

## Course Title: Indian Palaeography and Epigraphy

### Course Code

#### Course Description:

The course "Indian Palaeography and Epigraphy" provides an in-depth study of the history of writing in India, focusing on palaeography and epigraphy. It explores the origins and ancient history of writing in India, including an examination of various writing materials used in ancient times. The course introduces students to the field of epigraphy, the classification of inscriptions, and the significance of major Indian inscriptions, including the Edicts of Emperor Ashoka. It also delves into the epigraphy of Jammu and Kashmir, studying the history of scripts and languages in the region and analyzing notable inscriptions and coin inscriptions. Additionally, the course explores the manuscript heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, including an introduction to manuscript repositories, writing materials, and the importance of preserving and studying manuscript traditions.

#### Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the history of writing in India, focusing on palaeography and epigraphy.
2. To introduce students to the field of epigraphy and develop their skills in the classification and categorization of different types of inscriptions.
3. To examine the significance of major Indian inscriptions, particularly the Edicts of Emperor Ashoka, and analyze their historical and cultural contexts.
4. To explore the epigraphy of Jammu and Kashmir, including the history of scripts and languages in the region, and study notable inscriptions and coin inscriptions.
5. To familiarize students with the manuscript heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, including manuscript repositories, writing materials, and the importance of preserving and studying these valuable resources.
6. To develop students' research and analytical skills in the field of Indian palaeography and epigraphy, enabling them to critically engage with primary sources and contribute to the study of ancient Indian writing traditions.

#### Learning Outcome:

**LO1:** Comprehension of Indian Palaeography: Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the principles, techniques, and methods of Indian Palaeography, including the study of ancient scripts, decipherment, and analysis of inscriptions.

**LO2:** Proficiency in Reading and Transcribing Inscriptions: Students will develop the skills necessary to read and transcribe various types of Indian inscriptions accurately. They will be able to analyze the linguistic, historical, and cultural information contained in inscriptions and interpret their significance.

**LO3:** Knowledge of Epigraphical Dating Methods: Students will gain knowledge of different dating methods used in Indian epigraphy, including palaeographic, linguistic, and contextual analysis. They will be able to apply these methods to determine the chronology of inscriptions and understand their historical context.

**LO4:** Interpretation of Epigraphical Data: Students will acquire the ability to interpret epigraphical data and extract valuable information regarding the socio-cultural, political, religious, and economic aspects of ancient Indian civilizations. They will develop critical thinking skills to analyze and synthesize the information presented in inscriptions.

**LO5:** Familiarity with Regional Scripts and Styles: Students will become familiar with the various regional scripts and writing styles prevalent in different periods of Indian history. They will be able to

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right, the signatures are: a stylized signature that appears to be 'Ashwini', a signature that looks like 'N', a signature that is circled and reads 'Anurag', a signature that reads 'Ajay Kumar Singh', and a signature that reads 'S Singh'.

identify and differentiate between different scripts and understand the regional variations in palaeography and epigraphy.

LO6: Research and Documentation Skills: Students will develop research and documentation skills necessary for conducting independent studies in the field of Indian Palaeography and Epigraphy. They will learn how to locate, access, and analyze primary sources, compile scholarly reports, and present their findings effectively.

## **1. History of Writing in India**

- 1.1 Introduction to Palaeography
- 1.2 Explore the origins and ancient history of writing in India.
- 1.3 Examine the various writing materials used in ancient India.

## **2. Indian Epigraphy**

- 2.1 Introduction to Epigraphy
- 2.2 Classify and categorize different types of inscriptions.
- 2.3 Introduction to the Edicts of Emperor Ashoka and Analyze the Significance of the Rummindei Pillar Edict and Major Rock Edict 12 of Emperor Ashoka.

## **3. Major Characteristics**

- 3.1 Study the concept of eras in ancient Indian chronology
- 3.2 Study of Major Indian Inscriptions
- 3.3 Cave Inscriptions

## **4. Epigraphy of Jammu and Kashmir**

- 4.1 History of Scripts and Languages in Jammu and Kashmir
- 4.2 Notable Inscriptions of Jammu and Kashmir, Epigraph of Queen Didda, Sudh Mahadev Inscription etc.
- 4.3 Coin Inscriptions of Jammu and Kashmir

## **5. Manuscript Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir**

- 5.1 Introduction to Manuscript Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir
- 5.2 Manuscript Repositories, Writing Materials, Buhler's Report
- 5.3 Importance of Manuscript Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir



The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right, they appear to be: a stylized signature, a signature with a large flourish, a signature that reads 'Anand Gupta', a signature that reads 'Ajay Kumar Singh', and a signature that reads 'S Singh'.

### Suggested Readings:

1. Sircar, D. C. (1996). Indian Epigraphy. Motilal Banarsidass.
2. Fleet, J. F. (1990). Inscriptions of the Early Gupta Kings and their Successors. Indological Book House.
3. Burgess, J. (2015). Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XIV: Miscellaneous Inscriptions in the Gurjara Pratihara Dynastic Era. Archaeological Survey of India.
4. Gupta, S. (2008). Indian Palaeography. DK Printworld.
5. Bhandarkar, D. R. (2008). Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. III: Inscriptions of the Early Guptas. Archaeological Survey of India.
6. Fleet, J. F. (1997). Inscriptions of the Early Gupta Kings and their Successors. Indological Book House.
7. Agrawala, R. C. (1978). Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV: Inscriptions of the Early Guptas. Archaeological Survey of India.
8. Tripathi, K. (2001). Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XV: Inscriptions of the Paramaras, Chandellas, Kachchhapaghatas, and Two Minor Dynasties. Archaeological Survey of India.
9. Joshi, N. P. (1990). Indian Paleography. Motilal Banarsidass.
10. Vogel, J. P. (1990). Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and the Other Indo-Aryan Languages. Asian Educational Services.

 Ashwini Kumar Singh. Anand Gupta. S Singh