

**1ST SEMESTER
MAJOR
HST123J: HISTORY: HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA
Credits: THEORY-4, TUTORIAL: 2**

Course Overview:

This course deals with the history and archaeology of Indian subcontinent from stone ages up to the early medieval times. By imparting basic understanding of the different category of sources the learner will be acquainted with the various stone-age cultures, civilizations, chiefdoms, kingdoms and empires that flourished in the Indian subcontinent. The course explores the forces that resulted in the origin, growth and development of different socio-economic and political structures. The course also discusses state formation and empire building process in the Indian Sub-continent.

Course Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of the course the learners are expected:

- a. To understand the significance of various categories of sources.
- b. To understand the origin, growth and development of various cultures in Indian subcontinent.
- c. To appreciate the importance of various processes of interaction and accommodation in the making of Indian plural culture.
- d. To appreciate the value of heritage.

Unit – I

- I. Archaeological and Literary Sources: Significance
- II. Pre and Proto-History: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic Culture-Features.
- III. Indus Valley Civilization: Features and Decline.

Unit-II

- I. Vedic Times: Polity, Economy and Culture.
- II. Second Urbanization: Causes.
- III. Jainism, Buddhism: Teachings
- IV. Janapadas, Mahajanapadas and the Rise of Magadha.

Unit-III

- I. Mauryan Empire: Polity and Decline.
- II. Central Asian Contacts: Indo-Greeks, Saka-Parthians and Kushans-Impact.
- III. Sangam Age: An Introduction
- IV. Rise of Satvahanas

Unit-IV

- I. Gupta Empire: Polity and Administration
- II. Harshavardhana: Samanta System and State of Buddhism.
- III. Rise of Regional Kingdoms: Pallavas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas and Cholas

TUTORIALS (2 CREDITS; 30 HOURS)

Tutorial-I:

- I. Debates/ Group discussions on select themes of the course
- II. Essay on any of the following:
 - A. Sculptures
 - B. Numismatics
 - C. Epigraphy
 - D. Artifacts

Tutorial-II:

I. Debates/ Group discussions on importance of historical sites

II. Guided Heritage Walk: Visit and Report Writing on any of the archeological sites

Suggested Readings

- F.R.A. Allchin and Allchin, B. 1995, *The Origins of a Civilization*. Delhi: Viking.
- RajanGurukkal,2010, *Social Formations of Early South India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- D. N.Jha, 1998, *Ancient India: A Historical Outline*, New- Delhi.
- D.D. Kosambi,*An Introduction to the Study of Indian History* (Bombay, 1956).
- K.A. NilakantaSastri,*A History of South India* Oxford University of Press, 1967.
- R.S. Sharma, 2003, *Perspectives in Social and Economic History of Ancient India*, Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal
- R. S.Sharma, 2005, *India's Ancient Past*, Oxford University Press.
- R.S. Sharma, *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*, Mac Millan, New Delhi, 1983
- UpinderSingh, 2009. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India from the stone age to the 12th century*. Delhi: Pearson Longman.
- RomilaThapar, *Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, Oxford University Press.
- RomilaThapar, *Early India*, Penguin Books, 2002.
- RomilaThapar,*Interpreting Early India*, Delhi, 1999. Oxford University Press