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Volume - 2

Ancient & Medieval India



Ancient & Medieval India

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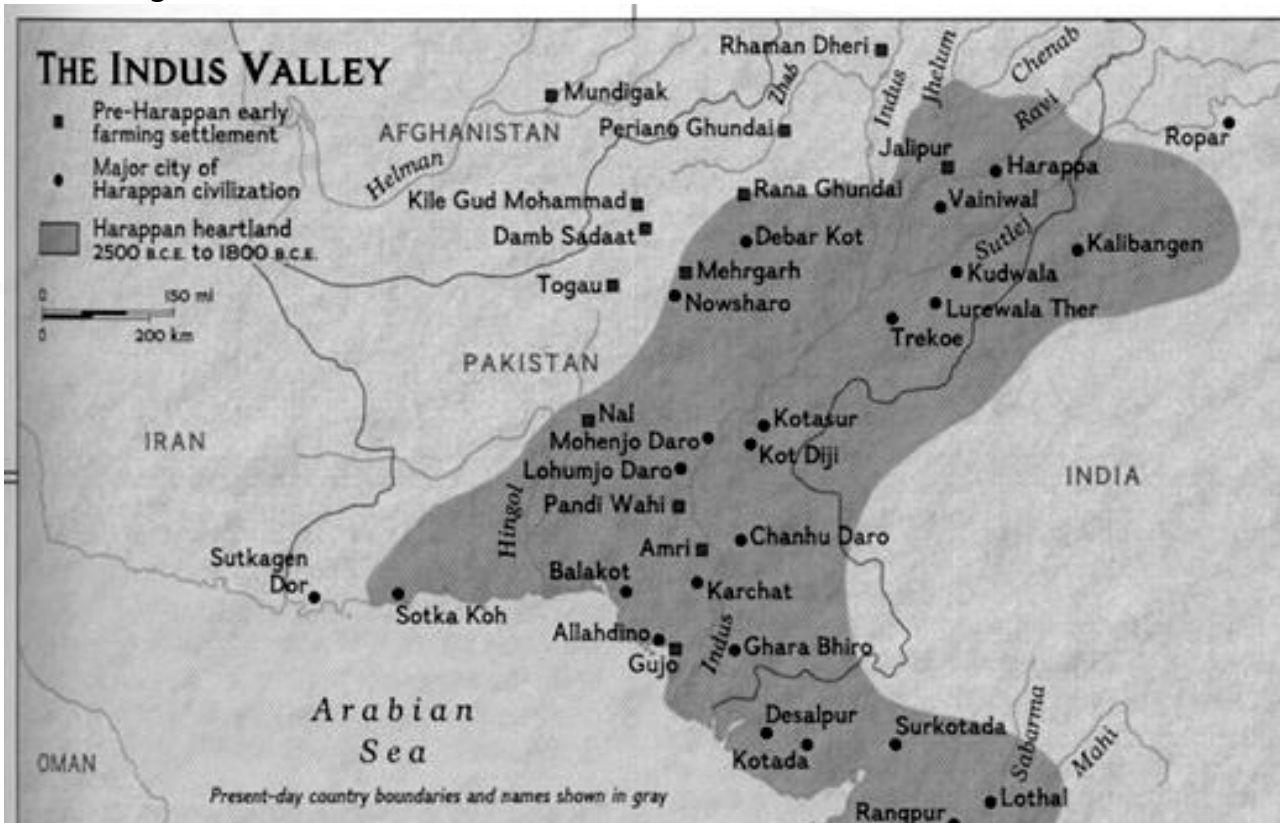
1 CHAPTER

Harappan Civilization



Discovery of Harappan Civilization

- First Urban Civilization of South- Asia
- Contemporary to Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
- Developed in the North-western part of the Indian subcontinent
- 1853- Discovery of a Harappan seal which showed a bull by A. Cunningham.
- 1921- Discovery of Harappa (the first archaeological site discovered) by Dayaram Sahni. Therefore, it is also known as the Harappan civilization.
- 1922- Discovery of Mohenjodaro by R.D. Banerjee
- Essentially a Riverine Civilization.
- A Bronze age Civilization.



Geographical Extent

- Coverage- about 13 lakh square km
- Extent- Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western U.P., and northern Maharashtra.
- Northernmost site- Manda in Jammu and Kashmir (River- Chenab)
- Southernmost site- Daimabad in Maharashtra (River- Pravara)
- Western-most site- Sutkagendor in Balochistan (River- Dashk)
- Easternmost site- Alamgirpur in Uttar Pradesh (River- Hindon)



Important Sites of the Harappan Civilization

Sites	River	Features
Harappa (1921) Montgomery district of Punjab. aka city of granaries.	Ravi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A row of 6 granaries. ● R-37 and H cemetery found here. ● Coffin burial ● Red Sandstone male torso ● Copper bullock cart ● Stone symbols of lingam and yoni ● Terracotta figure of Mother Goddess. ● Single room barracks ● Bronze pots. ● Citadel (raised platform) ● Dice
Mohenjodaro (1922) (mound of the dead)- Larkana district of Sindh Largest IVC site	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great Bath (for ritual bathing, no use of stone, built with burnt bricks, bitumen used on outer walls and floors) ● Great granary (the largest building in Mohenjodaro) ● Piece of woven cloth ● Bronze Statue of dancing girl- Right arm on the hip and left arm covered with bangles. ● Cotton cloth ● uniform buildings and weights ● Seal of mother Goddess ● Idol of yogi ● Pashupati seal ● Steatite image of a bearded man ● Mesopotamian seals ● Bronze image of nude women dancer ● 7 layers of the city → city was rebuilt 7 times.
Lothal (1957) (port city)- Gujarat Trade centre for gems and ornaments	Bhogvaha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City divided into 6 sections ● Coastal town, sea trade links with Mesopotamia ● Dockyard (to manufacture and repair ships) ● Evidence of rice husk ● Double burial and 3-pair burial ● Fire altars ● Terracotta model of a ship ● Ivory scale for measurement ● Persian gulf seal
Chanhudaro (1931) - Sindh	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only City without citadel ● Evidence of beads making factory, Lipstick, inkpot. ● Dog's paw imprint on brick ● Terracotta model of bullock cart ● Bronze toy cart
Kalibangan (1953) (black bangles)- Rajasthan	Ghaggar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furrowed land ● Fire altars ● No presence of baked bricks, earthen bricks present

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Houses with wells ● No drainage ● Shows evidence of pre- Harappan as well as Harappan phase
Dholavira (1990-91) - Gujarat	Luni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water harvesting system ● Stormwater drainage system ● Stadium ● Nameplate of 10 letters (largest IVC inscription) ● The only city to be divided into 3 parts.
Rangpur (1931) (Gujarat)	Mahar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remains of Pre+Mature Harappan phase ● Evidence of stoneflacks
Banawali (1973-74) (Hisar, Haryana)	Saraswati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre+Mature + late Harappan phase ● Clay model of plough ● No drainage system ● Terracotta model of plough ● Barley grains ● Lapis Lazuli ● The only site with Radial streets
Rakhigarhi (1963) (Haryana)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The largest IVC site in India ● Fragmented artifact of a thick sturdy red ware with an incised female figure
Surkotada (1964) (Kutch, Gujarat)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Horse remains and graveyard ● Soldiers sign-on potsherd ● Pot burials ● Oval grave
Amri (1929) (Sindh, Pakistan)	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence of rhinoceros
Ropar (Punjab, India)	Sutlej	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● first site to be excavated after independence ● Dog buried with a human ● Oval pit Burials ● Copper Axe
Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh)	Yamuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Broken copper blade ● Ceramic items
Daimabad (Maharashtra)	Pravara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bronze images (charioteer with chariot, ox, elephant, and rhinoceros)

Sanauli

Sinauli Excavation 1.0 in 2005:

- 116 burial sites discovered.
- Referred to as one of **India's largest known necropolises in the Chalcolithic period.**
- The **burial sites** are **different from Harappan Civilization.**
- **Coffins are 4 legged** and the tombs had underground chambers.
- **Systematically arranged vases, bowls and pots** near the body.



- **Rice found in those pots** buried along with the bodies of the troops
- **8 anthropomorphic figures** (something that looks like humans) found.
- **Burials similar to vedic culture and not Indus Valley culture**

Sinauli Excavation 2.0 in 2018:

- **Came into light again in 2018** when a **farmer reported to have found antiquities** in the land **while ploughing** the field.
- **Horse drawn chariots** (almost 5000 years old) found - have a fixed ankle linked through a long pole to a small yoke - thought to have been **drawn by animals, preferably horses.**
- Many weapons like **copper antenna swords, war shields** etc were found
- **Wooden four legged coffins** this time along with **pottery.**
- **Whip** to indicate tribe's control over the animals
- **Female + Male warriors** have also been found **buried with their swords.**
- However their **legs around ankles had been removed before they were buried.**

Pottery:

- **Ochre Colored Pottery (OCP)** culture.
- **Similar to late mature Harappan culture** but is different from it in many other aspects.

Features of Harappan Civilization

Political features



Town Planning

- **Fortification**
- **Well-planned streets**
- **Advanced drainage system** in towns
- **Cities-** two or more parts.
 - **Western part** - smaller but higher - *citadel*- occupied by the ruling class.
 - **Eastern part**- larger but lower- inhabited by common or working people -brick houses.
- **Chanhudaro: City without Citadel,**
- Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro had a citadel. (these two sites are called the capital cities of IVC)
- Towns followed a rectangular grid pattern with **roads cutting each other at right angles.**
- **Houses were 1 or 2 storeys** high.
- **No large monumental structures** like temples or palaces are present.
- Use of **baked and unbaked bricks** and **stones** for construction.
- Houses were made up of mud bricks, while the drainage system was built using burnt bricks.

Great Bath

- In the **citadel mound**
- A tank made of bricks that was **used for ritual bathing**
- **Measurement-** 11.88 by 7.01 meters and 2.43metres deep
- There were **flights of steps** that led to the tank.
- **Presence of side rooms** for changing clothes
- The **bottom** of the tank was **made up of burnt bricks**
- **Water was drawn from a large well** in the adjacent room emptied into a drain

Granary

- **Mohenjodaro-** It is the **largest building** in Mohenjodaro, 45.71 meters long and 15.23 meters wide
- **Harappa-** Presence of two rows of **6 granaries**, situated close to the riverbank, 15.23 meters long and 6.09 meters wide. Rows of circular brick platforms were found that were meant for threshing grains, as there have been pieces of evidence of wheat and barley
- **Kalibangan-** at the southern part, presence of brick platforms that might have been used for granaries

Drainage system

- **Every house** in IVC had its **courtyard, private well, and well-ventilated bathroom.**
- Water from these houses went to street drains that were covered either with bricks or stone slabs.
- **Street drains** were equipped with **manholes.**
- Harappan people paid too much attention to health and hygiene.

Economic Features

Agriculture

- Indus region was **fertile due to annual inundation in river Indus**, which led to the deposition of rich alluvial soil in the plains (the fertility of the Sindh region had also been mentioned by Alexander's historian in the 4th century BC)
- **area flooded frequently** as is evidenced by the presence of walls made of burnt bricks.
- Seeds were sown in November and harvested in April.
- **Use of stone sickles** for harvesting
- **Absence of canal irrigation.** However, traces of canals have been discovered at Shortugahi (Afghanistan).
- To store water, **Gabarbands or Nalas enclosed by drains** were constructed in parts of Afghanistan and Baluchistan.
- **Furrows** were discovered in the pre-Harappan phase of **Kalibangan.**
- **Crops-** two types of **wheat and barley, rai, sesamum, dates, mustard, and peas.** (Evidence of barley at Banawali, Evidence of rice at Lothal).
- The presence of **water reservoirs in Dholavira** was used to store water for agriculture.
- Indus people were the **first to produce cotton in the world.** The Greeks called it Sindon (derived from Sindh)
- The **terracotta model of plough-** discovered at **Banawali.**
- Use of cereals for **barter exchange.** Peasants paid taxes on cereals and these were also used for payment of wages.
- The practice of **double cropping started** during this period.

Domestication of animals

- IVC people **practiced pastoralism.**
- They reared animals like **sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, and buffalo.**
- **Cats and dogs were also domesticated a**
- **Domestication of Elephants-** Gujarat.
- **Humped bull** - favored by Harappans
- **Camels and donkeys** - beasts of burden.
- Rabbits, wildfowl, pigeons were also present as discovered from pottery paintings.
- **Evidence of Rhinoceros-** Amri, a terracotta model of horse found at Lothal, and horse remains were found at Surkotada.

Trade and Commerce

- **Barter form** of exchange prevalent
- Trade was carried out using stone, metal, shell, etc
- **Trade contacts** with **Mesopotamia** evident by Harappan seals found at Sumer, Susa, and Ur.
- **Port at Lothal** was used to **export cotton**
- Seal discovered from Nippur containing Harappan script and depicting a unicorn
- **Cuneiform inscription** mentions **trade contacts between the Mesopotamians and the Harappans.** It mentions the name "**Meluha**" which refers to the Indus region and its trade contacts with Mesopotamia bypassing **two trading stations- Dilmun and Makan.**
- **Harappan seals** discovered from the ancient sites in the **Persian Gulf.**

- **Major items- imported** by Harappans - Gold, Silver, Copper, Tin, Lapis Lazuli, Lead, Turquoise, Jade, Carnelian, and Amethyst.
- Evidences that proves **Harappan's external trade-**
 - the discovery of **cylindrical seals from Mohenjo-Daro**,
 - use of **Mesopotamia cosmetics by Harappans**,
 - **coffin burials** prevalent in the foreign world discovered at Harappa, and
 - **figure of a humped bull on Mesopotamian seals.**

Socio-Cultural Features

Craft Production

- Utensils, boats, beads, seals, terracotta items, manufactured
- Knew the **art of bricklaying**
- Knew the **art of dyeing and smelting metals**
- Rampant use of lead, bronze, tin

Stone Statues

- Refined **stone, bronze or terracotta** statues.
- **Stone statuaries** found at **Harappa** and **Mohenjodaro** - excellent examples of handling three-dimensional volumes.
- **Eg.** Soapstone Bearded Priest and red sandstone male torso

Bronze Casting

- Bronze statues made **using the 'lost wax' technique.**
 - In it, the wax figures first covered with a coating of clay and allowed to dry - wax is heated & drained out through a tiny hole made in the clay cover - hollow mould thus created is filled with molten metal which takes original shape of the object.
 - Once the metal cools, the clay cover is completely removed.
- Metalcasting appears to be a **continuous tradition.**
- **Major centres-** Daimabad, Maharashtra

Terracotta

- Representations of **human forms are crude** as compared to stone & bronze statues.
- **More realistic in Gujarat** and **Kalibangan.**
- Most **important - mother goddess.**

Seals

- Around 200 seals discovered
- **Mostly made of steatite. Few** made up of **terracotta, gold, agate, chert, ivory, and faience.**
- Most seals were **square-shaped with 2*2 dimension**
- Mainly used **for commercial purposes**, however, it was also used as **amulets.**
- Seals were **pictographic**, having pictures of animals like tigers, elephants, bulls, buffalo, rhinoceros, goats, bison, and others.
- Seals **script has not been deciphered**
- The **most important seal-** **Pashupati Mahadeva** seal from Mohenjodaro
- Lothal- Persian Gulf seals have been discovered.

Beads

- Made up of **gold, Silver, Copper, Bronze shells, and semi-precious stones.**
- Mainly **barrel-shaped**
- **Lothal** and **Dholavira- Bead maker's shop**

Weights and Measures

- Weights followed a **binary system**
- Aware of **sexagesimal and decimal systems.**

- Weights **made up of chert, jasper, agate, 7reystone** and shape: cubicle and spherical.
- The **unit of ratio was 16 equivalents to 13.64 grams**
- **16 Chhatank made a ser and 16 annas were equivalent to one rupee**

Pottery

- Used **potter's wheel** and used well-baked pottery
- Red slip and black
- **Used as-** dish-on-stands, storage jars, bowls, dishes, pots, perforated jars, etc
- **Motifs-** pipal leaves, fish scales, intersecting circles, zigzag patterns, horizontal bands, floral and faunal geometrical designs, etc
- **Mostly polychrome pottery-** use of more than two colors
- Potteries had **flat bases**
- **Red Black pottery was most common** (red-colored pottery painted with black designs, usually with trees and circles).
- **3 pottery cultures in the Pre-Harappan phase-**
 - **Nal Culture** (Yellow-colored, pictography with yellow and blue),
 - **Jhob Culture** (Red pottery and pictography in black), and
 - **Quetta** (yellow pottery, pictography with black).

Society

- Mainly **Urban** ; however some regions were rural too.
- Comprised mostly of the **middle class**.
- **Majority-** priests, merchants, craftsmen, peasants, and laborers.

Religion

- **Secular Society**
- **Mother Goddess** was worshipped- Terracotta figurines of semi-nudity identified with Shakti or Mother Goddess discovered, a seal was discovered at Harappa which depicts Earth/ Mother Goddess with a plant growing out of her womb.
- **Pashupati Mahadeva/ Proto Shiva** was worshipped- a three-faced male God, seated in a yogic posture and surrounded by Rhino and Buffalo on the right and elephant and tiger on the left with two deer at his feet.
- **Worshipped nature-** The pipal tree was considered the most sacred.
- **Worshipped animals** - humped bull, buffalo, tiger, birds, and rhino.
- **Worshipped mythical animals-**
 - three-headed chimeras,
 - human-faced goats,
 - semi-human and semi-bovine creatures,
 - human figures with bull's horns, hoofs, and tails.
- **No evidence of temple-worship**
- **Phallus (lingam) and yoni (cult of fertility) worshippers.**
- **Believed in magic, charms, and sacrifices-**
 - Amulets used,
 - seals depicting sacrifices discovered,
 - fire altars from Kalibangan, Banawali, and Lothal.
- **Burials-**
 - double-burials at Lothal,
 - circular and rectangular burials, megalithic burials at Surkotada and Dholavira,
 - fractional burials,
 - dead were disposed of either by burial or cremation,
 - dead bodies buried in the north-south direction

- **Believed in after-life-**

- Earthen pots and urns with ornaments and food grains discovered at excavation,
- articles of daily use were buried along with the dead bodies,
- ashes of the dead were preserved in clay urns.

Decline and Disappearance of Harappan Civilization

- **Decline started after 1900 BC,**
- By 19th century, Harappa and Mohenjodaro disappeared
- Harappan culture at other sites faded out gradually.
- **Post-Harappan phase/post-urban phase/sub-Indus culture-** depended on agriculture, stock raising, hunting, and fishing.
- Witnessed the **end of trade contacts with the west Asian centers.**
- Around 1200 BC, at some sites in Punjab and Haryana, Grey ware pottery and Painted Grey Ware associated with Vedic culture found in conjunction with late-Harappan pottery.
- After the decline of IVC, **Jhooker Culture developed in West Punjab and Bahawalpur. It was also called the Graveyard-H culture.**



2 CHAPTER

Vedic Age



- Vedic Age started with the Aryan occupation of the Indo-Gangetic Plains
- Aryans originally lived in the Steppes region.
- They first settled in the Sapta Sindhu region (Land of Seven rivers). These seven rivers were: Sindhu (Indus), Vipash (Beas), Vitasta (Jhelum), Parushni (Ravi), Asikni (Chenab), Shutudri (Satluj), and Saraswati
- Language- Indo-European
- Tools- socketed axes, bronze dirks, and swords
- Horses played a significant role (Archeological evidence of horses discovered from Southern Tajikistan and Swat Valley in Pakistan).

Vedic Literature

- Vedas are – Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda



Rig Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is the oldest of the Vedas ● Collection of 1028 hymns ● Divided into ten Mandalas or books ● Language- Vedic Sanskrit ● Origin- 1500-1000 BC. ● Rishi family of Angira- composed 35% of the hymns ● Kanva family - composed around 25%. ● hymns are known as Suktas which are generally used in rituals. ● Hymns dedicated to Gods and Goddesses seeking godly pleasure. ● Indra- chief deity (King of heaven). ● Other gods- Sky God Varuna, fire God Agni, and the Sun God Surya ● Mandalas 2 – 7 - oldest part of the Rig Veda; called “family books” as they are ascribed to particular families of seers/rishis. ● Mandala 8 – mostly composed by the Kanva clan. ● Mandala 9 – hymns are dedicated entirely to Soma. ● Mandala 1 – dedicated to Indra and Agni. ● Mandala 10 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contains NadiStuti Sukta praising the rivers. ○ contains Nasadiya Sukta and Purush Sukta explains that 4 varnas originated from the mouth, arms, belly, and legs of the Creator. ● Only surviving recension- Shakala Shakha. ● Upaveda- Ayurveda
Sama Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sama means “melody ● Book of chants ● 16,000 ragas or musical notes. ● aka book of prayers or “storehouse of knowledge of chants”. ● 2 parts: Shukla Yajurveda and Krishna Yajurveda. ● Taiteriyā Samhita : Krishna Yajurveda. ● Vajseniya Samhita: Shukla Yajurveda. ● 1875 verses mentioned- only 75 original, rest from the Rig Veda ● Upaveda- Gandharva Veda

Yajur Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yajur means “sacrifice” ● Concerned with rituals & mantras associated with different sacrifices. ● Two major divisions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shukla Yajur Veda/ Vajasaneya / White YajurVeda – contains only mantras. It contains the Madhyandina and Kanva recensions. ○ Krishna Yajur Veda / Black Yajur Veda – includes mantras and prose commentary. It contains Kathaka, Maitrayani, Taittiriya, and Kapisthalam recensions ● Vajasaneyi Samhita- Samhita in the Shukla Yajurveda. ● Upaveda- Dhanur Veda
Atharva Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● aka Bhrahma Veda ● Mainly focuses on the treatment of 99 diseases. ● Associated with two rishis- Atharva and Angira. ● contains practice of black and white magic for healing purposes. ● Composed in Vedic Sanskrit ● Has 730 hymns with 6,000 mantras divided into 20 books. ● Two recensions - Paippalada and the Saunakiya are preserved. ● Mundaka Upanishad and Mandukya Upanishad are embedded ● It describes the popular beliefs and superstitions of people ● Upaveda - Shilpa Veda

Brahmanas

- **Prose texts explaining the hymns** in the Vedas.
- **Sanskrit texts embedded within each Veda**, incorporating myths and legends to explain and instruct Brahmins on the performance of Vedic rituals.
- **Explain the symbolism and meaning of the Samhitas & expound scientific knowledge of the Vedic Period**, including observational astronomy and, particularly in relation to altar construction, geometry.
- **contain mystical & philosophical material** that constitutes Aranyakas & Upanishads.
- **Each Veda has one or more Brahmanas.**
- **Less than twenty Brahmanas exist** presently, as most have been lost or destroyed.
- **Oldest Brahmana** is dated to about **900 BCE**, while the youngest is dated to 700 BCE.
 - **Rig Veda-** Aitareya and Kaushitaki Brahmana
 - **Sama Veda-** Tandya and Sadvimsha Brahmana
 - **Yajur Veda-** Taittiriya and Satapatha Brahmana
 - **Atharva Veda-** Gopatha, Jaiminiya, and Panchvish Brahmana



Upanishads

- upa (nearby), and nishad (to sit-down), i.e., “sitting down near” (the teacher).
- These are **passed onto future generations orally by pupils who sit under the feet of their Gurus (Guru-Shishya Parampara)**
- **Final parts of the Vedas** and are thus called **Vedanta (limbs of the Vedas).**
- Upanishads are **philosophical and spiritual texts that reveal the truth of human life and talk about salvation (moksha).**
- **Introduce the concept of ‘Atman’ and ‘Brahman’.**
- **More than 200 known Upanishads**, out of which **108 are called Muktika Canon.**



Vedangas

- Literal meaning of the word Vedanga is “**limbs of the Vedas**”.
- **Compiled during 600 BC**
- **Part of Smriti texts** as they are handed down by tradition.



- **Supplementary texts**- deal with the understanding of Vedic traditions.
- **Considered to be of human origin** and are written in the form of Sutras (short condensed statements used to express different ideas).
- There are **6 Vedangas** as follows:
- **Shiksha** -
 - Study of **phonology, phonetics and pronunciation**.
 - **Focuses on letters of Sanskrit** alphabet, as well as the way that words are combined and expressed in a Vedic recitation.
- **Chhandas** -
 - **Study of prosody, related to poetic matter**.
 - Incorporates **analyzing number of syllables per verse**, fixed patterns within them.
- **Vyakarana** -
 - **Analysis of grammar and linguistics** to establish the precise way in which words and sentences were constructed to express ideas.
- **Nirukta** -
 - **Study of etymology**, particularly with regard to explaining the meaning of words that are archaic.
- **Kalpa** -
 - **Focus on ritual instructions**.
 - **Related to procedures described for rites of passage**, weddings, births and other rituals associated with life events. It also explores concepts of individual duty and proper conduct.
- **Jyotisha** -
 - **Study of auspicious times**, which draws on the Vedic practice of using astrology and astronomy to guide rituals and timekeeping.

Early/ Rig Vedic Period (1500-1000 BC)

Political structure

- Aryans lived in **small villages**.
- **Family headed by eldest male member**
- Many **families formed grama** headed by the gramina.
- Many **gramas or villages formed the Visya**.
- **Visya** - headed by a **Visyapati**.
- **Many Visyas collectively formed jana** ruled by a **king called Rajana**.
- **Kingship hereditary** .
- **Purohit - hereditary post** - Chief Adviser and temporal guru (spiritual teacher) of king.
- **Accompanied the king in wars** and prayed to God for his safety and victory.
- **Senani - military Commander**
- **Gramina - village officer**.
- **Mahishi -Chief queen**
- **Samiti - Assembly** of the whole people
- **Sabha - house of elders**.

Society

- **Semi-nomadic and Tribal society**
- **Social division/distinction** based on labor and gender- **not rigid and hereditary**.
- **Slaves- ONLY for domestic purposes** and **NOT for agriculture**
- **Aryan tribes- "Janas"**
- **Griha/Kula-** the basis of social and political organization
- **Society-** patrilineal and patriarchal.
- **Society not divided into caste lines**.



- **Varna or color-** basis of differentiation b/w Vedic (dasas) & Non-Vedic people (dasyus).
- **4-fold Varna order - not yet completely developed** (Purusha Sukta of the 10th mandala of Rig Veda mentions the four Varnas)
- **Child Marriage, purdah, and Sati - absent**
- **Monogamy was practiced**
- **Polygamy - royalty and noble families**

Position of Women

- Enjoyed a **good position** and were **treated as equal with men** in every walk to life.
- **No religious rites and rituals** could be performed **without the wife**.
- **Given education** like men and often took part in philosophical debates.
- **Women scholars** - Visvavara, Ghosha, Apala - composed hymns
- Also **learnt music and dancing**.
- Married at a right age and **enjoyed considerable freedom** regarding the **choice of their husbands** - though not essential to obtain their consent.
- **Dowry and bride-price** prevalent.
- **Sons were preferred** though **daughters were not deplored**.
- **Polyandry did not exist**- patriarchal society.
- **Widow re-marriage not encouraged**
- **Sati system, purdah and early marriage did not exist**.
- **Attended public fairs and dances**.

Economic Structure

- **Knew cultivation of land**.
- Agriculture - **main occupation**.
- **Ploughed the fields** by a pair of the **oxen** bound to the yoke.
- **Knew about** tilling of the soil, cutting of furrows, sowing the seeds, and cutting of corn with the help of sickle.
- **Chief crops** cultivated- **Barley and wheat**, Probably **did not cultivate rice**.
- **Knew about irrigation** and whenever necessary **watered their land by artificial canals**.
- **Cows were milked** thrice a day and were allowed to roam freely in the pastures.
- **Other domesticated animals** - buffalo, goat, sheep, horse, camel and elephant.

Trade and Industry

- **Trade and commerce known**.
- Also **carried on with other countries**.
- **Barter system** of exchange is prevalent.
- **Cow - unit of value**.
- **Coins used k/a nishka** (but no coin has been discovered so far).
- **Chief items of commerce - cloth and goods** made of leather.
- **Goods transported** through chariots, horses and bullock-carts.
- **Other professions** - carpentry, blacksmith, goldsmith and weaving..
- Rig-Veda also makes a mention of professions like **Medicine, Dancing and Barbers**.

Socio-Cultural Structure

- **Naturalistic Polytheism**- They worshipped natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain, thunder, etc. by personifying them into deities.
 - Mode of worship- **Yajna**
 - **Prominent deities**-
 - **Indra (God of thunder)**- the **most important deity** to whom 250 hymns have been dedicated. Also called **Purandar or breaker of Forts**
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- **Agni (God of fire)- Second-most prominent deity.** Acts as an intermediary between God and people. 200 hymns have been dedicated to Agni
- **Varuna-** Upholder of Rita or natural order. 33 hymns dedicated to Varuna
- **Other prominent deities** include- **Prithvi** (earth), **Soma** (God of plants, 9th mandala of Rig Veda dedicated to Soma God), **Rudra**, **Pushan** (God of Cattles, etc
- **Female deities** - Ushas and Aditi.
- **No temples and no idol worship**

Later Vedic Period (1000-600 BC)

Political Structure

- **Kingdoms like Mahajanapadas were formed** by amalgamating smaller kingdoms.
- **'Janas' evolved to become 'Janapadas';**
- **Sacrifices-** **Rajasuya** (consecration ceremony), **Vajapeya** (chariot race), and **Ashwamedha** (horse sacrifice) - By King to enhance his power.
- **Titles of King-** Rajavisvajanan, Ahilabhuvanapathi, Virat, Bhoja , Ektrat, and Samrat
- **King's post became hereditary**
- **The Sabhas and Samitis diminished in importance.**
- **The term "Rashtra" appeared for the first time**
- **Tribal authority became territorial**
- **No regular or standing army.**
- **Older tribes** like Bharatas, Parus, Tritsus and Turvasas **passed into oblivion** and new tribes like the **Kurus and Panchalas rose into prominence.**
- **Capitals of Kuru 'janapada'**- Hastinapur and Indraprastha.
- **King had absolute power** - master of all subjects.
- **Levied taxes like "bali", "sulka" and "bhaga".**
- **Satapatha Brahmana - king infallible** and immune from all punishment.
- **Sabha** of the Rig Vedic Period **discontinued.**
- **King sought the aid and support of the Samiti** on matters like war, peace and fiscal policies.
- **Government - more democratic** in the sense that the authority of the leaders of Aryan tribes was recognized by the king.



Society

- **The visible 4-fold varna system-** less based on occupation and **more hereditary-** decreasing social ranking:
 - **Brahmanas** -
 - **intellectual and priestly class**
 - Retained a **high standard of excellence** and **knew** the details of the **rituals.**
 - **Kshatriyas** -
 - **fighting class.**
 - **War, conquest, administration-** principal duties of this class.
 - **2 Kshatriya kings - Janak and Viswamitra** attained the status of Rishi.
 - **Vaisyas** -
 - Engaged in **trade, industry and agriculture**, and **animal husbandry.**
 - **Richer people** among vaisyas- **Sresthin- highly honored** in the royal court.
 - **Sudras** -
 - **Condition miserable**
 - **Untouchables.**
 - **No right to approach the sacred fire**, i.e., perform sacrifice, or to read the sacred texts.
 - **Denied the rite of burning the dead body.**

Position of Women

- **Lost their high position** which they had in the Rig Vedic Age.
- **Deprived of** their right to the **Upanayana ceremony.**
- **All their sacraments, excluding marriage,** were **performed without recitation of Vedic mantras.**



- **Polygamy prevailed.**
- Many **religious ceremonies**, formerly practiced by wife, were **now performed by the priests.**
- **Not allowed** to attend the **political assemblies.**
- **Birth of a daughter** became **undesirable.**
- Practice of **child marriage and dowry crept in.**
- **Women lost their honored position** in z`.

Education

- A **well planned system** of education.
- Students learned **Vedas, Upanishad, grammar, prosody, law, arithmetic and language.**
- **Upanayana or sacred thread ceremony** - initiation to studies- **students sent to Gurukula** for education.
- **Lived in the house of the teacher** (guru) and led the chaste life of a Brahmacharin whose principal duties were study and service to the teacher.
- **Students received free boarding and lodging** at the house of the Guru.
- After study completion, they **paid fees (guru-dakshina) to the teachers.**

Economic Condition

Agriculture

- Aryans of the later Vedic period **lived in the villages.**
- **Small peasant owners of land replaced by big landlords** who secured possession of entire villages.
- **Agriculture- principal occupation** of the people.
- **Improved method of tilling the land** by deep ploughing, manuring and sowing with better seeds known.
- **More lands** brought under **cultivation.**
- **Cultivator yielded two harvests** a year.
- **Major crops** - rice, barley, wheat, maize and oil seeds were raised.
- **Dangers of insects** and damage of crops through **hail-storms.**



Trade and Commerce:

- **Volume increased** by leaps and bounds.
- **Inland trade** carried on with the **Kiratas inhabiting the mountains.**
- **Exchanged herbs** for **clothes, mattresses and skins.**
- People became **familiar with the navigation of the seas.**
- **Regular coinage was not started.**
- **Coins in circulation** -“Nishka”, “Satamana” and “Krishnala”.
- **Pani-** A class of merchants who controlled the trade.
- **Guild formation** prevalent.
- **Usury and money lending** - also practiced.

Culture and Religion

Religious Condition

- **Rig Vedic gods**, Varun, Indra, Agni, Surya, Usha etc. **lost their charm.**
- **New gods** like Siva, Rupa, Vishnu, Brahma etc. **appeared.**
- **Rudra - epithet of Siva** -soon came to be **worshipped as ‘Mahadeva’** (great god) and the lord of animate beings (Pasupati).
- **Vishnu - the preserver** - rose into **Prominence.**
 - **Occupied the place of Varuna**, as the most sublime among the celestials.
- **Worship of vasudeva was also started** - regarded as Krishna Vasudev, the incarnation of Vishnu.
- **Semi divinities** like Apsara, Nagas, Gandharbas, Vidyadharas etc. **also came into being.**
- Beginning of the **worship of Durga and Ganesh.**