Socio–Cultural History of India Up To 1200

Ms. Pooja U. Yadav
Ancient Indian Social Order

- Vedic Society– Four fold classification
- Brahaman
- Kshatriya
- Vaishya
- Shudra
- First appeared in Rigveda–10th Mandala
- Flexible to complex
- Shudras– lowest in the hierarchy
- First three– Dwija(Twice Born)
- Shudras– To served upper three cast
- Labour, slaves
- No education rights
- Served the masters
- Discrimination in punishments
- Untouchables– Antanjeya
Family in Ancient India

- Basic unit of social organization
- Joint family
- Patriarchal
- Purushartha— Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha
- Varnashrama System
Varnashrama System

- Hindu society was divided into four varna System
- Only first three casts were allowed (Dwija)
- Shudras and women were not allowed
- Upanayana ceremony
Varnashrama System

- Varna + Ashrama
- Varna = Cover, envelope, color
- Ashrama = Stay, stages
- Life of an individual divided into four stages
Four Ashrama

- **Brahmacharya** – life of the Student
- **Grihasthashrama** – Married man, householder
- **Vanaprashhashrama** – Retired life in the forest, abandoning home
- **Sanyasashrama** – Life of complete renunciation
Women in Ancient India

- **Stridharma** – Duty of the women
- **Striswabhava** – Nature or behavioural pattern
- **Status of women** –
  - *Rigveda* mentioned – Apala, Ghosha, Vishwavara, Gargi, Maitreyi – Educated
- No sati system
- No female infanticide
- No Purdha
- Permission of remarry
Later Vedic Age:
- Inferior to men
- No education
- Child marriage
- Compared with Shudras
- Polygamy
Women and Marriage

- 8 forms of marriage
- Age for marriage
- Qualification
- Second marriage
- Life of widow
- Women and property rights
- Stridhana
- Women and slavery
Education in Ancient India

- Education – freely available later became an institution
- **Varnashrama System:**
  1. **Upanayana** ceremony
  2. **Brahmacharya** System
- **Gurukul System:**
- **Upanishada**
- **Ancient Education System**
Higher education

Ancient Universities:

1. Takshashila/ Taxila university:
   - Earliest university
   - Early Buddhist learning centre
   - 5th – 6th c BC
   - Chanakya, Chandragupta Maurya, Charvaka
   - Subjects: Vedas, 18 arts, archery, law school, medical school, military science
2. Nalanda University:
- Ancient centre of learning in Bihar
- 5th – 12th c AD
- Gupta patronized
- Entrance exam
- Subject: fine arts, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics, art of war
- 10,000 students
- Scholars form Korea, China, Japan Tibet, Indonesia, Persia
- Classrooms, halls, hostels, Libraries
Nalanda University
Ancient Indian Literature

- Four Vedas
  - 1. Rigveda
  - 2. Samaveda
  - 3. Yajurveda
  - 4. Atharvaveda
Brahmanas
Aryanakas
Upanishada
Smriti Literature

- **Vedangas:**
  Siksha, Kalpa, Vyakrana, Nirukta, Chhanda, Jyotisha

- **Upavedas:**
  Ayurveda, Dhaurveda, Gandharvaveda, Shilpavea

- **Epics:**
  Ramayana, Mahabharata
Puranas:

18 Puranas. Eg; Vishnu Purana, Garuda Purana, Shiva Purana, Matsya Purana
Buddhist literature

- **Three pitakas:**
  1. Vinaya Pitakas
  2. Sutta Pitakas
  3. Abhidhamma Pitakas

- **Jatakas:** Stories of the previous births of Buddha

- More than 550 stories
Jain and Tamil literature

- Jain Literature:
  - Angas and upangas

- Tamil Literature:
  - Sangama literature

- Sanskrit Literature:
  - Kalidasa
  - Meghdutam, Raghuvamsham, Malvikagnimitram, Abhijata shakuntalam
Ancient Indian Religion and Philosophy

- Vedic Religion
- Nature worship
- Yajna (sacrifice)
- 4 Vedas
- Complexity
- Upanishads: Philosophical belief of the Aryans
- Metaphysical
Buddhism
Jainism
Heterodox Sects
Fine arts

- Pre-historic art
- Folk art, tribal art
- 64 arts—chatushasti kala
Music

- **Seven Swara or Suras**
- Sa, re, ga, ma, pa, dha, ni, sa
- **Sounds of seven animals**
- Sa – peacock
- Re – bull
- Ga – goat
- Ma – bird
- Pa – cuckoo
- Dha – horse
- Ni – elephant
Dancing

- Pre-historic art
- Proto-historic art
- Nritya– anatya and Natya
- Lord Shiva was originally the pioneer of Nritya
- Natraja, Natesh
- Male artist– Tandava nritya
- Female artist– Lasya Nritya
Prehistoric painting of Dancing
Proto– Historic dancing
Nataraja
Art of Painting

- Pre– historic cave paintings
- Chitra
- 6 limbs of paintings
  1. Rupabheda– forms
  2. Pramana– proportion
  3. Bhava– Emotions
  4. Lavanya– Creation
  5. Sadrisya– Portyal
  6. Varnikabhangang– Color mixing
Pre–historic cave painting
Iconography

- No idol worship in Vedic period
- Kushans patronised
- Made of terracotta, wood, stone, ivory, metals
Classification of Images

- Chala and Achala
- Purna and Apurna
- Shanta and Ashanta
Ashanta
Mudras
Abhay Mudra
Varada Mudra
Dhyana Mudra
Vyakhyana Mudra
Namaskar Mudra
Bhumisparsha Mudra
Samapadam Mudra
Alidha Mudra
Cave architecture

- Stone age man
- Natural caves
- Earliest man made cave – Bihar – Barabara hills
- Dedicated to Ajivika sects
- Technology
Classification of Rock-cut Monuments

- Cahityagriha – Prayer hall
- Lena (Viharas) – Dwellings for monks
- Matapas – Benches with or without roof
- Podhis – Erected to store water
- Asanpindikas: Benches
- Kodhis – Recesses hewn into the rock
Chaityagriha
Viharas
Benches
Podhi– Water storage
Stupas

- Sharikas
- Paribhoga
- Avdeshika
- kamyaa
- Medhi
- Vedika
- Anda
- Harmika
- Chhatra
Sanchi Stupa
Rock-cut Stupa
Temple Architecture

- Dravidian style
- Indo–Aryan style
Dravidian Style
Indo–Aryan style

- Amalaka
- Vestibule (antarala)
- Great Hall (mahamandapa)
- Hall (mandapa)
- Entrance Porch (ardhamandapa)
- Base Platform (adhishtana)
- Inner sanctum (garbhagrha)
- Secondary tower (urushringa)
Nagara (North Indian) Styles

Dravidian (south Indian) Style
Nagara style

Dravida style

Vesara style
Fortification

- Harappan fortification
- Types of forts:
  - Girdurga/ Parvata (Mountain fort)
  - Jaladurga (Water fort)
  - Dhanavana durga (Desert fort)
  - Vanadurga (Forest fort)
  - Mahidurga (Earth fort)
Harappan Fortification