

HISTORY
B.A – PAPER 1 – HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA
FIRST SEMESTER
SEP SYLLABUS (2024 ONWARDS)

NO. OF CREDITS: 5

TOTAL NO. OF HOURS: 60

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To introduce students to the main features of the Indus Valley Civilisation
- To familiarize students with the key aspects of the Early and Later Vedic Periods and the contributions of Jainism and Buddhism.
- To acquaint students with the foundations of the Mauryan Empire, Ashoka's Dhamma, and their cultural contributions.
- To provide an understanding of the Gupta Empire's growth, cultural achievements, and the importance of Harshavardhana.
- To introduce students to the Sangam Age's culture, polity and economy, as well as Pallava and Chola art and architecture.

Outcomes: After the successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Appreciate the main features and recent discoveries of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- Evaluate the key aspects of the Early and Later Vedic Periods and the contributions of Jainism and Buddhism.
- Examine the foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Ashoka's Dhamma, and the cultural contributions of the Mauryas.
- Assess the growth and cultural contributions of the Gupta Empire, as well as the contributions of Harshavardhana .
- Analyse the cultural, political, and economic developments during the Sangam Age, and the art and architecture of the Pallavas and Cholas.

UNIT - 1: INTRODUCTION

10 HRS

Indus Valley Civilisation - Urban planning - Economic Life - Social Life – Religion – Script – Decline - Recent Excavations.

UNIT – 2: VEDIC PERIOD

11 HRS

- A) Early Vedic Period: Polity - Society – Religious Practices - Economy. Later Vedic Period - Varnashrama Dharma - Position of Women - Religion.
- B) Movements of Dissent and Protest: Teachings and Philosophy of Jainism and Buddhism – Impact.

UNIT - 3: THE MAURYAN AGE: Foundation of the Mauryan Empire – Arthashastra - Ashoka and his Dhamma - Contributions of the Mauryas to Indian Culture.

12 HRS

UNIT - 4: A) GUPTA AGE: Foundation and Consolidation of the Gupta Empire - Economic Development – Society – Culture.

B) POST GUPTA PERIOD: Harshavardhana of Kanauj – Nalanda University.

12 HRS

UNIT - 5: THE SOUTH: The Sangam Age- Literature- Polity- Economy- Society. Pallava Art and Architecture. Cholas- Local Administration- Art and Architecture.

10 HRS

PLACES OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE:**05 HRS**

1. Harappa
2. Mohenjodaro
3. Lothal
4. Dholavira
5. Bodhgaya
6. Pataliputra
7. Maski
8. Taxila
9. Sanchi
10. Ellora
11. Ajantha
12. Kannauj
13. Shravanabelagola
14. Keezhadi
15. Arikamedu
16. Uttaramerur
17. Madurai
18. Kanchipuram
19. Mahabalipuram
20. Thanjavur.

BOOKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. Kosambi, D.D. (1956). *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*. Bombay, India: Popular Book Depot.
2. Thapar, R. (2002). *Early India: From the Origin to AD 1300*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
3. Sharma, R.S. (2005). *Ancient India*. New Delhi, India: National Book Trust.
4. Basham, A.L. (1954). *The Wonder that was India*. London, UK: Sidgwick & Jackson.
5. Jha, D.N. (2004). *Early India: A Concise History*. New Delhi, India: Manohar.
6. Altekar, A.S. (1949). *State and Government in Ancient India*. Delhi, India: Motilal Banarsidass.
7. Ghoshal, U.N. (1959). *A History of Indian Political Ideas*. Bombay, India: Oxford University Press.
8. Bhandarkar, R. G. (1884). *Early History of the Deccan (Two Vols)*. London, UK: Trübner & Co.
9. Nilakanta Sastri, K. A. (1955). *A History of South India from Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*. Madras, India: Oxford University Press.
10. Singh, U. (2009). *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Pearson Longman.
11. Karashima, N. (2014). *A Concise History of South India: Issues and Interpretations*. Oxford University Press.
12. Trautmann, T.R. (2009). *The Clash of Chronologies: Ancient India in the Modern World*. Yoda Press.
13. Avari, B. (2007). *India: The Ancient Past: A History of the Indian Sub-Continent from c. 7000 BC to AD 1200*. Routledge.
14. Michell, G. (1995). *Architecture and Art of Southern India: Vijayanagara and the Successor States*. Cambridge University Press.
