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Ancient Indian History

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (2500 BC-1750BC)

This civilization prospered on the banks of river Indus. The main sites which have been found in the excavation are—

City	Province	River	Year	Archaeologist
• Harappa	Punjab (Pak)	Ravi	1921	Dayaram Sahnii
• Mohan Jodaro	Sindh	Indus	1922	RD Banerjee
• Sutkagendor	Baluchistan	Dasht	1931	Aurel Stein
• Chanhudaro	Sind	Indus	1931	MG Majumdar
• Ropor	Punjab(Ind)	Sutlej	1953	YD Sharma
• Lothal	Gujarat	Bhogva	1957	SR Rao
• Kalibangan	Rajasthan	Ghaggar	1959	BB Lal
• Alamgirpur	UP	Hindon	1974	YD Sharma
• Banawali	Haryana	Ghaggar	1974	RS Bisht

- Sir John Marshall was the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India from 1902 to 1928. He oversaw excavations of Indus Valley civilization sites Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

- Lothal (Dokyard) Surkotda, Sutkagendor Kali-banga Dholavira & Daimabad were coastal towns.

Indus valley towns had two section

(i) The fortified citadel : for Public Buildings and members & ruling class

(ii) The lower town (East side): for common people

This civilization had elaborated town planning & followed the grid system. Roads were well cut & dividing the town into large rectangular blocks. Burnt bricks of good quality were used and it had a good drainage system.

In Mohenjodaro, a big public bath (Great Bath) measuring 12m by 7 m and 2.4 m deep has been found. They used to grow wheat barley, peas, sesamum, mustard, rice (in Lothal), cotton (they were the first one to produce cotton) dates and melons were also grown. The Granaries (6 granaries in a row) have been found in Harappa. They used ploughs for cultivation. The Harappan culture belongs to the **Bronze Age**. Potter wheel was in use & ploughed fields have been found from Kalibangan. From Rangpur, the rice husk have been found while a fragment of woven cotton cloth was found from Mohanjodaro. Sugarcane was not known to them.

They domesticated elephants pigs, asses, goats, oxen, Buffaloes, Cats & dogs. The camel bones have been found at Kalibangan & remains of horse at Surkotda.

Image of Devadasi has also been found at Mohenjodaro which was a Bronze image of the famous dancing girl. Barter

system was in trend at that time. 16 was the unit of measurement. Mother Goddess was the main object of worship. She was represented by a terracota figure where a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman.

Phallus and Yoni worship was also prevalent. Other than this many trees like Pipal, animals like Humped Bull, birds (dove and pigeon) and stones were also worshipped.

IMPORTANT EXCAVATIONS OF PRE-HISTORIC AGE (AT A GLANCE)

- **From Mohenjodaro :** Great Grainery, Pashupati Shiva seal, Bronze statue of dancing girl, Great Bath.
- **From Harappa :** Graveyard.
- **From Lothal :** Fire Altars, dockyard and rice evidence.
- **From Surkotda :** Horse seal.

Invasion of the Aryans. recurrent floods, social break-up of Harappans, earthquakes, major ecological changes etc. were the some of the possible causes behind the end of this civilization.

As far as Burial Practices are concerned. Mohanjodaro had been the site of three types of burials—complete, fractional & post cremation Circular & rectangular caves have been found at Kalibangan. Lothal showed double burial and from Harappa R-37 and H cemetery have been found.

The Pashupati Shiv seal shows four animals viz. elephant, tiger, rhino and a buffalo. Two deer appear at the feet. They believed in ghosts & evil forces and it is evident from the altars found from the Lothal & Kalibanga. They did not believe in idolism.

Apart from this a Stone steatite image of a bearded man has been found from Mohanjodaro.

As far as trade is concerned they used to import Gold & Tin from Afghanistan. Turquoise was imported from Iran. Lapis Lazuli & Sapphire were imported from Badakhshan (Afghanistan)

The script of Indus Valley civilization remains undeciphered to date, it was evidently not alphabetical as it has just too many signs – somewhere between 375 and 400. It is apparent that the script was written from right to left.

VEDIC PERIOD

This period is marked by the entry of the Aryans, who were semi-nomadic pastoral people, who probably came through the Hindukush Mountains. The term Aryan means “High Origin”. The period in which they existed was 1500-600 BC.

The theory regarding their homeland has disputes but the most accepted theory says that they migrated from Central Asia around 2000-1500 BC and settled in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Punjab &

UP. This region was called “ Sapta Sindhu-Sindu (Indus) and its five tributaries Vitasta (Jhelum), Askini (Chenab), Vipas (Beas), Parushani (Ravi), Satudiri (Sutlej) and Sarasvati.

Vedic Culture is divided into following parts—

I. Early Vedic or Rig Vedic Period (1500-1000 B.C.)

It was in Monarchical form. Tribe was known as **Jan** and its king was known as **Rajan**. The main unit of society was **family**, which was **Patriarchal in nature**. Kula (family) was the smallest unit of society. The society was divided into four varnas :

- (i) Brahmin : Teachers & Priests
- (ii) Kshatriya : Rulers & Administrators
- (iii) Vaishyas : Merchants & Bankers
- (iv) Sudras : Artisans & Labourers

In Vedic Age type of marriages were in practice :

- (i) Brahma (ii) Daiva (iii) Arsha
- (iv) Prajapatya (v) Gandharva (vi) Asura
- (vii) Rakshasa (viii) Paishacha

II. Later Vedic Age (1000-600 BC)

- Aryans expanded from Punjab over the whole Western UP covered by Ganga-Yamuna Doab (Aryavrata).

Polity

- Kingship became hereditary. Assembly lost its importance and royal power increased at their cost. Vidhata totally disappeared. Woman were no longer permitted to attend assemblies.
- There was development of judiciary kings who administered the criminal court. Treason was a capital offence.

Society

- The society was based upon occupation & later became hereditary—
- Brahmin
- Kshatriyas
- Vaisyas
- Shudras
- The **Ashram system** was formed Upanishad gives the earliest reference to four **ashramas** i.e. the stages of life—Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanprastha and Sanyasa.
- Position of women declined in this age yet some of the women had got higher education as indicated by the Yajnavalkya Gargi dialogue in Vrihadarnyaka Upanishad.

Economy

- Agriculture became chief economic activity.

Religion

- Prajapati became supreme God. Vishnu was conceived as preserver and protector of people.
- Pushan responsible for well being of cattle became the **God of shudras**.

16 SAMSKARAS

1. Garbhadhana	9. Kamachhedana
2. Pumsavana	10. Vidyarmbha
3. Simantonnayan	11. Upanayana
4. Jatakarma	12. Vedarambha
5. Namakaran	13. Samavaratana
6. Nishkramana	14. Vivaha
7. Annaprashana	15. Vanprastha
8. Chudakama	16. Antyesti

THE VEDIC LITERATURE

- The word **Veda** comes from the word **Vid** means to know or knowledge.
- These are also known as shruti (To hear)

Four Vedas

I. Rig Veda

- Oldest religious text in the world.
- Collection of hymns, and contains 1028 hymns. It is divided into 10 mandalas.
- 2nd to 7th (II to VII) are the earliest mandalas each of which is ascribed at a particular family of Rishi Gritsamad, Visvamitra, Atri, Bhardwaja, Vashistha. IX mandala is the compilation of Soma hymns.
- The Xth mandala contains the famous Purushasukta which explains that the four varnas (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra) were born from the mouth, arms, thighs and feet of the creator Brahma.
- The third mandala contains the **Gayatri Mantra**.
- Saraswati is the deity river in the Rigveda.
- Yoga has been described in Rigveda.

II. Sama Veda

- It is a collection of melodies. The hymns of the Sama Veda were recited by Udgatri at the Soma sacrifice.
- It contains Dhrupad Raga.
- It consists of 1549 verses.

III. Yajur Veda

- Deals with the procedure for the performance of sacrifice.
- Two text of Yajur Veda are—
Shukla (white) Yajur Veda and
Krishna (Black) Yajur Veda
- Its reciters are known as ‘Adhvaryus’.

IV. Atharva Veda

- It is a book of magical formula. It mentions charms and spells to ward off evil and disease.

The Upanishads

- The term Upanishad means the knowledge acquired by sitting close to the teacher (Guru).
- There are 108 Upanishads. Example—Mundakopnishad, Chandogya upanishad, etc.

Brahmanas

- These are the prose commentaries on various vedic hymns.
- Rigveda—Aitreya & Kaushitaki
- Yajurveda—Maitreyi & Taitriya
- Samveda—Panchvish, Shadvisa & Jaiminiya
- Atharvaveda—Gopath.

The Aranyakas

- The sages dwelling in the forest explained the vedic scriptures to their pupil in the form of Aranyakas.

Vedangas

- They are the limbs of Vedas. These are treaties of Science and Arts. There are 6 vedangas.
 1. Shiksha (deals with pronunciation) (Phonetics)
 2. Kalpa (deals with rituals)
 3. Vyakarana (Grammar)
 4. Nirukta (Etymology) (Explanation)
 5. Chhanda (Metrics)
 6. Jyotisha (Astronomy)
- Panini wrote Ashtadhyayi (4th century BC) on Vyakarana.

Upavedas

There are four upavedas

- **Dhanurveda** (Upaveda of Yajur Veda) deals with art of warfare.
- **Gandharvaveda** (Upaveda of Sama Veda) : deals with art and music.
- **Shastrashastra** deals with military technology (associated with Atharva veda)
- **Ayurveda** (Upaveda of Rig Veda) : deals with medicine.

PHILOSOPHY

Six system of Hindu philosophy, given by six philosopher of ancient India.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| ● Nyaya (Analysis) | Gautama |
| ● Vaishesika | Kanada |
| ● Sankhya | Kapila |
| ● Yoga | Patanjali |
| ● Purva Mimansa | Jaimini |
| ● Advaita | Adi Shankaracharya |
| ● Uttar Mimansa | Vyasa |

Epic

- Mahabharata was written by Ved Vyas. It was known as 'Jaysanhita'.
- Ramayana written by Valmiki originally.

MAHAJANPADA AGE/ PRE-MAURYAN AGE

- Many Janapadas sprung up in 6th century BC, the larger of which were called **Mahajanapadas**.

The Mahajanapadas

- The Anguttara Nikaya of Suttapitaka, Mahavastu (Buddhist literature) and Bhagavati Sutta (Jain literature) mentions the list of 16 Mahajanapadas.
- Monarchical states Anga, Avanti, Chedi, Kashi, Kosala, Gandhara, Magadh Matsya, Surasena, Vatsa.
- People now owned stronger allegiance to the janapada or territory than the jana or tribe they belonged to.
- The Republican States unlike the monarchies were ruled by tribal oligarchies and Brahmanas had no place.
- The ruling class belonged to same class and varna. **Lichchhavis** are said to be the oldest republic in the world.

Mahajanapadas and their Capital

1. Gandhara (Between Kabul and Rawalpindi)	Taxila
2. Anga (Bhagalpur and Monghyr in Bihar)	Champa
3. Magadha (Patna and Gaya district of Bihar)	Girivraj, Rajagriha (Bimbisara) Patliputra (Udayin), Vaishali (Shishunaga), Patliputra (Ashoka)
4. Kasi (Varanasi district, UP)	Varanasi
5. Vajji (Vaishali district, Bihar)	Vaishali
6. Malla (South of Vaishali district, UP)	Kushinagar and Pava
7. Chedi (River Ken, Bundelkhand area)	Sothivati or Shuktimati
8. Vatsa (River Yamuna, Allahabad and Mirzapur district in UP)	Kaushambi
9. Kosala (Eastern UP)	Sravasti and Ayodhya (Saket)
10. Kuru (Ganga Yamuna doab, Delhi Meerut region)	Hastinapur and Indraprastha
11. Panchala (Ganga-Yamuna doab, Rohilkhand)	Ahichhatra, Kampilya
12. Matsya (Jaipur Bharatpur-Alwar district)	Viranagar/Bairath
13. Surasenas (Mathura region)	Mathura
14. Asmaka (River Godavari) (Near Paithan in Maharashtra)	Patna or Patali
15. Avanti (Malwa)	Ujjain (Northern capital), Mahismati (Southern capital)
16. Kamboj (Hazara district of Pakistan)	Rajapur or Hataka

MAGADHA EMPIRE

- The period from 6th century BC to 4th century BC saw the struggle for supremacy among four mahajanapadas Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti.
- Ultimately, Magadha emerged as the most powerful and prosperous kingdom in North India.
- The founder of Magadha was **Jarasant**. He was the son of Brihadratha.

HARYANKA DYNASTY

I. Bimbisara (544 BC-492 BC)

- He built the capital city **Rajgir** (Girivraja).
- He was contemporary to the Gautam Buddha and first king to have standing army, for which he is known as Seniya.
- His three wives belonged to royal family of Koshala (Mahakosaladevi sister of Prasenjit ruler of Kashi), Lichchavi (Chellana sister of Chetaka) and Madra Clan of Punjab. (KHEMA daughter of Madra king).
- He sent his personal physician, Jivak to his rival Avanti King Chandrapadyota Mahasena of Ujjain to cure him of Jaundice.
- He is considered as the real founder of Haryanka Dynasty.

II. Ajatashatru (492 BC-460 BC)

- He was son of Chellana and Bimbisara. He occupied throne by killing his father. This is known as a Kunika
- Mahashilakantaka-a war engine which catapulted big stone and Rathamusala-a kind of chariot with a mace, were the weapons used by him.
- He patronised first Buddhist council and Buddha died during his reign.
- He was killed by his son Udayin.

III. Udayin (460 BC 444 BC)

- Son and successor of Ajatashatru.
- Transferred the capital from Rajgriha to the new city **Pataliputra**.
- Udayin was succeeded by weak rulers such as Anuruddha, Munda and Naga Dasak.

SHISHUNAG DYNASTY (412 BC - 344 BC)

- Shishunaga, the founder of the dynasty, was initially an amatya or “minister” of the last Haryanka dynasty ruler Nagadasaka and ascended to the throne after a popular rebellion in c. 421 BCE.
- Avanti became a part of Magadh. He temporarily shifted the capital to Vaishali.
- Last ruler of the dynasty was Nandivardhan.

Kalasoka (Kakavarnin)

- He succeeded Shishunaga.
- He transferred the capital from Vaishali to Pataliputra and convened the **Second Buddhist Council** in Vaishali (383 BC).
- Sabakami, was the President of this council.

NANDA DYNASTY (344 BC - 323 BC)

It is considered to be the first non-Kshatriya dynasty and ruled for 100 years.

I. Mahapadamananda

- Mahapadamananda, the great conquerer and founder of the dynasty, also known as Ekarat, Eka-chhatra (sovereign ruler) or Sarvakshatrantaka *i.e.* uprooter of the Kshatriyas (by Puranas) and Ugrasena *i.e.*, owner of huge army (pali texts). He is also described as “The first empire builder of Indian History.”
- Succeeded by his eight sons last one being Dhanananda.

II. Dhanananda

- He was the Last Nanda Ruler.
- Alexander invaded North Western India during his reign (326 BC), but the huge army of Dhananada deterred Alexander from advancing towards Gangetic valley.
- **Chandragupta Maurya** assisted by Kautilya overthrew Dhanananda to establish Mauryan dynasty in 321 BC.

FOREIGN INVASIONS

I. Iranian Invasion

- Cyrus of Persia (588 BC 530 BC) was the first foreign conqueror, who penetrated well into India. Darius-I, the grandson of Cyrus invaded North West India in 516 BC.
- Xerxes the successor of Darius, employed Indians in the long war against the Greeks.

II. Alexander’s Invasion

- Alexander conquered Kabul in 328 BC. He moved to India through the unguarded Khyber pass and reached Attock in 326 BC.
- Alexander defeated Porus in the Battle of Hydaspas on the bank of river Vitasta (Jhelum), but was impressed by his bravery so he restored to Porus his kingdom and made him his ally.
- He placed the North Western India under the Greek Governor Selucus Nicator.
- He remained in India for 19 months (326-325 BC) and died in Babylon (323 BC) at the age of 33 years.

III. Impact of Alexander’s Invasion

- Indians learnt from the Greek in the field of coinage, astronomy architecture and sculpture (Gandhara School)

- Alexander's invasion paved the way for the expansion of the Mauryan empire in that area.

IV. Pre-Mauryan Economy

- Nivartan and Kulyayapa were units of land measurement; Sreni was the guild or corporation.
- Sita was the state's land.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

The 6th century BC was the period of great religious upheaval or intellectual revolution.

It marked the beginning of second urbanisation in India also known as the age of Buddha.

JAINISM

- It was founded by Rishabhanath. He is described as an incarnation of Narayana (Lord Vishnu).
- There were 24 Tirthankaras (guru) and the first one was Rishabhath (emblem-Bull).
- Rig Veda mentions about two Tirthankaras-Rishabh and Arishtanemi.
- The 23rd Tirthankara was Parsavanath (symbol-Serpent).
- The 24th Tirthankara was Vardhaman Mahavira (emblem-Lion).

Life of Mahavira

- Vardhaman Mahavira was born to Siddhartha (Head of Jnatrika clan) and Trishla (Lichchhavi Princess and Sister of Chetak) in 540 BC at Kundalgram near Vaishali in Bihar. Mahavira was his childhood name.
- He was married to Yashoda and had a daughter Priyadarsena, whose husband Jamali became his first disciple.
- At the age of 30, he became an ascetic and joined an order rounded by Parsavanath. It is known as Renunciation.

- At the age of 42 under a sal tree at Jimbhika grama in Eastern India on the bank of river Rijupalika, he attained Kaivalya (knowledge).
- He delivered first sermon at Pava to his eleven disciples known as Gandgharas. He also founded a Jain Sangha at Pava.
- He died at the age of 72 in 468 BC at Pavapuri near Rajagriha.
- He was called Jaina or Jitendriya (one who conquered his senses), Kevalin (perfect learned) Nirgranthas (from all bonds) Arihant (blessed one) and Mahavira (the brave).

Teachings of Mahavira

- Rejected the authority of Vedas and did not believe in existence of God.
- Attainment of salvation by believing in penance and dying of starvation.

Jain Philosophy

- **Three Ratnas** (Way to Nirvana)
 - Right faith (Samyak Vishwas)
 - Right knowledge (Samyak Jnan)
 - Right conduct (samyak Karma)
- Jain literature are known as Angas.
- **Five Cardinal Principles**
 - Non-injury (Ahimsa)
 - Non-lying (satya).
 - Non-stealing (Asteya)
 - Non-possession (Aparigraha).
 - Observing continence (Brahmacharya).

The first four principles were given by Parsavnath while fifth was added by Lord Mahavira.

Jainism has two major ancient sub-traditions, Digambaras (neither possessing nor wearing any clothes) and Svetambaras (wearing white clothes).

JAIN COUNCILS

Council	Year	Venue	Chairman	Royal Patron	Developments
First Jain Council	300 BC	Pataliputra	Sthulabhadra	Chandragupta Maurya	Compilation of 12 Angas
Second Jain Council	512 AD	Vallabhi	Devridhi Kshamasramana	Dhruvasen	Final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas

BUDDHISM

It was founded by Gautam Buddha (Shakyamuni) originally known as Siddhartha. He was contemporary to Mahavira.

Gautam Buddha

- He was born (symbol Lotus and Bull) in 563 BC at Lumbini (Shakya tribe of Kapilvastu) on Vaishakha Purnima day in Kshatriya clan.

- His father Suddhodhana was the Saka ruler. His mother Mahamaya died after 7 days of his birth so he was brought up by stepmother Gautami.
- Married at 16 to Yashodhara, enjoyed the married life for 13 years and had a son named Rahul.
- Great Renunciation or Mahabhinishkramana (Symbol-Horse) at the age of 29 years after witnessing four scenes

in a sequence (old man, sick man, dead body and an ascetic), he left home.

- Nirvana or Enlightenment (Symbol-Bodhi Tree) at 35 years of age : at Uruvella (Bodh Gaya) under a pipal tree on the banks of Niranjan (Phalgu) river on the 49th day of meditation.
- First Sermon or Dharmachakra Pravartana (symbol 8 spoked wheel) at Sarnath, where his five disciples had settled.
- Death at the age of 80 years in 483 BC at Kusinagar in UP. It is known as Mahaparinirvana.
- Buddha is also known as 'The Light of Asia'.

MAJOR EVENTS OF BUDDHA'S LIFE

Events	Symbols
Janma (Birth)	Lotus and Bull
Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse
Nirvana/Sambodhi Enlightenment)	Bodhi tree
Dhramachakra pravartana (First Sermon)	Wheel
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA

I Four Noble Truths

(Arya Satyas)

1. The world is full of sorrows (Sabbam Dukkam).
2. The cause of sorrow is desire (Dwadash Nidan/Pratitya Samutpada).
3. If desires are conquered, all sorrows can be removed (Nirvana).
4. This can be achieved by following the 8 fold path (Ashtangika Marga).

- The second truth, is based on Buddha's doctrine of Pratitya samutpada *i.e.*, Law of Dependent Origination or Causation.

II. Eight Fold Path

(Ashtangika Marga)

- Right Understanding
- Right Thought
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Concentration

III. Three Jewels (Tri Ratnas)

- Buddha (The Enlightened)
- Dhamma (Doctrine)
- Sangha (Order)

Sects of Buddhism

- Vajrayana : Its followers believed that salvation could be attained by magical power, which they called Vajra.
- The chief divinities of the sect is Taras. Bengal and Bihar (Eastern India) was the main area of its concentration.
- **Hinayana** (The lesser Vehicle).
- Mahayana (The greater Vehicle)

Buddhist Scriptures

- **Hinayana Literature (in Pali)**
 - ◆ Tripitakas
 - ◆ Vinay Pitaka : Rules of monastic discipline for monks.
 - ◆ Sutta Pitaka : Collection of Buddha's sermon.
 - ◆ Abhidhama Pitaka : Philosophy of Buddha's teaching.
 - ◆ Other scriptures are Dipvansh, Mahavansh, Mahavastu, Milindpanho.

Buddhist Councils

Buddhist Council	Year	Venue	Chairman	Royal Patron	Development(s)
First Council	483 BC	Saptaparni	Mahakassapa Cave Rajgriha	Ajatashatru (Haryanka Dynasty)	Compilation of Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka by Ananda and Upali respectively
Second Council	383BC	Vaishali	Sabakami	Kalasoka (Shisunaga Dynasty)	Monks were split into Sthavirmadins and Maha sanghikas
Third Council	250BC	Patliputra	Mogaliputta Tissa	Ashoka (Maurya Dynasty)	Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka
Fourth Council	72 AD	Kundalvan Kashmir	Vasumitra (Chairman) and Ashwaghosha	Kanishka (Kushan Dynasty) (Vice Chairman)	Division of Buddhists into Hinyana and Mahayana

Important Buddhist Universities

Buddhist Universities	Location	Founder
Nalanda	Badagaon, Bihar	Kumargupta-I
Vikramshila	Bhagalpur, Bihar	Dharmapala (Pala ruler)

THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

I. Chandragupta Maurya (322-298 BC)

- Also called as Sandrocottus/Androcottus by Greek scholars.
- He entered into alliance with Parvartaka and with the help of Chanakya he dethroned last Nanda ruler Dhanananda and founded the Mauryan Dynasty with capital at Pataliputra.
- Chandragupta defeated Selucus Nicator in 305 BC and married to his daughter Helen.
- Selucus also sent a Greek Ambassador, Megasthenese, to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Chandragupta embraced Jainism and went to Chandragiri Hill at Sravanbelagola with Bhadrabau, where he died of slow starvation (Salekhna).
- Chandragupta was the first Indian ruler to unite the whole North India.
- Megasthenese authored a book named 'Indica' on the Mauryan administration.

II. Bindusara (298-273BC)

- Greeks called him Amitro Chates (derived from Sanskrit word Amitraghata i.e. Slayer of Foes), Vindupala Chinese texts, Sinhasena.
- Antiochus I, the Selucid King of Syria, sent his Ambassador Deimachus to his court.
- Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt sent Dionysius as his ambassador to the court of Bindusara.
- Antiochus I sent some sweet wine and dried figs to Mauryan court on Bindusara's request, but denied to send a sophist explaining that Greek law forbids a sophist not to be sold.
- He patronised Ajivika sect.
- He was the son of Chandragupta Maurya.

III. Ashoka (268-232BC)

- He was the greatest Mauryan ruler, Governor of Taxila and Ujjain previously.
- A Buddhist text Diprimsa says that he usurped the throne after killing his 99 brother except the youngest one, Tissa in the war of succession that lasted for four years.
- He fought Kalinga War (261 BC) in the 9th years of his rule. The miseries of war caused deep remorse to Ashoka and he abandoned the policy of physical conquest

(Bherighosa) in favour of cultural conquest (Dhamma ghosha)

- He embraced Buddhism under Upagupta.
- He sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Ceylon as Buddhist missionaries with a sapling of original pipal tree.
- He also had the name 'Devanama Priyadarsi'

IV. Later Mauryas

- Following the death of Ashoka, the Mauryan dynasty lasted for 137 year, the empire was divided into Western and Eastern parts.
- Brihadratha, the last Mauryan ruler was assassinated in 184 BC by his Brahmin Commander in Chief Pushyamitra Shunga, who established Shunga dynasty.

Some Important Rock Edicts

Major Rock Edicts	Content
● MRE I	Prohibition of animal sacrifice
● MRE II	Refers to Cholas Pandyas Satya putras and Kerala putra (Kingdom of South) and care for man and animals.
● MRE III	Uberality to Brahmins
● MRE IV	Non violence courtesy to relations
● MRE V	Appointment of Dharma Mahamatras
● MRE VII	Tolerance among all sects
● MRE VIII	Dhammayatras
● MRE IX	Charity, kinship Dhamma
● MRE XII	Religious tolerance
● MRE XIII	Kalinga war Bheri Ghosa to Dhamma Ghosa

CAUSES OF THE FALL OF THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

Brahmanical reaction, financial crisis, oppressive rule, weak successors, highly centralised administration, Pacific policy of Ashoka, partition of the empire are some of the probable causes of decline of Mauryan empire.

POST MAURYAN PERIOD

FOREIGN STATES

I. The Indo-Greek

- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was Menander (165-145 BC) or Milinda. He had his capital at Sakala (Modern Sialkot in Punjab). He invaded the Ganga Yamuna doab. He was converted to Buddhism by Nagsena. Menander and Nagasena's conversation were recorded in the book Milindapanho or the questions of Milinda.
- They were the first ruler in India to issue coins .
- The Sanskrit term for astrology Horshastra is derived from the Greek term Horoscope.

II. The Shakas or Scythians (1st-4th Century AD)

- The Greeks were followed by the Shaka.
- A king of Ujjain, who called himself Vikramaditya defeated Shakas. An era called the Vikram Samvat is recorded from the event of his victory over the Shaka *i.e.* 57 BC.
- The most famous Shaka ruler in India was Rudradaman (130-150 AD).
- He repaired the Sudarshan lake in the semi arid zone of Kathiawar.
- Junagarh inscription is related to Rudradaman I.

III. The Parthians

- The most famous Parthian king was **Gondophernes** in whose reign **St Thomas** came to India for the propagation of Christianity.

IV. The Kushans (1st-3rd Century AD)

- Kushans (Yuechis or Tochanians) replaced the Greeks and Parthians.
- The first Kushan dynasty was founded by Kujala Kadphises. Wim Kadphises (the 2nd ruler) issued gold coins in India. Kanishka founded the 2nd Kushan dynasty.

Kanishka (78-101 AD)

He was also known as Second Ashoka and was the most famous Kushan ruler. He had two capitals—Purushpur and Mathura.

- Kanishka started an era in 78 AD which is now known as Saka era and used by Government of India.
- He patronised the fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir. Where the doctrine of Mahayana form of the Buddhism was finalised.
- Kanishka patronised the following persons :

Ashwaghosha	Buddhacharita
Nagarjuna (Known as Einstein of India)	Madhyamik sutra

Vasumitra

Chairman of Fourth Buddhist Council
Charakhsambhita.

Charakh

- The last Kushan ruler was Vasudeva I. This shows that successors of Kanishka bore typical Indian name as Vasudeva.
- Kushans were first ruler in India to issue gold coins. Kanishka controlled the famous silk route in Central Asia.
- Kushan empire gave rise to Gandhara and Mathura Schools of Art. The famous headless erect statue of Kanishka shows artistic creations of Mathura School.
- Vatsyayana wrote Kamasutra in this period.

V. Shunga Dynasty (175-73 BC)

- Pushyamitra Shunga ruled from Vidisha (MP). He defeated Bactrian king Demetrius and conducted two Ashwamedha Yajnas (Chief priest Patanjali). He is considered to be prosecutor of Buddhism.
- However the Buddhist Stupa at Bharhut was built during his reign.
- The Greek Ambassador Heliodorus visited the court of fifth Shunga king Bhagabhadra and set up a pillar in honour of Lord Vasudeva near Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh).
- Shunga king Agnimitra was hero of Kalidas's Malvikagnimitram.
- The great Sanskrit Grammarian, Patanjali was patronised by them.
- Devbhuti was the last ruler.

VI. Kanva Dynasty (73-72 BC)

- Kanva was a minor dynasty founded by Vasudeva. Who killed the last Shunga king Devabhuti Capital at Pataliputra.
- The last ruler Susarman, was killed by Andhra King Simuka.

VII. The Satavahans Dynasty

- The founder of this empire was Simuka after the assassination of last Kanva King Susarman.
- Gautamiputra Satakarni (106-130 AD) was the greatest ruler of this dynasty.
- He assumed the title of Raja raja and Maharaja.
- His capital was at Paithan or Pratisthan on the bank of river Godavari in Aurangabad district.
- Pulumavi III was the last Satavahanas ruler succeeded by Ikshavakus in 3rd century BC.

Important Aspects of Satavahans

- They issued mostly lead coins (Apart from copper and bronze).
- Satavahanas were the first ruler to make land grants to Brahmins.

THE AGE OF GUPTA

- Their period is generally regarded as the Golden Age of Hinduism.
- Sri Gupta was the founder of Gupta Dynasty. Sri Gupta was followed by his son Ghatakacha and he was followed by his son Chandragupta. Both used the simple title of Maharaja.

I. Chandragupta I (319-335 AD)

- He married to Lichchhavi princess Kumara Devi and issued gold coins (Dinaras).
- He also started “The Gupta Era” from 320 AD, when he was coronated.

II. Samudragupta (335-380 AD)

- Son and successor of Chandragupta I.
- The inscription in the pillar of Allahabad (Prayag Prasasti) enumerated by his court poet Harisena informs about the people and the countries that were conquered by Samudragupta, because of his bravery and generalship he is called as the Napoleon of India.
- His authority over Java, Sumatra and Malaya island proves that he maintained a strong navy.
- Some of his coins represent him playing Veena.
- Allahabad pillar inscriptions mentioned the title Dharma Prachar Bandhu *i.e.* he was the upholder of Brahmanical religion.

III. Chandragupta II (380-415 AD)

- Samudragupta was succeeded by Ramagupta.
- Ramagupta was a coward. He surrendered his queen Dhruvadevi to Saka invader. He was also the only Gupta ruler to issue copper coins.
- Chandragupta II, the younger brother of Ramagupta, invaded the enemy’s camp killed the Saka ruler and occupied the throne and married Dhruvadevi.
- He married Kubernaga of naga dynasty and married his daughter Prabhavatigupta with Vakataka prince Rudrasena II.
- He issued silver coins (first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins) and adopted the title Vikramaditya in memory of his victory.
- The court of Chandragupta II at Ujjain was adorned by 9 scholars known as Navaratna including Kalidas and Amarsimha.
- Harisena was the court poet and minister.
- Fe Hien the Chinese pilgrim visited India at his time.
- He constructed Maharauli Pillar.

IV. Kumaragupta (413-455 AD)

- He founded Nalanda University which was invaded by Turko Mongol tribe Hunas. During the war with the Hunas Kumaragupta died.

V. Skandgupta (455-467 AD)

- He repulsed the ferocious Hunas attacks twice. The heroic feat entitled him the title Vikramaditya (Bhitari Pillar Inscription)
- During his period Sudarashana lake was repaired and its embankment were rebuilt.

Reasons of the fall of Gupta Empire

- The weak successor of Skandgupta could not check the growing Huna power.
- Rise of Feudatories in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

THE HARSHA PERIOD

PUSHYABHUTI/VARDHANA DYNASTY

- Harsha belonged to Pushyabhuti dynasty, which ruled from Thaneswar, Pushyabhuti were Feudatories of Guptas, but had assumed Independence after Hunas invasion.
- Prabhakar Vardhana (580-605 AD) was its first important ruler succeeded by Rajyavardhan (605-606 AD).

Harshvardhan (606-647 AD)

- Harsha, also known as Siladitya ascended the throne in 606 AD and Harsha made Kannauj, his capital.
- The early history of Harsha’s reign can be obtained from the book Harshacharita.
- He faced opposition from Shaivite King Shashanka of Gauda who cut off the Bodhi tree of Bodhgaya.
- Harsha was defeated in Deccan by Pulakesin II the Chalukyan king of Vatapi.
- The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang visited India during Harsha period.
- Harsha used to celebrate a solemn festival at Prayag after every five years.
- After the death of Harsha in 657 AD, the throne was usurped by his minister Arunashva.
- Harsha was a Shaivite
- His biography ‘Harshavardhan’ was written by Banabhatta.

Tripartite Struggle

The struggle for supremacy between the Palas, the Gurjara Partihara and the Rashtrakutas for the possession of Kannauj (Farrukhabad District UP) at the end of 8th century is known as the tripartite struggle in the history.

SANGAM AGE (FIRST-THIRD CENTURY AD)

- The land South of Krishna river was divided into three kingdoms

Kingdom	Capital	Emblem
Chola (Cholamandalam)	Uraiyur (famous for cotton trade and Puhar)	Tiger
Chera	Vanji or Karur and Tamil Nadu	Bow
Pandya	Madurai	Carp (fish)

Sangam Literature

- The word Sangam is associated with a college or assembly of Tamil Scholars and poets flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandyan Kings.
- The whole Sangam age is called Golden or Augustan Age. According to the Tamil sources—the father of Tamil literature is Agastaya.

TAMIL SANGAMS

Sangams	Venue	Chairman	Surviving Text
1st	Ten-Madurai	Agastaya	—
2nd	Kapatapuram	Agastaya (founder) Tolakap-piyar (later Chairman)	Tolakap-piyam (Tamil Grammar)
3rd	North Madurai	Nakkirar	Ettutogai Patinenki lakanakku Pattupattu

Important Sangam Works

- Tolkappiyam by Tokapiyar (Tamil Grammar).
- Tirukural or Kural by Tiruvalluvar is sometimes called “The Fifth Veda” or “Bible of the Tamil land”. It explains the doctrine of dharma, artha, kama and moksha.

Epics

- Silappadikaram the jewelled anklet by Ilango Adigal is an epic, deal with love story of Kovalan & Madhavi also called, Illiyad, of Tamil Poetry.
- Manimakkalai is one of the two greatest epics and a sequel to Silappadikaram written by Seetalai Sattannar.

THE CHOLAS

- The ancient capital of Cholas was Uraiyur.
- Vijayalaya revived the Chola empire in 9th century AD & took the title Narkesari.
- Aditya Chola defeated Pallava king Aparajit & captured Tondamandalam and took the title of Maduraikonda. He built a Shiva Temple at Tanjore.
- Rajaraja I (985-1014 AD) attacked over Sri Lanka. He permitted Shailendra king to build Churamani Buddha

Vihar at Nagpattnam. He himself built the Rajrajeshwar Temple (Saiva temple) of Tanjore. He is known as Rajaraja The Great in history.

Rajendra I (1014-1044 AD) conquered the complete Sri Lanka and made Anuradhapur as his capital.

- He defeated the Pala King Mahipala and took the title of Gangaikondacholam.
- He also built the Cholamandalam lake and the city of Gangaikonda, Cholapuram.
- Rajendra III was the last king of this dynasty.
- The most important feats of Chola administration was local self government. Each village was divided into 30 wards. Several committees were constituted under the Gram Sabha for various purposes.
- The dancing figure of Shiva called Nataraja was made during this period.
- The Chola style of architecture is called Dravida Style in the temples.

Pandaya Dynasty

The Pandya dynasty, also known as the Pandyas of Madurai, was a dynasty of south India, one of the three famous Tamil lineages, the other two being the Chola and the Chera.

Chera Dynasty

Their emblem was a bow. Two prominent capitals were Vanchi and Tyndis. Prominent rulers were Uthiyar Cheralathan, and Nedum Cheralathan.

Chola Temple

Temple	Location	Builder
Vrihadeshwar Temple	Tanjore	Rajaraja I
Koranganatha Temple	Srini Wasanllur	Parantak I
Airawteshwar	Darasuram	Rajajaya II
Kampahreshwar Temple	Tribhuvan	Kullotung III
Gangaikonda Cholapuram	Gangaikonda Cholapuram	Rajendra I

THE RAJPUTS

- Four of the Rajput clans are believed to have descended from a physical figure that arose out of a sacrificial fire pit near Mount Ab *i.e.* of Agnikula origin. They are—The Chauhans of East Rajasthan.
- Pratihara/Pariharas of South Rajasthan.
- Chalukyas/Solankis of Kathiawar
- Parmars/Pawars of Malwa.
- However the most accepted theory is that Rajputs were of foreign origin who came as conquerors and settled in West India.

Some Important Rajput Kingdoms

Rajput Kingdoms	Capital	Founder
Chauhan/Chahaman of Delhi-Ajmer	Delhi	Vasudeva
Pawar of Malwa	Ujjain, Dhar	Sri Harsha
Pratihara of Kannauj	Avanti Kannauj	Nagabhatta I
Rashtrakuta of Malkhand	Manyakheta	Dantidurga (Dantivarman II)
Chalukya/Solanki of Kathiawar	Aniha/vada	Mularaja I
Kalchuri/Haihaya of Chedi	Tripuri	Kokkala I
Chandela of Jejakabhukti	Khajuraho, Mahoba, Kalinjar	Nannuk Chandela
Gadhwal/Rathor of Kannauj	Kannauj	Chandradeva
Tomars of Delhi and Haryana	Dhillika	—
Guhilota/Sisodiya of Mewar	Chittor	Bappa Rawal Hammir I

Important Questions

- The university which became famous in the post-Guta Era was :
(A) Kanchi (B) Taxila
(C) Nalanda (D) Vallabhi
- Who among the following was the first to invade India ?
(A) Xerxes
(B) Alexander
(C) Darius-1
(D) Seleucus
- Which among the following is the oldest dynasty ?
(A) Maurya (B) Gupta
(C) Kushan (D) Kanva
- Who amongst the following also had the name "Devanama Priyadarsi"?
(A) Mauryan King Ashoka
(B) Mauryan King Chandra-gupta Maurya
(C) Gautam Buddha
(D) Bhagwan Mahavira
- Which was the only Indus site with an artificial brick dockyard ?
(A) Lothal
(B) Kalibangan
(C) Harappa
(D) Mohenjo Daro
- Ashoka called the Third Buddhist Council at :
(A) Pataliputra (B) Magadha
(C) Kalinga (D) Sarnath
- The word 'Veda' means :
(A) knowledge (B) wisdom
(C) skill (D) power
- In Mauryan dynasty Kalinga war took place in the year :
(A) 260 BC (B) 261 BC
(C) 126 BC (D) 232 BC
- Who started the Saka Era and when ?
(A) Kadphises in 58 BC
(B) Rudradaman I in AD 78
(C) Vikramaditya in 58 BC
(D) Kanishka in AD 78
- Alexander and Porus fought a battle at :
(A) Hydaspes (B) Jhelum
(C) Panipat (D) Tarain
- In Mohanjodaro, the largest building is :
(A) the great bath
(B) a granary
(C) the Pillared Hall
(D) a two storeyed house
- Who is called as the 'Second Ashoka'?
(A) Samudra Gupta
(B) Chandra Gupta Maurya
(C) Kanishka
(D) Harshavardhana
- "Harsha Charita" was written by :
(A) Kalidasa
(B) Banabhatta
(C) Valmiki
(D) Vyasa
- The Gupta king who assumed the title of 'Vikramaditya' was :
(A) Skandagupta
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Chandragupta-II
(D) Kumargupta
- Which one of the following is *not* a sect of Buddhism ?
(A) Mahayana
(B) Hinayana
(C) Digambar
(D) Theravad
- The capital of the ancient Chola kingdom was :
(A) Uraiyur
(B) Kaveripoompattinam
(C) Thanjavur
(D) Madurai
- Chinese travellers visited India primarily because :
(A) they were interested in Buddhism
(B) they were invited by the Indian kings
(C) they were interested to study Indian culture
(D) they were interested to stay in India
- The Earliest Settlements of Aryan tribes were at :
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Bengal
(C) Sapta Sindhu
(D) Delhi

19. Name the Greek Ambassador at the Mauryan court.
 (A) Alexander
 (B) Megasthenese
 (C) Plato
 (D) Aristotle
20. The author of 'Arthashastra' was a contemporary of :
 (A) Ashoka
 (B) Chandragupta Maurya
 (C) Samudragupta
 (D) Chandragupta Vikramaditya
21. Who was the greatest ruler of the Satavahanas ?
 (A) Satkarni I
 (B) Gautamiputra Satkarni
 (C) Simuka
 (D) Hala
22. Which of the Kushana ruler patronised Buddhism ?
 (A) Ashoka
 (B) Vikramaditya
 (C) Kanishka
 (D) Kautilya
23. Who among the following was ruler from the KushaD:\Vijay work\EM GS\pdfn dynasty ?
 (A) Vikramaditya
 (B) Danti Durga
 (C) Khadphises I
 (D) Pushyamitra
24. Vikram Shila University was founded by :
 (A) Chandra Gupta Maurya
 (B) Kanishka
 (C) Dharampala
 (D) Pulakesin II
25. Ashoka was a king of which dynasty ?
 (A) Pradyota
 (B) Haryanka
 (C) Maurya
 (D) Nanda

Answers

1. (C) 2. (C) 3. (A) 4. (A) 5. (A)
 6. (A) 7. (A) 8. (B) 9. (D) 10. (A)
 11. (B) 12. (C) 13. (B) 14. (C) 15. (C)
 16. (A) 17. (A) 18. (C) 19. (B) 20. (B)
 21. (B) 22. (C) 23. (C) 24. (C) 25. (C)

