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INDIAN HISTORY

**Coverage of Important Facts
from NCERT Books (Class 6-12)**



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Authored By
Janmenjay Sahni

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TOPICS FOCUS & TREND OF QUESTIONS

THE STONE AGE

Important topics from examination point of view are Paleolithic age, Mesolithic age and Neolithic age. If we analyse the pattern of questions asked in previous years, most of them are related to cultivation of crops, types of tools used during particular age etc.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Some of the important topics are like its geographical extent, town planning, seals, religious life, various IVC sites, socio-economic conditions in IVC, art and architecture etc. Most of the questions which were asked in past are related to material used for making seals, Harappan script, which site is located on the banks of which river, features of town planning, different sites associated with which industry etc.

THE VEDIC AGE

This section of the ancient Indian history is one of the important section from the examination point of view. Some of the important topics are Vedic polity, socio-economic life, religious outlook, vedic literature etc. In past the questions have been asked regarding the important Veda deals with which subject, position of women in Vedic society, the four Ashramas, names of ancient rivers etc.

THE FIRST TERRITORIAL STATES

Though not very important, but questions asked in previous examinations are related to, capital of any of the Mahajanapadas, causes for the rise of Magadha, Haryanka dynasty, Nanda dynasty, Alexander's invasion.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS OF MAHAJANAPADAS

Some of the most important topics from examination point of view are Jainism, Buddhism and their impacts on the society, causes for the rise and growth of these sects, literature. Questions are frequently asked from this section of Indian history in almost every examination, which are related to philosophy of Jainism and Buddhism, Buddhist Mudras etc.

THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

Some of the vital topics are origin of Mauryan empire, Mauryan administration, causes for the decline of Mauryan empire etc. In almost all the competitive examinations questions are asked from Mauryan empire which are regarding the literary sources of Mauryas, Kautilya, Megasthenes Indica, Ashoka's edicts and inscriptions, impact of Kalinga war on policy of Ashoka, art and architecture during Mauryan period.

THE SANGAM AGE

Important topics from examination point of view are sangam literature, sangam polity, socio-economic conditions during sangam age. Questions asked from this topic are like, state emblem of Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas kingdom, capitals of Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas, Sangam administration.

POST-MAURYAN PERIOD

This topic is not of much importance, however sometimes questions are asked regarding Pushyamitrahunga, Huna Invasions, Indo-Greeks, Kanishka's reign, developments in the field of art and architecture, socio-economic conditions in post Mauryan society.

GUPTA AGE

It is referred to as the Golden Age of Indian History. This is one of the most important sections from the perspective of competitive examinations as questions are frequently asked. Some important topics are Gupta administration, religion and society during Gupta period, developments in art and architecture. In competitive examinations questions are asked regarding types of coins issued during Gupta Age, economy in Gupta rule, temple constructed during Gupta Age with their location.

THE POST-GUPTA ERA

Questions from this section are mostly asked regarding Harsha's reign, Hiuen Tsang a Chinese traveler, books written by Harsha, achievements of the Chalukyan rulers.

THE SULTANATE OF DELHI

It is one of the most important sections of the Indian History, as questions are frequently asked in each and every examination conducted by UPSC and State PSC's. Some important topics are administration of Delhi Sultanate, important rulers of Delhi Sultanate, military organisations, agrarian conditions, revenue system under sultanate rulers. Questions asked are related to reforms of Iltutmish, Razia Sultana, Theory of kingship, administrative reforms of Ala-ud-din Khilji, decisions taken by Muhammed-bin-Tughlaq, reforms introduced by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, important officers and important departments established by various rulers and their functions, developments in the field of architecture and music.

PROVINCIAL KINGDOMS

Vijayanagara empire is very important from examination point of view as questions are frequently asked from this topic. Questions asked from this section are mostly factual like sources of Vijayanagara empire, achievements of Krishnadeva Raya, Vijayanagara administration, Ashtadiggajas, famous travellers.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

Important topics are Sufi Movement and Bhakti Movement. Questions are primarily asked regarding the founder of various Sufi orders, important Bhakti saints, schools of Bhakti thought.

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

This section of Indian history is one of the most important from examination point of view as questions are asked in almost every exam. Some important topics are early conquests of Babur, reign of Sher Shah Suri, conquests of Akbar, religious policies of Akbar, reign of Aurangzeb. In previous years questions were asked from these topics: battles fought by Babur and Humayun, Sher Shah's administration, military reforms, coins issued Din-i-ilahi, 9 jewels in the court of Akbar, religious policy of Aurangzeb, Mughal administration, land revenue system, Mughal architecture, famous Mughal historians and their works.

THE MARATHA EMPIRE

From examination perspective, Maratha administration is very important. In previous years questions have been asked like, Treaty of Purandhar, revenue administration and military administration.

MUGHAL DECLINE AND RISE OF REGIONAL STATES

In previous years questions have been asked on the causes for the decline of Mughal empire, Aurangzeb's religious intolerance, rise of regional states like Hyderabad, Bengal, Awadh, Mysore, Punjab.

EMERGENCE OF EUROPEAN POWERS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BRITISH PARAMOUNTCY IN INDIA

Some of the important topics are advent of various European powers like the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Britishers. In previous examinations questions have been asked from early settlements or factories of various European companies, Anglo-French struggle in South India (Carnatic Wars), Battle of Plassey (1757) and Battle of Buxar (1764), Anglo-Mysore Wars.

TRIBAL AND PEASANT UPRISINGS

Some of the important topics are Sanyasi Rebellion, Santhal Revolt, Pagalpanthi Uprising, Faraizi Movement and Munda Uprising. Most of the questions asked in previous exams from this section are regarding what was the cause and outcome of a particular rebellion.

GOVERNOR-GENERALS AND VICEROYS OF INDIA

Some of the important one's are Warren Hastings, Lord Cornwallis, Lord Wellesley, Lord William Bentinck, Charles Metcalfe, Lord Dalhousie, Lord Mayo, Lord Lytton, Lord Rippon, Lord Dufferin, Lord Curzon, Lord Irwin, Lord Wavell, Lord Mountbatten. Mostly, the questions asked from this section are regarding the key policies of any of the above, their contribution in establishing the British rule in India, their contribution towards the Indian society.

DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EDUCATION AND PRESS

Important topics from examination perspective are Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, Charter Act, 1813, Indian Universities Act, 1904, Wardha Scheme of Education, 1937, the Vernacular Press Act, 1878. In previous years questions have been asked from Wood's Despatch, Hunter Commission, Lord Macaulay's education policy etc.

REVOLT OF 1857

Some of the important topics are causes of the Revolt of 1857, impact of revolt, failure of revolt. In previous exams questions have been asked regarding how was subsidiary alliance and Doctrine of Lapse responsible for the revolt, immediate cause of the revolt.

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

Important topics for better understanding are causes for socio-religious reform movements, important leaders of various reform movements, Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Theosophical Movement, Ramakrishna Movement etc. Questions have been asked regarding the contribution of Raja Rammohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Young Bengal Movement, objectives of various reform movements.

GROWTH OF NATIONALISM AND STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE (1885 TO 1919)

Important topics for various exams are factors for the rise of nationalism, activities of early nationalists, formation of INC, moderates, causes for the rise of extremism, Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi Movement, Ghadar Party. In previous years questions have been asked from various political associations in Bengal, Ilbert Bill controversy, ideological differences between moderates and extremists, Surat Split (1907), Lucknow Pact, 1916, Home Rule Movement of Tilak and Annie Besant, important Congress sessions and their Presidents.

EARLY POLITICAL LIFE OF GANDHI JI AND STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE (1919 TO 1927)

Important topics are arrival of Gandhiji, contribution of Gandhiji in freedom struggle, Rowlatt Act, (1919), Non-Cooperation Movement. Questions which are very frequently asked from this section are regarding Champaran Satyagraha, Kheda Satyagraha, Ahmedabad textile mill issue, Anti Ahmedabad textile mill issue, Anti Rowlatt agitation, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Khilafat Movement.

STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, THIRD PHASE (1927-1939)

Important topics from the perspective of competitive exams are Simon Commission, fourteen points of Jinnah, Lahore Session of Congress, Civil Disobedience Movement, Gandhi Irwin Pact, Government of India Act, 1935. Questions from this chapter in previous years have been asked regarding why Simon Commission was boycotted, Nehru Report importance of the Lahore Session of INC, Dandi March, Round table conferences, Communal award.

STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, FOURTH PHASE (1940 - 1947)

Important topics for various examinations are August Offer (1940), Cripps Mission, Quit India Movement, Indian National Army, Cabinet Mission Plan (1946), Mountbatten Plan. In previous examinations questions have been asked regarding what were the provisions of August offer, individual Satyagraha, reasons for the rejection of Cripps Mission, important events during Quit India Movement, Wardha Resolution, INA trials, Provisions of Wavell Plan and Simla Conference, Direct Action Day, reasons for partition of India.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

Some of the important topics from the examination perspective are various religious sects, Indian philosophy. In previous years questions have been asked from various topics like doctrines of various religious sects like, Buddhism, Jainism.

MUSIC AND THEATRE

Important topics from which questions are asked frequently are characteristics of Hindustani classical music, various musical instruments, classical dances of India, folk dances of India, forms of theatre in India, fairs and festivals of India.

INDIAN ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTING SCHOOLS

This is one of the most important sections of Indian History from which questions are asked frequently in almost all competitive examinations. Some of the important topics from examination point of view are Harappan architecture, monuments of ancient period, cave paintings etc. In previous years questions have been asked from these topics: features of Chola and Vijayanagara architecture, North and South Indian architecture, famous inscriptions, Mughal school of painting.

Chapter one

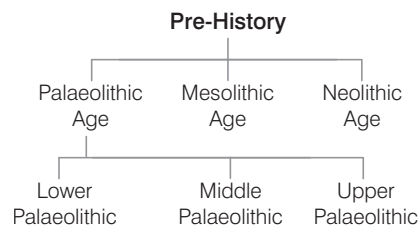
The Stone Age

The term 'Stone Age' is used to describe a period of human evolution where stone was used as the most hardest material for making tools. The stone age started around 2 to 2.5 million years ago.

The transition out of the stone age occurred between 6000 BC and 2500 BC. Man is said to have appeared on the Earth (first in Africa) in the early Pleistocene, with true ox, elephant and horse. Bori in Maharashtra gives the earliest evidence of man in India, in the middle Pleistocene period.

Stone Age

- The age when the pre-historic man began to use stones for utilitarian purpose is termed as the **Stone Age**. The stone age is divided into three broad divisions:



Palaeolithic Age Hunters and Food Gatherers (Upto 9000 BC)

- The term Palaeolithic was coined by archaeologist **John Lubbock** in 1865 and refers to a pre-historic era distinguished by the development of the first stone tools made of Quartzite. Hence, Palaeolithic men are also called as **Quartzite Men**.
- Traditionally, the Palaeolithic age is divided into three periods: the Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic and the Upper Palaeolithic; on the basis of the nature of stone tools made by human beings as well as due to the changes in the climate.

The Lower Palaeolithic Age (500000 - 50000 BC)

- It is the earliest sub-division of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age. The tools of this phase include mainly hand-axes, cleavers, choppers and chopping tools.

Lower Palaeolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
Bhimbetka, Jogdaha	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor, Budha Pushkar	Rajasthan
Patne, Nandipalle	Maharashtra
Renugunta, Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Singhbhum	Jharkhand
Sohan Valley	West Punjab (Pakistan)

The Middle Palaeolithic Age (50000 - 40000 BC)

- Its tool pattern is based upon flakes and crude pebble industry. The dominant tool types being blades, points and borers.

Middle Palaeolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Bhimbetka, Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor, Karmali Valley, Didwana	Rajasthan
Singhbhum	Jharkhand

The Upper Palaeolithic Age (40000 - 10000 BC)

- It is characterised by burins, scrappers, flint industry and appearance of modern man (*homo sapiens*).
- Animal remains found in the **Belan valley** in Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh shows that goats, sheep and cattle were exploited.

Upper Palaeolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and UP
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Sabarmati Valley	Gujarat
Singrauli	Madhya Pradesh
Kichler	Andhra Pradesh
Hungsi Valley	Karnataka
Attirampakkam	Tamil Nadu
Pahalgam	Kashmir
Hathnora, Narmada Valley, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
Kortallayar Valley	Tamil Nadu

Mesolithic Age

Hunters and Herders (9000 - 4000 BC)

- It was a transitional phase between the Palaeolithic age and the Neolithic age. Mesolithic period is technologically characterised by microliths or small pointed and sharp stone tools.
- Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Bagor in Rajasthan provide the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals like cows, horses and other poultry and farm animals. Sites like Bhimbetka, Adamgarh, Partapgarh and Mirzapur are rich in Mesolithic art and paintings.

Mesolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Langhnaj	Gujarat
Tilwara, Bagor	Rajasthan
Patne, Hatkhamba	Maharashtra
Damdama, Chopani Mando	Uttar Pradesh
Pachmarhi, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
Sanganakallu	Karnataka
Gauri Gundam	Andhra Pradesh

Neolithic Age

Food Producers (4000 -1800 BC)

- The Neolithic age or the New Stone age was the last phase of the Stone age. It is characterised by the use of polished stone tools and the beginning of cultivation of crops. An important invention of this time was the making of the wheel and the discovery of fire.
- The four major characteristics traits that represent the Neolithic culture are as follows :*
 - Beginning of the practice of agriculture.
 - Domestication of animals.
 - Use of polished stone tools.
 - The manufacture of pottery.
- Mehrgarh** in Baluchistan (Pakistan) is the oldest Neolithic site in Indian sub-continent (7000 BC).

Some Important Features of Neolithic Sites

- Kashmir** Only site where microlith is completely absent.
- Chirand and Kashmir** Only sites which has yielded considerable bone implements.
- Burzahom** It is a famous archaeological site in Kashmir. The earliest Neolithic homes at Burzahom were pits dug below ground level using stone tools. The sides of the pits were plastered with mud. Domestic dogs were buried with their masters in their graves.
- Allahabad District** Cultivation of rice in the 6th millennium BC.

Neolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Burzahom, Gufkral	Kashmir
Mehrgarh, Kili Gul Muhammad	Baluchistan
Daojali Hading	Assam
Chopani Mando, Mahagarha	Uttar Pradesh
Chirand, Chechar	Bihar
Tekkalakota, Sanganakallu, Narsipur, Hallur, Kupgal, Kodekal, Brahmagiri	Karnataka
Nagarjunakonda, Piklihal, Utnur	Andhra Pradesh
Paiyanpalli	Tamil Nadu

Chalcolithic Age (1800 -1000 BC)

- These people used copper and bronze to make a range of utilitarian tools. This phase or period is termed as the Chalcolithic age. A number of such sites have been found in the Chota Nagpur plateau region, the upper Gangetic basin, Karnataka and near the banks of river Narmada. Neither plough nor has been found at Chalcolithic sites. They practiced **Jhum cultivation**.
- Ganeshwar** It was an archaeological site located in the State of Rajasthan. The site was famous for copper artefacts. Ganeshwar site was related with Jodhpura culture.

Chalcolithic Age Sites

Sites	States
Ahar-Banas	Rajasthan
Kayatha, Malwa, Eran	Madhya Pradesh
Nevasa, Daimabad, Nanyang	Maharashtra

Chalcolithic Culture

- Ahar Culture** The sites of Ahar culture were Ahar (Rajasthan), Balathal, Gilund etc. The distinctive feature is black and red ware.
- Kayatha Culture** Located in Chambal and its tributaries, the sturdy red slipped ware with chocolate designs is main feature.
- Malwa Culture** Narmada and its tributaries in Gujarat. One of the largest Chalcolithic settlements.
- Savaldia Culture** The well-known sites are in Dhule district of Maharashtra.
- Prabhas and Rangpur Culture** Both of them are derived from the Harappa culture. The polished red ware is the hall mark of this culture.

Self Check

Build Your Confidence

1. Which of the following is not a peculiar feature of Kashmiri Neolithic?
(a) A pierced rectangular chopper or knife
(b) Burying dogs with their masters
(c) Pit dwellings with conical roofs
(d) Wheat based economy
2. The beginning of agriculture, use of better varieties of tools and beginning of sedentary life were some of the features of Neolithic age. But one of the following inventions transformed the Old Stone age into the New Stone age.
(a) Tools based on the technique of polishing and grinding
(b) Use of celts
(c) Knowledge of wheel
(d) Surplus agriculture
3. Which of the following Neolithic people were cattle-herders?
(a) Burzahom (b) Piklihal
(c) Mahagarha (d) Kili-Gul-Muhammad
4. Which of the following Mesolithic sites is not located in the Ganga plain?
(a) Chopani Mando (b) Sarai Nahar Rai
(c) Damdama (d) Adamgarh
5. In which one of the following regions, the earliest evidence of rice cultivation has come?
(a) Central Ganga valley (b) Belan valley
(c) Gomati valley (d) Bolan valley
6. At which one of the following Neolithic sites 'ash mound' has not been found?
(a) Utnur (b) Kupgal
(c) Kodekal (d) Sanganakallu
7. Which one of the following is a common feature of Megalithic Burial Custom?
(a) In almost every excavated grave some objects of iron occur
(b) In all graves pottery and particularly black and red ware is found
(c) Among the most common tools are flat iron-axes, often with crossed iron bands for hafting
(d) Among the grave goods copper, bronze and gold objects are equally common
8. Sohan culture is another name of
(a) Palaeolithic culture (b) Mesolithic culture
(c) Neolithic culture (d) Chalcolithic culture
9. Which one of the following sites does not have rock-shelters?
(a) Bhuli in Varanasi
(b) Lakhu Udayar in Uttarakhand
(c) Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh
(d) Baghor in Madhya Pradesh
10. Which one of the following sites is the type sites of Malwa culture?
(a) Navdatoli (b) Nagda
(c) Eran (d) Azadnagar
11. The only upper Palaeolithic site in India where bone tools are found, is
(a) Bhimbetka (b) Kurnool caves
(c) Adamgarh (d) Mehvana
12. Which of the following statement(s) regarding Stone Copper Age are true?
 1. Stone Copper culture had an essentially urban background.
 2. In spite of food producing economy, the rate of infant mortality was very high.
 3. People were not aware of the art of mixing tin with copper and thus, forging the much stronger and useful metal called bronze.Select the correct answer using the codes given below
(a) Only 1 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) All of these
13. Which one of the following pottery types was/were the finest ever to be developed in India till the historical times?
 1. The Painted Grey Ware (PGW)
 2. Ochre Colour Pottery (OCP)
 3. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)
 4. Red Ware (RW)Select the correct answer using the codes given below
(a) Only 1 (b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 1 and 2
14. Consider the following statement(s) about Palaeolithic period people Hunters and Food Gatherers.
 1. The early man in Indian used tools of stone roughly dressed by crude chipping.
 2. Goats, sheep and cattle were exploited.
 3. Man is said to have appeared on the Earth in India about three million years back.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2 (d) All of these
15. At which of the following sites, the first evidence of the cultivation has been found?
(a) Mohenjo daro (b) Mehrgarh
(c) Nal (d) Ghaligai
16. The majority of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts recorded or collected in the subcontinent are made of
(a) sandstone (b) rhyolite
(c) dolomite (d) quartzite



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (d) | 5. (b) | 6. (d) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (d) |
| 10. (a) | 11. (b) | 12. (b) | 13. (c) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) | 16. (d) | | |

Chapter two

Indus Valley Civilisation

*Thousand year's ago, people started moving towards the valleys of Indus, gradually they settled there and they evolved a civilisation called **Indus Valley Civilisation**. The name 'India' is derived from the river Indus, for India means the country of the Indus. The earliest literary evidence however, shows that the first Aryan settlers in India called the Indus, the Sindhu.*

Discovery

- The archaeological excavations during the early decades of 20th century brought to light an extensive civilisation which flourished in Indian subcontinent.
- Till now almost 1400 settlements belonging to Indus Valley Civilisation. The North-South spread of this civilisation was 1400 km and the East-West spread was 1600 kms.
- The most of the Indus Valley Civilisation settlements were located in Valley of Saraswati river system, which is extinct today. The river Saraswati was known as the name of **Ghaggar** in Punjab and **Chakra** in Baluchistan region.

Geographical Area

- The Indus or the Harappan culture is older than the chalcolithic cultures, but it is far more developed than these cultures.
- It arose in the North-Western part of the Indian subcontinent. Many sites in Sindh formed the Central Zone of the Pre-Harappan Culture.
- The Central Zone of the Mature Harappan Culture lay in Sindh and Punjab, mainly in the Indus valley. It is from here that it spread Southwards and Eastwards.
- The area formed a triangle and accounted for about 1299600 sq km, which is larger than Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. Nearly 1500, Harappan sites are known as so far in the subcontinent.

Geographical Limits

There are following geographical limits as follows :

- Northernmost site *Manda (J & K)*
- Southernmost site *Daimabad (Maharashtra)*
- Westernmost site *Sutkagen Dor (Pakistan)*
- Easternmost site *Alamgirpur (UP)*

Important Sites

Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan)

- It was the first Indus site to be discovered and excavated under the supervision of **Daya Ram Sahni** in 1921, on the river Ravi. The Indus civilisation was originally called **Harappan Civilisation** after the discovery of this site.
- The vast mounds at Harappa were first reported by **Masson** in 1826 and visited by **Cunningham** in 1853 and 1873.
- The six granaries here are located outside the citadel, but immediately next to it in the West.
- Barracks or rows of single-roomed quarters are situated just below the walls of the citadel. They probably house labourers.
- The location of Harappa has led several authors to conclude that it was a Gateway city. Two types of burial practices, one of typical R 37 type and other H type cemetery are seen.
- Harayana's Bhirrana oldest Harappan site in Indian Subcontinent, according to new Archaeological Survey of India (report).
- Other findings stone symbol of lingam and yoni, virgin goddess (seal), wheat and barley in wooden mortar, copper scale and mirror, vanity box, dice, log chasing a deer (in bronze), nude male and nude dancing female (stone), naked male Torso (red sand stone) has been found which shows traces of Jainism.

Mohenjodaro (Sindh, Pakistan)

- It is one of the largest site and was discovered by **RD Bannerjee** in 1922, situated on the river Indus. In Sindhi language, the word Mohenjodaro means **mound of the dead**.
- Other buildings include an oblong multipillared assembly hall and a big rectangular building which must have served administrative purpose.
- Other findings are Pashupati Seal, bronze image of a dancing girl, 3 cylindrical seals and steatite image of a bearded man, clay figures of mother goddess, dice, idol of a yogi and a granary.
- The Great Bath is the most important place of public. It was used for religious bathing, steps at either end lead to the surface. There were changing rooms with inlet to the tank and outlet to drain water. It measured 39 feet (length) 23 feet (breadth) and 8 feet (depth).

Dholavira

- It is located in Khadir belt in Kutch district of Gujarat. It was discovered by Archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi in 1968.
- It is the only site that is divided into 3 parts as opposed to the usual two part classification system. It is also well known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelising water into connected reservoirs.
- In 2021, it was accorded UNESCO, World Heritage tag.

Major Harappan Sites and their Excavators

Name of Sites	Years	Excavators	Regions/Rivers
Harappa	1921	Daya Ram Sahni	• Montgomery district of Punjab (Now in Pakistan) on the left bank of Ravi river.
Mohenjodaro	1922	RD Bannerjee	• Larkana district in Sindh on the right bank of Indus (Now in Pakistan).
Sutkagendor	1927	RL Stine	• Situated in Baluchistan on Dask river.
Chanhudaro	1931	N Gopal Majumdar, Mackey	• Situated in Sindh on the bank of left Indus.
Amri	1929	NG Majumdar	• Situated in Sindh on the bank of Indus.
Kalibangan	1955	A Ghosh	• Situated in Rajasthan on the left bank of Ghaggar.
Kot Diji	1955	Fazal Khan	• Situated on the left bank of Indus.
Rangpur	1935	MS Vats, BB Lal and SR Rao	• Situated on the left bank of Mahar river (Gujarat).
Ropar	1953	YD Sharma	• Situated in Punjab on the banks of Sutlej.

Name of Sites	Years	Excavators	Regions/Rivers
Lothal	1955 -1960	SR Rao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situated in Gujarat on the confluence of Sabarmati and Bhogava river near Gulf of Cambay. • It was the only site of Indus Civilisation with an artificial brick dockyard.
Alamgirpur	1958	YD Sharma	• Situated in Meerut on the bank of Hindon river
Rakhigarhi	1963	Professor Surajbhan	• Drishdavati (Hissar district (Haryana)) on Ghaggar river
Desalpur or Gunthli	1963	—	• Nakhtrana Taluka Kutch district in Gujarat near Dhruv river
Balakot	1973 -1979	George F Dales	• Situated in the Arabian Sea on Saraswati river
Surkotada	1964	JP Joshi	• Situated in Kutch (Bhuj) (Gujarat)
Banawali	1974	RS Bisht	• Situated in Hissar (Haryana) on Saraswati river

Major Characteristics of Harappan Sites

Town Planning and Structure

- Town planning was not uniform. Common feature was grid system i.e. streets cutting across one another at right angles, dividing the town into large rectangular blocks.
- The towns were divided into two parts : upper part or citadel and lower part. The fortified citadel on the Western side house public buildings and members of ruling class. Below the citadel on the Eastern side lay the lower town inhabited by the common people.
- Houses, often of two or more storeys, generally had side entrances and no windows faced the main street. There was large-scale use of burnt bricks and complete absence of stone buildings. Round pillars were absent.

Drainage System

- The drainage system was very impressive. In almost all cities every big or small house had its own courtyard and bathroom. Water flowed from the houses to the streets which had drains.
- Underground drainage system connected all houses to the street drains, made of mortar, lime and gypsum, covered with either brick or stone slabs and equipped with manhole. This shows developed sense of health and sanitation.

- Drains were built of burnt bricks.
- The quality of domestic bathrooms and drains is remarkable.

Social Life

- It was a highly developed urban way of life. Society principally consisted of middle class urban people. Presence of various classes like priests, merchants, craftsman, peasants and labourers can be seen.
- The dress of the men consisted of two garments: the upper and the lower cotton garments, which were generally used. Wool was also used. Different kinds of necklaces have been discovered. Bracelets were used quite commonly. The vanity case found at Harappa reveals, that the Harappan women knew the art of wall painting.

Political Life

- There is no clear idea about the political organisation of the Harappans. No temple have been found at any site. We have no religious structures of any kind except the Great Bath, which was meant for ritual bathing. Therefore, it would be wrong to think that priests ruled in Harappa. It must be noted that Harappans were lacking in weapons.

Religious Life

- **Chief Female Diety** A terracotta figure where a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a women, represent Mother Goddess (Goddess of Earth).
- **Chief Male Diety** Pashupati Mahadeva (proto-siva), represented in seals as sitting in a yogic posture on a low throne and having three faces and two horns. He is surrounded by an elephant, a tiger, a rhino and a buffalo and two deer appear at his feet.
- Numerous symbols of one phallus (lingam) and female sex organs made of stone indicates the prevalence of lingam and yoni worship.
- Trees (pipal), animals (bull), birds (dove, pigeon) and stones were worshipped. No temple has been found though idolatry was practiced.
- Indus people believed in ghosts and evil forces and used amulets as protection against them.

Burial Practices

Mohenjodaro	Three forms of burial-complete, fractional and post cremation.
Kalibangan	Two forms of burial-circular and rectangular grove.
Surkotada	Pot-burial.
Lothal	Double burial.
Harappa	East-West axis; R-37 and H cemetery, coffinburial.

Economic Life

- The Harappan economy was based on irrigated surplus agriculture, cattle rearing, proficiency in various crafts and brisk trade (both internal and external).

Agriculture

- Agriculture was the backbone of the civilisation. The soil was fertile due to inundation in the river Indus and flooding.
- They used wooden plough share (**ploughed field** found at Kalibangan) and stone sickles for harvesting. Gabarbands or Nalas enclosed by dam for storing water were a feature in parts of Baluchistan.
- Crops produced were wheat, barley, dates, peas, sesamum, mustard, millet, ragi, bajra and jowar. At Lothal and Rangpur, rice husks were found.
- First to produce cotton in the world, which Greek called as **Sindon** derived from **Sindh**.
- A fragment of woven cotton cloth was found at Mohenjodaro. Indigo was evident from Rojdi, well irrigation from Aldinho, dams and irrigation canals from Dholavira. **Sugarcane** was not known to Indus people.

Domestication of Animals

- Animal rearing was practiced. They domesticated buffaloes, sheep, oxens, asses, goats, pigs, elephants, dogs and cats etc. **Camel** bones are reported at Kalibangan .
- They did not know about the horse, except a jaw bone of horse which has been recovered from Surkotada in Gujarat. However, they did not know about lion.

Trade

- Agriculture, industry and forest produce provided the basis for internal and external trade. Trade was based on **barter system**. Coins are not evident.
- Weights and measures were made of limestone, steatite etc, generally, in cubical shape. They were in multiples of 16. Several sticks inscribed with measure marks have been discovered. It points that linear system of measurement was in use. They had trade relations with Shortughai and Mundigak in Afghanistan, Altyn Depe and Namazga in Turkmenistan and Tepe Yahya and Shahri-i-Sokhta in Iran. Dilmun (Bahrain) and Makan (Makran coast) were two intermediate stations. Indigo was exported to **Egypt**.
- Indus valley civilisation mentioned as **Meluha** in sumerian literature, evidence of trade between **Dilmun** and **Makan** from sumerian text.
- Seals of Indus valley have been noticed from Ur, Kis, Susa and Logas towns of Mesopotamia.
- Mesopotamian cylindrical seals have been found from Mohenjodaro. Figure of humped bull on Mesopotamian seals. Use of Mesopotamian cosmetic products by the Harappans.

- Coffin made burials have been a foreign phenomenon which were found in Harappa and Mesopotamia.

Major Imports by the Harappans

Materials	Sources
Gold	Afghanistan, Persia, Karnataka
Silver	Afghanistan, Iran
Copper	Baluchistan and Khetri (Rajasthan)
Tin	Afghanistan, Central Asia
Agates	Western India
Chalcedony	Saurashtra
Lead	Rajasthan, South India, Afghanistan, Iran
Lapis Lazuli	Badakshan and Kashmir
Turquoise	Central Asia, Iran
Amethyst	Maharashtra
Jade	Central Asia
Carnelian	Saurashtra

Art and Architecture

- The Harappans were utilitarians although not completely devoid of artistic sense. Their most notable artistic achievement was their seal engraving. *The major artistic work of the Harappans were:*

Harappan Pottery

- Harappan pottery is bright or dark red and is uniformly sturdy and well baked. Script is also engraved on it. It is chiefly wheel made and consists of both plain and painted ware, the plain variety being more common.
- Harappan people used different types of pottery such as glazed, polychrome, incised perforated and knobbed. The glazed Harappan pottery is the earliest example of its kind in the ancient world.
- On the whole, Harappan pottery was highly utilitarian in character, though the painted designs on some pieces show a remarkable artistic touch.

Harappan Seals

- The seals commonly are made of steatite (soft stone). The technique of cutting and polishing these seals with white lustre was a unique invention of the Harappans.

- The majority of the seals have an animal engraved on them with a short inscription. Unicorn is the animal most frequently represented on the seals. The famous Bull seal was found from Mohenjodaro. *Main types are as follows*
 - The square type with a carved animal and inscription.
 - The rectangular type with inscription only. Steatite image of a bearded man is excavated from Mohenjodaro.
 - About 2000 seals have been recovered from Harappan sites.

Script and Language

- Script and language are **undeciphered**, script is **pictographic** in nature. Fish symbol is most represented.
- Overlapping of the letters show that it was written from right to left in the first line and then left to right in the second line. The style is called **boustrophedon**. A signboard inscription bearing 10 pictographs has been found from Dholavira in Gujarat.

Terracotta Figurines

- Fire baked clay was used to make toys, objects of worship, animals (monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, humped and humpless bulls) both male and female figurines.
- **Chandra Ketugarh** is a archaeological site located near the Bidyadhari river in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Chandra Ketugarh site is famous for terracotta art sculptures. It was also regarded as one of the important coastal hub in international trade.

Decline of Indus Civilisation : *Different Views*

Cause of Declines	Thinkers
External Aggression	Wheeler, Piggot, Gordan-childe
Inundation	MR Sahani
Epidemic	KVR Kennedy
Tectonic Disturbances (e.g. Dholavira)	Marshall and Raikes
Sudden Decline	Wheeler
Climatic Change	RL Stein, AN Ghosh
Deforestation, scarcity of resources, ecological imbalances	Walter Fairservis
Flood (e.g. Mohenjodaro)	Marshall, SR Rao, Maickey
The destruction due to change in course of river Ghaggar	GF Holes

Self Check

Build Your Confidence

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus Valley Civilisation. [IAS 2011]

1. It was pre-dominantly a secular civilisation and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about Indus Valley Civilisation?

1. The cities were planned.
2. Non-standardised weights were used.
3. There were elaborate water drainage system.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) 1 and 3 (d) All of these

3. The granary discovered at Harappa was located

- (a) in the 'Lower town'
(b) near the river Ravi
(c) within the citadel at Mohenjodaro
(d) beside the Western ghat of the city

4. One of the Harappan deities not represented, in later Hindu religion is

- (a) Pashupati Siva
(b) seven mothers (Sapta Marikas)
(c) compound creatures
(d) unicorn

5. Which one of the following statement is true about the Chalcolithic Culture of India?

- (a) They were primarily communities in the hilly and riverine areas
(b) They mostly used stone and copper objects and occasionally low grade bronze
(c) A large number of them appeared after the end of the bronze Harappan culture
(d) They were restricted to the Ganga-Yamuna doab and foothills of the Himalayas

6. Match the following

List I	List II
A. Kalibangan	1. Pottery
B. Lothal	2. Terracotta Toys
C. Chanhudaro	3. Seal of Pashupati
D. Mohenjodaro	4. Brick Platform

Codes

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D | | A | B | C | D |
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | (b) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | (d) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

7. Almost all Harappan towns had large granaries because

- (a) taxes were paid in kind and therefore, granaries acted as a sort of public treasuries
(b) surplus produce of the countryside was stored in the towns
(c) foodgrains were stored for the purpose of trade
(d) All of the above

8. Which of the following was not the likely purpose of the Great Bath in the citadel at Mohenjodaro?

- (a) Community bathing
(b) Swimming exercises and water sports
(c) Some elaborate ritual of vital importance, including a corporate social life
(d) Storage of water to be used during drought emergency

9. The deification which of the following was not part of the religion of the Indus valley people?

- (a) Mother Goddess
(b) Forces of nature
(c) Trees and their spirits
(d) Certain animal chimeras and their anthropic figures

10. Harappan people had a common burial system, which is proved by

- (a) the Earth burials with the head of the dead normally laid towards the North
(b) the burial of commonly used items with the dead
(c) Both 'a' and 'b'
(d) the burial of the dead body in the sitting posture

11. Which of the following statement about the Harappan people is incorrect?

- (a) The Harappans were phallus worshippers
(b) They placed their Gods in temples
(c) They worshipped Gods in the form of human beings
(d) They looked upon the Earth as a fertility Goddess

12. Which of the following is not a characteristic feature of the Harappan pottery?

- (a) Well-fired red ware
(b) Painted black designs
(c) Vegetal and geometric patterns
(d) Red and black polished ware

13. Which of the following characterises the people of Indus Civilisation? [IAS 2013]

1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
2. They worshipped both male and female deities.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) Only 2
(c) All of these (d) None of these



1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (b)

Chapter three

The Vedic Age

The history of Vedic India is known largely through its religious texts, the Vedas, which gave the period its name. Vedas recorded not only the religion of the Vedic people, but also details of their lives that gave us a look at their political, social and economic pattern. The Rig Veda, the oldest literary creation not only in India, but in the entire Indo-European literature too, talks of a simple socio-economic, political set-up and religious life.

Origin

- The word Aryan literally means of high birth, but generally refers to language, though some use it as race.
- It is difficult to say that, all the earliest Aryans belong to one race, but their culture was more or less of same type.
- The Boghazkoi inscriptions dated to 1400 BC gives the information of peace treaty between the Hittites and the Mittani rulers of the Hittani, in which the names of the Vedic Gods – Indra, Mitra, Nasatya and Varuna are mentioned.

Reasons Behind Rapid Expansion of the Aryans

- Chariot driven by horses.
- Weapons made of good quality bronze.
- The use of armour (*varman*).
- Use of destructive machine called as **Purcharishnu**.

Origin of Aryans

Place	Views
Sapta Sindhu Region	AC Das
Arctic Region	BG Tilak
Central Asia	Max Muller
German Plains	Professor Penka
Tibet Region	Dayanand Saraswati
Bacteria	Rhodes
Europe	William Jones
Hungary	P Giles

Early Vedic Age

(1500 - 1000 BC)

Geography

- According to Rig Veda, Aryans had the knowledge of the Indus valley (*Saptasindhava*). **Indus** is the most mentioned river in Rig Veda. **Saraswati** (*Naditarna*) is considered as the holiest river. It is identified with Hakra Ghaggar channel in Haryana and Rajasthan, but in Rig Vedic description, it seems to be the Avestan river Harakhvati, from where the name Saraswati was transferred to India.
- Samudra referred to collection of water and not sea. They had knowledge of Himavat or the snow mountain **Dhawa** (*desert land*) and Majuvant, from which Aryans got Soma, an intoxicating drink.

Political Organisation

- The Rig Vedic polity was a tribal polity. Kula (*family*) was the basis of both social and political organisations, starting with Kula, the hierarchy in ascending order was Grama (*village*), Vis (*clan*), Jana (*tribe*) and Rashtra (*country*).
- The tribal chief called **Rajan** was the centre of administrative machinery. The kings (*Gopajanasya*) position was hereditary. He was protector of tribe and cattle, not the ruler of any specific territory. Several tribal assemblies called **Vidhata**, **Sabha**, **Samiti** emerged. They exercised military and religious functions. Women attended them occasionally.
- Doctrine of Divinity was not associated with kingship. Only one king, Purushasukta has been described as Ardhadeva (*semi-divine*) in Rig Veda. Important Officers were Purohita, Senani, Kulpati (*head of family*), Vishpati, Brajpati, Gramini, Sparsa (*spy*), Duta (*messenger*).

The Dasarajna War or Battle of Ten Kings

In this battle, Sudas, the son of Divodas and the Bharata, King of Tritsu family won over an alliance of ten tribes (five *Aryans* and five *non-Aryans*) and killed their leader Purushasukta emerged victorious and established the supremacy of the Bharatas.

The battle was fought on the bank of Parushni (*Ravi*) river. The battle brokeout due to a dispute between Vashishtha (*priest of Bharatas*) and Vishvamitra (priest of the alliance).

Economic Life

- Rig Vedic people were predominantly pastoral. Cow (*Gau*) was the most important animal (mentioned 176 times in Rig Veda). Gomata referred to men prosperous with many cattles. The terms of war were gavisthi or the search for cows.
- The cow seems to have been most important form of wealth.
- Cattle breeding was their main occupation. They domesticated horse, sheep, goat, dog and ass. Wild animals known were lion, elephant and bear.
- Agriculture was secondary occupation. Yava (*barley*) has been mentioned in Rig Veda. Shifting agriculture was practiced.
- Panis formed the great trading class. They are condemned in several texts for their greed and hard heartedness.
- Ayas (copper and bronze) was the common metal in use and metal smelters were called **Karmar**. There were two Ayas: Shyam Ayas and Krishna Ayas. Nishkas, Hiranyapindas and Manas were used as recognised pieces of weights and value.
- Predominant pottery type was Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP), though black and red ware types were known to them.
- Taxation system was not developed and *Bali* was a form of voluntary contribution to the king.

Society

- Tribal society with kingship as the basis of social structure. Man was identified with his tribe called as **Jana**. Jana was divided into Vis (*group of villages*) under Vishpati i.e. Vis into Grama (*village*) under Gramani and Gramsa into Kulas (family) headed by Kulapa.
- The tribal society was broadly divided into priests, warriors and the people. **Shudra** is first mentioned in tenth books (*latest addition*) of *Rig Veda*. The Non-Aryans consisted of *Dasyus* and *Dasas*. Slavery was rampant at that time. No evidence for child marriage.

Position of Women

- Rig Vedic society was patriarchal, so the birth of daughters was not desired. But once born, they were treated with kindness. Child marriage was not practiced. Women can choose their husband. Monogamy and Niyoga (a variant of widow re-marriage) was practiced. Some indications of polyandry have been found. Women participated in religious ceremonies and tribal assemblies.

Religion

- Aryans were nature worshippers. Personification of the forces of nature. Vedic religion was Henotheism or Kathenotheism. Predominance of male God. Very few Goddesses find mention. Aim of worship was material gains. Cult of domestic hearth was prevalent. Sacrifice was the pivot of Vedic religion.

Rig Vedic God

- The most important divinity in the Rig Veda is Indra, who is called **Purandara** or **Breaker of Forts**. Indra played the role of a warlord, leading the Aryan soldiers to victory against the demons.
- He is considered to be the rain God and though to be responsible for causing rainfall. The second position held by Agni (fire God).

Rivers Mentioned in the Rig Veda

Rig Vedic Names	Modern Names
Sindhus	Indus
Vitasta	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab
Parushni	Ravi
Vipasa	Beas
Shatudri	Sutlej
Gomal	Gomati
Krumu	Kurram
Drishadvati	Ghaggar
Suvasthu	Swat
Kubha	Kabul
Naditarna	Saraswati
Sadanira	Gandak

Later Vedic Period (1000 - 600 BC)

Geography

- Aryans occupied upper gangetic Doab.
- In this period, the Aryans moved into the Eastern areas as is evident from the story of Videha Madhava in Satpath Brahmin, where he moved Eastward Videha.
- The later Vedas gives three broad divisions of India viz, Aryavarta (Northern India), Madhyadesa (Central India) and Dakshina Patha (Southern India).

Political Organisation

- King became more powerful with the formation of bigger kingdoms called **Janapadas**. His authority acquired territorial connotation. Popular assemblies lost power, importance and were now dominated by nobles and Brahmanas.
- Rig Veda and Atharva Veda refers to election of the 'Rajan' through peoples approval. Taittiriya Brahmana gives the 'Theory of Divine' origin of kingship.

Five types of State System

1. Rajya (*Central Kingdom*) Raja
 2. Bhojya (*Southern Kingdom*) Bhoja
 3. Swarajya (*Western Kingdom*) Svarat
 4. Vairajya (*Northern Kingdom*) Virat
 5. Samrajya (*Eastern Kingdom*) Samrat
- The number of central officers increased, but a structural bureaucracy did not come into being. King did not possess a standing army.

Important Ratnins and Other Important Officials

Ratnins	Responsibilities
Purohita	Priest
Senani	Commander-in-Chief
Vrajapati	Head of the pasture land
Spasas	Spies-cum-messengers
Bhagadugha	Tax collector
Sangrahitri	Treasurer
Gramani	Head of the village
Kulapati	Head of the family
Mahishi	Chief queen
Takshan	Carpenter
Duta	Messenger
Suta	Charioteer
Kshatriya	Chamberlain
Akshavapa	Accountant
Palagala	Messenger
Sthapati	Chief Judge
Govikartana	Keeper of games and forests

Economic Life

- The shift towards Gangetic valley with the use of iron and fire made possible the growth of agriculture. Pastoralism was no longer the main subsistence activity of the people, though cattle rearing was also practiced.
- Satapatha Brahmana describes the various stages of agriculture such as ploughing, sowing, reaping and threshing. Both kharif and rabi crops were grown.
- Rice (*Vrihi*) and wheat (*Godhuma*) become the chief crops of the later Vedic Aryans, though they continued to produce barley (*Yava*).

- Increased importance of land triggered, development of urban life, new class of iron smiths, chariot makers and shipbuilders appeared. Emergence of painted Grey ware culture.
- The later Vedic period witnessed the coming up of 'Purushasukta Theory'.
- Trading activities were undertaken and coins were used. Satamana and Krishnala, besides, Nishkas came to be used as units of value.

Purushasukta Theory

Purushasukta is a late hymn of X mandal of Rig Veda. It says that four persons originated from the body of the Purusha or the Primeval creator.

Brahmana	—	Mouth	Kshatriya	—	Arms
Vaishya	—	Thighs	Shudra	—	Feet

Concept of Ashramas

- It is mentioned for the first time in Aitareya Brahmana.
- Meant mainly for regulating the life of the male member of the higher caste. *It consists of four stages:*
 - (i) Brahmacharya (*Student life*)
 - (ii) Grihastha (*House holder*)
 - (iii) Vanaprastha (*Partial retirement*)
 - (iv) Sanyasin (*Complete retirement*)
- Taxation System** was still not completely developed. Bali, Bhaga (oldest tax) and Shulka were the main taxes.
 - **Bali** Customary contribution
 - **Bhaga** 1/6 to 1/2 of the produce
 - **Shulka** Additional tax

Painted Grey Ware (PGW) Culture

The PGW pottery is wheel made, out of well levigated clay and has a thin core. It has a smooth surface and is grey to ash-grey in colour. The pottery is painted in black. It is also painted sometimes in deep chocolate colour on outer and inner surfaces. The PGW has 42 designs, bowls and dishes being the most common type.

Society

- The society came to be divided into four Varnas called the **Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas** and **Shudras**. Brahmanas emerged as the most powerful class, Vaishyas were the tribute payers. First reference is given in Purushasukta.
- The upper three Varnas were entitled to Upanayana or investiture with the sacred thread, but Shudras were deprived of it and were also not allowed to recite the Gayatri Mantra.
- The Institution of Gotra was established and no marriage could take place in same Gotra. The concept of Gotra was institutionalised.

Position of Women

- Degradation of women in this period. The status of women declined, but the right to education was not denied. They were deprived of Upanayana and religious ceremonies and from attending assemblies.

Aitareya Brahmana

- Daughter is the source of misery, but son is the protector of family.

Maitrayani Samhita

- There are three evils : liquor, dice and women.

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

- Yajnavalkya-Gargi dialogue proves that some women got higher education.

Religion

- Rise of Vishnu alongside Rudra new Gods (Vishnu, Rudra, Prajapati etc) came into prominence. Rig Vedic Gods (Indra, Varuna etc) lost prominence. Sacrifices became more elaborate. Increase in the prestige and importance of priestly class. Emergence of new philosophical concepts.

Sacrifices Performed in Later Vedic Period

- **Rajasuya Consecration Ceremony** This conferred supreme power on the king. The Rajasuya sacrifice consists of five major ritual or ceremonies. Ashwamedha horse sacrifice which was meant to establish kings supremacy over his neighbours. The Aitareya and Satapatha Brahmana mention the names of some monarchs, who performed the sacrifice.
- **Ratna animasi Ceremony** The king had to approach dignitaries who lived in permanent dwellings. Vajapeya chariot race which was meant to re-establish his supremacy over his own people within the kingdom.

Gods Worshipped During Vedic Age

Indra	Also known as Purandhara (<i>Breaker of Forts</i>). Plays the role of warlord and also considered as rain God and also a warrior and a king. His white elephant is Airavata .
Agni	Known as fire God . Acted as an intermediary between Gods and men.
Varuna	Personified water was supposed to uphold the Rita or natural order. Called the world sovereign or lord of human morality.
Pushan	Protector of cattle in early Vedic period, now became the God of Shudras.
Soma	God of plants, third most important deity in the Rig Veda on the basis of number of hymns.
Prajapati	The creator God. Supreme position during later Vedic Age.
Surya	Sun God who was worshipped in five forms: Surya, Savitri (<i>God of Light</i>), Mitra, Pushan (<i>God of Marriage</i>), Vishnu (one who covered Earth in three steps i.e. <i>Upakrama</i>).
Maruts	Personify the storm.
Aditi	Goddess of eternity.
Aranyani	Goddess of forest.
Usha	Goddess of dawn.
Sarma	Messenger of Gods.
Vastospati	God of settlements.

Forms of Marriage

- *The eight forms of marriages (listed below in the descending order of merit), as provided by the Smritis were :*
 - (i) **Brahma** Marriage in the same class with proper dowry.
 - (ii) **Daiva** Daughter given by the householder to the sacrificial priest as part of his fees.
 - (iii) **Arsa** Bridegroom presents a cow and a bull to the parents of the girl in this form of marriage.
 - (iv) **Prajapati** Girl married without dowry.
 - (v) **Gandharva** Marriage of a willing man and women often clandestine.
 - (vi) **Asura** Marriage by purchasing the girl from her custodian.
 - (vii) **Rakshasa** Marriage by capturing the girl.
 - (viii) **Paisacha** (Marriage in an inebriated state) Marriage by abducting the girl when she is asleep, drunk, mentally perturbed i.e. not in her full senses.

Marriages were of two types on the basis of Varna System:

- (i) **Anuloma Marriage** In which the wife is of lower caste. It was permitted, but not encouraged.
- (ii) **Pratiloma Marriage** In which the husband is of lower caste, it was not sanctioned.

Various Samskaras and Rites

- The samskaras or sacraments are believed to reform and sanctify the person for whom they are performed. The first systematic attempt at describing the Samskaras is found in Grihya Sutras.

The Sixteen Important Samskaras

Garbhadhana	Ceremony for conception.
Punsavana	To secure the birth of male child.
Simantonnayana	Parting the hair.
Jatakarma	Natal rites (ceremony for new born child).
Namakaran	Ceremony for naming the child.
Nishkramana	First outing (for showing Sun).
Annaprasana	First feeding with boiled rice in the 6th month.
Chudakarana	Tonsure (arrangement of the hair tuft).
Karnavedha	Piercing the ear lobes.
Upanayana	Learning the alphabet.
Vidyarambha	Holy thread ceremony.
Samavartana	Graduation (ceremony on returning home after completing studentship).

Keshanta	Cutting the hair.
Antyeshti	Funeral.
Vivaha	Marriage.
Praishartha	First study of the Vedas.

Literature of Vedic Period

The Vedas

- The term Veda is derived from the root Vid, which means to know, signifying knowledge par excellence. The Vedas are collection of hymns, prayers, charms and sacrificial formulae.
- Vedas are called **Apaurusheya** (not made by man) and Nitya (existing in all eternity).
- The Rishis to whom these books are ascribed are known as **Mantradrashta** meaning inspired saints, who received the hymns directly from the supreme creator.
- Apart from its literary significance, the Vedas throw light on the political, religious, social and economic aspects of the Vedic period.

Rig Veda

- It consists of 1028 hymns and divided into X mandalas (books). The mandala II to VII are the oldest and known as family books composed by *Gritsamada Vishvamitra*, *Vamadeva*, *Atri*, *Bharadwaja* and *Vashistha*.
- Mandal VIII and IX belong to middle time.
- Mandal I and X are the last to be compiled.
- In IIIrd mandala, composed by *Vishvamitra*, addressed to the *solar deity Savitri*, we find the famous *Gayatri Mantra*.
- The IXth Mandala is completely devoted to the **Vedic God Soma** (*The Lord of Plants*). The X Mandala contains the famous **Purushasukta** hymn in which origin of Varna system is discussed.

Sama Veda

- Collection of hymn taken mainly from the VIIIth and IXth mandalas of the Rig Veda and set to tune for the purpose of singing.
- Known as the **Book of Chants** and the origin of Indian music is traced to it. The hymns of Sama Veda were meant to be sung at the time of Soma sacrifice by the Udgatri priests.

Yajur Veda

- It prescribes the rituals for performing different sacrifices. It is primarily a guide for the use of the Adhvaryu priests. This Veda is in both verse and prose. The two royal ceremonies of Rajasuya and Vajapeya are mentioned for the first time in this Veda. *It is divided into two parts*
 - Krishna Yajur Veda** (Black) Contains not only the hymns, but also prose commentaries.
 - Shukla Yajur Veda** (White) Contains only hymns.

Atharva Veda

- The Atharva Veda (book of magical formulae) contains charms and spells in verse, toward off evils and diseases. It preserves many popular cults and superstitions. It is believed to be work of non-Aryans. It contains 731 hymns.
- Indian medical science called **Ayurveda**, its origin from Atharva Veda.

Upavedas

Upavedas	Subjects	Related to
Dhanur Veda	Archery or Warfare	Yajur Veda
Gandharva Veda	Music	Sama Veda
Shilpa Veda	Sculpture or Architecture	Atharva Veda
Ayur Veda	Medicine or Life	Rig Veda

The Brahmanas

- They are treatise relating to prayer and sacrificial ceremony. They are elaborate commentaries on the various hymns in the Vedas.
- The Brahmanas of the Rig Veda are intended for the use of the invoking priest (*Hotri*). Shatapatha Brahmana is the lengthiest and the most important of all the Brahmanas. It throws light on the geographical shift of the Aryans towards the Eastern Gangetic Plains during the later Vedic period. The story of the prince Videgha Mathava provides clear indication towards this geographical expansion.

Vedas	Related Brahmanas
Rig Veda	Aitareya and Kausitaki
Sama Veda	Tandya Maha and Jaiminiya
Yajur Veda	Taittiriya and Shatapatha
Atharva Veda	Gopatha Brahmana

The Aranyakas

- Aranyaka literally means the forest and therefore, Aranyakas are also known as **forest books**. It deals with mysticism and symbolism of sacrifice and priestly philosophy.

The Upanishads

- Upanishads literally means "Be seated at the feet of the Guru to receive the teachings". The Upanishad imparts philosophical knowledge and spiritual learning. They are also called **Vedanta**. There are 108 Upanishads.

Vedas	Related Upanishads
Rig Veda	Aitareya and Kausitaki
Sama Veda	Chandogya and Kena
Yajur Veda	Taittiriya, Brihadaranyaka, Katha, Swetas water
Atharva Veda	Mundaka, Prasna and Mandukya

- Brihadaranyaka upanishad provides the first reference of the idea of rebirth. Later, the idea appears in a slightly fuller form in the Chandogya Upanishads. It is one of the oldest upanishads.

Satyameva Jayate

Satyameva Jayate was taken from Mundaka Upanishad or Mundaka Upanishad. Satyameva Jayate is the National Motto of India and is inscribed at the bottom of the National Emblem of India in Devanagiri script. Satyameva Jayate literally means 'Truth Alone Triumphs'.

The Vedangas

- The period after 600 BC is called **Sutra** period. Vedangas were compiled during this period.
- The Vedangas are called **Smriti** or literature handed down by tradition, because they are of human origin. *There are six Vedangas which are as follows :*

S.No.	Vedangas	Contents
1.	Shiksha	Phonetics or Pronunciation
2.	Kalpa	Sacrificial ritual
3.	Vyakarana	Grammar
4.	Nirukta	Etymology (explanation of words)
5.	Chhanda	Metrics
6.	Jyotisha	Astronomy

Kalpa Sutras are divided into three classes

- Srauta sutra** deals with the rituals of the great sacrifices of agni, soma etc. Attached to Srauta Sutra is the Sulva Sutra, the oldest book on *Indian Geometry*.
- Grihya sutra** deals with the domestic ceremonies and sacrifices to be performed by the householder.
- Dharma sutra** deals with the laws, manners and customs of people in general. It constitute the foundation of the Dharmashastras such as the Law of Manu.

Puranas

- The contents of Purana seem to be of diverse material. Much as tales, anecdotes songs, ballads. The change is the mode of worship (from sacrifice to idol worship) and visual appeal of deities an against worship of ideas is evident.

Epic

- Mahabharata, written by **Ved Vyas** is older than Ramayana. Originally, Mahabharata consisted of 880 verses, then it was raised to 24000 verses. The final compilation brought the number of verses to 100000.
- Ramayana written by **Valmiki** originally consisted of 6000 verses, which was raised to 12000 and finally 24000 verses.

Smritis

- Dharma Shastra** are the other name for **Smritis**, which are the law books written in *Sloka* form.
- The important Smritis are Manav Dharma Shastra, Vishnu Dharma Shastra, Yajnavalkya Smriti and Narad Smriti. Manav Dharma Shastra or Manusmriti is the oldest and most famous, Manu is supposed to be the first king and law giver. Later on, some minor Smritis and commentaries like the Mitakshara were compiled.

Indian Schools of Philosophy

There are six schools of Indian philosophy known as **Shad-Darshans**, *they are as follows:*

Darshans	Authors	Years of Beginning	Original Books	Themes
Nyaya	Gautama	6th BC	Nyaya Sutra	It is a logical quest for God. It tells that the material power Maya with the help of God becomes the universe.
Vaisheshik	Kanada	6th BC	Vaisheshik Sutra	It aims is to receive happiness in this life and finally ultimate liberation through the attachment of true knowledge of the divine.
Samkhya	Kapila	6th BC	Samkhya Sutra	It explains that the aim of Samkhya is to eliminate all kinds of physical and mental pains and to receive liberation.
Yoga	Maharishi Patanjali	2nd BC	Yoga Sutra	It has four chapters and accepts three kinds of evidences for determining the aim of life.
Purva Mimansa	Jaimini	4th BC	Purva Mimansa Sutra	It is a condensed explanation of Vedic theme and at the same time, the classification of its issues.
Vedanta (Uttara Mimansa)	Maharishi Vyasa	4th BC	Uttara Mimansa Sutra	It explains that Brahma Sutra is for that person who has a real deep desire to know God. True liberation could only be attained by lovingly surrendering to him.

Some Important Vedic Terms

Udumbara and Khadira	Wood used to make plough
Mudga	Moong
Masa	Urad
Ugra and Jeevgrah	Police officers
Kshirodan	Rice cooked with milk
Tilodan	Til cooked with milk
Apoop	Cooked mixture of ghee and barley wheat
Pad	Coin of later Vedic age
Shattantu	Musical instruments of hundred chords
Uma	Wool
Virivanti	Wife who did not give birth to a son
Vraty Stoma Yagya	Yagya in which a human being was sacrificed

Self Check

Build Your Confidence

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Vedic period is incorrect?
 - (a) The Vedic communities had established neither a taxation system nor a professional army
 - (b) The later Vedic peasants contributed to the rise of trade and towns
 - (c) In the later Vedic period, the tribal militia of the pastoral society was replaced by the peasant militia of agricultural society
 - (d) The Rig Vedic society did not have a serving order in the form of the Shudras
2. What was the main issue in the Dasarajna i.e. the Battle of Ten Kings?
 - (a) Non-Aryan groups had captured the cows of the Vedic people
 - (b) Division of the waters of the Ravi
 - (c) Pani had stolen the cattle belonging to the Bharatas
 - (d) Tvastra had refused to let off the waters of Ravi
3. Which of the following statements about the concept of kingship in the later Vedic period is correct?
 - (a) Kingship ceased to be elective and became hereditary
 - (b) A glamour was created around the king and in the rituals, he was sometimes also represented as a God
 - (c) Some kind of class alliance between the priests and the warriors developed
 - (d) The king was invariably a Kshatriya
4. Which of the following statements about the tribal assemblies in the early Vedic period is incorrect?
 - (a) The king's authority was substantially limited by the tribal assemblies especially the Sabha and Samiti
 - (b) Sabha was a council of the elder members of the tribe perhaps women also attended it
 - (c) Samiti was a general Tribal assembly and less exclusive than Sabha
 - (d) These assemblies performed only political functions
5. The tax, which the kings used to collect from the people in the Vedic period, was called
 - (a) Bali
 - (b) Vidhata
 - (c) Varman
 - (d) Kara
6. Which of the following regarding the social life of the Vedic people is incorrect?
 - (a) Social divisions were based on occupations
 - (b) The members of one family could adopt different occupations
 - (c) Women slavery was known during Vedic period.
 - (d) The society was egalitarian
7. The four-fold division of society is expressly mentioned in
 - (a) Yajur Veda
 - (b) Purushasukta of the Rig Veda
 - (c) Hiranyagarbha Sukta
 - (d) Satapatha Brahmana
8. Which of the following statements about the Rig Vedic Aryan is incorrect?
 - (a) We have some indications of polyandry in this period
 - (b) We do not find any trace of widow re-marriage in the Rig Vedic period
 - (c) There are no examples of child marriage in this period
 - (d) The practice of levirate was known during this period
9. Which of the following statements about the Vedic family is incorrect?
 - (a) The basic unit of the Aryan society was the patriarchal family
 - (b) The birth of a son was especially welcome because they were needed in wars
 - (c) The sanctity of marriage had been recognised
 - (d) Child marriage was permitted
10. An inscription of 1400 BC, which describes the Vedic Gods, was found in Asia minor was
 - (a) Citacia
 - (b) Boghazkoi
 - (c) Hitti
 - (d) Euphrates
11. The term 'Aryan' or 'Indo-Aryan' and 'Indo-European' primarily denotes to [IAS 1999]
 - (a) an ethnic group
 - (b) a nomadic people
 - (c) a speech group
 - (d) a superior race
12. The Battle of Ten Kings was fought on the bank of the river
 - (a) Askini
 - (b) Parushni
 - (c) Shanudrie
 - (d) Vitasta
13. The 'Dharma' and 'Rita' depict a central idea of ancient Vedic Civilisation of India. Consider the following statements [IAS 2011]
 1. 'Dharma' was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.
 2. 'Rita' was the Fundamental Moral Law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
14. The religion of early vedic Aryans were primarily of [IAS 2012]
 - (a) bhakti
 - (b) image worship and yajnas
 - (c) worship of nature and yajnas
 - (d) worship of nature and Bhakti



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (b) | 3. (c) | 4. (d) | 5. (a) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (b) | 9. (d) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (c) | 14. (c) | | | | | | |

Chapter four

The First Territorial States

Mahajanapadas represent the state system that emerged in 6th century BC. The process of emergence of Mahajanapadas were initiated by certain important economic changes and the consequent socio-political developments witnessed during that period.

Mahajanapadas

- Mahajanapada refers to ancient Indian kingdoms that existed between the 3rd and 6th centuries BCE. These kingdoms and republics had evolved and flourished in a belt stretching from Gandhara in the North-West to Anga in the Eastern part of the Indian subcontinent and included parts of the trans-Vindhyan region, prior to the rise of Buddhism in India. The 6th century BC is often regarded as a major turning point in early Indian history.

Literary Sources

- There were sixteen territories called **Shodasha Mahajanapadas**.
- The Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya (a part of sutta pitaka) provides the names of 16 Mahajanapadas at the time of Buddha.
- Similarly, the Jaina text **Bhagavati Sutra** and another Buddhist text **Mahavastu** also provides such list of sixteen Mahajanapadas.

Types of Mahajanapadas

- *Mahajanapadas were of two types:*
 - (i) **Monarchial States** Anga, Avanti, Chedi, Kashi, Kosala, Gandhara, Magadha, Matsya, Shursena, Vatsa.
 - (ii) **Non-Monarchial/Republican States** Kamboj, Kuru, Koliyas, Malla, Moriya, Shakya, Vajji, Panchal, Licchavis, Bhaggas, Kalamas, Videhas, Jnatikas.

List of Mahajanapadas and their Capitals

Mahajanapadas	Capitals	Vital Informations
Kashi (Banaras)	Varanasi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was the most powerful Mahajanapadas.• Famous for Cotton Textiles and market for horses.
Koshala (Ayodhya)	Shravasti	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most popular king was Prasenjit.• He was contemporary and friend of Buddha.
Anga (East Bihar)	Champa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was a great centre of trade and commerce.• In middle of 6th century BC, Anga was annexed by Magadha under Bimbisara.
Vajji (North Bihar)	Vaishali	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vajjis represented a confederacy of eight clans of whom Videhas were the most well known.• Videhas had their capital at Mithila.
Malla (Gorakhpur Region)	Pavapuri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buddha died in the vicinity of Kushinagara. Magadha annexed it after Buddha's death.

Mahajanapadas	Capitals	Vital Informations
Chedi	Suktimati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chedi territory corresponds to the Eastern parts of modern Bundelkhand. A branch of chedis founded a royal dynasty in the kingdom of Kalinga.
Vatsa	Kausambi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated around the region of Allahabad. Most powerful king was Udayana.
Kurus (Meerut-Delhi Region)	Hastinapur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Buddha's time Kuru country was ruled by a titular chieftain named Koravya.
Panchala	Kampilya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Rohilkhand and parts of central Doab (Western UP). Two branches of the panchalas i.e. the Northern Panchala at Ahichhtra and Southern Panchala at Kampilya.
Matsya (Jaipur)	Viratnagara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in the region of Rajasthan. King Sujata ruled over both the chedis and Matsyas.
Surasena	Mathura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It had a republican form of government. Avantiputra, the king of Surasena was the first among the chief disciples of Buddha.
Ashmaka	Potana or Potali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was located on the banks of river Godavari. It was the Southern most Mahajanapadas ruled by the Ikshvaku Kshatriyas.
Avanti	Mahishmati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located around the region of Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh. It was divided into two parts. The Northern part had its capital at Ujjain and the Southern part at Mahishmati. Chanda Pradyota was the most powerful king of Avanti.
Gandhara (Peshawar and Rawalpindi)	Taxila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Famous for education and learning tradition in Ancient India. Gandhari was the princess of this state. Panini and Kautilya are the world renowned products of Taxila University.
Kamboja (North-East kingdom)	Rajapura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kautilya's Arthashastra and Ashoka's Edict No. XIII attest that the Kambojas followed republican Constitution.
Magadha	Giriv-rajya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Mahajanapadas started the policy of imperialism. The founders of the kingdom were Jarasandha and Brihadratha, however real founders were Bimbisara and Ajatashatru.

Rise of Magadhan Empire

- Out of the sixteen Mahajanapadas four were very powerful. They were Magadha, Vatsa, Avanti and Koshala.
- The period from 4th century to 6th century BC saw the struggle for supremacy among these four Mahajanapadas.
- Ultimately, Magadha emerged as the most powerful and prosperous kingdom in North India. The founder of Magadha was Jarasandha and Brihadratha. But the growth started under the Haryanka, expansion took place under the Shishunaga and Nanda reached its zenith under the Mauryas.

Haryanka Dynasty

- The earliest capital of Magadha was at Rajgir, which was called as **Girivraja** at that time. According to a Chinese pilgrim, Bimbisara founded the city of Rajagriha at the foot of the hills lying North of Girivraja.

Bimbisara (Seniya or Sreniya) (554-492 BC)

- He was contemporary to the Buddha and first king to have a standing army. He defeated Anga king Brahmadutta and strengthened his position by matrimonial alliances.

- His three wives belonged to royal family of Koshala **Mahakosaladevi** (*sister of Prasenjit*), Licchavi (**Chellana**) and Madra (Khema) clan of Punjab. He sent his personal physician Jivak (*son of Salavati*) to his rival **Chandapadyota Mahasena** of Ujjain to cure him of jaundice.
- The Gandhara ruler of Taxila Pukkusati, sent an embassy to Bimbisara.

Ajatashatru (492-460 BC)

- He was the son of Chellana and Bimbisara, he occupied throne by killing his father. He adopted an aggressive policy of expansion. He defeated his maternal uncle Prasenjit, king of Kosala and married his daughter **Vajjira**.
- He destroyed **Vaishali** (*capital of Licchavis*) after a protracted war of 16 years by sowing the seeds of discord amongst the people of Vaishali. Buddha died during his reign and he patronised first Buddhist Council.
- Sunidha** and **Vatsakar** Ajatashatru's diplomatic ministers.
- Mahashilakantaka** A war engine which catapulted big stones.
- Rathamusala** A kind of Chariot with a mace, helped him to defeat Licchavis.

Udayain (460-444 BC)

- Son and successor of Ajatashatru, he built the fort upon the confluence of the Ganga and the Son rivers at Pataliputra (Patna), thus, transferred the capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra. He was succeeded by weak rulers Anuruddha, Munda and Naga-Dasak.

Shishunaga Dynasty (412-344 BC)

- **Shishunaga** was the Minister of Naga-Dasak and was elected by the people. He destroyed the Pradyota dynasty of Avanti. He temporarily shifted the capital to Vaishali.
- **Kalasoka** (*Kakavarin*) succeeded Shishunaga. He transferred the capital from Vaishali to Pataliputra and convened the 2nd Buddhist Council in Vaishali (383 BC).

Nanda Dynasty (344-323 BC)

- **Mahapadma Nanda**, the great conquerer and founder of the dynasty was also known as **Ekarat, Eka-chchhatra** (*sovereign ruler*), **Sarvakshatrantaka or Ugrasena** (*possessor of huge army*). He conquered Koshala and Kalinga (from here he brought an image of the Jina as victory trophy). It is considered to be the first non-Kshatriya dynasty.
- **Dhanananda** was the last Nanda ruler. Alexander invaded North-Western India during his reign (326 BC), but the huge army of Dhanananda deterred Alexander from advancing towards Gangetic valley. He is probably referred as Agrammes or Xandrames in the Greek texts.
- Chandragupta Maurya assisted by Kautilya overthrew Dhanananda to establish Mauryan dynasty.

Causes for the Rise of Magadha

- Advantageous geographical location with both Rajgir and Pataliputra situated at strategic locations. Abundance of natural resources, such as iron, enabled Magadhan rulers to equip with effective weapons. The alluvial soil of the Gangetic plains and sufficient rainfall were very conducive for agriculture produces.
- Rise of town and use of metallic money boosted trade and commerce. The princes could levy tolls and accumulate wealth to pay and maintain their army. Use of elephants on a large-scale in wars with its proximity to ancient Kalinga.
- Unorthodox character of Magadhan society. Contribution of several enterprising and ambitious rulers and their policies.

Pre-Mauryan Economic System

- In the pre-Mauryan period, thus, we notice for the first time, an advanced food-producing economy spread over middle Gangetic plains and the beginning of urban economy in this area e.g. Cattle rearing was no longer the primary occupation and was replaced by agriculture. Rice was the staple cereal produced in Eastern UP and Bihar in this period.
- **Iron** played a crucial role in opening the rainfed forests to clearance, cultivation and settlement.
- **Rural Economy** A strong rural base was necessary for the beginning of urbanisation and crafts as taxes and tributes were required in sufficient measure.
- This period saw the second urbanisation in India, towns had come into existence as centres of industry and trade. The use of burnt bricks and ring wells appeared in the middle of the NBPW phase, in the 3rd century BC.

Economic Terminology

Terms	Meanings
Vrihi and Sali	New variants of rice.
Karisa, Nivartan and Kulyavapa	Units of land measurement.
Sita state lands; Sarthak	Caravans; sresti bankers.
Shali	Transplantation.
Gahapatis	Peasant-proprietors.

- Specialised craftsmen tended to form guilds because it facilitated carriage of raw materials and the distribution of finished articles. We hear of 18 guilds (*sreni*) of artisans. The guild at this stage was not the highly developed mercantile system, which it was to become later. Each guild inhabited a particular section of the town.
- The introduction of a Monetary System considerably facilitated trade. Coins made of metal appear first in the age of Gautama Buddha. The earliest hoards have been found in Eastern UP and Magadha, although some have been found at Taxila. Most probably, they were referred as Nishka and Satamana.
- **Anathapindaka** was a sresthi of Shravasti who denoted Jetavana Vihara to the Buddha. Menduka was another rich sresthi of Rajagriha. Pre-Mauryan Social System
- The tribal community had been clearly divided into four **Varnas: Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras**.
- The **Dharmasutras** laid down the duties of each of the four Varnas and the civil and criminal law came to be based on the Varna division. They condemned Vaishyas for lending money.
- All kinds of disabilities were imposed on the Shudras. They were deprived of religious and legal rights and relegated to the lowest position in society.
- Patriarchal tendencies became dominant. Women were looked down in comparison to men. They were to remain under the tutelage of male members and were not entitled to education and Upanayana ceremony.

Foreign Invasions

Persian Invasion

- **Cyrus** (558-530 BC) of Persia was the first conqueror who penetrated well into India. He destroyed the city of Capisa (North of Kabul).
- **Herodotus**, the Greek historian, also known as the **Father of History** tells us that in 516 BC **Darius I** (552-486 BC), grandson of Cyrus, sent a naval expedition to explore the valley of the Sindhu river and annexed the part of Punjab and Sind.
- The Indian soldiers were part of the Archaemenian army that conquered Greece in the time of Persian ruler Xerxes I (465-456 BC) successor of Darius I. Darius III also enlisted Indian soldiers and sent them to fight Alexander.

Effects of Persian Invasion

- Introduction of the Aramaic form of writing, which later developed into the Kharosthi alphabet.
- Promotion to Indo-Iranian trade.
- Fusion of Iranian/Persian features in the Mauryan art.
- Impact of Buddhism on the Zoroastrian religion of ancient Persia.

Greek Invasion

- After the conquest of the Persian Empire, Alexander marched to India through the Khyber Pass in 326 BC.
- He constructed a bridge on the Indus river at behind about 24 km.
- After crossing the Indus, Alexander proceeded towards Taxila. The King of Taxila, Ambhi, readily submitted and offered to help Alexander and recognised him as his sovereign.
- The most powerful among the North-Western Indians was the ruler of kingdom between the Hydaspes (*Jhelum*) and the Acesines (*Chenab*) whom the Greeks call Porus. Porus fought bravely, but was defeated and was led a captive before Alexander.
- Alexander's advance was arrested on the bank of the Beas, for his soldiers mutinied and refused to proceed further after the Battle of Vitasta and Jhelum.
- His dream of an Eastern Empire remained unfulfilled. The king who had never known defeat at the hands of his enemies had to accept defeat from his own men. Alexander remained in India for about 19 months.
- While retreat he divided the whole territory from the Indus to the Beas into three provinces and put them under the overall charge of three Greek Governors.

Effects of Greek Invasion

- The Greek invasion of India opened the trade route between North-West India and Western Asia. Europe came into contact.
- The invasion led to the establishment of more Greek settlements in this area.
- Opening up of four distinct routes between India and Greek by land and sea paving way for increased trade and cultural contacts between the two regions.
- Indians learnt from the Greek in the field of astronomy, coinage, architecture and sculpture (*Gandhara School of Sculpture*).
- Maurya empire had seen something of the working of the military machine of Alexander and acquired some knowledge which helped him in destroying the power of the Nandas.

Self Check

Build Your Confidence

1. Which one of the following is not true about Janapada?

- (a) Its literal meaning is the place where people place their feet
- (b) A Janapada was essentially an agricultural settlement
- (c) A Janapada were often named after the dominant Kshatriya class
- (d) The establishment of Janapadas show that trade had become the most important factor in the contemporary life

2. With reference to the invaders is ancient India, which one of the following is correct chronological order?

[IAS 2006]

- (a) Greeks, Sakas, Kushans
- (b) Greeks, Kushans, Sakas
- (c) Sakas, Greeks, Kushans
- (d) Sakas, Kushans, Greeks

3. Consider the following statements to Magadha emerged as the most important state in India around 2600 years ago.

- 1. Emergence of two major faiths Buddhism and Jainism in Magadha.
- 2. The efficient rulers of Magadha who increased its territory.
- 3. Geographical setting and the fertile plain.
- 4. Abundance of elephants in the region.

Which of the statement(s) given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) All of these

4. Assertion (A) Flourishing of the urban city states in 6th century BC in India was a resultant to the application of iron.

Reason (R) Iron was easy imported from Europe and Central Asia, where it helped in the flows of the great Greek roman civilisation and they had good concernal contacts with Indian monarchs.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

5. Which of the following kingdoms did not appear in the later Vedic North India?

- (a) Kuru Panchala
- (b) Kosala
- (c) Kashi
- (d) Anga

6. Consider the following statements

- 1. The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha was assassinated by his commander in chief, Pushyamitra Sunga.
- 2. The last Sunga King, Devabhuti was assassinated by his Brahmana Minister Vasudeva Kanva who usurped the throne.
- 3. The last ruler of Kanva dynasty was deposed by the Andhras.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All of these

7. Which of the following statements about trade regulations in the Mauryan period is not correct?

- (a) There was general control over process and profits
- (b) The sale of merchandies was strictly supervised by the state
- (c) The general tax levied on merchandise was fixed at one tenth
- (d) The state directly employed one of artisans, such as armourers, shipbuilders etc

8. Which of the following provides the correct sequence of dynasties ruling at Magadha?

- (a) Brihadratha, Harayanka, Shishunaga, Nanda
- (b) Harayanka, Brihadratha, Shishunaga, Nanda
- (c) Harayanka, Shishunaga, Nanda, Brihadratha
- (d) Brihadratha, Shishunaga, Harayanka, Nanda

9. Which of the following kings of Magadha transferred the capital from Girivraja to Pataliputra permanently?

- (a) Ajatshatru
- (b) Shishunaga
- (c) Kalashoka
- (d) None of the above

10. Which of the following factor was the behind Magadhan supremacy?

- (a) Geographical position—Ganga, Gandak and Ghaghra in North and son in South and capital city Rajgriha fortified with five hills
- (b) Fertile soil and abundance of Iron ore
- (c) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (d) None of the above

11. Consider the following kings

- 1. Ajatshatru
- 2. Bimbisara
- 3. Prasenjit

Which of these was/were the contemporary/ contemporaries of Gautam Buddha?

[IAS 2003]

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of these

12. Which of the following observations of megasthenes about Mauryan society are true?

- 1. Growing practice of polygamy.
- 2. Employment of women as palace guards.
- 3. Theft was a rare occurrence.
- 4. Slavery was absent in Indian society.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of these

13. Who among the following is considered to be the founder of the mahajanapada of Magadha?

- (a) Brahmadutta
- (b) Palaka
- (c) Jarasandha
- (c) Mahasena



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (b) | 4. (c) | 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) | 9. (c) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | | | | | | | |

Chapter five

Religious Movements of Mahajanapada Age

The changing features of social and economic life in the 6th century BC were closely linked with changes in religion and philosophical speculation. The conflict between the established orthodoxy and the aspirations of the newly rising groups must have intensified this process. Numerous religious sects arose in the middle Ganges basin in the 6th century BC.

Jainism

- The origin of Jainism is shrouded in mystery. It is believed that the 24 Tirthankaras were responsible for the development and origin of this religion, but the first twenty two are of doubtful historicity contemporary economic and political development helped the emergence of new social groups which acquired considerable economic power. As Jainism did not give much importance to the notion of birth for social status they attracted the Vaisyas to their fold.
- Rishabhdev was the first Tirthankara. Vishnu Purana and Bhagwat Purana mention Rishabhdev as the incarnation of Narayana.

Personal History of Mahavira

Real Names	Vardhamanas
Titles	Mahavira, Nayaputa, Nirgrantha
Birth	540 BC
Place of Birth	Kundagrama in Vaishali
Father's Name	Siddhartha
Mother's Name	Trishala (A Licchavi Princess, Sister of Chetaka)
Wife	Yashoda
Class	Kshatriya
Clan	Nyaya (Jnatrika)
Enlightenment	Jimbikagrama / Rijupalika (river)
Companion	Gosala Makkhaliputta
Death	468 BC, Pavapuri near Rajgriha

Philosophy of Jainism

- It rejected the authority of the vedas and the vedic rituals. According to them, world was not created, maintained and destroyed by a personal God, but by a universal law. Thus, it didn't believe in the existence of God. It believed in **Karma** and the transmigration of soul. It advocated the path of non-violence.
- Other important aspects of the philosophy of Jainism are as follows:
 - Anekantavada Objects of knowledge is of infinite characteristics.
 - Nayavada An individual understands an object of knowledge through a particular point of view.
 - Saptabhanginaya Seven point of view to understand an object of knowledge.
 - Syadvada Understanding of an object of knowledge is conditional.

Doctrines of Jainism

- Ahimsa (*Non-violence*)
- Satya (*Truthfulness*)
- Asteya (*Non-stealing*)
- Brahmacharya (*Celibacy*)
- Aparigraha (*Non-possession of property*)

Five Vows or Principles

- The householder had to observe the following five vows:
 - (i) Non-injury
 - (ii) Non-stealing
 - (iii) Speaking the truth
 - (iv) Non-possession
 - (v) Non-adultery
- The first four principles were given by Parshvanath while the 5th one was added by Lord Mahavira.