

Department of History
Syllabus Distribution (2025)
Semester-I

Prepared by Dr. Nilendu Biswas

Paper: Major-1

[History of Early India from the Remote Past to the Late Vedic Period]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
SD	U-1	Historiography of early India – historical Interpretations - imperialist vs. nationalist school - leftist vs. liberal school - secular vs. religious school.	2	15
PB	U-2	Evolution from paleolithic to neolithic cultures - chalcolithic societies from Baluchistan to Gujrat - growth and decline of pre-state non-iron urban culture - the Harappan Civilization - problem of the Indus script - Journey from proto-historic to historic India.	4	30
PRC	U-3	Legacy of the Harappan Culture - the Anglo-Oriental debate on Aryan penetration - beginning of Iron age and settled agriculture - patterns of settlement - cultural changes.	2	15
MP	U-3	Emergence of caste society, organized religion and state territoriality - the Vedic literature.	1	7
NB	U-4	The non-Vedic political economy of the 16 Mahajanapadas - spread of protestant religions – Ajivikism, Jainism and Buddhism.	1	7
NT	U-4	Commercial and urban growth of India - rise of Magadha as an imperial power.	1	6

Paper: SEC-1

[Looking into Indian Heritage through Art and Architecture]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
PB	U-1	Defining Indian heritage – an overview of cultural and built heritage of India – notions of art and craft.	1	7
NB	U-2	Pre-colonial Indian Art and Architecture – early illustrated manuscripts and mural painting traditions – medieval sculpture and iconography – numismatic art – miniature painting, Mughal, Rajasthani and Pahari.	3	20
NT	U-2	Early Indian architecture, stupa, cave and temple – Indo-Persian architecture - fort, palace and mosque.	1	7
PRC	U-3	The colonial period – western influences on Indian Art and architecture – changes in the post-colonial period.	1	6

Paper: Minor-1

[History of India from the Earliest Times to the Early Medieval Period]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
MP	U-1	Sources of history - evolution from Paleolithic to Neolithic cultures – origin, development and decline of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization – the Aryan question – polity, economy and society of Vedic India.- sixteen mahajanapadas – rise of Magadha – spread of protestant religions like Jainism and Buddhism and Ajivikism.	2	13
MP	U-2	Consolidation of the Mauryan Empire – fundamentals of the Maurya administration Asoka's Policy of Dhamma - decline of the Mauryas – post-Maurya India – the Kushanas, Satavahanas and Tamil powers : Chera, Chola and Pandya ; Sangam Age & Literature - Vaishnavism ,Saivism and Tantricism.	1	13
NT	U-3	Rise and fall of the Gupta Empire - debates on the Golden age (Gupta Literature ,Arts and Science) - regional powers in Eastern and Northern India – the Gaudas and Sasanka – the Pushyabhutis under Harshabardhana – debate on feudalism in Ancient India.	1	7
SD	U-4	From centralized to decentralized India - the Rajputs in North India - Palas and Senas in Bengal - kingdoms of the South – Rashtrakutas, Cholas, Chalukyas and Pallavas – polity, economy, society, religion and culture.	1	7

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Semester-III

Paper: Major-3

[Ancient India from the Post-Vedic to the Late Gupta Period]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
SD	U-1	Features of post-Vedic polity in India – The Maurya Rule in Magadha – Asoka's Dhamma and administration – the policy of Dhammaghosha (cultural conquest).	3	20
PB	U-2	The post-Maurya India – the Kushanas, Satavahanas and Tamil powers : Chera, Chola and Pandya – the Sangama Age and Sangama literature - peasantisation of tribes and changes in the caste system – spread of megalithic culture – splits in Jainism and Buddhism – Valshnavism, Salvisim and Tantricism.	3	20
NB	U-3	Consolidation of the Gupta Empire – debates on the Golden Age – decline of the Gupta power – regional powers in Northern and Eastern India – the Gaudas and Sasanka – the Pushyabhutis under Harshabardhana – debate on feudalism in Ancient India.	3	20
MP	U-4	Early India in retrospect – society, culture and environment – literature and philosophy.	1	7
PRC	U-4	Art and architecture – science and technology.	1	6
NT	U-4	Trade, Industry and guild – beginning of new urbanisation.	1	7

Paper: SEC-3

[Studies in Indian Museum and Archaeology]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
SD	U-1	Origin, meaning, definition, and purpose of Museum – history of development of the museums in India - classification of Indian museums according to scope, collection, documentation and management.	2	14
NB	U-2	Definition of archaeology and ethno-archaeology - history of Indian archaeology – horizontal and vertical methods of archaeological explorations – concepts of stratigraphy and stratification – different dating methods and techniques - important archaeological sites of India – Bhimbetka, Anegundi, Brahmagiri, Lothal, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Hallur, Hampi, Sanchi, Khajuraho, Ajanta, Udayagiri-Khandgiri and Mogalmari.	1	13
PB	U-3	Great scholars of Indian archaeology - Alexander Cunningham, John Hubert Marshall, Mortimer Wheeler, Rakhal Das Bandyopadhyay, Daya Ram Sahni, D. R. Bhandarkar, H. D. Sankalia, B.B. Lal, M. K. Dhavalikar, R. S. Bisht, Debala Mitra and Shereen Ratnagar.	1	13

Paper: Minor-2

[History of Medieval India]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
PB	U-1	Consolidation of the Sultanate from 1206 to 1286 AD - the Khalji Revolution and the omnipotent state under the Khaljis - The Tughluq period of reforms and counter reforms - decline of the Delhi Sultanate and rise of the regional states like Bijaynagar, Bahmani and Bengal - Ilyas Shahi and Hussain Shahi rule - society, economy, art, architecture and literature- Sufi and Bhakti Movement .	1	7
SD	U-2	Foundation of the Mughal Rule - adventure of Babur with his central Asian connection - Humayun's misfortune - Sher Shah Sur and Afghan rule in India - making of the Mughal State from Akbar to Aurangzeb.	2	16
NT	U-3	Mughal administration – Mansabdari and Jagirdari system - agrarian crisis and the decline of the Mughal Empire - regional polity - the Marathas under Shivaji and the Peshwas; the Sikh challenge- emergence of successor states - Bengal, Awadh, Mysore and Hyderabad.	1	8
MP	U-4	Mughal India in retrospect- state and religion- features of urban economy - trade and industry - society and culture- religion of the masses- language, music and literature- art and architecture.	1	9

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Semester-V
Paper: Major-6
[History of Mughal India]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
PB	U-1	Historiography and historians of Mughal India – Abul Fazal, Badauni, Abdul Hamid Lahori and Bernier - Writings of Sir Jadunath Sarkar and other historians from Delhi and Aligarh school(s).	3	20
NB	U-2	Making of the Mughal State from Akbar to Aurangzeb - state and religion - evolution of the administrative system - mansab and jagir - village community – class structure of the rulers and the ruled : the nobles, zamindars and peasants – the economy : agriculture, commerce and industry.	3	22
NB	U-3	Cultural patterns of Mughal India – religion of the masses – language and literature – art and architecture.	3	20
MP	U-4	Decline of the Mughal State – challenge from the Marathas and the Sikhs - problems in the jagirdari system – the agrarian crisis – peasants in revolt.	2	18

Paper: Major-7
[The Rise of Modern Europe : before and after the French Revolution]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
SD	U-1	Society, polity and economy of eighteenth century Europe – the philosophers steering ideological changes – Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau and Diderot - the idea of Revolution.	2	15
SD	U-2	Socio-economic background of the French Revolution (1789) – impact of the American War of Independence (1776) on France – major events of the Revolution.	2	15
PRC	U-3	Historiography of the French Revolution – interpreting the class character – role of the aristocracy, bourgeois, peasants and workers – Reign of Terror and rise and fall of the Jacobin Republic – the Thermidorian Reaction and the Directory.	3	22
NT	U-4	The Napoleonic Era – Confederation of the Rhine and reconstruction of Germany – the Continental System and its effects – the Peninsular War and its significance – failure of Napoleon's Russian Campaign – Revival of Prussia and the War of Liberation – fall of Napoleon and rise of Metternich.	4	28

Paper: Minor-3
[History of Modern India]

Teacher	Unit	Topic	P/W	Hours
PB	U-1	Expansion and consolidation of British Rule in India - land revenue settlements and their impact - colonial state and development of its administration – orientalism and utilitarianism.	1	7
SD	U-2	Exploitation and resistance – de-peasantization and de-industrialization - drain of wealth- famines in India - resistance from the tribes and peasants till the Revolt of 1857 - analyzing the revolt and its consequences – colonial policy of further exploitation through railways and industrial network.	2	16
NT	U-3	The cultural revolution of the nineteenth century - critique of the Young Bengal Movement - Bengal Renaissance - social and religious reforms - colonization of education - the women's question.	1	8
MP	U-4	Interpreting Indian nationalism – swadeshi movement and different phases of the nationalist struggle - role of Gandhi, Tagore, Subhas Bose, Nehru and Jinnah - workers' and peasants' movements – religious polarization of national politics – partition and Independence (1947).	1	9

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