

ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

(POST-GRADUATE STANDARD)

UNIT - I

History of Archaeology

Definition, aim and scope of Archaeology - History and growth of Indian

Archaeology- Salvage Archaeology- Underwater Archaeology – Archaeology

and Science (Geo-archaeology, Anthropology, Environmental Archaeology,

Archaeo-zoology, Palaeontology, Archaeo-botany)- Ethno-archaeology Experimental Archaeology-
Recent trends in Archaeological investigation

(Remote Sensing, Aerial Photography, GIS, GPS, GPR, Photogrammetry,

Digitalization, Digital Mapping etc.,)

UNIT - II

Field Archaeology

Techniques of Exploration – Excavation Methods (Horizontal, Vertical and

Burial excavations)- Sorting and preparation of Pottery yard– Documentation

and Interpretation of excavated material – Excavation report writing – On spot

Preservation methods of excavation material – Dating methods - Relative

Dating (Stratigraphy, Typology) Absolute Dating (Carbon 14, Potassium

Argon, Thermo luminescence, Dendro-chronology, Pollen Analysis, Varve

Clay Analysis, Fission Track, Fluorine Test, Nitrogen and Phosphate Analysis,

Soil Analysis) – Major Excavations in Tamil Nadu, Attirampakkam, Gudiyam,

Paiyampalli, Adichchanallur, Sanur, Kunnattur, Arikamedu,

Kaveripumpattinam, Tirukampuliyur and Alagarai, Alagankulam, Korkai,

Kodumanal and Uraiyur.

UNIT – III

Pre & Proto History

Definition, terminology and periodization - Quaternary Archaeology and environmental conditions, flora and fauna- Stone tool technology, typology, material and study of stone artefacts – Survey of Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic cultures (distribution, artefacts, technology, raw material, economy, contextual occurrence of tools, chronology, types sites)- Important region and sites (Sohan Valley, Narmada valley, Kortalaiyar river basin, Bhimbetka, Attirampakkam, Gudiyam) - Survey of Mesolithic cultures with special reference to Teri sites – Distribution of Neolithic Culture in India (Paiyampalli)- Rock Art (Distribution, style, pigment, content, Recording 2 system, interpretation of rock art, dating of rock art) – Pre-Harappan and Harappan culture (settlement pattern, town planning, water management, environment acclimatization) - Chalcolithic Cultures (Banas, Copper hoard, Kayatha, Malwa, Jorwe and cultures, O.C.P., Painted Grey ware Cultures) - Iron Age cultures – Types of Megalithic in Tamil Nadu.

UNIT – IV

Ancient History

Vedic period- Maurya period- Sangam period (socio-economic condition)- Sunga-Satavahana period- Gupta period- Pallava-Pandya period- Chalukyas of Badami- Pratiharas- Chandellas- Paramaras- Rastrakutas- Cholas- Palas- Later Chalukyas -Hoysalas-Later Pandyas- Vijayanagara period. – Political Cultural.

UNIT – V

Epigraphy

Development of writing (Pictography, Ideography, Syllabic and Logo-Syllabic to Alphabet) - Epigraphy as a source of Indian history - Writing materials and antiquity of writing in India - Origin and development of Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts - Eras and Dates in Indian inscriptions - Study of some important inscriptions from north and south India (Asokan Rock Edicts, Mangulam

Brahmi Inscription Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela, Junagadh
inscription of Rudradaman I, Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta,
Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II, Mandagapattu inscription of
Mahendravarman I, Uttiramerur inscription of Parantaka I, Manur inscription of
Maran Cadaiyan, Larger Leiden Plates, - South Indian Scripts (Tamil-Brahmi
and its distribution, Pallava-Grantha, Vatteluttu, Tamil script)

UNIT – VI

Numismatics

Numismatics as a source of history- Origin and antiquity of coinage in India -

Technique of minting coins (Punch-marked, cast, die-struck, etc.)- Broad

characteristics and identification of dynastic coins: Punch-marked, IndoGreek, Satavahana, Kushan,
Gupta, Indo-Sassanian, Sangam Coins, Roman

Coins in Tamil Nadu, Imperial Chola Coinage, Pandya, Vijayanagara and

Nayak coinage, coins of colonial period.

UNIT – VII

Art and Architecture

Pre & Proto historic Art in India – Harappan town planning- Art and

Architecture under the Maurya, Sunga, Satavahana, Kushan, Gupta, Pallava,

Pandya, Chalukya, Rashtrakuta, Chola, Hoysala, Later Chalukyas, Kalingas, 3

Chandellas, Paramaras, and Vijayanagara-Nayak period.- Buddhist

architecture (South, North and Western India), Cave architecture, Monolithic

temple- Mathura school of art, Gandhara school of art and Amaravati school

of art- Early and medieval mural paintings– technique and styles; with special

reference to Ajanta , Sittannavasal, Ellora, Thanjavur, etc. – Terracotta art-

Bronzes (technique, style and distribution with special reference to Chola and

Pala period)

UNIT - VIII

Iconography

Antiquity and concept of Indian iconography - Brief introduction to sources, mudras, asanas and ayudhas of deities - Brahmanical Iconography (Siva, Vishnu, Surya, Brahma, Ganesa, Karttikeya, Goddess, Navagrahas, Ashtadikpalas and other minor divinities) - Buddhist Iconography (Hinayana, Mahayana, Vajrayana, Mantrayana, etc.) - Jain Iconography- Jaina Tirtankaras- Yakshas and Yakshinis.

UNIT – IX

Museology

Introduction to Museology (Definition of museology)-History of development of Museums in India- Types of museums, their scope and functions- Museum Collection (field exploration, excavation, purchase, gift and bequests, loans and deposits, exchanges, treasure trove, confiscation and others)- Documentation, Interpretation, Accessioning, Indexing, Cataloguing, Digital documentation and De-accessioning- Museum management and administration- Museum conservation, preservation and restoration- Museum Presentation / Exhibition (Types of exhibits and exhibitions, exhibition designing, planning, fabrication, installation and related issues)- Principles of display for permanent exhibition and reserve collection (Objectives and communication goals, target audience, concept development, story line, designing and layout of exhibits, gallery development, space, showcases and structural installations, colour scheme, lighting, labels & scripts, evaluation)

UNIT – X

Conservation

History of archaeological conservation - General principles and guidelines for conservation and preservation of monuments / sites and excavated remains - International conventions on conservation / preservation of monuments- Salvaging and transplantation of monuments - Methods of Conservation of Brick, stone, Wood, Metals and alloys, Non-ferrous metals, mortar – Causes 4

and remedies of deterioration- Bio-deterioration-Clay pack method, Paper pulp technique – Other important methods of conservation (Grouting by pressure and gravity, Pointing, Underpinning, Stitching, filleting, etc.)- Air pollution- heritage management –major conservation on India (Taj Mahal, Mamallapuram, Ajanta, Bijapur (Gol Gumbad), Puri (Jaganath temple), Konarak (Sun temple) – Laws related to protection of cultural properties – Archaeological works code.

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