



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Sadhna Trivedi

Lecture-3



Sources of Indian History

Ancient Books

- The Buddhist books are called as **Jataka** stories. They have been given some historical importance because they are related with the previous births of the Buddha. There are more than 550 such stories.
- The historic information mentioned in Jaina literature also help us in reconstructing the history of different regions of India.
- The Dharmasutras and the Smritis were the rules and regulations for the general public and the rulers. It can be equated with the constitution and the law books of the modern concept of polity and society. For example, **Manusmriti**.
- Dharmashastras were compiled between 600 and 200 B.C.
- Arthashastra is a book on statecraft written by Kautilya during the Maurya period. The book is divided into 15 parts dealing with different subject matters related to polity, economy, and society.
- The final version of Arthashastra was written in the 4th century B.C.
- Kautilya acknowledges his debt to his predecessors in his book, which shows that there was a tradition of writing on and teaching of statecrafts.
- Mudrarakshasha is a play written by **Visakha datta**. It describes the society and culture of that period.
- Malavikagnimitram written by **Kalidasa** gives information of the reign of Pusyamitra Sunga dynasty.
- **Bhasa** and **Sudraka** are other poets who have written plays based on historical events.
- Harshacharita, written by **Banabhatta**, throws light on many historical facts about which we could not have known otherwise.
- **Vakpati** wrote Gaudavaho, based on the exploits of Yasovarman of Kanauj.
- Vikramankadevacharita, written by **Bilhana**, describes the victories of the later Chalukya king Vikramaditya.
- Some of the prominent biographical works, which are based on the lives of the kings are –
 - Kumarapalacharita of Jayasimha,
 - Kumarapalacharita or Dvayashraya Mahakavya of Hemachandra,
 - Hammirakavya of Nayachandra
 - Navasahasankacharita of Padmagupta

- Bhojaprabandha of Billal
- Priihvirajacharit of Chandbardai
- Rajatarangini, written by **Kalhana**, is the best form of history writing valued by modern historians. His critical method of historical research and impartial treatment of the historical facts have earned him a great respect among the modern historians.
- The **Sangam** literature is in the form of short and long poems consisting 30,000 lines of poetry, which arranged in two main groups i.e. Patinenkilkanakku and the Pattupattu. It describes many kings and dynasties of South India.
- The Sangam was the poetic compilation by a group of poets of different times mainly supported by chiefs and kings.
- The Sangam literature was composed by a large number of poets in praise of their kings. Some kings and events mentioned are also supported by the inscriptions.
- The Sangam literature generally describes events up to the 4th century A.D.

MCQ

1. Single largest site of excavations of Harappan civilisation was at :
(a) Harappa **(b) Mohenjodaro** (c) Lothal (d) Kalibangan
2. The depth of the Great Bath in Mohanjodaro site was :
(a) 10 feet (b) 9 feet **(c) 8 feet** (d) 7 feet.
3. The largest building of the Harappan sites was the :
(a) The Assembly (b) The Royal Palace **(c) The Great Granary** (d) The Temple of Pashupati
4. Which one is not correctly matched regarding Harappan sites :
(a) Kalibangan : Rajasthan (b) Kot Diji : Baluchistan
(c) Dholavira : Gujarat **(d) Banawali: Uttar Pradesh**
5. Metals not used by the Harappan people were :
(a) Gold and Silver (b) Copper and Bronze **(c) Iron and tin** (d) None of these.

4. Who among the following succeeded Samudragupta as the next ruler of Gupta Dynasty ?

- [A] Chandragupta II
- [B] Chandragupta I
- [C] Vishnugupta
- [D] Mahendra

5. Which among the following places have given the earliest evidence of agriculture in Indian subcontinent?

- [A] Pratapgarh
- [B] Mehrgarh
- [C] Quetta
- [D] Kalat

