

The Vedic Period

Chapter 2: The Vedic Period · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Vedas, composed in Sanskrit, are among the oldest religious texts, containing hymns, rituals, and philosophical ideas central to Hinduism.

Vedic society developed a social structure based on occupation, which gradually evolved into what became the caste system.

Political organisation in the Vedic period included small kingdoms (Janapadas) led by chiefs or kings, with assemblies playing advisory roles.

The Vedic period laid crucial foundations for Indian religion, philosophy, and social structures that continue to influence India today.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Vedas were composed in Sanskrit.
- They are among the oldest religious texts.
- Vedic society had an occupation-based structure.
- This evolved into the caste system.
- Political organisation included small kingdoms (Janapadas).
- Kings or chiefs led with advisory assemblies.
- This period shaped Indian religion and philosophy.
- It continues to influence India today.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research what the Vedas contain.
- 2 Discuss the Vedic social organisation.
- 3 Explain the connection to the caste system.
- 4 Research a Janapada from the Vedic period.
- 5 Discuss the influence of Vedic culture today.
- 6 Create a timeline showing the Vedic period.