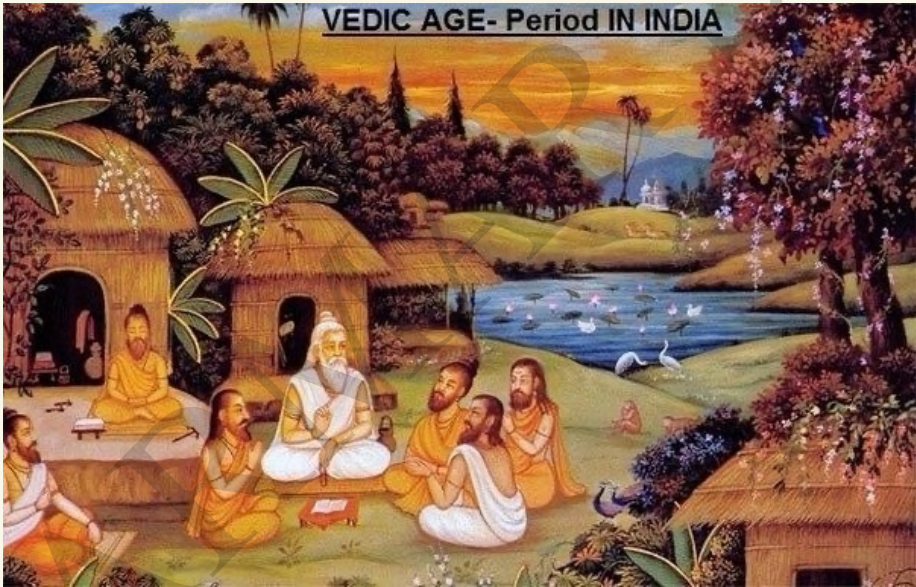


# VEDIC AGE



**Vedic Age: 1500-600 BC**

**Two types:**

Pastoral community

- **Early Vedic:** 1500-1000 BC

- **Later Vedic:** 1000-600 BC

Starts with line "Agnimele Purohitam"

Rig Veda added to UNESCO in 2007

- Rig Veda → First to be compiled

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak → Compiled book: The Arctic Home in the Vedas

Said: all Indians were Aryans

- Boghazkoi inscription (Turkey): mentions names such as Indra, Varuna, etc

**भ्राता** → Brother

**सप्त** → Seven

**अधर** → Under

Similar sounding words → Linguistic basis

**Vedas:** Oldest text (compiled during Zehda Avesta (Iran))

- **Meaning:** Knowledge

- They were orally passed (Shruti) one generation to another another

- Apaurasheya → Not created by man but gifted by God

Subdivisions

Also known as 'Shukta'

1. **Samhita:** collection of Hymns; para → Versus

2. **Brahmans:** end of Vedas; sacrifices and rituals

3. **Aranyakas:** Hermits (live in jungle)

4. **Upanishads:** knowledge gain

600 BC

Also known as Vedanta

108 Upanishads → Traditional

Main: 10



4 types of Vedas

→ In Early Vedic Age

1. **Rig Veda** → Made up of 10 mandalas

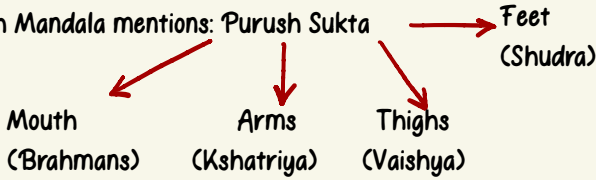
- oldest and largest; collection of Sanskrit hymns

- Total: 1028 hymns

- Verses: 10,600



- Hymns recited by **Hotri**
- **Deities:** Indra, Agni, Vishnu, Varuna
- Gayatri Mantra: by sage **Vishwamitra** (mentioned in **3rd Mandala**)
- **2-7th Mandala:** made first, **Later:** 1st, 9th and 10th
- 10th Mandala mentions: Purush Sukta



- 9th Mandala mentions: Lord Soma (Lord of plants)
- ↓  
Somras (energy drink)

7th Mandala: Battle of 10 kings

- The battle is also called **Dasarajna**
- **Fought between:** Sudasa (Bharat clan) and confederacy of 10 tribes under leadership of Vishwamitra
- Fought on the banks of **Parushni** (Now: Ravi river)
- **Victory:** Sudasa

2. **Sama Veda:** Oldest books on music

- Consists of chanting melodies
- **2 Upanishads:** Chandogya and Kena Upanishad

Rituals and sacrifices

3. **Yajur Veda:** Collection of Mantras

Divided in two sections:

- **Shukla:** contains Satapatha Brahmana → Largest (White)
- **Krishna:** Black

Important Upanishads

1. **Brihadaranyaka** (oldest Upanishad)
2. **Katha** (story of Nachiketa & Yama)

4. **Atharva Veda:** Veda of magic formulaes to ward off evil spirits and diseases

- Divided into 20 khandas

Important Upanishads

1. **Manduka:** Satyameva Jayate is taken from here
2. **Maha Upanishad:** Vasudeva Kutumbkam ("whole world is a family") taken from Chapter 6 of Maha Upanishad and is also found in the Rig Veda

Schools of Philosophy (Believe in Vedas)

1. **Samakhya:** Kapila
2. **Nyaya:** Gautam (Scientific approach)

3. **Vaisheshika**: Kannada (Atoms)
4. **Yoga**: Patanjali
5. **Uttar Mimansa (Vedanta)**: Badrayana

↓  
Philosophical teachings of Upanishads

6. **Purva Mimansa**: Jamini

**Vedangas**: tools to understand Vedas

• Total: 6

1. **Siksha**: study of phonetics
2. **Kalpa**: study of practices (Rita)
3. **Vyankaran**: study of grammar
4. **Nirukta**: study of etymology
5. **Jyoti**: study of light
6. **Chhanda**: study of poetic matters

Early Vedic Age: Rig Veda

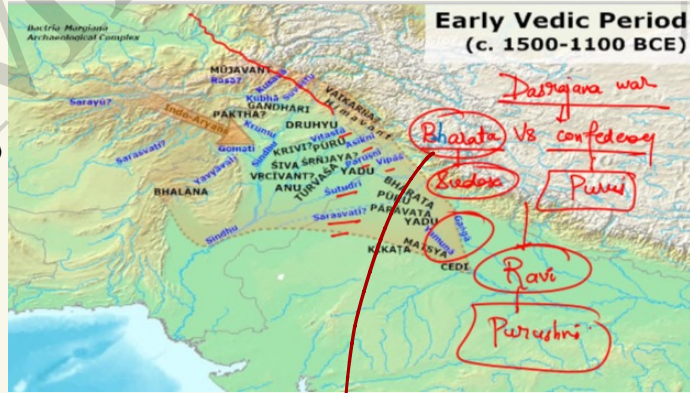
↓  
**Himvanta**  
(Himalaya)

↓  
**Munjavat**  
(Hindu Kush)

'Sapta Sindhu':

Old names:

- **Indus**: Sindhu
- **Jhelum**: Vitasta
- **Chenab**: Askini
- **Ravi**: Parushini
- **Beas**: Bipasha
- **Sutlej**: Shutudri



↓  
Won

Society: 4 Varnas → Not hereditary

Based on professions

- No child marriage
- Widow remarriage → Niyoga (Allowed)
- Patriarchal society → However, the condition of women was good

Cow: was considered as "wealth decider"

Called ↓  
Aghanya Gavishthi: Battle of Cows

- Gomat: one who owns many cows

Polity

- Elective Monarchy → Hereditary
- 1. Sabha: community of few privileged
- 2. Samiti: community of common people
- 3. Vidhata: for religious purpose
- Ranking of officials → Purohita
  - Senani: Army chief
  - Gramani: Village head



Religion: they worshipped nature

Indra, Prithvi, Agni, Soma, Vayu

↓  
Purandara

↓  
Intermediary between Human and God

↓  
Destroyer of forts  
Lord of plough

- Rudra: God of Animals
- Aditi: Mother of Gods
- Savitri: Gayatri Mantra dedicated to it
- No animals were worshipped

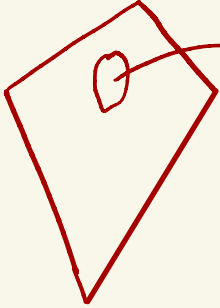
Pottery

- Ochre coloured pottery



## Later Vedic Period

- 1000 BC-600 BC
- Other 3 Vedas



- Ganga-Yamuna Doab
- Aryans expanded from Punjab to Western Uttar Pradesh

### Ganga-Yamuna Doab

- Upper portion: Kuru
  - Middle port: Panchal
- Hastinapur

### Kuru Tribe: 2 clan

- Pandava
  - Kaurava
- Mahabharata (950 BC)

↓  
Compiled on: 4th Century  
AD (400 AD)

- Towards the later Vedic Period they shifted from Doab area to Eastern UP
- Expansion possible: Iron weapons + horses

↓  
Krishna Ayas/Shyam Ayas → Metal

### Agriculture

- Chief means of livelihood
- King also did manual labour in field
- Virhi: Rice
- Wooden ploughshare (Rural)

## Political Organization

- **Sabha**: women no longer allowed to sit in it
- **Samiti** → Dominated by Brahmins
- Centralised
- **Bali**: Voluntary offering to King

## Society

### Varna system:

- Brahmins
  - Kshatriya → Trade
  - Vaishya
  - Sudra → Servant
- Dominated

- Conditions of women deteriorated
- Gotra (clan) system emerged

- Ashram
- Brahmacharya
- Grihastha
- Vanaprastha
- Sannyasa

- **Anuloma Vivaha**: boys higher caste + girl lower caste
- **Pratiloma Vivaha**: girl higher caste + boy lower caste
- **Love marriage**: Gandharva Vivah

## Gods

- Other Gods started emerging

## Pottery

- Later Vedic Age
- Grey coloured pottery/painted grey ware



## One liners (MCQs)

- The language of Aryans: Sanskrit
- Dharmasutras contain: norms for rulers
- As per Rig Veda or Early Vedic Period (1500–1000 BC), the river Goddess was: Sindhu
- Hymn in the form of dialogue in Rig Veda, between Sage Vishwamitra and two rivers that were worshipped as Goddesses were: Beas and Sutlej
- 30 Rig Veda manuscripts from 1800–1500 BC included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register: 2007
- A person's Vedic approach and his relationship with society are determined by four goals in life: Artha, Moksha, Dharma, Kama
- According to "the Ramayana", Ratnakar was other name of: Valmiki
- At one stage in the Vedic age, the King was called "gopati" which meant: Lord of cattle
- Term that denotes "rituals": Kalpa
- Sage Vyasa compiled Puranas and the Mahabharata
- Book written by Aryabhata: Aryabhatiyam