

Chapter 1 : What Is The Indian Subcontinent? - calendrierdelascience.com

Like other settled, agrarian societies in history, those in the Indian subcontinent have been attacked by nomadic tribes throughout its long history. In evaluating the impact of Islam on the sub-continent, one must note that the northwestern Indian subcontinent was a frequent target of tribes raiding from Central Asia.

Staples and common ingredients[edit] An assortment of spices and herbs. Spices are an indispensable food ingredient in much of India. Chapati , a type of flat bread from the former regions, is a common part of meals to be had in many parts of Indian subcontinent. Other staples from many of the cuisines include rice, roti made from atta flour , and beans. Foods in this area of the world are flavoured with various types of chilli, black pepper, cloves, and other strong herbs and spices along with the flavoured butter ghee. Ginger is an ingredient that can be used in both savory and sweet recipes in cuisines from the Indian subcontinent. Chopped ginger is fried with meat and pickled ginger is often an accompaniment to boiled rice. Ginger juice and ginger boiled in syrup are used to make desserts. Turmeric and cumin are often used to make curries. Common meats include lamb, goat, fish and chicken. Beef is less common than in Western cuisines because cattle have a special place in Hinduism. Prohibitions against beef extend to the meat of water buffalo and yaks to some extent. Pork is considered as a taboo food item by all Muslims and is avoided by most Hindus, though it is commonly eaten in Goa , which has a notable Roman Catholic population from Portuguese rule. A variety of very sweet desserts which use dairy products is also found in cuisines of the Indian subcontinent. The main ingredients to desserts of the Indian subcontinent are reduced milk, ground almonds, lentil flour, ghee and sugar. Kheer is a dairy based rice pudding, a popular and common dessert. History of cuisine from the Indian subcontinent Many of foods from the Indian subcontinent go back over five thousand years. The Indus Valley peoples, who settled in what is now Northwestern Indian subcontinent, hunted turtles and alligator. They also collected wild grains, herbs and plants. Many foods and ingredients from the Indus period c. Some consist of wheat, barley, rice, tamarind, eggplant, and cucumber. The Indus Valley peoples cooked with oils, ginger, salt, green peppers, and turmeric root, which would be dried and ground into an orange powder. Indians have used leafy vegetables, lentils, and milk products such as yogurt and ghee all along their history. They also used spices such as cumin and coriander. Black pepper which is native to India was often used by A. The Greeks brought saffron and the Chinese introduced tea. The Portuguese and British made red chili, potato and cauliflower popular after A. Mughals , who began arriving in India after , saw food as an art and many of their dishes are cooked with as many as twenty-five spices. They also used rose water, cashews, raisins, and almonds. List of Cuisines of the Indian subcontinent[edit] Bangladeshi cuisine Bangladeshi cuisine is dominated by Bengali cuisine and has been shaped by the diverse history and riverine geography of Bangladesh. The country has a tropical monsoon climate. Rice is the main staple food of Bangladeshi people and it is served with a wide range of curries. Mustard seed Ilish Curry , Dhakai Biryani and Pitha Bangladeshi dishes exhibit strong aromatic flavours; and often include eggs , potatoes , tomatoes and aubergines. A variety of spices and herbs , along with mustard oil and ghee , is used in Bangladeshi cooking. The main breads are naan , porota , roti , bakarkhani and luchi. Major fish dishes include ilish hilsa , pabda butterflyfish , rui rohu , pangash pangas catfish , chitol clown knifefish , magur walking catfish , bhetki barramundi and tilapia. Meat consumption includes beef , lamb , venison , chicken , duck , squab and koel. Vegetable dishes, either mashed bharta , boiled sabji , or leaf-based saag , are widely served. Seafood such as lobsters and shrimps are also often prevalent. Islamic dietary laws are prevalent across Bangladesh. Halal foods are food items that Muslims are allowed to eat and drink under Islamic dietary guidelines. The criteria specifies both what foods are allowed, and how the food must be prepared. The foods addressed are mostly types of meat allowed in Islam. Bangladeshi people follow certain rules and regulations while eating. It includes warm hospitality and particular ways of serving as well. This is known as Bangalikota Bengali: The culture also defines the way to invite people to weddings and for dinner. Gifts are given on certain occasions. Bangalikota also includes a way of serving utensils in a proper manner. The diet in the hills also includes chicken, yak meat, dried beef, pork, pork fat, and mutton. It has many similarities with Tibetan cuisine Indian cuisine Indian cuisine is characterized by its sophisticated and

subtle use of many Indian spices There is also the widespread practice of vegetarianism across its society although, overall a minority. As a consequence, Indian cuisine varies from region to region, reflecting the varied demographics of the ethnically diverse Indian subcontinent. It has influences from Middle Eastern , Southeast Asian , East Asian , and Central Asian , as well as the Mediterranean cuisines due to the historical and contemporary cross-cultural interactions with these neighboring regions.

Chapter 2 : Indian Subcontinent Map

The plains of north India are in a politically unsettled state when Alexander the Great marches into the subcontinent in BC. But it is the dissatisfaction of his own soldiers, rather than any defeat at Indian hands, which turns him back. And for the next twenty years northwest India remains.

Indian history can be characterised as a work in progress, a continuous process of reinvention that can eventually prove elusive for those seeking to grasp its essential character. The history of this astonishing sub continent dates back to almost years ago with the evidence of human activity of Homo sapiens. Indian history begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization as evident from the sites at Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, and Lothal which were earlier a part of the Indian subcontinent. The inhabitants were known as Dravidians who later migrated to South India probably due to ecological changes. Amazingly, almost five thousand years ago, the inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilisation had developed an urban culture based on commerce and sustained by agricultural trade. The Aryan tribes from the North West Frontier migrated into the sub continent around second millennium BC and gradually merged with the pre-existing cultures. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only". India had often been overlooked, though her history and culture is just as rich as that of Mesopotamia or Egypt. Balathal was discovered after CE and excavations began there after CE. Following is the history of India through the Ages: Archaeologists have discovered up to 1. This discovery would probably change the existing notion about the earliest human ancestors being from Africa into India. Peninsular India abounds in Paleolithic sites. Tools crafted by proto-humans that have been dated back to two million years have been discovered in the North-western part of the country. Inhabitants of this era developed new techniques in metallurgy and handicraft and produced copper, bronze, lead and tin, evident from the seals and statues found such as that of the Dancing girl. Harrappa was a significant bronze-age community; statues of various deities have also been found. Early Historic Period Vedic Period: The Aryans were the first to invade the country. They came out of the North in about BC and brought with them strong cultural traditions. Sanskrit, one of the most ancient languages spoken by them, was used in the first documentation of the Vedas, which date back to the 12th century BC and are believed to be oldest scriptures still in use. The Vedas are some of the oldest extant texts, next to those in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Vedic era in the subcontinent lasted from about BCE, laying down the foundation of Hinduism and other cultural dimensions of early Indian society. This period saw the second major rise in urbanisation in India after the Indus valley Civilisation. The word "maha" means great and the word "janapada" means foothold of a tribe. In the later Vedic Age, a number of small kingdoms or city states had mushroomed across the subcontinent and also find mention in early Buddhist and Jain literature as far back as BCE. Persian and Greek Conquests: The Maurya Empire, ruled by the Mauryan Dynasty from BCE was a geographically extensive and mighty political and military empire in ancient India, established in the subcontinent by Chandragupta Maurya in Magadha present-day Bihar it further thrived under Ashoka the Great. At its pinnacle, the empire covered parts of modern day Iran and almost the entire Indian subcontinent, except the southern peninsular tip. Ancient India Timeline Prehistoric Period: The period when man, basically a food gatherer, discovered fire and wheel. Derived its name from the river Indus and thrived on agriculture and worshipped natural forces. The period saw the compilation of the Vedas, distinction of Varnas in terms of Aryans and Dasas slaves. As caste system became more rigid, the period saw the advent of Mahavira and Buddha who rebelled against casteism. Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, the empire encompassed the entire North India and Bindusara further extended it. After fighting the Kalinga war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism. Deccan and South India: The southern part was ruled by Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas This period is known for construction of Ajanta and Ellora cave temples, Sangam literature, and arrival of Christianity to India. The Gupta dynasty founded by Chandragupta I, ushered in classical age in north India with Samudragupta extending his kingdom and Chandragupta II fighting against Shakas. Shakuntalam and Kamasutra were written during this period, Aryabhata achieved feats in Astronomy and Bhakti cult emerged. Age of Small Kingdoms: There was rise of many small kingdoms as the North was divided into warring kingdoms. But his

kingdom disintegrated into small states even as Hunas invaded. It was a period when the Deccan and the south became powerful. Zoroastrians Parsis came to India. AD - 13th Cent. Founded by Vijayalaya, the Chola empire adopted a maritime policy. Temples became cultural and social centres and Dravidian languages flourished. The period also saw emergence of Rajput clans. Temples at Khajuraho, Kanchipuram, Puri were built and miniature painting started. The period witnessed invasion from the Turks. Battles that have shaped the History of India In the long march of centuries, India has witnessed the rise and fall of several empires and conquerors. The political map of pre-modern India, before the British arrived, was made up of countless kingdoms with fluctuating boundaries that rendered the country vulnerable to foreign invasions. There have been various dynasties fighting battles among themselves and against foreign invaders - Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Chinese nomads, Arabs, Mughals, French, Dutch, Portuguese, British and others. Wave after wave of foreign aggressors descended on India, founded empires and left a deep imprint on the history and culture of the country. But none could subdue or subjugate the indomitable soul of Bharatvarsh. As history is a great educator, it would be interesting to recapitulate some of the major battles that have marked turning points in the history of India:

Chapter 3 : History of India from Pre Historic Era to Freedom Struggle and Independence of India

The Indian subcontinent is a southern region and peninsula of Asia, mostly situated on the Indian Plate and projecting southwards into the Indian Ocean from the Himalayas.

The Indian subcontinent Research indicates two early stages of agricultural development in South Asia. In the earlier stage, dating roughly from 7000 to 5000 bp, agriculture was being established in parts of Pakistan, in the northwesternmost part of the subcontinent. At the ancient site of Mehrgarh, where the earliest evidence has been found, barley was the dominant crop and was apparently supplemented with some wheat. The barley found there is the well-developed domesticate, six-row barley. A small amount of wild barley and two-row domesticated barley have also been recovered, although archaeologists do not think that barley was independently domesticated in this region. Four types of wheat—einkorn, emmer, durum, and bread wheat—have also been found. All had diffused from Southwest Asia, so it is thought that barley probably did so as well. However, the early barley and wheat in Mehrgarh have predominantly small spherical grains, indicating that varieties adapted to local conditions were developed there. No evidence of irrigation has been found. Goats and sheep were also raised at Mehrgarh at this time. The second stage, dating to about 3000 bp at Mehrgarh, includes evidence of another crop, cotton. It is quite likely a local domesticate. Other important crops with histories in the Indian subcontinent are mung beans *Vigna radiata*, black gram *Vigna mungo*, horsegram *Macrotyloma uniflorum*, and pigeon pea *Cajanus cajan*, all of which appear after about 3000 bp. Rice is present by about 2500 bp and possibly earlier, but in this early period its status as a cultigen is unclear; fully domesticated rice and little millet *Panicum sumatrense* appear in the archaeological record about 2000 bp. Their appearance coincides closely with significant socioeconomic changes in the subcontinent. Agriculture was well established throughout most of the subcontinent by 1500 bp. During the 5th millennium bp, in the alluvial plains of the Indus River in Pakistan, the cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa experienced an apparent explosion of an organized, sophisticated urban culture. This society, known as the Harappan or Indus civilization, flourished until shortly after 1500 bp; it was much more extensive than those of Egypt or Babylonia and appeared earlier than analogous societies in northern China. Harappan society was remarkably homogeneous, thoroughly individual and independent, and a technological peer of the early civilizations of China and Egypt. Barley and wheat, supplemented by dates, sesame *Sesamum indicum*, field peas, and lentils, were the primary crops. Goats, sheep, fowl, humped and humpless breeds of Indian cattle *Bos indicus*, and the Indian elephant *Elephas maximus* had been domesticated. In addition to the domestication of a great variety of animals, fragments of dyed and woven cotton fabric attest to the antiquity of the cultivation of cotton plants and of the textile industry for which India was to become famous the world over. Little archaeological or pictorial evidence of farm implements has survived. It has been surmised, however, that the cereals could have been sown in the fall, on inundated land after the annual flooding of the rivers had receded, and then harvested in spring. That system continues to be used into the 21st century; it involves minimal skill, labour, and equipment, as the land does not have to be plowed, fertilized, or irrigated. The people of the Indus civilization were engaged in a great deal of commerce, and there is proof of river and sea traffic. There was a trading post at Lothal on the Gulf of Cambay with a brick dockyard and an elaborate channel and spillway. Two-wheeled bullock carts and light covered wagons—forms of transportation that remain common in the early 21st century—were used for local travel. Caravans of pack oxen were the principal mode of transportation over longer distances. South India, centre of the later distinctive Tamil culture, constituted a second, initially independent agricultural region. Crops were being raised there during the first half of the 4th millennium bp. Two varieties of pulses legumes and finger millet also called raggee were cultivated there. To the north and west of the Deccan plateau lay a third, intermediate area. There, at Lothal and Rangpur, has been found the earliest South Asian evidence of rice cultivation, in the later Harappan period. Subsequently, wheat, cotton, flax, and lentils spread into the region from the Indus valley, and pulses and millets from the south. In all three regions the basic cropping pattern of the 4th millennium bp, except the pattern for rice, continued into the 21st century. Early historic period A fourth South Asian agricultural region, the Ganges River valley,

became increasingly developed after about 600 bp. Through various forms of exchange, the region saw the introduction of the horse, coinage, the Brahmi script, and the whole corpus of Vedic texts. Written sources of information join the archaeological sources from this point onward. The plow, for example, figures in a hymn of the most ancient of the texts, the Rigveda: Harness the plows, fit on the yokes, now that the womb of the earth is ready to sow the seed therein. Apparently, rice played an important role in the growth of population and the founding of new settlements. These had spread eastward to the Ganges delta by about 600 bp. In the later Vedic texts c. 500-400 bp. Farmers plowed the soil several times, broadcast seeds, and used a certain sequence of cropping and fallowing. Cow dung provided fertilizer, and irrigation was practiced where necessary. A more secular eyewitness account is available from Megasthenes c. 350 bp. In his four-volume *Indica*, he wrote: India has many huge mountains which abound in fruit-trees of every kind, and many vast plains of great fertility. The greater part of the soil, moreover, is under irrigation, and consequently bears two crops in the course of the year. In addition to cereals, there grows throughout India much millet and much pulse of different sorts, and rice also, and what is called bosporum [Indian millet]. And again, Since there is a double rainfall [i. Other sources reveal that the soils and seasons had been classified and meteorological observations of rainfall charted for the different regions of the Mauryan empire, which comprised nearly the whole subcontinent as well as territory to the northwest. A special department of the state supervised the construction and maintenance of the irrigation system, including the dam and conduits at Sudarshana, a man-made lake on the Kathiawar Peninsula. The swifter horse-drawn chariot provided greater mobility than the bullock cart. The Mughal century c. 1500-1700. But no technological revolution in cultivating tools or techniques had occurred since roughly the time of the Upanishads c. 500-400 bp. The empire was broadly divided into rice zones and wheat and millet zones. Rice predominated in the eastern states, on the southwest coast, and in Kashmir. Aside from its original home in Gujarat, it had spread also to the Punjab and Sindh with the aid of irrigation. Millets were cultivated in the wheat areas and in the drier districts of Gujarat and Khandesh as well. Cotton, sugarcane, indigo *Indigofera* and *Isatis* species, and opium *Papaver somniferum* were major cash crops. Cultivation of tobacco, introduced by the Portuguese, spread rapidly. The Malabar Coast was the home of spices, especially black pepper *Piper nigrum*, that had stimulated the first European adventures in the East. Coffee *Coffea* species had been imported from Abyssinia and became a popular beverage in aristocratic circles by the end of the century. Vegetables were cultivated mainly in the vicinity of towns. New species of fruit, such as the pineapple, papaya, and cashew nut *Anacardium occidentale*, also were introduced by the Portuguese. The quality of mango and citrus fruits was greatly improved. Cattle continued to be important as draft animals and for milk. Land use never became as intensive as in China and East Asia, although, as noted by Megasthenes, double and even triple cropping was fairly common in regions favoured with irrigation or adequate rainfall. Though the population must have increased many times over since Mauryan times, in the 17th century virgin land was still abundant and peasants were scarce. Irrigation, however, had greatly expanded. Well water, surface water, and rainwater were captured and stored in tanks, then distributed across the landscape by a network of canals. Some new water-lifting devices—such as the sakia, or Persian wheel, which consists of a series of leather buckets on an endless rope yoked to oxen—had been adopted. All these practices continued to be widely used in the 21st century. The plow was the principal implement for tillage. Drawn by oxen, the traditional Indian plow has never had a wheel or a moldboard. The part that penetrates the soil is a wedge-shaped block of hardwood. The draft pole projects in front, where it is attached to the neck yoke of the bullocks. A short, upright stilt in the rear serves as a guiding handle. The point of the wedge, to which an iron share may or may not be attached, does not invert the soil. Some plows are so light that the cultivator can carry them daily on his shoulder to and from the fields. Others are heavy, requiring teams of four to six pairs of oxen. Levelers and clod crushers, generally consisting of a rectangular beam of wood drawn by bullocks, are used to smooth the surface before sowing. Among hand tools, the most common is the kodali, an iron blade fitted to a wooden handle with which it makes an acute angle. Drill sowing and dibbling making small holes in the ground for seeds or plants are old practices in India. The seed was dropped through the tube into the furrow as the plow worked and was covered by the soil in making the next furrow. Into the 21st century, reaping, threshing, and winnowing continued to be performed almost exactly as described in the Vedic texts. Grain is harvested with a

sickle, bound in bundles, and threshed by bullocks treading on it or by hand pounding. To separate the grain from the chaff, it may be sieved with sieves made of stalks of grass or of bamboo, or it may be winnowed by pouring by hand at a height from a supa winnowing scoop. The grain is then measured and stored. The sickle, sieve, and supa have remained essentially unchanged over more than two millennia. Southeast Asia Many crops are native to Southeast Asia, including black pepper, sugarcane *Saccharum* species, banana *Musa* species, nutmeg *Myristica fragrans*, taro *Araceae* species, arrowroot *Maranta* species, coconut *Arecaceae* species, clove *Syzygium aromaticum*, yam *Dioscorea* species, and citrus fruits. The early history of these crops is poorly known. Bob and Ira Spring Wild rice *Zizania* species is found in the region but was apparently not domesticated there. By 6000 bp, domesticated rice and shell sickles are common at the Khok Phanom Di site in Thailand. It is not known how much earlier domesticated rice was integrated into agriculture in that region. The Hoabinhian is a broad-spectrum foraging culture having a subsistence strategy similar to that of the American Archaic dating from the Early Holocene. New Guinea is another potential area of independent agricultural development in Southeast Asia.

Chapter 4 : Cuisine of the Indian subcontinent - Wikipedia

It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent, and is located in Nizamuddin East, Delhi, India, close to the Dina-panah citadel also known as Purana Qila (Old Fort), that Humayun founded in

Indian subcontinent is the region of South Asia stretching from the Himalayas southwards to the shores of the Indian Ocean. A map showing the Indian subcontinent and its countries. What Is The Indian Subcontinent? A subcontinent is a large area of land that is separated from a larger continent by either geography, politics, or culture. The term was originally used to describe North and South America before the two were classified as separate continents. Today, the Indian subcontinent is an example of this feature. It is a peninsula located in south-central Asia that is surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. This area is primarily centered on the Indian Plate, a tectonic plate located along the equator in the eastern hemisphere. There is no widely accepted definition of the exact perimeters of the Indian subcontinent, although many researchers agree that it encompasses India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives. Recently, the area has increasingly been referred to as South Asia. Along the northern border are the Himalayan mountains, which create a natural border between India, Pakistan, and Nepal. The western region of the Indian subcontinent consists of the Hindu Kush mountain range, separating Pakistan from Afghanistan. This mountain range is the dividing line between the Indus river valley and the Amu Darya river. The Arakan Mountains are located along the eastern border. The middle of the subcontinent is full of lakes, plains, rivers, forests, and deserts. The previously mentioned mountain ranges help isolate the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia, giving it a distinct cultural and political identity. Flora And Fauna Of The Indian Subcontinent Because of the unique positioning of the Indian subcontinent, the area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. From Asia came descendants of elephants, monkeys, and wild pigs. In addition, the Indian subcontinent gave the rest of the world the ancestors of cows and antelope. Today, the subcontinent is home to mangroves, orchids, and bamboo as well as long-eared hedgehogs, noctule bats, king cobras, and camel spiders to name a few. With this culture came the beginning of the caste system wherein the society was separated among various social standings ranging from priests to laborers. Around BC, the roots of Hinduism were established as Brahmans sought the true meaning of existence. The class system continued, and Hinduism has continued to influence life on the subcontinent to this day. Sometime between BC and BC, Buddhism and Jainism were born with messages of nonviolence and equality of all humans. This belief caught the attention of many people treated unfavorably in the caste system. The Indian subcontinent was later invaded by Alexander the Great, who brought a Persian influence to the culture. This was around the same time that the Maurya Empire was established, which ruled the subcontinent from BC to BC. Both left their marks on art, sculptures, and architectures throughout the region. The emperors of this dynasty were patrons of the arts and literature. From until , the subcontinent was split between the Rajput Empire of the north and the Chalukyas and Pallavas Empires in the south. During this time, painting, dance, and music became important forms of religious expression, and great temples were built. The north eventually broke into smaller, conflicting empires which provided a window of opportunity for Muslim invaders, who began arriving in the 8th century, to slowly gain control. The Mughal Empire took control around until and resulted in widespread conversions to Islam, particularly in the northern region of the Indian subcontinent. This period of the rule also had a lasting influence on the art, music, literature, and architecture of the region. Some of the emperors even promoted the idea of religious tolerance between Muslims and Hindus. European explorers began to influence and colonize the Indian subcontinent between and , with the British gaining significant control. They brought with them specific architectural styles that can still be seen throughout the region today. In , India and Pakistan gained their independence from England. All of these invading cultures significantly influenced the present-day culture found throughout the Indian subcontinent. This page was last updated on April 25,

Chapter 5 : History of India - Wikipedia

The mountain ranges of Europe and Asia: When the great land masses of Africa and India collide with Europe and Asia, about million years ago, they cause the crust of the earth to crumple upwards in a long almost continuous ridge of high ground - from the Alps, through Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan to the Himalayas.

Enjoy the Famous Daily Chandragupta Maurya: But it is the dissatisfaction of his own soldiers, rather than any defeat at Indian hands, which turns him back. And for the next twenty years northwest India remains under Greek control. In about he seizes the throne of Magadha now Patna. The Greek retreat through the Khyber Pass is sweetened by a gift from Chandragupta of elephants. According to later Buddhist chronicles he murders them all, but this may be a pious legend. A great sinner is the most welcome of converts. More certain is that Asoka brings the eastern coast of India under his control in a campaign of considerable savagery. According to his own inscriptions, disgust at what he sees on this campaign causes him to adopt the Buddhist principle of non-violence. Most of our knowledge of his reign comes from these inscriptions, which emphasize his care for the welfare of his people. Official inscriptions by kings on the subject of their own benevolence should be taken with a pinch of salt. Asoka does, nevertheless, preside over a vast empire largely in a state of peace. But benevolence is perhaps not a valid long-term policy in imperial matters. On his death in about BC, after a reign of nearly half a century, the Mauryan empire begins to crumble. The last king is assassinated by one of his own military commanders, who seizes the throne. During the next four centuries India suffers a series of invasions from the northwest. The Greeks sometimes penetrate as far down the Ganges as Patna, but for the most part they are confined to the northwest corner of the subcontinent. It is possible that the Greek influence on this region, seen in its sculpture, begins this early. But a more lasting link between India and the west is introduced in the 2nd century AD by the Kushans. The Kushan dynasty, founded in Bactria by one of the chiefs of a nomadic tribe, presses southeast into India from the end of the first century AD. Its greatest successes are achieved in about AD by the third king in the line, Kanishka. His capital is at Peshawar, roughly at the centre of a realm which stretches from Bukhara to beyond Varanasi on the Ganges. This empire straddles the Silk Road, the trade route from China to the Mediterranean - a fact of great significance for Buddhism. The religion finds favour with Kanishka, and his active support he is a great patron of architects, sculptors and scholars contributes largely to the spread of Buddhism from India to China. The classical India of the Guptas: Its central territory is the same as that of the Mauryas, along the lower stretch of the Ganges around Patna. The ruling family is the Guptas. Chandra Gupta - coming to the throne in about AD - extends his territory so successfully, to include most of the plain of the Ganges from Allahabad to its mouth, that he begins calling himself maharajadhiraja, meaning king of kings or emperor. Samudra personally performs the ancient Vedic horse sacrifice, but he is also proud of his skills as musician and poet. Sanskrit literature in the Gupta empire: AD The final flowering of Sanskrit literature takes place at the courts of the Gupta dynasty. By this time the spoken languages of India have long been evolving in their own separate directions. Sanskrit has become a literary language, known and used only by a small educated minority - much like Latin in medieval Europe. The poems and plays of the Gupta period are correspondingly artificial in style, but at their best they have considerable charm. In epic poetry and drama, often with elaborate metrical schemes, he recreates stories from traditional Sanskrit literature. Raghuvamsha celebrates the exploits of Rama, as described in the Ramayana. A ruler loves a beautiful hermit girl who turns out, happily, to be the daughter of a famous warrior. Rival kingdoms and a latent threat: The odd one out is a portent of the future - though as yet seemingly insignificant. In the Arabs move along the coast from Persia, through Baluchistan, to occupy Sind. The region becomes Muslim and has remained so ever since. But this area round the mouth of the Indus, separated by desert from the main body of the subcontinent, is a poor stepping stone for further conquest. Three centuries will pass before the Hindu kingdoms of north India, still lacking any unity, face the real thrust of Islam. During these unsettled centuries many kingdoms, large and small, struggle against each other, merge, grow and decline. The most extensive in northern India is the dynasty known as Gurjara-Pratihara. From their capital at Kannauj, the rulers of this kingdom control a territory stretching across

the subcontinent, in the 9th and 10th century, from Gujarat to northern Bengal. In the 10th and 11th century, in southern India, the Tamil kingdom of the Cholas is of equally impressive extent - reaching at its peak from the Deccan down to the southern tip of Sri Lanka. Their origin is disputed among scholars, but they see themselves as the descendants of the warrior caste of ancient India. Their fierce commitment to warfare and deeds of honour causes the Rajputs to fight constantly among themselves if no alien enemy is available. This leads to chaos in northern India and makes the Muslim incursion of the 11th century relatively easy. But it also means that the Muslim invaders find it impossible to suppress the Rajputs once they withdraw to their desert fortresses in Rajasthan.

Mr. Shashi Tharoor on British rule over Indian Subcontinent. Mr. Shashi Tharoor is an Indian politician, member of parliament. He served as a diplomat and under-secretary of the United Nation.

See Article History Alternative Titles: It is known from archaeological evidence that a highly sophisticated urbanized culture—the Indus civilization—dominated the northwestern part of the subcontinent from about 2500 to 1750 bce. From that period on, India functioned as a virtually self-contained political and cultural arena, which gave rise to a distinctive tradition that was associated primarily with Hinduism, the roots of which can largely be traced to the Indus civilization. Other religions, notably Buddhism and Jainism, originated in India—though their presence there is now quite small—and throughout the centuries residents of the subcontinent developed a rich intellectual life in such fields as mathematics, astronomy, architecture, literature, music, and the fine arts. Throughout its history, India was intermittently disturbed by incursions from beyond its northern mountain wall. Especially important was the coming of Islam, brought from the northwest by Arab, Turkish, Persian, and other raiders beginning early in the 7th century ce. Eventually, some of those raiders stayed; by the 13th century much of the subcontinent was under Muslim rule, and the number of Muslims steadily increased. Only after the arrival of the Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama in 1498 and the subsequent establishment of European maritime supremacy in the region did India become exposed to major external influences arriving by sea, a process that culminated in the decline of the ruling Muslim elite and absorption of the subcontinent within the British Empire. When British rule came to an end in 1947, the subcontinent was partitioned along religious lines into two separate countries—India, with a majority of Hindus, and Pakistan, with a majority of Muslims; the eastern portion of Pakistan later split off to form Bangladesh. Many British institutions stayed in place such as the parliamentary system of government; English continued to be a widely used lingua franca; and India remained within the Commonwealth. Hindi became the official language and a number of other local languages achieved official status, while a vibrant English-language intelligentsia thrived. India remains one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. Apart from its many religions and sects, India is home to innumerable castes and tribes, as well as to more than a dozen major and hundreds of minor linguistic groups from several language families unrelated to one another. Religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains, still account for a significant proportion of the population; collectively, their numbers exceed the populations of all countries except China. Earnest attempts have been made to instill a spirit of nationhood in so varied a population, but tensions between neighbouring groups have remained and at times have resulted in outbreaks of violence. At independence, India was blessed with several leaders of world stature, most notably Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who were able to galvanize the masses at home and bring prestige to India abroad. The country has played an increasing role in global affairs. It is bounded to the northwest by Pakistan, to the north by Nepal, China, and Bhutan; and to the east by Myanmar Burma. Bangladesh to the east is surrounded by India to the north, east, and west. The island country of Sri Lanka is situated some 40 miles 65 km off the southeast coast of India across the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar. In area, India ranks as the seventh largest country in the world. India has two union territories composed entirely of islands: When the two finally collided approximately 50 million years ago, the northern edge of the Indian-Australian Plate was thrust under the Eurasian Plate at a low angle. The collision reduced the speed of the oncoming plate, but the underthrusting, or subduction, of the plate has continued into contemporary times. The effects of the collision and continued subduction are numerous and extremely complicated. An important consequence, however, was the slicing off of crustal rock from the top of the underthrusting plate. Those slices were thrown back onto the northern edge of the Indian landmass and came to form much of the Himalayan mountain system. The new mountains—together with vast amounts of sediment eroded from them—were so heavy that the Indian-Australian Plate just south of the range was forced downward, creating a zone of crustal subsidence. Continued rapid erosion of the Himalayas added to the sediment accumulation, which was subsequently carried by mountain streams to fill the subsidence zone and cause it to sink more. Further information on the

geology of India is found in the article Asia. That great, geologically young mountain arc is about 1, miles 2, km long, stretching from the peak of Nanga Parbat 26, feet [8, metres] in the Pakistani-administered portion of the Kashmir region to the Namcha Barwa peak in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Between those extremes the mountains fall across India, southern Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan. The width of the system varies between and miles and km. North of the Himalayas are the Plateau of Tibet and various Trans-Himalayan ranges, only a small part of which, in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir state in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir, are within the territorial limits of India. Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India: Gerald Cubitt Because of the continued subduction of the Indian peninsula against the Eurasian Plate, the Himalayas and the associated eastern ranges remain tectonically active. As a result, the mountains are still rising, and earthquakes "often accompanied by landslides" are common. Several since have been devastating, including one in what is now Bihar state that killed more than 10, people. In another tremor the Bhuj earthquake, farther from the mountains, in Gujarat state, was less powerful but caused extensive damage, taking the lives of more than 20, people and leaving more than, homeless. Still others "notably the quake in Pakistani-administered Kashmir and the temblor in Nepal" principally affected those regions but also caused widespread damage and hundreds of deaths in adjacent parts of India. The relatively high frequency and wide distribution of earthquakes likewise have generated controversies about the safety and advisability of several hydroelectric and irrigation projects. Crests in the Siwaliks, averaging from 3, to 5, feet to 1, metres in elevation, seldom exceed 6, feet 2, metres. The range narrows as it moves east and is hardly discernible beyond the Duars, a plains region in West Bengal state. Interspersed in the Siwaliks are heavily cultivated flat valleys duns with a high population density. To the south of the range is the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Weakly indurated, largely deforested, and subject to heavy rain and intense erosion, the Siwaliks provide much of the sediment transported onto the plain. The Lesser Himalayas To the north of the Siwaliks and separated from them by a fault zone, the Lesser Himalayas also called the Lower or Middle Himalayas rise to heights ranging from 11, to 15, feet 3, to 4, metres. Their ancient name is Himachal Sanskrit: The mountains are composed of both ancient crystalline and geologically young rocks, sometimes in a reversed stratigraphic sequence because of thrust faulting. The Lesser Himalayas are traversed by numerous deep gorges formed by swift-flowing streams some of them older than the mountains themselves, which are fed by glaciers and snowfields to the north. The Great Himalayas The northernmost Great, or Higher, Himalayas in ancient times, the Himadri, with crests generally above 16, feet 4, metres in elevation, are composed of ancient crystalline rocks and old marine sedimentary formations. Between the Great and Lesser Himalayas are several fertile longitudinal vales; in India the largest is the Vale of Kashmir, an ancient lake basin with an area of about 1, square miles 4, square km. Other high mountains in India include Nanda Devi 25, feet [7, metres], Kamet 25, feet [7, metres], and Trisul 23, feet [7,] in Uttarakhand. The Great Himalayas lie mostly above the line of perpetual snow and thus contain most of the Himalayan glaciers. Those are especially prominent in the northwest, where the Zaskar Range and the Ladakh and Karakoram ranges all in Jammu and Kashmir state run to the northeast of the Great Himalayas. Also in Jammu and Kashmir is the Pir Panjal Range, which, extending along the southwest of the Great Himalayas, forms the western and southern flanks of the Vale of Kashmir. Barren mountains of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, India. Collectively, the latter group is also designated as the Shillong Meghalaya Plateau. The plain occupies the Himalayan foredeep, formerly a seabed but now filled with river-borne alluvium to depths of up to 6, feet 1, metres. The plain stretches from the Pakistani provinces of Sindh and Punjab in the west, where it is watered by the Indus River and its tributaries, eastward to the Brahmaputra River valley in Assam state. Morning prayers along the Ganges River, Varanasi, India. The eastern portion is made up of the combined delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, which, though mainly in Bangladesh, also occupies a part of the adjacent Indian state of West Bengal. That deltaic area is characterized by annual flooding attributed to intense monsoon rainfall, an exceedingly gentle gradient, and an enormous discharge that the alluvium-choked rivers cannot contain within their channels. The Indus River basin, extending west from Delhi, forms the western part of the plain; the Indian portion is mainly in the states of Haryana and Punjab. The overall gradient of the plain is virtually imperceptible, averaging only about 6 inches per mile 95 mm per km in the Ganges basin and slightly more

along the Indus and Brahmaputra. Even so, to those who till its soils, there is an important distinction between bhangar –the slightly elevated, terraced land of older alluvium– and khadar , the more fertile fresh alluvium on the low-lying floodplain. In general, the ratio of bhangar areas to those of khadar increases upstream along all major rivers. An exception to the largely monotonous relief is encountered in the southwestern portion of the plain, where there are gullied badlands centring on the Chambal River. That area has long been famous for harbouring violent gangs of criminals called dacoits, who find shelter in its many hidden ravines. It is mostly in northwestern India but also extends into eastern Pakistan and is mainly an area of gently undulating terrain, and within it are several areas dominated by shifting sand dunes and numerous isolated hills. The latter provide visible evidence of the fact that the thin surface deposits of the region, partially alluvial and partially wind-borne, are underlain by the much older Indian-Australian Plate, of which the hills are structurally a part.

Chapter 7 : Indian subcontinent - Wikipedia

The Indian subcontinent is a term mainly used for the geographic region surrounded by the Indian Ocean: the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The subcontinent was once part of Gondwana, the ancient southern supercontinent.

Chapter 8 : Origins of agriculture - The Indian subcontinent | calendrierdelascience.com

The Indian subcontinent is a diverse and fertile region with monsoons, droughts, plains, mountains, deserts, and especially rivers, along which early cities developed in the third millennium B.C. Along with Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica, the ancient Indian subcontinent was one of the few places in the world to develop its own system of writing.

Chapter 9 : HISTORY OF INDIA - THE SUBCONTINENT

The Indian subcontinent. Research indicates two early stages of agricultural development in South Asia. In the earlier stage, dating roughly from 7000 to 5000 bp, agriculture was being established in parts of Pakistan, in the northwesternmost part of the subcontinent.