



Sabarmati University, Ahmedabad

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ph.D. PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

SUBJECT: History

SYLLABUS

The History paper consists of all the aspects of Indian History, Pre-history, Ancient period, Medieval Indian history and Modern India including National Movement and post independent phase. It also consists of Historical Method, Research Methodology and Historiography. Since, the subject and the boundaries of Indian history are vast and comprehensive, it has been systematically analysed and synthesized into **Five Units**.

Unit I – Sources and Early Historical Foundations (Prehistory to 6th century BCE)

- **Historical Sources:** Archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic, and literary sources; Indigenous, religious, and secular texts; myths, legends, and foreign accounts (Greek, Chinese, Arabic).
- **Prehistoric Cultures:** Neolithic–Chalcolithic phases, pastoralism, food production, settlements, tools, and exchange patterns.
- **Indus Valley Civilization:** Origin, extent, urban planning, craft specialization, religion, polity, society, trade (internal and external), and decline.
- **Vedic and Later Vedic Periods:** Aryan debates, society, polity, social stratification (varna), religion, philosophy, and iron technology.
- **Megalithic and State Emergence:** South Indian megaliths, Mahajanapadas, Second Urbanization (6th century BCE), and rise of heterodox religions — Jainism, Buddhism, Ajivikas.

Unit II – From Empires to Regional Cultures (6th century BCE – 750 CE)

- **Formation of Empires:** Rise of Magadha, Mauryan expansion, Asoka's Dhamma, administration, economy, art and architecture, and Mauryan decline.
- **Post-Mauryan Developments:** Indo-Greeks, Sungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas, Sakas; trade with the Roman world; Mahayana Buddhism; art schools — Gandhara, Mathura, Amaravati.
- **Gupta–Vakataka Age:** Polity, agrarian structure, coinage, temple architecture, Puranic Hinduism, Sanskrit literature, scientific and technological progress.
- **Regional Powers (Post-Gupta Age):** Harsha and contemporaries; Deccan and South Indian polities — Pallavas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas; Eastern kingdoms — Palas, Senas, Varmans; Western and Northern dynasties — Maitrakas, Gurjara-Pratiharas, Paramaras.
- **Cultural and Socio-Economic Trends:** Feudalism debates (feudal, segmentary, integrative models); agriculture, trade guilds, temple patronage, Brahminical religion, and early Bhakti movement.

Unit III – Medieval Indian Polity and Society (750–1707 CE)

- **Sources of Medieval Indian History:** Archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic, Persian, Sanskrit and regional chronicles; firmans, daftar records, and foreign accounts.
- **Political Developments:** Delhi Sultanate (Ghorids to Lodis), Vijayanagara and Bahmani states, Mughal Empire (Babur to Aurangzeb), Deccan Sultanates, Eastern Ganga–Gajapati line, and Maratha expansion under Shivaji and the Peshwas.
- **Administration and Economy:** Sultanate and Mughal administration (Mansabdari, Jagirdari), Sher Shah's reforms, Deccan and Maratha administration, agriculture, irrigation, industries, trade and commerce, and currency systems.
- **Society and Culture:** Sufism and its orders, Bhakti movement and saints (North & South), Sikhism, social classes and gender relations, rural society, education in madrasas and pathshalas.
- **Art and Architecture:** Indo-Islamic and Mughal architecture, regional styles, schools of painting, and developments in music.

Unit IV – Colonial India and Social Transformation (1707–1947 CE)

- **European Expansion and British Rule:** Advent of Europeans, British conquest and administration, princely states, and constitutional evolution (1773–1935).
- **Colonial Economy:** Land settlements, commercialization of agriculture, industrial decline, drain of wealth, railways, monetary policy, labour movements, and urbanization.
- **Social and Cultural Change:** Christian missions, new education, Indian Renaissance, socio-religious reforms, caste mobility, women's question, education and press, modern Indian languages, and literature.

- **Rise of Nationalism:** Indian National Congress (1885–1920); mass movements under Gandhi; revolutionary and left-wing politics; women and depressed class movements; communal politics and partition.
- **India after Independence:** Integration of states, Constitution and B.R. Ambedkar, planning and economic policy, linguistic reorganization, foreign policy, and contemporary challenges.

Unit V – Historical Method, Historiography and Research

- Meaning, Scope and Importance of History.
- Objectivity and Bias in History.
- Heuristic Operations, Criticism, Synthesis and Presentation.
- Auxiliary Sciences of History; History as Science, Art or Social Science; Causation and Imagination.
- Regional History and Recent Trends in Indian Historiography.
- **Historical Research Process:** Hypothesis, topic selection, data collection, notes, referencing, and bibliography; plagiarism and intellectual honesty.
- **Major Schools of Historiography:** Greek–Roman–Church traditions, Renaissance influence, Rankean empiricism, Marxist scientific materialism, Spengler’s cyclical theory, Toynbee’s challenge–response model, and Postmodernist perspectives.