

ANCIENT INDIA

PREHISTORY –

- This period is characterized by absence of literary evidence and the absence of permanent structures (settlements built by man).
- The use of tools was known to man.
- Broadly divided into Paleolithic (500,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE), Mesolithic, and Neolithic Age.
- Paleolithic site – Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh.
- Mesolithic Age – characterized by Microliths. E.g., Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh.
- Neolithic Age – polished stone tools, stone axes. E.g., Mehrgarh in Pakistan, Burzahom in Srinagar, Gufkral in Srinagar. In Burzahom, domestic dogs were buried with their masters in their graves.
- End of Neolithic Age saw the use of metals. First metal to be used was copper and culture based on the use of stone and copper implements was called chalcolithic. They also occasionally used low grade bronze.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- Indus valley civilization belongs to the Bronze Age.
- Broadly placed between 3000 BCE in 1500 BCE.
- It extend from Manda (J&K) in the north to Diamabad (Maharashtra) in the South and from Sukhtendor (Pakistan-Iran border) in the west to Alamgirpur (U.P.) in the east.
- Features of settlements:
 1. Evidence of centralized planning
 2. grid pattern of streets
 3. burnt-brick drains
 4. covered drainage system
 5. brick-built wells
- Important sites:
 1. Mohenjo-Daro –
 - a. Largest site
 - b. Great Bath
 - c. Great Granary
 2. Harappa –
 - a. First site to be discovered and excavated in 1921
 - b. Indus valley civilization was first called Harappan civilization after this site
 3. Lothal –
 - a. Only Indus site with an artificial brick dockyard
 - b. evidence for the earliest use of rice
 - c. discovery of fire altars
- Economy –
 1. Bronze, gold, silver, lead used.

2. Shell-working and bangle-making
 3. Pottery making, bead making, seals made of steatite
 4. Used bullock carts and boats
- Society – possibly divided in to three sections (based on division of towns)
 - Political set up – lack of clarity. Lack of ‘palaces’ and ‘royal tombs’
 - Religion – evidence of phallic and yoni worship, anthropomorphism
 - Script – pictographic, not deciphered
 - Language – Indo-European or Dravidian?
 - Seal – ‘Pashupati Seal’
 - Steatite image of bearded man
 - Dancing girl (Bronze)
 - Uniform system of weights and measurements
 - Decline theories – 1. Theory of Sudden Death and Aryan Invasion. 2. Theory of Gradual Decline.

VEDIC AGE (1500 – 600 BCE)

- Largely known from Vedic literature
- Beginning of use of iron

VEDIC LITERATURE

There are broadly two types of Vedic literature:

1. Shruti Literature – The word ‘Shruti’ from the term ‘Shruti Literature’ means ‘to hear’ and describes the sacred texts which comprise of Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, & Upanishads. Shruti Literature is canonical, consisting of revelation and unquestionable truth, and is considered eternal.
2. Smriti Literature – The word ‘Smriti’ literally means to be remembered and which is supplementary and may change over time. Smriti Literature is the entire body of the post-Vedic Classical Sanskrit literature and consists of Vedanga, Shad darsana, Puranas, Itihasa, Upveda, Tantras, Agamas, Upangas.
 - The Vedic literature can be classified into the following categories:
 1. The four Vedas i.e. the Rig, Sama, Yajur, and Atharva, and their Samhitas.
 2. The Brahmanas - They are the prose texts that explain the hymns in the Vedas
 3. The Aranyakas - These are called Forest Books. Sacrificial rituals are interpreted by Aranyakas in a symbolic and philosophical way.
 4. The Upanishads - They are called Vedanta (“the conclusion of the Vedas”), and they serve as the foundational texts in the theological discourses of many Hindu traditions that are also known as Vedanta.

- Rig Vedic Phase –
 1. Geographical distribution – Broadly Sapta Sindhu region (5 rivers of Punjab along with Indus and Saraswati)
 2. Pastoral but familiar with agriculture
 3. Cattle was the main wealth
 4. Vis or clan ----- Jana or tribe ----- Grama or village
 5. Broad division of society into *Arya Varna* and *Dasa Varna*
- Later Vedic Phase –
 1. Includes western and middle Ganga plain (*Satapatha Brahamana* throws light on expansion into eastern Gangetic plains)
 2. Mention of four Varnas and their hierarchy
- Political Life –
 1. Rajan – did not exercise unlimited power but had to reckon with tribal assemblies in Rig Vedic Period (RVP). In Later Vedic period (LVP), the power of Rajan increased.
 2. Tribal assemblies – Sabha (council of tribal elders) and Samiti (general assembly of the tribe). In Rig Vedic Period women could be a part of these.
 3. RVP – voluntary tax called *Bali* and spoils of war (*Bhaga*)
- Social Life –
 1. Varna System – 10th Mandala of Rig Veda – *Purusa Sukta*
 2. Ashramas or Stages of Life – *Chandogya Upanishad* – for male members of higher castes – a. *Brahmachari* (student life), b. *Grihastha* (householder life), c. *Vanaprastha* (partial retirement), d. *Sanyas* (ascetic life)
- Important divinities –
 1. Indra – most important god of RVP
 2. Agni
 3. Varuna
 4. Soma – god of plants

POST-VEDIC or PRE-MAURYAN AGE (600-300 BCE)

- Marked rise of heterodox sects including Buddhism and Jainism
- Emergence of urban centres in Ganga valley
- First coins in India – punch marked coins – silver *satamana*, silver *karshapana*, copper *masha* and *kakani*.
- Rise of 16 mahajanapadas

Sl. No.	Mahajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
1	Anga	Champa	Munger and Bhagalpur
2	Magadh	Girivraja / Rajagir	Gaya and Patna
3	Kasi	Kasi	Banaras
4	Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5	Kosala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
6	Saurasena	Mathura	Mathura
7	Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8	Kuru	Indraprastha	Merrut and S.E. Haryana
9	Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10	Chedi	Sothivati / Banda	Bundelkhanda
11	Avanti	Ujjain / Mahismati	Madhya Pradesh & Malwa
12	Gandhar	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13	Kamboj	Pooncha	Rajori & Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Asmaka	Pratisthan / Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali
16	Malla	Kusinara	Deoria & U.P.

www.exampariksha.com

- Magadhan Dynasties –
 1. Haryanka Dynasty –
 - a. Founded by **Bimbisara**
 - b. **Ajatasatru** annexed Lichchavi kingdom
 - c. **Udayin** built Pataliputra
 2. Sisunagas Dynasty –
 - a. Founded by **Sisunaga**
 - b. **Kalasoka** shifted capital from Rajgir to Pataliputra
 3. Nandas –
 - a. Founded by **Mahapada Nanda**
 - b. Last ruler is **Dhana Nanda** – overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya
- Foreign invasions –

1. Cyrus of Persia (588-530 BCE) – first foreign conqueror who led an expedition into India.
2. Darius I (522 – 486 BCE) – conquered Indus Valley region
3. Alexander's invasion (327-25 BCE) – Battle of Hydapses – crossed Jhelum river in dark and took King Porus by surprise.

MAURYAN EMPIRE (300 – 200 BCE)

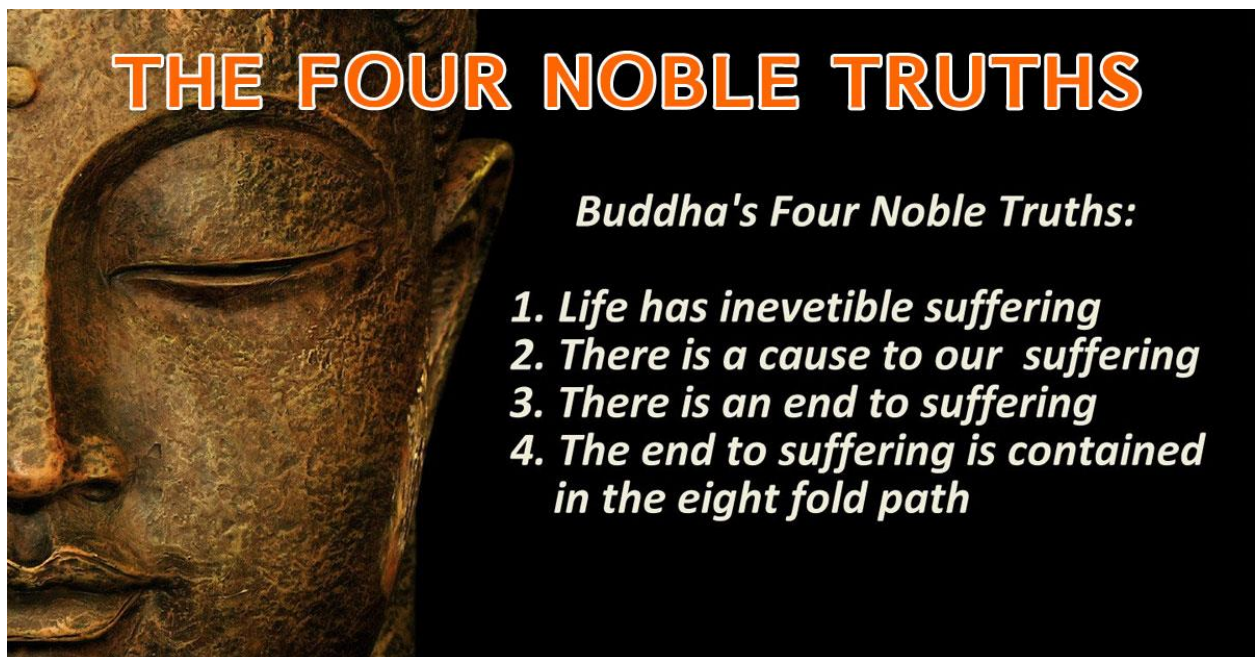
- Magadhan supremacy reached its zenith during the Maurya rule
- Sources:
 - a. Indica by Megasthenes (now lost and preserved only in later excerpts and summaries)
 - b. Arthashastra by Kautilya
 - c. Purana – give chronology and list of Mauryan kings
 - d. Jatakas, Digha Nikaya, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa (Buddhist texts)
 - e. Parisistaparvan – Jaina work – about conversion of Chandragupta Maurya to Jainism by Bhadrabahu.
- Political History:
 1. Chandragupta (321 – 297 BCE) –
 - Dethroned Dhana Nanda, occupied Pataliputra with the help of Kautilya/Chanakya/Vishnu Gupta.
 - Campaign against Seleucus Nikator
 - Embraced Jainism and stepped down from throne
 2. Bindusara (267 – 271 BCE) –
 - Known to Greeks as *Amitrochates*
 - Interested in Ajivika sect
 3. Ashoka (268 – 232 BCE) –
 - In 1837, James Prinsep deciphered an inscription to a king called *Devanampiya Piyadassi*. Later it became clear that it refers to Ashoka.
 - War of succession
 - War of Kalinga (260 BCE)
 - Bhabru inscription – Ashoka became supporter of Buddhism under the influence of Buddhist monk Upagupta
 - As per tradition, Ashoka built the city of Srinagar
 - Sent his son *Mahendra* and daughter *Sangamitra* as Buddhist missionaries to Ceylon
 4. After several other less important ruler, Brihadratha was the last Mauryan ruler. He was murdered in 184 BCE by his commander-in-chief Pushyamitra Sunga, who established the Sunga dynasty.
- Administration:
 1. King was paternal monarch
 2. Mantrins and Mantriparishad
 3. Amatyas – civil and judicial appointments
 4. Sannidhata – Chief Treasury Officer

5. Senapati – Military Department
 6. Empire was divided into 4 provinces, each headed by a Pradehtris/Pradesikas
 7. Districts were under Rajukas
 8. 5 to ten villages were grouped and were under *Gopa* (maintain records) and *Sthanika* (collect taxes)
 9. Villages were under *Gramami*
- Artisan guilds were called *Shrenis*
 - Slavery existed

BUDDHISM

	Event	Symbol
1.	Siddharta born at Lumbini in 563 BCE in Sakya (Kshatriya clan)	Lotus and Bull
2.	Left home at the age of 12	Horse (Great Renunciation)
3.	Attained Nirvana at the age of 35 at Bodh Gaya under a Pipal tree	Bodhi tree (Nirvana)
4.	Delivered first sermon at Sarnath	Dharma Chakra
5.	Died at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at Kusinagar (U.P.)	Stupa (Death or Parinirvana)

- Four Noble Truths:



- Ashtanga Marga (Eight-fold path):



- Three jewels of Buddhism:
 1. Buddha (the enlightened)
 2. Dhamma (doctrine)
 3. Sangha (order)
- After Buddha's death, 4 councils were held:

Buddhist Council	Time	Place	Patronized by	President of the council	Features
1	483 BCE	Rajagriha	Ajatashatru	Mahakassappa	Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka were compiled
2	383 BCE	Vaishali	Kalasoka	Sabbakami	Division into Sthaviravadins and Mahasanghikas
3	250 BCE	Pataliputra	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa	Buddhist missionaries were sent to other countries, Abhidhamma Pitaka compiled
4	1st CE	Kashmir	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Divided into Mahayana and Hinayana

- Viharas and Chaityas – Buddhist structures

JAINISM

- Vardhaman or Mahavir was born in 540 BCE at Kundagram near Vaishali into a Kshatriya clan.
- Becoming an ascetic at the age of 30, he attained *Kaivalya* (perfect knowledge) at the age of 42.
- He became the head of a sect called *Nirgranthas* (free from fetters), who later came to known as *Jinas*.
- He is the 24th Tirthankara (Great Teacher); Rishaba was the first and Parsva was the 23rd.
- Five Cardinal Principles:
 1. Ahimsa – no violence
 2. Asatya – no lies
 3. Apargraha – no stealing
 4. Asteya – no property
 5. Brahmacharya – Observing continence
- Tri Ratnas:
 1. Samyagdarshana – right faith
 2. Samyagjnana – right knowledge
 3. Samyagcharitra – right conduct
- Schism – 1. Famine in Gangetic valley led to exodus of many Jain monks to Deccan and South India (Sravanbelgola) along with Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya. 2. Broad division into *Digambaras* (sky-clad or naked) and *Svetambaras* (white-clad)

- Jaina Councils:

	When	Where	Under	What
1.	3 rd century BCE	Pataliputra	Sthulabahu (only acceptable to Svetambaras)	Compiled 12 Angas to replace the lost 14 Purvas
2.	5 th century CE	Valabhi	Devardhi Kshamasramana (Svetambaras)	Final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas

- Jain philosophy:
 1. Syadvada – the theory of may be
 2. Nayavada – the doctrine of 7 viewpoints
 3. Anektavada – the Doctrine of many sidedness – the above two are sometimes clubbed and called this.
 4. Theory of reality – dualistic philosophy – world consists of two eternal, uncreated, coexisting but independent categories – the conscious (Jiva) and the unconscious (Ajiva)
- Sacred places:
 1. Shatrunjaya Hills, Gujarat
 2. Mount Abu, Rajasthan
 3. Sravanbelgola, Karnataka

