

History UG

Semester: 2				
Programme: History				
Course : Early India During the Age of Empires (c 300 BCE - 500 CE)				
Paper code: C1HS230211T			Credits: 4	
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
Course Overview: This course surveys the political, socio-economic, and cultural evolution of early India from the rise of the Mauryas (c. 325 BCE) through the Post-Mauryan transitions to the decline of the Imperial Guptas (c. 500 CE). It examines the centralization of Mauryan administration, the impact of Asokan Dhamma, and the subsequent agrarian and commercial expansion under the Guptas. Students will analyze deep-seated social changes, including the proliferation of Jati and gender norms, alongside the consolidation of Brahmanical traditions. The curriculum also highlights a period of vibrant cultural synthesis, exploring developments in Sanskrit and Sangam literature, scientific treatises, and monumental art.				
Course Outcome:				
1. Identify the major dynasties, chronological phases, and key literary works (including Sanskrit and Sangam texts) that characterize Indian history from c. 325 BCE to 500 CE.				
2. Explain the fundamental features of Mauryan administration, including the concept of Asokan Dhamma, and describe the mechanisms of land grants that emerged during the Gupta period.				
3. Apply evidence from scientific treatises and technical literature to interpret the technological and economic advancements of the Post-Mauryan and Gupta eras.				
4. Analyze the structural transformations in social stratification, specifically examining the proliferation of <i>Jati</i> , the crystallization of the <i>Varna</i> system, and the changing position of women.				
5. Critically evaluate the extent to which the Gupta period represented a consolidation of Brahmanical traditions versus a period of conflict and assimilation with heterodox faiths.				
6. Construct a comprehensive historical argument that links the agrarian expansion and changing production relations of the Gupta Empire to the flourishing of art, architecture, and urban development.				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	I. The Mauryan Period (c. 325 BCE-185 BCE) = 7	19	CO1 CO2	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	LECTURES a. Polity and Administration; Asokan Dhamma b. Economy and Urban Growth. c. Decline.		CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	
	II. Post-Mauryan Era (c 200 BCE- 300 CE) = 5 LECTURES Political Powers; Economy and Urban Developments			
	III. The Imperial Guptas (c 300 CE- 500 CE) = 7 LECTURES a. Expansion and Consolidation of the Gupta Empire b. Economic Features- Agrarian expansion: Land grants, changing production relations; Trade			
II.	I Traits in the Society and Religion (c 300 BCE- 500 CE) = 10 LECTURES [a] Social stratifications: Varna, Proliferation of Jati, Untouchability; Position of Women [b] Religious trends: Gradual Consolidation of Brahmanical Tradition; Challenges posed to Brahmanism	17	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	II Cultural Developments: Conflict and Assimilation (c 300 BCE- 500 CE) = 7 LECTURES [a] A Brief Survey of Literature: Sanskrit Literature, Tamil Sangam Literature, Scientific and Technical treatises. [b] Art and Architecture.			
Text Books				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008. • D.C. Sircar, Indian Epigraphy, Motilal Banarsidass, 2017 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.C. Sircar, studies in the Geography of Ancient and Medieval India, Motilal Banarsidass, 2014 • Ranabir Chakravarti, Exploring Early India (Up to c. AD 1300), Primus, New Delhi, 2016 • 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, VikasPublishing House Pvt Ltd, 1997 • R.S. Sharma- Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Motilal BanarsidassPublishers, 2015. • R.S. Sharma, India's Ancient Past, New Delhi, OUP, 2007 • R.S. Sharma, Looking for the Aryas, Delhi, Orient Longman Publishers, 1995 • Bridget & F. Raymond Allchin, The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan, Viking, 1997 • Romila Thapar, The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300, PenguinIndia, 2003 • Romila Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, Oxford, 2012
Suggested readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society, Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2007 • Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade in Early India, OUP, 2004 • 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
Web Resources
1.
2.
3.
4.
Evaluation : Theory CIA= 5+ Mid Sem= 20 + Attendance=5 Semester Exam: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam:

Total Marks: 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

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Identify the major dynasties, chronological phases, and key literary works (including Sanskrit and Sangam texts) that characterize Indian history from c. 325 BCE to 500 CE.	K1
CO2	Explain the fundamental features of Mauryan administration, including the concept of Asokan Dhamma, and describe the mechanisms of land grants that emerged during the Gupta period.	K2
CO3	Apply evidence from scientific treatises and technical literature to interpret the technological and economic advancements of the Post-Mauryan and Gupta eras.	K3
CO4	Analyze the structural transformations in social stratification, specifically examining the proliferation of <i>Jati</i> , the crystallization of the <i>Varna</i> system, and the changing position of women.	K4
CO5	Critically evaluate the extent to which the Gupta period represented a consolidation of Brahmanical traditions versus a period of conflict and assimilation with heterodox faiths.	K5
CO6	Construct a comprehensive historical argument that links the agrarian expansion and changing production relations of the Gupta Empire to the flourishing of art, architecture, and urban development.	K6