



Q 40.B

- **Ashvaghosha:**
  - Ashvaghosha was a Mahayana scholar and poet who lived from the first through the second century. Originally a follower and scholar of Brahmanism, he converted to Buddhism. He was reputed to be an outstanding poet, an excellent composer of music, and an author of literary works. He propagated Buddhism in northern India under the patronage of **Kushan King Kanishka**. He wrote epics such as *Buddhacharita* and *Saundarananda*.
    - > **Buddhacharita** recounts the Buddha's life and is considered a masterpiece of Indian literature.
    - > **Saundarananda** is the story of Nanda, a cousin of the Buddha, who severed his relationship with his beloved and beautiful wife and became a monk.
  - The **Awakening of Faith in the Mahayana is attributed to Ashvaghosha**, who is regarded as the eleventh of Shakyamuni's twenty-three, or the twelfth of his twenty-four, successors. Some accounts, however, attribute it to another person of the same name or to others.
  - The *Milinda Pañha* is a Buddhist text which dates from sometime between 100 BC and 200 AD. It purports to record a dialogue between the Buddhist sage Nāgasena, and the Indo-Greek king Menander I (Pali: Milinda) of Bactria, who reigned in the 2nd century BC.
  - **Menander (165-145 B.C.)** is the most famous Indo-Greek ruler. He is also known by the name **Milinda**. He had his **capital at Sakala (modern Sialkot)** in Punjab. He was **converted to Buddhism by Nagasena**, who is also known as Nagarjuna. Meander asked Nagasena many questions relating to Buddhism. These questions and Nagasena's answers were recorded in the form of a book known as *Milinda Panho* or the *Question of Milinda*. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 41.C

- The Rig Vedas speak about not only the Aryans but also about the non-Aryan people, whom the Aryans encountered in India. When the Rig Vedic people moved into India they came into conflict with people whom they referred to as Dasyus or Dasas.
- **The Aryans were engaged in two types of conflicts: first, they fought with Pre-Aryans and secondly they fought amongst themselves. Hence option (a) is correct.**
- The Bharatas and Tritsu were the ruling Aryan Clans. The Bharata ruling clan was opposed by a host of ten kings, five of whom were heads of Aryan tribes and the remaining five of non-Aryan people. **It was known as the battle of ten kings.**
- Archaeological evidence points to the development of agriculture among the Rig Vedic people. The ploughshare is mentioned in the Rig Vedas.
- The field was known as a kshetra and the term Krishi referred to ploughing.
- **They had knowledge of different seasons, sowing, harvesting, and thrashing. They cultivated barley (yavam) and wheat (godhuma). Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The dasas and dasyus were conquered by the Aryans and treated as slaves and Sudras.