



POST-GUPTA PERIOD:

HARSHAVARDHANA, REGIONAL KINGDOMS,

and

SOUTH INDIAN DYNASTIES

(c. 550 – 750 CE)



Harshavardhana
and His Empire



Regional
Kingdoms



South Indian
Dynasties



Culture, Literature
and Learning



Economy, Trade
and Society



Religion and
Philosophy

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Post-Gupta Period:

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INTRODUCTION



The **Post-Gupta Period (c. 550 – 750 CE)** marks a transitional phase in the history of India, following the decline of the Gupta Empire. It witnessed the rise of powerful rulers like **Harshavardhana** in North India, the growth of various **Regional Kingdoms** across the subcontinent, and the flourishing of **South Indian Dynasties**. This period laid the foundation for India's cultural, political and economic diversity in the early medieval era.

2. PERIOD & SIGNIFICANCE

- Time Span: c. 550 – 750 CE
- Follows the decline of the Gupta Empire
- Marked by political fragmentation and emergence of regional powers
- Important phase in the formation of early medieval India
- Continuity of India's rich cultural and religious traditions



3. MAJOR FEATURES

- Decentralization of political power
- Rise of strong regional kingdoms
- Growth of trade, agriculture and land grants
- Spread of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Bhakti traditions
- Patronage of art, architecture, literature and learning



4. POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

- North India: Harshavardhana established a vast empire
- Various Regional Kingdoms arose in different parts of India
- South India saw powerful dynasties like Pallavas, Chalukyas, Pandyas, Cheras and Rashtrakutas
- No single empire had control over the whole of India



POST-GUPTA PERIOD (c. 550 – 750 CE)



5. CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS LIFE

- Flourishing of Sanskrit and regional literatures
- Patronage of temples, monasteries and educational institutions
- Development of classical art, sculpture and architecture
- Bhakti movement gained strength
- Religious tolerance and cultural synthesis



6. ECONOMY & SOCIETY

- Agriculture was the backbone of the economy
- Growth of trade and urban centers
- Use of gold, silver and copper coins
- Land grants to Brahmanas and religious institutions increased
- Varna system continued, but local and regional identities became stronger



8. KEY TAKEAWAY



The Post-Gupta Period was not an age of decline but a phase of transition, regional growth and cultural prosperity, which shaped the diverse heritage of India.

7. IMPORTANCE

- Bridge between Ancient and Medieval India
- Rise of regional identities and political structures
- Cultural developments that shaped India's future
- Laid the foundation for the later empires like Cholas, Rashtrakutas, Palas and Pratiharas



TIMELINE (c. 550 – 750 CE)



c. 550 CE
Decline of Gupta Empire



c. 606–647 CE
Rule of Harshavardhana



Rise of Regional Kingdoms



Growth of South Indian Dynasties



c. 750 CE
New powers emerge, shaping India's medieval future





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms,
and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



1. THE PUSHYABHUTI (VARDHANA) DYNASTY & HARSHAVARDHANA (c. 606 – 647 CE)

ORIGIN OF THE DYNASTY



- The Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) Dynasty ruled from **Sthanesvara (Thanesar)** in present-day Haryana.
- They were originally feudatories of the Guptas but later emerged as independent rulers.

RULERS OF THE DYNASTY



Prabhakaravardhana
(c. 580 – 605 CE)



Rajyavardhana
(c. 605 – 606 CE)

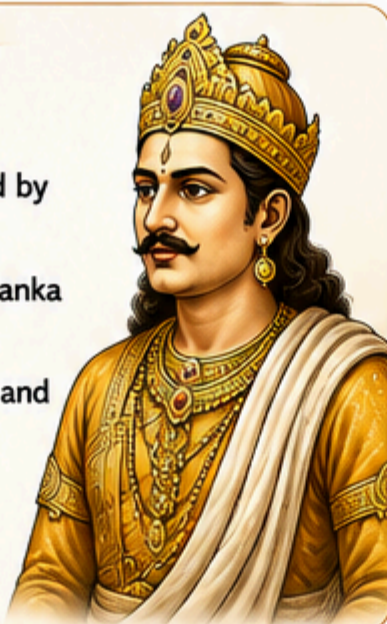


Harshavardhana
(c. 606 – 647 CE)

Harshavardhana was the most illustrious ruler of the dynasty.

RISE OF HARSHAVARDHANA

- Eldest son of Prabhakaravardhana.
- His brother Rajyavardhana was killed by Shashanka, the ruler of Gauda.
- Harsha took revenge, defeated Shashanka and consolidated his power.
- He also protected his sister Rajyashri and restored stability in the kingdom.



EXTENT OF HARSHAVARDHANA'S EMPIRE



- Ruled over a vast empire in North India.
- Included Punjab, Kashmir (parts), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan (parts) and Madhya Pradesh (parts).
- He was not a universal emperor; the south was ruled by independent dynasties like the Chalukyas and Pallavas.

ADMINISTRATION



Centralized monarchy – The king was the supreme authority.



Divided into Bhuktis (provinces), Vishayas (districts) and Pathakas (sub-districts).



Officials like Uparikas (governors), Vishayapatis (district officers) and Dandanayakas (military commanders) were appointed.



Revenue was mainly derived from land tax.



Justice was based on Dharma and royal orders.

RELIGION AND CULTURE



Harsha was a devout follower of Shaivism but was also tolerant towards Buddhism and other religions.



He patronized both Brahmanical and Buddhist institutions.



Promoted learning, art, literature and culture.



Established many temples, monasteries and educational centers.

LITERATURE AND SCHOLARS

- Harsha himself was a great scholar and writer.
- His famous works:
 - Nagananda** – A Sanskrit drama.
 - Ratnavali** – A comedy.
 - Priyadarshika** – A drama.
- Scholar Banabhatta wrote his biography **Harshacharita**.
- Mayurasarman was another noted scholar in his court.



IMPORTANT EVENTS



Defeated Shashanka of Gauda and other rivals.



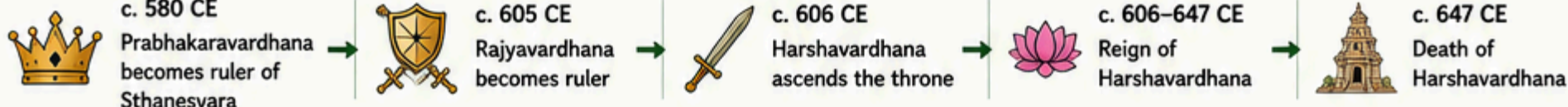
Conducted two great assemblies:

- Kumbh Mela at Prayag (Allahabad) every 5 years.
- Assemblies at Kannauj where he distributed wealth and patronized scholars.



Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) visited his kingdom and has described his rule in detail.

TIMELINE





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



2. OTHER KEY NORTH INDIAN REGIONAL KINGDOMS



After the decline of the Gupta Empire, several regional kingdoms emerged in different parts of North India. These kingdoms played a vital role in political fragmentation while also contributing to art, architecture, literature, trade and culture.



(1) Maitrakas (c. 475 – 770 CE)

- Ruled in Gujarat (Saurashtra) with Valabhi as their capital.
- Founded by Bhatarka.
- Important rulers: Dharasena I, Dhruvasena II.
- Valabhi became a great center of learning and administration.
- Famous Chinese traveller Xuanzang visited Valabhi.



Key Points

- ✓ Well-organized administration
- ✓ Promotion of education and Buddhism
- ✓ Maintained peace and prosperity for a long time

(2) Thanesar (Early Pushyabhutis)

- Early rulers of the Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty ruled from Sthaneshvara (Thanesar) in Haryana.
- Important rulers: Prabhakaravardhana (father of Harshavardhana).
- They were originally feudatories of the Guptas.
- Laid the foundation for the rise of Harshavardhana.



Key Points

- ✓ Strategic location near trade routes
- ✓ Strong military tradition

(3) Kannauj (Gurjara-Pratiharas) (c. 6th – 10th CE)

- Founded by Nagabhata I.
- Capital: Kannauj.
- Important rulers: Nagabhata I, Mihira Bhoja, Mahendrapala.
- Fought the Rashtrakutas and Palas for control of Kannauj.
- Strong supporters of Hinduism and Brahmanism.



Key Points

- ✓ Great military power in North India
- ✓ Patronized temples and Sanskrit learning
- ✓ Mihira Bhoja was a great ruler

(4) Palas (c. 750 – 1161 CE)

- Ruled in Bengal and Bihar.
- Founder: Gopala (elected by the people).
- Important rulers: Dharmapala, Devapala, Mahipala.
- Great patrons of Buddhism and learning.
- Established Vikramashila, Odantapuri, and Somapura Mahavihara.



Key Points

- ✓ Promoted Buddhism and education
- ✓ Strong administration and empire
- ✓ Devapala extended his empire up to Assam and parts of South India

(5) Kalachuris (Chedis) (c. 6th – 10th CE)

- Ruled in central India with their capital at Tripuri (near Jabalpur).
- Founded by Kokalla I.
- Important rulers: Shankaragana, Yuvaraja I, Lakshmanaraja.
- Known for their military power and administration.



Key Points

- ✓ Controlled important forest and mineral resources
- ✓ Supported Shaivism and temple construction
- ✓ Played a key role in central Indian politics

(6) Chahamanas (Chauhans) (c. 6th – 12th CE)

- Ruled in Shakambhari (Sambhar) and Ajmer.
- Important rulers: Vigraharaja II (Visaladeva), Prithviraj Chauhan.
- Built forts, temples and water tanks.
- Prithviraj Chauhan was the last great ruler of the Chauhans.



Key Points

- ✓ Strong Rajput clan
- ✓ Patronized literature and architecture
- ✓ Famous for bravery and chivalry



SUMMARY

These regional kingdoms played an important role in maintaining political stability in their regions, encouraging art, architecture, literature, religion and trade. They laid the foundation for the later empires and the rich cultural heritage of India.





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



3. THE SOUTHERN POWERS: CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI AND PALLAVAS OF KANCHI



In the Post-Gupta period, South India witnessed the rise of powerful dynasties. Among them, the **Chalukyas of Badami** and the **Pallavas of Kanchi** were the most prominent. They were great patrons of art, architecture, literature and religion.



(1) CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI (c. 540 – 753 CE)



- Founded by **Pulakeshin I** in the Aihole region.
- Capital: Vatapi (Badami).
- Most powerful ruler: Pulakeshin II (c. 610 – 642 CE).
- Extended their rule from Maharashtra to Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Famous for resisting the invasion of Harshavardhana.



(2) PALLAVAS OF KANCHI (c. 275 – 897 CE) (Flourished during 6th – 8th Century CE)

- Early capital: Kanchi (Kanchipuram).
- Most powerful rulers: Simhavishnu (c. 575 – 600 CE), Mahendravarman I, Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla).
- Rivals of the Chalukyas for control of the Deccan.
- Narasimhavarman I defeated Pulakeshin II and captured Vatapi (Badami).

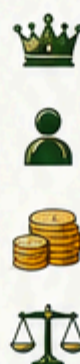


ADMINISTRATION



Well-organized administration.
King was the supreme authority.
Provincial administration under viceroys and governors.
Revenue was collected through land taxes.
Justice was based on Dharma and local customs.

ADMINISTRATION



Centralized administration with the king as the supreme authority.
Divided the kingdom into provinces, districts and villages.
Land revenue was the main source of income.
Efficient system of bureaucracy and local self-government.

RELIGION AND CULTURE



Followed Hinduism (Shaivism and Vaishnavism) but also patronized Jainism and Buddhism.
Patronized scholars like Ravikirti (author of Aihole inscription).
Promoted Sanskrit literature and Kannada literature (earliest known Kannada inscription – Halmidi).



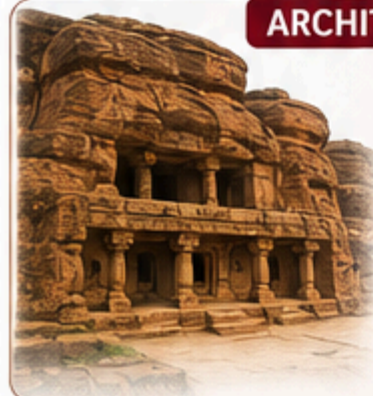
RELIGION AND CULTURE



Mainly followed Hinduism (Shaivism and Vaishnavism). Also patronized Jainism and Buddhism.
Great patrons of art, literature and music.
Promoted Sanskrit and Tamil literature.
Mahendravarman I was a scholar, writer and music lover.

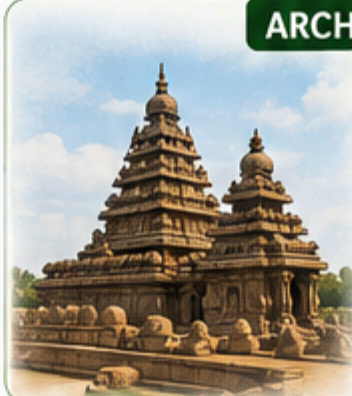


ARCHITECTURE AND ART



- Known for rock-cut cave temples, structural temples and intricate carvings.
- Important sites: Aihole, Badami, Pattadakal, Mahakuta.
- Unique style of Vesara architecture (blend of Nagara and Dravida styles).
- Famous for Durga Temple (Aihole), Virupaksha Temple (Pattadakal).

ARCHITECTURE AND ART



- Pioneers of Dravidian architecture.
- Famous for rock-cut temples, structural temples and monolithic rathas.
- Important sites: Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram), Kanchipuram.
- Famous monuments: Shore Temple, Pancha Rathas, Kailasanatha Temple.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



- The Chalukyas of Badami and the Pallavas of Kanchi were the two great powers of South India.
- They were rivals but also contributed greatly to art, architecture, literature and culture.
- Their achievements laid the foundation for the development of South Indian civilization and influenced the later dynasties like Rashtrakutas, Cholas and Hoysalas.





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



4. THE SANGAM AGE IN SOUTH INDIA (c. 3rd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)



The Sangam Age refers to a period of great cultural, literary and political flourishing in ancient South India, particularly in the Tamil region. It laid the foundation for Tamil language, literature, society and polity.



1. MEANING AND PERIOD

- The word 'Sangam' means a literary academy or assembly of Tamil scholars and poets.
- Refers to the period when Tamil literature was composed and compiled.
- Time Period: c. 3rd Century BCE to 3rd Century CE.
- Associated with the three Tamil dynasties: **Chera, Chola and Pandya**.



2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Sangam Literature – Rich collection of poems and texts in Tamil.
- Major works:
 - ✓ Ettuthokai (Eight Anthologies)
 - ✓ Pattupattu (Ten Idylls)
 - ✓ Tolkappiyam (Grammar text)
- Inscriptions, Archaeological remains, Coins and Foreign accounts (Greek, Roman, Chinese).



3. SANGAM LITERATURE – TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS

A. AKAM (Interior/Personal)

Deals with love, emotions, human relationships and inner feelings.

Themes:

- ❖ Love before marriage (Kalavu)
- ❖ Love after marriage (Karpū)
- ❖ Separation, waiting, union, etc.



SANGAM LITERATURE



B. PURAM (Exterior/Public)

Deals with valor, war, heroism, charity, kingship and public life.

Themes:

- ❖ War and victory
- ❖ Generosity of kings
- ❖ Heroism and death in battle
- ❖ Praise of bards and poets



4. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

- Ruled by three major dynasties: Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.
- Kings were assisted by ministers, generals and local chieftains.
- Evidence of territorial administration and organized revenue system.
- Warfare was common but followed a code of ethics.



5. ECONOMY AND TRADE

- Economy based on agriculture, cattle rearing, fishing, hunting and trade.
- Major exports: pepper, pearls, ivory, fine cloth, spices.
- Active maritime trade with Rome, Southeast Asia and West Asia.
- Important ports: Puhar (Kaveripattinam), Muziris, Korkai, Arikamedu.



6. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- Society was largely divided into clans and occupational groups.
- Women enjoyed a respectable position and are mentioned in literature.
- Music, dance, drama and festivals were an important part of life.
- Hero stones (Nadukal) were erected in memory of fallen heroes.

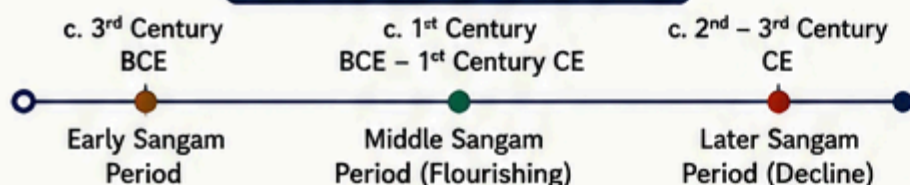


7. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Development of Tamil language and classical literature.
- Rich poetic tradition and themes unique to South India.
- Growth of cities, trade, art and culture.
- Strong foundation for the rise of later dynasties.



SANGAM AGE TIMELINE



KEY TAKEAWAY



The Sangam Age was a golden period in the history of South India that produced rich literature, vibrant culture, active trade and strong kingdoms. It reflects the greatness of ancient Tamil civilization and laid the cultural foundation for future generations.





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



4. THE SANGAM AGE IN SOUTH INDIA (c. 3rd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE) – CHERAS, CHOLAS AND PANDYAS –



The Sangam Age marks the early historic period of South India. Tamil literature, inscriptions, coins and foreign accounts reveal the glory of the three great Tamil dynasties – **Cheras**, **Cholas** and **Pandyas**. They played a vital role in shaping the political, economic and cultural life of ancient South India.



1. CHERAS

Emblem: Bow and Arrow

- Capital: Vanji (Karur)
- Region: (Present-day Kerala and Western Tamil Nadu)
- Important Rulers: Uthiyar Cheralathan, Imayavaramban Neduncheralathan, Senguttuvan

Key Features

- Controlled the western coast and the spice trade.
- Famous for trade in pepper, ivory, cardamom and sandalwood.
- Maintained strong maritime relations with the Roman world.
- Patronized Tamil literature and poets.

Famous Work Reference

- Silappadikaram – Chera ruler Senguttuvan is a prominent character.



2. CHOLAS

Emblem: Tiger

- Capital: Uraiyur (Later: Kaveripattinam)
- Region: (Cauvery Delta and surrounding areas)
- Important Rulers: Karikala Chola, Nalangilli, Nedungilli

Key Features

- Strong control over fertile Cauvery delta.
- Famous ruler Karikala Chola built the Kallanai (Grand Anicut) across river Cauvery.
- Developed agriculture and irrigation.
- Developed seaports and trade with Southeast Asia and Rome.

Famous Work Reference

- Purananuru and Pattinappalai praise Karikala Chola.



3. PANDYAS

Emblem: Fish

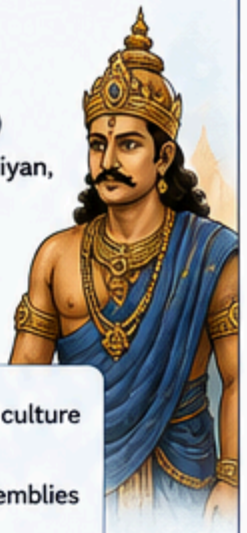
- Capital: Madurai
- Region: (Southern Tamil Nadu)
- Important Rulers: Nedunchezhiyan, Mudukkudumi Peruvazhuthi, Maravarman

Key Features

- Madurai was a great center of culture and learning.
- Patronized Tamil Sangam (Assemblies of scholars and poets).
- Prosperous trade in pearls, conch shells, salt and gemstones.
- Strong naval power and overseas trade.

Famous Work Reference

- Madurai was the seat of the Sangam – the academy of Tamil scholars.



COMMON FEATURES OF CHERAS, CHOLAS AND PANDYAS

ADMINISTRATION



Monarchical form of government.



Kings were advised by councils of ministers.



Local administration through nadu (districts) and ur (villages).



Collection of taxes and maintenance of law and order.

ECONOMY AND TRADE



Agriculture was the main occupation.



Active inland and maritime trade.



Important exports: spices, pearls, ivory, silk, gemstones.



Roman gold coins found in large numbers in South India.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY



People followed Hinduism, Murugan (Skanda) worship, and nature worship.



Society was divided into clans, occupational groups and classes.



Position of women was respected.



Hero stones (Nadukal) were erected in memory of brave warriors and Chulavas.

LITERATURE AND CULTURE

- Rich Tamil literature was produced.
- Two major divisions of Sangam literature:
 - Akam (love, personal life)
 - Puram (war, valor, generosity)
- Important works:
 - ✓ Ettuthokai (Eight Anthologies)
 - ✓ Pattuppattu (Ten Idylls)
 - ✓ Tolkappiyam (Grammar)
 - ✓ Silappadikaram, Manimekalai (Later epics)
- Music, dance, art and architecture flourished.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND FOREIGN ACCOUNTS

- Excavations at Arikamedu, Alagankulam, Kodumanal reveal trade connections.
- Roman coins, pottery, amphorae and beads found.
- Accounts by Greek and Roman writers like Megasthenes, Pliny, Ptolemy mention South India.



IMPORTANCE

- ✓ Laid the foundation for the cultural and political history of South India.
- ✓ Tamil language and literature flourished.
- ✓ Trade and maritime activities linked South India with the world.
- ✓ The glory of these dynasties continued even in the later periods under Pallavas, Chalukyas, Pandyas and Cholas.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The Sangam Age was a golden age of Tamil culture and early state formation.
- ✓ Cheras (Bow), Cholas (Tiger) and Pandyas (Fish) were the three great Tamil dynasties.
- ✓ They were great patrons of literature, trade, culture and religion.





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



4. THE SANGAM AGE IN SOUTH INDIA (c. 3rd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE) – KEY SANGAM LITERATURE WORKS – (TOLKAPPIYAM, SILAPPADIKARAM, MANIMEKALAI AND TIRUKKURAL)



Sangam literature is one of the earliest bodies of Tamil literature, produced between c. 3rd Century BCE and 3rd Century CE. It reflects the social life, culture, values, polity and economy of ancient South India. The four great works stand out for their unique contribution.



1. TOLKAPPIYAM

The earliest Tamil grammatical work.



- Author: Tolkappiyar
- Nature: Grammar and treatise on poetics.
- Divided into 3 parts:
 - ✓ Ezhutthadikaram (Letters)
 - ✓ Solladikaram (Words)
 - ✓ Poruladikaram (Meaning)
- Deals with grammar, phonology, morphology, syntax, prosody, and poetics.
- Provides valuable information about Sangam age society, landscapes (Thinai), customs and occupation.

Significance

Oldest Tamil work; foundation of Tamil language and Sangam literature.

2. SILAPPADIKARAM

The greatest Tamil epic (Ilamkappiyam).



- Author: Ilango Adigal (believed to be a Chera prince).
- Nature: Epic poem.
- Story: The tale of Kannagi, her husband Kovalan and the Pandya king Nedunchezhiyan.
- Themes: Chastity, justice, dharma, and the moral order.
- Divided into 3 parts:
 - ✓ Puhar Kandam
 - ✓ Maduraik Kandam
 - ✓ Vanchi Kandam

Significance

A masterpiece of Tamil literature; gives vivid picture of cities, trade, arts, dance and social life.

3. MANIMEKALAI

A Buddhist epic and a sequel to Silappadikaram.



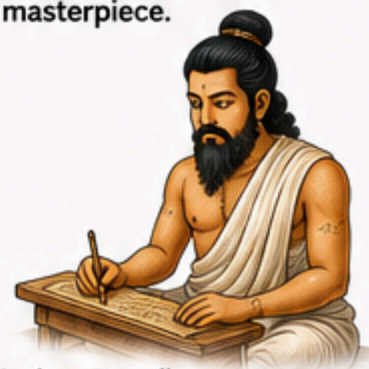
- Author: Sattanar
- Nature: Epic poem with strong Buddhist influence.
- Story: The life of Manimekalai, daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi, who becomes a Buddhist nun.
- Themes: Compassion, non-violence, renunciation and liberation.
- Contains valuable information on Buddhist philosophy, ethics and society of the time.

Significance

Important source for the spread of Buddhism in South India and social conditions of the time.

4. TIRUKKURAL

A timeless ethical and moral masterpiece.



- Author: Tiruvalluvar
- Nature: Didactic work in couplets (Kurals).
- Consists of 1330 couplets (133 chapters of 10 couplets each).
- Divided into 3 sections:
 - ✓ Aram (Virtue)
 - ✓ Porul (Wealth/Polity)
 - ✓ Inbam (Love)
- Teaches universal values of ethics, righteousness, governance, love and virtue.

Significance

A universal scripture; guides individual and social life with timeless wisdom.

COMPARISON OF THE FOUR GREAT WORKS

Aspect	Tolkappiyam	Silappadikaram	Manimekalai	Tirukkural
 Type of Work	Grammar & Poetics	Epic Poem	Buddhist Epic	Ethical Literature
 Author	Tolkappiyar	Ilango Adigal	Sattanar	Tiruvalluvar
 Period	c. 3 rd Century BCE	c. 2 nd Century CE	c. 2 nd Century CE	c. 1 st Century BCE – 1 st Century CE
 Focus	Language, Grammar, Poetics, Society	Story of Kannagi, Justice, Dharma	Buddhism, Compassion, Renunciation	Ethics, Morality, Righteous Living
 Relevance	Foundation of Tamil Language	Cultural & Social Life, Art, Music, Trade	Spread of Buddhism, Social Life	Universal Values, Moral Guidance

COMMON FEATURES OF SANGAM LITERATURE



- ✓ Composed in Tamil language.
- ✓ Rich in themes of love, valor, ethics, nature and society.
- ✓ Reflects the landscape concept (Thinai): Kurinjii (mountain), Mullai (forest), Marutham (farmland), Neythal (seashore), Palai (arid land).
- ✓ Provides valuable information about polity, economy, trade, women, religion and culture.

KEY TAKEAWAY

- ★ These four works are pillars of ancient Tamil literature.
- ★ They preserve the history, culture, values and wisdom of the Sangam Age.
- ★ They continue to inspire and guide even today.
- ★ They are a symbol of India's rich and diverse literary heritage.





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS



Harshavardhana ruled from 606 to 647 CE.
He was the greatest ruler of the Pushyabhuti
(Vardhana) Dynasty.



Harshavardhana's capital was Kannauj.
He extended his empire over North India.



**Harshavardhana was a great patron
of Buddhism.**
He organized the famous Kumbh
Mela at Prayag.



Chinese traveller Xuanzang visited
Harshavardhana's court.
He left a detailed account of India.



Maitrakas ruled in Gujarat with
Valabhi as their capital.
They were great patrons of education.



Thanesar was the early capital of
the Pushyabhutis.
Prabhakaravardhana was Harsha's father.



**Harsha had a strong cavalry
and a well-organized army.**
His army included both horse and
elephant forces.



Harshacharita and Nagananda were
written by Banabhatta.
They are important literary works of
the period.



**Kanauj became a major political
center in North India.**
It was contested by many dynasties.



The Chalukyas of Badami ruled from
c. 540 to 753 CE.
They were important rulers of the Deccan.



The Pallavas of Kanchi were great
patrons of art and architecture.
They built rock-cut temples and
structural temples.



The Chalukyas were known for their
trade and maritime activities.
They had contacts with Southeast Asia
and Rome.



Chalukyas and Pallavas were
rivals for control of the Deccan.
Their conflicts shaped South Indian
politics for centuries.



The Cheras ruled in present-day Kerala.
Their emblem was the Bow.



The Cholas ruled in the Kaveri Delta.
Their emblem was the Tiger.



The Pandyas ruled in Madurai.
Their emblem was the Twin Fish.



Sangam Age refers to the golden age of
Tamil literature.
It lasted from c. 3rd Century BCE to
3rd Century CE.



Tamil literature of the Sangam Age is
divided into Akam (interior) and
Puram (exterior).
It reflects the life and culture of
ancient Tamils.

ONE LINE MEMORY TRICKS



People
(Population)

+



Place
(Territory)

+



Power
(Government)

+



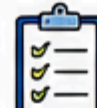
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Justice





Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



PAGE 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1 Who was the founder of the Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) Dynasty?

- A. Prabhakaravardhana
- B. Harshavardhana
- C. Rajyavardhana
- D. Yashovarman



Correct Answer: A. Prabhakaravardhana



Explanation:

Prabhakaravardhana was the founder of the Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) Dynasty. He ruled from c. 580 to 605 CE. His sons Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana expanded the kingdom.

2 Harshavardhana's empire extended over which of the following regions?

- A. Entire South India
- B. North India and parts of Central India
- C. Northwest India only
- D. Eastern coastal India



Correct Answer: B. North India and parts of Central India



Explanation:

Harshavardhana's empire extended over most of North India, including present-day Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and parts of Central India, but not the Deccan or deep South India.

3 Which famous event was organized by Harshavardhana at Prayag?

- A. Buddhist Council
- B. Rajasuya Yajna
- C. Kumbh Mela
- D. Ashvamedha Yajna



Correct Answer: C. Kumbh Mela



Explanation:

Harshavardhana organized the famous Kumbh Mela (Samanta-panchaka) at Prayag (Allahabad) every five years, where he donated wealth and honoured scholars and monks.

4 Which of the following dynasties was known for rock-cut cave temples such as Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal?

- A. Pallavas
- B. Chalukyas of Badami
- C. Rashtrakutas
- D. Pandyas



Correct Answer: B. Chalukyas of Badami



Explanation:

The Chalukyas of Badami (c. 540 – 753 CE) were famous for their rock-cut cave temples and structural temples at Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal and Mahakuta.

5 The Sangam Age in South India is associated with the rise and glory of which language?

- A. Sanskrit
- B. Prakrit
- C. Pali
- D. Tamil



Correct Answer: D. Tamil



Explanation:

The Sangam Age (c. 3rd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE) marks the golden age of Tamil literature, culture and the three great Tamil dynasties – Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.



Note: These questions are based on important facts and concepts from the Post-Gupta Period. Practice regularly to strengthen your preparation!



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Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



PAGE 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

6 Who was the Chinese traveller who visited Harshavardhana's court?

- A. Fa-Hien
- B. Hieun Tsang (Xuanzang)
- C. I-Tsing
- D. Marco Polo



Correct Answer: B. Hieun Tsang (Xuanzang)



Explanation:

The Chinese traveller Hieun Tsang (Xuanzang) visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana (c. 630s CE). He stayed at his court and left a valuable account of Indian society, politics, religion and education.

7 Which of the following was the capital of the Pallavas?

- A. Badami
- B. Kanchipuram
- C. Madurai
- D. Ujjain



Correct Answer: B. Kanchipuram



Explanation:

Kanchipuram was the capital of the Pallavas. They were great patrons of art, architecture and literature. They constructed many magnificent temples in Dravidian style.

8 Which of the following is the emblem of the Cholas?

- A. Bow
- B. Tiger
- C. Fish
- D. Lion



Correct Answer: B. Tiger



Explanation:

The Cholas used the Tiger as their emblem. They were great rulers of the Kaveri Delta and known for their administration, army and maritime activities.

9 Which of the following kingdoms was located in the present-day Kerala?

- A. Pandyas
- B. Cheras
- C. Pallavas
- D. Chalukyas



Correct Answer: B. Cheras



Explanation:

The Cheras ruled in the present-day Kerala region of South India. Their capital was Vanji (Karur) and they were known for spice trade and maritime contacts with the Roman world.

10 Which of the following is NOT a work of Sangam literature?

- A. Ettuthokai
- B. Purananuru
- C. Raghuvamsa
- D. Pattuppattu



Correct Answer: C. Raghuvamsa



Explanation:

Raghuvamsa is a Sanskrit epic written by Kalidasa. It is not a part of Sangam literature. Ettuthokai, Purananuru and Pattuppattu are important works of Sangam age Tamil literature.



Note: Review these important questions regularly. Understanding the Post-Gupta Period will strengthen your foundation for History examinations!



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Post-Gupta Period:

Harshavardhana, Regional Kingdoms, and South Indian Dynasties (c. 550 – 750 CE)



PAGE 3

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

11 Which of the following is known as the earliest Tamil grammatical work?

- A. Silappadikaram
- B. Tolkappiyam
- C. Manimekalai
- D. Tirukkural

✓ **Correct Answer:** B. Tolkappiyam

📖 **Explanation:**

Tolkappiyam is the earliest extant Tamil grammatical work. It deals with grammar, phonology, morphology, syntax, prosody and the social life of the Sangam age. It is traditionally attributed to Tolkappiyar.

12 Which of the following Sangam works is a great Tamil epic about the story of Kannagi?

- A. Manimekalai
- B. Silappadikaram
- C. Tirukkural
- D. Tolkappiyam

✓ **Correct Answer:** B. Silappadikaram

📖 **Explanation:**

Silappadikaram (The Anklet) is a great Tamil epic written by Ilango Adigal. It narrates the story of Kannagi, her husband Kovalan and the Pandya king Nedunchezhiyan. It is a masterpiece of Tamil literature.

13 Which of the following Sangam works is a Buddhist epic and a sequel to Silappadikaram?

- A. Tolkappiyam
- B. Manimekalai
- C. Tirukkural
- D. Purananuru

✓ **Correct Answer:** B. Manimekalai

📖 **Explanation:**

Manimekalai is a Buddhist epic written by Sattanar. It is a sequel to Silappadikaram and narrates the life of Manimekalai, the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi, who becomes a Buddhist nun.

14 Which Sangam work is a timeless ethical and moral masterpiece known for its 1330 couplets?

- A. Purananuru
- B. Tirukkural
- C. Pattuppattu
- D. Ettuthokai

✓ **Correct Answer:** B. Tirukkural

📖 **Explanation:**

Tirukkural, written by Tiruvalluvar, is a timeless ethical and moral masterpiece consisting of 1330 couplets (kurals) divided into three sections – Aram (virtue), Porul (wealth) and Inbam (love).

15 The Tamil literature of the Sangam Age is broadly divided into which two categories?

- A. Vedic and Puranic
- B. Akam and Puram
- C. Itihasa and Upanishad
- D. Jaina and Buddhist

✓ **Correct Answer:** B. Akam and Puram

📖 **Explanation:**

Sangam literature is broadly divided into Akam (interior) and Puram (exterior). Akam literature deals with love, emotions and personal life, while Puram literature deals with war, heroism, charity, and public life.



Note: These MCQs cover key facts about the rulers, dynasties, kingdoms and literature of the Post-Gupta Period. Practice regularly to boost your preparation!



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Post-Gupta Period:

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PAGE 4

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

16 Who was the father of Harshavardhana?

- A. Rajyavardhana
- B. Prabhakaravardhana
- C. Yashovarman
- D. Pulakeshin II



Correct Answer: B. Prabhakaravardhana



Explanation:

Prabhakaravardhana was the father of Harshavardhana. He was the ruler of Thanesar (Sthanesvara) and the founder of the Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) Dynasty.

17 Which of the following was the capital of the Chalukyas of Badami?

- A. Kanchipuram
- B. Badami
- C. Pattadakal
- D. Mahabalipuram



Correct Answer: B. Badami



Explanation:

The Chalukyas of Badami (c. 540 – 753 CE) had their capital at Badami (Vatapi). They were important rulers of the Deccan region.

18 Which Chalukya king is famous for his conflicts with Harshavardhana?

- A. Kirtivarman I
- B. Pulakeshin I
- C. Pulakeshin II
- D. Vikramaditya I



Correct Answer: C. Pulakeshin II



Explanation:

Pulakeshin II, the greatest Chalukya ruler, was famous for his victory over Harshavardhana at the Battle of Narmada and for resisting Arab invasions.

19 Which Pallava ruler is famous for the rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram?

- A. Mahendravarman I
- B. Narasimhavarman I
- C. Paramesvaravarman I
- D. Nandivarman II



Correct Answer: B. Narasimhavarman I



Explanation:

Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla) was a great Pallava ruler and builder. He created the famous rock-cut monuments and shore temples at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram).

20 The Cheras were famous for which important trade item?

- A. Silk
- B. Spices
- C. Iron
- D. Gold



Correct Answer: B. Spices



Explanation:

The Cheras of Kerala were famous for the spice trade (pepper, cardamom, etc.). They had strong maritime trade contacts with Rome, West Asia and Southeast Asia.



Note: Keep practicing these MCQs to strengthen your understanding of the Post-Gupta Period. Regular practice leads to success!



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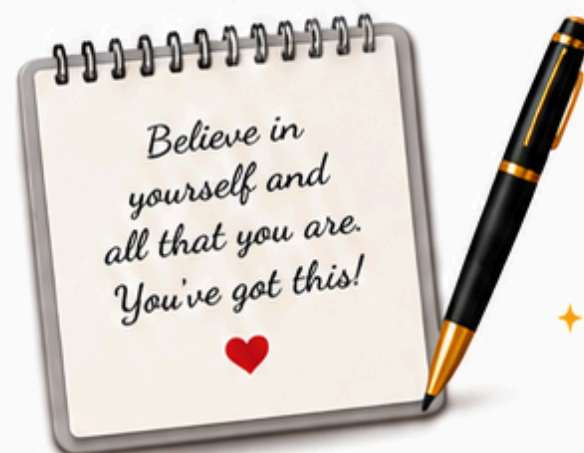
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