



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

**Tiruchirappalli- 620024,
Tamil Nadu, India**

Programme: M.A. History

Course Title : Historiography

Course Code : CC06

Unit-III

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- **He was from prosperous family from North Calcutta**
- **He was sent to England at 20 for ICS exam**
- **He became friend of Surendranath Benerjee and was influenced by liberals like John Bright, Henry Fawcett, John Stuart Mill and Charles Dickens**
- **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee asked him to write in Bengali**
- **Based on this request he wrote novels in Bengali**
- **He undertook the translation of Rigveda into Bengali**

- **Orthodox Brahamans have opposed his work**
- **But Eswar Chandra Vidhaysagar supported him**
- **Two years later he published A History of Civiliation of Anceint Indian (3 volums**
- **In 1883 he found Bangiya Sahitya Parishad for cultivation in Bengli literature**
- **He translated Mahabharatam in to english in 1899 and Ramayanam in 1900**
- **He joined as lcs officer in 1871 but could not stay long in it**
- **Left to england to join as lecturer in Indian history at the univeristy college, London University**

- **here he strated reaserch on economic history of India**
- **He wrote a short sketch England of India, 1897**
- **He writings on famines, poverty and government policy made him famous**
- **First volume the Economic History of India was published 1902and second one in 1904**
- **he worked as revenue minister with Baroda princely state**
- **In1905 he presided over the India Industrial conference in 1906**
- **He welcomed the swadeshi movement which hoped would give new impetus to the manufacturers that relive millions of artisans, weavers from semi-starvation**

- he wrote historical and social novels
- *Bagabijeta* was on Thodarmal winning the hearts of Bengalis
- *Madhavi Kankan* was about the succession process of Aurangazeb
- *Maharashtra Jivan Prabhat* was about the birth of Maharashtra as new nation
- Two social novels: *Sangsar* (1886) on widow remarriage and *Samaj* (1894) on intercaste marriage

- **As Sanskrit scholar he noted the importance of literacy evidence**
- **Believed literacy works are necessary for writing social, cultural and intellectual history**
- **Based on literary sources he has written A History of Civilisation in Ancient India**
- **He hoped it will help him to discover the mind and social institutions of ancient India**
- **But work on economic history made him a great scholar**

- **His mastery over facts, keen observation and deep insights made him recognised scholar**
- **He used parliamentary papers, official records, statistical material to support his arguments**
- **His formulations on economic history of India**
- **First: Basic cause for Indian malady should be sought in agrarian problems. Agrarian question figure prominently**
- **In economic history, we find the summary account of different land systems**
- **Created by ruling class he found incidence high tax**

- In his *Bengal Peasantry* he wrote about the plight of farmers caused by permanent settlement system
- in his *Economic History of India in the Victorian Age* and *Duffrin Committee Report* he focused on poverty and helplessness of farmers in Bengal.
- And argued permanent settlement system was bane for Bengal farmers
- **Second Forulation: colonial economy was fostered by ruling class for production material for British industries and for consumption of British manufactured good by Indians**
- This policy was determined by the mercantile community of Britain
- He argued that government should cease to act under the mandates of Manchester

- **he argued for the repealing of excise duty and trade protection system for Indians.**
- **These arguments became platform for economic nationalism**