

# *Ancient History IV*

- Santhanam KLSM

सामाजिक

त्रयी

श्रुति

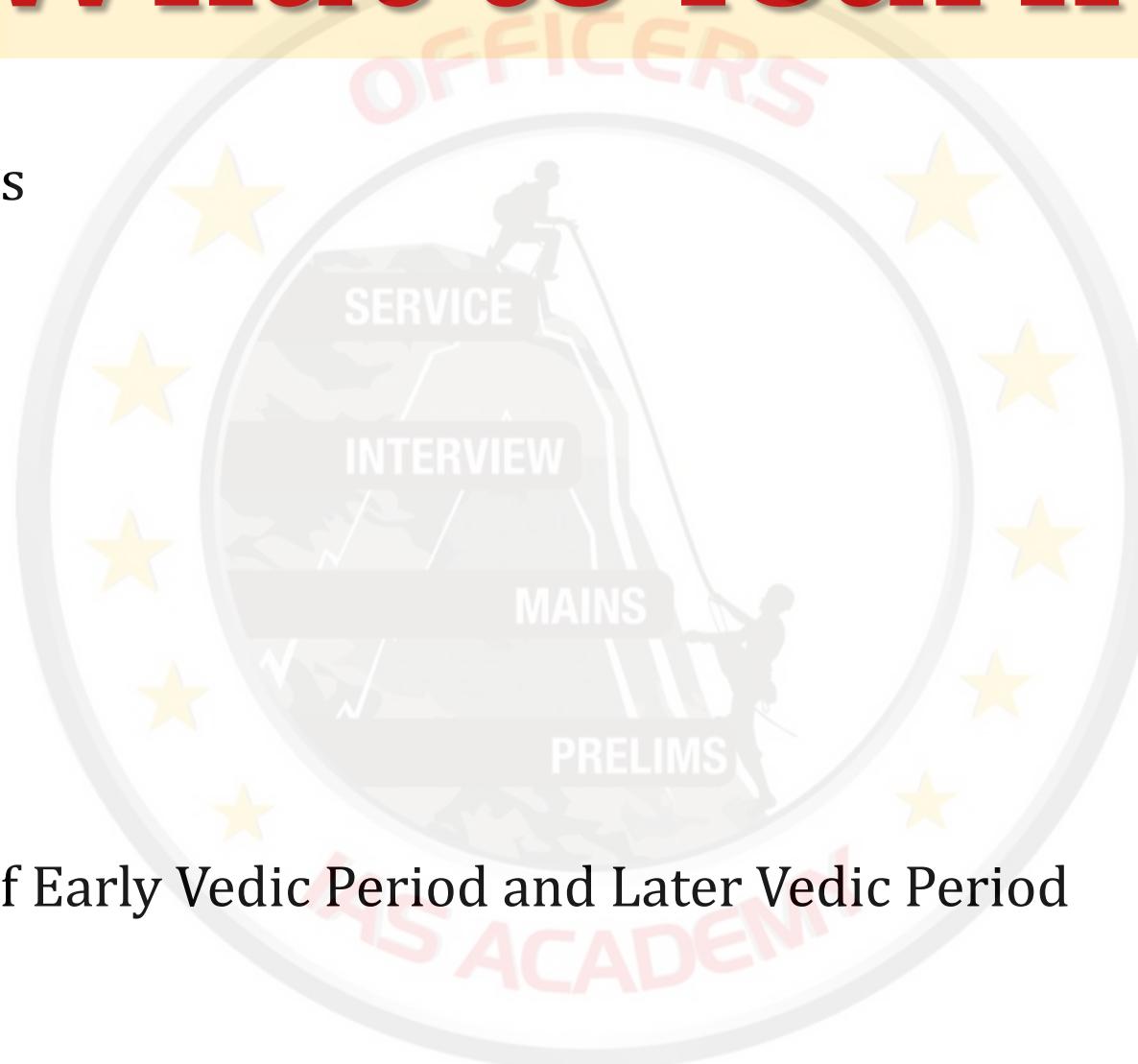
संज्ञिधानस्या अधिसन्तोऽस्तवाइ इति ग्रन्थात् विनाशयन्ते एव संस्कृतम् विद्याप्रसिद्धः  
वलोरथमह  
सालेः सप्तम

# Vedic Age



# What to learn?

- The Aryan Biodata
- Aryans vs. Dravidians
- Time Frame
- Geographical extent
- Aryan Migration
- Food
- Clothing & Fashion
- Shelter
- Tools/Weapons
- Administration
- Society
- Comparative study of Early Vedic Period and Later Vedic Period
- Culture
- Pottery
- At the peak of Later Vedic Period



# **Comparative Study**



# Comparative study – Society & Economy

## Early Vedic Period

- Pastoral Society with little/subsistence agriculture as secondary occupation
- Patriarchal society
- Economy was basic: Subsistence agriculture (Rice wheat Barley) and extensive cattle rearing.
- Other occupation: Basket making, chariot making, metallurgy, spinning, pottery
- Mode of exchange: Barter System

## Later Vedic Period

- Agriculture takes the main spot in economy
- Gets even more patriarchal and father worship begins
- Economy becomes diversified: Surplus foodgrains were produced
- Other occupation: Specialization of crafts & expansion of materialist economy.  
***Painted Greyware Pottery.***
- Mode of exchange: Nishka, Satamana (mentioned in Later Vedic literature)

# Comparative study – Status of women

## Early Vedic Period

- Women had respect, rights over property, family affairs, got educated and could choose her husband
- Women also had the right to remain unmarried and widows could remarry
- Girl child was not unwelcome
- Women could take part in political affairs, assemblies (Sabha and Vidatha) and the wife took part in all the major ceremonies.
- Women even compiled Vedas (eg: Apala, Gosha, Lopamudra)

## Later Vedic Period

- Women had no right to property & were denied the right to education
- Marriage was forced and widows could not remarry. Child marriage became commonplace
- Girl child has become unwelcome. Male children was preferred (*For protection, leadership and to avoid dowry*)
- Women could not take part in assemblies and were also deprived of Upanayana ceremony
- *Aitareya Brahmana >> daughter - source of misery >> son - protector of family*

# Comparative study – Status of King

## Early Vedic Period

- Head of the clan/tribe is called Rajan. His role is to protect the cattle and lead the tribe in case of war. His ministers were rudimentary: He also prayed to god on behalf of his tribe
- King did not wield unlimited power he was checked by tribal councils (Sabha, Samiti, Gana and Vidhata)
- Purpose of war: Cattle lifting

## Later Vedic Period

- Raja became powerful and more ministers emerged with specialised administration framework
- King' influence was strengthened by rituals. Discharge of duties were assisted by the priests -> priests increased their influence
- Purpose of war: Acquiring territory & bringing more land under cultivation

# Comparative study - Territory & Taxes

## Early Vedic Period

- No concept of territory, no standing army (but one male member from each family was contributed for war), no bureaucracy, no taxation.
- But the Raja is provided a voluntary share of the produce
- Kingship is not hereditary

## Later Vedic Period

- Idea of private possession of land took shape and the concept of *territory* authority took root.
- Regular taxes were collected from the common people (*Vis*) forcibly by the King (*Bali*)
- Kingship becomes hereditary

# Comparative study – Social stratas

## Early Vedic Period

- Stratification of society was based on occupation.
- The same family sometimes had people belonging to different Varnas
- Assemblies: All people participated in the assemblies: Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha, Gana

## Later Vedic Period

- Stratification of society becomes rigid.
- Varnas are designated by birth and migration between varnas becomes impossible.
- Women and Shudras were not permitted into the assemblies

# Comparative study – Belief System

## Early Vedic Period

- Male gods dominated: Indra, Agni, Varuna, Surya, Chandra, etc.
- Indra is called as Purandara – destroyer of forts
- Medium of worship: Prayer
- Priests performed ceremonies of prayer, but a householder can also directly pray to god
- Gifts made to priests consisted of cows and women (never land)
- Asked for: Praja (Child, esp. male), Pasu (Cow), Food, wealth, health, Victory in battle

## Later Vedic Period

- Vishnu, Rudra and Prajapati becomes the chief god. Early gods become less prominent
- Medium of worship: Sacrifices take mainstage
- Emergence of new philosophical thoughts (Later Vedas)
- Priestly dominance and new types of ceremonies were introduced.
- Only the priests can directly pray to god and he is paid a very high fee
- Metaphysical concepts were absent, but the concept of Karma was introduced.

# Culture - The 8 Types of marriages

1. **Brahma Vivah** Marriage of a girl with the boy of same Varna with Vedic rites and rituals
2. **Daiva Vivah** When father donated his daughter to a priest as a part of Dakshina.
3. **Arsa Vivah** A token bride-price of a Cow and a Bull was given
4. **Prajapati Vivah** Marriage without dowry
5. **Gandharva Vivah** A kind of love marriage or swyamavara
6. **Asura Vivah** Marriage by Purchase
7. **Paisach Vivah** Seduction of a girl while sleeping or mentally unstable due to a drink.
8. **Rakshasha Vivah** Marriage by abduction

# Culture - Anuloma & Pratiloma



## Anuloma Vivah:

The marriage of a man of higher Varna with a girl from lower Varna. It was allowed by the sacred texts.

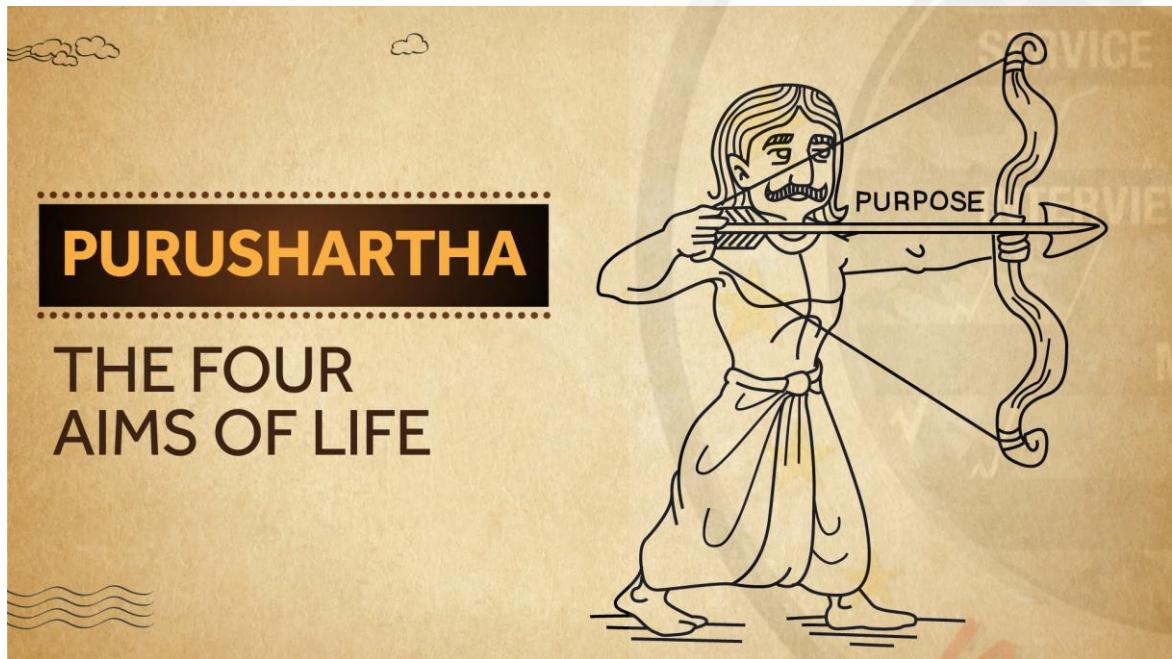
## Pratiloma Vivah:

The marriage of a girl of higher Varna with a man of a lower Varna. It was NOT allowed in the texts.

Intermarriage between Varnas led to new castes.

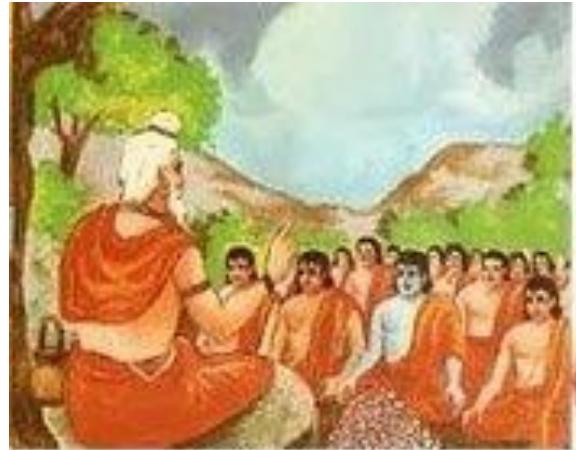
# Culture - 4 Aims of Life

The 4 Purushartha (goal of human existence) of Hinduism:



- Dharma:** Dharma is given the foremost rank in the scriptures. Today, it corresponds to religious, social and/or moral righteousness
- Artha:** Material and/or financial means of living
- Kama :** Pleasure including sensual pleasures
- Moksha:** Liberation; or renunciation as well as detachment

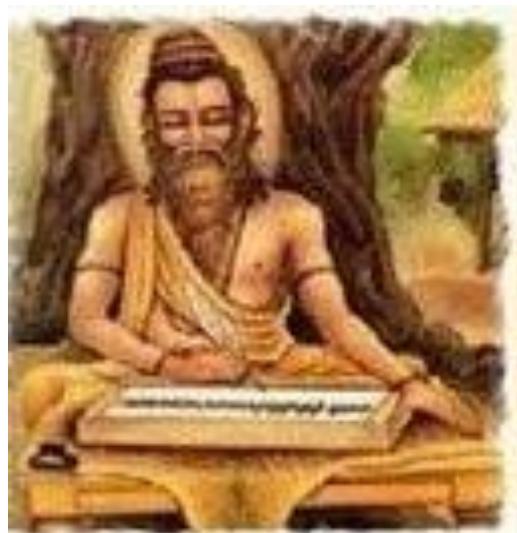
# Culture - Ashrama System



Brahmacharya



Grihastha



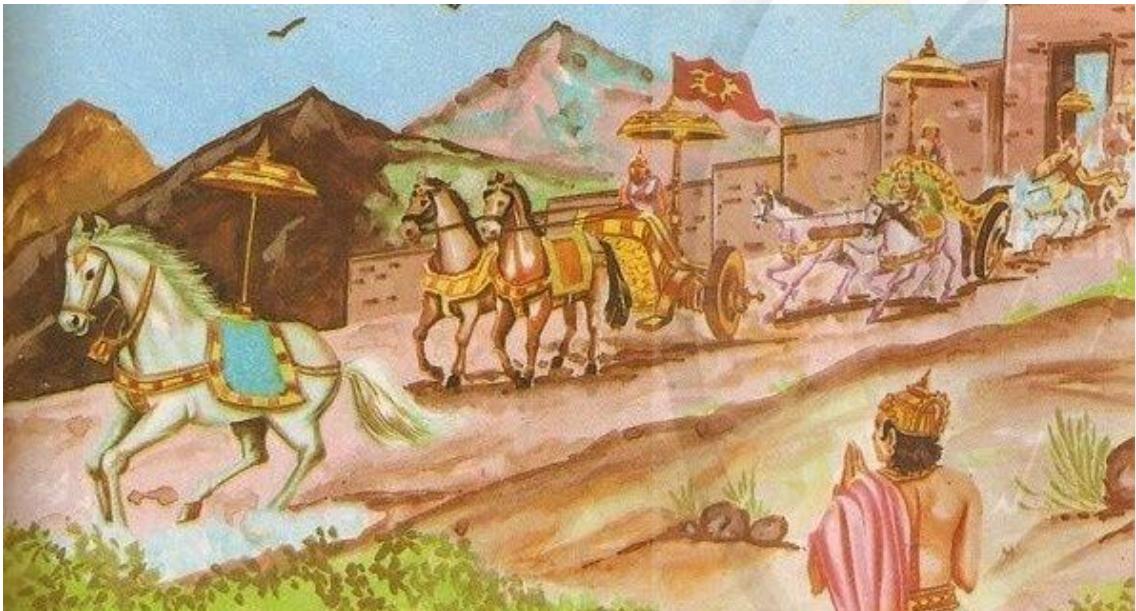
Vanaprastha



Sannyasa

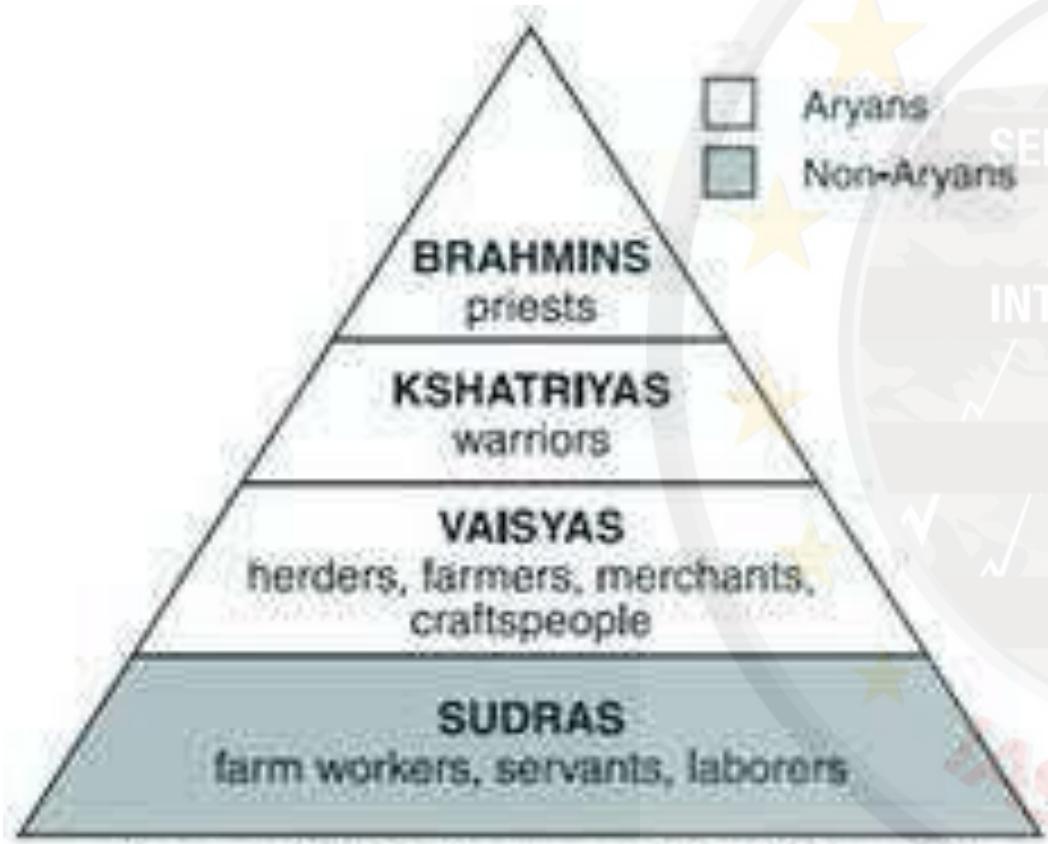
1. **Brahmacharya** Ashram: The first 25 years - student life
2. **Grihastha** Ashram: From 25 to 50 years - Have a family & discharge worldly duties (giving birth to children & raising them)
3. **Vanaprastha** Ashram: From 50-75 years was fixed for partial retirement & living in forests.
4. **Sanyas** Ashram: The last age of 75-100 years was fixed for complete retirement from the world

# Culture - Sacrifices and Rituals



1. **Rajsuya**: Conferred supreme power to King.
2. **Asvamedha**: Authorized the King an unquestioned control over an area.
3. **Vajapeya**: A chariot race in which the Royal Chariot was to win race against kinsmen.
4. **Garbhdharana**: The conception ceremony
5. **Pumsayam**: Ritual to procure a male child.
6. **Sementonayam**: Ritual to ensure safety of the child in womb.
7. **Jatakarma**: Birth ceremony performed prior to cutting the umbilical chord of the new-born infant
8. **Culakarma**: Performed in 3rd year of the baby's life
9. **Upnayana**: Performed in the eighth year to confer dvija status.

# Culture – Varna System



- 4 Varnas: Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras
- All tributes went to Brahmanas and Kshatriyas
- Brahmanas and Kshatriyas often came into conflict with each other over positions of supremacy
- Vaishyas composed of the common people. They were the **only tribute paying class**
- All the above **3 varnas were entitled to Upanayana** (Sacred thread)
- Shudras were deprived of the Sacred thread and the recitation of Gayatri mantra

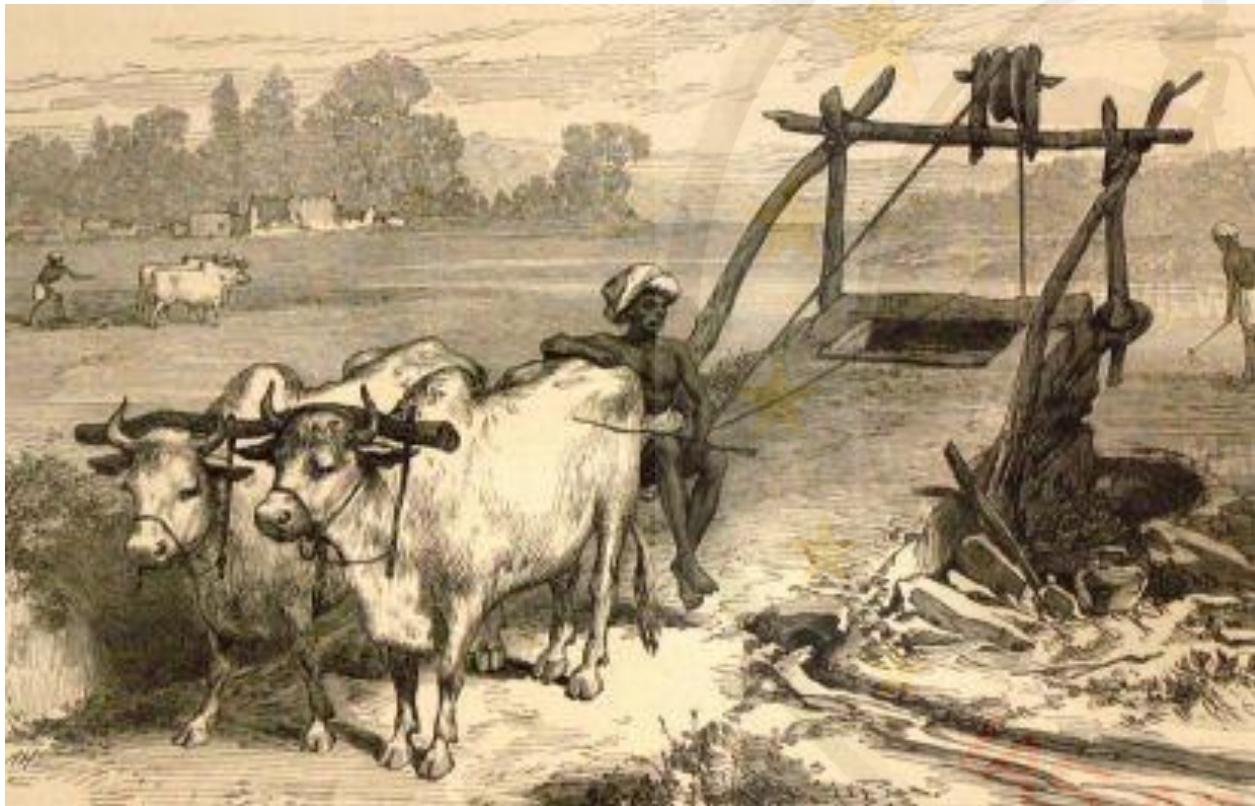
# Pottery



## Types of pottery:

1. Black & Redware
2. Black-slipped ware
3. Painted greyware(most distinctive of the period)
4. Redware

# At the peak of Later Vedic Period



- Moved from **pastoral** to **agricultural**
- Life became **sedentary** and more land was brought under cultivation
- New class of artisans rise: Ironsmiths, Jewelers, Dyers, Potters
- **Money lending** becomes prevalent
- **Extensive agriculture, specialization of crafts,** diversification of economy -> **Settled life**
- They settled in the upper Gangetic plains

# Chronology So far...

## Stone Age

Paleolithic: 2 mya- 10,000 BCE

Mesolithic: 10,000 BCE – 4000 BCE

Neolithic: 6000 BCE – 1000 BCE

## Chalcolithic Age (2800 BCE – 700 BCE)

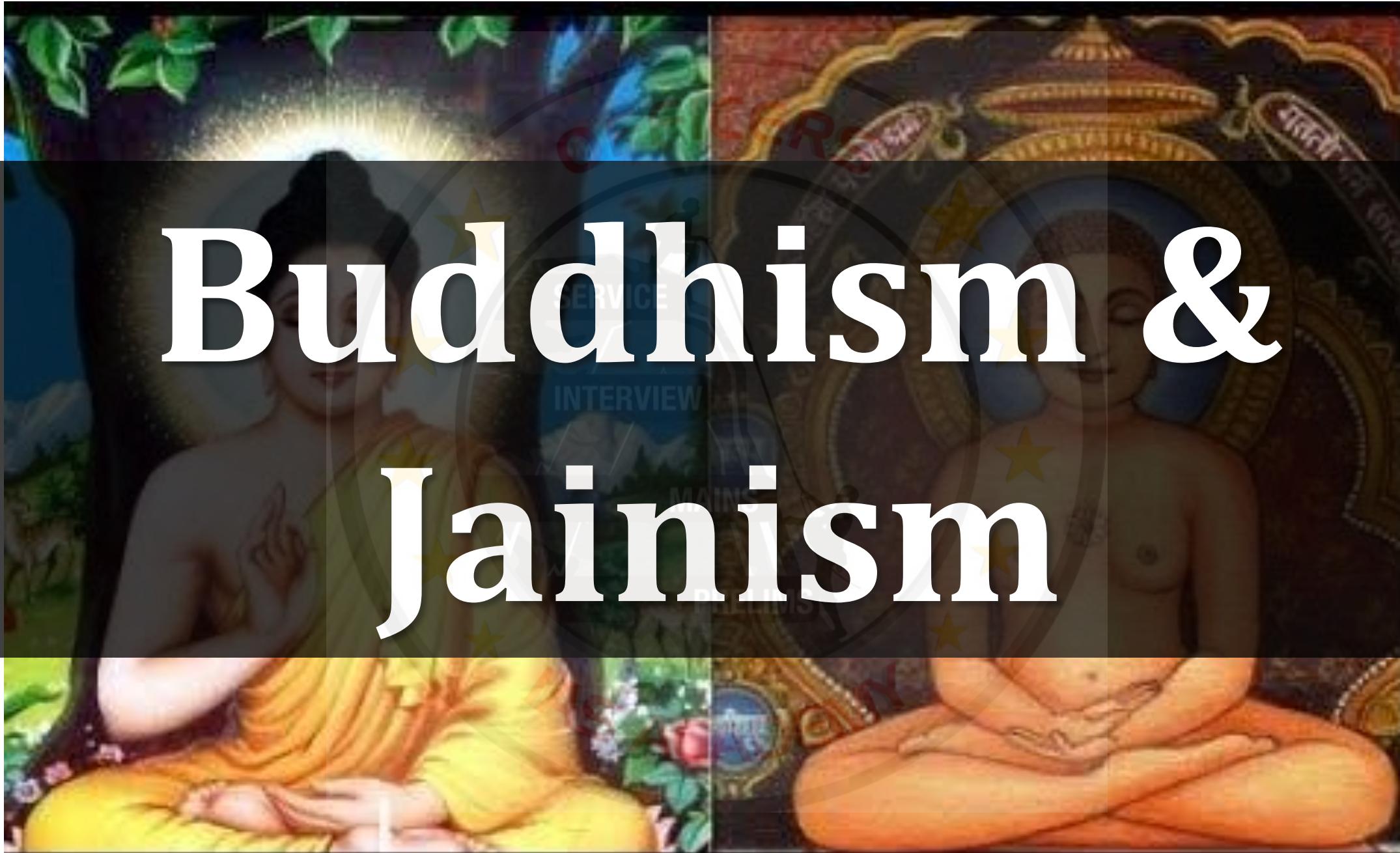
## Indus Valley Civilization (2600 BCE – 1900 BCE)

## Vedic Age (1500 BCE – 700 BCE)

Early Vedic Period: 1500 BCE - 1000 BCE

Later Vedic Period: 1000 BCE - 700 BCE

# Buddhism & Jainism



# What to learn?

- Reasons for the rise of heterodox sects
- Why people supported Buddhism and Jainism?
- Jainism
- About Jainism
- Jainism – 5 Doctrines and 3 Gems
- Spread of Jainism
- Contribution of Jainism
- Buddhism
- Buddhism – Codes of conduct
- Buddhism – 8-fold Path
- Special features of Buddhism
- Reasons for decline of Buddhism
- Importance of Buddhism in Indian culture

# Reasons for the rise of heterodox sects

## Problems with Vedic religion



1. Priestly predominance & preeminence
2. Rigid classification of Varnas
3. Concepts of **metaphysical** nature were difficult to understand
4. Religion was **against money lending**
5. Sacrifices were **expensive & violent**
6. Treatment of **Shudras**

# Reasons for the rise of heterodox sects

## Causes of the formation of new religions:

- **Social tensions** caused by Varna system
- Ritualistic **domination** of Brahmanas **over Kshatriyas**
- Spread of new agricultural economy in the north-eastern India which required cattle wealth for sustained growth. **Vedic practice of killing cattle** (cows and bullocks) for sacrifices stood in the way of expansion of agriculture
- Spread of the **usage of Iron ploughshare**
- **People were looking** for a religion that would **improve their position** in the society.



# Why support Buddhism and Jainism?



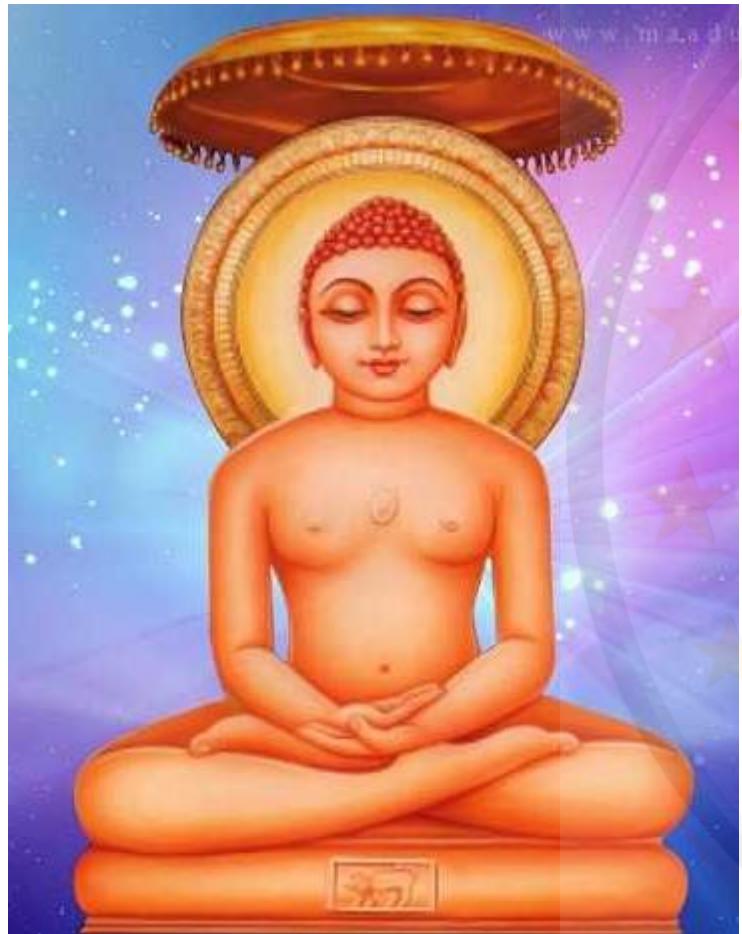
- They both **did not attach** any **importance to** the **Varna system**. They held an open door to everybody
- They preached **non-violence** => No killing of cattle => Assures expansion of agriculture
- Dharma sutras do not approve of **money lending** as a profession and called money lenders as evils => Vaishyas could not improve their social status

# Why support Buddhism and Jainism?



- Increased private property, indiscriminate acquiring of wealth, exorbitant material lifestyle, constant wars and conquests was detested by the people.
- They **wanted** a **simpler** & an **ascetic life**
- Buddhism & Jainism offered that as it asked the monks to forgo luxuries, material pleasure.

# Jainism



- Vardhamana Mahavira is the **24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara** of Jainism (the 1<sup>st</sup> is Rishabhadev)
- Born in 540 BCE
- Related to the Magadha Royal Family
- At age 30, abandoned worldly pleasures and became an ascetic
- At age 42, attained **Kaivalya** (enlightenment)
- He conquered the life's misery and happiness and hence called as Mahavira or Jina
- His followers are hence called as Jainas
- He travelled across the north and died at the age of 72 in 468 BCE at Pavapuri

# About Jainism

- The religion is divided into 2 sects: **Shvetambaras** (wear white clothes) and **Digambaras** (are completely naked)
- Jainism attaches a lot of importance to **ahimsa**
- It **recognises** the **existence of gods** but places them below the Jina
- Jainism **did not condemn the varna system** as Buddhism did
- Jains were **prohibited from war and agriculture**. They confined themselves to trading
- Jainism **admitted men and women** into its fold

# Jainism - 5 Doctrines and 3 Gems

Ahimsa

- Non-Violence

Satya

- Truth

Asteya

- Non stealing and not to receive anything which was not voluntarily given

Aparigraha

- Non possession

Brahmacharya

- Celibacy

## 5 Doctrines of Jainism:

1. Do not commit violence
2. Do not speak a lie
3. Do not steal
4. Do not acquire property
5. Observe continence (the only doctrine added by Mahavira)

## Three jewels of Jainism (Triratna)

1. Right knowledge
2. Right faith
3. Right action

# Spread of Jainism



- Jainism did not attract masses as it did not mark itself out from the Brahmanical religion
- But Jainism still spread and Chandra Maurya (322-298BCE) himself was a Jain
- A huge **Famine in Magadha** pushed several Jains out of the region towards the south and when they returned north after the famine, they were not accepted back by the northern Jainas
- They remained divided: Southern Jainas called themselves **Digambaras** and northern Jainas called themselves **Shvetambaras**

# Spread of Jainism



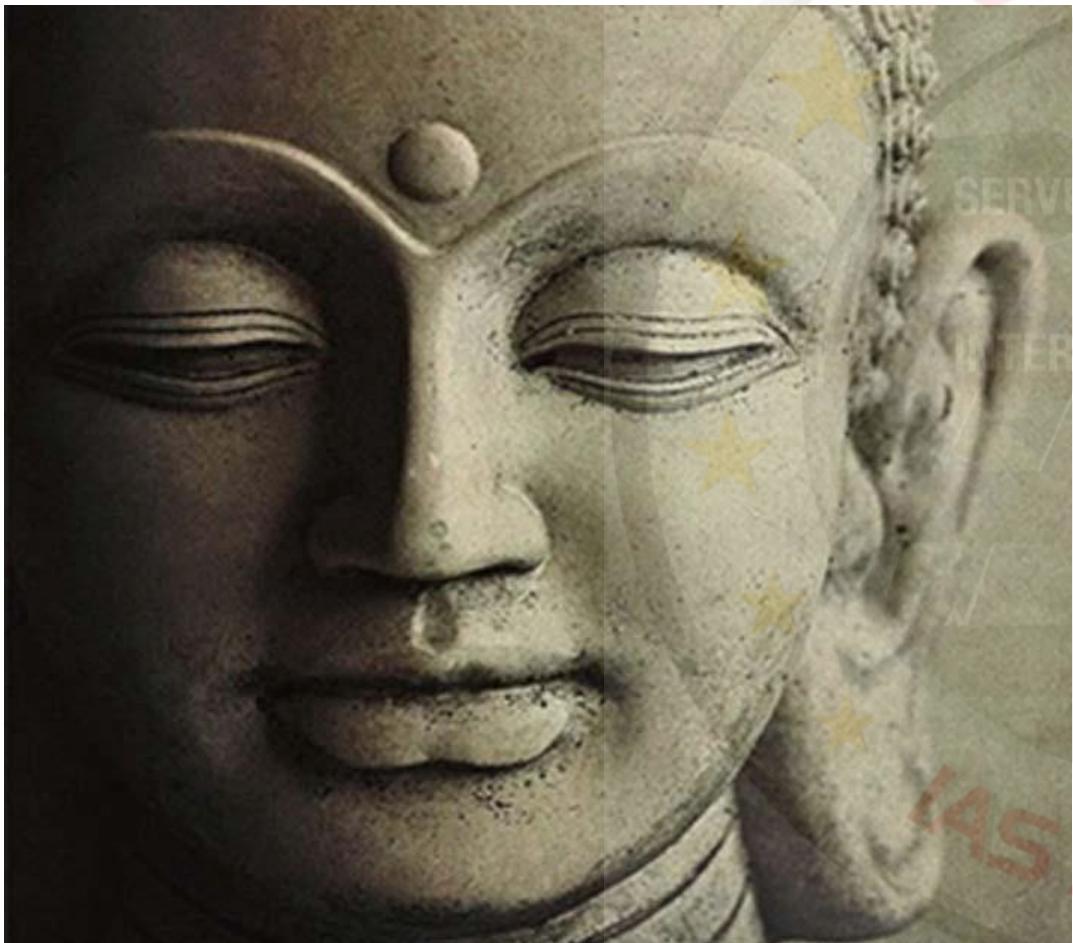
- Jaina monastic establishments sprang in Karnataka region
- **Kharavela**, the king of Kalinga patronised Jainism (1<sup>st</sup> century BCE)
- It also **spread to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Malwa and Rajasthan** in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE
- Jainism still holds followers in these places

# Contribution of Jainism



- The 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at **mitigating** the **evils of** ritualistic **vedic religion**
- They **adopted prakrit**, the language of the masses to teach their doctrine
- Adoption of Prakrit also helped in the **growth of** finesse of **Prakrit** and the regional languages developed out of Prakrit
- Jainas contributed to the **growth of** Kannada

# Buddhism



- Siddhartha was born in 563 BCE in the Shakya Kshatriya family in **Lumbini**, near **Kapilavastu**
- Gauthama's father an elected ruler of Kapilavastu (a republic). His mother was a princess from Koshalan dynasty
- Married life did not suit him and he left home at the age of 29
- Attained enlightenment at the age of 35 under a pipal tree at **Bodh Gaya**
- From hereon he is referred to as Buddha or the enlightened
- Passed away at the age of 80 in 463 BCE at Kusinagar

# Buddhism – Codes of conduct

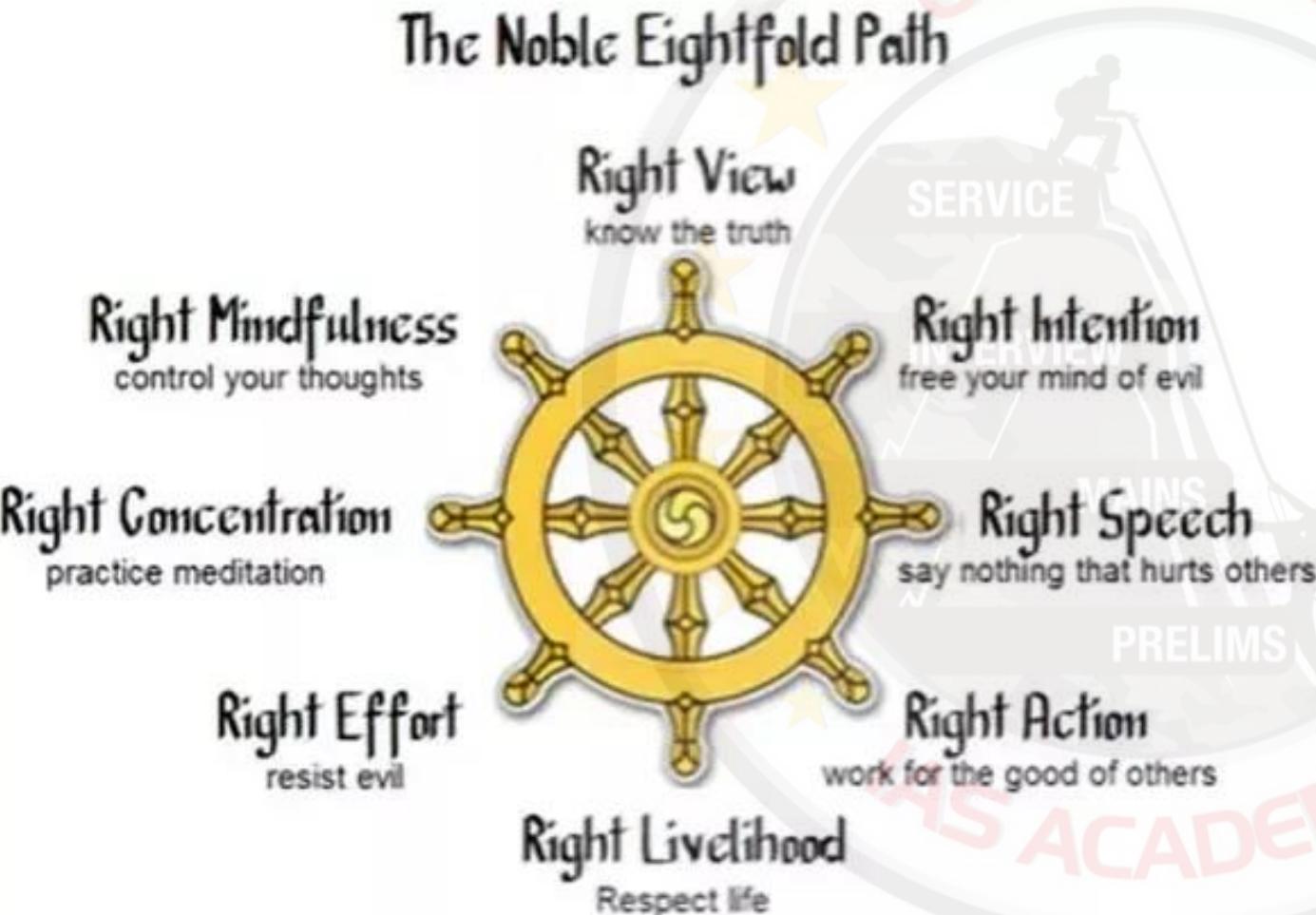


- Buddha's simple philosophy: The world is full of sorrows and misery. People suffer due to desires. If desires are conquered nirvana will be attained (man will be free from birth-death cycle)

## **Code of conduct for followers**

1. Do not covet the property of others
2. Do no commit violence
3. Do not use intoxicants
4. Do not speak a lie
5. Do not indulge in corrupt practices

# Buddhism – 8-fold Path



## 8-fold path (Ashtangika Marga)

1. Right observation
2. Right determination
3. Right speech
4. Right action
5. Right livelihood
6. Right exercise
7. Right memory
8. Right meditation

# Special features of Buddhism

- Buddhism **does not recognise the existence of god or Atman**
- It **doesn't indulge in complex philosophical discussions** -> appealed to the common man
- It particularly **won the support of the lower varna** as Buddhism accepted people from all castes. People responded well to Buddhism as they were looked down upon by the orthodox Brahmanas
- **Women were** also **admitted** to the Sangha (religious order) and were on par with men
- Buddhism was **liberal and democratic** in comparison to the Brahmanical religion

# Special features of Buddhism

- **Personality of Buddha** also seemed to have helped the spread of the religion. He responded to evil by goodness and hatred by love. He refused to be provoked by slander and abuse. He maintained poise and calm under difficult conditions and tackled his opponents with wit and mind.
- **Use of Pali** aided the religion to **reach the masses**
- Several **Monarchs** readily **accepted Buddhism** as it discarded the preeminence of the priestly class.
- When **Ashoka** embraces Buddhism, it was the epoch-making move that led to the spread of Buddhism to south, southeast Asia, China, West Asia, Central Asia, etc.
- All these contributed to the spread of Buddhism over a large area

# Reasons for decline of Buddhism

- Buddhism eventually **succumbed to the same evils of the vedic religion: rituals, ceremonies**
- Buddhism **gave up Pali and took up Sanskrit**, the elite language
- They **started idol worship** on a large scale and received numerous offerings
- They **became ease loving people** and buddhist monks came to look upon women as objects of lust.
- Brahmana ruler **Pushyamitra Shunga** persecuted Buddhists
- Shiva worshipper and Huna King **Mihirakula**, slaughtered Buddhists
- Shaivaite King **Shashanka** cut off the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya and destroyed several stupas and monasteries.

# Reasons for decline of Buddhism

- In the south, Shaivaites and Vaishnavaites opposed Jainism and Buddhism in the early medieval period
- Turkish invaders chose to target monasteries as it held a lot of riches
- All these conflicts resulted in the weakening of Buddhism.
- Reformation of the vedic religion by the Brahmanas to meet the Buddhist challenge helped stem the flow of people converting to Buddhism
- Brahmanas stressed the need for preserving cattle wealth and assured Shudras and Women admission into heaven

# Importance of Buddhism in Indian culture

## In tackling Materialism

- In the newly developed material economy, people accumulated a lot of wealth which ultimately led to social inequalities.
- The **code of conduct issued by Buddha is a reaction against materialism.**
- Buddhism imposes restriction on food, dress and sexual behavior and accepting gold/silver
- This code reflects the revolt against the use of money, private property and luxurious living

## Non-discrimination

- Buddhism impacted the ancient society by keeping the **doors open for Shudras and Women**

# Importance of Buddhism in Indian culture

## On treatment of cows

- **Buddhism boosted cattle wealth** due to its emphasis on non-violence and referred to cows as the giver of food, beauty and happiness
- The **Brahmanical insistence of the divinity of cows was derived from Buddhism**

## Kickstarted an intellectual culture

- Buddhism **gives credence to intellect**. It taught people to not take things for granted but to judge them based on merit -> mitigation of superstition -> **promoted rationalism**

## Monasteries as centres of learning

- Buddhist monasteries emerged as great centres of learning (**Nalanda** & **Vikramashila**)

# Importance of Buddhism in Indian culture

## Enrichment of Pali

Buddhists **enriched Pali literature.**

3 categories of Pali Buddhist-literature works are present:

1. Saying/teachings of Buddha
2. Rules for observation by the members of Sangha
3. Philosophical exposition of the Dhamma

## Art & Sculpture

- **Buddha's statues** were the first human statues to be worshipped in India
- His life story has been **painted on the walls of caves** by artists

# Chronology So far...

## Stone Age

Paleolithic: 2 *mya*- 10,000 BCE

Mesolithic: 10,000 BCE – 4000 BCE

Neolithic: 6000 BCE – 1000 BCE

## Chalcolithic Age (2800 BCE – 700 BCE)

## Indus Valley Civilization (2600 BCE – 1900 BCE)

## Vedic Age (1500 BCE – 700 BCE)

Early Vedic Period: 1500 BCE - 1000 BCE

Later Vedic Period: 1000 BCE - 700 BCE

## Buddhism (563 BCE)

## Jainism (540 BCE) (*or* 599 BCE)

# Rise of Magadha

Bombay

OFFICERS

SERVICE

INTERVIEW

MAINS

PRELIMS

IAS ACADEMY

# What to learn?

- Formation of Territorial states
- Mahajanapadas
- Rise of Magadha
- Later rulers
- Why Magadha got powerful but others didn't?

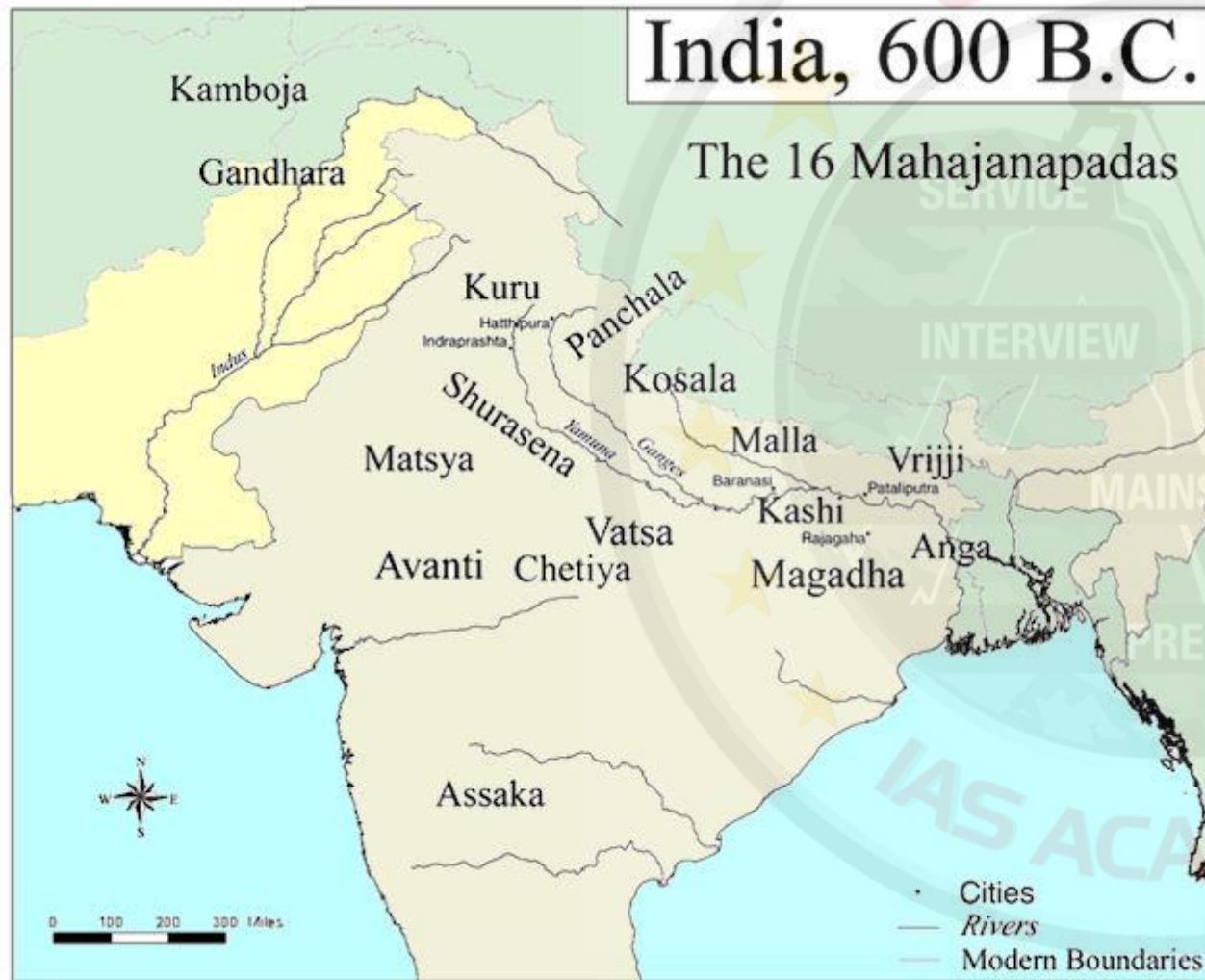
# Formation of Territorial states

## How?



- Because of **Iron weapons** to conquer land and forests
- Because of **Iron Ploughshare** -> surplus agricultural productivity
- **People** thus **stuck to the land** & expanded their territory
- Rise of large states strengthened the idea of territory
- People started owing **alligence to** the **Janapada (Territory) rather than the Jana (Tribe)**

# Mahajanapadas



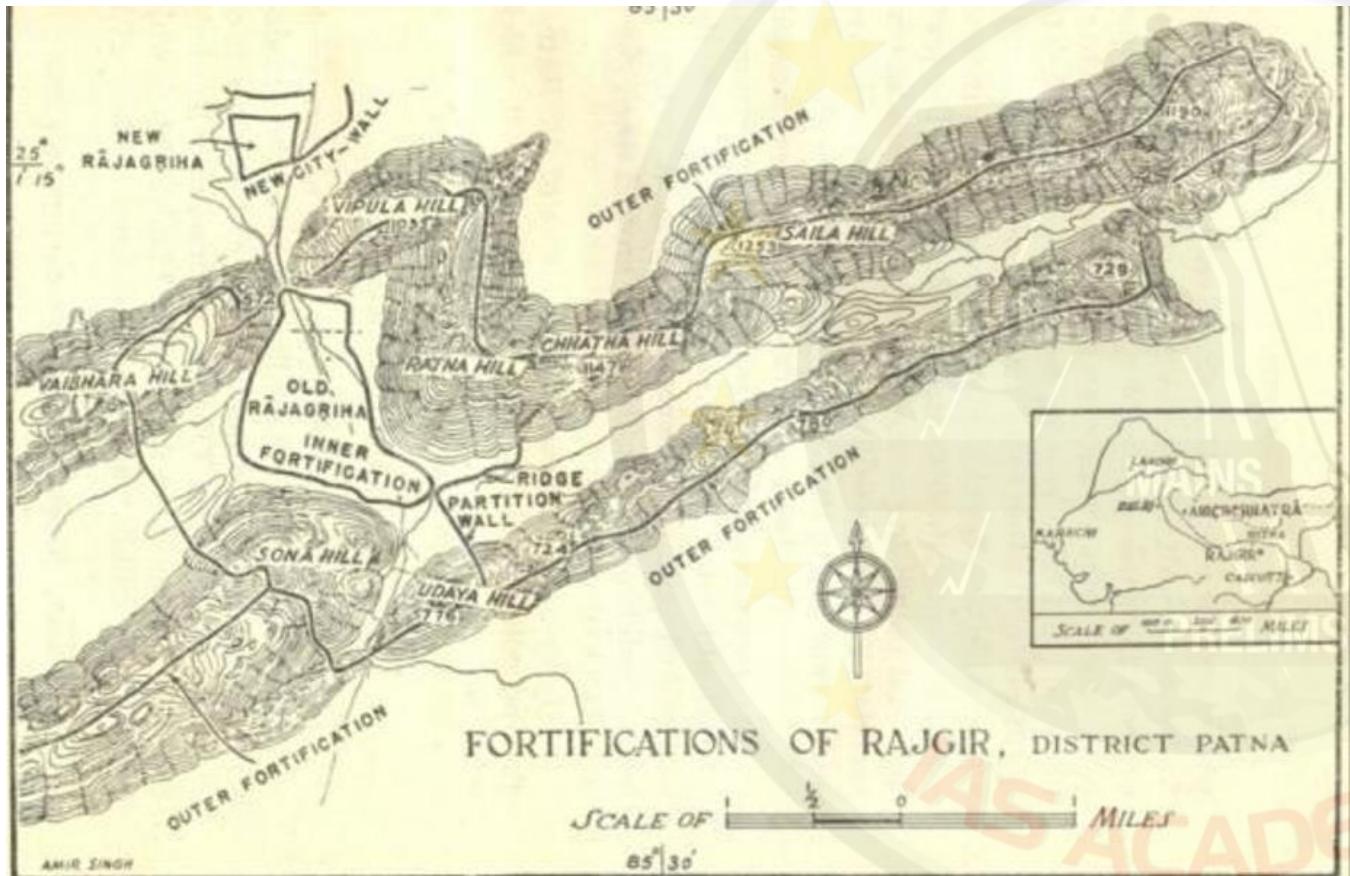
- **16 Mahajanapadas** existed during the time of Buddha and Mahavira
- Some were more powerful than others
- Ultimately **Magadha** grew up to be **the most powerful** among them by means of military and expansion of land under agriculture.

# Rise of Magadha



- Magadha became prominent under **Bimbisara** of **Haryanka Dynasty**
- He was a **contemporary of Buddha**
- He followed the policies of **conquest, aggression, marriage alliances** and **diplomacy**
- Through these policies, he ensured that Magadha was the premier power in the region in 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

# Rise of Magadha



- Magadhā capital is **Rajgir** (Girivraja) which was **surrounded by 5 hills** in between which closed stone walls were erected to make the place **impregnable**
- His Son **Ajatasatru** killed him and usurped the throne

# Rise of Magadha



- Ajatasatru was very **aggressive and imperial**.
- He used **innovative weapons** to destroy his enemies
- Catapults to throw stones, Mace attached to the chariot to massacre enemy soldiers, etc.

# Later rulers



- **Shaishunaga** dynasty & **Nanda** Dynasty
- Nandas under Mahapadma Nanda were the strongest, richest and the most powerful of all Magadhan rulers

# Why Magadha got powerful but others didn't?

- The **rulers were enterprising, ambitious** and **aggressive**
- They employed all means fair and foul to enlarge their kingdoms
- **Peasants were able to produce surplus** as the **soil was fertile** and the region had **ample supply of water** -> **increased taxes** for the ruling class
- **Tolls were levied** for transportation of goods in the north east -> increased revenue to the rulers
- Magadhan rulers were the **first to employ elephants in the military**, transportation and even as a means for communication in unreachable areas

# Why Magadha got powerful but others didn't?

- **Geographical advantage:** Had the **richest iron deposits** located close to Rajgir.
  - Ready availability of iron -> production of **effective weapons and tools**
- Pataliputra and Rajgir (**the 2 Capitals**) were **situated in strategic locations**.
  - **Pataliputra:** Located at the confluence of Ganga, Gandak & Son and close to Ghaghra -> military transportation becomes very easy in all directions.
  - It also implies that it is very difficult to get into a place surrounded by water (**Jaladurga**)
  - **Rajgir** was located in an impregnable location in the middle of **natural fortification** (hills).

# Chronology So far...

**Stone Age (2,000,000 MYA – 1000 BCE)**

**Chalcolithic Age (2800 BCE – 700 BCE)**

**Indus Valley Civilization (2600 BCE – 1900 BCE)**

**Vedic Age (1500 BCE – 700 BCE)**

Early Vedic Period: 1500 BCE - 1000 BCE

Later Vedic Period: 1000 BCE - 700 BCE

**Buddhism (563 BCE)**

**Jainism (540 BCE) (or 599 BCE)**

**Rise of Magadha**

Haryanka Dynasty: Bimbisara (558 BCE – 491 BCE), Ajatashatru (492 BCE – 460 BCE)

Shaishunaga Dynasty (413 BCE – 345 BCE)

Nanda Dynasty (345 BCE – 321 BCE)

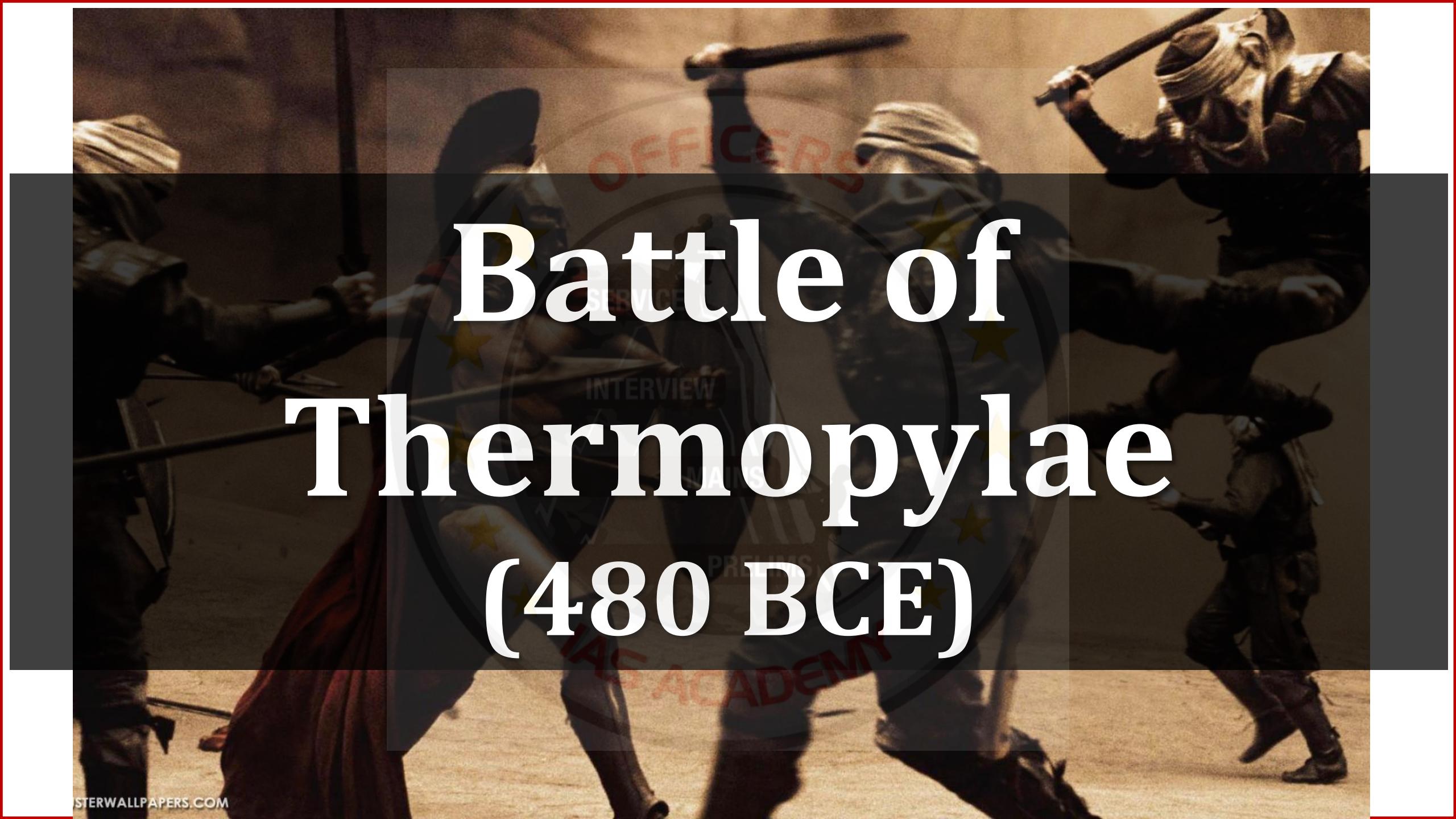
# Invasions





# Battle of Marathon (490 BCE)





# Battle of Thermopylae (480 BCE)

# Battle of Plataea (480 BCE)



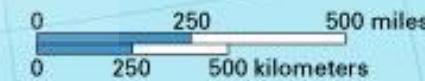
The Empire of Alexander, 323 B.C.

# Alexander arrives at India (326 BCE)

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER  
INTERPRETING MAPS

**Place** What physical features mark the eastern end of Alexander's empire?

- Alexander's Empire
- Route of Alexander



# **Chronology So far...**

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**Jainism (540 BCE) (*or 599 BCE*)**

**Rise of Magadha (558 BCE – 321 BCE)**

**Persian Invasion of North-West India (516 BCE)**

**Alexander's Invasion of North-West India (326 BCE)**