

**Semester V**  
**B.A. (Honours) Economics**  
**DSE 3 (Group-I): ECONOMIC HISTORY OF INDIA (1857-1947) (6 Credits)**  
**Full marks: 100 (Mid Term-20 + End Term-80)**

**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. This course links directly to the course on India's economic development after independence in 1947.

Units		No of Lecture Hours	No of Tutorial Hours	Marks
1.	<b>Introduction: Colonial India: Background and Introduction</b> An Overview of economic structure and policies of pre-independence era, the laws of inheritance; socio-cultural attitudes and India's economic backwardness; drain theory; economic ideas of Ranade and Gandhi	10		10
2.	<b>Macro Trends</b> National Income – trend and composition; Population – growth, age structure and sex composition; Changing occupational structure; urbanisation; Poverty.	10	3	15
3.	<b>Agriculture</b> Agrarian structure and land relations; agricultural markets and institutions – credit and irrigation; Land systems; Commercialization of agriculture- its causes and consequences; trends in performance and productivity; problem of rural indebtedness; Emergence of agricultural labour as category; famines; Evolution of the Food Problem and policies; Partition and its impact on agriculture.	15	3	15
4.	<b>Industrial development and the Transportation sector:</b> The state of industrial development in mid-nineteenth century India, the de-industrialization thesis –its statement and validity, emergence of modern capitalist industrial enterprise in India; nature of industrialisation in the interwar period; constraints to industrial breakthrough; labour relations and evolution of labour legislations and organisations; Partition and its impact on industrial sector. Transportation development and its impact – Railways, roads, shipping.	20	5	20
5	<b>Economy and State in the Imperial Context</b> The imperial priorities and the Indian economy - 'guided under-development' of India under the British rule; Foreign capital in Colonial India – its extent and impact; foreign-trade-growth and composition; evolution of provincial finance, the nature and	20	4	20

	problem of public debt; Economic drain from India -form, extent and consequences; government and fiscal policy.			
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>80</b>

### Reading List:

1. Lakshmi Subramanian, “*History of India 1707-1857*”, Orient Blackswan, 2010, Chapter 4.
2. Sumit Guha, 1991, Mortality decline in early 20th century India’, *Indian Economic and Social History Review (IESHR)*, pp 371-74 and 385-87.
3. Tirthankar Roy, *The Economic History of India 1857-1947*, Oxford University Press, 3rd edition, 2011.
1. J. Krishnamurty, *Occupational Structure*, Dharma Kumar (editor), The Cambridge
4. Economic History of India, Vol. II, (henceforth referred to as CEHI), 2005, Chapter 6.
2. Irfan Habib, *Indian Economy 1858-1914*, A People’s History of India, Vol.28, Tulika, 2006.
3. Ira Klein, 1984, —When Rains Fail: Famine relief and mortality in British India, *IESHR* 21.
4. Jean Dreze, *Famine Prevention in India in Dreze and Sen (eds.) Political Economy of Hunger*, WIDER Studies in Development Economics, 1990, pp.13-35.
5. John Hurd, *Railways*, CEHI, Chapter 8, pp.737-761.
6. Rajat Ray (ed.), *Entrepreneurship and Industry in India*, 1994.
7. AK Bagchi, —Deindustrialization in India in the nineteenth century: Some theoretical implications, *Journal of Development Studies*, 1976.
8. MD Morris, *Emergence of an Industrial Labour Force in India*, OUP 1965, Chapter 11, Summary and Conclusions.
9. K.N. Chaudhuri, *Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments*, CEHI, Chapter 10.
10. B.R. Tomlison, 1975, *India and the British Empire 1880-1935*, IESHR, Vol.XII.
11. Dharma Kumar, *The Fiscal System*, CEHI, Chapter 12.
12. Basudev Chatterjee, *Trade, Tariffs and Empire*, OUP 1992, Epilogue.
13. Kaushal G. *Economic History of India – 1757 to 1966*. Kalyani Publishers, 1991.

### Background reading for students:

1. Irfan Habib, *Indian Economy 1858-1914* (A People’s History of India), Vol.28, Tulika 2006.
2. Daniel Thorner, *Agrarian Prospect in India*, 1977.
3. L. Visaria and P. Visaria, *Population*. CEHI, Chapter 5.