UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Minutes of the Meeting

Subject: B.A. (Hons.) Economics, Fifth Semester.

Credits: 6


Date of Meetings: 16th July 2021, 5.00 p.m and 24 September 2021 4:00 p.m

Venue: Online (Google Meet)

Chair: Prof. Aditya Bhattacharjea, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Attended by:

Mihir Pande, Ramjas College
Kartikeya Kohli, Aryabhatta College
Deb Kusum Das, Ramjas College
Francis Kamei, Satyawati College (Evening)
C Saratchand, Satyawati College

Course Description: This course analyses key aspects of Indian economic development during the second half of British colonial rule. In doing so, it investigates the place of the Indian economy in the wider colonial context, and the mechanisms that linked economic development in India to the compulsions of colonial rule.

Course Learning Outcomes: The course develops and enhances critical skills and ability to generate analytical reports on multi-disciplinary issues. It increases employability of students in multi-disciplinary research. It provides good training for placements in research-oriented as well as all such jobs that place emphasis on analytical skills as it exposes the students to understanding the intricacies of India’s economic, political and social developments both in the past and present times.

Course Structure: The core of the course is designed to be discipline specific, however, it also takes inputs from the multiple social science disciplines hence it is suitable for students in the third year of the Economics (Hons) programme when they already have had an
exposure to basic economic theory as well as generic elective papers of other related disciplines. This course links with the two core courses entitled Indian Economy I and II, that deal with economic development after independence in 1947 in the B. A. (Hons) Economics programme.

**Course Outline:**

**Unit 1: Introduction:**
Colonial India: Background and Introduction

**Unit 2: Macro Trends**
National Income; population; Labour and occupational structure etc.

**Unit 3: Agriculture**
Agrarian structure and land relations; agricultural markets and institutions – credit, commerce and technology; trends in performance and productivity; famines.

**Unit 4: Railways and Industry**
Railways; the de-industrialisation debate; evolution of entrepreneurial and industrial structure; nature of industrialisation in the interwar period; constraints to industrial breakthrough; labour relations.

**Unit 5: Economy and State in the Imperial Context**
The imperial priorities and the Indian economy; drain of wealth; international trade, capital flows and the colonial economy – changes and continuities; government and fiscal policy.

**Readings:**

In both internal evaluation and final examinations, students will be required to deal with questions from alternative perspectives that may be provided by different readings. Readings with an asterisk (*) mark are essential for teachers. Students are encouraged to read them for better comprehension though questions will not be set on these.

**Core Readings**

**Unit 1**

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.

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).

Unit 3
2. Irfan Habib, 2006, Agriculture, Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People’s History of India, vol. 28, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 3, Section 3.1 on Peasant Agriculture, Section 3.2 on Commercialization of Agriculture & Section 3.3 on The Agrarian Classes, pp. 51-74.
3. (*) Irfan Habib, 2006, Agriculture, Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People’s History of India, vol. 28, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 3, Section 3.4 on Rural Indebtedness, Section 3.5 on Plantations & Section 3.6 on Destitution and Famines, pp. 74-86.

Unit 4
2. Irfan Habib, 2006, *Colonialism and the Indian Economy, Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People’s History of India, vol. 28*, Tulika, Delhi, Ch.2, Section 2.3 on Railways, pp. 35-46.


5. (*) 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 5:


2. (*) Irfan Habib, 2006, *Colonialism and the Indian Economy, Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People’s History of India, vol. 28*, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 2, Section 2.1 on The ‘Tribute’ or Drain & Section 2.2 on The Imperialism of Free Trade, pp. 23-35.
