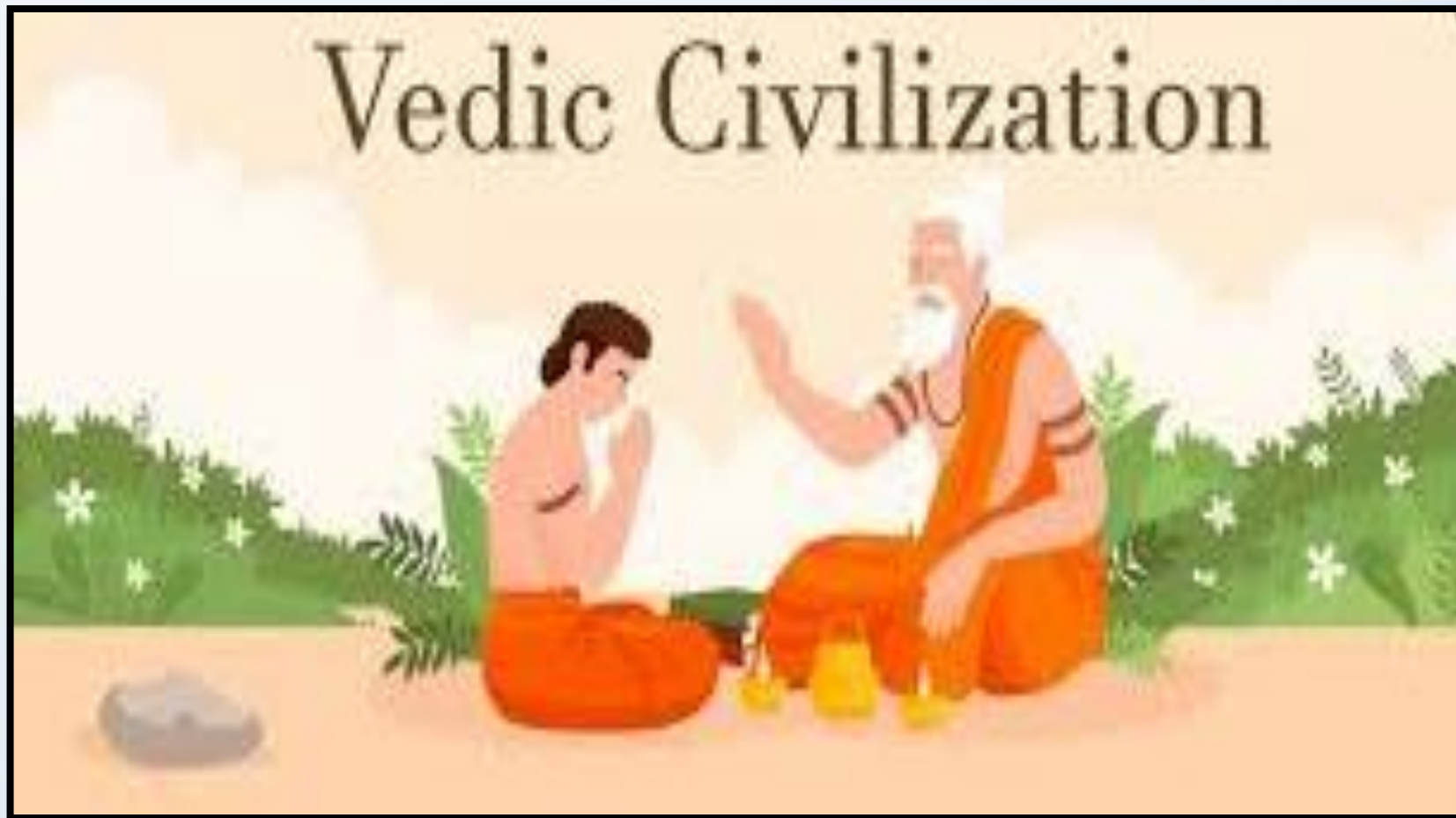


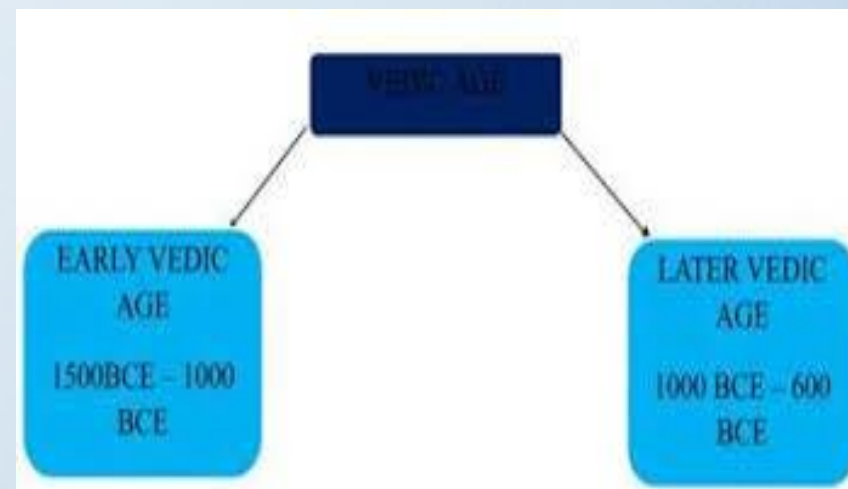
GENCOM SM-1- CLASS-2



The Vedic Civilization, also known as the Vedic culture or the Vedic period, was a complex and varied civilization that arose in ancient India between 1500 and 600 BCE. It was distinguished by the practice of Vedic religion and the composition of the Vedas, a collection of sacred texts that serve as the foundation of Hinduism.

Vedic period is divided into Early Vedic Period or Rigvedic (1500 BC-1000 BC) & Later Vedic Period (1000 BC- 600 BC)

The primary reconstruction has been made from the Vedic text.
It is the next major civilization in India after the Indus Valley civilization.



The Advent of the Aryans

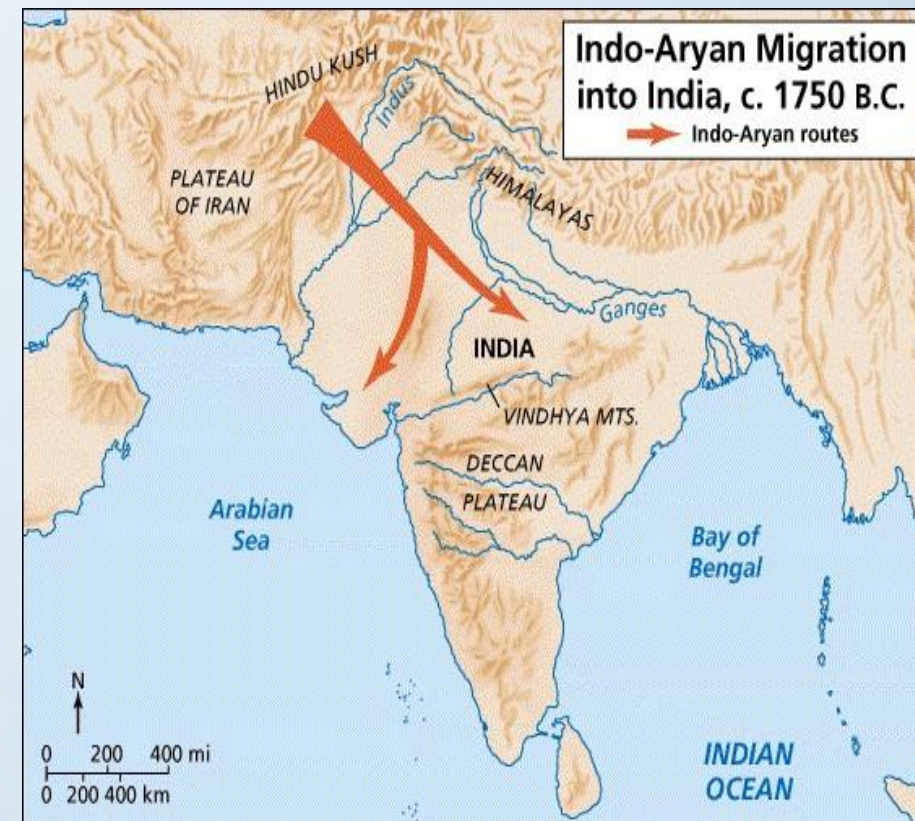
The Aryans, semi-nomadic pastoral people who originally inhabited the area around the Caspian Sea and South Russian Steppes in Central Asia entered in India around 2000 B.C in search of pastures through the passes in the Hindukush Mountains.

- Arctic Region -B.G. Tilak
- Central Asia -Maxmuller
- Europe -Sir Willam Jones
- Scandinavia Prof.- Penka
- Tibet- Dayanand Saraswati
- India -Swami Vivekananda
- Land of the Seven Rivers -Ganganath Jha, H. D. Kalla, Prof. A. C. Das
- Steppe region of Ural Mountain -Brandenstein

Maxmuller



B.G. Tilak

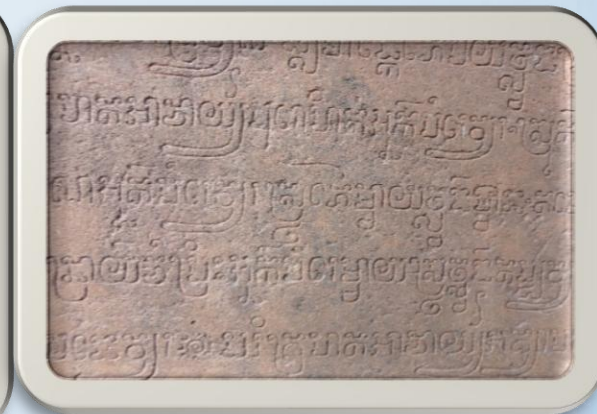


General information regarding the Aryan people

- The word 'Aryan' literally means of 'high birth' though generally refers to 'language' and some use it as 'race'. Also it was referred as to 'cultivate'.
- Aryans names appear in Hittite inscription (Anatolia), Kassite inscription (Iraq) & Mittani inscription (Syria).
- Fillippo Sasseti was the first person to discover close affinities between Sanskrit and some of the Principal languages of Europe.



Hittite inscription

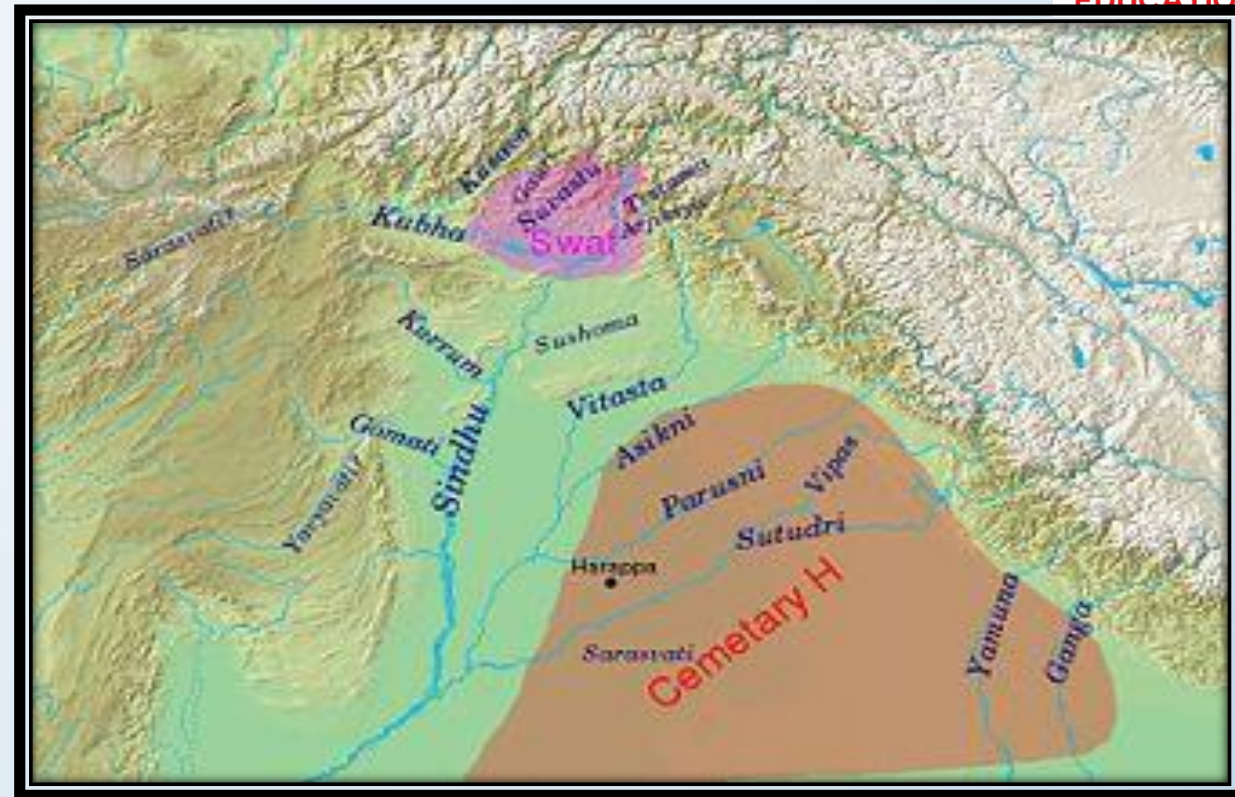


Mittani
inscription



Rig Vedic Period (1500-1000 BC)

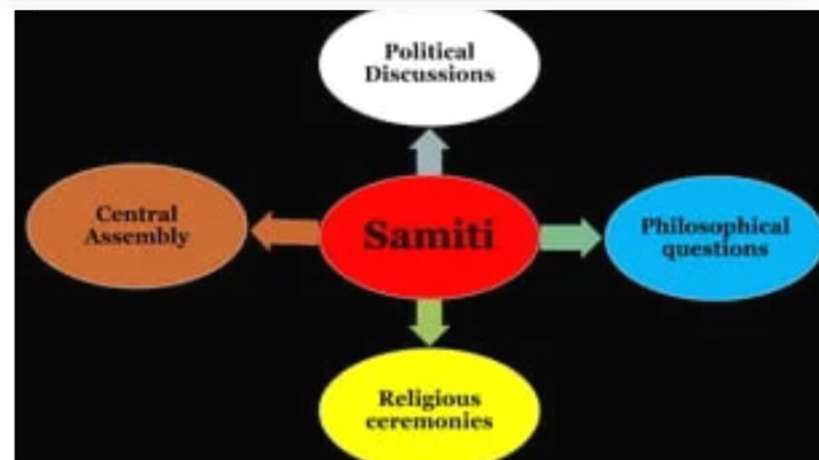
- The main source of information regarding Rig Vedic Period is Rig Veda.
- Indus is the most mentioned river in Rig Veda.
- Saraswati is considered as the holiest river.
- The main center of Rig Vedic Period was Land of the Seven Rivers.((Indus, Ravi, Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, Sutlej and Saraswati)



Land of the Seven Rivers

Political Condition of Rig Vedic Period

- The tribal chief called Rajan was the center of administrative machinery.
- Important officers in Rig Vedic Period were Purohit, Senani, Vispati, Gramini, Duta etc.
- Several tribal assemblies called Vidatha, Sabha, Samiti and Gana are mentioned in the Rig Veda.
- The battle of 10 kings was fought in the Rig Vedic Period. (It is Mentioned at Mandal Seven of Rig Veda .
- The Battle was fought on the Bank Of River Parushni, Raja Sudas Of Bharat Tribe Was won)



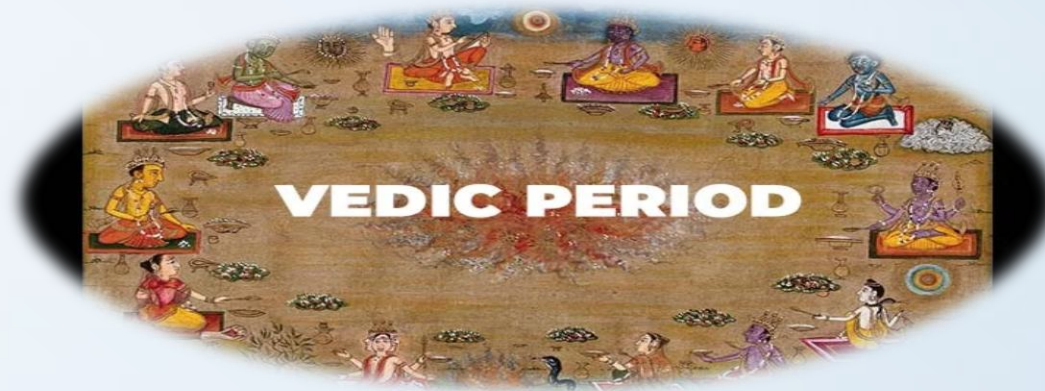
Economic Life Rig Vedic Period

- Rig Vedic people predominantly pastoral.
- Cow was the most important animal.
- Agriculture was secondary occupation. Cattle Rearing was their Primary Occupation
- Panis formed the great trading class.
- Predominant pottery type was Ochre coloured pottery. Though black and red ware type was known to them.
- Taxation system was not developed and 'Bali' was voluntary contribution to the king.



Social Life

- Society was patriarchal.
- Varna system was mentioned.
- Child marriage was unknown



Religious Life of Rig Vedic Period

- Aryan people worshipped forces of nature..
- Aim of worship was material gains.
- Predominance of male god.
- Varuna, Indra, Agni were the chief Aryan deities



INDRA



AGNI

TRIBAL ASSEMBLIES

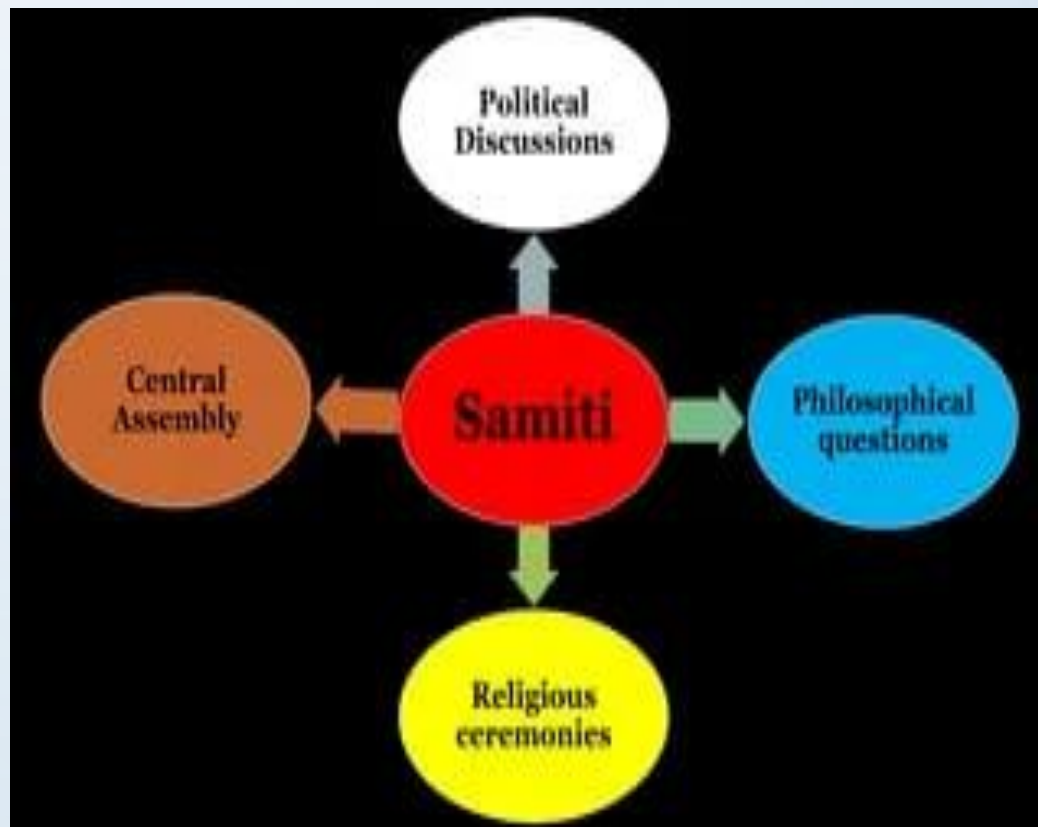
Sabha — Used 8 times in the Rig Veda. Purpose - political, administrative and judicial, Assembly of Elders. (Sabha is called Narishta which meant a resolution of many that cannot be broken)

Samiti — Used 6 times in the Rig Veda. Political, Assembly of Common People. (In Atharva Veda Sabha and Samiti are depicted as two Daughters of Prajapati)

Gana — Stands for ‘republic’. An organization of Indo-Aryan. Leader- ‘Ganapati’ or ‘Ganasya Raja.’

Parishad — A military assembly part by matriarchal and partly patriarchal.

Vidatha — Appear 122 times in the Rig Veda. Earliest assembly

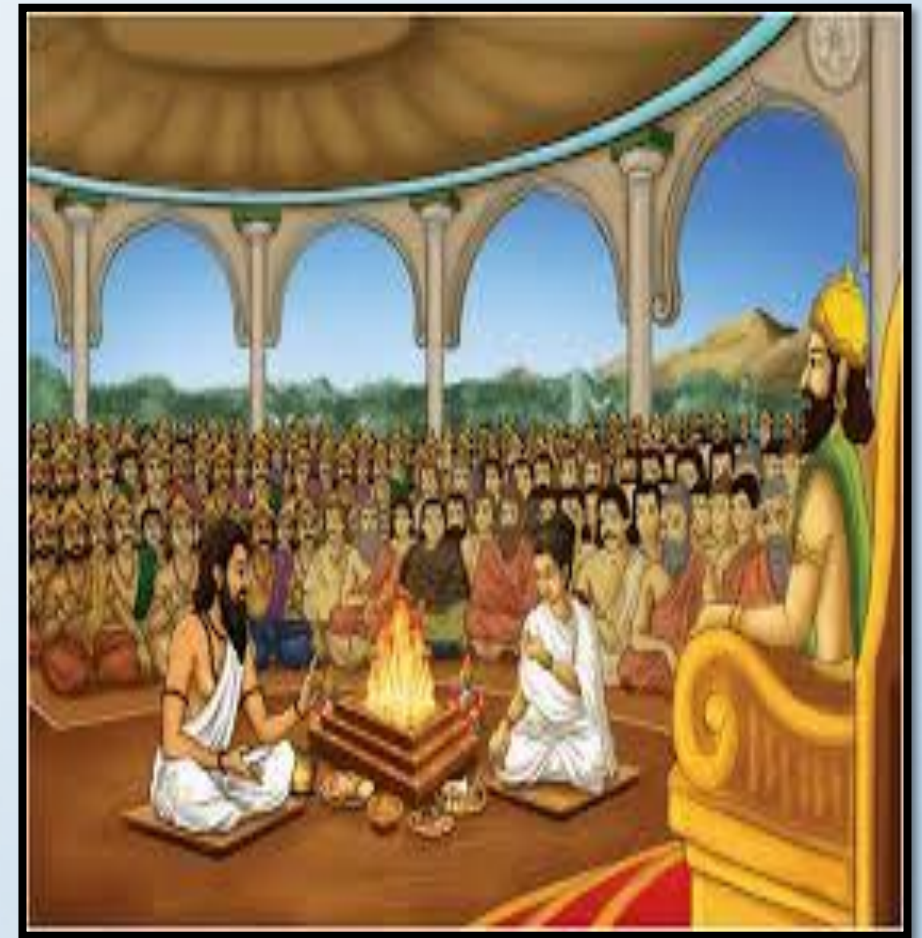


Later Vedic Period(1000-600 BC)

- ❑ Main Literary Source — Shatapatha Brahmana.
- ❑ Main Centre — Ganga–Jamuna Valley also known as Kuru-Panchala region covering Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ In Later Vedic Period, Iron was introduced in India, around 1000 BC.
- ❑ In Later Vedic Period, the Aryans with the help of fire and iron tools expanded into western Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal

Political Condition of Later Vedic Period

- ❑ The king became more powerful with the formation of bigger kingdom. (King Started to assumed the title Ekrat Samrat Virat)
- ❑ The popular assemblies lost power and importance



Important Later Vedic States

Kuru — Famous king Janamejaya

Panchal — Famous king Pravahana Jaivali

Videha — Famous king Janaka.

Royal officials of Later Vedic Period

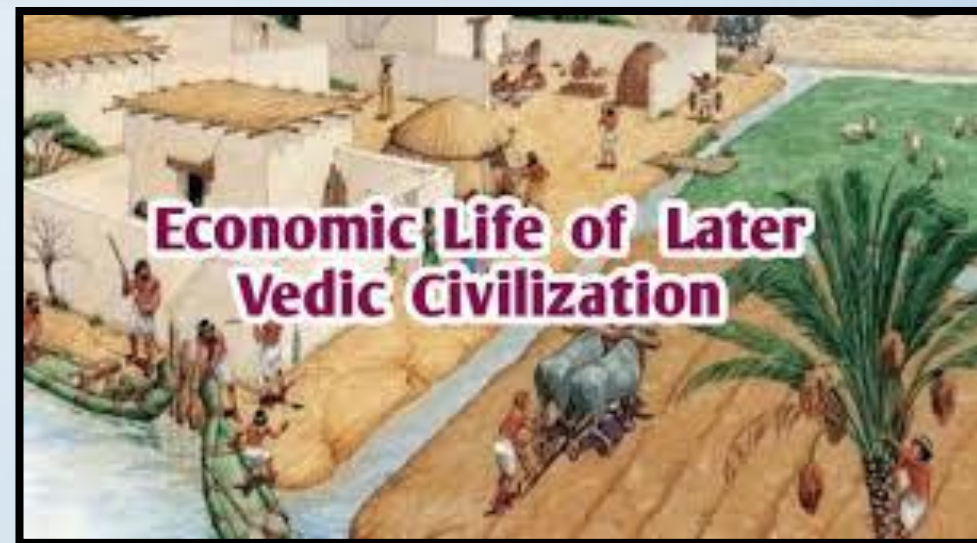
Bhagadugha — Tax Collector.

Suta — Charioteer

Sangrahitri — Treasurer

Economic Condition of Later Vedic Period

Pastoralist was no longer the main subsistence activity of the people though cattle rearing were also practiced. 2. Satamana and Krishnala, besides Nishkas came to be used as units of value. (According to the Rigveda, 'Nishka' is a throat ornament. Later, 'Nishka' was used to represent a gold coin.) 3. Bali, Bhaga, Shulka were main taxes. (the tax rate was 1/6 of the agricultural produce or cattle that a person owned)



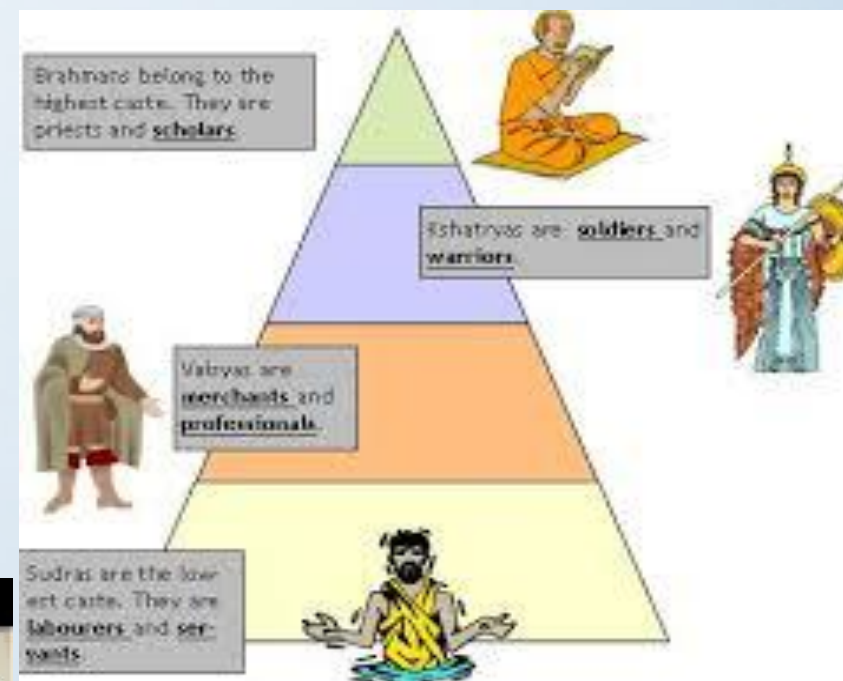
Social Condition of Later Vedic Period

Origin of Caste system.

- The upper three varnas were entitled to Upanayna or investiture with the sacred thread but Sudras were deprived of it.
- Patriarchal system: The family system was patriarchal, with the father having authority. Women were generally considered inferior to men and were given a lower rank.

Religious Life of Later Vedic Period :

New Gods Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva etc came into prominence.
Indra Varuna lost prominence



IMPORTANT RIG VEDIC GODS

Indra God of Rain and Thunder Agni God of Fire Varuna God of Universe and Morality (RTA) Soma God of Plant

- Marut God of Storm
- Dyaus God of Heaven
- Savitri God of Light (Gayatri Mantra Written by Vishwamitra Dedicated to Savitri)
- Aditi Mother of God
- Usha Goddess of Dawn
- Rudra God of destruction
- Ashvin Brothers – God of wisdom, Physicians.

Different types of Priests in Vedic Civilization

- Brahmins – Priests who served as head of the ceremony.
- Hotri – Invoking priest.
- Udgatri – They sang at the time of Soma Sacrifice.
- Adhvaryu – Who prepare a place for worship and sacrifice as well as other preparation..

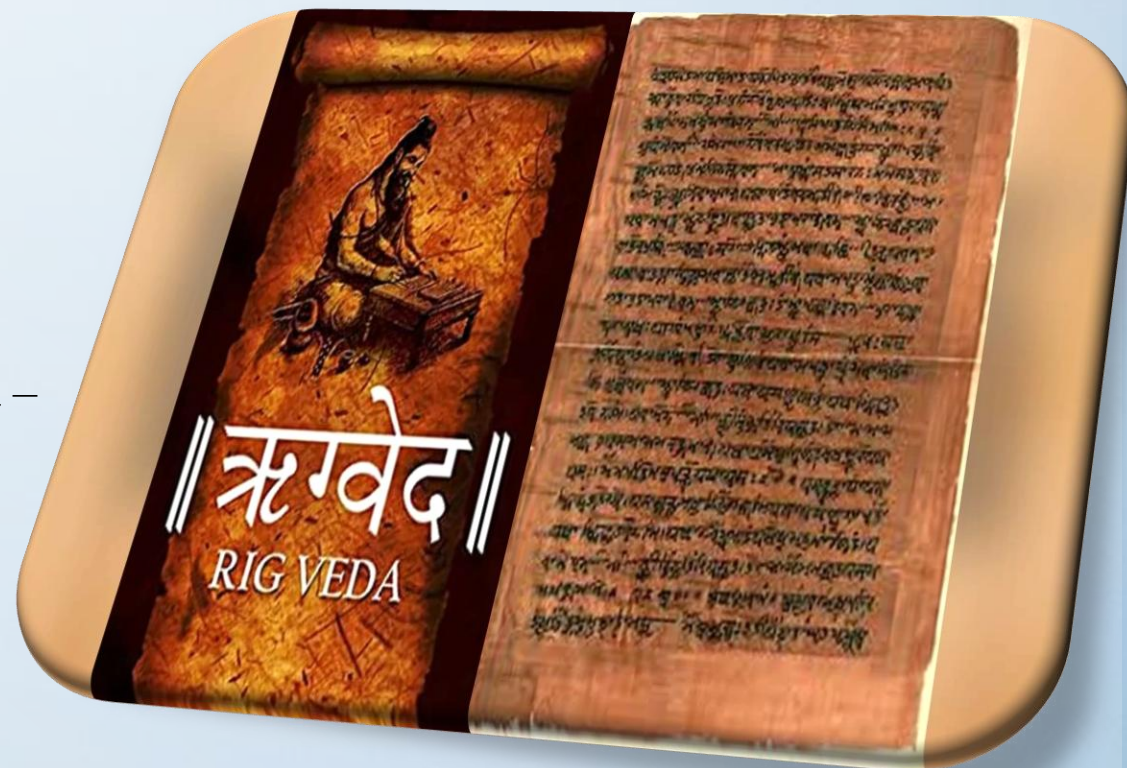


Vedic Literature

Vedas The word Veda is derived from the word Vid - which means Knowledge. • Each Veda divided into 4 parts • Samhita. 2. Brahmana. 3. Aranyaka. 4. Upanishad.

Rig Veda

- Oldest book of the World.
- Number of hymns 1028/1017.
- Divided into 10 Mandals. 2-7 Mandals -Oldest part of the Rigveda, also known as Family Book.
- 1-10 Mandal -Latest Part of the Rig Veda.
- Most important Mandal – 10th Mandal, contain Purush Sukta – origin of Caste System.
- Other Important Mandal-
- Mandal 3rd Described about Gayatri Mantra.
- Mandal 7th Described about the Battle of 10 Kings.
- Mandal 9th Dedicated to God Soma
- Mandal 10th We know about the creation of 4 Varnas.



Sama Veda

Origin of Indian Music



Yajur Veda

Partly written in prose and in verse.

Subject – Sacrificial Mantras.

Divided into Shukla and Krishna

Atharva Veda

Non-Aryan literature.

Subject – Magical Mantra/Spells and Charms/Black Magic.

Origin of Indian Medical Science



Brahmana Subject – Ritualism. Written in Prose form

Upanishad

Total Number 108.

Time Period : 800-500 BC

Meaning of Upanishad – To seat near someone.

Another name -Vedanta.

Origin of Indian Philosophy.

Satyameva Jayate – Mundak Upanishad.

Four Ashram – Jabala Upanishad.

Trimurti Concept – Maitrayani Upanishad.

Brihadaranayaka Upanishad (The oldest Upanishad)

Yagnavalkya – Maitreyi dialogue and the idea of Rebirth is taken from this Upanishad

The Famous Dialogue between Nachiketa and Yama about transmigration of soul is mentioned in the Kathopanishad

Persi Translation of Upanishad – Sir-e Akbar



Purana

Total Number 18.

Composed during Gupta Period.

Oldest Purana - Matsya/Vayu

Purana

Vedanga

Vedanga means limbs of the Vedas

- Shiksha , Chhanda ,Kalpa ,
- Nirukta , Vyakarana ,Jyotish

Six Indian Philosophy

Samkhya – Propounded by Kapil,(Oldest Indian Philosophy.)

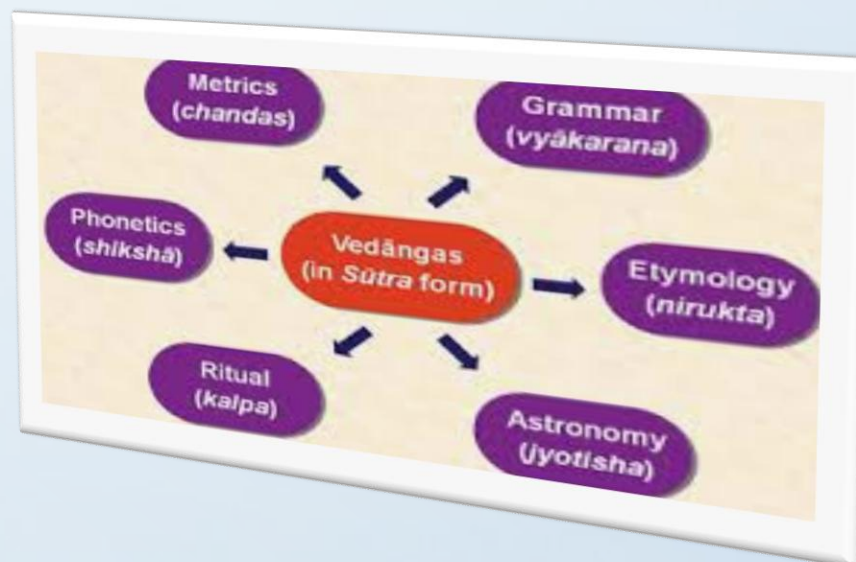
Nyaya - Propounded by Goutam.

Yoga – Propounded by Patanjali.

Vaishisika – Propounded by Kanad,

Purva Mimansa – Propounded by Jaimini

Uttar Mimansa – propounded by Vyas



Mahabharata

Previous name – Joy Samhita,

Number of Slokas – 100000.

Also known as Sata- Sahasra-
Samhita

Composed Completed in Gupta
Age

Persi Translation Of Mahabharat
is Rajam Namah

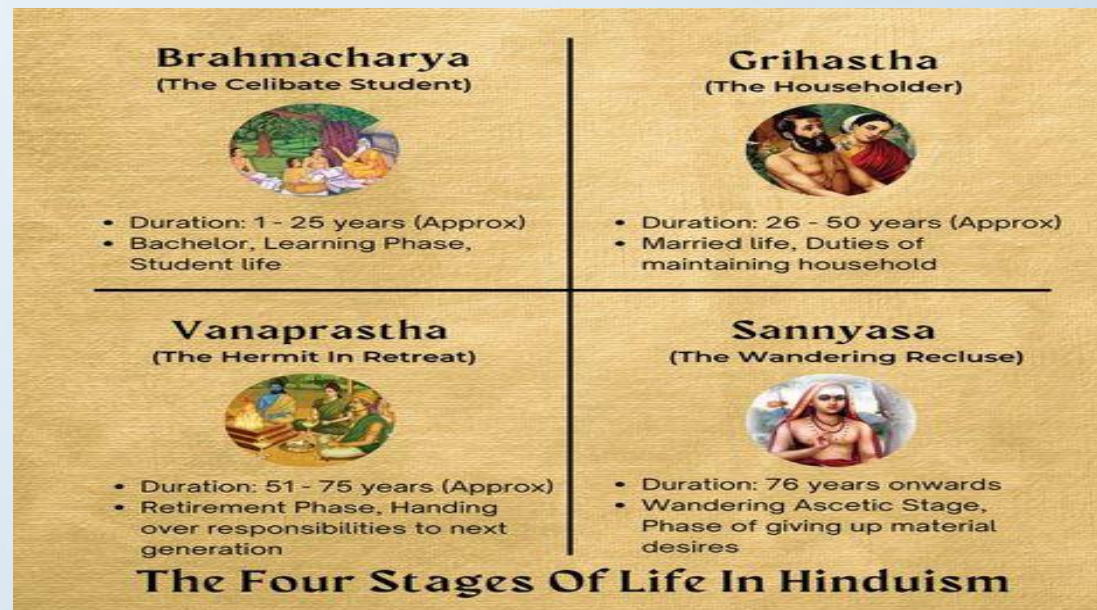
FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

Brahmacharya — Student life.

Garhasthya — Married Life and
lead a family. Vanaprastha —

Life for service to others.

Sannyasa — Forest Life



FOUR VARNAS

- i) Brahmin ii) Kshatriya iii) Vaishyas
iv) Sudras

TYPES OF MARRIAGE

Brahma — A duly dowered girl to a man of the same class.

Daiva — Marriage with sacrificial priest as part of his fee.

Arsa — Dowry marriage.

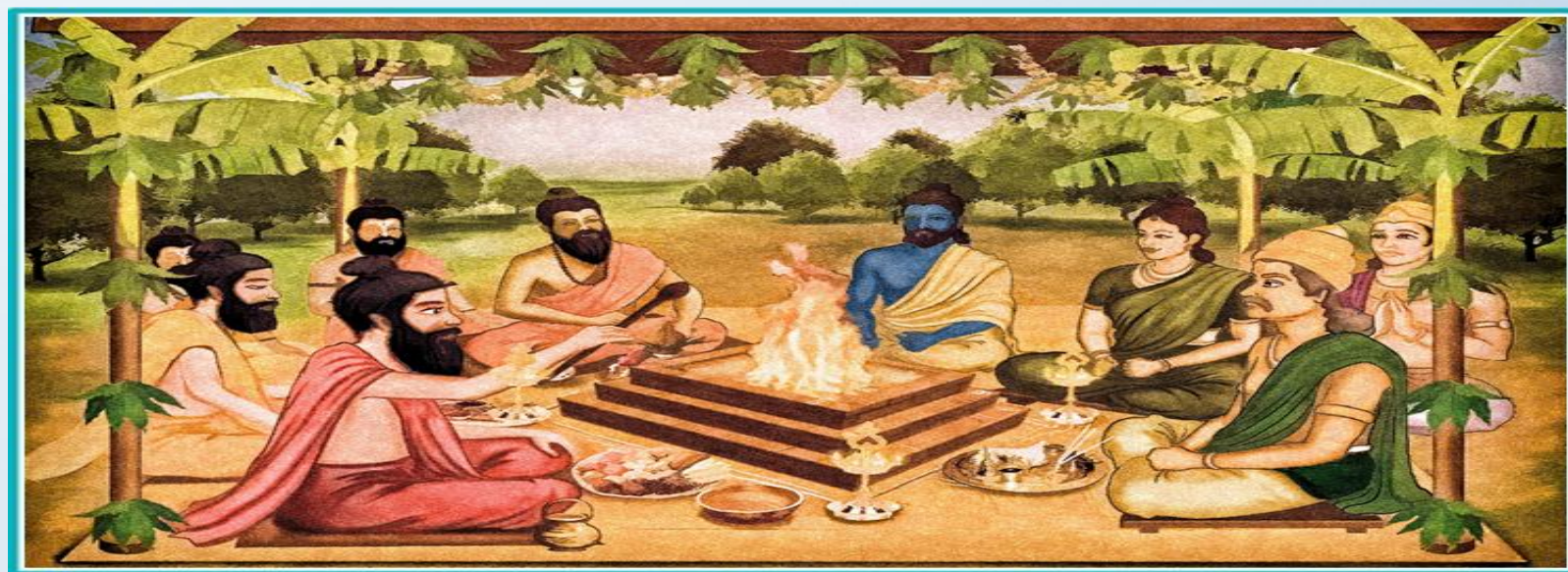
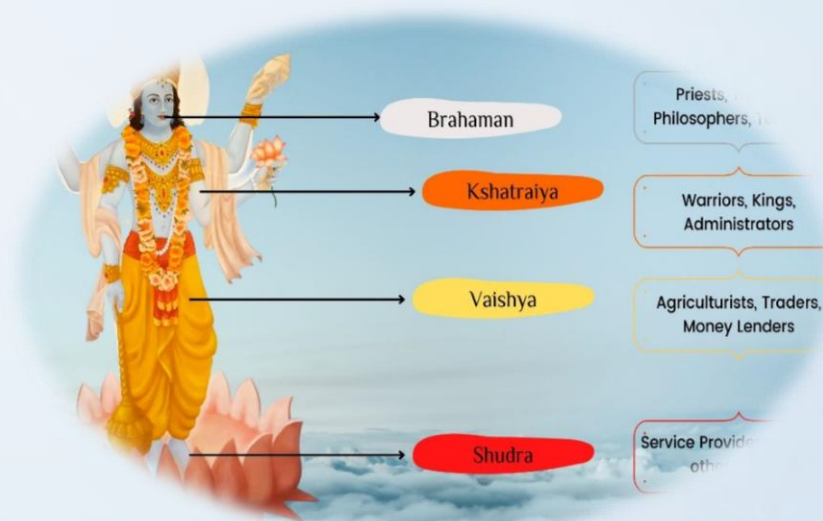
Prajapatya — Marriage without Dowry.

Gandharva — Consent marriage. •

Asura — The bride was bought from her father.

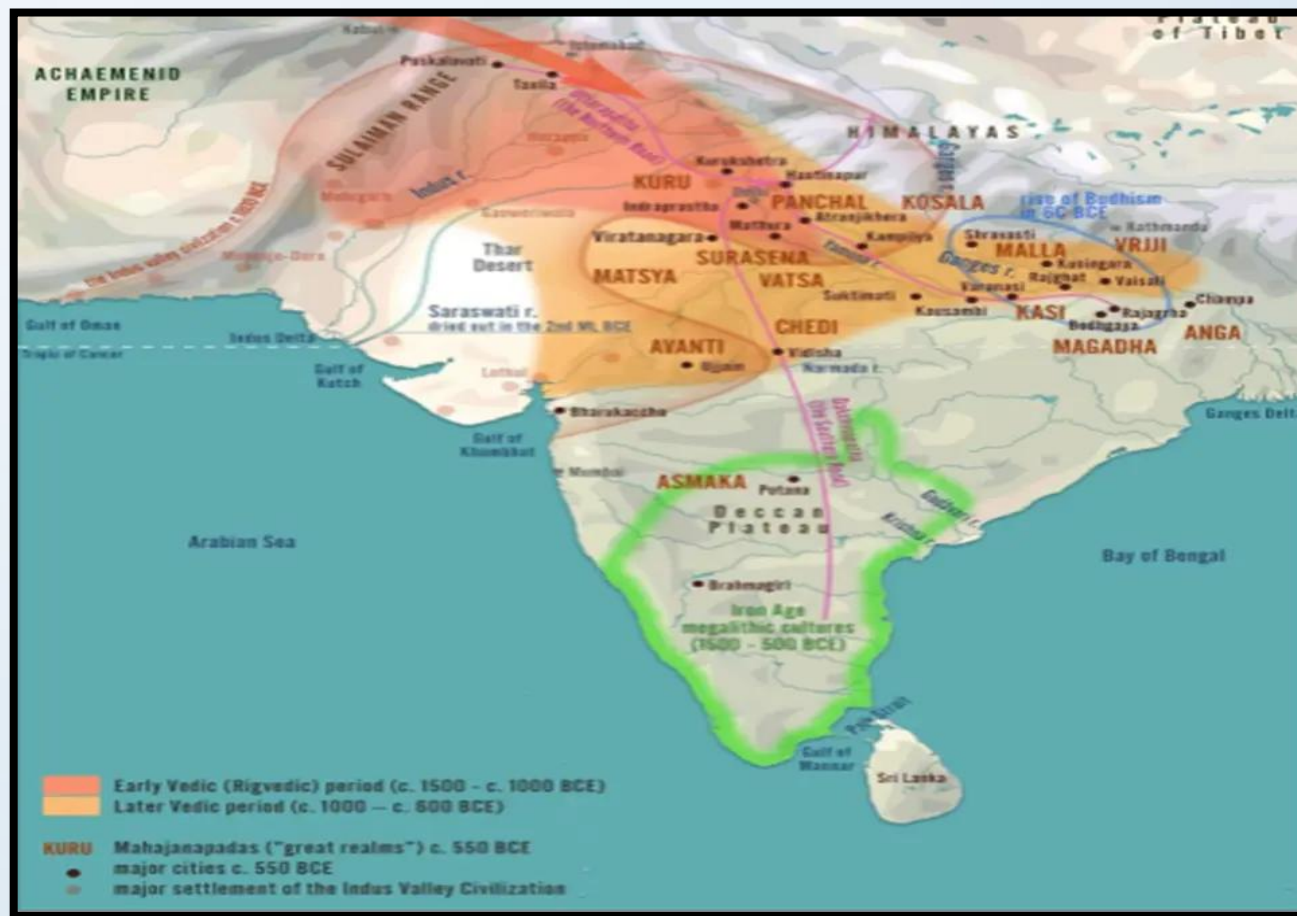
Rakshasa — Forceful marriage.

Paishacha — Seduction of girl while asleep



RIVERS

Asikini — Chenab.
 Drishadvati — Ghaggar.
 Ganga — Ganga.
 Gomati — Gomati.
 Krumi — Kurram.
 Kubha — Kabul.
 Parushini — Ravi.
 Saraswati — Saraswati.
 Satudri — Sutlej.
 Sindhu — Indus.
 Suvastu — Swat.
 Vipasa — Beas.
 Vitasta — Jhelam.
 Yamuna — Yamuna.

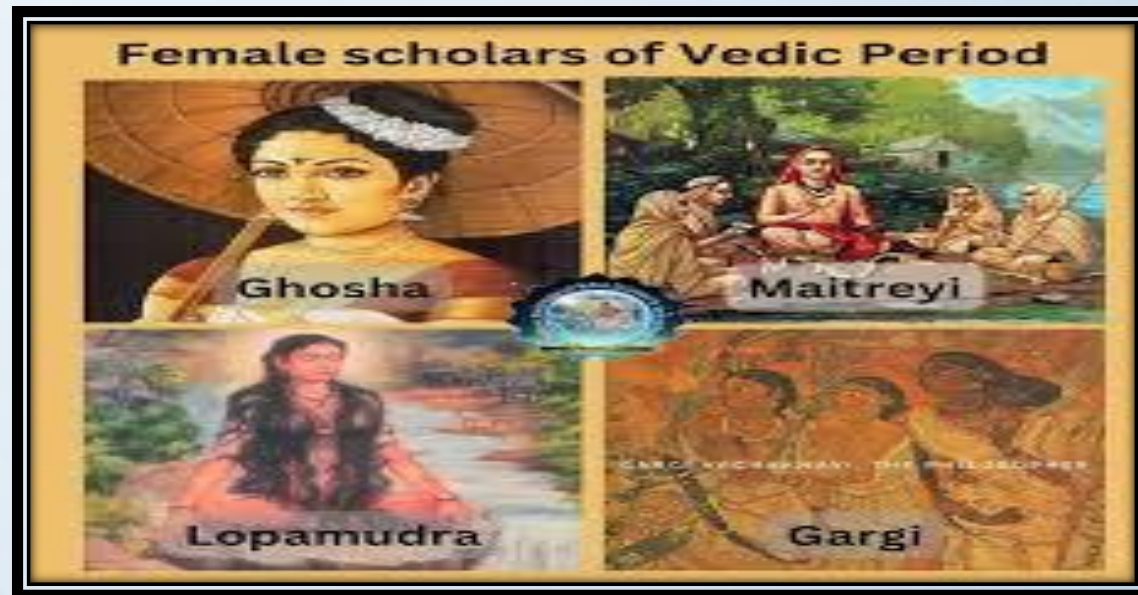
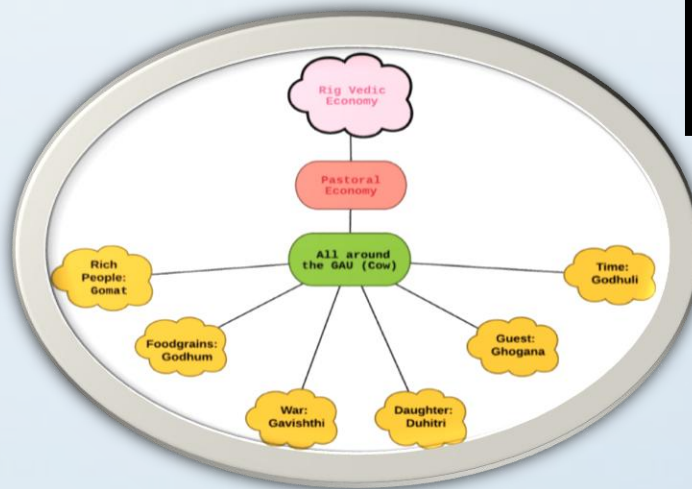


Some important women in the Vedic age include

Gargi ,Maitreyi , Lopamudra, Viswambhara, Apala, Ghosha, Sakata, and Nivavari.

IMPORTANT WORDS APPEAR IN THE RIG VEDA

1. Om — 1028 times. 2. Jana — 275 times. 3. Vis — 171 times. 4. Brahmana — 14 times. 5. Kshatriya — 9 times. 6. Sudra — 1 time. 7. Vaishya — 1 time. 8. Rajya — 1 time. 9. Kulapa — 1 time. 10. Ganga — 1 time. 11. Yamuna — 3 times. 12. Gau — 176 times.



MCQ

1. The Upanishad were compiled around? (WBCS 2016)
2. (A) 600BC (B)800 BC (C) 1000 BC (D) 1600-600 BC

2. What are the two assemblies during the early Vedic Period? (WBCS2020)
- (A) Samiti (B) Sabha (C) Samiti and Sangam (D) Both (A)and (B)

3. The oldest Veda is- (WBCS 2014)
- (A) Atharva Veda (B) Rigveda (C) Yajurveda (D) Samaveda

4. In which ancient text do you find the earliest reference to the Varna system ? (WBCS-2012)
- (A) Manu Samhita (B) Rigveda (C) Atharva Veda (D) Satapath Brahman

MCQ

5. The word Aryan denotes – (WBCS 2009)
(A) Cultivation (B) A Race (C) Pastoral Society (D) Brahmachari
6. Whom does the Gayatri Mantra in the Rig Veda address? (WBCS -2002)
(A) Indra (B) Agni (C) Savitri (D) Ilshas
7. Which of the following gods do not belong the rig vedic period? (WBCS2001)
(A) Indra (B) Marut (C) Shiva (D) Aditi

8. Which one of the following is oldest Veda : (Uttarakhand P.C.S. (Pre) 2010)

(a) Yajurveda (b) Rig Veda (c) Samaveda (d) Atharvaveda

9. The famous dialogue between Nachiketa and Yama is mentioned in the : (I.A.S. (Pre) 1997 U.P.P.C.S. (Pre) 1999 U.P.U.D.A./L.D.A. (Pre) 2002 Uttarakhand P.C.S. (Pre) 2005)

(a) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad (b) Chandogya Upanishad (c) Kathopanishad (d) Kenopanishad

10. Which of the following river among the following referred as 'Matetama', 'Devitama' and 'Naditama' in the Rig Veda. (U.P.P.C.S. (Spl) (Mains) 2008)

(a) Sindhu (b) Saraswati (c) Vitasta (d) Yamuna

