

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE  
OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE

# THE VEDIC AGE

GENERAL EDITOR

R. C. MAJUMDAR

M.A., PH.D., F.A.S., F.B.B.R.A.S.

*Ex Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History  
Dacca University*

*Hon. Head of the Department of History  
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*

ASSISTANT EDITORS

A. D. PUSALKER

M.A., LL.B., PH.D.

*Assistant Director and Head of the  
Department of Ancient Indian Culture  
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*

A. K. MAJUMDAR

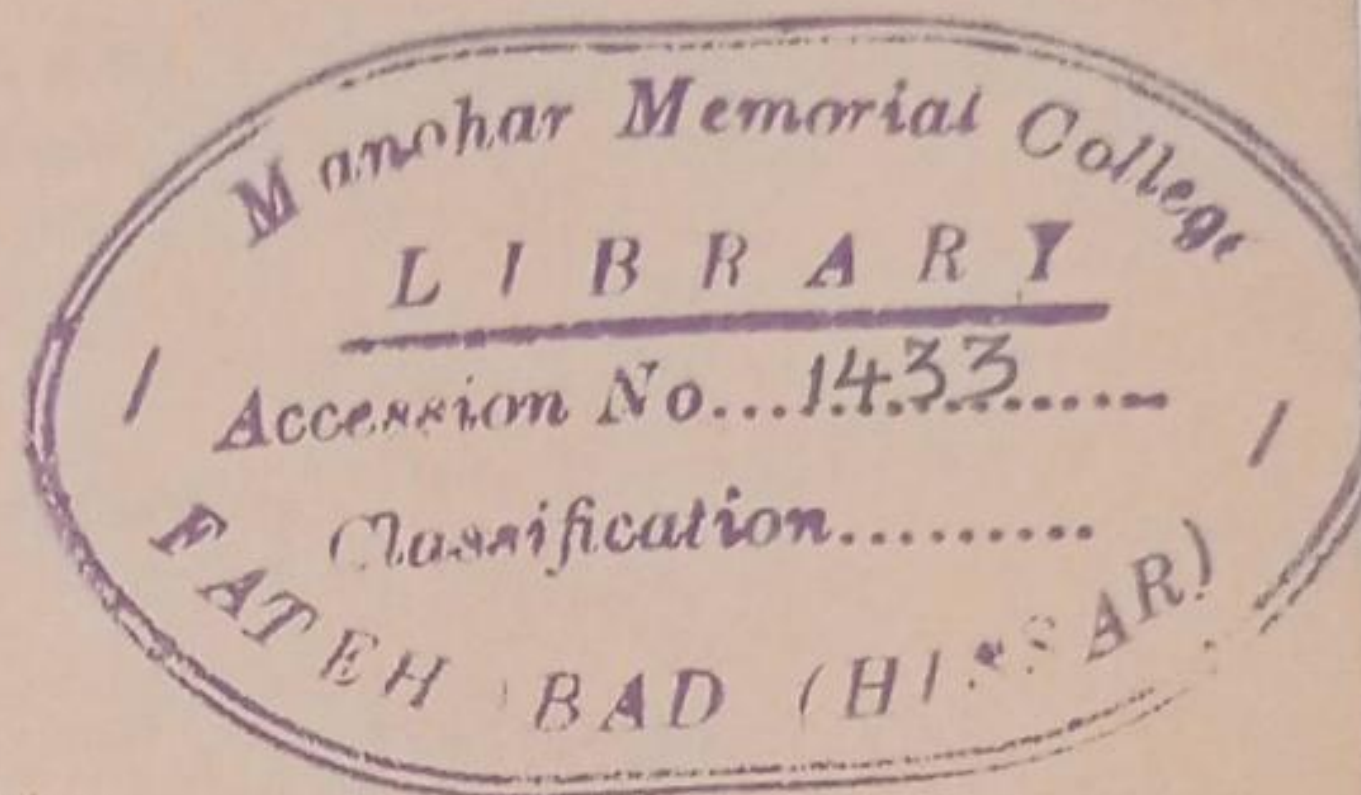
M.A., D. PHIL.

*Joint Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*



BOMBAY

BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN



## CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Foreword by K. M. Munshi</i>	7
<i>Preface by R. C. Majumdar</i>	23
<i>Abbreviations</i>	31
<b>BOOK I. INTRODUCTION</b>	
I. Indian History, its nature, scope and method <i>by R. C. Majumdar, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S.B., Formerly Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History in the University of Dacca</i>	37
II. Sources of Indian History <i>by R. C. Majumdar,</i> 1. Ancient Period. A—Literary Sources. B— Archaeology (I. Inscriptions, II. Numismatics, III. Monuments). C—Foreign Accounts (Greek Writers, Chinese Travellers, Arab Writers) 2. Mediaeval Period 3. Modern Period	47
III. Archaeological Explorations and excavations <i>by the late Rao Bahadur K. N. Dikshit, M.A., F.R.A.S.B., Formerly Director General of Archaeology, Govern- ment of India.</i> Decipherment of the Brāhmī Script. Begin- nings of Archaeological Survey. Establishment of Archaeological Department. Regular and System- atic Excavations (Mohenjo-daro, Punjab and N.W.F.P., Kāshmir, United Provinces, Bengal) Prehistoric remains in Gujarāt (Bombay, Mysore, Madras). Explorations in Greater India	66
IV. The Geological Background of Indian History <i>by D. N. Wadia, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S., F. R.G.S., F.R.A.S.B., F.N.I. Special Adviser to the Government of India</i> 1. The Setting of the Stage for Early Man in India 2. The Indo-Gangetic Alluvium of the Plains of North India 3. Human cave-dwellers of India: Their animal contemporaries 4. Laterite cap of the Peninsula and Soil Deposits 5. Changes in the River Systems of North India during the human epoch 6. The Great Prehistoric River of Northern India 7. The Deserts of Western India: The Rann of Cutch 8. The meteorological influence of the Himālaya Mountains 9. Earthquakes and Volcanoes	80

10. Late earth-movements and local Alterations of level
- V. The Geographical Background of Indian History 91  
by R. C. Majumdar
1. Physical Features (I. The great mountain wall. II. The Plain of Hindustān. III. The Plateau: A—The Deccan Plateau, B—The Coastal Region, C—The Central Indian Plateau).
  2. Influence of Geography upon History. Division into several political and cultural units. India, a distinct geographical unit. Effect of physical features. Indian Colonization. Effect of climate
- VI. Flora and Fauna 108
- Part I. The Flora  
by G. P. Majumdar, M.Sc., Ph.D. (LEEDS)  
Professor of Botany in the Presidency College, Calcutta
1. Forest Vegetation; its types
  2. Freshwater Vegetation
  3. Cultivated Vegetation
- Part II. The Fauna  
by B. K. Chatterji, M.Sc.  
Lecturer in Zoology in the Presidency College, Calcutta
1. The Vertebrates. Mammals. Birds. Reptiles. Batrachians. Fishes. Lower Chordates
  2. The Invertebrates. Molluscs. Arthropods. Echinoderms
- \* BOOK II. THE PREHISTORIC AGE
- VII. Palaeolithic, Neolithic And Copper Ages 125  
by H. D. Sankalia, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D. (LONDON)  
Professor of History in the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona.
1. Palaeolithic Age (I. First Inter-Glacial Age. II. Second Inter-Glacial Age and Early Soan Industry. III. Third Ice Age and Late Soan Industry. IV. Third Inter-Glacial Age; Chauntra Industry. V. Fourth Ice Age Tools).
  2. Mesolithic Age.
  3. Neolithic Age.
  4. Copper and Bronze Age.
  5. Iron Age
- VIII. Race-Movements and Prehistoric Culture 143  
by S. K. Chatterji, M.A., D.LITT. (LONDON), F.R.A.S.B.  
Khaira Professor of Indian Linguistics and Phonetics in the University of Calcutta.

Six main races with sub-types. Evolution of Common Indian Culture. Contribution of (a) the Negroid or Negrito, (b) the Proto-Australoids, (c) Dravidian-speakers. Synthesis of the Aryan and non-Aryan Culture.

IX. The Indus Valley Civilization 172

by *A. D. Pusalker*, M.A., LL.B., PH.D.

Assistant Director and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Bhāratiya Vidyā Bhavan

1. The Town (Buildings. Drainage. The Great Bath)
2. Social and Economic Life (Food. Animals. Dress. Ornaments. Toilet Articles. Household Utensils. Games. Conveyance. Weight and Linear Measures. Medicine. Weapons, Tools, and Implements. Trade and Commerce. Classes of People).
3. Arts, Crafts, and Industries (Figures. Seal-engravings. Statues. Spinning and Weaving. Pottery. Seals. Precious Stones and Metals. Shell, Ivory, and Faience).
4. Religion (Mother Goddess. Śiva. Animal Worship. Worship of Tree, Fire, and Water)
5. Funerary Customs
6. The Indus Script
7. The Antiquity of the Culture
8. Authors of the Indus Civilization
9. Extent, Connections, and Survivals of the Indus Civilization

✓ BOOK III. THE ARYANS IN INDIA

X. The Aryan Problem 205

by *B. K. Ghosh*, D.PHIL., (MUNICH), D.LITT. (PARIS)

Lecturer in Philology in the University of Calcutta  
 Original home of the Indo-Europeans. Earliest trace of the Indo-Irānians. Lithuanian, the most archaic of Indo-European Languages. No case for original home in Europe. Scandinavia not the original home. Tripolje culture. Brandenstein's theory of the Original Home. Relation between Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages  
 Appendix—India, the original home of the Aryans  
 by *S. Srikanta Sastri*, Professor Maharaja's College, Mysore

XI. Indo-Iranian Relations 222

by *B. K. Ghosh*

Cleavage between the Aryans of India and Irān. Antagonism between the Worshippers of Daiva-gods and Asura-gods. Reforms of Zarathustra. Pre-

Zarathustra Irānian Culture essentially the same as Vedic

XII. Vedic Literature—General View

229

by B. K. Ghosh

1. The Sāṃhitās (I. Ṛigveda. II. Sāmaveda. III. Yajurveda. IV. Atharvaveda).
2. The Brāhmaṇas
3. The Śrauta-sūtras

XIII. Aryan Settlements in India

245

by A. D. Pusalker

1. Geographical Names in the Ṛigveda
2. The Tribes in the Ṛigveda
3. The Period of the Later Sāṃhitās, Brāhmaṇas, Upanishads and Sūtras (I. Geographical Names. II. The Tribes)

BOOK IV. HISTORICAL TRADITIONS

XIV. Traditional History from the Earliest Time to the Accession of Parikshit

271

by A. D. Pusalker

1. Sources of Information
2. Chronological Scheme of Traditional History according to the Purāṇas
3. Pre-Flood Traditions and Dawn of History
4. Flood and Manu Vaivasvata c. 3100 B.C.
5. Yayāti Period (c. 3000-2750 B.C.) (I. The Lunar Dynasty. II. The Solar Dynasty. III. Brāhmaṇa Families)
6. Māndhātṛi Period (c. 2750-2550 B.C.) (I. The Solar Dynasty. II. The Lunar Dynasty)
7. Paraśurāma Period (c. 2550-2350 B.C.) (I. The Bhṛigus. II. The Haihayas. III. Other Lunar Dynasties. IV. The Solar Dynasty. V. Brāhmaṇa Families)
8. Rāmachandra Period (c. 2350-1950 B.C.) (I. The Solar Dynasty. II. The Lunar Dynasty. III. Brāhmaṇa Families)
9. Kṛishṇa Period (c. 1950-1400 B.C.) (I. The Panchalas. II. The Pauravas. III. The Yādavas. IV. The Eastern Ānavas, V. The Solar Dynasty)
10. The Bhārata War (c. 1400 B.C.) (I. The Kauravas and Pāṇḍavas. II. The Bhārata War)
11. Comparative Value of the Vedas and the Purāṇas as Sources of Traditional History
12. The Expansion of the Aryans and Aryan Culture

Appendix I: Development of different dynasties

Appendix II: Genealogical Tables

	Page
XV. Traditional History from the Accession of Parikshit to the end of the Bārhadhratha Dynasty <i>by A. D. Pusalker</i>	323
1. The Pauravas	
2. The Kosalas	
3. Magadha	
4. Other Kingdoms	
✓BOOK V. THE AGE OF THE RIK-SAMHITĀ	
XVI. Language and Literature <i>by B. K. Ghosh</i>	337
1. Language (Not homogeneous. Artificial. Re-handling of original texts. The Verbal system. Tenth Maṇḍala distinctly later)	
2. Literature (Yāska's classification of Vedic hymns not quite satisfactory. Hymn to Ushas. Spirit of the hymns. Hymn to Parjanya. Martial hymns. Dialogue-hymns. Frog-hymn. Dānastuti. Āpri-hymns. Funeral-hymns. Philosophical hymns)	
XVII. Political and Legal Institutions <i>by V. M. Apte, M.A., PH.D. (CANTAB)</i> Professor of Sanskrit in the Karnatak College, Dharwar	355
1. Political Institutions (Monarchy. <i>Sabhā</i> and <i>Samiti</i> . Purohita)	
2. Administrative Organization ( <i>Grāma</i> )	
3. Law and Legal Institutions (Individual ownership of Land)	
XVIII. Religion and Philosophy <i>by V. M. Apte</i>	363
1. Mythology (I. Origin. II. The Nature and Classification of Gods. III. The Celestial Gods. IV. The Atmospheric Gods. V. The Terrestrial Gods)	
2. Sacrifice	
3. Philosophy	
4. Ethical and Spiritual Thought	
XIX. Social and Economic Conditions <i>by V. M. Apte</i>	387
1. Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Amusements and Entertainments. VI. Food and Drink. VII. Dress and Decoration. VIII. Knowledge of Medicine and Sanitation)	
2. Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce. III. Occupations and Industries. IV. House-building and Means of Transport, etc.)	

✓ BOOK VI. THE AGE OF THE LATER SAMHITĀS

- |        |   |             |
|--------|---|-------------|
| XX.    | Language and Literature<br>by B. K. Ghosh (Section 4 by V. M. Apte)   | Page<br>407 |
| 1.     | The Language of the Samhitās (I. Sāmaveda. II. Yajurveda, III. Atharvaveda)   |             |
| 2.     | The Samhitā Literature (I. Atharvaveda, Arrogance of the Brāhmaṇas, Coronation hymn, Bhūmī-sūkta, the National Anthem of Vedic India, Magic and Charms, Hymn to Varuṇa. II. Yajurveda)  |             |
| 3.     | The Brāhmaṇas (I. Language, II. Literature)   |             |
| 4.     | The Āraṇyakas   |             |
| XXI.   | Political and Legal Institutions<br>by V. M. Apte   | 429         |
| 1.     | Political Theory (Origin of Kingship. Growth of royal power. <i>Sabhā</i> and <i>Samiti</i> )   |             |
| 2.     | Administrative Organization (Royal Officials. Taxation)   |             |
| 3.     | Law and Legal Institutions (Evidence. Criminal law. Civil law. Civil procedure. Ownership of Land)  |             |
| XXII.  | Religion and Philosophy<br>by V. M. Apte  | 442         |
| 1.     | Atharvaveda (Magic Formulae. Philosophical hymns)   |             |
| 2.     | The Sāmaveda and the Yajurveda Samhitās and the Brāhmaṇas (Grand Sacrifices. Groups of priests. The Gods. Ethical Ideas. The conception of Heaven and Hell. The Circuit of Birth and Death)                                   |             |
| 3.     | The Āraṇyakas   |             |
| XXIII. | Social and Economic Conditions<br>by V. M. Apte   | 453         |
| 1.     | Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Amusements and Entertainments. VI. Food and Drink. VII. Dress and Decoration. VIII. Knowledge of Medicine) |             |
| 2.     | Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce. III. Occupations and Industries. IV. House-Building and Means of Transport)  |             |

✓ BOOK VII. THE AGE OF THE UPANISHADS AND SŪTRAS

- |       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| XXIV. | Language and Literature<br>by M. A. Mehendale M.A., PH.D.<br>Professor of Sanskrit in S. B. Garda College, Navasari, Bombay | 471 |
|-------|---|-----|

CONTENTS

	Page
1. The Upanishads (Chronological classification. Composed mainly by the Kshatriyas. Principal teachings. The doctrines of Ātman and Brahman. Transmigration)	
2. The Sūtras (I. Śikshā. II. Kalpa. Śrauta-sūtra. Grihya-sūtra. Dharma-sūtra. Śulva-sūtra. Date of the Kalpa-sūtra. texts. III. Vyākaraṇa. IV. Nirukta. V. Chhandas. VI. Jyotisha)	
3. Language (I. The Upanishads. II. The Sūtras)	
XXV. Political and Legal Institutions	487
<i>by V. M. Apte</i>	
1. Political Theory (Principle of Dharma. Life and duty of king. Position of the Brāhmaṇa in the State. <i>Parishad</i> )	
2. Administrative Organization (Taxation. Village)	
3. Law and Legal Institutions (Beginnings of Civil and Criminal Law. Judicial tribunals. Punishments. Rules of Inheritance. Title to Property. Rate of Interest)	
XXVI. Religion and Philosophy	498
<i>by V. M. Apte</i>	
1. The Upanishads (Protest against ritual. Identity of Brahman and Ātman. Prāṇa. The transmigration of the soul. Ethical concepts. Fundamental doctrines)	
2. The Sūtras (The Śrauta sacrifices. The Grihya ritual. Meaning and nature of sacrifice. Different classes of priests. Magic and rituals. Ethical concepts)	
XXVII. Social and Economic Conditions	512
<i>by V. M. Apte</i>	
1. Social Condition (I. Family Life. II. The Caste System. III. Marriage and the Position of Women. IV. Education. V. Manners and Morals, Habits and Customs. VI. Amusements and Entertainments. VII. Food and Drink. VIII. Dress and Decoration. IX. Health and Hygiene)	
2. Economic Condition (I. Agriculture and Cattle. II. Trade and Commerce, Arts and Industries. III. House-building and Means of Transport)	
<i>Bibliographies</i>	533
<i>Appendix</i>	549
<i>Index</i>	554