

Programme	ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ	BA
Subject	ವಿಷಯ	History
Semester	ಚಾತುರ್ಮಾಸ	I
University	ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ	Kuvempu
Session	ಸೆಶನ್	36



Cultural Contributions of Kushanas-Literature & Science ಕುಶಾನರ ಕೊಡುಗೆಗಳು-ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ & ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ



Recap (ಪುನರ್ಮನನ) of the Previous Class

- Students learnt about the Introduction to establishment of the Kushanas rule.
- Students also studied the religious policy of Kushanas and how did Mahayana Buddhism spread outside India.



Learning Objectives & Outcomes

ಕಲಿಕೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು & ಫಲಗಳು

- To enable the students to study about the contributions of Kushanas to the field of literature and science.
- And to identify the great scholars and their works.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to know, how the Kushanas gave great contributions to literature and science.



Introduction (ಪೀಠಿಕೆ)

- The Kushanas were conscious of the fact that the people used various scripts and languages in their dominions.
- And therefore issued their coins and inscriptions in the Greek, Kharoshti (ಖರೋಷ್ಠಿ), and Brahmi scripts.
- Similarly, they used Greek, Prakrit, and Sanskrit, but at the end of their rule they followed the pure Sanskrit language.



Contributions to

Literature(ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ)

The Emperors of Kushana dynasty had officially recognized three scripts and four languages, and Kushana coins and inscriptions suggested that the mingling (ಮಿಶ್ರ) and co-existence of different scripts and languages.

- The Kushana method of communicating with the people also indicated literacy of their times.
- More importantly, although the Mauryas and Satavahanas patronized Prakrit, But the Kushanas patronized and cultivated Sanskrit literature.



- No wonder a large quantum of Sanskrit literature of high standard both religious and secular was produced during this period.
- Kanishka's Court was adorned (ಅಲಂಕರಿಸು) with many scholars such as Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna, Sangharaksha, Charaka and Sushruta and others.
- 1) Ashvaghosha was a Buddhist poet, Philosopher and Musician (ಸಂಗೀತಗಾರ).



- In the richness of his style and variety, he would be compared to Milton, Kant and Voltaire.
- His great work “Buddha Charitha” is considered to be the ‘Epic of Mahayana Buddhism’ which deals with the life story of Buddha.
- His other works were- ‘Sundarananda’, ‘Sutralankara’, ‘Vajrasuchi’, ‘Mahayana Shrdothpada’ and ‘Sariputra Prakarana’.



- 2) Another greatest scholar of his court was Nagarjuna who has been compared with Martin Luther.
- He was both a Philosopher and a Poet as well as Scientist. Hiuen-Tsang called him as - 'One of the four lights (ಜ್ಯೋತಿ) of the world'.
- He wrote- 'Mahayana Sutra', 'Madhyamika Sutra', 'Shunya Vada' and 'Shata-Sahasrika-Prajna-Parimitha'.
- 3) Vasumitra was another great scholar who presided the 4th Buddhist Council, and he was the author of 'Maha Vibhasa Sutra', a commentary on the "Tripitakas" (ತ್ರಿಪಿಟಕಗಳು).



- 4) According to some scholars, Charaka was regarded as the Court-Physicians of Kanishka.
- He had a great authority on Medicine (ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ) and wrote 'Charaka Samhita' which consisted of 8 chapters.
- This work explained the origin, spread, features of the diseases and their remedies (ಪರಿಹಾರ).
- It was translated to Persian and Arabic language during 7th & 8th centuries AD.
- 5) Agesilaus, (ಎಜಿಸಿಲಾಸ್) a Greek Architect was patronized by Kanishka.



- It is suggested that Indian theatre owed (ಹೊಂದಿದೆ) much to Greek influence, But opinion differ regarding that.
- Some scholars accepted the Greek influence, but there is little doubt that the 'Curtain' (ಪರದೆ) entered Indian theatre under Greek influence.
- As it was borrowed from the Greeks, it came to be known as Yavanika (ಯವನಿಕೆ), a word derived from the term Yavana (ಯವನ).



- However, India's contribution to the development of theatre is undeniable (ವಿವಾದವಿಲ್ಲದ).
- More importantly, Bharata's Natyasastra was an important work on rhetoric and dramaturgy.
- The best example of secular literature is the Kamasutra of Vatsyayana.
- It gives us a picture of the life of a Chief of the city or Nagaraka who lived in a period of thriving urbanism.



Development of Science (ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ)

- Indian Astronomy and Astrology made considerable progress during this period.
- Through the Kushanas, the Greek Ideas came to influence Indian Astrology.
- And the Technology also developed in India, it was profited by her contact with Central Asia through the Kushanas.
- Nagarjuna was also a scientist, in his work 'Madhyamika Sutra', explained the 'Theory of Sapeksha' (ಸಾಪೇಕ್ಷ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ).



Multiple choice questions (ಬಹು ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು)

1. The author of 'Buddha Charita' was----
 - a) Charaka
 - b) Nagarjuna
 - c) Dhandi
 - d) Ashvaghosha

Answer: d)

Ashvaghosha



Edit with WPS Office

2. In the development of medicine , ____ and ____made valuable contributions

- a) Charaka and Susruta
- b) Nagarjuna and Charaka.
- c) Ashwagosha and Charak .
- d) Susruta and Nagarjuna.

Answer: a) Charaka and

Susruta .

3. The 4th Buddhist Council was organized by----

- a) Harshavardhana
- b) Kanishka
- c) Ashoka
- d) Chandragupta Mourya

Answer : b) Kanishka



4 . The 4th Buddhist council held at Kashmir was presided by----

- a) Vasumitra
- b) Ashwaghosha
- c) Ashoka
- d) Kaniska

Answer: a) Vasumitra



5. Kamasutra was written by-----

- a) Vatsayana
- b) Kapila
- c) Ashwaghosha
- d) Nagarjuna

Answer: b) Vatsayana



REFERENCES

(ಪರಾಮರ್ಶನ ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳು)

- DR. N. Shaik Masthan and Dr. M. Munirajappa, *A History of Ancient India* , Bangalore, Silicon Valley Publisher, 2013.
- Dr. Ishwari Prasad, *History of ancient India* , New Delhi, Surjeet Publications, 2018.
- R.S. Sharma, *India's Ancient Past* , London, Oxford Publication, 2006.
- ಪ್ರೊ.ಡಿ.ಟಿ.ಜೋಶಿ. *ಅಖಂಡ ಭಾರತದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ* , Gadag, Vidyanidi Prakashana, 2009.
- K.Sadashiva, *ಸಮಗ್ರ ಭಾರತದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ* , Priyadarshani Prakashana, 2015.

