



Introduction to History of India

Fundamentals

- History **narrates the Past** of a country, society, tribe, people, political structures, economic activities and other factors studies in Social Sciences.
- **Knowing the past helps in knowing the present**, so that 'we do not need to reinvent the wheel'. It also helps in making '**reason based estimates**' about the trends towards unknown **future**.
- Historical Developments are studied in **units of 100 years**. The centuries are then **grouped as millennium** to get the Big Picture of historical development and change. In Class 7th we study the millennium

History = 'His + story' /
Itihaas = 'It happened
like this /thus'



Archaeological site of Nalanda University
Near Patna, in Bihar

From 700 AD to 1750 AD

Warped history

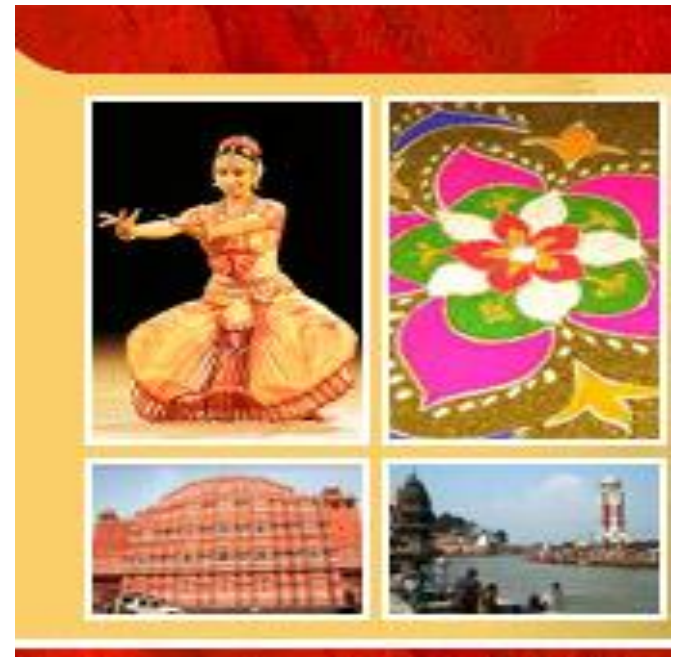
Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur, Chola Empire



- As Time and Space are ‘warped’ , and **the past, present and future**, tend to **co-exist** in every society.
- The **co-existence** of past, present, and future **is visible** in the various social, political, and economic practices.
- In socio-economic area, cotton *Saree* and *Dhoti kurta* have continued in India since ancient times, as these are more comfortable for climatic conditions. Structure of the village and house layout, and modes of livelihood have continued with very little change.

- In rural areas, the traditional socio-economic order continues longer than in cities, as everyone knows each other from birth to death, and as the modern technology /facilities reach there at a slower pace.
- This is evident in no electrification or road connectivity of several *lakh* of villages, even in 2015.
- Vegetarian food is more popular in India due to historical influence of Jainism, Buddhism, and *Vaishnav* cult, and the overall view of respecting all life forms in Nature. India is called a “Living Civilization” because its Past has continued till today.
- Future trends are seen in dresses of Fashion designer and in films. Films often depict the technology of the future, apart from showing the socio- economic situation of the present times.

Warped history



- Images of Hampi Temples (Vijayanagar 14th to 16th century) and Lotus Temple Delhi in 1980s.
- Musical instrument unique to India

Warped history



History lives in Architecture

- Sanchi Stupa 3rd century BC (re-discovered in 1818)
- Hawa Mahal Jaipur, (1799) has 953 carved windows, and its temple is still in use.
- India has the largest heritage of unique historical monuments, and the largest number of World Heritage Sites.



Warped Past, Present and Future in Political Life

- **Political example** : Democracy , as the future form of government was established in France after the French Revolution from 1789 to 1799, and in the United States of America, after American War of Independence from 1775 to 1783. Yet, in other countries democracy was adopted only after 1950s.
- Even in a democratic USA, the Past practice of Slavery continued to exist, till the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolished it on 31st January 1865. Women in USA got their right to vote only on 20th August, 1920.
- As in 2015, democratic form has been adopted by 122 countries. monarchies and 27 countries. As such even when a future trend is available as a better alternatives , some countries may continue to live in the Past. Either those is power do not wish to give it up or society as a whole is not ready to accept a better alternative.

Layers of History

- Just as silt brought down by a river gets deposited, layer upon layer along the river bank, History continues as several layers of political structures and economic practices.
- In India, the same sites have continued as towns and cities since 5th century B. C. Examples : Indraprastha as Delhi, Kashi as Varanasi, Prayag as Allahabad, Mathura, Madurai, Kanchi, Tanjore, Hampi, Surat. The old town and the new city co-exist in all these cities.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS 650 to 1200 AD

- From 7th century AD, the focal point of **political** and cultural activities **shifted** from the northern plains of India **to the Deccan peninsula**. The vast plateau with major river valleys made the regions very fertile and prosperous.
- The Chalukyas, the Pallava, the Satavahan (in Deccan) the Vakatas, the Rashtrakutas, the Pallas (Bihar and Bengal) , and the Pratihars, (from Gurjars of Rajasthan).
- Kashmir, Nepal, Kamrupa (Assam), Utkala kingdoms (in 8th century AD)

Provincial kingdoms

- In Provinces, Regional languages continued.
- The Sultans and other kings **had to adopt the regional language** in administration because **literate people** for their court service, **knew only their regional language**.
 - In Medieval times, all administrative records **in the province** were in the major local language of the area under the control of each Sultan.

1. **Sultanate of Delhi** – adopted Persian and Hindavi first used by Amir Khusro and Sufi saints.
2. **Kingdom of Gujarat** , under Ahmed Shah, built his new capital at Ahmedabad after Revolting against Delhi to establish his new identity.
3. **The Rajput kingdoms** of Mewar, Marwar, Chittor, Jodhpur, were led by Mewar , that was most prosperous.
4. **Kingdoms of the Jats, Awadh, and Jaunpur** , in the mid- Gangetic Plains.
5. **Kingdom of Bengal** flourished due to its distance from Delhi and fertile soil.
6. **Bahamani kingdom** with Daulatabad as its capital.
7. **Vijaynagar Empire** covered the Deccan peninsular from coast to coast.

Continuity of Ancient History in Modern Political Thought

- The National Emblem of the Republic of India adopted on 26th January, 1950 , has been taken from Sarnath sculpture of 3rd Century B. C.
- Its four lions face the four directions, and Dharma Chakra on a bell shaped lotus, between images of a bull, a horse, an elephant, and a lion. It symbolizes the Eternal Wheel of law.
- Below it is the inscription of 'Satyamev Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs) in Devanagiri script.



सत्यमेव जयते

Continuity of History through regional languages

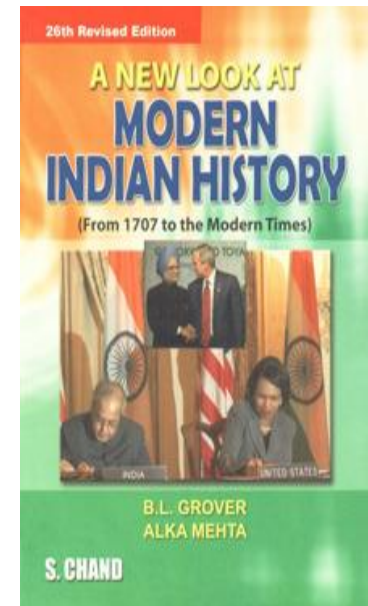
- Even under the British from 18th century A.D., local languages could not be replaced with English.
- They have continued to be the basis of 'linguistic states' and after Independence in 1947, the States were re-organized on basis of language. Later, Gujarat was culled out of Maharashtra and Haryana out of Punjab. The 29th State to be created is Telangana, in 2014, culled out of Andhra Pradesh.
- Regional languages - Tamil, Telegu, Oriya, Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese that evolved from Prakrit and Sanskrit during the Ancient Historical period, continued their influence on shaping medieval kingdoms, and have created linguistic states in modern India.

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History: Ancient, Medieval Modern

1. **Political History** – records are available easily as most rulers employed scribes to write their story.
2. **Social History** – records in literature, folk tales and folk songs, arts and crafts, clothing styles, the oral tradition of bards.
3. **Economic History** – about the wealth , trade and means of livelihood. Records are in architecture , coins, seals, and written records
4. History of language, script, art and architecture, music and dance
5. **Archaeology** studies ancient history through what ever evidence is available as buried in lost habitation sites that had got buried in the sands of time. Most ancient sites are in this category.
6. There is a **History of every human activity** today.





THANK YOU