

ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY UPTO 1206 AD

1. 9000 – 7000 BC : BHIMBETKA ROCK SHELTERS

- Location The Bhimbetka rock shelters show the earliest traces of human life.
- They are located near Bhopal in Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh at the southern fringes of the Vindhya hills.

DISCOVERY

- Discovery Bhimbetka was first referred in the archeological records in 1888 AD as a Buddhist site.
- Later, Dr. Vishnu Wakankar accidentally discovered the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka in 1957-58 AD.

About the Shelters and Paintings

- There are more than 700 shelters in Bhimbetka rock shelters.
- Out of those 243 are in the Bhimbetka group and 178 in the Lakha Juar group.
- Bhimbetka rock shelters are also famous for interesting rock paintings.
- Some of the rock paintings found in the Bhimbetka rock shelters can be traced back to the Stone Age era, closely 30,000 years old.
- The paintings depict the lives of people living in the caves at that time.
- It includes scenes of child birth, communal dancing, drinking, religious rites, burials and natural environment.
- The most interesting part is that, the paintings are not faded even after thousands of years.
- It is considered by many archeologists that paintings were made of vegetable dyes coloured earth leaf extracts, roots and animal fat.

2. 7000 – 3500 BC : MEHRGARH ERA

Farming, Herding and Hunting

- Mehrgarh is located on the Kachi plain of Balochistan, now in Pakistan, one of the most important Neolithic sites of archaeology.
- It covered an area of 200 hectares at its peak.
- It is considered to be one of the earliest sites with evidence of farming and herding in South Asia.
- The early Mehrgarh residents involved in hunting and they domesticated animals like cattle, sheep and goats.
- They cultivated barley, wheat, einkorn, jujubes and dates. People used stone and bone tools such as polished stone-axes and bone-pointers for hunting.
- One of the important characteristics of Mehrgarh is its gradual development from an early village society to a regional center.

Use Pottery

- Mehrgarh Period I (7000 BC-5500 BC), was Neolithic and did not have the use of pottery.
- Evidence of hand made pottery begins from Mehrgarh Period II (5500 BC-4800 BC).
- In Mehrgarh period III (4800 BC-3500 BC), potter wheel was developed and they produced large volume of fine terra-cotta figurine and pottery with exotic geometric designs.
- They also manufactured and produced ornaments of beads, seashells and semi-precious stones.

3. 3300 – 1700 BC : INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The Civilization The Indus Valley Civilization (3300 BC to 1300 BC) was one of the world's earliest urban civilizations of the Bronze Age along with its contemporaries like Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.
- This civilization was formed in the western region of South Asia and extended to regions of modern-day India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- The Indus Valley Civilization was discovered in early of 20th century with the excavation of the Harappan city, the first city of Indus valley.
- So, the civilization is also known as Harappan Civilization.
- The Civilization prospered around the River basin of Indus, primarily centered along the Indus and the Punjab region.
- It was the largest ancient civilization in the world and was extended over an area approximately 1,260,000 sq. km.

Cities of Indus Valley Civilization

- The civilization is well-known for the development of ancient cities with knowledge of urban planning, hygiene and sanitation systems.
- Cities were well equipped with roadside drainage, sewage system, brick platforms, protective walls, water wells, individual homes and multistoried houses.
- Harappa was the first city to be unearthed and was excavated in the 1920s.
- Following are some major urban centers of Indus Valley Civilization discovered till date from the sites.

1. Harappa
2. Lothal
3. Mohenjo-daro
4. Dholavira
5. Kalibanga
6. Rakhigarhi

Harappa Archaeological Site

- The Harappa archaeological site is located in Punjab, about 35 km west of Sahiwal.
- At the time of construction of Lahore-Multan Railroad when bricks from the ruins were used as track ballast, the ancient city of Harappa was severely destroyed.
- The site of the ancient Harappa city contains the wrecks of the glorious ancient city.

Mohenjo-daro Archaeological Site

- The Mohenjo-daro city was built in around 2600 BC in the province of Sindh of current Pakistan and was abandoned in the 19th century BC.
- It was one of the largest cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. The Mohenjo-daro civilization was discovered in 1922 AD.
- Mohenjo-daro has planned street grid layout and rectilinear buildings.
- Most of the buildings were built of fired and mortared brick and some were constructed with sun-dried mud-brick and wooden superstructures.
- During excavation in 1926 AD, a bronze statuette named as the 'Dancing Girl' of 10.8 cm high was found in Mohenjo-daro.
- A seated male figure of 17.5 cm tall was found in 1927 AD in a building with unusually ornamental brickwork and a wall-niche.

4. 1700 – 500 BC : VEDIC ERA

Period of Vedas

- The Vedic period or Vedic age is a very important period for Indian History and Indian Mythology.
- In this period the oldest and very important scriptures of Hinduism "Vedas" were composed.
- The perfect time span of the Vedic age is unclear.
- The oldest and first of the Vedas, the Rigveda, was composed roughly between 1700-1100 BC and this time period is referred as the early of the Vedic period.
- In the Vedic Period, the text transmission happened by oral tradition.
- In post Vedic period the text were captured in the written format.
- The Vedic age is the pioneer of the modern Hinduism.

Vedas of Vedic Period

- The four Vedas, very important scriptures of Hinduism are considered to be dated from Vedic Period.
- Apart from the Vedas, other text like Brahmanas, Aranyakas, older Upanishads and Shrautasutras are also considered as the Vedic text. The four Vedas of Hinduism are

1. Rigveda
2. Yajurveda
3. Samaveda
4. Artharvaveda

Rigveda

- The Rigveda is the oldest of all Vedas and is the compilation of ancient Indian holy Vedic Sanskrit hymns.
- It is one of the most sacred texts of Hinduism.
- The Rig Veda tells the story of Indra, Agni, Varuna etc the different Gods of Hinduism.

- It contains the Sanskrit hymns about the origin of the world, praise of the gods, prayers for life, prosperity in the form of poetry.
- The Rigveda is structured in 10 books, known as Mandalas.
- The Mandalas were compiled at different time periods between 1700-1100 BC.
- The hymns of each mandala are called as sukta, intended for various sacrificial rituals.
- The Gayatri Mantra, the highly valued universal prayer is a hymn of Mandala 3 of the Rigveda.

Yajurveda

- The Yajurveda one of the most important Vedas, is considered to be composed between 1000 and 600 BC.
- Shukla (white) and Krishna (black) are the two main versions of the Yajurveda.
- The Krishna Yajurveda has four branches (Shakas)

1. Taittiriya Shaka
2. Maitrayani Shaka
3. Caraka-Katha Shaka
4. Kapisthala-Katha Shaka

and Shukla Yajurveda has two branches

1. Vajasaneyi Madhyandina
2. Vajasaneyi Kanva

Samaveda

- The Samaveda is the second of the most important Vedas of Hinduism.
- It has 1549 stanzas and is taken almost entirely from Rigveda except few stanzas.

Artharvaveda

- The Artharvaveda Samhita is the fourth Vedas of Hindu Religion.
- The Artharvaveda is text belong to the poets Atharvan and Angirasa.
- It has total 760 hymns and some hymns are in common with the Rigveda.

Other Texts of Vedic Period

- After the Vedas the most important texts of Vedic Periods are the Upanishads of Hindu religion.
- There are more than 200 known Upanishads.
- Indra, Agni (the Fire) and Soma are the main deities of Upanishads.
- There are many other deities such as Mitra-Varuna, Aryaman, Bhaga and Amsa, the nature deities such as Surya (the Sun), Vayu (the wind), Prithivi (the earth).
- Upanishads has also different goddesses like Ushas (the dawn), Prithvi, Aditi, rivers Saraswati etc.

5. 599 – 527 BC : MAHAVIRA

Born and Early Age

- Mahavira, the Indian sage was born in 599 BC.
- He was commonly known as Vardhamana, his childhood name.
- His birth place was Kundalagrama in Vaishali district near Patna of modern day Bihar, India.
- He was born in a royal Hindu family on the 13th day under the rising moon of Chaitra.
- His father King Siddartha was a kshatriya ruler and mother Queen Trishala was a princess from the royal family of Lichchhavi clan.
- Mahavira was married to Yashoda.
- The birthday of Mahavira is celebrated as Mahavir Jayanti in the world, the most important religious holiday of Jains.

Jainism

- Mahavira established the Jainism, an Indian religion.
- Jainism advised the path of non-violence towards all living beings.
- According to Jain tradition, he was the last and 24th Tirthankara.
- The meaning of Tirthankara is a Jain holy teacher.
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- At the age of thirty in 569 BC, Mahavira abandoned home and gave up his worldly possessions including his clothes and lived an extremely austere life.
- He spent twelve years as an ascetic and used to meditate most of his time.
- At the age of 42, in 557 BC he attained omniscience.
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- As per Jainism, one must perform the following ethical principles not only in thought, but also in words (speech) and action to attain the enlightenment and ultimately liberation from all bonding.
- It is also called as observing the Mahavrata ('Great Vows').
- These vows are:
 - 1. Nonviolence (Ahimsa) - to cause no harm to any living being;
 - 2. Truthfulness (Satya) - to speak the harmless truth only;
 - 3. Non-stealing (Asteya) - to take nothing not properly given;
 - 4. Chastity (Brahmacharya) - to indulge in no sensual pleasure;
 - 5. Non-possession/Non-attachment (Aparigraha) - to detach completely from people, places, and material things.

Truthfulness of Mahavira

- Mahavira lived a life of pure honesty and truthfulness.
- He lived a life without enjoying any property.
- He gave utmost regard and respect to other living beings including humans, animals and plants.
- He did not do any harm to anyone.
- Because of his courage and bravery he got the name Mahavira.
- Mahavira is also known as Arukan or Arukadevan in Tamil.
- In different texts, he is referred as Vira, Viraprabhu, Sanmati, Ativira and Gnatputra.

Nirvana

- In 527 BC, at the age of 72 years, he attained nirvana in Pava.
- Jains celebrate this as the day he attained liberation or moksa.

6. 563 – 483 BC : GAUTAM BUDDHA

Born and Early Age

- Siddhartha Gautama, was born in 563 BC in Lumbini, the modern day Nepal.
- His father Suddhodana was a ruler of the Shakya clan, capital at Kapilavastu.
- His mother Queen Maha Maya was a Koliyan princess.
- As was the custom of Shakya clan, Queen Mahamaya at the advance stage of her pregnancy traveled to her father's kingdom for the child birth.
- But during the long journey, her birth pains started on the way.
- At Lumbini, under a sal tree of a garden, she delivered her baby boy Gautama.
- The king was excited that his son would become a king like himself.
- When Gautama was seven days old, his mother died and he was brought up by his mother's sister Gautami.
- Gautama grew up in a completely private environment and lived an extravagant life of a young prince.
- Gautama was married to Yasodhara, beautiful princess of a neighboring kingdom at the young age of sixteen.
- They had a son named Rahula.

Establish of Buddhism

- Siddhartha Gautama was the founder of Buddhism.
- Although his father protected him and prepared him to live a life of total seclusion, one day Gautama confronted with the reality of the inevitable suffering of life.
- He saw severely ill person, he spotted a funeral ceremony by the side of a river and finally he saw a dead person.
- He asked his charioteer Channa about all these things.
- Channa explained him the reality and told him truth, "all of us get old, sick, and eventually die".
- The next day, at the age of twenty-nine, Gautama left his kingdom to find a way to relieve universal suffering.
- He left his wife and his newborn son Rahula.
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- Siddhartha started practicing rigorous ascetic practices, studying and following different methods of meditation.
- Even after following his practice meticulously and sincerely, he did not get his answers to his questions.
- He intensified his efforts with more rigorous way and started refusing food and water.
- For six years, he practiced but he was never fully satisfied.
- One day in a famous incident, Gautama accepted milk and rice pudding from a girl named Sujata while he became starve and weak.

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- In that incident he understood that physical austerities were not the means to achieve liberation.
- After this incident, Gautama seated for meditation under a pipal tree in Bodh Gaya, India - now known as the Bodhi tree.
- He is said to have accomplished Enlightenment after 49 days of his meditation on the full moon of May, with the rising of the morning star.
- Siddhartha finally got the answers of his questions of suffering.
- He was 35 years old when achieved the Enlightenment.
- At that moment he became the Buddha, which means "he who is awake".
- Gautama encouraged people to follow the balance life rather than extremism.
- He called this The Middle Way.

Nirvana

- In 483 BC, at the age of 80, Buddha attained Parinirvana and abandoned his earthly body.

7. 350 BC : PANINI

- Foundation of Sanskrit Grammar Panini was a famous Sanskrit grammarian from Pushkalavati, Gandhara of ancient Indian.
- He is mostly famous for his Sanskrit grammar Ashtadhyayi.
- He formulated 3,959 rules of Sanskrit morphology, syntax and semantics in the grammar.
- The Ashtadhyayi is the initial text of the grammatical branch of the Vedanga.
- It is one of the most important auxiliary academic texts of Vedic religion.

Personal Life

- Panini's personal life is unknown and is uncertain.
- According to later traditions, his mother was Daksi and his maternal uncle name was Vyadi.
- It was mentioned by the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang that his birth place was Salatura, a suburb of Taxila

8. 356 – 323 BC : ALENANDER THE GREAT

About Alexander

- the Great Alexander III of Macedon, commonly known as Alexander the Great was a powerful Greek ruler (336-323 BC) of Macedon, the Ancient Greek Kingdom.
- He was born in Pella, the capital city Macedon in 356 BC.
- His father Philip II was a Greek king of Macedon from 359 BC to 336 BC and his mother was Olympias, daughter of king of Epirus.
- The famous Greek philosopher Aristotle was his tutor till his age of 16.
- Alexander married twice.
- The first wife was Roxana, daughter of the Bactrian nobleman Oxyartes.
- The second wife was Stateira II, a Persian princess and daughter of Darius III of Persia.
- Alexander had two sons.
- Alexander IV of Macedon was from Roxana.

- His other son Heracles of Macedon was from his mistress Barsine.

Campaigns in Asia

- In 334 BC he began a series of campaigns in Asia and it lasted for ten years.
- He attacked Persian provincial capital.
- By the age of thirty he built one of the largest empires of the ancient world, extending from the Ionian Sea to the Himalayas.
- In 327/326 BC, Alexander attacked Indian sub continent and campaigned against the clans; the Aspasioi of Kunar valleys, the Guraeans of the Guraeus valley, and the Assakenoi of the Swat and Buner valleys.

Battle of Hydaspes

- Alexander the Great began his attack into Punjab.
- The ruler of Taxila, King Ambhi surrendered the city to Alexander.
- In 326 BC, Alexander crossed the river Indus and fought the Battle of Hydaspes against King Porus on the banks of Hydaspes River, present day river Jhelum, the tributary of river Indus.
- King Porus was the ruler of the Hindu Paurava kingdom.
- Alexander army won the one sided battle completely.
- The win had a significant historical importance as it open up India for Greek and the political and cultural influence continued for many centuries.
- **King Poru** was captured by the army of Alexander and he was taken to their King.
- Alexander asked Poru how he wished to be treated.
- In reply Porus said, "Treat me, O Alexander, like a king". Alexander was very impressed by the answer and bravery of Porus and made him an ally.
- Porus was appointed as the satrap and he was allowed to rule Hydaspes in Alexander's name.
- Alexander started two cities on opposite sides of Hydaspes river, he named one city as Bucephala, in honor of his horse that died around that time.
- The other city was Nicaea (Victory) located at the site of modern day Mong.

Death of Alexander

- At the age of 32, on either 10 or 11 June 323 BC, Alexander died in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar

9. MAGADHA

- About Magadha In the ancient Sanskrit text there are numerous references of sixteen Great Countries or Kingdoms in ancient India.
- The great countries were known as Mahajanapadas. Magadha was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas. The first capital of Magadha was Rajagriha, modern day Rajgir and after that Pataliputra became the capital of Magadha. The great epics of Indian mythology, Ramayana, Mahabharata have the refernce of ancient kingdom of Magadha. In Purana also there is mention of Magadha.

Religion and Dynasty

- Buddhism and Jainism the two major religions of India have roots in Magadha.
- Two major dynasties of India, the Maurya Empire (321 BC- 185 BC) and Gupta Empire (240 BC-550 AD), were originated from Magadha.
- Apart from Maurya and Gupta dynasties, there were other dynasties which were started from Magadha, like Brihadratha dynasty, Pradyota dynasty,
- Haryanka dynasty (544-413 BC),
- Shishunaga dynasty (413-345 BC),
- Nanda dynasty (424-321 BC),
- Sunga dynasty(185-73 BC) and
- Kanva dynasty

10. 424 BC – 321 BC : NANDA DYNASTY

Origin of Nanda Dynasty

- The Nanda Empire was an ancient Indian dynasty originated from Magadha and was established in 424 BC.
- Mahapadma Nanda was the founder and the first king of the Nanda dynasty.
- He overthrew the Magadha dynasty and established the new Empire.

First big Empire

- The Nanda Dynasty is sometimes considered as the starting point of empire formation in the recorded history of India.
- Initially Nanda Dynast inherited a large kingdom of Magadha and subsequently the boundaries of Nanda Dynasty were expanded in all directions by its rulers.
- Nandas formed a vast army, including 200000 infantry, 20000 cavalry, 2000 war chariots and 3000 war elephants.
- At its peak, the Nanda Empire expanded from Bengal in the east to Punjab in the west.
- In the southern side it extended to the Vindhya Range.
- Dhana Nanda was the last ruler of Nanda Dynasty.
- In 321 BC, Chandragupta Maurya defeated him and founded the Maurya Empire.

11. 321 – 185 BC : MAURYAN DYNASTY

Origin of Mauryan Empire

- The Mauryan Empire, started from Magadha was founded in 321 BC by Chandragupta Maurya.
- He overthrew Dhana Nanda, the last emperor of Nanda Dynasty.
- Pataliputra, the modern day Patna was the capital city of Mauryan Empire.

Expansion of Mauryan Empire

- Mauryan Empire was one of the world's largest empires of that time and expanded to an area of 5,000,000 km².

- The Mauryan Empire is also to its credit the largest ever empire in the Indian subcontinent.
- The boundaries of Mauryan Empire were extended from the Himalayas in the north to Assam in the east.
- Mauryan Empire was stretched to Deccan Plateau in the south.
- Many historians believe that Chandragupta Maurya defeated Seleucus I Nicator, a Macedonian satrap of Alexander and expanded his border towards Seleucid Persia.

Emperors of Mauryan Dynasty

- Many famous emperors ruled the Mauryan Dynasty.
- Ashoka Maurya was one of the greatest emperors of the Mauryan Dynasty.
- List of Mauryan Emperors:

1. Chandragupta Maurya (321 BC-298 BC)
2. Bindusara (298 BC-272 BC)
3. Ashoka Maurya (269-232 BC)
4. Dasaratha Maurya
5. Samprati
6. Salisuka
7. Devavarman
8. Satadhanvan
9. Brihadratha Maurya

- After Chandragupta Maurya, his son Bindusara became the emperor of Mauryan Dynasty at the age of 22.
- His son Ashoka Maurya, popularly known as Ashoka the Great, ruled almost the entire Indian subcontinent from 269 BC to 232 BC.
- After the Kalinga War, Ashoka embraced Buddhism and implemented principles of ahimsa (non-violence) in his kingdom.

Provinces of Mauryan Empire

- The Mauryan Empire was sub divided into four provinces.
- Tosali was in the east, Ujjain was in the west, the southern part became Suvarnagiri and Taxila was in the north.
- There was a head administrator known as Kumara (i.e. royal prince) in each province and he was empowered to govern the province as king's representative.

Chanakya the architect of Mauryan Empire

- Chanakya, also known as Kautilya was the teacher of Chandragupta Maurya.
- He was originally a teacher of Takshashila University.
- He is considered to be the main architect in the establishment of the Maurya Empire by defeating the powerful Nanda Empire.
- His original name was Vishnugupta.
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- Chanakya is believed to be the pioneer in the field of economics and political science.

- His work is considered as the forerunner to the Classical Economics and Political Science.
- Kautilya was the author of "Arthashastra", ancient Indian treatise for economic policy and military strategy.
- The Arthashastra talks in detail about the monetary and fiscal policies, the international relations, welfare and war strategies.
- "Neetisastra", also known as Chanakya Niti, is another treatise by Kautilya talks about the ideal way of life.

End of Mauryan Empire

- Brihadratha Maurya was the last emperor of Mauryan Dynasty.
- In 185 BC, he was assassinated by Pusyamitra Sunga, the commander-in-chief of his guard during a military parade.
- Pusyamitra Sunga took over the throne and established the Sunga dynasty.

12. 321 – 298 BC : CHANDRA GUPTA MAURYA

Preface

- Chandragupta Maurya was born in 340 BC.
- He overthrew the last emperor of Nanda Dynasty, Dhana Nanda and established the Maurya Empire in 321 BC.
- He was a very powerful emperor and ruled the dynasty till 298 BC.
- He expanded the boundaries of Mauryan Empire from the Himalayas in the north to Assam in the east.
- In the southern side he stretched his boundary to the Deccan Plateau and in the west he extended his border to Afghanistan and Balochistan.
- Many historians consider that Chandragupta Maurya defeated Seleucus I Nicator, a Macedonian satrap of Alexander and extended his border towards Seleucid Persia.

Chanakya the Guide of Chandragupta

- Chanakya, also known as Kautilya was the teacher of Chandragupta and later became the prime minister.
- Chanakya had a major contribution on the establishment and expansion of Mauryan Empire and he is regarded as the main source of Chandragupta's early rise to power.
- Chanakya was the guide to Chandragupta Maurya and did the brilliant plan.
- Chandragupta defeated Dhana Nanda the last emperor of Nanda Dynasty in a series of battles, and finally captured the capital city Pataliputra.
- He conquered the large army of Chandravanshi clan.
- He overthrew the generals of Alexander settled in Gandhara and Arachosia, today's Afghanistan.
- With the help of Chanakya, Chandragupta Maurya became the most powerful Empire in Northern India by the time he was about 20 years old.

Foreign Connection

- Chandragupta Maurya married Helen, the daughter of Seleucus, a Macedonian princess.
- It was a gift from Seleucus to honor an alliance with Chandragupta.
- The famous Greek traveler Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus to the court of Chandragupta as an ambassador.
- Later, Seleucus sent Deimakos to the Mauryan court of his son Bindusara.

Embrace Jainism

- In 298 BC, at the age of 42, Chandragupta Maurya gave up his throne and embraced Jainism.
- Under the Jain saint Acharya Bhadrabahu he became an ascetic and went to Sravana Belgola, present day Karnataka where he spent his remaining days in "sallekhana".
- After Chandragupta Maurya, his son, Bindusara became the new Mauryan Emperor.

13. 304 BC : MEGASTHENES' INDIA VISITS

About Megasthenes

- Megasthenes was a Greek traveler, historian, diplomat, geographer and author who visited India at the time of Mauryan Empire in 304 BC.
- In the Indian history, he is considered as the first foreigner Ambassador to India.
- He stayed in India for a long time.

Visit to the court of Chandragupta Maurya

- The hellenistic king Seleucus I sent him to India as an ambassador to the court of King Chandragupta Maurya of Mauryan Empire.

Megasthenes' Indica

- Megasthenes' famous work Indica is the first Western well known account of India.
- He gave the most detail account of the social, political and economic life of India to the Greek world which was the source to work by the later historian like Diodorus, Strabo.
- He mentioned about the culture, history and religion of India.
- In his work he also described a caste system.
- He referred about Himalayas and the island of Sri Lanka.

14. 269 – 232 BC : ASHOKA THE GREAT

Born and Early Age

- Ashoka was born in 304 BC at Pataliputra present day Patna.
- His father was the second Mauryan Emperor Bindusara and his mother was queen Dharma.
- At the young age Ashoka is considered to very cruel and wicked in nature.
- After Bindusara's death in 273 BC, a conflict started over the successor of next Mauryan Emperor.

- Bindusara preferred his son Sushim to be the next emperor but Ashoka got the support from the ministers led by Radhagupta.

Rise to Power

- After the death of Bindusara, Ashoka came to Pataliputra from Ujjain at the request of Radhagupta to assume the crown.
- Sushim also heard the news of his father's death and fearing Ashoka to become the King; he probably came from Taxila with a large army.
- Ashoka attacked Pataliputra, and killed all his brothers, including Sushim.
- Although Ashoka succeeded to the throne at 273 BC, the coronation happened in 269 BC.

Great Emperor

- Ashoka was popularly known as Ashoka the Great.
- He ruled almost the entire Indian subcontinent stretched from Afghanistan in the west to Assam and Bangladesh in the east and Himalayas in the north to Tamil Nadu and northern Kerala in the south.
- He was the Mauryan Emperor from 269 BC to 232 BC.

Kalinga War

- The Kalinga war was one of the major battles in the history of India.
- During the rule of Chandragupta, the kingdom of Kalinga declared itself independent.
- Ashoka was determined to take control of Kalinga under his reigns.
- In 261 BC, Ashoka fought the Kalinga war with the kingdom of Kalinga, present-day Orissa.
- It was the first and last battle of Ashoka's life after his accession to throne.
- It is said that after the battle of Kalinga the Daya River became red with the blood of the slain. Near Dhauli hill is assumed to be the place of the Kalinga war.
- About 100,000 innocent Kalinga civilians and more than 10,000 of Ashoka's army died in the battle.
- After the conquest of Kalinga, Ashoka stopped the military expansion of the empire.
- The terrible scene of massacre of the Kalinga War had a major impact on the mind and soul of Emperor Ashoka and is said to have prompted him to adopt Buddhism.

Embraced Buddhism

- The Kalinga war prompted Ashoka to follow Ahimsa (non violence), love and truth in his remaining life.
- After the Kalinga war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism.
- He devoted to the spread of Buddhism across Asia and helped it to become one of the major religions of the world.
- He became the peace-loving ruler of one of the world's largest empire.
- He is remembered as an excellent ruler in Indian history.
- Ashoka sent his son Mahindra and daughter Sanghamitra to Ceylon, present day Sri Lanka to establish Buddhism.
- Mahindra and Sanghamitra were born by his first wife, Maharani Devi.

- He constructed thousands of Stupas and Viharas for Buddhist followers.

The Ashoka Pillar

- at Sarnath is one of the most famous contributions by Ashoka.
- It is carved out of a single block of polished sandstone.
- Ashoka Pillar has four lions standing back to back and it was adopted as the emblem of the modern India by the Government of India on 26 January 1950.
- At any angle, only three lions are visible, the fourth lion is hidden from any view.
- The Ashoka Chakra has 24 spokes.
- The National Flag of India adopted on 22 July 1947 has Ashoka Chakra at the centre.

Emperor of Subjects

- Although at the initial stage Ashoka was cruel but after adopting Buddhism he became very kind hearted ruler with love and affection to the subjects.
- He recognized the holiness of human life. Ashoka also showed mercy to those imprisoned.
- In his period subjects attained equal importance regardless of their religion and cast.
- He performed different development activities for the subjects like established universities for study and developed irrigation systems for agriculture.
- He showed love and respect to all living beings.
- He abolished the unnecessary slaughter of animals. Animals became protected by the law.
- Most of the subjects adopted Buddhism and became vegetarian not by compulsion but by own will.
- The ancient text "Ashokavadana" is a text associated to the legend of the Maurya Emperor Ashoka.
- The legend was translated into Chinese by Fa Hien.

15. 3RD CENTURY BC – 1279 AD : CHOLA DYNASTY

About the Dynasty

- The Chola dynasty was one of the famous of the ancient dynasties of India that flourished in southern India.
- It was a Tamil dynasty extended to larger areas of southern India.
- This dynasty ruled over many centuries.
- The earliest traces of the Chola dynasty is mentioned by many historians from 3rd century BC but it reached its zenith starting from end of 9th century till the beginning of the 13th century.
- This dynasty existed till 13th century AD.
- In its peak, the border of the dynasty extended from Sri Lanka, Maldives in the south to Andhra Pradesh in the north.

Rulers of the Dynasty

- Rajaraja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola I were considered to be very powerful ruler of Chola Dynasty.

- At their time the Chola Dynasty became the central power of military and economy in South-east Asia.
- Rajendra Chola defeated the Pala ruler, Mahipala of Pataliputra.
-
- Initially the capital of Cholas was Thanjavur but later Rajendra Chola I founded the new capital city Gangaikonda Cholapuram to celebrate his victorious march to the Ganges during the 11th Century AD.
- **Rajendra Chola III** was the last Chola ruler.
- Some of the other Chola rulers were
- Vijayalaya Chola,
- Aditya I,
- Parantaka Chola I,
- Gandaraditya,
- Arinjaya Chola,
- Sundara Chola,
- Uttama Chola,
- Rajadhiraja Chola,
- Rajendra Chola-II,
- Virarajendra Chola,
- Athirajendra Chola,
- Kulothunga Chola-I,
- Vikrama Chola,
- Kulothunga Chola-II,
- Rajaraja Chola-II,
- Rajadhiraja Chola-II,
- Kulothunga Chola-III,
- Rajaraja Chola-III.

Religious and Historical Structures

- Chola ruler Aditya I built few Hindu Temples of Lord Siva and for Lord Vishnu.
- The famous Ranganatha Temple of Lord Vishnu at Srirangapatnam was also built during the reign of Chola dynasty.
- One of the most important Hind Temples, the "Brihadeeswarar Temple" at Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu was built by the famous Chola king Rajaraja Chola I, between the year 1003 AD and 1010 AD.
- The Brihadeeswarar Temple also known as Rajarajeswaram reflects the brilliant example of Tamil architecture at that time.
- This temple is considered as the worlds first complete granite temple.

Trade

- during Chola Dynasty At the time of Chola dynasty, it attained new heights in Trade and commerce.
- Chola Kingdom became the centre of military and economy in south east Asia.

- To facilitate the trade and military movement the Chola rulers constructed roads throughout the kingdom.
- Chola rulers developed strong trade relation with from Africa, West Asia to China.

16. 200 BCE – 200 CE : THE MANU SAMHITA

About the Author

- The author of Manu Samhita is Saint Manu.
- It is believed that Manu was the ancient teacher of sacred rites and laws.
- He was a religious practitioner and a scholar in astrology.
- It is considered that apart from the religious text, Saint Manu created number of very important astrological texts.
- It is believed that his wife was Satarupa.

About Manu Samhita

- The Manu Samhita also known as the Manu-Smriti or Manava-Dharmasastra is a famous Sanskrit text about code of law and Dharmasastra textual of Hinduism.
- It talks about the principles, morals, duties and schedules that a person should follow in its life. Manu Samhita talks about the responsibility of a person towards other people and his own family in addition to towards Lord.
- The Manu-Smriti has total 12 Chapters and 2685 Shlokas (verses).
- It formed the root of Hindu law.
- The Manu-Smriti is considered as one of the oldest important texts during the time of 200 AD.
- According to the Hindu ritual, the Manu Smriti records the words of Brahma.

17. 185 BC – 73 BC : SUNGA DYNASTY

About Sunga Dynasty

- Sunga dynasty was established by Pusyamitra Sunga in 185 BC after assassinating the last Mauryan emperor Brihadratha.
- The capital of Sunga Dynasty was Pataliputra of ancient Magadha.
- This dynasty ruled vast areas of the Indian Subcontinent during 185 to 73 BC from Narmada in the south to Punjab in the north and the city of Ujjain in central India.

Rulers of Sunga Dynasty

- Pusyamitra Sunga was the first ruler of Sunga Dynasty.
- He ruled the Sunga Kingdom for 36 years from 185 BC to 149 BC.
- After Pusyamitra Sunga, his son Agnimitra became the ruler of Sunga dynasty and ruled the kingdom from 149 to 141 BC.
- His name was the main character in the famous play of Kalidasa, the Malavikagnimitram.
- The other kings of Sunga Dynasty were Vasujyeshtha, Vasumitra, Andhraka, Pulindaka, Ghosha, Vajramitra, Bhagabhadra and Devabhuti.
- The last ruler of Sunga dynasty was Devabhuti and he ruled the kingdom from 83 to 73 BC.

Literature during Sunga Dynasty

- The literature, art and philosophy reached a new height during the reign of Sunga dynasty.
- Patanjali's Yoga Sutras and Mahabhasya were composed in this period.
- The ancient Sanskrit grammar, Ashtadayayi by Panini was composed during the period of Sunga Period.

18. 230 BC – 220 AD : SATAVAHANA DYNASTY

About Satavahana Dynasty

- The Satavahana Dynasty is also referred as Andhra Dynasty.
- In 230 BC, Simuka founded the Satavahana Dynasty in the western Deccan Plateau.
- This dynasty ruled about 450 years till 220 AD. During its period the capital of Satavahanas shifted to different places like Junnar in Pune, Amaravati in Andhra and finally Pratihthanapura in Maharashtra.
- The Early Satavahanas ruled Andhra and present Telangana regions but gradually expanded its territory to vast areas of present day Karnataka, Andhra, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Rulers of Satavahana Dynasty

- Simuka was the first ruler of Satavahana Dynasty and ruled for 23 years.
- He occupied Maharashtra, Malwa and part of Madhya Pradesh.
- His brother Kanha (or Krishna) succeeded him and ruled the kingdom from 207 to 189 BC.
- He expanded his kingdom further to Nasik. Later Satakarni-I became the king of Satavahana.
- He ruled from 180 BC to 124 BC, about 56 years. Satakarni-I overpowered the Sunga dynasty and expanded his territory towards north.
- To demonstrate the power and glory, Satakarni performed the Ashwamedha yagna, the royal rituals of Vedic religion.
- Later Gautamiputra Satakarni became the king of Satavahana Dynasty and ruled from 25 AD to 78 AD.
- He is often considered as the greatest rulers of the Satavahana by historians.
- He reformed the society and upheld the interests of the subjects. He adopted the title Tri-samudra-toya-pita-vahana .
- He was popularly known as Shalivahan. Gautamiputra conquered the Yavanas, Sakas, and Pahlavas.
- He stretched his kingdom to Konkan, Saurashtra and west Rajasthan. Sri Yajna Satakarni, who was the last great king of Satavahanas.
- After his reign, the empire became weak and failed to retain its past glory.

The Glorious Days of Satavahana Dynasty

- King Gautamiputra Satakarni issued coins embossed with his portrait which is considered one of the first of its kind by any Indian Emperor.
- The Karle caves in Maharashtra and some of the Ajanta caves were built during the Satavahana Dynasty.

- The great stupa at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh were built during the reign of Satavahana Dynasty.
- Satavahana rulers built the Buddhist temples called as 'Chaitya' and the monasteries called 'Vihara'.
- The official language of Satavahana was Prakrit.
- The Satavahana Empire is said to be divided into five provinces.

19. 200 BC : AJANTHA CAVES

About the Caves

- The Ajanta Caves are located near the village of Ajintha in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra.
- There are 30 caves in Ajanta which were built from the 2nd century BC.
- The caves 9, 10, 19, 26 and 29 are chaitya-grihas and the rest are monasteries.
- The caves were constructed in two phases.
- The first group of caves were built around 200 BC and the second group of caves built around 600 AD.

Paintings and Sculptures

- The Ajanta Caves are very famous for the paintings and sculptures of Buddhist religion.
- It is considered to be the fine work of the Buddhist religious art.
- Paintings of Ajanta caves show heavy religious influence with the main theme around Buddha, Bodhisattvas, incidents from the life of Buddha and the Jatakas.
- The paintings are carried out on a ground of mud-plaster in the tempera technique.

Discovery of Ajanta Caves

- The Ajanta Caves were discovered by John Smith, a British officer on 28 April 1819 AD.
- It is said that he discovered the entrance of one of the caves accidentally while he was hunting

20. 30 AD – 375 AD : KUSHAN EMPIRE

About Kushan Empire

- Kujula Kadphises is considered to be the founder of Kushan Empire.
- He established the kingdom by unifying the disparate Yuezhi tribes of ancient Bactria in the early 1st century AD and expanded its territory of present day Afghanistan, Pakistan, southern Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- He established the capital of Kushan Empire near Kabul.
- During the period of first to mid-third centuries AD, Kushan expanded rapidly and represented as a major power in Central Asia and northern India.

Emperors of Kushan Empire

- Kanishka, was one of the most powerful rulers of Kushan Empire and ruled for about 13 years from 127AD to 140 AD.

- He expanded his territory to Ujjain in the south and Pataliputra in the east.
- Kanishka ruled from two capitals: Purushapura the present day Peshawar and Mathura in northern India.
- The Gandhara and Mathura School of Art was developed during the reign of Kanishka.
- Some of the other important rulers of Kushan Empire were Vima Taktu, Vima Kadphises, Vasishka and Huvishka. Vasudeva I was the last of the great Kushanas who ruled from 191 AD to 230 AD.
- After Vasudeva I, the kingdom was subdivided into two parts, western and eastern halves. Multiple rulers of Kushan origin ruled till 375 AD.

21. 240 AD – 550 AD : GUPTA EMPIRE

About of Gupta Empire

- The start of Gupta Empire is considered by many historians from the reign of Maharaja Shrigupta.
- Chandragupta-I was the first powerful ruler of Gupta Empire and ascended the throne in 320 AD.
- The Gupta Period from 320 AD to 550 AD is also known as the Golden Age of India.
- In the Gupta period India attained the peak of glory in every aspect starting from science, art, literature, mathematics, astronomy and philosophy.

Emperors of Gupta Empire

- Shrigupta and Ghatotkacha The reign of Maharaja Shrigupta (240 AD to 280 AD) is considered by many historians to be the starting point of Gupta Empire.
- Ghatotkacha succeeded his father Shrigupta and ruled from 280AD to 319 AD.

Chandragupta I

- Chandragupta I was the son of Ghatotkacha and succeeded his father.
- He was the first powerful king of the dynasty.
- He ruled the Empire from 320 AD to 335 AD.
- Chandragupta I adopted the title of Maharajadhiraja, meaning King of Kings.
- He married princess Kumaradevi of neighboring kingdom Lichchhavi and gained the control of the territory of north Bihar.
- He also occupied part of eastern UP.
- The starting of the reign of Chandragupta-I is considered by many historians as the beginning of Gupta era.

Samudragupta and Chandragupta II

- Samudragupta, succeeded his father Chandragupta I and ruled the Gupta dynasty for about 45 years from 335 AD to 380 AD.
- He was a very powerful king. He is also known as 'Napoleon of India'.
- Many historians believe that Chandragupta II was nominated by his father Samudragupta as the next heir of Gupta Empire.

- But Ramagupta, the eldest son of Samudragupta succeeded his father and became the emperor.
- Chandragupta II killed him and ascended the throne. He was an extremely powerful emperor. Chandragupta II is most commonly known as Vikramaditya, ruled the Gupta Empire from 380 AD to 413 AD.

Other Emperors

- Kumaragupta I, the son of Chandragupta II succeeded his father and ruled the dynasty till 455 AD. After Kumaragupta I, Skandagupta succeeded his father.
- He is considered to be the last of the great Gupta emperors.
- He also adopted the title of Vikramaditya.
- After Skandagupta, the Gupta dynasty didn't get any powerful ruler and finally the dynasty was overpowered by the Vardhana ruler Harshavardhana.
- Some of the weak rulers who ruled after Skandagupta were
- Purugupta,
- Kumaragupta II,
- Budhagupta,
- Narasimhagupta,
- Kumaragupta III,
- Vishnugupta,
- Vainyagupta and
- Bhanugupta.

Glory of Gupta Empire

- The Gupta Period is known as the Golden Age of Indian History.
- Gupta era contributed many famous scholars and their priceless contribution helped ancient India to reach at the peak in the world.
- Some of the scholars of the Gupta era are Aryabhata, Kalidasa, Sushruta, Varahamihira, Vishnu Sharma, Dhanvantari and Vatsyayana.
- The Chess game is believed to have originated in Gupta era which was known as caturanga at that time.

Aryabhata

- Aryabhata was a great mathematician and astronomer.
- He is believed to be the first to come up with the concept of zero.
- He suggested the theory of the Earth moves round the Sun.
- He studied the solar and lunar eclipses.

Sushruta

- Sushruta was an ancient Indian Surgeon and one of the first to study the human anatomy.
- He was the author of Sushruta Samhita, the famous ancient text of Ayurveda on surgery.
- It describes human surgery under eight parts.

- It elaborates the different surgical procedures and talks about surgical instruments and different illness.

Vatsyayana

- Vatsyayana was an ancient Hindu philosopher of Gupta era.
- He was the author of the famous ancient Sanskrit text Kama Sutra that describes about the human sexual behavior.
- It has total 36 chapters and 1250 verses, structured in 7 parts.

Vishnu Sharma

- Vishnu Sharma was an ancient scholar of Gupta ear.
- It is believed that he wrote the famous animal fables of Panchatantra.
- It was structured in five books.

Kalidasa, Varahamihira and Dhanvantari

Fa-hien's India Visit

- Fa-hien was the first Chinese pilgrim who visited India during the reign of Gupta emperor Chandragupta II.

22. 335 AD – 380 AD : SAMUDRA GUPTA

Samudragupta the Great

- Samudragupta,succeeded his father Chandragupta I and ruled the Gupta dynasty for about 45 years from 335 AD to 380 AD.
- He was a very powerful king. Chandragupta-I nominated Samudragupta as the next heir of Gupta Empire among all his sons.
- Some historians believe that there was a resistance by other princes at his succession but Samudragupta prevailed the challenge.

Expansion of his Territory

- Samudragupta is also known as Napoleon of India as he fought many battles.
- He defeated the rulers of western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi and brought them under his control.
- He conquered the states ruled by Shakas and Kushanas.
- He conquered Bengal, Assam and some kingdoms in Nepal.
- He defeated the Pallava king Vishnugopa. Samudragupta allowed some states to retain their autonomy under his protection.
- He provided the freedom to the kings of southern India after they had surrendered to him.
- He adopted the title of Maharajadhiraja.

Issue of Gold Coins

- Samudragupta issued eight types of pure gold coins.
- They are known as
- the Standard Type,
- the Archer Type,
- the Battle Axe Type,
- the Aashvamedha Type,
- the Tiger Slayer Type,
- the King and Queen Type and
- the Lyrist Type.

As a Person

- He was a person of caring heart.
- He showed great dignity towards all those kings he defeated.
- He was a music lover and was probably a Lyrist.

23. 380 – 413 AD : CHANDRA GUPTA II THE GREAT**Ascend the Throne**

- Chandragupta II The Great, was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire.
- He is more commonly referred as Vikramaditya or Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
- Many historians believe that Chandragupta II was nominated by his father Samudragupta as the next heir of Gupta Empire.
- But Ramagupta, the eldest son of Samudragupta succeeded his father and became the emperor.
- Chandragupta II killed him and ascended the throne in 380 AD and ruled the Gupta Empire till 413 AD.

Nine Gems or Navaratnas

- At the time of Vikramaditya's reign, the glory of Gupta Empire reached its peak.
- The period of Gupta dynasty is very often referred to as the Golden Age of India.
- A circle of famous nine persons known as Nine Gems or Navaratnas were present in the court of Vikramaditya.
- The group comprised of
- a. Kalidasa
- b. Vetala Bhatta
- c. Varahamihira
- d. Vararuchi
- e. Amarasimha
- f. Dhanvantari
- g. Kshapanak
- h. Shanku
- i. Ghatakarpura

Fa-hien's visit to the court of Chandragupta II

- During the reign of Chandragupta II, the great Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien visited India in search of knowledge.

Issue of Gold and Silver Coins

- Chandragupta II continued the issue of gold coins introduced by his father Samudragupta.
- He was the first Gupta Emperor to issue silver coins.
- Chandragupta also issued lead and copper coins.
-
- Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumaragupta I.

24. 380 – 413 AD : NINE JEWELS OR NAVARATHNAS OF VIKRAMADITHA**Navaratnas in the court of Vikramaditya**

- A circle of famous nine persons known as Nine Gems or Navaratnas were present in the court of Vikramaditya.
- The nine gems of the group were
 - a. Kalidasa
 - b. Vetala Bhatta
 - c. Varahamihira
 - d. Vararuchi
 - e. Amarasimha
 - f. Dhanvantari
 - g. kshapanak
 - h. Shanku
 - i. Ghatakarpara

Kalidasa

- Kalidasa was a famous Sanskrit writer and poet in the court of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya).
- He is commonly regarded as the greatest poet in the Sanskrit language.
- Kalidasa was the author of three famous plays.
- Those are:
 - a) Abhijnanasakuntalam : tells the story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala
 - b) Malavikagnimitram tells the story love of King Agnimitra with Malavika
 - c) Vikramorvasiyam tells the love story of King Pururavas and celestial fairy Urvashi
- Kalidasa was also the author of two famous Sanskrit epic poems:
 - a) Raghuvamsa ("Raghu Dynasty ") and
 - b) Kumarasambhava.

Vetala Bhatta

- Vetala Bhatta was a Brahmin in the court of Vikramaditya.
- He is known for his contribution of "Nitipradipa ".

Varahamihira

- Varahamihira was an Indian astronomer, astrologer and mathematician of Gupta era.
- He is famously known for his great work Pancha Siddhantika, a book on mathematical astronomy.
- His other important contribution to the Indian Sanskrit literature is the Brihat-Samhita, an encyclopedia of astrology and other subjects of human interest.

Vararuci

- Vararuci was one of the nine Gems in the court of Chandragupta II of Gupta era.

Amarasimha

- Amarasimha was one of the nine Gems in the court of Vikramaditya of Gupta era.
- He is notably known for his famous Sanskrit thesaurus Amarakosha.
- It is also known as Namalinganushasana.

Dhanvantari

- Dhanvantari is regarded as one of the worlds first surgeons and medical practitioner from Gupta era.
- He is considered as the origin exponent of Ayurveda.
- He is also worshipped as the God of Medicine.
- Sushruta, the author of famous Sushruta Samhita was the student of Dhanvantari.
- He is also credited for the discovery of the antiseptic properties of turmeric and the preservative properties of salt.
- Dhanvantri is considered to be the pioneer of modern plastic surgery.

25. 399 AD – 414 AD : FA-HIEN'S INDIA VISIT**Visit to India**

- Fa-hien was the first Chinese pilgrim who visited India during the reign of Gupta emperor Chandragupta II.
- He is also known as Faxian.
- He left China in 399 AD and reached India in 405 AD.
- On the way to India, he crossed the Gobi Desert, the Pamir Plateau, Swat and Gandhara.
- In India he traveled to different places like Bodh Gaya, Mathura, Kanauj, Benaras, Kapilavastu, Vaisali, Pataliputra and Peshwar.
- He stayed for about ten years in India.
- On his return to his homeland he visited South India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.
- He took the sea route in his return journey.

Account on India

- In his account he mentioned very important information about India at that time.

- Fa-hien provided the detailed description about Pataliputra.
- As per him people enjoyed the freedom, there were no crime and it was a safe place.
- Majority of the peoples were vegetarian, and most people didn't take liquor, onion and garlic.
- There was no butcher's shop.
- As per Fa-hien, Buddhism prospered in many parts of India and he provided a detailed account about Buddhism.
- He also presented a detailed account about the trade in India.
- He translated some of the important Buddhist texts to Chinese from Sanskrit.
- One of the most important was Mahaprinivarana sutra.

26. 476 – 550 AD : ARYABHATA

About Aryabhata

- Aryabhata was one of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers from Gupta era.
- He was born in 476 AD.
- His most important contribution to Indian mathematics and astronomy are Aryabhatiya and Arya-siddhanta.
- In 499 AD, when he was only 23 years old he wrote his famous Sanskrit astronomical treatise "Aryabhatiya".

Contribution in Mathematics and Astronomy

- It is believed that Aryabhata invented the concept of zero.
- He used the concept of the sine and cosine and defined the sine table, which he called jya and kojya.
- He is considered as the pioneer of the birth of trigonometry.
- Aryabhata is also known for the use of the place value system.
- He provided the algorithms to calculate the square and cubic roots.
- Aryabhata calculated the value of "pi" as 3.1416.
- He worked upon arithmetic and algebra also used Quadratic equations, compound interest, proportions and linear equations.

Aryabhata believed,

- "the earth rotates about its own axis daily".
- He measured the time duration of day and year almost accurately.
- He calculated the earth 's rotation time as 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.1 seconds and the length of a year as 365 days, 6 hours, 12 minutes and 30 seconds.
- Aryabhata scientifically described the Solar and lunar eclipses.
- He also correctly explained the light of the earth circumference as 24835 miles, very near to actual value 24900 miles.

27. 4TH AND 9TH CENTURY : PALLAVA DYNASTY

About Pallava Dynasty

- Pallava Dynasty was an ancient Indian dynasty that flourished in southern India and ruled from early fourth century AD to ninth century AD.
- Many historians describe the periods of Pallavas as early Pallavas, medieval Pallavas and later Pallavas.
- The history of the early Pallavas is not very clear.

Simhavishnu

- **Simhavishnu** was the founder of later Pallavas and founded the Dynasty in the mid of sixth century AD.
- The capital of Pallava Dynasty was Kanchi which was captured by Pallavas from Cholas.
- Samudragupta, the great emperor of Gupta Dynasty defeated Vishnugopa of medieval Pallavas and took control of Kanchi.
- Later, Simhavishnu re-captured Kanchi from Gupta ruler.
- The Pallava Dynasty expanded to a vast area including Tiruchchirapalli, Tanjore and Chennai.

Rulers of later Pallava Dynasty

- Simhavishnu was the first ruler of the later Pallava Dynasty.
- He engaged in many battles with Chola and Pandya kings.
- Mahendravarman-I, son of Simhavishnu succeeded his father and ascended the throne of Pallava Dynasty in 590 AD.
- He is believed to be the first great ruler of the dynasty. Mahendravarman-I was succeeded by his son Narasimhavarman-I.
- At the time of Mahendravarman-I,
- Chalukya ruler defeated the Pallavas but later Narasimhavarman defeated the Chalukya ruler and took the revenge.
- Some of the other great kings of Pallava Dynasty were
- Mahendravarman II,
- Paramesvaravarman I,
- Narasimhavarman II and
- Paramesvaravarman II.

Great Architectures of Pallavas

- Pallavas are famous for the great art and architectures.
- The famous rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram were built during the reign of Pallavas.
- The famous Kailasanatha temple of Lord Shiva at Kanchipuram was built by Pallava King Narasimhavarman II, also known as Raja Simha. Raja Simha also built the Shore Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva at Mahabalipuram.

28. 450 AD : INVASIONS BY THE HUNA

- Hunas were the tribes on the borders of Chinese empire.
- Towards the beginning of Gupta era, Hunas started settled in Cental Asia.
- During the first half of the 5th century, Huna attacked northern India.
- Initially the Gupta Emperor Skandagupta resisted the Hunas but they continuously attacked.
- Finally the Hunas succeeded and occupied larger areas of northern India.
- As per some Historians, Hunas invaded Gandhara and Punjab from the side of Kabul valley.
- In 528 AD, Yasodharman of Malwa defeated the Hunas.
- The details of Hunas are not very clear in Indian History after the end of sixth centry.

29. 543 AD – 1190 AD : CHALUKYA DYNASTY**Badami Chalukyas**

- Chalukya Dynasty was an ancient Indian dynasty that flourished in southern and central India. In 543 AD, Jayasimha founded this dynasty but Pulakeshin-I was the first powerful ruler of this dynasty.
- The capital of the Chalukya Dynasty was Vatapi (present day Badami in Bijapur District), so the dynasty is also called as "Badami Chalukya".
- Pulakeshin-I built this new capital city. Chalukya ruler Pulakeshin-II defeated the powerful Vardhana ruler Harshavardhana and defended him to expand his kingdom to Southern India.
- Pulakeshin-II also defeated Pallava ruler and reached near to Pallava capital Kanchi.
- But later in 642 AD, the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman defeated him and killed him in a battle.
- He also captured the Chalukya capital Vatapi. In 655 AD, Vikramaditya-I, the son of Pulakeshin-II defeated Pallava and reoccupied the Chalukyas Empire.
- The Badami Chalukyas existed till about 750 AD before the last ruler Kirtivarman II losing its territory to Rashtrakuta emperor Dantidurga.

Eastern Chalukyas

- Vishnuvardhana was the younger brother of Pulakeshin-II and he was appointed as the viceroy of a part of Andhra Pradesh.
- After the death of Pulakeshin- II, he declared independence and founded the new eastern Chalukya Dynasty.
- The capital of this new dynasty was Vengi.
- The eastern Chalukya dynasty ruled till 12 th century AD before it came under control of Chola ruler.

Kalyani Chalukyas

- The Kalyani Chalukya is also known as western Chalukya Dynasty.
- The capital of the western Chalukya Dynasty was Kalyani, present day Basavakalyana.
- Tailapa II was the founder of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty and this dynasty ruled from

30. 606 AD – 647 AD : HARSHVARDHAN

About Harshvardhan

- Harshvardhana was a very powerful emperor of Vardhana dynasty of northern India.
- He ruled the dynasty from 606 AD to 647 AD.
- When he became the king, he was only 16 years of old.
- His father Prabhakar Vardhan was the founder of the Vardhana dynasty.
- His mother was Queen Yasomati .
- Thaneswar was the capital Vardhana dynasty and Harshvardhana shifted his capital from Thaneswar to Kanauj.

Expansion of his Territory

- Harshvardhana ruled a vast area of India.
- His territory included Punjab, Malwa, Kanauj, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and the Indo-Gangetic plain north of the Narmada River.
- Harshvardhana overpowered the Gupta dynast and expanded his territory. He formed an alliance with Bhaskaravarman, the king of Kamarupa to defeat Shashanka the king of Gauda (Bengal). The details of the war with Shashanka are not clear, historians believe Shashanka was defeated.
- Harshvardhana wished to expand his kingdom to southern India and he attacked the Chalukya Empire.
- But the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II defeated him in 620 AD and put a resistance on his expansion plan to southern India.
- It is believed that Harshvardhana maintained a good diplomatic relations with China.

Scholars in the court of Harshvardhana

- Harshvardhana was an intelligent and literate person.
- He offered respect to other scholars.
- Bana a great scholar at that time stayed in the court of Harshvardhana.
- Bana was the author of Harsha-Charita and Kadambari.
- The famous poet Mayura was also in the court of Harshvardhana.

Hiuen Tsang's visit to court of Harshvardhana

- The famous Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang also known as Xuanzang came to India in 629 AD and stayed for about 16 years.
- He visited the court of Harshvardhana of Vardhana dynasty in 636 AD.
- Hiuen Tsang provided valuable record of the court of Harsha and about people of India in his book "Si-Yu-Ki ".
- He included political, religious and educational information in his book.

End of Harsha's Empire

- In 647 AD, at the age of 41, Harshvardhana died.

- There was no successor after the death of Harsha and the Empire ended after his death.

31. 629 AD – 645 AD : HIUEN TSANG’S INDIA VISIT

- Hiuen Tsang's India Visit Hiuen Tsang was a famous Chinese pilgrim and a Buddhist scholar who came to India in 629 AD.
- He reached Punjab of India and on the way he crossed Tashkend and Gandhara.
- He visited different places in India mainly associated with Lord Buddha.
- He stayed in this country for about 16 years.
- Hiuen Tsang visited the court of Harsavardhana, the great emperor of Vardhana dynasty in 636 AD.
- During his stay in India, Hiuen Tsang visited Sarnath, Varanasi, Kanauj, Vaisali, Pataliputra and Bodh Gaya.
- He also spent a longer period of time in Nalanda, the famous ancient University of India.
- Hiuen Tsang also visited Pragjyotishpur (present-day Guwahati), the capital of Kamarupa kingdom. Kamrupa king Kumar Bhaskaravarman who was a friend of Harsavardhana invited him to Pragjyotishpur.
- Hiuen Tsang also went to Lumbini (present day Nepal), the birth place of Buddha.
- In his journey he also covered Bangladesh.
- He reached his homeland after crossing Khyber Pass of the Hindu Kush Mountain in 645 AD.
- Hiuen Tsang collected many good texts, images etc. in his journey to different places and took those to China on his return.

Account on India

- Hiuen Tsang provided valuable record of the court of Harsha and about people of India in his book "Si-Yu-Ki".
- This book provides the priceless information on political, social, economic and religious life of people at that time.
- Hiuen Tsang also mentioned about the kind nature of the ruler who took utmost care of the subjects.
- He was very happy with the administration of Harsavardhana.
- The law was very good for the people who obeyed the rule but for the criminal it was very tough.

32. 753 – 973 AD : RASHTRAKUTA DYNASTY

About Rashtrakuta Dynasty

- The Rashtrakuta Dynasty was a famous Indian dynasty that became prominent after the fall of Badami Chalukyas and ruled the Indian Subcontinent from 753 AD to 973 AD.
- Dantidurga was the founder of Rashtrakuta empire.
- Dantidurga defeated Kirtivarman II, the last ruler of Badami Chalukyas and established the new dynasty.
- The capital of Rashtrakutas was Manyakheta.
- The Rashtrakuta empire stretched to a larger areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Emperors of Rashtrakuta Empire

- Dantidurga was the first king of the dynasty.
- He was succeeded by Krishna I who was the uncle of Dantidurga. Govinda III was one of the most powerful emperors of the dynasty ascended the throne in 793 AD.
- He succeeded his father Dhruva Dharavarsha and defeated the Pallavas of Kanchi.
- Govinda-III was succeeded by his son Amoghavarsha-I in 814 AD.
- Amoghavarsha-I founded the capital of Rashtrakuta empire at Manyakheta, present day Malkhed in Karnataka.
- Some of the great emperors of Rashtrakuta dynasty were
- 1. Dantidurga
- 2. Krishna I
- 3. Govinda II
- 4. Dhruva Dharavarsha
- 5. Govinda III
- 6. Amoghavarsha I
- 7. Krishna II
- 8. Indra III
- 9. Amoghavarsha II
- 10. Govinda IV

Scholars of Rashtrakuta Empire

- Rashtrakutas were great patrons of literature.
- Many famous scholars lived in the court of Rashtrakuta Empire.
- Apabhramsa poet Svayambhu, was a court poet of Rashtrakuta empire.
- Emperor Amoghavarsha I himself was a great scholar.
- He wrote the famous Kannada book Kavirajamarga on the theory of literature.
- Adikavi Pampa, one of the greatest Kannada poets and the Jain scholar who wrote the Adipurana graced the court of the Rashtrakutas.

Rich Architectures of Rashtrakuta Empire

- Architecture and sculpture of Rashtrakuta dynasty is recognized as the priceless contribution in the rich Indian architectural history.
- The famous Kailasanath Temple at Ellora was built by the Rashtrakuta Emperor Krishna I. Rashtrakutas also built some of the rock cut caves in Elephanta island of Maharashtra.
- The famous Kashivishvanatha temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva was also one of the valuable contributions of Rashtrakutas.
- The Jain Narayana temple in Karnataka was also constructed at the time of Rastrakuta Empire.

33. 5TH TO 10TH CENTURY : ELLORA CAVES

Preface

- The Ellora caves are located in Aurangabad city of Maharashtra. Most of caves were built during the period of Rashtrakuta dynasty.
- There are total 34 "caves" those were carved out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills.
- The caves at Ellora were of three distinct categories. There are 12 Buddhist caves, 17 Hindu caves and 5 Jain caves.
- The Buddhist Caves The Buddhist caves at Ellora were built during 5th-7th century AD.
- These are mainly viharas or monasteries and were used for study, meditation, communal rituals, eating and sleeping.
- The cave 2 has number of sculptures of seated Buddhas arranged in rows.
- Cave 10 is famous and known as Carpenter's Cave or 'Vishvakarma cave' with a 3.3 m high seated Buddha at the far end.
- Cave 11 has the images of Durga and Ganesh also a Buddha shrine, historians believe that the cave was converted into a Hindu temple after it was deserted by the Buddhists.

The Hindu Caves

- The Hindu caves were constructed during 6th and 8th century AD, some of them were constructed during the Rashtrakuta period.
- The most notable cave among the Hindu caves is Cave 16 which is also known as Kailasa or Kailasanatha or Kailasa Temple, the abode of Lord Shiva.
- The multi-storeyed temple was carved out of a single rock. It is a marvel of architecture with many sculptures.
- Historians believe that the Kailasa Temple was built by Rashtrakuta Emperor Krishna I.
- The cave 15 is known as Das Avatara and has sculptural panels of different incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
- The cave 21 is one of the oldest caves of Ellora, known as Ramesvara includes the sculpture of river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna.
- Cave 25 has the sculpture of the Lord Surya (i.e. Sun). Cave 29 is renowned for the grand sculpture of Ravana attempting to lift Shiva and Parvati.

The Jain Caves

- The Jain caves at Ellora belonged to the Digambara faction.
- It has total five Jain caves.
- The most notable Jain caves are the
- cave 30 (Chhota Kailash),
- the cave 32 (Indra Sabha) and
- cave 33 (Jagannath Sabha)

34. 6TH TO 7TH CENTURY : ELEPHANTA CAVES

Preface

- The Elephanta Caves are located in Raigad district on island hills of Elephanta Island.
- It is about 11 km north-east of the Apollo Bandar of Mumbai and 7 km from the shore of the mainland.
- Earlier the island was known as Gharapuri but Portuguese renamed it to Elephanta as it had a huge gigantic statue of an Elephant at the entrance.
- The elephant statue is presently placed at Jijamata Garden in Mumbai.
- Historians believe that different dynasties contributed the different segments of the Elephanta Caves, notably Mauryas of Konkan, Badami and Kalyani Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Yadavas etc.

Caves of Elephanta

- Elephanta has total seven caves built during 6th - 7th centuries AD, out of which the most notable is the Cave 1, Shiva cave.
- The cave is most famous for its amazing rock-cut architecture and sculptures.
- The cave has a central hall supported by six rows of pillars and three opening including the main entrance on the north.
- The most famous breathtaking sculpture known as Mahesa-murti is one of the main attractions of this cave.
- It has other splendid sculptures of Siva, Siva and Parvati, Nataraja, Kalyanasundara murti, Gangadhara murti and Ravana shaking Kailasa.

35. 850 AD – 1334 AD : SEUNA OR YADAVAS DYNASTY OF DEVAGIRI

About Yadava Dynasty

- The Yadava was an important Hindu dynasty of central India that flourished in Indian subcontinent from 12th to 14th century AD.
- Yadava dynasty is also known as Seuna dynasty. Dridhaprahara was the founder of the dynasty and ruled the dynasty under the lordship of Rashtrakutas from 850 AD.
- Bhillama-V, one of the most powerful rulers of this dynasty is known for establishing the independent Yadava Kingdom.
- The capital of the dynasty was Devagiri, present day Daulatabad of Maharashtra was founded by Bhillama-V.
- The Yadava Kingdom covered Maharashtra, north Karnataka and parts of Madhya Pradesh stretching from the river Tungabhadra to the river Narmada.

Rulers of Yadava Dynasty

- Bhillama-V was the first ruler of the independent Yadava Kingdom, ascended the throne in 1173 AD and rule the dynasty till 1192 AD.
- He was a powerful ruler and founded the Yadavas capital Devagiri. Singhana II is considered to be the most powerful king of Yadavas, succeeded his father Jaitugi I in 1200 AD.

- The Yadava dynasty came to the end when the Khilji ruler occupied the Yadava capital Devagiri in 14th century AD.

36. 10TH CENTURY AD : INVASION OF MAHMUD OF GHAZNI

Mahmud of Ghazni

- Mahmud of Ghazni was a very powerful ruler of the Ghaznavid Dynasty.
- His empire stretched vast areas including present days Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and North-West India.

Raids in India

- Mahmud raided northwestern India for seventeen times at the end of the 10th century.
- He never wanted to establish his rule in India, although he invaded this country for many times. His main intention was economic and political.
- In addition to looting money he wanted to destroy Hindu temples and spread Islam in India.
- His most notorious invasion was the attack on Somnath Temple in Gujrat in 1025 AD.
- The Somnath Temple was famous for its rich treasures.
- The shrine was decorated with precious gems and it had a famous Linga.
- There were one thousand priests who served the temple.
- Mahmud attacked the temple with his strong army.
- The attack was defended bravely by the Rajputs for few initial days but finally invaders succeeded and entered into the holy Temple.
- About 50,000 people were killed by Mahmud's army.
- He raided the rich treasures of the temple and destroyed divine idol, Linga.
- It is believed that he looted about 20-million Dinars in this raid.

37. 1083 – 1323 AD : KAKATIYA DYNASTY

Kakatiya Dynasty

- Kakatiya Dynasty was a south Indian Telugu Dynasty prominent in Andhra Pradesh.
- Orugallu, present days Warangal was the capital of the dynasty.
- In the initial phase the dynasty ruled under the lordship of Western Chalukyas .
- This dynasty ruled from 1083 AD to 1323 AD.
- The Kakatiya period is considered to be the very important phase of Telugu History.

Rulers of Kakatiya Dynasty

- Prola II (1110 to 1158 AD), son of Beta II was one of the most powerful rulers of Kakatiya Dynasty and he declared himself as independent king.
- Prola II was succeeded by Rudra (1158 - 1195 AD), another powerful ruler of the dynasty.
- Ganapatideva who is considered to be the greatest ruler of the dynasty ascended the throne in 1199 AD and ruled the dynasty till 1262 AD.
- He expanded his territory to vast areas including modern day Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Karnataka and parts of Orissa.

- Rudramba, daughter of Ganapatideva succeeded his father in 1262 AD.
- Rudramba was succeeded by Prataparudra in 1295 AD and ruled till 1323 AD.
- The Kakatiya Dynasty came to end after Prataparudra surrendered to the large army of Ghiaz-ud-din Tughlaq in 14th century AD.

Art of Kakatiya Dynasty

- Kakatias were rich in art and architectures.
- They built temples of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Surya.
- The thousand-Pillared Temple at Hanamkonda was also the contribution of the Kakatiya Dynasty.
- The Nandi pavilion, a huge granite bull at the entrance of the temple is an example of awesome architecture of that period.
- The temple in the Warangal fort was also built by Kakatiya ruler. The famous Kohinoor Diamond was unearthed during the reign of Kakatiya Dynasty.

38. 1191 AD & 1192 AD : BATTLES OF TARAIN

First battle of Tarain

- The first battle of Tarain was fought between Muhammad Ghori and the Rajput army of King Prithviraj Chauhan in 1191 AD.
- Muhammad Ghori decided to expand his territory and advanced his army towards the kingdom of Prithviraj Chauhan.
- Prithviraj marched to defend Ghori and in Tarain near Thanesar of present-day Haryana they faced each other.
- Rajput army showed their courage and won the battle.

Second battle of Tarain

- Muhammad Ghori wanted to take revenge of his first defeat with Prithviraj Chauhan.
- This time he marched towards India with a large army consisting of 1, 20,000 men.
- Ghori sent a messenger to Prithviraj and asked for his surrender but Prithviraj refused his demand.
- This time too Prithviraj advanced to Tarain with his army. In 1192 AD, the army of Prithviraj faced the army of Muhammad Ghori.
- Ghori distributed his army into five groups and four groups attacked the Rajputs and the fifth force was kept in reserve.
- The battle continued from the morning till sun-set.
- Towards the end of the day Ghori used his reserved force to attack the Prithviraj army who were already tired after the full day battle.
- Ghori's army killed Khande Rai, general of Prithviraj.
- Prithviraj tried to escape the battle field but he was captured and killed by the army of Ghori.
- This victory opened the door to lay the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate.

39. 1199 AD : QUTUB MINAR

About the Minar

- Qutbu'd-Din Aibak, the founder of Slave Dynasty laid the foundation of Qutub Minar in 1199 AD.
- It is the tallest stone tower in India made of red sandstone and marble.
- There are 379 stairs to reach the top of the 72.5 m high tower.
- The diameter at the base of the tower is 14.32 m and at the top is 2.75 m.
- It is a five storeyed minar with projected balconies at different levels.
- The balconies are designed with honey-comb style.

History of the Minar

- Qutbu'd-Din Aibak laid the foundation of Minar in 1199 AD but it was completed by his successor Iltutmish.
- It is believed that Qutub Minar was built to commemorate the victory of Mohammed Ghori over Prithviraj Chauhan at the second battle of Tarrain in 1192 AD.
- In different places of the minar, numerous inscriptions of Arabic and Nagari were imprinted at different time by different rulers.
- Those inscriptions reveal valuable information about its history over the time.
- As per the inscriptions Firuz Shah Tughlaq and Sikandar Lodi repaired the surface of Qutub Minar.
- Qutbu'd-Din Aibak also constructed the earliest mosque built by the Delhi Sultans, Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque to the northeast of Minar.

40. 1200 – 1247 AD : SINGHANA II

About Singhana II

- Singhana II is considered to be the most powerful ruler of Yadava Dynasty succeeded his father Jaitugi I in 1200 AD.
- His stretched his territory from river Tungabhadra to river Narmada.
- He established the town Singhanapur in Maharashtra.
- He defeated Veera Ballala II and occupied the territories of Hoysalas of Dorasamudra and became the supreme power of Deccan.
- Singhana II conquered Banavasi and Santalige and reached the river Tunga.
- It is believed that Singhana II defeated Jajalladeva of Mysore.
- He also defeated Bhoja II, the last king of Silharas.

Culture of Singhana II

- Singhana II was patron art and culture.
- The famous astrologers Changadeva and Anantadeva lived in the court of Singhana II.
- Shrangadeva, the author of Sangitaratnakara, one of the most important musicological text lived in the court of Singhana II.

- Singhana II established the college of astronomy to study the work of renowned astronomer Bhaskaracharya.
- He also patronized Changadeva, the Kannada poet.

41. 1221 AD : GENGHIS KHAN INVADES PUNJAB

About Genghis Khan

- Genghis Khan was the founder of the Yuan Dynasty, a Mongol Empire.
- He was born in 1162 AD and became the king in 1206 AD.
- His father was Kiyat Borjigid, a Mongol chieftain.
- The childhood name of Genghis Khan was Temujin or Tie Muzhen.
- He adopted the name Genghis Khan, meaning King of Kings.
- When he was a small boy his father was killed by poisoning and he was raised by his mother Hoelun.

Invasion of Punjab

- Genghis Khan was a powerful military leader.
- After becoming king he started the Mongol invasions and began his campaigning in most of Eurasia.
- Genghis Khan raided Afghanistan and part of northern India with a huge Mongol army.
- In his raid he did massive massacres of the civilians and destroyed the properties.
- Towards the end of his life, the Mongol Empire occupied a significant portion of Central Asia and China.

42. 1228 – 1826 AD : AHOM DYNASTY

The Ahom Dynasty,

- the most renowned dynasty of present day Assam ruled the Ahom Kingdom for nearly 600 years from 1228 AD to 1826 AD.
- It successfully defended the Mughal expansion in North East India.
- Sukaphaa, a Tai prince from Mong Mao was the founder of the dynasty.
- The Ahom Dynasty stretched its territory between Chutiya kingdom in the north and the Kachari kingdom in the south.
- The dynasty came to end after the Burmese invasion in Assam and subsequently after the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826 AD between British East India Company and Burmese.
- Treaty of Yandabo marked as the end of the Ahom Dynasty and established the British sovereignty in Assam.

Rulers of Ahom Dynasty

- **Sukaphaa** was the first King of Ahom Dynasty.
- He ruled the Kingdom from 1228 AD and till 1268 AD.
- He with a group of Tai followers came to Assam after crossing the Patkai Mountain.
- Sukaphaa created the Ahom positions Burha Gohain and Bor Gohain in his court.

Suhungmung (1497-1539 AD),

- was the 14th Ahom King and one of the powerful kings of Ahom kingdom.
- He is also known as Swarganarayana Dihingia Raja.
- He established the multi-ethnic policy in Ahom Dynasty.
- He expanded the Kingdom to larger areas of Chutiya and Kachari kingdoms.
- He successfully protected the Ahom Kingdom from the first Muslim invasions under Turbak Khan.
- He was the first Ahom King to adopt Hindu name, Swarganarayana.
- In his reign he created additional Ahom positions like Borpatro Gohain , Sadiakhowa Gohain and Marangikhowa Gohain.

Dihingia Roja

- was succeeded by Suklenmung (1539-1552 AD).
- He adopted the name Garhgaiya Roja.
- He established his capital at Garhgaon in 1540 AD.
- He was the first Ahom king to introduce coins in his Kingdom.
- The coins were octagonal in shape, with legends in the Ahom script.

Sukhaamphaa (1552-1603 AD)

- succeeded his father Suklenmung and became the king after his father's death.
- He ruled the dynasty for 51 years, the longest in the Ahom dynasty.

Susengphaa (1603-1641 AD),

- was one of the most powerful kings of the Ahom Dynasty.
- He is also known as Pratap Singha.
- He ruled the Ahom Kingdom to an older age so he is also known as Burha Raja (Old king).
- He made the first military and diplomatic contact with the Mughals.
- He expanded the Ahom kingdom to the west and it started the conflict of Ahom with Mughal.
- He introduced the Ahom positions Borbarua and Borphukan in his court.

Sutamla (1648-1663 AD)

- was the 20th Ahom king.
- He is also known as Jayadhvaj Singha.
- During his reign the Mughal viceroy at Bengal Mir Jumla II attacked the Ahom Kingdom and occupied his capital Garhgaon.
- He fled to the Namrup area and because of this flight he is also known as the Bhagania Roja in Assam history.

Supangmung (1663-1670 AD)

- also known as Chakradhwaj Singha was a powerful Ahom king.
- During his reign he re-occupied Guwahati from Mughals.
- The next eleven years were the instable period of the Ahom Kingdom.
- After Chakradhwaj Singha, his brother Udayaaditya Singha (Sunyatphaa) became the King of the Ahom dynasty and ruled the Kingdom for 2 years.
- In 1672 AD, Sarugohain (Suklamphaa) ascended the throne of the Ahom kingdom after overthrowing his brother Udayaaditya Singha and adopted the Hindu name Ramadhwaj Singha.
- He was a weak king and ruled the dynasty for about two years before he was poisoned on the instructions of Debera Borbarua.
- Gobar Gohain was nominated as the next Ahom King by Debera Borbarua but within a short period of time he was killed by a group of Atan Burhagohain.
- In 1679, Atan Burhagohain was murdered by Laluk Sola Borphukan and he nominated Sulikphaa, also known as Lora Roja (1679 - 1681 AD) as the next Ahom King.
- During the period of Lora Roja a new rule was introduced that a person eligible for the throne could become the King only when he was physically untarnished.
- After introducing the rule the king started a campaign to impose wounds on Ahom princes who were eligible for the throne.
- In 1681 AD, Supaatpha or Gadapani adopted the name Gadadhar Singha and became the Ahom King after the decade unrest.
- He pushed Mughal out of Brahmaputra valley and removed the Mughal control completely. He re-occupied Guwahati.

Sukhrungphaa (1696-1714 AD)

- also known as Rudra Singha, succeeded his father Gadadhar Singha and became the next Ahom King.
- He is considered to be the greatest king of Ahom Dynasty.
- During his reign Ahom kingdom reached its zenith in terms of power and glory.
- He integrated the rulers in the region and formed the coalition and built a composite army to fight against the Mughal Emperor.
- He formed the alliance with Dimasa-Kacharis, Jaintiyas and Daflas.
- He established his new capital at Rangpur.
- It is believed that he was the first Ahom King to celebrate Bihu (the main festival of Assam) in his palace.
-
- The Ahom Dynasty became weaker with the escalation of the Moamoria rebellion and subsequently faced the Burmese invasions.
- Finally it came to end after the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826 AD between British East India Company and Burmese.

Mir Jumla II

- Assam invasion Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor ordered Mir Jumla II, governor of Bengal to invade Cooch Behar and Assam.
- He advanced his army and occupied Koch Behar and then proceeded to Assam.

- In the beginning of 1662 AD, Mir Jumla II attacked Ahom Kingdom and occupied cities like Guwahati, Pandu, Simaluguri, Lakhua and Ahom capital Garhgaon.
- The Ahom king Jayadhwaj Singha ran away from his capital and took the shelter in the eastern hills.
- It became difficult to Mir Jumla II to sustain the extreme climate of Assam.
- Heavy rain and flood caused massive destruction to the Mughal Army.
- Mughal and Jayadhwaj Singha mutually agreed a treaty and Ahom handed over Kamrup to Mughals and agreed to pay heavy fee of protection.

Later Chakradhwaj Singha

- refused the payment to Mughals.
- He was a powerful king and attacked Mughals and re-captured the region from Mir Jumla II.
- Ahom army pushed the Mughal army to the border of Assam.

Again in 1671 AD, Mir Jumla II

- with Shaista Khan attacked Ahom Kingdom. Ahom army faced the Mughals in the Battle of Saraighat.
- The Ahom army was led by the great commander Lachit Borphukan. Ahom army showed a brilliant war tactics and defeated the Mughal Army.
- In this battle Ahom demonstrated the guerrilla tactics, psychological warfare, military intelligence, took the full advantage of terrain, showed clever diplomatic negotiations to buy time and fully utilized the weakness.