

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
26HS503	SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN ANCIENT INDIA (6 TH CENTURY BC TO 6 TH CENTURY AD)	04

Course Objectives

- To understand the socio-economic, political and cultural developments from the Age of Mahajanapadas to the Gupta period, including processes of urbanisation and empire formation.
- To compare and critically interpret the contributions of Jainism and Buddhism to Indian society, religion and intellectual traditions.
- To examine the rise of Magadha, the impact of Alexander's invasion and the development of major religious movements such as Jainism and Buddhism.
- To study the Mauryan Empire, Ashoka's Dhamma and post-Mauryan developments (Sungas, Kanvas, Satavahanas and Kushans) with emphasis on administration, society and cultural synthesis.
- To evaluate the contributions of the Gupta Empire and Harshavardhana and develop analytical understanding of political changes and cultural interactions in ancient India.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, it is intended that a student will be able to:

- Identify key dynasties, religious movements and important rulers from the Mahajanapada period to the Gupta age.
- Explain the socio-economic and religious conditions of ancient India during different historical phases.
- Use historical evidence to describe the impact of Alexander's invasion and the spread of religions like Buddhism and Jainism.
- Differentiate between the political, social, and cultural features of Mauryan, Post-Mauryan and Gupta periods.
- Assess the contributions of Ashoka, the Gupta rulers and Harshavardhana in shaping Indian civilization.
- Develop a coherent interpretation of cultural synthesis in ancient India by integrating political, religious and artistic developments.

Unit 1 - Society in the Age of Mahajanapadas (12 Hrs.)

Mahajanapadas (Second Urbanisation)-social, religious, and economic conditions; the rise of Magadha; early dynasties of Magadha; Alexander's invasion-cultural interaction, social changes, and impact.

Unit 2 – Religious Movements (13 Hrs.)

Causes of the rise of religious movements; Jainism-origin, principles, and contribution; Buddhism—origin, principles, contribution, rise, and decline.

Unit 3 - The Mauryan Empire (12 Hrs.)

Foundation of the Mauryan empire- origin: State and society under Mauryan rule; Ashoka Dhamma and social ethics, Mauryan administration, economy, social and religious life, art and architecture.

Unit 4 – Post Mauryan Developments (10 Hrs.)

The Sunga dynasty; the Kanva dynasty; the Satavahanas- social, religious, art and architecture; Greek influence on Indian culture; the Saka rule and Indian culture; the Kushan dynasty- Growth of schools of art.

Unit 5 - The Gupta Dynasty (13 Hrs.)

The Golden age- society, religion and culture under the Guptas; disintegration of Gupta dynasty. Harshavardhana's contribution to society.

References:

- Basham, A. L. (2007). *The wonder that was India*. Surjeet Publications.
- Chandra, S. (2007). *History of medieval India*. Orient Blackswan Private Limited.
- Chakrabarti, D. K. (2010). *India: An archaeological history: Palaeolithic beginnings to early historic foundations (2nd ed.)*. Oxford University Press.
- Dutt, R. C. (2010). *A history of civilisation in ancient India*. Cosmo Publications.
- Jha, D. N. (1998). *Ancient India: A historical outline*. Manohar Publishers.
- Kosambi, D. D. (1956). *An introduction to the study of ancient Indian history*. Popular Prakashan.
- Majumdar, R. C. (1952). *Ancient India*. Motilal Banarsidass.
- Raychaudhuri, H. C. (1996). *Political history of ancient India*. Oxford University Press.
- Sharma, R. S. (2005). *India's ancient past*. Oxford University Press.
- Sharma, R. S. (1983). *Material culture and social formations in ancient India*. Macmillan India.
- Thapar, R. (1997). *Ashoka and the decline of the Mauryas*. Oxford University Press.
- Tripathi, R. S. (1987). *History of ancient India*. Motilal Banarsidass.

COs and Bloom's Taxonomy Mapping – 26HS503

Course Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to	BTL
CO1	Recall and explain the emergence of the Mahajanapadas and critically assess the rise of Magadha by analysing its early dynasties and focus on the interplay of social organisation, religious change and economic transformation that enabled Magadha's political expansion.	K1, K2
CO2	Apply and assess the contributions of Jainism and Buddhism to Indian society, culture, art, literature and ethical thought.	K3
CO3	Analyze and examine the structure and functioning of Mauryan administration, including central and provincial governance.	K4
CO4	Evaluate the political, social and cultural transformations of the post-Mauryan period and interpret processes of cultural exchange, regional diversity and artistic evolution in early historic India using evidence-based approaches.	K5
CO5	Design and construct the concept of "Golden Age" by systematically examining developments in society, religion, art, literature, science and the economy under the Gupta Empire with attention to both achievements and their limitations.	K6

BTL (Bloom's Taxonomy Level) - K1 – Remembering, K2 – Understanding, K3- Applying, K4 – Analyse, K5- Evaluate and K6 – Create

Relationship Matrix – 26HS503

Course Outcomes	Programme Outcomes (POs)						Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs)						Mean Score of Cos
	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5	PSO6	
CO1	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1.75
CO2	3	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	2
CO3	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2.08
CO4	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1.83
CO5	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2.25
Total													1.98

Mean Score: 3- High, 2- Medium/Moderate, 1-Low