

Semester	II
Course	U.G
Paper Code	C1HS230211T
Paper Title	Early India During the Age of Empires (c 300 BCE - 500 CE)
No. of Credits	4
Theory / Practical / Composite	Theory
Minimum No. of preparatory hours per week a student has to devote	
Number of Modules	2
Syllabus	<p>Module 1 = 19 LECTURES</p> <p>I. The Mauryan Period (c. 325 BCE-185 BCE) = 7 LECTURES</p> <p>a. Polity and Administration; Asokan Dhamma</p> <p>b. Economy and Urban Growth.</p> <p>c. Decline.</p> <p>II. Post-Mauryan Era (c 200 BCE- 300 CE) = 5 LECTURES</p> <p>Political Powers; Economy and Urban Developments</p> <p>III. The Imperial Guptas (c 300 CE- 500 CE) = 7 LECTURES</p> <p>a. Expansion and Consolidation of the Gupta Empire</p> <p>b. Economic Features- Agrarian expansion: Land grants, changing production relations; Trade.</p> <p>Module 2 = 17 LECTURES</p> <p>I Traits in the Society and Religion (c 300 BCE- 500 CE) = 10 LECTURES</p> <p>[a] Social stratifications: Varna, Proliferation of Jati, Untouchability; Position of Women</p> <p>[b] Religious trends: Gradual Consolidation of Brahmanical Tradition; Challenges posed to Brahmanism.</p> <p>II Cultural Developments: Conflict and Assimilation (c 300 BCE- 500 CE) = 7 LECTURES</p> <p>[a] A Brief Survey of Literature: Sanskrit Literature, Tamil Sangam Literature, Scientific and Technical treatises.</p> <p>[b] Art and Architecture.</p>

<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>Learning Outcomes: This paper will enable students to develop comprehensive knowledge of the political, social, economic and cultural characters of early India spanned from third century BCE to fifth century CE. As it is well known, this is a very significant period in Indian history when not only two pan-Indian empires emerged along with other considerably important powers, but also developments of new political ideologies, cultural growth, religious trends took place. Students of History should be familiar with such fascinating historical traits because these are able to affect the interpretation of ancient Indian history in a large scale, even in present days. Study of these periods will help students to understand the relevance of present discussion and research. The course has been designed in a way so that it will help to improve students' analytical ability and guide them if they opt for further research. Moreover, learning of this paper in a thorough way will help students in the competitive examinations.</p>
<p>Reading/Reference Lists</p>	<p>Essential Readings-</p> <p>D.C. Sircar, Indian Epigraphy, Motilal Banarsidass, 2017 D.N.Jha, Ancient India in Historical Outline, Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 2020 D.D. Kosambi- An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, Sage Publications India Private Limited, 2016 D.D. Kosambi- The Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, 1997 R.S. Sharma- Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of The Lower Order Down to Circa A.d. 600, Motilal Banarsidas, 2016 R.S. Sharma- Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2015. R.S. Sharma- Indian Feudalism, Laxmi Publications, 2008 R.S. Sharma, Urban Decay in India, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1987. R.S. Sharma, India's Ancient Past, New Delhi, OUP, 2007 Romila Thapar, The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300, Penguin India, 2003 Romila Thapar, Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations, Orient Blackswan, 2010 Radhakumud Mookerji, Indian Shipping: A History of the Sea-Borne Trade and Maritime Activity of the Indians from the Earliest Times, Gyan Publishing House, 2023 Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008. Ranabir Chakravarti, Exploring Early India (Up to c. AD 1300), Primus, New Delhi, 2016</p>

	<p>Suggested Readings- Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society, Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2007 Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade in Early India, OUP, 2004 H. C. Raychaudhuri, Political History of Ancient India, Rev. ed. with Commentary by B. N. Mukherjee, 1996 K. A. N. Sastri, ed., History of South India, OUP, 1966. Kunal Chakraborty, Kanad Sinha, State, Power and Legitimacy: The Gupta Kingdom, Primus Books, 2018 Kunal Chakraborty, Religious Processes: The Puranas and the Making of a Regional Tradition, OUP India, 2018 R. Champaklakshmi, Trade Ideology and Urbanization: South India 300 Bs to AD 1300, OUP India, 1999 Subbarayalu, Y, South India Under the Cholas, OUP, 2011 B D Chattopadhyaya, Suchandra Ghosh, Bishnupriya Basak, Inscriptions and Agrarian Issues in Indian History Essays in memory of D C Sircar, Asiatic Society, 2011 B.D. Chattopadhyay, The Concept of Bharatvarsha and Other Essays, Permanent Black, 2019</p>	
Evaluation	Theory CIA:5+ Mid Sem:20+ Attendance: 5 Semester Exam: 70	Practical (if applicable) CA: Semester Exam:
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam	End Semester Exam: 70 Two modules of 35 marks each. (3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: 3X5=15 2 questions of 10 marks from 3 options: 2X10=20)	

Template for Paper Submission