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INDIAN CONSTITUTION

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HISTORY

INDIAN ANCIENT HISTORY

PREHISTORIC PERIOD (30,00,000 - 600 BC)

Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age) (2,50,000 - 10,000 BC)

- Earth is estimated to be over **4000 million** years old.
- Robert Bruce Foot** discovered the first Paleolithic stone tool in **1863 near Chennai**.
- The Paleolithic Age in India is divided into three phases:

a) Lower Paleolithic (250,000 - 100,000 BC)

- ✓ First stone tool fabrication began with the **Oldowan tradition** (stone-tool making by *Homo habilis*).
- ✓ **Splintered stones (Eoliths)** were the earliest tools, including hand axes and cleavers.

b) Middle Paleolithic (100,000 - 40,000 BC)

- ✓ Development of a **crude pebble industry**, with small stone tools called **microliths**.
- ✓ Early evidence of sewing using **bone needles** for making fur and skin garments.

c) Upper Paleolithic (40,000 - 10,000 BC)

- ✓ Similar lifestyle to **Neanderthals & Homo erectus**.
- ✓ Earliest evidence of **bone artifacts and fishing** (e.g., Blombos Cave, South Africa).
- ✓ **Polished tools, mortars, and pestles** for grinding grains appeared.

The **Quaternary period** is divided into:

- Pleistocene (2 million years)**
- Holocene (10,000 years - present)**

Mesolithic Age (9,000 - 4,000 BC)

- Transition between Paleolithic and Neolithic ages.
- Characterized by **Microliths** (small, sharp stone tools).
- Early domestication of animals and hunting-gathering communities.

Mesolithic Sites	Location	Key Features
Bagor	Rajasthan	Microlithic tools, hunting & pastoralism.
Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Earliest evidence of animal domestication.
Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	Over 500 painted rock shelters.
Langhnaj	Gujarat	Early evidence of burial practices.
Mohrana Pahara	Mirzapur, UP	Burial evidence found.

- The terms "Paleolithic" and "Neolithic" were introduced by **John Lubbock (1865)**.
- The term "**Mesolithic**" was added by **Hodder Westropp (1866)**.
- People engaged in **hunting, fishing, food gathering**, and later, **animal domestication**.
- Early cave paintings depicted birds, animals, and human figures.

Neolithic Age (7,000 - 1,000 BC)

- Marked the transition from food gathering to **food production**.
- Use of **polished stone tools and microlithic blades**.
- Agriculture: Cultivation of **ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, barley**.
- Domesticated **cattle, sheep, and goats**.
- Housing: **Rectangular/circular mud and reed houses**.
- Early pit-dwelling evidence from **Burzahom, Kashmir**.
- The **Metal Age** began with copper and bronze tools.

Neolithic Sites	Location	Features
Mehrgarh	Baluchistan (Pakistan)	First to produce cotton, lived in mud-brick houses.
Burzahom	Kashmir	Pit dwellings, domesticated dogs buried with owners.
Gufkral	Kashmir	Practiced both agriculture and animal domestication.
Chirand	Bihar	Used bone tools and weapons.
Pikilihal, Brahmagiri, Maski, etc.	Karnataka	Cattle-herding, ash mounds found.
Paiyampalli	Tamil Nadu	Neolithic settlements.
Utnur	Andhra Pradesh	Evidence of early settlements.

Chalcolithic Culture (3500 - 1000 BC)

- The term **Chalcolithic** (Greek "khalkos" = copper, "lithos" = stone) refers to **Copper-Stone Age**.
- Also called the **Eneolithic Age** (from Latin "aeneus" = copper).
- First **metal age in India**, introducing **copper and low-grade bronze** tools.
- Settlements divided into **Pre-Harappan, Harappan, and Post-Harappan**.
- Farming communities thrived between **2000 BC - 700 BC** in **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, South & East India**.
- Domesticated **cattle, sheep, and goats**.
- Tools**: Used **microlithic blades, stone hoes, digging sticks**, and bone tools (found in **Burzahom, Kashmir & Chirand, Bihar**).
- Housing**: Lived in **mud and reed houses**. People of **Mehrgarh** lived in **mud-brick houses**, while **pit-dwelling** was common in **Burzahom (Kashmir)**.
- Community Life**: Lived in **settled farming societies**, with common property ownership.
- Metal Usage**: Development of **copper smelting and metal artifacts**. Microlithic tools remained in use.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (2500–1750 BC)

- Considered **India's first urban civilization**, also called **Harappan Civilization**.
- Emerg

- Discovered in the 1920s by the Archaeological Survey of India (John Marshall named it the "Indus Valley Civilization").

Chronology & Phases:

- Early Harappan Phase (3300–2600 BCE) – Small

Site	Excavated by	Location	Findings
Harappa	Daya Ram Sahni (1921)	Punjab (Pakistan) (River Ravi)	Sandstone statues, granaries, bullock carts.
Mohenjodaro	R.D. Banerjee (1922)	Sindh (Pakistan) (River Indus)	Bronze dancing girl, Pasupathi seal, Great Bath.
Sutkagendor	Stein (1929)	Balochistan (Dast river)	A trade point between Harappa and Babylon.
Lothal	R. Rao (1953)	Gujarat (Bhogva river)	Dockyard, rice husk, chess board
Kalibangan	Ghose (1953)	Rajasthan (Ghaggar river)	Fire altars, camel bones, wooden plough
Dholavira	R.S. Bisht (1985)	Gujarat	Water reservoirs, water harnessing system
Surkotada	J.P. Joshi (1964)	Gujarat	Horse bones, beads
Chanhudaro	N.G. Majumdar (1931)	Sindh (Indus river)	Bead-making factory, footprints of a dog chasing a cat

settlements, trade networks.

- Mature Harappan Phase (2600–1900 BCE) – Major urban centers developed (Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal).
- Late Harappan Phase (1900–1300 BCE) – Gradual decline and abandonment of cities.

Important Indus Valley Sites & Finds:

Features of Indus Valley Civilization:

- Town Planning & Architecture:
 - Grid-pattern cities with well-planned streets and drainage systems.
 - Citadel & lower town: Upper class lived in the citadel, common people in lower town.
 - Great Bath (Mohenjodaro) used for ritual bathing.
 - Granaries stored surplus food grains.
- Agriculture:
 - First to grow cotton (called Sindon by Greeks).
 - Main crops: wheat, barley, sesame, peas, rice (rare).
 - Used oxen and wooden ploughs for farming.
- Economy & Trade:
 - Trade was highly developed, with links to Mesopotamia (Meluha in Sumerian texts).
 - Barter system (no metal currency).
 - Exports: Cotton, beads, lapis lazuli, carnelian.
 - Imports: Tin (Afghanistan), silver (Iran), jade (China).
- Crafts & Industry:

- Metalwork: Copper from Rajasthan, tin from Afghanistan (for bronze-making).
- Pottery: Glossy, black-on-red pottery.
- Seal-making: Pictographic script (not yet deciphered).
- Bead-making, jewelry-making, shipbuilding.

- Script & Language:
 - Pictographic script, written right to left.
 - Likely Dravidian-based, but undeciphered.
- Religion & Beliefs:
 - Worshipped Mother Goddess (fertility).
 - Pasupathi Mahadeva (Proto-Shiva) on seals, surrounded by animals.
 - Sacred animals: Unicorn, humped bull, elephant.
 - No temples found, suggesting a non-theocratic society.
- Decline of Indus Valley Civilization (1800 BCE - 1300 BCE):
 - Exact cause unknown, theories include:
 - Natural disasters (floods, earthquakes).
 - Drying up of rivers (Ghaggar-Hakra).
 - Aryan invasion (debatable).

VEDIC CULTURE (1500 BC – 600 BC)

Arrival of the Aryans

- The Aryans were semi-nomadic pastoral people.
- Their origin is debated—Max Muller suggests they came from the Caspian Sea region (Central Asia), while others propose the Russian Steppes.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak believed they came from the Arctic region.
- The Aryans first settled in Iran before moving to India.
- The Vedic Age began when the Aryans occupied the Indo-Gangetic Plains, especially Punjab (2000-1500 BC).
- They are believed to have entered India through the Khyber Pass.
- Unlike the urbanized Indus Valley Civilization, the Aryans lived a rural, semi-nomadic life.
- The Boghazkoi Inscription (Asia Minor, Turkey) mentions four Vedic deities—Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas—supporting the Central Asian theory of Aryan origin.

Chronology of the Vedic Age

The Vedic period is divided into:

- Early Vedic Age (1500 BC – 1000 BC): Also called the Rig Vedic Period, when the Aryans were believed to have invaded and settled in India.
- Later Vedic Age (1000 BC – 600 BC): Marked by the expansion of Aryan settlements and socio-political changes.

Vedic Literature

- The term ‘Veda’ comes from the Sanskrit root ‘Vid’, meaning ‘to know’ or ‘superior knowledge’.
- The first three Vedas—Rig, Sama, and Yajur—are known as Vedatrayi (Trio of Vedas).
- The Vedas are considered Apaurusheya (not man-made, but divine revelations).
- They are eternal (Nitya) and passed down orally.

The Four Vedas

1. Rig Veda

- Meaning: "Praise Knowledge".
- Comprises **1,028 hymns and 10,600 verses**, divided into **10 Mandalas**.
- The **oldest text** in any Indo-European language, dating back to **1700 BC**.
- Hymns are called **Suktas**, used in rituals.
- **Indra** is the most frequently mentioned deity. Other important gods include **Varuna (sky god)**, **Agni (fire god)**, and **Surya (sun god)**.
- Contains the famous **Gayatri Mantra (Savitri)**.
- Mentions **varna system** (four-fold social order), **Sudras**, **Gamester’s Lament**, and the **Purusha Sukta** hymn.

2. Sama Veda

- Considered the **origin of Indian classical music**.
- Contains **1,549 verses**, mostly borrowed from Rig Veda (except 75).
- Divided into two parts: **Gana (melodies)** and **Archika (verses book)**.
- **Sama Veda Samhita** is more of a **musical score than a text**.

3. Yajur Veda

- Meaning: ‘Worship Knowledge’.
- Dates back to **1200-800 BCE**, parallel to Sama Veda.
- Contains **ritual-offering mantras** used by priests during sacrifices (**Yajnas**).
- Contains **1,875 verses**, mostly from Rig Veda.
- Includes the **Shatapatha Brahmana**, a significant commentary.

4. Atharva Veda

- Focuses on **charms, magic spells, and healing rituals**.
- Dates back to **1000-800 BCE**.
- Contains **730 hymns, 6,000 mantras, and 20 books**.
- **Atharvan** Rishi is believed to have composed it and introduced the **fire-sacrifice (Yajna)**.
- **No Aranyakas** are associated with Atharva Veda.

Additional Vedic Texts

The Brahmanas

- Explain **Vedic hymns and sacrifices**.
- Written in **prose** and **ritualistic in nature**.
- Each Veda has attached **Brahmanas**:
 - 1. **Rig Veda** → **Aitareya & Kaushitaki Brahmanas**.
 - 2. **Sama Veda** → **Tandya & Jaiminiya Brahmanas**.
 - 3. **Yajur Veda** → **Taittiriya & Shatapatha Brahmanas**.
 - 4. **Atharva Veda** → **Gopatha Brahmana**.

The Aranyakas

- "**Forest Texts**" meant for hermits and students in forests.
- Bridge between **Brahmanas and Upanishads**.
- Shifted focus from **ritualistic to spiritual** beliefs.

The Upanishads

- Final phase of **Vedic literature**, dealing with **philosophy and metaphysics**.
- Also known as **Vedanta** ("end of the Vedas").
- Discuss **soul, Brahman, rebirth, and karma theory**.
- **108 Upanishads** exist, major ones include:

- ✓ **Brihadaranyaka**: Oldest, discusses transmigration of **Atman**.
- ✓ **Katha**: Story of **Nachiketa and Yama** (soul, knowledge, and Moksha).
- ✓ **Chandogya**: Rhythms and mantra chanting.
- ✓ **Aitareya**: Creation of **Atman and consciousness**.
- ✓ **Mundaka**: Source of "**Satyamev Jayate**" (India’s national motto).

Post-Vedic Literature (600 BC - 600 AD)

1. Vedangas (Sutra Literature)

- "**Limbs of the Vedas**", written during the Sutra period.

Vedanga	Meaning	Focus Area	Key Texts/Scholars
Shiksha	Phonetics & Pronunciation	Correct pronunciation, intonation, & sound patterns of Vedic chants	<i>Pratishakhyas, Shiksha texts by Panini & Yaska</i>
Vyakarana	Grammar	Structure of Sanskrit language, rules for correct usage	Panini’s Ashtadhyayi
Chandas	Meter & Prosody	Poetic meters and rhythmic structure of hymns	Pingala’s Chanda Shastra
Nirukta	Etymology & Lexicon	Meaning and origin of difficult Vedic words	Yaska’s Nirukta (first Sanskrit dictionary)
Kalpa	Rituals & Sacrificial Practices	Vedic rituals, ceremonies, and moral duties	<i>Shrauta, Grihya, and Dharma Sutras</i>
Jyotisha	Astronomy & Astrology	Study of planetary movements, timekeeping for rituals	<i>Vedanga Jyotisha</i>

3. Upavedas (Auxiliary Vedas)

- a) Ayurveda (Medicine) — Rig Veda
- b) Gandharvaveda (Music & Dance) — Sama Veda
- c) Dhanurveda (Archery / Military Science) — Yajur Veda.
- d) Shilpaveda (Architecture, Crafts & Engineering) — Atharva Veda

3. Smriti (Dharmashastras)

- Six majors Smritis were compiled in the **Pre-Gupta and Gupta period**.

4. Puranas

- **18 major Puranas**, oldest being **Matsya Purana**.
- Other famous ones: **Bhagavata, Vishnu, Vayu, Brahmanda**.

5. Mahakavyas (Epics)

Features	Ramayana	Mahabharata
Time Period	Treta Yuga	Dwapara Yuga
Authorship	Valmiki	Vyasa
Length	About 24,000 verses	About 100,000 verses (longest epic)
Main Conflict	Rama’s exile and battle against Ravana to rescue Sita	Kauravas vs. Pandavas for the throne of Hastinapura

Protagonist	Lord Rama	Lord Krishna (divine guide) and Arjuna (warrior)
Main Antagonist	Ravana, King of Lanka	Duryodhana & Kauravas
Female Lead	Sita (ideal wife and symbol of devotion)	Draupadi (strong-willed, married to five Pandavas)
Moral Lessons	Ideal behavior, duty, sacrifice, and loyalty	Duty vs. moral dilemmas, righteousness in war, karma
Major War	Battle of Lanka (Rama vs. Ravana)	Kurukshetra War (Pandavas vs. Kauravas)

6. Shad-Darshanas (Six Schools of Indian Philosophy)

— The Four Purusharthas —			
S.No.	Purushartha (Goal)	Meaning	Related Texts
1.	Artha	Material prosperity, wealth, and statecraft	Arthashastra by Kautilya
2.	Dharma	Moral duty and regulation of social order	Dharmashastras
3.	Kama	Physical pleasure, love, and emotional fulfillment	Kamasutra by Vatsyayana
4.	Moksha	Liberation from the cycle of birth and death	Philosophical texts (Darshana, Upanishads)

There are six orthodox Philosophies;

Philosophy	Founder	About
Sankhya	Kapila	"Samkhya" means count. Initially focused on Nature; later included Purusha (4th century AD). Salvation through real knowledge, ending misery. Knowledge obtained via Anumana (inference), Shabda (hearing), and Pratyaksha (perception).
Yog	Patanjali	Salvation through physical application and meditation. Emphasizes control over pleasure. Involves Asanas (physical postures) and Pranayama (breathing exercises).
Nyaya	Akshapada Gautama	Salvation through knowledge. Focus on logic and inference .
Vaishesika	Uluka Kanada	Emphasizes Dravya (material elements). Propounds Atom Theory (objects are made of atoms). Believes in salvation and heaven , combining scientific thought with spiritualism and God.
Mimansa	Jaimini	"Mimansa" means interpretation and reasoning. Aims for salvation and heaven . Advocates Vedic sacrifices to uphold rituals and social hierarchy.

Vedanta	Badarayana	"Vedanta" means the end of the Veda . Based on Brahmasutra ; linked with Karma theory . Brahma is the only reality; everything else is Maya (illusion) . Atma (soul) and Brahma (ultimate reality) are eternal. Belief in Punarjanma (rebirth) and suffering beyond human control.
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Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

- The Schools of Indian Philosophy that do not accept the authority of Vedas are **unorthodox (nastika)** systems. They questioned the existence of God. The heterodox schools of Indian Philosophy are discussed below;

S.No	School	Propounder	Teachings
1	Ajivika (Fatalism)	Makkhali Gosala (Disciple of Vardhaman Mahavira)	Believed that everything is predestined and governed by fate. Emphasized Karma, Fatalism, and extreme passivity. Popular during the Mauryan ruler Bindusara’s reign.
2	Unchedavada (Materialism)	Ajita Kesakambali	First known proponent of Indian materialism. Believed in complete annihilation after death.
3	Nityavada (Eternalism)	Pakudha Kaccayana	Considered earth, water, fire, air, joy, sorrow, and soul as eternal.
4	Sandehvada (Agnosticism)	Sanjaya Belatthiputta	Advocated skepticism: “I do not think in that way or otherwise; nor do I deny it.”
5	Akriyavada (Amoralism)	Purana Kassapa	Rejected the concept of moral consequences for good or bad deeds. Part of the Śramaṇa movement.

RIG VEDIC SOCIETY

1. Social Structure:

- ✓ Society was based on **Jana (tribe)**, where loyalty was given to the community.
- ✓ **Patriarchy** was dominant, and **son preference** was prevalent.
- ✓ **Cow meat was prohibited** in dietary habits.

2. Social Divisions:

- ✓ The term **Varna** was initially used in the Rig Veda to distinguish between Aryans (fair-skinned) and Dasas (dark-skinned), not Brahmins or Kshatriyas.
- ✓ The term **Shudra (Non-Aryans)** appeared in the **Tenth Mandala** of the Rig Veda.
- ✓ The **fourfold Varna system** (*Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra*) was formalized after the **Purusha Sukta Hymn**.

3. Position of Women:

- ✓ Women participated in **Sabha and Vidhata (tribal assemblies)**.
- ✓ Both **polygamy and monogamy** were practiced.
- ✓ Women held a **respectable status** in society.
- ✓ **Child marriage and Sati were present**.
- ✓ The **marriageable age for girls was 16–17 years**.
- ✓ **Widow remarriage** was allowed, along with the **Niyoga (levirate) practice**, where a widow could cohabit with her brother-in-law until bearing a son.

Aryan Conflicts & Wars

- 1. **Arrival and Conflicts:**
 - ✓ The **Aryans arrived in India around 1500 BCE** and clashed with the **Dasas (indigenous people)** and **Dasyus (hostile tribes)**.
 - ✓ The **Dasyuhatya (slaughter of Dasyus)** is frequently mentioned in the Rig Veda.
 - ✓ Indra, referred to as **Purandara (destroyer of forts)**, led Aryan victories over native tribes.
 - ✓ Conflicts were fought **against both indigenous people and among Aryan clans themselves**.
- 2. **The Dasarajna (Battle of Ten Kings):**
 - ✓ The **Bharata clan**, led by King **Sudas**, fought against **ten kings** (five Aryan, five non-Aryan) near the **Parushni (Ravi) River**.
 - ✓ Sudas emerged victorious, and later, the Bharatas allied with the Purus to form the **Kuru clan**.

Economic Structure

- **Pastoralists** who practiced **agriculture, carpentry, weaving, goldsmithing, and pottery**.
- **Metal usage:** Copper, iron, and bronze products were common.
- Trade evolved from **barter** to the use of **coins called Nishka**.
- **Cotton and wool fabrics** were spun and used

Political Structure

- **Monarchical Government** with the **King (Rajan)** as the ruler.
- Some **Republics (Ganas)** were governed by a leader called **Ganapati or Jyestha**.
- **Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata, and Gana** were important tribal assemblies that performed **political, military, and religious functions**.
- Tribal kingdoms included **Bharatas, Matsyas, Yadus, and Purus**.
- The king was responsible for **protecting the tribe (Jana) and cattle wealth**.
- **Vishvamitra composed the Gayatri Mantra** to promote Aryan expansion.
- Rivers in the Vedic Age (**Sapta Sindhu**)

Religion in the Rig Vedic Age

- **Fire sacrifices (Yajnas)** were conducted for prosperity.
- Offerings included **ghee, milk, and grains**.
- **Female deities** included **Ushas (Dawn) and Aditi (Mother Goddess)**.
- There were **no temples and no idol worship**.

LATER VEDIC PERIOD (1000 BCE – 600 BCE)

- Also known the **Painted Grey Ware (PWG) Phase**.
- Aryans expanded eastward, settling in western and eastern Uttar Pradesh (Kosala) and Bihar.
- Kingdoms were divided into three main sections.

Religion:

- **Prajapati** (the creator) and **Vishnu** (the preserver) gained prominence.
- **Indra** and **Agni** lost their earlier significance.
- Indo-Aryan Sanskrit was the primary language.
- **Pushana** became the deity of the Shudras.
- **Henotheism**—the worship of many gods, with each considered supreme at different times.

Political Structure:

- Formation of **Mahajanapadas** by merging smaller kingdoms.
- The king's authority grew, supported by various sacrifices like:
 - a) **Rajasuya** (consecration ceremony)
 - b) **Vajapeya** (chariot race)
 - c) **Ashwamedha** (horse sacrifice)
- The influence of traditional tribal assemblies (**Sabha and Samiti**) declined.

Ancient Name	Modern Name
Sindhu	Indus
Satudru	Sutlej
Vipasa	Beas
Asikni	Chenab
Parushni	Ravi
Vistasta	Jhelum
Naditarna	Saraswati

Social Structure:

- The **Varna system** became more rigid, shifting from occupation-based to hereditary divisions.
- Women were excluded from public assemblies (**Sabha and Samiti**), leading to a decline in their status.
- Emergence of sub-castes and institutionalization of **Gotra** (clan system).
- **Cows** were regarded as **Aghanya** (not to be killed).
- **Niyoga**—widows could marry their deceased husband's younger brother.
- **Child marriages** became common.
- **Father's property** was inherited by his son.
- **Sura and Soma** (alcoholic drinks) were consumed.
- The concept of **pollution** appeared, further lowering women's status.
- **Mahayajnas**—grand royal sacrifices performed by kings and aristocrats.

Economic Structure:

- **Agriculture** remained the primary occupation.
- Industrial activities included **metalwork, pottery, and carpentry**.
- Trade extended to distant regions like **Babylon and Sumeria**.
- **Unfamiliar with cats, camels, and tigers**, but aware of **lions, elephants, and boars**.

MAHAJANAPADAS (600 BCE – 325 BCE)

- During the **6th century BCE**, powerful kingdoms emerged, called **Mahajanapadas** (Great Kingdoms).
- Derived from "**Maha**" (**great**) and "**Janapada**" (**foothold of a tribe or country**).
- Monarchical and Republic governance.

Rise of the Magadhan Empire

The weaker kingdoms slowly either submitted or were conquered, leaving **four dominant kingdoms**:

1. Vatsa

- **Location:** On the banks of the **Yamuna River** (modern **Prayagraj, Mirzapur**).
- **Capital:** **Kausambi** (near Allahabad).
- **Notable Ruler:** **Udayana**.
- Eventually annexed by **Avanti**.

2. *Avanti*

- **Capital:** Ujjain.
- **Notable Ruler:** Pradyota.
- **Promoted Buddhism** before being annexed by **Kosala**.

3. *Kosala*

- **Capital:** Ayodhya.
- **Notable Ruler:** Prasenajit, an educated king.
- He married his sister to **Bimbisara** of Magadha and gave **Kashi** as dowry.
- **Constant conflict with Magadha** led to its eventual annexation.

4. *Magadha*

- **Time Period:** 684 BCE – 320 BCE.
- Mentioned in **Mahabharata** and **Ramayana**.
- **Founded by:** King **Brihadratha**.
- **First King:** **Bimbisara** (Haryanka Dynasty).
- **Capitals:** Initially **Rajgir (Rajagriha)**, later shifted to **Pataliputra** in the **4th century BCE**.
- **Reasons for Magadha's Success:**
 1. **Rich iron deposits** for making weapons.
 2. **Fertile Gangetic plains** for agriculture.
 3. **Use of elephants** in military warfare.
 4. Efficient administration under rulers like **Bimbisara**, **Ajatashatru**, and **Mahapadma Nanda**.
 5. **Strategic location** along the **Ganges River**, facilitating trade and communication.

THE HARYANKA DYNASTY (544 BC TO 412 BC)

- Second dynasty of Magadha, founded by King **Bhattiya** (father of **Bimbisara**).
- Kings were seen as protectors of society and dharma, with the right to collect taxes.

Main Rulers:

1. **Bimbisara (544 BC – 492 BC)**
 - ✓ Contemporary of **Gautama Buddha** and **Mahavira**.
 - ✓ Built New **Rajagriha** and promoted **Buddhism** and **Jainism**.
 - ✓ Imprisoned and killed by his son **Ajatashatru**.
2. **Ajatashatru (492 BC – 460 BC)**
 - ✓ Strengthened **Rajgir** and recognized **Pataligram**’s strategic importance.
 - ✓ Convened the **First Buddhist Council** at **Rajagriha**.
3. **Udayin (460 BC – 444 BC)**
 - ✓ Built the fort at **Pataliputra**, making it the capital.
 - ✓ Weak successors led to the rise of the **Shishunaga** dynasty.

Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BC – 344 BC)

- **Shishunaga**, a minister, was elected king after **Naga-Dasak**’s failure.
- His successor, **Kakavarma/Kalasoka**, convened the **Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali**.
- Overthrown by the **Nandas**.

Nanda Dynasty (345 BC – 321 BC)

- Founded by **Mahapadma Nanda**, who expanded **Magadha** by conquering **Kalinga**.
- **Dhana Nanda**, the last king was overthrown by **Chandragupta Maurya**.

Ancient Universities:

University	Period	Founder	Focus
Taxila	6th BCE	—	Secular, Political Science

Nalanda	5th CE	Kumaragupta I	Mahayana Buddhism
Vikramashila	8th CE	Dharmapala	Vajrayana Buddhism

FOREIGN INVASIONS

The Indian subcontinent witnessed two major foreign invasions:

1. Iranian (Persian) Invasion (518 BC)

- **Cyrus (558–530 BC):** Captured **Gandhara**
- **Darius I (518 BC):** Annexed **Punjab** and **Sindh** as the 20th satrapy
- **Xerxes:** Used Indian troops in Greek campaigns

Impact

- Growth of **Indo-Iranian trade**
- Introduction of **Kharosthi script** (right-to-left)
- Influence on administration and coinage

2. Macedonian (Alexander’s) Invasion (326 BC)

- Alexander became king at **20**
- Invaded north-western India in **326 BC**
- **Ambhi of Taxila** surrendered
- **Porus** resisted at the **Battle of Hydaspes**
- Porus was defeated but reinstated as ruler
- Alexander died at **33** in **Babylon**

Impact

- Opened India to **Indo-Greek interactions**
- Led to **Indo-Bactrian** and **Indo-Parthian states**
- Influenced **art, architecture, coins, and astronomy**.

Exam Points

- First Buddhist Council → **Ajatashatru, Rajagriha**
- Second Buddhist Council → **Kalasoka, Vaishali**
- Pataliputra capital → **Udayin**
- Kharosthi script → **Iranian influence**
- Battle of Hydaspes → **Alexander vs Porus**

Sources of Ancient Indian History

The sources of Indian history are broadly categorized into:

A. Archaeological Sources

1. **Archaeology** – The study of ancient remains like monuments, coins, pottery, and tools, excavated from historical sites. Scientific methods like radiocarbon dating are used for dating artifacts.
2. **Manuscripts** – Ancient texts written on palm leaves, birch bark, or paper in languages like Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, and Tamil.
3. **Inscriptions (Epigraphy)** – Engravings on stones, pillars, bricks, and metals. The study of ancient scripts is known as **Palaeography**.
 - ✓ **Ashokan inscriptions** were the first to be deciphered in 1837 by **James Prinsep**.
4. **Numismatics (Study of Coins)** – Coins made of gold, silver, copper, and lead provide insight into trade, economy, rulers, and religious beliefs.
 - ✓ **Kushanas** were the first to issue **gold coins** in India.

Literary Sources

Indian Literary Sources

- **Vedic Literature:** Includes the four **Vedas** (**Rigveda**, **Yajurveda**, **Samaveda**, and **Atharvaveda**) and later texts like **Brahmanas**, **Aranyakas**, and **Upanishads**.
- **Epics & Puranas:**
 - ✓ **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** – Epic narratives with historical significance.
 - ✓ **Puranas** – Contain mythological and historical accounts.

- **Buddhist & Jain Literature:**
 - ✓ **Jataka Tales** – Buddhist stories written in Pali.
 - ✓ **Ashokan Edicts** – Written in Pali, providing insights into Buddhism.
- **Political & Historical Works:**
 - ✓ **Arthashastra** (by Kautilya) – A treatise on statecraft, economy, and administration.
 - ✓ **Mudrarakshasa** (by Vishakhadatta) – A play depicting Mauryan history.
 - ✓ **Harshacharita** (by Banabhatta) – A biography of Harshavardhana.
 - ✓ **Rajatarangini** (by Kalhana) – A historical chronicle of Kashmir.
- **Sangam Literature:**
 - ✓ Tamil poetry describing South Indian rulers, dynasties, and society (4th century AD).

Foreign Accounts

- **Greek Accounts:**
 - ✓ **Herodotus** – Wrote about Indo-Persian relations.
 - ✓ **Megasthenes** – Greek ambassador in Chandragupta Maurya’s court; wrote **Indica** (lost, but cited by later historians).
 - ✓ **Arrian** – Wrote a detailed account of Alexander’s invasion.
- **Chinese Accounts:**
 - ✓ **Fa-Hien (5th century AD)** – Wrote about Indian society and Buddhism.
 - ✓ **Hiuen-Tsang (7th century AD)** – Described Harshavardhana’s rule.
 - ✓ **I-Tsing (7th century AD)** – Provided insights into Buddhism.
- **Arab Accounts:**
 - ✓ **Al-Biruni** – An Arab scholar who studied Sanskrit and documented Indian culture and society during Mahmud of Ghazni’s reign.

Monuments	Builders
Sanchi Stupa (MP)	Ashoka
Bharhut Stupa	Sungas
Virupaksha Temple	Chalukyas Of Badami
Mahabodhi Temple	Palas
Ellora Kailashanatha Temple	Krishna I (Rashtrakut)
Elephanta Caves (Mumbai)	Rashtrakutas
Sun Temple Konark	Narasimha I
Khajuraho Temple	Chandellas of Bundel
Sun Temple at Modhera	Solanki of Gujarat
Hazara Temple (Karnataka)	Krishnadevaraya
Meenakshi Temple (Tamil Nadu)	Tirumala Nayak
Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur (Karnataka)	Mohamed Adil Shah
Vitthalaswami Temple	Krishnadevaraya
Statue of Gometeswara	Chamundaraya

Pre-Mauryan Age

Archaeological Evidence

- **Ashokan Edicts** – Rock, pillar, and cave inscriptions deciphered by **James Prinsep (1837 AD)**.

- **Material Remains** –
 - ✓ **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)** – Pottery from the Mauryan period.
 - ✓ **Punch-marked Coins** – Made of silver and copper, reflecting trade and economy

MAURYAN PERIOD (322–184 B.C.)

- The Puranas mention Mauryas as 'Shudras,' while Mudrarakshasa calls them of a low clan.
- Junagarh Rock Inscription hints at a possible Vaishya origin.
- Buddhist texts trace their lineage to the Sakya Kshatriya clan of Buddha and link their name to "Moriyas" (peacock region).

Chandragupta Maurya (322–298 B.C.)

- Overthrew Dhana Nanda & established the Mauryan Empire.
- Defeated Seleucus Nicator (305 B.C.), gaining control over modern Afghanistan.
- Allied with Seleucus through marriage and gifted 500 elephants.
- Embraced Jainism in later years and fasted to death in Shravanabelagola.

Bindusara (297–272 B.C.)

- Called "**Amitraghata**" (Slayer of Enemies) by the Greeks.
- Maintained relations with Seleucid Syria.

Ashoka the Great (268–232 B.C.)

- Expanded the empire to its greatest extent.
- Defeated Kalinga (261 B.C.), leading to his transformation towards Buddhism and non-violence.
- Promoted "**Dhamma**" (moral code) and sent Buddhist missionaries to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.
- Issued inscriptions in **Brahmi script**, making him the first Indian ruler to communicate directly with the people.

Later Mauryans (232–184 B.C.)

- After Ashoka’s death, the empire weakened and was divided into eastern and western parts.
- The last ruler, Brihadratha, was assassinated by Pushyamitra Sunga, ending the Mauryan dynasty.

Administration & Economy

- **Centralized government** with four provincial capitals (Tosali, Ujjain, Suvarnagiri, Taxila).
- **Efficient taxation system** with officers like **Samaharta** (Revenue Collector) and **Sannidhata** (Treasury Head).
- **Army:** 600,000 infantry, 30,000 cavalry, 9,000 elephants.
- **Municipal Administration** managed by officials like Nagaraka (city head) and Samastha-Adhyaksha (market superintendent).
- **Trade & Transport:** Well-maintained road networks, including the royal road from Pataliputra.

Decline of the Mauryan Empire

- Brahmin opposition to Ashoka’s Buddhist policies.
- Overburdened economy due to a large army and bureaucracy.
- Weak successors and internal corruption.
- Neglect of the northwestern frontier led to foreign invasions.

POST-MAURYAN RULERS

Sunga Dynasty (185 BC – 73 BC)

- Capital: **Vidisha (MP)**
- Founded by **Pushyamitra Sunga**, a Brahmin commander who overthrew the last Mauryan ruler **Brihadratha**.
- Promoted orthodox Hinduism.
- Notable rulers: **Agnimitra**, featured in Kalidasa's *Malvikagnimitra*.
- Important monuments: **Bharhut Stupa, Chaityas, Viharas, and Stupas of Bhaja and Nasika**.

Kanva Dynasty (73 BC – 28 BC)

- Capital: **Pataliputra**
- Established by **Vasudeva**, after assassinating the last Sunga ruler **Devabhuti**.
- Important rulers: **Bhumimitra, Narayana, Susharman**.
- Ended by the **Satavahanas**.

Chedi Dynasty (Kalinga)

- **Kharavela**, the 3rd ruler, engraved the **Hathigumpha inscription** (near Bhubaneswar).
- Also called **Cheta or Chetavamsa Dynasty**.
- Known as **Mahameghavahana** (Lord of the Great Clouds).

Satavahana Dynasty (60 BC – 225 AD)

- Capital: **Amaravati, Prathistan (Maharashtra)**
- Founded by **Simuka**, succeeded by **Krishna, Satakarni**.
- Important rulers:
 - ✓ **Hala** (wrote *Gathasaptasati* in Prakrit).
 - ✓ **Gautamiputra Satakarni** (greatest ruler, patron of Brahmanism and Buddhism).
 - ✓ **Yajna Sri Satakarni** (last great ruler).
- Contributions: **Prakrit inscriptions, rock-cut architecture (Karle Chaitya, Nasik Viharas, Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda)**.
- Decline: Weakened by conflicts with **Western Kshatrapas**, leading to fragmentation in the **3rd century AD**.

Indo-Greeks (165 BC – 130 BC)

- Most famous ruler: **Menander (Milinda)**, converted to Buddhism by **Nagasena** (*Milindapanho*).
- First to issue **gold coins in India**.
- Introduced **Hellenistic art**.

Shaka Dynasty (130 BC – 400 AD)

- Five branches across India (Afghanistan, Punjab, Mathura, Western India, Upper Deccan).
- Notable rulers:
 - **Rudradaman I** (130-150 AD): Repaired **Sudarsana Lake**, issued **Junagarh Inscription** (first Sanskrit inscription).
 - **Vikramaditya of Ujjain** (57 BC): Defeated Shakas, started **Vikram Samvat era**.
- **Chandragupta II (Gupta Dynasty)** later ended Shaka rule.

Kushan Dynasty (1st – 3rd Century AD)

- Origin: **Central Asia (Yuezhi tribe)**.
- Founder: **Kujula Kadphises**.
- Greatest ruler: **Kanishka (78-120 AD)**
 - ✓ Capital: **Purushpura (Peshawar)**.
 - ✓ Patronized **Mahayana Buddhism**, held **4th Buddhist Council (78 AD, Kashmir)**.

- ✓ Scholars: **Asvaghosa, Vasumitra, Nagarjuna, Charaka, Parsva**.
- ✓ Established **Saka Era (78 AD)**.

- Contributions: **Gandhara & Mathura art, Silk Route trade, Satrap system of governance**.

Gurjara-Pratiharas (6th – 11th Century AD)

- Founded by **Harichandra**.
- Important rulers:
 - a) **Nagabhata I** (Defeated Arabs).
 - b) **Nagabhata II** (Rebuilt **Somnath Temple**).
 - c) **Mihirbhoja** (Built **Teli Mandir, Gwalior**).
- Declined in the **10th century** after defeat by **Mahipala I (Pala Dynasty)**.

SANGAM AGE

The Sangam Age (c. 300 BCE–300 CE) was a golden period of Tamil literature and culture. Three Sangams (Muchchangam) were held in ancient Tamil Nadu:

1. **First Sangam** (Madurai) – Attended by sages and gods; no surviving texts.
2. **Second Sangam** (Kapadapuram) – All works lost except **Tolkappiyam**, an early Tamil grammar by Tolkappiyar.
3. **Third Sangam** (Madurai) – Founded by Mudathirumaran; surviving works include **Ettutogai, Pattupattu**, and **Patinenkilkanakku** (which includes **Tirukkural** by Thiruvalluvar, known as the "Bible of Tamil Land").

Sangam Literature & Epics

- **Silappadikaram** by Ilango Adigal – A love story, called the "Iliad of Tamil poetry."
- **Manimekalai** by Sittalai Sattanar – A Buddhist epic, a sequel to Silappadikaram.
- **Sivaga Sindamani** by Jain Tiruttakrdevas – Influenced by Jainism.
- **Tirukkural** by Thiruvalluvar – A text of ethics and philosophy.

Sangam Society & Economy

- Tamil lands were ruled by **Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas**.
- Indian pepper was highly valued, known as "**Yavanpriya**" in Sanskrit.
- Five ecological zones (**Panchtinai**) determined occupations:
 1. **Kurinji** (Hills) – Hunting & gathering
 2. **Palai** (Arid zone) – Cattle raiding & robbery
 3. **Mullai** (Pastoral land) – Agriculture & animal husbandry
 4. **Marutam** (Wetlands) – Plough agriculture
 5. **Neital** (Coastal) – Fishing & salt production

Dynasties of Sangam Age

Chera Dynasty

- Capital: **Vanji** (Later **Mahodayapuram**).
- Ports: **Tondi & Musiri**.
- **Cheran Senguttuvan** introduced **Pattini cult** (worship of Kannagi).
- First known king: **Nedunjral Adan** (Udiyanjeral).

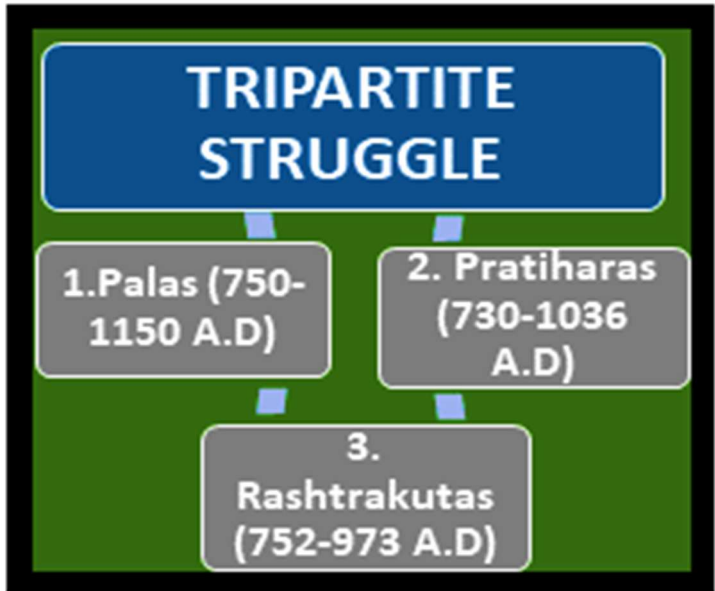
Chola Dynasty

- Capitals: **Uraiyur, Puhar, Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram**.
- Founder: **Vijayalaya Chola**.
- **Raja Raja I** (985-1014 CE) expanded the empire.

- **Rajendra I** built **Gangaikondacholapuram**.
- **Karikala Chola** built **Kallanai Dam** on the Kaveri.
- Famous temple: **Brihadeeswarar Temple** (Thanjavur, UNESCO site).
- **Efficient administration**: Divided into Mandalams, Nadu, and Ur (villages).

Pandya Dynasty

- Capital: **Madurai**; port: **Korkai**.
- First king: **Kadungon** (defeated Kalabhras).
- **Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan** (1251-1261 CE) – "Second Rama."
- Declined after **Malik Kafur's invasion** (14th century).



Pala Dynasty

- Founded by **Gopala in 750 AD**, the first Buddhist ruler of Bengal. He gained power after the fall of the Gauda dynasty and established **Odantapuri Monastery in Bihar**.
- **Dharmapala (770-810 AD)** expanded the Pala Empire, making it dominant in North and East India. He founded **Vikramshila University (Bhagalpur, Bihar)** for Buddhist studies.
- **Mahipala (995-1043 AD)** restored lost territories, earning the title "**Second Founder of the Pala Dynasty**."

Rashtrakutas

- Originating from Karnataka, the **Rashtrakuta** dynasty was founded by **Dantidurga in the 8th century AD**.
- **Krishna I** built the famous **Kailasa Temple at Ellora**.
- **Amoghavarsha I (815-880 AD)** promoted Jainism, wrote "**Kavirajamarga**" (first Kannada poetic work), and developed **Manyakheda (Malkhed) as the capital**.
- **Krishna III (936-968 AD)** defeated the **Cholas at Takkolam** and captured **Tanjore & Rameswaram**.

Chalukyas

- Ruled from **Raichur Doab** (between Krishna & Tungabhadra rivers).
- **Aihole**, the first capital, became a religious hub; later, the capital shifted to **Badami (Vatapi)** under **Pulakesin I**.

Pallavas (575-897 AD)

- Established **Tondaimandalam** with capital **Kanchipuram**.
- **Mahendravarman I**, a patron of scholars, composed "**Mattavilasaprahasan**".
- **Narasimhavarman I (Vatapikonda)** defeated **Pulakesin II** and built **Mahabalipuram temples**.
- **Hiuen Tsang** visited Kanchipuram during Pallava rule.

- **Kanchipuram's "Ghatika"** was a major learning center, attracting scholars from all over India.

S. No.	Books (Cultural Contribution)	Author	About
1	Nalachampu	Trivikrama	
2	Kavirahasya	Halayudha	Composed during the reign of Krishna-III.
3	Parsvabhudya	Jinasena	Jinasen was a teacher of Amoghavarsha-I
4	Adipurana	Gunabhadra	The life stories of various jain saints
5	Amogavritti	Sakatayana	Grammer work
6	Ganitasaram	Vircharya	Vircharya was a great Mathematician.
7	Kavirajamarga	Amogavarsha	First Poetic work in Kannada Language
8	Vikramasenavijaya	Pampa	Pampa was a greatest Kannada Poet
9	Santipurna	Ponna	Kannada Poet

GUPTA EMPIRE (319-540 AD)

- Known as the "**Golden Age of India**", it was a prosperous era from 320-550 AD, covering most of the Indian subcontinent.
- Founded by **Sri Gupta (240-280 AD)**, succeeded by **Ghatotkacha (280-319 AD)** and **Chandragupta I (319-335 AD)**.
- **Chandragupta I** started the **Gupta Era (320 AD)** and issued **gold coins (Dinars)**.
- **Samudragupta (330-380 AD)**, called the "**Napoleon of India**" (V.A. Smith), expanded the empire and performed the **Ashvamedha Sacrifice**.
- **Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) (380-415 AD)** defeated the **Sakas**, expanded through **marriages and conquests**, and patronized **Kalidasa** and the **Nine Gems (Navratnas)**.
- **Kumaragupta I (413-467 AD)** founded **Nalanda University**; his successor **Skandagupta (455-467 AD)** repelled **Huna invasions**.
- The empire declined after **Huna attacks**, ending with **Vishnugupta (540-550 AD)**.

Administration & Society

- **Kingship** was **hereditary**, with titles like **Maharajadhiraja**.
- Provinces called **Bhuktis**, districts **Vishayas**, and villages **Gramikas**.
- **Fahien**, a Chinese traveler, noted a **peaceful society** with minimal crime and open trade.

Art & Culture

- **Gupta art flourished**, seen in **Deogarh temple, Mathura & Sarnath statues, Ajanta paintings**.
- **Metallurgy**: Delhi's **Iron Pillar**, **Sultanganj Buddha statue**.
- Literature: **Kalidasa's Shakuntala, Panchatantra (Vishnu Sharma), Mrichchakatika (Sudraka)**.
- **Trade on Silk Route**, exports of **cotton, spices, and cashmere shawls**.

POST GUPTA ERA (UP TO 750 AD)

- The Gupta Empire began to decline in the late 5th century AD, leading to a turbulent period. Magadha and Patliputra lost their prominence.
- Five major powers emerged in North India after the Guptas:

1. **The Hunas:** Nomadic pastoralists who entered India in 458 AD. Rulers like Toramana and Mihirkula ruled briefly but were defeated by Yashodharma of Mandasur.
2. **The Maukharis:** Ruled around Kanauj and parts of Magadha, later overthrowing the Guptas.
3. **The Maitrakas:** Iranian-origin rulers in Gujarat with Valabhi as their capital, a center for trade and learning.
4. **The Pushyabhutis:** Based in Thaneswar, their prominent ruler was Prabhakarvardhan. Harshavardhana later emerged from this dynasty.
5. **The Gaudas:** Ruled Bengal, with Sasanka as a key ruler who invaded Maukharis and detained Rajyasri.

Vakatakas (3rd-5th Century AD)

- A dominant power in Deccan and Central India, succeeding the Satavahanas.
- Founded by Vindhyasakti, expanded under Pravarasena I, who performed Ashvamedha sacrifices.
- Their rule extended from Malwa to Chhattisgarh and the Arabian Sea.

Harshavardhana’s Dynasty (606-647 AD)

- Harshavardhana, from the Pushyabhuti dynasty, was the last great Hindu emperor.
- His capital was **Kannauj**; he was defeated by Pulakesin II of Chalukyas.
- Sources on his reign include **Harshacharita (Banabhatta)** and **Hiuen-Tsang’s accounts**.
- After his death in 647 AD, the empire collapsed.
- **Administration:** Revenue was divided into four parts: for the king, scholars, officials, and religious activities.

Society & Economy:

- Caste system and sub-castes flourished; untouchability was present.
- Women’s status declined, but they weren’t considered inferior.
- Brahmanism revived, leading to Buddhism’s decline.
- Chief revenue source: **1/6th of land produce**, plus taxes on ports and ferries.

Science & Technology

Physics:

- Concept of **Panchbhutas (five elements)**.
- Brahmagupta anticipated Newton’s gravitation theory.

Mathematics:

- Contributions: **Decimal system, notation system, zero**.
- Aryabhata pioneered trigonometry and calculated π (pi).

Astronomy:

- Aryabhata explained solar/lunar eclipses and Earth’s rotation.
- Varahamihira stated that the Moon orbits Earth and Earth orbits the Sun.

Metallurgy & Medicine:

- Advances in iron, copper, and steel. The **Mehrauli iron pillar** is an example.
- **Charaka Samhita & Sushruta Samhita** detailed medical practices like surgery and anesthesia.

Linguistics:

- Development of Sanskrit grammar: **Panini’s Ashtadhyayi, Patanjali’s Mahabhasya**.
- This period witnessed major political shifts, scientific progress, and cultural transformations.



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