

Chapter 1

PRE HISTORIC PERIOD AND INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION (500,000 BC - 500 BC)



Pre Historic Age: There has been an advent of Human civilisations, rural, urban or tribal since Human history. The Pre historical era is divided into four parts, namely: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Chalcolithic Age.

Palaeolithic Age (500,000 BC – 10,000 BC)

- The Palaeolithic era belonged to the Hunter and gatherers.
- There was no evidence of houses, pottery or agriculture.
- Humans used unpolished, rough stones, choppers, blades and scrapers etc.
- Palaeolithic men are also called 'Quartzite' men, as the stone tools were made of quartzite.

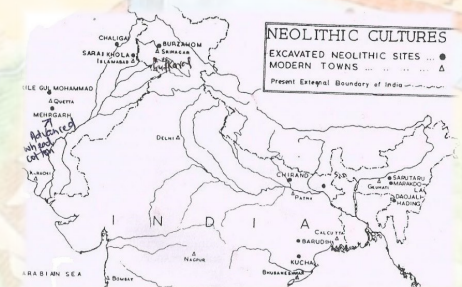


Mesolithic Age (10,000 BC – 6000 BC)

- The Mesolithic stage is known as the 'Middle stone Age'.
- The people lived on hunting and gathering.
- Herding started in this stage.
- Art evolved and Rock art was initiated, mostly of wild animals and Hunting. Ex: Bhimbetka caves

Neolithic Age (6000 BC- 1000 BC)

- The Neolithic stage is known as the New Stone Age.
- Man turned food producer from food gatherer, Agriculture was introduced.
- Evidence of a settled life found, along with better and sharp tools and weapons.
- Grey ware, black-burnished pottery was evident



Chalcolithic Age (3000BC- 500 BC)

- This age is known as Copper Stone history.
- Black red and ochre coloured pottery found.
- Agriculture is widespread in the time, people grew rice, barley and lentils etc.
- Burials were found in the house in North South direction.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Definition: Indus Valley civilisation is also known as Harappa civilisation, as it was the first site to be excavated in 1921, by Daya Ram Sahani. It is also called **Bronze Age Civilisation**. It is the first urban civilisation in South Asia.

PHASES OF IVC

1. Early Phase
2. Mature Phase
3. Late Harappan Phase

IMPORTANT SITES OF IVC

1. Harappa
2. Mohenjodaro
3. Dholavira
4. Chanhudaro
5. Kalibangan
6. Rakhigarhi
7. Lothal
8. Suktagendor

PARAMETERS OF IVC

Town planning and Architecture

Indus Valley is one of the earliest Urban civilisation. The architecture and the town planning was well planned and skilfully crafted. The drains followed a grid pattern. Prime example is the city of Mohenjodaro. Walled citadels were found in Dholavira and Lothal. The buildings composed of Baked Bricks and the town was divided in upper and lower towns. Other examples of visionary architecture were the Great bath, granary and the smooth intersections.



Religion of the People

There is a lack of evidence about the pan level religious leaning of the society. The seal of Pashupatinath indicates religious lineage that a male deity was worshipped. However, worship of Mother Goddess was also found.

The society was also naturalistic, and people believed in the worship of tress, plants and natural elements symbolising of linga and Yoni.



Agriculture pattern of IVC

The Harappa civilisation was the pioneer in the agricultural activities. Not only agriculture prevailed but there were technological advancements such as intricately designed irrigation system, canals as have been found in Shortughai in Afghanistan. Moreover, Dholavira had water reservoirs probably for agriculture.

From the seals and terracotta structures, we can gather that Wheat, Barley, peas, lentils, linseed and mustard seeds were planted in winter, while millet sesame and rice were cultivated in summer.



Economy and Society of IVC

The Indus Valley civilisation was an urban civilisation, with flourishing economy and stable society. The prime sources of income were various which included Agriculture, evident from the great granary. The specialised crafts and arts of the ancient city invited traders from foreign land. Most valuable items traded were carnelian and lapis lazuli.

Ornament making such as beaded jewellery and some traces of gold has also been recovered from the site. Besides that, animal husbandry, hunting and fishing were the poles of economic life of IVC.

The society of IVC was Urban and a cultural uniformity was observed. From the artefacts recovered from sites, we can gather that Men and women both wear jewellery with precious stones like jade, carnelian, agate and lapis lazuli.

Games, sports and amusement in form of dice games and cards, portrayed collectiveness of society. However, there is still some contestations on the type of polity.



The Vedic Age & Emergence of Mahajanapadas (1500BC – 600BC)

The Vedic Age

Between 1500 BC and 600 BC, this major civilisation existed with the emergence of Aryans and Indo Aryans. The Vedas were composed in this period and acts as the prime source of information. Hence, this period is called Vedic Age.



2 Phases of Vedic Age:

Early Vedic Age (1500 BC – 1000 BC)

Rigvedic Religion: worshipped natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain etc and there were no temples and no idol worship.

Political Life: Monarchy – Rajan:: King. Tribal assemblies were called sabhas and samitis.

Rigvedic Economy: Pastoral and cattle rearing people, practised agriculture. They had horse chariots and rivers were used for transportation.

Rigvedic Society: Social distinctions existed but were not rigid and hereditary. There was no child marriage and women enjoyed a respectable position.

Later Vedic Age (1000 BC – 600 BC)

Education: More systematic education, but restricted to Upper castes. During the later Vedic age vast volume of Vedic literature was composed.

Political Structure: Kingdoms like Mahajanapadas were formed by amalgamating smaller kingdoms and Sabha and Samitis lost their importance.

Social Life: The condition of women diminished in society. Caste system became more rigid and hereditary and child marriage became common.

Economy: Agriculture was the chief occupation and foreign trade with Babylon and Sumeria.

Rig Veda

The Rigveda is the first Veda and is divided into 10 books known as Mandalas. Originated in 1700 BC. Indra is the chief deity of the Rigveda. Gayatri Mantra is present in Rigveda.

Yajur Veda

It means "Worship Knowledge". It compiles ritual-offering mantras/ Chants. It has two types- Krishna (Black/ dark) & Shukla (White/ Bright). Shukla Yajurveda has arranged and clear verses.

The Vedas

Atharva Veda

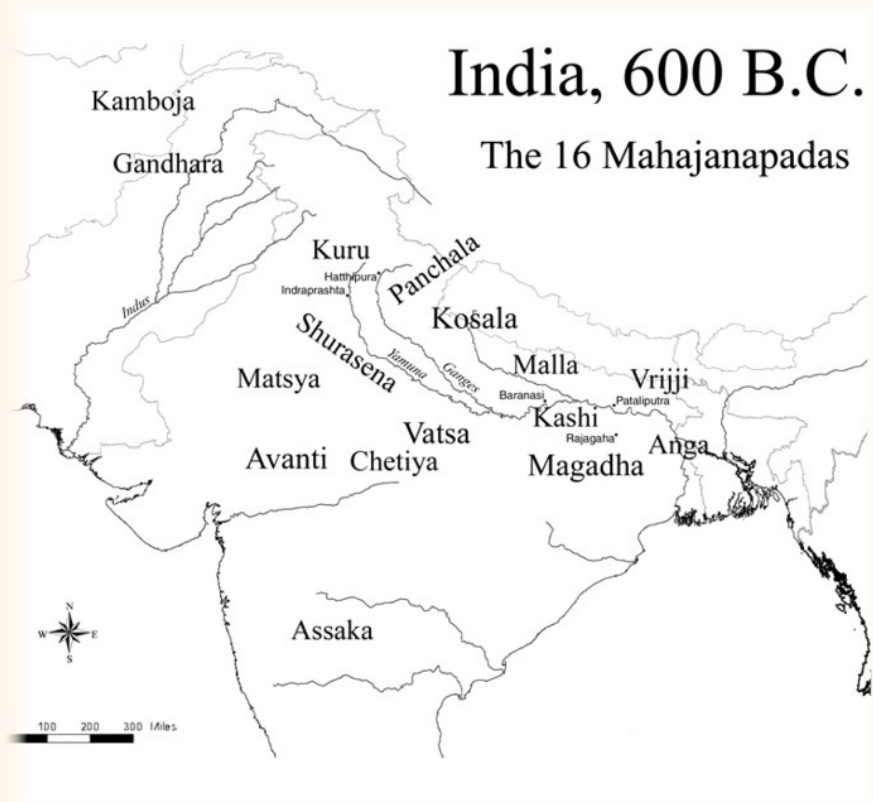
It stands to mean a tatpurusha compound of Atharvan. Daily life procedures are very well enumerated in this veda. It is called Veda of magical formula. It includes three primary Upanishads- Mundaka, Mandukya and Prashna Upanishad.

Sam Veda

Samveda is known as the veda of Melody and chants. It is considered as the root of Indian classical music and dance. Samveda samhita is not meant to be read as a text but it is like a musical score sheet that must be heard.

Emergence of Mahajanapadas

The socio political conditions took place in the 6th century led to the rise of Vedic Janapadas. With the surfacing new tools and iron technology, the agricultural communities swelled up, a more sophisticated polity developed turning the Vedic Rajas into Monarchs, with armies and taxes. In simple terms, Mahajanapadas were the amalgamation of large number of rural and urban settlements. There were 16 Mahajanapadas.



List of Mahajanapadas

	Mahajanapada	Capital
1	Anga	Champa
2	Kashi	Varanasi
3	Kosala	Shravasti (northern) Kusavati (Southern)
4	Vajji	Vaishali
5	Malla	Kusinara
6	Chedi	Suktimati
7	Vatsa	Kaushambi
8	Kuru	Indraprastha
9	Panchal	Ahichchhatra (northern) Kampilya (Southern)
10	Matsya	Viratnagar
11	Sursena	Mathura
12	Avanti	Ujjain
13	Gandhara	Taxila
14	Kamboja	Rajapura
15	Assaka	Potali
16	Magadha	Rajgriha

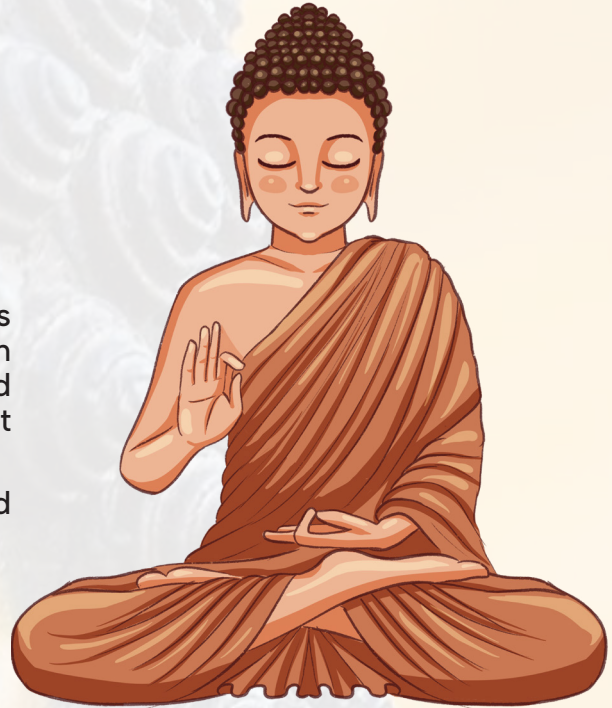
Chapter 3

Age of Religious Movements: Jainism, Buddhism and other sects.

BUDDHISM

Buddhism started in India 2600 years ago. It was formulated by Siddhartha Gautam, who was born in Sakya Clan at **Lumbini**. Lord Buddha, attained enlightenment under a Pipal Tree (Bodhi Tree) at **Bodhgaya**.

He gave his first sermon in **Sarnath** and he achieved **MahaParinirvana** at Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh).



Symbols of the Great Events of Buddha's Life

- Buddha's Birth: **Lotus**
- Great Departure: **Horse**
- Enlightenment: **Bodhi Tree**
- First sermon: **Dharmachakra Parivartan**
- Maha Parinirvana: **Sleeping Buddha**

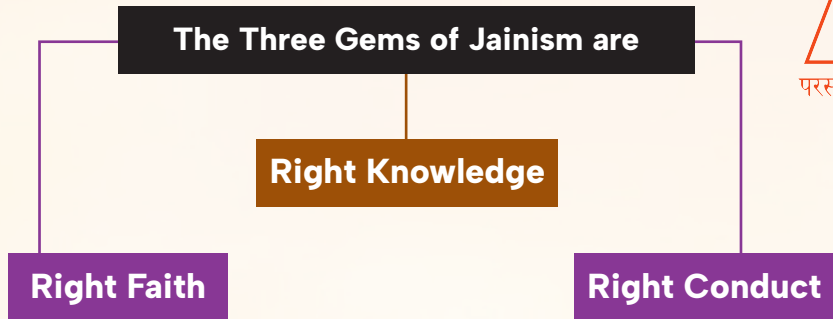
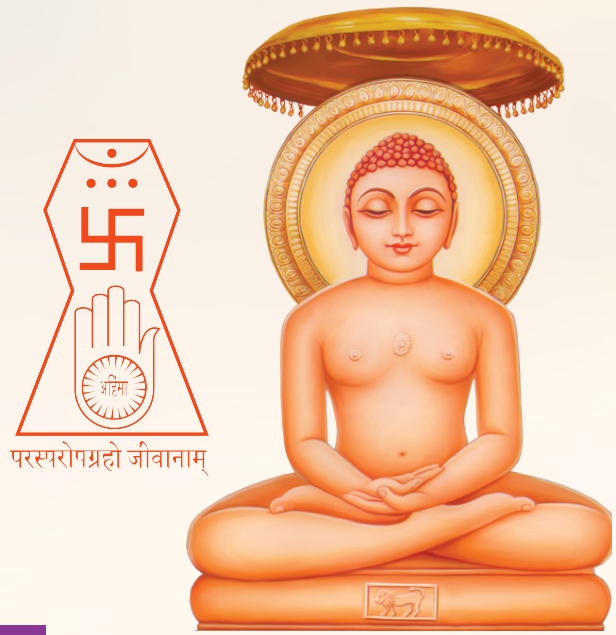
Buddhist Councils

Number And place	Year	King	Presided By	Objective	Additional Remarks
First (Rajgriha)	483 BC	Ajatshatru	Mahakassapa	Main objective was to preserve the Buddha's teachings.	Ananda composed Suttapitaka (Buddha's Teachings). Mahakassapa composed the Vinaypitaka (monastic codes)
Second (Vaishali)	383 BC	Kalasoka (Sisunaga Dynasty)	Sabakami	To discuss the disputed points under Vinaypitaka	Major split: Theravada & Mahayana.
Third (Pataliputra)	250 BC	Ashoka (Maurya Dynasty)	Mogaliputta Tissa	Objective was to purify Buddhism from opportunistic factions and corruption in Sangha.	Abhidhamma Pitaka was composed.
Fourth (Kundalvana, Kashmir)	72 AD	Kanishka (Kushan Dynasty)	Ashvaghosha	Abhidhamma pitaka was translated from Prakrit to Sanskrit.	The council resulted in the division into Mahayana and Hinayana.

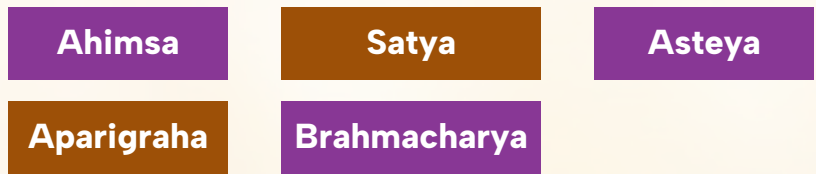
JAINISM

It is also a non Brahminical religion. It was founded by **RishabhDeva** and it was followed by 24 other Tirthankar. Mahavira is the last tirthankar, he rejected Vedic principles. According to Jain principles, **the universe is a product of natural phenomenon of cause and effect.**

They believe in complete non violence and austerity.



Five Doctrines of Jainism



Sangha

It is called the community of the pious. In Jaina philosophy, this term is used to refer to the fourfold community of Muni (male ascetics), Aryika, Sadhvi, Sravaka and Sravika. These are the followers of Dhamma, the community of saint and as "the community of the faithful".



Monastries

It can be defined as the order of monks and nuns in the jaina community. The largest Jaina Monastery in India is Ranakpur Temple. The monastic practices of the two sects vary greatly, but the major principles of both are identical.



Charvaka

The institutor of Charvaka philosophy is Brihaspati. It is materialistic, sceptical and atheistic school of thought. The followers of this school of thought believe that there is no other world. Hence, death is end of human life and pleasure is the ultimate goal of existence.



Mimamsa

The originator of the thought is Jamini. This philosophy emphasises on the concept of valid knowledge. According to Mimamsa, Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge and religion means fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.



	Location	Presided by	Objective
First Council (300 BC)	Patliputra	Sthulbhadra	Jainism was split into two factions: Svetambara and Digambara
Second Council (512 AD)	Vallabhi & Mathura	Devaradhi Kshama Ramana	Final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas