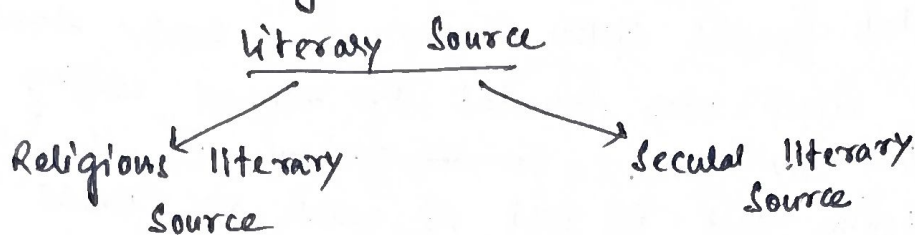


Q. Critically analyse importance of literary sources for the study of ancient India?

The study of the past after invention of writing known as History, so



Religious literary Source

Such as the four vedas, upanishads, sutras, epics, Buddhist texts, Jain's religious texts.

Vedas - the word 'veda' means 'knowledge'. First they have been transmitted orally, later they were written down. There are four vedas - Rig veda, Sama veda, Yajur veda, Atharva veda. So from vedas there are definite literary evidence in the vedas that Aryans regarded the Sapta Sindhu as their original home. Also from vedas we know about ancient vedic culture, political, social and economical aspects of vedic life, their patriarchal nature of society.

Upanishads - literal meaning 'to sit near someone'. There are 108 upanishads, from upanishads we know about the philosophy of life, universe, self, body, sacrifice etc. From 'Mandukya upanishad' - 'Satya mer gayate' was taken.

Sutras - Sutras are very short condensed statements that are used to express various ideas. There are six sutras, Shiksha (Phonetics), Kalpa (Ritual Science), Jyotisha (Astronomy), Vyakarana (Grammar), Nirukta (Etymology), Chhanda (Metric).

Epics - The two Sanskrit epics 'Ramayana' & 'Mahabharata' were told about ancient history of that times.

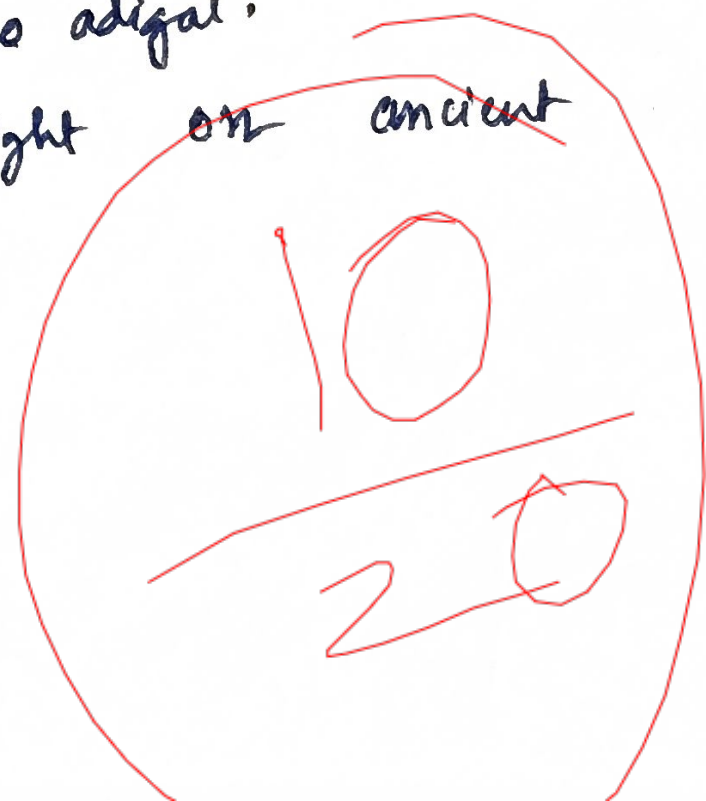
Buddhist texts - Tripitaka is one of the earliest compilations of Buddhist teachings. Tripitaka comprises three books: Sutta (told about conventional teachings), Vinaya (disciplinary code), Abhidharma (moral psychology).

Jaina's texts - The sacred books of Jainas are known as Siddhanta or Agama. (mainly in Prakrit language). Moreover compilations of Acharya sutra, Kalpa sutra are regarded as early jaina texts. These texts tell about ancient India's society, Branchial society system, teachings of Mahavira etc.

Secular literary Source

- Dharma shastra - Law Books
- Artha shastra - written by Kautilya - Which provide information about Mauryan period polity & economy.
- Astadhyayi - written by Panini - important Grammar text
- Ritu Samhara
Megh Datta
Abhijan Shakuntala } — written by Kalidasa - valuable information about Gupta's social & cultural life
- Raj tarangini - written by Kalhana - Tells about social order of Kashmir
- Sangam literature - Mainly Tamil literature tells about social & cultural society of South India.
Such as 'Shilpa dikaran', 'Manimekalai' written by Ilango Adigal.

So all literary sources shedding light on ancient Indian history.



1) Introduction and Conclusion ଡ୍ରୋଇଁ
କରାଯିବ ।

2) Literary source - ଏହା ଏକ ସାମାଜିକ
କାହାଣୀ, ଏହା ଡ୍ରୋଇଁ କରାଯିବ ।

3) ବିଷୟ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ଡ୍ରୋଇଁ ।