

# Chronology of Indian History

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**Abstract:--** Chronology is the science of arranging events in their order of occurrence in time. Consider for example the use of a timeline or sequence of the actual temporal sequence of past events. Chronology is part of periodization. It is also part of the discipline of history including earth history, the earth sciences and study of the geologic time scale. Indian history is a topic of interest to many including foreigners because of the cultures and civilizations existed in this subcontinent. History of India can be studied under political, cultural, religious or economic heads. Chronologically Indian history can be classified in to three periods ancient India, medieval India and modern India.

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## INTRODUCTION TO PRE-HISTORIC AGE:

The prehistoric age is that age of human progress about which no historical evidence is available. It only scanty archaeological findings Particularly certain tools and weapons which prove that man passed lakhs of years before he was able to develop what are now called culture and civilization of any sort. In India too man passed a very long period of prehistoric age. The prehistoric age has been divided into following parts:

### **1. Palaeolithic Age:**

It is now generally held that the earliest traces of human being in India are found in Punjab and belong to the end of the first inter glacial period and the beginning of the second ice age.(ie) about 500000 years ago. However there are certain other scholars who hold that "Early man" in India originated in south India and migrated towards Punjab at the close of the first ice age. Men of this age did not know the use of metals, had no idea of cultivation and probably, did not know how to produce fire. Their implements were of rough stone mainly of Quartzite. However they lived in groups to protect themselves from wild animals. This age continued up to nearly 25000 B.C.

### **2. Mesolithic or Megalithic Age:**

By nearly 25,000 BC men were able to make some progress in the field of their implements as well as living. The men hunt, bloodstone and even bones of wild animals to make their implements and weapons probably during its later stage man started to make clay-pottery. Men continued in this age up to nearly 5,000 BC

Mesolithic phase is marked by the important practice of domesticating animals. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people practiced and Mesolithic people practised painting, of which evidence comes from several sites. Bhimbetka, 45 km south

of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh the most striking of them gives ample evidence of rock paintings extending from the palaeolithic to the Mesolithic periods. The social organization in the Mesolithic period tended to become more stable than in the preceding palaeolithic period largely shaped the religious beliefs of the people.

### **3. Neolithic age:**

The period between 5000 BC and 300 BC has been accepted to be of this age. Evidences relating to this period have been obtained from almost all over India and kept in the museums of Calcutta, Madras Mysore and Hyderrabad. As yet tools and weapons of men were of stone but these were sharpened and polished. Their variety has also increased. The people who made them had progressed fairly. They cultivated land domesticated animals built houses buried or burnt their dead, used skins of animals. Probably they built the potter's wheel and wheel of wood as well.

### **4. The Age of metals:**

The Neolithic Age was followed by the age of metals. The transition from stone to metal was a slow and gradual process. This is proved by the fact that the use of stone and metallic implements is found side by side. There is also a close resemblance in the shape of early metal and Neolithic implements. However there is no uniformity regarding the use of metals in different parts of India copper replaced stone as the ordinary material for tools and weapons. Bronze is an alloy made up of nine parts of copper and one part of tin. It is very suitable for the manufacture of tools and weapons. However it may be stated that the palaeolithic age lasted from about 35,000 to 10000 BC to 5000 BC. The copper age probably started about 4000 years ago. When the period of proto-history ended in India? Scholars have differed concerning it. In fact, concerning it. In fact concerning Indian History Vedic-age also is not a part of proto-history in India. Therefore, Harappa civilization has been considered a part of proto-history of India.

***Early Muslim conquests and the foundation of the kingdom of Delhi:***

India lay above the high water-mark of the flood of Arab conquest which in the later part of the seventh and the early part of the eight centuries of the Christian era. The conquest of Sind had no far-reaching effects and the religious which was destined to dominate India for nearly five centuries did not penetrate beyond the frontier tract annexed by the Arabs. Mahmud is one of the most prominent figures in the history of Islam. During a reign of thirty two years he extended his empire over the whole of the country now known as Afghanistan the greater part of Persia and Transoxiana and The Punjab. Three years after Mahmud's death a great famine, followed by plague devastated Mesopotamia, Persia and parts of India. The next stage in the conquest of India began twenty five years later. The Rajput princes now realized their danger. There were as usual dissensions among them. A deadly feud had arisen between Kanauj and Delhi to which a romantic love affair lent and the Gahawar prince of Kanauj was the common enemy.

At the second battle of Tarain in 1192 Prithiviraj again commended the Hindu army, But at the end of a well-fought day the charge of Mohammad's body guard of 10,000 mounted archers broke the Rajput ranks. The Rajput allied in Gujarat in their famous strong hold Chitor under the shelter of the Aravalli hills, and on the border of the desert in Marwar, but the Turks and Afghans had over run the fairest provinces of Hindustan and had come to stay.

***Socio – Economic condition of India in 18th Century:***

The socio economic condition of the 18th century India was infected by political convulsions and instability. The society in general retained most of its tradition features but several changes were induced in the society. The European influence in the Indian society led to the alterations and changes all over India. However economic pressure and administrative innovations introduced by the East India Company made the situation worse than before.

In the eighteenth century society women were given enough place of respect in home and society outside. The Hindu society was patriarchal. Hence the male head of the family were usually prevailed but the status of the women prevailed but the status of the women was not curbed. Purdah system was highly practiced in both the Hindu and Muslim society. Child marriage was in vogue and it was applicable for both the girls and boys. Dowry system was prevalent among the upper classes polygamy was in common and alas mainly practiced by the aristocrats.

Slavery was one of the chief features of the Indian society in 18th century. Economic distress, famines, Natural calamities, extreme poverty compelled some to sell their children for a price. The system of slavery and the slave trade attained a new dimension with the coming of the European in India. Particularly the Portuguese the Dutch and the English promoted the slave trade.

Apart from these there were not any major architectural remains of the eighteenth century India. Vernacular languages like, the Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, and Tamil were developed. The village communities and the percentage of the land revenues remained unchanged with the change of the rules and the dynasties. The banking system also became active with the growth of extensive trade. The growth of the trade gave rise to the capitalist economy in the eighteenth century in India.

***Political conditions of India in 18th century:***

By 1765 notice how another power the British, had successfully grabbed major chunks of territory in eastern India.

***The crisis of the Empire and the Later Mughals:***

The Mughal Empire reached the height of its success and started facing a variety of crises towards the closing years of the seventeenth century. These were caused by a number of factors. Mughal authority had been challenged by rebellious groups in the past as well. The Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb were unable to arrest the gradual shifting of political and economic authority into the hands of provincial governors, local chieftains and other groups.

***Entry of Europeans in India:***

Colonial India refers to areas of the Indian subcontinent and Manavikraman under the influence of European colonial powers through trade and conquest. The first European power to arrive in India was the army of Alexander the Great in 327-326 BC. The satraps he established in the northwest quickly crumbled after he left. Later trade was carried between India states and the Roman Empire by Graeco-Roman and Egyptian sailors that reached India by sailing on the Red and Arabian seas.

***East India Company in Asia:***

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***East India Company in Asia:***

British policy in Asia during the 19th century was chiefly concerned with expanding and protecting its hold on India viewed as its most important colony and the key to the rest of Asia. The East India Company drove the expansion of the British Empire in Asia. The company's army had first joined forces with the Royal Navy during the seven year's war and the two continued to cooperate in arenas outside India. The end of the company was precipitated by a mutiny of Sepoys against their British attempts to westernize India.

**CONCLUSION:**

India suffered a series of serious crop failures in the late 19th century, leading to wide spread famines in which at least 10 million people died. The East India Company had failed to implement any coordinated policy to deal with the famines during its period of rule. This changed during the raj in which commissions were set up after each famine to investigate the causes and implement new policies which took until the early 1900's to have an effect.

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