

Indian History Notes

Ancient | Medieval | Modern | Freedom Struggle

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Topics Covered in this PDF:

1. Ancient India & Vedic Age
2. Delhi Sultanate & Mughal Empire
3. Freedom Struggle
4. MCQ Practice

Prepared for: SSC CGL/CHSL | IBPS PO/Clerk | UPSC | All Govt Exams

1. Ancient India

Prehistoric Period & Vedic Age

The Stone Age in India dates back to 500,000 BCE. The Vedic period (1500–600 BCE) saw composition of the four Vedas — Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. The Rig Veda is the oldest religious text in the world.

Q. What are the four Vedas?

Ans: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda

Q. Which is the oldest Veda?

Ans: Rigveda

Q. Who founded Buddhism?

Ans: Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), born in Lumbini (563 BCE)

Q. Who founded Jainism?

Ans: Vardhamana Mahavira (24th Tirthankara), born in Vaishali (599 BCE)

Q. What is the Maurya Empire known for?

Ans: First large empire in India; Ashoka spread Buddhism after Kalinga War (261 BCE)

2. Medieval India

Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)

The Delhi Sultanate was established by Qutb-ud-din Aibak. Five dynasties ruled: Slave Dynasty, Khalji Dynasty, Tughlaq Dynasty, Sayyid Dynasty, and Lodi Dynasty.

Q. Who founded the Delhi Sultanate?

Ans: Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206 CE) — Slave/Mamluk Dynasty

Q. Who built Qutub Minar?

Ans: Started by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, completed by Iltutmish

Q. Who was Alauddin Khalji?

Ans: Khalji Dynasty Sultan (1296–1316), known for market reforms and defeating Mongols

Q. Battle of Panipat 1st (1526) — between whom?

Ans: Babur (Mughal) defeated Ibrahim Lodi — Mughal Empire began

3. Modern India — Freedom Struggle

Key Events

Q. When did the British East India Company come to India?

Ans: 1600 CE, received charter from Queen Elizabeth I

Q. What was the Revolt of 1857?

Ans: First War of Indian Independence against British rule; started in Meerut on May 10, 1857

Q. When was the Indian National Congress founded?

Ans: 1885, by A.O. Hume in Bombay

Q. What was the Non-Cooperation Movement?

Ans: Launched by Gandhi in 1920 — boycott of British goods, courts, schools

Q. When did India become independent?

Ans: August 15, 1947

Q. When did India become a Republic?

Ans: January 26, 1950 — Constitution came into effect

4. MCQ Practice Set

Q. Who was the last Mughal Emperor?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Aurangzeb
- (c) Bahadur Shah Zafar
- (d) Shah Jahan

Answer: (c) Bahadur Shah Zafar

Q. The Quit India Movement was launched in:

- (a) 1940
- (b) 1942
- (c) 1944
- (d) 1946

Answer: (b) 1942

Q. Who gave the slogan "Do or Die"?

- (a) Nehru
- (b) Gandhi
- (c) Bose
- (d) Tilak

Answer: (b) Gandhi

Q. First Governor General of independent India:

- (a) Mountbatten
- (b) Rajagopalachari
- (c) Nehru
- (d) Patel

Answer: (a) Mountbatten

Q. Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred in:

- (a) 1917
- (b) 1919
- (c) 1921
- (d) 1923

Answer: (b) 1919