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BY PHYSICS WALLAH

# UPSC PRARAMBH

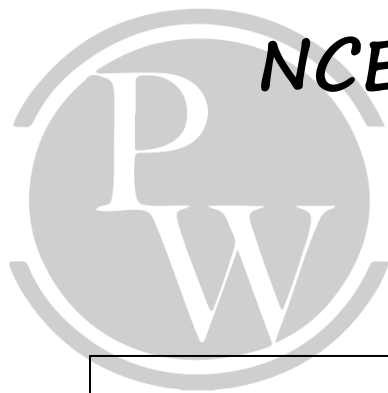
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## DAILY CLASS NOTES

NCERT: Ancient History



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Lecture -01

**Introduction to History**



## Introduction to History

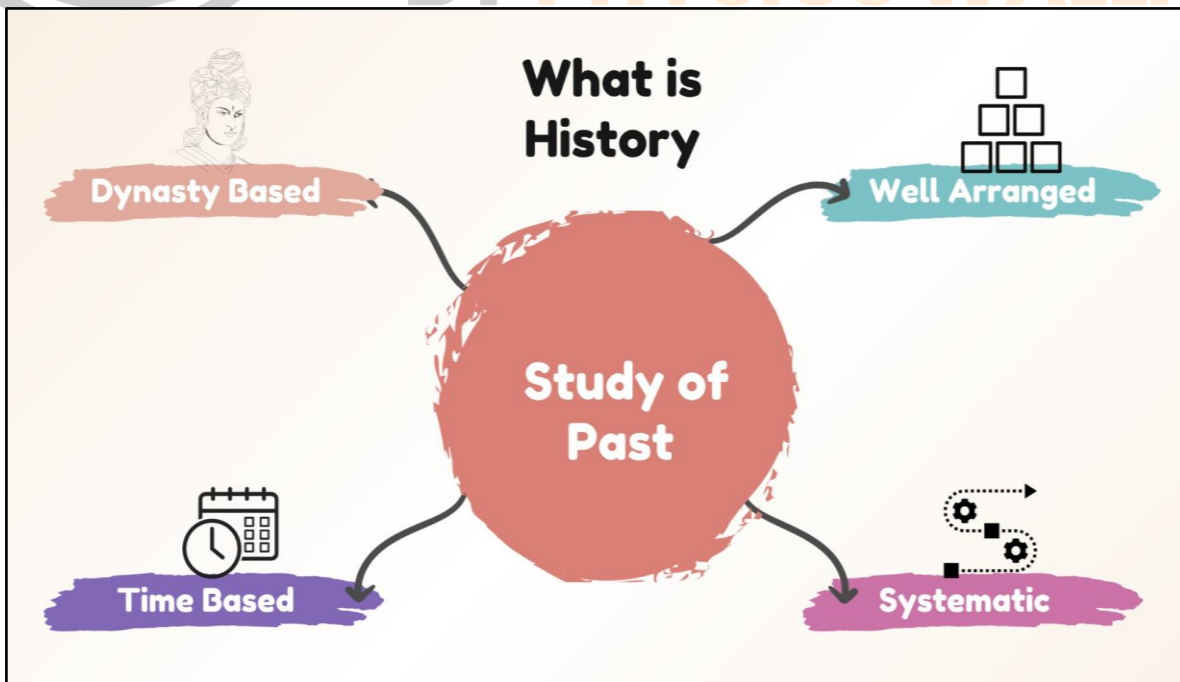
### Books to be followed for Ancient History:

- Class 6th and 11th NCERT (Old Edition)\*
- Class 6th and 12th NCERT (New Edition)
- Tamil Nadu Board Books (Part I Class 11)

\* Give more stress from Chapter 05 onwards in the 11th Old NCERT

#### ❖ What do you understand about the term 'History?'

- History is the study of the past but not any random event could be considered as a part of history. Rather, history is the systematic, time and dynasty-based understanding of the past.
- When we try to understand history in a systematic order, we get information about the flow of wars, events and the subsequent treaties signed.



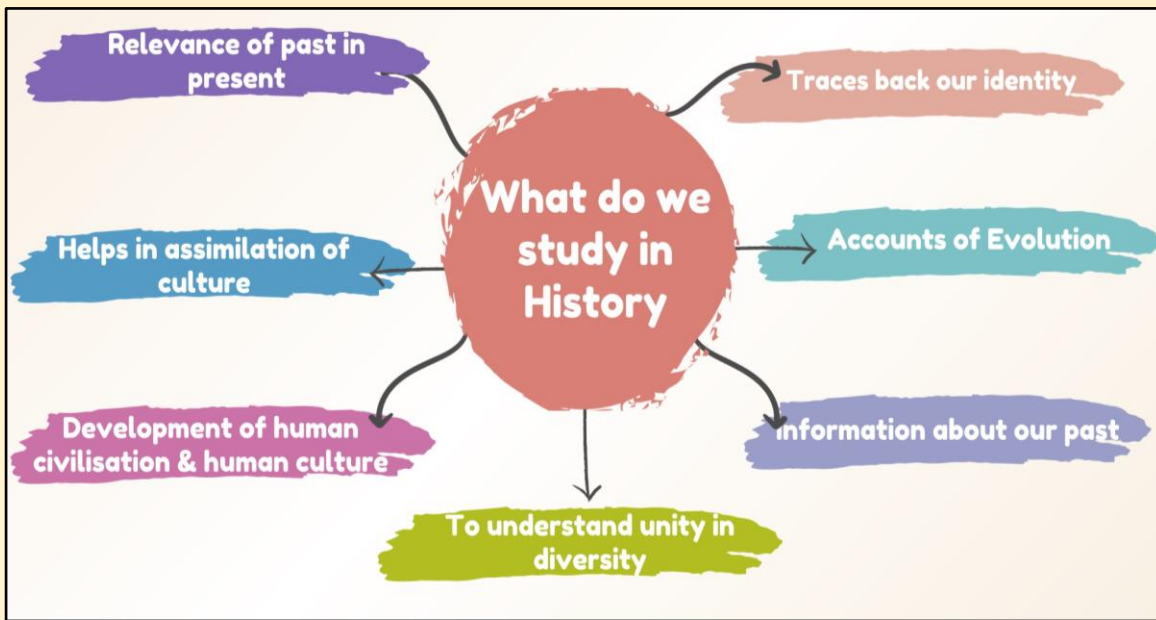
*Questions to ponder upon.....*

Q. Why do we need to study history or what is the importance of ancient history? How does it guide decisions that are taken in the present scenario? Discuss.

Answer:

Introduction:

❖ History is the systematic study of the past as it helps us understand incidents and processes that ultimately create our present.



❖ Importance of studying history:

- **Accounts of the Evolution of Humankind:** History is a way through which we will get to know when human civilisation started developing. Darwin was of the opinion that humans were first born as monkeys and then through millions of years of evolution, finally homo sapiens came into being. But this theory is highly debated.
- **Information about our past:** Information about History tells us about ourselves as it is the study of the past. So if it is giving us information about ourselves, it tells us how humans evolved, and how there was a shift from hunting and gathering to engagement in agricultural practices. It gives us evidence about the domestication of animals.

- **Tracing back our identity:** History also traces our identity, the identity of our country, her name, etc. India is called **Bharat** which is derived from the **Bharata** clan of the **Rigveda** (7th Mandala). There is another story related to Bharata's name - **Shakuntala** and **King Dushyanta's** son, **Bharata**. Along with **Bharatvarsha**, India is also called **Aryavarta** and **Jambudveep**. **Greeks** named India as **India** after its location across the **Indus River**. The **Arabs** called the **Indus Sindhu** from which the term 'Hindu' evolved and from there the name **Hindustan** emerged.
- **Development of human civilisation and human culture:** It helps in the development of human civilization and human culture along with the **development of multiple languages** as the roots of such languages lie in our **ancient history**.
- **Transformation of small villages to cities to large empires:** History gives us accounts of how **small villages** transformed into **cities** and simultaneously with time, how these cities finally evolved into **larger empires**.

- **To understand Unity in Diversity:** Even though India is a country that houses a population with varied beliefs and religious practices, still there is '**Unity in Diversity**.' This is because India is the birthplace of major religions spread all over the world. These are **Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism** but it comes in the medieval period. **Hinduism** is associated with **Sanatan Dharma** which simply means it has no accounts of from whom, where and when it evolved.



However, **Buddhism and Jainism** evolved in the **6th century BCE**.

- ✓ It is history that tells why **Buddhism and Jainism** arose, and what exactly went wrong in **Hinduism** which led to belief starting to believe in **Buddha** and **Mahavira's** ideologies.

➤ **Assimilation of cultures:** History tells us about the assimilation of the mixing of cultures. Example., translation of Mahabharata and Ramayana in South India. This is called Unity in Diversity.

- ✓ **Prakrit was Lingua Franca** which meant it was spoken by many. During Ashoka's reign, Prakrit was Lingua Franca widely spoken throughout the empire. Then from Prakrit, there was a gradual shift towards the speaking of Sanskrit and it became Lingua Franca in 200 AD.

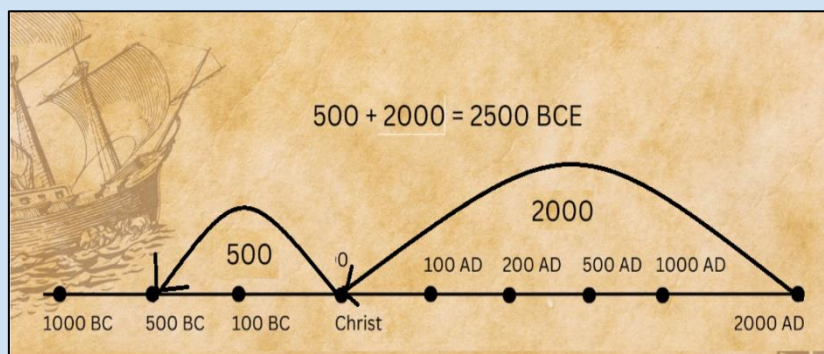


➤ **Relevance of past in present:** History also helps us in the understanding of the present from the past. With the help of the past, we can solve the problems of the present.

**Conclusion:** The study of ancient India is important to understand our own real self and to appreciate the nature of problems that we overcame in the past.

### Important Terms in History

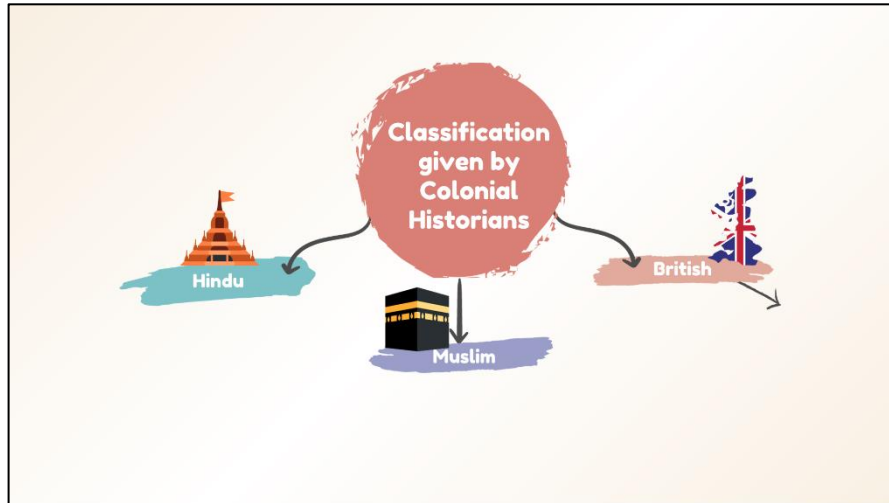
- ❖ **Chakravartin:** Ashok and Samudragupta were considered as Chakravartins
- ❖ **BC (Before Christ):** Example: 500 BC means 2500 years ago if we calculate it from AD.
- ❖ **AD (Anno Domini):** This marks the period post the birth of Christ OR CE: Common Era
- ❖ **BCE: Before Christ Era**



(To calculate BCE we need to do an addition from the present period, say for instance take the present century → 2000 and go back 2000 years till 0 which marks the birth of Christ. Then add 500 more years backwards from 0 which would then date back to 500 BC. so, 2000+ 500= 2500 BCE).

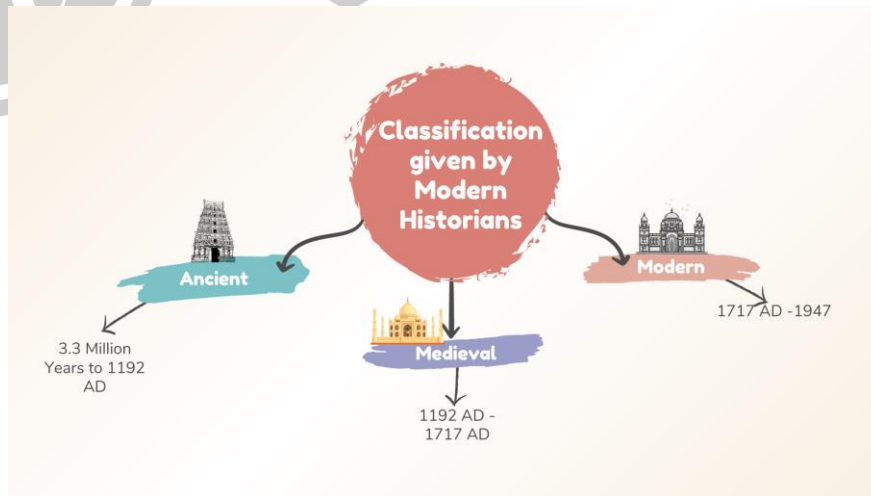
### Classification of History:

❖ *Classification given by colonial historians:*



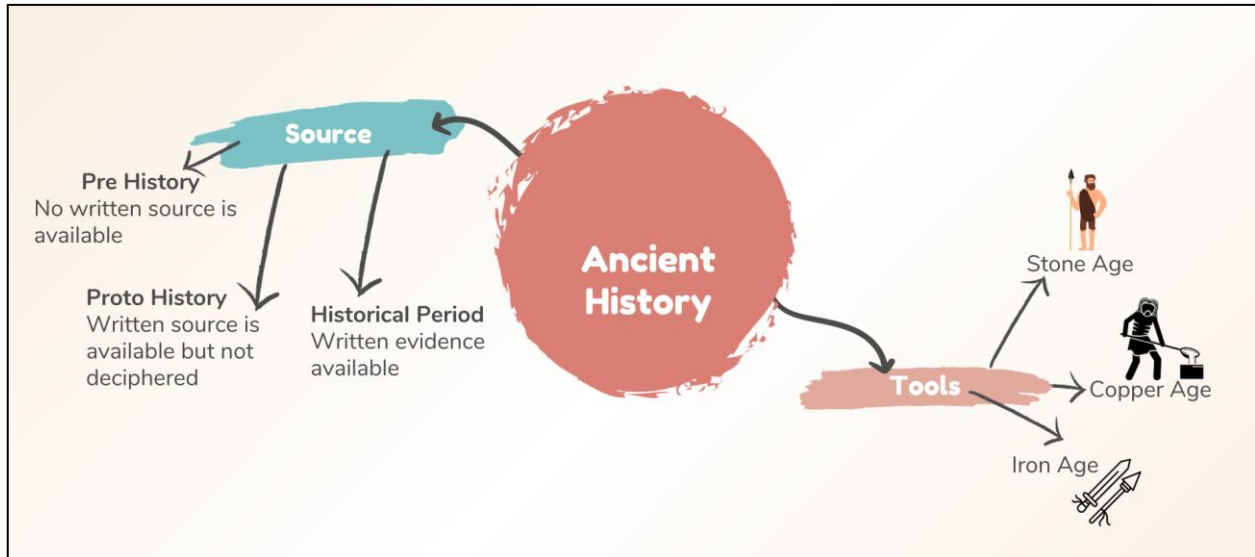
❖ *Classification given by modern historians:*

- **Ancient history:** The period of ancient history immediately started from the era since human life began on planet Earth. The period dates back to 3.3 million years ago and continues till 1192 AD. 1192 AD was the period when Md. Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.



- **Medieval history:** The period of medieval history immediately starts from 1192 AD till 1717 AD.
- **Modern history:** The period of modern history started from 1717 AD and continued till 1947.

**Classification of Ancient History:**



❖ **Based on Sources:** Under this, the sources are further classified into three categories:

- **Pre-history:** From this period, no such written records are available.
- **Proto-history:** From this period, written records are available but it has not been deciphered yet. Example: Harappan inscriptions from the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- **Historical period:** From this period onwards, written records were not only available but also deciphered which finally helped us in understanding our past.



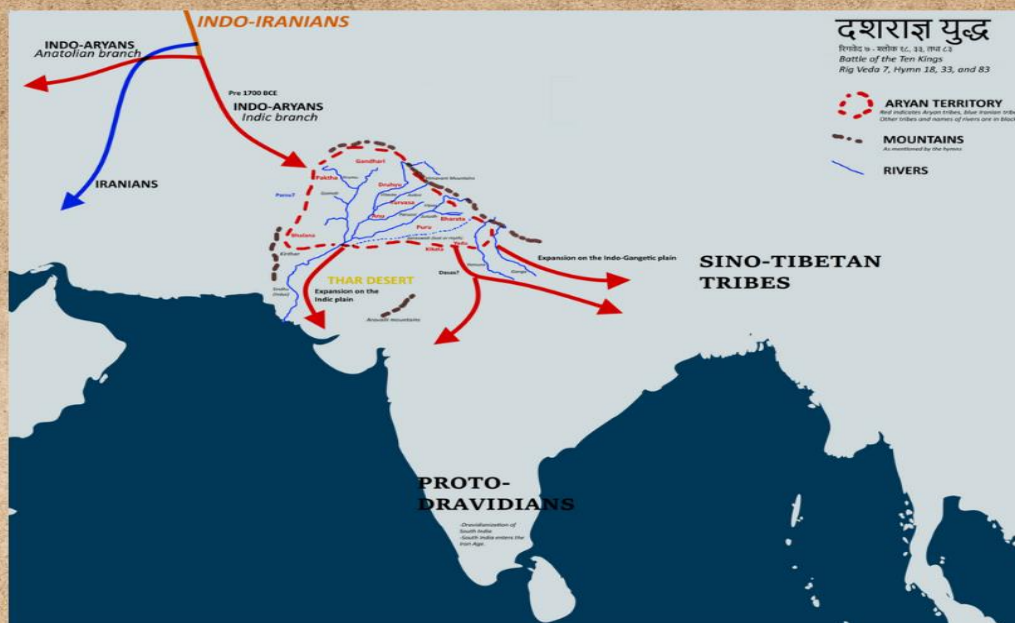
❖ **Based on tools:**

- Stone Age
- Copper/Bronze Age
- Iron Age.

## Do you know?

### The Battle of Ten Kings:

- This first war of Indian history is known as the Battle of 10 kings. According to Rigveda (Book 7 or 7th Mandal), this battle took place on the banks of the river Ravi also known as Paurushni in Sanskrit.
- The battle was fought between the two powerful Rigvedic tribes. The Bharata tribe was on one side and a confederacy of ten other tribes. The Bharata king (chief) Sudas defeated the powerful confederacy of 10 other tribes in this titanic encounter.
- According to Rigveda, King Sudas was the grandson of the powerful king Divodas Athithigva who had established its hegemony around modern-day Punjab. Rig-Veda also mentioned that king Sudas expanded his empire in all possible directions.
- The tribes that fought against the Bharatas were Anus, Druhyus, Bhalana, Alina, Prithu, Sivas, Bhrgu, Parsu, Shimyu, Matsyas, and Purus.



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