

**Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, Lkr.**

**Class-6<sup>th</sup>, Sub. -Social Science, 02/02/2021**

### **Ch5-The Vedic Age(History)**

**Life of the people:-** Women were respected and no religious ceremony was complete without women. They could offer religious offerings & sacrifices along with their husbands. There are no evidence of child marriage in Rigveda and the practice of widow remarriage has been mentioned. Women

Could attend political assemblies. Thus, we can say women enjoyed high status in the society.

**Administration:-** politically Aryans were divided into Tribes or Janas. Each tribe was headed by a king called Rajan. This was not hereditary position. The Rajan was selected by the members of his tribe. The king was the protector of his tribe. Senapati was incharge of military responsibilities & the Purohita was given the responsibilities of managing religious duty. Sabha & Samiti are two popular assembly in which sabha was an assembly of selected people perhaps council of the elders. The regular system of taxation evolved.

The king did not maintain any regular or standing army and in times of war, he organised a people's army or military.

**Material Life :-** Cattle rearing & agriculture were the main occupations of the Aryans. A variety of occupations such as carpentry, chariot-making, weaving, pottery & leather work, etc. Copper was the first metal to be used by Vedic people. Towards the end of Vedic period, a new metal-iron, was discovered by the Aryans.

**Social division :-**In the Rigvedic period, differences based on occupations started. Priest, scholars and teachers were called the Brahmanas, the warriors and administrators were called Kshatriyas, the common people involved in production such as agriculture, crafts and trade were called the vaishyas. At the lowest rank of social ladder were the shudras whose duty was to serve the upper caste & do menial jobs. People still had the freedom to choose their occupations.

**Religious beliefs:-** Aryans worshipped the forces of nature like Agni (the fire God), Surya (the Sun God), Varuna (the water God) and Indra (the God of war and Rain) . The Aryans offered prayers and sacrifices. As the Aryans settled down, offerings & sacrifices became elaborate, complex & expensive. The priests began to enjoy tremendous power and prestige.

**By-Punit Kr. Singh**