

# Indian Culture and Heritage

Code No. 223

## Introduction

India has a long history, being one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The Indian culture, often labeled as an amalgamation of several various cultures, spans across the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced and shaped by a history that is several thousand years old. Throughout the history of India, Indian culture has been heavily influenced by dharmic religions. They have been credited with shaping much of Indian philosophy, literature, architecture, art and music. Greater India was the historical extent of Indian culture beyond the Indian subcontinent. Over the centuries, there has been significant fusion of cultures between Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims (Sunni, Shia, Sufi), Jains, Sikhs and various tribal populations in India. Many elements of India's diverse cultures, such as Indian religions, Indian philosophy and Indian cuisine, have had a profound impact across the world. The composite and dynamic character of Indian culture is a result of the rich contributions of all these diverse cultural groups over a long period of time. The distinctive features of Indian culture and its uniqueness are the precious possession of all Indians.

## Rationale

India is one of the ancient civilizations of the world which has stood the test of time. In fact what makes Indian culture unique among other ancient civilizations is its ability to accommodate and assimilate external influences and weave them into its own cultural fabric. This composite influence has not only enriched the cultural milieu of India, it has also made it stronger. Indian art, architecture, music, language, philosophy and religion reflect this diversity of influence that has occurred through centuries. This is the beauty of Indian Culture and Heritage. As Indian citizens not only do we need to be proud of this pluralistic and rich cultural heritage but also to study it objectively and assess it critically.

## Objectives

After completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- explain various aspects of the culture and heritage of India;
- identify contributions of our ancestors in the areas of religion, philosophy, science, arts, education, languages and literature;
- demonstrate underlying unity amidst diversity in all aspects of India's culture;
- trace the impact of Indian culture in different countries of the world;
- relate to the composite nature of Indian culture and
- develop a feeling of love and a sense of belonging towards the nation.

## Scope and job opportunity

This field has a large number of opportunities for employment, some of these are:

Archaeologist: Archaeologists examine ancient sites and objects to learn about the past. The aim of the role is to record, interpret and preserve archaeological remains for future generations.

Tourist Guides: A tour guide or a tourist guide provides assistance, information and cultural, historical and contemporary heritage interpretation to people on organized tours and individual clients at educational establishments, religious and historical sites, museums, and at venues of other significant interest.

## Eligibility conditions

**Age:** 14 years

**Qualification:** Ability to read and write

**Medium of instruction:** Hindi, English, Urdu, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Tamil and Odia medium

**Duration of the course:** 1 Year

**Weightage**

**Theory:** 100 Marks

**Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA):** 20% marks of theory

**Scheme of studies**

240 hours for theory and TMA (self paced)

**Scheme of evaluation:** Theory paper 100 marks (3 hours), internal assessment (TMA) (20% of theory marks)

**Pass criteria:** 33% Marks in theory

## Course content

S. No.	Module/Topics	Duration (in hours)	Module Approach/Description	Weightage (marks)
1.	<b>Module-I</b> <b>Culture</b> 1. Culture: An Introduction 2. Indian Culture	20	This module is designed to develop an understanding of the concept and meaning of culture. The salient features of Indian culture which make it distinct will also be discussed.	10

2.	<b>Module-II</b> <b>History and Culture through the Ages</b> 3. Ancient India 4. Medieval India 5. Modern India	35	This module aims at developing an understanding of the historical development of Indian Culture. The evolution of Indian Culture through the Ages will be traced. This module aims to highlight significant cultural developments during the ancient, medieval and modern periods of Indian history.	15
3.	<b>Module-III</b> <b>Languages and Literature</b> 6. Indian Languages and Literature –I 7. Indian Languages and Literature – II	25	This module is intended to acquaint the learners with the languages and literature of India. This module shall examine the important role of Sanskrit in ancient India. It explores the range of literature available in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali. It also seeks to familiarize learners with the rich legacy of Sangam literature in Tamil, and the literature available in other South Indian languages i.e. Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.	10
4.	<b>Module-IV</b> <b>Religion and Philosophy</b> 8. Religion and Philosophy in Ancient India 9. Religion and Philosophy in Medieval India 10. Religious Reform Movements in Modern India	25	This module aims to trace the developments in Indian philosophical thought and examine the major religious traditions that emerged and flourished in India over the ages. This module also discusses the movements started in the modern period to reform the various ills that had crept into the different religions of India.	
5.	<b>Module-V</b> <b>Painting, Performing Arts and Architecture</b> 11. Indian Painting 12. Performing Arts: Music, Dance and	25	Indian culture is often characterised by its artistic productions, be it painting, sculpture, music or dance. This is because the arts are the most manifest aspect of culture. In a sense they may be regarded as	12

	Drama 13. Indian Architecture		cultural production. This module traces the evolution of the various art forms in India such as painting, handicrafts, music, dance, drama, architecture and sculpture.	
6.	<b>Module-VI</b> <b>Science and Technology</b> 14. Science and Technology in India 15. Scientists of Ancient India 16. Science and Scientists of Medieval India 17. Scientists of Modern India	30	As in all other fields of culture, so too in the field of science and technology, Indians have inherited a rich legacy from their ancestors. This module examines the important developments in the field of science and technology in India, during the course of its history. It also assesses the contributions made by outstanding scientists of India during the modern period.	10
7.	<b>Module-VII</b> <b>Education</b> 18. Education in India	30	Education is a means of cultural transmission. It is the mode through which the accumulated knowledge available within a social group is passed on, in a structured manner. India has, since very ancient times, evolved its own unique system of education often imbibing influences from other civilizations. This module traces the evolution of educational systems, over the different periods of Indian history. It also highlights significant developments in this field, the subjects and contents of education, etc. The module also aims to enable learners to make a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the pre-modern and modern systems of education in India.	09

8.	<b>Module-VIII</b> <b>Social Structure</b> 19. Indian Social Structure 20. Socio-Cultural Issues in Contemporary India	30	To know Indian culture in all its aspects, it is necessary to study the structure of its society. This module aims to examine the various components of Indian society and analyze its structure. It also tries to examine some contemporary socio-cultural issues of contemporary India.	10
9.	<b>Module-IX</b> <b>Spread of Indian Culture Abroad</b> 21. Spread of Indian Culture Abroad	30	Indians have interacted with the outside world since very ancient times. They have travelled far and wide and left indelible impressions wherever they went. Similarly throughout its history, India has also been frequented by foreign travellers who have carried home some traces of Indian culture. In turn, India has also imbibed several elements of the culture of all these different peoples and their civilizations. In this module we shall examine the exchange of cultural influences between India and other parts of the world.	12