

**Open Elective Course (OEC)**

**Credits -04**

**Semester -II**

**Revised**

## **Course Title: Indian Palaeography and Epigraphy**

### **Course Description:**

This course offers an in-depth understanding of the evolution of writing and inscriptions in India. It introduces the discipline of palaeography and epigraphy, tracing the origins of ancient scripts such as Brahmi, Kharoshti, and Sharda. Students will explore the materials and regional variations used in ancient writing practices. Special focus is given to the study and interpretation of major inscription, including Asokan edicts and other significant records, such as the Hathigumpha. The course also examines the pioneering contributions of eminent scholars such as James Prinsep, Cunningham, Buhler, and others to the decoding of India's written heritage. Through integrating textual study and archaeological findings, this course deepens appreciation of India's linguistic and cultural history.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To introduce students to the history and development of writing in India.
- To familiarize learners with fundamental concepts of palaeography and epigraphy.
- To analyze key Indian scripts and their regional variations.
- To study major inscriptions for historical, linguistic, and cultural insights.
- To highlight the scholarly contributions in the field of Indian epigraphy.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the time they finish the course, students will be able to:

LO1- Students will understand the chronological development of writing in ancient India.

LO2- They will identify and differentiate between major Indian scripts.

LO3- They will interpret inscriptions and relate them to their historical contexts.

LO4- They will appreciate the significance of writing materials and techniques used in antiquity.

LO5- They will evaluate the research contributions of major epigraphists and scholars.

**Course Content:**

**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 Prominent Scholars in the Epigraphy Field: Fenthaler, Fleet, James Prinsep, Cunningham, Bueller, Ojha, and Sarkar.

**3. Understanding Indian Script**

- 3.1 Brahmi
- 3.2 Kharoshti
- 3.3 Sharda

**4. Studying Asokan Inscriptions**

- 4.1 Girnar Rock Edict 1 and 13
- 4.2 Rummindei and Sarnath Minor Pillar Edicts
- 4.3 Bhabru Minor Rock Edict and Barabar Cave Inscriptions

**5. Studying other Inscriptions**

- 5.1 Piparahwa Buddhist Vase-Inscription and Base Nagar Garuda Pillar Inscription
- 5.2 Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharvel
- 5.3 Introduction of inscriptions of Jammu and Kashmir

**Suggested Readings:**

- ओझा, गौरीशंकर हीराचन्द्र, *भारतीय प्राचीन लिपिमाला*, संपादक – श्रीकृष्ण जुगनू, जोधपुर : राजस्थानी ग्रन्थागार, 2016
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- पाण्डेय, राजबली, *भारतीय पुरालिपि*, दिल्ली : लोकभारती प्रकाशन, 2018
- ब्यूलर, जार्ज, *भारतीय पुरालिपि-शास्त्र*, अनुवादक – मंगल नाथ सिंह, नई दिल्ली : मोतीलाल बनारसीदास, 2009
- मुले, गुणाकर, *अक्षरकथा*, दिल्ली : प्रकाशन विभाग, भारत सरकार, 2003
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- सहाय, शिवस्वरूप, *भारतीय पुरालेखों का अध्ययन*, दिल्ली : मोतीलाल बनारसीदास, 2008
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- Allchin, F.R., *The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1995
- Babu, B. Ramesh Chandra, *Palaeography of Brāhmī Script in Andhra*, Bharatiya Kala Prakashan, Delhi, 2006
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- Muley, Gunakar, *Akshar Katha*, Prakashan Vibhag, Bharat Sarkar, New Delhi, 2016
- Prinsep, James, *Essays on Indian Antiquities - Historic, Numismatic and Palaeographic*, Edited by Edward Thomas, 1837
- Salomon, Richard, *Indian Epigraphy*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1999
- Sircar, Dinesh Chandra, *Indian Epigraphy*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1965
- Upasak, Chandrika Singh, *The History and Palaeography of Mauryan Brāhmī Script*, Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda, 1960
- Winternitz, Maurice, *A History of Indian Literature (Vol. II)*, Translated by Subhadra Jha, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas, 1966

