

Indian History (Mains)

PAPER - I

1. Sources:

Archaeological sources:

Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments

Literary sources:

Indigenous:

Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.

Foreign accounts: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers.

2. Pre-history and Proto-history:

Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic).

3. Indus Valley Civilization:

Origin, date, extent, characteristics, decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.

4. Megalithic Cultures:

Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements, Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry.

5. Aryans & Vedic Period: Expansions of Aryans in India.

Vedic Period: Religious and philosophic literature; Transformation from Rig Vedic period to the later Vedic period; Political, social and economical life; Significance of the Vedic Age; Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system.

6. Period of Mahajanapadas:

Formation of States (Mahajanapada): **Republics and monarchies; Rise of urban centres; Trade routes; Economic growth; Introduction of coinage; Spread of Jainism and Buddhism; Rise of Magadha and Nandas.**

Iranian and Macedonian invasions and their impact.

7. Mauryan Empire:

Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra; Ashoka; Concept of Dharma; Edicts; Polity, Administration; Economy; Art, architecture and sculpture; External contacts; Religion; Spread of religion; Literature.

Disintegration of the empire; Sungas and Kanvas.

8. Post - Mauryan Period (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas):

Contact with outside world; growth of urban centres, economy, coinage, development of religions, Mahayana, social conditions, art, architecture, culture, literature and science.

9. Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India:

Kharavela, The Satavahanas, Tamil States of the Sangam Age; Administration, economy, land grants, coinage, trade guilds and urban centres; Buddhist centres; Sangam literature and culture; Art and architecture.

10. Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas:

Polity and administration, Economic conditions, Coinage of the Guptas, Land grants, Decline of urban centres, Indian feudalism, Caste system, Position of women, Education & educational institutions; Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, Literature, scientific literature, art & architecture.

11. Regional States during Gupta Era:

The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami; Polity & Administration, Trade guilds, Literature; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva

religions. Tamil Bhakti Movement, Shankaracharya; Vedanta; Institutions of temple and temple architecture; Palas, Senas, Rashtrakutas, Paramaras, Polity & administration; Cultural aspects. Arab conquest of Sind; Alberuni, The Chalukyas of Kalyana, Cholas, Hoysalas, Pandyas; Polity & Administration; Local Government; Growth of art & architecture, religious sects, Institution of temple & Mathas, Agraharas, education & literature, economy & society.

12. Themes in Early Indian Cultural History:

Languages and texts, major stages in the evolution of art and architecture, major philosophical thinkers and schools, ideas in Science and Mathematics.

13. Early Medieval India, 750-1200:

- **Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the Peninsula, origin and the rise of Rajputs**
- **The Cholas: administration, village economy and society**
- **“Indian Feudalism”**
- **Agrarian economy and urban settlements**
- **Trade and commerce**
- **Society: the status of the Brahman and the new social order**
- **Condition of women**
- **Indian science and technology**

14. Cultural Traditions in India, 750-1200:

- **Philosophy: Shankaracharya and Vedanta, Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita, Madhva and Brahma-Mimansa**
- **Religion: Forms and features of religion, Tamil devotional cult, growth of Bhakti, Islam and its arrival in India, Sufism**
- **Literature: Literature in Sanskrit, growth of Tamil literature, literature in the newly developing languages, Kalhan's Rajtarangini, Alberuni's India**
- **Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting**

15. The 13th Century:

- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: **The Ghurian invasions – factors behind Ghurian success**
- **Economic, social and cultural consequences**
- **Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans**
- Consolidation: **The rule of Iltutmish and Balban**

16. The 14th Century:

- **“The Khalji Revolution”**
- Alauddin Khalji: **Conquests and territorial expansion, agrarian and economic measures**
- Muhammad Tughluq: **Major projects, agrarian measures, bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq**
- Firuz Tughluq: **Agrarian measures, achievements in civil engineering and public works, decline of the Sultanate, foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta's account**

17. Society, Culture & Economy in the 13th & 14th Centuries:

- Society: **composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate, Bhakti movement, Sufi movement**
- Culture: **Persian literature, literature in the regional languages of North India, literature in the languages of South India, Sultanate architecture and new structural forms, painting, evolution of a composite culture**
- Economy: **Agricultural production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade and commerce**

18. The 15th & Early 16th Century – Political Developments & Economy:

- Rise of Provincial Dynasties: **Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abedin), Gujarat, Malwa, Bahmanids**
- **The Vijayanagra Empire**
- **Lodis**
- **Mughal Empire, First phase: Babur & Humayun**
- The Sur Empire: **Sher Shah's Administration**

- Portuguese Colonial enterprise
- Bhakti & Sufi Movements

19. The 15th & Early 16th Century – Society & Culture:

- Regional cultural specificities
- Literary traditions
- Provincial architecture
- Society, culture, literature and the arts in Vijayanagara Empire.

