



2022

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Preface

General knowledge (GK) overall helps us to grow on both fronts : personal as well as academics. Facts of GK make us aware of our surroundings and enhances our consciousness and rational mind. Therefore, all competitive examinations test the skill of the aspirants based on General Knowledge facts. The facts of GK are not permanent, but continuously changing.

For example, at present, there are **28 States** and **8 Union Territories** in India. After the formation of **Telangana** state in 2014, the number of States and Union Territories was 29 and 7 respectively. But after the implementation of the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**, the number of states in India was 28 while the number of union territories increased to 9.

Subsequently, under the **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Act, 2019** (after the merger of two Union Territories namely Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu) the number of Union Territories again decreased to 8. Being aware of this fact, is an example of **General Knowledge Awareness**.

Similarly, the **date of establishment of Sikkim** state has been shown as 26 April 1975 in many books whereas on official website of Sikkim state it has been mentioned as **16 May 1975**.

In this book, **GK Capsule**, presented by Sam-Samayik Ghatna Chakra, we have tried to encapsulate, different facts and information based on various official data and sources, which will be helpful to you avoiding confusions as mentioned in the above examples.

In this compendium (**GK Capsule**) we have tried to sum up several subjects in a short form, so that readers can memorize it in less time.

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Ancient History

- History is the study of past events. The word **history** comes from the ancient Greek word '**historia**', meaning '**inquiry**', 'knowledge acquired by investigation. Herodotus first used the word history in his book '**Historica**', **Herodotus** is, therefore, considered '**Father of History**'.
- The study of history can be divided into three periods in chronological order:

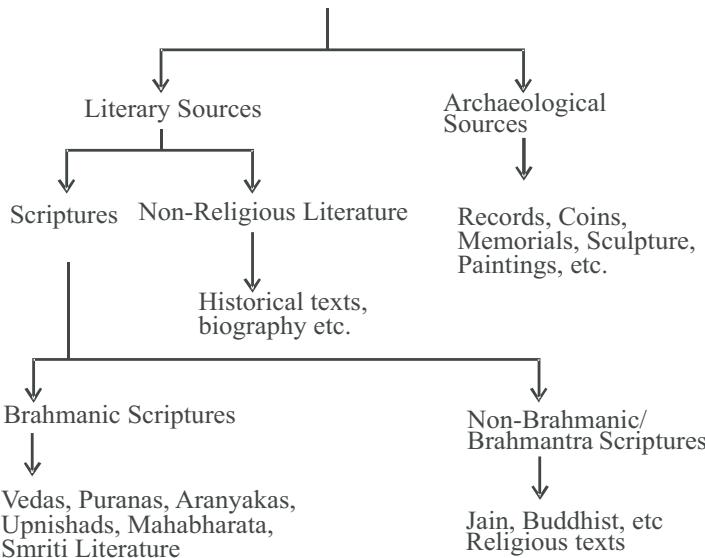
Brahmanic Literature

- Brahmanic literature is very important for the knowledge of ancient Indian history.

Veda (or Vedas)

- The oldest scriptures are the Vedas. The Vedas highlight the religious, social, cultural, economic and political life during the Aryan period.
- Maharshi Krishna Dvaipayana Veda Vyasa is said to be the compiler of Vedas.
- The number of Vedas is four.

Sources for Study of Ancient Indian History



Brahmanic Text

- The Brahmanic texts have been composed in simple prose.
- Brahma means ‘Yagya’, therefore, the texts that have their themes as Yagya are called **Brahmins**. There are different Brahmin texts for each Veda.

Aranyaka

- Aranyaka is the last part of the Brahmin scriptures, in which philosophical and mystical subjects are described.
- They are called ‘Aranyaka’ because they were read in the forest.
- A total of 7 Aranyakas are available.

Upanishad

- The name ‘Upanishad’ is a combination of the terms ‘Upa’ (meaning 'near') and ‘Nishad’ (meaning 'sit'). The secret knowledge that is acquired by sitting near the teacher is called ‘Upanishad’.
- Being the last part of Vedic literature, they are also called ‘Vedanta’.
- In the Upanishads, we get knowledge about the oldest philosophical ideas.
- The National Motto of India, ‘Satyameva Jayate’ is brought from Mundaka Upanishad.
- The number of Upanishads is **108**.

Vedanga

- There are six sutras of Vedanga: Shiksha (Phonetics), Kalpa (Ritual), Vyakarana (Grammar), Nirukta (Etymology), Jyotisha (Astronomy) and Chandas (Meter).

Sutra

- Sutra literature was introduced to keep Vedic literature intact.
- The sutras are derived from a Vedanga called ‘Kalpa’.
- Kalpa is classified into three parts-
 1. Shruta Sutra – Related to sacrificial rituals
 2. Grihya Sutra- Dealing with domestic rituals
 3. Dharma Sutra- Dealing with religious, social and political duties.
- Smritis developed from the Dharma Sutra itself.
- The main smritis are – Manu Smriti, Yajnavalkya Smriti, Parashara Smriti, Narada Smriti, Brihaspati Smriti, etc.
- **Manu Smriti** is considered to be the most ancient and authentic.
- The commentators of Manu Smriti were : Medhatithi, Govindraja, Bharuchi and Kulluk Bhatt.
- The commentators of Yajnavalkya were: Vishwaroop, Vijnaneshwara and Apararka.
- The most important Sanskrit Vyakaran Sutra of Panini is ‘Astadhyayi’.

Purana

- The number of Puranas is **18**.
- The author of Puranas was Maharishi Lomharsha or his son Ugrashrava.
- In the Puranas, there is a description of the rule of kings of Kalyuga.
- Matsya Purana is the most ancient and authentic.

Epic

- Two epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata, are important scripture along with Vedas.
- Ramayana was composed by **Maharshi Valmiki**.
- Mahabharata was composed by **Maharshi Ved Vyas**.
- Mahabharata has one lakh verses that is why it is called ‘Satasaastri Samhita’.
- Epics provide information about the social, religious and political condition of ancient India during that period.

Brahmantra Literature

Buddhist Literature

- The most ancient Buddhist literature is ‘**Tripitaka**’. The three pitakas are: **Sutta Pitaka**, **Vinaya Pitaka** and **Abhidhamma Pitaka**.
- Sutta Pitaka is also called the ‘Encyclopedia of Buddhism’.
- There are stories of Buddha’s former births in the Jatakas.

- The ancient Buddhist texts are in the Pali language.
- The Deep Vamsa and the Maha Vamsa provide information about Mauryan history.
- Mahavastu and Lalitavistara written in Sanskrit, give the life story of Mahatma Buddha.

Jain Literature

- Jain Literature is called ‘**Agama**’.
- Bhagwati Sutra portrays Mahavira’s life.
- Kalpasutra provides the early history of Jainism. Kalpasutra was composed by Bhadrabahu.
- Jain texts were composed in **Prakrit** language.
- The most important Jain scripture is Hemchandra’s **‘Parishishtaparvan’**.
- The final compilation of Jain texts took place in Vallabhi city, Gujarat in the sixth century.

Non-religious Literature

- Historical and semi-historical texts, foreign descriptions and biographies belong to secular or non-religious literature, containing the history of ancient India.
- Kautilya’s Arthashastra has an important place in historical works.
- **Arthashastra is considered to be India’s first political text.**

- Arthashastra is an important source for Mauryan history and theory of political knowledge.
- Mudrarakshasa by Vishakhadatta, Kathasaritsagara by Somadeva, Brihatkathamanjari by Kshemendra are also important sources of Indian history.
- The history of 11th century Kashmir is known by ‘Rajatarangini’ written by Kalhana.

Details of Foreign Travellers

A. Greek and Roman Authors

- Herodotus’s book ‘Histories’ mentions the relationship between India and Persia in fifth century BC.
- Among Alexander’s later writers, three ambassadors Megasthenes, Deimachus and Dionysios are notable.
- Megasthenes, the ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, came to the court of Chandragupta Maurya. Megasthenes, in his book ‘Indica’, has described the contemporary Mauryan society and culture.
- Ptolemy wrote a book called ‘Geography’ in the second century BC.
- Pliny wrote a book called ‘Naturalis Historia’ (Natural History) in the first century BC.

- Natural history provides information about Indian animals, trees, minerals, etc.
- There is no information about the author of the book ‘**Periplus of the Erythraean Sea**’. The author is said to have visited the Indian Ocean in the first century BC and gave information about the Indian ports and merchandise of that period.

B. Chinese Author

- **Fa-Hien** came to India in the fifth century AD during the reign of Chandragupta II.
- **Hiuen Tsang** came to India during the reign of Harsha in the seventh century AD.
- The accounts of Hiuen Tsang’s visit to India are known as ‘**Si-Yu-Ki**’.
- Hiuen Tsang is called ‘Prince of Pilgrims’ or ‘Prince of Passengers’.
- **I-tsing** came to India at the end of the seventh century AD. He has given a description of Vikramshila and Nalanda universities, the costumes of Indians wore besides telling what they ate and drank.
- **Ma-Tuan-Lin** has highlighted the history of the eastern campaigns of Harsha and Chau-Ju-Kua has highlighted the history of the Chola Dynasty.

- The Chinese traveller Sung Yun came to India in 518 AD.

C. Arab Author

- **Al-Beruni** came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni in the 11th century. He wrote a book titled ‘Tehqiq ma li-al-Hind’ or ‘Kitab-al-Hind’ which gives a detailed description of the Rajput's Period society, religion, customs, etc.
- Arab traveller Sulaiman, who visited India in the 9th century AD, described the economic, political and social conditions of the Pal and Pratihara rulers' period.
- Al-Masudi, who came to India from Baghdad, has given information about the history of the period of Rashtrakuta and Pratihara rulers.

D. Other Foreign Authors

- The travelogue of **Ibn Battuta** written in Arabic is ‘**Rihla**’.
- It is an important source of information about the social and cultural life of the Indian subcontinent during the 14th century.
- Taranath was a Tibetan writer. He authored a book titled 'Kangyur' and 'Tengyur'.
- **Marco Polo** came to India during the rule of the **Pandya Dynasty** at the end of the 13th century AD.

Archaeological Sources

- Archaeological sources are the most authentic for the study of ancient India. It mainly consists of inscriptions, coins, monuments, buildings, sculptures and paintings.

Inscriptions

- The most ancient inscriptions belonging to 1400 BC were found at **Bohazkoi** in **Central Asia Minor**.
- Vedic deities Indra, Mitra, Varuna and Nastya (Ashwin) are mentioned in the Bohazkoi inscriptions.
- The oldest inscriptions in India belong to Ashoka, dating back to the 3rd century BC.
- Ashoka's name is found on the inscriptions traced from Maski, Gurjara, Nittur and Udegolam.
- Ashoka's inscriptions are found mostly in Brahmi, Kharoshthi, Greek and Aramaic scripts.
- An article, written by Indo-Greek ambassador, Heliodorus on Garuda Pillar found at Besnagar (Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh) provides evidence of the development of the Bhagvat religion.
- **Mandsaur inscriptions** refer to the categories of silk weavers.
- James Prinsep first read the inscriptions of Ashoka written in Brahmi script in 1837 AD.

Period of History

- The study of inscriptions is called '**Epigraphy**'.
- The 510 BC inscription at Eran mentions Sati Tradition firstly..

Coins

- The study of coins is called '**Numismatics**'.
- In ancient times, coins were made of copper, silver, gold and lead.
- The oldest coins of India are '**Marked**' coins which belong to fifth century BC.
- Satavahana and Gupta rulers issued most coins, in lead and gold respectively.
- The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India.

Sculptures, Memorials, Buildings and Paintings

- In the sculpture of Bharhut, Bodh Gaya and Amravati, there is a lively tableau depicting the life of the people of that time.
- The building style of palaces and temples reveals the level of development of architecture of the time.
- The spread of Indian culture is highlighted by temples and stupas built in South-East and Central Asian countries.
- Beautiful expressions of human imaginations are found in the paintings of Ajanta and Ellora.

Division of History

- To understand the vast material of ancient Indian History, historians have divided into three parts -
(A) Pre-historic (B) Proto-historic (C) Historic

A. Pre-historic

No written records available,
Information only from Archaeological sources.

- Historians have divided this early period of human civilization into three periods-
 - (i) Paleolithic Period
 - (ii) Mesolithic Period
 - (ii) Neolithic Period
- The cave paintings of Bhimbetka belong to the **Early Palaeolithic period**.
- The wheel was used in the **Neolithic period**.
- **Agriculture** began in the **Neolithic period**.
- **The Fire** was first used by humans in the **Neolithic period**.
- The earliest evidence of agriculture was found in Mehrgarh.
- **Animal Husbandry** began in the **Middle Mesolithic Age**.

Important Inscriptions	
Inscriptions	Rulers
Hathigumpha Inscription	King of Kharavela
Junagarh (Girnar) Inscription	Rudradaman
Nashik Prashasti Inscription	Gautami Balashri
Prayag Pillar Inscription	Samudragupta
Mandsaur Stone Inscription	Malwa Ruler, Yashodharman
Aihole Inscription	Pulakeshin II
Gwalior Inscription	Pratihara King Bhoja
Bhitari or Junagarh Pillar Inscription	Skandagupta
Deopara Prashasti Inscription	Bengal King Vijayasena

- Evidence of animal husbandry was found at Adamgarh (Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh) and Bagore (Bhilwara, Rajasthan), India.
- Bone and horn-made equipment belonging to the Mesolithic age were found at **Mahadaha** (Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh).
- **Dog skeleton alongside a human skeleton** was excavated at **Burzahom** (Jammu and Kashmir).
- Pit-houses were used in Burzahom.

Proto-historic Period

- Written sources are available, but could'nt be deciphered.
- The **Harappan Civilization** is known to have existed in this period.
- The **Krishna-Lohit Pottery Culture** belongs to this period.

Historic Period

- Literary, archaeological and accounts of foreign writer's descriptions are the main sources of information about this period.

Chalcolithic Age

- The period in which humans used tools made of **stone** and **copper** is called the '**Copper-Stone Age**' or '**Chalcolithic Age**'.
- **Copper** metal was first used in this period for making tools.
- The main regions where the traces of copper-stone age are found in India are located in south-eastern Rajasthan (Ahar and Gilund), west Madhya Pradesh (Malwa, Kayatha and Eran), Western Maharashtra and South-Eastern India.

- The best pottery of this period is found in Malwa.
- Daimabad was known as the largest settlement of Jorwe culture.
- The ancient name of Ahar is ‘Tambavati’ meaning ‘Place of Copper’.
- The largest copper reserves have been found at Gungeria in Madhya Pradesh.

Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization

Indus (Harappan) Civilization

- Indus civilization is a proto-historical civilization.
 - The age of the Indus civilization is believed to have existed between 2300 and 1700 BC based on radiocarbon dating.
 - The Red Pottery painted in black is the characteristic of the Harappan Civilization.
 - **Note** - The easternmost site of the Indus civilization is **Alamgirpur** (district Meerut, Uttar Pradesh) on the banks of the Hindon river, **Sutkagendor** (Baluchistan) (Westernmost site) situated on the banks of the **Dashak** (Dasht), **Manda** (Northermost site) (Jammu- Kashmir) near Akhnoor on the banks of the Chenab, and
- Daimabad** (District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra) (Southern most site) is situated on the banks of the Godavari.
- The Indus civilization was an **urban civilization**.
 - The extension of Indus civilization is **triangular**.
 - The major cities that flourished during the Indus civilization were Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Kalibangan.
- **Note :** In July, 2021 **Dholavira** was named the 40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- After India gained independence, the maximum number of sites of Harappan civilization were excavated in Gujarat.
 - Inhabitants of Indus knew about copper, bronze, gold and silver.
 - **Godiwada** is situated in Gujarat. It was found during the excavation of **Lothal**.
 - A replica of plough was found at Banawali, Haryana.
 - Evidence of the great bath of the Indus civilization was found at **Mohenjodaro**.

- Evidence of **ploughed field** was found at **Kalibangan** in Rajasthan.
- The Indus civilization was a Bronze Age civilization and its people were unknown to iron.
- Rakhigarhi is situated on the banks of Ghaggar in Hisar, Haryana.
- Evidence of **paddy husk** was found at Rangpur (Gujarat).
- Evidence of pre-Harappan, Harappan and post- Harappan civilization have been found at Rangpur.
- The people of the Indus valley also worshipped Pashupati Shiva. The proof of this is a seal found at Mohenjodaro which shows a yogi in a meditation posture.
- A **tiger** and an **elephant** on the right, and a **rhinoceros** and a **buffalo** on the left to the meditating yogi are depicted.
- The yogi, with three faces in three directions, has an ornament, in the shape of a trident, worn over his head.
- Sir John Marshall related the yogi to '**Rudra Shiva**'.
- **Note:** In 1921, on the instructions of the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India, Sir John Marshall, **Daya Ram Sahni** excavated the Harappan mound on the left bank of Ravi in the then Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan).
- In 1922, Rakhdalas Banerjee unearthed the mounds of Mohenjodaro located on the right bank of the Indus River in Larkana (Sindh province).
- Mohenjodaro literally means "**mound of the dead**".
- **Cotton** textiles were first produced in India during this civilization.
- Seals in the shape of a humped bull were excavated from Mohenjodaro.
- The one-horned unicorn is the most common motif on Indus seals behind the humped bull..
- The sculpture of a **bronze dancing girl** was excavated at **Mohenjodaro**. Its size is $10.5 \times 5 \times 2.5$ cm.
- Evidence of the use of decorative bricks was found at Kalibangan.
- Evidence of the use of baked bricks was also found at Chanhudaro.
- Fire altars were found at Lothal and Kalibangan.

- A great bath was excavated at Mohenjodaro, at the centre of which a bath with a length of 11.88 m. and a width of 7.01 m and depth of 2.43 m. was found.
- Bead making factories were found at Lothal and Chanhudaro.
- The script of the Indus Valley civilization was known to be **Pictographic**.
- The people of the Indus civilization adopted the **grid pattern** for city planning.
- The doors and windows of the houses opened towards the streets rather than on the main road.
- **Lothal was the only city where doors of houses opened towards the main road.**
- The main crops of the Indus Civilization were **wheat** and **barley**.
- **Evidence of rice husks found at Rangpur** and **Lothal** prove that paddy cultivation was prevalent.
- On Mesopotamia inscriptions, the word '**Meluhha**' is inscribed refers to the Indus Civilization.
- The rule of Harappan Culture was probably in the hands of the merchant class.
- **Note** - Piggot has called Harappa and Mohenjodaro, the **twin capitals** of a vast empire.
- The people of Indus civilization worshipped the **mother Goddess** as the '**Goddess of fertility**'.
- Evidence of mother Goddess worship, snake worship, tree worship and water worship are also found during the Indus Valley civilization.
- Swastika symbol was prevalent in Harappan civilization indicating that the Indus people worshipped sun.
- The remains of any temple have not been found in any city of the civilization.
- **Worship of Mother Goddess** was most prevalent.
- It is estimated that the Indus Valley civilization was matriarchal, based on the presence of a large number of female idols.
- Kalibangan was the only Harappan site, surrounded by a rampart with bastions and salients.
- The burial of a dead body in Harappa and burning in Mohenjodaro were in practice.

Vedic Civilization

- The Vedic Civilization developed after the Indus Civilization.
- The Vedic Period is divided into two parts
 - i. Rigvedic Period or Early Vedic Period - 1500 BC to 1000 BC.
 - ii. Post-Vedic Period - 1000 BC to - 600 BC.

1. Rigvedic Period (1500-1000 BC)

- The Vedic civilization was brought to India by Aryans.
 - 'Arya' is a Sanskrit word that literally means '**superior**' or '**noble**'.
 - The Vedic culture was rural.
 - The language of the Aryans was **Sanskrit**.
 - The number of Vedas are four - **Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda** and **Atharvaveda**.
 - The four Vedas are collectively called '**Samhita**'.
 - The most important and **ancient** of the Vedas is the **Rigveda**.
 - The Rigveda was composed during the **Rigvedic Period**.
 - **Yajurveda, Samaveda** and **Atharvaveda** were composed in the later Vedic Period.
- The Rigveda, Yajurveda and Samaveda are called '**Vedatrayi**'.
 - The first description of the word 'Varna' is found in Rigveda.
 - In Rigveda, the word 'Varna' is used for 'colour' but sometimes also for 'choosing a business'.
 - Initially, three varnas are mentioned as Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaishya.
 - The word '**Shudra**' is first found mentioned in Purusha Sukta of the tenth mandala of the Rigveda.
 - Here, the origin of the four varnas is said to be from the various organs of a '**Virata Purusha**'.
 - Rigveda is composed in the praise of God, Yajurveda for sacrificial prayer and Samaveda for chanting songs (music).
 - There are a total of **10 mandalas** in the Rigveda.
 - There are a total of **1028 hymns** and **10552 verses** in the Rigveda.
 - The first and tenth Mandalas are the **latest**.
 - Vishvamitra is the author of the third mandala of Rigveda.
 - The famous **Gayatri Mantra** is found in the **third mandala**.
 - Several matters of the Rigveda are found in '**Avesta**'. Avesta is the oldest text in the Iranian language.

- In Rigveda, a maximum of **250 hymns are dedicated to Indra** and **200 hymns to Agni**.
- The **ninth mandala** of the Rigveda is dedicated to '**Soma**'.
- Laws related to '**Yagya**' are mentioned in the Yajurveda.
- The Yajurveda has two parts - Shukla (bright) Yajurveda and Krishna (dark) Yajurveda.
- Shukla Yajurveda is also known as **Vajasaneyi Samhita**.
- The last part of the Yajurveda is the 'Isha Upanishad', which is concerned with spiritual thought rather than Yajna rituals.
- The Samaveda contains a total of **1875** verses, of which all the rest except 99 are mentioned in Rigveda.
- Indian music has its origin in Samaveda.
- There are 3 main parts of Samaveda - 1. Kauthuma, 2. Ranayaniya and 3. Jaiminiya.
- Atharvaveda has a total of 20 chapters, 730 hymns and 5,987 mantras. It has 1200 mantras taken from Rigveda. There is evidence of practices of tantra - mantra and mesmerism.
- The administrative units of the Aryans were divided into several constituents. These were Kula or family, Grama and Jana.
- The head of the village was called '**Gramani**', Vis was headed by '**Vispati**' and people's ruler was called **Rajan**.
- The Purohit (priest) and the Senani (fighters) were the principal authorities during the Rigvedic period.
- The number of Ratnis (officials) was 12 - Senani, Purohita, Yuvraj, Madhyamasi, Suta, Gramini, Kshatri, Sangrihitri, Bhagadugha, Akshavapa, Palagala and Govinkartana.
- Vrajapati was an officer in charge of the pasture land.
- Vidatha formed the oldest assembly of Aryans.
- In the **Atharvaveda**, the **Sabhas** and the **Samitis** have been called the **two daughters of Prajapati**.
- The Sabha was the '**Body of the Elders**' and the Elites.
- The committee was the central political institution (House of Representatives of the general public). The committee used to appoint, depose and control the King.
- The head of the Samiti was known as '**Ishan**'.
- In the Rigvedic period, women used to participate in the Sabha and the Samiti.

- The Dasharajana war (The battle of ten kings) is described in the 7th mandala of **Rigveda**. This war was fought between Puru King **Sudas** and the **ten kings** on the banks of the **Parushni (Ravi)**.
- The upanishads are philosophical books.
- The Upanishads are also called '**Vedanta**'.
- **For the first time, salvation** is mentioned in Upanishads.
- The dialogue between **Nachiketa** and **Yama** is mentioned in **Kathopanishad**.
- King Janaka of Videha, Pravahanjabali, King of Panchala, Ashwapati, king of Kekaya
- Ajatashatru and King of Kashi are prominent.
- The correct sequence of Vedic Literatures is Vedic literature, **Brahmanas**, **Aranyakas**, Upanishads in that order.
- **Indus river** is mentioned most frequently in **Rigveda**.
- Saraswati was the most sacred river of the Rigvedic Aryans.
- Saraswati was called Matetama, Devitama and Naditama.
- The Ashrams (stages of life) (**Brahmacharya**, **Grihastha**, **Vanaprastha** and **Sanyasa**) came into vogue in the post-Vedic period.

Terms used in Rigvedic Age and Their Meanings

S.No.	Terms	Meaning
1.	Aghanya	Cow
2.	Duhitri	Milker of cow or a Daughter
3.	Urvara	Fertile Land
4.	Langal	Plough
5.	Vrikk	Bull
6.	Yava	Barley
7.	Godhuma	Wheat
8.	Suvarna	Gold
9.	Karesh	Manure
10.	Bekanaat	Group receiving interest by lending money
11.	Tandul	Grain
12.	Vrihi	Rice

- Only three ashrams are mentioned in **Chandogya Upanishad**, while in **Jabalopanishad**, the first four ashrams are mentioned.
- The ‘**Varuna**’ deity was considered as the head of the ‘Rita’ (moral order) in the Vedic Civilization.
- Being the head of moral order, Varuna was also called ‘Ritasyagopa’.
- Brihaspati was considered a priest of Vedic Gods.
- In Vedic Literature, many women are mentioned who composed Vedic mantras such as Apala, Ghosha, Vishwara, Lopamudra, etc.
- Lopamudra was the wife of sage Agastya.
- The Aryan society was patriarchal. The smallest unit of the society was the family or clan, headed by the father, known as ‘**Kulap**’.
- Women had freedom to participate in the yajna with their husbands.
- Child marriage and the purdah system were not prevalent.
- A widow could remarry her deceased husband’s younger brother (Dewar) or some other near relative. This was called ‘**Niyoga System**’.
- The woman who remained unmarried for a lifetime were called ‘**Amaju**’.
- Aryan's favorite beverage was Somaras.
- Aryan’s favourite animal was **horse**.
- The most loved deity of the Aryans was Indra.
- The people of the Rig Vedic Period were not known to iron.
- There is a discussion of Shyam Ayas or Krishna Ayas, a metal used in the later Vedic Period.
- The barter system was prevalent in the transaction.
- The person giving loans on interest was called **Vecnat (usurer)**.
- People of the ‘Pani’ class were engaged in commerce.
- **Agni** was worshipped as an intermediary between humans and deity.
- The Rigveda mentions the Ganges once and the Yamuna three times.
- In Mundakopanishad, the yajna has been compared to a broken boat.
- The famous Satyameva Jayate is derived from Mundakopanishad.
- In Vedic Period, gold ornament or coin was called ‘**Nishka**’.

- Purushamedha is mentioned in the Shatapatha Brahmana.
- The word ‘**Gotra**’ was first mentioned in Rigveda.
- The word ‘**Yava**’ mentioned in Rigveda is established by ‘**Barley**’.
- The original script of the Rigveda was **Brahmi**.
- Aitareya and Kaushitaki are the two Brahmin texts of the Rigveda.
- The goddess of the forest was called ‘**Aranyani**’.

Vedic Period Texts			
Vedas	Brahmanas	Aranyakas	Upanishads
1. Rigveda	Aitareya, Kaushitaki	Aitareya, Kaushitaki	Aitareya, Kaushitaki
2. Samaveda	Tanday, Jaiminaya	Jaiminaya Chhandogyaranyak	Chandogya (most ancient), Jaiminaya
3. Yajurveda	Taittiriya, Shatapatha (biggest)	Taittiriya, Shatapatha	Birhadaranyaka, Kathopanishad
4. Atharvaveda (youngest)	Gopath	—	Mundakopanishad, Mandukyupanishad (smallest)

Old Name	New/Modern Name
Krumu	Kurram
Kubha	Kabul
Vatista	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab
Parushni	Ravi
Shutudri	Sutlej
Vipasa	Beas
Sadaneera	Gandak
Drishadwati	Ghaggar
Gomti	Gomal
Suvastu	Swat

Gods of Rigvedic Period	
Deity	Relations
Indra	Warlord and God of Rain
Agni	The God of Fire, Mediator between God and humans
Varuna	The God of personified water, Creator of the Heavens, Earth and Sun, God of the sea, the Controller of the World, the Patron of the Gods, the Ruler of the season, the Symbol of Truth, the Changer of Seasons, the Doer of day and night.
Dyaus/Dyu	God of Sky
Soma	God of Plants
Usha	Goddess of Dawn
Ashwin	The twin god of war and healers of diseases
Pushan	The God of jungle paths, herdsmen, and cattle
Vishnu	World's Mentor, the preserver and protector of the people.
Maruta	The God of Storm
Rudra	Amoral an Archer God whose arrows brought diseases

Later-Vedic Period (1000-600 BC)

- The history of the later-Vedic period covers periods of Yajurveda, Samaveda, Atharvaveda and Brahmana texts, Aranyaka and Upanishads.
- Rajsuya Yajna was performed during the coronation of the king.
- In this period, 'Varna' came to be based on birth rather than occupation.
- The people of this period used iron weapons.
- Due to the improvement in agriculture and various crafts during this period, the people of the later-Vedic period now took to settled agriculture and residence.
- In this era, the plough was called Sira and the furrow was 'Sita'.
- In the later-Vedic period, the unit of currency was **Nishka** and **Satanama**.
- Sabha and Samiti continued to exist, but 'Vidhata' was completely disappeared.
- The entry of women in Sabha was prohibited.
- The later-Vedic society was divided into four classes -