**BHIC 103: HISTORY OF INDIA II**
**(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)**

**Course code: BHIC-103**
**Assignment Code: BHIC-103/ASST/TMA/2026-2027**
**Marks: 100**

**Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.**

## Assignment - I

**Answer the following in about 500 words each.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) | Who were the Kushana? Analyze the religion policy of Kushan. | 20 |
| 2) | Discribe the political and social organization of Tamilakam. | 20 |

## Assignment - II

**Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3) | Discuss the pattern of urbanization in 800 BCE to 300 CE. | 10 |
| 4) | Write an essay on Bhakti movement. | 10 |
| 5) | What do you understand by the revival of commerce and trade in the early medieval period? Discuss | 10 |

10

## Assignment - III

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6) | Political activities of Harsh. | 6 |
| 7) | Conflicts between different powers. | 6 |
| 8) | Craft production in South India. | 6 |
| 9) | Tamil literature. | 6 |
| 10) | Importance of Rivers. | 6 |

## 1) Who were the Kushana? Analyze the religion policy of Kushan. (20)

### Answer

The Kushanas were a powerful dynasty of Central Asian origin that ruled large parts of north-western and northern India during the first three centuries of the Common Era. They emerged from the Yuezhi groups that had moved into Bactria after migrations across Central Asia. The Kushanas gradually established control over Afghanistan, parts of Central Asia, the north-western subcontinent and the Mathura region. Their history is known through coins, inscriptions, sculpture and accounts of neighbouring societies. Their importance lies not only in political expansion but also in connecting India with Central Asian trading networks and bringing several religious traditions into contact.

### Origins and expansion

Kujula Kadphises is usually associated with the consolidation of Kushana power. Vima Kadphises extended their position and issued abundant coins, including gold issues associated with growing long-distance trade. Kanishka, the best-known Kushana ruler, governed an extensive realm with important centres such as Purushapura (Peshawar) and Mathura. The exact dates and sequence of some Kushana rulers remain debated, but the dynasty flourished particularly in the first to third centuries CE. Its territories contained Iranian-speaking groups, Greeks, people following local Indian traditions and several Buddhist communities. Such diversity helps explain the flexibility of Kushana religious policy.

### Religious plurality under the Kushanas

The most striking feature of Kushana rule was the recognition of different cults rather than enforcement of one exclusive state religion. Their coins are exceptionally valuable evidence. They represent deities belonging to Iranian, Greek and Indian traditions, sometimes accompanied by names written in the Bactrian language using Greek-derived letters. Images associated with Mithra, Nana and other Iranian or regional divinities appear alongside deities identified with Shiva and the Buddha. These images do not prove that every ruler personally worshipped all of them. They show that the dynasty used a broad language of kingship which could communicate with different communities.

Coins of Vima Kadphises frequently depict a deity associated with Shiva, while examples from Kanishka's period include representations of the Buddha. Kushana royal ideology also drew upon Iranian ideas of divine glory and the ruler's special authority. Royal sanctuaries, including the important dynastic