

Department of Economics,
Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi

Minutes of Meeting

Subject : Common Pool of DSE
Course : Economic History of India – ECON031
Date : 2nd August, 2023 at 1pm
Venue : Department of Economics
Chair : Dr. Varun Kumar Das

The meeting was attended by the following teachers:

S.No.	Name	Dept & College
1	Dr. Jasmin	Jesus and Mary College
2	Kartikeya Kohli	Aryabhatta College
3	C. Saratchand	Satyawati College
4	Sunita Meena	Miranda House

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- This course analyses the key aspects of Indian economic development from the pre-colonial period to the Independence of the country. This will cover the nature and characteristics of economy before colonial rule and its transition to the colonial regime.
- In doing so, it investigates the place of the Indian economy in the wider context of the regime changes, and the mechanisms that linked economic development in India to the compulsions of colonial rule.
- Key themes including the commercialization of agriculture, deindustrialisation hypothesis mortality and famines and debates around the retreat of the Raj is discussed.

Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- The students develop and enhance critical analytical skills of Indian growth and development trajectories.
- It further exposes the students to understand the intricacies of India's economic, political and social developments in the past that may have relevance in the present times.
- It increases employability of students by enhancing their ability to deal with a variety of textual and statistical sources, appreciate their contexts, strengths and weaknesses, and draw upon them to construct a coherent argument.

- Besides strengthening the ability to pursue post-graduate studies these skills would be useful in a variety of careers in academics and business research, journalism as well as the government.

Course Outline:

Unit I: Economic changes from pre-colonial to colonial regimes - nature and characteristics; Colonialism and the Indian Economy (9 hours)

UNIT II: Population, Mortality and Famines (7 hours)

Unit III: Agriculture Industry and Railways (20 Hours)

Unit IV: Economy and State in the Imperial Context (9 hours)

Readings List

Note: Readings with an asterisk (*) mark are essential for teachers. The students may be encouraged to read them, but no direct questions should be asked from these readings.

Unit 1

1. P. Parthasarathy, 2011, **Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia did not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850**, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Ch 2 on *India and the global economy, 1600–1800: Introduction* pp. 21-27; Section on *Bullion in the global economy* pp: 46-50 & Ch 8 on *Modern industry in early nineteenth-century India: Section on The debate on the nineteenth-century Indian economy* pp 224-226; Section on *Industrialization in early nineteenth-century India* pp: 239-244; Section on *State and economy in nineteenth-century India* pp: 251-262.
2. P. Parthasarathy, 2009, *Historical Issues of Deindustrialization in Nineteenth Century South India*, in T Roy and Giorgio Riello (eds) **How India Clothed the World: The World of South Asian Textiles, 1500-1850**, Brill, Leiden, pp. 415-435.

Unit 2:

1. Sumit Guha, 1991, *Mortality decline in early 20th century India*, **Indian Economic and Social History Review**, vol. 28, Issue 4, pp. 371-74 and 383-87; (Note: pages 375-382, which involve Guha's critique of Klein, are to be de-emphasised for detailed reading and examination).
2. Ira Klein, 1984, *When Rains Fail: Famine relief and mortality in British India*, **Indian Economic and Social History Review**, vol. 21, issue 2, pp. 185-214
3. (*) Bagchi, A. K. (2010) *Colonialism and Indian Economy*. Oxford University Press. Introduction. Section on *Agricultural Productivity and Agrarian Change* (pg. xxxiii-xxxix)

Unit 3

1. Tirthankar Roy, 2011, *Agriculture*, **The Economic History of India 1857-1947**, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 4, pp. 104-148. (Note: pp: 40-41 on *Famines* to be de-emphasised for examination).
2. John Hurd, 1982, *Railways*, in Dharma Kumar (ed.) **Cambridge Economic History of India 1754-c.1970**, vol. 2, Orient Longman, Delhi, Ch. 8, pp.737-761
3. Rajat Ray (ed.), 1994, *Introduction* in **Entrepreneurship and Industry in India**, Oxford University Press, Delhi, pp.1-69.
4. (*) L. C. Jain, 1929, *Indigenous Credit Instruments and Systems* in M. M. Kudaisya (ed.) **The Oxford Anthology of Business History**, 2011, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 3, pp. 52-61. (Note: This reading may be used as a background reading for the section "The Bazaar" in Rajat Ray's *Introduction* (previous reading) for a better understanding of the *Hundi* system)

Unit 4

1. David Washbrook, 2012, *The Indian Economy and the British Empire* in Douglas M Peers and Nandini Gooptu (ed.) **India and the British Empire**, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 3, pp. 44-74.
2. (*) Gopalan Balachandran, 2016, *Colonial India and the World Economy. c. 1850-1940*, in L. Chaudhary, B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami (eds.), **A New Economic History of Colonial India**, Routledge, London and New York, Ch.6, pp. 84-99.
3. (*) Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi (2005) '*Introduction*' in the new edition of Kumar, Dharma (ed.) **Cambridge Economic History of India. Vol 2**. Delhi.
4. (*) Mukherjee, A. (2010) Empire: how colonial India made modern Britain. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 45(50) (December 11-17, 2010), pp. 73-82

Assessment

1. *Internal Assessment (IA)*: **30 marks** - one class test, another test or presentation (12 marks each), and 6 marks for attendance
2. *Continuous Assessment (CA)*: **40 marks** - projects, presentations etc. (35 marks) and 5 marks for attendance.
3. *The End Semester Exam* will be of **90 marks**. Students would be required to attempt any 5 questions out of 8 given (18 marks each).