



Major Course :

MJ: His: 01

Ancient Indian History: Early Times to Mauryan Age

Full Marks : 100 (75+25)

Pass Marks : 40

Total Credits : 04

Course Objective: The Course aims at familiarizing students with India's heritages well as the important developments in the period covered under this paper. It further seeks to enable them to appreciate the complexity of the changes occurring in the past and to critically analyse the several contexts and processes related to India's ancient past.

Learning Outcomes: After the completion of this course, a student is expected to –

- Appreciate the various historical sources and their role in the reconstruction of India's past
- Develop a sensitive attitude towards the various debates and perspectives related to India's ancient history
- Identify the continuities and changes in a particular historical period
- Formulate and express arguments related to historical events and processes
- Understand the close relationship between past events and contemporary developments

Unit I:

- I. Survey of Sources and approaches to Ancient Indian History
- II. Pre-History: Paleolithic Age, Mesolithic Age, Neolithic Age and Chalcolithic age
- III. Proto-History : Harappan civilization-origin, distribution, features and decline.
- IV. Vedic Period: Society, economy, polity and religion

Unit II:

- I. Religious movement: Jainism and Buddhism
- II. Janapada & Mahajanapada; Early monarchical and republican states and their expansion
- III. Rise of Magadha as paramount political power (from Haryak dynasty to Nand dynasty)
- IV. Iranian Invasion and Alexander's Invasion: Causes and Impact



Unit III:

- I. The Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya, Bindusara, Ashoka
- II. Dhamma of Ashoka: concept and propagation
- III. Later Mauryas and causes of the decline of Mauryas
- IV. Mauryan administration : nature and features

Unit IV:

- I. Cultural developments during this period: Art and Architecture
- II. Nature of Society during this period: Status of women and slaves, Varna and Caste system
- III. Technological developments during this period
- IV. Nature of Economy: Agriculture and Trade

Suggested Readings:

- Romila Thapar : Early India (Hindi translation as प्राचीन भारत)
- Romila Thapar : Ancient Indian Social History
- R. S. Sharma : Ancient India(Hindi translation as प्राचीन भारत)
- R. S. Sharma : Material culture and Social Formations in Ancient India
- D. N. Jha : Ancient India(Hindi translation as प्राचीन भारत)
- A. L. Basham : The Wonder that was India
- D. D.Kosambi : An Introduction to the Study of Indian History
- डी. एन. झा एवं श्रीमाली : प्राचीन भारत का इतिहास
- विशुद्धानंद पाठक : उत्तर भारत का राजनीतिक इतिहास
- वी. डी. महाजन : प्राचीन भारत का इतिहास
- उपेंद्र सिंह : प्राचीन एवं पूर्व मध्यकालीन भारत का इतिहास