

## Paper IV

### HIS-UG-404: Historiography

**Objective:** The course content of this paper should be able to introduce the students to the very basic concepts that go to make up the subject matter of history. The aim of the paper is not to raise very complex philosophical issues but to enable the students to understand that the very nature of the discipline of history is rooted in some fundamental concepts.

#### Course content:

- A. Definitions of History – from the Classical age to the twentieth century; Nature of History : History as science-History as literature.
  - B. Meaning of Generalisation and Causation in History: Objectivity and Truth in History.
  - C. History and the other social sciences: Archaeology, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Political Science and Geography. Periodisation in History.
  - D. Major trends in Historiography: Brief Survey of Greek and Roman History, Herodotus; Empiricism and L.V. Ranke; Historical Materialism; A.J. Toynbee; Marc Bloch.
  - E. Trends in modern Indian Historiography: Imperialist historiography; Nationalist historiography; Marxist historiography; Subaltern historiography.
- A few Indian historians: R.C. Majumdar; Sir, Jadunath Sarkar; D.D. Kasombi.

#### Essential Reading:

- Carr, E.H., *What is History*, Penguin, London, reprinted 1990.
- Collingwood, R.G., *The Idea of History*, OUP, Madras, 1989.
- Habib, Irfan, *Interpreting Indian History*, NEHU, Shillong,
- Marwick, Arthur, *The Nature of History*, Penguin, reprinted 1993.
- Thapar, Romila, *Interpreting Early India*, OUP, Delhi, 1993.
- Webster, John C.B., *Studying History*, Macmillan India, New Delhi, 1997, nd.

#### Additional Reading:

- Sheikh Ali, B., *History: Its Theory and Method*, Macmillan, Madras, 1993.
- Jenkins, Keith, *Rethinking History*, Routledge, London, 1991.
- Phillips, C.H., *Historians of India, Pakistan and Ceylon*, OUP, London, 1967.