

M.A. FINAL EXAM

Paper - I INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

Objective :

It is hoped that students will have acquired a fairly adequate and comprehensive understanding of Indian society in all its multi-faceted dimensions at the graduate level. This course is aimed at sensitizing them to the diversity as well as inter-connectedness of theoretical perspectives on Indian society, thereby adding depth as well as insight to their understanding of the subject.

UNIT-I Conceptualizing Indian society in terms of certain distinctive characteristics and configurations : the scale and magnitude of cultural diversity (religious beliefs and rituals, institutions, cultural patterns, linguistic diversity); linkages and networks binding regions, groups, and communities; continuity between past and present in institutions, cultural and behavioural patterns: the village as the nucleus of Indian society; social hierarchy (caste system).

UNIT-II The colonial : the representation of Indian society as fragmentary and static in colonial ethnography; the census, district gazetteers and the imperial gazetteer are instruments of colonial policy; the colonial legacy in Sociology and Social Anthropology in the post-independence period; academic neo-colonialism; Americanization of sociology.

UNIT-III Theoretical perspectives

Indological / Textual (G.S. Ghurye, Louis Dumont)

Synthesis of Textual and Field views (Irawati Karve, A.M. Shah)

Civilization View (N.K. Bose, Surajit Sinha)

UNIT-IV Structural-functionalism (M.N. Srinivas, S.C. Dube)

Marxism (D.P. Mukherjee, A.R. Desai, R.K. Mukherjee)

Subaltern Perspective (B.R. Ambedkar, David Hardiman)

UNIT-V Current debates : contextualization, indigenization, the use of native categories in the analysis of Indian society, text and context, sociology for India.