

Module 2

Paper: History of India (From Earliest times upto 8th Century C.E)

Topic: Sources for the study of Ancient Indian History: Literary

Quadrant: II

Glossary

Sacred : connected with God or a god or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration.

Secular: Not connected with spiritual or religious matters.

Literary: concerning the writing, study, or content of literature, especially of the kind valued for quality of form.

Vedas: any of the four collections forming the earliest body of Indian scripture.

Brahmanas: any of the lengthy commentaries on the Vedas, composed in Sanskrit c. 900–700 BC and containing expository material relating to Vedic sacrificial ritual.

Upanishads: each of a series of Hindu sacred treatises written in Sanskrit c. 800–200 BC, expounding the Vedas in predominantly mystical and monistic terms.

Vedangas: The Vedanga (Sanskrit: वेदाङ्ग vedāṅga, "limbs of the Veda") are six auxiliary disciplines of Hinduism that developed in ancient times, and have been connected with the study of the Vedas.

Sutras: a rule or aphorism in Sanskrit literature, or a set of these on grammar or Hindu law or philosophy.

Dharmasastras: Dharmaśāstra (Sanskrit: धर्मशास्त्र) is a genre of Sanskrit theological texts, and refers to the treatises (śāstras) of Hinduism on dharma.

Puranas: any of a class of Sanskrit sacred writings on Hindu mythology and folklore of varying date and origin, the most ancient of which dates from the 4th century AD.

Hymns: a religious song or poem of praise to God or a god.

Treatise: a written work dealing formally and systematically with a subject.

Epics: a long poem, typically one derived from ancient oral tradition, narrating the deeds and adventures of heroic or legendary figures or the past history of a nation.

Jatakas: any of the various stories of the former lives of the Buddha found in Buddhist literature.

Pitakas: Tipitaka (Tripitaka in Sanskrit) is the name given to the Buddhist sacred scriptures and is made up of two words; ti meaning 'three' and pitaka meaning 'basket'.

Nikayas: Nikāya is a Pāli word meaning "volume". ... It is most commonly used in reference to the Pali Buddhist texts of the Tripitaka namely the Sutta Piṭaka, the Vinaya Pitaka and the Abhidhamma Pitaka.

Exploits: make full use of and derive benefit from

Depicts: represent by a drawing, painting, or other art form.

Chronicle: a factual written account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence.