

Post Mauryan Period

(200 BC -

Areas of Interest -

North, South and East
India

(Specially Kalinga)

North India

I. Political Background

1. Sunga Empire

(185 BCE - 73 BCE)

[East India]



succeeded
Mauryas

Pushyamitra Sunga

2. Indo - Greek Kingdom [North West India]
[186 BCE - 10 AD]



After Alexander left, his generals stayed back.

Hence, the term Indo - Greek.

Menander (165 - 145 BC)



Milinda (Pali Literature)

3. Indo - Scythian or Sakas (200 BC - 400 AD)
[West India]
no-madic
Central Asian tribes

Sakas (5 branches)

→ Kushana Empire

→ Western Kshatrapas

Early

Afghanistan ✓

Punjab ✓

Mathura ✓

Maharashtra +
Saurashtra

Central India
(Ujjain)

Later

→ Kushanas ✓

→ Western
Kshatrapas ✓

Kanishka - King of Kushana Empire.

Extended from:-

Khotan in the north west to Benaras in the east

Kashmir in the north to Saurashtra + Malwa in the south.

II. Literature

Work

Junagadh
Rock
inscription

Author

Rudradaman I
from the
Western
Kshatrapa.

Theme

Sanskrit.
Details
Regarding
Sudeshana
Lake.

Patronage

Rudradaman
I

Ashoka's
reign's
description
+

Skandagupta's
details

Milindapanho

Nagasena.

Contains
questions
asked to
Nagasena
by
Menander
related
to
Buddhism
and
philosophy.

Milinda

Saundarananda,

Buddhacharita,

Vajrasuchi

Mahakavya

written in

Sanskrit

language

A
S
h
v
a
g
h
o
s
h

Kanishka

Charaka -
Samhita

Charaka

3 doshas -

Vata,
Pitta and
Kapha

Sushruta
Samhita

Sushruta
(Father of
Surgery)

120 instruments
he discovered

III. Religion

1. Hinduism -

Vaishnavism - 3 Gods were worshipped

minor God of the vedic times

• Viṣṇu → Sun + fertility

• Narayana → non vedic ; tribal God ; Bhagavat

• Krishna - Varudeva.

→ became the hero of the Viṣṇu tribe

→ Bhagvatism (all 3 Gods merged)

→ Vaishnavism

2. Buddhism

Kanishka's court was adorned by the presence of such scholars like Parsva, Vasumitra, Ashvaghosha, Charaka and Nagarjuna.

Buddhism

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graph TD; Buddhism --> Hinayana; Buddhism --> Mahayana; Hinayana --- L1[Lesser Vehicle]; L1 --- L2[Treated Buddha as their guide.]; Mahayana --- M1[Greater Vehicle]; M1 --- M2[Treated Buddha as God.];
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Hinayana

Lesser Vehicle

Treated Buddha as their guide.

Mahayana

Greater Vehicle

Treated Buddha as God.

Worshipped the
various stages
of the life of
Gautama Buddha.

Pali language

Worshipped in
human form,
Bodhisattvas.

Sanskrit.

Architecture

1. > Stupas

During Sunga dynasty

Bharut

Sanchi

100 BC

100 BC

Little bit
older than
the Sanchi
and the
Ajanta

Lavish
carvings ;
decorated
gateways .

Stupas:

Satna
District of
Madhya
Pradesh

Vidisha