

Course Title: Society & Culture in the Himalayas
Course No: 512 N
Total Credits: Three (3)
Course Teacher: Prof. K. Warikoo

INTRODUCTION

The Course, *Society and Culture in the Himalayas* introduces the Himalayan region and its space relations in forming a distinct geographical divide, which separates the Indian sub-continent from Central Asia. The main focus is on the social, cultural and economic aspects of the region in relation to its distinct spatio-temporal characteristics. The course covers the entire Himalayan region from Jammu and Kashmir State, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and the north eastern hill states of India. The course discusses the significant contemporary themes of Himalayan studies such as hill development, social change, tourism, trans-Himalayan border/cultural and trade linkages, geopolitical problems such as cross-border terrorism, armed insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, etc. in a multi-disciplinary manner. A study of the region's cultural heritage is also done through several case studies related to various ethno-cultural groups from different parts of the Himalayan region.

EVALUATION PATTERN

1. Mid-term Paper
2. End Semester Examination

COURSE CONTENTS

1. Himalayan Frontiers: Geo-political Perspectives
2. Regional Structure and Physical Divisions; space relations
3. Ethno-Cultural Characteristics
4. Religion, Distribution of Ethnic Population
5. Trans-humance and Trans-migratory Processes. Nomadic Societies, Gujjars.
6. Water Resources, their distribution and utilization. Indus Water Dispute
7. Cultural Heritage; Buddhist Monasteries, Shrines etc.
8. Politics of Language and Culture.
9. Economy and Sustainable Development. Economic Structure with special reference to Tourism; Sustainable Development on the basis of Case Studies
10. Challenges to Security of Himalayas: Cross-border Terrorism, Extremism, Mercenaries, Armed Insurgencies, Ethnic conflicts, Border Management
11. Management and Security of Borders

SELECTED READINGS

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Chakravarty, B.R., *Cultural History of Bhutan*, 1979.

- Charak, S.S., *History and Culture of Himalayan States*. Delhi, 1978.
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