

## History Ancient India

### Indus Valley Civilization:

- The Indus Civilization belong to Proto-Historic Period (Chalcolithic Age/ Bronze Age)
- **John Marshall** was the first scholar to use the term (Indus Civilization)
- Indus Valley Civilization is also known as Harappan Civilization.
- The most accepted period of Indus Valley Civilization from carbon dating is – 2500 BC -1750 BC
- The Indus Civilization was spread over Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western U.P, and Northern Maharashtra.
- The **First Indus site** to be discovered is **Harappa** by **Dayaram Sahini** in **1921**. Harappa is now situated in **Punjab (Pakistan)** The word Harappa means ‘**Food of Siva**’.
- Mohenjodaro was discovered by **Rakhal Das Banerji** in **1922**. It is now situated at **Sindh (Pakistan)**.
- Mohenjodaro is known as ‘**Mount of the Dead**’.
- **Lothal** is the only port city of Indus Valley people.
- The ancient name given to Indus Region by Sumerians was ‘**Meluha**’.
- Indus Valley people had trade relations with **Mesopotamians** or **Sumerians**.
- Indus Valley people used Weights and Measures based on decimal multiples of ‘**16**’.
- The Harappans were the earliest people to produce **cotton**. It was called ‘**Sindon**’ by Greeks.
- The principle diety of Indus Valley people was **Mother Goddess**. The chief male diety was **Pasupathi Mahadeva**.
- It is generally assumed that **horse** was unknown to Indus people.
- Harappans seals were made of **Terracotta**.
- **Humpless bull** is represented in most seals.
- The script used was **Pictographic**.
- Indus Valley Civilization is predominantly an urban civilization and we can see good **town planning** and advanced **drainage system**.
- A common feature of town planning is **grid system** that is streets cutting across one another at right angles.
- Wheat and Barley were the staple food of Indus Valley people.
- House of Indus Valley people were almost made of **burned bricks**.
- They used **copper** and **bronze**. But **Iron** was unknown to them.

Site	Archaeological Findings
Harappa	<b>6 Granaries in row</b> , Cemetery (R-37-H)
Mohenjodaro	<b>Great Granary, Great Bath (the largest building of civilization), Bronze statue of a dancing woman, Mass burial etc,</b>
Chanhudaro	<b>Only City without a citadel</b> , Metal workers and bead-makers shops. It is the smallest harappan town.
Lothal	<b>Dockyard, Rice husk, double burial</b> ,(burying a male and a female in a single grave), <b>chess board</b>
Kalibangan	<b>Ploughed field surface, Bones of Camel</b> . The word Kalibangan means black bangles.
Dholavira	<b>Only site to be divided in to three parts</b> . Unique water harnessing system,
Surkotada	<b>Bones of horse</b> , Two fold division of township – Citadel and Lower Town.
Ropar	<b>Dog buried with human</b> .
Amri	<b>Actual remains of Rhinoceros</b> .

### Indus Cities and Provinces:

City	Provinces
Harappa	Punjab (Pakistan)
Mohenjodaro	Sindh (Pakistan)
Lothal	Gujarat
Kalibangan	Rajasthan
Chanhudaro	Sindh (Pakistan)
Dholavira	Kutch (Gujarat)
Ropar	Punjab (India)
Banwali	Haryana

### Decline of the Civilizations:

- The Indus Civilization flourished up to 1800 BC, then it began to decline. There is no unanimity among historians regarding the reason of decline. According to Sir John Marshall and S.R. Rao the decline due to flood. According to **Wheeler** the decline is due to external aggression.

### The Aryans and Vedic Age (1500 BC to 600 BC):

- The Vedic period is mainly classified in to two – Early Vedic period (1500 BC – 1000 BC) and Later Vedic period (1000 BC – 600 BC)
- According to the popular belief, the Aryans are supposed to have migrated from **Central Asia**, and settled on the banks of Sapta Sindhu i.e., the region of seven rivers.

### Rig vedic period or Early vedic period (1500 BC to 1000 BC):

- The early vedic period was **pastoral**, but familiar with agriculture.
- **Cattle** was the Chief Measure of wealth in the Vedic period.
- It is assumed that the vedas are composed during this period. There are four Vedas **Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda** and **Atharva Veda**.
- Of the four Vedas the Rig Veda is the oldest. Rig Veda contains **1028 hymns** and divided in to **10** mandalas.
- The Rigveda starts with the line '*Agnimeele Purohitam*'
- The famous **Gayathri Mantra** is contained in Rig Veda. It is believed to have composed by **Vishwamitra**.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> mandalas are said to have been added later. The 10<sup>th</sup> mandala contains the famous **Purushasukta** which explains the 4 Varnas-Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vishya and Shudra. The hymns of Rig Veda were recited by Hotri.
- Maxmuller is the first person who translate Rig Veda in to English.
- The **Sama Veda** deals with **Music**. The hymns of Sama Veda were recited by Udagatri.
- **Yajur Veda** deals with **sacrifice and rituals**. Its hymns were recited by Adhvaryus.
- The **Atharva Veda** deals with **magic and spells**. It is the last one among Vedas.
- The Brahmanas explains the hymns of Vedas.
- The **Upanishads** are philosophical texts. They are generally called **Vedanta**. There are 108 Upanishad. **Brihadaranyaka** is the largest Upanishad. This Upanishad first give the doctrine of Transmigration of soul.
- Jabla Upanishad mentioning about the Varnashramadharma.
- According to Rig Veda, the most mentioned river is **Sindhu**.
- The Kula (the family) was the basis of society. Above the Kula were Grama, Jana and Rashtra.
- The form of Government was patriarchal in nature.
- The Gold coin circulated during Vedic age is '**Nishka**'.
- Teachers and priests were called **Brahmins**; rulers and administrators were called **Kshatriyas** Farmers, merchants and bankers were called **Vaishyas**, and artisans and labourers were reckoned as **Shudras**.
- A widow could marry the younger brother of her deceased husband (**Niyoga**)
- The cow as already deemed **Aghanya** i.e, not to be killed
- Alcoholic drinks, **Sura** and **Soma** were also consumed. Soma is known as God of Plants.
- **Indra, Agni** and **Varuna** were the most popular deities of Rig Vedic Aryans.
- **Indra** or **Pruandara** (destroyer of fort): is the most important god of Rig Vedic times. 250 Rig Vedic hymns are devoted to him 'Indira' played the role of warlord and was considered as the **rain god**.
- Agni is the second most important god. 200 Rig Vedic hymns are devoted to him. He is also known as fire god and was considered to be the intermediary between the gods and the people.
- **Varuna** personified water and was supposed to uphold 'Rita' or the natural order (Ritasyagopa)
- **Savithri** was a solar diety to whom the famous Gayathri Mantra is attributed.
- **Prithvi** was the earth Goddess.

### Later Vedic period (1000 BC to 600 BC):

- In this period a gradual change from pastoralism to agriculture as the main economy has happened. Later this agrarian economy gave birth to small kingdoms known as '**Janapadam**' e.g., Kuru, Panchala and Kasi.
- The term '**Rashtra**' which indicates territory first appeared in the later vedic period.
- Women enjoyed freedom and respect but their status deteriorated compared to the early vedic period.
- Origin of Kingship is found in '**Taittiriya Brahmana**'.
- The first Law giver of ancient India was **Manu**. He wrote '**Manusmrithi**'.

- **Bali** was a tax, which the king used to collect from the people of vedic period.
- The Mahabharata was written by **Veda Vyas**, and Ramayana was written by **Valmiki**. Ramayana is known as **Adikavya**.
- Bhagavat Geetha is a part of Mahabharatha. There are 18 chapters in Mahabharatha.
- Mahabharatha is also known as the fifth Veda.
- Charles Wilkins is the first person who translate Bhagavat Geetha in English.
- Mahabharatha war lasted for 18 days. Kurushektra is the place where this battle is fought. Kurushektra is in Haryana.
- The learned men known as Bhramins gained more importance during this period.
- The group of people known as Kshatriyas emerge to conquer territories and administer them.
- The earlier deities Indra and Agni were relegated into the background. Instead, **Prajapati** (Later known as Brahma) Vishnu and Rudra (Later known as Shiva) rose in prominence.

#### **Pre Mauryan Period (600 BC to 325 BC):**

- The material advantages brought about by the use of the iron implements in Eastern UP and Bihar in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, helped in the formation of large territorial states.
- Use of iron tools in agriculture produced surplus.
- Thus, many Janapadas sprung up in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the larger of which were called Mahajanapadas.
- **Magadha** was the most prominent among these Mahajanapadas.
- Its first capital was **Rajagriha**, then it was shifted to **Pataliputra**.
- The real founders of Magada Kingdom were **Bimbisara and Ajatasatru**. Rajagriha was their capital.

#### **Bimbisara (544 BC to 492 BC) :**

- The clan of Bimbisara was called **Haryanka**, and therefore the Magada dynasty is also known as Haryanka dynasty.
- **Bimbisara** was a contemporary of **Gautama Buddha**.
- Bimbisara succeeded by his son Ajathasatru and according to sources, Bimbisara was killed by his son Ajathasatru.

#### **Ajathasatru (492 BC to 460 BC) :**

- It is generally believed that in the beginning he was a follower of Jainism, but subsequently he change his mind and embraced Buddhism.
- Ajathasatru summoned the first Buddhist council at Rajagriha.
- **Mahakassaapa** was the chairman of the council, compilation of **Suttapitaka** and **Vinayapitaka** by Ananda and Upali was done during this council. According to the Jaina and Buddhist texts, several successors of Ajatasatru ruled Magadha for about 166 years. Unfortunately, most of them were non-entities. However, among them we come to know about one ruler named Udayin.
- **Udayin** built the city of **Pataliputra** and shifted the capital from Rajagriha to **Pataliputra**.

#### **Sisunaga dynasty (412 BC to 344 BC) :**

- Haryankas were overthrown by **Sisunaga** a minister in the Haryanka dynasty and he founded the **Sisunaga** dynasty.
- The most prominent ruler in this dynasty was **Kalasoka**. He summoned the **2<sup>nd</sup> Buddhist** council at **Vaishali**.
- It was presided by **Sabbhakami**. Kalasoka was murdered by the founder of Nanda dynasty.

#### **Nandas (345 BC to 322 BC) :**

- The most prominent king in Nanda dynasty was **Mahapadma Nanda**; who is regarded as the founder of the dynasty.
- He is often described as the first empire builder of Indian history.
- The last ruler of Nanda dynasty was **Dhananandha**.
- Dhananandha was the ruler when Alexander invaded India in 326 BC.
- Dhananandha was overthrown by Chandra Gupta Maurya and he became the founder of Great Mauryan Empire.

#### **Foreign Invasions: Iranian/ Persian Invasions:**

- Cyrus of Persia was the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign conquer who penetrated well into India.
- The next Persians invasion was by his successor Darius in 518 BC

### Alexander's Invasion:

- Alexander was the son of Philip, the King of **Macedonia**. He succeeded his father at the age of 20.
- His tutor was Aristotle.
- From his very childhood he used to dream of world conquests. He quietly conquered many states.
- In 326 BC he conquered Taxila and defeated the ruler **Ambhi**.
- He faced the strongest resistance from Porus, and **Porus** was defeated in the battle of **Hydaspes** or battle of **Jhelum**. But Alexander was impressed by his bravery and the kingdom was restored to Porus and made him an ally.
- Alexander's invasion weakened the ruling Nanda dynasty and this helped Chandra Gupta Maurya to lay the foundation of Mauryan Empire.

### Religious Movements:

- Various religious movements Buddhism & Jainism were born and grew up in the post vedic period known as the period of second urbanization or the age of Buddha i.e., from 6<sup>th</sup> century BC to 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

### Causes of religious movements:

- 1) The vedic Philosophy had lost its original purity.
- 2) Vedic religion become very complex and superstitious and rituals become an integral part.
- 3) Supremacy of Brahmins.

### Buddhism:

- Buddhism was founded by **Gautama Buddha**. He was born in **563 BC** at **Lumbini** (Nepal) in **Sakya clan**.
- Buddha's father's name is **Sudhodhana** and his mother's name is **Mahamaya**.
- After his mother's death he was brought up by his stepmother Maha Prajapati **Gautami**.
- Buddha was married to **Yashodha** and his son's name is **Rahul**.
- In the age of 29, he renounced home and this was called **Mahabhinishkarmana**.
- His first teacher was **Alara Kalama** from whom he learned the technique of meditation.
- In the age of 35 he attained **Nirvana** (enlightenment) at **Bodhgaya** in Bihar.
- Buddha delivered his first sermon at **Sarnath** (deer park) to his five disciples and this is known as **Dharma Chakra Parivartan**.
- The name of Buddha's horse is Kanthaka and his charioteer's name is Channa (or Chandaka).
- Buddha died at the age of 80 in **483 BC** at **Kushinagara** (Uttarpradesh).
- Pagoda is the name of Buddhist temples.
- Edwin Arnold calls Buddha as 'light of Asia'.

### Doctrine of Buddhism:

- **Buddha's four noble truths as follows:**
  - 1) Life is full of sorrow.
  - 2) The cause of sorrow is desire
  - 3) Thus sorrow can be stopped through Nivana.
  - 4) Nirvana can be achieved by following the eight fold path.
- **Eight fold path [Ashtanga Marga]:**
  - 1) Right speech      2) Right action      3) Right livelihood      4) Right Intention.
  - 5) Right memory      6) Right observation      7) Right determination      8) Right Meditation.
- Triratnas (Three jewels) are the gem associated with Buddhism. They are
  - 1) Buddha (the enlightened)      2) Dharma (doctrine)      3) Sangha (order)

### Buddhist Literature:

- Tripitakas is the holy book of Buddhists.

**Tripitakas:** Pitaka literally means 'basket' and it was called so, because the original texts were written on palm-leaves and kept in baskets. Tripitakas consists of three parts.

  - 1) The **Vinaya Pitaka:** It comprises the Buddhist canonical law. It contains the rules of monastic discipline for bhikshus along with a commentary on the rules.
  - 2) The **Sutta Pitaka:** It contains Buddha's sayings and teachings.

3) The **Abhidhamma Pitaka** : It deals with the same subjects as the Sutta Pitaka but in a more scholastic manner.

- All these Buddhist text is written in **Pali** language.
- **Jataka tales** deals with Buddhism. It narrates Buddha's life story. The Jataka tales are encrypted in **Ajanta** and **Ellora** temples. Ajanta and Ellora temples are situated in **Maharashtra**.

### Sects of Buddhism:

- One of the earliest schisms in Buddhism came at the second council at **vaishali** and resulted in the division of Buddhists in to **Sthaviravadins** and **Maha Sangikas**.
- But the Major Schism came at the fourth Buddhist council in Kashmir and resulted in the division of Buddhism in to **Mahayanism** and **Hinayanism**. Further, in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD a new sect **Vajrayanism** (followers of the vehicle thunder bolt) came in to existence.
- **Hinayanism:** The followers of Hinayanism believed in the original teachings of the Buddha and sought individual Salvation through self discipline and meditation. Unlike the Mahayanists, they did not believe in idol worship. Though it lost its popularity in India, it get entrenched in Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, The Hinayana Buddhism is called as (the lesser vechile). Hinayana scriptures are written in **pali**.
- **Mahayanism:** Mahayana school of Buddhism offered Salvation for all and came to be known as **Greater vehicle**. The Mahayana scriptures claim to represent the final doctrines of Buddha.
- **Buddhist Councils:** The first Buddhist council was held in **483 BC at Rajagriha** under the President ship of **Mahakassappa** and under the patronage of **king Ajatasatru of Magadha**. The codification of Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka was done at this council by upali and Aranda respectively.
- **Second Buddhist Council:** was held in **383 BC at Vaishali** under the President ship of **Sabhakami** and under the patrouage of king **Kalasoka**.
- **Third Council:** of Buddhism was held in **250 BC at Pataliputra** under the President ship of **Mogaliputta Tissa** and under the Patronage of **Ashoka the Great**. Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka was done at this council. In this council a decision was taken to send missionaries to spread Buddhism.
- **Fourth Council:** was held in AD 120 at Kundalavana in **Kashmir** under the Presidentship of **Vasumitra** and **Asvagosha** under the patronage of **Kanishka**. In this council Buddhism was divided in to Hinayana and Mahayana.

Council	Venue	Year	Patronage	Chairman
1 <sup>st</sup> Buddhist council	Rajagriha	483 BC	Ajatasatru	Mahakassappa
2 <sup>nd</sup> Buddhist council	Vaishali	383 BC	Kalasoka	Sabhakami
3 <sup>rd</sup> Buddhist council	Pataliputra	250 BC	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa
4 <sup>th</sup> Buddhist council	Kashmir	120 AD	Kanishka	Vasumitra & Asvagosha

### Causes for the Decline of Buddhism:

- Reform of Brahmanism and the rise of Bhagavatism.
- Giving up the use of Pali and taking up the use of Sanskrit by the Buddhists from the first century AD.
- Practicing of Idol Worship and receiving offerings and huge donations leading to deterioration in moral standards.
- Attacks by the Hunas in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries and also Turkish invasions of 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

### Jainism:

- According to Jain tradition there were **24 Tirthankaras**. The first Tirthankara is **Rishaba** and the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara is **Mahavira**.
- The Vishnupurana and Bhagavat Purana describes Rishaba as an incarnation of **Narayana**.
- We have historical proof of only the last two thirthankaras. **Parsavanatha** is the 23<sup>rd</sup> thirthankara and Mahavira is the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Mahavira's Life:

- Mahavira was born in **540 BC** in a village **Kundalagrama** near **Vaishali** in Bihar.
- His father's name is **Siddhartha** and mothers name is **Trishala**. He belongs to Kshatriya clan.
- Mahavira was married to **Yasoda** and she give birth to Anonja Priyadarshini whose husband **Jamali** became the first disciple of Mahavira.
- At the age of 30, after the death of his father, he renounced his family and became an ascetic. He was accompanied by **Gosala Maskariputra**, but later due to some differences Gosala left and founded **Ajvika** sect.

- At the age of 42, he attained **Kaivalya** (Perfect knowledge) under a Sal tree at **Jrimbhikagrama**.
- He preached for 30 years and died at the age of 72. **In BC 468** at **Pavapuri** near Rajgriha.
- He became the head of a sect called Nirgranthas who later came to be known as Jinas. The word **Jina** means **conqueror**.

#### Teachings of Mahavira:

- Rejected the authority of the Vedas and did not believe in the existence of God.
- They practiced strict non-violence.
- Triratnas of Jainism are (1) Right faith (2) Right Knowledge (3) Right conduct.

#### Sects of Jainism:

- After the death of Mahavira, during the reign of **King Chandra Gupta Mirgranthas** a severe famine led to a great exodus of Jaina Monks, from Ganga Valley to Deccan.
- **Bhadrabahu** who led the emigrants insisted on the retention of the rule of nudity, which Mahavira had established and they are called as **Digambaras**.
- **Sthulabhadra**, the leader of the monks who remained in the north, allowed his followers to wear white garments and they are called as **svetambaras**.

#### Jain Literature:

- Jain's sacred texts are called **Angas**. Most of the Jain texts are written in **Prakrit**. **Kalpa Sutra** is an important Jainist text written in Sanskrit by **Bhadrabahu**.
- First Jain Council was held at **Pataliputra** in 310 BC under the leadership of **Sthulabahu**.
- Gomateshwara/ Bahubali statue is situated in Sravanabelgola near Mysore is an example of Jain architecture. **Dilwara Temple of Mount Abu** and the examples of Jain Architecture.
- **Vallabhi** in Gujarat is a most famous Jain University.
- Due to very rigid and extreme penance, Jainism suffered a downfall.

### The Mauryan Empire:

Earlier we learned that Dhananandha the last ruler of Nanda dynasty was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya and laid the foundation of Maurya empire.

#### Chandra Gupta Maurya (321 BC – 298 BC):

- Mauryan kingdom was established in **BC 321**.
- **Chandragupta Maurya** founded Mauryan dynasty.
- The capital of Chandragupta Maurya was **Pataliputra**.
- **Chanakya** the minister of Chandragupta Maurya was the author of the book **Arthashashtra**. It is a book on **statecraft**. The other two names of Chanakya is Kautilya and Vishnu Gupta.
- In 305 BC, Chandragupta Maurya defeated **Selucus Nikator** and attained a vast territory.
- Selucus Nikator send **Magasthenese** a Greek ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya. **Magasthenes** wrote the famous book **Indica**.
- Under Chandragupta Maurya, for the first time the whole of Northern India was united.
- Chandragupta Maurya was converted to Jainism, abdicated the throne in favor of his son Bindusara, and went to **Sravan belgola** with Bhadrabahu where he died by slow starvation. (**sallekhana**)

#### Bindusara (298 BC – 273 BC):

- Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
- Bindusara, known to the Greeks as **Amitraghato**, means one who kills enemies.
- Bindusara asked Antiochus-I of Syria to send some sweet wine, dried fig and a sophist. Antiochus I sent wine and figs but politely replied that Greek Philosophers are not for sale.
- Bindusara patronized **Ajivkas**.

#### Ashoka (273 BC – 232 BC):

- He was the greatest Mauryan ruler. Before his accession to throne of Maurya he was the governor of Taxila.
- A Buddhist text **Dipavamsa** states that he usurped the throne after killing his 99 brothers except the youngest one Tishya in the war of succession that lasted for 4 years.
- Under Ashoka, the Mauryan Empire reached its zenith. For the first time the whole sub continent, leaving out the extreme south was under Imperial Control.

- Ashoka fought the **Kalinga war in 261 BC**. The miseries of war caused deep remorse to Ashoka and therefore he abandoned the policy of physical conquest (Bherighosia) in favour of cultural conquest (Dhammaghosha).
- The new name of Kalinga is Odisha.
- Ashoka embraced Buddhism under the influence of **Upagupta** or Nigrodha.
- He sent his son **Mahendra** and daughter **Sanghamitra** to Ceylon as Buddhist Missionaries with a sapling of the original pipal tree.
- He is known as the constantin of Buddhism.
- He appointed Dhamma Mahamatyas to spread the message of Dhamma.
- Asoka was known as Devanam Priyadarsi – the beautiful one who was the beloved of Gods.
- Asoka started wild life sancturies in India.
- Ashokan inscriptions were written in **Kharoshti** and **Brahmi Scripts**.
- **James Prinsep** deciphered Ashokan inscriptions.
- Major **Rock edict XIII** of Ashoka speaks about Kalinga war.
- Major Rock edict **IV** speaks about non-violence.
- Major Rock edict **I** speaks about of the Prohibition animal sacrifice.
- The emblem of the Indian Republic was been adopted from the four lion capital of one of Ashokas Pillars which is located in Sarnath.
- The tax collected during Mauryan times is known as Bhagu. It is  $\frac{1}{6}$ <sup>th</sup> of the total produce. Bali is the name of additional tax. Vishti is the tax paid in labour.
- The causes of the decline of the Mauryan empire were (1) Ashoka's pacifist policy (2) The scramble for power. (3) Too centralized bureaucracy etc.,

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

The dynasties ruled immediately after Mauryan rule cannot be compared with it, in terms of territorial extention and paramount power. Post Mauryan period witnessed the emergence of many dynasties in the Indian Political scene.

#### **Sunga dynasty (185 BC – 71 BC):**

- Pushyamitra Sunga founded Sunga dynasty by overthrowing **Brihadratha**, the last Mauryan ruler.
- **Pathanjali** wrote **Mahabhashya** a commentary on Panini's **Ashtadhyay** lived in Pushyamitras Court.
- The famous book on Hindu law **Manusmriti** was compiled during this period.
- Kalidasa's drama **Malvikagnimitram** narrates the love story of Pushyamitra's son **Agnimitra** and **Malavika**.

#### **Kanva Dynasty (73 BC – 27 BC):**

Kanva was a minor dynasty founded by vasudeva who killed the last Shunga King **Devabhuthi**.

#### **Chedi Dynasty:**

- The Chedi dynasty was believed to have founded by **Maha Meghavahana** and they ruled over Kalinga the present odisha.
- The most Prominent ruler of Chedi dynasty is **Kharavela**.
- **Hathigumpha** inscription speaks about the achievements of Kharavela.
- Kharavela was a warrior King but he still found time to devote to works piety and public utility. He was an ardent follower of Jainism.

#### **Sathavahanas (60 BC – 225 AD):**

- **Simukha** (60 BC- 37 BC) was the founder of Sathavahana dynasty.
- At first, the sphere of influence of sathavahanas was Maharashtra and later expanded in to Andhra and many parts of Deccan.
- Sathavahanas were also known as **Andhrajais**.
- **Nanaghat** and **Nasik** inscriptions give detailed description about sathavahana rule.
- **Hala** the 17<sup>th</sup> ruler of Sathavahana kingdom was the author of '**Gathasaptasati**', in Prakrit.
- The most prominent king in sathavahana kingdom is **Gautamiputra satakarni** (106 AD- 130 AD).
- Gautamiputra Satakarni is called '**Eka brahmana**' which means the duly protector of the Brahmins.
- Stupas like **Amaravathi** and **Nagarjunakonda** were built during Sathavahana period.
- The official language of Sathavahanas was **prakrit**.

### Foreign Successors after Mauryas:

- Indo-Greeks were the first foreign rulers of North-Western India in the Post Mauryan period.
- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was **Menander (165 BC-145 BC)** also known as Milinda. He was converted to Buddhism by **Nagasena**. Menander and Nagasena conversations were recorded in the book **Milinda panho**.
- **Indo-Greeks** were the first to issue **gold coins**.
- They introduced Hellenic art. This gradually developed in to Gandhara School of art.

### The Sakas (1<sup>st</sup> Century BC – 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD):

- **The Sakas** also known as Scythians replaced the Indo-Greeks in India.
- The most famous Saka ruler in India was **Rudradaman**. 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.

### Vikramaditya :

- In **58 BC** the king of **Ujain** who first took the title of Vikramaditya in India is supposed to have fought effectively against the sakas. He started an era called **Vikram Era** from **58 BC**.

### The Parthians (1<sup>st</sup> Century BC – 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD):

- Originally, parthians lived in Iran from where they moved in to India and replaced the Sakas.
- The most famous Parthian king was **Gondophernes** during whose reign St. Thomas came to India for the propagation of Christianity.

### The Khushanas (1<sup>st</sup> Century AD – 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD):

- The first Khushan dynasty was founded by Kadphises I.
- The second Kushana dynasty was founded by Kanishka and he is the most famous Kushana King.
- He became the ruler in **78 AD** and started Saka era in **AD 78**. The first month of Saka era is **Chaitra** and the last month is **phalguna**. Our national calendar is based on **Saka era**.
- The capital of Kanishka were **Peshwar** or **Purushapura** and **Mathura**.
- **Kanishka** is known as **second Asoka** and was the first king who inscribed the image of Lord Buddha on his coins.
- Kushan art is also known as **Mathura school of art**. Gandhara school of art (the mixture of Indo-Greek art) received royal patronage under Kushans.
- The Kushans were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a wide scale.
- **Aswaghosha** who wrote the biography of Buddha named **Buddhacharita** lived during Kanishka's period.
- The famous Ayurvedic legends such as **Charaka** and **Susrutha** lived during the time of Kanishka. Charaka wrote **Charaka Samhita** and Susrutha wrote **Susrutha Samhita**. Susrutha is known as the **father of Surgery**.

### The Sangam Period (1<sup>st</sup> century – 3<sup>rd</sup> Century):

- The word Sangam is associated with a college or an assembly of Tamil scholars and poets who flourished under the royal patronage of Pandyan Kings of Madurai.
- The first Sangam was attended by gods and legendary sages. All its works have been perished. The chairman of first Sangam was **Agastya, the father of Tamil literature**.
- The only surviving work of second Sangam is **Tolkappiyam** an early work on Tamil grammar written by **Tholkapiyar**.
- Thirukural written by **Tiruvalluvar** is considered as the bible of Tamil Nadu is from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sangam period.  
1) The epics of Sangam period are : 1) Silappadikaram 2) Manimekalai 3) Jivaka Chindamani.
- **Silappadikaram** is written by **Illangoadikal** describes the love story of **Kovalan** and **Kannagi**.
- **Sattanar** wrote **Manimekalai** which is also an epic and tells about the story of the daughter of **Madhavi** and **Kovalan**. **Manimekalai** depicts the importance of **Buddhism**.
- **Jivaka Chintamani**, the third epic was written by **Tirukkadevar**.
- The literature of the Sangam age was written mostly in the form of poetry.
- People of Sangam age mainly worshipped **Murugan**.
- The Sangam literature talks about cholas, cheras, and Pandyan dynasties.

### The Cheras:

- The Cheras occupied the portion of both Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The capital of Cheras was **Vanchi**.
- The two main ports of Cheras were **Muzris (Kodungalloor)** and **Tondi**.

- **Senguttuvan** or **Red Chera** was the greatest Chera King. It is said that he invaded the north and even crossed the Ganges.
- He was also the founder of **Pattini cult** related to worship of goddess of chastity- Kannagi.

### The Cholas:

- Cholas ruled over the present day northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh.
- Their capital was located first at **Uraiyar** and later shifted to **Puhar**, identified as **Kaveri Pattanam**.
- The greatest king was **Karikala** who founded Puhar (Kaveri Patnam) and constructed a large dam known as '**Kallanai**' also known as 'Grand Anicut', which is the oldest dam in India.

### The Pandyas:

- The Pandyas ruled over an area consisting of the modern day southern Tamil Nadu. Their capital was **Madurai**.
- The greatest pandyan king **Nedunjelian** accused Kovalan of theft. As a result, Kannagi burned the city of Madurai under a curse.

### Gupta Period (320 AD – 540 AD):

- The fall of Kushana empire towards the middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD led to the establishment of Gupta empire.
- Gupta period is known as the classical age in Indian history and also the **golden age of Hinduism**.
- **Srigupta** was the founder of Gupta empire.
- He was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha. Both the kings take the simple title Maharaja.
- **Ghatotkacha** was succeeded by his son **Chandragupta –I**.

### Chandra Gupta I (320 AD – 335 AD):

- **Chandragupta-I** is regarded as the real founder of Gupta empire.
- He became powerful and expanded his kingdom by a marriage alliance with Lichchhavi Prince Kumaradevi.
- He started **Gupta Era in AD 320**.
- He was the first ruler to adopt the title '**Maharajadhi Raja**'.
- He was succeeded by his son **Samudra Gupta**.

### Samudra Gupta (335 AD – 380 AD):

- The most detailed description about Samudra Gupta's reign is mentioned in **Allahabad Pillar inscription** (Prayag Prasasthi) written by his court poet **Harisena**.
- According to Allahabad Pillar inscription Samudra Gupta was a great conqueror and annexed many places in the gangetic valley, and Central India and defeated many south Indian kings.
- So Samudra Gupta is popularly known as **Indian Napoleon**. He also known as **Kaviraja** as he patronized many poets.
- Samudra Gupta was a proficient **veena player**.

### Chandra Gupta II (380 AD – 414 AD):

- Samudra Gupta was succeeded by his son Chandra Gupta-II. But according to some scholars, the immediate successor of Samudra Gupta was his son Ramagupta, the elder brother of Chandra Gupta II. A drama **Devi Chandra Gupta**, by **Visakhadatta** mentions that Rama Gupta agreed to surrender his queen Dhruvadevi to the infatuation of a saka chief (Basana) who had invaded his kingdom. The honour of the queen was saved by Chandra Gupta II younger brother of Rama Gupta, who killed the saka chief usurped the throne by killing Rama Gupta and married the widow.
- Chandra Gupta II is popularly known as **Vikramaditya**.
- **Fahien** the chinese traveller visited India during his period.
- The exploits of Chandra Gupta II are mentioned in **Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription** near Qutubminar.
- Nine gems adorned the court of Chandra Gupta II. They are: 1) Kalidasa 2) Amara Simha 3) Dhanvanthari 4) Varahamihira 5) Vararuchi 6) Ghatakarna 7) Kshapranak 8) Velabhata 9) Shanker.

### Kumara Gupta (415 AD – 455 AD):

- **Kumara Gupta** founded **Nalanda University**. It is situated in Bihar.

### Skanda Gupta (455 AD – 467 AD):

- Skanda Gupta was the last great ruler of Gupta dynasty.
- During his reign 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.
- **Junagarh rock Pillar** inscription and Bhitani pillar inscription speaks about the achievements of Samudra Gupta. The successors of Skanda Gupta ruled for many years but the influence of Gupta Empire was declining rapidly. The last Gupta ruler was Vishnu Gupta was ruled around 540 AD.

### General Facts about Guptas:

- The royal seal of the Guptas bear the emblem of **Garuda**.
- Earlier Guptas had their capital at **Prayag** (Allahabad) and later it shifted to **Ujjain** by **Chandra Gupta- II**.
- The fresco paintings in the **Ajanta and Ellora Caves** are examples of the art of **Guptas**.
- The position of women declined during the Gupta period. Polygamy was widely prevalent. Sati system was in existence and widow remarriage was becoming unpopular.
- The **puranas** were compiled during **Gupta age**. Puranas are 18 in number. Matsya Purana is the largest one.

### Post Gupta Period:

#### Vardhana dynasty (550 AD – 647 AD):

- Pushyabhuti or Vardhana dynasty was founded by Pushyabhuti with capital as Thaneswar. Pushyabbutis were the feudatories of the Guptas, but has assumed independence after the Hun invasions.
- The first important ruler of this dynasty was **Prabhakara Vardhana** (580 AD – 605 AD).
- Prabhakara Vardhana was succeeded by his eldest son Rajya Vardhana.
- Harsha was favoured to his elder brother, Rajyavardhana, by both his father and the nobles. But Harsha expressed his reluctance to supersede his brother. Rajyavardhana who became the ruler had to face problems from the day of his succession to the throne. Grahavarman, the Maukhari ruler of Kanauj and husband of Rajyasri (daughter of Prabhakara), was murdered by Devagupta (the ruler of Malwa) who in alliance with Sasanka (ruler of Gauda or Bengal) now occupied Kanauj and imprisoned Rajyasri. Rajyavardhana, therefore, undertook a campaign against Devagupta and killed him but he was deceived and killed by Sasanka. In the meanwhile, Rajyasri escaped into the forests of central India.
- Harsha now succeeded his brother at Thanesvar. His first act as the ruler was naturally to rescue his sister and avenge the death of his brother and brother-in-law, and was quite successful in both. He drove out Sasanka of Gauda from Kanauj. Between 606 and 612 he brought most of northern India (Punjab, Kanauj, parts of Gauda, Orissa and Mithila) under his control, and assumed the title of '**Siladitya**'.
- Harsha's occupation of Kanuj. In his first expedition, Harsha drove away Sasanka from Kanauj who had occupied it after murdering Harsha's brother. After this, he not only unified **Kanauj** with Thanesvar but also made it his new capital, which made him the most powerful king of north India.
- Chinese traveler **Hieun Tsang** visited India during his reign.
- **Banabhatta** was the court poet of Harsha and the author of **Harshacharita**, **Kadambari**, and **Parvati Parinay**.
- Harsha's dramas such as **Ratnavalli**, **Nagananda**, and **Priyadarshika** give us information about the political conditions in those days.
- **Nausasi** copper plate inscription gives us information about Harsha's successful expedition against Vallabhi.
- **Harsha** was the last great **Hindu king** died in 647 AD.

#### Chalukyas of Vatapi (543 AD - 755 AD):

**Pulikesin –I (543 AD– 566AD):** Chalukyas in their zenith controlled Karnataka and many parts of Deccan.

- He is the founder of chalukya dynasty. He established a small kingdom with vatapi as its capital.
- Pulikesin-I was succeeded by Kirtivarman-I and Mangalesa. Mangalesa was succeeded by Pulikesin-II he is the greatest chalukyan king.

#### Pulikesin –II (609AD – 642AD):

- **Pulikesin-II** is considered as the greatest chalukyan ruler.
- He defeated **Harsavardhana** and thereby able to check Harsha's design to conquer the Deccan.
- His victory against Harshan is recorded in **Aihole inscription**, written by his court poet **Ravi Kirti**.
- His reign witnessed the beginning of clash with Pallavas. In his first expedition against the Pallava kingdom, which was then ruled by **Mahendravarman-I** was a complete success, and he annexed the northern part of

Pallava kingdom. But his second expedition against Pallavas, however ended in complete disaster for himself as well as for his kingdom. Then Pallava ruler **Narasimhavarman-I**, who succeeded Mahendravarman, not only drove back Chalukya armies, but also invaded the Chalukya kingdom, killed **Pulakesin-II** and captured Badami.

**Vikramaditya – I (644 AD - 681 AD)**: After an occupation of about 12 years he not only drove out Pallava forces, but also consolidated the kingdom and Plundered the Pallava capital Kanchi, thus avenging his father's defeat and death at the hands of the Pallavas.

**Vinayaditya (681 AD – 693 AD)**: His reign was generally peaceful and prosperous.

**Vijayaditya (693 AD – 733AD)**: It was the longest and also the most prosperous and peaceful reign. It was marked by great increase in temple building.

**Vikramaditya –II (733 AD – 744 AD)**: His reign is significant for the successful invasion of the Pallava kingdom three times, and the repelling of the Arab invasion of south Gujarat.

**Kirtivarman-II(744 AD- 755 AD)**: This last Chalukyan ruler of Badami was defeated by **Dantidurga**, the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, and thus came an end to the Chalukya dynasty of Badami.

**PALLAVAS (560 AD-903)**:

**Simhavishnu (560 AD – 590 AD)**: He is considered the first important Pallava ruler, though Pallavas existed even during the time of Samudragupta's invasion of south India.

**Mahendravarman-I (590AD-630AD)**: His reign witnessed the beginning of the long drawn battle between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas. He was defeated by Pulakesin –II and a part of his kingdom was occupied. Mahendravarman-I was the author of the famous book '**Mattavalasa Prahasana**'.

**Narasimhavarman-I (630AD-668AD)**: He is considered the greatest of the Pallava rulers. He is credited with repelling the second invasion of **Pulakesin –II**, killing him and capturing the Chalukyan capital, Badami. Hence he assumed the title of '**Vatapikonda**' (Conqueror of Vatapi). He is also said to have defeated the Cholas, the Cheras and the Pandyas, thus becoming supreme in south India.

**Mahendravarman-II (668AD-670AD)**: He ruled for a very short period, since he was killed by Chalukya king, Vikramaditya I (son of Pulakesin-II).

**Paramesvaravarman-I (670AD-700AD)**: He also had to face the invading forces of Vikramaditya-I, but finally succeeded in defeating and driving them back after repeated efforts.

**Narasimhavarman-II(700AD-738AD)**: His rule, however, is marked by peace and prosperity, literary activity, and the construction of large and beautiful temples like the Shore temple at **Mamallapuram** and the **Kailasanatha** temple at Kanchi. He is also said to have sent ambassadors to China, and maritime trade flourished during his reign.

**Paramesvaravarman-II (728AD-731AD)**: The Pallava kingdom again had to face defeat and humiliation during his reign. The Chalukya, Vikramaditya –II attacked the Pallava capital and Paramesvaravarman had to conclude a humiliating treaty with him. When the Pallava ruler tried to retaliate, he was killed by the Ganga ally of the Chalukyas.

**Nandivarman-II (731AD-796 AD)**:

➤ The Chalukya, Vikramaditya-II again invaded and captured the Pallava capital during his reign. But Vikramaditya this time showed consideration and restraint in treating the vanquished, the only instance of restraint in and withdrew from Kanchi without destroying it. However, Nandi soon strengthened himself and defeated the Chalukya ally, the Gangas. But he had to meet defeat at the hands of the Pandyas. And after this defeat, he concentrated on domestic matters. He was a worshipper of Vishnu and a great patron of learning. During his reign, several old temples were renovated and new ones like the **Vaikuntaperumal temple** at **Kanchi** were constructed.

- The art architecture developed by chalukyas is known as Deccan or vesara style of architecture. But this architecture reached its culmination only under Rastakulas & Hoysalas.
- The art & architecture developed by Pallavas is known as **Dravida style of architecture**.

### Major Dynasties of Deccan and South India.

#### Rastrakutas (AD 752 -973):

- Rastrakuta dynasty was founded by **Dantidurga** with its capital at Malkhed.
- Dantidurga was succeeded by Krishna I. He constructed the magnificent rock cut monolythic temple at Ellora known as Kailasa.
- The next prominent ruler after Krishna I is Amoghavarsha who ruled for over 64 years.
- Instead of war, he preferred peace, religion and literature.
- In his later life he developed leanings towards Jainism and '**Jinasena**' the author of **Adipurana** was his chief preceptor.
- **Amoghavasha** was himself an author and he wrote the famous book **Kavirajamargha** that is the earliest Kannada work on poetics. He also wrote '**Prasnotharamalika**'.
- He was also a great builder. He built the city of **Manyaketta**.
- The next prominent Rastrakuta ruler was **Krishna-III**
- Krishna-III defeted Cholas at the battle of **Takkolam** in **AD 949**.
- Krishna-III marched farther south and defeted both Kerala and Pandyan kings
- After Krishna-III the rastrakuta empire began to decline
- Rastrakuta dynasty continued for another 50 years.

#### Dynasty of South India:

##### **Chola:**

- The founder of chola dynasty was **Vijayalaya** around 850 AD, who was a feudatory of Pallavas. The capital was **Tanjore**.
- The first important ruler of Chola dynasty was **Paranthaka-I**. He invaded Pandya territory and assumed the title of **Madurai Konda**.
- But **Paranthaka-I** was defeated in the famous battle of **Thakkolam** in 949 AD by **Krishna-III**, the rashtrakuta ruler and many parts of northern part of chola empire was acquired by Rastrakutas
- The next prominent ruler was **Rajaraja-I**. His original name was **Arumolu Varman**. From his time, the importance of Rastrakuta faded and cholas became the prominent power in Deccan & South India.
- The real greatness of the Cholas began with Raja raja-I. He defeated a confederation of the three kingdom of Pandyas, Kerala, Cylone and occupied their territories.
- He destroyed **Anuradhapura** the capital of cylone after defeating **Maheenda-V** and this led to the establishment of Chola Empire in Srilanka.
- He constructed the magnificent Siva or **Brihadeswara** (also known as **Raja Rajeswara**) temple at **Tanjore**.
- He built a Buddhist monastery **Chudamani Vihara** at **Nagapattanam**.
- He was succeeded by his son **Rajendra-I**. He raised the Chola Empire to the position of being the most extensive and respected state of his time. Rajendra –I led a military expedition to Ganga valley, it became a grand success, and he constructed a new capital **Gangai konda cholapuram** to mark his victory.
- He defeted Pandyas and Cheras.He send two diplomatic missions to **China**.
- He was succeeded by his son Rajadiraja and he was then succeeded by **Rajendra, Virarajendra, Koluttunga-I**.
- **Koluttunga –I** was a famous ruler.He take the title **Sungam Tavirtta**, means the one who abolished tolls.
- Up to 1115, the extand of Chola Empire was undiminished except the loss of cylone.
- After Koluttinga-I Chola Empire continued for another 150 years and gradually declined.
- Cholas was famous for their **village administration**.
- They also maintained a **strong navy** which one of the best in the world at that time.

##### Architecture:

- The **Vimana & Gopuram** style of temple architecture belongs to cholas.
- Cholas are particularly known for their **Nataraja statue** (Bronze).

## Dynasties of east India:

### **Pala:**

- The founder of Pala dynasty was **Gopala** and it was founded in the year AD 750. They had control over Bengal & Bihar. Their period is known as golden age of Bengal.
- Gopala's son Dharmapala succeeded him.
- Dharmapala revived **Nalanda** dynasty.
- Dharmapala founded **Vikramshila University**. It was a centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.
- His son Devapala succeeded Dharmapala. He is said to have defeated Hunas and conquered Utkala & Kamarupa.
- Devapala's court was adorned with the Buddhist poet **Vajradutta**, the author of **Lokeswara sathaka**. After Devapala, the Palas became weak.

### **Senas:**

- Pala dynasty was succeeded by **Sena dynasty**.
- Sena dynasty was founded by **Vijayasena** towards the end of 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- The most important king of Sena dynasty was **Laxmana sena**. **Jayadeva** the author of **Geetha Govinda** was the court poet of Laxman sena.
- During Laxmana sena's reign, **Bhakthiar Khalji** invaded & **destroyed Nalanda** University.

## North India – Dynasties (AD 730-1036):

### **Pratiharas:**

- Pratiharas are also known as Gurjara Pratiharas because they are said to have originated from **Gujarat**.
- The dynasty was founded by Naga bhatta-I.
- **Bhoja / Mihir Boja** was the greatest ruler of this dynasty who adopted the title '**Adivarah**'.

## Chalukyas of Solenki (AD 950 – 1200):

- They also ruled over the major parts of Gujarath and Kathivar. The most prominent ruler of this dynasty was **Bhima I**. During his reign the famous **Dilwara temples of Mont Abu** was constructed.
- Other important dynasties throughout India during this period are **Hoysalas of Mysore, Kakathias of Warangal, Yadavas of Devagiri and Chalukyas of Kalyani**.
- **Halebid & Belur temples** are the best examples of Hoysala architecture.
- The capital of Hoysalas is **Dwara Samudra**.

## Religious Movements (AD 750-1200) :

- The period from AD 750 -1200 witnessed the survival of Hinduism & the decline of Buddhism & Jainism. The person behind the revival of Hinduism was **Sankaracharya** (AD 788-820)
- He was born at **Kalady** in Kerala. He travelled throughout India and established 4 mutts.
  - 1) Badrinath - Uttrakhand
  - 2) Dwaraka - Gujarat
  - 3) Puri - Odisha
  - 4) Sringeri - Karnataka.
- He passed away at Kedarnath in Himalaya at the age of 32.
- He is also known as **Kapata Buddha**, because his teachings helped to revive Hinduism and caused the decline of Buddhism.
- He propounded the **advaita philosophy**.