

Early South Asia

Indus River

Mohenjo-daro (c. 2600–1900 BCE)

Harappa (c. 2600–1900 BCE)

Ganges River

Sanskrit

Vedas (fire ritual invocations of the gods)

Soma

Indra (divine warrior-king)

vajra ("thunderbolt" weapon of Indra)

Agni (fire god)

Surya (sun god)

Brahmin caste (priests)

Kshatriya caste (rulers)

Vaishya caste (merchants)

Shudra caste (manual laborers, includes artisans)

Upanishads (metaphysical texts on the Vedas, c. 1000 BCE)

atman (individual consciousness, soul)

brahman (universal consciousness)

samsara (reincarnation: cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth)

karma (individual's position in samsara, determined by past actions)

moksha (liberation; to break the cycle of samsara)

maya (delusion, illusion)

advaita (unity, non-duality)

yoga (meditation)

tapas (austerity)