



Department of Sanskrit
University of Delhi
Undergraduate Course for Sanskrit
Multidisciplinary Courses of Study B. A. (Prog.) with Sanskrit
Under UGCF-2022 based on NEP-2020

DSE 11: Economic Thoughts in Sanskrit Tradition

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the course	Department Offering the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice			
Economic Thoughts in Sanskrit Tradition	04	3	1	0	Class XII Pass	Nil	Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

1. To introduce students to the economic concepts found in Sanskrit literature.
2. To analyze the role of governance, taxation, and trade in ancient India.
3. To examine the ethical and philosophical dimensions of economic thought in Sanskrit texts.
4. To compare traditional economic theories with modern economic thought.

Learning Outcome

- Understanding of Sanskrit-based economic models and policies
- Critical analysis of ancient economic principles and their contemporary applications
- Enhanced knowledge of indigenous economic thought and sustainability practices
- Development of interdisciplinary perspectives linking Sanskrit studies and economics

Unit-wise Breakdown:

Unit 1: Foundations of Economic Thought in Sanskrit Tradition

1 Credit

- Economic Ideas in the Vedic Literature (Rigveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda)
- Concept of Artha in Sanskrit Texts
- Role of Purusharthas (Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha) in Economic Philosophy
- Economic Aspects in Dharmashastra (Yajnavalkya Smriti)
- Ethics of Economic Transactions and Role of Daan (Charity)

Unit 2: Political Economy and Statecraft

1 Credit

- Kautilya's Arthashastra: Economic Administration and Policies
- Role of the King and State in Economic Development
- Taxation System (Shulka, Kara, Bhaga) and Revenue Policies

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Trade Regulations and Market Control in Ancient India

Economic Policies of Other Sanskrit Texts (Shukraniti, Kamandakiya Nitisara)

Unit 3: Trade, Commerce, and Economic Institutions

1 Credit

Guilds (Shrenis) and Their Role in Economic Growth

Trade Routes and Maritime Trade in Ancient India

Concept of Loan (Rina) and Interest (Vrihi) in Sanskrit Texts

Banking and Financial Institutions in Ancient India

Agriculture, Industry, and Labour in Sanskrit Literature

Unit 4: Comparative Analysis and Contemporary Relevance

1 Credit

Comparison of Sanskrit Economic Thought with Contemporary World

Sustainability and Economic Ethics in Sanskrit Literature

Relevance of Traditional Economic Concepts in Modern Economic Policies

Role of Sanskrit Economic Ideas in Indigenous Economic Models (Swadeshi and Atmanirbhar Bharat)

Revival and Application of Sanskrit Economic Thought in Contemporary Policy-making

Essential Readings:

1. Kautilya's Arthashastra (translated by R.P. Kangle)
2. L.N. Rangarajan, Kautilya: The Arthashastra
3. P.V. Kane, History of Dharmashastra
4. R.C. Majumdar, Corporate Life in Ancient India
5. Upinder Singh, Political Economy in Ancient India
6. S.A. Upadhyaya, Economic Ideas in Sanskrit Literature

Recommended Readings:

1. **Basham, A.L.** *The Wonder That Was India*. Picador India, 2019, Hindi Ed. Shivrul Agarwal and Company, 2020.
2. Shukraniti (for insights into taxation and trade management).
3. Nitisara by Kamandaki (sections on governance and economic policies).
4. B.N. Mukherjee, Sanskrit Political Thought.

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