



Indraprastha College for Women

University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B.A (H) History
Paper Title:	History of India (From the Beginning to Fourth Century BCE) - I
Unique Paper Code:	2312101101
Semester:	I
Faculty(s):	Dr Shailbala Mishra
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
1	This unit aims to familiarise students with the divergent landscapes, varied sources and the different approaches to the history of ancient India.	1	Introducing early Indian history
		2	Continued
		3	Sources (upto 750 CE)
		4	Continued
		5	Continued
		6	Continued
		7	Continued
		8	Continued
		9	Continued
		10	Continued
		11	Historiographical trends.
		12	Continued
		13	Continued
		14	Continued

2	This unit aims to familiarise students with the distribution, economic and technological patterns in the Palaeolithic Mesolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent, and the beginnings of organized food production in pre-historic times in the Indian subcontinent. It also explains the impact on other aspects of the life of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic humans, their cultural practices, their art and funerary practices.	15	Prehistoric hunter-gatherers and early food producing societies
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		16	Continued
		17	Continued
		18	Continued
		19	Palaeolithic cultures: sequence and distribution; tool typology and technology, subsistence patterns.
		20	Continued
		21	Continued
		22	Early food producing communities: Regional and chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures; subsistence; patterns of interaction and exchange.
		23	Continued
		24	Continued
		25	Continued
		26	Continued
		27	Continued
3	At the end of this unit, students shall be familiar with various aspects of Harappan Civilization, their technological expertise, as well as the varied ways in which the archaeological remains of Harappa and related sites have been interpreted and studied.	28	The Harappan civilization: Origins; settlement patterns and town planning.
		29	Continued
		30	Continued
		31	Continued
		32	Agrarian base; pyrotechnology and water management; craft production and trade.
		33	Continued
		34	Continued

		35	Continued
		36	Social and political organization; religious beliefs and practices; art; Late/Post Harappan evidence.
		37	Continued
		38	Continued
		39	Continued
		40	Continued
		41	Continued
4	This unit traces the archaeological and textual evidence for processes that led to the emergence of states, social complexity, intensive agriculture and urban patterns. The unit also covers debates around the origins and coming of the Aryans, the cosmogonies, cosmology and world view of Vedic, Brahmanical texts and religio-philosophical thought in Upanishads, Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic traditions.	42	Social and Cultural Transitions (up to 400 BCE)
		43	Archeological culture, NBPW, megalithic; metallic coins; role of iron technology.
		44	Continued
		45	Literary and textual traditions: Vedic and Brahmanical; Shramanic.
		46	Continued

		47	The Aryan Question.
		48	Continued
		49	Emergence of Social and political institutions; urbanization; social stratification and state formation.
		50	Continued

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Introducing early Indian history: Sources (upto 750 CE) and historiographical trends. (12 hours)

II	Prehistoric hunter-gatherers and early food producing societies 1. Palaeolithic cultures: sequence and distribution; tool typology and technology, subsistence patterns. 2. Mesolithic Cultures: renal distribution, tool typology and subsistence patterns. 3. Early food producing communities: Regional and chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures; subsistence; patterns of interaction and exchange.
III	The Harappan civilization Origins; settlement patterns and town planning, agrarian base, pyrotechnology and water management; craft production and trade; social and political organization, religious beliefs and practices; art; Late/Post Harappan evidence.
IV	Social and Cultural Transitions (up to 400 BCE) 1. Archeological cultures: PGW, NBPW, megalithic; metallic coins; role of iron technology. 2. Literary and textual traditions: Vedic and Brahmanical; Shramanic. 3. The Aryan Question. 4. Emergence of Social and political institutions, urbanization; social stratification and stat formation.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	• Subbarao, B. (1958). The Personality of India. (Baroda: M. S. University). Chapter II. • Chattopadhyaya, B. D. (17). The Concept of Bharatvarsha and Other Essays. (Ranikhet: Permanent Black), Chapter 1. • Thapar, Romila. (2013). The Past Before Us; Historical Traditions of Early India, Delhi: Permanent Black, Part 1, pp. 3-84
2.	• Chattopadhyaya, U. C. (1996). "Settlement Pattern and the Spatial Organization of Subsistence and Mortuary Practices in the Mesolithic Ganges Valley, North-Central India, World Archaeology, vol. 27(3), pp. 461-476 • Neumayer, E. (1993). Lines on Stone: The Prehistoric Rock Art of India. Delhi: Manohar.

3.	• Kenoyer, J. Mark. (1998). Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization. Karachi: Ox-ford University Press. • Possehl, Gregory L. (2002). The indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective. Del-hi: Vistaar Publications. • Ratnagar, Shereen. (2001). Understanding Harappa: Civilization in the Greater Indus Valley. Delhi: Tulika. • Ratnagar, Shereen. (2015). Harappan Archaeology: Early State Perspectives, Delhi: Primus. Thaplyal, K. K. and Sankata Prasad Shukla. (2003). Sindhu Sabhyata. Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan. (In Hindi)
4.	• Harvey, Peter (2017 edition). Buddha in his Indian Context, Chapter in An Introduction to Buddhism, p.8-31, Cambridge University Press, (first published in 1992) • Moorti, U.S. (1994). Megalithic Culture of South India: Socio-economic Perspectives. Varanasi: Ganga Kaveri Publishing House. • Sahu, B.P. (ed.). (2006). Iron and Social Change in Early India. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Most relevant is the 'Introduction'.) • Sharma, R.S. (1996). Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas. (Chapters VII-XIV and XXII) (Also available in Hindi) • Sharma, R.S. (1983). Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India, Macmillan India, Delhi. (Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5.) (Also available in Hindi) • Staal, Frits (2017). Discovering the Vedas, Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights, Part I and II, Penguin. • Thapar, Romila. (1984). From meage to State: Social Formations in the Mid-First Millennium B. C. In the Ganga Valley. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 2, pp. 21-69.) (Also available in Hindi). • Trautmann, T.R. (ed.) (2005). The Aryan Debate. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. • श्रीमाली, कृष्ण मोहन. (2017). आर्थिक संरचना और धर्म (दिल्ली: आकार), पाठ, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	NA
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment		30
	• Assignment/Quiz/ Project/ Presentation	12	

	- Class Test - Attendance	12	
		6	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) - Activity 1 - Activity 2 - Attendance		40
		20	
		15	
		5	
3.	Practical Continuous Assessment		NA
	- End Term Written/ Practical Exam - Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		90