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Section 1 → Ice Age + Indus Valley Civilization + Vedic Period

- [Paleolithic age, Mesolithic Age, Neolithic Age, Chalcolithic Age](#)
- [Indus Valley Civilization](#)
- [Early Vedic Period \(1500 – 1000 BC\)](#)
- [Later Vedic Period \(1000 – 600 BC\)](#)

Section 2 → Jainism + Buddhism + Vedic Period + Rise of Magadha

- [Jainism & Buddhism – Cause of Origin](#)
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- [Buddhism](#)
- [Mahajanapadas & Rise of Magadha](#)

Section 3 → Persian & Greek Invasion + Mauryan Empire + Post Mauryan India + Foreign Invasion on India

- [Iranian \(Persian\) & Macedonian \(Greek\) Invasion](#)
- [Mauryan Empire \(321 – 184 BC\)](#)
- [Post Mauryan India: Sungas Dynasty, Satavahanas](#)
- [Foreign invasion of NW India: Shakas, Parthians, Kushanas](#)

Section 4 → Sangam Age + Gupta Empire + Harshavardhana + Chalukya & Pallavas

- [Sangam Age: 300 – 600 AD](#)
- [Cheras, Cholas & Pandyas](#)
- [Gupta Empire \(400 – 600 AD\)](#)
- [Harshavardhana \(606 – 647 AD\)](#)
- [Chalukya of Badami, Pallavas, Pandyas](#)

Paleolithic age, Mesolithic Age, Neolithic Age, Chalcolithic Age

Quaternary Age

Evolution of its crust shows four stages, 4th stage being Quaternary, which comprises of:

- Pleistocene (20 Lakh – 10000 years)
- Holocene (10000 – Present)

Pleistocene Age

- Roughly dressed stone tools
- Crude chipping
- No knowledge of Cultivation
- Solely living on hunting
- Lived in rock-shelters

“Also known as Paleolithic age or Ice age or Old Stone Age & divided into 3 ages”

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Early/ Lower Paleolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 Lakh – 50000 BC• Tools → Cleavers, Choppers, Axes |
| Middle Paleolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50000 – 40000 BC• Flakes Tools → Blades, Pointers, Borers & Scrapers |
| Upper Paleolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40000 – 10000 BC• Climate became comparatively warm• Marked the appearance of new flint industries• Men of modern types (Homo-sapiens) |

Bhimbetka Rock Shelters

- Bhimbetka rock shelters are located in Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh, 45 km south of Bhopal at the southern edge of the Vindhya hills.
- These served as shelters for Paleolithic age man for more than 1 lakh years.
- This is the most exclusive Paleolithic site in India which contains the rock carvings and paintings.
- These paintings belong to the Paleolithic, Mesolithic ages, Chalcolithic, earlyhistoric and even medieval times.



Bhimbetka is a World heritage Site. Please note that it was earlier considered to be a Buddhist site and was later recognized as Paleolithic site by Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar who is now also called “father of rock art in India “. Bhimbetka Rock shelters were included in the world heritage list in 1970

Holocene: Mesolithic Age (9000 – 4000 BC)

- Marked by phenomenal changes in climate as climate became comparatively warm & dry which brought significant changes in flora & fauna and made it possible for humans to move to new areas.
 - Characteristic tools of this Age: Microliths
 - Transitional Phase between Paleolithic & Neolithic Age
 - People mostly lived on Hunting, Fishing & Food gathering; At later stage also domesticated animals
 - Rock Paintings from Paleolithic & Mesolithic age have been found at Bhimbetka caves (Painted birds, animals & humans)
-

Holocene: Neolithic Age (5000 – 1800 BC)

- Earliest farming communities → Characterized by cultivation of plants & domestication of animals
 - Earliest evident of Neolithic culture have been found at Mehargarh on bank of river Bolan (Baluchistan) 7000 BC showing beginning of agriculture & domestication of animals.
 - Pottery 1st appeared in this phase → Black burnished ware + Course Grey ware pottery for cooking
 - Important Places : Gufkral (Cave of Potters) & Burzahom (Place of Birch)
 - Dog burial with the master → Special feature of Burzahom
-

Holocene: Chalcolithic Age (1800 – 1000 BC)

- Marked by use of copper → 1st metal used in India
- Cultivation & cattle rearing along with established the knowledge of crop rotation (@ Inamgaon)
- Knowledge of Irrigation & Harvesting
- Excavation reveals structures like Granaries, Embankment & Fortification
- Mud houses made of mud in circular & rectangular pattern along with mud chulha
- Culture was limited from Udaipur to Malwa & Maharashtra
- Famous Pottery of this age → Black on Red ware

Indus Valley Civilization (2900 – 1700 BC)

- Indus valley civilization is older than chalcolithic culture but was far more developed
- Marked the beginning of Bronze age civilization

Sights of Indus Valley Civilization

Early (Pre Harappan)	Mature (Harappan)	Late Phase (Post Harappan)
	Harappa (Pakistan @ Ravi)	
	Mohenjodaro (Pakistan @ Indus)	
	Chanhudaro (Pakistan @ Indus)	
	Sutkagendor (Pakistan)	
	Sukotada (Gujrat)	
	Lothal (Gujrat @ Bhogava)	
Kalibangan	Kalibangan (Rajasthan @ Ghaggar)	
Banawali	Banawali (Hissar @Ghaggar)	
Rakhigarhi	Rakhigarhi (Hissar @Ghaggar)	Rakhigarhi
Dholavira	Dholavira (Kutch)	Dholavira
		Bhagwanpura
		Manda (Jammu), Chandigarh,Shangol (Punjab), Daulatpur,Mitthal (Haryana), AlamgirpurHulas (West UP)

Developments in Indus Valley Civilization

- Citadel / Acropolis at cities for member of ruling class (west side) & brick houses below citadel in town for commoners
- Remarkable grid system of roads → Roads cutting at right angle to each other
- Large scale use of burnt bricks & total absence of stone buildings
- Remarkable underground drainage system connecting all houses & streets covered by bricks / stone slabs
- Agriculture technology was well developed (But no use of ploughshare) : Wheat, Rice, Barley, Peas etc. + Domesticated large scale of animals
- Cotton was 1st produced by Indus people hence Greeks called it Sindon which is derived from Sindh
- Harappan were 1st to produce silver in the world + wore gold, silver & beads Jewelry

- Practiced boat making, seal making, Bronze smith, Weavers etc.
- Granaries & seals show Harappan carried on considerable trade but only through Barter system
- No temples has been found at any of the site hence can be said that it was ruled by merchants not priests
- Worshiped Goddess Earth, Pipal Tree, Pashupati Mahadeva & Animals (Bull / Unicorn Rhino)
- 1st to invent the art of writing – Right to left – (Pictographic only → Not deciphered so far)
- Used weights for trade (Mostly in multiple of 16) & Bronze made marked sticks for measurements
- Were expert in Potter’s wheel & pottery making
- Their greatest artistic creation was ” Seals”
- Mostly limestone was used for sculptures.

Indus Valley Civilization Site

Remarkable Feature

Mohenjodaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Bath (Largest Brick Work) • Great Granary (Largest Building) • Impressive drainage system • Bronze image of dancing girl • Image of steatite bearded man • Piece of woven cotton • Seal of pashupati • Prepared Garments • Skeletons on stairs of well (Mount of the dead)
Lothal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Dock (Manchester of Harappan civilization) • Art of double burial • Cotton cultivation
Kalibangan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granary & Wooden plough • Wells in every house • Camels Bone
Harappa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 rows of 6 granaries
Chanhudaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancashire of India • Only city without citadel • Bangles Factory • Beads Factory
Rakhigarhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biggest Site

Theory of Decline of Indus Valley Civilization

- Natural Calamities such as floods, Earthquakes etc.
- Decrease in Land fertility
- Outbreak of an epidemic
- Decline of trade & Invasion of Aryans

Notable Points

By the fragmentary remains of the buildings constructed by these people it is not yet possible to know enough about the architectural skill and tastes of the people. However, one thing is clear, the extant buildings do not give us any clue as to aesthetic considerations and there is a certain dull plainness about the architecture which may be due to their ruined and fragmentary condition.

There does not appear to be any connection between the cities built in the 3rd millennium BC, with an astonishing civic sense, of first rate well-fired brick structures, and the architecture of subsequent thousand years or so, of Indian art history, after the decline and decay of the Harappan civilization and the beginning of the historic period of Indian history, mainly the time of the great Mauryas of Magadha.

These thousands years or so were a period of tremendous, intellectual and sociological activity and could not be barren of any artistic creations. However, due to the fact that during this time sculpture and architecture was utilising organic and perishable materials such as mud, mud brick, bamboo, timber, leaves, straw and thatch, these have not survived the ravages of time.

Two important remains of the oldest times are fortifications of the old Rajagriha town, in Bihar and the fortified capital of Sisupalgarh, perhaps the ancient Kalinganagar, near Bhubaneswar.

Rajagriha fortification wall is made in the roughest possible manner, unhewn stones being piled one on top of the other; belongs to the 6th -5th century BC. However at Sisupalgarh in the 2nd -1st century BC, stone masons were at work using large blocks of stones to make a very well-made fort entrance that could be closed with huge doors turning on hinges.

We know it for a fact that stone masonry and stone carving were imported in Ashoka's times from Persia. There is abundant evidence of stone masons mark similar to those at Persepolis (Persia).

Early Vedic Period (1500 – 1000 BC)

Advent of Aryans

Aryans means of high birth

Age of Rig Veda

Vedas means to know – Superior knowledge

- Aryans were generally referred to people who spoke Indo- Aryan language (Sanskrit)
- Society was mainly male dominated; women were treated with dignity and honour
- Early life in this period seems to be mainly pastoral with agriculture being the secondary occupation
- Domesticated horses to ride

Rig Veda

- Earliest text of Indo European language
- Contains prayers offered to Agni, Indra, Mitra, Varuna & other gods
- Consists of 10 mandalas or books with 2 – 7 being the earliest one called family books & 1 and 10 being the latest editions
- 3rd Mandal consists of Gayatri mantra (Composed by viswamitra to offer prayer to solar deity Savitri)
- Many things in common with Avesta (oldest Iranian text – Zorasterism)

Advent of Aryans

- Aryans called Indus valley “Sapt Sindavah” i.e. land of 7 rivers with river Indus (Sindhu) most mentioned in Rig Veda
- Saraswati (Naditarna) is mentioned as the holiest river in Rig Veda, named after Harakwati (Hemland river) in south Afganistan
- Aryans appeared in subcontinent around 1500 B.C. & came into conflict with its inhabitants Dasas & Dasyus

Dasas: Mentioned in ancient Iranian literature hence may be early Aryans

Dasyus: Possibly original inhabitants of the country & possibly worshipped Phallus (Lingam)

- Aryan chief who overpowered them was called Trasadasyu , generally soft towards Dasas but hostile towards Dasyus (Term Dasyuhatya is repeatedly mentioned in Rig Veda)
- Aryans succeeded everywhere because they possessed chariot driven by horses & possibly with coats of mail & better armory → Introduced these things for the 1st time in west Asia & India
- Aryans were divided into 5 tribes called Panchajana mainly, along with other tribes → Most powerful ones were Bharatas of Tritsu Family supported by Viswamitra

Battle of 10 Kings fought at River Parushni (Ravi):

- Bharat ruling clan was opposed by host of 10 chiefs (5 aryan & 5 non aryan) supported by Vashishta
- Bharat clan emerged victorious & subsequently joined hand with Purus (Most powerful defeated tribe) & formed a new ruling tribe called kurus

Bharatvansa is named after tribe Bharata & 1st mentioned in Rig Veda

Early Vedic Period

- Agriculture was well known to pre aryan & ploughshare is 1st mentioned in early part of Rig Veda
- But agriculture was perhaps used to produce fodder only → Predominantly pastoral people with cattle rearing as main occupation
- Most of the wars were fought for the sake of cows as the term for war in Rig Veda is Gavishthi i.e. search for cows (Hence cows seems to have been most important wealth)
- Gifts were made to priests in form of cows & women slaves → Not in form of land
- Rig Veda mentions several artisans namely Carpenters, Chariot makers, weavers, Leather workers, Potters etc. along with term Ayas used for copper or Bronze which shows metal working was well known
- Aryans or Vedic people mainly relied on land routes as the word samundra mentioned in Rig veda mainly denotes a collection of water

Rig Vedic term	Meaning
Gau	Cow
Gavishti	Search for Cows
Gopati	Raja or chief, protector of cows
Godhuli	Measure of time
Duhitr	Daughter or one who milks the cows
Gomat	wealthy man who owned many cattle

Administration in Rig Vedic Period

- Tribal chief at the center (Rajan)
 - King was known as Gopaljanya i.e. protector of its people & cows
 - King was assisted by Purohits, Senani & Gramanis
 - King did not exercise unlimited power & worked in reckon with tribal organization
 - King's position was hereditary (but could be removed from power if found weak and inefficient or cruel).
-

Rig Vedic Assemblies & administrative division

- Several assemblies such as Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata & Gana are mentioned in Rig Veda & even women were allowed to attend Sabha & Vidhata assemblies.
- Two most important assemblies were Sabha & Samiti as even kings & chiefs showed eagerness to win their support
- No introduction of taxes & offerings (Known as Bali) were made voluntarily by people
- Aryan tribes was known as Jana (Janapada or territory is not used even once in Rig Veda as Territory / Kingdom was not established)

- Jana was divided into Group of villages called Vis (Headed by Vrajapati),
- Vis was further divided into Grama or small tribal units meant for fighting (Headed by Graminis),
- Grama was further divided into Kulas (Family) headed by Kulapa

- When Grama clashed with each other then it caused samgrama or war
- Kinship was the basis of social structure & a man was identified by the clan he belongs to

Societal Practices & Divisions

- Rig veda speaks of Arya varna (Aryans) & Das varna (Non Aryans), where possibly the distinction was on the basis of colour
- Society was patriarchal & people prayed to God mainly for brave sons & Cattles.
- Practice of Levirate (Man marrying to Brother's widow) & widow remarriage was prevalent with no mention of sati system or Child marriage as marriageable age mentioned in Rig Veda is 16- 17 Years
- Women poets in Rig Veda peiord : Apala, Vishwavara, Ghosa & Lopamudra
- Tribal Society was divided into 3 groups mainly Warrior, priest & People with 4th division called shudra appeared towards end of Rig vedic period (1st time in 10th book of Rig Veda)
- Conquered Dasas & Dasyus were treated as slaves or Shudra by Aryans for domestic work purpose
- Main pottery of this period is OCP (ochre coloured pottery)

Early Vedic Gods

No Idol Worship

Indra	Warlord / Raingod / Purandara / Breaker of forts
Agni	Fire god & intermediary b/w God & people Marriages were solemnize in his presence Destroyed germs & dirt hence was considered pure\
Varuna	Personified as water & supposed to keep natural order in line
Soma	God of plants, & an intoxicating drink somras named after it
Marut	Personified as storm
Aditi	Goddess of eternity
Usha	Appearance of dawn

Other gods were Prithvi, Vayu etc. Mainly Nature gods

- Gods were invited to take partake of sacrifices made by whole tribe (Jana)
- Sacrifices mainly consists of Vegetables, Barley etc. (No rituals or sacrificial formulae were used).
- *Yajna* (sacrifice) was performed along with chanting of Vedic hymns.

- People poured *ghee* (clarified butter) and other ingredients into the fire to invoke the blessings of gods.
- Jana mainly asked for Praja (Children), Pashu (Cattle), Food, Wealth, health etc.
- Eating of cows meat was strictly prohibited as cow was considered as a sacred animal

Later Vedic Period (1000 – 600 BC)

- Advent of Iron Age
- Origin of Sam Veda, Yajur Veda & Atharva Veda
- Composition of Samhitas, Brahmanas & Upanishads
- Marked by invention of PGW (Painted grey ware) for bowls & dishes

Samhitas: Collection of Vedic hymns & Mantras

Sama Veda

- Book of chants
- Origin of Indian music
- For recitation, prayers of Rig Veda were set to tunes
- Modified collection is known as Sama Veda

Yajur Veda

- Contains hymns & rituals, sacrifices, Royal ceremonies
- Rajsuya & Vajpeya mentioned for the 1st time
- Written in verse and prose form

Atharva Veda

- Origin of Indian medicine
- Contains formulae, charms & spells to ward off evil & diseases
- Composed by a non-aryan

According to Satapatha Brahamana Rig veda, Sama Veda & Yajur veda constitutes Traya Veda & were composed by Aryans

Brahamanas

- Prose commentaries of all four Vedas
- 18 in number
- Most important is Satapatha Brahmanas
- Full of ritualistic formulae & explains social and religious meaning of rituals & sacrifices

Aranyakas

- Forest books → Composed in forests
- Were meant to study in forests
- Describes the lifestyle of Sanyasis in forests

Developments in Later Vedic Period

- Satapatha brahmanas refers to expansion of Aryans into eastern Gangetic plains i.e. Aryans expanded from Punjab to whole of Uttar Pradesh covered by Ganga – Yamuna Doab
- Soon Kuru occupied upper portion of the doab along with Delhi & set up their capital at Hastinapur
- Kurus coalesced with Panchalas who occupied middle portion of the doab
- This era marks the famous Mahabharata war at land of Kurus i.e. Kurukshetra
- In later Vedic times, people hardly knew the use of burnt bricks as mud structures have been discovered at Hastinapur
- From traditions we learnt that Hastinapur was thoroughly flooded and remnant of Kuru clan moved to Kaushambi near Allahabad.

Later Vedic people succeeded in their second phase of expansion because of use of iron weapons & horse drawn chariots (Around 1000 BC iron appeared in Dharwar district of Karnataka & at Gandhar)

- Iron was called shyama or Krishana Aya (Black metal)
- Agriculture was now chief means of livelihood with rice & wheat main crops along with the use of wooden ploughshare → Predominantly pastoral society became agricultural
- For the 1st time Vedic people came to be acquainted with Rice & called it Vrihi (in Vedic text recommended in Vedic rituals)

End of Preview.

Rest of the book can be read @

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