

## SYLLABUS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

### The Indian Religious Background and the Emergence of Buddhism

	Course Particulars
<b>Course Code:</b>	<b>PDBS 01</b>
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>The Indian Religious Background and the Emergence of Buddhism (IRBEB)</b>
<b>Aim:</b>	Identification of origin and evolution of pre-Buddhist religious and philosophical systems and their influence on the emergence of Buddhism.
<b>Course Content:</b>	This unit explores the religious and intellectual background against which Buddhism emerged, with a focus on the following aspects: Vedic religion and its evolution from polytheism via henotheism to monotheism, the emergence of the Upaniṣads and their central teachings: the search for the ultimate reality and the identity of ātman and Brahman; the doctrine of reincarnation, karma and salvation through knowledge; religious practices and social institutions associated with the Brāhmaṇic culture; the rise of the Sāmaṇa movement and its heterodox views and radical tendencies; the Six Teachers and their doctrines; the paribbājakas as wandering religious mendicants; ascetic practices and their religious assumptions; conflict between externalist ( <i>sassatavāda</i> ) and nihilist ( <i>ucchedavāda</i> ) views of life and the birth of skepticism; emergence of Buddhism and its relation to the contemporary Indian religions and philosophies.
<b>Course Objectives / Expected Learning Outcomes:</b>	Ability to explain the special characteristics of pre-Buddhist religious and philosophical traditions and their influence on Buddhism.
<b>Duration:</b>	30 hours @10 lessons (Online via Zoom)
<b>Method of Teaching:</b>	Lectures, discussions and assignments
<b>Method of Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class participation</li> <li>• Two assignments each</li> <li>• Year-end Final Examination</li> </ul>

#### Recommended References:

- Barua, M. B., (1921). *Pre-Buddhist Indian Philosophy*, Calcutta.
- Basham, A. L., ed. (1975). *A Cultural History of India, Oxford Literature" Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Cluwer Academic Publishers. (511-529).
- Bronkhorst, Jahanness, (2220). *The Riddle of the Jainas and Ajīvakas in Early Buddhist*.
- Debes, Paul, (1977). *A Discourse to the Knowers of Veda*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- Dutt, Sukumar, (1996). *Early Buddhist Monachism*, Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
- Glasesapp, H.V., (1978). *Vedanta and Buddhism*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- Hazra, Kanai Lal, (1988). *Constitution of Buddhist Sangha*, Delhi: D.K. Publishers and Distributers.
- Jayatilleke, K. N., (1963). *Early Buddhist Theory of Knowledge*, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.
- Joshi, Lal Mani, (1987). *Brahmanism, Buddhism and Hinduism*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- Radhakrishnan, S., (1958). *Indian Philosophy*, Vol. I, London: London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.