



11. Joshi L.M., *Studies in the Buddhist Culture of India*, M.L.B.D., Delhi: 1982.

DSE 2: BSEC102C: Royal Patronage of Indian Buddhism

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credits distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the course, if any
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical		
DSE 2: BSEC102C: Royal patronage of Indian Buddhism	4	3	1	0	As per admission criteria	Nil

This paper is aligned with Sustainability Development Goals 2030: #4 Quality Education

Objectives: By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the historical and cultural contexts of royal patronage in Indian Buddhism.
- Analyze the role of different dynasties and rulers in promoting Buddhist philosophy and institutions.
- Explore architectural, literary, and artistic developments due to royal support.
- Critically evaluate primary and secondary sources related to patronage.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Analyze Historical Contexts:** Evaluate the socio-political environments that shaped royal engagement with Buddhism across time.
- **Interpret Patronage as Strategy:** Assess how rulers used Buddhist patronage to legitimize rule, build cultural capital, and unify territories.
- **Compare Dynastic Contributions:** Contrast the role and impact of different dynasties—Mauryan, Kushana, Gupta, and regional powers—in shaping Buddhist institutions.
- **Critically Engage with Sources:** Interpret primary texts (e.g. inscriptions, edicts, archaeological evidence) and secondary literature to develop arguments about patronage.
- **Understand Art, Architecture & Education:** Examine how royal sponsorship influenced Buddhist architecture, visual art, and monastic education (e.g. Nalanda, Vikramashila).

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- **Debate Decline and Transformation:** Articulate causes behind the decline of royal patronage and Buddhism's transformation in later periods, including revival movements.
- **Conduct Independent Research:** Demonstrate mastery by producing well-argued, original scholarship on themes of political theology, statecraft, and religious diplomacy in Buddhist contexts.

Unit-I: Introduction to Buddhism in India

- Survey of the source material: Indigenous (archaeological, and literary) and foreign.
- Origins and teachings of Buddhism

Unit-II: Concept of Patronage in Indian Historical Traditions

- Meaning of patronage
- Concept of patronage
- Religious, political, and cultural dimensions
- Royal patronage in Pre-Mauryan period

Unit-III: Mauryan Dynasty

- Ashoka's Dhamma
- Third Buddhist Council
- Expansion of Buddhism
- Edicts and stupas: tools of patronage

Unit-IV: Kushana Dynasty

- Kanishka's role in the spread of Mahayana Buddhism
- The Fourth Buddhist Council
- Gandhara art and its royal sponsorship

Suggested readings

- Hazra.k.l ,Royal Patronage of Buddhism in Ancient India ,Buddhist world press2012
- Nakamura. H, Indian Buddhism; A survey with Bibliographical notes, reprint, Delhi,1989
- Lamotte, E, History of Indian Buddhism, Louvain; peters pub,1988
- Wadkar, A. K., Indian Buddhism, fourth edition, Delhi; Motilal Banarsidass,2017
- Bapat, P.V.2500 years of Buddhism, New Delhi; Govt. of India.
- Pandey G C, History of origin of Buddhism; Lucknow ;1976
- Pandey. G.C Studies of origins of Buddhism , Delhi; Motilal Banarsidass ,1974
- Mitra.D; Buddhist Monuments Calcutta; Orient book distributors,1971