

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SANSKRIT

Paper 10 - Indian Epigraphy, Paleography and Chronology

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[A] Prescribed Course

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Section 'A'	Epigraphy	12 hrs.
Section 'B'	Paleography	12 hrs.
Section 'C'	Study of selected inscriptions	16 hrs.
Section 'D'	Chronology	08 hrs.
Projects / Presentations		12 hrs.

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[B] Course Objectives

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This course aims to acquaint the students with the epigraphical journey in Sanskrit, the only source which directly reflects the society, politics, geography and economy of the time. The course also seeks to help students to know the different styles of Sanskrit writing.

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[C] Unit-wise Division

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Section 'A'  
(Epigraphy)

Unit 1	Introduction to Epigraphy and Types of Inscriptions	1/2 week/2 hrs.
Unit 2	Importance of Indian Inscriptions in the reconstruction of Ancient Indian History and Culture	1 week/4hrs.
Unit 3	History of Epigraphical Studies in India	1/2 week/2 hrs.
Unit 4	History of Decipherment of Ancient Indian Scripts (Contribution of Scholars in the field of epigraphy): Fleet, Cunningham, Prinsep, Buhler, Ojha, D.C.Sircar.	1 week/4hrs.

Section 'B'  
(Paleography)

Unit 1	Antiquity of the Art of Writing	1 week/4hrs.
Unit 2	Writing Materials, Inscribers and Library	1 week/4hrs.
Unit 3	Introduction of Ancient Indian Scripts with the knowledge of Brāhmī Script.	1 week/4hrs.

## Section 'C'

### (Study of Selected Inscriptions)

<b>Unit 1</b>	(i) Aśoka's Gīrnāra Rock Edict-1 (ii) Aśoka's Sāranāth Pillar Edict	<b>1week/4hrs.</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	Gīrnāra Inscription of Rudradāman	<b>1week/4hrs.</b>
<b>Unit 3</b>	(i) Eran Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta (ii) Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription of Candragupta	<b>1week/4hrs.</b>
<b>Unit 4</b>	(i) Delhi Topra Edict of Bīsaladeva (ii) Nārāyaṇa Kūpa Inscription of Śrīdhara	<b>1week/4hrs.</b>

## Section 'D'

### (Chronology)

<b>Unit 1</b>	General Introduction to Ancient Indian Chronology	<b>1week/4hrs.</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	System of Dating the Inscriptions (Chronograms)	<b>1/2week/2hrs.</b>
<b>Unit 3</b>	Main Eras used in Inscriptions - Vikrama Era, Śaka Era and Gupta Era	<b>1/2week/2hrs.</b>

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### [D] Suggested Projects

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Students may :

- (i) Prepare a list of Asoka's rock edicts, their place, time and messages.
- (ii) Prepare a list of Sanskrit inscriptions with the names of their writers, kings, places, time and messages.
- (iii) Collect the names of Sanskrit inscriptions of Guptas and comment on their poetic excellence.
- (iv) Collect historical and social elements from the given inscriptions and comment on them.
- (v) Learn the names of all Indian eras and compare them with their Western counterparts.
- (vi) Study types of inscriptions and give their examples in details.

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### [E] Recommended Books

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#### मूल ग्रन्थ

- अभिलेख-मंजूषा, रणजीत सिंह सैनी, न्यू भारतीय बुक कार्पोरेशन, दिल्ली, 2000.
- उत्कीर्णलेखपञ्चकम्, झा बन्धु, वाराणसी, 1968.
- उत्कीर्णलेखस्तबकम्, जियालाल काम्बोज, ईस्टर्न बुक लिंकर्स, दिल्ली.
- भारतीय अभिलेख, एस्.एस. राणा, भारतीय विद्या प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 1978.
- भारतीय प्राचीन लिपि माला, गौरीशंकर हीराचन्द्र ओझा, अजमेर, 1918.
- Select Inscriptions (Vol.I) - D.C. Sircar, Calcutta, 1965.

## सहायक ग्रन्थ

- नारायण, अवध किशोर एवं ठाकुर प्रसाद वर्मा : प्राचीन भारतीय लिपिशास्त्र और अभिलेखिकी , वाराणसी, 1970.
- पाण्डे, राजबली : भारतीय पुरालिपि, लोकभारती प्रकाशन, इलाहाबाद, 1978.
- ब्यूलर, जॉर्ज : भारतीय पुरालिपि शास्त्र, (हिन्दी अनु०) मङ्गलनाथ सिंह, मोतीलाल बनारसीदास, दिल्ली, 1966.
- मुले, गुणाकर : अक्षरकथा, प्रकाशन विभाग, भारत सरकार, दिल्ली, 2003.
- राही, ईश्वरचन्द्र : लेखन कला का इतिहास (खण्ड 1-2), उत्तरप्रदेश हिन्दी संस्थान, लखनऊ, 1983.
- सरकार, डी.सी. : भारतीय पुरालिपि विद्या, (हिन्दी अनु०) कृष्णदत्त वाजपेयी, विद्यानिधि प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 1996.
- सहाय, शिवस्वरूप : भारतीय पुरालेखों का अध्ययन, मोतीलाल बनारसीदास, दिल्ली.
- Dani, Ahmad Hasan : *Indian Paleography* , Oxford, 1963.
- Pillai, Swami Kannu & K.S. Ramchandran : *Indian Chronology (Solar, Lunar and Planetary)*, Asian Educational Service, 2003.
- Satyamurty, K. : *Text Book of Indian Epigraphy*, Lower Price Publication, Delhi, 1992.