



Department of Sanskrit
University of Delhi
Under Graduate Course for Sanskrit
B.A. Honours & Programme Under UGCF-22

DSE 1: Ancient Indian Arts

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Pre-requisite of the course	Department Offering the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Ancient Indian Arts	04	3	1	0	Semester IV	Sanskrit

Course Description:

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the rich and diverse traditions of Prachina Bharatiya Kalaen (Arts), spanning from the Indus Valley Civilization to the Twelfth Century AD. Students will study the evolution, cultural significance, and aesthetic principles of various art forms including architecture, sculpture, painting, and performing arts. The course will also delve into the socio-political and religious contexts that shaped these artistic expressions.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the historical development of ancient Bharatiya art forms.
2. Analyze the cultural, religious, and social influences on Bharatiya art.
3. Appreciate the aesthetic and technical achievements of ancient Bharatiya artists.
4. Develop a critical perspective on the role of art in ancient Bharatiya society.
5. Engage with primary sources and scholarly interpretations to deepen their knowledge.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit 1-Introduction to Ancient Indian Arts

1 Credit

- Defining 'Art' in the Ancient Bharatiya context.
- Sources and materials: Literary sources, archaeological findings, and iconography.
- The emergence of early Mauryan art: Pillars and stupas.
- Introduction to the 64 Arts



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Unit 2: Intellectual and Scholarly Arts

1 Credit

Storytelling and Poetry
 Rhetoric and Debate
 Performing Arts in Ancient India
 Introduction to ancient Bharatiya music and dance forms.
 The Natya Shastra and its influence on classical dance and theatre.

Unit 3: Aesthetic and Household Arts

1 Credit

Personal Grooming and Beauty
 Home Decoration and Arrangement
 Principles of Vastu Shastra and Traditional Bharatiya Home Design- Temple architecture and sculpture,
 Artistic Study Temples, and Jain chaityas

Unit 4: Social and Recreational Arts

1 Credit

Cooking and Culinary Arts
 Overview of ancient Indian painting, Mural paintings: Ajanta and Ellora,

Essential Readings

- **Basham, A.L.** *The Wonder That Was India*. Picador India, 2019, Hindi Ed. Shivalal Agarwal and Company, 2020.
- **Coomaraswamy, Ananda K.** *History of Bharatiya and Indonesian Art*, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1972.
- **Dehejia, Vidya.** *Bharatiya Art*, Grantha Corporation, USA & IGNCA, Indian, 1995.
- **Harle, J.C.** *The Art and Architecture of the Bharatiya Subcontinent*, The Yale University Press Pelican History of Art Series, 1994.
- Roy, Krishna Das, *Bharatiya Murti-Kala*, Nagari Pracharini (B) Banaras, 2009.
- **Huntington, Susan L.** *The Art of Ancient India*, MLBD, Delhi, 2016.
- **Sivaramamurti, C.** *Bharatiya Sculpture*, Ved Pbg, New Delhi, 1961.
- **Sivaramamurti, C.** *Bharatiya Chitrakala*, National Book Trust, India, 2019.
- द्विवेदी, हजारी प्रसाद, प्राचीन भारत के कलात्मक विनोद, राजकमल प्रकाशन, 2002

Recommended Readings

- Fabri, Chales L., *Bharat ka Murtishilp : ek Parichaya* Bharat ka Murtishilp : ek Parichaya, Rajpal, Delhi, 1970.
- SOMPURA, PRABHASHANKAR O., *Bharatiya Shilp Sanhita* Bharatiya Shilp Sanhita, Bombay: Somaiya Publications, 1975.
- **Zimmer, Heinrich.** *Myths and Symbols in Bharatiya Art and Civilization*.

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