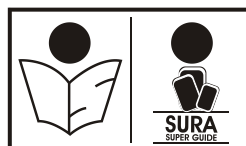


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Current Events



**For the post of Written Recruitment Examination for the post of Postgraduate Assistants
in Tamil Nadu Higher Secondary Educational Service.**

Syllabus: HISTORY (Subject Code: P08)

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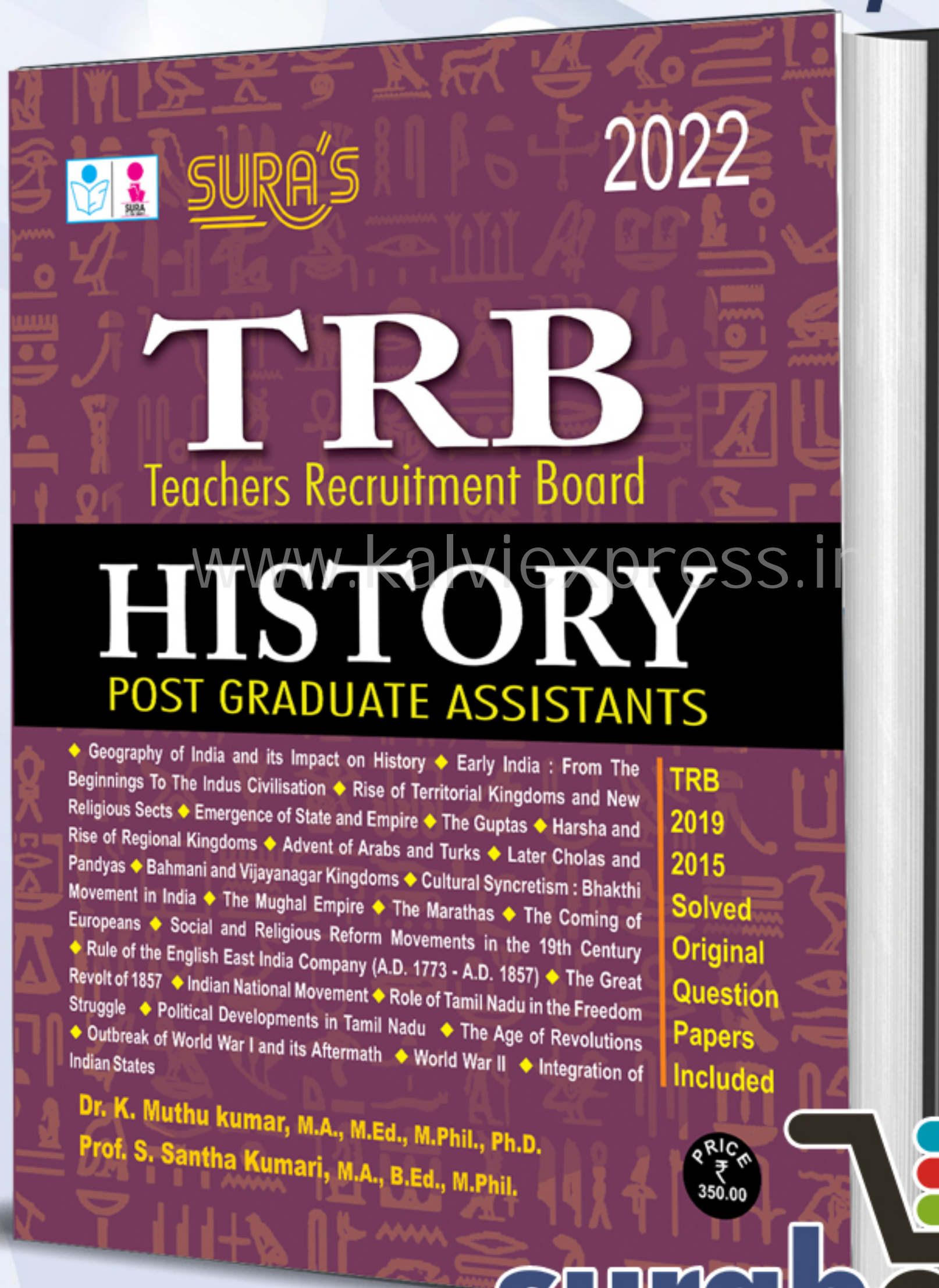
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HISTORY

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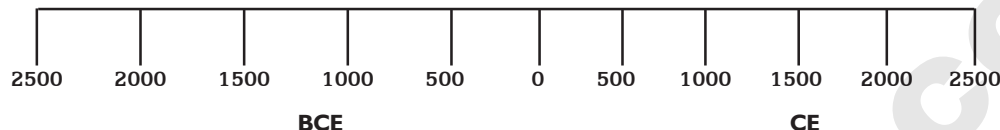
HISTORY

WHAT IS HISTORY ?

Introduction

- History is a record of past events in chronological order.
- The term History has been derived from the Greek Word **Istoria** which means learning by enquiry.

Time in history is calculated in years using BCE/CE, which stands for Before Common Era / Common Era.



Sources of History :

I. Archaeological Sources :

- Coins
- Inscriptions** : Rock Edicts, Temple wall inscriptions, Metal pillars.
- Artefacts** : Potteries, Toys, Tools, Ornaments
- Monuments** : Palaces – Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, Fort – Vellore, Temples – Thanjavur, Stupa – Sanchi, Monastery – Tabhang

II. Literary Sources :

1. Secular literature

- Epics and Poems – (Eg:) Shakuntala
- Accounts left by Foreign Travellers
- Works by Indian Author – (Eg:) Thiruvalluvar
- Folk songs and Ballads

2. Religious Literature

- Epics – Ramayana, Mahabharatha and Manimegalai
- Devotional literature – Devaram, Nalayira Divya Prabhandam and Thiruvagasam

Pre-historic period

- The period between the use of first stone tools and the invention of writing systems is pre-history.
- Stone tools, excavated materials and rock paintings are the major sources of pre-history.

Sources of pre-historic period

Paintings on the rocks and the walls of the caves, stone tools, excavated materials are the sources available to know about the pre-historic period.

Places of Pre-historic tools

Pre-historic tools can be found at Kondapur, Nevasa, Mehrgash, Rock shelters of Bhimbetka and Edakkal caves in India. In Tamilnadu Attirampakkam, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Adichanalur.

Numismatics – The study of coins.

Epigraphy – The study of inscriptions.

Benefits of museum

- Museums are community centres designed to inform and teach the public.
- The educational benefit of a museum is academic learning.
- Museums are the caretakers of history as much as they offer connections to history.
- Museums are full of stories, and it is interesting for students to hear these stories.
- Museums offer opportunities for children to compare and contrast leading to critical thinking skills.
- Children's curiosity comes out in the form of questions.
- Students are exposed to new ideas and concepts.
- Museums inspire students to wonder, imagine and dream of possibilities that are beyond what they know.
- Students are exposed to opportunities that spark creative moments.

Tools used by man to hunt animals

- Blade cores were used. These were chunks of sharp rocks.
- An end scraper is a tear-drop shaped piece of stone used to scrap fur and fatty tissue from the hides of animals.
- Burins were stone tools with a rounded grasping end and a sharp, razor like working end.
- Awls were small circular stone flakes.

'Dhamma' is the prakrit word for the Sanskrit term 'dharma', which means religious duty.

History is the study of past events in chronological order.

Paintings

- Paintings could have been drawn on rocks to convey their lifestyles to the future generations.
- They might have wished to record their activities through their paintings.

Two artefacts

- An artefact is something made or given shape by man, such as a tool or a work of art, especially an object of archaeological interest.
- Some of the artefacts are potteries, toys, tools and ornaments.

A Mighty Emperor Ashoka

- The most famous ruler of ancient India was Emperor Ashoka. It was during his period that Buddhism spread to different parts of Asia. Ashoka gave up war after seeing many people grieving on death after the Kalinga war. He embraced Buddhism and then devoted his life to spread the message of peace and dharma. His service for the cause of public good was exemplary. He was the first ruler to give up war after victory. He was the first to build hospitals for animals. He was the first to lay roads. Dharma Chakra with 24 spokes in our national flag was taken from the Saranath Pillar of Ashoka.
- Even though Emperor Ashoka was great, his greatness had been unknown until 20th century. The material evidence provided by William Jones, James Prinsep and Alexander Cunningham revealed the greatness of Emperor Ashoka.
- Based on these accounts, Charles Allen wrote a book titled The Search for the India's Lost Emperor, which provided a comprehensive account of Ashoka. Many researches made thereafter brought Ashoka's glorious rule to light. These inscriptions were observed on the rocks, Sanchi Stupa and Saranath Pillar and helped to understand the greatness of Ashoka to the world.

HUMAN EVOLUTION

Introduction

- Anthropologists have unearthed the footprints of humans in a country called Tanzania, which is in eastern Africa. They were found in rock beds submerged under the sand.
- The story of human evolution can be scientifically studied with the help of archaeology and anthropology.
- Archaeology is the study of pre historic remains of humans and materials used by pre historic humans. Excavated material remains are the main source for archaeological studies.

Stages of Human Evolution :

Name	Period	Description
Australopithecus (Proto-human) Evolved in eastern Africa ("southern ape")	Between 4 million and 2 million years	A mix of human and ape traits Bipedal walk (walking on two legs)
Homo habilis (Proto-human)	Between 2.3 and 1.4 million years	Presence of big toe to hold tightly and less protruding face. Tool maker.
Homo erectus (Java man) Not fully human; brain smaller than ours	Approximately 1.8 million years ago	Walked in a straight position (Posture). He had the knowledge of the fire.
Neanderthal (not fully human)	Between 130,000 and 40,000 years	Different from Africans. Their tools were crude. Hunting skills were also poor. There are evidences of burying the dead. Evidences are seen at Neanderthal in Germany.
Homo Sapiens (wise man)	300,000 years ago	Modern human being; hunting and gathering society; still used crude stone implements. Moved out of Africa and settled in Europe and Asia.
Cro Magnons the present Man (The modern human)	50,000 years ago in eastern Africa and 40,000 years ago in West Asia and in south-eastern Europe.	Beginning of human life; used not only implements made of stone but also of bone. Their weapons include harpoons and spear-throwers.



- Anthropology is the study of humans and evolutionary history.
- The word anthropology is derived from two Greek words: anthropos meaning "man" or "human"; and logos, meaning "thought" or "reason." Anthropologists attempt, by investigating the whole range of human development and behavior, to achieve a total description of cultural and social phenomena.

Radio carbon dating

- ◆ Radio carbon dating was used to ascertain the period. It was found that the foot prints of humans they had discovered were about 3.5 million years old. When there is sudden change in nature, the living beings adapt themselves to the changes and survive. Humans have thus evolved over millions of years adapting themselves to the changing times.

People and their Habitat

People	Region
Australopithecus	East Africa
Homohabilis	South Africa
Homoerectus	Africa and Asia
Neanderthal	Eurasia (Europe and Asia)
Cro-Magnons	France
Peking	China
Homo sapiens	Africa
Heidelberg	London

Cro Magnons learned to live in caves. Lascaus caves in France is the evidence for cave living of Cro Magnons. Their habitude was to bury the dead.

Human Evolution

- ◆ Human evolution means the process through which the humankind changes and develops towards an advanced stage of life.

Stages of Evolution

- ◆ Humans in erect position and walking on two legs happened much later.
- ◆ Changes in thumb so that they can hold things tightly.
- ◆ Development of brain.

Homo sapiens who migrated out of eastern Africa settled in different parts of the world. Their lifestyle also evolved and they made it suitable to the environs in which they lived. So humans in different places adopted different forms of lifestyle. Based on the weather, climate and nature of the living place, their physique and complexion also differed. This resulted in the formation of different races. Human procreation resulted in an increase in the population.

Hunting and Food Gathering

- ◆ Homo sapiens led a nomadic life. They lived in groups in a cave or a mountain range. Each group consisted of 30 to 40 people. They kept on moving in search of food. They hunted pig, deer, bison, rhino, elephant and bear for food. They also scavenged the animals killed by other wild animals like tiger. They learnt the art of fishing. They collected honey from beehives, plucked fruits from the trees and dug out tubers from the ground. They also collected grains from the forest. Once the food resources got exhausted in one area, they moved to another place in search of food. They wore hides of animals and barks of trees and leaves for protecting their bodies during winter. So humans began hunting to satisfy their need for food.
- ◆ There were many dangers involved in hunting. Due to large-scale hunting in the mountain areas and in the forests, many animals became extinct. Non availability of meat forced the humans to look for fruits and vegetables for food.

Art of Flaking

- Keeping a stone in the bottom and sharpening it with another stone.
- To make a stone tool, two stones were taken. One was used as a hammer to sharpen the other for removing flakes.

Stone Tools and Weapons

- ◆ Hunting was the main occupation of humans in the past. It was difficult for humans to kill a big animal with a stick or a stone. So they decided to use sharpened weapons.
- ◆ The best stone for the making weapons was chikki – mukki kal (flint). It is known for its strength and durability. Humans spent many hours in search of a flint stone. They made sharp weapons and tools with the help of the stones and fitted them with wood to grip them. Humans created tools like axes with big stones.
- ◆ The axes were used to cut trees, remove barks, dig pits, hunt animals and remove the skin of animals.

Discovery and use of fire

At first, humans were afraid of fire and lightning. Probably fire caused by lightning had killed many wild animals. Humans tasted the flesh of the killed animals, which was soft and tasty. This made humans aware of the effect of fire. They used flint stone to make fire and used it to protect them from predators, for cooking food and for creating light during night. Thus fire became important for man in olden times.

Invention of the Wheel

The invention of wheel by humans is considered to be the foremost invention. When humans saw the stones rolling down from the mountains, probably they would have got the idea of making the wheel.

Even today in the villages of Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu, people have the habit of making fire without use of match box.

Pot Making

- ◆ Humans learned to make pot with clay. The invention of wheel made pot making easier, and the pots made were burnt to make it stronger. They decorated pots with lot of colours. The colour dyes were made from the extracts of roots, leaves or barks. These natural dyes were used in rock paintings.

Ancient Rock Paintings

- ◆ In India, many paintings can be found in rocks and caves. The rock paintings give some information about the past. Approximately there are 750 caves, in which 500 caves have paintings. There are many more undiscovered caves. The rock paintings depict hunting pictures of the male and the female, dancing pictures and pictures of children playing.

From Nomadic to Settled Life : The World's Earliest Farmers

The seed of fruits and the nuts they ate were thrown into the soil. During rains, the soil gave it life. Some days later, the saplings sprouted from the soil.

- ◆ A plant grows from a single seed and yields lots of fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Seeds that fall in the river beds sprout easily.
- ◆ Plants grow faster in water fed areas.
- ◆ Alluvial soil is more suitable for plant growth than any other.

With the above knowledge humans gained, they realised that with proper sowing and nurturing, they could increase the number of plants more than the ones that grew naturally. Thus agriculture and farming came into existence. They domesticated the animals and used them in their farming.

Pre-Historic Rock Art of Tamilnadu

- Keelvalai - Villupuram , Usilampatti - Madurai
- Kumuthipathi - Coimbatore
- Mavadaippu - Coimbatore
- Porivarai cave-karikaiyur Nilgris

- ◆ Breeding of animals became an important part of their life. Oxen were used for ploughing. Oxen made the practice of agriculture easier. Life was becoming organised than it was, when they were hunting. It enabled them to settle down in a place. Now with settlement came the problem of utensils and vessels for cooking and storage. The potter's wheel and fire solved this problem.
- ◆ The invention of plough helped the farming practices. Farming started with the clearing of land and burning the left-over shrubs. They ploughed the land, sowed seeds in them and harvested the produce. Once the fertility of the soil decreased, they moved to a new place. Initially agriculture was done for immediate food requirement. Later when they found out ways to increase production, they started storing the produce.
- ◆ The food products stored were used during the lean harvest periods. By their experience, they understood that land close to the river side was suitable for farming. So they decided to stay there permanently.
- ◆ Humans stayed on the plains for a long time. During this period, they have not only learnt agriculture, but slowly developed skills of handicraft.
- ◆ Permanent settlement in a place increased the yield of crops and they had grains in excess of what they consumed.
- ◆ The surplus grains were exchanged with other groups for the other things they were in need of. This is called the barter system. Thus trade and commerce developed and towns and cities emerged.

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Introduction

- ◆ The development of agriculture created permanent settlements. Then emerged societies. They developed crafts, trade and exchange accompanied by technologies. Then they formed political organisations. Hence the term 'Civilisation' is used to distinguish them from early forms of society. Every civilisation and culture had their own features - none is superior or inferior.
- ◆ Early societies were organised as 'bands' during pre-mesolithic period. The 'bands' developed into 'tribes' who practised semi-sedentary life practices. They paved way for 'chiefdom'. People under chiefdom lived in larger areas. Social distinctions started to emanate in terms of wealth and authority.

- ◆ The cultural developments in fertile agricultural societies gave rise to civilisations. In the Bronze Age (post neo-lithic period), early form of state (proto state) came into being.
- ◆ In the social hierarchy, kings occupied top positions. They built palaces to live. The craftsmen and peasants occupied the lower strata of the society. They were forced to pay taxes. Language was refined. Science, astronomy and mathematics emerged from research. The process of urbanisation started.

Early Civilisations

- ◆ The Egyptian civilisation is known for its monumental architecture, agriculture, arts, sciences and crafts at a very early age.

- ◆ Civilisation is organised way of life. When a large number of people started living in close quarters, they brought in planning, organisation and specialisation. Settlements were planned and society became organised, food and craft production patterns were regularised. Huge buildings came into being. Technology contributed for better life styles.
- ◆ The peasants, craftsmen, potters and traders supplemented each other with their surplus productions. Priests, writers, nobles, rulers and administrators became part of civilisation.
- ◆ The important early civilisations are (1) Egyptian, (2) Mesopotamian, (3) The Chinese, (4) Indus Valley. When these civilisations emerged, the neolithic agro-pastoral communities also lived in other parts of the world and in India.

Egyptian Civilisation

- ◆ Egypt lies in the north eastern corner of the African continent. It is irrigated by the river 'Nile' which curiously surrounded by deserts on both sides.
- ◆ The Egyptian civilisation is nothing but 'Nile river civilisation'. Hence Egypt was called the 'Gift of the Nile' by historian Herodotus. The Nile valley is rich in fertile as it is deposited with fresh alluvial soil by Nile. Agriculture produced excess grains which in turn led to the emergence of 'Egyptian Civilisation'.
- ◆ Egypt came under control of Hyksos, Persians and Greeks under Alexander and then under Romans. In 30 BCE, Romans annexed Egypt. This period witnessed its relation to Sangam Age of Tamilagam.
- ◆ The Egyptian rulers were known as 'Pharaohs'. They were given divine status. To assist the king, there was a hierarchy of officials.
- ◆ Land belonged to the king and was assigned to the officials. Slavery was not found, but captives were used as slaves.
- ◆ Viziers were the highest officials who administered territories under the direction of pharaohs.
- ◆ The Egyptians believed in rebirth. Hence they preserved the dead bodies.
- ◆ The famous Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen's (who ruled from 1332 to 1322 BCE) tomb with a rich variety of offerings is located near Luxor in Egypt.
- ◆ The Egyptian agricultural produces were wheat, barley, millets, vegetables, fruits, papyrus and cotton. They domesticated cattle. They had trade links with Lebanon, Crete, Phoenicia, Palestine etc. Gold, Silver, Ivory were imported.
- ◆ They were adept in art and architecture. The pyramids are best examples.
- ◆ The great pyramids near Cairo are known as the 'Giza pyramids'. The pyramids are one of the wonders of the world. They were probably built between 2575 and 2465 BCE.

- ◆ **The Great Sphinx of Giza** is a massive limestone image of a lion with a human head. It is dated to the time of Pharaoh Khafre. It is one of the largest sculptures of the world and measures seventy three metres in length and twenty metres in height.
- ◆ The Egyptians practised polytheism.
- ◆ Amon, Re, Seth, Thoth, Horus and Anubis are some of the gods of Egyptians. They worshipped many gods, but the Sun god, Re, was the predominant one. Later on, the Sun god was called Amon.

The word 'paper' comes from 'Papyrus'. The Egyptians wrote on the leaves of a plant called papyrus, a kind of reed, which grew on the banks of Nile.

- ◆ Anubis is the god of death.
- ◆ Thoth was the god of writing and learning.
- ◆ The Egyptians excelled in Science, mathematics and astronomy. They had devised a calendar of 12 months with 30 days each. 5 days were added at the end of the year. This calendar was introduced as early as 4200 BCE. They were well-versed in art and architecture.
- ◆ Their form of writing is known as hieroglyphic.
- ◆ The heretic, an another form of writing, was used for common purposes. This form of writing used a pictogram-based system. It was developed around 3000 BCE and many texts and books were written using this script. The Egyptian writing system was deciphered by the French scholar, Francois Champollion (1822 CE).

The art of preserving dead bodies is known as 'mummification'. Pyramids and tombs were built to preserve the dead bodies. They used Natron Salt to preserve the bodies. Natron salt is a combination of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate. After 40 days, when the salt absorbed all the moistures, the body was filled with sawdust and wrapped with linen clothes. The body was stored in a stone box called 'Sarcophagus'.

Mesopotamian Civilisation

- ◆ Mesopotamia refers to the region of Iraq and Kuwait in West Asia. Several kingdoms emerged around the city states of this region from the early third millennium BCE. The Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisations flourished in Mesopotamia.
- ◆ The Euphrates and Tigris flow here and drain into the Persian Gulf. Hence this area is in between two rivers, it is known as Mesopotamia. The northern part of Mesopotamia is known as Assyria, and the southern part is called Babylonia.

Assyrian Empire was the first military power in history. They emerged militarily powerful because they were the earliest to use iron technology effectively.

The Sumerians

- ◆ The earliest civilisation in the Mesopotamian area was that of Sumerians. They were contemporaries of the people of Egyptian and Indus Valley civilisations. They had trade relationship. The Sumerians had settled in lower Tigris valley around 5000 and 4000 BCE. They might have come from Central Asia. 'Nipper' was an important city founded by them. Kings acted as chief priests. Their political domination came to an end around 2450 BCE.

Ziggurats were pyramid-shaped monuments found in ancient Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). One of the most famous Ziggurats of the time is the one in the city of Ur.

- ◆ The Akkadians dominated Sumeria between 2450 and 2250 BCE. The Sargon of Akkad was a famous ruler. The available documents (Sargon of Akkad) refer to ships from Meluha, Magan and Dilmun. The city of 'Akkad' later became as 'Babylon'.
- ◆ The Babylonians came from Arabian desert. Babylonians extended their kingdom to the western part of Mesopotamia under the king Hammurabi who was a great law maker. The first ever epic hero on the earth was 'Gilgamesh'. The epic was originally written on twelve clay tablets in Cuneiform in ancient Sumeria.
- ◆ The Assyrian empire was active perhaps around 1000 BCE in Mesopotamia. The Assyrian government was controlled by an Emperor. Assur was the capital of Assyrians. They worshipped the deity of Lamassu for protection.
- ◆ The Sumerian civilisation had many city states. A typical Sumerian city was surrounded by cultivable lands. The fortified Sumerian cities had temples called 'Ziggurats' at the centre. The society was hierarchical. Priests, nobles, scribes occupied higher positions. Peasants were attached to temples. Temples served as storehouses.
- ◆ Agriculture was the main occupation of Mesopotamians. They had developed irrigation. Wheat, barley, apples, grapes, turnips etc were grown. They had domesticated cattles.
- ◆ Mesopotamians had trade links with Syria and Asia Minor, Iran and Indus people. They travelled in ships. Their temples acted as banks. Loans were given, some times interest also was charged. In history, this is the first instance we notice the charge of interest on borrowed money.
- ◆ They had planned cities. The walls were made of mud or brick with gates.
- ◆ The Sumerian religion was polytheistic. They worshipped several gods and goddesses.
- ◆ The Sumerians prayed to Enlil, the god of sky and wind.
- ◆ The Babylonians worshipped Marduk, and Ashur was the supreme god of the Assyrians. Ishtar was

goddess of love and fertility, Tiamat the god of the sea and chaos, and Sin was the moon god.

- ◆ Hammurabi Code is an important legal document that specifies the laws related to various crimes. It has 282 provisions specifying cases related to family rights, trade, slavery, taxes and wages. It is carved on a stone, which portrays Hammurabi as receiving the code from the Sun god Shamash.
- ◆ The 'eye for eye' and 'tooth for tooth' form of justice is used in the Hammurabi Code.
- ◆ Cuneiform is the Sumerian writing system. The shape of the letter is in the form of wedge and hence it is called cuneiform. Evolving around 3000 BCE, it is one of the earliest scripts of the world.
- ◆ As Harappans, the Sumerians also had writing system, the earliest one in history.
- ◆ They carved sculptures in stone and clay. They portrayed animals such as goats, rams, bulls and lions. Massive sculptures were created during Assyrian and Babylonian times.
- ◆ The Mesopotamians excelled in mathematics, astronomy and medicine.
- ◆ They were the ones to formulate the 60-minute hour, the 24-hour day and the 360° circle.
- ◆ They introduced the twelve month calendar system based on lunar months.
- ◆ A text called the Diagnostic Handbook, dated to the 11th century BCE Babylon, lists symptoms and prognoses.
- ◆ The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the Sumerians.
- ◆ They developed the calendar system of 360 days and divided a circle into 360 units.

The Chinese Civilisation

- ◆ The Chinese civilisation flourished along the banks of two rivers – **Huang He** (Yellow River) and **Yangtse**. The yellow river is known as 'river of sorrow' as it often changed its course causing floods.
- ◆ Neolithic communities lived between 4500 BCE and 3750 BCE.
- ◆ There were city states which later merged into the empire.
- ◆ 'Shi Huangdi' was the first emperor of China whose period probably was between 221 and 206 BCE. He unified China. He constructed the 'Great wall of China – one of the wonders of the ancient world.
- ◆ The Hun empire ruled between 206 – 220 CE.
- ◆ Wu-Ti was the greatest Hun emperor. (141 to 87 BCE)
- ◆ He paved the way for opening of the 'Silk Road' in 130 BCE to encourage trade activities. China's silk was much sought after. It reached Rome also.
- ◆ The Terracotta Army refers to the large collection of terracotta warrior images found in China. They

depict the armies of the king Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. They were buried with the king in 210–209 BCE. They are found at the northern foot of the Lishan Mountain.

- ◆ The Chinese civilisation was enriched by the philosophical thoughts of Lao Tse, Confucius, Mencius, Moti and Tao Chin (365–427 CE).
- ◆ The Yellow Emperor's Canon of Medicine is considered China's earliest written book on medicine.
- ◆ The Chinese developed a script system. From pictographic, it transformed into symbol form.
- ◆ Main contributions of Chinese civilisation are :

Writing system that was improved, Invention of paper, Opening of the Silk Road, Invention of gun powder.

The Great Wall of China : The Great Wall of China, one of the wonders of the world, was a massive effort undertaken for the protection of China from the Mongols. In 220 BCE, under Qin Shi Huang, earlier fortifications were connected by walls as a form of defence against invasions. It was built from third century BCE until 17th century CE. It ran for over 20,000 kilometres covering the hills and plains, from the border of Korea in the east to the Ordos Desert in the west.

EARLY INDIA : FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Introduction

- ◆ Human life can be traced in India to Stone Age.
- ◆ The sources for the history of this are archaeological sites, geological sediments, animal bones and fossils, stone tools, bone tools, rock paintings and artefacts. There is no written evidence for this period. Although the Harappans used a script, it is yet to be deciphered.
- ◆ The pre-historic period witnessed no development of scripts. It is referred to as Stone Age.
- ◆ It is believed that human ancestors might have first evolved in Africa and later migrated to different parts of the world. The migrants were known as 'Homo erectus'.
- ◆ Recent researches have revealed that humans lived in India between 2 million and 1 million years ago.
- ◆ The period before invention of script is divided into Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The names have been assigned depending upon the metals they used.
- ◆ The earliest age in history is called old Stone Age or Paleolithic. This period is divided into (1) Lower Paleolithic Culture (2) Middle Paleolithic Culture and (3) Upper Paleolithic Culture.
- ◆ The period after Stone Age is Mesolithic Age next is Neolithic Age. In the Neolithic Age only, animal and plant domestication developed leading to food production.
- ◆ During the Lower Paleolithic Period, human ancestor species of Homo erectus is believed to have lived in India.
- ◆ The first Palaeolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863.
- ◆ Pre-historic study mainly depends on tools they used. They used the tools mainly for hunting, butchering and skinning the animals.

- ◆ The industries of Palaeolithic cultures are divided into the Early, Middle and Late Acheulian Industries. The early Acheulian tools include polyhedrons, spheroids, hand axes, cleavers and flake tools.
- ◆ The Acheulian tradition is absent in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern India. Heavy rainfall is attributed to its absence.

Acheulian and Sohanian : Based on research, two independent cultural traditions of hand axe (Acheulian) and pebble-flake (Sohanian) industries were confirmed in India. Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers. The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools. The Sohan industry gets its name from the Sohan river valley of Pakistan. These two cultural traditions are not considered distinct any longer. Recent studies argue that there was no independent Sohan tradition as Acheulian tools are found in the Sohan industry as well.

- ◆ Lower paleolithic tools are found in Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Palaeolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.
- ◆ Researchers have concluded that Paleolithic age was around two million years ago. This culture continued upto 60,000 years ago.
- ◆ Evidence of hominin (immediate ancestors of Homo Sapiens) fossil is rare in India. The only rare hominin fossil was found in Hoshangabad in M.P. A fossil was discovered in Athirampakkam. But now not available.
- ◆ A hominid Skull cap was found in a basal conglomerate deposit in 1982. It is considered to represent the Archaic Homo Sapiens.
- ◆ In Narmada Vally, animal fossils of pre-historic elephant skull was discovered. Skulls of wild cattle and of great horse-like animal were also found. The

teeth of horses or asses and of water buffalo were found. 17 animal hoof prints have been uncovered at Athirampakkam.

- ◆ The people of Lower Paleolithic age lived in caves near river valleys as seen from evidence in Bhimbetka (M.P).
- ◆ They belonged to the species of 'homo erectus' who had no complex languages. They expressed a few sounds and signs. They were intelligent enough to use stone tools.
- ◆ About 4,00,000 years from now, changes took place in lithic technology and the species of human ancestors diverged. Anatomically, modern humans are said to have emerged around 3,00,000 years ago. The middle Paleolithic period of Athirampakkam is dated to be around 3.85 to 1.72 lakh years from now.

Equus refers to the genus of animals including horses, asses and zebras.

- ◆ The tool types of the Middle Palaeolithic period are hand axes, cleavers, choppers, chopping tools, scrapers, borers and points, projectile points or shouldered points and knives on flakes. Flake industry was predominant in the Middle Palaeolithic period and tools such as scrapers, points and borers were made. Scrapers were used for wood and skin working.
- ◆ The middle Paleolithic culture in India is dated between 3,85,000 and 40,000 BCE.
- ◆ The Middle Palaeolithic sites are found in Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Yamuna and other river valleys.
- ◆ The main features of the Indian Middle Palaeolithic period include the following :
 1. The tools became smaller.
 2. The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
 3. Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.
 4. Use of chert, jasper, chalcedony and quartz as raw materials.
- ◆ The period of upper Paleolithic culture is marked by innovation in tool technology and increased cognitive capability of humans.
- ◆ The modern humans evolved first in Sub-Saharan area about 3,00,000 years ago. They migrated and occupied various areas of Asia around 60,000 years ago.
- ◆ Their tool technology improved to blades and bone tools. Many tools made of Silica - rich raw materials were used.
- ◆ Bone tools and faunal remains are found in Kurnool caves of Andhra Pradesh.
- ◆ The upper Paleolithic culture is represented in India between 40,000 and 10,000 years from now.

- ◆ The people of this period used caves as well as the open air space for living. Meralbhavi in Karnataka, Kurnool caves and Godavarikhani in Telangana, Baghor I and Baghor III of Son Valley in Madhya Pradesh and Patne in Maharashtra are some of the Upper Palaeolithic sites of India.
- ◆ Sri Lanka has evidence of microliths and hominin fossils. Incised ostrich eggshell, and shell and stone beads have been found at Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh, Patne in Maharashtra and Batadomba-Lena and Fa Hien Cave in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Evidences of art in the forms of paintings, beads and ornaments of this period have been found.
- ◆ Some of the green colour paintings of Bhimbetka belong to this period according to archaeological evidence.

Mesolithic Culture

- ◆ Mesolithic culture can be found along the length and breadth of India. In the following places, the Mesolithic sites have been discovered.
- ◆ Mesolithic sites in India are found in Paisra (Bihar), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Baghor II, Chopani Mando, Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama (all in Uttar Pradesh), Sankanakallu and Kibbanahalli (Karnataka). Rock shelter sites are found in Lekhakia, Baghai Khor, Adamgarh and Bhimbetka.

Ostrich Egg Shells : Evidence of ostrich has been found in some pre-historic sites of India. The egg shell of this bird had been used as beads and those from Patne have been dated to 25,000 BP. They are found in Bhimbetka and Patne.

- ◆ Coastal sites are seen at Mumbai, Teri sites of Thoothukudy in Tamil Nadu and Vishakapatnam, which have microlithic evidence.
- ◆ The change of climate triggered migration of people to various eco-zones. Monsoon pattern had also developed.
- ◆ Even in today's deserts of Rajasthan also, there were fresh water lakes between 10,000 and 3500 B.P.
- ◆ The date of Mesolithic culture differs from place to place.
- ◆ In eastern Mediterranean (Levant) it dated between 20,000 and 9500 BCE, In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it continued upto 1000 BCE. In Srilanka, microlithics appeared about 28,500 years BP.

Teri : A coastal landscape caused by sand dunes. These soils may have originated in the Pleistocene epoch of the Quaternary period.

Economy

- ◆ Hunting was the main Occupation, Agriculture was not practised. Domestication of animals paved the way for neo-lithic age. The rock paintings of central India depict hunting, trapping, fishing etc.

- ◆ The faunal evidence from this period shows that people belonging to this period hunted cattle, gaur, buffalo, barasingha, porcupines, sambar, chital, gazelle, hog deer, nilgai, jackal, turtle, fish, wild hare, lizard, fox and monitor lizard. Bones of rhinoceros and elephant have also been found. They used spears, bow and arrow and traps. The paintings of Bhimbetka show that various animals were hunted and for this men and women went together.
- ◆ The people used fire and perhaps roasted food. Domestic animal bones of cattle, sheep, goats, pig and dog have been found at Kanewal, Loteswar and Ratanpur, and from Adamgarh and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh sites. Camel bones have been found from Kanewal.
- ◆ The Mesolithic people were highly mobile. They made temporary hunts with perishable materials. They moved mainly in search of food.
- ◆ Oval and circular huts and possible wattle daub are found in Chopani Mando and Damdama in Uttar Pradesh and Bagor and Tilwara in Rajasthan.

Burials

The Mesolithic people buried the dead, which suggests their beliefs and humane relationships. Human skeletons have been found in Mahadaha, Damdama and Sarai Nahar Rai in Uttar Pradesh. At Mahadaha, a man and a woman were buried together. One burial had an ivory pendant as the grave good.

Art

- ◆ Art was an integral part of mankind. The hunters and gatherers have not vanished with Mesolithic age. They continued as a marginalised class even in pre-historic period and today also.
- ◆ A chert stone used as a core had geometric engravings from Chandravati in Rajasthan, bone objects from Bhimbetka and human tooth engraved with geometric design and Rock paintings are found in the rock shelters of Madhya Pradesh and Central India. They show people hunting, trapping animals and fishing and dancing. Bhimbetka near Bhopal, Raisen and Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh and South Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh are some of the sites. Even today, we witness such groups, tribals in Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- ◆ These people might have decorated themselves with flowers and leaves.

Hunters and gatherers of the Historical Period

Many such groups lived in the 19th and 20th century, as recorded in the Edgar Thurston's Castes and Tribes of Southern India.

Characteristics of the Mesolithic Cultures

- ◆ The Mesolithic people lived in semipermanent and temporary settlements.
- ◆ They occupied caves and open grounds.
- ◆ They buried the dead.

- ◆ They had artistic skill.
- ◆ They were spread over wider geographical regions.
- ◆ Cultural continuity is noticed in many parts of India from this period.
- ◆ Their microlithic tools enabled them to hunt smaller animals and birds.

Early Neolithic Age :

- ◆ The Neolithic period witnessed Agriculture and domestication of animals. The people started settling in fertile areas such as Nile region of Egypt and Mesopotamia of West Asia the Indus and Gangetic regions of India and also in China. Between 10,000 BCE and 5000 BCE, agriculture emerged in these regions.
- ◆ The production in agriculture and domestication of animals resulted in permanent settlements. Pottery developed. Cultural developments accompanied.
- ◆ The neolithic cultures came to be regionalised. The earliest culture flourished in North west India, then in north India. Eastern Zone witnessed later.
- ◆ The Neolithic culture of north-western India is the earliest to have evidence of plant and animal domestication in India. Mehrgarh, Rana Ghundai, Sarai Kala and Jalilpur are some of the Neolithic sites. These sites are now situated in Pakistan.
- ◆ It dates back to 7000 BCE. Wheat and barley were cultivated. Sheep, Goat and Cattle were domesticated. It was precedent to Indus Valley civilization.
- ◆ The first cultural period of Neolithic age of Mehrgarh dating between 7000 BCE and 5500 BCE witnessed cultivation of barley, emmer and einkorn wheat jujube, ilanthai and dates, and also domesticated sheep, goat and cattle. They were semi-nomadic, pastoral groups.
- ◆ The II period of Mehrgarh between 5500 and 4800 BCE witnessed pottery. Terracotta and glass were in use. Long distance trade was there, as Lapez Lazuli used by them were available only in Badakshan.
- ◆ Neolithic culture in Kashmir region was contemporary to the Harappan civilisation. Burzahom, an important site of this culture, provides evidence for the Megalithic and Early Historic Periods. In this place, people lived in pit houses (about four metres in depth) in order to escape the cold weather.
- ◆ There was a trade link between the people of Burzahom and Harappan cities.
- ◆ Two phases of Neolithic culture were aceramic and ceramic phases. Pottery and hunting were in full form.
- ◆ The development of human dentistry shows the advancement of culture from eating raw meat and grains to cooked meat and cooked grains. Dentistry had also developed.
- ◆ The Neolithic sites are found at many places in Bihar and West Bengal. Birbhanpur and Chirand are

some of the prominent Neolithic sites in this region along with Kuchai, Golbaisasan and Sankarjang. These cultures show similarities with the Neolithic complexes of east and Southeast Asia.

- ◆ The Neolithic cultures of South India have been found mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the north-western part of Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ Paiyyampalli in Tamil Nadu is the major Neolithic site in South India. Some early Neolithic sites have ash mounds. Utnur and Palvay in Andhra Pradesh and Kodekal, Kupgal and Budihal in Karnataka feature ash mound sites. Soft ash and decomposed cow dung layers are also found at this site. The evidence of habitation in the form of houses and burials are found around the ash mounds.
- ◆ In Eastern India, the remains of the neolithic periods dating between 2500 BCE and 1500 BCE, are found in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ Daojali Hading and Sarutaru are the Neolithic sites in the Assam region. This region bears evidence for shifting cultivation.
- ◆ Austro Asiatic language used by them shows cultural similarities with South East Asia.

Indus Valley Civilisation

Ancient World Civilisations

- Mesopotamia – 3500 to 2000 BCE
- Indus Valley – 3300 to 1900 BCE
- Egyptian – 3100 to 1100 BCE
- Chinese – 1700 to 1122 BCE

Settlement of people :

Initially, people lived in groups. Then they formed communities out of these groups. Then evolved the societies which in due course became civilisations.

People preferred to settle near the rivers because :

- ◆ The soil is fertile.
- ◆ Fresh water is available for drinking, watering livestock and irrigation.
- ◆ Easy movement of people and goods is possible.

Harappa

- ◆ The ruins of Harappa were first described by the British East India Company soldier and explorer Charles Masson in his book.
- ◆ In 1856 when engineers laid a railway line connecting Lahore to Karachi, they discovered more burnt bricks. Without understanding their significance, they used the bricks for laying the rail road.
- ◆ In the 1920s archaeologists began to excavate the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. They unearthed the remains of these long-forgotten cities. In 1924 the Director General of ASI, Sir John Marshall, found many common features between Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. He concluded that they were

part of a large civilisation. Some slight differences are found in the earthenwares of Harappa and of Mohenjo-Daro. This made the researchers conclude that Harappa was older than Mohenjo-Daro.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was started in 1861 with Alexander Cunningham as Surveyor General. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

Sites on Indian borders

Archaeologists found major Harappan sites near Indian borders. They are

Manda, Rakhigarhi, Harappa, Mitathai, Kalibangan, Ganveriwala, Mohenjo-Daro, Kot Diji, Amri, Dholavira, Lothal.

Time Span of Indus Valley Civilisation

Geographical range	South Asia
Period	Bronze Age
Time	3300 to 1900 BCE (determined by using the radiocarbon dating method)
Area	13 lakh sq.km
Cities	6 big cities
Villages	More than 200

Urban Civilisation

Harappan civilisation is said to be urban because of the following reasons.

- ◆ Well-conceived town planning
- ◆ Astonishing masonry and architecture
- ◆ Priority for hygiene and public health
- ◆ Standardised weights and measures
- ◆ Solid agricultural and artisanal base

Unique Features of Harappan Civilisation

Town planning is a unique feature of the Indus Civilisation. The Harappan city had two planned areas.

Mehergarh – the Precursor to Indus Civilisation

Mehergarh is a Neolithic site. It is located near the Bolan Basin of Balochistan in Pakistan. It is one of the earliest sites known. It shows evidence of farming and herding done by man in very early times. Archaeological evidence suggests that Neolithic culture existed in Mehergarh as early as 7000 BCE.

Streets and Houses

- ◆ The streets are observed to have a grid pattern. They were straight running from north to south and east to west and intersected each other at right angles.
- ◆ The roads were wide with rounded corners.
- ◆ Houses were built on both sides of the street. The houses were either one or two storeys.
- ◆ Most of the houses had many rooms, a courtyard and a well. Each house had toilets and bathrooms.
- ◆ The houses were built using baked bricks and mortar.

Sun-dried bricks were also used. Most of the bricks were of uniform size. Roofs were flat.

- ◆ There is no conclusive evidence of the presence of palaces or places of worship.

Burnt bricks which are used in construction are strong, hard, durable, resistant to fire and will not dissolve in water or rain.

Drainage System

- ◆ Many of these cities had covered drains. The drains were covered with slabs or bricks.
- ◆ Each drain had a gentle slope so that water could flow.
- ◆ Holes were provided at regular intervals to clear the drains.
- ◆ House drains passed below many lanes before finally emptying into the main drains.
- ◆ Every house had its own soak pit, which collected all the sediments and allowed only the water to flow into the street drain.

Bronze Age : It is a historical period characterised by the use of articles made of bronze.

The Great Bath

- ◆ The great bath was a large, rectangular tank in a courtyard. It may be the earliest example of a water-proof structure.
- ◆ The bath was lined with bricks, coated with plaster and made water-tight using layers of natural bitumen.
- ◆ There were steps on the north and south leading into the tank. There were rooms on three sides.
- ◆ Water was drawn from the well located in the courtyard and drained out after use.

The Great Granary

- ◆ The granary was a massive building with a solid brick foundation.
- ◆ Granaries were used to store food grain.
- ◆ The remains of wheat, barley, millets, sesame and pulses have been found there.

A granary with walls made of mud bricks, which are still in a good condition, has been discovered in Rakhigarhi, a village in Haryana, belonging to Mature Harappan Phase.

The Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall was another huge public building at Mohenjo-Daro. It was a multi-pillared hall (20 pillars in 4 rows to support the roof).

Trade and Transport

- ◆ Harappans were great traders.
- ◆ Standardised weights and measures were used by them. They used sticks with marks to measure length.
- ◆ They used carts with spokeless solid wheels.

- ◆ There is evidence for extensive maritime trade with Mesopotamia. Indus Seals have been found as far as Mesopotamia (Sumer) which are modern-day Iraq, Kuwait and parts of Syria.

- ◆ King Naram-Sin of Akkadian Empire (Sumerian) has written about buying jewellery from the land of Melukha (a region of the Indus Valley).

- ◆ Cylindrical seals similar to those found in Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia have also been found in the Indus area. This shows the trade links between these two areas.

- ◆ A naval dockyard has been discovered in Lothal in Gujarat. It shows the maritime activities of the Indus people.

Dockyard at Lothal

Lothal is situated on the banks of a tributary of Sabarmati river in Gujarat.

Leader in Mohenjo-Daro

- ◆ A sculpture of a seated male has been unearthed in a building, with a head band on the forehead and a smaller ornament on the right upper arm.
- ◆ His hair is carefully combed, and beard finely trimmed.
- ◆ Two holes beneath the ears suggest that the head ornament might have been attached till the ear.
- ◆ The left shoulder is covered with a shawl-like garment decorated with designs of flowers and rings.
- ◆ This shawl pattern is used by people even today in those areas.

- KVT Complex (Korkai-Vanji-Thondi) spread over Afghanistan and Pakistan has many places, names of those were mentioned in Sangam literature.
- Korkai, Vanji, Tondi, Matrai, Urai and Kudalgarh are the names of places in Pakistan.
- Gurkay and Pumpuhar in Afghanistan are related to the cities and ports mentioned in the Sangam Age. The names of the rivers Kawri and Poruns in Afghanistan and the rivers Kaveri Wala and Phornai in Pakistan also occur in the Sangam literature.

Technology

- ◆ Indus people had developed a system of standardised weights and measures.
- ◆ Ivory scale found in Lothal in Gujarat is 1704mm (the smallest division ever recorded on a scale of other contemporary civilisations).

The word 'civilisation' comes from the ancient Latin word *civis*, which means 'city'.

The hidden treasures of the Indus Civilisation

Inscriptions (written in a script of those times) can provide us information about customs, practices and other aspects of any place or time. So far, the Indus script has not been deciphered.

Apparel

- ◆ Cotton fabrics were in common use.
- ◆ Clay spindles unearthed suggest that yarn was spun.
- ◆ Wool was also used.
- ◆ Settlements were built on giant platforms and elevated grounds.
- ◆ The Indus Civilisation seems to have been a peaceful one. Few weapons were found and there is no evidence of an army.
- ◆ They displayed their status with garments and precious jewellery.
- ◆ They had an advanced civic sense.

Ornaments

- ◆ Ornaments were popular among men and women.
- ◆ They adorned themselves with necklaces, armlets, bangles, finger rings, ear studs and anklets.
- ◆ The ornaments were made of gold, silver, ivory, shell, copper, terracotta and precious stones.

- Iron was unknown to people of Indus.
- Indus people used the red quartz stone called Carnelian to design jewellery.
- Copper was the first metal discovered and used by humans.

Governance :

Historians believe that there existed a central authority that controlled planning of towns and overseas trade, maintenance of drainage and peace in the city.

Archaeological site at Mohenjo-Daro has been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Occupation

- ◆ The main occupation of the Indus Civilisation people is not known. However, agriculture, handicrafts, pottery making, jewellery making, weaving, carpentry and trading were practiced.

- ◆ There were merchants, traders and artisans.
- ◆ Rearing of cattle was another occupation.
- ◆ People of those times knew how to use the potter's wheel.
- ◆ They reared domesticated animals.

Pottery

- ◆ Pottery was practiced using the potter's wheel. It was well fired. Potteries were red in colour with beautiful designs in black.
- ◆ The broken pieces of pottery have animal figures and geometric designs on it.

Religious Belief

There is no evidence pointing to specific deities or their religious practices. There might have been worship of Mother Goddess (which symbolized fertility), which is concluded based upon the excavation of several female figurines.

Toy Culture

- ◆ Toys like carts, cows with movable heads and limbs, clay balls, tiny doll, a small clay monkey, terracotta squirrels eating a nut, clay dogs and male dancer have been found.
- ◆ They made various types of toys using terracotta, which show that they enjoyed playing.

The earliest form of writing was developed by Sumerians.

Radiocarbon Dating Method : A Standard Tool for Archaeologists, also known as C_{14} method. The radiocarbon method uses the radioactive isotope of carbon called carbon₁₄ to determine the age of an object.

End of Harappans :

By 1900 BCE, the Harappan culture had started declining. It is assumed that the civilisation met with repeated floods, ecological changes, invasions, natural calamity, climatic changes, deforestation, an epidemic.

Important Indus Valley sites where grain and bones have been found

Sites	Grain and Bones
Mehrgarh (in present day-Pakistan)	Wheat, barley, sheep, goat, cattle
Koldihwa (in present-day Uttar Pradesh)	Rice, fragmentary animal bones
Mahagara (in present-day Uttar Pradesh)	Rice, cattle (hoof marks on clay surface)
Gufkral (in present-day Kashmir)	Wheat and lentil
Burzahom (in present-day Kashmir)	Wheat and lentil, dog, cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo
Chirand (in present-day Bihar)	Wheat, green gram, barley, buffalo, ox
Hallur (in present-day Andhra Pradesh)	Millet, cattle, sheep, goat, pig
Paiyampalli (in present-day Andhra Pradesh)	Black gram, millet, cattle, sheep, pig



EARLY INDIA : THE CHALCOLITHIC, MEGALITHIC, IRON AGE AND VEDIC CULTURES

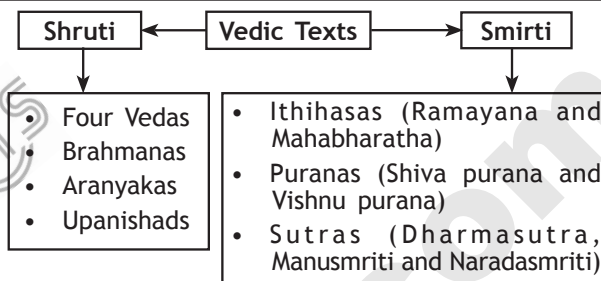
Introduction

- ◆ We are sure, diverse cultures, languages and civilisations existed in India after the decline of Indus Civilisation.
- ◆ The main sources of history between the decline of Indus Valley Civilisation in 1900 BC and emergence of Mahajanapadas are pottery, plant remains and metal objects. The other is Vedic literature passed orally from generation to generation.
- ◆ The early Vedic culture is correlated with Chalcolithic culture and later Vedic culture is correlated with painted Grey Ware culture of the Iron Age in North India.
- ◆ While Indus Civilisation is limited to a particular area, the era of Vedic culture witnessed expansion of agricultural, pottery, trade and other activities to all the areas of Indian sub-continent.
- ◆ Vedic texts are supposed to be the earliest known texts composed in India. The language used was Vedic Sanskrit.
- ◆ The Vedas are four – **Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharvana**. The Vedic texts were memorised and transmitted orally to generations. They were written in later period only.
- ◆ The earliest manuscript might have been written in 10th or 11th century CE. They throw light on polity, society, religion, philosophy etc.
- ◆ The main collections of Vedic hymns are called samhitas. The Rig Vedic samhita is the earliest text. The Rig Veda is dated between 1500 and 1000 BCE. The Rig Veda contains 10 books. Books 2 to 7 are the earliest and the Books 1, 8, 9 and 10 are assigned to a later period.
- ◆ The samhitas of the Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas, and the brahmanas, aranyakas and upanishads attached to the Vedas are the Late Vedic texts. The Sama Veda was composed in musical notes which are considered to constitute the basis of Indian music. The Yajur Veda has rituals and hymns. The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

Sources of Vedic literature

Vedic literature can be classified into two broad categories.

- ◆ **Shrutis** - The Shrutis comprise the four Vedas, the Brahmanas, the Aranyakas and the Upanishads. They are considered sacred, eternal and an unquestionable truth. 'Shruti' means listening (or unwritten) ones that were transmitted orally through generations.
- ◆ **Smritis** - A body of texts containing teachings on religion such as Ithihasas, Puranas, Tantras and Agamas. Smritis are not eternal. They are constantly revised. 'Smriti' means definite and written literature.



National Motto: "Satyameva Jayate" ("Truth alone triumphs") is taken from Mundaka Upanishad.

- ◆ Unlike the urban phase of the Harappan Civilisation, Chalcolithic cultures were pastoral and based on farming, generally rural.
- ◆ The Chalcolithic people also were well versed in domestication of animals, pottery, building mud houses with stone foundations and wooden materials. They used copper objects also.
- ◆ Ochre colour pottery was produced by Chalcolithic people. They were used as jars, bowls, basins etc. This OCP culture dates back to 2600 to 1200 BCE and found in Indo - Gangetic plains.
- ◆ The Southern area of India also have witnesses to Chalcolithic culture. Pottery was known. Microlithic copper tools were used. The people survived by animal rearing and pastoral activities.

Periplus mentions the steel imported to Rome from Peninsular India was subjected to duty in the port of Alexandria.

Iron Age in North India

- ◆ The Iron age in North India is characterised by Painted Grey Ware culture. It dates back to 1100 – 800 BCE. It was mainly found in gangetic – yamuna valley.
- ◆ The Greyware pottery laid foundations for political formations. It correlates with the Kuru Panchala Kingdom.
- ◆ The Painted Greyware cultural phase is followed by Northern Black Polished Ware culture (NBPW), which is associated with the Mahajanapada and Mauryan periods.
- ◆ The Iron Age in North India was coeval with Painted Greyware Culture, and in South India it was associated with Megalithic burial mounds.

The term 'Megalith' is derived from Greek. 'Megas', means great and 'lithos' means stone. Using big stone slabs built upon the places of burial is known as Megalith.

Megalithic / Iron Age in Tamilnadu

- ◆ The burial system followed by the people of Neolithic period continued into the Megalithic period.
- ◆ The urn burial system was another type of practice and is evidenced in Adichanallur (present Thoothukudi district). Black-ware is peculiar to burial sites in Tamilnadu. Interestingly, black-ware is found mostly in burial mounds and not in human habitations.
- ◆ The end of Megalithic burial practice is assigned to third-second centuries CE. During this period Brahmi writing akin to Ashokan Brahmi has been discovered in Kodumanal (Erode District).
- ◆ During the Sangam period people still remembered urn burials. The four primitive hero-stones with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, datable to third to second centuries BCE found in the upper part of the Vaigai valley, support the authenticity of the hero stone tradition described in the Sangam Tamil literature in the context of cattle raids.
- ◆ Stones in memory of the dead, known as 'menhirs' are found in the tombs of the dead.

Black and red ware, along with partial human remains and iron objects, were unearthed recently at Vadamalkunda in Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu. A few stone slabs were also found at the site. Centuries-old menhir at Singaripalayam excavated near Kundadam in Tiruppur district points to the existence of an ancient settlement along the banks of River Uppar.

Megalithic sites in Tamilnadu

Adichanallur - Thoothukudi District

Adichanallur, 22 km from Tirunelveli, is located in Thoothukudi district. In 1876, a German ethnologist and naturalist, Andrew Jagor conducted an excavation at Adichanallur. He carried with him samples of backed earthenware, utensils of all sizes and shapes, a considerable number of iron weapons and implements, and great quantities of bones and skulls. These are now housed in a Berlin Museum.

The burial mound at Adichanallur yielded the following :

- Urns and pottery of various kinds in large numbers.
- Iron implements, including spades and weapons (daggers, swords, spears and arrows). Some stone beads and a few gold ornaments
- Bronze objects representing the domestic animals such as buffalo, goat or sheep and cock, and wild animals like tiger, antelope and elephant. Traces of cloth and wood.
- ◆ The discovery of sacrificial implements prompted Caldwell to conclude that the people of Adichanallur were not adherents of Vedic religion.
- ◆ The goods unearthed included pots, weapons, tools, ornaments, and beads, particularly carnelian, akin to those found at Mohenjodaro. Since carnelian was not known to this region in ancient times, it may have been brought to Kodumanal from outside.

- **Menhir** – In Breton Language 'Men' means “stone” and 'hir', “long.” They are monolithic pillars planted vertically into the ground in memory of the dead. Menhir at Singaripalayam in Tirupur District and at Vembur in Theni District points to the existence of an ancient settlement along the banks of River Uppar. Menhirs are found at Narasingampatti, Madurai district, Kumarikalpalayam and Kodumanal in Erode district.
- **Hero Stones** – A Hero Stone is a memorial stone raised in remembrance of the honourable death of a hero in a battle or those who lost their lives while defending their village from animals or enemies. Hero stones are found at Maanur village near Palani, Dindigul district, Vellalankottai, Tuticorin district, and Pulimankombai, Dindigul district.

Paiyampalli – Vellore District

- ◆ Paiyampalli is a village in Tirupattur Taluk of Vellore (Dt). Here, in 1960, a large number of urn burials were found. Iron artefacts, along with Megalithic Black and Red Ware Pottery have also been found.
- ◆ Evidence for iron smelting has come to light at Paiyampalli. The date of this culture, based on radio carbon dating, is 1000 BC (BCE).

Kodumanal – Erode District

- ◆ In Kodumanal, in Erode (Dt), a series of excavations were made on the northern bank of Noyyal river. More excavations were made in 1980s and 1990s. The recent one was in 2012. Kodumanam may be the ancient name of Kodumanal, as mentioned in Pathirruppathu, a Tamil epic. The discovery of Roman urns indicates that Kodumanal had trade links with Rome.
- ◆ A burial site is assigned to megalithic period. The Kodumanam remains must belong to 2nd century BCE to 2nd century CE.

Megalithic Monuments in Tamil Nadu

- The people who lived during the last stages of the New Stone Age began to follow the Megalithic system of burial. According to this system, the dead body was placed in a big pot along with burial goods. The Megalithic monuments bear witness to a highly advanced state of civilisation with the knowledge of iron and community living.
- **Dolmens** are Megalithic tombs made of two or more upright stones with a single stone lying across the burial site. Megalithic Dolmens have been found in Veeraraghavapuram village, Kanchipuram district, Kummalaruthupatti, Dindigul district, and in Narasingampatti, Madurai district.

Keezhadi – Sivagangai District

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) excavated an ancient town dating to Sangam Age in Keezhadi village at Tirupathur taluk. Excavations have produced evidence for brick buildings, and well laid-out drainage

system. Tamil – Brahmi inscription on pottery, beads of glass, carnelian and quartz, pearl, gold ornaments and iron objects, shell bangles, ivory dice have been unearthed. In 2017, ASI sent two samples of these for Radio carbon dating to Beta Analytic, Florida, USA. They dated samples as 200 BC (BCE). The Roman artefacts found at the site add to the evidence of ancient Indo-Roman trade relations.

The Aryans and Rig Vedic Society

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

- ◆ No firm conclusion has been drawn so far about the home of Aryan. It is doubtful whether it denotes a race or a large section of people who spoke the language later christened as Aryan. Even today Germans identify themselves with Aryan race thereby they claim to be superior species of mankind.
- ◆ However the advent of Aryans and the related evidences of their existence are provided by four Vedas which are written in Sanskrit.
- ◆ Though Rig Veda is in Sanskrit, about 300 words of Munda and Dravidian languages have been identified. It signified cultural mix with earlier inhabitants.
- ◆ From Veda, we learn that Aryans had domesticated horses and used chariots with spoked wheels. They were good in the use of bows and arrows. They practised agriculture and pastoralism. They cremated or buried the dead bodies. The cult of fire and the use of Soma drink were prevalent.
- ◆ On the basis of the scrutinised available sources, conclusion can be drawn that Aryans migrated from Central Asia, as the culture of Aryans is witnessed in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- ◆ The term '**Asva**' (Horse) is mentioned 215 times and **Vrishabha** (bull) is mentioned 170 times. But neither tiger, nor rhinoceros is found in Rig Vedic test. The last mentioned two animals are tropical animals which are not mentioned in Rig Veda. Rig Veda shows no urban way of life. Hence the identity cannot be correlated to Harappan culture, which does not know horse.
- ◆ The early Vedic period is placed between 1500 BCE and 1000 BCE. In the Indian sub-continent, the Aryans lived in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Punjab and fringes of Western U.P.
- ◆ The Rig Veda speaks of Aryans' encounter with local people who were of black complex and had different cultural practices. These people are mentioned as '**Dasyus**' or '**Dasas**'. There were already chiefs for groups.

- ◆ The concept of polity developed in the Rig Vedic time. Various units of habitation and divisions such as the janas, vis, gana, grama and kula are referred to in the Rig Veda. Jana means tribe.
- ◆ The battles were fought not only between Aryans and non-Aryans but also among Aryans. The material wealth and booty got by battles were shared among them. Gods were invoked before the start of battles. The God Indra is called '**Purandara**' which means destroyer.
- ◆ **Bharathas and Tritsu** were the ruling Aryan clans.
- ◆ In the battles ensued, as the Bharathas became dominant, India was known after them as Bharatha Varsha. Vasishta was their priest. Sudas of Bharata clan won over Purus. Later they formed an alliance which was known as Kuru Clan. Later Kurus allied with Panchalas had established their control over the Upper Gangetic valley.
- ◆ The Rig Veda refers to Arya Varna and Dasa Varna. The Dasas were conquered and made slaves. The Dasas later came to be known as Sudras.
- ◆ According to the Purusha Sukta of the Rig Veda the various varnas emerged thus: Brahmanas from the mouth, the kshatriya from the arms, the vaisya from the thighs and the sudra from the feet of Purusha, when he was sacrificed.
- ◆ **Panis** were itinerant traders or perhaps caravan traders. Panis are also seen as enemies in some verses.
- ◆ The family was a joint one. The society was patriarchal, but women were respected. Polygamy existed. Widow remarriage was there. People married at 16-17 years of age. No evidence of child marriage. Agriculture was main occupation.
- ◆ Cattle was considered wealth. The term for war is '**gavishtthi**' (ie) **cattle lifting**. Cows were donated to priests.
- ◆ Carpentry, weaving, metalware making, ornament making were the professions.
- ◆ Danas and dakshinas were given in redistribution.
- ◆ **Niksha** – a gold or silver ornament used in barter.
- ◆ Bullock carts, horses-drawn chariots were used. Boats are also mentioned.
- ◆ The polity of Rig Veda society was tribal. Kings lived in multi-pillared palaces.
- ◆ Rajan was a hereditary king and was elected by '**Samiti**'. The king was the saviour of the people, land and property.
- ◆ The assemblies called sabha, samiti, vidhata and gana are mentioned in the Rig Veda. Sabha was the assembly of elders or the elites, samiti was an assembly of people, and vidhata was the assembly of tribe. They performed military and religious functions.
- ◆ Religion and rituals played an important role. Natural forces were worshipped. Indra was an important god, 'Ushas' were goddess of dawn. Aditi, Prithvi and Sinivali were other gods.

Metals Known to Rig Vedic People : Gold (Hiranya), Iron (Shyama), Copper/ Bronze (Ayas)

Later Vedic Culture

- ◆ Date 700 – 600 BCE Painted Grey Ware culture of Iron age is later Vedic culture. This period witnessed social, political and cultural developments.
- ◆ The later Vedic texts after Rig Veda were Yajur, Sama and Athavana Vedas.

Eastward Expansion of the Aryans

- ◆ While the Indo-Aryans moved eastward in search of new pastures, the Punjab region was occupied by Indo-Iranians. When Aryans migrated, they carried with them their cultures.
- ◆ The Kurus, Panchalas, Vashas and Ushinaras are the tribes mentioned in the Later vedic texts. Around 1000 BCE, the Aryans moved to Kosala region of eastern U.P. and Videha in North Bihar. They had to fight with local people of Chalcolithic age (Anga, Magadha).
- ◆ By the end of the Vedic period, Panchala and Videha were Aryanised.
- ◆ Later Vedic age witnessed the usage of Iron. The date is fixed at 700 BCE. But some suggest that it is 1200 BCE. However, the discovery of iron speeded the hegemony of Aryan over local population. By extensive use of iron, the gangetic valley forests were destroyed and converted into agricultural lands.
- ◆ The intensification of agricultural activities created permanent settlements of territorial units. The term '**Janapadas**' is found in Brahmanas dated to 800 BCE.
- ◆ The remains found in 1000 places in upper gangetic valley shows the thick population in that area. The word '**nagara**' is found in later Vedic texts. At the end of the vedic period only, the urban-like settlements such as '**Hashtinapura**' and '**Kausambi**' are found.
- ◆ The political developments witnessed the abolition of Samitis, Sabhas, Vidhata which elected kings. Larger kingdoms, the concepts of Samrat / Samrajya developed. Larger armies were created. The ambition of Samrat was unbridled.
- ◆ Monarchy originated. Sacrifices were order of the day. Prohibits were given importance. The kingship became hereditary.
- ◆ The king received voluntary and compulsory contributions from the people. The great epic '**Mahabharata**' gives clues about the fight to control territories.
- ◆ The Ramayana is suggestive of Aryan expansion and control of territories and encounters with tribals.
- ◆ The first millennium saw the development of polity from lineage to state. The political organisations such as '**rajya**' and '**ganasanghas**' (oligarchies) developed in later vedic period.

- ◆ The Kuru clan which emerged as a fusion of 'Bharatas' and 'Purus' was the major ethnic group and Hastinapur was their capital. They were the fore fathers of 'Pandavas' and 'Kauravas' of Mahabharatha. When Hastinapur was flooded, they moved to 'Kausambhi' near Allahabad.
- ◆ Later Vedic society witnessed 'Ashwamedha - yaga', 'Vajapeya' (chariot race). This period witnessed the emergence of 'Varnas' – divisions in society. 'Brahmanas' were priests and teachers. 'Kshatriyas' were kings and warriors. 'Vaishyas' were merchants and 'Sudras' – the artisans and farmers. The first two were given importance at the expense of the other two.
- ◆ The Kshatriyas challenged Brahmanical supremacy and their exclusive privilege of entering the asramas, a regulated four stage life namely brahmacharya, grihasta, vanaprastha and sanyasa. The outcome of this was the birth of Jainism, Buddhism and Ajivakam.

Dara Shukoh, the Mughal prince, translated the Upanishads into Persian in 1657, much before the colonial scholars developed any interest in ancient Indian literature.

- ◆ The Varna system was rigid. The Brahmins had the upper hand. They were privileged to wear sacred thread and recite gayatri mantra.
 - ◆ The idea of Gotra emerged in later vedic period. Persons of same gotra were considered as brothers and sisters.
 - ◆ The family was an important unit. The family was patriarchal. Polygamy was in vogue.
 - ◆ While in Rig Vedic period, women participated in rituals, in later vedic period, they were excluded.
 - ◆ In the economic sphere of activity, caravan traders existed. No evidence of coin has been found in later Vedic period. The introduction of coins took place after about 600 BCE.
 - ◆ Vedic system of education was in existence, upanishads were taught.
 - ◆ The subjects of the study included the four Vedas, Itihasas, Puranas, grammar, logic, ethics, astrology, maths and military science.
 - ◆ The students were also trained to lead a disciplined life.
 - ◆ Only Dvijas could be Shishyas. No women could have formal education.
- Towards the end of the later Vedic period, the concept of four stages in life (the four ashramas) developed.
- ◆ Brahmacharya (Student Life)
 - ◆ Grihasta (Married Life)
 - ◆ Vanaprastha (Going to the forest to meditate)
 - ◆ Sanyasa (Leading a life of an ascetic so as to attain Swarga)

Terms used in vedic period

Term	Meaning
Jana	tribes (appears 21 times in Rig Veda)
Griha	family, lived in gramas (villages)
Grihapati	Head of Griha
Wife	Sapatni
The field	Kshetra
Ploughing	Krishi
Cultivation	Barley, Wheat
Langla, Sura	Plough
Sita	Furrow
Prohita	Priest

Term	Meaning
Senani	the chief of army
Gopa or Gopati	chief of cattle
Purohita	Priest (advised king)
Bali	tax imposed
Vrajapati	controller of a territory
Gramani	head of village
Kulapas	heads of fighting groups
Varuna	rain god
Soma	God of plants
Murut	God of strength
Rudra	Siva

RISE OF TERRITORIAL KINGDOMS AND NEW RELIGIOUS SECTS

Introduction

The Aryans started moving eastwards searching for new pastures. The use of iron and accompanying technological improvements of implements of iron paved way for excess agricultural produce and consequent urbanisation. Several religious beliefs started sprouting. Buddhism and Jainism touched the hearts of the people.

Sources

The epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, the dharmasastras, Buddhist texts such as the Tripitakas and Jatakas, Jaina texts and Greek accounts such as that of Arrian constitute literary sources for the period.

Archaeological Evidences

- ♦ Iron objects, Textiles, beads, pottery, glassware, ivory and large number of terracotta artefacts.
- ♦ **Urban features** are Northern Black polished ware (NBPW), fortification of towns by moats, houses built by burnt bricks, drainage facilities, ring wells, soak pits etc.
- ♦ The emergence of towns in Gangetic plains is known as second urbanisation. After the Harappan civilisation, new and different types of towns came into being. They were
 - Political and administrative centres such as Rajgriha, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Champa
 - Centres of trade and commerce such as Ujjain and Taxila
 - Holy centres such as Vaishali.

Janapadas to Mahajanapadas

- ♦ The later Vedic period (900 – 600 BCE) witnessed transformation of janas into janapadas (territories). The janapadas fought with each other. The victory ensued merger of janapadas. Thus janapadas developed into mahajanapadas.

- ♦ All important elements of state, that is, territory, people, government and sovereignty were found in 'mahajanapadas'. The king was the Sovereign ruler. The people paid tax to maintain law and order. Hierarchical society existed.

Sixteen Mahajanapadas :

According to Puranic, Buddhist and Jaina traditions, there were sixteen mahajanapadas.

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. Gandhara | 2. Kamboja | 3. Assaka |
| 4. Vatsa | 5. Avanti | 6. Shurasena |
| 7. Chedi | 8. Malla | 9. Kuru |
| 10. Panchala | 11. Matsya | 12. Vajji (Vrijji) |
| 13. Anga | 14. Kasi | 15. Kosala |
| 16. Magadha | | |

- ♦ The mahajanapadas are classified as gana-sanghas and chiefdoms based on the nature of their polity.
- ♦ There were 'gana sanghas' (oligarchies). The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region.
- ♦ There were also smaller kingdoms such as Kosala and Kasi. It is interesting to note that the names of the clans, such as Ikshvaku and Vrishni, as well as these early kingdoms, are all mentioned in the two epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- ♦ Mahajanapadas practised vedic orthodoxy. The priestly class enjoyed pre-eminent status. But it was absent in 'gana sanghas'.
- ♦ The king, the head of the kingdom was advised by priests. The kingship was hereditary. But he took collective decisions by councils. Taxes were the main source of revenue.
- ♦ Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land. Bhaga was obtained as a share of the produce. Kara and Shulka were some of the other taxes collected during this period.

- ◆ The richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras. The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas. The society was stratified on the basis of varnas.
- ◆ In this period, a new category of fifth varna 'untouchables' emerged. They were forced to live on the fringes of villages. They lived on hunting and gathering food.
- ◆ They had their own language, which was different from that spoken by the Indo-Aryans.

Emergence of Heterodox Thinkers

- ◆ When stomach was full, brain started working. The 6th & 5th BCE saw intellectual awakening that impacted the rapidly growing India. The impact swept across South Asia. This awakening was the outcome of questioning of the existing philosophy by a host of heterodox thinkers.
- ◆ Gosala, Gautama Buddha, Mahavira, Ajita Kesakambalin and other thinkers renounced the world and wandered across the Gangetic plains, contemplating and reflecting on the social and cultural scenario of their times.
- ◆ The thinkers questioned the Vedic religion and ideas. Though all thinkers questioned the Vedic concepts, there emerged rivalry among the new thinkers. Eventually, Jainism and Buddhism emerged as popular faiths.

Sources

Literary sources

- ◆ Angas – Jain texts
- ◆ Tripitakas and Jatakas – Buddhist texts

Causes for intellectual awakening

- ◆ The sixth century BCE was in deep intellectual ferment. The formation of State and rigidity in vedic religion paved way for revolutionary liberty of thought.
- ◆ The socio-economic changes and the denial of elite position to the emerging rich class, led to the blossoming of heterodox religion in Magadha.
- ◆ As vedic religion was organised and has not permeated into the lower strata of society, devised an easy way for emergence of heterodox religions.
- ◆ The grievance of 'Kshatriyas' that they were denied a staged life of ashramas, a privilege that was available only to Brahmins made them revolt against vedic religion.

Heterodox sects :

- ◆ The ascetic wanderers and teachers attracted many followers and established various sects.
- ◆ The teachings of heterodox religions were caught easily by common people.
- ◆ Their philosophies encompassed antinomian (belief that divine grace takes away the necessity of obeying moral law), materialist and fatalist elements.

- ◆ The Buddhist text "Samannaphala Sutta" mentions the meeting of Ajatasatru and Gautama Buddha.
- ◆ Ajathasatru met the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira). They are described as "homeless wanderers" of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo). These sects were the key rivals of Buddhism.
- ◆ Finally Buddhism was acceptable to Ajatasatru.

Omniscience – It is the ability to know everything or be infinitely wise.

Ajivikas

- ◆ According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect. He was succeeded by Kisa Samkicca, followed by Makkhali Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas. Gosala met Mahavira for the first time in Nalanda and their friendship lasted for six years. They separated due to doctrinal differences. Gosala then went to Sravasti, where he was patronised by a rich potter woman called Halahala.
- ◆ Gosala was portrayed both by Buddha and Jaina accounts as a vicious character.
- ◆ The Ajavikas were naked ascetics. Their headquarters was 'Sravasti'.
- ◆ The basic principle of Ajavikas was 'niyati' (fate)
- ◆ They believed in transmigration.
- ◆ According to Ajivikas, there were six inevitable factors in life, viz. gain and loss, joy and sorrow, and life and death.
- ◆ Purana Kassapa succeeded Gosala. He advocated no merit or demerit by generosity or killing of others respectively.
- ◆ Non-action is way of life.
- ◆ Though Ajavika religion had spread in many places, the influence they exerted was less compared to Buddhism and Jainism.
- ◆ Pakudha Kachchayana believed that the world was made of seven substances that were "unmade, irreducible, uncreated, barren, stable as a mountain peak, standing firm like a pillar – that do not alter, do not change, do not interfere with one another, are incapable of causing one another pleasure, pain or both pleasure and pain".
- ◆ Ajita Kesakambalin (Ajita of the Hair Blanket) was a materialist.
- ◆ He believed that every human was made of four primary elements: fire, water, wind and sense. After death, these elements return to the earth. There is no life after death.

Ajivikas in Tamil Land

Manimekalai, Nilakesi and Sivagnanasiddhiyar have references to Ajivika doctrine. Nilakesi's quest for truth takes her to Buddha and Puranan. Puranan was the leader of the Ajivika sect.

The Cholas are known to have levied a tax on the Ajivikas.

Lokayata and Carvaka

- ◆ Lokayata signifies materialism. Caravaka and Ajita Kesakambalin established materialist school of thought in India. They questioned the authority of vedas.
- ◆ The rivalry started rising among heterodox sects. 'Bhagavata Sutra', a Jaina text blames Gosala of low birth. 'Buddhaghosa' also ridiculed Gosala.
- ◆ A Buddhist Jataka story "compares the heretics with the fire-flies, whose faint light faded before the rising glory of the sun, i.e., the Buddha".

Karma - The belief that a person's actions in this life determine the quality of his or her later part of the current life and the next incarnation.

Jainism

- ◆ Though Mahavira is considered as founder of Jainism, it was Rishaba, the first of 24 'thirthankaras' of Jain sect. The 24th was Mahavira.
- ◆ Mahavira was known as 'jina' (conqueror), hence the tradition is known as 'Jainism'.
- ◆ The original name of Jainism was 'Nirgranthas' (free from bonds). It is referred as 'Nigantha Nataputta' in Buddhist texts.
- ◆ Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.
- ◆ Mahavira (Vardhamana) was born around 540 BCE near Vaishali in a royal family.
- ◆ He left family at the age of 30. He wandered for 12 years in search of Enlightenment (Nirvana) which he attained also. He died at the age of 72 near Rajagriha. His death was a joyous event for Jains.
- ◆ Initially, Jainism had large followers. Later it was contained only to traders and merchants. As it prescribed the killing either intentionally or non-intentionally as sin, even the agriculturists could not follow.
- ◆ About 500 years after Mahavira's death, in about 79 or 82 CE, a schism occurred in Jainism. Magadha was affected by severe famine and some of the Jaina monks under Bhadrabahu went south to maintain their strict discipline. They remained without garments and were known as Digambaras (space-clad or naked). Others stayed back under the leadership of Shulabhadra and adopted a white garment and were known as Svetambaras (white-clad). The Svetambaras doubted the sincerity of the joins remained in famine affected Magadha. Because

of famine, they could have indulged in violence of killing, the Swethambaras doubted. The schism weakened Jainism in Magadha, but it found ardent followers in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka.

- ◆ On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon. It consisted of 12 angas (limbs). Another council was held in Valabhi, Gujarat, in the 5th century CE. It added 12 upangas (minor sections). The Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature. Acharrangasutra, Suttrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts. Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Mahavira

Original name	Vardhamana
Place of birth	Kundhagrama near Vaishali, Bihar
Parents	Siddharth, Trishala
Place of death	Pavapuri, Bihar

Tenets of Jainism

- ◆ The central tenet of Jainism is non-violence.
- ◆ It does not believe in God.
- ◆ One can escape misery by resorting to austerity.
- ◆ Mahavira rejected Vedic authority.
- ◆ The world has no end, and no beginning. It goes through a series of progress.
- ◆ The world is made of soul (Jiva) and matter (Ajiva). The coming together of two creates 'Karma' which leads to endless life-cycle.
- ◆ The Jains are required to follow three principles called Triratnas or Three Gems. (1) Right faith (samyag-darshana); (2) Right knowledge (samyag-jnana); (3) Right conduct (samyag-mahavratas)
- ◆ The monks have to undertake the five great vows (pancha-mahavratas): (1) Not to kill or injure (ahimsa); (2) Not to steal (asteya); (3) Not to lie (satya); (4) Celibacy (brahmacharya); (5) Not to possess property (aparigraha)
- ◆ As the followers were mostly traders and merchants, they were closely associated with urbanisation.
- ◆ Jainism is an egalitarian religion.
- ◆ One attains status in society by action and not by birth. Jainism believes that "by one's action one becomes a Brahmin, a Kshatriya, or a Vaishya, or a Sudra."
- ◆ Women were admitted into Jain monasteries. But as a woman, one cannot attain salvation.

Moksha - Liberation from the cycle of birth and death

Reasons for the Spread of Jainism

The following are the main reasons for the wide acceptance of Jainism in India :

- ◆ Use of people's language.
- ◆ Intelligible teachings.
- ◆ Support from rulers and traders.
- ◆ Perseverance of Jain monks.

Jainism in Tamilnadu :

- ◆ Jainism spread to Tamilnadu in 3rd century CE. Jaina rock shelters are found in large numbers near Madurai. The death of 'Kopperuncholan' in Purananooru by fasting is similar to Jain cultural practice of 'Sallekhana'.
- ◆ Jaina influence is strong in early Tamil literature. Naladiyar, Palamoli, Jivaka Chinthamani, Yapperunkalam Karikai, Neelakesi are some of the prominent Jaina works in Tamil. As early as c. 470 CE a Jaina Dravida Sangha was established in Madurai by Vajranandi, a disciple of Boojya Padha.
- ◆ One of the Jaina temples is at Tiruparuthikunram near Kanchipuram with beautiful ceiling paintings. This part of Kanchipuram was known as Jaina Kanchi.
- ◆ The Kazhugumalai temple from the 8th century CE marks the revival of Jainism in Tamil Nadu. This cave temple is believed to have been built during the reign of Parantaka Nedunjadaiya of Pandya dynasty.

Gautama Swami, a chief disciple of Mahavira, compiled the teachings of Mahavira, called Agama sidhantha.

Decline of Jainism

- ◆ The split was one of the main reasons.
- ◆ The severity of religious practices and spread of Buddhism were other cause.

Buddhism

Buddha	
Original name	Siddhartha
Place of birth	Lumbini Garden, Nepal
Parents	Suddhodana, Maya devi
Place of death	Kushi Nagar, UP

- ◆ The most important heterodox religion was Buddhism. It emerged as a powerful religion as it was patronised by Ashoka, the great Mauryan king.
- ◆ Though virtually, it has disappeared from India where it was born, it spread and even today it is followed by billions of people in China, South east and East Asian countries.
- ◆ Buddha was born in Lumbini near Kapilavastu in a royal family. He married Yasodha and had a son.

Four Great Sights

At the age of 29, Siddhartha saw four sorrowful sights. They were :

1. An uncared old man in rags with his bent back.
2. A sick man suffering from an incurable disease.
3. A man's corpse being carried to the burial ground by weeping relatives.
4. An ascetic

Stricken by the grief of these people, he left the palace to seek the eternal truth behind all these events.

- ◆ He cut his hair and sent it to the palace through his charioter to announce his renunciation. This act of Buddha is known as 'Mahabhiraskramana' or 'The great going forth'.
- ◆ Siddhartha, as he was named by his parents, wandered in the forests and practised severe austerities. One day he ate the rice in milk given by a milkmaid named 'Sujatha' began 49 days of meditation. Under a Pipal tree in Gaya he attained enlightenment at the age of 35. Then he was called 'Buddha'.
- ◆ He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event is described as Dharmachakra-parivartana or 'wheel of the great law'. He spoke about the Four Noble Truths and the Middle Path. He established Sangha and spread his ideas far and wide.
- ◆ At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.
- ◆ The tenets of Buddhism were decided by Buddhist Councils.
- ◆ Four Buddhist councils were held. The first was held at Rajagriha after Buddha's death. It was headed by 'Upali'. Upali recited 'Vinaya Pitaka'. Ananda, the close follower and Buddha's cousin recited 'Sutta Pitaka'.
- ◆ The second was held at Vaishali, a century after Buddha's death. The Buddha order split into two later.
- ◆ One was called the Sthaviravadins or 'Believers in the Teachings of the Elders' and the other known as Mahasanghikas or 'Members of the Great Community'. The Third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra. It was convened by Asoka. The Sthaviravadins established themselves strongly and expelled the heretics. The last section called "Kathavatthu" was added to Abhidhamma Pitaka. The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kashmir during the reign of Kanishka. Sarvastivadin were an important sect of Buddhism. Its doctrines were compiled in Mahavibhassa.
- ◆ By the end of the Gupta period, Vajrayana or the Vehicle of the Thunderbolt emerged. It was popular in Bengal and Bihar. It was influenced by primitive local cults and spread to Tibet in the 11th century CE. The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.
- ◆ New ideas emerged out of these sects paved way for two important divisions of Buddhism, namely Hinayana and Mahayana (The great & lesser vehicles) Mahayana became more popular.
- ◆ Nalanda University was an important centre of Buddhist learning. The University was patronised by Palas.
- ◆ The Hinayana became popular in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand and other South East Asian countries.

Frescoes (paintings) : Frescoes on the ceilings and walls of the Ajanta caves in Aurangabad, Maharashtra – depict the Jataka Tales.

Middle path : It refers to neither indulging in extreme attachment to worldly pleasure nor committing severe penance.

- ◆ Tripitakas (Three Baskets) are Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha. Abhidhamma Pitaka expounds Buddhist philosophy. The Sutta Pitaka, which contains the teachings of Buddha, is divided into five groups or Nikayas. They contain popular works such as Theragatha and Therigatha (Hymns of the Elder Monks and Nuns) and Jataka tales (Buddha's deeds in previous births as Bodhisattva).
- ◆ Other important Buddhist works include Milinda Panha, a discussion between Greco-Bactrian king Menander and Buddhist monk Nagasena, and Ceylonese Chronicles Dipavamsa (Island Chronicles), Mahavamsa (Great Chronicle) and Culavamsa (Lesser Chronicle).
- ◆ A Jataka tale says that the Bodhisattva offered his body as feed for a tigress which was about to eat its new born cubs to satisfy its hunger.
- ◆ The four noble truths prescribed by Buddha are as follows :
 - The Noble Truth of Suffering: Birth, age, death, unpleasantness, separation, unfulfilled wish.
 - The Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering: thirst for pleasure, power, long life, etc., are the causes for sorrow.
 - The Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering (Nirvana): complete stopping or release from sorrow.
 - The Noble Truth of the Path Leading to Cessation of Suffering: the Noble Eight fold Path or the Middle Path.
- ◆ Buddhism believed in Karma.
- ◆ Buddha's Middle or Eightfold Path : (1) Right Views; (2) Right Resolve; (3) Right Speech; (4) Right Conduct; (5) Right Livelihood ; (6) Right Effort; (7) Right Recollection; (8) Right Meditation.
- ◆ Buddhism was a moderate religion compared to Jainism's insistence on 'ahimsa'.
- ◆ Buddhism neither denied nor accepted the existence of God.
- ◆ It prohibited trade in weapons, living beings, meat, liquor and poison and their trades also were not permitted.

Chaitya	A Buddhist shrine or a meditation hall.
Viharas	Monasteries / living quarters for monks.
Stupas	Built over the remains of Buddha's body, they are monuments of great artistic value.

Differences between Buddhist Sects

Hinayana	Mahayana
Did not worship idols or images of Buddha.	Worshipped images of Buddha.
Practiced austerity.	Observed elaborate rituals
Believed that Salvation of the individual as its goal.	Believed that salvation of all beings as its objective
Used Prakrit language.	Used Sanskrit language
Hinayana is also known as Theravada.	Spread to Central Asia, Ceylon, Burma, Nepal, Tibet, China, Japan, where middle path was accepted.

Buddhism in Tamilnadu

- ◆ Buddhism spread to Tamilnadu in 3 century BCE.
- ◆ Buddhist complexes existed in Kaveripattinam.
- ◆ 'Pattinappalai' mentions about merchants who were purely vegetarians under the influence of Buddhism.
- ◆ Manimekalai by Sattanar one of the twin epics of the post-Sangam age is a Buddhist literature. Similarly the now extinct Kundalakesi is a Buddhist epic.
- ◆ Kanchipuram was a Buddhist centre. Dignaga and Dharmapala, the renowned Buddhist Scholars in Nalanda were from Kanchipuram.
- ◆ Hiuen Tsang who visited Tamil country mentions about several Stupas of Ashoka in Kanchipuram.
- ◆ A Buddhist temple was built in Nagapattinam during the reign of Narasimhavarmam II (695 – 722 CE)
- ◆ In CE 1006, during the reign of Rajaraja I, Srivijaya King Mara-Wijayottunga-Varman built a Buddhist temple in Nagapattinam. It is called the Soolamani-varma-vihara.

Buddhist Councils	Place
First	Rajagriha. It was held under the patronage of king Ajatashatru and presided over by Mahakasyapa
Second	Vaishali. It was held under the patronage of Kalasoka and presided over by Sabakami
Third	Pataliputra. This council was held under the patronage of emperor Ashoka and presided over by Moggaliputta Tisa
Fourth	Kashmir. It was held under the patronage of emperor Kanishka and presided over by Vasumitra & Asvaghosha.

Decline of Buddhism

- ◆ Buddhism faced divisions.
- ◆ The languages 'Pali' and 'Prakriti' were north Indian languages in which only Buddhism was preached. They were not known to many people.
- ◆ Buddhism lost royal patronage after Harsh Vardana.

- ◆ Bhakthi movements helped to restore the glory of vedic religion.
- ◆ The Huns and Rajputs, the later rulers of Hindustan shunned Buddhism.
- ◆ Finally the invasion of Arabs and Turks forced the Buddhist monks to neighbouring countries, as the monks were peace-loving and non-violent. Thus Buddhism faded away from India, the birth place, and flourished in neighbouring countries.

Jainism and Buddhism- Similarities and Dissimilarities

Similarities

- ◆ Both Mahavira and Buddha hailed from royal families. Yet they renounced royal privileges and chose to adopt an ascetic life.
- ◆ Denied the authority of Vedas.
- ◆ Taught in the language of the common people.

- ◆ Admitted disciples from all the castes and from both the genders.
- ◆ Opposed blood sacrifices.
- ◆ Believed in the doctrine of Karma.
- ◆ Emphasized on right conduct and right knowledge instead of performing religious ceremonials and rituals as the means to achieve salvation.

Dissimilarities	
Jainism	Buddhism
It followed extreme path.	It followed middle path.
It remained in India only.	It spread across many parts of the world.
It does not believe in the existence of god, but believes life in every living being.	It emphasises on ANATMA (no eternal soul) and ANITYA (impermanence).

EMERGENCE OF STATE AND EMPIRE

Introduction

- ◆ Between 3rd and 6th century BCE, when many social religious changes were taking place, significant changes were witnessed on political front also.
- ◆ On the political front, many minor states and federation of clans came into being. It gave birth to larger state ruled by a chakravarthi or ekarat. These large states emerged mainly in gangetic plains of Bihar and eastern U.P.
- ◆ Bimbisara, a contemporary of Buddha, can be credited with building and heading of a big empire. It was strengthened by his son Ajatasatru and then by rulers of Nanda dynasty.
- ◆ The empire reached its Zenith of glory after Chandra Gupta founded an empire which was later known as Mauryan Empire. His son Bindusara and grandson Ashoka followed him. After Ashoka, the empire started declining.

Sources

- ◆ Reconstructing the history of these empires was a daunting task for historians. The literary historical evidences were rare. Buddhist and Jain texts, Brahmanas, The Mahavamsa, the comprehensive historical account in Pali from Sri Lanka, the accounts left by Greek historians who accompanied Alexandar, the Great are available sources that can be relied upon.
- ◆ Archaeology and epigraphy throw much light on this era.
- ◆ The most widely known are the edicts of Ashoka, which have been discovered in many parts of the country.
- ◆ The inscriptions at Sanchi, which were in Brahmi deciphered by **James Prinsep in 1837** provided much information about Ashokan period.

- ◆ All the edicts begin with a great king Thus reference spoke '**devanampiya**' (beloved of the gods), '**piyadassi**' (of pleasing looks). The spread of these edits in different areas, shows the domination of Ashoka.
- ◆ Two of the lately found sources are rock inscription of Junagadh near Girnar in Gujarat and a second one - a literary work, the play '**Mudrarakashasa**' by **Vaishakadatta**, written during Gupta period.
- ◆ The Junagadh inscription mentions about one **Rudradaman** - the local ruler and dates back to 130-150 CE. It refers to **Pushya Gupta**, a provincial governor. By this, we can understand the western extent of Mauryan Empire. It can be concluded that even four centuries after the death of Chandra Gupta Maurya he was remembered.
- ◆ **Kautilya's Arthasashtra** is a corroborative source for Mauryan period. It is a reliable account, as it was written by a man who was instrumental in establishing the great Mauryan Empire.
- ◆ 'Indica' of Megasthenes who was ambassador of Seleucus Nicoter, in Chandra Gupta's court, throws much light on Mauryan period and its administration.

Gana - sanghas and kingdoms

There were two kinds of government in north India during the sixth century BC (BCE).

Gana - sanghas – non monarchical states

The term '**gana**' means 'people of equal status'. '**Sangha**' means 'assembly'. The gana - sanghas covered a small geographical area ruled by an elite group. The gana sanghas practiced egalitarian traditions.

Kingdoms - monarchies

A '**kingdom**' means a territory ruled by a king or queen. In a kingdom (monarchy), a family, which rules for a long period becomes a dynasty. Usually these kingdoms adhered to orthodox Vedic traditions.

Rise of Magadha under the Haryanka Dynasty

- ◆ Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Magadha emerged as the strongest by military victories and matrimonial alliances.
- ◆ The first known ruler was 'Bimbisara' who was murdered by his son 'Ajatasatru' to come to power. By the time Ajatasatru died around 461 BCE, Magadha had become a strong power.
- ◆ The Haryanka dynasty was succeeded by Shishunaga, a viceroy of Benaras, who founded Sisunaga dynasty.
- ◆ The Sisunaga ruled for 50 years. His throne was usurped by Mahapadma Nanda.

Nandas – the Empire builders of India

- ◆ Nandas came to power in 362 BCE. Nanda was succeeded by his eight sons. They are together known as 'Nava Nandas'. Nandas exterminated many Kshatriya clans.
- ◆ An inscription known as 'Hathigumpha (elephant cave)' from Udayagiri near Bhubaneshwar records the aqueduct built by king Nanda, three hundred year earlier. This shows the extent of Magadha empire under Nandas. But unfortunately, Nandas were not popular among the people.

Persian and Macedonian Invasions :

- ◆ The period from 6th century BCE witnessed close cultural contacts with Persia and Greece. Gandhara, the northwestern part of Indus was under the 'Achaemenid' empire of Persia. Cyprus, the emperor of Persia invaded India around 530 BCE and destroyed the city of Kapisha. This region continued to be under Persia, until Alexander invaded India.
- ◆ The inscriptions of Darius I mention the presence of Persians in the Indus region.
- ◆ The word 'Hindu' appears for the first time in an inscription of Darius I, at Persepolis, Iran.

Taxila

- ◆ Sir John Marshal's excavations in 1940 revealed the city Taxila which is considered to be one of the intellectual knowledge centres not only for Indians but for people coming from west. It was actually centre point between West and East. It is situated in present day Pakistan. Between 5th and 4th century BCE, it was part of Achaemenid empire of Persia.
- ◆ The region adjoining Taxila and Kandhara became a centre of confluence of Indo-Persian culture. It was much felt in Kandhara region. One significant development was that of the Kharosthi script, used in the north-western part of India. It was used by Ashoka in his inscriptions in Gandhara region. This script was derived from Aramic used widely in Achaemenid empire of Persia. The Ashokan edicts use the term 'lipi' instead of 'dipi' - an Iranian term.
- ◆ Mauryan art and architecture exhibit the traces of Persian influence.
- ◆ The bell-shaped capital of the columns, especially the lion capital of Sarnath pillar and the bell capital

of Rampurval pillar, show resemblance to designs found in the Achaemenid columns.

- ◆ The linguistic similarities can be found between Rig Veda and Zend Avasta.
- ◆ A 1380 BCE inscription in Syria records a treaty between a Mitanni king. It contains the names of some vedic Gods such as Indira, Varuna etc.

Alexander's Invasion :

- ◆ It was during Dana Nanda's reign, Alexander son of a Macedonian king, Philip in 327-325 BCE. invaded India.
- ◆ The invasion of Alexander is an important landmark in Indian history.
- ◆ It marked the beginning of a trade route between India and the West. Greek historians wrote about India. Greek governors who ruled North-West India introduced many administrative reforms of Greek nature.
- ◆ After his victory over Punjab region, he wanted to march eastwards toward Maghadha empire. But his troops expressed their desire to retreat not only because of homesick but of fear of massive army of Nandas.
- ◆ In 326 BCE, when Alexander invaded, the king of Taxila, 'Ambhi' surrendered. The only encounter was with Porus, ruler of Punjab region, between the two rivers – Jhelum and Beas.
- ◆ Though Alexander defeated Porus, he restored his kingdom to him, appreciating his valour.
- ◆ On his return from India, Alexander died of typhoid en route to Macedonia at Babylon.

Impact of Alexander's invasion :

- ◆ Alexander's invasion established a direct route between India and Greece. Greek settlements came into being in Alexandria near Kabul Boukephala near Peshawar in Pakistan and Alexandria in Sind.
- ◆ The void created by Alexander's death in the North West helped Chandragupta Maurya to sit on the throne of a great empire at Maghada.

Mauryan Empire

Sources

Archaeological Sources	Punch Marked Coins
Inscriptions	Edicts of Ashoka, Junagath Inscription
Secular Literature	Kautilya's Arthashastra Visakadatta's Mudrarakshasa Mamulanar's poem in Agananuru
Religious Literature	Jain, Buddhist texts and Puranas
Foreign Notices	Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa and Indica

- ◆ Chandragupta, who established the Mauryan Empire in 321 BCE, lived in Taxila during Alexander's invasion.

- ◆ Inspired by Alexander's ability and by taking advantage of the prevailing situation under the unpopular Nandas, Chandragupta sharpened his tactics and manoeuvres to establish a great empire in Magadha.
- ◆ The military officials and governors left by Alexander who were in India, were defeated by Chandragupta.
- ◆ One such governor was Seleucus Nicotor, who was defeated by Chandragupta in a battle some time before 301 BCE.
- ◆ In an agreement made with him, Chandragupta gave 500 war elephants and Seleucus sent an ambassador to Chandragupta court. He was Megasthenes, the author of 'Indica' which is a source to construct Mauryan history.

Chandragupta Maurya

- ◆ Chandragupta came to the throne with the help and political manoeuvring by 'Chanakya', a Brahmin author of 'Arthashastra'. Kautilya, another name for Chanakya was a staunch rival of Nandas. However, nowhere, we find his name in either Jain or Buddhist texts.
- ◆ 'Mudrarakshasa' (The signet of the minister) authored by Vaishakhadatta gives a brilliant account of intrigues and strategies employed by Chanakya to subvert the invasion of Magadha. Chanakya's another name was Vishnugupta.

Bindusara

- ◆ Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara in a peaceful way. It is believed that Chandragupta renounced and went to Chandragiri, near Shravanabelagola to spend his last years. Bindusara safely handed over the kingdom to his son Ashoka. Bindusara's military exploits are not much known. He ruled for 25 years and died in 272 BCE.
- ◆ It is surmised that war of succession ensued after Bindusara, as Ashoka could come to throne only four years after Bindusara renounced.
- ◆ Ashoka, who succeeded his father Bindusara served as governor of Taxila where he put down a revolt efficiently. Later he served as viceroy of Ujjain, the capital of Avanti and a major city and commercial centre. Ashoka continued his commercial contacts with Greek states in West Asia.

Ashoka

- ◆ The defining event in Ashoka's life that made him was the great war of Kalinga which Ashoka undertook at eighth year of his accession, as Kalinga (present Odisha) had broken away from Megadha empire under Nandas.
- ◆ The waters of 'Daya' river, on the banks of which the war was fought, were coloured red.
- ◆ The deaths of tens of thousands and the sufferings moved him greatly and he started embracing Buddhism, the values and beliefs of which attracted him.
- ◆ Thereafter his passion for peace and moral righteousness or 'dhamma' (dharma in Sanskrit) is found in his edicts.

Edicts of Ashoka :

- ◆ The edicts which are the rich sources for Mauryan empire number 33 comprising 14 major Rock Edicts, 2 known as Kalinga Edicts, 7 Pillar Edicts, some minor Rock Edicts and a few minor Pillar Inscriptions.
- ◆ The Major Rock Edicts extend from Kandahar in Afghanistan, Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra in northwest Pakistan to Uttarakhand district in the north, Gujarat and Maharashtra in the west, Odisha in the east and as far south as Karnataka and Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. Minor Pillar Inscriptions have been found as far north as Nepal (near Lumbini). The edicts were written mostly in the Brahmi script and in Magadhi and Prakrit. The Kandahar inscriptions are in Greek and Aramaic, while the two inscriptions in north-west Pakistan are in Kharosthi script.
- ◆ This geographical spread clearly shows the extent of Ashoka's empire.
- ◆ One inscription mentions about lands beyond his borders.
- ◆ The Chodas (Cholas), the Pandyas, Satyaputra, the Keralaputra (Cheras) find mention. Even 'Tamraparni' is mentioned. The Yona king 'Antiyoka' (Antiochus) is mentioned.
- ◆ Most of the edicts preach 'Dhamma' and non-violence, righteousness, peace and his concern for welfare of the people. Ashoka did not embark on any war after Kalinga war.

Ashokan Edicts and Inscriptions	Contents	Found at
Rock Edicts		
14 Major Rock Edicts	Various Principles of Dhamma	Manshera (Pakistan) Shahbazgarhi (Mardan, Pakistan), Kalsi (Dehradun, Uttarakhand), Junagadh (Girnar, Gujarat), Sopara (Thane, Maharashtra), Yerragudi (Kurnul, Andhra Pradesh), Dhauli (Khurda, Orissa), Jaugada (Ganjam, Orissa)
2 Kalinga Rock Edicts	New system of administration after the Kalinga war	Dauli or Tosali (Khurda, Orissa), Jaugada (Ganjam, Orissa)
Minor Rock Edicts	Personal history of Ashoka and summary of his dhamma	Sasaram (Bihar), Maski (Andhra Pradesh), Bhabru-Bairat (Rajasthan), Rupanath (MP), Gavimath, Palkigundu, Siddhpur, Jating Rameshwar, Brahmagiri (Karnataka)

Third Buddhist Council :

- ◆ An important event that took place under Ashoka's rule in Pataliputra in 250 BCE was convening of 3rd Buddhist Council.
- ◆ An important outcome of this meeting was the decision to spread Buddhism across the breadth and length of the country and beyond.
- ◆ Thus Buddhism received not only royal patronage but became a proselytizing religion. Missionaries were sent to various parts.
- ◆ Ashoka's children Mahida and Sangamitra were sent to Ceylon with a branch of the Bodhi tree under which Buddha got enlightenment.
- ◆ Ashoka died in 231 BCE. His policy of non-violence and concentration on Buddhism led to disintegration of Mauryan empire. It vanished from the scene fifty years after his death. Mauryan empire had spanned over two thirds of India. The mankind really saw new developments in Social, political and religious fields. The established orthodox was shattered by heterodox religious developments.

The Mauryan State and Polity :

- ◆ It was a centralised administration. Collection of taxes and revenue to maintain a strong army and administration of justice, was in place.
- ◆ Taking into consideration the vastness of the empire, we can conclude, there might have been provincial capitals and hierarchical bureaucracy.
- ◆ The large bureaucracy commanded huge salaries.
- ◆ According to the Arthashastra, the salary of chief minister, the purohita and the army commander was 48,000 panas, and the soldiers received 500 panas.

Ancient name	Its Modern name
Rajagriha	Rajgir
Pataliputra	Patna
Kalinga	Odisha

Arthashastra :

- ◆ Arthashastra is a prescriptive text for good administration even today. Though it is believed to be later work, it gives a clear picture of Mauryan administration.
- ◆ If we combine the information from Arthashastra with 'Indica' of Megasthenes and Rock edicts of Ashoka, we get a fair idea of Mauryan administration. They mirror social conditions also.

Administration :

- ◆ The administrative head was the king who was assisted by a council of minister and a 'Purohit' or priest. There were secretaries known as 'mahamatriyas'.
- ◆ Pataliputra, the capital was directly maintained. The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces

based at 'Suvarnagiri' (near Kurnool in A.P), Ujjain (Avanti), Taxila in the North West and Tosali in Odisha in the South West.

- ◆ The provinces were in charge of governors who were usually royal princes. Bureaucracy and judicial administration was uniform. Revenue collection was the responsibility of the collectors general (Samaharta). He was minister of finance. Periodical submission of records to the king was in place.
- ◆ There were district, village and town administrations. The district was under the command of a 'Sthanika'.
- ◆ 'Gopas' were in charge of four or five villages. Urban administration was under 'nagarika' villages were semi-autonomous and they were under a 'gramani'.
- ◆ Agriculture contributed more revenue as taxes. Usually the king was entitled to receive one sixth of the produce as revenue. Sometimes, it was one fourth.
- ◆ Other sources of income were taxes on land, on irrigation, taxes on urban houses, customs and tolls on goods transported for trade and profits from coinage and trade operations. Forests, mines and manufacture of salt and ash contributed revenue to the king.

Judicial Administration :

- ◆ It was administrated through courts which were established in all major towns.
- ◆ Two types of courts are mentioned. The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life.
- ◆ Another type of court was called kantakasodhana (removal of thorns), also presided over by three judges and three amatyas. The main purpose of these courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes.

Ashoka's Dharmic State :

- ◆ Ashoka wanted to have a 'just state'. He instructed his officials, the yuktas (subordinate officials), rajjukas (rural administrators) and pradesikas (heads of the districts) to go on tours every five years to instruct people in dhamma (Major Rock Edict).
- ◆ Ashoka instructed all his officials to be kind to his citizens. Medical facilities were provided. He expected all his officials and subjects to follow the path of 'dhamma'.

Economy and Society :

Agriculture was the main occupation. Two crops were raised. Apart from food grains, commercial crops such as sugarcane was cultivated.

Crafts and Goods :

- ◆ Spinning and weaving was a normal activity. From coarse cloth to fine variety were manufactured.

- ◆ The Arthasastra mentions the regions producing specialised textiles – Kasi (Benares), Vanga (Bengal), Kamarupa (Assam), Madurai and other places.
- ◆ Metalcraft was an important activity. Iron smelting was done. Carpentry and wood work were an active industry. The expertise in stone culture can be seen in Sanchi Stupa.
- ◆ Luxury goods in gold and silver were produced. Pottery, dyes, gums etc were produced.
- ◆ Each craft had a head called pamukha (pramukha or leader) and a jettha (jyeshtha or elder) and was organised in a seni (sreni or a guild), so that the institutional identity superseded the individual in craft production. Disputes between srenis were resolved by a mahasetthi, and this ensured the smooth functioning of craft production in the cities.

Trade

- ◆ Excess agricultural produce was traded either for money or for other goods. Overseas trade by ships was carried on. Buddhist 'Jataka' mentions long voyage taken for trade to Burma and the Malay Archipelago and with Ceylon.
- ◆ Not much information is available about merchant community. However, there were merchant groups travelling to sell the products. A caravan leader was known as 'Mahasarthavaha' Arthasastra mentions a long list of goods traded.
- ◆ Indigo, ivory, tortoiseshell, pearls and perfumes and rare woods were all exported to Egypt.

Coins and Currency :

Mainly the barter system was in place. Silver coin known as 'pana' and its sub-divisions were there. However, the monetisation of economy cannot be deciphered.

Urbanisation

- ◆ Urban settlements offered trade opportunities. Some towns sprang up as religious centres. Pictorial representation of cities are found in sculptures of Sanchi. The Mauryan urban conglomerates had facilities of modern cities of today's India.
- ◆ Pataliputra, the capital city of the Mauryan empire, was on the confluence of rivers Ganga and Son.

- ◆ It was 14 kms in length and 2½ kms in width. It had been protected by an outer wall of wood with loopholes for shooting arrows at enemies. There were 64 gates and 570 watch towers. The outer wall was surrounded by a deep mote.

Mauryan Art and Architecture

Mauryan art can be divided into two :

Indigenous Art	Statues of Yakshas and Yakshis
Royal Art	Palaces and Public buildings
	Monolithic Pillars
	Rock cut Architecture
	Stupas

Yakshas were deities connected with water, fertility, trees, the forest and wilderness. **Yakshis** were their female counterpart.

- ◆ Sanskrit language and literature were enriched by the work of the grammarian **Panini** (c. 500 BCE), and **Katyayana**, who was a contemporary of the Nandas, had written a commentary on Panini's work.
- ◆ The Arthasastra notes the performing arts of the period, including music, instrumental music, bards, dance and theatre. The extensive production of crafted luxury products like jewellery, ivory carving and wood work, and especially stone carving should all be included as products of Mauryan art.
- ◆ Many religions, castes and communities lived together in harmony in the Mauryan society. There is little mention of any overt dissension or disputes among them. As in many regions of that era (including ancient Tamil Nadu), courtesans were accorded a special place in the social hierarchy and their contributions were highly valued.

Reasons for the Decline of the Mauryan Empire

- ◆ Ashoka's successors were very weak.
- ◆ Continuous revolts in different parts of the empire.
- ◆ Invasion by the Bactrian Greeks weakened the empire.
- ◆ Last Maurya ruler Brihadratha was killed by his commander Pushyamitra Sunga who established Sunga dynasty.

Timeline	
Notable Events	Years
Invasion of Cyrus (Emperor of Persia)	530 BCE
Nandas establishing their empire in Magadha	362 BCE
Invasion of Alexander	326 BCE
Chandragupta founding the Mauryan Empire	321 BCE
Defeat of Seleucus by Chandragupta	301 BCE
Bindusara succeeding Chandragupta	297 BCE
Third Buddhist Sangha convened by Ashoka	250 BCE
Death of Ashoka	231 BCE