VIDEO 8 • SECTION 2.13 • MODULE 2 — ANCIENT BIHAR

# Scholars of Ancient Bihar — Who Really Belongs Here

20 MCQs on this lecture • Answer key with explanations at the end • Attempt all questions first, then check

**Q1.** Yajnavalkya, Gargi and Maitreyi are linked with the court of:
(a) Janaka of Videha (Mithila)
(b) Bimbisara of Magadha
(c) Ajatashatru
(d) Chandragupta Maurya

**Q2.** Yajnavalkya's philosophy is found in which Upanishad?
(a) Chandogya
(b) Brihadaranyaka
(c) Katha
(d) Mundaka

**Q3.** The Arthashastra deals with:
(a) Grammar and poetry
(b) Astronomy and mathematics
(c) Statecraft, economy and espionage
(d) Medicine and surgery

**Q4.** Chanakya (Kautilya) was minister of:
(a) Bimbisara
(b) Ashoka
(c) Mahapadma Nanda
(d) Chandragupta Maurya

**Q5.** Aryabhata gave the value of π as approximately:
(a) 3.1416
(b) 3.14
(c) 22/7 exactly
(d) 3.1428

**Q6.** Which pair of Nalanda/Vikramshila teachers helped spread Buddhism to Tibet?
(a) Panini and Kalidasa
(b) Shantarakshita and Atisha
(c) Charaka and Sushruta
(d) Vachaspati and Udayana

**Q7.** Mithila tradition places the Mimamsa scholar Mandana Mishra at:
(a) Bisfi (Madhubani)
(b) Simraongarh
(c) Mahishi (Saharsa)
(d) Darbhanga

**Q8.** Mandana Mishra's famous debate was with:

(a) Yajnavalkya
(b) Vachaspati Mishra
(c) Udayanacharya
(d) Adi Shankaracharya

**Q9.** Who judged the debate between Mandana Mishra and Shankaracharya, according to tradition?

(a) Ubhaya Bharati
(b) Gargi
(c) Maitreyi
(d) Lakhima Devi

**Q10.** 'Bhamati', a commentary on Vedanta, was written by:

(a) Udayanacharya
(b) Vachaspati Mishra
(c) Mandana Mishra
(d) Shantarakshita

**Q11.** Udayanacharya of Mithila is known for:

(a) Mimamsa
(b) Grammar
(c) Nyaya logic
(d) Astronomy

**Q12.** Vachaspati Mishra and Udayanacharya belong to approximately the:

(a) 6th century BC
(b) 2nd century
(c) 15th century
(d) 9th–10th century

**Q13.** The grammarian Panini belongs to:

(a) Gandhara (north-west)
(b) Mithila
(c) Pataliputra
(d) Ujjain

**Q14.** Kalidasa is linked with:

(a) Pataliputra
(b) Ujjain and the Gupta court tradition
(c) Nalanda
(d) Vaishali

**Q15.** Varahamihira is linked with:

(a) Kusumapura
(b) Mithila
(c) Ujjain
(d) Rajgir

**Q16.** Which scholar is only uncertainly placed in Pataliputra by some traditions and should not be stated as fact?

(a) Aryabhata
(b) Chanakya
(c) Shilabhadra
(d) Vatsyayana

**Q17.** Which of the following is firmly linked to Bihar?

(a) Aryabhata
(b) Panini
(c) Kalidasa
(d) Varahamihira

**Q18.** Which pair is NOT linked to Bihar?

(a) Yajnavalkya and Gargi
(b) Charaka and Sushruta
(c) Chanakya and Aryabhata
(d) Vachaspati and Udayana

**Q19.** Consider the following statements:
1. Panini was from Gandhara.
2. Mandana Mishra was a Nyaya scholar.
3. Aryabhata wrote the Aryabhatiya in 499.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q20.** Match the scholar with the work:
1. Chanakya — Arthashastra
2. Aryabhata — Aryabhatiya
3. Vachaspati Mishra — Bhamati
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

## Answer Key

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q1 | (a) | Q5 | (a) | Q9 | (a) | Q13 | (a) | Q17 | (a) |
| Q2 | (b) | Q6 | (b) | Q10 | (b) | Q14 | (b) | Q18 | (b) |
| Q3 | (c) | Q7 | (c) | Q11 | (c) | Q15 | (c) | Q19 | (c) |
| Q4 | (d) | Q8 | (d) | Q12 | (d) | Q16 | (d) | Q20 | (d) |

## Explanations

**Q1. Answer: (a) Janaka of Videha (Mithila)**
Court of Janaka, Videha (Mithila).

**Q2. Answer: (b) Brihadaranyaka**
Brihadaranyaka Upanishad; he is also linked with the Yajnavalkya Smriti.

**Q3. Answer: (c) Statecraft, economy and espionage**
Chanakya (Kautilya), minister of Chandragupta Maurya at Pataliputra.

**Q4. Answer: (d) Chandragupta Maurya**
Chandragupta Maurya at Pataliputra.

**Q5. Answer: (a) 3.1416**
π ≈ 3.1416; also rotation of the Earth and the cause of eclipses.

**Q6. Answer: (b) Shantarakshita and Atisha**
Shantarakshita and Atisha (with Shilabhadra) — Buddhist philosophy; spread to China and Tibet.

**Q7. Answer: (c) Mahishi (Saharsa)**
Mahishi, Saharsa (tradition).

**Q8. Answer: (d) Adi Shankaracharya**
Adi Shankaracharya — judged by his wife Ubhaya Bharati (tradition).

**Q9. Answer: (a) Ubhaya Bharati**
His wife Ubhaya Bharati.

**Q10. Answer: (b) Vachaspati Mishra**
Vachaspati Mishra — he wrote commentaries on all six darshanas.

**Q11. Answer: (c) Nyaya logic**
Nyaya logic.

**Q12. Answer: (d) 9th–10th century**
c. 9th–10th century. (Navya-Nyaya's great age in Mithila comes later.)

**Q13. Answer: (a) Gandhara (north-west)**
Gandhara — do not link him to Bihar.

**Q14. Answer: (b) Ujjain and the Gupta court tradition**
Ujjain and the Gupta court tradition — not Bihar.

**Q15. Answer: (c) Ujjain**
Ujjain — not Bihar.

**Q16. Answer: (d) Vatsyayana**
Vatsyayana (Kamasutra).

**Q17. Answer: (a) Aryabhata**
Aryabhata worked at Kusumapura (Pataliputra).

**Q18. Answer: (b) Charaka and Sushruta**
Charaka and Sushruta are not Bihar-linked.

**Q19. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**
2 is wrong — Mandana Mishra was a Mimamsa scholar; Udayana was the Nyaya scholar.

**Q20. Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**
All three are correct.

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