

Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka

Four Year Undergraduate Programme : History

Semester I

Introductory Course: Ancient Indian History

Course Objective: This course aims at acquainting the students with the significant historical events, processes and changes that have occurred in India's ancient past. It also seeks to help students appreciate the multiple perspectives and arguments related to history and enable them to think critically, formulate their own opinions and present their ideas about India's past in a cogent manner.

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

- Narrate the main events and changes in India's ancient past
- Identify the continuities and changes in a particular historical period
- Formulate and express arguments related to historical events and processes

Unit I:

- i. Pre-History: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Age
- ii. Harappan Civilization: Features and Decline
- iii. Vedic Culture: Society, Economy and Religion

Unit II:

- i. Jainism and Buddhism
- ii. Mahajanapada and Magadhan Empire
- iii. Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya and Asoka

Unit III:

- i. Post Maurya Era: Indo Greeks, Kushanas and Satavahanas
- ii. Gupta Period: Chandragupta and Samudragupta
- iii. Harshavardhana

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

Major Course: Ancient Indian History: Early Times to Mauryan Age

Course Objective: The Course aims at familiarizing students with India's heritage as 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:

- Geographical background, physiography, major routes & communication, environment, people and languages
- Pre-History: Paleolithic Age, Mesolithic Age, Neolithic Age (Meaning, Distribution and Expansion) and chalcolithic age
- Survey of Sources and approaches to Ancient Indian History

Unit II:

- Proto-History: Harappan civilization - origin, distribution, features and decline.
- The Vedic Civilization: Society, economy, polity and religion

Unit III:

- Religious movement: Jainism and Buddhism
- Janapada & Mahajanapada; Early monarchical and republican states and their expansion
- Rise of Magadha as paramount political power (from Haryak dynasty to Nand dynasty)

Unit IV:

- i) Political scenario in North-Western India
- ii) Iranian invasion: Nature and Impact
- iii) Alexander's Invasion: Nature and impact

Unit V:

- 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

Unit VI:

- i) Mauryan administration : nature and features
- ii) Socio-economic developments during this period
- iii) Technological developments during this period

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- Romila Thapar: Early India (Hindi translation as प्राचीन भारत)
- Romila Thapar: Ancient Indian Social History
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Semester II

Introductory Course: Medieval Indian History

Course Objective: This course aims at acquainting the students with the significant historical events, processes and changes that have occurred in India's medieval past. It also seeks to encourage students to appreciate the processes of the making of syncretic cultures and the niceties of art and architecture. It further aims at helping them to comprehend the various debates and approaches related to medieval Indian history.

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

- Narrate the main events and changes in India's medieval past

- Identify the continuities and changes in a particular historical period
- Formulate and express arguments related to historical events and processes

Unit I:

- Ghazni and Ghori invasions
- Establishment of Delhi Sultanate: Qutubuddin Aibak, Balban, Alauddin Khilji, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Firoz Tughlaq

Unit II:

- Establishment of Mughal Dynasty: Babur and Humayun
- Akbar
- Shah Jahan
- Aurangzeb and Decline of Mughal Empire

Unit III:

- Administration: Delhi Sultanate and Mughals
- Art and architecture: Delhi Sultanate and Mughals
- Sufi-Bhakti movement

Suggested Readings:

- J L Mehta: An advanced study in the History of Medieval India
- Irfan Habib: Medieval India
- Satish Chandra: Medieval History (Vol 1 and 2)
- S Rizvi: The Wonder that was India (Vol 2)
- उपेंद्र सिंह: प्राचीन एवं पूर्व मध्यकालीन भारत का इतिहास
- सतीश चन्द्र: मध्यकालीन भारत (भाग 1 एवं 2)
- इम्तियाज़ अहमद: मध्यकालीन भारत
- जे एल मेहता: मध्यकालीन भारत
- ए के मित्तल: मध्यकालीन भारत का राजनीतिक एवं सांस्कृतिक इतिहास

Major Course: Ancient and Early Medieval History: Post Mauryan to 1206 A.D

Course Objective: The Course aims at encouraging students to appreciate the significance of the events of the historical period covered under this paper and also reflect upon the interconnectedness of different historical processes and changes. It further seeks to enable them to critically examine the multiple perspectives related to this historical period and also formulate their own arguments and ideas about India's past

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

- i) Have an overall understanding of the historical changes in this period
- ii) Analyse the processes that led to a transition from ancient to medieval period.
- iii) Develop a critical lens to the contexts and factors related to historical events
- iv) Appreciate the interconnectedness between contemporary India and its past.

Unit I:

- i) Shungas, Bactrian Greeks, Scythians, Kushanas: Polity and impact
- ii) Economy : land revenue, trade and trade routes, Indo-Roman trade.
- iii) Religion and culture : Emergence of Mahayana Buddhism, Vajranana, Post Mauryan Art and Literature.

Unit II:

- i) Satavahanas : Polity, administration, land grants
- ii) Sangam age : Polity, society, literature and culture

Unit III:

- i) Age of Guptas : Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, Chandragupta II
- ii) Administration, Art-architecture, Economy during Gupta period
- iii) Harshavardhana : Rise and Administration

Unit IV:

- i) Peninsular India: Chola, Chalukyas, Pallavas – Polity, economy and cultural developments
- ii) Origin of Rajputs
- iii) Pratiharas, Palas, Rashtrakutas : Nature of regional politics

Unit V:

- i) Arab Invasion of Sind
- ii) Ghazni invasions ; nature, causes and impact
- iii) Ghorian invasions : nature, causes and impact

Unit VI:

- i) Feudalism: Main features, difference between European and Indian feudalism
- ii) Social changes during the period: Position of women, caste system, rise of new social classes
- iii) Religious developments during the period

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