

SYLLABUS UNDER AUTONOMY

ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE

SEMESTER:- I

COURSE :- A- AIC.1.01

CULTURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA FROM EARLY TIMES UPTIL c. A.D 320

[60 LECTURES]

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Construction of early Indian history and culture with the help of archaeological and literary sources.
2. Understanding the basic parameters of Indian culture.
3. Critical analysis of mythology and hypothesis.

UNIT I

[5 Lectures]

1. Importance of literary and archaeological sources.
2. Role of geography and environment in Indian history and culture.

UNIT II

[8 Lectures]

1. Hunter gatherers of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic ages in India.
2. The transition to food production. (Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites in Indian subcontinent.)
3. Megalithic culture.

UNIT III

[8 Lectures]

Civilization and Urbanization in India c 2000-1900 B.C.E

1. Development of Harappan civilization.
2. General features of mature Harappan phase.
3. Social, economic and religious aspects.
4. Harappan crafts and techniques.

5. Network of trade.
6. Decline of urban life.

UNIT IV

[8 Lectures]

Cultural transitions from c 2000- 600b.c.e in India.

1. Aryan problem, tribes and wars.
2. Cultural traditions as reflected through the Vedas. (Gender, religion, popular beliefs, Varna and hierarchy.)
3. Pastoralism, agriculture and other occupation.
4. The impact of Iron technology.
5. The problem of co-relating literary and archaeological sources.

UNIT V

[8 Lectures]

Second Urbanization and age of industries.

1. Growth of republican states.
2. Political conflict and the growth of Magadhan Empire.
3. Persian and Macedonian invasions in India.
4. Rise of Buddhism and Jainism. (The renunciatory tradition and the social implication and composition of both.)

UNIT VI

[8 Lectures]

The Maurya Empire.

1. The foundation of the Mauryan Empire and its importance. (Rule of Chandragupta Maurya, Bindusara and Ashoka.)
2. Nature and structure of the Mauryan administration and economy.
3. Ashoka's Dhamma.
4. Mauryan art.
5. Decline of Mauryan Empire.

UNIT VII

[10 Lectures]

The political and cultural history of North India, c. 200 BC – 300 AD

1. The Shunga Empire.
2. King Kharavela of Kalinga.
3. King Menander and the Indo-Greek culture.
4. Parthians King Gondophernes.
5. Scythians - Western Kshatrapas- Rudradamana.
6. The Kushana Empire.

Unit VIII

[5Lectures]

India's contact with the outside world.

1. Mesopotamia
2. Persia
3. Greece and Rome
4. Egypt
5. Srilanka.

C.I.A: Quiz/Test/Presentations.

Field trip is compulsory to Nehru centre- Discovery of India.

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14. **THAPAR. ROMILA** – FROM LINEAGE TO STATE: SOCIAL FORMATION IN THE MID-FIRST MILLENNIUM BC IN THE GANGA VALLEY; DELHI;OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS; 1990
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