

Ancient History of Uttar Pradesh

In this article of series of UP Special, we will read about the ancient history of Uttar Pradesh. It will not only be insightful but, being revision friendly, it will be helpful for quick last-minute revision. Similarly, there will be an article on medieval and modern Uttar Pradesh history tomorrow and day-after-tomorrow respectively.

- Proof of **copper-stone age** in Uttar Pradesh have been found at **Meerut and Saharanpur**.
- Evidence of **Paleolithic civilization** in Uttar Pradesh has been found the **Belan Valley in Allahabad, Singrauli Valley of Sonbhadra and Chakia of Chandauli**.
- The potholes of the **Belan river** valley were explored and excavated under the direction of Allahabad University Professor **R. Sharma**.
- Statue of a bone-built goddess along with stone equipment has also been obtained from the archaeological site '**Lohadanala**' of the **Belan Valley**.
- Remains of Humans belonging to the medieval stone age have been obtained from **Pratapgarh's Sarinahr Rai and Mahadeha**.
- Based on the latest excavation, the oldest agricultural evidence in the Indian subcontinent is **Lahuradev located in the city of Saint Kabir Nagar in Uttar Pradesh**.
- From here evidence of, **Rice** belonging to 8000 BC-9000BC, has been discovered.
- The tools and weapons of Neolithic have been found in excavation by **Sarai Nahar Rai (Pratapgarh), Mirjapur, Sonbhadra, Bundelkhand**.
- Remains of Harrapp civilisation have been discovered from Alamgirpur. It also reveals the eastward extension of the Harappan civilization. Evidence of cotton cultivation has also been obtained from here.
- **8 Mahajanapadas** of 16 were in **Madhya Desh (Modern UP)**. They were **Kuru, Panchal, Kashi, Koshal, Shurasen, Chedi, Vats and Malla**.
- Evidence of the attack of the **Hunas on Kushinagar** has also been discovered.
- In **Kushinagar**, Gautam Buddha attained **Mahaparinirvana in 483 BC**.
- **The fourteenth inscription of Ashoka has been found in Kalasi** (present-day Uttarakhand).
- Most of the life of Gautam Buddha was spent in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore Uttar Pradesh is called the **Cradle of Buddhism**.
- **Gautam Buddha** had spent most of the rainy seasons in the **Kosala state**.
- Shuktimati (Near Banda) was the capital of **Chedi** Mahajanapada.
- The ancient name of **Ayodhya was Ayazsa (अयाजसा)**.
- According to Buddhist tradition, Ashoka built a stupa in **Ayodhya**.
- According to Jain texts, the birthplace of **five Tirthankara** including **Adinath was Ayodhya**.

- Repeated conflicts between **Gujjar-Pratiharas, Palas and Rashtrakutas** ensued for occupation Kannauj's.
- For a Long period, Kannauj was ruled by **Gujjars-Pratahars**.
- In 1018-1019, Mahmud Ghajnavi invaded Kannauj.
- Prayag pillar mentions donation made by Ashok's Queen Karaowaki. It has also been called '**Queen's Record**'.
- **Kashi's** first mention is found in **Atharva Veda**. According to the Mahabharata, this city was founded by Divodas.
- The capital city of **Kashi Mahajanapati was Varanasi**.
- Two rock inscription of **Kumargupta I and one of Skand Gupta** have been found at Garhwa (Allahabad).
- Bhitari Column inscription of (Ghazipur) describes a war between Pushyamitran and the war of Skanda Gupta.
- In 1194 AD, **Mohammad Ghori** defeated **Gaharwal Naresh Jayanchad (ruler of Kannauj)** in the **Battle of Chandavar**.
- In 1018 AD, Mohammad **Ghajnavi destroyed the temples of Mathura**.
- In 1670 AD, **Aurangzeb destroyed the Krishna Temple (built by Veer Singh Bundela) of Mathura**.
- Ashok had built a **lion pillar in Sarnath**. The lions of this pillar have been adopted as the **national symbol**.

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