

ANCIENT INDIA

Syllabus

Lecture:1 Sources

- 1) Archaeological sources epigraphy, numismatics, monuments
- 2) Literary sources: Indigenous: Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.
- 3) Foreign accounts: Greek, Chinese, Latin, Tibetan and Arab writers.

Lecture:2 Pre-history and Proto-history

- 1) Paleolithic and mesolithic);
- 2) Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic)
- 3) Megalithic Cultures
- 4) Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements,

Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry

Lecture:3 Harappan Civilization

- 1) Theory of Origin
- 2) Urbanization
- 3) Economy & Trade
- 4) Society
- 5) Religion
- 6) Decline

Lecture:4 Aryans and Vedic Period

- 1) Expansions of Aryans in India
- 2) Early Vedic Period

Society

Polity

Economy

Religion

- 3) Transformation from Rig Vedic Period to the later Vedic period (Political, social and Economic life)

4) Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system

Lecture:5 India between 600 BCE- 300 BCE

1) Role of Iron

2) Early State Formations

3) Formation of States (Mahajanapada): Republics and monarchies

4) Rise of urban centers (Urbanization), Factors responsible and impacts

5) Rise of Magadha and Nandas.

6) Iranian and Macedonian invasions and their impact

Lecture:6 Religious Revolution in 6th Century BC

1) Buddhism

2) Jainism

3) Ajivikas

Lecture:7 Mauryan Empire

- 1) Foundation of the Mauryan Empire
 - 2) Chandragupta Maurya
 - 2) Concept of Ashoka Dhamma
 - 3) Polity, Administration; Economy; Art, architecture, and sculpture
 - 4) Language & Literature
- Kautilya's Arthashastra, Megasthenes description
- 4) External contacts
 - 5) Religion; Spread of religion;
 - 6) The disintegration of the empire (Sungas and Kanvas)

Lecture:8 Post - Mauryan Period

- 1) Contact with the outside world
 - Indo-Greeks
 - Sakas
 - Parhians
 - Kushanas

- 2) Growth of urban centers, economy, coinage, social conditions
- 3) Development of religions
- 4) Cultural Developments

Lecture:9 Guptas

- 1) Political Background for rise of Guptas
- 2) Polity and administration
- 3) Conquest of Samudragupta
- 4) Chandragupta II and Kumargupta
- 5) Skandgupta and Hunas
- 6) Economic conditions, Coinage of the Guptas, Land grants, Decline of urban centers
- 7) Indian feudalism, Caste system
- 8) Social condition+ Position of women, Education and educational institutions
- 9) Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, Literature (Fa- Hein account of India), scientific literature, art, and architecture
- 10) Decline

Lecture: 10 Post-Gupta Kingdoms

1) Regional Powers

- Vakatakas
- Maukharis
- Gaudas
- Maitraks

2) Vardhana Dynasty- Harshavardhana

- Harsha's Polity
- Extend of empire
- Relation with others powers
- Religious Policy
- Cultural Development