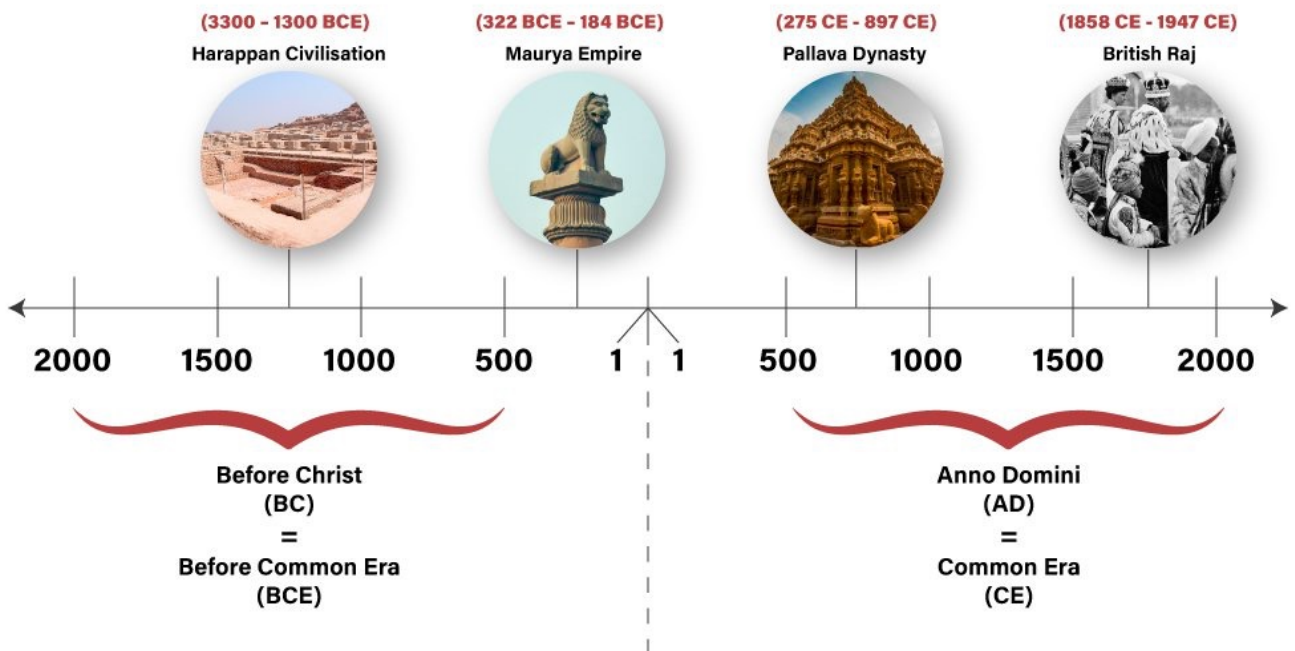
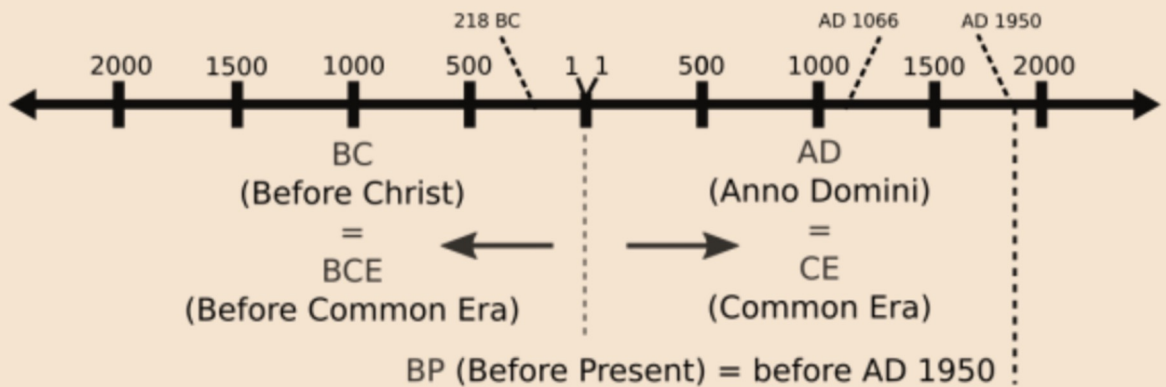


Ancient Indian Calendars

BC - BCE and AD - CE Terms



Classification of Indian Calendars

- The word Calendar comes from the Roman word Calends or Kalends, which refers to a method of dividing time into specific periods for the sake of civic life.
- There are four types of calendars used in India.
- Vikram Samvat
- Saka Samvat
- Hijri calendar
- Gregorian calendar

Vikram Samvat (Hindu lunar calendar)

- It dates back to 57 B.C where **57 B.C. is the zero year**.
- Introduced by **King Vikramaditya** to mark his victory over the **Saka rulers**.
- It is a lunar calendar as it is **based on the movement of the moon**.
- Every year is divided into 12 months and each month is divided into two phases.
 - The **bright half is called the Shuklapaksha** (15 days). It starts with the new moon and ends with a full moon.
 - The **dark half is called the Krishnapaksha** (15 days). It starts with the full moon and ends with a new moon.
- The month begins with the dark half. There are 354 days in a year.
- Hence **every third and fifth year in a cycle of five years** has 13 months (the 13th month is called Adhik Mass).

Saka Samvat (Hindu Solar calendar)

- The zero year of Saka Samvat is 78 A.D.
- **Kanishka** the Great, was the emperor of the Kushan dynasty in the second century. He is famous for his military, political, and spiritual achievements. Kanishka ascended the throne in 78 AD/ CE, and this date was used as the beginning of the Saka calendar era.
- It is a solar calendar, any dating system based on the seasonal year of approximately 365 1/4 days, the time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the Sun.
- It was adopted by the Government of India as the **official calendar in the year 1957**.
- Every year has 365 days.
- It is also known as the Mahasakkarat Era or Shalivahana Saka era.
- The Indonesian Hindus of Java and Bali also use this national calendar of India.
- Along with the Gregorian calendar, Saka Calendar is used by the Gazette of India.

Hijri calendar (Islamic lunar calendar)

- The zero year is 622 A.D.
- It was initially **started and followed in Saudi Arabia**.
- Every year has **12 months and 354 days**.
- The **first month is called Muharram**.
- Ninth month is called **Ramzaan**.
 - During this month, Muslims observe a fast for the purification of souls. The morning breakfast is called Shehri and evening food is called Iftar.

Gregorian calendar
(Scientific solar calendar)

- The Gregorian calendar is used as the civil calendar.
- It began to be **used from 1582**.
- It is named after **Pope Gregory XIII**, who introduced the calendar.
- It substituted the earlier Julian calendar because the Julian calendar had a **miscalculation regarding leap year**.
 - The Julian year had 365.25 days.

Kalchuri Chedi Samvat	248-49 A.D	<p>This Samvat was founded by King Ishwarsen of western India.</p> <p>Later, the Kalchuri rulers gave it their shelter.</p> <p>The Kalchuri rulers of Madhya Pradesh used this Samvat in their inscriptions.</p>
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Gupta Samvat	319-20 A.D	<p>Chandragupta, I started a new era during his reign, which is called the Gupta era.</p> <p>This era is relevant only till the time of the Guptaemperors.</p> <p>Chandragupta, I started the ‘Gupta Samvat’ in 319-320 AD.</p>
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- The beginning of the Kali Yuga = 3102 BCE.
- Harsha Era, which began in 606 AD.

- The National Calendar of India is based on the Saka calendar, which is used as the country's official civil calendar.
- The Calendar Reforms Committee set up by the Government of India adopted the Saka calendar as the National Calendar in 1957.
- According to the Gregorian calendar, it was first used on March 22, 1957, while according to the Saka Samvat, it was first used on Chaitra 1, 1879.

With reference to Calendars, consider the following statements:

1. Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most of the world.
2. Saka Calendar, which was based on the lunisolar system, was adopted as the National Calendar of India in 1957.
3. In lunar calendars months are lunar, but years are solar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 and 3 only
- [B] 1 only
- [C] 3 only
- [D] **1 and 2 only**

When was Gregorian calendar introduced?

- a) 1500
- b) **1582**
- c) 1600
- d) 1927

Who introduced Gregorian calendar?

- a) Gregory VII
- b) Gregory IX
- c) Gregory XI
- d) **Gregory XIII**

Chaitra 1 of the national calendar based on the Saka Era corresponds to which one of the following dates of the Gregorian calendar in a normal year of 365 days?

- **22nd March (or 21st March)**
- 15th May (or 16th May)
- 31st March (or 30th March)
- 21st April (or 20th April)

Saka Samvat	Gregorian Calendar
Chhaitra	March 21 – April 20
Vaishakha	April 21-May 21
Jyeshtha	May 22-June 21
Ashadha	June 22- July 22
Shravana	July 23-August 22
Bhaadra	August 22-September 22
Ashwin	September 23-October 22
Kartika	October 23-November 21
Agrahayana	November 22-December 21
Pausha	December 22-January 20
Magha	January 21- February 19
Phalguna	February 20-March 20/21

Parcham Classes