

# A Chronology of Hindu History

## Re-Writing the narrative from emerging discoveries

*India is often overlooked or even dismissed as unimportant in the world's history books, yet new evidence is revealing it to be the mother of what we call modern civilisation. Here on this page history is being re-written from emerging discoveries in archaeology, ancient texts, linguistics and genetics.*

Like many people seeking to know the truth of our existence, I have questioned the historic narrative handed down to us through various governmental agencies to find it has been heavily tainted by political expediency, personal bias and religious or belief systems.



In our current age, a Western materialist point of view in the guise of patriarchal capitalism dominates the world in pursuit of individual pleasure. History instead of being an important aspect of our search for truth and enabling our evolution is primarily used to obfuscate important truths, justify bad behaviour, draw national borders and facilitate the exercise of authority.

Under the Western flexible morality, people say nice things and rule but do dastardly deeds for power and profits. Corporatism flourishes and the people are denied access to untainted spiritual knowledge so they remain slaves to an immoral and corrupt economic system.

Conversely in the East, Dharma was established to guide the people into eternity as co-creators. One's reason for being was truth and enlightenment, to live an inclusive spiritual life of celebration without need of borders. That life of Dharma was tainted by those who chose materialism over spirituality, a sense of spirituality whose last bastion became modern India.

After the occupation of India some 1400 years ago, Dharma declined rapidly to be almost wiped out by the European plunderers yet the Westerners seeking betterment discovered their own spiritual longing. The religions handed to them were found corrupt and all hearts turned to India for guidance.

Yet as a new wave of genuine spirituality emerges around the globe, as people seek freedom and rights for all life, India remains mired in the mess inherited by the British. By believing in a false narrative as many Hindus do today, they are dis-empowered and sucked into the Western, patriarchal capitalist system where they turn aside from Dharma and celebrating life to be co-conspirators in not only the dismantling of India but in increasing suffering and destabilizing the planet.

For some time now I have seen that civilisation emerged from the general region of India where perhaps 30,000 years ago people were coming together, understanding that being happy was more important than power and possessions. They questioned their place in the cosmos and learned things that today's most technologically equipped scientists are only just learning, confirming or yet to comprehend.

In analysis, the 'out of Africa theory' for humanity's existence has fallen over and it seems that 'modern humans' perhaps evolved from the mixing between various 'pre modern humans' meaning that the continental features we see on people's faces in our modern world may well be indigenous.

Would you rather live in ignorance and believe what you are told even what's wrong?

This page is a work in progress and occasionally updated, for the latest updates, see <http://web-enz.com/history/hindu-history.shtml>. You are welcome to contribute/contact via my [facebook page](#).

**Please note** that all references to "Hindu" relate to the geographic region of greater India, not any belief system as essentially Hindus are non believers and the testimony of Vedanta represents the original science within Sanatana Dharma that the world has misconstrued.

## The History of India

Geographically, about 90 million years ago India rifted away from Madagascar and began its relatively (in tectonic plate speeds) rapid movement northward, ultimately closing the Tethys Sea, colliding with Asia between 55 and 50 million years ago to commence creation of the Himalayas. The Deccan Traps began forming 66.25 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period. The bulk of the volcanic eruption occurred along the Western Ghats some 66 million years ago. This series of eruptions may have lasted about 30,000 years.

2,000,000 BC

Tools crafted by proto-humans that have been dated back over two million years have been discovered in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. The earliest archaeological site in the subcontinent is the palaeolithic hominid site in the Soan River valley. Soanian sites are found in the Sivalik region across what are now India, Pakistan, and Nepal - did this population continue to the IVC?

Note that stone with good fracture qualities—such as flint, jasper, and chert—was not always as readily available in Asia as it was elsewhere in the world. Asian populations, therefore, depended on coarse-grained quartz, volcanic tuff, and petrified wood, none of which lends itself to fine tool fabrication.

Madrasian Culture sites have been found in Attirampakkam located near Chennai (formerly known as Madras), Tamil Nadu. Tools related to this culture have been found at various other locations in this region. Bifacial handaxes and cleavers are typical assemblages recovered of this culture. Flake tools, microliths and other chopping tools have also been found. Most of these tools were composed of the metamorphic rock quartzite. The stone tool artefacts in this assemblage have been identified as a part of the second inter-pluvial period in India.

1,000,000 BC

Evidence for presence of Hominins with Acheulean technology in Tamil Nadu. (Acheulean artifacts from Africa have been dated to 1.6 million years ago. The oldest Acheulean sites in India are only slightly younger than those in Africa..)

700,000 - 125,000BC

Bhimbetka and Daraki-Chattan Capules which constitute the oldest prehistoric art ever discovered dated to around 700,000 BC

A skull fragment found in Hathnora in the Narmada Valley in central India indicates that this part of Indian subcontinent might have been inhabited around 300,000 years ago. Anek R. Sankhyan describes it as "debated and conveniently interpreted as "evolved" Homo erectus or "archaic human".

"Using luminescence dating of ancient river sediments, a new study published in *Quaternary Science Reviews* presents evidence for river activity at Nal Quarry in the central Thar Desert starting from approx. 173 thousand years ago. These findings represent the oldest directly dated phase of river activity in the region and indicate

Stone Age populations lived in a distinctly different Thar Desert landscape than we encounter today." ~ [Phys.org](#)

The Thar Desert marks an biogeographical boundary and the eastern extent of people migrating from Africa." ~ [Sciencedirect.com](#)

100,000 BC

Bhimbetka shelters in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau were inhabited by *Homo erectus* with rock art adding to the *Daraki-Chattan Capules*.

74,000 BCE

Technology similar to contemporary artefacts found used by Homo sapiens in Africa found in Jwalapuram is an archaeological site in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, southern India, which shows hominid habitation before and after the Toba eruption event (dates for this event vary between 75000 and 7300 BC)

The Jwalapuram Locality 22 preserves more than 1600 stone artefacts, many agricultural assigned to the Indian Middle Palaeolithic identifying the behavioural and environmental adaptations of the hominin group(s) that occupied India when Toba erupted." ~ archaeologist Michael Haslam, [MyIndiaMyGlory](#).

50,000 BC

Narmada Valley harboured pre-historic human settlements, possibly pre-Harappan 'civilisation' including the only pre-modern human fossil known in Asia.

40,000 BC

The house mouse dependent on agricultural activity begins to migrate out of India.

Narasimha idol found in Germany carbon dated to 35000 BC

The Hindu sense of cosmology claims that our entire universe is alive, it is born and dies over and over. They knew about 26,000 year cycle we call axial precession implying a continuous knowledge over as many years. Although it is possible it was later calculated, 30k BC is a likely date that what we call Hindu civilisation was beginning to evolve.

Neanderthal man once thought of as confined to southern Europe and Levant is nearing extinction yet their DNA had spread into modern populations indicating travel over Eurasia.

"Trade between India, Tibet and Persia 35K BC" ~ Archaeologist [David Adams](#)

30,000 BCE

Early Vedic Period

Possible first gold crafted as Kalpa Vighraha, a Vishnu Idol circa 26000 BC

It seems at this time that there were likely pockets of civilisation across the region of greater India with travel and communication. People were likely wondering what the purpose of life was and observed the emotive states (happiness, joy, sadness et cetera) and sought some way of control so that they could be always happy.

They had probably been thinking on this for some time and observing the phenomenon of life taking steps to ensure a full belly and protection from the extremes of nature and of course dangerous animals. At some time in this period or perhaps earlier, the first yogi appeared and the people came to understand that there are only two directions of life, inwards and outwards but the two affected each other.

17000+ Years Unbroken Indian Civilization  
with [Nilesh Oak](#)

Spending time looking inwards and in a sense being there (meditation) gave rise to a deep sense of joy and happiness and this became part of the enculturation process. Those equipped with self-knowledge looked at the material world and over the millennia

helped to improve life for people and ways of living. Sanatana Dharma was being born and the accumulating knowledge was being passed on through schools employing rote learning.

Paleolithic industries in South India Tamil Nadu

First confirmed semi permanent settlements in the Bhimbetka rock shelters in modern Madhya Pradesh. Some of the Stone Age rock paintings found among the Bhimbetka rock shelters are thought to be approximately 30,000 years old. The ancient history of the region includes some of South Asia's oldest settlements and some of its major civilisations.

In his book: 'A Compact History of Mexico' Mr. Ignacio Bernal states that people from Asia entered America.

Silk Road trade route between China and all points west with the Oxus river (Alexander's Lost World part six), The Wakhan Corridor active at this time.

A plant similar to rice has been dated to this time.

26,492 BC.

End of Kali Yuga - start of ascending Dwapara Yuga

The demise of the Neanderthals who's dna remains in Hindu and other populations.

23,720 years BCE - The Rig Veda composed ?

It is said that the suptarishies went to all corners of the earth and if they are direct students of Shiva as the first yogi who according to legend lived around 12,000 BC, one of them went to the Americas where we find many cultural similarities as in ancient India. The Tamils of course have a reputation as being great seafarers.

As far as known, Hindu culture was matriarchal and the culture of creating deities or gods prevalent. Matriarchal cultures are about coexistence with nature and creating conditions for future generations to flourish.

"As no clear record remains from before 9500 BC, perhaps we can imagine a collection of villages and towns covering the region of north-east Bharatha interconnected by foot paths and waterways. The people would have been farming, collecting wild food and hunting. They would be experimenting with different lifestyles and under the influence of the wandering yogis, becoming more accepting of the unpredictability of life. more

14776 BC.

Peak of last Satya Yuga

14,500 BCE

The composition of the astronomical text Surya Siddhanta. Nilish Oak again explains how the age of this ancient texts has been calculated and the discrepancies in some of the earlier historical reckoning.

Given that this is not an introduction to astronomy but an advanced text indicating that the level of knowledge is indicative of a settled civilisation with a strong multigenerational heritage.

13,000 BCE

It is said that the suptarishies went to all corners of the earth and if they are direct students of Shiva as the first yogi who according to legend lived around 15,000-12,000 BC, one of them went to the Americas where we find many cultural similarities as in ancient India. The Tamils of course have a reputation as being great seafarers. As far as known, Hindu culture was matriarchal and the culture of creating deities or gods prevalent.

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Bharatha interconnected by foot paths and waterways. The people would have been farming, collecting wild food and hunting. They would be experimenting with different lifestyles and under the influence of the wandering yogis, becoming more accepting of the unpredictability of life.

Beginnings of agriculture:

"Evidence of rice ostensibly being used as food on the banks of Lahuradewa lake in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The area, located in the Sant Kabir Nagar District, has been in the limelight for over two decades now thanks to the discovery of outright rice cultivation from the mid-7<sup>th</sup> millennium (i.e., 6000s) BCE, carbonised rice grains dating as far back as ~11,000 BCE, and micro-charcoal particles and Cerealia pollen, providing evidence of human activity and some form of slash-and-burn agriculture in the region from at least 13,000 BCE". ~ India Facts

12,000 BCE

India did not exist in isolation, there had been a trade in objects and ideas over thousands of years before now. Hindlogists see related motifs in the artwork at Göbekli Tepe.

We should remember that the entire region from India to the Mediterranean was much wetter and even the Sinai was a mixture of forests and grasslands as North Africa was a mix of savanna, forests and great Lakes.

Rock art develops

## **The Origin of Sanatana Dharma**

We don't know when but there must have been a shift in consciousness from which Sanatana Dharma and democracy were born. It seems likely that following the revelations of Shiva the first Yogi said to be in this 12-15,000 year BC period that he unveiled the technology of being human and the concept of Ardhanareeshvara that symbolizes male and female principles cannot be separated. It conveys the unity of opposites in the universe. The male half stands for Purusha and female half is Prakriti and they cannot exist separate from each other.

He dwelt for some time in the Ardhanareeshvara - 0 state then shared the understanding of what he had realised and described how everyone could appreciate that state from which not only all life evolved but from where an endless supply of joy and happiness also emerged. This is perhaps better understood in numerals. We are all numbers 1-9 and the Hindus discovered 0 - zero without which the numbers 1-9 do not have any real identity except in contrast or other numbers and without which it's improbable to know joy as the most basic happiness is conditional on the cooperation of other numbers.

As 0 - zero provides certainty of identity of numbers, knowing the absolute through meditation releases soma along with wisdom to resolve life challenges. When enough had touched the absolute and understood, they saw a need for everyone to live wholesomely and Sanatana Dharma evolved to give everyone the opportunity to touch the absolute and to live equitably.

It's though that societies were matriarchal, the economy reflecting communal living and satisfying needs of survival.

It is said that the suptarishies, the direct students of Shiva as the first yogi went to all corners of the earth and one of them went to the Americas where we find many cultural similarities as in ancient India. The Tamils of course have a reputation as being great seafarers and the point made by Vedveer Arya: " According to KD Abhyankar, the star Agastya (Canopus) was known to Indians since the Rig Vedic period. The star Agastya became visible for the first time in India at Kanyakumari around 10,000 BCE, at Chennai around 8500 BCE, at Hyderabad 7200 BCE, in the Vindhya region around 5200 BCE and at Delhi around 3100 BCE.<sup>3</sup>

The epoch of the Puranic story about Agastya who crossed the Vindhya Mountain cannot be later than 5000 BCE. Thus, the history of the 197 Pandyan kings of the Sangam period ought to have begun around 5000 BCE and the first Pandyan king may have

belonged to the era of the Ramayana i.e. 5100 - 5000 BCE" ~ The Chronology of Ancient India by Subhash Kak.

10,000 BCE

Mr. Arcio Nuns, a Brazilian nuclear scientist claims the Dravidians of Asia entered the Americas.

9,582 BC

Commencement of the descending Treta Yuga

9,000 BCE

The Sarasvati Civilization (Indus Valley Civilization) begins as we are discovering though it's likely the roots stretch back many thousands of years. The civilization used an early form of the Indus signs, the so-called Indus script. Over the course of next 8000 years, inhabitants of the Civilization developed new techniques in handicraft (carnelian products, seal carving) and metallurgy (copper, bronze, lead, tin and iron) had elaborate urban planning, baked brick houses, efficient drainage systems, water supply systems, and clusters of large non-residential buildings.

The civilization depended significantly on trade, was the first civilization to use wheeled transport in form of bullock carts, and also used boats. The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro become large metropolises and the civilization expands to over 2,500 cities and settlements across the whole of Pakistan, much of northern India, and large parts of Afghanistan, covering a region of around one million square miles, which was larger than the land area of its contemporaries Egypt and Mesopotamia combined, and also had superior urban planning and sewage systems.

The commencement of natural desertification hastened by agriculture and the use of wood for brickmaking and metal smelting - copper.

The city of Mehrgarh existed - with a large city of about 30,000 persons - showing evidence of the world's first dental drilling of tooth decay (approximately 7,000 to 9,000 years ago) has been found in Merhgarh, as well as the first use of cotton fiber (6th millennium BC).

Possibly the end of the Rig Veda era and the emergence of patriarchal societies ?

"Avesta was the beginning of a great split in the ancient Vedic thought that arose on the banks of the river Saraswati. This split was recorded in the ancient Puranic literature of India, as the conflict between the Devas and the Asuras. It was an ideological fault-line, that divided the same tribe of people into two - a group of people who believed in the immortality of Atman (the soul, which is not body) and the others who believed in the mortality of the body and its need for the final resurrection and revival to become immortal. The first group identified themselves with the immortal Atman and cared nothing about the perishable body. The second group identified themselves with the mortal body and were constantly engaged in its prolonged preservation and its final resurrection." ~ <http://takshasila.wikidot.com/>

In other words, Avesta represented materialism while Vedanta represented spirituality and the creation of heaven on earth. Avesta represented the biblical fall from grace and expulsion from the Garden of Eden and gave rise to patriarchal capitalism – a drive seeking pleasure and avoidance of fear antagonistic to the welfare of life and those seeking liberation.

Patriarchal capitalism gave rise to the belief systems we are familiar with today, transient civilisations and perpetual conflict, India however would remain matriarchal and the worlds longest continuous civilisation although corrupted but resistant to efforts to destroy it.

This is also when it's thought that tribes from India migrated west to Europe and the beginning of the Indo-European languages along with spread of patriarchal capitalism that suited those having difficulty conceiving the eternal.

Patriarchal capitalism is suited to acquiring pleasure, antagonistic to the welfare of life and especially to those seeking liberation. As those embracing the physical and furthered patriarchal capitalism giving rise to transient civilisations and perpetual conflict, India however would remain matriarchal and the worlds longest continuous civilisation corrupted but resistant to efforts to destroy it during the modern era.

6,000 BC

The Kurukshetra War perhaps 5561 ([When Did the Mahabharata War Happen](#) by Nilesh Nilkanth Oak) but there is some conjecture:

- P. V. Vartak calculates a date of 16 October 5561 BCE using planetary positions.
- P. V. Holey states a date of 13 November 3143 BCE using planetary positions and calendar systems.
- Aihole inscriptions give the date of Kurukshetra war around 3102 BCE.
- K. Sadananda, based on translation work, states that the Kurukshetra War started on 22 November 3067 BCE.
- B. N. Achar used planetarium software to argue that the Mahabharata War took place in 3067 BCE.
- S. Balakrishna concluded a date of 2559 BCE using consecutive lunar eclipses.
- R. N. Iyengar concluded a date of 1478 BCE using double eclipses and Saturn+Jupiter conjunctions.
- P. R. Sarkar estimates a date of 1298 BCE for the war of Kurukshetra.
- V. S. Dubey claims that the war happened near 950 BCE ~ [wiki](#)
- [Discussion paper](#)

The submersion of Dwarka as sea levels rose and the covering of the continental shelf (Great flood stories). The area between South India and Sri Lanka was submerged.

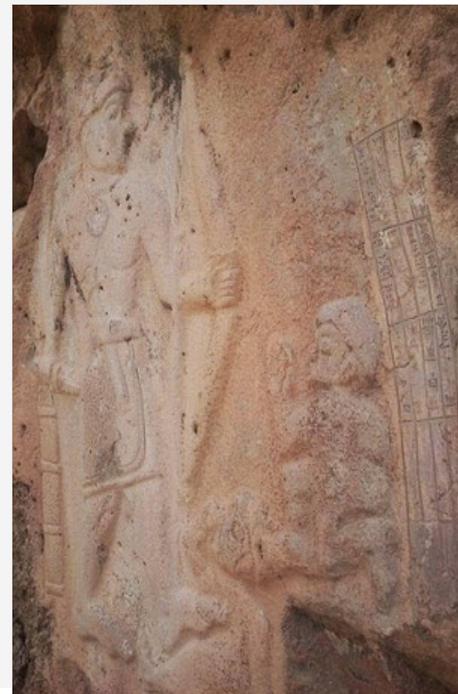
Migrations from India to the Mediterranean and beyond.

Perhaps the Kurukshetra War created a rift in Hindu culture or perhaps it was the arrival of capitalism combined with a patriarchal mentality returning to India with traders that began to undermine the sense of Dharma. We don't know when Manu created his laws but he talks about possessions, human rights and of course money which as far as we know began to emerge at this time.

The Life of Lord Rama 5114 BC ([vifindia.org](#)). It is thought that the Rama were a **clan** who over time became the Rajputs and coined the name Rajasthan. According to scholars and the evidences across Iraq and Iran, the Rama clan ruled extensively and were influential in the development of Egyptian culture (Ramses). This image is one of many similar found across the region of greater Persia said to symbolise Lord Rama.

Creation of The Laws of Manu [History and Influence of Law Code of Manu](#).

Rock art in [Andhra Pradesh](#) dated to this time. [Kurnool Dist](#) foundations for one of the world's longest sequences of rock art.



5694 BC

End of descending Treta Yuga and commencement of the descending Dwarpara Yuga

5,000 BC

By one theory, this is the beginning of the Kali Yuga? with a duration of 432,000 years, leaving us with 427,000 years until the end of the present age. This theory is not so widely accepted.

Seaward travel east and either seafarers stranded in Australia or migrants who settled and mixed with the local inhabitants as per modern genetic evidence.

The Saraswati river begins to diminish causing westward migrations and Hindu influence in Egypt - probably two way trade in ideas and technology.

Tamil DNA appears in Australian Aboriginals indicating Tamil travel and trade.

The original Sun Temple at Multan is said to have been built by Samba, son of Krishna.

3,300 BC

Commencement of Copper - Bronze age in India although this may have been earlier (Hindustan Times)

Cotton growing becomes widespread in South America - indicating trade across the Pacific.

3,140 BC

End of descending Dwarpara Yuga and by the most accepted theory matching axial precession and our movement through the constellations, the Kali Yuga began:

"in 3140 BCE, the Kurukshetra War ended, and in 3102 BCE, Krishna left his body. Three to four months after the war, the Kali Yuga began. As of 2012 AD, Krishna's era ended 5,114 years ago. If you subtract 2592, which is the cumulative number of years of the two Kali Yugas that are at the bottom of the ellipse which describes the axial precession, you arrive at 2522 years. That means we have already completed 2522 years of Dwapara Yuga, and since its total duration is 2592 years, we still have 62 years until its completion. In the year 2082, we will complete Dwapara Yuga and move on to Treta Yuga." ~ Sadhguru

Some **conjecture** on dates of the Kurukshetra War.

3,000 BC

Hindu settlement exists at Shortugai (near Bactria or Bactra as is sometimes spelt) on the Oxus River (Amu Darya) on trade route between China and all points west with the Oxus river navigable to the Mediterranean (and Aral, Caspian and Black Sea ports). Perhaps for lapis lazuli, wool, gold, silver, copper, bronze, tin, lead, herbs and spices on this 'silk route' ?

Extensive land and maritime trade network operating between the Harappan and Mesopotamian civilizations.

Global warming intensifies with the drying up of the Saraswati River and mass westward migrations of people from North West India.

2,200 BC - Iron Age India:

Officially, the beginnings of the Iron Age around the world dates to 1200 BC, however, the Iron Age in India clearly goes back to 2200 BC. Archaeologists have found artefacts including knives and blades dated to this time. These findings clearly attest to India's ancient achievements in the field of metallurgy and push back the Iron Age in India.

C14 carbon studies performed by the metallurgists have shown that there were many other ancient mines from which silver, copper, tin, zinc and lead were produced.

2,000 BC

The population of the Indian subcontinent is estimated at 6,000,000 but could be many times greater.

The development of swords (Academia) based on the supposition that the Rigveda and Atharvaveda are later works where as swords in other regions have been found dating to 1400 years earlier?

Possible date for the Horsemen of the Pir Panjal - some say they seem to be more Bactrian inspired than Indic

Chariots and weaponry in burial chambers at **Sinauli**, about 70 kilometres north of New Delhi.

Lapis from Afghanistan appears in Egypt proving trade.

1,900 BC

The Sarasvati River ceases to flow as a result of tectonic upheavals marking the end of the Harappan/Indus Valley Civilisation.

Mass migrations from North West India, The formative Jews?

1806 BC,

Lowest ebb of the Kali Yuga

1,800 BC

**Adichanallur** urn-burial site in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu.

Hindu culture (Sanatana Dharma) is strong across Southeast Asia and perhaps here we have the beginnings of Mahendraparvata and Angkor Wat in today's Cambodia?

Panchayat or self-governing village bodies called 'sabhas' existed as the first known democracy. This system may have existed long before but the Village Panchayat or elected council had large powers, both executive and judicial. Land was distributed by this panchayat which also collected taxes out of the produce and paid the government's share on behalf of the village. Above a number of these village councils there was a larger panchayat or council to supervise and interfere if necessary.

The panchayat was deliberately destroyed by the East India Company when it was granted the office of Diwan in 1765.

1,300 BC

Cemetery H culture comes to an end.

Late date for the Rigveda ?

A widely accepted birth/death dates for Shakyamuni Buddha 1029 BCE to 949 BCE

Late Vedic period (to 500 BCE)

1,000 BC

Kanchi district, gold mine of Megalithic sites in South India

Iron Age kingdoms rule India— Kuru, Panchala, Kosala, Videha

The growth in education and the rise of universities - any Greek scholar worth his salt must travel and spend time studying in India

Increased desertification hastened by agriculture and the use of wood for funerals, brickmaking and metal smelting - the Saraswati dries up and IVC ends

Kashi (Varanasi), the spiritual and cultural capital of ancient India existed in this period. It's undisputed as the oldest inhabited city of the world and thought to have existed since long before.

Dharmic (Hindu) civilization evolved beyond the subcontinent shaping the social construct and statehood of Southeast Asia.

Through trade and education, small indigenous states were transformed into major kingdoms and empires led by a Maharajah with statecraft concept akin to those in India. It gave birth to the former Champa civilisation in southern parts of Central Vietnam, Funan in Cambodia, the Khmer Empire in Indochina, Langkasuka Kingdom and Old Kedah in the Malay Peninsula, the Sriwijayan kingdom on Sumatra, the Medang Kingdom, Singhasari and the Majapahit Empire based in Java, Bali and parts of the Philippine archipelago.

The civilisation of India influenced the languages, scripts, written tradition, literature's, calendars, scientific knowledge and artistic aspects of these peoples and nations.

877 BC

Birth of Parsvanatha, 23rd Jain Tirthankara (traditional date)

700 BC

The Upanishads, sacred texts within Hinduism are written.

Buddha Shakyamuni was born as a royal prince in 624 BC in a place called Lumbini, in what is now Nepal contrary to earlier opinion. ~ Kadampa

Carbon dating proves Adichanallar relics found in Tamil know to date from 905 to 696 BC

600 BC

Sixteen Maha Janapadas ("Great Realms" or "Great Kingdoms") emerge.

Vedic period ends?

The capital of the Early Pandyan Kingdom was initially Korkai, all around 600 BCE, and was later moved to Koodal (now Madurai) during the reign of Nedunjeliyan I.

Takshashila University is the most famous and the world's first university. Also known as Taxila or Takshila existing from about 600 BC to 500 AD, Taxila was in the kingdom of Gandhar, in Ancient India.

Pāṇini the renowned Sanskrit scholar and considered the father of linguistics lived in this period.

599 BC

Mahavira, 24th Tirthankar of Jainism is born (traditional date).

According to some, Gautama Buddha was born c. 563/480 BCE as per evidence at Lumbini but seems less likely date.

Commencement of the Sangam period of Tamil Nadu and Kerala spanning from c. 5th century BCE to 3rd century CE. Sangam literature based in Madurai has literary evidences of urban civilisation in Tamil Nadu.

Reign of Cyrus the Great and founder of the Persian Achaemenid Empire 559-530 BC. His army reached into northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent, today's Afghanistan, which later proved to be his nemesis and caused his death. He chose the site of Persepolis under which lay a gold plate on which were written the tenants of democracy and the Cyrus Cylinder, the oldest known declaration of human rights likely learned/taken from India.

550 BC

Rein of Persian King Darius the Great (550-486 BC) who led the Achaemenid conquest of the Indus Valley. Dara is an Indian name and his great grandfather was called Ariaramnes.

543 BC

The Vanga-based Prince Vijaya (c. 543 BCE) married a daughter of the Pandyan king of Madurai, to whom he was sending rich presents every year. Sinhalese chronicle Mahawamsa mentions this event.

527 BC

Nirvana of Mahavira

510 BC

End of the Kali Yuga and commencement of the current ascending Dwapara Yuga.

The ideals of democracy (from India) are enshrined in the foundations of Persepolis.

500 BC

The followers of Buddha are institutionalising Buddhism

Extensive trade as far as Rome.

Envoys to and from China with special interest in Buddhism.

An early Greek coin discovered from Gandhara region, dated 500-400 BCE. This is one of the earliest evidence for Hindu contacts with Greece, dating to pre-Alexandrian era.



It's said that no Greek scholar was 'worth his salt unless he'd studied in India'.

Kālidāsa, a Classical Sanskrit writer lives about this time.

The Barabar Caves are constructed about this time - they are carved entirely out of granite, with a highly polished internal surface and exciting echo effect.

483 BC

Another proposed date for the Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagar.

350 BC

Panini, a resident of Gandhara, describes the grammar and morphology of Sanskrit in the text Ashtadhyayi. Panini's standardized Sanskrit is known as Classical Sanskrit.

333 BC

Persian rule in the northwest ends after Darius 3 is defeated by Alexander, who establishes the Macedonian Empire after taking over the Persian Achaemenid Empire and migration of Greeks into the region. It's thought Alexander sent his plunder home by way of the Oxus, Aral, Caspian, Black Sea to Mediterranean sea route and used that route to bring in Greek migrants.

326 BC

Ambhi king of Takshila, a university city surrenders to Alexander.

Army of King Porus who ruled parts of the Punjab, defeated Alexander at the Battle of the Hydaspes River.

321 BCE

Mauryan Empire is founded by Chandragupta Maurya in Magadha after he defeats the Nanda dynasty and Macedonian Seleucid Empire. Mauryan capital city is Pataliputra (Modern Patna in Bihar)

305 BCE

Chandragupta Maurya defeats Seleucus Nicator of the Seleucid Empire.

304 BCE

Seleucus gives up his territories in the subcontinent (Afghanistan/Baluchistan) to Chandragupta in exchange for 500 elephants. Seleucus offers his daughter in marriage to Chandragupta to seal their friendship.

300 BC

Beginning of the Satavahana kingdom covering present-day Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Possible composition of the *Arthashastra* credited to *Kautilya*, also identified as *Vishnugupta and Chanakya*

273 BCE

Ashoka the Great regarded as the greatest ancient Indian emperor, grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, ascends as emperor of the Mauryan Empire.

266 BCE

Ashoka conquers and unifies most of South Asia, along with most of Afghanistan and Balochistan.

265 BCE

Kalinga War takes place between Ashoka and the kingdom of Kalinga.

After conquering Kalinga, Ashoka reportedly regrets what he had done, leading him to adopt Buddhism, which then became the quasi-official state religion of the Mauryan Empire.

260 BCE

Ashoka begins displaying religious tolerance, grants animal rights, builds hospitals for people and animals, treats his subjects as equals regardless of caste or creed, and promotes non-violence and republicanism.

Ashoka inscribes the Edicts of Ashoka, written down using Brahmi script.

232 BCE

Ashoka dies and is succeeded by Kunala.

230 BCE

Simuka declares independence from Mauryan rule and establishes the Satavahana Empire

Patañjali, the eminent composer of the Yoga Sutras dated to mid 2nd century BCE by both Western and Indian scholars

200 BCE

Kuninda Kingdom is established.

Tholkappiyam describes the grammar and morphology of Tamil; it is the oldest existing Tamil grammar (dates vary between 200 BCE and 100 CE). (to 100 BC)

Buddhism expands north westward and artefacts found in Scandinavia dated to this time.

Kalaripayattu - written evidence of martial arts in Southern India described in the Sangam literature of this period

Puspagiri University - Buddhist University is established (Lalitgiri). Today, its ruins lie atop the Langudi hills about 90 km from the Mahanadi delta, in the districts of Jajpur and Cuttack, Orissa.

184 BCE

The Mauryan Empire, which shrank considerably, collapses after its emperor Brihadrata is assassinated by his general Pushyamitra Shunga. Pushyamitra Shunga then establishes the Shunga dynasty.

100 BC

Sugar was first produced from sugarcane in northern India sometime after the first century.

78 BC

Gautamiputra Satkarni becomes Satavahana emperor and starts Shalivahana era calendar after defeating Scythian king Maues.

68 BC

Establishment of the Kushan empire by Kujula Kadphises.

65 BC

The Pandyan king sends ambassadors to the Greek and Roman lands.

58 BC

Beginning of Vikram Era - The Vikram Samvat calendar starts half a century before the Gregorian calendar and works on an Indian calendar cycle.

35 BC

Western Satraps 35–405 CE (Kshatrapa the longest reigning Indo-Scythian group in India) formed.

Increased desertification hastened by agriculture and the use of wood for funerals, brickmaking and metal smelting.

Year 0

Buddhism expands into South East Asia and begins to replace the existing Hindu (Sanatana Dharma) culture.

"In the high plateau of eastern Iran, in the oases of Serindia, in the arid wastes of Tibet, Mongolia, and Manchuria, in the ancient civilized lands of China and Japan, in the lands of the primitive Mons and Khmers and other tribes of Indo-China, in the countries of the Malaya-Polynesians, in Indonesia and Malay, India left the indelible impress of her high culture, not only upon religion, but also upon art, and literature, in a word, all the higher things of spirit." Rene Grousset (1885-1952) French art historian. Author of several books including *Civilization of India* and *The Empire of the Steppes: A History of Central Asia*.

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