

**SYLLABUS FOR FOUR YEAR  
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM (FYUGP)  
IN HISTORY  
(Single Major and Single Minor)  
(As per NEP 2020)**

**SEMESTER I**  
**MAJOR PAPER I**  
**HISTORY OF INDIA I (PRE-HISTORY AND PROTO HISTORY)**

**Objectives:** The objectives of studying the pre-history and proto-history of India are to trace the evolution of human civilization in the Indian subcontinent. Firstly, to explore the Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods, investigating early human settlements and adaptation to changing environments. Secondly, to understand the Neolithic Revolution, focusing on the shift from hunting-gathering to agriculture. Thirdly, to analyze the advanced urban planning, architecture, and socio-economic aspects of the Harappan Civilization. Next, to delve into the Vedic period, examining the Rig-Veda and socio-political structures. Furthermore, to explore the post-Vedic period, emphasizing the rise of early states and empires. Additionally, to study interactions with external civilizations, fostering cultural exchanges. The objectives also encompass the development of writing systems and the application of archaeological methods for historical reconstruction. Ultimately, the aim is to cultivate critical thinking skills, enabling students to synthesize information and comprehend the foundational phases of India's rich historical tapestry.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1	History: Definition and Development of its Concept
2	Sources, Tools, and Techniques of historical reconstruction.
3	Prehistoric hunter-gatherers: a. Palaeolithic cultures- sequence and distribution; stone industries and other technological developments. b. Mesolithic cultures- regional and chronological distribution; new developments in technology and economy; rock art.
4	Advent of Food Production. a. The Neolithic Age and the Beginnings of Food Production b. Understanding the regional and chronological distribution of Neolithic cultures, subsistence, and exchange patterns. c. Neolithic Revolution: Debate. d. Chalcolithic Cultures
5	Proto-History: a. Origin, extent, and significant sites of Harappan Civilisation. b. Settlement patterns and town planning. c. Art and craft d. Harappan Economy e. Society, Polity, and Religious Beliefs. f. Decay of Harappan Civilisation
6	Legacy of Harappan Civilisation

## SUGGESTED READINGS:

Agrawal, D.P. The Archaeology of India. London: Curzon Press, 1982.

Allchin, Bridget & F.R. The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan. London: Cambridge University Press. 1982.

Basham, A.L. The Wonder That was India. London: Fontana, 1971.

Childe, V. Gordon. What Happened in History. London: Penguin Books. 1942.

Chakrabarty, D.K. The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities. New Delhi: The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology. 2006.

Chakrabarty, D.K. Bharata Itihase Adiparva. Kolkata: Orient Longman. 2007.

Jain, V.K 'Prehistory and Protohistory of India-An Appraisal -Palaeolithic, -Non-Harappan , Chalcolithic Cultures'D.K Print World LTD, 2006

Habib, Irfan. A people's History 1, Prehistory. New Delhi: Tulika Books. 2015.

Habib, Irfan. A people's History 2, The Indus Civilization. New Delhi: Tulika Books. 2013.

Sharma, R.S. India's Ancient Past. New Delhi: Oxford University Press(Reprint). 2007.

Singh, Upinder. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India. Delhi: Pearson. 2009

## SEMESTER I

### MAJOR PAPER II

#### HISTORY OF INDIA II (CIRCA 1500 BCE – 300 BCE)

**Objectives:** The objectives of studying the history of India from circa 1500 BCE to 300 BCE include examining the socio-political dynamics of the Vedic period, investigating the formation and expansion of the Mahajanapadas, and understanding the emergence of early republics. Additionally, the focus is on exploring the teachings and impact of religious and philosophical movements like Jainism and Buddhism. Students aim to comprehend the Maurya and Gupta empires, analyzing their governance, economy, and cultural contributions. Furthermore, the objectives involve evaluating trade and cultural exchanges with other civilizations, fostering critical analysis of historical sources, and tracing the foundational elements that shaped ancient India during this crucial time frame.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1.	Reconstruction of Ancient Indian History
2.	The Aryan Debate.
3.	Vedic Age a. Early Vedic Age: Settlement patterns, political and religious life, Expansion of agrarian economy: production relations, b. Later Vedic Age: Economy and Society, Technological and Economic developments, political relations; religion and philosophy. c. Social stratification: class, Varna, Jati, untouchability; gender; marriage and property relations.
4.	Rise of Mahajanapadas: a. Sixteen Mahajanapadas b. Urban growth c. Jainism and Buddhism
5.	Rise of Magadha: a. Factors for the rise of Magadh, b. Political developments in Magadh under Haryanka, Saisunagas and Nandas.
6.	Iron Age with reference to Megaliths, PGW and NBPW

#### SUGGESTED READINGS:

Chakraborty, Uma. The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism. Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal Publisher. 2008.

Gurukkal, Ranjan. Social Formations of Early South India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2010.

Jha, D.N. Ancient India in Historical Outline. Delhi: Manohar(Reprint). 2012

Habib, Irfan. Indus Civilization: Including other Copper Age Cultures and the History of Language Change till 155 B.C. New Delhi: Tulika Books. 2002.

Roychowdhury, H.C. Political History of Ancient India. Rev. ed. With Commentary by B.N. Mukherjee. Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1997.

Sastri, K.A.N. A History of South India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1997.

Sharma, R.S. Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India. McMillan India. 1983.

Sharma, R.S. Looking for the Aryas. Delhi: Orient Longman. 1995.

Singh, Upinder. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India. Delhi: Pearson. 2009.

Thapar, Romila. History of Early India. Delhi: Penguin India. 2003.

Yazdani , G. Early History of Deccan. Andhra Pradesh: Oxford University Press.1960.

## SEMESTER I

### MINOR PAPER I

#### HISTORY OF INDIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES UP TO 300 CE.

Objectives: In this period India underwent significant political, cultural, and religious transformations. The aim of this paper is examining the socio-political dynamics of the Vedic period, investigating the formation and expansion of the Mahajanapadas, and understanding the emergence of early republics. Additionally, the focus is on exploring the teachings and impact of religious and philosophical movements like Jainism and Buddhism. The Maurya Empire, established by Chandragupta Maurya in 322 BCE, brought centralized rule and promoted Buddhism under Ashoka. The spread of Hinduism and Buddhism shaped religious practices. Additionally, invasions by Central Asian tribes such as the Kushans and Huns influenced Indian society.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1	Sources of Ancient Indian History
2	Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic Cultures - Sites, tool technology, and key features.
3	Harappan Civilization: Origin, Extent, Town Planning & Decline
4	The Vedic Age : Polity, Society, Economy, and Religion.
5	Mahajanpadas to Empire: Territorial States and the rise of Magadha, Jainism, and Buddhism, Alexander's Invasion and its impact.
6	Emergence and Growth of the Mauryan Empire: Conquest of Chandragupta Maurya, Mauryan administration, Mauryan economy, Ashoka's Dhamma, Mauryan Art and Architecture
7	The Satvahanas and Kushanas; Aspects of Polity, Coins, Art and Religion,
8	The Sangam Age: Sangam Literature and Society.

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS:**

- Agrawal, D.P. The Archaeology of India. London: Curzon Press, 1982.  
Allchin, Bridget & F.R. The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan . London: Cambridge University Press. 1982.  
Basham, A.L. The Wonder That was India. London: Fontana, 1971.  
Childe, V. Gordon. What Happened in History. London: Penguin Books. 1942.  
Chakrabarty, D.K. The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities. New Delhi: The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology. 2006.  
Jha, D.N. Ancient India in Historical Outline. Delhi: Manohar(Reprint). 2012.  
Sastri, K.A.N. A History South India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1997.  
Sharma, R.S. *India's Ancient Past*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007.  
Singh, Upinder. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India. Delhi: Pearson. 2009.

Thapar, Romila. History of Early India. Delhi: Penguin India. 2003.  
Yazdani , G. Early History of Deccan. Andhra Pradesh: Oxford University Press.1960.

**SEMESTER II**  
**MAJOR PAPER III**  
**HISTORY OF INDIA III 300 BCE - CE 300**

**Objectives:** The objectives of studying the history of India from 300 BCE to CE 300 include analyzing the Maurya and Gupta empires' political structures, economic systems, and cultural advancements. Students aim to understand the spread and impact of Buddhism and Jainism, as well as the interactions with the Hellenistic world. Exploring the trade routes and economic prosperity during this period is crucial. Additionally, the study focuses on the developments in art, literature, and science, highlighting the Golden Age of Indian civilization. The objectives also involve examining the foreign invasions, the establishment of regional kingdoms, and the synthesis of diverse cultural elements during this transformative epoch in India's history.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1.	Emergence and Growth of Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka, Administration, Dhamma.
2.	Post-Mauryan Polities with special reference to the Kushanas and the Satavahanas.
3.	Expansion of agrarian economy: production relations.
4.	Urban growth: north India, central India and the Deccan; craft Production: trade and trade routes; coinage.
5.	Social stratification: Varna, Jati, Untouchability; Gender; Marriage and Prope Relations
6.	Art and Architecture: Mauryan and Post-Mauryan.

**ESSENTIAL READINGS:**

D. Chattopadhyaya, The Making of Early Medieval India, 1994.

D. P. Chattopadhyaya, History of Science and Technology in Ancient India, 1986.  
D. D. Kosambi, An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, 1975.  
S. K. Maity, Economic Life in Northern India in the Gupta Period, 1970.  
B. P. Sahu (ed.), Land System and Rural Society in Early India, 1997.  
R. S. Sharma, Indian Feudalism, 1980.  
R.S.Sharma, Urban Decay in India,c. 300- c. 1000, Delhi, Munshiram Manohar Lal,1987.  
Romila Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, 1997.  
Susan Huntington, The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain, New York, 1985.

### **SUGGESTED READINGS:**

N. N. Bhattacharya, Ancient Indian Rituals and Their Social Contents, 2nd ed., 1996.  
J. C. Harle, The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent, 1987.  
P. L. Gupta, Coins, 4th ed., 1996.  
KesavanVeluthat, The Early Medieval in South India, New Delhi, 2009.  
H. P. Ray, Winds of Change, 1994.  
Romila Thapar, Early India: From the origins to 1300, 2002.



**SEMESTER II**  
**MAJOR PAPER IV**  
**HISTORY OF INDIA IV 300 CE - 750 CE**

**Objectives:** The objectives of studying the history of India from 300 CE to 750 CE include examining the political, economic, and cultural aspects of the Gupta Empire's decline and the emergence of regional kingdoms. This era witnessed the Gupta Age (320-550 CE), marked by advancements in art, science, and mathematics. Students aim to understand the socio-religious developments, including the rise of Hinduism and the spread of Buddhism. Additionally, the focus is on exploring trade and cultural exchanges with Southeast Asia and China, contributing to the Silk Road networks. The study encompasses the impact of foreign invasions, particularly by the Huns and later by the Arabs. Analyzing the establishment of the Chalukya and Pallava dynasties and their contributions to art and architecture is also crucial.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1.	The nature of polities: the Gupta empire and its contemporaries; post-Gupta polities -Pallavas, Chalukyas, and Vardhanas.
2.	Agrarian expansion: land grants, changing production relations; graded Land rights and peasantry
3.	The problem of urban decline: patterns of trade, currency, and urban Settlements.
4.	Religion, philosophy and society: a. Consolidation of the brahmanical tradition: dharma, Varnashram, Purusharthas, samskaras. b. Theistic cults (from circa second century BC): Mahayana; the Puranic tradition. c. The beginnings of Tantricism
5.	A brief survey of Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit and Tamil literature. Scientific and technical treatises
6.	Art and architecture & forms and patronage; Gupta, post-Gupta

**SUGGESTED READINGS:**

Kulke, Hermann, and Dietmar Rothermund. *A History of India*. 4th ed., Routledge, 2004. Thapar, Romila. *Early India: From the Origins*

to AD 1300. University of California Press, 2002. Sen, Sailendra Nath. *Ancient Indian History and Civilization*. New Age International, 1999.

Majumdar, R.C. *Ancient India*. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2003.

Sharma, R.S. *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*. Macmillan India, 2001. Basham, A.L. *The Wonder That Was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent Before the Coming of the Muslims*. Picador India, 2004.

Thapar, Romila. *Somanatha: The Many Voices of a History*. Verso, 2005.

Upinder Singh. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Pearson, 2009.

Dutt, Romesh Chunder. *A History of Civilisation in Ancient India Based on Sanscrit Literature*. Kessinger Publishing, 2004.

Ray, Himanshu Prabha. *The Archaeology of Seafaring in Ancient South Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

**Semester II**  
**MINOR PAPER II**  
**HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 300 C.E TO 1206 C.E.**

**Objectives:** The objectives of studying the history of India from 750 CE to 1206 CE include understanding the socio-political dynamics of the period marked by the establishment of the Gurjara- Pratihara, Rashtrakuta, and Pala empires. Students aim to analyze the developments in art, literature, and science during this era of regional kingdoms. Exploring the cultural and economic interactions with neighboring regions, including the Arab world, is crucial. Additionally, the study focuses on the impact of the Chola dynasty in South India and the Ghaznavid and Ghurid invasions, leading to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. By 1206 CE, the Delhi Sultanate emerged, marking the beginning of Islamic rule in India under Qutb- ud-din Aibak, heralding a new era of cultural synthesis and political changes. The objectives also encompass examining the synthesis of diverse cultural elements and the evolution of early medieval Indian society.

UNITS	CONTENTS
1.	The Rise and Growth of the Guptas; the nature of the polities of the Gupta empire and its contemporaries including the Vakatakas of Deccan.
2.	Towards the Early Medieval: Changes in Society, Polity, Culture and religion with special reference to the Pallavas, Chalukyas and Vardanas.
3.	Harsha and His Times: Harsha's Kingdom, Administration, Buddhism & Nalanda.
4.	Evolution of Political structures of Rashtrakutas, Pala & Pratiharas.
5.	Agrarian expansion: Land Grants, Agrahara system, changing production relations; graded land rights and peasantry
6.	The debates associated with so-called Urban Decay: patterns of trade, currency, and urban settlements, craft production, traders and trading networks: Internal and External (with special reference to linkage with the Roman Empire and Southeast Asian countries), Guilds.
7.	1. Art and architecture & forms and patronage; Gupta, post-Gupta b. Temple Architecture: Nagara, Vesara and Dravida styles.
8.	Emergence of Rajput States in Northern India: Polity, Economy & Society, Arabs in Sind: Polity

**Suggested Readings:**

Thapar, R. (2005). *Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*. University of California Press. Kulke, H., & Rothermund, D. (2004). *A History of India*. Routledge.

Sharma, R. S. (2005). *India's Ancient Past*. Oxford University Press.

Eaton, R. M. (2006). *A Social History of the Deccan, 1300-1761: Eight Indian Lives*. Cambridge University Press.

Sen, S. N. (1999). *Ancient Indian History and Civilization*. New Age International.

Majumdar, R. C., Pusalker, A. D., & Majumdar, A. K. (1951). *The History and Culture of the Indian People: Volume 4: The Age of Imperial Kanauj*. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Stein, B. (1998). *A History of India*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Sarkar, J. (1988). *Ancient India: History and Culture*. World Press.

Kulke, Hermann, and Dietmar Rothermund. *A History of India*. 4th ed., Routledge, 2004.

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Majumdar, R.C. *Ancient India*. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2003.

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Basham, A.L. *The Wonder That Was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Sub-Continent Before the Coming of the Muslims*. Picador India, 2004.

Thapar, Romila. *Somanatha: The Many Voices of a History*. Verso, 2005.

Upinder Singh. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Pearson, 2009.

Dutt, Romesh Chunder. *A History of Civilisation in Ancient India Based on Sanskrit Literature*. Kessinger Publishing, 2004.

Ray, Himanshu Prabha. *The Archaeology of Seafaring in Ancient South Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.