

# HISTORY: MEANING, SCOPE AND NATURE

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## **1.0 OBJECTIVES :**

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After the completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Define and comprehend the meaning of History.
- Evaluate the scope of History.
- Asses the nature of History.

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## **1.1 INTRODUCTION:**

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History is a dynamic and multifaceted subject. It is reckoned as the mother of all subjects. History has its types according to place, time and subject. Pre-historic, ancient, medieval and modern are the types of history on the basis of 'time'. Economic, military, social, cultural, political etc. are the types of history according to 'subject'. Local, regional, national and international are the types of history on the basis of 'place'. International history emphasizes on the study of such events and happenings which made their impact on the entire human community worldwide e.g. French revolution, world war I, world war II. Events and happenings which made their impact on the subsequent countries are studied in national history. E.g. in Indian context, national revolt of 1857, Non-cooperation movement. Regional history focuses on the happenings and events happening their impact limited up to a particular region or state e.g. History of Marathas. Local history comprises of history which includes significant happenings limited to local area and influencing local community. In modern times, local history research is gaining special emphasis. Reflections of dynamic social, political, economic transformations are replicated in local history. History in conventional terms is the recognition of past events and past life with its merits and demerits.

In this unit we will be dealing with meaning, scope and nature of history.

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## **1.2 MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY:**

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History is the analysis and interpretation of the human past enabling us to study continuity and changes that are taking place over time. It is an act of both investigation and imagination that seeks to explain how people have changed over time. Historians use all forms of evidence to examine, interpret, revisit, and reinterpret the past. These include not just written documents, but also oral communication and objects such as buildings, artifacts, photographs, and paintings. Historians are trained in the methods of discovering and evaluating these sources and the challenging task of making historical sense out of them. History is a means to understand the past and present. The different interpretations of the past allow us to see the present differently and therefore imagine and work towards different futures. It is often said to be the 'queen' or 'mother' of the social sciences. It is the basis of all subjects of study which fall under the category of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is also the basis of the study of

philosophy, politics, economics and even art and religion. No wonder, it is considered an indispensable subject in the complete education of man.

History: Meaning, Scope and Nature

The first meaning of history is ‘tale, story,’ and the second meaning is ‘a chronological record of significant past events.’ The opening of tales for children-‘Once upon a time’- captures both the story and time nature of history.... It happens that the word ‘history’ comes from the Greek ‘to know.’

The origin of the word History is associated with the Greek word ‘Historia’ which means ‘information’ or ‘an enquiry designed to elicit truth’. Man looked at the wilderness of the past when he was brute and savage, and even as he looked, he beheld a garden which could be created out of a jungle. He has an eye not merely on the dizzy Heights of the past but on the ditches and uneven surfaces as well, with the intention of building a glorious monument for the future. The nature history is too complex and its scope too vast, touching almost every domain of human activity. Let us start with a few definitions of history.

History has been defined differently by different scholars. Following definitions indicate the meaning of History.

**Aristotle: “History contrasts research into the facts, with the logical task of explanation.”** The term ‘contrasts’ is very significant here, as it suggests that things in history are related to one another in a systematic and permanent manner, forming the entire story of man into one integrated whole. Aristotle further suggests that history is an account of the unchanging past the sense that human nature does not change, and that all activities that originate with the same intentions and motives differ only in the degree of details and not in their basic nature. Thus wars, conquests, expansion and exploitation are a constant factor in history although every age and every country had its own technique to achieve the objective.

**Henry Johnson: “History, in its broadest sense, is everything that ever happened.”**

**Smith, V.S: “The value and interest of history depend largely on the degree in which the present is illuminated by the past.”**

**Rapson: “History is a connected account of the course of events or progress of ideas.”**

**NCERT: “History is the scientific study of past happenings in all their aspects, in the life of a social group, in the light of present happenings.”** The scientific study is promoted through explaining the meaning of history as study of human society in different times through all the dimensions like political, social, economic, cultural, scientific etc. Study of past happenings in the light of evidences as well as insistence for unfolding of truth through causal relationship is of prime significance. Shedding light upon truth with the help of sources is vital here along with organizing historical facts scientifically.

**Jawaharlal Nehru: “History is the story of Man's struggle through the ages against Nature and the elements; against wild beasts and the jungle and some of his own kind who have tried to keep him down and to exploit him for their own benefit.”** Man has made the journey of his progress from the primitive to the modern man of today. He had to battle against the nature and its different elements for his existence and progress during the course. The society had to struggle against specific class in every age and every place to seek justice. This struggle still persists even today. Pandit Nehru expects the account of this struggle throughout ages. According to Pandit Nehru history means the saga of human endeavour against the nature.

A novel interpretation of history is given by **Carr E.H.** He states: **“History is the continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, and an unending dialogue between the present and the past.”** Carr admires history to be a continuous process, that process is the process of interaction between historian and facts. The validity of the event gets decided through how the historian describes the event with the help of obtained facts and what interpretation he draws out. The constant correlation between occurred events and the present conditions has been given importance in history. Today's situations and current happenings are going to be the past tomorrow. Yesterday has its influence on today and also today on tomorrow. There is some background to every happening and its success or failure. It leads to certain impressions e.g. the entire world witnessed the undying evil-impacts of imperialism and nuclear weapons during the World War II. But, even today the imperialism and nuclear accomplishment still exists in the world. The roots of it can be found out in the colonialism, imperialism and consequent World Wars. The seeds of all-round accomplishments of today's Japan are in the lessons they took from the demolition in World War II. That is why history is an unending dialogue between past and present. The past and present are closely related with each other. They have an eternal relation between them. The ancestries of the present problems can be seen in the past. Henceforth history is reckoned to be an unending dialogue between the past and the present. The events from the past can be experienced in the present in different form. Human behaviour lies at the roots of these events.

Famous historian **Burk Hardt** has defined history as, **“the record of what age finds worthy of note in another.”** The era of Indian freedom movement has its unique significance in Indian history. The present generation receives guidance for active living through cruel policy of the British, the fight of Indians and the freedom achievement. It can be perceived that the injustice can also be eradicated by truth and non-violence. The vitality of freedom, equity, fraternity and justice can be grasped and the contemporary generation can get apt direction. That is why here the history is referred as the record of the things of one age worthy of note in another.

According to **Herodotus**, **“History means inquiry into the interesting and memorable past events.”** Here history is predestined to be

ascertainment of interesting and distinct events occurred in the past. But, meaning of history cannot be such insular. History is the subject which reviews all the dimensions the human life on the basis of past events. Eminence of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj remains not in how many battles he won or how much exploits he performed but remains in his accomplishment in those times and what we shall take for our lives.

**“History is the lamp of experience.”** Happold has given this a visionary definition of history. Here really the penetrating meaning of history is expressed. History guides us throughout life just like the lamp in the darkness. We can move towards appropriate direction by taking precept from the past happenings and success along with failure of the ancestors. We can be prosperous by avoiding the mistakes made by the ancestors and by following constructive deeds. The deterioration of Maratha Empire can be observed in the dearth of planning, materialistic stance and lack of unity of Peshwas, hence appropriate planning is essential to be successful in life. Its execution is also crucial. We can perceive that it is quite necessary mutual regards and feeling of integrity to accomplish any task.

While explaining the meaning of history, German thinker **Herder** says, **“History is the chain of events.”** According to Herder no historical event cannot be examined secluded; in fact, there is a chain of events behind every event. For instance, Murder of Archduke Ferdinand was not the mere reason behind the World War I, in fact it was one of the reasons. World War II did not begin only due to Hitler’s attack on Poland; it was just one of the reasons.

Numerous historians made attempts to apprehend the meaning of history by detecting and interpreting countless events from the past. The philosophy of history came into existence as per the establishment of meaning of history through those efforts. Carl Marx, a German thinker discovered the meaning of history in such philosophical form. He saw only class conflict in history. According to **Carl Marx**, **“The human history is nothing but class struggle.”** He firmly believes that the nature of class conflict changed as per the time but, the conflict still continues and we study only this class conflict through history.

**“History as an entity gets generated through appropriate offspring of various happenings.”** This definition of history by **V. K. Rajwade** is in quite broader sense. History does not include only political events but, it is the study of all the dimensions of human life. The happenings till yesterday come under the orbit of history.

Various definitions of history gradually developed through the attempts to answer the question of what is history. There seems to be a common principle in all these definitions although they all seem to be different from each other. The thread is past society. History means the study of the past social components. The entire society is the ultimate accomplishment whether talking about the happenings in the society, rise or fall of the civilizations, class conflicts among them, moral values among them or politics among them.

A broader definition can be made, “history means the graph of various aspects of human life and his development.” The graph comprises of thought of every field of human life. It includes not only his political and social life but also his values, ethics, art and literary expression. Overall, the present arises by carrying influence of past happenings, thoughts and elements. That’s why history is the graph of human advancement.

The above definitions explain History as a significant record of events of the past, a meaningful story of mankind depicting the details of what happened to man and why it happened. Mainly it deals with the human world.

History is a growing discipline the serious study of which started in the second half of the 18th century, so it is said that it is still in the developing stage as a comprehensive subject. The History which is a record of unique events in the life of mankind is the stir and vibration of life. It is not only the conserving and understanding of what has happened, but also the completion of what has been going on at present.

**Check your progress:**

Q. 1 Define History.

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**1.3 SCOPE OF HISTORY:**

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Scope means the breadth, comprehensiveness, diversity and extent of learning experiences offered through the study of a specific subject. Man can enhance his intellectual outlook and rationale through the study of history. Prof. Collingwood in his book ‘Idea of History’ has explained the scope of history. He said, “History has vital significance. Its lessons are quite useful for human life as the tone between the current happenings and their effects can change as between past happenings and their effects. Significant events if remembered can be useful in decision making in future. These cannot be shown in visible form but, they can be directive regarding what can happen and which treats can occur in current chronology.”

Profundity and inclusiveness of history can be seen through its development as a faculty. Identities which were previously the ideals of a particular society have become a part of global history while portraying the picture of man’s success in every field. There were times when history as reckoned as the collection of fables and narrations of gallantry which was studied for some entertainment and value inculcation. Today there is no facet of human action which does not come under the area of authority of history. Scope of history can be perceived through the points mentioned below;

History previously as a part of literature has now emerged as an independent and complete discipline. We see different types of history today such as ‘ history of arts’ ,

'history of culture', 'history of religion', 'history of music', 'history of literature', 'history of geography', 'history of education', 'history of biology', 'history of atoms and molecules',

'history of mathematics', etc. We can catch various types of history including political, cultural, social, scientific, artistic, religious, economic, legal, constitutional, military and ideological history.

Nowadays interdisciplinary approach is a salient feature of history. Other disciplines and supportive sciences are frequently referred while writing and studying history e.g. geography, economics, sociology, science, numismatics, anthropology, geology, astronomy, archaeology, etc.

Focus is on time and place in the study of history. We can find different types of history on the base of time as pre-historic, ancient, medieval and modern. Types of history according to place are local history, regional history, National history and world history. Today's history is not confined to Kings, warriors, religious preceptors, high-brows of the society as it was previously. It instead studies different aspects of lives of people from all strata of society. History is not the property of one particular community. It involves every human group and its social, economic, political, cultural, ideological evolution. History is not circumscribed up to the narration of merely political and subjective events. Instead it involves analysis of social, cultural, economic conditions.

The aim of history is to inculcate various values on human mind. History is not mugging up the heroics of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Nelson Mandela, etc. but, it is about nurturing the values on the future generations these icons opted. History aims to develop sublime outlook by inculcating not the event but the core of events, to stimulate not just patriotism but to enable the man to think as a human species and to promote the feeling of internationalism, global tolerance.

History is not merely reviewing past events. It has about construing meaning to past events and living in present, solving current problems and developing a prosperous future. Now the scope of history has emerged in explaining the motive behind the historical happenings through collecting and interpreting sources. According to Prof. Trivellion, "Scope of history is touching three different aspects namely scientific, imaginative and literature." It means history is dealing with three fields of science, imagination and literature. It has the power of understanding many subjects. That is why scope of history is quite.

The question is always asked about whether history as a social science is a science or an art. Then it becomes a prime duty of a historical researcher to enquire about this question. Bury says, "History is a science, no less no more." Lord Acton says, "The study of history is critical and objective. It is a science." History opt its own techniques for establishment of facts and interpretation. History is a science in this perspective. History just like physics, chemistry or other material science is an experience-based study because it involves use of various methods like observation,

categorization, formulating hypotheses and analysis of evidences before explaining the facts. They are as follows;

There is collection of facts acquired from different sources.

Various methods of data collection are opted.

Collected data is carefully and systematically analysed and selected.

The entire world is the laboratory of history. Its various components are acquired by different human communities.

Different principles and theories are established on the basis of observation of events, analysis and comparative study. Hence, history is a science.

But there are certain limitations while considering history as a science.

Facts in history are complex and their repetition occurs exceptionally. Hence, it is not possible to unfold principles and generalised truth through it.

Historical information is not collected through observation or experimentation like other sciences.

Historical information is the output of human thoughts and acts which are always changeable. Therefore, reliable information cannot be gained for establishing generalised principles and theories.

Historian is never an eyewitness most of the times. That's why history is written on the basis of available evidences.

Sometimes documents accepted as evidence can be bias of writer about the related event.

Actual history cannot come into light due to collective/social bias.

There are also some distinct problems in writing of history. They are as follows;

Prompt records about the past are not easily available.

Deficiency of original sources is a major problem in writing of history.

Ambiguity can be seen in available sources.

Bias is reflected while recording the events.

Individual differences can easily see as per every historian regarding the interpretation of event.

If narration of historical events is done in a scientific manner, it will seem to be uninteresting. Artistic method of presenting the history attracts the reader towards learning of history. It is said, "The dead presented in the dead form has no appeal." That's why historian has the task of bringing

dead past into a live form through his writing style. Historian has to promote human emotions and motivations through powerful narration, imagination and comprehension of human psychology on the basis of norms of available evidences. Hence, historian has to possess the quality of narrating life relevant, powerful and interesting story in attractive and appealing style on the base of evidences. According to Toynbee, "Dull history is false history." It makes us clear that history is an art.

History is a social science. It does not possess precise and accurate principles, facts, laws and theories etc. Although it relates with human life, various human deeds and his physical progress, causal relationship is established on the basis of evidences. Prof. Travellion, "History is a science, also it is an art." It is assured that facts searched through history are scientific and then it has to be presented in an artistic manner in front of the reader. Therefore, history is a science in terms of and during the aim of discovering the truth on the basis of evidences, recording of events, unfolding through sources and analysis (Organising in the form of past, present and future, causes and effects through arranging the events). History is also an art in terms of interpreting the events and presenting it in front of the readers attractively in historian's own style. Hence, history is a science as well as an art.

With the passage of time the scope of history has been widened, and new areas are included in it. History is gradually assuming all the three dimensions viz.,

what happened

how it happened

to analyse why it happened.

Instead of the descriptive catalogue of political events relating to the rise and fall of dynasties, kings, courts, wars and peace. Now it has a more humanistic approach which takes into account all the multifarious activities of man, not excluding social functions such as games, manners, customs and all the things which constitute the substance of the daily life of the common man.

History is no longer a branch of literature or politics or philosophy or any other discipline. It has an independent status of its own whose main function is now to study society in its aspect of promoting a culture, which constitutes knowledge, faith, belief, art, morals, customs and any other capabilities or habits acquired by man as a member of society.

History has mainly two functions to perform. One is the collection of data and the other is the interpretation of the data to explain the fundamental forces of history. The first part has to be objective and therefore scientific. The second part is subjective and hence humanistic.

History excludes from its scope the study of nature and confines its attention to the story of man's evolution from humble beginnings to

complex achievements. But nature also comes within the scope of history, if it has anything to do with man. The scope of history includes both man and nature in so far as these two play a significant part in the life of mankind.

The scope of history includes all activities of man. The historian must look beyond government to people, beyond laws to legends, beyond religion to folklore and the arts, and he must study every phenomenon, whether intellectual, political, social, philosophical, material, moral or emotional relating to man in society.

History has to consider all human achievements in all their aspects such as science, technology, discoveries, inventions and adventures. But primarily the social life of man, his political achievements, his cultural attainment, his constitutional management and his economic endeavours form the main scope of history, as it is through the medium of state and society that man finds his identity.

The study of economic and social change is also gaining greater importance in history in modern period. In communist countries the entire orientation is on Marxist-dialecticism. The labour movement, the class struggle, inland and international trade, arts, crafts, industry, business, commerce, agriculture, peasant movement and so on are receiving greater attention. Likewise, social reforms, caste and class distinctions, family life, position of women, customs, manners, and way of life are exciting the interest of the historians. The history of institutions and ideas too are engaging the attention of the scholars.

Besides, we have universal history which takes into account the significant activities of entire mankind. The Arab historian, Ibn Khaldun happens to be the father of universal history, and also of the science of culture. The philosophy of history has made the subject of history very profound, ever since the time of Voltaire who coined the phrase. Great thinkers like Hegel, Marx, Comte, Spengler, Croce and Toynbee have contributed much to the philosophy of history. This kind of history does not treat isolated events or the role of individuals but takes into account the progress and decline of societies with reference to all aspects of human culture. To a social scientist, all history is social history, though other historians may classify it as social history, political history, economic history, religious history, or history of some other kind.

Thus, the scope of history is ever expanding. Herodotus the father of history was merely an excellent story-teller, but only thirteen years later, his successor, Thucydides happened, to be almost a scientific historian. Surprisingly enough, he appears to be so modern that one could mistake him to be a historian of either the nineteenth or the twentieth century. Nineteenth-century historians dealt largely with governments and great men, with the development of national consciousness and the growth of political liberalism. The twentieth century witnessed a change in emphasis towards economic and social history, towards people and away from individuals.

The history of other countries and regions including Africa, China, Latin America, India and so on evoked as much interest in Europe as the history of their own continent. The shape and content of history has also undergone a change, depending upon the material available and the method of treatment adopted. Anthropology has also excited the interest of the historians and much useful work has been done in this field by scholars who have traced historically the customs and manners of the aborigines; social stratification of small communities who are a little higher up than the aborigines has been greatly facilitated by the availability of modern sophisticated techniques.

Further, the scope of history has been enlarged from objective empiricism to historicism. Objective empiricism means the establishment of facts as they really were. It is something like presenting a photographic copy of how things really existed in the past. Historicism means tracing the growth and development of an event from its early stages. It is like a genetic process which takes into account evolutionary trends and how progress has been made from age to age.

Apart from these two views history was dragged into the arena of the 'positivists' who believed that history was qualified on every score to have a series of general laws. The scope of history was further widened when attempts were made particularly in the USA to develop a new concept called 'historical relativism'. This concept was the by-product of the closer study of Freud and Einstein whose principles were applied to historical growth and development. Thus, from the nineteenth century the scope of history has been much widened. The nineteenth century which is called 'the century of history' has humanised history and made it a centre of reality and of thought.

### 1.3.1 Features of the scope:

In order to facilitate understanding the scope of history, the following features would be helpful :

- (1) The scope of historical study depends upon the subject of inquiry of the past events.
- (2) The scope of history is determined by the activities, experiences and thoughts of men at different times in the past.
- (3) The scope depends upon the nature of inquiry of the past such as social, economic, political or other kind of inquiry. Thus, if we want to know a single aspect of Quit India Movement of 1942 say economic aspect, its scope is narrower than a general assessment of the Movement from different angles.
- (4) If we intend to study universal history of the progress of mankind it is greater in extent than a local or a national history.
- (5) Similarly, when we think about world history the time factor makes it necessary to define what exactly we want to study. If we simply say

human activities it would mean a never-ending search as human activities from the beginning to our days implies scope beyond our human capacities.

- (6) Just as the present has innumerable matters for consideration, the past which for some generations in the past was a living present and as such they dealt with many known and unknown matters. The scope of our studies in general matters would be both impossible and end in a cloud. We have therefore to fix our attention on some points.

### **1.3.2 Limitations of the scope:**

When we say history is a study of man's activities in time, the scope of our inquiry is limited by the time factor, If we do not fix the time of what happened in the past it would be a fantasy. The scope of history is limited by our knowledge of chronological details. Man appeared on this planet several million years ago but the recorded history of his activities cannot be pushed back beyond five thousand years. Those records do not give us a clear idea of his activities in civilized societies.

History in the real sense of the term began when the Greek Statesman Warrior Herodotus wrote about Greco-Persian War in the 5th century B.C. This was the first history of its kind in the world and the beginning of History is thus reckoned from that time. The scope of history of the world is thus limited to the history of man's social activities to a few thousand years. The activities of men before the historical period, that is before 5th century B.C. is enveloped in the mist of ignorance.

The second factor that limits the scope of history is the geographical factor. When we talk about world history we actually refer to few places on the earth. As everybody knows more than half the surface of the earth is covered by water. Out of the remaining part a sizeable surface is occupied by hills, mountains, deserts and rivers ice etc. Thus, the habitable portion of the earth is limited. Further man grew civilizations in a few favourable lands. The scope of history is thus limited.

Thirdly the scope of history cannot be rigidly fixed at any time. Suppose today we say history covers life of man and his activities in civilized societies, a few years or centuries after our time, historians Would say history is concerned with activities and experiences of men and women only in highly developed societies or they may say it is confined only to the societies which are now developing.

Fourthly just as the scope of history is limited by time it is limited by the prevailing conception of history at a given time. In communist countries the conception of history is different from those of democratic countries or countries under despotic rule. Thus, the scope of historical inquiry responds to the necessity of knowing the truth about certain people at certain time.

## Check your progress:

Q.1. Explain the Scope of History.

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### 1.4 NATURE OF HISTORY:

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The nature of history is very complex. It lends itself to various explanations. No one branch of history is more than a single glimpse of a vast complex of phenomena. History repeats itself in one sense but does not repeat itself also. History has contemporaneity and it is an unending dialogue between the past and the present. Value-judgment is an aspect of history which we cannot ignore. It is very often coloured by the current ideas of a period or country. It is a prophecy in reverse, as it needs to some extent in knowing what to expect in future. It is regarded as linear by some and cyclical by others. However, no one can dispute the dynamic nature of history, which concerns itself with an ever-changing drama of life which has a purpose and a meaning.

History is not a description of interesting stories but, it is a broad subject which guides the life and aims for the better future. The nature of history as a subject can be perceived through following points:

#### 1.4.1 study of the present in the light of the past:

The present has evolved out of the past. Modern history enables us to understand how society has come to its present form so that one may intelligently interpret the sequence of events. The causal relationships between the selected happenings are unearthed that help in revealing the nature of happenings and framing of general laws.

#### 1.4.2 History is the study of man:

History deals with man's struggle through the ages. History is not static. By selecting 'innumerable biographies' and presenting their lives in the appropriate social context and the ideas in the human context, we understand the sweep of events. It traces the fascinating story of how man has developed through the ages, how man has studied to use and control his environment and how the present institutions have grown out of the past.

#### 1.4.3 History is concerned with man in time:

It deals with a series of events and each event occurs at a given point in time. Human history, in fact, is the process of human development in time. It is time which affords a perspective to events and lends a charm that brightens up the past.

#### 1.4.4 History is concerned with man in space:

The interaction of man on environment and vice versa is a dynamic one. History describes about nations and human activities in the context of their physical and geographical environment. Out of this arise the varied trends

in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres of man's activities and achievements.

#### **1.4.5 History is a dialogue between the events of the past and progressively emerging future ends:**

The historian's interpretation of the past, his selection of the significant and the relevant events, evolves with the progressive emergence of new goals. The general laws regulating historical happenings may not be considered enough; attempts have to be made to predict future happenings on the basis of the laws.

#### **1.4.6 Continuity and coherence are the necessary requisites of history:**

History carries the burden of human progress as it is passed down from generation to generation, from society to society, justifying the essence of continuity. It becomes thus necessary for history to be rewritten from time to time. The past events have got to be revalued in the light of fresh developments and new ideas.

#### **1.4.7 Relevant:**

In the study of history only those events are included which are relevant to the understanding of the present life. The affairs of men and nations are constantly in motion. Consequently, there has been a radical change in recent years as to the proper nature and scope of history. In the past it was merely a catalogue of events serialised in a descriptive manner. We have now to study history in a critical and scientific way, wherein the historian thinks for himself instead of merely repeating the stories found in old books. History becomes a study of reality in its aspect of becoming.

#### **1.4.8 Comprehensiveness:**

According to modern concept, history is not confined to one period or country or nation. It also deals with all aspects of human life-political, social, economic, religious, literary, aesthetic and physical, giving a clear sense of world unity and world citizenship. Historical activity involves three different types of functions which should be performed simultaneously. The first is to get at the truth, to know the entire-human past as it actually happened, and to be sure that solid facts are at hand. The second job is to interpret the facts, to assess, to evaluate and to explain their significance. The third task is to present the ideas in a clear and attractive manner. These three functions make the historian a scientist to gather facts, a philosopher to interpret them and a litterateur to express them.

#### **1.4.9 Objective record of happenings:**

Every precaution is taken to base the data on original sources and make them free from subjective interpretation. It helps in clear understanding of the past and enables us to take well informed decisions. Objective record of events is quite crucial in history. The sources and evidences preferred by the historian are of prime importance while writing the history. It is

also necessary to write history bias free and neutrally with the help of evidences. Otherwise it may lead to false information, false interpretation and false message to the learners. Hence, objective record is the basic feature of study of history.

#### **1.4.10 Multisided:**

History is related with all the aspects of human life. As perceived earlier, the nature of history is not only political but, history aims at all the dimensions of human life. It does not throw light on only sole aspect of past human life. Infact, history is multi faceted as being social, economic, cultural, scientific, political, arts and literary, religious etc. Holistic view of contemporary social systems, political scenario, economy, judiciary, arts and literature, various inventions and developments in science and technology can be seen while studying past happenings. However, it is not confined to the study of Kings, Empires or elite social strata but, it comprises of study of all the people from all the socio-economic-religious strata. That is why the nature of history is diversified and eclectic.

#### **1.4.11 Time and Place relevance:**

This is the main feature of history. History is time relevant and place relevant. It means one has to understand the contemporary situation and time while studying past happenings. For example, while studying thrashing of Afzal Khan by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, contemporary situation (Pratapgarh, its geographical significance) needs to be understood. One has to take into consideration the then socio-political scenario in India and specifically in Maharashtra (time) and the significance of geographical structure of Maharashtra in his success (place). Otherwise it will lead to misperception about him. It is not necessary that ideology, idols, values, principles of social life of a specific time and place may not be applicable to other situations. Henceforth, history is time relevant and place relevant.

#### **1.4.12 Correlation among past, present and future:**

History is an unending dialogue between the past and the present. The roots of present situations viz. present ideologies, lifestyles, problems, success and failures are in the history. The origins of present Indo-Pak crisis can be observed in 'divide and rule policy' of British and partition of Bengal. We will have a bright future only by perceiving and avoiding mistakes of the past. Past legends, their thoughts and their acts are influential to the generations even today. The present can work positively by taking inspirations through them and it leads to the emergence of legends of tomorrow. We cannot see the present separate from the past. Past is the background of the present. Prof. Lecky, "A study is the understanding and estimating the present age for the betterment of the future."

#### **1.4.13 Scientific study of past:**

History cannot be decided through rumours but, it is written on the bases of sources. No history is written just by probing. It is impossible to write history without the help of sources. “No documents, no history,” is the popular saying among historians and learners of history. Science believes in evidences. Background and effects of any event (causal relationship) is studied in history through the study of past events with the help of primary or secondary sources.

#### **1.4.14 Study of human struggle, development and transformation of human civilization:**

Man has to battle with surrounding circumstances throughout the ages. The struggle for the human existence and development is still on. Also, a particular social group has continued efforts to dominate on the others for its greed in every generation. History comprises of the description of this struggle of mankind against such social group in all times. Human existence as community-society, various civilizations aroused and developed through various times are the integral part of study of history. Human life is studied through various civilizations and various dimensions in history. Also, history comprises of portrayal of how human life changed and how man gained progress. History can be termed as reviewing human progress.

#### **1.4.15 Not only narration but, analysis and synthesis as well:**

History does not only mean to be the report of occurred incidents. History includes the diagnosis of events. The factors having impact on the event are also studied. The contemporary circumstances, roles of different people in the event and the contemporary ideology are analyzed and the complete portrayal of the event is expressed. That is why history is not only description but analysis and synthesis is as well.

E.g. while studying French revolution, history does not tell only how it occurred but also, it analyses the social, political, economic and ideological contexts as well. Also, history throws light on the values like equity, freedom and egalitarianism which were the real output of this revolution for the entire humanity.

#### **1.4.16 Integration of science and literature:**

History is a science as far as the study of events through causal relationship with the help of available sources and evidences is concerned. When one has to explain and interpret the occurred event, naturally there come the individual difference of writing style, language and flavour. Everybody describes the event through his own outlook. Hence, history is an art as well. That is why history is science at the beginning and it turns into art afterwards.

#### **Check your progress:**

Q.1. Explain the Nature of History.

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## 1.5 SUMMARY:

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The meaning and definition of history is explained here. Views of various western as well as Indian historians are expressed here while explaining this concept. Nature and scope of history is also discussed here. Outlook towards history has changed in modern times of today.

Importance of history in human life is undisputed is stated in the present chapter.

While studying history it is necessary to understand problems of civilized life or organized social life of man at different stages of his progress.

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## 1.6 QUESTIONS:

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1. Define History.
2. Explain the Scope of History.
3. Explain the Nature of History.
4. Examine the Importance of History.

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## 1.7 ADDITIONAL READINGS:

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1. Ali B. Sheik, History: Its Theory and Method, Macmillan India Limited, Madras, 1978.
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## **IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY**

### **Unit Structure:**

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Importance of History
- 2.3 Summary
- 2.4 Questions
- 2.5 Additional Readings

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### **2.0 OBJECTIVES :**

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**After the completion of this unit, the student will be able to:**

1. Know the importance of History.

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### **2.1 INTRODUCTION:**

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History is not confined to the study of past but, it is related to the past, present and future. Every happening has specific context and it leads to specific effects. The present of today is going to be the past of tomorrow. The origin of each contemporary problem lies in the past. The present situation shapes up through the past and it also decides the future direction. e.g. ‘reservation’ is one of the hot issues of today. It has its grassroots in the ‘divide and rule’ policy of the British rule.

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### **2.2 IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY**

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History escorts the decision making for the future. We can perceive the decisions and their deeds of our ancestors, their influence from history. We can create a bright future through understanding which things to follow and which blunders to avoid of our forefathers.

“History is the record of the life of the societies of man, of the changes which those societies have gone through, of the ideas which have determined the action of those societies and the material conditions which have helped or hindered their development.” Charles V<sup>th</sup> expresses the broader view of history. He agrees that history is the record but, he also describes the details of the records.

Importance is given to how human society developed, how different cultures upspring (e.g. Harappa culture, Egyptian culture) in the flow of time. Social system is reckoned to be the core in history in every period whether it may be ancient or modern. History also includes study of how

societies transformed, which reforms occurred (for example; industrial revolution, globalization etc.) Study of constructive as well as destructive actions of mankind in different times and at various levels, their impacts and the ideologies behind them are also involved in history.

- i) Diverse Human society and social life in different times, at different levels and in different situations.
- ii) Revolutions and reforms in human society during the course of time.
- iii) Deeds by human society and thoughts and ideologies behind them.
- iv) Physical conditions favourable and unfavourable to human development

It is necessary to study the historical events on the basis of evidences and causal relationships. It promotes research attitude. Mental and ideological competence is fostered. One has to think divergently and multidimensional while reaching at conclusion about an event rather than just thinking convergent. History is not just a subject of study or entertainment perhaps, it is the lamp of experience. Cromwell says, "God manifests himself through history." It means history shows direction regarding deciding about right-wrong, moral way.

Martin Luther says, "History is the mirror of looking at own self." "Curiosity about the past events is the feature of human nature." This statement of McMurry reflects the natural tendency of mankind to know about the history. We come to know about the braveries our ancestors had done, the qualities upon which they gained success through studying history of our ancestors. But we also understand their blunders, perceive about their mistakes due to which their next generations had to suffer. Subsequently we can try to avoid such blunders and mistakes.

Edmond Burk says, "History is the guide of foresight." We need to have knowledge about the past of our motherland while maturing from a child to be an adult. We can gain the awareness about the efforts and sacrifice made by our ancestors in the freedom and security of our Nation, cultural tradition of our Nation, contribution of our Nation to the entire human species, legends born in this soil, sustainable philosophy in our soil and the sense of responsibility on our shoulders to preserve and nurture it as we are the future citizen of this Nation. History in this perspective engraves discretion, urge for truth, courage, non-violence, just, freedom equality, patriotism, international understanding, persistence, perseverance, self-esteem on the minds of people. It also throws light on the evil customs, blind beliefs, traditions, social revolutions and works of legends against them. History subsequently tries to promote ideological renaissance through it

Study of history helps in the development of memory, imagination and thought process as a whole. When we study the past events and characters, we tend to see ourselves in them. Our imagination and thought process fosters through it. Truth narration is a great gift of history. We can

understand the truth about what had happened in the past. Our bias, misperceptions or wrong egos get cleared. Reader is helped by history in the study of other subjects.

Tarmious has aptly said, "History helps to bridge the usual gulf in education between theory and practice." History works in bringing theories closer to the life and reality. An individual is able to see the educational knowledge through life-oriented outlook due to history. History is considered as mother of all subjects. Study of history is directly or indirectly supplementary to the learning of other subjects. History can become the medium of social unity while narrating our ancestors, our Nation, our culture and our traditions. It can assist in nurturing National integration by bringing people closer ideologically and emotionally. While doing this, history also gives education of humanity and international brotherhood. It shows us that we are all humans first; we do have same needs and same feelings. We are all incomplete without each other. Hence, history teaches us to look at each other with affection, love and cooperation and not with enmity. It gives the lessons of humanity. History strongly promotes internationalism through widening of human outlook. Therefore, importance of history as the mother of all subjects, source of all values, teacher of human mind and attitude and philosophy of living successful life is incredible.

History is not merely the collection of events. In fact, it is the discovery of events in detail. History means narrating about the past happenings as they happened. It is necessary to search history to understand the present. If the present is not perceived properly, it will not be possible to foresight the future. History enables the prompt perception of present on the basis of which the future can be foresighted properly. Hence, the main job of historian is not just recording the events but, to evaluate them.

The importance of history has increased in modern times. Along with telling the occurrences, nature of history is becoming widespread through intellectual analysis of facts and to draw conclusions for the future on their basis. Earlier history was confined to political dynasties and families of Kings. It was related only with battles, victories, defeats and treaties. But, this nature of history has become a history. All social aspects of common man, customs, traditions, languages, ideas, thoughts and behaviours are considered in history in modern times. In fact, the daily of man has now become the part of history.

Historiography has to be considered as equally responsible for the transforming scope of history as learning of history was limited only up to political events and incidents till 19<sup>th</sup> century. But today we deliberate social, economic, political, moral, literature, religious, etc. aspects while considering history as we think about human development in history. Hence, we must have to consider these all aspects. Support of literature is taken to make history subject brighter and more attractive rather than let it remain dull-lifeless. Historiography has continued to collect sources with the help of above-mentioned subjects and to give insight into the events occurred in the past.

History is reckoned as a science since 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prof. Bury from Cambridge University has firmly said, "History is a science, no more no less." It changed the direction of study of history. Dynamics of time and history taken into account while understanding history. History is a discipline. Many streams have emerged through the fine study of history. More motion is occurring in the process of regional and local historiography. National history shapes up through regional and local history. Hence, world history and National history are called macro history while regional history is called microhistory.

The study of history is like visiting strange far-off lands. Like travel, it takes us out of the narrowness and commonplace events of everyday life. It presents before us an exciting picture of the march of man across the centuries, and the work of the multitudes of human beings trying to pass on to us a better life than theirs. It is the story of the development of human society, its arts and letters, philosophy and religion, adventure and administration, culture and way of life, and all other aspects relating to man's significant activities. It is rightly said that history depicts "the struggle of man to carry truth and justice into the administration of human society, in the rise and fall of the creeds, in the world of ideas and in the character and deeds of the great actors in the drama of life, where good and evil fight out their everlasting battle."

History helps us to understand how the world developed into what it is. It makes us know interesting men and women and promotes in us a knowledge of human nature. It links the present with the past, and enables us to see how man has discovered better ways of living and built up orderly societies which we call civilisation. The study of history is no waste of time or luxury, but a pressing need. A nation that forgets history will have no future. It is the epitome of human experience, and it makes men wise by teaching them what is good so that it may be adopted, and what is bad, so that it may be avoided.

History attempts to give us the meaning of life. Man starts to search for the purpose of life. He puts such questions as why and how do I live? Where have I come from? In this search for the reality of the past, he comes to know that he has built institutions; he has waged wars; he has made treaties of peace; and he has invented thousands of things to make life comfortable. In this sense history gives us an insight into man's life and action. This knowledge is very helpful to him. It offers him a mental discipline which helps him to meet new problems soberly and intelligently, and not emotionally and superficially. Although man now controls nature, and possesses enough knowledge about it, he cannot control his own emotions and ambitions. He can send a rocket to the moon but he has not yet eradicated hunger and poverty on this earth. A knowledge of the past as to how man has suffered because of his mistakes may help humanity to correct itself, and thus history may meet the demands of pressing social needs.

History has the ability to improve the understanding of man. Man has left behind the deeds of his day for the education and the enjoyment of

posterity. Such a study will not only furnish a mental discipline but also will enable one to know the past and interpret its significance. It will come in time to meet our daily needs and will ultimately play an infinitely more important role in an intellectual life. Any phenomenon or principle cannot be understood philosophically or intelligently unless it is explained historically. We cannot understand any issue properly unless its whole background is furnished to us. A doctor would not be able to diagnose the disease unless he is posted with the history of the case; and that is why the word history appears in bold letters on top of the prescription chit.

By placing the facts of life before a person, history which is a study of human nature enables him to live in a state of peace and understanding. History in that case becomes a guide pointing in the direction of unity and progress. As history is a voice ever sounding across the centuries about the laws of right and wrong, it could become an instrument to promote human understanding. Those sovereigns and statesmen who had a good knowledge of history, like Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Churchill and Nehru, have played a vital role in history. The true interpretation of history is to view it as the record of social, moral and intellectual education of man, which is so essential to dispel darkness. History not only tells us about the right principles of life, but also warns us through concrete examples about the inevitable destruction of society, if these principles were to be neglected

The purpose of history has been to indicate what mistakes man has done in the past, how he could avoid them in the future and how he could preserve the four freedoms, namely the freedom from want, freedom from oppression, freedom of religion and freedom of expression. The moralists required that man should put his conscience into harmony with true historical development.

History not only educates a man, but also trains his mind. Before we begin to understand or improve any system or idea the Best thing, we do is to find out the history of that system or idea. A musician or a mathematician or a philosopher could never understand or improve a new idea until he is very clear of the antecedents of that idea. When Bertrand Russell was asked about the need for history, he said, "I think it is enormously important, it gives stability and it gives depth to your thought and to your feeling." The present is the child of the past, and has grown out of the past. Our present social, political and economic conditions are the result of factors that preceded them. This chain of cause and effect goes back to the dim past. We in the twentieth century are closely affected by what was done by Ripon, Dalhousie, Shivaji, Akbar, Babar, Harsha, Samudragupta. Asoka, Buddha, Vyasa and their predecessors going back to the cavemen of the Stone Age.

We teach history to children because it helps them in gaining powers of memory, imagination and reasoning. It has ethical values as history is philosophy teaching by examples. It inculcates in young minds moral laws of right and wrong. It fosters patriotism in our youth, for they would feel a sense of pride by the knowledge of our rich heritage and glory of the past,

which should instill these are secondary issues that come under the importance of history.

The primary aim is to promote understanding of the present by a knowledge of the past. To the question, "What is history for?" Collingwood answered, "It is for human self-knowledge. Knowing yourself means knowing what it is to be the kind of man you are; and thirdly, what it is to be the man you are and nobody else is."

Lord Acton explained the necessity for history thus, "If the past has been an obstacle and a burden, knowledge of the past is the safest and the surest emancipation." An objective study of history would save humanity from bigotry, bias and obsessions. Lecky observes, "He who has learned to understand the true characters and them a sense of love for the motherland. But tendency of many succeeding years is not likely to go very far wrong in estimating his own."

Thinkers have gone to the extent of saying that all our hopes of the future depend on a sound knowledge of the past. In conclusion it must be said that history has the capacity to inspire youth to higher pursuits of life, and to stimulate the aged to endure the inevitable. History is a delight in itself. It is an adventure in the field of reconstructing the hazy past. Trevelyan said that "History's chief but not the only significance is poetic as a great poem is an epic without beginning or end." The importance of history may not be so much scientific as educational, to broaden the vision, to enlarge the understanding and to promote the pleasure of contemplation.

### **Check your progress:**

Q.1. Examine the Importance of History.

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## **2.3 SUMMARY:**

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Importance of history in human life is undisputed is also stated in the present chapter. While studying history it is necessary to understand problems of civilized life or organized social life of man at different stages of his progress.

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## **2.4 QUESTIONS:**

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1. Examine the Importance of History.

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## **2.5 ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

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1. Ali B. Sheik, History: Its Theory and Method, Macmillan India Limited, Madras, 1978.
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## **HISTORY AND AUXILIARY SCIENCES**

### **a) SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **b) NATURAL SCIENCES**

### **c) ANCILLIARY DISCIPLINES**

#### **Unit Structure:**

3.0 Objectives

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Auxiliary Sciences

3.2.1 History and Social Sciences

1. History and Political Science
2. History and Sociology
3. History and Economics
4. History and Psychology
5. History and Geography
6. History and Anthropology
7. History and Art
8. History and Theology
9. History and Literature

3.2.2 Natural Sciences

1. Biology
2. Agro-Biology
3. Medical science
4. Alchemy- Chemistry
5. Advanced Technology
6. Ethnology
7. Intellectual History

### 3.2.3 Ancillary Sciences

1. Chronology
2. Graphology
3. Philology
4. Diplomatic
5. Paleography
6. Sigillography
7. Numism
8. Archaeology and Epigraphy

### 3.3 Summary

### 3.4 Questions

### 3.5 Additional Readings

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## **3.0 OBJECTIVES :**

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After the completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. Summarize the relationship between history and social sciences.
2. Perceive the relation between history and natural sciences.
3. Grasp the relation between history and ancillary disciplines.

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## **3.1 INTRODUCTION:**

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The auxiliary sciences of History can be easily divided as 1) Social Sciences 2) Natural sciences and 3) Ancillary disciplines. We shall consider the Auxiliary Sciences as detailed above in this unit. History is related to several other disciplines, and needs their assistance, just as it is helpful to a number of other disciplines. A historian must use the results achieved by workers in other fields of human knowledge. They are called ancillary disciplines such as philosophy, chronology, paleography, graphology, sigillography, diplomatic, epigraphy, numismatics and archaeology besides a number of social sciences which have already been examined in the foregoing paragraphs.

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## **3.2 AUXILIARY SCIENCES**

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### **3.2.1 History and Social Sciences:**

Having discussed where history stands in its structure, either in science or in arts or in both, we shall proceed to examine two more basic problems of historical theory, namely the kinds of history and its relation with other social sciences, and also history and ancillary sciences. History being a

very comprehensive subject, has many aspects such as political, constitutional, diplomatic, military, economic, social, intellectual, and so on. These are not the only areas with which history is mostly concerned, but are the major ones.

The social sciences are nothing but a short course of history, depicting social, economic, industrial, scientific and cultural aspects of man's life. It throws light on the inter-dependence of man and man, nation and nation and country and country. Dr. Terevelyan says, "History is not a subject at all but a house in which all subjects dwell." In Ziller's opinion, "History is the central subject round which all other subjects can revolve."

Prof. Johnson opines, "History with or without the name, certainly has been and is a background for other social sciences. History may indeed be regarded as the only field in which all other social sciences meet." Expressing his views on this Koerner says, "Occupying as it does an intermediate position between the humanities and social sciences and employing both the qualitative approach of the humanist and the quantitative data of the behaviourist, it serves as a medium through which student can learn something of literature and arts on the one hand, and politics, economics and social behaviour on the other."

### **1. History and Political Science:**

Political history demands a great share in the workshop of history, as politics is an important activity which brings about radical, speedy and far-reaching changes. Politics is instrumental in shaping the constitutional, legal, diplomatic, military, economic and even social problems of a country. Politics happened to be such a favourite branch of English historians that they went to the extent of saying that all history is political history, that history is the root and politics is the fruit, and that past politics is present history. At every turn from the earliest times down to the present period, it is the political activity either through monarchy or oligarchy, or aristocracy or democracy or tyranny or dictatorship that has dominated the life of mankind. At all times and in every country, either only one or only a few have ruled the many. Even in democracy, once the elections are over, power rests only in the hands of a few.

As history takes stock of unique events, it is the story of the shepherd that attracts the attention rather than the flock of sheep, whose behaviour is steady. The king has been called the shepherd of his people. The modern Presidents, Prime Ministers, Parliaments, Senates and other political agencies are so much in the news that politics happen to be the mainstream of all history, and demands the lion's share of a historian's attention.

Acton says that politics is like the grains of gold deposited by the stream of history in the sands of time. Polybius says that the use of history lies in learning the art of politics. Sir John Seeley says, "Politics are vulgar when they are not liberalised by history, and history fades into mere literature when it loses sight of its relation to practical politics."

Related to politics is constitutional history which assists in the understanding of the political trend in any period. The development of political institutions, rules, regulations, rights and duties, law and mode of justice, executive, legislative and administrative functions, economic and financial implications, nature of bureaucracy, fundamental principles of State policy are all defined under constitutional history. Certain countries have rigid and written constitutions whereas others have flexible and unwritten constitutions, such as in England. Constitutional history traces the origin, development, nature and functions of political institutions. The evolution of the principle of constitutionalism is impersonal and has a relationship with the history of ideas.

Legal history is also assuming importance these days, particularly in societies where the Rule of Law is the way of life. The laws of Manu, the Code of Hamurabi, The Code of Justinian, the Code of Napoleon, The Indian Penal Code of Macaulay, Holdsworth's History of English Law, Blackstone's Commentaries of the Laws of England and PV Kane's History of the Dharmasastras are all very important works on legal history.

Diplomatic history is a specialized branch of political history. It deals with principles of international relations. Ambassadors are the links between nations and they are the custodians and practitioners of diplomacy. Such issues as balance of power, cold war, international peace, disarmament, outlawry of war have assumed great importance in recent times. Again, military history is an important chapter in political history, wherein wars, battles, campaigns and conquests figure very prominently. It deals with the causes of a war, strategy and tactics in the war, war weapons, mode of fighting and similar topics. The History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides, The Great Rebellion by Clarendon, and several histories on the American Civil War, the World Wars, and the Indian Mutiny have all added to historical literature. Since wars are psychological factors in the life of man, and since no age and no country is free from warfare, military history is as prominent in history as political history.

## **2. History and Sociology:**

Sociology has a wide scope of study. It studies the development of the human society at large. Really speaking, the subject-matter of history, geography, civics, political science etc., could very safely be included within the broad scope of the study of sociology. In fact, sociology gives us knowledge of the development of the society. It aims at developing man into an ideal social being. History is very helpful in acquiring the knowledge of the development of society under various periods and under various conditions. The teaching of history should invariably be guided by the knowledge of sociology. Similarly, study and teaching of sociology can draw a lot from the knowledge of history.

Social history deals with institutions and problems dealing with man and society, customs, manners, habits, food, dress, amusements, family life, group life, folklore, festivals, ceremonies, and such other activities which are an essential part of human life.

Sociology is the latest science with which history is now developing very intimate relations. Sociology needs history as much as history needs sociology in order to describe social behavioural patterns. Trevelyan's Social History of England is extremely popular. It brings to our mind a vivid picture of how society functioned in the past in its multifarious range of social activities.

Toynbee has gone to the extent of saying that societies are the atoms of which history is composed and it is not individuals or nations but societies that form the components of histories. Social history concerns itself with the tracing of the origin and the development of institutions. It emphasises the cultural aspects of the evolution of man from savagery to civilisation. It is the daily life of the inhabitants of the past ages, the character of family and household life, the conditions of labour and leisure, the attitude of man towards his fellow beings and nature, the pattern of life as it arose from his group living, and the changing forms in his life as a result of religion, literature, music, philosophy, art, learning, thought or any other intellectual activity.

In short sociology is helping history to study 'social dynamics' which is a study not of society at rest but constantly in social change and development. Social processes and social causation are giving a new perspective to history enlarging our vision away from dynastic history. In India too our historians are now giving increasing attention to social history, which has already become popular in the West.

### **3. History and Economics:**

Basically, Economics is the study of wealth. But this study is in relation to man and his daily life activities. Thus, a correlation between history and economics is quite natural. Economic conditions play a vital role in the course of history. If a country could attain a height of civilisation in a period, it must have been because of good economic conditions of a country or various countries in various periods. To know the economic conditions of India during reign of Akbar or Shahjahan we shall have to go through the pages of history. In history we are also told that certain empires faced liquidation only because of economic reasons. In the same vein, the course of economic events has been influenced by historical circumstances, e.g. Mohd. Tughlak had certain plans, but the historical conditions of his time did not favour them and so he could not succeed, however, afterwards these plans were considered to be good and scientific.

Economic history became popular in the time of Condorcet, Comte, Buckle, Marx and Bury. There has been a new orientation in our historical outlook from the days of the materialistic interpretation of history by Marx, and as such, class struggle, man's skill in earning his daily bread, means of transport and communication, consumption, distribution, production, population growth, agriculture, industry, arts and crafts, trade, business and commerce, land revenue, taxes and a host of all other economic activities of the past figure very prominently in history.

Since Darwin spoke of the struggle for existence and Marx explained it in terms of economic determinism, economic history, particularly since the Russian Revolution of 1917 has assumed such importance as to overshadow all other branches of man's activity. Theories have been advanced that the mainspring of all historical activities, whether war or conquest, colonization or imperialism, originated because of economic motives.

Indian historians such as Hiren Mukherjee, Palme Dutt, Kosambi, Muhammad Habib and others were greatly impressed by Marxian thought and have tried to present an analysis from that particular standpoint. The institutions of slavery, feudalism, imperialism, capitalism, socialism have all been explained in terms of economic motives.

Modern economic theory depends largely on statistical data, and the expression of economic laws have become mathematical in nature. Historians have not remained free from the influence of statistics, and a new branch called Cliometrics has come into vogue, according to which the use of mathematics has come into greater play in the writing of history. To avoid approximation, ambiguity and vagueness, historians are using statistics to be precise in their data. But too much use of this science will rob history of all its charm as a fascinating story of the past. It becomes confusing and uninteresting if an algebraical formula is used. For example good historical writing is described as  $A = a + b$ . Here A stands for the net result that flows from the historian's mind and pen, a is the data or the sources he finds in the records, and b is the imaginative, interpretative and explanatory skill of the historian which are so essential to make history meaningful. In other words this formula tells us that history writing is not merely using scissors and paste to cut some information from somewhere and put that information elsewhere, but an arduous physical and mental work in which a laborious search for material precedes an intelligible use of data through reflective powers to make the information intelligible and useful. The proper use of Cliometrics has resulted in what is called Quantified History. But the very nature of historical evidence will resist these scientific modes of expression, and history will essentially remain a humanistic study.

#### **4. History and Psychology:**

Psychology is of great help to history in training a historian in the detection of motives and intentions and in drawing inferences from strange behaviour. Psychology is a science of the mind some identify it with the social and others with the brain. Its main aim is to study inter actions between living organism and environment. Thus, human behaviour is studied with that idea in mind. These studies are useful for historical research as activities, experiences and motives are the matters that are closely studied by historians in understanding the meaning of the activities of eminent men in history.

Aristotle the Greek philosopher of the 4th century B.C. wrote 'De anima' which is considered the first great psychological work. Modern

psychology grew from the work of Hobbes in the 17th century. In the 19th century experimental psychology was developed Darwin's theory of Evolution led to the dynamic psychology as of William Janies.

Historical studies were enriched by the work of Sigmund Freud (1856 - 1939) who laid down the basis of psycho-analysis and widened the scope of psychology. Previously Plutarch's Lives 5th century A.D. had given the details of the behaviour of the great leaders like Alexander the Great but the technique of psycho-analysis of sigmund Freud gave an insight into the behaviour of present day public leaders.

National and universal histories are dominated by 'outsize' men. The eccentricities and mysterious behaviour of the public leaders which many a time confounds all could be understood properly if Freudian, psycho-analysis is adopted. Adolf Hitters obsession with anti-Semitism appeared strange in the beginning but the mania to persecute Jews had its origin in his ancestors being of Jewish extraction. History is not much concerned with the 'unconscious' mind and the instincts like sex in the reconstruction of the past but they provide useful explanation to the pattern of behaviour of such leaders. The case history of such 'patients' shows us the policies that they pursued in the proper perspective, Freudian psycho- analysis has influenced modern thought and applied psychology is nowadays adopted in industries and commerce also.

### **5. History and Geography:**

History is intimately correlated to Geography. History studies people of different times and geography deals with the people of different places. In the words of Prof. Immanuel Kant. "Geography and history fill up the entire circumference of our perceptions, geography, that of space and history that of time." No history can be complete without some reference to space. Similarly, no geographical account can be intelligible without reference to development in time. So, both history and geography are concerned with the inter-play of human and physical factors.

Geography is the stage on which drama of history is enacted and it is the geography which determines the historical events. Andean offer explanation for historical actions of mankind. Similarly, historical facts can serve as a good basis for arousing interest in geographical studies. In explanation of historical fact geographical factors are taken into consideration. Many factors taken into consideration are physical conditions of the life of man, climate, means of communication etc. All these factors determine the direction of human life and history increased by human life and his activities. History of each and every country is governed by their factors. Truly speaking historical studies desired of geographical background would be inaccurate and unscientific. The story of man's evolution since primitive stage, cannot be told without the varied geographical settings of the world. Man's mode of living, dieting and dressing etc., are all determined by his physical environment.

If the USA grew into a powerful nation and acquired a rich history, it was very much due to its geographical conditions. Geographical factors were

the sole cause of the down fall of many empires. The growth of Beijing, Lahore or Moscow can be better understood by considering various geographical factors. The history of hostility between France and Germany can be explained on the basis of existence of river Rhine and Lorrain coal-fields.

Geography and history bear a very close relationship to each other. Geography is one of the eyes of the beautiful maiden, history, the other eye being chronology. Geographical factors are so important that an American geographer, Ellsworth Huntington, insisted that no nation either ancient or modern rose to the highest cultural status except under the influence of climatic stimulus. Climate, moisture, humidity and weather are all determining factors. Even Aristotle and Montesquieu have emphasised the influence of climate on man. The earlier epochs of history known as the ice or glacial age related to the advance of extreme cold from the poles towards the equator. The very survival of man as a species in the process of evolution was conditioned by these geological and geographical factors.

The influence of geography on history is a subject with which every treatise on history deals in its very first chapter. The physical formation of a country, such as Britain, Japan and Greece with broken coastlines had a very powerful impact on its history. This facilitated their naval strength empire-building activities. The Himalayas and the jungles of Assam have acted as barriers against invasions from the north and east of India respectively. The Himalayas and the Gobi and Mongolian deserts were responsible for the isolation of China. The biting winter of Russia has been the cause for the utter defeat of many an invader including Napoleon and Hitler.

The geography of Egypt has preserved the remains of her ancient civilisation. The Indus and the Ganges have played a vital role in the history of India. The geographical discoveries of the fifteenth and the Sixteenth centuries including the discovery of America and a new route to India determined the character of world history since the Renaissance. Climatology has played a vital role in the formation of national character, and influenced human endeavours and achievements, Floods, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, mineral deposits, fertility of the soil, rivers, lakes, meadows, coastline and other factors are responsible for many historical events, and hence a knowledge of geography is very essential for historians.

## **6. History and Anthropology:**

Anthropology is a science that studies man and his works. It is concerned with the origin, development and varieties of mankind that is the different races of mankind. It has two branches 1) Physical Anthropology and 2) Cultural Anthropology. The latter emphasis the data from non-literate people. Thus, archaeology forms a part of Cultural Anthropology. Cultural Anthropology is useful in the study of lost cultures. Cultural anthropology studies human institutions especially in their early stages. It helps the

historical study of several races of mankind. Also, the extinct cultures could be known with the help of this science. The problems posed by superior races, ruling races, and subordinate or passive races can be tackled better with 'a-scientific knowledge' of Anthropology.

It is worth noting that studies carried out under the leadership of Dr. Suresh Singh of the Anthropological Survey of India from October 2, 1985 to October 1, 1990 have brought out useful information about the composition of the Indian Society today. The problems of caste-system in the present context of socio-political hostility and the historical background can be dispassionately and critically studied now with the data than mere abstract theories. What is true about Indian Society is also true about other societies in the world.

### **7. History and Art:**

Art activities are quite intimately related to history. Art is the practical application of the scientific knowledge. This practical application can be of two types: (a) Utilitarian, and (b) Fine. Whether the art is utilitarian or fine, it presents a picture of the things. Various events of history are presented before our eyes in the form of pieces of art. The paintings of Ajanta and Ellora are presented through art. Taj Mahal represents the whole reign of Shahjahan. It very clearly indicates the history of the economic conditions of that period. Coins, arms and other pieces of art are helpful in ascertaining the history of that period.

The history of development of art forms the subject-matter of history. What was the condition of the art during Gupta period or Buddha period or Mughal period can be known to us only through history? Had there been no history, we would not have learnt about the various styles of art. In short, both these subjects are inter-linked.

### **8. History and Theology:**

History and theology are intimately related. Religion has influenced the course of history to a very great extent. In older times, it was the religion that guided people to make conquests and fight certain battles that have now become a part of the history. Many of the wars and political upheavals were caused by religious feelings. Therefore, the knowledge of theology is very helpful for a historian. Without the knowledge of theology, it is difficult to have a thorough knowledge of history.

Similarly, the knowledge of history is also helpful for the knowledge of theology. The birth and growth or the establishment and foundation of various religions and sects, are studied under history. The causes of failure and success of various religions form the subject matter of history. It is the history that gives us the knowledge about the spread and importance of religion in a certain period or certain periods. In short, it may be said that both the subjects are intimately related.

### **9. History and Literature:**

History and literature are closely associated. For a long time, history was considered a branch of literature, and it is only from the nineteenth century that history came to be regarded as a science. However, if history is the record of life, literature is the reflection of life-the substance and the shadow always go together. Sometimes the shadow has amused man much more than the substance, just as a painting or photograph of a person appears to be more glamorous than the person himself.

The main theme of both history and literature is man in society. Whereas history deals with the past, literature deals with the present and the future, although biography, one of the branches of literature, deals with the past as well. Both these disciplines use imagination as their powerful weapon, although its use is not so liberal in history.

In both, rhetoric plays an important part, so important that in the Elizabethan era, historians use to copy the style of Italian drama to enhance the effect of history. The cult was magnificent art, but no history, and hence from the nineteenth century, the use of picturesque details in the narration of history has been tailed. Nevertheless, the artistic presentation of the result of research highly desirable.

Bury himself speaks of sympathetic imagination and psychological imagination regarding the interpretation of the past. There are many cases in which the truth can only be ascertained by methods which are not purely scientific. It is here that the imagination plays a vital part. "The science of history deserves to be sprinkled with dutiful hands some grains of incense on her altar." History would retain its graces by remaining close to literature.

Ranke asserted that history was not an edifying branch of literature, but in the hands of Gibbon, history attained a literary garb unparalleled in later literature. Herodotus and Thucydides, Livy and Tacitus, Macaulay and Trevelyan have used a literary art which has enhanced the beauty of their historical writing. The divorce of literature from history may almost certainly do it some definite harm.

Historical novels such as Sir Walter Scott's have popularised history and added a new dimension to historical understanding. Alexander Dumas, Victor Hugo and Tolstoy are eminent historical novelists. The *Mysteries of the Mughal Court* on the pattern of Reynold's *Mysteries of the Court of London* excited much interest in India and brought to light many inner aspects of the life of Nur Jahan and Jahangir. They pertain to social history and bring to us a vivid picture of the customs, manners, life and conditions of the people, in a popular manner, although not within the rigid framework of science. A successful historical novel can at best be total fiction, but will have very useful grains of history. The recent historical novel, *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*, by Bhagwan Gidwani, has been a very successful attempt in this direction.

Anyway, the role of literature in history can never be denied. We have to remember that a history book must first be readable. By reducing the gap between history and literature it should be possible to increase the appeal

of history, and thereby increase the utility of history. It is necessary to liberate history from dullness, which is totally foreign to its nature, and make it fascinating by the liberal addition of all literary artifices to precious historical truths. Besides these points we should also be borne in mind when discussing the aspect that history combines the merits of literature, and that it amuses our fancy.

### **Check your progress:**

#### **Q.1. Discuss the relations between history and social sciences.**

#### **3.2.2 NATURAL SCIENCES:**

As the natural sciences began to develop new visions were opened up for a science like history to make use of the new knowledge and improve the work of reconstruction of the past. In the 17th and the 18th centuries studies in different disciplines came under the overriding influence of these sciences. The Scientific Method which used observation, experiment and ascertainment of facts for formulating universal laws appeared to be the only way to acquire knowledge.

In the nineteenth century the influence of Scientific Method was universal. Historians wanted to present their narratives so as to fall in line with the scientific approach to the past events. Two schools of thought in History namely Empiricist and Positivist sciences but could not make much progress in historical thinking. History deals with things that existed in the past and which have disappeared from the view. Natural Sciences demand sensuous knowledge that is perception of the objects by sight, sound, touch etc. Science can carry on experiments and repeat them anywhere and at any time. Historians cannot revive the dead men nor can they reproduce the battles, wars and revolutions of the past age. However Natural Sciences can render great help in proving whether a solid object which is relic of the past is a real one or a fake one. Natural Sciences can throw much light on the physical conditions of the place of the event and the changes in the course of time.

The influence of Natural Sciences stimulated research in historical process. When the researchers found that the nature of historical events was different from mere study of natural phenomenon, they began to develop their own methods as they had to depend more on things which disappeared now but existed once upon a time. Those things continued to exist in the minds of men but the concrete forms perished now. Natural sciences could hardly help historians to reconstruct the things that perished long but once existed in their own way. For example, the Rig Vedic fire-pit (Yajnga-Kunda) perished but its image persisted in the minds of men who know the description in the Vedas. Such images and experiences could be reconstructed with the help of Ancilliary Sciences. We shall see how natural sciences strengthened the base of historical research especially while dealing with him the remote past as well as the recent past.

### **1. Biology**

Among the natural sciences Biology is intimately connected with human life. Both the branches of this science, namely Botany and Zoology have helped historians to understand the flora and fauna of a place about which we choose to know as a determinate period. The vegetation, the animals different living species including homo sapiens and the climate could be known by the special techniques devised by biologists. In the 19th century excavations revealed many unknown things. Biologists like Lamarck could reconstruct the extinct animals from the remains of the then existing animals. He boasted "give me a small bone of an animal or a bird and I shall reconstruct them in their full original forms." Similarly, botanists could tell us many interesting things about the plants. In Rig Veda there is a frequent reference to 'Soma Valli', the botanist could locate it in the mountainous regions of the north.

A knowledge of biology will be very useful to history, because evolution is the common principle of both, and because evolutionary ideas have been the result of the impact of history on science. Long before Darwin enunciated the theory of evolution in 'The Origin of Species', historians had traced it in the history of ideas and institutions. Evolution in science was confirmed by the idea of progress in history. The historical or comparative method known as Historicism has revolutionised not only the sciences of law, mythology, language, sociology and anthropology, but has forced its way even into the domain of philosophy and the natural sciences. Will Durant rightly says, "animals eat one another without qualm, civilized men consume one another by due process of law." Biology tells us about the struggle of man in which the fittest survive. There are hereditary inequalities which are biological and these create and sustain social inequalities. The Malthusian theory of biological multiplication has a powerful impact on the life and conditions of man, if our race is to survive. The warning refers to man's struggle against nature.

## **2. Agro-Biology :**

This Science of plants, nutrition and soil has helped reconstruct the state of agriculture in the periods under study. In this regard the grains found in the Mehengo-Daro and Harappa excavations are very interesting. The relics at Mohenjo-Daro in Sindh also suggest thick forest in the region now comparatively an arid land.

## **3. Medical science:**

Medical science is helpful in determining the nature and possibly the age of skeletal remains. Medical Science has contributed significantly to historical knowledge about kings and great men in the Medieval Age. The most sensational revelation about Napoleon Bonaparte's death of St. Helena. The medical science found from Napoleon's hair retained the effect of some poison administered by his British captors. Medical Science could also identify the diseases of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Peshwa Madhavrao- I from symptoms described in the documents. The Medical Scientists can also identify the diseases and epidemics which had played

havoc with lives of people. The people who believed in superstition had regarded them as scourge of God.

#### **4. Alchemy- Chemistry:**

The preservation of the Egyptian mummies aroused the interest of the Chemical scientists. It was a wonder for common man and also historians how the bodies of the rulers of Ancient Egypt (pharaohs) lasted in good condition. Also, the mystery of the holy relics of St. Xavier's gave the scientist an opportunity to explain the treatment. This added to historical knowledge. The Alchemy which was associated with black magic got higher degree of success which turned the study into a respectable science of Chemistry by European scientists. Wohler the German Scientist started a new era in Organic Chemistry and Louis Pasteur the French Scientist exploded the myth of spontaneous generation. His more famous and commonly known work was on wine, vinegar and beer preservation which led to the process known as 'Pasteurization'. The 20th Century Chemistry-Scientist James Dewey Watson established that the structure and function of nucleic acid (DNA) is the key substance in the transmission of hereditary characteristics. The study of man and his activities which is the main object of study of history has a new means of understanding the contemporary public leaders and their genealogy.

#### **5. Advanced Technology:**

The computation, storage and utilization of data can be efficiently managed with the help of advanced technology of the present century. The carbon-14 method has solved the greatest impediment of dating the remains of the past age whether they are of human being, of animals or any solid substance like rocks etc.

Similarly, satellite pictures of inaccessible territories, now invisible course of rivers or changes in their courses as in the case of now invisible "Saraswati" over in the Punjab-Rajasthan- Gujarat region provide better understanding of the oral history. Computer, video-films and other devices have revolutionized historical knowledge about the long past as well as the present.

#### **6. Ethnology:**

History owes something to Ethnology which is the study of race and its characteristics. Race is a biological reality, and in recent years the Nazi party had made much of it by advocating that the Nordic race is the most superior race and that it was destined to dominate the world. This resulted in historical events of a catastrophic nature. Gobineau was the philosopher of Aryan racial superiority. The Varna system in India, apartheid in South Africa, Nazi persecution of the Jews, colour distinctions in America are all historical realities based on ethnic differences. The real issues cannot be understood without a deep study of these fundamental issues of ethnology.

#### **7. Intellectual History:**

The relation between creative ideas and their impact on society has resulted in Intellectual History which has become very popular in recent years. Intellectual history is a field of great sophistication dealing with fundamental ideas and ideology which ultimately shape human history. It seeks to review the transformation of ideas, beliefs and opinions held by intellectual classes from primitive times to our own. Dr. Johnson has said that no part of history was as useful as this, which is related to the progress of the human mind. The gradual improvement of reason, the successive advances of science, of arts, of philosophy and learning are all very instructive and interesting.

E. H. Barnes has written *An Intellectual and Cultural History of the Western World*, and it comes under the history of ideas. So also works on history of political thought, history of economic thought, and history of science come under this category. Schiller has said that 'the genuine history of mankind is its history of ideas'. Colling Wood thinks that history is the expression of human ideas. Intellectual history concerns itself with the examination of what men say, what they think, and what goes on in their mind. The intellectual historian attempts to judge the nature of the effects of an idea or a cluster of ideas on human events. He is confronted with the old problem of value-judgments, where he has to discern the common and unique elements in ideas and attitudes.

Intellectual history is not merely a summary or synthesis of such material as pertains to philosophy, literature, religion, science and arts, but it is 'the cartography of ideas' whereby an attempt is made to trace and understand the impact of those ideas on a given society. At its narrowest intellectual history tells us who produced what intellectual or cultural attainments, where, when and how.

At its broadest it comes close to a compendium of man's knowledge about culture. Intellectual history seeks to explain the relation among creative ideas and the effect they bring to bear upon non-intellectual factors. The intellectual historian is bound to be a thinker rather than a story-teller. In the United States intellectual history has become very popular acting as a bridge between the historian and the practitioner of social science. In England, France and Germany which have produced Buckle, Toynbee, Comte, Hegel, Marx and Spengler, intellectual history has attained a high degree of proficiency, and these historians are called meta-historians.

Intellectual history requires philosophy, and it is very surprising that India, the home of philosophy, has not yet produced a meta-historian. If history is the cause of a nation's persistent identity, which links the past, the present and the future in one integrated whole, it could do so only through the chain of ideas, and hence one ought to pay more attention to them. It is rightly said that through the proper study of intellectual history we can join the wisdom of Solomon to the counsel of Socrates.

Historical studies in the direction of what Will Durant has done in 'The Story of Civilisation' or Buckle in 'History of Civilisation' or H. G. Wells

in 'Outline of World History' or the UNESCO in their survey of human culture would surely take stock of intellectual history.

**Check your progress:**

Q.1. Asses the relations between history and natural sciences.

**3.2.3 ANCILLARY DISCIPLINES:**

History is related to several other disciplines, and needs their assistance, just as it is helpful to a number of other disciplines. A historian must use the results achieved by workers in other fields of human knowledge. They are called ancillary disciplines such as philosophy, chronology, paleography, graphology, sigillography, diplomatic, epigraphy, numismatics and archaeology besides a number of social sciences which have already been examined in the foregoing paragraphs.

These sciences provide a historian with what is called 'methodical repertoires of facts'. They are primarily digests of practical experience. The best way to become acquainted with them is to practise them. Ancillary sciences are departments of knowledge in their own right, and history makes use of them, and hence they become allies of history.

The need for these disciplines has arisen because all intellectual disciplines are interrelated. Even medicine requires history, because without a proper background of the case, diagnosis is impossible. The nature of historical facts is such that there are close connections between one fact and the other, and each fact requires special attention to establish its validity for which the assistance of the allied disciplines would be extremely helpful. In other words, ancillary disciplines are the handmaids.

The important ancillary disciplines of history can be described as follow.

**(1) Chronology:**

Of these ancillary disciplines, chronology which helps us to fix the time, determines the very framework of the narrative. The time element is central to the concept of history without which its real perspective would be lost. What we appreciate in a child we do not in an adult. Space, time and cause are fundamental to any phenomenon or experience, and these three aspects are not things but modes of understanding and interpretation.

In history, chronology arranges the significant events which took place in the past in their time order, and fixes the intervals that elapsed between them. Chronology was probably invented in the early ages for two equally utilitarian purposes, namely the fixation of dates for religious functions and for knowing the dates for agricultural operations.

A sound knowledge of chronology has become indispensable for a student of Indian history, as the dates and eras are so confusing in the records that fixation of correct chronology in respect to several dynasties of ancient Indian history has by itself become great research. For example, the

chronology of the Ganga kings of Karnataka has created several controversies, and literature has developed only on this topic.

## **2. Graphology:**

Graphology is the science of estimating the character of a person by studying his handwriting. Research has shown that an undoubted connection exists between a person's character and his handwriting, which betrays what sort of a person he is. Systematic study of this science helps a historian to form an opinion about such a person.

However, before a graphologist forms a judgment about the character of a person, he should keep an eye on a few factors such as the material used for the writing, the place and the position of the person who wrote, the mood or circumstances under which the writing was done, if the aim is to know the correct character of that person. For example, a person travelling in a moving train cannot write properly. Likewise, an agitated mood, insufficient light, bad paper or pen, or ill health are bound to affect the handwriting.

In America the widespread use of typewriters has reduced the opportunity to cultivate good handwriting. Journalism, medical profession and the nature of certain other jobs such as hard labour and mining would make people careless about their handwriting but that does not mean that their character has anything to do with it.

The cause for bad handwriting may be excessive and speedy writing or no practice at all in writing. Subject to these conditions' graphology gives us certain very useful hints about the psychology of a person, whether he is hasty or steady or rash or artistic. It may even betray his age, sex or mood. It may even speak about laziness, needless haste, carelessness, avarice, or self-indulgence. A few students who are very frugal with their own paper become very liberal in the examination hall where there is no limit to their demand for paper.

## **3. Philology:**

Philology or the study of languages both in their past and present conditions has conferred on history a lot of advantages

A thorough knowledge of language is quite essential to have a thorough knowledge of any subject. While teaching languages various stories are taken out from different pages of history. Students are quite frequently required to write essays on topics of historical importance. Oral and written expression is also very essential. In teaching history, we provide opportunities to the students for discussing, speaking, debating, paper reading as also of narrating their experiences in black and white. Thus, we find a lot of correlation existing between history and language.

It studies, the etymology or the origin of words, the proverbs and aphorisms and common phrases. It also deals with the derivation from

various terms and the most authentic texts especially concerning classical literature.

History is indebted to this discipline for providing a sure clue to the past experiences and activities of man. In fact, historical method grew out of the philological studies. G. B. Vico claimed that history as an autonomous science mainly on the basis of Philology. The words used by the author and his style of narration fixes his identity in the reader's mind. Any interpolation by another person to the narrative would be easily detected. For example, Rig Veda has in all ten chapters but philologists tell us that the first and the last are later additions. Physical Sciences cannot tell us about such interpolations and additions. Philology provided a sure instrument to determine the internal proof of the contents of the narrative.

"The study of languages shows what kind of life a people were leading while its language was coming into existence. Their stock of words shows what their stock of ideas was before the new one came into existence." Vico had showed how new words used by later generations were borrowed from agricultural vocabulary. He also showed how mythology composed in the ancient languages reflected the domestic, political and economic life of the people of ancient Greece and Rome. In India the inscription of ancient and early Medieval Period provided much material for philological studies.

#### **4. Diplomatic:**

Diplomatic is the systematic study of the form of the official pattern of behaviour and writing. The word diploma which originally meant a piece of writing folded double, came to be used in course of time for a passport or letter of recommendation given to persons travelling in provinces.

It changed further in its meaning as it referred to any manuscript or document of legal or historic or literary value, and finally to indicate any kind of official writing. It has currently given rise to such terms as diplomacy and diplomatic purely in the political sense. It was observed as early as the seventeenth century that official bureaux such as the Papal Chancery used in the composition of letters and documents issued by them not only a rigid order of arrangement of the subject matter but also stereotyped formulae for every part of the document. Clearly, the clerks working in these offices possessed formularies to be copied on different occasions. This is the procedure observed even today in the civil service.

If a document presents itself as originating from a certain office but does not follow the style prevalent in that office at the date which it bears, it is not genuine, and has to be criticised with the aid of every available ancillary science. On the other hand, our confidence in a document is greatly increased if the findings of paleography and diplomatic coincide. In other words, diplomatic is a very useful aid to history in trying to find out the real meaning of a document.

## **5. Paleography:**

Paleography is the systematic study of old handwriting. The way in which men shaped the letters of the alphabets has varied from period to period and from region to region. Paleography describes the evolution of each letter in time and in space.

A paleographer can not only read old manuscripts or inscriptions but also date them, and he can tell us the history of these characters and how they have changed over a period. In the past, as also today, education had the effect of standardising the shape of letters used in each centre of culture.

Even in the Roman letters used all over Europe there are variations. The Belgians write a different handwriting from the Dutch, and the English write differently from the Germans. In India the problem is still more complicated with scores of different languages and different scripts in use, and with such continuity of its history.

Paleography also deals with the abbreviations used by the scribes who were more in demand before the invention of printing. There are dictionaries which list the abbreviations used in manuscripts. Paleography demands concentrated attention to detail. It gives scope to mental alertness, and to the development of empirical capacities. It develops the ability to face difficulties as they present themselves in solving puzzles and problems which do not come under any general principles.

A man who has done a good job in paleography is less likely to be carried away by superficial resemblances to take external appearances for granted. Paleography sharpens critical faculties. It is a science which is very much developed by modern technology. A team of scholars is attempting to decipher the script of the Indus Valley civilisation through computer science.

The rock edicts and rare manuscripts of the remote past are difficult to decipher. Palaeographers use their skill to give the correct meaning of such writings. As already pointed out above researchers have to be alert in ascertaining the exact words and their meaning in the documents before them.

## **6. Sigillography:**

Sigillography is from the word 'sigil' meaning a seal or signature. Sigillography is the science of the writings or inscriptions, on the seal. The seals are of different kinds shape and material. Some have impressions on clay, wax or bricks.

It also means a mark or sign supposed to exercise occult power. In history it refers to the study of seals and can be looked upon as a department of diplomatic. It is also called Sphragistic meaning the study of engraved seals including their authenticity, age, history, content and so on.

It takes into account not only the form and aspect of the seal, but also of the manner in which it is attached to the document, and of the material

with which it is made. Wax was commonly used and in warm countries like Italy lead was used. The seals of the Indus Valley civilisation have remained undeciphered.

In Indian history, in particular during the Muslim rule, seals played a very important role in the administration, without which no document was valid. They help us a lot in giving us much information about our medieval Indian history on the name of the ruler, his title, the extent of his kingdom, the date of the document, the religion or sect he belonged to, the dynasty with which he was connected, as well as the date and era of the issue. These seals indicate even the level of culture by the type of calligraphy and the material used.

### **7. Numismatics:**

Numismatics is the science of coins. Numismatics as a subsidiary of Diplomatics. In the ancient times some seals had their Significance as symbols of spirits and Semi-Gods. In the middle Ages the talisman and the rings with decorated stones suggested some cosmic power. Coins gave the idea of economic condition of the people.

### **8. Archaeology and Epigraphy:**

Besides these sciences, we have a number of other disciplines such as archaeology, epigraphy, that help history. Archaeology, epigraphy and numismatics are the hand-maids of history, and unlike the mother-discipline, these daughter-disciplines are scientific in character and precise in their methodology.

Ancient Indian history owes a good deal to these three branches for the reconstruction of many of its chapters. We owe the entire discovery of the Indus Valley culture to Sir John Marshall and his band of archaeologists. The exploration of archaeological sites, the method of excavations, the copying and reading of inscriptions, the study of coins, and determining their grains have brought to light numerous chapters in the history of the world, almost in every country and more so in India.

Physics is helpful in determining possible archaeological sites, Engineering, chemistry and photography are summoned to the aid of the archaeologist, whose business is to dig scientifically. Archaeology is helpful in the study and preservation of ancient monuments. Epigraphy is the paleography and diplomatic of inscriptions placed upon monuments or given to individuals on copper plates as title deeds of land gifts.

The historian should have the ability to read these records or get them deciphered and translated for him by those who know the language. In Tamil Nadu and Karnataka there are thousands of such inscriptions, and the history of this region, particularly of the ancient and medieval period is reconstructed with their help. They are a veritable mine of information on politics, literature, warfare, religion, social, economic, and administrative details, interstate relations, heroism of individuals and a host of other topics. One single archaeologist, Lewis Rice, collected as many as ten

thousand inscriptions in a part of Karnataka which was then known as Mysore State. These inscriptions are found either on stone or on copper plates. These are deciphered, translated, edited with copious notes, and published in several volumes, such as Epigraphia Indica, Epigraphia Karnataka, Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica, and so on.

**Check your progress:**

Q.1. What are the importance of Ancillary disciplines?

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**3.3 SUMMARY:**

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The social and other sciences which are an integral part of his intellectual life provide substantial knowledge of the nature of the historical problems before man. Just as the social sciences help the study of historical life of man, history also helps them by providing them with facts of life in the past. As the natural sciences began to develop new visions were opened up for a science like history to make use of the new knowledge and improve the work of reconstruction of the past. Ancillary sciences are departments of knowledge in their own right, and history makes use of them, and hence they become allies of history.

The need for these disciplines has arisen because all intellectual disciplines are interrelated. Even medicine requires history, because without a proper background of the case, diagnosis is impossible. The nature of historical facts is such that there are close connections between one fact and the other, and each fact requires special attention to establish its validity for which the assistance of the allied disciplines would be extremely helpful. In other words, ancillary disciplines are the handmaids of history.

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**3.4 QUESTIONS:**

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1. Review the relations of History with other Social Sciences.
2. Do you agree with the view that History is the past politics?
3. Elucidate in what way did Economics help History to study historical problems?
4. Discuss the use of psychology in the interpretation of history.
5. Assess the influence of Natural Sciences in the work of reconstruction of the past.
6. Discuss the contribution of Chemistry and Medical Science to historical knowledge.
7. What are Ancillary disciplines?

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### 3.5 ADDITIONAL READINGS:

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## SOURCES: NATURE AND TYPES

### Unit Structure :

- 4.0 Objectives
- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Nature of sources of History
- 4.3 Primary Literary sources
- 4.4 Primary Archaeological sources
- 4.5 Secondary Literary sources
- 4.5 Oral sources
- 4.6 Digital sources
- 4.7 Summary
- 4.8 Questions
- 4.9 Additional Readings

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### 4.0 OBJECTIVES

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After the study of this unit, the students will be able to :

- 1) Understand the nature and types of the sources for Ancient, medieval and modern History.
- 2) Know the primary and secondary sources of ancient Indian history.
- 3) Grasp the various types of the historical sources.

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

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The source material is the essential part of history writing. There are various types of the historical sources. They can be categorized according to their nature. The sources play important role in the history writings. Hence the historian carry search for it at different places like archives, museums and institutions. A historian tries to construct a systematic account of the past event with the help of historical sources. They can be categorized into following ways in a broader form.

1. Archaeological sources
2. Literary sources
3. Oral tradition
4. Digital sources

**These sources can also be classified into two types-Primary Sources**

Gottschalk defines a primary data source as “the testimony of any eye writers by any other of the senses.” In other words primary sources are tangible materials that provide a description of an historical event and were produced shortly after the event happened. They have a direct physical relationship to the event being studied examples of primary sources include newspaper report, letters, public document, court decisions, personal diaries, autobiographies, artifacts and eye witnesses’ verbal accounts. The primary sources of data can be divided into two broad categories as follows:

1) The remains or relics of given historical period. These could include photographs, corves skeletons, fossils tools, weapons, utensils furniture and buildings. Though these were not originally meant for transmitting information to future generations. They would prove very useful sources in providing reliable and sound evidence about the past. These relics provide non-verbal information.

2) Those objects that have a direct physical relationship with the events being reconstructed. This includes documents such as laws, files, letters, manuscripts, government resolutions, characters, memoranda, wills, newspapers, magazines, journals, files, government or other official publications, maps, charts, books, catalogues, research reports, record of minutes of meetings recording inscription, transcriptions and so on.

b) Secondary Sources: A secondary source is one in which the eyewitness or the participant i.e. the person describing the event was not actually present but who obtained the descriptions or narrations from another person or source. This another person may or may not be a primary source. Secondary sources, thus, do not have a direct physical relationship with the event being studies. They include data which are not original example of secondary sources include text books, biographies, encyclopedias, reference books, replicas of out objects and paintings and so on. It is possible that secondary sources contain errors due to passing of information from one source to another. These errors could get multiplied when the information passes through many sources there by resulting in an error of great magnitude in the final data. Thus, wherever possible, the researcher should try to use primary sources of data. However, that does not reduce the value of secondary sources.

Primary sources can be divided into literary and archaeological sources.

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## 4.2 THE NATURE OF SOURCES OF HISTORY

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The term sources in reference to history covers a body of materials vast in range and diversified in character. Written records, oral records, remains of prehistoric villages, towns, ancient inscriptions on the sides of rocks; in short, any bit of testimony, any object that can throw light on the human story. Finds place in the category “historical sources.” One may define the term as “human remains and such products of man’s activity as either were meant by their authors to communicate knowledge of historical facts, or by their nature are calculated to do so.” Let us take two examples from Ancient Indian history to elucidate the nature of historical sources. A standard version of ‘Arthashastra’ of Kautilya and Buddhist Stupa at Sanchi. Arthashastra helps us to recreate an image of Mauryan empire, the organization of Government, the economy and social and cultural information. The Sanchi great stupa presents a different aspect of historical facts.

A suggestive way to look at historical sources is to regard them as “traces” left behind by past events. The events of history are no longer realities, though they once were. All that survives of them is the impression they made on observers, which impression the observers themselves, or other persons, relying directly or indirectly on the reports of observers, fixed in writing or in some other medium or record. The recorded impressions are therefore, the only traces which past events have left in their wake. The historian must work through recorded impressions and through them on the events. Heuristics is therefore in the nature of a mining process, having for its object to bring the raw material of history to light. From this point of view Niebuhr was led to describe it as a “working underground”.

Nature of historical sources in relation to their utility in the construction of the past as it was. In this respect we have to consider the time scheme. Such as ancient, medieval and modern resources.

Historical knowledge is an indirect knowledge. It is derived by inference from the facts as revealed through the records of the past ages. These records are in different forms such as documents and artifacts.

### **Check your Progress :**

- 1) Describe the nature of sources of History.

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## 4.3 PRIMARY LITERARY SOURCES

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Primary sources are the pieces of evidence that historians use to learn about people, events, and everyday life in the past. Just like detectives, historians look at clues, through evidence, and reach conclusions. Diaries, letters, certificates of birth, death, or marriage, deeds, contracts, constitutions, laws, court records, tax records, census records, wills, inventories, treaties, report cards, medical records, passenger lists, passports, visas, naturalization papers, and military enlistment or discharge papers can be considered as primary sources.

- **Letters :**

A form of correspondence between people with a first-hand account of events, feelings, or stories. Letters are often personal in nature, but they can also be more formal. The official and unofficial letters are important sources to get knowledge of contemporary events.

- **Memoirs :**

Baburnama is the name given to the memoirs of Babar, founder of the Mughal Empire. It reflects the nature and personality of Babar. Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri or Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is the autobiography of Mughal Emperor Jahangir (1569-1627). Also referred to as Jahangirnama, Tuzk-e-Jahangiri is written in Persian, and follows the tradition of his great-grandfather. Mahatma Gandhi's 'My Experiments with truth' reveals the important events in his life and the formation of Gandhi's character from childhood.

- **Court Writings :**

The Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazal contains regulations in all departments on all subjects and includes besides some extraneous matter. It is a valuable and minute statistical account of his empire with historical and other notes. It gives details of Mughal administration and state policies. It covers every aspect of the history of the time. The third volume tells us about the ancestry and the biography of Abul Fazal.

Abbaas Khan Sarwani wrote 'Tarikh-i-Sher-Shahi. He was related to Sher Shah and worked as a mansabdar of 500 under Akbar. It is more in the nature of an autobiography. Known for his literary taste, he gives a picture of Indo-Muslim society of the early Mughal period. Ahmad Yadgar was the author of Tarikh-i-Shahi or Tarikh-i-Salatin-i-Afghina. It was Daud Shah, the last prince of the Afghan race in India.

- **Private Records :**

Private Archives Section has in its custody a rich collection of private papers of eminent persons who have contributed immensely in various fields of public life in India. These papers have been acquired mainly through donations and gifts from individuals and institutions across the world. They are an important source to supplement the information contained amongst the public records. Some of the most important private papers in archives are those of Mahatma Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad, Dadabhai Naoroji, P.D. Tandon, Maulana Azad, Minoo Masani, Sardar Patel, K.D. Malaviya, etc. All these private papers are accessible as per provisions contained in the Public Records Rules, 1997 or conditions as laid down by the donor at the time of their donation to the National Archives of India.

- **Dairies :**

A diary would be considered a primary source. As a historian the use of primary sources is essential to building an argument that can cite these primary sources as direct examples that can support or refute a thesis. The diaries of the British officers compiled in 'India during the raj: eyewitness accounts Diaries and Related Records' held at the British Library, London, covered good evidence on contemporary issues. They reveal the extent to which the Mutiny shook British power in India, particularly in the north and the centre. Providing insights into the ways in which Britain contributed a more complex conservative system of government with a Civil Service, Viceroy and Governors, aiming to be fair and efficient, these source materials allow scholars to study how this process was received and how successfully it was implemented.

- **Government documents :**

Official records have been found relating to the history of the Turko-Afghan and the Mughal rule in India. These are obviously the most valuable and reliable source materials for the said period. But due to lack of proper upkeep and several other reasons much of them did not reach us. The Factory Records, as the name indicates, are records of the commercial establishments of the East India Company in Western India from Sind in the North to Tellicherry on the Malabar Coast. Factory also included Commercial Residency, Mahi Commercial Residency, etc. Factory and Residency Records mainly register the business transactions of the Company, but incidentally refer to Political events in the country. A document officially written by the government, like treaties and executive orders, usually spelling out rules and laws. The constitution of India is one example of a government document.

- **Newspaper Article :**

A journalist's written account of an event. Newspapers or magazines can be local, regional, or national in circulation, so it's important to keep in mind how many readers a newspaper article may actually have reached, and who the intended audience was for the information given in the article

- **Records of the Historical Families and Private Papers :**

The State of Maharashtra is rich in archival material. Many historical families have in their possession voluminous records depicting the valour of their ancestors. Family legends, imperial and royal deeds, public and private correspondence, and state papers in possession of the descendants of men once high in authority, law suits and law decisions, account papers and manuscripts of every description in Persian and Modi bring to light unknown events in the history of a country. These records are preserved for posterity. They are indexed or catalogued and made available for research to scholars and students.

- **Interview :**

Interview conducted with a person to find out more information about an event or that person's life and decisions. Interviews can be conducted one on one, or they can be done in a press conference format. An interview can be recorded and then transcribed to create a written record of the audio.

- **Questionnaire :**

A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. Within social science research and practice, questionnaires are most frequently used to collect quantitative data using many scales. Questionnaire is a set of questions. Generally, it is mailed to the respondents of collecting data. It is employed when the area of study is wide and the subjects are widely dispersed. In this method the researcher does not collect the data by himself.

- **Maps and Photo Copies :**

There are about 20,000 old maps relating to Bombay Presidency and other provinces. Survey operations started vigorously in this Province from 1820. Copies of the maps prepared from that period to date of the districts of Bombay Presidency, surrounding areas and of the Mumbai Island are found in this collection. Majority of the maps have been prepared by the Survey of India. Plans of Indian Railway Lines since the inception of Railways in India have been added to this collection.

**Check your Progress :**

1) Explain the primary literary sources.

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## **4.4 PRIMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES**

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- **Monuments :**

The monuments include temples, stupas, monasteries (viharas), palaces, forts etc. In addition to individual monuments, there are vast remains of ancient cities. Mohenjodaro and Harappa cities produce this type of sources. In absence of literary records, the monuments play vital role in history writings. The information about ancient dynasties like Kushanas and western satrapas can be gathered by excavation of the sites and studying the monuments found in excavated historical sites.

Besides the monuments and their remains, sculptures, paintings, pottery and other artefacts help us in reconstructing the history and culture of ancient India. The cave paintings of Ajanta, the animal sculptures at the Buddhist stupas at Sanchi, Bharut etc. show scenes from the life of the Buddha and represent the Jataka stories. The South Indian temples of the Pallavs, Chola, Chalukya and Pandya period are full of sculptures that help us in understanding the artistic achievements of the ancient Indian sculptors and artists. Artefacts of different kinds also help us in

reconstructing the history and culture of ancient, medieval and modern India.

- **Paintings :**

The sultanate period, except in some regions like Gujarat and Malwa, did not have many illustrated manuscripts. The Persian practice of miniature painting was also first introduced by these regional rulers. It was during Akbar's reign that painting was organized by an imperial establishment which brought together Hindu and Muslim painters and artisans from different parts of India, especially, from regions like Gujarat and Malwa where this tradition of manuscripts and miniature paintings had developed. Despite the objection of orthodox religious leaders, who regarded painting as un-Islamic, the Mughal emperors patronized this art. The painters, besides depicting usual scenes like war, hunting, and other public activities, also started specializing in portrait paintings. A similar style of painting developed in Rajasthan using Hindu mythological themes.

- **Coins :**

The legends and effigies on the coins help the historian to reconstruct the religious history of the period. The gradual Indianization of the foreign invaders such as the Sakas, Pahlavas and Kushanas can be understood from their coins. These foreign invaders embraced Indian religions, either Hinduism or Buddhism and also adopted Indian names. The coins provide us lot of information about republican and monarchical government in ancient India. Most of the ancient states had issued coins. The coins had legend engraved on it. The legend on coins helps historian to reconstruct the religious history of the period.

- **Inscriptions :**

The archaeological sources played an important role in constructing or reconstructing the history of a region. The archaeological source improved our awareness about our past and also provided important materials, which we could not have been obtained otherwise. Epigraphy and Numismatics are the important branches of the study of history, which has greatly enhanced the understanding of India's past. For the reconstruction of the political history of ancient India inscriptions are of great value. These inscriptions being engraved on stones or metals are authentic as they are free from tampering. The inscriptions contain various subjects. They include religious matters, decrees of rulers, records of conquests, sale or gift of land by various rulers to individuals or religious institutions, description of achievements etc.

- **Archival records :**

Mumbai Archives has a collection of good number of printed records in the form of volumes and books. The old publications consist of Printed Abstracts of Proceedings, Government Gazettes, Reports of various Department, Offices, Commissions and Committees, Acts, Rules and

Orders issued by the Government, Civil Lists and numerous Government Publications published from time to time. Three copies of each State Government publication are sent to Mumbai Archives for preservation. Apart from the vast bulk of Public Records and Private Papers, the National Archives has a rich and ever-growing collection of Library. This has some of the oldest and rare publications on a variety of subjects, besides contemporary published material.

Sources: Nature and Types

### **Check your Progress :**

1) Discuss on primary archaeological sources.

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## **4.5 SECONDARY LITERARY SOURCES**

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The literary sources for the study of ancient Indian history and culture may be divided into two major categories. The literary sources to reconstruct Ancient Indian history can be classified between two broad categories 1) The Religious literature and 2) Secular Literature.

- **Genealogical tree :**

In the medieval period, there was a tradition of preparing a genealogical tree of the families of eminent persons. Such genealogical trees refer to the acts of bravery, military expeditions or other achievements of the different members of the family. Such information is generally based on official records and hence is useful as sources of history.

- **Powade and poem :**

The powadas are a kind of ballad written in an exciting style and narrate historical events in an inspiring manner. The composers and singers of the powadas are known as Shahirs. The early powadas are mostly composed by the eyewitnesses of the great events celebrated in these ballads. The earliest notable powada was the Afzal Khanacha Vadh (The Killing of Afzal Khan) (1659) by Agnidas, which recorded Shivaji's encounter with Afzal Khan. The next notable powada was the Tanaji Malusare by Tulsidas, which gave an account of the capture of Sinhagad fort by Tanaji.

- **Biography :**

Certain writers in ancient India adopted the lives of their royal patrons as the theme of their literary works. This category of secular literature includes Buddhacharita written by Asvaghosa, which gives an account of the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha. Banabhatta, the great master of the Sanskrit prose wrote the Harshacharita. In the Sultanate period Firoz Shah Tughluq wrote his biographies called Fatuhat-i-Firoz Sahi. Sultan Mahmud and Timur had their own biographies. And Chand Bardoi became famous for his lyrical ballad called 'Prithviraj Raso'. The most important memories and biographies of the Mughal India are the memoirs of Babar and Jahangir and biographical sketch of Humayun by Gulbadan Begum.

- **Descriptive Writings :**

### **Tarikh-i-Hind by Al-Beruni**

Al-Beruni, came to India and took up service under Mahmud of Ghazni. He was well acquainted in Arabic, Persian and had a great intellectual in Medicine, Logic, Mathematics, Philosophy, Theology and Religion. During his stay in India he learnt Sanskrit and studied Hindu religion and philosophy. He even translated two Sanskrit works into Arabic. His most important literary work being Tarikh-ul-Hind written in masterly Arabic with great accuracy and scholarly presentation, gives us an account of the literature, science and religion of the Hindus of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The book gives us an account of India at the time of Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion of India.

### **Other Writings**

There are lot of writings about the Sultanate and Mughal period. "Tabaqat-i-Nasiri" of Minhaj-us-Siraj is an important contemporary source giving first hand account of the conquests of Muhammad Ghori and the history of the Turkish kingdom in India upto 1260. Minhaj-us-Siraj was the chief qazi at Delhi under Sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud. "Tarikh-i-Alai or Khazain-ul-Futuh" by Amir Khusrav written in Persian. He enjoyed the patronage of several Sultans of Delhi such as Kaiqubad, Jalal-ud-din Khilji, Ala-ud-din Khilji, Qutub-din Mubarak Shah Khilji and Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. Amir Khusrav was a prolific writer of prose and poetry. He was the poet laureate in 1290. The Khazain-ul-Futuh also known as the Tarikh-i-Alai is a court history of the first sixteen years of the reign of Ala-ud-din Khilji. It gives details of the Deccan campaigns of Malik Kafur but does not mention the murder of Jalal-ud-din or the defeats of the Sultan by the Mongols. Amir Khusrav has several other works to his credit. This include the "Miftah-ul-Futuh" written in 1291 describes the military campaigns of Jalal-ud-din Khilji, the Tughlaqnama traces the course of events leading to the accession of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.

Tarikh-i-Firozshahi was written by Ziauddin Barani. The Tarikh-i-Firozshahi was written about 1358. It gives us information about the Sultans of Delhi from Balban to Muhammad-bin Tughlaq and the first six years of the reign of Firoz Shah. He was not very accurate about dates. He has also not described the events in their chronological order. Fatawah-i-Jahandari by Zia-ud-din Barani was composed in the early 14th century. Barani wrote his views on government policies and the ideal code of conduct which a Muslim king should follow.

Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi by Shams-i-Siraj Afif was probably composed in the first decade of the fifteenth century. The author was a favourite of Sultan Firozshah. He has described the history of the long reign of the Sultan. He has also written about the culture of this period. His account is of great significance for the history of Sultan Firoz Tughlaq.

The Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh or Tarikh-i-Badauni was written by Abdul Qadir Badauni. The first volume is about the rule of Babur and Humayun. Muntakhab-ul-Lubab was written by Muhammad Hashim alias Khafi Khan. As there was a ban on the writing of history Khafi Khan wrote it secretly. It is a complete history of the Mughals beginning with the reign of Babur upto 1733. He has dealt with all aspects of Aurangzeb's reign, including the aftermath of his illiberal policies.

- **Periodicals and newspapers**

The contemporary periodicals and newspapers give us various kinds of information about socio political condition. Bombay Chronicle (1825 to 1959), Bombay Courier (1797 to 1846), Bombay Telegraph and Courier (1847 to 1861), Bombay Times (1838 to 1859), Bombay Gazette (1809 to 1914), Bombay Darpan (Marathi) (1832 and 1834), Marattha (1913 to 1925), Poona Observer (1852-53, 1861-62, 1876-1915), Kesari (Marathi) (1900 to 1931, 1962 to 1973), Navjivan (1919 to 1932), Young India (1915 to 1932), Indian Express (1955 to Dec. 2008), Blitz (1957 to 1964), Financial Express (1961 to 1964), London times, Times of India (1861 up-to-date), Maharashtra Times (Marathi) (1962 up-to-date), Loksatta (Marathi) (1960 to Dec. 2008), Sakal (Marathi) (1965 to 1968) and many others contemporary periodicals like Asiatic Journal Asiatic Journal New Series, Bengal Obituary (Calcutta, 1848) A compilation of tablets and monumental inscriptions from various parts of the Bengal and Agra Presidencies. Also includes biographical sketches and memoirs of eminent persons in British India from the early 18th century to 1848.

- **Census Report :**

The Census Reports (1871 onwards) are a valuable and basic source on demographic studies and contain data about the population, castes, tribes, occupation etc for the use of scholars and other users.

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## 4.6 ORAL SOURCES

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Oral histories are the collections of accounts, and interpretations of the past in their own words. They are a record of an individual's direct feelings and opinions about the events in which he or she was involved. The oral histories provide information about significant events that may otherwise lack documentation in written or archival records. Oral histories are obtained through interviews and are preserved on audio and video recordings, in films, and in written transcripts. Study oral histories as primary sources and recognize the advantages they have as source materials. Many times, oral histories record the experiences of individuals who were not able, or who lacked the time, to leave written accounts. The interviewer's questions often create spontaneity and candor that might not be present in a personally written account. Moreover, in a recorded interview, the informant's voice may reveal unique speech characteristics and tone that could not be captured in other sources. Oral history presents challenges in its analysis. Memory is fallible. The reliability of the informant's information may be in question. The

informants may be reluctant to discuss certain topics, resulting in an inaccurate or an incomplete record. As with all sources, oral histories must be evaluated along with other documentation to determine whether they present information that is exceptional or conforms to previously established.

**Check your Progress :**

- 1) Give an account of oral sources of History.

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## **4.7 DIGITAL SOURCES**

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Digitization has made it possible for libraries, archives, historical societies, museums and individuals to easily share their collections with the world. Researchers today have unprecedented access to images of primary source materials with descriptive metadata that, in the pre-digital age, were available only to those who could visit a collection in person.

### **1) Internet archives**

Web archiving provides social scientists and digital humanities researchers with a data source that enables the study of a wealth of historical phenomena. One of the most notable efforts to record the history of the World Wide Web is the Internet Archive (IA) project, which maintains the largest repository of archived data in the world. Understanding the quality of archived data and the completeness of each record of a single website is a central issue for scholarly research, and yet there is no standard record of the provenance of digital archives. Indeed, although present day records tend to be quite accurate, archived Web content deteriorates as one moves back in time. The Web Archives for Historical Research (WAHR) group has the goal of linking history and big data to give historians the tools required to find and interpret digital sources from web archives. Our research focuses on both web histories - writing about the recent past as reflected in web archives - as well as methodological approaches to understanding these repositories.

### **2) Word Cat**

Find items from 10,000 libraries worldwide, with books, DVDs, CDs, and articles up for grabs. You can even find your closest library with World Cat's tools.

### **3) Google Books**

Google Books (previously known as Google Book Search and Google Print and by its codename Project Ocean is a service from GoogleInc. that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned, converted to text using optical character recognition (OCR), and stored in its digital database. Books are provided either by publishers and authors, through the Google Books Partner Program, or by Google's library partners, through the Library Project. Additionally, Google has partnered with a number of magazine publishers to digitize their archives.

#### 4) Ancient India – The British Museum

The British Museum's online offerings are impressive. The Ancient Civilizations website highlights achievements of some remarkable world civilizations and explores cross-cultural themes of human development. Explore the people, culture, beliefs, and history of ancient India using animations, 3D models and objects from The British Museum's collections.

#### 5) Exploring Ancient World Cultures: India

Another fine introduction to Ancient India, though some links are broken. The most interesting features are an article entitled "The Historical Context of The Bhagavad Gita and Its Relation to Indian Religious Doctrines, and an online translation of The Bhagavad Gita. You can also find a whole slew of images of Harrappa.

#### 6) Daily Life in Ancient India

The numerous lesson plans and resources available at this popular site have been developed by Mr. Donn and other contributors. Lessons cover: The Mysterious Indus Civilization 3000-1500 BCE, Aryan Civilization Daily Life 1500-500 BCE, Vedic Period 1500-1000 BCE, Epics Period 1000 – 500 BCE, and Age of Empires Daily Life 500 BCE-700CE.

#### Audio visual sources

Audio record includes the speeches of great personalities photographs, film, video, paintings, drawings, cartoons, prints, designs, and three-dimensional art such as sculpture and architecture and can be categorized as fine art or documentary record. Some visual resources are one-of-a-kind, while others are reproduced (like prints or illustrations in books and magazines).

#### Films

Towards the experimental film, which portrays social reality in a departure from narrative history, we can easily adopt a favourable attitude. For instance, films highlighting systemic exploitation, the underworld, wage slavery, the emotional trauma of women or problems of migrant workers and the unemployed need not fictionalize history - that is the stuff history is made of in any case. They are necessary to draw our attention to many emotions which written history either ignores or cannot express. A film like Shyam Benegal's 'Ankur', for example, is at once historical in its focus on rural feudalism in a region of south India and socio-cultural in its presentation. The same is true of Govind Nihalani's 'Aakrosh' which underscores the exploitation of tribal by India's ruling elite and their agents.

#### Check your Progress :

1) Describe the digital sources.

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## 4.8 SUMMARY

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All the material directly reflecting the historical process and providing an opportunity for studying the past of human society is known as source of history. Historical sources thus comprise everything created at an earlier date by human society and available to us in the form of objects of material culture or written documents that permit evaluation of the manners, customs, and language of peoples. Written historical sources, including hand written documents (on rock, birch bark, parchment, paper) and the printed documents of more recent periods, constitute the largest group. These written sources differ in origin (archives of the state, patrimonial estates, factories, institutions, and families), in content, and in purpose (for example, statistical economic materials, juridical documents, administrative records, legislation, diplomatic and military papers, documents from court inquests, and periodical and newspapers).

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## 4.9 QUESTIONS

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- 1) Describe the natures and types of the historical sources
- 2) What are the types of the historical sources? Explain its nature.
- 3) Discuss the importance of Secondary Literary sources
- 4) Explain the primary sources for the historical research.

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## 4.10 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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Sources: Nature and  
Types



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## AUTHENTICITY AND CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES

### Unit structure:

- 5.0 Objectives
- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Puzzles of Past
- 5.3 Socio-political & religious influences on history writing
- 5.4 Sources of History
- 5.5 Authenticity of Sources
- 5.6 Authenticity & Credibility of Sources
- 5.7 Summary
- 5.8 Questions
- 5.9 Additional Readings

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### 5.0 OBJECTIVES

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After the study in the unit the students will be able to :

- 1) Comprehend the meaning and features of authenticity.
- 2) Explain the authenticity and credibility of sources.
- 3) Understand both authenticity and credibility in the Historical research.

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

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Although the collection and classification of sources is very difficult task. The collected data must be reliable. It heads a cautions and special approach to source material. History needs is facts in their pure and unblemished forms and consistency in narrative.

History deals with events in the past. It is, therefore the duty of the researcher to show the events in their original forms. In this unit we will study the 'Authenticity' of sources and examine the fallacies, malpractice and falsification of documents. We will also examine few remedial measures in order to establish authenticity of sources.

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## 5.2 PUZZLES OF PAST

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To write history a leap of imagination is required. To write history a degree of creativity, critical power of selection & analysis are essential aspects of a historian. Since the past is not in front of us therefore, a fertile imagination reasoning & analysis are the keys which will unlock the past cramped material. The historians from coherent shapes, present in an interesting ways to the readers. History writing is sharply different from fiction, as it is not only imagination, it is a hard effort of a history writer to present the past in a perfect manner therefore his word depends upon the various available sources from which he develops his hypothesis then the tedious work of data collection which to be arranged for some logical conclusions. A historian has to follow certain methodological frame work, within given parameters, historical explanations & interpretations written in a narrative form.

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## 5.3 SOCIO-POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES ON HISTORY WRITING

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History writing is a complex phenomena, it surely many a times comes under the socio political & religious influence. Early history was the part of Theology. The great historian Herodotos restricted his writings of history with the chronological order of ruling dynasties, battles and wars victories and defeats. with the passage of time many changes came in the history writing process. With the 18th century enlightenment recognizably 'modern, scientific' versions of recounting the past began to appear, as in Montesquieu's "Spirit of Laws" which sought to identify & explain in secular terms regularities & variations in types of government. In the writings of a great German philosopher Hegel, fundamentally religious frame work was present, the heritage of Judeo - Christian tradition, with its notion of the original fall & progressive struggle towards redemption in the "Final Day of Judgement" can be clearly discerned in Hegel's key notion of historical stages in terms of world spirit realizing itself. Many of the great historical works of the latter 18th & 19th centuries continued to be marked by combination of moral engagement and literary endeavor, many historical analyses were also prompted by serious political engagement with the key issue of their time

i.e American War of Independence and the French Revolution (Tocqueville, Bruke).

### **Changes in History Writing:**

With the new faith in positivist conceptions of science history was established as a University subject, worthy of study in its own right alongside with other subjects. History has often been defined "work of judging the past" in order to teach the present world for the use of its knowledge in future. Leopold Ranke promoting a notion of "investigating the past as it actually was". Karl Marx more radical began as he saw it - to unlock Bourgeois notion of history Marx tried to show that history was at heart of record, and not some mystical "world

spirit realizing itself but rather a collective struggle of real people, thus Marx simply turned from metaphysics to class struggle. This Marxist approach of history where economic exploitation, class struggle problems of labourers was the prime focus of the historians. In the form of Marxism - Leninism, Marx's approach was institutionalized in the historical academies of 20th century communist states. This neo-Marxism although with dramatic variations and much internal factionalism.

Max Weber came out with methodologically self-aware approach to problems of world history. He sought to combine the systematic pursuit of valid historical generalizations with an emphasis on the need for an interpretive understanding of the internal meaning of human behavior, both in the sense of individual motives for action and in the wider sense of collective belief system which could not be reduced as in Marx's work in the course of 20th century, nationally defined history was viewed in the new ways by those coming from post colonial perspectives. Differences over subject area were cross-cut by theoretical and methodological debates. History written with prejudice was challenged and also traditional historical narratives written with motives, actions contingencies, combination of circumstances were challenged by those who wanted more analytical approach to history. The systematic hypothesis, rational generalization and logical conclusions. Thus over course of past two centuries, a wide diversity of approaches to history have been developed

Differences in historical approach have also been linked to socio - political environment, narratives of high politics have often been linked to conservatism. Social history for instance, labour history, feminist history have been associated with self styled left wing or radical historians. Marxist historiographical approaches (communist regimes) sustained but the changes occurred after the cold war 1989 - 90 the collapse of communist regimes of Eastern Europe rejected the Marxist approach, the ideas of dictatorship have also been discredited. The changes of restructuring of research in historiography began.

Despite of major differences among both post modernist historical narrative should be transparent through which one can glimpse at least some elements of the real past. Historians now a days think that history should be

A science of answering of queries

Concerned with human beings and their actions

Interpretation of evidence.

But this is not the way in which always thought of history says a historian R. G. Collingwood. History written quite often difficult due to lack of any past record, for instance the ancient Sumerians left nothing behind them which is to be labelled as history, like wise many civilizations have been raised or disappeared without leaving any concrete things but even if some concrete event / evidence left over is difficult to analyze for example the American War of Independence of 1775 have 13 different schools of

thought. Similarly, the French Revolution of 1789, have been written from various angles for some it was rotten administration of France which brought the Revolution where as some think that it was due to socio-economic conditions there was outbreak of the revolution. Thus, it is a difficult task for a historian to write-off the past. A researcher for his narratives seeks help from various accounts what it is called as sources in history

### **Check your Progress :**

1) Assess the socio-political and religious influence on history writing.

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## **5.4 SOURCES OF HISTORY**

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There are various sources of history from which a researcher develops his narratives but broadly speaking sources are divided into two categories viz., primary & secondary sources. Primary sources may include diaries, letters, interviews, oral history, news paper articles government document, Folk literature, songs etc. The collection and analysis of primary sources is central to historic research

Secondary sources are books, published articles, magazines, journals, bibliographies for the further research or articulations

Historical traces are all around us, we inhabit a world full of signs of the past survivals. We have been born into world which previously we lived in. we grow up with degrees of awareness of different aspects of the past. Every human society inhabits landscapes of memory for example a person born and brought up in the city like Mumbai will always come across the gothic structures like Victoria Terminus (C.S.T) Railway station, Fort area Buildings which simply indicate the colonial rule. Similarly medieval architecture in Delhi like Red Fort etc. gives idea of Mogul rule therefore, the physical representation of the past activities are surrounded however, jumbled and lacking in organisation.

The primary sources in history are many a times eye witness account created by a participant an event in history. Letters, diaries, speeches, publications, some important newspaper (supporting the research work) therefore, it is a task of a researcher to pick up the important element which supports his proposition how much the source material is valuable to him and how it will be utilized must be clear to a researcher.

For centuries a primary purpose of public historic reconstruction has been emotive, to elicit a sense of sympathy with high ideals, former heroes, glorious past a common set of goals for the writers. Creation of various stories, statues of heroes and cultural icons paintings of great battles, war memorials showing the past in a particular way. Practically in many countries of the world war memorials, squares, town halls dedicated to soldiers have been created. Many a times historical representation designed almost entirely for the purpose of exhibition and entertainment like quasi historical films Benhur, Ten Commandments, Gandhi & films on world wars. Holocaust representation in Spielberg's Schindler's list

having extraordinary capacity to evoke the past there are many different national and sub - structural modes of representing selected aspect of the past, which are constantly contesting and changing.

While having a glance of museums, buildings memorials, forts etc. we can draw some inferences of the past but to understand in a better way minute details are to be added in order to make the history in proper context. the academic historians think hard about the ways in which they present their work as they do the research evaluation of the evidence, the relationship of their findings and relevant literature.

The history writers who go through the process of authentic and rational writings uses the sources extensively to prove their research work a valuable one. Let us take a simple fact as historian often deals with it in the year 49 BC Julius Ceaser crossed the Rubicon river near southern gaul (near modern city of Italy) a familiar fact known to all obviously of some importance. But is this fact a simple as it sounds? When we say Julius Ceaser crossed the river we do not mean that he crossed it alone, but with his army, which involved many acts, thoughts and actions, that is to say a thousand lesser facts went to make up the one simple fact that Ceaser crossed the Rubicon river . If a history writer gathers all the facts to this small event a book of 500 pages will come to shape. Therefore minute observations of any event in history gives outstanding results.

#### **Check your Progress :**

1) Explain the sources of History.

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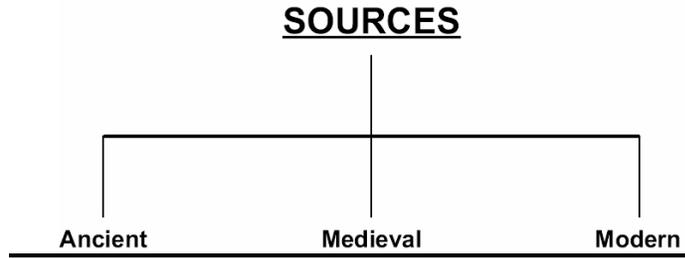
### **5.5 AUTHENTICITY OF SOURCES**

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Historical sources covers many things subject to authentication there are many documents artifacts archaeological sites oral transmissions stone inscriptions, paintings, photographs, folk songs, stories and so on. The authentic sources at their most basic level supports the history writing the historical sites like Mohan Jo Daro, Ajanta Caves which surely gives the idea of past. Historians with their abilities with reasoning and analysis arrives on certain conclusions. The secondary sources are also to be authenticated for some important research work for example coins of Indus Valley Civilization or of Mauryan age is no doubt a primary source but the drawings done on it during 1960 - 70 would be a secondary surce. Similarly the visit of Fahean or Huntsang during the ancient times may be a primary source but when their travelogue published some where in 19th century will be a secondary source for a research scholar similarly Babur Namah written during the medieval age is a primary source but the commentaries and the books written by the scholars is sure a secondary source Sometimes a small source with authentic knowledge gives huge information. if we look at the temples of ancient India specially in the southern part of the country which speaks volumes

i.e. the advanced geometrical knowledge, measurements, beautiful art and architecture simply gives the idea about the superb knowledge of ancient Indians in architecture. many a time the architecture also gives

knowledge of the ruling elite of the time and their patronage for art and architecture. The book written during ancient times viz. Arthashastra by Chanakya gives socio economic life of the people during the Mauryan period.



Ancient sources - The relics, scriptures, carvings, pottery, coins, temples, artifacts, weapons, autobiographies, travelogue etc. (material source) are considered reliable form of evidence. but if we go a step further during the Rig Vedic age the vedic text or hymns were preserved by reciting it from generation to generation. this is surely an oral source of history. Similarly Powadas legendary stories, poems are examples of oral source of history which is to be accounted for. The another source to be considered as authentic is inscriptions which provide valuable historical facts. the study of inscription is called epigraphy. the study of the writings on ancient inscriptions is called palaeography. Some inscriptions convey monarchical orders regarding administrative, religious and major decisions which are called royal proclamations and commandments. Others are the records of the followers of major religion these followers convey their devotion on temple walls, pillars, stupas & monasteries, but these are written by court poets (only praised the kings) however these rocks pillars inscriptions contain most valuable historical data. Political and religious matters are also gathered from such sources. For a study of Indus Valley Civilization or Harappan culture, archaeology is regarded as chief authentic source of information.

### **MEDIEVAL SOURCES**

The medieval sources are archaeological remains , buildings, forts, caves, temples etc. which are in good condition and important source of medieval history, these remains provide lot of help to a researcher for eg. the fort at Daulatabad by Yadavas rulers of Devgiri the fort remained unconquered because of its design, the line of defense and the military might of the kings the fort was built by king Bhillam, the fort made his name immortal in history. Apart from forts buildings etc. lots of written documents, correspondence, official records (preserved in state archives and libraries) which surely proved to be helpful to a researcher working on medieval history.

### **MODERN SOURCES**

Modern sources in history are ample viz. written document, films, documentaries, photographs, speeches war films etc. these contemporary records mostly authenticated and preserved.

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## 5.6 AUTHENTICITY & CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES

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Authentic source is a term used to refer “ to a set of data held by a body that has been appointed by a legal act to manage these data which are unauthoritative in a particular area of competence, the data must concern natural person or legal entities or legal facts”. The adjective authentic describes something that is real or genuine and not counterfeit. In addition to describing something real and reliable based on fact. Some sources may be considered more reliable than others but many a times source is biased in some way or other because of this, historians read skeptically and cross-check the sources against other evidence. A researcher tries to seek someone with first hand knowledge of an event and naturally want to corroborate the contents of the document, working with the information from other sources that have been proven legitimate. Some time non - textual source like photograph information of group of people provides more information that traditional archival cannot but that does not mean that textual source is less important, because for number of informations or events of the world we rely on encyclopedias.

Government papers, diaries are often considered the most reliable documents the main value of these sources is that people producing them know that they can say or write what they like honestly without concern for the view of others. How authentication of source is checked :

5.6.1 What type of source is this ?

5.6.2 In case of official report the writing seal etc. is to be checked

5.6.3 Historical account and other supporting facts to be checked

5.6.4 A fictional reconstruction or analysis of news paper reports

We must also ask number of significant questions

a) Who produced it?

b) Where were they?

c) In what condition?

d) Why did they produce this text or object & for what reason.

There is criteria for determining whether the source is reliable or not

- 1) **Accuracy** : the information gathered by a researcher against the information found in the source, looks also for disclaimers as to accuracy of the content. One can also double check the information a source that a researcher already know its trust worthy.
- 2) **Authority** : one must make sure that the source is written by a reliable author and / or institution if one is using a web page, than can usually identify the owner / publisher by url link or check for copy right statement. make sure the author has proper credentials on the subject matter.
- 3) **Coverage** : A researcher will also want to examine of the content of source and how to fit in the research information one needs. after

identifying that it is relevant for the topic and valuable in subject matter, one must also make sure that It provides enough information.

Historians work is based on an authentic sources rather than imaginary fiction. for example Platonic Love may be a good metaphor for a poet and a novelist but not for the historian. historian must also reject the perceptions prevailed for example short men are cunning, people with cat like eyes are shrewd these statements seem to be good in novels but not in historical documents. Credibility or trust worthiness is surety that the presented thing or a document is true and real. Therefore it is said the records preserved in archives, libraries churches may not be true unless those are verified by a historian or a researcher.

Therefore, to say what is credible in fiction may not be credible in historic writings. Credibility of sources comes out with the content of evidence in written form or relics of the past. the documents of the past are surely subject to verification checks and counter checks supported by reasoning. the researcher has to abandon unwanted part of lengthy documents or official records and takes out the related information for his /her research. The documents / records quite often torn smudged , eligible specially manuscripts like Government orders, deeds, sanads, correspondence hence a researcher should take at most care to handel these documents.

According to Vico generally there are five errors (to be avoided) in history writing :

- 1) Prejudice & Exaggeration .
- 2) Nation's Complex presenting the past in glorious manner
- 3) Prefixing concept of past
- 4) Boasting
- 5) Difficulties in analyzing old documents.

**Check your Progress :**

- 1) Analyse the importance of authenticity and credibility in historical research.

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## 5.7 SUMMARY

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In this unit, we have discussed about methods of history writing and also explained the authenticity of sources for historical research. Authenticity and credibility of sources comes out with the content of evidence in written form or relics or the past. The researcher has to abandon unwanted part of lengthy documents or proxy documents with checking their authenticity and credibility. Authenticity and credibility has played very crucial role for historical research. Due to this history writing and collection of authetic document will be meaningful and useful. Authenticity and credibility is the heart of historical research.

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## 5.8 QUESTIONS

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- 1) Examine the authenticity of historical sources.
- 2) Write a detailed note on the credibility of historical sources.

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## 5.9 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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## IMPORTANCE OF ARCHIVAL SOURCES

### Unit structure :

6.0 Objectives

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Archival research

6.3 Types of Archives

6.4 Importance of Archival Sources

6.4.1 Importance of Archival sources from Administrative Point of View

6.4.2 Importance of Archival sources from Cultural Point of View

6.4.3 Importance of Archival sources from Personal Point of View

6.4.4 Importance of Archival sources from Research Point of View

6.5 Summary

6.6 Questions

6.7 Additional Readings

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### 6.0 OBJECTIVES

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After the study in the unit the students will be able to :

1. Comprehend the meaning of Archives.
2. Explain the reasons to contact a repository's archivist before planning a visit.
3. Understand the archival research.
4. Know the types of Archives.
5. Grasp the importance of Archival sources from Administrative Point of View.
6. Comprehend the importance of Archival sources from cultural Point of View.
7. Review the importance of Archival sources from Personal Point of View.
8. Understand the importance of Archival sources from Research Point of View.

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## 6.1 INTRODUCTION

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An archive is an accumulation of historical records or the physical place they are located. Archives contain primary source documents that have accumulated over the course of an individual or organization's lifetime and are kept to show the function of that person or organization. Professional archivists and historians generally understand archives to be records that have been naturally and necessarily generated as a product of regular legal, commercial, administrative, or social activities. They have been metaphorically defined as "the secretions of an organism" and are distinguished from documents that have been consciously written or created to communicate a particular message to posterity.

They serve first of all as the nation's memory and enable a society to plan intelligently for the future based on an awareness of past experience. Archives preserve a record of the obligations and commitments of the government and evidence of the rights and entitlements of the citizens. Collectively, the archives contain a vast amount of information about people, organizations, social and economic development, natural phenomena, and events invaluable primary source material for writing about all facets of the nation's history. As a source of national history, the archives can become a powerful influence in fostering a people's understanding of it and in creating a sense of national identity.

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## 6.2 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

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### **a) What is Archival research:**

Archival research is research involving primary sources held in an archives, a Special Collections library, or other repository. Archival sources can be manuscripts, documents, records (including electronic records), objects, sound and audio-visual materials, or other materials.

### **b) What is an archives?**

An archives is "an organization that collects the records of individuals, families, or other organizations."

### **c) What is a repository?**

A repository is "a place where things can be stored and maintained, [including] any type of organization that holds documents, including business, institutional, and government archives, manuscript collections, libraries, museums, and historical societies, and in any form, including manuscripts, photographs, moving image and sound materials, and their electronic equivalents." Archival research can be challenging, but it can also be tremendously rewarding (and even fun) You may not find exactly what you were looking for, but you may also find much more than you expected.

#### **d) Special collections/archives collections.**

Many primary sources that are available online are archival or Special Collections sources which have been digitized and made available by those institutions. But not every source is available online. Most Special Collections/archival libraries are not able to digitize all of their sources (collections) or make them publicly available. Not every individual item is listed in a collection's finding aid. Many Special Collections/archival libraries do not catalog their collections by individual item. Instead, they provide descriptions to the box or folder level. Not every collection will have an online finding aid. While most institutions are working to get finding aids online, this is an ongoing process for many organizations. You may need to contact an archivist to learn more about which finding aids are available online, and which are not. Some archives will create catalog records for unprocessed collections to signal their existence. Further, research/subject guides may also list unprocessed collections.

Not every library (including archives and Special Collections libraries) is registered with World Cat. World Cat and Archive Grid (which draws on World Cat) include information from many, many libraries, but do not include materials from every library/repository. Not every repository uses standardized descriptive methods. While most archives adhere to professional descriptive standards, some do not. This can make it more difficult to find materials using World Cat or other similar databases/catalogs.

Most archival/Special Collections libraries will not lend their materials. Due to rareness, fragility, or other restrictions, most items in these kinds of libraries are not available for Interlibrary Loan. Researchers may be able to request that copies of relevant records be made available through Interlibrary Loan, however there may be a charge. If the repository can offer you reproductions (photocopies, PDFs, or audiovisual materials) of the materials you want to look at, expect to pay a fee. Typically, there will be a charge for ordering reproductions, often including charging by the page.

Most archival sources are in their original language. Archives and Special Collections libraries do not typically offer translations of their materials. Other scholars or editors may have published or otherwise made available translations of materials. Your local repositories may not have the archival resources you need. Archives and Special Collections libraries tend to collect deeply in specific areas, rather than widely in many areas. Smaller repositories may also focus on collecting materials relevant to their local community.

#### **Check your Progress :**

- 1) What is the meaning of Archives?

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## 6.3 TYPES OF ARCHIVES:

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**College and university archives** are archives that preserve materials relating to a specific academic institution. Such archives may also contain a "special collections" division. College and university archives exist first to serve their parent institutions and alumni, and then to serve the public.

**Examples** : Stanford University Archives, Mount Holyoke College Archives.

**Corporate archives** are archival departments within a company or corporation that manage and preserve the records of that business. These repositories exist to serve the needs of company staff members and to advance business goals. Corporate archives allow varying degrees of public access to their materials depending on the company's policies and archival staff availability.

**Government archives** are repositories that collect materials relating to local, state, or national government entities.

Examples: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the New York State Archives, City of Boston Archives.

**Historical societies** are organizations that seek to preserve and promote interest in the history of a region, a historical period, non-government organizations, or a subject. The collections of historical societies typically focus on a state or a community and may be in charge of maintaining some governmental records as well.

**Examples** : The Wisconsin Historical Society, the National Railway Historical Society, the San Fernando Valley Historical Society.

**Museums and archives** share the goal of preserving items of historical significance, but museums tend to have a greater emphasis on exhibiting those items and maintaining diverse collections of artifacts or artwork rather than books and papers. Any of the types of repositories mentioned in this list may incorporate a museum, or museums may be stand-alone institutions. Likewise, stand-alone museums may contain libraries and/or archives.

**Examples** : The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

**Religious archives** are archives relating to the traditions or institutions of a major faith, denominations within a faith, or individual places of worship. The materials stored in these repositories may be available to the public or may exist solely to serve members of the faith or the institution by which they were created.

**Examples** : United Methodist Church Archives, American Jewish Archives. Special collections are institutions containing materials from individuals, families, and organizations deemed to have significant

historical value. Topics collected in special collections vary widely, and include medicine, law, literature, fine art, and technology. Often a special collections repository will be a department within a library, holding the library's rarest or most valuable original manuscripts, books, and/or collections of local history for neighboring communities.

**Examples :** Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago, American Philosophical Society Library.

### **Check your Progress :**

- 1) Explain the types of Archives.

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## **6.4 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHIVAL SOURCES**

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Archives or archival institutions play a vital role as custodians of records of the past. They are vital imparters of knowledge. Their primary role is to make records accessible to posterity. Records are necessary extensions of human reminiscence that can be used to help bind society together. Records also serve as tools of social justice and reconciliation. It would not be an exaggeration to say that they are the nation builders.

The archival institutions select, preserve, and make their records accessible for a number of reasons, like legal, financial, and administrative purposes. Government archives that administer public records, for example, maintain records as evidence of the government's policies and operations. The public archives make sure that the government is held answerable to the public by preserving records that facilitate citizens to keep a check on the working of government agencies and public servants. Besides this, the records kept in public archives document the rights of citizens, such as benefits or possession of property. Private organizations, such as businesses, churches, universities, and museums also set up institutional archives to care for their records. The archival sources that are maintained by these repositories record the origin, structures, policies, programs, functions and vital information of the organization over a period of time.

In addition to the legal, fiscal, and administrative purposes for which archival sources are originally created and used, archival sources are useful for historical or research purposes. Archival sources provide a key to examine past and present actions. In addition to the administrative users of archives, a variety of researchers make use of archival sources. These researchers are scholars, genealogists, students at all levels, local historians, biographers, independent writers, and documentary filmmakers etc. Since archival sources can be preserved for many reasons by diverse audiences, the records of organizations that do not have their own institutional archives are often actively hunted by archival institutions such as collecting repositories. These institutions, rather than documenting the activities of a parent organization, focus on collecting records that document a particular topic like a person, subject or a geographical area.

The value of archives and archival institutions can be broadly discussed as follows:

- (a) Valuable for administrative, legal issues of the government
- (b) Valuable for protection of legal, civil, property and other rights of the citizens.
- (c) Valuable for functional documentation purposes
- (d) Valuable for the purpose of research.

Records whether they are public records or private records have a great value. They make an important source from official, cultural and personal point of view. They are the products of transactions in the past. They are the only thoughts and activities of the human beings and institutions of the bygone days. They provide guidelines to the coming generations. Therefore, the value of archival sources can be assessed in the terms of future use, some benefits to be derived at a future date.

#### **6.4.1 Importance of Archival sources from Administrative Point of View:**

The government always plays an important part in the life of the community at large. The development of any country economic, social and intellectual to a great extent depends upon administrative effectiveness. Efficient record keeping is a must for administrative effectiveness. Archival sources constitute a memory for the government. The earlier archival sources reflect the activities of the organization. They throw light on every aspect of government activities. They are principal tools by means of which the government plans are accomplished. Archival sources give information on all legal and financial working and policies. By consulting them the authorities can improve on the existing systems.

Sir Henry Jenkinson when held the esteemed post as a deputy keeper in the British Public Record Office said that "when archives cease to be in current use, their proper conservation should still be regarded as an essential object of national concern, because they and they only, can give us that impeachable guidance for the conduct in the present. The preservation of historical evidence should thus be viewed not as a luxury, nor as something merely academically desirable, but as a national necessity."

The archival sources are also the sources through which it can be judged whether the policies laid down are being executed in the desired way or not.

The use of records in the administrative field we can give the following points:

- Records save time and energy of the agency
- They help in the administrators to discharge their duties
- They help in the standardization of various administrative procedures
- They judge whether a policy laid down is executed as planned
- They help in coordinating the activities of persons or groups of persons
- They help to handle legal, civil procedures
- They are useful for other public officials who wish to profit by the already recorded experiences of the past.

Thus, records are valuable in the sense that they should be preserved for the accounting of the work of all public officials. They are useful to public officials who wish to profit by the already recorded experiences of the past. So, in order to coordinate the energies of all agencies and organizations towards a common goal, to check the progress, to execute a plan, to avoid duplication of work, to plan efficiently, to standardise various administrative procedures etc, the government records possess a primary value.

#### **Check your Progress :**

1) Analyse the importance of Archival Sources from Administrative point of view.

#### **6.4.2 Importance of Archival sources from Cultural Point of View:**

A nation's records are highly significant for its cultural development They act as mediators in the transmission of cultural heritages from the past to the present. They contain all the records of man's intricate problems which can be understood by the present generation. They are on par with other important sources like museum possessions, monuments, parks or buildings. In fact, the other resources may be administered by private agencies as well, but the archival sources are the exclusive property of the government only. Naturally it becomes obligatory on the party of the government to value such Archival sources and preserve them.

To enhance the effectiveness of economic and social development, programmes which are so vital in the progressive growth of countries, good official record keeping is absolutely essential. These records alone enable the government authorities to take further suitable steps to attain maximum utilisation of previous experiences. They help them to accomplish their plans. They also provide retrospective data which in turn helps them for social and economic planning and also their carry out operations.

CM Andrews in a discussion on archives in the American Historical Association, Annual Report Volume II in 1913, pointed out that. "The care which a nation devotes to the preservation of monuments of its past may serve as a true measure of the degree of civilization to which it has attained. Among such monuments, documentary material both private and public holds the first place in value and importance."

#### **6.4.3 Importance of Archival sources from the Personal Point of View:**

The importance of archival sources from the personal point of view cannot be underestimated. A close relationship exists between the government and the governed. The records of earlier days give information of the rights of the citizens be they civil, legal or financial. Based on these records, the government can decide their policies. During the French Revolution, for instance, the archives of Nationales of Paris was established to house all the records of the revolution. These archival sources mainly dealt with personal property rights and such related privileges. They were useful later on to guide the government to protect such rights and privileges of the citizens.

#### **6.4.4 Importance of Archival sources from Research Point of View:**

Archival sources when cease to be in use, acquire value as research material to a scholar. They form an important source material for the genealogist or a biographer or a historian for their reference work.

Ernest Posne rightly says, "The keeping of archival sources constitutes a significant aspect of mankind's experience in organized living without these archives, in fact, the story of our past could not be told. In the absence of archival sources, it could have been impossible to create any literature be it historical or biographical based on any authentic sources,"

The records are valuable storehouses of wisdom and are ready to give us advice as and when required. They make us aware of how much our historians are struggling to construct our past history and how much easier the work would be if enough volumes of archival materials were available to us. This makes us understand the role of archives as a raw material for research.

In fact, the archival intuitions are in a strong position of supporting a broad spectrum of research first by the government itself and by the academic community in almost all branches of learning. It must be agreed that intellectual development in developing world depends in many fields upon an intensive explosion of documentation normally preserved in archival institutions, materials which unfortunately either lie scattered or destroyed.

#### **Check your Progress :**

- 1) Analyse the importance of Archival Sources from Cultural, Personal and Research points of view.

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## 6.5 SUMMARY

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Memory, like history, is rooted in archival Sources. Without archival Sources, memory falters, knowledge of accomplishments fades, pride in a shared past dissipates. Archival Sources counter these losses. Archival Sources contain the evidence of what went before. This is particularly germane in the modern world. With the disappearance of traditional village life and the extended family, memory based on personal, shared story-telling is no longer possible; the archival Sources remains as one foundation of historical understanding. Archival Sources validate our experiences, our perceptions, our narratives, our stories. Archival Sources are our memories.

Yet what goes on in the archives remains remarkably unknown. Users of archival Sources (historians and others) and shapers of archives (records creators, records managers, and archivists) add layers of meaning, layers which become naturalized, internalized, and unquestioned. This lack of questioning is dangerous because it implicitly supports the archival myth of neutrality and objectivity, and thus sanctions the already strong predilection of archives and archivists to archival Sources primarily mainstream culture and powerful records creators. It further privileges the official narratives of the state over the private stories of individuals. Its rules of evidence and authenticity favour textual archival Sources, from which such rules were derived, at the expense of other ways of experiencing the present, and thus of viewing the past. Its strong whiffs of positivist and “scientific” values inhibit archival Sources adopting multiple and ambient ways of seeing and knowing. An original order is thus sought or imposed, rather than allowing for several orders or even disorders to flourish among archival Sources in archives. And it hobbles archivists trying to cope with electronic archival Sources, where active intervention by archivists in the creation process of archival Sources, rather than passive receipt of archival Sources created long before and later discarded, is the only hope that today’s history will be able to be written tomorrow. Archival Sources do on a philosophical or theoretical level, the power they wield, the impact they have. It is a foray into that exciting intellectual territory where positivist principles meet postmodern theories, where archival Sources “truths” indeed have historical consequences. It explores the “interfaces,” in Margaret Hedstrom’s suggestive metaphor, between archives, archival Sources, and power, and the surrounding social and cultural and technological contexts in which they exist. To choose not to engage in these debates is, in fact, a strong choice in favour of the status quo, with all its implications for buttressing mainstream power. In generating discussion and reaction, we hope to force keepers as well as users of archival Sources to confront, head-on, current intellectual concerns about intentionality, instrumentality, representation, and power.

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## 6.6 QUESTIONS

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- 1) What is the meaning of Archives?
- 2) Explain the types of Archives.
- 3) Analyse the importance of Archival Sources from Administrative point of view.
- 4) Analyse the importance of Archival Sources from Cultural, Personal and Research points of view .

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## 6.7 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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## METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

### Unit Structure:

- 7.0 Objectives
- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Method of Data collection: Qualitative and Quantitative Approach
- 7.4 Methods of Data collection in Quantitative Research
- 7.5 Summary
- 7.6 Questions
- 7.7 Additional Readings

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### 7.0 OBJECTIVES

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After the completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- 1) Grasp the different methods used by researchers for collection of data
- 2) Know about the Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in data collection
- 3) 3 Focused Group, Content Analysis method
- 4) Acquaint with the Questionnaire, Interview Schedule and Survey methods of data collection

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

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Research is a highly focused activity that requires collecting information and processing the data. It involves the collection of information in a targeted fashion, which is further explored thoroughly to lead to answers to research questions and evaluate results. The collection of data is the heart of any research design, irrespective of the field of study. Any research begins with certain questions, which need to be answered. Data collection is the process of gathering the raw information carefully with scientific attitude with neutrality.

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## 7.2 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACH

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Quantitative research is based on the measurement of quantity and is usually applied to subjects like export, import, population, consumption and so forth, which can be calculated in terms of quantity. In social sciences, quantitative research refers to the systematic empirical investigation of social phenomena with the support of numerical, scientific, or computational methods. The objective of quantitative research is to develop and employ mathematical models, theories and or hypothesis about particular phenomena. The process of quantity or measure is central to quantitative research because it provides the fundamental connection between empirical observation and the mathematical expression of quantitative relationships.

The qualitative research aims to gather an in depth understanding of human behaviour and reason that govern such behaviour. In qualitative researches the following methods are used to gather information such as participant observation, structured interview, unstructured interview, field notes and analysis of documents and materials. The most frequently used qualitative research approaches include the following:

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### 7.3 Methods of Data collection in Qualitative research

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a) Participant Observation (Ethnography) b) Case Study c) Focused Group  
d) Content Analysis e) interview open ended

#### 7.3.1 Participant Observation (Ethnography)

In this method, the observer himself participates in the activities of the group in which he is studying. Because of the participation of the observer, this is known as participant observation. The observer doesn't need to identify himself with the group or actively take part in all the acts. But he has to be physically present while the members of the group perform their activities. Generally, participant observation is kind of uncontrolled observation, in which the researcher may or may not reveal his identity. This method allows observation of the individual's behavior in the most natural condition secondly, the researcher has access to a body of information that would not have been easily obtained by an observer as an outsider.

A researcher has the privilege of being part of the group. He gets to share the feelings, emotions and behavior of the group. He gets to share the feelings, emotions and behavior of the group members (subjects) and thus records it more accurately. He is able to see not only the actions or behavior of the people but is also able to know why and under what situation subjects act or behave in a given manner. Participant observation also allows the researcher to check the truth of statements made by the members of the group. Participant observation though is an effective method of data collection, it has its limitations with a greater degree of participation, and the observer is likely to develop a close relationship

with other members of the group. This can kill investigator's ability in the group to the extent that he may forget to observe certain relevant aspects of human behavior. Affiliation with the group can also make the researcher biased or partial towards a particular subgroup, therefore, hammering scientific accuracy. In participant observation, researcher is forced to occupy a particular position. This limits the scope of the observer to study the phenomenon fully moreover, if the researcher comes to occupy and strategic position in a group, he generally ends up bringing about changes in group dynamics, therefore hounding the purpose of data collection.

### 7.3.2 Case Study method

P. V. Young defines a case study as a comprehensive study of a social unit, be it a person, a group of people, an institution, or community is called a case study, According to Goode and Hatt, it is an approach that views any social unit as a whole. It is a way of organizing social data so as to preserve the unitary character of the social object being studied." the case study method is qualitative, inclusive, intensive, insight stimulating and comprehensive approach. The field study is comparatively limited but has more depth in it. It aims at studying everything rather than something about everything as in case of statistical method. In other words, it is study of Micro problem at macro level. The approach to a case study research may not be based on hypotheses or on any well-established conclusions but the study itself may help in formulating a well-founded hypothesis for further investigation. This research approach is therefore, an open and objective investigation of a particular unit to develop a hypothesis in character so the researcher has complete freedom in selecting a problem that is considered as described and fruit bearing.

#### Stages in Case Study

The case study is often termed as method, sometimes as technique and at others an approach to social reality. It is in fact, a technique that considers all potential aspects of the situation and intensively investigating it. The technique of gathering and processing data are related to three phases, viz 1) Choice of case 2) Recording of data 3) Data interpretation

The choice of case consists of two elements, first selection of representative unit. Representativeness of the case is important with a view to studying as a specimen in a culture rather than as a definite entity, for eg- the factors which are influencing the successful functioning of the co-operative bank, it is needless to say that a representative group of the sample- Second, identifying the situation thought case unit has an outlook, the problem must be selected carefully and well defined the situation of the case unit being studied. Organizing the social data in such a way to preserve the unitary character of the social aim that is an essential feature in the recording of data. In a practical sense, the wholeness of case can be preserved as Goode and Hatt started, for headings namely, 1) Breadth of data, 2) Level of data, 3) formation of indices, 4) Interaction in a time dimension. The interpretation of data is equally challenging as the

selection of the case and gathering information about the case. The researcher must closely guard against the subjective interpretation of the facts of a case being studied.

### **Significance of case study**

A thorough study and careful analysis can derive various generalizations which may be developed into hypothesis. A study of relevant literature and case study are the two potent sources of hypothesis. It helps in framing questionnaire or schedules. It aids in sampling, by studying the individual units thoroughly. It locates deviant cases. The deviant case is those units that behave against the proposed hypothesis. The tendency is to ignore them but for scientific analysis they are important. Case study method enlarges the range of personal experience of the researcher. In statistical method, generally a narrow range of topic is selected and the researcher's knowledge is limited to the particular aspect only. In case of case study, the whole of range of subjective life is studied and the range of knowledge is naturally enlarged.

### **7.3.3 Content analysis**

This approach uses published works as its data and subject them to careful analysis that usually includes both quantitative and qualitative aspect. Content analysis has been particularly useful in investigating construct such as race caste etc. Content analysis is a research technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristic of content of document. This is a method of collection and analysis. This is used to gathering data from archival records, document, newspapers, diaries, letters, minutes of meeting and they like the content of the written material serves as a basis of inference. The analysis is made objectively and systematically. Objectivity refers to making analysis on the basis of explicit roles which enable different researcher to obtain the same result from the same documents. Systematic analysis refers to making inclusion or exclusion of content according to consistently applied criteria of selection. Only materials relevant to research hypothesis are examined.

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## **7.4 Methods of Data collection in Quantitative Research**

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a) Questionnaire b) Interview Schedule c) Scaling Techniques-Social Distance, Sociometry, Survey

### **7.4.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaire is one of the important tools of data collection. It secures standardized result that can be tabulated and tested statistically. Questionnaire is a set of questions. Generally, it is mailed to the respondents of collecting data. It is employed when the area of study is wide and the subjects are widely dispersed. In this method the researcher does not collect the data by himself. He relies on the information provided by the respondents.

## Types of Questionnaire

- 1) Structured Questionnaire - This questionnaire is named before the study is started and it is not possible to change it offer beginning the study.
- 2) Non-Structured Questionnaire - This kind of Questionnaire is used more like a guide. It consists of definite subject matter areas, the coverage of which is required during the process of data collection. It is generally used in the technique of interview in which case it is called an interview schedule.

Questionnaire can also classify on the basis of nature of the questions that it contains. They are closed, open, pictorial and mixed. Closed questionnaire usually contains itemized answers to the questions being asked various alternatives to the real answer are also given. The respondent is only to select the answer and put it down. Open Questionnaire is just the reverse of the closed questionnaire. It is used in the cases where new facts are to be found out. The respondent is given the liberty to express his views freely. Pictorial questionnaire is similar to closed types of questionnaire. Mixed questionnaire is neither completely closed non open. It consists of both the type of questions. Since it is combination of the types of the questions it is popular in social research. The successful are of questionnaire depends on devoting the right balance of efforts to the planning stage, rather than rushing too early administering the questionnaire. Therefore the researcher should have a clear plan of action in mind and costs, production, organization, time limit and permission should be taken care in the beginning when designing of questionnaire

### 7.4.2 Interview Schedule

Interview consists of dialogue on verbal responses between two persons on between several persons. Interview is a technique of field work which is used to watch the behaviour of individuals to second statements, to observe the concrete results of social on group interaction. According to Pauline Young, interview may be regarded as a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively into the life of a comparative stranger. It is move like a tape recorder in which past incidences, feelings and reactions of the subjects and played back to the living present to be listened to by the interview with a scientific approach.

The purpose of this technique of data collection is twofold a) To secure certain information from the subject, which is known only to himself and cannot be gathered from any other source. b) To study scientifically the verbal behavior of the subject under given circumstances. Whatever the typology broadly speaking there are five types of interviews as given by Pauline Young.

- 1) **Structured interviews** - These are also called controlled guided of direct interviews. These interties involve a set of predetermined question format which is strictly followed. Structural interviews mostly involve the use of fixed, close ended questions. Sequence of questions, language used

is also not charged by the interviewer. The interviewer only has the liberty to further explain the question or repeat the question if the subject has not understood it.

**2) Un structured interviews** - These are also called uncontrolled, unguided or non-direct interviews. There is not predetermined question format in this type of interview. The researcher is given certain broad topics upon which the information is to be collected it is held in the form of free discussions. This kind of interview is characterized by a far too greater flexibility of approach to questioning the respondents. Respondents are encouraged to relate freely their experiences. Such interviews permit a free-flowing account of the personal and social contexts of beliefs and feelings. The interviewer involved is allowed much greater freedom to ask supplementary questions to change the sequence of questions or even offer explanations and classifications.

**3) Focused interview** - These interviews are of semi standardized type Main purpose is to focus attention of the given experience of the respondent and its effect. The interviewer knows in advance the relevant aspects of the issue he has to cover. The focused interviews have been used effectively in the development of hypothesis. The researcher tries to focus respondent's attention the particular aspects of the problems and tries to know his experiences, attitudes, emotion and responses regarding the concrete under study.

**4) Depth interviews** - Depth. interviews has a purpose of going deep into a person life to find out his motives, ideas opinion and attitudes for this type of interview the researcher has to be skilled and trained. He enjoys the freedom of altering the question and further explaining them or changing the order of it. This type of interview is often used in studying psychiatric problems.

#### **7.4.3 Scaling Techniques- Sociometry**

The concept of measurement refers to the process of describing abstract concepts in terms of specific indicators by assigning numbers to these indicators in accordance with rules. In social research measurement of social phenomena has become an essential prerequisite because of a number of reasons. One of the important reasons for measuring social phenomena is to allow the researcher the opportunity of using those phenomena is hypothesis to determine the effects of a set of variables to others. A social phenomenon can be measured in various way, such as asking questions or through noting behavior.

#### **Technique in Sociometry**

Sociometry is concerned with charting out the attractions and repulsion among the members of a group among groups (miniature social system) or sub-groups or between the sub groups and individuals. Sociometry involves a set of aoperations that depart fundamentally from the method employed by Emory Bogardos for the measurement of social distance.

Generally, sociometric studies employ observations questionnaires and interview schedules. Sometimes examination of records may also be employed to secure the relevant information. But sociometry should more properly be considered a method of focusing on a particular type of subject matter and a related method of analysis rather than simply a method of data collection. The researcher needs to conduct observation of the behaviour of members if he wants to know the actual happenings in the group. During such as observation, the researcher concentrates on how the members he has how they interact with another what the nature of the relationship is who initiates interaction (Orientation role) and who plays the object role etc.

The sociometric questionnaire and interviews are employed in securing information from each person about the other members of the group with whom they would like to or would not like to engage in a particular type of interaction are also, their thoughts about this interactions question included in the sociometric questionnaire or schedule are directed toward seeking information from each person in one group. Measurement refers to the relationship among the values that are assigned to the attributes for a variable. It is important to understand the level of measurement as it helps to decide how to interpret the data from the variable concerned.

#### 7.4.4 Survey

The Survey is defined as fact finding study dealing chiefly with working class poverty and this the nature in the problem of community. Heriman N Morse defines it as 'a method of analysis in Scientific and orderly form for defined purpose of a given social situation activities.' According to Mark Abrams, a social survey is a process by which quantitative facts are collected about the social aspect of community composition and activities from the above definition.

Survey describe the phenomena to a social scientist a survey may have descriptive as a way of studying social condition, relationship and behaviour for example survey communities. Socio economic survey describes the living condition of people of a geographical area. Social survey has intensive usage and is widely used in a number of disciplines. In social sciences it can be used for variety of purpose availability of nature of the source of information is the main and source of undertaking a survey. Broadly the subject matter of social surveys is divided into 1) Demographic Features 2) Social conditions 3) Opinion and attitudes.

Social activities such as expenditure pattern, radio listening newspaper reading social mobility information for example to know the expenditure putter of a group of family house. It requires to the survey or following knowledge on expenditure habit say, expenditure towards family, clothing, education, cigarettes, cinema and other. Opinion attitude service, includes information regarding opinion and attitudes of the people toward various factor and the motives and the expenditure of them this information may be necessary as the basis of nature of question that may safety be asked for electing rich response.

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## 7.5 SUMMARY

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To do social work research, it is necessary to find the truth. If we do not know the truth about the problem concerned, we cannot do social research effectively. The choice of any social problem can be chosen by the researcher as the subject of research. But not all social problems are the subject of this research. There are many methods of data collection. This is a scientific process. Because the information collected is awkward and scattered. Therefore, it is important to classify data acquired through various methods. The information is presented in a systematic form which means that it is easier to read the information.

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## 7.6 QUESTIONS

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- 1) What are the qualitative methods of data collection?
- 2) What are the quantitative methods of data collection?
- 3) Elaborate case study as the method of data collection.
- 4) Explain the survey method.

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## 7.7 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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## INTERPRETATION AND GENERALIZATION OF SOURCES

### Unit Structure:

- 8.0 Objectives
- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Rational of the Generalization
- 8.3 Importance of Historiographical attitudes influencing the Generalization
- 8.4 Importance of Generalization
- 8.5 Problems with the generalization
- 8.6 Interpretation of the historical events
- 8.7 Summary
- 8.8 Questions
- 8.9 Additional Readings

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### 8.0 OBJECTIVES

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After reading this chapter the students will be able to

- Understand generalization and its various aspects
- Explain its inevitability and objections.
- Discuss the role and sources Generalizations.
- Grasp the factors responsible for interpretations in history

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### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

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A generalization is a connection or relationship between facts. It is a natural process of simplification. The researcher encompasses the common characteristics to all the objects which resembles each other. Generalizations rests on a vague idea that all facts which resemble each other are similar in all respects. It is the means through which historians understand their materials and try to provide their understanding of facts to others. Analysis and interpretation of events, etc., is invariably done through generalizations.

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## 8.2 RATIONAL OF THE GENERALIZATION

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The main job of framing formula or generalization is to press all the details of the narratives to yield a very significant results. It sum up the entire research within a few cogent, and well thought out passages. It is the epilogue, the gist, the final assessment or estimate of the whole work. Naturally it becomes the very essence of whole research. It has the same force in history as general formulas or laws have in science.

Framing a formula is very complicated process, which involves a very clear understanding of all the important places in history writing. Historical data that had been so carefully collected, examined and scrutinized, grouped and arranged are now subject to a different type of operation. It require a different skill, where a lot of observation would be necessary to furnish historical synthesis. This operation tells us what kind of relationship exists among the numerous facts and that have been detailed earlier of narrative. It is the higher form of analysis which employs general terms, deals with broad principles and relates to value judgment. Its main task is the search for the binding connections among the facts which form the ultimate conclusion of every science.

The formula that is framed should confirm to certain accepted standard. Historical facts differs in precision, yet they have to deal with situation through intensive search for fresh records whereby we will be able to remove to the deficiency in the information. Formulas framed by reducing a number of facts to a few generalizations and obtaining uniformities for the whole period except for the names and dates. The language used in formula must be simple, precise and unambiguous using only descriptive terms. To frame a formula as generalization we should know beforehand what element ought to enter into it. The distinction must be made between general facts and unique facts. General facts are those events which are often repeated and are common to a number of men. We have to determine the character, extent and duration. We unite under the same formula all the individual cases which greatly resembles each other by neglecting the individual difference. In order to fix the precise extent of a habit we have to know the region where it is most common. The formula must also indicated the duration of the habit. We must look for the doctrine, usage, institutions and the group.

If we are going to frame a formula as to how a particular custom or habit has been evolved, we have to take into account the various it has passed through. By comparing all the variations in the habits, it will be possible to determine the general course of the evolution. All conclusions confirm to a set pattern and common features indication the stages. Every habit begins by being the spontaneous acts of several individuals. According to B. Shaikh Ali, when others imitate them it becomes the usage. This is the first stage. Individual initiative is followed by general imitation and recognition. The usage becomes tradition and is transformed into obligatory custom or rule. This is the state of tradition and authority. Finally in certain societies, the rule is criticized and rational change is affected. This is the stage of reforms and checks. A historian need to be

able to discern the stages, find out nature and describe it in suitable terms. This refers to the general facts which exists in time and spaces. What exactly is done here is to carefully observe the pattern of change in habit at every stage, and check that with reference to habit in other areas and find the similarities exist in the pattern. If the answer is affirmative then we can conclude that the behavioural pattern in almost every case is the same. If we want to know the factors responsible for war, we need to try to probe deep human motives, intensions, ambitions, greed.

If we need a formula to describe a character, there are two natural temptations that we must take care of. One is danger of constructing a formula out of person's assertion in regard to himself. When a person indulges in self-praise we ought to be careful before we believe in all his claims. The other is risk of using imaginary characters.

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### **8.3 IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ATTITUDES INFLUENCING THE GENERALIZATION**

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Some of the historians and sociologists who have undertaken such wide generalizations are-Karl Marx, Max Weber, Marc Bloch, Fernand Braudel, Eric Hobsbawm, Immanuel Wallerstein, According to Comte, there was a successive progression of all conceptions and knowledge through three stages. These stages are in chronological sequence: the Theological or fictitious; the Metaphysical or abstract; and the scientific or Positive. Of these three stages the first one is the primary stage through which the human mind necessarily necessarily passes. The second stage is middle, and the third stage is the final and the fixed and definite state of human understanding. According to him, the first two stages were now past while the third stage, that is, the Positive stage, was emergent. Comte measured that the Positive stage was dominated by science and industry. Hence the medieval times concept of God dwells into history or religious impact on history writing was repudiated by him. The inductive way, which Comte whispered was applicable in sciences, consisting of observation of facts, experimentation and then formulation of common laws, should be applied in the writing of history as well.

According to the Empiricists, the knowledge acquired through tradition, speculation, theoretical reasoning, or imagination is not the proper form of knowledge. So, the bodies of knowledge derived from religious systems, metaphysical speculations, moral preaching and literature are not verifiable and so not reliable. The Empiricists consider that the only legitimate form of knowledge is that whose truth can be verified. Both positivists and empiricists reject the metaphysical, unobservable, and unverifiable manners of knowledge. John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume, and John Stuart Mill were the significant empiricist historians. The point in their philosophy is that all knowledge consists of facts derived through experiences and experiences alone. So, any claimed knowledge of the transcendental world or any metaphysical speculations have no foundation in reality. The historians, according to the Empiricists, should

repose their trust in the evidences in relation to the past that are presented for us by the contemporaries through their sense impressions and if historians seem at these sources closely, they can present a true picture of the past.

Ranke whispered that the past should be understood in its own conditions and not those of the present. The attitudes and behavior of the people of the past ages should be discerned by the incisive revise of that scrupulous era and should not be viewed by the parameters of the historian's own age. Ranke was an Empiricist who whispered that the knowledge is derived only through the sense experience yet Ranke was also critical towards the sources and did not have blind faith in them.

Marx's immediate concern was to interpret the contradiction of the capitalist social formation. The economic interpretation of the capitalist mode of manufacture is the subject matter of Marx's *Capital*, which Marx measured to be his lifework. The value of a commodity is determined by the socially necessary labour time necessary to produce it. Labour power is a commodity as well as exchanged for wages. The value of labour power is equal to the value of what is needed for the survival and maintenance of a worker and his family. The peculiarity of labour power as a commodity is that it can make more value than what is paid in wages as its value.

The subaltern historical school is a recent development in historical writings. Subaltern studies bring to light the lower section of the society hitherto unknown or neglected by elite historiography. The term subaltern describes the lower classes and the social groups who are at the margins of society- a subaltern is a person rendered without agency due to his or her social status. Gayatri Spivak in her work "Can the Subaltern Speak?" goes on to elaborate the problems of the category of the subaltern by looking at the situation of gendered subjects and of Indian women in particular, for 'both as an object of colonialist historiography and as a subject of insurgency, the ideological construction of gender keeps the male dominant'. As the subaltern has no history and cannot speak, the subaltern as female cannot have true representation in historical accounts. David Arnold has made a choice of hitherto neglected subjects like tribal rebellions among the tribal belt and the Madras famine (1876-78). He also writes on peasants' consciousness and actions in contemporary socio-political circumstances. Gyan Pradey gives an account of peasants' revolt of Awadh during 1919-1922 and its impact on Indian nationalism. Stephen Hemmingham shown the dual nature of revolt in the quit Indian movement of 1942.

Postmodernism professes skeptical understandings of culture, literature, art, philosophy, history, economics, architecture, fiction, and literary criticism. Michel Foucault (1926—1984) gives us a great perspective of Postmodern history. He introduced concepts such as 'discursive regime', 'episteme' and 'genealogy' in order to explain the relationship among meaning, power, and social behavior within social orders in his writings

like *The Order of Things*, *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, *Discipline and Punish* and *The History of Sexuality*.

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## 8.4 IMPORTANCE OF GENERALIZATION

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Generalizations are inherent in the very arrangement of presenting historical facts. The historian collects the data of the past and arrange it in chronological sequence. Whereupon its meaning would emerge or reveal itself. In other languages, the historian's task is only to test the validity of data or to certify their authenticity, and not to interpret it, i.e., generalize in relation to it.

The selection of a particular topic or emphasize on a particular topic is followed automatically or purposely according to the historical nature of the research. Therefore, every historian selects the material need to be highlighted. Furthermore, it is not even a question of selection of facts, for even that assumes that facts are lying before the historian, in a plate as it were. In reality, the historian has to search for them, and that assumes some principle of selection.

Second, gathered facts have to be arranged and grouped. Both involve explanation and causation, motivation and impact. In other languages, analysis is vital to history as a discipline. In reality, except in a very limited sense, information becomes information only as a result of a generalization. For instance, a zamindar, or a peasant, or a slave, or a capitalist looks like an information, but is the result of a generalization.

The British referred to the medieval era as an era of Muslim rule, ancient India as Hindu rule implying the generalization that the religion of the ruler decides the nature of the rule. But they did not describe their own rule as Christian rule because this message directly gets spread with the inherent generalization made by them with the division of the history on the basis of religion. The emphasis in history on parliamentary speeches would imply that these were the chief determinants of politics and government policies. Recorded facts are, in any case, already the products of the generalization in the minds of persons who recorded them. This is also true of what and why sure statistics were gathered. Even today, the facts accounted by newspapers are the result of the generalizing minds of the reporters, editors, and owners of newspapers.

- 1) They enable the historian to draw inferences and set up chains of causation and consequence or effect. In other languages, they enable him to analyze, interpret, and explain his date.
- 2) The generalizations lead the historian to see for new facts and sources. Quite often new sources can be properly grasped only through new generalizations.
- 3) Generalizations help a student of history whether in the case of an essay, a tutorial, a research paper or a book. Generalizations also enable him to discover out which of his notes are important and relevant to the theme or subject matter of his research.

4) Generalizations lead historians to highlight issues for discussion and debate and to start procedures of fruitful discussion in the middle of them. Some would agree with the generalizations presented in another historian's work and discover new guides for research and thinking in them.

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## 8.5 PROBLEMS WITH THE GENERALIZATION

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1) In history, every event is unique its own way. But, the information is that even uniqueness demands comparison. We cannot grasp the unique unless it is compared with something we know. Otherwise the unique is unknowable, even unthinkable. In any case, a historian is concerned with the relation fringed by the unique and the common. For instance, the Indian national revolution is unique but its uniqueness can be grasped only by comparing it with other recognized revolutions.

2) Many thinkers are of opinion that generalization as an assertion. Likewise, several generalizations are inadequately tested. Several are based on an oversimplification of data and relationships and causation. Since other nationalist revolutions took to violence, so the Indian national revolution also had to be violent. Since globalization led to underdevelopment in some countries, it necessarily lead to the similar in all countries.

3) Measurements is a perfectly scientific procedure. But it can be applied only with concrete things. The abstract things or ideas cannot be measured in any parameter. It also not helpful in the case of facts of psychological nature

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## 8.6 INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORICAL EVENTS

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The historian has to interpret the historical materials in order to construct the moving pattern of images in which the form of the historical process is to be mirrored. And this because the historical record is both too full and too sparse. On the one hand, there are always more facts in the record than the historian can possibly include in his narrative representation of a given segment of the historical process.

### 8.6.1 Imperialist school's interpretation of India :

The imperial attack on Indian culture and civilization is clearly seen in the books of James Mill. He in his history and the account of Hindu civilization wrote that Indians are rude and excelled in the qualities of slaves. In the same way, another British historian Vicent Smith in his account of Alexander's invasion on India tried to prove that Europeans were superior in warfare than Indians. He further says that the perpetual political chaos in India, their inability to unite and rule themselves properly made the British rule absolutely permanent in India. MountstuarstElphininstance mentions that the Indian foreign trade was conducted by Greeks and the Arabs and the Arabs easily overrun India as Persia.

British historians often tried to underestimate the Indian culture. Even they hinted that the Indians might have borrowed their culture from the Greeks but they did not give any evidence to prove it. The Christian missionaries highlighted deliberately the religious superstition, social abuses and the practice of Sati in Indian society whereas they systematically ignored the burning of heretics, practice of slavery, and serfdom in the European societies. This led the Indian historians and philosophers to prepare themselves to defend the imperial attack on their culture and civilization which generated historical writings, came to be known as the nationalist school of Indian historiography. There are differences in the nature, quality and quantity of historical literature in different ages and different people.

### **8.6.2 Reinterpretation by Indian nationalist historians :**

The Indian nationalist school of historiography came into existence in the reaction of the prejudices of the British imperialist historiography against India. The Indian nationalist historiography aimed the most to search out the national identity in its quest and prove India the most nationalist state. The rising generation of Indian nationalist historians infested with the legitimate national pride, tried to vindicate their national culture against the unfounded charges of Europeans especially the British historians against Indian nation and nationalism. R.C. Majumdar says that the European historians misunderstood the several points of Indian national interest and misrepresented them everywhere in their writings. The Indian historians who so ever corrected them without conflicting with the scientific approach came to be known as the Indian nationalist historians.

The Indian nationalist School and its historians like Rajnarain, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Sasadhar Tarkachudasmani defended the Indian religion and society in their writings. The archaeological researches carried out by Indians as well as European research scholars dispelled the inferiority of Indian culture and proved that it was far ahead than the European culture. The British historians tried to underestimate the political and administrative system in India at each and every step. They said that India had several sects and creeds. Therefore, it could not qualify to be a nation. But historian R.K. Mukharjee in his scholarly thesis, the 'Fundamental Unity of India' mentions that religious unity, spiritual fellowship among the Hindus and their ideal of an all India empire formed the basis for Indian nationalism in the past.

### **8.6.3 Revolt of 1857 :**

There are divergent views and opinion promoted by historian about the Revolt of 1857. Whether it was premeditated and a result of organized planning, or it was a spontaneous rising of the sepoys enraged by the issue of contaminated cartridges. Many writers on this event have also divergent and contradictory views regarding its nature. The argument is centre around the questions - whether it was a mutiny or a national war of independence. A few writers, such as S.B. Chaudhari consider the Revolt of 1857 as 'the first combined attempt of many classes of people to challenge the foreign power. Though the initiative came from the sepoys,

they call it a civil rebellion. Scholars such as R.C. Majumdar have expressed the view that the revolt was largely the work of the sepoys, though the general masses also played part in it. A further opinion had been that the revolt was a national war of independence to drive the foreign rulers out of the country and to make it completely independent.

To counter the attack of British on India, the Indian historians began to reinterpret their history and infuse nationalism through out the country. V.D.Savarkar reinterpreted the history of the uprising of 1857 and called it the first war of Indian independence. S.B.Choudhary's 'Civil Rebellion in the Indian Military 1857-1859', characterized the uprising of 1857 as the national war of independence. In order to counter the British propaganda, the Hindu-Muslim differences was a major hurdle. The process of reinterpretation of Indian history was continued further by Tarachand, who in his book, 'Influence of Islam on Indian culture', professed that the conglomeration of Hindu-Muslim culture cemented them into Indian nation. Thus, the reinterpretation of Indian history became a major theme of nationalist school of Indian Historiography.

#### **8.6.4 Marxist interpretation :**

The Marxist school of Indian historiography made conscious efforts to bring about change in history writing from narrative and descriptive to explanatory and interpretative. In this process of change these historians emphasized more on large movements and not on events to prove that interpretation of fact is history and not the mere description of events.

The interpretation of those historians is derived from the historical philosophy of Karl Marx, i.e. dialectical materialism. The essence of this new approach is in the study of the relationship between the social and economic organization and its effect on historical events. This new trend did not insist and emphasis on new evidence for example, re-reading of sources with different sets of questions in Mind. D.D.kosambi adopted a comparative method and interdisciplinary techniques of investigation to study the dead past. He tried to reconstruct the past with the help of archaeological sources as well as he used his knowledge of Sanskrit and etymological analysis to study the Aryan and non-Aryan elements. There are geographical, topographical and geomorphological pointers, which guided him to indicate some of the urban sites.

Bipan Chandra in his 'India's Struggle for Independence' differed from the imperialist approach of the Cambridge school and the Indian nationalist school and argued that the Indian national movement was not a people is movement but a product of the need of the time and interest of the educated class. He further mentions that Marxist historians call the Indian national movement as a structured bourgeois movement. In his 'communalism in modern India', Bipan Chandra denied that communalism was a mere historical accident or product of dialectical conspiracy and says that it was one of the by-products of colonialism. Communalism is often distorted and misrepresented as social tension and class conflict but it is an extreme form of reaction to be fought on all

fronts. While analyzing communalism, he says that it remained liberal from 1857- 1937, it became fascist after 1937 based on the politics of hatred, fear psychosis and irrationality after the world war II, the British played the communal card and recognized the Muslim League as the sole advocate of the Muslim cause.

### **8.6.5 Economic Interpretation of the Principle of Ahimsa :**

The historians of the Marxist school of Indian historiography upheld the principle of ahimsa enjoined by Buddhism and Jainism the two popular religions originated in the sixth century B.C. and interpreted that there was one of the economic reasons behind this principle. D.D.Kosambi on the evidence of Pali stories of royal fire sacrifices says that as the Vedic rituals prescription large scale cattle were slaughtered, which resulted in an incredible scarcity of cattle on the new iron-plough agriculture in the Ganga basin. As a matter of fact this iron-plough agriculture needed preservation of and augmentation of cattle wealth to produce agricultural surpluses to feed the urban population. Kosambi further says that in order to avoid the strain on regular agriculture created by requisition of increasing number of animals free of cost for Yadnya, Jainism and Buddhism out fashioned the practice of animal sacrifice , cattle killing and beef- eating by taboing it in the sixth century B.C.

### **8.6.6. Interpretation of caste :**

Irfan Habib in his *Interpreting Indian History* emphasized on the interpretation and not a narration of history. He says that interpretation of the past is necessary because the facts on which historians treat the evidence of the past cannot recreate and verify those events. The evidence for the past is little and keeps wide blanks. These blanks could be filled up by understanding how societies operate and what people are motivated by and capable of doing various things in various situations. Thus the interpretation with the help of personal judgment and erudition of the historian helps to understand history in a better way. In the same work, he says that the medieval Indian economy was a separate social formation different from the feudal economy on the basis of labor process, extraction of surplus value and the distribution of surplus production. Irfan Habib in another work 'Caste and Money in Indian History' says that caste was the most rigid form its division of labor, formed the part and the relations with production. The chief beneficiaries of this rigorous form of class exploitation were the ruling classes of the nobility and zamindars in the medieval Indian society.

### **8.6.7 Interpretation of Akbar's policies :**

In 1589-1590, Akbar ordered Abul Fazal to compile the history of his reign, beginning with an explanation of Babur and Humayun. A bureau was recognized in which competent people were employed to assist Abul Fazal. The whole archival material was placed at the compiler's disposal. The whole archival material was placed at the compiler's disposal. He presents Akbar as cosmic man, entrusted by God with sway in excess of outward form and inner meaning, the exoteric and esoteric. His mission is

said to liberate people from orthodoxy, lead them to the truth, and make an atmosphere of concord so that people following dissimilar sects could live in peace and harmony. He was shown as a light emanating from God.

Akbar employed Badauni to translate Mahabharat from Sanskrit into Persian. Badauni was also a keen student of history and literature. It is Badauni's second volume that needs to be studied beside with Abul Fazl's Akbarnama to have a proper understanding of Akbar's reign. Badauni does not gloss in excess of any uncomfortable question on Akbar's skill as an administrator. For instance, Badauni records the failure of the karori experience and the disaster it caused. Abul fazal is generous in praising Akbar whereas Badauni is highly critical of Akbar's religious policy.

### **8.6.8 Interpretation of the HindviSwarajya of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj :**

There are various cultural interpretations about the HindviSwarajya founded by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Hindvi Swaraj is a term for socio-political movements seeking to remove foreign military and political influences from India. The political activeness of Maharashtra from the seventeenth century, the ideal of king Shivaji, and the impact of modern education among the leaders were favourable for the emergence of a distinctive nationalistic feeling in Maharashtra. Jotirao Phule, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, V. D. Savarkar, V. K. Rajwade and many other thinkers and historians have presented their interpretations regarding the Swarajya founded by King Shivaji. Jotirao Phule described king Shivaji as kulwadibhushan which literary means the king who worked for cultivators and common people. Jotirao published his Ballad on Shivaji in June 1869. The title of the ballad was *Life of Shivaji in poetical metre*. Jotirao rejected the existing image of Shivaji as the protector of cows and Brahmins. He was the king of masses. According to Phule, Shivaji was the Bahujan king working for the benefit of entire subjects.

Noted historian Jadunath Sarkar notes in his *Shivaji and His Times*- King Shivaji's religious policy was very liberal. *NarharKurundkar has put forwards an analysis of Chhatrapati Shivaji as the Preface to Shrimaan Yogi-Shivaji* was religious; but he was not a fanatic. V. D. Savarkar was amongst the very first ones who projected Shivaji as a national hero of Hindus. This was in line with his philosophy of Hindutva. With his writings and his oratory, He created a predominantly Hindu image of Shivaji for the polarization of Hindus to support his ideology.

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## **8.7 SUMMARY**

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Generalization and interpretation of the historical sources are the key components of the historical writings. Generalizations promote a search for fresh supporting or countervailing evidence regarding them. Participants can at the most refute or add to the facts presented in the paper. Interpretation of the past in the words of a historian. It is a scholarly study of what happened in the past without being judgmental or

subjective. The main job of a historian is to record the information and facts based upon narratives of the past and recollect the entire sequence of events without getting biased.

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## 8.8 QUESTIONS

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- 1) Explain the importance of generalization in history writing.
- 2) Enumerate the role of interpretation and generalization in history.
- 3) Give a brief account of factors responsible for interpretation of the history sources.

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## 8.9 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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- 1) B. Sheik Ali, *History: Its Theory and Methods*, Macmillan pub. Delhi, 1978.
- 2) R. G. Collingwood, *the Principles of History and Other Writings in Philosophy of History* (ed. William H. Dray and W. J. van der Dussen), 2001.
- 3) R. Kulkarni, *Maharashtra in the age of Shivaji*, Diamond publication.
- 4) J. N. Sarkar, *Shivaji and His Times*.
- 5) Alan Bryman, *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*, London; Unwin Hymna, 1988.



## FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Unit Structure :

- 9.0 Objectives
- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Importance of Citation and Referencing
- 9.3 Citation Methods
- 9.4 Bibliography
- 9.5 Care to be taken while giving a bibliography
- 9.6 Summary
- 9.7 Questions
- 9.8 Additional Readings

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### 9.0 OBJECTIVES

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After the completion of this unit the student will be able to

- Understand the rational and various methods of citations
- Explain the importance of referencing and various types of it
- Gasp the importance and care to be taken in bibliography
- Understand the contribution of technical aids in history

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### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

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A citation is a way of giving credit to individuals for their creative and intellectual works that you utilized to support your research. It can also be used to locate particular sources and combat plagiarism. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page and endnotes come at the end of the document. A number or symbol matches on the footnote or endnote with a reference mark in the document. Click the location where you want to go in the context of the footnote or endnote. At the end of the research project, a list of all the books useful in the research is given. It's called bibliography.

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### 9.2 IMPORTANCE OF CITATION AND REFERENCING IN FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The followings are valid reasons why a student or researcher must refer to, quote and cite sources in his or her research writing:

- 1) It is an evidence that research is based on facts. Citations to sources help readers expand their knowledge on a topic. One of the most effective

strategies for locating authoritative, relevant sources about a topic is to review footnotes or references from known sources.

2) It shows the theoretical foundation of the research and, therefore, you are reporting your research from an informed and critically engaged perspective. The list of sources used increases your credibility as the author of the work. If you disagree with a researcher's ideas or you believe there is a gap in understanding the research problem, your citations can serve as sources from which to argue an alternative viewpoint or the need to pursue a different course of action.

3) It justifies the reliability of the research findings and conclusion. Properly citing sources prevents your reputation from being tarnished if the facts or ideas of those cited are proven to be inaccurate or off-base. It prevents readers from concluding that you ignored or dismissed the findings of others, even if they are disputed.

4) It allows interested readers to track and follow the cited works for the continuance of knowledge. In academic and the professional world, failure to cite other people's intellectual property ruins careers and reputations and can result in legal action. Citing sources as a student in college will help you get in the habit of acknowledging and properly citing the work of others.

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### 9.3 CITATION METHODS

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Academic faculties require different referencing method. This is also the case with scientific Journals and other professional publications. The student or researcher should first determine the requirement of his or her department, faculty or professional body. Ostentatiously, and in the ambit of this chapter, some of the academic departments or disciplines and the referencing method they usually subscribe to are presented in the table below

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Disciplines</b>
1	Harvard Method	All Language Studies, History, Arts, and Literary studies,  Theology, Sociology, Criminology, etc.
2	APA Method	Social and behavioral sciences such as Education Library and Information Science, management Sciences, Nursing, other behavioural and Social Science disciplines.
3	MLA Method	Linguistics and Literary Subjects

### **APA (American Psychological Association) method examples :**

Following are the examples of some references in the form of footnote or endnote.

An article in a print journal-Ernest Renan (1994), 'Qu'est-cequ'une nation?' from *Oxford Readers Nationalism*, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith, Oxford University Press, New York,

A book-Gail Omvedt (1976), *Cultural Revolt In Colonial Society: The Non Brahmin Movement In Western India 1873 to 1930*, scientific Socialist Education Trust, Bombay.

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is used by the Humanities

Book in print-Omvedt, Gail. *Cultural Revolt In Colonial Society: The Non Brahmin Movement In Western India 1873 to 1930*, scientific Socialist Education Trust, Bombay, 1976.

An article in a print journal-Renan, Ernest. 'Qu'est-cequ'une nation?' from *Oxford Readers Nationalism*, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.

#### **9.3.1 Citation Methods in the written Text :**

There are four means according to which a student or researcher can cite a source or reference during scientific writing.

- 1) Referencing to the Sources: This is done by placing the citation in brackets in the text at the precise place where the event occurs.
- 2) Content Referencing: Content referencing is used within the text to provide additional explanation or discussion. The content referencing is used to
  - I. Acquaint the reader to other sources that can offer more information on a specific topic
  - II. Elucidate information in the text, for example by providing more information on people or places, explain foreign words, etc.
  - III. Make available extra information that, although important, cannot be included in the text without disrupting its flow
  - IV. Expand on a standpoint

#### **9.3.2 Methods of notes :**

##### **Endnotes and footnotes**

Endnotes appear on a separate page at the end of the research project. They are indicated in the text by means of superscript (raised Arabic numerals). Endnotes are more cumbersome than footnotes because the reader has to page back and forth to obtain the information.

## Advantages of Using Endnotes

- 1) Endnotes are less distracting to the reader and allow the narrative to flow better.
- 2) Endnotes don't clutter up the page.
- 3) As a separate section of a research paper, endnotes allow the reader to read and contemplate all the notes at once.

Footnotes appear at the bottom of a page and are separated from the last line of text by additional space or a line, or a smaller font. They are also indicated in the text through superscript, which are preferably placed at the end of the sentence and usually after the punctuate Essential Components of Every Reference Generally, references to all kinds of information sources have to contain some essential components (bibliographic records). The essence is to give all the information as completely as possible to allow the reader to trace the correct sources.

### 9.3.3 Advantages of Using Footnotes :

- 1) Readers interested in identifying the source or note can quickly glance down the page to find what they are looking for.
- 2) It allows the reader to immediately link the footnote to the subject of the text without having to take the time to find the note at the back of the paper.
- 3) Footnotes are automatically included when printing off specific pages.

Things to keep in mind when considering using either endnotes or footnotes in your research paper:

- 1) Footnotes are numbered consecutively throughout a research paper, except for those notes accompanying special material (e.g., figures, tables, charts, etc.) Arabic numbers typed slightly above the line of text. Do not include periods, parentheses, or slashes. They can follow all punctuation marks except dashes. In general, to avoid interrupting the continuity of the text, footnote numbers are placed at the end of the sentence, clause, or phrase containing the quoted or paraphrased material.
- 2) Depending on the writing style used in your class, endnotes may take the place of a list of resources cited in your paper or they may represent non-bibliographic items, such as comments or observations, followed by a separate list of references to the sources you cited and arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. If you are unsure about how to use endnotes, consult with your professor.
- 3) In general, the use of footnotes in most academic writing is now considered a bit outdated and has been replaced by endnotes, which are much easier to place in your paper, even with the advent of word processing programs. However, some disciplines, such as law and history, still predominantly utilize footnotes. Consult with your professor about

which form to use and always remember that, whichever style of citation you choose, apply it consistently throughout your paper.

#### **9.3.4 Abbreviation in footnote and endnotes :**

There are two main types of information sources: print and non-print sources. The *first* time any book or article is mentioned in a footnote, all the information requested above must be provided. After that, however, there are shortcuts that should be used.

If there several quotations in sequence from the same book, the abbreviation to be used is *Ibid.* a Latin word meaning "in the same place." (Notice that *Ibid.* is not underlined). *Ibid.* can be used by itself, if you are referring to the same page as the previous footnote does, or it can be combined with a page number or numbers.

#### **Print Sources**

The components that constitute each reference entry for print sources include

- 1) Author or Authors
- 2) The date of publication
- 3) Title of the book
- 4) Edition
- 5) Place of publication
- 6) Publisher
- 7) Volume, number and/or page numbers

#### **Non-print Sources (electronic materials)**

To accurately cite and reference electronic sources of information, the following basic information (which must appear in every likely credible electronic material) must be clearly visible where available

- 1) Name of the Author or Editor (If provided in source)
- 2) Title of the page or article
- 3) Title of the web page.
- 4) Type of medium (for example electronic journal, online)
- 5) Date on which the website was updated or the copyright date
- 6) full internet address
- 7) Date on which the website was accessed

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## 9.4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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A *bibliography* is a listing of all the sources used when researching a paper. Generally speaking, a bibliography is a list of books on a particular topic or subject prepared for the reference of a particular library user. You may include texts that you have not referred to directly in your work, but which have had an influence on your ideas. If you find you have a lot of works that are not referred to directly though, you may wish to look back over your work and check that all of the ideas are fully referenced. In most cases, a bibliography is a single alphabetically-ordered list of all the sources used, regardless of format. So books, journal articles and websites would all be listed together. This list appears in a separate section at the end of the paper and includes such information as the author(s), title, editor, and date of publication.

### 9.4.1 Rational of Bibliographies :

The need of bibliography is to organize information about materials on a given subject so that students of the subject may have access to it. A descriptive bibliography may take the form of information about a particular author's works or about works on a given subject or on a particular nation or period. Critical bibliography, which emerged in the early 20th century, involves meticulous descriptions of the physical features of books, including the paper, binding, printing, typography, and production processes used, to help establish such facts as printing dates and authenticity. Thus a bibliography is a list of books or articles related by way of authorship or subject, and sometimes annotated. Large bibliographies may be published as books in their own right. One of the purposes of a bibliographic entry is to give credit to other authors whose work one has consulted in research. Another objective of a bibliography is to make it easy for a reader to find the source which has been used. Bibliography is an important source of information for a research scholar. It serves as a ready reference and directs him or her towards the right kind of material which helps in research and studies. Bibliography helps in organizing research material properly and saves the time of user. Preparing a bibliography is a specialized job and requires some knowledge and understanding of the subject.

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## 9.5 CARE TO BE TAKEN WHILE GIVING A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 1) Primary and secondary sources should be listed in separate sections. Each section should be labelled "Primary Sources" or "Secondary Sources." Journal articles and encyclopaedia articles should be listed with secondary sources.
- 2) Entries are placed in alphabetical order under each author's last name. Because ancient and medieval authors usually do not have a last name, you should generally list them under their first name.

- 3) Each entry should be single-spaced within the entry. It should be separated from the next entry by a blank line. Information within in each citation is separated by periods.
- 4) The first line of each entry should begin at the left margin. Each subsequent line should be indented spaces from the left margin.
- 5) When listing more than one item by the same author, it is not necessary to write the author's name twice so long as the author's name has been printed in exactly the same way for each work (which is not always the case). For each subsequent reference in the bibliography, type five dashes and a period to begin the entry. Some of the examples of bibliography mentioned below.

### **9.5.1 Primary sources :**

Primary sources are the pieces of evidence that historians use to learn about people, events, and everyday life in the past. Just like detectives, historians look at clues, through evidence, and reach conclusions. Diaries, letters, certificates of birth, death, or marriage, deeds, contracts, constitutions, laws, court records, tax records, census records, wills, inventories, treaties, report cards, medical records, passenger lists, passports, visas, naturalization papers, and military enlistment or discharge papers can be considered as primary sources.

- Letters
- Memoirs
- Court Writings
- Private Records
- Government documents
- Newspaper Article
- Records of the Historical Families and Private Papers
- Interview
- Questionnaire
- Maps and Photo Copies

#### **I. Files from Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai**

Educational Department Files of Government of Bombay.

E. D. Vol. No. 1, Compilation- 35, 1825.

E. D. Vol. No. 2, 1826.

E. D. Vol. No. 3, 1827.

Home Department Files of Government of Bombay.

H. D. (Spl.) File No 575, 1922.

H. D. (Spl.) File No 363 (5), 1928.

General Department Files of Government of Bombay.

G. D. Vol. No. 3/809, 1844.

G. D. Vol. No. 4/810, 1844.

## II. Official Publications

Report of The Director Public Instruction, 1857-1858, Bombay, Published in 1859.

Selections from the records of The Bombay Government No. CXXXII, New Series, Poona, 1873.

## III. Newspapers And Periodicals

*Nibandhmala*(Marathi) (1974 to 1978)

*Deenbandhu* (Marathi)(1877 to 1879)

*Dinmitra*(Marathi) ( 1888)

*Subodh Patrika*(Marathi) (1867 to 1868)

### 9.5.2 Secondary Sources

#### I. Books

Agarkar Gopal Ganesh, *NivdakLekhvaDongaritulTurungatil Amache 101 Divas*(in Marathi),SamanvayPrakashan, Kolhapur, 2012.

Dr. Ambedkar B. R., *TheBudha and His Dhamma*, Oxford University Press,

Ayer A. J., *Voltaire*, Faber and Faber, London 1988.

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- 2) Dr. C. George Boeree, *The Ancient Greeks, part one: The Pre-Socratics*, [webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/greeks.html](http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/greeks.html), date-13/09/2013, 02.02pm.
- 3) [http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp\\_content/library\\_and\\_information\\_science/social\\_science\\_information\\_systems/09.reference\\_sources\\_\\_\\_bibliographies,\\_indexes\\_and\\_abstracts/et/2158\\_et\\_m9.pdf](http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp_content/library_and_information_science/social_science_information_systems/09.reference_sources___bibliographies,_indexes_and_abstracts/et/2158_et_m9.pdf)

#### 9.5.4 Other component of Bibliography

##### Abbreviations

An abbreviation (from Latin brevis, meaning short) is a shortened form of a word or phrase. It consists of a group of letters taken from the word or phrase. For example, the word abbreviation can itself be represented by the abbreviation.

Some examples of abbreviations

art. - article

cat. - catalogue

cf. - compare

ed. - edited by, editor

edn - edition

e.g. - for example

etc. - and so forth, and so on

ibid. - in the same place

i.e. - that is

ISBN - Inter National Standard Book Number

n.d - no date of publication

n.p - no place of publication

op.cit -in the work cited, such as a publication referred to earlier, but not in the immediately preceding footnote.

p. - page

pp - pages

trans - translated by, translator

viz - that is to say, namely

vol - volume

### **9.5.5 Appendices**

An appendix or appendices (more than one item) is information that is not essential to be mentioned findings in the essay or report that you have written. Appendices are used when the incorporation of material in the body of the work would make it poorly structured or too long and detailed. Along with above mentioned component there are many other things related with research that can be a part of Bibliography such as charts, tables, maps, glossary, photos etc. used widely for teaching learners of all ages. For adult learning focused on employability and experiential learning programs, technical aids are essential.

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## **9.6 SUMMARY**

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Academic institutions and scientific publications demand references for all sources used in the course of writing. Bibliographies can organize citations in a helpful manner and make it possible to find relevant information quickly. The best bibliographies provide subject grouping to give some indication of the schema of the discipline with a keyword index for quick access. The need of bibliography is to organize information about materials on a given subject so that students of the subject may have access to it.

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## **9.7 QUESTIONS**

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- 1) Explain the importance of citation with its various methods.
- 2) Describe the referencing methods and care to be taken while referencing the source.
- 3) What are the components of bibliography?

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## 9.8 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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## SOURCES FOR ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY

### Unit Structure :

10.0 Objectives

10.1 Introduction

10.2 Archaeological sources

10.3 Literary sources

10.4 Miscellaneous Literature

10.5 Accounts of foreign travelers

10.6 Summary

10.7 Questions

10.8 Additional Readings

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### 10.0 OBJECTIVES

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After going through this unit, the student will be able to

- 1) Understand the nature and types of the sources for Ancient History
- 2) Explain the archaeological and literary sources of ancient Indian history
- 3) Explain the nature of the sources for ancient Indian history

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### 10.1 INTRODUCTION

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The historical writings need resources for the reconstruction of the past. The presence of historical evidences make history different than literature. The various cultures and civilization left archeological and literary sources with the passage of time. The source material is the essential part of history writing. The ancient history sources can be categorized into archaeological and literary sources. Archaeological sources can be classified into inscriptions, coins and monuments.

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## 10.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

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The archaeological sources played an important role in constructing the history of a region. The archaeological source improved our awareness about past and also provided important materials, which we could not have been obtained in literary source. Epigraphy and Numismatics are the important branches of the study of history which has greatly enhanced the understanding of India's past.

### **Inscriptions**

Inscriptions are of great value for the reconstruction of the ancient Indian political history. These inscriptions being engraved on stones or metals are authentic as they are free from tampering. The inscriptions contain various subjects. They include religious matters, decrees of rulers, records of conquests, sale or gift of land by various rulers to individuals or religious institutions, description of achievements etc.

### **Importance of the inscriptions**

The inscriptions containing the edicts of the Mauryan Emperor, Ashoka, engraved on rocks and pillars had been discovered from beyond the Indus in the west to the Mysore plateau in the south. The discovery of these inscriptions indicates the geographical extent of the Mauryan Empire during Ashoka. They contribute largely to our knowledge of the history of that period. The inscriptions of the post-Ashokan period may be broadly divided into two categories -official and private. The official records, in most cases are prashastis (eulogies) which were intended to praise the personal qualities and military achievements of the rulers. The inscription has been one of the chief sources for the study of political history of ancient India.

The most important of the eulogy inscriptions are the Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta. Other Important prashasti inscriptions include, the Hatigumpha Inscription of King Kharavela of Kalinga. The Gwalior Prashasti of the great Pratihara ruler, Bhoja, the Girnar Inscription of the great Satrap Rudradaman, the Mehrauli Inscription of King Chandra, the Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II. Inscriptions also help in understanding on various aspects of administration that prevailed in ancient times.

These inscriptions include order issued by rulers' feudatory chieftains, provincial governors, or any high officials granting state lands or assigning a part of the state revenue to religious men or institutions. They are mostly engraved in temples or images of stone or metals. They cover a wide range of subjects. They provide us information regarding dates of construction of temples, the development of architecture and sculpture and also the growth of regional languages. These inscriptions also help us in understanding different aspect of the society. Some of them throw light on political history of ancient India. The history of the Satavahana rulers

has been based mostly on their inscriptions. Similarly, the inscriptions found in the Deccan and South India have helped in the reconstruction of the political history of the Pallavas, the Cholas, the Rashtrakutas and the Pandyas.

### **Coins (Numismatics)**

Coins are the valuable source for the historical research. They can help historian in fixing chronology and influence of the particular regime. The earliest coins so far discovered are of silver and copper. Mauryan era witnessed the minting of number of coins. They are called punch-marked and cast coins because of the techniques used in making them. The cast coins were usually of copper and they were made from moulds. Post - Mauryan coins are of two types. Those issued by the Indo-Greeks and their successors of foreign-origin who followed the Mauryas in the north - western part of their empire, and those copper coins issued by local monarchical and non-monarchical states. It was only after the Greek invasion that we come across coins with the names of the kings clearly engraved on them. Thus, for the reconstructions of history of some early foreign dynasties such as the Indo-Bactrians, the Western Satraps, and the Kushanas, the Chief source is the evidence derived from the coins.

The example of the Greek coinage was followed by the Scythian (Sakas) and Parthian (Pahlavas) invaders. The coins have enabled the scholars in reconstructing an outline of their history and identify the names of quite a large number of their rulers. For the information of a number of indigenous states, both monarchical and republican which came into existence after the downfall of the Mauryan Empire, coins are the chief source.

The legends and effigies on the coins help the historian to reconstruct the religious history of the period. The gradual Indianization of the foreign invaders such as the Sakas, Pahlavas and Kushanas can be understood from their coins. These foreign invaders embraced Indian religions, either Hinduism or Buddhism and also adopted Indian names. On the reverse side of one of the coins issues by the founder of the Indo-Parthian dynasty, Gondophernes, there is a representation of Siva holding a trident. This indicates that he embraced Sivism. The coins also help the historians to understand the historical geography of the period. The locations of the republics and dynastic kingdoms could be found on the basis of the discovery of the coins. The dates recorded on the coins provide valuable information for fixing the chronology.

### **Monuments:**

The monuments include temples, stupas, monasteries (viharas), palaces, forts etc. In addition to individual monuments, there are vast remains of ancient cities. Mohenjodaro and Harappa cities produce this type of sources. In absence of literary records, the monuments play vital role in history writings. They are more authentic as there are less chances of manipulation in it. The Buddhist stupas, temples and other religious buildings greatly enhance our knowledge regarding socio-religious and

economic life of ancient peoples. The information about ancient coins and dynasties like Kushanas and western satrapas can be gathered by excavation of the sites and studying the monuments found in excavated historical sites.

Besides the monuments and their remains, sculptures, paintings, pottery and other artefacts help us in reconstructing the history and culture of ancient India. The temples, stupas and other buildings contain sculptures and relief works as well as paintings which convey a number of things. The cave paintings of Ajanta, the animal sculptures at the Buddhist stupas at Sanchi, Bharut etc. show scenes from the life of the Buddha and represent the Jataka stories. The Buddha images sculptured by the Mathura school of art as well as the Gandhara School of art help us in distinguishing their style. The Greek influence can be found in the Gandhara School of art. The South Indian temples of the Pallavs, Chola, Chalukya and Pandya period are full of sculptures that help us in understanding the artistic achievements of the ancient Indian sculptors and artists.

Artefacts of different kinds also help us in reconstructing the history and culture of ancient India. The artefacts include ornaments, beads, terracotta figurines, toys, tools, weapons, relic caskets, vessels, ivory work etc. These artefacts while manifesting the artistic skills of the ancient people also help in having an insight into their social, economic, political and religious life. The large variety of historical treatises and a number of other facts testify to the historical sense among the ancient Indians.

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### **10.3 LITERARY SOURCES**

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The literary sources to reconstruct Ancient Indian history can be classified between two broad categories 1) The Religious literature and 2) Secular Literature. These categories can be divided further into number of heads given below.

#### **10.3.1 Religious Literature - Hindu Religious Texts**

##### **Vedas**

The Hindu texts are found in the Sanskrit language. The Vedas occupy the prime place among the Sanskrit sources of ancient Indian history. The Vedas are also known as Samhitas. The Rig Veda helps us in understanding the social, economic, religious, philosophical, administrative and literary history of the Aryans.

##### **Vedanga**

There are six vedangas - Shiksha: how to pronounce the Vedic prayers in proper manner. Kalpa: rules to perform sacrifice in a proper manner. Vyakaran: to know the proper grammar of Sanskrit language. Nirukta: Etymology of words, mentioned in the Vedas. Chanda: various meters in which Vedic shlokas are structured to recite. It comprised of Gayatri meter

(chanda), Anushtubha meter (chanda) etc. Jyotish : It deals with proper time (Shakun) on which sacrifices should be performed. It also discusses the subjects of astronomy like Sun, Moon.

### **Upanishads**

These were created to teach the learning of Vedic spiritualism, comprising the subject like, knowledge of one's self, knowledge of God, relations between self and God, creation of Universe, our place in such a vast Universe, etc.

### **The Smritis**

The Smritis, like Sutra, are the books of norms, codes, rules, regulations to consolidate and reconstruct Vedic religion. These were written by various writers, like, Manu, Narad, Parashar, Yadnyavalka etc. Hence, we find many smritis on their name, e.g. Manu-smriti, Narad-smriti etc.

### **Puranas**

The traditions preserved in ancient Indian literature notably the Puranas form the main source of information for the history of the earliest period. The Puranas also contain chapters on philosophy, music, painting, architecture and fine arts, literature, social history, and politics. The Puranas help us in rebuilding the history of ancient Indian geography in which we come across the names of a number of cities which existed in their times.

### **Epics**

The Ramayana and the Mahabharata with multiple episodes help us in understanding different aspects of life during that period. It also signifies the Aryan expansion towards the south. The Mahabharata is probably the longest single poem in the world's literature. The epics throw light on the political and social conditions of the people during the period of their composition.

### **The Sangam literature**

The Sangam literature gives us information regarding early history of south India. The Sangam means an assembly. The body of Sangam literature comprised of the poems, presented in three assemblies, by Tamil poets. These poems were actually collected by the poets, from various eco-regions in southern India. Thus, these are basically folk-lore, compiled by urban poets. The important works are Shilappadikaram, Manimekhalai, Pattupattu etc.

### **Buddhist Religious Texts**

The Pitakas comprised of three compilations, viz. Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, Abhidhamma Pitaka and together they are known as 'Tri-Pitakas'. The Vinaya- Pitaka was compiled by Upali and comprised of five books. These were basically created to provide codes of conducts for Monasteries, Bhikus, Bhikkunis, their daily routine, ethics etc. It has parts like Sutta-vibhanga (origin of codes regarding Bhikkus), Khandaka (rules regarding entry into monastery and admissions etc) and Parivar. The

Sutta-pitaka compiled by Ananda. The Sutta Pitaka is a collection of the religious discourses of the Buddha; the Abhidamma Pitaka is an exposition of the philosophical principles on which the Buddhism is built up.

### **Jatakas Tales**

The Jatakas are the compilation of the stories regarding previous births of Buddha. To solve the problems of his followers, Buddha devised a beautiful method to tell the stories from his own-experiences that of his previous births, and, the skeptic or problem follower drew answers from these stories. These were the Jatakaas who throw light on India during 6th c. BC.

### **Dipvamsha and Mahavamsha**

These Buddhist works are of Shri Lankan origin. They inform us about Ashokathe Mauryan Emperor and various Buddhist scholars.

### **Divyavadan**

This Buddhist work is of Nepali origin. It tells Buddhist stories and throws light on northern dynasties, from Mauryan kings to Shunga period. The Buddhist literature also comprised of other important works, like, Ashvaghosha's Buddha-Charit (biography of Buddha); Mahavastu, Lalitvistar, etc.

Milind Panha (discussion between BhikkuNagsen with king Milind (Menander)

Milinda Panha (Questions of King Milinda) contains the conversation between the Indo-Greek King, Menander (Buddhist turned Greek king ) with the Buddhist teacher, Nagasena. This work discusses a number of problems and disputed issues of Buddhism.

Bhadrabhahu Charita :The Bhadrabhahu Charita makes a reference to a number of events in the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.

### **10.3.2 Secular Literature**

In a broader sense the secular literature can be classified as (a) Biographies (b) Dramas (c) Local Chronicles and (d) Miscellaneous Literature.

**Biographies:** Certain writers in ancient Indian adopted the lives of their royal patrons as the theme of their literary works. This category of secular literature includeBuddhacharita written by Asvaghosa, which gives an account of the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha. Banabhatta, the great master of the Sanskrit prose wrote the Harshacharita, the biography of king Harshvardhan.

### **Local Chronicles:**

Rajatarangini (The River of Kings) of Kalhana, written in 1149-50 A.D. is the most famous among the local chronicles. Kalhana collected the material from the existing sources to write this historical work of great

importance. Kalhana's example was followed by other writers of Kashmir who continued his chronicle. Kalhan was an unbiased historian who, for writing history, utilized large body and variety of sources. He undertook field-work and traveled through Kashmir. During his travel, he collected oral traditions and interviewed local people. Thus, based on literary sources and oral tradition and through extensive field-work, he wrote 'Rajatrangani'. His work shows his love of Kashmir and respect of his patron king.

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## 10.4 MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE

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The Most important among them is Kautilya's Arthashastra. It is an invaluable source for the understanding of Mauryan political economy and administration. It gives a vivid account of the composition and function of the council of ministers, duties of other government officials, public finance, municipal government of towns and cities, taxation, law, punishments, army, slavery, women's right to property, divorce, gambling, alcoholic drinks, spies etc. Panini's great grammar titled Ashtadhyayi (Eight Chapter), composed towards the end of the 4th century BC.)

### **Drama**

The famous dramas of Kalidasa, especially Shaktuntla gives useful information about the social life of the people in ancient times. Mudra-rakshas is written by Vishakhadatta. The drama deals with one incident concerned with Chanakya (the prime minister of Chandragupta Maurya) and Rakshasa (Amatya of Dhanananda). The play gives information on Chanakya's politics, espionage and the foundation of Mauryan Empire. Mrichcha-katika is written by Raja Shudrak which sheds light on economical affluence of ancient India, the prostitutes and respect to them in society, the social structure etc. This drama revolves around the love between one poor Charudatta and beautiful Ganika (prostitute) Vasantasena. It also gives passing reference on people's revolt against unjust king. Malvika-agnimitra play was written by Kalidasa, great poet and dramatist during Gupta period. The subject of the drama is the love between one Malvika and Agnimitra, brave king of Shunga dynasty. The dramas, Naganada, Ratnavali, Priyadarshika were written by king Harshavardhana. These reflect upon socio-economic condition and religious outlook during his reign.

### **Ashtadhyayi and Mahabhashya**

Ashtadhyayi deals with Grammar, written by Panini. It throws light on social churning of 6th century BC. Similar work is Mahabhashya, written by Patanjali, informs us about social condition during Early Historic period.

### **Charak-samhita and Sushrut-samhita**

These works inform us about medical sciences during Ancient India and considered as the basis of Ayurveda-branch of medicines.

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## 10.5 ACCOUNTS OF FOREIGN TRAVELERS

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Accounts left by the foreign travelers form an important source of ancient Indian history. They supplement Indian sources. Some of these are of great importance and valuable. The foreign travelers writing is very important as they had not to write please anyone.

### **The Greeks Travelers**

#### **Megasthenes**

He was the ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, posted in the court of Chandrgupt Maurya. In his work, 'Indica', he gives description of the layout of Pataliputra, like, a big city fortified with bastions and gateways with one huge royal palace. He also touches upon social structure, caste-system, caste-relations etc. It should be noted that the original Indica is lost. However, the travelers, who came into India after Megasthenes, have referred Indica and quoted it.

#### **Peryplus of the Erythraean Sea**

This travelogue is an anonymous work, presumed to be written by one fisherman on Egypt coast. The work gives us impartial and objective information on the Indo-Roman trade during Early Historic period. It informs us about the ports on India's coast-line, trade-centers in India, the trade-routes-connecting trade centers and ports, distance between centers, the list of items-of-trade, the annual volume of trade, the rates, types of ships etc.

### **Chinese travelers**

#### **Fa-Hien (337-422 AD):**

This Chinese traveler visited India during Gupta period. He was a Buddhist monk, visited India to seek knowledge from Dev-bhumi (i.e. India) and visit Buddhist pilgrimage centres. On the basis of his three years of travel, he has written, in his chronicle 'Records of Buddhistic Kingdoms', on society and culture of North India, besides, various factors in Gupta administration.

#### **Hiuen-Tsiang (YuwanSwang) (602-664 AD)**

This Chinese Buddhist monk, against all odds, visited India during Harshavardhana's reign. He visited Buddhist pilgrimage centers, stayed at Nalanda University and studied Buddhism, gone through original Buddhist works, collected original manuscripts and mementos, made copies, attended Harsha's assembly and after 15 years of travel throughout India, returned to China in 645 AD. In China he wrote his account as 'Si-Yu-Ki' (Great Tang Records on the Western Regions). This chronicle gives vivid description of what he had witnessed in India. He gives information of kings especially Harsha and his generosity, people and customs of various regions in India, life-ways etc. He has thrown light on the habits and nature of Maharashtrian people in his writings.

### Arab Accounts

The great Arab travelers, geographers and historians came to India from the 8th Century ad onwards. The most famous of the early Muslim writers was Al-Beruni, a man of versatile intellect and scholar of Sanskrit and a contemporary of Sultan Mahmud Ghazni. He followed Mahmud's invasions, and wrote the Tarikh-i-Hind in 1030 A.D., which is a mine of information regarding India and her people. In many respects Tarikh-i-Hind is considered as the most rational and comprehensive account of India ever written by a foreigner until modern times.

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### 10.6 SUMMARY

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The presence of historical evidences make history different from literature. The ancient history sources can be categorized into archaeological and literary sources. Archaeological sources can be classified into inscriptions, coins and monuments. The literary sources for the study of ancient Indian history and culture may be divided into two major categories. The literary sources to reconstruct Ancient Indian history can be classified between two broad categories-the Religious literature and secular Literature. The foreign accounts are also one of the reliable sources to understand the ancient Indian history.

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### 10.7 QUESTIONS

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1. Describe the various archeological sources for the study of ancient Indian history.
2. Examine the importance of numismatics and inscription for the study of ancient Indian history.
3. Briefly examine importance of literary sources in the study of ancient India.
4. What is the importance of religious and secular literature in the reconstruction of the ancient Indian history.

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### 10.8 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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- 2) D.N. Jha, *Ancient India: in Historical Outline*, ublished January 1st 2008 by Manohar Publishers (first published April 1st 1998)
- 3) Dr. Eugene D'Souza, *Ancient India*, Manan prakashan, Mumbai
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## **SOURCES FOR MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY**

### **Unit Structure :**

- 11.0 Objectives
- 11.1 Introduction
- 11.2 Literary sources for the Delhi sultanate (1206-1526)
- 11.3 Literary Sources for the Mughal Period (1526-1707)
- 11.4 Foreign Accounts
- 11.5 Archaeological sources
- 11.6 Summary
- 11.7 Questions
- 11.8 Additional Readings

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### **11.0 OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit the student will be able to

- 1) Understand the nature and types of the sources for Medieval History
- 2) Explain the archaeological and literary sources of Indian Medieval history
- 3) Explain the nature of the sources for Indian Medieval history

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### **11.1 INTRODUCTION**

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The Muslim Turks who conquered India, brought with them the art of writing history and have left a large number of chronicles. This enabled us to trace the history of India from the beginning of the Muslim conquest to the end of Muslim rule. As the chroniclers were Turks or Afghans they wrote more about the kings and court life. They wrote accounts about the monarchs who patronized them. Information available from the various literary sources is supplemented by archaeological evidences.

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### **11.2 LITERARY SOURCES FOR THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526)**

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*Chach Nama* is the earliest historical account of Arab conquest of Sindh. Originally it was written in Arabic and subsequently translated into Persian by Muhammad Ali bin Abu Bakr Kufi who dedicated it to

Nasiruddin Qubachach. "Tarikh-i-Sindh" is based on the Chach-Nama. It was written by Mir Muhammad Masum of Bhakkra about 1600'. It gives a detailed account of Sindh from the time of its invasion by Muhammad bin Qasim to the reign of Akbar.

"Tabaqat-i-Nasiri" of Minhaj-us-Siraj is an important contemporary source giving firsthand account of the conquests of Muhammad Ghori and the history of the Turkish kingdom in India upto 1260 Minhaj-us-Siraj was the chief qazi at Delhi under Sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud. "Tarikh-i-Alai or Khazain-ul-Futuh" by Amir Khusrav written in Persian. He enjoyed the patronage of several Sultans of Delhi such as Kaiqubad, Jalal-ud-din Khilji. Ala-ud-din Khilji. Qutub-ud-din Mubarak Shah Khilji and Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. Amir Khusrav was a prolific writer of prose and poetry. He was the poet laureate in 1290 The Khazain-ul-Futuh also known as the Tarikh-i-Alai is a court history of the first sixteen years of the reign of Ala-ud-din Khilji. It gives details of the Deccan campaigns of Malik Kafur but does not mention the murder of Jalal-ud-din or the defeats of the Sultan by the Mongols. Amir Khusrav has several other works to his credit. This include the "Miftah-ul-Futuh" written in 1291 describes the military campaigns of Jalal-ud-din Khilji, the Tughlaqnama traces the course of events leading to the accession of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.

Tarikh-i-Firozshahi was written by Ziauddin Barani. The Tarikh-i-Firozshahi was written about 1358. It gives us information about the Sultans of Delhi from Balban to Muhammad-bin Tughlaq and the first six years of the reign of Firoz Shah. He was not very accurate about dates. He has also not described the events in their chronological order. Fatawah-i-Jahandari by Zia-ud-din Barani was composed in the early 14th century. Barani wrote his views on government policies and the ideal code of conduct which a Muslim king should follow.

Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi by Shams-i-Siraj Afif was probably composed in the first decade of the fifteenth century. The author was a favourite of Sultan Firozshah. He has described the history of the long reign of the Sultan. He has also written about the culture of this period. His account is of great significance for the history of Sultan Firoz Tughlaq.

Fatuhat-i-Firoz Shahi was written by Sultan Firoz Shah. The meaning of the title is, "victories of Firoz Shah." It is a small book of thirty two pages from which we come to know about the Sultan's views on religion. Zafar-nama of Sharaf-ud-din Ali Yazdi also tells about the exploits of Timur. Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi of the Yahaya bin Ahmad of Sirhindi is a contemporary and authentic chronicle of the Sayyid period. It gives accurate information about dates and events. Tarikh-i-Shershahi or the Tuhfa-i-Akbarshahi of Sarwani was written during the reign of the Mughal Emperor, Akbar. Though not a contemporary account it is important for the history of the Lodi period. Makhzan-i-Afghan by Namatullah gives an account of the different Afghan tribes. It was written during the reign of Jehangir. Tarikh-i-Daudi by Abdullah is an important account for the Afghan period in India.

## Sources of Provincial History

Tarikh-i-Sindh of Mir Muhammad Masum written in 1600, Tarikh-i-Tahiri of Mir Tahir Muhammad are histories of Sindh. Tarikh-i-Rashidi by Mirza Haider Dughalat is a history of Kashmir. The Tarikh-i-Kashmir of Haider Malik gives history of Kashmir from the earliest times. For the history of Vijaynagar Empire there are voluminous accounts. The Madhuravijayam written by Gangadevi, wife of Kumara Kampan, son of Vijaynagar King Bukka I, tells about his campaigns against the Muslim Sultan of Madura. The Achutravijayam of Rajanathan describe, the happenings in the reign of Achutraya, successor of the great king Krishnadevaraya. Amuktamalyada of Krishnadevaraya is an important source for the study of policy and administration of the Vijayanagar empire.

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### 11.3 LITERARY SOURCES FOR THE MUGHAL PERIOD (1526-1707)

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There is a vast collection of rich and varied literary sources available for the study of the history of Mughal period, There are contemporary works, in Persian covering the reign of Mughal rulers from Babur to Aurangzeb. Apart from the biographies, autobiographies and chronicles there are other types of literary sources.

Baburnama or Tuzuk-i-Baburi or Waqiat-i-Babur is the autobiography of Babur the founder of the Mughal Empire in India. It reads like a novel. The style is simple and lucid. Babur was a man of literary tastes. His observations are critical. Babur has given a vivid description of India, its places, flora, fauna, climate, produce and the geographical boundaries of the country. Babur has also recorded the prevailing caste system and the other social features of the Indian society.

Gulbadan Begum wrote Humayunama, the biography of Humayun. She was Babur's daughter and Humayun's half sister. Her writings give us glimpse of court life, culture and etiquette. She has not given much attention to the details of events of Humayun's life. She has not mentioned the Battles of Chausa and Kanauj. Gulbadan Begum was held in high esteem in the court.

Tazkirat-i-Tahmasp of Shah Tahmasp was written in 1572. It is the history of Humayun's period of exile in Persia. Tarikh-i-Humayun was written by Bayazid. He was a servant of Humayun. It is important as an contemporary account. It is source of information for Akbar's reign as well.

Abbaas Khan Sarwani wrote 'Tarikh-i-Sher-Shahi. He was related to Sher Shah and worked as a mansabdar under Akbar. He gives a picture of Indo-Muslim society of the early Mughal period. Ahmad Yadgar was the author of Tarikh-i-Shahi or Tarikh-i-Salatin-i-Afghina. Tarikh-i-Akbar was written between 1578 and 1580 by Hafiz Mohammed Arif Qandhari, the officer in Akbar's revenue department. It is significant as it is the earliest

chronicle in Akbar's reign. It is a valuable account of the reign, life and personality of Akbar. It is a reliable source as its chronology is accurate. Nazamuddin Ahmad wrote the *Tabaqat-i-Akbari*. It is a general history of the Muslim rule from its beginning till the 39th year of Akbar's reign.

Abul Fazal wrote (1) *Akbarnama* in 3 volumes (2) *Ain-i-Akbar* (3) *Rugat-i-Abu-l-Fazal* (4) *Insha-i-Abu-l-Fazal*. *Akbarnama* is the main source of information for Akbar's reign. Abul Fazal met officials, state servants and family members and collected old records for information. The first volume gives the history of Akbar's ancestors from Timur to Babur and Humayun. The second and the third volumes give yearly account of Akbar's reign upto 1602. These two volumes cover every aspect of Akbar's court. The third volume of *Akbarnama* has a sub-title the *Ain-i-Akbari*. It was prepared along with the first two volumes, though it is a complete and separate work.

The *Ain-i-Akbari* contains regulations in all departments on all subjects and include besides some extraneous matter. It is a valuable and minute statistical account of his empire with historical and other notes. It gives details of Mughal administration and state policies. It covers every aspect of the history of the time. The third volume tells us about the ancestry and the biography of Abul Fazal.

The *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh* or *Tarikh-i-Badauni* was written by Abdul Qadir Badauni. The first volume is about the rule of Babur and Humayun. The second volume gives details of Akbar's rule upto 1594. The third volume is devoted to the saints and scholars who were patronised by Akbar. Badauni was a staunch Muslim and very critical of Akbar's liberal religious views. While Abul Fazal regarded Akbar as a "paragon of greatness." Badauni considered him to be a 'renegade' surrounded by sycophants. *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh* by Yahiya bin Abdul Latif is valuable account of the social conditions and material prosperity of the Moghul Age. It gives account of the discussions held in the *IbadatKhana* at Sikri. It also explains the fundamentals of the *Din-i-Ilahi*.

*Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* was an authoritative memoir of the reign of Jahangir. It is a comprehensive account of the Emperor's first eighteen years of rule. Jahangir's autobiography is useful in information about his personality, character and events of his reign. Imperial firmans, order and regulations issued from time to time, court life, relationship between the Emperor and his nobles, material prosperity of the Empire, famines and epidemics are also discussed in the memoirs. Jahangir has not referred to some major events like his revolt against Akbar and his marriage to Nur Jahan.

*Padshah-nama* of Muhammad Amin Qazvini was written at the instructions of Emperor Shah Jahan. It gives information of the first ten years of Shah Jahan's reign. *Shahjahan-nama* of Inayat Khan gives an account of the war of succession and Aurangzeb's accession to the throne.

*Muntakhab-ul-Lubab* was written by Muhammad Hashim alias Khafi Khan. As there was a ban on the writing of history Khafi Khan wrote it

secretly. It is a complete history of the Mughals beginning with the reign of Babur upto 1733. He has dealt with all aspects of Aurangzeb's reign, including the aftermath of his illiberal policies. The account is particularly informative about Deccan affairs. Khafi Khan was an eye-witness of the events of Aurangzeb's reign. The importance of this source is also that it was a non-official, non-commissioned contemporary account covering more than a century. Khafi Khan did not have to please any master and therefore undertook this stupendous task. He was a petty revenue officer and has written about the agrarian crises that had set in and the decline of the mansabdari and Jagirdari systems.

Apart from these biographies, official histories and chronicles there is a plethora of information available about Mughal rule from Provincial histories, diaries, royal firmans, official records, letters and other writings of the period which give valuable insight into the events of the Mughal period and help in writing the history of the era. A class of Persian literature entitled Malfuza deal with the lives and teachings of Muslim Saints and Sufis.

Padma Sunder wrote Akbar Shahi Sringar Darpan. The Kriparas Kos of Santi Chand informs us about Akbar's liberal religions views. Amar Kavya Vansavali of Ranchhod Bhatt tells the history of the Ranas of Mewar and their relations with Akbar.

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## 11.4 FOREIGN ACCOUNTS

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Accounts of foreign travellers, merchants and traders who visited India during this period also form valuable sources of information for the study of the Sultanate era. Al-Beruni came to India during one of the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni. He came from Khwarizm and stayed in India for some time. He was a great scholar Arabic and Persian. Al-Beruni was very learned, he took keen interest in varied subjects like medicine, logic, philosophy, mathematics and theology. He learnt Sanskrit. His account Tarikh-i-Hind in Arabic is a scholarly work on literature, science and religion of the Hindus. He has also described conditions in India at the time of Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions. Tarikh-i-Hind has been translated into Persian and English.

Ibn-Battuta's Kitab-i-Rehla is an important work. Ibn Battuta was born in Tangier in 1304 and died at Fez at the age of 74 years. He lived in the court of Sultan Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq. He was appointed Qazi of Delhi by the Sultan. His Rehla (Travels) throw light on the political, military, judicial and social institutions of the period. Accounts of Abdur Razzaq, the Persian ambassador to the court of Zamorin of Calicut are valuable source of information. He visited the prosperous kingdom of Vijaynagara in 1442. Nicolo Conti was an Italian traveler who came to Vijaynagar Empire in 1420. He has left a detailed account of Vijaynagar.

The Franciscan friar John of Monte Corvino and Marco Polo visited India. Marco Polo has described the flourishing maritime trade on the Indian coast. He has also written about the dress, food habits and customs of the

people. Domingo Paes was a Portuguese traveller who has left a detailed description of the Vijaynagar Empire. The Commentaries of the Great Alfonso D'Albuquerque throw light on the relations between the Portuguese and the Sultan of Gujarat. Nikitin, a Russian trader, visited the Bahamani kingdom in 1470. Edoardo Barbosa, was a Portuguese who visited Vijaynagar and has written about South India.

Travelers, merchants, adventurers and missionaries who came to India in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries enjoyed 'Mughul hospitality'. They have written accounts of their visits. Their records are of significance as one gets glimpse of contemporary India through foreign eyes. They did not have to please any master so they wrote what they saw. However their lack of knowledge of local languages and customs would have affected their perception of events and people. Their accounts are in the form of diaries, travelogues, letters to friends, official records, reports of missions etc. These records could be based on bazaar gossip also. The historian has to study their writings with great care to establish their authenticity.

The foreign accounts of the Mughal period can be divided into three different categories -(1) the European factories (2) travelogues of merchants, adventurers (3) accounts of the Christian missionaries. The various accounts of foreigners have been published by the Hakluyt Society of Great Britain. An English traveller Richard Hakluyt (1526-1616) was responsible for publishing foreign accounts of Mughal period which are of tremendous importance for historical research. The accounts of Richard Hakluyt, Sir Thomas Roe, Sir James Lancaster, Peter Mundy and many more have been published by the Society.

In the reign of Akbar, Ralph Fitch, an Englishman travelled to different parts of the country. He was in India from 1583-91. He was the first English merchant to visit Fatehpur Sikri and Agra. He has mentioned different foodgrains, cotton, cloth and other necessities easily available in different parts of the country.

Jahangir's rule witnessed the arrival of more foreigners. In 1608 William Hawking came to Agra as the representative of King James I of England. He delivered a letter to the Mughal Emperor from King James I. He was well received in the court. In 1615 another representative from the court of King James I visited Agra. The most famous mission was of Sir Thomas Roe in 1616. He stayed in India for three years and accompanied Jahangir to Mandu and Ahmadabad. His records are useful for writing socio-cultural history of Jahangir's era. However the journal of his chaplain Terry, gives more details. In 1623, the Italian traveller, Pietrio delta Valle came to Surat. He has recorded observations that there was decline in the practice of Sati. A Dutch traveller Francis Palsaert visited India and has left behind valuable account.

During the reign of Shah Jahan several foreigners visited India. In 1632 Burton and Cartwright visited Bengal and Orissa. Peter Mundy wrote about his travels from 1630 to 1634, Sebastian Manrique wrote about his stay from 1629-43. The French traveller, who came to India between the

period 1640-47 was Tavernier. Another well known Frenchmen who came to India was the physician Bernier. They have written detailed and valuable accounts of their visits.

For Aurangzeb's apart from the accounts of Tavernier and Bernier, there are other valuable foreign accounts. The Italian NicoloManucci wrote his famous work *Staria da Mogor*. He was in India for a considerable length of time, from 1658 to 1708. In 1666, a Frenchmen Jean de Thevenot, visited Surat. He stayed in India till 1684. He wrote not only about the people but also about the flora and fauna. In 1695 an Italian GamelliCareri attended the court of Aurangzeb in the Deccan. From a study of these literary sources, both indigenou and foreign, it is possible to write the history of Medieval India. Archaeological sources like coins, monuments and ruins supplement the information available from literary sources.

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## 11.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

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The Medieval rulers paid great attention to the art of sculpture. The salient features of Sultanate and Mughal were massive and extensive buildings, domes, tall minars etc. The Vijaynagar and other Hindu buildings was characterized by vastness, majesty and sublimity. Both the architectural style influence each other.

The Monuments: The monuments of Medieval India are indispensable aid to the proper understanding of the artistic, cultural and even economic history. Sultan Qutubud-din-Aibak constructed the famous Quwat-ul-Islam mosque at Delhi, the Dhai-Din ka Jhoupra at Ajmer and the Qutub Minar at Delhi. Balban built the Red Palace. Alauddin-Khalji built the Jamait Khan Masjid at the shrine of Nizam-ud-din-Auliya and the famous Ali Darwaja at the Qutub Minar. The Tughluq's erected the tomb of Tughluq Shah, the city of Tughluqabad and Kuffa Firoz Shah. Sikandar Lodi also built Moth Ki Masjid. There are several other like architectures scattered in many provinces like Multan, Bengal, Gujrat, Malwa, Jaunpur, Kashmir and Dakhin also helped us to form a comprehensive idea about the history of the Sultanate period of India.

### Coins

The coins and monuments are important sources for the construction of the history medieval period of India. The Sultans were great lovers of architecture. The architecture which the Turkish conquerors of India brought in this land in the last decade of the twelfth century was not exclusively Muslim or even Arabian. Rather their buildings had the influence of indigenou art traditions.

Medieval India Coinage saw a phase of experimentation under the regime of Muhammad Bin coins in abundance. These coins were characterized by fine calligraphy and a number of fractional denominations. Another remarkable mention in the history of Medieval coins of India is during the rule of Sultan of Malwas. A fascinating note about the Malwa coinage is that they carry many different mintmarks.

Coinage under Emperor Sher Shah Suri saw a refreshing transformation. He minted and issued a huge number of new silver coins which was later known as dam. He fixed a rate for the copper and silver coins and abolished all old and mixed metal currency coins. All his exemplary and innovative ideas improved convenience in trading considerably. It was when Akbar came to power under the Mughal administration that Rupee came into existence, making it the primary highlight of Medieval coins in India. Khwaja Abdus Samad Shirazi was appointed as the head of the imperial mint at Delhi in 1577 as the emperor made strategies to reform of the coins and currency of his times. All the coins of various metals like Rupee (silver), Jalali (square shaped silver), Jital (copper), Ilahi (gold) Shahanshah (large gold) were known for its 'purity of metal, fullness of weight and artistic execution'. Akbar laid strong scientific foundation for coinage, and his work has been highly regarded by modern numismatists.

This rupee minus its inscription was even retained by the English East India Company up to 1835. The coins of Vijayanagar Empire were extremely popular and even set a prototype of generations of coinage. The general pattern of the coin had the Ruler's picture on one side and his name on another. The script used by these coins was mainly Devanagiri. The Shahrukhi standard was adopted by both Humayun and Akbar (in his initial years). The Shahrukhis are thin broad pieces of silver with Kalima and the names of the first four caliphs on obverse and the king's regnal titles with date and mint place on the reverse. The mint names on the reverse help indicate the extent of each emperor's actual domains.

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## 11.6 SUMMARY

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The historical sources of medieval India can be categorized into literary and archeological sources. They provide a good deal of insight and knowledge about the conditions of those times-art and architecture, history and literature, agriculture and industry, commerce and trade, culture and civilization, philosophy and religion etc. In fact available sources cover almost all areas of socio-economic life. The literary works of Persian and Arab people are the most important sources of history of the medieval period including Sultanate and Mughal period.

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## 11.7 QUESTIONS

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- 1) Explain the nature of the sources for Medieval Indian History.
- 2) Examine the literary and archaeological sources of the medieval history of India.

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## 11.8 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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- 1) Raychaudhari T. and Irfan Habib, (ed), The Cambridge Economic History of India, London, 1982.
- 2) Dr. Eugene D'Souza, Medieval India, Manan Prakashan, Mumbai, 2004
- 3) The New Cambridge History of India: The Marathas 1600-1818, Stewart Gordon, Oxford University press, 1998.
- 4) Ishwari Prasad, History of Mediaeval India, the Indian press (publications) Allahabad
- 5) Satish Chandra, Medieval India: From Sultanat to the Mughals, Delhi, 1999.



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## **SOURCES FOR MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN HISTORY**

### **Unit Structure:**

12.0 Objectives

12.1 Introduction

12.2 Mumbai Archives Records

12.3 Records at National Archives of India, New Delhi:

12.4 Contemporary Historical writings

12.5 Summary

12.6 Questions

12.7 Additional Readings

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### **12.0 OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit, the student will be able to

- 1) Understand the nature and types of the sources for Modern Indian History
- 2) Explain the nature and types of the sources for Contemporary Indian history
- 3) Explain the nature of the Archives Records in archives

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### **12.1 INTRODUCTION**

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There is various kind of source material for constructing the history of modern and contemporary history of India. There is plenty of information available on the political, socio-economic and cultural developments in the country. The records of the East India Company give a detailed account of trading conditions during this period. The official records cover all levels of administration, from the district to the supreme government, apart from those relating to the Court of Directors and the Board of Control. The British Crown, when it took over the reins of administration, also kept a large variety and volume of official records. The records of the Portuguese, Dutch and French companies are useful for constructing the history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The primary sources can be classified into the following categories: Contemporary Records, Confidential Reports, Public Reports and Government Documents. These kinds of records can be found in archives whereas the historical account

written by historians with the help of primary records can be considered as secondary records.

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## 12.2 MUMBAI ARCHIVES RECORDS

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The Records are divided into following Section

Records of factories and residencies

The Factory Records, as the name indicates, are records of the commercial establishments of the East India Company in Western India from Sind in the North to Tellicherry on the Malabar Coast. When the East India Company started their business in the East, their places of business were known as 'Factories'. Surat was their Headquarter or Chief Factory in the Western India. Factory also included Commercial Residency. Residency Records mainly register the business transactions of the Company, but incidentally refer to Political events in the country.

### **Public (general) department**

#### **1) Public Department**

The Department dealt with subjects of public interest – construction of roads, public buildings, medicine, weights and measures, etc. Military and Commercial Departments formed part of this Department before they were separated in 1805. It also dealt with ecclesiastical matters till the Ecclesiastical Department was placed under Secretary, Military Department in September 1860.

#### **2) General Department**

In 1821, the Public Department having been shown of many important functions, its name was changed to "General Department" and the Department dealt with subjects like Local Self-Government, scientific, medical and sanitary matters, conduct of public servants, etc. "Public Works" remained part of the General Department till its separation in 1860. Railway scheme was considered in this Department between 1844 and 1848. Proceedings relating to plague after 1910, formed part of the proceedings of the General Department Records of this Department relate to progress reports and mortality returns of bubonic plague, medical inspection of persons coming into Mumbai by sea, rail or road, medical inspection at railway stations for bubonic plague, suggestions, reports from the plague commissioners, question whether vaccination confers immunity against plague and other germ diseases, rules governing inspection of persons arriving by sea at Ports other than Mumbai, measures for preventing introduction of plague into coast ports by native craft, orders issued by the District Magistrates.

### **Secret and political department**

Secret and Political Department (Now known as General Administration Department) formed under the orders of the Court of Directors contained in their letter of 5th April 1754. Proceedings of this department

commenced from 10th March 1755. The subjects dealt with by this Department were mostly of political nature, viz. correspondence with Residents at Foreign Courts, transactions with Foreign Nations and country powers, military affairs, etc. The Descriptive Catalogue of the Secret and Political Department Series (1755 to 1820) has been published in 1954, and the same is useful for Research Scholars desirous of doing research in these records.

### **Revenue department**

This Department mainly dealt with matters of survey settlements, land alienations, khoti and khoti villages, boundary disputes, forests, etc. The observations cover the entire ground of revenue administration, the different tenures obtaining in the country, the rights of Government over the produce of the land, ancient village officers and their relation with the people, survey and assessment and general village economy. They form a valuable commentary on the revenue administration of the Presidency.

### **Judicial Department**

Matters pertaining to Law and Regulations were to be dealt with in this Department. Some of its subjects formed part of the Political and Legislative Departments till 1920, though in 1907 the Legislative Department was separated from the Political Department. The Home Department now deals with police civil and criminal justice, maintenance of peace and order, jails, etc. besides dealing with matters relating to Political Activities, Public Security, Communal Organizations, Obscene Literature, Military and Political intelligence.

### **Financial department**

This Department (Now known as Finance Department) dealt with matters of financial interest such as trade, commerce, banking, mint, public receipts and expenditure, etc. Matters connected with the Mumbai Mint formed part of the Financial Department; from 1830 the proceedings relating to Mint were separately maintained till they were incorporated again in its parent Department in 1837. Between 1849 and 1860 "Railway" formed part of the Department till it was transferred to Public Works Department in 1860.

### **Marine and forest department**

In consequence of the great increase of business of a miscellaneous nature in the Public Department, the Government of Mumbai separated the correspondence relating to the Marine and control of Forests into a distinct Department. The Proceedings commenced from 2nd January 1818.

### **Mint department**

The matters connected with the Mumbai Mint formed one of the subjects of the 'Financial Department'. In 1830 it was considered advisable to record the proceedings separately, for the convenience of reporting to the Court of Directors the progress of the New Mumbai Mint which was then

under construction. But later at the suggestion of the Secretary, Finance Department the proceedings were commenced to be incorporated in the proceedings of the Finance Department from 1st January 1837. In 1876 the Government of India assumed charge of the Bombay Mint.

### **Public works department**

Up to 1855, the proceedings connected with public works formed part of the proceeding of the General Department. In 1860 the Public Works Department became a separate Department with the Chief Engineer as its Secretary. This Department was concerned with matters of construction of roads and bridges, maintenance of Government buildings, hospitals schools, irrigation, etc.

### **Irrigation and power department**

As a Secretariat Department, the Irrigation and Power Department is concerned mainly with matters relating to : (a) irrigation and canals drainage and embankments, water storage and water power and tube wells for irrigation purposes, (b) investigation, preparation and execution of irrigation, hydro-electric and multipurpose projects, (c) preparation, execution and operation of projects for water supply and drainage when required to be done by Government agency, (d) management of completed irrigation projects, (e) administration of Irrigation Acts and betterment levies and the levy of irrigation Acts on areas commanded by projects, (f) flood control works, (g) schemes for improvement of water-logged area, (h) research in engineering, and (i) inter-State river water disputes. At present the Department is known as 'Irrigation Department' only.

### **Educational department**

The Educational Department was created in 1860 and formed part of the old General, Educational and Marine Department. It dealt with primary education and secondary and collegiate education. As the work of the Department increased the General & Educational Department was bifurcated into Education and Industries Department and Health and Local Self Government Department in 1947. The Education Department began to deal with matters relating to education, museums, research institutes, libraries, universities, ancient monuments, manuscripts, etc.

### **Law (and foreign) department**

These records are filed under the heading of "Law Department" only. The correspondence contained in the Records deals with establishment, staff salaries and Rules and Regulations for the Recorder's Court in Mumbai Presidency. It is also seen from the letter, dated 7th January 1824 from the Court of Directors that the Supreme Court of Judicature with Civil and Criminal jurisdiction was established at Mumbai abolishing thereby Recorder's Court. The Supreme Court was to consist of Chief justice who was to take rank after the Governor and two other judges who were to take rank after the members of the Governor's Council. Sir Edward West was appointed as Chief Justice on an yearly salary of Rs.52,200 and Messers.

## **Miscellaneous**

The Records which are not covered under Factory and Residency Records, and Secretariat (Departmental) Records can be considered as 'Miscellaneous Records'. These records consist of the proceedings of many interesting old bodies and institutions, Political Missions, Committees appointed for administrative matters, records of subordinate officers and a few miscellaneous registers and returns. These records are as follows:

### **Records of the Historical Families and Private Papers**

The State of Maharashtra is rich in archival material. The ancestors of a number of old families in Maharashtra played an important role in the history of Maharashtra. Many historical families have in their possession voluminous record depicting the velour of their ancestors. Family legends imperial and royal deeds, public and private correspondence, and state papers in possession of the descendants of men once high in authority, law suits and law decisions, account papers and manuscripts of every description in Persian and Modi bring to light unknown events in the history of a country. During last forty years, efforts have been made by the Directorate of Achieves to search and collect such private records in possession of old families. These records are preserved for posterity. They are indexed or catalogued and made available for research to scholars and students.

### **Printed Records, Maps and Photo Copies**

Mumbai Archives has a collection of good number of printed records in the form of volumes and books. The old publications consist of Printed Abstracts of Proceedings, Government Gazettes, Reports of various Department, Offices, Commissions and Committees, Acts, Rules and Orders issued by the Government, Civil Lists and numerous Government Publications published from time to time. Three copies of each State Government publication are sent to Mumbai Archives for preservation.

### **Government Gazettes**

Bombay Government Gazettes – (1831 to 1960), Maharashtra Government Gazette – (1960 to up-to-date), Government of India Gazette – (1864 to up-to-date), Calcutta Gazettes (1793 to 1874), Central Provinces Gazettes – (1867 to 1873), Delhi Gazettes – (1846 to 1856), Punjab Government Gazettes – (1863 to 1873), Sind Official Gazettes – (1869 to 1874).

### **Printed Abstracts of Proceedings:**

1. Revenue Department (1861 to 1931) – 62 volumes.
2. Ecclesiastical Department (1864 to 1936) – 73 volumes.
3. Educational Department (1863 to 1931) – 108 volumes.

4. Financial Department (1861 to 1931) – 81 volumes.
5. General Department (1861 to 1932) – 74 volumes.
6. Judicial Department (1861 to 1920) – 192 volumes.

#### **Newspapers and Periodicals :**

Bombay Chronicle (1825 to 1959), Bombay Courier (1797 to 1846), Bombay Telegraph and Courier (1847 to 1861), Bombay Times (1838 to 1859), Bombay Gazette (1809 to 1914), Bombay Darpan (Marathi) (1832 and 1834), Maratha (1913 to 1925), Poona Observer (1852-53, 1861-62, 1876-1915), Kesari (Marathi) (1900 to 1931, 1962 to 1973), Navjivan (1919 to 1932), Young India (1915 to 1932), Indian Express (1955 to Dec. 2008), Blitz (1957 to 1964), Financial Express (1961 to 1964), London times, Times of India (1861 up-to-date), Maharashtra Times (Marathi) (1962 up-to-date), Loksatta (Marathi) (1960 to Dec. 2008), Sakal (Marathi) (1965 to 1968) and many others contemporary newspapers and periodicals.

#### **Maps and plan**

There are about 20,000 old maps relating to Bombay Presidency and other provinces. Survey operations started vigorously in this Province from 1820. Copies of the maps prepared from that period to date of the districts of Bombay Presidency, surrounding areas and of the Mumbai Island are found in this collection. Majority of the maps have been prepared by the Survey of India. Plans of Indian Railway Lines since the inception of Railways in India have been added to this collection.

#### **Manuscript records**

The early manuscript records deposited in the Mumbai Records consist of

- Factory and Residency Records,
- Mumbai Presidency Records
- Records of Missions, Committees, etc.,
- Dispatches from and the Court of Directors,
- Miscellaneous records, such as Selections, Selected Compilations,

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### **12.3 RECORDS AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI**

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National Archives of India is the custodian of a huge collection of public records acquired from various records creating agencies covered under the Public Records Act, 1993. These Record holdings shed light on the rule of the later Mughals, growth of the East India Company in India, colonial rule in India, Indian freedom struggle and growth and developments in post Independent India. Apart from the political and administrative history, they provide information on socio-economic

History and the scientific & technological progress of our country over the years. All these public records are accessible as per provisions contained in the Public Records Rules, 1997.

### **Cartographic Records**

National Archives of India has in its custody substantial number of cartographic records acquired from Survey of India. They are categorized as Historical Maps, Forest Maps, Revenue Maps and Printed and Published maps. All these cartographic records are accessible as per provisions contained in the Public Records Rules, 1997.

Apart from the vast bulk of Public Records and Private Papers, the National Archives has a rich and ever growing collection of Library. This has some of the oldest and rare publications on a variety of subjects, besides contemporary published material. The holdings of the Library consist of the material mentioned below :

Books & Reports, Proscribed Publications, Selections from Vernacular Native News papers, Selections from Government of India/State Government Reco, Volumes of Indian Parliamentary Papers, Volumes of Fort William College Collection, Journals & Periodicals, Gazettes, Publications in Foreign Languages.

### **Private Records**

Private Archives Section has in its custody a rich collection of private papers of eminent persons who have contributed immensely in various fields of public life in India. These papers have been acquired mainly through donations and gifts from individuals and institutions across the world. They are an important source to supplement the information contained amongst the public records. Some of the most important private papers in our custody are those of Mahatma Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad, Dadabhai Naoroji, P.D. Tandon, Maulana Azad, Minoo Masani, Sardar Patel, K.D. Malaviya, etc. All these private papers are accessible as per provisions contained in the Public Records Rules, 1997 or conditions as laid down by the donor at the time of their donation to the National Archives of India.

### **Microfilm Rolls**

The National Archives Of India, Janpath, New Delhi has a microfilm repository enriched with a vast collection of microfilm rolls acquired from abroad and microfilms prepared in-house as a back up under "Disaster Management". Under this "Disaster Management" programme, one set of information is kept away from the main storage area to ensure availability in case of loss of information due to natural calamities like fire, flood etc. or man-made sabotage, riots and unrest. This trusted medium (Microfilms) safeguards the information available on it for posterity and the life expectancy is about 500 years. The scholars consult these microfilms for their research purpose and avail of reprographic services.

This method of analog is gradually losing its significance due to swiftly emerging technology.

### **Census of India reports**

The Census Reports (1871 onwards) are a valuable and basic source on demographic studies and contain data about the population, castes, tribes, occupation etc for the use of scholars and other users.

### **Parliamentary debates**

This Collection consists of recorded proceedings of the British Parliament, which includes Questions, Proceedings relating to India as well as White Papers, Reports of Parliamentary Committees, Reports of Commissioners, Trade and Tariff relating to India etc. Some of the important Volumes in the Collection are:

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## **12.4 CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL WRITINGS**

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Ramachandra Guha is one of India's leading historians currently. The book 'India after Gandhi-the history of the world's largest democracy' by Ramachandra Guha talks about India's history after it gained independence from the British. This is the perfect book for you to understand the evolution of Modern India. Guha, a former professor and now historian, does an awe-inspiring job of making sense of India's chaotic and eventful history since independence – the partition, Nehru's socialist policies, Rajiv Gandhi's brief but impactful career, the rise of religion and caste-based politics in this book.

'The Argumentative Indian' by Amartya Sen is the collection of essays on Indian history. It is an essential read for anyone seeking to understand the foundations of Indian polity. Focusing on the traditions of public debate or argumentation and intellectual diversity in Indian civilizations of the past, Sen puts forth his views on what will determine the success of democracy in India.

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## **12.5 SUMMARY**

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There is no shortage of source material for constructing the history of modern India. There is plenty of information available on the political, socio-economic and cultural developments in the country. The sources of modern history of India were the literary sources like manuscripts, scrolls, books, important documents etc. The second would be archaeological sources and monuments and the third would be other sources like printing machine, photographs, reports, radio broadcasts etc. The sources of modern and contemporary history also include the contemporary historical writings by professional historians.

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## 12.6 QUESTIONS

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- 1) Describe the importance of archival sources in the history of modern and Contemporary India.
- 2) Examine the role of the government records in understanding the modern Indian History.

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## 12.7 ADDITIONAL READINGS

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- 1) B. Shaikh Ali, *History and its Methods*, Macmillan pub., 1998.
- 2) Grover B. L and Grover S., *A New Look at Modern Indian History*, S. Chand, 2001
- 3) McMillan J. H. and Schumander S. *Research in Education : A Conceptual Introduction Boston MA* : Little Brown and Company 1984.
- 4) Shafer R. J., *A Guide to Historical Method*, Illions : the Dorsey Press, 1974.
- 5) <http://maharashtraarchives.org>
- 6) <http://nationalarchives.nic.in>



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