The purpose of the Course is to provide an understanding of the emergence and consolidation of major state structures in medieval India. The focus will be on states other than the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire. The themes organized in this Course are based on the case studies of state structures in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Peninsular region and Orissa, since the political formations during this period were several. The themes are organized around the issue of the evolution of the state, political ideologies and institutions, court cultures and the notions of regional identities and the region versus/the empire.

General Readings: This list contains a set of books, which provide an overview of states and socio-economic conditions in the medieval period of Indian history. These readings are significant as they provide relevant background information.


The above books are available in the Central Library and CHS library in Paschimabad.

Themes:

1. **Rise of States and Regional Political Patterns:**
Changing settlement patterns, spread of agriculture, circulation of population, emergence of peasant and warrior groups, development of lineage and clan networks and the rise of new political elites, spread of state societies, rise of states and emergence of the region:

2. **Structures of Polities and Changing Power Configurations:**
   Negotiations of power, court politics, hierarchies of power, and integration through hierarchy, composition of ruling class and circulation of elites; Warfare and negotiations; State, Economy and Networks of control: Administrative structures, taxation, capital cities as centres of power and control.

3. **Historiography:**
   Colonial perspectives, perception of the regions and treatment of issues of polity, economy and society in these writings; Nationalist perspectives, idea of a centralized state, local self-government, concept of a self sufficient village, understanding of the region; Marxist understanding, the concept of feudalism, land grants, role of the temples, issues of land rights and relations; Later perspectives, influence of anthropology, new models in the study of the state, segmentary state, peasant state and society, integrative polity, patrimonial bureaucracy, concept of the ‘little kingdom’, lineage polities.

4. **Forms of Royal Legitimation and Control:**
   Court etiquette and court paraphernalia, rituals of kingship, festivals, and coronation ceremonies, origin myths and genealogies; religion and legitimation, political iconography, warfare and ‘looting’ and patterns of architecture and sculptures representing power and authority.

**Theme Wise Distribution and Reading List:**

*Theme One and Two*
Rise of States and Regional Political Patterns

The aim of the two themes is to explain the rise and evolution of states in the medieval period and the spread of the state through its ideas and institutions. The focus will be on the historical process and not the events. For a proper understanding of these themes, the period of early medieval India that is from the sixth to the seventh century CE will also be taken into consideration. The central idea is that evolution and growth of states are due to historical processes over a period of time and are not merely the result of political events and dynastic histories. While providing a survey of the processes of state formation, certain case studies, especially related to Peninsular India and Rajasthan- from the sixth to seventeenth centuries will be discussed in detail as specific historical conditions present in any state society become crucial to understand the political complexities of that state.

The following are some of the issues that will be discussed:

*Changing settlement patterns, spread of agriculture, circulation of population (migration), emergence of peasant and warrior groups, development of lineage and clan networks and the rise of new political elites, spread of state societies, rise of states and emergence of the region, emergence of regionalism and the idea of state formation, emergence of political identities, the notion of origin of the state and ruling elites, profile of a region.*
Reading List:
Since the readings on state and polities are too many, therefore this list is an attempt to provide some representative readings on the state formation and its spread with the focus on Rajasthan, Gujarat, Vijayanagar, Marathas, Bahamanis, Kakatiyas, Orissa and Kashmir. In addition, the students are advised to consult from the general readings provided in the course structure handout. The books in bold are the core readings of the course and the two themes in particular.
The books and essays are available in the DSA and Central Library. Students are advised to locate these books in the libraries. In case they are not available, they should immediately inform me and a copy will be provided.

2. B D Chattopadhyaya, *The Making of Early Medieval India*, 2012, 2nd Edn (OUP, New Delhi). Introduction (new as well as the old), Chapter II
15. Suraj Bhan Bhardwaj, *Contestations and Accommodations. Mewat and Meos in Mughal India*, 2016 (Delhi, OUP), Chapters 1, 2 and 3
Theme Three
Colonial perspectives, perception of the regions and treatment of issues of polity, economy and society in these writings; Nationalist perspectives, idea of a centralized state, local self-government, concept of a self sufficient village, understanding of the region; Marxist understanding, the concept of feudalism, land grants, role of the temples, issues of land rights and relations; Later perspectives, influence of anthropology, new models in the study of the state, segmentary state, peasant state and society, integrative polity, patrimonial bureaucracy, concept of the ‘little kingdom’, lineage polities.

Select Readings:
3. Burton Stein. Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India. 1980 (New Delhi, OUP)

Theme Four
Forms of Royal Legitimation and Control:
This theme will focus on set of discourses and symbolic practices by means of which the state and various political groups articulate their relationship to power and elaborate their political ideas. Some of the issues in this theme will include:

Court etiquette and court paraphernalia, rituals of kingship, festivals, and coronation ceremonies, origin myths and genealogies; religion and legitimation, political iconography, warfare and ‘looting’ and patterns of architecture and sculptures representing power and authority

Select Readings:
3. Richard Eaton and Philip R.Wagoner, Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India’s Deccan Plateau, 1300-1600. (OUP, 2014), New Delhi. Read the introductions and conclusions of each chapter
6. ______________. Alauddin Khalji Remembered: Conquest, Gender and Community in