



SSC - CGL

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COMBINED GRADUATE LEVEL

STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

VOLUME - II

General Awareness



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Indian History

- The study of the past is called "History".
- The English word history is derived from the Greek word history meaning research inquiry or investigation.

System of Dating:

B.C.: B.C. is the acronym of before charts. This is an English phrase meaning. 'Before the birth of (Jesus) Christ.

Example: Gautam Budha was born in 563 B.C. and died in 483 B.C.

A.D.: AD is the acronym of Anno Domini. This is a Latin phrase meaning in the era of the lord.

Example: Jesus Christ was crucified in 30 A.D.

- Hazard Mohammad was born in 570 A.D. and died in 632 A.D.

- First decade of 20th century AD means – the period from 1901 AD to 1910 AD.
- Fifth decade of 20th century AD means – the period from 1941.
- Eighth decade of 20th century AD means – the period from 1971 AD to 1980 AD.
- Last of 20th century AD means – the period from 1991 AD to 2000 AD.
- First half of 20th century AD means – from 1901 AD to 1950 AD.
- Second half of 20th century AD means – from 1951 AD to 2000 AD.
- 6th Century BC means – 600 BC to 501 BC
- 4th Century BC means – 400 BC to 301 BC
- 16th century AD means – 1051 AD to 1600 AD
- 20th Century AD means – 1901
- Second millennium BC – 2000 BC – 1001 B C
- First millennium BC – 1000 BC – 1 BC
- First millennium AD – 1 AD – 1000 AD
- Second millennium AD – 1001 – 2000 AD

Lithic Age or the stone Age (30,00,000 BC – 1000 B.C.)

Ancient Indian can be studied under other heads like Paleolithic Mesolithic, Neolithic and chalcolithic Period.

Name of the period	Time period	Life style	Implemen ts (Tools & Weapons)
Paleolithi c	30,00,00 0 BC to 10,000 B.C	Hunters and food gather	Chopper, Chopping, Hand Axe, cleaver, Flake, tolls, Blade tools.
Mesolithi c	9000 B.C. – 4000 B.C	Hunters and Herders	Microsite implement s
Neolithic	1000 B.C – 1000 B.C	Food – produce r	Polished implement s

Harappan Age / Indus civilization 2, 500 B.C – 1,750 BC

- Three names are proposed for the civilization of Harappa age – Harappa, civilization, Indus civilization & Indus Saraswati civilization.
- Harappa civilization was the civilization of age.
- Harappa sites was discovered by Dayaram Sahni in 1921.

Regional Extension of Harappan Civilization

Region / State	Archaeological sites
Afghanistan	(1) Shor tluhai (2) Mundigate.
Pakistan	Mehargarh, Kili ghul Muhanac, Rama Ghumcli, Dabarkoot, Balokot, Sutkangendor.
Punjab (Pakistan)	Harappa, Jalipur, Sanghanwala,

	Derawar, Crhameriwal, Saraikhola.
Sindh (Pakistan)	Mohanjodara, Amari, Kathdizi, Chamhdaro, Alimaracl, Jhangar.
Jammu Kashmir	Mooda
Haryana	Vanawali, Rakhigarhi.
Rajasthan	Kalibanga, Ganeshwar, Hanumangarh, Mithal, Chhupar.
Uttar Pradesh	Alamghirpur, Manpur, Bargaon, Sanawli.
Gujarat	Wholavira, Lothal, Surkotda, Bhagatrua, Rangpur
Maharashtra	Daimabad.

		Mahadeva image of Bearded man and bronze image of a woman dancer.
(iii) Lothal	Bhargava	Port city, Double burial, Terracotta, those figurines.
(iv) Chanhudaro	Indus	City without a capital.
(v) Dhoolavira	Indus	City divided into 3 parts
(vi) Kalibangan	Ghaghar a	

Past Harappan Age – 2000 B.C. – 1000

B.C.

- After 2000 B.C in the different origin of Indian subcontinent the various regional cultures come into existence.
- These cultures were not urban culture like Indus civilization but rural culture.
- Mohenjodaro was excavated in 1922 by R.D. Banerjee.

Important cities:

City	River	Archeological importance
(i) Harappa	Ravi	Mother goddess, figurines, a row of 6 granaries.
(ii) Mohenjodaro	Indus	Great Granary, great bath, image of pashupati,

Common Features of Major Cities:

- Systematic town planning on the lines of grid system.
- Use of burnt bricks in constructions.
- Underground drainage systems.
- Forfeited citadel (exception – Chanpudaro)
- Surkotada (Gujarat): The only Indus site where the remains of a horse have actually been found.
- Main crops: Wheat & Barely; evidence of cultivation of rice in Lothal and Rangpur (Gujarat) only.
- Indus people were the first to produce cotton in the world.
- Lion was not known to Indus people.
- There was extensive inland & foreign trade.
- Foreign trade with Mesopotamia or sumeria.
- A very interesting features of this civilization was that iron was not known to the people.
- Lothal was an ancient part of Indus civilization.

- The Indus civilization was primarily urban.
- The most commonly found figure is not that of mother Goddess.
- The chief male deity was the 'Pasupati Monadeva' i.e. the lord of animals.
- Humpless bull is represented in most of the Indus seals.
- The origin of the 'Swastika' symbol can be traced to the Indus civilization.
- Contemporary civilization of Indus civilization Mesopotamia, Egypt and China.
- Steatite was mainly used in the manufacture of seals.

Vedic – Culture (1500 B.C – 600 B.C)

- The Aryans are supposed to have migrated from central Asia into the Indian subcontinent in several stages or waves during 2000 B.C – 1500 B.C.
- Boghazkai inscription, which mentions 4 Vedic gods Indra, Varuna, Mitra and Nasatya.
- The Group that came to India first settled in the present frontier province and the Punjab – then called Sapt a Sindhu i.e. region of seven rivers.

Vedic Literature:

Vedic Literature comprises of four literary productions:

- (i) The Samhitas or Vedas.
- (ii) The Brahmas.
- (iii) The Aranyakas
- (iv) The Upanishads.

The most important of Vedic literature are Vedas.

- Vedas are called apaurasheya i.e. not created by man but God – gifted and Nitya i.e. existing in all eternity.

There are four Vedas:

Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Samaveda, Athar Veda,
(1) Rigveda:

It is the oldest text in the world.

- The Rig Veda contains 1028 hymns and 10560 Verses, divided into 10 Mandals.
- The hymns of Rig Veda were recited by Hatri.
- Also contains the famous Gayatri Mantra.

(2) The Yajur Veda – Is a Ritual Veda

- It is divided into two parts Krishna Yajurveda and Shukla Yajur Veda.
- Rituals of Yajnas.

(3) The Sama Veda – had 1549 Verses.

- This Veda is important for Indian music.
- Book for chants.

(4) The Athar Veda: Contains Charms and Spells to ward off evils and diseases.

- Mantras for magic spells.

The Upanishads:

- The Upanishads are philosophical texts.
- They are generally called Vedanta.
- There are 108 Upanishads.
- Vrihadaranyaka is the oldest Upanishad.

Vedangas:

There are six Vedangas

- (1) Shiksha
- (2) Kalpa Sutras
- (3) Vyakarana
- (4) Nirukta
- (5) Chanda
- (6) Jyotisha

Mahakavyas: There are mainly two Mahakavyas.

- (1) The Ramayana
- (2) The Mahabharata.

The Purana: The Purana means "The old":

- There are 18 famous 'Puranas'
- The Matsya Purana is the oldest Puranic text.

- The important puranas are the Bhagavata, the Vishnu. The vegu and the Brahmnda.

Shad – darshan:

There are 6 schools of Indian Philosphy known as the shad – darshans.

Darshana	Founder	Basic Text
(1) Snakhya Darshan	Kapila	Sankhya Sutra
(2) Yoga Darshan	Patanjali	Yoga Sutra
(3) Nyaya Darshan	Akshapada – Gautama	Mayaya sutra
(4) Vaish esika warshna	Vluka Kanada	Vaisheika Sutra
(5) Mimansa	Vaimini	Purva Minasa Sutra
(6) Vedant	Badarayana	Bharma Sutra

Rig Vedic (1500 BC – 1000 B.C):

- Rig Veda is the only source of knowledge for period.
- Rig Veda people, who called themselves Aryans were confined in the are which came to be known as Sapta Sinddhu i.e land of the seven rivers.
- According to Rig Veda the famous Dassajan was the interaine war of the Aryans.
The Rig Veda speaks of assemblies such as the Sabha Samiti, Vidath, and Grana.
- Rig Vedic society comprised four Vramas, namely: Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra.
- Teacher and priests were called Brahmas, Rules and administrators were called Kshatriyas and artisans and laburses were reckoned or shudras.
- Child marriage was not in vogue.
- Milk and its product curd, butter and ghee formed on important part of the diet.
- The cow was already deemed Agnaya i.e. not to be killed.

- Alcoholic drinks, Sura and soma were also consumed.
- Indira, Agni Varuma were the most Popular Duties of Rig Vedic Aryans.
- The Aryana crossed the nomadic stage. Yet, great important was attached to herds of cattle various animals were domesticated.
- Tiger was not known but the wild animals like – lion, elephant and bear were known to them.

Later Vedic period: 100 B.C – 600 B.C

- During the eater Vedic period the Aryan Settlements covered virtually the whole northern Indira – Aryavarta.
- The center of culture now shifted from Saraswati to Ganges.
- The expansion of people towards the east in indicate in a legend of Sataptha Brahamana.
- Large kingdom and stately cities made their appearances in the later Vedic period.
- In Taittiriya Brahmas we notice the theory of the divine origin of Kingship.
- The military officials of the Rig Vedic times the Semanj and the Grramini.
- The Sthapati being entrusted with the duty of administering.
- Adhikrita was the village officials.
- The popular control over the affairs of the Kingdom was exercised through Sabha and Samiti.
- The Earliest references to the 4 Ashrams: Brahmachrya, Grihastha, Vanprastha and Sanyasa is found in the Jobala uponishad.
- Woman were prohibited to attend the political Assemblies.
- The earlier divinities Indra and Agni were relegated inot the background while prajapati, Vishnu and Rudra.
- Prajapati Become Supreme God.
- Land had become more valuable than cows.

- Rice, Barley, beans, sesame and wheat were cultivated.
- Production of goods advanced as indicated by new occupations like fisherman, washer man, dyers, door-keepers and footmen.

Types of Hindu Marriage (vivah)

Brahma vivaha	Giving the girls to a man with dowry
Daiva vivaha	Giving the girls to the priest himself in lieu of his fees.
Arsha Vivaha	Giving the girl to a man after accepting a bride-price
Prajapatya Vivaha	Giving the girls to a man without demanding a bride-price
Gandharva Vivaha	Love marriage
Asura Vivaha	Marriage with a purchased girl.
Rakshasa Vivaha	Marriage with the daughter of a defeated king or with a kidnapped girl.
Paishacha Vivaha	Marriage to a girl seducing or raping her.

5.	Kasala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
6.	Surasena	Mathura	Mathura
7.	Panchala	Ahichatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8.	Kuru	Indraprastha	Merrut & S.E. Haryana
9.	Mtsya	Virat Nagar	Jaipur
10	Chedi	Sothivati / Banda	Budelhan da
11	Avanti	Ujjan / Mahismati	Madhya Pradesh & Malwa
12	Gandhar	Taxilla	Rawalpin di
13	Kamboj	Pooncha	Rajori & Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Asmaka	Pratisthan / Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali
16	Malla	Kusinara	Deria & UP

Religious Movements & (600 BC – 400 BC)

Buddhism: (563BC – 483BC)

Buddha's Life:

- Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhism, was born in 563 B.C on the Vaisaka purnima day at Lumbinivana/Nepal in the Sakhya Kshatriya clan.
- His father suddhodhana was the republic on king of Kapilvastu and mother Mahamaya was a princess of Kollia Republic.
- After his mother's early death. He was bought up by his step mother and Aunt Mahaprajapati Gautami.

Sl. No	Mhajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
1.	Anga	Champa	Manager and Bhagalpur
2.	Magadh	Grivraja / Rajagis	Gaya and Patna
3.	Kasi	Kasi	Banaras
4.	Vastsa	Kausambhi	Allahabad

- His father married him at an early age to yasudharva (Shankya dynasty) from whom he had a son Rahul.
- At the age of 29, he renounced home, this was his Mahabhinish Kramana.
- His first teacher was Alara Kalama.

Buddhist Councils:

Buddhist Council held in India				
Buddhist Council	Patron	Venue	Chairman	Year
First	Ajatashtaru	Rajgriha	Mahakashyapa	483 B.C
Second	Kalashoka	Vaishali	Sabbakami	383 B.C
Third	Ashoka	Patliputra	Mogaiputra	250 B.C
Fourth	Kanishka	Kundalban (Kashmir)	Vasumitra	72 AD

Buddhist Literature:

Pali Text:

Tripitaka:

- (1) Vinay pitaka – Monastic code
- (2) Sutta Pitaka – Buddha sayings
- (3) Abhidhamma pitaka – Religious discourse of Buddha.

Milindapanho – Questions of Milinda.

Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa – The great Chronicles of Sri Lanka.

Sanskrit Texts:

Buddha Charita, Soundrananda, Sutra Lankar, Sariputra, Prakaran & Vajra Suchi – Ashwagosha. Mahavirbhosha shustra – Vasumitra, Modhgamika, Karika and Prajnaparimita Karika – Nagarjuna etc.

Rise of Magadha:

- The political history of India from 6th century BC onwards the history of struggle between four states: Magadh, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti for Supremacy.
- The kingdom of Magadha emerged to be the most powerful one and succeeded in founding an empire.

Haryanaka Dynasty: 544 B.C – 412 B.C

Bimbisara (Shramika): 544 B.C – 492 B.C

- He was the founder of Haryana dynasty.
- Magadha came into prominence under the leadership of Bimbisara.
- He was a contemporary of Goutama Buddha.
- He married the princess of Kasala and Madra.

Buddhism

Buddha's life

- Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhism, was born in 563 BC (widely accepted), on the vaisakha Purnima day at Lumbinivana (Rummindehi District Nepal) in the Sakya Kshatriya clan.
- His father Suddhodhana was the republican king of Kapilvastu and mother Mahamaya was a princess of Koliya Republic.
- After his mother's early death, he was brought up by his step mother and aunt Mahaprajapati Gautami.
- His father married him at an early age to Yasodhara (Princess of Sakya dynasty) from whom he had a son Rahul.
- Four sights: an old man, a diseased person, dead body and an ascetic proved to be a turning point in his career.
- At the age of 29, he renounced home, this was his Mahabhinishkramana (great going forth) and became a wandering ascetic.
- His first teacher was Alara Kalama (Sankhyaphilosopher) from whom he learnt the technique of meditation.

Great Events of Buddha's life	Symbols
Janma (Birth)	Lotus and bull
Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse
Nirvana/Sambodhi (Enlightenment)	Bodhi tree
Dharmachakra Pravartana (First sermon)	Wheel
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

- His next teacher was Udraka Ramputra
- At the age of 35, under a pipal tree at Uruvella (Bodh Gaya) on the bank of river Nirajana (modern name Falgu) he attained Nirvana (enlightenment) after 49.

Sects of Buddhism:

Hinyana – Its followers believed in the original teaching of Buddha.

They favoured Pali language.

Mahayana – its Followers believed in the heavenlines of Buddha.

They favoured Sanskrit language.

Vajrayana – Its followers believed that salvations could be best obtained by acquiring the magical power, which they called vajra.

Jainism (599 B.C – 527 B.C)

- According to Jain tradition there were 24 Tirth Amkaras. The first being Rishabhadeva / Adinath & last being Mahavira.
- The Vishnu Purana and the Bhagavat Purana describe Rishabha as an incarnation of Narayana.
- Parshwanath's four main teachings (chaturthi)
 - (i) Arimsa
 - (ii) Satya
 - (iii) Asteya
 - (iv) Aparigraha

Mahavira adopted all those four teachings and added one more that is Brahmacharya to it:

Name	Symbol
Risabha	Bull
Ajit Nath	Elephant
Parshwanath	Serpent
Mahavira	Lion

The Principles of Jainism as Preached by Mahavira:

- (i) Reject the authority of the Vedas and Vedic rituals.
- (ii) Did not believe in the existence of god.
- (iii) Believed in Karma and the Transmigration of soul.
- (iv) Laid great emphasis on equality.

Jain Council	Year	Venue	Chairman	Patron	Result
18 th	300 BC	Patliputra	Sthulabhadra	Chandragupta Maurya	Compilation of 12 angas
2 nd	512 AD	Vaibhava	Devardhishnashrama	-	Final compilation of 12 angas and 12 upangas.

Sects of Jainism: There are two sects

- (i) Shvetambaras : Those who put on white robes
- (ii) Digambaras: Those who were stark naked.

Examples of Jain Architectural:

- (i) Gumphas i.e. caves e.g. Hathigumpha, Baghogumpha etc.
- (ii) Dilwara temples e.g. Vimala Vashahi temple, Tejapala temple – Mount Abu.

- (iii) Temples – Girnar & Paulitana (Gujarat)
- (iv) Pravapuri temple, Rajgriha temple – Bihar.
- (v) Statue of Gometeshwar/Bahubali – Shravangola (Karnataka).

Mahavira's life:

- Mahavira was born in 540 B.C in a village kundgrama was vaishali in Bihar.
- His father's name is Siddhartha
- His mother's name is Trishala was the sister of Chetaka, The king of Vaishali.
- Mahavira was married to Yashoda and a produced a daughter Amonja Priyadarshani whose husband Jamali became the first disciple of Mahvira.
- At the age of 30, after the death of his father, he renounced his family became an ascetic and proceeded in search of truth.
 - Mahavira delivered his first sermon at Pava to his 11 disciples. Later, he founded a Jain Sangha at Pava.
 - At the age of 72 in 468 B.C, he passed away at Pavapuri near Bihar sharif in Bihar.

Triratna i.e. Three Gems of Jainism:

- (1) Samyak Shradha/Viswas (Right Faith):
It is the belief in thirathankaras.
- (2) Samyak Jhon: It is the knowledge of the Jain creed.
- (3) Samyak Karma: It is the practice of the 5 vows of Jainism.

Pancha Mahavaratas i.e Five vows of Jainism:

- (1) Ashimsa
- (2) Satya
- (3) Asteya
- (4) Aparigraha
- (5) Brahmcharya.

Types of Knowledge:

There are five types of knowledge:

- (1) Mati Jhana
- (2) Shruto Jhana
- (3) Avadhi Jhana
- (4) Manah paryaya Jhana
- (5) Keval Jhana

Mauryan Period (322 BC – 185 B.C)

Sources for Mauryan History:

(A) Literacy Sources:

Kautilya's Arthasatra:

It is a treatise on government and polity. It gives a clear and Methodobgiol analysis of political and economic conditons.

Megasthenese's Indica:

Megashenese was the ambassador of selescuss Nikotar in the court of Chandra Gupta Maurya.

Visakha Datta's Mudra Rakshasa:

It was written during Gupta Period.

Buddhist Literature:

- Indian Buddhist text Jatakas reveal a general picture of socio economic conditions of Mauryan Period.
- Ceylonese Buddhist chronicles Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa describe the part played by Ashoka. In spreading Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

(B) Archacological sources:

There are rock edicts, pillar edicts and cave inscription located at several places in the Indian sub-confident. Their importance came to be appreciated only after their description by James prince in 1837 and also the identification of Ashoka as the Authors of these edicts in the beginning of the 20th century.

Origin of the Mauryas:

- Mudrakshasa of Vishakhadatta uses the terms Vrishal, Kulhina.
- The Junagarh Rock inscription of Rudradaman has some indirect evidence.
- Mauryas belonged to the Moriya tribe and were certainly of a low caste.

Chandra Gupta Maurya: 322 B.C. – 298 B.C

- Chandra Gupta dethroned that last manda ruler dhananand and occupied patliputra in 322 BC with the help of Kautilya.
- In 305 B.C, Chandragupta Maurya defeated seleucus Nikator, who surrendered a vast territory including Aria, Gedrosia and paropamisadac (Kabul), in Return for 500 elephants.
- Megasthenese was the Greek Ambassador sent to the court of Chandra Gupta Maurya by selescus Nikator.
- Chandra Gupta became a Jain and went to Srauanabegola slow starvation.
- Trade flourished, Agriculture was regulated, weights and measures were standardized and money come into use.

Bindusara: 298 – 273 B.C:

- Chandra Gupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
- Bindu Sara, known to the Greeks as amitrochates i.e. Slayers of foes.
- Bindusara asked of Syria to send some sweet wine, dried figs and a sophist. Amtiochus I sent wine and figs but politcly replied that Greek Philosopheres are not for sale.
- Bindu Sara Patronised Ajvikas.

Ashoka 273 – 232 B.C:

- According to Buddhist tradition Ashoka ururped the throne after killing his 99 brothers and spared Tissa the youngest one.
- Under Ashoka, The Mauryan Empire reached its climax. For the first time, the whole of the sunto – continent leaving out the extreme – south, was under imperial control.
- Ashoka fought the kalinga war in 261 B.C. in 9th years of his coronation.
- The king was moved by the massacre in this war and therefore abandoned the

policy of physical occupation in favor of policy.

- Ashoka sent missionaries to the kingdom of the Cholas & the Pandya's and five states ruled by Greek kings.
- He sent missionaries to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) & Burma.

Ashoka's Dhamma:

- After the Kalinga war, Ashoka propogated Dhamma or moral low across his empire.
- Dhamma was a way of life, a set of principles and a conduct that is 22 to be adopted.

Later Mauryas: 232 B.C – 185 B.C

- After Ashoka's death in 232 B.C, There were 7 kings within a span of 5 years.
- After him, the Mauryan Empire was divided into two parts western & Eastern.
- The western part come to be ruled by Kunala.
- The eastern part come to be ruled by Dasaratha.
- The last Mauryan king Brihatratha, was associated by pushyamitra Sunga, his commander in chief.

Mauryan Administration:

Central administration:

The Mauryan government was a centralized bureaucracy of which the nucleus was the king.

According to Kautilya there are 7 elements of states:

- (1) Raja (The King)
- (2) Amatya (The Secretaries)
- (3) Janapada (Territory)
- (4) Durg (Fort)
- (5) Kosha (The treasure)
- (6) Sena (Army)
- (7) Mitra (Friend)

The Mantri Parishad:

The king was assisted by Mantri Parishad, whose members included:

- (i) The Yuvaraja (The crown prince)
 - (ii) The purohita (The chief priest)
 - (iii) The Senapati (The commander in chief)
- Mauryan administration was the maintenance of a huge army.
 - Army was carried by a board of 30 officers divided into 6 committee.
 - Tax collected from peasants varied from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$ of the produce.
 - The state also provided irrigation facilities and charged water tax.
 - Sohgaura copper plate inscription and Mahasthana inscription deal with the relief measures to be adopted during a famine.

Society:

Kautilya's 'Arthshastra' looked upon the Shudras as on Aryan community which is distinguished from malechha or Non-Aryan community.

- Through Megasthenese sated that there were no slavery in India.
- Woman occupied a high position and freedom in the Mauryan society.

Agriculture:

- The chief of Agriculture department was known as 'Sitadhyaksha.'
- Then there was separate irrigations department as well which looked after a network of canals.

Past Mauryan India:

- After the successors of Ashoka failed to keep the empire intact, various small kingdoms emerged in the face of Indian subcontinent.
- The mauryan dynasty was soon replaced by the Sunga dynasty.

The Shunga Dynasty : 185 BC – 73 B.C

- The founder of Sunga dynasty was pushyamitra Shunga.
- He had Assassinated the last Mauryan rule, Brihadratha to capture the throne.
- The southern parts were under the satvahans.
- The Northern western areas were facing Bactrian Greek invasions.
- Pushyamitra was as supporter of Brahmanical traditions.
- He received the practice of Ashwamedha Yojna.
- He also contributed in construction of the Buddhist stupa at Barhut.
- After the death of Pushyamitra, his son Agnimitra became ruler.
- The last ruler of Sunga dynasty was their 9th ruler Devabhuti. He was murdered by this minister Vashudeva Kanva.
- Patanjali Author of the 'Mahabhashya'.

Kanva Dynasty: - (73 BC – 28 BC):

- It was founded by Vasudeva Kanva. This dynasty was Brahmin in caste.
- The kingdom at the time of vasudeva Kanab was much reduced in this extant.
- The last king of canvas was seaman.

The Satvahana Dynasty 60 B.C – to 225

A.D

- Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest of the Satavahana rulers.
- He extended the Satavahana rule by defeating the Shaka rulers Naha-Pana of western India.
- The Satvahna capital was situated at Pratisthana.
- Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty.
- PULamavi III, its 30th ruler, was the last Satwahna ruler.
- Satvahana started the practice of donating land.

- He sent a royal physician Jivaka to Ujjain, when Avanti king Pradyota was suffered by Jaunclice.
- He built the city of new 'Rajagriha.'

Ajat Shatru (Kunika) 492 B.C – 460 B.C

- Bimbisara was succeeded by his son Ajatshatru.
- Ajat Shatru killed his father is seized the throne.
- The Vajji confederation was ajatshatrus target of attack.
- He built the fort of Rajagriha and a watch fort (Jaladurga).

Udaiyum 460 B.C – 440 B.C:

- A Jatshatru was succeeded by his son Vdayin.
- He laid the foundation of the city Patliputra and shifted the capital from Rajagriha to Patliputra.
- Vdayin was succeeded by amurddha, Munda and Naga dasax.

Shishunaga Dynasty: 412 B.C – 344 B.C:

Nag Dasak: Nag Dasak was unworthy rule so the People got disgusted and elected shishungga the king.

- Shishunaga was the destruction of the pradyota dynasty of Avanti.
- Shisunaga was succeeded by Kalashoka.
- His region is important because he convened the second Buddhists council in Vaishali (383 B.C)

Nanda – Dynasty (344 BC – 323 BC)

- The Shisunaga dynasty was overthrown by Mahapadma who established a new line of kings known as the Nandas.
- Mahapadma is known as Sarvakshatrantak.
- The puranas call Mahapadma extrat i.e. the sole monarch.
- Mahapadma was succeeded by this eight sons. Dhananda was the last one.

- It was during the rule of Dhananda that the Invasion of Alexander took place in North West in 326 B.C.

Foreign Invasions:

(1) Indian / Persian Invansion – Darivs Invasion (518 B.C)

- The achaemenian ruler darius / Penetrated into north west India in 518 B.C. and annexed Punjab, west of India and Sindh.
- This province was the most fertile area of the Iranian empire.
- The Indo-Iranian contact lasted for about 200 years.
- It gave an impetus to Indo-Iranian trade & commerce.

(2) Macedonia – Invasion – Alexander Invasion (326 B.C)

- Alexander the great was a great king & general who conquered the Persian Empire.
- Alexander succeeded his father Philip to the throne of Macedonia, he was the only 20 years of age.
- The rulers of Taxila and Abhiard submitted but porus refused to do so.
- Alexander then crossed the Jhelum by a trick porus was defeated in the battle that followed, but alexander treated him very generously for his bravery (battle of vitasata i.e. Modern Jhelum, Greek-Hydaspes – 326 B.C.)
- Alexander had to return from this place as his soldier refused to go any further.
- The battle of Jhelum & Sakria had opened their eyes and they were afraid of the great Magadhan Empire across the Beas.
- Alexander reached Babylon in 323 BC where he died at the age of 33.

The Chedis / Chetas of Kalinga (1st century B.C.)

- (1) Kalinga rose to power under the king Khravela.
- (2) He was a Jain as Mentioned in his inscriptions.
- (3) He made various conquests known a.
- (4) Hathigumpha inscription located in the Udaygiri hills near Bhuvneshwar, Orissa.

The Bactrian Indo – Greeks (2nd Century B.C)

- After death of Alexander in 323 B.C, Various Greeks settled on the north-west an boarder of India.
- The rulers of Bacteria are called the Bactrian – Greeks, because they were Hellenistic (Greek) in their Ancestry.
- During the time of Pushyamitra Sanga the invaders were ruled by Demetrius.
- The most revered Indo – Greek ruled by Demetrius.
- He has been referred to as king Milinda who finds mention in the famous. Buddhist text ‘Milindapanho’ – In which philosophical questions asked Milinda to Nagasena.

The Sakas Dynasty (1st Century B.C. 4th Century AD)

- (1) There were two distinct groups of Sakas – Northern Satraps who ruled from Taxila, and the western satraps who ruled over Maharashtra.
- (2) The founder the Saka rule in India in the 1st Century B.C. was Maues. And his successor Azesi, is considered to be founder of the ‘Vikrama Era’.
- (3) The most famous of the Shakra rulers was Randradaman. He is known to have undertook the repairs of the Sudarshana Lake, which was originally

but it during the reign of Chandra Gupta Maury.

The Parthians: (1st Century B.C – 1st Century A.D)

- The Parthians was Iranians in origin.
- Gondophernes / Gondophares as a Parthian ruler. He is believed it have taken up chritianity by association with St Thomas.
- The Kushanas: (1st Century Ad – 3rd Century AD)
- There were two successive dynasties in the Kushanas.
 - The first dynasty was founded by Kadphises.
 - This had two kings, Kadphises I and II or Vima Kadphises.
 - Kanishka was the greatest Kushan king who spread his kingdom beyond the western Himalayas also. He popularized Buddhism in Tibet, China & Central Asia.

Sangam Age (1st – 3rd Century):

The first Sangam, is believed to be held at Madurai, attended by gods & legendary sages. The second Sangam was held at Kapadapuram, only Tolkappiyan survives from this. The third Sangam at Madurai was founded by Mudathiru Maran.

During the sangam age, it was ruled by three dynasties the cheras, cholas & Pandyas.

Cheras:

- The capital of cheras was Vanji and their important seaports were Tondi & Misery.
- They had the Palmyra flowers are their garland.
- The insignia of cheras is the “bow and Arrow.”
- The pugalur miscription of the 1st century AD has reference to three generations of chera rulers.

- The important rulers of cheras was senguttuvan who belonged to 2nd century A.D.

Cholas:

- Their capital was firstly at vrayur & later shifted to Puhar (Tanjore)
- King Karikala was a famous king of the Sangam Cholas.
- The insignia of Cholas was “tiger.”
- Patina appall portrayed his life & military conquests.
- Many Sangam poems mention the Battle of Venni where he defeated the confederacy of cheras, Pandyas & eleven minor chieftains.

Pandyas:

- Their capital was Madurai.
- Their Insignia was the “carp” (Fish).
- King Neduncheliyan also known as Aryappadai kandantha Neduncheliyan. He ordered the execution of Kovalan. The Curse of Kovalan’s wife Kennagi burnt and destroyed.

Sangam Literature:

The Sangam literature includes. Tolkappiyam, Ettulogai, Pattu, pathinenkillkandakku, and two epics named silappathigaram & Manimegalai.

Sangam polity & administration:

- The king was assisted by a wide body of officials who were categorized into five councils.
- They were ministers (amaichar), priests (Antharar), envoys (Thuthar), military commanders (Senapathi), & Spices.

Economy of the Sangam Age:

- Agriculture was the chief occupation where rice was the most common crop.

- The handicraft included weaving, metal works and carpentry, ship building & making of ornaments using beads, stones & Ivory.
- These were in great demand of all above products in the internal & external trade as this was at its peak during the sangam period.
- The port city of Puhar became an important place of foreign trade, as big ships entered this port containing precious goods.

Gupta A Empire / Dynasty (319 AD – 540 AD).

The Gupta period is popularly known as the “Golden age of India.”

The Gupta Empire was founded by Sri Gupta. He was then succeeded by Ghatotkacha.

Chandra Gupta (320 – 330 A.D)

- Chandra Gupta was a powerful Gupta ruler who had waged many battles to attain this title of ‘Maharaj diroja’ (king of kings)
- The Mehrauli iron pillar inscriptions has mention of his extensive conquests.
- He married a Licchavi princess Kumaradevi.
- He is considered as the founder of the Gupta Era.

Samudra Gupta (330 – 380 A.D.)

He is also known as “Indian Napoleon.”

- He is also performed Ashwamedha sacrifices after his military victories. This is known by the coins issued by him as the “restorer of Ashwamedha”.
- Samudra Gupta was called by different names, one of them was “Kaviraja” because of his ability to compose verses. Certain coins show him with a Veena.
- He patronized poets & Scholars like Harisena.

- Samudra Gupta was a follower of vaishnavism.

Chandra Gupta II, Vikramaditya of Gupta Dynasty (380 – 415 AD)

- He is also known as Vikramaditya.
- His capital city was Patliputra.
- He married his daughter Prabhavati to a vakataka prince who ruled the strategic lands of Deccan.
- Chandragupta II, conquered the western Malwa & Gujarat. This earned him the title of 'Sakari' & 'Vikramaditya.'
- Ujjain became the commercial capital of the kingdom thereafter.
- In this reign, the Chinese pilgrim Fa – hien visited India.
- Chandragupta II also patronised art and literature. He has poets like Kalidasa in his court.

Kumara Gupta (415 – 455 A.D.)

- He succeeded Chandra Gupta II
- He laid the foundation of Nalanda University which later grew to become an international center of learning.
- Kumar Gupta of I was a worshipper of Kartikeya.
- The coins of his time tell that he took titles like: Mahendraditya, Ashwamedha, and Mahendra.

Skanda Gupta (455 – 467AD)

- He was the last great ruler of Gupta dynasty.
- He saved the empire from Hun invasion coming from central Asia.

After the death of Skanda Gupta, there were other rulers of the Gupta Dynasty like Purugupta, Narasimhagupta, and Buddhagupta.

Literature Developments in Gupta Period:

Chandragupta's court was adorned by the celebrated 'Navratnas' including Kalidasa.

- Kalidasa wrote Sanskrit dramas: Malvikagmitra, Vikramorjaya, Raghuvamsha and Abhaya Shakuntalam (features among the hundred best books of the world). He wrote two well-known epics: Raghuvamsha and Kumarasambhava (Shiva Parvati union & birth of Kartikeya). Ritusamhara and Meghaduta are his two lyrics (Kavya).
- Vishakhadatta was the author of two Sanskrit plays / dramas: Mudraraksasa and Devichandraguptam.
- Sidhika was a renowned poet who wrote Mrichchakatika (Little Clay Cart).
- Bharavi – Kirtarjuniya is a story of conflict between Arjuna & Shiva. It is known for its complexity of Sanskrit.
- Vishnu Sharma composed the Panchatantra stories during the Gupta period.
- Amarasimha was a Buddhist author who compiled a lexicon, Amarakosa.

Science Developments in Gupta Period:

Aryabhata, the great mathematician and astronomer, wrote the book Aryabhatiya. He was the first to declare that the earth is spherical in shape and rotates on its own axis.

Varahmihira composed Pancha Siddhantika. In the field of medicine, Sushruta lived during the Gupta period. He was the last of the great medical trio of ancient India after Charaka and Sushruta who lived before the Gupta age. Vagbhata was the author of Asthanga Samgraha.

Architecture Developments in Gupta Period:

During the Gupta period, both the Nagara and Dravidian styles of architecture were developed.

The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is an Example of Gupta Architecture.

- Shiva Temple of Bhumrah.
- Vishnu temple of Bhumrah.
- Parvati Temple of Nachria Kathura.
- Lakshaman temple of Raipur.
- Mukund Darra temple of Kota.
- Shiva temple of Koh.
- Bhitari temple of Ghazipur.

The Ajanta paintings primarily belong to the period between the first to seventh centuries.

AD yet most of these were produced during the Gupta period.

Harshavardhana's Reign (550 AD – 647 AD) or post Gupta Period

Sources for study of Harshavardhana's Reign:

Harshacharita written By Bana Bhatta, his court poet:

- Other important sources are dramas written by Harsha himself: Ratnavali, Naganda, and Priyadarshika.
- Madhuben plate inscription.
- Sonpat inscription.
- Banskhera inscription has Harsha's Signature.

Pushyabhuti Dynasty:

Its founder was Pushyabhuti

Their capital was Thaneshwar, to north of Delhi.

- An important king of Vardhan Dynasty was prabhakaravardhan.
- After his death, his elder son Rajyavardhan assumed the throne. He was treacherously murdered by Sasanka, the ruler of Bengal.
- Thereafter, Harshvardhan succeeded his brother.

Extent of Harshavardhan's Empire:

- Harsha defeated the ruler of Kannauj and made Kannauj his new capital.
- Most important battle fought by Harshavardhan was against chalukyan ruler Pulkeshin II with the Ambition to extend his empire beyond Narmada.
- Aihole inscription of Pulakeshin mention that Harsha was defeated.

Administration in Harshavardhan's Reign:

- The administration was more feudal and decentralized during Harsh's reign as compared to that of the Guptas.
- Taxation was light and forced labor was also rare.
- One sixth of the crop produce was collected as land-tax.
- Harshavardhans army consisted of four – division – Foot, Chariot, horse and elephant.
- Harshavardhans had diplomatic relations with china.

Economy and Society during Harsh's Rule:

There was fourfold Varna system in place comprising – Brahmins, Kshtriay, Vysya and Sudra.

- Brahmins received land grants from the king, Kshtriyas were the ruling class, Vysyas were involved in trading and Sudras practiced agriculture.
- Women lost the privileges of Swayamvar, Widow Remarriage was not permitted. The practice of dowry and Sati became prevalent.
- Dead were disposed either by cremation, water burial or expausure in the woods.