



Ancient India – Summary Notes

1. Indus Valley Civilization (2500–1750 BCE)

- Urban civilization with planned cities (Harappa, Mohenjodaro).
- Advanced drainage, granaries, dockyards (Lothal).
- Script undeciphered; no temples; worship of mother goddess and Pashupati prototype.
- Decline reasons: ecological changes, decline in trade, floods.

2. Vedic Period

- **Early Vedic (1500–1000 BCE):** Rig Veda composed, pastoral economy, tribal polity.
- **Later Vedic (1000–600 BCE):** Iron use, settled agriculture, rise of kingdoms, varna system.

3. Mahajanapadas & Buddhism/Jainism (6th Century BCE)

- 16 Mahajanapadas; Magadha emerged powerful.
- **Buddhism:** Siddhartha Gautama; Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path; patronage by Ashoka.
- **Jainism:** Mahavira (24th Tirthankara); non-violence (Ahimsa), Triratnas.

4. Mauryan Empire (321–185 BCE)

- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, advisor: Chanakya (Arthashastra).
- **Ashoka:** Kalinga War, Dhamma policy, rock edicts, spread of Buddhism.

5. Post-Mauryan Kingdoms

- **Sungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas, Shakas.**
- **Kanishka** (Kushan) promoted Mahayana Buddhism; patron of art.

6. Gupta Empire (319–550 CE)

- "Golden Age of India" – advances in science, mathematics (Aryabhata), literature (Kalidasa).
- Strong central administration, coinage, temple architecture.



Medieval India – Summary Notes

1. Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)

- **Slave Dynasty:** Qutb-ud-din Aibak (built Qutb Minar).
- **Khilji Dynasty:** Alauddin Khilji – market reforms, South India campaigns.
- **Tughlaq Dynasty:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq – administrative experiments.
- Introduced **Iqtadari** system (land grants for administration and military).

2. Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646)

- Founded by Harihara and Bukka; peak under Krishnadevaraya.
- Promoted trade, irrigation, architecture (Hampi).

3. Bhakti and Sufi Movements

- Bhakti: Saints like Kabir, Mirabai, Tulsidas emphasized devotion over rituals.
- Sufism: Islamic mysticism; Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya.

4. Mughal Empire (1526–1857)

- **Babur** founded empire (Battle of Panipat 1526).
- **Akbar**: religious tolerance, Din-i-Ilahi, mansabdari system.
- **Shah Jahan**: Taj Mahal; **Aurangzeb**: orthodox policies, empire expansion.

IN Modern India – Summary Notes

1. Advent of Europeans

- **Portuguese** (Vasco da Gama, 1498), **Dutch**, **English (1600)**, **French**.
- Battle of Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764) led to British dominance in Bengal.

2. British Administration & Reforms

- Regulating Act 1773, Pitt's India Act 1784, Charter Acts, 1858 Act (Crown rule).
- Economic drain, zamindari system, revenue exploitation.

3. Revolt of 1857

- Causes: sepoy grievances, annexation policies, cultural interference.
- Leaders: Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmibai, Bahadur Shah Zafar.
- Suppressed due to lack of unity, planning, leadership.

4. Freedom Movement

- INC formed in 1885.
- **Moderates** (1885–1905): petitions, reforms.
- **Extremists** (1905–1917): assertive methods – Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai.
- **Gandhian Era**:
 - Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), Civil Disobedience (1930), Quit India (1942).
 - Mass mobilization, non-violence, constructive programs.
- Subhash Chandra Bose & INA.
- Partition and Independence (1947).