

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

- Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the four earliest civilisations of the world.
- According to radiocarbon dating, initiation of Indus Valley Civilisation can be dated around 2500-1750 BC.
- **Systematic town planning** was based on grid system; burnt bricks were used to construct houses; well-managed drainage system; fortified Citadel; highly urbanised; absence of iron implements.
- The **Great Bath** (Mohenjodaro) was used for religious bathing. There were changing rooms alongside.
- Six **granaries** in a row were found in the Citadel at Harappa.
- The towns were divided into 2 parts: the Upper Part or **Citadel** and the **Lower Part**. Harappans were ruled by a class of merchants, as no evidence of weapons are found there.
- Indus people sowed seeds in November and reaped their harvest in April, because of the danger of flood.
- Produced wheat, barley, rai, peas, seasmum, rice and mustard.
- Indus people were the first to produce cotton, which the Greeks termed as Sindon (derived from Sindh).
- **Animals** known were oxen, sheep, buffaloes, goats, pigs, elephants, dogs, cats, asses and camels.
- Well-knit external and internal trade. **Barter** system was prevalent.
- A very interesting feature of this civilisation was that iron was not known to the people.
- The Indus people used weights and measures in the multiples of 16.
- Harappans looked on Earth as fertility Goddess and phallic (lingam) and yoni worship was prevalent.
- **Unicorn** was the most worshipped animal. Many trees (pipal), animals (bull), birds (dove, pigeon) and stones too were worshipped though no evidence of temple has been found.
- **Dead bodies** were placed in North-South orientation.

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- The Seal of **Pashupati** depicts elephants, tigers, rhinoceros and buffalo. Two deers appear at the feet of Pashupati.
- The Indus people believed in ghosts and evil forces evident by their use of amulets for protection against them. **Fire altars** are found at Lothal and Kalibangan.
- The greatest artistic creation of the Harappan culture were the seals, made of steatite. **Harappan script** is pictographic and hasn't been deciphered yet.
- The script was written from right to left in the first line and left to right in the second line. This style is called **Boustrophedon**.
- **Occupations** practised were spinning, weaving, boat-making, goldsmiths, making pottery and seal-making.
- The possible causes of the decline of the civilisation may be invasion of the Aryans, recurrent floods, social break-up of Harappans and earthquakes, etc.
- **Boundaries** North-Mandu (J&K); South-Daimabad (Maharashtra); East- Alamgirpur; West-Sutkagendor.

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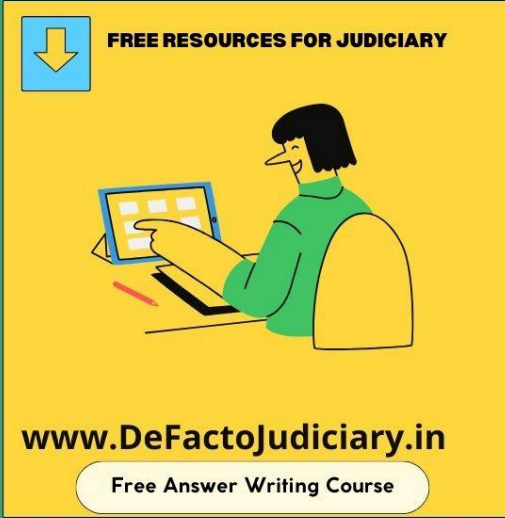
**Indus Valley Sites**

Site	Discovery/Finding(s)
<b>Harappa</b>	Situated on river <b>Ravi</b> in Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan). It was excavated by <b>Daya Ram Sahni</b> in 1921-23. The Indus Civilisation is named after it as the Harappan Civilisation. Stone dancing Natraja and Cemetery-37 have been found here.

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<b>Mohenjodaro</b> (Mound of Dead)	Situated on river Indus in Larkana district of Sind (Pak). It was excavated by RD Banerjee in 1922. The main building includes the Great Bath, the Great Granary, the Collegiate Building and the Assembly Hall. The dancing girl made of bronze has been found here. Pashupati Mahadeva/proto Shiva seal; fragment of woven cotton, etc are other findings
<b>Chanhudaro</b> (Sindh, Pakistan)	On river Indus; discovered by <b>NG Majumdar</b> (1931); only Indus site without citadel; bronze figurines of bullock cart and ekkas; a small pot suggesting a an ink pot
<b>Lothal</b> (Gujarat)	Discovered by <b>SR Rao</b> (1954); situated on river Bhogava. A part of the town was divided into citadel and the lower town and dockyard. Evidence of rice has been found here.
<b>Kalibangan</b> (meaning, Black Bangles) (Rajasthan)	Discovered by <b>BB Lal</b> (1961); situated on Ghaggar river, a ploughed field; a wooden furrow; seven fire-altars; bones of camel; and evidence of two types of burials namely—circular grave and rectangular grave.
<b>Dholavira</b>	It was found on river Luni of Kachchh district in Gujarat discovered by <b>JP Joshi</b> (1967-68). It has a unique water management system; only site to be divided into 3 parts; largest Harappan inscription and a stadium.
<b>Surkotada</b> (Gujarat)	Discovered by <b>JP Joshi</b> in 1972; evidence of horse found; oval grave; pit burials and seemingly a port city.
<b>Banawali</b> (Haryana)	On river Saraswati; discovered by <b>RS Bisht</b> (1973); evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture; lacked systematic drainage system; evidence of good quality barley.
<b>Rakhigarhi</b> (Haryana)	Largest Indus valley site.

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## VEDIC PERIOD

### Rig Vedic Period (1500-1000 BC)

- Vedic civilisation started with the migration of Aryan people in NorthWestern part of India.
- The Aryans were semi-nomadic pastoral people and originally believed to have lived somewhere in the **Steppes**, stretching from Southern Russia to Central Asia.
- The whole region in which the Aryans were first settled in India was called the **Land of 7 Rivers** or **Sapta Sindhawa**. (the Indus and its five tributaries and the Saraswati).
- The Dasrajan War Battle of 10 kings against Sudas (Bharata king of Tritsus) on the bank of river Parushni. Sudas emerged victorious.

### Political Organisation

- It was mainly a tribal system of government in which the military element was strong.
- Tribe was known as **Jana** and its king as **Rajan**.
- Although king's post was hereditary, we have also some traces of election by the tribal assembly called **Samitis**.

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- Other tribal assemblies that were mentioned in Rigveda were Sabha, **Vidatha** and **Gana**.
- Villages were headed by **Gramani**.
- In day-to-day administration, the King was assisted by the **Purohita** (most important), a **Senani** and **Gramani**.

#### Society

People were loyal to the tribe, called **Jana** (mentioned 275 times in the Rigveda) as the kingdom/territory was not yet established. Women enjoyed freedom and respect.

#### Religion

- Worshipped Nature, Indra (also called Purandara-breaker of forts) was the most important divinity.
- **Soma** was considered to be the God of plants.
- People worshipped the divinities mainly for **Praja** (children), **Pashu** (cattle), food, health and wealth. No temple or idol worship was noted.

#### Economy

No regular revenue system, kingdom maintained by voluntary tribute called **bali** and booty won in battles.

- Aryan's main occupation was mainly pastoral. Agriculture was a secondary occupation.
- Cow was a standard unit of exchange. Gold coins-*Nishka, Krishnal and Satmana*.
- The staple crop was **Yava** (barley).

#### Rigvedic Terms

<i>Term</i>	-	<i>Meaning</i>
Dasyus	-	Original inhabitant of India
Ayas	-	Copper/bronze
Vajrapati/	-	Officer enjoying authority over
Kalapas	-	large tract of land
Gramini	-	Head of the village
Gavisthi	-	Fighting hordes, Search for cows/war for cows

#### Rigvedic Rivers

<i>River</i>	-	<i>Name in Rigveda</i>
Indus	-	Sindhu
Kurram	-	Krumu

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Jhelum	-	Vitasta
Chenab	-	Asikni
Ravi	-	Parushini
Beas	-	Vipas
Sutlej	-	Sutudri
Gomati	-	Gomal
Saraswati	-	Sarasvati
Ghaggar	-	Drishadavati

**Later Vedic Period  
(1000-500 BC)**

- In this period, Aryans expanded from Punjab over the whole of Western Uttar Pradesh covered by the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

**Political Organisation**

- King (*Samrat*) became more powerful and tribal authority tended to become territorial.
- King's position strengthened by rituals like **Ashwamedha** and **Vajapeya Yajnas**.

**Society**

- Society was clearly divided into four varnas—Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. Position of women deteriorated. The institution of Gotra (descent from common ancestors) appeared for the first time.

**Economy**

- Beginning of town and settled life.
- Agriculture was the main livelihood.
- Wheat and rice (called **vrihi** in later Vedic texts) became the staple crop.
- New occupations like those of ironsmith, coppersmith and jewel work emerged. Weaves were reserved for women.

**Religion**

- Prajapati became the supreme God, followed by **Rudra** (animal God) and **Lord Vishnu** (preserver and protector of people).
- Idolatry began in this period.
- Pushana, who looked after the cattles was 'God of Shudras'.

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- Sacrifices, rather than prayers, became more important.

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## Vedic Literature

### The Vedas

- **Rigveda** The oldest Indo-European language text is a collection of hymns. Contains 1028 hymns divided into 10 mandalas. The 10th Mandala contains **Purushasukta hymn** that explain about four varnas, whereas 3rd Mandala contains Gayatri mantra, which was compiled in the praise of Sun God.
- **Samaveda** Collection of melodies, contains Dhrupad raga. It is a book of chants.
- **Yajurveda** Contains hymns and rituals/ sacrifices.
- **Atharvaveda** Charms and spells to ward-off evils and diseases.

### The Brahmanas

- They explain the hymns of Vedas. Contains ritualistic formulae and explains the social and religious meaning of rituals. Each veda has several Brahmanas attached to it.

Rigveda : Kaushitaki and Aitareya  
Yajurveda : Taittiriya and Satapatha  
Samaveda : Panchvish and Jemineya  
Atharvaveda : Gopatha

### **The Aranyakas**

The word *Aranya* means the forest. These texts were called Aranyakas, because they were written mainly for the hermits and students living in the jungle.

### **The Upanishadas**

- Philosophical texts emphasising value of right belief and knowledge; criticising rituals/sacrifices; and 108 in number. **Brihadaranyaka** is the oldest upanishad.
  
- Also known as 'Vedanta'.

### **Smritis**

Explains rules and regulations in Vedic life. These are Manusmriti (the first law book); Naradasmriti, Yajnavalkya-smriti and Parasharasmriti.

### **Vedangas**

These are Limbs of Vedas and are six in number.

- Shiksha (Pronunciation)
- Kalpa (Rituals)
- Vyakaran (Grammar)
- Nikrukta (Etymology)
- Chhanda (Metrics)
- Jyotish (Astrology)

### **Puranas**

Deals with world creation, the geneologies of Gods and Rishis and the Royal dynasties. There are 18 famous 'Puranas'. The 'Matsya Purana' is the oldest puranic text.





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### Darshana

There are six schools of Indian philosophy, called Shada-darshana.

These are

Nyaya Darshana

Vaishesika Darshana

Sankhya Darshana

Yoga Darshana

Purva Mimansa

Uttara Mimansa

*Gautam*

*Kanada Rishi*

*Kapila*

*Patanjali*

*Jaimini*

*Badrayna or Vyasa*

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### Upavedas

There are four Upavedas

Upaveda	Deals with	Upaveda of
Dhanurveda	Art of warfare	Yajurveda
Gandharva Veda	Art and music	Samaveda
Shilpa Veda	Architecture	Atharvaveda
Ayurveda	Medicine	Rigveda

### Epics

**Mahabharata** by Vyasa, also called Jaya Samhita and Satasahasri Samhita has 100000 verses and are older than Ramayana, written by **Valmiki**, and has 29000 verses.

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**The Mahajanapadas**

<b>Mahajanapada (Locations)</b>	<b>Capital (s)</b>
Gandhara (Between Kabul and Rawalpindi)	Taxila
Anga (Bhagalpur and Mungher in Bihar)	Champa
Magadha (Patna and Gaya district, Bihar)	Girivraj, Rajagriha (Bimbisara); Patliputra (Udayin); Vaishali (Shishunaga); Patliputra (Ashoka)
Kashi (Varanasi district, UP)	Varanasi
Vajji (Vaishali district, UP)	Vaishali
Malla (South of Vaishali district, UP)	Kusinagara and Pava
Chedi (River Ken Bundelkhand area)	Sothivati-nagar or Shuktimati
Vatsa (River Yamuna, Allahabad and Mirzapur district in UP)	Kaushambi
Kosala (Eastern UP)	Sravasti and Ayodhaya (Saket)
Kuru (Ganga-Yamuna doab. Delhi-Meerut region)	Hastinapur and Indraprastha
Panchala (Ganga-Yamuna doab, Rohilkhand)	Ahichhatra and Kampilya
Matsya (JaipurBharatpur-Alwar district)	Viratnagar/Bairath
Surasenas (Mathura region)	Mathura
Asmaka (River Godavari) (Near Paithan in Maharashtra)	Patna or Patali
Avanti (Malwa)	Ujjain (Northern capital), Mahismati (Southern capital)
Kamboja (Hazara district of Pakistan)	Rajapur or Hataka

**JAINISM AND BUDDHISM**

- Came into existence around 600 BC.
- The main causes being the reaction against domination of Brahmanas and spread of agricultural economy in the North-East.

**Jainism**

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1. Founded by Rishabhadeva (Emblem : Bull) born in Ayodhya.
2. There were 24 tirthankaras (great teachers), the 23rd being Parshvanatha and the 24th being the Vardhamana Mahavira.
3. Mahavira was born in 540 BC in **Kundagram** near Vaishali.
4. Father **Siddhartha** of Jnatrik Kshatriya Clan.
5. Mother Trishala—sister of Lichchhavi Chief Chetaka, married to **Yashoda** and had a daughter named Priyadarshini, whose husband Jamali became his first disciple. Mahavira became an ascetic at the age of 30, attained Kaivalya (Jina) outside the town of Jimbhikgrama at the age of 42 and died at the age of 72 in 468 BC in **Pavapuri**.
6. Five Doctrines of Jainism
  - a. Do not commit violence (Ahimsa)
  - b. Do not steal (Asteya)
  - c. Do not acquire property (Aparigraha)
  - d. Do not speak lie (Satya)
  - e. Observe continence (Brahmacharya)
7. **Triratnas of Jainism** are right knowledge, right faith and right conduct.
8. Jainism says salvation is possible only by abandoning all possessions, a long course of fasting, self mortification, study and meditation.
9. Jainism recognised existence of God, but lower than **Jina**. It didn't condemn varna system unlike Buddhism.
10. Jainism could not delink clearly from brahmanical religion, hence failed to attract masses; admitted both men and women. Jain monastic establishments were called **basadis**.
11. Jainism was patronised by Kharavela—the king of Kalinga; Chandragupta Maurya became the disciple of Bhadrabahu and spread Jainism in the South.
12. Jainism was divided into two sects during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya, mainly due to famine in Magadha named. **Svetambaras** (wearing white dresses) under Sthulbhadra and Digambaras (*naked*) under Bhadrabahu.
13. Jaina texts were written in **Prakrit language**.

**Councils**

**First Council** (300 BC) At Pataliputra Under Sthulibhadra (Pataliputra) Jaina Canons compiled..  
**Second Council** At Vallabhi (AD 5th Century). Under Kshamasramana (Vallabhi) 12 Angas and

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12 Upangas were compiled in **Ardh Magadhi language**.

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### Buddhism

Founded by Gautama Buddha, also known as **Siddhartha** or Sakyamuni or Tathagata.

- Born in 563 BC in Lumbini in Nepal in Shakya Kshatriya Clan.
- His father Suddhodana was a Shakya ruler and his mother Mahamaya of Kosalan dynasty died early. Brought up by step mother Gautami.
- Married to Yashodhara and had a son Rahul.
- Triratnas in Buddhism stand for 3 pillars
  - **Buddha** Its founder
  - **Dhamma** His teachings
  - **Sangha** Order of Buddhist monks and nuns

Buddhism was also divided in two main sects namely **Hinayana** and **Mahayana**.

<b>Phases of Buddha's Life</b>	<b>Symbols</b>
Birth	Lotus and Bull
Mahabhinishkraman (Renunciation)	Horse

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Nirvana (Enlightenment)	Bodhi Tree
Dharmachakra Pravartana (First Sermon)	Wheel
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

## The Dhamma

### The Four Great Truths

- The world is full of sorrow and misery.
- The cause of all pain and misery is desire.
- Pain and misery can be ended by killing or controlling desire.
- Desire can be controlled by following the Eight-Fold Path.

### The Eight-Fold Path

1. Right Understanding
2. Right Thought
3. Right Action
4. Right Livelihood
5. Right Efforts
6. Right Speech
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration

### Madhya Marga (The Middle Path)

Man should avoid both extremes, i.e. life of comforts and luxury and a life of severe asceticism

### Buddhist Literature

In Pali language commonly referred to as Tripitakas, i.e., 'three fold basket'.

### Vinaya Pitaka


Rules of discipline in Buddhist monasteries.


### Sutta Pitaka

It contains collection of Buddha's sermons and teachings. It is largest among all three pitakas.

### Abhidhamma Pitaka

Explanation of the philosophical principles of the Buddhist religion. **Mahavamsa** and **Dipavamsa** are the other Buddhist texts of Sri Lanka



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### Causes of Decline of Buddhism

Use of Sanskrit, the language of intellectuals, in place of Pali, the language of the common people.  
Revival of Hinduism.

Buddhist Councils	Period	Place	Chairman	Patron
First	483 BC	Rajagriha	Mahakashyapa	Ajatashatru
Second	383 BC	Vaishali	Sabakami	Kalashoka
Third	250 BC	Patliputra	Mogaliputta Tissa	Ashoka
Fourth	AD 72	Kundalvana	Vasumitra, Ashwaghosa	Kanishka

### DYNASTIES OF ANCIENT INDIA

#### Haryanka Dynasty

- **Bimbisara** was the founder, who expanded the Magadha kingdom by annexing Anga, and entering into matrimonial alliances with Kosala and Vaishali. He was contemporary of Buddha. Capital-**Rajgir** (Girivraja).
- **Ajatashatru** came to power by killing his father. Annexed Vaishali, Kosala and Lichchhavi kingdom.

- **Udayin** founded the new capital, **Pataliputra**.

### **Shishunaga Dynasty**

Founded by Shishunaga; Kalashoka or Kakavarin of this dynasty convened the Second Buddhist Council. Their greatest achievement was the destruction of Avanti.

### **Nanda Dynasty**

- Considered **non-Kshatriyan** dynasty, founded by **Mahapadma Nanda**. Alexander attacked during Dhana Nanda's reign. Cyrus was the first foreign invader of India.
- **Alexander**, the king of Macedonia, invaded India in 326 BC and fought the Battle of Hydaspes (Jhelum) with **Porus** (Purushottam) of **Paurava dynasty**.

### **Mauryan Dynasty**

Important rulers of Mauryan Dynasty are

#### **Chandragupta Maurya (321-298 BC)**

- He has been called Sandrocottus by Greek scholars.
- Chandragupta defeated Seleucus Nikator, the general of Alexander (304 BC), who later sent Megasthenese the author of Indica to Chandragupta's court.
- Mudrarakshasa was written by Vishakhadatta and describes about mechanisation of Chanakya against Chandragupta's enemy. Chandragupta maintained six wings of armed forces.
- He adopted Jainism and went to **Sravanabelgola** with **Bhadrabahu**.

#### **Bindusara (298-273 BC)**

He was called Amitraghat (i.e., slayer of foes) by Greek writers; Greek ambassador **Deimachos** visited his court; said to conquer the **land between the two seas**—The Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Bindusara appointed his eldest son Sumana as his viceroy at Taxila and Ashoka at Ujjain.

#### **Ashoka (293-273 BC)**

- For the first eight years Ashoka ruled like a cruel king and maintained discipline.



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- He was called **Devanamapriya**, Dear to Gods in some of his inscriptions.
- The name Ashoka occurs only in copies of Minor Rock Edict I.
- Three languages were used for **Ashokan** inscription that is Prakrit, Greek and Aramic.
- Most of the Ashokan edicts were written in Brahmi script. It was James Prinsep who deciphered first the Brahmi script of Ashokan edicts in AD 1837.
- Ashoka was the first king to maintain direct contact with people through inscriptions.
- **The Kalinga War** (261 BC) mentioned in 13th Major Rock Edict converted Ashoka to Buddhism under Upagupta.
- **Sanchi Stupa** was built by Ashoka.
- The last Mauryan king, **Brihadratha**, was killed by Pushyamitra Sunga in 185 BC, who established the Sunga dynasty.
- The **Punch-marked coins** carrying the symbol of the peacock and the hill and crescent, famed the imperial currency of Mauryas.
- The Mauryan artisans started the practice of carving caves of monks to live in. **Barabar Caves** near Gaya is earliest example of such cave.
- **Ringwells** for domestic use of water appeared first under the Mauryas.
- Sri Lanka is called **Tamrapani** in the Ashokan inscription.

**The Sunga Dynasty (185-73BC)**

- The Sunga Dynasty was established by **Pushyamitra Sunga**. (who killed last Mauryan King Brihadratha)
- They were basically Brahmins. This period saw the revival of Bhagvatism.
- **Patanjali** wrote 'Mahabhasya' at this time.
- In arts, the **Bharhut stupa** is the most famous monument of the Sunga period.

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### The Kanva Dynasty (73-28 BC)

- In 73 BC, **Devabhuti**, the last ruler of the Sunga dynasty, was murdered by his minister **Vasudeva**, who usurped the throne and founded the Kanva dynasty which was later replaced by the Satavahanas.

### The Indo-Greeks

- The most famous king among the Indo-Greeks was **Menander** (165-145 BC) also called **Milinda**, his capital was **Sakala** (modern Sialkot) in Punjab.
- Converted to Buddhism by Nagasena as per the **Milindapanho**—a Pali text.
- The Greeks were the first to issue coins attributable to the king and also the first to issue gold coins in India; introduced Hellenistic art.

### The Shakas

- The most famous ruler was **Rudradaman I** (AD 130-150), who repaired Sudarshana lake in Kathiawar region, issued first ever inscription in Chaste Sanskrit (Junagarh inscription). He defeated the Satavahanas twice.
- Vikramaditya, the king of Ujjain, was the only one who defeated the Shakas. To commemorate the victory, he started the **Vikram Samvat** in 57 BC.
- **The Parthians** The most famous king was **Gondopernes** (AD 19-45), in whose reign St Thomas visited India to propagate Christianity

### The Kushanas

- Also called **Yechi** or **Tocharians**, were nomadic people from the Steppes.
- **Kanishka** was the greatest of the Kushanas , who started the **Saka Era** in AD 78.
- Kushanas were the first rulers to issue **gold coins** on a wide scale known for metallic purity.

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- In the royal court of **Kanishka**, a host of scholars found patronage, like Parsva, Vasumitra, Asvaghosha, Nagarjuna, Charak (Physician) and Mathara. He also patronised the Greek engineer Agesilaus.

**The Satavahanas (or Andhras)**

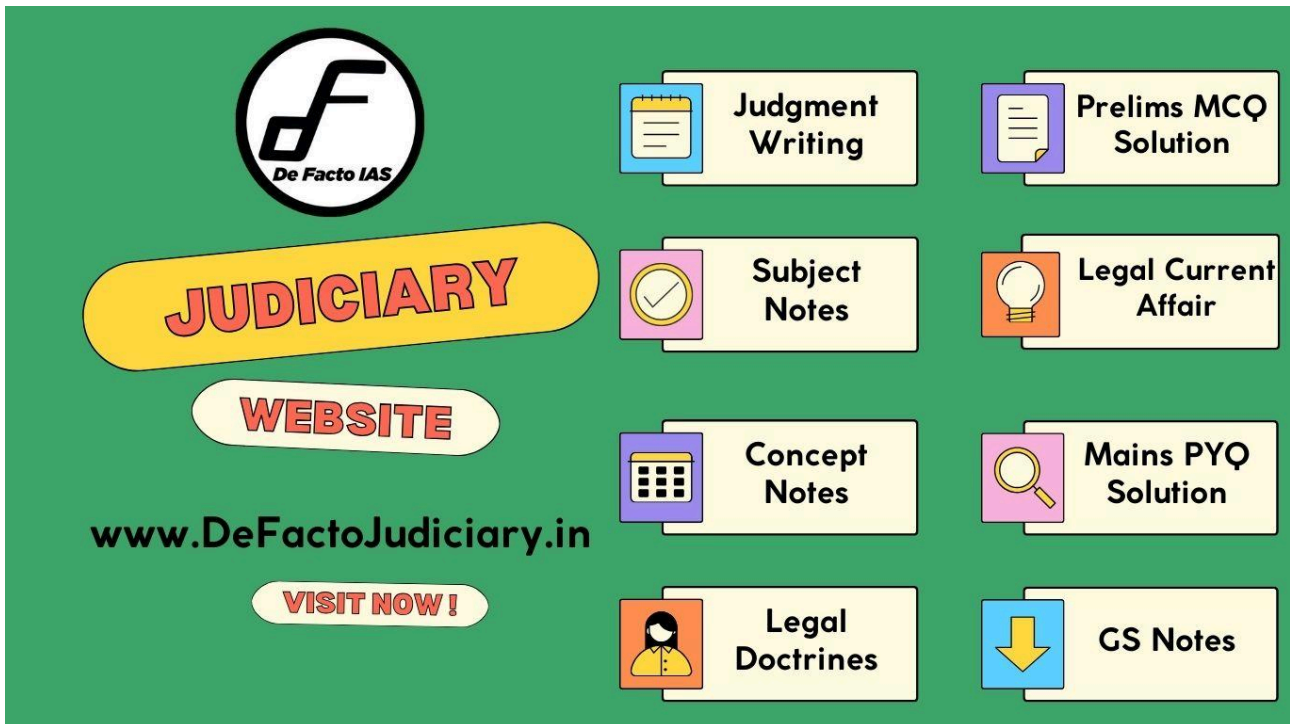
- **Simuka** (60-37 BC) was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty.
- Satavahanas were finally succeeded by the **Ikshvakus** in AD 3rd century.
- Under the Satavahanas, many chaityas (worship halls) and viharas (monastries) were cut out from rocks mainly in North-West Deccan or Maharashtra the famous examples were **Nasik, Kanheri and Karle**.
- The official language of the Satavahanas was **Prakrit**.
- The Satavahanas issued **coins** of lead (mainly), copper, bronze and potin.
- Gautamiputra Satakarni was a famous king

**Sangam Age**

- Sangam Age corresponds to the post-Mauryan and pre-Gupta periods.
- South India, during the Sangam Age, was ruled by three dynasties- the cheras, cholas and pandyas.

**The Pandyas**

- Their capital was Madurai famous for pearls. The Pandyas were first mentioned by Megasthenese.
- Traded with Roman empire, sent embassies to emperor Augustus.



### The Cholas

- The Chola kingdom, also called as Cholamandalam was situated to the North-East of Pandya Kingdom between Pennar and Vellar rivers.
- Their Capital was Kaveripattanam/ Puhar.

### The Cheras

- Their capital was **Vanji** (also called Kerala country). It had important trade relations with the Romans.

### Sangam Literature

- Sangam was a college or an assembly of Tamil poets, held under **Royal Patronage**.  
Three Sangams were held
  - at Madurai chaired by Agastya.
  - at Kapatpuram, chaired by Tolkappiyar.
  - at Madurai, chaired by Nakkirar.
- Kural by Tiruvalluvar is called the '**Fifth Veda**' or the **Bible of Tamil Land.**'

### Gupta Period

*The important rulers of Gupta period are*  
**Chandragupta I (AD 319-334)**

**De Facto IAS**  
GS Notes for Judiciary

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Married a Lichchhavi princess, who strengthened his position and enhanced the prestige of the Guptas.

- He was the first Gupta ruler to acquire the title of **Maharajadhiraja**.
- Chandragupta I was able to establish his authority over Magadha, Prayaga and Saketa.

**Samudragupta (AD 335-380)**

- He is called the **Napoleon of India** (by VA Smith) on account of his conquests.
- **Meghavarman** the ruler of Sri Lanka, sent a missionary to his court for permission to build a Buddhist temple at Gaya.
- The Allahabad pillar inscription gives detailed information about Samudragupta, it was composed by his court poet **Harisena**.
- He assumed the titles of **Kaviraj** and **Vikrama**.

**Chandragupta II (AD 380-414)**

- Mehrauli inscription on Iron Pillar near Qutub Minar is related to him.
- His court was adorned by **Navratnas**, the chief being **Kalidasa** and **Amarsimha**.
- **Fa-hien**, Chinese Pilgrim (AD 399-414) visited during his reign.
- Defeated Saka Kshatrapa Rudrasimha III
- Chandragupta II also succeeded in killing Ramagupta, and not only seized his kingdom, but also married his widow Dhruvadevi.
- He was the first Gupta ruler to issue the silver coins in the memory of victory over Sakas and to have adopted the titles Sakari and Vikramaditya.
- The Gupta age is called **golden age** of Indian history and saw the issuance of the largest number of gold coins.

**Kumaragupta I (AD 415-455)**

- Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumaragupta I.
- Kumaragupta was the worshipper of God Kartikeya.
- He founded the '**Nalanda Mahavihara**' which developed into a great centre of learning.

**Skandagupta (AD 455-467)**

- Skandagupta was the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty.
- During his reign the Gupta empire was invaded by the Hunas.
- Success in repelling the Hunas seems to have been celebrated by the assumption of the title 'Vikramaditya' (Bhitari Pillar Inscription).

**Pushyabhuti Dynasty  
(AD 606-647)**

- The greatest king was **Harshavardhana**, son of Prabhakar Vardhana of Thaneshwar. He shifted the capital to **Kannauj**.
- **Hieun Tsang** visited during his reign.
- He established a large monastery at Nalanda. Banabhata adorned his court, wrote Harshacharita and Kadambari. Harsha himself wrote three plays—Priyadarshika, Ratnawali and Nagananda.

**Rashtrakutas**

- Founded by Dantidurg; Krishna I built the Kailasha temple at **Ellora**. Amoghavarsha, who is compared to Vikramaditya, wrote the first Kannada poetry Kaviraj Marg. Rashtrakutas are credited for building cave shrine Elephanta, dedicated to Shiva.

**Gangas**

Ruled Orissa; Narsimhadeva constructed the Sun Temple at Konark; Anantvarman built the **Jagannath Temple** at Puri; and Kesaris, who used to rule before Gangas built the **Lingaraja Temple** at Bhubaneshwar.

**Pallavas**

Founder—**Simhavishnu**; Capital—Kanchi; greatest king **Narsimhavarman**, who founded the town of Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) and built rock-cut rathas and even pagodas.

- ❖ **Palas**, with their capital at Monghyr is known for Dharmapala, their second king, who founded the Vikramashila University and revived the Nalanda University.
- ❖ The greatest ruler of **Pratiharas** was **Bhoja** (also known as Mihir, Adivraha)
- ❖ Khajuraho temples were built during the reign of **Chandellas** of the Bundelkhand
- ❖ **Chalukyas** of Vatapi-founded by Jayasimha were contemporary to Harshavardhan.
- ❖ **Rajputs** divided into four clans: Pratiharas (S Rajasthan), Chauhans (E Rajasthan), Chalukyas/Solankis (Kathiawar), Parmaras (Malwa).

### **The Cholas**

- Founder **Vijayalaya**, Capital **Tanjore**.
  
- **Aditya I** wiped out the Pallavas and weakened the Pandyas.
  
- **Purantaka I** captured Madurai, but was defeated by the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna III at the Battle of Takkolam.
  
- **Rajaraja I** (AD 985-1014) led a naval expedition against Shailendra empire (Malaya Peninsula) and conquered Northern **Sri Lanka**; constructed Rajarajeshwari (or Brihadeshwara) Shiva temple at **Tanjore**.
  
- Rajendra I (AD 1014-1044) annexed the whole of Sri Lanka; took the title of Gangaikonda and founded Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
  
- **Dancing Figure of Shiva** (Nataraja) belongs to the Chola period. Local self government existed.

