

## **Course Structure for M.A. in Buddhist Studies**

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### **DETAILED SYLLABUS OF M. A. PROGRAMME:**

#### **SEMESTER-I**

##### **MABS 101: INTRODUCTION TO PALI LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Origin and homeland of Pali, Position of Pali in the Indo-Aryan Languages, Basic Characteristics of Pali
2. Introduction of Pali Literature and its History – Canonical and non-canonical Pali Literature, Vamsa Literature.
3. Pali Grammar: Sandhi, Karaka, Samasa, Paccaya, Kala, Dhutanga. (Based on Kaccayana Vyakarana)
4. Translation from Pali to Hindi/English and from English/Hindi to Pali
5. Short Notes in Pali on Buddhist Conceptual Terms: Bhagava Buddha, Bodhisatta, Catari Ariya Saccani, Ariya Atthangiko Maggo, Tilakkhana, Patikkasamuppada, Nibbana, Brahma Vihara Bhavana, Sila, Samadhi, Prajñā, Arhata.
6. Classification of Buddhavacana

##### **MABS 102: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST SANSKRIT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Origin and Development of Buddhist Sanskrit Literature
  - a. Vedic Sanskrit
  - b. Classical Sanskrit
  - c. Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit
2. A survey of Buddhist Sanskrit Philosophical Literature
3. Buddhist Sanskrit Grammar: Sandhi, Karaka, Kala, Kridanta, Samasa, Dhatu.
4. Phonological variations between Pali and Sanskrit
5. A survey of Buddhist Literature of Asvaghosha, Nagarjuna, Asanga, Vasuvandhu, Dignaga, Dharmakirti, et al.

##### **MABS 103: HISTORY OF INDIAN BUDDHISM TILL THE THIRD COUNCIL**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Survey of the sources: Archaeological and Literary
2. Date of the Buddha
3. Origin of Buddhism - Factors, Evolution in Indian Subcontinent
4. Development of Samgha – Samgharama, Vihara, Functioning of Vihara and development of Monastic Rules
5. First Buddhist Council and Development of Literature
6. Second Buddhist Council and emergence of Theravada and different schools.
7. Third Buddhist Council, Development of Abhidhamma and expansion of Buddhism outside India
8. Schools of Hinayana and Mahayana and their attributes

### **MABS 104: BASIC FEATURES OF BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Fundamental Teachings of the Buddha: Catari Ariya Sacconi (Four Noble Truths); Ariya atthangiko Maggo (Eightfold Path); Tilakkhana (Three Characteristics of Existence); Brahma Vihara (Four Perverted Views); Paticcasamuppada (Theory of Dependent Origination); Nibbana; Ksanikavada (Momentariness).
2. The Early Buddhist Conceptions of Karma and Rebirth.
3. Schools of Buddhism: Vaibhasika and Sautrantika; Madhyamika (Sunyavada); Yogacara (Vijnanavada).
4. Introduction to Tantric Philosophy (Vajrayana, Mantrayana, Tantrayana).
5. Epistemology: Perception, Inference and Theory of Apoha.

### **MABS 105: COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY OF EARLY PRAKRIT LANGUAGES**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Position of Prakrit in Indo-Aryan family of languages
2. Basic Characteristics of Prakrit in comparison to Pali and Sanskrit
3. Comparative Phonology of various Prakrits:
  - i. Vowels- initial, medial and final
  - ii. Consonants- Single and Clustered by Initial, Medial and Final Position
  - iii. Primary and Secondary Suffixes, Prefixes and Indeclinable

### **MABS 106: PRE-BUDDHIST INDIAN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Origin and Development of Indus Valley Civilization and its Racial Components
2. Advent of Aryans in Indian Sub-continent- Literary and Archaeological Evidences
3. Homeland of Aryans
4. First stage of reaction by Upanisads

5. Archaeological evidences of emergence of Second Urbanization and Origin of Buddhism
6. Role of contemporary monarchy and Republics for Development of Buddhism

### **MABS 107: PRE-BUDDHIST INDIAN PHILOSOPHY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Schools of Ancient Indian Philosophy: Sankhya, Theories of Reality, Knowledge, Liberation and its relation with the later schools of Yoga, Nyaya-Vaisesika.
2. Caravaka and Lokottara Tradition
3. Sramana Tradition and Pre-Buddhist Schools (Six Contemporary Thinkers)

### **SEMESTER II**

### **MABS 201: CHINESE BUDDHISM: A HISTORICAL STUDY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Pre-Buddhist China: Society, Religious Practices, Thought (Confucian and Taoist)
2. Introduction of Buddhism to China: Routes, Literary and Archaeological Sources. Han Buddhism
3. Schools of Chinese Buddhism and their literature, their expansion to other countries
4. Chinese Buddhist Terms
5. Role of personalities in Chinese Buddhism viz. Kasyapa Matanga, An Shi Kao, Kamalasila, Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma, Samantabhadra, Faxian, Xuanzang, et al.

### **MABS 202: HISTORY OF INDIAN BUDDHISM FROM MAURYAS TO HARSHA**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Asoka's Conversion into Buddhism, His Dhamma Yattas and Dhamma Policy
2. Asoka's patronage to Buddhism, Construction of Viharas, Stupas and Chaityas
3. The Third Buddhist Council and role of missionaries and expansion of Buddhism in India and abroad
4. Aftermath controversy from Pushyamitra Sunga and end of Mauryan Empire (Death of King Brihadratha), Mihirakula, and Local Rulers of Bengal (Shashanka) & Assam
5. Emergence of Kushanas and Kaniska's patronage to Buddhism

6. Fourth Buddhist Council and expansion of Buddhism in Central Asia and China and Buddhist Settlements on the Silk Route
7. Role of Harsha in Revival of Buddhism

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### **MABS 203: INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED BUDDHISM**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Definition and relevance of Applied or Engaged Buddhism
2. Proponents of Engaged Buddhism viz. Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, At Ariyaratne, Sheng Yeng, Baba Saheb B. R. Ambedkar, Ajahn Pongsak Techathamamoo, et al.
3. Buddhist View on Ecology or Eco-crisis, Gender Equality, Euthanasia, Abortion, Economic Crisis, Globalization, etc.
4. Idea of Capital Punishment, Terrorism, Conflict Resolution, expression of dissent.

### **MA BS 204: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST ETHICS**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Vedic, Jain and Buddhist Concept of Ethics
2. Buddhist Concepts of Sila, Samadhi, Pannya based on Visuddhimagga, Panca Sila, Brahma Vihara, etc.
3. Buddhism and Gita's concept of Niskama Karma
4. Buddhist Theory of Perfection (Paramita), Karma and Rebirth (Patisandhi), Bodhisattva Ideals, Arhat, etc.

### **MABS 205: HISTORY OF BUDDHIST ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Buddhist Epigraphy and Archaeological Explorations, Atthamahathanani (the Eight Great Places), Nalanda, Kausambi. Mathura, Taxila & Kapilavatthu
2. Origin and Development of Stupa, Chaitya and Vihara Architecture
3. Different Schools of Buddhist Caves and Sculpture Art: Gandhara (Khotan, Bamiyana, Dunghuang, Kucha), Mathura, Sarnath, Amravati, Nagarjunikonda, Pala Art.
4. Buddhist Iconography
5. Buddhist Schools of Paintings: Ajanta and Ellora

### **MABS 206: INTRODUCTION TO TIBETAN BUDDHISM**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Pre-Buddhist Tibet and Bon Religion and its impact on Buddhism in Tibet
2. Introduction of Buddhism and Buddhist Literature in Tibet
3. Monastic systems of Buddhism in Tibet
4. Schools of Tibetan Buddhism (Kagyü, Sākya, Gelugpa & Nyingma)
5. Tibetan Buddhist Conceptual Terms
6. Role of personalities in Tibetan Buddhism: Padmasambhava, Atiṣa Dipankara, King Srong Batsan, etc.
7. Impact of Tibetan Buddhism in Himalayan Region viz. Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Bhutan, Sikkim, etc.

**MABS 207: INTRODUCTION TO EARLY BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Life of the Buddha
2. Teachings of the Buddha: Four Noble Truth, Theory of Dependent Origination, Middle Path, Anātmavāda (No Soul Theory), Momentariness (Kṣhanikavāda)
3. Sects of Hinayana (India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand):
  - a. Sthaviravāda
  - b. Sarvastivāda
  - c. Vaibhāsika
  - d. Sautrāntika.

**SEMESTER III**

**MABS 301: VINAYA PITAKA (PALI)**

**(4 Credits)**

1. A General Introduction of Sutta Vibhanga
  - a. Parajika
  - b. Pacittiya
2. Khandaka
  - a. Mahavagga: Bodhi Katha, Pañcavaggiyakatha, Dhammacakkapavattana, Sariputta-Moggallāna Pavajja
  - b. Cullavagga: Bhikkhuni Khandaka & Saṃghabhedaka Khandaka
3. Parivāra: A General Introduction

**MABS 302: SUTTA PITAKA (PALI)**

**(4 Credits)**

1. *The Digha Nikaya*: Brahmajala Sutta, Samannaphala Sutta, Sigalovada Sutta, Kutadanta Sutta & Ambattha Sutta
2. *The Majjhima Nikaya*: Sammaditthi Sutta, Assalayana Sutta, Bodhirajakumara Sutta.
3. *The Samyutta Nikaya*: Matugama Sutta (Selected Sutta)
4. *The Anguttara Nikaya*: Tika Nipata (Selected Sutta)
5. *The Khuddaka Nikaya: Dhammapada*: Yamaka Vagga and Apmada Vagga, Citta Vagga, *Theragatha* (Angulimala), *Therigatha* (Patacara, Mahapajapati Gautami, AmbaPali), *Sutta Nipata* (Mahamangala Sutta, Metta Sutta, Vasala Sutta)

### **MABS 303: ABHIDHAMMA PITAKA (PALI)**

**(4 Credits)**

1. The Dhammasangani: Explanation of Citta, Cetasika, Rupa and Nibbana.
2. Vibhanga (Selected Chapters)
3. A General Introduction:
  - a. Dhatukatha
  - b. Puggalapannati
  - c. Kathavatthu

### **MABS 304: ANUPITAKA, ATTHAKATHA AND VAMSA LITERATURE**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Anupitaka
  - a. Milinda Panho (Bahirakatha & Lakkhana Panho)
  - b. Petakopadesha
  - c. Nettipakarana
2. Atthakathas and their commentator:
  - a. Buddhaghosha
  - b. Buddhadatta
  - c. Dhammapala
3. Vamsa Literature (Sri Lanka):
  - a. Dipavamsa
  - b. Mahavamsa

### **MABS 305: SPREAD OF BUDDHISM IN ASIA**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Spread of Buddhism into SouthEast Asia
  - a. Sri Lanka
  - b. Myanmar

- c. Thailand
- 2. Spread of Buddhism into Central Asia
  - a. Afghanistan
  - b. Mongolia
  - c. Tibet
- 3. Spread of Buddhism into East Asia
  - a. China
  - b. Korea
  - c. Japan

**MA BS 306: SPREAD OF BUDDHISM IN WEST (RUSSIA/EUROPE/AMERICA)**

**(4 Credits)**

- 1. Spread of Buddhism into Europe
- 2. Spread of Buddhism into Russia
- 3. Spread of Buddhism into America

**MA BS 307: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN BUDDHIST SECTS AND THEIR PHILOSOPHIES**

**(4 Credits)**

- 1. Genealogy of Origin of Buddhist Sects
- 2. Theravadin Buddhist Sects
- 3. Mahayanic Buddhist Sects
- 4. Theravada Philosophical Schools: Sautrantika & Vaibhasika
- 5. Mahayana Philosophical Schools: Madhyamika and Yogacara

**SEMESTER IV**

**MABS 401: BUDDHISM, HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY**

**(4 Credits)**

- 1. Buddhist Concept of Human Rights and models of conflict resolution with specific reference to:
  - a. Tibet
  - b. China
  - c. Sri Lanka
  - d. Myanmar and
  - d. Cambodia
- 2. Buddhist Perspectives on Interfaith Harmony and its relation with other religions
- 3. Panca Sila
- 4. Ahimsa (Non Violence) and Terrorism
- 5. Interfaith Dialogue from Buddhist Point of View

**MABS 402: BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY: THEORIES AND PRACTICES  
(VIPASSANA)**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Ariya Atthangiko Maggo
2. Samma Samadhi: Samatha and Vipassana
3. Kammattana
4. Vipassana and Human Life
5. Buddhism and Psychotherapy

**MABS 403: DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR AND NAVAYANA BUDDHISM**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's idea on Buddhism
2. Social movements of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Century India and their impact on Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
  - a. Social Movement in South India
  - b. Social Movement in Maharashtra
3. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's viewpoint on the Buddha and Buddhism
4. Writings of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in on Buddhism
5. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's comparison between Buddhism and other Religions

**MABS 404: DECLINE AND REVIVAL OF BUDDHISM IN INDIA**

**(4 Credits)**

1. Various causes of the decline of Buddhism in India
2. Survival of Buddhism in Himalayan Regions
3. Revival of Buddhism in India
4. Contribution of various personalities in Revival of Buddhism in India: Bhadanta Anand Kausalyayana, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Bhikkhu Jagdish Kashyap, Rahul Sankrityayana, Angarika Dhammapala, Dharmarakshita, Chandramuni Mahasthavir, Kripasarana Mahasthavir, et al.
5. Contribution of Buddhist Institutions in its Revival: Central University for Tibetan Studies (CUTS), Nava Nalanda Mahavihar, Mahabodhi Society of India, Archaeological Survey of India, Bengal Buddhist Association.

**MA BS 405: DISSERTATION**

**(10 Credits)**

Submit a dissertation on any of the topics assigned by the competent committee of the School of Buddhist Studies and Civilization. The desired dissertation is based on Textual or Survey.



