



Department of Sanskrit

University of Delhi

Under Graduate Course for Sanskrit

B.A. (Hons.) Under UGCF-22

DSE-7: Introduction to Ancient Indian Scripts

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Prerequisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Introduction to Ancient Indian Scripts	04	3	1	0	XII Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the history, evolution, and usage of ancient Indian scripts. Students will explore the various scripts used in ancient India, including Brahmi, Kharosthi, and Devanagari, and will learn about the cultural, social, and religious significance of these scripts. The course will also cover the techniques used in the creation of ancient Indian manuscripts and the methods of preservation.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the history and evolution of ancient Indian scripts
- Identify and describe the various scripts used in ancient India
- Analyze the cultural and religious significance of ancient Indian scripts
- Understand the techniques used in the creation of ancient Indian manuscripts
- Learn about the methods of preservation used to protect ancient Indian scripts
- Develop an understanding of the connection between language and script

Detailed Syllabus

Unit I

12 hrs

Introduction to Ancient Indian Scripts

- Definition and significance of scripts
- Historical overview of Indian scripts
- Importance of scripts in Indian culture and society
- Major Ancient Indian Scripts

Unit I

12 hrs

Brahmi Script

- Brahmi script and its evolution
- Introduction to the Brahmi script
- Writing system and pronunciation



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Basic reading and writing exercises
Kharosthi Script and its Usage
Introduction to Kharosthi script
Historical context and usage of Kharosthi script

Unit III 9 hrs

Introduction to Gupta script
Characteristics and evolution of
Gupta script Basic reading and
writing exercises Comparison
with Brahmi and Kharosthi script

Unit IV 12 hrs

A. Techniques used in the creation of Ancient Indian Manuscripts

Introduction to ancient Indian
manuscripts Techniques used in
manuscript creation Preservation
techniques

B. Social and Cultural Significance of Ancient Indian Scripts

Significance of ancient Indian scripts in social and cultural
contexts Analysis of manuscripts and scripts in different
periods up to 8th century AD

Essential/recommended readings

1. Buhler, G, On the origin of the Indian alphabet & numerals.
2. Dani, A. H, Indian Paleography
3. Dhavalikar, M.K. Indian Palaeography. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2006.
4. Ojha, G. H, Bharatiya Praćina Lipimāla (Hindi)
5. Pandey, R.B, Asoka ke Abhilekha (Hindi), Bharatiya Puralipi (Hindi)
6. Parpola, Asko. Deciphering the Indus Script. Cambridge University Press, 1994
7. Rana, S.S., Bharatiya Abhilekha
8. Sircar, D.C., Indian Epigraphy, Select Inscriptions (Part - I)
9. Salomon, Richard. Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and the other Indo-Aryan Languages. Oxford University Press, 1998.
10. Upadhyay, V., Praćina Bharatiya Abhilekha (Hindi)
11. Thapar, Romila, Asoka tatha Maurya Samrajya Ka Patana (Hindi)

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