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World History

Scan QR Code for Notes



Scan Me

Sources for Knowing Ancient History

- Archaeological sources
- Literary sources
- Accounts of foreign travelers

☆ Archaeological Evidence

- Study of ancient objects / buildings → Archaeology
- Father of Indian Archaeology → Alexander Cunningham

Inscriptions

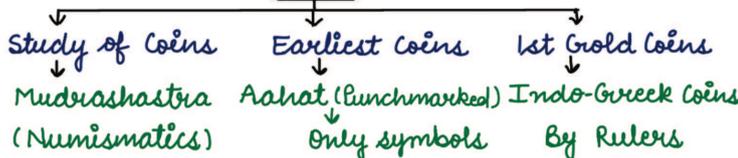
- Study of inscriptions → Epigraphy

Boghazkoi ↓



Inscriptions	Subject
Boghazkoi (1400 BCE) Stone Inscriptions	• Mentions Indra, Mitra, Varuna and Nasatya • Evidence of Aryan migration from Iran to the East
Maski and Guwajara	Clear inscription in the name of Ashoka
Prayag Prashasti	Inscription of Samudragupta, engraved by royal poet Harisena
Eran Inscription	First written evidence of Sati practice (King Bhanugupta)
Bhitari Pillar	First record of Huna invasion on India (Skandagupta)

Coins



- Most gold coins issued by Guptas
- Purest gold coins issued by Kushans



Note - Samudragupta depicted playing Veena on coins.

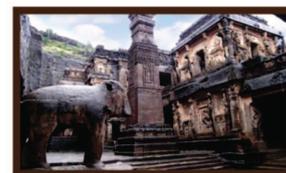
Monuments / Buildings / Caves

- Study of building remains
- Remains of Chandragupta Maurya's palace at Kumhrar (Patna)
- Ashoka built 4 caves in Barabar Hills
 - ↓
 - Sudama Karua Chaupad Veshva Jhopdi Lomas Rishi Cave
 - ↓
 - Gifted to Ajivikas

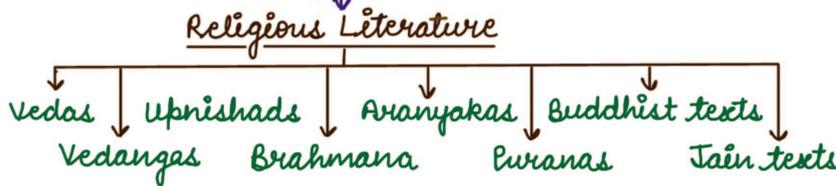


Sculptures / Paintings

- Buddhist sculptures flourished during Kushan period
- Earliest Buddha images: Gandhara Style
- Ajanta cave paintings: 1st century CE to 7th century CE



Literary Sources/Evidences



Note

- Buddhist texts (Tripitakas, Jataka, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa etc.) source of Mauryan history
- Jain texts (Parishishtaparvan, Bhadrabahu Charita, Bhagavati Sutra)
 - ↓
mention is Mahajanapada
- Information about Indo-Greek ruler Menander is obtained from the Milinda Panho

Vedas - 4

- **Rigveda**: Collection of hymns
- **Samaveda**: Collection of hymns in musical form (First reference of music)
- **Yajurveda**: Rules for ritual and sacrifices (ritual-focused)
- **Atharvaveda**: Collection of charms, mantras and spells

Important Historical Texts

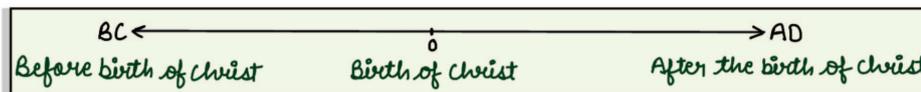
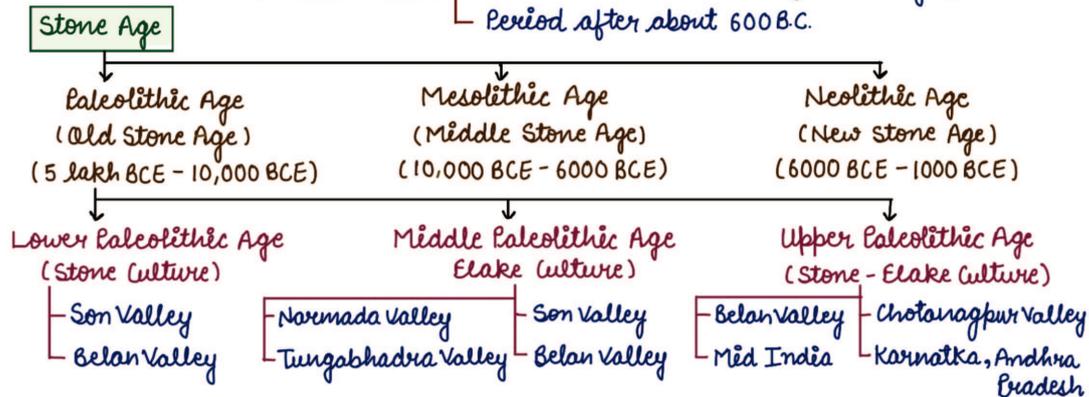
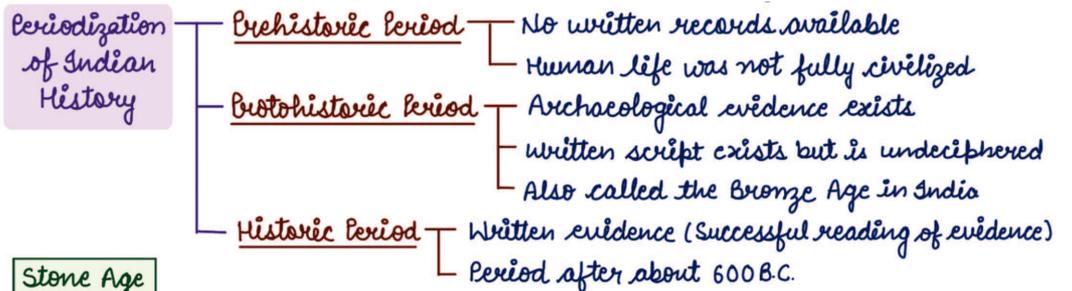
Work	Author	Subject / Information
Ashladyayi	Panini	First Sanskrit grammar book; Pre-Mauryan society
Arthashastra	Kautilya	Mauryan administration; First book about political system
Rajatarangini	Kalhana	History of Kashmir
Mahabhashya	Patanjali	Information about post Mauryan system

☆ Accounts of foreign travelers

Greek	Chinese	Arabic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herodotus (Father of History) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek Historian • Included fictional tales in their writings • Ctesias Royal Physician of Iran • Megasthenes (wrote Indica) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador of Seleucus at Chandragupta Maurya's court • Described Mauryan society and administration • Ptolemy wrote Geography • Pliny wrote Natural History (1st century CE) • Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (Anonymous writer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on Indian ports and trade goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faxian (Came during 402 CE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited during Chandragupta II's reign • Stayed in India for 14 years • Sung Yun (Came during 518 CE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected copies of Buddhist texts in 3 years • Xuanzang (Book → Si-Yu-Ki) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came to India during Harshavardhana's reign (630 CE) and stayed for 15 years. • Described society, religion and politics during Harsha's time • I-Tsing (Came to India in late 7th century) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studied at Nalanda and Vikramshila and wrote about Indian society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al-Biruni <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came to India with Mahmud Ghazni (1017 CE) • Resident of modern Turkmenistan • Wrote → Kitab-ul-Hind or Tahqiq-e-Hind • Ibn Battuta (Travelogue → Rihla) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came to India in 1333 CE • Appointed Qazi (Judge) of Delhi by Muhammad bin Tughlaq <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Author</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taranatha (1575-1634 CE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibetan writer • Wrote → Kangyur and Tangyur • Marco Polo - visited Pandya region at the end of the 13th century (1288-1292 CE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions useful for studying Pandya's history.
<p>Scan QR Code for Texts of Ancient Times</p>		

02

Pre-Historic Age



Paleolithic Age Subdivisions



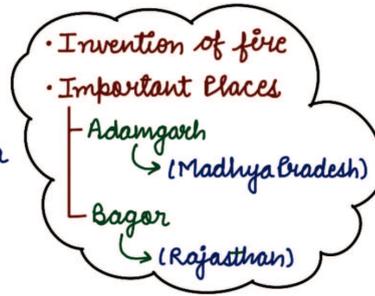
Paleolithic Age Sites			
Site	Region	Site	Region
Son valley	Punjab (Now in Pakistan)	Hungsi	Karnataka
Belan valley	Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	Nurasa	Maharashtra
Didwana	Rajasthan	Latne (Astrich egg evidence)	Maharashtra
Bhimbetka	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Bahalgam	Kashmir

Note - During the Early Paleolithic Period, climate became less humid

Middle Paleolithic Age	Upper Paleolithic Age
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple <u>Elake tool</u> industry was prevalent • Objects were made from stones pebbles • Tool making materials were present along the banks of Narmada and Tungabhadra rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low humidity • Climate relatively warm • Establishment of flint industry

● Mesolithic Age (10,000 - 6,000 BCE)

- Transitional period between Paleolithic and Neolithic age
- Predominantly hunters and pastoralists
- Warmer climate results in increased flora and fauna
- Domestication of non-violent animals
↳ (First domesticated animal - dog)
- Tools: Microliths (small tools)

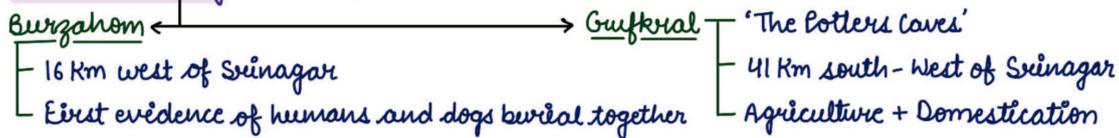


● Neolithic Age (6,000 - 4000 BCE)

- Evidence of domestication of animals
- Evidence of Agriculture (Mehargarh - earliest)
- Evidence of Crops: Wheat, barley (earliest) and Cotton

- Food Producers
- Evidence of Houses
- Invention of Wheel

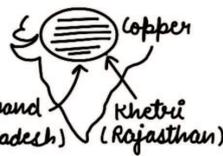
☆ Kashmir Valley → Use of bone tools and weapons



Important Neolithic Sites	
Belan Valley (Koldihwa)	Earliest evidence of rice grains (700 BCE)
Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh)	Evidence of rice cultivation
Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh)	Cave paintings (pictures of humans and animals)
Chirand (Bihar)	Bone tools
Sanganakallu, Brahmagiri, Pikkilhal, Hallur (Karnataka)	Millet cultivation
Budihal (Karnataka), Uttanur (Telangana) (Oldest site), Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh)	Near Bhima, Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers

● Chalcolithic Age

- Discovery of the first metal by humans - Copper
- Use of Copper along with Malankhand stone tools (Madhya Pradesh) and Khetri (Rajasthan)
- Rural (Village-based) culture



Important Chalcolithic Sites

Eastern India	Chirand (on Ganga river), Bardhaman, Midnapore (West Bengal)
Central India	Malwa, Kayatha, Eran
Maha-Rashtra	Jorwe, Nevasa and Daimakad and Chandoli, Songaon, Inamgaon, Prakash and Nasik
South-East Rajasthan	Gilund and Ahar (First)

Main Chalcolithic Cultures	
Culture Name	Region
Ahar Culture	Udaipur region of Rajasthan
Kayatha Culture	Chambal river valley
Rangpur Culture	Coastal region of Gujarat
Malwa Culture	Narmada river valley
Jorwe Culture	Daimakad and Inamgaon of Maharashtra

know- ledge of metal work →

The largest site →

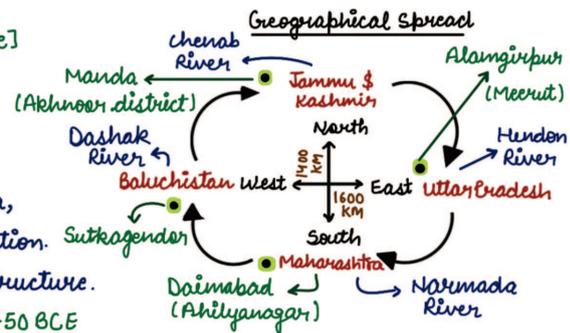
Scan QR Code for Palaeolithic Sites, Mesolithic Sites, Neolithic Sites



03

Indus Valley / Harappan Civilization

- World's most ancient civilization [Bronze Age]
- Contemporary of Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Chinese civilizations.
- Phase of the first urban revolution
- Harappan Civilization was named after Harappa, first excavated under John Marshall's direction.
- Dayaram Sahni discovered large-scale urban structure.
- Dating by radio-carbon (C-14) method - 2350-1750 BCE



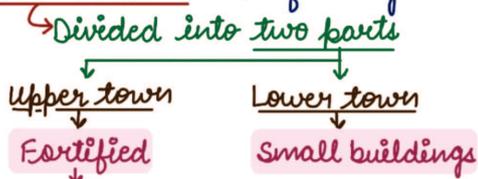
Harappan Civilization : Major Site, Excavator, Year, River, Location and Findings					
Major Site	Excavator	Year	River	Location	Findings
Harappa	Dayaram Sahni	1921	Left bank of Ravi	Sahiwal (Pakistan)	One-horned animal on seals, bronze cart, granary, copper, a shell bull, cemetery R-37, Mother Goddess idol
Mohen-Jodaro	Rakhaldas Banerjee	1922	Right bank of Indus	Larkana (Pakistan)	Mound of the dead, three-faced deity (Bashupati seal), dancer (tribhanga posture), bronze statue, large granary and Great Bath, cotton cloth, bearded man (in steatite)
Chanhudaro	N.G. Majumdar	1931	Indus	Sindh (Pakistan)	Bead-making factory, evidence of lipstick, terracotta bullock cart
Kalibangan	Amalananda Ghosh	1951	Ghaggar (Saraswati)	Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan)	Ploughed fields, carved bricks, black bangles, well in every house, fire altar, terracotta plough
Kot Diji	Fazal Ahmed	1953-54	Indus	Khairpur (Pakistan)	Stone arrows, jewelry hoard, houses with stone foundations, pit dwellings
Rangpur	Rangnath Rao	1953-54	Madar	Kathiawada (Gujarat)	Rice husks, wheat cultivation, horse evidence, cart made of unbaked (sun-dried) bricks
Ropar	Yajyadatta Sharma	1953-56	Sutlej	Ropar (Punjab)	Evidence of dog buried with man, copper axe, conch bangles
Lothal	S.Rangnath Rao	1955-63	Bhogwa	Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Natural dockyard, shipbuilding materials, ivory scale, double burial, rice grains, toy, fire altar, terracotta ship
Banawali	Ravindra Singh Bisht	1974	Saraswati	Hisar (Haryana)	Toy plough made of terracotta, barley, gold plate, clay beads, fishing hook

Note - Rakhigarhi of Hisar (Haryana) is the largest excavated site of Harappan civilization till now, followed by Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

Scan QR Code for Major Sites of Indus Civilisation

☆ Urban Planning

○ Urban remains - Uniformity in construction



Royal buildings, Food granaries

○ Construction followed a grid pattern

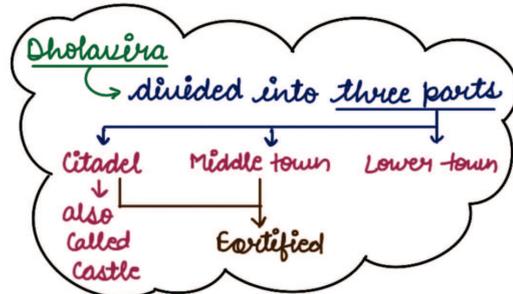
- Houses had windows, Did not open towards the main street but to the back ↳
- Streets intersected at right angles

Lothal - an exception

- Buildings made with baked bricks
- Drainage system - main feature
- Evidence of a Great Bath and Granary (Grain Storage room) from Mohenjo-daro

Harappa's granaries - Found total 12 granaries in rows of 6 each

Imported Items	
Items	Origin
Gold	Karnataka, Afghanistan, Iran
Silver	Iran, Afghanistan, West Asia
Copper	Baluchistan, Khetri (Rajasthan), Oman
Lead	Rajasthan, Iran, Afghanistan
Tin	Central Asia, Afghanistan
Lapis Lazuli	Badakhshan (Afghanistan)
Limestone	Baluchistan, Rajasthan, Gujarat
Carnelian	Saurashtra, Gujarat



☆ Social Life

- Main base - Family
- Matrilineal society
- Four Occupational classes

Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food were prevalent
Wheat, barley, sesame, pulses - main food grains

Priests (Scholars) Warriors Merchants Labourer

- Fishing and hunting were daily activities
- Men and women - both were fond of ornaments
 - Bead-making factory at Chanhudaro
 - Made from gold, silver, ivory, shells

Small figurines - terracotta
(made from baked clay)
↳ Figurines (idols)
Toys or worship idols (female figurines more in numbers)

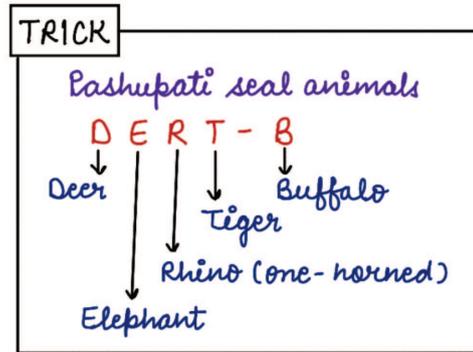
☆ Religious Life

- Importance given to traditions and rituals
- Faith in Mother Goddess
- Carved figure of Vishupati Shiva from Mohenjo-daro
- Humped bull and horned animals - sacred animals
- Lingam worship prevalent

In one sculpture from Mohenjo-daro, a plant shown emerging from a woman's womb
↳ Earth considered as fertility goddess

- Fire altar - found from Kalibangan
- Swastika, wheel and cross also found
- Three methods of funeral rites

- Complete burial] - more prevalent
- Partial burial
- Cremation



Economic Life

Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Nine crops identified</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ wheat, barley, cotton, peas, rye, mustard, sesame, dates, watermelon, etc ↳ Sindon (Greeks) • Rice - Found at Rangpur and Lothal • Use of plough - Evident from Kalibangan
Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No proof of an organized irrigation system • construction of dams for water collection - Dholavira
Animals Husbandry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of goat, buffalo, pig, donkey • Horse evidence - Sutkagendor
Barter system / Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barter system prevalent • Decimal system for measurement (Ivory scale from Lothal) • Binary system for weights (in multiples of 16)
Seals / dockyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made from steatite • Cylindrical seals of Mesopotamia found from Kalibangan • Dockyard evidence from Lothal

☆ Script and Writing Art

- Pictographic script
 - 64 basic signs
 - 250-400 pictographs
 - Engraved on rectangular seals made of steatite
- Writing - mostly from right to left (Boustrophedon script)
 - ↳ Most frequently used symbol - Fish
 - ↳ Most used shape - U

Theories of Decline	
Scholar	Theory
Garden Childe, Wheeler	Invasion by outsiders and Aryans
John Marshall, Mackay, Rao	Floods
Aurel Stein, A.N. Ghosh	Climate Change
M.R. Sahnii	Geological Changes
John Marshall	Administrative weakness
K.A.R. Kennedy	Natural disaster

04

Vedic Age (1500-600 BCE)

Vedic Age

Rig Vedic/ Early Vedic Period (1500-1000 BCE)

Later Vedic Period (1000-600 BCE)

☆ Arrivals of Aryans in India

○ The term Arya means **Noble or Superior**

- Aryans arrived in India before 1500 BCE
- Spoke Indo-European family language
- Settled in Sapta-Sindhu region

↳ 1-Indus ; 2-Jhelum ; 3-Chenab ; 4-Beas ;
5-Ravi ; 6-Sutlej ; 7-Saraswati

- Most important river - **Indus**, Second - **Saraswati** (Called *Naditama* or Best River)

Rivers and their ancient names			
Ancient	Modern	Ancient	Modern
Vitasta	Jhelum	Shatudri	Sutlej
Asikni	Chenab	Saraswati	Ghaggar
Parushni	Ravi	Kubha	Kabul
Vipasha	Beas	Gomal	Gomati

☆ Vedic Literature

Vedic texts were composed by the Aryans

- Because of the compilation of vedas, called Vedic civilization
Compiled by **Krishna Dvaipayana** (Called Veda Vyasa for differentiating Vedas)
- Vedic literature includes four Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads and Vedangas

○ Veda

- Derived from the root 'vid' meaning →
'to know' i.e. 'knowledge'

- All four Vedas collectively called **Samhita**
- Composed by Gods, hence called apaurusheya
not created by humans
- Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda collectively called **Veda-trayi**

○ Rigveda

- Oldest and largest Veda
- Third Mandala (Composed by Vishwamitra)
↳ Gayatri mantra dedicated to the Sun god Savitri
↳ (24 and 108 syllables)

- Ninth Mandala mentions deity **Soma**
↳ plant god

- Tenth Mandala is the latest
↳ includes Purusha Sukta (mentions four varnas)

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Brahmin Kshatriya Vaishya Shudra
(15 times) (9 time) (1 time) (1 time)

- Rigveda uses the word 'Aghanya' for cow

- Brahmana texts
↓ ↓
Aitareya Kaushitaki

Sub-divisions

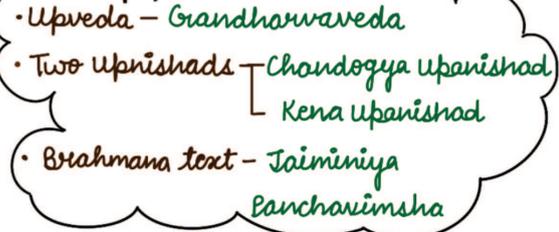
- **Samhita** - mantras
- **Brahmana** - Rituals, ceremonies
- **Aranyaka** - Meditations, Forest texts
- **Upanishad (Vedanta)** - Philosophy, spirituality

Major words contained in Rigveda

Vishnu (100), Indra (289), Agni (218),
Varuna (god of water) (46), Mata
(Mother) (234), Iti (Father) (23),
Ganga (1), Yamuna (3), Prithvi (Earth) (1),
Rashtra (Nation/State) (10)

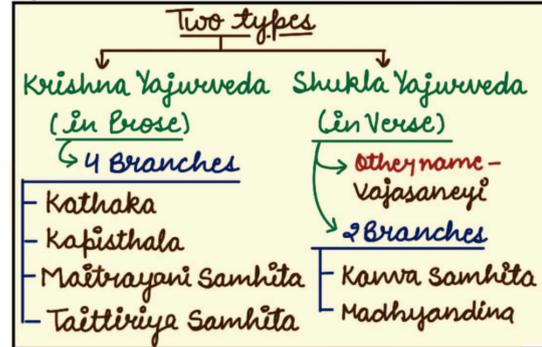
◉ Samaveda

- Literal meaning - Song
- Oldest book of Indian music
- Collection of mantras sung during yajnas
- Reciter - Udgata



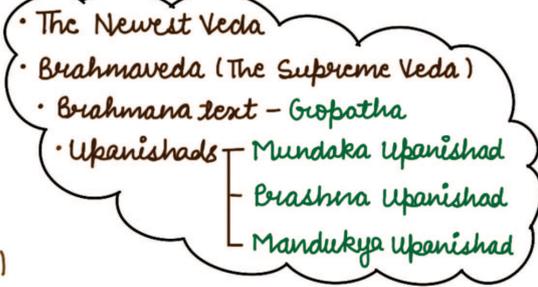
◉ Yajurveda

- Meaning - Yagya or Sacrifice
- Collection of mantras (related to Yagya and Sacrifice)
- Written in Prose and Verse
- Ritual procedures of sacrifices / yagyas
- Reciter - Adhvaryu
- Associated with Shatapatha Brahmana
- Mentions Rajasuya and Vajapeya yajnas
- Upadeva - Dhanurveda (archery)



◉ Atharvaveda (named after Sage Atharva)

- 20 chapters, 731 hymns, 6000 mantras
- Sorcery, charms and rituals (Tantra-Mantra)
- Mentions of medicinal herbs.
- Priest - Brahma
- First mentions of Kashi (Varanasi)
- Two daughters of Brajapati — Sabha Samiti

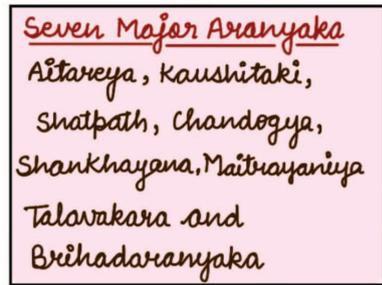


◉ Brahmana text (Author - Sage Yagyavalkya)

- Composed for the specific explanation of the Vedas (in prose form)
- Each is related to a specific Veda
- Aitareya, Kaushitaki, Jaiminiya, etc.

◉ Aranyaka

- Called Aranyaka as they were composed in forests
- As appendices to Brahmana texts
- Detailed description of birth, death, rebirth, etc.

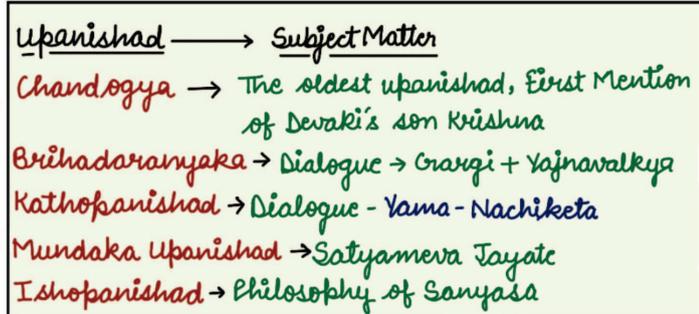


◉ Upanishads

- Vedanta (Last and Supreme purpose of the Vedas)
- Knowledge learned while sitting near Guru
- Philosophical reflection on Brahman and Atman
- Starting point of Indian Philosophy (Source or Foundation)

◉ Vedangas

- Disciplines that assist in understanding the vedas
- Number - 6



Vedanga	
Shiksha	Related to pronunciation methods (pure chanting of Vedic mantras.)
Kalpa	Related to rules of rituals and sacrifices.
Vyakarana	Related to accurate knowledge of words (Face of the Vedas)
Tyotisha	Determines the timing of Vedic yagyas and ceremonies
Chhanda	Preservation of proper recitation of Vedic Hymns.
Nirukta	Related to the meanings of words in the Vedas (soul of the Vedas)
Classical Indian Philosophical Schools	
Sankhya Philosophy - Sage Kapila Nyaya Philosophy - Gautama Yoga Philosophy - Patanjali	Uttara Mimansa (Vedanta) - Badarayana Vaisheshika Philosophy - Sage Kanada Purva Mimansa - Jaimini
<u>Puranas (18)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ancient</u> - Matsya Purana ↳ 10 Avatars of Vishnu • <u>Others</u> - Vayu Puran ↳ in Mauryan Empire - Vishnu Purana (Gupta Empire), Narada, Bhagavata, Vamana 	<u>Mahabharata</u> Maharishi Vyasa Originally - 8800 Shloka First mention (Jaya Samhita) In Ashvalayana 2400 verses as Bharata Grihasutra Now 1 lakh (Shatasastri Samhita) Divided into 18 Parvas (books)
<u>Ramayana (Maharishi Valmiki)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally : 6000 verses Now At 24000 (Chaturvinsati Sahasri Samhita) ↳ Epic is divided into 7 Kandas (books) 	<u>Smritis</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social rules • Manusmriti (ancient), Vishnu Smriti, Narada Smriti etc

☆ Rigvedic Period

- Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda (Vedatrayi) - sources of knowledge
- Based on Rigveda evidence, Aryans did not know about iron in this period
- Aryans lived a tribal form of life

Political Structure



Social Condition

- Classification based on occupations
- Priest - Yagya, Rituals work
- Word 'Jana' mentioned - approx 275 times
- Second important word - Vish (Mentioned (70 times))
- Rigvedic classes
 - ↓
 - ↓
 - ↓
 - Priests Common People Warriors

- Patriarchal family
- Polyandry was prevalent
- Practice of Niyoga and widow Remarriage
- Child marriage was not prevalent

Religious Condition

- Most powerful deity in rigveda
 - Indra - Kurandara - Destroyer of forts war god of Aryans
 - Agni - Second most important deity Mediator between human and gods

Economic Condition

- Knowledge of agriculture; animal husbandry
- War synonym - Gravesti (search for cows)
 - ↳ (Cow considered) → Best form of Wealth

Trade based on barter system
↳ word 'Pani' used for traders

★ Later Vedic Period

- Based on vedic texts composed after Rigvedic period
- Use of Painted Grey Ware (PGW) by inhabitants
 - ↳ Found in Western UP, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan
- Iron weapons and horse drawn chariots used

Bharata and Kuru - Famous clans of this period

- Controlled Delhi region and Upper Doab
- Capital - Hastinapur
- Mahabharata war (950 BCE)
 - ↳ Kauravas vs Pandavas

Political Structure

- Disappearance of institution named Vidhata
- Dominance of Kings and aristocracy in Sabha and Samiti
 - ↳ Women were prohibited from participation
 - ↳ Dominance of Nobles and Brahmins
- King
 - ↳ Elected
 - ↳ Hereditary post (Generally to the eldest son)
 - ↳ Mention of increase in royal power

- Panchala - Initially a tribe or jana later integrated
- Shatapatha Brahmana mentions 12 high officials
 - ↳ Ratnas - Senani, Purohit, Yuvraj Gramani, Mahishi, Sangrahita, Bhagdugha, Akshavapa, Palagala, Grovikeit, Jivagribha, Suta, Rothkan

Vedic Political / Administrative Structure			
Post	Work	Post	Work
King	Head of army	Kshetrapal	Doorkeeper / Guard
Yuvraj	Prince	Akshavapa	King's partner in a dice game
Purohit	Advisor to King	Sangrahita	Treasurer
Mahishi	Chief queen	Bhagdugha	Revenue collector
Palagala	Tester / Entertainer	Gramani	Village head
Grovikritan	Forest department head	Suta	King's charioteer