



## LESSON-15

### CONTACTS WITH DISTANT LANDS

#### NOTES:

- The word Sangam means an association.
- The Tamil Sangam refers to an association of Tamil poets which flourished in ancient Tamil Nadu.
- The period in which Sangam literatures were composed is called the Sangam Age in the history of Tamil Nadu.
- There were three Sangams. From these, the entire works of Sangam literature comes from the third Sangam.
- The Sangam period witnessed the growth of long distance exchanged by land and by sea, so, this period is known as “Age of Mercantalism”.
- In 45 AD, Hippalus (a Greek sailor) discovered the monsoon, which gave the sailors a better knowledge of navigation.
- India had trade with China on both by the land and sea routes.
- The routes from China to Europe through India was known as the ‘Silk Route’

#### INDO-GREEK

- The first to invade India was the Indo-Greek.
- The invasion of the Graeco-Bactrians led to established of the “Indo-Greek Kingkom” in India.
- Prominent Indo-Greek kings were Demetrius and Menander.
- Demetrius founded the Indo-Greek kingdom in India.
- During Menander’s reign, a famous Buddhist text Milindapanho was written.
- The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India.
- During this period Gandhara art was emerged.

## SAKAS

- The Sakas replaced the Indo-Greeks.
- They belonged to the Scythian race of central Asia.
- They founded Saka kingdom in western Punjab.
- Rudradaman I was the most famous king of the Sakas.
- He was famous for his military conquest and public works.

## PARTHIN

- The Parthian came from Iran.
- They replaced the Sakas in north-western of India.
- Their most famous king was Gondophernes.

## KUSHANAS

- The Kushanas were the most powerful of the five Yuechi tribes in Central Asia.
- They replaced the Parthians in north-western India.
- The most famous king of the Kushanas was Kanishka.
- He established his capital at Peshwar.
- He was famous for starting Saka era in 78 AD.
- He was a great patron of Mahayana group of Buddhism.

## THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

- During the time of Buddha, Buddhism was mainly confined to Koshala and Magadha.
- After Ashoka embraced the religion, it was spread to other states and to different parts of the world.
- Kanishka, who was the great patron of Buddhism, organised a Buddhist council at Kashmir.
- He took interest in spreading Mahayana Buddhism to places like Central Asia, Tibet and China.