

# **Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology**

## Unit-I

Definition, aim and scope of History and archaeology, Sources: Archaeological and literary, foreign accounts: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers. History and growth of archaeology, History of Indian Archaeology, Relationship of Archaeology with social and natural sciences.

Retrieval of Archaeological data: Techniques of explorations and excavations Aims and methods of conservation and preservation of archaeological remain Recording and preparation of reports.

Chronology and dating : Relative, Stratigraphy, Typology, Absolute, Carbon 14, Potassium Argon, Thermo luminescence, Dendrochronology, Pollen analysis, Verve clay analysis,

Methods of objective interpretations: Ethno-archaeology, Experimental archaeology, Application of new archaeological methods in India

## Unit –II

Pre-history : Geological, biological and cultural dimension of Prehistoric man: Pleistocene and Holocene, Environment and climatic changes, flora and fauna, Main stages of human evolution and important fossil records

Appearance of stone tools and development of technology: Main techniques and tools of Stone Age, Methods of study of prehistoric remains; Hunting-Gathering stage: Paleolithic in Africa, Europe and South-East Asia. Mesolithic in Europe and West Asia; Paleolithic and Mesolithic remains and important sites of India; Beginning of food production: Neolithic stage in West Asia, Major Neolithic cultures and important sites of India

## Unit-III

Proto-history: Pre and early Harappan Village Cultures of North and North-Western India; Harappan Culture: Origin, extent, chronology, factors of urbanization, trade script, religion, art and craft, factors for the decline; Devaluation of Harappa Culture; Chalcolithic village communities of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; Copper using cultures of Gangetic plains; Early occurrence of iron :

Chrono-cultural features, Painted grey ware, Black slipped ware and Megalithic cultures, Northern Black polished ware culture : Extent, chronology, Characteristics traits

#### Unit-IV

##### Vedic Period

Migrations and settlements : dating the Vedic, literary and archaeological evidences, evolution of social and political institutions ; religious and philosophical ideas, rituals and practices.

##### Period of Mahajanapadas

Formation of States (Mahajanapadas ) : republics and Monarchies ; rise of urban centers; trade routes ; economic growth ; introduction of coinage ; spread of Jainism and Buddhism ; rise of Magadha and Nandas.

Iranian and Macedonian Invasions and their impact.

Administration ; economy; architecture and sculpture ; external contacts.

#### Unit-V

##### Mauryan Empire

Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra ; Ashoka ; Concept of Dharma ; Edicts; Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts.

#### Unit-VI

Disintegration of the empire ; Sungas and Kanvas.

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

#### Unit-VII

Origin and antiquity of coinage in India: Techniques of manufacturing coins, Punch-marked coins;; Principal types of Indo-Greek coinage; Saka and Kushana coinage; Principal types of Gupta Gold coinage; Brief account of Pre-Islamic Medieval Indian coinage; Origin and antiquity of writing in India : Origin of Brahmi and Kharasthi scripts, Study of some select inscription; Hathigumpha inscription of Kharvela, Junagarh inscription of Rudradaman, Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II and Gwalior inscription of Mihira Bhoja

#### Unit-VIII

Architecture of structural stupas, Rock-cut architecture: Monastries and shrines; Temple architecture: Origin and development of temples, Main features and examples of Nagar, Vesara and Dravid styles

Main styles of sculptural art: Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, Satvahana, Chalukya, Pallava and Chola Periods

#### Unit-IX

##### Imperial Guptas and Regional States of India

Guptas and Vakatakas, Harsha, Administration, economic conditions, coinage of the Guptas, land grants, decline of urban centres, Indian feudalism, caste system, position of women, education and educational institutions – Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, contact with neighbouring countries – Central Asia, South-East Asia and China, Sanskrit literature, scientific literature, art and architecture.

#### Unit-X

##### 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.

The Kadambas, Gangas, Pallavas and Chalukyas of Badami- Administration, trade guilds, Sanskrit literature and growth of regional languages and scripts ; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions. Tamil Bhakti Movement, Shankaracharya – Vedanta ; Institutions of temple and temple architecture.

Varmanas of Kamrup : Palas and Senas, Rashtrakutas, Pratiharas, Kalachuri-Chedis ; Paramaras ; Chalukyas of Gujarat ; Arab contacts – Ghaznavi Conquest, Alberuni.

The Chalukyas of Kalyana, Cholas, Cheras, Hoysalas, Pandyas – Administration and local Government, growth of art and architecture, religious sects, Institution of temple and Mathas, Agraharas, education and literature, economy and society, contact with Sri Lanka and South-East Asia.