

Vedic Age (1500 BCE – 600 BCE)

Aspect	Early Vedic Period (1500–1000 BCE)	Later Vedic Period (1000–600 BCE)
Main Source	Rigveda (Oldest Veda)	Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, Brahmanas, Upanishads
Geographical Area	Punjab and Indo-Gangetic plains (Sapta Sindhu region)	Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (expansion towards Ganga valley)
Polity	Tribal kingdoms (Jana), no strong kingship	Emergence of Mahajanapadas , stronger monarchies, hereditary kings
Popular Assemblies	Sabha (elderly) and Samiti (general) held political power	Decline of assemblies; kings gained authority
Society	Patriarchal, no rigid varna system , women had freedom (education, remarriage allowed)	Varna system became rigid , women's status declined
Economy	Pastoral economy , cows = wealth, limited agriculture	Agriculture became primary , iron tools improved farming
Trade	Barter system; internal trade	Emergence of coins (Nishka, Satamana), trade with distant regions
Religion	Nature worship: Indra (rain), Agni (fire), Varuna (cosmic order), Soma	Rise of rituals and sacrifices (yajnas), priestly dominance
Language	Vedic Sanskrit	Developed into Classical Sanskrit
Literature	Rigveda (hymns in praise of gods)	Brahmanas (ritual texts), Aranyakas, Upanishads (philosophy)
Status of Women	Education (e.g., Lopamudra, Gargi, Apala), could attend sabha	Declined: no right to education or property; child marriages rise
Caste System	Flexible social groups (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, etc.)	Became rigid and hereditary, untouchability emerged
Occupation	Animal rearing, limited farming	Specialized professions emerged; agriculture and crafts advanced
Iron Use	Not known	Widespread use of iron tools (Krishna Ayas)

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR SSC CGL

Key Fact	Detail
Oldest Veda	Rigveda – 1028 hymns in Sanskrit, mostly praise of gods
Sanskrit Grammarian (Later)	Panini (not in Vedic Age but asked in relation to language evolution)
Political Units	Jana → Grama → Vish → Rashtra
Important Kings	Divodasa, Sudas (Battle of Ten Kings or <i>Dasarajna</i>)
Battle of Ten Kings	Fought on river Parushni (Ravi)
Assembly decline	By Later Vedic Period , monarchy became stronger
Iron Age begins	In Later Vedic Period (called <i>Krishna Ayas</i> = black metal)