

Semester III

Core V History of India-III (circa 750 -1206)

Course Objectives

- They can acquire knowledge about the society, economy and culture in early medieval India and can gather knowledge towards the Arabs Conquest of Northern part of India from this paper.
- Knowledge about the religious and Cultural changing scenarios especially impact Bhakti cult and Tantricism.
- With its focus on multiple historiographical approaches to various issues of historical significance during this period, the course will also apprise students of the divergent ways in which historians approach, read and interpret their sources.
- The paper debates about urban decay and emergence of new kind of cities in early medieval

Course Outcomes

- Understand the new periodisation and its basis
- critical analysis of the relation between political realm and religious realm
- interrelation between economy, society, polity and culture in the making of vernacular region
- Debates the emergence of medieval social order, including condition of peasantry
- Discusses the nature of brahmanical social order and relations with law books which reinforced an andro-centric brahmanical social order
- Explain, in an interconnected manner, the processes of state formation, agrarian expansion, proliferation of caste and urban as well as commercial processes.
- Discuss the major currents of development in the cultural sphere, namely bhakti movement, Puranic Hinduism, Tantricism, architecture and art as well as the emergence of a number 'regional' languages.

Unit –I: Studying Early Medieval India: Political Structures

1. Sources of early medieval and Debates on early Medieval
2. Evolution of Political structures: Rajputs, Tripartite Struggle and Cholas
3. Legitimization of Kingship; Brahmanas and Temples, Tirthas and Courtly culture
4. Issues of Islam Rule: Arab conquest of Sindh

Unit-II: Social and Economic Processes:

1. Agricultural Expansion: forest-dwellers, peasants and landlords
2. Proliferation of Castes: Varna Jatis, Peasantisation of tribes.
3. Trade and Commerce: Urban Centres, Inter-regional Trade, Maritime Trade and Forms of Exchange, Ayyavole, Manigramam Guilds

Unit-III: Religious & Cultural Developments:

1. Puranic Traditions & Vajrayana Buddhism
2. Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Al-Biruni
3. Regional Languages and Literature

Unit IV: Cultural Strands: Art, Architecture and religion

1. Evolution of Regional styles: Kalingan and Dravidian style of Temple Architecture
2. Tantric Saiva and Sakta Tradition: Kashmir Saivism
3. Bhaktism and Issue of Monism and Dualism: Alvars & Nayanars of South India; Sankara, Ramanuja, Madhava

Unit I:

The early medieval period is nowadays considered to be a distinct period in the periodisation of the Indian History. It was during this period that vernacular regions like Karnataka, Andhra, Odisha, Banga emerged as distinct cultural zones. The unit deals with Feudalism Model, Integrative Model and Segmentary Model of R.S. Sharma, Hermann Kule & B.D Chattopadhyaya and Burton Stein respectively. It tries to make students aware that Arab Invasion of Sindh did not mark a rupture from ancient India; rather changes in the social, economic and political sphere started emerging from the post Gupta period, the process of which was further accelerated in this period.

Unit II:

This unit looks at the proliferation of Jatis, the tribe and caste continuum, peasantisation of tribes and variation in caste systems within the framework of Chaturvana in India as a result of the spread of brahmanical-Puranic religion.

Suggested Text Books:

- ✓ *B.D. Chattopadhyaya, The Making of Early Medieval India, Delhi: OUP, 1994*

- ✓ R.S. Sharma and K.M. Shrimali, (eds), *Comprehensive History of India, Vol. IV (A& B)*.
- ✓ D.N. Jha, (2000). 'Introduction', *The Feudal Order: State, Society and Ideology in Early Medieval India*, (ed.), D.N.Jha, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 1-60.
- ✓ Hermann Kulke, and Rothermund (eds), *State in India (1000-1700)*, Delhi, OUP, 1997
- ✓ Derryl N. Maclean *Religion and Society in Arab Sind*. Leiden: E.J.Brill. (Chapter II: 'Conquest and Conversion', pp. 22-82, 1989
- ✓ K. A. Nilakantha Sastri, *The Colas*, Delhi, OUP,
- ✓ Hermann Kulke, and Kesavapany & Sakhuja, (Eds.) (2009). *Nagapattinam to Suvarnadvipa: Reflections on the Chola Naval Expeditions to Southeast Asia*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
- ✓ R. Champakalakshmi (1996). 'From Devotion and Dissent to Dominance: The Bhakti of the Tamil Alvars and Nayanars', in *Tradition, Dissent and Ideology*, ed. R. Champakalakshmi & S. Gopal, pp. 135-63. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- ✓ H. Kulke and B. P. Sahu, (2018). *History of Precolonial India: Issues and Debates*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Part II.
- ✓ M.G.S. Narayanan, and K. Veluthat. (2000). 'Bhakti Movement in South India', in *The Feudal Order: State, Society and Ideology in Early Medieval India*, ed. D.N. Jha, pp. 385-410.
- ✓ , R.C. Majumdar ed. *History and Culture of the Indian People: The Struggle for Empire*. Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan. Relevant part is Chapter XV ('Language and Literature'), pp. 297-397.
- ✓ Vijay Nath, *Puranas and Acculturation: A Historico-Anthropological Perspective*, New Delhi, 2001.
- ✓ Manu Devadewan, *A Prehistory of Hinduism*, Delhi, De Gruyter

Internet Resources

1. Shiva Mantramarga: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QusnazlA1RU>
2. Introduction to esoteric Buddhism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5T2se0-EWc>

3. India- A Sacred Geography by Diana Eck:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcMMDaFzyEU>

4. Purushottamakshetramahatmya of Skanda Purana:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSn2c3ywpKg>

5. Feudalism :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjMVQr4Qcaw&list=PLNsppmbLKJ8KB9BAenzBGCEpD2KEaMgiY&index=67>

Activities

1. Visit an old temple of your locality, document various activities of the temple; Identify economic, social, religious, political and cultural dimension of temple. Identify the major festivals of the temple and catchment of pilgrims. Prepare a report of the temple in the class room
2. Visit, if possible, the Buddhist Site of Diamond Triangle of Odisha. Try to answer why there were so many Buddha, Bodhisattva , gods and goddesses in Vajrayana Buddhism.