

M.A. IInd year
Discipline Specific Elective (DSE-1)
Code-MHS-303

Ancient Indian Palaeography and Epigraphy

Semester – IIIrd
Max. Marks – 70
Time – 3 hours

Course Objective

It is a study of the origin and development of scripts in India. It deals with the various scripts from the Vedic period to medieval period. The paper discusses elaborately on the ancient scripts such as Brahmi, Kharoshti, Tamil-Brahmi, Grantha and Indian scripts – their origin and development of writing and their use as a primary source for understanding the ancient past.

Course Outcome:

Students will be successfully able to decipher and read scripts; and date inscriptions with the help of paleographic features of the script. Students will also understand the different usages of language. After the successful completion of the course student will be able to interpret the inscription in its socio-politico- religio and economical context.

Unit-I Palaeography in India (11 Lect.)

- (a)Antiquity of writing
- (b)Origin and development of Brahmi Script

Unit-II Asokan Edicts (16 Lect.)

- (a)Transliteration of following Asokan inscriptions from Asokan Brahmi to Devanagri
- (b)Study of major rock-edict-I, II and XIII and major pillar edict-I, II and VII and Sarnath

Unit-III (16 Lect.)

- (a) Sarnath Inscription of Kanishka year 3rd
- (b) Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription of Haliodorus
- (c) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
- (d) Junagarh rock inscription of Rudradamana

Unit-IV (16 Lect.)

- (a) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta
- (b) Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription of Chandra
- (c) Copper plate inscription of Prabhavati Gupta, Poona
- (d) Banskheda Inscription of Harsha

Unit-V (16 Lect.)

- (a) Aihole Inscription of Pulkeshin II
- (b) Gwalior Inscription of Mihirabhoja,
- (c)Uttarmeru inscription of Parantak-I
- (d) Delhi-Topara inscription of Vighraharaj

Suggested Readings

1. Dani, Ahmad Hasan, Indian Palaeography.
2. Sircar, D. C. , Select Inscriptions bearing on Indian History and civilization.
3. Bhandarkar, D. R., Inscription of the early Gupta Kings.
4. Fleet, J. F., Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum.
5. Shastri, H. C., South Indian Inscription.
6. Solleman, Richard, Indian Epigraphy
7. Pandey, R. B., Historical and Literary Inscriptions of Ancient India
8. Pandey, R. B., Indian Palaeography
9. Hultzsch, E., Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum vol.I
10. Verma, T.P., Puraabhilekh Chayanika
11. Mirashi, V. V., History and inscription of Satvahanas and western Khstrapas
12. Shashikant, Hathigumpha inscription of Kharvela and Bhabra edict of Ashoka
13. Relevant Volumes of Epigraphia Indica, Vol I to XLII
14. फलीट, जे० एफ०, भारतीय अभिलेख संग्रह (अनुवाद)।
15. वाजपेयी, के० डी०, वाजपेयी संतोष] ऐतिहासिक भारतीय अभिलेख।
16. गुप्त, पी० एल०, प्राचीन भारत के प्रमुख अभिलेख (भाग – 1, 2)।
17. पाण्डेय, राजबली, अशोक के अभिलेख।
18. पाण्डेय, राजबली, भारतीय पुरालिपि।
19. उपाध्याय, वासुदेव, गुप्त अभिलेख।
20. उपाध्याय, वासुदेव, प्राचीन भारतीय अभिलेखों का अध्ययन।
21. राय, एस० एन०, भारतीय पुरालिपि एवं अभिलेख।
22. ओझा, गौरी शंकर हीरा शंकर, प्राचीन भारतीय लिपिमाला।
23. सरकार, डी० सी०, भारतीय पुरालिपि विद्या (अनु०)।
24. गोयल, श्रीराम, गुप्तकालीन अभिलेख।
25. ब्यूलर, जार्ज, भारतीय पुरालिपि शास्त्री (अनु०)।