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Note: Jainism, Buddhism, Art and Architecture would be covered in Art and Culture Ebook.

Pre-History

Prehistoric Phase: It refers to the time when there was no writing and development. It consists of five periods - Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic & Iron Age.

>

Proto History: Protohistory is the period between prehistory and written history, during which a culture or civilisation has not yet developed writing, but other cultures that have developed writing have noted the existence of those pre-literate groups in their own writings.

Historic Phase: The historical phase starts when we find literary sources as well for the historical reconstruction. Ex- Indus Valley Civilisation, Vedic Age, etc.

Particulars	Time Period
Paleolithic (Old Stone Age)	Upto 10000 BC
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)	9000 to 4000 BC
Neolithic (New Stone Age)	7000 to 1000 BC
Chalcolithic	2100 to 700 BC

Paleolithic Age

Lower Paleolithic Age

- The phase was between 3000000 BC- 50000 BC
- The chartered feature was the use of a hand axe, cleaver and chopper
- The stone tool was only used for chopping, digging and skinning

Middle Paleolithic Age

- The phase was between 50000 BC- 40000 BC
- The middle Paleolithic age was mainly based upon flakes. These flakes show regional variation in different parts of India
- The principal tools are a variety of blades, borers, points and scrapers made of flakes

Upper Paleolithic Age

- The phase was between 40000 BC- 10000 BC
- In this phase, the climate become comparatively warmer
- This phase is marked by the use of new flint industries and end of men of modern tye (home sapiens sepian)

Paleolithic Age

Prominent Sites of Paleolithic Age

- Son or Sohan River Valley in Punjab
- Kashmir
- Thar Desert
- Desert Area of Didwana in Rajasthan
- Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh
- Chirki Nevasa in Maharashtra
- Bhimbetka (MP)
- Adamgarh (MP)
- Chopani Mando in Bela Valley (UP)

Note: Bhimbetka, Adamgarh and Chopani Mandi are common to Paleolithic, Mesolithic as well as Neolithic sites.

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Mesolithic Age

- An intermediate stage of stone age between 9000 BC- 4000 BC.
- Climate change made Earth become comparatively warmer and the end of the ice age made it possible for humans to move to new places.
- The characteristics of Mesolithic tools are Microlithics (which Means they became small compared to the Paleolithic Period)
- Mesolithic people lived on hunting, fishing and food gathering at a later stage they domesticated animals.
- **Prominent Sites of Mesolithic Age**
 - a. Langhnaj (District Mehsana) in Gujarat
 - b. Birbhanpur (Burdwan District) in West Bengal
 - c. Sanganakallu (Bellary District) in Karnataka
 - d. Tuticorin (Southern Tamil Nadu)

Note: Bhimbetka, Adamgarh and Chopani Mandi are common to Paleolithic, Mesolithic as well as Neolithic sites.

Neolithic Age

- **Housing and settled life**
 1. Lived in circular and rectangular house made of mud and reed
 2. Knew how to make boat
 3. Spin cotton, wool and weave
- **Agriculture**
 1. People of the Neolithic Age cultivated ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley and hence were termed food producers.
- **Pottery**
 1. Initially, pottery were made by hands but the later pottery wheel was invented
 2. Pottery made of Black Burnished ware, grey ware and mat-impressed ware
- **Some Prominent Sites**
 1. Burzahom and Gufrakal (Kashmir Valley) (Dwelling Pits- Circular and Rectangular)
 2. Chirand (Bihar and mid gangetic valley region)
 3. Karanataka (Maski, Brahamagiri, Hallur, Kodekal, Sanganakallu, Piklihal, Takkalkota)
 4. Piyampalli in Tamil Nadu
 5. Utnur in Andhra Pradesh

Chalcolithic Age

- **Agriculture**

1. Live mainly on fish and rice.
2. Plough and hoe has not been founded at any site of this period.

- **Animals**

1. Domesticated cows, sheep, goats, pigs, deer and buffaloes.
2. Domestication of animals for food and not milked for dairy products.

- **Art and Craft**

1. Chalcolithic people were expert Copper smiths.
2. They do know the art of writing.

- **Pottery**

1. Black and Red Pottery.
2. Ochre-coloured pottery.

- **Worship**

1. Small clay image of an Earth Goddess has been found.
2. Bull is probably their symbol of religion (based on bull terracotta of Malwa and Rajasthan).

Chalcolithic Age

Note: Use of Iron began in Chalcolithic Age itself.

Note: Koldihawa in UP revealed a threefold cultural sequence: Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age

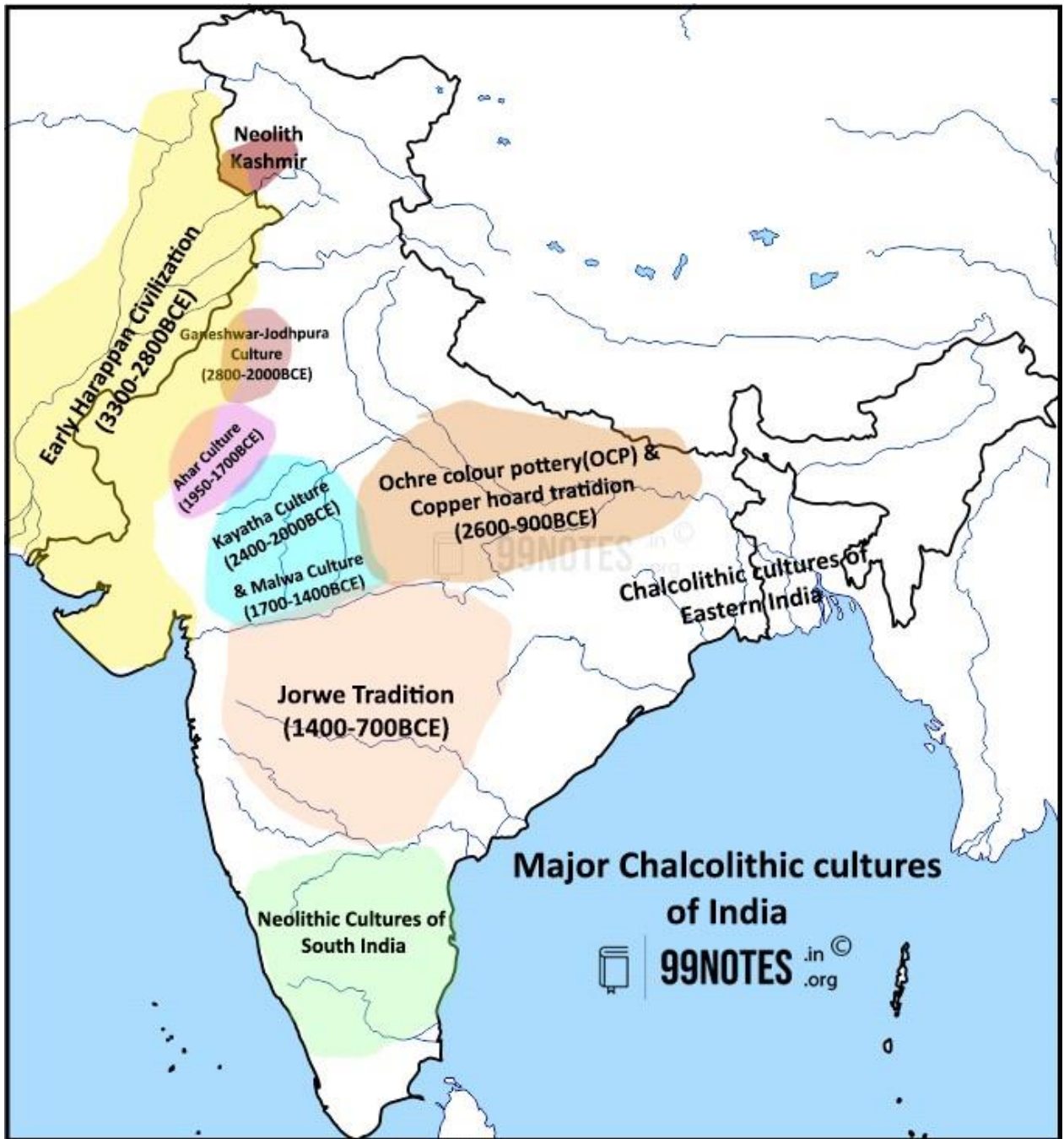
Why South India's Neolithic Age is remarkable?

1. Ashmounds (Burnt Cattle Dungs)
2. Location of settlements is on flat topped granite hills

Note: Male figurines are rare in Chalcolithic cultures ex- One Male figurine found at Inamgaon

Note: Female Figurines called Sakambhari or Mother Goddess is known as the Goddess of vegetative fertility.

Chalcolithic Age



Note: Learn each and every site. Don't skip this.

Pottery Cultures

1. Black and Red Ware Potter - Harappan Age

- Sites: **Atranjikhera in UP**
- Revealed a distinct horizon sandwiched between OCP and Painted Grey Ware

2. Ochre Coloured Pottery - Early Vedic Age

- Degenerated form of Black and Red Ware Pottery

3. Painted Grey Ware Culture - Later Vedic Age

- 1st Discovery- **Ahichhitra**
- Sites are mostly small except **Bhukari in Ambala, Haryana**

4. Northern Black Polished Ware - Mauryan Age

- Sites: **Atranjikhera, Sravasti, Prahaladpur, Hastinapura**

Indus Valley Civilisation

1856: Alexander Cunningham discovered Indus Valley Civilisation

1872-75: Alexander Cunningham published 1st Harappan Seal (with an erroneous identification as Brahmi letters)

1922: Excavation under Sir John Marshall

Geographical Extent of Harappan Civilisation

- Largest Site: Rakhigarhi in Haryana (Earlier Mohenjodaro)
- Western Boundary: Suktagendor on Makran coast of Pakistan
- Eastern Boundary: Alamgirpur in UP
- Southern Boundary: Daimabad in Maharashtra
- Northern Boundary: Manda Akhnoor in J&K

Town Planning and Structures

- 2 Parts: raised citadel and lower part of the town
- Houses of common people differed in sizes (1BHK, 2BHK, etc.)
- Houses were provided with private wells, kitchens and bathing platforms
- Burnt Bricks were used.

Indus Valley Civilisation

Town Planning and Structures

- Houses follow **grid system** cutting across each other at right angles.
- Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Kalibangan: Each had its own citadel built on a high podium of mud brick.

Great Bath

- Most important public place of Mohenjodaro
- Primarily intended for **ritual bathing**
- **Large Tank found in Dholavira** may be compared to the Great Bath

Granary

- In Mohenjodaro, largest building is granary
- Harappa: 2 rows of 6 granaries
- Kalibangan: Brick Platforms which have been used for granaries

Dockyard

- Lothal

Indus Valley Civilisation

Agricultural System

- Terracotta Plough: Banawali in Hisar district of Haryana
- Earliest people to produce cotton: A piece of woven cloth has been found at Mohenjodaro
- Fish and Animal meat were also consumed.
- Evidence of horse comes from a superficial level of Mohenjodaro and form a doubtful terracotta figurine from Lothal
- Remains of horse are reported from Surkotda
- Harappan Culture was not horse-centred

Technology and Crafts

- Aware of all metals except iron
- Goldsmith
- Expert Bead Makers
- Terracotta figurines of male and females
- Pottery making
- Seals
 - a. Generally square in shape and made up of steatite
 - b. Depict a number of animals but there is no depiction of horse.
- Bronze Casting using lost wax technique

Indus Valley Civilisation

Trade and Economy

- Long Distance trade in Lapis Lazuli (From Badkashan mines in Afghanistan)
- External Trade with Mesopotamia
 - a. 2 Intermediate trading stations called Dilmun and Makan which lay between Mesopotamia and Meluha
- Copper: From Khetri mines in Rajasthan
- Gold: KGF in Karnataka
- Silver: Jwar mines of Rajasthan
- Lapis Lazuli: Badkashan mines in N-E Afghanistan
- Turquoise and Jade: Central Asia
- Seashells: Gujarat
- Timber: North Regions such as J&K

Important Excavations

- Copper Dog: Lothal
- Bronze Dancing Girl: Mohenjodaro
- Bearded Man/Pries: Mohenjodaro
- Pashupatinath Seal: Mohenjodaro

Indus Valley Civilisation

Society

- Religion: Animism (Worship of Animals)
- Male God: Pashupatinath
- Worshipping of linga and yoni (sex organs)
- Evidence of fire worship at Kalibangan and Lothal

Weights and Measures

- Weights in multiples of 16 (16, 64, 160, 320, 640)
- Shell Scale, Ivory Scale and Shell Object are used to measure angles

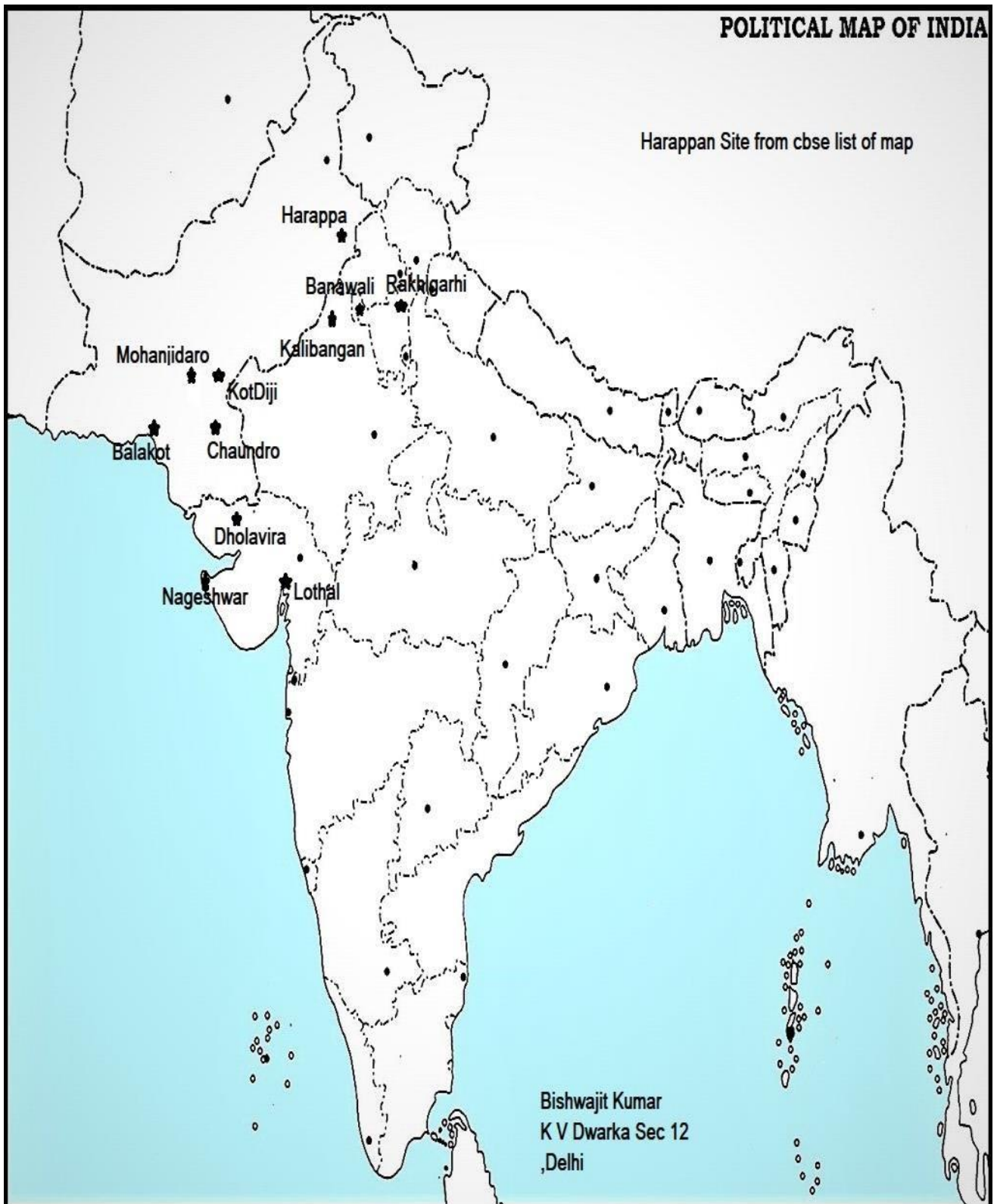
Funeral Beliefs

- Presence of Grave Goods
- Multiple burials at Lothal and Rakhigarhi (Men and Women in same grave)
- Ropar: Men was buried with dog

Social Organisation

- No temples found

Indus Valley Civilisation



Indus Valley Civilisation

Site	River	Things to Remember
Harappa	Ravi	2 rows of six granaries with brick platforms; 12 granaries together had the same areas as the Great Granary at Mohenjo daro
Mohenjodaro	Indus	Great Bath; Great Granary; Dancing Girl; Mother Goddess; Pashupati seal; Priest-king; Direct trade with Mesopotamia
Chanhudaro	Indus	Only Harappan city without a citadel
Ropar	Satluj	Remains of pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures have been found Evidence of burying a dog below the human burial
Banawali	Saraswati	Grid pattern of town planning was not always followed. Lacked a systematic drainage system. High quality barley has been found in excavations
Lothal	Bhogwa	Remains of rice husk (the only other Harappan city where the rice husk has been found is Rangpur, near Ahmedabad); Evidence of double burial (burying a male and a female in a single grave)
Kalibangan	Ghaggar	A ploughed field; a wooden furrow; Seven 'fire-altars' in a row on a platform, suggesting the practice of the cult of sacrifice. Remains of massive brick wall around both the citadel and the lower town; Bones of camel

Note: These should be at your fingertips. High chances of asking one question from this topic and this correct answer would boost your chances of clearing!!

Indus Valley Civilisation

PYQ Prelims Exam:

1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelising water into connected reservoirs?
- (a) Dholavira
 - (b) Kalibangan
 - (c) Rakhigarhi
 - (d) Ropar

Solution: Option A

2. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?
- (a) Chanhudaro
 - (b) Kot Diji
 - (c) Sohgaora
 - (d) Desalpu

Solution: Option C

Vedic Age

Rivers

- Indus : Sindhu
- Ghaggar : Drishadvati
- Sutlej : Shutudri
- Beas : Vipas
- Ravi : Parushni
- Chenab : Asikni
- Jhelum : Vitasa
- Ghaggar : Saraswati

Vedas

- 4 Vedas
 - i. Rigveda: Collection of 1028 hymns
 - ii. Samveda: Verses of Rigveda arranged in poetic form to facilitate singing
 - iii. Yajurveda: Hymns as well as rituals
 - iv. Atharveda: Magic Spells and Charms
- Each Veda is subdivided into 4 major sub texts:
 - i. Samhitas (Collection of Hymns or Mantras)
 - ii. Brahmanas (Rituals)
 - iii. Aranyakas (Rituals, Ceremonies, Sacrifices)
 - iv. Upanishads or Vedanta (Last part of Veda)

Vedic Age

Vedangas

- Shiksha: Phonetic Education
- Kalpa: Rituals
- Vyakrana: Grammar
- Nirukt: Etymology
- Chhanda: Metrics
- Jyotish: Astrology

Upaveda

- Ayurveda
- Dhanurveda
- Gandharvaveda
- Shilpveda

A Focus on Shaping Future of Million's

Rig Vedic Age (1500 to 1000 BCE)

Economy

- Most of Early Vedic Age people were pastoralists. Cattle Rearing was their main occupation.
- Gomat: Wealthy Person
- Duhitri: Daughter of Gomat
- Gaveshna: Battle for cows
- Gopati: Raja or Chief who protects the cows
- Godhuli: Term for a measure of time
- Gavyuti: Distance
- Gotra: Kinship Units

Society

- Leader of Grama: Gramini
- Group of Villages: Vis or Clan
- Group of vis or clan: Jana or Tribe

Polity

- Rajan: Chief of the unit
- Sabha: Meeting of Great men
- Samiti: Meeting of all free tribesmen
- Vidhata: Assembly
- Parishad: Sovereign General Assembly

Later Vedic Age (1000 to 600 BCE)

Economy

- Agriculture was widely practiced

Society

- General Decline in Status of women.
- Restrictions were placed on women.
- Varna System appeared

Some Important Terms

- Ayas: Bronze
- Yava: Barley
- Takshak: Carpenter
- Dhumvakrit: Maker of Bows
- Vrihi: Rice
- Hiranyakata: Goldsmith
- Bheesaj or Mishak: Doctor or Vaidya
- Pani: Traders

Vedic Age

PYQ Prelims Exam:

With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
- (2) Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
- (3) Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: Option C

Mahajanapadas

Sources of Information about Mahajanapada Era

1. Buddhist Sources

- Sutta Pitaka Books: Digha, Majhima, Samyutta, Angutar Nikayas
- Vinaya Pitaka
- Mahavamsa
- Diyadana
- Dipavamsa
- Jatakas (Info about Previous Life of Buddha)

2. Brahmanical Text

- Puranas
- Epics
- Grihyasutras and Dharmasutras
- Panini and his book Ashtadhyayi (Oldest surviving Sanskrit Grammar)
- Kautilya's Arthashastra

3. Jaina Text

- Bhagvati Sutra
- Parishishtaparvan
- Harivamsa Mahapurana
- Tiloya Pannati

4. Archaeology

- Northern Black Polished Ware
- Punch-marked Coins

Mahajanapadas

Sample Question in Prelims Exam:

Consider the following literary sources

1. Digha
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Tiloya Pannati
4. Majhima

Which of the above are Jain texts?

- a. Any 1 of above
- b. Any 2 of above
- c. Any 3 of above
- d. All of the above

Solution: Option B

Note: We know that it is difficult to remember these difficult names but these would help you tackle such unexpected questions in Prelims exam. Keep Going!

Mahajanapadas

Mahajanapadas	Capital
1. Anga	Champa
2. Magadha	Rajgir
3. Kasi	Kasi
4. Vatsa	Kausambi
5. Kosala	Sravasti
6. Saurasena	Mathura
7. Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya
8. Kuru	Indraprastha
9. Matsya	Viratnagar
10. Chedi	Sothivati
11. Avanti	Ujjain or Mahismati
12. Gandhar	Taxila
13. Kamboj	Pooncha
14. Asmaka	Pratisthan or Paithan
15. Vajji	Vaishali
16. Malla	Kushinara

Note: Learn atleast 8-10 by heart so that you can eliminate options in Prelims exam. It would be best if you learn all.

Mahajanapadas



Mahajanapadas

Points to remember about some Mahajanapada States:

1. Almost all Mahajanapadas were monarchical in nature except Vajji and Malla who followed Ganasangha (Elected King or Oligarchial System of Governance)
2. Champa Port was in Anga Kingdom (Bengal Region) -----> See Map
3. Capital of Mallas is Kushinara/ Kushinagara where Buddha attained Mahaparnirvana (Death of Buddha) in 483 BC

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Magadha Empire

Haryanka Dynasty

1. Bimbisara

- Acquired Anga (Champa Port) under the viceroyalty of his son, Ajatashatru
- He was contemporary of both Buddha (Founder of Buddhism) and Mahavira (Founder of Jainism)
- Iranian Invasion in India happened during his reign.

2. Ajatashatru

- 1st Buddhist Council at Rajgriha - Chairman of Council was Magakashyap and Sutta and Vinaya Pitaka were compiled during 1st Buddhist Council.

3. Udayin

- He shifted capital from Rajgriha to Patliputra.

Shishunag Dynasty

1. Shishunag

- He ended 100 years war with Avanti Kingdom.

2. Kalasoka

- 2nd Buddhist Council was held at Vaishali during Kalasoka's reign. Chairman of the Council was Sabakami.

Magadha Empire

Nanda Dynasty

1. Mahapadmananda

- He was known as the destroyer of Kshatriyas.
- He conquered Kalinga even before Ashoka (as mentioned by **Hathigumpha Inscription** of King Kharvela)

2. Dhanananda

- Alexander invaded North West India during the reign of Dhanananda.
- He had fight with Chanakya following which Chanakya and Chandragupta Maurya founded Mauryan Empire.

Mauryan Dynasty

1. Chandragupta Maurya

- Founder of Mauryan Dynasty
- He Defeated **Dhanananda**
- He was called as **Sandrocottus** by Greek writer Justin
- **Megasthenes** (Greek Ambassador) visited India during his time who wrote a famous book known as **Indica**.
- He later embraced Jainism. He went to Mysore with famous **Jain Monk Bhadrabahu** for **Sallekhana** (Suicide)

Magadha Empire

Mauryan Dynasty

2. Bindusara

- Called **Amitragatha** (Slayer of Enemies)
- He believed in **Ajivika** philosophy.
- **Antiochus**- Greek Ruler of Bactria; Successor of **Seleucus Nicator**
- **Deimakas**- Greek Ambassador; Successor of **Megasthenes**

3. Ashoka

- Ashoka became a lay disciple (**Upasaka**) under the influence of **Upagupta/ Mogliputra Tissa**.
- He was also known as **Devanampiya, Piyadasi, Dharmasoka** and **Buddhashoka**.
- He sent a mission to **Srilanka** under his son **Mahendra** and daughter **Sangamitra** who planted there the branch of original **Bodhi tree**.
- **3rd Buddhist Council** held at **Patliputra** in **240BC**
- He adopted the policy of **Dhammaghosa** (Conquer through **Dharma**) over **Bherighosa** (Conquer through war)

Magadha Empire

Megasthenes Book Indica:

- As per Indica, no Indian could marry outside their genos.
- 7 Classes of people:
 - a. Philosophers
 - b. Farmers
 - c. Shepherds and Hunters
 - d. Artisans and traders
 - e. Soldiers
 - f. Overseers
 - g. Councillors and Assessors
- Slavery system was non-existent during his time

Terms related to Mauryas Administration

- Kosa - Treasury
- Durga - Geography/Terrain
- Danda - Security Forces
- Mitra - Allies
- Janapada - National Resources
- Amatya - Civil Administration
- Swami - Leadership
- Nagarika - Municipal Administrator

Magadha Empire

Terms related to Mauryas Administration

- Sandhi - Peace Treaty
- Asana - Neutrality
- Janpath - Public Opinion
- Bala - Military Strength
- Sannidhata - Chief custodian of State treasury and storehouse.
- Nabhi - King
- Dharmasthiyas - Civil Courts
- Kantakasodhanas - Criminal Courts
- Gudhapurushas - secret agents
- Nisrihartha Dutta - Department of foreign Affairs
- Sitadhyaksha - Superintendent of Agriculture
- Land Taxes - Bali, Pindakara, Bhoga, Bhaga, Hiranya
- Srenis or Guilds - Organisation of Traders
- Loha Adhyaksha - Production Officer of Iron

Note: I know that these terms are pathetic to learn. But you have to learn it. Even 1 or 2 questions can give you a competitive edge over others in the Prelims exam. So, Keep Going!

Magadha Empire

Provincial and Local Administration



Mauryan Art and Architecture

- This would be covered in detail in Art and Culture Notes in detail.

A Focus on Shaping Future of Million's

Magadha Empire

Provincial and Local Administration



Mauryan Art and Architecture

- This would be covered in detail in Art and Culture Notes in detail.

A Focus on Shaping Future of Million's

Post Mauryas

Shunga Dynasty

1. Pushyamitra Shunga

- Founder of Shunga Dynasty
- He killed Brihadatta (Last Mauryan Ruler)

2. Agnimitra

3. Vasumitra

4. Devabhuti

- Last Shunga Ruler (Killed by Vasudeva Kanva)

Kanva Dynasty

1. Vasudeva Kanva

- Founder

2. Susharman

- Last Ruler of Kanva Dynasty

King Kharvela of Chedi Dynasty in Kalinga

- Patronised Jainism
- He was succeeded by his son Kudepasiri
- Hathigumpha Inscription in Udaygiri Hills was inscribed by King Kharvela.

Post Mauryas

Satvahanas of Pratishthana/Paithana

1. Simuka and Kanha

- Founders of Satvahana Dynasty

2. Gautamiputra Satkarni

- He killed the famous Shaka Ruler **Nahapana**
- He was also known by following names:
 - a. Trisamudrapibatoyavahana - One whose horses has drunk water from 3 oceans
 - b. Sakayavanapallavanisudana - Destroyer of Shakas, Yavanas, Pallavas

3. Vashishtaputra Pulamayi

4. Vashishtaputra Satkarni

- He married the daughter of Shakas

5. Hala

- **17th King** of Satvahana Dynasty
- Book: **Gathasaptasai/ Sattasai** (700 erotic verses in Prakrit language)
- He is also mentioned in another text **Lilavati**

Note: Dharnikota was an important trade centre during the time of Satvahanas.

Note: Important ports of Satvahans include **Kalyani, Gandakshela and Ganjam port.**

Note: Karshapanas mean Silver coins

Post Mauryas



Post Mauryas

Administration under Satvahanas:

- 3 Grades of Feudatories:
 - a. Raja - Highest Grade
 - b. Mahabhoja - Ruler of Provinces
 - c. Maharathi or Senapati - Local Rulers
- Districts were known as Aharas
- Officers: Amatyas and Mahamattas
- Rashtra: Administrative Division
- Maharashtrikas: High Officials
- Grama: Village under the control of Gramika

Prelims PYQ

Which one of the following books of Ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of the Sunga Dynasty?

- (a) Swapnavasavadatta
- (b) Malavikagnimitra
- (c) Meghadoota
- (d) Ratnavali

Solution: Option B

Invasions

Iranian Invasion

1. Cyrus - 1st foreign invader in India
2. Darius I
3. Xerxes

Iranian Invasion happened during the rule of Bimbisara of Haryanka Dynasty.

Note: Iranians introduced **Satrap system** of administration in India.

Macedonian Invasion or Invasion of Alexander

- After Iranians invaded India, next in turn were Macedonians or Alexander.
- Macedonian Invasion happened during the time when Magadha was ruled by **Nanda Dynasty**.
- Famous Battle: **Battle of Hydaspes** was fought between Alexander and Porus in which Porus was defeated.
- Porus kingdom was between **Jhelum and Chenab** river.
- After defeating Porus, **Alexander marched further upto Beas River** but returned from there because of protests in his army.

Invasions

Bactrians or Indo-Greeks:

- Popular Ruler: Demetrius (king of Bacteria)
 - a. He was the Greek ruler of Indo-Bactrian Kingdom.
 - b. He invaded Afghanistan and Punjab
 - c. From Taxila, he sent Appolodotus to conquer Sindh and Menander to conquer Patliputra.
 - d. While Appolodotus was successful in conquering Sindh, Menander was stopped by Vasumitra of Shunga Dynasty.
 - e. Menander later converted to Buddhism under the influence of Buddhist Monk Nagasena and he also wrote a Buddhist text known as Milindapanho.
- Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India
- They introduced the practice of military governorship called strategos for maintaining the power of new rulers over the conquered people.
- They also contributed to Indian theatre by the use of Yavanikas (Curtains) and introducing Sutradhara (Stage Manager) and Nepathya (Backstage)

Invasions

Shakas

- Founder of Shakas was **Maues**
- 2 Branches: Northern Satraps and Western Satraps
- Most famous Ruler was **Rudradaman**
 - a. Details about him in **Junagadh or Girnar Inscription**
 - b. Repaired Sudarshan Lake
 - c. Originally, Sudarshan Lake was built by **Vaishya Pushyagupta** who was the provincial Governor of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Last Powerful Ruler was **Nahapana** who was killed by **Gautamiputra Satkarni** of Satvahana Dynasty.

Parthians/Pahlavas

- They were **Iranians**
- Most Famous King was **Gondopheros**. During his reign, **St Thomas** had come to India to propagate Christianity

Invasions

Kushanas

1. Kuyula Kadphises

- 1st Ruler of Kushana Empire
- He was a Buddhist

2. Vima Kadphises

- He was a Shiva follower

3. Kanishka

- He adopted the title of Devaputra.
- Kanishka was a Buddhist follower
 - i. During his time, Ashvaghosha (Buddhist Scholar) wrote Buddhacharita.
 - ii. He organised 4th Buddhist Council at Kashmir
 - iii. Patronised various Buddhist scholars like Vasumitra, Ashvaghosa and Nagarjuna.
- During his time, gold coins with highest purity were found.
- Rabatak Inscription of Afghanistan gives info about Kanishka

4. Huvishka

5. Vasudeva (Last Important Kushana Ruler)

Gupta Empire

Chandragupta 44

- Founder of Gupta Empire

Samudragupta

- Expanded Gupta Empire 10 times
- Gave Patronage to Buddhist Scholars like Vasubandhu and Asanga
- His court poet was Harishena
- Details About him in Allahabad Pillar Inscription

Chandragupta II

- He married his daughter Prabhavati Gupta to Vakataka King Rudrasena II
- Conquered Western India Shakas
- Ports: Broach, Sopara, Cambay and other sea ports
- Fa Hien visited India during his reign
 - i. Fa Hien came to India through land route but went back through sea route.
 - ii. According to him, Buddhism was flourishing in North-West India and Gangetic Valley had become the land of Brahamanism

Gupta Empire

Chandragupta II

- He had **Nine Gems** in his court:
 - i. Kalidasa - Poet
 - ii. Shapanaka - Astrologist
 - iii. Amarnatha - Wrote Amarkosh (Sanskrit Grammar)
 - iv. Dhanvantri - Doctor
 - v. Varuchii - Grammar Expert
 - vi. Varahamihira - Astrologist | Wrote Brihatsamhita, Brihadjataka and Panch Siddhantika
 - vii. Ghatakpara - Architect
 - viii. Shanku - Geologist
 - ix. Vetalabhadra - Expert in Black Magic and Tantric Science | Also known as Mega Brahmin | Wrote 16 stanza poem Niti Pradipa (Lamp of Conduct)

Kumargupta

- Founder of **Nalanda University**
- Threat of Hunas Invasion started during his time

Gupta Empire

Skandagupta

- Large scale Huna Invasion ultimately leading to weakening of Gupta Empire
- 2 Famous Huna Rulers - Toramana and Mihirakula

Kingdom after the Fall of Gupta Empire

1. Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
2. Maukharies of Kannauj
3. Maitrakas of Vallabhi
4. Late Guptas
5. Yashodharma of Malwa

Administration under Guptas

- Sabha : Council of Ministers
- Amatyas and Sachivas : Executive Officers
- Mahanandanayaka : Chief Justice
- Vinayasitishpataka : Morale and Social Discipline
- Dutakas : Espionage or Spies Network
- Sandhi Vighrahika : Minister of Peace and War
- Ranabhandagarika : Look after day to day needs of the army

Gupta Empire

Administration under Guptas

- Vishaya : Province
- Vishayapati : Head of Province
- Grama : Village
- Gramadhyaksha : Head of Village
- Nagara Sresthis : City Administration
- Vishti : Forced Labour (PYQ Question)
- Taxes : Uparikara, Udranga and Hiranya
- Dinaras : Gold Coins
- Atavirajyas : Forest Kingdoms
- Kulyavapa : 12 to 16 acres of land
- Dronavapa : 0.5 to 2 acres of land
- Adhavapa : 0.375 to 0.5 acres of land
- Important Ports: Ghantasala, Kadura, Chaul, Lothal, Muziris

Gupta Literature

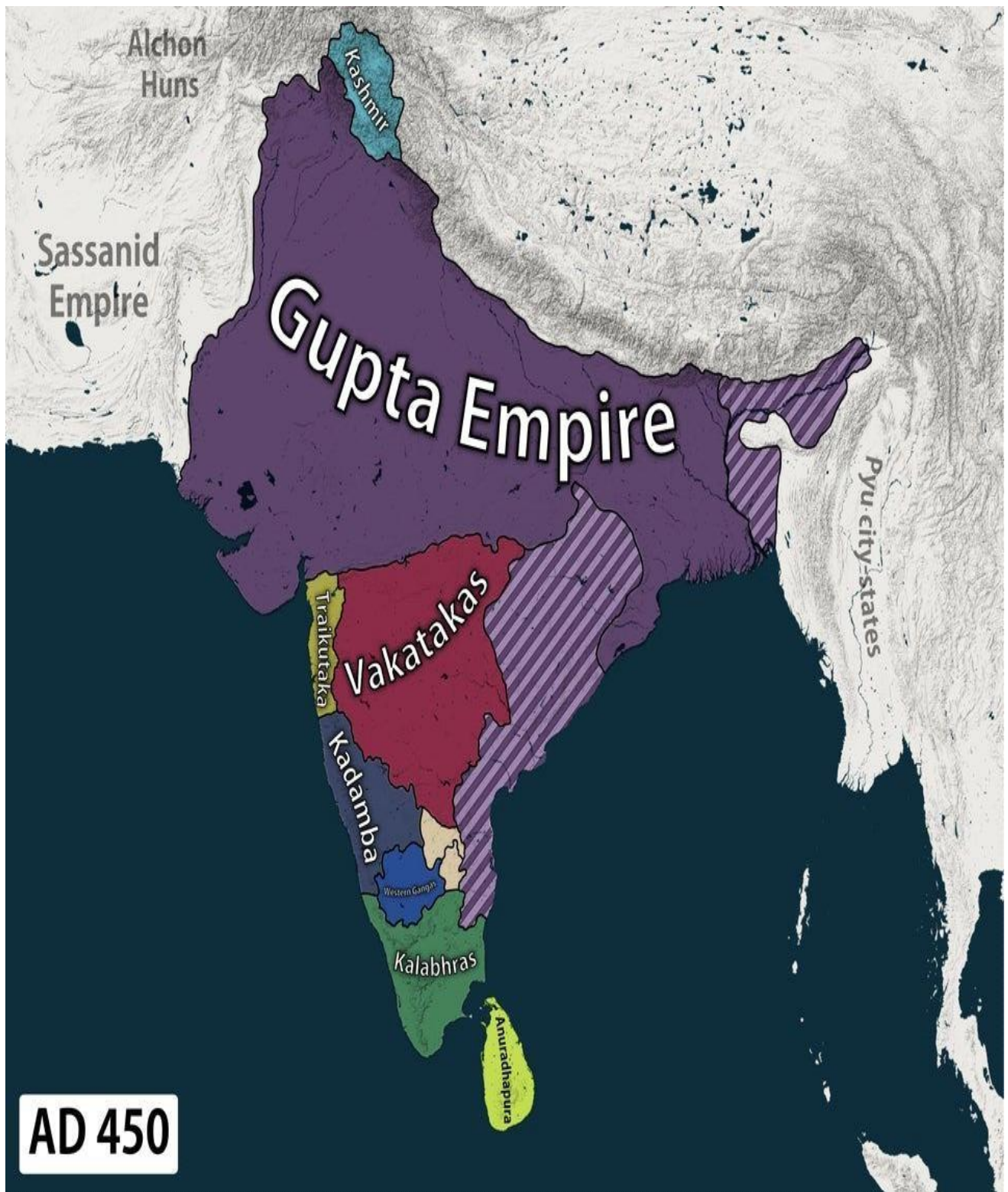
1. Kalidasa
 - a. Plays: Abhigyan Shakuntalam, Malvikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya
 - b. Epics: Raghuvamsa and Kumarsambhava
 - c. Lyrics: Ritusamhara and Meghaduta

Gupta Empire

Gupta Literature

2. Vishakadutta - Mudrarakshasha and Devichandraguptam
3. Sudraka - Mrichhatkatika (Rich in Humour)
4. Bharvi - Kritarjuniya (Story of Conflict between Arjun and Shiva)
5. Dandin - Kavyadassa and Dasakumaracharita
6. Subandhu - Vasavadutta
7. Vishnu Sharma - Panchtantra stories
8. Amarsimha - Amarkosha
9. Aryabhatta - Aryabhatiya
10. Vagbhatta - Astangasamhita or Astanga Samagraha (Summary of 8 branches of medicine)
11. Kamandaka - Nitisara
12. Manjushri Mulakalpa (Mahayana Buddhist Text)
13. Harivamsha Purana (Jain Text)
14. Tiloya Pannati (Jain Text)
15. Kathasaritsgara (Storehouse of popular folklore)
16. Vatsayana - Kamasutra
17. Faxian - A record of Buddhist Kingdoms

Gupta Empire



Gupta Empire

Prelims PYQ

With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- (b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- (c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- (d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Solution: Option C

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Gupta Empire

Prelims PYQ

With reference to the period of the Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as

- (a) ports handling foreign trade
- (b) capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (d) important Buddhist pilgrimage centres

Solution: Option A

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Gupta Empire

Prelims PYQ

With reference to the history of India, the terms “kulyavapa” and “dronavapa” denote

- (a) measurement of land
- (b) coins of different monetary value
- (c) classification of urban land
- (d) religious rituals

Solution: Option A

Note: This question is covered in our notes. If you are not able to recall, then you need to revise again. Do not just move pages unless you are sure that you know each and every word of the previous page.

A Focus on Shaping Future of Million's

Gupta Empire

Prelims PYQ

With reference to the Scholars/literatures of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra
2. Amarsimha is associated with Harshavardhana
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandragupta-II

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: Option C

Note: All are among the nine gems of Chandragupta II of Gupta Empire.

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Vakataka Dynasty

Rulers

1. Vindhyashakti - Founder

2. Pravarasena I

3. Prabhavati Gupta (Gupta Daughter)

- She is the daughter of Chandragupta II and wife of Rudrasena II
- She held the reigns of Vakataka Empire on behalf of her 2 sons: Damodarsena and Pravarasena II
- Miregaon Plate refers Prabhavati Gupta as the mother of 2 kings

4. Pravarasena II

- Prakrit Work -> Setubandhu or Ravanvaho (It is woven around Rama's journey to Srilanka and his victory over Ravana has been attributed to Pravarasena II)
- Few verses of Gatha Sattasai (Originally by Satvahan King Hala) has also been attributed to him.

5. Harishena

Vakataka Dynasty

Important Terms

- **Kulaputras:** Officer for maintenance of law and order
- **Sarvadyaksha:** Head of Kulputras
- **Subdivision of Vishayas (Districts)**
 - a. **Aharas**
 - b. **Bhogas**
 - c. **Bhuktis**
- **Chhatras:** Irregular Troops
- **Bhatas:** Regular Troops
- **Rajuka:** Officer connected with revenue assignment
- **Senapati and Dandanayaka:** Military Officers
- **Klipta:** Purchase or Sales Tax or some royal right over the land
- **Upaklipta:** Additional or Minor Taxes
- **Vakatakas** has never issued any coins

A Focus on Shaping Future of Maharashtra

Vardhan Dynasty

Political Situation after Guptas:

- Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
- Maukharis of Kannauj
- Maitrakas of Vallabhi
- Varmans of Assam
- Late Guptas of Patliputra
- Kalachuris

Rulers:

1. Prabhakavardhan

- Matrimonial Alliance with Maukharis of Kannauj (Married his daughter Rajyashree to Maukhris)

2. Harshvardhan

- He made Kannauj his capital after conquering Maukharis kingdom.
- Banabhata wrote Harshcharita (Biography of Harshvardhan)
- Chinese Traveller Hieun Tsang visited India during his time.
- He was once defeated by Pulkeshin II of Chalukyan Dynasty (Aihole Inscription by Ravikriti)
- He also held the famous Kannauj Assembly

Vardhan Dynasty

Administration of Harshvardhan

- Provinces: Bhukti
- Districts: Visayas
- City: Pathaka
- Villages: Grama
- Brihadasvavavru: Head of Cavalry
- Hundis: Bill of Exchange or a Financial Instrument

Harsha: Patron of Scholars

- Harsha wrote 3 Sanskrit Dramas:
 - a. Ratnavali
 - b. Priyadasika
 - c. Nagananda
- He also wrote 2 poems:
 - a. Ashtamaharichaityastotra
 - b. Suprabhatastotra
- Banabhata wrote Kadambini and Harshcharita

Vardhan Dynasty

Prelims PYQ:

From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

- (1) The Guptas of Magadha
- (2) The Paramaras of Malwa
- (3) The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
- (4) The Maukharis of Kanauj
- (5) The Yadavas of Devagiri
- (6) The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 5 and 6

Solution: **Option B**

Vardhan Dynasty

Prelims PYQ:

Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates
- (b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts
- (c) A bill of exchange
- (d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

Solution: **Option C**

A Focus on Shaping Future of Millions

Deccan and Southern Kingdoms

Pallavas of Kanchipuram

1. Mahendravarman I (600 to 630 AD)

- He lost from Pulkeshin II of Chalukyas
- He build many cave temples and he was a musician and a painter

2. Narsimhavarman I (630 to 688 AD)

- He was famously known as mamalla (wrestler)
- He established the city of Mammalapuram or Mahabalipuram
- He defeated Pulkeshin II of Chalukyas
- Hieun Tsang visiting Kanchipuram
- He built Monolithic Ratha Temples (Pancha Pandava Rathas)

3. Narsimhavarman II

- He built Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram (2 Shiva and 1 Vishnu Shrines)
- He built Kailashnath temple of Kanchi

Deccan and Southern Kingdoms

Chalukyas of Vatapi or Badami

- Pulkeshin I was the founder
- Most Powerful king was Pulkeshin II who defeated Harshvardhan and Mahendravarman (Aihole Inscription by Ravikriti)
- Chalukyas built Virupaksha temple of Pattadakal.

Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta

- Founder was Dantidurga
- Famous Rulers:
 - a. Krishna I - Built Kailasa temple of Ellora
 - b. Amoghavarsha
 - i. Jain Follower
 - ii. Famously known as Kavirajamarga
- Pampa and Poona : Court Poets of Rashtrakutas
- Rashtrakutas constructed Elephanta caves

Deccan and Southern Kingdoms

Cholas

1. Vijayalaya

- Founder of new Chola Empire
- Capital: Tanjore
- Built Durga Temple and Vijayalaya Choleshvaram Temple

2. Rajaraja I

- Defeated Cheras, Pandyas, Chalukyas, Northern Srilanka, Maldives, etc.
- Built Rajarajeshwara or Brihadeshwara temple at Tanjore

3. Rajendra I

- Annexed whole Srilanka
- Assumed the title of Gangaikondachola
- Defeated Mahipala I of Pala Dynasty
- Conquered Malaysia
- Converted Bay of Bengal into Chola Lake for trade with China

Sangam Age

Some Background

- Southern Neolithic Age was from 3300 to 1400 BCE
- Southern Neolithic Age was succeeded by Megalithic cultures
- Megaliths were tombspots consisting of burials or graves with huge stones. They were in most cases located outside the settlement area.
- These Megalith burials have yielded the 1st iron objects from South India.
- Use of Black and Red ware pottery is also a distinctive feature of Megalithic people.
- Prominent Sites:
 - a. Brahmagiri, Maski
 - b. Nagarjunakonda, Andhra Pradesh
 - c. Adichallanur, Tamil Nadu
 - d. Junapani near Nagpur
- Nadukal: Herostone commemorating the honourable death of a hero in a battle.

Sangam Age

Introduction to Sangam Age (Founder- Sage Agastayar)

The Sangam Age refers to a period of Tamil history that spanned from 300 BCE to 300 CE. During this time, Tamil Nadu was ruled by three major dynasties - the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas. The Sangam Age was a time of great cultural, literary, and economic development in Tamil Nadu, and it has left a lasting impact on the region's history and culture.

- 1st Sangam Age
 - i. Hosted by Pandya Kingdom
 - ii. No Books survived
 - iii. Held at Madurai
- 2nd Sangam Age
 - i. Hosted by Pandya Kingdom
 - ii. One Book survived: Tolkapiyam (Author- Tolkapiyar)
 - iii. Held at Kapadapuram
- 3rd Sangam Age
 - i. Hosted by Pandya Kingdom
 - ii. Covers entire corpus of Sangam Literature
 - iii. Held at Madurai

Sangam Age

Cheras of Vanji

- Area: Kerala
- Emblem: Bow and Arrow
- Important Seaports: Tondi and Muziris
- Trade with Romans. Romans also built a temple of Augustus
- Famous Ruler: Cheran Sengtuvvan (Pugular Inscription)
 - a. His brother Elano Adigal wrote Silapadikaram
 - b. Pattinicult (worship of Kannagi) introduced as the ideal wife in Tamil Nadu

Pandyas of Madurai

- Area: Southern Tamil Nadu
- Port: Korkai
- Emblem: Fish

Cholas of Uraiyar and Later Puhar

- Area: Andhra Pradesh
- Port: Puhar (Kaveripattanam)
- Emblem: Tiger
- Famous Ruler: Karikalan
 - a. Founded port city of Puhar
 - b. Built Kallanai dam over Kaveri river
 - c. Battle of Veni: He defeated cheras, pandyas and minor chieftains.

Sangam Age

Literary Sources

- Tolkapiyam (By Tolkapiyar) - Tamil Grammar
- Pathupattu - 10 mid length book collection
- Ettuthogai - 8 anthologies of poetic work
- Melkanakku - 18 major works
- Kilkanakku - 18 minor works (By Thiruvalluvar)
- Tirukurral - Philosophy or wise maxims (5th Veda or Veda of South) (By Thiruvalluvar)
- 5 Great Epics of Tamil Literature:
 - i. Manimekalai by Sittalai Sattanar
 - ii. Silapadikaram by Elano Adigal
 - iii. Civaka Cintamani
 - iv. Valayapathi
 - v. Kundalkesi

Culture

- Varna system did not exist.
- Society was organised by occupational groups living apart from each other
 - a. Mallars- Farmers
 - b. Malavars- Hill People
 - c. Nagars- People in charge of border security
 - d. Kadambars- People who thrive in forests
 - e. Thiraiyars- Seafarers
 - f. Maravars- Warriors

Sangam Age

Taxes

- Karai: Land Tax
- Ulgu: Custom Duty
- Iravu: Forced Gift or Extra Demand
- Irai: Tribute paid by feudatories
- Variyar: Tax Collector
- Enadi: Captain of army
- Eripatta: Tank

Polity and Administration

- Mandalam : Nation
- Nadu : Province
- Ur : Town
- Perur : Big Village
- Sirur : Small Village

Political Development

- King was called Ventan
- 2 types of councils:
 - a. Enperayam (8 member council)
 - b. Aimperunkulu (5 member council)
 - i. Amaichar: Ministers
 - ii. Anthanar: Priests
 - iii. Senapathi: Military Commanders
 - iv. Duttar or Thuthar: Envoys
 - v. Orrar: Spies

Sangam Age

Classification of Land

- Kurinji: Hilly Land
- Mullai: Pastoral Land
- Marudam: Agricultural Land
- Neydal: Coastal Land
- Palai: Desert

Castes

- Arasar: Ruling Class
- Anthanar: Priests
- Vanigar: Trade and Commerce
- Vellalar: Agriculturists
- Kadasiyar: Lower Class

Some Important Points

- Tippayadal: Other name of sati practice in south
- Paddy was the most important crop
- Akam poems (on love) and Puram poems (on valour and generosity of kings)
- Women poets of Sangam Age: Avvaiyar, Nachchelliyar and Kakkaipadiniyar

Sangam Age

Decline of Sangam Age

- **Kalabhras** occupied the Tamil country post Sangam period between 300 to 600 AD whose period was called as Dark Age
- Jainism and Buddhism grew in their rule
- Finally Pallavas and Pandyas drew them out of Tamil country and re-established their rule again.

