



## New Terms

- ❑ **Archaeology** : The study of ancient excavated remains
- ❑ **Monuments** : Ancient buildings
- ❑ **Inscriptions** : Writings or words engraved on stones and rocks
- ❑ **Manuscripts** : Handwritten descriptions or documents
- ❑ **Artefacts** : Artistic creations made by human expertise

The word 'History' is taken from the Latin word 'Historia' and Greek word 'Historico'. It refers to the actual description of ancient events. In simple words, it is the description of man, from ancient to the present times. It is a detailed and timeline document of ancient people, places and events.

### Division of Ancient Period

Ancient period can be divided into two parts :

**1. Prehistoric Period** : There are no written evidences available about this period. In India, the period before Indus Valley Civilization is called prehistoric period. It is also known as Stone Age.

**2. Historic Period** : The period about which some written records, in any form, are available is called historic period. In India, the period after the Indus Valley Civilization is called historic period.

### Division of Historic Period

Historians have divided historic period into three parts : ancient, medieval and modern. The duration of every period is hundreds of years. This may vary in different parts of the world, such as, the modern period of world history starts from 1453 AD whereas the modern period of Indian history starts from 1750 AD.

In India, the division of history is as follows.

**Ancient period** : From Indus Valley Civilization to 12th century.

**Medieval period** : 12th century to 18th century.

**Modern Period** : From the mid-18th century to the present age.

### Time Periods in History

Two words are used to denote time periods in history— BC and AD. BC means the time period before the birth of Jesus Christ while AD means the time period after the birth of Christ.

### The Geographical Framework of India

History and geography are intimately related. Geographical location of a place, its climate and natural flora and fauna, etc. comprise geographical conditions. These conditions impact the political, social, economic and cultural history of a country. Thus, it is very necessary to understand the physical or geographical divisions of India in order to study its history.

**1. The Northern Mountains** : In the north of India are the Himalayan mountain ranges, like an impenetrable wall. There are some passes too in the north-west, through which Persians, Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Scythians, Mongols, Turks, Tartars and Mughal invaders came and established their kingdoms.

**2. The Northern Plains** : The northern plains is a vast plain area which is made up of fertile soil brought down by Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra and their tributaries. Harappa Civilization developed in the Indus Valley nearly 4,500 years ago. Later, the Vedic Civilization flourished in the Indus-Ganga plains. This region was known as 'Aryavarta'. Many empires such as Magadha Empire, Mauryan Empire, Gupta Empire and Vardhana Empire flourished and declined in this region. Jainism and Buddhism grew and developed in

this region only. In the ancient period, this region was world famous as a great center of civilization and culture.

**3. The Deccan Plateau :** In South India, the Deccan Plateau extends from Vindhyan mountains to the South. Brave tribes such as Marathas flourished here and Dravida culture made this region famous. The Deccan Plateau acted as the border between north India and South India, and this separation of two parts of the same land acted as unity in cultural diversity.

**4. The Coastal Areas :** The closeness of coastal areas to the sea led to the development of trading ports and rich cities. Through these ports were established trade and cultural ties with Java, Sumatra, Myanmar (Burma), Siam (Thailand) and Indo-China.

### Different Names of India

We use different names such as 'India', 'Bharat' and 'Hindustan' for India. The ancient and historical name of India is 'Bharatavarsha.' According to the epic 'Mahabharata', this country was named 'Bharatvarsha' after 'Bharata,' the son of King Dushyanta. As per Jain literature, the country was named 'Bharatavarsha', after 'Bharata,' the eldest son of Lord Rishabhadeva. According to 'Vishnu Purana' and 'Vayu Purana,' the country to the north and south of Himalayas was called 'Bharata' because the descendents of 'Bharata' tribe lived there. India is also called 'Jambudwipa' in ancient literature.

About 2,500 years ago, the Persians called India as 'Hind', which was taken up by the Arabs as well. Later on, the Muslim rulers called it 'Hindustan'. India was called 'India', first of all, by the Greeks. The origin of the word 'India' is from 'Indus', which is called 'Sindhu' in Sanskrit. Thus, it is named 'India' after 'Indus' river. The English too accepted this name.

#### Know This

In its ancient epics, other names of India are 'Sapta Saindhav Pradesh', 'Aryabhumi,' 'Aryavarta' and 'Madhya Desha.'

### Importance of History

History plays a very important role in our lives. It provides important information about ancient times. The importance of history is as follows :

1. It is through history only that we come to know of our ancestors, their experiences, struggles and achievements.

2. It is through the study of history that we come to know about human culture and civilization at different time periods such as Copper Age, Vedic Age, Iron Age, etc. and its serial development.

3. History tells us to live with mutual tolerance and respect.

4. History informs us about social evils such as racial discrimination, slavery, hunger, illiteracy and poverty.

5. History also informs us about the development and aims of societies with different religions, customs, languages and traditions.

6. History also helps us to know about the great monarchs, kings, politicians and other great men besides the general populace.

### Sources of History

It is not easy to interpret the past but there are some sources which help us to do so. Such sources are known as 'historical sources'. The degree of authenticity in such sources is different. Historical sources are of two kinds :

1. Archaeological Sources
2. Literary Sources

**1. Archaeological Sources :** There are no written records of the prehistoric period because of non-development of writing skills. For this, we have to depend on various archaeological evidences such as monuments, remains of buildings, coins, clay tablets, seals, utensils, tools, sculptures, engravings, etc. A careful study of these evidences inform us about history.

(i) **Archaeology :** The study of dug-up ancient remains is called archaeology. Such remains like settlements, tools, jewellery, weapons, shards of pottery and art works are called sources of archaeology.

Indus Valley Civilization was discovered by archaeology only. The source material of archaeology can be classified into three categories :

- (a) Inscriptions
- (b) Remains of monuments
- (c) Coins

#### Know This

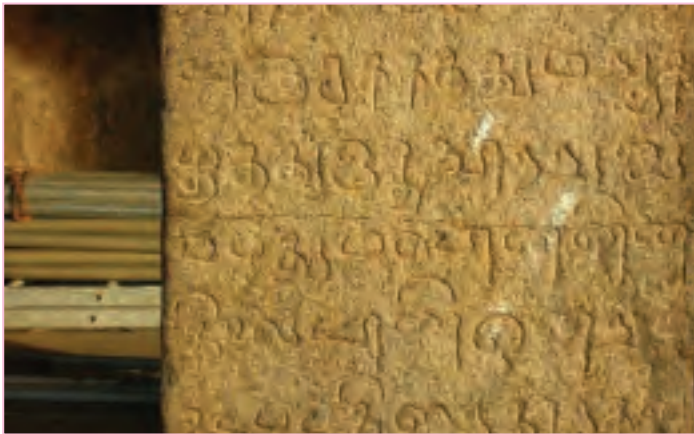
- The study of inscriptions is called epigraphy.
- The study of coins is called numismatics.
- Philology is that science of languages in which documents are written.



Archaeological remains



Manuscripts



Inscriptions



Coins

(ii) **Manuscripts** : There are many ways to get information about the past. One of such ways is to search for and read books written in that time. As these were written by hands, they are called manuscripts. The origin of this word is from the Latin word 'Manu' which means 'hand'. Manuscripts are normally found written on palm leaves or the bark of birch tree.

(iii) **Inscriptions** : The study of inscriptions is called epigraphy. Inscriptions are found engraved on wooden pieces, clay and copper plates, rocks, stones, pillars and clay tablets.

(iv) **Coins** : The coins excavated by archaeologists are from different time periods. The ancient kings had issued different coins made of various metals such as gold, silver, copper and lead. Indian coins were found in foreign locations and foreign coins were found here, which prove that India had trade relations with foreign countries since ancient times.

(v) **Artefacts** : Paintings and sculpture come under this category. Ayodhya, Varanasi, Kannauj and

Thanjavur are very ancient cities and here we can witness pillars, forts, domes, temples, etc. which were constructed here hundreds of years ago. Beautiful sculpture and painting skills are on display here.

(vi) **Monuments** : Ancient and historical buildings, whether they are standing or in ruins, inform us about the lives of people of ancient times. Ashokan pillars, Stupa at Sanchi and Ratha Temples of Mahabalipuram are evidences of our glorious past.

2. **Literary Sources** : The only literary sources for the acquaintance with the literature are conserved in religious literature. In ancient times, when paper was not yet invented and people had no knowledge of printing, our ancestors used to write on bark of trees and copper plates, by their own hands. Such hand written works are known as 'manuscripts.'

### Know This

'Circa' is a Latin word which is used before non-clear dates (generally birth and death).



Ashoka Pillar



Sanchi Stupa



Ancient statues

## To Recapitulate

- History is made up of meaningful events written in a serial order.
- Historical sources comprise of archaeological sources and literary sources.
- Study of excavated ancient remains is called archaeology.
- Archaeological sources consist of monuments, their remains, inscriptions, coins and artefacts.
- Study of coins is called numismatics.
- History informs us about different aspects of our ancestors and ancient times.



## Exercise

### A. Tick the correct option :

1. Historical period is divided into :

- (a) Ancient Period
- (c) Modern Period

- (b) Medieval Period
- (d) All of these

2. The word used to fix dates in history is :

- (a) BC
- (c) Both of these

- (b) AD
- (d) None of these

3. Intimate relations exist between :

- (a) English and History
- (c) History and Geography

- (b) Hindi and Geography
- (d) English and Hindi

4. In the epics, India was known as :

(a) Jambudwipa

(b) Lakshadwipa

(c) Prayadwipa

(d) Bharatadwipa

5. Manuscripts were written on :

(a) Leaves

(b) Stones

(c) Both of these

(d) None of these

**B. Fill in the blanks :**

1. The modern period in India starts from \_\_\_\_\_ AD.
2. Harappa Civilization developed in \_\_\_\_\_ Valley.
3. Bhojpatra is the bark of \_\_\_\_\_ tree.
4. We are able to know about our ancestors with the help of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The old name of Myanmar is \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Write True or False :**

1. The study of coins of ancient period is called numismatics.
2. Handwritten documents are also called manuscripts.
3. Ashoka Pillar is an ancient monument.
4. History informs us about modern events.
5. Ayodhya is an ancient city full of artefacts.

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**D. Short Answer Questions :**

1. What do you understand by history?
2. Which period is known as Stone Age?
3. When and where did the Harappa Civilization develop?
4. Which tribe and culture flourished on Deccan Plateau?
5. What are Inscriptions?

**E. Long Answer Questions :**

1. Describe the Northern Mountains and the Northern Plains of India.
2. Describe the Deccan Plateau and Coastal Areas of India.
3. What is the importance of history in our lives? Explain in detail.
4. Explain about the archaeological sources in detail.
5. Explain how India came to be known by different names.

**Project/Activity**

- ▲ Collect pictures of some ancient Indian monuments, prepare an album and display it in your class.