



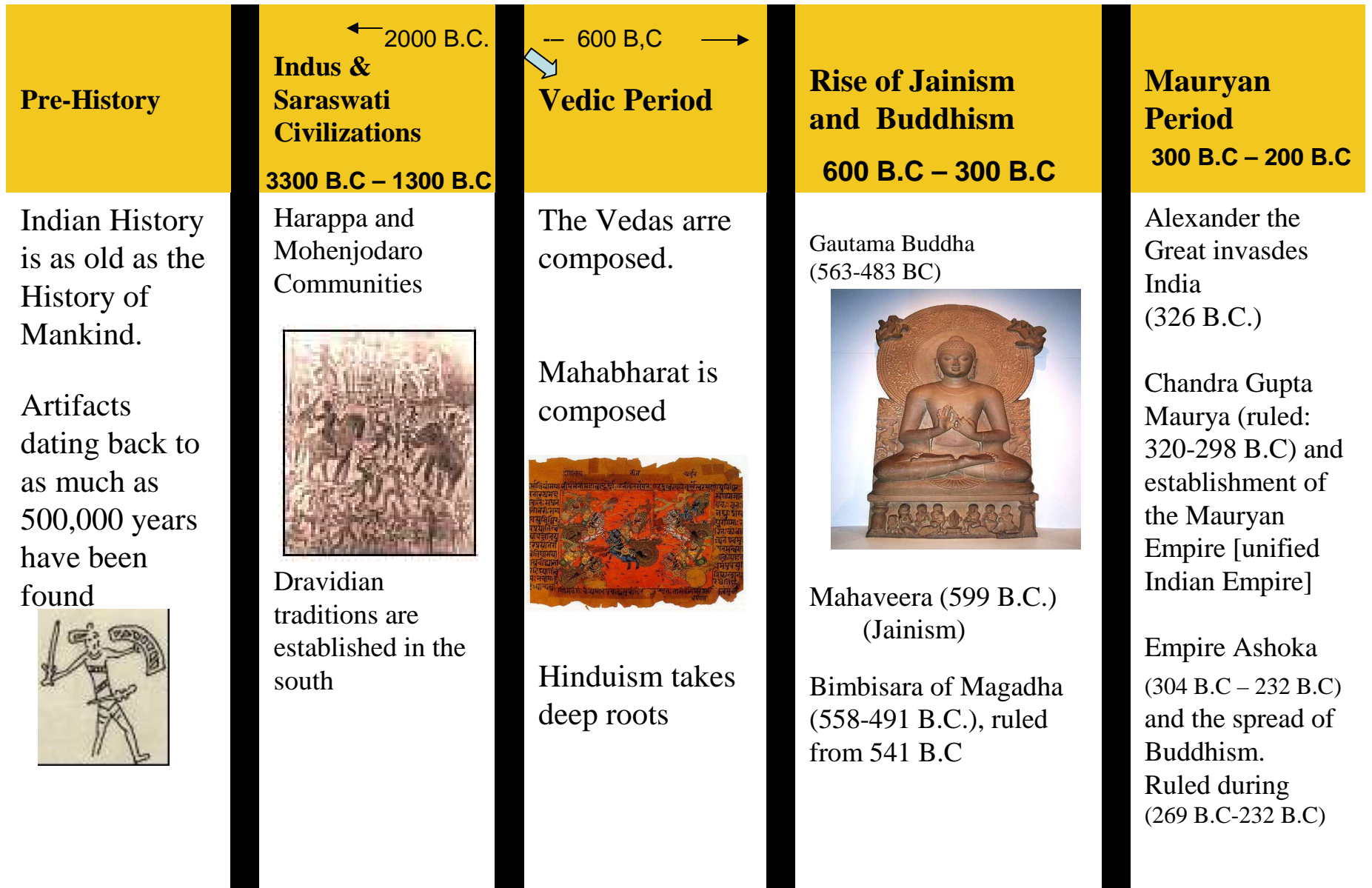
India – A Brief History (special focus on Ancient India)

Presented by:

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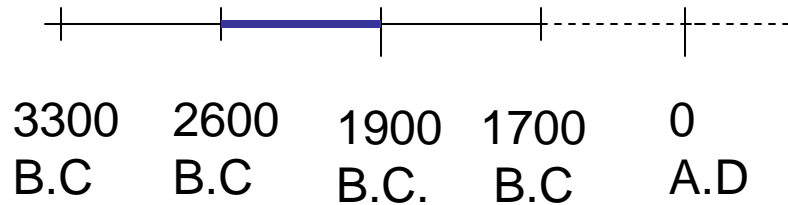
DISCLAIMER: The presenter is not a historian ! The contents of this slideset are based on reference material gleaned mainly from the Internet (wikipedia, etc.). For any perceived errors or other discrepancies: sincere apologies. Parents, feel free to provide corrected/edited information to your children, as you see fit.

Ancient Indian Timeline



Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)

- 3300 B.C – 1300 B.C
- Mature period: 2600 B.C – 1900 B.C
(a bronze age civilization)



Time →

- Also known as Indus-Saraswati Civilization
 - ✓ Reference to Saraswati river In Rig-Veda



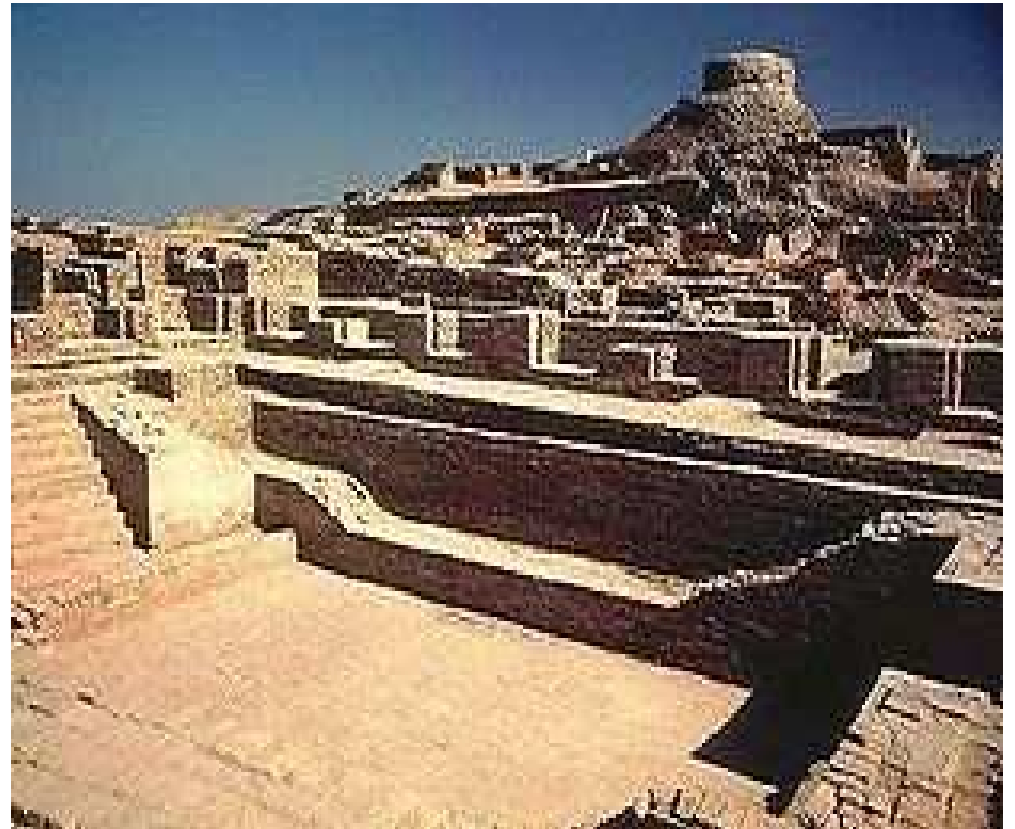
Harappa excavated in 1920

(Sir John Marshall and others)

Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)

Highlights

- Sophisticated, technologically advanced urban culture
 - World's first urban sanitation systems
 - Well water supply to individual homes
 - Bathrooms and advanced drainage/sewage
 - More advanced than many villages in India and Pakistan even today!



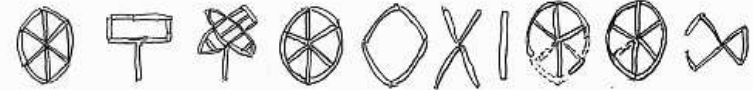
Mohenjodaro ruins (Sindh, Pakistan)

Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)

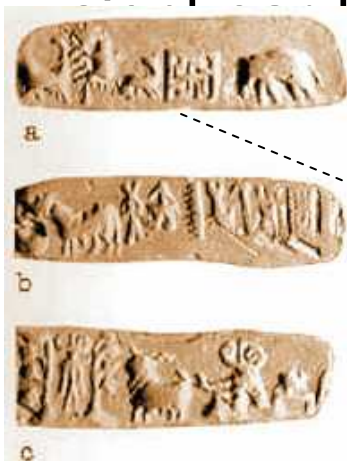
Highlights (contd.)

- Writing or symbol system [**language not deciphered yet**]

- Over 400 distinct Indus symbols
- Seals, small tablets, ceramic pots,



10 Indus characters discovered
In Dholavira; ~ 2000 B.C



Swastika symbol



Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)

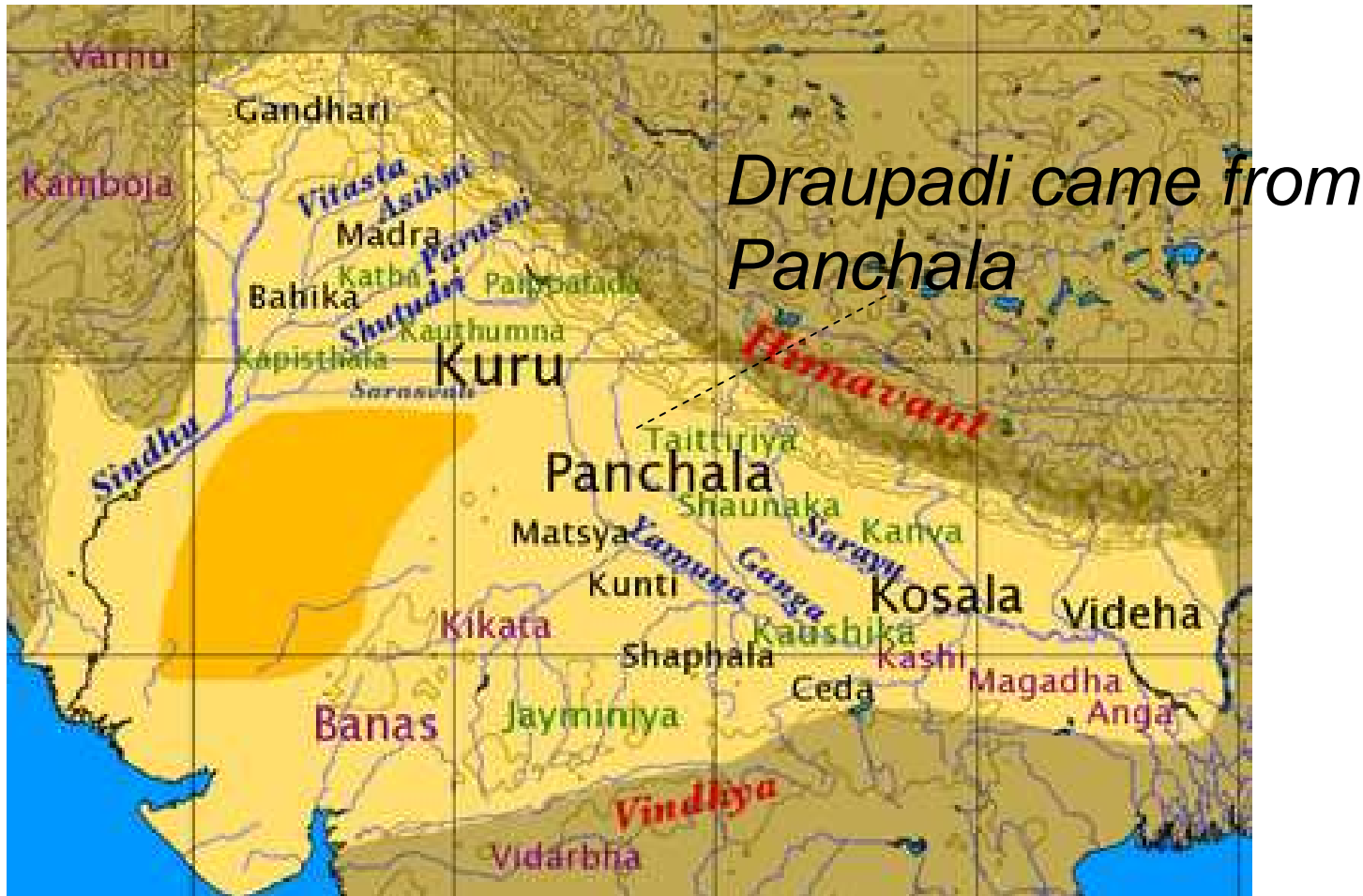
Highlights (contd.)

- Progress in Arts and Science
 - Accurate measurement of mass, length, time
 - Development of uniform weights, measures
 - Harappan mathematics
 - Lots of artifacts depicting advanced art and music have been discovered in the IVC archaeological sites



Dancing girl from Mohenjodaro

Vedic Civilization (2000 BC – 600 BC)



Map of Northern India in the late Vedic period

Mahabharata and Ramayana

- Two famous epics in Indian culture
- **Mahabharata** – longest epic poem in the world; origins in the Vedic period
 - About 100,000 verse
1.8 million words
- **Ramayana** – origin around 4th century B.C



Manuscript illustration of Mahabharata

Mauryan Period (600 BC – 300 BC)



Magadha (centered in Bihar) was the seat of power



Maurya dynamsty at its peak under Emperor Ashoka

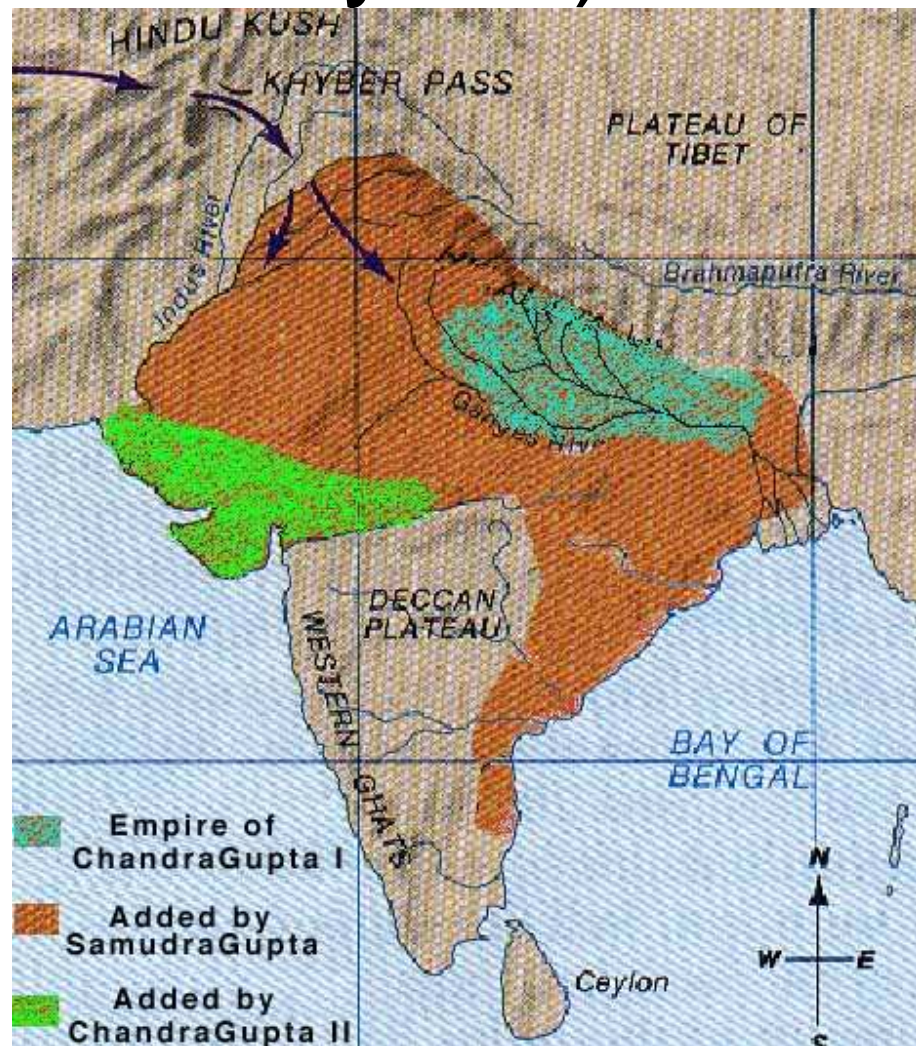
Nalanda University – one of the ffirst great universities in recorded history

The Golden Age of India (3rd-5th century AD)

Significant advances in arts
and sciences:

Decimal number system,
incl. concept of zero

Epics, panchatantra,
Hitopadesha, etc...



Gupta Empire under ChandraGupta-II (375-425 AD)

Aryan Invasion Theory

(refuted?)

- **Swami Vivekananda on Aryan Invasion Theory**

“.....our archaeologists' dreams of India being full of dark-eyed aborigines, and the bright Aryans came from - the Lord knows where. According to some, they came from Central Tibet; others will have it that they came from Central Asia. There are patriotic Englishmen who think that the Aryans were all red haired. Others, according to their idea, think that they were all black-haired. If the writer happens to be a black-haired man, the Aryans were all black-haired. Of late, there was an attempt made to prove that the Aryans lived on Swiss lake. I should not be sorry if they had been all drowned there, theory and all. Some say now that they lived at the North Pole. Lord bless the Aryans and their habitations! As for as the truth of these theories, there is not one word in our scriptures, not one, to prove that the Aryans came from anywhere outside of India, and in ancient India was included Afghanistan. There it ends...”

- *Complete works on Swami Vivekananda, vol. III. p. 293*

Our message: we need to keep an open mind about this. Not all that is taught in text books on ancient Indian history can be correct. Theories without archaeological and other evidence to back them up need to be taken with several grains of salt!

BACKUP

Notes to help students remember some key dates and to enable them to do further research on the internet.

Tabular Timechart - I

Stone Age [PRE-HISTORICAL]	before 3300 BC
• Mehrgarh Culture	7000–3300 BC
Indus Valley Civilization	3300–1300 BC
• Late Harappan Culture	1900–1300 BC
Vedic Civilization	2000–600 BC

Iron Age • 1200–1 BC	
Maha Janapadas	• 700–300 BC
Magadha Empire	• 684–424 BC
Nanda Empire	• 424–321 BC
Maurya Empire	• 321–184 BC
Sunga Empire	• 185–73 BC
Kanva Empire	• 75–26 BC
Kharavela Empire	• 209–170 BC
Kuninda Kingdom	• 200s BCE–300s AD
Indo-Scythian Kingdom	• 200 BC–400 AD
Chera Kingdom	• 300 BC–1200 AD
Chola Empire	• 300 BC–1279 AD
Pandyan Kingdom	• 250 BC–1345 AD
Satavahana Empire	• 230 BC–220 AD
Indo-Greek Kingdom	• 180 BC–10 AD

Tabular Timechart -II

Middle Kingdoms • 1CE–1279 CE

<u>Indo-Parthian Kingdom</u>	.....	• 21–130s CE
<u>Western Satrap Empire</u>	.....	• 35–405 CE
<u>Kushan Empire</u>	.....	• 60–240 CE
<u>Indo-Sassanid Kingdom</u>	.....	• 230–360 CE
<u>Vakataka Empire</u>	.....	• 250–500 CE
<u>Kalabhras Kingdom</u>	.....	• 250–600 CE
<u>Gupta Empire</u>	.....	• 280–550 CE
<u>Pallava Kingdom</u>	.....	• 275–800 CE
<u>Kadamba Empire</u>	.....	• 345–525 CE
<u>Western Ganga Kingdom</u>	.....	• 350–1000 CE
<u>Vishnukundina Empire</u>	.....	• 420–624 CE
<u>Huna Kingdom</u>	.....	• 475–576 CE
<u>Rai Kingdom</u>	.....	• 489–632 CE
<u>Chalukya Empire</u>	.....	• 543–753 CE
<u>Harsha Empire</u>	.....	• 590–647 CE
<u>Shahi Kingdom</u>	.....	• 565–670 CE
<u>Eastern Chalukya Kingdom</u>	.....	• 624–1075 CE
<u>Pratihara Empire</u>	.....	• 650–1036 CE

Tabular Timechart -III

Middle Kingdoms • 1CE–1279 CE

<u>Pala Empire</u>	.....	• 750–1174 CE
<u>Rashtrakuta Empire</u>	.....	• 753–982 CE
<u>Paramara Kingdom</u>	.....	• 800–1327 CE
<u>Yadava Empire</u>	.....	• 850–1334 CE
<u>Solanki Kingdom</u>	.....	• 942–1244 CE
<u>Western Chalukya Empire</u>	.....	• 973–1189 CE
<u>Hoysala Empire</u>	.....	• 1040–1346 CE
<u>Sena Empire</u>	.....	• 1070–1230 CE
<u>Eastern Ganga Empire</u>	.....	• 1078–1434 CE
<u>Kakatiya Kingdom</u>	.....	• 1083–1323 CE
<u>Kalachuri Empire</u>	.....	• 1130–1184 CE

Tabular Timechart - IV

Islamic Empires	• 1206–1707 CE
• Delhi Sultanate	• 1206–1526 CE
• Deccan Sultanates	• 1490–1596 CE
Ahom Kingdom	1228–1826 CE
Vijayanagara Empire	1336–1646 CE
Mysore Kingdom	1399–1947 CE
Mughal Empire	1526–1707 CE
Madurai Nayak Kingdom	1559 –1736 CE
Thanjavur Nayak Kingdom	1572–1918 CE
Maratha Empire	1674–1818 CE
Durrani Empire	1747–1823 CE
Sikh Empire	1799–1849 CE
Company rule in India	1757–1858 CE
British India	1858–1947 CE
Partition of India	1947 CE