- Some terracotte artefacts found.
- Seals with images and some with Brahmi script recovered.
- On ancient sea route during Harappa.

(vii) A Neolithic site

Mehrgarh - present day Pakistan

- First instance of planned agricultural land found here.
- Chalcolithic site artefacts and tools also found. Clay and terracotta models found.
- Remains of grains found signifying presence of agriculture.
- Animal bones also found which belong to domesticated animals.

(viii) A Harappan site

Kalibangan - Rajasthan.

- One of the large Harappan sites.
- Famous for black bangles recovered from Harappan phase.
- Other beads and jewellery of chert, agate, chalcedony also found.
- Copper objects and artefacts found.
- Pottery recovered.

(ix) Ancient capital city

(x) Paleolithic site

Attirampakkam - Tamil Nadu.

- One of the oldest Paleolithic sites of India.
- Stone tools, axes, stone circles found
- Traces of hunter gatherers, sharp objects found probably used for hunting.

(xi) A Prehistoric cave paintings' site

Bhimbedka - Madhya Pradesh

- One of the oldest pre historic sites of India.
- Paleolithic tools like stones, ~~mi~~ axes and mesolithic fine microliths, small sharp tools found.
- Famous for prehistoric cave paintings.

- Paintings show hunters gatherers, people dancing, hunting, children playing etc
- Red, white and black colour used.

(xii) A painted-Grey-ware site

Alamgirpur

- Easternmost Harappan site also.
- coarse as well as fine pottery recovered.
- copper artefacts found.
- Terracotta models also recovered.
- Huts of mud, wattle daub found and post holes recovered.

(xiii) An ancient port and trade centre

Blagatav Bhriqunakcha - Gujarat.

- Important port since Harappan times
- lies on western trade route.
- Traded with Pakistan ports as well as western world.
- Beads and precious stones of chert, agate, carnelian etc found.

(xiv) A Neolithic site

(xv) Famous temple site

Thanjavur - Tamil Nadu

- Flourished during the imperial Cholas.
- Famous Brihadeswar Temple. Huge magnificent Gopurams. walls and Gopurams include sculpted Yaksha, Yakshini, gods, demons etc.
- Famous Thanjavur painting also flourished here that including gold bordering.
- Other Hindu and Jain temples.
- UNESCO world Heritage site.

(xvi) Early agricultural centre

(xvii) Chalcolithic site

Dnangaon - Madhya Pradesh

- Range of cultures discovered.
- Malwa culture, Kayatha culture as well as Torwe culture.
- Black painted pottery found.
- Artefacts of stone, copper, bones found.
- Terracotta, clay models recovered.
- Traces of grains recovered.

(xviii) A Rock-cut cave site

Pandavleni caves / Nasik cave

- Famous rock cut caves of Maharashtra.
- Many chaityas and viharas present.
- Built for monks to reside and worship.
- Rock sculpted from within to form caves. Built on steeper sides of rocks.
- Some caves double storeyed also.

(xix) Megalithic burial site

(xx) Brick temple site

Bhitargaon

- Bhitargaon Brick temple of Vishnu is one of the oldest Brick temple of Hindu tradition.
- varshnava cell.
- Nagara style shikara existed.
- Built during Gupta period for Vishnu.
- Sculpted rock structure revealed.

Q.3 (a) Discuss the archaeological evidence of early agricultural communities of the Gangetic plain.
[15 Marks]

After the arrival of Aryans in the 1500 BCE and then onwards, the agriculture in the Gangetic plain took the front seat. Though Indus valley civilization too was adept at agriculture, it was Aryans who got agriculture spread in the Gangetic plain.

Gangetic plain as we know today is a fertile marshy area and thus agriculture had long term impacts on the lives of its people.

- i) It made their nomadic pastoral life a settled one, sedentary one.
- ii) It introduced new crops in the Gangetic region.
- iii) It led to beginning of emergence of towns in Gangetic plains gradually leading to rise in second urbanization.
- iv) In fact it was for this region's hegemony that monarchies in India became a vogue 6th - 5th c. BCE onwards.

Archaeological evidences are meagre with respect to agricultural communities in Gangetic plains because of the wet weather which had led to destruction and disappearance of most of the available traces. Still some evidences are -

- i) Some grain supplements have been found
- ii) Traces of cotton has also been found depicting cotton cultivation
- iii) Iron implements, harrow, harpoons and axes are found which must have been used for forest clearance and then accelerated cultivation.
- iv) Other iron objects have also been found
- v) BRW pottery had been recovered which revealed storage of surplus grains inside the pots was done.
- vi) It has been discovered that the prosperous agricultural settlements were made always near the river banks eg. Rajg, Pataliputra, Kaushala, Varanasi (Kashi) etc.

Most of the skeleton remains from the region have not survived. However, there is some literary evidence signifying the importance of the agricultural communities in the region.

We come to know about settled agricultural communities on Ganges banks from -

- Puranas
- Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Jatake Katha
- Later vedic period also makes few mentions.

Therefore it was agriculture that gave initial boost to the settlement of pastoral communities later giving rise to urbanization 6th c. BCE onwards.

Q.3 (b) "Buddhism and Jainism were social movements under the umbrella of religion." Comment.
[15 Marks]

Later vedic period which followed the Rig vedic period had become more rigid and non malleable in its social and religious outlook making the lives of commoners complicated. It was then that Jainism and Buddhism emerged under the disguise of religion as many observe.

Changes that later vedic period from 1000 - 800 BCE had brought on on the lives of people $\Rightarrow$

- i) Caste system of 'chaturvarna' became prominent with Shudras position deteriorating.
- ii) Vaiśyas were the only taxpayers of society and thus entire burden fell on them with no extra privilege.
- iii) Brahmin Kshatriya were literal dominant classes who looked down upon profession of Vaiśyas associated with trading.
- iv) Religious rituals became very elaborate accompanied by sacrifices and huge show of wealth. Without this

show, the ritual ceremonies stood no significance. It was accompanied by huge gifts to Brahmanas thus became unaffordable for common man.

- v) Position of women became miserable, as earlier rights with respect to religion were lost ~~the~~ and they were not allowed to hear vedas or attend samitis and sabha

As a respite from the hardships people faced, Buddhism propounded by Gautama Buddha and Jainism advocated by Vardhaman Mahavira gained prominence. Their motive was -

- i) Inner devotion and attainment of pure knowledge to gain salvation
- ii) It required no sacrifices or elaborate rituals to prove divinity
- iii) Most importantly, it was devoid of any caste barrier. It was open to people from all castes.

- iv) women could also listen to the Buddha and practice this.
- v) Both Buddhism and Jainism largely attracted people from all castes. But Sudras and vaishyas were highest in number. women were also attracted.

It was thus seen as a social movement precisely because -

- i) It was an attack against rigid caste system.
- ii) It was gender neutral.
- iii) Vaishyas and Sudras aimed to improve, uplift their social position and thus look to these religions.
- iv) Jainism considered trading as lucrative business with no harm to others and thus attracted vaishyas.
- v) Moreover these religions were not expensive and elaborate and thus affordable by all. It did not have religious scriptures or books.

Though religions in thought and belief, Jainism and Buddhism that came in 600 C. BCE came as social movements in expression to a great extent.

Q.3 (c) Describe the material life of Indus Civilization and discuss its contact with the outside world.
[20 Marks]

One of the largest civilizations of the world in 2000 BCE was undoubtedly the Indus valley civilization of the Indian subcontinent which was such not in terms only of extent but also its technological advancement, vast knowledge, prosperous lives and flourishing economy.

Indus civilization had a rich material life in terms of social, political, economic and religious.

Social and political aspect $\Rightarrow$

- i) There was definitely ruling class in the Harappan civilization. Many cities including Mohenjodaro has revealed an upper citadel and lower country signifying the ruling and the ruled.
- ii) Prof. Bryan Habib had also anticipated of an elaborate organized taxation system.

- iii) There were groups of rich and poor.
The houses were of different sizes perhaps the bigger for more well off.
- iv) Houses had small separate rooms too perhaps for slaves and servants.

Religious aspect ⇒

- i) Great Bath has been observed from Mohenjodaro ~~for~~ probably for religious ceremonies.
- ii) Amulets have been recovered depicting belief in after life.
- iii) Seals like that of 'Pashupati' or 'Proto Shiva', 'Mother Goddess', mythical unicorn has been observed that might be elements of worship. Tree worship e.g. 'Pipal' also existed.

Economic life ⇒

- i) Weights and measures were recovered throwing light on mathematical knowledge of people.
- ii) Goods were exchanged with far off places.
- iii) Trade and commerce flourished not just within the subcontinent.

but also with outside cultures.
Maritime trade also existed as is
evident from ~~port~~ dockyard at ~~Lothal~~
Lothal and other port cities of
Dholavira, Suktagadh etc.

iv) Agriculture also flourished in the Indus
region which used to be fertile.
Domestication of animals was also
practised. R.C. Majumdar had ob-
served that a settlement or civilization
of this stature can't survive without
sufficient supply in food.

Therefore given the archeologi-
cal evidences, we have gained some
insights on the material life of
the Indus valley people.
They had also maintained contact
with the outside world.

- i) Indus valley people know of con-
temporary Egyptian and Sumerian
or Mesopotamian cultures.
- ii) Indus seals have been unearthed
in large numbers from Mesopotamia.

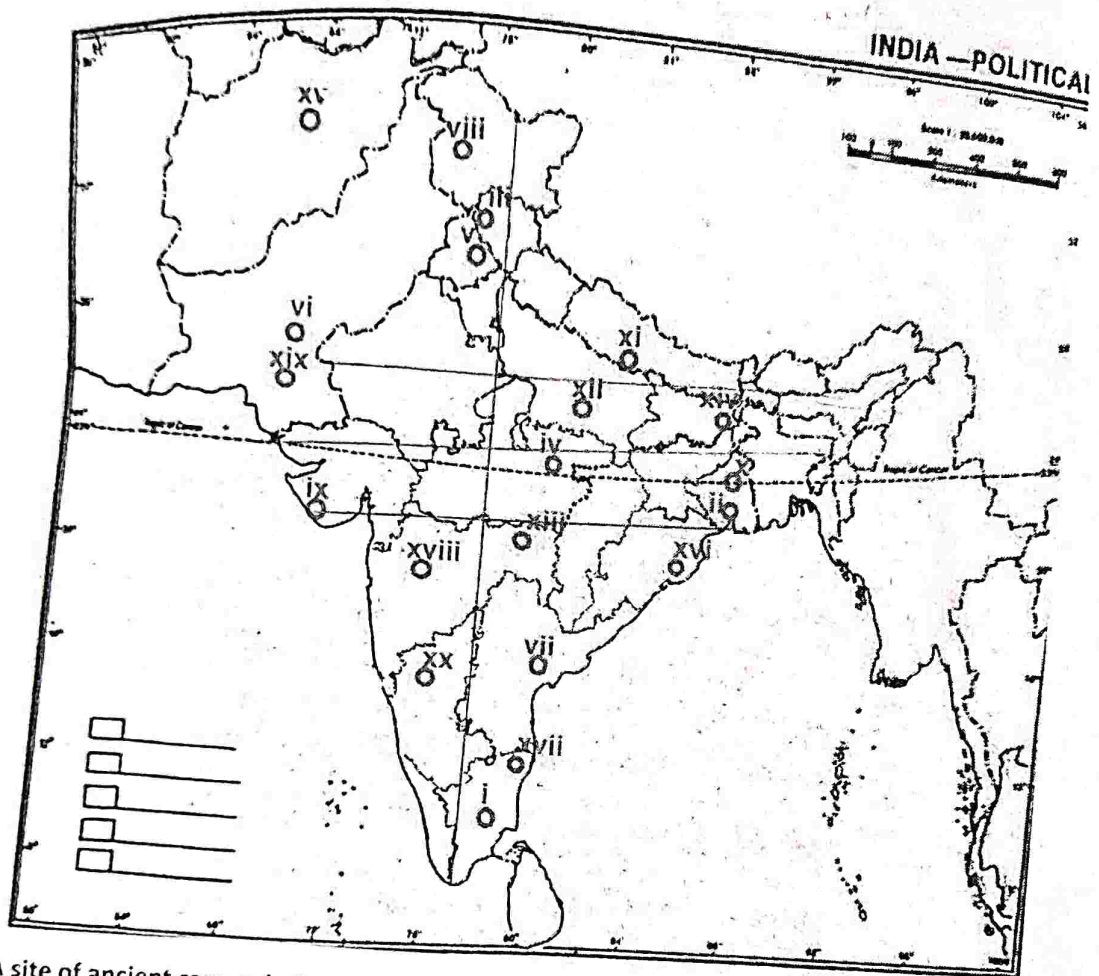
- iii) Some grains prevalent in Indus are recovered from Mesopotamia which reveals that agricultural practices were also exchanged.
- iv) Precious stones like lapis lazuli, jade, jasper, agate etc that were exported from Indus have been found from Mesopotamia.

There have been very few objects that were actually imported by Indus civilization. A coffin with skeleton wrapped in red carpet is a Mesopotamian practice discovered in an Indus city which reveals some influence.

Therefore the contact of Indus valley civilization with outside world was prevalent which is in fact seen as the life breath of civilization. Shireen Ratanagar had went on believing that fall in this trade is one of the primary causes of decline of Indus civilization.

SECTION B

Q.5 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. [20x2.5= 50 Marks]



(i) A site of ancient cave-painting

Siltanarasal

- Famous Hindu and Jain site
- famous for its cave paintings. Beautiful ^{Frescoes} ~~Frescoes~~ can be observed.
- Flourished during the Pallavas, Cholas then Vijayanagar empire.

- Hindu temples and Jain Basadis found.

(ii) Ancient port

Tamralipti - modern day west Bengal

- famous port, flourished during a range of rulers from Mauryas to, Guptas, Kushanas to Palas, Sena and Mughals.
- Traded with China and south east Asia.
- Exported salt petre, cloth, spices etc.
- Had made Bengal prosperous province.

(iii) Ancient rock cut temple

Masroor Rock cut temple

- Himachal Pradesh.

(iv) Palaeolithic site

Bagor

- Ancient cave sites found, traces of hunters, gatherers
- Stone tools, axes, chisels and some microliths, small sharp objects probably used to hunt were recovered.

(v) A Harappan site

Ropar - Punjab

- Terracotta figurines found
- Some traces of types of jewellery used.
- Seals and stones recovered
- Pottery, wheel made pottery recovered.
- Burnt bricks also found.

(vi) Early and mature Harappan site

Mohenjodaro - Present day Pakistan

- One of the large Harappan sites.
- Huge brick fortification recovered.
- Rooms were probably based on wealth

- of people. Both large and small rooms.
- citadel found probably for royalty.
 - 'Great Bath', probably for sacred bath or some ritual found.
 - Bronze dancing girl, other terracotta seals recovered.

(vii) An art centre

Amaravati - Andhra Pradesh

- Satavahana capital
- Famous centre for trade and commerce.
- Art and culture flourished there from 200 BCE to 300 CE.
- Amaravati school of art.
- Buddhist monasteries, Bodhisattva and Buddha sculptures found. Mostly indigenous but some hellinistic influence in some statues.
- Marble statues became famous.

(viii) Neolithic site

Burzahom

- Unploughed agricultural field found.
- Terracotta models, clay toys and carts recovered.
- One stone axe found.
- Traces of grains which reveal existence of agriculture.
- Bone, chisels, beads also recovered.

(ix) An inscriptional site

Junagadh / Girnar

- famous rock inscription of Ashoka with propagation of Dhamma.
- The site later had inscription of Saka king Rudradaman which mentions that he repaired Sudarshan lake.
- lie on ancient trade route to west
- important trade centre from ancient to medieval times.

(x) Mesolithic site

Birbhanpur

- West Bengal
- Terracotta figurines found
- stone tools, chisels, axes recovered.
- Microliths, sharp objects probably used for hunting.

(xi) An ancient capital

Kapilavastu

- King Sudhodhana, father of Gautama Buddha ruled from here.
- Here Queen Mayadevi dreamt of white Elephant, then Siddhartha was born.

- ~~was~~ famous Buddhist pilgrimage centre.
- Visited by Hsien Tsang, Fa Hien.
- Ashokan rock edict found nearby.
- Probably Republics existed in 600 c.BCE.

(xii) A Mesolithic site

Chopani Manda

- Uttar Pradesh
- Mesolithic artefacts found like micro-liths, stone polish tools with polish, axes, chisels, blades.
- Clay models recovered.
- Traces of hunter gatherers.

(xiii) Site of Meghalithic stone circle

(xiv) An educational centre

Vikramshila

Vikramshila

- Famous Buddhist Mahavihara.
- One of the five gems along with Nalanda, Odantapuri and others.
- Gave patronage by Pala rulers.
- Visited by famous monks, pilgrims even from China, South east Asia.
- Sacked by Bakhtiyar Khilji then, teachers and students moved to Sagaddalla.

(xv) An important halting place

Bamiyan - Afghanistan

- Halting place on ancient trade route.
- lie on silk route via land.
- Famous commercial hub during Kushanas and later Mughals.
- Buddhist statue engraved in rock found. It was destroyed by Taliban, but later built by Afghan govt.
- Unesco world heritage site.

(xvi) Historical rock cut caves

Udaygiri Khandagiri caves

- Ancient rock cut caves
- famous Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela, Chedi ruler found.

- It is a Jain cave. Traces of Odissi dance.
- Inscription reveals Kharavela's military exploits against Puhjarnitra Lunga, Yavana and Satavahanas.
- Also mentions his donation for Ashvat temple and other public works.

(xvii) Brahmadeya Village

Uttaramerur

- Famous Uttaramerur inscription found.
- Said to be installed by Pallava king Nandivarman.
- Later Chola made additions to it.
- The inscription give insights of Chola local village assemblies, functioning.
- Other inscriptions give insights on feudalism gaining hold in early medieval India.

(xviii) A political and cultural centre

Paithan/Pratishthan

- Ancient capital of later Satavahanas.
- Lie on ancient trade & route to west.
- Flourished during Gautamiputra Satavahani and Sakas rulers also.
- Famous for Paithani sarees.
- Traded with Rome and western world: 200 BCE - 300 CE.
- Flourished during medieval times also.

(xix) A pre-Harappan site

Amri - Pakistan

- Burnt bricks found
- Terracotta objects found
- Some activity during Harappan site also existed here.
- ~~Some~~ Harappans knew of this place.
- Agriculture practiced.

(xx) An ancient capital

Aihole / Badami

- Chalukyan capital
- Famous Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II written in Chaste Sanskrit by court poet Ravikirti.
- Glorified his master, Ravikirti writes victory of Pulakesin against Pallavas and also Harshavardhana.
- Famous Hindu temples Eg. Lad Khan Temple, Durga Temple etc.
- Also a cave site

Q.6 (a) Examine the impact of Kushana rule on Indian political and social life. [15 Marks]

One of the most powerful Central Asian Empires in the history of ancient India was formed by the powerful tribe 'Kushans', from 'Yuechi' tribe. They came to be known as 'Kushanas'.

Kushana Empire had produced famous powerful rulers who had not only contributed to the political life of India but also socio cultural developments had seen an acceleration.

Sources of Kushana Empire are both archaeological and literary. We come to know about them from Puranas, Buddhist texts, Jaina texts, Talukas about society etc. Kabatak inscription of Kanishka is very important. Kushana coins are also many in number depicting large about flourishing Indo Roman trade.

Impact of Kushana Rule on political life of India ⇒

- i) They held sway over entire northern India from Kashmir to as south

as Bundelkhand and Malwa. There is rule over diamond mines of Akhara is known. ~~The~~

- ii) They also controlled Central Asian territories thus vast tracts of land.
- iii) They also defeated Chinese once maintaining political unity in north India.
- iv) They acted as the only strong empire binding nation together after Mauryas and before the Imperial Gupta.
- v) They established well developed administration, law and order, justice system and established an emperor cult to glorify their monarchical rule, later copied by many others.
- vi) They gave freedom of trade and commerce, occupation etc to people.

Impact on social and religious life

- i) Kushane society had been described as an open society with least caste barriers. Money mattered more than caste itself and thus vaishyas and sudras got chance to climb up the social ladder.

- ii) Women were not confined to four walls and did not observe chastity.
- iii) Complete religious freedom existed.
- iv) Guilds or strenis were in vogue. Thus many forms of crafts occupations sprang up.
- v) Only concern of the rulers was trade and commerce and thus ~~pep~~ personal life and beliefs of people were not ~~at~~ tampered with.
- vi) Gandhara and Mathura art flourished with rulers themselves being very culturally active.
- Vema Kadpheses was a devotee of Shiva. Kanishka was a devout Buddhist. Many new cities like Kanishkapura also came up.

Therefore Kushana ruled between 1 C. BCE - 2nd C. CE was definitely a break from the traditional cultural pattern of monarchy in the so called 'land of brahmanas' and thus gave new impetus to the subcontinent for about two centuries.

Q.6 (b) "The concept of Ashoka's Dhamma as found through his inscriptions had its roots in Vedic-Upanishadic literature." Discuss. [15 Marks]

Ashoka's Dhamma, which has often been described as a novel concept and an entirely innovative way of life, has made Ashoka a man far ahead of his times.

Dhamma as some historians earlier argued was a religion that Ashoka imposed on his subjects. However it was contested by most historians like Romila Thapar and R.S. Sharma who believed that Dhamma was not a religion but a way of life that was moralistic and ethically justified. Thus he wanted his subjects to abide by Dhamma.

Principles of Dhamma though novel in name and form, were not new to the Indian subcontinent in subject matter. Dhamma signified $\Rightarrow$

- i) Tolerance towards all beings.
- ii) Respecting ones elders and Brahmanas.
- iii) Kind and generous towards all

- including animals .
- iv) Devotion to God should be internal phenomenon . There can be many paths to reach God .
 - v) One should pay taxes and obey the ruler's orders .
 - vi) Animal slaughtering should be forbidden .
 - vii) Conquest should be via peace and not war , i.e. , Bohorighosa should be replaced by Dhammaghosha .
 - viii) One should not commit violence against others .
 - ix) Punishments should be light in the kingdom . Cruelty as the last resort .

Now all these aspects were more moral and ethical in nature rather than religious in any sense . Despite vedic texts propounding for religious chants and praises of heroes and gods , the 'Vedanta' or the 'last of vedas' had revealed similar ethical and spiritual concepts as propagated by Ashoka . It would be wrong to say that Ashoka copied this from Vedanta or Upanishads which echoed similar philosophical

overtone. However some influence of the two ~~can't be~~ over each other can't be ruled out.

Upanishads and vedanta propagated for -

- i) Man's kindness and generosity
- ii) Truthfulness from within
- iii) Inner devotion towards God
- iv) Taking care of old parents and respecting them
- v) Living a simple and ethical life
- vi) Refrain from slaughtering animals.

Thus it also focuses not on a religion per se but a way of life as done by Ashoka through his Dhamma. who influenced what is matter unclear to us. However roots of Dhamma can directly or indirectly be traced from Vedic Upanishadic literature, at least in some subject matter.

Q.6 (c) Discuss the relationship of the Harappa-Culture with the Vedic Culture. Do you agree with the view that 'Indra' was responsible for the Harappa-Culture. [20 Marks]

Harappan civilization flourished in the Indian subcontinent in 2000 BCE and its decline began in 1800 BCE onwards. The decline of the civilization of this extent was huge and thus historians agree that it happened in phases and over a period of centuries.

Vedic civilization began to emerge after 1500 C. BCE. Thus according to some historians, the Harappan culture had no relationship with Vedic culture at all. However the condition might not be so easy.

Historians like Romila Thapar and Mortimer Wheeler has pointed out that the early Vedic Aryans had invaded the Harappan cities in phases one after other. Aryan invasion was the main cause of the decline of civilization according to Wheeler. They cited evidences -

i) It has been stated that 'Indra' was responsible for the decline

of Harappan civilization.

- ii) 'Pundrandhra' or 'Indra', the destroyer of fort ~~seemed to be associated~~ as mentioned in Rigveda ~~seemed to be~~ pointing that Indra attacked the fort of Mohenjodaro.
- iii) Skeletons remains found had also been interpreted as being massacred by the Aryans.
- iv) City mentioned in 'Rigveda' as Harispeya is understood as Harappa.

However all does not seem to align with this theory.

- i) Historians believe that the skeletons found belong to different ages and thus can't be result of Aryan massacre.
- ii) Aryans came after 1500 B.E, nearly 300 years after decline of Harappan civilization thus there was probably no contact between two.

Even if there was some contact, it did not lead to decline of Harappan settlement but they shifted further southwards as -

- i) Northward territory occupied by more powerful warrior like Aryans.
- ii) They won the battle against the natives as mentioned in Rigveda. Natives here can be referred to the people of Harappan civilization.
- iii) The victory as some believe was led by 'Indra'.

Therefore there are various interpretations to the coming of Aryans and their encounter with the natives that need to be studied with caution.

One thing is clear. The decline of Harappan civilization had been not just due to Aryan invasion but number of factors.

- i) Shireen Ratnagar believed that decline in long distance trade and commerce led to decline of

Indus civilization .

- ii) Dryan Habib gave a political cause for decline that due to fall in the elaborate taxation structure, the empire couldn't sustain itself.
- iii) Many historians attribute the decline to repeated floods that was an annual affair for the people of Indus .
- iv) ~~Rec~~ WA Fairbairn believe over grazing , overirrigation and over exploitation of land as the reason behind decline of agriculture and threatening of civilization .

Recent studies have also thrown light on disappearance of Saraswati river due to tectonic activity leading to famines and thus fall of many cities .

Therefore actual decline has definitely resulted from multi factors and therefore not only can 'Indra' be held responsible for this .

Q.7 (a) "Kailasa Temple built at Ellora marks the culmination of rock-cut architecture in India."
Elaborate. [15 Marks]

Kailash Temple at Ellora is one of the architectural marvels of India built by Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna. It has given a go ahead to more beautiful, architectural rock cut monuments and temples in Deccan and South India.

Kailashnath Temple at Ellora is a monolith. It has been built from a single rock and cut architecturally. It has many cave paintings inside it. It has beautiful motifs on its walls like Ravana shaking Mt. Kailash.

Other Rock cut architecture that came in vogue after this =>

i) Pallava architecture.

2) Pallava began to build rock cut monuments. The 'rathas' of Mahabalipuram is one such examples. The 'rathas' are mainly chariots dedicated to five Pandavas and their wife.

Draupadi.

- i) Descent of the Ganges is another famous rock cut architecture. It is a huge sculptural figure which many motifs inscribed in it. It depicts a grant elephant, an aesthetic cat, lice picking monkey etc.

Water must have flown from it on some occasion. With Kirtijarjuna's story attached to it, it is also called Penance of Arjuna.

- i) later on Pallavas began to build shore temples of Mahabalipuram which were elaborate structural temples.

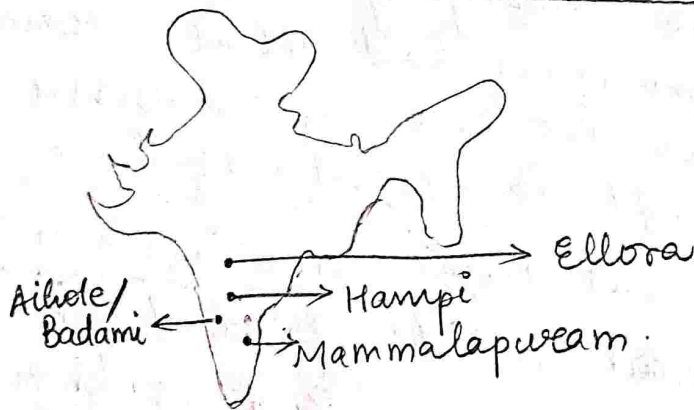
ii) Chalukyan architecture

Chalukyas also built temples at Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal. Many were rock cut architecture.
Eg. Meguti temple, Iad Khan Temple.

iii) Hoysala architecture

It included important temples like Hoysaleswara Temple and Kedareswarar temple which are beautiful architectures.

Deccan is famous for many rock cut architecture because of prevalence of volcanic rock which can be easily cut to form such artistic temples.



Thus the Ellora Kailashnath Temple was first among many beautiful rock cut architecture that it influenced in the successive centuries.

Q.7 (b) "The hypothesis that there was urban decay during c. 300-600 CE is questionable on several grounds." Comment. [15 Marks]

The period from 200 BCE - 300 CE is considered as a high watermark of cultural and economic prosperity of Indian subcontinent. However it is believed by many that it ^{was} followed by a gloomy period from 300 - 600 CE.

Prof. R.S. Sharma and D.D. Kosambi has coined the theory of urban decay. They propounded that these centuries saw decline in urbanization and shift to feudalization, agriculture and thus ruralization. Prof. Sharma had substantiated his theory of urban decay citing evidences ⇒

i) The period from 300 - 600 CE has revealed almost a drastic decline in the number of ~~the~~ coins. In fact Gupta period had seen lesser number of coins than Kushana period.

- ii) There are more evidences of land grants to Brahmanas which signifies that feudalism began to emerge.
- iii) Sharma propounded that the 'Kali age crisis' mentioned in ~~Veda~~ Puranas has been referred to the phenomenon where the Brahmin Kshatriya dominance was challenged by vaishyas and sudras. Thus former began to grab as much land as possible to reduce the latter to destitute.
- iv) This can be substantiated by the fact that position of women sudras and vaishyas declined in post Gupta period.
- v) Also architectural and literary sources mention meagre evidences of urban towns with mostly rural descriptions which points towards urban decay.

This theory has been put to question by many historians. Y.S. Subbarayalu believes that at any point of time in history, not more than 20% of land was granted

to Brahmana thus Kaliyuga crisis theory is not justified. He also mentions that there are ample evidences that not all the cities and towns declined. Subbarayalu stated that south Indian cities like Madurai, Thanjavur, Aihole etc flourished under regional rulers in this period as evident from texts. Thus despite maximum land grants in south, there wasn't an urban decay.

Moreover, in Bengal also, ports continued to flourish like Tamralipti.

Therefore historians to great extent agree that despite a slow-down in economic urban activity in the said period, there was not a blanket urban decay. Also the decline in urbanization was not uniform throughout the ~~con~~ subcontinent.

Q.7 (c) A number of scholars considered Alexander as 'The Great', although long term impacts of Alexander's invasion on India need to be re-evaluated. Comment. [20 Marks]

Rarely have we come across the name of Greek conqueror Alexander without the suffix 'The Great'. He was considered Great not just by his contemporaries but has been considered so till date due to his valour and courage.

Alexander 'the Great' had endured the dream of ~~the~~ conquering the world. He had ~~in fact~~ come as far ~~west~~ east as Indus. It was around 330 BCE that he had invaded Indian subcontinent. We have come to know that North India was ruled by powerful Nanda ruler Mahapadma Nanda. Thus Alexander did not advance further.

Moreover, it is said that his own men betrayed his cause and he had to retreat. However, he could still capture large territory and definitely added

on ~~at~~ much to his empire

Impacts of Alexander's Invasion

- i) His empire extended from Greece and Macedonia to Persian Gulf in west to as far as Hindukush in East. ~~It~~ It was one of the most widespread empires of that time.
- ii) He led to amalgamation of different culture. Impact it was firstly because of him that Indian subcontinent got exposed to Greek methods. They learned art of coin inscription, pictures and scripts on coins.
- iii) Later on even Ashoka has inscribed some inscription with Greek language and Aramic script.
- iv) Greek ambassadors were also received.
- v) Trade and commerce with ancient Greece continued.

~~is~~ However, giving the Alexander's conquest a wider view and analysing the impacts in long term, it appears that they did not had impacts as one dreamt by Alexander.

i) After his death, the empire constantly began to shrink.

ii) His successors could not hold on to his possessions.

iii) Impact some of his successors who even came to India to rule in later centuries could not establish long term impacts and at the end, ~~it~~ were totally eliminated by Kushanas and Guptas.

iv) In the later centuries, the contact remained restricted only to general trade and commerce and some form of cultural and religious exchange.

No other ruler post Alexander could have such a ~~large~~ sway over such a vast territory. Both because of weak successors as well stronger and powerful rulers of Indian subcontinent whatever Alexander had achieved had soon diminished.

Thus modern Revisionist hist-
orians do not consider Alexander's achievement as beyond brilliant and its impact as far reaching. They have ~~revaluated~~ revaluated the causation of this event in the history and thus concluded its corresponding importance. Hence one should reevaluate the long term impacts of Alexander's invasion before any form conclusion.