



SYLLABI OF HISTORY DSC PAPERS

SEMESTER-I

HISDSC101T

HISTORY OF INDIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES UP TO 300 BCE

Contact Hours: 45

Full Marks = 100 [ESE (70) CCA (30)]

Course objective:

Students will acquire knowledge about the historiographical trends, interpretation of the historical sources of ancient India. They can acquire knowledge about the Vedic Period and the rise of Jainism and Buddhism. The paper will help the students in understanding the history of our ancestors along with the cultural transitions that happened in due course of time.

Unit I: Sources

1. Sources of Ancient Indian History: Literature, Archaeology.
2. Notions of History in Early India
3. Historicity of Puranas (9 Lectures)

Unit II: A Survey of Prehistoric India:

- i) Palaeolithic Culture
- ii) Neolithic Culture
- iii) Mesolithic Culture, and
- iv) Chalcolithic Culture (9 Lectures)

Unit III: Indus Valley Civilisation:

- i) Town Planning
- ii) Social and Economic Life
- iii) Religious practices
- iv) Causes of decline. (8 Lectures)

Unit IV: Vedic Culture:

- i) Rig Vedic period: Polity, Economy, Society, Religion
- ii) Later Vedic period: Polity, Economy, Society, Religion (9 Lectures)

Unit V : India in the 300 BCE,

- i) Emergence of Mahajanpada, Rise of Magadha.
- ii) Buddhism and Jainism: Life & Teachings of Mahavira & Gautama Buddha
- iii) Alexander's Campaign in India. (10 Lectures)

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing this course, the students will be able to understand about the historiographical trends, interpretation of the historical sources of ancient India, acquire knowledge about the Vedic Period, the rise of Jainism and Buddhism and about the history of our ancestors along with the cultural transitions.

Suggested Readings:

1. Agarwal, D.P: The Archaeology of India, 1985
2. Datta, D.: History of India, Sribhumi Publishing Company, Calcutta, 1991
3. Jain, V. K., Jha D. N., Prehistory and Protohistory of India: An Appraisal - Palaeolithic, Non-Harappan, Chalcolithic Cultures, No. 7, D. K. Print World Ltd, 2006
4. Maiti, P, Studies in Ancient India, Sridhar Prakashani, Calcutta, 1993



5. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D (edited): The History and Culture of Indian People Vol. I,
6. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D (edited): The History and Culture of Indian People Vol. II
7. Pandey, Rajbali: Prachin Bharat, Vishwavidyalya Prakashan, revised edition, Varanasi, 2010.
8. Raychaudhary, H.C.: The History and Culture of Ancient India, Vol III: The Classical age
9. Raychaudhary, H.C: Political History of Ancient India, rev edition, 1996 by B.N Mukherjee
10. Sankalia, HD: Prehistory and Protohistory of India and Pakistan, Poona 1974
11. Sastri, K.A Nilakanta: A History of South India, from Prehistoric Times to the fall of Vijayanagar, 1955
12. Sen S N. Ancient Indian History and Civilisation, New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd., Kolkata, 2017
13. Singh, Kripa Shankar: Rigveda, Harrappa Sabhyata and Sanskritic Nirantarta, Kitab Ghar publication,
14. Singh, Upinder: A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, from Stone Age to early Medieval India.
15. Sreedharan E, Textbook of Historiography, Orient BlackSwan, 2004
16. Thapar, Romilla: Early India from the Beginnings to 1300, London, 2002.