

PROTOHISTORIC PERIOD (Before 3102 BC)

1.1 THE PURANAS

The ancient Indian scriptures dealing with history namely, the Itihasa, Puranas and Mahapuranas are devoted mostly to the narrations of the events stated to have taken place in the Satya, Treta and Dwapara Yugas. Only small, apparently insignificant parts of the scriptures, deal with the events of the present age known as Kali Yuga. But it is not easy to reconstruct from these scriptures a coherent and systematic narration of events of the first three ages which can be accepted as history by the modern critical scholars because of two main difficulties:

- i. The duration of reigns and lives of the kings before Kali Yuga appear to be unbelievably long.
- ii. The events described, such as Nrushingha Avatar to kill Hiranya Kashipu, Bhagiratha bringing down the river Ganga to earth, appear more mythical than historical narrations.

However, the narrations of the events and genealogies of the kings for the Kali Yuga are free from unacceptably long time spans and supernatural descriptions. In fact the narrations of the Indian scriptures for the period known as Kali Yuga are more systematic and factual than any historic account of the ancient period anywhere in the world. The dates of these events given in the scriptures in Kali Yugabda, Shakabda, etc. are further confirmed by the positions of the stars in the sky at the time of the events. Therefore the historic period for India may be deemed to have started with the period known as Kali Yuga which began 36 years after the Kurukshetra battle of Mahabharata. The year 2000 AD corresponds to the year 5102 of the Kali Yuga. Accordingly, the Kurukshetra battle of Mahabharata took place in the year 3138 BC.

The period before the date of Kurukshetra battle, i.e. 3138 BC may be at present treated as protohistoric, not prehistoric. We can reconstruct an outline history of this protohistoric period, which is beyond the scope of this book.

1.2 DAWN OF CIVILIZATION

Though it may not be easy to arrive at definite chronology of the events before the year 3138 BC, a critical comparison of the narrations of the scriptures and the discoveries of modern Stratigraphy, paleontology and anthropology indicates that most of the narrations for periods before the so called Dwapara Yuga refer to a period when Homo sapiens had not yet established its supremacy on earth. Though systematic agriculture was known for a few crops and the human settlements like primitive villages, towns, cities, etc. were well defined, domesticated animals and forest products were important sources for meeting most of the human requirements. The use of minerals and metals was very selective.

According to the findings of the modern paleontologists and anthropologists, in the early phase of human evolution, the other hominid species like Neanderthal men, Peking men, Java men, etc. were the fiercest competitors of the direct ancestors of modern men. It is important to recall that the so-called early phase of evolution, when the ancestors of the modern man shared the earth with the above mentioned hominid species, spread over more than a million years while the history of the so called modern civilization is no more than 5000 years old. Some of these other hominid species had their own rudimentary civilizations and also developed the ability to use tools and fire. Many cave paintings of Europe are believed to be the work of Neanderthal men before the advent of modern man. The fights between men and the hominids ultimately lead to the extinction of the later.

The non-human hominid species like the Neanderthal men are variously described in the scriptures as Asuras, Daityas, Danabas etc. However, after the extinction of these species the terms were applied to groups of human beings in the historic period. For example Kansa and Jarasandha are described as Asuras in Bhagavata Purana, though they were related to Lord Krishna.

1.3 RIVERS SARASWATI AND DRISHADVATI

The scriptures repeatedly mention the banks of river Saraswati as the place of early growth of human civilization. The Saraswati originated somewhere to the south of the origin of present Sutlej river and north of the present river Ganga. It flowed somewhat parallel to the Indus through the area now forming the desert of Western Rajasthan and joined the sea near the Rann of Kutch. Its old dried up course has been rediscovered by Geological Survey of India. It existed long before river Ganga. It is also believed to have changed course at some point of its life.

Drishadvati was the most important tributary of the Saraswati and flowed further south of it. The fertile Riviera between the two rivers is the place where modern civilization with large scale systematic cultivation and town planning started. Composition of the earliest hymns of the Vedas took place in the basin of these two rivers. Agriculture with slash and burn cultivation of the forest areas was already wide spread. Khandav Dahan by Arjun is one such example. In course of time these two rivers along with some more rivers of the area known as Upagas have dried up and given way to deserts.

1.4 VAIVASWATA MANU

Shraddhadeva Vaivaswata Manu is the first king mentioned in ancient Indian historical literature. He was the ancestor of all the important kings of India in the prehistoric period. He was crowned on the bank of the Saraswati by the seven great sages (saptarishis) whose names have been given to the stars of the constellation Great Bear. His original capital was on the banks of the Saraswati.

He also founded many other important capitals or administrative centers, such as Ayodhya which he gave to his son Ikshwaku.

The descendants of Manu, generally known as Arya Kshatriyas, branched into two important clans: the solar clan and the lunar clan (i.e. Surya kula and Soma kula). Initially the solar clan proceeded to set up new colonies, states, etc. towards the east of the Saraswati while the lunar clan proceeded westwards, beyond the Indus. Later on these main clans divided into many tribes and many states changed hands through war, conquests, etc.

The foundation of the ancient Indian caste system is also believed to have been laid with the kingdom of Manu.

1.5 SOLAR DYNASTY OF IKSHWAKU

Ikshwaku, the son of Manu who was given Ayodhya, founded the most important dynasty of the prehistoric period which in course of time established its supremacy all over India and many adjoining areas. The list of kings of this dynasty from Ikshwaku up to Lord Rama is as follows:

1. Ikshwaku (son of Manu)
2. Vikukshi (also known as Shashada)
3. Puranjaya (Indravaha or Kakutsa)
4. Anena
5. Prithu
6. Viswarandhi (or Drisadasya)
7. Andhra (or Chandra)
8. Yuvanaswa
9. Shavasta (founded the city Shravastipur)
10. Brihadhasva
11. Kuvalayasva (he killed Dhundhu)
12. Dridhasva
13. Haryasva
14. Nikumbha
15. Barhanasva (or Samhatasva)
16. Krisasva
17. Senajit (or Prasenajit)
18. Yuvanasva
19. Mandhata (conquered all neighbouring states)
20. Ambarisha (brother of Yogi Muchukund)
21. Sambhuti (or Trasadasyu)
22. Anaranya
23. Haryasva
24. Sumati

25. Tridhanva
26. Thrayaruni
27. Trisanku (blessed by Viswamitra)
28. Harischandra (donated his kingdom to Viswamitra)
29. Rohitasva
30. Harita
31. Chanchu (founded the city Champapura)
32. Sudeba
33. Vijaya (or Vinaya)
34. Bharuka
35. Brika
36. Bahuka (lost his kingdom in war)
37. Sagara (regained the kingdom and performed Aswamedha Yajna)
38. Asamanjasa
39. Ansuman
40. Dilipa
41. Bhagiratha (famous for the Ganga)
42. Srita
43. Nabha (or Nabhaga)
44. Sindhudwipa (or Ambarisha)
45. Ayutayu
46. Rituparna (friend of Nala)
47. Sarvakama
48. Sudasa (or Sudama)
49. Kalmasapada (or Soudasa)
50. Asmaka (born through caesarean operation)
51. Mulaka (or Narikabacha. He escaped the wrath of Parsuram)
52. Shataratha
53. Idabida
54. Viswasaha (or Krisakarma)
55. Khatvang (or Dilipa)
56. Deerghavahu
57. Raghu
58. Aja
59. Dasharatha
60. Lord Rama

During this period the cities and the kingdoms known as Vaishali, Mithila, Koshala, etc. were founded by different kings.

1.6 River Ganga

The great epic Ramayana and the other scriptures describing the glory of the Ikshwaku dynasty mention that the Ganga was brought down to earth from heaven by king Bhagiratha.

While the narrations of this event appear mythical, it is based on some historical fact such as the digging of a large canal system. Taking into account the landscape and course of the river described some scholars have interpreted the narrations as follows:

Most of the water which now flows down the Ganga was earlier flowing towards a westerly direction ultimately joining River Saraswati through river channels which later dried up. Starting from the time of king Sagara of Ikshwaku dynasty there was a concerted effort to divert the water to the present Gangetic plane by digging a suitable channel. The hill range Shivalik presented the most formidable obstruction.

King Bhagiratha succeeded in getting the channel dug across the Shivalik range. In this work he had employed white elephants brought from Thailand, Myanmar, etc. and referred to in the scriptures as Airavata. When the water flowed downstream from the hill it often took to courses other than those intended because of the large quantities of water which were now introduced. These diversions and attempts to channelize the water gave rise to the legends like the one about the river having been arrested by sage Janhu and again being released by him.

Even if this interpretation may not be completely true it is evident that the Puranic descriptions refer to the earliest large-scale attempt to construct an elaborate irrigation system.

1.7 COMPILATION OF THE VEDAS

The earliest hymns of the Vedas were revealed within a few generations of the coronation of Vaivaswata Manu. Originally the word Veda stood for knowledge, i.e. all branches of learning. In course of time the word Veda denoted only the Samhitas. Though the scriptures mention that there are in all 1133 Samhitas, only 21 are available now.

The codification of the Vedas into four parts which are known today took place some time around the reign of King Sagara. The Upanishads were then classified as Vedanta. Books of worldly knowledge such as economics, warfare, medicine, etc. were classified as the Upavedas. In addition six Vedangas and six Upangas were classified for facilitating the study of the Vedas and the other literature now known as scriptures..

The teachings of the Vedas and the Upanishads are based on theist schools of philosophy. But along with these theist schools of philosophy, there had developed an important materialist (or rather rationalist) school of philosophy known as Charbak philosophy. The first systematic codification of this materialist philosophy was done by a sage named Brihaspati. This school of philosophy appears to have flourished till the onset of Kali Yuga.

Today all knowledge about Charbak philosophy is obtainable only through the works and quotations of its critics. Even then it is clear that Charbak philosophy provided the basis for a comprehensive school of thought including guidelines for statecraft and economics.

1.8 LORD RAMA

Lord Rama, the sixtieth king in descent (according to the list of kings now available) from king Ikshwaku of Ayodhya, was the most important of all the kings of protohistoric period. The traditional belief of Indians is that he was an incarnation of God. His great grand father Raghu had conquered whole of India and had established his suzerainty over most of the neighbouring areas. Ramayana in slokas 36-38 of the 10th sarga of Ayodhya Kanda mentions Sindh, Souvir, Sourashtra, Dakshinatya, Anga, Banga, Matsya, Kashi and Koshala as the prosperous states of the empire of king Dasaratha. This supremacy of Ikshwaku dynasty had continued beyond the time of Lord Rama.

According to the legend Lord Rama, to fulfil a vow of his father, had relinquished the throne and gone away in a self-imposed exile of fourteen years. These fourteen years however were very eventful and were devoted to the extermination of the Asuras culminating in the abduction of princess Sita (wife of Lord Rama) by Ravana, the Asura king of Lanka, and the resultant Armageddon at Lanka in which Ravana with most of his Asura subjects was killed.

Here it is important to note that king Ravana, hailed as the most important Asura king was the son of the famous sage Vishrava, a descendant of sage Pulastya. Mother of Ravana, Nikasha, was however not human but of Asura origin. Ravana himself was a great Vedic scholar and is believed to have set the hymns of Sama Veda to music. Because of his mother being of Asura origin, he could assume the leadership of the Asuras and become the king of Lanka. The fourteen years' exile of Lord Rama culminating in the Armageddon at Lanka is said to have resulted in almost complete extinction of the Asuras in all parts of India.

In the light of the findings of the modern paleontology and anthropology it is clear that the descriptions of the battles of Ramayana is the narrations of the last ditch fights between Homo sapiens (i.e. modern man) and another hominid species, referred to as the Asura, in which the latter was exterminated.

Because of the leadership he could provide to the primitive forest dwellers in this life and death struggle, Lord Rama was hailed as the savior by his contemporaries and as an incarnation of God by the posterity.

On his return from exile, with the co-operation of his brothers and the forest dwellers whose allegiance he had won, Lord Rama consolidated the empire and established many new cities. His brothers extended the empire into the Himalayan region as well as beyond the Indus.

Lakshmana, who was the closest to Lord Rama, ruled over the Himalayan region with his capital at Lakshmanabati, i.e. modern Lucknow. Sons of Lakshmana established the cities of Angadapura and Chandrarkapura. Areas forming modern Nepal were parts of the kingdom of Lakshmana. Bharata, who had ruled Ayodhya for fourteen years of the exile of Lord Rama, conquered the land to the West of the Indus up to Gandhara, i.e. modern Kandahar in Afghanistan.

His sons had established the cities of Takshashila (i.e. Taxila) and Pushkarvati. Shatrughna ruled the area around Mathura, which was previously the land of Lavanasura.

Sons of Lord Rama, Lava and Kusha, ruled over the northern and southern parts of Koshala with their capitals at Shravasti and Kusasthali. After the abdication by Lord Rama, Kusha became the suzerain ruler of the whole empire. Kusasthali became the imperial capital.

1.9 BALMIKI AND RAMAYANA

Ramayana is one of the oldest historic documents available in the world and was originally recorded by the sage Balmiki. Being much older, and therefore much more primitive, for the purpose of chronology it is not as dependable as the later scriptures namely Mahabharata, Bhagavata and the other Puranas. However it gives a comprehensive and systematic account of important protohistoric events and the genealogy of the kings.

Sage Balmiki was a contemporary of Lord Rama. Queen Sita had given birth to princes Lava and Kusha in the hermitage of the sage. The princes had received their early education in the hermitage. The princes were also among the first few to learn Ramayana compiled by Balmiki.

Ramayana was narrated in the form of poems to facilitate memorization. Writing and written records were far from common in those days. Hearing and memorization were the main mode of preservation of all knowledge. The narrations, though post fact, were made in future tense. This tradition of future tense narration in the form of poems was adopted by most of the later scholars known as the Puranakaras.

In course of time, because of the deification of Lord Rama and religious importance bestowed on Ramayana, many other narrations of the book have been made. As a result we get many versions of the epic, though the core material remains the same. However, it is interesting to note a few points much in variation from the popular notions. A few of the versions state that Sita was the daughter of Ravana. A Buddhist version “Dasharatha Jataka” mentions Benares as the capital and Sita as the sister of Lord Rama.

However, the brief summary narrations about Ikshwaku dynasty in the other Puranas such as Bhagavata, Vishnu Purana etc. are essentially the same.

1.10 TRADITION OF RAMAYAN

Many of the religious and some of the political traditions of India are attributed to the period of Ikshwaku dynasty in general and Lord Rama in particular. A few popular ones among them are as follows.

The tradition of the worship of Mother Goddess on the 7th to 10th day of the bright fortnight of the lunar month Ashwina is attributed to Lord Rama. The illumination on the new moon day of the following month is celebrated as the day of the return of Lord Rama from exile.

The New Year day “Varsh Pratipada” on the first day after the new moon in Chaitra month is according to the calendar attributed to Ikshwaku dynasty. On that day Lord Rama is believed to have started a new era having declared his subjects debt free. The creditors as on that day were paid their dues from the royal treasury. The tradition of starting a new era in this manner was observed by kings Yudhisthira, Vikramaditya and Shalibahan whose eras are still in vogue.

The tradition of Aswamedha Yajna or horse sacrifice to declare the suzerainty of a king over all the neighbouring kingdoms was first started by the kings of Ikshwaku dynasty. Panchayat system of village administration was perfected in the Ramarajya with complete autonomy in the internal administration of the villages. The duties of the king were confined mostly to defense and appellate judiciary system. Patronization of scholars, construction of irrigation systems, building of temples, etc. were optional activities taken up by the kings to earn fame and presumably the blessings of the gods.

These traditions and systems had in due course spread all over the world. In spite of the systematic efforts to obliterate them during nearly two thousand years of Christianity, a few signs of these traditions have survived till today even in Europe.

Founders of the city of Rome were named after Rama. It is interesting to note that almost opposite to Rome in Italy there is a city named Ravenna. The name of the Danube originated from the fact that before the first human settlers arrived, on its banks lived the Neanderthal men and other hominids referred to by the human invaders as Danabas.

The New Year day of Lord Rama which falls around 25th March was prevalent in Europe for a long time. In England 25th March was the New Year day till 1752 AD. Here it is interesting to note that the financial year still begins on the first day of April.

Folklore and relics representing the tradition of Ramayana are more common in the East Indies because the spread of Islam and Christianity in those areas took place much later.

1.11 DYNASTY OF KUSHA

After the abdication by Lord Rama, prince Kusha became the emperor. The list of kings of the dynasty of Kusha in the prehistoric period (i.e. up to 138 BC) is as follows:

1. Kusha (son of Lord Rama)
2. Atithi
3. Nishadha
4. Nala
5. Nabha
6. Pundarika
7. Kshemadhanva
8. Devanika
9. Aniha (or Ahinaguna)
10. Pariyatra
11. Dalaraja
12. Balaraja
13. Ulluka
14. Vajranabha
15. Sankhana
16. Usitasva
17. Visvasaha
18. Hiranyanabha (He became a sage)
19. Pushpakshya (or Pushya)
20. Dhruvasandhi
21. Sudarshan
22. Agnivarna
23. Sighranamaka
24. Maru (He became a sage and retired to village Kalaapa)
25. Prasushruta
26. Sandhi
27. Amarshana
28. Mahaswan
29. Visvasaha
30. Prasenajit
31. Takshaka
32. Brihadbala (died in the year 3138 BC)

Kind Brihadbala had taken part in the Kurukshetra battle of Mahabharata on the side of the Kouravas. He was killed in the battle by prince Abhimanyu, the son of Arjun. During the period of the reigns of the descendants of King Kusha, the importance of Ikshwaku dynasty and Ayodhya had steadily declined.

Whatever significance it had thereafter was only as a pilgrimage place of religious importance due to the deification of Lord Rama. During this period the kings of Indus valley gained progressively more importance.

1.12 PROTOHISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

The most important prehistoric event which has generated interest among the indologists is the battle of Lanka described in Ramayana. However, the chronology of the period has still eluded them. It is interesting to note a few of the dates suggested for this event and life of Lord Rama.

One of the methods suggested for arriving at the time of the battle of Lanka of Ramayana is by difference from the Kurukshetra battle of Mahabharata. This is obtained by multiplying the expected duration of the reign of each generation (of kings) by the number of generations between the two battles.

The scriptures give the names of 35 kings between the two battles. The list of kings of Ikshwaku dynasty is given in section 1.11. Assuming the list to be complete and assigning a period of 30 to 40 years to each king gives a difference of 1000 to 1400 years between the two battles. By this method and assuming the duration of Dwapara Yuga to be 1200 years, Dr. D.S. Triveda has arrived at the date of about 4400-4300 years BC as the approximate time of Lord Rama.

Another method suggested which also explains this number of kings is to calculate the time of Lord Rama according to his horoscope and the other astronomical references given in the Ramayana. Swami Sakhyananda (of R.K Mission, Chennai) based on the work of certain astronomers has arrived at the time of Lord Rama around 4750 years BC. This gives an average duration of the reign of each king to be around 45 to 50 years.

This method of the number of generations and astronomical references can be extended up to the time of Vaivaswata Manu. The dates of a few important events arrived at in this manner by Swami Sakhyananda (of Ramakrishna Mission, Chennai) with reference to the king list of section 1.5 are as follows:

King	Star constellation (Nakshatra) Position of Vernal Equinox	Date in Chritian era
1. Vaivaswat Manu	Mogha	8576 BC
2. Yajati (6 th in descent from Manu in Soma Kula) and the origin of the Panchajanyas	Ashlesha	8300 BC
3. Trishanku (No. 27 of section 1.5)	Ashlesha – Pushya	7000 BC

4. Sagar (No. 37 of section 1.5)	Pushya	6400 BC
5. Lord Rama	Adra – 4 th Pada	4750 BC

The methods of Dr. Triveda and Swami Sakhyananda are based on the assumption that the king list of the scriptures is essentially complete. Though such an assumption may be correct for the period after the battle of Kurukshetra it may not necessarily be so for the earlier periods. Moreover, the course of the Ganga and the other geographical features described in the Vedas and Ramayana do not conform to the chronology given above.

According to Vayu Purana (33/63) the king lists for periods before Kali Yuga are far from complete and only the names of the more important kings are given. The traditional belief is that the duration of Dwapara Yuga is 864,000 years. That means Lord Rama lived about 0.87 million years back.

Another traditional view is that Lord Rama did not live in the Treta Yuga of the 28th (i.e. the present) Maha Yuga; he lived in the 24th Maha Yuga. The duration of each Maha Yuga is 4.32 million years. Thus the time of Lord Rama was about 18.15 million.

The geographical features referred to in the Ramayana suggest a period about a million years back. Since the star positions in the sky are repeated after certain centuries it is hardly possible to prove or disprove such great antiquity of Lord Rama. However such antiquities are not acceptable to the modern scholars of history.

1.13 PREHISTORIC DYNASTIES OF INDUS VALLEY

The Ikshwaku dynasty belonging to the solar clan of the descendants of Vaivaswata Manu has been considered the most important of the dynasties of prehistoric India because of Lord Rama. Though on a few occasions such as during the times of kings Mandhata, Sagara and Raghu its rule had spread all over India and even beyond, during the time of Lord Rama, it was essentially a dynasty ruling the Gangetic plains.

The Indus valley was the abode of the various dynasties of the lunar clan. King Yayati, sixth in descent from Manu, is believed to be the ancestor of the five most important of these lunar dynasties. King Yayati had two wives, Devayani and Sharmishtha, both of Asura origin. They had given birth to five princes Yadu, Turvasu, Druhyu, Anudruhyu and Puru. The first two were the sons of Devayani and the other three were the sons of Sharmishtha. The five main lunar dynasties, known as Panchajanyas, originated from these five princes.

The lunar clan of dynasties had retained much of the traditions of the Asuras inherited from Devayani and Sharmishtha. One of their important gods was Lord Shiva, known as Asura Mahadeva.

The name Asura Mahadeva is believed to have changed into Ahura Mazda in Iran. During the invasions from the east by king Mandhata and king Sagara of Ayodhya many of the people of the lunar clan fled towards the west and settled in the areas around Iran, Mesopotamia, etc.

The name Sumerian is believed to have originated from the word Soma-arya, i.e. the civilized people of the lunar clan. The original tradition of worship of the Mother Goddess, not the worship instituted by Lord Rama, is also believed to have been inherited from the Asuras.

In the early periods, i.e. till about 7000 BC, the people of the Indus valley lead mostly a pastoral life. In the earlier phases they were nomadic, rearing cattle, sheep, horses, camels, etc. for a living. In course of time agriculture developed, first as slash and burn cultivation and then on the basis of regular ploughing. However, systematic agriculture had already become widespread by about 3000 years BC.

1.14 DIONYSUS AND HERACLES

Dionysus is one of the important characters of Greek mythology. The classical Greek and Roman writers believed that before Alexander he was the only conqueror to invade India. However, there is no mention of Dionysus in any ancient Indian literature. The mount Meru and city Nysa at its foot, where Dionysus lived, are around the mountain peak Kohi-Mor in the Hindukush range in Afghanistan. Thus it is clear that the classical writers referring to India meant thereby only the area which now falls in Afghanistan and Iran. However, correct identification of Dionysus, with the corresponding characters of Iranian or Afghan mythology could facilitate the reconstruction of the prehistoric chronology. Arrian gives the following dates about Dionysus.

“From the time of Dionysus to Sandrocottus the Indians counted 153 kings and a period of 6042 years, but among these a republic was thrice established and another to 300 years, and another to 120 years. The Indians also tell us that Dionysus was earlier than Heracles by fifteen generations, and that except him no one made a hostile invasion of India, not even Cyrus, the son of Cambys.”

The time of coronation of Sandrocottus according to the Greek accounts was around 327 BC. Thus the time of Dionysus was 6369 years BC and the time of Heracles between 5800 years B.C. and 5700 years BC.

1.15 PREHISTORIC KINGS OF MAGADHA

At the time of the battle of Kurukshetra, Magadha (i.e. modern Bihar) with its capital at Giribraja was being ruled by the kings of Barhadradha dynasty.

The history of these kings is available for a period of nearly one thousand years just before Mahabharata war. The names of the last sixteen kings before the battle of Kurukshetra are as follows:

Name of the King	Year of coronation
1. Sudhanva	4000 BC
2. Suhotra	3920 BC
3. Chyavana	3827 BC
4. Kriti (or Krimi)	3789 BC
5. Pratipa (or Chaidya)	3752 BC
6. Brihadradha (founder of Giribraja)	3710 BC
7. Kusagra	3638 BC
8. Rishabha	3568 BC
9. Satyahita	3498 BC
10. Purpavanta (or Punya)	3438 BC
11. Satyadhruti	3397 BC
12. Sudhanva II	3357 BC
13. Sarva	3319 BC
14. Sambhava (or Bhubana)	3278 BC
15. Jarasandha	3236 BC
16. Sahadeva	3180 BC

Jarasandha was the father-in-law of King Kansa of Mathura. King Kansa was the maternal uncle and mortal foe of Lord Krishna. After Lord Krishna killed Kansa, Jarasandha repeatedly attacked the Yadavas, the clan of Lord Krishna, and his friends the Pandavas. Therefore, Bhima, the second of the Pandava brothers, with the help of Lord Krishna killed Jarasandha. Sahadeba took part in, and was killed in the battle of Kurukshetra in the year 3138 BC.

1.16 PREHISTORIC KINGS OF NEPAL

At the time of the battle of Kurukshetra, Nepal was being ruled by Kirata dynasty. Nepal Rajavanasavali gives two more dynasties before Kiratas. The names of the kings are as follows:

Gopala dynasty

Name of the King	Year of coronation
1 Bhukta managata Gupta	4159 BC
2 Jaya Gupta	4071 BC
3 Parama Gupta	3999 BC

4	Harsha Gupta	3919 BC
5	Bheema Gupta	3826 BC
6	Mani Gupta	3788 BC
7	Vishnu Gupta	3751 BC
8	Yaksha Gupta	3709 BC

As Yaksha Gupta died childless, Varasimha, the first king of Ahir dynasty was brought from India. Varasimha was coronated in the year 3637 BC. He was succeeded by Yamatasingha who in turn was succeeded by Bhubana Singha. The three kings reigned for a total period of two hundred years.

After Bhuvana Singha, Nepal was conquered by Yalambara who established the Kirata dynasty with the capital at Gokarna. Kirata dynasty ruled for a total period of 1118 years. The names of first seven kings of this dynasty are as follows:

1. Yalambara (coronation in 3437 BC)
2. Pavi
3. Skandara
4. Valamba
5. Hriti
6. Humati
7. Jitedasti

In the year 3151 BC Humati abdicated in favour of Jitedasti and accompanied the Pandavas to the forest. Jitedasti fought on the side of the Pandavas and was killed in the battle of Kurukshetra.

1.17 PROTOHISTORIC KINGS OF KASHMIR

Rajatarangini of Pandit Kalhana gives the complete history of Kashmir right from the beginning of Kali Yuga. However, for the period before Kali Yuga only an outline history for about 300 years is available. During this period Kashmir was ruled by Gonanda dynasty. The first five kings of the dynasty had ruled for a period of 212 years from 3450 to 3238 BC.

The sixth king Gonanda ruled for 50 years till 3188 years BC. After him Damodara ruled for 48 years till 3140 years BC. When he died his son Gonanda II was only one year old and therefore his mother Yasovati (the wife of Damodara) became the ruler. However, she died after six months and Gonanda II was crowned as the king when he was hardly a two-year old infant.

Because he was an infant he did not take part in the battle of Kurukshetra. However, at the age of 57, he was killed in a battle by king Parikshit of Hastinapur. Then Kashmir was annexed to the Hastinapur Empire and later Pandava dynasty was installed there.