

I Year

Paper I: History of India (From Stone Age to CE 700)

- I. Prehistoric beginnings : The Old Stone Age – major sites –material culture – the Microliths and Mesolithic phase – the New Stone Age – Beginnings of agriculture and settled life –Chalcolithic cultures – Megalithic culture.
- II. Indus Civilization: (First urbanization) – the Early, Mature and Late Harappan –the rural and the urban settlements – Town planning and layout – Economy and modes of sustenance – Religion – Script – the Decline.
- III. The Early Vedic Age : The “Aryan” problem – Vedic literature – geographical horizon – material culture – inter-tribal and intra-tribal wars – social organization – power and its exercise – rituals and their function – Migrations.
- IV. The Later Vedic Age : The archaeology of PGW and iron - the settlements of the Ganga Valley – spread of agriculture – increase in production and surplus – social differentiation – *Varna* and *Jati* – changes in religious ideology – philosophy of the Upanishads – from *Jana* to *Janapada*.
- V. The Sangam Age : Early Tamil literature – the *Akam* and *Puram* songs – Uneven developments in economy and society – exchanges, local and long distance – the “Roman Trade” – social structure – political organization – the slow and uneven transition.
- VI. The Second Urbanization : Artisans – the ‘guilds’ – *sethis* and *gahapatis* – Surplus and trade – trade centres, trade routes and trading communities –dissatisfaction with the establishment – heterodox religions – Jainism and Buddhism – the rise of the *Mahajanapadas*.
- VII. The First “Empire” : The rise of Magadha and its expansion – the Mauryan coup – Kautilya and the *Arthashastra* – Megasthenes – Asoka and his inscriptions – economy and society – administration and “foreign” relations – policy of *dhamma* – the end of the Empire.
- VIII. The Post-Mauryan Age : Indo-Greeks, – Kushanas – Satavahanas – agrarian expansion – trade – Art – Mahayana developments – Bhagavatism – crystallization of Sanskritic tradition & Puranic Hinduism.
- IX. The Gupta Age : The transition to the Early Medieval – the Allahabad Prasasti – the decentralization – spread of settlements and expansion of agriculture – spread of *jati* society and the *Puranic* Hindu social structure – ‘The Golden Age’? – The Huna Invasions – Harsha.

Books for Study:

- R.C. Majumdar (ed.) *History and Culture of the Indian People* (Vols. 1, 2 and 3)
R.C. Majumdar, *Ancient India*.
H.C. Raychaudhury, *Political History of Ancient India*.
Irfan Habib, *Prehistory*.
Irfan Habib & V. Thakur, *Indus Civilization*.
Irfan Habib & V. Thakur, *Mauryan India*
Shireen Ratnagar, *Understanding Harappa*
Gregory Possehl, *The Indus Civilization*
R.S. Sharma, *India's Ancient Past*.
R.S. Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*
R.S. Sharma, *Indian Feudalism*
R.S. Sharma, *Urban Decay*
R.S. Sharma, *The Advent of the Aryans in India*.
Thomas Trautmann, *The Aryan Debate*
Romila Thapar, *Early India*
Romila Thapar, *From Lineage to State*
Romila Thapar, *Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*.
V.K. Thakur, *Historiography of Indian Feudalism*.
D.N. Jha, *Ancient India: An Introductory Outline*.
D.D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*.
Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th century*, New Delhi, 2008.
