
Delhi Through the Ages: The Making of its Early Modern History

Course Objective:

The objective of the paper is to explore the city of Delhi from its early history to the eighteenth century. The city grew into one of the largest cities in the world and was the capital of some of the great empires. As capital Delhi profited from continuous immigration, state patronage and vibrant cultural life. The city was not merely dependent upon its rulers for cultural and political sustenance. The course also focuses on Sufis, litterateurs and merchants who also gave the city its unique character and resilience in the face of political turbulence.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- To acquaint students with the history of Delhi till the early modern period.
- Analyse the processes of urbanization as shaped by political, economic and social changes

Course Content:

Unit I: Ancient Delhi and adjoining sites:

1. Indraprastha- Hastinapur, Panipat, Tilpat
2. Ashokan Edicts
3. Mehrauli Iron Pillar
4. Lalkot

Unit II: From Settlements to Cityscape - Understanding the 10th and 14th Century Cities of Delhi. Case Study Any Two:

1. Anangpur Fort
2. Dehli-i Kuhna's Masjid-i Jami
3. Siri
4. Ghiyaspur-Kilukhari
5. Tughulqabad
6. Firuzabad

Unit III: 16th to 17th Century Delhi:

1. Humayun's Garden Tomb
2. Morphology of Shahjahanabad

Unit IV: 18th Century Delhi - Understanding political and social changes

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: This unit will introduce students to the early history of Delhi, focusing on Indraprastha ancient edicts and pillars and the Tomar and Chauhan constructions.

- Richard J. Cohen, "An Early Attestation of the Toponym Dhillī", *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 109 (1989), pp. 513-519.
- Singh, Upinder. (2006). *Ancient Delhi*, Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Mani, B.R. (1997). *Delhi: Threshold of the Orient*; (Studies in Archaeological Investigations), Aryan Books International.