



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

**GE 19 : Ancient Indian Economy**

**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 Economy	04	3	1	0	Nil	Sanskrit

**Learning Objectives**

- To enable students to have a general understanding of ancient Indian economic structures.
- To understand the various Indian economic concepts, practices and theories as reflected in Indian thought systems.
- To make students familiar with prominent ancient Indian economic texts and thinkers.
- To make students understand the taxation policy as practiced in the ancient India.

**Learning outcomes**

- Students will be able to understand the general theories and practices of economic world.
- Students will be familiar with the prominent texts and thinkers who contributed to ancient Indian economics.
- Students will be acquainted with ancient taxation scheme.

**Detailed Syllabus**

**Unit I: Economy in Indian Perspective**

**1 Credit**

Concept and Objectives of Economy, History and tradition of Indian Economic Thoughts, Economy during Early and Later Vedic Period – Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Industry and Business, Sreni formations, Income and Expenditure, Transportation, etc.

**Unit II: Introduction to Ancient Indian Economy**

**1 Credit**

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Industry and Business, Sreni formations, Income and Expenditure, Transportation, etc. in Indian Economy during -

- Buddhist Period
- Centralized Economy of Mauryan Period
- Post Mauryan Period
- Gupta and Post Gupta Period

**Unit III: Sanskrit Texts on Economics**

**1 Credit**

Manusmṛti - Chapter 7, Verse No- 123-138, Arthaśāstra (Second Adhikaraṇa) Sannidhātṛnicayakarma and Samāhṛtṣamudayaprasthāpanam

**Unit IV: Taxation Policy of State:**

**1 Credit**



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Reasonable and Equitable Taxation Policy Śāstranīta permitted by Dharmaśāstra (Mahābhārata (Śānti parva), 71.10-25, Manusmṛti, 7.127, 144);  
Criticism of unlawful taxation policy in Mahābhārata (Śānti parva) (87.19-18-22, 88. 4- 7)  
Two Types of Tax Sources in Arthaśāstra -1.'Ayasarira' and 2. 'Aya-mukha'  
(Altekar, A.S, State and Government in Ancient India, pp. 262-267)

**Essential Readings**

- R.P Kangle (ed.) Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi, 1965
- Altekar, A. S., State and government in ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2011.
- कैलाशचन्द्र जैन, प्राचीन भारतीय समाजिक और आर्थिक संस्थाएं, मध्यप्रदेश हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, भोपाल, 1976
- शशि तिवारी, संस्कृत साहित्य में राष्ट्रवाद एवं भारतीय राजशास्त्र, विद्यानिधि प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 2013
- सहाय, शिवस्वरूप, प्राचीन भारत का सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक इतिहास, मोतीलाल बनारसीदास, दिल्ली, 2012

**Recommended Readings:**

1. P. Olivelle (ed. & trans), Manu code of law: A Critical Edition & translation of the Manava- Dharmaśāstra, UUP, New Delhi, 2006
2. R. S. Sharma, Aspects of Political Ideas & Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, 1996
3. Dvivedi, Kapil Dev, Vedic Sahitya evam Sanskriti, Visvavidyalaya Prakasana, Varanasi, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed., 2015.
4. Sharma, Umasankar Rsi, Sanskrit Sahitya Ka Itihasa, Chaukhamba Bharati Akadami, Varanasi
5. Ancient Indian Economic Thought, Basu Ratana Lal, Rawat Publications