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Chapter 1

Noun: Types of Nouns, Number & Gender, Case & Confusion about the Use of Certain Nouns

Noun : Kinds of Noun

1. Definition

- It is a Naming Word. It is also defined as a name of a person, place or things. *e.g.* Manoj, Ravi, Cow, gold, Agra, truth etc.

Examples :

- The Taj Mahal is situated in Agra.
- Man is social animal.
- Axe is made of iron.
- There are sixty students in my class.
- Honesty is the best policy.

2. Kinds of Noun

- We have two main kinds of noun—concrete and abstract. Concrete nouns are the words used for things and persons that can be touched or seen. They can be Common Nouns, Proper Nouns, Collective Nouns and Material Nouns.
 - **Common and Proper Nouns**—The words that denote any one of a class of persons, places or things are called Common Nouns. As soon as they acquire a name and one is distinguished from the others of the same class they become Proper Nouns. Boy, girl, mountain, dog, river are Common Nouns. When they acquire the names Ram, Durgesh, Mt. Everest, Jack, Ganga they are termed as Proper Nouns.
 - **Collective Nouns** are names of groups of person, animals or things. They are usually singular as they are considered a single whole :

Example :

- There was a crowd of people/a team of players/a fleet of ships/a herd of cattle.
- If there is a reference to individual members of the group the collective noun is considered plural :

Example :

- The committee were arguing among themselves. (*i.e.* the members of the committee).
The regiment are spread around the hill. (*i.e.* soldiers are posted around).
- Some collective nouns are always considered plural. Important among them are cattle, gentry, poultry, people and vermin.

- **Names of materials** or substances (generally natural) out of which things are made are material nouns. They are generally singular : clay, cotton, dust, gold, iron, mercury, wood, wool.

- Some material nouns are also used for certain articles made from them. Then they are used as common nouns. They can have number and can be used as plurals too :

Examples :

- The window has glass panes. (material noun)
She gave me two glasses of lime juice. (common noun)

- Some such common nouns are iron (with which we press clothes), marbles (small pieces of stone with which children play), paper (when used for newspaper), tin (when used for a container)

Article is used before a material noun when it works as a common noun.

- **Abstract Nouns** are the words through which we can realize, think of or feel mentally or emotionally. They have no physical existence. They may express a feeling (pleasure, joy), an action (fight, quarrel), a general idea or a system of thought (Philosophy, Astronomy) a state (youth, birth, death), a quality (beauty, ugliness, patience).
 - Some Abstract nouns are singular. Pleasure, joy, sorrow and many others can be used as plural too.

3. Some Important Collective Nouns

A jury of judges	A slice of bread
A troop of children	A grain of rice
A quiver of arrows	A pinch of snuff
A suit of rooms	A blade of grass
A pile of books	An army of soldiers
A peal of laughter	A board of directors
A chain of Mountains	A band of nomads
A band of musicians	A lock of hair
A course of study	A suit of armour
A volley of arrows	A suit of furniture
A volley of missiles	A stock of coal
A heap of rubbish	A string of onions
A brace of pigeons	A bevy of ladies
	A flight of stairs

A volley of shots	A bunch of keys
A volley of stones	A galaxy of stars
A heap of dust	A fleet of ships
A heap of stones	An army of ants
A ray of light	A covery of partridges
A pair of socks	A shoal of fish
A gust of wind	A bouquet of flowers
A pinch of salt	A choir of singers
A band of travellers	A herd of swine
A wardrobe of clothes	A stock of clothes
A flight of birds	A tuft of grass
A sheaf of grains	A crowd of people
A heap of sand	A herd of cattle

Noun : Number

1. Definition

- When a noun is single *i.e.* one, it is in the singular number. When it denotes more than one it is in the plural number.

2. Formation of Plural Nouns

- Most of the plural nouns are formed by adding 's' to the singular : books, lovers, tables, emotions.
- Words ending in s, x, z, sh or ch form the plural by adding es to the word :
kiss-kisses; tax-taxes; maze-mazes; dish-dishes; church-churches.
- If a singular noun ends in y and a consonant comes before y, they is changed into i and es is added to it : fly-flies.
- If the y at the end of the word is preceded by a vowel simply s is added to it : day-days; monkey-monkeys.
- If a singular noun ends in o preceded by a vowel the plural is formed by adding only s to it. But if it is preceded by a consonant es is added to it, bamboo-bamboos; cuckoo-cuckoos; radio-radios. But hero-heroes; mango-mangoes; potato-potatoes.
- The nouns ending in f or fe drop these and take ves to form plural. They are *calf-calves* ; *half-halves*; *knife-knives*; *leaf-leaves*; *life-lives*; *loaf-loaves*; *self-selves*; *sheaf-sheaves*, *shelf-shelves*, *thief-thieves*, *wife-wives*, *wolf-wolves* *cafe-cafes*, *fife-fifes*, *safe-safes*, *strife-strifes*.
- Nouns ending in ff, rf, oof, eef, and ief generally form plural by adding only s *cliff-cliffs*, *serf-serfs*; *proof-proofs*, *chief-chiefs*.
- Other words ending in f form the plural by adding s; *gulf-gulfs*.
- A few words ending in f have two plurals : *scarf-scarfs*, *scarves*. *staff-staffs*, *staves*; *wharf-wharfs* *wharves*.
- Eight nouns form the plural by changing an inside vowel : *dormouse-dormice*, *foot-feet*, *goose-geese*, *louse-lice*, *man-men*, *mouse-mice*; *tooth-teeth*; *woman-women*.

- Some nouns are changed into plural by adding *en* or *ne* to them in different ways : *child + r + en = children*; *ox-oxen*; *brother – brethren* (two changes); *cow-kine* (two changes). The common plurals of *brother* and *cow* are *brothers* and *cows*. But they have different connotations.
- Compound nouns are changed into plural by adding s to the principal word : *mother-in-law–mothers-in-law*; *passers-by*; *Major-Generals lookers-on*. But those compounds which are written without hyphens form plural by adding s at the end : *pickpockets*, *spoonfuls*, *stepmothers*.

3. Formation of Foreign Plurals

- If a word ends in a it is changed into *ae* : *formula-formulae*; *nebula-nebulae*.
- If a word ends in us it is changed into *i* : *alumnus-alumni*; *bacilus-bacilli*, *focus-foci*, *fungus-fungi*, *radius-radii*; *stimulus-stimuli*.
- If a word ends in um it is changed into *a* : *bacterium-bacteria*; *curriculum-curricula*; *datum-data*, *dictum-dicta*; *medium-media*; *memorandum-memoranda*; *stratum-strata*.
- If a word ends in ex is or ix these are changed into *ices* or only *es* : *apex-apices*; *index-indices*; *appendix-appendices*; *axis-axes*, *hypothesis-hypotheses*; *synopsis-synopses*.
- Words ending in on form plural by changing on into *a*: *automation-atomata*; *criterion-criteria*; *pheno-menon-phenomena*.

4. Confusion About the Use of Certain Nouns

- Certain nouns have the same form in singular and plural : *deer*, *gallows*, *grouse*, *innings*, *means offspring*, *salmon*, *sheep*, *swine*, *trout*.
- Some nouns always go in pairs and are always used in plural : *bellows*, *pants*; *scissors*, *spectacles*, *tongs*, *trousers*.
- A few nouns ending in ry have a plural significance but are used only in the singular form : *drapery*, *imagery*, *machinery poetry*, *scenery*, *stationery*.
- Certain nouns having a plural formation are used as plurals only and cannot be changed into singular : *annals*, *premises*, *tidings*, *thanks*, *wages*.
Wage is used in singular formations in compound nouns : *wage earners*, *living-wage*, *wage-board*.
- Furniture*, *stationery*, *advice* and *information* are always singular.
- Some nouns have one meaning in the singular but two in the plural.

Singular	Plural	
Colour (hue)	Colours	(1. hues 2. the flag of a regiment)
Custom (habit)	Customs	(1. habits 2. import duty)
Effect (result)	Effects	(1. results 2. property)

Manner (method)	Manners	(1. Moral lessons 2. conduct)
Moral (a moral lesson)	Morals	(1. moral lessons 2. conduct)
Number (quantity)	Numbers	(1. quantities 2. verses)
Pain (suffering)	Pains	(1. sufferings 2. exertion 3. penalty)
Premise (proposition)	Premises	(1. propositions 2. A building)
Quarter (fourth part)	Quarters	(1. fourth parts 2. lodgings)
Spectacle (a sight)	Spectacles	(1. eye glasses 2. sights)
Letter (any alphabet)	Letters	(1. alphabets 2. epistles epistle 3. literature)
Ground (reason, earth)	Grounds	(1. reaons 2. enclosed land 3. dreges <i>i.e.</i> particles sunk to the bottom in a liquid)

The Noun : Gender

1. Definition

The gender of a noun indicates whether it is male or female.

Examples :

- Boy, girl, hero, heroine, lion, lions etc.

Kinds of Gender : There are four kinds of gender.

- Masculine Gender,
- Feminine Gender,
- Common Gender,
- Neuter Gender.
- **Masculine Gender :** A noun that denotes mainly to males or to objects classified as male.

Examples :

- Boy, man, dog, lion, horse etc.

- **Feminine Gender :** A noun that denotes mainly to females or the objects classified as females.

Examples :

- Girl, woman, lioness, bitch, mare, cow etc.

- **Common Gender :** A noun that denotes a thing that is either male or female is called the common gender.

Examples :

- Child, baby, infant, friend, parents, doctor, teacher, servant, enemy, cousin, person, student, neighbour etc.

- **Neuter Gender :** A noun that denotes a thing that is neither male or female *i.e.* thing without life is called the neuter gender.

Examples :

- Book, pen, tree, room etc.

2. Formation of Genders

- **By the use of a different word :**

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Brother	Sister	Boy	Girl
Czar	Czarina	Bachelor	Spinster
Boar	Sow	Lad	Lass
Bullock	Heifer	Bull	Cow
Colt	Filly	Cock	Hen
Drake	Duck	Dog	Bitch
Earl	Countess	Drone	Bee
Father	Mother	Executor	Executix
Gender	Goose	Fox	Vixen
Hart	Roe	Gentleman	Lady
Horse	Mare	He	She
King	Queen	Husband	Wife
Man	Woman	Lord	Lady
Monk	Nun	Marquis	Marchioness
Nephew	Niece	Male	Female
Ram	Ewe	Ox	Cow
Sir	Madam	Signor	Signora
Stag	Hind	Son	Daughter
Uncle	Aunt	Tailor	Seamstress
Wizard	Witch	Widower	Widow

- **By the addition of ess :**

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Actor	Actress	Ambassador	Ambassa- doress
Heir	Heiress	Duke	Duchess
God	Goddess	Master	Mistress
Negro	Negress	Emperor	Empress
Prince	Princess	Votary	Votaress
Waitor	Waitress	Lion	Lioness

- In a few cases, by the addition of various endings to the Masculine :

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Administrator	Administratrix	Hero	Heroine
Sultan	Sultana	Viceroy	Vicereine
Testator	Testatrix	Signor	Signora
Fox	Vixen		

- By placing a word before or after.

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Cock-Sparrow	Hen-Sparrow	He-Goat	She-Goat
Grandfather	Grandmother	Greatuncle	Greataunt
Manservant	Maidservant	Landlord	Landlady
Milkman	Milkwoman	Peacock	Peahen
Salesman	Saleswoman	Washerman	Washerwoman

Very Important Previous Years Questions (2006-2024)

Type A Fill in the Blanks

Direction (Q. No. 1 to 21)

Each of the following sentences in this section has a blank space and four words or group of words given after the sentence. Select the word or group of words you consider most appropriate for the blank space.

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

- It is a really tough course, I am just worried that I won't be able to go the
(A) way (B) distance
(C) far (D) route
- The of the advancement made in agricultural productivity in India has been remarkable.
(A) extent (B) context
(C) distance (D) syntax
- Adolescence is the wherein a child enters adulthood.
(A) threshold (B) position
(C) condition (D) period
- Endangered species have a fifty per cent or greater probability of within five years or two generations whichever is longer.
(A) distinction (B) extinction
(C) complication (D) completion
- There was a time when West Germany was a distinct
(A) policy (B) polity
(C) abstract (D) hierarchy
[NDA & NA 2021 Paper-I]
- The British all over Africa and Asia collapsed in the first half of the twentieth century.
(A) hegemony (B) domicile
(C) residence (D) inheritance
[NDA & NA 2018 Paper-II]
- The soldiers waiting to go into battle for the first time were full of

- (A) apprehension (B) consideration
(C) anticipation (D) frivolity
[NDA & NA 2018 Paper-II]
- The dictator of that country was a monster of wickedness, insatiable in his for blood and plunder.
(A) idea (B) vision
(C) lust (D) intention
[NDA & NA 2017 Paper-I]
- Could you lend me some money ? I am very of cash at the moment.
(A) down (B) low
(C) short (D) scarce
[NDA & NA 2017 Paper-II]
- I feel for those who are cruel to their children.
(A) sympathy (B) contempt
(C) admiration (D) craving
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
- Both the parties were keen to have an settlement of the dispute.
(A) enviable (B) inimical
(C) worthy (D) amicable
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
- The accident took place because of the criminal of the driver.
(A) performance (B) disregard
(C) negligence (D) slackness
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
- The belief in the of vaccination is gaining ground.
(A) immunity (B) prevalence
(C) efficacy (D) workability
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
- They found a world of between what he said and what he did.
(A) chaos (B) bitterness
(C) difference (D) hope
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
- Man has won his dominant position on this planet by his of technology.
(A) command (B) emphasis
(C) belief (D) stress
[NDA & NA 2015 Paper-II]

- The day was extremely hot and, in no time, my back was drenched with
(A) prickly heat (B) perspiration
(C) sores (D) fatigue
[NDA & NA 2015 Paper-II]
- The Government is encouraging village upliftment in the country.
(A) programmes (B) designs
(C) talks (D) propaganda
[NDA & NA 2015 Paper-II]
- The two children stood at the of the table.
(A) conclusion (B) terminal
(C) end (D) termination
[NDA & NA 2014 Paper-I]
- 'Please' and 'Thank you' are the little courtesies by which we keep the of life oiled and running smoothly.
(A) path (B) machine
(C) garden (D) river
[NDA & NA 2014 Paper-II]
- Many of the advances of civilization have been conceived by young people just on the of adulthood.
(A) boundary (B) threshold
(C) peak (D) horizon
[NDA & NA 2014 Paper-II]
- The old 'Nature' versus debate regarding crime continues even today.
(A) 'Man' (B) 'Universe'
(C) 'Culture' (D) 'Nurture'
[NDA & NA 2014 Paper-II]

Type B Common Errors

Direction (Q. No 22 to 26)

Each item in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (A), (B) and (C). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part.

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

- The process of removing
(A)
wool from the body of

- (B)
an animal is called sharing.
- (C)
No error
- (D)
Failure is the stepping stone to success;
23. success; (A)
however, successive failures are not
- (B)
successive stepping stones to success
- (C)
No error
- (D)
[NDA & NA 2022 (I) 10-4-2022]
24. My friend's daughter-in-laws
- (A) (B)
have come. No error.
- (C) (D)
[NDA & NA 2020 Paper-II]
- The art of printing was introduced
25. into England
- (A)
during the reign of Edward IV
- (B)
by William Caxton, a native of Kent.
- (C)
No error.
- (D)
[NDA & NA 2019 Paper-I]
26. A great part of Arabia
- (A) (B)
is desert. No error.
- (C) (D)
[NDA & NA 2019 Paper-I]

Direction (Q. No. 27 to 33)

- (i) In this section, a number of sentences are given. The sentences are underlined in three separate parts and each one is labelled (A), (B) and (C). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error in any underlined part. No sentence has more than one error. When you find an error in any one of the underlined parts (A), (B) or (C), indicate your response on the Answer Sheet at the appropriate space. You may feel that there is no error in a sentence. In that case, (D) will signify a 'No error' response.
- (ii) Errors may be in grammar, word usage or idioms. There may be a word missing

- or there may be word which should be removed.
- (iii) You are not required to correct the error. You are required only to indicate.

27. The differential attractions of the sun and the moon have a direct effect
- (A)
in the rising and falling of the tides.
- (B) (C)
No error
- (D)
[NDA & NA 2013 Paper-I]
28. The nation should be grateful
- (A)
to the armed forces
- (B)
for protecting them. No error.
- (C) (D)
[NDA & NA 2013 Paper-II]
29. Let us bring this discussion
- (A) / (B) /
- to close. No error
- (C) / (D)
[NDA & NA 2012 Paper-I]
30. The speaker stressed repeatedly on (A)/ the importance of improving (B)/ the condition of the slums (C)/ No Error. (D)
[NDA/NA 2011-I]
31. Credit cards have (A)/brought about a revolutions (B)/in people's spending habits. (C)/No error. (D)
[NDA/NA 2008-I]
32. It's stupid to go (A)/to the expense of taking(B)/music lessons if you never practice (C)/No error. (D)
[NDA/NA 2007-I]
33. It is greatly to Amit's credit (A)/that he gave back the money he found; (B)/his honesty does for him credit (C)/No error. (D)
[NDA/NA 2007-I]

**Type C
Sentence Improvement**

Direction (Q. No. 34 to 36)

In this section, look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (A), (B) or (C) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (A), (B) or (C). If none

of the substitutions improves the sentence, indicate (D) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (D).

34. Last evening I went to the optician and bought spectacles.
- (A) a spectacle
(B) two spectacles
(C) a pair of spectacles
(D) No improvement
[NDA & NA 2017 Paper-I]
35. I went to the shop to buy some stationerites.
- (A) stationery
(B) stationary
(C) stationaries
(D) No improvement
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]
36. It began to rain heavily just when I prepare to go out.
- (A) prepared
(B) was preparing
(C) have prepared
(D) No improvement
[NDA & NA 2016 Paper-II]

**Type D
Class of Word**

Direction (Q. No. 37 and 38)

Each of the following sentences has word (s) underlined. Read the sentence carefully and find which word class the underlined word (s) belong (s) to.

37. Adders are the only poisonous snakes found across Britain.
- (A) Noun
(B) Adjective
(C) Adverb
(D) Determiner
[NDA & NA (II) (GAT), 01-09-2024]
38. The plane is ready for take-off.
- (A) Noun
(B) Conjunction
(C) Verb
(D) Gerund
[NDA & NA (II) (GAT), 01-09-2024]

Answer Key

1. (B) 2. (A) 3. (A) 4. (B) 5. (B)
6. (A) 7. (A) 8. (C) 9. (C) 10. (B)
11. (D) 12. (C) 13. (C) 14. (C) 15. (A)
16. (B) 17. (A) 18. (C) 19. (B) 20. (B)
21. (D) 22. (C) 23. (D) 24. (B) 25. (D)
26. (D) 27. (B) 28. (A) 29. (C) 30. (D)
31. (B) 32. (C) 33. (C) 34. (C) 35. (A)
36. (B) 37. (A) 38. (A)

□□

Chapter 1

Physical Quantities, Measurement and Units

(General Knowledge)
(Science)

1. Physical Quantities, Measurements and Units

- **Physical Quantity** : It is a quantity that can be measured. Physical quantities can be classified into two : fundamental quantities and derived quantities.
- Quantities which cannot be expressed in terms of any other physical quantities are called fundamental quantities. **Example** : Length, mass, time, temperature, etc.
- The quantities which can be expressed in terms of some other quantities are called derived quantities. Examples : Area, volume and density, etc.
- **Measurement** : It is a process of comparison of the given physical quantity with the known standard quantity of the same nature.
- The standard quantity used to measure the given physical quantity is called unit. Thus “Unit is the quantity of a constant magnitude which is used to measure the magnitude of the other quantities of the same nature.”
- For the measurement of any physical quantity two things are necessary *i.e.*, numerical value and its unit.

$$\text{Physical Quantity} = \text{Numerical Value} \times \text{Its Unit}$$

- **Units** : A unit is the standard quantity with which unknown quantities are compared. It is defined as a specific magnitude of a physical quantity that has been adopted by law or convention. *For example*, feet is the unit for measuring length. That means, 10 feet is equal to 10 times the definite predetermined length, called feet. Units are of two kinds :
 - **Fundamental Units** : Fundamental Unit is that which is independent of any other unit or which can neither be changed nor can be related to any other fundamental unit. There are seven (07) fundamental units and two (02) complementary units. These have been mentioned below :

Basic Fundamental Units

Quantity	Units	Symbol
Length	Meter	m
Mass	Kilogram	kg
Time	Second	s
Temperature	Kelvin	K
Luminous Intensity	Candela	Cd
Electric Current	Ampere	A
Amount of Substance	Mole	mol

Supplementary Units

Quantity	Units	Symbol
Plane Angle	Radian	rad
Solid Angle	Staradian	sr

- **Derived Units** : Derived Units are those which depend on the fundamental units or which can be expressed in terms of the fundamental units. Some important derived units have been mentioned below :

Quantity	Units	Symbol
Acceleration	Meter per Second Squared	m/s ²
Speed	Meter per Second	m/s
Angular Velocity	Radian per Second	Rad/s
Surface Tension	Newton/Metre	N/m
Electric Charge	Coulomb	C
Celestial Distance	Light Year	m
Amount of Substance	Mole	mol

Important Points

- **Light Year** : The distance travelled by light in vacuum in one year is known as Light Year. It is equal to 9.46×10^{12} km or 9.46×10^{15} m.
- **Astronomical Unit** : The average distance between the sun and the earth is known as the Astronomical Unit (AU). It is equal to 1.496×10^{11} m.
- **Parsec** : Parsec means Para galactic Second and it is equal to 3.26 LY. Basically it is equal to 3.08×10^{16} m.

2. Systems of Units

- **Systems of Units** : There are four systems of units :
 - **M.K.S. System** : In this system, units of length, mass and time are meter (m), kilogram (kg) and second (s) respectively.
 - **C.G.S. System** : In this system, units of length, mass and time are centimetre (cm), gram (g) and second (s) respectively.
 - **F.P.S. System** : In this system, units of length, mass and time are foot (ft), pound (lbs) and second (s) respectively.
 - **S.I. System (Système international d'unités)** : In 1960, the General Conference of Weights and Measurement recommended that in addition to the unit of length, mass and time, the unit of temperature, luminous intensity, current and the amount of substance also be taken as

fundamental units. The unit of angle and solid angle are the complementary fundamental units.

Unit	Length (In SI System)	Unit	Length (In SI System)
1 Kilometer	10 ³ meter	1 Decimeter	10 ⁻¹ meter
1 Hectometer	10 ² meter	1 Centimeter	10 ⁻² meter
1 Decameter	10 ¹ meter	1 Millimeter	10 ⁻³ meter
1 Micron	10 ⁻⁶ meter	1 Picometer	10 ⁻¹² meter
1 Millimicron	10 ⁻⁹ meter	1 Fermi Meter	10 ⁻¹⁵ meter
1 Angstrom	10 ⁻¹⁰ meter	1 Attometer	10 ⁻¹⁸ meter

3. Scalar and Vector Quantities

- **Scalar and Vector Quantities** : There are a number of physical quantities and these have been grouped into two categories *i.e.*, scalar and vector quantities.

➤ **Scalar Quantities** : The physical quantities which are completely specified by their magnitude or size alone are called scalar quantities. These quantities do not have directions. *Example* : Length, mass, time, volume, density, temperature, speed, electric current, work, power, energy and electric potential, etc.

➤ **Vector Quantities** : These are those physical quantities which have both the magnitude and the direction. These obey certain laws such as Law of Vector Addition (Triangle Law), etc., *Example* : Displacement, velocity, acceleration, force, linear momentum, impulse, torque, angular momentum, electric field and magnetic field, etc.

❖ **Vectors can be of following types :**

➔ **Zero Vector** : A vector, whose initial and terminal points coincide, is called a zero vector or (null vector). It is denoted by 0. Zero vector cannot be assigned a definite direction as it has zero magnitude.

➔ **Unit Vector** : A vector whose magnitude is unity (*i.e.*, 1 unit) is called a unit vector. The unit vector in the direction of a given vector \vec{a} is denoted by \hat{a} .

➔ **Coinitial Vector** : Two or more vectors having same initial point are called Coinitial vectors.

➔ **Collinear Vector** : Two or more vectors are said to be collinear if they are parallel to the same line, irrespective of their magnitudes and directions.

➔ **Equal Vectors** : Two vectors are said to be equal, if they have the same magnitude and direction regardless of the positions of their initial points.

➔ **Negative Vectors** : A vector whose magnitude is same as that of a given vector but direction is opposite to that of it is called negative of the given vector.

➔ **Free Vectors** : Vectors that don't change even if it is displaced in parallel direction without changing its magnitude and direction are called free vectors.

❖ **Representation of Vectors** : Any vector r can be written as :

$$r = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

❖ Where \hat{i} , \hat{j} and \hat{k} are unit vectors along the perpendicular axes OX, OY and OZ, respectively. The magnitude of vector r is given by :

$$|r| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

❖ **Product of Vectors :**

➔ **Scalar Product or Dot Product** : If A and B are two vectors then their scalar product or dot product can be defined as the product of the magnitude of two vectors A and B and the cosine of the angle between them. If A is magnitude of A and B is the magnitude of B, then

$$A \cdot B = AB \cos\theta$$

➔ **Cross Product or Vector Product** : If A and B are two vectors then their cross product or vector product can be defined as the product of the magnitude of vectors A and B and sine of the angle between them.

If \hat{n} is a unit vector perpendicular to A and B, then

$$A \times B = AB \sin\theta \hat{n}$$

- **Dimensions** : The dimensions of a physical quantity are the powers (or exponents) to which the base quantities are raised to represent that quantity.

• Note that using the square brackets [] round a quantity means that we are dealing with 'the dimensions of' the quantity.

• In mechanics, all the physical quantities such as length, mass, time, temperature, luminous intensity, amount of substance and current can be written in terms of the dimensions [L], [M], [T], [θ], [cd], [N] and [A].

• The dimensions of a physical quantity can be written as $[M^a L^b T^c \theta^d]$.

• For example, the volume occupied by an object is expressed as the product of length, breadth and height, or three lengths. Hence,

$$\text{Dimensions of volume} = [L] \times [L] \times [L] = [L^3]$$

Dimensions of Some Important Quantities

Physical quantity	Unit	Dimensional formula
Acceleration or acceleration due to gravity	ms ⁻²	LT ⁻²
Angle (arc/radius)	rad	M ⁰ L ⁰ T ⁰
Angular displacement	rad	M ⁰ L ⁰ T ⁰
Angular frequency (angular displacement/time)	rads ⁻¹	T ⁻¹
Angular impulse (torque × time)	Nms	ML ² T ⁻¹
Angular momentum (Iω)	kgm ² s ⁻¹	ML ² T ⁻¹
Angular velocity (angle/time)	rads ⁻¹	T ⁻¹
Area (length × breadth)	m ²	L ²

Very Important Previous Years Questions (2006-2024)

Units and Measurements

1. Which one of the following is the usual unit of measurement for Air Pressure used in India?

(A) Centimeter (B) Millibar
(C) Milligram (D) Milliliter

2. Consider the following statements about Light year :

1. Light year is a unit for measurement of very large distances.
2. Light year is a unit for measurement of very large time intervals.
3. Light year is a unit for measurement of intensity of light.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(A) 1, 2 and 3 (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only (D) 1 only

[NDA and NA (I), 2021]

3. Which one of the following is NOT the unit of energy ?

(A) Joule (B) Watt-hr
(C) Newton-metre (D) kg-metre/sec²

[NDA and NA (I & II), 2020]

4. The instrument used for detecting the presence of electric current in a circuit is :

(A) Refractometer (B) Galvanometer
(C) Viscometer (D) Diffractometer

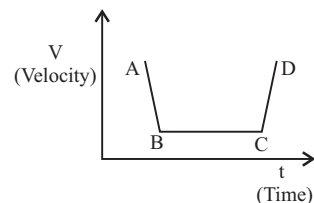
[NDA and NA (I & II), 2020]

5. 1 dyne (a unit of force in CGS system) equals to :

(A) 10³ g cm/s² (B) 10⁻³ g cm/s²
(C) 10⁵ kg m/s² (D) 10⁻⁵ kg m/s²

[NDA and NA (I), 2019]

- 6.



In the given velocity (V) versus time (t) graph, accelerated and deaccelerated motions are respectively represented by line segments :

(A) CD and BC (B) BC and AB
(C) CD and AB (D) AB and CD

[NDA and NA (I), 2019]

7. A student measures certain lengths using a meter scale having least count equal to 1 mm. Which one of the following measurements is more precise ?

(A) 0.50 mm (B) 29.07 cm
(C) 0.925 m (D) 910 mm

[NDA and NA (II), 2019]

8. Which one of the following is the correct relation between A and nm ?

(A) 1 nm = 10⁻¹ Å
(B) 1 nm = 10 Å
(C) 1 nm = 1 Å
(D) 1 nm = 10⁻² Å

[NDA and NA (II), 2018]

9. Which one of the following physical quantity has the same unit as that of pressure ?

(A) Angular momentum
(B) Stress
(C) Strain
(D) Work

[NDA and NA (I), 2017]

10. The symbol of SI unit of inductance is H. It stands for :

(A) Holm (B) Halogen
(C) Henry (D) Hertz

[NDA and NA (II), 2017]

11. The S.I. unit of acceleration is :

(A) ms⁻¹ (B) ms⁻²
(C) cms⁻² (D) kms⁻²

[NDA and NA (I), 2016]

12. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists :

List I (Physical quantity)	List II (Unit)
a. Distance	1. Mole
b. Amount of material	2. Coulomb
c. Amount of electrical charge	3. Light year
d. Energy	4. Watt hour

Code:

a	b	c	d
(A) 3	1	2	4
(B) 3	2	1	4
(C) 4	2	1	3
(D) 4	1	2	3

[NDA and NA (I), 2015]

13. Which one of the following is the SI unit of the thermal conductivity of a material?

(A) Wm⁻¹K⁻¹ (B) Wm/K
(C) Wm⁻¹/K⁻¹ (D) Js⁻¹m⁻¹K

[NDA and NA (II), 2015]

14. The dimension of 'impulse' is the same as that of :

(A) pressure
(B) angular momentum
(C) work
(D) linear momentum

[NDA and NA (II), 2014]

15. In the relation $a = bt + l$, a and l are measured in meter (m) and t is measured in second (s). The SI unit of b must be:

(A) m (B) ms
(C) s (D) ms⁻¹

[NDA/NA 2009-(II)]

Answer Key

1. (B) 2. (D) 3. (D) 4. (B) 5. (D)
6. (C) 7. (C) 8. (B) 9. (B) 10. (C)
11. (B) 12. (A) 13. (A) 14. (D) 15. (D)

□□

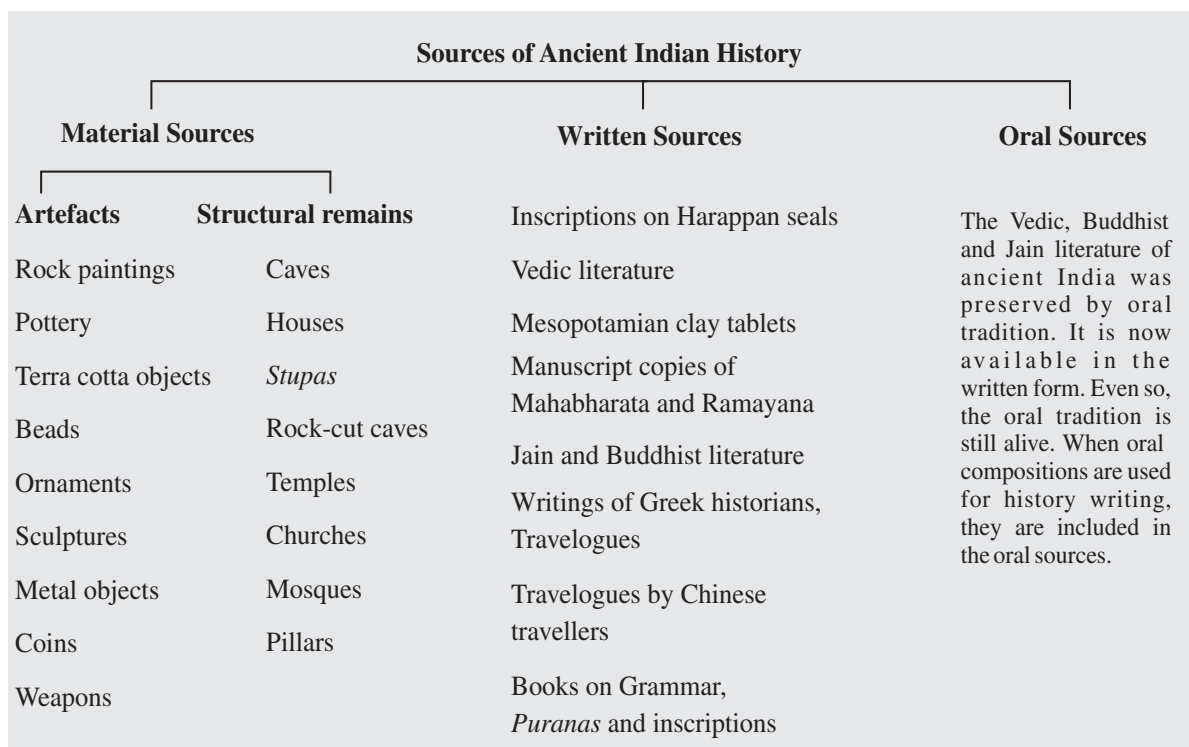
Chapter 1

(Social Science)

Ancient Indian History

1. History and Its Sources

- History is the study of past events in chronological order. History helps us to understand those processes that enabled the early humans to successfully conquer their environment and develop the present day civilizations.
- **Division of History :** History is generally divided into three time periods—prehistory, proto-history and history.
 - ❖ **Prehistory:** The prehistoric period is the time when writing had not been invented. Hence there are no written records of this period. Our knowledge of prehistory is based entirely on archaeology. Archaeologists study the physical remains of the past such as pots, jewellery, tools, coins, bones etc. to know about this period.
 - ❖ **Proto - history:** This is the period for which we do have written records but they are very few and cannot be read. So archaeological sources are the main source of information for this period also. An example for this period is the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ❖ **History:** The time period after the invention of writing is called history. Early writing was done on rocks, pillars, copper plates, clay tablets, palm leaves and on the barks of birch trees. Although much of this evidence has been destroyed over the time, those that remain are a rich source of information.
- **Dates in History:** BCE stands for Before the Common Era and CE stands for Common Era. The years expressed in BCE are counted backwards. For example 100 BCE comes before 99 BCE. The years expressed in CE are counted forwards. For example, 99 CE comes before 100 CE.
- **Sources of History:** Sources help us to understand our history. These sources are of two types: archaeological sources and literary sources. The literary source includes literature of Vedic, Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, and other literature along with other foreign accounts. The archaeological source includes epigraphic, numismatic, and other architectural remains.



Ancient Books and their Authors

Books	Authors	Books	Authors
Mitakshara	Vijnaneshwara	Gita Govinda	Jaidev
Dayabhaga	Jimutavahana	Panchatantra	Vishnu Sharma
Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam	Vishakhadatta	Bhakti Shatak	Bhritihari
Vikramanakadevacharita	Bilhana	Dasavatar Charita	Kshemendra
Svapnavasavadattam, Charudatta	Bhasa	Nitisara	Kamandaka
Prabandh Kosh, Kavya Mimansa, Karpurmanjari, Harvilas, Bal Ramayana	Rajashekhara	Natyashastra	Bharata
Harshacharita	Banabhatta	Ramcharitmanas	Tulsidas
Kamasutra	Vatsyayana	Brihat Katha	Gunadhya
Mrichchhakatika	Sudraka	Shishupal Vadh	Magha
Amarakosha	Amarasimha	Sangeet Ratnakar	Sarangadeva
Lalit - vighraja	Somdeva	Susruta Samhita	Sushruta
Prabandha Chintamani and Visaraseni	Merutunga	Satasahrika	Nagarjuna
Siddhant Shiromani	Bhaskara- II	Satsai	Bihari Lal
Mushika Vamsa	Atula	Hitopadesha	Narayana Pandit
Milinda Panha	Nagasena	Kriti Kaumudi, Manasollasa	Someshvara III (Chalukya King)
Brihat Samhita	Varahamihira	Shukra Neeti Sar	Shukra
Uttar Ramcharita	Bhavabhuti	Gaudavaho	Vakpati
Navasahasankcharita	Padmagupta	Gatha Saptasati	Hala (Satavahana king)
Ramacharital	Sandhyakara Nandi	Mattavilasa Pahasanna	Mahendrarvarman I (Pallava king)
Kavya Darshan	Dandin	Ratnavali, Nagananda, Priyadarshika	Harshavardhana
Kumarpala Charita	Hemachandra Suri	Parishishta Parvan	Hemachandra Suri
Nitishatak and Vakyapadiya	Bhritihari	Mahabhashya	Patanjali

Foreign Books and their Authors

Books	Authors
History of the War	Aristobulus
Natural History	Pliny
Geography	Ptolemy
Periplus of the Erythrean Sea	W.H. Scoff
Indica	Megasthenes

Books	Authors
Historica	Herodotus
Biography of Alexander	Oneskitus
The Travels of Fa Hien	Fa - Hien
Records of the Western World	Hiuen Tsang
Biography of Hiuen Tsang	Hulelly

Books	Authors
History of Buddhism	Lama Taranath
The Travels of Marco Polo	Marco Polo

Important Inscriptions and Rulers

Inscription	Ruler
Hathigumpha Inscription	Kalinga Ruler Kharavela
Aihole Inscription	Pulakesin II
Nasik Inscription	Gautami Balasri
Junagarh Rock Inscription	Rudradaman
Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prashasti)	Samudragupta
Mandsaur Inscription	Malwa ruler Yashoverman
Gwalior Inscription	Pratihara king Bhoja
Deopara Inscription	Bengal ruler Vijayasen
Bhitri and Junagarh Inscription	Skandagupta



Do You Know?

- ★ The Arthashastra, the classical text of Indian political thought, primarily focuses on statecraft.
- ★ Charak code third to second century BC. came into existence.
- ★ Jean Baptiste Tavernier, a resident of France, was one of the most famous foreign travelers of the 17th century.
- ★ Pravara-Godavari Valley was the nuclear zone of Jorwe Culture. The main sites of Jorwe Culture are Daimabad,

Inamgaon, Jorwe and Nevasa. At Inamgaon, one gets archaeological evidence of symbolic burial. Practically all Jorwe settlements in the Northern Deccan were suddenly deserted.

- ★ The Ayoghol merchant class was originally established in Aihole.
- ★ Chalcolithic people were the first to paint their pottery.
- ★ The Jatakas were written in Pali around the middle of the first Millennium CE. One story known as the Gandatindu Jataka describes the plight of the subjects of a wicked king. These included elderly women and men, cultivators, herders, village boys and even animals. When the king went in disguise to find out what his subjects thought about him, each one of them cursed him for their miseries. To escape from this situation, people abandoned their village and went to live in the forest.
- ★ The Manusmriti is also known as 'Manav Dharma Shastra', is the early work on 'Brahminical Dharma in Hinduism'. According to Manusmriti, the inherited property of parents would be distributed equally among all the sons. Women could not demand their share in these ancestral properties. She can acquire wealth only through as a token of affection.

2. Prehistoric Cultures

- According to the Commission Report, the present archaeological system consists of the three main ages- Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. It was developed by the Danish archaeologist Christian Jurgensen Thomsen in 1818 and 1820. Please note that the period before the development of the script is called the prehistoric times. It is also referred to as the Stone Age.

Phases of Stone Age

Phase	Timeline	Description
Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 5,00,000 - 10,000 BCE (Hunters and Food Gatherers)		
Lower Palaeolithic	5,00,000 - 50,000 BCE	In this Age, humans used stones for hunting which were found in nature and already had cutting edge. They used tree branches, leaves and stones to make shelter for living. They ate plants and meat, and gathered berries. They may have eaten flesh of dead animals left behind by other large predators.
Middle Palaeolithic	50,000 - 40,000 BCE	
Upper Palaeolithic	40,000 - 10,000 BCE	
Mesolithic/Middle Stone Age (9000 - 4000 BCE/Hunters and Herders): It is considered as a transitional phase between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic. The mesolithic people lived on hunting and fishing and food gathering. At a later stage, they also domesticated animals. The characteristic tools of this age are microliths.		

Neolithic/New Stone Age (9000 - 1000 BCE/Food Producers): During this age, the hunters learnt about agriculture. At first they collected wild crops. About 10,000 years ago, they started to produce grains, fruits and vegetables. They made a plow out of antlers, stone and wood and started to cultivate the land with the help of herded animals. They used stone mortars and pestles to grind cereals and grains. Barley was the first cereal to be used by man.

Classification of phases of palaeolithic age based on nature of stone tools and climate change

Phase	Early Palaeolithic (Early Pleistocene)	Middle Palaeolithic (Middle Pleistocene)	Upper Palaeolithic (Upper Pleistocene)
Tools	Choppers, hand axes, cleavers	Scrapers, borers, blades, points made of flakes	Blades and burins
Major Sites	Soan river (Punjab, Pakistan), Kashmir, Chota Nagpur Plateau, Narmada valley, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Thar desert and Didwana (Rajasthan), Belan valley in Mirzapur district (Uttar Pradesh), rock shelters of Bhimbetka (Raisen, Madhya Pradesh)	Nevasa (Maharashtra), Didwana and Budha Pushkar (Rajasthan), Bhimbetka (MP), Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Yamuna and other river valleys	Kurnool (AP), Meralbhai (Karnataka), Baghor -I and Baghor III (Central MP), Southern UP, South Bihar plateau, Gujarat, Patne (Maharashtra), cave shelters at Bhimbetka
Importance	Cultural and technological traditions :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crude pebble industry in strata contemporary with Third Himalayan glaciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appearance of Homo Sapiens
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soan culture: Deposits of pebble tools and choppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 rock shelter caves are located in Bhimbetka hills having thousands of paintings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harpoon, blade tools found from Renigunta (Andhra Pradesh)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acheulian culture: Deposits of hand-axes and cleavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Age of Neanderthal Man (Early Man) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate became less humid.

Important Chalcolithic Cultures and their Features

Culture	Ahar Culture	Kayatha Culture	Malwa Culture	Savalda Culture	Jorwe Culture (Proto Urban)	Prabhas and Rangpur Culture
Period	2100 - 1500 BC (Mature Harappan Culture)	2000 - 1880 BC (Mature Harappan Culture)	1700 - 1200 BC (Late harappan Culture)	2300 - 2000 BC	1400 - 700 BC (Late Harappan Culture)	2000 - 1400 BC
Features	People made distinctive black and red ware with white designs.	Fortified settlements were found at Balathal. People made a sturdy red	slipped ware painted with designs in chocolate colour, a red painted buff	The Malwa ware was rather coarse in fabric, but had a thick buff surface over it with	Jorwe ware was painted in black on red but had a matt surface treated with a wash. Some of the most well known	Polished red ware

Culture	Ahar Culture	Kayatha Culture	Malwa Culture	Savalda Culture	Jorwe Culture (Proto Urban)	Prabhas and Rangpur Culture
	They grew rice, jowar, bajra, kulthi, ragi, green peas, lentils and green and black gram. People lived in stone built houses.	ware and a combed ware bearing incised patterns	designs in red or black. Wheat and barley were grown here.	Earliest farming community in the Deccan	pottery forms are dishes on stand, sprouted vases and stemmed cups.	
Sites	Ahar and Balathal were the important sites for this culture. Gilund was its regional centre	Chambal and its tributaries were spread in an area of not more than two hectares	Navdatoli, Eran and Nagda were well known settlements. Navdatoli was one of the largest settlements.	Dhule district in Maharashtra is an important site	Valleys of Tapi, Godavari and Bhima. Daimabad was one of the largest settlements.	Both of these cultures are derived from the Harappan Culture.

3. World Civilisations and the Indus Valley Civilisation

- **Mesopotamia (3500 to 2000 BC):** Mesopotamia refers to the region of Iraq and Kuwait in West Asia. It was the land lying between two rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, which lie in modern day Iraq. The kingdoms of The Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisations flourished in Mesopotamia. Cylindrical seals were used in the Mesopotamia civilization.
- **The Sumerians:** The oldest civilisation in Mesopotamia belonged to the Sumerians. The Sumerians were the contemporaries of the people of Indus and the Egyptian civilisations. The Sumerians settled in the Lower Tigris valley around 5,000 to 4,000 BC.
- **The Akkadians:** The Akkadians dominated Sumeria briefly from 2450 to 2250 BC. The Sargon of Akkad was a famous ruler. Sargon and his descendants (2334–2218 BC) ruled Mesopotamia for more than a hundred years. In the cuneiform records of Akkadians, mention is made about the Indus civilization.
- **The Babylonians:** The Semitic people called Amorites from the Arabian desert moved into Mesopotamia. They were known as the Babylonians as they established a kingdom and made Babylon its capital. The powerful states of Ur (2112 to 2004 BC) and Babylon (1792 to 1712 BC) controlled this region. Hammurabi, the sixth king of Babylon belonging to the first Amorite dynasty (1792–1750 BC), attained fame as a great law-maker.
- **The Assyrians:** The Assyrian Empire was politically active in Mesopotamia around 1000 BC. The Assyrian kings were the priests of Ashur, the chief deity of Assyria. Ashurbanipal was a popular ruler of the late or neo-Assyrian empire (668 to 627 BC). He maintained a famous library of cuneiform records. The Assyrians used to worship the deity of Lamassu for protection.
- **Indus Civilisation:** The Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation represents the first phase of urbanisation in India. This civilisation belonged to the 'Bronze Age'. This civilisation covers an area of over 1.5 million square kilometres in India and Pakistan. Sutkagen-Dor in the west on the Pakistan– Iran border Shortugai (Afghanistan) in the north Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh in India) in the east and Daimabad (Maharashtra in India) in the south are the boundaries within which the Harappan culture has been found. Its main concentration was in the regions of Gujarat, Pakistan, Rajasthan and Haryana.
- The ruins of Harappa were first described by the British East India Company soldier and explorer Charles Masson in his book. He discovered this city in the North-West Frontier Province which is now in Pakistan.
- Harappa, one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent and on the banks of river Indus, was the first city to be discovered. As it flourished on the banks of river Indus, it was named as "Indus Valley Civilization".
- Harappan culture is divided into various phases i.e. Early Harappan (3000-2600 BCE), Mature Harappan (2600-1900 BCE) and Late Harappan (1900-1700 BCE).

- The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason (Pseudonym of James Lewis) in 1826 CE, and Amri by Alexander Burnes in 1831. Alexander Cunningham, the first surveyor of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) visited this site in 1853, 1856 and 1875.
- In 1924 the Director General of ASI, **Sir John Marshall**, found many common features between Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro (First sites to be excavated). He concluded that they were part of a large civilisation. The archaeological site at Mohenjo-Daro was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1980.
- **Time Span of Indus Civilisation**
 - ❖ **Geographical range:** South Asia
 - ❖ **Period:** Bronze Age
 - ❖ **Time:** 3300 to 1900 BCE (determined using the radiocarbon dating method)
 - ❖ **Area:** 13 lakh sq km
 - ❖ **Cities:** 6 big cities
 - ❖ **Villages:** More than 200
- **Important Sites of Harappa Civilization**
 - ❖ **Harappa** is situated in Sahiwal District, Punjab (Pakistan) on the banks of Ravi. It was excavated in 1921.
 - ❖ **Mohenjodaro** is situated in Larkana District of Sind (Pakistan) on the bank of Indus. It was excavated in 1922. It is the largest site of this civilisation.
 - ❖ **Amri** is situated close to Balochistan, on the bank of Indus River. It was excavated in 1935.
 - ❖ **Lothal** is situated in Gujarat on Bhogva River near the Gulf of Cambay. It was excavated in 1953. It is known for its dockyard.
 - ❖ **Dholavira** is situated on the arid island of Gujarat in Rann of Kutch. It was excavated in 1985.
 - ❖ **Kalibangan** is situated in Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar River. It was excavated in 1953.
 - ❖ **Manda** is situated on the right bank of Chenab River. It was excavated in 1976-77.
 - ❖ **Kotdiji** is situated on the banks of Indus River in Pakistan. It was excavated in 1955 and 1957.
 - ❖ **Chanhudaro** is situated in Sindh, Pakistan and was first excavated by NG Majumdar in 1931.
 - ❖ **Shortughai** and **Mundigak** sites are situated in Afghanistan.

Site	Findings
Harappa	Excavated by: Dayaram Sahn (1921), Madho Swaroop vatsa (1926) and Sir Mortimer Wheeler (1946)

Site	Findings
	Archaeological Findings: Six Granaries in row, Workmen's quarters, Seal of Virgin Goddess, Cemetery (R - 37, H), Painted pottery, Figurine of Mother Goddess, Stone symbols of Lingam (male sex organ) and Yoni (female sex organ), Barley and wheat in wooden mortar, Copper scale, a crucible for bronze and Copper - made mirror, Vanity box, Dice.
Mohenjodaro (also known as Mound of Dead / Nakhlistan / Oasis of Sindh)	Excavated by: Rakhal Das Banerjee (1922), Mackay (1927) and Mortimer Wheeler (1930) Archaeological Findings: Great Granary, Great Bath (It is the largest building of civilization), Assembly hall, The seal of Pashupati Mahadeva/Proto Shiva, Bronze Image of a dancing girl, Steatite image of bearded man, Clay figures of Mother Goddess, A fragment of woven cotton, Brick Kilns, Two Mesopotamian seals, 1398 seals (56% of total seals of civilization).
Lothal	Excavated by: S.R. Rao (1957) Archaeological Findings: Dockyard, Rice husk, Fire altars, Terracotta figurine of a horse, Double burial (a male and a female buried in a single grave), Persian/Iranian and Baharainean seal, A jar painted with bird and fox.
Kalibangan/ Bangles of Black Colour	Excavated by: Amla Nand Ghosh (1953), Dr. B.B. Lal and B.K. Thapar (1961) Archaeological Findings: A pre-Harappan ploughed field, Seven Fire altars, decorated bricks, (Here The right-angle fields at Kalibangan are the earliest known ploughed fields in the subcontinent, and provide evidence of mixed-crop cultivation. Other evidence found at Kalibangan includes manure and gypsum calcium sulphate being used as fertilisers.) wheels of a toy cart, Mesopotamian cylindrical seal.

Site	Findings
Chanhudaro	Excavated by: N.G. Majumdar (1931), E. J. H. Mackay (1935) Archaeological Findings: City without a citadel, inkpot, lipstick, bead - makers' shops, Imprint of dog's paw on a brick, Terracotta model of a bullock cart, Bronze toy cart.
Rangpur (Gujarat)	Excavated by: M.S. Vatsa (1931), S.R. Rao (1953-54)
Banawali (Hisar, Haryana)	Excavated by: R.S. Bisht (1973-74) Archaeological Findings: Lack of grid pattern town planning, Lack of systematic drainage system, Terracotta Toy plough.
Alamgirpur (Meerut, UP)	Excavated by: Y. D. Sharma (1958)
Kot Diji (Sindh, Pakistan)	Excavated by: Ghurey (1935), Fazal Ahmed (1955)
Amri (Sindh, Pakistan)	Excavated by: N.G. Majumdar (1929)
Ropar (Punjab)	Excavated by: Y.D. Sharma (1955-56)
Surkotada (Kutch, Gujarat)	Excavated by: J.P. Joshi (1964) Archaeological Findings: Bones of horse (Only site where horse bones have been found), Oval grave, Pot burials.
Suktagendor (Sindh, Pakistan)	Excavated by: A Stein (1927)
Dholavira, Gujarat	Excavated by: J.P. Joshi, R.S. Bisht (1990-91) Archaeological Findings: A unique water harnessing system and its storm water drainage system, a giant water reservoir, Only site to be divided into 3 parts, A stadium .
Rakhigarhi (Haryana)	Excavated by: Amarendra Nath (2014)
Daimabad	Archaeological Findings: Bronze images (Charioteer with chariot, ox, elephant and rhinoceros)

- **Unique Features of Harappan Civilisation:**

- ❖ Systematic town - planning on the lines of 'grid system'
- ❖ Use of burnt (baked) bricks in constructions of houses
- ❖ Underground drainage system (giant water reservoirs in Dholavira)
- ❖ Fortified citadel (exception - Chanhudaro)

- **Rulers** were the people who planned the construction of special buildings in the city. Rulers sent people to distant lands to get metal, precious stones, and other things that they wanted.
- To manufacture the seals, steatite was used. The seals had the image of the Humpless bull. **Scribes** were the people who knew how to write and help in preparing the seals and perhaps write on other materials that have not survived.
- Balakot and Nageshwar were two specialised centres for making shell objects during the Harappan civilization.
- The Harappans established settlements in areas where shells were available. They also sent expeditions to other areas to procure materials for craft production. For example, they sent expeditions to the Khetri region of Rajasthan for copper and to South India for gold.
- Wheat and Barley were main crops and Dates, mustard, sesamum, cotton etc. were other crops.
- The evidence of cultivation of rice has been found from Lothal and Rangpur (Gujarat). Please note that Indus people were the first to produce cotton (Sindon in Greek) in the world.
- Though Sheep, goat, humped and humpless bull, buffalo, boar, dog, cat, pig, fowl, deer, tortoise, elephant, camel, rhinoceros, tiger etc. were important animals of this civilisation yet Lion was not known to them. The remains of rhinoceros have been found from Amri (Sindh, Pakistan).
- **Foreign Trade:** Indus people had trade relations with Mesopotamia, Sumeria and Bahrain etc. They used to export agricultural products, pottery, cotton goods, certain beads, terracotta figurines, conch-shell, ivory products and copper etc.
- Beads were exported from Chanhudaro and Conch shells were exported from Lothal.
- **They used to import**
 - ❖ Gold from Kolar (Karnataka), Afghanistan, Persia (Iran)
 - ❖ Silver from Afghanistan, Persia (Iran), South India
 - ❖ Copper from Khetri (Rajasthan), Balochistan, Arabia
 - ❖ Amethyst from Maharashtra
 - ❖ Steatite from Shahar-i-Sokhta (Iran), Kirthar Hills (Pakistan)
 - ❖ Jade from Central Asia
 - ❖ Lapis Lazuli from Badakhshan (Afghanistan)
 - ❖ Sapphire from Badakhshan (Afghanistan)
 - ❖ Tin from Afghanistan and Bihar



Do You Know?

- ★ Sumerians/Mesopotamians used to call the Indus People **Meluhha**. Sumerian text refers to Bahrain as **Dilmun** and Makran Coast as **Makan**.
- It is believed that Merchants were the ruling authority in the Indus civilisation.
- As far as religion is concerned, no temple has been unearthed. The figurine of Mother Goddess (Maitridevi or Shakti) refers to the worship of Yoni (Female Sex Organ). Phallic (Lingam) worship was also prevalent.
- Pashupati Mahadeva or the Lord of Animals or Proto Shiva was the chief male deity. A seal has been found that represents a yogi surrounded by four animals (elephant, tiger, rhino and buffalo) and two deer appear at his feet.
- **Script:** The script of Indus valley was pictographic. This script has not been deciphered so far. The writing was boustrophedon and written from right to left and from left to right in alternate lines.
- The dead were buried.



Do You Know?

- ★ Cylindrical stone currencies were used in the Mesopotamian civilization.
- ★ The Harappan crafts show a surprising degree of standardisation. According to Kenoyer, a possible reason for such an achievement was state control.
- ★ Balakot was a specialized center for making shell items.
- ★ In Mesopotamian records for the Indus Valley (Harappa), the term Meluha was used.
- ★ A terracotta plow of the Harappan civilization has been found in Banawali.
- ★ The polity of the Harappan people, as derived from the material evidence, was secular-federalist.
- ★ Kot Diji is located in the vicinity of several other important historic sites. It is close to the site of East of Mohenjo-daro.
- ★ Meluhha was the name used by the Mesopotamians to refer to the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ★ Mesopotamian or the Sumerian texts mention contact with regions named Dilmun (probably the island of Bahrain), Magan a probable name for Oman and Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region. They mention the products from Meluhha: carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold, and varieties of wood.

4. The Vedic Age (1500-600 BC)

- After the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization around 1200 BC, the land was occupied by the Aryans around 1500 BC. The term Aryan means 'noble'.

- The land occupied by them was referred to as 'Sapta Sindhu' which means 'The Land of Seven Rivers'. The seven rivers included Sindhu (Indus), Vitasta (Jhelum), Asikni (Chenab), Parushni (Ravi), Vipash (Beas), Shutudri (Sutlej) [all in Punjab] and the Sarasvati (Sarsuti) in Rajasthan. Other rivers were Drishadvati (Ghaggar) in Rajasthan, Kubha (Kabul), Suwastu (Swati), Krumu (Kurram) and Gomati (Gomal) [All in Afghanistan].

Original Homeland of Aryans according to Different Scholars

Homeland	Scholar
Arctic Region	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Tibet	Swami Dayanand Saraswati
Central Asia	Max Muller
Turkistan	Hun Feldt
Bactria	J.C. Rod
Sapta Sindhu	Dr. Avinash Chandra Das and Dr. Sampurnanand
Kashmir & Himalayan Region	Dr. L. D. Kala
Europe	Sir William Jones
Steppes	P. Nehring
Western Siberia	Morgan

Time, Spread and Sources

Geographical range	North India
Period	Iron Age
Time	1500 BC (BCE) – 600 BC (BCE)
Sources	Vedic Literature
Nature of Civilisation	Rural

- It is believed that the Aryans had migrated from Central Asia into the Indian subcontinent in the form of several waves during 2000 BC - 1500 BC. This can be proved by the Boghazkoi Inscription found in Asia Minor, Turkey. This Inscription mentions four vedic gods *i.e.* Indra, Varuna, Mitra and Nasatyas.
- The Vedic Age has been divided into two periods *i.e.* Early Vedic (Rigvedic) period (1500-1000 BC) and Later Vedic Period (1000-600 BC).
- **Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Period (1500-1000 BC):** The only literary source for the knowledge of this period is the "Rig Veda".
- **The Battle of Ten Kings (The Dasarajna War):** This war has been named Dasarajna after the ten kings who fought against Sudas (Bharata King of Tritsu Clan). Other

ten kings were from the states of Purus, Yadus, Turvasas, Anus and Druhyus, Alinas, Pakhtas, Bhalanas, Sibis and Vishanins. This battle was fought on the bank of Parushni (Ravi) and Sudas emerged victorious in this battle.

- **The Polity in Rig Vedic Period:** The basis of both social and political structures was the Kula (the family). The Grama, the Vis, the Jana, and the Rashtra were above the Kula. A few Kula (family) came together to form a Grama (the village), and so forth.

Unit	Head
Kula (the family)	Kulapa
Grama (the village)	Gramani
Vis (the clan)	Vispati
Jana (the people)	Gopa/Gopati
Rashtra (the country)	Rajan

- The governing structure was patriarchal in nature. Although monarchy was the rule, there were some non-monarchical political systems.
- The Rashtra was ruled by a King or Rajan, and based on the primogeniture law, the royal lineage was hereditary. Most likely, an elective monarchy was also recognised.
- About the king's ministers, hardly much is known. The Purohita, or household priest, was in charge at the top. He served as the king's mentor, confidant, companion, and philosopher. Senani, the commander of the army, and Gramani, the village leader, were other significant royal officials.
- The army consisted of foot-soldiers and charioteers. Weapons were made of metal, wood, stone, and bone. Metal or poisoned horn points were used as arrow tips. A device for attacking strongholds and the mobile fort (Purcharishnu) are mentioned.
- The king also had religious obligations. He protected the established order and moral principles.
- The Rig Veda mentions gatherings like the Sabha, Samiti, Vidath, and Gana. Sabha was a committee of just, privileged and significant people. Sabha and Samiti, two democratic assemblies, served as restraints on kings' arbitrary rule. Later Vedas mention the Sabha's role as a court of law.
- Theft, burglary, stealing of cattle and cheating were some of the then prevent crimes.
- **The Society in Rig Vedic Period:** The four varnas that made up the Rigvedic civilization were Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya, and Shudra. Based on the individuals' professions or jobs, society was categorised.
- Teachers and priests were referred to as Brahamanas, while administrators and kings were known as Kshatriyas, farmers, traders, and bankers as Vaishyas, and workers and artisans as Shudras.

- People chose these professions based on their aptitude and preferences; they were not hereditary as they would later become.
- A hymn from the Rig Veda illustrates how members of the same family chose different occupations and belonged to several varnas. In this hymn a person says: 'I am a singer; my father is a physician, my mother is a grinder of corn.'
- Families made up the basic social unit in this patriarchal, monogamous civilization. There was no craze for child marriage.
- A widow could wed her late husband's younger brother (Niyoga).
- The son received the father's possessions as an inheritance.
- Property rights existed for both mobile items like houses and land as well as immovable items like horses, animals, gold, and jewellery. The home of the teacher was the school where he taught the particular sacred texts.
- The diet included a significant amount of curd, butter, and other dairy items like ghee. The term "grain cooked with milk" (Kshira-pakamodanam) is also mentioned. We consumed fish, bird, and animal flesh.
- The cow was already deemed Aghanya *i.e.* not to be killed.
- Those who harm or kill cows are subject to the death penalty or banishment from the kingdom, according to the Rig Veda.
- Sura, Soma, and alcoholic beverages were also consumed.
- The majority of Aryans were farmers and herders who measured their worth in cows.
- Amusements included music, dancing, chariot-racing and dicing. One stanza in the Rig Veda known as the gambler's lament says: 'My wife rejects me and her mother hates me'.
- During the Rigvedic time the gods worshipped were generally the personified powers of Nature. It was believed that divine powers were capable of conferring both boons and punishments on man.
- Fire was sacred as it was regarded to be the intermediary between man and God. There were nearly 33 gods. Later day tradition classified them into 3 categories of terrestrial (prithvi sthana), aerial or intermediate (antariksh asthana) and celestial (dusthana) gods.
 - ❖ **Terrestrial (Prithvi Sthaniya):** Prithivi, Agni, Soma, Brihaspati and rivers.
 - ❖ **Aerial/Intermediate (Antariksha Sthaniya):** Indra, Rudra, Vayu-Vata, Parjanya.
 - ❖ **Celestial (Dusthaniya):** Daus, Surya (In 5 forms: Surya, Savitri, Mitra, Pushan, Vishnu), Varuna, Aditi, Usha and Asvin.

- Indra, Agni and Varuna were the most popular deities of Rigvedic Aryans.
 - ❖ **Indra or Purandara (destroyer of fort):** The most important god (250 Rigvedic hymns are devoted to him); who played the role of warlord and was considered to be the rain god.
 - ❖ **Agni:** The second most important god (200 Rigvedic hymns are devoted to him); fire god was considered to be the intermediary between the gods and the people.
 - ❖ **Varuna:** Personified water; was supposed to uphold Rita' or the natural order ('Ritasyagopa').
- Surya (Sun) was worshipped in 5 forms : Surya, Savitri, Mitra, Pushan and Vishnu.
 - ❖ **Surya (Sun):** God who used to drive daily across the sky in his chariot driven by seven horses.
 - ❖ **Savitri (the god of light):** The famous Gayatri Mantra is addressed to her.
 - ❖ **Mitra:** A solar god.
 - ❖ **Pushan:** The god of marriage; main function-guarding of roads, herdsmen and straying cattle.
 - ❖ **Vishnu:** A god which covered earth in three steps (Upakrama).
- **Soma:** Originally a plant yielding a strong beverage during Agnistoma sacrificial rites, maybe hemp/bhang, known as the king of plants; eventually identified as the moon. The Soma is credited with creating the ninth mandala of the Rig Veda, which includes 114 songs. Because of this, it is known as "the Soma Mandala."
- **Other Gods/Goddesses:** Rudra (the god of animals), Dyaus (the oldest god and the father of the world), Yama (the god of death). Ashwin Nastya (the god of health, youth and immortality); Aditi (the great mother of gods), Sindhu (river goddess).
- Sometimes gods were visualised as animals but there was no animal worship.
- The Rig Vedic religion was henotheistic, or the belief in multiple gods, each of whom was regarded as the supreme being at different times.
- The worship of gods was done through a ritual sacrifice known as a yajna. Milk, ghee, grain, meat, and soma were offered as sacrifices.
- **The Economy in Rig Vedic Period:** The Aryans moved past the nomad phase. Yet cow herds were given a lot of attention. There were many tamed animals.
- Cats and camels were presumably unfamiliar to the Vedic people. Tiger was unknown, but they were familiar with other wild animals like lions, elephants, and boars. There was probably not much transaction going on.
- Although markets and money existed, they were not widely used. Cows and fixed-priced gold ornaments served as the exchange's medium of exchange. There were no known coins. Complexity in product production became apparent.
- There were men working as carpenters, smiths, tanners, weavers, potters and maize grinders, among other occupations. There was a science for treating illnesses and wounds. There were surgeons who were experts.
- Along with herbs and drugs, charms and spells were regarded as equally potential in healing diseases.
- **OCP (Ochre Coloured Pottery) Culture:** 1500 BC-1000 BC.
- **Later Vedic Period (1000-600 BC):** During the later Vedic Period, the Aryan settlements covered virtually the whole of Northern India (Aryavarta). The centre of culture now shifted from Saraswati to Ganges (Madhya desa).
- There was mention of more rivers such as Narmada, Sadanira (modern Gandak), Chambal etc.
- The expansion of people towards the east is indicated in a legend of Satapatha Brahmana-how Videha Madhava migrated from the Saraswati region, crossed Sadanira and came to the land of Videha (modern Tirhut).
- Emergence of Janapadas-Kuru (Combination of Purus and Bharatas), Panchala (Combination of Turvashas and Krivis), Kashi etc. in Doab region. Later Vedic literature mentions Vindhya mountain (Southern mountain). Reference to the territorial divisions the later Vedas gives three broad divisions of India, viz. Aryavarta (Northern India), Madhya desa (Central India) and Dakshinapatha (Southern India).
- Large kingdoms and stately cities made their appearance in the later Vedic Period. In Taittiriya Brahmana we notice the theory of the divine origin of kingship.
- The governmental machinery became more elaborate than before, as a sequel to the growth of the power of the king. New civil functionaries, besides the only civil functionary of the Rigvedic period, the purohita came into existence.
- These were: the Bhagadudha (Collector of taxes), the Suta/Sarathi(the Royal herald or Charioteer), the Khasatri (Chamberlain), the Akshavapa (Courier). The military officials of the Rigvedic times, the Senani (the general) and the Gramani (the head of the village) continued to function.
- The period also saw the beginning of a regular system of provincial government. Thus, we find Sthapati being entrusted with the duty of administering outlying areas occupied by the aboriginals and Satapati being put over a group of one hundred villages. Adhikrita was the village official. Ugras, mentioned in the Upanishada, was probably a police official.

12 Ratnins	
Purohita	The Priest
Mahishi	The Queen
Yuvaraja	Crown prince
Suta/Sarathi	The Royal herald/The Charioteer
Senani	The General
Gramani	Head of the village
Kshata	Gateman/Chamberlain
Sangrahitri	Treasurer
Akshavapa	Courier
Bhagadudha	Collector of taxes
Palagala	Friend of King
Govikarta	Head of forest department

- Similar to the Rigvedic era, popular authority over the affairs of the realm was exercised through Sabha and Samiti. By this time, Vidatha had entirely vanished.
- Kings did not have a standing army even in the later Vedic era.
- The Judiciary also expanded. The king was very important in enforcing the law. The murder of an embryo, homicide, particularly the murder of a Brahmana, theft of gold, and drinking sura were considered to be terrible crimes. Treason was a serious crime.
- **Society in the Later Vedic Period:** As the time passed by, Yajnas became elaborate and complicated ceremonial, leading to the emergence of learned men known as Brahmanas.
- A group of people known as the Kshatriyas emerged to conquer and rule new lands as the Aryans spread to the east and south. The remaining Aryans established a distinct group known as the Vaishyas.
- The fourth class, the Shudras, consisted of non-Aryans. These social distinctions were flexible, though. In the later Vedic Period, the institution of the gotra, or clan, first developed.
- The higher castes were allowed to marry with the lower castes, but not with shudras. Pollution became a concept in society.
- The Jabala Upanishad has the earliest mention of the four Ashramas (the stages of life): Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanprastha, and Sanyasa. The Ashrama system was established to achieve the four Purusharthas (Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha).
- The status of women fell. Aitareya Brahmana claimed that a male is the family's protector whereas a daughter is the cause of unhappiness.
- There are three evils, according to Maitrayani Samhita: alcohol, women, and dice.

- Although polygamy—a man having more than one wife—was common, monogamy—a man having only one wife—was the ideal. Women were not allowed to participate in the political assemblies.
- Yajnavalkya-Gargi dialogue (Brihadaranyaka Upanishad) indicates that some women had got higher education.

Types of Hindu Marriage (Vivaha)	
Brahma Vivaha	Giving the girl to a man with dowry.
Daiva Vivaha	Giving the girl to the priest himself in lieu of his fees.
Arsha Vivaha	Giving the girl to a man after accepting a pair of bulls as bride-price..
Prajapatya Vivaha	Giving the girl to a man without demanding a bride- price.
Gandharva Vivaha	Love marriage
Asura Vivaha	Marriage with a purchased girl.
Rakshasa Vivaha	Marriage with the daughter of a defeated king or with a kidnapped girl.
Paishacha Vivaha	Marriage to a girl after seducing or raping her

- **Anuloma Vivaha:** marriage between a bridegroom from an upper caste and a bride from a lower caste ; Pratiloma Vivaha-the reverse of Anuloma Vivaha.
- There were sixteen Samskaras namely Garbhadhana, Pumsavana, Simantonnayan, Jatakarma, Namakaran, Nishkramana, Annaprashana, Chudakarma, Karnachhedana, Vidyambha, Upanayana, Vedarambha, Samavaratana, Vivaha, Vanprastha and Antyesti.
- **The Religion in Later Vedic Period:** The earlier divinities Indra and Agni were relegated into the background while Prajapati (creator of the Universe, later known as Brahma), Vishnu (Patron god of Aryans) and Rudra (God of animals, later identified with Shiva/Mahesha) rose in prominence. Now Prajapati became the supreme God.
- Pushana, who protected cattle in the early Vedic Period, now became the god of Shudras. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad was first the work to give the doctrine of transmigration (Punarjanma/Samsara-chakra) and deeds (Karma).
- The early simple ceremonial of the Rigvedic Period gave place to elaborate sacrifices requiring the services of as many as 17 priests. In the later Vedas and Brahmanas sacrifices (Yajnas) came into prominence.

- **There were two varieties of sacrifices-**
 - ❖ **Laghu Yajnas (simple sacrifices):** These used to be performed by householder *e.g.* Pancha Maha Yagna, Agnihotra, Darsha Yajna (on Amavasya *i.e.* on the last day of the dark fortnight), Purnamasa Yajna (on Purnima *i.e.* on the day of full moon) etc.
 - ❖ **Maha Yajnas (Grand sacrifices):** These were the sacrifices that could only be undertaken by an aristocratic and wealthy man and the king.
 - **Rajasuya Yajna:** Royal consecration, which in its full form comprised a series of sacrifices lasting over a year. In later days it was replaced by simplified Abhisheka *i.e.* anointment.
 - **Vajapeya Yajna:** Drink of strength, which lasted for a period of seventeen days up to one full year.
 - **Asvamedha Yajna:** Horse sacrifice, which lasted for three days.
 - **Agnishtoma Yajna:** Sacrifice of animals dedicated to Agni, which lasted one day, although Yajnika (performer of Yajna) and his wife spent an ascetic life for a year before Yajna. On occasion. of this Yajna, soma rasa was consumed.
- The Upanishads are a reflection of the strong sentiment that emerged towards the end of the Vedic Period in opposition to cults, rituals, and priestly dominance.
- **The Economy in the Later Vedic Period:** Cattle raising started to be replaced by agriculture. At one point, 24 oxen were used to pull the plough. Manure was understood.
- Wheat, barley, beans, sesame, and rice were all grown.
- New jobs like fishermen, washermen, dyers, doorkeepers, and footmen show that commodities production has advanced.
- There was a distinction made between the chariot-maker, the carpenter, the tanner, and the hide-dresser, indicating specialisation. There have been significant improvements in our understanding of metals. In addition to gold and ayas (either copper or iron), tin, silver, and iron were mentioned in the Rig Veda.
- The mention of companies (Ganas) and aldermen (Sreshtins) provided evidence that merchants were organised into guilds.
- PGW (Painted Grey Ware) Culture : 1100 BC-600 BC.
- **Vedic Literature:** The Vedic Literature has been classified into two categories *i.e.* Shrutis and Smritis.
 - ❖ **Shruti:** Vedic Literature is known as “Shruti” as it has been handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Please note that the term ‘Shruti’ means “To Hear”. The Shrutis comprise the four Vedas, the Brahmanas, the Aranyakas and the Upanishads.
- **Vedas:** These are called Apaurusheya (not created by man but God - gifted) and Nitya (existing in all eternity). There are four Vedas : Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda.
- The first three Vedas (Rig Veda, Sama Veda and Yajur Veda) are collectively known as Vedatrayi (Trio of Vedas).
 - ❖ **Rig Veda:** The Rig Veda is a Collection of hymns (lyrics). It is the oldest text in the world. It is also known as 'the first testament of mankind'. It contains 1028 hymns which have been divided into 10 mandalas.
 - ❖ Six mandalas (From 2nd to 7th mandalas) are called Gotra/Vamsha Mandalas (Kula Granth). It is believed that the 1st and 10th mandalas were added later. Purusha Sukta, which contains the information about four varnas *i.e.* Brahmana , Kshatriya , Vaishya and Shudra, are in the 10th mandal. The hymns of Rig Veda were recited by Hotri.
 - ❖ In Rig Veda, Himalaya and Hindukush mountains have been referred to as Himvant and Munjavant respectively.
 - ❖ Rig Veda has the mention of 40 rivers and 21 rivers have been mentioned in the Nadi Sukta. It mentions the Ganges in the East and the Kubha in the West.
 - ❖ As per Rig Veda, Sindhu was the most mentioned river while Saraswati was the most pious river. River Ganges has been mentioned once while river Yamuna has been mentioned thrice.
 - ❖ **Sama Veda:** It is a book of chants and is associated with music. It has 1549 hymns and all hymns (excluding 75) were taken from the Rig Veda. The hymns of the Sama Veda were recited by Udgatri.
 - ❖ **Yajur Veda:** This is a book of sacrificial prayers. The hymns of the Yajur Veda were recited by Adhvaryus. It has two parts *i.e.* Krishna Yajur Veda (Entirely Verse) and Shukla Yajur Veda (Both Verse and Prose).
 - ❖ **The Atharva Veda** (book of magical formulae) , the fourth and the last one , contains charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases . For a very long time it was not included in the category of the Vedas .
- **Brahmanas:** The Brahmanas are prose texts. It describes the meaning of Vedic hymns, their applications, and stories of their origins in detail. Besides, it also explains the details about rituals and philosophies.
- Every Veda has several Brahmanas attached to it :
 - ❖ **Rig Veda :** Aitareya and Kaushitiki / Sankhyan.
 - ❖ **Sam Veda :** Panchvisha (Tandya Maha Brahmana), Shadvinsh, Chhandogya and Jaiminaya.

- ❖ **Yajur Veda** : Shatapatha (the oldest and the largest Brahamana) and Taittiriya.
- ❖ **Atharva Veda** : Gopatha.
- **Upanishads**: The Upanishads are philosophical texts. They are generally called Vedanta , as they came towards the end of the Veda . There are 108 Upanishadas. Brihadaranyaka is the oldest Upanishada.
 - ❖ **Smriti**: It is a body of texts containing teachings on religion such as Ithihasas, Puranas, Tantras and Agamas. These are not eternal. They are constantly revised. The term 'Smriti' means definite and written literature. It comprises of 06 world *i.e.* Vedangas/ Sutras, Smrtitis Dharmashastras, Mahakavyas (Epic), Puranas, Upvedas and Shad-Darshanas.
 - ❖ **Aranyakas**: Aranya means 'the forest'. These were written mainly for the hermits. The Aranyaka are the concluding portions of the Brahamanas.
- **Vedangas**: There are six Vedangas :
 - ❖ **Shiksha (Phonetics)**: " Pratishakhya ' - the oldest text on phonetics .
 - ❖ **Kalpa Sutras (Rituals)**:
 - Shrauta Sutras / Shulva Sutras - deal with the sacrifices
 - Grihya Sutras - deal with family ceremonies
 - Dharma Sutras - deal with Varnas , Ashramas etc.
 - ❖ **Vyakarana (Grammar)**: ' Ashtadyayi authored by Panini is the oldest grammar of the world.
 - ❖ **Nirukta (Etymology)**: 'Nirukta' (Yask) is based on 'Nighantu' (Kashyap) and is a collection of difficult vedic words. Please note that Nighantu is the oldest word-collection of the world while Nirukta is the oldest dictionary of the world.
 - ❖ **Chhanda (Metrics)**: 'Chhanda Sutras' authored by Pingal is a famous text.
 - ❖ **Jyotisha (Astronomy)**: 'Vedanga Jyotisha' authored by Lagadh Muni is the oldest Jyotisha text.
- **Smritis: There are six famous Smritis**:
 - ❖ **Manu Smriti** is the oldest Smriti text which belongs to the Pre - Gupta Period. Its commentators were Vishwarupa, Meghatithi, Gobindraj and Kulluk Bhatt.
 - ❖ **Yajurvedic Smriti** belongs to the Pre - Gupta Period and its commentators were Vishwarupa, Vijnyaneshwar and Apararka (a king of Shilahar Dynasty)
 - ❖ **Narad Smriti, Brihaspati Smriti, Katyayana Smriti and Parashara Smriti** belong to the Gupta period.
- **Mahakavyas**: There are mainly two Mahakavyas (Epics):
 - ❖ **The Ramayana or Adi Kavya** was authored by Valmiki. It is the oldest epic in the world. It consists of 24,000 shlokas *i.e.* verses (Originally 6,000 , Later - 12,000 , Finally - 24,000) in 7 Kandas. 1st and 7th Kandas were the latest additions.
 - ❖ **The Mahabharata** was authored by Ved Vyasa. It is the longest epic in the world. At present , it consists of 1,00,000 slokas *i.e.* verses and 18 Parvas with Harivamsa as a supplement. The Bhagavad Gita is extracted from Bihshma Parvan of Mahabharata. Shanti Parva is the largest parva (chapter) of the Mahabharata. [Originally it had 8,800 shlokas and was known as Jay Samhita. Later it had 24,000 slokas and was known as Chaturvinshati Sahastri Samhita/ Bharata. Finally, it had 1,00,000 and was known as Shatasahastri Samhita / Maha Bharata.
- **Puranas** : There are 18 famous Puranas. The **Matsya Purana** is the oldest Puranic text. The other important Puranas are the Bhagavata Purana, the Vishnu Purana and the Vayu Purana. They describe genealogies of various royal dynasties .
- **Upavedas**: The Upavedas (the auxiliary vedas) were traditionally associated with vedas:
 - ❖ **Ayurveda (Medicine)** is associated with Rigveda while **Gandharva Veda (Music)** is associated with Sama Veda. **Dhanur Veda (Archery)** is associated with Yajur Veda while **Shilpa Veda (Science of Craft)** and **Arthaveda (Science of Wealth)** are associated with the Atharva veda.
- **Shad-Darshanas**: There are six schools of philosophies which are known as Shad-Drshanas. These are as follows:
 - ❖ Sankhya Darshana (Founder: Kapila and Basic text: Sankhya Sutra)
 - ❖ Yoga Darshana (Founder: Patanjali and Basic text: Yoga Sutra)
 - ❖ Nyaya Darshana (Founder: Gautama and Basic text: Nyaya Sutra)
 - ❖ Vaisheshika Darshana (Founder: Kanada and Basic text: Vaisheshika Sutra)
 - ❖ Mimansa/Purva Mimansa (Founder: Jaimini and Basic text: Purva Mimansa Sutra)
 - ❖ Vedanta/Uttar Mimansa (Founder: Badarayana and Basic text: Brahma Sutra/Vedanta Sutra)
- **Carvaka and Ajivika Sects** : The nastika (or “heterodox”) schools of thought in India do not rely on the Vedas as their primary authority. Instead, they may emphasise different ideas or traditions. Two main nastika schools are Carvaka (pronounced Charvaka) and Ajivika.

- **Carvaka School** : The Carvaka system was originally called Lokayata or Brahaspatya. It's considered one of the earliest forms of Indian materialism. Carvaka rejects the authority of the Vedas, as well as the rituals associated with them. It also denies the existence of God or any supernatural powers.
 - ❖ Ajita Kesakambali is often considered the first teacher of Carvaka, while Brihaspati is regarded as its founder.
 - ❖ Most of the original literature from this school has been lost, and today, it is no longer a living tradition.
- **Ajivika School** : The Ajivika school is based on the doctrine of immutability, which means everything is predetermined or fixed. This philosophy was founded by Gosala Mankhaliputta, a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira.
 - ❖ The central idea of Ajivikism is niyati or "destiny," meaning that everything in life is predetermined and beyond human control.
 - ❖ The primary source of information about Ajivikism is the Bhagavati Sutra.



Do You Know?

- ★ Nagara, Dravida and Vesara were important stylistic forms of temple architecture during the early medieval period. The geographical extension of the Dravidian style was between the rivers Krishna and Kaveri.
- ★ According to Hindu Law, marriage is defined as a sacrament.
- ★ The Jajmani system was a non-market exchange system. It was practised in many villages and regions during the pre-colonial period. It was incorporated into wider networks of exchange through which agricultural products and other goods circulated.
- ★ Kali age reflects the presence of a deep social crisis characterised by varna sankara *i.e.*, intermixture of varnas or social orders. The vaisyas and sudras (peasants, artisans and labourers) either refused to perform producing functions or pay taxes or supply necessary labour for economic production resulting in weakening of Brahminical social order and social tension.
- ★ In the 10th Mandala of the Rigveda, Purush Sukta reflects upon the marriage ceremonies.

5. Mahajanapada Period (600 BC-325 BC)

- During the sixth Century BC (BCE) many territorial states emerged. This led to the transformation of socio – economic and political life of the people in the Gangetic plains. A new intellectual awakening began to

develop in northern India. Mahavira and Gautama Buddha represented this new awakening.

- The capital cities of the mahajanapadas and some other cities, which flourished because of prospering trade once again brought the age of urbanisation in India. It is known as the 'Second Urbanisation'.
- **These sixteen Mahajanpads were as follows:**
 - ❖ **Magadha (Patna, Gaya and Nalanda districts):** The first capital was Rajagriha and the later capital was Pataliputra.
 - ❖ **Anga and Vanga (Munger and Bhagalpur):** The capital was Champa. It was a prosperous business centre.
 - ❖ **Malla (Deoria, Basti, Gorakhpur region):** The capital was Kushinagar. It was the seat of many other smaller kingdoms. Their main religion was Buddhism.
 - ❖ **Vatsa (Allahabad and Mirzapur):** The capital was Kaushambi. The most important ruler of this kingdom was King Udayan.
 - ❖ **Kashi (Benaras):** The capital was Varanasi. Though many battles were fought against the Kosala kingdom, eventually Kashi was merged with the Kosala kingdom.
 - ❖ **Kosala (Ayodhya):** Though its capital was Shravasti which is identical to Sahet-Mahet, Ayodhya was an important town in Kosala. Kosala also included the tribal republican territory of Sakyas of Kapilvastu.
 - ❖ **Vajji (Muzaffarpur and Vaishali):** Vajji was the seat of a united republic of eight smaller kingdoms of which Lichchavis, Janatriks, and Videhas were also members.
 - ❖ **Kuru (Thaneswar, Meerut and present-day Delhi):** The capital city was Indraprastha.
 - ❖ **Panchala (Western Uttar Pradesh):** Its capital was Kampila. Earlier a monarch state, it later became an independent republic. Kannauj was an important town in this kingdom.
 - ❖ **Matsya kingdom (Alwar, Bharatpur and Jaipur):** Its capital was Viratanagar.
 - ❖ **Ashmaka (Between Narmada and Godavari):** Its capital was at Pertaii and Brahamdatta was its most important ruler.
 - ❖ **Gandhara (Peshawar and Rawalpindi):** Its capital Taxila was important as a trade and education center (Ancient Taxila university) during the later Vedic age.
 - ❖ **Kamboj (Hazara district of Pakistan, North-East Kashmir):** Its capital was Rajapur. Hazara was an important trade and commerce center of this kingdom.

- ❖ **Avanti (Malwa):** Avanti was divided into two parts, north and south. The northern part had its capital at Ujjain and the southern part had its capital at Mahishmati.
- ❖ **Chedi (Bundelkhand):** Shaktimati was the capital of Chedi. The Chedi kingdom was spread between the Yamuna and Narmada rivers. One of the families from this kingdom later merged into the Kalinga kingdom from this royal family.
- ❖ **Shurasena (Braj Mandal):** Its capital was Mathura, and its most famous ruler was Avantiputra.

6. Jainism and Buddhism

- The Sixth Century BC (BCE) is regarded as an important period in the history of ancient India. A new civilisation began to develop in northern India, with the revival of trade and urbanisation during the sixth century BC (BCE). In this period of major political and social changes in north India, Buddha and Mahavira were born. In the century following their death, Buddhism and Jainism took root as major religions in India.
- **Jainism:** The word Jain derives from the Sanskrit word “Jina”, which means conquering self and the external world. Jainism is one of the world’s oldest living religions. Jainism grounds itself in 24 Tirthankaras.
- A ‘Tirthankara’, is the one who revealed religious truth at different times. The first Tirthankara was Rishabha and the last one was Mahavira. Jainism gained prominence under the aegis of Mahavira, during the sixth century BC (BCE).
- The last and 24th Tirthankara of the Jains was Vardhamana Mahavira.
- Vardhamana Mahavira was born in 599 BC (BCE) at Kundagrama near Vaishali. His mother was Trishala, a Lichchavi princess. He spent his early life as a prince and was married to a princess named Yashoda. The couple had a daughter.
- At the age of thirty, he left his home and became an ascetic. For over twelve years, Mahavira wandered from place to place, subjecting himself to severe penance and self-mortification.
- He was a kshatriya prince of the Lichchhavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha. At the age of 30, he left home and went to live in a forest
- For over twelve years, Mahavira wandered from place to place, subjecting himself to severe penance and self-mortification.
- In the thirteenth year of his asceticism, he acquired the highest knowledge or omniscience (the ability to know everything or be infinitely wise) or supreme knowledge and came to be known as Jaina (the conqueror), Mahavira (great hero) and Kevala. Thereafter, he became Jina meaning ‘one who conquered worldly pleasure and attachment’.

- He taught a simple doctrine: men and women who wished to know the truth must leave their homes. They must follow very strictly the rules of ahimsa, which means not hurting or killing living beings.
- Followers of Mahavira, who were known as Jainas, had to lead very simple lives.
- Mahavira travelled extensively as a preacher in the kingdoms of Magadha, Videha and Anga. Magadha rulers Bimbisara and Ajatashatru were influenced by his teachings.
- After 30 years of preaching, Mahavira died at Pawapuri in 527 BC (BCE) at the age of seventy two.
- **Tri-ratnas or Three Jewels:** Mahavira exhorted the three – fold path for the attainment of moksha (Liberation from the cycle of birth and death) and for the liberation from Karma. They are:
 - ❖ **Right Faith (Samyak Darshan):** Belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira.
 - ❖ **Right Knowledge (Samyak Jnana):** Belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira.
 - ❖ **Right action (Samyak Charitra):** It refers to the Mahavira’s observance of the five great vows *i.e.* Ahimsa, Honesty, Kindness, Truthfulness and Not coveting or desiring things belonging to others.
- **Jain Code of Conduct/Five Doctrines of Jainism:** Mahavira asked his followers to live a virtuous life. In order to live a life filled with sound morals, he preached five major principles to follow. They are:
 - ❖ **Ahimsa** – not to injure any living beings
 - ❖ **Satya** – to speak truth
 - ❖ **Asteya** – not to steal
 - ❖ **Aparigraha** – not to own property
 - ❖ **Brahmacharya** – Celibacy



Do You Know?

- ★ Gautama Swami, a chief disciple of Mahavira, compiled the teachings of Mahavira, called Agama siddhanta.
- ★ The statue of Bahubali (known as Gomateswara, 57 feet) at Shravanabelagola in Karnataka is the tallest Jain statue ever carved out in India.
- ★ Only the fifth doctrine was added by Mahavira. The others were taken from his previous teachers.
- ★ According to Jainism, the universe is a creation of six non-destructible elements:
 - ◆ Jeeva (Soul)
 - ◆ Ajeeva (Physical matter)
 - ◆ Dharma
 - ◆ Adharma
 - ◆ Kal
 - ◆ Akash

- ★ They believed in the plurality of souls.
- ★ Mithila was the home of three scholar sages - Gargi, Kapila and Maitreya.
- ★ The city of Mithila is identified as modern day Janakpur in Dhanusa district of Nepal.
- ★ Maitreya is a Bodhisattva, who according to the Buddhist texts, will be the next incarnation of Gautam Buddha.

- **Sects/Schools of Jainism:** Jain order has been divided into two major sects: Digambara and Shwetambara. The division occurred mainly due to famine in Magadha which compelled a group led by Bhadrabahu to move South India.
- During the 12 years famine, the group in South India stuck to the strict practices while the group in Magadha adopted a more lax attitude and started wearing white clothes.
- After the end of famine, when the Southern group came back to Magadha, the changed practices led to the division of Jainism into two sects.
 - ❖ **Digambara:** Monks of this sect believe in complete nudity. Male monks do not wear clothes while female monks wear unstitched plain white sarees. Follow all five vows (Satya, Ahimsa, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya). Believe women cannot achieve liberation. Bhadrabahu was an exponent of this sect.
 - ❖ **Shwetambara:** Monks wear white clothes. Follow only 4 vows (except brahmacharya). Believe women can achieve liberation. Stulabhadra was an exponent of this sect.
- The following are the main reasons for the wide acceptance of Jainism in India :
 - ❖ Use of people's language.
 - ❖ Intelligible teachings.
 - ❖ Support from rulers and traders.
 - ❖ Perseverance of Jain monks.
- **Jain Councils:**
 - ❖ **First Jain Council:** It was held at Patliputra in the 3rd Century B.C. and was presided over by Stulabhadra. The compilation of 12 Angas was done to replace Purvas.
 - ❖ **Second Jain Council:** It was held at Vallabhi(Gujarat) in 512 A.D. and was presided over by Devardhi Kshmasramana. It led to the final Compilations of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas.
 - ❖ Agamas (or Agam Sutras) are the holy texts of Jainism These are the sacred scriptures for the Svetambara branch of Jainism. The Agamas contain the teachings of Lord Mahavira, the 24th and last Tirthankara (spiritual teacher), and were compiled by his disciples, known as the Ganadharas, as well as senior monks, called Strut-kevalis.
- ❖ The Agamas are made up of twelve main books, or sutras, which form the core of Jain philosophy and practice. Originally, these texts were memorised and passed down orally by Jain monks and nuns, since they were not allowed to own or write religious books.
- ❖ In addition to the Agamas, there are other important Jain scriptures, such as the Digambara and Svetambara texts, the 11 Anga Agamas, and the 34 Anga Bahya Agamas.
- **Decline of Jainism:** The lack of royal patronage, its severity, factionalism and spread of Buddhism led to the decline of Jainism in India.
- **Buddhism:** Gautama Buddha was the son of Suddhodana, the chief of a Kshatriya clan of the Sakyas of Kapilavastu in present-day Nepal. His given name was Siddhartha. As he belonged to the Sakya clan, he was also known as 'Sakya Muni'.
 - He was born in 540 BC in Lumbini near Kapilavastu. His mother, Mayadevi (Mahamaya), died after a few days of his birth and he was brought up by his step-mother Gautami. In order to divert his attention towards worldly affairs, his father got him married at the age of sixteen to a princess called Yashodhara. He led a happy married life for some time and had a son by name Rahul.
 - **Four Great Sights:** At the age of 29, Siddhartha saw four sorrowful sights. These were:
 - ❖ An uncared old man in rags with his bent back.
 - ❖ A sick man suffering from an incurable disease.
 - ❖ A man's corpse being carried to the burial ground by weeping relatives.
 - ❖ An ascetic
 - Siddhartha was deeply moved by these sights. He also saw an ascetic who had renounced the world and found no sign of sorrow. These 'Four Great Sights' prompted him to renounce the world and search for the cause of suffering.
 - In 512 BC, he left his palace and went into the forest in search of truth. In the course of his wanderings, he sat under a peepal tree for several days until he attained enlightenment.
 - The place where he attained enlightenment, the Mahabodhi temple, still exists in Bodh Gaya (Bihar). After his enlightenment, Buddha decided to impart his knowledge to the people.
 - He went to Varanasi and gave his first sermon at Sarnath. He preached in the kingdoms of Magadha and Kosala. A large number of people became his followers including his own family. After forty five years of preaching, he breathed his last in 483 BC (BCE) at Kushinagar/ Kushinara (near Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh) at the age of eighty.

- **Buddha's Four Noble Truths**
 - ❖ **Dukha (The truth of suffering):** As per Buddhism, everything is suffering (Sabbam Dukham). It refers to the potential to experience pain and not only the actual pain and sorrow experienced by an individual.
 - ❖ **Samudaya (The truth of the cause of suffering):** Trishna (desire) is the main cause of suffering. Every suffering has a reason and it is a part and parcel of living.
 - ❖ **Nirodha (The truth of the end of suffering):** The pain/sorrow can be ended by the attainment of Nibbana/Nirvana.
 - ❖ **Ashtangika-Marga (The truth of the path leading to the end of suffering):** The end to the suffering is contained in the eightfold path.
- **Eight-Fold Paths:** It consists of various interconnected activities related to knowledge, conduct, and meditative practices.
 - ❖ Right view (Samma Ditthi)
 - ❖ Right intention (Samma Sāṅkappa)
 - ❖ Right speech (Samma Vecca)
 - ❖ Right action (Samma Kammanta)
 - ❖ Right livelihood (Samma Ajiva)
 - ❖ Right mindfulness (Samma Sati)
 - ❖ Right effort (Samma Vyayama)
 - ❖ Right concentration (Samma Samadhi)
- **The Wheel of life:** It represents the Buddhist view of the world.
- In Buddhism symbols represent important events in the life of the Buddha:
- **Wheel :** Also known as the dharmachakra, the wheel symbolises the Buddha's first sermon and the turning of the Wheel of Truth or Law. The wheel's eight spokes represent the Buddha's Eightfold Path.
- **Tree :** The bodhi tree represents the place where the Buddha meditated and attained enlightenment. The Buddha chose the fig tree (*Ficus religiosa*) after meditating beneath it for 49 days.
- **Stupa :** Represents "Mahaparinibbana".
- **Empty seat :** Also known as the Buddha throne or asana, the empty seat represents the place where the Buddha sat to meditate and attain awakening.
- **The lotus :** A symbol of purity, divine birth, and sovereignty. The lotus is considered divine because it serves as the Buddha's throne.
- **The golden fish :** Often shown in pairs, this symbol represents salvation from suffering and fertility.

- **The vase :** This symbol represents wealth, abundance, and prosperity.
- **Buddhist Sangha:** Buddha laid foundation for a missionary organisation called Sangha, meaning 'association' for the propagation of his faith. The members were called bhikkhus (monks). They led a life of austerity.



Do You Know?

- ★ **Chaitya** – A Buddhist shrine or a meditation hall.
 - ★ **Viharas** – Monasteries/living quarters for monks.
 - ★ **Stupas** – Built over the remains of Buddha's body, they are monuments of great artistic value.
- **The Split in Buddhism:** During the reign of Kanishka, the Buddhist monk Nagarjuna initiated reforms in the way Buddhism was being followed. As a result, Buddhism was split into two as Hinayana and Mahayana.
 - ❖ **The Hinayana (Lesser Vehicle):** It was the original creed preached by Buddha. The followers of this form regarded Buddha as their guru and did not worship him as God. They denied idol worship and continued with the people's language, Pali.
 - ❖ **Mahayana (Greater Vehicle):** In this sect, Buddha was worshipped as God and Bodhisattva as his previous avatar. The followers made images and statues of Buddha and Bodhisattva and offered prayers, and recited hymns (mantras) in their praise. Later, they wrote their religious books in Sanskrit. This form of Buddhism was patronised by Kanishka.
 - The Indian philosopher Nagarjuna (c. 150-250 CE) is considered to have formulated the basic ideas of Mahayana Buddhism:
 - ❖ **Madhyamaka :** Nagarjuna founded the Madhyamaka tradition, which is a systematisation of the Prajnaparamita ("Perfection of Wisdom") scriptures. Madhyamaka is also known as the "Middle Way" or "Centrism". It emphasises the doctrine of wisdom (prajna) as the most important of the six perfections that the bodhisattva must master.
 - ❖ **Mulamadhyamakakarika :** Nagarjuna's Mulamadhyamakakarika (Root Verses on the Middle Way) is the foundational text of the Madhyamaka tradition.
 - Hinayana Buddhism, which follows Buddha's core teachings or the Doctrine of the Elders, condemns idol worship and seeks individual salvation via consciousness and meditation.
 - Hinayana Buddhists regard Gautama Buddha as a regular human being who gained Nirvana. It refers to the lesser vehicle. Hinayana Buddhism began to prosper in 250 BC. The school is made up of followers of the Buddha's original teachings. It is a more conventional school

of thought that rejects the worship of Buddha's idols or images. They believe in individual salvation and strive for it via self-discipline and meditation. Hinayana's ultimate objective is Nirvana.

- Inestimable joy in Hinayana Buddhism refers to relishing in the happiness of others without being jealous or expecting anything coming back. Hinayana Buddhists used the Pali language to connect with the general people. Emperor Ashoka supported the Hinayana religion.
- **Theravada:** It is the most ancient branch of extant Buddhism today. It remains closest to the original teachings of the Buddha. Theravada Buddhism developed in Sri Lanka and subsequently spread to the rest of South-East Asia. It is the dominant form of religion in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **Vajrayana:** Vajrayana means “The Vehicle of the Thunderbolt”, also known as tantric Buddhism. This Buddhist school developed in India around 900 CE. It is

grounded on esoteric elements and a very complex set of rituals compared with the rest of the Buddhist schools.

- **Zen:** It is a school of Mahayana Buddhism that originated in China during the Tang dynasty as the Chan school of Chinese Buddhism in and later developed into various schools. It spread to Japan in the 7th century C.E. Meditation is the most distinctive feature of this Buddhist tradition.
- **Causes for the Spread of Buddhism:**
 - ❖ Simplicity of the teachings of Buddha in the local language appealed to people.
 - ❖ Buddhism rejected elaborate religious customs whereas the practice of orthodox Vedic religion insisted on expensive rituals and sacrifices.
 - ❖ Buddha's emphasis was on observance of Dhamma.
 - ❖ Buddhist Sanghas played an important role in spreading the messages of Buddha.

Buddhist Councils

Order	Place	Patron king	Chairman	Result of The Council
First	Rajgriha	Ajatshatru	Mahakashyapa	Anand made the Sutta Pitaka and Upali made the Vinaya Pitaka
Second	Vaishali	Kalashoka	Sarvakami	Major split into Sthavirins and Mahasanghikas
Third	Patliputra	Ashoka	Mogaliputra Tissa	Composition of Abhidhamma Pitaka
Fourth	Kashmir	Kanishka	Vasumitra and Ashvagoshha	Division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana

- **Tripitakas:**
 - ❖ The Sutta Pitaka consists of the main teaching or Dhamma of Buddha. It is divided into five Nikayas or collections:
 - Digha Nikaya
 - Majjhima Nikaya
 - Samyutta Nikaya
 - Anguttara Nikaya
 - Khuddaka Nikaya
 - ❖ The Vinaya Pitaka consists of rules of conduct and discipline applicable to the monastic life of the monks and nuns.
 - ❖ The Abhidhamma Pitaka is a philosophical analysis and systematisation of the teaching and the scholarly activity of the monks.
- Other important Buddhist texts include Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha etc.
- Vamsathapakasini was the last Buddhist text written in India. It gives us information about the origin of the Mauryas.
- Silappadikaram and Manimekalai are books related to Buddhism, found in Tamil Literature. These are written by Ilango Adigal, a buddhist monk.



Do You Know?

- ★ The early Buddhist sculptors did not depict the Buddha in human form. The early sculptors depicted the Buddha's presence through symbols such as the empty seat, the wheel, the tree and the stupa.
- ★ Nagarjuna was associated with the formulation of the basic ideas of 'Mahayana' Buddhism.
- ★ Goshala Maskariputra was a disciple of Mahavira, Alara Kalama was Buddha's first teacher, Channa, his servant and Kanthaka, his white horse.
- ★ Kutagarashala- literally, a hut with a pointed roof was a place where intellectual debates among Buddhist mendicants took place.
- ★ The sacred texts of the Jains are known as Siddhanta or Agama.
- ★ The dialogue on Varna between King Avantiputta and Kachchana, a disciple of Buddha, appears in Majjhima Nikaya (a Buddhist Text).

★ Sixteen Mahajanapadas (ancient Indian kingdoms) with their capitals and present-day locations.

1. **Gandhara:** Capital - Taxila, Present Location - A part of Afghanistan and Pakistan
2. **Kamboja:** Capital - Rajauri, Present Location - Part of Kashmir and Afghanistan
3. **Asmaka:** Capital - Potana, Present Location - Godavari Valley
4. **Vatsa:** Capital - Kaushambi, Present Location - Allahabad
5. **Avanti:** Capital - Ujjain, Present Location - Malwa and a part of M.P
6. **Surasena:** Capital - Mathura, Present Location - Mathura in U.P
7. **Chedi:** Capital - Shuktimati, Present Location - Bundelkhand in M.P
8. **Malla:** Capital - Kushinara, Pawa, Present Location - Eastern U.P
9. **Kurus:** Capital - Hastinapur/Indraprastha, Present Location - Delhi and Meerut
10. **Matsya:** Capital - Virat Nagari, Present Location - Jaipur and Alwar
11. **Vajjis:** Capital - Vaishali, Present Location - North Bihar
12. **Anga:** Capital - Champa, Present Location - Bhagalpur and Munger
13. **Kashi:** Capital - Banaras, Present Location - Banaras
14. **Kosala:** Capital - Shravasti, Present Location - Oudh in U.P
15. **Magadha:** Capital - Girivraja/Rajagriha, Present Location - Patna and Gaya in Bihar
16. **Panchala:** Capital - Ahichhatra/Kampilya, Present Location - Rohilkhand in U.P

7. Rise of Magadha

- The political history of India from the 6th century BC onwards is the history of struggle between four states- Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti-for supremacy.
- The Magadha kingdom eventually became the most powerful and was able to establish an empire.
- **Causes of Magadha's success:**
 - ❖ Magadha benefited from a favourable geographic location during the era of iron because Rajgir, the first city of Magadha, was close to the richest iron mines, which could be exploited to produce weapons.
 - ❖ Magadha was located in the centre of the Gangetic plain. After the jungles were removed, the alluvium proved to be incredibly fruitful, resulting in an abundance of food.

- ❖ Magadha benefited specifically from a favourable military structure. Even though the Indian states were well accustomed to using horses and chariots, it was Magadha that employed elephants extensively for the first time in a fight against neighbours.

- **Haryanka Dynasty (544 BC-412 BC):**

- ❖ **Bimbisara/Shronika (544 BC-492 BC):** He was the founder of the Haryanka dynasty. Magadha rose to prominence under Bimbisara's direction.
- ❖ He lived at the same time as Gautama Buddha. In order to further his expansionist policy, he married the princesses of Kosala (Kosaladevi/Maha Kosala/sister of Kosala monarch Prasenjit), Lichchhavi (Chellanasister of Lichchhavi Head Chetaka), and Madra (KHEMA-daughter of Madra monarch).
- ❖ In exchange for his marriage to the sister of King Prasenjit of Kosala, he received a part of Kashi as dowry.
- ❖ He conquered Anga. When Avanti King Pradyota became ill with jaundice, he sent a royal physician, Jivaka, to Ujjain.
- ❖ He was known as Seniya. He was the first Indian king who had a regular and standing army.
- ❖ He built the city of New Rajagriha.
- ❖ **Ajatashatru/Kunika (492 BC - 460 BC):** Bimbisara was succeeded by his son Ajatashatru. After killing his father, Ajatashatru ascended to the throne.
- ❖ Ajatashatru adopted a more assertive approach. By assaulting his maternal uncle Prasenjit, the king of Kosala, he took full control over Kashi and shattered the earlier cordial ties.
- ❖ The next target of Ajatashatru's assault was the Vajji federation. According to tradition, this conflict lasted for 16 years, and the only way he was able to vanquish the Vajji was via trickery, by spreading the seeds of discontent among the Vajji people.
- ❖ The three things who played important role to defeat the Vajji— (i) Sunidha and Vatsakar-Ajatashatru's diplomatic ministers, who sowed the seeds of discord amongst Vajjis, (ii) Rathamusala-a kind of chariot to which a mace was attached (iii) Mahashila Katak war engine which catapulted big stones.
- ❖ By acquiring Kashi and Vaishali (the capital of Vajji), Magadha became the dominant territorial force in the Ganges Valley.
- ❖ He constructed the Rajagriha fort and the Jaladurga watchtower in the village of Patali on the banks of the Ganges.
- ❖ **Udayin (460 BC-440 BC):** Ajatashatru was succeeded by his son Udayin. His reign is significant because he moved the capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra

and built the city of Patliputra at the meeting point of the Son and Ganges rivers. Anuruddha, Munda, and Naga-Dasak, all of whom were incapable of leading, succeeded Udayin.

- **Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BC-344 BC):** Nag-Dasak was unworthy to rule. So the people got disgusted and elected Shishunaga as the King, the minister of the last king. The most important achievement of Shishunaga was the destruction of the Pradyota dynasty of Avanti. As a result, the conflict between Magadha and Avanti, which had lasted 100 years, was put to a stop. Avanti was afterwards included into the Magadha dynasty.
- Kalashoka (Kakavarna) succeeded Shishunaga. His reign was significant because at Vaishali (383 BC), he called the Second Buddhist Council.
- **Nanda Dynasty (344 BC-323 BC):** Mahapadma Nanda overthrew the Shishunaga dynasty and founded the Nandas, a new line of kings. Mahapadma is referred to in both the Puranas and the Pali writings as Ugrasena, or Owner of a Great Army, and Sarvakshatrantak, or Uprooter of All Kshatriyas.
- Mahapadma Ekkrat which is referred to in the Puranas as the lone king. All of the dynasties that ruled during the Shisungas period appear to have been overthrown by him. He is frequently referred to as "India's first empire builder."
- His eight sons succeeded Mahapadma. The final one was Dhanananda. The Agrammes or Xandrames of the Greek writings and the last king Dhanananda may be the same person. Alexander invaded north-west India in 326 BC, during the rule of Dhanananda.
- Greek author Curtius claimed that Dhanananda was in charge of an army that included 3,000 elephants, 2,000 chariots, 20,000 cavalry, and 200,000 soldiers. Alexander's march to the Gangetic Valley was halted by Dhanananda's strength, which also terrorised Alexander.
- Around 322–21 BC, the Nanda dynasty came to an end, and Chandragupta Maurya established the Maurya dynasty.
- **Foreign Invasions:**
 - ❖ Iranian Invasion- Darius's Invasion (518 BC)
 - ❖ Macedonian Invasion-Alexander's Invasion (326 BC)
- In 326 BC, Alexander invaded India, after crossing the river Indus he advanced towards Taxila. He then challenged king Porus, ruler of the kingdom between the rivers Jhelum and Chenab.
- Porus was defeated in the Battle of Hydaspes. Alexander captured Porus and, like the other local rulers he had defeated, allowed him to continue to govern his territory.

- Alexander remained in India for 19 months (326-325 B.C.), which were full of fighting in July 325 BC Alexander and his army returned westward for home. He reached Babylon in 323 BC and died at the age of 33 years.

8. Maurya Period (322 BC-185 BC)

- **Capital:** Pataliputra (present at Patna, Bihar)
- **Government:** Monarchy
- **Historical era:** c. 322 BC (BCE) – 187 BC (BCE)
- **Important Kings:** Chandragupta, Bindusara, Ashoka
- The Mauryan period has many sources of information, including literary sources, archaeological sources, and foreign sources:
 - Literary sources
- These include:
 - ❖ Arthashastra: Written by Kautilya, this book provides details about the Mauryan empire's administrative functions and foreign relations. It is a classic work on statecraft, political science and military strategy. The notion of Saptanga is a theory that describes the seven elements of a state, as introduced in Arthashastra:
 - 1. Svami: The king or ruler
 - 2. Amatya: The ministers
 - 3. Janapada: The territory or population
 - 4. Durga: The fortified capital
 - 5. Kosha: The treasury
 - 6. Danda: Justice or force, represented by the army
 - 7. Mitra: An ally
 - ❖ Indica: Written by Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador, this book provides information about the Mauryan empire's capital city, administration, military organisation, and social life.
 - ❖ Mudrarakshasa: Written by Visakha Datta, this historical drama describes Chandragupta's victory over the Nandas and the socio-economic conditions of the Mauryan empire.
 - ❖ Buddhist literature: The Mahavamsa, Milindapanho, and Mahabhashya provide an account of Chandragupta's life, while the Dipavamsa, Ashokavadana, Divyavadana, and Mahavamsa provide an account of Ashoka.
 - ❖ Kalpsutra: This Jain text provides information about Chandragupta.
 - ❖ Parishishta Parvan: Written by Hema Chandra, this book establishes Chandragupta's connection with Jainism.
 - Archaeological sources

- These include:
 - ❖ Ashokan Edicts and inscriptions
 - ❖ Material remains such as silver and copper punch-marked coins
- **Mauryan Kings:**
 - ❖ **Chandragupta Maurya:** The Mauryan Empire was the first largest empire in India. Chandragupta Maurya established the empire in Magadha.
 - ❖ Vishnugupta, who was later known as Chanakya or Kautilya, fell out with the Nanda king and vowed to dethrone him. Chandragupta, perhaps inspired by Alexander of Macedonia, was raising an army and looking for opportunities to establish a kingdom of his own.
 - ❖ On hearing the news of Alexander's death, Chandragupta stirred up the people and with their help drove away the Greek garrison that Alexander had left at Taxila. Then he and his allies marched to Pataliputra and defeated the Nanda king in 321 BC (BCE). Thus began the reign of the Mauryan dynasty.
 - ❖ During Chandragupta's reign, Seleucus, the general of Alexander, who had control over countries from Asia Minor to India, crossed the Indus only and was defeated by Chandragupta. Seleucus's ambassador, Megasthenes, is said to have stayed in India during the reign of Chandragupta and his account titled "Indica" is a useful record about Mauryan polity and society.
 - ❖ After gaining control over the Gangetic plain, Chandragupta turned his attention to the north-west to take advantage of the void created by Alexander's demise. These areas comprising the present-day Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Makran surrendered without any resistance. There upon Chandragupta moved to Central India.
 - ❖ Bhadrabahu, a Jain monk, took Chandragupta Maurya to southern India. Chandragupta performed Sallekhana (Jaina rituals in which a person fasts unto his death) in Shravanabelagola (Karnataka).
 - ❖ **Bindusara:** His real name was Simhasena. He was the son of Chandragupta Maurya. He is also known as Amitrochates (destroyer of foes) by the Greek scholars while the Mahabhasya refers to him as Amitraghata (killer of enemies).
 - ❖ Bindusara was clearly a capable ruler and continued his father's tradition of close interaction with the Greek states of West Asia. He is believed to have conquered the land between the two seas *i.e.*, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. He continued to be advised by Chanakya and other capable ministers. It is believed that Bindusara joined the Ajivika sect.
 - ❖ His sons were appointed as viceroys of the different provinces of the empire. Bindusara ruled for 25 years, and he must have died in 272 BCE. Ashoka was not his chosen successor, and the fact that he came to the throne only four years later in 268 BCE would indicate that there was a struggle between the sons of Bindusara for the succession.
 - ❖ During his rule, Bindusara succeeded in extending the Mauryan empire upto Karnataka. At the time of his death, a large part of the subcontinent had come under Mauryan suzerainty. He appointed his son Ashoka as a governor of Ujjain. After his death, Ashoka ascended the throne of Magadha.
 - ❖ **Ashoka:** Ashoka was one of the greatest rulers of history. He ruled the empire founded by his grandfather Chandragupta Maurya over 2300 years ago.
 - ❖ Bindusara wanted his son Susima to succeed him. With the help of a minister named Radhagupta and after killing 99 brothers, Ashoka (son of Bindusara) acquired the throne.
 - ❖ Ashoka had been the viceroy of Taxila when he put down a revolt against the local officials by the people of Taxila, and was later the viceroy of Ujjain, the capital of Avanti, a major city and commercial centre.
 - ❖ He was supported by a wise man named Chanakya or Kautilya. Many of Chanakya's ideas were written down in a book called the Arthashastra. Ashoka was the first ruler who tried to convey his message to the people through inscriptions. These inscriptions were in Prakrit and written in the Brahmi script.
 - ❖ He was known as 'Devanam Piya' meaning 'beloved of the Gods'.
 - ❖ **Kalinga War:** Kalinga was the ancient name of coastal Orissa. Ashoka fought a war to conquer Kalinga in 261 BC. He was horrified when he saw the violence and bloodshed and so decided not to fight any more wars.
 - ❖ He is the only king in the history of the world who gave up conquest after winning a war. The horror of war was described by the king himself in the Rock Edict XIII.
 - ❖ Ashoka was one of the greatest kings of all times, and is regarded as the first ruler to maintain direct contact with his people through his inscriptions. The other names of the emperor include Buddhaskya (in the Maski edict), Dharmasoka (Sarnath inscription), Devanampiya (meaning beloved of the gods) and Piyadassi (meaning of pleasing appearance) given in the Sri Lankan Buddhist chronicles Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa.

- ❖ During Ashoka's reign, the Mauryan empire covered the whole territory from Hindukush to Bengal, and extended over Afghanistan, Baluchistan and the whole of India including Kashmir and the valleys of Nepal, except a small portion in the far south, which was occupied by Cholas and Pandyas according to the rock edict XIII and by Keralaputras and Satyaputras as per the rock edict II.
- ❖ He developed diplomatic relations with his contemporaries in Syria, Egypt, Macedonia, Cyrenaica (Libya) and Alexander of Epirus, all these are mentioned in the Edicts of Ashoka.
- ❖ The defining event of Ashoka's rule was his campaign against Kalinga (present-day Odisha) in the eighth year of his reign. This is the only recorded military expedition of the Mauryas.
- ❖ The number of those killed in battle, those who died subsequently, and those deported ran into tens of thousands.
- ❖ The campaign had probably been more ferocious and brutal than usual because this was a punitive war against Kalinga, which had broken away from the Magadha Empire (the Hathigumpha inscription speaks of Kalinga as a part of the Nanda Empire).
- ❖ Ashoka was so devastated by the carnage and moved by the suffering that he converted to humanistic values.
- ❖ He was influenced by Upagupta, his spiritual teacher and he became a Buddhist and his new-found values and beliefs were recorded in a series of edicts, which confirm his passion for peace and moral righteousness or dhamma (dharma in Sanskrit).
- ❖ **Edicts of Ashoka:** James Prinsep, a British antiquary and colonial administrator was the first person to decipher Ashoka's edicts. These Ashoka's inscriptions are the first tangible evidence of Buddhism.
- ❖ **Major Rock Edicts:**

Rock Edict	Details
Major Rock Edict I	Prohibition of animal sacrifice, especially during festive seasons.
Major Rock Edict II	Medical treatment of humans and animals, planting of fruits, medicinal herbs and the digging of wells. Mentions the Pandyas, Satpurus and Kerala Putras of South India.

Rock Edict	Details
Major Rock Edict III	Generosity to Brahmins. About Yuktas, Pradeshikas and Rajukas who would go every five years to different parts of his empire to spread Dhamma.
Major Rock Edict IV	Dhammaghosha (sound of Dhamma/righteousness) over Bherighosha (sound of war). The King Ashoka attached greatest value to his duty.
Major Rock Edict V	About Dhamma Mahamatras. Talks about treating slaves right. A special cadre of officials, Dhamma Gosha were appointed and entrusted with the duty of spreading Dhamma within the kingdom.
Major Rock Edict VI	King's desire to know about his people's conditions. About welfare measures.
Major Rock Edict VII	Tolerance towards religions among all sects and welfare measures for the public in his as well as his neighbouring kingdoms.
Major Rock Edict VIII	Ashoka's first visit to Bodh Gaya and the Bodhi tree (his first Dhamma Yatra). Gave importance to Dhamma tours.
Major Rock Edict IX	Condemns popular ceremonies. Stresses on moral conduct.
Major Rock Edict X	Disapproves of the individual's desire for fame and glory and stresses on Dhamma.
Major Rock Edict XI	Dhamma is the best policy to follow, which includes respect for elders and concern for slaves and servants.
Major Rock Edict XII	It mentions Mahamattas in charge of women's welfare, Ithijika Mahamatta and tolerance towards the dhamma of others.
Major Rock Edict XIII	Mentioned victory over Kalinga. Mentions Ashoka's Dhamma victory over Greek Kings Antiochus of Syria (Amtiyoko), Ptolemy of Egypt (Turamaye), Magas of Cyrene (Maka), Antigonus of Macedon (Amtikini), Alexander of Epirus (Alikasudaro). Also mentions Pandyas, Cholas, etc.

Rock Edict	Details
	This edict was issued at the end of the Kalinga war and gives a vivid picture of the change of Ashoka from an aggressive and violent warrior to a great lover and preacher of peace .
	The direct and immediate effect of the Kalinga war was the conversion of Ashoka to Buddhism
Major Rock Edict XIV	Purpose of rock edicts.

- ❖ **Minor Rock Edicts:** Minor rock edicts are found on 15 rocks across the country and in Afghanistan also. Ashoka uses his name only in four of these places namely:
 - Maski,
 - Brahmagiri (Karnataka),
 - Gujjara (Madhya Pradesh) and
 - Nettur (Andhra Pradesh)
- ❖ **Pillar Edicts:** All the pillars are monoliths (carved out of stone) and the surface is well polished. They have been found from different places like Kandahar (Afghanistan), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan), Delhi, Vaishali and Champaran (Bihar), Sarnath and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), and Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh).

Pillar Edict	Description
Pillar Edict I	Ashoka's principle of protecting his people.
Pillar Edict II	Defines Dhamma as the minimum of sins, many virtues, compassion, liberty, truthfulness and purity.
Pillar Edict III	Avoiding practices of cruelty, sin, harshness, pride and anger among his subjects.
Pillar Edict IV	Responsibilities of the Rajukas.
Pillar Edict V	List of animals and birds that should not be killed on certain days. Another list mentions animals that should never be killed. Describes release of 25 prisoners. This pillar edict is also known as Delhi-Topra Pillar Edict.
Pillar Edict VI	Dhamma policy of the State (welfare of the people).
Pillar Edict VII	Ashoka's work for fulfilling Dhamma. Tolerance for all sects. Also, about Dhamma Mahamattas.

- ❖ Other relevant inscriptions and important edicts:

Edict/ Inscription	Remarks
Allahabad – Kosam/ Queens Edict/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashoka asks the members of the Sangha to refrain from causing division in the ranks.
Kausambi or Schism Edict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Samudragupta's inscription is on this edict itself. ● Jahangir shifted it to the fort at Allahabad.
Kandahar Inscription	It is a famous bilingual edict in Greek and Aramaic.
Kalinga Edicts (Bhauri and Jaugada)	Mentions 'All men are my children.'
Sannati Inscription (Karnataka)	Site of all 14 major rock edicts as well as two separate Kalinga edicts.
Rummindei Inscription (Nepal)	It mentions that the village of Lumbini (birthplace of the Buddha) be exempted from bali and was to pay only one-eighth of the bhaga.
Girnar Rock Inscription of Rudradaman (Kathiawar)	Mentions the Sudarshan lake constructed by Pushyagupta, a rashtriya (means provincial governor) of Saurashtra during Chandragupta Maurya's reign.
Minor Rock Edict 1	Indicates that Ashoka turned towards Buddhism gradually, after 2.5 years in power.
Minor Rock Edict 3	Ashoka greets Sangha, professes his deep faith in the Buddha, dhamma, and Sangha, also recommends six Buddhist texts for monks, nuns and general laity.
Inscriptions at Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra.	Written in Kharosthi script.

- ❖ **Chandashoka (Ashoka, the wicked) to Dharmasoka (Ashoka the righteous):** After the battle of Kalinga, Ashoka became a Buddhist under the guidance of Upagupta. He undertook tours (Dharmasutras) to different parts of the country instructing people on the policy of Dhamma.
- ❖ **Ashoka's Dhamma:** Dhamma' is the Prakrit word for the Sanskrit term 'Dharma'. The meaning of Dhamma is explained in Ashoka's – Pillar Edict II.
- ❖ He appointed officials, known as the "**Dhamma Mahamatta**", who went from place to place teaching people about dhamma. Ashoka sent his son Mahinda and Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism. He also sent missionaries to West Asia, Egypt, and Eastern Europe to spread the message of Dhamma.

- ❖ Please note that Ashoka held the third Buddhist Council at his capital Pataliputra.



Do You Know?

- ★ Respecting the king was not a part of Emperor Ashoka's Dhamma.
- ★ Ashoka's association with Buddhism is revealed through the minor rock edict Rajadesh I.
- ★ The Ajivaka sect belongs to Maskariputra Goshal. This sect was founded by Makkhaliputta Gosala. He was initially a disciple of Mahavira. The basic basis of his education was fatalism or fatalism.
- ★ Ashokan inscriptions of Mansehra and Shahbaz Garhi are written in Prakrit language, Kharoshthi script.
- ★ Silver and Copper were used for minting coins during the rule of Mauryas.
- ★ The 'Dhamma', propagated by Ashoka, was a system of morals consistent with the tenets of most of the sects of the time
- ★ The highly polished monolithic Ashokan Pillars were carved out of single pieces of a buff-coloured sandstone, usually mined from the quarries of Chunar near Mirzapur
- ★ There was a great exodus of Jaina monks under the leadership of Bhadrabahu to the Deccan following severe famine in the Ganga Valley toward the end of Chandragupta's reign.
- ★ According to Mahavamsa, Ashoka turned to the Buddha's dhamma when his nephew Nigrodha preached the doctrine to him.
- ★ Divyavadana ascribes Ashoka being drawn to the Buddha's teaching to the influence of Upagupta (a Buddhist monk).
- ★ Dipavamsa refers to three visits to the Sri Lanka by the Buddha, the places being Kelaniya, Deegavapi Raja Maha Viharaya. The Dipavamsa lauds the Theravada as a great banyan tree.
- ★ Mahavamsa contains an account of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. The contents of the Mahavamsa can be broadly divided into four categories i.e. the Buddha's Visits to Ceylon, Chronicles of Kings of Ceylon, History of the Buddhist Sangha and Chronicles of Ceylon.
- ★ Ashoka played an important role in popularising the Stupa cult. They were repositories of relics of Buddha and other monks. They were located close to trade routes

- Mahamatras were senior officials in the Mauryan Empire who were responsible for various aspects of administration and justice. The term "Mahamatra" means "Officer of high rank". Some types of Mahamatras include:
 - ❖ **Dharma-Mahamatras:** These officials were responsible for spreading the message of Dhamma, looking after the interests of people from all religions, and keeping the emperor in touch with public opinion.

- ❖ **Anta-Mahamatras:** These officials were in charge of frontier areas.
- ❖ **Stri-adhyaksha-Mahamatras:** These officials were in charge of women.
- ❖ **Nagalaviyohalaka-Mahamatras:** These officials were associated with city administration.

9. Post-Mauryan India

- The break-up of the Mauryan Empire resulted in the invasions of Shakas, Scythians, Parthians, Indo-Greeks or Bactrian Greeks and Kushanas from the north-west. In the south, Satavahanas became independent after Asoka's death. There were Sungas and Kanvas in the north before the emergence of the Gupta dynasty. Chedis (Kalinga) declared their independence.
- It has to be noted here that, though Magadha ceased to be the premier state of India, it continued to be a great centre of Buddhist culture.
- **Sources of Post Mauryan History:**
 - ❖ **Archaeological Sources:**
 - **Inscriptions**
 - ◆ Ayodhya Inscription of Dana Deva
 - ◆ Persepolis, Nakshi Rostam Inscriptions
 - ◆ Moga(Taxila copper plate)
 - ◆ Junagadh/Girnar Inscription
 - ◆ Nasik Prasasti
 - ◆ Inscription of Darius I
 - **Coins:**
 - ◆ Coins of Satavahanas
 - ◆ Coins of Kadphises II
 - ◆ Roman coins
 - **Literary Sources:**
 - ◆ Puranas
 - ◆ Gargi Samhita
 - ◆ Harshacharita of Banabhatta
 - ◆ Mahabhasya of Patanjali
 - ◆ Brihatkatha of Gunadhya
 - ◆ Madhyamika Sutra of Nagarjuna
 - ◆ Buddhacharita of Asvaghosha
 - ◆ Malavikagnimitram of Kalidasa
 - ❖ **Foreign Accounts:**
 - **Hiuen Tsang**, the Chinese Buddhist monk and traveller
- **The Sungas in the North:** The last Mauryan emperor, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his own general, Pushyamitra Sunga, who established his Sunga dynasty in Magadha. Pushyamitra made Pataliputra as his capital.

- The important rulers of Shunga Dynasty were:
 - ❖ Pushyamitra Shunga (185-148 BC)
 - ❖ Agnimitra (148-141 BC)
 - ❖ Bhagavata (114 - 82 BC)
 - ❖ Devbhuti (82-72 BC)
- **The Kanvas in the North:** The Kanva dynasty had four kings and their rule lasted only for 45 years. The history of Magadha after the fall of the Kanvas is devoid of any significance until the emergence of the Gupta dynasty. The Kanva rulers were:
 - ❖ Vasudeva
 - ❖ Bhumi Mitra
 - ❖ Narayana
 - ❖ Susarman
- **Satavahanas in the South:** The Kushanas in the north and the Satavahanas (Andhras) in the south flourished for about 300 years and 450 years, respectively. Simuka established this dynasty in 1st Century BC. He is said to have ruled for twenty-three years.
- **Indo-Greeks, Indo-Parthians, Shakas and Kushanas**
 - ❖ **Indo-Greeks and Indo-Parthians:** After the conquest of north-western India and the Punjab region, Alexander the Great left the conquered territories under provincial governors. Two of its eastern satrapies, Bactria and Parthia, revolted under their Greek Governors and declared their independence.
 - ❖ The Satrap of Bactria became independent under the leadership of Diodotus I and Parthia under Arsaces. After the decline of the Mauryan Empire, the Greek rulers of Bactria and Parthia started encroaching into the northwestern border lands of India.
 - ❖ The Bactrian and Parthian settlers gradually inter-married and inter-mixed with the indigenous population. This facilitated the establishment of Indo-Greek and Indo-Parthian colonies along the north-western part of India.
 - ❖ **Contributions of Indo-Greeks:**
 - **Coinage:** Indo-Greek rulers introduced a die system and produced properly shaped coins with inscription, symbols and engraved figures on them. Indians learnt this art from them.
 - **Sculpture:** The Gandhara School of Indian Art is heavily indebted to Greek influence. The Greeks were good cave builders. The Mahayana Buddhists learnt the art of carving out caves from them and became skilled in rock-cut architecture.
 - ❖ **The Shakas:** The Indo-Greek rule in India was ended by the Shakas. Shakas as nomads came in huge numbers and spread all over northern and western India. The Shakas were against the tribe of Turki nomads.
 - ❖ Shakas were Scythians, nomadic ancient Iranians, and known as Shakas in Sanskrit. Saka rule was founded by Maos or Mogain in the Gandhara region and his capital was 'Sirkap'. His name is mentioned in the Mora inscription. His coins bear images of Buddha and Siva.
 - ❖ Rudradaman (130-150 AD) was the most important and famous king of Shakas. His Junagadh/Girnar inscription was the first inscription in chaste Sanskrit. In India, the Shakas were assimilated into Indian society. They began to adopt Indian names and practise Indian religious beliefs.
 - ❖ The Shakas appointed kshatrapas or satraps as provincial governors to administer their territories
 - ❖ **The Parthians:** The Parthians were of Iranian origin and because of strong cultural connection with the Shakas, these groups were referred to in the Indian sources as Shaka-Pahlava.
 - ❖ The rule of Shakas and Parthians was simultaneous in different pockets of north western and northern India. They ruled through Kshatrapas (Governors) and Maha Kshatrapas (Subordinate Rulers).
 - ❖ The important inscription indicating the Parthian rule in the northwestern area of Pakistan is the famous Takht-i-Bahi inscription recovered from Mardan near Peshawar.
 - ❖ The inscription, dated in 45 AD, refers to Gondopernes or Gondophares as a Parthian ruler. Some literary sources associate him with St. Thomas, who is said to have converted both, the king and his brother, to Christianity.
 - ❖ **The Kushanas:** The Kushanas formed a section of the yueh-chi tribes, who inhabited northwestern China in the remote past. In the first century BC, the yueh-chi tribes were composed of five major sections, of which the Kushanas attained political ascendancy over others.
 - ❖ By the beginning of Christian era, all the yueh-chi tribes had acknowledged the supremacy of the Kushanas; they had shed their nomadic habits and settled down in the Bactrian and Parthian lands, adjacent to the north-western border of India.
 - ❖ The Kushanas overran Bactria and Parthia and gradually established themselves in northern India. Their concentration was mostly in the Punjab, Rajputana and Kathiawar. Kushana rulers were Buddhists. Takshashila and Mathura continued to be great centres of Buddhist learning, attracting students from China and western Asia.
 - ❖ Kanishka was the greatest of all the Kushana emperors. He assumed sovereignty in 78 AD and proclaimed his rule by the foundation of a new era, which later became the Shaka era. The Kushana capital initially was Kabul. Later, it was shifted to Peshavar or Purushapura.



Do You Know?

- ★ Ashvaghosa, Nagarjuna and Vasumitra were contemporary of Kanishka.
- ★ The first Indian ruler to be shown in images as wearing a dress akin to trousers is Kanishka.
- ★ Silk routes are a good example of vibrant pre-modern trade and cultural links between distant parts of the world. As a result of silk route trade, precious metals like gold and silver, flowed from Asia to Europe.
- ★ The Greek travellers were most impressed by the fertility of India's soil and the energy and ability of her cultivators.
- ★ Ancient India knew the use of manure.
- ★ The term 'barbarian' has been derived from the Greek word 'barbaros' which means a non-Greek. Romans used the term for the Germanic tribes, the Gauls and the Huns.
- ★ The Rabatak Inscription is a stone inscription found in 1993 in Afghanistan that provides information about the Kushan dynasty and the rule of the Kushan emperor Kanishka. It also records the foundation of a temple that housed statues of Kanishka I, his ancestors, and other gods and goddesses. It is written in the Bactrian language and Greek script and dates to the 2nd century CE.
- ★ Large statues of Kushana rulers have been discovered near Mathura (Uttar Pradesh).
- ★ Please note that Kushanas are considered to be one of the five branches of the Yuezhi tribe who lived in the Chinese frontier or central Asia. Their Kingdom was spread over a wide area from Central Asia to northwest India. They ruled this area from the first century BCE or first century CE.
- ★ Kujula Kadphises was the first Yuezhi chief to lay the foundation of the Kushan Empire in India.
- ★ He was succeeded by his son Vima Taktu or Sadashkana (AD 80 - AD 95) who expanded the empire into northwest India.
- ★ The Kushan dynasty was the first to issue gold coins in India, around the first century CE. Vima Kadphises, a Kushan emperor who ruled from about 90-100 CE, was the first to introduce gold coins. He minted gold coins in three categories: Double Dinar, Dinar, and Quarter Dinar.
- ★ The gold coins issued by the Kushans were similar in weight to those issued by the Roman emperors and the Parthian rulers of Iran. The gold used to make the coins was likely obtained through trade with the Roman Empire.
- ★ The Kushans were also the first kings to issue the largest hoards of gold coins in India
- ★ They were the first kings to issue coins bearing the names and images of rulers.

10. The Sangam Age

- The word 'Sangam' refers to the association of poets who flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya

kings at Madurai. The poems composed by these poets are collectively known as Sangam literature. The period in which these poems were composed is called the Sangam Age.

- ❖ **Time Span:** 3rd century BC (BCE) to c. 3rd century AD (CE).
- ❖ **Tamizhagam:** Vengadam (Tirupathi hill) in the north to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) in the south, Bounded by sea on the east and the west.
- ❖ **Age:** Iron Age
- ❖ **Culture:** Megalithic
- ❖ **Polity:** Kingship
- ❖ **Dynasties ruled:** The Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas
- **Sources:**
 - ❖ **Inscriptions:** Hathigumpha Inscription of King Kharavela of Kalinga, Pugalur (near Karur) Inscription, Ashokan Edicts II and XIII, and inscriptions found at Mangulam, Alagarmalai and Keelavalavu (all near Madurai).
 - ❖ **Copper Plates:** Velvikudi and Chinnamanur copper plates.
 - ❖ **Coins:** The coins issued by the Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas and the chieftains of Sangam Age as well as the Roman coins.
 - ❖ **Megalithic Monuments:** Burials and Hero stones.
 - ❖ **Excavated Materials:** Excavated Material found from Adichanallur, Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Puhar, Korkai, Alagankulam, Uraiyur.
 - ❖ **Literary Sources:** Tholkappiyam, Ettuthogai (eight anthologies), Pathupattu (ten idylls), Pathinen Keezh kanakku (a collection of eighteen poetic works), Pattinappalai and Maduraikanji. Epics: Silapathikaram and Manimegalai.
 - ❖ **Foreign Accounts:** The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, Pliny's Natural History, Ptolemy's Geography, Megasthenes's Indica, Rajavali, Mahavamsa and Dipavamsa.
- Sangam Age is the period from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century AD in south India. There were 3 Sangams conducted in ancient South India called Muchchangam, Tamil legends say. These Sangams prospered under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.
- Three dynasties ruled during the Sangam Age – the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas. The key source of evidence about these kingdoms is outlined from the literary references of the Sangam Period.

Sangam Period Dynasty	Modern Day City	Ancient Capital	Important Ruler	Important Ports	Emblem
Cheras	Kerala	Vanji	Cheran Senguttuvan	Musiri, Tondi	Bow and Arrow
Cholas	Tamil Nadu	Uralyur, Puhar	Karikala	Kaveripattanam	Tiger
Pandyas	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	Neduncheliyan	Muziris (Muchiri), Korkai, Kaveri	Carp

- **The Cheras:** The Cheras ruled over large parts of modern-day Kerala. Vanji was the capital of the Cheras. Musiri and Tondi were the important seaports in this period. The emblem of Cheras is the 'bow and arrow'.
- The first-century Pugalur inscription has a reference to 3 generations of Chera kings. Senguttuvan (2nd century CE) was the prominent ruler of the Chera dynasty. The military achievements of Senguttuvan have been recorded in the epic Silappathikaram, which talks about his Himalayan expedition where he vanquished many rulers from northern India.
- Senguttuvan introduced in Tamil Nadu the Pattini cult or the worship of Kannagi as the ideal wife. He was the first to send an ambassador to China from South India.
- **The Cholas:** The Chola kingdom of the Sangam period stretched across the modern-day Tiruchirapalli District, Tiruvarur District, Nagapattinam District, Ariyalur District, Perambalur district, Pudukkottai district, Thanjavur District in Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District.
- Initially, the capital of the Cholas was Uraiyur. Later it was shifted to Puhar (also called Poompuhar). King Karikala was a prominent king of the Sangam Chola dynasty. The insignia/emblem of the Cholas was 'tiger'. Pattinappalai written by Kadiyalur Uruttirangannanar depicts his life as well as military achievements.
- Various Sangam poems mention the Battle of Venni where he defeated an alliance of the Cheras, Pandyas and 11 smaller chieftains. Vahaipparandalai was another important battle fought by Karikala. Trade and commerce prospered during his rule. He also constructed irrigation tanks near river Kaveri to make available water for reclaimed land from the forest for farming.
- **The Pandyas:** The Pandyas reigned over the Southern region of modern-day Tamil Nadu. Madurai was the capital of Pandyas. Their emblem was the 'Carp'. King Neduncheliyan was also called Aryappadai Kathantha Neduncheliyan. According to mythology, the curse of the Kannagi, wife of Kovalan, burnt and destroyed Madurai. The socio-economic condition of the seaport of Korkai was mentioned in Madurai Kanji which was written by Mangudi Maruthanar.

- ★ The Hoysala dynasty is related to the Keshava Temple, Somnathpur.
- ★ The Pandya dynasty is related to the eastern gopuram of the Chadambaram temple.
- ★ The Eastern Ganga dynasty is associated with the Sun Temple, Konak.
- ★ The Cholas built Shiva temples at Chidambaram, Thanjavur and Gangaikonda Cholapuram but not at Naneghat.
- ★ The Kumaramatyas were the most important officers and they were appointed directly by the King in the home provinces.
- ★ According to the Tamil Sangam Texts, the large landowners were known as the Vellalars according to the Tamil Sangam. The cultivators were known as the Uzhavar and it was the Kadaiyiar who were the slaves.
- ★ The creation of Brahmadeya Grants during 600-1200 AD meant a renunciation of actual or potential sources of revenue by the state. These grants could vary from a small plot to several villages. Most grants were made in unsettled areas.
- ★ Manimekalai was written by the poet Chithalai Sathanar.

11. Gupta Dynasty

- Gupta Empire was founded by Sri Gupta and it was succeeded by his son, Ghatotkacha. This dynasty rose to fame with rulers like Chandragupta-I, Samudragupta, etc. Details of some important Gupta Empire kings are given below:
 - ❖ **Sri Gupta:** The founder of the Gupta dynasty was Sri Gupta. He was succeeded by Ghatotkacha. These two were called Maharajas.
 - ❖ **Chandragupta I (320 – 330 A.D.):** Chandragupta I and he was the first to be called Maharajadhiraja (the great king of kings). He strengthened his position by a matrimonial alliance with the Licchavis. He married Kumaradevi, a princess of that family.
 - ❖ The Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription mentions his extensive conquests. Chandragupta I is considered to be the founder of the Gupta era which starts with his accession in A.D. 320.
 - ❖ **Samudragupta (330-380 A.D.):** Samudragupta was probably the greatest of the rulers of the Gupta dynasty. The Allahabad Pillar inscriptions provide a detailed account of Samudragupta's reign.



Do You Know?

- ★ The Pattadakal temple is associated with the Chalukya dynasty.

Samudragupta marched against the South Indian monarchs.

- ❖ He performed the asvamedha sacrifice. Samudragupta issued gold and silver coins with the legend 'restorer of the asvamedha'. Because of his military achievements Samudragupta was hailed as 'Indian Napoleon'.
- ❖ **Chandragupta II (380-415 A.D.):** Samudragupta was succeeded by his son Chandragupta-II or Chandragupta Vikramaditya. Through matrimonial alliances, Chandragupta-II strengthened his political power. Chandragupta-II married Kubera, she was a Naga princess of central India.
- ❖ The greatest military achievements of Chandragupta II was his war against the Shaka satraps of western India. After his victory, he performed the horse sacrifice and assumed the title Sakari, meaning, 'destroyer of Shakas'. He also called himself 'Vikramaditya'.
- ❖ Amar Singh and Kalidasa were famous authors of his court.
- ❖ He expanded his empire both through matrimonial alliances and through military conquests.
- ❖ Ujjain was an important commercial city and was the alternative capital of the Guptas. The great wealth of the Gupta Empire was manifest in the variety of gold coins. Famous Chinese pilgrim, Fahien visited India during the reign of Chandragupta-II. Fahien provided valuable information on the religious, social and economic condition of the Gupta empire.
- ❖ **Kumaragupta:** Kumaragupta was the son and successor of Chandragupta-II. A number of coins were issued and his inscriptions are found all over the Gupta empire. Kumaragupta also performed an asvamedha sacrifice. Kumaragupta laid the foundation of the Nalanda University which emerged as an institution of international reputation. Powerful wealthy tribe called the 'Pushyamitras' defeated the Gupta army at the end of his reign.
- ❖ **Skandagupta:** A branch of the Huns from Central Asia made attempts to cross the Hindu Kush mountains and invade India. Skandagupta who really faced the Hun invasion. He fought successfully against the Huns and saved the empire.

● **Gupta's Inscriptions:**

Inscriptions	Rulers	Their Character
Allahabad Stone Pillar	Samudra-gupta	Prayag Prashasti
Eran Stone Pillar	-	Royal Charter
Nalanda Copper Plate	-	-
Mehrauli Iron Pillar	Chandra-gupta	Prasasti

Inscriptions	Rulers	Their Character
Junagarh Rock	Skanda-gupta	Prasasti
Bhitari Pillar	-	Prasasti
Indore Stone Pillar	-	Royal Charter(Evidence of Subinfeudation)
Paharpur Copper Plate	Budha-gupta	Royal Charter (Evidence of State ownership of land)

● **Administration during the Gupta Period**

- ❖ It was highly decentralised and quasi-federal in nature.
- ❖ The practice of appointing Kumara(crown prince) came into practice.
- ❖ During the Gupta era, the following were the administrative units:
- ❖ **Bhukti:** A province or division headed by an Uparika chosen by the monarch
- ❖ **Vishaya:** A district headed by a Vishayapati chosen by the king or provincial governor: A section of eastern India's Vishaya that is further subdivided into villages
- ❖ A part of the Vishaya, Nagara is further subdivided into villages. Pethaka or Santaka: A collection of the villages of Patta and Agrahara: smaller village units
- ❖ **Village:** The smallest unit of government, known as Ganpati or Gramadhyaksha, is headed by the village headman.

- **Gupta Economy :** It explains that land was categorized into five groups: Khila (waste land), Kshetra Bhoomi (cultivable land), Vastu Bhoomi (habitable land), Charagah Bhoomi (pasture land), and Aprahata Bhoomi (forest land). Additionally, it mentions that Pushtapala was the official responsible for keeping records of all land transactions. Regarding trade, the image notes that there was a decline in trade with the Roman Empire after the 3rd century AD, while trade with South-East Asia increased.

● **Important Literary Works During the Gupta Period**

- ❖ **Dramas:**
 1. Mricchakatika written by Sudraka
 2. Swapnavasavadatta, Charudatta, Pratignayau-gandharayana written by Bhasa
 3. Vikramorvasiyam, Malvikagnimitra, Abhijnana-sakuntalam written by Kalidasa
 4. Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam by Visakhadatta
- ❖ **Poetry:**
 1. Raghuvamsa, Ritusamhara, Meghaduta by great Kalidasa
 2. Kiratarjuniyam by Bharavi
 3. Nitisatakam by Bhartahari
 4. Kavyadarsha, Dashakumaracharita by Dandin

- ❖ **Eulogy:**
Prayag-Prasasti by Harisena
- ❖ **Philosophy:**
 1. Sankhya Karika (based on Sankhya philosophy) - Ishwar Krishna
 2. Padartha Dharma Sangraha (based on Vaisheshika Philosophy) - Acharya Prashastipada
 3. Vyasa Bhashya (based on Yoga philosophy) - Acharya Vyasa
 4. Nyaya Bhasya (on Nyaya philosophy) - Vatsyayana
- ❖ **Religious Works:**
The two great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, were given final shape during the period
- ❖ **Grammar:**
Amarakosha - Amarsimha
Chandra Vyakarana - Chandragomin
Kavyadarsha - Dandin
- ❖ **Narrative Story:**
Panchatantra - Vishnu Sharma
Hitopadesha - Vishnu Sharma
- ❖ **Smriti:**
 1. Vaynavalkyasmriti
 2. Parashara Smriti
 3. Brihspatismriti
 4. Naradasmriti
 5. Katyayana Smriti
- ❖ **Mathematics and Astronomy:**
 1. Aryabhattachiya - Aryabhata
 2. Dashjitikasutra - Aryabhata
 3. Aryashtashata - Aryabhata
 4. Brhatsamhita - Varahamihira
 5. Panchasiddhantika - Varahamihira
 6. Brahmasidhanata - Brahmagupta
- ❖ **Miscellaneous Works:**
 - a. Nitisastra - Kamandaka
 - b. Kamsutra - Vatsayana
 - c. Kavyalankara - Bhamaha
- **Mathematics:** Trigonometry was made possible by Aryabhata of Pataliputra's Aryabhattachiya, who created the decimal system and the formula for calculating a triangle's area.
 - ❖ Aryabhata established algebra by calculating the value of pi (p).
 - ❖ During this period, Suryasidhanta was another important work.
 - ❖ In the seventh century AD, Brahmagupta used algebra to solve astronomical problems.

- The usage of zero, the decimal system, and the notational system are significant contributions.
- **Astronomy**
 - ❖ Two well-known astronomers were Varahamihir and Aryabhata.
 - ❖ Aryabhata computed the circumference of the Earth, established the heliocentric hypothesis, and identified the cause of solar and lunar eclipses.
 - ❖ Brihatsamhita and Pancha Siddhantika are two of Varahamihir's best-known writings.
 - ❖ The law of gravitation was established by Brahmagupta's Brahma Sphutic Siddhanta.
- **Medicine:**
 - ❖ Charak and Sushruta were famous doctors.
 - ❖ Sushruta Samhita describes surgery in detail.



Do You Know?

- ★ During the Gupta period, Varanasi was an important center of silk textiles. In the Mandsaur inscription, there is a description of 'Pattavay category' i.e. silk yarn weavers' committee..
- ★ Prayag Prashasti, also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, which was composed by Harishena, the court poet of Samudragupta. The inscription is a eulogy of Samudragupta and mentions his conquests.
- ★ Chand Bardai, author of Prithviraj Raso, the court poet of Prithviraj Chauhan.
- ★ Vishakhadatta, author of Mudra Rakshasa, the court poet of Chandragupta II.
- ★ Kalidasa, author of Abhigyanashakuntalam and Malavikagnimitram, the court poet of King Vikramaditya of Ujjain.
- ★ Banaras (Varanasi) has always been a big textile centre of silk weaving. Ralph Fitch (1583-91) describes Banaras as a thriving sector of the cotton textile industry.

12. Post-Gupta Period

- Political situation became complex with the decline of the Guptas and the Vakataka rulers. Feudatories of the Guptas became independent in the North.
- In the Deccan and far South too, multiplicity of powers was witnessed.
- The political scene in India from the decline of the Guptas until the rise of Harsha was bewildering. Large scale displacement of peoples continued for some time. Small kingdoms vied with each other for the heritage of Guptas. Northern India was divided into four kingdoms of later Guptas of Magadha, the Maukharis, the Pushyabhutis and the Maitrakas. The Maukharis first held the region of western U.P. around Kanauj. Gradually they ousted the later Guptas and made them move to Malwa.

Ruling Dynasties

North India	South India
The Maitrakas	Ikshvakus
The Maukharis	Chalukyas of Badami
The Gaudas	Pallavas of Kanchi
The Hunas	The Kadamba Kingdom
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar	The Kalabhras

- **The Pushyabhuti Dynasty:** The Pushyabhuti or Vardhana dynasty was founded at Thanesar (Kurukshetra district) by Pushyabhuti probably towards the beginning of the 6th century. Pushyabhuti were the feudatories of the Guptas but had assumed independence after the Hun invasions.
- The first important ruler of the dynasty was Prabhakara Vardhana (580-605 AD). Prabhakara Vardhana was succeeded by his eldest son Rajyavardhana (605-606 AD) Rajyavardhana was killed by Shashanka in 606 AD.
- Harshavardhana was born in 590 AD to King Prabhakara Vardhana of Sthaneshvara (Thanesar, Haryana). He belonged to the Pushyabhuti also called the Vardhana dynasty. He was a Hindu who later embraced Mahayana Buddhism. He was married to Durgavati.
- He had a daughter and two sons. His daughter married a king of Vallabhi whereas his sons were killed by his own minister. King Harshavardhana's deeds were praised by Chinese Buddhist traveller Xuanzang in his writings.
- After Prabhakara Vardhana died, his elder son Rajyavardhana ascended to the throne of Thanesar. Harsha had a sister, Rajyashri who was married to king Grahavarman of Kannauj. Sasanka, the Gauda king, killed Grahavarman and kept Rajyashri prisoner.
- This prompted Rajyavardhana to fight against Sasanka. But Sasanka killed Rajyavardhana. This led the 16-year old Harshavardhana to ascend the throne of Thanesar in 606 AD. He vowed to avenge his brother's murder and also rescue his sister.
- For this, he forged an alliance with Bhaskaravarman, the Kamarupa king. Harsha and Bhaskaravarman marched against Sasanka. Ultimately, Sasanka left for Bengal and Harsha became the king of Kannauj also.
- **Empire of Harsha:** King Harshavardhana's Empire On acquiring Kannauj, Harsha united the two kingdoms of Thanesar and Kannauj. He moved his capital to Kannauj. After the fall of the Guptas, North India was divided into many small kingdoms. Harsha was able to unite many of them under his command.
- He had under his control of Punjab and central India. After Sasanka's death, he annexed Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. He also defeated the Vallabhi king in Gujarat. (The Vallabhi king and Harsha came to a truce by a marriage between Harsha's daughter and the Vallabhi king Dhruvabhata.)

- However, Harsha's plans to conquer lands to the south were hampered when the Chalukya king, Pulakesin II defeated Harsha in 618-619 A.D. This sealed Harsha's southern territorial limit as the Narmada River.
- Even the feudatories were under the tight command of Harsha. Harsha's reign marked the beginning of feudalism in India. Hiuen Tsang visited India during Harsha's reign. He has given a very favourable account of king Harsha and his empire. He praises his generosity and justice.
- Harsha was a great patron of the arts. He himself was an accomplished writer. He is credited with the Sanskrit works Ratnavali, Priyadarshika and Nagananda. Banabhatta was his court poet and he composed the Harshacharita which is a historical biography of Harsha's life and deeds.
- Harsha generously supported Nalanda University. He had a good tax structure. 1/4th of all the taxes collected were used for charity and for cultural purposes.
- Harsha was a competent military conqueror and an able administrator. Harsha was the last king to rule over a vast empire in India before the invasions by the Muslims.
- **Harsha's death:** Harsha died in 647 AD after ruling for 41 years. Since he died without any heirs, his empire disintegrated very soon after his death.



Do You Know?

- ★ In ancient India, a Chinese traveler named Hien Tsang wrote a diary called 'Records of the Travels of Central India'.
- ★ The Indo-Greeks, who established control over the northwest part of the subcontinent in the 2nd century BCE, issued the first coins bearing the names and images of rulers.
- ★ The Charaka Samhita, a foundational text of Ayurveda, is believed to have originated between the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE during the Kushana period.
- ★ The first gold coins were issued by the Kushanas.
- ★ Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller had also visited the kingdom of Kumar Bhaskar Varma.
- ★ In the first century AD, nutmeg (Tortoise shell) was not a major item of Indian exports to Rome. They liked pepper so much, it was called Yavanpriya. They also imported medicinal plants, ivory, muslin textile, precious stones, sandalwood, indigo. Roman paid back with gold, silver and wine.
- ★ Muhurta: Muhurta is a traditional Hindu unit of time. Hence, it corresponds to the Measure of time.
- ★ Raktika: Raktika is an ancient Indian unit of weight, often used in weighing precious substances like gold.
- ★ Angula: Angula is an ancient unit of length in India, where it is often translated as 'finger.' Therefore, it aligns with Measure of length.
- ★ Pada: Pada is a Sanskrit term that often refers to a specific foot or segment of a verse in poetry, thus it is associated with the Metre of poetry.

Very Important Previous Years Questions (2006-2024)

1. Sources of History

1. Which Chinese traveller in ancient India wrote the diary called 'Records of the Travels to Middle India' ?

(A) Wang Xuance (B) Xuanzang
(C) Yijing (D) Li Yibiao

[NDA & NA (I) 10-4-2022]

2. Arthashastra, the classical work of Indian political thought, focuses primarily on :

(A) economy (B) culture
(C) statecraft (D) monarchy

[NDA & NA (I) 10-4-2022]

3. When did Charaka Samhita originate ?

(A) 6th Century BCE
(B) 3rd to 2nd Century BCE
(C) 4th Century BCE
(D) 5th Century BCE

[NDA & NA (I) 10-4-2022]

4. Early Buddhist sculptors did not show Buddha in human form. Through which of the following symbols was Buddha's presence shown by the early sculptors ?

(A) Empty Seat and Stupa only
(B) Wheel and Tree only
(C) Wheel, Tree and Stupa only
(D) Empty, Seat, Wheel, Tree and Stupa

[NDA & NA (I) 10-4-2022]

5. Which one of the following pairs of travellers and their nationality is not correctly matched ?

(A) Ibn Battuta — Moroccan
(B) Duarte Barbosa — Portuguese
(C) Jean Baptiste Tavernier — Dutch
(D) Niccolao Manucci — Venetian

[NDA and NA (II), 2019]

6. The cylindrical stone seals were used in which civilization ?

(A) Harappan (B) Egyptian
(C) Roman (D) Mesopotamian

[NDA and NA (II), 2016]

2. Indus Valley Civilization

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).
2. There is evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan associated with the mature phase of the Harappan civilization.
3. The ploughed field at Kalibangan had two sets of furrows crossing at right angles to each other suggesting two different crops were grown together in it.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) None of the above

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

8. At which among the following Harappan sites are fire altars found ?

(A) Kalibangan (B) Harappa
(C) Mohenjodaro (D) Rakhi Garhi

[NDA and NA (II), 04-09-2022]

9. Which one of the following Harappan sites was a specialised centre for making shell objects?

(A) Lothal (B) Balakot
(C) Amri (D) Kot Diji

[NDA and NA (I), 2021]

10. In the Mesopotamian records, which one of the following terms was used for the Indus Valley (Harappans) ?

(A) Dilmun (B) Meluhha
(C) Magan (D) Failaka

[NDA and NA (II), 2017]

11. Harappan crafts display an amazing degree of standardization. According to Kenoyer, what was the possible reason for such an achievement ?

(A) Availability of raw materials at local level
(B) Centralized markets for crafts
(C) Specialized training centres for craftsmen
(D) State control

[NDA and NA (I), 2015]

12. The terra – cotta plough of the Harappan civilization was found at :

(A) Mohenjodaro (B) Banawali
(C) Kalibangan (D) Lothal

[NDA and NA Solved Paper 2012 (I)]

13. Which one among the following is not the characteristic feature of the Harappan settlement?

(A) Doorways and windows generally faced the side lanes and rarely opened into the main streets
(B) Houses generally has separate bathing areas and toilets
(C) The citadel was walled but the lower town was not walled
(D) Drains and water chutes from the second storey were often built inside the wall

[NDA/NA 2011-(II)]

3. Religious Movements of the 6th Century (Buddhism and Jainism)

14. Which one among the following sects was associated with Gosala Maskariputra ?

(A) Vajrayana
(B) Ajivikas

(C) Sthaviravadins
(D) Mahasanghikas

[NDA and NA (I), 2015]

15. Who among the following was associated with the formulation of the basic ideas of the Mahayana Buddhism?

(A) Nagarjuna
(B) Kashyapa Matanga
(C) Menander
(D) Kanishka

[NDA and NA (II), 2014]

16. Consider the following statements relating to Jain literature :

1. The sacred books of the Jainas are known as Siddhanta or Agama
2. The language of the earliest Jain texts is eastern dialect of Pali known as Ardha Magadhi

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

[NDA and NA Solved Paper 2012 (I)]

17. Where did Buddha attain Parinirvana?

(A) Bodh Gaya (B) Kushinagara
(C) Rajgriha (D) Vaisali

[NDA/NA 2009-(I)]

4. Mahajanpad Period

18. Taxila was the capital of which one among the following Mahajanapadas of ancient India ?

(A) Kuru (B) Kasi
(C) Gandhar (D) Avanti

[NDA & NA, (II) (GAT), 01-09-2024]

19. Which one among the following rulers established Pataliputra as the capital of the Magadhan Empire?

(A) Bimbisara (B) Bindusara
(C) Ajatashatru (D) Ashoka

[NDA & NA (I) 16-4-2023]

5. Greek Invasion

20. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the given rulers of ancient India?

(A) Ashoka–Kanishka–Milinda
(B) Milinda–Ashoka–Kanishka
(C) Ashoka–Milinda–Kanishka
(D) Milinda–Kanishka–Ashoka

[NDA/NA 2007-(II)]

6. Mauryan Period

21. Which one of the following Ashokan Minor Rock Edicts, contains the personal name of the king–Ashoka?

(A) Maski (B) Bahapur
(C) Bairat (D) Sahasram

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

22. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists :

List-I (Mahamatta)	List-II (Function)
a. Anto-mahamatta	1. Women's welfare
b. Ithihakha-mahamatta	2. Spread of Dhamma
c. Dhamma-mahamatta	3. Associated with city administration
d. Nagalaviyohalaka-mahamatta	4. In-charge of frontier areas

Code :

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
(A) 3	2	1	4
(B) 3	1	2	4
(C) 4	1	2	3
(D) 1	2	3	4

[NDA and NA (II), 04-09-2022]

23. Which one of the following was not a part of the dhamma of King Ashoka?
 (A) Honouring the king
 (B) Tolerance of religions other than one's own
 (C) Respecting Brahmanas
 (D) Promoting the welfare of his subjects
 [NDA and NA (I), 2021]
24. Ashoka's connection with Buddhism is evident from which one of the following edicts ?
 (A) Major Rock Edict 13
 (B) Rock Edict 6
 (C) Minor Rock Edict 1
 (D) Pillar Edict 4
 [NDA and NA (II), 2017]
25. Consider the following statements about Ashokan rock edicts :
 1. Major Rock Edict XIII records Ashoka's remorse at the sufferings caused by his Kalinga campaign.
 2. Major Rock Edict X records Ashoka's visit to Lumbini.
 3. Major Rock Edict XII refers to *Dhamma Mahamattas* as a new category of officers instituted by Ashoka.
 4. Major Rock Edict XII speaks about showing tolerance towards all sects.
 Which of the statements given above are correct ?
 (A) 1 and 4 only
 (B) 2 and 3
 (C) 3 and 4 only
 (D) 1, 3 and 4
 [NDA and NA (I), 2015]
26. Which one of the following is the common element among Rajagriha, Vaishali and Pataliputra ?
 (A) Pali canon of the Sthaviravadins was compiled there
 (B) Ashokan Major Rock Edicts were found there

- (C) Places where Buddhist Councils were held
 (D) Places associated with the compilation of Buddhist canons of the Mahasanghikas.
 [NDA and NA (I), 2015]

27. The notion of saptanga that was introduced in Arthashastra includes:
 (A) kings, territory, administration and treasury
 (B) music, dance, ragas and wrestling
 (C) ministers, civil servants, subalterns and those involved in espionage
 (D) aristocrats, acharyas, traders and monks.
 [NDA/NA 2010-(I)]

7. Past Mauryan Period

28. Yashovarman was ruler of which of the following kingdoms?
 (A) Kannauj (B) Mewar
 (C) Marwar (D) Kalinga
 [NDA & NA (I) 16-4-2023]
29. Which one of the following statements about Rabatak inscription is not correct?
 (A) It throws important light on Kushana genealogy.
 (B) It refers to Kanishka as 'a king of kings and a son of God'.
 (C) The 23-line inscription is written in Gandhari language.
 (D) It mentions names of States which were part of Kanishka's empire.
 [NDA & NA (I) 16-4-2023]
30. Near which one of the following cities in India have large statues of Kushana rulers been discovered?
 (A) Karnal (B) Ropar
 (C) Hisar (D) Mathura
 [NDA & NA (I) 16-4-2023]

31. The following question consist of two statements, Statement I and Statement II. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answers to these items using the code given below :

Statement I :

The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Kushanas.

Statement II :

The first gold coins were issued by the Kushanas

Code :

- (A) Both the statements are individually true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
 (B) Both the statements are individually true but Statement II is **not** the correct explanation of Statement I
 (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false

- (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true

[NDA and NA (II), 2014]

8. Gupta Period

32. Who among the following composed the 'Prayag Prashasti' of Samudragupta?
 (A) Harishena (B) Chand Bardai
 (C) Vishakhadatta (D) Kalidasa
 [NDA & NA (I) 16-4-2023]
33. Which one of the following was composed by Harishena ?
 (A) Nashik Inscription of Gautami Balashri
 (B) Prayaga Prashasti of Samudragupta
 (C) Deopara Prashasti of Vijayasena
 (D) Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela

[NDA and NA (II), 04-09-2022]

34. Which one among the following cities was the best producer of silk cloth under Gupta reign ?
 (A) Pataliputra (B) Murshidabad
 (C) Ghazipur (D) Varanasi
 [NDA and NA Solved Paper 2012 (II)]

35. The themes of the murals of the Ajanta Caves are:

- (i) Decorative designs which include a variety of animals, trees and flowers.
 (ii) Portraits of various Buddhas and Bodhiysattvas.
 (iii) Narrative scenes portraying Jataka stories.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) (i), (ii) and (iii)
 (B) (ii) and (iii) only
 (C) (i) and (iii) only
 (D) (i) and (ii) only

[NDA/NA 2011-(II)]

36. Which one of the following statements about Chandragupta II is not correct?

- (A) Kalidas and Amar singh were famous scholars in his court
 (B) He expanded his empire both through matrimonial alliances and conquests
 (C) He married a Naga princess, named Kubera Naga
 (D) He married his daughter Prabhawati to an Ahom Prince

[NDA/NA 2009-(II)]

9. Sangam Period and South Indian States

37. 'Sengol', installed in the new Parliament building of India, was seen as a symbol of the path of service, duty and nation in which Empire of the past?
 (A) Gupta Empire
 (B) Shunga Empire

- (C) Pandyan Empire
(D) Chola Empire

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

38. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists :

List-I (Dynasty)	List-II (Architecture)
a. Chalukyas	1. Sun Temple, Konark
b. Hoysalas	2. Pattadakal Temples
c. Pandyas	3. Kesava Temple, Somnathpur
d. Eastern Gangas	4. Eastern gopura of Chidambaram Temple

Code:

a	b	c	d
(A) 1	3	2	4
(B) 1	2	3	4
(C) 2	4	3	1
(D) 2	3	4	1

[NDA and NA (II), 2015]

10. Pre-Medieval Period

39. At which one of the following places was a Shiva temple not constructed under the patronage of the Chola rulers?
(A) Chidambaram
(B) Thanjavur
(C) Gangaikonda Cholapuram
(D) Naneghat

[NDA and NA (I), 2021]

40. Which of the following clans are included in the Agnikula Rajputs ?
1. Pratiharas 2. Chaulukyas
3. Paramaras 4. Chahamanas
Select the correct answer from the code given below :
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(D) 2 and 4 only

[NDA and NA (I), 2018]

41. Kalhana's well-known work 'Rajatarangini' is an important source material for the study of which one of the following?
(A) Ancient Kamarupa
(B) Post-Mauryan Magadha
(C) Medieval Rajasthan
(D) Early medieval Kashmir

[NDA/NA 2006-(II)]

11. Miscellaneous

42. Consider the following statements about the emergence of urban centres in India from 6th Century BCE:
1. All of them developed away from the capitals of *mahajanpadas*.

2. Major towns were located along routes of communication.
3. Many were bustling centres of commercial, cultural and political activity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 (B) 2
(C) 3 (D) None

[NDA & NA 2024 Paper-I]

43. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List-I (Unit in use in early India)		List-II (Content)	
a.	Muhurta	1.	Measure of weight
b.	Raktika	2.	Measure of time
c.	Angula	3.	Metre of poetry
d.	Pada	4.	Measure of length

Code:

a	b	c	d
(A) 2	1	4	3
(B) 2	4	1	3
(C) 3	4	1	2
(D) 3	1	4	2

[NDA & NA 2024 Paper-I]

44. First coins in Indian history bearing the names and images of rulers were issued by the:
(A) Mauryas (B) Pushyabhutis
(C) Guptas (D) Indo-Greeks

[NDA & NA 2024 Paper-I]

45. Which one of the following texts is a commentary written by Chakrapanidatta (11 Century CE from Bengal) on the *Sushrut Samhita*?
(A) Sabdachandrika
(B) Bhanumati
(C) Nitiratnakara
(D) Lohasarvasava

[NDA & NA 2024 Paper-I]

46. Which of the following statements with regard to the famous 'silk routes' are correct?
1. Silk routes refer to East-bound European silk cargoes along these routes.
2. There were several silk routes, over land and by sea, joining together vast regions of Asia with Europe and northern Africa.
3. They are known to have existed since before the Christian Era and thrived almost till the fifteenth century.

4. Besides silk, Chinese pottery, textiles and spices from India and south-east Asia travelled the same route.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 (B) 1, 3 and 4
(C) 2, 3 and 4 (D) 1, 2 and 4

[NDA & NA 2024 Paper-I]

47. Which one of the following was NOT a way in which kings in ancient India attempted to claim a higher status?
(A) Identifying with a variety of deities
(B) Assuming pompous titles
(C) Imposing high taxes
(D) Conquests and annexation of territories

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

48. Where is Central Institute of Buddhist Studies situated?
(A) Leh (B) Kullu
(C) Almora (D) Gangtok

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

49. Arrange the following in correct chronological order:
1. Charak Samhita
2. Bharat's Natyashastra
3. Sangam Literature
4. Ashtadhyayi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1-3-4-2 (B) 2-4-1-3
(C) 4-3-1-2 (D) 3-1-2-4

[NDA & NA 03-09-2023 Paper-II]

50. Which of the following is/are not historical biography /biographies ?
1. Dipavansa
2. Harshacharita
3. Vikramankadevacharita
4. Prithvirajvijaya

Select the correct answer from the code given below :

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

[NDA and NA (I), 2018]

Answer Key

1. (B) 2. (C) 3. (B) 4. (D) 5. (C)
6. (D) 7. (C) 8. (A) 9. (B) 10. (B)
11. (D) 12. (B) 13. (D) 14. (B) 15. (A)
16. (A) 17. (B) 18. (C) 19. (C) 20. (C)
21. (A) 22. (C) 23. (A) 24. (C) 25. (D)
26. (C) 27. (A) 28. (A) 29. (C) 30. (D)
31. (D) 32. (A) 33. (B) 34. (D) 35. (A)
36. (D) 37. (D) 38. (D) 39. (D) 40. (C)
41. (D) 42. (D) 43. (A) 44. (D) 45. (B)
46. (D) 47. (A) 48. (A) 49. (B) 50. (A)

□□