

✓ VAC- 192: UNDERSTANDING INDIA

(Contact Hrs: 45. Credits-3)

Objective

To provide an overview of the growth and development of the socio-cultural past and heritage of India from ancient to the modern period.

Learning Outcome

It will acquaint students with the historical trajectory of India's composite cultural heritage.

Unit I The concept and evolution of India: Bharatvarsha, Hindusthan and India; Geographical Background of India's Culture; Harappan civilization, India through the lens of visitors- select foreign accounts (Megasthenes, Hiuentasang, Alberuni, Ibn Batuta, Marco Polo, Francois Bernier)

Unit II Literature and Religious Tradition: Vedic, Brahmanical and Sramanic traditions, Tantrism- cult of Mother Goddess; Islam; Sufism; Bhakti movement: South India - Vaishnava *Alvars* and Shaiva *Nayanars* ; North India- Chaitanya, Kabir, Guru Nanak; Assam-Sankaradeva and Neo-Vaishnavism; Christianity in Northeast India.

Unit III Social Institutions: Caste and Tribe in India; Indian Awakening and Socio-religious reform movements – Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Wahabi and Farazi Movements; Aligarh Movement; Seng Khasi; Non-Brahmin movements in western and southern India - Jyotirao Phule, Shree Narayan Guru and E. V. Ramaswami Naicker; Contribution of Northeast India to Indian Culture.

Suggested Readings

Asif, Manan
Ahmed,
Basham, A. L.,

Chattopadhyaya, B.D.,

Dirks, Nicholas
B.,
Habib, Irfan,

Jaiswal, Suvira,

Jones, Kenneth,

Khilnani, Sunil,

The Loss of Hindusthan: The Invention of India, Harvard University Press, 2020
A Cultural History of India, Oxford University Press, 1997
The Wonder that was India, Rupa, New Delhi, 1994
The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays, Permanent Black, 2019
Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 2001.
Medieval India: The Story of a Civilisation, National Book Trust, 2007
Caste, Origin Function and Dimensions of Change, Manohar, New Delhi, 2000.
Socio- religious Reform Movements in British India, Cambridge University Press, 1989
The Idea of India, New York, 1999

- Majumdar, R.C., (ed.), *History and Culture of Indian People* (Relevant Volumes and Chapters), Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan Series, Bombay
- Rizvi, S.A.A., *The Wonder that was India*, Rupa, New Delhi, 2002
- Sastri, K.A.N., *A History of South India from Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*, Oxford University Press, 1955
- Srinivas, M.N., *Social Change in Modern India*, Orient Longman, 1972
- Bayly, Susan, *Caste, Society and Politics in India from the Eighteenth Century to the Modern Age*, Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Bhandarkar, D.R., *Some Aspects of Ancient Indian Culture*, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, 1989.
- Barua, B.K., *A Cultural History of Assam*, SatyaRanjanDey, Bina Library, Gauhati, 1986
- Chand, Tara, *The Influence of Islam on Indian Culture*, The Indian Press, Ltd., Allahabad, 1986.
- Chatterjee, S.K., *Kirata-Jana-Kriti*, Assam Publishing Company, Guwahati, 2015.
- Habib, Irfan, *People's History of India*, Tulika Books, New Delhi. (relevant volumes)
- Inden, Ronald, *Imagining India*, Indiana University Press, 2000.
- Kakati, *The Mother Goddess Kamakhya*, Publication Board Assam, Guwahati, 1989.
- Banikanta, *Understanding the Tribes of Asia*, Lakshi Publishers, New Delhi, 2018.
- Kharchandy, D. A, (ed.), *Marshaling the Past: Ancient India and its Modern Histories*, Permanent Black, 2012.
- Lahiri, Nayanjot, *Evolution of Indian Culture*, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal, Agra, 1994.
- Luniya, B.N., *Religion and Society in Northeast India: An Interface*, DVS, Publishers, Guwahati, 2022.
- Mawlong, C.A., Gurung, T., (ed.), *Advanced Study in the History of Medieval India, Vol. III*, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1981.
- Mehta, J.L., *Thoughts on Trends of Cultural Contacts in Medieval India*, Creative Media Partners, LLC, Sacramento, 2015
- Sarkar, Jagadish Narayan, *Tribal Situation in India :An Anthro-Historical Perspective*, Manohar, New Delhi, 1986.
- Singh, K.S, (ed.) *Society and Culture in Medieval India*, Chugh Publications, 2007
- Srivastava, M.P., *Ancient Indian Social History; Some Interpretations*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1978.
- Thapar, Romila,