



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) Sannidhātṛṇicayakarma and Samāhṛtṛsamudayaprasthāpanam

Unit IV: Taxation Policy of State:

1 Credit



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Reasonable and Equitable Taxation Policy Śāstranīta permitted by Dharmāśāstra (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- Dharmāśāstra, 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, 6th Ed., 2015.
4. Sharma, Umasankar Rsi, Sanskrit Sahitya Ka Itihasa, Chaukhamba Bharati Akadami, Varanasi
5. Ancient Indian Economic Thought, Basu Ratna Lal, Rawat Publications