

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN EPIGRAPHY

Offered by Department of History St. Thomas College, Kothencherry, Kerala

Course Objectives:

- To understand Antiquity of Writing in Ancient India
- To introduce prevalent language system
- To establish epigraphic records as one of the foremost sources in reconstruction of ancient Indian history.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will be successfully able to understand scripts with the help of paleographic features of the script.
- Students will also understand the different usages of language.
- After the successful completion of the course student will be able to interpret the inscription in its socio-political- religious and economical context

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit-I Origin of writing –Logography, Phonogram, Cuneiform, Hieroglyph – Indus Script— attempts of Decipherment

Unit-II Scope and Importance in Reconstruction of History-Historiography of Epigraphic Studies- Antiquity of Writing in Ancient India- Materials and Techniques of Writing

Unit-III Theories of Origin of Brahmi and Kharoshthi Scripts- history of its Decipherment- Orthography and Decipherment of letters and Numerals

Unit-IV Ashokan Brahmi script – Kharoshthi – Ashokan Rock Edicts-Nature, Geographic Distribution, Categories and Language

Unit-V Inscriptions of Early South India- Tamil Brahmi, Grantha, Nagari, Vatteluzha script – its importance and significance – Herostone inscriptions.

Unit – VI Format of the script – Method of collection of inscriptions




Dr. MARTIZ KURIAN
Assistant Professor of History
Head, Department of History & Political Science
St. Thomas College, Kothencherry
Pottanamthil, Kerala-686011

Recommended Readings:

1. Buhler, G., *Indian Palaeography*, Indological Book House, New Delhi, 1968
2. Pandey, R.B., *Indian Palaeography*, Motilal Banarsidas, Benaras, 1952
3. Dani, A.H., *Indian Palaeography*, Oxford University Press, 1963
4. Mahalingam, T.V., *Early South Indian Palaeography*, University of Madras, 1967
5. Sivaramamurthy, *Indian Epigraphy and South Indian Scripts*, Government of Madras, Madras, 1966
6. Burnell, A.C., *Elements of South Indian Palaeography*, Asian Educational Services, Madras, 2012
7. Mahalingam, T.V., *Early South Indian Palaeography*, University of Madras, Madras, 1967
8. Subramanian, T.N., *South Indian Temple Inscription*, Government oriental manuscripts library, Madras, 1954
9. Allchin, F.R. and K.R. Norman' *Guide to the Ashokan Inscriptions*, South Asian Studies, I, 1985.
10. Sircar, D.C. *Indian Epigraphy*, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi, 1965.
11. Richard Saloman, *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscription in Sanskrit, Prakrit and the other Indo- Aryan Languages*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1998

Duration: 30 hours (6 months)

Timings: I st and III rd Saturdays (10 am to 1 pm)

Course Coordinator – Dr. Martiz Kurian

For enquiries: email at martizkurian@stthomascollege.info with full name and contact information.

Link for online registration: [//forms.gle/UrW9JiiPZxbZkZtk8](https://forms.gle/UrW9JiiPZxbZkZtk8)



Dr. MARTIZ KURIAN
Assistant Professor of History
Head, Department History & Political Science
St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry
Pathanamthitta, Kerala-689641