



# UPPSC

## Prelims

**Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission**

**Volume – 9**

**Uttar Pradesh General Knowledge**



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# 1

## CHAPTER

# UP at a Glance

### Basic Introduction

Uttar Pradesh is the 4th largest state in India by area, covering **2,40,928 sq. km**, which is (about 7.33% of the country's total geographical area **of 3,287,263 sq. km**,) after Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

| Parameter                                                    | Details                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Capital                                                      | Lucknow                                                        |
| Formation                                                    | 1 November 1956                                                |
| Area                                                         | 2,40,928 sq. km                                                |
| Districts                                                    | 75                                                             |
| Divisions / Mandals                                          | 18                                                             |
| Population                                                   | 199,812,341                                                    |
| Economic Region                                              | 04 (Western, Central, Eastern & Bundelkhand)                   |
| Number of Towns and Urban Agglomerations (UAs) (Census 2011) | 915                                                            |
| Gram Panchayats (as of 31 March 2024)                        | 57,691                                                         |
| Tehsils (as of March 2024)                                   | 351                                                            |
| Development Blocks (as of 31 March 2024)                     | 826                                                            |
| Nagar Panchayats                                             | 546                                                            |
| Municipal Councils (Nagar Palika Parishads)                  | 200                                                            |
| Municipal Corporations (Nagar Nigams)                        | <b>17</b> (Source: Directorate of Local Bodies, Uttar Pradesh) |
| Total Villages (Census 2011)                                 | 106,774                                                        |
| Inhabited Villages (Census 2011)                             | 97,814                                                         |
| Uninhabited Villages (Census 2011)                           | 8,960                                                          |
| Total Households (Census 2011)                               | 33.448 million (33,448 thousand)                               |
| Scheduled Caste Habitations (2023–24)                        | 99,462                                                         |

**Note:** Under the Uttar Pradesh Urban Local Body General Elections, 2023, elections were conducted for a total of 760 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), comprising 17 Municipal Corporations, 199 Municipal Councils (Nagar Palika Parishads), and 544 Nagar Panchayats. The difference between the current number of ULBs (763) and those that went to polls (760) is due to subsequent administrative reorganization and the upgradation of certain urban local bodies after the 2023 elections.

## Name of the state

| Year            | UP's Name                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1836            | North-Western Provinces               |
| 1877            | North Western Province, Agra and Oudh |
| 1902            | United Provinces of Agra and Oudh     |
| 1 April 1937    | United Provinces                      |
| 24 January 1950 | Uttar Pradesh                         |

**Note:**

- Uttar Pradesh officially began celebrating its Foundation Day, commonly known as **UP Diwas**, on **January 24, 2018**.

## Capital of the state:

| Year        | UP's Capital                               |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Until 1858  | Agra                                       |
| 1858 – 1921 | Allahabad (Prayagraj)                      |
| From 1921   | Lucknow (ancient name: Lakhanpuri)         |
| 1935        | Lucknow (Capital shifted fully to Lucknow) |

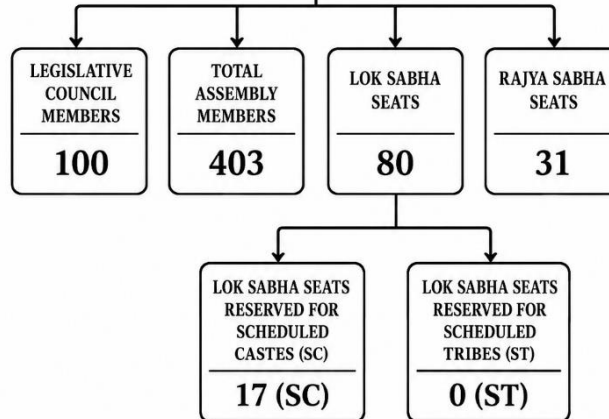
## Geographical location

- **Area of Uttar Pradesh** – 2,40,928 sq. km. (approximately 7.33% of India's area)
- **Latitude** – from 23°52' north latitude to 31°28' north latitude
- **Longitude** – from 77°31' east longitude to 84°39' east longitude
- **Length of the state from east to west** – 650 km
- **Width of the state from north to south** – 240 km
- **Easternmost district** – Ballia
- **Westernmost district** – Shamli
- **Northernmost district** – Saharanpur
- **Southernmost district** – Sonbhadra
- **Largest district by area** – Lakhimpur Kheri (7,680 sq. km.)
- **Smallest district by area** – Hapur (660 sq. km.)
- **Number of states bordering Saharanpur** – 3 (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand)
- **Agricultural agro-climatic zones** – 9
- **Major rivers** – Ganga, Yamuna, Ramganga, Gomti, and Ghaghara
- **Largest canal system** – Sharda Canal

**Note:**

- The area called **Bundelkhand** - falls under **Uttar Pradesh - Madhya Pradesh border**.
- The Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with exactly one other district within the state.

## POLITICAL SCENARIO OF UTTAR PRADESH (UP)

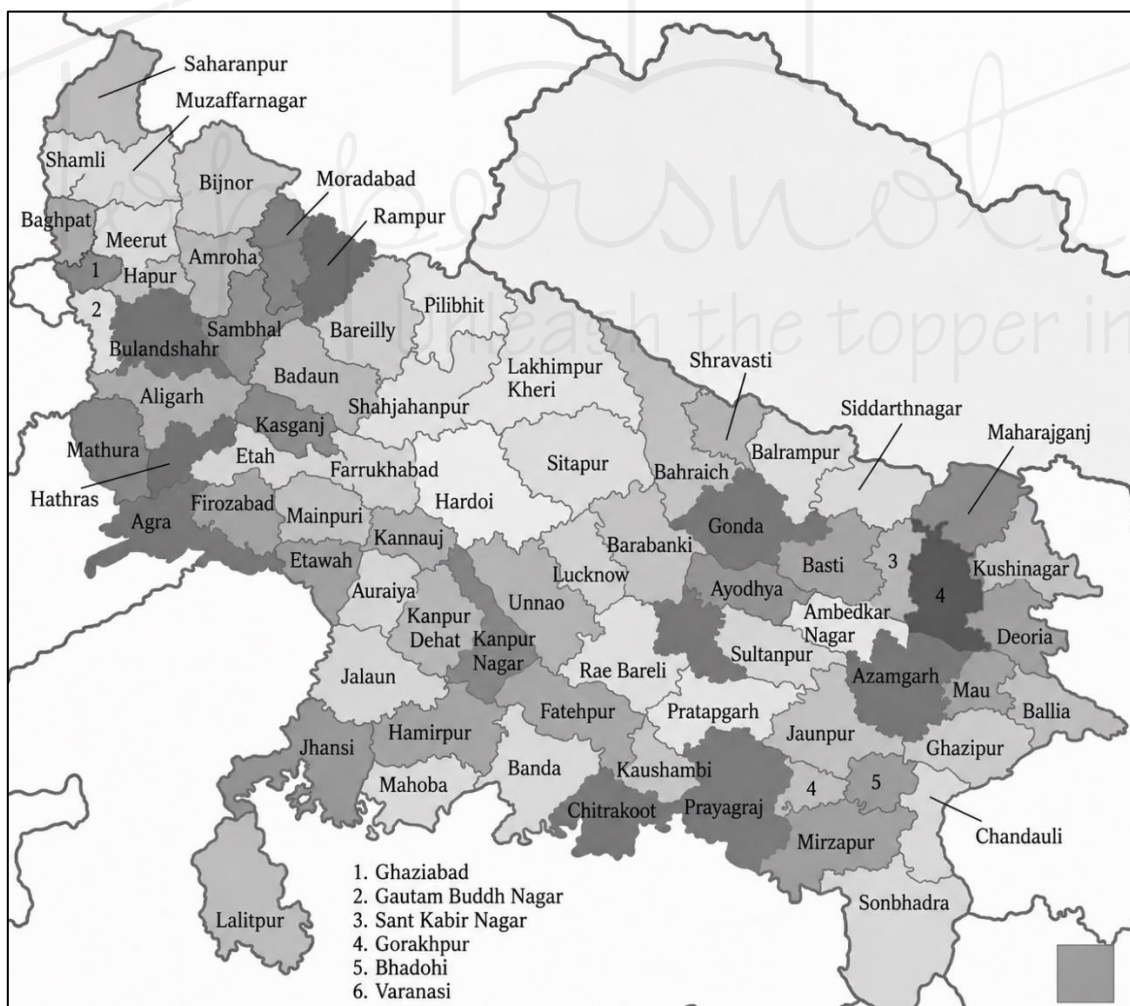


### NOTE:

Before the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly had a total strength of 404 members, comprising 403 elected members and one nominated Anglo-Indian member.

↓

The 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020 abolished the provision for the nomination of an Anglo-Indian member, reducing the total strength of the Assembly to 403 members.



| Serial No. | State/Country    | Districts of Uttar Pradesh Bordering It                                                                                 |
|------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | Madhya Pradesh   | <b>11 Districts</b> (Agra, Etawah, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra) |
| 2          | Bihar            | <b>7 Districts</b> (Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Ballia, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajganj)                            |
| 3          | Uttarakhand      | <b>7 Districts</b> (Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit)                           |
| 4          | Haryana          | <b>6 Districts</b> (Saharanpur, Shamli, Baghpat, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura)                                 |
| 5          | Delhi            | <b>3 Districts</b> (Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar)                                                            |
| 6          | Rajasthan        | <b>2 Districts</b> (Agra, Mathura)                                                                                      |
| 7          | Chhattisgarh     | <b>1 District</b> (Sonbhadra)                                                                                           |
| 8          | Jharkhand        | <b>1 District</b> (Sonbhadra)                                                                                           |
| 9          | Himachal Pradesh | <b>1 District</b> (Saharanpur)                                                                                          |
| 10         | Nepal            | <b>7 Districts</b> (Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Balrampur, Shravasti, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit)             |

### **Boundaries of Uttar Pradesh**

- **Number of bordering states/UTs** – 9 (8 states and 1 Union Territory)
- **Name of bordering country** – Nepal
- **Number of states bordering Sonbhadra** – 4 (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar)
- **State bordering Uttar Pradesh the most** – Madhya Pradesh
- **State bordering Uttar Pradesh the least** – Himachal Pradesh
- **District of Uttar Pradesh surrounded on three sides by Madhya Pradesh** – Lalitpur
- **Those districts of Uttar Pradesh that share their border with only one other district of the same state** - Lalitpur.
- The district of Uttar Pradesh that shares its border with the highest number of districts (8 districts) in the state - Hardoi.

### **State Symbol**

|                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>State emblem:</b> Two fish and a bow and arrow within a circle |  | <b>State bird:</b><br>Sarus crane |  |
| <b>State animal:</b> Swamp deer (Barasingha)                      |  | <b>State tree:</b><br>Ashoka      |  |
| <b>State flower:</b> Palash                                       |  | <b>State game:</b><br>Hockey      |  |

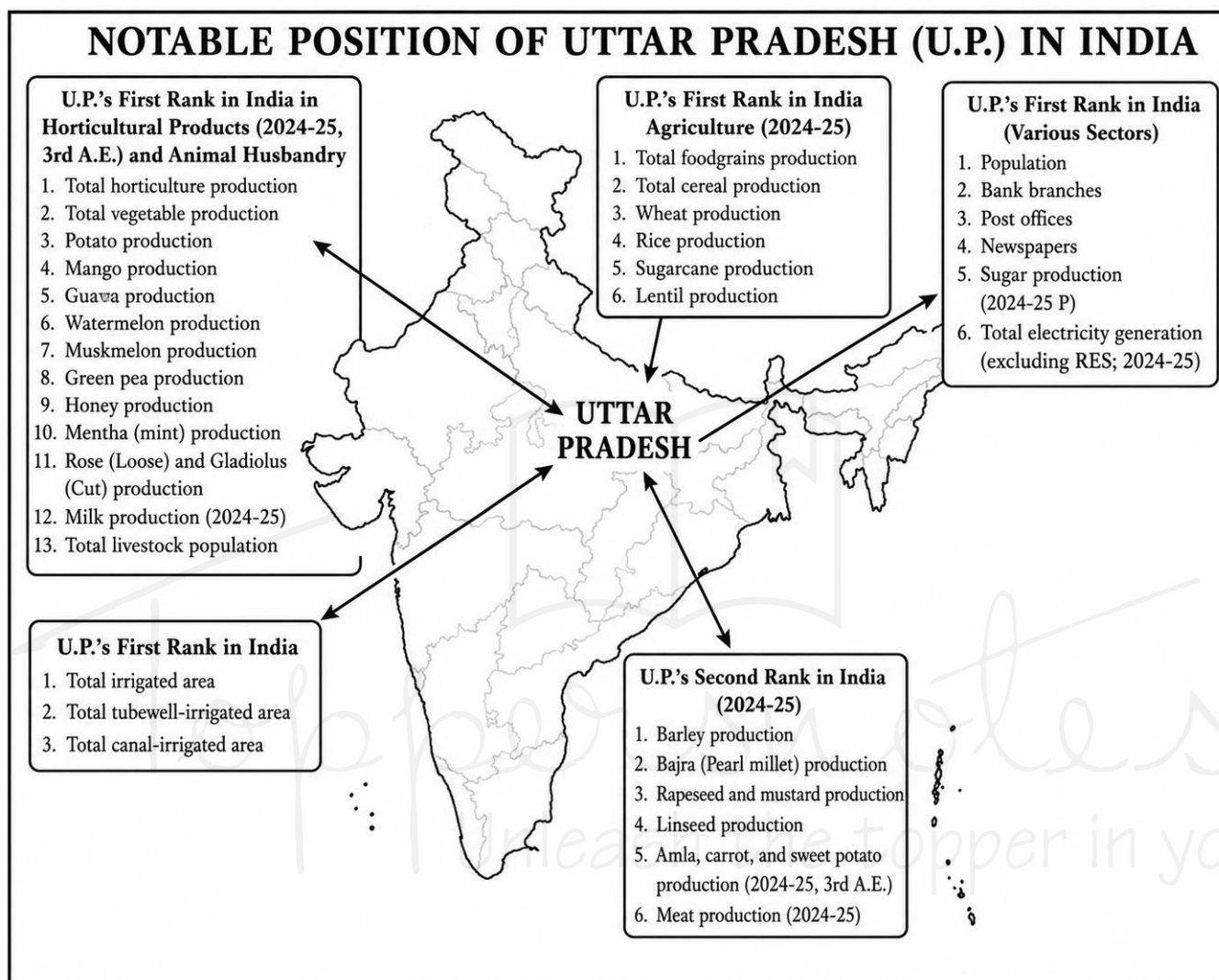
**Key Points:**

- **Rank in India by Area** – Uttar Pradesh is the **4th largest state in India by area**.
- **District Touching the Maximum Number of States** - “Sonbhadra” shares its boundaries with **four states**: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar.
- **First Rank in India:**
  - ✓ Uttar Pradesh ranks **1st in India** in the production of **wheat, rice, lentils, total cereals, total foodgrains, sugarcane (2024–25), total vegetables, total horticultural produce, honey, mentha (mint), potato, guava, mango, watermelon, muskmelon, green peas, bottle gourd, loose rose flowers, and cut gladiolus flowers [2024–25 (3rd Advance Estimates)]**.
  - ✓ It also ranks **1st in sugar production [2024–25 (Provisional)], ethanol production, milk production, total electricity generation (excluding Renewable Energy Sources) [2024–25], total livestock population, and in the number of railway routes, bank branches, and post offices**.
- **State bifurcation: 9 November 2000:** Uttaranchal (now **Uttarakhand**) was carved out of Uttar Pradesh by comprising **13 districts** of the state.
- **Districts of Uttar Pradesh in the NCR: 8:** Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, and Shamli.
- **State Capital Region (SCR) of Uttar Pradesh** – Consists of **6 districts** covering a total area of **27,826 sq. km**: Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, and Barabanki. The **Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region Development Authority (UP-SCRDA)** is responsible for the planning, development, and management of the SCR. **Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh who became Prime Ministers of India:** Chaudhary Charan Singh and Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- **Speakers of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly who also became Chief Ministers:** Shri Banarasi Das and Sri Pati Mishra
- **First President's Rule in the state:** 25 February 1968 to 26 February 1969

**First In Up**

| Particular                                                                          | Corrected Information                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First Formation of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly after Independence</b> | 8 March 1952                                                       |
| <b>District with the Highest Number of Assembly Constituencies</b>                  | Prayagraj – 12 Assembly constituencies                             |
| <b>Districts with the Lowest Number of Assembly Constituencies</b>                  | Shravasti, Mahoba, and Chitrakoot - 2 Assembly constituencies each |
| <b>First Central Jail in Uttar Pradesh</b>                                          | Bareilly Central Jail                                              |
| <b>President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh</b>                                            | Imposed 10 times                                                   |
| <b>First Imposition of President's Rule</b>                                         | 25 February 1968 – 25 February 1969                                |
| <b>First Woman Governor of Uttar Pradesh (and Independent India)</b>                | Sarojini Naidu                                                     |
| <b>First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh</b>                                        | Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant                                         |
| <b>First Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh</b>                                 | Chaudhary Narayan Singh                                            |
| <b>First Woman Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (and any Indian State)</b>           | Sucheta Kriplani                                                   |
| <b>India's First Night Safari</b>                                                   | Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)                                      |

|                                                                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>First Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly after Independence</b> | Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon      |
| <b>First Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council after Independence</b> | Shri Chandra Bhal                    |
| <b>First Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court</b>                            | Justice Sir Walter Morgan            |
| <b>First Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh</b>                                           | Justice Vishambhar Dayal (1977–1982) |
| <b>First Chief Information Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh</b>                      | Justice M. A. Khan                   |



# UP Ancient and Medieval History

## Ancient History

- Uttar Pradesh has a rich history spanning thousands of years. It was a major centre of Aryan civilization and was home to several ancient kingdoms, including Kuru, Panchala, Vatsa, and Kashi.
- The region flourished under the rule of Emperor Ashoka, Emperor Harshavardhana, and later, during the medieval period, under the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
- Uttar Pradesh also played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence against British colonial rule.

## Palaeolithic Period (2 million BCE to 10,000 BCE)

- **Major Sites:** Belan Valley (Prayagraj), Singrauli Valley (Sonbhadra), and Chakia (Chandauli).
- **Excavation:** The Belan Valley was excavated by **Prof. G. R. Sharma** of the **University of Allahabad**.
- **Major Findings:** Stone tools and a bone-made Mother Goddess figurine were discovered at the archaeological site of **Lohanda Nala** in the Belan Valley.

## Mesolithic Period (10,000 BCE to 8000 BCE)

- **Human skeletal remains have been discovered at the Mesolithic sites of Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha in Pratapgarh district.**
- **Major Finding:** The earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the Indian subcontinent was discovered at **Lahuradewa** in **Sant Kabir Nagar** district, Uttar Pradesh. Carbon-dated rice remains from the site have been dated to approximately **8000 BCE–9000 BCE**.

## Neolithic Period (8000 BCE to 4000 BCE)

- **Stone tools and weapons** have been discovered during excavations **at various sites in Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, and the Bundelkhand region.**
- **Major Findings:** Two skull features discovered at these sites are of particular significance in the study of human palaeoanthropology:
  - ✓ the anterior root of the zygomatic arch meeting the mesial margin of the first premolar, and
  - ✓ the presence of a generally thick enamel coating on large teeth.

## Harappan Civilization

- The **Harappan Civilization (also known as the Indus Valley Civilization)** was a major Bronze Age civilization that flourished **approximately between 3300 BCE and 1300 BCE**.
- Spread across present-day Pakistan and northwestern India, it is renowned for its advanced urban planning, sophisticated architecture, standardized crafts, and extensive trade networks.
- The major Harappan sites in Uttar Pradesh are as follows:

## Mandi

- It is located in Muzaffarnagar district, east of the Yamuna River.
- It lies on the eastern periphery of the main Harappan cultural zone.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ A rich hoard of Harappan ornaments was discovered.
  - ✓ Two copper vessels and numerous beads made of gold, agate, onyx, and copper were recovered.
  - ✓ The gold beads included spacer beads, hollow terminal beads, single- and double-bell-shaped beads, and thin circular beads.

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## **Alamgirpur**

- It is located in Meerut district, on the banks of the Hindon River, a tributary of the Yamuna River.
- It is the easternmost known site of the Harappan Civilization.
- It is also known as Parashuram ka Khera.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ Distinctive Harappan pottery, a possible pottery workshop, roof tiles, pots, cups, vases, dice, beads, terracotta cakes, toy carts, and terracotta figurines of a humped bull and a snake were discovered.
  - ✓ Beads and ear studs were made of steatite paste, faience, glass, carnelian, quartz, agate, and black jasper.
  - ✓ Metal objects were found in limited quantities, including a broken copper blade.
  - ✓ Evidence of cotton cultivation and the use of cotton cloth was also discovered.

## **Hulas**

- It is located in Saharanpur district, on the high banks of tributaries of the Yamuna, including the Hindon, Krishna, Kathanala, and Maskara rivers.
- It is an important Late Harappan archaeological site.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ Five circular furnaces, painted pottery with geometric and naturalistic designs, chert blades, bone points, and terracotta inscribed sealings were discovered.
  - ✓ Archaeobotanical remains indicate the cultivation of chickpea, cowpea, walnut, oats, lentils, peas, gram, ragi, and both wild and cultivated rice.
  - ✓ Remains of peepal fruits were also found.

## **Sinauli**

- It is located in Baghpat district, in the Ganga–Yamuna Doab.
- The discoveries made during the 2018 excavations were dated to approximately 2000 BCE–1800 BCE and are associated with the Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture, which was contemporary with the Late Harappan period.
- **Major Findings:**
  - ✓ Wooden coffins, copper swords, antennae-hilted weapons, copper-covered helmets, and wooden carts with solid disc wheels sheathed in copper were discovered.

## **Badagaon (also known as Bargaon)**

- It is located in Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.
- It represents a rural settlement of the Late Harappan phase and provides evidence of the eastward expansion of Harappan culture into the upper Yamuna Valley.
- Archaeological evidence indicates a significant cultural overlap between the Late Harappan phase and the Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture.

## **Vedic Age (1500 BCE–600 BCE)**

- The **Vedic Age (c. 1500–600 BCE)** was a significant phase in ancient Indian history that followed the decline of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization.
- It is broadly divided into two historically recognized phases:
  - ✓ **Early Vedic Period (c. 1500–1000 BCE)**
  - ✓ **Later Vedic Period (c. 1000–600 BCE)**

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## Early Vedic Period (1500–1000 BCE)

- During the Early Vedic Period, the Aryans initially settled in the Sapta-Sindhu (Land of Seven Rivers) region, which broadly comprised present-day Punjab, Haryana, and parts of eastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan.
- The Sapta-Sindhu region derived its name from the following seven rivers:

| Old Name  | New Name / Modern Name/ Description       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|
| Sindhu    | Indus                                     |
| Vitasta   | Jhelum                                    |
| Askini    | Chenab                                    |
| Parushni  | Ravi                                      |
| Vipasa    | Beas                                      |
| Shatudri  | Sutlej                                    |
| Sarasvati | Lost (flows through deserts of Rajasthan) |

- The five principal Aryan clans (Panchajana) were **Puru, Turvasha, Yadu, Anu, and Druhyu (Druhu)**.
- Gradually, the Aryans expanded their settlements eastward.
  - ✓ The **Shatapatha Brahmana** describes the expansion of Vedic culture into **Kosala (Awadh)** and **Videha (northern Bihar)** under the leadership of Brahmins and Kshatriyas.
- Administration was headed by a **Rajan (chief)**, whose primary responsibility was to protect the tribe and its cattle rather than govern a defined territorial kingdom.
- Society was **semi-nomadic and predominantly pastoral**. Women were educated and actively participated in tribal assemblies.
- The **Rigveda**, a collection of sacred hymns, was the only Veda composed during this period and was transmitted entirely through the **oral tradition**.

## Later Vedic Period (1000–600 BCE)

- During the Later Vedic period, the importance of the **Sapta Sindhu** region declined, while the Brahmarshi **Desha (Madhyadesha)** emerged as the principal centre of Vedic civilisation.
  - ✓ Much of the region corresponding to present-day **Uttar Pradesh** became a sacred land and an important centre of Vedic culture, learning, and religious activities.
- The earlier relatively egalitarian social order gradually evolved into the more rigid **Varna system** consisting of **Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras**. The status of women declined, and the **joint family system** became more prevalent.
- Society gradually shifted from a predominantly pastoral economy to a **settled agrarian economy**, with the extensive use of **iron tools** for clearing forests and cultivating land.
- **Brahmins** enjoyed great respect because of their learning, religious authority, and scholarship.
- Vedic texts mention **Kuru-Panchala, Kashi, and Kosala** as the major centres of Vedic culture.
- During the **Ashvamedha sacrifice**, the king of **Videha** presented valuable gifts to the learned scholars of **Kuru-Panchala**.
- **Pravahana Jaivali**, the king of **Panchala**, was himself a renowned philosopher. He is praised in the **Upanishads** for engaging in profound philosophical discussions with eminent sages such as **Shvetaketu** and his father **Uddalaka Aruni**.

## Vedic Literature

- During the Later Vedic period, a rich body of literature was composed as the Vedic tradition gradually evolved towards the philosophical teachings of the **Upanishads**.
  - ✓ The **Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda**, the **Brahmanas**, the **Aranyakas**, and the **Upanishads** were composed during this period.

- 
- The **Upanishads** largely originated from the spiritual contemplation and philosophical discussions held in the **ashrams of sages**, many of which were situated in the region of present-day **Uttar Pradesh**.
  - Eminent sages such as **Bharadvaja, Yajnavalkya, Vashistha, Vishvamitra, Valmiki**, and **Atri** either established their ashrams in this region or were closely associated with it.
  - Several **Aranyakas** and **Upanishads** are believed to have been composed in the ashrams located in this region.

## **Mahajanapadas (6th century BCE)**

- During the **6th century BCE**, the emergence of the **16 Mahajanapadas (Great Kingdoms)** marked a significant turning point in ancient Indian history.
- Of these, **eight Mahajanapadas** were located either wholly or partially within the territory of present-day **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **The eight Mahajanapadas associated with Uttar Pradesh are as follows:**

### **1. Kashi**

- ✓ **Capital:** Kashi (Varanasi)
- ✓ **Location:** Present-day Varanasi
- ✓ The **Kasis** were the people who inhabited the region around **Varanasi**, which served as their capital.
- ✓ It is believed that the name **Varanasi** is derived from the **Varuna** and **Assi** rivers.
- ✓ Owing to its prosperity and strategic importance, **Kashi** was engaged in prolonged struggles for supremacy with neighbouring kingdoms such as **Kosala, Anga, and Magadha**.
- ✓ The **Matsya Purana** and the writings of **Al-Biruni** mention the names **Kaushika** or **Kausika** as variants of **Kashi**, while most other sources simply refer to it as **Kashi**.

### **2. Kosala**

- ✓ **Capital:** Shravasti and Ayodhya
- ✓ **Location:** Awadh region (present-day Ayodhya, Gonda, Bahraich, and surrounding areas)
  - The **Ganga River** formed its southern boundary.
  - The **Gandaki River** formed its eastern boundary.
- ✓ **Ajatashatru** of **Magadha** and **Prasenajit (Pasenadi)** of **Kosala** were engaged in a prolonged struggle for supremacy.
- ✓ After the reign of **Prasenajit**, **Vidudabha** succeeded to the throne, and eventually **Kosala** was annexed by **Magadha**.

### **3. Chedi (Cheti)**

- ✓ **Capital:** Suktimati
- ✓ **Location:** Bundelkhand region
- ✓ **King Shishupala**, an ally of **Jarasandha** of **Magadha** and **Duryodhana** of the **Kuru** dynasty, was one of the most prominent rulers of the Chedi kingdom.
- ✓ Important Chedi figures mentioned in the **Mahabharata** include **Damaghosha, Shishupala, Dhrishtaketu, Suketu, Sarabha**, and **Karenumati** (the wife of Bhima).

### **4. Surasena**

- ✓ **Capital:** Mathura
- ✓ **Location:** Braj region
- ✓ **Avantiputra (Avantiputta)**, the ruler of Surasena, was among the early royal disciples of the **Buddha**.
- ✓ Under his rule, **Mathura** emerged as an important centre of Buddhism.
- ✓ The region was inhabited by several clans and tribes, each led by its own chief.

## 5. Kuru

- ✓ **Capital:** Indraprastha (shared with parts of present-day southeastern Haryana)
- ✓ **Location:** Western Uttar Pradesh (Meerut region) and adjoining Haryana
- ✓ The Kurus belonged to the **Puru-Bharata lineage**.
- ✓ Their principal territory was centred around **Kurukshetra**.
- ✓ According to the Buddhist commentary **Sumangalavilasini**, the Kurus traced their origin to **Uttara Kuru**.
- ✓ The **Vayu Purana** states that **King Kuru**, a descendant of the **Puru dynasty**, founded the Kuru Janapada.
- ✓ By the **6th–5th century BCE**, the Kuru kingdom is believed to have evolved into a **republican polity (gana-sangha)**.

## 6. Panchala

- ✓ **Location:** Western Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Panchala was divided into **Northern Panchala** and **Southern Panchala**.
- ✓ The capital of **Northern Panchala** was **Ahichchhatra**.
- ✓ The capital of **Southern Panchala** was **Kampilya**.
- ✓ The famous city of **Kanyakubja (Kannauj)** was located within the Panchala region.
- ✓ By the **6th–5th century BCE**, Panchala had also transformed from a monarchy into a **republican polity (gana-sangha)**.

## 7. Malla

- ✓ **Capital:** Kushinara (Kushinagar) and Pava
- ✓ **Location:** Present-day Kushinagar region
- ✓ Ancient texts, including the **Mahabharata**, mention the **Mallas** along with the kingdoms of **Anga, Vanga, and Kalinga**.
- ✓ **Kushinara** is historically significant as the place where **Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana**.
- ✓ The Mallas were initially governed by a **monarchy**, but later adopted a **republican form of government (gana-sangha)**.
- ✓ They were regarded as a brave and warlike **Kshatriya** people. They are mentioned in the **Mahaparinibbana Sutta** and are also referred to in the **Manusmriti**.

## 8. Vatsa (Vats)

- ✓ **Capital:** Kaushambi (near present-day Prayagraj)
- ✓ **Location:** Kaushambi
- ✓ Vatsa followed a **monarchical form of government**.
- ✓ **Kaushambi** developed into a prosperous centre of trade, commerce, and economic activity.
- ✓ **Important ruler:** Udayana
- ✓ Initially, **King Udayana** was hostile towards Buddhism; however, according to Buddhist tradition, he later accepted the teachings of the Buddha.
- ✓ During his reign, Buddhism received royal patronage, though **it did not become the official state religion of Vatsa**.

## Buddhism and Jainism

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the cradle of both Buddhism and Jainism. Gautama Buddha, Mahavira, Makkhali Gosala and other great thinkers brought a revolution in Uttar Pradesh in the 6th century BCE.

### Did you know?

- Makkhali Gosala, born in Saravana near Shravasti, was the founder of the Ajivika sect.

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## **Buddhism in Uttar Pradesh**

- Buddhism took deep root in Uttar Pradesh as a reform movement that challenged the ritualism and orthodoxy of the later Vedic tradition.
- **Sarnath**, near **Varanasi**, is the sacred site where **Gautama Buddha** delivered his **first sermon**, known as the **Dharmachakra Pravartana (Turning of the Wheel of Dharma)**.
- **Kushinagar** is revered as the place where the Buddha attained **Mahaparinirvana (Final Nirvana)**, marking his passing away around **483 BCE** (according to the traditional chronology).
- **Shravasti**, the ancient capital of the **Kosala Kingdom**, was one of the most important centres of Buddhist activity. The Buddha spent **24 rainy-season retreats (Vassas)** here, and it is home to the famous **Jetavana Monastery**.
- **Sankassa (Sankisa)** is traditionally regarded as the place where the Buddha is believed to have descended from **Trayastrimsa Heaven** after preaching the **Abhidhamma** to his mother, **Queen Mahamaya**, and the celestial beings.

## **Jainism in Uttar Pradesh**

Jainism places massive historical and spiritual significance on the cities of UP, which served as the birthplace for several Tirthankaras.

- **Ayodhya** is regarded as the birthplace of **five Jain Tirthankaras—Rishabhanatha (Adinatha), Ajitanatha, Abhinandanatha, Sumatinatha, and Anantanatha**.
- **Varanasi (Kashi)** is traditionally regarded as the birthplace of the **23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha**, as well as the **7th Tirthankara, Suparshvanatha**. (*The traditional Jain sources do not identify Chandraprabha and Shreyansanatha as being born in Varanasi.*)
- **Kaushambi** and **Mathura** were important centres of **Jain monasticism, trade, learning, and art**, especially during the early historical period.
- **Deogarh (Lalitpur district)** is renowned for its magnificent group of **31 Jain temples**, constructed between the **8th and 17th centuries CE**, and is one of the most important Jain archaeological sites in India.

### **Did you know?**

- According to Jain tradition, **Lord Mahavira** spent **two rainy-season retreats (Chaturmas)** in present-day Uttar Pradesh - first at **Shravasti** and later at **Padrauna** (near present-day **Kushinagar**, formerly in Deoria region).

## **Important dynasties/kingdom after Vedic Period**

Many dynasties emerged from the Magadha region, unifying large territories and significantly influencing India's political and cultural development. The region was primarily ruled by the Haryanka, Shishunaga, and Nanda dynasties.

## **The Magadha-Centric Empires (6th Century BCE – 3rd Century BCE)**

### **Haryanka and Shishunaga Dynasties (c. 544–345 BCE):**

- The **Haryanka** and **Shishunaga** dynasties laid the foundation for the rise of **Magadha** as the most powerful kingdom in northern India.
- **Bimbisara**, one of the greatest Haryanka rulers, expanded Magadha through **strategic matrimonial alliances, military conquests, and efficient administration**.
- Under these dynasties, Magadha emerged as the leading political power in the **Gangetic Plain**.

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### Nanda dynasty (345 BCE to 321 BCE)

- The **Nanda dynasty** was founded by **Mahapadma Nanda**, who is regarded in the Puranas as the "**destroyer of the Kshatriyas**" (**Sarva-Kshatrantaka**).
- During the reign of the last Nanda ruler, **Dhana Nanda**, **Alexander of Macedon** invaded **northwestern India in 326 BCE**.
- The Nandas were renowned for their **immense wealth, vast treasury, and one of the largest standing armies of the ancient world**, until they were overthrown by **Chandragupta Maurya** with the guidance of **Chanakya (Kautilya)**.

### Maurya Empire (c. 321–185 BCE):

- The **Vayu Purana** states that the Maurya dynasty ruled for **133 years**, whereas the **Vishnu Purana** assigns it a duration of **137 years**.
- The **Maurya Empire** was founded by **Chandragupta Maurya**, who, with the guidance of **Chanakya (Kautilya)**, overthrew the Nandas and ascended the throne of **Magadha around 321 BCE**.
- During the reigns of **Chandragupta Maurya**, **Bindusara**, and **Ashoka**, much of present-day **Uttar Pradesh** enjoyed political stability and economic prosperity.
- After the **Kalinga War**, **Ashoka** adopted the policy of **Dhamma**. His concept of Dhamma is reflected in his **Rock and Pillar Edicts**, and some scholars trace its ethical inspiration to Buddhist teachings such as the **Rahulovada Sutta**. In the **14th year of his reign**, he appointed a new class of officials known as **Dhamma-Mahamatras** to promote moral welfare.
- Uttar Pradesh contains **five important Ashokan pillar sites**, where **Major and Minor Pillar Edicts** have been discovered. These sites include **Sarnath, Prayagraj (Allahabad), Meerut, Kaushambi, and Ahraura (Mirzapur)**.
- **Ashoka** also commissioned the construction of the **Dhamek Stupa** at **Sarnath** to commemorate the Buddha's first sermon.
- The last Maurya ruler, **Brihadratha**, was assassinated by his commander-in-chief **Pushyamitra Shunga**, who founded the **Shunga dynasty**.

### Post-Mauryan and Foreign Powers (2nd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)

#### Shunga (185–73 BCE)

- The **Shunga dynasty** was founded by **Pushyamitra Shunga** around **185 BCE** after overthrowing the last Maurya ruler.
- To legitimize his sovereignty, **Pushyamitra** performed **two Ashvamedha Yajnas (Horse Sacrifices)**.
- **Patanjali's Mahabhashya** refers to the **Greek (Yavana) occupation of Saketa (Ayodhya)**.
- For some time, **Mathura** remained an important centre under the **Indo-Greek ruler Menander (Milinda)**.
- **Pushyamitra** and his grandson **Vasumitra** successfully resisted the **Indo-Greek invasions**, and literary traditions describe Vasumitra as defeating the Greeks on the banks of the **Indus River**.
- Pushyamitra was succeeded by his son **Agnimitra**, who is the central character in **Kalidasa's Sanskrit play Malavikagnimitram**.
- The last Shunga ruler, **Devabhuti**, was assassinated around **73 BCE** by his minister **Vasudeva Kanva**, who established the **Kanva dynasty**.

#### Indo-Greeks (c. 180 BCE onwards):

- The **Indo-Greeks** were among the first foreign rulers to establish kingdoms in northwestern India after the decline of the Maurya Empire.
- Their most famous ruler was **Menander (Milinda)**, who is associated with the Buddhist text **Milinda Panha**.
- They were the **first rulers in India to issue coins bearing realistic portraits of their kings**, although gold coinage became widespread later under the **Kushans**.

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### Kanva (73–28 BCE) Dynasties:

- The **Kanva dynasty** was founded by **Vasudeva Kanva** after the fall of the Shungas in **73 BCE**.
- The dynasty ruled for about **45 years**.
- It came to an end around **28 BCE**, when its last ruler, **Susarman**, was defeated by **Simuka**, the founder of the **Satavahana (Andhra) dynasty**.

### Sakas (c. 1st Century BCE)

- The **Sakas (Scythians)** were a **Central Asian nomadic people** who entered India through the northwestern passes and established several regional kingdoms known as **Satrapies**.
- Their greatest ruler was **Rudradaman I**, who issued the famous **Junagadh Inscription**, regarded as the **earliest extensive inscription in classical Sanskrit**.

### Kushan period (c. 100–250 CE):

- The **Kushan dynasty** was founded by **Kujula Kadphises (Kadphises I)** during the **1st century CE**.
- The Kushans belonged to one of the **five Yuezhi (Yue-chi) tribes** of Central Asia.
- The greatest ruler of the dynasty was **Kanishka I**, under whom the Kushan Empire reached its maximum territorial expansion.
- **Mathura** became one of the principal administrative and cultural centres of the Kushan Empire and probably served as its **eastern capital or headquarters**.
- In the region of present-day **Uttar Pradesh**, the empire included important cities such as **Mathura, Varanasi, Kaushambi, and Shravasti**.
- **Kanishka** was succeeded by his son **Huvishka**.
- The **last prominent ruler of the unified Kushan Empire** was **Vasudeva I**. (*Vasudeva II ruled only a reduced later Kushan kingdom.*)
- The Kushans were great patrons of the **Gandhara and Mathura Schools of Art**, which produced some of the earliest iconic images of the **Buddha** and **Bodhisattvas**.
- The Kushan rulers followed a policy of **religious tolerance**. Although several rulers, including **Vima Kadphises** and **Vasudeva I**, were devoted to **Shiva**, they also patronized **Buddhism, Iranian deities, and Greek gods**, as reflected in their coinage.

### Gupta Dynasty

- While the **Vishnu Purana** provides a genealogy of the Gupta rulers, modern historians regard the **Puranas, Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayaga Prashasti), coins, and Chinese accounts** as the principal sources for reconstructing Gupta history. Among the Puranas, the **Vayu Purana** is considered one of the most important sources.
- The **Gupta dynasty** was founded by **Sri Gupta** around **240 CE**. However, his grandson **Chandragupta I** (c. 319–320 CE) is widely regarded as the **real founder of the Gupta Empire**, as he transformed the family into a major imperial power.
- Historian **K. P. Jayaswal** suggested that the Guptas originated in the **Prayaga (Allahabad/Prayagraj) region** of northern India (present-day Uttar Pradesh). However, the exact homeland of the Guptas remains a subject of scholarly debate.
- The **Gupta period (c. 320–550 CE)** is widely regarded as the "**Golden Age of Ancient India**."
  - ✓ This reputation is based on remarkable achievements in **science, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, metallurgy, literature, art, architecture, philosophy, and religion**, during which many aspects of classical Indian culture reached their highest level of development.
- The Guptas probably succeeded the **Kushans** in parts of **Uttar Pradesh**, and the transition appears to have taken place without a significant chronological gap.

- The military achievements of **Samudragupta** are recorded in the **Prayaga Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar Inscription)**, composed by his court poet **Harishena**. The inscription glorifies Samudragupta as an ideal ruler and compares him to the gods.
- **Skandagupta** is generally regarded as the **last great ruler of the unified Gupta Empire**. After his reign, the empire gradually declined due to internal weaknesses and the invasions of the **Hunas (Huns)**.

### Important Gupta Rulers and their achievement

| Ruler                  | Reign / Period  | Key Facts / Achievements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sri Gupta</b>       | 3rd century CE  | <b>Title:</b> 'Maharaja' Recognized as the founder of the Gupta Dynasty.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Chandragupta I</b>  | 319 CE – 334 CE | Title: 'Maharajadhiraja' Married Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi Considered the real founder of the Gupta Empire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Samudragupta</b>    | 335 CE – 380 CE | Mentioned for his extensive conquests in the Allahabad Pillar Inscription. Called the <b>“Indian Napoleon”</b> by V.A. Smith. Samudragupta's Gaya Copper Plate Inscription is one of the most important early historical sources of the Gupta dynasty.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Chandragupta II</b> | 380 CE – 412 CE | <b>Title:</b> 'Vikramaditya' Had the <b>“Nine Gems”</b> (Navaratnas) in his court: Kalidasa, Amarasingha, Dhanyantari, Varahmihira, Vararuchi, Ghatikarna, Kshapanaka, Velabhatta, and Shanku. First Gupta ruler to issue silver coins. Chandragupta II eliminated the Saka power by defeating Rudrasimha III, the last Saka ruler of western India (the Gujarat and Kathiawar region). To commemorate this great victory, he issued special silver coins in the 'Tiger-type' style; their weight was based on the standard of the earlier Saka coins, ranging between approximately 30 and 33 grains. |
| <b>Kumaragupta I</b>   | 413 CE – 455 CE | Founded Nalanda University. Also called 'Shakaraditya'. During his reign, the Huns invaded India.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Skandagupta</b>     | 455 CE – 467 CE | Devotee of Vaishnavism. Followed the tolerant policies of his predecessors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### Gupta Art

The Gupta period revolutionized Indian art and architecture, moving away from foreign influences to a classical, refined native aesthetic

- The **Dashavatara Temple** at **Deogarh (Lalitpur district)** is one of the **earliest surviving freestanding Hindu stone temples** in India. Dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**, it is renowned for its beautifully carved sculptural panels depicting scenes from Vaishnava mythology, including the **Dashavatara (Ten Incarnations of Vishnu)**.
- The **Bhitargaon Temple** in **Kanpur Dehat**, built during the **5th–6th century CE**, is regarded as the **oldest surviving brick temple in India** and is notable for its early **Nagara (Shikhara)** style architecture.
- **Bilsarh (Etah district)** is an important archaeological site excavated by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, where a **5th-century inscription of Kumaragupta I** and other Gupta-period remains have been discovered.

- The **Mathura School of Art** flourished during the Gupta period and became famous for its elegant sculptures of the **Buddha, Jain Tirthankaras, and Hindu deities**, carved from the region's distinctive **spotted red sandstone**.
- The **Sarnath School of Art** reached its artistic peak during the Gupta period and is celebrated for its graceful and spiritually expressive images of the **Buddha**, particularly the famous **Dharmachakra Pravartana Buddha**.
- The **Dhamekh Stupa** at **Sarnath** was substantially enlarged during the Gupta period. It commemorates the site where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana)**.

## Later Gupta period (post-Gupta)

### Huns' invasion

- At the beginning of the **6th century CE**, as the **Gupta Empire** began to decline, northern India witnessed repeated invasions by the **Hunas (Alchon Huns)** under rulers such as **Toramana** and later **Mihirakula**.
- During these invasions, the Hunas occupied **Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan**, and parts of **Madhya Pradesh** and **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Taking advantage of the weakening Gupta authority, the **Maukhari dynasty** established its power in the **Kannauj region** of present-day **western Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Maukhari rulers played an important role in resisting the Hunas and restoring indigenous political authority in **North India**.

#### **Note:**

- Modern historians identify **Toramana** as a ruler of the **Alchon Huns (Huna/Hephthalite group)**, although the exact ethnic identity and classification of the Hunas continue to be debated.
- The founder of the principal **Kannauj branch** of the Maukhari dynasty was **Harivarman**. However, **Ishanavarman** is generally regarded as its first powerful and independent ruler, who freed the kingdom from Gupta overlordship and established it as a sovereign power around **550–554 CE**.

### Vardhana / Pushyabhuti dynasty

- According to **Banabhatta's Harshacharita**, the **Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty** was founded by **Pushyabhuti** in the early **6th century CE**.
- The dynasty established its capital at **Sthanvishvara (Thanesar)** in present-day **Haryana**.
- **Harshavardhana**, the son of **Prabhakaravardhana**, ascended the throne of **Thanesar** in **606 CE**, at about **16 years of age**.
- His elder brother, **Rajyavardhana**, was treacherously killed by **Shashanka**, the ruler of **Gauda (Bengal)**.
- After ascending the throne, **Harshavardhana** united the kingdoms of **Thanesar** and **Kannauj**, and later shifted his capital to **Kannauj**, which subsequently emerged as the foremost political and cultural centre of northern India, rivaling the earlier prominence of **Pataliputra**.
- The Chinese Buddhist pilgrim **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** visited India during Harsha's reign and left a detailed account praising his administration, religious tolerance, and patronage of learning.
- The **Vardhana (Pushyabhuti) dynasty** came to an end with the death of **Harshavardhana** in **647 CE**, as he left no direct heir.

### **Yashovarman of Kannauj**

- In the **early 8th century CE**, **Yashovarman** emerged as the most powerful ruler of **Kannauj** and established his supremacy over a large part of northern India.
- According to literary sources such as **Vakpati's Gaudavaho**, his influence extended over extensive regions of the Indian subcontinent, restoring much of **Kannauj's** former prestige and political importance.
- Some historical traditions also credit **Yashovarman** with resisting the advance of the **Arabs** into northern India, although the evidence for his direct military role remains limited.

## **Early medieval period**

### **Tripartite struggle for Kannauj**

- The **Tripartite Struggle** was a prolonged conflict (c. **8th–10th century CE**) fought among three powerful dynasties, the **Gurjara-Pratiharas** of **western** and northern India, the **Palas** of Bengal and Bihar, and the **Rashtrakutas** of the Deccan, for control of **Kannauj**.
  - ✓ **Kannauj** was regarded as the foremost symbol of political sovereignty and imperial prestige. Control over the city ensured dominance over the fertile **Middle Gangetic Plain** and the major trade routes of northern India.
- The struggle began around **790 CE**, when **Vatsaraja**, the Gurjara-Pratihara ruler, challenged **Dharmapala** of the **Pala dynasty** for control of Kannauj. The **subsequent** intervention of the **Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva Dharavarsha** transformed the conflict into a three-sided struggle.
- By the end of the Tripartite Struggle, the **Gurjara-Pratiharas** emerged as the dominant power in northern India and retained control over **Kannauj** for a considerable period under rulers such as **Nagabhata II** and **Mihira Bhoja**.

### **Gurjara-Pratihara**

- **Harichandra** (6th century CE) is regarded as the **founder of the Gurjara-Pratihara lineage**, while **Nagabhata I** (c. **730–756 CE**) is considered the founder of its **imperial phase**.
- **Capital: Mandavyapura (Mandore, Rajasthan)** during the early phase; **Kannauj** became the imperial capital during the later phase. *(Some branches also ruled from Avanti/Ujjain before the shift to Kannauj.)*
- **Nagabhata I** (c. **730–756 CE**) consolidated the kingdom and successfully resisted the Arab invasions in western India.
- **Nagabhata II** (c. **800–833 CE**) expanded the empire across the **Sindhu–Ganga plains**, defeated **Chakrayudha** (who was supported by the Palas), captured **Kannauj**, and established it as the imperial capital after the decline of Rashtrakuta influence in northern India.
- **Mihira Bhoja** (c. **836–885 CE**) was the greatest ruler of the dynasty. Under his reign, the empire extended from **the foothills of the Himalayas to the Narmada River**, and from **Kathiawar (Saurashtra)** in the west to parts of **Bihar** in the east.
- **Mahendrapala I** was an important ruler who patronized literature and learning. His court was adorned by the eminent Sanskrit poet and dramatist **Rajashekhara**.
- The last significant Gurjara-Pratihara ruler, **Rajyapala**, fled **Kannauj** during **Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion in 1018 CE**. He was later killed by the **Chandela ruler Vidyadhara**.
- After the fall of Kannauj, a **small Gurjara-Pratihara principality** appears to have survived for some time in the **Prayaga (Allahabad) region**.