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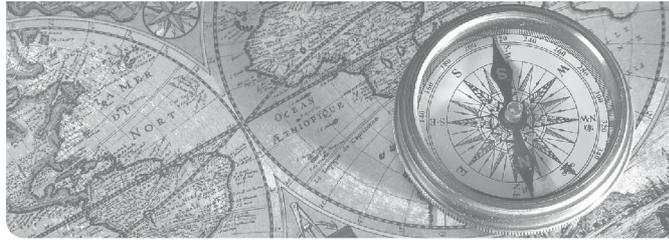
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# History

## Ancient History

### Historical Sources

- Sources that help in the reconstruction of history are called **Historical Sources**.
- Historical Sources of Ancient Indian History refer to the Physical objects, resources and spaces that define culture and traditions.
- Sources are significant in understanding our pasts.
- These are mainly of two types- **Archaeological** and **Literary Sources**.

### Archaeological Sources

- The material remains left by ancient people, which help to explain a good chronological sequence of material culture are called **Archaeological Sources**.
- The material remains of the past can be studied with the help of **Archaeology**.
- The archaeological sources can be subclassified into Monuments, Inscriptions, Artifacts, coins etc.
- **Monuments and Structures** Temples, Palaces, Forts and Stupas that showcase architectural advancements and cultural practices.
- **Inscriptions** Engravings on stone, metal or terracotta often in scripts like Brahmi or Kharosthi containing edicts, proclamations, commemorative texts.
- **Artifacts** Tools, Pottery, Seals, and sculptures unearthed during excavations that offer insights into daily life and trade.
- **Coins** Numismatic evidences reveal economic systems, political affiliations and artistic development.

- The study of inscriptions is known as **Epigraphy**.
- The study of the old writings used in inscriptions and other old records is called **Palaeography**.
- The study of coins is called **Numismatics**.
- The earliest inscriptions are found on **Harappan seals** (2500 BCE), but they remain undeciphered.
- Mauryan ruler **Ashoka** was the first to issue deciphered inscriptions, mostly in Prakrit using the Brahmi script, with some in Kharosthi, Aramaic and Greek for local understanding.
- **Brahmi script** was deciphered in 1837 by James Prinsep. It is written left-to-right, while **Kharosthi** is written right-to-left.
- **Ashokan inscriptions** provide insights into his religious and administrative policies.
- From the 1st century BCE, rulers began granting land to religious figures, starting with the Satavahanas.
- **Prashastis** are poetic inscriptions praising kings and patrons.

### Literary Sources

- Literary Sources are one of the ways to learn about ancient Indian history.
- The earliest compiled texts found dated around 400 CE.
- These texts were written on **sheep leather** and **wooden tablets**.
- Literary Sources divided into Religious Literature, Secular Literature and Foreign Accounts/ Travelogues.

## Religious Literature

### Brahmanic Literature

- It includes texts with religious themes such as the Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.
- The Vedas (1500 to 600 BCE) are the oldest Hindu scriptures and foundational religious texts.
- There are four Vedas : Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda.

#### SHRUTI AND SMRITI

- **Shruti** Sacred texts including the Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads, transmitted orally for centuries.
- **Smriti** Literally means "that which is remembered," encompassing post-Vedic Classical Sanskrit literature.

### The Epics and the Puranas

- **Mahabharata** of sage Vyasa, originally called Jaya Samhita with 8,800 verses, expanded to Bharata with 24,000 verses and finally to Mahabharata with 1,00,000 verses (*Satasahasri Samhita*).

- The Bhagavad Gita (700 verses) is part of this epic.
- **Ramayana** Composed by Maharshi Valmiki, it initially had 6,000 verses, expanded to 12,000 and finally to 24,000 verses.
- **The Puranas** (18 in number) Matsya Purana, Vayu Purana and Vishnu Purana provide valuable information on ancient Indian dynasties.

### Buddhist Literature

- **Tripitaka** (Three Baskets) The earliest Buddhist texts, written in Pali are divided into Sutta, Vinaya and Abhidhamma Pitaka.
- **Sutta Pitaka** Over 10,000 suttas about Buddha and his companions, and compiled during first Buddhist council (483 BCE).
- **Vinaya Pitaka** Monastic rules for monks and nuns (Book of Discipline).
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** Philosophy and doctrine of Buddhism. This pitaka was compiled during Third Buddhist Council (250 BCE).

#### MAJOR INSCRIPTIONS

**Inscription** Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave inscription)

**Place** Udayagiri hills, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

**Language** Prakrit/Brahmi

**Details** Kharavela (Kalinga)

It mentions public infrastructure, donations to monks and Brahmins, festivals, arts and a war with Satavahana king Satakarni.



#### Inscriptions

Junagarh Rock inscription of Rudradaman Girnar Rock

**Place** Girnar Hill, Gujarat

**Language** Sanskrit

**Details** Sudarshana Lake restorations and temple construction.

It mentions Pushyagupta, Chandragupta Maurya's governor, who built a dam on the lake in the 4th century BC.

**Inscription** Allahabad Pillar/ Prayag Prasasthi

**Place** Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

**Language** Sanskrit

**Details** Achievements of Samudragupta and described boundaries of Gupta Empire.

#### Inscriptions

Aihole Inscription

**Place** Meguti Jain Temple Aihole, Karnataka

**Language** Sanskrit, Kananda script

**Details** Chalukya king Pulakeshin II gives a dynastic genealogy.

**Details** Pulakeshin II victory over Harshavardhana and shifting of capital from Aihole to Badami.

#### Inscription

Nasik Inscription

**Place** Nasik Caves, Maharashtra

**Language** Sanskrit

#### Details

Achievement of Gutamiputra Satkarni composed by his mother Gautami Balasri.

Another Nasik Inscription by Ushavadata, viceroy of Western Kshatrap Ruler Nahapana.



- **Jataka** Non-religious texts detailing the Buddha's previous 550 births, offering insights into social and economic conditions.

#### Other Important Texts

- **Mahavamsa** Chronicles of royal dynasties of India and Sri Lanka.
- **Dipavamsa** Teachings of Buddha and close relation between India and Sri Lanka.
- **Buddhacharita** Epic by Asvaghosa on Buddha's life.
- **Lalitavistara** A revered Mahayana text about Buddha's biography.

#### Jaina Literature

- **Agamas** The canonical texts of Jainism originally compiled by Mahavira's disciples.
- The Agam Sutras are considered the religious scriptures of Jainism.
- **Tattvartha Sutra** Classical text in Sanskrit made up of hundreds of aphorism or sutras.
- **Mahapurana** A major Jain text largely composed by Acharya Jinasena.

#### Non-Religious Literature

##### Historical Writings

- **Ashtadhyayi** Written by Panini around 700 BCE, it is a key grammar work offering insights into language and its usage in contemporary society and sacred texts.
- **Arthashastra** Written by Kautilya, this text is essential for studying statecraft, political theory, economic policy, and military strategy.
- It also discusses the materialistic philosophy of Charvaka.
- **Mahabhasya** A 2nd-century BCE commentary on Panini's **Ashtadhyayi** by **Patanjali**, providing rules for Sanskrit grammar.
- Kalidasa's works, such as **Abhijnanashakuntalam**, **Ritusamhara**, and **Meghadutam**, reflect Gupta-period social and cultural life.

- **Rajatarangini** Written by Kalhana in the 12th century, and gives historical chronicles of the monarchies of Kashmir before the advent of Islam.
- **Harshacharita** Written by Banabhatta, it is a biography of King Harshavardhana, often exaggerating the ruler's achievements.
- **Sangam Literature** Written in Tamil, this literature is crucial for studying South Indian society from 300 BC to 300 CE.
- It includes poems and epics like **Silappadikaram** and **Manimekalai**, focusing on heroes and social life in the Tamil-speaking regions.

#### Foreign Travellers

##### Greco-Roman Sources

- **Herodotus** Greek historian, known as the 'Father of History' (440 BCE).
- **Diodorus** Greek historian, influenced by Megasthenes' accounts.
- **Megasthenes** Greek ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya, wrote **Indica** (fragments preserved).
- **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea** Describes trade routes to India (47 CE).

#### Exam Blue Print

- The Asokan Pillars were mostly inscribed in **Parkrit** language and were written in **Brahmi script**.
- **James Prinsep** is known as the 'Father of Indian Epigraphy'.
- **Megasthenes** Ambassador of Seleucus was the first foreign traveller to India.

- **Justin** Roman historian, detailed Alexander the Great's invasion of India.
- **Ptolemy** Greek geographer, described Indo-Roman trade (150 CE).
- **Pliny the Elder** Roman author, described India as a gold sink.

#### Chinese Scholars

- **Fa-Hien** Buddhist traveller, credited with the translation of several Sanskrit Buddhist texts (5th century CE).
- **Hiuen Tsang** Buddhist scholar, as traveled of India during reign of Harshavardhan (7th century CE).



- **Sung-Yun** Wrote about the Gandhara dynasty (518 CE).
- **I-Tsing** Buddhist traveller, described India's social and religious life (7th century).

**Arab Travellers**

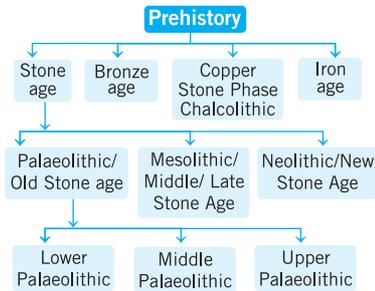
- **Sulaiman-al-Tajir** First Arab traveller to India (9th century), wrote about the Palas, Pratiharas, and Gurjaras.
- **Al-Masudi** Detailed the Rashtrakuta dynasty (941-943 CE).
- **Al-Biruni** Wrote *Kitab-ul-Hind*, offering extensive details on Indian culture, geography, philosophy and social life (11th century).
- **Marco Polo** Venetian explorer, wrote *Travels of Marco Polo* (1271-1295 CE).
- **Ibn Battuta** Wrote *Rihlah*, a famous travelogue (14th century CE).

**NCERT Insights**

**Punch marked coins** are the oldest coins discovered in the Indian subcontinent. Punch marked coins were primarily made of silver or silver based alloys all sometimes copper punch-marked coins were India's first documental coinage.

**Prehistory**

- The Earth is about 4.5 billion years old and humans have been around for only about 2,00,000 years.
- The early history of humans is divided into three parts: **prehistory**, **proto-history** and **history**.
- **Prehistory** is the time before writing was invented and studied.
- **Proto-history** is the period between prehistory and history when people knew writing, but their scripts are not yet understood.
  - For example, the Harappan script has not been deciphered yet, but Mesopotamian writings mention the Harappan civilisation.
  - The Vedic civilisation (1500-600 BCE) had no written records but relied on oral traditions.



- Father of Indian pre-history – **Robert Bruce Foote**
- In India, the **first hominid fossil** evidence came from the **Hathnora** village, near the banks of Narmada. The fossil was discovered by **Arun Sonakia** in 1982.

**Stone Age**

- Early man used only **stone tools** in this period. Thus, called as Stone Age.
- **Palaeo** means old and **Lithic** means Stone thus called Old Stone Age.
- It is the period of time that goes from the appearance of the first hominids on Earth.
- **Prehistory/Stone Age** divided into three main phases: Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age.

**Palaeolithic Age**

- The term coined by archaeologist **John Lubbock** in 1865.
- Marked by the first stone tools made of **quartzite** (Quartzite Men).
- Developed during the Pleistocene (Ice Age).
- Divided into three periods based on stone tools and climate changes: **Lower Palaeolithic**, **Middle Palaeolithic** and **Upper Palaeolithic**.
- They had no knowledge of pottery, agriculture, or metal use.

**Lower Palaeolithic Age**

- (up to 1,00,000 BCE)
- Earliest phase of the Old Stone Age.
- Tools used **Handaxes**, cleavers, choppers and chopping tools.
- Food gatherers relied on **foraging**, **hunting** and **fishing**.

- No evidence of burials.
- Shelters made from tree branches, leaves and stones.

#### Middle Palaeolithic Age

(1,00,000–40,000 BCE)

- Tools used made from flakes and crude pebble industry; dominant tools were blades, points and borers.
- The people focused on hunting, food gathering and fishing.
- **Belan Valley** (Uttar Pradesh) is known for rich finds of stone tools and animal fossils, including cattle and deer.

#### Upper Palaeolithic Age

(40,000–10,000 BCE)

- Tools used characterised by burins, scrapers and flint industry.
- Appearance of modern man *Homo sapiens*.
- In **Belan Valley** (Uttar Pradesh) Animal remains show exploitation of goats, sheep, and cattle.
- The period coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age, with warmer and less humid climate.

#### Mesolithic Age (10,000–4000 BCE)

- It is a transitional phase between the **Palaeolithic** and **Neolithic** Ages.
- The culture belongs to Holocene era.
- **Microliths** (small, sharp stone tools) were the distinctive tools used.
- It was first discovered in 1867 by **Carlyle** in Vindhyan Rock Shelters.
- Initially people focused on **hunting**, fishing and food gathering.
- Later shifted to domesticating animals and cultivating plants, beginning the foundation of agriculture.
- Clothes were made from **animal skin**.
- **Bows** and **arrows** were introduced for hunting.

#### Neolithic Age (4000–1000 BCE)

- It is the last phase of the Stone Age, also known as the **New Stone Age**.
- The term was coined by **Sir John Lubbock** in 1865. Use of polished **stone tools** were abundant.

- It marked the beginning of **crop cultivation**.
- The **wheel** was invented and fire was discovered during this period.
- Cultivated crops like ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat and barley.
- Cattle, sheep and goats were domesticated.
- People lived in rectangular or circular mud and reed houses.
- **Pottery** was first appeared for food storage and cooking, classified into grey ware, black-furnished ware and mat-impressed ware.
- Surplus food production in the period led to the development of early urban cultures.

#### PREHISTORIC ART AND ROCK PAINTINGS

Rock shelters in India, particularly from the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, often feature rock paintings depicting animals and scenes involving both humans and animals. They delineate the lifestyle of the prehistoric people.

##### Key Sites

- 1 **Bhimbetka** (Vindhya Range, MP) Known for early cave paintings depicting animals and human figures.



- 2 **Lakha Juar** (Vindhya Range, MP) Features paintings of animals and human-animal interaction.

- 3 **Pachmarhi** (Satpura, MP) Rock shelters with paintings of animals and hunting scenes.

- 4 **Adamgarh** (Satpura, MP) Displays Mesolithic paintings of hunting and animal figures.



**SOME IMPORTANT STONE AGE SITES IN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT**

Site	State	Period	Characteristics
Bori	Maharashtra	Lower Palaeolithic	Appearance of human beings in India around 1.4 million years ago. One of the earliest lower palaeolithic sites in India.
Didwana	Rajasthan	Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic phase	Tools belonging to three phases of Palaeolithic found.
Isampur	Maharashtra	Palaeolithic	Paleolithic rock shelters. Revealed stone tools and traces of ancient hearths
Bhimbetka Caves	Madhya Pradesh	Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic to times of modern man	Cave Paintings have been found recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Mesolithic	Earliest evidence for the domestication of animals in the Indian part of the subcontinent: 5000 BCE.
Bagor	Rajasthan	Mesolithic	Earliest evidence for the domestication of animals and distinctive microlithic industry
Mehrgarh	Pakistan	Neolithic	One of the earliest known sites in Indian Subcontinent showing evidence of farming and herding.
Burzahom	Jammu and Kashmir	Neolithic	Dogs were buried with their masters.
Gufkral	Jammu and Kashmir	Neolithic	One of the oldest caves in the region dating back to around 3000 BCE.

**Chalcolithic Cultures**  
(3000 BCE-500 BCE)

- The Neolithic period ended with the use of metals. **Copper** was the first metal used and some cultures used both copper and stone tools. These cultures are called Chalcolithic, meaning the **Copper-Stone Age**.
- The Chalcolithic phase came before the Harappan (Bronze Age) period, but in some parts of India, it followed the Harappan culture.
- Chalcolithic people mainly used **stone and copper tools**, but they also used low-quality bronze and even iron.
- They lived in rural communities spread across hilly areas and near rivers.

- Chalcolithic settlements in India are found in South-Eastern Rajasthan, Western Madhya Pradesh, Western Maharashtra and southern and eastern India.
- Examples of Chalcolithic cultures include the **Jorwe**, **Kayastha** and **Malwa** cultures.

**Exam Blue Print**

- **Sulaiman** and **Kirthar hills** are some of the areas where humans first began to grow crops like wheat and barley 8000 years ago.
- The first evidence of **Cotton** in the Neolithic period was found in **Mehrgarh**.
- Middle Palaeolithic culture in India is called **Nevasian** (flake tools obtained from Pravara, Nevasa).

### 👁️ NCERT Insights

**Neolithic Revolution** The Neolithic Revolution, also known as first agricultural revolution was a fundamental transformation in human history, occurring around 10,000 BCE.

It marked the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to settled agricultural communities.

*Some effects of the revolution were*

- Mass establishment of permanent settlements.
- Domestication of plants and animals.
- Advancements in tools for farming, war and art.

## Harappan Civilisation

- Indus Valley Civilisation was first coined by **John Marshall** as it flourished along the Indus River.
- Later many sites beyond the **Indus River** were found, then the name Harappan Civilisation was used according to a convention.
- **Harappa** was the first site to be discovered.
- The civilisation forms part of the proto-history of India and belongs to **Bronze age**.
- The Civilisation, appeared in the North-Western part of India and Pakistan in the third millennium BCE.
- This civilisation appeared gradually with the beginnings of the Neolithic villages in the region dating back to about 7000 BCE at the **Mehrgarh** (Balochistan, Pakistan).
- It represents the first phase of urbanisation in India.
- According to scholars Harappa-Ghaggar-Mohenjodaro axis represents the heartland of the civilisation.

2024 marked 100 years since the announcement of the discovery of the civilisation by **John Marshall**.

## Chronology and Phases

The civilisation can be dated between 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE with the help of Radio carbon dating.

### 1 Early Harappan Phase

**Period** (3300- 2600 BCE)

**Sites** Harappa, Kot Diji, Amri

**Features** Fortification, grid planning, development of incipient trade network and craft specialisation.

### 2 Transitional Phase

**Period** (3300- 2600 BCE)

**Sites** Kunal, Dholavira, Harappa

**Features** Increasing level of craft specialisation, organised irrigation system, partly standardised collection of pottery designs and forms.

### 3 Mature Harappan Phase

**Period** (2600- 1800 BCE)

**Sites** Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Kalibangan, Dholavira.

**Features** Full scale urbanisation, emergence of writing and uniformity in artefacts, full fledged trade.

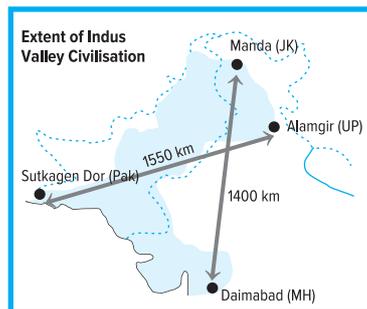
### 4 Late Harappan Phase

**Period** (Post 1800-1500/ 1300 BCE)

**Sites** Cemetery H at Harappa, Siswal, Rojdi, Rangpur.

**Features** Decline and abandonment of some sites, rise of pastoral mode.

## Geographical Extent



- **Harappa** was first visited by **Charles Mason** (British East India Company officer and explorer) in 1826.



- Charles Mason (James Lewis) was the first to document about the ruins of Harappa.
- **Alexander Cunningham** visited the site in 1853, 1856 and 1875. In 1875 he published a report on Harappan seals.
- Sir John Marshall took over as the Director General of ASI and initiated research at Harappa Site.
- **Daya Ram Sahni** excavated Harappa in 1921-22 and Rakhal Das Banerjee excavated Mohenjodaro in 1922.
- In 1924 **John Marshall** announced the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

### Basic Features of Harappan Civilisation

#### Polity

- A central authority might have helped make things like pottery, seals, weights, bricks, writing and labour more uniform.
- Some archaeologists think there were no rulers and everyone had the same status.
- Others believe there were several leaders, with each city like **Mohenjodaro** and **Harappa** having its own.
- Some suggest that a class of merchants might have been rulers.

#### Town Planning and Structures

- Harappan civilisation was distinguished by its system of **civic planning**.
- Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, Lothal, Surkotada, Kalibangan, Banawali and Rakhigarhi were the major cities in the Harappan period.



- In most cases, the cities were divided into two parts; upper and lower parts.

#### 1 Citadel/Acropolis/Raised Part

- Occupied a smaller area and was frequently situated west of the city.
- It contained public buildings, granaries and essential workshops.

#### 2 Lower Part

The common citizenry lived and carried on their professional lives in this part of the city.

#### Economy

- **Agriculture** was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans.
- The agricultural surplus was an important stimulus for a number of developments.
- Terracotta models of ploughs were found at **Cholistan** and **Banawali**.
- The ploughed field at **Kalibangan** had two sets of furrows at right angles, suggesting that two different crops (double cropping system) were grown together.
- Evidence of rice cultivation in **Lothal** (1800 BCE) and **Rangpur** (Gujarat).
- Bull representations on seals and terracotta sculptures indicate that they were used for ploughing.
- Wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame were found in various Harappan sites. Millets are found from sites in Gujarat.
- **Pastoralism** was also practised by the Harappans.
- The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They domesticated oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep, fowl, pigs, dogs, cats, asses and camels. However, humped bulls were particularly preferred.
- Fish and birds were part of the diet.
- Evidence has been found of boar, deer and gharial.
- **Horse** was not known to them.
- **Elephants** and **Rhinoceros** were known but the lion was unknown.

#### Evidence of Trade

- The Harappan seals and materials have been found in **Sumerian** (in Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and

Mesopotamian sites and Harappans imitated some cosmetics used by the urban people of Mesopotamia.

- **Meluha** (land of seafarers in Mesopotamian text), referring to the Indus region.
- The Mesopotamian texts mention two intermediate trading stations, **Dilmun** (Bahrain) and **Makan** (Makran coast), which lay between Mesopotamia and Meluha.
- The discovery of a dockyard in the port city of Lothal suggests the long-distance trade of the Harappans.
- **Means of transport** included bullock carts and boats.

Imports	From
Gold	Kolar (Karnataka), Afghanistan, Persia (Iran)
Silver	Afghanistan, Persia (Iran), South India
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan), Baluchistan
Tin	Afghanistan, Central Asia
Lapis Lazuli and Sapphire	Badak-Shan (Afghanistan)
Jade	Central Asia
Steatite	Shaher-i-Sokhta, Kirthar hills
Turquoise	Iran
Amethyst	Maharashtra

### Society

- The society was **predominantly urban**, mainly comprising the middle classes.
- Three distinct social groups were rulers, wealthy merchants and poor labourers.

- They buried the dead.
- Burials were made elaborately and evidence of cremation is also reported.
- The Harappan burials have pottery, ornaments, jewellery, copper mirrors and beads. These suggest their belief in an afterlife.

### Religion

- It was a **secular civilisation** and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
- No temples were found; worship was inferred from statues and figurines.
- Harappans believed in **animal and nature worship**.
- **Amulets** have been found in large numbers, probably to ward off ghosts and evil forces.

### Arts and Crafts

- Ornaments of gold, silver, ivory, copper, Bronze and precious stones were found.
- Potter's Wheel was in use.
- Red or Black Pottery was used.
- Seal engravings were abundant.
- **Bronze statues** made using Lost wax technique. e.g., Dancing Girl (devadasi)

### Language and Script

- **Boustrophendon** is name of Indus script. It is written from right to left and then left to right.
- It was not alphabetical (where each sign stands for a vowel or a consonant), as it had just too many pictographs.

### Some Important Sites

#### Harappa (River Ravi)

**Pakistan 1921**  
First archaeological site of the Indus Valley civilisation.  
Two rows of six Granaries, Male torso (Red sandstone), Stone symbols of Lingam and Yoni, Mother Goddess and Dice, Mother goddess.



Harappa, Pakistan

#### Mohenjodaro (River Indus)

**Pakistan 1922**  
Largest site of Indus Civilisation, Post cremation burial, Great Granary, Great Bath (largest building), Seal with Pashupati and Mother Goddess, Bronze statue of the Dancing Girl, Bronze Buffalo, Bearded Man. Multi-pillared Assembly Hall.

- The oldest script in the Indian subcontinent, written from right to left.
- Harappans had close trade relations with **Mesopotamian**.
- The **Cuneiform Inscriptions** mention: Trade contact between Mesopotamia and Harappans Civilisation.

### Exam Blue Print

- The oldest civilisation in the world is **Mesopotamian Civilisation**.
- **Lothal** and **Harappa** were two major Indus valley cities that had trade relations with West Asia.
- The most distinctive artefact of the Harappan and Indus Valley Civilisation are the **Harappan seals**.

### End of the Civilisation

The decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation around 1900 BCE.

Decline Theory	Proponent
External Aggression	Wheeler, Piggot and Gordon Childe Mortimer Wheeler
Epidemic	KVR Kennedy
Flood (e.g., Mohenjodaro)	Marshall, SR Rao, Maickey
The Destruction due to change in course of River Ghaggar	GF Hales
Deforestation, Scarcity of Resources, Ecological Imbalances	Fairservis
Climatic change	Aurel Stein and AN Ghosh

- As a result, people moved south and east, contributing to the rise of new cultures.

### NCERT Insight

#### Pashupati Seal

- Most famous Harappan seal.
- Made up of steatite.
- Depicts a cross-legged deity surrounded by animals.
- Five animals are surrounding the male deity.
- **Upper Right** Elephant and Tiger
- **Upper Left** Rhinoceros and Buffalo
- Two deer at the bottom.

### Vedic Age

- Vedic Age lasted from 1500 to 600 BC in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age of the history of India.
- It is named after the Vedas, a collection of sacred texts composed during this time.
- This era is split into the Early Vedic (1500-1000 BC) and Later Vedic Periods (1000-600 BCE).
- The composers of Vedic texts described themselves as **Aryans**.

### Original Homeland of Aryans

Proponent	Theory
William Jones	Migration from Europe
Max Muller and E. Meyer Herzfeld	Central Asian Theory
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Arctic Region Theory
Swami Dayanand Saraswati	Tibet Theory
Dr. Sampurnanad and AC Das	Indian Theory

#### Chanhudaro (River Indus)

##### Pakistan 1925

Called as Lancashire of India Craft production, including bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making, only City without a citadel.

#### Lothal (River Bhogava)

##### Sabarmati Gujarat 1954

Artificial Dockyard, Rice husks Divided into two parts-North-Market Zone and South-industrial zone, Teracotta figurine of Horse and Ship, Double burial, Persian/Iranian Seal, Game similar to modern day chess.

#### Kalibangan (River Ghaggar)

##### Rajasthan 1951

Ploughed field, Bangle factory, Bones of camel, 70 fire altars and Cosmopolitan Zone. They used dried bricks Mesopotamian Seal.



## Vedic Literature

- The word Veda is derived from the Sanskrit root **vid** which means **to know**. Veda means knowledge.
- Vedic literature consists of **Four Vedas** Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda.
- **Brahmanas** Prose texts explaining mantras and sacrificial rituals.
- **Aranyakas** Forest treatises.
- **Upanishads** Philosophical appendices to the Brahmanas, also called Vedanta ("end of the Veda").
- Originally oral, the Vedas were later transcribed, with the oldest manuscript dating to the 11th century.

## Rig Veda

- It is the oldest surviving text which mentions the concept of the Origin of the Universe.
- It is divided into **10 Mandals** (books):
  - Books II to VII constitute the earliest sections.
  - Books I and X were later additions, incorporating the Purushasukta that explains the concept of the four varnas.
  - Book VIII-mainly related to **Kanva's** family.
  - Book IX- compilation of **Soma hymns**.
  - It is a collection of **hymns** and **prayers** dedicated to various deities and natural forces such as Agni, Indra, Mitra and Varuna, presented by different families of poets or sages (family books).

- Tradition of Vedic chanting was included in the intangible heritage list of **UNESCO**.

## Yajur Veda

- Contains sacrifices and rituals, composed in prose and poetry.
- It is further divided into: Shukla Yajur Veda/White Yajur Veda/Vajasaneya (contains only the Mantras).
- It contains the **Madhyandina** and **Kanva** recensions.
- Krishna Yajur Veda/Black Yajur Veda (contains both mantras and prose explanations/ commentary).

## Sama Veda

- Earliest book on music (Sama means melody; ragas and raginis).
- These are poetic texts derived from Rig Veda.
- It contains the famous **Dhrupada raga**.

## Atharva Veda

- It contains magic, charms, omens, agriculture, industry/craft, cattle rearing, cure for diseases.
- The first three Vedas are together called **Trayi**.

## Brahmanas

- They describe the rules for the performance of sacrificial ceremonies and explain the **hymns** of the **Vedas**.
- Each Veda has several **Brahmanas** attached to it.
- The most important and exhaustive Brahmana is the **Satapatha Brahmana** (attached to the Yajur Veda).

### Banawali (River Rangoi)

Haryana 1964

Toy Plough, Barley Grains, Lapis Lazuli, Grid pattern of town not followed Lack of systematic drainage system Only city with Radial streets.

### Dholavira (River Luni)

Gujarat 1967

UNESCO World Heritage Site, Largest Harappan Inscription, Unique Water Harvesting System and giant Reservoirs, Only city with three divisions of city, A large Stadium Stone was used in construction.

### Kot DIJI (River Indus)

Pakistan 1955

The fortification was made of mud bricks and stone. 'Wellfired red and buff wares' pottery is found with common motifs like horned deity, pipal leaves and fish scales executed in black.

### Rakhigarhi (River Ghaggar)

Haryana 1997

Largest Indian site of Indus Civilisation Shows all three phases of Harappa Culture.





## Aranyakas

- They are called the **forest books** as they were written mainly by hermits living in the forests for their pupils. They oppose sacrifice. They were composed during the later Vedic period.
- They focus on meditation and philosophically interpret rituals.

## Upanishads

- The literal meaning of **Upanishad** is **to sit near someone**.
- They are records of philosophical dialogues and discourses between teachers (Gurus) and students (Shishyas).
- There are **108 Upanishads**, of which 13 are the most prominent.
- **Mundakopanishad**, the largest of all Upanishads, mentioned **Satyamev Jayate**.
- **Chhandogya Upanishad** - Refers to the first three ashrams.

## Vedanta

- These are the philosophical and spiritual traditions that evolved from the Upanishads.
- These are the concluding part of the Vedas and signifies the final objective of the Vedas.
- It criticises sacrifices and rituals, representing the concluding phase of the **Vedic era**.

## Vedanga

- They translate to **limbs of the Vedas**.
- Supplementary texts to aid in proper recitation and comprehension of the Vedas.
- They are not classified as **Shruti** since they are considered to be of human origin, not revealed by Gods.
- They are in the form of **Sutra** or condensed statements conveying various ideas.
- These are 6 in number
  - **Siksha** Pronunciation of the words; education.
  - **Nirukta** Origin of the words.
  - **Chhanda** Metrics used in Sanskrit verses.
  - **Jyotish** Astrology
  - **Vyakaran** Sanskrit grammar.
  - **Kalpa** Knowledge of rituals (Dharma sutras).

## Early Vedic Period (1500–1000 BCE)

- Rig Veda is the only source mainly confined to the Indus region, referred to as Saptasindhu or the land of seven rivers in the Rig Veda.

## Four Vedas



### Rig Veda

**Upaveda** Ayurveda  
**Brahmana** Aitareya, Kaushitiki/ Sankhyana  
**Upanishad** Aitareya, Kaushitiki  
**Aranyakas** Aitareya, Kaushitiki  
**Mantras** 1028

### Sama Veda

**Upaveda** Gandharva Veda (Music)  
**Brahmana** Panchvimsh/ Tandy, Jaiminiya  
**Upanishad** Kena, Chandogya  
**Aranyakas** Jaiminiya, Chandogya  
**Mantras** 1810

### Atharva Veda

**Upaveda** Sthapatya Veda/ Shilp Veda (Architecture)  
**Brahmana** Gopatha  
**Upanishad** Mandukya, Mundaka Prashan  
**Aranyakas** No surviving Aranyaka  
**Mantras** 6000

### Yajur Veda

**Upaveda** Dhanurveda (Warfare)  
**Brahmana** Taittiriya, Shatapatha  
**Upanishad** Taittiriya, Kathalsa, Brihadaranyaka  
**Aranyakas** Taittiriya  
**Mantras** 1875

- Seven Rivers are Jhelum (Vatista), Beas (Vipasa), Chenab (Askini), Ravi (Purushni), Sutlej (Sutudri), Saraswati (Ghaggar or Hakra), Indus (Sindhu).

### Polity

- The Early Vedic people had tribal identity.
- Kula (family) was the basis of organisation.
- **Kula** (Family unit) -**Grama** (Village unit)-**Vis** (Group of villages) -**Jana** (Tribe unit) -**Rashtra** (Nation or state) are political units of the period.
- Kula, smallest unit headed by **Kulapa** or **Grihapati**.
- Grama headed by **Gramani**.
- Vis headed by **Vispati**.
- Jana headed by Rajan or Tribal Chief.
- Monarchical and non-monarchical polities were found.
- Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha and Gana assemblies were there.
  - **Sabha** Assembly of elders the elites.
  - **Samiti** Assembly of people.
  - **Vidatha** Assembly of tribe.
  - **Gana** Probably a clan organisation.
- Sabha and Samiti were called two daughters of Prajapathi.
- Women could attend the sabha and **vidatha**.
- Notable women poets were Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa and Lopamudra.

### Society

- Comprised of four varnas-Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Shudra.
- Unity of society was **family**.
- Patriarchal and monogamous.
- Cow was **Aghanya** i.e. not to be killed.

### Economy

- Land ownership, as a concept of private property, didn't exist.
- **Cow** was the important form of wealth.
- **Mixed Economy** Pastoralism and Agriculture.
- **Cows** and gold ornaments had fixed value.

### Religion

- Worshipped nature and its powers.
- **Indra, Agni, Varuna** and **Soma** were important deities. Important Female deities: **Aditi** and **Ushus**.
- This period saw recognition of various deities, demigods and other spiritual entities in their religious observances.
- **Dasarajanya War** (Battle of Ten Kings) Fought on the banks of Ravi (Parushni).
- **Sudas** (son of Divodasa ) and **Bharata** king of Tritsu family won over alliance of Ten Tribes.
- Battle's originated due to dispute between **Vashista** (Priest of Bharata clan) and **Visvamitra** (Priest of the alliance).

### Later Vedic Period (1000–600 BCE)

- 10th Mandala of the **Rig Veda Samhita** and the **Sama**, the **Yajur** and the Atharva Veda Samhitas are the other Vedic texts are the sources.



- Some of Vedic tribes had moved from the **Sapta Sindhava** region to the Upper-Ganga valley and other adjacent regions.
- Centre of culture now shifted from **Saraswati** to **Ganges**.

### Exam Blue Print

- **Bali** was a voluntary contribution (tax) made on special occasion to the Rajan.
- **Sulka** and **Bhaga** were other two taxes levied by the Rajan.
- **Ratnin** were group of officers who assisted the king.
- **Jana** and **Vish** were the two terms used to describe people or community as a whole.



## Polity

- Tribal Assemblies lost importance.
- Large kingdoms and stately cities made their appearance in the Later Vedic period.
- Janapada emerged in later Vedic age.
- Women were not allowed to attend Vidatha.
- Women like **Gargi** and **Maitreyi** excelled in the domain of knowledge; Gargi outwitted Yajnavalkya in a philosophical discourse.

## Society

- Society of Later Vedic period underwent in a great change.
- The caste system crawled into it.
- Society is marked by inequality.
- Even the same clan was divided into groups, some of which could have had a high status in society and some have low status.
- Daughters were even labelled as a **source of sorrow**.
- Practices of **Sati and Child Marriage** were prevalent.

### NCERT Insights

#### Sutras and Sastras

- **Sutras** Ritual literature on moral values from the Post-Vedic period (600 BCE onwards).
- Shrautasutras records.
- Duties of lower varnas serving the upper varnas.
- Grand public sacrifices performed by rulers.
- **Grihyasutras** Prescribe domestic rituals such as :
  - Birth ceremonies.
  - Naming ceremonies.
  - Sacred thread ceremonies.
  - Marriages. – Funerals.
- **Dharmashastras** Ancient law books prescribing duties for various social groups. They are defined codes of conduct for crimes such as theft, murder, and adultery.

## Religion

- During the Later Vedic period religions beliefs underwent a significant change. This Period saw the arrival of New Gods and Goddesses.
- Rajasuya sacrifice, Ashvamedha, and Vajapeya became prevalent.
- **Prajapati** became Supreme God.
- **Vishnu** became the preserver and protector of the people.
- **Rudra** (the god of rituals).
- **Pushan**, responsible for the well being of cattle became the God of Shudras.

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## ECONOMY

Growth of agriculture due to availability of vast tracts of fertile alluvial lands of the **Ganga-Yamuna Doab** and the middle-Ganga valley.

Continued importance of pastoralism. The introduction of rice as the staple diet of the people.

The Vedic texts mention **Vrihi**, **Tandula** and **Sali**, all denoting rice.

New occupational groups emerged. Guilds were formed by merchants.

The Vaishyas were mainly involved in commerce and worked as traders and **money lenders**.

The beginning of **Urbanisation** led to an increase in trade and commerce.

The word **nagar** was used in the sense of a town in **Taittiriya Aranyaka**.

The shudras, the last varna were assigned to serve the other varnas and worked under other varnas.

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## Jainism and Buddhism

- Numerous religious sects arose in the middle Gangetic plains in the 6th century BCE.
- Of these sects, Jainism and Buddhism were the most important and emerged as the most potent religious reform movements.

### Reason for growth of Jainism and Buddhism

- Vedic religion became too complex and exploitative.
- Response to the Kshatriya opposition against the dominance of Brahmin rituals.
- The Vedic practise of killing cattle indiscriminately in sacrifices stood in the way of the progress of the new agricultural economy, which required the use of cattle.



- These religions received support from the Vaisya community as they did not attach any importance to the existing varna system.

## Jainism

- Jainism or Jaina is derived from the word 'Jina', which means conqueror.
- Jain monks were also known as Nirgranthas (free from bonds).
- Risabhath was the 1st Tirthankara and founder of the sect.
- Rishabanath is considered as an incarnation of Narayana in Vishnu Purana and Bhagavat Purana.
- The names of Rishabha and Arishtanemi are mentioned in the Rig Veda.

- The 23rd Tirthankara Parswanath was the prince of Benares and abandoned the throne.
- The Yajur Veda references three Tirthankaras: Rishabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.
- Mahavira was the last or 24th Tirthankara of Jainism and is considered its most influential figure.

### Vardhamana Mahavira

- Vardhamana Mahavira (referred to as Nigantha Nataputta in Buddhist texts) was born in 599 BCE in Kundagrama near Vaishali (identical to Basarh), North Bihar.
- His father, Siddhartha, was the chief of the Jnatrika clan, and his mother, Trishala, was a Lichchavi princess.
- Trishala was the sister of Chetaka, the king of Vaishali.
- Mahavira was related to Bimbisara. Bimbisara married Chetak's daughter.
- Mahavira was married to Yashoda and had a daughter Anonja Priyadarshini. Her husband Jamali was the first disciple of Mahavira.
- Mahavira left worldly life at the age of 30 to become an ascetic after the death of his father.
- He practised severe austerity and discarded his garments.
- In the 13th year of his wandering, at the age of 42, Vardhamana attained enlightenment or Kaivalya (complete knowledge/intellect) under a sal tree at Jambhikagrama on the bank of river Rijupalika.
- Through Kaivalya, he conquered misery and happiness.
- He then became a Tirthankara and came to be called a Jina or Mahavira (the Great Conqueror) and his followers were known as Jaina.





- He also came to be known as **Kevalin** (perfect learned), **Jitendra** (one who conquered his senses), **Nigrantha** (free from all bonds), **Arhat** (blessed one).
- At Vipulachala mountain in Rajgriha, Mahavir Swami delivered his first sermon (Divya Dhvani) to his 11 disciples known as **Gandharas/Gandharavas**.
- He died at the age of 72 in 527 BCE at **Pavapuri**, near Rajgir.
- Sudharma is the only disciple among the 11 who survived after the death of Mahavira.

### Doctrines of Jainism

- **Right faith (Samyag-Darshana)** It is the belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira.
- **Right knowledge (Samyag-Jnana)** It is the acceptance of the theory that there is no God and the world has existed without a creator, and all objects possess a soul.
- **Right conduct (Samyag-Mahavrata)** It refers to the observance of the five great vows.

#### FIVE GREAT VOWS (PANCHA-MAHAVRATA OF MONKS)

1. Not to kill or injure (Ahimsa)
2. Not to steal (Asteya)
3. Not to lie (Satya)
4. Not to possess property (Aparigraha)
5. Celibacy (Brahmacharya)

Mahavira introduced the fifth vow in Jainism; the other four were inherited from previous teachers.

### Tenets of Jainism

- Householders follow **anuvrata** (milder vows), while monks practice stricter virtues.
- Mahavira rejected the authority of the Vedas.
- Jainism denies the existence of a **supreme God**.
- **Karma** shapes the cycle of birth and rebirth in Jainism.

- The world is eternal, undergoing cycles of progress and decline governed by **eternal laws**.
- Liberation from karma requires asceticism and penance, achievable only through monastic life.
- The **Agamas** are the sacred texts of Jain philosophy.

#### Exam Blue Print

- **Basadis** are Jaina monastic establishment.
- **Pudgalarefers** to aggregates of atoms that have form, colour, taste and smell, and can be touched and felt.
- Buddhist texts mention the term 'Kutagarashala' (a hut with a pointed roof or groves) where travelling mendicants halted. It was a place of intellectual debate and discussion.
- Jainism promotes equality, rejecting social hierarchies based on birth and the **Varna system**.
- Women can join the monastic order but cannot attain salvation directly; they accumulate merit to be reborn as men.
- Rulers of the Magadh Empire (Bimbisara, Ajatasatru, Samprati, Chandragupta Maurya, Bindusara) supported Jainism, as did **Kharavela** of Kalinga (Hathigumpha inscription).
- Jainism also received patronage from King **Kakusthavarma** (Kadamba), **Amoghavarsha** (Rashtrakuta), **Shivamara I** and **Butuga II** (Ganga) and **Kumarapala** (Chalukya).

### Philosophies of Jainism

- Jainism advocates dualism, distinguishing between the soul (jiva) and **matter** (ajiva).
- The interaction between them generates **karma** (action), leading to an endless cycle of birth and rebirth.
- Liberation from karma requires strict austerities and self-mortification.
- While recognising the soul, Jainism rejects the concept of an ultimate, universal soul.

- It emphasises the Doctrine of Relativity of Knowledge and Judgements, asserting that knowledge and judgements are contextual and relative.
- Knowledge in Jainism is categorised into two types:
  - **Mediate Knowledge (Paroksa)** Gained through sensory organs.
  - **Immediate Knowledge (Aparoksa)** Attained without the use of sensory organs.
- Immediate knowledge is further classified into:
  - **Avadhi** Clairvoyance (limited knowledge).
  - **Manahpariyaya** Telepathy (direct knowledge of other's thoughts).
  - **Kevala** Omniscience (absolute knowledge).
- Mediate knowledge is divided into:
  - **Mati** Sensory-based understanding.
  - **Shruta** Knowledge obtained from authoritative sources.
- Jainism upholds the **Philosophy of Syadavada**, which states that knowledge is partial and relative, dependent on specific perspectives and contexts.
- It also emphasises the **Philosophy of Anekantavada** (theory of plurality), asserting that ultimate truth and reality are complex and multifaceted, with multiple perspectives and dimensions.

#### Jain Council

##### 1 First Jain Council

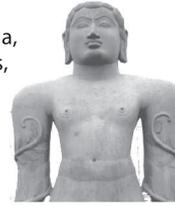
- Held at Patliputra in 300 BCE
- Presided over by **Sthulbhadra**.
- Compilation of 12 Angas (limbs).

##### 2 Second Jain Council

- Held at Vallabhi in 512 CE.
- Presided over by **Devardhi Kshmasramana**.
- Added 12 Upangas (minor sections).

#### Division and Sects in Jainism

- 500 years after Mahavira's death, around 79 or 82 CE, Jainism experienced a significant schism.
- During a severe famine in Magadha, some Jaina monks, led by **Bhadrabahu**, migrated south to maintain their strict discipline.
- They renounced clothing and became known as **Digambaras** (SKY-clad or naked).
- Major sub-sects of the Digambaras include **Bisapanth**, **Terapanth** and **Taranapanth** (Samaiyapantha).
- Minor sub-sects include **Gumanapantha** and **Totapantha**.
- The monks who remained in Magadha under the leadership of Sthulabhadrā adopted white garments and were called **Svetambaras** (white-clad).
- Sub-sects of Svetambaras include Murtipujaka, Sthanakvasi and Terapanth.
- The division weakened Jainism in Magadha but led to its spread and devoted followers in regions like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka.



- **Svetambara** People of this sect wear white clothes. Beliefs: Attainment of liberation (Moksha) is possible for a woman. Mahavir Swami was married. 19th Tirthankara Mallinath was a woman.
- **Digambaras** The people of this sect don't wear clothes and perform austerity (Tapsya). Beliefs: Salvation (Moksha) is not possible for a woman. Mahavir Swami was unmarried. The 19th Tirthankara, Mallinath was a man.

#### Jain Literature

- The earliest significant Jaina works were composed in **Apabhramsa**.
- Jainas abandoned Sanskrit and adopted Prakrit (specifically Ardha-Magadhi) to preach their doctrines and compose religious texts, making them accessible to common people.

- The use of **Prakrit** influenced regional languages, such as Sauraseni, which later contributed to the development of Marathi.
- **Jain literature**, called Agam (Principle), comprises:
  - **12 Angas** Includes Acharanga-Sutra, Sutratkanga, Sthananga, Samavayanga, Bhagavati Vyakhyaprajnapti, Jnatrdharmakatha, Upasakadasah, Antakrddasah, Anuttaraupapatikadasah, Prasnavyakarana, Vipaksruta and Dristivada.
  - **12 Upangas** Provide details on the universe, beings, astronomy, time and posthumous life.
  - **10 Prakirna** Supplements to major texts.
  - **6 Ched Sutras** Rules for monks, including Jitakalpa, Brihatkalpa, Nishith, Mahnishith, Vyavhar and Achar Dasha.
  - **4 Mool Sutras** Contain sermons, forest life, monk duties, and Yam rules, including Dashvaikalik, Utaradhyayan, Shadavshayak and Pindniryukti (Pakshik Sutra).
  - **2 Chulika Sutras** Independent texts (Nandi-Sutra and Anuyagadvara-Sutra) serving as encyclopedias with moral stories for monks.
- **Paumacariyam Ramayana** by Vimalsuri is a Jain text in Prakrit. Prominent Jain Tamil literature includes Naladiyar, Palamoli, Jivaka Chinthamani, Yapperunkalam Karikai and Neelakesi.

#### NCERT Insights

- **Sallekhana (Santhara)** is a Jain religious practice involving a voluntary fast to death, seen as the ultimate act of asceticism.
- Also known as samlehna, santhara, samadhi-marana or sanyasana-marana, it is undertaken by devout Jains who are nearing the end of their lives, often due to advanced age or terminal illness.
- Rooted in Jain philosophy, sallekhana is viewed as a peaceful and ethical way to embrace death, marking the transition of the soul to its next birth.

#### OTHER WORKS INCLUDE

- **Kalpa Sutra** Written by Bhadrabahu.
- **Lilavatisara** Authored by Acharya Jinaratna.
- **Tattvartha Sutra** Composed by Umaswami in Sanskrit.
- **Samayasara** Written by Acharya Kundakunda.

#### Jain Architecture

- **Ellora Caves** (Maharashtra), Udaygiri Caves (Odisha), and Sittanavasal Caves (Tamil Nadu) show Jain influence.



- **Sittanavasal Paintings** Depict the theme of Jain Samavasarana.
- **Ranakpur Temple (Rajasthan)** Built by Darna Shah, dedicated to Rishabhdev (Svetambara).
- **Mount Mangi Tungi (Maharashtra)** Enshrines Tirthankaras in various postures, including Padmasana and Kayotsarga.
- **Shikharji (Jharkhand)** Located on Parasnath Hill, an important Jain site for both Digambara and Svetambara, where 20 Tirthankaras attained Moksha.
- **Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)** Jain temples in the South-East region.
- **Dilawara Jain Temple (Mount Abu)** Built by Samanta Vimalshah under Bhimdev I (Chalukya), made of marble.

#### Decline of Jainism in India

The reasons for the decline of Jainism are

- Absence of royal patronage and internal division between Digambaras and Svetambaras.
- Limited missionary efforts.
- Factionalism within the Jain community. The rigorous and austere practises associated with Jainism.

## Buddhism

- Buddhism is a religion and philosophy that developed from the doctrines of Buddha.
- The Buddha's teaching formed the foundation for Buddhist philosophy.

### Mahatma Buddha

- Gautama Buddha, or Siddhartha, was born in 563 BCE into the Sakya Kshatriya family in Lumbini near Kapilavastu (Nepal).
- Buddha means enlightened one. He is also called **Sakyamuni** or **Tathagata**.
- His father, Suddhodhana, was the elected ruler of Kapilavastu, leading the Sakya republic and his mother, Mahamaya, was a princess from the kingdom of Koshala.
- He was raised by his foster mother, Mahaprajapati Gautami, the first woman (Bhikkhuni) to join his Sangha. He married Yashodhara and had a son named Rahula.
- One day, while riding in his chariot, he encountered four sights: an old man, a sick man, a corpse and a religious mendicant.
- At the age of 29, he departed the city on a chariot with his beloved horse Kanthaka and Channa, the charioteer, in search of eternal truth. This is known as **Mahabhinishkramana** or the Great Departure.
- He sat under a peepal tree (Bodhi tree) and attained **Nirvana** (enlightenment) at the age of 35, earning the title 'Buddha' or the enlightened.
- He delivered his first sermons at **Sarnath** (Deer Park) near Varanasi. This event is described as Dharmachakra- Pravartana or setting in motion the **Wheel of Great Law**.
- Gautama Buddha passed away at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at Kushinagar, in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This is known as Parinirvana/Mahaparinirvana.
- Buddhism was patronised by Magadh rulers like Bimbisara,

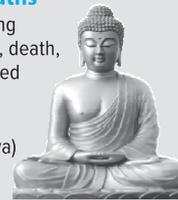
Ajatashatru, Kalashoka and Ashoka; Indo-Greek King **Menander I**; **Kushan** ruler **Kanishka**; and the Satavahanas, who built Amaravati and Karle stupas.

- The Guptas (Kumaragupta and Buddhagupta) and Harsha of the Pushyabhuti dynasty supported Mahayana Buddhism, building monasteries and convening councils.

### TEACHINGS OF BUDDHISM

#### 1 Four Noble Truths

- The truth of Suffering (Dukkha) Birth, age, death, separation, unfulfilled wish.
- Truth of Origin of Suffering (Samudaya) Arises from desires (Trishna) for pleasure, power and long life.
- Truth of **Removal of Suffering** (Nirvana) Achieving freedom from sorrow.
- Truth of Path Leading to Removal of Suffering (Magga), which can be attained through the **Noble Eightfold Path or the Middle Path**.



#### 2 Eightfold Path (Astangika Marga)

- Philosophy and Beliefs of Buddha:
- The world is transient or impermanent (anicca).
- It is **soulless** (anatta), with nothing permanent in it. Sorrow (dukkha) is inherent in human existence.
- By following a middle path between extreme penance and indulgence, individuals can transcend worldly suffering.
- Buddha neither accepted nor denied the existence of God. He focused on addressing worldly issues and was unconcerned with debates on the soul (atman) and Brahma.
- Buddha questioned the authority of the Vedas. He condemned the Varna system and advocated for equality.
- Three main elements (Triratna) in Buddhism: Buddha, Sangha and Dhamma.



**BUDDHIST LITERATURE**

Pali was used for Buddhist texts, aiding in the spread of Buddhism.

The Pali Canon is called the Tripitaka (Three Baskets).



- **Vinaya Pitaka** Monastic rules and moral disciplines.
- **Sutta Pitaka** Discourses and teachings of Buddha, divided into five Nikayas (Digha, Majjhima, Samyutta, Anguttara, and Khuddaka). It includes works like Theragatha, Therigatha and Jataka tales (stories of Buddha's past lives as Bodhisattva).
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** known as Buddhist philosophy.

**Sangha**

- Sangha all, regardless of caste or sex. Initially, only men joined, but later, women were admitted, facilitated by Ananda.
- Monks were required to strictly follow the rules and regulations of the sangha. Debtors and slaves could not join without the permission of their masters or superiors.

**Other Buddhist Literature**

- **Buddhacarita**, **Saudarananda**, **Sariputra Prakaran**, **Vajrasuchi**, **Sutralankara** by Ashvagosa.
- **Abhidhamma Kosh** by Vasubandhu.
- **Madhyami Karika** and **Prajanaparamita Karika** by Nagarjuna.
- **Pramasamuccaya** by Dignga. **Vishuddhimagga**, **Sumangalvasini**, **Atthakathayen** by Buddhaghosa.
- **Ceylonese Chronicles** Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, and Culavamsa.
- **Milinda Panha** Conversations between King Menander and monk Nagasena.
- **Netti Pakarana** Buddhist scripture in the Khuddaka Nikaya.
- **Avadana Literature** An anthology of Buddhist legends in Sanskrit.
- **Mahayana Texts** Lalitavistara (Buddha's biography); **Saddharmapundarika**, **Vajracchedika**, **Sukhavativyuha**, **Karandavyuha**, **Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita**.
- **Samannaphala Sutta** Conversation between Buddha and Ajatasatru in Digha Nikaya.

**BUDDHIST COUNCILS**

Date	Place	King	President	Events
1st Buddhist Council (483 BCE) (just after Buddha's death)	Sattapani cave at Rajagriha	Ajatashatru	Maha Kassapa	Upali recited Vinay Pitaka; Ananda recited Sutta Pitaka.
2nd Buddhist Council (383 BCE) (a century after Buddha's death)	Vaishali	Kalashoka	Sabbakami	Buddhist order split into Sthaviravadin (Believers in the Teachings of the Elders) and the Mahasanghika.
3rd Buddhist Council (250 BCE)	Patliputra	Ashoka	Moggaliputta-Tissa	The last section, called 'Kathavatthu', was added to Abhidhamma Pitaka. Sthaviravadins established themselves firmly and expelled the heretics.
4th Buddhist Council (72 CE)	Kundalvana, Srinagar	Kanishka	Vasumitra (Monk of Sarvastivada school) Ashwaghosh (Vice President)	Commentaries on Pitaka were written. Sarvastivadin doctrines were compiled in Mahavibhasa. Division of Buddhism into Mahayana and Hinayana.

## Sects In Buddhism

### Sthaviravada or Theravada

- Theravada in Pali means **Way of the Elders**.
- It is considered an orthodox form of Buddhism with the primary goal of **attaining Nirvana**.

### Mahasanghikas

The first division in the Buddhist community occurred during the Second Buddhist Council when the **Acariyavadins** (followers of the traditional teaching) split away from the **Sthaviravadins** (followers of the Way of the Elders) and formed their own school, known as the **Mahasanghikas**.

### Hinayana

(Lesser Vehicle)

It is a conservative and orthodox form of Buddhism prevalent in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand and South-East Asia.

### Mahayana Buddhism

(Greater Vehicle)

It considers Buddha as a God and focuses on the Law of **Karuna** or **compassion** over and above the law of Karma.

### Vajrayana

(Vehicle of the Thunderbolt)

It is an offshoot of Mahayana Buddhism and referred as **Mantrayana** (emerged after the 5th century AD).

## Reasons for the Decline of Buddhism

- Decline during the Bhakti movement, absorbing Hindu elements and shift from Pali to Sanskrit.
- Corruption and deviation from Buddha's teachings in monasteries.
- Loss of royal patronage after **Harshavardhana**.
- Turkish invasions targeting monasteries for wealth.
- Buddhism lacked a strong organizational structure. Which made it difficult to respond to challenges and maintain its influence.

## Four Buddhist School of Philosophy

There are four principal Buddhist philosophical schools, which are the four pillars of Buddhist doctrine.

- **Vaibhashikas** View relative truth as divisible into parts and ultimate truth as indivisible.
- **Sautrantikas** Accept selflessness of persons but not of phenomena.
- **Cittamatrins** Believe in the selflessness of both self and phenomena but consider the mind truly existent.
- **Madhyamikas** Assert that things appear real but lack inherent existence.

Bodhisattvas	Roles
Avalokiteswara	One among three protective deities holds Lotus, thus called Padmapani Painting at Ajanta Caves Bodhisattva of compassion Lokeshvara (of Theravada Buddhism).
Vajrapani	One among three protective deities depicted in Ajanta Caves.
Manjusri	One among three protective deities depicted in Ajanta Caves Wisdom of Buddha Wielding sword in his hand.
Maitreya	A future Buddha Laughing Buddha is an incarnation of Maitreya also known as Ajita Bodhisattva accepted by both Mahayana and non-Mahayana traditions.
Tara	Female Bodhisattva in Mahayana, female Buddha in Vajrayana. Also known as Jetsun Dolma (Tibetan Buddhism). Represents compassion and protection.
Ksitigarbha	Mean 'Earth Womb', guardian of children.
Akasagarbha	Associated with elements of space.
Samantabhadra	Associated with meditation.
Vasudhara	Associated with wealth, prosperity and abundance Popular in Nepal.
Amitabha	Great saviour buddha.
Skanda	Guardian of Viharas and Buddhist teachings.
Sitatapatra	Protector against supernatural danger.

## Mahajanapadas

- The term janapada literally means the place where a group of people, or a **tribe/clan** (jana) place their foot (pada).
- The Mahajanapadas were larger and more powerful than Janapadas and their rulers exercised greater power and enjoyed more prominence than the rulers of the janapadas.
- Buddhist canonical texts, like the **Anguttaranikaya** and **Mahavastu** and Jain text, **Bhagawati Sutra** enlist 16 powerful states (*solasa-mahajanapadas*).

### Reasons for the Rise of Large States

- **Fertile Lands and Resource Proximity**  
The fertile plain of the Ganga Besin and closeness to iron-ore production centers enabled agricultural surplus and technological growth.
- **Iron Technology and Surplus**  
Advancements in iron tools improved agriculture, sustaining military and administrative needs through surplus collection.
- **Shift to Territorial Allegiance**  
The emergence of towns as administrative centers fostered loyalty to the Janapada.

### Types of Mahajanapadas

- The Mahajanapadas were either **monarchical** or **republic** (ganasanghas).
- **Monarchical (Ruled by Monarchs)** Anga, Kosala, Matsya, Vatsa, Avanti, Chedi, Surasena, Asmaka, Gandhara, Magadha.
- **Republican (Non-Monarchical)** Kamboja, Malla, Bhaggas, Moriya, Kuru, Jnatrika, Panchala, Vajji, Shakyas, Koliyas, Licchavis.

## The Rise and Growth of the Magadha Empire

### Rise of Magadha

- Among the 16 Mahajanapadas, a power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vrijji and Avanti, leading to the emergence of Magadha as the **most powerful state**.
- It was ruled by prominent dynasties such as the **Haryanka**, **Shishunaga** and **Nanda**, which contributed to its political and cultural prominence.
- Magadha's rise to political supremacy began with **Bimbisara**, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty.

### Reasons for the Rise of Magadha

- Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade.
- Growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains.
- Strategic Location. Thick forests enabled supply of timber and Elephants.
- Able leaders like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru.

## Important Dynasties

### Haryanka Dynasty

(544 BCE– 412 BCE)

### Bimbisara (544 BCE–492 BCE)

- He was the first Ruler and Founder of the Haryanka dynasty.
- His capital, **Rajagriha** was built by him.

#### 1 Kamboja

**Rajapur/ Hataka**  
The Kambojas were a monarchy till about the 6th century BCE, but the later text Arthashastra refers to them as a gana sangha.

#### 2 Gandhara

**Takshasila or Taxila and Pushkalavati**  
Takshasila or Taxila was a major centre of trade and learning. One of the earliest to issue coins, mainly silver.

#### 3 Malla

**Pava**  
Confederacy of nine clans. The Mallas were close allies of the Vajjis

#### 4 Shurasena

**Mathura**  
According to the Buddhist tradition, one Surasena king, Avantiputra was a Buddhist disciple.



Sixteen Mahajanapadas