

## **FOREIGN DOMINATION IN THE NORTHERN INDIA FROM 200 BC TO 300 AD.**

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**Abstract:** This work aims to investigate the political profile of Northern India after the Mauryan period. It also laid emphasis on the penetration of foreigners in the Indian society and how they established their rule in Northern India and mingled with the local population. It also enquires that Northern India in the above said period was ruled by foreign rulers but later they adopted Indian cultures and traditions.

The period from 200 BC to 300 AD is characterized with no uni-linear history. There were breaks in political history of this period due to continuous foreign invasions one after another. India was ruled by both foreign and indigenous dynasties at that time. Indo-Greeks were the first who attacked North-Western parts of India. They were followed by Sakas, then Parthians and finally Kushanas. There were some indigenous dynasties who also ruled in some parts of India such as the Shungas and Kanvas. There were also different tribal republics such as Kanvas, Arjunyas, Malavas, Sibis, Audhumbasetc. in the Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan were ruling dynasties of the North. Kshatrapas of Sakas and Parthians ruled over western India. Satvahnas ruled in the western India and Deccan as well. Kharvelas ruled in the east especially in Orissa. Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas established their rule in the extreme South. So the whole of Indian sub-continent was divided into small regional kingdoms ruled by foreigners and local dynasties.

### **Indo-Greeks:-**

Alexander invasion opened the way to the western India<sup>1</sup>. The death of Alexander created wars among his lieutenants for the occupation of Kabul, Bactria and North-western parts of India. It was during the rule of Mauryas, the Greeks were pushed back to the south of Hindkush. They accepted the suzerainty of Mauryas<sup>2</sup>. The Greeks of Bactria were originally under Kshatrapas of the Seleucid Empire<sup>3</sup>. The governors of Bactria who were under the Seleucid Empire became powerful to challenge the Seleucid's authority<sup>4</sup>. It was during 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, Diodotus I revolted against the Seleucids and established an independent Bactrian-Greek kingdom<sup>5</sup>. It was in 248-47 BC that Arraces revolted in Parthia. The Seleucid Empire was separated which is also confirmed by the coins of Diodotus I and his son Diodotus II. Both issued the silver and the copper coins based on attic standard but their regime was short. Antichonus III launched great campaigns to recover the eastern parts of Seleucid Empire as reported by Polybius and he also met with Indian king named Sophagasenus and procured elephants from him<sup>6</sup>. It was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> BC they moved to the south of Hindukush and it was in the 145 BC they lost hold over Bactria but their rule was continued over the north-western parts of India. The Bactrian-Greeks who ruled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> BC and first century AD were known as Indo-Greeks<sup>7</sup>. Euthydemus ruled Bactria after he destroyed the descendants of the earlier rebels. Antichonus was defeated by him and he had to leave Bactria without full success, on the other hand, he received a number of elephants and some tribute from Euthydemus. It is said that Antichonus offered a daughter to Euthydemus's son Demetrius. It was under Euthydemus that the Bactrian Greeks confined only to the north of Hindukush. His coins bear only Greek legends based on attic standard in three metals. He issued cupronickel

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<sup>1</sup>. Romila Thapar, *Early India from Origins to A.D 1300*, New Delhi, 2002, p. 213.

<sup>2</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, New Delhi, 2012, p. 01.

<sup>3</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, Delhi, 2009, p. 373.

<sup>4</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p.03; R.S. Sharma, *India Ancient Past*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2005, p. 190.

<sup>5</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, p.373; A.K. Narain, *The Indo-Greeks*, Oxford, 1957, pp. 12-13.

<sup>6</sup>. A. k. Narain, *The Indo-Greeks*, pp.20-21; Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol.VI, p. 03.

<sup>7</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, p.373.

coins due to the shortage of silver<sup>8</sup>. He fortified the Seleucid satrapy. He was also responsible for extending Hellenistic influences and trade upto Far-east<sup>9</sup>. Demeritus, the son of Eythdemus defeated the Seleucid king and took his army to the south of Hindukush and occupied Afghanistan, Punjab and Indus-valley. He marched to the east of Pataliputra<sup>10</sup>. He was accompanied by his general to cross the Indus and occupied Taxila<sup>11</sup>. Tarn is of the opinion that Demeritus moved towards North-east and occupied Fergana to attempt to reach the sources of the Siberian gold or to control the movements of Scythians<sup>12</sup>. He established Indo-Greek power in India<sup>13</sup>. He was the first ruler who inscribed the Kharoshti legends on the reverse of copper and silver coins minted based on the Indian standard<sup>14</sup>. Eucratides seized Bactaria from Demeritus at the time when Mithradates I of Parthia was ruling around 171 BC. It can be confirmed by the inscription of Eucratides which has been reported from Al-khanum in Greek language. It is mentioned that he was the last Bactarian Greek ruler who issued the gold coins. He restructured his coins in Kharoshti legends on the obverse of the coins and the city of kapisa and Kabul valley found on the reverse of the coins. He also overstrucked the copper coins of Appolodotus I. Eucratide's silver coins with paired busts of Heliocles and queen Laodice which suggests that they were his successors. He was murdered by his son Heliocles when he came back from Indian expedition. The successors of Heliocles along with his queen Agothocleia and his son Strato I got strucked joint coins. Strato I issued the coins on the name of his father Heliocles. He also issued the bilingual coins based on Indian standard<sup>15</sup>. The most important king of the Indo-Greek was Meander, who made Sailkot his capital. He ruled from c.150 to 135 BC. His coins have been discovered in the Kabul valley and in Mathura regions. He occupied swat-valley, Punjab,

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<sup>8</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, pp. 03-04.

<sup>9</sup>. A. K. Bag, 'Trade Links, Commerce and Exchanges of Scientific ideas in Antiquity', *Indian Journal of History of Science*, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Dec.2016, p. 631.

<sup>10</sup>. Alberto M. Simonetta, 'A New Essay on Indo-Greeks, the Sakas and Pahlavas', *East and West*, Vol. 09, No. 03, Sep.1958, p. 157.

<sup>11</sup>. R. B. Whitehead, 'Notes on the Indo-Greeks', *The Numismatic and Journal of the Royal Numismatic Society*, Vol. 20, No. 78, 1940, p. 93.

<sup>12</sup>. Alberto M. Simonetta, 'A New Essay on Indo-Greeks', the Sakas and Pahlavas, p. 157.

<sup>13</sup>. RomilaThapar, *Early India from Origins to A.D 1300*, p. 213; A. K. Narain, *The Indo-Greeks*, pp. 22-25.

<sup>14</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI p. 04.

<sup>15</sup>. *Ibid*, p. 05.

and Hazara district in the north-western parts of India<sup>16</sup>. At that time the territories of Audumbaras, Kunindas, Yaudheyas and Arjunayanas were included in the kingdom of Meander<sup>17</sup>. Casket inscription from Shinkot in Bajaur mentions that the local ruler of Apracha [Bajaur] accepted his sovereignty<sup>18</sup>. Strato I also occupied the great city of Pataliputra<sup>19</sup>. So the Greek rule remained over the North-Western parts of India, Ganga regions and Western parts of India. This fact is also confirmed by the *Periplus* who has mentioned that Barygaza was inhabited by numerous tribes such as Arattii, the Arachosii, the Gandarei and the people of Poclais which indicate the Greek rule in India<sup>20</sup>.

### Sakas and Parthians:-

The Sakas were the first who overran the Pamirs before the *yuechis*<sup>21</sup>. They were considered Iranian by blood prior to the Parthians. They migrated from Seistan through Arochosia to the Brahui mountains and finally to the lower Indus valley<sup>22</sup>. The *Harivamsa* informs that they were shaved one-half of their heads. The Jain work *Kalakacharya-kathanaka* refers that their kings were called *sahi*. They were basically horse breeders of central Asia Steppes. Herodotus speaks about the Sacae people who formed the part of the Achaemenid Empire<sup>23</sup>. It was in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC they belonged to the Scythians ethnic stock, living in the plains of Sry- Darya [Jaxartes]<sup>24</sup>. After crossing the Oxus in 330-29 BC by the Alexander, the Sakas living in the Transoxian revolted and raided Bactria but Alexander defeated them because they were the opponents of Alexander<sup>25</sup>. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the Chinese empire was consolidated by the emperor Qin Shi Huang which led to a series of movements in central Asia. The *yueh-chi* tribe pushed out the Sakas from central Asia and

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<sup>16</sup>. Romila Thapar, *Early India from Origins to A.D 1300*, p. 215.

<sup>17</sup>. A. K. Narain, *The Indo Greeks*, pp. 91-92.

<sup>18</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 05.

<sup>19</sup>. R. B. Whitehead, 'Notes on the Indo-Greeks', *The Numismatic and Journal of the Royal Numismatic Society*, 5<sup>th</sup> Series, Vol. 20, No. 78, p. 94.

<sup>20</sup>. *The Periplus of Erthean Sea*, tr. by W.H. Schoof, New York, 1912, p. 41.

<sup>21</sup>. *Ibid*, p. 166

<sup>22</sup>. B. N. Mukherjee, *Political History of Ancient India*, Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 202.

<sup>23</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 13.

<sup>24</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, p. 375.

<sup>25</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 13.

they moved towards the Afghanistan and south-east of the Caspian Sea<sup>26</sup>. Chinese sources inform that after 200BC, the *sai* or *sak* people, who inhabited the lands up to Northern Xinjiang, came under pressure of *Yueh-chi* tribe who driven them western wards<sup>27</sup>. Numismatic evidences also indicate that the Sakas invaded North-Western frontiers of India<sup>28</sup>. It were the geographical and political factors of central Asia which compelled them to move towards India. The wealth and fertility of India as well as trade items which were produced and manufactured in India attracted them to move towards India despite being the danger of high altitudinous mountains and passes<sup>29</sup>. They reached India through Sindh and the valley of Indus. They destroyed Greek both in India and Bactaria and controlled a large part of India. They settled in Kabul valley, Seistan and the lower Indus<sup>30</sup>. They also extended their rule over Western Deccan through their *kshatrapas* or governors. According to Nasik and Mathura inscriptions inform that they gave crushing defeat to the Satvahnas of Paithan and Mitras of Mathura<sup>31</sup>. The first saka king was Moga or Maues in India, whose coins have been reported from Afghanistan. He got struck coins which resembled with the coins of Eukratides and Demetrios. An inscription of Taxila refers to the king Moga or Maues with his Kshatrapas Patika. The Greek god Zeus with a scepter in his left hand, with Nike and goddess of victory on his right palm was found on the one series of his silver coins. It suggests that Maues conquered the Gandhara region from Indo-Greeks but it was later on recovered by the Indo-Greeks<sup>32</sup>. He also used the title Basileus Basileon [king of kings]. His coins contained the representation exclusively of Greek deities, though his great chiefs at Mathura came together to make a donation of land as *dhamadana* to a Buddhist monastery<sup>33</sup>. The most prominent Saka ruler in Western India was Rudradaman who was known from the Junagarh rock inscription. He conquered Sindh, Gujrat, Konkan, Narmada

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<sup>26</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient an Early Medieval India*, p.375; B. N. Mukherje, *Political History of Ancient India*, pp. 381 and 382.

<sup>27</sup>. A. K. Narain, *The Indo Greeks*, p.132; Irfan Habib, *APeoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 13.

<sup>28</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient an Early Medieval India*, p. 375.

<sup>29</sup>. Romila Thapar, *Early India from Origins to A.D 1300*, p. 219.

<sup>30</sup>. *The Periplus of the Erthean Sea*, tr. W. H. Schoof, p. 166

<sup>31</sup>. B. N. Mukherjee, *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 382; the Sakas ruled over the area of Saurashtra through their Satraps (governors); *Gazetter of India*, Gujarat State, Rajkot district Ahmedabad, 1965, p. 23.

<sup>32</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient an Early Medieval India*, p. 375.

<sup>33</sup>. Annual Report of ASI, 1930-34, pp. 57, 58 and 151.

valley, Malwa and Kathiawar<sup>34</sup>. He also issued silver coins for sea-borne trade with the west<sup>35</sup>.

The breakup of Moga's empire opened the doors for the Parthians. They were almost half-barbican people. They were popular for their skill of horsemen with bow. It is held that they were Iranian by race and speaking Iranian tongue that formed integral part of empire of Medas and Persians. They were excellent warriors and energetic. They were the successors of two great streams of culture, an old age Iranian culture of Persia and other Hellenistic culture of Seleucid Empire. Vonoes was the first king whose silver and copper coins have been reported from the southern –Afghanistan. He ruled over Seistan and Arochosia. His name along with full titles appeared in Greek on the obverse of his coins, but in Kharoshti legends the same titles are given to his brother Spalahores and to the latter's son Spalagdames<sup>36</sup>. It is said that the Vikram era of 58 BC started with the rule of Vonoes, the earliest independent Parthian ruler of Iran<sup>37</sup>. He and his ancestors served under the Arsacids and afterward he conquered the Arachosia from them by usurped the authority<sup>38</sup>. It was apparently Azes I who moved from Arochosia to Gandhara supported the early Sakas. It is generally considered that Azes I's accession took place in 57 BC and he founded the Vikram Era in 58 BC<sup>39</sup>. Azes I extended his control to the north-western parts of India. Azilises moved further towards east in the Mathura region<sup>40</sup>. The most famous ruler of Parthian was Gondophores who is also known as king Guduvahraas mentioned in the Takth-i- Bahi inscription which placed his rule in the mid-Ist century AD. As per his coins, he ruled with the help of his nephew Abdagases and his two governors were Sapadana and Satavastra and his two military governors were Sasa and Aspavarman<sup>41</sup>. He conquered the parts of Northern India, Arochosia and Seistan but he failed to establish his

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<sup>34</sup>. R. S. Sharma, *India Ancient Past*, p. 192.

<sup>35</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 17.

<sup>37</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient an Early Medieval India*, p. 376.

<sup>38</sup>. B. N. Mukherjee, *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 90.

<sup>39</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 18.

<sup>40</sup>. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient an Early Medieval India*, p. 376.

<sup>41</sup>. *Ibid.*, p. 376; B. N. Mukherjee, *AnAgrippan Sources, A Study in Indo- Parthian History*, Pilgrim Publishers, Calcutta, 1969, pp. 87-88.

authority over upper Kabul valley is confirmed neither by literary sources nor by numismatics testimony<sup>42</sup>. His reign was known for the arriving of first Christian in India that was St. Thomas. He ruled over Taxila as informed by Takht-i-Bhai inscription. His reign lasted for 26 years. His coins also contain the images of god Shiva and goddess Laxmi. *The Periplus of Erythraean Sea* informs that Scythians ruled the area stretching from the region of Indus plains to the Indus delta. The Parthians also migrated towards Gujarat and Maharashtra which indicated their rule towards Indus-Basin<sup>43</sup>.

### **Kushanas.**

After Indo-Parthians, the Kushanas came to in India. They belonged to the *yue-chi* tribe of china. They were the nomads of China<sup>44</sup>. They were defeated by the Hunas in china about 165 BC, then they moved towards the south-west and settled in central Asia where they gave defeat to the sakas and by pushing the Sakas towards south of Hindukush and *yue-chi* settled in central Asia. They occupied the area of Oxus and Bactaria<sup>45</sup>. The *yue-chi* remained no more nomadic and they became civilized and used to live settle life based agricultural and industrial activities<sup>46</sup>. The Kushanas were one of the branches among the five principalities. It was the kujulaKadphises who united the five branches of *yue-chi* and laid the foundation of Kushan Empire in the north-western parts of India. He occupied the Gandhara and southern Afganistan. He ruled over Bokhara and Afghanistan for 40 years<sup>47</sup>. A Chinese source, *Hou Hanshu* informs that king *Qiujiu-Que* (KujulaKadphised) attacked Parthia and *Gaofu* (Kabul region). He conquered the *Jibin* (Kapisa-Peshawar)<sup>48</sup>. Further, *Periplus* informs that he conquered cashmere and upper Indus<sup>49</sup>. After conquering Kabul valley, he issued the coins. On the obverse of his coins, the image of Hermaeus was found,

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<sup>42</sup>. B. N. Mukherjee, *Political History of Ancient India*, pp. 104-05.

<sup>43</sup>. Irfan Habib, *A Peoples History of India*, Vol. VI, p. 21.

<sup>44</sup>. B. N. Mukherjee, *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 458.

<sup>45</sup>. L. P. Sharma, *Ancient History of India from Pre-Historic Age to 1200 AD*, New Delhi, 1981, pp. 162-163; *Travels of Fa-hian and Sung-Yun, Buddhist Pilgrims from China to India* (400 AD to 518 AD) tr. Samuel Beal, London, 1964, pp. xvi-xvii (Intro).

<sup>46</sup>. *The Periplus of Erythraean Sea*, tr. W. H. Schoof, p. 186

<sup>47</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup>. *The Western Regions according to Hou Hanshu*, tr. John E. Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Sep.2003, Section-13.

<sup>49</sup>. *Ibid; Annual Report of ASI, 1929-30*, p. 56.

last Indo-Greek king and on the reverse Heracles was depicted<sup>50</sup>. He was the first ruler of kushana dynasty who minted his own coins of copper and silver in the south of Hindukush. Another kushan ruler was Wima-Kadphises successor of KujulaKadphises who occupied the Punjab, Kashmir and some parts of Uttar Pradesh. He sent 70,000 cavalry against the Chinese General Pan Chao and was totally defeated near kashgar and was obliged for some years to send tribute to China<sup>51</sup>. He also issued the coins of gold bearing the images of Nandi and lord Shiva<sup>52</sup>. The most important Kushanas ruler in India was Kanishka. He was the successor of Wima-Kadphises<sup>53</sup>. He had two capitals one at Purushpura and other was Mathura. He had held the post of kshatrap under WimaKadphises in eastern India. He occupied Bihar, Up, Malwa, Rajputana, Sindh, Saurasta, parts of Maharashta, Kashmir, Punjab, Afghanistan and some parts of central Asia. He had re-united the northern India into one single political unit. His boundaries were touched with India and Iran<sup>54</sup>. He also gave crushing defeat to the Chinese general Pan-Chao<sup>55</sup>.

After Kanishka, Vasishkha ruled only for four years from 102-106 A.D. He was succeeded by Huvishka who ruled from 106-138A.D. He was very powerful ruler but he could not withstand against the great saka satrap Rudradaman. Kanishka II ruled jointly with him for some time. The last Kushanas ruler was Vasudeva who ruled from 145 BC to 176 BC. It was in the middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D the Kushanas rule was only confined to north-western parts of India and Punjab. Later on the Kushanas Empire broke into small pieces as the western India was controlled by sakas, Mathura was captured by Nayas and the Punjab and Haryana and Rajasthan were controlled by some tribal principalities. There was the rise of Sasassian in Iran occupied central Asia and Afghanistan. Kushanas rule was now confined to the North-Western frontiers of India through their Kshatrap<sup>56</sup>. So they established

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<sup>50</sup>. A. K. Narain, *The Indo Greeks*, p. 160.

<sup>51</sup>. A. K. Narain, *The Indo Greeks*, p. 160.

<sup>52</sup>. P. L. Gupta, *Coins*, National Book Trust, New-Delhi, 1969, p. 28.

<sup>53</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup>. R. S. Sharma, *India Ancient Past*, p. 194.

<sup>55</sup>. D. N. Jha, *Ancient India; In Historical Outline*, Manohar; New-Delhi, 2011, p. 117.

<sup>56</sup>. P. L. Gupta, *Coins*, p.32; Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. II, p. 112.



authority from the borders of the Caspian to the mouth of Ganges ruling over Bactaria, Arachosia, Kaofu, Gandhara and the whole of North India<sup>57</sup>.

**Inland Routes:** Foreigners used both inland and sea routes to enter into the territory of India. Inland routes were connected and linked with sea routes. It was since the days of Mauryan, the entire country was served criss-crossed trade routes. The main trade route of North India linked Tamralipti near Calcutta with Taxila via Pataliputra, Benaras, Kausambi, Mathura and Sakkala modern Sailkot. From Taxila the trunk road went to Central Asia along with Kabul valley. A branch took off from Mathura and went to Patala via Rajasthan. Another branch linked Kausambi with Broach on the mouth of Narmada via Ujjain<sup>58</sup>. The main Southern route ran through western Deccan. It linked Ujjain and Broach with Paithan, capital of Satvahana near Bombay. From Paithan, the road crossed the Godavari and the Krishna and reached upto Kanchi and Maduari<sup>59</sup>. The Assam-Burma route to China which started from Pataliputra (patna), ancient capital of India passed through Champa (Bhagalpur), Kajangala (Rajmahal), Pundravardhana (North-Bengal) and proceeded to Kamrupa (Guhathi). From Assam there were three routes, one route crossed the valley of Brahmaputra up to the Patkoi range and then through its passage up to upper Burma. The other route passed through Manipur up to the Chindwin valley. The third route ran through Arakan up to the Irrawaddy valley. All these routes met on the frontier of Burma near Bhamo and then proceeded over the Mountains and across to river valleys to Yunnanfu i.e. Kunming which was the chief city of Southern province of China<sup>60</sup>. There were other trade routes also from Manipur (Assam) to Mahasthana — Gauda — Pundravardhan — Bhukti — Vaishali — Kushinagar — Kapilvastu — Sravasti — Ahiksetra — Indraprastha — Taxila — Puskalavati. Another route was from Gaya — Kasi — Prayaga — Kanauj — Sankasya — Soron — Indraprastha. The third one was from Indraprastha — Mathura — Ujjain — Minnagara — Barygaza. Fourth

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<sup>57</sup>. A. K. Bag, 'Trade Links, Commerce and Exchanges of Scientific ideas in Antiquity', *Indian Journal of history of Science*, published by Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Dec. 2016, p.563.

<sup>58</sup>. N. Jayapalan, *Economic History of India; Ancient to Present*, Atlantic, 2008, p. 70.

<sup>59</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup>. Dilip K. Chakraborti, 'The Assam- Burma Route to China', *Man and Environment*, Vol. X, 1986, p.124

was from Srinagar — Gilgit—Yarkand — Kashgar — parts of eastern and western Turkistan. Fifth was from Purushpura — Kapisa—Bamian — Bactaria<sup>61</sup>.

Silk route was the term for the first time used by German geographer Ferdinand Von Richthofen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The great Silk Road led to the development of trans-continental trade and diplomatic road in the history of the world. It connected China and Far-east with the Europe and India passing through Central Asia covering 7000 miles<sup>62</sup>. The beginning of silk route was in Chingan modern i.e. Xian from where the travelers went to LanZhon and Dunhuang where the northern and southern routes joined. After crossing the Takamakan desert, merchants and pilgrims had to go along the Northern silk route of Hami, Turfan, Karashahr, Kucha, Aksu and Tumchuk on the way to Kashgarh. It was from Kashgar one branch ran through Kokand and Samarkand in Tajakistan and Uzbekistan and went to the Caspian Sea. Another branch went to the south of Balkh. On reaching the upper Indus, one branch went to Barbarikon and other went to Sialkot and Mathura. From Mathura, it went to Ujjain and from Ujjain to Barygaza. From Mathura its one branch went to Pataliputra modern Patna, then to Tamralipti. From Tamralipti by way of coast, it reached Limyrike Malabar coast. It was from Kashgar, this route struckout southward through the Pamirs and passing Gilgit ended in Kashmir<sup>63</sup>. It was from the port of Babricon on the river of Indus, merchants travelled to Charax and it was from Charax they moved towards the Palmyra by camels. From Palmyra goods were transported to the Medeterian countries for customs and clearance and to the Roman Empire where Chinese silk, Indian cotton and Afghan gems were in high demand. The caravans carried goods across the desert to Koptos on the river Nile. From Koptos Nile boats brought eastern commodities to Alexandria for customs and marketing<sup>64</sup>.

**Sea Route:**Sea route was one of the important route which was linked with inland routes. Strabo informs that 120 vessels were sailed to India whereas under the Ptolemies only few had

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<sup>61</sup>. A. K. Bag, 'Trade-links, Commerce and Exchanges of Scientific ideas in Antiquity', *Indian Journal of History of Science*, Indian National Science Academy, Dec. 2016, New-Delhi, p. 564.

<sup>62</sup>. SubhakantaBehra, 'India's Encounter with Silk Route', *Economic and Political weekly*, Vol. 37, No. 51, Dec. 2002, p. 5077.

<sup>63</sup>. Sally Wriggins, 'A Buddhist Pilgrimage along the Silk Route', *Archaeology*, Vol. 40, No. 05, Sept. and Oct. 1987, pp. 35 and 36.

<sup>64</sup>. EivindHeldaasSeland. 'The Persian Gulf or the Red sea?Two Ancient Axes in Ancient Indian Ocean Trade, Where to go and Why', pp. 398-399.

ventured to undertake the voyage<sup>65</sup>. The people from outside India especially from China, South East Asian countries and the western world used to enter through sea routes. *The Periplus of Erythean Sea* gives detailed account about the sea channels and sea ports across Indian Ocean. He also talks about the traders from Somalia, Audulis, Muza, Cana, Egypt and Persian Gulf who visited the Indian ports situated both on western and eastern coasts<sup>66</sup>. The discovery of monsoon by Hippolus played an important role in trade and commerce. Discovery of monsoon winds was done by Hippolus in the first century AD. It is also called south-west monsoon winds which started from the month of May to the month of October. These south-west monsoon winds helped the traders and merchants in navigation in the Arabian Sea. With the help of these winds, the ships took direction and gain movements, which made the sea voyage easy<sup>67</sup>. Pliny confirms that voyages made to India every year. The Hellenic and Ariaken ships came to the port of Muzuris situated on river at a distance of 500 stadia from Tyndis and the best time to leave Indian ports for the Red sea was between the beginning of December and 13th January. This brought ships to the southern Red sea in time to catch the favorable south-east wind prevailing there from January to March<sup>68</sup>. It was from the port of MyosHormus, the merchants came to Audulis (Massowa), which served as a depot for the Axumites (Abyssinia), Muza and then Ocelis near Cape Acilaat, the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, and the last place beyond which Indian ships were not allowed by the Arabs even during the time of Augustus. Indian wares were found at Somali, Socotra and Aden. From Ocelis, ships were passing through the coasts of Eudremon Arabia, Hadramut and Cane reached Babricon on the Indus. From Indus, the merchants after crossing Eirinon(Rann of Kutch) reached Barygaza (Broach) in the Gulf of Cambay. From there they moved through inland routes towards the ports of Cheras, Pandyas and Cholas. From Deccan they moved towards the eastern ports of India such as Masali (Masulipattnam), Dosarene (Orrisa)<sup>69</sup>.

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<sup>65</sup>. U. P. Arora, 'Ionia, Egypt and Baktria (The Greek world of India)', *Purvattava*, No. 40, 2010, p. 25.

<sup>66</sup>. Kameshwar Prasad, *Cities, Crafts and Commerce under the Kusanas*, p. 149.

<sup>67</sup>. *Periplus*, tr. W.H.Schoff, pp. 08, 53, 227 and 233.

<sup>68</sup>. EivindHeldaasSeland, 'The Persian Gulf or the Red Sea? Two Ancient Axes in Ancient Indian Ocean Trade, Where to go and Why', *World Archaeology*, Vol. 43, No. 03, Sep. 2011, p. 401; John W. McCrindle, *Ancient India as described in Classical Literature*, pp. 111-112.

<sup>69</sup>. Kameshwar, Prasad, *Cities, Crafts and Commerce under the Kusanas*, pp. 149-150.

**Foreign Settlements:** Both archaeological and literary evidences indicate Foreign Settlements along with their economic activities have been discovered in the following towns which confirmed the fact that the foreign rule and presence of foreigners especially people from Central Asian, Persia and China, Greece, Roman world lived in India:

**Taxila.** Taxila was one of the earliest and famous cities of ancient India. This place is also mentioned in epics and Buddhist literature. It was the great center of trade and education. It was located on trade route<sup>70</sup>. It was from the Giri in Taxila where archaeological findings have been reported such as iron, arrow-heads, beads, gold ornaments, ivory bangles, antimony rods<sup>71</sup>. The other city of Taxila was Sirkap where copper cups, copper bowls, copper inkpot, copper handis, ivory-hair comb, ivory anvil square in section belonged to the Parthian era, yellow glazed pottery fragments, gold and silver ornaments have been discovered<sup>72</sup>. It was at Sirsukh where pottery, metal objects, stone objects, coins, beads of semi-precious stones have been reported. So all these archaeological findings indicated that Taxila was one of the important urban centers during the post-Mauryan period<sup>73</sup>.

**Kashmir.** In Kashmir, many Kushana towns have been reported. Kalhana informs that Kushana kings got built three towns in Kashmir such as Huskapura, Juskapura and Kanishkapura<sup>74</sup>. Terracotta tiles have been discovered from the all sites of Kashmir valley such as Harwan, Ushkur, Semtham, Hutmur, Ganderbal, DoenPathar<sup>75</sup>. It was at DoenPathar, tiles are not well levigated clay and well-baked. Stamps are slightly under developed. It was from the site of Hoinar where clay is not well-levigated but motifs are well demarcated. It was from Kanishkapur at Baramullaha where Brahmi and Kharoshti numerals are inscribed on terracotta tiles. The tiles from Harwan were the workmanship of the Parthian people who settled in Kashmir in the first and second century BC. It was the exclusive art of Parthian. Hunting scenes were found on the tiles of Harwan<sup>76</sup>. The

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<sup>70</sup>. R. S. Sharma, *India's Ancient Past*, p. 222.

<sup>71</sup>. Annual Report (1927-28), pp. 57-65.

<sup>72</sup>. Annual Report (1928-29), pp. 51-55.

<sup>73</sup>. KameshwarParshad, *Cities, Crafts and Commerce under the Kushanas*, pp. 35-36.

<sup>74</sup>. *Kalhana's Rajatarangini*, tr. M. A. Stein, Vol. I, Archibald Constable and Company, LTD, Westminster, 1979, p. 30.

<sup>75</sup>. Mohammad Ajmal Shah and B. R. Mani, 'Kushan Terracotta Tiles in Kashmir Valley: The Chronological interpretation', *Purvattava*, No. 43, 2013, pp. 239-240.

<sup>76</sup>. *Ibid*, pp. 240-242.

Kanishkapur, Ushkur and Harwan belonged to the Kushan period and these tiles were also found in Taxila and its neighbouring regions<sup>77</sup>.

**Ahichchhatra.** It was important town of ancient India located in Uttar Pradesh. The stratum IV and vii belonged our area of study. Stratum vii belonged to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and Ist century AD. We find grey pottery with heavy wares and sometimes with slip were found which was not decorated in this stratum. This stratum indicates that this was the final phase of grey color pottery culture in the site of Achhithra. The grey wares were not large in size and shape. It was at the lower part of vessel black slip was commonly found. A storage jar which has blackish in color with buff surface and distinctive jar with a well-defined lip and a deeply grooved neck<sup>78</sup>. The postcard first time occurs in this stratum<sup>79</sup>. Cooking pans with loop handles and small lug ears on their rims have been reported. Jars of gritty fabric with no well- defined neck have also been reported. Flat horizontal rim was the feature of the small jars. A bellied jar with a small bottle neck and rounded base is a type of rare occasion<sup>80</sup>. It was in the stratum of VI probably belonged to the Kushana period. It was in this stratum we find carinated and waisted jars. We find in this period nearby flat base, minimum diameter gradually increasing upwards to an in-turned rim. This type of pottery we find in Maholi near Muttra belonged to kushana period<sup>81</sup>. The lug-handles handles were set up on rims of the shallow troughs. Jars of smaller types generally with flat horizontal rims occasionally with grooves immediately below were found. Bottle- necked jars with flaring lip as well as globular body with rounded base and vertical neck were also found<sup>82</sup>. These findings indicated that it was important center of manufacturing of pottery-Industry where this craft was practiced.

**Gandhar.** It was the leading town in the North-West of India. It was from the region of Gandhar where pottery with different fashions belonged our area of study is given below such as Goblets were found in the Gandhar region belonged to the Parthian levels. They were used them as wine

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<sup>77</sup>. *Ibid.*, p. 245.

<sup>78</sup>. A. Ghosh and K. C. Panigrahi, *The Pottery of Achchchhatra*, District Bareilly, *Ancient India- Bulletin of the Archaeological Survey of India*, 1946, p. 45.

<sup>79</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>80</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>81</sup>. *Ibid.*, p. 46.

<sup>82</sup>. *Ibid.*

cups. They have carinated bodies, deeply flared mouths, horizontal flutings and pedestal base. The other was drinking horn has a wide mouth with the sides tapering towards the bottom were used for drinking purpose. Romans borrowed this art from Greeks<sup>83</sup>. The third was Mug which had Hellenistic derivation. It is cylindrical in shape with multi-ribbed exterior. It has a big handle luted to the brim of the rim and profile. The base is flat. The similar types of mugs have been reported from Kashmir<sup>84</sup>. The fourth was Amphoraea. It has a vertical neck, globular body and pedestal base. It is also provided with two handles. They are luted to rim and body. It was used to keep oil, honey and especially wine<sup>85</sup>. The fifth was surahi. They have long neck, globular body and flat base. Indian imitated them from Romans. They were used to keep water and wine. They were found in the western Indian and Deccan<sup>86</sup>. The sixth was spouted vessels. They have vertical neck, globular body, pedestal base or ring base. They have been also reported from the sculptures of Baharuth, Amravati and Nagarjunakonda<sup>87</sup>.

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<sup>83</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup>. *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup>. *Ibid.*, pp. 148-49.

<sup>86</sup>. *Ibid.*, p. 99.

<sup>87</sup>. *Ibid.*