

DON BOSCO SCHOOL, KOKAR, RANCHI

Subject- HISTORY

Class – 9 ABC

HISTORY Ch-2

THE VEDIC PERIOD

Course Content:

Source: Vedas and Epics; Iron artifacts and pottery

Briefly comparative study of Early and Later society and economy

Introduction:

- ✓ After the decline of Harappan Civilisation there a culture grew in western India named- Vedic Culture
- ✓ Term 'Veda' derived from Sanskrit word 'vid'- meaning knowledge.
- ✓ Timeline- 1500 BCE-500 BCE. spread to North India in Gangetic basin.
- ✓ The period is divided into two; **Early Vedic Age** (1500 BCE to 1000 BCE) & **Later Vedic Age** (1000 BCE to 500 BCE).

Indo-Aryans:

- ✓ Indo-Aryans are the founders of Vedic culture.
- ✓ believed to be the group of people living around Caspian Sea in Central.
- ✓ believed to settling in the Gangetic Plains around 1500 BCE.

Literary Sources:

A. **The Vedas**:- collection of religious hymns to please gods & goddesses.

Four Vedas:-

- i) **Rig Veda**:-oldest religious text (first testament of mankind) in the world- has 1028 hymns- divided into 10 mandalas- are in praise of gods & goddesses- famous '*Gayatri Mantra*'- authentic source of knowledge- much of Indian Philosophy is based on it.
- ii) **Sama Veda**:- '*sama*' means '*sweet songs*' or '*melody*'- sung at the time of sacrifice by priests.
- iii) **Yajur Veda**:- hymns recited during yajnyas- hymns throw the light of social & religious life of Aryans.

- iv) **Atharva Veda**:- hymns deal with magic & charm, knowledge, action, invocation, medicines for treatment of various diseases.
- ✓ The social, economic, political & religious aspect of life of people were reflected in the literature.

Other parts of Vedic literature:

Brahmans: explain social & religious aspects, historical value, written in prose.

- v) **Aranyakas**: known as '**forest books**' guidance for hermits & forest students, deal with theme of mysticism & philosophy.
- vi) **Upnishads**: explains the doctrines of *karma*, *Moksha* & *Maya*, basic source of Indian philosophy, are the philosophical commentaries

B. The Epics: Mahabharata & Ramayana are great epics composed during Later Vedic period. Deals with the social & political life.

- i) **Mahabharata**:- work of sage '*Vyasa*', a brahamana poet written in Sanskrit.
- ✓ On battle between Kauravas & Pandavas over land rights.
 - ✓ Battle lasted for eighteen days, Pandavas emerged victorious finally.
 - ✓ Symbolically it was victory of *dharma* over *adharma*, righteousness over evil.
 - ✓ It was compiled in a book in the 4th century CE.
 - ✓ The Bhagwad Gita form a part of Mahabharata.
 - ✓ Gita teaches that the soul is immortal.

Archaeological Sources: Iron implements, tools & pottery remains are the archaeological sources for the Vedic Age.

1. **Iron artifacts**: discovery of iron marks an important stage in the march of civilisation in the world.
 - ✓ iron age began in 1000 BCE.
 - ✓ iron tools like hammers, arrowheads, spearheads, saws etc. also used to make weapons.
 - ✓ used in Later Vedic to clear dense forests for land cultivation.

Continue doing the rest.....