

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE– 3 (DSE): Prehistory and Protohistory of India

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Prehistory and Protohistory of India	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course aims to introduce the concepts of pre and proto history through a survey of various cultures/periods of the Indian subcontinent. The course provides an understanding of the shifts and developments in the technology and subsistence practices through the hunting-gathering, food producing, urban and Iron using societies. The cultural diversity of different geographical zones of the Indian subcontinent would be highlighted through a study of settlement patterns.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students would:

- Have the ability to differentiate between various pre and proto historic cultures/periods.
- Understand the changes and continuity in distribution, tool technology and subsistence practices during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.
- Identify the characteristic features of Neolithic cultures in the Indian subcontinent with their regional distribution
- Recognise the various copper using cultures of India.
- Distinguish the different phases of Harappan civilization.
- Locate the development of Iron technology in different geographical zones of India.

SYLLABUS OF DSE

Unit 1: Introduction Understanding the concept, scope and terminology of Pre and Proto history

1. Sources

Unit 2: Prehistoric Hunter Gatherers

1. Survey of Palaeolithic cultures: Sites, Sequence, tool typology and technology, Subsistence patterns
2. Survey of Mesolithic cultures in India: distribution, tool technology and typology and artefacts
3. Survey of rock art in India

Unit 3: Early Farming Communities: Beginning of Food Production

1. Understanding Neolithic: Regional distribution, subsistence practices and settlement patterns

2. Survey of Chalcolithic cultures in Indian subcontinent

Unit 4: Harappan Civilization: Extent, features of urbanisation and legacy (4 Weeks)

1. Early Harappan
2. Mature Harappan
3. Late Harappan

Unit 5: Early Iron using societies: Beginning and development of iron technology (3 Weeks)

1. Survey of PGW Cultures in Indian Subcontinent with special reference to Ahichhatra and Atranjikhhera
2. Megalithic Cultures: Distribution pattern, Burial practices and types

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1: In this unit the students will be introduced to the major concepts and terminologies relating to the prehistoric archaeology. They will also be introduced to the other such disciplines which are utilized in the interpretation of prehistoric objects. **(Teaching Time: 6 hrs. approx.)**

- Chakrabarti, D.K. (1999). India: An Archaeological History, Oxford University Press, pp. 1- 18.
- Jain, V. K. (2006). Pre and Protohistory of India. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld.
- Misra, V.N. (1989). "Stone Age India: an Ecological Perspective", Man and Environment, Vol. 14, pp.17-64.
- जैन, वी. के. (2008). भारत का प्रागैतिहास और आध्यैतहास: एक अवलोकन. नई दिल्ली: डीके प्रैटवर्ल्ड.

Unit 2: In this unit the students will acquire comprehensive knowledge about the hunting-gathering stage of human cultural evolution in the context of Indian subcontinent. Early artistic expressions and their significance will add to their interpretive skills. **(Teaching Time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- Jain, V. K. (2006). Pre and Protohistory of India. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld (Also available in Hindi).
- Misra, V.D. and J.N. Pal (eds). (2002). Mesolithic India. Allahabad: Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad, pp. 13- 124.
- Mishra, S. (2008). "The Lower Palaeolithic: A Review of Recent Findings". Man and Environment, Vol. 33, pp. 14-29.
- Paddayya, K. (2008). India: Palaeolithic Cultures, in Encyclopaedia of Archaeology. Edited by D. M. Pearsall, pp. 768-791. New York: Elsevier.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, New Delhi: Pearson, pp. 94-131.
- रसक, उपेक्ष . (2016). प्राचीन एवम प ० मध्यकालीन भारत का ईतहास पाठिकातसे 12 वीं शतक, नई दिल्ली, एरतसन.

Unit 3: This Unit will equip students with the appearance of a new way of life when humans