

SEMESTER IV

HYC 06 EARLY SOCIETIES IN INDIA

The course explores the various aspects of early Indian societies in a historical perspective through the scholarship of an inter-disciplinary nature.

Module 1

Reconstructing Ancient Indian History

- (A) Early Indian notions of History - Sources and tools of historical reconstruction - Historical interpretations related to gender, environment, technology and regions
- (B) Hunting gathering societies- Paleolithic culture- sequences and distribution - stone industries and other technological developments- Mesolithic cultures - Regional and chronologic distribution- new developments in technology and economy rock art
- (C) Food producing societies- Understanding the region as land, chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures, subsistence and patterns of exchange

Module 2

- (A) Harappan society- Origins- settlement patterns and town planning agrarian base craft production and trade social and political organization religious beliefs and practices art and the problem of urban decline Post- Harappan traditions
- (B) Cultures in transition settlement patterns technological and developments social stratification political relation The Aryan problem-
- (C) Early iron age- Material culture lineage society Material base of the Mahajanapadas Second Urbanization Material and cultural base of Jainism, Buddhism and other heterodox traditions.
- (D) Case of the Tamil South idea of the Sangam Age

Module 3

Changing Political Formations

- (A) Nature and bases of the Mauryan Empire Asokas Dharma
- (B) Post- Mauryan polities Kushanas and Satavahanas

Module 4

Changing Phase Towards Early Medieval India

- (A) Agrarian expansion land grants- changing production relations- graded land-rights and peasantry
- (B) Problem of urban decline trade, currency and urban settlements
- (C) Varna proliferation of jatis- changing norms of marriage and property

- (D) The nature of polities The Gupta empire and its contemporaries
- (E) Cultural developments literature elite and vernacular- art and architecture form and patronage
- (F) Opening up of the river valleys in the South Agrarian expansion institutions
urs,agraharas- nagaras, temples, trade- organization *Brahmadeyas - Devadanas*

Reading List

1. Stuart and Piggot, *Pre-Historic India*
2. Raymond Allchin, *The Birth of Indian Civilization*.
3. Gregory L Possehl, *The Indus Civilization, A Contemporary Perspective* (Sage)
4. Romila Thapar, *The Penguin History of Early India* (Till 1300), Penguin Books, 2002.
5. -----, *Interpreting Early India*, OUP, New Delhi, 2000.
6. -----, *Cultural Past*, OUP, New Delhi, 2009.
7. -----, *From Lineage to State*, OUP, New Delhi, 2000.
8. -----, *Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*
9. D. P. Aggarwal, *The Archaeology of India*
10. Stanley Wolpert, *An Introduction to India*, Penguin India, new Delhi, 1991
11. Raymond Allchin, *Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia*
12. A.L.Basham, *The Illustrated Cultural History of India*, OUP, 2009.
13. A. L. Basham, *The Wonder That was India*
14. P.N.Chopra, et.al, *Ancient India*, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 2005.
15. N. N. Bhattacharya, *Ancient Indian Rituals and Their Social Contents*
16. D.K. Chakravarthi, *The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities*
17. Uma Chakravarthi, *The Soicial Dimensions of Early Buddhism*, 1997
18. Dev Raj Chanana, *Slavery in Ancient India*, 1960
19. B. D. Chattopadhyaya, *The Making of Early Medieval India*, 1994
20. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, *History of Science And Technology in Ancient India*, 1986
21. Parameswari Lal Gupta, *Coins*, National Book Trust, (4th Edition)
22. D. N. Jha, *Economy and Society in Early India: Issues and Paradigms*, 1993
23. D. D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*
24. S. K. Maity, *Economic Life in Northern Indian in the Gupta Period*
25. H. C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*
26. K. A .N. Sastri, *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II
27. -----, *A History of South India*, OUP, New Delhi, 2008.
28. Kesavan Veluthat, *The Early Medieval in South India*, OUP, New Delhi, 2009.
29. R. S. Sharma, *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*
30. -----, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*, Mac Millan, New Delhi, 2007.
31. -----, *Indian Feudalism*