

**Semester – VIII**  
**Discipline Specific Elective- 8.3 (DSE-8.3)**  
**Tourism and Market Economy Through the Ages**  
**Course Code: --**

**Offered by the Department of History, College of Vocational Studies**

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisites of the course (if any)
Tourism and Market Economy Through the Ages	4	3	1	0	Pass in class XII	NIL

**Course Objective:**

This course explores the alignment of tourism and market economy in the Indian subcontinent from ancient times to the present. It blends tourism, economic theory, with historical context to understand how markets, trade practices, institutions, and state policies have shaped and reshaped economic life in India over centuries. Key themes include trade routes, tourist destinations, merchant communities, colonial economic restructuring, and the rise of the modern Indian market post-liberalization.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Trace the chronological development of tourism and market systems in India.
- Analyze the socio-political and cultural factors affecting tourism and market economies.
- Understand the evolution of trade route networks and currency systems.
- Discuss trade routes and overtourism in a historical context.

**Syllabus**

Unit 1

**Foreign Travellers, Ancient Trade Routes, and Economic Practices: Vedic Age to Mauryan Empire (12 Hours)**

Curious foreigners' tale about Ancient India: Skylax; Darius I; Alexander the Great; Meghasthenis; Deimachus; and Dionysius; Herodotus and Ptolemy's tale about India; Ancient Trade Routes and Economy during the Vedic period: pastoralism to agrarian society; role of varna system and occupational division in economic life; *Arthashastra* of Kautilya: tourism, taxation, trade regulation, urban planning; guilds (*shrenis*) and market organization; Early coinage and barter systems; trade with Central Asia and the Mediterranean.

Unit 2

**Visitors' Diaries, Tale of Tourist Places, Medieval Markets and Economic Diversification: Gupta Empire to Mughal Period (10 Hours)**

Faxian (Fa-Hien); Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang); Al-Masudi; Al-Biruni; Marco Polo; Ibn Battuta; Niccolò Manucci; Francois Bernier; Jean-Baptiste Tavernier; Market Economy and trade under the Guptas; Temple economies and land grants; Rise of merchant guilds and caste-based trade networks; Medieval Indian Ocean trade: ports, spices, textiles; Islamic economic influences: credit, taxation, waqf, and currency.

### Unit 3

#### **Tourism and Taxation; Colonial Disruption and Economic Reorientation: 1600s–1947 (12 Hours)**

Construction of rest houses (dak bungalows) and later colonial hill stations (e.g., Shimla, Darjeeling, Ooty) as retreats for Europeans; Colonial Hierarchies in Travel: Segregation in hotels, railways, and public spaces; East India Company and commercial capitalism; Infrastructure and market access: railways, canals, and ports.

### Unit 4

#### **Tourism and Market in Post-Independence India (11 Hours)**

**Limited infrastructure; Government control; Inbound tourism; Promotion strategies; Film tourism;** license Raj and industrial controls; 1991 reforms: liberalization, privatization, globalization; Rise of the IT and service economy; Digital economy and e-commerce platforms (post-2010 trends) and its impact on Tourism.

#### **Tutorial Components: (15 Hours)**

- Field visit to the ruins of ancient and medieval trade routes and marketplaces;
- Study of the Silk Route, and analyze the cities that thrived during the operation of the route;
- Mapping the size of the economy through the ages.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

#### **UNIT 1: Foreign Travellers, Ancient Trade Routes, and Economic Practice: Vedic Age to Mauryan Empire**

**Time Period:** Vedic Age to Mauryan Empire

#### **Core Readings:**

- India-Afghanistan: From Common Inheritance to Contested Histories by Saroj Kumar Rath, Routledge publication, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2025
- Kautilya (Chanakya), *The Arthashastra* – Translated by R. Shamasastri or L.N. Rangarajan (Penguin Edition), 2025
- A. L. Basham, *The Wonder That Was India*, publication Picador India, 2019
- Dilip Chakravarti Ed., *History of Ancient India: Volume VII – Economy: Agriculture, Crafts and Trade*, Published by Aryan Books International, 2018
- *Rig Veda* – Selected hymns on cattle, wealth, and trade by [Joel P. Brereton](#), [Stephanie W. Jamison](#), [Oxford Scholarship Online](#), 2020
- Si-Yu-Ki, Hiuen Tsang
- Indica by Megasthenis

**UNIT 2: Visitors' Diaries, Tale of Tourist Places, Medieval Markets and Economic Diversification: Gupta Empire to Mughal Period**

**Time Period:** Gupta to Mughal Period

**Core Readings:**

- Description of the World by Marco Polo, by Marco Polo (Author), Sharon Kinoshita (Translator), **Hackett Pub Co Inc, 2016**
- India by Al Baruni by Ahmad Qevamuddin (Author), Edward C. Sachau (Translator), **National Book Trust, 2018**
- *A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling* by Ibn Batutah, Berkeley, 2021
- Burton Stein – *A History of India* (Chapters on early medieval and Sultanate/Mughal economies), published by Willey Blackwell, 2010

**UNIT 3: Tourism and Taxation; Colonial Disruption and Economic Reorientation: 1600s–1947**

**Time Period:** 1600s–1947

**Core Readings:**

- Kumar Ram Krishna – *Maharaja, Merchants and the Mart – The Emergence of Jaipur*
- Tirthankar Roy – *The Economic History of India: 1857–2010* (Parts I & II), OUP India, 2020
- Bipan Chandra – *India's Struggle for Independence* (Chapters on colonial economy, Swadeshi, industrial impact), **Penguin Random House India, 2016**
- Amiya Kumar Bagchi – *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*, **Cambridge Univ Press, 1982**
- R.C. Dutt – *The Economic History of India under Early British Rule*, **Kessinger Publishing, 2009**
- Sugata Bose & Ayesha Jalal – *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*, **Routledge, 2011**

**UNIT 4: Tourism and Market in Post-Independence India**

**Time Period:** 1947–Present

**Core Readings:**

- Peter Frankopan - *Silk Route: A New History of the World*, **Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2016**
- Mohan Lal – *Travel in the Punjab, Afganistan and Turkistan To Balkh, Bokhara and Herat and a visit to Great Britain and Germany*, K.P.Bagchi & Company, Calcutta, Second Revised Edition, 1977
- Gurcharan Das – *India Unbound*, **Penguin Books India, 2015**
- Raghuram Rajan – *I Do What I Do* (on economic reforms and financial policy), **Harper Business, 2017**
- Shankar Acharya – *India's Economy: Performance and Challenges*, **OUP India, 2010**