



SYLLABI OF HISTORY DSM PAPERS

SEMESTER-I

HISDSM101

HISTORY OF INDIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES TILL THE MAURYAN PERIOD

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: Reconstructing Ancient Indian History

1. Sources: Archaeology & Literary

Prehistoric India:

2. Prehistoric Cultures of India: Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic (9 Lectures)

Unit II: Indus Valley civilization:

Town Planning, Socio-economic Life, Religious Practices and Causes of its Decline. (8 Lectures)

Unit III: Vedic Civilisation:

i) Rig Vedic period: Polity, Economy, Society, Religion

ii) Later Vedic period: Polity, Economy, Society, Religion

Religious Systems in the 6th Century BCE

i) Jainism – Life and Teachings of Mahavir

ii) Buddhism – Life and Teachings of Gautam Buddha (9 Lectures)

Unit IV: Post Vedic Political Evolution:

i) The political condition of India in the sixth century BCE.

ii) Rise of Magadha.

Foreign Invasions:

i) Persian Invasion and Darius I

ii) Greek Invasion: Alexander invasion and its effects. (9 Lectures)

Unit V: Mauryan Empire:

1. Mauryan Expansion: Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka

2. Ashoka's Dhamma

3. Maurya Administration

4. Mauryan Art and Architecture

5. The decline of the Mauryan Empire. (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. A. L. Basham: The Wonder that Was India. Sidgwick and Jackson, 1954

2. D.D. Kosambi: Culture and Civilization of Ancient India. Vikas Prakashan, 1994

3. D.N.Jha: Ancient India: An Historical Outline. Manohar Publishers & Distributors, Delhi, 1999.



4. Datta, D.: History of India, Sribhumi Publishing Company, Calcutta, 1991
5. H.C. Raychoudhary: Political history of Ancient India: From the Accession of Parikshit to the Extinction of the Gupta Dynasty. University of Calcutta, 1950
6. Hasmukhlal Dhirajlal Sankalia: The Prehistory and Proto history of India and Pakistan.
7. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri: Age of Nandas and Mauryas. Motilal Banarsidass, 1967
8. ----- History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar.
9. Maiti, P, Studies in Ancient India, Sridhar Prakashani, Calcutta, 1993
10. Nayanjot Lahiri & Upinder Singh (Editors): Ancient India: New Research. Oxford University
11. Om Prakash: Pracheen Bharat Ka Itihas. New Age International Pub. (P) Limited, 1971
12. R.C. Majumdar: Ancient India. Motilal Banarsidass, 1964
13. ----- An Advanced History of India, Motilal Banarsidass, 1994
14. ----- The History and Culture of the Indian People: The Vedic Age.
15. R.E.M. Wheeler: The Indus Civilization. Cambridge University Press, 1953
16. Sen S N. Ancient Indian History and Civilisation, New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd., Kolkata, 2017
17. R.S. Sharma: India's Ancient Past. Oxford University Press, 2006
18. R.S. Tripathy: History of Ancient India. Motilal Banarsidass, 1942
19. Romila Thapar: Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas. Oxford University Press, 1980