

The Vedic Period

The Vedic period

The speakers of Indo-Aryan language, Sanskrit, entered the north-west India from the Indo-Iranian region.

Their initial settlements were in the valleys of the north-west and the plains of the Punjab. Later, they moved into Indo-Gangetic plains.

By 6th century B.C., they occupied the whole of North India, which was referred to as Aryavarta.

This period between 1500 B.C and 600 B.C may be divided into-

- The Early Vedic Period or Rig Vedic Period (1500 B.C -1000 B.C)
- The Later Vedic Period (1000B.C – 600 B.C).

Different scholars have identified different regions as the original home of the Aryans, includes the Arctic region, Germany, Central Asia and southern Russia.

The Vedic literature consists of the four Vedas – Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva.

- The Rig Veda is the earliest of the four Vedas and it consists of 1028 hymns.
- The Yajur Veda consists of various details of rules to be observed at the time of sacrifice
- The Sama Veda is set to tune for the purpose of chanting during sacrifice. It is called the book of chants and the origins of Indian music are traced in it.
- The Atharva Veda contains details of rituals.

Rig Vedic Age / Early Vedic Period (1500 – 1000 B.C.)

The Rig Veda refers to Saptasindhu or the land of seven rivers, includes the five rivers of Punjab, namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej along with the Indus and Saraswathi.

The basic unit of political organization was kula or family.

The leader of grama was known as gramani.

A group of villages constituted a larger unit called visu, headed by vishayapati.

The highest political unit was called jana or tribe. There were several tribal kingdoms during the Rig Vedic period such as Bharatas, Matsyas, Yadus and Purus.

The head of the kingdom was called as rajan or king.

The king was assisted by purohita or priest and senani or commander of the army in his administration.

TEST SERIES

English



CTET: PAPER II

Maths & Science

10 TOTAL TESTS

Validity : 12 Months

There were two popular bodies called **the Sabha** (a council of elders and the latter) and **Samiti** (a general assembly of the entire people).

The Rig Vedic society was patriarchal, **basic unit of society was family or graham.**

The head of the family was known as **grahapathi.**

Women were given equal opportunities as men for their spiritual and intellectual development.

There were women poets like **Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa and Lopamudra** during the Rig Vedic period.

Wheat and barley, milk and its products like **curd and ghee, vegetables and fruits** were the chief articles of food.

The social divisions were not rigid during the Rig Vedic period as it was in the later Vedic period.

There was **no child marriage and the practice of sati was absent.**

The Rig Vedic Aryans were pastoral people and their main occupation was **cattle rearing.**

They were having **the knowledge about iron and its use .**

Trade was an important economic activity and rivers served as important means of transport.

Trade was conducted on **barter system.** In the later times, **gold coins called nishka** were used as media of exchange in large transactions.

The Rig Vedic Aryans **worshiped the natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain and thunder.**

There were **no temples and no idol worship** during the early Vedic period.

The important Rig Vedic gods were **Prithvi (Earth), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Wind), Varuna (Rain) and Indra (Thunder).**

Indra and Agni were the most popular among all the gods of the early Vedic period.

Varuna was supposed to be the upholder of the natural order.

Besides the Vedas, there are other sacred works like **the Brahmanas, the Upanishads, the Aranyakas and the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata.**

- **The Brahmanas** are the treatises relating to prayer and sacrificial ceremony.
- **The Upanishads** are philosophical texts dealing with topic like the soul, the absolute, the origin of the world and the mysteries of nature.
- **The Aranyakas** are called forest books and they deal with mysticism, rites, rituals and sacrifices.
- The author of Ramayana was **Valmiki** and that of Mahabharata was **Vedavyas.**

TEST SERIES

English



CTET: PAPER II

Social Studies

10 TOTAL TESTS

Validity : 12 Months