

MINDMAPS

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL INDIA

FOR UPSC/PSC COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS



NAVIGATING CONCEPTS THROUGH VISUAL MINDMAPS

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STONE AGE

Iron Age

1000 BCE - 200 BCE

- * Farmers, blacksmiths, warriors, merchants, potters, builders.
- * Tools Used: Iron tools (plows, axes, swords, spears), superior to stone and copper tools for both agriculture and warfare.
- * Pottery: More refined pottery, including Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) and other painted pottery.
- * Permanent settlements became widespread.
- * Paintings: Pottery designs, geometric patterns, and possibly mural art (not as extensive as earlier rock paintings).
- * Farming Cultures: Highly developed agriculture with advanced iron tools, cultivation of a variety of crops, use of plows and irrigation. Trade of agricultural surplus, as well as iron and pottery goods, increased dramatically.

Paleolithic

2.5 MYA - 10,000 BCE

- * Hunter-gatherers, scavenging, fishing.
- * Tools: Core tools, hand axes, choppers, cleavers, scrapers (made of stone, primarily flint).
- * Settlement: Nomadic, living in caves, open-air sites, and rock shelters.
- * Paintings: Cave paintings (e.g., Bhimbetka). Mostly animals and hunting scenes.



Mesolithic

10,000 BCE - 6000 BCE

- * Semi-nomadic, transitioning from hunting-gathering to domestication of animals.
- * Tools Used: Microliths (small, sharp tools), composite tools (used in arrows, spears, etc.).
- * Settlement Type: Semi-permanent shelters, huts made of branches and mud, temporary camps near water bodies.
- * Paintings: More elaborate rock art depicting humans, animals, and community activities like dancing and hunting.
- * Farming Cultures: Domestication of dogs, beginnings of primitive farming (e.g., grains like barley and wheat).

Stone Age

Chalcolithic

3000 BCE - 1800 BCE

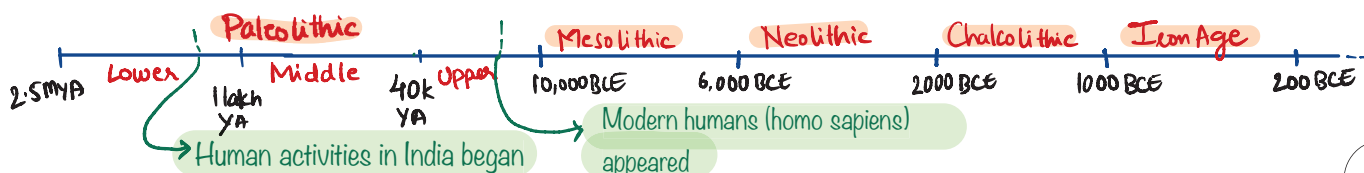
- * Farmers, metalworkers (copper smelting and casting), traders, potters, artisans.
- * Tools Used: Copper and stone tools (e.g., copper axes, knives, and agricultural tools).
- * Pottery: Fine and varied pottery with intricate designs, such as black-and-red ware and painted pottery.
- * Well-structured villages, often located near rivers, early urban centers began developing.
- * Paintings: Some mural and pottery designs, abstract motifs, and early forms of symbolic art.
- * Farming Cultures: Advanced agriculture with tools like copper plows. Expanded cultivation of cereals, pulses, and fruits. Cattle breeding, and storage systems improved.



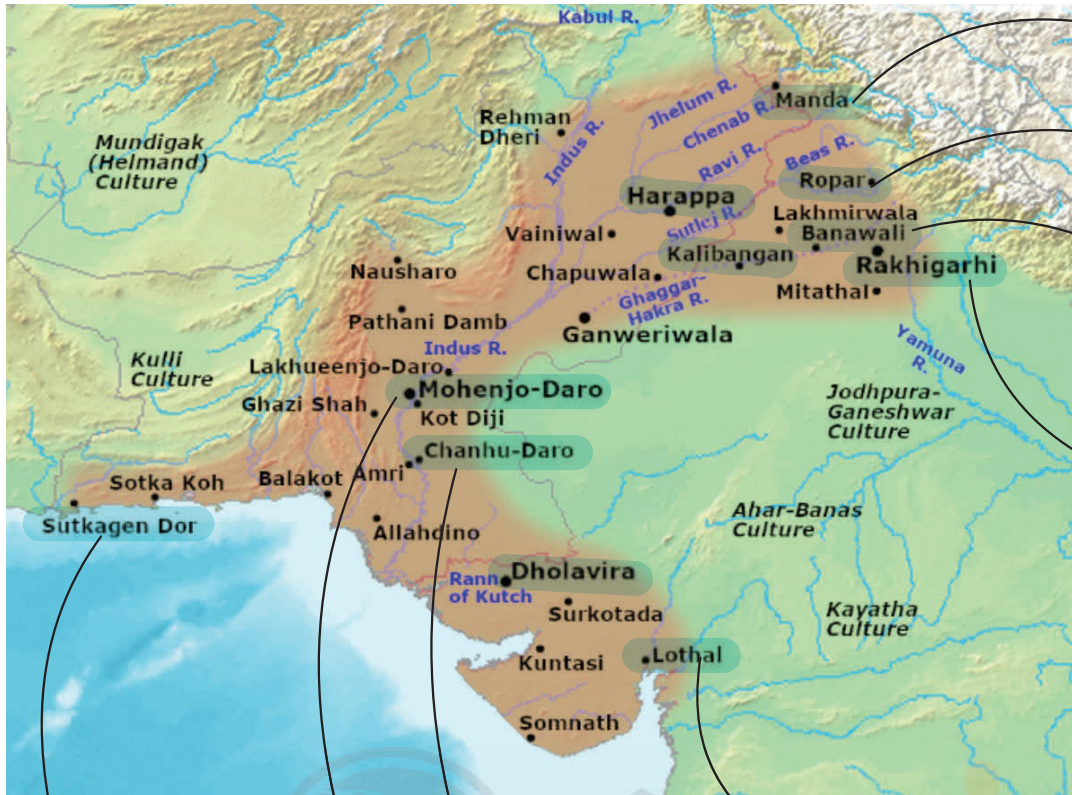
Neolithic

6000 BCE - 2000 BCE

- * Farmers, pastoralists, tool makers, and artisans (e.g., pottery makers).
- * Tools Used: Polished stone tools, sickles, grinding stones, axes, and tools for farming and weaving.
- * Settlement Type: Permanent settlements (e.g., mud-brick houses, villages).
- * Paintings: Few artistic remains; less focus on rock paintings.
- * Artifacts like pottery designs were more prominent.
- * Farming Cultures: Full-fledged agriculture; crops like wheat, barley, rice, millet. Domesticated animals and developed irrigation systems.



INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION



Northern most site

First to discover after indian independence

Only city with radial streets

Largest site within India

Western most site

Largest site

Manchester of indus valley

Only city without a citadel

Urban Planning and Architecture

- Grid-pattern cities
- Brick houses
- Drainage systems
- Public baths
- Granaries and warehouses

Religion and Beliefs

- Mother Goddess worship
- Proto-Shiva
- Animal worship

Art and Sculpture

- Terracotta figures
- Bronze sculptures
- Steatite seals

Social Structure

- City layouts suggest social hierarchy
- Equal distribution
- Non-monarchical system

Agriculture and Economy

- Farming
- Irrigation
- Animal domestication
- Trade and commerce

Crafts and Technology

- Pottery
- Metallurgy
- Bead-making
- Seals

Writing System

- Indus script
- Bilingual texts

Characteristics

SUTKA GEN DOR (PAK)

(Western most)

MANDA (J&K)

(Northern most)

(Eastern most)

ALAMGIRPUR (UP)

DAHMBAD (MH)

(Southern most)

Decline of Indus valley civilisation

- Changes in climate
- decline of trade with Mesopotamians
- drying up or flooding of the river
- foreign invasion



Harappa

- First site to be excavated
- Established on river Ravi
- Important findings
 - Citadel
 - 6 granaries in a row
 - Circular platforms for thrashing grains
 - two roomed Barracks
 - bronze crucible



Mohenjo-daro

- Literally "Mound of Dead"
- Established on river Indus
- Regarded as largest IVC site
- the largest building is a granary
- Important findings
 - Great Bath
 - For ritual bathing
 - Built with bricks
 - Side rooms for changing clothes.
 - Bitumen is used to seal the walls and floors
 - Bronze Dancing girl statue
 - Statette statue of a man with a beard
 - Unicorn seals (Most found seals)
 - Pasupati seal
 - Seal of mother goddess

- city was divided into 6 sections
- Vital trade centre for gems and ornaments
- entry to the houses were directly connected to the main street
- Important findings
 - rice husk
 - artificial dock
 - Bead making factory



Major cities of Indus Valley

Lothal

- Many houses had wells
- Furrows indicating the Ploughed field
- Brick platforms indicating granaries
- Bones of camel
- No presence of baked bricks or drainage system

Kalibangan

Surkotada

Chanhudaro

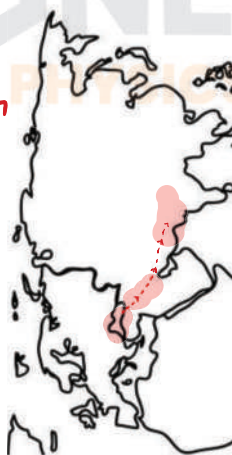
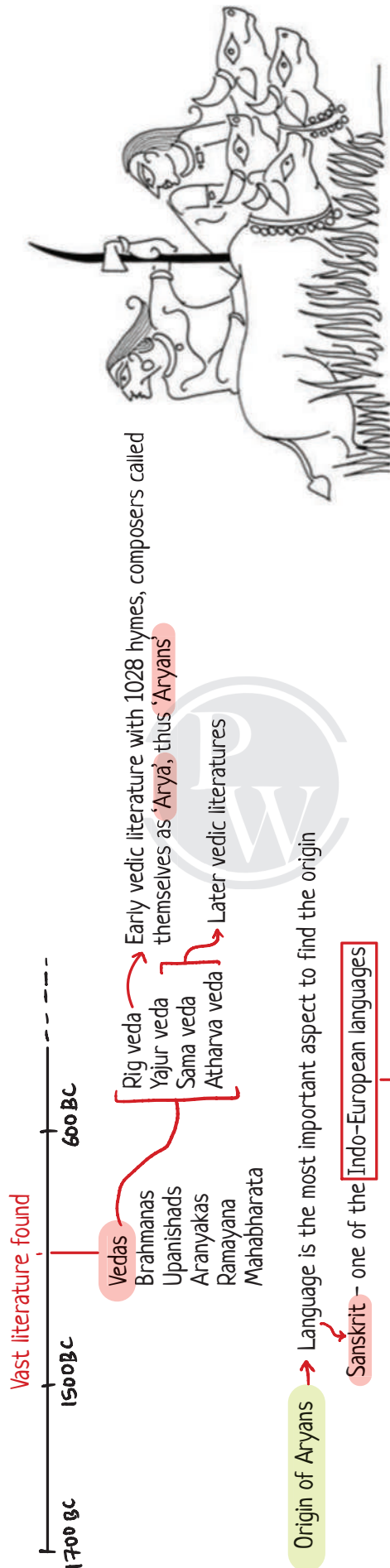
- has three citadels
- Water management system
- Multi-layered defence mechanism

Dholavira

Horse remains

Only city without citadel

VEDIC PERIOD - EARLY VEDIC PERIOD (1500-1000 BC)



By 6 BCE, occupied entire North Indian region - **Aryavarta**

As cattle rearing people, moved further in search of pastures. Entered ganga plain

Initial settlements - valleys of northwest & plains of Punjab

Political organisation

Kula - family
Gram - village
Visu
Jana - tribe

Monarchical & succession was hereditary

Highest political organisation Leader - 'Rajan'

Rigveda mentions 30 clans & tribes, 5 major ones are:

Turvasa
Anu
Yadus
Purus
Matyas
Bharatas

Social life

Monogamy amongst general public
Polygamy only amongst the royals

Patriarchal

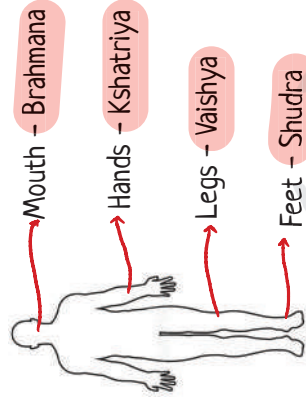
Women = Men

No child marriage

No sati system

Cow - sacred animal

Distinctive physical features – basis for varna system



Aryans (Fair) → Natives (Dark) & Dasas → Dasyus → Defeated → Called as shudras

Economic conditions

Main occupation: Cattle rearing
More cattle = more wealth



Religion

Temples & idol worship were absent

Earth - Pritvi
Fire - Agni
Wind - Vayu
Rain - Varun
Thunder - Indra
Intermediary b/w god & people
Upholder of natural order
Greatest god

1500 - 1000 BCE, Religion followed - 'Vedism'
Brahmanism in later vedic period
Only after 600 BCE Hinduism evolved

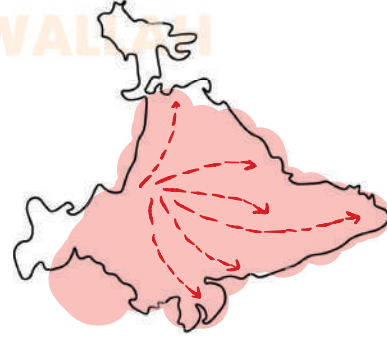


VEDIC PERIOD - LATER VEDIC PERIOD (1000-600 BC)

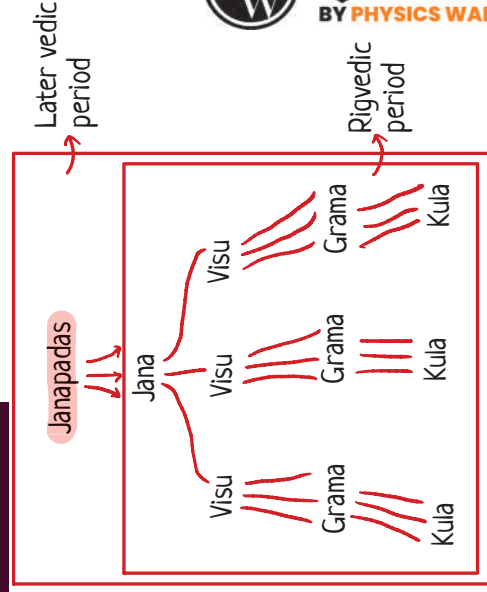
After 1000 BCE iron tools became prevalent - expansion by clearing forests

Later vedic texts divided India into 3 divisions:

Aryavarta - Northern India
Madhyadesa - Central India
Dakshinapatha - Southern India



Political organisation
King's power increased
Several janas together formed janapadas

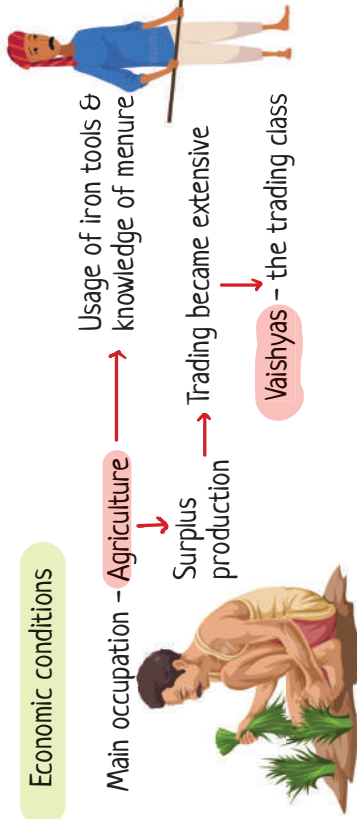


Kings performed rituals & sacrifices to strengthen their position
 → Rajasuya - consecration ceremony during succession
 → Asvamedha - horse sacrifice
 → Vajpeya - Chariot race

Social life
 Patriarchy became stronger
 → Monogamy amongst general public
 → Polygamy only amongst the royals
 → Varna system strongly established
 Women ≠ Men
 → child marriage prevailed
 → sati system existed

Economic conditions

Main occupation - **Agriculture**
 → Surplus production
 → Trading became extensive
 → **Vaishyas** - the trading class



Religion

New gods become prominent
 → Prayer's prominence reduced
 → Sacrifice's prominence rose → Priesthood became a profession because of this



Prajapati - Creator
 Vishnu - Protector
 Rudra - Destroyer

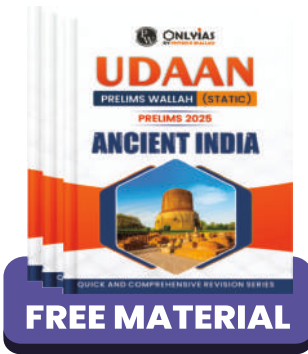


Some of the important Mahajanapadas

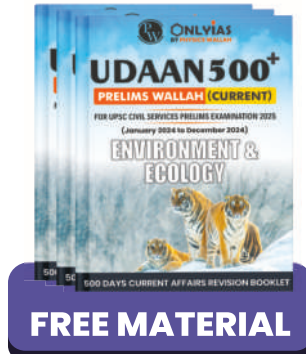
Kuru - Rigvedic tribal kingdoms - Purus + Bharatas = Kuru
 → Imp leaders - Parkshita, Janamejaya
Vatsa - matrimonial alliances with Avanti, Anga and Magadha
 → Imp ruler - Udayana → annexed to them Avanti kingdom after his death
Avanti - Imp ruler - Pradyota → After him it was taken over by Magadha rulers
Kosala - Imp ruler - Prasenajit
 → matrimonial alliance with Magadha
 → Became part of Magadha after his death
Magadha - endowed by nature with certain geographical and strategic advantages → emerged powerful and prosperous
 → During the reign of Bimbisara and Ajatashatru, the prosperity of Magadha reached its zenith.

16 Mahajanapadas (600 BCE)

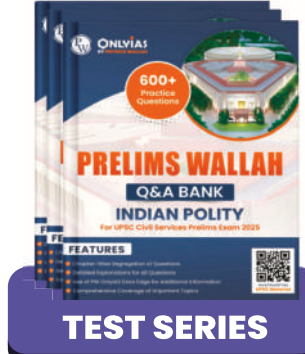
OUR CONTENT



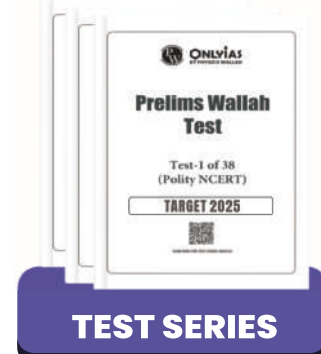
UDAAN (Prelims Static Revision)



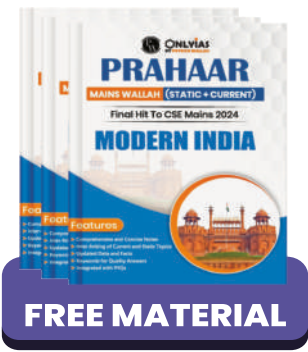
UDAAN PLUS 500 (Current Affairs Revision)



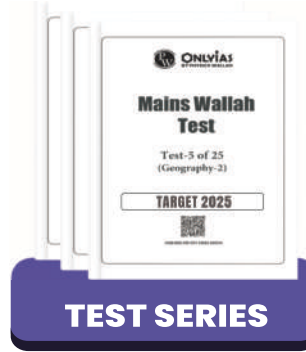
600+ Practice Questions



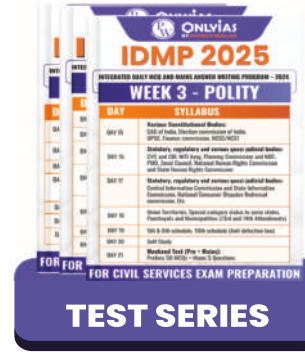
35+ Tests for Prelims



Mains Revision



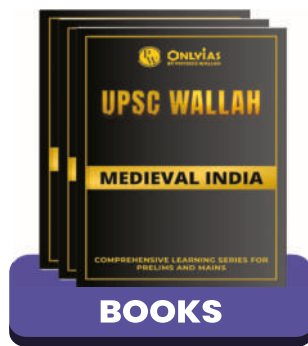
25+ Tests for Mains



Integrated Daily Prelims + Mains Year-Long Tests



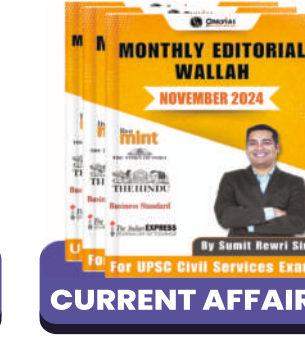
Quick Revision Booklets



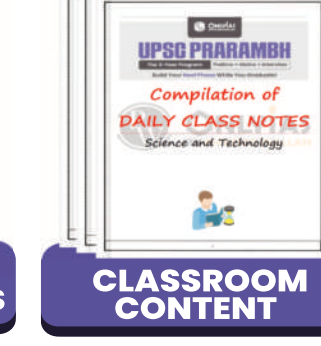
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