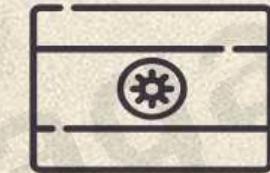


## 1. Importance of Ancient Indian History

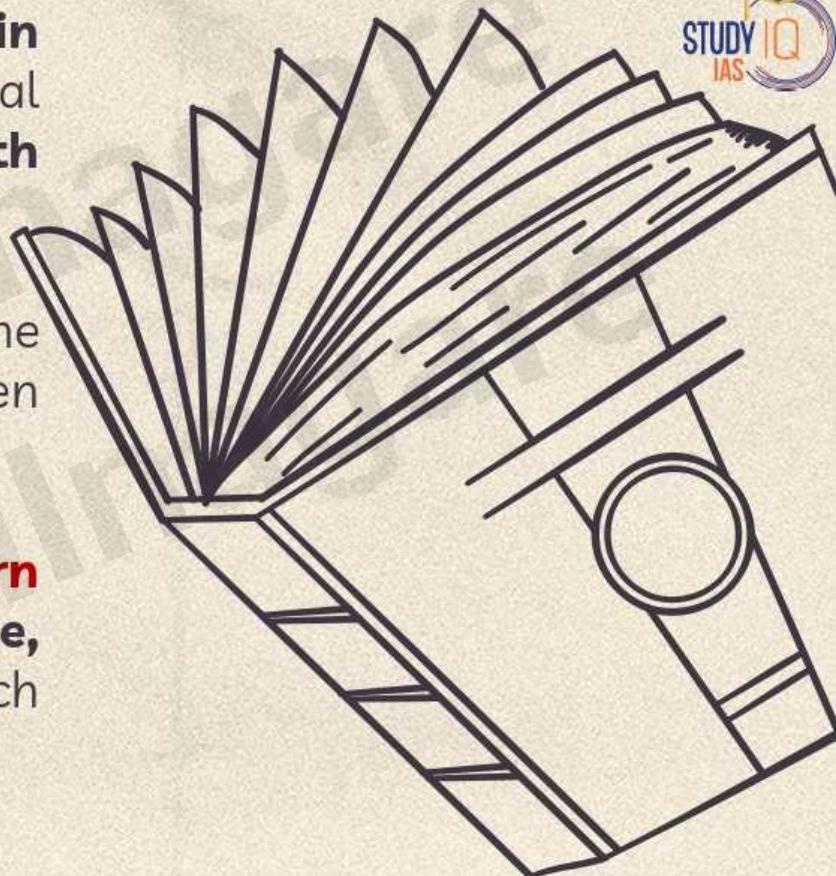


- **Development of Culture:** Ethnic groups such as **Aryans, Indo-Greeks, Turks** etc contributed to the Indian social system, art and architecture.
- **Interaction:** Pre-Aryan culture with **Dravidian and Tamil**, east with west culture gave a unique feature. Such as Ideas of Pali and Sanskrit texts also appear in **Sangam Literature**.
- **Religion:** India has been the cradle of **Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism** which interacted among themselves to give different customs, languages and styles of life.

- **Name of the Country:** India was named **Bharatavarsha** after the name of an ancient **tribe called the Bharatas**.
- **Geography:** The vast **geographical stretch from Himalaya** to the sea was viewed as one and whoever established their authority over this **land were called Chakravartins**. Mauryans, guptas ruled over a large part during ancient times.
- **Role of foreigners:** They mainly came from the north west and saw India beyond Indus or Sindhu so they used the **term Hind** which later came to be known as India which is close to the Greek term for it.
- **Language:** Prakrit was the **lingua Franca** of the country during the **third century BC** as seen from **Ashokan Inscriptions**. It was replaced by Sanskrit in a later period which became the state language of Guptas.



- **Epics:** Ramayana and Mahabharata were **written in Sanskrit** however it was presented in different local languages and studied with **zeal across north and south of the country.**
- **Caste System:** It had its **origin in North India** which came to **prevail almost** all over the country and affected even the **Christians and Muslims.**
- **Relevance of the Past to the Present: Solve Modern Problems:** The social problems such as **caste, untouchability and prejudices against women** which still persist in the country have their roots in history.



Thus the study of **Ancient history is important** to understand the **nature of the past** and the obstacles which hamper the growth and development of the country.