

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SANSKRIT

ALLIED COURSE PAPER - II

Social Issues and Economic Institutions

[A] Prescribed Course

Section 'A' :	Social Issues	24 hrs.
Section 'B' :	Economic Institutions	24 hrs.
Projects / Presentations		12 hrs.

[B] Course Objectives

To help students appreciate issues like gender, caste, role of law and the role of state in society in the light of Sanskrit Literature and to enable them to study the social impact of economic organization.

[C] Unit-wise Division

Section 'A'

(Social Issues)

Unit 1 Law and change - Dharma as a dynamic force **4 hrs.**

Manu Smṛti, Chapter 2, verses 6 and 12 with the commentary of Medhātithi ;
Lingat, Robert : *Classical Law of India*, Chapter 1, pp 3-7; tradition – pp 9-14 ;
good customs – 14-17. Mathur, A.D. : *Medieval Hindu Law*, Chapter I, pp 1-8

Unit 2 Caste – Voices of challenge **6 hrs.**

Traditional *varṇa* hierarchy

Vajrasūcī by Aśvaghoṣa

Unit 3 Identity of women **6 hrs.**

Draupadī's question– *Sabhā Parva – Dyūta Parva*

Chapter 66 - Duryodhana asks Draupadī to be brought to the court 1; Vidura's protest 2, 4 ;
Chapter 67 – Duryodhana asks Pratikāmī to fetch Draupadī 2; Draupadī's refusal and question 5-
10, 16 ; Yudhiṣṭhira's response 39-41 ; Bhīṣma's response 47-49 ; Draupadī's Rejoinder 50-52 ;
Vikarṇa's statement, chapter 68, verses 12-17 Karṇa to Vikarṇa – 27-31, 35.

Unit 4 Struggle to secure women's right to property **8 hrs.**

Yājñavalkya Smṛti, *Vyavahārādhyāya*: Verse 135 with Vijñāneśvara's
commentary (section on *patnī*)

6 weeks/24 hrs.

Section 'B'
Economic Institutions

Unit 1 State of economy in ancient India : general survey **2 hrs.**

Unit 2 Trade regulations– Controlled market **6 hrs.**

Arthasāstra (Gairola) (References in Page numbers/paragraph numbers) - public interest to be preserved – 164/3 ; restrictions on sale at source/ 190/3-7; sale at the designated market place – 164/3 ; single vendor markets – 355/2 ; sale with state permission – 354/4 ; confiscation of non-permitted goods- 354/3 ; price fixation – 355/3 ; measures to tackle excess supplies – 164/2 ; uniform pricing – 165/1

Unit 3 Consumer Protection **6 hrs.**

Arthasāstra (Gairola) (References in Page numbers/paragraph numbers) sale of underweight goods – 352/1-5; 353/1-2; sale of poor quality goods – 353/4; sale of spurious goods – 353/4; sale of adulterated goods – 354/2; traders' cartels – 353/6; check on profiteering - 354/4 ; Service providers - 345-351(rapid survey)

Unit 4 Principles of Taxation: *Śulka Vayavāhara* **6 hrs.**

Arthasāstra (Gairola) (References in Page numbers/paragraph numbers) tax collector 99 ; tax collector – checks on – 107/1 ; taxes/levies - various kinds 99/1-4 ; 100/1-4 / 189/1 ; tax rates on various goods -189/2-5 ; 190/1 ; toll tax – 190/2 ; failure to collect tax liability of officers – 106/3; tax rebates – for importers – 165/3

Unit 5 Corruption **4 hrs.**

Arthasāstra (Gairola) (References in Page numbers/paragraph numbers) Corruption : a menace – 117/4 ; 117/5 ; modes of - 110/1-6 ; 111/ 1 ; punishments for – 112/1-2 ; 117/6 ; incentive for informers 113/1 ; income in excess of known means – presumption of offence – 115/2 ; parking of funds in foreign lands – 116/3

6weeks/24 hrs.

[D] Suggested Projects

- Group discussion on various social and political issues (Some topics are suggested) : Aspects of Caste discrimination, Plight of the landless, Caste riots, Affirmative action, Poverty and caste, Prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes Act, Consumer protection act and case studies, Prevention of corruption Act, Patriarchy and women's rights, Crimes against women, Vishakha's case and Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace.
- Dialogue writing and presentations on various issues.
- Power Point Presentation on the course content.
- Any project which is connected with the practical aspect of this course.

[E] Recommended Books

Primary Readings :

- *Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya* , (Ed.) R.P. Kangle, Moti Lal Banarsi Das, Delhi.
- *Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya* , (Ed.) Vachaspati Gairola , Chowkhamba Vidya Bhawan, Varanasi. (Edition IV)
- *Mahābhārata* (with Hindi Translation in 6 volumes), Gitā Press, Gorakhpur, VI Edition, 2000.
- *Manu Smṛti* : Ganga Nath Jha.
- *Vajrasūcī* by Aśvaghoṣa (Digital Sanskrit Buddhist Cannon at webpage www.dsbcproject.org cannon text).
- *Yājñavalkya- Smṛti*.

Secondary Readings :**Social Issues**

- Kane, P.V., *History of Dharmaśāstra* , Volume 1, BORI, Poona.
- *Dharma śāstra ka Itihāsa* (Hindi translation of the above by) Kashyap, Arjuna Chaube, volume 1, Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow.
- Mathur , A.D. , *Medieval Hindu Law*, Oxford University Press, Delhi 2006.
- Robert, Lingat, *Classical Law of India*, (translated by J.D.M. Derrett), Munshi Ram Manohar lal, I, Indian Edition, 1993.

Economic Institutions

- Basu, Ratan Lal and Rajkumar Sen, *Ancient Indian Economic Thought* .
 - Buch, M.A., *Economic Life in Ancient India*.
 - Kangle, R.P., *Kautilya's Arthaśāstra* (three volumes).
 - Maddison, Agnus, *Contours of World Economy* .
 - Sharma R.S., *Cambridge Economic History of India*.
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