**TEACHING PLAN for Academic Year** **2020-21**

**PAPER:** History of India-III

**SEMESTER:** III

**SESSION:** 2020-21

**TEACHER’S NAME: Dr. Dinesh Kumar Singh**

History of India- III (c. 750-1200)

Course Objective: This course is designed to make students trace the patterns of change and continuities in the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of life during the ‘early medieval period’ (c. A.D. 750 – A.D. 1200) of Indian history. With its focus on multiple historiographical approaches to various issues of historical significance during this period, the course will also apprise students of the divergent ways in which historians approach, read and interpret their sources. Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to: • Critically assess the major debates among scholars about various changes that took place with the onset of early medieval period in India.

• Explain, in an interconnected manner, the processes of state formation, agrarian expansion, proliferation of caste and urban as well as commercial processes. • Discuss the major currents of development in the cultural sphere, namely bhakti movement, Puranic Hinduism, Tantricism, architecture and art as well as the emergence of a number ‘regional’ languages.

**Syllabus:**

Unit I: Studying early medieval India

[a] Dynamic and divergent topographies

[b] Sources: texts; inscriptions; coins

[c] Debates on the early medieval

Unit II: Political structures and processes

[a] Evolution of political structures: Rajput polities; Chola state; Odisha

[b] Symbols of political power: Brahmanas and temples; sacred spaces and conflicts; courtly cultures

[c] Issue of ‘Foreign and Indian’: Arabs and Ghazanavids in the north-west, Cholas in Southeast Asia

Unit III: Social and economic processes

[a] Agricultural expansion; forest-dwellers, peasants and landlords

[b] Expansion of varna-jati order and brahmanization 52

[c] Forms of exchange; inter-regional and maritime trade

[d] Processes of urbanization

Unit IV: Religious, literary and visual cultures

[a] Bhakti: Alvars and Nayanars

[b] Puranic Hinduism; Tantra; Buddhism and Jainism

[c] Sanskrit and regional languages: interactions

[d] Art and architecture: temples – regional styles

ESSENTIAL READINGS AND UNIT WISE TEACHING OUTCOMES:

**Unit I**: This unit seeks to familiarise students with the nature of historical geography and the range of sources available for the early medieval period of Indian history. Most importantly, students will engage with the debates and varied scholarly views on the nature of early medieval Indian social formation and the most important aspects and factors of change therein.(Teaching Time: 4 weeks Approx.)

• Saloman, Richard. (1998).Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit and the Other Indo-Aryan Languages. New York: Oxford University Press. (The relevant portions are: Chapter I: 'The Scope and Significance of Epigraphy in Indological Studies', pp. 3-6; Chapter VII: 'Epigraphy as a Source for the Study of Indian Culture', pp. 226-51.)

• Schwartzberg. J. (1993). Historical Atlas of South Asia. New York: Oxford University Press. (To be used mostly as a reference book)

• Jha, D.N. (2000). ‘Introduction’, The Feudal Order: State, Society and Ideology in Early Medieval India, (ed.), D.N.Jha, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 1-60. [Also available in Hindi]

• Sharma, R.S. (1958). ‘Origins of Feudalism in India’. Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, vol. 1, pp. 297-328.

• Mukhia, H. (1981). ‘Was there Feudalism in Indian History?’ The Journal of Peasant Studies, vol. 8, pp. 273-310. Also reproduced in The State in India, 1000-1700, ed., H.Kulke, pp. 86-133. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995. Paperback edition, 1997.

• Sharma, R.S. (1982). ‘The Kali Age: A Period of Social Crisis’ in The Feudal Order: State, Society and Ideology in Early Medieval India, ed., D.N.Jha, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 61-77. (Originally published in S.N.Mukherjea, ed., India: History and Thought. Essays in Honour of Professor A.L.Basham.)

• Chattopadhyaya, B.D. (1983). ‘Political Processes and the Structure of Polity in Early Medieval India: Problems of Perspective’. Presidential Address, Ancient India Section, Indian History Congress, 44th Session. This is also reproduced in The State in India, 1000-1700, ed., H.Kulke, Delhi: Oxford University Press pp. 195-232. Paperback edition, 1997.

**UnitII**:This unit aims to apprise students of the dynamic nature of political structures and the varied perspectives from which scholars study them.(Teaching Time: 3weeks Approx.)

• Sharma, R.S. (1965). Indian Feudalism, c.300-1200. Delhi: Macmillan (2nd edition, 1980) (Especially relevant are, pp. 63-90.).

• Chattopadhyaya, B.D. (1983). ‘Political Processes and the Structure of Polity in Early Medieval India: Problems of Perspective’, Presidential Address, Ancient India Section, Indian History Congress, 44th Session. This is also reproduced in The State in India, 1000-1700, ed., H.Kulke, pp. 195-232.

• Kulke, Hermann. (1995). ‘The Early and the Imperial Kingdom: A Processural Model of Integrative State Formation in Early Medieval India’. In The State in India, 1000-1700, ed., Kulke, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 233-262. Paperback edition, 1997.

• Chattopadhyaya, B.D. (1976). ‘Origin of the Rajputs: The Political, Economic and Social Processes in Early Medieval Rajasthan’, Indian Historical Review, vol. 3, no. 1. Also reproduced in B.D.Chattopadhyaya, The Making of Early Medieval India, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-37. Paperback edition, 1997.

• Stein, Burton. (1977). ‘The Segmentary State in South Indian History’. In Realm and Region in Traditional India, ed., Richard Fox, New Delhi: Vikas, pp. 3-51. Stein’s views might also be accessed in another article by him, more easily accessible: Stein, Burton. 1995. The Segmentary State: Interim Reflections. In The State in India, ed., Kulke, 134-161. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Paperback edition, 1997. Originally published in Purusartha, vol. 13 (1991): 217-88.

• Heitzman, James. (1987). ‘State Formation in South India, 850-1280’,Indian Economic and Social History Review, 24, no. 1, pp. 35-61. Also reproduced in The State in India: 1000-1700, ed. H.Kulke, pp. 162-94.

• Ali, Daud.(2004).Courtly Culture and Political Life in Early Medieval India. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2006. (Especially useful is Chapter 2: ‘The Culture of the Court’, pp. 69-102.) 54

• Davis, Richard. (1999). Lives of Indian Images. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas Publishers, pp. 88-112 and pp. 186-221.

• Chattopadhyaya, B.D. (2017). ‘The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Its Historiographical Implications’, in B. D. Chattopadhyaya, The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays. New Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 1-30.

• Maclean, Derryl N. (1989).Religion and Society in Arab Sind. Leiden: E.J.Brill. (Chapter II: ‘Conquest and Conversion’, pp. 22-82).

• Habib, Mohammad. (1927). ‘Sultan Mahmud of Ghaznin’, in Politics and Society during the Early Medieval Period, Collected Works of Professor Habib, vol. 2, (Ed.) K.A.Nizami, New Delhi: People’s Publishing House, pp. 36-104. Reprint, 1981.

• Kulke, Hermann, Kesavapany & Sakhuja, (Eds.) (2009). Nagapattinam to Suvarnadvipa: Reflections on the Chola Naval Expeditions to Southeast Asia, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

**Unit III**:This unit will familiarise students with social and economic processes of the early medieval period in Indian history. The diverse ways in which these have been studied will be the chief focus.(Teaching Time: 4 weeks Approx.)

• Sharma, R.S. (1987). Urban Decay in India c. 300 – c. 1000. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal. (Especially important parts are, Chapter 2: ‘Urban Growth and Decay in the North’, pp. 10-27; Chapter 8: ‘Explaining the Urban Eclipse’, pp. 132-42; and Chapter 10: ‘Agrarian Expansion’, pp. 168-77.) 55

• Champakalakshmi, R. (1995). ‘State and Economy: South India, c. A.D. 400-1300’, in Romila Thapar (ed.), Recent Perspectives of Early Medieval India. Delhi: Popular Prakashan in association with Book Review Trust, pp. 275-317.

• Yadava, B.N.S. (1997). ‘Immobility and Subjection of Indian Peasantry’, in B.P.Sahu (Ed.), Land System and Rural Society in Early India. Delhi: Manohar, pp. 329-42.

• Sharma, R.S. (1969). Social Changes in Early Medieval India. The first Devraj Chanana Memorial Lecture. New Delhi: People’s Publishing House. Also reproduced (with slight changes) in Early Medieval Indian Society (2001) R.S.Sharma, (Ed.) Kolkata: Orient Longman¸ pp. 186-213.

• Chattopadhyaya, B.D. (1994). The Making of Early Medieval India. Relevant parts are, Chapter 4: ‘Markets and Merchants in Early Medieval Rajasthan’, pp. 89-119; Chapter 6: ‘Trade and Urban Centres in Early Medieval North India’, pp. 130-54; Chapter 7: ‘Urban Centres in Early Medieval India: An Overview’, pp. 155-182. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Paperback edition, 1997.

• Bhandare, Shailendra. (2015). ‘Evaluating the Paucity of Metallic Currency in Medieval India’, in Himanshu Prabha Ray, ed., Negotiating Cultural Identity: Landscapes in Early Medieval South Asian History, Delhi: Routledge, pp. 159-202.

• Chakravarti, Ranabir. (2004). ‘Introduction’ to Trade in Early India, ed. RanabirChakravarti, pp. 72-101. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

• Malik, Anjali. (1998). Merchants and Merchandise in Early Medieval Northern India, A.D. 600-1000. Delhi: Manohar. Relevant sections are, ‘Introduction’, pp. 15-33; Chapter 4: ‘The Changing Patterns of Trade’, pp. 89-109.

**Unit IV**:The focus of this unit will be on the religious, literary and visual cultures of the early medieval period in the Indian subcontinent. Having done this unit, students will be able to trace the patterns of change in these spheres of life.(Teaching Time: 3weeks Approx.)

• Champakalakshmi, R. (1996). ‘From Devotion and Dissent to Dominance: The Bhakti of the Tamil Alvars and Nayanars’, in Tradition, Dissent and Ideology, ed. R. Champakalakshmi & S. Gopal, pp. 135-63. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

• Narayanan, M.G.S. and K. Veluthat. (2000). ‘Bhakti Movement in South India’, inThe Feudal Order: State, Society and Ideology in Early Medieval India, ed. D.N. Jha, pp. 385-410. 56 New Delhi: Manohar. The essay was originally published in Indian Movements: Some Aspects of Dissent, Protest and Reform, ed. S.C. Malik. Simla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 1978. The same was also reproduced in Feudal Social Formation in Early India, ed. D.N. Jha. Delhi: Chanakya Publications, 1987.

• Mahalakshmi, R. (2000). ‘Outside the Norm, Within the Tradition: Karaikkal Ammaiyar and the Ideology of Tamil Bhakti’,Studies in History, 16, no. 1, pp. 17-40.

• Chakrabarti, Kunal. (1996). ‘Texts and Traditions: The Making of the Bengal Puranas’, in Tradition, Dissent and Ideology, ed. R. Champakalakshmi & S. Gopal, pp. 55-88. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

• Stein, Burton. (1968). ‘Social Mobility and Medieval South Indian Hindu Sects’, in Social Mobility in the Caste System in India: An Interdisciplinary Symposium, ed. James Silverberg, pp. 78-94. The Hague: Mouton. The article is also reproduced in Religious Movements in South Asia 600-1800, ed. David N. Lorenzen, pp. 81-101. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004. Paperback edition, 2005.

• Majumdar, R.C. n.d. ed. History and Culture of the Indian People: The Struggle for Empire. Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan. Relevant part is Chapter XV (‘Language and Literature’), pp. 297-397.

• Pollock, Sheldon. (1998). ‘ India in the Vernacular Millennium: Literary Culture and Polity, 1000-1500’, in Early Modernities, ed. Shmuel Eisenstadt, Wolfgang Schluchter and Bjorn Wittrock, special issue of Daedalus, 127 (3), pp. 41-74.

• Desai, Devangana. (1989). ‘Social Dimensions of Art in Early India’, Presidential Address (Ancient India), Proceeding of the Indian History Congress, 50th session, Gorakhpur, pp. 21- 56.

• Patel, Alka. (2008). ‘The Mosque in South Asia: Beginnings’, in Finbarr B. Flood, ed., Piety and Politics in the Early Indian Mosque, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.