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UTTAR PRADESH EDUCATION SERVICES SELECTION COMMISSION

TGT & PGT

TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER(TGT) & POST GRADUATE TEACHER(PGT)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

BASED ON THE LATEST SYLLABUS







Syllabus

Unit-1: Uttar Pradesh and national current affairs, famous personalities and sports

Unit-2: History of India, political system of India, geography of India, and economy of India

Unit-3: General knowledge, environment and science & technology

Detailed subject matter | Exam-oriented facts | Analytical information

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Features of the Book

The key feature of this book is that all exam-relevant facts have been organised according to the convenience of candidates. This will help them complete the syllabus while also saving valuable time.

To make the book more useful and exam-oriented, each section contains detailed subject matter and analytical information, presented in a way that helps candidates prepare effectively and face the examination with greater ease.

The book has been prepared with the aim of helping candidates achieve success in their examinations and take a new step towards a brighter future.

General Knowledge for Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) and Post Graduate Teacher (PGT)

Unit 1: Current Affairs:-

(i) Current events of state, national, and international importance

(ii) Prominent personalities

(iii) Sports

Unit 2: Indian History, Indian Polity, Indian Economy, Geography of India:-

(i) Indian history and the Indian freedom movement

(ii) Indian Constitution and polity; legal and constitutional developments related to the educational system

(iii) Indian economy

(iv) General geography and population of India

Unit 3: General Science, Information and Communication Technology:-

(i) General Science: Technology and environment in the contemporary context

(ii) Human health and hygiene: Vitamins, minerals, diseases, deficiency diseases, hormones, enzymes

(iii) Computer and Internet terminology

(iv) Applications of ICT

(v) Developments in educational technology

About the Book

Dear Aspirants,

This book has been specially designed by **VIDIT PUBLICATION** with the **UP TGT/PGT examination in mind**. It has been prepared in accordance with the latest syllabus and examination pattern of the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC) for the TGT and PGT examinations.

The book covers the complete syllabus and key concepts of General Studies, including Uttar Pradesh, national and international current affairs. To support aspirants in their preparation, special emphasis has been placed on the use of updated public data and content aligned with the expected standards of the Commission. Maps have also been incorporated wherever necessary to facilitate better understanding and retention.

In addition, Practice Questions have been included at the end of each unit to help aspirants assess their understanding and strengthen their preparation.

We sincerely express our gratitude to all the experts and colleagues whose valuable support and guidance have contributed to making this book comprehensive, accurate and examination-oriented.

Despite our best efforts to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, the possibility of some inadvertent errors or omissions due to human error cannot be completely ruled out. We therefore warmly welcome the constructive suggestions and feedback of our readers and fellow aspirants.

Regards,

Aditya Triparti

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(A) Section

Indian History, Indian Polity, Indian Economy, Geography of India

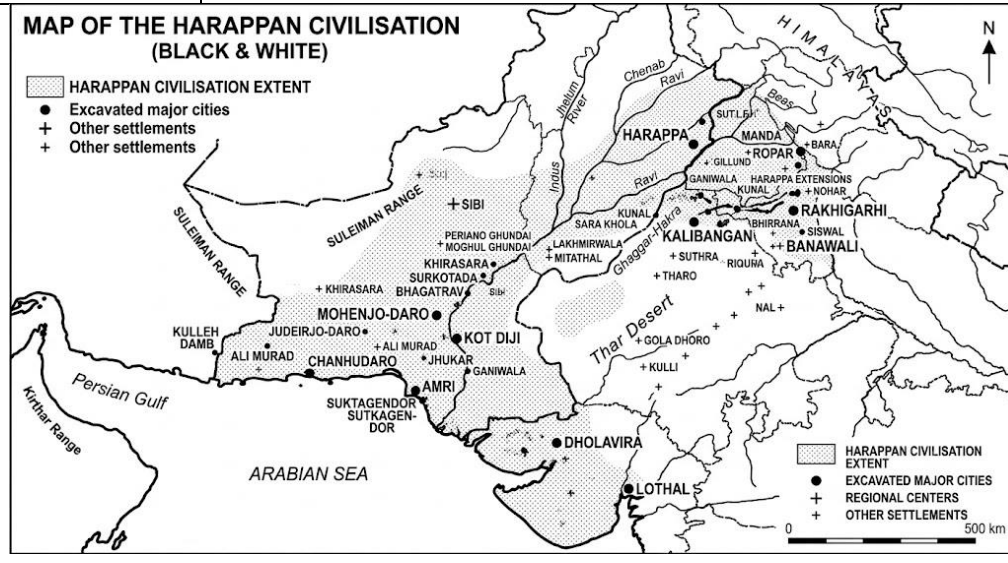
1.1 Indian History and Indian Independence Movement

Harappan Civilization

- The Harappan Civilization was one of the world's earliest and most advanced urban civilizations, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, which extended across both India and Pakistan.
- Its mature period is considered to be from about 2600 BC to 1900 BC and later it declined.
- The Harappa site was discovered in 1921 under the direction of John Marshall, then head of the Archaeological Survey of India. During this period, Harappa was discovered on the banks of the Ravi River in the Montgomery district of Punjab (present-day Pakistan).
- Gordon Childe called the Indus Valley Civilization the 'First Urban Revolution'.
- The extent of this civilization was spread from Sutkagen-Dor in the west to Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh) in the east and from Manda (Jammu) in the north to Daimabad (Maharashtra) in the south.
- This area is triangular in shape and its area was approximately 12,99,600 square kilometers.
- Mohenjodaro is the largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization and Rakhigarhi is the largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization in India.
- Major sites located in Pakistan – Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Sutkagendor, Chanhudaro, Kotdiji

Major sites of the Harappan/Indus Valley Civilization located in India:

State	Related sites
Rajasthan	Kalibangan
Gujarat	Dholavira, Lothal, Rangpur, Surkotada, Desalpur, Kuntasi
Haryana	Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Mitathal, Kunal
Punjab	Ropar, Sanghol
Uttar Pradesh	Alamgirpur
Jammu and Kashmir	Manda
Maharashtra	Daimabad



Important Sites/Discoverers/Rivers/Obtained Materials

Major Sites	Discoverer	River	Materials Discovered
Harappa	Dayaram Sahni	Ravi River	Seals, Granaries, Conch-Shell Bull, 16 Copper Furnaces, a Brass Horse-drawn Carriage, a Bronze Mirror
Mohenjo-daro	Rakhaldas Banerjee	Indus River	Great Bath, Bronze Dancing Girl Statue, Cotton Cloth, Statue of Priest Kings, Pashupati Seal, Copper Hairpin, Cotton Cloth
Dholavira	R. S. Bisht	Ghaggar River	The only city divided into three parts, water management system, sports stadium
Kalibangan	Amalanand Ghosh	Ghaggar River	Fire Pit, Evidence of ploughed field, Grinding stone, Evidence of earthquake
Lothal	Ranganatha Rao	Bhogava River	Ports, Bead industry, Persian seals, Evidence of rice and millet, Weights and Measures
Chanhudaro	N.G. Majumdar	Indus River	Curved Brick, Bead making, Lipstick, ink pot
Ropar	Yajnadutt Sharma	Sutlej River	Human Skeleton, Copper objects
Rakhigarhi	Suraj Bhan	Ghaggar River	Hakra Pottery Deposits
Banawali	R.S. Bisht	Rangoi River	Evidence of clay ploughs and washing vessels
Sutkagendor	Aurel Stein	Dashk River	fortifications, trading centers
Surkotada	Jagpati Joshi	—---------	Horse bones, shopping complex, scales

Harappan sites in Uttar Pradesh

Site	District	Features / Materials obtained
Alamgirpur	Meerut	The easternmost site of the Harappan civilization
Hulas	Saharanpur	Cereal grains, Clay pots
Bargaon	Saharanpur	Simple clay pot
Singhol	Western UP region	Evidence of rural settlement

Main Features of Harappan Civilization

Town planning system

- It had a well-planned town, with wide roads, houses built with baked bricks and an advanced drainage system.
- The higher part is called the city fort and the lower part is called the lower city.
- The roads intersected each other at right angles.
- The Great Bath of Mohenjodaro is an excellent example of the advanced construction art and sanitation system of this civilization.

Economic Scenario

- Economically, this civilization was based on agriculture and trade, in which wheat, barley and cotton were cultivated.
- Evidence of granaries has been found from Mohenjodaro, Harappa and Lothal.
- Evidence of Rice cultivation has been found from Lothal and Rangpur.
- The credit for first producing cotton is given to the people of Indus Valley Civilization.
- The people of the Indus Valley Civilization knew about bulls, cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, etc. The humped bull was the most favorite animal of this civilization.

Foreign Trade

- Lothal was a port city through which trade took place with Mesopotamia.
- Information about trade relations with Meluha (Indus region) is available.
- Apart from this, metal craft, bead making, pottery and sculpture were also highly developed.
- The people of this civilization were aware of Bronze, Gold and Copper and there is no evidence about iron.

Measurement and Weight

- At this time, the measurement system based on the decimal system was prevalent.
- The seals used in the Indus Valley Civilization were made from Steatite.
- The largest number of seals have been found at Mohenjodaro. Persian seals have been found at Lothal.

Major Metals and Sites found at Harappa

Major Metals	Site
Lapis lazuli	Badakhshan (Afghanistan)
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan) and Balochistan
Tin	Afghanistan and Iran
Lead	Afghanistan and Iran
Silver	Jawar Khan of Rajasthan
Shilajit	Himalayan region

Socio-Religious life

- Religiously, people worshipped Mother Goddess, Pashupati and trees and their script was pictorial, which has not been deciphered yet.
- People of this time worshipped the earth as the goddess of fertility.
- The people of Indus Valley Civilization were familiar with Yagya and believed in rebirth.
- Evidence of Agnivedika has been found from Lothal, Banawali and Kalibangan.
- Social life was relatively egalitarian and burial practices indicate belief in an afterlife.
- This great civilization collapsed due to natural disasters, changes in river courses and other reasons, yet its advanced city system and scientific outlook are still considered very important.

Important facts:

- Mohenjodaro literally means "Mound of the Dead".
- A ratio of 16 was used as the unit of weight.
- The script of the Indus Valley Civilization was written from right to left.
- Bead making work was done in Chanhudaro and Lothal.
- Balakot (Pakistan) and Lothal were known for the shell industry.
- Remains of horse bones were found from Surkotada.

Vedic Culture

- The Vedic Age is divided into two parts – the Rigvedic or Pre-Vedic Age (1500–1000 BCE) and the Post-Vedic Age (1000–600 BCE).
- Vedic literature is divided into four parts: Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.
- Vedas are the Oldest literature of India.
- There are four Vedas – Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
- Rigveda, Yajurveda and Samaveda are also called Vedatrayi or Trayi.

Rigveda

- Rigveda is the oldest Veda and contains a collection of hymns, sutras and prayers and descriptions of divine glories.
- The priests of Rigveda were called 'Hotri'.
- It has 10 mandalas, 1028 suktas and 10552 verses (richas).
- Mandalas 2 to 7 of the Rigveda are considered to be the most ancient.
- The Gayatri Mantra is mentioned in the third book. It was written by Vishwamitra. It is dedicated to Lord Surya and Savitri.

- The ninth Mandala is dedicated to 'Soma'.
- The first description of the words 'Varna' and 'Gotra' is found in the Rigveda.
- The term Shudra is first mentioned in the Purusha Sukta (Vedic sociology) of the 10th Mandala (the largest).
- In Vedic times, the cow was considered "aghanya," meaning not fit for slaughter.

Yajurveda

- The person who studies it is called 'Adhvaryu'.
- It describes in prose the details of the procedure for performing various rituals and yagnas using verses from the Rigveda.
- The Shatapatha Brahmana is a prose text describing Vedic rituals, history and mythology associated with the Yajurveda.

Samaveda

- It is the oldest book on Indian Musicology.
- Its compilation is based on the Samaveda and the person who studies it is called 'Udgata'.
- There are a total of 1,875 hymns (mantras) in the Samaveda.

Atharvaveda

- The one who studies it is called 'Brahma'.
- It includes information related to Indian medicine and science, along with information about diseases and their prevention, witchcraft and hypnotism etc. has also been provided.
- In the Vedas, Sabha and Samiti have been called the two daughters of Prajapati.

Vedas and Brahmana texts

Veda	Brahmanical texts
Rigveda	Aitareya
Samaveda	Panchavish
Yajurveda	Shatapatha, Taittiriya
Atharvaveda	Gopath

Vedas, Upvedas and their authors

Veda	Upveda	Author of the Upveda
Rigveda	Ayurveda	Dhanvantari
Yajurveda	Dhanurveda	Vishwamitra
Samaveda	Gandharvaveda	Bharata Muni
Atharvaveda	Sthapatyaveda	Vishwakarma

Rivers in the Vedic Age:

- The Indus River is mentioned most often (it is called 'Hiranyani' because of its importance).
- River Saraswati was the most sacred river known as 'Matetama' (best of all mothers), 'Devitama' (best of all goddesses) and 'Naditama' (best of all rivers).
- The rivers Yamuna and Ganga are mentioned three and once respectively in the Rigveda.

Ancient names	Modern names
Askini	Chenab
Parushni	Ravi
Vipassana	Beas
Vitasta	Jhelum
Kubha	Kabul
Sadaneera	Gandak
Shatudri	Sutlej
Drishadvati	Ghaggar

Religious Status

- In Rigveda, 'Indra' has been described as the most powerful god.
- 'Indra' is called Purandara (destroyer of forts).
- Jupiter was considered the priest of the Vedic gods.
- Apala, Ghosha, Vishvavara and Lopamudra were the prominent sages and learned women of the Rig Vedic period.

Rig Vedic Gods	Speciality
Indra	God of rain, God of war, Lord of the entire world
Agni	Mediator between gods and humans
Varun	Represented the water body
Marut	God of storms
Pushan	God of animals
Aranyani	Goddess of the Forest
Yama	God of Death
Ashwin	God of medicine
Som	God of vegetation

Vedic Period Administration

- The administrative system during the Vedic period was primarily tribal and monarchical. The king was called Rajan, who was the head of the people or Vish.
- The smallest unit of administration was the clan, followed by village, vish and jana.
- Institutions like Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha and Gana worked to assist the king.
  - ❖ **Sabha-**This was an institution of elderly and elite people which was called the Council of Ministers.
  - ❖ **Samiti-**This was the representative assembly of the general public and its chairman was called 'Ishan'.
  - ❖ **Vidatha-**This was the most ancient institution of the Aryans.
- In Yajurveda, the high officials of the state were called 'Ratnin', their number was 12.

Officer appointed to assist the king in the Vedic period

Officer	Work
Priest	Chief advisor to the king.
Kulpati	Head of the family or clan.
Senani	Head of the army.
Vishpati	Head of the 'Vish' (group/tribe).
Gramani	Head of the village.
Spash	Worked as a spy.
Purap	Protector of the fort or city.

Ratnin / Officer

Ratnin / Officer	Work
King	Head of government
Priest	Religious and political advisor to the king
Senani	Chief of the Army
Mahishi	Queen
Gramani	Village head
Prince	Successor to the king
Suta	Charioteer and royal proclaimer
Shata	Guard of the palace
Sangrihita	Treasurer
Bhagdudh	Officers dealing with tax and revenue collection
Akshwaap	The king's companion in the game of dice.
Palagal	Messenger

Vedic Terminology and meaning

Vedic era terminology	Meaning
Aghanya	Non-killable cow
Urwara	Fertile land
Langal	Plough
Vrik	Bull
Yav	Barley
Godhum	Wheat
Karish	Cow dung Manure
Tandul	Paddy
Vrihi	Rice
Dhanva	Desert
Pani	Trader
Takshan	Carpenter
Tantuvay	Weaver

Upanishads

- Upanishadic literature is not a religious text, but it represents a philosophical thought for all times and for all.
- The Upanishads emphasize the principle of 'Knowledge'.
- Its total number is 108 and it is called Vedanta.
- The word 'Moksha' was first discussed in the Upanishads.

Upanishads	Word
Mundakopanishad	The National motto of India is derived from 'Satyameva Jayate'.
Brihadaranyaka	"Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamay" and the concept of rebirth are found in the Upanishads. In this we find the famous dialogue between Yagyavalkya and Gargi.
Kathopanishad	It is the story of a conversation between Yama, the god of death, and Nachiketa.
Jabalopanishad	The four ashramas are Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha and Sanyas.
Chandogya Upanishad	In this, the story of Satyakam Jabala, disciple of Maharishi Gautam, is mentioned.

Vedanga

- The Vedangas play a key role in understanding Vedic literature. Their number is 6.

Shiksha	Education – Explains the pronunciation of vowels and consonants.
Kalpa	Vedanga, which explains Vedic rituals
Nirukta	Explaining the meaning of Vedic words systematically
Vyakaran	It is called the mouth of the Vedas. It explains the etymology of words by dividing them into root and suffix.
Chhand	It is useful for correct pronunciation of Veda mantras
Jyotish	This is the Vedanga which determines the time.

Major philosophies and their founders

Philosophy	founder
Sankhya	Kapil Muni
Yoga	Patanjali
Nyaya	Gautam
Vaisheshika	Kanada
Mimansa	Gemini
Vedanta	Badarayana

Major sects and founders of Shaivism

Sect of Shaivism	Founder
Pashupata sect	Lakulisha
Veerashaiva/Lingayat sect	Basavanna
Nath sect	Matsyendranath

Jainism

- The Word Jain is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Jina' which means conqueror.
- The founders of Jainism are called 'Tirthankaras'.
- Rishabhnath or Adinath, the first Tirthankara of Jainism, is considered the founder of Jainism.
- Parshvanath, the 23rd Tirthankara, was born in Kashi.
- Its 24th and last Tirthankara Mahavir Swami is considered the real founder of Jainism.

Mahavir Swami

- He was born in 599 BCE in Kundagrama (near Vaishali). His father was Siddhartha, a Kshatriya ruler, and his mother was Trishala.
- Mahavira's childhood name was Vardhamana. His wife's name was Yashoda.
- At the age of 30, he renounced worldly life and embarked on the path of rigorous penance and meditation.
- After about 12 years of rigorous penance, he attained enlightenment (Kaivalya) under a Sal tree on the banks of the Rijupalika River.
- After attaining enlightenment, they were called Kevalin, Arhat, Jin and Nirgranth.
- Jamali was Mahavir Swami's son-in-law and also his first disciple.
- He died in 527 BCE at Pavapuri, which is called Nirvana in Jainism.

Major Jain Tirthankaras and their Symbols

Tirthankara	Symbols
Rishabhdev	Vrishabh
Ajitnath	Elephant
Abhinandan	Monkey
Suparshvanath	Swastika
Vasupujya	Mahish
Mallinath	Water pot
Sambhavnath	Horse
Shantinath	Deer
Neminath	Shankh
Sumatinath	Swan
Parshvanath	Snake
Mahavir Swami	Lion

Jain philosophy

- The main aim of Jainism is to attain salvation, for which a person has to be free from his actions.
- According to this religion, every living being has a soul and following non-violence is the supreme duty.
- Among the main principles of Jainism, the Triratna—right view, right knowledge, and right conduct—hold special importance.
- Along with this, it is considered necessary to follow the five great vows – truth, non-violence, non-stealing, non-possession and celibacy.
- Non-violence is the fundamental point of Jainism.
- In Jainism there are four infinite things – infinite knowledge, infinite vision, infinite power and infinite happiness.
- The principles of Anuvrata, Anekantavada (many aspects of truth) and Syadvada (relativity of knowledge) are also important in Jain philosophy, which promote tolerance and a business approach.
- In Jainism, there are three factors of matter – origin, decay and permanence.
- Sthanakavasi sect, Yapaniya sect, Shvetambara and Digambara sects are related to Jainism.

Main Sangeeti of Jainism

Sangeeti	Place	Chairman	Main functions
First Jain Council	Pataliputra	Sthulabhadra	A compilation of the 12 limbs of Jainism; Jainism was divided into the Digambara and Svetambara sects.
Second Jain Council	Vallabhi	Devardhigani Kshamashraman	Jain texts were written; Anuyogasutra was compiled

Major texts of Jainism and their Authors

Text	Author
Kalpasutra	Bhadrabahu
Syadvadamanjari	Mallisena
Nyayavatara	Siddhasena Divakara
Pravachansara	Kundakunda
Dravyasangraha	Nemichandra
Parishishtaparvan	Hemachandra
Nyayadipika	Dharmabhushana
Kuvalayamala	Uddyotana Suri
Bhadrabahucharita	Ratnanandi
Nitivakyamritam	Somadeva Suri

Buddhism

- Buddhism was founded in the 6th century BCE by Gautama Buddha, who was born in 563 BCE in Lumbini near Kapilvastu.
- His father was Shuddhodhan (Shakyagan) and his mother was Maya Devi from Koliya clan.
- His childhood name was Siddhartha. He also has other names like Tathagata and Shakyamuni.
- He married Yashodhara at the age of 16. Their son was Rahul.
- Seeing the sufferings of the world, he renounced home at the age of 29, which is called 'Mahabhinishkramana', and after 6 years of rigorous penance, he attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, after which he was called Buddha.
- He gave his first sermon at Sarnath, which is called 'Dharmachakra Pravartan'.
- Gautam Buddha gave most of his sermons in Shravasti.
- Buddha spent the last rainy season of his life in Vaishali.

Major events related to Gautam Buddha:

Event	Place	Symbal
Birth	Lumbini	Lotus
Mahabhinishkramana	Kapilvastu	Horse (Kanthak)
Acquisition of knowledge	Bodhgaya	Bodhi Tree
First Sermon (Turning the Wheel of Dharma)	Sarnath	Dharmachakra
Mahaparinirvana (death)	Kushinagar	Stupa

Contemporary Buddhist Rulers

Ruler	State
Bimbisara, Ajatashatru	Magadha
Prasenjit	Kosala
Udayin	Child
Mahakachayan	Vatsa
Bhadrik	Shakya kings

Major Buddhist philosophies

- The Three jewels of Buddhism are Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.
- The main principles of Buddhism are the Four Noble Truths – suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path to the cessation of suffering.
- The Eightfold Path consists of Right view, resolution, speech, action, livelihood, exercise, mindfulness and meditation, by following which a person can attain salvation or nirvana.
- In Buddhism, the concept of Soul and God is not given much importance, but the principle of karma and rebirth is accepted.
- Later, Buddhism divided into two major branches – Hinayana and Mahayana – in which worship of Buddha and idol worship has more importance in Mahayana.
- The Mahayana branch of Buddhism formally emerged during the reign of Kanishka.
- Emperor Ashoka had a special contribution in the propagation of Buddhism, who spread it outside India to countries like Sri Lanka, China, Japan etc.
- The language of Buddhism was Pali and Prakrit and its texts are called Tripitaka.

Tripitaka of Buddhist texts

Pitaka	Description
Vinaya Pitaka	It describes the rules and regulations of the Buddhist Sangha, the discipline, and the conduct of monks and nuns.
Sutta Pitaka	It contains the sermons, discourses and religious teachings of Gautam Buddha.
Abhidhamma Pitaka	Buddhist philosophy and philosophical analysis have been done in it.

Major Buddhist Councils

Buddhist Council	Duration	Ruler	Place	Chairman
First	483 BC	Ajatashatru	Rajgriha	Puran Mahakassap
Second	383 BC	Kalashoka	Vaishali	Sabbakami
Third	250 BC	Ashoka	Pataliputra	Moggaliputta Tissa
Fourth	1st century	Kanishka	Kundalvan (Kashmir)	Vasumitra

Major Buddhist texts and their Authors

Texts	Author
Milindapanho	Nagasena
Buddhacharita, Saundarananda	Asvaghosha
Abhidhammakosha	Vasubandhu
Madhyamik sutra	Nagarjuna

Mahajanapadas

- Mahajanapadas were large people-states of ancient India (around 6th century BC), which developed by the merger of smaller Janapadas.
- The Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya and the Jain text Bhagavati Sutra mention 16 Mahajanapadas.
- Vaishali was the largest and most powerful republic of the Buddha period.
- According to the Puranas, the first dynasty to rule Magadha was the Brihadratha dynasty.

Mahajanapadas	Capital
Anga	Champa
Magadha	Rajgriha
Kashi	Varanasi
Kosala	Sravasti
Vajji (Vrijji)	Vaishali

Malla	Kushinagar / Pawa
Chedi	Shuktimati
Vatsa	Kaushambi
Kuru	Indraprastha
Panchal	Ahicchatra/Kampilya
Matsya	Viratnagar
Shursen	Mathura
Ashmak	Potli/Potan
Avanti	Ujjaini / Mahishmati
Gandhara	Taxila
Komboja	Rajpur

Major dynasties of Magadha state

Dynasty	Founder, Capital, Major Rulers and Achievements
Haryanka dynasty	Tenure: 544-412 BC Founder: Bimbisara (contemporary of Mahavira Jain and Gautam Buddha) Capital: Rajagriha (later Pataliputra) Major rulers: Ajatashatru, Udayin Achievements: Expansion of the Magadha Empire, use of new weapons (Rathmushal, Mahashilakantaka) in warfare, Nagadakash was the last ruler of this dynasty.
Shishunaga dynasty	Tenure: 412-344 BC Founder: Shishunaga Capital: Vaishali (later Pataliputra) Major ruler: Kalashoka Achievements: Organising the Second Buddhist Council Nandivardhan was the last ruler of this dynasty.
Nanda dynasty	Tenure: 344-321 BC Founder: Mahapadmananda (another incarnation of Parashurama) Capital: Pataliputra Important ruler: Dhanananda (contemporary of Alexander) Achievements: Control over all of North India, powerful centralized rule

Mauryan Dynasty

- The Maurya dynasty was the first large and centralized empire of ancient India, founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 322 BC.
- His Chanakya (Kautilya) had an important contribution in this establishment.
- The Mauryan Empire had its capital at Pataliputra and extended from the north-west to large parts of the south.

Chandragupta Maurya (322–298 BCE):

- Chandragupta Maurya defeated the Nanda dynasty and laid the foundation of the Maurya Empire.
- Chanakya (Kautilya/Vishnugupta) played a significant role in his rise to power. Greek accounts refer to Chandragupta as Sandrokotus.
- He defeated the Greek ruler Seleucus Nicator, secured the northwestern borders and established a vast empire.
- Towards the end of his life, Chandragupta embraced Jainism and, under the guidance of Jain acharya Bhadrabahu, went to Shravanabelagola in Karnataka. There, he ended his life by performing the ritual of Sallekhana (fasting).
- Chandragupta Maurya commissioned the construction of the Sudarshan Lake in the Girnar region of Saurashtra. This lake was built by his governor Pushyagupta Vaishya.

Megasthenes

- He was a Greek ambassador, sent by Seleucus Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- He wrote a book named 'Indica'.
- This text provides important information on Mauryan administration, society and economy.

Bindusara (297–273 BC):

- Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta, who further expanded the empire and extended it to South India.
- He was also known by names like 'Amitraghat', 'Bhadrasara' and 'Singhasena'.
- When there was a rebellion in Takshashila, he sent his sons Ashoka and Susima there.
- Bindusara's court was visited by Greek ambassadors Deimachus (sent by Antiochus I) and Dionysius (sent by Ptolemy II), reflecting the foreign relations of the time.
- He appointed Ashoka as the governor of Ujjain.
- Bindusara was a follower of the 'Ajivika' sect, founded by Makkhali Gosala, a contemporary of Gautam Buddha.

Ashoka (273 – 232 BC):

- Ashoka was the son of Bindusara and Subhadrangi. He was born around 304 BCE.
- He was also known by nicknames like 'Devanampriya' and 'Priyadarshi'.
- Ashoka's real (personal) name is found in the inscriptions of Maski, Gujara and Nettur.
- He ascended the throne in 268 BCE. Before becoming king, Ashoka was the governor of Ujjain.

The Kalinga War was fought between Ashoka and the Kalinga kingdom in 261 BCE. The capital of Kalinga (present-day Odisha) at that time was Toshali.
Information about this battle is available in Ashoka's 13th rock edict. The horrors of this battle deeply affected Ashoka's mind, leading him to forever renounce the policy of war and adopt the principle of "Dhamma," meaning Peace, Nonviolence, and Morality. This battle proved to be a turning point in his life.

Edicts of Ashoka

- Ashoka's inscriptions were first read by James Prinsep in 1837.
- Most of the inscriptions are written in Pali language and some in Prakrit language.
- Ashoka used the Brahmi script for his edicts in most parts of India, while the Kharosthi script was used in northwestern India.
- A total of 14 Major Rock Edicts are considered to be of Ashoka.

Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka

Inscription	Subject
First	Condemnation of animal sacrifice
Second	Medical treatment for both humans and animals
Third	Dhamma and moral injunctions to state officials
Fourth	Promulgation of Dhamma-ghosa (Declaration of the Dharma)
Fifth	Appointment of Dhamma Mahamatras
Sixth	Self-control
Seventh	Message of Religious tolerance
Eighth	Beginning of Dhamma Yatras
Ninth	Mention of Etiquette
Tenth	State officials should think in the interest of the people
Eleventh	Dhamma explained
Twelfth	Appointment of female Mahamatras
Thirteenth	Mention of Kalinga War
Fourteenth	Ashoka inspired the people to lead a religious life.

Campaigner and regions sent by Ashoka to propagate Dhamma

Campaigner	Area
Mjjantik	Kashmir and Gandhara
Mahadharmarakshita	Maharashtra
Maharakshit	Yavana (Greek territory)
Majjim	Himalayan region
Son and Uttara	Suvarnabhumi
Mahendra and Sanghamitra	Sri Lanka

Administration during the Mauryan Period

- The administration was highly centralized and well-organized. The emperor was the source of supreme power, and all administrative, judicial, and military decisions were under his control.
- There was a council of ministers to assist the king.
- The administration was divided into smaller levels. The smallest unit was the village, headed by a village officer.
- For a group of villages and large regional administration, a high official called Rajjuka was appointed.
- The chief officer for running the revenue system was the Collector, who monitored tax collection throughout the state.
- The judicial system of the Mauryan period consisted of two types of courts. The first was the Dharmasthya court, which heard civil cases such as those related to property, disputes, and contracts. The second was the Kantakashodhana court, which dealt with criminal cases such as those related to crime, punishment, and law and order.

Chief officials of the Mauryan period

Official	Function
Panyadhyaksha	Superintendent of Commerce and Trade
Suradhyaksha	Superintendent of Liquor Production and Sale
Sunadhyaksha	Superintendent of Slaughterhouses
Ganikaadhyaksha	Superintendent of Courtesans
Sitadhyaksha	Superintendent of Agricultural Lands
Akaradhyaksha	Superintendent of Mines and Mineral Resources
Lakshanadhyaksha	Superintendent of Currency (Coins) and the Mint
Lohadhyaksha	Superintendent of Iron Production and Use
Navadhyaksha	Superintendent of Boats and Water Transport

Agriculture, Revenue and Currency System of the Mauryan Period

Term	Description
Sita	Income obtained from the king's own land
Land Tax	Approximately 1/4 to 1/6 of the total produce
Adevamatrika Land	Land where cultivation was possible even without rainfall
Udakabhaga	Irrigation Tax
Arani	Rain-measuring instrument
Bhaga and Bali	Major sources of state revenue
Karshapana	Silver Coin
Kakani	Copper Coin
Pana	Standard Currency of the State

Military Administration Committee of the Mauryan period

Committee	Work
First Committee	Administration of the Admiralty and protection of the waterways
Second Committee	Management of Transport and Logistics Department
Third Committee	Management and control of infantry
Fourth Committee	Operation and maintenance of cavalry
Fifth Committee	Operation of Gaja Sena (Elephant Army)
Sixth Committee	Management of the chariot army

Shunga Dynasty (185 BC to 73 BC):

- The Shunga dynasty was founded in 185 BCE by Pushyamitra Shunga, who was the commander-in-chief of Brihadratha, the last ruler of the Mauryan dynasty.
- He gained power by killing Brihadratha and laid the foundation of the Shunga dynasty after the fall of the Maurya Empire.
- The dynasty's capital was initially Pataliputra, but later Vidisha also became an important center. This period saw a revival of Brahminism, and the Sanskrit language and Vedic traditions received a boost.

Pushyamitra Shunga

- Pushyamitra Shunga established the Shunga dynasty in 185 BC by killing Brihadratha and made Pataliputra his capital.
- During their reign, there were invasions by the Yavanas (Indo-Greek), led by Menander and Demetrius. A major enemy of the Shunga rulers was Yajnasena.
- Pushyamitra Shunga's rule lasted for about 36 years and he died in 151 BC.

Agnimitra

- Agnimitra was the son of Pushyamitra Shunga and ruler of the Shunga dynasty. His reign is believed to have been from approximately 149 BCE to 141 BCE.
- The main information about Agnimitra is obtained from the play Malavikagnimitram written by the famous poet of Sanskrit literature Kalidasa, in which he is presented as the main character.

Shaka dynasty

- The Shakas were foreign rulers from Central Asia who entered India through the Bolan Pass and ruled various regions for about 500 years.
- They had five main branches – Afghanistan, Taxila, Mathura, Maharashtra and Ujjain (Malwa).
- Nahapana was a famous Shaka ruler in Maharashtra.

Rudradaman I (130–150 AD)

- The most famous ruler was the Shaka, who ruled Ujjain and assumed the title of 'Mahakshtrapa'.
- His famous Junagadh inscription was found on the Girnar mountain in Gujarat, which is written in Sanskrit language in Brahmi script.
- Rudradaman also reconstructed the Sudarshan Lake.

Kushan dynasty

- The Kushan dynasty was founded in the 1st century CE by Kujula Kadphises, who belonged to the Yuezhi tribe of Central Asia.
- He came to North-West India and established his power.
- He was succeeded by Vima Kadphises, who introduced the circulation of gold coins and promoted India-Rome trade.

Kanishka (78–105 AD):

- Kanishka was a great ruler of the Kushan dynasty. He ascended the throne in 78 AD and started the Shaka era.
- His first capital was Purushapur (present Peshawar) and the second capital was Mathura.
- He is also called 'Second Ashoka' because of his patronage and propagation of Buddhism.
- Kanishka established cities named 'Kanishkapur' in Kashmir and 'Sirkap' in Taxila.
- They were followers of the Mahayana school of Buddhism. Their time saw the development of the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art, renowned for their sculpture.
- Kanishka died around 102 AD.
- During the reign of Kanishka, the Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir, which led to the development and propagation of Mahayana Buddhism.
- After him, the last ruler of this dynasty was Vasudeva.

Scholars in Kanishka's court and their works

Scholar	Work/Contribution
Vasumitra	Buddhist scholar, patronized by Kanishka
Asvaghosha	Court poet of Kanishka; author of 'Buddhacharita' and 'Sundarananda'
Nagarjuna	Renowned philosopher; founder of Mahayana Buddhism
Charaka	Kanishka's royal physician; related to 'Charaka Samhita'
Bharata Muni	Composition of 'Natyashastra'
Patanjali	Composition of 'Mahabhashya'
Vatsyayana	Creation of the Kama Sutra

Gupta Period

- The Gupta period (319–550 AD) was founded by Shrigupta, who assumed the title of "Maharaja".
- Initially, the Gupta rulers were feudatories under the Kushan Empire.
- Information about the early rulers of the Gupta dynasty is available from the Prayag Prashasti, which dates back to the time of Samudragupta.
- The Gupta period is called the "Golden Age" of India because during this time there was unprecedented progress in art, literature, science and culture.

Chandragupta I (319–335 AD)

- Chandragupta I was the chief ruler of the Gupta dynasty and is considered its true founder. He was the son of Ghatotkacha.
- He married Kumaradevi, a princess of the Licchavi dynasty, which gave him control over the Pataliputra region. He assumed the title of "Maharajadhiraja."
- The Gupta era was started in memory of his coronation (319–320 AD).

Samudragupta (335–380 AD)

- Samudragupta was the son of Chandragupta I. Detailed information about his reign is available from the Prayag Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar), written in Sanskrit by his court poet Harishena.
- In this inscription he is depicted as a great warrior, scholar and poet, due to which he was given the title of "Kaviraj".
- Harishena also held high positions like 'Sandhivigrahak', 'Mahadandanayak' and 'Kumaramatya'.
- In the Prayag Prashasti, Samudragupta is also called "Licchavi Dauhitra" (grandson of the Lichchavi dynasty).
- He was a follower of Vaishnavism and his coins depict him playing the Veena.
- Historian V. A. Smith called him the "Napoleon of India".

Samudragupta's major Conquests

Campaign	Description
First stage	Defeated nine rulers of North India
Second stage	Took control of the Punjab region
Third stage	Defeated the tribal (forest) kingdoms of the Vindhya region
Fourth stage	Defeated 12 rulers of South India
Fifth stage	Defeated some foreign kingdoms of the north-west

Chandragupta II (380–415 AD)

- Chandragupta II was the son of Samudragupta. Information about him is found in the Devichandraguptam (written by Vishakhadatta).
- He was married to Kuberanaga, a princess of the Naga dynasty. His daughter Prabhavatigupta was married to Rudrasena II of the Vakataka dynasty.

- He assumed titles like "Vikramaditya", "Paramabhagavata Vikramanka" and "Shakari" (after defeating the Shaka rulers).
- He made Ujjain his second capital. His coins also bear the name "Chandra".
- His victories are mentioned in the Udayagiri Cave inscription.
- His court had a group of famous scholars known as "Navratnas", due to which his period is considered the peak and "Golden Age" of the Gupta era.
- Fa-Hien was a Chinese traveller who visited India between 399 and 414 AD. He visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.

Kumaragupta I (415–455 AD)

- He was the son and successor of Chandragupta II.
- He had the titles of 'Shakraditya' and 'Mahendraditya'.
- Nalanda University was established during the reign of Kumaragupta I, which is known as the major centre of Mahayana Buddhism and the "Oxford of Mahayana".
- Among the Gupta rulers, the maximum number of inscriptions (about 18) have been found from his reign.
- The circulation of silver coins also started during his time.

Skandagupta (455–467 AD)

- He is considered the last great and glorious ruler of the Gupta dynasty.
- He shifted his capital from Pataliputra to Ayodhya for administrative convenience.
- The first Hun invasion, led by Khushnawaj, occurred during his reign. Information about this is found in the Junagadh inscription.
- The same inscription also mentions the reconstruction of Sudarshan Lake by Girnar administrator Chakrapalita, which gives information about water management during the Gupta period.

Key government officials and officials related to the construction of Sudarshan Lake

Ruler	Concerned Officer
Chandragupta Maurya	Pushyagupta
Ashoka	Tushasp
Rudradaman I	Suvisakh
Skandagupta	Parnadatta and Chakrapalita

Administrative system of the Gupta period

- The administrative system of the Gupta period was based on a monarchical system and was well-organized and efficient. The supreme authority was the emperor himself, who was the ultimate decision-maker of the state.
- The ruler was assisted by a Council of Ministers. Officials called Kumaramatyas played an important role in administrative work, and were paid cash as salaries.
- The entire empire was divided into Bhuktis, which were further divided into districts (Vishaya).
- The chief officer of the districts was called Vishayapati.
- The smallest unit of administration was the village, whose chief officer was Gramik or Mahattar.

Revenue system of the Gupta period

Tax/System	Description
Bhaga	1/6 of the agricultural produce was collected by the state as tax.
Udakabhaga	Irrigation Tax
Udranga	Land tax imposed on permanent cultivators
Uparikara	Land tax imposed on temporary cultivators
Dhruvadhikarana	Department responsible for collecting land revenue
Shaulkika	Officer responsible for collecting customs duties and taxes
Vishti	Forced Labour