

Topics - Vedic Age, Later Vedic Age, Geographical Prospect, Social, Economical and Religious Aspect, Religious Revolution.

Vedic age - (1500 - 600 BC)

# Rig Vedic Period (1500 - 1000 BC)  
Geographical Aspect

• Original home controversy →

The various scholars had suggested original home theory according to their own understanding.

Max Muller — Central Asia

Swami Dayanand Saraswati — Tibet.

Major — Pamir Plateau

Lokmanya Tilak — Arctic Region.

When Aryans came they settled in upper part of Indus and they called it Saptasaindhav. They called the Himalaya area mountain of this area Munjanant.

New River

Old name

Satluj — Sutudri

Ravi — Parushni

Chenab — Askini

Jhelum — Vitasta

Beas — Nipasa

Gomal — Gomati

Kabul — Kubha

Ghaggar — Drishvati

Gandak  
Swat

Sadanira  
Suvarstu.

## Political Aspect

- Their political system was tribal in nature. mean tribal chief was one among equal. The basic unit of administration was Grama.
- The head of Grama was called Gramini.
- The Many grama make one Vishva and its head was called vishapati.
- Many Vishva make one Tana, the head of Tana was called Janapati or Rajan.
- for cattle resource gramas used to have conflict and it was called Sangram.
- There were three political institution during Rig Vedic period to control the power of tribal chief.

- (i) **Vidatha** - The earliest political institution of Aryans.  
It was an assembly of common people.
- (ii) **Sabha** - An assembly of elders, elite and intellectuals.  
It was considered higher comparison to Saniti.
- (iii) **Saniti** - It was an assembly of representative of common people. The chairman of Saniti was called Ishaan.

## Social Aspect ⇒

The basic unit of society was family (Kul) and its head was called Kulepa or Kulapati.

- The basic identity of the family was decided on the basis of Gautra.
- Aryans basically patriarchal in nature. (because most of their God were male and they do religious sacrifice of son).
- Rigveda Purush Sukta, 10<sup>th</sup> Mandals discuss about varn system based on profession.
- In Rigveda there is no mention of child marriage (no marriage before attaining puberty). There are also some evidences of widow remarriage.
- There was no evidence of Pardha system.
- Married couple used to have gifts. It was called Vahatu.
- Women were allowed to participate in Sabha & Samiti.

## Economic Aspect ⇒

- The main profession was pastoralism and limited agriculture.
- Agricultural land was called Uravara. Some time it is also called Keskota.
- Pasture land was called Garayati.
- The main mode of exchange was cow.
- There was no organised taxation system. The tribal member used to give voluntary tax and it was called Bali.
- Evidence of use of valuable metals called Nishka. and sometime it was also used for mode of exchange.

→ The most commercial animal was horse and cow.

### Religious Aspect →

- Aryans believed in one god but its different form.
- They were worshiped nature.
- The most important god is Indra and Agni.  
Rig Vedic God divided in three

**Sky God:** Surya, Varun, Mitra, Pushan, Ashwin  
Ushas (God of animals)

**Space God:** Indra, Rudra, Maruta, Vayu, Parijanya,  
Earth, (God of rain)

**Terrrestrial God:** Agni, Vanaspati, Soma, Prithvi, etc

### # Later Vedic Period (1000 - 600 BC)

#### \* Geographical Aspects

In 1000 BC discovery of iron, after this Aryans started toward ganga valley. Iron made access help them to clear forest, increase in number of agriculture field (Alluvial soil). During this period they came interaction of non-aryan initially it lead to conflict but with passage of time this area was Aryanised. It is called the second Aryanisation.

## Political Aspect of Late Vedic Period

1. The tribal chief was no more one among equal, he got divine power. He established strong bureaucracy and judicial system and standing army.
  2. The ministers were called Routnis.
  3. There were four kind of Yagya.
    - (i) Ashwamedha Yagya → It was related to territorial expansion of the king.
    - (ii) Rajasuya Yagya It was done during the time of coronation of king.
    - (iii) Vajpeya Yagya It was a yag related to horse chariot race. It was political in nature.
    - (iv) Agnishtoma Yagya. It was a yag related to Somras and animal sacrifices.
- \* Social Aspects
- The profession based Varna system was turned into birth base.
  - Women and Sudra were not allowed to do Upanayan (Divida) Sanskar.
  - This was a period between interaction of Aryans and non Aryans because of this interaction new community emerged like Chandalas.

- Because of increase in religious practice. the position of brahmanas dominating, now their were considered as a mediator b/w man and god.
- from later vedic period culture of Varnashram started.
- During this time some professional community started emerging like iron smith, chariotor, Masonary etc.
- Because Aryans also started doing trade their social standard expands to south.
- Women are not allowed to join Sabha.

### Economical Aspects-

- Their main profession was agriculture.  
Some important crop grown by them are rice(Brihi), Barley (Java), durir.
- During this period aryanis also started pottery (red in colour).
- Aryans also have organised taxation.
- Some evidences of some craftsmanship is visible during later vedic period.
- The head of tradal community was called Shreshthin.
- Aryans were not consider the interest earning good.
- In this period they also started following barter system.
- Some evidence of silver metal called Shatman.

### Religious Aspects-

- Aryans were no more nature worshiper. They started worshiping god.
- Indra is no more the chief god. Now the chief God is Prajapati (creator of universe, Brahma).

- They started worship shiva , Vishnu , Durga .
- Pushan which was god of animal in Rigvedic period , now god of Shudras.

## # Shadarshan

Philosophy

Compiler.

1. Sankhya	-	Kapil muni
2. Yoga	-	Patanjali
3. Nyaya	-	Gautam
4. Parva Mimansa	-	Jaimini
5. Utter Mimansa	-	Badrayan
6. Vaisheshika	-	Kannad / Ulluk
7. Charavaka	-	Brihaspati

Ques 1 → Analysis the differences and similarities between Indus Valley and vedic culture . write

Ques 2 → Write a short notes on democratic element in the political system of early vedic period.

Ques 3. Give an account of the geography of the vedic text and described the social life during vedic times .

Ques 4. Examine the contribution of vedic culture in the sphere of social institution and religion . Was there any continuity between the Indus and the vedic culture in this respect ?