



**Heritage India Communications Pvt. Ltd.**  
presents

# **CITIES OF ANCIENT INDIA**

## **LECTURE SERIES**

**Saturday & Sunday     7pm to 8:30pm IST**

*Starting 26th February 2022*



**WWW.HERITAGE-INDIA.COM**





## ABOUT OUR LECTURES

### What is a city? How do you define a city?

Cities have been part of the human settlement landscape for more than 5000 years.

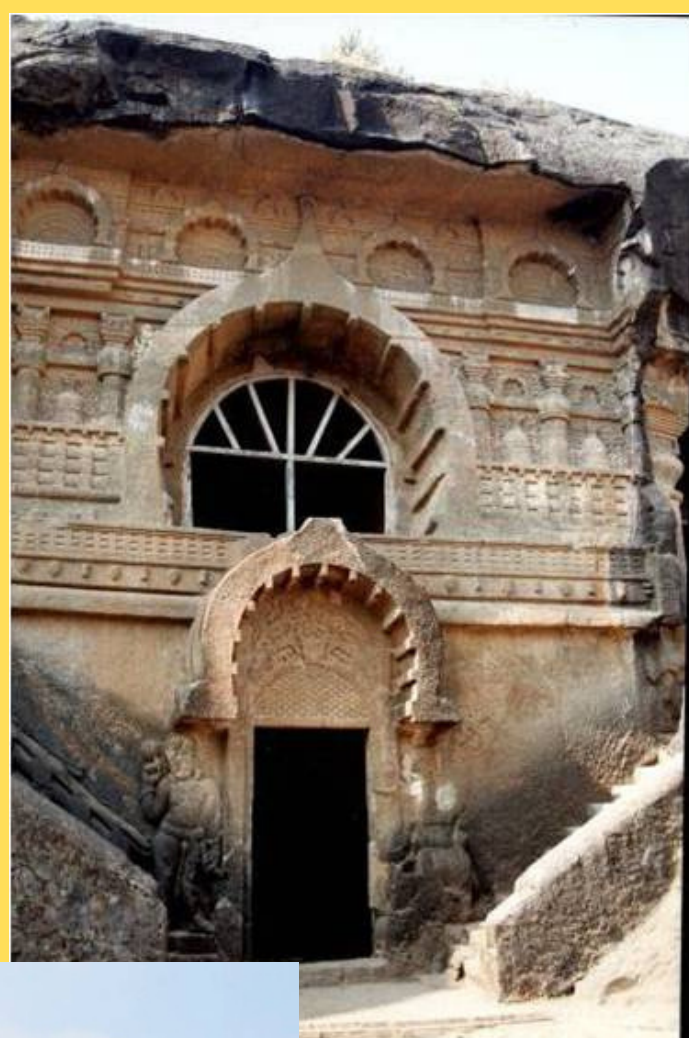
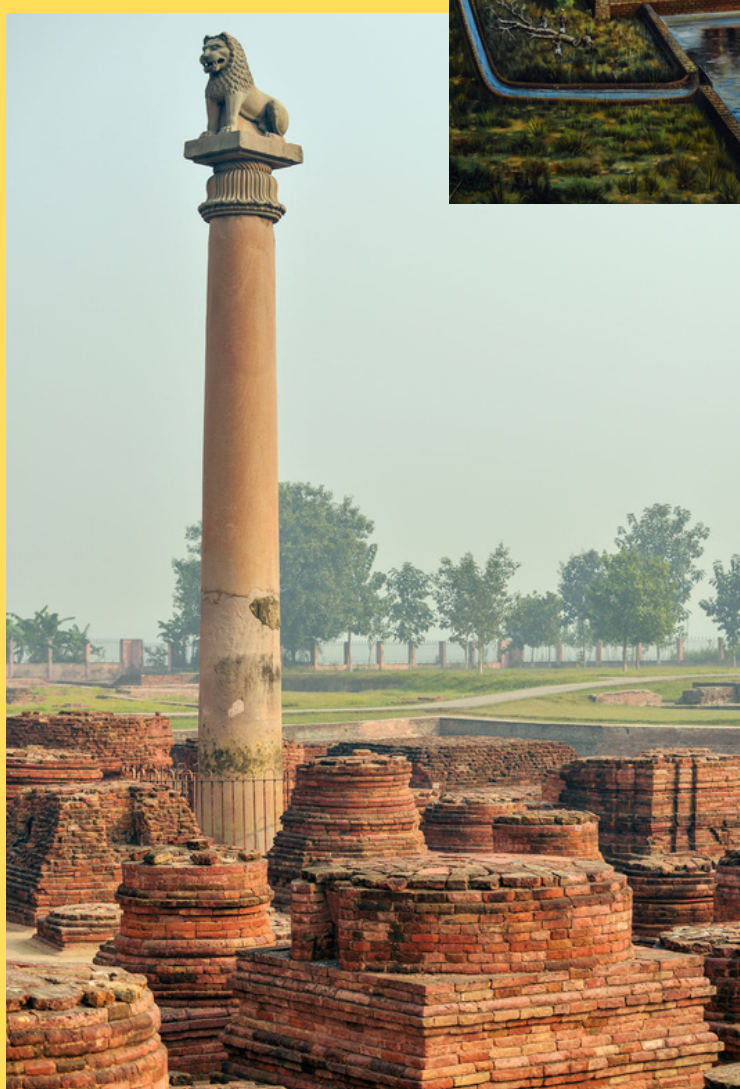
So, how did the transition from rural habitations to urban centres take place? What was the reason? What functions did these spaces serve? What cultural values did they have? What role did design and architecture play in the planning of these cities? How do meanings and perspectives of ancient urban centres compare with those of today?

Our 16 lectures will be addressing these and similar questions and give you a glimpse of daily life of people of the ancient world and the living spaces that they created.

### For more information:

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# 26 FEB - 17TH APRIL, 2022



**PROF. VASANT SHINDE**

Former Founding Director General,  
National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal.  
Former Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College

## **GROWTH OF HARAPPAN TOWN PLANNING**

**SATURDAY, 26th Feb**

The Harappan Civilization's greatest gift to the world is the concept of well planned and executed town planning and scientific construction method termed today as English Bond.

The presentation will review the archaeological data pertaining to the growth of Harappan Cities.

## **LOTHAL, DHOLAVIRA and KOTADA BHADLI**

**SUNDAY, 27th Feb**

This talk will cover these 3 sites of the Harappan civilization in Gujarat. Dholavira is a metropolitan city and Lothal is dockyard city. Both these sites represent the urban settlement of Harappan civilization. In contrast to that, the site of Kotada Bhadli is a rural Harappan settlement showing different patterns and functions.



**DR. PRABODH SHIRVALKAR**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of AIHC and Archaeology,  
Deccan College, Pune



**MR ANAND KANITKAR**

Director  
Pradaya Heritage Management Services

## **TAXILA, PUSHKALAWATI, AND OTHER CENTERS**

**SATURDAY, 5th March**

Ancient Gandhara, part of India prior to 1947, has urban centres such as Taxila, Sirkap, Pushkalawati. In this lecture we will have a look at the evidences of these urban and trade centres seen through the archaeological remains and artefacts found at the sites of these ancient cities.

## **AI KHANUM, BEGRAM, AND OTHER URBAN CENTERS**

**SUNDAY, 6th March**

This lecture will throw light on the urban and trade centres of Afghanistan, which were once part of ancient India.



**MR ANAND KANITKAR**

Director  
Pradaya Heritage Management Services



# 26TH FEB - 17TH APRIL, 2022



**DR. KAUSHIK GANGOPADHYAY**

Assistant professor  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Calcutta

## **TAMRALIPTI, MAHASTHANGARH**

**SATURDAY, 12th March**

Tamralipti and Mahasthangarh were cities in early historic Bengal. Aspects of urban planning and infrastructure of Mahasthangarh are known from archaeology whereas for Tamralipti the data is rather limited. Both these urban centres were visited by the Chinese traveller Xuan Zang and were centres of Buddhist learnings. Finally, both cities were connected to the Indian ocean network operating as nodes in the wider economic and religious landscape.

## **TER, KARAD, NASHIK, JUNNAR, PAITHAN**

**SUNDAY, 13th March**

In the early centuries of the Common Era, India was a part of the hectic international trade. Maharashtra was one of the most prosperous regions in those days with various urban centres developing at places like Ter, Nashik, Junnar, Karad and Paithan, playing a very important role in this trade. This lecture will try to give a glimpse of the remains at all these places.



**DR. MANJIRI BHALERAO**

Associate Professor of Indology  
Shri Balamukund Lohia Centre  
for Sanskrit & Indological studies,  
Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth



**DR. SHARMISTHA CHATTERJEE**

Assistant Professor  
Amity Institute of Social Sciences  
Amity University, Kolkata

## **SISUPALGARH, BHUBANESWAR**

**SATURDAY, 19th March**

Sisupalgarh is a walled city of the early historic period with monumental remains like ramparts, gateways, stone columns, tanks, and defined layouts of an urban settlement while Bhubaneswar is a city marked with temples.



**PROF. BINDU PARANJAPE**

Professor in Ancient History,  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

## **VARANASI, SARNATH**

**SUNDAY, 20th March**

Varanasi, also known as Banaras and Kashi, is one of the oldest living cities in the world. The Culturescape of Varanasi can offer many insights regarding the human civilization. It has a continuous history of about three thousand years of human habitation. Situated on the banks of a mighty river, Ganga, Varanasi is deeply associated with all Indian religions.



# 26TH FEB - 17TH APRIL, 2022



**MS SNEHA NAGARKAR**  
Visiting Faculty,  
Department of Archaeology,  
Centre for Extra Mural Studies  
University of Mumbai

## SHRAVASTI, AHICHCHATRA, MATHURA

SATURDAY, 26th March

The city of Shravasti was haloed by the presence and residence of the Buddha. Ahichchatra earned repute as the capital of Northern Panchala and was a major early historic city. Mathura became the capital of the Shurasena Mahajanapada and retained its stature as an urban hub of noteworthy religious, artistic, economic, political and cultural activities till the early medieval period. The lecture will cover both the literary references as well as archaeological aspects of all the three cities.

## PATALIPUTRA, RAJAGRIHA, VAISHALI

SUNDAY, 27th March

Pataliputra is mentioned in early literature including the Vedas and the epics; Girivraja or Rajagriha, the capital of Magadha, is represented by the vast ruins identified at 60 miles southeast of Patna and Vaishali stood on the ancient road connecting Pataliputra to Lumbini for which it also got associated with Buddhism.



**DR. SHARMISTHA CHATTERJEE**

Assistant Professor  
Amity Institute of Social Sciences  
Amity University, Kolkata



**PROF. SUSMITA BASU MAJUMDAR**

Professor,  
Department of  
Ancient Indian History and Culture  
University of Calcutta

## VIDIŚĀ, UJJAIN, MANDSAUR

SATURDAY, 2nd April

The three cities of Ujjain, Vidiśā and Mandsaur played an important role in the shaping of the history of the Malwa region [present day Madhya Pradesh] in the early historic phase. While Ujjain was a significant centre for the Mauryans, both Ujjain and Vidiśā continued as important cities in the post Mauryan phase.

## BHARUCH, SANJAN, VADNAGAR

SUNDAY, 3rd April

Three very important Western Indian cities with similar and yet dissimilar functions that are not known well enough: Bharuch, also known as Barygaza; the premier Indo-Roman Emporium in Western India; Sanjan or Samyana was the Bombay of 945 CE according to HD Sankalia; and Vadnagar a Buddhist centre of Worship, a centre of Kshatrapa rule and a powerhouse of Early Medieval Solanki Gujarat.



**DR. KURUSH DALAL**

Director  
INSTUCEN School of Archaeology,  
INSTUCEN Trust, Mumbai



# 26TH FEB - 17TH APRIL, 2022



**DR. MEERA IYER**  
PhD in Forest Ecology  
Convenor, INTACH, Bengaluru

## **BADAMI, AIHOLE, PATTADAKAL, BANAVASI & KANAGANAHALLI**

**SATURDAY, 9th April**

This lecture will give an overview of some of the ancient cities in what is now Karnataka, specifically Banavasi, capital of the Kadamabas, Kanaganahalli, famous for its Buddhist remains, and the Chalukyan cities of Badami, Pattadakal and Aihole. Today they are famous for their temples but were once also centres of trade.

## **MUMBAI, SOPARA, KALYAN**

**SUNDAY, 10th April**

An isolated group of 7 islands, ports playing an important role in the international trade of the early historic era, gateway of India, Commercial capital and an ultra rich megapolis; the Mumbai Metropolitan Region has donned many hats. This lecture will take a peek into this mesmerising transition.



**PROF. SURAJ PANDIT**  
Head,  
Department of Ancient Indian Culture  
Sathaye College, Mumbai

## **POOMPUHAR, ALANGANKULAM, MADURAI**

**SATURDAY, 16th April**

Sangam literature is replete with references to cities, particularly to ports. Most famous among the ports of the time was Poompuhar, at the mouth of the Kaveri. Madurai, too, was significant, as is demonstrated in the Tamil epic. Alangankulam was a port of great importance. This talk will focus primarily on these cities, as depicted in the literature or as seen through the lens of archaeology.



**PROF. RADHIKA SESHAN**  
Professor (retd.) and former Head,  
Department of History,  
Savitribai Phule Pune University

## **IMPORTANT TRADE CENTRES IN S. INDIA**

**SUNDAY, 17th April**

Arikamedu and Pattanam are located respectively on the eastern and western coasts of India. Arikamedu is identified with Virai of Tamil literature and Pattanam is associated with ancient Muziris. They acted as markets, ports, industrial centres and connected the vast network of trade routes linking the Indian Ocean ports and settlements.

This lecture brings out the importance of these cities



**DR. SELVAKUMAR**  
Head,  
Department of Maritime History and  
Marine Archaeology  
Coordinator,  
Centre for Indian Ocean Studies,  
Tamil University