

INDIAN HISTORY

PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD

- ▶ The pre-historic period in the history of mankind can roughly be dated from 2,00,000 BC to about 3500–2500 BC, when the first civilization began to take shape.
- ▶ The first modern human beings or Homo Sapiens set foot on the Indian Subcontinent somewhere between 2,00,000 BC and 40,000 BC and they soon spread through a large part of the subcontinent including peninsular India.
- ▶ They continuously flooded the Indian subcontinent in waves of migration from what is present day Iran.
- ▶ The primitive people moved in groups of few families and lived mainly on hunting and gathering.
- ▶ The age when the pre-historic man began to use stone for utilitarian purpose is called as the stone age.
- ▶ Wheat and barley were the first cereals grown by Indians.
- ▶ The name India was derived from the rivername **Sindhu** which is also known as Indus.
- ▶ India was originally considered

as a part of a larger area called **Jambu-dvipa** (The continent of Jambu tree)

- The stages in mans progress from Nomadic to settled life are
 1. **Primitive Food collecting stage** or early and middle stone ages or **Palaeolithic**
 2. **Advanced Food collecting stage** or late stone age or Mesolithic
 3. Transition to incipient food-production or early **Neolithic**
 4. settled village communities or advanced neolithic/**Chalcolithic** and
 5. Urbanisation or **Bronze age**.

Paleolithic Age

The period before 10,000 BC belongs to the Palaeolithic Age (old stone age) . Man was no more than a hunter and food gatherer. This period falls into the geological period called the

Pleistocene to the end of the third Riss, glaciation.

- ▶ The **Palaeolithic** culture had a duration of about 3,00,000 yrs.
- ▶ The art of hunting and stalking wild animals individually and later in groups led to these people making stone weapons and tools.
- ▶ The principal tools are hand axes, cleavers and chopping tools. The majority of tools found were made of quartzite. They are found in all parts of India except the Central and eastern mountain and the alluvial plain of the ganges.
- ▶ People began to make ‘specialized tools’ by flaking stones, which were pointed on one end. These kind of tools were generally used to kill small animals and for tearing flesh from the carcass of the hunted animals.

The broken skull specimen of Homo erectus is first & only of its kind in India. This skull was discovered on 5th December, 1982 in the middle of the Narmada valley in Hathnora, Madhya Pradesh. It is the most ancient human remnant so far discovered in Indian subcontinent. Skull belongs to Middle Pleistocene (around 500,000 years ago) age in the geological time scale. Recent finds include a middle palaeolithic quarry in the Kaladgi Basin, southern India. A tradition of Indian rock art dates to 40 or 50,000 years ago.

Mesolithic Age

- ▶ **The Mesolithic** period roughly ranges between 10,000 and 6000 B.C.
- ▶ Apart from hand axes, they also produced crude, stone-tipped, wooden spears, borers and burins.
- ▶ The stone implements are of minute size and hence are called Microliths. The Microliths found at **Brahmagiri** in Mysore, in the Vindhyan, Narmada river and in Gujarat can be assigned to Late Stone Age.
- ▶ This period also saw the domestication of animals and cultivation of wild varieties of crops.
- ▶ The famous Bhimbetka caves near Bhopal belong to the Mesolithic age and are famous for their cave paintings.

Neolithic Age

- ▶ The Neolithic Age or New Stone Age ranges between 6000 to 4000 BC.
- ▶ An important invention of this time was the wheel.
- ▶ It was characterised by settled life, animal husbandry and same form of cultivation depended upon the use of stone.
- ▶ The most striking feature of the culture of the neolithic-chalcolithic sites of the Deccan is their **independent ancestry**.
- ▶ The important neolithic sites excavated include; **Maski, Brahmagiri, Hallur, Kodekal, Sangana Kaller, Takkala Kota** in Karnataka and **Paiyampalli** in Tamilnadu and **Utnur** in Andhra Pradesh.

Copper was known to some of the oldest civilizations on record, and has a history of use that is at least 10,000 years old. **Copper** was probably the first metal to come into use. There exist copper and bronze artifacts from Sumerian cities that date to 3000 BC and Egyptian artifacts of copper and copper-tin alloys. In one pyramid, a copper plumbing system was found that is 5000 years old. Ever since 1822 hoards of copper implements have been collected from the Ganges-Jamuna Doab, and in central India and Deccan. The raw material copper had been found in the copper ore deposits in Rajasthan, Chottanagpur and Singhbhum in Bihar and Orissa.

Chalcolithic Age

- ▶ Chalcolithic Age period ranges between 1800 BC to 1000 BC.
- ▶ Towards the end of Neolithic period metals like bronze and copper began to be used.
- ▶ Chalcolithic cultures extended from the Chotanagpur Plateau to the upper Gangetic basin.
- ▶ Some of the sites of this era are Brahmagiri (near Mysore), Navada toli on River Narmada, Mahishadal in West Bengal and Chirand on the Ganga.
- ▶ The chalcolithic culture was followed by the Iron phase.
- ▶ **Pre-Harappan phase** is found at Kalibhangan in Rajasthan, Banawali in Hariyana and Kot Diji in Sind in Pakistan. The Kayathan Culture (2000 to 1800 BC) is a semi-contemporary of the Harappan culture.

Indus Valley Civilisation

- ▶ Indus Valley civilisation belongs to the Chalcolithic period dated between 3000 BC and 1500 BC. It is a Bronze Age civilisation or a proto Historic civilisation.
- ▶ The Indus Valley population

was heterogenous mainly four racial types.

- i. Mediterranean
- ii. Proto-Australoids
- iii. Mongoloids and
- iv. Alpines

But the majority consisted of the former two.

- ▶ The Harappan culture spread over the whole of Sind, Baluchistan, almost the whole of Punjab, northern Rajasthan, Kathiawar and Gujarat.
- ▶ **Harappa** the first Indus site, was discovered by **Dayaram Sahni** in 1921. It is situated in the province of West Punjab, Montgomery district in Pakistan.
- ▶ Harappa is located on the bank of river Ravi.
- ▶ Mohenjodaro was excavated in 1922 by **R.D. Banerjee**. It is situated in the Larkhana district in Sind on the right bank of river Indus (Now in Pakistan)
- ▶ The famous excavators and Archaeologists were **Sir John Marshall, Mortimer Wheeler, R.D. Banerje, Dales and Sahni.**
- ▶ **The Great Granary, the Great Bath** a piece of woven cotton, a bearded man in steatite and a

bronze dancing girl are found from Mohenjodaro.

- ▶ An assembly hall was also discovered from Mohenjodaro.
- ▶ The most important feature of Harappan civilisation was town planning and urbanism.
- ▶ The word Mohanjodaro in Sindi language means '**the mound of the dead**'.
- ▶ Mohenjodaro was believed to have been destructed by flood.
- ▶ Harappans knew the art of growing cereals, wheat and barley.
- ▶ **Banwali** is situated in Haryana.
- ▶ Like Kalibangan, Amri, Kot Diji and Harappa, Banwali also saw two cultural phases – Pre-Harappan and Harappan – Banwali situated on the bank of lost river Saraswathi. Here we find a large quantity of barley, Sesamum and Mustard.
- ▶ **Chanhudaro**, discovered by N. Gopal Majumdar and Mackey in 1931, is situated in Sind on the bank of river Indus.
- ▶ This site is related to Pre-Harappan culture known as 'Jhangar Culture' and 'Jhukar Culture'.
 - The only site without a citadel.
 - It was an important bead-making centre.
 - It was discovered that most of

The Negroids or Negritos of Pre-historic India were the first human inhabitants, who were food gatherers. The Nagas of Assam and some Andamanese today belong to this group or race. They were acquainted with the bow and arrow. They speak everywhere debased dialects of their neighbours.

The Proto Australoids form the basic elements in the population of India. They underwent transformation owing to admixture with Negritos and Mongoloids. The best examples of this admixture are the kol or Munda type, the Mon-khmer type in Assam-Burma and the Nicobarese in the Nicobar islands.



Proto Australoids

the inhabitants of Chanhudaro were artist.

- ▶ **Kalibangan**, another famous Indus city discovered in 1953 by A. Ghosh, is situated in Rajasthan on the banks of River Ghaggar. Kalibangan stands for **black bangles**.
- ▶ Early phase here shows the earliest evidence of ploughed field in the world.
 - Fire-altars have been found.
 - This is known as third capital of Indus Empire.
 - Houses built mostly of sun dried bricks.
- ▶ **Lothal**, first man made port in

the world and dockyard made of burnt bricks, was discovered in 1957 by S.R. Rao is situated in Gujarat on Bhogava river near Gulf of Cambay.

- ▶ Lothal has evidence of the earliest cultivation of rice.
- ▶ Fire altars, indicating the probable existence of a fire cult have been found.
- ▶ Here, a house had front entrance.
- ▶ **Ropar** is the site situated in Punjab on the banks of river Sutlej. It was discovered in 1955-56 by Y.D.Sharma.
- ▶ The evidence of burying a dog below the human burial is very interesting.
- ▶ Dholvira situated in Gujarat (Kuchch dist) was discovered by J.P. Joshi, excavation carried out by Rabindra Singh Bisht in 1990-91.
- ▶ Wheat, Rice, barley, milk, dates, fish, egg and animal flesh formed their staple food.
- ▶ Agriculture, hunting, fishing and rearing of animals/birds was their main source of livelihood.

The Main Centers of Indus Valley Excavation

Harappa	- Montgomery district of Punjab in Pakistan
Mohenjodaro	- Larkana district of Sind
Lothal	- Gujarat on Bhogava river near Gulf of Cambay
Chanhudaro	- 125 km south of Mohanjodaro in Sind.
Kalibangan	- Rajasthan on the banks of River Ghaggar
Ropar	- Punjab on the banks of river Sutlej
Banwali	- Hissar district of Haryana

The main features of the Indus Civilization includes the use of fire burned bricks, storied buildings with stairways and ventilators, separate bath - room and drainage system, the construction of roads with varied width; the town planning, the Great Bath, the granary, the hindu religious practices, the Pictographic script, the unawareness of the horse, the caste system, iron etc.

- ▶ Harappan people were the earliest people in the world to grow cotton and rice.
- ▶ People cultivated rice at Lothal and Rangpur and barley at Banwali.
- ▶ Harappan people domesticated oxen, buffaloes, goats, camels, sheeps, and pigs. Humped bulls were given special importance. Horses were unknown to the Harappan people.
- ▶ Indus people had trade contacts with Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.
- ▶ The ancient name given to Indus region by Sumerians was **Meluha**.
- ▶ Ornaments of silver, gold, ivory, copper and precious stones were used.
- ▶ Indus people used a gold - silver mixture called **Electrum**.
- ▶ They used bronze and copper but iron was unknown to them.
- ▶ Indus people were the first to use copper in India.

- ▶ Harappans used a system of weights and measures based on 16 and its multiples.
- ▶ The Indus valley people did not construct temples.
- ▶ The chief male deity of the Indus people was **Pasupati Mahadeva (Proto Siva)**.
- ▶ Their Chief female deity was the **Mother Goddess**.
- ▶ They also worshipped fire, pipal trees and Unicorn.
- ▶ Harappan script was Pictographic in nature, which has not been deciphered so far.
- ▶ **Boustrophedan** was their style of writing which follows the direction of writing from right to left then from left to right in the second line and so on.
- ▶ Harappan seals were made of terra - cotta.
- ▶ Chess - like game of Harappans was called **Sent**.
- ▶ Great buildings, double-storied dwellings, and drainage system were in existence.
- ▶ Mortar and baked bricks were used for construction of dwellings.
- ▶ The largest number of Harappan sites in post independent India have been discovered from Gujarat.
- ▶ Harappan civilisation extended from Jammu in the North to Narmada in the South and from Makran coast of Baluchistan in the West to Meerut in the East.
- ▶ The Northern most point of Indus valley civilisation was **Manda** in Jammu and the Southernmost was **Daimabad** in Maharashtra.
- ▶ Floods and Earthquakes, change in the course of river

Indus, aridity of the area or drying up of river Ghaggar, the invasion of Aryans are the supposed reasons for the decline of the civilisation towards 1500 BC.

- ▶ The houses of Harappa and Mohanjadaro were almost invariably made of klin-burnt bricks.
- ▶ In Kalibangan many houses had their wells.
- ▶ The streets originated north-south and east-west produced a grid system.
- ▶ Wheat and Barley were staple food.
- ▶ Garments of cotton and wool were used.
- ▶ Silver was more common than gold.
- ▶ Seals were the greatest artistic creation of the Harappan.
- ▶ Seals were made up of steatite with figurines and letters in Harappan scripts.
- ▶ The Harappan scripts are pictographic and logo-syllabic. They used to write right to left and left to right.
- ▶ The Harappans were lacking in weapons which show that they were peace loving.
- ▶ The Harappan culture disappeared after 1900 BC.

FAMOUS ERAS

Vikram Era	58 BC
Saka Era	78 AD
Gupta Era	320 AD
Hijra Era	622 AD
Kollam Era	825 AD
Illahi Era	1583 AD

VEDIC AGE

- ▶ Vedic Age is the period of Aryans in India from 1500 - 600 BC.
- ▶ Vedic Period is mainly classified into two - Early Vedic Period (1500 B.C. - 1000 B.C.) and Later Vedic Period (1000 B.C. - 600 B.C.).
- ▶ The Aryans were semi-nomadic pastoral people who originally inhabited the area around the Caspian Sea in Central Asia.
- ▶ The word 'Aryans' comes from 'ari' which in the Vedic times meant 'foreigners' or 'strangers'.
- ▶ Vedas are the oldest literary works of mankind. Vedas are four in number, they are **Rig Veda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharva Veda.**
Rig veda is the oldest veda.
- ▶ Vedas are collectively known as **Śruti**
- ▶ Vedangas are collectively known as **Smṛiti**
- ▶ In order to understand the vedic literature it was necessary to learn 'Vedangas' or the limbs of Vedas.
- ▶ There are 1028 hymns in Rigveda. It is divided into ten Mandalas (Chapters).
- ▶ Rig Vedic Hymns sung by priests were called *Hotris*.

Vedangas are six in number. They are,
Siksha - Phonetics
Kalpa - Rituals
Vyakarana - Grammar
Nirukta - Etymology
Chhanda - Metrics
Jyotisha - Astronomy

The Vedic Literature consists of the **Samhitas, (the Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva veda). Brahmanas, Aranyakas, 'Upanishads. It includes the Vedangas, Sutras, and Upavedas.**

- ▶ Rigveda starts with the line '*Agnimēele Purohitam*'
- ▶ Famous *Gayatri Mantra* is contained in the Rigveda (It is believed to have composed by Vishwamitra)
- ▶ Yajurveda deals with sacrifices and rituals.
- ▶ Yajurvedic hymns are meant to be sung by priests called '*Adhvaryu*'.
- ▶ Yajurveda is derived into two: **Sukla Yajurveda** (White Yajurveda) and **Krishna Yajurveda** (Black Yajurveda)
- ▶ *Sama Veda* deals with Music.
- ▶ Sama Vedic hymns are meant to be sung by priests called **Udgatri**.
- ▶ Atharva veda is a collection of spells and charms. *Ayurveda* is a part of Atharva Veda, which deals with medicine.
- ▶ The saying, "**War begins in the minds of men**" is from Atharva Veda.
- ▶ The 10th Mandala of Rigveda contain the **Purusha Sukta** hymn which tells about the origin of caste system.
- ▶ Upanishads are 108 in number. Upanishads are philosophical works.

The word 'Veda' is derived from the word 'vid' which means knowledge.

- ▶ Upanishads are known as the **Jñānakāntas** of Vedas.
- ▶ The words '*Sathyameva Jayate*' have been taken from '**Mundaka Upanishad**'
- ▶ **Bṛahdaranya Upanishad** was the first to give the doctrine of Transmigration of Soul and Karma.
- ▶ Puranas are the part of *Smṛiti* literature. They are 18 in number — **6 Vishnupuranas, 6 Sivapuranas** and **6 Brahmapuranas.**
- ▶ **Bhagavata purana** is divided into 18 *skandas*. The 10th skanda mentions about the childhood of Sri Krishna.
- ▶ **Skanda purana** is considered as the largest purana.
- ▶ **Brahmapurana** is also known as **Adipurana.**
- ▶ **Adhyatma Ramayana** is included in the **Brahmanta purana.**
- ▶ Cattle was the chief measure of wealth in the vedic period.
- ▶ Rigvedic tribe was referred to as *Jana*.
- ▶ Many clans (*vis*) formed a tribe.
- ▶ The basic unit of society was *kula* or the family and *Kulapa* was the head of the family.
- ▶ '*Vishah*' were members of Samitit.
- ▶ Important tribal assemblies of the Rig Vedic period were **Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata and Gana.**
- ▶ The term *Aghanya* (not to be killed) has been used for cows to indicate its economic importance.

The Aryans were semi-nomadic Nordic Whites, perhaps located originally on the steppes of southern Russia and Central Asia, who spoke the parent language of the various Indo-European languages. Aryans, or more specifically Indo-Aryans, make their first notable appearance in history around 2000-1500 BC as invaders of Northern India. The Aryans were remarkably expansionist, and almost everywhere they went they conquered and subjugated the indigenous peoples, imposing their languages and (to varying degrees) their religious beliefs on the natives, and receiving in turn contributions from the peoples whom they conquered. The word “**Aryan**” meant one who live in high family or who lives on agriculture.

Later Vedic Period

- ▶ **Indra** was the greatest God of Aryans and **Agni** occupied second position.
- ▶ The Vedic God in charge of truth and moral order was **Varuna**.
- ▶ **Indra** who was known as **Purandara** was the god of war and rain.
- ▶ **Varuna** was God of water and **Yama** was the Lord of dead.
- ▶ **Savitri** was a solar diety to whom the famous **Gayatri Mantra** is attributed to.
- ▶ **Prithvi** was Earth Goddess.
- ▶ The people called Panis, during the Vedic period were cattle breeders.
- ▶ The two priests who were prominent during the Rig Vedic period were **Vasishta** and **Viswamitra**.
- ▶ The battle of ten kings mentioned in the Rig Veda was fought on the division of water from river Ravi. It was fought on the banks of River Ravi (**Parushni**).
- ▶ The term for war in Rigveda 7 is **Gavishthi** or search for cows.
- ▶ The term **Aghanya** or not to be killed has been used for cow, This indicated cow's economic importance.
- ▶ The period assigned to Later Vedic Phase is 1000 BC to 600 BC.
- ▶ Later Vedic people used particular type of pottery called **Painted Grey Ware (PGW)**
- ▶ The Later Vedic Aryans were familiar with two seas, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- ▶ Rice became the staple diet of Indian people during the Later Vedic Period.
- ▶ In addition to agriculture and cattle rearing, trade and industry also gradually began.
- ▶ Growth of big cities like Ayodhya, Indraprastha and Mathura were seen.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Mention of the word ‘**Sudras**’ - Rigveda (10th Mandala)
- ▶ Mention of the ‘**Gotra**’ is found in the Atharvaveda.
- ▶ Origin of Kingship is found in **Aitareya Brahmana**.

The famous ‘**Aitareya Brahmana**’ classification of rulership...

Eastern king - Samrat
Western king - Suvrat
Northern king - Virat
Southern king - Bhoja
King of middle country - Raja

- ▶ ‘**Soma**’ was an intoxicating drink mentioned in the 9th Mandala of the Rig Veda.
- ▶ Mention of the word **Varna** is found in Rigveda.
- ▶ The fourfold division of the society is found in the 10th Mandala of the Rigveda.
- ▶ Mention about the **Varnashramadharma** is found in the **Jabla Upanishad**.
- ▶ The Doctrine of Trimurti is found in the **Maitrayani Upanishad**.
- ▶ Mention about the origin of Universe is found in the Rig Veda (10th Mandala).
- ▶ **Purohita, Senani and Vrajapati** were the important functionaries who assisted the king in day-to-day administration.
- ▶ The officer who enjoyed authority over the pastoral land was called **Vrajapati**.
- ▶ The king's power increased during the Later Vedic Period.
- ▶ Importance of assemblies declined
- ▶ A regular army was maintained for the protection of the kingdom.
- ▶ First law giver of ancient India was Manu. He wrote ‘**Manusmrithi**’.
- ▶ Manusmrithi was translated into English by **William Jones**.
- ▶ **Shyama Shastri** translated ‘**Arthasastra**’ into English.

- ▶ Bali was a tax, which the king used to collect from the people of the Vedic period.
- ▶ Aryans used iron for the first time in India.
- ▶ Horse, Iron, Sugarcane, Pulses etc. reached India by the coming of Aryans.
- ▶ The God who occupied supreme position in the Later Vedic Period was Prajapati.
- ▶ **Rudra** was regarded as preserver and protector of the people.
- ▶ The most important functionary who assisted the Vedic king was **Purohita**.
- ▶ Monarchy was the normal form of Government in the vedic period.
- ▶ Each Tribal republic was headed by **Ganapati** or **Jyeshta**.

- ▶ The Vedic Education system revealed through '**Frog Hymn**' in the Rigveda and '**Wedding Hymn**' describe the oldest marriage rituals.
- ▶ **Max Mullar** was the first person to speak of 'Aryans' as a race.

Epics

- ▶ Hinduism has two epics **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**.
- ▶ Mahabharata was written by '**Vyasa**'. Mahabharata is also known as **Jayasamhita**, **Satasahasri Samhita** and the **fifth veda**.
- ▶ Mahabharata has 1,17,000 hymns in it.
- ▶ Mahabharata is divided into 18 Parvas, An appendix Harivamsa is considered as 19th Parva.
- ▶ 12th Parva is the largest and 7th is the smallest.

- ▶ It describes the 18 days **Battle of Kurukshetra**.
- ▶ The immortal Bhagavad Gita, one of the most profound and beautiful philosophical poems in the world is included in Mahabharata.
- ▶ Stories of Sakuntala, Prahladan, Ramcharitam, Rishyasringan, Satyavan and Savitri, Nala and Damayanthi etc. are included in the Mahabharata.
- ▶ **Valmiki** is the author of Ramayana.
- ▶ **Ramayana** has 24000 hymns and is divided into Seven Skandas (Kandas).
- ▶ **Bhagavat gita** is included in the Bhishma Purva of Mahabharata. It is divided into 18 chapters and has about 700 hymns.

Original Home of Aryans

Central Asia -----	Max Muller
Tibet -----	Dayanand Saraswati
Bactria -----	J.C. Rod
Arctic Region -----	B.G Tilak
Russian Steppes -----	Prof. Belfy
Central India -----	Rajbali Pandey
Sapta Sindhu -----	A.C. Das
German Plain -----	Prof. Penka
Pamirs -----	Mayor
Kashmir -----	L.D. Kala
Turkistan -----	Hurz Feld

Rivers Mentioned in Rig Veda

Old Name	New Name
Sindhu -----	Indus
Satudri -----	Satluj
Vipas -----	Beas
Parushni -----	Ravi
Asikni -----	Chenab
Vitasta -----	Jhelum
Gomati -----	Gomal
Krumi -----	Kurram
Kubha -----	Kabul
Suvastu -----	Swat
Drishadvati -----	Ghaghar

Upanishads

Also called Vedanta, the Upanishads are commentaries appended to the Brahmanas. Literally Upanishads mean, "to sit down near someone" or 'a session'. There are 108 Upanishads altogether, but twelve of them are of great importance. The language of Upanishads is classical Sanskrit. The famous saying "Satyameva Jayate" is taken from Mundakopanishad.

Important Rituals

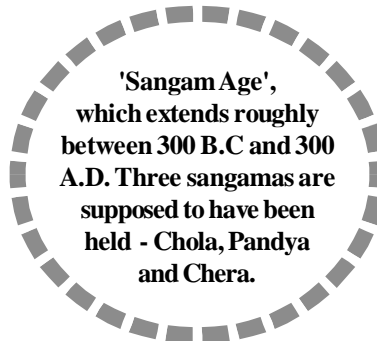
- **Rajasuya:** The king's influence was strengthened by rituals. He performed this sacrifice, which was supposed to confer supreme power on him.
- **Asvamedha:** A king performed the Asvamedha, which meant unquestioned control over the area in which the royal horse ran uninterrupted. The ceremony lasted for three days at the end of which horse sacrifice was performed.
- **Vajapeya:** A king performed the Vajapeya or the chariot race, in which the royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen. The ritual lasted for seventeen days and was believed not only to restore the strength of the middle-aged king but also to elevate him from the position of Raja to that of Samrat.

Script

- ▶ In the north, there are inscriptions dating from the early centuries B.C. in the Brahmi script, also used by the king Ashoka in his famous Prakrit pillar inscriptions.
- ▶ Roughly contemporary with the Brahmi, the Kharosthi script was used.
- ▶ Later (4th to 8th centuries AD) the Gupta script, derived from Brahmi, became prevalent. In the 8th century, the Sharada script evolved out of the Gupta script, and was mostly displaced in its turn by Devanagari from the 12th century, with intermediary stages such as the Siddham script.

Sangam Age

- ▶ First five centuries of the Christian Era are commonly known as Sangam Age.
- ▶ The Sangam Age corresponds to the post - Maurya and Pre - Gupta period of ancient India.
- ▶ Sangam was an Assembly of literature held at Madurai.
- ▶ The Pandyas were the patrons and in their capital the Sangams were held.
- ▶ Madhurai - presided by Sage Agastya-the father of Tamil Literature.
- ▶ Kapatupuram/Alvai - presided over by Agastya and Tolkappiyar.
- ▶ Madurai-presided over by Nakkirar.
- ▶ References to the Sangam Age can be found in the inscriptions



- of Ashoka, Kharavela of Kalinga and in the Indica of Megasthenese.
- ▶ The literature of the Sangam Age was written mostly in the form of Poetry.
- ▶ In the Sangam Age, the most common form of government was hereditary monarchy. The village was the fundamental unit of administration.
- ▶ The Sangham literature talks about Chola, Chera and Pandya dynasties.
- ▶ Small village Assemblies during the Sangam Age were known as **Arai**.
- ▶ Tradition refers to three sangham lasting for 9,900 years.
- ▶ Language of the Sangam literature was Tamil.
- ▶ People of the Sangam Age mainly worshiped '**Murugan**'.
- ▶ The greatest work of the Tamil literature of the Sangam Age is **Tholkappium** written by **Tholkappiyar**.
- ▶ *Tholkappium* is considered as the earliest surviving Tamil literary work. It is a book on Tamil grammar.
- ▶ The Capital of the Pandyas was at **Madurai**.
- ▶ **Korkai** was the main seaport of the Pandyas.

- ▶ Megasthenese described Pandya Kingdom as 'Pearl' as it was ruled by women.
- ▶ Nedujezhian is the Pandyan king mentioned in Silappadikaram.
- ▶ Another king was Madaranjeral Irumporai who sent embassies to Roman emperor Augustus and performed Vedic sacrifices.
- ▶ **Uraiyur** was the capital of Cholas, known for cotton trade.
- ▶ Karikala most prominent among early Cholas is known as the **master of seven notes** of music.
- ▶ The founder of later Cholas was Rajaraja I The most important ruler of this dynasty was *Rajendra Chola*.
- ▶ Rajendra Chola is also known as '**Gangaikonda Chola**' He later named his capital as '**Gangaikonda Cholaapuram**'.
- ▶ RajaRaja I built '**Brihadeswara temple**' at Tanjore.
- ▶ Cholas were well known for their naval supremacy and efficient village administration.
- ▶ **Vanchi** was the capital of Cheras.
- ▶ The greatest of the Chera rulers was Senguttuvanchera known as '**Red Chera**'. He built a temple for Kannagi.
- ▶ The famous Chera port Muziris was a great centre of Indo-Roman Trade.
- ▶ *Nedumjeraladan* is the first known Chera king. He had earned the title of 'Udiyanjiral'. He also bore the title of 'Imayavaramban'.
- ▶ The Cheras owed its importance to trade with the Romans. They also build a temple of Augustus there.

Important Sangam Literature

Tolkappiyam: It is authorised by Tolkappiyar and is a work on Tamil grammar, literary tradition (poetics) and sociology. It is the fountain of all literary conventions in Tamil literature.

Tirukkural or Kural: It is written by Tiruvalluvar and is sometimes called the Veda of the South or 'Fifth Veda'. It is a compounded of dharma, artha, karma and moksha.

Silappadikaram: Literally 'the Jewelled Anklet' is authored by Illango Adigal and is supposed to be the greatest epic of Sangam age. It deals with the love story between Kovalan, a merchant of Puhar and a courtesan Kannagi.

Manimekhalai: It is also one of the two greatest epics and is a sequel to Silappadikaram. It is written by Sattanar of Madurai which deals with the adventure of the daughter Manimekhalai born of the union of Kovalan and Kannagi.

Jeevaka Chintamani: It is the third important Sangam epic and is written by a Jaina Tiruttakkadevar.

- ▶ **Silappadikaram, Manimekhalai and Jeevakachintamani** are the three epics of Sangam literature.
- ▶ **Silappadikaram** is written by **Ilango Adikal**. It describes the love story of **Kovalan** and **Kannagi**
- ▶ **Sattanar** wrote '**Manimekhalai**' which is also an epic and tells about the story of the daughter of Kannagi and Kovalan.
- ▶ **Manimekhalai** gives reference about Buddhism.
- ▶ II and XIII rock edicts of Ashoka mention about the South Indian kingdoms.
- ▶ **Jivaka Chintamani** – the third epic of the Tamil was written by **Tirukkadevar**.
- ▶ **Kaveripumpatnam** was the main sea port of the Cholas.
- ▶ '**Bharatam**' was Tamil version of Mahabharata sung by **Perundevanar**.
- ▶ '**Manimekhalai**' is looked upon as the **Tamil Odyssey**.
- ▶ **Thirukkural** is known as **Tamil**

Bible compiled by **Thiruvalluvar**. His statue is seen near Vivekanandappara in Kanyakumari.

- ▶ **Thirukkural** of Thiruvalluvar is the Tamil work which is known also as the fifth Veda.
- ▶ The largest single tax collected during the Sanga period was the land tax called **Karai**.
- ▶ The **Utharameroor** inscription tells about the local self government under the cholas.
- ▶ The Sangam Age is also called the Golden Age or the Augustan Age in Tamil Literature.
- ▶ **Senguttuvan**, the Red or Good Chera, according to the Chera poets, was the great Chera king.
- ▶ Nedumjelian was the most important king of the Pandyas.

FIRST MAGADHAN EMPIRE

The Mahajanapa

- ▶ In the age of the Buddha we find 16 large states called Mahajanapadas.

- ▶ They were mostly situated north of the vindhya and extended from the north-west frontier to Bihar.

■ Four prominent royal dynasties stand out prominently out of these Janapadas. They were **Haryankas of Magadha**, the **Ikshvakus of Kosala**, the **Pauravas of Vatsa** and the **Pradyotas of Avanti**.

- ▶ **Magadha** formed one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (Great Countries) or regions in ancient India.

States and Cities (6000 - 300 BC)

- ▶ In the 6th BC North India witnessed the establishment of Kingdoms, oligarchies and chiefdoms and rise of towns.
- ▶ The **Gangetic plain** became the political centre
- ▶ The identity of kingdoms changes from the lineage of the ruling family to identification with territory with new political authority.
- ▶ The **Gana - Sangha** was a form of Proto - state ; its power not formulated, social division was limited and coercive authority was less.
- ▶ Gradually **Mahajanapadas** with the nature of modern states originated.
- ▶ The Buddhist Texts give the name of 16 such Janapadas
- ▶ In the **Middle Ganges** - the **Anga, Magadha** and the **Vrijji confederacy** and the **Mallas**.
- ▶ To its **West**, Kassi, Kossala and Vatsa.
- ▶ **Further West** - Kuru, Panchala, Matsya and Shurasena

Six systems of Philosophy

- Sankhya (Enumeration) Sage Kapila
- Yoga (Application) Patanjali
- Vaisheshika (Atom's character) Kanada
- Nyaya (Analysis) (Gautama)
- Uttaramimamsa (Vedanta) Vyasa
- Mimamsa (Enquiry) Jaimini

- ▶ **North - West** - Kambhoja and Gandhara
- ▶ **Western and Central India** - Avanti and Chedi and
- ▶ Deccan - Assaka
- ▶ The Vedic text described **Anga** and **Magadha** as impure lands.
- ▶ **Assaka** stood as the gateway to South India
- ▶ **The Vrijjis** formed a confederacy of eight clans
- ▶ **The Vrishnis** - the clan of Krishna - Vasudeva, was a Gana - Sangha.
- ▶ The **Genesis of town** ; some grew out of Political and administrative centres, example Hastinapura, Rajagraha , Champa and Ahichchathra. Some others grew out of markets, example Ujjain.
- ▶ Some grew from being sacred Centres example **Vaishali**.
- ▶ The work of **Panini** and the **Tripitaka** give an idea about towns and cheifdoms.

Urban Culture and Centres

- ▶ **The Western Gangetic plain** and the doab became the home of cultures connected with the **Painted Grey ware** (PGW, 1200 - 400 BC)
- ▶ East to the Gangetic plain cultures related with the **Black** - and **Red Ware** (BRW) and **luxury ware** known as the **Northern - Black - Polished Ware** (NBPW 700 - 200 BC)

- ▶ In the upper Doab region small settlements linked to **Ochre Colour Pottery** originated.
- ▶ Gradually, instead town, metropolis began to originate in proto form in Kausambi and Bhita.
- ▶ Houses at **Bhir** mound consisted of rooms built round a Courtyard, which was the proto - type house plan for many Indian towns .

Gana Sanghas

- ▶ **Gana Sanghas** - were Centres of various ideologies and belief systems especially Buddhist and Jina
- ▶ The Gana - Sanghas or Gana - Rajya or Ganas originated around the Vicinity of kingdoms. The main areas were the Himalayan foot hills, Punjab and Sind. The people here rejected the vedic orthodoxy.
- ▶ The Gana-Sanghas consisted either of a single class like the Shakyas, Mallas etc., or a confederacy of class as the Vrijjis and the Vrishnis
- ▶ The Gana - Sanghas had only two strata i.e., **the Kshatriya rajakula** and the **dasa - Karma Kara**.

Kingdoms

- ▶ **Kingdoms** registered a centralised government with the King's Sovereignty as its basis. The ruling family became

a dynasty, succession became hereditary. King assisted by ministers, advisory Councils such as **Sabha, Samithi, Parishad** etc.

- ▶ Clan loyalty weakened in the kingdom; caste loyalties and loyalty to the king became prominent. Kshatriyas became the ruling family.
- ▶ **Kashi, Kossala** and **Magadha** were rival Kingdoms to get control over the Gangetic plain.
- ▶ The battle for political supremacy among Kasi, Kosala and Magadha and the Gana - Sangha of Vrijji finally made **Magadha the Victorious one**.

The Thripitakas

The first Buddhist Council at Rajagraha codified the teachings of the Buddha in Pali language called the Thripitakas i.e.

1. **The Vinaya Pitaka** - the evolution of the Sanga the monastic rules for the life, of the monks and nuns.
2. **The Sutta- Pitaka** - the Buddhist ethics, philosophy growth of Buddhism and contemporary Socio- economic and political condition of North India of the time.
3. **Abhidhama - Pitaka** - Metaphysical principles underlying the Buddhist doctrine.

The 2500th Anniversary

- ❖ A Buddhist Council was held in Rangoon (Yangon) from May 1954 to May 1956 to commemorate the 2500th anniversary of the death of the Buddha.

The Five Buddhas

Krakucchanda, Kanakamuni, Kasyapa, Sakyamuni, Maitreya

MAGADHA

- ▶ The core of the kingdom was the area of Bihar south of the Ganges.
- ▶ Its first capital was Rajagriha (modern Rajgir) then Pataliputra (modern Patna).
- ▶ **Brahadratha, Jarasandha and Ripunjaya** were referred as the earliest rulers of Magadha.
- ▶ By about 543 B.C. **Bimbisara** of the **Haryanka Kula** founded a dynasty.
- ▶ He made matrimonial alliance with the Madra, Kossala and Vaisali and defeated Brahmadata of Anga.
- ▶ He devoted the Park ‘**Veluvana**’ to the **Buddha** and Patronised Buddhism.
- ▶ His son **Ajathasathru**, after killing him, came to power.
- ▶ He married the daughter of Presenajith, **Vajira**.
- ▶ He constructed a **fort at Pataliputra**.
- ▶ He introduced two war

Important Court Scholars

Kalidasa	Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
Banabhatta	Harshavardhana
Alberuni	Muhammed Ghazni
Firdausi	Muhammad Ghazni
Amir Khusru	Alauddin Khilji
Todarmal	Akbar
Tansen	Akbar
Birbal	Akbar
Mansingh	Akbar
Abul Fazal	Akbar
Ashva Ghosha	Kanishka
Amara Simha	Chandragupta II
Chand Bardai	Prithviraj Chauhan
Ravikirti	Pulakeshin II
Dhanwantari	Chandragupta II
Harisena	Samudra Gupta
Tenali Rama	Krishnadeva Raya

Weapons - **Mahasilakantaka** and **Rathamusala**.

He summoned the **first Buddhist Council** at Rajagraha.

He fell in love with **Amrapali** of Vaissali who later became a Buddhist nun.

His son **Udayan** founded a city at Pataliputra.

Udayan was killed by an agent sent by Palaka of Avanti

The People removed the last Haryanka ruler **Naga - dasaka** and made **Sisunaga** the minister to the throne.

The **Nanda dynasty** was founded by Mahapadma Nanda

The Jain works treated him as the son of a courtesan by a barbar

He is called “**Second Parasu rama**” because he destroyed the Kshatriyas.

The **Hathigumpha Inscription** of Kharavela of Kalinga reveals Mahapadma’s supremacy over Kalinga

The City **Nav Nand Dehra** establishes the Nanda dominancy over Deccan.

Next to him Eight Nandas ruled Magadha.

Bimbisara (544 B.C-492 B.C)

- ▶ He was a contemporary of Buddha and patronised Buddhism.

Literary Activities in Ancient India

- ▶ **Ashtadhyayi** by Panini (5th Century BC) the earliest grammar book also called Bhagavati Sutra.
- ▶ **Mahabhashya** was written by Patanjali.
- ▶ **Manusmriti** was a law book composed between 200 BC and 200AD.
- ▶ **Arthashastra** by Kautilya deals with statecrafts is a major source of Mauryan administration.
- ▶ **Indica** by ‘Megasthenese’ is a source of Mauryan society and administration.
- ▶ **Chandsutra** was written by Pingala.
- ▶ **Buddhacharita** by Aswaghosha is the earliest biography of Buddha. It was written in Pali language.
- ▶ **Raghuvamsa** by Kalidasa is an epic based on Mahabharata.
- ▶ **Naishadh Charita** by Sri Harsha contains story of Nala and Damayanti.

Lyric Poetry

- ▶ **Meghadut** by Kalidasa.
- ▶ **Srinagarashataka, Nitishataka** and **Vairagyasataka** were written by Bharruhari.
- ▶ **Gita Govinda** was written by Jayadeva.

- Haryanka is the name of a new dynasty founded in Magadha by **Bimbisara**. Bimbisara founded the dynasty by defeating the Brihadrathas.
- ▶ Founded the city of Rajgriha, north of Girivraja. He followed the policy of marriage alliance. Married Mahakosala, the sister of Kosala king Prasenajit. Also married the Lichchavi princess Chellana. He was succeeded by his son Ajatashatru.

Ajatashatru (492-460 B.C)

- ▶ Magadha became a supreme power in North India under **Ajatasatru**. So Ajatasatru is considered as the founder of Magadhan Supremacy.
- ▶ He killed his father and seized the throne. Battle between Kosala and Magadha started in the time of Ajatashatru.
- ▶ Both Mahavira and Buddha died in his reign. He pursued the policy of aggressive expansion. He took 16 years to destroy and annex Vaishali. He founded the famous city of Pataliputra.

Historical writing

- ▶ **Harshacharita** - Written by Banabhatta
- ▶ **Vikramanakaadeva charita** - written by Bilhana.

UDAYAN (460-444 B.C)

- ▶ He succeeded Ajatashatru, shifted the capital to Pataliputra.

SISUNAGA DYNASTY

- ▶ Haryankas were overthrown by Sisunaga, a minister in the Haryanka dynasty and he founded the Sisunaga dynasty there.
- ▶ He destroyed the **Pradyota dynasty** of Avanti
- ▶ Kalasoka or Kakavarnin was the most important ruler. The second Buddhist Council at Vaishali was held during his reign.
- ▶ Kalasoka or Kakavarnin, the next ruler, shifted the capital to Pataliputra. He was killed by Maha-padmananda.

NANDA DYNASTY

- ▶ The Nandas succeeded Sisunagas. Their greatest king was Mahapadmananda. He conquered Kalinga and brought an image of Jaina as a victory trophy. He claimed to be Ekarnath (the sole sovereign)
- ▶ **Dhanananda**: known as Agrammes to the Greeks. Alexander invaded western India during his reign. He had a large army. He was extremely unpopular due to his greed for wealth. The Nandas built the first empire in India. They were the first of a number of non-Kshatriya ruling dynasties.

The Persians and Greeks

- ▶ A Little before 530 BC Cyrus, the **Achaemenid emperor of Persia** received tributes from the tribes of Kamboja, Gandhara and the trans - Indus area.

- ▶ Till 330 BC the regions west of Indus belonged to the Greeks.
- ▶ In 518 BC **Darius I** grandson of Cyrus, captured the Indus Valley and made it 20th Satrapy
- ▶ **Darius III** was defeated by Alexander in the battle of **Arbela**.
- ▶ The outstanding result of Persian attack was the **Kharoshti script**.
- ▶ In 336 BC **Alexander** occupied the Macedonian Kingdom
- ▶ By 327 BC he entered into North West India. Condition of North India was as follows.
- ▶ (1) Most of North India was occupied by the **Nandas of Magadha** (2) West of Sutlej ruled by small republics and tribes (3) North West of India was under **Asvayana** and **Asvakayana tribes** (4) between the Indus and Jhelum - Kingdom of **Taxila** or **Takshashila** ruled by Ambhi (5) between the Jhelum and the Chenab, the kingdom of **Puru or Porus**.
- ▶ Then the Malloi, Siboi and Oxdrakia in Punjab etc.

Drama

- ▶ **Natyashastra** by Bharatamuni is the earliest known work in Sanskrit.
- ▶ **Malavikagnimitram, Vikramorvashiyam** and **Abhinjana Sakuntalam** are dramas written by Kalidasa.
- ▶ **Ratnavali, Nagananda** and **Priyadarshika** are dramas written by Harshavardhana.

Alexander's Invasion

- ▶ Alexander was born in 356 BC as the son of King **Philip II** of Masedonia.
- ▶ **Epirus** or **Olympias** was Alexander's mother.
- ▶ **Aristotle** was Alexander's teacher.
- ▶ He became the king in 336 BC.
- ▶ He defeated the Persian ruler Darius III.
- ▶ Alexander founded the city of **Alexandria** in Egypt.
- ▶ In 326 BC, Alexander defeated **Porus** (Purushothama) the ruler of Punjab and captured Taxila through the Battle of **Hydaspas** on the banks of river **Jhelum**.
- ▶ **Ambhi** the ruler of Taxila invited Alexander to India.
- ▶ Alexander died of Malaria at the age of 33 in 323 BC while he was in Babylon.
- ▶ Alexander was cremated at **Alexandria**.
- ▶ Alexander was known as **Shehansha** in Persia and **Sikhandar-I-Asam** in Indo-Pak region.
- ▶ The Last general of Alexander in India was **Eudamas**.
- ▶ Alexander's first General in India was **Selucus Nikator**.

ALEXANDER

Alexander III of Macedon (356–323 BC), popularly known as **Alexander the Great** was a Greek king of Macedon. He is created one of the largest empires in ancient history. He reached Taxila in 326 B.C. where he was welcomed by King Ambhi who was keen to defeat rival king Porus with help of Alexander. After crossing Jhelum river Alexander met Porus and defeated and captured him. Later, Porus was forgiven and freed. Alexander remained in India for 19 months. In the field of trade and commerce the invasion of Alexander opened Indian trade with the western world. In the field of art a new Indo Greek style called Gandhara Art developed. Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC.

- ▶ Alexander IV succeeded Alexander as the Masedonian King.
- ▶ Alexander's teacher Aristotle is considered as the father of Politics, Biology, Taxonomy and the Science of Logic.
- ▶ Alexander's invasion opened up free intercourse between India and the west and strengthened commercial ties.
- ▶ New trade routes were opened, establishment of trade cities such as **Alexandria, Begram, Cadrusi** etc. the Greek Colony **Balhika or Bactria**; development of Indian Coin age, **Gandhara school of Art**, Indian Philosophy in Greek, idea of **political unification** etc; were the impact of Alexander's invasion.

MAURYAN EMPIRE

(231-185 BC)

The Source materials for the study of the Mauryans include, the **Arthasasthra** of **Chanakya** or **Kaudilya** or **Vishnugupta**; the **Indica** of **Megasthenes**, the **Puranas**, the **Buddhist** and **Jain** works such as **Divya Vadana**, **Dipavamsa** **Jataka** tales and **Parisistha - Parva**, the inscriptions such as the **Sohgaura** and **Mahasthan**, the **Junagadh** and the **Nagarjuna hill Cave Inscription**, the **Asokan Inscriptions** such as the **Babru Edict** the **Maski** and **Cave inscriptions in the Barabar Hills**, the writings of **Grecco - Romans** like **Strabo**, **Diodorus** **Plutarch** and **Justin** and the **Mudra Rakshasa** of **Visakadatta**.

- ▶ Major sources for the study of Mauryan Empire are the **Arthasastra** of **Kautilya** and **Indica** of **Megasthenes**.
- ▶ **Chandragupta Maurya** was the founder of Mauryan Empire.

EFFECTS OF PERSIAN INVASION

- ▶ The introduction of the Aramic form of writing in India, which later developed into the Kharoshthi alphabet.
- ▶ Promotions of Indo-Iranian trade.
- ▶ Geographical exploration of the Indus and the Arabian sea which led to the opening of a new water route.
- ▶ Fusion of Iranian /Persian features in the Mauryan art.
- ▶ Impact of Buddhism on the Zoroastrian religion.

Important Mauryan Officers

Samaharta	Collector of Revenue
Sannidata	Head of Treasury
Dandapala	Head of Police
Durga Pala	Head of Royal Fort
Pradeshikas	Head of District Administration
Prashasti	Head of Prisons

- Details about his early life are not available.
- He is believed to have belonged to Moriya Clan, hence got the name Maurya.
- It is also said that his mother was Mura a woman of lower birth hence got the name Maurya.
- In some texts he is referred to as Vrishala and Kulahina.
- He conspired with **Chanakya (Kautilya or Vishnugupta)** the minister of Nanda to overthrow the last Nanda ruler **Dhana-Nanda**.
- Chandragupta Maurya ascended the throne in BC 321.
- He fought against Selucus in 305 BC. Selucus surrendered before him and sent an ambassador, **Megasthenes** to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Pushpagupta an official of Chandragupta got 'Sudarshan lake' constructed for irrigation.
- Chandra Gupta Maurya was converted to Jainism, abdicated the throne in favour of his son Bindusara, passed his last days at Sravanabelagola (Near Mysore) where he died in about 300 BC.
- Chandra Gupta Maurya was responsible for the political unification of North India for the first time.

- Bindusara was a follower of Ajivika sect.
- Bindusara was known as **Amitragatha**.
- Ashoka ascended the throne in 273BC and ruled upto 232 BC.
- He was known as '**Devanampriya, priyadassi** – the beautiful one who was the beloved of Gods.
- Maski and Gujara Edicts** of Ashoka gave the name Devanampriya Priyadassi.
- Buddhist tradition says Ashoka killed 99 of his brothers to capture the throne.
- Ashoka was the first king in Indian history who had left his records engraved on stones.
- Ashokan inscriptions were written in **Kharoshti** and **Brahmi scripts**.

The Mauryan Art was not purely Indian but was a mixture of Greco Persian and Indian The **imperial palace at Pataliputra, the Pillard Hall, the stupas of Sanchi and Saranath, the rock cut chaitya halls in Barabar bills, The Pillars at Basarh, Rampura, Rumindei and Saranath, the single elephant, the four lions capitals at Sankisa and Saranath etc., the Yaksha and Yakshi status** are the best examples.

- Ashoka fought the Kalinga war in 261 BC. Kalinga is in modern Orissa.
- Ashokan inscriptions were deciphered by **James Princep**.
- After the battle of Kalinga Ashoka became a Buddhist, being shocked by the horrors of the war.
- Ashoka was initiated to Buddhism by **Upagupta** or **Nigrodha** – a disciple of Buddha.
- For the propagation of Buddhism, Ashoka started the institution of **Dharmamahamatras**.
- The IV Major Rock Edict of Ashoka tells about the practice of **Dharmma**
- Ashoka held the third Buddhist council at his capital Pataliputra in 250 BC under the president ship of Moggaliputta Tissa.
- He sent his son and daughter to Sri Lanka for the spread of Buddhism (Mahendra and Sanghamitra)
- Ashoka spread Buddhism to Sri Lanka and Nepal.
- He is known as the **Constantine of Buddhism**.
- In his Kalinga Edict he mentions "**All men are as my children**".
 - Ceylone's ruler **Devanampriya Tissa** was Ashoka's first convert to Buddhism.
 - Ashoka ruled for 40 years and died in 232 BC.
 - V.A. Smith** described **Asoka** "the Saint Paul of Buddhism."
 - The emblem of the Indian Republic has been adopted from the four lion capital of one of Ashoka's pillars which is located in **Saranath**.

- ▶ Rock-cut architecture in India made a beginning during Ashoka's reign.
- ▶ **Brihadra**, the last Mauryan ruler was killed by **Pushyamitra Sunga** who founded the **Sunga Dynasty** in 185 BC.
- ▶ Megasthenes, the first foreign traveller to India mentions about the existence of seven castes in India during the Mauryan period.
- ▶ Head of the Mauryan city administration is known as **Nagaraka**.
- ▶ **Rakshi** in Mauryan administration refers to police who looked after the people's security.
- ▶ The dominant language of the Mauryan Court was **Magadhi**.
- ▶ **The Commander-in-chief** was Senadhyaksha. **Divisional Commanders** were Asvadyaksha, Rathadhyaksha, Hastyadhyaksha, Nanadhyaksha, Padadhyaksha and Ayudhagaradhyaksha.
- ▶ **Bhaga** (King's share, 1/6 of the produce) and **Bali** (an additional Cess) **Vishti** (tax paid in labour) and **Senabhagam** (tax by army) **Taradaya** (Ferry dues) were main revenue sources.
- ▶ **Empire was divided** into provinces such as Taxila, Tossali, Kaussambi and Ujjaini.
- ▶ The Mauryas introduced stone masonry on large scale.
- ▶ Fragments of stone pillars and stumps indicating the existence of an 80 pillar hall have been discovered at Kumrahar on outskirts of Patna.
- ▶ **The causes of decline** the Empire were ; the policy of Asoka, the scramble for power the continuous famine, the Bureaucracy and lack of authority.

The Fourteen Major Rock Edicts (MRE) of Asoka

1st MRE	- Prohibition of animal slaughter
2nd MRE	- Mention of places of Cholas Satyaputras and Keralaputras
3rd MRE	- Asoka's directions to Pradeshikas, Yuktas and Rajukas for Propagation of Dharma (Dhamma)
4th MRE	- Impact of Dhamma on Society
5th MRE	- Appointments of Dhamma mahamathas
6th MRE	- Measures for the Welfare of the people.
7th MRE	- Propagation of peace, faith and balance of mind.
8th MRE	- Asoka's visit to Bodhi tree.
9th MRE	- Stress on ceremony of Dhamma
10th MRE	- Gives a detailed account of Asoka's desire to gain popularity for Dhamma.
11th MRE	- Appraisal of Dhamma.
12th MRE	- Promotion to religion of different faith.
13th MRE	- The largest of all Rock Edicts. Victory over Kalinga references about Greek rulers such as Antiochus, Ptolemy Antigonus, Megas and Alexander ; mentions of important castles Kambhoja, Nabhkas, Pittinik Andhra and Parindas
14th MRE	- Nature of all other Rock Edicts.
Queen's Edict	- Mentions the Queen Karuvaki and Asoka's Son Tivara Karuvaki
Quandhar Edict	- The only bilingual edict which tells that the fishermen and hunters gave up hunting.

Categories of Asoka's Inscription

- ▶ Bhabru - Conversion to Buddhism.
- ▶ Barabar Hills - Enjoins toleration.
- ▶ Tarai Pillars - Respect to Buddhism.
- ▶ Minor Rock Edicts - Personal history of Asoka and summary of Dhamma.
- ▶ 7 Pillar Rock Edicts - Appendix to Rock Edicts.

Religion

The cult of Vasudeva or Krishna (Heracles in Greek) and Arjuna were worshiped. Religious tolerance was present. **Asoka** summoned the **third Buddhist Council** at Pataliputra, the Mauryan Age produced the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and promoted the six systems of Indian philosophy and finally the Mauryans helped to develop a systematised Chronology of India.

POST MAURYAN PERIOD

The dynasties were. **The Sunga, Kanva or Kanva Yanas**, then some minors such as **Audumbaras, the Kunindas, the Trigartas, the Yaudheyas and Agatyas; Chetas of Kalinga, the Sathavahanas of Andhra, Foreign rule of the Bactrian Greeks - the Sakas, the Parthians and the Kushans.**

SUNGA DYNASTY (185-71 BC)

- ▶ Sunga Dynasty was founded by Pushyamitra Sunga the commander-in-chief of last Mauryan king Brihadrath.
- ▶ Patanjali lived in Pushyamitra's court. He wrote **Mahabhashya**, a commentary on Panini's **Asthadhyay** and also evolved a new school of philosophy - Yoga.
- ▶ Kalidasa's drama **Malavikagnimitram** is about the love story of Pushyamitra's son **Agnimitra** and **Malavika**.
- ▶ Last King of sunga dynasty was Devabhuti.
- ▶ **Manusmrithi** was of the Sunga period

KANVA DYNASTY (72 BC - 27 BC)

- ▶ Kanva dynasty was founded by **Vasudeva Kanva** in 73 BC after defeating the last Sunga ruler Devabhuti.
- ▶ This dynasty ruled for a period of 45 years.
- ▶ **Vasudeva, Bhumimitra, Narayana** and **Susuman** were the rulers of Kanva dynasty.
- ▶ **The last Kanva, Susuman** was killed by **Simukha**; the founder of the **Sathavahana** dynasty.

CHETA (CHETI) DYNASTY OF KALINGA

- ▶ The Cheti Dynasty was believed to have founded by **Maha Meghavahana**
- ▶ The **Hathigumbha inscription** of Kharavela, of the Kalinga ruler gives details about the Chedis of Kalinga.
- ▶ Kharavela was a follower of Jainism.

SATAVAHANAS (235 BC - 100 BC)

- ▶ Satavahanas were the most powerful ruling dynasty after the Mauryas.
- ▶ Satavahanas were also known as **Andhras**.
- ▶ Srikakulam was the Capital
- ▶ Satavahanas were the Indian rulers who prefixed their mother's name along with their names.
- ▶ Most important Satavahana ruler was **Gautamiputra Satakarni**.
- ▶ Satavahanas were Brahmanas.
- ▶ **Nagarjuna Konda** and **Amaravati** in Andhrapradesh became important seats of Buddhist culture under the Satavahanas.
- ▶ The two common structures of Satavahanas were the temple called **Chaitya** and the monastery called **Vihara**.
- ▶ The last great ruler of Satavahanas is Yajnashri Satakarni.
- ▶ Satavahanas mostly issued lead coins.
- ▶ The Satavahanas were the first rulers to make land grants to the Brahmins and Buddhist monks.
- ▶ In the Satavahana kingdom, districts were called 'Ahara', officers were 'Amatyas' and

'Mahamatras', Provincial Governors were called 'Senapati'

- ▶ Administration in rural areas was in hands of gaulamika, head of military regiment.
- ▶ The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit

INDO - GREEKS (BACTRIANS)

- ▶ First to invade India were the Greeks who were called Indo-Greeks.
- ▶ Indo-Greeks are also called Bactrians.
- ▶ The most famous Indo - Greek ruler was **Menander** with his capital at Sakala in Punjab (Modern Sialkot). His discussion with the Buddhist Scholar **Nagasena** is described in the text '**Milinda Panho**'.
- ▶ The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India.
- ▶ The introduction of Hellenistic art features into India were also the contribution of Indo-Greek rule.
- ▶ Menander was converted into a Buddhist by Buddhist monk Nagasena (Nagarjuna).
- ▶ Indo-Greeks were the first to issue coins bearing the figure of kings.
- ▶ **Demitrius**, the king of Bactria invaded India about 190 BC. He is considered as **Second Alexander** (But the Indian ruler who accepted the name second Alexander (Sikandar-i-sani) was Alauddin Khilji).
- ▶ Indo-Greeks were the first to introduce military governorship in India.
- ▶ Ideas of astronomy and horoscope were inherited from them. Art of Drama was learnt from them.

THE PARTHIANS (19 - 45 AD)

- ▶ Parthians also known as **Pahalavas** were Iranian People.
- ▶ **Gondopharnes** was the greatest of the Parthian rulers.
- ▶ **St. Thomas** is said to have come to India for the propagation of Christianity during the period of Gondopharnes.

THE SAKAS (90 BC - 1ST AD)

- ▶ Sakas were also known as **Scythians**.
- ▶ The first Saka king in India was **Maues** or **Moga** who established Saka power in Gandhara.
- ▶ The most famous of the Saka rulers in Western India was **Rudra Daman I**. His achievements are highlighted in his Junagarh inscription written in 150 AD.
- ▶ He ruled over Sindh, Gujarat, Malva, Konkan, Kathiawar and Narmada Valley.
- ▶ He repaired the Sudarshana lake built by the Mauryas.
- ▶ **Junagarh inscription** of Rudradaman was the first inscription in Sanskrit.
- ▶ **Ujjayini** was the capital of Rudradaman.

KUSHANS

- ▶ Kushans are also known as **Yuch-chis** or **Tocharians**.
- ▶ Kushans came to India from North Central Asia.
- ▶ First great Kushana king was **Kujala Kadphises** or **Kadphises I**.
- ▶ The most famous Kushana ruler was **Kanishka**.
- ▶ He became the ruler in 78 AD and started **Saka Era** in 78 AD.
- ▶ The Capital of Kanishka was **Peshawar** or **Purushapura**.

- ▶ Kanishka convened the fourth Buddhist council in Kashmir.
- ▶ Scholars like, **Parsva**, **Vasumitra**, **Ashvaghosha**, **Charaka** and **Nagarjuna** were the courtiers of Kanishka.
- ▶ **The Gandhara School of Art** received royal patronage under the Kushans.
- ▶ Kanishka patronised Mahayana form of Buddhism.
- ▶ Kanishka is rightly called the '**Second Ashoka**'.
- ▶ Kanishka was the first king who inscribed the image of Lord Buddha on his coins.
- ▶ Kanishka started the **Saka era** in 78 AD. The first month of Saka era is **Chaitra** and the last month is **Phalgun**.
- ▶ **Vasudeva** was the last great king of Kushana Dynasty.
- ▶ They controlled the famous silk route-a great source of income for them. Trade with the Roman people was also carried out through the sea route.
- ▶ Kushan school of art is also referred to as the **Mathura school**.
- ▶ **The Discovery of the Monsoon Route** to India from West Asia, **the Silk Route** from China to Europe via India and **Sea - route** to East Asia, ; **increase in the volume of trade** with Rome, Greek, Iran etc, the **development**

of Guilds, popularity of Buddhism and Jainism, the Bhakti cult of Brahmanism, rise and development of Gandhara Art, Mathura and Amaravati Art etc., were the features of this period.

GUPTA EMPIRE

(320 - 540 AD)

Source of the Gupta Period

The **Dharmasasthras**, works of **Kalidasa**, Dramas such as **Kaumudi Mahotsava** of **Vajjika**, **Devichandraguptam** of **Visakadatta** and **Mrichha katika** of **Sudraka** and **Kathasarith Sagara** of **Somadeva** ; The Puranas, writings of **Fahien**, **Hiuen - Tsang** and **I-tsing**, Epigraphic and Numismatic sources.

- ▶ Gupta Empire was founded by **Sri Gupta**.
- ▶ **Ghatotkacha** was the second ruler.
- ▶ **Chandra Gupta I** was the real founder of the Gupta Empire. He came to the throne in 320 AD.
- ▶ He was the first ruler to adopt the title '**Maharajadhiraja**'
- ▶ He laid the foundation of **Gupta Era** on 26 February 320 AD.
- ▶ **Samudra Gupta** succeeded **Chandragupta I** in 335 AD.

Books on Sciences

Chandra Vyakaran	Chandragomin
Amar Kosh	Amar Singh
Niti Shastra	Kamandak
Kamasutra	Vatsyayana
Panchasiddhantika	Varahamihira
Ashtanga Hridaya	Vagbhata
Hastyaurveda	Pulkapya
Sankhyakarika	Iswarkrishna

- ▶ **The Allahabad Pillar inscription** composed by Harisena contains information about Samudragupta's conquests.
- ▶ Allahabad Pillar inscription is also known as '**Prayagprasasti**'.
- ▶ Samudra Gupta is also known as '**Lichchavi Dauhitra**'. (son of the daughter Kumaradevi of Lichchavis)
- ▶ Samudra Gupta is described as '**Indian Napoleon**' by V.A. Smith.
- ▶ Samudra Gupta composed "**Vahukabita**" and had the title "**Kaviraja**".
- ▶ Sanskrit was the court language of the Guptas.
- ▶ India became "**Greater India**" under Samudra Gupta.
- ▶ Samudra Gupta was an accomplished Veena player.
- ▶ He was a Vaishnava and a patron of the great Buddhist Scholar Vasubandhu.
- ▶ **Chandragupta II**, the greatest of Gupta rulers was popularly known as **Vikramaditya**.
- ▶ He adopted the title '**Sakari**' after his victory over Rudradaman II of Gujarat.
- ▶ **Fa hein**, the Chinese traveller, visited India during his period.
- ▶ The exploits of Chandragupta II are glorified in an iron pillar inscription fixed near Qutub Minar.
- ▶ Chandragupta II adopted the title Vikramaditya as a mark of his victory over the Sakakshatrapas.
- ▶ '**Nine gems**' or '**Navratnas**' was a famous Scholastic Assembly in the court of Chandragupta II. The members in the Ninegems were - **Kalidasa, Kadakarbhara, Kshapanaka, Varahmihira, Vararuchi, Vethalabhatta, Dhanvantari, Amarasimha, Sanku.**
- ▶ He was the first Gupta ruler to have issued silver coins.
- ▶ Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son **Kumaragupta I** who adopted the title of 'Mahendra ditya' and founded the Nalanda University.
- ▶ **Skandagupta Vikramaditya** was the last great ruler of Gupta Empire.
- ▶ Skandagupta Vikramaditya was the only hero in Asia and Europe who defeated the Hunas in their glorious period.
- ▶ **Vishnu Gupta** was the last ruler who died in 570 AD.
- ▶ **Mantriparishad** assisted the king in administration.
- ▶ Most important Industry of the Gupta period was textile.
- ▶ Period of the Gupta is compared to '**Periclean Age of Greece**', '**Augustan Age of Rome**' and '**Elizabethan Age of England**'.
- ▶ Period of the Guptas is considered as the *Golden Age* in the history of India.
- ▶ Earlier Guptas had their capital at Prayag in Allahabad, later it was shifted to Ujjain by Chandragupta II.
- ▶ The **Kumaramatyas** were the most important officers of the Gupta period.
- ▶ The royal seal of the Guptas bore the emblem of **Garuda**.
- ▶ Aryabhatta was the first to treat Mathematics as a separate subject. He wrote **Aryabhattachiyam**. He belonged to the Gupta period. Aryabhatta was the first to use Decimal System.
- ▶ Aryabhatta calculated Pi as 3.1416 and the length of the solar year as 365.358 days.
- ▶ **Panchsidhanta, Brihat Jataka, Laghu Jataka and Brihat Samhita** are the works of Varahamihira.
- ▶ The best specimen of the Gupta paintings are seen at Ajanta caves and the Bhaga caves.
- ▶ The beginning of Indian temple architecture.
- ▶ Guptas issued large number of gold coins in India.
- ▶ Guptas largely patronised art and architecture.
- ▶ Guptas patronised the **Gandhara school of art, Madhura School of Art** and the **Andhra School of Art**.
- ▶ The Fresco paintings in the Ajanta caves are examples of the art of the Guptas.
- ▶ The chief source of income was land revenue.
- ▶ The position of women declined during the Gupta period. Polygamy was widely prevalent. Their education was discouraged.
- ▶ Sati system was in existence and widow marriage was becoming unpopular.
- ▶ Famous ayurveda physician of the Gupta period was **Dhanvantari**.
- ▶ **Nalanda** and **Taxila** were the two universities of this period.
- ▶ **Kalidasa** is generally called "**Indian Shakespeare**" and the '**Prince of Indian Poets**'.
- ▶ **Patanjali** founded '**Yoga Shastra**', a school of Hindu philosophy during this period.
- ▶ Both internal and external trade reached its peak.
- ▶ Sanskrit was the official language.
- ▶ The puranas were compiled during the Gupta age.
- ▶ Jayadeva wrote "**Gita Govinda**".

Important Literary works during “the Gupta period

Author	Works
Kalidasa	Epics: Raghuvamsa, Ritusamhara, Meghaduta Dramas: Vikramorvashiyam, Malavikagnimitra, Abhinjanasakuntalam
Sudraka	Drama: Mrichchakatika
Bhasa	Drama: Swapnavasavadatta, Charudatta
Bharavi	Kiratharjuniya (Epic poem)
Bhatti	Ravana Vadha or Bhatt Kavya (A narration on the life of Rama)
Visakhadatta	Drama: Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam
Harisena	Eulogy : Prayag-Prasasti
Amarsimha	Grammar: Amarkosha
Vishnu Sharma	Story: Panchatandra and Hitopadesha
Aryabhatta	Mathematics & Astronomy: Aryabhattacharya
Varahamihira	Mathematics & Astronomy: Brihatsamhita & Panchasiddhanta
Vatsyayana	Kamasutra
Dandin	Kavyadarsana (Grammar)
Gunadhya	Brihat Katha
Visakhadatta	Mudra Rakshasa (Drama), Devi Chandra Gupta (Drama)
Aryasura	-Jatakamala
The Buddhist Scholars such as Budha Ghosha, Budhadatta, Vasubandhu, Asanga and Dignaga belonged to the Gupta period.	

Science

Aryabhatta	Aryabhattacharya
He was the first to treat mathematics as a separate subject. His unique contribution was the Principle of the place value, the first nine numbers and the use of zero.	
Varahamihira	Panchsidhantha (Astronomy), Brihat Jataka, Laghu Jataka
Brihat Samhita (An encyclopadia of technical Sciences). He divided Astronomy into three branches - Tantra, Hora and Samhita	
Vagbhata I	The Ashtanga - Samgraha
Palakapya	Hastayurveda
Brahma Gupta	Brahma Siddhanta

The Navaratnas in the Court of Chandra Gupta II

Dhanvantari - Ayurveda
Kshapanaka - Jyothisastra
Amarasimha - “Amarakosa”
Sanku - Shilpasashtra
Vethalabhatta - Mantrasastra
Kalidasa - Dramas
Varahamihira - Brihadsamhita
Vararuchi - Sanskrit Vyakarana
Kadakarbhara -

The Administration

- ▶ Monarchy was the form of Government.
- ▶ The Guptas believed in the Divine Right theory of Kingship.
- ▶ The ruled followed the policy of benevolent despotism.
- ▶ There was a highly organised civil and military service.
- ▶ “**The Mantriparishad**” assisted the King.
- ▶ The Empire was divided into Bhuktis under Uparikas, Vishayas under Vishayapathis and Gramas under Gramikas.
- ▶ There was town administration with Purapala or Mayor as head.
- ▶ Pushtapala was a notary and keeper of records.
- ▶ Kumaramatyas were the most important officers.
- ▶ The Government emblem was the Garuda.

The Post Gupta Period

- ▶ The period between the second quarter of the 6th Cent.AD and 7th Cent.AD was of struggle for supremacy.
- ▶ The leading figures were the Later Guptas, The Muharis, Yasodharman of Mandasor, Sasanka of Gauda, Pushya bhuthis of Thaneswar and Varmans of Kamarupa.
- ▶ The Hunas came to North India during this period.
- ▶ Krishna Gupta I was the founder of the Later Guptas.
- ▶ Kumara Gupta defeated Isnanavarman, the Maukhari King.
- ▶ Devagupta of the Malwa branch, supported Sasanka Gauda in killing Grahavarman.
- ▶ From Rajyavardhanan's period

onwards the later Guptas became vassals of the Vardhanas.

- ▶ Jivita Gupta was the last ruler.

THE HUNAS

- ▶ The Hunas were a nomadic and barbaric race of Central Asia.
- ▶ They were defeated by Skanda Gupta.
- ▶ In the last quarter of the 5th century AD, the Hunas established an independent kingdom in the Punjab.
- ▶ **Toramana** and **Mihirakula** were important Huna leaders.
- ▶ In 510 AD, Bhanu Gupta defeated Toramana.
- ▶ Narasimha Gupta defeated Mihirakula.
- ▶ The Hunas gave rise to the Kshatriya Rajaputs.

- ▶ **Sialkot** was Mihirakula's capital.

- ▶ The Hunas were finally defeated by Yashodharman, a brave king from Malwa (Central India).

THE MAITRAKAS OF VALABHI

- ▶ They were of Iranian origin, ruled Gujarat
- ▶ **Valabhi** was the capital.
- ▶ Siladitya I (606 - 612 AD) was the first independent king.
- ▶ Dhruvasena IV, the greatest Maitraka king, patronised Bhatti.
- ▶ The Maukharis of **Kanauj**
- ▶ The Maukharis had **three main branches**. ie. the Kanauj branch (most important)

Sculpture	Features	Place
Caves	Most ancient . Influenced by religious practices.	
Pillar	Adornes Ashokan Edicts	Rampurva, Sarnatha
Stupa	Buddhist religious architecture	Sanchi, Amaravati, Barhut, Nagarjunakonda
Carved Railings	Adornes Stupas	Amaravati
Gandhara Art	First statue of Buddha — a mixture Indian & Greek method	Peshawar region & Afghanistan
Mathura School	Richly decorated deities of all religion	Mathura
Hindu Art	Hindu temples of Nagara & Sikhara Styles	Vidisa, Deogarh, Tigawa, Eran, Aihole, Rajgriha
Pala School	Fine Hindu & buddhist Statues	Nalanda, Bodh Gaya
Hoyasala Art	Mature plan & general arrangement	Mysore, Talakad, Halebid.
Orissa School	Development of Shikharas	Bhubaneswar, Puri, Konark.
Chandela School	Erotic sculpture	Khajuraho
Vijaya Nagar School	Decorated pillared halls	Hampi
Nayak School	Temple complex	Madurai
Rajasthan School	High platforms & miniature towers	Mt Abu
Chalukyan School (Vesara)	Mixture of Nagara & Dravida Styles, Chittor	Aihole, Pattdakal
Pallava School	Monolithic temples	Mahabalipuram
Chola School (Dravid)	Gopurams or Gates	Tanjore
Indo- Islamic	Arch, domes, vaultes, gardens, marble use pietradura	Delhi, Agra, Jaunpur, Bengal, Hyderabad.

the Gaya region of Bihar and the Kota region of Rajasthan

- › The founder was Yajnavarman
- › First independent King of Kanauj was Harivarman.
- › Grahavarman married Rajya sree, the daughter of Prabha kara Vardhana of Taneswar.
- › Harsha Vardhana annexed Kanauj to Taneswar.
- › Yasodharman of Mandasor (530 - 550 AD) erected "Pillars of Victory" to commemorate his conquests of the Hunas.

THE VAKATAKAS (250 - 500 AD)

- › Established power in Deccan.
- › Capital was Vidarbha.
- › The founder of the dynasty was Vidhyasakti.
- › They were brahmins.
- › Pravarasena I performed four Asvamedha and one Rajasuya scarifices. Strengthened his Kingdom through marriage alliances.
- › Sarvasena son of Pravarasena founded the Vatsagulma branch of the Vakatakas.
- › Prithivisena I helped Chandra gupta II to defeat the Sakas of Malwa and Kathiawar.
- › Pravarasena II (Damodarasena) founded a new capital at Pravarapura. He was the last prominent ruler of the main branch of the Vakatakas.
- › The Chalukyas of Badami dominated the Vakatakas.

HARSHAVARDHAN

- › Harshavardhana belonged to the **Pushyabhuti Dynasty**, also known as **Vardhana Dynasty**.
- › The Pushyabhuti dynasty was

Last Hindu Emperor

The last Hindu Emperor of North India was Harshavardhana (Last Hindu king of Delhi was Prithviraj Chauhan). His kingdom spanned the Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bengal, Orissa and the entire Indo-Gangetic plain North of the Narmada River. After the downfall of the Gupta Empire in the middle of the sixth century C.E., North India reverted to small republics and small monarchical states. Harsha united the small republics from Punjab to Central India.

founded by Pushyabhuti.

- › Harsha came to power in 606 AD (**Harsha Era**).
- › He made Kanauj his new capital from Taneswar.
- › Original name of Harsha was **Siladitya**.
- › Chinese traveller **Hieun Tsang** visited India during his reign.
- › He was a Shaiva in the beginning but embraced Buddhism under the influence of Buddhist sage - Divakara Mitra and Hieun Tsang.
- › Harsha summoned a religious assembly at Prayag.
- › Hieun Tsang said, "Indians were Truthful people although quick tempered".
- › Harsha's biography '**Harsha Charita**' was written by his court poet **Banabhatta**. He also wrote '**Kadambari**'.
- › Harsha Vardhana was a poet and dramatist. **Ratnavali**, **Priyadarshika** and **Nagananda** are the works of Harshavardhana.
- › Harsha Vardhana was defeated by the Chalukyan king **Pulikesin II** in AD 634.
- › Harsha Vardhanas empire was the last Buddhist empire in India.
- › After Harsha, the Karkotas of

Kashmir established their power.

- › Mahendravarman I and Pulakeshin II were the contemporaries of Harsha Vardhana.
- › **Matanaga**, **Divakara**, **Jayasena** and **Bhartri Hari** were the famous scholars in the court of Harsha Vardhana.
- › The position of women seems to have further declined during Harsha's period. Remarriage of widows were not permitted.
- › Harsha, the last great Hindu emperor died in 647 AD.

North India in the Post Harsha Period

- › The Post Harsha Period marked the transition from Ancient Period to the Medieval Period.
- › This period witnessed the rise of the Brahmanical Hinduism and the Rajputs.
- › The Bhakti Cult began to develop under Ramanuja and Sankaracharya.
- › The Tripartite Struggle - the Gurjara - Parthihas, Palas of Bengal and the Rashtrakudas of Manyaketa-to establish supremacy over Kanauj originated.
- › The Post- Harsha Period witnessed the coming of Islam on Western India.

Temples and Builders

Kailas Temple at Ellora	Krishna I
Chunnakesava Temple, Belur	Vishnuvardhana
Rathas at Mahabalipuram	Narashimhavarman I
Brihadeswara Temple, Tanjavur	Raja Raja Chola
Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram	Narasimha Varman II
Lingaraja Temple, Bhuvaneswar	Eastern Gangarubs
Khajuraho Temples	Chandellas
Rajarajeshwara Temple, Tanjavur	Raja Raja I
Meenakshi Temple at Madurai	Nayaka Rulers
Shiva Temple at Tanjavur	Raja Raja Chola

CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI (VATAPI)

- ▶ In 535 AD Pulakeshin I founded a small kingdom with the Capital at **Vatapipura** (Modern Badami)
- ▶ He was succeeded by Kirtivarman and Mangalesa.
- ▶ **Pulakeshin II** was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty.
- ▶ The greatest achievement of Pulakeshin II was the defeat he inflicted on Harshavardhana.
- ▶ The Pallava king Narasimha varman captured Vatapi and adopted the title '**Vatapikonda**'.
- ▶ Pulakeshin II defeated the Pallavas and captured Kanchi. He also defeated Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.
- ▶ Kubja Vishnuvardhana - the brother of Pulakeshin II founded the kingdom of Chalukya of Vengi.
- ▶ **Kirtivarman**, the last ruler of this dynasty was defeated by the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukyan rule came to an end in 757 AD.
- ▶ The magnificent temples of **Belur and Halebid** and the **Elephanta caves** were con-

structed during the Chalukyan period.

- ▶ The Chalukyan developed the Deccan or Vesara style in the building of structural temples.
- ▶ From the Chronological point of view, Chalukyas can be divided into four
 - The Chalukyas of Vatapi (535 - 642 AD), The Later Chalukyas of Vatapi (655 - 753 AD), The Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi (615 - 1076 AD), The Later Western Chalukyas of Kalyani (973-1190 AD)

PALLAVAS

- ▶ **Simhavishnu** was the founder of the Pallava dynasty.
- ▶ His court poet was Bharavi, who wrote Kiratarjuniya.
- ▶ His son Mahendra Varman I was great in war and peace. He assumed titles like **Mattavilasa, Vichithrachitta, Gunabhara** etc. He was also a reputed author who wrote Mattavilasa Prahasana.
- ▶ Rock cut temples at Bhairavkond (N.Arcot) and Ananteshvara temple were built by Mahendra Varman I.
- ▶ Narasimhavarman, a Pallava

ruler, defeated Pulakeshin II and adopted the title **Vatapikonda**.

- ▶ **Narasimhavarman I** was called **Mahamalla** which means a wrestler.
- ▶ **The Ratha temples** at Mahabalipuram (Seven Pagodas) were created by Narasimhavarman I.
- ▶ Dandin the author of **Dasa kumaracharitam**, lived in the court of Narasimhavarman II.
- ▶ Narasimhavarman II was the most important ruler of the Pallava dynasty.
- ▶ Narasimhavarman II is also known as Rajsimha.
- ▶ He founded **Kailasanatha Temple** and the **Shore Temple** at Mahabalipuram.
- ▶ The last Pallava King was defeated by **Aditya Chola** by the end of 9th century.

RASHTRAKUTAS

- ▶ Rashtrakuta dynasty was founded by **Dandidurga** in 753 AD. With the capital at **Manyakhed** or **Malkhed**.
- ▶ Built the Dasavatara caves at Ellora.
- ▶ Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha I wrote '**Kavirajamarga**' which is the earliest Kannada work on poetics. He also wrote **Prasnottarmalika**.
- ▶ Amoghavarsha - transferred the capital from Ellora to Manyakheta (Malkhed).
- ▶ Harisena, Jinasena and Gunabhadra lived at his court.
- ▶ He offered his finger to goddess to please her.
- ▶ **The Kailasanath Temple at Ellora** was founded by the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I.
- ▶ Krishna III (940 -968 AD) was

the last great ruler of Rashtrakuta dynasty.

- ▶ Built the Krishneswara temple at Rameswaram and erected a pillar there.
- ▶ The Rashtrakuta power was overthrown by Thiala II.

THE RAJPUTS

- ▶ The advent of Islam synchronised with the rise of the Rajputs.
- ▶ The Rajputs produced mighty Kings like Gurjara Bhoja, Chandella Dhanga, Kalachuri Karna, Paramara Bhoja, Solanki Jayasimha and Chauhana Prithivraja.
- ▶ The Rajputs represented a large social, and occupational group composed of various foreign, indigenous and mixed races.
- ▶ The important Rajput dynasties were ;
The Gurjara - Pratiharas of Mandor and Avanti
The Chauhans based in Eastern Rajasthan
The Solankis based in Kathiawar
The Pawar or Paramars based in Malwa.
The Chandellas based in Bundhelkhand
The Kalachuris based in Tripuri or Chedi and
The Tomaras based in the Haryana regions around Delhi or Dhillika.
(They founded the city of Delhi (Dhillika) in 736 AD)
- ▶ The Rajputs rules for 300 years after the death of Harsha.
- ▶ The Rajput officials were mainly Brahmins known as "Kayasthas".

▶ The Bhats and Charans were the Court bards.

▶ The Rajput women embraced death by "Jauhar" to escape defilement and 'Sati' to avoid widowhood.

▶ Raja Bhoja wrote "Ayurveda Sarvasva" and "Rajamriganka".

▶ The best examples of Rajput architecture were the fortress of **Chittorgarh, Rathan bhore and the lake Palace at Udaipur.**

PRATIHARAS

▶ The Pratiharas are also called Gurjara - Pratiharas - belonging to the 36 clans of Rajputs.

▶ The dynasty was founded by **Nagabhata I** (725- 740)

▶ Nagabhata II made Kanauj his capital.

▶ Pratihara ruler Mihir Bhoja adopted the title 'Adivaraha'.

▶ Mahendrapal I extended his empire over Magadha and North Bengal.

▶ His court poet was Rajeshekaa. He wrote **Kavyamimamsa, Karpuramanjari** (a drama in prakrit) **Harivilas, Bhavana kosha, Bal Bharat etc.**

▶ Sian temple (near Jodhpur) belong to Pratihara dynasty.

▶ The governor of the provinces were called 'uparika' and the head of a district, Visayapati.

▶ Yashpal was the last ruler of this dynasty.

▶ Sulthan Muhammed of Ghazni entered Kanauj during the period of the Pratiharas.

PALAS

▶ The Pala dynasty was founded by Gopala in 750 AD.

▶ Famous **Odandapuri University** was founded by Gopala.

▶ The **Vikramsila** and **Sompur Universities** were founded by the Pala king Dharmapala.

▶ In the court of king Rampala, the famous poet Sandhyakar Nandi lived, who wrote **Rampala Charita.**

▶ Atisha Dipankar, noted scholar of Tantric Buddhism, existed in the time of the Pala Kings. He translated many books of Tantric Buddhism into Tibetan.

▶ The Pala power was destroyed by Vijayasena who founded the Sena dynasty.

SENAS

▶ The Sena dynasty was founded by **Vijayasena** towards to end of 11th century. (1093)

▶ Senas had a capital in **Vikrampur** and another in Vijayapura.

▶ About the middle of 13th century the senas were overthrown by the Deva dynasty.

▶ **Jayadeva**, the author of **Gitagovinda** was patronized by Sena ruler Lakshmana Sena.

CHAUHANS

▶ The four Agnikula Rajputs were the **Pratiharas, Chauhans the Solankis and Paramaras.**

▶ Chauhans had their capital at Ajmer and Delhi.

▶ Ajayaraya established the city of **Ajayameru** or **Ajmer.**

▶ The most prominent ruler was **Prithviraj III** (1177-1192). He defeated Muhammed of Ghori in the **First Battle of Tarain** (1191). But Ghori defeated and killed him in the **Second Battle of Tarain** (1192).

- ▶ **Prithviraj Chauhan III** was the last Hindu ruler of Delhi.
- ▶ **Prithvi Raj Raso** is the historical poem written by Chand Bardai.

The Chandelas of Bundelkhand

- ▶ The Chandela dynasty was founded by Yasovarman with Mahobas as the Capital.
- ▶ The Khajuraho temples are the best examples of the Chandela art.

CHOLAS

- ▶ Vijayalaya was the founder of the Chola empire. He was a feudatory of the Pallavas of Kanchi.
- ▶ Raja Raja I (985 - 1014) adopted the titles of **Arumudivarman, Mammudicholadeva, Jaykonda, Marthanda Chola, Mamudi chola** etc.
- ▶ He built the **Brihadeshwara temple** at **Tanjaore**. which is called the RajaRajeswara temple.
- ▶ Rajendra I led an expedition to North India, defeated the Pala ruler Mahipala I and adopted the title, Gangaikondachola and established a new Capital, **Gangai Konda Cholapuram**.
- ▶ Cholas maintained a well established local - self government system. **Ur, Sabha or Mahasabha** - and **Nagaram** were the assemblies for local administration.
- ▶ The **Uttaramerur inscription** of Dantivarman Pallava gives details about the local self government.
- ▶ Kulottunga I united the Vengi kingdom with Chola empire. He got the land surveyed.
- ▶ Kambar adorned his court. He wrote the Tamil Ramayana.

- ▶ The last Chola ruler was Rajaraja II.
- ▶ The Cholas were famous for Bronze statues of Nataraja.

THE DECCAN

- ▶ In the second quarter of the 7th Cent. North India, the Deccan and South India developed into three imperial zones under Harshavardhana, Pulikesi II the Chalukya, and Pallava Rulers Mahendra Varman I and Narasimhavarman I.
- ▶ The lands south of the Narmada are known as Deccan or Dakshinapada.
- **The Gangas of Talakad** (2nd to 11th Century AD)
- ▶ Kolar was the early capital. Later Talakad became the permanent capital.
- ▶ Madhava I, the first king had the title "Konguni Varma."
- ▶ Durvinitha, the greatest king (495 -535 AD) , issued 7 grants to Brahmins and patronised the Jain scholar Pyiyapada.
- ▶ Govinda III's period witnessed the division of the kingdom.
- ▶ The last ruler Rajamalla IV was overthrown by the 'Kalyani Chalukya' ruler Taila with the help of Rajamalla's minister Chavundarya.
- ▶ Chavundarya composed the 'Chavundarya Purana' and he built the huge statue of **Gomantesvara**.
- ▶ The headman of the village was called Gounda or Gauda.
- ▶ The Gangas minted gold coins with the impression of Elephants and floral designs on each side.
- ▶ Bharavi was the Court poet of Durvinita.

- **The Kadambas** -3rd to 6th C - of Banavasi came to prominence under Mayura sarma.

- ▶ Ravi Varma was the last great ruler.

- ▶ The royal insignia of the Kadambas were the lion crest, the monkey flag and the musical instrument 'Permatti'

- ▶ **The Chalukyas** (6th to 8th C and 10th to 12 C) belonged to various units.

- ▶ From the chronological point of view the Chalukyas can be divided into four ;

1. **The Chalukyas of Vatapi** 535-642 AD

2. **The later Chalukyas of Vatapi** 655 - 753 AD.

3. **Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi** 615 - 1076 AD

4. **Later Western Chalukyas of Kalyani** 973 - 1190 AD

- ▶ Pulikesin I was the founder of the Early Chalukyas of Vatapi or Badami.

- ▶ Pulikesin II (610 - 642AD) is regarded as the 'Lord of the South'. He had titles such as "Vallabha", "Prithivi Vallabha", "Sri Prithivi Vallabha" and "Parameswara - Paramabha gavata".

- ▶ He defeated the Pallava ruler Mahendra Varman I but his end was at the hands of the Pallava King Narasimha Varman.

- ▶ Hiuen - Tsang visited Deccan during his period.

- The Later Chalukyas rose to power under Vikramaditya I

- ▶ Vinayaditya I (681-696), Vijayaditya (696-733)

- ▶ Vikramaditya II (734 - 745)- he repulsed the Arabs from

- coming to Deccan - and Kirthivarman II (746 - 757) were other rulers.
- ▶ The Rashtrakutas under Krishna I over powered the Later Chalukyas.
 - The Kalyani Chalukyas came to power under Tailapa II or Taila after defeating Amogha Varsha IV the Rashtrakuta King.
 - ▶ Somesvara I, 1042 -1068 AD, killed the Chola ruler Rajadhiraja I.
 - ▶ Rajendra Chola killed Somesvara I
 - ▶ Vikramaditya IV Tribuvanamalla (1076 -1126) the greatest of the Western Chalukyas, started the Chalukya-Vikrama Kala or Era i.e; 1076 AD.
 - ▶ The Hoysalas under Vira - Ballala I destroyed the Chalukyas of Kalyani during the reign of Jagadekamalla.
 - The **Eastern Chalukya** (Vengi) was established by Kubja Vishnu Vardhana (615 - 633) brother of Pulikesin II.
 - ▶ Vijayaditya I (746 - 764) and Vijayaditya III (844 -888) were important rulers.
 - ▶ Rajendra Chola II united Vengi to his kingdom.
 - ▶ Bilhana and Vijñaneswara (author of Mithakshara) adorned the Court of Vikramaditya II.
 - ▶ The Aiholi inscription of Pulikesin I was written by Ravikirthi, the Jaina scholar.
 - ▶ Aiholi temples, particularly the Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal, are the best examples of Chalukyan style of Architecture.
 - **The Rashtrakutas of Malkhed** (750-982) was founded by Dantidurga by 750 AD
 - ▶ He got Maharashtra from Kirthivarman.
 - ▶ Krishna I built the Kailasanatha temple at Ellora.
 - ▶ Govinda III, 794-814, defeated the confederation of 12 rulers formed by the Ganga Governor, the Chera Chola Pandya rulers and Danti Varman, the Pallava king.
 - ▶ Amoghavarsha I's (814 - 878) reign was famous for literary developments. He wrote "Kavirajamarga". Jinasena, under him, wrote Adipurana and Mahavira charya wrote "Ganitha Sara Samgraha".
 - ▶ Sulaiman, the Arab traveller, described Amoghavarsha as one of the four great rulers of the world.
 - ▶ Krishna III (940-968) was the last great ruler who became the lord of the Deccan.
 - ▶ Taila II overthrew the Rashtrakuta power.
 - ▶ Rashtrakuta Princess participated in administration.
 - ▶ They had two kinds of Administration; i.e., one for the vassal states and the other for directly ruled areas.
 - ▶ Land tax was called Udranga or Bhogakara, It was 1/4 of the produce.
 - ▶ They issued five kinds of coins- dharma, Suvarna, Gadghyanaka (gold), Kalanju (gold) and Kasu (gold)
 - **The Hoysala dynasty** (1027 - 1343) was founded by Sala or Nripakama.
 - ▶ The first prominent king Ballala I (1100 - 1106) transferred the capital from Sosevur to Belur.
 - ▶ Vishnu Vardhana (1106 -1152) conquered Talakad and had the title "Taladugonda". He made Dvarasamudra the main capital.
 - ▶ Ramanuja influenced him to become a Vaishnavite and reject Jainism.
 - ▶ He built a Jaina temple for Vidyadeva, the Jaina logician.
 - ▶ Ballala II (1173 -1220) supported the Cholas against the Pandyas.
 - ▶ Vira Ballala II's (1291-1342) period witnessed Malik Kafur's Plunder of the kingdom in 1310.
 - The following **minor states** rule the Deccan.
 - Western Deccan**-The Abhiras - They started an Era in 249 AD. The Sakas of Mahishakas. The Bhojas and The Silaharas.
 - Eastern Deccan** - South Kosala
 - The Sarabha Puriyas
 - The Pandu Vamsis
 - The Soma Vamsis and
 - The Nalas
 - Andhra** - Ikshvakus
 - Brihatphalayanayas
 - Anandas
 - Salankayanayas
 - Vishnukundis
 - Kalinga** -The Pitribhaktas
 - The Matharas
 - The Vasishtas
 - Orissa** - The Manas
 - Sailodbhavas
 - Karas and
 - Bhojas

EMINENT PERSONALITIES OF ANCIENT INDIA

Alexander : He was the ruler of Macedonia in Greece. He attacked India in 326 BC and captured upto river Bias.

Ajatasatru : Son of Bimbisara. He established the city of Pataliputra.

Arien : Greek historian who wrote about Alexander's Indian invasion.

Ashwaghosh : Buddhist monk who initiated Kanishka to Buddhism, wrote Buddha Charita, Sutralankar and Saundrananda.

Amarsimha : Sanskrit scholar in the court of Chandragupta who wrote Amarakosha.

Aryabhatta : He analysed the reasons for Solar and Lunar eclipses and declared that the Earth is round. He Wrote Aryabhattyam.

Bimbisara: Founded the Magadhan Empire or Haryanka dynasty. He was the first influential king of ancient India.

Banabhatta : Court poet of Harshavardhana and author of Harsha Charita and Kadambari.

Charaka: He was an Ayurvedic expert who wrote **Charaka Samhita** and established the Aitereya branch of Ayurvedic medicines.

Amoghavarsha : He was a famous Rashtrakuta ruler.

Dhanananda : He was a powerful king of Magadha. Alexander did not go forward to invade Magadha only after hearing his reputation.

Darius I : The ruler of Iran (Persia) who invaded India in 6th century BC.

Gautami Putra Shatakarni : He was the most famous Satavahana king in 2nd Century.

Harisena : He was the writer of Prayaga Prashasti or Allahabad Pillar Inscription.

Kharavela : Ruler of Kalinga in I century AD. The famous Hathigumbha inscription belonged to him.

Kanishka : (I century AD) : Most powerful Kushan king. Started Saka Era. Organised fourth Buddhist council at Kundalvan near Kashmir.

Karikala : Chola ruler who founded the city of Puhar (Kaveri patanam) in I century BC.

Kautilya : Also known as Vishnugupta or Chanakya.

He wrote *Arthasasthra*, which is compared to 'The prince' of Machiavelli.

Kalidas: Famous Sanskrit poet who wrote, *Raghuvamsa*, *Kumara Sambhavam*, *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*, *Vikramorvashtyam* and *Malavikagnimitram*. He also wrote *Meghadootam* and *Ritusamharam*.

Kamban : A Tamil poet of 11th century who wrote **Ramayan** in Tamil.

Mihir Bhoja : Famous Pratihara ruler of 9th century.

Kalhana - Famous Kashmiri poet and historian. He wrote *Raja Tarangini*.

Marco Polo: Venitian Traveller to India in 13th century.

Menander : He came to India as a foreign aggressor in II Century BC. *MilindaPanho*, a book written by Nagasena, is about him.

Nagarjuna: Famous Buddhist monk. He propounded the philosophy known as *Madhyamika*.

Makkali Gosala : Philosopher of 6th Century BC. He was the founder of Ajivika sect.

Mihirkula: Huna conqueror defeated by Yashodharma.

Skanda Gupta : Last mighty Gupta ruler.

Shushrut : He was a doctor of Ayurvedic medicine. He started the Dhanwantri branch and was an expert in plastic surgery.

Pulikeshin II. Most powerful king of Chalukyas of Vatapi who defeated Harshavardhana in the North and Mahendravarman in the South.

Pushyamitra Sunga: He killed the last Mauryan ruler and laid the foundation of Sunga dynasty in 185 BC.

Pliny: He was a Roman historian who wrote the *Natural History*. He wrote about the Mauryas of India.

Panini : Sanskrit scholar specially of Grammar. He wrote *Ashtadyayi*.

Varahamihira: He was famous astronomer who wrote Brihat Samhita.

Sankaracharya : He was born in Kaladi in Kerala. He propagated Advaita Philosophy.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- The source of Swastika symbol - **Indus Valley**
- The father of Indian archaeology **Alexander Cunningham**
- Meter scale has been discovered from **Harappa**
- Weapon never used by the Indus people **Sword**
- The major industry in Chanhudaro **Bead making**
- The word '*Sindhan*' used by the Indus people denoted **Cotton**
- Evidence of fractional burial has been excavated from **Harappa**
- The word 'godhume' used in the vedic period denote **Wheat**
- '**Yava**' denoted **Barley**
- Term used to denote rice in the vedic text **Vrihi**
- Vedic term 'sita' denoted **Ploughed field**
- The veda that mentions about wheel **Rigveda**
- Vedic terms '*Urvara*' or '*kshetra*' denoted **Cultivated field**
- The famous frog hymn in Rig Veda throws light to **Vedic education**
- The god of the Vedas - **Varuna**
- Method used to calculate the number of cows in the Vedic period - **Ashtakarni**
- Part of which veda has prose part - **Yajur Veda**
- Aryan religion in South India was spread by **Agasthya**
- Vedic term '*Aghanya*' denotes - **Cows**
- The term '*Bharata*' and '*Bharatavarsha*' were first used in - **Rig Veda**
- Upanishad which mentions the four Ashramas of Vedic period - **Jabala Upanishad**
- Largest number of hymns in Rigveda are in praise of - **Indra**
- First town in the vedic period to use burnt bricks **Kausambi**
- First reference about lending money for interest can be found in **Satpatha Brahmana**
- Rigvedic paintings have been discovered from Bhagvanpura of the state **Haryana**
- Upanishad that mentions about police system **Brihadaranyaka Upanishads**
- God considered as God of Gods - **Varuna**
- Community which was considered as untouchable by the Buddhists - **Chandalas**
- The language used by the Jains to spread their religion - **Prakrit**
- The St. John of Buddhism - **Ananda**
- Considered as Devil by the Buddhists - **Mara**
- Three daughters of 'Mara' **lust, emotion and desire**
- The ruler who persecuted Buddhists **Pushyamitrasunga**
- Major philosophic school of Bhagvatism **Vishishtadvaita**
- Earliest reference about Srikrishna can be found in **Chandoghya Upanishad**
- Hindu God who found place in Greek literature **Sri Krishna**
- Jain Thirthankara, who was related to Sri Krishna **Rishabhadeva** (1st Thirthankara)
- Tamil god of the Sangham age for War and Victory **Kottavai**
- Saint who founded the Saivism **Lakulisa**
- Tamil kingdom of the Sangham Age which sent an ambassador to the court of Roman Emperor Augustus - **Pandiyas**
- First Sangham was founded by **Saint Agasthya**
- Famous poetess of the Sangham period **Avvaiyar**
- Greco-Roman traders who visited South India during the Sangham period were denoted with the term **Yavanas**
- Sangham work which describes about Buddhism **Manimekhalai**
- The word used by Ashoka to denote Buddha **Bhagavati**
- Ashokan inscriptions were deciphered by James Princep in the year **1837**
- Indo-Greek ruler who had his boundaries upto Pataliputra **Menander**
- Yuchi ruler who introduced gold coins for the first time - **Vima Kadphesus**
- Edict which mentions about the relation between India and China - **Nagarjunakonda**