

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE– 3 (DSE): Prehistory and Protohistory of India

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Prehistory and Protohistory of India	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course aims to introduce the concepts of pre and proto history through a survey of various cultures/periods of the Indian subcontinent. The course provides an understanding of the shifts and developments in the technology and subsistence practices through the hunting-gathering, food producing, urban and Iron using societies. The cultural diversity of different geographical zones of the Indian subcontinent would be highlighted through a study of settlement patterns.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students would:

- Have the ability to differentiate between various pre and proto historic cultures/periods.
- Understand the changes and continuity in distribution, tool technology and subsistence practices during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.
- Identify the characteristic features of Neolithic cultures in the Indian subcontinent with their regional distribution
- Recognise the various copper using cultures of India.
- Distinguish the different phases of Harappan civilization.
- Locate the development of Iron technology in different geographical zones of India.

SYLLABUS OF DSE

Unit 1: Introduction Understanding the concept, scope and terminology of Pre and Proto history

1. Sources

Unit 2: Prehistoric Hunter Gatherers

1. Survey of Palaeolithic cultures: Sites, Sequence, tool typology and technology, Subsistence patterns
2. Survey of Mesolithic cultures in India: distribution, tool technology and typology and artefacts
3. Survey of rock art in India

Unit 3: Early Farming Communities: Beginning of Food Production

1. Understanding Neolithic: Regional distribution, subsistence practices and settlement patterns

2. Survey of Chalcolithic cultures in Indian subcontinent

Unit 4: Harappan Civilization: Extent, features of urbanisation and legacy (4 Weeks)

1. Early Harappan
2. Mature Harappan
3. Late Harappan

Unit 5: Early Iron using societies: Beginning and development of iron technology (3 Weeks)

1. Survey of PGW Cultures in Indian Subcontinent with special reference to Ahichhatra and Atranjikhhera
2. Megalithic Cultures: Distribution pattern, Burial practices and types

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1: In this unit the students will be introduced to the major concepts and terminologies relating to the prehistoric archaeology. They will also be introduced to the other such disciplines which are utilized in the interpretation of prehistoric objects. **(Teaching Time: 6 hrs. approx.)**

- Chakrabarti, D.K. (1999). India: An Archaeological History, Oxford University Press, pp. 1- 18.
- Jain, V. K. (2006). Pre and Protohistory of India. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld.
- Misra, V.N. (1989). "Stone Age India: an Ecological Perspective", Man and Environment, Vol. 14, pp.17-64.
- मिश्रा, वी. के. (2008). भारत का प्रागैतिहास और आध्यैतिहास: एक अवलोकन. नई दिल्ली: डी.के. प्रिंटवर्ल्ड.

Unit 2: In this unit the students will acquire comprehensive knowledge about the hunting-gathering stage of human cultural evolution in the context of Indian subcontinent. Early artistic expressions and their significance will add to their interpretive skills. **(Teaching Time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- Jain, V. K. (2006). Pre and Protohistory of India. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld (Also available in Hindi).
- Misra, V.D. and J.N. Pal (eds). (2002). Mesolithic India. Allahabad: Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad, pp. 13- 124.
- Mishra, S. (2008). "The Lower Palaeolithic: A Review of Recent Findings". Man and Environment, Vol. 33, pp. 14-29.
- Paddayya, K. (2008). India: Palaeolithic Cultures, in Encyclopaedia of Archaeology. Edited by D. M. Pearsall, pp. 768-791. New York: Elsevier.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, New Delhi: Pearson, pp. 94-131.
- रासल, एम्पा. (2016). प्राचीन एवम् पश्चिम मध्यकालीन भारत का इतिहास. पाणिनिकाल से 12वीं शताब्दी तक, नई दिल्ली, एम.एस.एन.

Unit 3: This Unit will equip students with the appearance of a new way of life when humans

transited to plant and animal domestication and subsequently acquiring technical knowledge of copper smelting laying the foundation of agrarian societies in different parts of Indian subcontinent. **(Teaching Time: 9hrs. approx.)**

- Jain, V. K. (2006). Pre and Protohistory of India. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld. (Also available in Hindi).
- Jarrige, C., Jarrige, J.-F., Meadow, R. H. & Quivron, G. (eds). (1995). Mehrgarh Field Reports 1974–1985. From Neolithic Times to Indus Civilization (Department of Culture & Tourism, Karachi, 5-511).
- Saraswat, K.S. (2005). "Archaeological Background of the Early Farming Communities in the Middle Ganga Plain", Pragdhara, Vol. 15, pp. 145-177.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th century. New Delhi: Pearson (Also available in Hindi).
- Tewari, R., R.K. Srivastava, K.S. Saraswat, I.B. Singh, K.K. Singh (2006). "Early Farming at Lahuradewa" in Pragdhara, Vol. 18, Lucknow, pp. 347-373.

Unit 4: In this unit students will acquire comprehensive knowledge about the evolution, expansion, flourishing and transformation of the Harappan Civilization. **(Teaching Time: 12 hrs. approx.)**

- Allchin, F.R.A. and Allchin, B. (1995). The Origins of a Civilization. Delhi: Viking, pp. 10-79.
- Chakrabarti, D.K. (1999). India An Archaeological History Palaeolithic Beginnings to Early Historical Foundations, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 117-148.
- Dhavalikar, M.K. (1997). Indian Protohistory. New Delhi: Books and Books, pp.110-280. Dikshit, K.N., 2011, "The decline of Harappan civilization", Ancient India, pp. 125-178.
- Possehl, G. 1999. Indus Age: The Beginnings. Delhi: Oxford and IBH, pp. . 442- 556.
- Ratnagar, Shereen. (2001). Understanding Harappa: Civilization in the Greater Indus Valley. New Delhi: Tulika.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, New Delhi: Pearson, pp. 94-131. (Also available in Hindi)
- िप्लर ाल, के. के., और शकुल, संकटा प्रतापि). 2003). स्मृति संयोजन (संशोधन एवम परवर्धन संतकरण) उद्देश: लखनऊ.

Unit 5: In this unit the focus will be given on the evolution of Iron using cultures and their significance in the history of the Indian subcontinent. **(Teaching Time: 9hrs. approx.)**

- Chakrabarti, D.K. (1992). The Early Use of Iron in India. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-125.
- Sahu, B.P. (2006). Iron and Social Change in Early India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1-140.
- Selvakumar, V. 2020, "Megalithic architecture of south India: A few observation", in SV Rajesh, Abhyayan GS, Ajit Kumar and Ehsan rahmat ilahi (eds) the Archaeology of burials: example from Indian subcontinent, Delhi: New Bhartiya Book Corporation. pp. 25-46.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th century. New Delhi: Pearson (Also available in Hindi).
- Tripathi, Vibha. (2008). History of Iron Technology in India: From Beginning to Pre-modern Times. Rupa publication.

Suggestive readings

- Agrawal, D.P. and Chakrabarti, D.K. (1979). Essays in Indian Protohistory. New Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.
- Allchin, B., and Allchin, R., (1982). The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan, C.U.P. Cambridge.
- Banerjee, N. R. (1965). The Iron Age in India, Munishiram Manoharlal, New Delhi.
- Chakrabarti, D. K. (1988). A History of Indian Archaeology from the beginning to 1947. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
- Kumar, S. (2014). Domestication of Animals in Harappan Civilisation, Delhi: Research India Press, pp. 1-190.
- Neumayer, E. (2010). Rock Art of India, Oxford and New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Pisipaty, S Rama Krishnan (Ed.), (2019). Early Iron Age in South Asia, LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.
- Possehl, G.L. (1993). Harappan Civilization – A Recent Perspective, Oxford and IBH New Delhi.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.