

TO THE POINT NCERT PLUS

HISTORY OF INDIA

Useful for UPSC, State PSCs & Other Competitive Examinations



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ANCIENT HISTORY OF INDIA

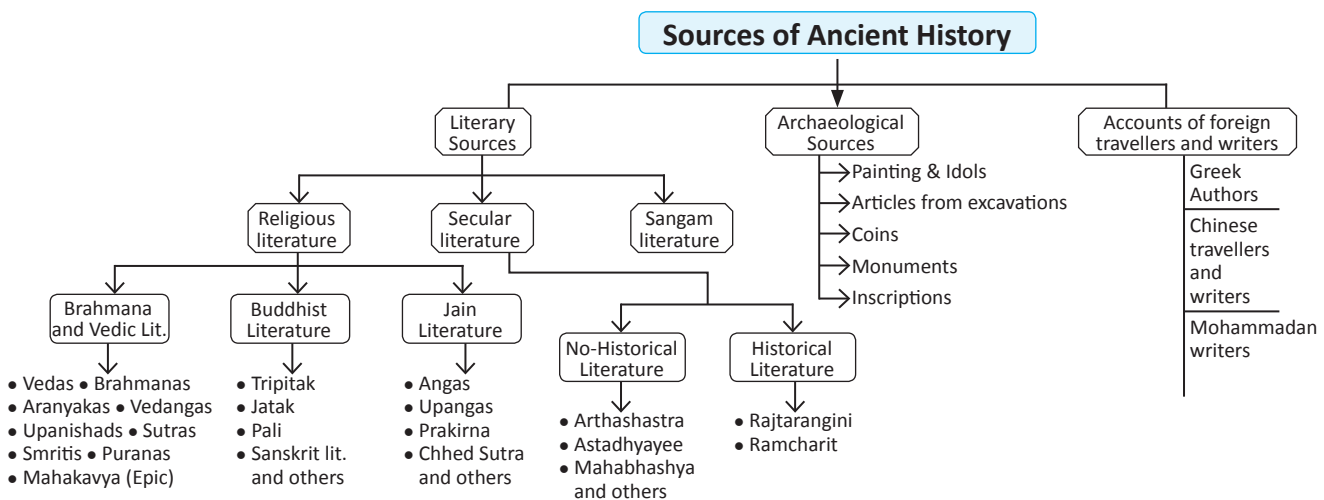
Sources of Ancient History

The Ancient History of India can be traced through fewer sources which confirm the occurrence of incidences. Archaeological Remains, Literary Sources, and Foreign Texts act as the most dependable sources in this context. This chapter deals with these sources and how they have proven their worth in due course of time.

India has a rich cultural heritage. The progress of man in the past is the subject matter of history. In order to understand the present India it is necessary to trace back its roots in Ancient India. There are several ways of finding out about the past.

The study of ancient history of India mainly depends upon three types of sources:

1. Archaeological Remains
2. Literary Sources
3. Accounts of Foreign Travellers and Writers



Archaeological Remains

In archaeology the study comprises material remains like **mounds, terracotta statues, coins, inscriptions, seals, stone implements, metallic tools, monuments**, etc. The dates of these things are fixed according to the **Radio Carbon Method** based on the amount of **C14 presence in remains**. Under this method, the measurement is based on the fact that the half- life of C14 is 5730 ± 40 years.

Excavation

- The art of digging mounds is called excavation. The remains of old habitations are brought into limelight through this art.
- The credit for excavating the Pre-Aryan past goes to Sir William Jones of Asiatic Bengal Society (established on 1st Jan 1784).

- In 1861, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** was established under **Alexander Cunningham**. The ASI was reconstituted under Sir John Marshall in 1902.
- **Sir Mortimer Wheeler** introduced the stratigraphic method which helps in establishing chronology in archaeology.

Inscription

- The study of inscriptions is called **epigraphy** and the study of old writings used in inscriptions and other old records is called **paleography**.
- The earliest inscriptions were found on the **seals of Harappa** belonging to about 2500 B.C. but they have not been deciphered so far.
- The oldest deciphered inscriptions belong to Ashoka in the 3rd century B.C.

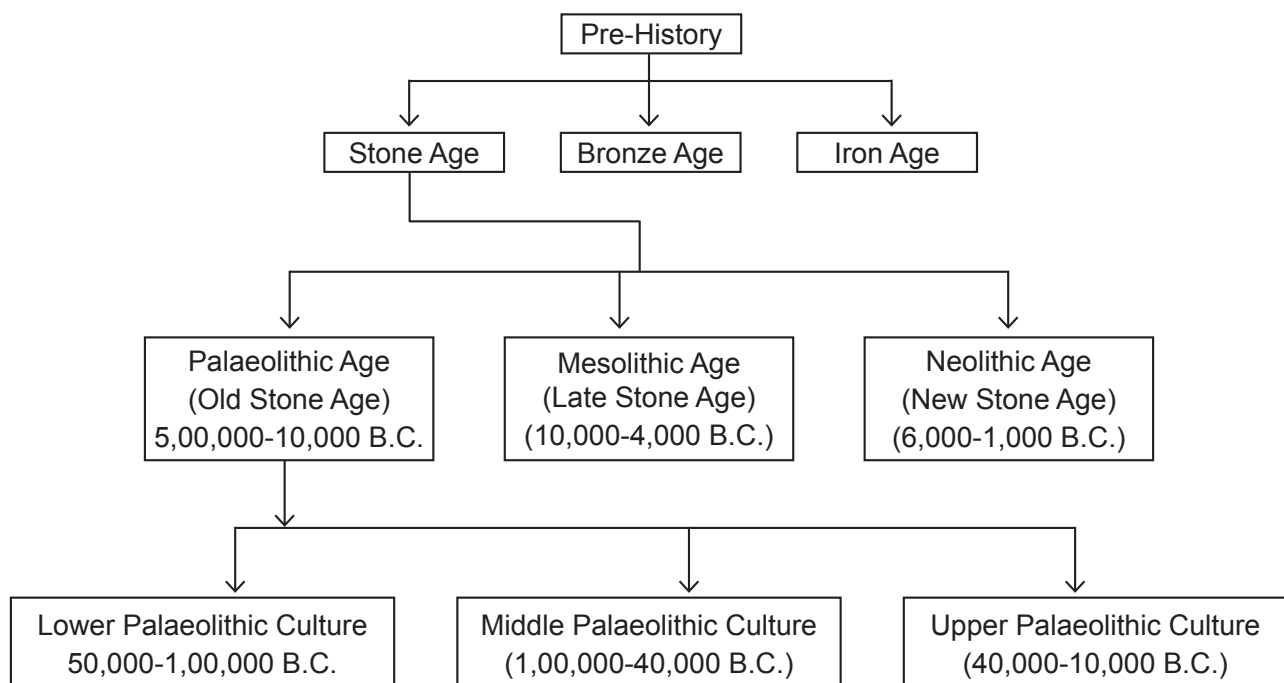
The Stone Age is divided into three phases or ages - Paleolithic; Mesolithic period and Neolithic period. As the name suggests there is no written evidence found. But, sources such as Cave Art, Hand-made tools serve as source for the study of that period.

Pre-historic Period

The period before the development of script is called the pre-historic times.

- Generally, the period before the invention of script is broadly divided into Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Hence, the names of materials that they used (for example, painted grey ware culture or Iron Age culture) or the geographical region (Indus) or the first site to be identified (for example, Acheulian or Harappan) are used to name the cultures.
- The credit for the rediscovery of Indian pre-history goes to **Dr. Primrose**, an Englishman, who was the first person to discover pre-historic implements (stone knives and arrow-heads) in 1842 at Lingsugur (Karnataka).

- **John Evans** was first to publish discovery of flints on the bed of the Narmada river near Jabalpur in 1853.
- **Robert Bruce Foote** discovered the first palaeolithic tool discovered in India — **the Pallavaram hand-axe**.
- Pre-historic study was boosted after the Yale – Cambridge Expedition of **Potwar plateau** in the Siwalik in 1935 led by De Terra and Patterson.
- The Pre - historic period is divided into three ages:
 1. Stone Age
 2. Bronze Age
 3. Iron Age



Chalcolithic & Megalithic Cultures

The Chalcolithic Culture is noticeable by the use of copper as copper was the first metal used by the men in this time period. The livelihood was majorly based on subsistence agriculture, stock-raising, hunting and fishing. On the other hand Megalithic culture is characterized by graves encircled by big pieces of stone. This chapter sheds light on Chalcolithic and Megalithic cultures and its development.

Chalcolithic Culture

The Pre-Harappan cultures are the earliest Chalcolithic cultures of India, and they are found in the time before the beginning of the mature phase of the Harappan culture, and continued to exist in the later period.

- The other Chalcolithic cultures of India are more or less contemporary to this phase of Harappan culture and they continued even after its decline.

Chalcolithic Culture	Harappan Culture
Primarily Rural	Primarily Urban
Used Copper	Used Bronze
Lived near hilly lands or rivers	Attained urbanisation on the basis of produce from flood plains in Indus valley

Pre-Harappan Cultures

- The remains of Chalcolithic cultures have been identified in the adjoining areas of the same region where the Harappan Culture flourished later on.
- These are **chronologically antecedents, and partly contemporary** to the **Harappan Culture**. Traces of this culture are found from Baluchistan, Gomal Valley, Punjab, Sindh, Ghaggar Valley, Rajasthan and Haryana.
- **Mehargarh in Baluchistan** is the oldest site. It witnesses the pre-pottery Neolithic levels with mud-houses, stone pots, grinding stones and bones of domestic animals. It also indicated the knowledge of copper and painted ware.
- The **Zhob Culture** is distinguished by a red ware painted over in black pigment, now and then supplemented by red.
- **Rana Ghundai, Moghul Ghundai, Periano Ghundai, Surjungle, Dabarkot** and others are

important sites. Female figurines are found with a grim goblin-like face.

- The Zhob sites also witness the practice of **cremation of the dead**.
- The **Quetta Culture** is marked by a buff ware painted over in black pigment. These are found mostly with geometric designs including 'stepped' motifs.
- **Kili Gul Muhammed, Damb Sadat, Pirak Domb** are the prominent sites of the **Quetta Culture**.
- The **pinkish-buff ware culture** of South Baluchistan is known as the **Kulli Culture**.
- The **people of Kulli** used to cremate their dead.
- A mirror made of copper and two copper pins of Mehi indicate the use of copper.
- The polychrome element in the pottery of **Nal** is a **special feature**. The people of this culture had trade links with the Gulf of Persia.
- **Chalcolithic sites are found in the Gomal Valley of Pakistan**.
- The main excavated sites of **Gomal Culture** are **Rahman Dheri and Gumla**.
- The signs of well-planned pre-Harappan settlements surrounded with a fortification wall are visible in Gomal Valley.
- **In Punjab there are two sites:** Sarai Khola near Rawalpindi and Jalilpur on the confluence of Ravi and Chenab.
- In **Sindh, Amri culture** was famous for Chalcolithic elements.
- **Kot Diji** is an important site on the left bank of the Indus River. We have highly sophisticated wheel made pottery from this place along with tools and weapons of stone, copper and bronze.
- In the **Ghaggar Valley, Sothi and Kalibangan** are **two noteworthy centers**.

Harappan Civilization

The Harappan Civilization represents the earliest manifestation of urban development in the plains of the Indus valley and its extension along the Arabian sea-coast. The origin and authorship of the Harappan Civilization are keenly debated historical questions. The Indus script has not yet been conclusively deciphered and hence the authorship is not certain. This chapter highlights the geographical sites, society, economy, polity, religion and art of the Civilization.

The Harappan civilisation was the first urban civilisation in South Asia, contemporaneous with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

- ❑ It was earlier called **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** but the fact that Harappa was the first site to be discovered and that the civilization spread beyond the Indus region, it is now better known as **Harappan Civilization**.
- ❑ **Harappan Culture forms part of the proto history of India and belongs to the Bronze Age.**
- ❑ It is called Bronze Age Civilization as communities used bronze as a material to make their major tools
- ❑ The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason in 1826, and Amri by Alexander Burnes in 1831.

Phases of Harappan Civilization

The Harappan Civilisation can be classified in three phases:

(i) Early/Pre-Harappan Phase (c. 3200–2600 BCE)

- ♦ The Early Harappan phase, known as the Regionalisation Era, was the formative, proto-urban phase of the Harappan civilisation.
- ♦ It is related to the Hakra phase of settlements, and the settlements in this period are marked by their fortification, a fairly high level of expertise in specialised crafts such as stone-working, bead-making, and metal crafting, the use of wheeled transport, and the existence of trade networks.
- ♦ **Sites:** Dholavira, Padri (Gujarat), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Harappa (West Punjab, Pakistan), Kot Diji, Balakot, Amri (Pakistan), Bhirrana (Haryana).
- ♦ There are no early-Harappan sites in the active Indus plain.

(ii) Mature Harappan Phase (C.2600–1900 BCE)

- ♦ The Mature Harappan phase, or the Integration Era, was the urban phase of the Harappan civilisation,

which shows the characteristics of a full-fledged civilisation.

- ♦ It is pertinent to note that the unqualified term, ‘Harappan Culture’ or ‘Harappan Civilisation’, primarily refers to this mature urban phase.

(iii) Late Harappan Phase (C.1900–1300 BCE)

- ♦ The Late Harappan phase or the Localisation Era was the post-urban phase defined by a decline in the cities. This is the final period in the Harappan civilisation and refers to the fragmentation of the culture of the Integration Era.
- ♦ The Late Harappan phase comprises five geographical zones each having distinct phases — the West Punjab Phase (Cemetery - H Culture), the East Punjab Phase, the Jhukar Phase, the Rangpur Phase, and the Ganga Yamuna Doab Phase.
- ♦ Late Harappan settlements were small compared to mature Harappan ones.
- ♦ **Site:** Important Jhukar sites are Jhukar, Chanhudaro, Amri and Rangpur.

Chronology of Harappan Archaeology

1853 AD	A. Cunningham’s find of a Harappan seal.
1921 AD	Daya Ram Sahani’s excavation at Harappa.
1931 AD	Marshall excavated Mohenjodaro.
1938 AD	Mackay excavated the same site.
1940 AD	M. S. Vats excavated Harappa.
1946 AD	Mortimer Wheeler excavated Harappa.
Post-1947 period	Harappan and associated sites excavated by Suraj Bhan, M.K. Dhavalikar, J.P. Joshi, B.B. Lal, S.R. Rao, B.K. Thapar, R.S. Bisht, and others.

Geographical Area and the Settlements

The Indus Civilisation and the contemporary cultures covered nearly 1.5 million sq. km area in India and Pakistan.

After the decline of the Indus Civilization around 1900 BC, a new culture came into existence. The newly migrated Aryans who moved into the Indian Subcontinent in 1500 B.C. established the Vedic Culture and Civilisation which can be divided into Early Vedic Age (1500-1000 BC) and Later Vedic Age (1000-600 BC).

- ❑ Earlier the Aryans were considered as a distinct Race, but recent studies have established that the word 'Aryan' refers to the speakers of Indo-Aryan languages.
- ❑ The Aryans came into India in several waves, the earliest of which was represented by the Rig Vedic people who came around 1500 BC.
- ❑ The domesticated horse, brought by the Aryans, played a very important role in establishing the Vedic Civilisation. The Aryans possessed chariots driven by Horses, and introduced them into India for the first time.
- ❑ The Aryans came into conflict with the indigenous inhabitants called the Dasas or Dasayus.
- ❑ The Dasas are considered as a branch of early Aryans.

Original Home of Aryans - Views

- ◆ Sapta Sindhu Region – A.C. Das
- ◆ Central Asia – Max Muller
- ◆ Arctic Region – B.G. Tilak
- ◆ Tibet – Dayanand Saraswati
- ◆ Bactria – Rhode
- ◆ Russian Steppes, North of Black Sea – Benfey
- ◆ Central and Western Germany – Geiger
- ◆ Austria, Hungary and Bohemia – P. Giles and Macdonald
- ◆ Foot of Himalayas – Pandit Laxmidhar Shastri
- ◆ German Plains – Prof. Penka

The Vedic Literature

- ❑ Most of the knowledge about the Aryans in India comes from the Vedic literature.
- ❑ The word 'Veda' is derived from the root 'Ved' (to know) signifying knowledge par excellence.
- ❑ The Vedic literature mainly consists of the four Vedas, The Rigveda, Samveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda,

and the associated literature consisting of Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, Vedangas, Sutras and Upavedas.

- ❑ The Rig Vedic Samhita is the oldest text in the Vedic Literature.
- ❑ The Vedas consist of information about the polity, society, religion and philosophy of Vedic period.
- ❑ Aranyakas consist of details about rituals and instructions whereas the Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Early Vedic Age

Sources

Vedic Texts

- ❑ The Rig Vedic Samhita is the earliest text related to the Early Vedic Age. It is the earliest text in Indo-European languages.
- ❑ It is closely related to Zend Avesta, the oldest text in Iranian Language. Both the texts use the same names for several Gods and social classes.
- ❑ It is believed that Aryans had migrated to India in several waves and on their way they first appeared in Central Asia and Iran.

Inscriptions

- ❑ The earliest specimen of Indo-European language is found in an inscription in Iraq, dating to 2200 BC.
- ❑ The name 'Aryan' appears in Kassite inscriptions of 1600 BC from Iraq.
- ❑ It also appears in Mitanni inscriptions of the 1400 BC.

Archaeological Evidence

- ❑ Although there are no clear archaeological evidence of the advent of Aryans, but Archaeological evidence of Horse and Horse sacrifice has been found in southern Tajikistan and Swat Valley of Pakistan.

Jainism & Buddhism

Around 62 religious cults came into existence in the 6th century B.C. Jainism and Buddhism were the most important amongst them. This chapter sheds light on the philosophical doctrines of Buddhism, Jainism and few other sects which rose to prominence.

Period of Upheaval

- In India, numerous religious sects arose in the middle Gangetic plains in the 6th century B.C. We hear of as many as 62 religious sects. Jainism and Buddhism were the most important, and they emerged as the most potent religious reform movements.

Causes of the New Movements

- The Vedic philosophy had lost its original purity in 6th century B.C. It was reduced to a bundle of cumbersome rituals.
- The **caste system had become rigid and brutal. A person of low caste had a miserable life.**
- The Vedic religion had become **very complex** and degenerated into **superstitions, dogmas and rituals.**
- The **supremacy of the Brahmanas also created unrest.**
- All the **religious treatises were written in Sanskrit**, which was the language of elite and not the masses.
- Mahavira and Gautam Buddha were two such great teachers who put before the people two such sects that were devoid of complex religious rituals and could address grievances of people related to the existing religion.

Jainism

According to Jaina tradition, there were 24 Tirthankara, literally ford maker, across the stream of existence and the first being Rishabhdeva, who perhaps got mention in the Rig Veda. Each Tirthankara is recognized by a symbol.

- We have historical proof of only the last two viz., Parshvanath (23rd) and Mahavira (24th); former belonged to a royal family of Banaras and the Mahavira was the founder of Jainism.
- Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.

24 Tirthankaras and their Symbols

S. No.	Tirthankara	Symbol
1	Rishabhdeva	Bull
2	Ajithanath	Elephant
3	Sambhavanath	Horse
4	Abhinandana	Monkey
5	Sumathinatha	Goose
6	Padmaprabha	Lotus
7	Suparshwanatha	Swastika
8	Chandraprabha	Crescent Moon
9	Pushpadanatha or Suvidhi	Crocodile
10	Sheetalanatha	Kalpavriksha
11	Shreyanshnatha	Rhinoceros
12	Vasupujya	Buffalo
13	Vimalanatha	Boar
14	Ananthanatha	Porcupine
15	Dharmanatha	Vajra (Diamond)
16	Shanthinatha	Deer
17	Kunthunatha	Goat
18	Aranatha	Fish
19	Mallinatha	Kalasha (the holy pitcher)
20	Munisuvranatha	Tortoise
21	Naminatha	Blue Water Lily
22	Neminatha	Shankha
23	Parshvanatha	Snake
24	Mahavira	Lion

Vardhamana Mahavira

Mahavira was born in 540 B.C. in a **village Kundagrama** near Vaishali, which is identical with Basrah. His name was Vardhaman.

- His father Siddhartha was the chief of the **Jantrika tribe of Kshatriya** under Vajji of Vaishali and his mother was a Lichchavi princess named Trishala. His wife's name was Yasoda.

Rise of Mahajanapadas

The rise of Mahajanapadas demarcates the emergence of the Post-Vedic Age. It refers to the place where the people settled. This phase is also demarcated by internal dispute between themselves with the rise in foreign invasions. In this chapter we are going to learn more about the first dynasty, its rise and fall and development of other dynasties side by side.

Emergence of Mahajanapadas

The mahajanapadas represented the emergence of territorial kingdoms that ruled over people (jana).

- ♦ The Later Vedic period (900–600 BCE) witnessed the transition from a tribal polity based on lineage to a territorial state.
 - ♦ The janas who migrated eastwards began to settle down in various regions.
 - ♦ The loyalty of the people shifted from jana (tribe or clan) to janapada (territory).
 - ♦ Janapada literally meant ‘the place where the tribe sets its foot upon’. The janapadas fought with one another for resources and political dominance. Some janapadas extended their territories and brought various janas within their jurisdiction. Such janapadas grew into Mahajanapadas.
- ❑ Territory, people, government and sovereignty are important elements of a state. All these elements were found in some of the Mahajanapadas.
 - ❑ The king headed the government aided by a centralised administration. The king was also the sovereign ruler.
 - ❑ The king levied taxes out of agricultural surplus and redistributed it and ensured maintenance of law and order in a hierarchical society by force and coercion.
 - ❑ These features marked the formation of state in the Gangetic plains.

Sixteen Mahajanapadas

- ❑ There were sixteen states known as ‘Mahajanapadas’ just before the rise of Buddhism in India. A list of these states is given in the Buddhist text (the Anguttara Nikaya).
- ❑ These **sixteen states** and their capitals are as follows-

S.No.	Mahajanapada	Capital
1	Anga	Champa
2	Magadha	Rajgir, Pataliputra
3	Kasi	Varanasi
4	Kosala	Sravasti
5	Vajji	Vaishali
6	Malla	Kushinagar, Pawa
7	Chedi	Suktimati (in Sanskrit) and Sotthivati-nagara (in Pali)
8	Vamsa or Vatsa	Kausambi
9	Kuru	Asandivant (Hastinapur)
10	Panchala	Ahicchatra (Uttar), Kampilya (Dakshina)
11	Matsya	Viratnagar (Bairat)
12	Surasena	Mathura
13	Assaka	Patana or Potali or Poudanva
14	Avanti	Mahismati, Ujjain
15	Gandhara	Taxila
16	Kamboja	Rajapura or Rajaori



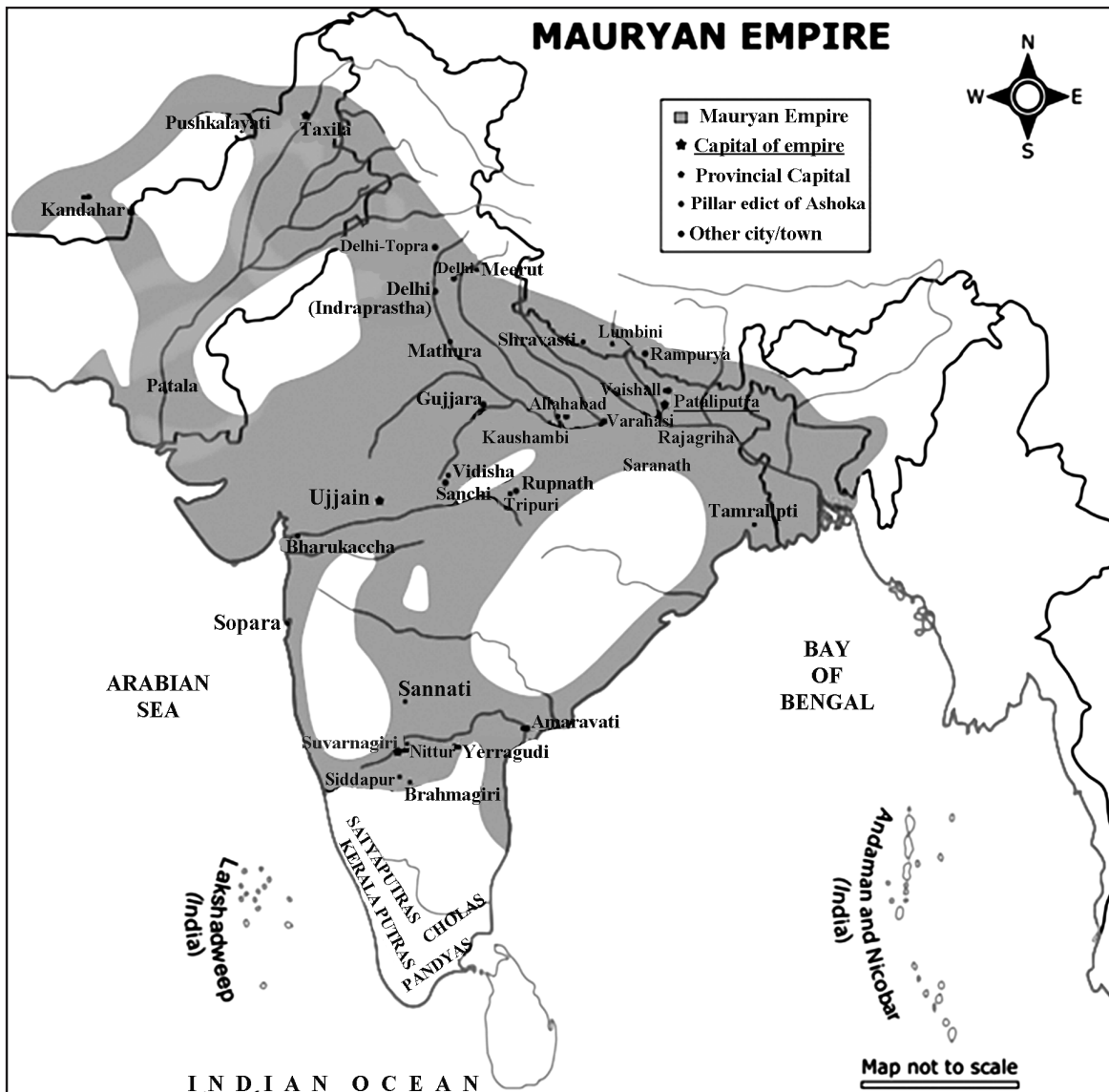
The Mauryan Age

The Mauryan Age is characterized by the rise in the development of a strong Administrative system and developments in Art and Culture under the rule of mighty emperors such as Chandragupta, Ashoka, etc. In this chapter we are going to learn about the rise and fall of the Mauryan Empire and its significance in the Indian history.

Mauryan Empire

The growth of Magadha culminated in the emergence of the Mauryan Empire. Chandragupta Maurya, who

founded the empire (c. 321 BCE), extended control as far northwest as Afghanistan and Baluchistan, and his grandson Asoka, arguably the most famous ruler of early India, conquered Kalinga (present-day coastal Odisha).



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Sources

- Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire. These include:
- Archaeological finds, especially sculpture.
- Indica, account of Megasthenes (a Greek ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya), which survives in fragments.
- Arthashastra, parts of which were probably composed by Kautilya or Chanakya, traditionally believed to be the minister of Chandragupta.
- Later Buddhist, Jaina and Puranic literature, as well as in Sanskrit literary works which mentions about Mauryas. The inscriptions of Asoka (c. 272/268-231 BCE) on rocks and pillars.

Rulers

Chandragupta Maurya (322 B.C.–298 B.C.)

- Greek historians have recorded his name as “Sandrakottus” or “Sandrakoptus”, which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.
- **Brahmanical sources – Mudrarakshasa** – says that the name Maurya was derived from ‘Mura’ a Shudra woman in the court of Nandas, and Chandragupta was son or grandson of that woman. **Vishnu Purana also mentions him of low origin i.e., Shudra.** But the **Buddhist and Jaina sources ascribed him a Kshatriya status.** His early career is shrouded in mystery. To Justin, a Greek writer, he overthrew Nandas between 325-322 B.C. To Plutarch (Greek Philosopher and Historian), he met Alexander in Punjab and implicitly invited him to attack Nandas but offended him by his boldness of speech.
- Chandragupta occupied Magadhan throne in 321 B.C. with the help of ‘**Chanakya**’ (Kautilya).
- He had allied with a Himalayan chief **Parvataka.**
- He **defeated Seleukas, the Alexander’s governor** in 305 BC who ceded to Chandragupta the three rich provinces of Kabul, Kandhar and Herat in return for 500 elephants.
- **Seleukas probably gave one of his daughters to Chandragupta** and sent an ambassador Megasthenes in the Mauryan court, who wrote an **account (Indica)** not only of the administration of the city of Pataliputra but also of the Mauryan Empire as a whole.
- **Towards the end of his life, he adopted Jainism (298 B.C.),** abdicated the throne and fasted unto death in an orthodox Jaina manner at Sravan Belagola near Mysore on Chandragiri hill.

Bindusara (298-273 B.C.)

- He was **son of Chandragupta** and was known as ‘**Amitraghata**’ (**Slayer of foes**), besides the master of the land between the two seas. Atheneus (Greek writer) calls him as ‘Amitrochates’ while Strabo (Greek writer) gives him the name of ‘Allitrochades’.
- In **Rajavali Katha (written by Devachandra, a Jain scholar)**, he is mentioned as **Sinhasena.** A **Chinese text, Fa-Uen-Chu-Lin names him Bindupal.** He continued the friendly links with **Syrian King Antiochus-I** and is stated to have requested him for a present of figs and wine together with a sophist. Antiochus sent figs and wine but replied that Greek Philosophers were not for export.
- He also received a **Greek ambassador ‘Daimachos’ from Antiochus I.**
- Pliny tells that Ptolemy II Philadelphos of Egypt sent an envoy ‘Dinoysios’ to Bindusara’s court.
- Tradition credits him the suppression of a revolt at Taxila, who later **appointed his son Ashoka** for further redress of grievances against the misrule of wicked bureaucrats (Dustanatyas).
- **Bindusara did not make any territorial conquest.**

Ashoka (273 – 232 B.C.)

- Ashoka was the **son of Bindusara** who had served as governor of Taxila and Ujjain previously. A Buddhist text ‘**Dipavamsa**’ says that he usurped the throne after **killing his 99 brothers, except the youngest one.**
- He fought the Kalinga war in 361 B.C. in the 9th year, of his reign, which proved to be a turning point in his career and he became a Buddhist Upasaka and undertook Dharmayatra. He started his Dharmayatra from the 11th year of his reign by visiting Bodhgaya.
- In the 14th year of his reign he started the institution of ‘**Dhamma Mahamatras**’ (The officers of righteousness) to spread the message of Dhamma.
- During his reign, the **policy of Bherighosa** (physical conquest) was replaced by that of **Dhammaghosa (cultural conquest).**
- In course of his second tour in the 21st year of his reign he visited **Lumbini**, the birth place of Buddha and **exempted the village from Bali (tribute) and the Bhaga (the royal share of the produce),** which were reduced to one eighth.
- Ashoka used the titles ‘**Devanampiya**’, often translated as “beloved of the gods” and ‘**Piyadassi**’, or “pleasant to behold” on his inscriptions. However, he mentions his personal name Ashoka on four edicts - Maski, Gurjara, Nettur and Udeogolam.

Post-Mauryan Period

In this chapter we are going to learn about the phase which comes after the decline of Mauryan Empire where there was a rise in several smaller kingdoms in different parts such as in the Eastern India, Central India and the Deccan. The Mauryas were succeeded by the Sungas, the Kanvas and the Satavahanas. And, in north-western India the Mauryans were succeeded by a number of ruling dynasties from Central Asia.

The period which began in about 200 B.C did not witness any large empire like that of Mauryas. Instead it is characterized by rise of widespread contacts between Central Asia and India. In eastern India, central India and the Deccan, the Mauryas were succeeded by number of native rulers such as the Sungas, the Kanvas and the Satavahanas. In north-western India they were succeeded by a number of ruling dynasties from Central Asia- Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians and Kushans.

Sunga Dynasty

After Ashoka, about five or six rulers of the Mauryan dynasty came to the throne of Patliputra, but they were all weaklings and so the Mauryan Empire gradually deteriorated under them. **According to Purana, Brihadratha, the last ruler of the Mauryan dynasty was assassinated by his own commander-in-chief Pushyamitra Sunga (185-148 B.C.).**

- ❑ The capital continued to be Pataliputra, and his authority extended to the south as far as the Narmada River, and embraced the territories in the Ganges basin, corresponding with the modern Bihar, Tirhut, and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- ❑ In about 155 B.C. **Menander**, the **Greek ruler** of Kabul and the Punjab occupied Mathura and Ayodhya but, according to Patanjali, they were pushed back with heavy losses by Pushyamitra Sunga. The ruler of Vidarbha, Yajnasena was defeated and obliged to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Sunga ruler.
- ❑ From the **Hathigumpha inscription of Kharvela**, it appears that Pushyamitra suffered a defeat at the hand of that illustrious ruler.
- ❑ He fought two wars and won them, conducted **two Aswamedha Yajnas**. The Yajnas marked the revival of Vedic rituals. Patanjali is said to have officiated as priest in the **Aswamedha sacrifices**.

- ❑ **According to Divya Vadana**, Pushyamitra was prosecutor of Buddhism and he put a price of **one hundred gold Dinars** on the head of every Buddhist Monk. The ninth king **Bhagavata** was identical with the king Kasiputra Bhagabhadra mentioned in the **Besnagar pillar** inscription and to whose court, the Greek king Antialkidas of Taxila sent his **ambassador Helidorus, son of Dion Diya**. He created a Gurudhvaja in the honour of Vasudeva Krishna and called himself a Bhagvata.
- ❑ The last **Sunga king was Devabhuti or Devabhumi**, who was assassinated by Vasudeva Kanva in 72 B.C. The sway of the Sungas marked the revival of the Hindu culture and the Sanskrit language which had seen a great set-back under Ashoka. They, in fact, set the ground for the advancement of Hinduism under the Guptas.
- ❑ The Sungas were great patrons of art.
 - ◆ They constructed a large number of Stupas, Viharas, Gateways and Railings, etc.
 - ◆ The railings of Bharhut Stupa, one of the **Gateways of Sanchi Stupa** and the Chaitya Hall at Karle are some of the exquisite examples of art of the Sunga period. Bharut sculptures used green schist as the medium.
- ❑ Sungas were also great patrons of education and literature.
 - ◆ The great Sanskrit Grammarian, **Patanjali**, was patronized by them.
 - ◆ **The Ramayana and the Mahabharata were also given final touches during this period.**
 - ◆ The famous book on Hindu Law, '**Manusmriti**' was also compiled during this period.

Kanva Dynasty

The Kanva dynasty overthrew the Sunga dynasty in parts of eastern and central India, and ruled from 73 BCE to 28 BCE.

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- ❑ It was established by Vasudeva Kanva in 73 BCE.
- ❑ Vasudeva was initially a minister of the Sunga Emperor Devabhuti, who then assassinated the former emperor and usurped the throne.
- ❑ According to the **Vayu Purana**, Kanva was a minor dynasty having only four rulers – **Vasudeva, Bhumimitra, Narayana, and Susarman** – who ruled for 45 years i.e., 73 to 28 B.C.
- ❑ Not much is known about these rulers except that they were all Brahmans like those of their predecessors, the Sungas.
- ❑ In about 28 B.C. Susarman, the last ruler of this dynasty was killed by the Andhra king Simuka.

Andhra – Satavahanas

The Andhras are ancient people who are even referred to in the Vedic literature. They are sometimes called **Satavahanas** because they belonged to that family. These Satavahanas gradually conquered the Andhra territory **which lay between the Krishna and the Godavari rivers** and so they began to be called Andhras after the name of their territory. Some historians link them with the Dravidians of the south, while others declare them to be Brahmans. **In the Nasik inscription they are described as the Brahmans.**

- ❑ From the **Edicts of Ashoka**, it appears that Andhras were under the suzerainty of the Mauryas. Possibly they declared their independence after their downfall.
- ❑ According to some Puranas like **Matsya Purana**, there were 30 rulers of the Andhras who ruled for 356 years but according to most other Puranas like Vayu Purana, etc., there were only **19 rulers** of this family who ruled for about 300 years.

Geographical Extent

- ❑ The Satavahanas emerged in the first century BCE in the Deccan region.
- ❑ They ruled over parts of Andhra, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ From recent archaeological evidence it is understood that the Satavahanas started to rule in the Telengana area and then moved to Maharashtra to rule in the Godavari basin with Prathistan (Paithan in Maharashtra) as their capital.
- ❑ Later they moved eastwards to control coastal Andhra also.
- ❑ **Inscription of Gautamiputra Satkarni** says about empire divided into five districts of Andharas:
 - (i) **Govardhan - ahara:** Nasik
 - (ii) **Soparaka - ahara:** West Coast

- (iii) **Mamala - ahara:** Hilly portion of Pune and Satara district
- (iv) **Satavahani - ahara:** Bellary district of Karnataka
- (v) **Kapura chara-ahara:** Gujarat



Important Rulers

- ❑ **Simuka:** The founder of the Andhra Empire was **Simuka** who is said to have ascended the throne in about 28 B.C. after the assassination of Susarman, the last ruler of the Kanva dynasty.
- ❑ **Krishna:** According to the Puranas, the second ruler of this line was Krishna, a brother of Simuka. During his reign, Nasik became a part of the Andhra Empire. He is said to have reigned for eighteen years and constructed a cave near Nasik.
- ❑ **Satakarni:** The third ruler, Satakarni, was an important ruler. He was nephew of Krishna and son of Simuka. He was a great conqueror who added **Berar, Malwa in central India** and Hyderabad to his Empire and performed **many horse sacrifices or Asvamedhas**.
 - ◆ His empire was very vast one which included such territories as Saurashtra, Malwa, Berar, North Konkan and the region around Poona and Nasik.
 - ◆ Satakarni laid the foundation of his new capital **Pratisthana in Hyderabad State**.
 - ◆ Much is not known about the successors of Satakarni for about a century except one of the ruler, **Hala**, who is known not for his military exploits but for the great achievements in fields of art and literature.