

Course: M.A. History	
Semester	One
Paper Code	<b>MHIS4102</b>
Paper Title	REVISITING EARLY HISTORIC AND EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA (600 BCE to 1200 CE)
No of Credits	SIX
No of Periods Assigned	Six
Course description/objective and Outcome	This paper will introduce a critical and in-depth study of ancient and early medieval India. It will increase students' comprehensive knowledge of the political, socio-religious, economic and cultural aspects of these two significant periods of Indian history. Students will be able to critically examine the transitions that took place in those fields and will be aware of contemporary research. The course also intends to give a brief idea about the different sources and the changing interpretations of ancient and early medieval phases.
Syllabus	<p><b>MODULE- I</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reading Sources: Archaeological: Numismatic, Epigraphic and Literary</li> <li>2. Selected Themes / Issues in Early Historic and Early Medieval Indian History- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. State formation from Early Historical to Early Medieval Times: Regional Variations.</li> <li>b. Changing polities: State and Sovereignty in Ancient India.</li> <li>c. Early Medieval Times: Debate about 'Feudalism' in India Integrated and Segmentary State System: Historiography and Debates.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Bengal: Socio-Political and Cultural transformations</li> </ol> <p><b>MODULE- II</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Society: Varna- Jati Relations, Gender Relations, Urbanity and Urban Culture.</li> <li>2. Economic processes: Agrarian structure; Urbanizations; Trade, Coinage, Crafts and Guilds; Temple Economy</li> <li>3. Religious traditions: Continuities and Transformations.</li> <li>4. Indian Art, Architecture and Painting: An Overview.</li> </ol>
Reading/Reference List	<p><b>ESSENTIAL READINGS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. D.C. Sircar, Indian Epigraphy, Motilal Banarsidas, 2017</li> <li>2. D.N. Jha, Ancient India in Historical Outline, Manohar Publishers &amp; Distributors, 2020</li> <li>3. D.D. Kosambi- The Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, 1997</li> <li>4. R.S. Sharma- Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of The Lower Order Down to Circa A.d. 600, Motilal Banarsidas, 2016</li> <li>5. R.S. Sharma- Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2015.</li> <li>6. R.S. Sharma- Indian Feudalism, Laxmi Publications, 2008</li> <li>7. R.S. Sharma, Urban Decay in India, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1987</li> <li>8. Romila Thapar, The Penguin History of Early India:</li> </ol>

- From the Origins to AD 1300, Penguin India, 2003
9. Romila Thapar, From Lineage to State: Social Formations in the Mid - First Millennium BC in the Ganga Valley, New Delhi, 1984.
  10. Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008.
  11. Upinder Singh, Rethinking Early Medieval India: A Reader, New Delhi, 2011
  12. Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society, Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2007
  13. Ranabir Chakravarti, Trade in Early India, OUP, 2004
  14. Ranabir Chakravarti, Exploring Early India (Up to c. AD 1300), Primus, New Delhi, 2016
  15. K. A. N. Sastri, ed., History of South India, OUP, 1966.
  16. B. D. Chattopadhyaya, Making of Early Medieval India, Delhi, 1994
  17. B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Studying Early India: Archaeology, Texts and Historical Issues, New Delhi, 2003.
  18. Kunal Chakrabarti, Religious Process: The Puranas and the Making of a Regional Tradition, OUP 2001
  19. Kunal Chakrabarti and Kanad Sinha. Eds. State, Power and Legitimacy: The Gupta Kingdom, Delhi, 2018.
  20. Noburo Karashima ed. A Concise History of South India, Delhi, 2004.
  21. K. Veluthat, The Early Medieval in South India, New Delhi, 2010.
  22. R.C. Majumder, ed., (reprint), History of Bengal (Vol. I), Patna, 1971.
  23. Niharranjan Ray, The History of the Bengali People: Ancient Period (Translated with an Introduction by John W. Hood), Calcutta, 1994.
  24. Niharranjan Ray, Banglalar Itihas: Adi Parba, Kolkata, 1994.
  25. R. Champakalakshmi, Trade, Ideology and Urbanisation: South India 300 BC to AD 1300, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996.
  27. Ronald M Davidson, Indian Esoteric Buddhism, Columbia University Press, 2002
  28. Garima Kaushik, Woman and Monastic Buddhism in Early South Asia, Routledge 2016
  29. Daud Ali, Courtly Culture and Political Life in Early Medieval India, CUP 2006
  30. Hermann Kulke, ed The State in India 1000-1700 OUP 1995

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS-**

1. B. Roychoudhuri, The Political History of Bengal to the rise of the Pala Dynasty, c. 326 BC to AD 750, Calcutta, 1990.
2. Vijay Kumar Thakur, Urbanization in Ancient India, 2003.
3. Suchandra Ghosh and Urvi Mukhopadhyay eds., Exploring South Asian Urbanity, Routledge India, London, 2021.
4. B D Chattopadhyaya, Suchandra Ghosh, Bishnupriya Basak, Inscriptions and Agrarian Issues in Indian History Essays in memory of D C Sircar, Asiatic Society, 2011
5. Nayanjot Lahiri, The Decline and Fall of The Indus

	<p>Civilization, Permanent Black, 2000.</p> <p>6. Upinder Singh, Nayanjot Lahiri, Eds, Ancient India New Research, OUP, 2009.</p> <p>7. Rila Mukherjee, Strange Riches: Bengal in the Mercantile Map of South Asia, Foundation Books, 2006</p> <p>8. Rila Mukherjee, India in the Indian Ocean World: From the Earliest Times to 1800 CE, Springer, 2022.</p> <p>9. Pratyay Nath and Kaustabh Mani Sengupta, Itihaser Bitarka Bitarker Itihas, Kolkata, 2022.</p>	
Evaluation -	CIA- 20 marks End Semester- 80 marks	