**P.G. Diploma in Archaeology**

**Course Code: DARCH 412**

**Semester-I**

**Prehistory of India**

**Course objectives**

The objective of this course is to introduce theoretical and methodological aspects of Prehistoric study and Stone Age culture and remains of early man in India, besides prehistoric rock art of South Asia.

**Course outcomes**

Students learn when our earliest ancestors appeared on earth, the developmental stages of hominins, a basic understanding of dispersals out of Africa, different technological stages of stone tool making, and human expressions in the form of art in caves or rock shelters in various parts of the country.

**Unit I**

Introduction to Prehistory including a brief summary of historical development, aim and scope of Prehistory, cultural sequences, Prehistoric cultures of South Asia and the geological time scale; Human evolution and dispersal, Africa, Asia and Europe.

**Unit II**

Pre Acheulian and Acheulian tradition; Lower Paleolithic Culture of India, Hominid fossil record, tool types; Soan and Acheulian traditions, some important sites: Atirampakkam, Bhimbetka, Hunsgi, Jayal, Chhajoli, Berach basin.

**Unit III**

Middle Paleolithic culture: Stratigraphic position, chronology, Hominid fossil records, tool typology, important sites in Central & Peninsular India e.g.,: Didwana, Bhimbetka, Atirampakkam, Jwalapuram, and others.

**Unit IV**

Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic cultures; modern humans, tool types Stratigraphic Position, Distribution of sites, some important sites Belan Valley, Baghor, Bagor, Patne, Bhimbetka, Langhnaj, Didwana and others.

**Unit V**

Rock Art: Engraving, bruising, cupules, paintings; Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic rock art, Subject of art, types of painted shelters, some important areas: Bhimbetka, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Distributions of sites in India.

**Suggested Reading:**

* Agrawal, D.P. 1982. The Archaeology of India. Chicago
* Agarwal, D.P. & J.S. Kharkwal 2003. Prehistory of South Asia. Aryan Books.
* Bordes, Francois 1968. The Old Stone Age.
* Clark, J.G.D. 1977. World Prehistory: New Perspective, Cambridge.
* Cooyman B. P. 2001. Understanding Stone Tools and Archaeological Sites, University of New Mexico Press.
* Dennell, R. 2008. The Palaeolithic Settlement of Asia, Cambridge University Press
* Kennedy, K. A. R. 2000. God-Apes and Fossil Men, Ann Arbor.
* Klein, R. G. 1999. The Human Career, Human Biological and Cultural Origins. The University of Chicago.
* Gosh, A. 1989. An Encyclopedia of Indian Archaeology, Delhi.2 Vols.
* Misra, V.N. 2006 Rajasthan Prehistoric and Early Historic foundation. Delhi: Aryan Books.
* Sali, S. A. 1990. Stone Age India. Aurangabad.
* Sankalia, H.D. 1982. Stone Age Tools. Pune.
* Sankalia, H.D. 1974. Pre and proto history of India & Pakistan. Pune.
* Sankalia, H.D. 1976. Prehistory of India
* Setter, S. & R. Korisetter 2003. Retrospect of Indian Archaeology, ICHR Delhi.
* Wenke, R. J. 1987. Patterns in Prehistory.