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## HISTORY



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# UPPSC Prelims

## History

### CONTENTS

◉ History At a Glance .....	5
◉ Pre-Historic Age .....	5
◉ Proto-Historic Age .....	6
◉ HARAPPAN CIVILISATION (c. 2600–1900 BCE)/BRONZE AGE CIVILISATION.....	7
◉ Historic Age .....	7
◉ THE VEDIC AGE (RIG VEDIC AND LATER VEDIC) (c. 1500–500 BCE) .....	8
◉ THE MAHAJANAPADAS OF THE INDO-GANGETIC PLAIN (c. 600–300 BCE) .....	8

◦ BUDDHISM & JAINISM .....	10
◦ Magadha Empire.....	11
◦ THE MAURYA EMPIRE (c. 324–187 BCE) .....	11
◦ POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING c. 200 BCE–300 CE.....	12
◦ The Guptas.....	13
◦ Pushyabhutis of Thanesar .....	15
◦ The Maitrakas .....	16
◦ The Maukharis .....	16
◦ Early Medieval India (c. 750-1000 BCE) .....	16
◦ Late Medieval Period.....	18
◦ Maratha Empire .....	22
◦ Maratha Empire .....	23
◦ Post-independence.....	25
◦ Creation of the state of Uttarakhand .....	26

## HISTORY AT A GLANCE

- Uttar Pradesh as a state unfolds a fascinating past, which still breathes fresh in every corner. This state sits around the three historically significant rivers – Yamuna, Ganga and the mythological Saraswati. In ancient times, it was known as Madhyadesha.
- The vast and fertile Gangetic Plains that make up the present day Uttar Pradesh have played a key role in the rise and fall of major empires and dynasties going back more than 2500 years ago.
- Lying to the East of the capital of India, New Delhi, this state holds a strategic region which invaders and rulers sought to control in order to establish their power in North India.
- With every turn on this land, the history takes an imposing bend. The history of Uttar Pradesh dates back to the period when 'Dasas' occupied Uttar Pradesh.
- In 2000 BC, the Aryans came and laid the foundation of a Hindu Civilization. Later, the state was ruled by some of the great and powerful empires like Mauryas, Nandas, Magadha, Shunga, Kushanas, Palas, Rashtrakutas and Mughals. Uttar Pradesh also cradles the inspiring past of Buddhism.
- In present times, the state is beautifully dotted with magnificent monuments, forts, museums, and other relics of the bygone era.
- Its ancient history is divided into three ages: Pre-historic age, Proto-historic age and historic age.

## PRE-HISTORIC AGE

- Events occurring before the invention of writing are considered the domain of pre- history, which is generally represented by the three stone ages.
- It is divided into three stone ages namely Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Age.
- This stage when stone was the all-purpose material for man is called the Stone Age. For a considerably long time during this period, man remained essentially a 'food-gatherer'.

### ■ Palaeolithic Age

- The Palaeolithic Age is the earliest period of the Stone Age, which developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age. It was spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga.
- The Palaeolithic Age is divided into three phases according to the nature of stone tools used. They are:
  - Early or lower Palaeolithic:** Use of hand axes, choppers, and cleavers, mainly for chopping, digging, and skinning. Found in Belan Valley Mirzapur (UP).
  - Middle Palaeolithic:** Use of stone tools made of flakes, mainly scrapers, borers, points, and blade like tools. Found in Soan and Narmada river valleys.
  - Upper Palaeolithic: Parallel-sided blades, bruins, and some instances of bone tools.
- Found in Southern UP.
- The Palaeolithic man are said to have belonged to the Negri to race. They were food gathering people who lived on hunting and gathering wild fruits and vegetables.
- They had no knowledge of agriculture, house building, pottery, or any metal.

- ▶ Men, during this period, used tools of unpolished, undressed rough stones — mainly hand axes, cleavers, choppers, blades, burin, and scrapers.
- ▶ Since the stone tools were made of a hard rock called 'quartzite', Palaeolithic men are therefore also called 'Quartzite men' in India.

## ■ Mesolithic Age

- ▶ The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering, and in the later stages, also domesticated animals. One of the key aspects of the Mesolithic Age was the reduction in size of well-established tool types.
- ▶ The characteristic tools of this age were microliths (miniature stone tools usually made of crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony, or chert, both geometrical and non-geometrical shapes).

## ■ Some of the other aspects of the Mesolithic Age are:

- ▶ Pottery is absent at most Mesolithic sites, but it is present at Langhnaj in Gujarat and in the Kaimur region of Mirzapur (UP).
- ▶ The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plant cultivation.
- ▶ The Mesolithic era initiated rock art in prehistory. In 1867, the first rock paintings in India were discovered at Sohaghat (Kaimur Hills, UP).

## ■ Important Mesolithic sites are:

- ▶ Sarai Nahar Rai, near Allahabad, Pratapgarh area
- ▶ Mahadaha, U.P., where bone artifacts are found, including arrowheads and bone ornaments.

## ■ Neolithic Age (Food-Producing Stage)

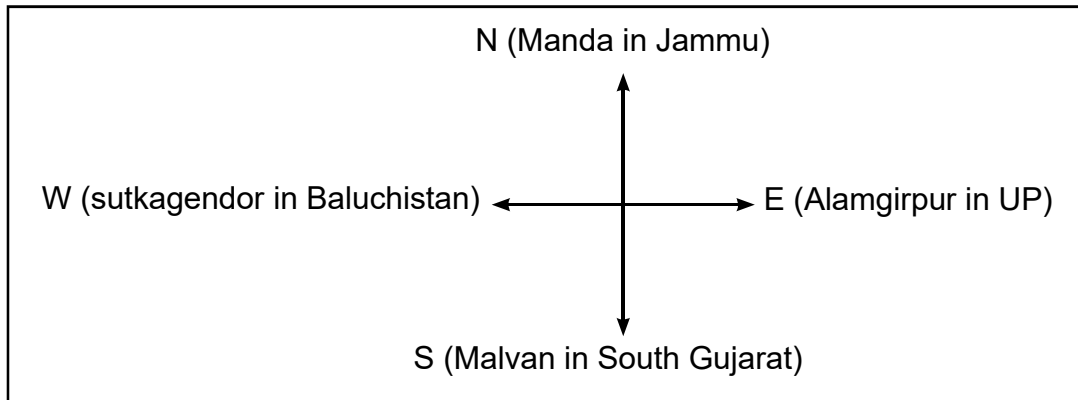
- ▶ In northern India, the Neolithic age emerged around 8000–6000 BCE. Some of the important excavated Neolithic Sites along with their unique aspects are as follows:
  - Koldihwa, in Belan valley (unique in terms of the presence of a three-fold Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age settlements), and Mahagara, south of Allahabad (many strata of circular huts along with crude hand-made pottery; earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the world).
  - Chopani – Mando, Belan valley (earliest evidence of use of pottery) on the northern spurs of the Vindhya, and the middle part of the Narmada valley (evidence of all the three phases of Paleolithic settlement, followed by Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements).

## PROTO-HISTORIC AGE

- It refers to a period between prehistory and history, during which a culture or civilisation has not yet developed writing but are mentioned in the written records of a contemporary literate civilisation.
- For example, the script of the Harappan civilisation remains undeciphered; however, since its existence is noted in Mesopotamian writings, it is considered a part of proto-history.
- Similarly, the Vedic civilisation from c. 1500–600 BCE had an oral literary tradition, though they did not take to literary writing — they can thus be considered a part of proto-history as well.

## HARAPPAN CIVILISATION (C. 2600–1900 BCE)/ BRONZE AGE CIVILISATION

- The Harappan civilisation was the first urban civilisation in South Asia. The area occupied by the Harappan civilisation was triangular in shape and was the largest among the three ancient urban civilisations, the other two being ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia (present day Iraq).
- It roughly covers modern day Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and Pakistan.



- Alamgirpur is in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district. Its excavation was done by Y.D. Sharma in 1958. This site belonged to the Late-Harappan Culture.
- People on this site were involved in the cultivation of cotton.
- Also known as Parasaram-ka-khera, this settlement along the Yamuna River existed from 3300 BC to 1300 BC from the Harappan-Bara period.
- Among major discoveries made here during the excavation were several ceramic items like roof tiles, cups, vases, beads and carts, among others.
- Also a humped bull and broken copper blade were unearthed at this site.
- In the state, the other areas around which urban settlement were found are: Badagaon (Baghpat) and Hulas (Saharanpur).
- Later, the remains of this civilization have been found from Manpur (Bulandshahar), Mandi village, and Kairana (Muzaffarnagar).

### ■ Post-Indus Valley Civilization

- ▶ This phase was characterized by the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization dated back to c. 1900 BC.
- ▶ The copper utensils which were excavated from Alamgirpur, Hulas, Kanpur, Unnao, Mirzapur, and Mathura are related to the Post-Indus Valley Civilization.

## HISTORIC AGE

- The study of the past after the invention of writing and the study of literate societies based on the written and archaeological sources constitutes history.
- Harappan culture was followed by another great civilisation and culture known as Vedic culture. It is called Vedic Age as its reconstruction is primarily based on using Vedic texts as sources.



- However, archaeological sources have also supplemented the texts, though not comprehensively. Indo-Aryans are believed to be the composers of Vedic texts.

## THE VEDIC AGE (RIG VEDIC AND LATER VEDIC) (C. 1500–500 BCE)

- The earliest Aryans lived in the land of the (Sapta Sindhu) and probably because of their use of horse chariots and superior military technology, they could establish their political dominance in the region.
- The region was drained by the seven rivers, viz., the Indus (Sindhu), and its five tributaries, namely, the Jhelum (Vatista), Beas (Vipasa), Chenab (Askini), Ravi (Purushni), Sutlej (Sutudri), and the Saraswati (modern Ghaggar Hakra), which covered mostly the areas of eastern Afghanistan, Punjab, and fringes of western U.P.
- The rare mention of the river Yamuna (twice) and Ganga (only once) is a pointer to the fact that Rig Vedic Aryans had not inhabited that region as yet.

### ■ Rig Vedic Period

- Rig Vedic society was a tribal society and its people lived a semi-nomadic life.
- This society was a pastoral society, cattle rearing was their dominant activity.
- The core geographical area of the Rig Vedic texts corresponds to Eastern Afghanistan, Punjab, and western U.P.

### Epics

- The two Sanskrit epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, are part of both oral and written traditional history.
- The link between the Puranas and the epics is that the heroes and clans who are the actors in the epics are the descendants of Manu's progeny.
- The two epics were clearly aware of each other as the Mahabharata has a section called Ramopakhyana, detailing the story of Rama, and the Ramayana mentions the Kurus and Hastinapur (U.P.) but does not mention the Mahabharata war.

- Later Vedic Period
- The core geographical area of Later Vedic texts corresponds to the Kuru-Panchala Region, which comprised the Indo-Gangetic divide and the upper Ganga Valley.
- The Later Vedic society was clearly divided into four varnas: Brahmanas, Rajanyas or Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
- The rows of hearths discovered at Atranjikhhera and at Ahichchhtra (both in western Uttar Pradesh) show that these were meant for communal feeding or for cooking the food of large families.

## THE MAHAJANAPADAS OF THE INDO-GANGETIC PLAIN (C. 600–300 BCE)

- The sixth century BCE is known as an era of 'Second Urbanisation' in the Indian Subcontinent.
- The use of better iron tools and weapons enabled some territorial states to become very large, and they came to be called Mahajanapadas (large territorial states) in North India.

- According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas). Only 8 were located in U.P.

State	Capital	Feature
Kashi	Varanasi (Modern Benaras)	Kashi was eventually captured by Kosala.
Kosala (Eastern U.P., included Ayodhya and the tribal republican territory of Shakyas of Kapilavastu)	Sarayu river divided the state into two parts: Northern part's capital : Shravasti and Southern part's capital : Kushavati	King: Prasenjit (Buddha's contemporary) The tribal republic of the Shakyas of Kapilavastu included Lumbini, which is the birth place of Gautam Buddha.
Vatsa (on the banks of river Yamuna) Vatsa was known for its fine cotton textiles	Kaushambi (at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna, near Allahabad)	King: Udayana Udayana was hero of 3 Sanskrit dramas, viz., Svapnavasavadatta of Bhasa, Priyadarshika, and Ratnavali of Harsha. Legends recount a rivalry between Udayana and Pradyota of Avanti, and refer to a love affair between Udayana and Vasavadatta (Pradyota's daughter).
Kuru (Western U.P.)	Indraprastha	Mahabharata, tells of a conflict between 2 branches of the reigning Kuru clan.
Panchala (Western U.P.)	Ganga river divided the state into 2 parts: Northern part's Capital: Ahichchhatra (modern Bareilly, U.P.) and Southern part's Capital: Kampilya (modern Farrukhabad, U.P.)	The famous city of Kannauj was situated in the kingdom of Panchala.
Malla	Kushinara and Pava	Kusinara and Pava are very important in the history of Buddhism, since Buddha took his last meal and was taken ill at Pava, and went to his Mahaparinirvana at Kusinara.
Shurasena	Mathura (on the banks of Yamuna)	King: Pradyota, Father-in-law of Udayana
Chedi or Cheti (Eastern part of Bundelkhand in Central India)	Shuktimati or Sotthivatinagara	King: Shishupala According to certain Puranas, he is considered as an ally of Jarasandha of Magadha and Duryodhana of Kuru. He was a rival of Vasudeva Krishna, who was his uncle's son. He was killed by Vasudeva Krishna during the Rajasuya sacrifice of the Pandava King Yudhishtira.

- It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Kosala, Vatsa and Malla was Gana-Sanghas. The Gana-Sanghas (literally meaning an assembly of Gana, those who claim to be of equal status) were an alternative polity to the kingdoms.



- Along with rice, barley, pulses, millets, cotton, and sugarcane were also produced. The excavated site of Atranjikhhera (Etah, UP) provides valuable information about the transition from rural to urban life.

## BUDDHISM & JAINISM

India witnessed the growth of two great alternative religions: Buddhism and Jainism.

### ■ Jainism

- Parshvanatha, the twenty-third tirthankara, was born in Banaras. According to Jain tradition, Kashi (now Varanasi) is the birthplace of three more tirthankaras, namely Suparshvanatha, Chandraprabha and Shreyansnath.
- Singhpur, a village approximately one kilometre away from the site, was the birthplace of Shreyansnath, the Eleventh Tirthankara of Jainism. A temple dedicated to him, is an important pilgrimage site.
- According to Jain tradition, Rishabhanatha, Ajitanatha, Abhinandanatha, Sumatinatha and Anantanatha were born in Ayodhya.
- Ancient naked terracotta statues discovered in 1970s near Ayodhya are similar to the Lohanipur Torso (found in Patna), but terracotta arts are also missing in Jain tradition and the Ayodhya terracotta statues too lack Jain iconography.
- Kankali Tila is a mound located at Mathura. The name of the mound is derived from a modern temple of Hindu goddess Kankali. The famous Jain stupa was excavated here in 1890-91 by Alois Anton Führer (Dr. Führer).
- Most sculptures could be dated from the 2nd century BC to the 12th century CE, thus representing a continuous period of about 14 centuries during which Jainism flourished at Mathura.

### ■ Buddhism

- Gautama Buddha (also known as Sakyamuni / Tathagata) was born as Siddhartha in 563 BCE on Vaishakha Poornima Day at Lumbini (near Kapilavastu, Nepal) to Suddhodana (chief of republican Sakya clan, who ruled from Kapilavastu in the Kosala Kingdom).
- Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath in Banaras.
- He passed away at the age of 80 in 487 BC at a place called Kusinagara, coterminous with the village called Kasia in Deoria district in eastern UP.
- The cities Kaushambi, Shravasti, Varanasi, Vaishali, and Rajgriha, which the Buddha visited, did not assume any urban character until the fifth century BCE.
- The people of Magadha responded readily to Buddhism because they were looked down upon by the orthodox brahmanas.
- Magadha was placed outside the pale of the holy Aryavarta, the land of the Aryas, covering modern UP. The monarchies of Magadha, Koshala, and Kaushambi, and several republican states and their people adopted this religion.

#### Idle Age of Synthesis

- In successive centuries after Buddha, Ayodhya, Prayag, Varanasi, Mathura and several other cities continued to play an important role in the making of religious and cultural history in India.
- Several kings who ruled the region became immortal because of Vedic rituals performed by them and patronage extended by them to learning. Scholars like Ashwaghosh, Kalidas, Ban, Mayur, Diwakar, Vakpati, Bhavbhuti, Rajshekhar, Laxmidhar, Sri Harsh and Krishna Misra adorned their courts.

- Yuan-chwang says that the people of Uttar Pradesh were full masters of the language and spoke it correctly, their pronunciation was like that of the Devas, elegant, beautiful, and their intonation clear and distinct, worthy of emulation by others, the rules framed by these people were accepted by all.
- Rajashekhar of Pratihara also pays homage in a similar vein to the people and poets of Panchal.
- Varanasi continued to be a prominent centre of learning as in the past. Ayodhya and Mathura acquired famous birthplaces of Ram and Krishna.
- Pilgrims from every corner of the country continued to throng to Prayag and as such it was called the Tirtharaj. Similarly, the north mountain region, where Kailash and Mansarovar are situated and from where the holy rivers of the country originate, also remained sacred for the pilgrims.
- The Shankaracharya established one of the four prominent sacred Dhams in Badrikashram in this region.

## MAGADHA EMPIRE

- It was founded by Bimbisara who was the contemporary Buddha and Mahavira.
- He was succeeded by Ajatashatru who annexed Kosala (ruled by Prasenjit). He first came into conflict with his maternal uncle Prasenjit, who was aggrieved by the treatment meted out to Bimbisara.
- He asked Ajatashatru to return the territory of Kashi, which was given to his mother in dowry. Ajatashatru refused, and it was only after a fierce battle that Prasenjit agreed to leave Kashi with Magadha.
- Similarly, he fought with his maternal grandfather, Chetaka, the chief of Vaishali and after 16 long years of war Ajatashatru succeeded in breaking the might of Vaishali.

### ■ Shishunaga Dynasty (around 413 BCE – 345 BCE)

- Shishunaga was earlier a Viceroy/Amatya (high ranking official) at Varanasi (Banaras), and it is believed that the people of Magadha, outraged by the successive parricides of the successors of Udayin, appointed Shishunaga as king.
- Temporarily shifted capital to Vaishali. The most important achievement of Shishunaga was to defeat Avanti (Pradyota Dynasty) and make it a part of Magadha. This brought an end to 100-year-old rivalry between Magadha and Avanti.
- Kalasoka was the son and successor of Shishunaga. Also known as Kakarvarna (according to the Puranas). Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali during his reign.

## THE MAURYA EMPIRE (C. 324–187 BCE)

- The founder of the Mauryan dynasty, Chandragupta Maurya (324/321 – 297 BCE) inherited a large army of the Nandas, which he used to conquer almost the whole of north, the northwest, and a large part of the peninsular India.
- He was the chief architect of the Mauryan empire and built a vast empire, which included Bihar, Nepal, western and north-western India, and the Deccan.
- According to Jain texts and tradition, Chandragupta adopted Jainism and went to the hills of Shravana Belagola (near Mysore) with Bhadrabahu and committed Sallekhana (death by slow starvation).

- Greeks writers address Bindusara (297 – 273 BCE) as Amitrochates (destroyer of foes), while the Mahabhasya refer to him as Amitraghat (killer of enemies). It is rather strange that Buddhist sources are silent on Bindusara. However, stories from the Ajivika sect do mention of a fortune-teller who prophesied to Bindusara about his son Ashoka's future greatness.
- After Bindusara's death in 273 BCE, there was a four-year succession conflict. According to Divyavadana, Bindusara wanted his son Susima to succeed him, and Ashoka was the choice of Bindusara's ministers.
- Later, with the help of a minister named Radhagupta, and after killing 99 brothers, Ashoka finally acquired the Magadha throne and thus, after four years, came his formal consecration.
- He was appointed the viceroy of Taxila and Ujjain (both cities handled commercial activities) during the reign of Bindusara.
- His queen Karuvaki is the only queen to be mentioned in the Queen's Edict/Allahabad-Kosam pillar edict, where she is described as the mother of prince Tivara, the only son of Ashoka to be mentioned by name in inscriptions).
- The history of Ashoka is reconstructed on the basis of his inscriptions like pillar edicts which were mostly inscribed in the latter parts of his reign and were on well-polished sandstone monolithic pillars (quarried from the sites of Chunar, near Varanasi),
- Pillar edicts have been found at Lauriya-Araraj, Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva, Nigali Sagar, Sarnath, Topra, and Meerut.
- Two pillars, one from Topra and the other from Meerut, were shifted to Delhi by Feroz Shah Tughlaq. There are pillars without inscriptions such as the bull capital pillar at Rampurva, the pillar with the lion capital at Vaishali, and the Kolam pillar, which is also without a capital.

#### **Allahabad – Kosam/Queen's Edict / Kausambi or Schism Edict**

- Ashoka warns members of the Sangha against causing division in the ranks Samudragupta's inscription is on this edict itself Jahangir was probably responsible for its removal to the fort at Allahabad.

#### **Location of Edicts of Ashoka in Uttar Pradesh**

- **Minor Rock Edict**
- Sohgauna, Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh
- **Minor Pillar Edicts**
- Sarnath, near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (Pillar Inscription, Schism Edict)
- Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (originally located at Kaushambi and probably moved to Allahabad by Jahangir; Pillar Edicts I-VI, Queen's Edict, Schism Edict)

## **POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING C. 200 BCE–300 CE**

### **■ Sunga Dynasty (185 BCE–148 BCE)**

- Pushyamitra Sunga killed Brihadratha, last Mauryan ruler, and was the founder of the Sunga Dynasty. His dominions extended as far as the Narmada river to the south, and included cities such as Pataliputra, Ayodhya, and Vidisha.

- ▶ The drama Malavikagnimitram mentions the conflict between Pushyamitra and Yajnasena, the king of Vidarbha (eastern Maharashtra), and the victory of the Sungas over them.

## ■ Kanva Dynasty

- ▶ Vasudeva is supposed to be a descendent of Rishi Kanva and ruled from Pataliputra.
- ▶ Also described as the Sungabhrityas (literally meaning 'servants of the Sungas').
- ▶ They made way for the Mitras in c. 30 BCE, who were eventually dislodged by the Shakas in Magadha.

## ■ The Shakas/Scythians

- ▶ 'Shaka' is the Indian term used for the people called the Scythians, who originally belonged to Central Asia. Interestingly, Patanjali in his Mahabhasya refers to the Shakas as 'Anirvasita (pure) Shudras'.
- ▶ The Greeks were followed by the Shakas to India, and they controlled a much larger area as compared to the Greeks.
- ▶ There were five branches of the Shakas who finally settled with their seats of power in different parts of India and Afghanistan:
  - One branch of the Shakas settled in Afghanistan. Prominent rulers of this branch were Vonones and Spalirises.
  - The second branch settled in Punjab with Taxila as their capital. Maues was a prominent ruler.
  - The third branch settled in Mathura, where it ruled for about two centuries. Azilises was a prominent ruler.
  - The fourth branch established its hold over western India where they ruled until 4 century CE. They ruled for the maximum period on account of a flourishing economy based on the sea-borne trade in Gujarat and thus issued a large number of silver coins. One of the prominent rulers was Rudradaman I, belonging to the Shaka Kshatrapas of Western Indian lineage.
  - The fifth branch of the Shakas established its power in the upper Deccan.

### Mathura School of Art

- The influence of Gandhara art also spread to Mathura (which was primarily a centre of an indigenous school of art). The Mathura artists used local red stone with black spots to make the images.
- Mathura has also yielded large numbers of sculptures of Jaina deities besides the ayagapatas or stone slabs to place objects of worship.
- The Brahmanical influence on the art school of Mathura is also evident. During the Kushana period, a number of sculptures of Brahmanical deities were carved, which included Kartikeya, Vishnu, Kubera.
- Mathura not only produced beautiful stone images of Buddha and Mahavira but it is also famous for the headless erect statue of Kanishka.
- A lot of stone sculptures belonging to Mathura school of art were produced in the Kushana period and form a part of the great cultural heritage of India.

## THE GUPTAS

- Around 230 CE, the Kushans' reign ultimately came to an end in northern India, and a considerable part of its empire came under the suzerainty of the Murundas (possibly kinsmen of the Kushans).

- The Murundas ruled for a short time span of about 25–30 years. Around the last decade of the 3rd century CE (around 275 CE), a new empire arose on the ruins of the Kushan empire and established its sway over a good part of the former dominions of both the Kushans and the Satavahanas.
- This was the Gupta empire, which kept northern India politically united for more than a century. The Guptas are believed to be feudatories of the Kushans.
- Maharaja Gupta/Sri Gupta was the founder of the Gupta Dynasty who was succeeded by Maharaja Ghatotkacha and Chandragupta – I (c. 319–335/336 CE).
- First important king of the Gupta Dynasty was Chandragupta – I who laid the foundations of the Gupta empire and claimed the title of maharajadhiraja (king of kings). His empire included parts of modern Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bengal; with its capital at Pataliputra.
- He enhanced his power and prestige by marrying Kumaradevi, princess of Lichchhavi clan of Nepal (since the Guptas were probably Vaishyas by caste, marriage into a Kshatriya clan granted legitimacy, prestige, and strength to the Guptas).
- Coins were struck in the joint names of the Emperor, his queen, and the Lichchhavi nation, thereby acknowledging this marital alliance.
- In fact, Samudragupta was referred to as Lichchhavi-dauhitra (grandson of the Lichchhavis) in the famous Allahabad prashasti.
- Samudragupta (c.335/336–375 CE) was referred to as Lichchhavi-dauhitra (grandson of the Lichchhavis) in the famous Allahabad prashasti.
- His achievements are recorded in a long inscription (an eulogy) engraved on the Allahabad pillar (Prayaga-prashasti), whose surface also contains inscriptions of Ashoka and later, the Mughal emperor Jahangir.
- The Allahabad prashasti thus which describes Samudragupta as a god dwelling on earth, equal to the gods Dhanada (Kuber), Varuna (god of the waters), Indra, and Antaka (Yama), who had no antagonist of equal power in the world.
- For instance, Harisena, the composer of the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta, was a mahadandanayaka (chief judicial officer) as well as a mahasandhivigrahika (minister for war and peace), and also the son of mahadandanayaka Dhruvabhuti.
- The Gupta period marks the beginning of Indian temple architecture, as temples in the form of concrete structures were constructed in northern India for the first time. These temples were made in the architectural style known as Nagara, in which generally flat-roofed square temples were built.
- One of the temples, in which the images of Vishnu is placed in the centre as a chief deity, are found at Bhitargaon in Kanpur (made of bricks).
- The sculptures pertaining to period of c. 300 – 600 CE not only show a continuation of earlier styles and trends derived from Mathura and Gandhara schools, but also show the introduction of new styles.
- The inspiration of the themes for sculpture was drawn from Hindu, Buddhist, and Jaina traditions. Many Vaishnava sculptures, which include images of the avatars such as boar, man-lion, dwarf, and Vasudeva-Krishna, have been found at Mathura.
- One of the largest known freestanding stone images belonging to this period is a colossal figure of Krishna effortlessly lifting Govardhana mountain, found at Varanasi.
- A stone sculpture of a larger than life figure of a horse (probably representing an ashvamedha horse) carved out of beige sandstone found at Khairigarh in Uttar Pradesh too belongs to this period.
- The Gupta coins are also pieces of art. They are well designed and meticulously crafted. They carry aesthetically impressive depictions of the activities of the rulers. At many places such as Kaushambi, Rajghat, Bhita, and Mathura, terracotta figurines and plaques have been found.



## PUSHYABHUTIS OF THANESAR

- An important ruling family to gain prominence after the fall of the Gupta was that of the Pushyabhutis, who had their capital at Thanesar.
- Harsha Vardhana (c. 606–647 CE) is known as the last great Hindu king of India, who was originally a Shaiva but also supported Buddhism to a great extent and made generous endowments to Buddhists. He is popularly known as Harsha and was also described as the lord of the north (sakalauttarapathanatha).



- Rajya Vardhana had succeeded Prabhakar Vardhana initially. However, Harsha succeeded his brother, when Rajya Vardhana left the reigns of governance in the hands of Harsha Vardhana as he had to undertake a campaign against the ruler of Malwa, Devagupta and Shashanka, the ruler of Gauda, who had imprisoned their sister Rajyashri and killed her husband Grahavarman.
- He defeated the Malwa army and killed Devagupta, but was unfortunately killed by Shashanka, who also cut the Bodhi tree and occupied Kannauj.
- It was under these circumstances that Harsha then ascended the throne. He was only sixteen years of age at that time, but he still proved himself to be a great warrior and an able administrator.
- He immediately marched towards Kannauj and rescued his sister Rajyashri, who was believed to be on the verge of committing Sati.
- Kannauj subsequently came under the sovereignty of Pushyabhutis. Harsha's empire probably included Thaneswar, Kannauj, Ahichchhatra, Shravasti, and Prayag, and he extended his empire into Magadha and Orissa.
- The capital of Harsha was originally Thaneswar, but he shifted it to Kannauj. The Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang, who is also known as the Prince of Travelers and author of Si-Yu-Ki, visited India during 629–644 CE.
- He earned Harsha's friendship and left a vivid account of the beauty, grandeur, and prosperity of Kannauj. He gives a detailed account of a grand assembly held at Kannauj in 643 CE, which was attended by the representatives of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism, in which Xuanzang along with others gave discourses on Mahayana doctrines.



- This grand conclave was also attended by various subordinate kings including those of Vallabhi and Assam. A huge tower with a golden statue of the Buddha was constructed for the occasion, which was later worshipped by Harsha himself.
- He also used to celebrate a solemn festival at Prayag (Allahabad) at the end of every five years and also held the Mahamoksha Parishad at Allahabad. The images of the Buddha, the Sun and Shiva were worshipped and gifts of valuable articles and clothing were distributed in charity.

## THE MAITRAKAS

- The Maitrakas were tributary chiefs of the Guptas, who established an independent kingdom in western India ruling over Saurashtra in Gujarat.
- Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of the Maitrakas, who was a contemporary of Harsha Vardhana and was married to his daughter.
- Hsuan Tsang tells us that Dhruvasena II attended Harsha's assembly at Prayaga (Prayagraj).

## THE MAUKHARIES

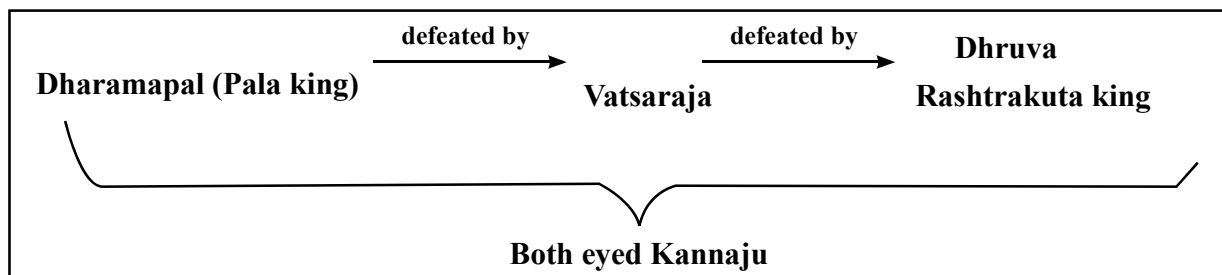
- The Maukharies were also subordinate rulers of the Guptas and used the title of samanta. They ruled over Kannauj, a city in western Uttar Pradesh, which gradually replaced Pataliputra as the political centre of northern India.
- Harsha Vardhana's sister Rajyashri was married to Grahavarmana. Shashanka, the ruler of Bengal (Gauda), and Devagupta, the ruler of Malwa, jointly attacked Grahavarmana and killed him.
- After the successful expedition of Harsha Vardhana, the kingdom of Kannauj, was then merged with that of the Pushyabhutis and Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar (Kurukshetra) to Kannauj.
- The Maukharis are also mentioned in Patanjali's work.
- The Nalanda seal shows that Sarvavarmana was succeeded by his son Avantivarmana (c. 585–600 CE) who also took the title of Maharajadhiraja and extended the boundary of the kingdom by transferring the capital to the historical city of Kannauj. It was under him that the Maukhari empire reached its peak.

## EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA (C. 750-1000 BCE)

- The period from c.750–1000 CE was marked by the growth of three important political powers, namely, the Gurjara-Pratiharas (who dominated the western India and the upper Gangetic valley till the middle of the 10th century), the Palas (who ruled over eastern India till the middle of the 9th century), and the Rashtrakutas (who dominated the Deccan and also controlled territories in north and south India).
- These three kingdoms were constantly fighting with each other with an aim to set up their control on the Gangetic region in northern India.
- This conflict among these three powers is often described as the 'tripartite struggle'.

## ■ The Pratihara dynasty

- ▶ The dynasty was founded by a Brahmana named Harichandra in and around Jodhpur, south western Rajasthan. They came to prominence in the second quarter of the 8th century, during the reign of Nagabhata I (c. 730-760 CE).
- ▶ One of the successors of Nagabhata I was Vatsaraja (c. 780-800 CE), who extended his rule over a large part of North India and made Kannauj in western U.P his capital.
- ▶ Vatsaraja's policy of expansion brought him into conflict with Dharmapala, the Pala King of Bengal and Bihar and also the Rashtrakuta king Dhruva, thus began what is known as the 'tripartite struggle'.
- ▶ It continued for about another 350 years under various succeeding kings with ups and downs. The Pratiharas, however, could maintain their hold over Kannauj till last.



- ▶ Bhoja I / Mihir Bhoja (c.836-885 CE) was the grandson of Nagabhata II, who had a long reign of over 46 years and proved to be the most successful and popular ruler of Pratiharas.
- ▶ He had his capital at Kannauj, which was also called Mahodaya. In one of his earliest inscriptions, the Barah copper plate inscription, there is mention of a military camp i.e., skandhavana at Mahodaya.
- ▶ Mahendrapala (c. 885-910 CE) was defeated by the Rashtrakuta King Indra III, who completely devastated the city of Kannauj.
- ▶ The Rashtrakuta king Krishna III invaded north India in about 963 CE and defeated the Pratihara ruler, Rajyapala (c. 960-1018 CE). Raid of Mahmud Ghazni on Kannauj; Rajyapala fled from the battlefield.
- ▶ Last ruler of this dynasty was Yashpala (c.1024-1036 CE). By 1090 CE, the Gadhavalas conquered Kannauj.

## ■ The Palas of Bengal

- ▶ In eastern India, after the death of king Shashanka in c. 637 CE, a situation of political confusion prevailed in Bengal and adjoining areas.
- ▶ The region witnessed invasions by Yashovarmana of Kannauj, Lalitaditya of Kashmir, and even of a Chinese army.
- ▶ The tripartite struggle continued between the Palas, Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas and the area of Bihar and modern east U.P remained a bone of contention between them, though Bihar, in addition to Bengal, remained mostly under the control of the Palas for most of the time.
- ▶ Though Dharmapala (c.770-810 CE) initially suffered defeats at the hands of the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas (he was defeated by the Rashtrakuta king, Dhruva, who had earlier defeated the Pratihara ruler too), but later he conquered large parts of northern India and raised the Pala empire to great heights.
- ▶ Believed to have held a durbar at Kannauj, which was attended by many vassal chiefs, wherein he showcased his own power by installing his puppet ruler, Chakrayudha, on the throne.
- ▶ Thus, Kannauj functioned as a dependency and Dharmapala had Bengal and Bihar under his direct rule. His sovereignty was also accepted by the rulers of both west and south India such as those of Punjab, western hill states, Rajputana, Malwa and Berar.

## Middle Age

- The liberal traditions continued to flourish in Uttar Pradesh in the middle age as well. Varanasi remained a prominent centre of Hindu learning and Jaunpur, under the Sharqi rulers, a prominent center of Islamic culture.
- Jaunpur was describing as the 'Shiraz' of India. The Sharqi rulers were patrons of music also and there were many famous musicians in their court.
- Brij region was an important center of devotional music in those days. It was in Uttar Pradesh that 'Sufis' took inspiration from Hindu thought and philosophy.
- Ramanand and his famous disciple Kabir and other saints like Ravidas, Darya Shah and Guru Gorakhnath were some of the great men of those times who gave a new direction to the life and culture of this State.
- The Hindu teachers laid emphasis on monotheism (oneness of God) and focused attention on the meaninglessness of the caste system. The Muslim sufis were greatly influenced by mysticism. All these saint-poets contributed to the enrichment of both Hindi and Urdu literature.
- A notable contribution was made by Sultan Feroz Tughlaq who got Sanskrit works translated into Persian among the authors of this age, Zia-ud-din Barni will always be held in high esteem.
- The tradition of cultural synthesis, which was started by the sufis and saints during the rule of Sultans received great impetus during the reign of wise Mughals.
- It was a time when a distinct liberal outlook was discernible in all spheres of human life such as religion, art and literature.
- Many Madaras and Makatabs were opened for muslim education and Varanasi became the traditional center of Hindu education. Hindi and Urdu literature developed further and work of translation of Sanskrit books into Persian gained momentum.
- Tulsidas, Surdas, Keshavdas, Bhushan, Malik Mohammad Jayasi, Raskhan, Matiram, Ghananand, Bihari, Dev and Giridhar Kavirai were some of the great poets who brought into being, laurels to Uttar Pradesh.
- After the disintegration of the Mughal empire, smaller states which came also pursued a policy of giving patronage to poets and musicians.

## LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

### ■ The Ghaznavids and Mahmud of Ghazni Mahmud of Ghazni (c.998–1030 CE)

- ▶ During the period between c.1000 – 1027 CE, he attacked India 17 times. He started his invasions in India during the period when the Rajput power had declined.
- ▶ In c.1014 CE, Mahmud took Thaneshwar (near Delhi) and burnt the temple of Mathura.
- ▶ In c.1018 CE, he sacked Kannauj by defeating its Chandella king, Vidhyadhara.
- ▶ Qutub ud din Aibak who was the slave of Muhammad Ghuri founded the slave dynasty in 1206 CE and ruled till 1210 CE. The present day Uttar Pradesh was the part of his ruling region.
- ▶ He patronised great scholar "Hasan Nizami" & started construction of famous Qutub Minar named after famous Sufi saint Khwaja – i – Qutubuddin- Bakhtiyar (Minar was later completed by Iltutmish)
- ▶ He died playing Chaugan (Horse polo) in 1210 CE.
- ▶ He was succeeded by Iltutmish, Raziya Sultan and Balban. It was during the reign of Balban that Slave Dynasty reached its peak.

- ▶ Iltutmish also introduced the Iqta system in Delhi sultanate which was a practice of tax farming. He is credited with issuing Silver Tanka and Copper Jital. The silver tanka had the weight of 175 grains.
- ▶ After the Slave dynasty, Khalji dynasty rulers like Jalaluddin Khalji and Alauddin Khalji started ruling the Delhi Sultanate.
- ▶ Alauddin Khalji built 'Alai Darwaja', 'Siri fort' Mahal-i-Hazar Situn', "Zamait-e-khana mosque."
- ▶ He faced many rebellions during his reign. Almost the entire South India became independent during his reign. Thus, he was succeeded by the Tughlaq dynasty rulers like Ghiyas-Ud-Din Tughlaq Shah, Mohammad Bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
- ▶ Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded several cities like Firozabad, Fatehabad, Hissar, Jaunpur, Firozpur etc.
- ▶ The most remarkable contribution of Firoz that gave a fillip to agriculture was the scheme of artificial irrigation in which the excavation of canals occupied an important place. The important canals which were excavated were the following ; a. The Rajwah., b. Ulughkhani, e. Firuzabad canal, d. Khakkhar (Ghaggar0 canal, e. The canal excavated from the river Budhi.

## ■ Sharqi Dynasty of Jaunpur

- ▶ Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur was founded by Malik Sarwar, a eunuch belonging to Sultan Firuz Tughluq. Malik Sarwar's astonishingly fast rise to power can be attributed to the chaos that ruled supreme after the death of Firuz in 1388.
- ▶ Malik Sarwar was made wazir of the Delhi sultanate by Firuz's younger son, Muhammad Shah (1390-93) who conferred on him the title of Sultanus-Sharq (Ruler of the Eastern Kingdom).
- ▶ Malik Sarwar's rise continued and in 1394 was appointed governor of Jaunpur, where he successfully repulsed the uprisings by the Hindu chiefs of Bihar and Avadh.
- ▶ The chiefs of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Tirhut were forced to accept his suzerainty. When Timur, great Mongol leader of Central Asia, left Delhi in 1399 after his invasion of India, Sarwar proclaimed himself the independent ruler of Jaunpur.
- ▶ When Sarwar died in 1399, his kingdom extended to Kol (modern Aligarh), Rapri (Mainpuri district) and Sambhal (Muradabad). The eastern boundaries of Sharqi kingdom ran along Tirhut and Bihar.
- ▶ Malik Sarwar was succeeded to the throne by his adopted son Malik Mubarak Qaranfal (1399-1401). His reign was not eventful.
- ▶ After him, Ibrahim Shah Sharqi (1401-40), the younger brother of Malik Sarwar, became the ruler of Jaunpur and was the greatest of the Sharqi rulers. He entered into an alliance with Kirti Singh of Tirhut.
- ▶ He sent his forces to help the ruler of Tirhut when the latter was invaded by a Muslim army. Another military expedition of Ibrahim Shah Sharqi was the invasion of Bengal to remove the Hindu ruler Ganesha from the throne.
- ▶ The small independent sultanate of Kalpi was also annexed to his kingdom. His military ambition did not stop. He invaded the Delhi sultanate which was being ruled by the Saiyid ruler Muhammad Shah (1435-46).
- ▶ The Saiyid ruler was forced to make an alliance which was sealed with a marriage between Ibrahim's son and the Sultan's daughter.
- ▶ Ibrahim was succeeded by his son, Muhmud Shah Sharqi (1440-57), who was also an ambitious ruler. After Mahmud's death, Muhmmad became the next Sharqi ruler, who was deposed after a few months because of his excessive cruelty.
- ▶ Muhmmad was succeeded by Husain Shah Sharqi, who concluded peace with Behlul Lodi, the founder of the Lodi dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate. He is credited to have strengthening his army, and compelled Gwalior and Orissa to submit to his rule.
- ▶ The Lodi rulers of Delhi Sultanate were keen to extend their rule and as result invaded the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur. Husain Shah Sharqi was unable to withstand the forces of Delhi Sultanate and as a result the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur was annexed into the Delhi Sultanate. Husain Shah died in 1505.

### Delhi Sultanate Art and Architecture

- To far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Sultanate period is known as a dark age in the realm of Art. The Sultans confined their building activities mainly to Delhi, although they constructed mausoleums and mosques here and there in Uttar Pradesh also.
- After the advent of Sharqi rulers in Jaunpur, a new life was infused in art activities. Under their patronage famous mosques like Atalla, Khalis-Mukhis, Jhanjihri and Lal Darwaza were constructed.
- The grandest and the biggest of them all is the Jama Masjid. The Atall Masjid built by Ibrahim Sharqi in 1408 AD became a model for the construction of other mosques in Jaunpur.
- It is an exquisite specimen of the Hindu and Muslim architecture reflecting both vigour and grace in style of construction. The Jaunpur mosques have certain special features.
- The most important of these is their artistic propylaeum. These mosques have facilities for women to offer prayers. For this, beautiful galleries surrounded by artistic walls were constructed.
- Fortress architecture also developed under the patronage of the Sharqis. The fort in Jaunpur constructed in Uttar Pradesh early in the mediaeval period has an importance of its own.
- Although it is in a dilapidated state now, when it was in good shape, its bold and graceful style was universally praised and widely followed. Today only its eastern gateway and a few extent are there to remind us of its past glory and splendor.

### ■ The Mughal Period

- ▶ In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Babur, a Timurid descendant of Timur and Changez Khan from Fergana Valley, swept across the Khyber Pass and founded the Mughal Empire, covering India, along with modern-day Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- ▶ The Mughals were descended from Persianised Central Asian Turks (with significant Mongol admixture). In the Mughal era, Uttar Pradesh became the heartland of the empire. Mughal emperor Babur and Humayun ruled from Agra.
- ▶ In 1540 an Afghan, Sher Shah Suri, took over the reins of Uttar Pradesh after defeating the Mughal king Humayun. Sher Shah and his son Islam Shah ruled Uttar Pradesh from their capital at Gwalior.
- ▶ After the death of Islam Shah Suri, his prime minister Hemu became the de facto ruler of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and the western parts of Bengal.
- ▶ He was bestowed the title of Vikramaditya at his coronation in Purana Quila in Delhi. Hemu died in the Second Battle of Panipat, and Uttar Pradesh came under Emperor Akbar's rule.
- ▶ Akbar ruled from Agra and his newly established city, Fatehpur Sikri. He was succeeded by his son Jahangir.
- ▶ Jahangir was succeeded by his son Shah Jahan. Shah Jahan is famous for building the Taj Mahal, a mausoleum for his queen Mumtaz Mahal.
- ▶ The Taj Mahal is considered one of the most significant examples of Indo-Islamic architecture. Shah Jahan was succeeded by his son Aurangzeb, who did not share the religious tolerance of his ancestors, and was infamous for the destruction of temples.

### Nawab of Awadh

- The Nawab of Awadh is a title that was given to the rulers of the Indian princely state of Awadh or Oudh, as it was referred to by the British. The Nawabs of Awadh were a clan of rulers that came from Persia in the early 18th century.
- Nawab Sa'adat, the first in the dynasty came from Persia in 1724 and established the state of Awadh at a time when the Mughal empire was shrinking. Taking advantage of the situation, he gained supremacy over Awadh and made Faizabad the capital.

- The glory of Awadh can be seen in the present day cities of Uttar Pradesh such as Lucknow, Kanpur, and Faizabad.
- Lucknow, in particular, owes a lot of its present day charm and infrastructure which includes fine arts and cuisine to the former rulers of Awadh, who later made Lucknow their capital.

### Origin and History

- Awadh was earlier called by the name Lakshmanpur Awadh and is termed as an ancient Hindu state that has roots dating back to the popular mythological legend of Lord Rama of Ayodhya who had gifted Awadh to his brother Lakshman.
- Therefore, the original name of Awadh was Lakshmanpur which was located in the outskirts of Ayodhya. Hence, the name Awadh comes from the name Ayodhya which was the capital of the Hindu Kosal province.
- At a time when the Mughal empire was disintegrating, a soldier in the Mughal army reaped rich rewards when he was made the governor of Awadh. Later this Nazim or Governor became the Nawab.
- The Nawabs of Awadh received a fair degree of autonomy from the Mughal rulers in Delhi, however, their alliance with the British East India Company ensured that they would not remain independent for long.
- The British had eyed the wealthy state of Awadh for long and after the defeat of the Shuja-ud-Daula, Nawab of Awadh in the Battle of Plassey, fortunes took a turn for the royal family of Awadh.
- Nevertheless, despite having to forfeit a lot of its territory to the British, the Nawab still managed to maintain a harmonious relationship with the British and became their chief ally.

### Art and Architecture

- They built many places, mosques, gates, gardens and Imambaras. In the beginning, the buildings constructed by them were confined to Faizabad alone, but later on the main centre of their architectural activity shifted to Lucknow.
- Among them, famous buildings are the Ashaf-ud-Daula Imambara, the Mausoleum in Kiserbagh, Lal Baradari, the Residency, Shahnazaf, Husainabad Imambara, Chhatr Manjil, Moti Mahal, Kaiserbagh Place, Dilkusha Gardens and Sikandarabagh.
- The style of these buildings may be decadent and hybrid but it has its own special characteristics such as fish motif at the gates, domes with golden umbrellas, vaulted halls, arcaded pavilions, underground chambers, and labyrinths.
- The Bara Imambara built by Asaf-ud-Daula is both dignified and imposing. Its vaulted hall is typical of pure Lucknow style and is said to be the biggest hall of its kind in the world.
- Certain people have criticised the Lucknow style as being merely a mixture of other styles and indeed several Nawabi buildings appear to be crude imitations of western architecture. Yet, they have an important place in the history of Indo-Muslim architecture.
- Some of the Buildings of this style are, as a matter of fact, beautiful creations of art. A notable change was brought about in the policy of providing State patronage to Art during the British Rule and thereafter.

### Treaties of Banaras

- Treaties of Banaras, (1773 and 1775), two agreements regulating relations between the British government of Bengal and the ruler of the Muslim state of Oudh (Ayodhya).
- The defense of Oudh had been guaranteed in 1765 on the condition that the state's ruler, Shujā al-Dawlah, pay the cost of the necessary troops.
- The First Treaty of Banaras (1773) was the result of the Mughal emperor Shah Ālam's cession of Allahabad and Kora to the warlike Marathas as the price of their support.
- Warren Hastings, the British governor, ceded Allahabad and Kora to Shujā and promised to support him against the menacing Afghan Rohillas in return for cash payments.



- This move, designed to strengthen Oudh as a buffer state between Bengal and the Marathas, led to the Rohilla War of 1774, which later became a major factor in Hastings's impeachment (1788–95).
- The Second Treaty of Banaras (1775) is otherwise known as the Treaty of Faizabad. It was forced on the new vizier of Oudh by the company's governing council after the death of Shujāʿ.
- The wazir had to pay a larger subsidy for the use of British troops and cede Banaras (now Varanasi) to the East India Company. This treaty led to a revolt by the raja Chaith Singh of Banaras in 1781.

## MARATHA EMPIRE

- In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, after the fall of Mughal authority, the power vacuum was filled by the Maratha Empire, in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Maratha army invaded the Uttar Pradesh region, which resulted in Rohillas losing control of Rohilkhand to the Maratha rulers Raghunath Rao and Malharao Holkar.
- The conflict between Rohillas and Marathas came to an end on 18 December 1788 with the arrest of Ghulam Qadir, the grandson of Najeeb-ud-Daula, who was defeated by the Maratha general Mahadaji Scindia.
- In 1803, following the Second Anglo-Maratha War, when the British East India Company defeated the Maratha Empire, much of the region came under British suzerainty.

### Mughal Art and Architecture

- The composite Indian and Muslim style of architecture reached its climax during the Mughal Period. The Taj Mahal described as a dream in marble is a living example of this style.
- Babur constructed the mosques at Ayodhya and Sambhal but the Mughal architecture is mainly associated with his two descendants-Akbar and Shahjahan.
- The Mughal architecture was marked by its grandeur during the reign of Akbar and by its lyrical quality during the reign of Shahjahan.
- The monuments built by Akbar in Sikri, and in Agra and Delhi by Shahjahan, reflect their mental attitudes. So long as Shahjahan did not shift his capital to Delhi, Agra and its neighborhood remained the main centre of Mughal architectural Activity.
- Prominent buildings constructed in Uttar Pradesh in the Mughal Period include the city built in Sikri by Akbar, the Agra Fort, and buildings within the mausoleum of Akbar in sikandra and of Etmad-ud-daula in Agra, Akbar's fort in Allahabad and mosques constructed by Aurangazeb in Mathura, Mathura, Varanasi and Lucknow.
- Several grand temples and ghats were also constructed during this period at Mathura, Vrindavan and many other places. The special features of Mughal architecture were use of marble, smooth and colourful floors, delicate stone tracery and inlay work and happy blending of Indian and Muslim styles.
- The Sikri walls not only depict line drawings but also human and animal forms. **Garhwal also developed its own school of painting during this period.**
- The Mughal architecture can be divided into two categories. Under the first category come the buildings constructed with marble according to the Royal Firman of Shahjahan.
- The use of valuable marble of soft hues by Shahjahan in place of gaudy red colour used during Akbar reign allude to the diverse personalities of Akbar and Shahjahan.
- The fort of Agra is an example of architecture in Akbar's time. Built on a grand scale, it represents a fusion of both Indian and Muslim styles of architecture. Akbar also built a fort in Allahabad which enjoyed the same importance as that of the Agra Fort during his reign.
- Fatehpur-Sikri, 40 km. away from Agra. Akbar built many palaces and pavilions here which were famous for their beauty, splendour and perfection. The buildings at Fatehpur-Sikri can be divided into two classes-religious and secular.

- The former include the shrine of Sheikh Salim Chishti and the great mosque, while the latter include the palace of Jodhabai, the Mariam-ki-Kothi, the Sunahra Makan and the Panch Mahal.
- A fusion of the architectural styles of Akbar and Shahjahan is found in the tomb of Nurjahan's father Itmad-ud-daula at Agra. This mausoleum is unique in the sense that it appears to give a new interpretation of contemporary architectural style.
- Not built on a grand scale, its object was to preserve delicacy, grace and beauty of contemporary architectural workmanship.

### **The Pinnacle**

- The Mughal style of architecture reached its pinnacle during the reign of Shahjahan. It was the age of marble and its natural beauty could be fully brought out due to the aesthetic taste of the Emperor.
- Several red sandstone buildings constructed by Akbar were demolished and rebuilt with marble. In this connection mention may be made of Diwan-e-Am and Diwan-e-Khas.
- The Nagina Masjid, Musamman Burj and Moti Masjid are some of the exquisite examples of matchless taste and superb workmanship. But Taj Mahal stands out among them all. It was built by Emperor Shahjahan in memory of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal.
- Constructed entirely of white Makrana marble, it is capped with extremely shapely dome, culminating in the best creation of Mughal architecture. Its delicate workmanship, grace, lyricism and purity of form invest it with a dreamy beauty which can be compared to the reflection of a delicate and beautiful rose in moonlight.

## **MARATHA EMPIRE**

- Starting from Bengal in the later half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a series of battles for North Indian lands finally gave the British East India Company accession over this state's territories – including the territories of Bundelkhand, Kumaon and Benaras rulers – and the last Mughal territories of Doab and Delhi.
- When the Company included Ajmer and Jaipur kingdoms in this northern territory, they named it the "North-Western Provinces" (of Agra).
- Today, the area may seem large compared to several of the Republic of India's present 'mini-states' – no more than the size of earlier 'divisions' of the British era – but at the time it was one of the smallest British provinces. Its capital shifted twice between Agra and Allahabad.
- Due to dissatisfaction with British rule, a serious rebellion erupted in various parts of North India; Meerut cantonment's sepoy, Mangal Pandey, is widely credited as its starting point. It came to be known as the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

### **Centres of the 1857 revolt:**

- The revolt spread over the entire area from the neighbourhood of Patna to the borders of Rajasthan. There were six main centres of revolt in these regions namely Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi, Gwalior and Arrah in Bihar.

### **Lucknow:**

- Lucknow was the capital of Awadh. There the mutinous sepoys were joined by the disbanded soldiers from the old Awadh army. Begum Hazrat Mahal, one of the begums of the ex-king of Awadh, took up the leadership of the revolt. Finally the British forces captured Lucknow. The queen escaped to Nepal.

**Kanpur:**

- In Kanpur the revolt was led by Nana Saheb, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II. He joined the revolt primarily because he was deprived of his pension by the British. He captured Kanpur and proclaimed himself the Peshwa. The victory was short-lived.
- Kanpur was recaptured by the British after fresh reinforcements arrived. The revolt was suppressed with terrible vengeance. The rebels were either hanged or blown to pieces by canons. Nana Saheb escaped. But his brilliant commander Tantia Tope continued the struggle. Tantia Tope was finally defeated, arrested and hanged.

**Jhansi:**

- In Jhansi, the twenty-two-year-old Rani Lakshmi Bai led the rebels when the British refused to accept the claim of her adopted son to the throne of Jhansi. She fought gallantly against the British forces. But she was ultimately defeated by the English.
  - Rani Lakshmi Bai escaped. Later on, the Rani was joined by Tantia Tope and together they marched to Gwalior and captured it. Sindhia, a loyal ally of the British, was driven out. Fierce fighting followed. The Rani of Jhansi fought like a tigress. She died, fighting to the very end. Gwalior was recaptured by the British.
- After the revolt failed the British attempted to divide the most rebellious regions by reorganising the administrative boundaries of the region, splitting the Delhi region from 'NWFP of Agra' and merging it with Punjab, while the Ajmer- Marwar region was merged with Rajputana and Oudh was incorporated into the state.
  - The new state was called the 'North Western Provinces of Agra and Oudh', which in 1902 was renamed as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. It was commonly referred to as the United Provinces or its acronym UP.

**Lucknow Pact**

- The Lucknow Pact is an agreement between the Indian National Congress (INC) and the All India Muslim League reached at a joint session of both the parties held at Lucknow in 1916.
  - The Lucknow Pact gave the impression of a Hindu-Muslim unity in the national political scene. But it was only an impression and short-lived.
  - The agreement between the parties on a separate communal electorate formally established communal politics in India.
  - Through this pact, the INC also tacitly accepted that India consisted of two different communities with different interests.
  - This pact pushed the hitherto less relevant Muslim League into the forefront of Indian politics along with the Congress Party.
- Peasant Movement in Oudha (1918-1922): The peasants of eastern Uttar Pradesh defied large landlords through a tenant's movement for security of tenure. Oppressive traditions of forced labour were attacked through fierce agrarian riots.
  - Small landlords and the rural poor supported and led the movement. Statutory rights of occupancy were secured in 1921. The movement marked a phase of retreat for landlordism.
  - Kisan sabhas were started in U.P. in 1926-27. Their main demands centred on problems of tenants, such as giving tenants occupancy rights, abolishing non-rent extraction and forced labour, cancelling all rent arrears, reducing rent and water rates.
  - These movements did not show much interest in problems of agricultural labourers. This led to the establishment of the Khet Mazdoor Sabha in 1959.
  - Eka Movement (1920s) or unity movement was led initially by Congress and Khilafat Leaders and it was later joined by Madari Pasi and other low caste leaders. Its main cause was the oppression by Thekedar, high rents, involved religious ritual, in which farmer would take a dip in Ganges and vow not to do begari, resist eviction etc.

- By 1922 severe repression by the government took place and thus, eka Movement had vanished.
- On 3rd October, 1924, Hindustan Republic Association (HRA) was founded by Revolutionary Nationalist at Kanpur. Chandra Shekhar Azad was the main leader and its head office was situated in Agra (Azad was killed by the police in a shootout at Allahabad in 1931).
- The HRA formed centres at, besides Allahabad, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur and Saharanpur.
- The most famous incident was the Kakori train robbery. This occurred on 9th August 1925. Members of the party looted a train carrying government money near Lucknow. An innocent passenger was killed accidentally in the process. People involved in the episode were Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Thakur Roshan Singh. All four were eventually hanged by the government in 1927 for their involvement.
- In 1920, the capital of the province was shifted from Allahabad to Lucknow. The high court continued to be at Allahabad, but a bench was established at Lucknow.
- Nationally known figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru were among the leaders of the movement in UP, who was kept in Naini Jail of Prayagraj after giving the proposal of the Quit India Movement.
- During the Quit India Movement of 1942, Ballia district overthrew the colonial authority and installed an independent administration under Chittu Pandey.
- Ballia became known then as Baghi Ballia (Rebel Ballia) for this significant contribution in India's freedom movement.
- The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) was formed at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress on 11 April 1936 with the legendary nationalist Swami Sahajanand Saraswati elected as its first President, in order to address the long standing grievances of the peasantry and mobilise them against the zamindari landlords' attacks on their occupancy rights, thus sparking the Farmers' movement in India.

## POST-INDEPENDENCE

- Modern-day Uttar Pradesh saw the rise of important freedom fighters on the national scenario. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Charan Singh and Chandra Shekhar were only a few of the important names who played a significant role in India's freedom movement and also rose to become the prime ministers of this great nation.
- After independence, the state was renamed Uttar Pradesh ("northern province") by its first chief minister, Govind Ballabh Pant. Pant was well acquainted with and close to Jawaharlal Nehru (the first Prime Minister of free India) and was also popular in the Congress Party.
- He established such a good reputation in Lucknow that Nehru called him to Delhi, the capital and seat of the Central Government of the country, to make him Home Minister of India in 27 December 1954.
- He was succeeded by Dr. Sampurnanand, a classicist Sanskrit scholar. Following a political crisis in Uttar Pradesh, initiated by Kamlapati Tripathi and C.B. Gupta, Sampurnanand was asked to resign as CM in 1960 and sent to Rajasthan as the Governor of Rajasthan, paving the way for Gupta and Tripathi to become Chief Ministers.
- Sucheta Kripalani served as India's first woman chief minister from October 1963 until March 1967, when a two-month long strike by state employees caused her to step down.
- After her, Chandra Bhanu Gupta assumed the office of Chief Minister with Laxmi Raman Acharya as Finance Minister, but the government lasted for only two years due to the confusion and chaos which ended only with the defection of Charan Singh from the Congress with a small set of legislators. He set up a party called the Jana Congress, which formed the first non-Congress government in U.P. and ruled for over a year.
- Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna was chief minister for Congress Party government for part of the 1970s. He was dismissed by the Central Government headed by Indira Gandhi, along with several other

non-Congress chief ministers, shortly after the imposition of the widely unpopular Emergency, when Narain Dutt Tewari – later chief minister of Uttarakhand – became chief minister.

- The Congress Party lost heavily in the 1977 elections, following the lifting of the Emergency, but romped back to power in 1980, when Mrs. Gandhi handpicked the man who would later become her son's principal opposition, V.P. Singh, to become Chief Minister.

## CREATION OF THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

- On 9 November 2000, the Himalayan portion of the state, comprising the Garhwal and Kumaon divisions and Haridwar district, was formed into a new state 'Uttaranchal', now called Uttarakhand, meaning the 'Northern Segment' state.

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