

Chapter – 1 History

What, Where, How and When

- **History:** History is a chronological account of events as they took place in the past.
- **Why should we study History:**
 - (i) We should study history as it tells us about our past.
 - (ii) It gives us understanding about our ancient culture and lifestyle.
 - (iii) It helps us to solve the problems of the present day world.
- **Time frames of History:**
 - (i) Historians use chronological sequence for a better understanding. Birth of Jesus Christ has been taken as year zero.
 - (ii) Any event before Christ is called Before Christ (BC) and any event after the birth of Jesus is called Anno Domini (AD).
 - (iii) Timeline of history is divided into three stages – prehistory, protohistory and history.
- **Where did people live:**
 - (i) People lived near river valleys. This was because rivers provided water for all purposes.
 - (ii) Traces of life were found near Sulaiman and Kirtar hills in North West.
 - (iii) Traces of life even existed along Ganga. Mahajanpadas like Magadha, Kashi, Vajji, etc. flourished 2500 years ago.
 - (iv) The Himalayan mountain has acted as natural barrier between India and Central Asia since ages.
- **How was the name India Derived:**
 - (i) Our country is called India and Bharat.
 - (ii) Bharat was used by the people of North India in the Sanskrit composition Rigveda.
 - (iii) The word Indus traces its roots from the river Indus which is called Sindhu in Sanskrit.
- **How do we know about the past:**
 - (i) Archaeologist and historians study several sources to tell us about the past. There are two sources - archaeological and literary.

Key Notes

- (ii) **Archaeology:** The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains.
- (iii) Archaeologists use sources like monuments, artefacts, inscription and coins.
- (iv) Handwritten or any other written record of the past is known as a literary source.
- (v) Literary sources include two types of literature - religious literature and secular literature.
- **Why studied sources of History:**
 - (i) There were two groups of people who studied history. One was called archaeologist and the other group was called historians.
 - (ii) Archaeologists studied remains of buildings made of stones, bricks, paintings and sculptures.
 - (iii) The other group called historians were the people who studied the past and used information found in inscriptions, seals and scripts.

Chapter – 2 History

On the Trail of the Earliest People

- Human life has evolved over millions of years. In early stages, men were hunters and food gatherers.
- They hunted wild animals, fishes and gathered fruits, nuts and seeds.
- **Why did the Earliest people lead a Nomadic life:**
 - (i) If they stayed at one place, resources like plant and animal would finish.
 - (ii) Plants bear different fruits in different seasons. So, man too had to move in search of these, as per seasons.
 - (iii) People had to move wherever water was available.
- **How do we Know about Early People:**
 - (i) Archaeologists have found out several tools used by hunter gatherers.
 - (ii) Tools were made of stone, wood, etc.
 - (iii) Tools were used to cut meat, chop fruits, etc.
 - (iv) Wood was used to make huts and firewood.
- **Where did Early Man Live:**
 - (i) Early man lived near sources of water.
 - (ii) They lived in places where stones were found and people made tools.
 - (iii) The place was called factory sites.
 - (iv) The factory sites were found near discarded blocks of stone.
 - (v) These were known as habitation-cum-factory sites.
- **Stone Age:**
 - (i) The period when mostly stone tools were made is known as stone age.
 - (ii) It is divided into three parts:
 - (a) Paleolithic or Old Stone Age
 - (b) Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age
 - (c) Neolithic or New Stage Age
- **Making Stone Tools:**

Stone tools were made using two techniques: stone on stone and pressure flaking.
- **Man Discovers Fire:**
 - (i) Accidentally one of the biggest discoveries made by man was fire.

Key Notes

- (ii) Over a period of time man learnt several uses of fire.
- (iii) It was used in winters to keep warm and use it in the art of cooking food.

- **Early Rock Paintings:**

- (i) Man early caves had paintings on the walls.
- (ii) These were found in M.P. and Southern U.P.
- (iii) Early man's painted and what they felt in these paintings.
- (iv) They depicted men hunting, women grinding, children jumping, etc.

- **The Deccan:**

- (i) Paleolithic sites have been found in the Deccan.
- (ii) Some major sites are Chirki - Nevasa in Maharashtra.

- **Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and Hungsi in Karnataka:**

- (i) Rivers like Godavari, Krishna and Tapti drained the region.
- (ii) Large number of Paleolithic tools made from stone have been found along the river.
- (iii) Archaeologists are studying these tools carefully to understand the life of early man.
- (iv) Bones, horns and tusks of animals like elephant and wild ox have been found.

Key Notes

Chapter – 3 History

From Gathering to Growing Food

- The new stone age started a new era in history.
- After leading a nomadic life for many years, man around 10,000 years began to lead a settled life.
- **The Beginning of Food Produce:**
 - (i) As climate of the world changed man observed several things - areas where edible plants were found, how seeds broke off stalks, fell on the ground and how new plants sprouted from them.
 - (ii) Man started cultivating crops.
 - (iii) The first crops to be grown were cereal and barley.
 - (iv) This is how by use of sickle men became food producers or farmers.
 - (v) Agriculture changed the life of man. They started leading a settled life.
- **Men as Herders:**
 - (i) Humans even began to tame or domesticate animals like dog, horse, pig, goat, donkey, sheep, etc.
 - (ii) The first animal to be tamed was dog.
 - (iii) Animals provided milk, meat and even carried burden on their back.
- **Human as Inventors of Wheel:**
 - (i) The revolution in early man's life came with the invention of wheel.
 - (ii) Wheel transformed man's life.
 - (iii) Travelling and carrying heavy objects from one place to another place became faster.
- **How was Invention of Pottery Important:**
 - (i) Man learnt to make clay pottery shaped by hand backed in fire.
 - (ii) Potter's wheel helped them to make pots of different shapes and sizes.
- **How do we know about Farmers and Herders:**
 - (i) Archaeologists have found many traces of life of early farmers.
 - (ii) Traces of farmers and herders were available through traces of pottery, pit houses, tools, paintings and daily life.
 - (iii) Traces were found in Mehrgarh, Burzahom at North-Eastern parts of India etc.
- **The Chalcolithic Age:**

Key Notes

- (i) It was around 6,000 years back that man started using copper.
- (ii) Tools of copper were better than that of stone.
- (iii) It was also called the Copper Stone Age.
- (iv) It marked an important transition from use of stones to metals.

- **The North-West Mehrgarh:**

- (i) The earliest known civilization of the Indian subcontinent was in Mehrgarh (now Pakistan).
- (ii) It was here that man first tamed animals and reared them around 7,000 BC.
- (iii) Charred grains and bones of animals were found here.
- (iv) Glazed faience beads were made.

- **The North-East:**

- (i) Evidence of early settlements were found in Manipur, Tripura, Garo Hills.
- (ii) One important Neolithic site in Assam was Daojali Hading. Traces of polished stone tools, ceramics and kitchen items were found here.

Key Notes

Chapter – 4 History

In The Earliest Cities

- Man's lifestyle changed significantly after he learnt the art of using metals.
- Copper was the first metal to be used by man. It was followed by bronze which was made by mixing tin and copper.
- The earliest cities in the Indian subcontinent emerged around 4,700 years in the region drained by Indus and its tributaries in the North-West.
- **The Story of Harappa:**
 - (i) British discovered a mound while building Railways.
 - (ii) Archaeologists were informed.
 - (iii) Harappa was the first to be discovered, it became Harappa Civilisation.
- **Architectural Features:**
 - (i) Harappan cities were well-planned.
 - (ii) All houses were build of burnt bricks and were of good quality.
 - (iii) The most imposing construction of Indus valley was the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro.
 - (iv) The Harappan settlements had small citadels. It was in citadels that structures were built for special public puroposes.
 - (v) The largest building excavated at Harappa was the Great Granary.
 - (vi) The most striking feature of Harappa was the well-planned drainage system.
- **Life of the Harappa People:**
 - (i) The Harappan people used common food items like wheat and barley. Animal bones found at Harappa include sheep, goat, pig, etc.
 - (ii) Pots of fine clay were made.
 - (iii) Many kilns for baking bricks have been discovered.
 - (iv) Of the various articles, seals were the most puzzling.
 - (v) Necklaces, armlets, finger rings and bangles were worn both by men and women. Both men and women seemed to be fond of ornaments.
- **Trade:**
 - (i) Trading thrived in Harappa.
 - (ii) It suggests that long-distance trade existed.
 - (iii) Goods coming from outside, include copper from Rajasthan, gold from Karnataka and precious stones from Iran and Afghanistan.
 - (iv) Seals of Mesopotamia have been found in Indus.
 - (v) Seals of Indus Valley have been found in Mesopotamia.
- **Harappan Cities in Gujarat:**
 - (i) Two famous Harappan cities of Gujarat were Dholavira and Lothal.
 - (ii) Dholavira was full of traces of fresh water and fertile soil.
 - (iii) Lothal was an important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.
- **Decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation:**
 - (i) It lasted from 2500 BC to 1500 BC.
 - (ii) Perhaps Indus Valley Civilisation was destroyed by earth quakes, floods or change in the course of the Indus.
 - (iii) Some historians sat that the invasion of Aryans led to the decline of Harappan civilization.

Key Notes

Chapter – 5 History

What Book and Burial tell us

- The oldest book known all over the world is supposed to be that of the Vedas.
- They were written about 3,000 years back and are the earliest literary source available.
- **The Vedas:**
 - (i) The word, Veda means Knowledge. There are four Vedas: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
 - (ii) The Rigveda is the oldest Veda. It was composed about 3,500 years ago.
 - (iii) The hymns have been composed by sages. These hymns were recited and passed from one generation to another until they were written down.
 - (iv) These hymns are in praise of different gods such as Indra (the god of warrior), Agni (the god of fire), Varun (the god of sky) and many others.
- **How do Historians study the Rigveda:**
 - (i) While studying about the past, historians examined written sources.
 - (ii) They studied the Rigveda. Most of the hymns in Rigveda were in the form of dialogues.
 - (iii) Historians study these dialogues to arrive at conclusions.
- **Rigveda: What does it tell us about Prayers and Battles:**
 - (i) Most prayers in the Rigveda are for cattle, children and horses.
 - (ii) Horses were yoked to chariots and used in battles.
 - (iii) Battles aimed to capture cattle, land, pasture, water and people.
 - (iv) A portion of the wealth was used for performing Yajnas or sacrifices in which offerings were put into fire, for gods including ghee, grains and rare animals.
- **Political Life:**
 - (i) The Vedas even tell us about political life of this sage.
 - (ii) The head of state was called Raja.
 - (iii) The Raja had no capital, palaces, armies or right to collect taxes.
- **Occupations:**

Agriculture, cattle-rearing, chariot-making, pottery, jewellery-making tanning and metal-work were the main occupations.
- **Dasas/Dasyus**
 - (i) While Aryans composed Vedas, another group of people opposed to Vedas.
 - (ii) They were called Dasas or Dasyus or slaves.
- **Social Differences: Burials**
 - (i) Archaeologists assume that objects discovered with a skeleton, probably belonged to the dead person.
 - (ii) In Brahmagiri, a skeleton was buried with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, and one conch shell whereas other skeleton only had a pot.
 - (iii) This shows the difference in status, amongst the people who were buried. Some were rich while other were poor.
 - (iv) Sometimes, megaliths have more than one skeleton. It indicates that people belonging to the same family were buried at same place though at different times.
 - (v) Special burials took place at Inamgaon.
 - (vi) Animals were used as food.
 - (vii) Skeletal studies tell us about better way of identifying dead bodies.

Chapter – 6 History

Kingdoms Kings and Early Republic

- In the later Vedic period, the tribal organization changed their identity and gradually started shifting into a territorial identity called Janapada or states.
- These states consisted of a single tribe like Shakyas and Molas or people from the Ganaga Valley called Aryans.
- They did not incorporate people outside the Aryan pole.
- There was, therefore, a strong consciousness of the pure land of the Aryans called Aryavrata.
- **What is Janapada:**
 - (i) The term Janapada is a compound composed of 'Jana' meaning tribe and 'pada' meaning foot. Its literal meaning, thus, is realm and subject population.
 - (ii) Early Vedic texts reveal about several Janas or tribes of the Aryans living in semi-nomadic tribal state.
 - (iii) In due course of time, these early Indian Iron Age Rigveda Janas coalesced into geographically fixed Janapadas.
 - (iv) They were governed by rulers or rajas each having their own army and capital.
 - (v) The kings maintained large armies who were paid regular salaries by using punch marked coins.
- **Features of Mahajanapadas:**
 - (i) Each Mahajanapadas was ruled by a king.
 - (ii) Villagers were controlled by a village headman called Gramini.
 - (iii) Varna system was divided into four castes-Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
- **Political Organisation**
 - (i) The political organization of the mahajanapadas was organized into two forms- monarchy and republican system.
 - (ii) In a monarchy, king was the head of the state. Magadha was its example.
 - (iii) In a republican system, state was ruled by an elected chief called Ganpat. Mallas was its example.
- **Taxation:**
 - (i) As Mahajanapadas needed huge amount of money, they imposed taxes.
 - (ii) One-sixth tax was fixed on crops; tax on crafts persons, herders, goods bought and sold through trade.
 - (iii) Further hunters and gathers had to give forest produce to the raja.
- **Agricultural System of Mahajanapadas:**
 - (i) Two major changes were introduced in agriculture.
 - (ii) One, was the rapid use of iron ploughshares.
 - (iii) Second, people started transplanting paddy.
- **Varna System of Mahajanapadas:**

Key Notes

- (i) Varna means group in Sanskrit.
 - (ii) Varna decided one's group. It was not based on birth.
 - (iii) Gradually in later Vedic age, Varna system changed to caste system.
 - (iv) The Brahmins imparted knowledge, Kshatriyas were rulers, Vaishyas contributed to trade while Shudras were slaves who were denied entry into the mainstream.
- **Magadha and Vajji**
 - (i) Magadha in South Bihar, on the banks of river Ganga was a fertile and industrial area which contributed to one of the most powerful kingdoms and some great kings like Bimbisara and Ashoka in India.
 - (ii) Vajji in northern part of Ganga, was a confederacy of eight clans of whom the Videhas, Lichchhavis and the Jnatrikas were the most popular. Vaishali was a prosperous city under them.

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Chapter – 7 History

New Questions and Ideas

- By the sixth century BC, religious worship in India became ritualistic and rigid, bound by caste rules.
- It forced many thinkers to give up worldly life and meditate in search of peace and enlightenment.
- Such thinkers spread their teachings through the Upanishads and two new religions: Buddhism and Jainism popularized by Gautam Buddha and Lord Mahavira respectively.
- **The Upanishads:**
 - (i) With expansion of trade around 600 BC, people had less time for performance of rituals and focused on right belief.
 - (ii) Scholars criticized all rituals and focused on right belief.
 - (iii) Literally 'Upanishad' means approaching and sitting near the teacher.
 - (iv) It became an important elaboration of Vedas. Thus its illustrations and conclusions were called Vedanta.
 - (v) The Upanishads stressed on the need to create a desire for knowledge to achieve Moksha.
 - (vi) The Upanishads focused on the fact the knowledge of Atman (self) should be acquired and related with Parmatman (ultimate reality).
 - (vii) This philosophy was given by scholars like Yajnavalkya, Maitreyi, Gargi, Aitareya, etc.
- **Message of Lord Mahavira:**
 - (i) Lord Mahavira is usually regarded as the founder of Jainism.
 - (ii) He left his palace and meditated for many years.
 - (iii) He gained supreme knowledge in the thirteenth year.
 - (iv) He was able to control and conquer the indriyas (senses). He was thus called Jina and his disciples were called Jains.
- **Mahavira Spreads his Religion:**
 - (i) Mahavira travelled widely in the country preaching Jainism for thirty years.
 - (ii) He also received royal support.
 - (iii) King Bimbisara of Magadha, Pradyota of Avanti, helped him to spread the religion.
 - (iv) Some of his famous disciples were Ananda, Surdev, etc.

Key Notes

- **Doctrines of Jainism**

- (i) Mahavira gave five doctrines
- (ii) These include not to injure life, not to speak lie, not to steal, not to possess property, and to vow chasity.
- (iii) This could be achieved through righ faith, right knowledge and right action.

- **The Jain Sangha and the Division in Jainism:**

- (i) At Pawanagar, Mahavira entered into a debate with Brahmanas and was able to impress them.
- (ii) With their help he laid the foundation of the Jain Sangha.
- (iii) The members of the Jain Sangha were divided into four categories: Bhikkus, Bhikkhunis, Shraveks and Shravikas. The first two were ascetics while the other two were householders.
- (iv) The great igration of Jain under Bhdrbahu to south India divided the religion into two cults.
- (v) The orthodox followers of Mahavira who hold Bhadrabahu in high esteem go completely naked. They are called Digambaras.
- (vi) The other sect followers of Parsvanath wear white clothes. They are called Shvetambaras.

Chapter – 8 History

Ashoka the Emperor who gave up War

- By the end of the Vedic period, the Aryan tribal settlements spread across the Indo-Gangetic plains grew into territorial divisions like Janapadas.
- One of the most powerful Janapadas, was that of Magadha under the Mauryas.
- **Rise of Magadha:**
 - (i) The rise of Magadha is attributed to the fertile plains along the river Ganga.
 - (ii) The Haryanka, Shishunaga and Nanda dynasties helped in the development of Magadha as a powerful state.
 - (iii) Around 326 BC, Greek ruler Alexander invaded India. At that time Magadha was ruled by Nandas.
 - (iv) The Nanda rulers who had humiliated Chanakya were overthrown by Chandragupta who established the Mauryan empire in 321 BC with his capital at Patiliputra.
 - (v) Chandragupta captured Punjab, Gujarat, Afghanistan. He even defeated Greek ruler Seleucus in 305 BC.
 - (vi) After ruling for 25 years, Chandragupta became a Jain ascetic and gave his kingdom to his son Bindusara who further expanded it southwards.
- **Ashoka: From a Warrior to Messenger of Peace:**
 - (i) Bindusara was succeeded by his son Ashoka, the greatest Mauryan emperor.
 - (ii) He undertook military campaign against Kalinga. After defeating it he saw a pool of blood.
 - (iii) The sight of large scale killing moved Ashoka and he embraced Buddhism.
 - (iv) He began to spread the teachings of Buddha not only in India but even abroad.
 - (v) His philosophy called 'Dhamma' was propagated all over. He preached peace, tolerance, shunning violence, stopping animal sacrifice and respect of slaves by their masters.
 - (vi) He sent missionaries called 'Dhamma Mahamattas' to Sri Lanka, Burma and South-east Asian countries to propagate Buddhism.
- **Mauryan Administration:**
 - (i) The Central administration was headed by the king who was the supreme judge and the law giver.
 - (ii) The king appointed several officials called mantris and amatyas to assist him.
 - (iii) The provincial administration was headed by a governor who was generally a Kumara or an Aryapura.
 - (iv) The provinces were divided into district or Janapada. It had three important officials called Pradeshika, Rajuka and Yukta.
- **Military System:**
 - (i) The Mauryas had established a vast empire with the help of a powerful army.
 - (ii) Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador wrote that soldiers were most numerous class next to the cultivators.
 - (iii) The Arthashastra mentions three types of soldiers namely, hereditary fighting class, mercenaries willing to fight for any government which engaged their services; and artisans.
 - (iv) The army consisted of 6,00,000 infantry, 30,000 horsemen, 3,000 chariots and 9,000 elephants.

Key Notes

- (v) The army administration was under a commander-in-chief.
- (vi) There were six specialized departments to look after the military administration.
- (vii) Further the king appointed a number of trusted secret servicemen as spies. It helped the king to know what people thought about him.
- **Achievements of Mauryas:**
 - (i) The agriculture was the main occupation of the Mauryas.
 - (ii) In addition, merchants were also found in large numbers.
 - (iii) Division in society was based on the different occupations of people.
 - (iv) Mauryan art and architecture in the form of stupas, viharas, pillars and rock edicts is very popular.
 - (v) Megasthenes' Indica and Kautilya's Arthashastra are two valuable sources of knowing about the Mauryas.
 - (vi) The state became weak politically and financially after the death of Ashoka and started declining.

Chapter – 09 History

Vital Villages Thriving Towns

- Rise of new kingdoms and towns led to an increase in agriculture and trade.
- It resulted in the growth of new towns.
- **Rapid Increase in Agricultural Production:**
 - (i) The discovery of iron tools led to rapid rise in agricultural production.
 - (ii) It made it easier to bring more land under cultivation by clearing forests.
 - (iii) The use of iron ploughshare made it possible to dig deep in those areas where the soil was fertile.
 - (iv) It led to significant rise in agriculture production first in North India and then in South India.
- **Growth of Crafts and Craftsmen:**
 - (i) Art and crafts flourished in every village.
 - (ii) Each village had weavers, dyers, potters, blacksmiths, basket-weaver, goldsmiths, carpenters and other skilled craftsmen.
 - (iii) Silk weaving, dyeing, coin-minting, ivory-carving, cloth-making and bead-making became the popular occupations.
 - (iv) Archaeological sources show extremely fine pottery called the Northern Black Polished Ware.
 - (v) Most craftsmen organized themselves into organisations called Shrenis.
- **Increase in Trade:**
 - (i) The rapid rise in agricultural production and crafts led to surplus production. This surplus in villages was supplied to towns.
 - (ii) All this led to growth of trade.
 - (iii) Merchants and traders participated in both the internal and external trade.
 - (iv) All trading communities were organised into guilds.
 - (v) Use of money gave rise to punch marked coins.
 - (vi) Taxes collected from trade acted as an important source of revenue for the king,
- **How did People Live:**
 - (i) Very little information is available about the life of the people.
 - (ii) The main sources to know about them include stories from books, the accounts of sailors and travellers and sculptures which show scenes from the daily life.
- **The Second Urbanisation: Town and Cities:**
 - (i) Large-scale agricultural production, growth of crafts and increased trade and commerce led to emergence of new towns and cities.
 - (ii) It led to growth of urban centres and is called the Age of Second Urbanisation.
 - (iii) Some important towns of this period were Vaishali, Ujjayani, Hastinapur, Pataliputra, Mathura, Arikamedu, Bodhi Gaya, Rajagriha and Kaveripattanam.
- **Functions of Towns:**
 - (i) Each town was famous for some particular activity.
 - (ii) Some towns were religious while others were administrative.
 - (iii) Several towns like Sopara were trading towns.
 - (iv) Two such famous towns were Mathura and Arikamedu.
 - (v) Mathura was the second capital of Kushanas and a centre of temples monasteries, arts and crafts. The Mathura School of Art grew here.

Key Notes

- (vi) Arikamedu was an important coastal trading centre, a port and a centre for export and import. Traders from Rome came here.
- **Life of People of Tamil Nadu: Under the Cholas and the Pandyas:**
 - (i) Most people lived in villages and were farmers.
 - (ii) Towns were near the coast.
 - (iii) Trade went as far as Rome and China.
 - (iv) People like amusements, games and gambling.
 - (v) The administration was headed by a king. There was even a general assembly known as the Sabha.
 - (vi) The most popular God was Murugan (Kartikeya in North).
 - (vii) The Chola Kingdom was situated between the Pennar and the Velur rivers and its centre of power was Uraiyar, a famous cotton centre.
 - (viii) The Pandya kingdom with its capital at Madurai was known for its pearls. It is mentioned by Megasthenes and the Sangam literature.

Key Notes

Chapter – 10 History

Traders Kings and Pilgrims

- Around 1,000 BC when the Second Urbanisation characterized North India, the area around Deccan Peninsula and South India saw the eco-habitation of both Iron Age and Megalithic Age leading to a strong civilization.
- **Sangam Age:**
 - (i) The Iron Age laid roots of a golden period in South India from 300 BC to 300 AD, popularly known as the Sangam Age.
 - (ii) The rich poetry of this period reflects the glory of the Tamil culture and society.
 - (iii) Tamils had good contacts and trade relations with distant lands like Rome and Cambodia.
- **Sangam Literature:**
 - (i) The word 'Sangam' means assembly.
 - (ii) The Tamil literature reveals of three literary gatherings of poets and scholars around 2,200 years ago under the patronage of the Pandyan Kings.
 - (iii) Of the second assembly, only the Tamil grammar 'Tolkappiyam' has survived. The third assembly at Madurai led to creation of over 2,000 poems together which is called the Sangam Literature.
- **Southern Kingdoms:**
 - (i) The Sangam literature mentions three Kingdoms in the Tamilakam territory: The Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas.
 - (ii) The Cheras were also called Keralaputras and traded in spices, cattle and turmeric.
 - (iii) The Cholas ruled Kaveri delta and even captured parts of Sri Lanka.
 - (iv) The Pandyas centered around Madurai. Madurai was famous for its third Tamil assembly.
- **Foreign Trade:**
 - (i) Tamilakam had extensive trade with distant lands.
 - (ii) Greek text like Pliny's periplus History also confirm these trade relations.
 - (iii) The Sangam literature uses the word 'Yavana' for Greek and Romans.
 - (iv) Historians confirm that Christianity came to South India due to these contacts.
 - (v) Trade route was through North India from Taxila to Pataliputra via Ujjain which linked to Tamralipti seaport.
 - (vi) Tamil Kingdom even had trade with South and South-East regions of Ceylon, Malaya, Java, Cambodia, Sumatra, etc.
- **Conquerors from Distant Lands:**
 - (i) In North-West India, the main conquerors were Sungas, Indo-Greeks, Parthians, Kushanas and Shakas.
 - (ii) Sungas came in 185 BC, after defeating the last Mauryan ruler Brihadratha and captured Magadha. They spread Buddhism.
 - (iii) The Indo-Greeks or Bactrians were from Northern Afghanistan. They captured Punjab.
 - (iv) The Parthians came from Central Asia and established Gandhara as their capital.
 - (v) The Kushanas were nomadic Yieh-chi tribes of North-West China. They defeated the Indo-Greeks, Parthians and Shakas. Their greatest ruler was Kanishka.

Key Notes

- (vi) Shakas came through Hindu-kush mountains and established Ujjain as their capital. The most famous Shaka ruler was Rudradaman.
- (vii) In central India, the Satavahanas were the main rulers. Gautamiputra, Sri Satkarni was their most important ruler.
- **Trade:**
 - (i) Trade flourished during this period. All the kingdoms issued a number of gold, silver and copper coins to promote trade.
 - (ii) Broach, Sopara and Kalyan were the important port cities.
 - (iii) The most important reason for development and prosperity during the age was the Silk Route which linked India to Rome via Central Asia.
- **Religion:**
 - (i) In India, Buddhism and Hinduism were the two main religions.
 - (ii) Buddhism was divided into two cults Hinayana and Mahayana.
 - (iii) Menander, the Indo-Greek king and Kanishka, the Kushana ruler helped in promotion of Buddhism.
 - (iv) Bamiyan, one of the tallest statues of Buddha.
 - (v) Hinduism was patronized by Satavahana ruler who worshipped Vishnu, Shiva and Mother Goddess.
 - (vi) Emphasis was now laid on loving devotion to God called Bhakti.
 - (vii) Deities were kept in special homes called temples.
 - (viii) Bhagvad Gita became famous text during this period.

Key Notes

Chapter – 11 History

New Empires and Kingdoms

- After the downfall of Mauryas, many new empires emerged. In 3rd century AD, a new powerful kingdom called the Gupta dynasty emerged.
- **The Gupta Age:**
 - (i) The period between 320-540 AD is known as Gupta Age.
 - (ii) It is also called the golden age of Indian history when rapid development took place in the field of art, architecture, literature, philosophy, trade, science and agriculture.
 - (iii) The sources of knowing about Guptas are-archaeological and literary sources.
 - (iv) Archaeological sources of Guptas include the rock-cut temples of Ajanta, Prayaga Prashasti pillar inscription at Allahabad or by court poet Harisena, etc.
 - (v) Coins and literary sources from the other source of information. These include gold and silver coins issued by Samudragupta and other rulers and accounts of writers like Fa-Xian. Some other sources are the works of Kalidasa, Raguvansha, Meghadoota and Abhijnana Shakuntalam.
- **Rulers of Gupta Empire:**
 - (i) Sri Gupta is supposed to be the founder of the Gupta dynasty.
 - (ii) The first powerful ruler was Chandragupta I who ascended the throne in 320 AD. His matrimonial alliance with Lichchhavi Princess was a turning point in the history of Gupta empire.
 - (iii) The next powerful ruler was his son Samudragupta whose glory and conquest is described in the Allahabad pillar inscribed by his court poet, Harisena.
 - (iv) The next powerful ruler was Chandragupta Vikramaditya who expanded and strengthened the Gupta empire. He occupied Saka territories. Fa-Hien visited India in his rule.
- **Gupta Administration:**
 - (i) The central government was headed by a king who was assisted by the ministers.
 - (ii) The Gupta empire had several Desa or provinces headed by Uparika.
 - (iii) The lowest level of administration was a district or a group of villages. Each village was headed by Gramadhyaksha.
- **Military System:**
 - (i) The military system was developed on scientific lines like the Mauryas.
 - (ii) The Mahasenapatis played an important role in heading the contingents of cavalry and elephants.
 - (iii) Several other ranks in the army called Mahasandhivigraha also existed.
- **Social Conditions:**
 - (i) The society was divided on the basis of four varnas.
 - (ii) Butchers and executioners lived in dwellings outside the city.
 - (iii) The Brahmins received the greatest respect. The Kshatriyas were also held in high esteem because of the power and prestige they enjoyed.
 - (iv) Slavery was prevalent while joint family system continued to be a feature of Hindu private life.
 - (v) Customs of polygamy and sati also started developing.
- **Science and Technology:**

Key Notes

- (i) The study of science made great progress.
- (ii) Notable astronomers and mathematicians like Aryabhata, Varahamihira wrote their works.
- (iii) Indian surgeons were well versed in dissection and plastic surgery.
- **Art and Architecture:**
 - (i) Temples dedicated to Vishnu, Shiva and Paravati were built.
 - (ii) Some famous temples include the Dasavtara temple at Jhansi, Vishnu temple at Tigawa, Shiva temple at Bhumara etc.
- **Paintings:**
 - (i) The art of painting reached its height.
 - (ii) The Buddhist caves in Ajanta and Bagh caves at Gwalior belong to this period and represent the excellent of Indian art.
- **Trade and Religion:**
 - (i) India had brisk trade relations with west through Persian Gulf and Red Sea.
 - (ii) Some famous ports were Kalyani, Broach, Kambay and Tamralipti.
 - (iii) Ship building industry was at its peak.
 - (iv) Buddhism and Hinduism flourished under the Guptas.
 - (v) Donations were made for maintenance of temples.
 - (vi) Sanskrit language reached its perfection.
 - (vii) After 468 AD Gupta empire started declining and collapsed by the middle of 6th century AD.
- **Harshavardhana:**
 - (i) After the decline of Gupta empire, many small kingdoms arose. One such kingdom was near Thaneshwara ruled by Vardhana dynasty.
 - (ii) The greatest ruler of this dynasty was Harshavardhana.
 - (iii) Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang praised his rule.
 - (iv) Harshavardhana had tried to cross river Narmada but was defeated by the Chalukyan king, Pulakeshin II.
 - (v) He was a follower of Shiva and his administration was efficient.
- **Southern Kingdoms:**
 - (i) After the decline of Satavahanas, Chalukyas and Pallavas came into prominence.
 - (ii) Chalukyas extended from South of Vindhya till river Krishna. Their most powerful king was Pulakshin II. They had good trade relations with Arabia, Iran and South-East Asia.
 - (iii) Far deep in the South was the Kingdom of Pallavas who rule in Kanchi. The greatest ruler was Mahendravarman I.
 - (iv) The South Indian kingdoms had an efficient administration.
 - (v) Assemblies were also frequent in Southern kingdom. These included Ur or a village assembly and nagaram which was an organization of merchants.