

BA (Prog.) with Sanskrit as Non-Major

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE, DISCIPLINE A 5:
DSC-5: Indian Epigraphy & Paleography**

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
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
(Discipline A 5) Indian Epigraphy & Paleography DSC - 5	04	3	1	0	12th Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives:

This course known as the Indian Epigraphy and Paleography provides background and basis of Indian history of ancient period. Students with no knowledge of Sanskrit but interested in acquiring historical facts direct from their source can be benefitted with this course. It is extremely helpful for those who are willing to involve in archaeological studies.

This course provides basics covered in ancient Indian inscriptions. Some of the terminologies available in inscriptions are introduced here. Unit II of this section provides historical facts through the inscriptions.

It introduces background of the Indian epigraphical study. Importance of inscriptions on the basis of contents, their impact and reflections of society, economy, religious, political instances can also be understood here. It helps to understand about prevailing theories of the origin of the Brahmi script. Development of the letters of this script in different regions in a span of time is introduced. Their causes of change are also made clear to illustrate different forms in the script. Unit III provides the history of study of inscriptions in India. A number of Indian and foreign scholars made attempts in this field. Students are made aware about some prominent scholars who made valuable efforts in this field.

Learning Outcomes:

Contents of this course are related to formation of history of ancient India, so it is an inter-disciplinary course within Sanskrit. Students of Sanskrit can understand how important role Sanskrit based inscriptions play in preparing history, and their knowledge of the language can help historians to make a perfect history, undoubtedly. Similarly students of History will find

themselves on the positive ground and direct in touch with material related to history of ancient India.

Syllabus

Unit-I:

12 hrs

Inscription of Rudradāman.
Eran Pillar Inscription:
Status of Samudragupta
Iron Pillar Inscription of Ćandra

Unit-II:

12 hr

Antiquity of writing in India
Observations of foreign scholars
Literary evidences
Observations made by Indian Epigraphists.
Importance of the study of Inscriptions.
Geographical description
Historical evidences
Society, Religion, Literature
Economic Conditions
Administration

Unit-III

12 hrs

Types of Inscriptions:

Praśasti
Religious
Donations
Grants

Writing material:

Rocks
Pillars
Metal Plates
Statues
Pen, Brush, Chisel, Stylus, Paint/Colour

Unit-IV

09 hrs

Origin of the Brāhmī Script

Foreign Origin, Indian Origin, Greek origin, Phoenician origin
Theory of South Indian Origin
Theory of Aryan Origin.

History of reading of Indian Inscriptions.

Contribution of Epigraphists: G.H. Ojha, Fleet, Princep, D.C. Sircar, Cunningham, Buhler.
System of dating and use of eras:

Vikram Era, Śaka Era, Gupta Era, Harśa Era.

Essential/recommended readings:

8. Buhler, G, On the origin of the Indian alphabet & numerals.
9. Dani, A. H, Indian Paleography
10. Ojha, G.H, Bhāratīya Prācīna Lipimāla (Hindi)
11. Pandey, R.B, Bhāratīya Purālīpi (Hindi)
12. Rana, S.S., Bhāratīya Abhilekha
13. Sircar, D.C., Indian Epigraphy, Select Inscriptions (Part-I)
14. Upadhyay, V., Prācīna Bhāratīya Abhilekha (Hindi)

Suggested Readings:

4. Classical Age by Altekar, Majumdar, Sircar
5. श्रेण्य-युग (हिंदी अनुवाद): अल्टेकर, मजुमदार, सरकार
6. गुप्त-सम्राट और उनका काल: उदित नारायण राय

Examination scheme and mode: Subject to directions from the Examination Branch/University of Delhi from time to time.