

Role of the Kushan Empire in Promoting Trade and Cultural Interactions Between India and Central Asia

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Abstract: *The Kushan Empire played a significant role in promoting trade, cultural exchange, and political interaction between India and Central Asia during the early centuries of the Common Era. Emerging from the Yuezhi confederation, the Kushans established an extensive political domain that connected parts of northern India, present-day Afghanistan, Central Asia, and regions adjoining the Tarim Basin. Under rulers such as Kujula Kadphises, Vima Kadphises, and Kanishka I, the empire contributed to the development of commercial networks linking the Indian subcontinent with Central Asia, China, and the wider Roman world. Its geographical position enabled merchants to exchange textiles, spices, precious stones, metals, horses, and other commodities across land routes and interconnected regional markets.*

Keywords: Kushan Empire, India, Central Asia, Silk Road, Trade Networks, Buddhism, Gandhara Art, Cultural Interaction, Kanishka, Ancient Commerce.