

HIS-150: HISTORY OF INDIA: MAURYA TO POST GUPTA PERIOD

(Contact Hours: 60, Credits:4)

Objective

To introduce the broad socio-economic, political and cultural developments in the Indian subcontinent from 320 BCE - 650 CE.

Learning Outcome

Students will be informed about the historical developments in the period under study.

Unit I Mauryan Empire

Sources of historical reconstruction; Background of the rise of the Mauryan Empire: the Nanda Dynasty; Invasion of Alexander and its impact; Political history of the Mauryas, society, economy, administration and art; Ashoka's *Dhamma*; the decline of the Mauryas.

Unit II Post- Mauryan Period

Sources; political history of the Indo -Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas and Satvahanas; art and architecture (Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati School; *Stupa*, *Chaitya* and *Vihara*); religious developments (Hinyana and Mahayana); society and economy (trade and commerce, guilds); the Sangam Age.

Unit III Gupta-Vakataka Age

Sources; political history of the period with reference to Samudragupta and Chandragupta II; society and economy; rise of feudalism; cultural developments (architecture, sculpture, paintings with reference to Ajanta; literature and science).

Unit IV Post-Gupta Developments

Political History (Harshavardhana of Kannauj, Pulakesin II Chalukya of Vatapi and Kumara Bhaskaravarman of Kamarupa); political organization and growing importance of *Samanta* system; religious developments (Vaisnavism, Shaivism and Shaktism); Pallava art and architecture.

Suggested Readings

Barua, K.L.,	<i>Early History of Kamarupa: From Earliest Times to the End of the Sixteenth Century</i> , LBS Publications, Guwahati, 2020.
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Bhandarkar, R. G.,	<i>Vaisnavism, Shaktism and other Minor Religions</i> , Indology Book House, Varanasi, 1963 (reprint).
Chakravarty, Ranabir,	<i>Exploring Early India: Upto c.AD.1300</i> , Ratnasagar, Delhi, 2016.
-----	<i>Trade in Early India</i> , Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2004
-----	<i>Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society</i> , Manohar, New Delhi, 2002.
Champaklakshmi, R.,	<i>Trade Urbanization and Ideology in South India</i> , Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1996.
Chattopadhyaya, S.,	<i>Evolution of Hindu Sects: Up to the Time of Samkaracarya</i> , MunshiramManoharlal, Delhi, 1970.
Coburn, T.,	<i>Devi-Mahatmya: The Crystallisation of the Goddess Tradition</i> , MotilalBanarasidass, Delhi, 1984.
Goswami, Ranjit Kumar Dev,	<i>Essays on Sankardeva</i> , LBS Publication, Guwahati, 1996.
Jaiswal, Suvira,	<i>The Origin and Development of Vaisnavism: Vaisnavism from 200 BC to AD 500</i> , MunshiramManoharlal, Delhi, 1980 (reprint).
-----	<i>Caste: Origin, Function and Dynamics of Change</i> , Manohar, New Delhi, 1998.
Jha, D. N.,	<i>Ancient India in Historical Outline</i> , Manohar, New Delhi, 2002 reprint.
Kosambi, D. D.,	<i>An Introduction to the Study of Indian History</i> , Popular Prakashan, Bombay, 2016 (reprint).
-----	<i>The Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline</i> , PPH, Delhi, 2001 (reprint).
Mukhia, Harbans,	<i>The Feudalism Debate</i> , Manohar, New Delhi, 1990 (reprint).
Sharma. R.S.,	<i>India's Ancient Past</i> , Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2009.
-----	<i>Indian Feudalism</i> , Macmillan, New Delhi, 2006.
-----	<i>Sudras in Ancient India</i> , MunshiramManoharlal, Delhi, 2016 (3 rd edn.).
Shastri, Nilakanta K.A.,	<i>History of South India</i> , OUP, Delhi, 1996.
Singh, Upinder,	<i>A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India</i> , Pearson, Delhi, 2008.
Thapar, Romila,	<i>A History of India</i> , Vol.1, Penguin Books, Delhi, 1996 reprint.
-----	<i>The Penguin History of Early India</i> , Penguin books, New Delhi, 2002.
-----	<i>Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas</i> , K.P. Bagchi & Co. Calcutta, 2000
-----	<i>The Mauryas Revisited</i> , K.P. Bagchi & Co. Calcutta, 1993 (Reprint).

Basham, A.L.,	<i>The Wonder that was India</i> , Rupa &Co., New Delhi, 2002 reprint.
-----	<i>A Cultural History of India</i> , OUP, New Delhi, 1984 (reprint)
Barpujari, H.k., (ed.)	<i>The Comprehensive History of Assam</i> , Vol. I, Gauhati, 2004, (2 nd edn.)
Choudhury, P.C.,	<i>The History of Civilization of the People of Assam to the Twelfth Century A.D.</i> , DAHS, Gauhati, 1966.
Habib Irfan, (ed.)	<i>The People's History of India</i> , Vol.-1-4, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2015.
Majumdar, R.C.et.al. (eds),	<i>The History and Culture of the Indian People</i> , Vol. II-V, (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Series, Delhi, 1945-1960, latest editions)