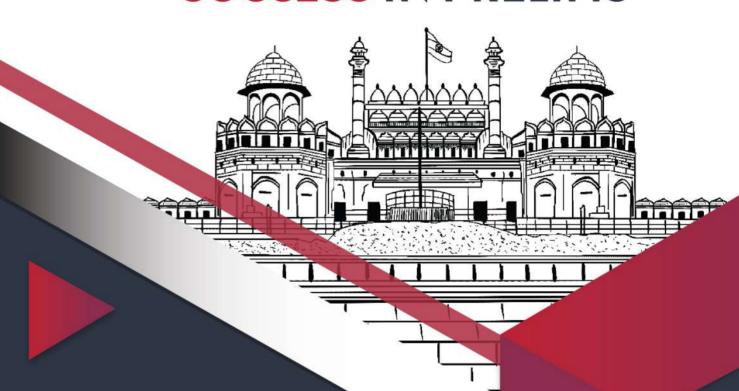


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ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

STATIC REVISION SIMPLIFIED

For UPSC CSE Prelims & Other Competitive Exams





Ancient and Medieval HistoryStatic Revision Simplified

A quick revision booklet of History for UPSC Prelims and other competitive exams

Study IQ Education Pvt. Ltd.

Ancient and Medieval History: Static Revision Simplified 1st Edition by Study IQ Publications

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Preface

Dear Aspirants,

CSE Prelims is just around the corner. It is considered to be the iron gate toward your goal to become a civil servant. Prelims is the most competitive part of UPSC CSE, and therefore, reading-revising and testing one's knowledge is imperative for clearing Prelims. According to the present competition, around 1 in 100 people who attempt UPSC Prelims clear it. Given the growing competition, there is an urgent requirement for content specially curated to crack Prelims. The need of the hour is simplified content that helps in a guick and complete revision of the UPSC syllabus.

Taking inspiration from the overwhelmingly positive response to our UPSC CSE books, we are taking another leap towards simplifying Prelims preparation. To fulfill our aspirants' demand, Study IQ Publications is delighted to present you with the first edition of 'SIP+ Static Revision Simplified booklets'.

The SIP+ booklet series has been strategically divided into 2 parts; SIP+ Static Revision Simplified and SIP+ Current Revision Simplified. The UPSC syllabus is huge, it is further complicated by information overload and increasingly difficult questions. These booklets have been created especially keeping in mind, the concerns and challenges that students face during their Prelims preparation. This is an honest attempt to tackle all of the student's issues and save their precious time before Prelims.

Special Features of This Book:

This booklet aims to make your preparation focused and relevant based on UPSC's current trends and patterns, revision-friendly, and up-to-date.

- The requirements of the UPSC Prelims are the exclusive focus of this book.
- We have taken great care to ensure that the material is written in a clear; ready revision format so that students can learn and recall key concepts and facts to their advantage.
- Wherever necessary, we've incorporated relevant tables, charts and mind-maps to help students grasp and revise key concepts and facts.
- The special feature of SIP+ booklet series is the availability of ready revision charts which students can take out and paste on their wall or study table to revise key concepts and facts anytime on their own discretion.

With all sincerity and humility, the StudylQ team wishes you the best in your preparation, and we are hopeful that this book will help you in your journey.

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Sources for Construction of Ancient Indian History

INTRODUCTION

The English word 'History' has been derived from the Greek noun 'Historia' which means inquiry, research, exploration, or information. History, thus, is a discipline associated with learning by inquiry or research about the past of mankind. In simple terms, History is the study of past events.

Because none of us belong to that period nor do we have eyewitnesses, historians depend on multiple sources for the construction of ancient Indian History.

SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Sources are important for the reconstruction of the past. Any remnant of the past can serve the purpose of a source. The sources for reconstructing the history of ancient India can be broadly classified into two major categories namely-Literary and Non-Literary sources.

Literary Sources

- History is basically based on written material.
- Although writing was known in India by 2500 BC in the Indus culture, its script has not so far been deciphered.
 - Thus, though the **Harappans** knew how to write but the historians have not been able to read it. Their culture is placed in the period called **proto-historic phase**.
- The first script to be deciphered was Brahmi which was used in the Ashokan inscriptions and it belongs to the third century BC.

Literary sources constitutes both religious and secular literature.

- Religious Literature- These Indian texts contain religious themes and include-
 - Brahmanical Literature- Vedas, Epics, Puranas, Sutras, Upanishads, Brahmanas, Aranyakas etc.
 - Buddhist Literature; and
 - Jain Literature.

Secular Literature-These Indian texts do not have religion as their theme and include-

- Sangam Literature;
- Foreign Accounts; and
- Literary works by independent authors.

Religious Literature

Brahmanical Literature and associated Historical Importance

Vedas

There are four Vedas namely- Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharvan Veda.

Historical importance- Information about processes like the transition from a pastoral, pre-class/caste society in Rigveda to an agrarian, class, caste society and the formations of political territories in the Later Vedic period has been obtained from these texts.

Brahmanical Literature and associated Historical Importance		
They give information about the expansion of Aryan culture and references to the economic and political life of the respective period.		
They give information about the philosophy and mysticism of the period.		
Puranas contain genealogical records of all ancient dynasties ruled over India from Parikshit of Kuru tribe (the first king of Kali Age) to Guptan rulers, but coupled with mythological stories.		
There are two Mahakavyas(Epics) namely-Ramayana and Mahabharata-both seem to have been finally compiled by 400 AD. They reflect social, economic and political conditions from the 10 th century BC to the 4 th century AD.		
Buddhist Literature and associated Historical Importance		
Provides information about rules and regulations of Buddhist Sangha; sermons of Buddha and his disciples etc.		
Jatakas throw invaluable light on the social and economic conditions ranging from the sixth century BC to the second century BC. They also make incidental reference to political events in the age of the Buddha.		
Two SriLankan chronicles -Deepavamsa and the Mahavamsa- deal with the Buddha's life, the Buddhist councils, emperor Ashoka and the kings of Sri Lanka.		
Milindapanho -It is a dialogue between Milinda (identical with Indo-Greek ruler Menander) and Buddhist saint Nagasena. Lalitavistara-It describes about life story of the Buddha and socio-religious conditions of that time. Buddhacharita- Written by Ashvaghosha in Sanskrit, it gives the story of Buddha's life.		

Jain Literature and associated Historical Importance

Siddhanta or Agama

The sacred books of the Jainas are collectively known as the **Siddhanta or Agama**. These texts help us to construct the political history of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the age of Mahavira. The Jain texts refer repeatedly to trade and traders.

Other Major Texts

- Parishishtaparvan Written by Hemachandra, it provides descriptions about Chandragupta Maurya.
- Kalpasutra Written by Bhadrabahu, it contains the biographies of the Jain Tirthankaras.

Secular Literature

Sangam Literature and associated Historical Importance

Sangam Literature

The Sangam literature, along with other continuous literature produced post Sangam around 600 AD is our major source for the study of south Indian society, economy and polity during 300 BC–300 AD. The descriptions given in the Sangam and Post-Sangam literatures are confirmed by archaeological finds and accounts of foreign travellers.

Sangam Literature include-

- 1. Ettuttokai-Eight Anthologies of collected poems
- 2. Pattuppattu- The Ten Long Poems
- 3. Tolkappiyam A Tamil Grammar Treatise.

The Padinenkikanakku and the Twin epics(Silappathikaram and Manimekalai) are the post Sangam works.

Foreign Accounts and their Historical Importance

Roman Accounts

- Justin His book 'Epitome' gives details about campaigns of Alexander the Great in India.
- Pliny His book 'Naturalis Historica' provides insights into the trade between Italy and India.
- Marcopolo He was a Venetian traveller. He visited the Coromandal coast and gives information about Rudramadevi of Kakatiyas, Pandyans. He also mentions ports like Motupalli of Kakatiyas and the flourishing diamond trade.

Greek Accounts

- Herodotus His book 'The Histories' describes the Indo-Persian relations.
- Strabo-His book 'Geographica' describes about geography, social, economic and religious conditions
 of India.
- Ptolemy His book 'Geography' provides information on ancient geography and commerce.
- Megasthenes He was a Greek Ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya. His book 'Indika'
 provides valuable information not only about the administration but also social classes and economic
 activities of the Mauryan period.
- Diodorous He wrote 'Bibliotheca Historica' based on the description from Megasthenes account.
- The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea-This book, written by an anonymous Greek author, describes the Roman trade in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.
- Cosmas Indicopleustes-His book 'Christian Topography' mentions about Christians in India and Srilanka and mentions about the horse trade.

Chinese Accounts

- Fahien He visited India in the 5thC AD . His book 'Fo-kwo-ki' describes the conditions in India in the age of Guptas.
- **Huan Tsang** He visited India in the 7thC AD during the time of king Harshavardhan. He provided insights into the Harshavardhana reign as well as the Nalanda university.
- Itsing He visited India during the 7th C AD and provided information about the social and religious conditions of the people.

Arab Accounts

- Sulaiman He visited India in 9th C AD and wrote about Pala and Pratihara rulers.
- Al-Masudi He stayed in India during 941 to 943 A.D and wrote about Rashtrakutas.
- Alberuni He came to India with Mahmud Ghazni during his invasions. His book 'Tahqiq-i-Hind', describes the social, political, religious and economic condition of the then India.
- Ibn Batuta His work 'Rihala' provides social and cultural information of India during the rule of Md-bin-Tughlaq.

Literature by independent authors

Ashtadhyayi by Panini

- It's a treatise on Sanskrit grammar.
- This book gives the conditions of Mauryan period.

Note-Patanjali has written commentary named 'Mahabhashya' on Panini's Ashtadhyayi.

Arthasastra by Kautilya

- It's a law book/treatise on Statecraft and Polity.
- The earliest portions of this text reflect the state of society and economy of the Mauryan age.

Devi Chandra Guptam by Vishakhadatta

- Its the story of Gupta King Ramagupta who decides to surrender his queen Dhruvadevi to a Shaka invader but his younger brother Chandragupta enters the enemy camp disguised as queen and kills the enemy.
- It also explains the establishment of Mauryan Dynasty.

Malvikagni Mitram by Kalida

- This was the love story of king King Agnimitra and maid Malabika.
- It also describes the fight between Yavana and Pushyamitra Sanga.
- It explains the conditions of society and culture of Gupta period.

Mudrarakshasa by Vishakhadatta

• It narrates the ascent of the king Chandragupta Maurya to power.

Gaudvaho by Vakpatiraj

• It narrates the victory of king Yashovarman of Kannauj and the subjugation of Gauda.

Harshacharita by Banabhatta

• It is a biography of King Harsha.

Abhijananashakuntalam, Ritusamhara and Meghadutam by Kalidas

They provide us with glimpses of the social and cultural life of the Guptas.

Rajataranagini by Kalhana

• It provides the political history of Kashmir.

Vikramadeva Charita by Bilhana

It gives the achievements of the Western Chalukya King Vikramaditya VI.

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Non-Literary Sources

The non-literary sources used for the reconstruction of ancient Indian history include-Archaeology, Inscriptions and Coins.

Archaeology

- Archaeology is a science that enables us to systematically dig the successive layers of old mounds and to form an idea of the material life of the people of the past on the basis of remains found there.
- Archaeology is very important to study prehistory i.e. the period before the invention of writing.
- Archaeological Excavations have brought to light the tools of early humans in India going as far back as seven lakh
 years. For Example,
 - The excavated sites belonging to the Harappan period show the layout of the settlements and the form of the houses in which people lived, the type of pottery, tools and implements they used and the kind of cereals they consumed.
 - In south India some people were buried along with their tools, weapons, pottery and other belongings under big and heavy stones. These graves are known as megaliths. By digging them we learn about the life of people who lived in the Deccan and south India before the third century BC.

Do you know?

The dates of remains found in archaeological excavactions are fixed by various methods. The most important of them is the Radiocarbon or Carbon 14 (C14) dating method.

• Carbon 14 is a radioactive carbon present in all living objects. It decays, like all radioactive substances, at a uniform rate when the object is dead. By measuring the loss of C14 content in an ancient object (wood or bone) its age can be determined.

Inscriptions and Edicts

- Inscriptions and edicts are virtually permanent records and are generally regarded as the most reliable source of ancient history.
 - Note: While an edict is a decree or announcement of a law which can be issued in any physical form; Inscriptions are writings engraved on hard surfaces such as stone, metal or pottery.
- The study of inscriptions is called **epigraphy** and the study of the old writing used in inscriptions and other old records is called **palaeography**.
- Inscriptions usually record the achievements, activities and ideas of those who got them inscribed.
 - Those inscriptions which are composed in praise of kings and patrons are known as Prashastis.

Major Inscriptions and Edicts	Facts related to them	
Sohgaura inscription	 It is one of India's few pre-Ashoka Brahmi inscriptions. It is the earlies copper plate inscripted that mention famine relief efforts and describe the granary. It has been obtained from the Gorakhpur district of present-day Uttar Pradesh. 	
Ashoka's Edicts And Inscriptions	 Ashoka was the first Indian king to speak directly to the people through his inscriptions. These inscriptions throw light not only on the reign of Ashoka, but also reveal his external and domestic policies, his views about dhamma, and the extent of his empire. There are total of 33 inscriptions and are primarily classified into Major Rock Edicts, Minor Rock Edicts, Separate Rock Edicts, Major Pillar Edicts, and Minor Pillar Edicts. 	
Mehrauli Inscription	 The Mehrauli Iron Pillar was originally located on a hill near the Beas River and was transported to Delhi by a Delhi king. It is now located in Delhi in the Qutub Minar complex. This pillar attributes the victory of the Vanga Countries to Chandragupta, who fought alone against a confederacy of opponents gathered against him. 	

Major Inscriptions and Edicts	Facts related to them
Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prasasti)	 The Allahabad Prasasti was first inscribed on the Ashokan Pillar in Kausambhi, near Allahabad. It was later relocated to the Allahabad fort. It is an Ashokan Stambh, but it has four different inscriptions, The standard Ashokan inscriptions in Brahmi script are found on all pillars. The Queen's edict lauding Ashoka's wife Kaurwaki's charitable deeds. Inscriptions of Samudragupta (335–375 AD) written by Harisena in Sanskrit and Brahmi script. It discusses Samudragupta's conquests and the boundaries of the Gupta Empire. Jahangir's Persian inscriptions.
Aihole inscription	 Aihole in Karnataka was the Chalukyas' first capital. The defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakeshin II and the victory of the Chalukyas over the Pallavas are mentioned. It also mentions the capital's relocation from Aihole to Badami. Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakeshi II, who reigned from 610 to 642 CE, wrote this inscription
Garuda Pillar inscription	 This is an inscription of 2 BC. This inscription was established in Vidisha by Heliodorus (messenger of Yavana king Antialcidas) in praise of Vasudeva. At this time the ruler here was Bhagabhadra.
Bharhut Lekh	This is an inscription of 2 BC.It describes the meeting of Buddha and Ajatashatru.
Ghosundi inscription	 This is an inscription of 1st BC. This inscription describes the Bhagavata Dharma. This is the oldest inscription in the Sanskrit language. This inscription describes the worship of Vasudeva and Balarama and the Ashvamedha Yagya.
Ayodhya inscription	 This is the inscription of the Shunga ruler Pushyamitra Shunga. It is written in Sanskrit and Brahmi. There is a description of the Ashvamedha Yagya being performed by Pushyamitra Shunga.
Nanaghat inscription	 This is an inscription of 1st BC. This inscription was engraved by Nayanika, wife of Satavahana ruler Satakarni. In this, Satakarni has been called "Dakshina Pathapati". There is a description of Satakarni performing Ashvamedha Yagya twice.
Hathigumpha inscription	 This inscription is located in the Udayagiri district of Orissa state. It is related to the Chedi ruler Kharavela. In this inscription, there is a description of the invasion of Kalinga by the Nanda ruler and the construction of a dam there.
Junagadh inscription	 This inscription belongs to the Shaka king Rudradaman. It mentions the reconstruction of Sudarshan Lake.
Nashik inscription	 This inscription was engraved by Gautami Balashri after the death of his son Gautamiputra Satakarni (Satavahana King). This inscription describes the victories of Satakarni and his devotion to religion. In this inscription, Satakarni is said to be equivalent to Parashuram.
Mandsaur Inscription	 The writings were found on a pair of pillars near Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, in a tiny village called Sondani at the time. It mentions Malwa king Yasodharman's victory over Hun king Mihirakula. It was authored by Vatsabhatta during Kumaragupta's reign (5th century). The inscription begins by praising the sun deity and asking for his grace. Kumara Gupta is described as "reigning over the entire planet" in the Mandsaur inscription. According to the article, many silk weavers migrate from Lata (Gujarat) to Dasapura.
Rabatak inscription	 The Rabatak inscription, inscribed on a rock in the Bactrian language and Greek character, was discovered in 1993 near Surkh Kotal in Afghanistan. The inscription refers to the reign of the Kushan emperor Kanishka and contains important information on the Kushan dynasty's ancestry. The Rabatak inscription suggests that the true scope of Kushan control under Kanishka extended much beyond previously accepted bounds.