

**NOTES FOR II P.U.C**

**SUBJECT: HISTORY**

**CHAPTER -1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A WORD OR A SENTENCE EACH.**

Q.1. From which language is the word 'India' derived?

A: The term 'India' is derived from Greek word 'Indos' which stands for Sindhu ,the most important river of the subcontinent.

Q.2. Name the work that mentions the extent of ancient Karnataka.

A: 'Kavirajamarga' of Shrivijaya .

Q.3.What is Numismatics?

A: The study of coins is called Numismatics.

Q.4.What is excavation?

A: Excavation is the scientific digging of earth for unearthing Sources.

Q.5.Who wrote 'Buddacharita'?

A: Aswaghosha.

Q.6.Which is the famous work of Pliny?

A:'Natural Historia'

**II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO WORDS OR TWO SENTENCES EACH.**

Q.1. Name any two passes that connect India with the West.

A: 1) Khyber pass  
2) Bolan passes.

Q.2. What was the extent of India according to Vishnupurana?

A: According to Vishnupurana, the country that lies to the north of the oceans and south of the snowy mountains is called Bharata.

Q.3. Mention any two names of India.

A: 1) Bharata  
2) Hindustan.

Q.4. Mention any two physical features of India.

A: 1) Himalayas  
2) Deccan Plateau

Q.5. Name any two mountains of India.

A: 1) Arawalis  
2) Vindhya.

Q.6. Mention any two dominant religions of Indian origin.

A: 1) Jainism  
2) Buddhism.

Q.7. Mention any two world heritage sites of India.

A: 1) Hill forts of Rajasthan.  
2) Tajmahal.

Q.8. Name any two universities of ancient India.

A: 1) Nalanda University

2) Takshashila University.

Q.9. What is the extent of Karnataka according to Kavirajamarga?

A: 'Kavirajamarga' of Shrivijaya informs us that Karnataka extended from Cauvery in the South to Godavari in the North.

Q.10. Name any two important dynasties that ruled Karnataka.

A: 1) Chalukyas.

2) Rashtrakutas.

Q.11. Write any two physical features of Karnataka.

A: 1) Western Ghats

2) Coastal region with Arabian sea in the west.

Q.12. 'No Sources, No History'. Why?

A: Historians try to reconstruct the past based on the available Sources. Without the appropriate Sources, the historical events will become imaginary or legendary stories.

Q.13. What is the difference between Pre-historic and Historic age?

A: The period where written records are not available is called Pre-historic period and the period for which he have written records is known as Historic period.

Q.14. Mention any two uses of coins in the construction of history?

A: 1) Coins helps us to understand the dynasty, age, economic condition, religion, script and language.

2) They tell us about the commercial relations with other countries.

Q.15. Why are the Inscriptions, the most reliable sources in the construction of history?

A: Inscriptions are contemporary and related to the events, so they are more reliable, valuable and authentic.

Q.16. What are Archeological sources?

A: Archeological sources are the remains of past human life and activities. It includes human relics and artifacts from the earliest stone tools to man-made objects found in excavation like coins, seals, jewellery, pottery, paintings, monuments etc.

Q.17. Mention the two kinds of Literary sources.

A: 1) Indigenous Literature

2) Foreign accounts.

### **III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES EACH.**

Q.1. Explain briefly the impact of geography on Indian history.

A: The physical features of India have helped and moulded the development of different political units and cultures. The different physical features present in India are: the Himalayas, the Northern Plains, the desert, The mountains (the Vindhyas, the Arawallis, the Sahyadris etc.), the Deccan Plateau, and the coastline.

In the North, we have the Himalayas, that separate India from the rest of Asia, protects us from invaders and the cold winds from the North. They have given birth to the ever flowing north Indian rivers ( Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra) which formed the fertile north Indian plains. These plains were the cradles of civilizations and empires. It paved way for the material, spiritual and philosophical development of man. The great Indus Valley Civilization and the Vedic culture developed in this region. The Khyber and Bolan passes in the north-west allowed foreigners to enter India and thus helped us to have commercial and cultural relations with the west. These passes also invited attacks from time to time.

The scorching heat of the Western deserts, have tamed the many foreigners who entered our land and also made the people more hard working.

The oceans of the South, once stood as barriers, later served as means of connecting with rest of the world giving rise to major port cities. They have helped to develop commercial and cultural relations with the west. Various races like Dravidian, Alpine, Mongolian and different tribes have led to the development of different languages and cultures.

The rivers of the North and South have made the country agrarian and also influenced in the rise and fall of many dynasties, as well as in the growth of many religious, cultural and commercial centers. The sandstones, marbles and granites have helped in the development of architecture

like palaces ,forts etc. The rocks found in the Deccan plateau are suitable for carving, because of their basaltic origin ,and hence led to the formation of magnificent cave temples.

Abundance of rain and favourable climate resulted in the growth of rich flora and fauna. In the Deccan plateau, parts of the Sahyadris and their valleys are recognized biological hotspots.

Q.2. Explain the special features of Indian history.

A: The special features of Indian history are:

1. Continuity of civilization and culture.

India has one of the earliest histories in the world, with a continuity of 4000 years of civilizations and culture.

2. Evolution in phases.

India's civilization has developed in various stages and phases with necessary improvements. There is a connecting chain of events from Indus to Vedic, Vedic to Islam, and Christian influences.

3. Foreign invasions.

Greeks, Persians, Shakas, Arabs, Turks, Kushans, Afghans etc. came into India and left a deep impact.

4. Dominant and tolerant Hindu faith.

Indians believe in the concept of "Sarve Janaha Sukhino Bhavantu" meaning "the whole world is a family and lets all people be happy". India s home for Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and several tribal faiths and practices.

5. Contributions to the world

Indians have made great contributions in the fields of architecture (eg. Tajmahal,Sanchi etc.),

Medical science ( Ayurveda and contributions of Charaka, Shushruta etc.), yoga, music (Carnatic, Hindustani music etc. ), mathematics ( concept of zero and decimal system), education (universities of Nalanda, Takshashila etc.), sculpture , science, philosophy, astronomy etc.

6. Attraction to foreigners

The fertile land , places of scenic beauty and huge wealth of India has always attracted foreigners who came as tourists and invaders from time to time.

7. Unity in diversity

India has diversity in every sphere of human activity (geographically, physically, socially, economically etc.), at the same time, there are unifying forces (uniform education, administrative unity etc.) that have kept India united.

Q.3. 'Unity in Diversity' is the unique feature of Indian history. Explain.

A: India not only has geographical diversity but also has diversity in every sphere of human activity.

a. Physical diversity.

The coldest of Siachin, the hot desert of Rajasthan, the snowy mountains of Himalayas, and evergreen forests, the river plains, the plateau, the coast line etc. adds to the variety of flora and fauna.

b. Racial and Linguistic Diversity

People belonging to different races like Dravidian, Negroids, Mongloids, Alpines etc., speaking more than 1600 languages and dialects, inhabit this country.

c. Social and Religious diversity

India is regarded as the museum of religions, castes, faiths, customs, languages, racial types, social systems, food habits, dressing styles. India has both matriarchal and patriarchal family systems. Monogamy, polygamy, and polyandry are also practiced. Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism have originated in India. Other religions like Christianity, Islam, Jews, Parsis and others co-exist in harmony.

d. Economic diversity

The resources are very unevenly distributed across the country. Some regions are highly developed whereas some others still remain under developed.

In spite of all these diversities, there are many unifying forces that have kept India united. They are:

a. Geographical unity

Himalayas in the north and the oceans in the south, have isolated India from the rest of the world and formed a separate geographical unit.

b. Administrative unity.

The different rulers, administrators and bureaucrats are tried to bring political unity all over the empire from time to time.

c. Uniform education and literature

During the ancient times, we had the Sanskrit language and the Vedic literature that instilled feelings of oneness. Pali and Prakrit were the languages of common people. The medieval period had Persian playing a major, which was replaced by English with the British rule. Now we have Hindi as Lingua-franca.

d. Religious and social ceremonies

Though India is a land of various religions, castes, creeds, sects, the people lead a life of harmony, and participate in each other's festivities and ceremonies which again instills a feeling of oneness.

e. Recent changes

Our Constitution and the policies of government, the present economic conditions, Globalization etc. have helped reduce the differences among different religions and castes.

Q.4. Write a note on the contributions of foreign writers in reconstructing the history of India.

A: Foreign accounts are one of the primary sources that helps us to know about the events of the past. India's fertile lands, economic, intellectual and philosophical wealth has attracted many foreigners over the years.

Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador, in his book 'Indica', have given valuable information regarding South and North India during the Mauryan period. Ptolemy, another Greek historian, supplies information regarding the commercial relations of ancient India. 'The Periplus of the Erythean Sea', mentions many coastal towns, rulers and products of India. 'Natural Historia' by Pliny, a Roman writer, gives idea regarding Indo-Roman relations and political conditions of India.

Fahian, a Chinese pilgrim, has given a vivid picture of many cities and Asoka's palace and the Gupta administration. Huiyen tsang has mentioned a lot of valuable information in his book 'Siyuki', about Harshvardhana and Pulikeshi II. He also gives a vivid picture of the education, religion, society, and administration. Itsing, another Chinese pilgrim, gives information regarding various cities like Rajagraha, Kasi, Nalanda.

Many Muslim writers and historians have also given valuable contributions like Firdousi, who wrote Ibn Hassan, Shahnama and Babarnama by Babar, Jahangirnama by Jahangir, Akbarnama by Abul Fazal etc.

Arab travelers like Sulaiman, Alberuni and Ibn Batuta have left a lot of valuable information. Other travelers like Nikoli Conti of Italy, Abdul Razzak of Persia, Barbosa and Domingo Paes of Portugal and Niketin of Russia have given a lot of information about the Vijayanagara and the Bahmani empires.

Q.5. Write a note on the importance of Archeological sources in reconstructing the history of India.

A: Archeological sources are the remains of past human life and activities. The important archeological sources are coins, seals, jewellery, tools, inscriptions, remains of buildings, pottery, household articles, terracotta figurines, fossils, weapons, paintings etc.

a) Excavations:

Excavation is the scientific digging of earth to unearth Sources. Excavations are the sole sources of the Indus Valley Civilization. The excavations conducted at Chandragiri, Tirunelveli, Madhurai, Archemedu and other places gives us information regarding the Stone Age in India.

b) Monuments:

They are structures or sites of historical importance like forts, palaces, caves, basadis, statues, stupas etc. The caves of Ajanta, Ellora, the temples at Tanjore, Konark, the statues of Gomateshwara, Buddha etc helps us to understand the cultural heritage of India.

c) Coins:

The study of coins is called Numismatics. Coins helps us to understand the dynasty, economic condition, religion, period, script, languages, metallurgy, artistic abilities, titles, trade relations, extent of empires etc. The coins in India are of gold, silver, copper etc.

d) Paintings:

The paintings of various periods give us a clear picture of the cultural, social and religious aspects. For example, the paintings of Ajanta depict the pictures of royal class, dance, dress, hairstyles, celebrations etc. At times, they also depict historical events.

e) Inscriptions:

Inscriptions are the most valuable, reliable, authentic and direct sources in writing history.

They are normally engraved on stones, rocks, seals, terracotta seals, copper plates and iron pillars. More than 75000 inscriptions have been found in India. They contain details regarding events, sale deeds, decrees, donations, chronology, victories of kings etc.