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# 01

## Pre-History and Proto-History

- This period covers most of the part of the human's history but a veil of mystery always prevails over this period, as for the study of the period **only archaeological source is available**. Literary source is either totally absent as we find in the case of pre-historical period or if it is available it could not be utilised as we find in the case of Harappan civilisation.
- This time-lag can be divided from two different perspectives- **Geological era and Historical period**. Geologically, history of the earth divided into four eras such as a **Primary (Paleozoic), Secondary (Mesozoic), Tertiary and Quaternary**. The Tertiary and Quaternary together form the **Cenozoic era** or the age of mammals, which began about 100 million years ago. The Cenozoic is divided among seven epochs, of which last two - **Pleistocene and Holocene** are important, particularly for the fact that it provides **knowledge of hominid evolution** (the study of human's ancestors). The Pleistocene era is supposed to have started nearly from 1,20,000 to 1,30,000 years ago and **Holocene from nearly 10,000 years ago**.
- This Geological era is marked by the evolution of hominids as well. As we know that the earliest known hominids (man-like species) were the members of the **Australopithecus**. This genus evolved much earlier nearly 4.4 to 1.8 million years back. But possibly they could not emerge to be the tool-makers. So, it was **Homo-Habilis**, who came after them, started making tools. Then, appeared a bit more improved genus, '**Homo erectus**'. It was so named as it could stand in fully erected posture. Then comes **Neanderthals and Denisovans** (Denisovans are later day discovery). What relationship exists between Neanderthal & Homo Sapiens is still a matter of conjecture. Whether the Neanderthals evolved into Homo Sapiens or whether they became extinct, remains a mystery. Then come modern humans known as **Homo sapiens**. Anatomically, modern humans known as homo sapiens seems to have appeared in Africa between 1,95,000 and 1,30,000 years ago and replaced all other humans. Homo sapiens or modern Indians are supposed to have entered into India nearly, 70,000 years earlier. They were known as first Indians.
- Initially, there was lack of evidence about the activities of early humans in Indian subcontinent. But it was **Robert Bruce Foote, the founder of India's Geological Survey**, who discovered the first Paleolithic stone tool (a hand axe) in India. But apart from tools, even hominid remains are also visible in Indian subcontinent, although hominid remains came to light a bit late. From 19th century onwards, several remains of fossil apes are **discovered at Shiwalik hills**, the outermost range of Himalayas, which are known as **Ramapithecus, Sivapithecus and Bramapithecus**.
- More recently, hominid fossils have been found in central India. In 1982, it has been discovered at **Hathnora village** on the northern bank of the Narmada River.

- The term '**Aryan**' signifies a 'linguistic' group.
- Another inscription known as the Kassite inscription belongs to 1600 B.C. Through this inscription we come to know that a branch of Aryans from Iran turned towards India.

### Sources

#### Archeological Source :-

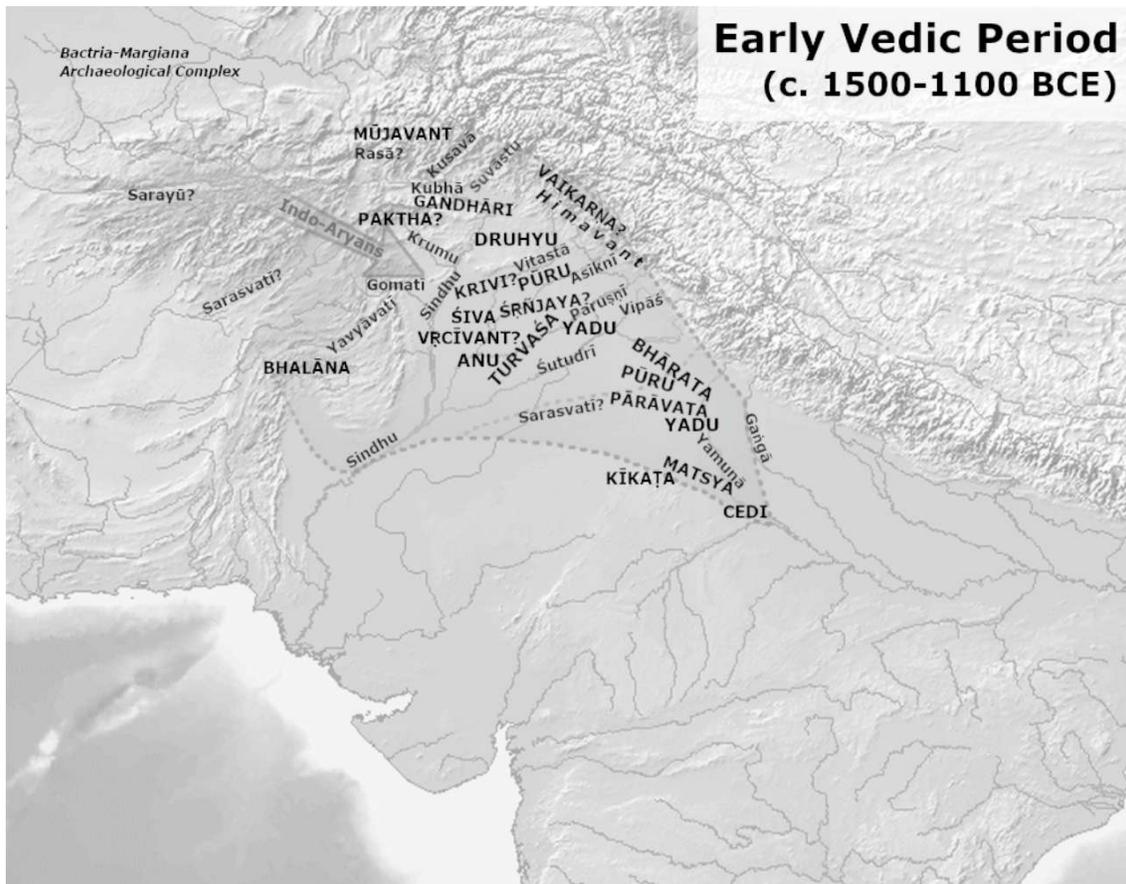
- 13 roomed quarter unearthed from 'Bhagwanpura' in Haryana
- Animal bones and implements made of copper and bronze alongwith PGW have been traced out in Bhagwanpura.
- 'Bhogazgoi or Mittanni' inscription : In this particular inscription, the Gods such as Indra, Mitra, Varuna and Nasatya (Aswin) have been invoked to sanctify the treaty between the two kings. This inscription belongs to 1400 B.C.

#### Literary Source :-

- Rigveda** - It is divided into 10 mandalas, the Mandal I and Mandal X belong to later phase. The Mandal II to VII are the earliest, known as the family books.
- Zend Avesta**

### Political Expansion

- Rig Vedic Aryans expanded from Eastern Afghanistan to Western U.P. It covers the



areas-Eastern Afghanistan, Kashmir, North Western Frontier Province, Punjab, some portion of Rajasthan and western U.P.

- The '**Nadisukta**' of Rig-Veda, gives us the information about 42 rivers. Among them names of 19 rivers have been mentioned, some of them are the western tributaries of the river Indus- Krumu(Kurram) Shushoma (Sohan), Khubha (Kabul), Gumal (modern Comal), Suvastu (Swat). These rivers lie in Afghanistan.
- The river Indus appears to be the most important river while the river Saraswati was the most holy river.
- The eastern tributaries of the river Indus are Jhelum (Vitasta), Chenab (Asikni), Ravi (Parushni), Sutlej (Shatadru), Vyas (Vipasa). Drishdvati (Rakshi or Chitang) river was the southern border of Aryans. The river Apaya might have been situated near Thaneshwar. Saryu, Yamuna, Ganga are other important rivers. There is the mention of Yamuna 3 times while Ganga has been mentioned only once.

### Political Geography :-

- Although there is mention of the word, the 'Samudra' or the ocean in the Rig-Veda, but actually the Rig Vedic Aryans were not familiar with the ocean. The term ocean meant simply a pool of water.
- The Rig Vedic Aryans were familiar with the Himalayas because the term '**Munjavant**' was used for this mountain. Muzwant was supposed to be the seat of 'Soma'. But the Vindhyan range was completely unknown to the Rig Vedic Aryans.
- The Rig Vedic Aryans were familiar with the desert. The term 'Dhanwa' stands for desert in the Rig Veda and it is said that the God Parjanya (God of Rain) made the desert civilization.

- In the Rig Veda it is said that the Bharata clan worshipped fire by the side of the river Saraswati, Drishwadati and the Apaya.

### Different Tribes :-

- Political narrative reflected in texts. The most important tribe was the Bharatas, on the name of which India came to be known as Bharatvarsha. The 'Srinjaya' and 'Tritsu' both were associated with the Bharatas. Tritsu were possibly the ruling group of the Bharatas.
- Different Aryan tribes were organized into the so called Panchjana. Panchjana comprised 5 tribes such as Puru, Druhu, Anu, Turvashu and Yadu. Purus were called 'Trasdasyus' (he, who terrifies the dasyus). Yadu and Turvasu were called the Dasa (slaves).
- Different Aryan tribes were fighting with each other and they were fighting against non-Aryan groups as well. Sometimes the Panchjana tribes, in association with the Dasyus (indigenous people) used to fight with the chief Vedic tribe, Bharata. Dasa is a term all inclusive. It includes the defeated Aryans as well as non-Aryans. Normally the Aryan tribes were fighting with the people who were using OCP and 'Red and Black' potteries.
- **Distinctive features associated with Aryans-**
  - a. Chariot driven by horses
  - b. Weapons made of good quality bronze
  - c. The use of armour (Varman)
  - d. Different type of forts called 'Pur'.
  - e. They used bows and arrows, sword, spear etc.
- It is said that 'Vishwamitra' used to be the teacher and guide of the Bharata clan and it was under the guidance of Vishwamitra that Bharatas became successful in

**Pala, Gurjara, Pratihara**

- The first reference about Gurjara-Pratiharas is to be found in Aihole Inscription of Pulkeshin II. In the 'Harshcharita' of Bana also we have the reference. Even Hiuen-Tsang mentions about Gurjara-Pratihara; some literary texts such as Kavya Mimansa, Karpoor Manjari or Bal Ramayana, Viddhsalbhanjika of Rajsekhar throw light on the history of Gurjara Pratihara.
- According to Gwalior inscription 'Gurjara Pratihara' declared themselves as successor of Lakshmana; Rajshekhar calls his patron Mahendrapala as Raghukul Tilak and Ragugramini. According to some scholars, Gurjara Pratiharas used to be the gatekeepers of Rashtrikuta kings. The Pratiharas link their lineage to a Brahmin, Harishchandra also. There is a dispute about the place of their origin. Possibly their place of origin was Bhilamala or Bhinmala, north-west of Mount Abu.
- According to some scholars, their original place was Ujjain. The first historical personality associated with this dynasty was 'Harishchandra'. This dynasty was divided into two Branches.
- The first king of Malwa branch was Nagbhatta I. He was given the credit to repulse the Arab invaders. In Gwalior inscription it is said that he remained there for the protection of the people as a Narayana. His successor was Vatsaraja (783-800).
- Vatsaraja captured Jodhpur and thus the two branches of Pratiharas unified into one. He fought with the Pala kings and the

Rashtrakutas, but he was defeated by a Rashtrakuta king Dhruva. His successor was Nagabhatta II. He was a great king and he defeated the Pala king Dharmapala. But he himself was defeated by a Rashtrakuta king Govind III.

**Mihirbhoja (836-885 AD) :-**

- He was a great Pratihara king. He was the worshipper of Vishnu. So he took the title 'Adivaraha'. According to Karnal inscription, his empire extended upto Punjab. Arab travellers Al-Masudi calls him as Barua.
- According to Daulatapura inscription of Bhoja, the Pratihara king captured the central and eastern Rajasthan.

**Mahendrapala (885-909AD) :-**

- The successor of Mihirbhoja was Mahendrapala I. He was a great ruler. He defeated the Pala ruler Narayanapala but was defeated by a ruler of Kashmir, 'Shankarvarmana'. In this battle, Mahendrapala lost some regions in Punjab to Shankarvarmana.
- The court of Mahendrapala was adorned by a famous scholar 'Rajshekhar'. He was the teacher of Mahendrapala. Rajshekhar composed the texts such as 'Karpooramanjari', 'Bal Ramayana', 'Bal Mahabharata' and 'Kavya Mimasa'. His successor was Mahipala.

**Mahipala :-**

- During the period of Mahipala Rashtrakuta king Indra II invaded Northern India, as a result of which Pratihara dynasty declined. Rajshekhar calls Mahipala as the

### Legacy of British colonialism and challenges before the first government of independent India

#### 1. Political Scenario:-

- a. Partition, holocaust and the challenge of rehabilitation of refugees and its impact
- b. How to ensure unity and integrity of India through merger of princely states with the Union of India
- c. The challenge of transforming a colonial society into a nation through a democratic constitution and the first General elections
- d. The challenge of nation-building in the midst of diversified nature and pluralistic character of the country - The question of national language and official language as well as formation of linguistic states.

#### 2. Economic Scenario:-

- a. Low productivity, low per-capita income and low standard of life.
- b. The taxation system was unjust. Lower class had more tax burden than rich class. Out of the total tax, 52% was coming from land revenue and 16% from salt tax.
- c. Agriculture was overburdened. Maximum population was dependent on agriculture in one way or other.
- d. The contribution of agriculture in the GDP was maximum. Contribution of manufacturing and service sector was very low.

#### 3. Social Justice:-

- a. The society was divided on the lines of caste and community. High birth and death rates. Infant mortality rate was very high.

- b. Literacy rate, at the time of independence, was 16%. Female literacy rate was just 8%.
- c. Gender disparity was a big social problem.

### Evolution of Constitution And Main Provisions

Origin of Constitution is deeply embedded in the struggle for independence. National Movement popularized among the people the notions of Parliamentary democracy, republicanism, Civil liberties, social and economic justices.

- Elective principle was introduced in Indian Council Act 1892 which fell short of the nationalist demand.
- Congress-League scheme for constitutional reforms which emerged out of Congress-League pact of 1916 demanded 4/5th elected member in provincial legislatures.
- Annie Besant, Sapru, Srinivas Sastri drafted the Commonwealth of India Bill, 1925. According to this bill, India was to be placed on an equal footing with the self-governing dominions. Moti Lal Nehru introduced a resolution in Central Legislative Assembly in 1924 to reserve the right for framing constitution called **"National Demand"**.
- Nehru Report was introduced in August, 1928. Most of the features of this report were included in the Constitution later. For example, Parliamentary system, Fundamental rights, Linguistic provinces, Residuary powers vested in centre instead of provinces, etc.
- First of all, in the Faizpur session, the Congress demanded that a Constituent

Assembly should be constituted by the Indians for the making of the Indian Constitution.

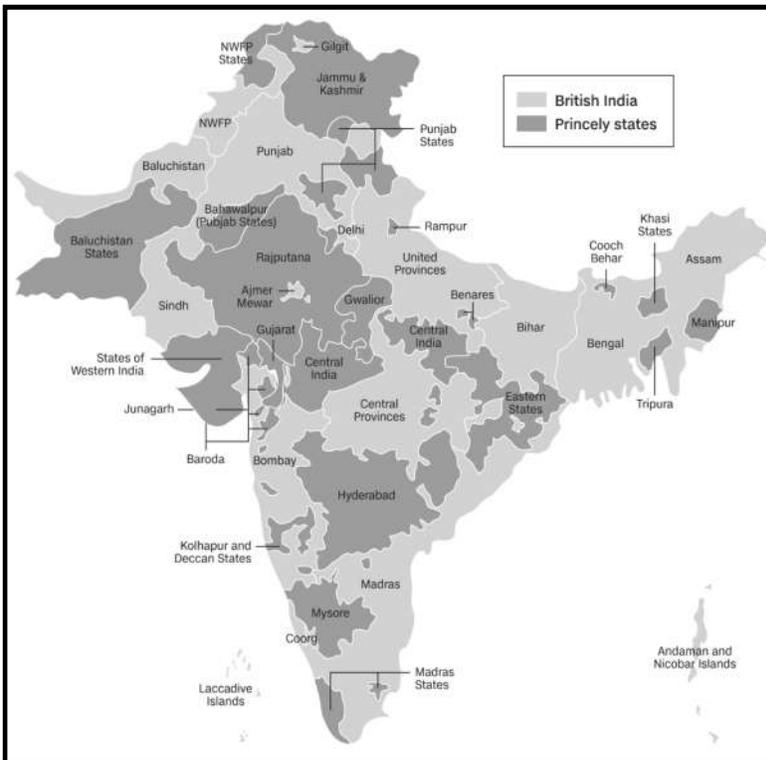
- In August Offer 1940, Lord Linlithgow promised that a Constituent Assembly would be formed after the war by Indians but rejected by all major parties.
- The same thing was repeated in the Cripps Mission (1942) but not accepted by Congress due to divisive potential.
- The proposal of Constituent Assembly was brought in the Cabinet Mission of 1946. But instead of direct election only indirect election was accepted. According to the mission, one person was to be elected for every 10 lakh population and this was to be done from the provincial councils. There was a provision of 389 members in the Constituent Assembly. 296 members were to be elected from British India and 93 from the princely states.
- First session of the Constituent Assembly began on 9 December 1946. **Sachchidanand Sinha** was elected as a pro tem President of the Constituent Assembly. Further, on 11th December 1946, Rajendra Prasad was elected the permanent president of the Constituent Assembly. Objectives resolution moved by Nehru on 13th December 1946 and adopted on 22nd January, 1947 by the assembly.
- Under the Mountbatten Plan of 3 June 1947, India got independence on 15 August and the partition was implemented. After this the Constituent Assembly became a sovereign body and it also took over the responsibility of the Central Legislature.
- **The procedure related to the Constituent Assembly was completed in five phases-**
  1. The various committees presented their reports.
  2. B.N. Rao became the constitutional consultant and prepared the initial draft

of the constitution on the basis of various reports and researches.

3. A drafting committee was constituted under Ambedkar.
4. Extensive debates were held on the draft of the constitution and some important changes were brought. After independence, the total number of members in the Constituent Assembly were 299. Of these, 229 members were representing different provinces and 70 members were representing the princely states. The maximum number of representatives, i.e. 7 members were sent by Mysore State.
5. On 26 November 1950, the Indian Constitution was enacted and adopted.

#### Integration of Princely States

- 40% territory of India was under small & big princely states.
- Indian nationalists could not accept a number of sovereign powers and people of princely states had also developed strong feelings of Indian nationalism since beginning of 20th century. The Mountbatten plan removed the option of independence for these princely states. Now they had to join either India or Pakistan depending on their vicinity to these two.
- With great skill and masterful diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Vallabh Bhai Patel succeeded in integrating hundreds of princely states. On 5th May 1947, Vallabh Bhai Patel presented a very lenient proposal before the Indian Kings that they had to simply submit three subjects to the Indian Union - External affairs, defence and communication while they could enjoy their freedom with due title and dignity. Under the carrot and stick policy, he also clarified the position of Indian government that if the princely



states would sign the instrument of accession and join the constituent assembly before independence they would enjoy the facilities promised to them but in case of non-compliance before independence when their own people rose in revolt against them, even the approach of 'The Indian the government' towards them grew stiffer. As a result, before 15th August 1947, almost all princely states succumbed to the method of pressure and persuasion, except three princely states such as Kashmir, Junagarh and Hyderabad.

#### Junagarh:-

- Against the popular will, Junagarh was tilted in favour of Pakistan. But neither geographically or sociologically this decision was legitimate, so it was not permissible. Apart from that majority of people in this region were Hindus. Therefore opposing the Nawab's decision, popular movement started. Perceiving the enormity of problem Nawab fled to

Pakistan. Then conceding the popular demand the minister of Junagarh Shah Nawaj Bhutto invited Indian government. A plebiscite was conducted in the region and per se the popular verdict, Junagarh was integrated with India on February, 1948.

#### Kashmir :-

- Kashmir was a princely state which was being ruled by a Hindu king **Hari Singh** but majority of its population was Muslim. Hari Singh initially decided to remain independent while the popular political forces under Sheikh Abdullah decided in favor of India. A Pathan tribal invasion, under **Akbar Khan**, sponsored by a Pakistan army, secretly took place in Kashmir on

22nd October. On 24th October, Hari Singh made a humble appeal to the Indian government for military assistance. He signed the Instrument of Accession with India on 26th October and accepted Sheikh Abdullah as a head of the administration. On the suggestion of Lord Mountbatten the matter was brought to UNO on 30th December 1947.

#### Hyderabad:-

- Hyderabad was the largest princely state in India so its case was very important. Its **Nawab Mir Usman Ali** became ambitious and started to nourish the idea to be independent. It was also maintaining secret connivance with Pakistan. He signed a standstill agreement with the Indian government in November 1947 and he also promised that he would gradually promote representative government. On the other hand, Nizam Usman Ali was simply buying time to strengthen his position. He