

Thematic

HISTORY OPTIONAL

FOUNDATION



MENTOR
PIYUSH KUMAR



RECENT
HISTORIOGRAPHY



THEMATIC
APPROACH



COVERAGE OF
15 YEARS PYQ



4 STAGE
COVERAGE



MICRO
DIAGRAM
INTEGRATION

25th

FEBRUARY
2025

PROGRAMME FEES

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- ❑ Get **On Demand Unlimited Mentorship** from Piyush Kumar Sir until you crack CSE.

DEMO CLASS

History Optional | Paper 1 | Ancient History | Topic Name- Sources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLynoNxkFNw&t=3015s>

CLASS NOTES

concluded as 'subordinate' of Iranians by Indo-Aryans (Kennedy) (165)

The Harappan-Aryan Relation :-

From the 2nd half of 19th century to the beginning of 20th century, the beginning of Indian History was considered as the Vedic Age but the discovery of Harappan Civilization by R.D. Banerjee at that time director of ASI John Marshall, all the older theories/hypothesis were challenged. Since Harappan civilization was developed, urbanised, civilized & better structured than the Vedic culture which was a rural culture. This brought a new debate in Indian history about relationship b/w Harappan & Aryans. This debate hinges on several factors for the 1st point of discussion it is what was the time of migration of Aryans into India? This ques led to two different schools of thought which are popularly known as

12th July 2023 (100)

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION :-

→ Bronze Age (Copper + Tin)

→ Urbanism/Urbanisation :-

- Surplus
- Secondary Economy
- Accumulation / Craft
- Trade & Commerce (Gandhara / Gilgit, Rajasthan)
- Heterogeneity
- Concept of Class
- coin
- Art & Culture
- Administrative Institutions

→ Political / Ruling Class

→ Metal

→ Urban Bronze Civilisation

→ Chronology 2500 BC

→ Copper → Early Svc

Urbanisation :-

In the present day context, 'Urbanisation' can be defined easily on certain grounds such as infrastructure, population etc but in historical context it is very tough for archaeologists to identify the urban settlements. Since beginning the archaeologists are debating on the features which identify the urban settlements.

Zoom Video Session for Doubt Clearing

K

Kiran



A

Avdesh



Shown



J

Jeram



R

Rohit



K

Kavya



S

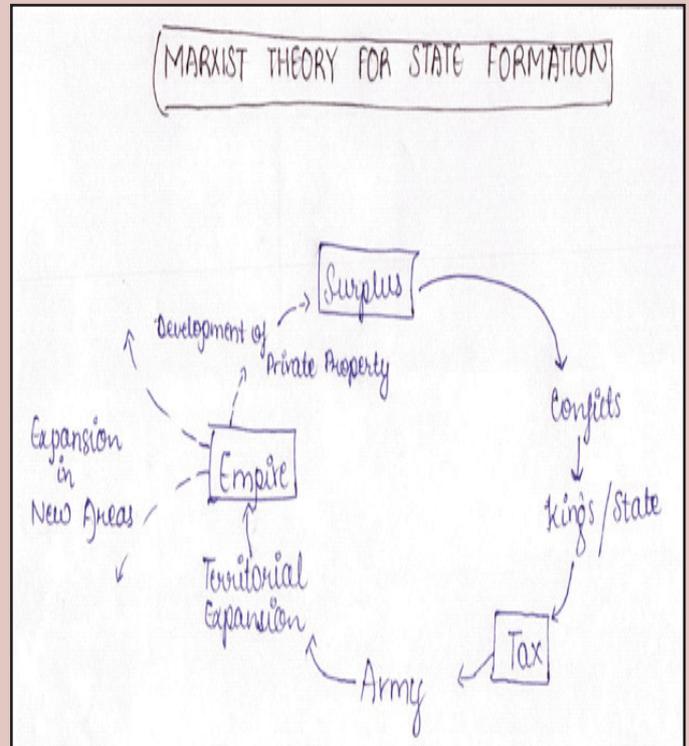
Shreya



Piyush Sir



Theme Wise Micro Diagrams



On Spot Answer Writing

HISTORY CLASS TEST

momentumias.com

Q1. The early medieval period in India was not the period of 'disintegration' only but the period of 'integration' as well. Explain. (15 Marks)

→ The early medieval period was much ignored in the academies due to the imperialist scholars not finding any change in the period. However, it has been an important period of debate in Indian history today. The different approaches developed to study this period are:

① Dark Age model - Propounded by Imperial schools based on Marx's Asiatic mode of production which favours 'changelessness', so considered the period as the Dark Age where no economic progress, no social transformation was there.

② Feudal model - Indian Marxist historians counter the "changelessness" in Indian Early Medieval period propounds that there was also a Feudalism as a core feature of the society during this period in India. The idea

Full Coverage of Mapping

PALAEOLITHIC- 1

1. BHIMBETKA

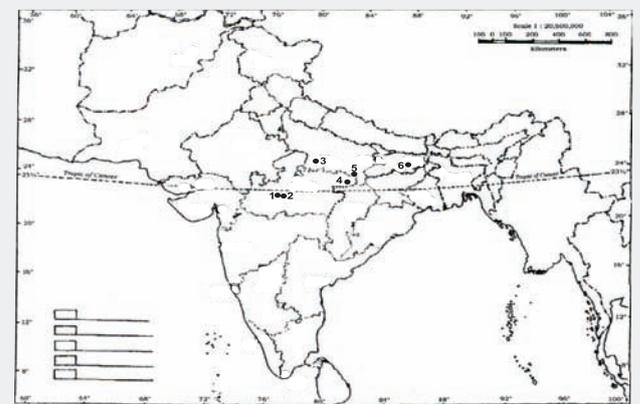
- V. S. Wakankar
- Raisen (MP)
- Pal-Meso
- 600 Caves
- Largest Collection of Rock

2. ADAMGARH

- Manoranjan Ghosh
- Hoshangabad (MP)
- Narmada River
- Pal-Meso-Neo-Chal
- 18 Rock shelters

3. KALPI

- Jalaun (UP)
- Yamuna River
- Also a PGW Site
- Oldest Human Settlement in Gangetic Plains
- Bone Tools > Stone Tools



4. BAGHOR

- Kenoyer
- Shikhi District Near Son Valley (MP)
- Middle & Upper Pal
- Mother Goddess Worship
- 600 Caves

5. CHOPANI MANDO

- Allahabad near Belan Valley (UP)
- Pal-meso-neo
- Earliest site of Domestication
- Transition- Food Gathering Society => Food Cultivation Society

6. PAISRA

- Munger (Bihar)
- Factory Site- Finished And Unfinished Stone Tools
- No Organic Remains

MICRO ANALYSIS

PAPER - I

This micro analysis covers **important areas of the syllabus** from where the **questions have been asked repeatedly over the years. It also includes the probable areas for the future which are mostly ignored.** This listing provides an **excellent input-output ratio** to mine important areas for the preparation. It reduces the vastness of the syllabus.

Sources

- Archeological (2019)
- Numismatic and epigraphy (2013,2017)
- Literary (2015,2018,2020,2021,2022)
- Foreign authors - Greek, Chinese (2014,2022)

Pre-History and Proto-History

- Map work (every year)

Indus Valley Civilization

- Sites for map work (every year)
- Origin theory of IVC
- Features of IVC – urbanization, art and architecture, religion, society (2012,2013,2017,2022)
- Location and their importance (2016)
- Decline theories of IVC (2015,2018,2021)

Megalithic Cultures

- Sites for map work (every year)
- Economy, culture, and settlement patterns (2012, 2013,2014,2017,2021)

Aryan and Vedic Period

- Sites for map work (every year)
- Sources of Vedic period and their relevance (2015,2019)
- Vedic society – difference between Rig Vedic and Later Vedic period (2016,2019)
- Vedic economy - difference between Rig Vedic and Later Vedic period (probable area for future)
- Contribution of Puranas and Smritis (2013, 2016,2020)
- Varna and Jati system (2013)
- Nature of Religion (2020,2022)
- Upanishadic philosophy (2014,2021)

Period Of Mahajanapadas

- Sites for map work (every year)
- State formation – nature, features, economy, society (2015,2016)
- Development of Urbanization between 300 BCE – 600 BCE (2020)
- Religious Movements – Buddhism and Jainism (2014,2017,2021,2022)

Mauryan Empire

- Sites for map work (every year)
- Mauryan administration (2015,2018)
- Ashoka and Dhamma (2014,2017,2019,2022)
- Nature of Mauryan state according to Arthashastra and foreign travelers' account (2013,2021)

Post-Mauryan Period (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas)

- Kushanas – Culture and Economy (2016, 2019,2022)
- Growth of different schools of art (2014,2016, 2017,2019,2021)
- Satvahanas – political, economic, and cultural outlook (2016)
- Trade and commerce during this period (2017,2018)

Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan, and South India

- Sites for map work (every year)
- Sangam literature – political, economic, social, and cultural traditions (2015,2017,2020)
- Indo-Roman trade (2012,2019)
- Role of guilds and trade organizations in the development of trade and commerce (2015)

Guptas, Vakatakas, and Vardhanas

- Gupta administration – provincial and district administrative units, decentralization (2014)
- Society – common people's lives, the status of women (2021)

- ❑ Land grant charters (2014,2019)
- ❑ Economy – monetary system, trade and commerce (2017,2022)
- ❑ Art and Architecture (2018)

Regional States During Gupta Era and Themes in Early Indian Cultural History

- ❑ Regional temple architecture (2012,2015, 2017)
- ❑ Temples of South India – the source of social and financial institution (2016)
- ❑ Rashtrakutas – temple architecture (2015, 2022)
- ❑ Cholas – local self-government (2015)
- ❑ Chalukyas of Badami and Pallavas – patronage of art

Early Medieval India, 750–1200

- ❑ Cholas – Administration, Village Economy, and Society (2012,2014,2015,2016,2018)
- ❑ Indian Feudalism – Agrarian economy, land grants, society (2014,2015,2016,2018,2021)

Cultural Traditions in India, 750–1200

- ❑ Religion – forms, and features of religion
- ❑ Tamil Devotional cult (2022)
- ❑ Growth of Bhakti and its impact on society, vernacular languages, etc. (2013,2014, 2016,2019,2021,2022)
- ❑ Arrival of Islam and Sufism in India (2014,2015, 2017)
- ❑ Synthesis of Bhaktism and Sufism (2017)
- ❑ Literature – Al-Beruni, Kalhana (2012,2014, 2016, 2017,2019,2022)
- ❑ Art and Architecture – temple architecture, sculptures, and paintings – Cholas and Pallavas, Kashmir (2012,2015, 2017,2020,2021)

The Thirteenth Century

- ❑ Battle of Tarain and Chandawar – the foundation of Turkish rule in India: causes, nature, and consequences (2018,2020,2022)
- ❑ Delhi Sultanate: Iltutmish and Balban – policies and measures (2015,2016, 2017,2021,2022)
- ❑ Mongol invasion (2012,2015)

The Fourteenth Century

- ❑ Khilji Revolution (2021)
- ❑ Alauddin Khilji – Agrarian and Economic Reforms (2014,2019,2020,2021,2022)

- ❑ Muhammad Bin Tughlaq – major projects, heterogeneous nobility (2017,2018,2020)
- ❑ Firuz shah Tughlaq – religious policy and public works (2011,2014)
- ❑ Ibn batuta's account (2011,2018)

Society, Culture, and Economy in the Thirteenth And Fourteenth Centuries

- ❑ Society (2012)
- ❑ Culture – Development of Indo-Persian literature: Amir Khusrau, Barani; Developments in Education during the Sultanate period; Technological developments (2013,2014,2016,2017,2019)
- ❑ Economy – urban economy, trade and commerce during 13th and 15th centuries, land revenue system, judicial system, new crafts (2013,2015,2017,2018,2019,2020,2021)
- ❑ Art and Architecture – new architectural designs (2018)

The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century–Political Developments and Economy

- ❑ Political developments and Economy: Bahamani kingdom, Kashmir (2013,2016,2019,2022)
- ❑ Vijayanagar Empire: polity, society, economy, segmentary state model debate, foreigner's account (2013,2014,2015,2017,2022)
- ❑ Mughal Empire: First phase – Babur and Humayun
- ❑ Sher Shah: Administration and economy
- ❑ Political and Administrative system: Mansabdari and Jagirdari system (2011, 2014,2019,2022)
- ❑ Rajput policy of Mughals (2017,2021)
- ❑ Religious policy of the Mughals (2019)

The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century–Society and Culture

- ❑ Bhakti and Sufi movement – role and significance; development of vernacular languages; effect on society and culture (2013,2014,2015,2016,2017,2019,2021,2022)
- ❑ Bhakti and Sufi saints (2013,2014,2015,2016,2017,2019, 2021,2022)

Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century

- ❑ Religious policies under Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb (2019)
- ❑ Shivaji – administration and economy; Maratha Movement (2012,2019,2020,2022)

Economy and Society in the 16th and 17th Centuries

- ❑ Role of the zamindari system in the agrarian economy of the period (2018,2021)
- ❑ Medieval village society (2012,2015)
- ❑ Mughal monetary system and urbanization (2013,2014,2019,2022)
- ❑ Evolution of Sikh and Khalsa Panth (2017, 2018)

Culture During Mughal Empire

- ❑ Literature produced during the Mughal period – Baburnama, Akbarnama (2015)

- ❑ Development of Arabic and Persian literature
- ❑ Status of Sanskrit literature and Translation in Persian (2019,2020,2021)
- ❑ Mughal Architecture – Akbar, Shahjahan
- ❑ Mughal painting (2022)

The Eighteenth Century

- ❑ Decline of Mughal Rule – factors and theories of various historians (2013,2016, 2018,2019,2021)
- ❑ Rise of regional principalities – Deccan, Bengal, Awadh (2011,2016,2021)
- ❑ Marathas – Policy of expansion, bureaucratic arrangements, Third battle of Panipat (2015,2016,2017,2022)

PAPER - II

European Penetration Into India

- ❑ Battle of Plassey (2012,2014,2016,2018,2021,2022)
- ❑ Battle of Buxar (2016,2018,2022)
- ❑ Carnatic Wars (2013,2016,2019,2020)

British Expansion in India

- ❑ Tipu Sultan and Anglo-Mysore Wars (2019,2021)
- ❑ Marathas and Anglo-Marathas Wars (2017,2021)
- ❑ Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Anglo-Sikh Wars (2015,2017,2018,2020,2022)

Early Structure of the British Raj

- ❑ Dual System of Government (2014,2018,2022)
- ❑ Regulating Act of 1773 (2015,2016)
- ❑ Charter Act of 1833 (2012,2016)
- ❑ English Utilitarian Policy (2015,2016,2021)

Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule

- ❑ Permanent Settlement (2018,2022)
- ❑ Ryotwari Settlement (2013)
- ❑ Economic impact of revenue arrangements (2018,2022)
- ❑ Commercialization of agriculture (probable area for questions)
- ❑ Impoverishment of rural society (probable area for questions)
- ❑ Deindustrialization (2012,2013,2015,2016,2021)

- ❑ Drain of Wealth (2011,2019)
- ❑ Railways (2012,2017,2019)
- ❑ Famines, Famine policy, and Poverty (2018)

Social and Cultural Developments

- ❑ Orientalist-Anglicist controversy (2011,2018)
- ❑ Introduction to Western Education (2021,2022)
- ❑ Vernacular Press (2011,2016,2017,2021)
- ❑ Role of Christian missionaries (2019)

Social and Religious Reform Movements in Bengal and Other Areas

- ❑ Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Brahm Samaj (2012,2017, 2018)
- ❑ Dayanand Saraswati and Arya Samaj (2015,2017)
- ❑ Swami Vivekananda, Neo-Hinduism and Ramakrishna Mission (2013,2014,2019)
- ❑ Social Reform Movements- Sati, Widow-remarriage, women’s organization (2019,2020)
- ❑ Caste Movements (2016,2017)

Indian Response to British Rule

- ❑ Peasant and Tribal uprisings (2011,2016,2019)
- ❑ Nature of rebellions during the 19th and 20th century (probable area for future)
- ❑ Moplah rebellion (2018)
- ❑ Santhal rebellion (2012,2020,2022)

- ❑ Indigo rebellion (2015)
- ❑ Revolt of 1857 (2011,2012,2014,2016,2020,2022)
- ❑ Nature of peasant movement during the nationalist phase (2015,2017)

Factors Leading to the Birth of Indian Nationalism

- ❑ Nature of Indian nationalism during colonial rule (2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Formation of INC and Safety-Valve theory (2014,2020)
- ❑ Social composition and policies of the early congress (2013,2014,2018,2022)
- ❑ Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi movement, and Surat split (2014,2016,2019)

Rise of Gandhi

- ❑ Popularity and Politics of Gandhi and its impact on the masses (2013,2017,2020)
- ❑ Khilafat and Non-cooperation movement—circumstances, need for the movement, effect (2014,2015,2018,2020,2021)
- ❑ Civil Disobedience Movement -factors, aims, success/failures (2013)
- ❑ Cripps Mission (2019)
- ❑ Quit India Movement (2015,2019,2021)

Constitutional Developments in Colonial India Between 1858 And 1935

- ❑ Government of India Act 1858 (2010,2021)
- ❑ Government of India Act 1919 (2014)
- ❑ Government of India Act 1935 (2013,2015)

Other Strands in the National Movement

- ❑ Revolutionary movements from 1905-1931 (2015,2017,2021,2022)
- ❑ Changing nature of the revolutionary activities between 1905-1945 (probable area for future)
- ❑ Emergence of left-wing within congress (2011,2015,2018,2020,2021)
- ❑ Radicalization of the social-economic agenda (probable area for future)
- ❑ Trade Union movement (2020,2021)

Politics of Separatism

- ❑ Events between 1942-1947 (2014,2018,2020)

- ❑ Muslim League politics between 1937-1947 (probable area for future)
- ❑ Freedom and Partition of India (2018,2020)

Consolidation as a Nation

- ❑ Nehru's Foreign policy (2011,2012,2020,2022)
- ❑ Integration of princely states (2014,2017,2021)
- ❑ Reorganization of states (2013,2018,2020)
- ❑ Planning (2016,2020,2021)

Caste and Ethnicity After 1947

- ❑ Dalit Movements (2014,2018,2021)
- ❑ Dalit consciousness (probable area for future)
- ❑ Changing nature of Dalit assertion in 20th century (probable area for future)

Economic Development and Political Change

- ❑ Land reform (2011,2013,2015,2018,2019,2020)
- ❑ Community development programs (2019)
- ❑ Panchayati Raj Institutions (probable area for future)
- ❑ Progress in science and technology (2017,2022)
- ❑ Environmental programs (2012,2016,2022)

Enlightenment and Modern Ideas

- ❑ Enlightenment ideas (2012,2014,2018,2020,2021)
- ❑ Rousseau (2011,2014,2022)
- ❑ Kant (2010,2013,2017)
- ❑ Socialism (2014,2015)
- ❑ Engel (2019,2022)
- ❑ Marx (2016,2018,2022)

Origins of Modern Politics

- ❑ American Revolution – causes, nature, changes in the world, results (2012,2014,2018,2022)
- ❑ American Constitution – factors in drafting the constitution, features (2010,2016)
- ❑ American Civil War and the abolition of slavery – causes, effects and consequences (2013,2016,2020,2021)
- ❑ French Revolution – causes, nature, effects, and results (2012,2014,2015,2016,2020)
- ❑ Napoleon Bonaparte – role, rise, and decline; continental blockade; Reforms (2010,2012,2015,2017,2019,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Revolution Of 1840's in Europe – causes and consequences (2013,2014,2019,2020,2021)
- ❑ Chartist Movement (2011,2017,2019,2021)

Industrialization

- ❑ English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on society; Reasons for occurrence of industrial revolution in England (2011,2012,2015,2017,2018,2019,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Industrialization in other countries – USA, Japan, Germany, Russia (2018; probable area for future)

Nation-State System

- ❑ Unification of Italy (2015,2019)
- ❑ Unification of Germany (2012,2014,2017,2018,2020)
- ❑ Greek War of Independence (2019)
- ❑ Decline of Turkey (2010)

Imperialism and Colonialism

- ❑ American overseas expansion in Asia and its consequences (2013,2014)
- ❑ Russo-Japanese War (2013,2014)
- ❑ Neo-Imperialism (2010,2013,2014,2015)
- ❑ Colonialism and Imperialism in Indonesia (2010,2011,2017,2019,2022)

Revolution and Counter-Revolution

- ❑ Revolution of the 1840s in Europe – causes and consequences (2015,2016,2017,2020,2021)
- ❑ Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 (2012,2013,2017,2021)
- ❑ Role of Lenin in the Russian Revolution of 1917 (2016,2020)
- ❑ Era of Stalin (2020)
- ❑ Fascism in Italy – causes, nature, effect, and consequences (2017,2022)
- ❑ Nazi aggrandizement (2011)
- ❑ Weimar Republic- successes and problems (probable area for future)
- ❑ Hitler’s foreign policy (probable area for future)
- ❑ Chinese Revolution (2010,2012,2015,2018,2021)

World Wars

- ❑ World War I- causes, consequences (2011,2012,2015,2017,2021)
- ❑ WW1 as a Total war (2017,2019)
- ❑ Problems in Europe (2011,2012,2015,2021)
- ❑ Paris Peace Treaties (2011,2016,2017)
- ❑ League of Nations – reasons for the formation and its successes and failures (2016,2019)

- ❑ Between World War I and World War II – Japanese policy with respect to Manchuria, Appeasement of Hitler, Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, Rise and growth of New European society between inter-war period, Great Depression- causes and consequences (2019,2021)
- ❑ World War II – causes, extent, consequences, division of Europe (2018,2020,2021)
- ❑ WW-II as a history’s most destructive war (2020)

The World After World War 2

- ❑ Emergence of Two Power Blocs (2014,2015,2016,2018,2019)
- ❑ Truman Doctrine and Marshall plan (2015,2016,2018)
- ❑ Détente – circumstances leading up to détente (2016)
- ❑ Emergence of Third World – Non-Aligned Movement (2010,2011,2015,2019,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ UNO – Global disputes, reasons of formation, role of different agencies, successes and failures (2013,2015,2018,2021)

Liberation from Colonial Rule

- ❑ Latin America – Bolivar (2017,2019,2022)
- ❑ Egypt – Suez crisis, Arab nationalism, Arab-Israel Wars (2012,2016,2019,2020,2021)
- ❑ Africa – Apartheid to democracy (2013,2018, 2021,2022)
- ❑ Vietnam – Vietnamese war, role of Ho Chi Minh (2016,2022)

Decolonization & Underdevelopment

- ❑ Decolonization and nation building in Africa, SE Asia, Latin America (2013,2018,2020,2022)

Unification of Europe

- ❑ NATO (2019)
- ❑ Europe Community and European Union (2014,2015,2017)

Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World

- ❑ Events in Eastern Europe (2012,2013,2016,2017,2018,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Collapse of Soviet Union and Communism – causes and consequences (2012,2013,2016,2017,2018,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ End of Cold War (2012,2013,2016,2017,2018,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Policies of Gorbachev (2012,2013,2016,2017,2018,2020,2021,2022)
- ❑ Rise of US as a lone super power and the rise of Unipolar world (2012,2013,2016,2017,2018,2020,2021,2022)

HISTORY OPTIONAL EXPERT FOR CSE



by: **Piyush Kumar**

- ❑ **Piyush Kumar** is a Scholar of History Optional for UPSC CSE.
- ❑ He holds a **M. Phil** from **Jamia Millia Islamia** and is associated with **Delhi University** Teaching for the past 10+ years
- ❑ He holds over **11 Years of vast Teaching Experience** in History, UPSC CSE.
- ❑ Aspirants under him **Achieved 316+ Marks in History Optional** and it is achievable

STUDENT'S TESTIMONIALS



CHANDRA JYOTI (290/500)

I thank **Mr. Piyush Kumar** who provided me his time and efforts for my preparation in History

Ashish Kumar (299/500)

My strategy for clearing this exam was based on getting correct feedback from my practice test papers. for this Mr. Piyush Kumar provided me



Ishwar Kandoo (316/500)

This was my 4th attempt and I was lucky enough to give the best of my abilities and for that I am extremely thankful to Mr. Piyush Kumar for



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- ✓ 30+ Hrs of Topical Test Discussion and Post-Test Mentorship Sessions for Marks Improvement



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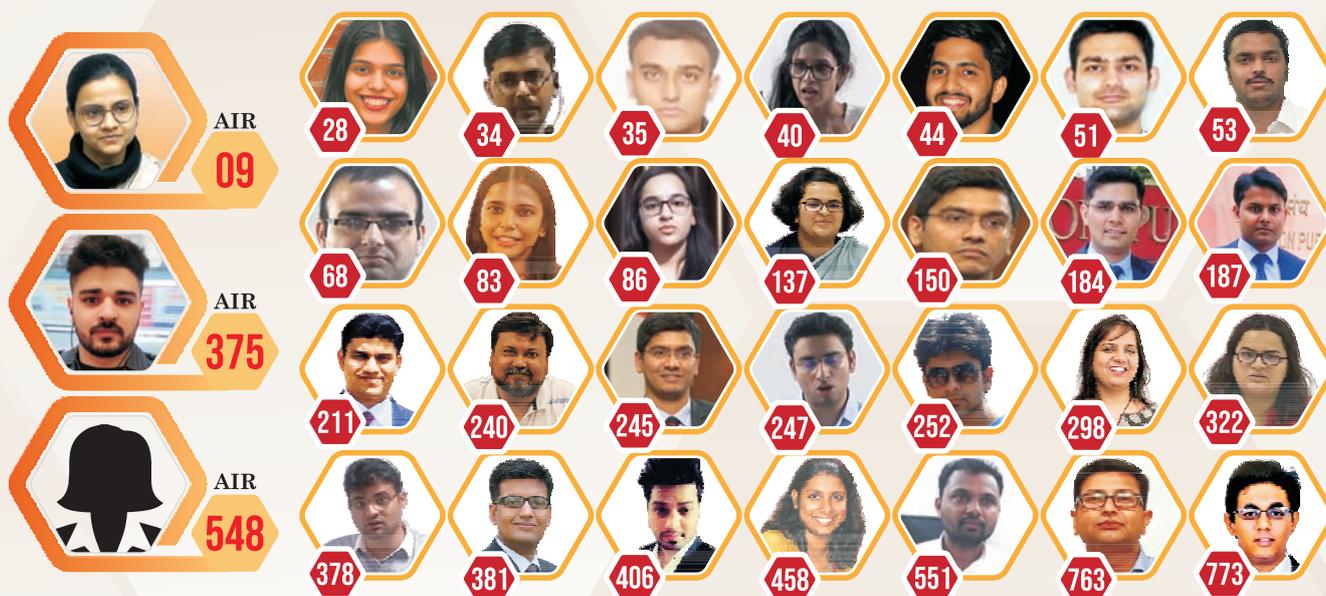


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Mentor: PIYUSH KUMAR

CSE All India Ranking HISTORY OPTIONAL Result

Success Is Where Preparation & Opportunity Meet



TESTIMONIAL



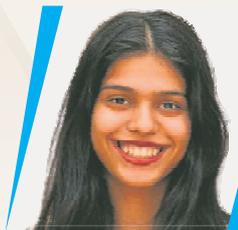
NAUSHEEN
(308/500)

In my preparation **Test Series** and one to one guidance by **Piyush Kumar Sir** helped me a lot to understand my mistakes and perform better in my Optional.



UDITH KADIAN
(263/500)

My strategy for clearing this exam was based on **getting correct feedback from my practice test papers**. For this **Piyush Kumar SIR** provided me correct guidance which helped me to fetch good marks in Optional and crack this exam with flying colours.



CHANDRA JYOTI
(290/500)

I thank **Piyush Kumar SIR** who provided me his time and efforts for my preparation in History Optional which not only helped me in my Optionals but also in **GS-1 and Essay**.



ISHWAR KANDOO
(316/500)

This was my 4th attempt and I was lucky enough to give the best of my abilities and for that I am extremely thankful to **Piyush Kumar SIR** for providing me guidance during my preparation as reflected in my **Optional Marks**.



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