

Major Paper-I DSC-1 (A/B)

5. History : Ancient Societies

Course Objective:

The course aims towards enabling students to have a broad understanding of various Ancient Civilizations with special focus on complexities in State Formation, society, economy, religion and culture. An overview of the ecological impact on their emergence, craft and trade, emerging cultural patterns, art and architecture and religion will be discussed related to the Indian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek and Chinese Civilizations. Students will get to familiarize themselves with fundamental concepts like 'Bronze Age', 'Civilization', 'Culture', 'Urban Revolution', and 'State'. Various craft technology especially metal technology and debates around it will also be introduced to them. The course strives to generate interest in students to learn about metal technology and its contribution to the emergence and growth of Ancient Civilizations.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and explain concepts like Urban Revolution, Bronze Age and Civilization.
- Discuss the debate around metal technology.
- Describe ecological and other reasons for emergence of the various civilizations.
- Understand social complexities of different civilizations.
- Explain trends in the economy of these civilizations.
- Gain an understanding of cultural patterns and religious developments.

Course Content:

UNIT I: Defining Civilization, Sources and Historiography, Urban Revolution and Bronze Age, Debating Metal Technology

UNIT II: Bronze Age Civilizations- India / China (Shang Dynasty)

UNIT III: Bronze Age Civilizations- Mesopotamia (Sumerian and Akkadian Period)/Egypt (Old Kingdom) Ecological Context, Kingship and State, Social Pattern and Economy. Art, Religion and Culture

UNIT IV: Bronze Age Civilizations- Minoan/ Mycenaean, Ecological Context, Kingship and State, Social Pattern and Economy Art, Religion and Culture

Essential Readings and Unit wise Teaching outcome:

Unit I: This Unit will help students understand the concept of Civilization. The important milestones in the growth and spread of civilizations viz. urban revolution, Bronze Age and advent of metal technology will also be dealt with. (Teaching period: 2 Weeks approx.)

- Childe, G. (1950). "The Urban Revolution," "The Town Planning Review," Vol. 21, No. 1, April 1950, pp. 3-17.