

## History UG

<b>Semester: 3</b>				
<b>Programme : History</b>				
<b>Course : Early Medieval Indian History: C. 500 CE – 1206 CE</b>				
<b>Paper code: C2HS230311T</b>			<b>Credits: 4</b>	
<b>Hours/week : 4</b>				
<b>Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)</b>				
<b>Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory</b>				
<b>No of Modules : 2</b>				
<p><b>Course Overview: This course explores the transformative "Early Medieval" period of Indian history, bridging the gap between the classical age and the Sultanate era. You will dive into the fierce debates surrounding Indian Feudalism and the Segmentary State to understand how power was decentralized across dynasties like the Cholas and Rajputs. The curriculum examines the shift from rural agrarian expansions via the Agrahara system to the vibrant maritime trade and the "Third Urbanization." Beyond politics, we analyze the evolving social fabric, including the proliferation of castes and the impact of early Arab and Turkish conquests as well as evolving trends in religion and culture. Ultimately, this course challenges you to reconstruct a complex era through a diverse lens of epigraphy, numismatics, and tangible heritage.</b></p>				
<b>Course Outcome:</b>				
1. Recall and identify key historical terminologies, dynastic timelines (Palas, Pratiharas, Cholas), and the various types of primary sources such as epigraphic and numismatic data.				
2. Explain the diverse theories regarding the nature of the state, specifically contrasting the Feudalism hypothesis with the Segmentary State model.				
3. Illustrate how the Agrahara system and land grants influenced agricultural expansion and the integration of tribes into the Varna order in different regions.				
4. Examine the socio-economic impacts of inter-regional and maritime trade on the "Third Urbanization" and the functioning of powerful merchant guilds				
5. Critically assess the nature and long-term consequences of Arab and Turkish conquests on the political and cultural landscape of Northern India.				
6. Construct a coherent historical argument or research presentation that synthesizes tangible evidence (architecture/sculpture) with textual data to interpret the legitimization of kingship.				
<b>Prerequisites: Basic knowledge about any prior course</b>				
<b>SYLLABUS</b>				
<b>UNIT/Module</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES</b>	<b>CO Mapping</b>	<b>COGNITIVE LEVEL</b>
I.	I. Studying Early Medieval India: a. The Concept of Early	18	CO1 CO2	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	Medieval India b. Interpreting the Sources: Textual, Archaeological, Epigraphic and Numismatic data; Architecture, Sculpture and other tangible evidence		CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	
	<b>II. Issues in Early Medieval India:</b> a. The Feudalism Debate b. The Segmentary State c. Rise of the Rajputs d. Evolution of the Political Structures: Rashtrakutas, Palas, Pratiharas, and Cholas e. Legitimization of kingship; brahmanas and temples; royal genealogies and rituals			
	<b>III. Arab and Turkish Conquests:</b> a. Arab conquest of Sindh: nature and impact b. Causes and consequences of early Turkish invasions: Mahmud of Ghazna; Shahab-ud-Din of Ghur			
<b>II.</b>	<b>I. Economy in Early Medieval India:</b> (a) The Agrahara system: agricultural expansion. (b) Trade and Commerce: Inter-regional trade; Maritime Trade (c) Forms of Exchange (d) Merchant Guilds (e) 'Third Urbanization'	<b>18</b>	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	<b>II. The Social Structure</b> a. Landlords and peasants b. Proliferation of castes; status of untouchables c. Tribes as peasants and their place in the Varna order			
	<b>III Religious Trends</b> a. Growth of the Bhakti movement: Nayanmars and			

	Alvars b. Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shaktism c. Proliferation of Tantric rituals d. Evolution of the Buddhism and Jainism e. Islamic Intellectual Traditions			
	<b>IV Cultural Developments</b> a. Regional languages and literature b. Art and Architecture: Evolution and Regional Styles			

#### **Text Books**

- D.N. Jha, Ancient India in Historical Outline, Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 2020
- D.D. Kosambi, The Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, 1997
- R.S. Sharma, Indian Feudalism, Laxmi Publications, 2008
- R.S. Sharma, Urban Decay in India, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1987
- Romila Thapar, The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300, Penguin India, 2003
- Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008
- Upinder Singh, Rethinking Early Medieval India: A Reader, New Delhi, 2011
- Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society, Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2007
- Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade in Early India, OUP, 2004 Ranabir Chakravarti, Exploring Early India (Up to c. AD 1300)
- K. A. N. Sastri, ed., History of South India, OUP, 1966
- B. D. Chattopadhyaya, Making of Early Medieval India, Delhi, 1994
- B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Studying Early India: Archaeology, Texts and Historical Issues, New Delhi, 2003
- Kunal Chakrabarti and Kanad Sinha. Eds. State, Power and Legitimacy: The Gupta Kingdom, Delhi, 2018
- Noburo Karashima ed. A Concise History of South India, Delhi, 2004
- K. Veluthat, The Early Medieval in South India, New Delhi, 2010
- R. Champakalakshmi, Trade, Ideology and Urbanisation: South India 300 BC to AD 1300, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996

#### **Suggested readings**

- D.C. Sircar, Indian Epigraphy, Motilal Banarsidas, 2017
- Kunal Chakrabarti, Religious Process: The Puranas and the Making of a Regional Tradition, OUP 2001
- Daud Ali, Courtly Culture and Political Life in Early Medieval India, CUP 2006
- Hermann Kulke, ed The State in India 1000-1700 OUP 1995

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suchandra Ghosh and Urvi Mukhopadhyay eds., Exploring South Asian Urbanity, Routledge India, London, 2021.</li> <li>• Pratyay Nath and Kaustabh Mani Sengupta, Itihaser Bitarka Bitarker Itihas, Kolkata, 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Web Resources</b>
1.
2.
3.
4.
<b>Evaluation: Theory</b> <b>CIA: 5 +Mid Sem: 20 +Attendance: 5 =30</b> <b>Semester Exam: 70</b>
<b>Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam:</b> <b>Total Marks: 70</b> <b>Two modules of 35 marks each.</b> <b>(3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: 3X5=15</b> <b>2 questions of 10 marks from 3 options: 2X10=20</b>

#### Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Recall and identify key historical terminologies, dynastic timelines (Palas, Pratiharas, Cholas), and the various types of primary sources such as epigraphic and numismatic data.	K1
CO2	Explain the diverse theories regarding the nature of the state, specifically contrasting the Feudalism hypothesis with the Segmentary State model.	K2
CO3	Illustrate how the Agrahara system and land grants influenced agricultural expansion and the integration of tribes into the Varna order in different regions.	K3
CO4	Examine the socio-economic impacts of inter-regional and maritime trade on the "Third Urbanization" and the functioning of powerful merchant guilds	K4
CO5	Critically assess the nature and long-term consequences of Arab and Turkish conquests on the political and cultural landscape of Northern India.	K5
CO6	Construct a coherent historical argument or research presentation that synthesizes tangible evidence (architecture/sculpture) with textual data to interpret the legitimization of kingship.	K6