

UPSC PRELIMS
2018

ULTIMATE PLAN TO CLEAR PRELIMS 2018

LAWXPERTS TEAM

SAMPLE NOTES : ANCIENT HISTORY : RS SHARMA

CHAPTERS : 7-10 OF ANCIENT INDIA : RS SHARMA :

READ. REVISE. SUCCEED.

Chapter 8 : Advent of the Aryans and the Age of Rig Vedas

1. Original Home and Identity : PAGE 70 :

All Aryans – not same race – but they had same culture and common language (Indo-european language - **IEL**) . Originally they lived in the steppes (southern-RUS to Central Asia) → moved to central asia → Iran → India.

- Earliest life – they led pastoral but later Agriculture.
- Male dominated society
- Animals esp. *Horse* played important role.
- In Rig Veda – Term Aryan appears 36 times ; earliest text in **IEL** ; It is a collection of prayers offered to gods. Consists of 10 mandalas/books – of which Book 2-6 (latest); Rig veda has much similarity of usage of words with Iranian language – *Avesta (same names for gods + social classes)*
- *Other inscription found elsewhere indicating Aryans?*

PAGE 71:

- Aryans used socketed –axes , bronze dirks, and swords ; horse sacrifices (Tajikistan & swat valley (pak)).
- Lived in East Afghan, N-W Frontier province, Punjab and fringes of Western UP.
- They mention :

Kubha (afghan river) ;

Indus (or <i>sindhu</i> - excellent river as per them) and its five branches ;
<i>Naditarna</i> (Sarawasti river along with Ghaggar-Hakra channel, based on the name of Avestan river <i>Harakhwati/Helmand</i> river in Afghan)

- Area – they 1st settled is known as LAND OF THE SEVEN RIVERS; Earliest people came during 1500 BC and came into conflict with indigenous Inhabitants (*dasas, dosyus*)
- As per *rig veda*, *Sambara* was defeated by the Chief *Divodasa* (of *Bharata* clan) ; *Dasyus* - original Inhabitants and Aryan Chief who empowered them – *Trasadasyu*
- *Dasyuhatya* means – Slaughter of *dasyus*. These people worshipped phallus + kept cattle not for dairy products.

2. Tribal Conflicts : PAGE 71 :

- Many defeats inflicted by Indra/ ***purnadara*** – breaker of forts + horse chariot + Coats of mail (***varman***) + better arms.
- Two types of conflicts :

3. Social Divisions : PAGE 75 :

- ✓ They were Conscious of their physical appearance.
- ✓ Varna = colour. Aryans = fair + Indigenous = dark + Complexion.
- ✓ Creation of social division = was due to **conquest of indigenous inhabitants** i.e., *dasas* and *dasyus* – conquered by Aryans – treated as *slaves* + *shudras*.
- ✓ Until 10th book of *rig veda*, there was only 3 divisions, 4th was *shudras* (added at the end of *rig-vedic* period)
- ✓ Varna = based on occupation + social inequalities – helped rise of princes + priests.
- ✓ As people were pastoral, No gift of land/cereals/ wage-earners (only slaves).
- ✓ Social division – NOT based on tax collection/accumulation of land.
- ✓ Society = tribal + Egalitarian.

4. Rig Vedic Gods : PAGE 76 :

- ✓ Personified Natural forces
- ✓ *Indra*- breaker of forts / rain god/ chief led to victory against demons.
- ✓ *Agni*/ Fire was important.

- ✓ *Varuna* / Water – upheld natural order/ whatever happened in this world is because of his desires.
- ✓ *Soma* / God of plants.
- ✓ *Maruts* / Storm
- ✓ Femal divinities : *Aditi + Usha* (appearance of dawn) – not prominent.
- ✓ **Mode of worship** : Recitation of prayers + offering of sacrifices. Every tribe had special god, to which they prayed in chorus.
- ✓ Magical powers = not important.

Chapter 9 : The Later vedic Phase : Transition in State and Social Orders

1. Expansion in the Later Vedic Period (1K – 500 B.C) : PAGE 78

- Collection of vedic hymns/mantras= Samhita.
 - 1) Rig veda samhita (early vedic age)
 - 2) Sama veda samhita (Modified collection)
 - 3) Yajur veda samhita (hymns + rituals during recitation)
 - 4) Atharva veda samhita (Charms + spells to ward off evils and diseases)
- Samhita followed by series of texts known as *Brahmanas*.

These were found at PGW sites : People inhabited here used earthen bowls + dishes made of Painted pottery.

- Kurus occupied : Delhi + upper portion of Ganga –Yamuna doab = Kurukshetra/land of Kurus.Kuru tribe is important in Mahabhartha.
- Kurus wiped out after the big battle (kauravas and Pandavas)
- People did not know use of Burnt bricks.
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Chapter 10 : Jainism and Buddhism

62 religious sects arose in Middle Gangetic plains - 2nd half of 6th century

1. Causes of Origin : PAGE 89 :

- Post - vedic times, varna was discriminatory to shudras (Higher the varna – the more privileged + purer the person was)
- even 3rd division – vaishyas (placed in category of dvija/twice –born) can wear sacred thread + read vedas.

- Shudras – treated as slaves/untouchables.

CAUSES OF RISE OF NEW RELIGIONS: PAGE 90-91.

- ✓ Kshatriyas (rulers) reacted strongly to domination of Brahmanas. This resulted in origins of new religions. Varadhamana Mahavira (**MV**) + Gautama Buddha (**GB**) (belonged to Kshatriya + disputed the dominance of brahmanas)
- ✓ New –Agricultural economy : To clear dense forest ; we need iron plough + bullocks. Vedic practice of killing cattle stood in this way i.e., Stopping of killing of cattle is required for stable agricultural economy
- ✓ Vaishyas tried to improve from their 3rd position . (As *coins* played important in their trade) + New religions did not give importance to varna.
- ✓ *Keywords : Setthis* – Merchants
- ✓ Non-violence – end to wars
- ✓ Need to do business of moneylending – this was not acceptable to brahmanical book –dharmasutras.
- ✓ Social Inequalities inflicted by existing religions.

1. Varadhamana Mahavira and Jainism : PAGE 91-92

- ✓ Origin : Very ancient times – 24 Tirthankaras / Great teachers.
- ✓ 1ST : Rishabhadev / 24th - V.Mahavira (Born in 540 BC in Kundagrama (Vaishali) ; father : Siddhartha (Jnatrika clan of Kshatriya) ; Mother : Licchavi.
- ✓ V.Mahavira became ascetic at AGE 30 ; Attained *Kaivalya (Jnan)* – to conquer misery+ happiness- at 42 ; because of this he is known as Jina/great hero.

2. Doctrine of Jainism : PAGE 92 :

- ✓ FIVE : No violence / lie/stealing/acquisition of property and observe continence (Brahmacharya)
- ✓ Importance to Ahimsa /Non-violence
- ✓ Shvetambaras (put white dress) V. Digambaras (Naked)
- ✓ God is lower than Jina
- ✓ Did not condemn varna (justified the varna ; birth is based on sins committed in past)
- ✓ Freedom from Wordly bonds : How> Triratna : RIGHT (knowledge,faith, right Actio.....)

3. Contribution of Jainism :PAGE 94 :

- ✓ Mitigated evils of varna system + ritualistic vedic religion.
- ✓ Sanskrit discarded, with prakrit language + ardhamagadhi (Religious literature) compiled at Valabhi, Gujarat + development of regional languages.
- ✓ Important works : Apabhramsha
- ✓ Image – worshippers.

4. Gautama Buddha and Buddhism : PAGE 94 :

- ✓ G.B.- Contemporary of MV
- ✓ Born in Shakya Kshatriya clan on 563 BC in Nepal (Kapilavastu)
- ✓ Looked for solution of misery at Age 29 - wandered for 7 years and attained knowledge at Bodh Gaya under a pipal tree = Known as Buddha/enlightened.
- ✓ 1st sermon : Sarnath in Banaras
- ✓ Defeated the staunch supports of rival sects with debates.
- ✓ Missionary activities : did not discriminate on basis of rich/poor.

5. Doctrine of Buddhism : PAGE 95 :

- Practical reformer – GB
- No controversies on soul and other things ; miseries of birth & death cycle can be done away with, if one attains nirvana (a stage without desire)
- 8 fold path (Astangika marga)
- Told to avoid excess of luxury + austerity : follow middle path.
- Code of conduct - what are they?

**FEATURES OF ULTIMATE PLAN TO
CLEAR PRELIMS 2018**

#INITIATIVE OF LAWXPERTSMV INDIA

MICROPLANS

**BREAKING UPSC SYLLABUS TO DAILY
EASILY ACHIEVABLE GOALS.**

YOUR BUDDY NOTES

**NOTES FOR ALL STANDARD BOOKS
INCLUDING NCERTS WITH PREVIOUS
YEARS QUESTION & TRENDS.**

PRELIMS ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

**25 MCQ TESTS FOR STATIC AND
CURRENT AFFAIRS PORTION**

