

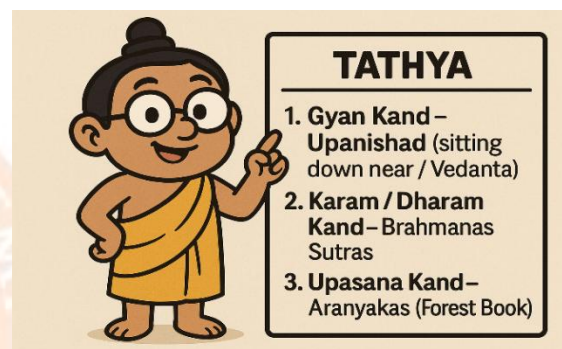
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Era of Vedas (Vid - Knowledge)

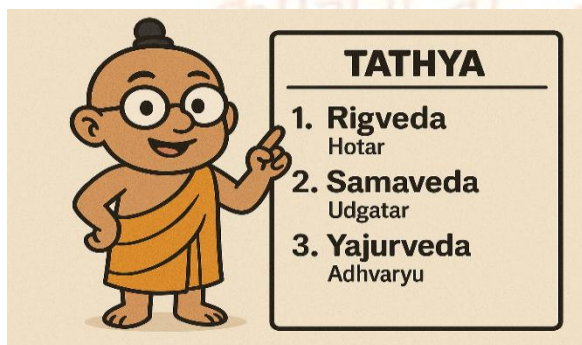
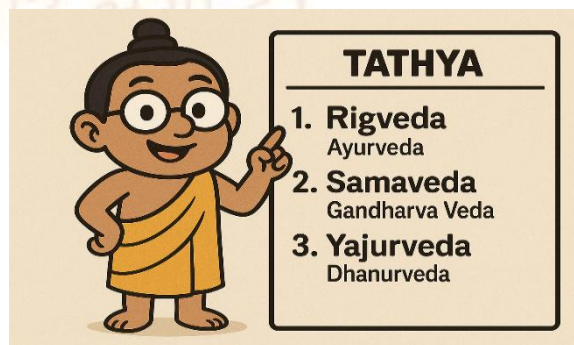
Shruti (the revealed and Godly revelation)

- These are believed to be the **most authoritative texts** of Hindus.
- This text is considered as directly received by Godly Revelation
- These include **four Vedas** namely –
 - Rigveda
 - Yajurveda
 - Samaveda and
 - Atharvaveda
- **Other important texts** like:
 - Brahmanas (ritual texts)
 - Aranyaka (texts associated with forests) and
 - Upanishads (philosophical texts)



Shruti (the remembered: Transfer from one Generation to Generation)

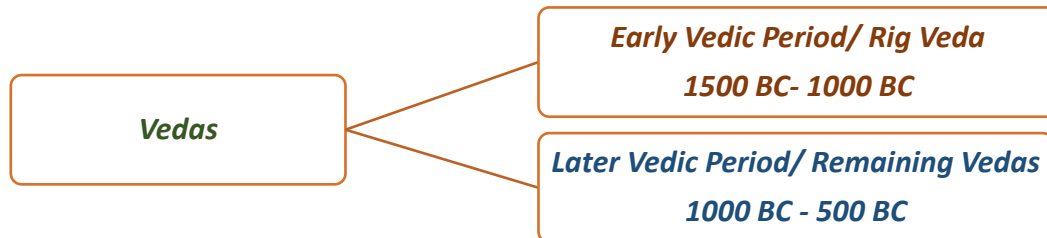
- These are **less authoritative text** as they are considered to be derived from Shruti.
- They include **epics** like:
 - Shad-Darshan
 - Epics like Mahabharat and Ramayan
 - Dharma - Shastras
 - Puranas and
 - Other post-Vedic scriptures like literature based on Astronomy, Astrology, Mathematics, etc.



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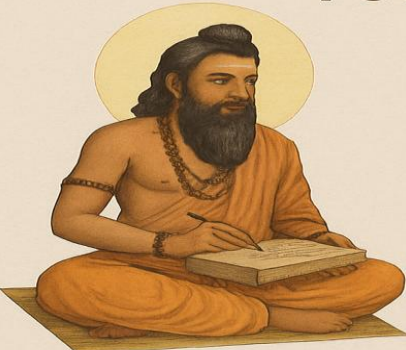
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Segregation of Vedas by Krishna Dwaipayana 'Ved Vyasa'



Krishna Dwaipayana segregated the whole textual knowledge, knowledge of scriptures and all Shruti and Smritiyans and divided into 4 Vedas and each Veda can be studied on the basis of 'Kand' and parts mentioned **within that** Veda as:

Krishna Dwaipayana Ved Vyasa



Role in Mahabharata

- Author and compiler of the Mahabharata
- Dictated to Lord Ganesha
- Bhagavad Gita
- Harivamsa

Guru

- Sage Parashara (his father)

Disciples

- Paila, Vaishampayana, Jaimini, Sumantu
- Shuka (his son)

Birth & Early Life

- Krishna Dwaipayana
- Born around 3000-3200 BCE (traditional estimate)
- Son of Maharishi Paraisara and Satyavati
- An island (dweep) of the Yamuna

Why He is Called 'Ved Vyasa'

- Divided the Vedas into four Rig Veda, Yajur Veda Sama Veda
- Atharva Veda
- Appointed disciples to preserve them

Contribution to the Kuru Dynasty

- Fathered Dhritarashtra, Pandu, and Vidura
- Grandfather of the Kauravas and Pandavas

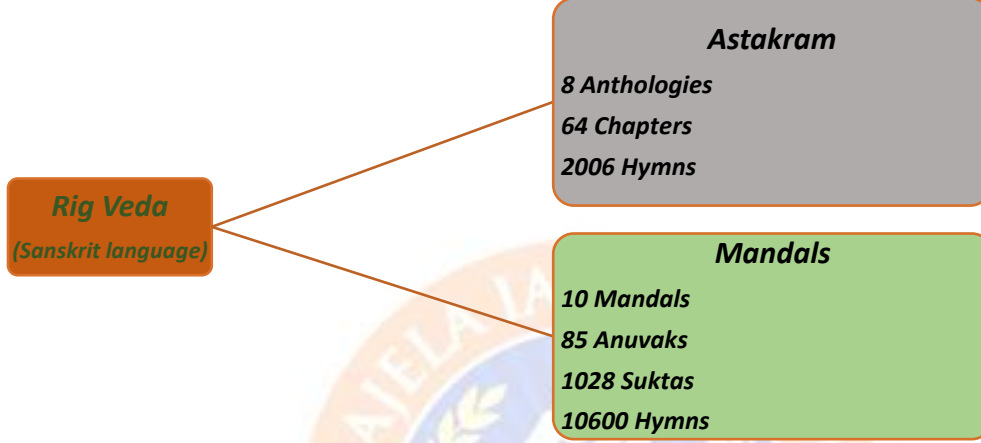
Important Titles

- Veda Vyasa – Compiler of the Vedas
- Adi Guru – First teacher
- Mahabharata Vyasa – Author of Mahabharata
- Chiranjivi – Considered immortal
- Seventh Vyasa

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Rig Veda (Reciter – Hotri/Hotra)



Mandals of Rig Veda in details

1. Mandala 1: Madhuchhandas, Agasthya, Kanva and other Sages

- **Significance:** Contains hymns dedicated to various deities, including Agni, Indra, and Soma. It serves as an introductory book with diverse themes and is one of the longest mandalas.

2. Mandala 2: Sage Grtsamada (Explain about 'Concept of Honesty')

3. Mandala 3: Sage Vishvamitra

- **Significance:**
 1. **Gayatri Mantra (worshipping of Goddess "Savitri")** (Hymn 3.62.10)
ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः। तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं। भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि। धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्॥
"We meditate upon the divine radiance of the Sun, the Creator, who is worthy of worship. May that supreme divine light enlighten and inspire our intellect."
 2. Explain about 'Art of War'

4. Mandala 4: Sage Vamadeva (Concept of 'Morality')

- **Significance:** Attributed to the Vamadeva family, this mandala includes hymns related to creation myths, Agni, and Indra, with philosophical themes about the origins of the universe.

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5. Mandala 5: Sage Atri

- **Significance:** Attributed to the Atri family, this mandala has hymns to various deities, including Agni, the Ashvins (twin gods), and the Maruts (storm gods). It emphasizes family values and societal duties.

6. Mandala 6: Sage Bharadvaja (Concept of Different Types of Yajnas)

- **Significance:** Attributed to the Bharadvaja family, focusing on Agni, Indra, Varuna, and other deities. The hymns describe rituals for prosperity and cosmic order.

Types of Yajnas

1. **Agnihotra:** Primarily performed to sustain life and nourish the gods, this ritual involves offering ghee, grains, and other substances into the sacred fire.

2. **Somayajna:** A ritual dedicated to **Soma**, the divine plant and deity associated with strength and vitality.

3. Vajapeya Yajna

- A special sacrificial ritual often performed by kings to assert power and gain victory in battles.
- **Purpose:** The word "Vajapeya" means "drink of strength," and the ritual aims to invoke victory, strength, and prosperity.

4. **Rajasuya Yajna:** A consecration ceremony for a king, considered highly prestigious.

5. Ashvamedha Yajna

- Known as the "Horse Sacrifice," this is a complex royal ritual.
- **Purpose:** Performed by kings to assert dominance over surrounding territories and seek approval of their supremacy from the gods.

6. **Purushamedha Yajna:** The "Human Sacrifice" yajna, which is largely symbolic in the Rigveda.

7. **Gavamayana Yajna:** A ritual associated with cattle.

8. **Agnihoma:** A fire sacrifice specifically for invoking the blessings of Agni.

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7. Mandala 7: Sage Vasistha (concept of Balance in life, and explained the 'Battle of 10Kings/ Das Rajan Yudh')

- On the contribution of Vishwamitra - Aryan (Puru, Dhruyu, Yadu, Anu, Turvashu)- Rig Vedic Panchjanya and 5 Anarya (Alani, Pakkha, Shaiva, Bhalanishu, Vaishanani) Vs Sudasa (Bharat Tribe)- Vasistha
- **Significance:** Attributed to the Vasistha family, with emphasis on Varuna (God of cosmic order), Indra, and the Maruts. Contains hymns for protection and divine favour.

8. Mandala 8: Sage Kanva and Angira

- **Hymns:** 103
- **Significance:** Attributed to the Kanva family, it includes hymns dedicated to Agni, Indra, the Ashvins, and Soma. It is diverse in content, with some older and newer hymns.

9. Mandala 9: Sage Somadeva

- **Hymns:** 114
- **Significance:** Entirely dedicated to **Soma Pavamana**, the process of purifying the sacred Soma drink. It explores Soma as a symbol of immortality.

10. Mandala 10: Sage Agastya, Vishwamitra, Vamadeva and others

- **Hymns:** 191
- **Significance:**
 - ✓ **Purusha Sukta** (cosmic creation hymn): **Varna System** (Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudra) on the basis of "Karma", Not by Birth
 - ✓ **Nasadiya Sukta** (creation hymn about the origins of the universe). It also includes hymns related to social structure and rituals.

Note: **Ayurveda** (associated with the Rigveda)

- **Field:** Medicine and health.
- **Description:** Ayurveda, known as the "science of life," focuses on maintaining health, preventing disease, and treating illnesses. It includes knowledge on herbal medicines, diet, lifestyle, and therapeutic practices.

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Some Other Information regarding Rig Veda:

- ✓ 2- 7 Mandal is also known as "Rishi Mandal"
- ✓ Only surviving recension of Rig Veda is the Shakala Shakha and Vatkai/Vaskal Shakha.
- ✓ Indra mentioned – more than 250 + times
- ✓ Pita (Father mentioned)- more than 352+ times
- ✓ Assemblies during Rig Veda:

❖ Sabha:

1. It was more exclusive and often comprised the respected and elite members of society.
2. Had a judicial role and dealt with governance issues.
3. As society evolved, it became more aristocratic, with restricted membership.

❖ Samiti:

1. A more inclusive gathering, involving representatives from various sections of society.
2. Played a crucial role in governance and was responsible for selecting and advising the king.
3. Functioned as a consultative body for discussing major community issues.

❖ Vidatha:

1. Primarily a religious assembly, associated with rituals and communal activities.
2. Allowed participation from men and women, highlighting a more communal and less hierarchical structure.
3. Played a role in fostering unity, performing social ceremonies, and promoting collective religious worship.

✓ Name of Rivers mentioned in Rigveda

- Sindhu - Indus
- Parushni - Ravi
- Asikni - Chenab
- Vitasta - Jhelum
- Vipasa - Beas
- Shutudri - Sutlej
- Kubha - Kabul River

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- Drishadvati - Chautang (in Haryana)

Category	Text	Focus
Brahmana	1. Aitareya Brahmana	
	2. Kaushitaki Brahmana	Ritual details and sacrificial commentaries
Aranyaka	1. Aitareya Aranyaka	Transition to meditation, symbolism in rituals
Upanishad	1. Aitareya Upanishad	Nature of self, creation, and consciousness
	2. Kaushitaki Upanishad	Soul's journey, liberation, Atman and Brahman

Rig Vedic Society

1. Women:

1. **Brahmavādinī (ब्रह्मवादिनी):** A Brahmavādinī was a woman who devoted herself to Vedic study, philosophical inquiry, and pursuit of Brahma-jnana.

✓ Key Features

- Dedicated to higher Vedic learning (Brahmaveda).
- Engaged in brahmodya (philosophical debates).
- Often became ṛṣikās and composed Rigvedic hymns.
- Sometimes remained unmarried, but marriage was optional.

✓ Examples

- Gargi Vachaknavi – debated Yājñavalkya on metaphysics.
- Maitreyi – sought knowledge about immortality.
- Lopamudra, Apala, Visvavara – Rigvedic women seers.

✓ Significance

Shows women's intellectual autonomy and participation in Vedic learning.

2. **Sadyovadhu (सद्यःवधू):** A Sadyovadhu was a woman who completed basic Vedic education and then opted for marriage immediately.

✓ Key Features

- Received elementary but not advanced Vedic training.
- Prioritized gr̥hastha-dharma (family life) after basic study.
- Did not specialize in philosophical learning like Brahmavādinīs.

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Difference from Brahmavādinī

Brahmavādinī	Sadyovadhu
<i>Pursued advanced Vedic studies</i>	<i>Only basic Vedic studies</i>
<i>Often unmarried or married later</i>	<i>Married immediately after basic learning</i>
<i>Philosophical, intellectual role</i>	<i>Primarily domestic role</i>

3. Niyoga (नियोग): Niyoga refers to the custom of levirate, where a widow or woman without children was allowed to cohabit with a designated man to produce an heir.

✓ Key Features

- Practice known as *niyoga-pratha*.
- Performed only for procreation, not for marriage.
- The selected man could be:
 - Brother-in-law, or
 - A wise, healthy man chosen by the family.
- Sons born were legally the child of the husband, not the biological father.

✓ Scriptural Basis

- Appears in early Vedic references and later explained in *Manusmriti*, *Aitareya Brahmana*, and *Mahabharata* (Kunti with Niyoga for Pandu's sons — though later, not Rigvedic).

✓ Purpose

- To ensure lineage continuation where:
 - The husband had died,
 - Or was incapable of fathering children.

✓ Social Interpretation

- Not a common practice; used exceptionally.
- Declined after Later Vedic period as patriarchy hardened and moral norms changed.

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Rigvedic Period Context (Key Points)

✓ Women's Status

- Considerable freedom in education, marriage, property, and religious practice.
- Presence of ṛṣikās, brahmavādinīs, sabha-samiti participation.

✓ Marriage Practices

- Mostly monogamy, late marriages, swayamvara in some clans.
- Polygamy existed among chiefs/wealthy.

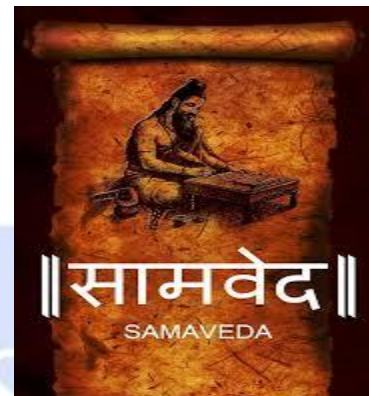
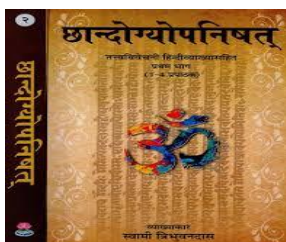
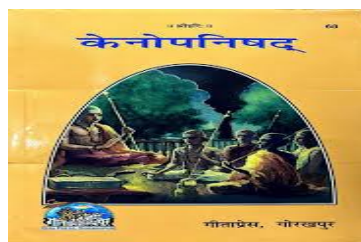
✓ Niyoga

- Allowed for lineage continuity, not institutionalized remarriage.
- Not widespread during early Rigvedic society but recognized.

Sama Veda (Melody and Songs) – Recited by Udgatras

- ✓ The Sama Veda or the “Veda of Chants” is the collection of verses drawn almost wholly from the Rig Veda, that are provided with musical notations and are intended as an aid to the performance of sacred songs.
- ✓ It contains the famous Dhrupada Raga, later sung by Tansen in medieval times.
- ✓ Recensions (Shakhas) of the Sama Veda are Kauthuma, Ranayaniya and Jaiminiya (Talavakara).
- ✓ Sama Veda's Upaveda is the Gandharva Veda.
- ✓ **Samaveda:**

- ❖ Brahmanas: Tandya Mahabrahmana (Panchavimsha) and Jaiminiya Brahmana.
- ❖ Aranyakas: Talavakara and Jaiminiya Aranyakas.
- ❖ Upanishads: Chandogya and Kena Upanishads.



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Yajur Veda (Worship or ritual knowledge)- Recited by Adhvaryu

- ✓ This Veda deals with the procedure for the performance of sacrifices. It is further divided into-

1. Shukla Yajur Veda/ Vajasaneya / White Yajur Veda – it contains only the mantras. It contains the Madhyandina and Kanva recensions.
2. Krishna Yajur Veda / Black Yajur Veda – it includes mantras as well as prose explanations/commentary. It contains Kathaka, Maitrayani, Taittiriya and Kapishthala recensions.

- ✓ The Upaveda of the Yajur Veda is the Dhanur Veda.

Yajurveda:

- Brahmanas: Shatapatha (for Shukla Yajurveda) and Taittiriya (for Krishna Yajurveda).
- Aranyakas: Brihadaranyaka and Taittiriya Aranyakas.
- Upanishads: Brihadaranyaka, Taittiriya, and Isha Upanishads.

Atharva Veda/ Brahmadeva/ Atharva-Angira Veda

- ✓ It is considered to be a non-Aryan work and is classified into 20 kandas or books, with 711 hymns.
- ✓ It contains Shaunaka and Paippalada recensions.

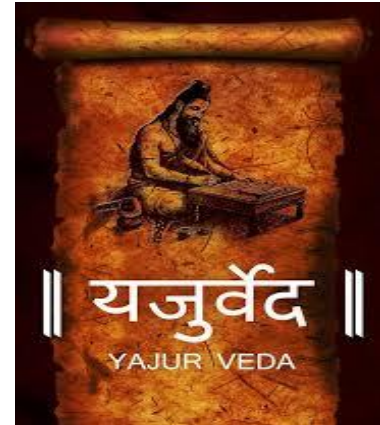
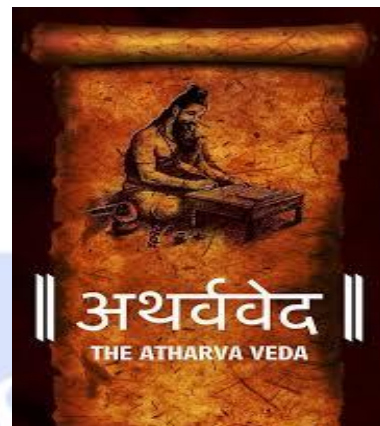
- ✓ Shilpa Veda is the Upaveda of Atharva Veda.

Atharvaveda:

- Brahmana: Gopatha Brahmana.
- Aranyaka: No specific Aranyaka.
- Upanishads: Mundaka, Mandukya, and Prashna Upanishads

Vedanga: The literal meaning of the word Vedanga is "limbs of the Vedas". There are 6 Vedangas as follows:

1. Shiksha (Phonetics)
2. Kalpa (Ritualistic science)
3. Jyotisha (Astronomy)
4. Vyakaran (grammar)
5. Nirukta (Etymology)
6. Chhanda (Metrics)



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Previous year mcqs related with Vedas

1. Which among the following is the oldest Veda?

(निम्नलिखित में से सबसे प्राचीन वेद कौन-सा है?)

1. Yajur Veda (यजुर्वेद)
2. Sama Veda (सामवेद)
3. Atharva Veda (अथर्ववेद)
4. Rig Veda (ऋग्वेद) ✓

2. Which Veda is primarily connected with music and chants?

(कौन-सा वेद मुख्य रूप से संगीत और सामगान से संबंधित है?)

1. Rig Veda (ऋग्वेद)
2. Sama Veda (सामवेद) ✓
3. Atharva Veda (अथर्ववेद)
4. Yajur Veda (यजुर्वेद)

3. Which Veda contains healing hymns, household rituals, magic spells, and folk traditions?

(कौन-सा वेद उपचार मंत्रों, गृहस्थ अनुष्ठानों और लोक परंपराओं को समाहित करता है?)

1. Sama Veda (सामवेद)
2. Atharva Veda (अथर्ववेद) ✓
3. Rig Veda (ऋग्वेद)
4. Yajur Veda (यजुर्वेद)

4. "Brahmavādinī" in Vedic literature refers to whom?

(वैदिक साहित्य में "ब्राह्मवादिनी" किसे कहा गया है?)

1. A woman who performs household rituals (गृहस्थ अनुष्ठान करने वाली स्त्री)
2. A woman sage engaged in Vedic knowledge and philosophy (वेदज्ञान व दर्शन में निपुण स्त्री ऋषि) ✓
3. A female priest of Atharva rituals (अथर्व-यज्ञों की स्त्री पुरोहिता)
4. A goddess mentioned in Upanishads (उपनिषदों में वर्णित देवी)

5. "Vedatraya" traditionally refers to which three Vedas?

("वेदत्रय" परंपरागत रूप से किन तीन वेदों को कहा जाता है?)

1. Rig, Yajur, Sama (ऋग, यजु, साम) ✓
2. Yajur, Sama, Atharva (यजु, साम, अथर्व)
3. Rig, Sama, Atharva (ऋग, साम, अथर्व)
4. Rig, Yajur, Atharva (ऋग, यजु, अथर्व)

6. "Panchajanya" is associated with which meaning?

("पाञ्चजन्य" किससे संबंधित है?)

1. The conch of Lord Krishna (भगवान कृष्ण का शंख) ✓

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2. A Rigvedic clan (ऋग्वैदिक कुल)
3. A sacred battle hymn (एक पवित्र युद्ध-सूक्त)
4. A type of Vedic fire altar (वेदिक अग्निकुण्ड का प्रकार)
7. In the Gayatri Mantra, Savitrī (Savita) is worshipped as—
(गायत्री मंत्र में सवित्री/सविता की उपासना किस रूप में की जाती है?)
1. Goddess of wisdom (विद्या की देवी)
 2. Sun deity as source of cosmic energy (सौर-देवता, ब्रह्मांडीय ऊर्जा के स्रोत के रूप में) ✓
 3. Fire god (अग्नि-देव)
 4. God of wind (वायु-देव)
8. In Upanayana Saṁskāra, the mantra for Brahmana boys during the investiture of sacred thread is usually addressed to—
(उपनयन संस्कार में ब्राह्मण बालक के लिए जनेऊ धारण कराते समय कौन-सा देवता सम्बोधित होता है?)
1. Agni (अग्नि) ✓
 2. Surya (सूर्य)
 3. Prajapati (प्रजापति)
 4. Vayu (वायु)
9. In Upanayana Saṁskāra for Kshatriyas, the sacred-thread mantra invokes which deity?
(क्षत्रिय बालक के उपनयन संस्कार में जनेऊ-मंत्र किस देवता को संबोधित होता है?)
1. Indra (इंद्र) ✓
 2. Agni (अग्नि)
 3. Varuna (वरुण)
 4. Surya (सूर्य)
10. Which of the following sets correctly matches Upanayana mantras?
(निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा संयोजन उपनयन मंत्रों का सही मिलान करता है?)
- A. Brahmana – Agnaye Upanayami (ब्राह्मण – अग्नये उपनयामि)
 - B. Kshatriya – Indraya Upanayami (क्षत्रिय – इन्द्राय उपनयामि)
 - C. Vaishya – Suryaya Upanayami (वैश्य – सूर्याय उपनयामि)
 - D. Vaishya – Vayave Upanayami (वैश्य – वायवे उपनयामि)
- Choose the correct code:
(सही कूट चुनिए)
1. A, B only
 2. A, B, C only ✓
 3. A, B, D only
 4. B, C, D only

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Q1. In Rigvedic literature, the term Pañcājana refers to:

(ऋग्वैदिक साहित्य में पञ्चजन शब्द किसके लिए प्रयोग होता है?)

1. Five castes of ancient India
(प्राचीन भारत की पाँच वर्ण-श्रेणियाँ)
2. Five Vedic deities
(पाँच वैदिक देवता)
3. Five major Aryan clans/tribes
(पाँच प्रमुख आर्य कुल/जन) ✓
4. Five sacrifices performed during rituals
(यज्ञों में किए जाने वाले पाँच प्रकार के कर्म)

Q2. Which among the following tribes is NOT included in the Vedic Pañcājana group?

(निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा जन/कुल वैदिक पञ्चजन में सम्मिलित नहीं था?)

1. Puru (पुरु)
2. Yadu (यदु)
3. Turvaśa (तुरवश)
4. Nishada (निषाद) ✓

Q3. The idea of Pañcājana is primarily found in which Vedic text?

(पञ्चजन की अवधारणा मुख्य रूप से किस वैदिक ग्रंथ में मिलती है?)

1. Sama Veda (सामवेद)
2. Yajur Veda (यजुर्वेद)

3. Rig Veda (ऋग्वेद) ✓

4. Atharva Veda (अथर्ववेद)

Q4. Which of the following sets correctly represents the Pañcājana of the Rigvedic era?

(निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा समूह ऋग्वैदिक युग के पञ्चजन का सही प्रतिनिधित्व करता है?)

1. Puru, Druhyu, Yadu, Turvaśa, Anu
(पुरु, द्रुह्य, यदु, तुरवश, अनु) ✓
2. Puru, Bharata, Matsya, Yadu, Turvaśa
(पुरु, भरत, मत्स्य, यदु, तुरवश)
3. Anu, Kuru, Panchala, Yadu, Druhyu
(अनु, कुरु, पंचाल, यदु, द्रुह्य)
4. Turvaśa, Kamboja, Anu, Dravida, Puru
(तुरवश, कंबोज, अनु, द्रविड़, पुरु)

Q5. The political importance of Pañcājana is most visible during which event of Rigvedic history?

(ऋग्वैदिक इतिहास की किस घटना में पञ्चजन की राजनीतिक भूमिका सबसे स्पष्ट दिखती है?)

1. Ashvamedha performance
(अश्वमेध का अनुष्ठान)
2. Battle of Ten Kings (दशराज युद्ध) ✓
3. Sarasvati river's decline
(सरस्वती नदी का क्षय)

Hajela's IAS

कोचिंग वो, जो पार लगा दे

4. Formation of Mahajanapadas (महाजनपदों का गठन)

Q6. Which tribe among the Pañcājana is most prominently associated with King Sudas and the Battle of Ten Kings?

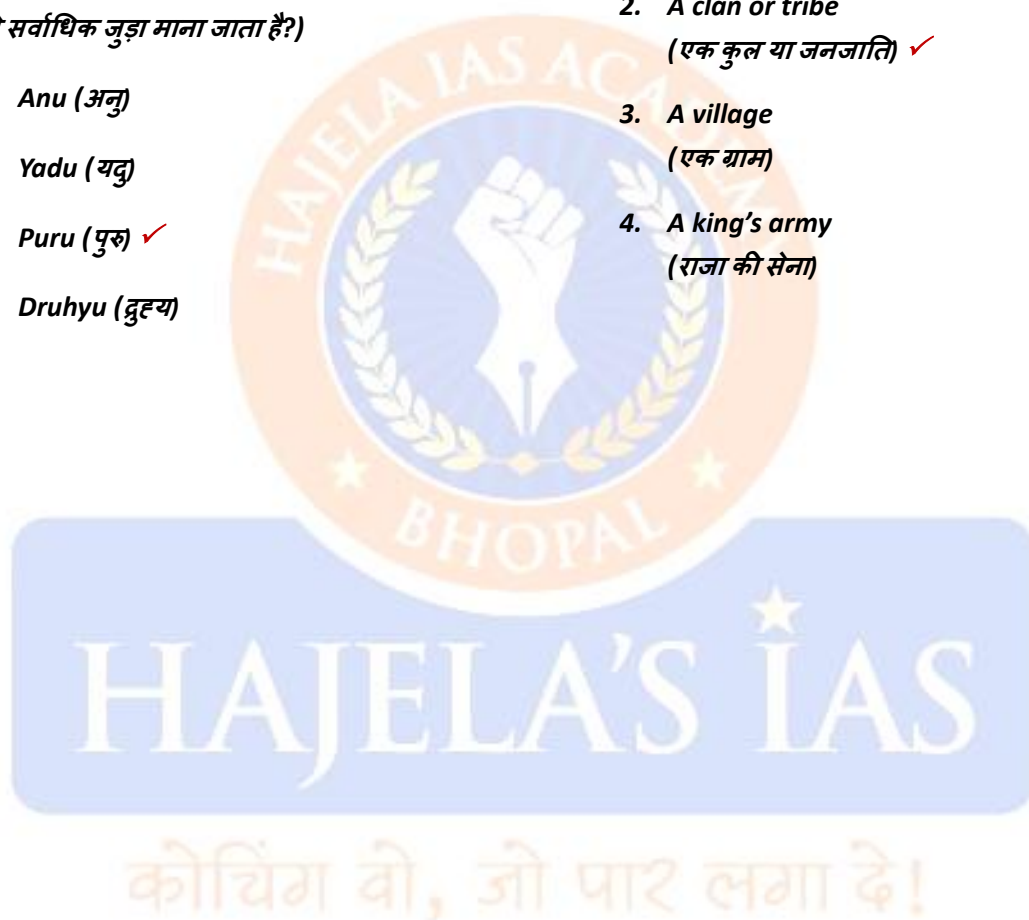
(पञ्चजन में से कौन-सा जन राजा सुदास और दशराम युद्ध से सर्वाधिक जुड़ा माना जाता है?)

1. Anu (अनु)
2. Yadu (यदु)
3. Puru (पुरु) ✓
4. Druhyu (द्रुह्यु)

Q7. What does the term jana in the Rigveda signify?

(ऋग्वेद में जन शब्द का अर्थ क्या है?)

1. A family
(एक परिवार)
2. A clan or tribe
(एक कुल या जनजाति) ✓
3. A village
(एक ग्राम)
4. A king's army
(राजा की सेना)



Hajela's IAS

कोचिंग वो, जो पार लगा दे

Practice Mcqs for MPPSC Prelims - 2026

The concept of "Atman" and "Brahman" is extensively discussed in which Brahmanical texts?

1. Samhitas
2. Brahmanas
3. Upanishads
4. Sutras

Which of the following Brahmanical texts is primarily known for its philosophical teachings rather than rituals?

1. Aranyakas
2. Brahmanas
3. Samhitas
4. Smritis

What is the term used in Brahmanical literature for the sacred knowledge passed down orally and regarded as revealed knowledge?

1. Smriti
2. Shruti
3. Sutra
4. Karma

The Brahmanical text that deals with the duties and social laws governing society is called:

1. Rigveda
2. Manusmriti
3. Brahmana
4. Aranyaka

The "Purusha Sukta," which describes the cosmic being from whom all of creation is said to have originated, is found in which Brahmanical text?

1. Atharvaveda
2. Samaveda
3. Rigveda
4. Yajurveda

Which of these is considered a Smriti text, outlining moral and ethical codes within Brahmanical tradition?

1. Upanishads
2. Bhagavad Gita
3. Aranyakas
4. Samhitas

Which of the following is not correct?

1. Aryabhatta – Value of Pi (π)
2. Varahmihir – Panchsidhant
3. Palaklpya – Hastayurveda / Veterinary Science
4. Brahmagupta – Brahmasphuta – Sidhant
5. Dhanvantari - Ayurveda
1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Only 3
4. None

Which inscription was first time mentioned about term "Bharatvarsha"?

1. Hathi Gumpha, Kharvela
2. Junagarh, Gujarat
3. Mandsaur, MP
4. Nashik, Maharashtra

Which of the following Purana was related with Gupta Dynasty?

1. Matsya

Hajela's IAS

कोचिंग वो, जो पार लगा दे

2. Vishnu
3. Vayu
4. Bhagwat

In which Upanishad the story about "Yama and Nachiketa" was found?

1. Mandukya
2. Mundak
3. Kathopanishad
4. Chhandogya

Which Bodhisattva holds 'Khadag' in one hand and Books on other hand?

1. Bajrapani
2. Manjusri
3. Amitabh
4. Kshitigraha

Which of the following is not correctly matched?

1. Padma Purana – Chola Dynasty
2. Brahmanda Purana – Shunga and Satavahanas
3. Skanda Purana – Chalukyas and Kadamba Dynasty
4. Vishnu Purana – Mauryan Dynasty

