

Correspondence
B.A. Degree Programme in Distance Education
History Syllabus

PAPER I: HISTORY OF INDIA (Earliest times to A.D.1206)

Section – A

- I. Introduction
 - a) Historiography – Orientalist Perceptions – The Colonial Constructions – Nationalist approaches – Recent trends.
 - b) Sources: Literary and Archaeological – their nature and importance.
 - c) Geographical features and their impact
- II. Prehistoric beginnings
 - a) Stone – Copper and Bronze age culture.
 - b) The Harappan culture: First urbanization – The origins – Town planning – Society-economy – Religion – Script.
 - c) Theories regarding the disappearance of the Harappan culture.
- III. The Vedic Age
 - a) The Aryan problem – Debates pertaining to origin – interface with post - Harappan culture.
 - b) Vedic literature – Economy – Polity – Society and Religion. Geographical shift – Advent of Iron – Agriculture and its impact.
- IV. The Age of Mahajanapadas
 - a) Agrarian expansion and second urbanization – *Gahapatis* and *Setthis*.
 - b) Persian and Macedonian invasions and their impact.
 - c) The Rise of heterodox religions – Jainism and Buddhism – their impact and contributions

Section – B

- V. The Mauryan Empire
 - a) Rise of Magadha – Nandas – Chandragupta Maurya – Ashoka – Decline of the empire.
 - b) Arthashastra – Indica – Ashokan edicts.
 - c) Polity – Economy – Society – Ashoka's *Dhamma* – Art and architecture
- VI. Regional states
 - a) Kushanas – Kanishka – Conquests – Trade – Mahayanism – The Gandhara School of Art.
 - b) Gangetic Plain – Disappearance of Mauryan institutions – *Bhagavatism* and the Mathura School of Art.
 - c) The Deccan – The Satavahanas: Origin – Polity – Cultural Contributions

- VII. The Gupta Age and After
- Political History – Samudragupta and Chandragupta II – Decline.
 - Economy – Society – Agriculture and land grants – Trade – Origins of feudalism – Was it a “golden age”? – Cultural Contributions.
 - Harshavardhana and his contributions.

Section – C

- VIII. South Indian Kingdoms
- Chalukyas of Badami – Pulikeshi II – Contributions – Literature – Art and architecture
 - Pallavas – Mahendravarman I – Narasimhavarman – Contributions – Literature – art and architecture
 - Rashtrakutas – Govinda III – Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga – Contributions – Literature – Art and architecture.
 - Cholas – Raja Raja Chola – Rajendra Chola – Contributions – Literature – Art and architecture – Administration.
 - Art and architecture – Literature – Tamil Bhakti Movement – Alvars and Nayanars.
- IX. Age of the Rajputs
- Their origin and Contributions – Economy – Society – Religion – Literature – Art and architecture.
 - Arab invasion of Sindh – its impact
 - Mahmud of Ghazni – Nature and impact of his invasions – Mahmud Ghori’s invasion and its impact

Map Study:

- Harappan Sites:
(Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal, Kalibangan, Channudaro, Ropar, Rangpur, Suktagendor, Banwali, Dholavira)
- Asoka’s Empire and Edict Sites:
Girnar, Brahmagiri, Maski, Gavimath, Palkigundu, Jatingaramesvara, Sannati, Dhauli, Sanchi, Saranath, Pataliputra, Rummindei, Sopara)
- India at the turn of the Christian Era:
 - Kushana territories and sites :
(Purushapura, Takshashila, Mathura, Kashgar, Sravasti, Kaushambi, Saranatha)
 - Satavahana territories and sites :
(Prathisthana, Nasik, Karle, Broach, Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda, Dhulikhatta, Vadagaon – Madhavpur)
- The Gupta territories under Samudragupta:
(Pataliputra, Ujjain, Allahabad, Udayagiri, Ajantha)
 - India in Harsha’s time : Harsha’s Empire:
(Kannauj, Thaneshwar, Broach, Ujjain, Ahichchatra, Prayag)
 - The Chalukya territory :
(Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal, Banavasi, Kanchipuram, Vengi, Mahakuta, Talakad)
- South India under the imperial Cholas :
(Tanjore, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Kumbhakonam, Uttaramerur, Nagapattanam, Kanchipuram, Srirangam, Tiruvidaimarudur, Madurai)

Books suggested

1. Allchin, Bridget and Raymond, *The Birth of Indian Civilization*, 1968.
2. ---, *Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*.
3. Basham, A.L., *The Wonder that was India*, Delhi, 1970.
4. IGNOU: *History of India: Earliest Times to 800 A.D.* Block 2 (for Aryan problem).
5. Majumdar, R.C., *Ancient India*, 6th rev, ed., 1971.
6. Majumdar, R.C., (ed), *History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol.I-V, Bombay.
7. Sastri, K.A.N. and G. Srinivasachari, *Advanced History of India*, Bombay, 1970.
8. Sharma, R.S., *Ancient India*, NCERT.
9. Thapar, Romila, *Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, Delhi, 1973.
10. Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, *A History of India*.
11. *Comprehensive History of India Series*, Indian History Congress, Calcutta.
12. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, *A History of South India*, O.U.P.
13. D.N. Jha, *Ancient India: An Introductory Outline*, People's Publishing House.
14. C.C. Davies, *A Historical Atlas of India*, O.U.P., 1937.
15. D.D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, 1956.
16. Romila Thapar, *Interpreting Early India*, 1992.
17. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th century*, New Delhi, 2008.

Kannada

1. Desai, Ritti and Gopal, *Pracheena Bharatada Charitre*, Karnataka University.
2. Majumdar, Ray Chaudhuri and Datta, *Bharatada Proudha Itihasa*, Mysore University.
3. Sharma, R.S., *Pracheena Bharata*, Navakarnataka, Bangalore, 1997.
