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(IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

935, 6th Avenue, Aishwarya Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Contact: +91-9840816701, 044-40483555, +91-9677174226

www.officersiasacademy.com

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Aspirant,

This book is dedicated to YOU, the untiring civil service aspirant who has the drive and commitment to persevere towards clearing this exam which is considered as one of the toughest exams in the world.

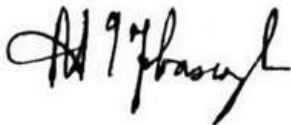
We congratulate you on choosing this book for “**Ancient History**”. Our attempt here is to simplify important concepts without losing the key points. Hence, we hope you will find this book useful in your civil services journey.

About this book

This book is a distillation of the expertise of the faculty at Officers IAS academy, explained in simple and easy to understand language. What you get to study in this book has been painstakingly collated by our faculty through their years of teaching and mentoring thousands of aspirants.

A strong zeal from you to clear this exam combined with our coaching and textbook will, I am sure help you scale great heights.

I wish you the very best in the most important endeavour of your life.



R. A. Israel Jebasingh

(IAS, 2004 Batch All India Rank 59)

Director of Officers IAS Academy

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK?

Hello Aspirant!

There is a subtle difference between putting in effort and putting in the right & focussed effort. That difference could mean whether you get into the civil services or not!

Aspirants know that the first step to become a Civil Servant is to crack the Preliminary Exam (Prelims) conducted by the UPSC. At first glance, any UPSC Prelims question paper might give the impression that many of the questions asked were 'random', 'remote', 'unexpected', 'out of syllabus', 'from obscure areas' etc.,

But, upon careful consideration one can see that there are some hidden patterns present in the way how some of them were framed. We in the R&D of Officers IAS Academy, understand this.

Our R&D team consists of about 25 members, all of whom have appeared in multiple UPSC Mains & Interviews. This team of veterans spent a year, meticulously combing through the question papers of the past 26 years of UPSC preliminary exams to identify patterns, repetitions & outliers.

The team carefully isolated all such patterns, high-value topics from every subject and has prepared a 'hitlist'. Based on these insights we have prepared books, which we rightfully call as 'Prelims Harvest' books.

Please note: We do not advocate the use of these books as 'Standard' sources. However, instead of reading endless number of books for the UPSC preparation, aspirants can focus on the standard books (NCERTs, etc.,) for the foundational knowledge and then devote the rest of their time in studying the Officers IAS Academy's Prelims Harvest books.

So, please use the Prelims Harvest Books in conjunction with the primary sources (NCERTs, etc.,) and get the best value for your time invested in your UPSC preparation.

Thank you!

R&D Team,

Officers IAS Academy, Chennai.

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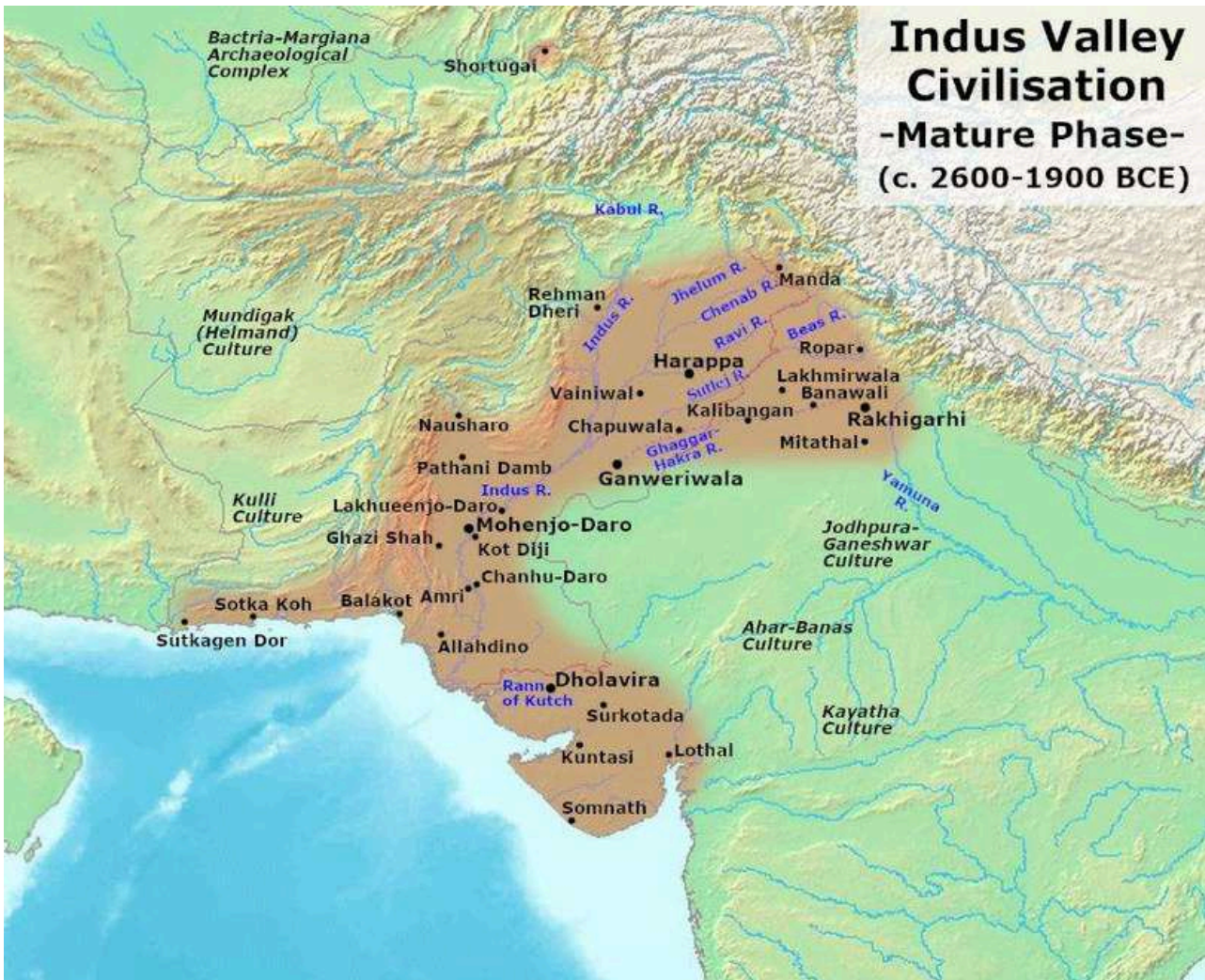
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INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

IVC sites & their Significance



- IVC also known as **Harappan civilization** or **Bronze age civilization**, spreading from today's North-East Afghanistan to Pakistan and North-West India, flourished in the river basin of the Indus and the Ghaggar-Hakra river between 2600 BC to 1900 BC.
- **Geographical Extent**
 - Eastern most - Alamgirpur
 - Western most - Sutkagen Dor
 - Northern most - Manda
 - Southern most - Daimabad

- The discovery of ancient Harappan cities unsettled the original conception of Indian history and moved the timeline back another 1500 years.
- IVC is the **largest** among the contemporaries (12,00,000 sq. km).
- **1500 sites** have been excavated so far.
- Over 1000 IVC sites have been discovered.
- Among the settlements, **Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, Dholavira and Rakhigarhi** are considered to be the major sites.

Major sites of the IVC and their significance:

IVC Sites	Significance
Harappa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First excavated site of IVC. • Location - Sahiwal district of west Punjab, on the banks of river Ravi. • Some of the major archaeological findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sandstone statue depicting human anatomy • Bullock carts • Terracotta figurines • A pottery with Indus script on it • Sculpture of mother goddess • Red sandstone male torso • Two rows of six granaries • Cubical limestone weight • Faience slag • only place having evidence of coffin burials.
Mohenjo Daro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second site to be unearthed • Location - Larkana district of Sindh, on the banks of river Indus. • Major archaeological findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The great bath • Citadel • Bronze statue of dancing girl • Bronze buffalo • Steatite statue of a bearded priest

Sutkagendor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seal of Pashupati• The great granary• Assembly hall• Three cylindrical shaped seals similar to Mesopotamian ones• Terracotta toys• A piece of woven cloth• Mother Goddess made up of terracotta <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of now, it is the western-most site of IVC that is known.• Location - Makran district of Balochistan (Pakistan), on the banks of Dast river• A trade point between Harappa and Babylon• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stone vessels• Pottery• Shell beads and bangles made out of clay
Chanhudaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the basis of archaeological findings, it can be inferred that this city was the manufacturing centre of IVC and it was possibly the abandoned city.• Only IVC site, which has no citadel in it.• Location - Nawabshah district of Sindh, on the bank of river Indus.• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traces of bead making factory and bangle factory• Usage of kajal and lipstick were found.• Inkpot• Impression of cart with seated driver• Footprint of dog chasing a cat

Lothal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most extensively researched coastal site of the IVC.• It consists of a dock which is considered to be the oldest one in the country, connects the city to Arabian sea via Sabarmati river.• Location - Gujarat on Bhogva river near Gulf of Cambay• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Port and dockyard• Single citadel• Houses with entrance facing east• Couple burial• Mesopotamian ivory seal• Rice husk• Chess game• Fire altars• Ivory weight balance• Terracotta figures• Graveyard
Kalibangan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to archaeological facts, the ploughed field of Kalibangan is the world's first ploughed field.• Location - Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan, on the bank of river Ghaggar.• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double citadel• Burnt bangles• Fire altars• Sun dried bricks• Wooden plough• Bones of camel• Lower fortified town• Earthquake evidence• Copper ox• Small circular pits with large urns and pottery• Wooden drainage

Surkotada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boustrophedon style• This site was occupied in the later phase of IVC (1900 BC-1300 BC)• It is a fortified IVC site• Location - Kutch district of Gujarat, on the banks of Shadi Kaur river.• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remains of horse, elephant and wolf bones• Stone fortification• Stone covered grave
Banawali	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well constructed fort town with a defence wall of height.• Location - Fatehabad district of Haryana.• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barley grains of good quality• Toy plough• Oval shaped Settlement and radial streets• Burnished grayware decorated with motifs• Ivory comb• Tortoise shell• Human figures of both female and male• S-shaped jars, painted earthen pots, cooking vessels etc.
Rakhigarhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the well-planned cities. It consists of roads and an urbanised sewage system.• The global heritage fund considers it to be one of the oldest and largest sites of IVC• Location - Hisar district of Haryana• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bronze toys• Terracotta statues• Traces of cotton cloth on silver and bronze artefacts• Granary with rectangular chambers

Dholavira	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal sacrificial pit and circular fire altars• One of the largest sites of IVC• A step well thrice as big as The great bath is found in this site.• The entire city is divided as citadel, middle town and lower town, only city with such division, the plan of the city is parallelogram.• Location - Kutch district of Gujarat• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign boards• Large water reservoirs and embankments• Dams• Rock usage in construction• Stadium• Exclusive water management system
Amri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location - Dadu district of Sindh, on the banks of river Indus• Evidences of antelope and rhinoceros• Cellular compartments used for storing grains.
Ropar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location - Rupnagar district of Punjab• Major archaeological findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog buried with humans• Oval pit burials• Stone and soil made buildings• Inscribed steatite seal with typical

Important non-IVC sites**Burzahom**

- It is a neolithic site, located in present day Kashmir.
 - Has dwelling pits, ceramics and bone tools.
 - Practised coarse grey pottery.
-

- Domesticated dogs were buried with masters.

Ganeshwar

- It is a pre-Harappan chalcolithic site, located near Khetri copper belt of Rajasthan.
- Microliths were found.
- Copper objects found: Arrow heads, spearheads, fish hooks, colts, bangles, chisels
- Ochre coloured pottery was practised.

Chandraketugarh

- It is a site in West Bengal near Kolkata, dates back to the 3rd century, pre-Mauryan era.
- Considered to be an important coastal hub.
- Significant number of terracotta objects have been unearthed.

Social and economic life of Indus Valley Civilization

- **The social life** of the Indus Valley people was quite **systematic and rich**.
- The people of IVC were **peace-loving**.
- The society predominantly was **matriarchal** with strong family organisations among the people.
- **Social amusements** included hunting wild animals, bullfighting, fishing, and clay modelling.
- The organised and rich life of Indus Valley Civilization as observed from excavations and remains are discussed in what follows through **some principal aspects**.

Food

- **Rice** was probably grown in the Indus valley. **Vegetables, pulses and fruits** like date palms were part of the main food of the civilization. Other important foods consumed were wheat, barley, rice, milk, and others. Beef, mutton, pork, poultry, fish etc., were also consumed by the people of the IVC. **Agriculture** was one of the main occupations of these people.

Decoration

- **Pottery** or metals like **copper and bronze** were used in most household articles. The art of pottery was well known and learned by the people of the IVC, and it attained excellence at Mohenjo-Daro.



Utensils and Tools

- Earth and stone materials were used to make kitchen utensils and households. There was a **lack of defensive weapons** like swords.

Dress

- The most common material used was **cotton fabric**

Communication and Intelligence



- The large number of **seals** engraved with letters shows their high percentage of **literacy**. They knew **mathematics** and used **binary system**. **Dentistry** was also practised. The drainage system shows their importance towards **cleanliness** and **public hygiene**. The seals, the terracotta figurines, the images of dancing girl explains their **artistic taste**.

Ornaments

- The people, both **women** and **men** were very fond of ornaments. There was a great variety in the shape and design of these ornaments. Ornaments were made of gold, silver, and ivory. People were well versed in the **art of cosmetics**. They also knew the use of gold, silver, copper, tin, lead, and bronze.



Religion customs



and belief system

- The worship of **mother goddess**, **shiva linga**, **animal worship** was prevalent. Nature worship was also prevalent to some extent. Absence of any religious structure among the remains of Indus valley. **Worship was personal**. **Amulets** found in large numbers shows that they may have believed in ghost and evil spirits.

Funerary Custom

They had **three** funeral customs viz.,

1. Complete burial of the dead body.
2. Burial of the bones of the dead body after wild beasts ate of it.
3. Burial of ashes and bones after burning the dead body.



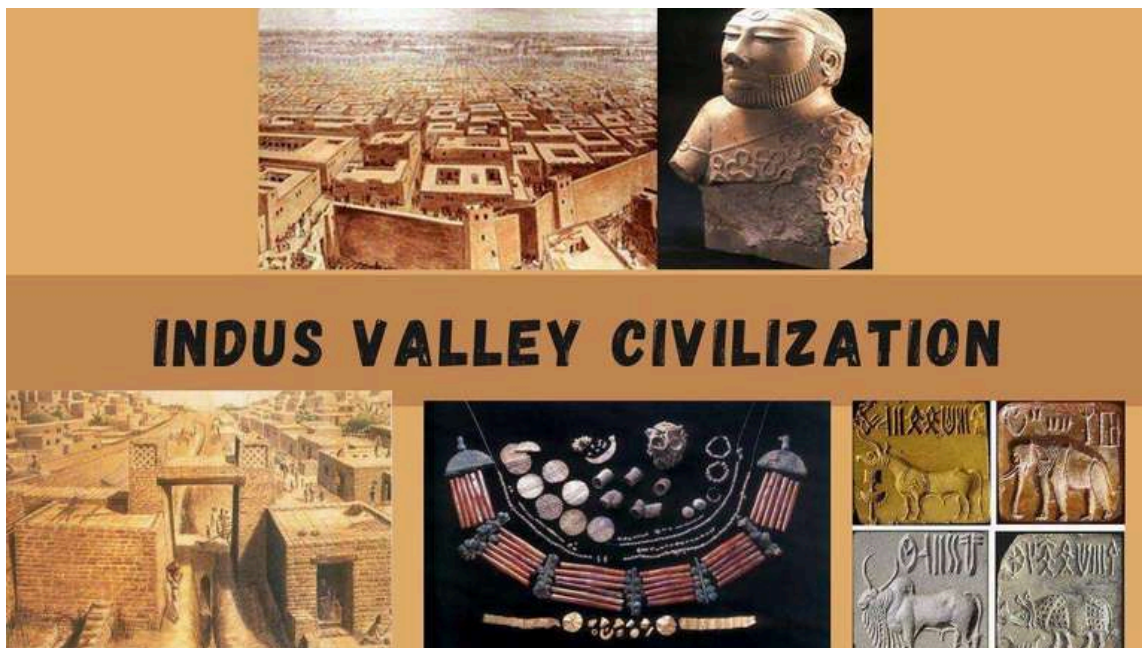
Economic Life

- **Agriculture** was the basic economy of the people. Facilitated by the river, cultivation was on an extensive scale. People domesticated animals for various purposes such as for cultivation, transportation, food consumption and as a companion.
- Evidences shows that the IVC had a highly developed system of **craft production and distribution**. Groups of specialised potters and copper and bronze workers were there in the IVC.
- **Trade and commerce** was the most prominent occupation of IVC. The trade was multifaceted as it operated on an intraregional as well as interregional basis.
- The **weights and measurements** were calibrated to a considerable extent. The measures were standardized and the binary system was in use.

Knowledge of cotton

- **Cotton**, one of the earliest domesticated non-food crops in the world.
- The earliest evidence of cotton being used was discovered by John Marshall from a 6th millennium BCE Neolithic burial at **Mehrgarh** of Pakistan in the Indian subcontinent.
- From Mehrgarh, **knowledge of cotton** and its uses was **utilized by people of Indus Valley civilization**.
- Traces of cotton were found at many sites of Indus Valley Civilisation. Several **strands of copper were found at Mohenjo-Daro**. A silver vase having cotton cloth attached to its lid confirms that people used cotton.
- There is **no literary evidence** of the use of cotton by people of Indus Valley Civilisation.

IVC and its characteristics



- **The Indus valley civilization or the Harappan civilization or bronze-age civilization** was a major period in the ancient history of India.
- This civilization last from **3300 BCE to 1300 BCE** and the growth of this civilization was seen between **2600 BCE to 1900 BCE**.
- IVC, which cover the areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and western and north western India is the largest among its contemporaries.

Prominent characteristic features of IVC

- It is named after the **Indus river** system.
- The capital cities were **Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa**.
- First planned civilisation in the world.
 - Houses were arranged in grid system.
 - Had citadel and lower town.
 - The great bath and the great granary at Mohenjo Daro.
- Distinctive features of IVC:
 - Burnt bricks
 - Seals
 - Beads
 - Bronze making
- Had the world's first closed elaborated drainage system and a well established water supply system.
- First literate society in the subcontinent.
- Had a standard system of weights and measures.
- A secular and peace-loving society.
 - Archaeologists have found that there are no temples. Worship was personnel.
- Excellent traders with exceptional customs system.
 - The major population was either traders or artisans. They were mostly involved in Artistic activities.
- They were the earliest in the world to produce cotton.

Difference between Rigvedic Aryans and IVC

- The Indus civilization and the Vedic culture constitute **two great cornerstones in the history of Indian culture and civilization**.
- Comparison between the two shows **more difference** than similarities.

The Indus Valley civilization	The Vedic culture
a. The sources of information about Harappans are mainly archaeological	a. Known from literary sources.
b. Harappans are considered to be the original inhabitants of India.	b. Aryans are believed to have come from Central Asia.
c. IVC was urban in nature. The main occupation was trade and commerce	c. Essentially Rural and pastoral in character. Agriculture and cattle rearing turned out to be the main occupation in the later vedic period.
d. Purely a copper-bronze culture	d. In its later phase is replete with the reference to iron.
e. Harappans were peace-loving people. They were neither involved in the warfare nor were aware of horses.	e. The horses played a major role in the Aryan system of warfare.
f. Harappan worshipped Pashupati, mother goddess, animals and nature.	f. Aryans worshipped Varuna, Aditi and other deities which stood for the principal phenomena of nature. They performed sacrifices as a ritual practice.
g. Practised earth burials	g. Practised cremation
h. Harappan pottery called black or red pottery was wheel made	h. The distinctive Aryan pottery is known as painted grey ware
i. Cotton was the basic fabric.	i. Aryans put on woollen garments.
j. No major social division was found among the people of IVC	j. Social divisions (varna system) were well noticeable in vedic civilization.

VEDIC AND LATER VEDIC PERIOD

Composers of Vedic hymns

- Rig Veda is the oldest Veda which is compiled around 1500-900 BC . It is organised as 10 books known as mandalas consisting of several suktas or hymns.
- The major families that composed these hymns are the Bharadvajas, Visvamitras, Vasisthas, Vamadevas.
- Entire hymns are dedicated to various deities .

Female composers

1. **Lopamudra** - was the daughter of King of Vidarbha and wife to sage Agasthya. She composed a hymn of 2 stanzas in Rig veda .
2. **Gargi** - Vedic prophetess & daughter of sage Vachaku. She composed several hymns that questioned the origin of all existence.
3. **Maitreyi** - Wife of Sage Yajnavalkya . She composed 10 hymns in Rig veda.
4. **Apala** - Apala is the name of a woman saint mentioned in the eighth mandala of the Rig Veda Samhita.

River most mentioned in Vedic literature is Sindhu (Indus)

- It played a major role in civilization.
- It is mentioned as early as in the Rig veda.
- It is mentioned more than 30 times .
- **Sapta Sindhu** - Rig Veda refers to Sapta-Sindhu or the land of seven rivers. This includes the five rivers of Punjab, namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej along with the Indus and Saraswathi.
- **River Saraswati** - It is mentioned between the east of Yamuna and west of Sutlej in the early Rigvedic 'Nadistuti' hymn. But later in the other Vedic scriptures it is said that the Saraswati River dried up in a desert.

Dharma and Rita - both concepts are found in Rigveda .

- **Rita** is the predecessor of Dharma . Rita is the main concept of Rig veda. It appears 390 times in Rig veda.
- It is the fundamental moral law on which the universe is governed and refers to the principle of natural order which regulates and coordinates the operation of the universe and everything within it.

- **Dharma** - Is derived from the Dhr-to hold. Dharma was said to be the path to be followed as per Rita. It was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.
- Dharma refers to the personal actions while Rita is an impersonal law.

Religion of early Vedic aryaans

- Naturalistic polytheism ie., worshipping the natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain and thunder. They personified these natural forces into many gods and worshiped them.

Important Vedic deities are

- Indra (Thunder) - the most popular. Also called as Purandara-destroyer of forts. He is the warlord leading Aryans to victory. 250 hymns devoted to him.
- Agni (Fire) - in the second position . 200 hymns are devoted to him. Agni acted as a kind of intermediary between the gods and people .
- Varuna (Rain)
- Soma (god of plants) - an intoxicating drink is named after him.
- Maruti (storms)
- Vayu (Wind)

There are also female goddess like

- Usha and Aditi (dawn)
- Prithvi (earth)
- Dominant mode of worshipping was through the recitation of prayers and offering of sacrifices.
- There were no temples and no idol worship during the early Vedic period.
- Elaborate rituals were followed during the worship.
- Majorly prayed for praja (children) , pasu (cattle), food , health etc.,

HETERODOX RELIGIONS

Jainism & related sects

- a. **Anuvrata** - In Jainism , Vrata is the vow which governs both monks and laymen.
 - Mahavrata or five great vows are undertaken by ascetics.

- Anu (tiny) vrata (vows) are the moderate version of mahavrata . It's to abstain from gross falsehood; gross violence and stealing; to be content with their own wife and to limit one's possessions.

- b. **Anekantavada**- Realistic pluralism is Jain metaphysics.
 - Matter and spirit are seen as separate and independent realities.
 - It states that truth and reality is complex and always has multiple aspects. Reality can be experienced, but it is not possible to totally express it .
 - There are innumerable material atoms and individual souls , each of them possess infinite positive and negative characteristics which can't be completely perceived by the human mind.
 - The permanent and essential qualities of substance(dravya) are attributes (guna) and changing qualities are modes (paryaya)

- c. **Sthanakvasi** - it is a sect of Svetambara Jainism.
 - It was founded by a merchant named Lavaji of Surat in 1653 AD .
 - They don't believe in idol worship as an essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana.
 - This sect gave rise to another group, the Terapanthi ("follow the path of the 13 precepts"), founded by Acharya Bhikshu in the 18th century.



Hinayana & Mahayana school: Differences & commonalities

Commonalities

- Origin being rooted in the teachings of Buddha
- Belief in 4 noble truths
 1. The truth of suffering (Dukkha)
 2. The truth of the origin of suffering (Samudāya)
 3. The truth of the cessation of suffering (Nirodha)
 4. The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (Magga)

Differences

Hinayana (lesser vehicle)	Mahayana (greater vehicle)
<p>Buddha is neither a god nor a Supernatural Being.</p> <p>Thus did not believe in idol or image worship of Buddha.</p>	<p>Buddha is a god who came down to earth to help people cross the sea of life.</p> <p>Thus they believe in idol or image worship of Buddha</p>
<p>Egoistic ideal :</p> <p>They believe in individual salvation through self discipline and meditation with no reference to the welfare of others</p>	<p>.Altruistic ideal :</p> <p>The followers believe in the concept of Bodhisattva who helps others in attaining salvation.</p> <p>Thus they believe in universal liberation of all beings from the suffering.</p>
<p>One has to become a monk to achieve salvation. Thus the number to whom salvation lay open was comparatively small.</p> <p>(It was this fact which caused the followers of the Mahayana school to call the older school the 'little vehicle')</p>	<p>One need not be a monk to achieve buddha-hood or bodhisattva</p> <p>Thus made salvation universally possible for achievement.</p>
<p>The Hinayana scholars used Pali language to interact with the masses.</p>	<p>The Mahayana scholars predominantly used Sanskrit as a language.</p>
<p>Hinayana school in its original form is almost non-existent in the present age.</p>	<p>Presently, the majority of the Buddhist followers in the world belong to the Mahayana sect. (around 53.2% as per 2010 report)</p>



FOR FULL BOOK,

KINDLY CONTACT : +91 96771 74226



OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

No: 935, 6th Avenue, Anna nagar, Chennai - 600040

Contact : +91 9677174226 | 044 - 40483555

www.officersiasacademy.com