



Indian Institute of Governance Visionary Leadership (Segment-I)

Segment I -Training is all about acquiring Knowledge which will help in gaining decision making capabilities by analysis and wisdom by learning through experience. This Segment is to connect the past & present and analyse events & people to create knowledge and skill sets, values & ethics to make a leader out of every aspirants.

History of India – Last 10000 years



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History of India – Last 10000 years



Chapter 1 - India over the last 10,000 years.

The **history of India** begins with evidence of human activity of anatomically modern humans, as long as 75,000 years ago, or with earlier hominids including Homo erectus from about 500,000 years ago.

The name 'Bharata' is used as a designation for the country in their constitution referencing the ancient mythological emperor, Bharata, whose story is told, in part, in the Indian epic Mahabharata. According to the writings known as the Puranas (religious/historical texts written down in the 5th century CE) Bharata conquered the whole sub-continent of India and ruled the land in peace and harmony. The land was, therefore, known as Bharatavarsha ('the sub-continent of Bharata').

The areas of present-day India, Pakistan, and Nepal have provided archaeologists and scholars with the richest sites of the most ancient pedigree. The species *Homo heidelbergensis* (a proto human who was an ancestor of modern *Homo sapiens*) inhabited the sub-continent of India centuries before humans migrated into the region known as Europe. Evidence of the existence of *Homo heidelbergensis* was first discovered in Germany in 1907 and, since, further discoveries have established fairly clear migration patterns of this species out of Africa. Recognition of the antiquity of their presence in India has been largely due to the fairly late archaeological interest in the area as, unlike work in Mesopotamia and Egypt, Western excavations in India did not begin in earnest until the 1920's CE. Though the ancient city of Harappa was known to exist as early as 1842 CE, its archaeological significance was ignored and the later excavations corresponded to an interest in locating the probable sites referred to in the great Indian epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* (both of the 5th or 4th centuries BCE) while ignoring the possibility of a much more ancient past for the region. The village of Balathal (near Udaipur in Rajasthan), to cite only one

Past History



As the treasure house of knowledge and wisdom, from which one can understand oneself and his DNA, a preview of conditions that prevailed in different Eras, the values and ethics, great men & women who belonged to that Era and their trends and creations, good & bad and how the History shaped around such people and events

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example, illustrates the antiquity of India's history as it dates to 4000 BCE. Balathal was not discovered until 1962 CE and excavations were not begun there until the 1990's CE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE PAST FIFTY YEARS HAVE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED THE UNDERSTANDING OF INDIA'S PAST AND, BY EXTENSION, WORLD HISTORY.

A 4000 year-old skeleton discovered at Balathal in 2009 CE provides the oldest evidence of leprosy in India. Prior to this find, leprosy was considered a much younger disease thought to have been carried from Africa to India at some point and then from India to Europe by the army of Alexander the Great following his death in 323 BCE. It is now understood that significant human activity was underway in India by the Holocene Period (10,000 years ago) and that many historical assumptions based upon earlier work in Egypt and Mesopotamia, need to be reviewed and revised.

Revelation of
India 10000
Years back" -
Rock paintings
of Nanaon"

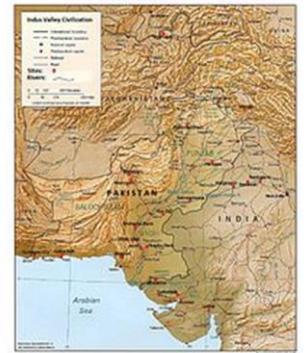


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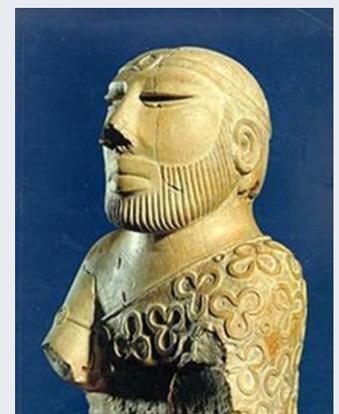


Dates	Phase	Era
7000–5500 BCE	Mehrgarh I (aceramic Neolithic)	Early Food-Producing Era
5500–3300	Mehrgarh II-VI (ceramic Neolithic)	Regionalisation Era
3300–2600	Early Harappan	
3300–2800	Harappan 1 (Ravi Phase)	
2800–2600	Harappan 2 (Kot Diji Phase, Nausharo I, Mehrgarh VII)	
2600–1900	Mature Harappan (Indus Valley Civilization)	Integration Era
2600–2450	Harappan 3A (Nausharo II)	
2450–2200	Harappan 3B	
2200–1900	Harappan 3C	
1900–1300	Late Harappan (Cemetery H); Ochre Coloured Pottery	Localisation Era
1900–1700	Harappan 4	
1700–1300	Harappan 5	
1300–300	Painted Gray Ware, Northern Black Polished Ware (Iron Age)	Indo-Gangetic Tradition

Harappan / Indus Civilization



The **Indus Valley Civilization** dates to 5000 BCE and grew steadily throughout the lower Gangetic Valley region southwards and northwards to Malwa. The **cities** of this period were larger than contemporary settlements in other countries, were situated according to cardinal points, and were built of mud bricks, often kiln-fired. Houses were constructed with a large courtyard opening from the front door, a kitchen/work room for the preparation of food, and smaller bedrooms. Family activities seem to have centered on the front of the house, particularly the courtyard and, in this, are similar to what has been inferred from sites in **Rome**, Egypt, **Greece**, and Mesopotamia.



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Excavation site at Mohenjo-daro

The most famous sites of this period are the great cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa both located in present-day Pakistan (Mohenjo-Daro in the Sindh province and Harappa in Punjab) which was part of India until the 1947 CE partition of the country which created the separate nations. Harappa has given its name to the Harappan Civilization (another name for the Indus Valley Civilization) which is usually divided into Early, Middle, and Mature periods corresponding roughly to 5000-4000 BCE (Early), 4000-2900 BCE (Middle), and 2900-1900 BCE (Mature). Harappa dates from the Middle period (c. 3000 BCE) while Mohenjo-Daro was built in the Mature period (c. 2600 BCE). Harappa was largely destroyed in the 19th century when British workers carried away much of the city for use as ballast in constructing the railroad and many buildings had already been dismantled by citizens of the local village of Harappa (which gives the site its name) for use in their own projects. It is therefore now difficult to determine the historical significance of Harappa save that it is clear it was once a significant Bronze Age community with a population of as many as 30,000 people. Mohenjo-Daro, on the other hand, is much better preserved as it lay mostly buried until 1922 CE. The name `Mohenjo-Daro' means `mound of the dead' in Sindhi. The original name of the city is unknown although various possibilities have been suggested

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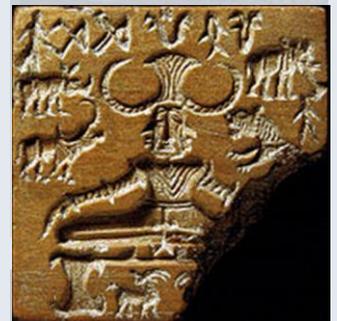
by finds in the region, among them, the Dravidian name 'Kukkutarma', the city of the cock, a possible allusion to the site as a center of ritual cock-fighting or, perhaps, as a breeding centre for cocks.

Mohenjo-Daro was an elaborately constructed city with streets laid out evenly at right angles and a sophisticated drainage system. The Great Bath, a central structure at the site, was heated and seems to have been a focal point for the community. The citizens were skilled in the use of metals such as copper, bronze, lead and tin (as evidenced by art works such as the bronze statue of the Dancing Girl and by individual seals) and cultivated barley, wheat, peas, sesame, and cotton. Trade was an important source of commerce and it is thought that ancient Mesopotamian texts which mention Magan and Meluhha refer to India generally or, perhaps, Mohenjo-Daro specifically. Artifacts from the Indus Valley region have been found at sites in Mesopotamia though their precise point of origin in India is not always clear.

The people of the Harappan Civilization worshipped many gods and engaged in ritual worship. Statues of various deities (such as, Indra, the god of storm and war) have been found at many sites and, chief among them, terracotta pieces depicting the Shakti (the Mother Goddess) suggesting a popular, common worship of the feminine principle. In about 1500 BCE it is thought another race, known as the Aryans, migrated into India through the Khyber Pass and assimilated into the existing culture, perhaps bringing their gods with them. While it is widely accepted that the Aryans brought the horse to India, there is some debate as to whether they introduced new deities to the region or simply influenced the existing belief structure. The Aryans are thought to have been pantheists (nature worshippers) with a special devotion to the sun and it seems uncertain they would have had anthropomorphic gods.

At about this same time (c. 1700-1500 BCE) the Harappan culture began to decline. Scholars cite climate change as one possible reason. The Indus

Harappan / Indus Civilization



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River is thought to have begun flooding the region more regularly (as evidenced by approximately 30 feet or 9 metres of silt at Mohenjo-Daro) and the great cities were abandoned. Other scholars cite the Aryan migration as more of an invasion of the land which brought about a vast displacement of the populace. Among the most mysterious aspects of Mohenjo-Daro is the vitrification of parts of the site as though it had been exposed to intense heat which melted the brick and stone. This same phenomenon has been observed at sites such as Traprain Law in Scotland and attributed to the results of warfare. Speculation regarding the destruction of the city by some kind of ancient atomic blast (possibly the work of aliens from other planets) is not generally regarded as credible.

The Indus Valley Civilization collapsed at the start of the second millennium BCE and was later followed by the [Iron Age Vedic Civilization](#), which extended over much of the [Indo-Gangetic plain](#) and which witness the rise of major polities known as the [Mahajanapadas](#). In one of these kingdoms, [Magadha](#), [Mahavira](#) and [Gautama Buddha](#) propagated their [Shramanic](#) philosophies during the fifth and sixth century BCE.

Most of the subcontinent was conquered by the [Maurya Empire](#) during the 4th and 3rd centuries BCE. From the 3rd century BC onwards [Prakrit](#) and [Pali](#) literature in the north and the [Sangam literature](#) in southern India started to flourish. The famous [Wootz steel](#) originated in south India in the 3rd century BC and began to be exported to foreign countries.

Various parts of India were ruled by numerous [Middle kingdoms](#) for the next 1,500 years, among which the [Gupta Empire](#) stood out. This period, witnessing a [Hindu](#) religious and intellectual resurgence, is known as the classical or "[Golden Age of India](#)". During this period, aspects of Indian civilization, administration, culture, and religion ([Hinduism](#) and [Buddhism](#)) spread to much of [Asia](#), while kingdoms in southern India had maritime

Brief Timeline based on 19th & early 20th century findings



Before 2500 BC - Prehistoric Period:

- The period when man, basically a food gatherer, discovered fire and wheel.

2500 BC - 1500 BC - Indus Valley Civilisation:

- Derived its name from the river Indus and thrived on agriculture and worshipped natural forces.

1500 BCE–500 BCE - Vedic period

- The period saw the compilation of the Vedas, distinction of Varnas in terms of Aryans and Dasas (slaves).

600–300 BCE - Mahajanapadas

- As caste system became more rigid, the period saw the advent of Mahavira and Buddha who rebelled against casteism.

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business links with the Roman Empire from around 77 CE. Indian cultural influence spread over many parts of [Southeast Asia](#) which led to the establishment of [Indianized kingdoms](#) in Southeast Asia ([Greater India](#)).

The most significant event between the 7th and 11th century was the [Tripartite struggle](#) between the [Pala Empire](#), [Rashtrakuta Empire](#), and [Gurjara Pratihara Empire](#) centered on [Kannauj](#) that lasted for more than two centuries. Southern India saw the rule of the [Chalukya Empire](#), [Chola Empire](#), [Pallava Empire](#), [Pandyan Empire](#), and [Western Chalukya Empire](#). Seventh century also saw the advent of Islam as a political power, though as a fringe, in the western part of the [subcontinent](#) in modern day Pakistan. The [Chola dynasty](#) conquered southern India and successfully invaded parts of Southeast Asia and [Sri Lanka](#) in the 11th century. The early medieval period [Indian mathematics](#) influenced the development of mathematics and astronomy in the Arab world and the [Hindu numerals](#) were introduced.

Evidences for India over the last 10,000 years.

1. Archaeological Artifacts from excavation at Harappa in the Punjab region and at Mohenjo-daro (Mohenjodaro), near the Indus River in the Sindh (Sind) region, now both in Pakistan proves the evidences of Indus Valley Civilization. Subsequently, vestiges of the civilization were found as far apart as Sutkagen Dor, near the shore of the Arabian Sea 300 miles (480 km) west of Karachi, also in Pakistan, and Rupnagar, in India, at the foot of the Shimla Hills 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to the northeast. Later exploration established its existence southward down the west coast of India as far as the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay), 500 miles (800 km) southeast of Karachi,

Brief Timeline based on 19th & early 20th century findings



- Upanishads & Shramana movements
- Mahajanapadas were formed
- Magadha Empire under Bimbisara and Ajat Shatru and Shisunanga and Nanda dynasty.
- Persian and Greek conquests

322–185 BCE - Maurya Empire

- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, the empire encompassed the entire North India and Bindusara further extended it. After fighting the Kalinga war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism.

The Invasions: (185 BC - 320 AD):

- The period saw the invasion of Bactrians, Parthians, Shakas & Kushans, opening of Central Asia for trade
- Gold coin & Saka era introduction

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and as far east as the Yamuna (Jumna) River basin, 30 miles (50 km) north of Delhi.

2. How and when the Indus Valley civilization came to an end remains uncertain. In fact, no uniform ending need be postulated for a culture so widely distributed. But the end of Mohenjo-daro is known and was dramatic and sudden. Mohenjo-daro was attacked toward the middle of the 2nd millennium bce by raiders who swept over the city and then passed on, leaving the dead lying where they fell. Who the attackers were, is a matter for conjecture. The episode would appear to be consistent in time and place with the earlier Aryan onslaught upon the Indus region as reflected in the older books of the Rigveda, in which the newcomers are represented as attacking the “walled cities” or “citadels” of the aboriginal peoples and the Aryan war-god Indra as rending forts “as age consumes a garment.”
3. Sources for the reconstruction of Vedic Civilization: Col James Tod, the celebrated author of Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan says- “Much reward him who would make a better digest of the historical and geographical matters in the Puranas. But we must discard the idea that the histories of Rama, Krishna and others are mere allegories- an idea supported by some, although their races, their cities and their coins still exists”. Speaking about the Puranas, F.E.Pargiter says that bards and minstrels handed down the accounts of dynasties verbally just like the Vedas were transmitted verbally from generation to generation, all which were put into writing at a later stage. Hence to get a complete picture of the Vedic civilization we have to carefully collate and critically examine different literary sources like the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas, Ramayana and Mahabharatha and the Jaina and Buddhist literary sources. This evidence should correlate with archeological, inscriptions (Seals) and geological findings. The

Brief Timeline based on 19th & early 20th century findings



200 BCE–320 CE - Early
Classical period

- Shunga Empire
- Satavahana Dynasty
- Sangam Period
- Kharavela Empire
- Northwestern kingdoms and hybrid cultures
- Kushan Empire
- Travels to India
- Roman trade with India
- This period is known for construction of Ajanta and Ellora cave temples, Sangam literature, and arrival of Christianity to India.

320-650 CE - Classical
period

- The Gupta dynasty founded by Chandragupta I, ushered in classical age in north India with Samudragupta extending his kingdom & Chandragupta II fighting against Shakas

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discovery of river Saraswathi, the submerged city of Dwaraka, the date of Mahabharatha war, all have given a new dimension to reconstruct the history of ancient India.

4. Date of the Vedic Age: Based on astronomical data Indians have fixed the date on which the Mahabharatha war took place. According to Aryabhata, Kaliyuga began from 3102 B.C. and the date of Mahabharatha war was 3138 B.C. In modern times scholars like Dr. Mankad fixed 3201 B.C. as the date of the war and mathematicians and astrophysicists making use of planetarium software and taking the astronomical data available in the text of the epic Mahabharatha itself as the basis, have assigned the year 3067 B.C. as the date of the Mahabharatha war. Another famous astronomer Varahamihira says that Yudhisthira became king in saka era 2526 B.C. corresponding to 2469 B.C. or 2447 B.C. Dr. P.C.Sengupta based on Vedanga Jyotisha has fixed 2449 B.C. as the date of Mahabharatha war. The date arrived by the Kashmiri historian Kalhana was 2448 B.C., one year less than that assigned by P.C.Sengupta. Considering either 3067 B.C. or 2449 B.C. as the date in which the Mahabharatha war took place helps us to reconstruct the history of ancient India including arriving at the approximate age of Rama and the composition of Rigveda.
5. Age of Rama and Rigveda: In Vayu Purana we have a total of 94 kings from Manu to Bhrihadbala belonging to the Ikshavaku dynasty. Bhrihadbala died in the Mahabharatha war and was 29 generation after Rama, the famous king of Ayodhya. Taking Vayu Purana as the basis for the list of ancient Indian kings and the year 2449 B.C. as the date of Mahabharatha war and allotting 40 years for each generation, the date of Rama would be 3609 B.C. Sudasa was anterior to Rama by 18 generation and his date would be 4329 B.C. (It was during his period that the III and VII mandala of the Rigveda, considered to be the oldest was composed) Mandhatra

Brief Timeline based on 19th & early 20th century findings



- Shakuntalam and Kamasutra were written during this period
 - 250 CE – 500 CE Vakataka Dynasty
 - 476 CE – 550 CE Aryabhata achieved feats in Astronomy
 - 500 CE – 606 CE The White Huns movement
 - 606 CE – 647 CE Empire of Harsha
- 650–1100 CE - Late Classical period
- Chalukya Empire
 - Rashtrakuta Empire (8th–10th century)
 - Pala Empire (8th–12th century)
 - Chola Empire (9th–13th century) Temples became cultural and social centres and Dravidian languages flourished.
 - Western Chalukya Empire

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who drove the Dhruvus out of North-west India was anterior to Sudasa by 27 generation and his date would be 5409 B.C. and Manu the first king was anterior to Mandhatra by 20 years and his date would be 6209 B.C. If we take 3067 as the date of Mahabharatha war and try to reconstruct the chronology of the Ikshavaku rulers, we get 4227 B.C. as the date of Rama, 4947 B.C. as the date of Sudasa, 6027 B.C. as the date of Mandhatra and 6827 B.C. as the date of Manu. Cuneiform inscriptions found in Mesopotamia record that Mesopotamia's trade in the east was with three countries, Dilmun (the Persian Gulf region around Bahrain), Makan (Oman peninsula) and Meluhha (India). It is said that trade received a tremendous boost from the time of Sargon of Akkad from 2350 B.C. though there

is clear evidence of early trade which can be placed in 2800-2500 B.C. Robert. H. Brunswig who has critically examined the evidence relating to artifact association showing contact with Mesopotamia and Persian Gulf and the radio-carbon dates of five Harappan sites, suggested a three period framework for the Indus Civilization; the formative phase- 2800-2500 B.C., the mature phase- 2500-2200 B.C. and the late phase- 2200-2000 B.C., after which the Harappan culture as a distinct entity gradually ceased to exist. This shows that Vedic civilization flourished around 3969 B.C. / 4587 B.C. and the Harappa civilization (actually the urban culture of the Vedic civilization) was posterior to the Vedic period.

6. The IVC has been tentatively identified with the toponym Meluhha known from Sumerian records; the Sumerians called them Meluhhaites
7. **Depopulation of the Vedic towns:** In 1750 B.C. the Yamuna took an eastward diversion and became a tributary of Ganga and in 1500 B.C. the Sutlej took a westward diversion and became a tributary of

Brief Timeline based on 19th & early 20th century findings



750 AD - 1206 AD: The Northern Kingdoms:

- The Rashtrakutas became powerful,
- Pratiharas ruled Avanti
- Palas ruled Bengal.
- The period also saw emergence of Rajput clans.
- Temples at Khajuraho, Kanchipuram, Puri were built and miniature painting started.
- The period witnessed invasion from the Turks.

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Sindhu. This deprived the Saraswathi of water and it was reduced to a petty rivulet, left with only the seasonal water of ephemeral streams coming down from the Siwalik. Also due to destruction of forest due to over grazing and using wood to burn bricks used for construction of buildings led to ecological disasters. Natural calamities like earth quake and economic recession due to the decline of trade with the Mesopotamia were other factors which led to the depopulation of Vedic cities and the migration of the population to the east towards the Gangetic plains.



Achievements of Vedic people

Political: They were the first to introduce people's participation in running the administration of a country by constituting sabha and samithi. They introduced the concept of running the government on dharmic lines.

Social: The concept of ashrama dharma was the unique contribution of the Vedic people. How a man should live, what should be his duties and goal was explained in ashrama dharma which divided man's life into four stages namely-

- Brahmacharya– wherein one is supposed to acquire knowledge or skill to earn a living,
- Gruhasta– when he is supposed to lead the life of a householder,
- Vanaprastha– wherein he devolves his household responsibilities to his offspring and retires to forests and
- Sanyasa– wherein he contemplates on the ultimate reality.

Ecological Consciousness: The love and respect for nature in the form of worshipping trees, water, sun, fire and animals shows the ecological awareness of the Vedic people. The representation of trees and leaves especially pipal on many seals have been found. The discovery of some seals portraying the swastika and the wheel indicates the worship of sun symbolically, while the worship of snakes is evidenced by the discovery of a tablet showing a seated deity with a hooded cobra over his head.

Yoga: At Mohenjodaro we have a seal where a three faced deity is seated cross legged on a throne in an erect meditative posture or yoga posture and surrounded by animals like elephant, tiger, buffalo, deer and rhinoceros. This deity is being identified as Shiva also called Mahayogin

Ancient Scientist



Baudhayana - 800 BC

- He was the first one ever to arrive at several concepts in Mathematics, which were later rediscovered by the western world. The value of pi was first calculated by him. As you know, pi is useful in calculating the area and circumference of a circle. What is known as Pythagoras theorem today is already found in Baudhayana's Sulva Sutra, which was written several years before the age of Pythagoras.

Aryabhata - 476 CE – 550 CE

- Aryabhata was a 5th century mathematician, astronomer, astrologer and physicist. He was a pioneer in the field of mathematics. At the age of 23, he wrote Aryabhata's, which is a summary of mathematics of his time.

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and Pashupati. In Harappa was found a figure in yogic posture. All these probably indicate that the genesis of yoga began during the Vedic age.

Literature: They gave the world the perfect spoken language called Sanskrit. The literary works composed during those periods, namely the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Bhagvath Gita, epics like Ramayana and Mahabharatha even today inspires the present generation of literature lovers.

Sanatana Dharma: Another unique contribution of the Vedic civilization was the evolution of Sanatana Dharma, a way of life based on the ideals of ethics, tolerance, altruism and respect for all forms of life. It was this aspect of tolerance of Sanatana Dharma which made the world greatest philosopher, Immanuel Kant to observe that the tolerance which the Hindus possess make them believe that the religion of other countries are also good and for this reason they (Hindus) never compel others to embrace Hinduism.

Gurukul System: The Gurukul system wherein education was freely imparted to pupils apart from free lodging and boarding in the house of the teacher was another legacy of the Vedic civilization.

Spiritual: The contribution of the Vedic seer in the intellectual realm was unique. Thousands of years earlier than ancient Greeks, the Vedic rishis had pondered over the nature of ultimate Reality and realized it. The result was the collection of several Upanishads containing lofty philosophical ideas about metaphysics and ontology. Unlike the Greeks they did not merely speculate but realized reality. The Vedic people perceived God in all animate and inanimate things. They emphasized that Brahman or God is the essence of the universe. They evolved the doctrines of immortality of soul, karma and reincarnation.

Ancient Scientist



Brahmgupta – 7th Century

- Brahmgupta took mathematics to heights far beyond others. In his methods of multiplication, he used place value in almost the same way as it is used today. He introduced negative numbers and operations on zero into mathematics. He wrote *Brahm Sputa Siddantika* through which the Arabs came to know our mathematical system

Bhaskaracharya

- Bhaskaracharya was the leading light of 12th Century. He was born at Bijapur, Karnataka. He is famous for his book *Siddanta Shiromani*. It is divided into four sections: *Lilavati* (Arithmetic), *Beejaganit* (Algebra), *Goladhyaya* (Sphere) and *Grahaganit* (mathematics of planets).

Susruta

- He was a pioneer in the field of surgery. He considered surgery as “the highest division of the healing arts and least liable to fallacy”.

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Technological innovations: In the development of a civilization, harnessing and efficient use of energy is essential. We have evidence to the use of cattle power for transport and wind power for sailing their boats by the Vedic people. They built ocean going ships and long before Hippalus discovered the monsoon winds, the Vedic people possessed a sound knowledge of the periodicity and regularity of the winds in the Indian Ocean without which their vessels could not have made regular voyages to the Mesopotamian ports. The binary and the decimal system of measurements, the technology of water proofing, well digging, invention of corbelled arch, metal saw, fine tubular drills, concept of town planning and laying of their town on a gridiron plan were some of the innovations of the Vedic people. According to Navaratna Rajaram, the Sulva/Sulbasutras were text on geometry and mathematics which contained detailed mathematical instructions for the design and construction of Vedic altars found at various urban sites of the Vedic civilization like Kalibangan, Lothal, etc. The knowledge of the Sulva/Sulbasutras which was first used for religious and ritualistic purpose was later applied for town planning and architectural purposes like construction of the harbor at Lothal. Abraham Seidenberg, author of History of Mathematics credits Sulbasutra as inspiring all mathematics of ancient world from Babylonia to Egypt to Greece.

Ancient Scientist



Kanad

- Kanad was a sixth century scientist of Vaisheshika School, one of the six systems of Indian philosophy. His original name was Aulukya. He got the name Kanad, because even as a child, he was interested in very minute particles called “kana”. His atomic theory can be a match to any modern atomic theory. According to Kanad, material universe is made up of kanas, (anu/atom) which cannot be seen through any human organ.

Varahamihira

Varahamihira was another well known scientist of the ancient period in India. He lived in the Gupta period. Varahamihira made great contributions in the fields of hydrology, geology, astrology and ecology. He was one of the first scientists to claim that termites and plants could be the indicators of the presence of underground water. He wrote Brhat Samhita.

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To sum up the Vedic civilization was an indigenous flowering of civilization which took place on the banks of river Saraswathi some 7000 years back. It was on the banks of this river that many towns sprang up and it represented the urban culture of Vedic civilization which was misrepresented as a separate culture and called Harappa or Indus Valley Civilization. Today there are many nations in this world which have nothing in common with the ancient civilization which flourished in their territory. Mexico of today has nothing in common with the ancient Mayan civilization, Egypt with the Nile civilization, Iraq with the Mesopotamian civilization, Greece with the ancient Greek civilization and Italy with the Roman civilization. But India is the only exception; for it still retains its religion, its customs, tradition and philosophy of life which it inherited from the Vedic civilization.

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