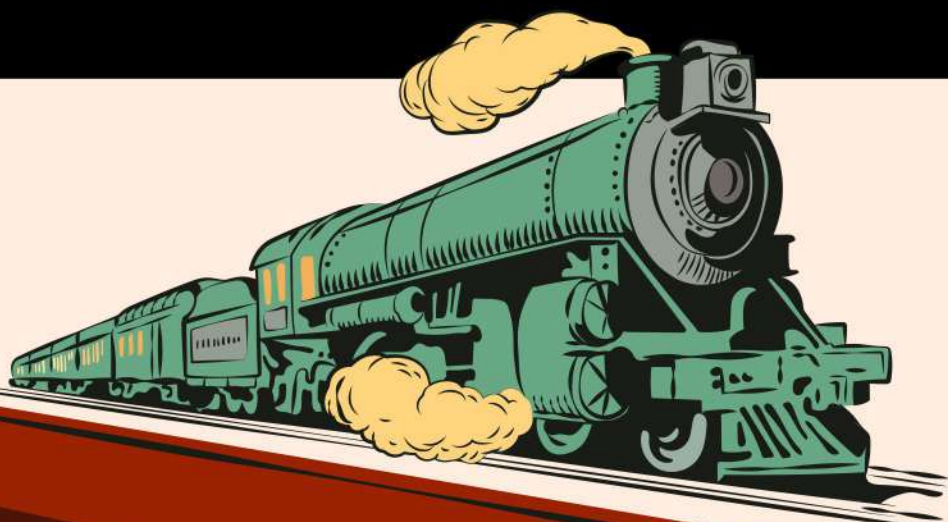


# RRB/RRC

## GROUP – D

GENERAL  
AWARENESS  
with CURRENT  
AFFAIRS



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**GROUP – D**

**GENERAL  
AWARENESS  
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**Team Prabhat**



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**RRB/RRC**

**GROUP-D GENERAL AWARENESS  
WITH CURRENT AFFAIRS**

*by Team Prabhat*

Published by **PRABHAT EXAM**

4/19 Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110 002

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# INDIAN HISTORY



## ANCIENT INDIA

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

- The most accepted period—**2500 BC-1750 BC** (by Carbon-14 dating).
- **John Marshall** was the first scholar to use the term 'Indus Valley Civilisation'.
- The Indus Valley Civilisation belongs to Proto-historic Period (Chalcolithic Age/Bronze Age).
- **Dayaram Sahni** first discovered Harappa Civilisation in 1921.
- **R.D. Banerjee** discovered Mohenjodaro or **Mound of the Dead** in 1922.

### VEDIC CULTURE (1500 BC-600 BC)

- Boghazkai inscription (Asia Minor, Turkey) proves Central Asian Theory as their homeland.
- The group that came to India first settled in the present Frontier Province and the Punjab—then called **Sapta Sindhu**, i.e. region of seven rivers.
- Vedic literature comprises four literary productions: (1) The Samhitas or Vedas; (2) The Brahmanas; (3) The Aranyakas; (4) The Upanishads.
- There are four Vedas—Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda. The first three Vedas are jointly called Vedatrayi, i.e. trio of Vedas.

### RIGVEDA

- The oldest religious text in the world.
- Collection of hymns, composed around 1700 BC, contains 1,028 hymns and is divided into 10 mandalas.
- The third mandala contains the **Gayatri Mantra**.

### SAMAVEDA (BOOK OF CHANTS)

It is a collection of melodies. It contains Dhruvad Raga.

### YAJURVEDA

The beliefs and rituals of non-Aryans are written in it.

### ATHARVAVEDA

It is a book of **magical formula**.

### THE UPANISHADS

They define the doctrine of Karma, Atman (soul), Brahma (God), and origin of Universe. There are 108 Upanishads.

### VEDANGS

- They are the limbs of the Vedas. These are treaties of Science and Arts.
- **There are six Vedangs:**
  - i. Shiksha (Phonetics)
  - ii. Kalpa Sutras (Rituals)
  - iii. Vyakarana (Grammar)
  - iv. Nirukta (Etymology)
  - v. Chhanda (Metrics)
  - vi. Jyotisha (Astronomy)
- **Panini** wrote Ashtadhyayi (4th century BC) on Vyakarana.

### UPAVEDAS

- There are four Upavedas:
- **Ayurveda** (Upaveda of the Atharvaveda)
- **Dhanurveda** (Upaveda of the Rigveda)
- **Gandharvaveda** (Upaveda of the Samaveda)
- **Sthapatyaveda** (Upaveda of the Yajurveda)

### PHILOSOPHY

There are six systems of Hindu philosophy, given by six philosophers of ancient India.

- Nyaya (analysis) – Gautama
- Vaisesika – Kanaad
- Sankhya – Kapila
- Yoga (application) – Patanjali
- Purva Mimansa – Jamini
- Uttar Mimansa – Vyasa

### PURANAS

There are 18 famous 'Puranas'. **Matsya Purana** is the oldest Puranic text.

### SUTRAS

Sutra literature is divided into three classes:

- Srauta Sutra—Dealing with large public sacrifices
- Griha Sutra—Dealing with rituals connected with birth, naming, marriage
- Dharma Sutra—Explain social and local customs

### SMRITIS ALSO KNOWN AS

- **Dharma Shastra** are the law books.
- **Manav Dharma Shastra** or **Manusmirti** is the oldest and most famous.

### EPIC

There are mainly two **Mahakavyas** (Epics):

- The Ramayana (Valmiki):** It is known as **Adi Kavya** (the oldest epic of the world). At present, it consists of 24,000 shlokas.
- The Mahabharata (Ved Vyasa):** The longest epic of the world. At present, it consists of 1,00,000 shlokas, i.e. verses in 18 Parvans, i.e. chapters, plus the Harivamsa supplement.

### RIGVEDIC/EARLY VEDIC PERIOD (1500–1000 BC)

#### Geographical Area

- Rigveda is the only source of knowledge for this period.
- Early Vedic people had knowledge of rivers Yamuna, Saraswati (Nandi tara) and Ganga, Ocean mentioned as Samudra (referred to collection of water and not sea), snow mountains (Himvat) and desert land (Dhawa).

- **The Purohita** or domestic priest was the first ranking official.
- Rigveda speaks of assemblies, such as the **Sabha, Samiti, Vidath and Gana**.
- Sabha was committee of few privileged and important individuals.

#### Society

- The Rig-vedic society comprised four varnas, namely **Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya** and **Shudra**. This classification of society was based on the professions or occupations of the individuals.
- Child marriage was not in vogue.
- The cow was already deemed **Aghanya**, i.e. not to be killed.
- Alcoholic drinks, **Sura** and **Soma** were also consumed.

#### Religion

- **Indra, Agni** and **Varuna** were the most popular deities of Rigvedic Aryans. **Savitri was the god of light**. The famous Gayatri Mantra is addressed to her.
- Their religion primarily consisted of the worship of gods but **Yajna** or sacrifice became more important.

### LATER VEDIC PERIOD (1000 BC-600 BC)

With reference to the territorial divisions, the later Vedas give three broad divisions of India, viz. **Aryavarta** (Northern India), **Madhyadesa** (Central India) and **Dakshinapath** (Southern India).

#### MAGADHA EMPIRE

- The period from 6th century BC to 4th century BC saw the struggle for supremacy among four mahajanapadas—Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti.
- The founder of Magadha was **Jarasandha** and **Brihadratha**.

### NANDA DYNASTY (344 BC-323 BC)

#### MAHAPADMANANDA

- The Shishunaga dynasty was overthrown by **Mahapadma**.

- It is considered to be the first non-Kshatriya dynasty and ruled for 100 years.
- He conquered **Kosala** and **Kalinga**.
- **DHANANANDA**
- The last king Dhanananda is possibly identical with the **Agrammes** or **Xandrames** of the Greek texts.
- It was during the rule of Dhanananda that the invasion of Alexander took place in north-west India in 326 BC.
- The Nanda dynasty came to an end about 322–21 BC and was supplanted by another dynasty known as Mauryas, with **Chandragupta Maurya** as the founder.

**RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS (600 BC-400 BC)**

■ **BUDDHISM: BUDDHA'S LIFE**

**Gautama Buddha**, founder of Buddhism, was born in 563 BC (widely accepted), on the Vaishakha Purnima day at **Lumbinivana** in **Kapilvastu** (now situated in the foothills of Nepal) in the **Sakya Kshatriya** clan.

**Major Events of Buddha's Life**

Events	Symbols
Janma (Birth)	Lotus and Bull
Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse
Nirvana (Sambodhi Enlightenment)	Bodhi tree
Dharmachakra Paravartan First Sermon	Wheel
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

■ **TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA**

- (a) His four Noble Truths:
1. The world is full of sorrows.
  2. The cause of sorrow is desire, Dwadash Nidan/Pratitya Samutpada.

3. If desires are conquered, all sorrows can be removed, Nirvana.
4. This can be achieved by following the eight-fold path, Ashtangika Marga.

(b) Eight-fold Path:

(Ashtangika marga)

- Right understanding
- Right thought
- Right speech
- Right action
- Right livelihood
- Right effort
- Right mindfulness
- Right concentration.

(c) Three Jewels (Triratnas):

- Buddha
- Dhamma
- Sangha

■ **BUDDHIST SANGHA**

It consisted of monks (Bhikshus or Shramanas) and nuns, who acted as a torchbearer of the dhamma. The worshippers were called *upasakas*.

■ **JAINISM**

- It was founded by Rishabha.
- According to Jain tradition, there were 24 **Tirthankaras** the first being Rishabhadeva/Adinatha and the last being Mahavira.
- The name of two Jain Tirthankaras—**Rishabha** and **Arishtanemi** are found in the **Rigveda**.

■ **DOCTRINES OF JAINISM**

- **Triratnas, i.e., Three Gems of Jainism**
  1. **Samyak Shradha/Vishwas (right faith):** It is the belief in Tirthankaras.
  2. **Samyak Gyan (right knowledge):** It is the knowledge of the Jain creed.
  3. **Samyak Karma/Acharana (right action/conduct):** It is the practice of the five vows of **Jainism**.