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Indus Valley Civilization (c. 3300–1300 BCE)

The Indus valley civilization was a political and cultural entity that thrived in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent between 7000-600 BCE. It is also known as the Harappan Civilization or the Indus-Sarasvati Civilization.

Vedic Period (c. 1500 –500 BCE)

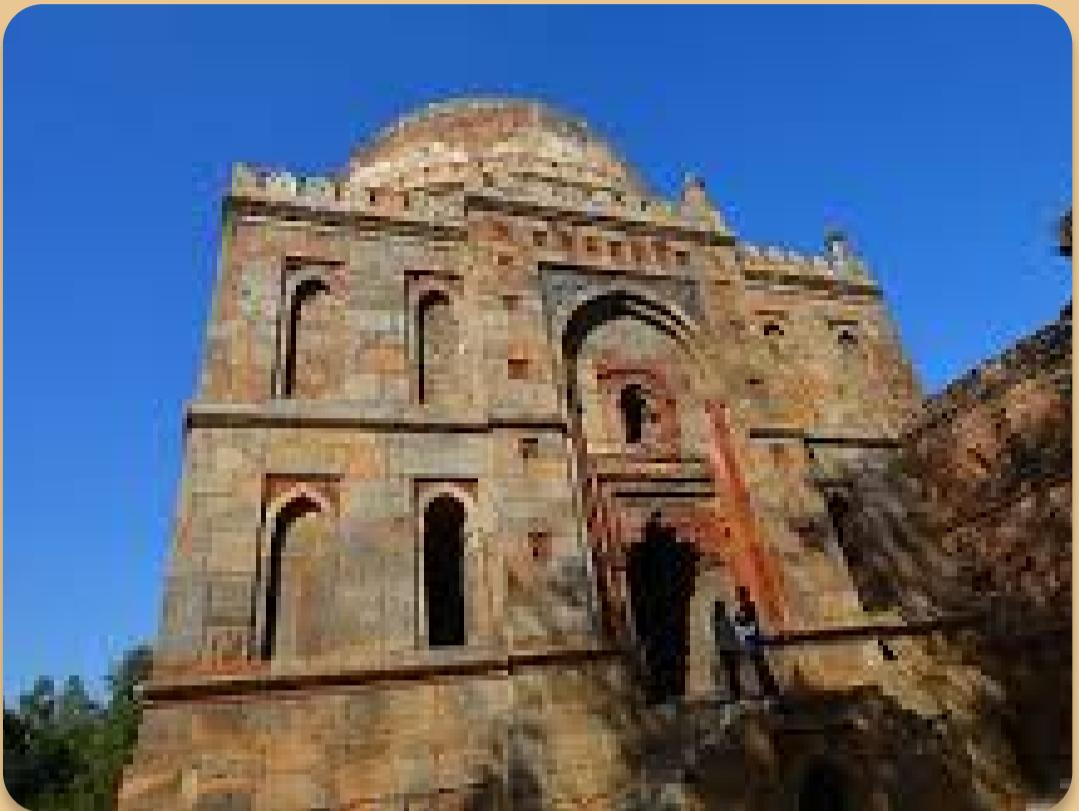
The Vedic age is a significant era in Indian History spanning from around 1500 BCE to 500 BCE. It marks the time when the Indo-Aryans settled into the north-western region of Indian Subcontinent and began composing the Vedas.

Rise of Magadha Empire (c. 600 BCE)

The four Mahajanapadas – Magadha, Kosala, Avanti and Vatsa were vying for supremacy from the 6th century BCE to the 4th century BCE.

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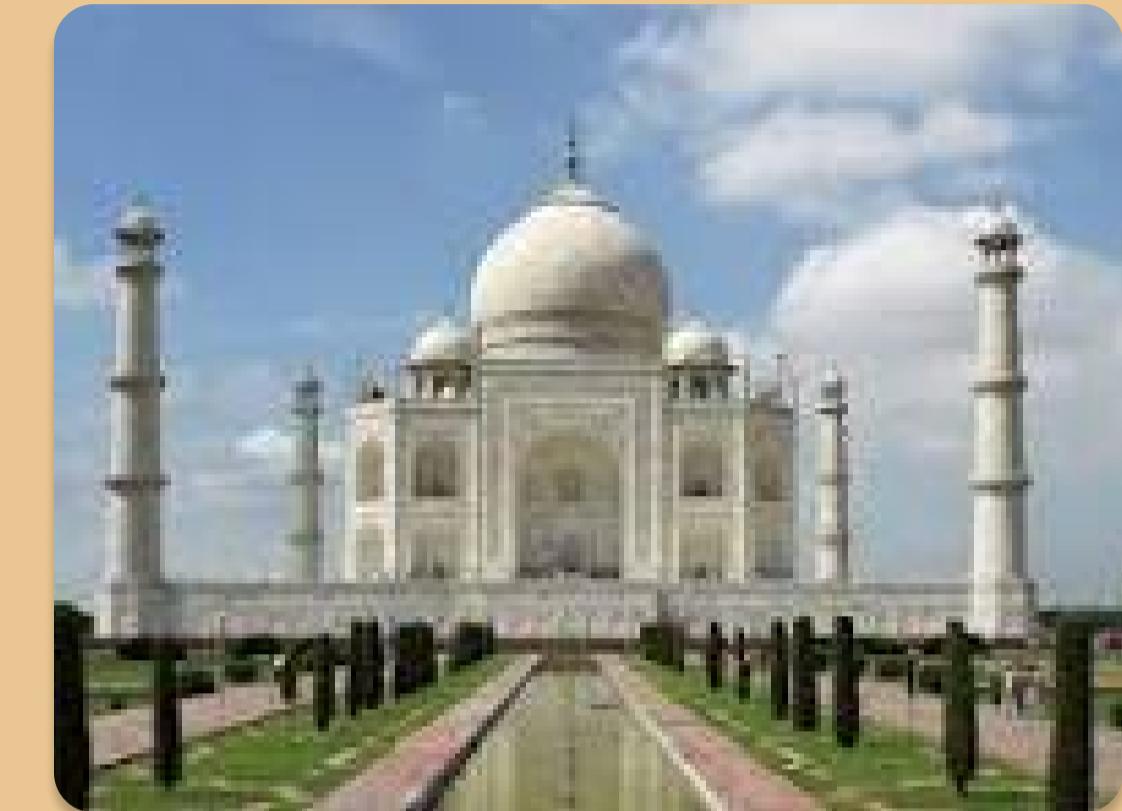
**Establishment of the
Delhi-sultanate-1206**

After Muhammad Ghori's death in AD 1206, the control of his Indian possessions was passed on to Qutbuddin Aibak. Aibak was the first independent Muslim ruler of Northern India, the founder of Delhi Sultanate.



**Construction of Qutub
Minar (1199–1220)**

The construction of Qutub Minar started in 1199 during the reign of Qutubuddin Aibak as a symbol of victory and the establishment of Muslim rule in India.



**Construction of the
Taj Mahal (1632–1653)**

The Taj Mahal was built between 1632 and 1653 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan to honor his wife Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra.

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**Battle of Plassey
(1757)**

The Battle of Plassey, fought on June 23, 1757, was a decisive victory for the British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, against the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah.



Battle of Buxar (1764)

The Battle of Buxar was a decisive victory for the British East India Company (EIC) against a coalition of Indian rulers in 1764. The battle took place in the fortified town of Buxar, Bihar, on the banks of the Ganges River.



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)

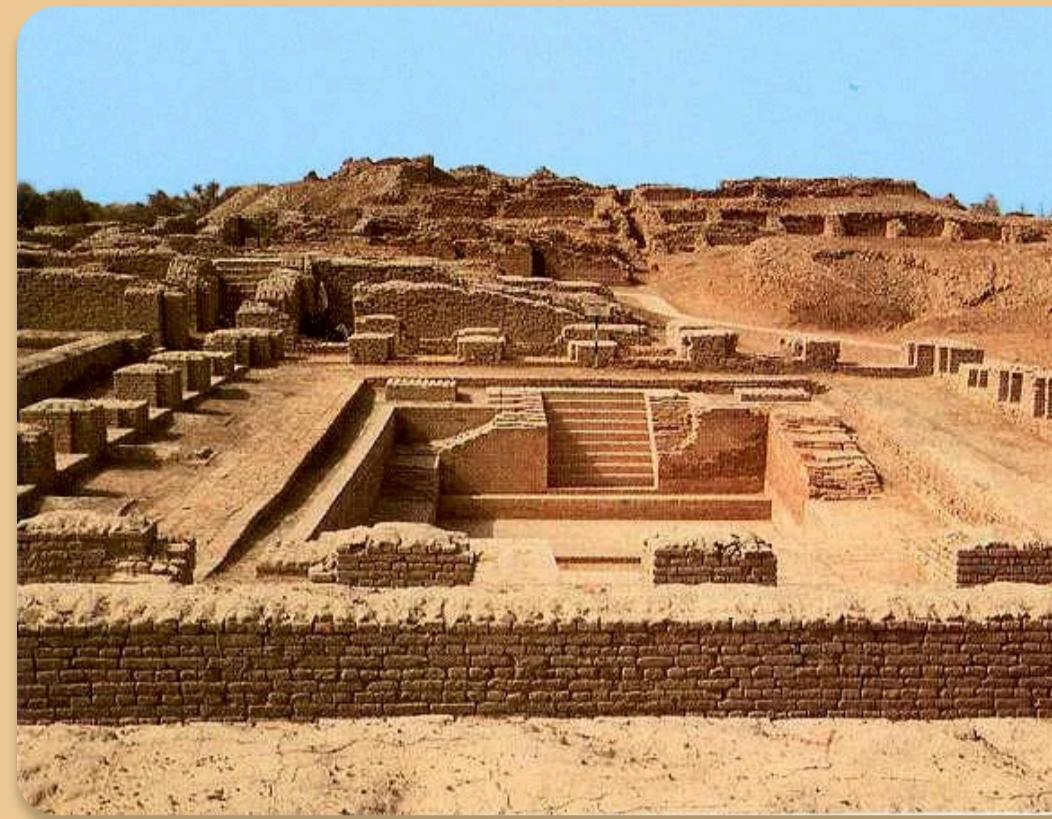
The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a military attack on an unarmed crowd of people in Amritsar, India on April 13, 1919. The massacre was a response to a peaceful protest against the Rowlatt Act and the arrest of pro-independence activists.

About

1. Ancient India

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Indus Valley Civilization (c. 3300–1300 BCE)

The civilization was first identified in 1921 at Harappa in the Punjab region and then in 1922 at Mohenjo-daro (Mohenjodaro), near the Indus River in the Sindh (Sind) region. Both sites are in present-day Pakistan, in Punjab and Sindh provinces, respectively. The ruins of Mohenjo-daro were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980.

Subsequently, vestiges of the civilization were found as far apart as Sutkagen Dor in southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan, near the shore of the Arabian Sea, about 300 miles (480 km) west of Karachi; and at Ropar (or Rupar), in eastern Punjab state, northwestern India, at the foot of the Shimla Hills some 1,000 miles (1,600 km) northeast of Sutkagen Dor.



Vedic Period (c. 1500 –500 BCE)

The Vedic Period started with the advent of the Aryans in around 1500 BCE, which coincided with the Late Harappan period (associated with the decline of the Indus valley civilization). Aryans spoke Sanskrit, which is considered the origin of most of the current languages of the Indian subcontinent and is said to be a part of Indo-European languages, which is the origin point of most European languages and Persian.

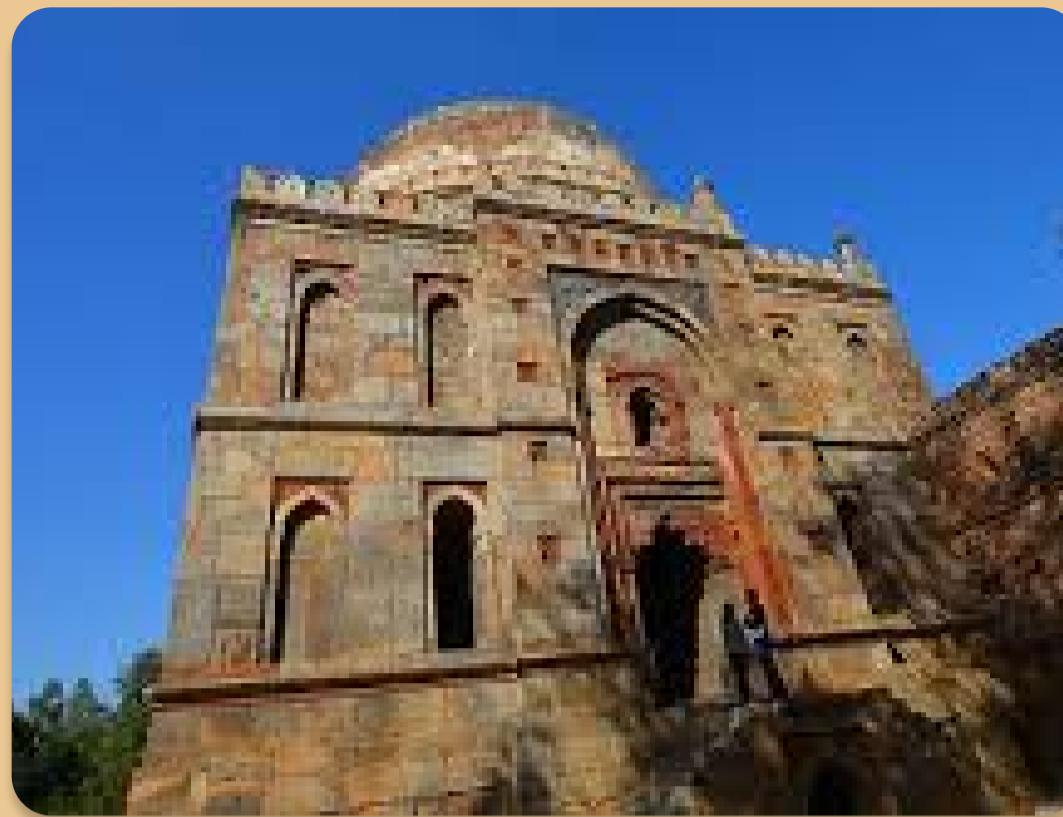
Early scholars such as Wheeler believed that the Aryan tribes originally came from the steppes and invaded India around 1500 BCE. This was known as the Aryan Invasion theory. However, we have discussed in the previous article why an Aryan Invasion is an unlikely theory. Therefore, it has been rejected in favour of a much more plausible Aryan Migration theory.



Rise of Magadha Empire (c. 600 BCE)

Magadha, ancient kingdom of India, situated in what is now west-central Bihar state, in northeastern India. It was the nucleus of several larger kingdoms or empires between the 6th century BCE and the 8th century CE. The early importance of Magadha may be explained by its strategic position in the Ganges (Ganga) River valley, enabling it to control communication and trade on the river. The river further provided a link between Magadha and the rich ports in the Ganges delta.

Under King Bimbisara (reigned c. 543–c. 491 BCE) of the Haryanka line, the kingdom of Anga (eastern Bihar) was added to Magadha. Kosala was annexed later. The supremacy of Magadha continued under the Nanda (4th century BCE) and Mauryan (4th–2nd century BCE) dynasties; under the Mauryan dynasty the empire included almost the entire subcontinent of India. The early centuries CE saw the decline of Magadha, but the rise of the Gupta dynasty in the 4th century brought it once more to a position of preeminence.



Establishment of the Delhi-sultanate-1206

The Delhi Sultanate was a 320-year-long Islamic empire based in Delhi that ruled over large parts of South Asia. Following the Ghurid dynasty's invasion of the subcontinent, the Delhi Sultanate was ruled by five dynasties in succession: the Mamluk dynasty (1206–1290), the Khalji dynasty (1290–1320), the Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1414), the Sayyid dynasty (1414–1451), and the Lodi dynasty (1451–1526). It occupied large areas of modern-day India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, as well as parts of southern Nepal. In this article, we will discuss The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526 AD) which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

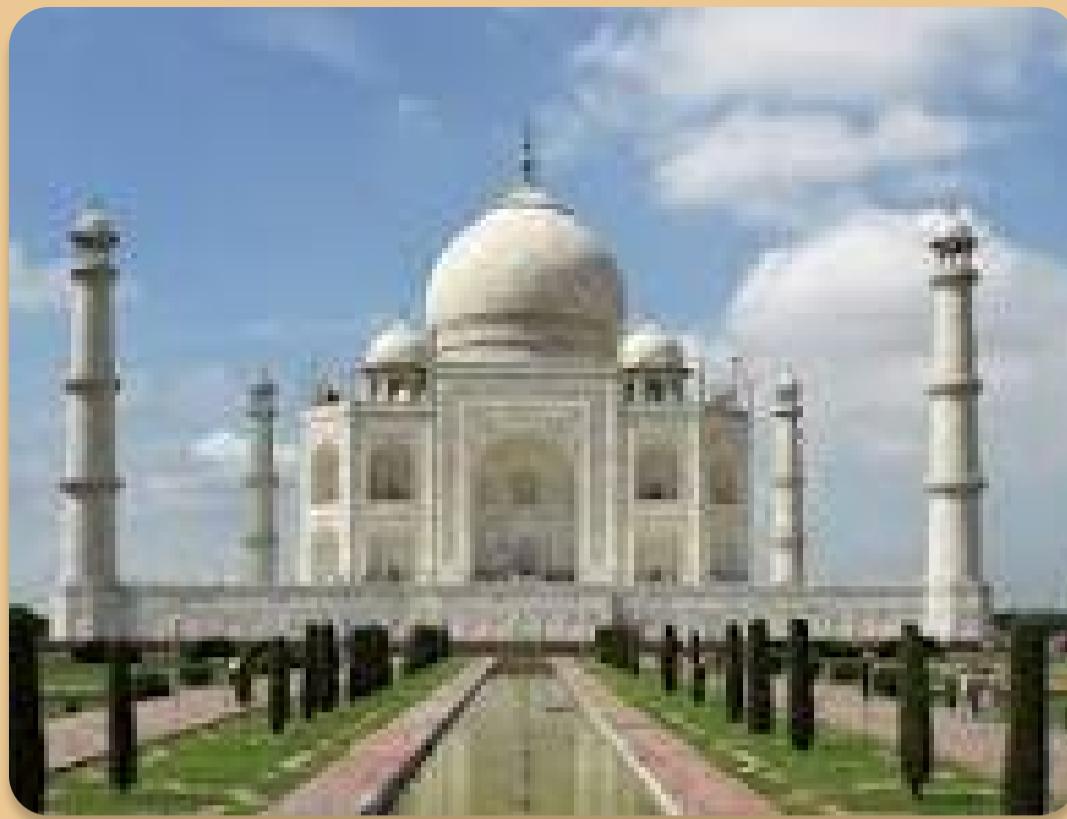
The Delhi Sultanate was one of the famous empires during more than three centuries in Northern India and the empire was stretched up to the larger part of Southern Asia. The Delhi Sultanate was established by Qutb-ud-din Aibak in 1206. He was the first emperor and the founder of the Mamluk Dynasty and the Delhi Sultanate.



Construction of Qutub Minar (1199–1220)

The Qutb Minar (minaret) was commissioned by Qutb al-Din Aybak (reg. 1206 - 1211) in 1199. Located within the Quwwat ul Islam complex to the eastern side of the Qutb Mosque, it was conceived as a triumphal column proclaiming the mark of Islam in the world. The Qutb Minar was too high to be used by the muezzin for the call to prayer; rather, its symbolic function as a victory tower is stressed by its name: Qutb-al-Din, the founder and first sultan of the Islamic city of Delhi, used his own name, Qutb, or "axis," to mark the tower as a new axis for Islamic dominion. Its design was influenced by the two Ghaznavid minarets of Jam and Siyah Posh in Afghanistan.

At the time of Qutb al-Din Aybak's death, only the first story of the Qutb Minar had been completed. Iltutmish (reg. 1211 - 1236) resumed work on the Qutb Minar and added three more stories to it, topped by a cupola (chhatri). The present fourth and fifth stories, commissioned by Firuz Shah Tughluq, were added during post-lightning strike repairs in 1368.



Construction of the Taj Mahal (1632–1653)

The Taj Mahal was built between 1632 and 1653 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. The construction of the Taj Mahal complex involved thousands of artisans and craftsmen.

Construction timeline

- 1632: Construction begins
- 1638–39: The mausoleum is completed
- 1643: The main mausoleum and connected buildings are finished
- 1647: Decoration work continues
- 1648: The mausoleum is completed
- 1653: The outer courtyard, cloisters, mosque, guest house, and gateway are completed

→ It was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal with construction starting in 1632 AD and completed in 1648 AD, with the mosque, the guest house and the main gateway on the south, the outer courtyard and its cloisters were added subsequently and completed in 1653 AD.



Battle of Plassey (1757)

The Battle of Plassey was fought on June 23, 1757, between the British East India Company and the forces of the Nawab of Bengal. The British victory established the company as a military and political power in India.

What happened:

- The British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, defeated the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, and his French allies
- The British victory was made possible by the defection of Mir Jafar, the Nawab's commander in chief
- The British won the battle after a torrential downpour of rain put out the Nawab's artillery
- The Nawab's army fled, and Clive's army entered the enemy camp and found it abandoned



Battle of Buxar (1764)

The Battle of Buxar was a decisive victory for the British East India Company (EIC) against the combined armies of the Mughal Empire and the Nawabs of Bengal and Awadh. The battle took place on October 22, 1764, in the fortified town of Buxar, Bihar, India.

What happened?

- The British were led by Major Hector Munro.
- The Indian forces were led by Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal; Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Awadh; and Shah Alam II, the Mughal Emperor.
- The British victory at Buxar established British control over Bengal and Bihar.
- The British were granted Diwani rights, which allowed them to collect revenue from Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa on behalf of the Mughal emperor.
- The Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II was forced to pay a fine and became a pensioner.



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, incident on April 13, 1919, in which British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in the Punjab region (now in Punjab state) of India, killing several hundred people and wounding many hundreds more. It marked a turning point in India's modern history, in that it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and was the prelude to Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

During World War I (1914–18) the British government of India enacted a series of repressive emergency powers that were intended to combat subversive activities. By the war's end, expectations were high among the Indian populace that those measures would be eased and that India would be given more political autonomy. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report, presented to the British Parliament in 1918, did in fact recommend limited local self-government.

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