

Syllabus for Buddhist Studies (COPH03)

Note:

- i. There will be one Question Paper which will have 100 questions.
- ii. All questions will be compulsory.
- iii. The Question Paper will have two Parts i.e. Part A and Part B
- iv. Part A will have 50 questions based on Research Methodology
- v. Part B will have 50 questions based on Subject-Specific Knowledge.

Pāli Language and Literature

- ❖ Pāli Grammar
- ❖ Theravāda Buddhist Concept
- ❖ Introduction of Pāli Literature & Its History: Pāli Sutta Piṭaka, Pāli Abhidhamma Piṭaka
- ❖ Study of Tipiṭaka and Post Piṭaka Literature
- ❖ Post- Canonical Pāli literature.
- ❖ Classifications of Buddhavaṇṇa. Vaṃsa Literature.
- ❖ Understanding of the Pāli poetical literature, Pāli Vaṃsa literature
- ❖ Pāli-based Buddhism and its philosophy

Buddhist Sanskrit Language and Literature

- ❖ Introduction to Buddhist Sanskrit Grammar
- ❖ Comprehension of selected Buddhist Sanskrit
- ❖ Buddhist Sanskrit Literature its Origin and Development.

History of Indian Buddhism and its Philosophy

- ❖ India on the Eve of the Origin of Buddhism and its background.
- ❖ Biography of the Buddha
- ❖ Buddhist Councils.
- ❖ Fundamental Teachings of the Buddha
- ❖ Schools of Buddhism
- ❖ Tāntric Philosophy
- ❖ Buddhist Dialectics and Buddhist Theory of Language (Apoha).

Buddhism in China

- ❖ Origin and development of Chinese characters, basic knowledge of Modern Chinese.
- ❖ Pre-Buddhist China: Society, Religious Practices and thought.
- ❖ Introduction of Buddhism to China: Routes, Literary and Archaeological Sources.
- ❖ Characteristics of Han Buddhism.
- ❖ Buddhism during various dynasties and periods.
- ❖ Buddhism in the Modern Period.
- ❖ Monastic Orders in China: Establishment and Stages of the Development of Buddhist Sangha in China. Composition and Categories of Sangha, Classification of temples, social origins of monks. Sangha-state relations:

Tibetan language and Buddhism in Tibet

- ❖ Tibetan Language and Grammar
- ❖ Development of Buddhism in Tibet.
- ❖ Buddhism and Buddhist Literature in Tibet and four major Buddhist religious traditions in Tibet.
- ❖ Prajnaparamita literature and its contents in true perspective of emptiness.
- ❖ Four Major Traditions of Buddhism in Tibet
- ❖ Bon, the Pre-Buddhist Religion of Tibet.
- ❖ Monastic system of Buddhism in Tibet.
- ❖ Historical account of rNying ma School and its general teaching. Emergence of Sākya tradition as a political power in Tibet.
- ❖ Salient features of bka' brgyud pa school and its prominent masters. The dge lugs pa tradition and institute of Dalai Lama.

Buddhist Ethics

- ❖ Brahmanical, Jaina, and Buddhist concept of Ahimsā. Comparison with Gandhi's conception of Ahimsā and Satyagraha (zest for truth).
- ❖ Buddhist concepts of Karma and Śīla with reference to Gītā's concept of Nişkāmakarma.
- ❖ Equality, discrimination and preferential treatment. Concept of Śīla, Samādhi, Prajñā
- ❖ Buddhist concept of Brahmavihāra. Theory of Karma and Rebirth. Arhata and Bodhisattva Ideal
- ❖ Buddhist Theory of Perfection (Pāramitā).

Socially Engaged Buddhism

- ❖ B.R. Ambedkar and Dalai Lama as Socially Engaged Buddhists

- ❖ Buddhist Perspective on Sustainable Development. Buddhist Perspective on Pluralism and Inter-faith Dialogue. Deep Ecology
- ❖ Animal Rights and Buddhism. Human Rights and Buddhist Vision of Social Justice

Mahayana Buddhism

- ❖ Origin, Development and Growth of Mahāyāna Buddhism
- ❖ Survey of Mahāyāna Buddhist Literature & Philosophy.
- ❖ Salient Features of Mahāyāna Buddhism in China, Japan, and Korea.
- ❖ Hīnayāna and Mahāyāna
- ❖ Doctrines of Trividhayāna, Trikāya, Bodhisattva's Ideals, and Pāramitā
- ❖ Concept of Dasabhūmi

Origin and development of Buddhist sects in India and their philosophy

- ❖ History of the Origin of Buddhist Sects in India.
- ❖ Basic Philosophy of Sthaviravāda, Sāṃghika, Lokottaravāda, Sarvāstivāda, Yogācāra and Madhyamika.
- ❖ Canons of the Major Buddhist sects.

Devotion in Chinese Buddhism

- ❖ Concept of Buddha
- ❖ Concept of Bodhisattva
- ❖ Expression of Buddhist Devotion in Chinese Society

Sanskrit based Buddhism

- ❖ Introduction of the literary sources.
- ❖ Textual study of the Abhidharmakośa of Vasubandhu

Vajrayana Buddhist literature

- ❖ Survey of the Vajrayāna Literary Sources.

Vijñānavāda (yogācāra) Buddhist literature

- ❖ General Introduction to Literary Sources and Vijñānavāda

Madhyamika Buddhist literature

- ❖ Introduction to the Nāgārjuna and Mādhyamika Tradition.

- ❖ The Mūlamadhyamakakārikā with Candrakīrti's
- ❖ Mauryas: Asoka's Dhamma Policy, Buddhism as a Pan-Asian Religion
- ❖ Indo-Greeks. Śuṅgas. Evaluation of Puṣyamitra's attitude towards Buddhism. Kuṣāṇas:
- ❖ Rise of Mahayana Buddhism. Guptas, Harshavardhan. Nalanda University.
- ❖ Faxian and Xuanzang.
- ❖ Bhakti Movement and Buddhism.

Early Indian historic cities and settlements

- ❖ History of Bodhagayā and the Mahābodhi Temple from the time of the Buddha till the present-day
- ❖ Kapilavastu
- ❖ Indraprastha as known to the Buddhists.
- ❖ Bārāṇasī and Sāranātha. Nālandā, Śrāvastī
- ❖ Lumbini and the Aśokan Pillar, Kauśāmbī, Vaiśālī, Nāgārjunakoṇḍā, Campā

Buddhist art and architecture

- ❖ Background to the Origin of Buddhist Art and Architecture.
- ❖ Origin and Development of the Buddha Image
- ❖ Rock-cut Art and Architecture in Western India, Types of Cetiyaḡṛhas and their architectural development.
- ❖ Buddhist Vihāras.
- ❖ Amarāvātī School of Art. Paintings: Ajanta, Bagh, Alchi, and Pāla. Buddhist Art in Eastern India.

Advent and spread of southern Buddhism

- ❖ Buddhist Council and its Role in the advent and spread of Southern Buddhism. Advent, development, and spread in different parts of the Indian Sub-continent - Sri Lanka, Burma, (Myanmar), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and other parts of East Asia.

Philosophy of Buddhism

- ❖ Basic Tenets of Theravāda Abhidhamma Philosophy. Abhidhammatthasaṅgaho: Citta, Caitasika, Rūpa, and Nibbāna. Milindapaṅho: Dilemmatic Questions.
- ❖ Tilakkhaṇa, Cattāri Ariyasaccāni, Brahmavihāra, Anattā.

Later Mahayana and Vajrayana philosophy

- ❖ Introduction to Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna
- ❖ Philosophical Foundation of Tantrayāna.

- ❖ Concept of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
- ❖ Divine and Divinity in Tantra.
- ❖ Bodhicitta, Maṇḍalas, Mudras, Mantras, Prajñā, Upāya and Mahākaruṇā.

Vasubandhu and yogācāra idealism

- ❖ Life and Works of Asaṅga and Vasubandhu
- ❖ Introduction to Buddhist Idealism
- ❖ Classification of Consciousness

Nāgārjuna and the Mādhyamaka philosophy

- ❖ Life and works of Nāgārjuna.

Buddhist Logic and Epistemology

- ❖ Mahāyāna Buddhist Literature

Ancient Indian Epigraphy

- ❖ Origin of Brāhmī script.
- ❖ Transcription from Aśokan Brāhmī to Roman/ Devanāgarī and vice-versa.
- ❖ Inscriptions: Lumbini Pillar Inscription of Aśoka, Bairāt Rock Edict of Aśoka, Buddhist Pillar Inscription of the Time of the Śuṅgas, Shinkot Steatite Casket Inscription of the Time of Menander, Nālandā Inscription of Vipulaśrīmitra, Maināmatī Copper-plate, Maunggun Gold Plate Inscriptions

History of the decline of Buddhism in the subcontinent

- ❖ Salient Features and peculiarities of the Decline.
- ❖ Decline in different parts of India.
- ❖ Moral and Ethical Degeneracy,
- ❖ Role of Brāhmaṇical-Hinduism and Brāhmaṇical Kings, Sectarianism and the Rise of Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna, Attacks by Arabs and Turks,
- ❖ Impact of Bhakti Movement and Sufism,
- ❖ Urbanization,

Dignāga: Buddhist Epistemology

- ❖ Critical Study of Philosophy of Knowledge. Definition of Perception.
- ❖ Theory of Inference. Apoha. And Logic.
- ❖ Definition of Perception and Inference according to Dharamottra.

Buddhist Philosophy of Language and Dialectics

Sanskrit-based Abhidharma Philosophy

- ❖ Introduction of Abhidharma Philosophy. Basic Tenets of Sarvastivāda Philosophy, Vaibhasika and Sautrantika
- ❖ The Three Schemes: Aṣṭādaśadhātu, Dvādaśāyatana, and Pañcaskandha. (10 Marks)

The influence of Buddhism on Chinese Culture

- ❖ Influence of Buddhism on Chinese language and literature.
- ❖ Influence of Buddhism on Chinese ethical, educational and economic life.
- ❖ Buddhist social interaction: Buddhist festivals, religious societies, vegetarian feasts, and charitable activities of the Sangha.
- ❖ Buddhist Interaction with Taoism and Confucianism.

Buddhist Sects in China

- ❖ Schools of Mahayana Buddhism transmitted from India to China: San-lun and Fa-xiang. Scholastic Schools of Chinese Buddhism: Tian-tai and Hua-yan.
- ❖ Schools of Popular Practice in China: Pure land and Chan.

Buddhist art and Literature in China

- ❖ Stupa, Cetiya, and Monastery architecture.
- ❖ Buddhist Iconography and Painting.
- ❖ Buddhist caves in China: Tun-huang, Yun kang, and Longmen.
- ❖ Translation of Buddhist texts and extent of Buddhist Literature in China.

Esoteric Buddhism in Tibet

- ❖ rGyud sde spyi 'i rnam gzhag of mKhas grub rje.
- ❖ Kye rdo rje'i rtsa rgyud
- ❖ gSang 'dus rtsa rgyud

Advent and spread of Buddhism in the Himalayan region

- ❖ Western Tibet
- ❖ Ladakh
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh
- ❖ Sikkim
- ❖ Bhutan

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh.

Royal patronage of Buddhism in china maximum

- ❖ Yao xing of later Qin and Kumarajiva's translation of Buddhist text.
- ❖ Royal patronage of Buddhism during the Northern Wei and Liang dynasty.
- ❖ Emperor Wen of Sui: Establishment of Buddhist monasteries and stūpas, Buddhism as the official ideology, restoration of Buddhist texts, images, and monuments.
- ❖ Royal Patronage under the T'ang.