

# 1. Ancient History- Sources of History

**History:** Written evidences available

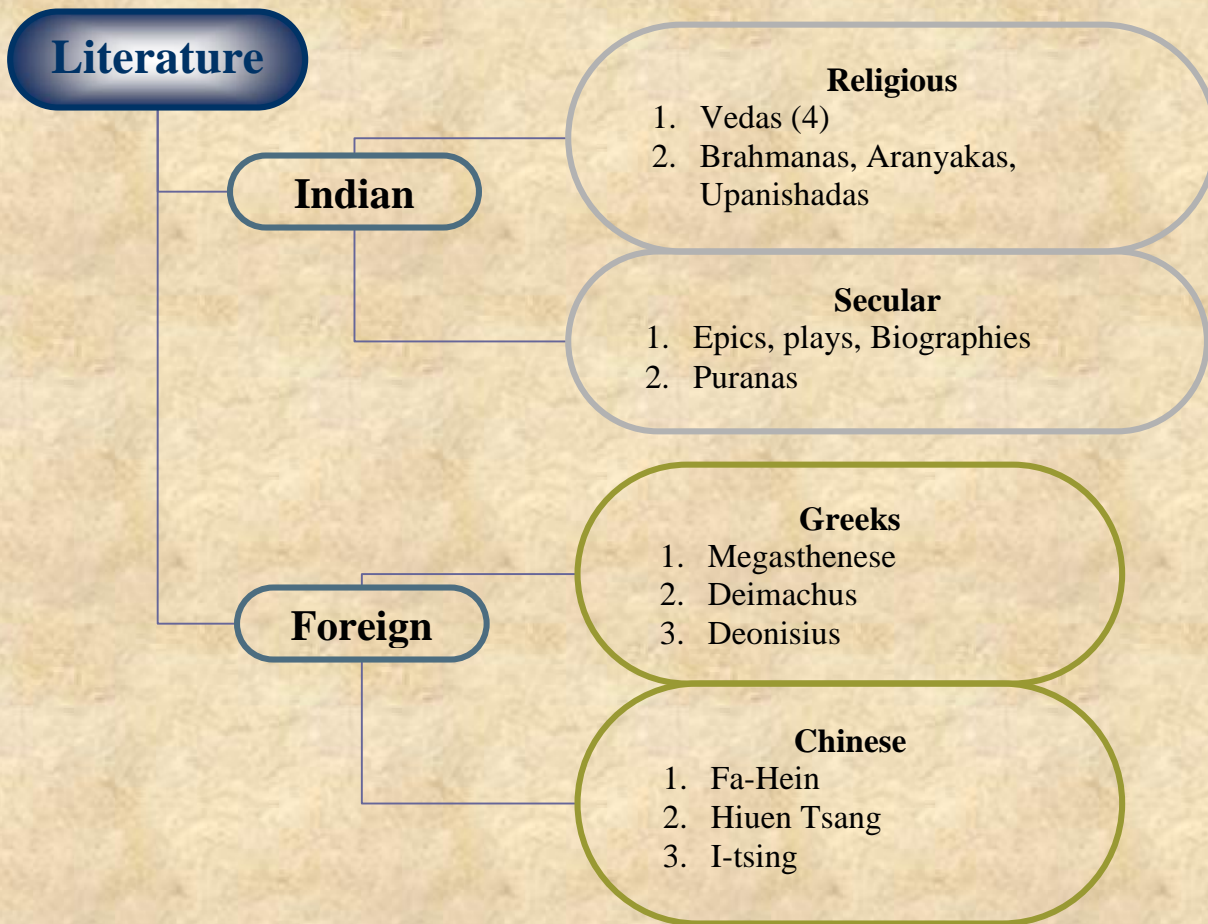
**Prehistory:** No written evidence; Archeological evidences available, stone age

**Proto-history:** Written evidences available; but could not be deciphered

**Sources:**

1. Literature
2. Archaeological Evidence
3. Inscriptions
4. Coins
5. Accounts of the Foreigners

## 1. Literature



## INDIAN LITERATURE:

**Rig Veda:** Prayers of God

**Sam Veda:** Songs, 1<sup>st</sup> book of music,

**Yajur Veda:** Ritual processes

**Atharva Veda:** not written by Aryans; book on magic

**Brahmans:** Explanations of Vedas

**Aranyakas:** Forest books,

**Upanishads:** Metaphysical;

**Puranas:** Stories of kings

**Epics:** Ramayana, Mahabharata

**Plays:** by Kalidas etc.

## FOREIGN ITERATURE:

<i>Author</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Magasthenes(G)	<i>Indica</i>	Valuable information on Admin and socio-economic conditions of Mauryas
Ptolemy(G)	<i>Geography of India</i>	Geographical treatise on India in 2nd Century AD
Pliny(G)	<i>Naturakus Historia</i>	Accounts trade relations between Rome and India in 1st Century AD
Anonymous(G)	<i>Periplus of the Erythrean Sea</i>	Records personal voyage of Indian coasts in 80 A.D.
Fa-Hien(C)	<i>Record of the Buddhist Countries (Fo-Kuoki)</i>	Records the Gupta Empire in the 5th Century AD
Hiuen Tsang(C)	<i>Buddhist Records of the Western World (Si-Yu-Ki)</i>	Describes the social, economic and religious conditions of India in the 5th and 7th Century AD. (Harshvardhan)
I-tsing(C)	<i>A record of the Buddhists religion as practiced in India and Malay Archipelago.</i>	Studies the Gupta period under Sri Gupta in the 7th Century AD.
Hwuili(C)	<i>Life of Hiuen Tsang</i>	Accounts Hiuen Tsang's travel in India.

### Other:

- **Visakha Datta:** *Mudra Rakshas*; Gupta period Chanakya-Chandragupta story
- **Dipavamsa n Mahavamsa:** Buddhist books written in Sri Lanka, Ashoka spread
- **Divyavadan:** Tibetan Buddhist book, Ashoka spread



## 2. Archaeological evidences:

- Tools: Time period, Technology
- Remains of Flora & Fauna: Food habits, Animals known
- Coins: Economy, metallurgy, kings, area ruled
- Remains of settlements: Civilization, social inequalities

## 3. Inscriptions:

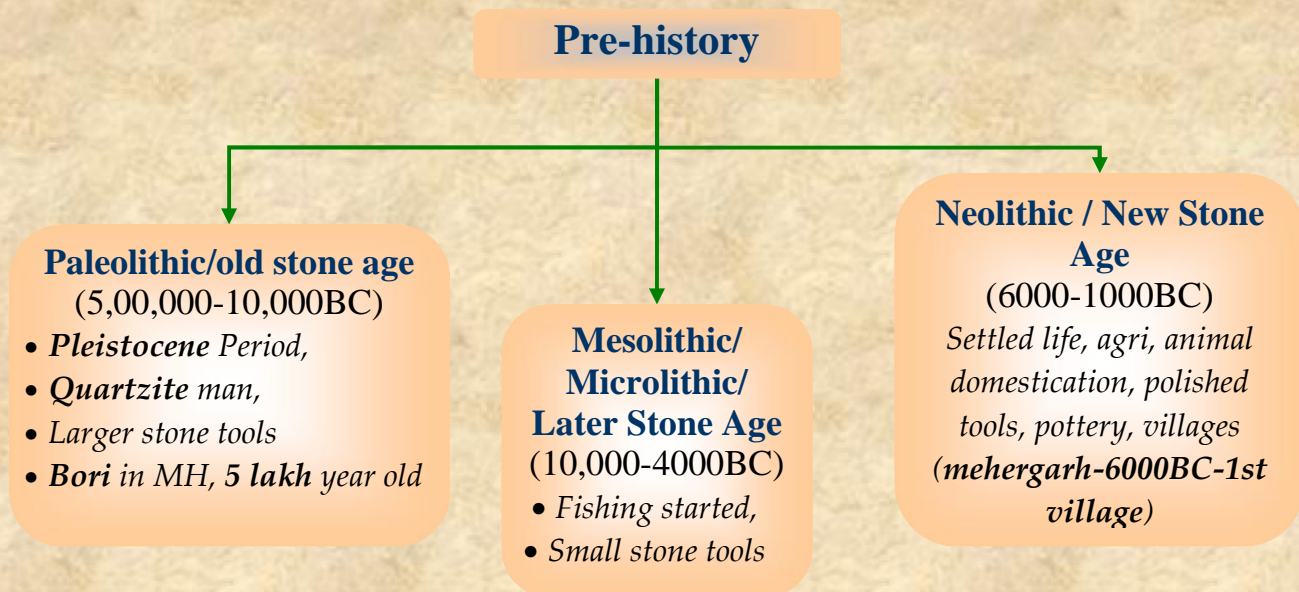
- Extent of empire
- Administrative system
- Laws related to land
- Time period
- Language & Script

## 4. Monuments:

- Building material
- Technology
- Architecture
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# 2. Ancient History- Pre Historic Period

## PREHISTORY:



## Paleolithic Age People:

- Earliest Paleolithic man lived on hunting and food gathering.
- The nature of stone tools also varied according to the climate.
- Not knowing how to grow his food, he ate fruits, birds, raw animal flesh etc.
- The people were wanderers and moved from places to place. They took refuge under the rocks in caves and hollow tree trunks.

## # Facts to Remember

- The Paleolithic culture of India developed in **Pleistocene** period.
- **Robert Bruce Foot** was the first to discover a Paleolithic stone in India in 1863.
- The Paleolithic research in India got a boost only with the coming of **Yale Cambridge expedition** in 1935 led by **De Terra and Patterson**.
- The tools were usually made of hard rock 'quartzite' and therefore Paleolithic man in India is also called "**Quartzite Man**"

## Mesolithic Age (10,000 - 4,000 BC)

- It was the **transitional** between Paleolithic and Neolithic ages. Its characteristic tools are **microliths** all made of stone.
- The Mesolithic people lived on hunting, fishing and food-gathering.
- Earliest domestication of animals has also been witnessed from **MP** and **Rajasthan**.

## Neolithic Age / New Stone Age (6,000-1,000 BC)

The word 'neolithic' was first coined by **Sir John Lubbock** in 1865.

- Animal domestication
- Agricultural practice
- Grind and Polished stone tools and
- Pottery manufacture

## Pre Historic Findings

- **Bhimbetka** - Homo Sapiens' Cave 500 painted Rock Shelters (MH)
- **Nevasa** - Evidence of cotton
- **Atranjikheda** - Textile printing
- **Hastinapur** - Wild Sugarcane
- **Inamgaon** - Statue of mother Goddess (MH)
- **Mehargarh** - Earliest evidence of agriculture, settled life (Baluchistan)
- **Koldihva** - Earliest evidence of rice
- **Bagor and Adamgarh** - Earliest evidences of Domestication of animal (Raj)
- **Chirand** - Serpant cult (Bihar)
- **Burzahom Gulfkral** - Pit-dwelling (J&K)



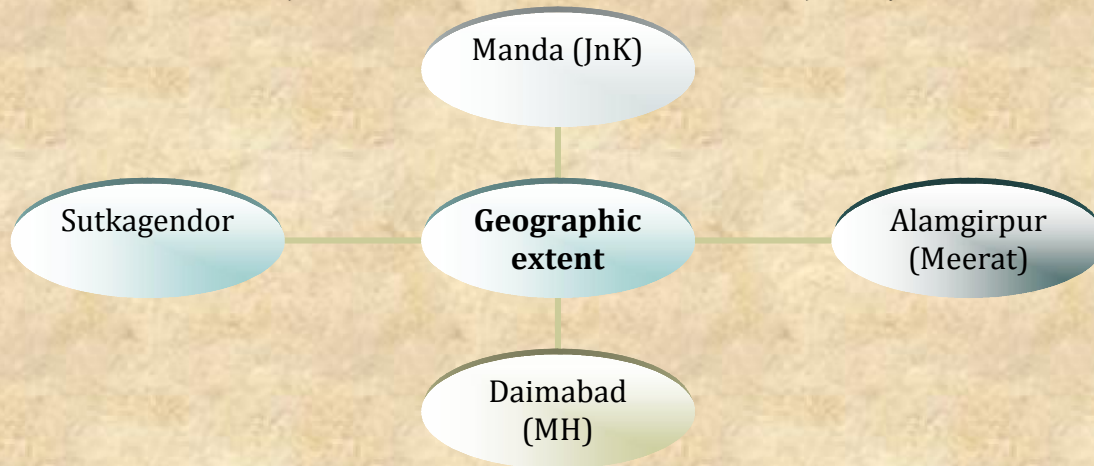
### 3. Ancient History- Indus Valley Civilizations

#### **Name:**

- First site excavated – Harappa (Dayaram Sahni - 1921)
- Because most of its settlements are found in the valley of Indus river

#### **Geographical Area:**

- Flourished between 2500-1500BC
- But 2200-1800BC was its mature period
- It covered the present Pakistan & north western part of India



#### **Features:**

- Urban civilization
- Foreign trade
- Craft specialization
- Planned cities
- Literate
- Boustrophedon n pictographic script, around 400 alphabets
- Ruled by traders
- Barter system
- 3500BC-2500BC: developed
- 2500BC-1800BC: matured
- 1800BC-1500BC: decline

#### **Features of Urban civilization:**

- Planned cities
- Uniformity in the planning of cities
- Big buildings
- Covered drainage system
- Use of burnt bricks
- Presence of industries
- Internal & external trade

## ***Decline of Indus Valley***

<b><i>Theorists</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons of decline</i></b>
<i>Gorden Childe, Stuart Piggot</i>	<i>External Aggression</i>
<i>H.T. Lambrick</i>	<i>Unstable river system</i>
<i>K.U.R. Kenedy</i>	<i>Natural calamity</i>
<i>Orell Stein and A.N. Ghosh</i>	<i>Climate change</i>
<i>R. Mprtimer Wheeler</i>	<i>Aryan invasion</i>
<i>Robert Raikes</i>	<i>Earthquake</i>
<i>Sood and Aggarwal</i>	<i>Dryness of river</i>
<i>Walter Fairservis</i>	<i>Ecological imbalance</i>

### ***Economy:***

- *Harappans practiced barter system*
- *Produced wheat, barley, peas, jowar, ragi, etc.*
- *Oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep domestic fowls and pigs were domesticated.*
- *The thriving agricultural economy supported a flourishing trade both within the northern and western areas of the sub-continent and between the people of this culture and those of the Persian and Gulf and Mesopotamia*

### ***Political Life***

- *There is no idea about the political organization of the Harappans.*
- *Perhaps the Harappan rulers were more concerned with commerce than with conquests, and Harappa was possibly ruled by the class of merchants.*

### ***Religion:***

- *The chief male deity was the Pashupati Mahadeva represented in seals, as sitting in a yogic posture on a lotus and having three faces and two horns. He is surrounded by four animals (**elephant, tiger, rhino** and **buffalo**), each facing a different direction, and two **deer** appear at his feet*
- *The chief female deity was the Mother Goddess, who has been depicted in various forms to please fertility Goddess.*
- *There is sufficient evidence for the prevalence of phallic worship. Numerous stone symbols of female sex organs (yoni worship), besides those of phallus, have been discovered. Fertility cult was main feature.*
- *The worship of fire is proved by the discovery of fire altars at Lothal, Kalibangan and Harappa.*
- *Indus people worshipped Gods in the form of trees (pipal, etc) and animals (unicorn etc)*
- *They believed in ghosts and evil forces and used **amulets** as protection against them.*



<i>Sites</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Excavators</i>	<i>Region/River</i>	<i>Features</i>
<b>Harappa</b>	1921	Daya Ram Sahni	Montgomery district of Punjab (Now in Pak) on the left bank of Ravi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City followed grid planning</li> <li>2. Row of six granaries</li> <li>3. Only place having evidences of coffin burial</li> <li>4. Evidence of fractional burial and coffin burial</li> <li>5. Cemetery-H of alien people.</li> </ol>
<b>Mohenjo daro</b>	1922	R.D.Banarjee	Larkana district in Sind on the right bank of Indus(Now in Pak)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City followed grid planning</li> <li>2. A large granary and Great Bath, a college</li> <li>3. Human skeletons showing invasion and massacre.</li> <li>4. Evidence of Horse come from Superficial level.</li> <li>5. A piece of woven cotton along with spindle whorls and needles</li> <li>6. Town was flooded more then seven times.</li> </ol>
<b>Chanhu-daro</b>	1931	N. Gopal Majumdar, Mackey	Situated in Sind on the bank of Indus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has no citadal</li> <li>2. Famous for bead makers shop</li> <li>3. A small pot, possibly an inkpot</li> <li>4. Foot prints of a dog chasing a cat</li> <li>5. Three different cultural layers, Indus, Jhukar and Jhangar</li> </ol>
<b>Kalibangan</b>	1953	A. Ghosh	Situated in Rajasthan on the Bank of Ghaggar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shows both Pre Harappan and Harappan phase</li> <li>2. Evidence of furrowed land</li> <li>3. Evidence of seven fire altars and camel bones</li> <li>4. Many houses had their own well</li> <li>5. Kalibangan = black bangles</li> <li>6. Evidence of wooden furrow</li> </ol>
<b>Dholavira</b>	1985-90	R.S. Bisht	Situated in Gujarat in Rann of Kutch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seven cultural stages</li> <li>2. Largest site</li> <li>3. Three party of city</li> <li>4. Unique water management</li> </ol>

<b>Lothal</b>	1953	S.R. Rao	Situated in Gujarat on Bhogava river near Gulf of Cambay	1. A tiled floor which bears intersecting design of circles 2. Remains of rice husk 3. Evidence of horse from a terracotta figurine 4. A ship designed on a seal 5. Beads & trade ports 6. An instrument for measuring angles, pointing to modern day compass
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## 4. Ancient History- Vedic Age

1500 – 600 BC

**Aryans came from:**

**Tibet:** Dayanand Saraswati

**Arctic region:** B. G. Tilak

**Max Muller:** Central Asia

- This is proved by some Aryan names mentioned in the **Kassite** inscriptions of 1600 BC and the **Mitanni** inscriptions of the fourteenth century BC, found in Iraq which suggests that from Iran a branch of the Aryans moved towards the west.
- **Zenda Avesta** (Persian)
- The Aryans are the original inhabitants of **Central Asia**.
- They arrived in India around **1500 BC**, though there is an on going debate.
- The region where the Aryans settled in India was called **Sapta Sindhu** (also referred to as the **Brahmavarta**) Indus + 5 + Ghaggar
- The Aryans established themselves in India by defeating the natives whom they called Dasas or **Dasyus**
- The period when the Aryans first settled in India, is known as **Early Vedic Period** (1500 BC to 1000 BC)
- The Aryans spread to Indo-Gangetic plains in the **Later Vedic Period** and this region came to be known as **Aryavarta** (1000 BC to 600 BC)
- The Aryans were the first people in India to know the use of **iron** and brought **horses** along with them.



## **Tribal Polity**

- The chief was the protector of the tribe or Jana
- However, he did not possess unlimited powers for he had to reckon with the tribal assemblies
- **Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata and Gana** were the tribal assemblies. Of these, Vidhata was the oldest. These assemblies exercised deliberative, military and religious functions.
- The two most important assemblies were the Sabha and Samiti. Samiti was general in nature and less exclusive than Sabha.
- **Women** attended Sabha and Vidhata in Rig Vedic times.
- A few non-monarchical states (ganas) are described whose head was Ganapati or Jyestha.

## **Rivers Mentioned in Rig Veda**

<b>Rig Vedic Name</b>	<b>New Name</b>
Gomati	Gomal
Krumi	Kurram
Kubha	Kabul
Suvastu	Swat
Sindhu	<b>Indus</b>
Drishadvati	<b>Ghaggar /Chitang</b>
Satudri	<b>Satluj</b>
Vipas	<b>Beas</b>
Parushni	<b>Ravi</b>
Asikni	<b>Chenab</b>
Vitasta	<b>Jhelum</b>

## **Socio Economic Life in Rig Vedic Period**

### **Tribal Organization:**

- Kinship was the basis of social structure.
- People gave their primary loyalty to the tribe, which was called **jana**.
- Another important term which stands for the tribe in the Rig Veda is **vis**.
- The term for family (**kula**) is mentioned rarely in the Rig Veda.
- It seems that family in early Vedic Phase was indicated by term **griha**.

### **Status of Women:**

- The institution of marriage was established, although symbols of primitive practices survived.
- We also notice the practice of levirate and widow remarriage in the Rig Veda.
- The status of women was equal to men and they received Upanayana and education, studied Vedas and some of them even rose to the rank of seers composing Vedic hymns.
- Monogamy was established, though polygamy and polyandry were also known.

### **Varna System:**

- Varna was the term used for colour and it seems that the Aryans were fair and the indigenous inhabitants were dark in complexion.
- The dasas and dasyus, who were conquered by the Aryans, were treated as slaves and sudras.
- Gradually, the tribal society was divided into 3 groups-warriors, priests and the people.
- The fourth division called the Shudras appeared towards the end of the Rig Veda period.
- In the age of Rig Veda, divisions based on occupations had started. But this division was not very sharp.

### **Occupation:**

- Their earliest life seems to have been mainly pastoral, agriculture being a secondary occupation.
- The Aryans did not lead a settled life. Although they used several animals, the horse played the most significant role in their life.
- The Rig Vedic people possessed better knowledge of agriculture. Ploughshare is mentioned in the earliest part of the Rig Veda though some consider it an interpolation.
- The term for war in the Rig Veda is **gavisthi** or 'search for cows'. The Rig Veda mentions such artisans as the carpenter, the chariot-maker, the weaver, the leather worker, the potter, etc. This indicates that they practiced all these crafts.
- The term, **ayas** used for copper or bronze shows that metal working was known.

### **Metals Known to Rig Vedic People**

Gold - **Hiranya**

Iron- **Shyama**

Copper- **Ayas**

### **Early Vedic Religion**

- Did not believe in idol worship
- Worshipped the forces of nature as the manifestation of one Supreme God
- Vedic Gods have been classified into 3 categories -Terrestrial, Atmospheric and Celestial
- **Indra, Agni, Varuna** were important Gods
- **Prithvi, Saraswati, Usha, Aditi** were female deities. They were not given the same position as male Gods.
- People did not worship for spiritual reasons but for the welfare of Praja & Pashu
- Recitation of prayers, chanting of Vedic hymns and sacrifices or yajnas were an important part of the worship.



## **Rig Vedic Gods**

### **Indra:**

- He was the most important divinity.
- He played the role of a warlord, leading the Aryan soldiers to victory against the demons.
- **250** hymns are devoted to him in the Rig Veda.
- He was associated with thunder and storm and is addressed by various names: Ratheshtha, Jitendra Somapa, Purandara, Varitrahan and Maghayam

### **Agni:**

- He was the second important divinity.
- He was intermediary between Gods and men.
- **200** hymns of the Rig Veda are devoted to him.

### **Varuna:**

- He was the upholder of Rita or cosmic order or natural order.
- He personified water.

### **Soma:**

- He was considered to be the God of plants. An intoxicant drink was also called soma.

### **Yama:**

- He was the guardian of the world of dead.

## **Later Vedic Polity and Economy**

### **Political Organization:**

- In later Vedic times, the vidatha completely disappeared. The Sabha and Samiti continued to hold the ground, but their character changed.
- Women were no longer permitted to sit in the Sabha, and it was now dominated by nobles and Brahmanas.
- The formation of wider kingdoms made the king more powerful.
- Tribal authority tended to become territorial. The term **Rashtra**, which indicates territory, first appears in this period.
- The King performed the **Rajasuya** sacrifice, which was supposed to confer supreme power to him. He performed the **Asvamedha**, which meant unquestioned control over an area in which the royal house ran uninterrupted. He also performed the **Vajapeya** or the chariot race, in which the royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen.
- During this period collection of taxes and tributes, the king officer was called Sangrihitri.
- Even in later Vedic times the king did not possess a standing army. Tribal units were mustered in times of war, and, according to one ritual for success in war; the king had to eat along with his people from the same plate

## *Imp Ratnins/Officials in Later Vedic Period*

<i>Purohita</i>	<i>Chief Priest, also sometimes referred to as Rashtragopa</i>
<i>Senani</i>	<i>Supreme Commander of army</i>
<i>Vrajapati</i>	<i>Officer-in-Charge of pasture land</i>
<i>Jivagribha</i>	<i>Police Officer</i>
<i>Spasas/Dutas</i>	<i>Spies who also sometimes worked as messengers</i>
<i>Gramani</i>	<i>Head of the village</i>
<i>Kulapati</i>	<i>Head of the family</i>
<i>Madhyamasi</i>	<i>Mediator on disputes</i>
<i>Bhagadugha</i>	<i>Revenue collector</i>
<i>Sangrahitri</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Mahishi</i>	<i>Chief Queen</i>
<i>Suta</i>	<i>Charioteer and court minstrel</i>

### **Occupation:**

- *The Aryans now lived a sedentary life, domesticated animal and cultivated on a greater scale than earlier sugarcane.*
- *Cattle still constituted the principal form of movable property.*
- *Wheat was also cultivated during this period along with barley.*
- *Rice is mentioned in sources but was not an important crop at this time. Beans and Sesame and pulses such as Moong, Urad etc. were also known.*
- *New arts, artists and craftsmen also emerged i.e. smelters, ironsmiths, carpenters, weavers, leather workers, jewelers, dyers and potters.*
- *Trade was also boosted.*

### **Social Organization:**

- *The later Vedic society came to be divided into **4 varnas** called the Brahmanas, rajanyas or kshatriyas, vaisyas and shudras, each Varna was assigned with its duty.*
- *All the 3 higher varnas shared one common feature, they were known as **Dvijas** (twice born), i.e., they were entitled to **upanayana** or investiture with the sacred thread according to the Vedic mantras.*
- *The fourth Varna was deprived of the sacred thread ceremony, and with it began the imposition of disabilities on the shudras.*



### **Gotra System:**

- The institution of gotra appeared in later Vedic times.
- Literally, it means the cow-pen or place where cattle belonging to the whole clan are kept.
- The gotra has been regarded as a mechanism for widening the socio-political ties, as new relationships were forged between hitherto unrelated people.
- People began to practice **gotra exogamy**. No marriage could take place between persons belonging to the same gotra or having the same ancestor.

### **Ashrama System:**

- Ashramas or four stages of life were not well established in early Vedic times.
- In the post-Vedic texts, we hear of four ashramas:
  - **Brahmachari** or student,
  - **Grihastha** or householder,
  - **Vanaprastha** or partial retirement and
  - **Sanyasa** or complete retirement from the world.
- But only three are mentioned in the later Vedic texts. The last or the fourth stage had not been well-established in Later Vedic times.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ashrama only mentioned in **Jabala Upanishad**.

### **Religion in Later Vedic Period:**

- The two outstanding Rig Vedic Gods, Indra and Agni, lost their former importance.
- On the other hand **Prajapati**, the creator, came to occupy the supreme position in later Vedic pantheon.
- **Rudra**, the God of animals, became important in later Vedic times and **Vishnu** came to be conceived as the preserver and protector of the people.
- In addition, some symbolic objects began to be worshipped, and we notice signs of idolatry.
- Important female deities during the Later Vedic Age were: **Usha** (goddess of Dawn), **Aditi** (Mother of Gods), **Prithvi** (Earth Goddess), **Aryani** (Forest Goddess) and **Saraswati** (River deity). Same
- The mode of worship changed considerably.
- Prayers continued to be recited, but they ceased to be the dominant mode of placating the gods.
- Sacrifices became far more important, and they assumed both public and domestic character.
- The guests were known as the **Goghna** or one who was fed on cattle. The priests who officiated at sacrifices were regarded generously and given dakshinas or gifts.

<i>Early Vedic</i>	<i>Later Vedic (Iron in use)</i>
1500-1000BC	1000-500BC
Rigveda	Sama, Yajur, Atharva veda
Iron not used	Iron used
Nomads, cow	Settled
Pastoral, horse, cow	Agri,
Tribal	Rajya, king
Worship-natural forces, no idol, Indra, Agni, Varun, Mantra	Prajapati, Brahma-Vishnu-Mahesh, idol, sacrifice
Colour distinction, no untouchables	Caste system, untouchability, gotra, 4 Ashrams
Tribe=jana=vis	New sects(Buddhism, Jainism, ajivika)
Sapta sindhu region, brahmavarta	Indo-Gangetic region, Aryavarta
Women attended sabha n Vidhata,	Vidhata discontinued, sabha n Samiti continued, no women
Rajan	Raja, Rashtra, Rajasuya, ashvamedha, vajapeya
Bali	Tax
Gold- hiranya, copper-Ayas, iron-shyama Ayas	
Family=kula=griha	
Practice of levirate n widow remarriage	

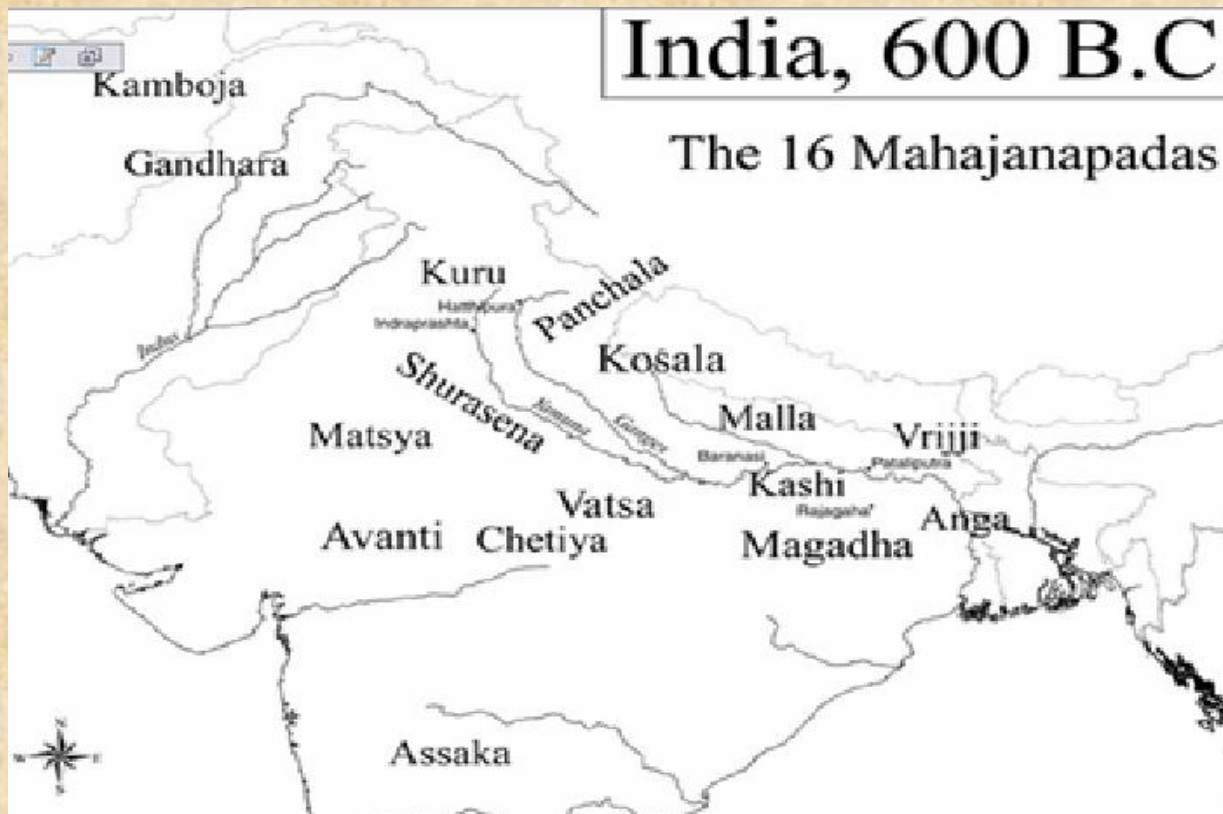
## ***6.Ancient History – Mahajanpadas***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> urbanization
- In the later Vedic period, the tribal organizations changed its identity and gradually shifted to the territorial identity, and the areas of settlements were now regarded as janapadas or states.
- In transition from tribe to monarchy, they lost the essential democratic pattern of the tribe but retained the idea of government through an assembly representing the tribes.
- These states consisted of either a single tribe such as Shakyas, Kolias, Malas etc.
- Each janapada tried to dominate and subjugate other janapadas to become Mahajanapadas.



## The 16 Mahajanapadas

<i><b>Mahajanapada</b></i>	<i><b>Capitals</b></i>	<i><b>Locations</b></i>
<i><b>Gandhara</b></i>	<i>Taxila</i>	Covering the region between Kabul and Rawalpindi in North Western Province.
<i><b>Kamboja</b></i>	<i>Rajpur</i>	Covering the area around Punch area in Kashmir
<i><b>Asmaka</b></i>	<i>Potana</i>	Covering modern Paithan in Maharashtra; on the bank of River Godavari
<i><b>Vatsa</b></i>	<i>Kaushambi</i>	Covering districts of Allahabad and Mirzapur
<i><b>Avanti</b></i>	<i>Ujjain</i>	Covering modern Malwa (Ujjain) region of MP
<i><b>Surasena</b></i>	<i>Mathura</i>	Located in the Mathura region at the junction of the Uttarapath & Dakshinapath
<i><b>Chedi</b></i>	<i>Shuktimati</i>	Covering the modern Budelkhand area
<i><b>Maila</b></i>	<i>Kushinara, Pawa</i>	Modern districts of Deoria, Basti, Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Later merged into Maghada Kingdom
<i><b>Kurus</b></i>	<i>Hastinapur/Indraprastha</i>	Covering the modern Haryana and Delhi area to the west of River Yamuna
<i><b>Matsya</b></i>	<i>Virat Nagari</i>	Covering the area of Alwar, Bharatpur and Jaipur in Rajasthan
<i><b>Vajjis</b></i>	<i>Vaishali</i>	Located to the north of the River Ganga in Bihar. It was the seat of united republic of eight smaller kingdoms of which Lichhavis, Janatriks and Videhas were also members.
<i><b>Anga</b></i>	<i>Champa</i>	Covering the modern districts of Munger and Bhagalpur in Bihar. The Kingdoms were later merged by Bindusara into Magadha.
<i><b>Kashi</b></i>	<i>Banaras</i>	Located in and around present day Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
<i><b>Kosala</b></i>	<i>Shravasti</i>	Covering the present districts of Faizabad, Gonda, Bahraich, etc.
<i><b>Magadga</b></i>	<i>Girivraja/Rajgriha</i>	Covering modern districts of Patna, Gaya and parts of Shahabad.
<i><b>Panchala</b></i>	<i>Ahichhatra (W.Panchala), Kampilya (S. Panchala)</i>	Present day Rohilkhand and part of Central Doab in Uttar Pradesh.



## 6. Ancient History - Rise of Magadha

*Before Mauryas, Magadha was ruled by 3 main dynasties:*

1. Haryankas
2. Shisunagas
3. Nandas
4. Mauryas

### ***The Haryankas:***

*Between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, Magadha (in present day Bihar) became the most powerful Mahajanapada.*

***Bimbisara:*** (542-493 BC)

- *He strengthened his position by marriage alliances. He took three wives.*
- *Marriage relations with the different princely families gave enormous diplomatic prestige and paved the way for the expansion of Magadha westward and northward.*
- *The earliest capital of Magadha was at **Rajgir**, which was called **Girivraja** at that time. It was surrounded by five hills, the openings in which were closed by stone walls on all sides. This made Rajgir impregnable.*



### **Ajatasatru:** (492-460 BC)

- Ajatasatru killed his father and seized the throne for himself. Throughout his reign, he pursued an aggressive policy of expansion.

### **Udayin:** (460-444 BC)

- His reign is important because he built the fort upon the confluence of the Ganga and Son at Patna. This was done because Patna lay in the centre of the Magadhan kingdom.

### **Sisunagas:**

- Udayin was succeeded by the dynasty of Sisunagas, who temporarily shifted the capital to **Vaishali**. Their greatest achievement was the destruction of the power of the Avanti with its capital at Ujjain. This brought to an end the 100 years old rivalry between Magadha and Avanti.

### **The Nandas:**

- The Sisunagas were succeeded by the Nandas, who proved to be the most powerful rulers of Magadha. So great was their power that **Alexander**, who invaded Punjab at that time, did not dare to move towards the east. The Nandas added to the Magadha power by the conquering Kalinga from where they brought an image of the Jina as a victory trophy.
- All this took place in the reign of **Mahapadma Nanda**. He claimed to be the **ekarat**, the sole sovereign who destroyed all the other ruling princes.

### **Haryankas**

#### **1. Bimbisara**(542-493BC)

- Marriage alliances
- Earliest capital of Magadha: Girivraja (Rajgir)

#### **2. Ajatashatru**(492-460BC)

- Killed his father, aggressive expansion

#### **3. Udayin**(460-444BC)

- Killed father, Built fort on confluence of Ganga n Son at Patna

### **Sisunagas:**

- Elected by the people (1st king)
- Temporarily shifted capital to Vaishali
- Destruction of Avanti (100 years old struggle), capital Ujjain

### **Nanda:**

- Most powerful Magadha dynasty
- 1st non-kshatriya rulers
- Alexander invasion, use of elephants
- Mahapadma Nanda (Title: Ekarat)
- Unorthodox character, Buddhism etc easily spread

### *Causes for the rise of Magadha:*

- Advantages geographical location with both Rajgir and Pataliputra situated at strategic locations.
- Abundance of natural resources, such as iron, enabled Magadhan rulers to equip with effective weapons.
- The alluvial soil of the Gangatic plains and sufficient rainfall were they conducive for agriculture produces.
- Rise of town and use of metallic money boosted trade and commerce. The princess could levy tolls and accumulate wealth to pay and maintain their army.
- Use of elephants on a large scale in wars with its proximity to ancient Kalinga.
- Unorthodox character of Magadhan society
- Contribution of several enterprising and ambitious rulers.
- Ambitious rulers and their policies.

## **7. Ancient History- Mauryas**

( 322 - 185 BC)

### *Sources of information about Mauryas*

#### *Literary sources*

1. Kautilya's '**Arthasastra**'
2. Megasthenese's '**Indica**'
3. Visakh Datta's '**Mudra Rakshasa**': although it was written during Gupta Period, it describes how Chandragupta Maurya got Chanakya's assistance to overthrow Nandas.
4. Puranas
5. Buddhist text **Jatakas** portrays a general picture of socio-economic conditions of Mauryan Period.
6. Buddhist chronicles **Dipavamsa** and **Mahavamsa** describe the part played by Ashoka in spread in Buddhism to Sri Lanka.
7. Tibetan Buddhist text **Divyavadana** gives information about Ashoka and his efforts to spread Buddhism

#### *Archaeological Sources*

1. Punch mark coins
2. Wooden palace of Chandragupta Maurya
3. Northern Black Polished Ware (**NBPW**)
4. Ashokan Edicts and Inscriptions: There are Rock Edicts, Pillar Edicts and Cave inscriptions located at several places in the Indian sub-continent.



## Ashokan Edicts

- Edicts were written on rocks & pillars
- All pillar edicts are carved out of **Chunar hills** and from there they were dispatched at different places.
- The inscriptions are mostly in **Prakrit** language and **Brahmi** script. In North western region they are written in Prakrit language & **Khroshti** and **Aramaic** script.
- In Afghanistan they are written in Aramaic script and Greek language.
- At Sabhapur and Manshara the script is Khroshti
- At Kandhar, the edicts found are bilingual.

**Major rock edicts:** various principles of dhamma

**Minor rock edicts:** personal history of Ashoka & summary of his dhamma

**Pillar edicts:** appendix to rock edicts

## Contents of Major Rock Edict

1. Prohibition of animal sacrifices & festive gatherings.
2. Measures of social welfare, medical mission sent everywhere.
3. Respect to Brahmanas.
4. Courtesy to relatives, elders, consideration for animals.
5. Appointment of Dhamma Mahamatras & their duties.
6. Need for efficient organization of administration (orders to Dhamma Mahamatras).
7. Need for tolerance among all religious sects. "All sects dwell in peace".
8. System of Dhamma-yatras.
9. Attack on meaningless ceremonies & rituals.
10. Conquest through Dhamma instead of war.
11. Explanation of Dhamma-policy.
12. Appeal for tolerance among all religious sects.
13. Kalinga war, mention five contemporary Hellenic (Greek) kings.
14. Inspiration to spend religious life.
15. 1<sup>st</sup> separate Rock edict at **Dhauli** talks about "All subjects are my children"

## Origin of the Mauryas

- Buddhist text describe them as **Kshatriyas**,
- According to Jaina texts Mauryas were neither of higher nor of lower origin
- The Puranas and Bhramanic literature describe them as **Shudras**.
- 'Mudrakshasa' of Vishakhadatta uses the terms like **Vrishal** or **Kulhina**
- Justin describes Chandragupta only as a **man of humble origin**.
- The Junagarh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman (150 AD) has some indirect evidence, which suggest that the Mauryas may have been of **Vaishya** origin.



## Chandragupta Maurya (322–298 B.C.)

- Chandragupta dethroned the last Nanda ruler **Dhananand**, he first captured the region of North West
- **Apianus** tells us that in 305 BC, Chandragupta Maurya defeated Seleucus Nikator at the bank of river Indus, who surrendered a vast territory including Aria (herat), Arachosia (Kandhar), Gedrosia (Baluchistan) & Paropanisade (Kabul), in return for 500 elephants.
- After the treaty with Seleucus Nikator, the boundary of empire reached up-to Hindukush.
- **Megasthenese** was a Greek ambassador sent to the court of Chandragupta Maurya by Seleucus Nikator.
- Chandragupta adopted **Jainism** and went to Chandragiri Hill, Sravanbelgola (Karnataka) with **Bhadrabahu**, where he died by slow starvation.
- Under Chandragupta Maurya, for the first time, the whole of Northern India was united.

## Bindusara: (298 –273 B.C.)

- Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
- He is known by different names like Madrasar, Simhasena and Amitrochates
- King of Syria **Antiochus I** sent his ambassador **Diamakus** to the court of Bindusara. Antiochus I asked for **sweet wine, dried figs** and a **sophist**. Wine and figs were sent but sophists were not.
- Bindusara patronized **Ajivika** sect.

## Ashoka:

The names of Ashoka from different sources are as:

- Ashoka -----**Maski** minor rock edict.
  - Devanampriyas Ashoka Rajas -----**Gurjara** minor rock edict
  - Piyadassi Raja -----**Barabar** cave inscription
  - Piyadassi -----**Kandhar** major rock edict
  - Ashoka Maurya -----**Rudradaman's Junagarh** rock edict
- 
- According to Buddhist tradition, Ashoka usurped the throne after killing his 99 brothers and spared Tissa, the youngest one.
  - This war of succession accounts for interregnum of four years (273-269 BC), and only after securing his position on the throne, Ashoka had himself formally crowned in 269 BC.
  - **Radhagupta** a minister of Bindusara helped him in fratricidal struggle and capture throne
  - The queens of Ashoka were Assandhimitta, Kauroaki and Padmavati. **Devi** was his first love but she never got the status of queen.
  - Under Ashoka, the Mauryan Empire reached its climax. For the first time, the whole of the sub-continent, leaving out the extreme south, was under imperial control.



- Ashoka fought the Kalinga war in 261 BC in 9<sup>th</sup> years of his coronation. The King was moved by massacre in this war and therefore abandoned the policy of physical occupation in favor of policy of cultural conquest.

### Ashokan Dhamma

- Ashoka's Dhamma was different from Buddhism.
- Dhamma propagated the tenets of tolerance as well as moral and ethical conducts.
- Its broad objective was to preserve the social order as with the expansion of Mauryan Empire the population had become heterogeneous, diverse and multi-racial.
- It ordained that people should obey their parents, pay respect to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks and show mercy to slaves and servants.
- He held that if people behaved well they would attain Swarga (heaven).

### Later Mauryas (232 – 185 B.C.)

- The Mauryan dynasty lasted for about 137 years.
- The three Mauryan rulers ruled for 90 years and later Mauryas for only 47 years
- Ashoka's death was followed by the division of the Mauryan Empire into two parts- Western and Eastern.
- The Western part came to be ruled by **Kunala** and then by **Samprati** for a short while.
- Eastern part came to be ruled by **Dasaratha**.
- The last Mauryan ruler, **Brihadratha**, was assassinated in 185 BC by his commander-in-chief, **Pushyamitra Sunga**, who established his own Sunga dynasty.

### Mauryan administration

- The Mauryan government was a centralized bureaucracy with king as fountainhead of all the powers. However, he was assisted by the council of ministers i.e. mantri parishad.
- According to Kautilya / Chanakya, there are 7 elements of states (Saptanga theory):
  1. **Raja** (the king)
  2. **Amatya** (the secretaries)
  3. **Janapada** (territory)
  4. **Durg** (fort)
  5. **Kosha** (the treasure)
  6. **Sena** (Army)
  7. **Mitra** (Friend)
- State during this period actively took part, as well as regulates the trade and commerce.
- The officers were paid **salary in cash**.

Empire	• King
Provinces	• Kumaras
District	• Pradeshika, Rajuka, Yukta
Sub-division	• Gopa • Sthanika
Village	• gramika



## **Local and Municipal Administration**

- The provinces were divided into districts which were known as *Vish* or *Ahara*
- The three officials mentioned in Ashokan edicts i.e. *Yukta*, *Rajjuka* and *Pradeshika* were associated with the district administration
- The *Gramika* was the head of village
- *Nagaraka* was the chief officer responsible for the law and order in the city.
- The municipal administration of the cities was excellent during Mauryan period.
- *Megasthenese* gives an account of the committee system of administering the municipalities in the cities. There were 6 committees of five members each.

The **functions** of these six committees were:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Industrial Arts                 | 4. Trade & Commerce                         |
| 2. Entertainment of Foreigners     | 5. Public sale of manufactured goods        |
| 3. Registration of Births & Deaths | 6. Collection of taxes on the articles sold |

## **Economy:**

- State took active participation in economy
- Shudras were involved in agriculture for the first time
- Crown land was called *Sita*
- There were provisions for irrigation by the state
- The normal taxation rate was one sixth of the produce
- The weight and measures were regulated by the states
- Tolls were also levied on commodities brought to town for sale & they were collected at gate.
- The state enjoyed monopoly in mining, forest, salt, sale of liquor, manufacture of arms etc.
- *Sohgaura* (Gorakhpur district, U.P.) copper plate inscription & *Mahasthana* (Bogara district, Bangladesh) inscription deal with the relief measures to be adopted during a famine.

## **Army:**

- The most striking feature of Mauryan administration was maintenance of a huge army.
- Kautilya permitted all the four varnas to serve in the army
- According to *Pliny*, Mauryas maintained an army of six lakh soldiers.
- Mauryans also maintained a Navy.



## 8. Ancient History- Jainism

### *Causes for the emergence of new religions:*

- Complications and ritualism in Hinduism
- Vedic religion had become complex and degenerated into superstitions, dogmas and rituals.
- The sacrifices prescribed by the Vedas became complicated.
- The Vedic mantras were complicated and went beyond the understanding of common man.
- The supremacy of the Brahmans created unrest. They no longer led pure and holy life.
- All the sacred Vedic texts were written in Sanskrit which was the language of the elite and not the masses.
- The masses could connect with the new sects as Mahavira and Buddha spoke to them in their language

### *Jainism:*

- It is generally believed that the founder of Jainism was Mahavira. It is now recognized that **Mahavira** was the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara.
- The sacred books of Jain tell us that their first Tirthankara was **Rishab**, the founder of Jainism. Rishab was followed by 23 Tirthankaras. The Vishnu Purana and Bhagavat Purana describe Rishab as an incarnation of Narayana.
- His **4 main teachings** were :
  - i. Not to injure life
  - ii. Not to tell a lie
  - iii. Not to steal
  - iv. Not to possess property

### *Varadhmana Mahavira:*

- Mahavira was born in village **Kundagrama** in district Muzaffarpur in a Kshatriya family in 540BC.
- He was a prince and related to Bimbisara, the ruler of Magadha.
- He was married to **Yasoda** and had a daughter called **Priyadarsana**.
- He became ascetic after the death of his parents.
- For 12 years he practiced extreme mortification.
- During this period he fully subdued his sense. In the **13<sup>th</sup>** year he reached **Nirvana** under a **Sal tree** becoming a Jina and a Kevlin an omniscient at **Jhribikagrama**.
- From the remaining 30 years Mahavira moved from one place to another and preached his religion.
- At the age of **72** he attained **Kaivalya** (death) at **Pavapuri** near Patna in 468 BC.

## **Doctrines of Jainism**

- Mahavira accepted most of the religious doctrines of *Parsava* and codified the unsystematic mass of beliefs into an organized and rigid religion.
- He rejected the authority of Vedas and the Vedic rituals.
- He did not believe in the existence of God.
- He believed in Karma and transmigration of soul.

Attainment of Nirvana or Moksha was the most important human desire.

It could be attained through **Triratnas**:

1. Right faith (Samyak Vishwas)
2. Right knowledge (Samyak Jnan)
3. Right conduct (Samyak Karma)

Teachings of Jainism; Jainism taught **five doctrines**-

1. Non-injury
  2. Non-lying
  3. Non-stealing
  4. Non-possession
  5. Observe continence
- It is said that only the 5<sup>th</sup> doctrine was added by Mahavira, the other four being taken over by him from previous teachers.
  - The Jaina philosophy shows a close affinity to Hindu *Samkhya* philosophy.
  - They ignore the idea of God and accept that the world is full of sorrows and believe in the theory of karma and transmigration of souls.

## **Sects of Jainism**

Although Parsavanath, the predecessor of Mahavira had asked his follower to cover the upper and lower portions of their body, Mahavira asked them to discard clothes completely. There were two sects:

### **Swetambaras (white clad):**

They wore white dress. They were more *liberal* and supporters of change.

### **Digambaras (Sky-clad):**

They kept themselves naked. They were *orthodox* and rigid.



## **Spread of Jainism**

- In order to spread the Sects of Jainism, Mahavira organized an order of his followers which admitted both men and women.
- Since Jainism did not clearly mark itself out from the brahmanical religion it failed to attract the masses.
- Despite this Jainism gradually spread into south and west India where the brahmanical religion was weak.
- **Chandragupta** Maurya spread Jainism in Karnataka.
- Jainism spread to Kalinga in Orissa in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC it enjoyed the patronage of King **Kharvela**.
- In the south Jainism was patronised by royal dynasties such as Gangas, Kadambas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas.

## **Jain Councils:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> council was held at **Pataliputra** by **Sthalabahu** in the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent BC and resulted in the compilation of **12 Angas** to replace the lost 14 Purvas.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council was held at **Valabhi** in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD under the leadership of **Devaradhi Kshamasramana** and resulted in final re-compilation of **12 Angas** and **12 Upangas**

## **Contribution of Jainism to Indian culture**

- Jainism made the first serious attempt to mitigate the evils of Varna order and the ritualistic Vedic religion.
- The Jain philosophy has certainly enriched Indian thought. The five vows *ahimsa, satya, asateya, aparigraha* and *brahmacharya* are relevant even today.
- The adoption of Prakrit by the Jainas helped the growth of this language and its literature.
- The Jainas built Bhikshu grihas or cave dwellings for the residence of their monks.
- Innumerable manuscripts in palm leaves were written down and some of them were painted with gold dust.
- These have given rise to a new school of painting known as the Western Indian School.



## 9. Ancient History- Buddhism

### Gautam Buddha:

- Founder of Buddhism, was born in 563 BC at **Lumbini** in Kapilvastu in the **Sakya** Kshatriya clan.
- Father **Suddodhana** was the king of Kapilvastu
- Mother **Mahamaya** was a princess of Kosala dynasty
- Mahaprajapati **Gautami** was the step mother of Gautama
- He was married to **Yasodhara** (Princess of Kolli dynasty) from whom he had a son **Rahul**
- At the age of 29, he renounced home, this was his **Mahabhinishkramana** (great going forth) and became a wandering ascetic.
- His first teacher was **Alara Kalama**. Another teacher was **Udraka Ramputra**.
- At the age of 35 under a **pepal** tree at **Uruvella** (**Bodh Gaya**) on the bank of river **Niranjana** (modern name **Falgu**) attained **Nirvana** (enlightenment) after 49 days of continuous meditation
- Buddha delivered his first sermon at **Sarnath** (Deer park) to his five disciples, this is known as Dharmachakra Pravartana (Turning of the wheel of law)
- **Ananda** and **Upali** were his famous disciples
- **Sujata** was the farmer's daughter who gave him rice milk at Bodha Gaya
- He died at the age of 80 in 483 BC at **Kushinagar**. This is known as Mahaparinirvana
- Eight great places associated with Buddhism are Lumbini, Sarnath, Sravasti, Rajgriha, Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar, Sankisa and Vaishali. Patliputra is not associated with Buddha
- Ashoka, the greatest patron of Buddhism, he called 3<sup>rd</sup> Buddhist council & sent mission comprises of his son Mahendra & his daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka.
- Palas of Bengal & Bihar were last great patrons of Buddhism

### Events associated with Buddha's life

Great Events of Buddha's Life	Symbols
Janma (Birth)	Lotus
Mahabhnishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse
Nirvana (Enlightenment)	Bodhi tree
Drarmachakra pravartana (First Sermon)	Wheel
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

### Buddhist Architecture

- (i) Stupa – Relics of the Buddha or some prominent Buddhist monks are preserved.
- (ii) Chaitya – Prayer hall
- (iii) Vihara – Residence of monks and ascetics



## **Doctrine of Buddhism**

### *Four Noble Truths*

1. *This world is full of sufferings*
2. *Desire is the root cause of sufferings*
3. *The cessation of sufferings is attainable*
4. *The cessation of sufferings can be attained by following the “Eight Fold Path”*

### **Eight Fold Path:**

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Right faith</i>   | 5. <i>Right living</i>        |
| 2. <i>Right resolve</i> | 6. <i>Right effort</i>        |
| 3. <i>Right speech</i>  | 7. <i>Right thought</i>       |
| 4. <i>Right action</i>  | 8. <i>Right concentration</i> |

Ñ *The ultimate aim of life is to attain nirvana, the eternal state of peace and bliss, which means liberation from the cycle of birth and death.*

Ñ *The world is momentary*

Ñ *The interesting fact about Buddhist philosophy is that while it believes in cycle of birth and death it does not believe in the concept of soul.*

Ñ *“The Middle Path” of Buddhism states that man should avoid both extremes*

### **Triratna i.e. Three Jewels of Buddhism are**

- i. *Buddha*
- ii. *Dharma*
- iii. *Sangha*

### **Buddhist literature:**

Milindapanho (i.e. Questions of Milinda): A dialogue between Milinda (identical with Indo Greek ruler Menander) and Buddhist saint Nagasena is the only text in **Sanskrit**.

### **Pali Texts**

1. *Tripitaka: Pitaka literally means ‘basket’ and it was called so, because the original texts were written on palm-leaves and kept in baskets. Tripitaka refers to three commentaries, these are as:*
  - *Sutta Pitaka – It contain the sayings of Buddha.*
  - *Vinay Pitaka – It contain the monastic code, the most important is Patimoksha*
  - *Abhidamma Pitaka – It consists of the religious and metaphysical discourses of Buddha*
2. *Dipavamsa & Mahavamsa – The great chronicles of Sri Lanka.*
3. *Visshudhimagga by Buddhagosha*

## **Buddhist councils**

### **First Council**

The first Buddhist council was held at **Rajgriha** in 483 B.C. under the patronage of **Ajatshatru**. It took place just after the death of Lord Buddha. The compilation of Sutta Pitak and Vinay Pitak took place during this council.

### **Second Council**

It took place after 100 years of the death of Lord Buddha i.e. 383 in B.C. It took place in **Vaishali** under the patronage of king **Kalashoka**, it was presided by **Sabakami**. The schism took place in this council on the issue of rules and discipline. As a result two groups, **Mahasanghika** and **Therivadi** (Sthavirvadin) were formed.

### **Third Council**

It took place in **Patliputra** under the patronage of **Ashoka**. It was presided by **Mogliputta Tisa**. It is also known as the council of Therivadins. "**Katthavattu**" was added to the **Abhidhama Patika** during this council. However, none of the Ashokan inscription gives us the information about the council.

### **Fourth Council**

It was held in **Kundalgrama** in Kashmir. The president of the council was **Vasumitra** and the vice president was **Ashvagosh**. Mahavibhasha, the doctrine of Sravastivadin was written in Sanskrit in copper plate and enclosed in the stone boxes. During this council the two sects of Buddhism i.e. Hinayana and Mahayana were formed officially

## **Sects of Buddhism**

The three sects of Buddhism are Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayan

### **Hinayana:**

- Its followers believed in the original teaching of Buddha.
- They sought individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
- Followers of this do not believe in idol-worship and historicity of Buddha.
- This sect treats Lord Buddha as a teacher and not as the God.
- The literature of this sect is mainly in Pali.
- It is known as 'Southern Buddhist Religion', because it prevailed in the South of India, e.g. Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar), Syam (Thailand), Java etc.
- There were two sub sects of Hinayana i.e. Vaibhasika and Sautantrika.



### ***Mahayana:***

- *Its followers believed in the historicity of Buddha.*
- *They sought the salvation of all through the grace and help of Buddha & Bodhisatva*
- *This sect believes in idol-worship.*
- *This sect treated Buddha as God*
- *The literature of this sect is compiled in Sanskrit language.*
- *It is known as 'Northern Buddhist Religion', because it prevailed in the North of India, e.g. China, Korea, Japan, etc.*
- *There were two sub sects of Mahayana*
  1. *Madhyamika or Shunyavada: Founded by Nagarjuna*
  2. *Yogachar or Vijananaavada: Founded by Maitreyanath and his disciple Asanga.*

### ***Vajrayana:***

- *Its followers believed that salvation could be best attained by acquiring the magical power i.e. Vajra.*
- *The sect developed in Tibet*
- *The sect believe in worship of female deities*
- *The chief divinities of this new sect were the Taras.*
- *It became popular in Eastern India, particularly Bengal and Bihar.*

## ***10. Ancient History- Post Mauryan***

### ***Post Mauryan Period***

*After the decline of Mauryas, the regional kingdoms were formed.*

*Unlike Mauryas none of these regional kingdoms could extend their political authority over the large area equivalent to that of Mauryan Empire. Thus with the downfall of Mauryas their great empire witnessed rise of multiple regional kingdoms.*

*The important regional kingdoms:*

- *Sunga dynasty (185 – 73 BC)*
- *Kanva dynasty (73 – 28 BC)*
- *Satvahana dynasty (60 BC – 225 AD)*
- *Chedi dynasty*
- *Indo-Greeks:*
- *Parthians (1<sup>st</sup> cent BC – 1<sup>st</sup> cent AD)*
- *Sakas*
- *Kushanas (1<sup>st</sup> cent AD – 3<sup>rd</sup> cent AD)*



### **Sunga dynasty: (185–73 B.C.)**

- Sunga Dynasty was established by **Pushymitra Sunga**, a **Brahmin** Commander-in-Chief of last Mauryan ruler named **Brihadratha** in 185 BC.
- The capital of Sungas was **Videsa** in modern Madhya Pradesh.
- Pushyamitra didn't adopt any royal title and ruled with the name of **Senani**
- He performed two horse sacrifices (Ashvamedha) and one of these was performed by **Panini**, the great grammarian.
- During the reign of Sungas, there was a revival of Brahmanical influence. The Bhagavata religion became important.
- The great Buddhist Stupa at **Bharhut** (in M.P.) was built during the reign of Sungas.
- The fine **gateway railing** which surrounds the Sanchi stupa, built by Ashoka, was constructed during the Sunga period.
- Pushyamitra was succeeded by his son **Agnimitra**, the hero of Kalidasa's drama 'Malvikagnimitra'.
- The Greek king **Antialcidas-I** sent his ambassador named **Herodotus** to the court of Sungas. Herodotus constructed a pillar "**Garudadhvaja**" in the honor of God Vasudeva
- After Agnimitra, a series of weak rulers such as Vasumitra, Vajramitra, Bhagabhadra, Devabhuti, followed, leading the decline of the dynasty.

### **Kanva Dynasty: (73 to 28 B.C.)**

- In 73 BC, **Devabhuti**, the last ruler of the Sunga dynasty, was murdered by his minister **Vasudeva**, who usurped the throne and founded the Kanva dynasty,
- The dynasty was confined to Magadha only
- The period of Kanva rule came to an end in 28 BC when their kingdom was annexed by Satavahanas.

### **Satavahana Dynasty: (60 B.C. to 225 A.D.)**

- Successors of the Mauryas in the Deccan and Central India were the Satavahanas.
- Their capital was **Pratishthana** or Paithan while **Bhaurah** was a most important port city.
- The early Satavahana kings appeared not in Andhra but in Maharashtra but most of their early inscriptions have been found in Andhra.
- **Simuka** (60 BC – 37 BC) was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty. He was immediate successor of Ashoka in this region
- **Satakarni I**, raise the power and prestige of the dynasty by conquests.
- He performed Vedic sacrifices.
- **Hala**, its 17<sup>th</sup> ruler, was the author of '**Gathasaptasati**' or, Sattasai in Prakrit. The text contains the love lures.
- Satavahanas were finally succeeded by the Vakataka dynasty in Maharashtra and Ishuvaku dynasty in Andhra Pradesh



- Satavahanas started the practice of **donating land** with fiscal and administrative rights to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, which eventually weakened their authority and resulted in the rise of feudalism in the later period.
- The earliest inscriptional evidence of land grant in India belongs to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC was during the reign of Satavahanas
- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit.
- The Satavahanas issued their coins in **lead** (mainly), copper and bronze.

### Chedi Dynasty

- After Mauryas, the Chedi dynasty emerged in the **Kalinga region**, i.e. modern Odisha
- The capital city of this dynasty was **Sisupalgarh**
- The important ruler of this dynasty was **Kharvela**.
- Kharvela patronized **Jainism** and the **Hatigumpha** inscription gives a reference of his victories.

### The Indo-Greek kings

- Indo-Greeks (**Bactrian** Greeks) were the first foreign rulers of North-Western India in the Post-Maurya period.
- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was **Menander** (165 BC – 145 BC), also known as Milinda.
- His capital was **Sialkot**
- He is mentioned in the famous Buddhist text **Milind-Panaho**.
- He was converted to Buddhism by **Nagasena** or **Nagarjuna**.
- The Indo-Greek kings introduced the regular coinage in India in large number
- The last Indo-Greek king was **Hesatrius**.

### The Sakas:

- The Sakas, also known as **Scythians**, replaced the Indo-Greeks in India.
- The most famous Saka ruler in India was **Rudradaman** (130 AD -150 AD). He is famous not only for his military conquests but also for his public works
- He repaired the famous **Sudarsan lake** of the Mauryan period and gave patronage to Sanskrit language
- The **Junagarh inscription** in Gujarat is attributed to **Rudradaman** is first ever inscription written in Sanskrit
- In about 58 BC a king of **Ujjain**, **Vikramaditya** – is supposed to have fought effectively against the Sakas. An era called **Vikrama Samvat** is reckoned from **58 B.C.**



### ***The Parthians: (1st Century BC – 1st Century AD)***

- Originally the Parthians (*Pahlavas*) lived in Iran
- They replaced the Sakas in North-Western India, but controlled an area much smaller than the Sakas.
- Famous Parthian king was *Gondaphernes* in whose reign **St. Thomas** is said to have come to India from Israel for the propagation of Christianity.

### ***The Kushans (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D.)***

- The Kushans were one of the five *Yeu-chi* clans of Central Asia.
- They replaced the Parthians in North-Western India and then expanded to the lower Indus basin and the upper and middle Gangetic basin.
- The Kushans controlled famous *silk route* starting from China, passing through their empire on to Iran & Western Asia.
- The dynasty was founded by *Kadphises I* or *Kujul Kadphises*.
- The Kushans were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a wide scale.
- The second king was *Kadphises II* or *Vema Kadphises* was the first king who issued the gold coins.
- The most famous Kushan ruler was **Kanishka** (78 AD – 101 AD), also known as '**Second Ashoka**'.
- He started an era in **78 AD** which is now known as the *Saka era* and is used officially by the Government of India.
- The empire of Kanishka was spread over a large area in the portion of five countries i.e. Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and India.
- His capital was *Peshawar*
- Kanishka was a great patron of *Mahayana* Buddhism. In his reign 4<sup>th</sup> Buddhist council was held in *Kundalavana*, Kashmir where the doctrines of the Mahayana form of Buddhism were finalized.
- Kanishka patronized various scholars like *Nagarjuna*, *Ashvagosha*, *Vasumitra*, *Parsava*, & *Charaka*.
- Large size headless statue of Kanishka is found at *Mathura*
- The last great Kushan ruler was *Vasudeva I*.

# The three schools associated with sculpture were:

1. Amaravati School (150 BC – 400 AD) — Satvahanas
  2. Gandhar School (50 BC – 5<sup>th</sup> Cent AD) – Saka- Kushans
  3. Mathura School (150 AD – 300 AD) – ---Saka-Kushans.
- Sunga dynasty ruled from Videsha in Madhya Pradesh
  - In 46-47 AD *Hippalus*, a greek sailor, discovered the monsoon sea-route to India from West Asia. This gave fillip to the trade with India



# 11 Ancient History- Guptas

## **The Age of Guptas:**

After the decline of Mauryas, it was Gupta dynasty in Magadha which was able to carve a large empire. Although the empire was smaller as compared to the Mauryan Empire, yet it consisted of a greater part of Northern India.

## **Sources of information**

### **Literary sources:**

Various literary sources which provide information about the Guptas are as:

- *Nitisar* by Kamandaka (belonging to the period of Chandragupta I)
- *Devichandraguptam* by Vishakadutta
- *Mrichachakathika* by Sudraka
- *Kathasagarsarita* by Somdev
- *Sawpanwasavdatta* by Bhasa

### **Archeological sources:**

Various archeological sources that provide the information about the Guptan age are as follows:

- *Allahabad* pillar of Samudragupta
- *Paharpur* copper plates of Buddhagupta
- *Poona* copper plate of Prabhavatigupta
- The coins belonging to the Gupta period

### **Political history**

- The **founder** of the dynasty was **Sri Gupta**. He used the simple title of Maharaja.
- Gupta was succeeded by his son **Ghatotkach**, who is also styled Maharaja.

### **Chandragupta – I**

- He was the first Gupta ruler to assume the title of Maharajadhiraja.
- He started the **Gupta era** i.e. **320 A.D.**
- He strengthened his kingdom by matrimonial alliance with the powerful family of Lichchhavis who were the rulers of Mithila. His marriage to Lichchhvi princess Kumaradevi, brought an enormous power, resources and prestige. He took advantage of the situation and occupied the whole of fertile Gangetic Valley.
- After marriage he issued special type of **coins** called "Chandragupta I-kumaradevi type".
- Chandragupta I was able to establish his authority over Magadha, Prayaga & Saketa.



### Samudragupta (335 – 380 A.D.)

- Samudragupta was the greatest king of Gupta dynasty.
- He took the title Licchividdhuta as his mother was Licchivivi princess
- The most detailed and authentic record of his reign is preserved in the Prayaga Prasasti /Allahabad pillar inscription, composed by his court poet Harisena.
- He is also described as a monarch with sharp intellect and polished poetry skills, for this he is described as Kaviraj
- According to Prayaga Prasasti, he was a great conqueror.
- In the Gangetic Valley & Central India, Samudragupta annexed the territories of the defeated monarchs, but in South India he remained content with victories alone- he did not annex the territories of the conquered rulers.
- Smudragupta's military campaigns justify description of him as the 'Napoleon of India' by V.A. Smith.
- Samudragupta was a Vaishnavite.
- According to a Chinese writer, Meghavarna, king of Sri Lanka, sent an embassy to Samudragupta for his permission to build a monastery for Buddhist pilgrims at Bodhi Gaya, which was granted.
- **Titles:** Kaviraja i.e. king of poets (Prayaga Prasasti), Param Bhagavat (Nalanda copper plate), Ashvamedha-parakrama i.e. whose might was demonstrated by the horse-sacrifice (coin), Vikram i.e. prowess (coin), Sarva-raj-ochcheta i.e. up rooster of all kings (coin) etc.
- Note: only Gupta ruler whose title was Sarva-raj-ochcheta.
- Original types of Gold Coins (Dinars): Garud type, Dhanurdhari i.e. Archer type, Axe type, Ashvamedha type, Vyaghrahanana i.e. Tiger killing types, Veenavadan i.e. lute playing type.

### Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya): (380-414 A.D.)

- According to 'Devi Chandragupta' (Vishakhadatta), Samudragupta was succeeded by Ramgupta. It seems Ramgupta ruled for a very short period. He was 'the only Gupta ruler to issue copper coins'.
- Chandragupta II extended the limits of empire by matrimonial alliances (with the Nagas & Vakatakas) and conquests (Western India).
- He married Kubernaga of Naga dynasty and married his own daughter Prabhavatigupta with Vakataka prince Rudrasena II.
- As a result of the overthrow of Saka rule in Western India, the Gupta Empire was extended up to Arabian Sea.
- He issued the silver coins in the memory of victory over Sakas. He was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins and adopted the titles Sakari & Vikramaditya.
- Ujjain seems to have been made the second capital by Chandragupta II.



- Chinese pilgrim **Fa-Hien** visited India during his regime.
- **Mehrauli** (near Kutub Minar, Delhi) Iron Pillar inscription says that the king defeated the confederacy of Vangas and Vahikas (Bulkh).
- **Navaratna** (i.e. nine gems) of Chandragupta II were:
  1. **Kalidasa**
  2. **Amarsinh** (Amarsinhkosha)
  3. **Dhanavantri** (Navanitakam-medicine text)
  4. **Varahmihira** (Panch Sidhantaka, Vrihatsamhit, VrihatJataka, Laghu lataka)
  5. **Vararuchi** (Vartika-a comment on Ashtadhyayi)
  6. **Ghatakarna**
  7. **Kshapranak**
  8. **Velabhatt**
  9. **Shanku**

### **Kumargupta I: 415-455 AD**

- Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumaragupta I.
- He took the titles like **Mahindradya**, **Mahendra Sinh**, & **Ashvamedha Mahendrah**
- Kumaragupta was the worshipper of god **Kartikeya**.
- He founded the **Nalanda Mahavihara** which developed into a great centre of learning.
- Towards the end of his reign, the Gupta Empire was threatened from the North by the Huns, which was temporarily checked by his son Skandagupta.
- Pusyamitra invaded Guptan region during the reign of Kumargupta I.

### **Skandagupta: 455-467 AD**

- Skandagupta, the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty.
- During his reign the Gupta Empire was invaded by the **Huns**.
- He succeeded in defeating the Huns. Success in repelling the Huns seems to have been celebrated by the assumption of the title '**Vikramaditya**' (**Bhitari Pillar Inscription**).
- The continuous attacks of the Huns weakened the empire and adversely affected its economy. The gold coinage of Skandagupta bears testimony to this.
- The decline of the empire began soon after his death.
- Titles taken were **Vikramaditya** and **Kramaditya** (coins), **Param Bhagavat** (coins), **Shankropama** (Kahaum Pillar Inscription), **Devaraja** (Arya Manjushri Mula Kalpa) etc.



### **Administration:**

- The Gupta administration was akin to that of Mauryas, however it differed from the latter in the degree of centralization
- For the first time the post of officers became **hereditary**
- Unlike the Mauryan period the district and local officials were not appointed by the centre but at the provincial level.
- Gupta administration was, thus, **highly decentralized**, and as patrimonial bureaucracy reached its logical conclusion in hereditary grants it reflected the **quasi-feudal** character of the economy.
- It comprised a network of self governing tribes and tributary kingdoms and their chiefs often served as representatives of imperial powers.
- The Gupta king took exalted titles like the Mahadhiraja, Samrat, Ekadhiraja, Chakravartin, befitting their large empire and imperial status.

### **Society:**

- The Varna system begins to get modified owing to the proliferation of castes. This was chiefly due to three factors.
  - A large number of foreigners had been assimilated into the Indian society primarily as **Kshatriyas**.
  - There was a large absorption of tribal people into brahmanical society through land grants. The assimilated tribes were absorbed into the **Shudra** Varna.
  - Guilds of craftsmen were often transformed into castes as a result of the decline of trade and of urban centers and the localized character of the crafts.
- The gods were activated by their unions with the respective consorts. Thus, Laxmi got her association with Vishnu and Parvati got her association with Shiva.
- This was the period of evolution of **Vajrayanism** and Buddhist **tantric** cults.
- Idol worship became a common feature of Hinduism from Gupta period onwards

### **Economy:**

- In the Gupta period land survey is evident from the Poona plates of Prabhavati Gupta and many other inscriptions.
- An officer named Pustapala maintained records of all land transactions in the district.
- The Guptas issued the largest number of gold coins in ancient India, but in gold content, Gupta coins are not as pure as Kushanas.
- The Guptas also issued good number of silver coins for local exchange.
- The Gupta copper coins are very few as compared to Kushanas, which show that use of money, was not the medium of exchange for the common people.



- The increase in land grants resulted in the oppression of peasants as along with the fiscal rights the administrative rights were also given to the grantees.
- Gupta period witnessed decline in long distance Indo-Roman trade.
- The trade with South-East Asia got an impetus.
- The ports of the East coast were Tamralipti, Ghantashala and Kandura.
- The ports on the western coast were located at Bharoach, Chaul, Kalyan and Cambay.
- The institution of slavery tended to become weak during this period

### **Culture:**

- During the Gupta period the idol worship came into vogue as a result the practice of free standing temples started for the first time. Prior to this period the shrines were made in rock cut structures.
- The **Nagara Style (Shikhar style)** of architecture evolved during this period. The temples with shikhar and garbha griha (shrine room) in which the image of the god was placed, begin during this period.
- The examples of temple during this period are Dasavatara temple of Deogarh (Jhansi distric, UP), Siva temple of Bhumra (Nagod, MP), Vishnu and Kankali temple (Tigawa, MP), Parvati temple of Nanchana-Kuthwa (Panna district, MP), Shiva temple of Khoh (Satna, Panna, MP), Krishna brick temple of Bhattargaon (Kanpur, UP), Laxman temple of Sirpur (Raipur, MP), Vishnu temple and Varah temple of Eran (MP).
- The art of **paintings** and rock cut caves architecture also reached to the finest level.
- Example of these are rock cut caves at **Ajanta, Ellora** (in Maharashtra) and **Bagh** (MP)
- The frescoes of the Ajanta caves are the masterpieces of the paintings of this age.
- The centres of the Gandhar sculptures declined and their places were taken by Benaras, Patliputra and Mathura.
- For the first time we get images of Vishnu, Shiva and other Gods.
- Among the best specimen of the images of Buddha is a seated Buddha image of Sarnath, which depicts the Buddha preaching the Dhamma.
- Of the Brahmanical images perhaps the most impressive is the **Great Boar** (Varah) carved in relief at the entrance of a cave at **Udayagiri**.

### **Literature:**

- Some of the old religious books viz. Vayu Purana, Vishnu Purana, Matsya Puran, Ramayan, Mahabharata, Manu Smriti were re-written.
- Narada Smriti, Parashara Smriti, Bhrihaspati Smriti and Katyayana Smriti were written in this period.
- The **six philosophies of Hinduism** were compiled during this period. (By the end of the Later Vedic Age, six prominent schools of Hindu Philosophy had been established.)



<i>Darshans</i>	<i>Authors</i>	<i>Year of Beginning</i>	<i>Original Book</i>	<i>Theme</i>
Nyaya	Gautama	6th BC	Nyaya Sutra	It is a logical quest for God. It tells that the material power Maya, with the help of God, becomes the universe.
Vaisheshika	Kanada	6th BC	Vaisheshika Sutra	It aims is to receive happiness in this life and finally ultimate liberation through the attachment of true knowledge of Divine.
Sankhya	Kapila	6th BC	Sankhya Sutra	It explains that the aim of Sankhya is to eliminate all kinds of physical and mental pains and to receive liberation.
Yoga	Maharishi Patanjali	2nd BC	Yog Sutra	It has 4 chapters and accepts three kinds of evidences for determining the aim of life.
Purva Mimansa	Jaimini	4th BC	Purva Mimansa Sutra	It is condensed explanation of Vedic theme and at the same time, the classification of its issues.
Vedanta (Uttara Mimansa)	Maharishi Vyasa	4th BC	Uttara Mimansa Sutra	It explains that Brahma Sutra is for that person who has a real deep desire to know God. True liberation could only be attained by lovingly surrendering to Him.

- Buddhist texts *Abhidharma Kosha* by Dignaga and *Vishudhimagga* by Buddhghosa were written during this period.
- The other important literary works which belong to this period are:

Writing	Writer
Aryabhatiyam	Aryabhatt
Surya Sidhant	Aryabhatt
Brahmasidhanta	Bhramgupta
Panchasiddhantaka	Varahamihara
Vrihad Samhita	Varahamihara
Meghdootam	Kalidas
Raghuvansam	Kalidas
Kumar Sambhava	Sambhava
Ritu Samhar	Kalidas(first poetry)
Abhijyanshakutalam	Kalidas
Malvikagnimitram	Kalidas (first drama)
Kiratarjuniya	Bharavi
Mrichchkatika	Sudraka
Mudra Rakshasa	Vishaka Dutta
Panchtantra	Vishnu Sharma
Kamasutra	Vatsayana