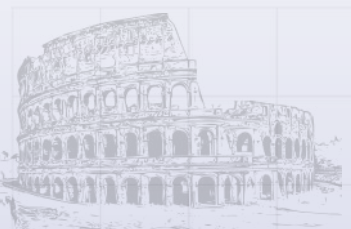




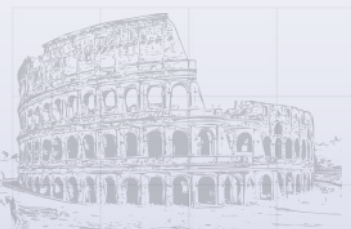
Central Asian Contacts

- After the Mauryas, north-western India saw ruling dynasties from **Central Asia**.
- Among Central Asian dynasties, the **Kushanas** became the most famous.
- The first to cross the **Hindukush** were the **Greeks**.
- The Greeks ruled **Bactria**, or North Afghanistan.
- Indo-Greeks occupied a large part of **north-western India**.
- They moved as far as **Ayodhya and Patliputra**.
- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was **Menander**.
- Menander ruled from **165–145 BCE**.
- Menander is also known as **Milinda**.
- Menander's capital was **Sakala**, modern Sialkot.
- Menander was converted to Buddhism by **Nagsena**.
- **Milindapanho** records the questions of Milinda and answers of Nagsena.
- Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India whose coins can be definitely attributed to kings.



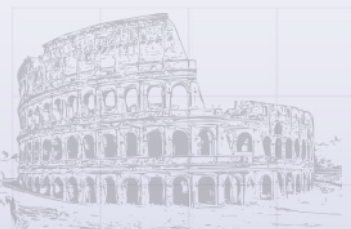


- Indo-Greeks were the first to issue **gold coins** in India.
- Indo-Greeks introduced **Hellenistic art** in north-western India.
- **Gandhara art** was the best example of this influence.
- The Shakas controlled a larger part of India than the Greeks.
- There were **five branches of the Shakas**.
- A king of Ujjain defeated the Shakas around **57–58 BCE**.
- **Vikram Samvat** is counted from the victory over the Shakas in **57 BCE**.
- Western Shakas benefited from sea-borne trade in Gujarat.
- The most famous Shaka ruler was **Rudradaman I**.
- Rudradaman ruled from **AD 130–150**.
- Rudradaman repaired **Sudarshana Lake** in Kathiawar.
- Rudradaman issued the first-ever long inscription in **chaste Sanskrit**.
- Parthians originally lived in **Iran**.
- Parthians occupied a small part of north-western India.
- The most famous Parthian king was **Gondophernes**.
- St. Thomas is said to have come to India during Gondophernes' reign.
- Kushanas are also called **Yuechis** or **Tocharians**.
- The Kushana empire extended from **Oxus to Ganga** and from **Khorasan to Varanasi**.



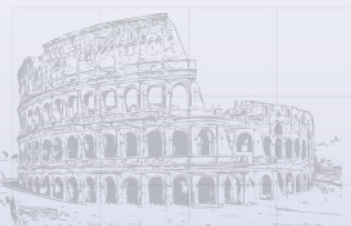


- **Kadphises I** issued coins south of the Hindukush.
- **Kadphises II** issued a large number of gold coins.
- Kushana gold coins had high metallic purity.
- Kushana first capital was **Purushpura / Peshawar**.
- Mathura was the second Kushana capital in India.
- Kanishka started the **Shaka Era** in **AD 78**.
- Kanishka held the Fourth Buddhist Council in **Kashmir**.
- Mahayana doctrines were finalized in this council.
- Kushanas used burnt bricks and tiles for flooring and roofing.
- Typical pottery was **red ware**.
- Central Asians introduced better cavalry and large-scale use of riding horses.
- They made common the use of reins and saddles.
- Shakas and Kushanas introduced turban, tunic, trousers and heavy long coat.
- Kushanas controlled the **Silk Route**.
- Silk Route tolls gave great income to the Kushanas.
- Kushanas adopted the title **King of Kings**.
- Kushana kings were called **sons of god**.
- Kushanas introduced the **satrap system**.





- Greek governors were called **strategos**.
- Central Asians were absorbed into Indian society as **Kshatriyas**.
- Heliodorus set up a pillar in honour of **Vasudeva** near Vidisha.
- Menander adopted Buddhism.
- Kushana rulers worshipped **Shiva, Buddha and Vishnu**.
- Mahayana Buddhism is called the **Great Wheel** in the chapter.
- Ashvaghosha wrote **Buddhacharita** and **Saundarananda**.
- The Greek curtain in Indian theatre was called **Yavanika**.
- Greek coins were better shaped and stamped than punch-marked coins.
- Charaka and Sushruta dealt with medicine, botany and chemistry.
- Sushruta is called the father of surgery in the chapter.



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