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APPSC GROUP-I & GROUP-II

GROUP-I & GROUP-II

APPSC GROUP-I (PRELIMS & MAINS PAPER II) · GROUP-II (MAINS PAPER I)

History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh

Satavahanas to the 2014 bifurcation, written from APPSC's own questions, with answer frames for Group-I Mains

English Medium | 2026-27 Edition

17 chapters, both syllabi

G-I + G-II Prelims & Mains

PYQ official keys & answer frames

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About this book



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This book covers the **History and Culture of Andhra Pradesh** for both APPSC exams in one place:

Exam	Paper	What it asks on AP history
Group-I	Prelims Paper I, Section A (History & Culture)	Objective questions; AP dynasties and Andhra events appear within Indian history
Group-I	Mains Paper II, Section B (History and Culture of AP, items 6–10)	Descriptive answers: Satavahanas to the **2014 bifurcation and its impact**
Group-II	Mains Paper I, Section A (Social and Cultural History of AP, 75 marks)	75 objective questions: dynasties, literature, art, reformers, movements

How APPSC asks it. Group-II Mains has asked **143 AP history questions** in 2019 and 2025: Modern Andhra 42, Literature & Arts 33, Medieval 32, Ancient 20, and the Andhra/AP formation movements 16. Group-I Mains asks **10 descriptive questions every year** (2020, 2023, 2025) on this section. So the book gives equal weight to facts (who, when, which work) and to **answer writing** (why, how, impact).

How each chapter works

- A **syllabus line** at the top shows exactly which Group-I and Group-II items the chapter covers. Each section carries **GROUP-I** and/or **GROUP-II** tags.
- **What APPSC asks**: the topics of this chapter that have actually come in the exams.
- Notes in **tables, timelines and short points**, with the names, titles, inscriptions and works that questions are built on.
- **From the exam** boxes: APPSC's real questions with the **official key answer**, and Group-I Mains questions with a ready **answer frame**.
- A **meme break** to make one hard point stick, a **Quick revision** list, and **practice**: new APPSC-style MCQs and Mains questions with answers.

Where historians disagree (dates, the Satavahanas' homeland, authorship of old works), the book says so and gives the view APPSC's keys follow.

Contents: 17 chapters in four parts: Ancient Andhra (Chapters 1–5), Medieval Andhra (6–10), Modern Andhra (11–14), and From Andhra State to two states (15–17).

Every AP history question APPSC has asked is inside: 172 Group-II questions (Mains 2019 and 2025, Screening 2019 and 2024), the Group-I Prelims Andhra questions, and all 30 Group-I Mains Paper II questions on Andhra (2020, 2023, 2025), each in the chapter it belongs to. Each chapter was written from these questions and then checked line by line by a separate reviewer against published sources. Facts are current to **November 2026** (Andhra Pradesh has 28 districts since 31 December 2025).

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CHAPTER 3

The Satavahanas

Group-I Mains Paper II, Section B, item 6 (Satavahanas: social and economic conditions, religion, language, literature, art and architecture) · Group-I Prelims Paper I, Section A, item 1 · Group-II Mains Paper I, Section A, item 1 (Satavahanas: polity, economy, society and culture)

The Satavahanas were the first big kingdom of the Deccan. From the late centuries BCE to the early 3rd century CE they ruled across the land between the western and eastern seas, from Pratishthana (Paithan) on the Godavari to Dhanyakataka (Amaravati) on the Krishna. For Andhra they mark the start of recorded history: kings, coins, inscriptions, cities, guilds, sea trade, Buddhist stupas and the first Prakrit literature of the south. APPSC asks them in **all three papers**: facts in Group-II and Group-I Prelims, and the **economy and society (with women)** in Group-I Mains.

WHAT APPSC ASKS ON THIS CHAPTER

Topic	Asked in	What was asked
Sources, homeland	Group-II Mains 2025	Where the early inscriptions were found (Maharashtra); what the Puranas call them
Rulers	Group-II Mains 2019	The queen who ruled as regent (Naganika)
Administration	Group-I Prelims 2024	Meaning of *kataka* and *skandhavara*
Agrarian system	**Group-I Mains 2020**	Salient features of the agrarian system
Guilds, coins, trade	Group-II Mains 2019, 2025; Group-I Mains 2025	Interest on guild deposits (12%); *Kolika* = weavers; ship-motif coins; trade routes and Buddhism
Society, women, religion	**Group-I Mains 2023**	Socio-religious conditions and the place of women
Literature	Group-II 2019 (Screening), 2025 (Mains); Group-I Prelims 2023	*Gathasaptasati*, *Brihatkatha*, *Katantra*, Acharya Nagarjuna
Art	Group-II 2019 (Screening, Mains)	Biggest stupa of AP (Amaravati); the dancers' base cream *Aradalam*

3.1 Sources and the question of origin

GROUP-I GROUP-II

Kind of source	Examples	What it tells us
Literature	Puranas (Matsya, Vayu, Vishnu); Hala's *Gathasaptasati*; *Brihatkatha* (through later Sanskrit versions)	King lists; village life, love, farming
Inscriptions (Prakrit, Brahmi script)	**Naneghat** (Queen Naganika); **Nasik** (Gautami Balasri; Gautamiputra; Pulumavi); **Karle**; Amaravati; Sanchi	Conquests, titles, sacrifices, land grants, guilds, donations
Coins	Lead, potin, copper and silver coins; finds at **Kotilingala** (now Jagtial district, Telangana), Kondapur, Peddabankur	Rulers' names, symbols, trade, ship motif
Foreign accounts	**Megasthenes** via **Pliny**; ***Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*** (1st century CE); **Ptolemy** (2nd century CE)	Army and towns; ports and goods; "Siri Polemaios" (Pulumavi) at Baithana (Paithan)

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Kind of source	Examples	What it tells us
Archaeology	Amaravati, Dharanikota, Vaddamanu, Ghantasala (AP); Dhulikatta, Kotilingala (Telangana); Paithan, Nasik, Karle (Maharashtra)	Towns, stupas, beads, Roman coins and pottery

- **The name:** inscriptions say *Satavahana* (Satavahana-kula); the Puranas call them **Andhras** and **Andhra-bhrityas** ("servants of the Andhras", or "Andhras who were servants", meaning they began as feudatories, perhaps of the Mauryas).
- **Earliest mentions of the Andhras as a people:** the *Aitareya Brahmana*; Ashoka's **13th Rock Edict** (Andhras among the peoples of his empire); **Pliny**, drawing on Megasthenes, credits the Andhras with **30 walled towns**, many villages and an army of **1,00,000 foot, 2,000 horse and 1,000 elephants**.
- **Puranic count:** about **30 kings** ruling for about **four and a half centuries** (the Puranas do not agree among themselves).

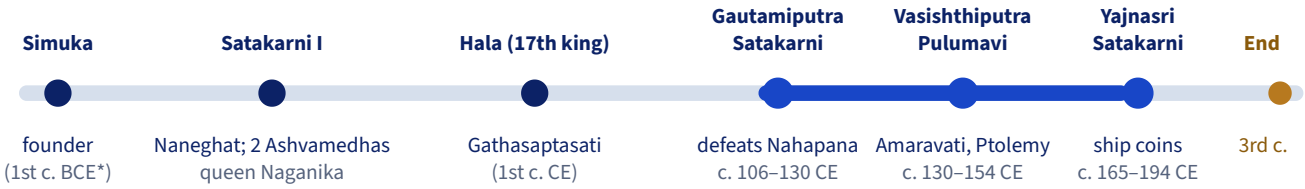
Where did they begin? Historians are divided.

View	Evidence	Problem
Western Deccan (Maharashtra)	The **earliest inscriptions** (Naneghat, Nasik) are all in Maharashtra; capital at Pratishthana	Says where they were strong early, not where they came from
Eastern Deccan (Andhra/Telangana)	Puranas call them *Andhras*; coins of "Rano Siri Chimuka Satavahanasa" at **Kotilingala**; Telugu tradition names **Srikakulam** (Krishna district) as an early capital	Coins travel with trade; some scholars read Chimuka as a later king, not Simuka

> Exam view: APPSC's key (Group-II Mains 2025) treats it as settled that **the early Satavahana inscriptions were found in Maharashtra**. In a Mains answer, mention both views and the Kotilingala coins.

3.2 Rulers and political history

GROUP-I GROUP-II



*One common textbook chronology (scholars differ); the Puranic "long chronology" starts the dynasty in the 3rd century BCE. The blue stretch is the revival.

> Dates: exams and most guides use the dates above (Gautamiputra c. 106–130 CE). Some recent coin studies place him earlier, about 60–85 CE. For an MCQ, go by the order of kings, which all books agree on.

Ruler	Remember for
Simuka	Founder; named in the Naneghat cave label inscription. Puranas say he rose on the ruins of the Kanva (and Sunga) power
Krishna (Kanha)	Simuka's brother; Nasik cave inscription of his time
Satakarni I	First great king; titles **Dakshinapathapati** (lord of the south) and **Apratihatachakra**; performed **two Ashvamedhas** and a **Rajasuya**. Married **Naganika**, daughter of a Maharathi chief
Naganika	Ruled as **regent** for her minor son; her **Naneghat inscription** lists the Vedic sacrifices and the gifts made by the family

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Ruler	Remember for
Hala (17th king)	Poet-king; compiled the ***Gathasaptasati*** (*Gaha Sattasai*), 700 Prakrit verses. Kutuhala's later Prakrit poem *Lilavai* sings of his marriage
Gautamiputra Satakarni	The revival. Defeated **Nahapana** of the **Kshaharata** (Western Kshatrapa) line and **restruck his silver coins** (Jogalthembi hoard, Nasik district). His mother's **Nasik inscription** lists his victories and titles
Vasishthiputra Pulumavi	Son of Gautamiputra; the Nasik inscription is dated in his **19th year**; linked with **Dhanyakataka (Amaravati)** and the eastern provinces; Ptolemy's "Siri Polemaios" at Baithana
Vasishthiputra Satakarni	Married the daughter of the Saka ruler **Rudradaman** (Kanheri inscription); Rudradaman's **Junagadh inscription** says he twice defeated "Satakarni, lord of Dakshinapatha", but spared him as a near relative (which Satakarni is debated)
Yajnasri Satakarni	Last strong ruler; won back western lands; **coins with a ship**, proof of sea trade (Pulumavi also issued ship coins); tradition makes **Acharya Nagarjuna** his friend

Gautamiputra in his mother's words (Nasik prashasti, Cave 3)

- "Destroyer of the **Sakas, Yavanas and Pahlavas**"; "uprooted the **Khakharata (Kshaharata)** family"; "restored the glory of the **Satavahana family**".
- **Ekabrahmana** (the peerless Brahmana / the one protector of Brahmanas); "crushed the pride of the Kshatriyas"; "stopped the **mixing of the four varnas**" (*varna-sankara*).
- "Whose horses drank the water of the **three seas**" (*trisamudra-toya-pita-vahana*): poetic, not proof of rule over the far south.
- Lord of **Asika, Asmaka, Mulaka, Surashtra, Kukura, Aparanta, Anupa, Vidarbha and Akara–Avanti**, and of mountains such as the Vindhya, Sahya, Malaya and Mahendra.

FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-II MAINS 2025 AND 2019

- *The inscriptions of the early Satavahana kings were found in:* **Maharashtra** (Naneghat, Nasik). *(2025)*
- *Which statement is NOT true about the Satavahanas?* (described as Andhra-bhrityas in the Puranas; issued bilingual coins in Prakrit and a Dravidian script; patronised Buddhism and Hinduism; had a matrimonial alliance with the Kakatiyas) → **the Kakatiya alliance**: the Kakatiyas came about 900 years later. Their real marriage ties were with the **Maharathis** and the **Western Kshatrapas**. *(2025)*
- *The Satavahana queen who acted as regent during the minority of her son:* **Devi Naganika**. *(2019)*

3.3 Administration

GROUP-I GROUP-II

The Satavahanas kept the Mauryan idea of officials and districts, but ruled more loosely: much was left to feudatories and local chiefs.

Level / office	Meaning
King	Hereditary; called **Raja**; claimed divine qualities (compared to Rama, Arjuna, Bhima); also performed Vedic sacrifices to show power
Ahara	District (Mauryan term), under an **Amatya** (minister/officer)
Grama	Village, under a **Gramika** (headman)
Gaulmika	Head of a small military unit (*gulma*) posted in the countryside to keep order
Kataka, Skandhavara	**Military camps and settlements**, which also served as **administrative centres** (Group-I Prelims 2024)

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Level / office	Meaning
Feudatories	**Maharathis**, **Mahabhojas**, **Mahasenapatis**; later **Mahatalavaras** in the Krishna valley. Some, like the Maharathis, issued their own coins and made grants
Other officials	*Rajamatya*, *Mahamatra* (special duties), *Bhandagarika* (stores), *Heranika* (treasurer), *Nibandhakara* (record keeper), *Lekhaka* (secretary), *Duta* (envoy)

Military character: kataka and skandhavara as administrative centres, the gaulmika in villages, and the feudatories' military titles show that Satavahana rule rested on the army.

FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-I PRELIMS 2024

In the Satavahanas' inscriptions, the terms 'Katakas' and 'Skandhavaras' mean: **military camps and settlements which served as administrative centres** (not tax-free monks' villages, rock-cut areas or paddy fields).

3.4 Agriculture and the land grants

GROUP-I GROUP-II

- **Land and crops:** the Godavari and Krishna valleys and deltas grew **paddy**, **cotton**, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane. Andhra cotton cloth was famous abroad. The *Gathasaptasati* describes ploughing, sowing, paddy fields and village festivals.
- **Iron and expansion:** iron tools inherited from the **megalithic** culture let farmers clear forests and plough heavy black soils; new villages grew along rivers.
- **Who held land:** the king held crown land and the right to tax; **gahapatis** (householders/landholders) owned and even sold land, as donation records show; **halikas** (ploughmen) and hired labour worked it.
- **Irrigation:** tanks, wells and river channels; a slightly later Nasik inscription (of the Abhiras) names a guild of *odayantrikas*, makers of water machines (probably water-lifting devices).
- **Taxes:** the land tax was the main revenue, traditionally **one-sixth** of the produce (*bhaga*), with dues on salt, crafts and trade.
- **Land grants (the big change):** the Satavahanas made the **earliest known land grants in India** to **Brahmanas and Buddhist monks**. Gautamiputra's grants at Nasik and Karle were made **tax-free** and carried immunities: royal troops and officers could not enter, the land could not be disturbed, no salt could be dug, and the district police had no say.

Why it matters: the receivers of such grants enjoyed both the revenue and some of the king's powers over the land. Historians see in them the **first seeds of feudal tendencies** in the Deccan.

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FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-I MAINS 2020, PAPER II, Q6(A)

"Discuss salient features of the Agrarian system under the Satavahanas."

Answer frame

1. **Intro:** the Satavahana age turned the Deccan into a settled agrarian society; sources: *Gathasaptasati*, Nasik and Karle inscriptions, Periplus.
2. **Expansion:** iron tools (megalithic legacy), forest clearance, river-valley villages in the Godavari–Krishna region.
3. **Crops and irrigation:** paddy, cotton, sugarcane, pulses; tanks, wells, *odayantrikas*.
4. **Ownership and labour:** crown land; gahapatis who bought and gifted land; halikas and hired workers.
5. **Revenue:** *bhaga* (one-sixth), other dues; village under the gramika.
6. **Land grants:** first tax-free grants to Brahmanas and monks, with immunities → seeds of feudalism.
7. **Links:** surplus cotton and food fed crafts, guilds and Roman trade.
8. **Conclusion:** a balanced agrarian base that paid for the monuments of Amaravati and Karle and outlived the dynasty.

3.5 Crafts, guilds, coins and trade

GROUP-I GROUP-II

Guilds (*srenis*)

- Inscriptions name guilds of **weavers (*kolikas*)**, potters, oil-pressers (*tilapisakas*), corn dealers, bamboo workers, braziers and others. A *nigama* was a town's body of merchants.
- Guilds worked like **banks**: people deposited money with them, and the **interest** paid for monks' robes and food. The Nasik inscriptions record deposits with weavers' guilds at **1% a month (12% a year)**, and some at ¾% a month.

Coins

- The Satavahanas issued coins mainly in **lead**, and also **potin**, **copper** and **silver**.
- Symbols: elephant, horse, lion, the arched hill (*chaitya*), the **Ujjain symbol**, the **ship** (Pulumavi, Yajnasri). Legends in **Prakrit, Brahmi script**.
- Later **silver portrait coins** are **bilingual**: Prakrit on one side and a **Dravidian** language on the other.

Trade

	West coast	East coast
Ports	**Bharukachchha** (Broach), **Sopara**, **Kalyan**	**Maisolia** (Masulipatnam region), **Kantakossyla** (Ghantasala), **Koddura**
Inland marts	**Pratishthana** (Paithan), **Tagara** (Ter)	**Dhanyakataka** (Amaravati), Kondapur (Telangana)

- **Exports:** cotton cloth (fine muslin), spices, pearls, ivory, precious stones. **Imports:** Roman **gold and silver coins**, wine, glass and pottery. Hoards of **Roman coins** are found in the Krishna–Godavari region.
- **Sea trade** reached Rome in the west and **Southeast Asia** in the east; it peaked in the Satavahana age and declined afterwards.

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😂 **MEME BREAK** **Satavahana guild vs today's bank**

SATAVAHANA GUILD



Deposit with the weavers' guild at 12% a year; interest feeds the monks

TODAY'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT



Deposit with a bank at about 3% a year; interest feeds... you

👉 Exam fact: Nasik inscriptions record 1% a month (12% a year) on guild deposits

FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-II MAINS 2019 AND 2025

- *Generally, the rate of interest on deposits in guilds during the Satavahana period was:* **12%**. *(2019)*
- *The 'Kolika' guild of the Satavahana period belonged to:* **weavers**. *(2019)*
- *Assertion (A): Trade with Rome flourished in the post-Satavahana era. Reason (R): No ruler had issued coins with ship motif after the Satavahanas.* → **(A) is false, but (R) is true** (APPSC key). Roman trade peaked under the Satavahanas, not after them. (Strictly, some later Pallava coins also show a ship; in the exam, follow the key.) *(2025)*
- *Group-I Mains 2025 asked:* "How did far trade routes contribute to the exchange of Buddhist ideas in ancient Andhra?" Use this section's ports and guilds with **Chapter 2** (Buddhism).

3.6 Society and the position of women

GROUP-I GROUP-II

- **Varna order:** the kings presented themselves as protectors of the **varna** order (Gautamiputra "stopped the mixing of the four varnas"), yet society absorbed foreigners: **Sakas, Yavanas** and others gave gifts at Karle and Nasik and married into ruling families.
- **Occupations** shaped status: gahapatis (landholders), sethis/negamas (merchants), halikas (ploughmen), golikas (herdsmen), craftsmen of the guilds.
- **Family:** the joint family; kings took **matronymics** (**Gautami**putra, **Vasishthi**putra, from their mothers' gotras), which reflects the honour given to queen mothers. **Succession, however, went from father to son.**

Women

Evidence	What it shows
Naganika	Ruled as **regent**; her Naneghat inscription records sacrifices and gifts
Gautami Balasri	Issued the **Nasik inscription**; donated a cave to monks; styled herself mother of a king and grandmother of a king
Donor inscriptions at Amaravati, Karle, Nasik, Bhattiprolu	Many gifts by **women**, including nuns and wives of merchants, so women held and spent property
Gathasaptasati	Women's feelings, work and voices in village life

Limits: inheritance and the throne passed through men; the evidence speaks mostly of royal and rich women.

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FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-I MAINS 2023, PAPER II, Q6(A)

"Discuss the socio-religious conditions during the Satavahana period with special reference to prominence bestowed on women."

Answer frame

1. **Intro:** sources: inscriptions (Naneghat, Nasik, Amaravati), *Gathasaptasati*.
2. **Society:** varna order upheld (Gautamiputra), foreigners absorbed; guild-based occupational groups; joint family.
3. **Religion:** Vedic sacrifices (Ashvamedha, Rajasuya); worship of Vasudeva-Krishna and Sankarshana; generous patronage of **Buddhism** (land grants, caves, Amaravati); tolerance.
4. **Women:** matronymics; **Naganika** as regent; **Gautami Balasri's** inscription; women donors at stupas; women in the *Gathasaptasati*.
5. **Limits:** patrilineal succession; evidence mostly from elite women.
6. **Conclusion:** a religiously tolerant society in which women, at least of the upper classes, had a visible public role, more than in many later periods.

3.7 Religion

GROUP-I GROUP-II

- **Vedic Brahmanism:** Naganika's Naneghat inscription lists **two Ashvamedhas**, a **Rajasuya** and other sacrifices, with huge gifts of cows, horses, elephants and coins, and a village; it invokes **Dharma, Indra, Sankarshana and Vasudeva** (Krishna), the Moon, the Sun and the guardians of the quarters.
- **Buddhism:** the kings and queens, though Brahmanical, gave **villages and caves** to Buddhist monks. Andhra became a stronghold of the **Mahasanghika** schools (the *Chaityaka*, *Purvasailiya* and *Aparasailiya* sects). **Acharya Nagarjuna** (Madhyamika philosophy) is linked by tradition with a Satavahana king.
- **Jainism** was present on a smaller scale; Jain tradition links **Acharya Kundakunda** (*Samayasara*) with the Andhra region.
- **Tolerance:** the same family performed Vedic sacrifices and endowed Buddhist monasteries.

3.8 Language and literature

GROUP-I GROUP-II

- **Official language: Prakrit**, written in the **Brahmi** script. Telugu words appear in Prakrit works and inscriptions of the age, but Telugu literature came much later.

Work	Author	Note
Gathasaptasati (*Gaha Sattasai*)	**Hala**	700 verses in **Maharashtri Prakrit**, mostly **love poetry** and village life; the most important literary source for Satavahana society
Brihatkatha	**Gunadhya**	In **Paisachi** Prakrit (not Sanskrit); lost, but known through *Kathasaritsagara* and *Brihatkathamanjari*. Tradition makes Gunadhya a minister of a Satavahana king (often taken as Hala)
Katantra	**Sarvavarma**	A short **Sanskrit grammar**, by tradition written to teach a Satavahana king Sanskrit quickly
Suhrllekha and Madhyamika works	**Acharya Nagarjuna**	Letter of advice to a Satavahana king (by tradition Yajnasri); *Prajnaparamita* philosophy
Lilavai (*Lilavati*)	**Kutuhala**	Later Prakrit poem (c. 800 CE) on Hala's marriage

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FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-II 2025 MAINS, 2019 SCREENING · GROUP-I PRELIMS 2023

- *(A) Gathasaptasati is a collection of poems focused mainly on love and romance. (B) Gunadhya wrote the Brihatkatha in Sanskrit.* → **(A) is true, (B) is false**: Brihatkatha is in **Paisachi**. *(Group-II 2025)*
- *Which literary work is of utmost importance for the social and cultural history of the Satavahanas?* **The *Gathasaptasati* of Hala**. *(Group-II Screening 2019)*
- *Match:* Prajnaparamita – **Acharya Nagarjuna**; Samayasara – **Acharya Kundakunda**; Lilavati Parinayam – **Kutuhala**; Katantra Vyakaranam – **Sarvavarma**. *(Group-I Prelims 2023)*

3.9 Art and architecture

GROUP-I GROUP-II

Rock-cut architecture (western Deccan)

- **Chaityas** (prayer halls with a stupa) and **viharas** (monasteries) at **Karle** (the largest and finest chaitya), **Nasik** (Pandavleni), **Bhaja**, **Bedsa**, **Kanheri** and **Junnar**.
- **Ajanta Caves 9 and 10** belong to the Satavahana age; Cave 10 has the **earliest surviving paintings** at Ajanta.
- At **Sanchi**, an inscription on the southern gateway of the Great Stupa records a gift by **Ananda, foreman of the artisans of Raja Siri Satakarni**.

Stupas (eastern Deccan, Andhra)

- **Amaravati** (Dhanyakataka; now Palnadu district, earlier Guntur): the **Mahachaitya**, the **biggest stupa in Andhra Pradesh**, enlarged and carved in the Satavahana age. Others: **Jaggayyapeta**, **Ghantasala**, **Bhattiprolu**, **Goli**, **Gummadidurru**.
- Andhra stupas have **ayaka platforms** on four sides, each with **five ayaka pillars**, a feature of the region.

The Amaravati school of sculpture

- Carved in greenish-white **limestone** (often called "Palnadu marble").
- The **Buddha shown first through symbols** (stupa, Bodhi tree, wheel, footprints, empty throne) and later in **human form**.
- Crowded, lively scenes of **Jatakas** and the Buddha's life, graceful figures in motion; the style spread to **Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia**.
- Different from **Gandhara** (grey schist, Greek influence) and **Mathura** (red sandstone).

Performing arts: music and dance figure in the sculptures and the *Gathasaptasati*. APPSC's key gives ***Aradalam*** as the base cream used by dancers of the age.

FROM THE EXAM · GROUP-II SCREENING 2019 AND MAINS 2019

- *Which of the following stupas in Andhra Pradesh is the biggest?* **Amaravati**.
- *The foundation cream used by Satavahana dancers was known as:* **Aradalam**.

3.10 Decline

GROUP-II

- After **Yajnasri Satakarni** the successors were weak, and the long wars with the **Western Kshatrapas** had drained the kingdom.
- Feudatories broke away in the early **3rd century CE**: the **Abhiras** in Maharashtra, the **Chutus** at Banavasi (Karnataka), and the **Ikshvakus** of Vijayapuri in the **Krishna valley** (Chapter 4); the **Pallavas** came later.

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QUICK REVISION

- Inscriptions: **Naneghat** (Naganika), **Nasik** (Gautami Balasri, Pulumavi's 19th year), **Junagadh** (Rudradaman). Early ones are all in **Maharashtra**.
- Puranas: **Andhras / Andhra-bhrityas**, about **30 kings**. **Kotilingala** coins: "Rano Siri Chimuka Satavahanasa".
- **Satakarni I**: Dakshinapathapati, 2 Ashvamedhas. **Hala**: Gathasaptasati. **Gautamiputra**: defeated Nahapana, Ekabrahmana. **Yajnasri**: ship coins.
- Ahara–Amatya; Grama–Gramika; Gaulmika; **Kataka/Skandhavara = military camps as admin centres**.
- First **tax-free land grants** to Brahmanas and monks → feudal tendencies.
- Guilds: **kolikas = weavers**; deposits at **12%**. Coins mostly **lead**; bilingual silver portrait coins.
- Ports: west **Broach, Sopara, Kalyan**; east **Maisolia, Ghantasala, Koddura**.
- Brihatkatha in **Paisachi**; Katantra by **Sarvavarma**; Lilavai by **Kutuhala**.
- **Amaravati** = biggest stupa of AP; limestone; symbols then human Buddha. **Karle** = largest chaitya; **Ajanta 9–10**.

Practice

GROUP-I GROUP-II

1. Consider the following statements about the Naneghat inscription:
a. It was issued by Queen Naganika.
b. It records Vedic sacrifices, including the Ashvamedha, performed by the royal family.
c. It records Gautamiputra Satakarni's victory over Nahapana.
Which of the above are correct?
(1) a and b only (2) b and c only (3) a and c only (4) a, b and c

2. Match List-I (Work) with List-II (Author):
a. Gathasaptasati — I. Gunadhya
b. Brihatkatha — II. Acharya Nagarjuna
c. Katantra — III. Hala
d. Suhrllekha — IV. Sarvavarma
(1) a-I, b-III, c-II, d-IV (2) a-III, b-I, c-II, d-IV (3) a-III, b-I, c-IV, d-II (4) a-IV, b-II, c-III, d-I

3. The Nasik inscription which calls Gautamiputra Satakarni "Ekabrahmana" was issued by
(1) Naganika (2) Gautami Balasri (3) Rudradaman (4) Ushavadata

4. Arrange the following Satavahana rulers in chronological order:
a. Gautamiputra Satakarni b. Simuka c. Yajnasri Satakarni d. Satakarni I
(1) d-b-a-c (2) b-a-d-c (3) b-d-c-a (4) b-d-a-c

5. Assertion (A): The Satavahana land grants mark the beginning of feudal tendencies in the Deccan.
Reason (R): The granted lands were freed from royal officers, the district police and taxes.
(1) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A) (2) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A) (3) (A) is true, but (R) is false (4) (A) is false, but (R) is true

6. In Satavahana administration, 'Ahara' and 'Amatya' referred to
(1) a military camp and its commander (2) a guild and its head (3) a district and the officer in charge of it (4) a village and its headman

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7. Which of the following ports of the Satavahana age lay on the east coast?
a. Ghantasala b. Bharukachchha c. Maisolia d. Sopara
(1) b and d only (2) a and c only (3) a, b and c (4) c and d only

8. Which of these Satavahana rulers is known for coins bearing the figure of a ship?
(1) Yajnasri Satakarni (2) Simuka (3) Hala (4) Gautamiputra Satakarni

9. Consider the following statements about women in the Satavahana age:
a. Kings used matronymic names such as Gautamiputra and Vasishthiputra.
b. Naganika ruled as regent for her minor son.
c. The throne passed through the mother's line.
Which of the above are correct?
(1) a only (2) a and b only (3) b and c only (4) a, b and c

10. Which of the following are features of the Amaravati school of sculpture?
a. Use of limestone b. The Buddha shown first through symbols and later in human form c. Use of grey schist, as in Gandhara
(1) a and c only (2) b and c only (3) a and b only (4) a, b and c

11. Which one of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?
(1) Sreni — guild (2) Kataka — military camp (3) Gahapati — householder holding land (4) Heranika — ploughman

12. Which of the following served as Satavahana capitals?
a. Pratishthana b. Dhanyakataka c. Vijayapuri
(1) a only (2) b and c only (3) a, b and c (4) a and b only

Group-I Mains questions

1. "Gautamiputra Satakarni restored the glory of the Satavahanas." Examine in the light of the Nasik inscription. — *Answer pointers:* Kshaharata threat; defeat of Nahapana and the restruck coins; lands listed in the prashasti; titles (Ekabrahmana, varna-sankara); Brahmanical and Buddhist patronage; limits (poetic claims such as the three seas); later loss to Rudradaman.
2. Explain the role of guilds and foreign trade in the economy of the Satavahana age. — *Answer pointers:* srenis and nigamas; guilds as banks (12%); crafts (weavers, potters, oil-pressers); coins incl. ship motif; ports on both coasts; Roman gold and Periplus; trade and Buddhism; decline after the 3rd century.
3. Assess the contribution of the Satavahana age to art and architecture, with special reference to Amaravati. — *Answer pointers:* Karle, Nasik, Ajanta 9–10, Sanchi gateway inscription; Amaravati Mahachaitya and ayaka pillars; limestone, symbols then human Buddha, narrative Jataka panels; influence on Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia; comparison with Gandhara and Mathura.

Answers

Q	Ans	Explanation
1	1	The victory over Nahapana is in the Nasik inscription of Gautami Balasri, not at Naneghat.
2	3	Hala, Gunadhya (Paisachi), Sarvavarma, Nagarjuna.
3	2	Issued by Gautami Balasri in the 19th year of her grandson Vasishthiputra Pulumavi.
4	4	Simuka (founder) → Satakarni I → Gautamiputra → Yajnasri.
5	1	Immunities gave the receivers revenue and powers over the land, the root of feudal tendencies.
6	3	Ahara = district; Amatya = officer in charge.

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Q	Ans	Explanation
7	2	Bharukachchha (Broach) and Sopara are on the west coast.
8	1	Yajnasri's ship coins (Pulumavi also issued some) show the importance of sea trade.
9	2	Matronymics and Naganika's regency are true; succession was from father to son.
10	3	Grey schist is Gandhara's material; Amaravati used limestone.
11	4	Heranika = treasurer; ploughmen were halikas.
12	4	Vijayapuri (Nagarjunakonda) was the capital of the Ikshvakus, who rose after the Satavahanas.

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