

## Examrace

### Competitive Exams: Places and Areas in Ancient India

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- Aihole near Badami with rock cut and structural temples of Western Chalukya period, is famous for the temples of Vishnu, Lakshmi and Durga. It furnishes examples of a well-developed Deccan style of architecture. The other three styles of ancient India being Nagar Dravidian and Vesara. It is also famous for its inscription or Prasasti composed by Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakesin II. This prasasti mentions the defeat of Harsha by the Chalukya king, Pulakesin II, a rare event of a Northern emperor or ruler being defeated by a ruler south of Narmada.
- Achichhatra identified with modern Ramnagar in Bareilly district of U P was the capital of North Panchala in the first half of first millennium B. C. Excavation shows that it had moats and ramparts around it, it has revealed terracottas of the Kushan period, and also remarkable series of coins of second century A. D. Its importance lies in the fact that it was on the important ancient Indian northern trade route linking Taxila and Indraprastha with Kanyakubaj and Sravasti, Rajgriha and Pataliputra indicating that trade could be one of the reasons for its prominence.
- Ajanta near Aurangabad (Maharashtra) , is famous for wonderful Buddhist caves, and also paintings probably executed only by the Buddhist monks. Paintings of exceptional skill belong to the period between 2<sup>nd</sup> century B. C. and 7<sup>th</sup> Century A. D. One of the cave walls depicts the reception of a Persian mission in the Chalukya court of Pulakesin II indicating cultural and commercial contacts with the Persian empire.
- Anupa in Narmada valley mentioned in the Nasik inscription (dated 115 A. D.) of Gautami Balasri, mother of the Satvahana ruler Sri Satakarni (Circa 72 – 95 A. D.) was conquered by the latter from the Sakas, and was a bone of contention for long between the Sakas and the Satavahanas. The Sakas were responsible for driving the Satavahanas into the south-eastern and western direction. In other words, Anupa signifies the earlier homeland of the Satavahanas.
- Aparantaka (Aparanta) , identified with Konkan, i.e. . North western region of the Deccan, was a bone of contention between the Sakas and the Satavahanas and is mentioned in Nasik Inscription (dated circa 155 A. D.) of Gautami Balasri. Gautamiputra Satakarni conquered it from the Sakas. According to the Mahavamsa, the third Buddhist council deputed Great elder Dharmarakshita to do missionary work in Aparantaka region. Literary evidence locates the Abhiras in this region, who probably were responsible for identifying Lord Krishna as the deity of cowherd and milk-maids. In matters relating to trade and commerce it was famous for the production of cotton textiles in ancient times and acted, as the hinterland for the ancient ports of Bharukachchha and Sopara.

- **ARIKAMEDU** Near Pondicherry, known to the periplus as podoka, was a port of call in Sangam Times (200 B. C.) on the route of Malaya and China. Recent excavation during which a very rich treasure of Roman beads, glass and coins, and of Roman and South Indian Pottery were found have proved that it was once a prosperous settlement of Western trading people, including the Romans. The favourable balance of Payments position enjoyed by India in its trade with Rome is amply revealed by the rich haul of Roman gold coins.
- **Ayodhya** also known as A-yu-te or Abhur of Saketa on the river Saryu (Modern Ghaghra) in Faizabad district of U P was the earliest capital of the Kosala Janapada and was the seat of the epic hero, Rama. It is also known for its short Sanskrit inscription of King Dhandeva of Kosal (belonging probably to the first century B. C.) which refers to the conducting of two Asvamedha sacrifices by King Pushyamitra. From the economic view-point it was located on the important trade of Tamralipti-Rajagriha-Sravasti which passed via Ayodhya.
- **Amravati** near modern Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), is famous for its stupa and as an art center flourishing under the Satavahanas and the Pallavas. Second century works of art show mastery of stone sculpture. Amravati bas-reliefs have the representation of ancient Indian vehicles—the boat or the ship or the cart, and of a foreign mission (like the Ajanta cave paintings) of merchants being received by a king. In ancient times it was an important center of trade, and ships from here sailed to Burma and Indonesia. It is maintained by some scholars that a human figure, for the first time, that a marble stone relief was executed.
- **Asika** (Probably on the left bank of the river Krishna), is mentioned in the Nasik inscription (dated circa 115 A. D.) of Gautami Balasri, it was conquered by the Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni. The latter fact reveals that Gautamiputra Satakarni gained a stronger hold of southern India which proved beneficial because of the continuing Saka pressure even after his victory against the Sakas. King Kharavela of Kalinga also made a claim of its conquest.
- **Avanti** (western Malva) one of the 16 Janapadas of 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. With its capital at Ujjain; struggled hard against Magadhan imperialism but in vain. According to Buddhist traditions, Asoka, the Mauryan ruler, served as the Viceroy of Avanti, while he was a prince. Since Malwa region is important politically, and economically it became a bone of contention between the Sakas. And the Satavahanas, Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas in ancient India. It is through this region that the important trade routes from eastern and western India passed via Ujjain to the important Western ports Bharukachchha (Broach) and Soparaka (Sopara).
- **Anga** one of the 16<sup>th</sup> Janapadas of 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. Lay to the east of Magadha with Champa, near Bhagalpur, as its capital. Some of the Anga monarchs, like Brahmadatta, appear to have defeated their Magadha contemporaries. Subsequently, however, Magadha emerged supreme leading to the establishment of the first empire of ancient

India. In other words, the conquest of Anga by Magadha was one of the stepping stones for the Magadhan Empire.

- Barhut in central Indian is famous for Buddhist Stupa and stone railings which replaced the wooden ones in the Sunga period. Barhut sculptures depict the visit of king Ajatasatru to the Buddha. Barhut along with Sanchi and Bodh-Gaya represent the first organized art activity of the Indian people as a whole. Furthermore, all these clearly indicate the transition of sculpture from wood to stone.
- Barygaza Or Bharukachcha (Broach) was the oldest and largest northern most entrepot on the mouth of the Narmada river in modern Maharashtra. It handled the bulk of the trade with western Asia (Jataka stories and the Periplus mention it) . It was also one of the district headquarters of the Saka rulers. According to Jain traditions, it was the capital of the Saka empire. It was international trade that made Barygaza important in ancient India.
- Barbaricum was an important port in the Indus delta, receiving Chinese furs and silks through Bactria for export to the West. It added to the growing prosperity of India in the first century A. D.
- Badami (Modern Name For Vatapi) in Bijapur district was founded by Pulakesin I as an early capital of the Western Chalukyas. It as a hill-fort and an exquisite cave temple of lord Vishnu excavated during the rule of Mangalesh, the Chalukya ruler. Huen-tsang visited it.
- Bodh-Gaya situated six miles south of Gaya in Bihar on the western bank of the Nilajan river, was the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment. It was part of the Magadha janapada.
- Banavasi (north kanara in Karnataka) also known as Vaijyanti, was the capital of the Kadambas who were defeated by the Chalukya king Kirtivarman during the last quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A. D. According to the Ceylonese chronicles Ashoka sent a mission to Deccan with the Monk Rkshita who went as far as Banavasi.
- Brahmagiri in Chitaldurg district of Karnataka, is remarkable for its continuity of cultural heritage extending from Neolithic (stone-age culture) to megalithic (early historic culture- 3<sup>rd</sup> century B. C. To 1<sup>st</sup> century B. C. With possible links with Mediterranean and Caucasian Megaliths) revealing ancestry worship and animism pointing to the practice of cist and pit burials. It is the site of one of the two minor rock edicts of Ashoka. These edicts suggest the provability of Ashoka entering the Sangha as a full monk after two and a half years of his conversion to Buddhism.
- Burzahom In Kashmir Valley near Srinagar, is associated with megalithic settlements (dating 2400 B. C.) where the people lived on a plateau in pits using tools and weapons of stone (axe) and bones (The only other site which has yielded considerable bone implements is Chirand, 40 km. West of Patna on the northern bank of the Ganges and

using coarse grey pottery. The information that we gather from the two places, recently discovered, throws light on the proto-history of India) .

- Bamiyan an important Buddhist and Gandhara Art center in Afghanistan in the early Christian centuries, has tall rock-cut Buddha statues. The ancient trade route linking north western India with China passed through it. It was the capital of the Hunas in the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries A. D.
- Belur with a group of Hoysala monuments including the famous Chennakesava temple (built around 1117 A. D.) represents an art which applies to stone the technique of the ivory worker or the goldsmith.
- Chidambaram a town in south Arcot district in Tamilnadu is famous for its great Hindu Siva Temple dedicated to Nataraja, i.e.. . Siva in his aspects of cosmic dance. The Nataraja sculptures are esteemed as the greatest specimens of sculpture in the world. Also, Chidambaram bears evidence to the birth as well as the development of Shaivism to begin with in southern Indian and its consequential spread to the whole of India.
- CHEDI OR CHETI one of the 16 Janapadas of 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. Roughly corresponds to modern Bundelkhand and adjacent tracts. It lay near the Kanuna, its metropolis was Suktimati to Sottihivatinagar.
- Caampa the capital city of the Anga Janapada on the border of Bengal was of great commercial importance in ancient times; for it was a river port from which ships would sail down the Ganges and the coast the south India, returning with jewels and spices which were much in demand in the North. By Mauryan times, with the eastward expansion of Aryan culture, Tamralipti replaced in importance. An interesting feature of this is the fact that a Hindu Kingdom with the same name came into existence in the mainland of South east Asia. Indeed it is difficult to say how exactly this name came to be transplanted in South-east Asia.
- Dasapura modern Mandasor in western Malwa, was disputed between the Sakas and the Satavahanas. Its famous Siva temple of the guild of Silk weavers, was built during the reign of Kumar Gupta I (414 A. D. 455 A. D.) the institution that is responsible for building the Siva temple indicates the climax of Indian trading and commercial activities in ancient India. It also reveals that manufacture of silk was no longer the secret monopoly of China and it had taken roots in India by the 5<sup>th</sup> century A. D.
- Devaka modern Doka in Nowgong district in Assam, a frontier country which paid tribute to Samudragupta claiming the payment of tribute by Kamarupa goes along with Devaka. However, it is to be borne in mind that Harisena's Prasasti is of doubtful historical validity. The one significant thing that is known is the fact that no ruler of the northern India could ever conquer the Assam region but instead Burma conquered it and it was wrenched from Burma by the British in 1829 by the Treaty of Yandavoo.
- Deogarh in Jhansi district of U P is famous for its Dasvatara Vishnu temple belonging to the Gupta period. The temple may be considered as most representative and well

known example of the early sikhara style of temple architecture in example of the early sikhara style of temple architecture on the panels of its walls. Deogarh is one the temples with which began the temple architecture of India. In particular, the Shikhara is the unique feature of the northern temples compared to those of southern Indian.

- Dwaraka Legends associate this place to Yadavas after the battle of Kurukshetra. According to mythology Dwaraka was destroyed by the huge tidal wave as per the forewarning of Lord Krishna. In very recent times Dr. S. R. Rao with the cooperation of the Department of Oceanography, did carry out under-sea explorations. Some artifacts including stone anchors have been found dating back to the Harappan period. The exploration is still continuing.
- Ellora With three distinct groups of rock-cut architecture associated with Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanical Hinduism, is famous for its temple of Kailash (Siva) “an entire temple complex completely hewn-out of the live rock in imitation of a distinctive structural form” The temple was built by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (758 – 773 A. D.) and is one of the most magnificent examples of Dravida architecture with its four principal characteristic components, viz. Vimana, Mandapa, nandi mandapa and gopuram. The Ellora sculptures are famous for their liveliness.
- Eran Besnagar district (Madhya Pradesh) is famous on account of Eran Inscriptions dated 510 A. D. This inscription mentions the practice of Sati, first of its kind. It is also famous for its colossal board, the zoomorphic incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
- ELEPHANTA Beautiful little island off Bombay, with latest cave temples in Ellora style was famous for their sculpture, especially the great Trimutti figure of Siva, emblem of the Maharashtra Govt. Representing the highest plastic expression of the Hindu concept of divinity.
- Gandhara with Taxila and Peshwar as two capitals, in earlier and later ancient periods was one of the 16 Janapadas ( 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C.) on the north-western frontier of India. Under the Kushans it became a popular center of Mahayana Buddhism and Gandhara art-Indian images both secular and religious (the Buddha and Lord Krishna) but in long floating garments, as is the tradition of early Greek sculpture. It was a meeting ground for several civilizations and mercantile communities belonging to different countries.
- Gorathagira A hill fortress on the modern Barabar hills in the Gaya district of Bihar, was attacked by King Kharavela of Kalinga in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of his reign. This fact is known from the Hathigumpha Inscription of king Kharavela.
- Gangaikond-Chola-Puram was capital city of the greatest Chola ruler Rajendra Chola I (1012 – 1044 A. D.) who built it after the successful Chola military campaign upto the bank of the river Ganges in 1021 – 22. Currently the city lies in ruins and its enormous tank has dried up:
- Girnar hill near Janagarh in Gujarat, where a Mauryan governor is said to have built an artificial lake, known as Sudarsana lake which Rudradaman, the Saka ruler renovated.

Rudradaman's Sanskrit Inscription was located here and it is the first Sanskrit inscription. It had been a sacred place to the Jainas since remote times because Jain shrines are also located here.

- Hastinapura in Meerut in U P (known as Asandivant) was the capital of the ancient tribe of the Kurus. Later the floods destroyed it. Recent excavations prove that the people of this region used iron by about 700 B. C. That is the Aryans had learnt the art of making iron which revolutionized the whole socio-economic pattern of Aryan communities. It was this fact that lay at the base of the Economic Revolution that India passed through between 1000 B. C. To 600 A. D. With far too many consequences like the emergence of an empire, various kinds of guilds, brisk trade both with in and with out the country and links with both South-east Asia and the Roman empire.
- Hathigupha on Udaigir hill, three miles from Bhuvaneshwar in the puri district of Orissa, is famous for an inscription in post-ashokan character, engraved inside the elephant cave. It depicts the meteoric and dazzling career of Jaina king Kharavela, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ruler of the Kalinga dynasty. It also refers to the building of an aqueduct in Kalinga by one of the Nanda rulers of Pataliputra. The importance of this inscription lies in the fact that it is the first important sign-post in fixing the chronology of ancient India.
- HAILBID Is famous for Hoysalesvara temple (Hoysala period) designed and built by Kedoraja, the master-builder of Narasimha I. The infinite wealth of sculpture over the exterior of this temple makes it one of the most remarkable monuments of the world. Known as Dwaramudra it was the capital of the Hoysalas.
- Indraprastha identified by Jain scholars with the site around the enclosure of the Purana Oila (Delhi) one of the sites of painted Grey Ware ( 10<sup>th</sup> century B. C.) found, was the legendary capital of the Pandava brothers of the epic Mahabharata, which they lost to the Kauravas having been defeated in the gambling match. After the second battle of Tarain (1192) Moh. Gauri appointed Outbuddin Aibak as his deputy at Indraprastha which became a base for Aibak's successful operations against north Indian states.
- Kuru one of the 16 Janapadas of 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. was in the neighbourhood of Delhi. Among its towns may be mentioned Indraprastha and Hastinapur. This place clearly brings home the truth to us that Mahabharata was not purely fictional story but some amount of historical evidence is embedded in the story. As a matter of fact, Vasudeva Krishna is now known as a historical personality as borne out by the writings of Patanjali and other sources of evidence.
- Kajangala in Raj mahal district in Eastern Bihar, where king Harsha (606 – 647 A. D.) held his court while campaigning in eastern India. The Chinese pilgrim Huen-Tsang first saw Harsha here.
- Kapisa It is the region near Kabul, probably Kipin as referred to by Chinese writers. The presiding deity of the city according to Chinese writers was Zeus. The Greek god. The gold and silver coins issued by the Greek kings have been discovered from this

region in big numbers. The Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India. These coins testify to the growing trade links between India and Central Asia and China and also with the Roman world. Far more important is the fact that these coins testify to the growing worship of Vasudeva-krishna or the Bhagavata cult which later reopened as Vaishnavism.

- Kipin is identified with Kapisa or Kafirstan in Kashmir. It indicated the wide region known in earlier times as the Mahajanapada of Kamboja. It was ruled by the Sakas, the Kushans and the Hunas in succession. The name Kamboja reappears as the name of kamboja, an important of the mainland of South-East Asia.
- Kampilya was the capital of southern Panchalas, one of the tribal communities of the Aryans. This fact proves that the Aryans, to begin with in India, lived as various tribes. The tribes were in constant war with each other culminating in the emergence of the Magadha Empire.
- Kusumdhvaja (Patliputara) Gargi-Samhita alludes that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B. C. The Yavanas (Indo-Bactrians) having reduced Saketa, Panchala, and Mathura reached kusumdhvana. Demetrios, was, most probably, the Yavana leader. He was defeated or he retired without fighting.
- Kasi one of the 16 Janapadas of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. With its capital of the same name. It was also called Varanasi (69) . It greatly prospered under the rule of Brahmadatta.
- Kosal one of the 16 janapadas of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. Had three different capitals (Saketa, Ayodhya and Sravasti) in three different periods. Its region roughly corresponded to modern Udh.
- Kusinagar (Kusinara?) modern Kasia, in Gorakhpur district in UP was a small town where the Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. It was one of the two capitals of the Mall Janapada in pre-Buddhist times. It was visited by Ashoka and the Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien.
- Kanyakubja (Kanauj) on the bank of river Ganges in UP rose to prominence during the time of Mukharis, Harsha and Gujara-Pratiharas. Under the Pratiharas, Kanauj successfully resisted the Arabs. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century A. D. It was disputed among the Palas of Bengal, Pratiharas, and the Rashtrakutas. It was situated on a very important trade-route linking north-Western regions of India with Prayaga, Kasi, Vaishali, Pataliputra, Rajagriha, Tamralipti.
- Kausambi identified with the village of Kosam near Allahabad was one of the earliest cities, so prominent that Anand, the Buddhist monk, though it important enough for a Buddha to die in. Recent excavation here unearthed historically and culturally important terracotta figures. It was built in the shape of a trapezium and was the capital of the vastse Janapada. One of the Ashokan Pillars was located here. It was also an inscription of the Kushan monarch.

- Karna-Suvarna: Refers to the region of Bengal and some parts of Bihar and Orrisa, ruled by Sasanka in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century A. D. Harsha conquered the region from him after 619 A. D.
- Kanheri In Thana district near Bombay, has rock cut Chaitya shrines with elaborately decorated railings belonging to the third century A. D. One inscription of the last great ruler of the Satavahana dynasty, Yajnasri Satakarni is found here. Kanheri Buddhist Tank inscription makes mention of Matrimonial relationship between the Sakas and the Satavahanas. It was the chief center of Buddhism in Rashtrakuta times. Faint traces of the art of paintings may be traced in the caves of Kanheri.
- Kanchi modern Canjeevaram, south-west to Madras is reckoned among the seven sacred cities of the Hindus. It was an important center of Jaina culture in the first half of the first millennium A. D. It was one of the south Indian kingdoms conquered by Samudragupta. It was visited by Huen-Tsang. It rose to prominence in 7<sup>th</sup> century A. D. Under the Pallava king. It possesses the famous Kailashnath temple (built by Pallava King Narsimhavarman-II) and Vaikuntha perumalla (constructed sometime after the Kailashnath). The Kailashnath temple is a landmark in the development of Dravidian temple style with its characteristic components-vimana, mandapa gopuram and an array of vimanas along the walls of the court, i.e.. . Peristyle cells.
- Kaveripattanam known as Puhar, was the Chola capital and chief port in Sangam period (200 B. C. 300 A. D.) with a large colony of foreigners. It was an important trade center. Ships sailing from here to South-East Asia. A long poem on this Chola capital is the part of the famous Sangam work Pattupattu (Ten Idylls).
- Kurukshetra near Thaneswar, to the north of Delhi in Haryana, was the site of the great battle of Mahabharata. This battle fought between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, formed the basis of the story of the great Indian epics the Mahabharata. It is in this great war that Krishna preached his gospel of the Gita, to the Pandava hero Arjuna who saw his own elders and kishmen arranged himself for the fight and then early decided to renounce and retire. Krishna gave him the message of disinterested performance of duty i.e.. . Renunciation in action but no renunciation of action. That a great war was fought between the cousin brothers-Kauravas and Pandavas is quite possible.
- Manyakheta (modern Malkhed in Hyderabad region) was the capital of Rashtrakuta Amoghavarsha I in the 9<sup>th</sup> century A. D.
- Mahabalipuram is today a tiny coastal village 65 kms. South of Madras. This port-city was founded by Pallava king Narasimhavarman in the 7<sup>th</sup> century A. D. Pallava kings created an architecture of their own which was to be the basis of all the styles of the south. In fact Mahabalipuram, the Pallava art with its monolithic temples (rathas) and rocks sculptured in the shapes of animals with a wonderfully broad and powerful naturalism, with whole cliffs worked in stone frescoes, immensities unparalleled at the time in all India in their order movement and lyrical value. The Descent of the

Ganges, the unique masterpiece of Pallava art was surely one of the most remarkable compositions of all time (in which is portrayed the Ganges coming down to earth, with gods, animals men and all creation in adoration) . The shore temple built by Rajasimha represents one of the earliest examples of structural temples. The Pallava monuments at Mahabalipuram symbolize not only the transition from rock-architecture to structural stone temples but also significantly the completion of the “Aryanisation” of South India during the Pallava period.

- Madhyamika is identified with Nagari near Chitor in Rajasthan. Patanjali alludes to Yavana (Indo-Bactrian) invasion of Madhyamika.
- Mushikas on the lower Indus with its capital at Alor. Was the greatest principality at the time of Alexander’s invasion. Its king Mousikana submitted to Alexander after brave resistance.
- Matipur modern Mandawar in district Bijnor of UP was a center of Hinayana Buddhist studies in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries A. D. Huen-Tsang stayed here for some time.
- Madurai Popularly known as the city of festivals, was the seat of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sangam and was till the 14<sup>th</sup> century the capital of the Pandyan kingdom which had sea-borne trade with Rome and Greece. It is famous for the Minakshi temple.
- Maccha or Matsya, was one of the 16 janapads. The Matsyas ruled to the west of the Jamuna and south of the Kurus. Their capital was at Viratnagar (modern Bairrat near Jaipur) .
- Malla was one of the 16 Janapadas of the 16<sup>th</sup> century B. C. The territory of the Mallas was on the mountain slopes probably to the north of the Vajjian confederation. They had branches with their capitals at Kusinagar and Pawa. But in pre-Buddhist time the Mallas were a monarchy.
- Muziris Modern Cannanore in Kerala at the mouth of the river Periyar, an important port in Sangam period (20 B. C. 300 A. D.) abounded in ships with cargoes from Arabia and Roman world. Later literature speaks of Roman settlements and a temple was built here in honour of Augustus.
- Nagarjunakonda in Krishna Valley, harboured a Neolithic community with stone-axe-culture and primitive mode of agriculture. With a few classical accidental looking sculptures it proves trade and culture contacts with the Roman world. Survival of a Buddhist stupa proves it to be a Buddhist center in early Christian centuries. The beginning of Hindu temple architecture in south India are best traced in the remains of the early brick temples of the Ikshvakus excavated here anticipating the Nagara, Dravida and Vasavi styles.
- Nasik (also known as Naisikya and Govardhan) is famous for exquisite rock-cut Buddhist temple (of the period 2<sup>nd</sup> BC- 1<sup>st</sup> A. D.) with an engraved inscription of Gautami Balsari recording the achievement of the Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni. A

large board of silver coins bearing the name, the titles of Nahapana were discovered at Jogalthambi very close to the Nasik suggesting the defeat of the Saka ruler by the Satavahana king. It is also famous for the Chaitya and Vihar as Pan-du-lonea.

- Pithunda on the Godavari, was the capital of the Avapeople or the Avamukta which was conquered as Samudragupta.
- Padmavati was Nag capital in Gwalior region. Its king Ganapati Naga was defeated by Samudragupta.
- Pratishthana (Paithan) at the mouth of the river Godavari in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, was the capital of Satavahana kings. It was an important commercial mart linked with Sravasti.
- Purushpura (modern Peshawar) was the capital of Kanishka's vast empire and the center of Gandhara art. It became the chief center of Buddhist activity and studies with building of number of huge Chaityas and viharas and with one stupa. The Chinese pilgrims refer to a many storied relic-tower in which some relics of Buddha were enshrined. It is here that the icons of Buddha and other Hindu gods were first finely carved. It provided the meeting place of the merchants of India, China, central Asia, Persia, and the Roman world.
- Pattadakal near Aihole Badami is famous for magnificent rock-cult and sculptures temples in Chalukya and Pallava style. The number of such temples is ten-four in the northern style and six in southern. Most famous of these temples is Lokeshvara temple (now called Virupaksha).
- Panchala was one of the 16 Janapadas of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C. Its area correspondent to modern Bundelkhand and the portion of the Central Doab. It had two divisions northern and southern, the Ganges forming the boundary line. Their capitals were Ahichchatra and Kampilya respectively. One of the early Panchalas kings, Durmukha, is credited with conquests in all directions.
- Pushkalavati i.e. . The " city of lotuses " in Afghanistan to the north of the river Kabul (modern Charasadda) in the district of Peshawar was conquered by Alexander. It was the old capital of western Gandhara. A gold coin (belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B. C.) with the city goddess (Lakshmi) holding a lotus in her right hand and an appropriate Kharoshthi legend " Pakhalavati devata " had been discovered here pointing to the popularity of Indian goddess. It remained under the rule of the Indo-Greeks, the Sakas and the Kushans. It was an important link in India ' s trade relations with central Asia and China.
- Rajagriha modern Rajgir, near Patna in Bihar was an ancient capital of Magadha under Bimbisara and Ajatashatru. It was here that first Buddhist council was held after the death of Buddha. The cyclopean walls of this old commercial town are among the most remarkable finds in India.

- Sakala modern Sialkot, capital of Menander, was the refuge of Buddhist monks. It was here, according to Buddhist tradition, that Pushyamitra Sungha declared to give an award of 199 dinars for the head of a Buddhist monk.
- Sanchi: Near Bhopal famous for a Buddhist stupa and for one of Ashoka's Minor Pillar Edicts. Sanchi sculptures along with Bharhut Godh-Gaya represent the first organized art activity of the Indian People. There are reliefs of the Jatkas on the stone walls around the stupa. Sanchi revealed historically important inscription of the Satavahanas and the Gupta kings. Kakanodbota probably was the ancient name for Sanchi, which was inhabited by the tribal people Kakar, and was conquered by the Samudragupta.
- Sravasti moder Saket-Mahet on the borders of the Gonda and the Bahraich districts of U P On the river Rapti-It was a famous center of trade in ancient times, from where three important trade routes emanated linking it with Rajagriha, Pratishtana, and Taxila. It was one of the early capitals of the Janapad of Kosal. Later, it served as the provincial headquarters of the Gupta kings. Fa-hien visited it.
- Saketa region around Ayodhya, was invaded by Yavanas (Indo-Bacterin) is attested to by Patanjali.
- Sarnath near Varanasi, is the place where the Buddha delivered his frist sermon in the Deer park, this event being known as the "Turning of the Wheel of Law" It is the site of the famous Ashokan Pillar of Polished sand-stone whose lion capital was adopted by the people of Free India as the state emblem. It was also the famous seat of Gupta sculpture. Gupta plastic art reached its perfection e. g. The seated Buddha in preaching posture.
- Sravana-Belgola in Hasan district of Karnataka, is famous for the monolithic statue of Gometeswara-85fit. High, erected in 980 A. D. By Chemundya Rai, the chief minister of the Ganga king Rachmal.
- Sopara port town known to the Periplus and ptolmey, carried most of the ancient Indian trade with foreign countries; gradually it began to lose its importance to Berygaza and Barharium-Ist century A. D. Onwards. It ahs survived as a village 40 miles north of Bombay.
- Tosali (Dhauri) near Bhuaneshwar in Puri district of Orissa, was the seat of one of the Mauryan viceroyalties as well as one of the fourteen major rock edicts of Ashoka. The Tosali rock edict refers only to the conquered province.
- Tripuri now village near Jabalpur, was the capital of the Kalachuri dynasty. The Kalachuri kings became independent in 10<sup>th</sup> century A. D. In 1939, Tripuri had the distinction of being the venue of the 54<sup>th</sup> session of Indian National congress.
- Tamralipti Tamluk in the Midnapur district of Western Bengal was one of the most important port-towns of ancient India. Outlet to south-east Asia when there was trade boom.

- Tanjore is famous for Rajarajeswara or Brihadeswara temple of lord Shiva which is the largest and tallest of all India temples with its vimana towering to a height of nearly 200 feet over the Garbhagriha with Pyramidal body in thirteen tiers. It was the seat of Chola government in the 9<sup>th</sup> century A. D. And later of an independent kingdom after the fall of the Vijayanagar Empire. Weight of the cap 80 tonnes. Conceived on a gigantic scale. Stone relief as minute as that of jewelers.
- Thanesar near Kurukshetra, to the north of Delhi in the province of Haryana, was the capital of the Pushyabhuti dynasty. The kingdom of thanesar emerged into a powerful state under Harsha's (606 – 647 A. D.) father, Prabhakarvardhan who was in constant warfare against the Huns on the frontier and with the rulers of Malwa. Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kannauj. According to Heun-Tsang the people of this city were specially inclined to trade. Thus thanesar was a principal center of trade. It was attacked by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1014 A. D. It is here that Ahmad Shah Abdali first defeated the Maratha army in 1759 boding to the Maratha collapse at Panipat in 1761.
- Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh was the capital of Avanti ( 6<sup>th</sup> century B. C.) and Chandragupta II, and was one of the provincial capitals of the Mauryas. It was the nodal point of two ancient trade routes, one from Kausambi and the other from Mathura, its chief exports being agate, jasper and carnelian. It has an observatory built by Maharaja Savai Jai Singh II (1686 – 1743) .
- Uraiyur also known as Aragaru, on the river Kavari, was for some time the Sangam chola capital, was famous for its pearls and muslin, the latter being as thick as the slough of the snake.
- Uttarmerur is a village of Tamil Nadu where nearly two hundred inscriptions belonging to Pallava and Chola periods indicating the nature and working of the village administration have been found. According to Uttarmerur inscriptions Pallava and Chola villages enjoyed maximum of autonomy in administrative matters with popular village assemblies like the Ur, Sabha, Mahasabha or Nagaram looking after the village affairs without any interference from royal officers. The village of Uttarmerur was divided in thirty wards.
- Vatsgulma modern Basim in the Ahoka district in the South of Ajanta, was the capital of a Junior branch of the Vakatakas who are mentioned in the Ajanta cave inscription No. XVI.
- Vidisa modern Besnagar, near Bhilsa, in East Malwa, was a part of Sunga empire with Agnimitra, the son of Pushyamitra Sunga as viceroy. The Vidisa guild of ivory worker was famous for these workers carved the stone sculpture on the gateways and railings surrounding the Sanchi Stupa. It indicates commercial prosperity. It was also famous for the Garuda Pillar Inscription which testified its erection by a Greek ambassador named Heliodorus in honour of Vasudeva Krishna, the god of the Bhagavatas.

- VAISHALI identified with modern Basali in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, was a pudent and prosperous town in the Buddhist period. The second Buddhist Council was held here. It served as the capital of Lichchavis. Later, Ajatsatru annexed it to this kingdom. Ambapali, the famous charming courtesan, lived here and hosted to the Buddha at one time and later she became a convert to Buddhism.
- Vengi (in Andhra Pradesh) one of the south Indian kingdoms probably joined the Sangha conquered by Samudragupta. It was the capital of the eastern Chalukyas, and was disputed between the Chalukyas and the Pallavas.

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