

BA HISTORY HONOURS
SEMESTER II
Paper 3: History of Early India: 400 BCE to 1200 CE

Credits: 04
CLASS ID: 12 BHS 02
COURSE ID BHS 201

UNIT I

EMERGENCE OF EMPIRE IN EARLY INDIA

1. The Mauryas: Administration, Society and Economy. Ashoka and his policy of Dhamma. Decline of the Mauryan Empire.
2. Rise of New Political Powers-Shungas, Indo-Greeks, Kushanas.

UNIT II

DECCAN AND TAMILHAM 200 BCE- 200 CE

3. Deccan in the Shaka- Satavahana period, Rise of trade.
4. South as Reflected in the Sangam Poems and Archaeology.

UNIT III

SOCIETY AND CULTURE 300- 700 CE

5. The Gupta Dynasty, Harshavardhana.
6. Religion, Art and Literature 300-700 CE.

UNIT IV

REGIONS AND REGIONALISM 700 – 1200 CE

7. Growth of Regional Cultures in north India: The State and economy. The debate on feudalism.
8. Growth of Regional Cultures in south India: State, economy and society.

Reading List:

1. Basham, A.L., *The Wonder That Was India*, Rupa paperbacks, 1982 (also in Hindi and Urdu)
2. Champakalakshmi, R., *Trade Ideology and Urbanisation: South India 300BC- A.D. 1300*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996.
3. Chattopadhyaya, B.D., *The Making of Early Medieval India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1994.
4. Harle, J.C., *The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent*, Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1987.
5. Majumdar, R.C., et al. (eds.), *The History and Culture of The Indian People*, Mumbai, 1974.
6. Sharma, R.S., *Early Medieval Indian Society, A Study in Feudalisation*, Delhi, 2001.
7. Singh, Upinder, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*, Longman –Pearson, 2008.
8. Stein, Burton, *Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1980.
9. Thapar, Romila, *Early India: From the origins to AD1300*, Viking Press, 2002.

BA HISTORY HONOURS
SEMESTER II
Paper 4 – Themes in Early Indian History

Credits: 04
CLASS ID: 12 BHS 02
COURSE ID BHS 202

UNIT – I
ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE EARTH

1. Development of archaeology as a discipline
2. Practicing Archaeology: Methodological Issues
3. Archaeology and popular perception
4. Uses and Abuses of Archaeology
5. Indian Archeology: Trends and debates

UNIT – II
CASTE AND CLASS IN EARLY INDIA

6. Understanding caste and class in Early India: An interdisciplinary approach
7. Development of Varna hierarchy as reflected in early and later Vedic texts
8. Transition from tribe to caste
9. Proliferation of castes
10. The origins of untouchability

UNIT – III
CREATION OF THE BRAHMANICAL RELIGIOUS TRADITION

11. Religious beliefs and practices as reflected in early Vedic texts
12. Religion of the later Vedic texts
13. Protest and dissent against Vedic orthodoxy
14. Development of Puranic and Tantric religion
15. Origins and propagation of the idea of bhakti

Unit –IV
HETERODOX RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN EARLY INDIA

16. What is “orthodox” and “heterodox” in Early India?
17. The ascetics, mendicants and renouncers of the Vedas and Upanishads
18. Shramanic sects and issues raised by them
19. Origin and the development of Buddhism up to AD 800
20. Origin and the development of Jainism up to AD 800

Reading List:

1. Allchin, Raymond and Bridget Allchin. 1997. *Origins of a Civilization: The Prehistory and Early Archaeology of South Asia*. New Delhi: Viking
2. Alok Parasher-Sen (ed.). 2004. *Subordinate and Marginal Groups in Early India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
3. Banerjee, J. N. [1956] 1975. *The Development of Hindu Iconography*. 2nd rev. edn. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.

4. Banerjea, J. N. 1966. *Pauranic and Tantric Religion (Early Phase)*. Calcutta: University of Calcutta.
5. Basham, A. L. [1951] 2003. *History and Doctrines of the Ajivikas: A Vanished Religion*. Indian edn. London: Luzac & Co.
6. Bhagat, M.G. 1976. *Ancient Indian Asceticism*. New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.
7. Bhandarkar, R. G. [1913] 1982. *Vaishnavism, Saivism and Minor Religious Systems*. Poona: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute
8. Bhattacharya, N. N. [1982] 1999. *History of the Tantric Religion: An Historical, Ritualistic and Philosophical Study*. New Delhi: Manohar.
9. Bhattacharya, N. N. 1974. *History of the Sakta Religion*. New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal
10. Chakrabarti, Dilip K. 1988. *A History of Indian Archaeology from the Beginning to 1947*. New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.
11. Chakrabarti, Dilip K. 2003. *Archaeology in the Third World: A History of Indian Archaeology Since 1947*. New Delhi: D. K. Printworld.
12. Chakrabarti, Dilip K. 2006. *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology: The Archaeological Foundations of Ancient India, Stone Age to AD 13th Century*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
13. Chakrabarti, Kunal. 2001. *Religious Process : The Puranas and the Making of a Regional Tradition*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
14. Chakravarti, Uma. 1987. *The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
15. Chakravarti, Uma. 2003. *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*. Calcutta: Stree
16. Chatterjee, Asim Kumar, 2000. *A Comprehensive History of Jainism (2 vols)*, New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal
17. Davidson, Ronald M. 2002. *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement*. New York: Columbia University Press.
18. Dehijia, Vidya. 1988. *Slaves of the Lord: The Path of the Tamil Saints*. New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.
19. Dundus, Paul, [1992]. *The Jainas*. London and New York: Routledge.
20. Dutt, Sukumar. [1962] 1988. *Buddhist Monks and Monasteries of India: Their History and Their Contribution to Indian Culture*. Rep. edn. Delhi: MotilalBanarasidass
21. Flood, Gavin (ed.). *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*. New Delhi: Blackwell
22. Gethin, Rupert. 1998. *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
23. Gupta, Dipankar (ed.). 1992. *Social Stratification*. Delhi: Oxford University Press
24. Hardy, Friedhelm. 1983. *Viraha-Bhakti: The Early History of Krsna Devotion in South India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
25. Jaini, Padmanabh S. 1979. *The Jaina Path of Purification*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
26. Jaiswal, Suvira, 1981. *The Origin and Development of Vaisnavism : Vaishnavism from 200 BC to AD 500*.
27. Jaiswal, Suvira. [1998] 2000. *Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions of Change*. Delhi: Manohar.
28. Lorenzen, David N. [1999] 2006. *Who Invented Hinduism? Essays on Religion in History*. New Delhi: Yoda Press
29. Malik, S. C. (ed) 1978. *Indian Movements: Some Aspects of Dissent, Protest and Reform*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Studies.
30. Mishra, Ram Nath. [1979] 1981. *The Yaksha Cult and Iconography*. New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.
31. Nathan, Dev. (ed.), *From Tribe to Caste*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Studies.
32. Olivelle, Patric. 1993. *The Ashram System: The History and Hermeneutics of a Religious Institution*. Indian edn. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
33. Parasher, Aloka. 1991. *Mlecchas in Early India: A Study in Attitudes towards Outsiders upto AD 600*. Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.
34. Quigley, Declan. [1999] 2002. *The Interpretation of Caste*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
35. Ray, H. P. and C. Sinopoli (eds). 2004. *Archaeology as History in Early South Asia*. New Delhi: Indian Council of Historical Research and Aryan Books.
36. Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn. 1991. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson.
37. Sharma, R. S. *Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of the Lower Order Down to circa AD 600*. 2nd rev. edn. Delhi: MotilalBanarasidass.
38. Singh, Upinder. 2004. *The Discovery of Ancient India: Early Archaeologists and the Beginnings of Archaeology*. Delhi: Permanent Black.

39. Smith, Brian K. 1994. *Classifying the Universe: The Ancient Indian Varna System and the Origins of Caste*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press
40. Sutherland, G.H. 1992. *Yaksha in Hinduism and Buddhism: The Disguises of the Demon*. New Delhi: Manohar.
41. Thapar, Romesh (ed.). 1977. *Tribe, Caste and Religion in India*. Delhi: Macmillan
42. Thapar, Romila. 1979. *Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations*. New Delhi: Orient Longman.
43. Wagle, Narendra, 1963. *Society at the Time of the Buddha*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.