History of Madhya Pradesh from Vedic age to Gupta Period,

- On account of its **central position,** all historical events had apparently passed through this region, leaving conspicuous marks on it.
- The prehistoric period begins with the stone age, which the sites such as Bhimbetka, Adamgarh, Jaora, Raisen, Pachmarhi, etc. stand witness to.
- The dynastic history begins with the time of Ashoka, the great Buddhist emperor whose Mauryan empire was powerful in Malwa and Avanti.
- King Ashoka's wife is said to be from Vidisha, a town located north of today's Bhopal.
- The Maurya Empire declined after death of Ashoka and central India was contested among the Shungas, Kushanas, Satvahanas and local dynasties for the duration of 3rd to 1st centuries BC.
- In the 1st century BC, Ujjain was the predominant commercial centre.
- This area became part of northern India during Gupta Empire in 4th- 6th centuries AD, the era known as classical age/ golden period.
- The ancient Vedas record the marriage of king Dashrath of Uttar Kosal, father of Lord Rama of the epic Ramayana, with the princess of Dakshin kosal (a part of modern Madhya Pradesh).
- It is believed that the Lord Rama & Sita spent a major part of their 14 years exile in Chitrakoot located in the Dandaka forest area, north of the Vindhyas.
- Archeological explorations & excavations provide a glimpse of the ancient period from the earliest times to about the 13th century AD.
- The finds speak of a developed ancient civilization & reflect the glorious history of its rulers & warriors & a rich cultural past.
- Historically known as Malwa, Madhya Pradesh – the second largest centrally located state in India is called the very heart of India.

Vedic Age

- Vedic Age is the period of Aryans in India from **1500 - 500 BC.**
- Most Probable Home of the Aryans is Central Asia. This theory is of Max Muller.
- The word Aryan exactly means high born, but it generally refers to language. The word 'Veda' is derived from the word **'vid'** which means **knowledge.**
- Vedas are the oldest literary works of mankind. Vedas are four in number, they are Rig Veda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharva Veda. Rig veda is the oldest veda.
- Vedas are collectively known as **Sruti while** Vedangas are collectively known as **Smriti. Vedangas** are six in number. They are,
    A. Siksha - Phonetic
    B. Kalpa - Ritual
    C. Vyakarana - Grammar
    D. Nirukta - Etymology
    E. Chhanda - Metrics and
    F. Jyotisha - Astronomy

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 98 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

- **Rigveda:-** There are 1028 hymns in Rigveda. It is divided into ten Mandalas (Chapters).
  Rig Vedic Hymns sung by priests were called Hotris. Sruti' literature belonged to the Sathyayuga, Smriti belonged to **Treatayuga,** Puranas belonged to Dwaparayuga and Thanthra literature belonged to **Kaliyuga**. Rigveda starts with the line '**Agnimele Purohitam'** Famous Gayatri Mantra is contained in the Rigveda (It is believed to have composed by Vishwamitra)
- **Yajurveda** deals with sacrifices and rituals. Yajurvedic hymns are meant to be sung by priests called 'Adhavaryu'. Yajurveda is derived into two: SuklaYajurveda (White Yajurveda) and Krishna Yajur Veda (Black Yajurveda)
- **Sama Veda** deals with Music. Sama Vedic hymns are meant to be sung by priests called Udgatri.
- **Atharva veda** is a collection of spells and incantations. Ayurveda is a part of Atharva Veda, which deals with medicine. The saying, ''War begins in the minds of men'' is from Atharva Veda.
- The 10th Mandala of Rigveda contain the Purusha Sukta hymn which tells about the origin of caste system.
- **Upanishad**s are 108 in number. Upanishads are philosophical works. Upanishads are known as the Jnanakantas of Vedas. The words 'Sathyameva Jayate' have been taken from 'Mundaka Upanishad'
- **Brahdaranya Upanishad** was the first to give the doctrine of Transmigration of Soul and Karma.
- **Puranas** are the part of Smriti literature. They are 18 in number 6 vishnupuranas, 6 sivapuranas and 6 Brahmapuranas. Bhagvata purana is divided into 18 skandas The 10th skanda mentions about the childhood of Sri Krishna.
- Skanda purana is considered as the largest purana. Brahmapurana is also known as Adipurana. Adhyatma Ramayana is included in the Brahmantapurana.
- Cattle was the chief measure of wealth of the vedic period. Rigvedic tribe was referred to as Jana . Many clans (vis) formed a tribe. The basic unit of society was kula or the family and Kulapa was the head of the family. 'Visah' was a cluster of gramas.
- Important tribal assemblies of the Rig Vedic period were Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata and Gana. The Aghanya mentioned in many passages of Rigveda applies to cows.
- The Rigvedic religion was **primitive animism. Indra** was the greatest God of Aryans and **Agni** occupied second position. **Varuna** was God of water and **Yama w**as the Lord of dead. **Savitri** was a solar diety to whom the famous Gayatri Mantra is attributed to.
- Prithvi was Earth Godess. The battle of ten kings mentioned in the Rig Veda was fought on the division of water of river Ravi. It was fought on the banks of River Ravi (Purushni). Indra was known as Purandara.
- The people called Panis, during the Vedic period were cattle breeders.
- The Vedic God in charge of truth and moral order was Varuna. Indra Played the role of the Warlord. He is also considered as the rain god.

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 98 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

- The two priests who played a major part during the Rig Vedic period were Vasishta and Visvamitra.

Later Vedic Period

- The period assigned to Later Vedic Phase is **1000 BC to 600 BC.**
- Later Vedic people used particular type of pottery called Painted Grey Ware (PGW)
- The Later Vedic Aryans were familiar with two seas, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- Rice became the staple diet of Indian people during the Later Vedic Period.
- The term '**Rashtra**' which indicates territory first appeared in the later vedic period.
- Mention of the word '**Sudras'** - Rigveda (10th Mandala). Mention of the '**Gotra**' is found in the Atharvaveda.
- Origin of Kingship is found in Aitareya Brahmana.
- **'Soma'** was an intoxicating drink mentioned in the 9th Mandala of the Rig Veda.
- Mention of the word Varna is found in Rigveda. The fourfold division of the society is found in the 10th Mandala of the Rigveda.
- Mention about the Varnashranadhrama is found in the Jabla Upanishad. The **Doctrine of Trimurti** is found in the Maitrayani Upanishad.
- Mention about the origin of Universe is found in the Rig Veda (10th Mandala).
- **Purohita Senani and Vrajapati** were the important functionaries who assisted the king in dayto- day administration.
- The officer who enjoyed authority over the pasture land was called Vrajapati. The king's power increased during the Later Vedic Period.
- First law giver of ancient India was Manu. He wrote 'Manusmrithi'. Manusmrithi was translated into English by **William Jones.**
- **Shyma Shastri** translated Arthasastra into English
- **Bali** was a tax, which the king used to collect from the people of the Vedic period.
- Aryans used iron for the first time India. Horse, Iron, Sugarcane, Pulses etc reached India by the coming of Aryans.
- The God who occupied supreme position in the Later Vedic Period was Prajapati.
- Rudra was regarded as preserver and protector of the people.
- The most important functionary who assisted the Vedic king was Purohita.
- Manarchy was the normal form of Government in the vedic period.

Magadhan Empire

- In the 6th century BC there originated 16 Mahajanapadas in North India
- Four prominent royal dynasties stand out prominently out of these Janapadas. They were Haryankas of Magadha, the Ikshvakus of Kosala, the Pauravas of Vatsa and the Pradyotas of Avanti.
- Haryanka is the name of a new dynasty founded in Magadha by Bimbisara.
- Bimbisara founded the dynasty by defeating the Brihadrathas. Bimbisara was a contemporary of Buddha.

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 98 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

- Magadha became a supreme power in North India under Ajatasatru. So Ajatasatru is considered as the founder of Magadhan Supremacy. Pataliputra and Rajagriha were the capitals of Magadhan kingdom.
- Magadha falls in the Patna region of Bihar.
- Haryankas were overthrown by Sisunaga and he founded the Sisunaga dynasty there. Kalasoka the son and successor of Sisunaga was succeeded by Mahapadma Nanda and he founded the Nanda dynasty.
- Ajatasatru's successor Udayin was the founder of the city of Pataliputra.

Persian Invasion

- The Achaemenian king of Persia, Darius (522 - 486 BC) captured some territories the east of Sindhu in 518 BC.
- The Persian domination over Indian territory lasted upto 330 BC.
- Xerxes was the persian ruler who enlisted Indians in his army.
- The Kharoshti script was brought to India by Persians.

Alexander's Invasion

- Alexander was born in 356 BC as the son of King Philip II of Mascedonia.
- Epirus or Olympias was Alexanders mother. Aristotle was Alexander's teacher. He became the king in 336 BC He defeated the Persian ruler Darius III.
- Alexander founded the city of Alexandria in Egypt
- In 326 BC Alexander defeated Porus (Purushothama) the ruler of Punjab and Captured Taxila through the battle of Hydaspes on the banks of river Jhelum.
- Ambhi the ruler of Taxila invited Alexander to India. Alexander died of Malaria at the age of 33 in 323 BC while he was in Babylon.
- Alexander was cremated at Alexandria. Alexander was known as Shehansha in Persia and Sikhandar-I-Asam in Indo-Pak region.
- The Last general of Alexander in India was Eudamas. Alexander's first General in India was Selucus Nikator. Alexander IV succeeded Alexander as the Masedonian King.
- Alexander's teacher Aristotle is considered as the father of Politics, Biology, Taxonomy and the Science of Logic.

Mauryan Empire (321-185 BC)

Major sources for the study of Mauryan Empire are the Arthasastra of Kautilya and Indika of Megasthenes.

- **Chandragupta Maurya** was the founder of Mauryan Empire. Details about his early life are not available He is believed to have belonged to Moriya Clan,hence got the name Maurya. It is also said that his mother was Mura a women of lower birth hence got the name Maurya. In some texts he is referred to as Vrishala and Kulahina.

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 98 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

- He conspired with Chanakya (Kautilya or Vishnugupta) the minister of Nanda to overthrew the last Nanda ruler DhanaNanda.
- Chandragupta Maurya ascended the throne in BC 321. He fought against **Selucus** in 305 BC. Selucus surrendered before him and sent an ambassador, Megasthenese to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Chandragupta's Governor Pushygupta** constructed the famous Sudarshana lake. ChandraGupta Maurya was converted to Jainism, abdicated the throne in favour of his son Bindusara, passed his last days at Sravanabelagola (Near Mysore) where he died in 298 BC.
- Chandragupa Maurya was responsible for the political unification of North India for the first time.
- Bindusara was a follower of Ajivika sect. Bindusara was known as Amitragatha.

Ashoka (273-232 BC)

- Ashoka ascended the throne in 273BC and ruled upto 232 BC. He was known as 'Devanampriya priyadarsi the beautiful one who was the beloved of Gods.
- Maski and Gujara Edicts of Ashoka gave the name Devanampriya Priyadarsi. Buddhist tradition says Ashoka killed 99 of his brothers to capture the throne.
- Ashoka was the first king in Indian history who had left his records engraved on stones. Ashokan inscriptions were written in Kharoshti and Brahmi scripts.
- Ashoka fought the Kalinga war in 261 BC Kalinga is in modern Orissa. Ashokan inscriptions were deciphered by James Princep.
- After the battle of Kalinga Ashoka became a Buddhist, being shocked by the horrors of the war.
- Ashoka was initiated to Buddhism by Upagupta or Nigrodha a disciple of Buddha.
- For the propagation of Buddhism Ashoka started the institution of Dharmamahamatras.
- The IV Major Rock Edict of Ashoka tells about the practice of Dharma The Major Rock Edict XII of Ahoka deals with the conquest of Kalinga.
- Ashoka held the third Buddhist council at his capital Pataliputra in 250BC under the presidentship of Moggaliputa Tissa.
- He sent his son and daughter to Sri Lanka for the spread of Buddhism (Mahendra and Sanghamitra)
- Ashoka spread Buddhism to SriLanka and Nepal. He is known as the Constantine of Buddhism. In his Kalinga Edict he mentions ''All man are as my children''.
- Ceylones ruler Devanmpriya Tissa was Ashoka's first convert to Buddhism.
- Ashoka ruled for 40 years and died in 232 BC.
- The emblem of the Indian Republic has been adopted from the four lion capital of one of Ashokas pillars which is located in Saranath. Rock-cut architecture in India made a beginning during Ashoka's reign.
- Brihadratha the last Mauryan ruler was killed by Pushyamitra Sunga who founded the Sunga Dynasty in 185 BC.

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 98 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com