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Assistant Engineer

Combined State Engineering
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General Studies

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UPPSC-AE Combined State Engineering Services Examination : General Studies

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First Edition: 2020

Reprint: 2021

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Preface

The compilation of this book **General Studies** is motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) Combined State Engineering Services Examination (Assistant Engineer).



B. Singh (Ex. IES)

This textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of General Studies topics and objective types questions articulated in a lucid language. This book not only covers the syllabus of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) Combined State Engineering Services Examination (Assistant Engineer) in a holistic manner but is also useful for other competitive examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book helps aspirants immensely.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.

With Best Wishes

B. Singh

CMD, MADE EASY Group

Contents

General Studies

1. History and Culture01 ~ 74
2. Indian Polity 75 ~ 134
3. Geography 135 ~ 240
4. General Science & Technology241 ~ 364
5. General Knowledge & Current Affairs365 ~ 458

History & Culture

CHAPTER

1

Ancient India



PREHISTORIC PERIOD

- Prehistoric period belongs to the time before the emergence of writing. It is believed that man learnt writing only about 5000-8000 years ago during the Neolithic period.
- The earliest known Neolithic writings are Dispilio Tablet (found in Greece) and Tartaria tablets (found in Romania). Both of these belong to the 6th millennium BC.
- Thus, Prehistory began with the appearance of human beings about five lakh years ago, and finished with the invention of writing about 6-8 thousand years ago.



| Period/ Age | Remarks |
|------------------|---|
| Paleolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People in Paleolithic age were dependent on hunting for their livelihood and used to travel from one place to another depending on the availability of natural resources for survival. They developed sharp weapons of stone for hunting purpose. |
| Mesolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During Mesolithic age, people were still hunter-gatherers, but were possibly starting to stay in one place.• Domestication of animals can be seen in this age. |
| Neolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During Neolithic age, stone tools and weapons were also further modified and were sharpened by fine shedding of the stones.• It also contributed greatly in the field of transportation by an important invention of the wheel. |
| Chalcolithic Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The people of Chalcolithic age practiced agriculture. They used tools made up of copper and stone.• Painted pottery was the most distinguishing feature of all Chalcolithic cultures. |

Important Palaeolithic sites in India

- Lingsugur in Raichur district, Karnataka was the first site to be discovered from India. Apart from this, some of the most important Palaeolithic sites in India are as follows:
- Lidder river Pahalgam , Kashmir.
- Sohan valley Punjab.
- Banks of River Beas, Banganga, Sirsa Haryana.
- Chittorgarh and Kota, Rajasthan.
- River Wagoon, Kadamali basins Rajasthan.
- River Sabaramati and Mahi basins (Rajasthan & Gujarat).
- Basins of river tapti, Godavari, Bhima and Krishna.

- Koregaon, Chandoli and shikarpur (Maharashtra).
- River Raro (Jharkhand).
- River Suvarnrekha (Orissa).
- Ghatprabha River Basin (Karnataka).
- Belan Valley, Allahabad.
- Sinsgi Talav, Didwana Nagaur Rajasthan.
- Hunsgi, Gulbarga in Karnataka.
- Attirampakkam in Tamilnadu.

Palaeolithic tools



Important Mesolithic Sites

- In Rajasthan, Bagor is almost largest Mesolithic site in India. Other major Mesolithic sites in



Rajasthan are Tilwara, Pachpadra basin and Sojat Area etc.

- In Gujarat, mesolithic sites include those on banks of river Sabarmati asuch as Akhaj, Valsana, Hirpur, Langhanj etc.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Sarai Nahar Rai, Morhana Pahar and Lekkahia are important Mesolithic sites.
- In Madhya Pradesh, Bhimbetka along with Adamgarh, Chaturbhujnath Nala are major Mesolithic sites.

- In Jharkhand Chhota nagpur plateau is a major Mesolithic site in India.
- In Odisha, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh are major mesolithic sites.
- In South India, Mesolithic sites are abundant in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Important Neolithic Sites

- Mehrgarh is located on the Bolan River, a tributary of the Indus, at the eastern edge of the Balochistan plateau overlooking the Indus plain. It is supposed to be the oldest agricultural settlement in the Indian subcontinent.
- In Kashmir valley, Burzahom (meaning place of birth) and Gufkral (meaning cave of the potter) are important Neolithic / Chalcolithic sites.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Belan valley is a Neolithic site known as earliest rice-farming community in India.



INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilization or Harappan Civilization was the culmination of a long and sustained cultural evolution in the Indus Valley and surrounding areas. The term "Indus Valley Civilization" was used by John Marshall for the first time. The people of this civilization were definitely in touch with the other civilizations especially with Mesopotamian civilization.
- Indus Valley Civilization is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It flourished around the Indus river and its tributaries. The area consists of modern Pakistan and Northwestern India. Mohenjodaro is the largest site of the Civilization.
- Indus valley civilization is also called as Harappan civilization because Harappa was the first site to be excavated in 1921 under the supervision of **Daya Ram Sahni**.
- The known extent of this civilization in the west is upto Sutkagendor in Baluchistan; Alamgirpur (UP) in the east; Daimabad (Maharashtra) in South; and Manda (J and K) in the north.



- This civilization belongs to Bronze Age/ Chalcolithic Age. Hence, it is also called Bronze Age civilization.
- Contemporary civilizations of Harappan civilization are Mesopotamian or Sumerian civilization, Egyptian civilization and Chinese civilization.
- John Marshall was the first scholar to use the term "Indus Valley Civilization".

Important Sites of Harappan Civilization

1. Harappa

- People of Harappa knew the process of making tarcoal.
- Main gate for the entry in the houses of Harappa was in the north direction.
- R-37 cemetery have been found here.
- Terracotta figurine of Mother Goddess have been found here.

2. Mohenjo-daro

- Mohenjo-daro was discovered in 1922 under the supervision of **R.D. Bannerji**.
- The literal meaning of Mohenjo-daro in Sindhi language is **mound of the dead**.
- The Great Bath, a granary, big halls, a bronze statue of a dancing girl, idol of a yogi and numerous seals have been found here.

- Seven layers of Mohenjo-daro city directs that the city was destroyed and rebuilt seven times.

3. Lothal

- In 1954, Lothal was discovered by S.R. Rao in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat.
- Red & black clay pots, copper tools, brick built tank like structure, a bead making factory and a seal from Iran have been found at Lothal.
- Linear scale of bronze have been found here.
- A dockyard has been found at Lothal.

4. Kalibangan

- Kalibangan was discovered in 1953. It is located in upper Rajasthan.
- It did not have a drainage system.
- A number of firepits **agnikundas** (firepits) have been found here.
- It saw two cultural phases viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.
- A ploughed field have been found here.

5. Dholavira

- Dholavira in Gujarat was discovered in 1992 by **J.P. Joshi**.
- Dholavira shows all the three phases of Harappan civilization.
- A script consists of big alphabets has been found on a gate in Dholavira.

Major Harappan Sites and their Excavators

| Site | River | District | Province/ State | Country | Excavators |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|---|
| Harappa | Ravi | Montgomery | Punjab | Pakistan | Daya Ram Sahni (1921), Madho Swaroop Vatsa (1926), Wheeler (1946) |
| Mohenjodaro | Indus | Larkana | Sindh | Pakistan | Rakhal Das Bannerji (1922), Mackay (1927), Wheeler (1930) |
| Chanhudaro | Indus | Nawabshah | Sindh | Pakistan | Mackay (1925), N.G. Mazumdar (1931) |
| Lothal | Sabarmati & Bhogva | Ahmedabad | Gujarat | India | S.R. Rao (1954) |
| Kalibangan (i.e., the bangles of black colour) | Ghaggar | Sri Gangana-gar | Rajasthan | India | Amalanand Ghosh (1951), B.B. Lai & B.K. Thapar (1961) |
| Banawali | Saraswati | Fatehabad | Haryana | India | R.S. Bist (1973) |
| Dholavira | Luni | Kutchh | Gujarat | India | J.P. Joshi (1967-68) |

| Major Harappan Sites and Archeological Findings | |
|---|--|
| Site | Archaeological Findings |
| Harappa | 6 Granaries in row, Working floors, Workmen's quarters, Virgin-Goddess (seal), Cemetery (R-37, H), Stone symbols of Lingam (male sex organ) & Yoni (female sex organ), Painted pottery, Clay figures of Mother Goddess, Wheat & Barley in wooden mortar, Copper scale, Crucible for bronze, Copper-made mirror, Vanity box, Dice. |
| Mohenjodaro | Great Bath, Great Granary (the largest building of civilization), Assembly hall, Shell strips, Pashupati Mahadeva/Proto-Shiva (seal), Bronze Image of a nude woman dancer, Steatite image of bearded man, Human skeletons huddled together, Painted seal (Demi-God), Clay figures of Mother Goddess, A fragment of woven cotton, Brick Kilns, 2 Mesopotamian seals, 1398 seals (57% to total seals of civilization), Dice. |
| Chanhudaro | City without a citadel, Inkpot, Lipstick; Metal-workers', shell-ornament makers' and bead-makers' shops; Imprint of dog's paw on a brick, Terracotta model of a bullock cart, Bronze toy cart. |
| Kalibangan | Ploughed field surface (Pre-Harappan), 7 Fire altars, Decorated bricks, Wheels of a toy cart, Mesopotamian cylindrical seal. |
| Lothal | Dockyard, Rice husk; Metal-workers', shell-ornament makers' & bead-makers' shops; Fire altars, Terracotta figurine of a horse, Double burial (burying a male and a female in a single grave), Terracotta model of a ship, Dying vat, Persian/ Iranian seal, Baharaineian seal, Painted jar (bird & fox). |
| Surkotada | Bones of horse, Oval grave, Pot burials. |
| Banawali | Lack of chess-board or gridiron pattern town planning, Lack of systematic drainage system, Toy plough, Clay figures of Mother Goddess. |
| Daimabad | Bronze images (Charioteer with chariot, ox, elephant & rhinoceros) |
| Dholavira | A unique water harnessing system and its storm water drainage system, a large well and a bath (giant water reservoirs), Only site to be divided into 3 parts, Largest Harappan inscription used for civic purposes, A stadium. |

Other sites of Harappan Civilisation

Mittathal

- Mittathal is located in the Bhiwani district of Haryana. A terracotta cartwheel has been found. Weights of stones have also been found. The evidence of residence outside a Citadel have been found in Mittathal. The site gives evidences of rise, flourishing and fall of Harappa civilization.

Chanhudaro

- Chanhudaro is situated 130 kms south of Mohenjodaro in Sindh and is the only Harappan city which does not have a fortified citadel. The Chanhudaro has given evidence of factories of various figurines, seals, toys, bone implements so it has been interpreted that it was a settlement

with lots of artisans and was an industrial town.

Banawali

- Banawali is located in Hissar district of Haryana. High quality barley has been found at Banawali.

Alamgirpur

- Alamgirpur is located in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh and is considered to be easternmost boundary of Indus Valley. Important findings of Alamgirpur include pottery, plant fossils, animal bones and copper tools.

Surkotda

- Surkotda is located in the Bhuj area of Gujarat and has provided evidence of the first actual remains of the horse bones.

Rangpur

- Rangpur is located 50 kms from Ahmadabad in Gujarat. This along with Lothal are two sites where rice husk has been found by archaeologists.

Rakhigarhi

- Rakhigarhi in Hissar, Haryana is one of the largest sites of Indus Valley.

Bhagatrav

- Bhagatrav is located in Bharuch district of Gujarat along the Arabian Sea coast and seems to have remained an important port of the Indus valley.

Suktagendor

- Suktagendor was located around 55 kms from the shore of Arabian Sea on the Bank of Dasht River near the Iran Border. It was an important coastal town along with Lothal and Balakot (in Pakistan) and is considered to be the western border of Indus Valley Civilization. It was originally a port and later cut off from the sea due to coastal upliftment. The conclusion has been drawn up that Suktagendor had trade relationships with Babylon.

Kot Diji

- Kot Diji was a pre-harappan site and located on the left bank of River Sindh. This city was destroyed by Force or some fire. A tar is the major object found here. Statues of bull and mother goddess are other things found in Kot diji.

Ropar

- Ropar in Punjab was excavated under Y D Sharma. There is another site Bara near Ropar, which shows an evidence of the decaying culture of pre harappan era.

Important Features of Indus Valley Civilization

- **Town planning** was the most distinguishable feature of the Harappan civilization. Hence, this civilization is also called first urbanisation.
- Towns were divided into parts viz. citadel and lower town. Citadels were occupied by members of ruling class and lower town was inhabited by the common people.
- Harappan cities were developed in **Block Pattern/ Chess Board Pattern** because roads of these cities used to cut each other at right angles.
- Most peculiar feature of town planning was their **drainage system**. Drains were built of burnt bricks and covered by stone lids and manholes for cleaning.
- Complete burial was the most common method of the disposal of the dead.
- They grew wheat and barley on a large scale. The other crops grown were pulses, cereals, cotton, dates, melons, pea, sesamum and mustard.
- No clear evidence of rice has been found, except from Rangpur and Lothal where some grains of rice were found, but they may be of later period.
- Harappan people were mostly peasants and thus the Harappan civilization was an agro-commercial civilization.
- Evidences of hoe and plough have been found in kalibangan and Banawali.
- Harappans domesticated sheep, goat, buffalo and pig. They also knew about tiger, camel, elephant, tortoise, deer, various birds, etc. However, they didnot know about **lion**.
- **Humpless bull** or unicorn was the most important animal.
- They did not know about the horse, except a jaw bone of horse which has been recovered from Surkotada in Gujarat in upper layers of excavation.
- The Harappans were the earliest people to produce cotton because cotton was first produced in this area. The Greeks called it **sindon**, which is derived from sindh.
- The Harappan culture belongs to the Bronze Age, as the people were very well acquainted with the manufacture and use of bronze.
- Leather was also known to them but no evidence of **silk** has been found.
- Harappans used to make seals, stone statues, terracotta figurines, etc.
- Harappans did not know about iron.
- Seals are made of **steatite** and they are square in shape.
- Land and sea trade was in vogue.
- Most important trading partner was Mesopotamia. It is evident from the inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Other trading partners were Afghanistan, Persia, central Asia and various parts of India.

GREAT BATH

The most famous building found at Mohenjo-Daro is a great bath. It is a 6×12 meter specimen of beautiful brick work. The water for the bath was provided from a well in an adjacent room. The floor was made up of bricks. Floor and outer walls were bituminized so that there is no leakage of water. There are open porch's on four sides of the bath. There is use of Burnt bricks, Mortar and Gypsum in the Great bath but NO use of stone is there.

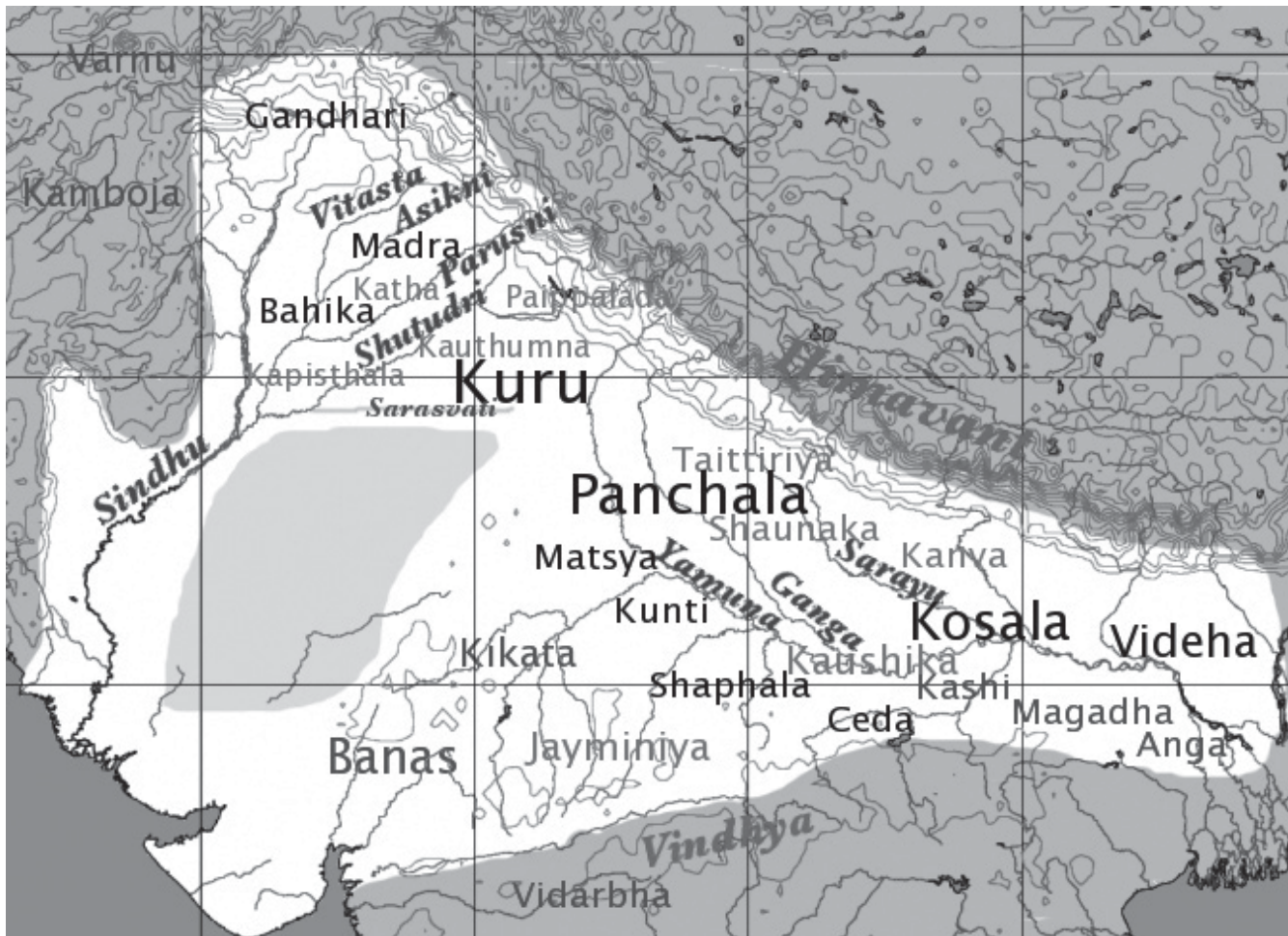
- The Mesopotamian inscriptions refer to trade relations with **Meluha** which was the ancient name given to Indus region.
- The mode of trade was barter system.
- Pashupati seal has been found from Mohenjo-daro in which a Yogi figure has been depicted. The Yogi on the seal is surrounded by buffalo, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and deer. Hence, the Yogi is said to be proto-Shiva.
- Signs of phallic worship have been found.
- Harappans worshipped Mother Goddess. It is evident from the terracotta figurine recovered from Harappa.
- Harappans worshipped *pipal* tree.
- No evidences of temples have been found in this civilization.
- The Harappan script is not alphabetical but mainly pictographic.
- The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
- Script was consisted of about 400 symbols, out of which 75 were original and remaining were their variants.

| Major Imports Items | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Material | Source place |
| Gold | Kolar (Karnataka), Afghanistan, Persia (Iran) |
| Silver | Afghanistan, Persia |
| Copper | Khetri (Rajasthan), Baluchistan, Saudi Arabia |
| Lead | Rajasthan, South India, Afghanistan, Iran |
| Tin | Afghanistan, Central Asia |
| Agates | Western India |
| Lapis Lazuri and Sapphire | Afghanistan |
| Turquoise | Central Asia, Iran |
| Amethyst | Maharashtra |



VEDIC PERIOD

- The term Aryan denotes a linguistic group and not a race. Their language Vedic Sanskrit has definite relationship with major languages of Europe and Asia. Scholars call this group of languages as Indo-European and the people speaking these languages as Indo-Europeans or Indo-Aryans. On this basis, it is postulated that Aryans spoke a common language, shared a common home and dispersed in all directions, including India. However, there are no written / archaeological evidence on Aryan migration and this historical fact has been established on the basis of comparative philology only.
- Central Asian theory of Max Muller is widely accepted theory of the origin of Aryans.
- The source of knowledge about the Aryans is the Vedic literature, of which Vedas are the most important. **Veda** means knowledge.
- The Vedas are not an individual religious work. The Vedic literature had grown in the course of many centuries and was handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Hence, they are called *shruti*.



- The Vedas are also called *apaurusheya* which means man did not compose them; and *nitya* which means they were existing in all eternity.

Views by scholars on Original Home of Aryans

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Europe | Sir W. Jones |
| 2. | Central Asia | Max Muller |
| 3. | Arctic Region | Bal Gangadhar Tilak |
| 4. | Tibet Region | Dayanand Saraswati |
| 5. | Pancir Plateau Turkistan | Mayor Hurz feld |

Vedic Literature

- Vedic literature consists of four classes of literary creations, viz. Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.
- The Vedas are collection of hymns, prayers, charms, litanies and sacrificial formulae. These are four in number.

Rig-Veda

- Rig-Veda is the oldest literature of the world and is known as “First testament” of mankind.
- The famous Gayatri Mantra comes from third Mandala of Rig-Veda.
- The first hymn (1.1) of Rig-Veda is dedicated to Vedic God Agni.
- One entire Mandala (ninth) is dedicated to the Vedic beverage Soma.
- The Nadistuti sukta is hymn dedicated to 10 rivers of contemporary India.
- The Nasadiya Sukta talks about the origin of the Universe and is part of 10th Mandala. This
- Sukta states a paradox “not the non-existent existed, nor did the existent exist then”. This particular statement has attracted lots of commentaries in both Indian and western theology.
- There are two branches of Rig-Veda viz. Shakala Shakha and Vatal or Bhashkala Shakha.
- Two Brahmanas of Rig-Veda are Aitreya and Kaushitaki.

Yajurveda

- It contains rituals for yajnas and is ascribed to Adhvaryus who prepared ground for Yajnas.
- It is world's oldest prose literature.
- Two branches Shukla and Shyama. Shyama is older than Shukla and has no separate Brahman.
- Shukla is newer and has three Brahmanas attached to it viz. Kathaka, Taittiriya and Shatapatha Brahmana.
- Dhanurveda is Upaveda of Yajurveda.

Sam Veda

- Samaveda contains the rhythmic compilation of Hymns for Rig-Veda. The 1549 hymns are there to be sung at the Soma Sacrifice by a special class of Brahmins called Udgatris.
- Gandharveveda is Upaveda of Samveda.
- Panchavisha, Shadvisha and Jaiminiya Brahmanas are attached to Samaveda.

Atharvaveda

- Atharvaveda is chronologically the latest Veda. It describes the popular beliefs and superstitions of the humble folk.
- It contains the magic spells, incorporates much of early traditions of healing and magic that are paralleled in other Indo-European literatures.
- It is ascribed to Atharvans and Angiras.

- Gopatha Brahman is linked to Atharvaveda.
- Atharvaveda has no Aranyakas appended to it.

Upanishads

- Upanishad means sitting down near someone and denotes a student sitting near his guru to learn. They specify philosophical knowledge and spiritual learning and their main motto is “Knowledge Awards Salvation”.
- Upanishads are also called Vedanta, because they reveal the final aim of Vedas.
- Oldest Upanishads are Brhadaranyaka and Chandogya. Latest Upanishad is Muktik Upanishad recorded by Dara Shikoh in 1656.
- Dara Shikoh, the unlucky son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan is known to have translated fifty Upanishads into Persian.
- There are 108 Upanishads, of which 11 are predominant and called Mukhya Upanishads.

Shatdarshana

Hindu philosophy is traditionally divided into six astika (orthodox) schools of thought, or darsanam, which accept the Vedas as supreme revealed scriptures. The astika schools are:

1. Samkhya, an atheistic and strongly dualist theoretical exposition of consciousness and matter.
2. Yoga, a school emphasizing meditation, contemplation and liberation.
3. Nyaya or logic, explores sources of knowledge (Nyaya Sutras).
4. Vaisheshika, an empiricist school of atomism.
5. Mimamsa, an anti-ascetic and anti-mysticist school of orthopraxy.
6. Vedanta, the last segment of knowledge in the Vedas, or the ‘Jnan’ (knowledge) ‘Kanda’.

Other Rig Vedic Gods

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Pusan | The guardian of the Jungle Paths and Roads. |
| Aditi | Goddess of Eternity |
| Gandhrava | Divine Musicians |
| Rbhus | Three semi divine deities of Rig-Veda. |
| Rudra | Archer of Gods |
| Aranyani | Goddess of Forests |
| Usha | Goddess of Dawn |
| Prithvi | Goddess Earth |

The Rig-Vedic Tribes

We know about at least 33 tribes belonging to Early and later Vedic era from Rig-Veda. The most important source of these tribes is the Dasrajana or the battle of ten Kings. According to Rigveda, this battle happened between Sudas of Bharata tribe and the Confederacy of ten well-known tribes viz. Puru, Yadu, Turvasa, Anu, Druhyu, Alina, Paktha, Bhalanas, Shiva and Vishanin. This bloody battle was fought on the banks of Purushni (Ravi) and Bharata emerged victorious in it.

| Important office holders in the Vedic era | |
|---|------------------|
| Official | Rigvedic Title |
| King | Rajan |
| Priest | Purohita |
| Commander | Senani |
| Officer in Charge of Pastoral Lands | Vrajapati |
| Police Officers | Jivagribha |
| Spy | Spasa |
| Head of the Village | Gramini |
| Head of the family | Kulapa (Dampati) |
| Mediator in Disputes | Madhyamasi |
| Tax Collector | Bhagadugha |
| Treasurer | Sangrahitri |
| Chief Queen | Mahishi |

| Important office holders in the Vedic era | |
|---|----------------|
| Official | Rigvedic Title |
| Charioteer | Suta |
| Messenger | Palagala |
| Accountant | Akshvapa |

| Sacrifices & Rituals | |
|----------------------|---|
| Rajsuya | This sacrifice conferred supreme power to King. |
| Asvamedha | authorize the King an unquestioned control over an area. |
| Vajapeya | It was a chariot race in which the Royal Chariot was to win race against the kinsmen. This elevated the Raja to a Samrat. |
| Garbhdharana | The conception ceremony. |
| Pumsayam | Ritual to procure a male child. |
| Sementonayam | Ritual to ensure the safety of the child in the womb. |
| Jatakarma | Birth ceremony performed prior to cutting the umbilical chord of the newborn infant |
| Culakarma | performed in 3rd year of the baby's life |
| Upnayana | performed in the eighth year to confer dvija status. |

| Other Vedic Literatures | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Name | Details |
| The Brahmanas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are prose texts which contain details about the meanings of Vedic hymns, their applications, stories of their origins, etc. The Aitareya or Kaushitaki Brahmanas are assigned to the Rigveda; Tandya and Jaiminiya Brahmanas to Samaveda; Taittiriya and Shatapatha Brahmanas to the Yajurveda; and Gopath Brahmanas to the Atharvaveda. Tandya Brahmana is the oldest of all the Brahmanas. Shatapatha Brahmana is the most voluminous among all the Brahmanas. |
| The Aranyakas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are the concluding portions of the Brahmanas. These were called Aranyakas because the mystical and philosophical character of their content required that they should be studied in the solitude of aranya (forest). They initiated a changeover from materialistic religion to spiritual religion. Thus, they formed a tradition that culminates in the Upanishads. Aranyakas are like a bridge between Vedas cum Brahmanas and Upanishads. |

| Other Vedic Literatures | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Name | Details |
| The Upanishads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are the last phase of Vedic literature. Upanishads deal with metaphysics i.e. philosophy. These are also called Vedanta because these were the last books to be compiled in the series of Vedic literature. These contain subject matter about soul, brahman, rebirth, theory of karma, etc. Upanishads emphasized the path of knowledge. The literal meaning of Upanishad is 'to sit near the feet of'. The most important Upanishads are Chhandogya Upanishad and Brahadaranyaka Upanishad. The other important Upanishads are Katha Upanishad, Isha Upanishad, Prasna Upanishad, Mundaka Upanishad, etc. The conversation of Yama and Nachiketa is the subject matter of Katha Upanishad. The word <i>satyameva jayate</i> in the National Emblem is taken from Mundaka Upanishad. |

| Ancient Rivers | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Rigvedic Names | Modern Names |
| Sindhu | Indus |
| Vitasta | Jhelum |
| Askin | Chenab |
| Parushni | Ravi |
| Vipasa | Beas |
| Satudri | Sutlej |
| Drishadvati | Ghaggar |
| Krumu | Kurram |
| Gomal | Gomati |

Important Features of Vedic Period

Early Vedic Aryans

- The early Aryans lived in the geographical area covered by eastern Afghanistan, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh.
- As per the Rigveda, the whole region in which the Aryans first settled in the Indian subcontinent is called *saptasindhava* region or the **Land of the Seven Rivers**.
- Rigveda also mentions about The Himalayas, Mijavant mountains and **Samudra** (ocean).
- Rigveda mentions Saraswati and Sindhu falling in the ocean. Saraswati was the most revered river in the Rigveda.

- Ganga and Yamuna were not the important rivers in the Rigvedic period.
- The polity of the early vedic Aryans was basically a tribal polity with the tribal chief in the centre.
- The tribe was called *jana* and the tribal chief was called *rajana*.
- Rajana* looked after the affairs of the tribe with the help of other tribal members and two tribal assemblies called **Sabha** and **Samiti**.
- Sabha** was consisted of elder members of the tribe where as the **Samiti** which mainly dealt with policy decisions and political business included common people.
- Women were allowed to participate in the proceedings of **Sabha** and **Vidatha**.
- The economy was a semi-nomadic pastoral economy based on pasture lands.
- Cattle rearing was the main occupation of the early vedic Aryans. However, agriculture was also practised as a secondary occupation.
- Barley was the most important crop which was called *yava*. Wheat was a secondary crop.
- Cow was the most important animal of the Rigvedic Aryans.
- Rigvedic Aryans used the **horses** on a large scale which were absent in the Harappan culture.
- The term *ayas* used for copper or bronze shows that metal working was known.
- The most important divinity in the Rigveda is **Indra**, who is called **Purandar** (breaker of forts).
- Indra played the role of a warlord and he is also considered to be the rain god. 250 hymns are devoted to him in Rigveda.

- **Agni** was only next to Indra. He is the fire god to which 200 hymns are devoted. Agni acted as a kind of intermediary between the gods on the one hand, and the people on the other
- The third important position is occupied by **Varuna**, who personified water.
- **Soma** was considered to be the god of plants and an intoxicating drink was named after him.
- Society was patriarchal and the eldest male of the **kutumba** was the head of the family.
- Varna system based on birth was not prevailing in this period.
- The four varnas (**brahmana**, **kshatriya**, **vaishya** and **shudra**) were mentioned for the first time in the **Purushsukta** of Mandal X of Rigveda.
- Every member of same family was free to take any occupation.
- The smallest unit of society was family which was primarily monogamous and patriarchal.
- The **niyoga** system provided a childless widow could remarry the younger brother of her deceased husband for the sake of progeny.
- Child marriage was not in vogue.
- The fathers property was inherited by son. The daughter could inherit it, only if she was the only child or her parents.

Later Vedic Aryans

- The later vedic Aryans expanded from Punjab over the whole of western Uttar Pradesh covered by the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- The political system of the later vedic Aryans shifted towards monarchy.
- The king now ruled over an area of land called **Janapada**.
- The kingship was being given the status of divine origin. Expressions like **adhiraja**, **rajadhiraja**, **samrat** and **ekrat** are used in most of the texts.
- Women were no longer permitted to sit in the **sabha** and it was now dominated by nobles and Brahmins.
- King performed the **rajasuya** sacrifice which was supposed to confer supreme power on him.
- He performed the **ashvamedha** sacrifice which meant unquestioned control over an area in which the royal horse ran uninterrupted.
- He also performed **vajapeya** sacrifice or chariot race, in which the royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen.
- Agriculture became primary occupation in later vedic times, though cattle rearing continued as secondary occupation.
- Rice (**vrihi**) and wheat (**Godhuma**) became the chief crops of the later vedic aryaans, though they continued to produce barley (**yava**).
- Few agricultural tools made of iron were used. Later vedic texts speak of six, eight, twelve and even twenty-four oxen yoked to the plough.
- The plough was known as **sira** and the furrow was known as **sita**.
- A new metal **iron** was introduced in the vedic age.
- It was known as **shyam ayas** and copper was known as **lohit ayas**.
- The later vedic people were acquainted with four types of pottery-black and red ware, black slipped ware, painted grey ware and red ware.
- The medium of exchange was the cow and some types of jewellery.
- In later vedic period varna came to be birth based rather than profession based.

Occupation Based Four Varnas

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Teacher and priests | Brahmanas |
| Rulers, Administrators | Kshatriyas |
| Farmer, Merchant, Bankers | Vaishyas |
| Artisan and Labourers | Sudras |

- All the three higher varnas were entitled to **upanayana** or investiture with the sacred thread according to the vedic mantras.
- The fourth varna (**shudra**) was deprived of the sacred thread ceremony and the recitation of the gayatri mantra.
- Incidents of polygamy and child marriage increased as compared to early vedic period.
- The two outstanding Rigvedic gods, Indra and Agni lost their former importance.
- The concept of **trimutri** emerged by which **Prajapati** (creator), **Rudra** (god of animals) and **Vishnu** (preserver and protector) came into being.
- **Pushan**, who was supposed to look after cattle, came to be regarded as the god of the **shudras**, although in the age of Rigveda cattle rearing was the primary occupation of the Aryans.
- The **brahmanas** claimed a monopoly of priestly knowledge and expertise.

| Types of Painting | Remarks |
|--------------------|---|
| Mysore painting | Mysore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting that originated in the town of Mysore in Karnataka. These paintings are known for their elegance, muted colours and attention to detail. The themes for most of these paintings are Hindu Gods and Goddesses and scenes from Hindu mythology. |
| Tanjore painting | Tanjore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting native to the town of Tanjore in Tamil Nadu. The art form dates back to the early 9th century, a period dominated by the Chola rulers, who encouraged art and literature. |
| Madhubani painting | Madhubani painting is a style of painting, practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar state. Themes revolve around Hindu Gods and mythology, along with scenes from the royal court and social events like weddings. |
| Pahari painting | The Pahari painting developed and flourished during 17th to 19th centuries stretching from Jammu to Almora and Garhwal, in the sub-Himalayan India, through Himachal Pradesh. |

Practice Questions

HISTORY & CULTURE

- Q.1** Railway and telegraph systems were introduced in India by
 (a) Lord Cornwallis
 (b) Lord Dalhousie
 (c) Lord Wellesley
 (d) Lord Bentinck
- Q.2** Which type of pottery was most popular with the Later Vedic people?
 (a) Black and Grey Ware
 (b) Black and Red Ware
 (c) Painted Grey Ware
 (d) Red Ware
- Q.3** The Pitaka that contains pronouncements attributed to the Buddha, laying down numerous rules for the conduct of the order is
 (a) Vinaya Pitaka
 (b) Sutta Pitaka
 (c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
 (d) None of the above
- Q.4** In Jainism, 'Perfect Knowledge' is referred to as
 (a) Nirvana (b) Ratna
 (c) Kaivalya (d) Jina
- Q.5** What is the correct chronological sequence of the following Satavahana rulers?
 1. Simuka
 2. Satakarni-I
 3. Gautamiputra Satakarni
 4. Vasishthiputra Pulumayi
 Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
 (a) 1, 2, 4, 3 (b) 2, 1, 3, 4
 (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 3, 4, 2
- Q.6** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
 (a) Kharavela : Hathigumpha inscription
 (b) Simuka : Nanaghat inscription
 (c) Sungas : Nasik inscription
 (d) Rudradaman-I : Girnar inscription
- Q.7** What was the purpose of the Indian visit of Hiuen Tsang?
 (a) To visit the holy places connected with Buddhism
 (b) To amass wealth
 (c) To know the geography of India
 (d) To establish political ties with India

- Q.8** Match **List-I** (Names of rulers) with **List-II** (Their titles) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

| List-I | List-II |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Harshavardhana | 1. Vichitrachitta |
| B. Samudragupta | 2. Gangaikondan |
| C. Rajendra-I | 3. Kaviraja |
| D. Mahendravarman-I | 4. Siladitya |

Codes:

| | A | B | C | D |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (d) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

- Q.9** Which of the following could be associated with Buddhism?

1. Rejection of the authority of Vedas
2. Denial of God
3. Belief in the categories of jiva and ajiva
4. The concept of nirvana
5. Theory of prakriti and purusha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 3 | (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| (c) 1, 2 and 4 | (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 |

- Q.10** The famous rock-cut temple of Kailasa is at
- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| (a) Ajanta | (b) Badami |
| (c) Ellora | (d) Elephanta |

- Q.11** In which one of the following do we come across a detailed account of the municipal administration of Mauryas?

- (a) The Arthashastra of Kautilya
- (b) The account of Megasthenes
- (c) The Mudrarakshasa
- (d) Mauryan inscription

- Q.12** Consider the following statements:

Ajanta Painting portray:

1. Buddhist elements
2. Secular aspects
3. Jain culture

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 alone | (b) 1 and 2 |
| (c) 1, 2 and 3 | (d) 3 alone |

- Q.13** The words Satyameva Jayate in the State Emblem adopted by the Government of India have been taken from which Upanishad?

- (a) Aitareya Upanishad
- (b) Mundaka Upanishad
- (c) Adhyatma Upanishad
- (d) Prasna Upanishad

- Q.14** The construction building of the famous Kailasa temple at Ellora was executed under which Rashtrakuta king

- (a) Amoghavarsha-I
- (b) Govinda-III
- (c) Indra-III
- (d) Krishna-I

- Q.15** The Rathas of Mahabalipuram, the rock-cut architecture, were built by a king of which dynasty?

- (a) Chola
- (b) Hoysala
- (c) Pallava
- (d) Rashtrakuta

- Q.16** A prominent Harappan site, being surrounded by flood barriers in order to protect it with the aid of UNESCO funds, is

- (a) Mohenjo-daro
- (b) Dholavira
- (c) Lothal
- (d) Rakhigarhi

- Q.17** The greatest Chola king in the dynasty of the Cholas of Thanjavur was

- (a) Parantaka
- (b) Rajaraja-I
- (b) Rajendra-I
- (d) Kulottunga

- Q.18** The most important source of our information on ancient India's cultural history are

- (a) archaeological excavations
- (b) antiquities and monuments
- (c) literature and epics
- (d) inscriptions and coins

- Q.19** The granary discovered at Harappa was located

- (a) within the citadel at Mohenjo-daro
- (b) in the lower town
- (c) near the river Ravi
- (d) beside the western gate of the city

- Q.20** Which one of following pairs is not correctly matched?

- (a) Samaveda Samhita : Origins of Indian music
- (b) Atharvaveda Samhita : Origins of Indian medicine
- (c) Rigveda Samhita : Earliest prose
- (d) Yajurveda Samhita : Origins of rituals

- Q.91** With reference to Indian freedom struggle, which one of the following events occurred earliest?
 (a) Swadeshi movement
 (b) Shifting of imperial capital from Calcutta to Delhi
 (c) Lucknow Pact
 (d) Khilafat movement
- Q.92** Who founded the 'Indian League' in London?
 (a) Annie Besant
 (b) Bhikaji Cama
 (c) Shyamji Krishna Verma
 (d) V.K. Krishna Menon
- Q.93** During India's freedom struggle, which one of the following led to the first "All India Hartal"?
 (a) Protest against Rowlatt Act
 (b) Protest against Jallianwalabagh incident
 (c) Arrest and trial of Mahatma Gandhi
 (d) Arrival of Simon Commission
- Q.94** During the Indian freedom struggle, who of the following started the newspaper "Bande Matram"?
 (a) Barindra Kumar Ghose
 (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
 (c) Devendra Nath Tagore
 (d) Surendra Nath Banerjee
- Q.95** Who of the following is popularly known as 'Deshbandhu'?
 (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 (b) Chittaranjan Das
 (c) G.B. Pant
 (d) R.M. Lohia
- Q.96** Who of the following resigned as Defence Minister in the wake of Indo-China war in 1962?
 (a) Sardar Baldev Singh
 (b) Sardar Swaran Singh
 (c) V.K. Krishna Menon
 (d) Y. B. Chavan
- Q.97** Who of the following was the founder of Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts) movement?
 (a) Hakim Ajmal Khan
 (b) Shaukat Ali
 (c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
 (d) Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan
- Q.98** Who is the author of the play 'Nil Darpan'?
 (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 (b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
 (c) Deen Bandhu Mitra
 (d) Rabindra Nath Tagore
- Q.99** Due to whose efforts were the legal obstacles to the remarriage of widows removed through law in the year 1856?
 (a) Raja Rammohan Roy
 (b) Keshab Chandra Sen
 (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
 (d) Devendranath Tagore

ANSWER KEY ► HISTORY AND CULTURE

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) |
| 10. (c) | 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (b) | 14. (d) | 15. (c) | 16. (a) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) |
| 19. (c) | 20. (c) | 21. (c) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (a) | 25. (c) | 26. (b) | 27. (d) |
| 28. (c) | 29. (c) | 30. (d) | 31. (b) | 32. (c) | 33. (c) | 34. (d) | 35. (d) | 36. (d) |
| 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (a) | 40. (c) | 41. (d) | 42. (d) | 43. (d) | 44. (c) | 45. (b) |
| 46. (a) | 47. (d) | 48. (d) | 49. (c) | 50. (d) | 51. (d) | 52. (d) | 53. (a) | 54. (b) |
| 55. (c) | 56. (d) | 57. (a) | 58. (c) | 59. (c) | 60. (d) | 61. (b) | 62. (d) | 63. (a) |
| 64. (c) | 65. (b) | 66. (c) | 67. (a) | 68. (b) | 69. (b) | 70. (b) | 71. (a) | 72. (c) |
| 73. (a) | 74. (a) | 75. (c) | 76. (d) | 77. (a) | 78. (b) | 79. (b) | 80. (d) | 81. (b) |
| 82. (d) | 83. (d) | 84. (b) | 85. (b) | 86. (d) | 87. (d) | 88. (b) | 89. (c) | 90. (d) |
| 91. (a) | 92. (c) | 93. (a) | 94. (b) | 95. (b) | 96. (c) | 97. (d) | 98. (c) | 99. (c) |