



# History Class Notes for IAS and PCS

## ANCIENT HISTORY

### Chapter no: 3 (Vedic Age)

Vedic Age		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Aryan is not racial term but linguistic term. Arya mean "Great" [Noble man]</li> <li>➤ It is believed, Vedas is written by Aryan.</li> </ul>		
S. No.	Homeland	Scholars
1.	Kashmir	L.D. Kala
2.	Central Asia	Max. Muller
3.	North Pole	Tilak
4.	Tibet	Swami Dayanand
5.	Seven Indus State	Avinash Chandra
Note		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Max Muller</li> <li>➤ He had studied Vedas &amp; translated them into German language.</li> <li>➤ Aryan in India developed Sanskrit &amp; Aryans in Europe developed all other European language.</li> <li>➤ Evidence of Aryan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zend Avesta – classic text of Iran (records of Gods name)</li> <li>• Kessite Inscription – Presence of Aryan in Iran.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Pre Vedic Age		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Aryans were settled in 'Saptasindu' region from Afghanistan through Khyber, Kubha, Gomti &amp; Suvastu</li> <li>➤ 7 river of Indus state (Saraswati, Sindhu (Indus), Vipasa, Parishni, Asakni, Vitasta, Shutudri]</li> <li>➤ Yamuna &amp; Ganga also mentions</li> <li>➤ River Indus mention most time &amp; Saraswati was most sacred river.</li> <li>➤ River of Kashmir – Marudridha mentioned</li> <li>➤ Saraswati also called (Matetama, Devitama &amp; Naditama). Indus called "Hiranyani".</li> <li>➤ Madhya desh between Himalaya &amp; Vindhachal region.</li> <li>➤ Iron was not discovered but found in later Vedic age</li> <li>➤ Mujawanth is mountain peak of Himalayas, that mention in Rigveda &amp; was consider source of soma &amp; Rigveda regarded India to be located on Jambudwip.</li> <li>➤ Dasaraj Battle – Between Vishwamitra &amp; Vashistha (non – army). Vashistha waged war against to kings.</li> <li>➤ Each tribe have different administrative unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grama – village head</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		



- Vis – ground of grama = headed by “vishyapti”
- Gana/ Jana – group of grama = “Ganpati”

There was no permanent standing Army.

- Two taxes
  1. Bhaga – Compulsory tax
  2. Bali – Voluntarily tax
- King is no autocratic, he had to be abide by Subha & Samti. Any decision by them were binding on king.
- Sabha – Assembly of elders & heads of families
- Samiti – General assembly which was open for all including women, have ultimate authority & its decisions were final.
- Nature of society was Patriarchal (father was head)
- It was rural society – No towns or urban centre & mostly depends upon pastures for livelihood & Economy on cattle population.
- Cultivation crops – [Vrihi – rice], [Godhuma – wheat], [Yava – Barley]
- Gold & Silver were used as medium of Transaction & Barter system [Nishika – Gold], [Satamana – Silver]
- Rigveda period was Monotheistic & was polytheistic, Indra powerful – [belief on supreme power] & can have many faces

#### Note

1. A → C

Askani → Chenab

2. V → B

Vipasa → Beas

3. P → R

Purushni → Ravi

4. S → S

Saraswati → Swath

5. D → G

Drishdvati → Ghaghor

6. Vi → J

Vitastu → Jhelum

#### Later Vedic Age

- Sabha & Samiti was defunct & king became autocratic. According to Arthaveda, they are two daughters of Prajapati.
- Expansion of Bureaucracy.
- Mahabharat, Jaisamhita, Panchamveda (fifth veds) was recorded this time.



- During early Vedic age – large no. of hymns devoted to agni. (Boghar – koi) inscription is most important. It shows Vedic god.
- 4 stages of human – Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vavaspratha & Sanyasa [Sudra was exempted from this]
- Kosa – Related to “Treasury” & cow – “Aghanya” [cattle breeding most important economic activity]
- God Varuna was supposed to uphold ‘Rit’ or natural order that is why he was also called “Ritasyagopa” & Gotrasystem – [Cowshed]
- There are total 16 Sanskaras [East – Samrat, West – Swarat, North – Virat, South – Bhoj & Centre – Raja]
- Many hymns of Rigveda were composed by women they were called “Brahmavadini”. Ex. Lopamudru, Vishwawara, Sikta, Nivavari, Gargi, Maitreyi
- There are 18 – Puranas & Puranas have 5 characteristics & there was no restriction in social life, no child marriage, dowry, sati.
- Later Vedic
  - Regular officer – Akshavepa
  - Bhagadugga – Chief Tax collector
  - Balisadaka – Collected voluntary offering
- Introduction of Iron called “Krishna ayas” – Bringing changes in economy lower section were getting more benefited.
- PGW – Painted Grey Ware, guilds were formed – Association or guilds of merchants & craftmen called “Sreni” head of craftmen are called “Sreni”.
- Religious literature – 3 Vedas, 6 Vedangas Upanishad
- Vedas are divided in 4 parts – Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas & Upanishads
- Pusan
  - God of cattle population
  - God of Shudras
- Only god who – Saraswati disappeared, she lost her importance.

#### 4 Vedas

4 Vedas, Vedic literature called “Shruti”.

#### 1. Rigveda

- Gayatri Mantra is taken. There were 10 mandals [Shudra is mentioned from Purushsukta of 10<sup>th</sup>]
- Two Brahmanas of Rigveda – Aiteya & Kaushitki
- According to Patanjali – 21 Branches of Rigveda
- It recites called “Hotri”

#### 2. Samaveda (shortest veda)

- Full of Ragas or tunes. It is 1st deal with Indian music – Sangeeta Shastra main theme or volume called “chehendus”.
- Priests know “Adhvaryu” Samhita of Yajur Veda is divided into two parts

#### 3. Yajurveda

- Shukla (white) Yajurveda & Krishna (Black) Yajurveda.



- This text is composed in Prose deals with rituals & ceremonies.

#### **4. Ayurveda**

- Not consider for long time, include witch craft, so rcery & involving evil spirits
- Deals with Ayurveda, Ganithashaster & Rekhaganita.
- Ayurveda is upaveda of Atharvaveda.
- Gopatha Brahmana is only Brahman associated with Atharvaveda.
- Upanishad – It is philosophy.

#### **Note**

1. Katho Upanishad – Concept of death, dialogue between Nachikta & Yama.
2. Brihadaranyka Upanishad – Yagna Valkya & talk about Transmigration of souls.
3. Mundaka Upanishad – Satyameva Jayete (Ashok – Pillar)
4. Chandogya Upanishad – Talk about childhood of lord Krishna.

#### **Note**

1. Miruka – Etymology
2. Siksha – Phonetics
3. Chehendus – Metre
4. Brihadonyka Upanishad translated into English by T.S. Eliot.
5. Yagnavaliya was challenged by Gargi.