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Complete Syllabus • Conceptual Flowcharts • Comparative Tables • Solved Practice Questions

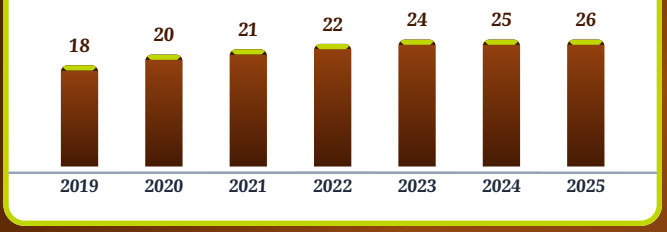
ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY — COMPLETE STUDY NOTES

Prehistoric Cultures, Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic Age, Buddhism & Jainism, Mahajanapadas, Mauryan Empire, Sangam Age, Gupta Golden Age & Post-Gupta Dynasties for UPSC, State PCS, SSC, CDS, NDA & UGC-NET

Topic-Wise Exam Weightage Distribution (%)



Previous Years' Question Trend Analysis



Target Competitive, Entrance & Departmental Examinations

UPSC CSE • UPPSC/BPSC/State PCS • SSC CGL/CHSL/MTS • NDA/CDS/CAPF • UGC-NET History • CUET

Core Syllabus Pillars & Exam Question Weightage (%)

- Indus Valley Civilization & Prehistoric Sites (24%)
- Vedic Literature, Buddhism & Jainism Philosophy (22%)
- Mauryan Empire, Ashokan Edicts & Administration (20%)
- Gupta Empire, Science, Literature & Temple Art (18%)
- Sangam Age, Satavahanas, Harshavardhana & Tripartite Era (16%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
One-Liner Capsules

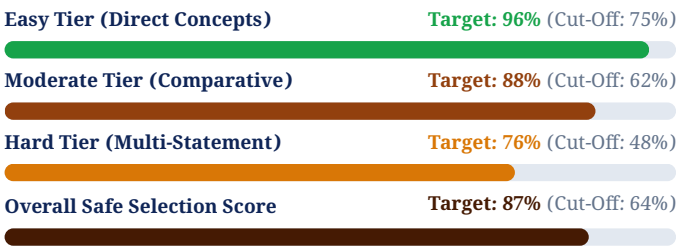
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY — COMPLETE STUDY NOTES

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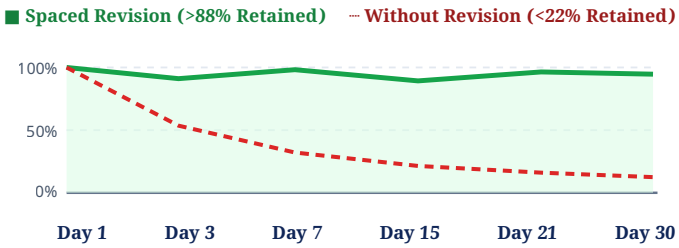
Dear Aspirants,

Modern competitive, entrance, and departmental promotion examinations demand a combination of deep conceptual clarity, statutory precision, and rapid revision tools. Prepared by **Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy — www.iucacademy.com)**, these comprehensive English-medium study notes integrate **structured chapter theory, 4-node conceptual process flowcharts, multi-column comparative tables, inline mathematical/scientific formulas, 'Did You Know?' boxes, 'Exam Trap Alert' callouts, 'Memory Trick' mnemonics, Chapter-End Analytical Synthesis Matrices, 75+ Step-by-Step Solved MCQs, and Rapid-Fire One-Liner Revision Capsules**.

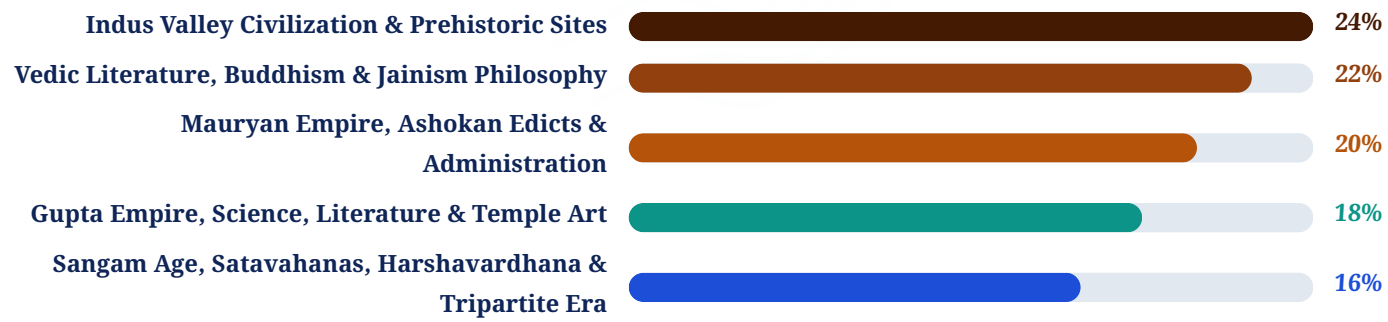
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



Spaced Revision (1-3-7-21 Day Rule) & Retention Curve



Topic-Wise Exam Question Weightage Index (%)



Verified Official Curriculum & Statutory Reference Portals

- **NCERT Official Textbooks** (https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php)
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** (https://asi.nic.in/)
- **National Museum New Delhi** (https://nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/)
- **Indian Culture Portal** (https://indianculture.gov.in/)
- **IUC Academy Official Portal** (https://www.iucacademy.com)

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Chapter 1: Prehistoric India, Stone Age Cultures & Chalcolithic Settlements

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: Prehistoric India, Stone Age Cultures & Chalcolithic Settlements

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix

1.1 Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework

• **Prehistoric Periodization:** Prehistoric Indian history encompasses human cultural evolution prior to the emergence of deciphered writing systems, reconstructed primarily through lithic tools, pottery traditions, faunal remains, and rock art documented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and NCERT Official Textbooks.

• **Robert Bruce Foote (1863):** Known as the Father of Indian Prehistory, he discovered the first Palaeolithic hand-axe in India at the Pallavaram gravel deposit near Chennai, establishing systematic prehistoric stratigraphy (ASI).

• **Palaeolithic Age (500,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE):** Subdivided into Lower Palaeolithic (core tools like hand-axes, cleavers, and choppers found in the Soan Valley and Belan Valley), Middle Palaeolithic (flake tools such as scrapers, borers, and points found at Nevasa on the Pravara River), and Upper Palaeolithic (parallel-sided blades and burins associated with *Homo sapiens* and bone tools at Kurnool Caves in Andhra Pradesh) (NCERT).

• **Hathnora Fossil Evidence:** An archaic hominin cranial fossil discovered by Arun Sonakia in 1982 at Hathnora in the Narmada Valley (Madhya Pradesh) represents the oldest known human skeletal fossil in the Indian subcontinent (Indian Culture Portal).

1.2 Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions

• **Mesolithic Age (10,000 BCE – 6,000 BCE):** Characterized by composite geometric and non-geometric microliths (lunates, trapezes, backed blades) measuring 1 to 5 cm, climatic warming during the Holocene epoch, and early animal domestication evidenced at Bagor (Rajasthan on the Kothari River) and Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) (NCERT).

• **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh):** Discovered by V. S. Wakankar in 1957–58, these UNESCO-listed shelters preserve continuous occupation from the Lower Palaeolithic to the historic era, displaying bichrome and polychrome rock paintings using haematite (red) and glauconite (green) minerals (ASI).

• **Neolithic Revolution (7,000 BCE – 1,000 BCE):** Marked by polished pecked-stone celts, handmade and wheel-turned cord-impressed pottery, sedentary village habitation, and settled agriculture (IUC Academy).

• **Key Neolithic Milestones:** Mehrgarh (Balochistan) provides the earliest subcontinent evidence of wheat, barley, cotton cultivation, and mud-brick dentistry (~7000 BCE); Burzahom and Gufkral (Kashmir) feature subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey pottery, bone tools, and joint dog-human burials; Koldihwa and Lahuradewa (Uttar Pradesh) preserve early domesticated rice husks; Chirand (Bihar, confluence of Ganga and

Ghaghara) yields prolific antler-bone implements; and Daojali Hading (Assam) yields jadeite stone tools and double-shouldered celts (National Museum).

• **Chalcolithic Cultures (2,500 BCE – 700 BCE):** Rural copper-stone farming communities characterized by black-and-red ware and painted pottery across regional traditions including Ahar-Banas (Rajasthan), Kayatha and Malwa (Madhya Pradesh), and Jorwe (Maharashtra) (NCERT).

1.3 Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix

• **Diagnostic Pottery and Metallurgy Across Chalcolithic Horizons:**

• **Kayatha Culture (2000–1800 BCE, Chambal Valley, MP):** Characterized by sturdy chocolate-slipped ware with painted violet/red designs, red-painted buff ware, and copper necklaces containing 40,000 microbeads of steatite discovered in pots (NCERT).

• **Malwa Culture (1700–1200 BCE, Narmada Valley, MP):** Richest Chalcolithic ceramic tradition featuring thick buff/orange slip painted in black or dark brown; **Navdatoli** (excavated by H. D. Sankalia) yielded the widest variety of foodgrains (wheat, barley, linseed, black gram, green gram, and *Khesari*) in protohistoric India (ASI).

• **Jorwe Culture (1400–700 BCE, Pravara-Godavari Basin, Maharashtra):** Distinguished by wheel-made matte-surface red pottery with black geometric designs and tubular spouted pots. **Inamgaon** revealed a five-roomed house of the ruling chief next to the granary, an irrigation channel, and urn burials of children beneath house floors with the feet chopped off in adult burials to prevent the spirit from returning (National Museum).

• **Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) & Copper Hoard Culture (2000–1500 BCE):** Concentrated in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab (Bisauli, Rajpur Parsu, Saipai, Atranjikhera), yielding harpoons, antennae swords, and anthropomorphic copper figures (UPSC).

Regional Culture	Core River Basin	Key Excavated Sites	Signature Artifact / Burial Custom	Official Source
Ahar-Banas	Banas Valley (Rajasthan)	Ahar (*Tambavati*), Gilund, Balathal	Smelting furnaces, white-painted Black-and-Red Ware, stone-and-mud houses	NCERT
Kayatha & Malwa	Chambal & Narmada (MP)	Kayatha, Eran, Tripuri, Navdatoli	29 copper bangles & steatite microbeads (Kayatha); spindle whorls & multi-crop farming (Navdatoli)	ASI
Savalda & Jorwe	Tapi, Pravara & Bhima (Maharashtra)	Kaothe, Daimabad, Inamgaon, Nevasa	Four-piece bronze hoard at Daimabad; north-to-south extended & twin-urn floor burials at Inamgaon	National Museum
OCP & Copper Hoards	Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab	Saipai (Etawah), Atranjikhera, Jodhpura	Anthropomorphic figures, hooked swords, lugged celts	IUC Academy

• **Stratigraphic Continuity in the Belan and Son Valleys:** Excavations directed by G. R. Sharma in the Belan Valley (Mirzapur-Prayagraj) and Son Valley (Baghor I, where an Upper Palaeolithic mother-goddess triangular stone shrine with concentric laminations was unearthed) demonstrate an unbroken cultural sequence from the Lower Palaeolithic through the Mesolithic to the Neolithic-Chalcolithic transition (ASI).

• **South Indian Neolithic Ashmounds:** Sites such as **Utnur, Piklihal, Kupgal, Kodekal, and Budihal** in Karnataka-Telangana preserve vitrified heaps of burnt cow dung accumulated inside seasonal cattle pens (*Vada*), proving that South Indian Neolithic communities combined millet-pulse cultivation (ragi and horsegram) with intensive pastoralism (NCERT).

• **Banasian vs. Malwa Copper Metallurgy:** Chemical analysis of Ahar-Banas copper axes shows zero tin alloying and local smelting of chalcopyrite ore from the Aravalli hills, whereas Daimabad's late-Harappan/Chalcolithic bronzes display complex lost-wax casting (National Museum).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Palaeolithic Core & Flake Hunting Tools (500,000–10,000 BCE)

STEP 2
Mesolithic Microliths & Early Herding at Bagor/Adamgarh (10,000–6,000 BCE)

STEP 3
Neolithic Polished Axes & Settled Farming at Mehrgarh/Burzahom (7,000–1,000 BCE)

STEP 4
Chalcolithic Copper-Stone Rural Cultures at Ahar/Jorwe (2,500–700 BCE)

Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase	Time Horizon	Diagnostic Tool & Pottery Kit	Type Sites & Key Excavated Findings	Official Reference
Lower Palaeolithic	500,000 – 100,000 BCE	Quartzite hand-axes, cleavers, pebble choppers	Pallavaram (Tamil Nadu), Attirampakkam, Didwana (Rajasthan), Bhimbetka Layer I	ASI
Middle Palaeolithic	100,000 – 40,000 BCE	Chert and jasper flake scrapers, borers, points	Nevasa (Maharashtra), Belan Valley (Uttar Pradesh), Luni Valley (Rajasthan)	NCERT
Upper Palaeolithic	40,000 – 10,000 BCE	Blades, burins, bone harpoons, ostrich eggshell beads	Kurnool Caves (Andhra Pradesh), Patne (Maharashtra), Chopani Mando	National Museum
Mesolithic	10,000 – 6,000 BCE	Microliths (trapezes, lunates, micro-blades)	Bagor (Rajasthan), Adamgarh (MP), Sarai Nahar Rai & Mahadaha (UP)	Indian Culture Portal
Neolithic	7,000 – 1,000 BCE	Polished stone celts, bone needles, cord-impressed ware	Mehrgarh, Burzahom, Koldihwa, Chirand (Bihar), Piklihal & Utnur (ashmounds)	NCERT
Chalcolithic (Ahar / Malwa / Jorwe)	2,500 – 700 BCE	Copper flat axes, black-and-red ware, spouted vessels	Gilund (mud-brick), Navdatoli (crop diversity), Daimabad (bronze chariot), Inamgaon	IUC Academy

Did You Know?: The Chalcolithic settlement of Tambavati (ancient name of Ahar in Rajasthan) virtually lacked microlithic stone blades because local copper ore from the Khetri belt was abundant, whereas Gilund in the same culture complex revealed baked-brick and mud-brick structural walls (NCERT).

Exam Trap Alert: Candidates frequently confuse Chirand (Saran district, Bihar) with Burzahom (Kashmir) regarding bone tools; while both sites yielded extensive bone tools, Chirand is an alluvial Gangetic Neolithic site utilizing deer antlers, whereas Burzahom is a lacustrine Himalayan site featuring subterranean pit-dwellings and dog burials alongside human masters (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the chronological order of Maharashtra Chalcolithic traditions from north-central MP into Deccan using **"S-K-M-J"** — **S**avalda -> **K**ayatha -> **M**alwa -> **J**orwe (Inamgaon and Daimabad belong to the late Jorwe phase) (IUC Academy).

Chapter *1* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	**Prehistoric Periodization**	Prehistoric Indian history encompasses human cultural evolution prior to the emergence of deciphered writing systems, reconstructed primarily through lithic tools, pottery traditions, faunal remains, and rock art documented by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **NCERT Official Textbooks**.
Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	**Robert Bruce Foote (1863)**	Known as the Father of Indian Prehistory, he discovered the first Palaeolithic hand-axe in India at the Pallavaram gravel deposit near Chennai, establishing systematic prehistoric stratigraphy (ASI).
Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix	**Palaeolithic Age (500,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE)**	Subdivided into Lower Palaeolithic (core tools like hand-axes, cleavers, and choppers found in the Soan Valley and Belan Valley), Middle Palaeolithic (flake tools such as scrapers, borers, and points found at Nevasa on the Pravara River), and Upper Palaeolithic (parallel-sided blades and burins associated with *Homo sapiens* and bone tools at Kurnool Caves in Andhra Pradesh) (NCERT).
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	**Hathnora Fossil Evidence**	An archaic hominin cranial fossil discovered by Arun Sonakia in 1982 at Hathnora in the Narmada Valley (Madhya Pradesh) represents the oldest known human skeletal fossil in the Indian subcontinent (**Indian Culture Portal**).
Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	**Mesolithic Age (10,000 BCE – 6,000 BCE)**	Characterized by composite geometric and non-geometric microliths (lunates, trapezes, backed blades) measuring 1 to 5 cm, climatic warming during the Holocene epoch, and early animal domestication evidenced at Bagor (Rajasthan on the Kothari River) and Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) (NCERT).
Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix	**Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh)**	Discovered by V. S. Wakankar in 1957–58, these UNESCO-listed shelters preserve continuous occupation from the Lower Palaeolithic to the historic era, displaying bichrome and polychrome rock paintings using haematite (red) and glauconite (green) minerals (ASI).
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	**Neolithic Revolution (7,000 BCE – 1,000 BCE)**	Marked by polished pecked-stone celts, handmade and wheel-turned cord-impressed pottery, sedentary village habitation, and settled agriculture (IUC Academy).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	**Key Neolithic Milestones**	Mehrgarh (Balochistan) provides the earliest subcontinent evidence of wheat, barley, cotton cultivation, and mud-brick dentistry (~7000 BCE); Burzahom and Gufkral (Kashmir) feature subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey pottery, bone tools, and joint dog-human burials; Koldihwa and Lahuradewa (Uttar Pradesh) preserve early domesticated rice husks; Chirand (Bihar, confluence of Ganga and Ghaghara) yields prolific antler-bone implements; and Daojali Hading (Assam) yields jadeite stone tools and double-shouldered celts (National Museum).
Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix	**Chalcolithic Cultures (2,500 BCE – 700 BCE)**	Rural copper-stone farming communities characterized by black-and-red ware and painted pottery across regional traditions including Ahar-Banas (Rajasthan), Kayatha and Malwa (Madhya Pradesh), and Jorwe (Maharashtra) (NCERT).
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	**Kayatha Culture (2000–1800 BCE, Chambal Valley, MP)**	Characterized by sturdy chocolate-slipped ware with painted violet/red designs, red-painted buff ware, and copper necklaces containing 40,000 microbeads of steatite discovered in pots (NCERT).
Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	**Malwa Culture (1700–1200 BCE, Narmada Valley, MP)**	Richest Chalcolithic ceramic tradition featuring thick buff/orange slip painted in black or dark brown; **Navdatoli** (excavated by H. D. Sankalia) yielded the widest variety of foodgrains (wheat, barley, linseed, black gram, green gram, and *Khesari*) in protohistoric India (ASI).
Regional Chalcolithic Pottery Traditions and Subsistence Matrix	**Jorwe Culture (1400–700 BCE, Pravara-Godavari Basin, Maharashtra)**	Distinguished by wheel-made matte-surface red pottery with black geometric designs and tubular spouted pots. **Inamgaon** revealed a five-roomed house of the ruling chief next to the granary, an irrigation channel, and urn burials of children beneath house floors with the feet chopped off in adult burials to prevent the spirit from returning (National Museum).
Archaeological Sources and Chronological Framework	**Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) & Copper Hoard Culture (2000–1500 BCE)**	Concentrated in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab (Bisauli, Rajpur Parsu, Saipai, Atranjikhera), yielding harpoons, antennae swords, and anthropomorphic copper figures (UPSC).
Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Transitions	**Stratigraphic Continuity in the Belan and Son Valleys**	Excavations directed by G. R. Sharma in the Belan Valley (Mirzapur-Prayagraj) and Son Valley (Baghor I, where an Upper Palaeolithic mother-goddess triangular stone shrine with concentric laminations was unearthed) demonstrate an unbroken cultural sequence from the Lower Palaeolithic through the Mesolithic to the Neolithic-Chalcolithic transition (ASI).

Chapter *1* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Prehistoric Periodization): Prehistoric Indian history encompasses human cultural evolution prior to the emergence of deciphered writing systems, reconstructed primarily through lithic tools, pottery traditions, faunal remains, and rock art documented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and NCERT Official Textbooks.

Statement-II (Robert Bruce Foote (1863)): Known as the Father of Indian Prehistory, he discovered the first Palaeolithic hand-axe in India at the Pallavaram gravel deposit near Chennai, establishing systematic prehistoric stratigraphy (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Palaeolithic Age (*500,000* BCE – *10,000* BCE)): Subdivided into Lower Palaeolithic (core tools like hand-axes, cleavers, and choppers found in the Soan Valley and Belan Valley), Middle Palaeolithic (flake tools such as scrapers, borers, and points found at Nevasa on the Pravara River), and Upper Palaeolithic (parallel-sided blades and burins associated with *Homo sapiens* and bone tools at Kurnool Caves in Andhra Pradesh) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Hathnora Fossil Evidence): An archaic hominin cranial fossil discovered by Arun Sonakia in 1982 at Hathnora in the Narmada Valley (Madhya Pradesh) represents the oldest known human skeletal fossil in the Indian subcontinent (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Mesolithic Age (*10,000* BCE – *6,000* BCE)): Characterized by composite geometric and non-geometric microliths (lunates, trapezes, backed blades) measuring 1 to 5 cm, climatic warming during the Holocene epoch, and early animal domestication evidenced at Bagor (Rajasthan on the Kothari River) and Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh)): Discovered by V. S. Wakankar in 1957–58, these UNESCO-listed shelters preserve continuous occupation from the Lower Palaeolithic to the historic era, displaying bichrome and polychrome rock paintings using haematite (red) and glauconite (green) minerals (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Neolithic Revolution (*7,000* BCE – *1,000* BCE)): Marked by polished pecked-stone celts, handmade and wheel-turned cord-impressed pottery, sedentary village habitation, and settled agriculture (IUC Academy).

Statement-II (Key Neolithic Milestones): Mehrgarh (Balochistan) provides the earliest subcontinent evidence of wheat, barley, cotton cultivation, and mud-brick dentistry (~7000 BCE); Burzahom and Gufkral (Kashmir) feature subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey pottery, bone tools, and joint dog-human burials; Koldihwa and Lahuradewa (Uttar Pradesh) preserve early domesticated rice husks; Chirand (Bihar, confluence of Ganga and Ghaghara) yields prolific antler-bone implements; and Daojali Hading (Assam) yields jadeite stone tools and double-shouldered celts (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Chalcolithic Cultures (2,500 BCE – 700 BCE)): Rural copper-stone farming communities characterized by black-and-red ware and painted pottery across regional traditions including Ahar-Banas (Rajasthan), Kayatha and Malwa (Madhya Pradesh), and Jorwe (Maharashtra) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Kayatha Culture (2000–1800 BCE, Chambal Valley, MP)): Characterized by sturdy chocolate-slipped ware with painted violet/red designs, red-painted buff ware, and copper necklaces containing 40,000 microbeads of steatite discovered in pots (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Malwa Culture (1700–1200 BCE, Narmada Valley, MP)): Richest Chalcolithic ceramic tradition featuring thick buff/orange slip painted in black or dark brown; **Navdatoli** (excavated by H. D. Sankalia) yielded the widest variety of foodgrains (wheat, barley, linseed, black gram, green gram, and *Khesari*) in protohistoric India (ASI).

Statement-II (Jorwe Culture (1400–700 BCE, Pravara-Godavari Basin, Maharashtra)): Distinguished by wheel-made matte-surface red pottery with black geometric designs and tubular spouted pots. **Inamgaon** revealed a five-roomed house of the ruling chief next to the granary, an irrigation channel, and urn burials of children beneath house floors with the feet chopped off in adult burials to prevent the spirit from returning (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2: Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Culture) — Urbanism, Trade & Script

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Culture) — Urbanism, Trade & Script

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning	**Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices**	**Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization**

2.1 Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning

• **Chronology and Nomenclature:** First identified at Harappa (Montgomery/Sahiwal district, Punjab) by Daya Ram Sahni in 1921 and Mohenjodaro (Larkana district, Sindh) by R. D. Banerji in 1922 under Sir John Marshall (Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)). Radiocarbon dating places the Mature Harappan Urban Phase between **2600 BCE and 1900 BCE** (NCERT).

• **Cardinal Boundaries:** Northernmost site at Manda (Chenab River, Jammu & Kashmir; Shortughai in Afghanistan serves as a northern trading outpost); Southernmost site at Daimabad (Pravara River, Maharashtra); Easternmost site at Alamgirpur (Hindon River, Uttar Pradesh); and Westernmost site at Sutkagendor (Dasht River, Makran Coast) (ASI).

• **Grid Urbanism and Sanitation:** Cities were divided into an elevated western Citadel (acropolis housing public structures) and a lower eastern residential town laid out on an orthogonal grid pattern. Baked bricks

conformed to a standardized ratio of **1:2:4** (thickness:width:length, typically 7 × 14 × 28 cm), connected to gypsum-mortared covered street drains with inspection manholes (National Museum).

• **Architectural Exceptions:** Chanhudaro (Sindh) possessed no fortified citadel; Dholavira (Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch) was partitioned into **three zones** (Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town) built extensively of dressed sandstone and rock-cut water reservoirs; Lothal (Bhogava River, Gujarat) was enclosed within a single wall and featured a tidal brick dockyard (Indian Culture Portal).

2.2 Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices

• **Agrarian Foundation:** Harappans cultivated wheat, six-row barley, sesamum, mustard, field peas, and were the earliest known producers of cotton (*Sindon* to the Greeks). Ploughed furrow marks at Kalibangan (Early Harappan phase), a terracotta plough model at Banawali, rice husks at Lothal and Rangpur, and an irrigation canal network at Shortughai attest to intensive agriculture (NCERT).

• **Craft Centres and Maritime Trade:** Bead-making factories operated at Chanhudaro and Lothal; shell-cutting flourished at Nageshwar and Balakot; lapis lazuli was imported from Badakhshan (Afghanistan), copper from Khetri (Rajasthan) and Oman (*Magan*), and tin from Afghanistan/Iran. Mesopotamian cuneiform inscriptions of Sargon of Akkad refer to the Indus region as **Meluhha**, trading via intermediate stations at Dilmun (Bahrain) and Magan (Oman) (National Museum).

• **Metrology and Script:** Cubical chert weights followed a binary system in lower denominations (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, where 16 units ≈ 13.63 grams) and a decimal multiple system in higher denominations. The undeciphered pictographic script (~400 basic signs) was written predominantly in the **Boustrophedon** style (right-to-left on the first line, left-to-right on the second) (ASI).

• **Material Culture and Beliefs:** Famous artifacts include the lost-wax (*cire perdue*) bronze Dancing Girl and bearded steatite Priest-King from Mohenjodaro, terracotta Mother Goddess figurines, the Pashupati Mahadeva steatite seal (depicting a three-faced yogic figure flanked by an elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo, with two deer below the throne), fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal, and phallic/yoni worship (National Museum).

2.3 Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization

• **Long-Distance Resource Mobilization:** The Mature Harappan economy integrated resource zones across the Indian subcontinent and West/Central Asia through overland ox-cart caravans and coastal navigation (NCERT):

• **Metals:** Copper from **Khetri mines (Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan — Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture)** and **Oman (*Magan*, sharing nickel-trace signatures with Harappan artifacts)**; Gold from **Kolar (Karnataka)** and river-placer deposits of the Indus; Silver and Lead from **Afghanistan, Iran, and Zawar mines (Rajasthan)**; Tin from **Afghanistan (Hazarajat) and Central Asia** (ASI).

• **Semi-Precious Stones: Lapis Lazuli** exclusively from **Shortughai / Badakhshan (North-East Afghanistan)**; **Carnelian (Agate)** from **Bharuch / Ratanpur (Gujarat)**; **Steatite (Soapstone)** from **Southern Rajasthan, North Gujarat, and Balochistan**; **Turquoise** from **Khorasan (Iran)**; and **Jade** from **Pamir / Central Asia** (National Museum).

Raw Material	Primary Source Region(s)	Major Harappan Processing Centre	Principal Finished Goods	Official Source
Copper & Bronze	Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)	Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Lothal	Flat celts, razors, spears, *cire perdue* statuettes, mirrors	NCERT
Carnelian & Agate	Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)	**Lothal** & **Chanhudaro**	Long-barrel cylindrical beads (exported to royal tombs of Ur in Mesopotamia)	National Museum
Marine Shell (*Turbinella pyrum*)	Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast	**Nageshwar** & **Balakot**	Inlay plaques, ladles, bangles, trumpets	ASI
Lapis Lazuli & Steatite	Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan	Shortughai, Harappa, Mohenjodaro	Fired white-coated intaglio seals, disk microbeads	IUC Academy

• **Hydraulic Engineering at Dholavira and Mohenjodaro:** Dholavira harvested seasonal runoff from the **Manhar and Mansar** streams into 16 interconnected rock-cut reservoirs occupying nearly 10 hectares (over 20% of the walled area), while Mohenjodaro boasted over **700 brick-lined private and public wells** (ASI).

• **Harappan Burial Diversity:** Standard Mature Harappan burials at **Cemetery R-37 (Harappa)** and **Kalibangan** were extended inhumations placed in a **north-south orientation** with pottery grave goods; **Lothal** yielded joint/double burials in brick-lined pits; **Surkotada** yielded pot-burials; and **Dholavira** revealed cenotaph tumuli memorials (NCERT).

• **Post-Urban Late Harappan Regional Phases (1900–1300 BCE):** Marked by the disappearance of steatite seals, script, and cubical chert weights across **Cemetery-H** (West Punjab), **Jhukar** (Sindh), **Rangpur IIB–IIC / Lustrous Red Ware** (Saurashtra), and **Bara-Siswal** (Haryana-Upper Doab) (UPSC).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Early Harappan Regional Village Phase (3300–2600 BCE: Kot Diji, Amri, Kalibangan-I)

STEP 2
Mature Harappan Urban Integration (2600–1900 BCE: Standardized Bricks, Chert Weights, Meluhha Trade)

STEP 3
Ecological & Hydrological Shifts (1900 BCE: Saraswati-Ghaggar Desiccation, Indus Floods)

STEP 4
Late Harappan De-urbanization (1900–1300 BCE: Cemetery-H, Jhukar, Lustrous Red Ware)

Harappan Site	River / Location	Excavator (Year)	Signature Archaeological Discoveries	Official Reference
Harappa	Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)	Daya Ram Sahni (1921)	Two rows of six granaries, workmen's quarters, red sandstone male torso, Cemetery R-37	ASI
Mohenjodaro	Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)	R. D. Banerji (1922)	Great Bath (11.88 × 7.01 × 2.43 m), Great Granary, Bronze Dancing Girl, Pashupati Seal, woven cotton	National Museum
Kalibangan	Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)	Amlanand Ghosh (1953), B. B. Lal & B. K. Thapar	Ploughed field surface, seven fire altars, camel bones, decorated bricks, cylindrical seal	NCERT

Harappan Site	River / Location	Excavator (Year)	Signature Archaeological Discoveries	Official Reference
Lothal	Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)	S. R. Rao (1954)	Brick tidal dockyard, rice husks, double burials, Persian Gulf seal, ivory scale, bead factory	ASI
Dholavira	Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)	J. P. Joshi (1967–68), R. S. Bisht (1990)	Tripartite city layout, 10-sign gypsum signboard inscription, rock-cut reservoirs, stadium	Indian Culture Portal
Rakhigarhi	Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)	Amarendra Nath, Vasant Shinde	Largest Harappan site in India, mud-brick granary, female skeletal DNA samples, seal-making workshops	IUC Academy
Surkotada	Kutch (Gujarat)	J. P. Joshi (1964)	Stone-rubble fortifications, pot burials, contested equid/horse bone remains in late levels	UPSC

Did You Know?: Unlike main-street houses across Mohenjodaro and Harappa whose doors and windows opened strictly onto side lanes to keep out dust and maintain privacy, houses at **Lothal** had doorways opening directly onto the main thoroughfares to facilitate commercial loading (NCERT).

Exam Trap Alert: Iron was **completely unknown** to the Harappan people, and the horse (*Equus caballus*) was not a regular cultural animal of the Indus Civilization (never depicted on any Harappan seal); also note that the horned single-horned mythical creature (Unicorn) is the most frequently depicted motif on seals, whereas the **humped bull** (not the cow, which is absent on seals) is prominent in artistic representations (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Memorize the four animals flanking Pashupati on the Mohenjodaro seal using **"B-E-T-R + 2D"** — **B**uffalo and **R**hinoceros on the right, **E**lephant and **T**iger on the left, plus **2 D**eer beneath the yogic seat (note: **no lion** appears on the Pashupati seal) (IUC Academy).

Chapter *2* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning	**Chronology and Nomenclature**	First identified at Harappa (Montgomery/Sahiwal district, Punjab) by Daya Ram Sahni in 1921 and Mohenjodaro (Larkana district, Sindh) by R. D. Banerji in 1922 under Sir John Marshall (Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)). Radiocarbon dating places the Mature Harappan Urban Phase between **2600 BCE and 1900 BCE** (NCERT).
Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices	**Cardinal Boundaries**	Northernmost site at Manda (Chenab River, Jammu & Kashmir; Shortughai in Afghanistan serves as a northern trading outpost); Southernmost site at Daimabad (Pravara River, Maharashtra); Easternmost site at Alamgirpur (Hindon River, Uttar Pradesh); and Westernmost site at Sutkagendor (Dasht River, Makran Coast) (ASI).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization	**Grid Urbanism and Sanitation**	Cities were divided into an elevated western Citadel (acropolis housing public structures) and a lower eastern residential town laid out on an orthogonal grid pattern. Baked bricks conformed to a standardized ratio of **1:2:4** (thickness:width:length, typically 7 × 14 × 28 cm), connected to gypsum-mortared covered street drains with inspection manholes (National Museum).
Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning	**Architectural Exceptions**	Chanhudaro (Sindh) possessed no fortified citadel; Dholavira (Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch) was partitioned into **three zones** (Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town) built extensively of dressed sandstone and rock-cut water reservoirs; Lothal (Bhogava River, Gujarat) was enclosed within a single wall and featured a tidal brick dockyard (Indian Culture Portal).
Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices	**Agrarian Foundation**	Harappans cultivated wheat, six-row barley, sesamum, mustard, field peas, and were the earliest known producers of cotton (*Sindon* to the Greeks). Ploughed furrow marks at Kalibangan (Early Harappan phase), a terracotta plough model at Banawali, rice husks at Lothal and Rangpur, and an irrigation canal network at Shortughai attest to intensive agriculture (NCERT).
Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization	**Craft Centres and Maritime Trade**	Bead-making factories operated at Chanhudaro and Lothal; shell-cutting flourished at Nageshwar and Balakot; lapis lazuli was imported from Badakhshan (Afghanistan), copper from Khetri (Rajasthan) and Oman (*Magan*), and tin from Afghanistan/Iran. Mesopotamian cuneiform inscriptions of Sargon of Akkad refer to the Indus region as **Meluhha**, trading via intermediate stations at Dilmun (Bahrain) and Magan (Oman) (National Museum).
Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning	**Metrology and Script**	Cubical chert weights followed a binary system in lower denominations (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, where 16 units ≈ 13.63 grams) and a decimal multiple system in higher denominations. The undeciphered pictographic script (~400 basic signs) was written predominantly in the **Boustrophedon** style (right-to-left on the first line, left-to-right on the second) (ASI).
Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices	**Material Culture and Beliefs**	Famous artifacts include the lost-wax (*cire perdue*) bronze Dancing Girl and bearded steatite Priest-King from Mohenjodaro, terracotta Mother Goddess figurines, the Pashupati Mahadeva steatite seal (depicting a three-faced yogic figure flanked by an elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo, with two deer below the throne), fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal, and phallic/yoni worship (National Museum).
Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization	**Long-Distance Resource Mobilization**	The Mature Harappan economy integrated resource zones across the Indian subcontinent and West/Central Asia through overland ox-cart caravans and coastal navigation (NCERT):

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
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Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices	**Semi-Precious Stones**	**Lapis Lazuli** exclusively from **Shortughai / Badakhshan (North-East Afghanistan)**; **Carnelian (Agate)** from **Bharuch / Ratanpur (Gujarat)**; **Steatite (Soapstone)** from **Southern Rajasthan, North Gujarat, and Balochistan**; **Turquoise** from **Khorasan (Iran)**; and **Jade** from **Pamir / Central Asia** (National Museum).
Raw Material Procurement Network and Decline Theories of the Harappan Civilization	**Hydraulic Engineering at Dholavira and Mohenjodaro**	Dholavira harvested seasonal runoff from the **Manhar and Mansar** streams into 16 interconnected rock-cut reservoirs occupying nearly 10 hectares (over 20% of the walled area), while Mohenjodaro boasted over **700 brick-lined private and public wells** (ASI).
Discovery, Geographical Extent, and Town Planning	**Harappan Burial Diversity**	Standard Mature Harappan burials at **Cemetery R-37 (Harappa)** and **Kalibangan** were extended inhumations placed in a **north-south orientation** with pottery grave goods; **Lothal** yielded joint/double burials in brick-lined pits; **Surkotada** yielded pot-burials; and **Dholavira** revealed cenotaph tumuli memorials (NCERT).
Economy, Craft Specialization, Script, and Religious Practices	**Post-Urban Late Harappan Regional Phases (1900–1300 BCE)**	Marked by the disappearance of steatite seals, script, and cubical chert weights across **Cemetery-H** (West Punjab), **Jhukar** (Sindh), **Rangpur IIB–IIC / Lustrous Red Ware** (Saurashtra), and **Bara-Siswal** (Haryana-Upper Doab) (UPSC).

Chapter *2* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Chronology and Nomenclature): First identified at Harappa (Montgomery/Sahiwal district, Punjab) by Daya Ram Sahni in 1921 and Mohenjodaro (Larkana district, Sindh) by R. D. Banerji in 1922 under Sir John Marshall (Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)). Radiocarbon dating places the Mature Harappan Urban Phase between **2600 BCE and 1900 BCE** (NCERT).

Statement-II (Cardinal Boundaries): Northernmost site at Manda (Chenab River, Jammu & Kashmir; Shortughai in Afghanistan serves as a northern trading outpost); Southernmost site at Daimabad (Pravara River, Maharashtra); Easternmost site at Alamgirpur (Hindon River, Uttar Pradesh); and Westernmost site at Sutkagendor (Dasht River, Makran Coast) (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Grid Urbanism and Sanitation): Cities were divided into an elevated western Citadel (acropolis housing public structures) and a lower eastern residential town laid out on an orthogonal grid pattern. Baked bricks conformed to a standardized ratio of **1:2:4** (thickness:width:length, typically 7 × 14 × 28 cm), connected to gypsum-mortared covered street drains with inspection manholes (National Museum).

Statement-II (Architectural Exceptions): Chanhudaro (Sindh) possessed no fortified citadel; Dholavira (Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch) was partitioned into **three zones** (Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town) built extensively of dressed sandstone and rock-cut water reservoirs; Lothal (Bhogava River, Gujarat) was enclosed within a single wall and featured a tidal brick dockyard (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Agrarian Foundation): Harappans cultivated wheat, six-row barley, sesamum, mustard, field peas, and were the earliest known producers of cotton (*Sindon* to the Greeks). Ploughed furrow marks at Kalibangan (Early Harappan phase), a terracotta plough model at Banawali, rice husks at Lothal and Rangpur, and an irrigation canal network at Shortughai attest to intensive agriculture (NCERT).

Statement-II (Craft Centres and Maritime Trade): Bead-making factories operated at Chanhudaro and Lothal; shell-cutting flourished at Nageshwar and Balakot; lapis lazuli was imported from Badakhshan (Afghanistan), copper from Khetri (Rajasthan) and Oman (*Magan*), and tin from Afghanistan/Iran. Mesopotamian cuneiform inscriptions of Sargon of Akkad refer to the Indus region as **Meluhha**, trading via intermediate stations at Dilmun (Bahrain) and Magan (Oman) (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Metrology and Script): Cubical chert weights followed a binary system in lower denominations (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, where 16 units ≈ 13.63 grams) and a decimal multiple system in higher denominations. The undeciphered pictographic script (~400 basic signs) was written predominantly in the **Boustrophedon** style (right-to-left on the first line, left-to-right on the second) (ASI).

Statement-II (Material Culture and Beliefs): Famous artifacts include the lost-wax (*cire perdue*) bronze Dancing Girl and bearded steatite Priest-King from Mohenjodaro, terracotta Mother Goddess figurines, the Pashupati Mahadeva steatite seal (depicting a three-faced yogic figure flanked by an elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo, with two deer below the throne), fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal, and phallic/yoni worship (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Long-Distance Resource Mobilization): The Mature Harappan economy integrated resource zones across the Indian subcontinent and West/Central Asia through overland ox-cart caravans and coastal navigation (NCERT):

Statement-II (Metals): Copper from **Khetri mines (Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan — Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture)** and **Oman (*Magan*, sharing nickel-trace signatures with Harappan artifacts)**; Gold from **Kolar (Karnataka)** and river-placer deposits of the Indus; Silver and Lead from **Afghanistan, Iran, and Zawar mines (Rajasthan)**; Tin from **Afghanistan (Hazarajat) and Central Asia** (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Semi-Precious Stones): **Lapis Lazuli** exclusively from **Shortughai / Badakhshan (North-East Afghanistan)**; **Carnelian (Agate)** from **Bharuch / Ratanpur (Gujarat)**; **Steatite (Soapstone)** from **Southern Rajasthan, North Gujarat, and Balochistan**; **Turquoise** from **Khorasan (Iran)**; and **Jade** from **Pamir / Central Asia** (National Museum).

Statement-II (Hydraulic Engineering at Dholavira and Mohenjodaro): Dholavira harvested seasonal runoff from the **Manhar and Mansar** streams into 16 interconnected rock-cut reservoirs occupying nearly 10 hectares (over 20% of the walled area), while Mohenjodaro boasted over **700 brick-lined private and public wells** (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *3*: Early and Later Vedic Age — Texts, Polity, Society & Philosophy

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: Early and Later Vedic Age — Texts, Polity, Society & Philosophy

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Polity (1500 BCE – 1000 BCE)	**Later Vedic Transformation (1000 BCE – 600 BCE) and Six Philosophical Schools**	**Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras**

3.1 Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic *(*Rigvedic*)* Polity *(1500* BCE – *1000* BCE*)*

• **Saptasindhu Geography:** Early Vedic Indo-Aryans inhabited the **Sapta Sindhu** region (Land of Seven Rivers: Sindhu, Vitasta/Jhelum, Asikni/Chenab, Parushni/Ravi, Vipasha/Beas, Shutudri/Sutlej, and Saraswati/Ghaggar). The Boghazkoi (Asia Minor, ~1400 BCE) treaty inscription between the Hittite and Mitanni kings invokes four Vedic deities: **Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas (Ashvins)** (NCERT).

• **Division of Vedic Literature:** Classified into **Shruti** ("that which is heard/revealed": the four Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads) and **Smriti** ("that which is remembered": six Vedangas, Dharmashastras, Puranas, and Upavedas) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **The Rigveda Samhita:** Comprises **10 Mandalas** and **1,028 Suktas (hymns)**. Mandalas **II to VII** are the oldest *Vamshamandalas* (Family Books attributed to Gritsamada, Vishvamitra, Vamadeva, Atri, Bharadvaja, and Vasishtha); Mandala III contains the **Gayatri Mantra** (dedicated to Savitri/Solar deity); Mandala VII records the **Dasharajna War (Battle of Ten Kings)** on the River Parushni (Ravi) where Bharata chief Sudas (guided by Vasishtha) defeated a confederacy led by Vishvamitra; Mandala IX is dedicated exclusively to **Soma**; and Mandala X contains the **Purusha Sukta** (first textual mention of the fourfold Varna system) (National Museum).

• **Rigvedic Assemblies and Economy:** The tribal chief (*Rajan* or *Gopati*) governed with the aid of the *Purohita*, *Senani*, and *Gramani*, checked by four deliberative assemblies: **Sabha** (council of elders, including women called *Sabhavati*), **Samiti** (general folk assembly that elected the Rajan), **Vidatha** (oldest redistributive/ritual assembly), and **Gana**. Economy was pastoral-agrarian centered on cattle (*Gavishti* = search/skirmish for cows); *Bali* was a voluntary tribal offering, and *Ayas* denoted copper/bronze (NCERT).

3.2 Later Vedic Transformation *(1000* BCE – *600* BCE*)* and Six Philosophical Schools

• **Eastward Expansion and Iron Technology:** The Satapatha Brahmana narrates the story of **Videgha Mathava** carrying Agni Vaisvanara eastward from the Saraswati across the **Sadanira (Gandak)** river into Kosala and Videha, aided by iron tools (*Shyama Ayas* or *Krishna Ayas*) and associated archaeologically with **Painted Grey Ware (PGW)** sites like Hastinapura, Atranjikhera, and Jakhera (ASI).

• **Political and Social Stratification:** Kingship became hereditary and territorial (*Rashtra* and *Janapada* replaced *Jana*). Royal legitimacy was reinforced by grand sacrifices: **Rajasuya** (consecration conferring supreme power), **Vajapeya** (chariot race Drink of Strength), and **Ashvamedha** (uncontested horse sacrifice). The *Vidatha* disappeared, women lost admission to the *Sabha*, *Bali* and *Bhaga* (1/6th share) became compulsory taxes collected by the *Sangrihitri* and *Bhagadugha*, and the four *Ashramas* (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa — first three in Chandogya Upanishad, all four explicitly in **Jabala Upanishad**) and *Gotra* exogamy (Atharvaveda) crystallized (NCERT).

• **Upanishadic Philosophy and Shad-Darshanas:** The Upanishads (*Vedanta*, 108 canonical texts) shift focus from ritualistic sacrifice (*Karma-marga*) to metaphysical knowledge (*Jnana-marga*) of *Brahman* and *Atman*. The national motto **"Satyameva Jayate"** originates from the **Mundaka Upanishad**, while the Yajnavalkya–Gargi and Yajnavalkya–Maitreyi dialogues appear in the **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** (Indian Culture Portal).

3.3 Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras

• **Hydronymic Continuity in the *Nadistuti Sukta* (Rigveda Mandala X, Hymn 75):** The *Nadistuti Sukta* enumerates rivers from east (Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati) to west (Sutlej, Parushni, Asikni, Marudvridha, Vitasta, Arjikiya, Sushoma) together with western tributaries of the Indus (**Kubha/Kabul, Krumu/Kurram, Gomati/Gomal, and Suvastu/Swat**) (NCERT).

• **Auxiliary Vedic Sciences (*Shad-Vedangas*) and *Upavedas*:** Composed in condensed aphoristic **Sutra** style between 600 BCE and 200 BCE to preserve accurate pronunciation, metre, grammar (**Panini's *Ashtadhyayi*** in 8 chapters of ~4,000 sutras), etymology (**Yaska's *Nirukta***), ritual geometry (**Shulbasutras** within *Kalpa*, containing the earliest geometric statement of the Pythagoras theorem by **Baudhayana** and **Apastamba**), and sacrificial calendar (*Jyotisha* by **Lagadha**) (Indian Culture Portal).

Rigvedic River Name	Modern Identification	Associated Historical / Vedic Significance	Key Textual Reference	Official Source
Vitasta & Asikni	**Jhelum & Chenab**	Western Punjab rivers; Alexander fought Porus on the *Hydaspes* (Vitasta)	Rigveda *Nadistuti Sukta* (10.75)	NCERT
Parushni & Vipasha	**Ravi & Beas**	Sudas won the *Dasharajna* battle on the Parushni; Indra freed the Vipasha	Rigveda Mandala VII & III	ASI
Shutudri & Saraswati	**Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra**	Saraswati hailed as *Naditama* ("Best of Rivers") and *Matetama*	Rigveda Mandala II & VI	Indian Culture Portal
Sadanira & Kubha	**Gandak & Kabul River**	Videgha Mathava crossed the Sadanira into Videha; Kubha in Afghanistan	*Satapatha Brahmana* & Rigveda	IUC Academy

• **Rigvedic Functional Deities Across Three Cosmic Spheres:** Vedic *Nirukta* classifies the 33 deities (*Trayastrimshat*) into **Prithvisthana** (Terrestrial: Prithvi, Agni, Soma, Brihaspati), **Antarikshasthana** (Atmospheric: Indra, Rudra, Vayu-Vata, Maruts, Parjanya), and **Dyusthana** (Celestial: Dyaus, Varuna, Mitra, Surya, Savitri, Pushan, Vishnu, Ushas, and Ashvins) (NCERT).

• **Eight Forms of Marriage in the Dharmashastras:** Four approved (*Prashasta*) forms — **Brahma** (duly dowered girl to a Vedic scholar), **Daiva** (to an officiating priest), **Arsha** (symbolic bride-price of a cow and bull pair), and **Prajapatya** (joint performance of civic dharma without dowry) — and four unapproved (*Aprashasta*) forms — **Gandharva** (mutual love), **Asura** (purchase), **Rakshasa** (forcible capture), and **Paishacha** (seduction during stupor) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Twelve Ratnins (Jewel-Holders) of the Later Vedic State:** During the *Rajasuya* sacrifice, the king visited the houses of 12 *Ratnins* including the *Suta* (charioteer/bard), *Sangrihitri* (treasurer), *Bhagadugha* (tax collector), *Akshavapa* (dice-thrower/accounts officer), *Kshattri* (chamberlain), and *Govikartana* (keeper of forests/games) (UPSC).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Rigvedic Pastoral Jana Polity in Saptasindhu (1500–1000 BCE: Voluntary Bali, Active Sabha/Samiti/ Vidatha)

STEP 2
Iron Technology (Krishna Ayas) & Eastward Migration to Ganga-Yamuna Doab (1000 BCE)

STEP 3
Later Vedic Territorial Janapadas (1000–600 BCE: Hereditary Kingship, Rajasuya/Ashvamedha, Compulsory Bhaga)

STEP 4
Upanishadic Philosophical Synthesis (600 BCE: Critique of Ritualism, Rise of Vedanta & Shad-Darshanas)

Vedic Text / Philosophical System	Associated Veda / Founder	Key Liturgical Priest / Core Doctrine	Major Associated Brahmana, Upanishad & Highlights	Official Reference
Rigveda	Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)	**Hotri** (Invocator of hymns)	Aitareya & Kaushitaki Brahmanas/ Upanishads; Ayurveda Upaveda	NCERT
Samaveda	Book of Chants (1,875 verses)	**Udgatri** (Chanter of melodies)	Tandya/Panchavimsha Brahmana; Chandogya & Kena Upanishads; Gandharvaveda	Indian Culture Portal
Yajurveda	Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)	**Adhvaryu** (Executor of ritual acts)	Satapatha (Shukla) & Taittiriya (Krishna) Brahmanas; Brihadaranyaka, Isha, Katha Upanishads	National Museum
Atharvaveda	Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)	**Brahman** (Supervisor of entire ritual)	Gopatha Brahmana; Mundaka (*Satyameva Jayate*), Mandukya, Prashna Upanishads	NCERT
Samkhya & Yoga	Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)	Dualism of *Purusha* (consciousness) & *Prakriti* (matter); Eightfold *Ashtanga Yoga*	Oldest orthodox *Darshana*; self-realization through meditation and restraint	IUC Academy

Vedic Text / Philosophical System	Associated Veda / Founder	Key Liturgical Priest / Core Doctrine	Major Associated Brahmana, Upanishad & Highlights	Official Reference
Nyaya & Vaisheshika	Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)	Logic & epistemology (*Pramanas*) / Atomic theory (*Paramanuvada*) of physical reality	Foundation of Indian syllogism and natural physics	UPSC
Purva Mimamsa & Uttara Mimamsa	Jaimini / Badarayana	Vedic ritualism & dharma justification / Non-dualistic *Brahman* inquiry (*Brahmasutras*)	Basis of classical Vedanta philosophies	Indian Culture Portal

Did You Know?: In the Rigvedic Age, terms for time, distance, and wealth were derived from cattle: **Godhuli** denoted dusk (evening when cattle returned kicking up dust), **Gavyuti** denoted a measure of distance, **Gomat** denoted a wealthy person, and **Duhitri** denoted a daughter (literally "one who milks the cow") (NCERT).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse **Trayi (Veda-Trayi)** with all four Vedas — *Trayi* includes only the **Rigveda, Samaveda, and Yajurveda**, excluding the Atharvaveda. Furthermore, in the Rigveda, **Indra (Purandara)** is the supreme deity (250 hymns) followed by **Agni** (200 hymns), whereas in the Later Vedic period, **Prajapati** (Creator) superseded them as the pre-eminent deity (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Match the four Vedas with their officiating priests using **"R-H, S-U, Y-A, A-B"** — **R**igveda = **H**otri, **S**amaveda = **U**dgatri, **Y**ajurveda = **A**dhvaryu, **A**tharvaveda = **B**rahman (IUC Academy).

Chapter 3 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Polity (1500 BCE – 1000 BCE)	**Saptasindhu Geography**	Early Vedic Indo-Aryans inhabited the **Sapta Sindhu** region (Land of Seven Rivers: Sindhu, Vitasta/Jhelum, Asikni/Chenab, Parushni/Ravi, Vipasha/Beas, Shutudri/Sutlej, and Saraswati/Ghaggar). The Boghazkoi (Asia Minor, ~1400 BCE) treaty inscription between the Hittite and Mitanni kings invokes four Vedic deities: **Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas (Ashvins)** (NCERT).
Later Vedic Transformation (1000 BCE – 600 BCE) and Six Philosophical Schools	**Division of Vedic Literature**	Classified into **Shruti** ("that which is heard/revealed": the four Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads) and **Smriti** ("that which is remembered": six Vedangas, Dharmashastras, Puranas, and Upavedas) (Indian Culture Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras	**The Rigveda Samhita**	Comprises **10 Mandalas** and **1,028 Suktas (hymns)**. Mandalas **II to VII** are the oldest *Vamshamandalas* (Family Books attributed to Gritsamada, Vishvamitra, Vamadeva, Atri, Bharadvaja, and Vasishtha); Mandala III contains the **Gayatri Mantra** (dedicated to Savitri/Solar deity); Mandala VII records the **Dasharajna War (Battle of Ten Kings)** on the River Parushni (Ravi) where Bharata chief Sudas (guided by Vasishtha) defeated a confederacy led by Vishvamitra; Mandala IX is dedicated exclusively to **Soma**; and Mandala X contains the **Purusha Sukta** (first textual mention of the fourfold Varna system) (National Museum).
Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Polity (1500 BCE – 1000 BCE)	**Rigvedic Assemblies and Economy**	The tribal chief (*Rajan* or *Gopati*) governed with the aid of the *Purohita*, *Senani*, and *Gramani*, checked by four deliberative assemblies: **Sabha** (council of elders, including women called *Sabhavati*), **Samiti** (general folk assembly that elected the Rajan), **Vidatha** (oldest redistributive/ritual assembly), and **Gana**. Economy was pastoral-agrarian centered on cattle (*Gavishti* = search/skirmish for cows); *Bali* was a voluntary tribal offering, and *Ayas* denoted copper/bronze (NCERT).
Later Vedic Transformation (1000 BCE – 600 BCE) and Six Philosophical Schools	**Eastward Expansion and Iron Technology**	The Satapatha Brahmana narrates the story of **Videgha Mathava** carrying Agni Vaisvanara eastward from the Saraswati across the **Sadanira (Gandak)** river into Kosala and Videha, aided by iron tools (*Shyama Ayas* or *Krishna Ayas*) and associated archaeologically with **Painted Grey Ware (PGW)** sites like Hastinapura, Atranjikhera, and Jakhera (ASI).
Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras	**Political and Social Stratification**	Kingship became hereditary and territorial (*Rashtra* and *Janapada* replaced *Jana*). Royal legitimacy was reinforced by grand sacrifices: **Rajasuya** (consecration conferring supreme power), **Vajapeya** (chariot race Drink of Strength), and **Ashvamedha** (uncontested horse sacrifice). The *Vidatha* disappeared, women lost admission to the *Sabha*, *Bali* and *Bhaga* (1/6th share) became compulsory taxes collected by the *Sangrihitri* and *Bhagadugha*, and the four *Ashramas* (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa — first three in Chandogya Upanishad, all four explicitly in **Jabala Upanishad**) and *Gotra* exogamy (Atharvaveda) crystallized (NCERT).
Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Polity (1500 BCE – 1000 BCE)	**Upanishadic Philosophy and Shad-Darshanas**	The Upanishads (*Vedanta*, 108 canonical texts) shift focus from ritualistic sacrifice (*Karma-marga*) to metaphysical knowledge (*Jnana-marga*) of *Brahman* and *Atman*. The national motto **"Satyameva Jayate"** originates from the **Mundaka Upanishad**, while the Yajnavalkya–Gargi and Yajnavalkya–Maitreyi dialogues appear in the **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** (Indian Culture Portal).
Later Vedic Transformation (1000 BCE – 600 BCE) and Six Philosophical Schools	**Hydronymic Continuity in the *Nadistuti Sukta* (Rigveda Mandala X, Hymn 75)**	**The *Nadistuti Sukta* enumerates rivers from east (Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati) to west (Sutlej, Parushni, Asikni, Marudvridha, Vitasta, Arjikiya, Sushoma) together with western tributaries of the Indus** (Kubha/Kabul, Krumu/Kurram, Gomati/Gomal, and Suvastu/Swat**) (NCERT).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras	**Auxiliary Vedic Sciences (*Shad-Vedangas*) and *Upavedas***	**Composed in condensed aphoristic** Sutra **style between 600 BCE and 200 BCE to preserve accurate pronunciation, metre, grammar (**Panini's *Ashtadhyayi* **in 8 chapters of ~4,000 sutras), etymology (**Yaska's *Nirukta*), **ritual geometry (**Shulbasutras **within *Kalpa*, containing the earliest geometric statement of the Pythagoras theorem by** Baudhayana **and** Apastamba**), and sacrificial calendar (*Jyotisha* by** Lagadha**) (Indian Culture Portal).**
Vedic Corpus and Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Polity (1500 BCE – 1000 BCE)	**Rigvedic Functional Deities Across Three Cosmic Spheres**	Vedic *Nirukta* classifies the 33 deities (*Trayastrimshat*) into **Prithvisthana** (Terrestrial: Prithvi, Agni, Soma, Brihaspati), **Antarikshasthana** (Atmospheric: Indra, Rudra, Vayu-Vata, Maruts, Parjanya), and **Dyusthana** (Celestial: Dyaus, Varuna, Mitra, Surya, Savitri, Pushan, Vishnu, Ushas, and Ashvins) (NCERT).
Later Vedic Transformation (1000 BCE – 600 BCE) and Six Philosophical Schools	**Eight Forms of Marriage in the Dharmashastras**	Four approved (*Prashasta*) forms — **Brahma** (duly dowered girl to a Vedic scholar), **Daiva** (to an officiating priest), **Arsha** (symbolic bride-price of a cow and bull pair), and **Prajapatya** (joint performance of civic dharma without dowry) — and four unapproved (*Aprashasta*) forms — **Gandharva** (mutual love), **Asura** (purchase), **Rakshasa** (forcible capture), and **Paishacha** (seduction during stupor) (Indian Culture Portal).
Rigvedic River Nomenclature, Six Vedangas, and Sixteen Samskaras	**Twelve Ratnins (Jewel-Holders) of the Later Vedic State**	During the *Rajasuya* sacrifice, the king visited the houses of 12 *Ratnins* including the *Suta* (charioteer/bard), *Sangrihitri* (treasurer), *Bhagadugha* (tax collector), *Akshavapa* (dice-thrower/accounts officer), *Kshattri* (chamberlain), and *Govikartana* (keeper of forests/games) (UPSC).

Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Saptasindhu Geography): Early Vedic Indo-Aryans inhabited the **Sapta Sindhu** region (Land of Seven Rivers: Sindhu, Vitasta/Jhelum, Asikni/Chenab, Parushni/Ravi, Vipasha/Beas, Shutudri/Sutlej, and Saraswati/Ghaggar). The Boghazkoi (Asia Minor, ~1400 BCE) treaty inscription between the Hittite and Mitanni kings invokes four Vedic deities: **Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas (Ashvins)** (NCERT).

Statement-II (Division of Vedic Literature): Classified into **Shruti** ("that which is heard/revealed": the four Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads) and **Smriti** ("that which is remembered": six Vedangas, Dharmashastras, Puranas, and Upavedas) (Indian Culture Portal).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (The Rigveda Samhita): Comprises **10 Mandalas** and **1,028 Suktas (hymns)**. Mandalas **II to VII** are the oldest *Vamshamandalas* (Family Books attributed to Gritsamada, Vishvamitra, Vamadeva, Atri, Bharadvaja, and Vasishtha); Mandala III contains the **Gayatri Mantra** (dedicated to Savitri/Solar deity); Mandala VII records the **Dasharajna War (Battle of Ten Kings)** on the River Parushni (Ravi) where Bharata chief Sudas (guided by Vasishtha) defeated a confederacy led by Vishvamitra; Mandala IX is dedicated exclusively to **Soma**; and Mandala X contains the **Purusha Sukta** (first textual mention of the fourfold Varna system) (National Museum).

Statement-II (Rigvedic Assemblies and Economy): The tribal chief (*Rajan* or *Gopati*) governed with the aid of the *Purohita*, *Senani*, and *Gramani*, checked by four deliberative assemblies: **Sabha** (council of elders, including women called *Sabhavati*), **Samiti** (general folk assembly that elected the Rajan), **Vidatha** (oldest redistributive/ritual assembly), and **Gana**. Economy was pastoral-agrarian centered on cattle (*Gavishti* = search/skirmish for cows); *Bali* was a voluntary tribal offering, and *Ayas* denoted copper/bronze (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Eastward Expansion and Iron Technology): The Satapatha Brahmana narrates the story of **Videgha Mathava** carrying Agni Vaisvanara eastward from the Saraswati across the **Sadanira (Gandak)** river into Kosala and Videha, aided by iron tools (*Shyama Ayas* or *Krishna Ayas*) and associated archaeologically with **Painted Grey Ware (PGW)** sites like Hastinapura, Atranjikhera, and Jakhera (ASI).

Statement-II (Political and Social Stratification): Kingship became hereditary and territorial (*Rashtra* and *Janapada* replaced *Jana*). Royal legitimacy was reinforced by grand sacrifices: **Rajasuya** (consecration conferring supreme power), **Vajapeya** (chariot race Drink of Strength), and **Ashvamedha** (uncontested horse sacrifice). The *Vidatha* disappeared, women lost admission to the *Sabha*, *Bali* and *Bhaga* (1/6th share) became compulsory taxes collected by the *Sangrihitri* and *Bhagadugha*, and the four *Ashramas* (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa — first three in Chandogya Upanishad, all four explicitly in **Jabala Upanishad**) and *Gotra* exogamy (Atharvaveda) crystallized (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Upanishadic Philosophy and Shad-Darshanas): The Upanishads (*Vedanta*, 108 canonical texts) shift focus from ritualistic sacrifice (*Karma-marga*) to metaphysical knowledge (*Jnana-marga*) of *Brahman* and *Atman*. The national motto **"Satyameva Jayate"** originates from the **Mundaka Upanishad**, while the Yajnavalkya–Gargi and Yajnavalkya–Maitreyi dialogues appear in the **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** (Indian Culture Portal).

Statement-II (Hydronymic Continuity in the *Nadistuti Sukta* (Rigveda Mandala X, Hymn 75)): The *Nadistuti Sukta* enumerates rivers from east (Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati) to west (Sutlej, Parushni, Asikni, Marudvridha, Vitasta, Arjikiya, Sushoma) together with western tributaries of the Indus (Kubha/Kabul, Krumu/Kurram, Gomati/Gomal, and Suvastu/Swat**) (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Auxiliary Vedic Sciences (*Shad-Vedangas*) and *Upavedas*): Composed in condensed aphoristic Sutra **style between 600 BCE and 200 BCE to preserve accurate pronunciation, metre, grammar (**Panini's *Ashtadhyayi* **in 8 chapters of ~4,000 sutras), etymology (**Yaska's *Nirukta*), **ritual geometry (**Shulbasutras **within *Kalpa*, containing the earliest geometric statement of the Pythagoras theorem by** Baudhayana **and** Apastamba**), and sacrificial calendar (*Jyotisha* by** Lagadha**)** (Indian Culture Portal).

Statement-II (Rigvedic Functional Deities Across Three Cosmic Spheres): Vedic *Nirukta* classifies the 33 deities (*Trayastrimshat*) into **Prithvisthana** (Terrestrial: Prithvi, Agni, Soma, Brihaspati), **Antarikshasthana** (Atmospheric: Indra, Rudra, Vayu-Vata, Maruts, Parjanya), and **Dyusthana** (Celestial: Dyaus, Varuna, Mitra, Surya, Savitri, Pushan, Vishnu, Ushas, and Ashvins) (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Eight Forms of Marriage in the Dharmashastras): Four approved (*Prashasta*) forms — **Brahma** (duly dowered girl to a Vedic scholar), **Daiva** (to an officiating priest), **Arsha** (symbolic bride-price of a cow and bull pair), and **Prajapatya** (joint performance of civic dharma without dowry) — and four unapproved (*Aprashasta*) forms — **Gandharva** (mutual love), **Asura** (purchase), **Rakshasa** (forcible capture), and **Paishacha** (seduction during stupor) (Indian Culture Portal).

Statement-II (Twelve Ratnins (Jewel-Holders) of the Later Vedic State): During the *Rajasuya* sacrifice, the king visited the houses of 12 *Ratnins* including the *Suta* (charioteer/bard), *Sangrihitri* (treasurer), *Bhagadugha* (tax collector), *Akshavapa* (dice-thrower/accounts officer), *Kshattri* (chamberlain), and *Govikartana* (keeper of forests/games) (UPSC).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *4:* Mahajanapadas, Rise of Magadha, Buddhism & Jainism

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: Mahajanapadas, Rise of Magadha, Buddhism & Jainism

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines**	**Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600 BCE)**

4.1 The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha *(6*th*–4*th *Century BCE)*

• **Second Urbanization (c. 600 BCE):** Marked by the proliferation of **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)** deluxe pottery, punch-marked silver and copper coins (*Karshapana* / *Pana*), iron ploughshare agriculture in the middle Gangetic basin, guild organizations (*Shrenis* headed by *Jetthaka*), and fortified cities (NCERT).

• **Canonical Lists of 16 Mahajanapadas:** Recorded in the Buddhist text **Anguttara Nikaya** and the Jaina text **Bhagavati Sutra**. While most were monarchies (*Rajyas* such as Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti), **Vajji** (confederacy of eight clans including the Lichchhavis of Vaishali) and **Malla** (Kushinagara and Pava) operated as oligarchic republics (*Gana-Sanghas*) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Three Pre-Mauryan Magadhan Dynasties:**

1. **Haryanka Dynasty (544 BCE – 412 BCE):** Founded by **Bimbisara** (contemporary of Buddha; annexed Anga, allied by marriage with Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra; dispatched royal physician **Jivaka** to cure King Pradyota of Avanti and attend to the Buddha); succeeded by **Ajatashatru** (*Kunika*, who annexed Kashi and Vaishali using war engines *Mahashilakantaka* and *Rathamusala*, and convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha), and **Udayin** (founded the water-fort capital **Pataliputra** at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers) (NCERT).

2. **Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BCE – 344 BCE): Shishunaga** crushed the power of Avanti (Ujjain); **Kalashoka** (*Kakavarna*) permanently shifted the capital to Pataliputra and patronized the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali (IUC Academy).

3. **Nanda Dynasty (344 BCE – 321 BCE):** Founded by **Mahapadma Nanda** (*Ekarat* and *Sarvakshatrantaka*, who conquered Kalinga as attested in the Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela); its last ruler **Dhana Nanda** (called *Agrammes* or *Xandrames* by Greek writers) maintained a vast standing army that deterred Alexander's troops on the Beas (*Hyphasis*) River in 326 BCE (ASI).

4.2 Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines

• **Life and Teachings of Gautama Buddha (563 BCE – 483 BCE):** Born as Siddhartha of the **Shakya** Kshatriya clan at **Lumbini** (verified by Ashoka's Rummindei Pillar Inscription) to Suddhodana and Mahamaya (raised by stepmother Prajapati Gautami, the first Buddhist *Bhikkhuni*). After the **Mahabhinishkramana** (Great Renunciation at age 29 on horse Kanthaka), he attained **Nirvana** at age 35 under the Pipal tree on the **Niranjana River** at Bodh Gaya, delivered the **Dhammachakkapavattana** (First Sermon) to five ascetics at **Sarnath** (*Rishipatana*), and attained **Mahaparinirvana** at **Kushinagara** at age 80 (National Museum).

• **Core Buddhist Philosophy:** Rooted in the **Four Noble Truths (*Chatvari Arya Satyani*)** — *Dukkha* (suffering), *Samudaya* (cause/craving *Tanha*), *Nirodha* (cessation), and *Ashtangika Marga* (Eightfold Path) — alongside **Pratityasamutpada** (Dependent Origination), **Anatta/Anatma** (no permanent soul), and **Anicca** (impermanence) (NCERT).

• **Vardhamana Mahavira and Jainism (540 BCE – 468 BCE):** The **24th Tirthankara** (preceded by 1st Tirthankara **Rishabhanatha/Adinatha** and 23rd historical Tirthankara **Parshvanatha** of Varanasi). Born at **Kundagrama** (near Vaishali) to Siddhartha (chief of the **Jnatrika** clan) and Trishala (Lichchhavi princess), Mahavira renounced household life at age 30, attained **Kaivalya** (omniscience) at age 42 under a Sal tree at **Jambhikagrama** on the **Rijupalika River**, and passed away at **Pavapuri** (near Rajgir) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Core Jaina Philosophy: Triratna (Three Jewels)** — *Samyak Shraddha/Darshana* (Right Faith), *Samyak Jnana* (Right Knowledge), and *Samyak Charitra* (Right Conduct); **Pancha Mahavratas** — *Ahimsa* (non-violence), *Satya* (truth), *Asteya* (non-stealing), *Aparigraha* (non-possession), and *Brahmacharya* (celibacy, added as the fifth vow by Mahavira to Parshvanatha's four vows); and epistemological doctrines of **Anekantavada** (many-sidedness of reality) and **Syadvada** (sevenfold conditional predication, *Saptabhangi Nay*) (NCERT).

4.3 Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas *(c. 600 BCE)*

• **Strategic Geography of the Mahajanapadas:** Stretched from **Kamboja and Gandhara** in the North-West to **Anga** in the East and **Asmaka** on the Godavari in the South, with the highest concentration in the fertile Gangetic plains (NCERT).

• **Economic Catalysts of Magadhan Paramountcy:** Magadha enjoyed twin natural advantages: (1) rich **iron ore deposits** in nearby southern Bihar (Chotanagpur/Dhalbhum) enabling superior weapons and forest clearance; (2) alluvial triple-crop fertility, abundance of **war elephants** in eastern forests, and strategic control over riverine trade along the **Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Champa** rivers (UPSC).

Mahajanapada	Capital City	Modern Geographical Location	Key Ruler / Historical Highlight	Official Source
Anga, Magadha & Kashi	**Champa**, **Girivraja/ Rajagriha (later Pataliputra)**, **Varanasi**	Bhagalpur-Munger (Bihar), Patna-Gaya (Bihar), Varanasi (UP)	Bimbisara annexed Anga; Ajatashatru absorbed Kashi	NCERT
Kosala, Vajji & Malla	**Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa)**, **Vaishali**, **Kushinagara & Pava**	Eastern UP (Awadh), North Bihar (Muzaffarpur), Deoria-Kushinagar (UP)	King **Prasenajit** (Kosala); Lichchhavi *Gana-Sangha* (Vajji); Buddha's *Mahaparinirvana* (Malla)	ASI
Vatsa, Chedi, Kuru & Panchala	**Kausambi**, **Shuktimati**, **Indraprastha**, **Ahichchhatra & Kampilya**	Prayagraj (UP), Bundelkhand, Delhi-Meerut, Rohilkhand (Bareilly-Farrukhabad)	King **Udayana** of Vatsa (hero of Bhasa's *Svapnavasavadattam*)	Indian Culture Portal
Matsya, Surasena, Avanti, Gandhara, Kamboja & Asmaka	**Viratanagara**, **Mathura**, **Ujjayini & Mahishmati**, **Taxila**, **Poonch/Rajapura**, **Potana/Potali**	Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mathura, Malwa (MP), Rawalpindi, Kashmir/ Pamir, Nizamabad (Godavari)	King **Pradyota** (Avanti); Taxila University (Gandhara); Asmaka only southern state	IUC Academy

• **Urban Guilds (*Shrenis* and *Pugas*) in the 6th Century BCE:** Craft guilds of potters, blacksmiths, ivory-carvers, weavers, and carpenters established their own customary laws (*Shreni-dharma*) respected by the king, issued guild tokens/coins (*Negama* coins at Taxila and Kausambi), and served as commercial banks accepting endowments (NCERT).

• **Republican Constitutional Procedure of the Vajji Sangha:** The Lichchhavis of Vaishali governed through a central assembly (*Santhagara*) of 7,707 *Rajas* (clan heads), utilizing a formal quorum officer (*Ganapuraka*), voting ballot-slips (*Salakas*) collected by a *Salaka-gahapaka*, and secret or open voting protocols later adopted directly by the Buddhist *Sangha* (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Bimbisara's Threefold Matrimonial Diplomacy:** Married **Kosaladevi** (sister of King Prasenajit of Kosala, receiving Kashi yielding 100,000 coins as bath-money), **Chellana** (daughter of Lichchhavi chief Chetaka of Vaishali), and **Kshema** (princess of the Madra clan of Central Punjab) (NCERT).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Agrarian Surplus via Iron Ploughshare & NBPW Urbanization in Middle Ganga Basin (600 BCE)

STEP 2
Consolidation of 16 Mahajanapadas & Magadhan Imperial Expansion under Bimbisara to Mahapadma Nanda

STEP 3
Sramana Heterodox Challenges to Ritual Orthodoxy by Buddha & Mahavira

STEP 4
Canonical Codification through Four Buddhist Councils & Two Jaina Councils

Council Event	Year & Venue	Royal Patron	Presiding Scholar	Canonical Outcome & Sectarian Division	Official Reference
1st Buddhist Council	483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha	Ajatashatru (Haryanka)	Mahakassapa	Compilation of **Sutta Pitaka** (by Ananda) and **Vinaya Pitaka** (by Upali)	NCERT
2nd Buddhist Council	383 BCE — Vaishali	Kalashoka (Shishunaga)	Sabakami	Schism into orthodox **Sthaviravadins** (Theravadins) and liberal **Mahasanghikas**	Indian Culture Portal
3rd Buddhist Council	250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra	Ashoka (Maurya)	Moggaliputta Tissa	Addition of **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (*Kathavatthu*); dispatch of foreign Buddhist missions	ASI
4th Buddhist Council	c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir	Kanishka (Kushana)	Vasumitra (Vice: Ashvaghosha)	Compilation of Sanskrit *Mahavibhasha Shastra*; formal split into **Hinayana** & **Mahayana**	National Museum
1st Jaina Council	c. 300 BCE — Pataliputra	Chandragupta Maurya era	Sthulabhadra	Compilation of **12 Angas**; division between **Svetambaras** (Sthulabhadra) & **Digambaras** (Bhadrabahu)	NCERT
2nd Jaina Council	512 CE — Vallabhi (Gujarat)	Maitraka patronage	Devardhi Kshamasramana	Final redaction of surviving Jaina canonical texts (12 Angas and 12 Upangas) in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit	IUC Academy

Did You Know?: Besides Buddhism and Jainism, the 6th century BCE witnessed fatalistic and materialist heterodox sects: **Makkhali Gosala** founded the **Ajivika** sect centered on **Niyati** (absolute determinism/fate), **Ajita Kesakambalin** propounded **Ucchedavada** (materialist annihilationism, precursor to Charvaka/Lokayata), and **Sanjaya Belatthiputta** taught radical agnosticism (*Ajnanavada*) (NCERT).

Exam Trap Alert: While **Buddhism rejects the existence of an eternal soul (*Anatta*)**, **Jainism affirms a universal soul (*Jiva*)** existing not only in humans and animals but also in plants, rocks, water, and wind, which explains why Jaina *Ahimsa* is far stricter and historically discouraged agriculture among lay followers (since ploughing harms soil organisms) in favour of trade and commerce (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the sequence of the four Buddhist Councils — **Venues ("R-V-P-K")**: **R**ajagriha -> **V**aishali -> **P**ataliputra -> **K**ashmir; **Patrons ("A-K-A-K")**: **A**jatashatru -> **K**alashoka -> **A**shoka -> **K**anishka (IUC Academy).

Chapter 4 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Second Urbanization (c. 600 BCE)**	Marked by the proliferation of **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)** deluxe pottery, punch-marked silver and copper coins (*Karshapana* / *Pana*), iron ploughshare agriculture in the middle Gangetic basin, guild organizations (*Shrenis* headed by *Jetthaka*), and fortified cities (NCERT).
Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines	**Canonical Lists of 16 Mahajanapadas**	Recorded in the Buddhist text **Anguttara Nikaya** and the Jaina text **Bhagavati Sutra**. While most were monarchies (*Rajyas* such as Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti), **Vajji** (confederacy of eight clans including the Lichchhavis of Vaishali) and **Malla** (Kushinagara and Pava) operated as oligarchic republics (*Gana-Sanghas*) (Indian Culture Portal).
Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600 BCE)	**Haryanka Dynasty (544 BCE – 412 BCE)**	Founded by **Bimbisara** (contemporary of Buddha; annexed Anga, allied by marriage with Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra; dispatched royal physician **Jivaka** to cure King Pradyota of Avanti and attend to the Buddha); succeeded by **Ajatashatru** (*Kunika*, who annexed Kashi and Vaishali using war engines *Mahashilakantaka* and *Rathamusala*, and convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha), and **Udayin** (founded the water-fort capital **Pataliputra** at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers) (NCERT).
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BCE – 344 BCE)**	**Shishunaga** crushed the power of Avanti (Ujjain); **Kalashoka** (*Kakavarna*) permanently shifted the capital to Pataliputra and patronized the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali (IUC Academy).
Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines	**Nanda Dynasty (344 BCE – 321 BCE)**	Founded by **Mahapadma Nanda** (*Ekarat* and *Sarvakshatrantaka*, who conquered Kalinga as attested in the Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela); its last ruler **Dhana Nanda** (called *Agrammes* or *Xandrames* by Greek writers) maintained a vast standing army that deterred Alexander's troops on the Beas (*Hyphasis*) River in 326 BCE (ASI).
Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600 BCE)	**Life and Teachings of Gautama Buddha (563 BCE – 483 BCE)**	Born as Siddhartha of the **Shakya** Kshatriya clan at **Lumbini** (verified by Ashoka's Rummindei Pillar Inscription) to Suddhodana and Mahamaya (raised by stepmother Prajapati Gautami, the first Buddhist *Bhikkhuni*). After the **Mahabhinishkramana** (Great Renunciation at age 29 on horse Kanthaka), he attained **Nirvana** at age 35 under the Pipal tree on the **Niranjana River** at Bodh Gaya, delivered the **Dhammachakkapavattana** (First Sermon) to five ascetics at **Sarnath** (*Rishipatana*), and attained **Mahaparinirvana** at **Kushinagara** at age 80 (National Museum).
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Core Buddhist Philosophy**	Rooted in the **Four Noble Truths (*Chatvari Arya Satyani*)** — *Dukkha* (suffering), *Samudaya* (cause/craving *Tanha*), *Nirodha* (cessation), and *Ashtangika Marga* (Eightfold Path) — alongside **Pratityasamutpada** (Dependent Origination), **Anatta/Anatma** (no permanent soul), and **Anicca** (impermanence) (NCERT).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines	**Vardhamana Mahavira and Jainism (540 BCE – 468 BCE)**	The **24th Tirthankara** (preceded by 1st Tirthankara **Rishabhanatha**/**Adinatha** and 23rd historical Tirthankara **Parshvanatha** of Varanasi). Born at **Kundagrama** (near Vaishali) to Siddhartha (chief of the **Jnatrika** clan) and Trishala (Lichchhavi princess), Mahavira renounced household life at age 30, attained **Kaivalya** (omniscience) at age 42 under a Sal tree at **Jambhikagrama** on the **Rijupalika River**, and passed away at **Pavapuri** (near Rajgir) (Indian Culture Portal).
Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600 BCE)	**Core Jaina Philosophy**	**Triratna (Three Jewels)** — *Samyak Shraddha*/*Darshana* (Right Faith), *Samyak Jnana* (Right Knowledge), and *Samyak Charitra* (Right Conduct); **Pancha Mahavratas** — *Ahimsa* (non-violence), *Satya* (truth), *Asteya* (non-stealing), *Aparigraha* (non-possession), and *Brahmacharya* (celibacy, added as the fifth vow by Mahavira to Parshvanatha's four vows); and epistemological doctrines of **Anekantavada** (many-sidedness of reality) and **Syadvada** (sevenfold conditional predication, *Saptabhangi Nay*) (NCERT).
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Strategic Geography of the Mahajanapadas**	Stretched from **Kamboja and Gandhara** in the North-West to **Anga** in the East and **Asmaka** on the Godavari in the South, with the highest concentration in the fertile Gangetic plains (NCERT).
Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines	**Economic Catalysts of Magadhan Paramountcy**	Magadha enjoyed twin natural advantages: (1) rich **iron ore deposits** in nearby southern Bihar (Chotanagpur/Dhalbhum) enabling superior weapons and forest clearance; (2) alluvial triple-crop fertility, abundance of **war elephants** in eastern forests, and strategic control over riverine trade along the **Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Champa** rivers (UPSC).
Comprehensive Gazetteer of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600 BCE)	**Urban Guilds (*Shrenis* and *Pugas*) in the 6th Century BCE**	** Craft guilds of potters, blacksmiths, ivory-carvers, weavers, and carpenters established their own customary laws* (Shreni-dharma) *respected by the king, issued guild tokens/coins* (Negama* coins at Taxila and Kausambi), and served as commercial banks accepting endowments (NCERT).
The Sixteen Mahajanapadas and Ascendancy of Magadha (6th–4th Century BCE)	**Republican Constitutional Procedure of the Vajji Sangha**	The Lichchhavis of Vaishali governed through a central assembly (*Santhagara*) of 7,707 *Rajas* (clan heads), utilizing a formal quorum officer (*Ganapuraka*), voting ballot-slips (*Salakas*) collected by a *Salaka-gahapaka*, and secret or open voting protocols later adopted directly by the Buddhist *Sangha* (Indian Culture Portal).
Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira, and Sramana Doctrines	**Bimbisara's Threefold Matrimonial Diplomacy**	Married **Kosaladevi** (sister of King Prasenajit of Kosala, receiving Kashi yielding 100,000 coins as bath-money), **Chellana** (daughter of Lichchhavi chief Chetaka of Vaishali), and **Kshema** (princess of the Madra clan of Central Punjab) (NCERT).

Chapter 4 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Second Urbanization (c. 600 BCE)): Marked by the proliferation of **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)** deluxe pottery, punch-marked silver and copper coins (*Karshapana* / *Pana*), iron ploughshare agriculture in the middle Gangetic basin, guild organizations (*Shrenis* headed by *Jetthaka*), and fortified cities (NCERT).

Statement-II (Canonical Lists of 16 Mahajanapadas): Recorded in the Buddhist text **Anguttara Nikaya** and the Jaina text **Bhagavati Sutra**. While most were monarchies (*Rajyas* such as Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti), **Vajji** (confederacy of eight clans including the Lichchhavis of Vaishali) and **Malla** (Kushinagara and Pava) operated as oligarchic republics (*Gana-Sanghas*) (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Haryanka Dynasty (544 BCE – 412 BCE)): Founded by **Bimbisara** (contemporary of Buddha; annexed Anga, allied by marriage with Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra; dispatched royal physician **Jivaka** to cure King Pradyota of Avanti and attend to the Buddha); succeeded by **Ajatashatru** (*Kunika*, who annexed Kashi and Vaishali using war engines *Mahashilakantaka* and *Rathamusala*, and convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha), and **Udayin** (founded the water-fort capital **Pataliputra** at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BCE – 344 BCE)): Shishunaga crushed the power of Avanti (Ujjain); **Kalashoka** (*Kakavarna*) permanently shifted the capital to Pataliputra and patronized the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Nanda Dynasty (344 BCE – 321 BCE)): Founded by **Mahapadma Nanda** (*Ekarat* and *Sarvakshatrantaka*, who conquered Kalinga as attested in the Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela); its last ruler **Dhana Nanda** (called *Agrammes* or *Xandrames* by Greek writers) maintained a vast standing army that deterred Alexander's troops on the Beas (*Hyphasis*) River in 326 BCE (ASI).

Statement-II (Life and Teachings of Gautama Buddha (563 BCE – 483 BCE)): Born as Siddhartha of the **Shakya** Kshatriya clan at **Lumbini** (verified by Ashoka's Rummindei Pillar Inscription) to Suddhodana and Mahamaya (raised by stepmother Prajapati Gautami, the first Buddhist *Bhikkhuni*). After the **Mahabhinishkramana** (Great Renunciation at age 29 on horse Kanthaka), he attained **Nirvana** at age 35 under the Pipal tree on the **Niranjana River** at Bodh Gaya, delivered the **Dhammachakkapavattana** (First Sermon) to five ascetics at **Sarnath** (*Rishipatana*), and attained **Mahaparinirvana** at **Kushinagara** at age 80 (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Buddhist Philosophy): Rooted in the **Four Noble Truths (*Chatvari Arya Satyani*)** — *Dukkha* (suffering), *Samudaya* (cause/craving *Tanha*), *Nirodha* (cessation), and *Ashtangika Marga* (Eightfold Path) — alongside **Pratityasamutpada** (Dependent Origination), **Anatta/Anatma** (no permanent soul), and **Anicca** (impermanence) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Vardhamana Mahavira and Jainism (540 BCE – 468 BCE)): The **24th Tirthankara** (preceded by 1st Tirthankara **Rishabhanatha/Adinatha** and 23rd historical Tirthankara **Parshvanatha** of Varanasi). Born at **Kundagrama** (near Vaishali) to Siddhartha (chief of the **Jnatrika** clan) and Trishala (Lichchhavi princess), Mahavira renounced household life at age 30, attained **Kaivalya** (omniscience) at age 42 under a Sal tree at **Jambhikagrama** on the **Rijupalika River**, and passed away at **Pavapuri** (near Rajgir) (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Jaina Philosophy): Triratna (Three Jewels) — *Samyak Shraddha/Darshana* (Right Faith), *Samyak Jnana* (Right Knowledge), and *Samyak Charitra* (Right Conduct); **Pancha Mahavratas** — *Ahimsa* (non-violence), *Satya* (truth), *Asteya* (non-stealing), *Aparigraha* (non-possession), and *Brahmacharya* (celibacy, added as the fifth vow by Mahavira to Parshvanatha's four vows); and epistemological doctrines of **Anekantavada** (many-sidedness of reality) and **Syadvada** (sevenfold conditional predication, *Saptabhangi Nay*) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Strategic Geography of the Mahajanapadas): Stretched from **Kamboja and Gandhara** in the North-West to **Anga** in the East and **Asmaka** on the Godavari in the South, with the highest concentration in the fertile Gangetic plains (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Economic Catalysts of Magadhan Paramountcy): Magadha enjoyed twin natural advantages: (1) rich **iron ore deposits** in nearby southern Bihar (Chotanagpur/Dhalbhum) enabling superior weapons and forest clearance; (2) alluvial triple-crop fertility, abundance of **war elephants** in eastern forests, and strategic control over riverine trade along the **Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Champa** rivers (UPSC).

Statement-II (Urban Guilds (*Shrenis* and *Pugas*) in the 6th Century BCE): * *Craft guilds of potters, blacksmiths, ivory-carvers, weavers, and carpenters established their own customary laws* (Shreni-dharma) *respected by the king, issued guild tokens/coins* (Negama* coins at Taxila and Kausambi), and served as commercial banks accepting endowments (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *5:* The Mauryan Empire — Administration, Ashoka's Dhamma & Edicts

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: The Mauryan Empire — Administration, Ashoka's Dhamma & Edicts

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration	**Ashoka the Great (268 BCE – 232 BCE), Kalinga War, and Epigraphy**	**Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts**

5.1 Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration

• **Imperial Establishment (321 BCE – 185 BCE): Chandragupta Maurya** (*Sandrokottos* in Greek accounts of Strabo and Justin, identified by William Jones in 1793), guided by **Kautilya (Chanakya / Vishnugupta)**, overthrew Dhana Nanda in 321 BCE. In **305 BCE**, Chandragupta defeated **Seleucus I Nicator**, acquiring four satrapies — **Aria (Herat), Arachosia (Kandahar), Gedrosia (Balochistan), and Paropamisadae (Kabul)** — in exchange for 500 war elephants and receiving the Greek ambassador (author of *Indica*) at Pataliputra (NCERT).

• **Jaina Migration to South India:** In his final years, Chandragupta Maurya abdicated in favour of his son **Bindusara** (*Amitraghata* or "Slayer of Foes", who maintained diplomatic ties with Antiochus I of Syria and Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt) and migrated with Jaina saint **Bhadrabahu** to **Shravanabelagola** (Karnataka), performing ritual fasting unto death (*Sallekhana / Santhara*) on Chandragiri Hill (ASI).

• **Saptanga Theory and Bureaucracy in the *Arthashastra*:** Divided into **15 Adhikaranas (Books)** and 180 Prakaranas, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* defines seven limbs (*Saptanga*) of the state: **Swamin** (King), **Amatya** (Minister/Bureaucracy), **Janapada** (Territory & Population), **Durga** (Fortified Capital), **Kosha** (Treasury), **Danda/Bala** (Army), and **Mitra** (Ally). Top officials included **18 Tirthas** and **27 Adhyakshas** (Superintendents of departments), paid in cash (*Panas*). Intelligence relied on two classes of spies (*Gudhapurusas*): **Sanstha** (stationary spies) and **Sanchara** (wandering spies) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Municipal and Military Boards:** The Greek ambassador's *Indica* describes Pataliputra's municipal administration managed by **six committees of five members each (30 members total)** overseeing: (1) Industrial Arts, (2) Foreigners, (3) Registration of Births and Deaths, (4) Trade and Commerce (Weights & Measures), (5) Supervision of Manufactured Goods, and (6) Collection of the Tenth (1/10th sales tax). A parallel board of 30 members divided into six committees administered the Infantry, Cavalry, War Elephants, Chariots, Navy, and Commissariat/Transport (NCERT).

5.2 Ashoka the Great *(268* BCE – *232* BCE*)*, Kalinga War, and Epigraphy

• **Kalinga War and Dhamma Policy:** In his **8th regnal year (261 BCE)**, Ashoka conquered Kalinga (detailed in **Major Rock Edict XIII**). Moved by the remorse of 100,000 slain and 150,000 displaced, he abandoned **Bherighosha** (conquest by war-drum) for **Dhammaghosha** (conquest by righteousness). In his 14th regnal year, he appointed **Dhamma Mahamattas** (Major Rock Edict V) to promote ethical conduct, non-violence toward creatures, respect for parents, Brahmanas, and Sramanas, and religious harmony (Major Rock Edict XII) (ASI).

• **Decipherment and Scripts of Ashokan Edicts:** First deciphered in **1837 by James Prinsep**, Ashokan inscriptions use **Prakrit in Brahmi script** across peninsular and northern India, **Prakrit in Kharosthi script** (written right-to-left) at **Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra** (North-West), and **Greek and Aramaic** (bilingual/monolingual) at **Shar-i-Kuna (Kandahar), Lampaka (Laghman), and Taxila** (National Museum).

• **Mention of Personal Name "Ashoka":** While most edicts refer to him as *Devanampiya Piyadassi* ("Beloved of the Gods, of Gracious Mien"), his personal name **Ashoka** appears explicitly in four Minor Rock Edicts: **Maski** (Raichur, Karnataka — discovered in 1915), **Gujjara** (Datia, Madhya Pradesh), **Nittur**, and **Udegolam**, whereas the **Bhabru-Bairat Edict** (Rajasthan) and **Kanganahalli (Sannati)** relief inscription read *Ranyo Ashoka* (ASI).

5.3 Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts

• **Geographical Locations of the 14 Major Rock Edicts:** Engraved along imperial frontiers and arterial trade routes at **Shahbazgarhi** and **Mansehra** (Pakistan — in Kharosthi script), **Kandahar** (Afghanistan — Greek/Aramaic), **Kalsi** (Dehradun, Uttarakhand), **Girnar** (Junagadh, Gujarat), **Sopara** (Palghar, Maharashtra), **Dhauli** and **Jaugada** (Odisha), **Erragudi** (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), and **Sannati** (Kalaburagi, Karnataka) (ASI).

• **Monolithic Sandstone Pillars:** Crafted from buff-colored **Chunar sandstone** (near Varanasi) with a mirror-like Mauryan polish, topped by a bell-shaped (*Persepolitan*) inverted lotus, an abacus, and a crowning animal capital — such as the **Four Addorsed Lions of Sarnath** (adopted as the **National Emblem of India on 26 January 1950**), the **Rampurva Bull**, the **Lauriya-Nandangarh Single Lion**, and the **Sankissa Elephant** (National Museum).

Major Rock Edict (MRE)	Core Imperial Decree & Ethical Mandate	Key Administrative or Historical Detail	Official Source
MRE I, II & III	Prohibition of animal sacrifice & festive *Samajas* (I); Medical care for humans & animals in South India & Hellenistic states (II); Quinquennial tours (*Anusamyana*) of **Yuktas, Rajukas, Pradeshikas** (III)	Names Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, Keralaputras, and *Tambapanni* (Sri Lanka)	ASI
MRE IV, V, VI & VII	Replacement of *Bherighosha* by *Dhammaghosha* (IV); Appointment of **Dhamma Mahamattas** in 13th/14th year (V); Prompt dispatch of public business & *Pativedakas* reporting at all hours (VI); Plea for religious tolerance (VII)	Ashoka declares "*At all times and in all places, whether I am dining or in the inner apartments, reporters must inform me of the people's affairs*"	NCERT
MRE VIII, IX, X, XI & XII	Replacement of royal hunting tours (*Vihara-yatras*) with **Dhamma-yatras** to Bodh Gaya in 10th year (VIII); Condemnation of superstitious ceremonies in favour of *Dhamma-mangala* (IX); Renunciation of vain glory (X); Gift of Dhamma (*Dhamma-dana*, XI); **Inter-sectarian harmony & restraint of speech (*Vachagutti*, XII)**	MRE XII urges honouring all sects (*Pasandas*) so that the essence (*Sara-vadhi*) of all religions grows	Indian Culture Portal
MRE XIII & XIV + Pillar Edict VII	**Kalinga War (8th year / 261 BCE)** & *Dhamma-vijaya* across 5 Greek kings (XIII); Epilogue on engraving edicts across the empire (XIV); **Delhi-Topra Pillar Edict VII** provides a comprehensive retrospective of all Dhamma welfare measures	Delhi-Topra is the only pillar bearing all **Seven Pillar Edicts**	IUC Academy

• **Seven Castes/Social Classes Recorded in the *Indica*:** The Greek ambassador at Pataliputra mistakenly categorized Indian occupational groups into seven endogamous classes: (1) **Philosophers** (Brahmanas and Sramanas), (2) **Cultivators** (most numerous class), (3) **Herdsmen and Hunters**, (4) **Artisans and Traders**, (5) **Soldiers** (second largest class), (6) **Overseers/Inspectors (*Episkopoi*)**, and (7) **Councillors and Assessors** (NCERT).

• **Ashoka's Queen's Edict (Kausambi-Prayag Pillar):** Records the charitable donations of Ashoka's second queen **Karuvaki**, mother of Prince **Tivara** (the only queen and prince named in the entire Ashokan epigraphic corpus) (ASI).

• **Mauryan Punch-Marked Coins and Popular Art:** Silver *Panas* bore imperial symbols of the **Sun, Six-Armed Wheel (*Shadarachakra*), Three-Arched Hill with Crescent (*Chaitya*), and Peacock**, while folk sculpture

produced monumental freestanding **Didarganj Yakshini** (Patna) and **Parkham Yaksha** (Mathura) figures (National Museum).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Overthrow of Nandas by Chandragupta Maurya & Chanakya (321 BCE) + Seleucid Treaty (305 BCE)

STEP 2
Centralization via Kautilyan Saptanga State, 18 Tirthas, 27 Adhyakshas & 5 Imperial Provinces

STEP 3
Ashoka's Kalinga War (261 BCE) & Shift from Bherighosha to Dhammaghosha

STEP 4
Pan-Indian Propagation of Dhamma via 14 Major Rock Edicts, 7 Pillar Edicts & Dhamma Mahamattas

Mauryan Official / Edict	Sphere of Authority / Location	Key Administrative Role or Epigraphic Content	Primary Source / Discovery	Official Reference
Samaharta & Sannidhata	Central Revenue & Treasury	*Samaharta*: Chief Collector-General of Revenue; *Sannidhata*: Chief Custodian of State Treasury & Granaries	Kautilya's *Arthashastra*	NCERT
Sitadhyaksha & Panyadhyaksha	Economic Superintendents	*Sitadhyaksha*: Superintendent of Crown Lands (*Sita*); *Panyadhyaksha*: Superintendent of Commerce	Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (Book II)	Indian Culture Portal
Pradeshika, Rajuka & Yukta	District Administration (Major Rock Edict III)	*Pradeshika*: District magistrate/inspector; *Rajuka*: Revenue settlement & judicial officer; *Yukta*: Subordinate accountant	Ashokan Edicts (Quinquennial inspection tours)	ASI
Major Rock Edict II & XIII	Frontier Kingdoms & Hellenistic Rulers	MRE II names Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, Keralaputras; MRE XIII names **Antiochus II, Ptolemy II, Antigonus, Magas, Alexander**	Girnar, Kalsi, Dhauli, Jaugada, Shahbazgarhi	ASI
Rummindei Pillar Inscription	Lumbini (Nepal Terai)	Commemorates Ashoka's visit in his 20th regnal year; abolishes *Bali* tax and reduces *Bhaga* to **1/8th** (*Atthabhagiye*)	Fiscal Edict of Ashoka	National Museum
Sohgaura & Mahasthan	Gorakhpur (UP) & Bogra (Bangladesh)	Pre-Ashokan/Mauryan Brahmi plaques ordering state granaries to distribute grain during **famine relief**	Copper-plate (Sohgaura) & Limestone (Mahasthan)	UPSC
Barabar Cave Inscriptions	Gaya District (Bihar)	Dedication of rock-cut caves (**Lomas Rishi, Sudama, Karna Chaupar, Vishva Zopri**) to the **Ajivika sect** by Ashoka (and Nagarjuni caves by Dasharatha)	Earliest rock-cut architecture in India	IUC Academy

Did You Know?: At **Dhauli and Jaugada** (situated inside conquered Kalinga in modern Odisha), Ashoka deliberately omitted **Major Rock Edicts XI, XII, and XIII** (which described the carnage of the Kalinga War) so as not to reopen the emotional wounds of the Kalinga populace, replacing them with two **Separate Kalinga Edicts** proclaiming **"All men are my children" (*Savve Munisse Paja Mama*)** (ASI).

Exam Trap Alert: Ashoka's *Dhamma* was **not** sectarian Buddhism; it never mentioned the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, or *Nirvana* in the public edicts, aiming instead for **Svarga (heaven)** through civic ethics. However, his personal Buddhist faith is attested separately in the **Bhabru-Bairat Edict** (expressing reverence for the *Buddha*, *Dhamma*, *and Sangha*) and the **Sanchi, Sarnath, and Kausambi Schism Edicts** warning monks against splitting the Sangha (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the four Minor Rock Edicts mentioning Ashoka by name using **"M-U-G-N"** — **M**aski, **U**degolam, **G**ujjara, and **N**ittur; and remember the five Mauryan provincial capitals: **Uttarapatha** (Taxila), **Avantiratha** (Ujjain), **Dakshinapatha** (Suvarnagiri), **Prachya** (Pataliputra), and **Kalinga** (Tosali) (IUC Academy).

Chapter *5* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration	**Imperial Establishment (321 BCE – 185 BCE)**	**Chandragupta Maurya** (*Sandrokottos* in Greek accounts of Strabo and Justin, identified by William Jones in 1793), guided by **Kautilya (Chanakya / Vishnugupta)**, overthrew Dhana Nanda in 321 BCE. In **305 BCE**, Chandragupta defeated **Seleucus I Nicator**, acquiring four satrapies — **Aria (Herat), Arachosia (Kandahar), Gedrosia (Balochistan), and Paropamisadae (Kabul)** — in exchange for 500 war elephants and receiving the Greek ambassador (author of *Indica*) at Pataliputra (NCERT).
Ashoka the Great (268 BCE – 232 BCE), Kalinga War, and Epigraphy	**Jaina Migration to South India**	In his final years, Chandragupta Maurya abdicated in favour of his son **Bindusara** (*Amitraghata* or "Slayer of Foes", who maintained diplomatic ties with Antiochus I of Syria and Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt) and migrated with Jaina saint **Bhadrabahu** to **Shravanabelagola** (Karnataka), performing ritual fasting unto death (*Sallekhana / Santhara*) on Chandragiri Hill (ASI).
Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts	**Saptanga Theory and Bureaucracy in the *Arthashastra***	**Divided into** 15 Adhikaranas (Books) **and 180 Prakaranas, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* defines seven limbs (*Saptanga*) of the state:** Swamin **(King),** Amatya **(Minister/Bureaucracy),** Janapada **(Territory & Population),** Durga **(Fortified Capital),** Kosha **(Treasury),** Danda/Bala **(Army), and** Mitra **(Ally). Top officials included** 18 Tirthas **and** 27 Adhyakshas **(Superintendents of departments), paid in cash (*Panas*). Intelligence relied on two classes of spies (*Gudhapurusas*):** Sanstha **(stationary spies) and** Sanchara** (wandering spies) (Indian Culture Portal).
Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration	**Municipal and Military Boards**	The Greek ambassador's *Indica* describes Pataliputra's municipal administration managed by **six committees of five members each (30 members total)** overseeing: (1) Industrial Arts, (2) Foreigners, (3) Registration of Births and Deaths, (4) Trade and Commerce (Weights & Measures), (5) Supervision of Manufactured Goods, and (6) Collection of the Tenth (1/10th sales tax). A parallel board of 30 members divided into six committees administered the Infantry, Cavalry, War Elephants, Chariots, Navy, and Commissariat/Transport (NCERT).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Ashoka the Great (268 BCE – 232 BCE), Kalinga War, and Epigraphy	**Kalinga War and Dhamma Policy**	In his **8th regnal year (261 BCE)**, Ashoka conquered Kalinga (detailed in **Major Rock Edict XIII**). Moved by the remorse of 100,000 slain and 150,000 displaced, he abandoned **Bherighosha** (conquest by war-drum) for **Dhammaghosha** (conquest by righteousness). In his 14th regnal year, he appointed **Dhamma Mahamattas** (Major Rock Edict V) to promote ethical conduct, non-violence toward creatures, respect for parents, Brahmanas, and Sramanas, and religious harmony (Major Rock Edict XII) (ASI).
Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts	**Decipherment and Scripts of Ashokan Edicts**	First deciphered in **1837 by James Prinsep**, Ashokan inscriptions use **Prakrit in Brahmi script** across peninsular and northern India, **Prakrit in Kharosthi script** (written right-to-left) at **Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra** (North-West), and **Greek and Aramaic** (bilingual/monolingual) at **Shar-i-Kuna (Kandahar), Lampaka (Laghman), and Taxila** (National Museum).
Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration	**Mention of Personal Name "Ashoka"**	While most edicts refer to him as *Devanampiya Piyadassi* ("Beloved of the Gods, of Gracious Mien"), his personal name **Ashoka** appears explicitly in four Minor Rock Edicts: **Maski** (Raichur, Karnataka — discovered in 1915), **Gujjara** (Datia, Madhya Pradesh), **Nittur**, and **Udegolam**, whereas the **Bhabru-Bairat Edict** (Rajasthan) and **Kanganahalli (Sannati)** relief inscription read *Ranyo Ashoka* (ASI).
Ashoka the Great (268 BCE – 232 BCE), Kalinga War, and Epigraphy	**Geographical Locations of the 14 Major Rock Edicts**	Engraved along imperial frontiers and arterial trade routes at **Shahbazgarhi** and **Mansehra** (Pakistan — in Kharosthi script), **Kandahar** (Afghanistan — Greek/Aramaic), **Kalsi** (Dehradun, Uttarakhand), **Girnar** (Junagadh, Gujarat), **Sopara** (Palghar, Maharashtra), **Dhauli** and **Jaugada** (Odisha), **Erragudi** (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), and **Sannati** (Kalaburagi, Karnataka) (ASI).
Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts	**Monolithic Sandstone Pillars**	Crafted from buff-colored **Chunar sandstone** (near Varanasi) with a mirror-like Mauryan polish, topped by a bell-shaped (*Persepolitan*) inverted lotus, an abacus, and a crowning animal capital — such as the **Four Addorsed Lions of Sarnath** (adopted as the **National Emblem of India on 26 January 1950**), the **Rampurva Bull**, the **Lauriya-Nandangarh Single Lion**, and the **Sankissa Elephant** (National Museum).
Foundation, Literary Sources, and Central Administration	**Seven Castes/Social Classes Recorded in the *Indica***	**The Greek ambassador at Pataliputra mistakenly categorized Indian occupational groups into seven endogamous classes: (1)** Philosophers **(Brahmanas and Sramanas), (2)** Cultivators **(most numerous class), (3)** Herdsmen and Hunters**, (4)** Artisans and Traders**, (5)** Soldiers **(second largest class), (6)** Overseers/Inspectors (*Episkopoi*)**, and (7)** Councillors and Assessors** (NCERT).
Ashoka the Great (268 BCE – 232 BCE), Kalinga War, and Epigraphy	**Ashoka's Queen's Edict (Kausambi-Prayag Pillar)**	Records the charitable donations of Ashoka's second queen **Karuvaki**, mother of Prince **Tivara** (the only queen and prince named in the entire Ashokan epigraphic corpus) (ASI).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Complete Synopsis of Ashoka's Fourteen Major Rock Edicts and Seven Pillar Edicts	**Mauryan Punch-Marked Coins and Popular Art**	Silver *Panas* bore imperial symbols of the **Sun, Six-Armed Wheel (*Shadarachakra*), Three-Arched Hill with Crescent (*Chaitya*), and Peacock**, while folk sculpture produced monumental freestanding **Didarganj Yakshini** (Patna) and **Parkham Yaksha** (Mathura) figures (National Museum).

Chapter *5* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Imperial Establishment (321 BCE – 185 BCE)): Chandragupta Maurya (*Sandrokottos* in Greek accounts of Strabo and Justin, identified by William Jones in 1793), guided by **Kautilya (Chanakya / Vishnugupta)**, overthrew Dhana Nanda in 321 BCE. In **305 BCE**, Chandragupta defeated **Seleucus I Nicator**, acquiring four satrapies — **Aria (Herat), Arachosia (Kandahar), Gedrosia (Balochistan), and Paropamisadae (Kabul)** — in exchange for 500 war elephants and receiving the Greek ambassador (author of *Indica*) at Pataliputra (NCERT).

Statement-II (Jaina Migration to South India): In his final years, Chandragupta Maurya abdicated in favour of his son **Bindusara** (*Amitraghata* or "Slayer of Foes", who maintained diplomatic ties with Antiochus I of Syria and Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt) and migrated with Jaina saint **Bhadrabahu** to **Shravanabelagola** (Karnataka), performing ritual fasting unto death (*Sallekhana / Santhara*) on Chandragiri Hill (ASI).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Saptanga Theory and Bureaucracy in the *Arthashastra*): Divided into 15 Adhikaranas (Books) **and 180 Prakaranas, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* defines seven limbs (*Saptanga*) of the state:** Swamin **(King),** Amatya **(Minister/ Bureaucracy),** Janapada **(Territory & Population),** Durga **(Fortified Capital),** Kosha **(Treasury),** Danda/Bala **(Army), and** Mitra **(Ally). Top officials included** 18 Tirthas **and** 27 Adhyakshas **(Superintendents of departments), paid in cash (*Panas*). Intelligence relied on two classes of spies (*Gudhapurusas*):** Sanstha **(stationary spies) and** Sanchara** (wandering spies) (Indian Culture Portal).

Statement-II (Municipal and Military Boards): The Greek ambassador's *Indica* describes Pataliputra's municipal administration managed by **six committees of five members each (30 members total)** overseeing: (1) Industrial Arts, (2) Foreigners, (3) Registration of Births and Deaths, (4) Trade and Commerce (Weights & Measures), (5) Supervision of Manufactured Goods, and (6) Collection of the Tenth (1/10th sales tax). A parallel board of 30 members divided into six committees administered the Infantry, Cavalry, War Elephants, Chariots, Navy, and Commissariat/Transport (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Kalinga War and Dhamma Policy): In his **8th regnal year (261 BCE)**, Ashoka conquered Kalinga (detailed in **Major Rock Edict XIII**). Moved by the remorse of 100,000 slain and 150,000 displaced, he abandoned **Bherighosha** (conquest by war-drum) for **Dhammaghosha** (conquest by righteousness). In his 14th regnal year, he appointed **Dhamma Mahamattas** (Major Rock Edict V) to promote ethical conduct, non-violence toward creatures, respect for parents, Brahmanas, and Sramanas, and religious harmony (Major Rock Edict XII) (ASI).

Statement-II (Decipherment and Scripts of Ashokan Edicts): First deciphered in **1837 by James Prinsep**, Ashokan inscriptions use **Prakrit in Brahmi script** across peninsular and northern India, **Prakrit in Kharosthi script** (written right-to-left) at **Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra** (North-West), and **Greek and Aramaic** (bilingual/monolingual) at **Shar-i-Kuna (Kandahar), Lampaka (Laghman), and Taxila** (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Mention of Personal Name "Ashoka"): While most edicts refer to him as *Devanampiya Piyadassi* ("Beloved of the Gods, of Gracious Mien"), his personal name **Ashoka** appears explicitly in four Minor Rock Edicts: **Maski** (Raichur, Karnataka — discovered in 1915), **Gujjara** (Datia, Madhya Pradesh), **Nittur**, and **Udegolam**, whereas the **Bhabru-Bairat Edict** (Rajasthan) and **Kanganahalli (Sannati)** relief inscription read *Ranyo Ashoka* (ASI).

Statement-II (Geographical Locations of the 14 Major Rock Edicts): Engraved along imperial frontiers and arterial trade routes at **Shahbazgarhi** and **Mansehra** (Pakistan — in Kharosthi script), **Kandahar** (Afghanistan — Greek/Aramaic), **Kalsi** (Dehradun, Uttarakhand), **Girnar** (Junagadh, Gujarat), **Sopara** (Palghar, Maharashtra), **Dhauli** and **Jaugada** (Odisha), **Erragudi** (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), and **Sannati** (Kalaburagi, Karnataka) (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Monolithic Sandstone Pillars): Crafted from buff-colored **Chunar sandstone** (near Varanasi) with a mirror-like Mauryan polish, topped by a bell-shaped (*Persepolitan*) inverted lotus, an abacus, and a crowning animal capital — such as the **Four Addorsed Lions of Sarnath** (adopted as the **National Emblem of India on 26 January 1950**), the **Rampurva Bull**, the **Lauriya-Nandangarh Single Lion**, and the **Sankissa Elephant** (National Museum).

Statement-II (Seven Castes/Social Classes Recorded in the *Indica*): The Greek ambassador at Pataliputra mistakenly categorized Indian occupational groups into seven endogamous classes: (1) Philosophers **(Brahmanas and Sramanas), (2)** Cultivators **(most numerous class), (3)** Herdsmen and Hunters**, (4)** Artisans and Traders**, (5)** Soldiers **(second largest class), (6)** Overseers/Inspectors (*Episkopoi*)**, and (7)** Councillors and Assessors** (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Ashoka's Queen's Edict (Kausambi-Prayag Pillar)): Records the charitable donations of Ashoka's second queen **Karuvaki**, mother of Prince **Tivara** (the only queen and prince named in the entire Ashokan epigraphic corpus) (ASI).

Statement-II (Mauryan Punch-Marked Coins and Popular Art): Silver *Panas* bore imperial symbols of the **Sun, Six-Armed Wheel (*Shadarachakra*), Three-Arched Hill with Crescent (*Chaitya*), and Peacock**, while folk sculpture produced monumental freestanding **Didarganj Yakshini** (Patna) and **Parkham Yaksha** (Mathura) figures (National Museum).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6: Post-Mauryan Polity, Indo-Greeks, Kushanas, Satavahanas & Sangam Age

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: Post-Mauryan Polity, Indo-Greeks, Kushanas, Satavahanas & Sangam Age

Key Study Pillar 1
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)

Key Study Pillar 2
Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam

Key Study Pillar 3
Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks

6.1 Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)

• **Shungas and Kanvas:** In **185 BCE**, the last Mauryan ruler **Brihadratha** was assassinated by his Brahmana commander-in-chief **Pushyamitra Shunga** (who performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices officiated by the grammarian **Patanjali**, author of the *Mahabhashya*). Pushyamitra's son **Agnimitra** is the hero of Kalidasa's drama *Malavikagnimitram*, and during the reign of Shunga king **Bhagabhadra**, **Heliodorus** (ambassador of Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila) erected the **Besnagar (Vidisha) Garuda Pillar Inscription** honouring *Vasudeva* (Bhagavatism) (ASI).

• **Indo-Greeks, Shakas, and Parthians:** The **Indo-Greeks (Bactrian Greeks)** were the first rulers in India to issue coins bearing portraits and names of kings and the first to mint **gold coins**. Their greatest ruler **Menander (Milinda, 165–145 BCE)** ruled from Sakala (Sialkot) and conversed with Buddhist sage **Nagasena** in the Pali text *Milindapanho*. Among the **Shakas (Scythians)**, **Rudradaman I (130–150 CE)** of the Western Kshatrapas repaired the **Sudarshana Lake** (originally built under Chandragupta Maurya by Pushyagupta) without forced labour (*Vishti*) and issued the **Junagadh (Girnar) Rock Inscription (150 CE)** — the **first long inscription in chaste Sanskrit** (NCERT).

• **The Kushana Empire:** Belonging to the Central Asian **Yuezhi** tribe, the Kushanas controlled the **Silk Route** and issued the **highest purity gold coins** (*Dinaras*) in ancient India. **Kanishka I** founded the **Shaka Era (78 CE)**, ruled from twin capitals **Purushapura (Peshawar)** and **Mathura**, adopted the title *Devaputra* ("Son of Heaven"), and patronized **Ashvaghosha** (*Buddhacharita*, *Saundarananda*), **Nagarjuna** (*Madhyamika Karika* / Sunyavada), **Vasumitra**, and physician **Charaka** (*Charaka Samhita*) (National Museum).

6.2 Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam

• **The Satavahana Dynasty (Andhras, c. 1st Century BCE – 3rd Century CE):** Founded by **Simuka** with capital at **Pratishthana (Paithan)** on the Godavari in Maharashtra. **Hala** compiled the Prakrit lyrical anthology *Gathasaptasati* (700 verses). **Gautamiputra Satakarni** (celebrated in his mother Gautami Balashri's **Nashik Prasasti** as *Ekabrahmana* and destroyer of the Shakas, Yavanas, and Pahlavas) defeated Nahapana of the Kshaharata Shaka dynasty. The Satavahanas issued **lead, potin, copper, and silver coins**, used matronymics, initiated the practice of **tax-free land grants with administrative immunity (*Parihara*) to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks**, and deployed rural district officials called **Gaulmika** (NCERT).

• **Sangam Polity and Literature (c. 300 BCE – 300 CE):** Patronized by the **Pandya kings of Madurai** across three literary academies (*Sangams*). Surviving corpus includes **Tolkappiyam** (oldest Tamil grammar by

Tolkappiyar), **Ettutogai** (Eight Anthologies), **Pattuppattu** (Ten Idylls), **Pathinenkilkanakku** (18 Minor Works including Tiruvalluvar's ethical treatise **Tirukkural**), and the twin epics **Silappadikaram** (by Ilango Adigal, detailing Kovalan, Kannagi, and Madhavi) and **Manimekalai** (by Sattanar) (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Three Crowned Kings (*Muvendar*) and Eco-Zones (*Tinai*):**

1. **Cheras** (Capital: Vanji/Karur; Port: Muziris/Muchiri & Tondi; Emblem: **Bow and Arrow**; Greatest king: **Senguttuvan** the "Red Chera", founder of the *Pattini* Kannagi cult).

2. **Cholas** (Capitals: Uraiyur — famous for cotton — and Puhar/Kaveripattinam; Emblem: **Tiger**; Greatest king: **Karikala**, victor of the Battle of Venni and builder of the **Kallanai / Grand Anicut** dam across the Kaveri).

3. **Pandyas** (Capital: Madurai; Port: Korkai — famous for pearl fisheries; Emblem: **Carp/Fish**; Greatest king: **Nedunjeliyan**, victor of Talaiyalanganam) (NCERT).

6.3 Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks

• **Structure of the Sangam Corpus:** Classified thematically into two poetic genres — **Agam (Akam)** dealing with internal/personal emotions and love across five ecological landscapes (*Tinai*), and **Puram** dealing with external/public affairs, heroism, war, royal munificence, and ethics (NCERT).

• **Maritime Emporia on the Western and Eastern Coasts:** Western coast ports (*Naura*, **Tyndis/Tondi**, **Muziris/Muchiri** [Pattanam in Kerala, where the *Tabula Peutingeriana* records a Temple of Augustus], **Nelcynda**, **Barygaza/Bharuch**, **Sopara**, and **Kalyana**) balanced eastern Coromandel ports (**Korkai**, **Alagankulam**, **Puhar/Kaveripattinam**, **Poduke/Arikamedu**, **Masalia/Masulipatnam**, and **Tamralipti/Tamluk** in Bengal) (ASI).

Post-Mauryan / Sangam Text	Author / Compiler	Language	Core Subject Matter & Historical Value	Official Source
Buddhacharita & Saundarananda	**Ashvaghosha**	Classical Sanskrit	Earliest complete Sanskrit *Mahakavya* biography of the Buddha; *Sariputraprakarana* (earliest Sanskrit drama fragments)	National Museum
Madhyamika Karika & Prajnaparamita	**Acharya Nagarjuna**	Sanskrit	Propounded **Madhyamika Sunyavada** (Relativity/Emptiness) and two truths (*Samvriti* & *Paramartha Satya*)	Indian Culture Portal
Tirukkural (Muppal)	**Tiruvalluvar**	Tamil (1,330 couplets in 133 chapters)	Divided into **Aram** (Virtue/Dharma), **Porul** (Polity/Wealth/Artha), and **Inbam** (Love/Kama)	NCERT
Pattinappalai & Maduraikkanji	Uruttirangannanar / Mangudi Marudanar	Tamil (*Pattuppattu*)	Vivid accounts of **Karikala Chola's** port **Puhar** and **Nedunjeliyan Pandya's** capital **Madurai**	IUC Academy

• **Four Sectarian Tributaries into Early Vaishnavism (Bhagavatism):** Merged the Vedic solar god **Vishnu**, the cosmic creator **Narayana** (worshipped via the *Pancharatra* ritual), the Vrishni hero **Vasudeva-Krishna** of Mathura, and the pastoral cowherd deity **Gopala-Krishna** (NCERT).

• **Evolution of Early Shaiva Sects: Pashupata** (oldest Shaiva sect founded by **Lakulisha** in the 2nd century CE at Kayavarohana in Gujarat), **Kapalika**, **Kalamukha**, **Kashmir Shaivism (*Trika* / *Pratyabhijna* propounded by Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta)**, and South Indian **Siddhanta & Lingayat** traditions (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Administrative Units of the Satavahana Empire:** Divided into **Aharas** (districts such as *Govardhana-ahara* and *Sopara-ahara*) governed by non-hereditary **Amatyas** and **Mahamatras**, while rural military outposts (*Gulmas*) were placed under a **Gaulmika** commanding 9 chariots, 9 elephants, 25 horses, and 45 foot soldiers (UPSC).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Post-Mauryan Fragmentation & Rise of Shungas/Satavahanas alongside Indo-Greek/Shaka/Kushana Inflows

STEP 2
Kushana Silk-Route Monetization (78 CE Shaka Era) & Gandhara/Mathura/Amaravati Sculptural Schools

STEP 3
Satavahana Deccan Integration (Pratishthana) & Earliest Tax-Free Brahmadeya/Buddhist Land Grants

STEP 4
Sangam Muvendar Maritime Trade via Muziris/Arikamedu with the Roman Empire (Yavanapriya Pepper)

Artistic School / Sangam Tinai	Region / Patronage	Medium & Stylistic Features / Chief Deity & Occupation	Key Monuments or Ecological Characteristics	Official Reference
Gandhara School of Art	North-West Frontier (Kushanas)	Blue-grey schist & stucco; Greco-Roman realism, wavy hair, muscular drapery	Bamyan, Taxila, Peshawar; anthropomorphic Buddha images	National Museum
Mathura School of Art	Mathura (Kushanas)	**Spotted red sandstone**; indigenous yaksha prototype, spiritual calm, headless Kanishka statue	Depicts Buddhist, Jaina (*Ayagapattas*), and Brahmanical deities	ASI
Amaravati School of Art	Lower Krishna-Godavari (Satavahanas & Ikshvakus)	**White limestone (Palnad marble)**; dynamic narrative medallions, *Jataka* crowd scenes	Amaravati Mahachaitya & Nagarjunakonda stupas	National Museum
Kurinji & Mullai (Tinai)	Hilly Tracts / Pastoral Forests	**Murugan** (Hunting & honey collection) / **Mayon (Vishnu)** (Cattle herding & shifting cultivation)	Five ecological zones (*Aintinai*) defined in *Tolkappiyam*	NCERT
Marudam, Neydal & Palai	Riverine Plains / Coast / Arid Zone	**Vendan (Indra)** (Plough agriculture) / **Varunan** (Fishing & salt making) / **Korravai** (Waylaying)	*Vellalar* (rich peasants), *Uzhavar* (ploughmen), *Adimai* (slaves)	IUC Academy

Did You Know?: The discovery of seasonal monsoon winds (*Hippalus*, c. 45 CE) revolutionized Indo-Roman maritime trade documented in the anonymous Greek manual **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea** and Pliny's **Naturalis Historia** (which lamented Rome draining 550 million sesterces annually to India for luxury pepper — called *Yavanapriya* in Sanskrit — silk, and muslin), corroborated archaeologically by Roman amphorae and Arretine ware at **Arikamedu** (*Poduke*, near Puducherry) (ASI).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse the **Vikrama Era (57/58 BCE)** with the **Shaka Era (78 CE)**: the Vikrama Era begins in 57/58 BCE (traditionally linked to Ujjain ruler Vikramaditya's victory over the Shakas), whereas the **Shaka Era (78 CE)** was inaugurated by the **Kushana emperor Kanishka** and serves as the official **National Calendar of the Government of India** (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Distinguish the three post-Mauryan sculptural materials using **"G-B, M-R, A-W"** — **G**andhara = **B**lue-grey schist, **M**athura = Spotted **R**ed sandstone, **A**maravati = **W**hite marble/limestone (IUC Academy).

Chapter *6* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)	**Shungas and Kanvas**	In **185 BCE**, the last Mauryan ruler **Brihadratha** was assassinated by his Brahmana commander-in-chief **Pushyamitra Shunga** (who performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices officiated by the grammarian **Patanjali**, author of the *Mahabhashya*). Pushyamitra's son **Agnimitra** is the hero of Kalidasa's drama *Malavikagnimitram*, and during the reign of Shunga king **Bhagabhadra**, **Heliodorus** (ambassador of Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila) erected the **Besnagar (Vidisha) Garuda Pillar Inscription** honouring *Vasudeva* (Bhagavatism) (ASI).
Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam	**Indo-Greeks, Shakas, and Parthians**	The **Indo-Greeks (Bactrian Greeks)** were the first rulers in India to issue coins bearing portraits and names of kings and the first to mint **gold coins**. Their greatest ruler **Menander (Milinda, 165–145 BCE)** ruled from Sakala (Sialkot) and conversed with Buddhist sage **Nagasena** in the Pali text *Milindapanho*. Among the **Shakas (Scythians)**, **Rudradaman I (130–150 CE)** of the Western Kshatrapas repaired the **Sudarshana Lake** (originally built under Chandragupta Maurya by Pushyagupta) without forced labour (*Vishti*) and issued the **Junagadh (Girnar) Rock Inscription (150 CE)** — the **first long inscription in chaste Sanskrit** (NCERT).
Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks	**The Kushana Empire**	Belonging to the Central Asian **Yuezhi** tribe, the Kushanas controlled the **Silk Route** and issued the **highest purity gold coins** (*Dinaras*) in ancient India. **Kanishka I** founded the **Shaka Era (78 CE)**, ruled from twin capitals **Purushapura (Peshawar)** and **Mathura**, adopted the title *Devaputra* ("Son of Heaven"), and patronized **Ashvaghosha** (*Buddhacharita*, *Saundarananda*), **Nagarjuna** (*Madhyamika Karika* / Sunyavada), **Vasumitra**, and physician **Charaka** (*Charaka Samhita*) (National Museum).
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)	**The Satavahana Dynasty (Andhras, c. 1st Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)**	Founded by **Simuka** with capital at **Pratishthana (Paithan)** on the Godavari in Maharashtra. **Hala** compiled the Prakrit lyrical anthology *Gathasaptasati* (700 verses). **Gautamiputra Satakarni** (celebrated in his mother Gautami Balashri's **Nashik Prasasti** as *Ekabrahmana* and destroyer of the Shakas, Yavanas, and Pahlavas) defeated Nahapana of the Kshaharata Shaka dynasty. The Satavahanas issued **lead, potin, copper, and silver coins**, used matronymics, initiated the practice of **tax-free land grants with administrative immunity (*Parihara*) to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks**, and deployed rural district officials called **Gaulmika** (NCERT).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam	**Sangam Polity and Literature (c. 300 BCE – 300 CE)**	Patronized by the **Pandya kings of Madurai** across three literary academies (*Sangams*). Surviving corpus includes **Tolkappiyam** (oldest Tamil grammar by Tolkappiyar), **Ettutogai** (Eight Anthologies), **Pattuppattu** (Ten Idylls), **Pathinenkilkanakku** (18 Minor Works including Tiruvalluvar's ethical treatise **Tirukkural**), and the twin epics **Silappadikaram** (by Ilango Adigal, detailing Kovalan, Kannagi, and Madhavi) and **Manimekalai** (by Sattanar) (Indian Culture Portal).
Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks	**Cheras**	(Capital: Vanji/Karur; Port: Muziris/Muchiri & Tondi; Emblem: **Bow and Arrow**; Greatest king: **Senguttuvan** the "Red Chera", founder of the *Pattini* Kannagi cult).
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)	**Cholas**	(Capitals: Uraiyur — famous for cotton — and Puhar/Kaveripattinam; Emblem: **Tiger**; Greatest king: **Karikala**, victor of the Battle of Venni and builder of the **Kallanai / Grand Anicut** dam across the Kaveri).
Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam	**Pandyas**	(Capital: Madurai; Port: Korkai — famous for pearl fisheries; Emblem: **Carp/Fish**; Greatest king: **Nedunjeliyan**, victor of Talaiyalanganam) (NCERT).
Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks	**Structure of the Sangam Corpus**	Classified thematically into two poetic genres — **Agam (Akam)** dealing with internal/personal emotions and love across five ecological landscapes (*Tinai*), and **Puram** dealing with external/public affairs, heroism, war, royal munificence, and ethics (NCERT).
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)	**Maritime Emporia on the Western and Eastern Coasts**	Western coast ports (*Naura*, **Tyndis/Tondi**, **Muziris/Muchiri** [Pattanam in Kerala, where the *Tabula Peutingeriana* records a Temple of Augustus], **Nelcynda**, **Barygaza/Bharuch**, **Sopara**, and **Kalyana**) balanced eastern Coromandel ports (**Korkai**, **Alagankulam**, **Puhar/Kaveripattinam**, **Poduke/Arikamedu**, **Masalia/Masulipatnam**, and **Tamralipti/Tamluk** in Bengal) (ASI).
Satavahanas of the Deccan and the Sangam Age in Tamizhagam	**Four Sectarian Tributaries into Early Vaishnavism (Bhagavatism)**	Merged the Vedic solar god **Vishnu**, the cosmic creator **Narayana** (worshipped via the *Pancharatra* ritual), the Vrishni hero **Vasudeva-Krishna** of Mathura, and the pastoral cowherd deity **Gopala-Krishna** (NCERT).
Sangam Literary Stratification, Five Eco-Zones, and Indo-Roman Port Networks	**Evolution of Early Shaiva Sects**	**Pashupata** (oldest Shaiva sect founded by **Lakulisha** in the 2nd century CE at Kayavarohana in Gujarat), **Kapalika**, **Kalamukha**, **Kashmir Shaivism (*Trika* / *Pratyabhijna* propounded by Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta)**, and South Indian **Siddhanta & Lingayat** traditions (Indian Culture Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Indigenous Successors and Central Asian Dynasties (200 BCE – 300 CE)	**Administrative Units of the Satavahana Empire**	Divided into **Aharas** (districts such as *Govardhana-ahara* and *Sopara-ahara*) governed by non-hereditary **Amatyas** and **Mahamatras**, while rural military outposts (*Gulmas*) were placed under a **Gaulmika** commanding 9 chariots, 9 elephants, 25 horses, and 45 foot soldiers (UPSC).

Chapter *6* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Shungas and Kanvas): In **185 BCE**, the last Mauryan ruler **Brihadratha** was assassinated by his Brahmana commander-in-chief **Pushyamitra Shunga** (who performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices officiated by the grammarian **Patanjali**, author of the *Mahabhashya*). Pushyamitra's son **Agnimitra** is the hero of Kalidasa's drama *Malavikagnimitram*, and during the reign of Shunga king **Bhagabhadra**, **Heliodorus** (ambassador of Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila) erected the **Besnagar (Vidisha) Garuda Pillar Inscription** honouring *Vasudeva* (Bhagavatism) (ASI).

Statement-II (Indo-Greeks, Shakas, and Parthians): The **Indo-Greeks (Bactrian Greeks)** were the first rulers in India to issue coins bearing portraits and names of kings and the first to mint **gold coins**. Their greatest ruler **Menander (Milinda, 165–145 BCE)** ruled from Sakala (Sialkot) and conversed with Buddhist sage **Nagasena** in the Pali text *Milindapanho*. Among the **Shakas (Scythians)**, **Rudradaman I (130–150 CE)** of the Western Kshatrapas repaired the **Sudarshana Lake** (originally built under Chandragupta Maurya by Pushyagupta) without forced labour (*Vishti*) and issued the **Junagadh (Girnar) Rock Inscription (150 CE)** — the **first long inscription in chaste Sanskrit** (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (The Kushana Empire): Belonging to the Central Asian **Yuezhi** tribe, the Kushanas controlled the **Silk Route** and issued the **highest purity gold coins** (*Dinaras*) in ancient India. **Kanishka I** founded the **Shaka Era (78 CE)**, ruled from twin capitals **Purushapura (Peshawar)** and **Mathura**, adopted the title *Devaputra* ("Son of Heaven"), and patronized **Ashvaghosha** (*Buddhacharita*, *Saundarananda*), **Nagarjuna** (*Madhyamika Karika* / Sunyavada), **Vasumitra**, and physician **Charaka** (*Charaka Samhita*) (National Museum).

Statement-II (The Satavahana Dynasty (Andhras, c. 1st Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)): Founded by **Simuka** with capital at **Pratishthana (Paithan)** on the Godavari in Maharashtra. **Hala** compiled the Prakrit lyrical anthology *Gathasaptasati* (700 verses). **Gautamiputra Satakarni** (celebrated in his mother Gautami Balashri's **Nashik Prasasti** as *Ekabrahmana* and destroyer of the Shakas, Yavanas, and Pahlavas) defeated Nahapana of the Kshaharata Shaka dynasty. The Satavahanas issued **lead, potin, copper, and silver coins**, used matronymics, initiated the practice of **tax-free land grants with administrative immunity (*Parihara*) to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks**, and deployed rural district officials called **Gaulmika** (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Sangam Polity and Literature (c. 300 BCE – 300 CE)): Patronized by the **Pandya kings of Madurai** across three literary academies (*Sangams*). Surviving corpus includes **Tolkappiyam** (oldest Tamil grammar by Tolkappiyar), **Ettutogai** (Eight Anthologies), **Pattuppattu** (Ten Idylls), **Pathinenkilkanakku** (18 Minor Works including Tiruvalluvar's ethical treatise **Tirukkural**), and the twin epics **Silappadikaram** (by Ilango Adigal, detailing Kovalan, Kannagi, and Madhavi) and **Manimekalai** (by Sattanar) (Indian Culture Portal).

Statement-II (Cheras): (Capital: Vanji/Karur; Port: Muziris/Muchiri & Tondi; Emblem: **Bow and Arrow**; Greatest king: **Senguttuvan** the "Red Chera", founder of the *Pattini* Kannagi cult).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Cholas): (Capitals: Uraiyur — famous for cotton — and Puhar/Kaveripattinam; Emblem: **Tiger**; Greatest king: **Karikala**, victor of the Battle of Venni and builder of the **Kallanai / Grand Anicut** dam across the Kaveri).
Statement-II (Pandyas): (Capital: Madurai; Port: Korkai — famous for pearl fisheries; Emblem: **Carp/Fish**; Greatest king: **Nedunjeliyan**, victor of Talaiyalanganam) (NCERT).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Structure of the Sangam Corpus): Classified thematically into two poetic genres — **Agam (Akam)** dealing with internal/personal emotions and love across five ecological landscapes (*Tinai*), and **Puram** dealing with external/public affairs, heroism, war, royal munificence, and ethics (NCERT).

Statement-II (Maritime Emporia on the Western and Eastern Coasts): Western coast ports (*Naura*, **Tyndis/Tondi**, **Muziris/Muchiri** [Pattanam in Kerala, where the *Tabula Peutingeriana* records a Temple of Augustus], **Nelcynda**, **Barygaza/Bharuch**, **Sopara**, and **Kalyana**) balanced eastern Coromandel ports (**Korkai**, **Alagankulam**, **Puhar/Kaveripattinam**, **Poduke/Arikamedu**, **Masalia/Masulipatnam**, and **Tamralipti/Tamluk** in Bengal) (ASI).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Four Sectarian Tributaries into Early Vaishnavism (Bhagavatism)): Merged the Vedic solar god **Vishnu**, the cosmic creator **Narayana** (worshipped via the *Pancharatra* ritual), the Vrishni hero **Vasudeva-Krishna** of Mathura, and the pastoral cowherd deity **Gopala-Krishna** (NCERT).

Statement-II (Evolution of Early Shaiva Sects): **Pashupata** (oldest Shaiva sect founded by **Lakulisha** in the 2nd century CE at Kayavarohana in Gujarat), **Kapalika**, **Kalamukha**, **Kashmir Shaivism (*Trika* / *Pratyabhijna* propounded by Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta)**, and South Indian **Siddhanta & Lingayat** traditions (Indian Culture Portal).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7: The Gupta Empire & Vakatakas — Golden Age of Science, Literature & Temple Art

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: The Gupta Empire & Vakatakas — Golden Age of Science, Literature & Temple Art

Key Study Pillar 1
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)

Key Study Pillar 2
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture

Key Study Pillar 3
Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics

7.1 Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)

• **Origins and Early Rulers:** Originating as feudatories (likely of the Kushanas) in the Prayaga-Saketa-Magadha belt, the lineage began with **Sri Gupta** and **Ghatotkacha**, before **Chandragupta I (319–335 CE)** assumed the imperial title *Maharajadhiraja*, founded the **Gupta Era (319–320 CE)**, and married Lichchhavi princess **Kumaradevi** (celebrated on Joint King-and-Queen gold *Dinara* coins) (NCERT).

• **Samudragupta (335–380 CE) and the Prayag Prasasti:** Composed in mixed prose-and-verse Sanskrit (*Champu Kavya*) by his court poet, minister of peace and war (*Sandhivigrahika*), and *Mahadandanayaka* **Harishena** on the Ashokan pillar at Prayagraj (Allahabad), the *Prayag Prasasti* details Samudragupta's policy according to geopolitical zones:

1. **Aryavarta (9 Rulers of North India):** Policy of **Prasabhoddharana** (complete uprooting and direct annexation).

2. **Dakshinapatha (12 Rulers of South India, including Vishnugopa of Kanchi):** Policy of **Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha** (capture, liberation, and reinstatement as tributary vassals).

3. **Atavika Rajyas (Forest Kingdoms of Central India):** Reduced to servitude (*Paricharika-krita*).

4. **Five Frontier Kingdoms** (Samatata, Davaka, Kamarupa, Nepala, Kartripura) & **Nine Republican Clans** (Malavas, Arjunayanas, Yaudheyas, Madrakas, Abhiras): Paid tribute (*Sarva-karadana*) and homage (ASI).

• **Chandragupta II "Vikramaditya" (380–415 CE) and the Vakataka Alliance:** Defeated the last Western Kshatrapa Shaka ruler **Rudrasimha III**, earning the title *Shakari* and issuing silver coins on the Western Kshatrapa pattern. He gave his daughter **Prabhavatigupta** (born of Kuberanaga) in marriage to Vakataka king **Rudrasena II** (Nandivardhana-Pravarapura branch). The **Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription** (Delhi) of King "Chandra" testifies to rust-resistant Gupta metallurgy, while Chinese Buddhist pilgrim **Fa-Hien (Faxian, 399–414 CE)** visited India during his reign (National Museum).

• **Kumaragupta I and Skandagupta: Kumaragupta I (415–455 CE)** (*Mahendraditya*) founded the **Nalanda Mahavihara** and faced the **Pushyamitras** toward the end of his reign. **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)** (*Kramaditya*) heroically repulsed the ferocious invasion of the **Hunas (Hephthalites / White Huns)** (recorded in his **Bhitari Pillar Inscription**, Ghazipur) and repaired the Sudarshana Lake through governor Parnadatta and Chakrapalita (**Junagadh Inscription**) (ASI).

7.2 Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture

• **Decentralized Feudal Governance:** Unlike the hyper-centralized Mauryan state, Gupta administration relied on hereditary officials (*Kumaramatyas* and *Sandhivigrahikas*), autonomous merchant/artisan guilds (*Shrenis*, *Nigamas*, *Sarthavahas* whose silk-weavers' guild is immortalized in the **Mandsaur Inscription of 436/473 CE**), and extensive tax-free religious land grants (**Agrahara** and **Brahmadeya**), which transferred fiscal and judicial rights and fostered **Indian Feudalism (*Samanta* system)**. Provinces (**Bhuktis** under *Uparikas*) were divided into districts (**Vishayas** under *Vishayapatis* assisted by a *Nagarashreshthin*, *Sarthavaha*, *Prathamakulika*, and *Prathamakayastha* as recorded in the **Damodarpur Copper Plates**) (NCERT).

• **Scientific and Literary Luminaries:**

• **Aryabhata (b. 476 CE):** Authored the *Aryabhatiya* and *Surya Siddhanta*; calculated $\pi \approx 3.1416$ and the solar year as 365.258 days, explained solar and lunar eclipses scientifically via planetary shadows (rejecting Rahu-Ketu mythology), and postulated Earth's rotation on its own axis (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Varahamihira (6th Century CE):** Authored the *Panchasiddhantika* (five astronomical systems including *Romaka* and *Paulisa*) and the encyclopaedic *Brihat Samhita*.

• **Brahmagupta (b. 598 CE):** Authored the *Brahmasphutasiddhanta* and *Khandakhadyaka* (formal rules for operational mathematics with zero and negative numbers).

• **Medical & Literary Works: Sushruta** (*Sushruta Samhita* on plastic surgery/rhinoplasty and cataract surgery), **Vagbhata** (*Ashtanga Hridaya*), **Nagarjuna** (chemistry/metallurgy), **Dhanvantari**, **Amarasimha** (*Amarakosha* Sanskrit lexicon), **Vishakhadatta** (*Mudrarakshasa* and *Devichandraguptam*), **Shudraka** (*Mrichchhakatika* — "The Little Clay Cart"), and **Kalidasa** (*Abhijnanashakuntalam*, *Vikramorvashiya*, *Malavikagnimitram*, *Raghuvamsha*, *Kumarasambhava*, *Meghaduta*, *Ritusamhara*) (NCERT).

7.3 Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics

• **Hierarchy of Gupta Territorial Administration:** The Empire was partitioned into **Deshas** (governed by *Goptas*) or **Bhuktis** (provinces governed by **Uparikas** appointed directly by the Emperor), which were subdivided into **Vishayas** (districts headed by **Vishayapatis**), **Vithis / Pethakas / Santakas** (sub-districts), and **Gramas** (villages administered by the **Gramika / Gramadhyaksha** with village elders called **Mahattaras** or **Ashtakuladhikaranas**) (NCERT).

• **Key Gupta Fiscal and Land Tenure Terms: Bhaga** (king's customary 1/6th share of produce), **Bhoga** (periodic supplies of fruits, firewood, and flowers to the king), **Kara** (periodic tax on villagers), **Bali** (compulsory religious/additional tax), **Udranga** (land tax on permanent tenants), **Uparikara** (tax on temporary tenants), **Halivakara** (plough tax), **Shulka** (customs/tolls), **Klipta & Upaklipta** (purchase/sales tax), **Kshetra** (cultivable field), **Khila** (fallow/uncultivated land), **Aprahata** (untilled forest land), and **Vasti** (habitable homestead land) (UPSC).

Classical Author	Patron / Period	Masterpieces	Discipline & Enduring Contribution	Official Source
Kalidasa	Chandragupta II Vikramaditya	*Abhijnanashakuntalam*, *Meghaduta*, *Raghuvamsha*, *Kumarasambhava*	Pinnacle of classical Sanskrit *Kavya* and *Nataka*; *Shakuntala* was the first Indian play translated into European languages (by William Jones, 1789)	Indian Culture Portal
Vishakhadatta & Bhasa	Gupta / Pre-Gupta Era	*Mudrarakshasa*, *Devichandraguptam* / *Svapnavasavadattam* (13 plays)	Political-historical Sanskrit drama without supernatural *Deus ex machina*	NCERT
Amarasimha & Kamandaka	Gupta Period	**Amarakosha** (*Namalinganushasana*) / **Nitisara**	Standard Sanskrit thesaurus/lexicon / Gupta treatise on statecraft modelled on Kautilya	National Museum
Varahamihira & Vagbhata	6th Century CE (Ujjain)	*Brihat Samhita*, *Panchasiddhantika* / *Ashtanga Sangraha*	Encyclopaedic astronomy, meteorology, architecture (*Vastu*), and Ayurvedic medicine	IUC Academy

• **Fa-Hien's Social and Judicial Observations (399–414 CE):** Recorded that the people of *Madhyadesha* were prosperous, vegetarian, abstained from onions, garlic, and wine, paid no household registration or physical poll tax, faced no capital punishment (repeated treason was punished by amputation of the right hand), while *Chandalas* lived outside city walls and struck wooden clappers upon entering markets (NCERT).

• **Metallurgical and Numismatic Excellence:** Gupta gold *Dinaras* depict Samudragupta playing the **Vina** (*Lyrist type*), performing the **Ashvamedha**, and slaying tigers (*Vyaghra-parakrama*), and Kumaragupta I riding a peacock (*Kartikeya type*) and hunting rhinoceroses (National Museum).

• **Transition to Early Medieval Scripts and Vernaculars:** Gupta Brahmi evolved into the **Siddhamatrika (Kutila)** script in the 6th–7th century CE, from which **Nagari (Devanagari), Sharada (Kashmir), and Proto-Bengali (Gaudi)** scripts developed (ASI).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Gupta Imperial Consolidation under Chandragupta I (319 CE Era) & Samudragupta's Pan-Indian Digvijaya

STEP 2
Western Shaka Annexation, Vakataka Matrimonial Alliance & Maritime Prosperity under Chandragupta II

STEP 3
Evolution of Agrahara Land Grants, Damodarpur District Councils & Structural Nagara Temples

STEP 4
Huna Invasions (Toramana/Mihirakula), Feudal Samanta Fragmentation & Post-Gupta Regionalization

Gupta Temple / Epigraph	Location	Architectural Style / Ruler	Key Structural or Historical Significance	Official Reference
Dashavatara Temple	Deogarh (Lalitpur, UP)	Early **Panchayatana Nagara** style (Stone)	Earliest surviving north Indian *Shikhara* tower; panels of *Sheshashayi Vishnu*, *Gajendramoksha*, and *Nara-Narayana*	ASI
Bhitargaon Temple	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	Terracotta & **Baked-Brick** Nagara temple	Oldest surviving structural brick temple in India featuring a true arch and pyramidal roof	ASI

Gupta Temple / Epigraph	Location	Architectural Style / Ruler	Key Structural or Historical Significance	Official Reference
Udayagiri Caves	Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)	Chandragupta II (Virasena inscription)	Iconic rock-cut **Varaha (Boar incarnation)** relief rescuing Bhudevi (Earth Goddess)	National Museum
Ajanta Caves (Caves 16, 17, 19, 26)	Sambhajinagar (Maharashtra)	Vakataka King **Harishena** (Minister Varahadeva)	Fresco murals of **Padmapani** and **Vajrapani Bodhisattvas**, Dying Princess, and *Jataka* stories	Indian Culture Portal
Eran Stone Boar / Pillar Inscription	Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)	**Bhanugupta (510 CE)** & Huna king Toramana	Records the **earliest epigraphic evidence of Sati** in India (wife of general Goparaja who died fighting the Hunas)	UPSC

Did You Know?: Although the Gupta emperors issued the largest number of gold coins (*Dinaras*) in ancient India, the **gold purity of Gupta coins was lower than that of Kushana gold coins**, and in everyday transactions common people primarily used **cowrie shells**, as noted by the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien (NCERT).

Exam Trap Alert: Fa-Hien (Faxian) never mentioned the name of the reigning Gupta emperor **Chandragupta II** anywhere in his travelogue *Fo-Kwo-Ki* because his focus was exclusively on Buddhist monasteries, monastic rules (*Vinaya*), and sacred sites; similarly, the **Ajanta murals of Caves 16 and 17** were patronized by the **Vakataka** dynasty (specifically King Harishena and his minister Varahadeva), not directly by the imperial Guptas (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the four civic representatives on the Gupta district (*Vishaya*) advisory board from the Damodarpur Copper Plates using **"N-S-P-P"** — **N**agarashreshthin (Chief Banker/Guild President), **S**arthavaha (Leader of Merchant Caravans), **P**rathamakulika (Chief Artisan), and **P**rathamakayastha (Chief Scribe) (IUC Academy).

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)	**Origins and Early Rulers**	Originating as feudatories (likely of the Kushanas) in the Prayaga-Saketa-Magadha belt, the lineage began with **Sri Gupta** and **Ghatotkacha**, before **Chandragupta I (319–335 CE)** assumed the imperial title *Maharajadhiraja*, founded the **Gupta Era (319–320 CE)**, and married Lichchhavi princess **Kumaradevi** (celebrated on Joint King-and-Queen gold *Dinara* coins) (NCERT).
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture	**Samudragupta (335–380 CE) and the Prayag Prasasti**	Composed in mixed prose-and-verse Sanskrit (*Champu Kavya*) by his court poet, minister of peace and war (*Sandhivigrahika*), and *Mahadandanayaka* **Harishena** on the Ashokan pillar at Prayagraj (Allahabad), the *Prayag Prasasti* details Samudragupta's policy according to geopolitical zones:
Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics	**Aryavarta (9 Rulers of North India)**	Policy of **Prasabhoddharana** (complete uprooting and direct annexation).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)	**Dakshinapatha (12 Rulers of South India, including Vishnugopa of Kanchi)**	Policy of **Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha** (capture, liberation, and reinstatement as tributary vassals).
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture	**Atavika Rajyas (Forest Kingdoms of Central India)**	Reduced to servitude (*Paricharika-krita*).
Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics	**Five Frontier Kingdoms**	(Samatata, Davaka, Kamarupa, Nepala, Kartripura) & **Nine Republican Clans** (Malavas, Arjunayanas, Yaudheyas, Madrakas, Abhiras): Paid tribute (*Sarva-karadana*) and homage (ASI).
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)	**Chandragupta II "Vikramaditya" (380–415 CE) and the Vakataka Alliance**	Defeated the last Western Kshatrapa Shaka ruler **Rudrasimha III**, earning the title *Shakari* and issuing silver coins on the Western Kshatrapa pattern. He gave his daughter **Prabhavatigupta** (born of Kuberanaga) in marriage to Vakataka king **Rudrasena II** (Nandivardhana-Pravarapura branch). The **Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription** (Delhi) of King "Chandra" testifies to rust-resistant Gupta metallurgy, while Chinese Buddhist pilgrim **Fa-Hien (Faxian, 399–414 CE)** visited India during his reign (National Museum).
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture	**Kumaragupta I and Skandagupta**	**Kumaragupta I (415–455 CE)** (*Mahendraditya*) founded the **Nalanda Mahavihara** and faced the **Pushyamitras** toward the end of his reign. **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)** (*Kramaditya*) heroically repulsed the ferocious invasion of the **Hunas (Hephthalites / White Huns)** (recorded in his **Bhitari Pillar Inscription**, Ghazipur) and repaired the Sudarshana Lake through governor Parnadatta and Chakrapalita (**Junagadh Inscription**) (ASI).
Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics	**Decentralized Feudal Governance**	Unlike the hyper-centralized Mauryan state, Gupta administration relied on hereditary officials (*Kumaramatyas* and *Sandhivigrahikas*), autonomous merchant/artisan guilds (*Shrenis*, *Nigamas*, *Sarthavahas* whose silk-weavers' guild is immortalized in the **Mandsaur Inscription of 436/473 CE**), and extensive tax-free religious land grants (**Agrahara** and **Brahmadeya**), which transferred fiscal and judicial rights and fostered **Indian Feudalism (*Samanta* system)**. Provinces (**Bhuktis** under *Uparikas*) were divided into districts (**Vishayas** under *Vishayapatis* assisted by a *Nagarashreshthin*, *Sarthavaha*, *Prathamakulika*, and *Prathamakayastha* as recorded in the **Damodarpur Copper Plates**) (NCERT).
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)	**Aryabhata (b. 476 CE)**	Authored the *Aryabhatiya* and *Surya Siddhanta*; calculated $\pi \approx 3.1416$ and the solar year as 365.258 days, explained solar and lunar eclipses scientifically via planetary shadows (rejecting Rahu-Ketu mythology), and postulated Earth's rotation on its own axis (Indian Culture Portal).
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture	**Varahamihira (6th Century CE)**	Authored the *Panchasiddhantika* (five astronomical systems including *Romaka* and *Paulisa*) and the encyclopaedic *Brihat Samhita*.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Gupta Provincial-District Hierarchy, Taxation Terms, and Scientific Classics	**Brahmagupta (b. 598 CE)**	Authored the *Brahmasphutasiddhanta* and *Khandakhadyaka* (formal rules for operational mathematics with zero and negative numbers).
Imperial Gupta Chronology and Political Campaigns (319 CE – 550 CE)	**Medical & Literary Works**	**Sushruta** (*Sushruta Samhita* on plastic surgery/rhinoplasty and cataract surgery), **Vagbhata** (*Ashtanga Hridaya*), **Nagarjuna** (chemistry/metallurgy), **Dhanvantari**, **Amarasimha** (*Amarakosha* Sanskrit lexicon), **Vishakhadatta** (*Mudrarakshasa* and *Devichandraguptam*), **Shudraka** (*Mrichchhakatika* — "The Little Clay Cart"), and **Kalidasa** (*Abhijnanashakuntalam*, *Vikramorvashiya*, *Malavikagnimitram*, *Raghuvamsha*, *Kumarasambhava*, *Meghaduta*, *Ritusamhara*) (NCERT).
Administration, Agrarian Feudalism, Science, and Nagara Temple Architecture	**Hierarchy of Gupta Territorial Administration**	The Empire was partitioned into **Deshas** (governed by *Goptas*) or **Bhuktis** (provinces governed by **Uparikas** appointed directly by the Emperor), which were subdivided into **Vishayas** (districts headed by **Vishayapatis**), **Vithis** / **Pethakas** / **Santakas** (sub-districts), and **Gramas** (villages administered by the **Gramika** / **Gramadhyaksha** with village elders called **Mahattaras** or **Ashtakuladhikaranas**) (NCERT).

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Origins and Early Rulers): Originating as feudatories (likely of the Kushanas) in the Prayaga-Saketa-Magadha belt, the lineage began with **Sri Gupta** and **Ghatotkacha**, before **Chandragupta I (319–335 CE)** assumed the imperial title *Maharajadhiraja*, founded the **Gupta Era (319–320 CE)**, and married Lichchhavi princess **Kumaradevi** (celebrated on Joint King-and-Queen gold *Dinara* coins) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Samudragupta (335–380 CE) and the Prayag Prasasti): Composed in mixed prose-and-verse Sanskrit (*Champu Kavya*) by his court poet, minister of peace and war (*Sandhivigrahika*), and *Mahadandanayaka* **Harishena** on the Ashokan pillar at Prayagraj (Allahabad), the *Prayag Prasasti* details Samudragupta's policy according to geopolitical zones:

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Aryavarta (9 Rulers of North India)): Policy of **Prasabhoddharana** (complete uprooting and direct annexation).

Statement-II (Dakshinapatha (12 Rulers of South India, including Vishnugopa of Kanchi)): Policy of **Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha** (capture, liberation, and reinstatement as tributary vassals).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Atavika Rajyas (Forest Kingdoms of Central India)): Reduced to servitude (*Paricharika-krita*).

Statement-II (Five Frontier Kingdoms): (Samatata, Davaka, Kamarupa, Nepala, Kartripura) & **Nine Republican Clans** (Malavas, Arjunayanas, Yaudheyas, Madrakas, Abhiras): Paid tribute (*Sarva-karadana*) and homage (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Chandragupta II "Vikramaditya" (380–415 CE) and the Vakataka Alliance): Defeated the last Western Kshatrapa Shaka ruler **Rudrasimha III**, earning the title *Shakari* and issuing silver coins on the Western Kshatrapa pattern. He gave his daughter **Prabhavatigupta** (born of Kuberanaga) in marriage to Vakataka king **Rudrasena II** (Nandivardhana-Pravarapura branch). The **Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription** (Delhi) of King "Chandra" testifies to rust-resistant Gupta metallurgy, while Chinese Buddhist pilgrim **Fa-Hien (Faxian, 399–414 CE)** visited India during his reign (National Museum).

Statement-II (Kumaragupta I and Skandagupta): **Kumaragupta I (415–455 CE)** (*Mahendraditya*) founded the **Nalanda Mahavihara** and faced the **Pushyamitras** toward the end of his reign. **Skandagupta (455–467 CE)** (*Kramaditya*) heroically repulsed the ferocious invasion of the **Hunas (Hephthalites / White Huns)** (recorded in his **Bhitari Pillar Inscription**, Ghazipur) and repaired the Sudarshana Lake through governor Parnadatta and Chakrapalita (**Junagadh Inscription**) (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Decentralized Feudal Governance): Unlike the hyper-centralized Mauryan state, Gupta administration relied on hereditary officials (*Kumaramatyas* and *Sandhivigrahikas*), autonomous merchant/artisan guilds (*Shrenis*, *Nigamas*, *Sarthavahas* whose silk-weavers' guild is immortalized in the **Mandsaur Inscription of 436/473 CE**), and extensive tax-free religious land grants (**Agrahara** and **Brahmadeya**), which transferred fiscal and judicial rights and fostered **Indian Feudalism (*Samanta* system)**. Provinces (**Bhuktis** under *Uparikas*) were divided into districts (**Vishayas** under *Vishayapatis* assisted by a *Nagarashreshthin*, *Sarthavaha*, *Prathamakulika*, and *Prathamakayastha* as recorded in the **Damodarpur Copper Plates**) (NCERT).

Statement-II (Aryabhata (b. 476 CE)): Authored the *Aryabhatiya* and *Surya Siddhanta;* calculated $\pi \approx 3.1416$ and the solar year as 365.258 days, explained solar and lunar eclipses scientifically via planetary shadows (rejecting Rahu-Ketu mythology), and postulated Earth's rotation on its own axis (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Varahamihira (6th Century CE)): Authored the *Panchasiddhantika* (five astronomical systems including *Romaka* and *Paulisa*) and the encyclopaedic *Brihat Samhita*.

Statement-II (Brahmagupta (b. 598 CE)): Authored the *Brahmasphutasiddhanta* and *Khandakhadyaka* (formal rules for operational mathematics with zero and negative numbers).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8: Post-Gupta Period — Harshavardhana, Chalukyas, Pallavas & Early Tripartite Polities

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: Post-Gupta Period — Harshavardhana, Chalukyas, Pallavas & Early Tripartite Polities

Key Study Pillar 1
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)

Key Study Pillar 2
Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas

Key Study Pillar 3
Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture

8.1 Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)

• **Rise of Harsha:** Following the assassination of his elder brother **Rajyavardhana** by **Shashanka** (King of Gauda in Bengal, who also cut down the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya) and the imprisonment of his sister **Rajyashri** (widow of Maukhari ruler **Grahavarman** of Kannauj), **Harshavardhana (*Siladitya*)** ascended the throne in **606 CE** (founding the *Harsha Era*) and unified **Thanesar (Sthanvishvara)** and **Kannauj (Kanyakubja)** (NCERT).

• **Literary and Epigraphic Sources:** Documented by court poet **Banabhatta** in the *Harshacharita* and *Kadambari*, Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang, 629–645 CE)** in his travelogue **Si-Yu-Ki**, and Harsha's own **Banskhera and Madhuban Copper Plates**. Harsha himself authored three Sanskrit dramas: **Priyadarshika, Ratnavali, and Nagananda** (Indian Culture Portal).

• **Battle of the Narmada and Assemblies:** Harsha's southward imperial march was decisively halted on the banks of the **Narmada River** (c. 618–619 CE) by the Badami Chalukya monarch **Pulakeshin II**, recorded in the **Aihole Prasasti (634 CE)** composed in Sanskrit by the Jaina poet **Ravikirti**. Hiuen Tsang attended two grand assemblies convened by Harsha in 643 CE: the **Kannauj Religious Assembly** (honouring Mahayana Buddhism) and the quinquennial **Prayaga Mahamoksha Parishad** (charitable distribution of royal wealth) (ASI).

8.2 Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas

• **Badami (Vatapi) Chalukyas (543 CE – 753 CE):** Founded as a sovereign power by **Pulakeshin I** at Vatapi (Bagalkot, Karnataka). **Pulakeshin II** subdued the Kadambas of Banavasi, Gangas of Talakad, and Mauryas of Konkan, defeated Harsha on the Narmada, and defeated Pallava king **Mahendravarman I** before being slain in **642 CE** when Mahendravarman's son **Narasimhavarman I ("Vatapikonda")** stormed Badami. Chalukya architecture pioneered the **Vesara style** at **Aihole** ("Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture" — Lad Khan Temple, Durga Temple with apsidal plan), **Badami** (rock-cut caves), and **Pattadakal** (Virupaksha and Mallikarjuna temples built by Queen Lokamahadevi and Trailokyamahadevi) (ASI).

• **Pallavas of Kanchipuram (6th–9th Century CE): Mahendravarman I** (author of the Sanskrit farce *Mattavilasa Prahasana*, converted from Jainism to Shaivism by saint **Appar**) initiated rock-cut cave temples (*Mandapas*). **Narasimhavarman I (*Mamalla*)** founded **Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)**, carving the monolithic **Pancha Rathas** and the colossal open-air bas-relief *Descent of the Ganges* / *Arjuna's Penance*, and

dispatched two naval expeditions to reinstate Prince Manavamma in Sri Lanka. **Narasimhavarman II (*Rajasimha*)** transitioned to structural stone **Dravida** temples, constructing the **Shore Temple at Mamallapuram** and the **Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram**, while patronizing Sanskrit scholar **Dandin** (*Dashakumaracharita*) (National Museum).

• **Imperial Chola Preview (850 CE – 1279 CE):** Revived by **Vijayalaya** at Thanjavur; **Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE)** conquered northern Sri Lanka, Maldives, and built the **Brihadishvara (Rajarajeshvara) Temple** at Thanjavur; **Rajendra I (1014–1044 CE)** conquered the whole of Sri Lanka, led a victorious expedition to the Ganga (*Gangaikondachola*, founding **Gangaikondacholapuram**), and launched a naval campaign against the **Srivijaya Empire** (Sailendra dynasty of Kedah/Sumatra-Malaya). Under **Parantaka I's Uttaramerur Inscriptions (919 & 921 CE)**, autonomous village assemblies (**Ur, Sabha/Mahasabha, and Nagaram**) elected **Variyam** (executive committees) via the **Kudavolai** (palm-leaf pot-ticket lottery) system (ASI).

8.3 Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture

• **Evolution of Indian Temple Styles (*Shilpashastras*):** Canonical architectural texts (*Mayamata, Manasara, Samarangana Sutradhara*) classify Hindu temples into three primary orders based on geographical distribution and superstructure geometry (NCERT):

1. **Nagara Style (North India — Himalayas to Vindhyas):** Built on a raised stone platform (**Jagati**) without elaborate boundary walls, featuring a cruciform floor plan, a sequence of pillared halls (*Ardha-Mandapa, Mandapa, Maha-Mandapa*), and a curvilinear beehive tower (**Rekha-Prasada / Latina Shikhara**), a stepped pyramidal roof (**Phamsana**), or a vaulted wagon-roof (**Valabhi**), crowned by a ribbed disc (**Amalaka**) and water-pot finial (**Kalasha**).

2. **Dravida Style (South India — Krishna River to Kanyakumari):** Enclosed within high concentric compound walls (**Prakaras**) pierced by monumental gateway towers (**Gopurams**), featuring a stepped pyramidal tower (**Vimana**) over the *Garbhagriha* crowned by an octagonal dome-shaped capstone (**Shikhara / Stupika**), a sacred water tank (**Kalyani / Pushkarini**), and *Dvarapalas* (fierce doorkeepers) guarding the sanctum (unlike Nagara temples where river goddesses **Ganga and Yamuna** flank the sanctum doorway) (ASI).

3. **Vesara (Karnata-Dravida) Style (Deccan — Vindhyas to Krishna River):** Hybridized under the **Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, and Hoysalas** (stella/star-shaped *Jagati* platforms and intricate soapstone carvings at **Belur, Halebidu, and Somnathpur**) (Indian Culture Portal).

Architectural Feature	Nagara Style (North India)	Dravida Style (South India)	Vesara / Hoysala Style (Deccan)	Official Source
Sanctum Superstructure	Curvilinear **Shikhara** (*Latina, Sekhari, Bhumija*)	Stepped Pyramidal **Vimana** with octagonal *Stupika*	Reduced *Vimana* height with ornate bell-shaped/stellate projections	NCERT
Crowning Element	Fluted **Amalaka** disc & **Kalasha**	Octagonal/polygonal domical **Shikhara**	Lotus-bud / *Kalasha* over merged tiers	ASI

Architectural Feature	Nagara Style (North India)	Dravida Style (South India)	Vesara / Hoysala Style (Deccan)	Official Source
Sanctum Doorway Guardians	River Goddesses **Ganga** (on Makara) & **Yamuna** (on Kurma)	Fierce **Dvarapalas** & *Bhuta-ganas*	Intricate *Makara-torana* lintels & perforated screens (*Jalis*)	National Museum
Type Examples	Khajuraho, Konark, Modhera, Lingaraja, Jagannath Puri	Mamallapuram Shore, Kanchi Kailasanatha, Thanjavur Brihadishvara	Pattadakal Virupaksha, Halebidu Hoysaleswara, Somnathpur Keshava	IUC Academy

• **Hiuen Tsang's Fourfold Allocation of Harsha's State Revenues:** Recorded in *Si-Yu-Ki* that royal income from crown lands was partitioned into four parts: (1) **1/4th for state administrative and ceremonial expenditure**, (2) **1/4th for paying high public ministers and officials**, (3) **1/4th for rewarding intellectual scholars and disputants**, and (4) **1/4th for charitable gifts to Buddhist and Brahmanical sects** (NCERT).

• **Chola Local Assemblies — Ur, Sabha, and Nagaram:** (1) **Ur**: general assembly of tax-paying non-Brahmana peasant proprietors in *Vellanvagai* villages; (2) **Sabha (Mahasabha)**: exclusive assembly of adult Brahmana landowners (*Perumakkal*) in tax-free *Brahmadeya* / *Chaturvedimangalam* villages operating through executive *Variyams* (*Eri-variyam* for tanks, *Thotta-variyam* for gardens, *Pon-variyam* for gold); and (3) **Nagaram**: assembly of merchant guilds (*Manigramam*, *Ayyavole-500* / *Ainurruvar*, *Nanadesis*) in commercial towns (NCERT).

• **Chola Land Grant Categories Recorded on Temple Walls: Vellanvagai** (land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors), **Brahmadeya** (land gifted to Brahmanas), **Shalabhoga** (land for maintenance of a school), **Devadana / Tirunamattukkani** (land gifted to temples), and **Pallichchhandam** (land donated to Jaina institutions) (UPSC).

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Harsha's North Indian Consolidation at Kannauj (606 CE) vs. Pulakeshin II's Deccan Ascendancy at Vatapi

STEP 2
Narmada Frontier Equilibrium (618 CE) & Pallava-Chalukya Rivalry (Narasimhavarman I's 642 CE Capture of Vatapi)

STEP 3
Architectural Evolution from Rock-Cut Mandapas/ Rathas (Mamallapuram) to Structural Dravida & Vesara Temples (Kanchi & Pattadakal)

STEP 4
Imperial Chola Maritime Hegemony (Rajaraja I & Rajendra I) & Uttaramerur Democratic Sabhas

Dynasty & Monarch	Capital / Key Inscription	Architectural Masterpieces & Literary Works	Key Military & Administrative Achievements	Official Reference
Pushyabhuti — Harshavardhana	Thanesar & Kannauj (Banskhera Plate)	Authored *Ratnavali*, *Priyadarshika*, *Nagananda*; Banabhatta wrote *Harshacharita*	Patronized Nalanda (under Abbot **Shilabhadra**); diplomatic mission to Tang Emperor Tai Tsung	NCERT

Dynasty & Monarch	Capital / Key Inscription	Architectural Masterpieces & Literary Works	Key Military & Administrative Achievements	Official Reference
Badami Chalukya — Pulakeshin II	Vatapi / Badami (**Aihole Inscription**, 634 CE by Ravikirti)	Aihole (Durga, Lad Khan, Meguti Jain temples), Badami Caves, Pattadakal	Defeated Harsha on the Narmada (*Parameshvara*); exchanged embassies with Persian King Khusrau II	ASI
Pallava — Mahendravarman I & Narasimhavarman I	Kanchipuram (**Mandagapattu** & Vatapi Inscriptions)	*Mattavilasa Prahasana*; Pancha Rathas & *Arjuna's Penance* at Mamallapuram	Titles *Vichitrachitta*, *Mattavilasa*, *Chitrakarapuli* (Mahendra I); *Mamalla* & *Vatapikonda* (Narasimha I)	Indian Culture Portal
Pallava — Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)	Kanchipuram	**Shore Temple** (Mamallapuram) & **Kailasanatha Temple** (Kanchi)	Transition from rock-cut monoliths to structural stone Dravida temples; embassy to China	ASI
Imperial Chola — Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra I	Thanjavur & Gangaikondacholapuram (**Uttaramerur Inscription**)	Brihadishvara Temple (Thanjavur), Nataraja Chola bronzes (*Cire Perdue*)	*Kudavolai* village self-government (*Sabha* & *Variyams*); naval conquest of Srivijaya (Kadaram)	National Museum

Did You Know?: In the **Mandagapattu Cave Inscription** (Villupuram, Tamil Nadu), Pallava king **Mahendravarman I** proudly styles himself **Vichitrachitta** ("Curious-Minded") because he carved a temple for Brahma, Ishvara (Shiva), and Vishnu directly out of living granite rock **without using brick, timber, metal, or mortar** (ASI).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse the **Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram** (a **structural** sandstone temple built by Pallava king **Narasimhavarman II Rajasimha**) with the **Kailasa Temple (Cave 16) at Ellora** (a **monolithic rock-cut** temple carved top-down from basalt cliff by **Rashtrakuta king Krishna I**) (UPSC).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the chronological sequence of the four Pallava architectural stages using **"M-M-R-N"** — **M**ahendravarman group (Rock-cut Mandapas) -> **M**amalla group (Monolithic Rathas) -> **R**ajasimha group (Structural Shore & Kailasanatha Temples) -> **N**andivarman group (Smaller structural Vaikuntha Perumal style) (IUC Academy).

Chapter *8* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)	**Rise of Harsha**	Following the assassination of his elder brother **Rajyavardhana** by **Shashanka** (King of Gauda in Bengal, who also cut down the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya) and the imprisonment of his sister **Rajyashri** (widow of Maukhari ruler **Grahavarman** of Kannauj), **Harshavardhana (*Siladitya*)** ascended the throne in **606 CE** (founding the *Harsha Era*) and unified **Thanesar (Sthanvishvara)** and **Kannauj (Kanyakubja)** (NCERT).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas	**Literary and Epigraphic Sources**	Documented by court poet **Banabhatta** in the *Harshacharita* and *Kadambari*, Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang, 629–645 CE)** in his travelogue **Si-Yu-Ki**, and Harsha's own **Banskhera and Madhuban Copper Plates**. Harsha himself authored three Sanskrit dramas: **Priyadarshika, Ratnavali, and Nagananda** (Indian Culture Portal).
Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture	**Battle of the Narmada and Assemblies**	Harsha's southward imperial march was decisively halted on the banks of the **Narmada River** (c. 618–619 CE) by the Badami Chalukya monarch **Pulakeshin II**, recorded in the **Aihole Prasasti (634 CE)** composed in Sanskrit by the Jaina poet **Ravikirti**. Hiuen Tsang attended two grand assemblies convened by Harsha in 643 CE: the **Kannauj Religious Assembly** (honouring Mahayana Buddhism) and the quinquennial **Prayaga Mahamoksha Parishad** (charitable distribution of royal wealth) (ASI).
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)	**Badami (Vatapi) Chalukyas (543 CE – 753 CE)**	Founded as a sovereign power by **Pulakeshin I** at Vatapi (Bagalkot, Karnataka). **Pulakeshin II** subdued the Kadambas of Banavasi, Gangas of Talakad, and Mauryas of Konkan, defeated Harsha on the Narmada, and defeated Pallava king **Mahendravarman I** before being slain in **642 CE** when Mahendravarman's son **Narasimhavarman I ("Vatapikonda")** stormed Badami. Chalukya architecture pioneered the **Vesara style** at **Aihole** ("Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture" — Lad Khan Temple, Durga Temple with apsidal plan), **Badami** (rock-cut caves), and **Pattadakal** (Virupaksha and Mallikarjuna temples built by Queen Lokamahadevi and Trailokyamahadevi) (ASI).
Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas	**Pallavas of Kanchipuram (6th–9th Century CE)**	**Mahendravarman I** (author of the Sanskrit farce *Mattavilasa Prahasana*, converted from Jainism to Shaivism by saint **Appar**) initiated rock-cut cave temples (*Mandapas*). **Narasimhavarman I (*Mamalla*)** founded **Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)**, carving the monolithic **Pancha Rathas** and the colossal open-air bas-relief *Descent of the Ganges / Arjuna's Penance*, and dispatched two naval expeditions to reinstate Prince Manavamma in Sri Lanka. **Narasimhavarman II (*Rajasimha*)** transitioned to structural stone **Dravida** temples, constructing the **Shore Temple at Mamallapuram** and the **Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram**, while patronizing Sanskrit scholar **Dandin** (*Dashakumaracharita*) (National Museum).
Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture	**Imperial Chola Preview (850 CE – 1279 CE)**	Revived by **Vijayalaya** at Thanjavur; **Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE)** conquered northern Sri Lanka, Maldives, and built the **Brihadishvara (Rajarajeshvara) Temple** at Thanjavur; **Rajendra I (1014–1044 CE)** conquered the whole of Sri Lanka, led a victorious expedition to the Ganga (*Gangaikondachola*, founding **Gangaikondacholapuram**), and launched a naval campaign against the **Srivijaya Empire** (Sailendra dynasty of Kedah/Sumatra-Malaya). Under **Parantaka I's Uttaramerur Inscriptions (919 & 921 CE)**, autonomous village assemblies (**Ur, Sabha/Mahasabha, and Nagaram**) elected **Variyam** (executive committees) via the **Kudavolai** (palm-leaf pot-ticket lottery) system (ASI).
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)	**Evolution of Indian Temple Styles (*Shilpashastras*)**	* *Canonical architectural texts* (Mayamata, Manasara, Samarangana Sutradhara*) classify Hindu temples into three primary orders based on geographical distribution and superstructure geometry (NCERT):

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (NCERT Official Textbooks)
Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas	**Nagara Style (North India — Himalayas to Vindhyas)**	Built on a raised stone platform (**Jagati**) without elaborate boundary walls, featuring a cruciform floor plan, a sequence of pillared halls (*Ardha-Mandapa*, *Mandapa*, *Maha-Mandapa*), and a curvilinear beehive tower (**Rekha-Prasada / Latina Shikhara**), a stepped pyramidal roof (**Phamsana**), or a vaulted wagon-roof (**Valabhi**), crowned by a ribbed disc (**Amalaka**) and water-pot finial (**Kalasha**).
Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture	**Dravida Style (South India — Krishna River to Kanyakumari)**	Enclosed within high concentric compound walls (**Prakaras**) pierced by monumental gateway towers (**Gopurams**), featuring a stepped pyramidal tower (**Vimana**) over the *Garbhagriha* crowned by an octagonal dome-shaped capstone (**Shikhara / Stupika**), a sacred water tank (**Kalyani / Pushkarini**), and *Dvarapalas* (fierce doorkeepers) guarding the sanctum (unlike Nagara temples where river goddesses **Ganga and Yamuna** flank the sanctum doorway) (**ASI**).
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)	**Vesara (Karnata-Dravida) Style (Deccan — Vindhyas to Krishna River)**	Hybridized under the **Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, and Hoysalas** (stella/star-shaped *Jagati* platforms and intricate soapstone carvings at **Belur, Halebidu, and Somnathpur**) (**Indian Culture Portal**).
Badami Chalukyas, Pallavas of Kanchi, and Imperial Cholas	**Hiuen Tsang's Fourfold Allocation of Harsha's State Revenues**	Recorded in *Si-Yu-Ki* that royal income from crown lands was partitioned into four parts: (1) **1/4th for state administrative and ceremonial expenditure**, (2) **1/4th for paying high public ministers and officials**, (3) **1/4th for rewarding intellectual scholars and disputants**, and (4) **1/4th for charitable gifts to Buddhist and Brahmanical sects** (**NCERT**).
Comparative Morphology of Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara Temple Architecture	**Chola Local Assemblies — Ur, Sabha, and Nagaram**	(1) **Ur**: general assembly of tax-paying non-Brahmana peasant proprietors in *Vellanvagai* villages; (2) **Sabha (Mahasabha)**: exclusive assembly of adult Brahmana landowners (*Perumakkal*) in tax-free *Brahmadeya* / *Chaturvedimangalam* villages operating through executive *Variyams* (*Eri-variyam* for tanks, *Thotta-variyam* for gardens, *Pon-variyam* for gold); and (3) **Nagaram**: assembly of merchant guilds (*Manigramam*, *Ayyavole-500* / *Ainurruvar*, *Nanadesis*) in commercial towns (**NCERT**).
Pushyabhutis of Thanesar-Kannauj and Harshavardhana (606 CE – 647 CE)	**Chola Land Grant Categories Recorded on Temple Walls**	**Vellanvagai** (land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors), **Brahmadeya** (land gifted to Brahmanas), **Shalabhoga** (land for maintenance of a school), **Devadana / Tirunamattukkani** (land gifted to temples), and **Pallichchhandam** (land donated to Jaina institutions) (**UPSC**).

Chapter *8* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Rise of Harsha): Following the assassination of his elder brother **Rajyavardhana** by **Shashanka** (King of Gauda in Bengal, who also cut down the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya) and the imprisonment of his sister **Rajyashri** (widow of Maukhari ruler **Grahavarman** of Kannauj), **Harshavardhana (*Siladitya*)** ascended the throne in **606 CE** (founding the *Harsha Era*) and unified **Thanesar (Sthanvishvara)** and **Kannauj (Kanyakubja)** (NCERT).

Statement-II (Literary and Epigraphic Sources): Documented by court poet **Banabhatta** in the *Harshacharita* and *Kadambari*, Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang, 629–645 CE)** in his travelogue **Si-Yu-Ki**, and Harsha's own **Banskhera and Madhuban Copper Plates**. Harsha himself authored three Sanskrit dramas: **Priyadarshika, Ratnavali, and Nagananda** (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Battle of the Narmada and Assemblies): Harsha's southward imperial march was decisively halted on the banks of the **Narmada River** (c. 618–619 CE) by the Badami Chalukya monarch **Pulakeshin II**, recorded in the **Aihole Prasasti (634 CE)** composed in Sanskrit by the Jaina poet **Ravikirti**. Hiuen Tsang attended two grand assemblies convened by Harsha in 643 CE: the **Kannauj Religious Assembly** (honouring Mahayana Buddhism) and the quinquennial **Prayaga Mahamoksha Parishad** (charitable distribution of royal wealth) (ASI).

Statement-II (Badami (Vatapi) Chalukyas (543 CE – 753 CE)): Founded as a sovereign power by **Pulakeshin I** at Vatapi (Bagalkot, Karnataka). **Pulakeshin II** subdued the Kadambas of Banavasi, Gangas of Talakad, and Mauryas of Konkan, defeated Harsha on the Narmada, and defeated Pallava king **Mahendravarman I** before being slain in **642 CE** when Mahendravarman's son **Narasimhavarman I ("Vatapikonda")** stormed Badami. Chalukya architecture pioneered the **Vesara style** at **Aihole** ("Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture" — Lad Khan Temple, Durga Temple with apsidal plan), **Badami** (rock-cut caves), and **Pattadakal** (Virupaksha and Mallikarjuna temples built by Queen Lokamahadevi and Trailokyamahadevi) (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Pallavas of Kanchipuram (6th–9th Century CE)): **Mahendravarman I** (author of the Sanskrit farce *Mattavilasa Prahasana*, converted from Jainism to Shaivism by saint **Appar**) initiated rock-cut cave temples (*Mandapas*). **Narasimhavarman I (*Mamalla*)** founded **Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)**, carving the monolithic **Pancha Rathas** and the colossal open-air bas-relief *Descent of the Ganges / Arjuna's Penance*, and dispatched two naval expeditions to reinstate Prince Manavamma in Sri Lanka. **Narasimhavarman II (*Rajasimha*)** transitioned to structural stone **Dravida** temples, constructing the **Shore Temple at Mamallapuram** and the **Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram**, while patronizing Sanskrit scholar **Dandin** (*Dashakumaracharita*) (National Museum).

Statement-II (Imperial Chola Preview (850 CE – 1279 CE)): Revived by **Vijayalaya** at Thanjavur; **Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE)** conquered northern Sri Lanka, Maldives, and built the **Brihadishvara (Rajarajeshvara) Temple** at Thanjavur; **Rajendra I (1014–1044 CE)** conquered the whole of Sri Lanka, led a victorious expedition to the Ganga (*Gangaikondachola*, founding **Gangaikondacholapuram**), and launched a naval campaign against the **Srivijaya Empire** (Sailendra dynasty of Kedah/Sumatra-Malaya). Under **Parantaka I's Uttaramerur Inscriptions (919 & 921 CE)**, autonomous village assemblies (**Ur, Sabha/Mahasabha, and Nagaram**) elected **Variyam** (executive committees) via the **Kudavolai** (palm-leaf pot-ticket lottery) system (ASI).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Evolution of Indian Temple Styles (*Shilpashastras*)): * *Canonical architectural texts* (Mayamata, Manasara, Samarangana Sutradhara*) classify Hindu temples into three primary orders based on geographical distribution and superstructure geometry (NCERT):

Statement-II (Nagara Style (North India — Himalayas to Vindhyas)): Built on a raised stone platform (**Jagati**) without elaborate boundary walls, featuring a cruciform floor plan, a sequence of pillared halls (*Ardha-Mandapa*, *Mandapa*, *Maha-Mandapa*), and a curvilinear beehive tower (**Rekha-Prasada / Latina Shikhara**), a stepped pyramidal roof (**Phamsana**), or a vaulted wagon-roof (**Valabhi**), crowned by a ribbed disc (**Amalaka**) and water-pot finial (**Kalasha**).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Dravida Style (South India — Krishna River to Kanyakumari)): Enclosed within high concentric compound walls (**Prakaras**) pierced by monumental gateway towers (**Gopurams**), featuring a stepped pyramidal tower (**Vimana**) over the *Garbhagriha* crowned by an octagonal dome-shaped capstone (**Shikhara / Stupika**), a sacred water tank (**Kalyani / Pushkarini**), and *Dvarapalas* (fierce doorkeepers) guarding the sanctum (unlike Nagara temples where river goddesses **Ganga and Yamuna** flank the sanctum doorway) (ASI).

Statement-II (Vesara (Karnata-Dravida) Style (Deccan — Vindhyas to Krishna River)): Hybridized under the **Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, and Hoysalas** (stella/star-shaped *Jagati* platforms and intricate soapstone carvings at **Belur, Halebidu, and Somnathpur**) (Indian Culture Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Hiuen Tsang's Fourfold Allocation of Harsha's State Revenues): Recorded in *Si-Yu-Ki* that royal income from crown lands was partitioned into four parts: (1) **1/4th for state administrative and ceremonial expenditure**, (2) **1/4th for paying high public ministers and officials**, (3) **1/4th for rewarding intellectual scholars and disputants**, and (4) **1/4th for charitable gifts to Buddhist and Brahmanical sects** (NCERT).

Statement-II (Chola Local Assemblies — Ur, Sabha, and Nagaram): (1) **Ur**: general assembly of tax-paying non-Brahmana peasant proprietors in *Vellanvagai* villages; (2) **Sabha (Mahasabha)**: exclusive assembly of adult Brahmana landowners (*Perumakkal*) in tax-free *Brahmadeya* / *Chaturvedimangalam* villages operating through executive *Variyams* (*Eri-variyam* for tanks, *Thotta-variyam* for gardens, *Pon-variyam* for gold); and (3) **Nagaram**: assembly of merchant guilds (*Manigramam*, *Ayyavole-500* / *Ainurruvar*, *Nanadesis*) in commercial towns (NCERT).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy.**

Solved Exam Practice Questions (MCQs)

Practice Question #1 — Solved Exam MCQ

Q1. At which of the following prehistoric sites in India was the earliest archaic hominin cranial fossil discovered by Arun Sonakia in 1982? (A) Pallavaram (B) Hathnora (C) Bhimbetka (D) Attirampakkam **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** In 1982, geologist Arun Sonakia discovered the Narmada Human cranial fossil at Hathnora in Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram) district of Madhya Pradesh, representing the oldest known human fossil in the Indian subcontinent (ASI).

Practice Question #2 Solved Exam MCQ

Q2. Which of the following pairs of Mesolithic and Neolithic sites is correctly matched with its diagnostic archaeological discovery? (A) Bagor — Earliest domesticated rice husks (B) Burzahom — Subterranean pit-dwellings and dog burials with human masters (C) Chirand — Ashmounds of burnt cattle dung (D) Mehrgarh — Copper chariot hoard **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Burzahom (and Gufkral) in the Kashmir Valley revealed Neolithic subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey pottery, bone tools, and joint dog-human burials; Bagor is famous for Mesolithic animal domestication, Piklihal/Utnur for Neolithic ashmounds, and Daimabad for the Chalcolithic bronze chariot (NCERT).

Practice Question #3 Solved Exam MCQ

Q3. Which Mature Harappan urban settlement was uniquely divided into three fortified civic divisions (Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town) and featured a large 10-sign gypsum inscription board? (A) Kalibangan (B) Lothal (C) Chanhudaro (D) Dholavira **Answer: (D)** | **Explanation:** Dholavira (Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat), excavated by J. P. Joshi and R. S. Bisht, is the only Harappan city partitioned into three distinct spatial zones and renowned for rock-cut reservoirs and a 10-sign signboard inscription (ASI).

Practice Question #4 Solved Exam MCQ

Q4. With reference to the Indus Valley Civilization, the Mesopotamian cuneiform inscriptions of Sargon of Akkad refer to the Indus region by which of the following names? (A) Dilmun (B) Magan (C) Meluhha (D) Failaka **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Mesopotamian records mention maritime commerce with three regions: Dilmun (Bahrain), Magan (Oman/Makran), and Meluhha (the Indus Valley region), from which carnelian beads, ivory, lapis lazuli, timber, and peacocks were imported (NCERT).

Practice Question #5 Solved Exam MCQ

Q5. Which Harappan site lacked a fortified citadel and functioned as a specialized craft production center for steatite seals, shell bangles, and carnelian beads? (A) Banawali (B) Chanhudaro (C) Surkotada (D) Ropar **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Chanhudaro in Sindh (excavated by N. G. Majumdar and E. J. H. Mackay) is the only Harappan city without a citadel and served as an industrial hub for bead-making, shell-working, and seal manufacture (National Museum).

Practice Question #6 Solved Exam MCQ

Q6. Which animals are depicted on the famous Pashupati Mahadeva steatite seal unearthed at Mohenjodaro? (A) Lion, Horse, Bull, and Elephant (B) Elephant, Tiger, Rhinoceros, Buffalo, and two Deer (C) Cow, Tiger, Rhinoceros, and Camel (D) Bull, Unicorn, Lion, and Elephant **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** The Pashupati seal from Mohenjodaro depicts a three-faced yogic figure flanked by an elephant and a tiger on one side, a rhinoceros and a water buffalo on the other, and two antelopes/deer beneath the seat (National Museum).

Practice Question #7 Solved Exam MCQ

Q7. In the Rigveda, the famous *Dasharajna* (Battle of Ten Kings) fought by Bharata king Sudas is recorded in which Mandala and on the banks of which river? (A) Mandala III — River Vipasha (B) Mandala VII — River Parushni (C) Mandala IX — River Vitasta (D) Mandala X — River Shutudri **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Recorded in Mandala VII of the Rigveda, the Battle of Ten Kings was fought on the banks of the River Parushni (modern Ravi), where Sudas (guided by priest Vasishtha) defeated a ten-tribe coalition organized by Vishvamitra (NCERT).

Practice Question #8 Solved Exam MCQ

Q8. Which West Asian inscription dated to c. 1400 BCE invokes the four Vedic gods Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas as witnesses to a royal peace treaty? (A) Behistun Inscription (B) Naqsh-i-Rustam Inscription (C) Boghazkoi Inscription (D) Persepolis Inscription **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** The Boghazkoi clay-tablet treaty from Asia Minor (Turkey) between the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I and the Mitanni king Shattiwaza invokes Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas (**Indian Culture Portal**).

Practice Question #9 Solved Exam MCQ

Q9. The narrative of Videgha Mathava carrying the sacrificial fire (Agni Vaisvanara) eastward across the Sadanira (Gandak) river appears in which Vedic text? (A) Aitareya Brahmana (B) Satapatha Brahmana (C) Gopatha Brahmana (D) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** The Satapatha Brahmana (attached to the Shukla Yajurveda) records the eastward colonization of Kosala and Videha by Videgha Mathava and his priest Gotama Rahugana (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #10 Solved Exam MCQ

Q10. Which Upanishad is the source of India's national motto "*Satyameva Jayate*" ("Truth Alone Triumphs")? (A) Katha Upanishad (B) Chandogya Upanishad (C) Mundaka Upanishad (D) Kena Upanishad **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** "*Satyameva Jayate*" appears in Mantra 3.1.6 of the Mundaka Upanishad, which belongs to the Atharvaveda tradition (**Indian Culture Portal**).

Practice Question #11 Solved Exam MCQ

Q11. Which of the following pairs of the Six Orthodox Schools of Indian Philosophy (*Shad-Darshanas*) and their founders is NOT correctly matched? (A) Samkhya — Kapila (B) Nyaya — Gautama (C) Vaisheshika — Jaimini (D) Yoga — Patanjali **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Vaisheshika (atomic realism) was founded by Sage Kanada (Uluka), whereas Jaimini founded Purva Mimamsa (and Badarayana composed the Brahmasutras of Uttara Mimamsa / Vedanta) (**UPSC**).

Practice Question #12 Solved Exam MCQ

Q12. Which two of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas of the 6th century BCE functioned as non-monarchical oligarchic republics (*Gana-Sanghas*)? (A) Magadha and Kosala (B) Vajji and Malla (C) Vatsa and Avanti (D) Anga and Chedi **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** While Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti were monarchies, Vajji (capital Vaishali) and Malla (capitals Kushinagara and Pava) were oligarchic republics (*Gana-Sanghas*) (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #13 Solved Exam MCQ

Q13. Which Magadhan monarch deployed the innovative military engines *Rathamusala* (bladed chariot) and *Mahashilakantaka* (stone-hurling catapult) in his war against the Lichchhavis of Vaishali? (A) Bimbisara (B) Ajatashatru (C) Shishunaga (D) Mahapadma Nanda **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Ajatashatru (*Kunika*) of the Haryanka dynasty, assisted by his diplomatic minister Vassakara who sowed dissension among the Lichchhavis, utilized the *Rathamusala* and *Mahashilakantaka* to annex Vaishali (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #14 Solved Exam MCQ

Q14. In Buddhist philosophy, the doctrine of *Pratityasamutpada* refers to which of the following concepts? (A) Non-existence of an eternal soul (B) Dependent Origination (Twelve-linked chain of causation) (C) Eightfold Noble Path (D) Fourfold monastic discipline **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** *Pratityasamutpada* (Dependent Origination: "that being present, this comes to be") explains the causal chain of twelve links (*Nidanas*) connecting ignorance (*Avijja*) to rebirth and suffering (**Indian Culture Portal**).

Practice Question #15 Solved Exam MCQ

Q15. At which Buddhist Council was the *Abhidhamma Pitaka* (specifically the *Kathavatthu*) compiled under the presidency of Moggaliputta Tissa? (A) First Council at Rajagriha (B) Second Council at Vaishali (C) Third Council at Pataliputra (D) Fourth Council at Kashmir **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Convened c. 250 BCE at Ashokarama in Pataliputra under Emperor Ashoka and presided over by Moggaliputta Tissa, the Third Buddhist Council completed the Pali Tipitaka by adding the *Abhidhamma Pitaka* (ASI).

Practice Question #16 Solved Exam MCQ

Q16. Which vow was added as the fifth *Mahavrata* by the 24th Tirthankara Vardhamana Mahavira to the four vows earlier taught by the 23rd Tirthankara Parshvanatha? (A) Ahimsa (B) Aparigraha (C) Asteya (D) Brahmacharya **Answer: (D)** | **Explanation:** Parshvanatha taught four vows (*Chatur-yama*: Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Aparigraha); Mahavira added the fifth vow of *Brahmacharya* (complete celibacy) and advocated nudity (*Acailakya*) for ascetics (NCERT).

Practice Question #17 Solved Exam MCQ

Q17. Who founded the deterministic **Ajivika** sect in the 6th century BCE based on the philosophy of *Niyati* (absolute fate)? (A) Purana Kassapa (B) Makkhali Gosala (C) Pakudha Katyayana (D) Ajita Kesakambalin **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Makkhali Gosala, an early companion of Mahavira, founded the Ajivika sect whose central doctrine was *Niyati* (fate dictates everything; human effort cannot alter predetermined destiny) (UPSC).

Practice Question #18 Solved Exam MCQ

Q18. Under the 305 BCE treaty between Chandragupta Maurya and Seleucus I Nicator, which four satrapies were ceded to the Mauryan Empire? (A) Bactria, Sogdiana, Margiana, and Aria (B) Aria, Arachosia, Gedrosia, and Paropamisadae (C) Persis, Media, Susiana, and Carmania (D) Taxila, Ujjain, Tosali, and Suvarnagiri **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Seleucus ceded Aria (Herat), Arachosia (Kandahar), Gedrosia (Makran/Balochistan), and Paropamisadae (Kabul Valley/Hindu Kush) to Chandragupta Maurya (NCERT).

Practice Question #19 Solved Exam MCQ

Q19. In Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, what were the respective administrative functions of the **Samaharta** and the **Sannidhata**? (A) Chief Justice of Criminal Courts and Chief of Secret Service (B) Collector-General of Revenue and Chief Custodian of the State Treasury (C) Superintendent of Mines and Superintendent of Ports (D) Commander of Cavalry and Commander of Infantry **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** In Mauryan central administration, the *Samaharta* assessed and collected state revenues across departments, while the *Sannidhata* built and managed the royal treasury (*Kosha*) and state storehouses (NCERT).

Practice Question #20 Solved Exam MCQ

Q20. Which Ashokan Major Rock Edict explicitly describes the Kalinga War (261 BCE) and simultaneously names five contemporary Hellenistic (Greek) monarchs? (A) Major Rock Edict II (B) Major Rock Edict V (C) Major Rock Edict XII (D) Major Rock Edict XIII **Answer: (D)** | **Explanation:** Major Rock Edict XIII records Ashoka's remorse over the Kalinga War and claims victorious *Dhamma-vijaya* across the realms of Antiochus II Theos (Syria), Ptolemy II Philadelphus (Egypt), Antigonus Gonatas (Macedonia), Magas (Cyrene), and Alexander (Epirus/Corinth) (ASI).

Practice Question #21 Solved Exam MCQ

Q21. In which set of Ashokan inscriptions is the Emperor referred to by his personal name **"Ashoka"** rather than simply *Devanampiya Piyadassi*? (A) Girnar, Kalsi, Dhauli, and Jaugada (B) Maski, Gujjara, Nittur, and Udegolam (C) Shahbazgarhi, Mansehra, Sopara, and Erragudi (D) Rampurva, Lauriya-Nandangarh, and Topra **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** The personal name *Ashoka* appears in the Minor Rock Edicts at Maski (first discovered by C. Beadon in 1915), Gujjara, Nittur, and Udegolam (**ASI**).

Practice Question #22 Solved Exam MCQ

Q22. What is the central theme of Ashoka's **Rummindei Pillar Inscription** located in Lumbini? (A) Appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas (B) Warning against schism in the Buddhist Sangha (C) Commemoration of the Buddha's birthplace with exemption from *Bali* and reduction of *Bhaga* to 1/8th (D) Prohibition of animal sacrifice at royal festivals **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Erected in Ashoka's 20th regnal year at Lumbini, the Rummindei Pillar Inscription states "*Hida Budhe Jate Sakyamuniti*" ("Here the Buddha, Sage of the Shakyas, was born") and grants fiscal relief by abolishing *Bali* and cutting *Bhaga* to 1/8th (**National Museum**).

Practice Question #23 Solved Exam MCQ

Q23. Which Greek ambassador erected the **Besnagar (Vidisha) Garuda Pillar Inscription** in the 2nd century BCE, styling himself a *Parama-Bhagavata* devotee of Vasudeva? (A) Deimachus (B) Dionysius (C) Heliodorus (D) Apollodotus **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Heliodorus, resident of Taxila and ambassador of Indo-Greek king Antialcidas to the court of Shunga king Bhagabhadra at Vidisha, erected the Garuda Pillar in honour of Vasudeva (**ASI**).

Practice Question #24 Solved Exam MCQ

Q24. Which ruler issued the **Junagadh (Girnar) Rock Inscription (150 CE)** — the earliest long epigraph in chaste classical Sanskrit — recording the repair of the Sudarshana Lake without forced labour (*Vishti*)? (A) Nahapana (B) Rudradaman I (C) Gautamiputra Satakarni (D) Kanishka I **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Western Kshatrapa (Shaka) ruler Rudradaman I issued the Junagadh Rock Inscription in 150 CE, detailing how he financed the reconstruction of the breached Sudarshana Lake entirely out of his personal treasury without levying extra taxes or *Vishti* (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #25 Solved Exam MCQ

Q25. Which of the following scholars and texts were patronized at the court of the Kushana emperor **Kanishka I**? (A) Kalidasa, Varahamihira, and Amarasimha (B) Ashvaghosha, Nagarjuna, Vasumitra, and Charaka (C) Banabhatta, Mayura, and Bhavabhuti (D) Harishena, Virasena, and Vishakhadatta **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Kanishka I patronized Buddhist poet-playwright Ashvaghosha (*Buddhacharita*), Madhyamika philosopher Nagarjuna, 4th Council President Vasumitra, and medical authority Charaka (**National Museum**).

Practice Question #26 Solved Exam MCQ

Q26. Which dynasty initiated the practice of granting tax-free agricultural land accompanied by administrative and judicial immunities (*Parihara*) to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, as attested in the Nanaghat and Nashik inscriptions? (A) Mauryas (B) Shungas (C) Satavahanas (D) Kushanas **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** The Satavahanas of the Deccan (beginning with Naganika's Nanaghat Inscription and Gautamiputra Satakarni's Nashik caves) were the first Indian rulers to grant tax-free villages with immunity from royal police/troop entry (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #27 Solved Exam MCQ

Q27. In the Sangam Age, which Chola monarch defeated a confederacy of Cheras, Pandyas, and eleven Velir chieftains at the **Battle of Venni**, founded Puhar (Kaveripattinam), and constructed the **Kallanai (Grand Anicut)** dam across the Kaveri? (A) Elara (B) Karikala (C) Senguttuvan (D) Nedunjeliyan **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Celebrated in the Sangam poem *Pattinappalai*, Karikala Chola ("The Man with the Charred Leg") triumphed at Venni, developed Puhar port, and constructed the Kallanai irrigation dam (**Indian Culture Portal**).

Practice Question #28 Solved Exam MCQ

Q28. In the **Prayag Prasasti (Allahabad Pillar Inscription)** composed by Harishena, what policy did **Samudragupta** adopt toward the twelve rulers of **Dakshinapatha** (South India)? (A) *Prasabhoddharana* (violent uprooting and direct annexation) (B) *Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha* (capture, liberation, and reinstatement as tributary rulers) (C) Permanent matrimonial incorporation (D) Complete non-intervention **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Recognizing the logistical difficulty of directly governing distant peninsular territories from Pataliputra, Samudragupta practiced *Grahana* (capture), *Moksha* (liberation), and *Anugraha* (reinstatement upon paying tribute) toward the 12 Dakshinapatha kings (**ASI**).

Practice Question #29 Solved Exam MCQ

Q29. Which Gupta monarch assumed the title **Shakari** ("Destroyer of the Shakas") after defeating the last Western Kshatrapa ruler Rudrasimha III and annexing Malwa and Gujarat? (A) Samudragupta (B) Chandragupta II Vikramaditya (C) Kumaragupta I (D) Skandagupta **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Chandragupta II defeated Rudrasimha III c. 395–400 CE, gaining access to the western seaports of Bharuch (Barygaza), Sopara, and Cambay, and issuing silver coins featuring the Garuda emblem (**NCERT**).

Practice Question #30 Solved Exam MCQ

Q30. The **Bhitari Pillar Inscription** (Ghazipur district, Uttar Pradesh) records the decisive victory of which Gupta emperor over the invading **Hunas**? (A) Chandragupta I (B) Samudragupta (C) Kumaragupta I (D) Skandagupta **Answer: (D)** | **Explanation:** Skandagupta's Bhitari Pillar Inscription describes how he restored the fallen fortunes of the Gupta dynasty by defeating the Pushyamitras and repelling the fierce Huna invasion (**ASI**).

Practice Question #31 Solved Exam MCQ

Q31. Who among the following ancient Indian astronomers scientifically explained that solar and lunar eclipses are caused by the shadows of the Earth and Moon rather than by Rahu-Ketu, and proposed that the Earth rotates on its own axis? (A) Varahamihira (B) Aryabhata (C) Brahmagupta (D) Bhaskaracharya **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** In his *Aryabhatiya* (499 CE), Aryabhata demonstrated that the Earth rotates on its axis causing the apparent diurnal motion of the stars and explained eclipses through shadow geometry (**Indian Culture Portal**).

Practice Question #32 Solved Exam MCQ

Q32. The **Aihole Inscription (634 CE)**, composed by the Jaina poet Ravikirti at the Meguti Temple, celebrates the victory of **Pulakeshin II** over **Harshavardhana** on the banks of which river? (A) Godavari (B) Tapti (C) Narmada (D) Krishna **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** In the Aihole Prasasti, Ravikirti writes that Harsha's *Harsha* (joy) melted away in terror when his elephant phalanx fell in battle against Pulakeshin II on the Narmada River (**ASI**).

Practice Question #33 Solved Exam MCQ

Q33. Which Pallava monarch stormed the Chalukya capital **Vatapi (Badami)** in 642 CE, assumed the title **Vatapikonda**, and carved the monolithic **Pancha Rathas** at Mamallapuram? (A) Simhavishnu (B) Mahendravarman I (C) Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla) (D) Nandivarman II **Answer: (C)** | **Explanation:** Narasimhavarman I (*Mamalla*, 630–668 CE) avenged his father's defeat by capturing Vatapi with general Paranjothi (Siruthondar), assuming the title *Vatapikonda*, and founding the port and sculptural complex of Mamallapuram (ASI).

Practice Question #34 Solved Exam MCQ

Q34. Which pair of structural stone Dravida temples was built by the Pallava ruler **Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)**? (A) Brihadishvara Temple (Thanjavur) and Airavatesvara Temple (Darasuram) (B) Shore Temple (Mamallapuram) and Kailasanatha Temple (Kanchipuram) (C) Virupaksha Temple and Mallikarjuna Temple (Pattadakal) (D) Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh) and Bhitargaon Temple (Kanpur) **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Narasimhavarman II (*Rajasimha*, c. 700–728 CE) inaugurated structural stone temple architecture in Tamil Nadu by building the Shore Temple at Mamallapuram and the Kailasanatha (Rajasimheshvara) Temple at Kanchipuram (National Museum).

Practice Question #35 Solved Exam MCQ

Q35. The **Uttaramerur Inscriptions** (919 and 921 CE), detailing the qualifications, disqualifications, and *Kudavolai* lottery election procedure for village *Sabha* committees (*Variyams*), belong to the reign of which Chola monarch? (A) Vijayalaya (B) Parantaka I (C) Rajaraja I (D) Kulottunga I **Answer: (B)** | **Explanation:** Engraved on the walls of the Vaikuntha Perumal Temple at Uttaramerur (Chingleput, Tamil Nadu) during the 12th and 14th regnal years of **Parantaka I**, these inscriptions serve as the classic charter of Chola local self-government (NCERT).

Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions *36* to *75*)

Practice Question #36 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q36. With reference to Regional Culture and Core River Basin, which of the following is accurately matched with "Ahar-Banas"?

(A) Banas Valley (Rajasthan)
(B) Chambal & Narmada (MP)
(C) Tapi, Pravara & Bhima (Maharashtra)
(D) Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Ahar-Banas** (Regional Culture), the verified Core River Basin is **Banas Valley (Rajasthan)**. Furthermore, Ahar (*Tambavati*), Gilund, Balathal. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #37 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q37. With reference to Regional Culture and Core River Basin, which of the following is accurately matched with "Kayatha & Malwa"?

(A) Tapi, Pravara & Bhima (Maharashtra)
(B) Chambal & Narmada (MP)
(C) Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab
(D) *500,000 – 100,000* BCE

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Kayatha & Malwa** (Regional Culture), the verified Core River Basin is **Chambal & Narmada (MP)**. Furthermore, Kayatha, Eran, Tripuri, Navdatoli. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #38 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q38. With reference to Regional Culture and Core River Basin, which of the following is accurately matched with "Savalda & Jorwe"?

(A) Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab
(B) 500,000 – 100,000 BCE
(C) Tapi, Pravara & Bhima (Maharashtra)
(D) 100,000 – 40,000 BCE

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Savalda & Jorwe** (Regional Culture), the verified Core River Basin is **Tapi, Pravara & Bhima (Maharashtra)**. Furthermore, Kaothe, Daimabad, Inamgaon, Nevasa. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #39 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q39. With reference to Regional Culture and Core River Basin, which of the following is accurately matched with "OCP & Copper Hoards"?

(A) 500,000 – 100,000 BCE
(B) 100,000 – 40,000 BCE
(C) 40,000 – 10,000 BCE
(D) Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **OCP & Copper Hoards** (Regional Culture), the verified Core River Basin is **Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab**. Furthermore, Saipai (Etawah), Atranjikhera, Jodhpura. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #40 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q40. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Lower Palaeolithic"?

(A) 500,000 – 100,000 BCE
(B) 100,000 – 40,000 BCE
(C) 40,000 – 10,000 BCE
(D) 10,000 – 6,000 BCE

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Lower Palaeolithic** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **500,000 – 100,000 BCE**. Furthermore, Quartzite hand-axes, cleavers, pebble choppers. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #41 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q41. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Middle Palaeolithic"?

(A) 40,000 – 10,000 BCE
(B) 100,000 – 40,000 BCE
(C) 10,000 – 6,000 BCE
(D) 7,000 – 1,000 BCE

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Middle Palaeolithic** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **100,000 – 40,000 BCE**. Furthermore, Chert and jasper flake scrapers, borers, points. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #42 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q42. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Upper Palaeolithic"?

(A) 10,000 – 6,000 BCE
(B) 7,000 – 1,000 BCE
(C) 40,000 – 10,000 BCE
(D) 2,500 – 700 BCE

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Upper Palaeolithic** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **40,000 – 10,000 BCE**. Furthermore, Blades, burins, bone harpoons, ostrich eggshell beads. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #43 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q43. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Mesolithic"?

(A) 7,000 – 1,000 BCE
(B) 2,500 – 700 BCE
(C) Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)
(D) 10,000 – 6,000 BCE

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Mesolithic** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **10,000 – 6,000 BCE**. Furthermore, Microliths (trapezes, lunates, micro-blades). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #44 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q44. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Neolithic"?

(A) 7,000 – 1,000 BCE
(B) 2,500 – 700 BCE
(C) Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)
(D) Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Neolithic** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **7,000 – 1,000 BCE**. Furthermore, Polished stone celts, bone needles, cord-impressed ware. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #45 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q45. With reference to Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase and Time Horizon, which of the following is accurately matched with "Chalcolithic (Ahar / Malwa / Jorwe)"?

(A) Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)
(B) 2,500 – 700 BCE
(C) Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)
(D) Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Chalcolithic (Ahar / Malwa / Jorwe)** (Prehistoric / Protohistoric Phase), the verified Time Horizon is **2,500 – 700 BCE**. Furthermore, Copper flat axes, black-and-red ware, spouted vessels. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #46 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q46. With reference to Raw Material and Primary Source Region(s), which of the following is accurately matched with "Copper & Bronze"?

(A) Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)
(B) Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast
(C) Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)
(D) Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Copper & Bronze** (Raw Material), the verified Primary Source Region(s) is **Khetri (Rajasthan) & Oman (*Magan*)**. Furthermore, Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Lothal. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #47 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q47. With reference to Raw Material and Primary Source Region(s), which of the following is accurately matched with "Carnelian & Agate"?

(A) Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast
(B) Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan
(C) Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)
(D) Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Carnelian & Agate** (Raw Material), the verified Primary Source Region(s) is **Ratanpur / Rajpipla (Narmada, Gujarat)**. Furthermore, Lothal & Chanhudaro. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #48 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q48. With reference to Raw Material and Primary Source Region(s), which of the following is accurately matched with "Marine Shell (*Turbinella pyrum*)"?

(A) Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast
(B) Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan
(C) Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)
(D) Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Marine Shell (*Turbinella pyrum*)** (Raw Material), the verified Primary Source Region(s) is **Gulf of Kutch & Makran Coast**. Furthermore, Nageshwar & Balakot. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #49 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q49. With reference to Raw Material and Primary Source Region(s), which of the following is accurately matched with "Lapis Lazuli & Steatite"?

(A) Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)
(B) Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan
(C) Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)
(D) Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Lapis Lazuli & Steatite** (Raw Material), the verified Primary Source Region(s) is **Badakhshan (Afghanistan) / Rajasthan-Balochistan**. Furthermore, Shortughai, Harappa, Mohenjodaro. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #50 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q50. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Harappa"?

(A) Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)
(B) Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)
(C) Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)
(D) Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Harappa** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Ravi River (Sahiwal, Pakistan)**. Furthermore, Daya Ram Sahni (1921). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #51 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q51. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Mohenjodaro"?

(A) Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)
(B) Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)
(C) Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)
(D) Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Mohenjodaro** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Indus River (Sindh, Pakistan)**. Furthermore, R. D. Banerji (1922). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #52 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q52. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Kalibangan"?

(A) Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)
(B) Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)
(C) Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)
(D) Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Kalibangan** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Ghaggar River (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)**. Furthermore, Amlanand Ghosh (1953), B. B. Lal & B. K. Thapar. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #53 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q53. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Lothal"?

(A) Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)
(B) Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)
(C) Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)
(D) Kutch (Gujarat)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Lothal** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Bhogava-Sabarmati confluence (Gujarat)**. Furthermore, S. R. Rao (1954). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #54 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q54. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Dholavira"?

(A) Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)
(B) Kutch (Gujarat)
(C) Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)
(D) Jhelum & Chenab

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Dholavira** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Luni / Khadir Bet (Kutch, Gujarat)**. Furthermore, J. P. Joshi (1967–68), R. S. Bisht (1990). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #55 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q55. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Rakhigarhi"?

(A) Kutch (Gujarat)
(B) Jhelum & Chenab
(C) Ravi & Beas
(D) Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Rakhigarhi** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Ghaggar-Hakra plain (Hisar, Haryana)**. Furthermore, Amarendra Nath, Vasant Shinde. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #56 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q56. With reference to Harappan Site and River / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Surkotada"?

(A) Kutch (Gujarat)
(B) Jhelum & Chenab
(C) Ravi & Beas
(D) Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Surkotada** (Harappan Site), the verified River / Location is **Kutch (Gujarat)**. Furthermore, J. P. Joshi (1964). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #57 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q57. With reference to Rigvedic River Name and Modern Identification, which of the following is accurately matched with "Vitasta & Asikni"?

(A) Ravi & Beas
(B) Jhelum & Chenab
(C) Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra
(D) Gandak & Kabul River

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Vitasta & Asikni** (Rigvedic River Name), the verified Modern Identification is **Jhelum & Chenab**. Furthermore, Western Punjab rivers; Alexander fought Porus on the *Hydaspes* (Vitasta). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #58 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q58. With reference to Rigvedic River Name and Modern Identification, which of the following is accurately matched with “Parushni & Vipasha”?

(A) Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra
(B) Gandak & Kabul River
(C) Ravi & Beas
(D) Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Parushni & Vipasha** (Rigvedic River Name), the verified Modern Identification is **Ravi & Beas**. Furthermore, Sudas won the *Dasharajna* battle on the Parushni; Indra freed the Vipasha. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #59 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q59. With reference to Rigvedic River Name and Modern Identification, which of the following is accurately matched with “Shutudri & Saraswati”?

(A) Gandak & Kabul River
(B) Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)
(C) Book of Chants (1,875 verses)
(D) Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Shutudri & Saraswati** (Rigvedic River Name), the verified Modern Identification is **Sutlej & Ghaggar-Hakra**. Furthermore, Saraswati hailed as *Naditama* ("Best of Rivers") and *Matetama*. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #60 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q60. With reference to Rigvedic River Name and Modern Identification, which of the following is accurately matched with “Sadanira & Kubha”?

(A) Gandak & Kabul River
(B) Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)
(C) Book of Chants (1,875 verses)
(D) Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Sadanira & Kubha** (Rigvedic River Name), the verified Modern Identification is **Gandak & Kabul River**. Furthermore, Videgha Mathava crossed the Sadanira into Videha; Kubha in Afghanistan. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #61 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q61. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with “Rigveda”?

(A) Book of Chants (1,875 verses)
(B) Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)
(C) Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)
(D) Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Rigveda** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Earliest Samhita (1,028 hymns)**. Furthermore, Hotri (Invocator of hymns). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #62 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q62. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Samaveda"?

(A) Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)
(B) Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)
(C) Book of Chants (1,875 verses)
(D) Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Samaveda** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Book of Chants (1,875 verses)**. Furthermore, Udgatri (Chanter of melodies). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #63 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q63. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Yajurveda"?

(A) Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)
(B) Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)
(C) Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)
(D) Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Yajurveda** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Sacrificial Formulas (Shukla & Krishna)**. Furthermore, Adhvaryu (Executor of ritual acts). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #64 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q64. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Atharvaveda"?

(A) Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)
(B) Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)
(C) Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)
(D) Jaimini / Badarayana

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Atharvaveda** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Spells, Medicine, Folk Beliefs (20 Kandas)**. Furthermore, Brahman (Supervisor of entire ritual). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #65 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q65. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Samkhya & Yoga"?

(A) Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)
(B) Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)
(C) Jaimini / Badarayana
(D) Champa, Girivraja/Rajagriha (later Pataliputra), Varanasi

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Samkhya & Yoga** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Kapila (Samkhya) / Patanjali (Yoga)**. Furthermore, Dualism of *Purusha* (consciousness) & *Prakriti* (matter); Eightfold *Ashtanga Yoga*. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #66 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q66. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Nyaya & Vaisheshika"?

(A) Jaimini / Badarayana
(B) Champa, Girivraja/Rajagriha (later Pataliputra), Varanasi
(C) Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)
(D) Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa), Vaishali, Kushinagara & Pava

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Nyaya & Vaisheshika** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Gautama / Kanada (Uluka)**. Furthermore, Logic & epistemology (*Pramanas*) / Atomic theory (*Paramanuvada*) of physical reality. (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #67 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q67. With reference to Vedic Text / Philosophical System and Associated Veda / Founder, which of the following is accurately matched with "Purva Mimamsa & Uttara Mimamsa"?

(A) Champa, Girivraja/Rajagriha (later Pataliputra), Varanasi
(B) Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa), Vaishali, Kushinagara & Pava
(C) Kausambi, Shuktimati, Indraprastha, Ahichchhatra & Kampilya
(D) Jaimini / Badarayana

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Purva Mimamsa & Uttara Mimamsa** (Vedic Text / Philosophical System), the verified Associated Veda / Founder is **Jaimini / Badarayana**. Furthermore, Vedic ritualism & dharma justification / Non-dualistic *Brahman* inquiry (*Brahmasutras*). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #68 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q68. With reference to Mahajanapada and Capital City, which of the following is accurately matched with "Anga, Magadha & Kashi"?

(A) Champa, Girivraja/Rajagriha (later Pataliputra), Varanasi
(B) Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa), Vaishali, Kushinagara & Pava
(C) Kausambi, Shuktimati, Indraprastha, Ahichchhatra & Kampilya
(D) Viratanagara, Mathura, Ujjayini & Mahishmati, Taxila, Poonch/Rajapura, Potana/Potali

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Anga, Magadha & Kashi** (Mahajanapada), the verified Capital City is **Champa, Girivraja/ Rajagriha (later Pataliputra), Varanasi**. Furthermore, Bhagalpur-Munger (Bihar), Patna-Gaya (Bihar), Varanasi (UP). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #69 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q69. With reference to Mahajanapada and Capital City, which of the following is accurately matched with "Kosala, Vajji & Malla"?

(A) Kausambi, Shuktimati, Indraprastha, Ahichchhatra & Kampilya
(B) Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa), Vaishali, Kushinagara & Pava
(C) Viratanagara, Mathura, Ujjayini & Mahishmati, Taxila, Poonch/Rajapura, Potana/Potali
(D) 483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Kosala, Vajji & Malla** (Mahajanapada), the verified Capital City is **Shravasti / Ayodhya (Saketa), Vaishali, Kushinagara & Pava**. Furthermore, Eastern UP (Awadh), North Bihar (Muzaffarpur), Deoria-Kushinagar (UP). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #70 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q70. With reference to Mahajanapada and Capital City, which of the following is accurately matched with "Vatsa, Chedi, Kuru & Panchala"?

(A) Viratanagara, Mathura, Ujjayini & Mahishmati, Taxila, Poonch/Rajapura, Potana/Potali
(B) 483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha
(C) Kausambi, Shuktimati, Indraprastha, Ahichchhatra & Kampilya
(D) 383 BCE — Vaishali

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Vatsa, Chedi, Kuru & Panchala** (Mahajanapada), the verified Capital City is **Kausambi, Shuktimati, Indraprastha, Ahichchhatra & Kampilya**. Furthermore, Prayagraj (UP), Bundelkhand, Delhi-Meerut, Rohilkhand (Bareilly-Farrukhabad). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #71 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q71. With reference to Mahajanapada and Capital City, which of the following is accurately matched with "Matsya, Surasena, Avanti, Gandhara, Kamboja & Asmaka"?

(A) 483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha
(B) 383 BCE — Vaishali
(C) 250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra
(D) Viratanagara, Mathura, Ujjayini & Mahishmati, Taxila, Poonch/Rajapura, Potana/Potali

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Matsya, Surasena, Avanti, Gandhara, Kamboja & Asmaka** (Mahajanapada), the verified Capital City is **Viratanagara, Mathura, Ujjayini & Mahishmati, Taxila, Poonch/Rajapura, Potana/Potali**. Furthermore, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mathura, Malwa (MP), Rawalpindi, Kashmir/Pamir, Nizamabad (Godavari). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #72 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q72. With reference to Council Event and Year & Venue, which of the following is accurately matched with "1st Buddhist Council"?

(A) 483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha
(B) 383 BCE — Vaishali
(C) 250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra
(D) c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **1st Buddhist Council** (Council Event), the verified Year & Venue is **483 BCE — Saptaparni Cave, Rajagriha**. Furthermore, Ajatashatru (Haryanka). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #73 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q73. With reference to Council Event and Year & Venue, which of the following is accurately matched with "2nd Buddhist Council"?

(A) 250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra
(B) 383 BCE — Vaishali
(C) c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir
(D) c. 300 BCE — Pataliputra

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **2nd Buddhist Council** (Council Event), the verified Year & Venue is **383 BCE — Vaishali**. Furthermore, Kalashoka (Shishunaga). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #74 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q74. With reference to Council Event and Year & Venue, which of the following is accurately matched with "3rd Buddhist Council"?

(A) c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir
(B) c. 300 BCE — Pataliputra
(C) 250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra
(D) 512 CE — Vallabhi (Gujarat)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **3rd Buddhist Council** (Council Event), the verified Year & Venue is **250 BCE — Ashokarama, Pataliputra**. Furthermore, Ashoka (Maurya). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #75 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q75. With reference to Council Event and Year & Venue, which of the following is accurately matched with "4th Buddhist Council"?

(A) c. 300 BCE — Pataliputra
(B) 512 CE — Vallabhi (Gujarat)
(C) Central Revenue & Treasury
(D) c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **4th Buddhist Council** (Council Event), the verified Year & Venue is **c. 72 CE — Kundalavana, Kashmir**. Furthermore, Kanishka (Kushana). (Source: NCERT Official Textbooks & IUC Academy).

Rapid-Fire Last-Minute One-Liner Revision Capsule

1. **Pallavaram (1863):** Site near Chennai where Robert Bruce Foote discovered India's first Palaeolithic hand-axe (ASI).

2. **Hathnora (Narmada Valley):** Yielded the oldest archaic hominin cranial fossil in South Asia, discovered by Arun Sonakia (ASI).

3. **Bhimbetka (Raisen, MP):** Discovered by V. S. Wakankar (1957–58); preserves continuous rock paintings from Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic to historic times (Indian Culture Portal).

4. **Bagor (Rajasthan) & Adamgarh (MP):** Earliest Mesolithic sites providing osteological evidence of animal domestication (~5000 BCE) (NCERT).

5. **Mehrgarh (Bolan Pass, Balochistan):** Earliest Neolithic farming settlement in the subcontinent (~7000 BCE) showing wheat, barley, cotton, and proto-dentistry (NCERT).

6. **Burzahom & Gufkral (Kashmir):** Neolithic sites famous for subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey ware, bone harpoons, and dog burials with masters (ASI).

7. **Chirand (Saran, Bihar):** Gangetic Neolithic site notable for abundant tools crafted from deer antlers (National Museum).

8. **Daimabad (Pravara River, Maharashtra):** Southernmost Harappan/Chalcolithic site yielding a famous four-piece bronze hoard (chariot, elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo) (National Museum).

9. **Harappan Standardized Brick Ratio:** Baked bricks across Mature Harappan cities strictly followed the **1 : 2 : 4** (thickness : width : length) proportion (NCERT).

10. **Great Bath of Mohenjodaro:** Measured 11.88 × 7.01 × 2.43 meters, waterproofed with natural **bitumen** mortar and gypsum (ASI).

11. **Kalibangan (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan):** Yielded the earliest ploughed agricultural field with cross-furrows (for mustard and horsegram) and seven fire altars (ASI).

12. **Lothal (Bhogava River, Gujarat):** Port city featuring an artificial brick tidal dockyard, rice husks, double burials, an ivory scale, and a Persian Gulf seal (NCERT).

13. **Dholavira (Kutch, Gujarat):** Tripartite Harappan city (Citadel, Middle Town, Lower Town) with 16 rock-cut reservoirs and a 10-sign gypsum signboard (Indian Culture Portal).

14. **Chanhudaro (Sindh):** Only Harappan city without a fortified citadel; specialized in carnelian bead-making and shell crafts (NCERT).

15. **Shortughai (Oxus River, Afghanistan):** Harappan trading colony built to procure Badakhshan **lapis lazuli**, preserving traces of ancient irrigation canals (NCERT).

16. **Boustrophedon Script:** Harappan writing style running right-to-left on the first line and left-to-right on the alternating line (National Museum).

17. **Rigveda Mandala III:** Composed by Vishvamitra; contains the sacred **Gayatri Mantra** addressed to the solar deity Savitri (Indian Culture Portal).

18. **Rigveda Mandala IX:** Known as the *Pavamanamandala*, all 114 hymns are dedicated exclusively to the plant-deity **Soma** (NCERT).

19. **Rigveda Mandala X (Purusha Sukta):** Hymn 10.90 providing the earliest textual reference to the fourfold Varna order (Brahmana, Rajanya, Vaishya, Shudra) (NCERT).

20. **Aghanya ("Not to be Killed"):** Term used in the Rigveda for the cow, reflecting the centrality of cattle wealth in Early Vedic economy (UPSC).

21. **Sabha and Samiti:** Described in the Atharvaveda as the **"Twin Daughters of Prajapati"**; women (*Sabhavati*) attended the Sabha and Vidatha in Rigvedic times (NCERT).

22. **Jabala Upanishad:** First Upanishadic text to explicitly enumerate all four **Ashramas** (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa) together (Indian Culture Portal).

23. **Katha Upanishad:** Contains the famous philosophical dialogue on the immortality of the soul (*Atman*) between young **Nachiketa and Yama** (Lord of Death) (Indian Culture Portal).

24. **Six Vedangas:** *Shiksha* (Phonetics), *Kalpa* (Ritual), *Vyakarana* (Grammar), *Nirukta* (Etymology), *Chhanda* (Metrics), and *Jyotisha* (Astronomy) (NCERT).

25. **Anguttara Nikaya & Bhagavati Sutra:** Primary Buddhist and Jaina canonical texts listing the **Sixteen Mahajanapadas** (NCERT).

26. **Asmaka (Assaka):** Only Mahajanapada located **south of the Vindhya Range** on the banks of the Godavari River, with its capital at **Potana / Potali** (UPSC).

27. **Jivaka:** Renowned royal physician at Bimbisara's court in Rajagriha who studied medicine at **Taxila** and treated both the Buddha and King Pradyota of Avanti (NCERT).

28. **Udayin (Haryanka Dynasty):** Founded the new Magadhan capital **Pataliputra (Kusumapura)** at the strategic confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers (NCERT).

29. **Four Great Signs Witnessed by Siddhartha:** An old man, a sick man, a corpse, and a serene ascetic — triggering the **Mahabhinishkramana** (Great Renunciation) (National Museum).

30. **Sutta, Vinaya, and Abhidhamma Pitakas:** Respectively cover the Buddha's discourses/ethics, monastic code of conduct, and higher metaphysical psychology (Indian Culture Portal).

31. **Therigatha ("Verses of the Elder Nuns"):** Part of the *Khuddaka Nikaya* of the Sutta Pitaka; earliest surviving anthology of women's spiritual poetry in India (NCERT).

32. **Symbols of Key Tirthankaras:** 1st Rishabhanatha (**Bull**), 2nd Ajitanatha (**Elephant**), 22nd Neminatha (**Conch**), 23rd Parshvanatha (**Hooded Serpent**), 24th Mahavira (**Lion**) (National Museum).

33. **Sallekhana (Santhara):** Jaina ascetic ritual of voluntary fasting unto death, practiced by **Chandragupta Maurya** at Shravanabelagola (~298 BCE) (ASI).

34. **Mudrarakshasa by Vishakhadatta:** Sanskrit historical play narrating how **Chanakya** outmanoeuvred Nanda minister **Rakshasa** to secure Chandragupta Maurya's throne (NCERT).

35. **Sita and Bhaga:** In Mauryan fiscal terminology, **Sita** denoted revenue from Crown lands supervised by the *Sitadhyaksha*, while **Bhaga** denoted the royal share (1/6th to 1/4th) from private peasant lands (NCERT).

36. **Kantakashodhana & Dharmasthiya:** Respectively the **criminal/administrative courts** (presided over by *Pradeshtris*) and **civil courts** (presided over by *Dharmasthas*) in Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (UPSC).

37. **James Prinsep (1837):** Mint officer of the East India Company who deciphered the **Ashokan Brahmi** script from the Delhi-Topra and Sanchi inscriptions (ASI).

38. **Kanganahalli (Sannati, Kalaburagi, Karnataka):** Buddhist stupa site yielding a limestone relief portrait of Emperor Ashoka with the Brahmi label **"Ranyo Ashoka"** (ASI).

39. **Pana (Karshapana):** Standard silver punch-marked coin of the Mauryan Empire weighing **32 rattis**; highest salaried officials received 48,000 *Panas* annually (NCERT).

40. **Brihadratha (185 BCE):** Last Mauryan ruler, assassinated during a military parade by his general **Pushyamitra Shunga** (NCERT).

41. **Milindapanho ("Questions of Milinda"):** Pali philosophical dialogue between Indo-Greek king **Menander** and Buddhist monk **Nagasena** (Indian Culture Portal).

42. **Hathigumpha Inscription (Udayagiri, Odisha):** Undated 17-line Prakrit inscription recording the year-by-year military and cultural achievements of **King Kharavela** of the Mahameghavahana (Cheti) dynasty of Kalinga (ASI).

43. **Rabatak Inscription (Baghlan, Afghanistan):** Bactrian-language inscription in Greek script detailing the genealogy and vast Gangetic empire of **Kanishka I** up to Pataliputra and Champa (UPSC).

44. **Gathasaptasati (Sattasai):** Anthology of 700 erotic and pastoral verses in Maharashtri Prakrit compiled by Satavahana king **Hala** (Indian Culture Portal).

45. **Nashik Prasasti of Gautami Balashri:** Celebrates her son **Gautamiputra Satakarni** as "*he whose chargers drank the waters of the three oceans* (*Tisamudatoyapitavahana*)" (ASI).

46. **Tolkappiyam:** Earliest extant Tamil grammatical treatise authored by **Tolkappiyar**, covering orthography (*Ezhuthu*), morphology (*Sol*), and subject matter/poetics (*Porul*) (NCERT).

47. **Silappadikaram ("The Jewelled Anklet"):** Composed by Chera prince-monk **Ilango Adigal**; narrates the tragic story of Kovalan and **Kannagi** across Puhar, Madurai, and Vanji (Indian Culture Portal).

48. **Arikamedu (Puducherry):** Excavated by **Mortimer Wheeler (1945)**; Indo-Roman coastal *emporium* yielding Roman amphorae, Arretine red-glazed ware, and a brick dyeing vat (ASI).

49. **Prayag Prasasti (Allahabad Pillar):** Composed by *Sandhivigrahika* **Harishena**; uniquely bears inscriptions of three emperors — **Ashoka, Samudragupta, and Mughal Emperor Jahangir** (ASI).

50. **Navaratnas of Chandragupta II:** Traditionally included **Kalidasa, Amarasimha, Varahamihira, Dhanvantari, Ghatakarpara, Kshapanaka, Shanku, Vararuchi, and Vetala Bhatta** (IUC Academy).

51. **Vishti (Forced Labour):** Compelled unpaid corvée labour exacted from peasants by the state or feudal grantees during the Shaka-Gupta-Vakataka period (recorded in *Kamasutra* and copper plates) (NCERT).

52. **Nalanda Mahavihara:** Founded in 5th century CE by **Kumaragupta I (Shakraditya)**; described by **Hiuen Tsang** and **I-Tsing (Yijing)** as an international residential university of 10,000 monks headed by **Shilabhadra** (ASI).

53. **Mrichchhakatika ("The Little Clay Cart"):** Realistic Sanskrit social drama by **Shudraka** depicting the romance between impoverished Brahmana merchant **Charudatta** and noble courtesan **Vasantasena** (NCERT).

54. **Mehrauli Iron Pillar (Delhi):** Over 7.2 meters tall and weighing more than 6 tonnes, erected in honour of Lord Vishnu (*Vishnupadagiri*) by King **Chandra** (Chandragupta II) without rusting for 1,600 years (ASI).

55. **Banskhera Copper Plate (Shahjahanpur, UP):** Dated to year 22 of the Harsha Era (628 CE); preserves a replica of **Emperor Harshavardhana's personal calligraphic signature** (*Svahasto Mama Maharajadhiraja Sri Harshasya*) (National Museum).

56. **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang):** Known as the **"Prince of Pilgrims"**; studied Yogachara philosophy at Nalanda for five years and authored **Si-Yu-Ki** ("Record of the Western Regions") (NCERT).

57. **Nayanars (63) & Alvars (12):** Early Tamil Bhakti saints of the Pallava-Pandya era — **63 Shaiva Nayanars** (hymns compiled as *Tirumurai* / *Tevaram* by Nambi Andar Nambi) and **12 Vaishnava Alvars** (hymns compiled as *Nalayira Divya Prabandham* by Nathamuni, including female saint **Andal**) (NCERT).

58. **Pattadakal (Bagalkot, Karnataka):** UNESCO World Heritage site on the Malaprabha River showcasing **both Nagara (Rekha-Nagara) and Dravida (Vimana)** temples built by the Badami Chalukyas (ASI).

59. **Brihadishvara Temple (Thanjavur, 1010 CE):** Built by **Rajaraja I Chola** entirely of granite with a 66-meter-high hollow *Vimana* capped by an 80-tonne monolithic *Shikhara* stone (ASI).

60. **Chola Bronze Nataraja:** Cast via the **lost-wax (*Cire Perdue* / *Madhuchhishthana Vidhana*)** process, depicting Shiva as Cosmic Dancer holding the *Damaru* (creation) and *Agni* (dissolution), showing *Abhaya Mudra*, and trampling *Apasmara Purusha* (dwarf of ignorance) (National Museum).

IUC Academy *1-3-7-21* Day Spaced-Revision & Self-Assessment Tracker (www.iucacademy.com)

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
1. Chapter 1: Prehistoric India, Stone Age Cultures & Chalcolithic Settlements	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 2: Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Culture) — Urbanism, Trade & Script	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 3: Early and Later Vedic Age — Texts, Polity, Society & Philosophy	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 4: Mahajanapadas, Rise of Magadha, Buddhism & Jainism	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 5: The Mauryan Empire — Administration, Ashoka's Dhamma & Edicts	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 6: Post-Mauryan Polity, Indo-Greeks, Kushanas, Satavahanas & Sangam Age	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 7: The Gupta Empire & Vakatakas — Golden Age of Science, Literature & Temple Art	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 8: Post-Gupta Period — Harshavardhana, Chalukyas, Pallavas & Early Tripartite Polities	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. Solved Exam Practice Questions (MCQs)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 36–75)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
11. Rapid-Fire Last-Minute One-Liner Revision Capsule	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**