

**B.A. (HISTORY) SYLLABUS**  
**Ist Year**  
**Semester - I**  
**History of India (From Earliest Times to c.700 CE)**  
**Discipline Specific Course - Paper - I**

- Unit-I: Definitions - Nature and Scope of History - History and Its Relationship with other Social Sciences - Geographical Features of India – Sources of Indian History: Pre-History – Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Megalithic Cultures.
- Unit-II: Indus Valley Civilization - Its Features & Decline; Early Vedic and Later Vedic Civilizations – Vedic Literature – Society – Economy - Polity – Religion.
- Unit-III: Rise of New Religious Movements – Charvakas, Lokayathas, Jainism and Buddhism; Mahajanapadas - Rise of Magadha; Alexander’s Invasion and Its Impact.
- Unit-IV: Foundation of the Mauryan Dynasty; Ashoka and His Dharma – Polity – Administration - Society – Economy – Religion – Literature - Art and Architecture; Disintegration of the Mauryan Empire; Post-Mauryan Kingdoms - Indo-Greeks - Kushanas and Kanishka - Society – Economy – Literature – Art and Architecture; The Satavahanas; Sangam Age – Literary Development.
- Unit-V: Gupta Empire: A Brief Political Survey - Polity and Administration, Social and Economic Conditions, Agriculture and Land Grants - Feudalism, Caste System, Position of Women, Education, Literature, Science and Technology, Art and Architecture - Harshavardana and His Achievements.

**Recommended Books:**

- A.L. Basham, *The Wonder that was India*, Rupa & Co., New Delhi, 2001.
- Allchin, Bridget & Raymond, *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*, CUP, New Delhi, 1996.
- E.H. Carr, *What is History?* Penguin Books, England, 1990.
- Majumdar, R.C., *History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vols. I, II & III.
- Romila Thapar, *Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, OUP, New Delhi, 1995.
- Romila Thapar, *Early India (From the earliest to AD 1300)*.
- Romila Thapar, *A History of India*, Vol. I, Penguin Books, New Delhi, 1990.
- Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Medieval India*.