

PROGRAMME:

B.A. Programme

SEMESTER:

I

PAPER NO. 1

HISTORY OF EARLY INDIA UP TO AD 800

COURSE ID:

BHS 101P

CREDITS:

04

UNIT I

13. Geography of Indian Subcontinent: Physical features changing regional pattern in History; Sources of Early Indian History
1. Prehistoric Cultures in India: From Hunting Gathering to the emergence of Agriculture communities;
2. Harappan Civilization: Ecological Setting, Town Planning, Trade and Commerce, Society and Religion, Decline and Diffusion

UNIT II

3. Chalcolithic cultures; the Indo-Aryans: Images from Texts and Archaeology
4. Early Vedic and Later Vedic Societies: Polity, Economy, Society and Religion
5. Early states and Cities: Janapadas, Mahajanpadas; Jainism, Buddhism

UNIT III

6. The Mauryan Empire: Administration, Economy and Society; Ashoka and his Dhamma; Decline of Mauryan Empire
7. The post-Mauryan Period: New political Powers; Kushanas, Shakas and Satavahans; Trade, Craft, Commerce and Urban Development (c. 200 BCE to 500 CE)
8. Gupta Dynasty: Administration, Economy, Society, Religion, Art and Literature

UNIT IV

9. Post-Gupta Kingdoms in North India: Harshavardhana, Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas
10. The Making of Regional Identities: Historical Process in Peninsular India: Chalukyas, Pallavas and Pandayas
11. Growth of Regional Cultures in North India: The State and Economy; the debate on Feudalism

READING LIST:

1. D. N. Jha, *Early India: A Concise History*, Manohar, Delhi, 2008, (Also in Hindi).
2. R.S.Sharma, *India's Ancient Past*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2005, (Also in Hindi).
3. Ranbir Chakravarti, *Exploring Early India Up to C AD 1300*, Macmillan, Delhi, 2009.
4. Romila Thapar, *Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*, Penguin, Delhi, 2002, (Also in Hindi).
5. Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, Pearson Longman, Delhi, 2009.