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Subjects - General & Environmental Studies (GES)
B.COM part III (Group A)

Topic - Dynasties (Empire) in Indian History.

Kushana Dynasty

Rise of Kanishka : It is very unfortunate that we know very little about the percentage, early life and even the date of accession of the great ruler Kanishka. When Kanishka ascended the throne in about 120 AD, his empire consisted of Afghanistan, Sind, Punjab, and portion of the former Parthian and Bactrian Kingdoms. He was a great warrior and would not sit quiet until he had extended his empire to India and Central Asia. Kanishka was a great patron of art and literature. His court was adorned by many scholars like Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna and Chataka.

Grandhar style : Grandhar style is an admixture of Indo-Persian style of art in making statues. Many statues of Budha & Buddhism were made in this style. It is a realistic

pattern of art. Many of these statues were found in Gandhar, so, it is called Gandhar art school of style.

Mathura style of Art : This style developed in Mathura. It was an idealistic school of style. Many statues of red sandy stones were carved in this style. They are imaginary and exotic. The statues of Yaksha & Yakshini are example of Mathura style of art.

Vardhana Dynasty (585-687)

Harsha Vardhana (AD 606-646) : The younger son of Prabhakar Vardhana who became the ruler of Thanesar after the tragic death of his elder brother Rajya Vardhana. The last great Hindu King of Northern India, his dominion extended over the whole of the basin of the Ganges from the Himalayas to the Narmada, besides Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra. A great warrior who was not only a liberal patron of literary merit. A great philanthropist and tolerant towards all religions. Hiuen Tsang, Chinese pilgrim, visited India during his time. Harsha composed Sanskrit dramas Banabhatta, Harsha Charita, Kadambari.

Nalanda University: Harsha endeavoured greatly for the expansion of education. Nalanda was the centre of higher education and Harsha patronised it very liberally. He donated hundreds of villages to Nalanda to meet its expenses. Students came to Nalanda from other countries like China, Tibet and Mongolia. The number of teachers in the university was 1510. Shilabhadra was the chancellor of the University.

The Rajputs : The origin of the Rajputs is a matter of controversy. A widely held view is that the Rajputs were the descendants of the various tribes of the foreign settlers and of ancient Kshatriyas who became deeply intermixed with one another in course of time. They were known for their high courage, patriotism, loyalty, honour, hospitality.

The professed Hindu faith and

practiced caste system. Women were respected but customs like Jauhar and sati prevailed.

At the head of the state was King. The state

was divided into estates help by the

Jagirdors who were bound to their King

by the unshakable bond of loyalty. The

Rajputs were bound of loyalty. The Rajput

were great patrons of art and literature