

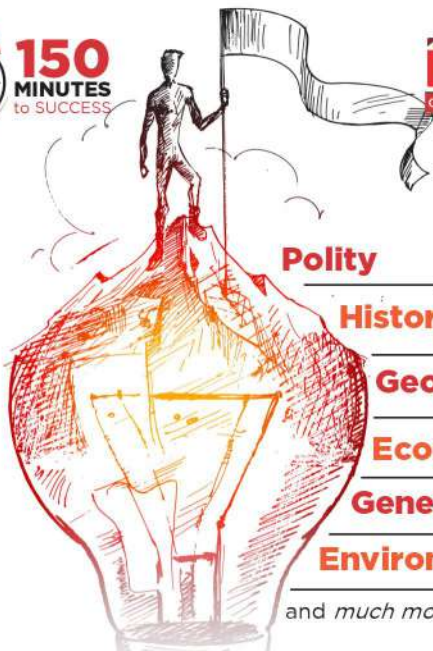


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# Indian History

## ANCIENT HISTORY

### Sources of Ancient Indian History

- **Pliocene deposits** in Siwaliks. It is known as Ramapitheus, a type of early **hominid**.
- **Inscriptions** either on stone or on metal plates are old records of Ancient India. The study of inscriptions is called **epigraphy**.
- **Coins**: The study of coins is called **numismatics**.
- The **Punch Mark Coins** (silver & copper) are the earliest coins of India.
- **Monuments**: Monuments reflect the material prosperity and development of culture e.g. Taxshila monuments about Kushans and Stupas, Chaityas and Vihars about Maurya.
- **Vedas**: Vedas point out features and development of different dynasties, e.g. **Rigveda** deals with Archery and known as "**The first testament of mankind**."
  - **Samveda** says about the art of music (i.e. melodies)
  - **Yajurveda**: It is known as ritual Veda.
  - **Atharvaveda**: It is the latest of the four. It is about beliefs and superstitions.
- **Upanishad**: It is anti-ritualistic in nature. It deals about the theories of creation of the universe and doctrine of action.
- **Sutras**: Sutras deal about rituals, Sanskaras, social life, Medical science etc.
- **Puranas**: Puranas describe the genealogies of various royal dynasties, i.e. Maurya, Andhra, Shishunag, Gupta, etc.
- **Jatak Kathas**: These are the parts of art and literature of 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.
- **Arthashastra**: It is the analysis of political and economic conditions of the Mauryas, composed by Kautilya (Chanakya).
- **Mudrarakshasa**: It tells about the establishment of the Maurya dynasty, the fall of Nanda, Ramgupta, etc.
- **Rajtarangini**: It was written by Kalhana in 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is about the rulers of Kashmir. It is considered the, "*first historical book of India*."
- **Foreign travellers** wrote about the information of India. For examples –
- **Megasthenes**: He wrote book, "INDICA" about the dynasty of Maurya.
- **Fahien**: He wrote about the Gupta Emperor.
- **Hieun-Tsang**: He wrote about the Buddhist record of the western world during period of Harshavardhan.
- **Albiruni**: He wrote 'Tarikh-ul-Hind.'
- **Ibna-Batuta**: He wrote about India under the rule of Muhammad Tughlaq.

### Pre-historic Period

- **Pre-historic period** is divided into three sections- **Stone age**, **Bronze age** and **Iron age**.
- **Stone age** is divided into three periods, i.e. Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age.
- **Chalcolithic Age** is marked by the use of copper as **copper age**.
- The **Iron age** is usually associated with the **Painted Grey Wares (P.G.W.)**.

### Indus Valley Civilization

- The **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** was a unique Bronze Age civilization.
- The Civilization flourished around the Indus river basin and its tributaries, consisting of modern Pakistan and northwestern India.
- Lothal, Balakot, Suktagendor and Allahdin (Pakistan) in the cities of the Harappan civilization were the major ports.
- In the valley of the Indus people used irrigation-based agriculture.

| Indus Valley Sites – Excavators        |
|--|
| Harappa - 1921- Dayaram Sahnii         |
| Mohenjodaro- 1922- R.D. Banerjee       |
| Sutkagendor- 1927- Aurel Stein, George |
| Dalesamri - 1929- M.G. Majumdar        |
| Chanhudaro- 1931- M.G. Majumdar        |
| Rangpur - 1931- M.S. Vats              |
| Kot Diji- 1935- Fazal Khan             |
| Dabarkot- 1935- Maichke                |
| Kili Ghul Mohammad- 1950- Fairservis   |
| Kalibangan- 1953- A. Ghosh             |
| Ropar - 1953- Y.D. Sharma              |
| Lothal - 1957- S.R. Rao                |
| Surkotada- 1964- Jagatpati Ghosh       |
| Dholvira- 1967- J.P. Joshi             |

### The Vedic Period

- The **Vedic Period** or the Vedic Age refers to the period when the Vedic Sanskrit texts were composed in India.
- The Aryans are supposed to have migrated from Central Asia during 2000 to 1500 B.C.
- **The Rigveda** (1500–1000 BC) consists of 1028 hymns.
- The **Gaytri Mantra** had been discovered from the Rig Veda.
- The Sindhu and its tributaries are called **Sapta Sindhu**.

- The **Yajur Veda** is a book of sacrificial prayers. It is written in both verse and prose.
- The **Sama Veda** consists of **1549** hymns.
- It is a book of **chants** for singing during sacrifices.

### Later Vedic Period (1000–500 BC)

- The **Later Vedic** society came to be divided into four varnas called the Brahmanas, rajanyas or kshatriyas, vaisyas and shudras, each varna was assigned with its duty.

| KINGDOMS OF THE LATER VEDIC PERIOD |                |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
|                                    | Kingdom        | Location  |
| 1.                                 | Panchal        | Bareilly, Badayun & Farrukhabad in U.P.           |
| 2.                                 | Kushinagar     | Northern region of Uttar Pradesh                  |
| 3.                                 | Kashi          | Modern Varanasi                                   |
| 4.                                 | Koshal         | Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh                         |
| 5.                                 | Southern Madra | Near Amritsar                                     |
| 6.                                 | Uttara Madra   | Kashmir   |
| 7.                                 | Eastern Madra  | Near Kangra                                       |
| 8.                                 | Kekaya         | On the bank of Beas river east of Gandhar kingdom |
| 9.                                 | Gandhar        | Rawalpindi & Peshawar                             |

### Chronology of Foreign Invasion

- **518–486 B.C.:** King Darius or Darus invaded India.
- **326 B.C. :** Alexander invaded India.
- **190 B.C. :** India-Greeks or Bactrians invaded India.
- **90 B.C. :** Sakas invaded India.
- **A.D. 1st Century :** Pahlavas invaded India.
- **A.D. 45 :** Kushanas or Yue-chis invaded India.

## Religious Movements

### Jainism

- Founder – **Rishabhadeva** (First Tirthankara).
- **Mahavira** was the last of the 24 tirthankaras.
- Jainism was divided into two sects: **Shwetambaras** and **Digambaras**.
- The **First Council** was held at **Pataliputra** by **Sthulabahu** and Second at Valabhi.

### Teachings

- Jainism was based on 5 doctrines :
  - (i) Ahinsa, i.e. non-violence;
  - (ii) do not speak a lie,
  - (iii) do not steal.
  - (iv) do not acquire property, and
  - (v) observe **continen**ce (**Brahma-charya**) introduced by Mahavira.

### Three Gems of Jainism (Ratnatrya)

- (i) Right faith (Samyak Vishwas)
- (ii) Right knowledge (Samyak Gyan)
- (iii) Right conduct/action (Samyak Karma)

### Buddhism

- Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism.
- His real name was **Siddhartha**.
- His father was a king named **Suddodana Tharu** and Mother was **Mahamaya**.
- He was born at **Lumbini**.
- He discovered enlightenment under the peepal tree (**Bodhi Vriksha**) in Gaya, Bihar at the age of 35.
- He gave his first sermon at the **Deer Park in Sarnath**.
- It was divided into three main sects: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana.

### Buddhist Councils

First at Rajgir, Second at Vaishali, Third at Patliputra & Fourth in Kashmir.

## Important Dynasties in Ancient India

### The Haryanaka Dynasty (544 – 412 B.C.)

- **Bimbisara** was the first ruler and founder of Haryanka dynasty. The capital of the kingdom was **Rajagriha**.
- **Ajatasatru** who killed his father and seized the throne for himself.
- He was contemporary to Lord Mahavira and Lord Buddha and a follower of Buddhism.
- Ajatasatru was succeeded by **Udayin**.

### Shishunaga Dynasty (412–344 B.C.)

- The last Haryanka ruler, Nagadasaka, was killed by his courtier Shishunaga in 430 B.C, who became the king and founded the Shishunaga dynasty.

### Nanda Dynasty (344–321 B.C.)

- Mahapadmananda established the Nanda dynasty into a powerful empire.
- Last ruler of Nanda dynasty was Dhanananda. He was contemporary of Alexander.
- **Alexander** invasion of India took place in 326 B.C. during the reign of Dhanananda.

### The Mauryan Empire (322–185 B.C.)

- Founder— **Chandragupta Maurya**
- Its capital was **Pataliputra**.
- **He** embraced **Jainism**
- He died at **Sravanbelagola**
- The war of Kalinga (BC 261) was the turning point of Ashoka's life. The mass death of the war changed his mind and he became a follower of **Buddhism**.
- **Ashok Stambh** of **Sarnath** was adopted as national emblem of India.
- **Sanchi Stupa** was built by Ashoka.
- **Ashoka's Dhamma** was a code of conduct (a set of principles like respect to elders) mercy to slaves & emphasis on truth, non violence & tolerance.



| Number | Name of Emperor     | Reign          |
|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1.     | Chandragupta Maurya | 322 BC -298 BC |
| 2.     | Bindusara           | 298 BC -272 BC |
| 3.     | Ashoka              | 274 BC -232 BC |
| 4.     | Dasaratha           | 232 BC -224 BC |
| 5.     | Samprati            | 224 BC -215 BC |
| 6.     | Salisuka            | 215 BC -202 BC |
| 7.     | Devavarman          | 202 BC -195 BC |
| 8.     | Satadhanvan         | 195 BC -187 BC |
| 9.     | Brihadatha          | 187 BC -185 BC |

### Sunga Dynasty (185 to 73 B.C.)

- Pushyamitra Sunga was the senapati of last king of Mauryan empire Brihadratha. He killed Brihadratha and founded the Sunga dynasty in 187 B.C.
- Its capital was Pataliputra but later Vidhisha was the capital of Sunga rulers.

### Kanva Dynasty (73–28 B.C.)

- Founder- Vasudeva Kanva.

### The Sangam Kingdom

The Tamil Sangam was an academy of poets and bards.

| Sangam | Place of Organisation | Chairman  | Kingdom |
|--------|-----------------------|---|---------|
| First  | Thenmadurai           | Agastya   | Pandiya |
| Second | Kapatapuram           | Earlier- Agastya<br>Later- Tolkappiyar (a disciple of Agastaya) | Pandiya |
| Third  | North Madurai         | Nakkirar  | Pandiya |

- Founder of **Chera Dynasty**: Utiyan Cheralatan.
- Founder of **Chola Dynasty**: Vijayalaya Capital – **Kaveripattanam**.

### Temples & their Location

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| The Kailash Temple      | Ellora            |
| The Hoysala Temple      | Belur and Halebid |
| The Chennakesava Temple | Belur             |

- Other Sunga Rulers: Bhumimitra, Narayana, Susarman.

### Satvahana Dynasty

- It ruled in the Deccan and Central India after Mauryans.
- Founder- Simuka
- Most powerful Satavahana king - Gautamiputra Satakarni (A.D. 106-130)

### Other Dynasties

- **Kharavela** was the greatest king of Chedi Dynasty.
- Source of information: **Hatigumpha** Pillar inscription (Created by Kharavela)
- The **Sakas** were a group of nomadic tribes of Iranian origin or Scythian tribes, who lived in Central Asia.
- **Kanishka** is considered to have conflicted with the Pataliputra and had taken Asvaghosa, the Buddhist Monk to Purushpura.
- Founder of **Pallava** Dynasty- **Simhavishnu**, Capital – **Kanchi**.

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| The Hoysaleswara temple    | Halebid       |
| The Ratha and Shore Temple | Mahabalipuram |
| The Brihadeshwara Temple   | Tanjavur      |
| The Vithala temple         | Hampi         |
| The Meenakshi Temple       | Madurai       |

### The Gupta Empire (AD 320–467)

- Founder - Sri Gupta
- **Nalanda University** was built by Kumargupt.
- The great Mathematician **Aryabhata lived** during this age. He discovered the number “0” and value of **Pi**. He wrote “**Aryabhatiya**” and “**Suryasiddhanta**”.
- **Kalidas** the great poet also belonged to this period.
- **Chandragupta (320–335 AD)** was the son of Ghatotkacha and grandson of Sri Gupta.
- **Sumudragupta** (AD 335–375) Harisena described him as the “Hero of a Hundred Battles.”
- **Prayag Prashasti** (Written by **Harisen**) is the main source of information on his reign.
- **Samundragupta** was succeeded by his son Chandragupta Vikramaditya (or II).
- **Kumaragupta (AD 415-455)** is the son of Chandragupta II.
- Gupta Period is also known as the ‘**Golden Age of Ancient India**’.

### The Post-Gupta Period (AD 550-647AD)

#### Pushyabhuti Dynasty (AD 600–647)

- The greatest king was **Harshavardhana**, son of Prabhakar Vardhana of Thaneshwar. He shifted the capital to **Kannauj**.
- **Hieun Tsang** visited during his reign.
- Harsha himself wrote three plays – Priyadarhika, Ratnawali and Nagananda.

### SOUTHERN INDIA

- Capital of **Chalukyas** (AD 543-753)- **Badami**
- **Pulakeshin I** is generally attributed to be the first Chalukyan king.
- Narasimhavarman completed the beautiful temples of **Mahablipuram**.

### Rashtrakutas (AD 753–973)

- Founded by **Dantidurg**; Krishna I built **Kailasha** temple at **Ellora**.

Amoghavarsha, who is compared to Vikramaditya, wrote the first Kannada poetry **Kaviraj Marg**.

### Gangas

Ruled Orissa; Narsimhadeva constructed **Sun Temple** at Konark; Anantvarman built the **Jagannath Temple** at Puri; and Kesaris who used to rule before Gangas built the **Lingaraja Temple** at Bhubaneswar.

### Pallavas (AD 600–757)

Founder - **Simhavishnu**; capital - **Kanchi**; greatest king **Narsimhavarman** who founded the town of Mamallapuram (**Mahabalipuram**).

**Palas** dynasty was founded by Gopala I, who was elected as king of people.

**Palas** with capital at **Monghyr** is known for Dharmapala, their second king, who founded **Vikramashila University** and revived Nalanda University.

The greatest ruler of **Pratiharas** was Bhoja (also known as Mihir, Adivraha).

### Chalukyas (AD 543–755)

- **Pulakesin I** was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty. He established a small kingdom with **Vatapi** or **Badami** as its capital.
- Their cave temples are found in Ajanta, Ellora and Nasik.

### The Cholas (AD 985–1279)

- Founder **Vijayalaya**, Capital **Tanjore**.
- **Aditya I** Chola wiped out Pallavas and weakened Pandayas.
- **Purantaka I** captured Madurai, but defeated by Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna III at the **Battle of Takkolam**.

### Ancient Indian Books and Authors

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Buddhacharita | - Asvaghosha |
| Kirtarjuniya  | - Bharavi    |
| Ravanavadhya  | - Bhatti     |