



Skill Based Course

Ancient Indian Epigraphy

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credits distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the course, if any
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical		
Ancient Indian Epigraphy	4	3	1	0	As per admission criteria	Nil

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

Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to familiarize with the students with:

- Brāhmī script of the Aśokan period
- Transcription from Aśokan Brāhmī to Devanāgarī/Hindi and vice-versa
- Training of students in translation from Prakṛta language to Hindi/English
- Explanation of specific terms used in the inscriptions of Emperor Aśoka and their significance

Course Outcomes

After having completed this course, students shall be able to read the Aśokan Brāhmī script, transcribe from it to Devanāgarī/Roman and vice-versa as well as basic knowledge of the grammar of Prakṛta language.

Contents

Section A

- Origin of Brāhmī script
- Transcription from Aśokan Brāhmī to Roman/Devanāgarī and vice-versa.

विभागाध्यक्ष/Head
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Section B: Inscriptions

- Unit I Piprahwā Buddhist Vase Inscription (Bühler, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)* 1898: 387ff; Führer, *An. Prog. Rep. Arch. Surv., NWP & Oudh*, 1898: 3; Péppe, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1898: 576f; Smith-Davids-Hoey, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1898: 586ff; Bloch, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1899: 42f; Davids, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1901: 398; Pischel, *ZWMG.*, LVI: 157f; *Sitz. Preuss. Al. Wiss.*, 1905: 526; Lévi, *Journal des Savants*, 1905: 540ff; Fleet, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1905: 679ff; Fleet, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 1906: 149ff; Thomas, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*, 11906: 452f; Senart, *Journal Asiatique*, X.vii: 132ff; Barth, *Journal des Savants*, 1906: 541ff; Fleet, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)*: 1907: 105ff; Barth, *Indian Antiquary*, XXXVI: 117ff; Lüders, *List # 931.*)
- Unit II Lumbini Pillar Inscription of Aśoka (Hultsch, *Corpus Ins. Indicarum*. I; Barua; *Aśoka and His Inscriptions*)
- Unit III Bairāt Rock Edict of Aśoka (Senart, *Indian Antiquary*, XX: 165ff; Hultsch, *Corpus Ins. Indicarum*. I: 172f; Barua; *Aśoka and His Inscriptions*), Nalanda Inscription.
- Unit IV Idhist Pillar Inscription of the Time of the Śuṅgas (*Indian Antiquary*, XXI: 227).

Suggested Reading

- Dani, A.H., *Indian Palaeography*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963.
- Ojha, G.H., *Bhāratīya Prācīna Lipimālā*, reprint, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1971.
- Hultsch, E., *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, vol. 1 (inscriptions of Asoka), new edition, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1969.
- Filliozat, J., *Studies in Aśokan Inscriptions*, tr. R.K. Menon, Calcutta: 1967.
- Sirkar, D.C., *Indian Epigraphy*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1965.
- Barua, B.M., *Aśoka and his Inscriptions*, 2 vols, Calcutta: 1967.
- Basak, R.G., *Aśokan Inscriptions*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1989.
- Allchin, F.R. & K.R. Norman, 'Guide to the Aśokan Inscription,' *South Asian Studies*, I, 1985: 43-50.
- Narayan, A.K. and M.S. Shukla, *Prācīna Bhāratīya Abhilekha-Sangraha*, 2 vols., Varanasi: BHU: 1969.