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Himachal PSC State Civil Service
Main Examination 2018

Revised Study Notes

GENERAL STUDIES

PAPER - I



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GENERAL STUDIES-I (200 MARKS)

UNIT-I

SUB UNIT-1

Historical perspective of Indian Cultural heritage

Literature and Art forms from ancient times to 1947 (Major structural and rock-cut temple architecture, sculptural art and major schools of paintings)

Indian culture and heritage is the only hope for vitiated humanity. Indian culture and inheritance has had lots of other commendable and extensive influences too and her ancient heritages, in this regard, deserve special mentions. This had its initiation at some stage in the *Indus Valley Civilization* and did develop to a greater extent during the Vedic era of ancient India, growth and fall of Buddhism, Golden age under the Gupta Empire, persistent intrusions from Central Asia, colonization of European powers in the later stages and certainly the glorious and colossal Indian freedom struggle. Another exclusivity of India is that her languages, chronicle of culture, religions, architecture, music and customs do differ from one place to another but above all, there does exist a commonality.

A nation that has no cultural heritage is like an orphan who has nothing to feed upon. An individual human being, a race or a nation must necessarily have certain roots somewhere. India is deep rooted in the culture of her past—the glorious past. India is a vast country, and centuries old. It is difficult to sum up her heritage in a few words. Her past has been full

of glory. She has been the birth place of many great men and women. She has given birth to many great movements in religion, art and literature. These movements have not been limited to India alone, but they have travelled to other parts of the world. The India of today has a rich past over which we can look back with pride. Our past has given us a definite way of life, which is typically Indian and yet universal in approach.

The most prominent feature of India's culture is that it combines many cultures. India is a land of great variety and many influences have worked to produce modern India. India has shown great capacity for absorbing what came to her from outside. The base of the Indian civilization was formed by the coming together of the old Indus Valley Civilization and the Aryan Civilization came from beyond the North-West frontier of India. It has been repeatedly influenced by other civilizations, though basically it has recognized the same. The Greeks, the Romans, the Scythians, the Turks, the Russians, the Arabs and the Europeans left their impression. India's capacity to

The Golden Age of Indian art The Gupta Period

The Temple sculptures reached near perfection in the Gupta period (AD 320-495) and this era was known as "The Golden Age of Indian Art". But, the temple architecture was yet to be developed. The figures of Gods and Goddesses carved during this period have liveliness and grace and are immersed in spiritual feeling. In the DASAVATRA TEMPLE at Deogarh, Hindu iconography was given a form which it possesses even to this day. Fine images of Hindu deities as well as Buddhist and Jain pantheons are found in the country's museums.