



Jammu & Kashmir

Patwari

Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB)

Volume - 4

Jammu and Kashmir General Knowledge



Table of Content

S No.	Chapter Title	Page No.
1	Jammu & Kashmir Basic Information	1
2	History of Jammu	15
3	History of Kashmir	23
4	History of Ladakh	34
5	Formation of the State Jammu and Kashmir	40
6	Physiography	47
7	Demographic Profile	55
8	Drainage System and Irrigation	60
9	Minerals	71
10	Forest Resources and Wildlife	72
11	Agriculture	77
12	Energy Resources	79
13	Industries	83
14	Transport	84
15	Tourism	86
16	Constitutional Formation	103
17	Executive	113
18	Legislature	123
19	Judiciary	129
20	Panchayati Raj	134
21	Language and Literature	145
22	Culture, Art, Craft, and Cuisine	150
23	Books & Authors	153

Table of Content

S No.	Chapter Title	Page No.
24	Some Eminent Personalities of J&K and Ladakh	154
25	Budget	156
26	Economic Survey 2023–24	159

2 CHAPTER

History of Jammu

The history of Jammu is derived from a combination of archaeological findings and literary sources that document its evolution over centuries.

Archaeological Sites of Jammu

- 1. Manda Village (400 BCE) :** An important site from the Indus Valley Civilization, located in Akhnoor. Excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1976-77 uncovered pre-Harappan and Harappan artifacts, including redware, jars, and terracotta bangles.
- 2. Martand Sun Temple (800 CE) :** Dedicated to the Sun (Surya) and situated in Anantnag district, this temple's ruins include fluted pillars and intricately decorated panels, highlighting the architectural prowess of the time.
- 3. Krimchi Temple (800-900 CE) :** A complex of seven temples in Udhampur district, featuring small stone shrines and structures that resemble thatched huts, indicative of early medieval temple architecture.
- 4. Manwal Temple (1000-1100 CE) :** Also located in Udhampur, this temple complex revealed a Garbagriha (inner sanctum), a square mandapa, and elaborately carved entrance doors, showcasing intricate craftsmanship.
- 5. Akhnoor Fort :** Positioned along the Chenab River, this fort has yielded artifacts from three historic periods:
 - Red and grey earthenware from the Harappan Civilization.

- Potteries spanning from the Harappan period to the Kushan Empire.

- Objects from the Kushan era.

- 6. Ambaram :** Near Akhnoor on the Chenab's right bank, this site has revealed coins, terracotta beads associated with Kanishka, and remnants of a Buddhist monastic complex, also known as Pambaran.

- 7. Ancient Forts and Temples, Udhampur :** The Udhampur district contains ruins of numerous ancient temples and forts, such as:

- Temple Samadhi at Charai
- Chairans Devta Temple at Salal
- Bhim Garh Fort
- Jaganoo Fort
- Haveli Fort

Literary Sources of Jammu

Literary sources provide crucial insights into Jammu's history through various languages and texts, ranging from ancient scriptures to foreign accounts. Here's a summary of notable literary works related to Jammu:

Literature	Sources/Writers
Vanshawali	Genealogy of Ruling Families and Chiefs
Vanshanucharita	Sections of Puranas
Ashtadhyayi	Panini (700 BCE)
Rajadarshini	Ganesh Das Bادهhra
Rajatarangini	Kalhana
Tahqiq Al Hind, Kitab-ul-Hind	Alberuni

Tarikh-i-Kishtwar	Shivji Dar
Tarikh-i-Rajgan-i-Jammu	Kahu Singh Balaria
Tarikh-i-Aqwan-i-Poonch	Muhammad Din Fauq
Gulabnama	Diwan Kirpa Ram
Travelogues	George Forester (1783)
The Lords of Hills	G.C. Smith
A History of Ruling Family of Lahore	Abul Fazl
Akbarnama	Abu'l-Fazl
Badshahnama	Abdul Hamid Lahori

Pre-Historic Age of Jammu

The pre-historic and early historic developments in Jammu are primarily understood through archaeological evidence, particularly stone tools and artifacts. Here's an overview of significant findings:

- 1. Stone Tools:** Numerous stone tools from the Old Stone Age (Paleolithic Era) have been discovered in various parts of Jammu, typically near riverbanks and lakes where early human activity is presumed to have flourished.
- 2. Paleolithic Era:** The remains from the Paleolithic period, including stone implements, highlight the presence of early humans in the region, suggesting a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.
- 3. New Stone Age:** Stone axes belonging to the New Stone Age (Neolithic Era) were found at Jhiri, located about 28 km from Jammu. These tools indicate advancements in technology and the transition to settled agricultural societies.

4. Neolithic Culture at Baili: Excavations at Baili in Udhampur district, at the foothills of the Trikuta Mountains, have yielded a significant number of polished tools, chisels, hammers, stones, and grinders. These findings suggest a well-developed Neolithic culture characterized by agriculture and craftsmanship.

5. Indus Valley Civilization: Archaeological discoveries in Manda Village (near Akhnoor) are linked to the Indus Valley Civilization (2500-1500 BC). Artifacts such as redware, greyware, and black slipped ware indicate advanced pottery-making techniques and a thriving culture during this period.

How 'Jammu' got its Name?

- The city got its name from its founder Raja Jambu Lochan in 1400 BCE.
- The name 'Jammu' is derived from Jambu. According to popular beliefs, Raja Jambu Lochan during his hunting expeditions witnessed an unusual phenomenon across the Tawi river. He saw a goat and a tiger drinking water at the same place.
- Moved by the peace and tranquility of that area, he decided to build a city at that place to show that strong and weak can live together in harmony. The king founded the city of Jambu which is eventually known as Jammu.

Ancient History of Jammu

The ancient history of Jammu is documented in the literary source *Rajadarshini*, authored by Ganesh Das in 1847. As per the book, the first empire in Jammu was set up by Agnigir around 900 years before the starting of Kaliyuga.

Agnigir Empire

- According to *Rajadarshini*, King Agnigir, son of Sudarshana (the 21st descendant of Lord Rama of Ayodhya), established his empire on the lower bank of the Ravi River in present-day Kathua. He ruled over the towns of Pushpavati and Airava. He was succeeded by his son Vayu Shrava, who extended his empire up to the Ujh River. One of his descendants, Agnigarbha, extended his empire up to the Tawi River.
- His elder son, Bahu Lochan, founded the towns of Dharanagri and Bahunagar and shifted his capital from Airava to Dharanagri. He built the Bahu Fort on the left bank of the Tawi River.
- Bahu Lochan's younger son, Jambu Lochan, became a powerful ruler of Bahunagar after the death of Bahu Lochan in a conflict with the king of Sialkot. Jambu Lochan defeated the Sialkot king (Chandrasah), annexed territories up to Sindh, and founded the town of Jambupura, Jambu, or Jammu in 1500 BCE.
- His successor, Purankaran, shifted his capital from Bahu to Jammu, making it a very important place. One of the descendants, Shakti Karan, extended his empire up to the Pir Panjal ranges (Banihal). He was well-versed and invented the Dogri script, which is derived from the Sharada script, itself originating from Brahmi. King Shakti Karan probably innovated the Brahmi script.
- Shiv Prakash is considered to be the last ruler of this dynasty.

Pandavas Empire

King Shal (1100 BCE) of Sialkot (maternal uncle of the Pandavas) defeated Shiv Prakash in the Mahabharat War and gained the Jammu region. After his death in the Battle of Kurukshetra, Jammu was governed by Babru Vahan (Arjuna's son), who founded the town of Babaur. His descendants continued their rule for 500 years, after which Jammu was taken over by local clans and tribal chiefs.

Raja Bodh Dynasty (500-143 BCE)

- The first strong dynasty to emerge in the Jammu region was established by Raja Bodh Arjun in 500 BCE. The ruling years of kings and their kingdoms from this dynasty are clearly mentioned in *Rajadarshini*. This dynasty ruled for 357 years, although there were significant battles and changes in power during that time. For a brief period, Jammu also became a part of Punjab, Sialkot, and Takshila.
- King Damodar Dutt, a descendant of Raja Bodh Arjun, successfully reunited the divided parts of the Jammu region. He was a powerful ruler who extended his empire from Jammu to Gandhara. During Alexander's invasion in 326 BCE, King Damodar Dutt fought bravely but was ultimately defeated and killed in battle, after which the rule passed to his son, Ajay Singh.
- The last ruler of this dynasty was Ram Gupta, a descendant of Ajay Singh, who ruled until 143 BCE. After Ram Gupta's reign, the empire disintegrated and was taken over by local clans until 50 BCE, when a new dynasty known as the Rai dynasty emerged.

Rai Dynasty (50 BCE-342 CE)

- In 50 BCE, Jammu was annexed by the Rai dynasty. Adi Rai was the first independent ruler to govern Jammu. After ruling for 40 years, he was succeeded by his son Dev Rai, followed by nine other rulers of this dynasty: Gandharb Rai, Kadamb Rai, Karam Rai, Khir Rai, Khakhar Rai, Sind Rai, Jagat Rai, Dudh Rai, and Jog Rai.
- Jog Rai was the last ruler of this dynasty. After his reign, the Rai dynasty was divided into two parts. Jog Rai's elder son, Malhan Hans, formed the Manhas tribe and settled in Sialkot, while his younger son, Suraj Dhar, founded the Dhar dynasty in Jammu.

Dhar Dynasty (430-840 CE)

- Suraj Dhar established the Dhar dynasty in 430 CE and ruled for 55 years until 485 CE. The Dhar rulers built a powerful empire and governed for 410 years until 840 CE. During this period, the Muslim saint Peer Roshan Shah Wali from Arabia visited Jammu. His shrine is located in Gumat in Jammu.

Other Rulers of the Dhar Dynasty:

Ruler	Time Period
Ganga Dhar	495 CE - 530 CE
Devala Dhar	530 CE - 585 CE
Sarkia Dhar	590 CE - 650 CE
Kirat Dhar	650 CE - 700 CE
Bajar Dhar	785 CE - 840 CE

- The last ruler of this dynasty was Bajar Dhar (785-840 A.D.), after which Jammu was taken over by Dev dynasty.

Medieval History of Jammu

In the mid-8th century, the Dhar dynasty weakened due to several attacks from neighboring regions of Poonch, Kashmir, and outside invasions. This decline led to the emergence of a stronger dynasty known as the Dev Dynasty.

Dev Dynasty (840-1798 CE)

- Vajar Dhar's successor, Suraj Dev, established the Dev dynasty in 840 CE. He was a powerful ruler and an able administrator, ruling until 912 CE, after which his successor, Bhuj Dev, ascended the throne.
- He was succeeded by Avtar Dev in 982 CE. Avtar Dev defeated Mahmud of Ghazni with the combined strength of all the Jammu hill chiefs.
- As Jammu was on the route of invaders from Central and West Asia, it faced several attacks during this period. However, the rulers of the Dev dynasty defended their territories bravely.
- Unfortunately, Avtar Dev could not withstand the second attack by Mahmud of Ghazni and was defeated in the Battle of Peshawar in 1001 CE.

Important Rulers of the Dev Dynasty

- **Jas Dev (1030-1053 CE):** Founded the town of Jasrota.
- **Sangram Dev (1053-1094 CE):** Defeated the King of Kashmir (Ananta) at Bilawar.
- **Jasakara (Chakara) Dev (1094-1164 CE):** Succeeded Sangram Dev in 1094 CE.
- **Brij (Bijay) Dev (1164-1215 CE):** Fought against Prithvi Raj Chauhan in the Battle of Tarain and founded Bajpur (Vijaypur).

- **Narsing Dev (1215-1258 CE):** Son of Brij Dev; killed Prithvi Raj's brother, Khande Rao, in the Battle of Tarain.
- **Arjan Dev (1258-1313 CE):** Succeeded Narsingh Dev.
- **Jodh Dev (1313-1361 CE):** Contemporary of Feroz Shah Tughlaq of Delhi.
- **Mal Dev (1361-1400 CE):** Resisted Timur's invasion strongly, worked for the welfare of his people, and established Jammu as the Dogra capital; his reign is considered a golden period.
- **Hamir Dev (1400-1423 CE):** Contemporary of Mohammad Tughlaq of Delhi and Ali Shah of Kashmir.
- **Ajab Dev (1423-1454 CE):** Extended the Jammu kingdom up to Gujarat and established friendly relations with Kashmir's rulers.
- **Bairam Dev (1454-1489 CE):** Eliminated Kokhar Chief Jasrath by establishing relations with Bahlol Lodi of the Lodi dynasty; several Sufi saints visited Jammu during his reign.
- **Goghar Dev (1500-1530 CE):** Established friendly relations with Babur, who founded the Mughal empire, earning the title of Isa Khan.
- **Kapur Dev (1530-1571 CE):** Divided the kingdom into Bahu and Jammu; Dev rulers remained allies of the Mughals until 1703.
- **Jag Dev (1571-1590 CE):** Killed in a conspiracy by his half-brother, Lal Dev.
- **Samhal Dev (1590-1594 CE):** Ruled for a very short period.
- **Sangram Dev (1594-1626 CE):** Favored by Jahangir and accompanied him on various expeditions.
- **Bhupat Dev (1626-1656 CE):** Contemporary of Mughal ruler Shah Jahan.
- **Hari Dev (1656-1692 CE):** Contemporary of Aurangzeb.
- **Gaje Singh (1692-1703 CE):** Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, visited Jammu during his rule.
- **Dhruv Dev (1703-1733 CE):** Provided shelter to Sikh warrior Banda Bahadur and helped him rise against the Mughals; consolidated his empire and became an independent ruler.
- **Maharaja Ranjit Dev (1733-1782 CE):** The next independent ruler after Dhruv Dev conquered nearly all 22 hill regions, extending his reign from Punjab to the Shivalik hills. His reign is described in Rajdarshini as Dar-ul-Aman (Abode of Peace). He was also a social reformer who banned sati and female infanticide; Pandit Dev Dutt was his court poet.
- **Braj Raj Dev (1782-1787 CE):** Son of Ranjit Dev; his weak rule allowed Maha Singh of the Sukarchakiya Misl to attack Jammu, leading to his death.
- **Sampuran Dev:** Braj Raj's one-year-old son who ruled until 1798. After his death, Jit Singh, the son of Dalel Singh (Ranjit Dev's younger son), ascended the throne.
- In **1798**, during Jit Singh's rule, the Dev Dynasty came to an end, and Jammu fell under Sikh rule.

Modern History of Jammu

The modern period in Jammu's history is marked by the rise of the Sikhs and the Dogras, particularly under the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Sikh Rule (1808-1846)

- In **1808**, Sardar Hukum Singh Chimmi annexed the Jammu region, integrating it into the Lahore kingdom.
- **Kharak Singh**, son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was appointed to govern Jammu in **1812**.
- During this time, small rebellion groups, notably led by **Mian Deedo**, emerged against Sikh rule.
- **Gulab Singh** played a crucial role in suppressing these revolts.

Rise of Gulab Singh

- **Gulab Singh** (born October 21, 1792) was a descendant of Ranjit Dev, who ruled Jammu from **1733-1782**.
- He joined Maharaja Ranjit Singh's military and proved his bravery and strategic acumen.
- Gulab Singh won the **Battle of Chach Hazara** and developed a strategy that led to the killing of Mian Deedo in **1820**, quelling the uprisings against Sikh rule.
- As a reward, he was bestowed the title of **Raja** and became the King of Jammu.
- With the support of his military chief, **Zorawar Singh**, he extended his control over regions such as Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Bandral, Kishtwar, Mankot, and Chenani.
- He also secured Jagir rights over distant territories, including **Ladakh, Baltistan, Zanskar, Skardu, Dardistan**, and parts of **Western Tibet**.

End of Sikh Rule in Jammu

- After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in **1839**, the Sikh rule began to weaken, culminating in the **Anglo-Sikh War** of **1845-46**, where the Sikhs were ultimately defeated.

- The conflict concluded with the signing of the **Treaty of Lahore** in **1846** by Maharaja Daleep Singh, marking the end of Sikh rule in Jammu.
- During the Anglo-Sikh War, Gulab Singh emerged as a strong leader and subsequently established the **Dogra dynasty** in Jammu.

Dogra Dynasty (1846-1947)

Formation of the Dynasty

- The **Dogra dynasty** was established in **1846** by **Gulab Singh**.
- In **1822**, Gulab Singh was crowned as Raja of Jammu and maintained an independent army.
- On **March 15, 1846**, he signed the **Treaty of Amritsar** with the British East India Company. This treaty recognized Gulab Singh as **Maharaja**.
- Under the treaty, he received all the hilly regions east of the River Indus and west of the River Ravi, including **Chamba**, in exchange for **75 lakh Nanak Shahi rupees**. This transaction is often referred to as the **Sale of Kashmir**.
- Following this acquisition, Gulab Singh took the title of Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, officially establishing the Dogra dynasty, which would rule for the next century.

Rule of Gulab Singh

- Gulab Singh was pivotal in demarcating the boundaries of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in **1846**.
- He designated **Srinagar** as his summer capital and **Jammu** as his winter capital.
- The region was divided into three cultural zones: **Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh**. Ladakh and Baltistan were consolidated into a single administrative unit, with **Leh** as the summer capital and **Skardu** as the winter capital.

- He effectively suppressed revolts by local groups such as the Khakhas, Bombas, and Galwanas, restoring peace throughout the region.
- Gulab Singh established the Dogra Kingdom firmly, ending the rule of several minor local states.
- He implemented several economic reforms, reviving the shawl industry, incentivizing weavers, reforming the **begar** system, and encouraging trade and commerce.
- His administration introduced rationing and restructured the police and revenue systems.
- He also founded the **Dharmarth Trust** and established a new town named **Purmandal**.

Important Rulers of the Dogra Dynasty

Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1856-1885)

- Maharaja Ranbir Singh ascended the throne in **1857** and remained in power until **1885**. He was the son of Maharaja Gulab Singh.
- He reorganized the judicial system and set up three departments: **revenue**, **civil**, and **military**.
- He constructed the **Raghunath Temple complex**, **Ranbiresh-Varam Temple**, established **Pathshalas**, and instituted post and telegraph services.
- **Gilgit**, **Huza**, and **Nagar** regions were included in the Dogra empire during this time.

Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925)

- Maharaja Pratap Singh ascended the throne in **1885**. He was the son of Maharaja Ranbir Singh.

- He built the **Jhelum Valley Road** and completed the **Banihal Cart Road**. He constructed a bridge over the **Tawi River** and linked Jammu with a railway line to **Sialkot**. He also dug two canals, namely the **Ranbir Canal** and **Pratap Canal**, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- During his reign, Jammu and Kashmir got its first **Hydro-Electric Project** at **Mohra**, about 22.5 km from **Baramulla** towards **Uri**.
- Municipal committees were also formed for the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. The British visited Kashmir in large numbers to enjoy its natural beauty.
- They wanted to buy land to build houses in Jammu and Kashmir, but permission was not granted by the Maharaja as he believed that only Indians should purchase land in India.

Maharaja Hari Singh (1925-1949)

- Maharaja Hari Singh ascended the throne in **1925**. He was the nephew of Maharaja Pratap Singh.
- He brought many reforms in the region, such as making primary education compulsory, introducing laws prohibiting child marriage, and opening places of worship for low castes.
- He set up the first **Legislature of Jammu and Kashmir** in **1934** under the **Constitution Act of 1934**.
- This Legislature consisted of a Council comprising the Prime Minister and ministers appointed by him, and an Assembly comprising **75 members** known as the '**Praja Sabha**'. He also enacted the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court** in **1928**.

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- During his tenure, communal disputes emerged, giving rise to discontent among the people. Along with the rise of the national movement, political unrest also started to emerge, with the Muslim population demonstrating against Hari Singh.
 - Maharaja Hari Singh was a popular ruler and remained in power until **June 1947**. He designated his son **Karan Singh** as his regent and, after India's independence, settled in **Bombay**.
 - He died in **1961**. The Dogra rule ended in **1947** after the signing of the accession, when Jammu and Kashmir was added to India.

Formation of Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir became a distinct state of India in **October 1947**.
- This occurred after the region was attacked by **Pashtun** tribesmen and the army of the newly formed country, **Pakistan**.

- Maharaja Hari Singh signed an agreement with the Indian government, according to which Jammu and Kashmir would become an Indian state, and the Indian government would send an army to protect it against the Pakistani attack.
- The state of Jammu and Kashmir was allowed to have its own **Constitution** and **Flag**.
- Thus, the region of Jammu and Kashmir became a state of the Indian Union from **1947** onwards and remained in that form until **2019**.
- In **2019**, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was reorganized into the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** and the **Union Territory of Ladakh**.

3

CHAPTER

History of Kashmir

History of Kashmir

The history of Kashmir can be traced from numerous archaeological sites and the famous book **Rajatarangini**. The valley of Kashmir has been an influential seat for several important dynasties. In **1947**, Kashmir became a part of India and was known as the state of Jammu and Kashmir. This chapter presents the ancient, medieval, and modern history of Kashmir.

Historical Sources of Kashmir

The history of Kashmir can be traced from different sources, such as archaeological sites and literary sources.

Archaeological Sites

There are several notable archaeological sites in Kashmir that show it was inhabited by people in prehistoric times. The archaeological sites include:

- Burzahom (3000-2000 BCE):** Located near Srinagar, this site contains many stone tools, pebbles, dwelling places, and deep pits. It is considered the oldest archaeological site in India.
- Gilgit (300-200 BCE):** Situated in Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PoK), this site contains manuscripts sealed in wooden boxes.
- Ancient Monastery (300-200 BCE):** Located in the Kashmir Valley area, this site also features stupas.

Literary Sources

The history of Kashmir can also be understood through literary sources such as manuscripts, texts, and books. Some important literary sources of Kashmir include:

Literature	Writers
Nilamata Purana	Some Kashmiri Brahmanas (6th-7th century)
Samay Matrika, Nrapavali	Kshemendra
Rajatarangini	Kalhan
Hari Charitra Chintamani	Jayadratha
Si-Yu-Ki	Hiuen Tsang
Tahqiq Al Hind, Kitab-ul-Hind	Alberuni
Waqiat-i-Kashmir	Khwaja Mohd. Azam Kaul
Tarikh-i-Hassan	Peer Ghulam Hassan Shah
Mukhtasar Tarikh-i-Kashmir	Pandit Birbal Kachru
Zafarnama	Sharaf-ad-Din-Ali Yazdi
The Valley of Kashmir	Sir Walter Lawrence
Tarikh-i-Kashmir	Haidar Malik

How Kashmir got its name?

The name 'Kashmir' first got its mention in Nilamata Purana as Kashyap Mar or Kashyap Pura. According to Purana, the valley was a huge lake called Satisara. It was drained out by Rishi Kashyap on whose name the entire valley got its name. In Brihat Samhita, Kashmir is mentioned as Kashmiras.

Greek Historian Hecataeus refers to it as Kaspapyros. Chinese traveller Hiuen-Tsang called it Kashi-Mi-Lo. In modern times, the name changed to Kasheer and then finally to Kashmir.

Early History of Kashmir

The early history of Kashmir can be divided into three stages: the Pre-Historic Age, the Neolithic Age, and the Megalithic Age.

Pre-Historic Age

Excavations at various sites in Kashmir began in 1960 by the Archaeological Department of India. According to Dr. Sunil Chandra Ray, the valley has faced glacial cycles during the Quaternary period, and clear evidence can be seen in sedimentary rock formations known as Karewas. They are divided into two groups: the Lower Karewas, which are of Pleistocene Age, and the Upper Karewas, which are from the Second Inter-Glacial Age.

Neolithic Age

- Many pieces of evidence from the Neolithic period have been found in Jammu and Kashmir, especially at Burzahom (Srinagar), which is the first archaeological site in the country. Burzahom features a Neolithic settlement that dates back to 2375 BC.
- Seeds of wheat, barley, and lentils have been found at Burzahom.
- During this period, copper tools were invented. Important tools included needles, harpoons for fishing, arrowheads, spearheads, and daggers for hunting.
- Stitched hides have also been discovered at the site.
- A Neolithic skull has been found at Burzahom with a hole drilled into it, suggesting that surgical practices may have taken place.
- Underground circular pits, approximately 3 meters deep, have also been found at this site.

- Besides Burzahom, other significant sites in Kashmir include Begagund, Pampur, Panzgom, Sombur Waztal, and Brah.

Megalithic Age

- In the Megalithic culture, historians discovered massive stones called Menhirs, which symbolized notable events of the community.
- These Menhirs were transported from the hills and erected at various sites near the places where people lived.
- Important discoveries from this age in Kashmir include mudbrick structures, pottery (gritty red ware pottery) manufactured on a potter's wheel, rubble structures, and metal objects along with tools made from bone and stone.
- Megalithic structures, polished black pottery, and copper artifacts were also found.
- Artifacts found at Burzahom also belong to the Megalithic age.

Ancient History of Kashmir

Kalhana was the first historian to write about Kashmir in his book *Rajatarangini* during 1148-1150 AD. This work is considered the earliest reliable historical text on Kashmir. According to *Rajatarangini*, Kashmir was ruled by various kings and was home to several dynasties, which are as follows:

Gonanda Empire

- According to *Rajatarangini*, Gonanda I was the first ruler of Kashmir around 3000 BC.
- He was a relative of Raja Jarasandha and fought in the Mahabharata war for Jarasandha against Krishna, where he was killed by Balrama (Krishna's elder brother).

- His son, Damodar, succeeded him. Damodar died in battle against Krishna, after which his son Gonanda II ascended the throne. Following Gonanda II, the Pandavas ruled Kashmir.

Pandavas Empire

- The Pandavas ruled Kashmir for a brief period. After Gonanda II, there were 35 Pandava kings in the valley, with Haran Dev, the son of Parikshit and grandson of Arjuna, being the first.
- The Pandava rule is believed to have ended with a powerful earthquake that submerged the ancient city of Sandimat Nagar, leading to the formation of Lake Wular in its place.

Achaemenid Empire (600-400 BC)

- *Rajatarangini* provides details about the rule of the Achaemenid Empire in Kashmir. According to this text, Kashmir came under the rule of the Achaemenians of Persia, specifically King Cyrus, from 600-400 BC.
- After Cyrus, Darius succeeded him and extended the empire to the Punjab region. Eventually, the Achaemenid Empire began to lose control over Kashmir.
- The Achaemenid kings ruled areas around the River Indus and northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent up to the Hindukush and Gandhara.
- It is probable that during Alexander's invasion of India in 326 BC, the Achaemenians had lost Kashmir, which was then ruled by King Abhisara.

Mauryan Empire (321-185 BC)

- Kashmir became part of the Mauryan Empire in the 3rd century BC. King Ashoka (304-232 BC) introduced Buddhism in Kashmir.
- To promote Buddhism, Ashoka appointed Buddhist missionaries Majjhantika and Urvasa in the region.
- After Ashoka's death, his son Jaluka became king and defeated the Malecchas (people of Indo-Greek tribes), restoring peace in the region.
- Jaluka was succeeded by his son Damodar II, who was a Shaivite (devotee of Shiva).
- Many scholars suggest that after Damodar II, the Kashmir region was ruled by Indo-Greek kings for approximately 200 years before the rise of the Kushan Dynasty.

Kushan (Turushka) Dynasty (30 BC - 178 AD)

- This dynasty was notable for three rulers: Kanishka, Hushka, and Jushka, as recorded by Kalhana.
- **Kanishka (127-150 CE):** He established many temples and viharas (monasteries) in Kashmir. Historians note that he convened the 4th Buddhist Council at Kundalvana (Harwan) in Kashmir, where Buddhism was divided into two sects: Mahayana and Hinayana. Under his reign, Kashmir became a major centre for Buddhist and Hindu learning, with Kashmiri Buddhist missionaries spreading Buddhism to Tibet, China, and other parts of India. Notable missionaries included Kumarjiva, Yasa, Gautam Sangha, Dharamputra, and Shyama Bhata.

- **Jushka:** The last ruler of this dynasty, he ruled until 178 AD. After the Kushan dynasty, the Gonanda family regained control over Kashmir.

Gonanda Empire (178-500 AD)

- Following the Kushan dynasty's decline, the Gonandas returned to power.
- **Abhimanyu I:** One of the Gonanda kings, he shifted his capital from Kashmir to Rajouri during winters.
- Other notable rulers included Gonanda III and Vibhishana I..

Huns Empire (500-600 AD)

- In the 5th and early 6th centuries, the Hephthalites (White Huns), a Central Asian group, conquered Northern and Central India, including Kashmir. They ruled for nearly 100 years.
- **Mihirakula (502-530 CE):** A Hun invader, Mihirakula aimed to conquer North India but was defeated by Yasodharman (ruler of Malwa). After this, he moved to Kashmir, conquered Gandhar, and committed atrocities against local shrines. He favoured Shaivism and constructed a Shiva shrine near Srinagar. His influence declined after his death.
- Other rulers of this dynasty included Baka, Naka, Aksha, Gop Aditya, Gokarna, Gopal Aditya, and Yudhishtira. Aksha founded the town of Achhabal. Yudhishtira was the last Hun ruler, who fled from Kashmir, leading to Ujjain rulers taking over.

Vikramaditya's Empire

- Kashmir came under Ujjain rulers after the Huns for a brief period. **Pratapaditya**, a relative of the great King Vikramaditya of Ujjain, became the next ruler, followed by kings from his lineage.

- **Samdhimati:** The last ruler of Vikramaditya's lineage, he renounced his kingdom in favor of Meghavahana and became a monk, assuming the title of Arya Raja.

Gonanda Dynasty

- The Gonanda dynasty re-emerged in Kashmir after the Ujjain rulers' decline.
- **Meghavahana:** A significant ruler and grandson of Yudhishtira, he was a firm believer in Buddhism and ahimsa (non-violence), prohibiting hunting and animal sacrifices for rituals. His chief queen, Amrit Prabha, built the 'Amrit Bhawan Vihar.'
- Following Meghavahana, King Vikramaditya of Ujjain regained the throne. He ruled for five years before passing it to his son **Praversena II**, who was an able ruler and expanded the state's boundaries to Saurashtra. He established his capital at Pravarsenpura (modern Srinagar).
- After a successful reign of 60 years, Praversena II was succeeded by Yudhishtira II, Ranaditya, and Baladitya.
- **Baladitya** was the last ruler of this dynasty. He married his daughter to Durlabhvardhana, passing the throne to him, who then founded the Karkota dynasty.

Karkota Dynasty (598-800 AD)

- **Founded by Durlabhvardhana in 598 AD:** This dynasty marked a significant period in Kashmir's history.
- **Hiuen Tsang's Visit:** The notable Chinese pilgrim visited Kashmir during Durlabh Vardhanas reign, staying for nearly two years (629-631 AD) to study Sanskrit and Hindu scriptures.

- **Pratapaditya:** The son of Durlabhavardhana, he founded the town of Pratappura, now known as Tapar. He was succeeded by three sons:
 - **Chandrapida (711-719 AD)**
 - **Tarapida (720-724 AD)**
 - **Lalituditya Muktapida (724-760 AD):** The most illustrious ruler of the Karkota dynasty.

Lalituditya Muktapida (724-760 AD)

- Known as the **Samudragupta of Kashmir**, he expanded his empire significantly, conquering regions across Asia and India, including Punjab, Kannauj, Tibet, Ladakh, Badakhshan, Iran, Bihar, Gauda (Bengal), Kalinga (Odisha), South India, Gujarat, Malwa, Marwar, and Sindh. He notably diminished the Arab influence in Sindh.
- **Cultural Contributions:** He constructed the famous Sun Temple at Martand and established Parihaspur, known as the City of Pleasure.
- **Patron of the Arts:** Lalituditya supported numerous scholars and poets, including Bhavabhuti, Vakpatiraja, Udhata, Bhata, and Damodhar Gupta.

Decline of the Karkota Dynasty

- After **Lalituditya**, his grandson **Jayapida** continued the legacy and was also a capable ruler. He established the City of Jayapura and Andarkot Fort. However, after his reign, the Karkota dynasty began to decline.

Medieval History of Kashmir

- Following the end of the Karkota dynasty around **855-856 AD**, several new dynasties emerged in Jammu and Kashmir, shaping the region's medieval history.

Utpala Dynasty (855-939 AD)

- This dynasty was founded by Avantivarman (855-883 AD) in 855 AD.
- He was one of the most important rulers of this dynasty who restored peace in Kashmir from utter political and economic disorder.
- According to Rajtarangini, Avantivarman built many towns and temples, along with providing a strong administration in Kashmir.
- Avantivarman founded the town of Awantipora, which had an efficient drainage system designed by Suyya.
- Suyya was a sage, engineer, and architect of that era.
- He also designed the town of Suyyapur, now called Sopore.



AWANTIPURA AND ITS RUINS

- Avantivarman died in 883 AD and was succeeded by his son Shankaravarman.
- Shankaravarman led many conquests in the south and north of his empire, but he was cruel and extorted taxes from his people.
- He organized special offices for the collection of taxes known as Grahkrtya.
- Shankaravarman was killed during his conquest of Hazara near Uri in 904 AD.
- Shankaravarman's queen, Sugandha, ascended the throne after him, but she was soon removed by Suravarman.