



UPSSSC–PET

Preliminary Eligibility Test (PET)

Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC)

Volume - 1

General Knowledge of India



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1

CHAPTER

Indus Valley Civilization



- **Era: Bronze Age civilization** in northwestern South Asia.
- **The Indus Valley Civilization** was, along with **Egypt** and **Mesopotamia**, one of the **three earliest and most widespread ancient civilizations**.
- **Harappa** (also called Harappa) – first discovered in **1921** (his site was first discovered in the early 20th century at Harappa) at Harappa, **Punjab, Pakistan** by **Daya Ram Sahni**.
- ✓ Briefly explored earlier by **Sir Alexander Cunningham** (Director-General of ASI) in **1872–73**.
- **First urban culture in South Asia** – known for **advanced city planning, architecture, and social organization**.
- **Extent of Civilization:** Daimabad in Maharashtra (Southernmost), Alamgirpur in UP (Easternmost), Sutgahkendor in Pakistan (Westernmost), and Manda in Jammu (Northernmost).

Major Sites of Indus Valley Civilization:

Site, Location & River	Key Features
Harappa, Punjab (Pakistan), Ravi 	➤ Excavator(s): Daya Ram Sahni (1921) under John Hubert Marshall ➤ The first-discovered site of the Indus Valley Civilization — revealed significant findings such as a stone male dancing figure (Nataraja), two rows of six granaries, a red-sandstone male torso, stone lingam and yoni, Mother-Goddess figurines, dice, and evidence of a cemetery culture.
Mohenjo-daro, Sindh (Pakistan), Indus	➤ Excavator(s): R.D. Banerjee (1922) under John Hubert Marshall ➤ Known for the Great Granary and the Great Bath (brick construction) — also yielded the Pashupati seal, paved bathrooms, the bronze Dancing Girl (10.5 cm, tribhanga posture), the Priest-King statue (steatite), a planned citadel and lower town, around 700 wells, and evidence of post-cremation burials.
Chanhudaro, Sindh (Pakistan), Indus	➤ Excavator(s): M.G. Majumdar (1931) ➤ A major craft hub of the Indus Valley Civilization — was renowned for bead-making, shell-cutting, seal and weight-making, and discoveries such as a dog-paw imprint, a terracotta bullock cart, and a bronze toy cart.
Lothal, Gujarat, Bhogava–Sabarmati confluence	➤ Excavator(s): S.R. Rao (1954–63) ➤ An important port city of the Indus Valley Civilization — featured a dockyard, rice husk remains indicating rice cultivation, trade links with Mesopotamia, double burials, bead-making workshops, an ivory scale, boat models, fire altars, and carnelian stones.

Surkotada, Gujarat, Shadi Kaur	➤ Excavator(s): J.P. Joshi (1964) ➤ revealed oval graves, pot burials, and evidence of horse bones.
Kalibangan, Rajasthan, Drishadvati (Ghaggar/Saraswati)	➤ Excavator(s): Amlānand Ghosh (1953); B.B. Lal (1960s) ➤ featured a bangle factory, a ploughed field surface, camel bones, fire altars, traces of tillage fields with crossed furrows (for wheat and barley), burnt-brick drains, and copper-rich artifacts.
Banawali, Haryana, Rangoi	➤ Excavator(s): R.S. Bisht (1974–77) ➤ Representing the Pre-Mature and Late Harappan phases ➤ Revealed barley grains, lapis lazuli, fire altars, radial streets, terracotta ploughs, and was representative of classic Harappan
Dholavira, Gujarat (Kutch), Manhar & Mansar (Luni basin)	➤ Excavator(s): J.P. Joshi (1967); R.S. Bisht (1990–2005) ➤ UNESCO World Heritage Sites (2021) ➤ Is renowned for its stone water reservoirs, an inscribed signboard, the first known astronomical observatory, and a three-part town layout consisting of the Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town.
Ropar (Rupnagar), Punjab, Sutlej	➤ Excavator(s): Y.D. Sharma (1953) ➤ The first post-Independence excavation of the Indus Valley Civilization ➤ Revealed dog-and-human burials and a copper axe.
Suktagendor, Baluchistan (Pakistan), Dasht	➤ Excavator(s): Aurel Stein (1927) ➤ Yielded an ash-filled pot, a copper axe, pottery, and served as a port for trade with Mesopotamia.
Rakhigarhi, Haryana,	➤ Excavator(s): Amrendra Nath (1997); Deccan College (2011–16) ➤ The largest Indus Valley Civilization site had three phases (Early, Mature, Late), a planned settlement, pottery similar to Kalibangan, and even a hopscotch set.
Rangpur, Gujarat, Madar	➤ Excavator(s): S.R. Rao (1931; 1953–54) ➤ Revealed Pre- and Mature Harappan remains, yellow and grey pottery, and evidence of rice cultivation.
Alamgirpur, Uttar Pradesh, Hindon (Yamuna tributary)	➤ Excavator(s): Y.D. Sharma (1958) ➤ Late Harappan phase; yielded a copper blade and cloth impressions on a trough.
Kot Diji, Sindh (Pakistan), Sindh region	➤ Excavator(s): F.A. Khan (1955) ➤ A pre-Harappan site - featured fortifications and red and buff pottery with horned-deity motifs.
Amri, Sindh (Pakistan), Indus	➤ Excavator(s): N.G. Majumdar (1929) ➤ Pre-Harappan transitional culture; rhinoceros remains.

Daimabad, Maharashtra, Pravara (Godavari tributary)	➤ Excavator(s): B.P. Bopardikar (1958); S.R. Rao (1974–75) ➤ Bronze images of chariot, ox, elephant, rhinoceros.
Inamgaon, Maharashtra (Pune district), Ghod river (Bhima tributary)	➤ Excavator(s): H.D. Sankalia (1968–82, Deccan College) ➤ Chalcolithic site; featured wheat, barley, and lentil farming, an irrigation canal, mud-walled houses, burials with heads towards the north, and instances of children buried inside houses.
Nageshwar, Gujarat (near Jamnagar, Saurashtra coast), Arabian Sea coast	➤ Excavator(s): S.R. Rao (1955) ➤ a shell-working center and coastal settlement — produced beads, bangles, and ornaments and shows evidence of trade with Mesopotamia.
Shortugai, Afghanistan, Oxus (Amu Darya)	➤ Excavator(s): French Archaeological Mission (1970s, Henri-Paul Francfort) ➤ The northernmost Indus Valley Civilization site was involved in lapis lazuli trade (from Badakhshan mines) and yielded carnelian and turquoise beads along with storage jars.
Bhirrana, Fatehabad district, Haryana, Saraswati	➤ Excavator(s): R.S. Bisht (ASI, 2003–04) ➤ The oldest Indus Valley Civilization site (~7570–6200 BCE) -shows evidence of pre-Harappan farming and pottery.

Characteristics of the Indus Valley Civilization

1. Town Planning and Civic Infrastructure

- ✓ Towns followed a **rectangular grid pattern**, with streets laid at right angles.
- ✓ Construction used **baked and burnt mud bricks joined with gypsum mortar** for all houses.
- ✓ The **drainage system** was underground, connecting houses to street drains, ensuring proper sanitation.
- ✓ The **citadel**, built on a mud-brick platform on the western side, was separated from the lower town.
- ✓ Streets were oriented along **cardinal directions**, reflecting a well-planned layout.

- ✓ **Kalibangan houses** had walled rooms accessible from the outside and were occasionally used by passersby.

- ✓ **Granaries** were built on circular brick platforms for threshing and storing grains.

2. Agriculture

- ✓ **Main crops** included wheat (staple), rice, millets, barley, lentils, chickpeas, and sesame.
- ✓ **Cotton** was cultivated at Mehrgarh around 7,000 years ago, making it among the earliest in the world.
- ✓ **Ploughing** was done using wooden ploughshares.
- ✓ **Domesticated animals** included oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, dogs, cats, asses, humped bulls, and camels for farm work.

3. Faith-Based Practices

- ✓ **Symbols** such as lingams, yonis, and Mother Goddess figurines indicate religious practices.
- ✓ Worship was through **statues and figurines**, as no temples have been discovered.
- ✓ **Burial practices** included wooden coffins (Harappa), double burials (Lothal), brick chambers (Kalibangan), and pot burials (Surkotada).
- ✓ **Grave offerings** like pottery, ornaments, jewelry, beads, and copper mirrors suggest a belief in life after death.

4. Trade and Commerce

- ✓ Harappans traded with regions such as **Mesopotamia (Persia/Iran)**.
- ✓ The trade system was based on **barter**, as metallic money was not used.
- ✓ **Exports** included copper, gold, cotton goods, beads, and lapis lazuli.
- ✓ **Imports** included gold and tin (Afghanistan), jade (Central Asia/China), copper (Oman/Afghanistan), and turquoise (Iran).
- ✓ **Note:** Iron was unknown to the Harappans.

5. Art and Craft

- ✓ **Bronze casting** was done using the lost-wax technique,
- ✓ **Stone statues** include the Bearded Man (steatite, Mohenjo-daro) and male torso (red sandstone, Harappa).

6. Seals

- ✓ Made of **steatite**, typically square (2×2 cm), mainly used for commercial use.
- ✓ **Inscriptions** consisted of 26 signs; the longest Harappan seal has been found.
- ✓ **Motifs** included the Unicorn and Humped Bull, the most common.
- ✓ The **Pashupati Seal** shows a three-faced deity with a buffalo-horned head, seated cross-legged, surrounded by an elephant, tiger, buffalo, rhinoceros, and two deer, serving as a religious symbol.
- ✓ **Mesopotamian seals** were cylindrical with continuous designs on clay tablets.

7. Script

- ✓ The Harappan script remains **undeciphered** and is the **oldest known in the Indian subcontinent**.
- ✓ It was **pictographic**, consisting of 250–400 symbols, and written **from right to left**.

The Reason for the Decline of the Indus Civilization and Related Scholars

Reason	Scholars
Climate Change	Aurel Stein, A.N. Ghosh
Geological Change	M.R. Sahni
Natural Disaster	K.U.R. Kennedy
Flood	Mackey and Marshall
Aryan Invasion	Gordon Childe and Wheeler
Ecological Imbalance	Fairservis



- **The Vedic Civilization** emerged after the Indus Civilization and is divided into **Rigvedic/Early Vedic Period (1500–1000 BCE)** and **Post-Vedic Period (1000–600 BCE)**.

Vedas

- The word **Veda** comes from “**vid**” (to know), meaning **knowledge**, and there are **four Vedas: Rig, Sama, Yajur, Atharva**, with **Vedatrayi** referring to **Rig, Yajur, and Sama Vedas**.

1. Rig Veda

- ✓ **Rig Veda**, the **oldest Veda** and called the “**First Testament of Mankind**”, describes the **origin of the universe**, mentions the **Bharat Clan (later Bharat/India)**, and contains **1,028 hymns (10,580 verses)** with the addition of **11 Bal Khilya Suktas**.
- ✓ Mentions **Stupa** for the first time (early **Brahmi script**) and **Nishka**, originally a **throat ornament** later used as a **gold coin**, along with various **metals (Ayas)**.
- ✓ The priest associated with Rig Veda is **Hotra**.

2. Sama Veda

- ✓ **Sama Veda** contains **1,810 verses**, mostly from **Rig Veda**, arranged according to **musical notation**, forming a **collection of melodies** and serving as the **musical version of Rigvedic hymns**, forming the basis for **ragas, raginis, and Dhruvad**.

- ✓ Divided into **Purvarcika (6 subdivisions/Apathaka)** and **Uttararcika (9 subdivisions/Prapathaka)**; the priest associated with Sama Veda is **Udgata**.

3. Yajur Veda

- ✓ **Yajur Veda**, known as the “**ritual Veda**” or **book of sacrificial prayers**, focuses on **rituals and sacrifices**, contains **40 chapters** with **~2,000 hymns**, and includes **Krsna Yajurveda (hymns)** and **Sukla Yajurveda (prose commentary)**.
- ✓ **Two main texts:**
 - **Krsna Yajurveda (Black Yajurveda):** Contains hymns (*mantras*).
 - **Sukla Yajurveda (White Yajurveda):** Contains commentary in prose.
- ✓ **Isopanishad**, the last chapter, deals with **philosophical and metaphysical concepts**, while other parts cover **laws and rules of yajnas**; priest is **Adhvaryu** and **Upaveda** is **Dhanurveda (archery)**.

4. Atharva Veda

- ✓ **Atharva Veda**, the **latest of the four Vedas** and also called **Brahmaveda** or **Atharvaṅgiras Veda**, contains **731 hymns (~5,987 mantras, ~1,200 from Rig Veda)**, including **spells, charms, and magical formulas**, reflecting **popular beliefs and ways to overcome evil spirits**.

- ✓ Divided into **20 books (Kandas)** with **two branches (Saunaka and Paippalada)**; initially **excluded from the original three Vedas (Trayi)**.
- ✓ Mentions **Sabha and Samiti (assembly and committee)**; priest associated is **Brahma**.

Brahmanic Text

- **Brahmanic texts**, composed in **simple prose**, focus on **Yajna (Brahma = Yajna)**, and each Veda has its **own set of Brahmana texts**.

Veda	Brahmanas / Notes	Priests / Remarks
Rig Veda	<i>Aitareya Brahmana</i> (explains coronation ceremony), <i>Kaushitaki Brahmana</i>	Composed by Hotri priests
Yajur Veda	<i>Taittiriya Brahmana</i> → attached to Krishna Yajurveda <i>Shatapatha Brahmana</i> → attached to Shukla Yajurveda (<i>Shatapatha Brahmana</i> composed by Adhvaryu priest Yajnavalkya)	
Sama Veda	<i>Tandya Mahabrahmana</i> , <i>Chhandogya (Khadira/Khandogya) Brahmana</i> , <i>Jaiminiya Brahmana</i>	Composed by Udgatri priests
Atharva Veda	<i>Gopatha Brahmana</i>	—

Aranyaka

- They form the **last part of Brahmana texts**, discuss **philosophical and mystical subjects** including **Yajna and Yoga**, were **read in forests**, and a total of **7 Aranyakas** exist: **Aitareya, Shankhayana, Taittiriya, Maitrayani, Madhyandina, Talvakara, Jaiminiya**.

Upanishads

- **Upanishad** means “**Upa + ni + shad**” → **to sit near a teacher to receive secret knowledge**; there are **108 Upanishads (13 principal)**, which are **philosophical texts interpreting Vedic ideas spiritually and metaphysically** and **emphasize knowledge, meditation, and renunciation over ritual sacrifice**.

Key Upanishads:

- **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** → oldest → philosophical dialogue between **Yajnavalkya** and **Gargi Vachaknavi**
- **Mundaka Upanishad** → largest; mentions “**Satyamev Jayate**”
- **Chandogya Upanishad** → discusses the **first three ashrams** and the story of sage **Satyakama Jabala**
- **Katha Upanishad** → dialogue between **Nachiketa** and **Yama**

Vedangas (Six Limbs of the Vedas) – Later Vedic Period

1. **Shiksha** → **Pronunciation of mantras** → Focus: correct recitation.
2. **Kalpa** → **Rituals, duties, sanskaras** → Focus: procedure of sacrifices & ceremonies.

3. **Vyakarana** → **Grammar, language science** → Focus: rules of language.
4. **Nirukta** → **Etymology** → Focus: origin & meaning of words (famous: Yaska's Nirukta).
5. **Chhanda** → **Meter / poetic structure** → Focus: rhyme, rhythm (Pingala's Chhandasutra).
6. **Jyotisha** → **Astronomy & calendar** → Focus: calculation of sun, moon, planets for rituals (Jyotish Vedanga – 400 verses).

18 Puranas : **Brahma, Padma, Vishnu, Shiva, Bhagavat, Narad, Markandeya, Agni, Bhavishya, Brahma-vaivartya, Linga, Varaha, Skanda, Vamana, Kurma, Matsya, Garuda, Brahmanda.**

EARLY VEDIC AGE **(1500–1000 BCE)**



- The **Indo-European speaking Aryans** were **semi-nomadic pastoralists** who spoke an early form of **Sanskrit** (related to **Avestan, Greek, and Latin**), entered India through the **Khyber Pass around 1500 BCE** in multiple phases (some via Iran, per **Zend Avesta**), and the term '**Aryan**' is derived from **ar** (**foreigner/stranger**); first historical mention is in the **Bagharkai Peace Treaty (1350 BCE)** referencing **Aryan gods: Varuna, Indra, Mitra, and Nasatya**.

- The **Aryans** first settled in the **Punjab region** and later spread eastward into the **Gangetic plain**; the area from **Afghanistan** → **Punjab** → **Western U.P.** was called **Sapta Sindhu (Land of Seven Rivers)**, which included **Sindhu (Indus), Vitasta (Jhelum), Asikni (Chenab), Parushni (Ravi), Vipasha (Beas), Shutudri (Sutlej), and Saraswati (Ghaggar-Hakra)**.
- The **Aryan society** had **Kula (family)** as the basic unit; families formed **Grama (villages, headed by Gramani)**, villages combined into **Vis (clan/district)**, and several Vis formed a **Jana (tribe)**, led by a **Rajan (chieftain/king)** who was **hereditary but not absolute**, guided by **Sabha (council of elders)**, **Samiti (general assembly)**, and **Vidatha (tribal assembly)**; **Senani (military commander)** led the army, protected the tribe, received **Bali (gifts/tribute)**, and priests held **significant influence**, often checking the king's power.
- The **Aryans** were **semi-nomadic pastoralists** living in **joint families** headed by the **Grihapati (father)**; **women were respected**, participated in **dance, wrestling, and boxing**, had **access to education, choice in marriage, and remarriage**, with famous women sages like **Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa, and Lopamudra**.

Types of Marriages

Type	Key Feature	Social Acceptability
Brahma Vivaha	Daughter given to learned man of good character, no dowry	Most approved (ideal)
Daiva Vivaha	Girl married to priest as dakshina for yajna	Approved

Arsha Vivaha	Symbolic bride-price (cow & bull)	Approved
Prajapatya Vivaha	Marriage with blessings of duty and companionship	Approved
Asura Vivaha	Bride purchased with wealth/dowry	Disapproved
Gandharva Vivaha	Marriage by mutual love and consent	Disapproved (tolerated)
Rakshasa Vivaha	Marriage by force/abduction (often in warfare)	Disapproved, allowed for Kshatriyas
Paisacha Vivaha	Exploiting girl when asleep, intoxicated, or helpless	Most condemned

Economic Life

- The **Aryan economy** was initially **pastoral**, with **cattle as a measure of wealth**; later **agriculture** became the main occupation as villages settled, **cattle breeding** indicated prosperity (**wealthy man = gomat**), and **Rigveda** terms like **gavyuti** and **godhuli** reflect economic references.

Religion

- **Main gods:** **Indra** (Purandhar, Vritrahan; rain, thunder, war; ~250 hymns), **Agni** (fire, intermediary; ~200 hymns), **Varuna** (cosmic order/Rita, water, morality), **Soma** (deified drink), **Rudra** (storms, healer), **Yama** (death), **Pushan**, **Vishnu**, **Maruts**.
- **Goddesses:** **Aditi** (eternity), **Usha** (dawn), **Savitri/Gayatri**, **Sinivali** (fertility), **Akhyani** (forests).
- Among rivers, the **most mentioned** in Vedic texts were **Saraswati** and **Sindhu**, while **Ganga** was called **Jahnavi** and **Yamuna** as **Amsumati**.

Later Vedic Age (1000–600 BCE)



- **Post-Rigvedic sources** show changes in **society, economy, politics, and religion**; the **Aryans**, initially in **Punjab**, expanded into the **Ganga and Yamuna plains (1500–800 BCE)**, and by **500 BCE**,

Political System

- **Early tribal settlements** evolved into **strong kingdoms** with the **rise of hereditary monarchies and republics**; **revenue collection and labor conscription** supported expansion, **assemblies declined**, and the **king (Samrat)** gained power, maintaining a **regular army** with **Rajanyas (Kshatriyas)** as warriors, while **lawgivers** included **Manu (Manusmrti)**, **Narada**, and **Brhaspati**.

Social System

Growth of cities such as **Ayodhya**, **Indraprastha**, and **Mathura** occurred, while the **status of women declined** (excluded from **Sabha**, **inheritance**, **property rights**; daughters seen as a burden per **Aitareya Brahmana**), **Sudras and women** lacked access to **Vedic education**, **Gayatri Mantra**, and **Upanayana Samskara**, the **Brahmanas** rose as a **respected priestly class**, the **Gotra system** emphasized lineage, **Chandalas (untouchables)** existed outside Varna, and **metals** in use included **gold, copper/iron, tin, lead, and silver**.

Economic System

- Occupations included agriculture, cattle rearing, trade, and industry; iron (Krsna Ayas) was known around 1200 BCE with widespread use of tools like axes and ploughs by 800 BCE; land was community-based under the Grhapati (household head), merchants organized into guilds (Shrenis) led by a Sresthin, units of value included Niska (gold lump), Satamana (unit), Krisanala (1 ratti), and taxation was compulsory, mainly on Vaisyas.
- In the Later Vedic Age, the officer responsible for collecting the tax (*Bhaga*) was called the *Bhagadugha*. The *Samgrahitr* was the royal treasurer who stored the collected taxes and tributes in the royal treasury.

Religion

- The period, called the Brahminical Age, saw simple worship evolve into elaborate sacrifices, with older gods (Varuna, Prithvi, Indra, Agni) declining and new gods (Prajapati – Supreme Creator, Visnu, Rudra)

emerging; important texts included Samhitas and Brahmanas (focused on sacrifices), concepts like Karma, Maya, Transmigration, Atman = Brahman were introduced, Upanishads provided the first philosophical expressions, major Sutras included Srauta (public sacrifices), Grhya (domestic rites), Dharma (social duties and moral conduct), Sulva (altar construction/geometry), and religious reforms arose due to dissatisfaction with ritualism and priestly dominance, leading to Jainism and Buddhism.

Varna System

- Originally three varnas: Brahmin (priest), Kshatriya (warrior), Vaishya (commoner).
- Later, a fourth varna, Shudra (labourer/servant), was added.
- Outcastes, or Chandalas, formed a fifth category.
- Result: the four-fold Varna system:
 - ✓ Brahmins – priests
 - ✓ Kshatriyas – warriors/rulers
 - ✓ Vaishyas – traders/farmers
 - ✓ Shudras – servants/labourers

3

CHAPTER

Buddhism and Jainism

Buddhism

- It was founded by a Kshatriya prince of Saka clans, Gautama Siddhartha, in the 6th century BCE.

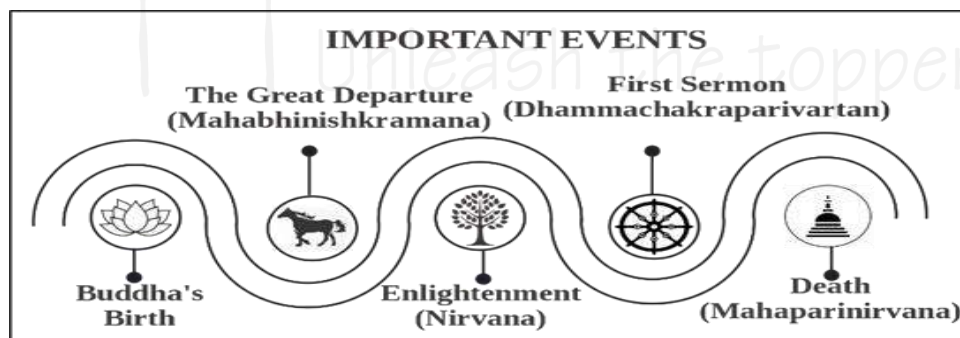


Gautam Buddha:

- **Buddhism** is based on the teachings and life of **Siddhartha Gautama** (born c. 563 BCE) of the **Sakya** clan (Kshatriya) from **Kapilavastu**, **Lumbini** (near the Indo-Nepal border); his family included father **Suddhodana**, mother **Maya/ Mahamaya Devi**, stepmother **Mahaprajapati Gautami**, wife **Yasodhara** (**Bhaddakaccana / Gopa**), and son **Rahula**.
- At age 29, he renounced princely life, adopted asceticism, and At age 35, after 49 days of meditation under a pipal tree at **Bodhgaya**, attained **Bodhi** (enlightenment), during a time when 16 Mahajanapadas existed in North India (7th–6th centuries BCE).

After Enlightenment

- **Buddha's First Sermon** was delivered at **Sarnath** as the **Dharmachakrapravartana** (**Turning of the Wheel of Dharma**), commemorated by the **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, with disciples **Ananda**, **Sariputta**, **Mahamoggallana**, and **Mahakaccayana** present; most subsequent sermons were at **Sravasti** in **Pali**, including the **Fire Sermon** (**Adittapariyaya Sutta**); **Mahaparinirvana** occurred at **Kushinagar** in 483 BCE, with his last words: **"Be lamps unto yourselves."**



Teachings of Buddha

- Core teachings: **Four Noble Truths** (**Ariya-saccani**) and the **Eightfold Path** (**Atthangika Magga**).
- The **Eightfold Path** (**Atthangika Magga**).
 - ✓ Right Meditation (Samma – samadhi)

- ✓ Right Resolve (Samma Sankappa)
- ✓ Right Mindfulness (Samma Sati)
- ✓ Right Effort (Samma - Vayama)
- ✓ Right Means of Livelihood (Samma - Ajiva)
- ✓ Right Conduct (Samma - Kammanta)
- ✓ Right Speech (Samma - Vaca)

Four Noble Truths

- Dukkha: the truth of Suffering
- Samudaya: origin of suffering
- Nirvana: cessation of suffering
- Magga: path leading to cessation of suffering

Other Doctrines

- **Anatmavada** – There is no permanent soul (atman).
- **Three Jewels (Triratna)** – Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha.

Buddhist Councils

Council / Date & Location	King & President	Key Outcomes
First Council – 483 BCE, Rajagriha (Sattapani Cave)	King: Ajatasatru President: Mahakassapa	➤ Compilation of Buddha's teachings into Tripitaka: ➤ Vinaya Piṭaka (monastic rules) ➤ Sutta Piṭaka (sermons – 5 Nikayas) ➤ Abhidhamma Piṭaka (philosophy & psychology)
Second Council – 383 BCE, Vaisali	King: Kalasoka President: Sabbakami	➤ Dispute over monastic practices → Split into: ➤ Sthaviravadins (Elders) ➤ Mahasanghikas (Great Community)
Third Council – 250 BCE, Pataliputra	King: Ashoka President: Moggaliputta Tissa	➤ Addition of Kathavatthu to Abhidhamma ➤ Buddhist missions sent abroad (Sri Lanka, etc.) ➤ Expansion of Buddhism beyond India
Fourth Council – 72 CE, Kuṇḍalavana (Kashmir)	King: Kaniṣka President: Vasumitra (Sarvastivada School) Vice-President: Asvaghōṣa	➤ Commentaries on Pitakas compiled ➤ Mahavibhaṣa written ➤ Buddhism divided into Mahayana & Hinayana

Different Schools of Buddhism

Aspect	Hinayana	Mahayana	Vajrayana
Meaning	Lesser Vehicle	Greater Vehicle	Thunderbolt Vehicle
Spread	Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, SE Asia	China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Tibet	Bengal, Bihar, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet (via Padmasambhava)
Goal	Individual salvation (self-nirvāṇa)	Collective salvation (through Bodhisattvas)	Enlightenment through rituals & Tantra
Buddha	Historical human, not divine	Deified as a divine being	Buddha divine; Tantric deities central
Concept	Focus on Arhatship	Focus on Bodhisattvas , compassion (Karuna), emptiness (Shunyata)	Rituals, mantras, Tantric practices

Patronage	Ashoka, Shailendra kings (Java)	Chinese & Tibetan rulers	Tibetan rulers (esp. 11th century)
Key Texts	Pali Canon (Tripitaka)	Mūlamadhyamikakarika, Sutralankara, Lalitavistara	Tibetan Tantras, Vajrayana scriptures

Symbolism in Hinayana vs Mahayana

Event	Hinayana (Symbolic)	Mahayana (Figurative)
Birth	Elephant & Lotus	Maya's Dream
Renunciation	Horse	Buddha (monk form) with Horse
Enlightenment	Peepal Tree	Bhumisparsha Mudra
First Sermon	Wheel (8 spokes)	Dharmachakra Pravartana Mudra
Death	Stupa	Mahaparinirvana Mudra (lying on side, head on palm)

Buddhist Literature

- **Jataka Tales:** ~600 stories of Buddha's past births; compiled ~300 BCE.
 - ✓ Matanga Jataka: Buddha in a past life as a Chandala.
- **Digha Nikaya** – 34 Long Discourses.
- **Majjhima Nikaya** – Middle-length discourses.
- **Samyutta Nikaya** – Connected Discourses.
- **Anguttara Nikaya** – Numerical Discourses.
- **Asvaghosa:** Buddhacharita, Saundarananda.
- **Buddhaghosa:** Visuddhimagga.
- **Vasubandhu:** Abhidharmakosa.
- **Milinda Pañha:** Dialogue between Indo-Greek king Menander (Milinda) and monk Nagasena.

Jainism

- **Jainism** originated in the 6th century BCE as a revolt against Brahminism, establishing a non-Brahminical religion; a Tirthankara or Jina is a human who attains enlightenment (perfect knowledge) through asceticism and becomes a spiritual guide.



- The first Tirthankara was **Rishabhdev** (father of **Chakravarti King Bharat**, mentioned in **Srimad Bhagwat** and **Rig Veda**), attained death at **Mount Kailash**, and his symbol is the bull.
- There are **24 Tirthankaras**, all **Kshatriyas**, with the last being **Vardhaman Mahavira**, who emphasized **celibacy** as a core teaching.

Mahavira (Nigantha Nataputta)

- **Birth:** Born as **Vardhamana** on the **13th day of the bright half of Chaitra, 540 BCE**, at **Kundagrama** (near Vaishali).
- **Family:**
 - ✓ Father: **Siddhartha**, head of the **Jnatrika** clan.
 - ✓ Mother: **Trishla**, sister of **Lichchhavi Prince Chetak** of **Vaishali**.
- **Marriage & Children:**
 - ✓ Wife: **Yashoda**
 - ✓ Daughter: **Priyadarsena**
 - ✓ Son-in-law: **Jamali**, who became his first disciple.

- **Renunciation:** At the age of **30**, he renounced worldly life and wandered as an ascetic for **12 years**.
- **Enlightenment:**
 - ✓ Attained **Kevalajnana (supreme knowledge)** at the age of **42** on the banks of the **Rijupalika River**, near **Jrimbhikagrama**.

✓ **Kaivalya (liberation)** achieved in the **13th year of asceticism** at **Jrimbhik Grama**.

- **Death:** Passed away in **527 BCE** at **Pawapuri**, near **Patna (Bihar)**, at the age of **72**. His death is **celebrated with a lamp festival** by the **Mallas and Lichchhavis**.

Key Jain Tirthankaras

Tirthankara & Birthplace	Symbol (Lanchhana)	Nirvana (Death Place)
1. Rishabhanatha (Adinatha) – Ayodhya (Kosala)	Bull	Mount Kailash
2. Ajitanatha – Ayodhya	Elephant	Sammed Shikhar (Parasnath Hills, Jharkhand)
3. Sambhavanatha – Shravasti	Horse	Sammed Shikhar
19. Mallinatha – Mithila (Bihar)	Waterpot (Kalasha)	Sammed Shikhar
22. Neminatha (Arishtanemi) – Sauripura (near Dwarka, Gujarat)	Conch	Mount Girnar (Gujarat)
23. Parshvanatha – Varanasi	Serpent (Snake hood)	Sammed Shikhar
24. Mahavira (Vardhamana) – Kundagrama (Vaishali, Bihar)	Lion	Pavapuri (Bihar)

Tenets of Jainism

- Liberation (Moksha) can be attained through the **Three Jewels (Triratna)**:
- 1. Right Faith (Samyak Darshana)
- 2. Right Knowledge (Samyak Jnana)
- 3. Right Conduct (Samyak Charitra)

Five Doctrines of Jainism

1. **Ahimsa** – non-injury to living beings (Sutrakritanga Sutra).
2. **Satya** – Truthfulness (do not lie).
3. **Asteya** – non-stealing.
4. **Aparigraha** – non-possession, non-attachment.
5. **Brahmacharya** – Celibacy/continence.

✓ **“Namo Arihantanam”** – A line from the Navkar Mantra, meaning “I bow down to all Arihantas”. Arihantas are souls who have attained perfect knowledge, vision, bliss, and power.

✓ **Nirvana** – When a Tirthankara, having conquered the cycle of birth and death (samsara), leaves the mortal body, it is called Nirvana or Moksha.

✓ **Basadis** – Jain temples or monasteries, especially common in Karnataka.

Jain Councils

Council	Location, Date & Presided By	Key Contributions
1st Jain	Location: Pataliputra (modern Patna) Date: ~300 BCE Presided by: Sthulabhadra	Compilation of the 12 Angas (canonical scriptures).
2nd Jain	Location: Vallabhi (Gujarat) Date: 512 CE Presided by: Devardhi Kshamasramana	Final compilation and writing down of scriptures; addition of 12 Upangas ; preservation of teachings of Mahavira and his disciples.

Sects and Sub-sects of Jainism

Aspect	Shvetambara (White-clad)	Digambara (Sky-clad)
Origin & Leader	Stayed in Magadha under Sthulabhadra	Moved south during famine under Bhadrabahu
Clothing	Wear simple white clothes	Do not wear clothes; nudity is considered essential for liberation
Sacred Texts	Accept Jain Agamas (Angas and Anga-bahyas)	Reject authenticity of original Agamas; follow texts of Acharya Kundakunda
Major Sub-sects	Murtipujaka, Sthanakavasi, Terapanthi	Bisapantha, Terapantha, Taranapantha (Samaiyapantha)
Royal Patronage	Kumarapala (Chaulukya ruler of Gujarat), under Acharya Hemachandra	Chandragupta Maurya, Southern rulers like the Gangas of Karnataka, Kadambas, Rashtrakutas

Ajivika Sect

- Founded by **Makkhali Gosala (Gosala Maskariputra)**, contemporary of Buddha and Mahavira (6th century BCE).
- Everything is pre-determined by **cosmic order (Niyati)**.

✓ Believed in **atomism** – the universe is composed of indivisible particles combined under natural laws.

- Patronage: Bindusara (father of Ashoka) was an Ajivika follower.
- **Ashoka** dedicated caves in the **Barabar Hills (Bihar)** to Ajivika monks (e.g., Lomas Rishi Cave, Sudama Cave, Nagarjuni Cave).

4

CHAPTER

Maurya Empires



- The **Mauryan Empire** was founded by **Chandra Gupta Maurya**, the **Mauryans** are referred to as ‘**Shudras**’ in the **Puranas**, and the **archaeological site at Kumrahar** represents the remains of the **Mauryan capital, Pataliputra**.

Important Rulers

Chandragupta Maurya (324–297 BCE)



Bindusara (297–272 BCE)



Ashoka (268–232 BCE)



Dasharatha / Kunala (232–226 BCE)



Samprati (226–215 BCE)



Shalishuka (215–202 BCE)



Devavarma (202–195 BCE)



Shatadhanvan (195–191 BCE)



Brihadratha (191–180 BCE)

Chandragupta Maurya (324–297 BCE)

- **Chandra Gupta Maurya**, the **first pan-Indian empire builder**, was born to **Mura** (daughter of a hunter, linked to the **Shudra class**, per **Vishnu Purana**), guided by his mentor **Chanakya (Kautilya)**, **defeated the Nandas at Pataliputra** and **Alexander’s satraps in north-west India** with **Chanakya’s help**, and formed a **Greek alliance through marriage** (a **Macedonian princess**), acquiring the territories of **Paropamisadae, Arachosia, and Gedrosia**.

- **Chandra Gupta Maurya** embraced **Jainism**, abdicated the throne in favor of **Bindusara**, retired to **Shravanabelagola (Karnataka)**, and **undertook Sallekhana** (ritual fast unto death).

Administration

- The **Mauryan capital, Pataliputra**, was the **seat of centralized rule**, with a **government divided into central and provincial levels**, officials including **Sachivas/Amatyas (Secretaries)**, **Mantrins (Ministers)**, **Purohita (High Priest)**, **Spies**, and **Adhyakshas (Department Heads)**; **six committees** managed civic affairs, **24 departments** oversaw civil and military matters, a **large standing army** was supervised by **six military boards**, and **Chanakya** served as **Prime Minister**.

Megasthenes’ Indica

- **Chandragupta Maurya** (referred to as **Sandrocottus** by the Greeks) ruled a society with **no slavery**, **seven social divisions** (including royal counsellors in the seventh), used **war elephants**, and fortified **Pataliputra** with **64 gates and massive defenses**.

Bindusara (297–272 BCE)

- **Bindusara**, son of **Chandragupta Maurya** and **Queen Durdhara**, known to the Greeks as **Amitraghata** (“**destroyer of enemies**”), **conquered 16 kingdoms**, expanding the **Mauryan Empire** to cover almost the entire **Indian subcontinent** (except **Kalinga** and some southern regions), and was a **patron of the Ajivika sect** while showing **tolerance to Buddhism and Jainism**.

Ashoka (268–232 BCE)

- **Ashoka**, son of **Bindusara** and former **Governor of Ujjain**, became ruler in **268 BCE** after a **succession conflict**, assumed the titles **Devanampiya** (“Beloved of the Gods”), **Priyadarshi** (“Pleasant to behold”), and later **Dharmashoka**, and is regarded as one of the **greatest rulers in world history**.



Kalinga War & Transformation

- The **Kalinga War (261 BCE)**, over a **territory crucial for land and sea routes**, caused **massive death and destruction**, profoundly shocked **Ashoka**, leading him to **abandon wars, embrace Buddhism**, and become a **Chakravartin (Universal Monarch)**, replacing the **Bherighosha (war drum)** with **Dhammaghosha (drum of Dharma)** as a symbol of **peaceful conquest (Dharma-Vijaya)**.

Inscriptions (Edicts)

- **Ashoka** was the **first Indian ruler to issue direct messages to the people** in **Prakrit, Greek, and Aramaic**, using **Brahmi (left to right)** and **Kharosthi (right to left)** scripts; he issued **33 edicts (14 Major Rock, 7 Pillar, 2 Kalinga Rock, and several Minor edicts)** across India and beyond (**Dhauili, Jaugada, Kalsi, Mansehra, Shahbazgarhi, Sopara, Maski, Topra, Bairat, Suvarnagiri**), later deciphered by **James Prinsep in 1837**.

Contents of Rock Edicts

Edict	Description (Key Points)
I	Banned animal sacrifice and festive gatherings.

II	Welfare measures – hospitals, roads, trees; mentions South Indian kingdoms (Pandyas, Keralaputras, Satyaputras).
III	Respect for parents, Brahmanas, and Sramanas.
IV	Non-violence and kindness towards all beings.
V	Appointed Dhamma Mahamattas to promote moral welfare.
VI	Dhamma officers could report anytime; focus on efficient administration.
VII	Promotes religious tolerance.
VIII	Dhamma Yatras replaced hunting; visited Bodh Gaya.
IX	Condemned meaningless ceremonies (birth, marriage, etc.).
X	Rejected fame, emphasized Dhamma over glory.
XI	Stressed respect, kindness, and generosity.
XII	Appeal for tolerance among sects.
XIII	Victory over Kalinga; promoted conquest by Dhamma, not war.
XIV	Summarized Dhamma records for public understanding.

Special Edicts

- **Kalinga Edict I:** Impartiality of officers; inspection every five years.
- **Maski Edict (Karnataka):** First inscription naming **Ashoka**, confirming **Devanampiya Piyadassi = Ashoka**.
- **Shahbazgarhi Edicts (Pakistan):** Written in **Kharosthi**; outline Ashoka's **Dhamma principles**.
- **Bhabru-Bairat Edict (Rajasthan):** Emphasizes Ashoka's **personal devotion to Buddhism**.

Pillar Edicts

- **7 Major Pillars:** Meerut, Delhi-Topra, Allahabad, Lauriya-Arera, Lauriya-Nandangarh, Rampurva (2).