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# AMAC TRP NOTES

THEMATIC REVISION PROGRAM

FOR UPSC PRELIMS

Prepared By

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## ALL AMAC / Concepts / Terminologies / Books/Religious Philosophies etc Category Wise.

### Ancient India

1. Administrative / Political terms
2. Land / Tax / Economy / Agrarian
3. Religion / Philosophy / Sect
4. Literature / Text / Author / Language
5. Social system / Varna / Marriage / customs
6. Temple / Architecture / Art / Culture
7. Education / Institutions / learning centres
8. Titles / ranks / royal terms
9. Measures / coins / units

### Medieval India

10. Chola period — local administration & society
11. Chola administrative divisions
12. Chola economy / land / trade
13. Chola society & military
14. Vijayanagar administrative structure
15. Vijayanagar society & economy
16. Delhi sultanate — central offices
17. Sultanate provincial & local officials
18. Sultanate departments
19. Sultanate tax / revenue terms
20. Mughal central administration
21. Mughal provincial & local
22. Maratha administration

### PART 1 — ADMINISTRATION / POLITY / STATE TERMS

**Amatya** — high official or minister in ancient administration.

**Adhyaksha** — superintendent or officer in charge of department.

**Ayukta** — administrative officer appointed by state.

**Rajuka** — district officer in Mauryan administration.

**Mahasenapati** — commander-in-chief of army.

**Mahattara** — village headman.

**Kumaramatya** — high royal officer, often prince official.

**Dandanayaka** — officer responsible for punishment or military duty.

**Purohita** — royal priest and advisor.

**Senapati** — general of army.

**Mahasandhivigrahika** — minister for war and peace.

**Mahasamanta** — great feudatory under king.

**Samanta** — subordinate ruler or feudatory.

**Ranaka** — local chief or intermediate ruler.

**Nagarashreshthin** — chief merchant of town, sometimes administrative role.

**Sarthavaha** — caravan leader, head of trade guild.

### Administrative divisions

**Rashtra** — province or territorial division.

**Desha** — region or territory.

**Bhukti** — administrative province.

**Mandalam** — provincial division in South India.

**Nadu** — district-level unit in South India.

**Grama** — village.

**Janapada** — territorial state of tribe.

**Palli** — hamlet or small settlement.

**Nigama** — market town.

**Pradesha** — regional division.

**Doab** — land between two rivers.

**Kshetra** — cultivated land area.

### Assemblies / councils

**Sabha** — elite assembly.

**Samiti** — general assembly.

**Panchayat** — council of elders.

**Panchakula** — administrative committee.

**Ashtakula-adhikarana** — governing council.

**Gana** — clan-based polity.

**Ganarajya** — republic or oligarchic state.

**Sangha** — organized political or religious group.

**Matha** — monastery institution.

**Ghatika** — educational institution attached to temple.

**Kingship / state theory**

**Chakravartin** — universal emperor.  
**Digvijaya** — conquest of directions.  
**Mandala** — theory of interstate relations.  
**Matsyanyaya** — law of fish (strong eat weak).  
**Rajasuya** — royal consecration sacrifice.  
**Ashvamedha** — horse sacrifice for sovereignty.  
**Daivaputra** — divine king title.  
**Maharajadhiraja** — king of kings.  
**Rajadhiraja** — overlord of kings.  
**Samrat** — emperor.  
**Ekarat** — sole ruler.  
**Mahasammata** — elected ruler in Buddhist theory.

**Land control / authority**

**Brahmadeya** — land grant to Brahmin.  
**Agrahara** — Brahmin village grant.  
**Devadana** — temple land grant.  
**Eripatti** — land for irrigation tank.  
**Bhogta** — holder of revenue rights.  
**Gahapati** — landowner.  
**Kutumbi** — peasant householder.  
**Gavunda** — landholder official.  
**Heggade** — local landholder.  
**Nayaka** — military chief.

PART 2 — ECONOMY / TAX / AGRARIAN /  
 LAND / COINS / MEASURES

**◆ Land Grants / Land Types / Revenue Rights**

**Agrahara** — land grant to Brahmins  
**Brahmadeya** — village granted to Brahmin  
**Devadana** — land granted to temple  
**Eripatti** — land whose revenue used for irrigation tank  
**Bhogta** — holder of revenue rights  
**Gahapati** — wealthy landholder  
**Kutumbi** — peasant householder  
**Gavunda** — landowner / local authority  
**Heggade** — landholder (South India)  
**Kshetra** — cultivated land  
**Doab** — land between two rivers  
**Janapada** — territory of tribe / people  
**Palli** — small settlement / hamlet  
**Nigama** — market town  
**Grama** — village  
**Desha** — region

**◆ Land Measurement / Units / Agrarian Measures**

**Kulyavapa** — measure of land  
**Dronavapa** — land / grain measure  
**Nivartana** — land measure (classical)  
**Krosa** — distance measure  
**Yojana** — distance measure  
**Adhaka** — grain measure  
**Drona** — grain measure  
**Kudava** — volume measure  
**Prastha** — measure of capacity

**Tula** — weight measure  
**Mana** — large unit of weight

**◆ Tax / Labour / Revenue / Economic Duties**

**Vishti** — forced labour tax  
**Bali** — tax / tribute  
**Bhaga** — share of produce tax  
**Kara** — tax  
**Uparikara** — additional tax  
**Hiranya** — cash tax  
**Bhoga** — supplies / provisions tax  
**Pindakara** — collective tax  
**Sulka** — customs duty  
**Pratyaya** — levy / tax  
**Danda** — fine / punishment tax  
**Dakshina** — sacrificial fee  
**Dana** — gift / donation  
**Mahadana** — great gift

**◆ Irrigation / Agriculture / Rural Economy**

**Araghatta** — waterwheel irrigation device  
**Setu** — irrigation embankment  
**Kupa** — well irrigation  
**Vapi** — tank / reservoir  
**Tataka** — lake / tank  
**Kshetra** — field  
**Kassaka** — cultivator  
**Halika** — ploughman  
**Krishika** — farmer  
**Karshaka** — cultivator

**Grihapati / Gahapati** — landowning householder

### ◆ Coins / Currency / Monetary Terms

**Dinara** — gold coin (Roman origin)  
**Karshapana / Kahapana** — silver coin  
**Kakini** — copper coin  
**Nishka** — gold coin / unit of value  
**Pana** — coin / currency unit  
**Suvarna** — gold coin  
**Rupya** — silver coin  
**Mashaka** — copper coin  
**Tanka** — medieval coin  
**Jital** — Delhi Sultanate coin  
**Dramma** — coin  
**Varaha** — coin (South India)  
**Pagoda** — gold coin (South India)

### ◆ Trade / Guild / Merchant / Economy Terms

**Sarthavaha** — caravan leader  
**Shreni** — guild  
**Nigama** — trading town  
**Setthi** — merchant / banker  
**Vanij** — trader  
**Banjaras** — transport traders  
**Chetti / Chettiyar** — merchant community  
**Manigramam** — merchant guild  
**Anjuvannam** — merchant guild

**Nagarashreshthin** — chief merchant  
**Puga** — guild / association

### ◆ Economic Rights / Social-economic Status

**Dvija** — twice-born (upper varna)  
**Bhogika** — revenue holder  
**Kutumbi** — landholder  
**Gahapati** — wealthy farmer  
**Mahajana** — elite / big landholder  
**Shresthin** — guild head  
**Sarthavaha** — caravan chief

### ◆ Rare / UPSC-favourite economic terms (all came in UPSC)

**Eripatti** — land whose revenue was assigned for maintenance of irrigation tanks in South India.  
**Taniyur** — special Brahmin settlement granted administrative and revenue privileges.  
**Ghatika** — educational institution, often attached to a temple, especially in South India.  
**Vishti** — forced labour imposed by the state as a form of tax.  
**Araghatta** — water-wheel device used for irrigation.  
**Kulyavapa** — unit of land measurement used in ancient India.

**Dronavapa** — measure of land based on quantity of seed required for sowing. (this is exclusive content of x ias)

**Bhoga** — supplies, provisions, or revenue enjoyed by ruler or official; also a form of tax.

**Sulka** — customs duty or toll levied on goods.

**Bhaga** — share of agricultural produce paid as land revenue.

**Kara** — tax or tribute paid to the king.

**Hiranya** — tax paid in cash or in kind of precious metal.

(all ASKED in UPSC PYQ)

### PART 3 — RELIGION / PHILOSOPHY / SECTS / RITUALS

### ◆ Core Religious / Philosophical Concepts

**Dharma** — moral law / social-religious duty

**Karma** — action determining future birth

**Samsara** — cycle of birth and rebirth

**Moksha** — liberation from rebirth

**Nirvana** — liberation in Buddhism

**Atman** — soul / self

**Brahman** — ultimate reality

**Maya** — illusion

**Kama** — desire

**Artha** — material pursuit

**Shraddha** — ritual for ancestors

**Yajna** — sacrifice ritual  
**Dakshina** — sacrificial fee  
**Dana** — religious donation  
**Ahimsa** — non-violence

### ◆ Hindu Ritual / Vedic / Brahmanical Terms

**Ashvamedha** — royal horse sacrifice  
**Rajasuya** — royal consecration sacrifice  
**Agnihotra** — fire ritual  
**Purohita** — priest / royal priest  
**Brahmacharin** — student stage of life  
**Grihastha** — householder stage  
**Vanaprastha** — forest-dweller stage  
**Sannyasa** — renunciation stage  
**Ashrama** — four stages of life  
**Varna** — social class order  
**Dvija** — twice-born (upper varnas)  
**Pratiloma** — marriage against caste order  
**Anuloma** — marriage with caste order

### ◆ Buddhist Terms

**Bodhisattva** — one seeking enlightenment for all  
**Sangha** — Buddhist monastic order  
**Dhamma** — Buddhist moral law  
**Theravada** — Hinayana school  
**Mahayana** — Great Vehicle school  
**Hinayana** — Lesser Vehicle school  
**Chaitya** — Buddhist prayer hall  
**Stupa** — Buddhist relic mound  
**Vihara** — monastery

**Tripitaka** — Buddhist scriptures  
**Jataka** — Buddha birth stories  
**Upasaka** — lay follower  
**Bhikshu** — monk  
**Bhikshuni** — nun

### ◆ Jain Terms

**Tirthankara** — Jain spiritual teacher  
**Digambara** — Jain sect (sky-clad)  
**Shvetambara** — Jain sect (white-clad)  
**Kevala** — absolute knowledge  
**Sallekhana** — ritual fasting death  
**Ahimsa** — non-violence (central in Jainism)  
**Anekantavada** — theory of many-sided truth  
**Syadvada** — doctrine of relativity

### ◆ Bhakti / Sect / Devotional Traditions

**Bhakti** — devotion to deity  
**Alvar** — Vaishnava saint poets (Tamil)  
**Nayanar** — Shaiva saint poets (Tamil)  
**Bhagavata** — Vishnu worshipper  
**Lingam** — symbol of Shiva  
**Pashupata** — Shaiva sect  
**Kapalika** — Shaiva sect  
**Kalamukha** — Shaiva sect  
**Tantra** — ritualistic worship tradition  
**Shakti** — divine power / goddess

### ◆ Temple / Sacred / Ritual Structures

**Garbhagriha** — sanctum of temple  
**Shikhara** — temple tower  
**Mandapa** — pillared hall  
**Matha** — monastery  
**Tirtha** — sacred place  
**Devadasi** — woman dedicated to temple  
**Devadana** — temple land grant  
**Chaitya** — sacred hall  
**Stupa** — relic mound

### ◆ Sacred Text / Literature / Scriptural Terms

**Itihasa** — epic tradition  
**Purana** — mythological text  
**Shruti** — revealed texts  
**Smriti** — remembered texts  
**Shastra** — authoritative treatise  
**Brahmana** — Vedic ritual text  
**Upanishad** — philosophical text  
**Sutra** — short aphoristic text  
**Pali** — Buddhist language  
**Prakrit** — vernacular language  
**Sanskrit** — classical language  
**Devanagari** — script  
**Brahmi** — ancient script  
**Kharoshthi** — north-west script

### ◆ Cosmology / Time / Myth Terms

**Kaliyuga** — last age of cycle

**Yuga** — cosmic age

**Kalpa** — time cycle

**Chandravamsha** — lunar dynasty

**Suryavamsha** — solar dynasty

**Aryavarta** — land of Aryas

**Loka** — world

**Svarga** — heaven

**Naraka** — hell

### ◆ UPSC-favourite religion terms (compiled from UPSC PYQ)

**Ajnana** — doctrine of ignorance; also refers to a heterodox philosophical school that denied certain knowledge.

**Ajivika** — ancient heterodox sect contemporary to Buddhism and Jainism, believed in fatalism (Niyati).

**Shramana** — ascetic / renouncer belonging to non-Vedic traditions like Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivika.

**Pariivrajaka** — wandering ascetic / mendicant philosopher.

**Maagadha** — bard / chronicler who memorized genealogies, dynastic histories and epics (asked in UPSC 2016, already explained in x ias BTS course).

**Bhagavata** — follower of Vishnu / Krishna devotional tradition.

**Ghatika** — educational institution, often attached to temple (South India context).

**Chaitya** — sacred Buddhist shrine / prayer hall.

**Bodhisattva** — enlightened being who postpones nirvana to help others.

**Digambara** — Jain sect whose monks wear no clothes ("sky-clad").

**Mahayana** — Buddhist school emphasizing Bodhisattva ideal.

**Hinayana** — early Buddhist school (Theravada), focused on individual liberation.

### PART 4 — LITERATURE / TEXT / LANGUAGE / EDUCATION / SCRIPT

#### ◆ Types of Text / Literature Categories

**Itihasa** — traditional epic history literature (Ramayana, Mahabharata).

**Purana** — mythological text describing creation, dynasties, gods, legends.

**Shruti** — revealed sacred texts (Vedas).

**Smriti** — remembered texts based on tradition (Dharmashastra etc.).

**Shastra** — authoritative treatise on any subject.

**Sutra** — short aphoristic text written in concise form.

**Brahmana** — prose texts explaining Vedic rituals.

**Aranyaka** — forest texts dealing with philosophy and ritual.

**Upanishad** — philosophical texts discussing Brahman and Atman.

**Dharmashastra** — texts prescribing social and religious duties.

**Nataka** — drama / theatrical composition.

**Kavya** — classical Sanskrit poetry.

**Mahakavya** — great epic poem.

**Champu** — mixed prose and poetry composition.

**Prabandha** — narrative literary work.

#### ◆ Famous Text-related Terms (UPSC-type)

**Milindapanha** — Buddhist text recording dialogue of King Menander and Nagasena.

**Parishishtaparvan** — Jain historical text by Hemachandra.

**Avadanashataka** — Buddhist text of moral stories.

**Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana** — Jain text describing lives of great beings.

**Devichandragupta** — Sanskrit drama attributed to Vishakhadatta.

**Hammira-Mahakavya** — Sanskrit poem by Nayachandra Suri.

**Nitivakyamrita** — Sanskrit work by Somadeva Suri.

**Rajatarangini** — historical chronicle of Kashmir by Kalhana.

**Harshacharita** — biography of Harsha by Banabhatta.

**Kadambari** — prose work by Banabhatta.  
**Arthashastra** — treatise on polity by Kautilya.

**Manusmriti** — Dharmashastra text on law and duties.

**Yajnavalkya Smriti** — legal text of ancient India.

**Mahabhashya** — grammar commentary by Patanjali.

**Ashtadhyayi** — grammar text by Panini.

**Natya Shastra** — text on drama by Bharata.

#### ♦ Language Terms

**Sanskrit** — classical Indo-Aryan language of ancient India.

**Prakrit** — vernacular languages used in ancient India.

**Pali** — language of Buddhist Canon (Theravada tradition).

**Apabhramsha** — later form of Prakrit language.

**Tamil** — classical Dravidian language of South India.

**Grantha** — script used in South India for Sanskrit.

**Brahmi** — earliest deciphered script of India.

**Kharoshthi** — script used in north-west India.

**Devanagari** — later script used for Sanskrit and modern languages.

**Nagari** — early form of Devanagari script.

**Sharada** — script used in Kashmir.

**Persian** — court language in medieval India.

**Arabic** — language used in Islamic texts.

#### ♦ Education / Learning / Institution Terms

**Ghatika** — educational centre attached to temple.

**Matha** — monastery / centre of learning.

**Gurukula** — traditional residential school.

**Acharya** — teacher / preceptor.

**Guru** — spiritual teacher.

**Upadhyaya** — instructor / teacher.

**Shishya** — student / disciple.

**Vidya** — knowledge.

**Shastra-adhyayana** — study of scriptures.

**Pathshala** — traditional school.

**Agrahara** — Brahmin settlement, often learning centre.

**Vihara** — Buddhist monastery.

**Chaitya** — Buddhist prayer hall.

**Sangha** — monastic organization.

#### ♦ Scholars / Intellectual / Literary Roles

**Kavi** — poet.

**Pandita** — learned scholar.

**Acharya** — teacher / philosopher.

**Upadhyaya** — instructor.

**Vyakarana-kara** — grammarian.

**Tarkika** — logician.

**Mimamsaka** — philosopher of Mimamsa school.

**Vedantin** — philosopher of Vedanta.

**Sutradhara** — narrator / stage manager in drama.

**Charana** — bard / reciter.

**Maagadha** — court bard / genealogist.

**Suta** — storyteller / bard.

**Kathaka** — narrator.

#### ♦ UPSC-favourite literary / language terms

**Gatha** — verse form used in Prakrit texts.

**Sloka** — classical Sanskrit verse.

**Vakya** — sentence / statement.

**Sabda** — word / sound.

**Vyakarana** — grammar.

**Chandas** — metre / prosody.

**Nirukta** — etymology.

**Kalpa** — ritual manual.

**Jyotisha** — astronomy / astrology text.

**Vedanga** — auxiliary Vedic discipline.

**Samhita** — collection of hymns.

**Bhashya** — commentary.

**Tika** — explanatory note.

**Vritti** — short commentary.

**PART 5 — SOCIAL SYSTEM / VARNA / CASTE / CUSTOM / SOCIETY**

### ◆ Varna / Social Order / Status

**Varna** — fourfold social division (Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra).

**Brahmana** — priestly varna, ritual specialists.

**Kshatriya** — warrior and ruling class.

**Vaishya** — traders, agriculturists, pastoralists.

**Shudra** — service-providing class.

**Dvija** — “twice-born”, refers to three upper varnas.

**Jati** — birth-based social group / caste.

**Kula** — family / lineage.

**Gotra** — lineage traced to a sage.

**Arya** — noble / civilized person in Vedic usage.

**Mlechchha** — outsider to Vedic social order.

**Chandala** — group considered outside caste hierarchy.

**Antyaja** — lowest social groups.

**Das / Dasa** — slave / servant.

**Dasi** — female slave.

**Bhritaka** — hired labourer.

### ◆ Marriage / Family / Kinship Terms

**Anuloma** — marriage following caste hierarchy (higher male, lower female).

**Pratiloma** — marriage against caste hierarchy.

**Vivaha** — marriage.

**Griha** — household.

**Kutumba** — family unit.

**Grihapati** — head of household.

**Putra** — son.

**Putrika** — daughter.

**Sapinda** — blood relation.

**Sagotra** — same lineage.

**Stridhana** — property of woman.

**Patni** — wife.

**Pati** — husband.

**Swayamvara** — marriage by self-choice.

**Niyoga** — levirate marriage custom.

### ◆ Stages of Life (Ashrama System)

**Ashrama** — four stages of life.

**Brahmacharya** — student stage.

**Grihastha** — householder stage.

**Vanaprastha** — forest-dweller stage.

**Sannyasa** — renunciation stage.

**Acharya** — teacher guiding student.

**Shishya** — disciple.

### ◆ Social Duties / Norms / Behaviour

**Dharma** — duty / moral order.

**Karma** — action determining destiny.

**Rita** — cosmic order (Vedic concept).

**Sadachara** — good conduct.

**Maryada** — social norm.

**Achara** — custom.

**Vyavahara** — social practice / legal procedure.

**Prayaschitta** — penance.

**Dana** — charity.

**Dakshina** — ritual gift.

**Shraddha** — ritual for ancestors.

**Punya** — merit.

**Papa** — sin.

### ◆ Occupations / Social Roles

**Karmakara** — artisan / worker.

**Kassaka** — cultivator.

**Vanij** — trader.

**Setthi** — wealthy merchant.

**Sarthavaha** — caravan leader.

**Nagarashreshthin** — chief merchant.

**Kulika** — artisan.

**Silpin** — craftsman.

**Rajaka** — washerman.

**Napita** — barber.

**Suvarnakara** — goldsmith.

**Kumbhakara** — potter.

**Lohakara** — blacksmith.

**Malakara** — gardener.

### ◆ Social Groups / Communities

**Adivasi** — indigenous inhabitant.

**Shreni** — guild / association.

**Puga** — corporate group.

**Nigama** — town community.

**Gana** — clan group.

**Janapada** — tribe territory.

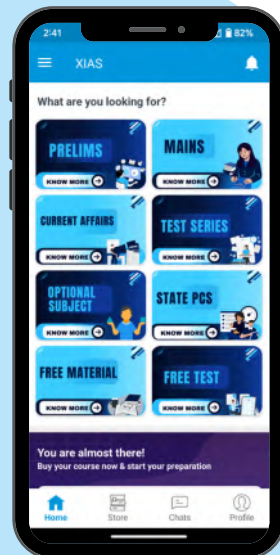
**Sangha** — organized group.

**Samgha** — religious order.



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**Vrata** — religious observance group.  
**Kulika** — artisan group.

#### ◆ Women / Status / Customs

**Stri** — woman.  
**Patni** — wife.  
**Mahishi** — chief queen.  
**Devadasi** — woman dedicated to temple.  
**Sati** — widow self-immolation (later practice). (this is exclusive content of x ias , subject to copyright by x ias )

**Purdah** — seclusion of women (medieval).  
**Stridhana** — woman's property.  
**Kanyadana** — giving daughter in marriage.  
**Pativrata** — devoted wife.

#### ◆ Rare UPSC-favourite social terms

**Maagadha** — bard who memorized genealogies.  
**Suta** — storyteller / bard.  
**Charana** — reciter / genealogist.  
**Parivrajaka** — wandering ascetic.  
**Shramana** — renouncer tradition.  
**Ajivika** — heterodox sect followers.  
**Bhikshu** — monk.  
**Upasaka** — lay follower.  
**Chandala** — outcaste.  
**Mlechchha** — outsider.

#### PART 6 — TEMPLE / ARCHITECTURE / ART / CULTURE

##### ◆ Temple Structure Terms

**Garbhagriha** — sanctum sanctorum of temple where deity is placed.  
**Shikhara** — tower above sanctum in North Indian temples.  
**Vimana** — tower above sanctum in South Indian temples.  
**Mandapa** — pillared hall in temple.  
**Ardhamandapa** — entrance hall of temple.  
**Antarala** — vestibule between mandapa and sanctum.  
**Pradakshina-patha** — circumambulatory path around sanctum.  
**Gopuram** — monumental gateway of South Indian temple.  
**Prakara** — enclosure wall around temple.  
**Jagati** — raised platform of temple.  
**Torana** — ornamental gateway.  
**Dhvaja-stambha** — flag pillar in temple complex.  
**Bali-pitha** — altar for offerings.  
**Kalyana-mandapa** — ceremonial hall.  
**Pushkarini** — temple tank.  
**Tirtha** — sacred water body.

##### ◆ Buddhist Architecture Terms

**Stupa** — mound containing relics of Buddha.  
**Chaitya** — prayer hall with stupa.

**Vihara** — Buddhist monastery.  
**Vedika** — railing around stupa.  
**Torana** — gateway of stupa.  
**Harmika** — square railing on top of stupa.  
**Chatra** — umbrella symbol on stupa.  
**Anda** — dome of stupa.  
**Pradakshina-patha** — circumambulatory path.  
**Sangharama** — Buddhist monastery complex.  
**Bodhi-vriksha** — sacred Bodhi tree.

##### ◆ Jain Architecture Terms

**Basadi** — Jain temple (South India).  
**Chaumukha** — four-faced Jain temple.  
**Tirtha** — sacred Jain pilgrimage place.  
**Jina-murti** — idol of Tirthankara.  
**Ayagapata** — votive slab in Jain worship.  
**Manastambha** — pillar in front of Jain temple.

##### ◆ Sculpture / Iconography / Image Terms

**Murti** — idol / image of deity.  
**Pratima** — sacred image.  
**Linga** — symbol of Shiva.  
**Yoni** — base of Shiva-linga.  
**Mudra** — symbolic hand gesture.  
**Asana** — posture of deity.  
**Vahana** — vehicle of deity.  
**Alankara** — ornamentation.

**Ayudha** — weapon attribute of deity.

**Prabhavali** — halo around deity.

**Chakra** — disc weapon / symbol.

**Padma** — lotus symbol.

**Trishula** — trident.

**Damaru** — drum of Shiva.

**Kalasha** — sacred pot symbol.

### ◆ Painting / Art / Performance Terms

**Natya** — dance / drama.

**Nritya** — dance.

**Nritta** — pure dance.

**Rasa** — aesthetic emotion in art.

**Bhava** — expression.

**Alankara** — poetic ornament.

**Chitra** — painting.

**Murti-shilpa** — sculpture art.

**Shilpa** — craft / art.

**Shilpin** — artisan.

**Silpasashtra** — treatise on art & architecture.

**Natya-shastra** — text on drama.

**Sangeeta** — music.

**Vady** — instrument.

**Nritya-mudra** — dance gesture. (this is exclusive content of x ias )

### ◆ Temple Economy / Cultural Institutions

**Devadana** — land granted to temple.

**Brahmadeya** — Brahmin land often near temple.

**Agrahara** — Brahmin settlement.

**Matha** — monastery / religious institution.

**Ghatika** — temple college.

**Sabha** — temple assembly.

**Nadu** — regional administrative unit.

**Nagaram** — merchant town.

**Devadasi** — woman dedicated to temple service.

**Archaka** — priest.

**Pujari** — worshipper / priest.

**Tantri** — temple ritual specialist.

### ◆ Sacred / Cultural / Ritual Terms

**Yatra** — pilgrimage.

**Tirtha** — sacred place.

**Pradakshina** — circumambulation.

**Darshana** — viewing deity.

**Abhisheka** — ritual bathing of idol.

**Arati** — worship with lamp.

**Naivedya** — food offering.

**Prasada** — sacred offering.

**Vrata** — religious vow. (this is exclusive content of x ias , subject to copyright by x ias )

**Utsava** — festival.

**Yajna** — sacrifice ritual.

**Homa** — fire ritual.

**Archana** — ritual worship.

**Puja** — worship.

### ◆ Rare UPSC-favourite architecture terms

**Garbhagriha** — sanctum of temple.

**Shikhara** — temple tower.

**Vimana** — South Indian tower.

**Gopuram** — temple gateway.

**Chaitya** — Buddhist hall.

**Vihara** — monastery.

**Stupa** — relic mound.

**Vedika** — railing.

**Torana** — gateway.

**Harmika** — stupa top.

**Chatra** — umbrella symbol.

**Basadi** — Jain temple.

**Manastambha** — pillar.

**Ayagapata** — Jain votive slab.

(all from PYQ-type context)

### PART 7 — TITLES / ROYAL / FEUDAL / MILITARY / COURT TERMS

#### ◆ Basic Royal Titles

**Rajan** — king / ruler.

**Maharaja** — great king.

**Maharajadhiraja** — king of kings / supreme ruler.

**Rajadhiraja** — overlord of kings.

**Samrat** — emperor.

**Ekarat** — sole ruler / sovereign.

**Nripa** — king.

**Nripati** — lord of men / ruler.

**Bhupati** — lord of land.

**Adhiraja** — supreme king.

**Chakravartin** — universal emperor.

**Daivaputra** — “son of god”, royal title.

**Yuvaraja** — crown prince.

**Kumara** — prince.

**Rajaputra** — son of king / prince.

#### ◆ Feudal / Subordinate Titles

**Samanta** — feudatory / subordinate ruler.

**Mahasamanta** — great feudatory.

**Ranaka** — local chief / feudatory.

**Thakkura** — landed chief.

**Nayaka** — military chief / local ruler.

**Poligar** — local chieftain (South India).

**Palaiyakkarar** — military chief in South India.

**Deshmukh** — regional chief.

**Deshpande** — revenue officer.

**Jagirdar** — holder of jagir land.

**Iqta-dar** — holder of iqta assignment.

**Amir** — noble / military officer.

**Malik** — noble title.

**Khan** — title for noble / commander.

**Sardar** — chief / leader.

#### ◆ Court Officials / Administration Titles

**Amatya** — minister / high official.

**Mantri** — minister.

**Mahamatya** — chief minister.

**Purohita** — royal priest.

**Senapati** — commander of army.

**Mahasenapati** — chief commander.

**Dandanayaka** — officer of punishment / military.

**Adhyaksha** — superintendent.

**Ayukta** — administrative officer.

**Rajuka** — district officer.

**Kumaramatya** — royal officer / prince official.

**Mahasandhivigrahika** — minister for war & peace.

**Mahadandanayaka** — chief judicial officer.

**Mahapratihara** — high court officer.

**Pratihara** — chamberlain / gatekeeper.

**Mahakshapatalika** — record keeper.

**Lekhaka** — scribe.

**Kayastha** — record keeper caste.

#### ◆ Military / War / Power Terms

**Bala** — army / force.

**Danda** — punishment / authority.

**Dandaniti** — science of polity.

**Durga** — fort.

**Senani** — army leader.

**Padati** — infantry.

**Ashva** — cavalry.

**Gaja** — elephant corps.

**Ratha** — chariot.

**Ayudha** — weapon.

**Shastra** — weapon.

**Khadga** — sword.

**Dhanush** — bow.

**Trishula** — trident.

**Chakra** — discus weapon.

**Kavacha** — armour.

**Vyuh** — battle formation.

#### ◆ State / Power / Kingship

##### Theory Terms

**Rajadharma** — duty of king.

**Dharma** — moral law.

**Artha** — statecraft / wealth.

**Kama** — desire.

**Moksha** — liberation.

**Mandala** — theory of interstate relations.

**Matsyanyaya** — law of fish (strong eat weak).

**Digvijaya** — conquest of directions.

**Rajasuya** — royal consecration sacrifice.

**Ashvamedha** — horse sacrifice for sovereignty.

**Abhisheka** — coronation ritual.

**Rajyabhisheka** — royal consecration.

**Vijaya** — victory.

**Prabhava** — power / influence.

**Tejas** — royal glory.

**Kshatra** — royal authority.

#### ◆ Land / Feudal Control /

##### Authority Terms

**Bhukti** — province.

**Rashtra** — territory.

**Desha** — region.

**Mandalam** — province.

**Nadu** — district (South India).

**Grama** — village.

**Janapada** — territorial state.

**Kshetra** — land.

**Agrahara** — Brahmin land grant.

**Brahmadeya** — Brahmin village grant.

**Devadana** — temple land.

**Eripatti** — tank land.

**Bhogta** — revenue holder.

**Gahapati** — landowner.

**Kutumbi** — peasant householder.

**Gavunda** — local landholder.

**Heggade** — landholder (South India).

#### ◆ Rare UPSC-favourite royal / title terms

**Maharajadhiraja** — king of kings.

**Mahasamanta** — great feudatory.

**Kumaramatya** — royal officer.

**Mahasenapati** — commander.

**Rajuka** — Mauryan officer.

**Adhyaksha** — superintendent.

**Ayukta** — officer.

**Pratihara** — court official.

**Mahadandanayaka** — judicial officer.

**Mahasandhivigrahika** — war & peace minister.

**Ranaka** — local chief.

**Samanta** — feudatory.

#### PART 8 — MEASURES / WEIGHTS / COINS / UNITS / TIME

##### ◆ Land Measurement / Area Units

**Kulyavapa** — unit of land measurement in ancient India.

**Dronavapa** — land measure based on quantity of seed required.

**Nivartana** — traditional land measurement unit.

**Kshetra** — cultivated field / land area.

**Vapa** — measure of land.

**Pada** — fractional land measure.

**Hala** — plough-land measure.

**Krosa** — measure of distance.

**Yojana** — long distance measure.

**Danda** — linear measurement unit.

**Rajju** — measuring rope used in land survey.

##### ◆ Weight / Capacity / Volume Units

**Tula** — unit of weight.

**Mana** — large unit of weight.

**Drona** — measure of grain.

**Adhaka** — unit of capacity.

**Prastha** — unit of volume.

**Kudava** — small capacity measure.

**Pala** — unit of weight.

**Karsha** — weight measure.

**Ratti** — small weight unit.

**Mashaka** — weight / coin unit.

**Suvarna** — gold weight unit.

**Nishka** — weight / coin unit.

**Satamana** — weight / coin unit.

##### ◆ Coins / Currency Terms

**Karshapana** — silver coin widely used in ancient India.

**Kahapana** — variant of Karshapana coin.

**Nishka** — gold coin / unit of value.

**Dinara** — gold coin influenced by Roman denarius.

**Suvarna** — gold coin.

**Rupya** — silver coin.

**Mashaka** — copper coin.

**Kakini** — small copper coin.

**Pana** — standard coin unit.

**Dramma** — coin used in early medieval period.

**Tanka** — coin used in Sultanate period.

**Jital** — copper coin of Delhi Sultanate.

**Varaha** — gold coin in South India.

**Pagoda** — South Indian gold coin.

**Fanam** — small South Indian coin.

**Hun** — gold coin (Kushan / Gupta context).

**Dinar** — gold coin in medieval Islamic period.

##### ◆ Tax / Revenue / Economic Units (linked to measurement)

**Bhaga** — share of produce tax.

**Kara** — tax / tribute.

**Bali** — offering / tax.  
**Sulka** — customs duty.  
**Hiranya** — cash payment.  
**Bhoga** — supplies / provisions tax.  
**Vishti** — forced labour tax.  
**Uparikara** — extra tax.  
**Pratyaya** — levy / charge.  
**Pindakara** — collective tax.

#### ◆ Time / Calendar / Cosmic Units

**Kalpa** — long cosmic time cycle.  
**Yuga** — age in Hindu cosmology.  
**Kaliyuga** — last age of cycle.  
**Dvapara** — third age.  
**Treta** — second age.  
**Satya Yuga** — first age.  
**Samvatsara** — year.  
**Masa** — month.  
**Paksha** — fortnight.  
**Tithi** — lunar day.  
**Muhurat** — short time unit.  
**Ghati** — time unit.  
**Prahara** — quarter of day.  
**Ritu** — season.  
**Ayana** — half year.

#### ◆ Astronomical / Ritual Time Terms

**Nakshatra** — lunar constellation.  
**Rashi** — zodiac sign.  
**Yoga** — astronomical combination.  
**Karana** — half lunar day.

**Jyotisha** — astronomy / astrology science.  
**Panchanga** — traditional calendar.  
**Sankranti** — solar transition.  
**Amavasya** — new moon day.  
**Purnima** — full moon day.  
**Uttarayana** — northward sun movement.  
**Dakshinayana** — southward sun movement.

#### ◆ Rare UPSC-favourite measurement / coin / unit terms

**Kulyavapa** — land measure.  
**Dronavapa** — land / grain measure.  
**Karshapana** — coin.  
**Dinara** — gold coin.  
**Nishka** — coin / weight.  
**Satamana** — coin / weight.  
**Kakini** — small coin.  
**Mashaka** — small coin.  
**Tanka** — Sultanate coin.  
**Jital** — copper coin.  
**Varaha** — South Indian coin.  
**Pagoda** — gold coin.  
**Yojana** — distance.  
**Danda** — measure.  
**Mana** — weight.  
**Tula** — weight.  
 (all from PYQ context)

#### PART 9 — RARE TERMS

#### ◆ General Cultural / Conceptual

**Aryavarta** — land inhabited by Aryas in ancient texts.  
**Aranya** — forest / wilderness region.  
**Desha** — region / territory.  
**Loka** — world / realm.  
**Svarga** — heaven.  
**Naraka** — hell.  
**Punya** — merit gained by good deeds.  
**Papa** — sin.  
**Maya** — illusion.  
**Shakti** — divine power / energy.  
**Tejas** — brilliance / power.  
**Prabhava** — influence / authority.  
**Rasa** — aesthetic emotion in art.  
**Bhava** — expression / feeling.  
**Alankara** — ornament / decoration / poetic device.  
**Vrata** — religious vow.  
**Yatra** — pilgrimage.  
**Tirtha** — sacred place.  
**Utsava** — festival.  
**Prasada** — sacred offering.  
**Naivedya** — food offering to deity.  
**Archana** — ritual worship.  
**Abhisheka** — ritual bathing of idol.  
**Darshana** — viewing deity.

#### ◆ Sect / Community / Religious Group Terms

**Ajivika** — heterodox ascetic sect.  
**Shramana** — renouncer tradition.

**Parivrajaka** — wandering ascetic.  
**Bhikshu** — monk.  
**Bhikshuni** — nun.  
**Upasaka** — lay follower.  
**Sangha** — monastic order.  
**Bhagavata** — devotee of Vishnu.  
**Nayanar** — Shaiva saint.  
**Alvar** — Vaishnava saint.  
**Pashupata** — Shaiva sect.  
**Kapalika** — Shaiva sect.  
**Kalamukha** — Shaiva sect.  
**Digambara** — Jain sect.  
**Shvetambara** — Jain sect.  
**Tirthankara** — Jain teacher.  
**Bodhisattva** — enlightened being.  
**Mahayana** — Buddhist school.  
**Hinayana** — early Buddhist school.

#### ♦ Social / Cultural / Identity Terms

**Adivasi** — indigenous inhabitant.  
**Mlechchha** — outsider to Vedic society.  
**Chandala** — outcaste group.  
**Antyaja** — lowest social group.  
**Dvija** — twice-born.  
**Jati** — caste group.  
**Kula** — family.  
**Gotra** — lineage.  
**Kutumba** — household.  
**Grihapati** — head of family.  
**Stridhana** — woman's property.

**Sati** — widow self-immolation (later practice).  
**Pativrata** — devoted wife.  
**Kanyadana** — giving daughter in marriage.

#### ♦ Literary / Scholarly / Knowledge Terms

**Kavi** — poet.  
**Pandita** — scholar.  
**Acharya** — teacher.  
**Guru** — spiritual guide.  
**Shishya** — student.  
**Vidya** — knowledge.  
**Shastra** — treatise.  
**Sutra** — short aphoristic text.  
**Bhashya** — commentary.  
**Tika** — explanatory note.  
**Vritti** — short commentary.  
**Vyakarana** — grammar.  
**Chandas** — metre.  
**Nirukta** — etymology.  
**Kalpa** — ritual manual.  
**Jyotisha** — astronomy text.  
**Vedanga** — auxiliary Vedic discipline.  
**Samhita** — collection of hymns.

#### ♦ Administrative / Local / Institutional Rare Terms

**Ashtakula-adhikarana** — administrative council.  
**Panchakula** — governing body.

**Sabha** — assembly.  
**Samiti** — council.  
**Nadu** — territorial unit (South India).  
**Mandalam** — province.  
**Bhukti** — administrative division.  
**Grama** — village.  
**Nigama** — town.  
**Palli** — hamlet.  
**Janapada** — territory of tribe.  
**Gana** — clan / republic.  
**Ganarajya** — oligarchic state.  
**Mahattara** — village head.  
**Gavunda** — landholder official.  
**Heggade** — local landowner.  
**Bhogta** — revenue holder.  
**Eripatti** — tank land.  
**Brahmadeya** — Brahmin land.  
**Devadana** — temple land.

#### ♦ Very Rare UPSC-type glossary words (high probability zone)

**Maagadha** — bard / genealogist.  
**Suta** — storyteller.  
**Charana** — reciter.  
**Pratiloma** — reverse caste marriage.  
**Anuloma** — caste-order marriage.  
**Ashrama** — stage of life.  
**Brahmacharin** — student stage.  
**Grihastha** — householder.  
**Vanaprastha** — forest stage.  
**Sannyasi** — renouncer.  
**Mandala** — political theory.

**Matsyanyaya** — law of fish.  
**Chakravartin** — universal ruler.  
**Rajasuya** — royal sacrifice.  
**Ashvamedha** — horse sacrifice.  
**Abhisheka** — coronation.  
**Rajadharma** — duty of king.  
**Dandaniti** — science of polity.  
**Durga** — fort.  
**Ayudha** — weapon.

## MEDIEVAL INDIA TERMINOLOGY

### ◆ CHOLA PERIOD — LOCAL ADMINISTRATION & SOCIETY

**Ur** — general assembly of village residents.  
**Mahasabha** — assembly of Brahmin villages (agrarahas).  
**Variyam** — administrative committee of village.  
**Alunganattars** — executive members of village committee.  
**Variyar** — officials appointed to report to the sabha.  
**Shashak Gana / Ganam** — executive members of local assembly.  
**Taniyur** — large village administered as single unit.  
**Nattam** — residential area of village.  
**Kummanacheri** — artisans' quarters.  
**Paracheri** — settlement of lower castes.  
**Sudugadu** — cremation ground.

### ◆ CHOLA ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

**Mandalam** — provincial division.  
**Valanadu** — district-level division.  
**Nadu / Kurram / Kottam** — cluster of villages.  
**Tankurrams** — autonomous town administration.  
**Puravubarithinaikalam** — department of land revenue.

### ◆ CHOLA ECONOMY / LAND / TRADE

**Salabhoga** — land granted for educational institutions.  
**Jivitas** — land assigned to officials.  
**Manigramam** — powerful merchant guild.  
**Nanadesis** — merchant guild with wide trade network.  
**Valanjiyar** — trading guild.  
**Anjuvanam** — guild of foreign merchants.

### ◆ CHOLA SOCIETY & MILITARY

**Vellalas** — agriculturist landholding class.  
**Udankuttam** — higher rank officers.  
**Upper Perundanam** — higher category of officials.  
**Lower Sirudanam** — lower category of officials.

**Kaikkolar** — royal troops paid by treasury.

**Nattuppadai** — militia for local defence.  
**Velaikkaras** — elite royal bodyguards.  
**Kadagams** — military cantonments.

### ◆ VIJAYANAGAR ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

**Rajyas / Mandalams** — provinces.  
**Nadus** — districts.  
**Sthalas** — sub-district divisions.  
**Gramas** — villages.  
**Naik** — provincial governor.  
**Gauda** — village headman.  
**Mahanayakacharya** — officer linking village & centre.

### ◆ VIJAYANAGAR SOCIETY & ECONOMY

**Viprulu** — Brahmins engaged in teaching & rituals.  
**Raju / Rachavaru** — ruling / warrior class.  
**Nalavojativaru** — agriculturist Sudras.  
**Sist** — land tax.  
**Varahas** — gold coins issued by Vijayanagar rulers.

### ◆ DELHI SULTANATE — CENTRAL OFFICES

**Wazir** — chief minister in charge of finance.

**Ariz-i-Mumalik** — head of military department.

**Qazi** — judicial officer.

**Wakil-i-dar** — officer of royal household.

**Barid-i-Mumalik** — intelligence chief.

**Amir-i-Majlis** — officer of royal ceremonies.

**Dabir-i-Mumalik** — head of correspondence.

**Sadr-us-Sudur** — officer of religious endowments.

**Naib Wazir** — deputy minister.

**Mushrif-i-Mumalik** — accountant general.

**Amir-i-Hajib** — court official.

**Qazi-i-Mumalik** — chief justice.

**Amir-i-Akhur** — officer of royal stables.

**Shahna-i-pil** — officer of royal elephants.

**Amir-i-Bahr** — officer of navy / transport.

#### ◆ SULTANATE PROVINCIAL & LOCAL OFFICIALS

**Amir** — governor.

**Muqti / Wali** — iqta governor.

**Nazil** — revenue collector.

**Sahib-i-Diwan** — provincial accountant.

**Shiqdar** — officer of land measurement.

**Amil** — revenue officer.

**Iqtadar** — holder of iqta.

**Kotwal** — city police chief.

**Mufti** — interpreter of law.

**Muhtasib** — officer of public morals.

#### ◆ SULTANATE DEPARTMENTS

**Diwan-i-Arz** — military department.

**Diwan-i-Risalat** — appeals department.

**Diwan-i-Insha** — correspondence department.

**Diwan-i-Wazirat** — finance department.

**Diwan-i-Bandagan** — slaves department.

**Diwan-i-Kohi** — agriculture department.

**Diwan-i-Khairat** — charity department.

**Diwan-i-Mustakhraj** — arrears department.

#### ◆ SULTANATE TAX / REVENUE TERMS

**Ushr** — tax on Muslim land.

**Kharaj** — land tax on non-Muslims.

**Jizya** — tax on non-Muslims.

**Zakat** — religious tax on Muslims.

**Khams** — share of war booty.

**Ghari** — house tax.

**Charai** — cattle tax.

**Masahat** — measurement of land.

**Biswa** — land measure.

**Sondhar** — loan to peasants.

**Khalisa** — crown land reserved for Sultan.

**Fawazil** — surplus revenue from iqta.

#### ◆ MUGHAL CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

**Wazir** — head of revenue.

**Diwan** — finance officer.

**Mir Bakshi** — head of military.

**Mir Saman** — head of royal household.

**Mir Munshi** — correspondence officer.

**Sadr-us-Sadr** — officer of religious grants.

**Qazi-ul-Quzat** — chief judge.

**Muhtasib** — censor of morals.

**Mustaufi** — auditor.

**Mushrif** — accountant.

**Daroga-i-Dak-Chauki** — post officer.

**Waqia-Navis** — news reporter.

#### ◆ MUGHAL PROVINCIAL & LOCAL

**Sipahsalar** — provincial head.

**Fauzdar** — district officer.

**Amalguzar** — revenue collector.

**Kotwal** — police officer.

**Shiqdar** — local officer.

**Amin** — revenue officer.

**Qanungo** — record keeper.

**Muqaddam** — village head.

**Patwari** — village accountant.

#### ◆ MARATHA ADMINISTRATION

**Ashta Pradhan** — council of ministers.

**Peshwa** — prime minister.

**Amatya / Mazumdar** — finance minister.

**Sachiv** — correspondence officer.

**Pandit Rao** — religious officer.

**Nyayadhish** — judicial officer.

**Sar-i-Naubat** — army head.

**Mamlatdar** — provincial head.

**Deshpande / Patil** — village chief.

**Prantpati** — provincial governor.

**Chauth** — tax equal to one-fourth revenue.

**Sardeshmukhi** — additional tax of one-tenth.

**Bargirs** — state-paid cavalry.

**Silhadars** — irregular soldiers.

**Karkhanis** — store officer.

**Chitnis** — clerk.

**Fadnis** — deputy auditor.

**Jamadar** — treasurer.

**Potnis** — cash keeper.

**Daftardar** — record keeper.

