



# DRDO-MTS



**DEFENCE RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION**

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



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# Indian History

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

## ⇒ A system of Dating ⇐

B.C. :- B.C is the acronym of Before christ. This is an English phrase meaning 'Before the birth of (Jesus) christ.'

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

A.D. ⇒ AD is the acronym of ~~in~~ Anno Domini, This is a Latin phrase meaning 'In the Era of the lord'.

Example → Jesus christ was crucified in 30 A.D.

→ Hazrat Mohammad was born in 570 A.D. and died in 632 A.D.

Lithic Age or the Stone Age (30,00,000 B.C - 1000 B.C)

Ancient India can be studied under other heads like paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic period.

Name of the Period	Time period	Life style	Implements (Tools & Weapons)
Palcolithic	30,00,000 BC to 10,000 B.C	Hunters and food gatherers	chopper, chopping, Hand Axe, cleaver, Flake. tools, Blade tools.
Mesolithic	9000 B.C - 4000 B.C	Hunters and Herduns.	Microlith Implements.
Neolithic	7000 B.C - 1000 B.C	Food-producer	Polished Implements

Harappan Age / Indus Civilization

2500 B.C - 1750 B.C

- ⇒ Three names are proposed for the Civilization of Harappan Age - Harappan, Civilisation, Indus civilisation & Indus Saraswati Civilisation.
- ⇒ Harappan Civilisation was the civilisation of ~~copper~~ copper age.
- ⇒ Harappan sites was discovered by Dayaram Sahni in 1921.

Regional Extension of Harappan Civilization

Region / State	Archaeological Sites
Afghanistan	(1) Shortughai (2) Mundigak.
Pakistan	Mehargarh, Kili Ghul Muhammad, Rana Ghundi, Dabarkoot, Balakot, Sutkandor
Punjab (Pakistan)	Harappa, Jalipuri, Sangharwala, Derawar, Bahamawal, Sarai Khola
Sindh (Pakistan)	Mahanjodaro, Amari, Kotdizi, Chanhudaro, Alimurad, Thangar
Jammu Kashmir	Manda
Haryana	Vandawali, Rakhigarhi -
Rajasthan	Kalibanga, Ganeshwar, Hanumangarh, Mithal, Chitupar
Uttar Pradesh	Alamghirpur, Mompur, Bangar, Samauli,
Gujarat	Dholavira, Lothal, Surkotda, Bhagatwa, Rangpur.
Maharashtra	Daimabad.

Post Harappan Age - 2000 B.C. - 1000 B.C.

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

★ Important cities:

city	River	Archaeological Importance
(i) Harappa	Ravi	Mother goddess, figurines, A row of 6 granaries.
(ii) Mohenjodaro	Indus	Great granary, Great bath, Image of pashupati, Mahadeva Image of Bearded man and bronze image of a woman dancer.
(iii) Lothal	Bhogva	Port city, Double burial, Teracotta, horse figurines.
(iv) Chanhudaro	Indus	city without a capital.
(v) Dholavira	Indus	city divided into 3 parts.
(vi) Kalibangan	Ghaggar	

⇒ common features of Major cities:-

- Systematic town planning on the lines of 'grid system'.
  - Use of burnt bricks in constructions.
  - underground drainage system.
  - Forfeited citadel (exception - chanhudaro).
  - Surkotada (Gujarat):- The only Indus site where the remains of a horse have actually been found.
  - Main crops:- wheat & Barley; Evidence of cultivation of rice in Lothal and Rangpur (Gujarat) only.
- ⇒ Indus people were the first to produce cotton in the world.
- ⇒ Iron was not known to Indus people.
- ⇒ There was extensive inland & foreign trade.
- ⇒ foreign trade with mesopotamia or Sumeria.
- ⇒ A very interesting features of this civilization was that Iron was not known to the people.
- ⇒ Lothal was an ancient part of Indus Civilization.
- ⇒ The Indus civilization was primarily urban.

- ⇒ The most commonly found figure is not that of Mother Goddess.
- ⇒ The chief male deity was the 'pasupati Mahadeva' i.e. the Lord of Animals.
- ⇒ Humpless bull is represented in most of the Indus seals.
- ⇒ The origin of the 'Swastika' symbol can be traced to the Indus Civilisation.
- ⇒ contemporary civilization of Indus civilization Mesopotamia, Egypt and China.
- ⇒ Steatite was mainly used in the manufacture of seals.

### Vedic - Culture (1500 B.C - 600 B.C)

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



Vedic literature →

Vedic literature comprises of four literary productions:-

(i) The Samhitas or Vedas

(ii) The Brahmas

(iii) The Aranyakas

(iv) The Upanishads

The most important of Vedic literature are Vedas.

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

⇒ There are four Vedas : →

⇒ Rigveda, Yajur Veda, Samaveda, Atharveda

(1) Rigveda :- Is the oldest text in the world.

→ The Rigveda contains 102 hymns and 10560 Verses, divided into 10 Mandals

→ The hymns of Rigveda were recited by *hotri*.

→ Also contains the famous Gayatri Mantra.

(2). The Yajur Veda - Is a ritual Veda.

→ It is divided into two parts - Krishna Yajur Veda and Shukla Yajur Veda.

→ Rituals of Yajnas

③) The Sama Veda :- had 1549 verses.

→ This Veda is important for Indian Music.

→ Book for chants.

④) The Atharvaveda :- contains charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases.

→ Mantras for magic spells.

The Upanishadas :-

⇒ The upanishadas are philosophical texts.

⇒ They are generally called Vedanta.

⇒ There are 108 upanishads.

⇒ Vrihadaranyaka is the oldest upanishada.

Vedangas :-

There are six Vedangas

(i) Shiksha

(ii) Kalpa sutras

(iii) Vyakarana.

(iv) Nirukta.

(v) Chanda

(vi) Jyotisha

**Mahakavyas** :- There are mainly two Mahakavyas.

- (i) The Ramayana (ii) The Mahabharata.

**The Purana** ⇒ The purana means "the old":-

- There are 18 famous 'Puranas'
- The Matsya purana is the oldest puranic text.
- The important puranas are the Bhagavata, The Vishnu, The Vayu and the Brahmnda.

★ **Shad-darshan** :-

There were 6 schools of Indian philosophy known as the Shad-darshans.

Darshana	Founder	Basic text
(i) Sankhya Darshana	Kapila	Sankhya Sutra
(ii) Yoga Darshan	Patanjali	Yoga Sutra
(iii) Nyaya Darshan	Akshapada-Gautama	Mayaya Sutra
(iv) Vaisheshika Darshana	Uluka Kamada	Vaisheshika Sutra
(v) Mimansa	Vaimini	Purva mimansa Sutra.
(vi) Vedant	Badarayana	Bharya Sutra.

Rigvedic (1500 BC - 1000 B.C) :-

- Rigveda is the only source of knowledge for this period.
- Rigvedic people, who called themselves Aryans were confined in the area which came to be known as *Sapta Sindhu* i.e. land of the seven rivers.
- According to Rigveda, the famous Dasa-jan war was the inter-caste war of the Aryans.

The Rigveda speaks of assemblies such as the Sabha, Samiti, Vidath, Gana.

- ⇒ Rigvedic society comprised four varnas, namely:-  
Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra.
- ⇒ Teacher and priests were called Brahmas, Ruler and administrators were called Kshatriyas and artisans and labourers were reckoned as Shudras.
- ⇒ Child marriage was not in vogue.
- ⇒ Milk and its product - curd, butter and ghee formed an important part of the diet.
- ⇒ The cow was already deemed *Agnaya* i.e. not to be killed.
- ⇒ Alcoholic drinks, Sura and Soma were also consumed.
- ⇒ ~~Indra~~ → Indra, Agni and Varuna were the most popular deities of Rigvedic Aryans.

- The Aryans crossed the nomadic stage. yet, great importance was attached to herds of cattle. Various animals were domesticated.
- ⇒ Tiger was not known but the wild animals like-lion, elephant and boar were known to them.

Later Vedic period : 1000 B.C - 600 B.C.

- ⇒ During the later Vedic period the Aryan settlements covered virtually the whole Northern India - Aryavarta.
- ⇒ The centre of culture now shifted from Saraswati to Ganges.
- ⇒ The expansion of people towards the east is indicated in a legend of Satapatha Brahmana.
- ⇒ Large kingdoms and stately cities made their appearances in the later Vedic period.
- ⇒ In Taittiriya Brahmas we notice the theory of the divine origin of kingship.
- ⇒ The military officials of the Rigvedic times the Senani and the Guramini.
- ⇒ The Sthapati being entrusted with the duty of administering.

- ⇒ Adhikrita was the village officials
- ⇒ The popular control over the affairs of the kingdom was exercised through Sabha and Samiti
- ⇒ The earliest references to the 4 Ashramas:-  
Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanprastha and Samnyasa is found in the Jabala Upanishad.
- ⇒ The Ashrama system was formed to attain 4 purusharthas Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha
- ⇒ women were prohibited to attend the political Assemblies
- ⇒ The earlier divinites Indra and Agni were relegated into the background while prajapati, Vishnu and Rudra.
- ⇒ prajapati became Supreme God.
- ⇒ Land had become more valuable than cows
- ⇒ Rice, barley, beans, Sesame and wheat were cultivated.
- ⇒ production of goods advanced as indicated by new occupations like fisherman, washerman, dyers, door-keepers and footmen

Sl. No.	Mahajanapadas	capital	Modern location
1.	Anga	champa	Munger and Bhagalpur
2.	Magadh	Girivraja/Rajagira	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	Meerut & SE Haryana
9.	Matsya	Virat nagar	Jaipur.
10.	Chedi	Sothivati / Banda	Bundelkhanda.
11.	Avanti	Ujjain/Mahismati.	Madhya Pradesh & Malwa.
12.	Grandhar	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13.	Kamboj	Pooncha	Rajouri & Hajira (Kashmir)
14.	Asmaka.	Pratisthan/Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15.	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali.
16.	Malla	Kusimara	Deoria & UP.

Rise of Magadha :-

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

Haryanaka Dynasty: 544 B.C - 492 B.C

- ⇒ Bimbisara (Shronika): 544 B.C - 492 B.C.
- He was the founder of Haryana dynasty.
  - Magadha came into prominence under the leadership of Bimbisara.
  - He was a contemporary of Gautama Buddha.
  - He married the princess of Kosala and Madra.



## Sects of Buddhism:-

Hinyana - Its followers believed in the original teaching of Buddha

→ They favoured Pali language.

Mahayana → Its followers believed in the heavenliness of Buddha.

→ They favoured Sanskrit language.

Vajrayana → Its followers believed that salvation could be best obtained by acquiring the magical power, which they called Vajra.

## → Jainism (599 B.C - 527 B.C)

→ According to Jain tradition there were 24 Tirthankaras. The first being Rishabhadeva / Adinath & last being Mahavira.

→ The Vishnu Purana and the Bhagavat Purana describe Rishabh as an incarnation of Narayana.

→ Parshwanath's four main teachings (Chaturvethi)

- (i) Ahimsa      (ii) Satya      (iii) Asteya      (iv) Aparigraha