

Minor : Paper-II Discipline A₁

5. History : History of India from earliest times up to c. 300 CE

Course Objectives:

This course explores various historical phases and processes of Indian history from prehistoric period to early historic centuries through the lens of archaeological and literary evidence. An overview of various transformations, cultural shifts, developments in all aspects from the earliest times up to the phase of Empire building is provided to the learner. Alongside the pan-Indian historical changes, it also focuses on regional diversities.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Explain the importance of various sources for study of prehistory and proto-history
- Distinguish between civilization and culture, particularly in the context of the Harappan civilization
- Locate the developments related to the introduction of Iron in early societies leading to urbanism and state formation
- Outline the key features of the Mauryan period.
- Locate the shift of historical focus from Gangetic belt to newer areas alongside the process of assimilation.

Course Content:

UNIT I: Sources for interpreting early Indian history

UNIT II: Survey of Prehistoric Cultures: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic.

UNIT III: Harappan Civilization: early urbanism, town planning, economy, cultural patterns and decline.

UNIT IV: Vedic and Megalithic cultures: an overview

UNIT V: Second urbanization, material and social changes, Buddhism and Jainism.

UNIT VI: The Mauryan Empire: administration, economy, Ashoka's Dhamma, pillars and rock edicts

UNIT VII: Early Tamilkam: Survey of Sangam literature, polity, economy and society

UNIT VIII: Post Mauryan age: polity economy, society and culture with special reference to Sat-vahanas and Kushanas