

Indian timeline: a History of the subcontinent, from ancient India, which included Bangladesh and Pakistan, to the free and divided India.

The earliest civilization in human history was the Mesopotamian civilization ~ 5000BC ~ in Elam/Sumer at the border of present day Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

India: Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (9000 BC to 7000 BC)

The earliest records of the Indian history exist in the form of the [Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka](#). These shelters are situated on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau, in the foothills of the [Vindhyan](#) Mountains. There are five groups of rock shelters, each of them adorned with paintings that are believed to date from the [Mesolithic Period](#) right through to the historical period.

India: Mehrgarh Culture (7000 BC to 3300 BC)

[Mehrgarh](#) is one of the most significant sites belonging to the Neolithic Age. At the same time, it is one of the oldest sites that indicate the introduction of the concept of farming and herding. Situated on the Kachi plain of [Baluchistan](#) (Pakistan), it lies to the west of the Indus River valley. The site of Mehrgarh, spread over an area of 495-acre, was discovered in the year 1974.

India: Indus Valley Civilization (3300 BC to 1700 BC)

Dravidians originated from the Indus Valley Civilization. Today, they're largely concentrated in Southern India.

- The [Indus Valley Civilization](#) was discovered in the 1920s. The major events in the timeline of the Indus Valley are given below:

India: Early Harappan Phase (3300 BC to 2600 BC)

The early [Harappan Phase](#) lasted for approximately 700 years, starting with the [Ravi Phase](#). It is one of the three earliest urban civilizations and made use of an early form of the Indus script, known as Harappan script, for writing purposes. Around 2800 BC, the [Kot Diji](#) phase of the Indus Valley Civilization started.

2600 BC – 1700 BC : Mature Harappan Phase,

...wherein large cities and urban areas emerged and the civilization expanded.

1700 BC – 1300 BC: The Late Harappan Phase began.

Medical Facts

- **7-6th Century BCE - Sushruta** (c.7th or 6th century BCE) was a physician in ancient **India** known today as the “Father of Indian **Medicine**” and “Father of Plastic Surgery” for inventing and developing surgical procedures including complicated medical procedures like cesareans, surgeries to rectify cataract, plastic surgery, surgical procedures to remove kidney stones, limb prostheses, rectifying fractures, and even brain surgery. Usage of anesthesia was common in ancient India. Sushruta Samhita, an

ancient Indian text on Ayurvedic medicine, clearly states the usage of wine and cannabis incense before surgical procedures. Wikipedia: [Sushruta](#), /

- **3rd Century BCE** - The earliest system of medicine known today is **Ayurveda**, a system of medicine and lifestyle relating to knowledge of life and longevity, developed in part by Charaka (3rd century BC)^{[1][2]}, one of the principal contributors to Ayurveda, developed in Ancient India. **Author of Charaka Samhita**, written in Sanskrit. It is the only known medical system, which takes a holistic view of the person being treated.

600 BC: - Formation of the Sixteen Maha Janapadas – **The Great Kingdoms**

599 BC: - The founder of Jainism – **Mahavira was born.**

563 BC: - The founder of Buddhism – **Siddhartha Gautama was born.**

538 BC: - Cyrus the great conquered parts of Pakistan

500 BC: - [Panini](#), a scholar, standardized grammar and the morphology of Sanskrit. “[Sanskrit](#) is constructed like [geometry](#) and follows a rigorous [logic](#). It is [theoretically](#) possible to explain the meaning of the [words](#) according to the combined sense of the relative letters, [syllables](#) and [roots](#). Sanskrit has no meanings by [connotations](#) and consequently does not age. Panini's language is in no way different from that of [Hindu](#) scholars conferring in Sanskrit today.:

- [Alain Danielou](#) in: *Virtue, Success, Pleasure, and Liberation: The Four Aims of Life in the Tradition of Ancient India*, Inner Traditions / Bear & Co, 1 August 1993 , p. 17.

[The end of the Vedic Period](#). The **Vedic period** or **Vedic age** (c. 1500 – c. 500 BCE), is the period in the [history](#) of the northern [Indian subcontinent](#) between the end of the urban [Indus Valley Civilisation](#) and a [second urbanisation](#) which began in the central [Indo-Gangetic Plain](#) c. 600 BCE.

333 BC: - Darius III was defeated by **Alexander the Great**. The Macedonian Empire was established

326 BC: - In the Battle of the Hydaspes River, The King of Taxila, **Ambhi**, surrendered to Alexander

321 BC: - **Chandra Gupta Maurya established the Maurya Empire** in ancient India, a state centred at Pataliputra (later Patna) near the junction of the Son and Ganges (Ganga) rivers. It lasted from about 321 to 185 BCE and was the first empire to encompass most of the Indian subcontinent.

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273 BC: - Emperor [Ashoka](#) took over the Maurya Empire. “The [Edicts of Ashoka](#) are a collection of more than thirty inscriptions on the [pillars](#) as well as, boulders and cave walls, attributed to Emperor [Ashoka](#) of the [Mauryan Empire](#) who reigned from 268 BCE to 232 BCE.” / King Ashoka (reigned c. 265–238 BCE).

¹ Mauryan empire / [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

266 BC: - Ashoka conquered most of South Asia, Afghanistan and Iran

265 BC: - Emperor Ashoka embraced **Buddhism** after the Battle of Kalinga

232 BC: - Ashoka died and was succeeded by **Dasaratha**

230 BC: - **Satavahana** Empire was established

200 to 100 BC: - **Tholkappiyam** standardized grammar and morphology of Tamil

Anno Domini (A D)

Medieval Period (550 AD to 1526 AD) - The medieval period can be divided into the following two phases:

Early Medieval Period (550*- 1300 AD)

606 AD - [Harshavardhana](#) became the King

630 AD - [Hiuen Tsiang](#) traveled to India

761 AD - First Muslim invasion by [Mohammed Bin Qasim](#)

800 AD - The birth of [Shankaracharya](#)

814 AD - [Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga I](#), became Rashtrakuta king

1000 AD - Invasion by [Mahmud of Ghazni](#)

1017 AD - Alberuni traveled to India

1100s AD - Rule of the Chandelas, Cholas, Kadambas, and Rashtrakutas

1120 AD - [Kalyani Chalukya Empire](#) attained peak, Vikramaditya VI introduced

1258 AD - Mongols destroyed the “Abbasid Caliphate” when they sacked Baghdad.

Reference: *From Mongols to Mughals: Religious Violence in India 9th.-18th. Centuries.*
By **Nicholas F. Gier** - presented American Academy of Religion, Gonzaga University, May 2006

*“During the 300 years after the death of Chinggis (Genghis) Khan, the **Mongol Empire had split into four parts:***

- 1. 1242-1359 - the Golden Horde of Russia*
- 2. 1256-1353 - the Ilkhanate of Iran and Iraq*
- 3. 1271-1368 - the Chinese Yuan Dynasty ruled by Kublai Khan*
- 4. 1527-1707 - the Mughal Empire of India.”*

Vikrama Chalukya Era

1191 AD - First battle of Tarain between [Mohammed Ghori](#) & [Prithivi Raj](#)

Chauhan III

1192 AD - [Second battle of Tarain](#) between Ghauri and Prithivi Raj Chauhan III

1194 AD - [Battle of Chandawar](#) between Ghauri and Jayachandra

13th.Century

1288 AD - [Marco Polo](#) came to India

Late Medieval Period (1300 AD to 1500 AD)

14th.Century

1300 AD - Establishment of the [Khilji Dynasty](#)

1336 to 1565 AD - [Vijayanagar Empire](#)

15th.Century

1498 AD - First voyage of [Vasco-da-Gama to Goa](#).

16th.Century

Post-Medieval Era (1526 AD to 1818 AD)

- *The major Mughal emperors were:*

1. **Babur (r. 1526-30)**
2. **Humayun (r. 1530-56)**
3. **Akbar (r. 1556-1605)**
4. **Jahangir (r. 1605-27)**
5. **Shah Jahan (r. 1627-58)**
6. **Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707)**

The major events in the post medieval era were:

1526 AD - [Babur](#), (1483-1530), the founder of the Mughal Empire and first Emperor of the Mughal dynasty; ruler of Kabul; invaded Delhi and Agra killing Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Great Mughal Ruler of India 1526-1530.

1527 AD - [Battle of Khanwa](#), in which Babur annexed Mewar

1530 AD - Babur died and was succeeded [Humayun](#) (1508-1556): Great Mughal Ruler of India
1530-1540 / 1555-1556

1556 AD - Humayun died and was succeeded by his son Akbar 1542-1605; Great Mughal Ruler of India 1556-1605.

17th.Century

1600 AD - [East India company](#) was formed in England

1605 AD - Akbar died and was succeeded by Jahangir 1569-1627; Great Mughal Ruler of India 1605-1627.

1612 AD - British East India Company's win over the Portuguese in a maritime battle off the coast of India (1612) won them the much desired trading concessions from the [Mughal Empire](#). In 1611 its first factories were established in India in Surat followed by acquisition of Madras (Chennai) in

1639, Bombay in 1668, and Calcutta in 1690.

1628 AD - [Jehangir](#) died and was succeeded by [Shah Jahan](#) - dob: 5 Jan. 1592, Lahore, Pakistan. Died 1666; Great Mughal Ruler of India 1627 - 1658.

1630 AD - Chhatrapati [Shivaji](#) was born ^(February 19, 1630) in Shivneri Fort, Pune district, Maharashtra. His reign: 1674–1680

1638 AD -Portuguese bases at Goa, Bombay and Chittagong were ceded to the British authorities as the dowry of [Catherine of Braganza](#) (1638–1705), Queen consort of Charles II of England.

1639 - **Fort St George** (or historically, White Town) is the first English (later British) fortress in India, founded in 1639 at the coastal city of Madras.

1658 AD - [Shah Jahan](#) built Taj Mahal, Jamia Masjid and Red Fort.

1659 AD - Shivaji defeated Adilshahi troops at the Battle of Pratapgarh. **Aurangzeb** 1618-1707; Great Mughal Ruler of India 1707.

1674 AD - Maratha Empire was established

1680 AD - Shivaji died

18th.Century

1707 AD - [Aurangzeb](#) died and was succeeded by Bahadur Shah I

1707 AD - [Maratha Empire](#) broke into two divisions

1734 AD - [Pamheiba](#) invaded [Tripura](#)

1737 AD - [Bajirao](#) I conquered Delhi

1740 AD - Bajirao I died and was succeeded by Balaji Bajirao.

European Armies and Subsidiary Alliance: The kingdom of Awadh was the first to enter an alliance like this through **Treaty of Allahabad (1765)**, after its defeat in **Battle of Buxar (1764)**. Tipu Sultan of the Kingdom of Mysore refused to do so, but after the British victory in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799), Mysore was forced to become a subsidiary state.

The Nizam of Hyderabad was the first to accept a well-framed subsidiary alliance in 1798. After the **Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-19)**, Maratha ruler Baji Rao II also accepted subsidiary alliance.

Reference: see https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsidiary_alliance

1756 AD - Mir Jafat, (1691-1765), an uneducated Arab soldier of fortune, fought with Aliverdi's troops and let the successful attack on Calcutta for Siraj*Ud-Daula in 1756 against whom he joined a plot and replaced him as (Nawab of Bengal) and found himself a puppet ruler to the E.I.C.

1757 AD - [Battle of Plassey](#) was fought reference: [Wikipedia](#)

In 1760, after gaining control over Bihar, Odisha and some parts of the Bengal, the Mughal Crown Prince Ali Gauhar and his Mughal Army of 30,000 intended to overthrow Jafar, Imad-ul-Mulk after they tried to capture or kill him by advancing towards Awadh and Patna in 1759. But the conflict soon involved the increasingly assertive East India Company. The Mughals were led by Prince Ali Gauhar, who was accompanied by Muhammad Quli Khan, Hidayat Ali, Mir Afzal and Ghulam Husain Tabatabai. Their forces were reinforced by the forces of Shuja-ud-Daula and Najib-ud-Daula. The Mughals were also joined by Jean Law and two hundred Frenchmen and waged a campaign against the British during the Seven Years' War

Although the French were eventually defeated, the conflict between the British East India Company and the Mughal Empire would continue to linger and ended in a draw, which

eventually culminated during the Battle of Buxar.

1761 AD - Third [battle of Panipat](#) ended the expansion of Maratha Empire.

1763 - 1765 AD - Mir Qasim, Nawab of Bengal, born on his father's estate, at Patna, son-in-law of Mir Jafat,

“But within three years he came into conflict with the E.I.C. (25th. June 1763). His forces were later defeated at the battle of Buxar. He conspired with the Company to replace the incompetent Mir Jafar in a coup in 1760 and succeeded in creating a tightly run state with a modern infantry army.

1766 AD - [Anglo-Mysore Wars](#)

1768-69: **Famine**: Northern India Monsoon season brought light rain in 1768 and no rain in 1769, leading to famine in Bengal. “By February 1770, when around 70 per cent of the usual rice crop had been lost, and the price of rice was ten times its normal rate, the hunger started to become much more widespread.”

“By June 1770, the devastation was unfolding across the entire province. Five hundred a day were now dying of starvation in the streets of **Murshidabad**.⁸ Rice was scarce even in Calcutta, where 76,000 died on its streets between July and September. ‘The whole province looked like a charnel house,’ reported one officer. The total numbers are disputed, but in all perhaps 1.2 million – one in five Bengalis – starved to death that year in what became one of the greatest tragedies of the province’s history.”

Source: The Anarchy by William Dalrymple. 2006. Ch. 6.p.171.

♦ **1772-1833: Raja Ram Mohan Roy was one of the founders of the Brahmo Sabha, the precursor of the Brahmo Samaj, a social-religious reform movement in the Indian subcontinent.** He was given the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor. [Wikipedia](#):– Parents: Ramkanto Roy, Tarinidevi.

Born: 22 May 1772, Radhanagar, Khanakul, India

Died: 27 September 1833, Stapleton, Bristol, United Kingdom

Spouse: Devi Uma (m. ?–1833)

[Organizations founded](#): Brahma Samaj, Presidency University, Atmiya Sabha, Hindu School.

♦ **Debendranath Tagore was a Hindu philosopher and religious reformer, active in the Brahma Samaj.** He was the founder in 1848 of the Brahma religion, which today is synonymous with Brahmoism. Born in Shilaidaha, his father was the industrialist Dwarkanath Tagore. [Wikipedia](#): Parents: Dwarkanath Tagore, Digambari Devi

Born: 15 May 1817, Kolkata, India

Died: 19 January 1905, Kolkata, India

Movement: Bengal Renaissance

Spouse: Sarada Devi (m. ?–1875)

Children: ♦ **Rabindranath Tagore**, Satyendranath Tagore, Jyotirindranath Tagore, Dwijendranath Tagore, Swarnakumari Devi, Hemendranath Tagore, Punyendranath Tagore, Soudamini Debi, more

1777 AD - First Anglo-Maratha War

1779 AD - Battle of Wadgaon

1780 AD - Second Anglo-Mysore War

1789 AD - Third Anglo-Mysore War

[Wikipedia](#)

After the defeat of Sirajuddoula and later Mir Qasim the British strengthened their position in Bengal and in 1793 abolished the nizamat (referring to the Mughal suzerainty) and took complete control of the former Mughal province.

1798 AD - Fourth Anglo-Mysore War

1799 AD - [Tipu Sultan](#) died, Wodeyar dynasty was restored

1803 AD - Second Anglo-Maratha War

1817 AD - Third Anglo-Maratha War begins - The Third Anglo-Maratha War fought between November 1817 and February 1818. It was the decisive battle between the British East India Company and the Maratha Empire in India. The Treaty of Poona was signed on 1 June 1817.

Scindia and Holkar had a connection with the Pindari pirates. The third Anglo-Maratha War was also known as Pindari war.

1818 AD - End of the [Maratha Empire](#) and British control over most of India. The year 1818 marks a watershed, when the British Empire in India became the British Empire of India.

Colonial Era (1818 AD to 1947 AD)

The [Colonial Era](#) started with the British taking control over almost all the parts of India and ended with the freedom of India in 1947. Some events that took place during the Colonial Era are listed below:

1823 - Madras Presidency: Hyderabad-Secunderabad: the Nizams lost control over Northern Circars (Coastal Andhra) and Ceded Districts (Rayalseema), which were handed over to the East India Company.

1824 AD - Noted for the “arrival of **Robert Carver, a dynamic Methodist missionary from Ceylon**. Carver succeeded in securing the goodwill not only of the then Governor of Fort St. George Sir Thomas Munro, but also of Bishop Heber. He took charge of the work of the Vepery-based Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the oldest mission of the Church of England in India at Santhome, Poonamallee, St. Thomas Mount and Pallavaram.

Fort St George (or historically, White Town) is the first English (later British) fortress in India, founded in 1639 at the coastal city of Madras, the modern city of Chennai.

Siege of Kittoor - Insurrection at Fort Kittoor in Karnatak, India.

*In **September 1824**, the "Desai" (ruler) of the kingdom of Kittur, died without an heir. Some of his household staff wanted to appoint a boy as successor, one of distant relations to the deceased, supposedly under instructions of the late ruler.*

The Kittur territory formed part of the British Empire's Dharwad collectorate in the Bombay Presidency and automatically was under Mr. Chaplin was the commissioner, and Sir John Thackeray, Principle Collector and Political Agent in the Southern Mahratta country.

*Both men declined to recognise the heir, and applied a Doctrine of Lapse declaration, which stated that native rulers were not allowed to adopt a child if they had no children of their own. The provocation was believed to be a plot to cheat the widow of her treasury. The **Rani of Kittur, Chennamma** tried to avoid war and negotiated first with Mr. Chaplin and then the Governor of Bombay Presidency but to no avail. Chennamma was compelled to declare war on the EIC forces.*

Thackeray invaded Fort Kittur's gate and in the battle that ensued, hundreds of British soldiers were killed along with Thackeray.

St John Thackeray was killed on 23 October 1824^[2] at Kittur, Karnataka, when he was waging a war against Kittur Chennamma, the Rani (Queen) of Kittur.^[4] It was observed that he along with other forces tried to enter into fortified town of Kittur with "inadequate means".^[2] First he was shot in the stomach as he rode towards the fort and was later hacked to death by a Kittur swordsman.^[2] (Tomb of Thackeray in British Cemetery, Dharwar, Karnataka, India, photographed by Henry Cousens during the 1880s).

Chennamma continued to defend the Fort for twelve days while additional EIC forces were brought in from Mysore and Sholapur and surrounded Kittur. The overall campaign^[i] resulted in hundreds of soldiers dead and another 200 hundred dying of cholera and a further 600 taken ill. The Rani was defeated (1824 CE) and taken prisoner and kept in the fort of Bailhongal for life.

Although Indian forces suffered a humiliating defeat, in modern times the Rani has become a champion representing an Indian woman and her fight for freedom and independence.

Kittur Chennamma (23 October 1778 – 02 February 1829) was the Queen of Kittur, a princely state in Karnataka. She was one of the Indian female ruler to lead an armed rebellion against the British East India Company in 1824 because of the effect of doctrine of lapse. The resistance ended with her arrest and she became a symbol of the independence movement in India. In the state of Karnataka, she is celebrated along with Abbakka Rani, Keladi Chennamma and Onake Obavva, as the foremost women warriors and patriots. Chennamma was a member of the Lingayat sect.)

1829 AD - [Prohibition of Sati](#)

1842 - 1854 : Quote source

<<https://www.engineeringcivil.com/the-ganges-canal.html>> : “The Ganges canal which Cautley build is primarily an irrigation canal. Digging of the canal began in April 1842. However, the actual construction of the work was not commenced until 1843. The canal made rapid progress under the active encouragement given to Cautley both by the Lieutenant – governor, Mr. Thomason, and by the governor-general, Lord Dalhousie. The canal was opened on 8 April 1854, and in the following month Cautley left India, receiving on the occasion of his embarkation a salute from the guns of Fort William, which had been ordered by the governor-general in special recognition of the high value attached to Cautley’s great work.

For his merit as an engineer and Paleontologist, Cautley was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1846. He was knighted for his services to India and was further honored by his selection in 1858 to serve on the newly formed council of India, which ruled India in place of East India Company after 1857.”

1847 AD - Quote source : <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Thomason>

“Thomason proposed that a **civil engineering college be established at Roorkee**. The college, now the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, was founded in 1847. It gained university status in 1949 and was declared an institute of national importance in 2001 by then HRD minister Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi. The main building was renamed to James Thomason Building in his honor by an act of the Board of Governors of the institute in December 2013, and a road on campus also bears his name.”

1852 AD - Crimean War

1853 AD - India had been run by the Indian Civil Service, and the British only gradually allowed Indians to participate in the structure of government.

1857 AD - First Indian war of Independence, known as [Indian Mutiny](#)

The Sepoy Mutiny occurred superficially because of soldiers were required to bite the bullet dosed with animal fats before firing the newly issued rifles; The deeper resentment was the

Westernization of India and that native customs, religions, and social structures were being superseded and lost.

1858 AD - The British government dissolved the East India Company and transferred its powers through the [Government of India Act 1858](#), to the Crown, represented by the Viceroy, who assumed direct administrative control over India. This established the [British Raj](#) and [Queen Victoria](#) was crowned the [Empress of India](#).

1885 AD - [Indian National Congress](#) was formed

1916 - Birth of Balakrishnan Menon in Kerala, India see: - '[Swami Chinmayananda Saraswati](#)'.

Chinmayananda means 'filled with the [bliss of pure Consciousness](#)'.

1919 AD - Khilafat Movement, Jalianwala Bagh Massacre, Rowlat Act.

1915 AD - Home Rule League was founded by [Annie Besant](#)

1919 AD - Massacre at [Jallianwalabagh](#)

1930 AD - Dandi Salt March, Simon Commission, First Round Table Conference

1931 AD - Bhagat Singh (1907^[a]–23 March 1931) was hanged by the British. He was an Indian [socialist revolutionary](#) whose two acts of dramatic violence against the British in India and execution at age 23 made him a folk hero of the [Indian independence movement](#).

The '[Gandhi-Irwin Pact](#)' was a political agreement signed by Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin, the then [Viceroy of India](#), on 5 March 1931 before the second [Round Table Conference in London](#).^[1] Before this, Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, had announced in October 1929 a vague offer of 'dominion status' for [British India](#) in an unspecified future and a Round Table Conference to discuss a future constitution.^[2] The second Round Table Conference was held from September to December 1931 in [London](#).

1919 AD - Khilafat Movement, Jalianwala Bagh Massacre, Rowlat Act

1937 AD - Congress won power in many states, World War II broke out

1921 AD - Civil Disobedience Movement

1928 AD - Murder of [Lala Lajpat Rai](#)

1942 AD - Quit India Movement, Rise of [Subhash Chandra Bose](#)

1922 AD - Quit India Movement suspended after the [Chauri-Chura](#) violence

1946 AD - Muslim League adamant about the formation of Pakistan

1947 AD - India gained independence and witnessed partition

Free and Modern India (1947 onwards)

In 1947, India became independent and from that year onwards, started India's struggle to become one of the leading nations of the world. Today, the country is regarded as one of the fastest growing economies of the world.

References:

1. <https://www.toppr.com/bytes/timeline-of-indian-history/>
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6. [IPFS: wiki](#)
7. [History_of_India.html](#)
8. [Timeline of Indian History- From the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka to Free India.](#) Dhara Mehta - June 22nd, 2018