

ECO-HE-6036: THE ECONOMY OF ASSAM

Course Description

This course will provide students an idea of evolution of the Assam Economy from the colonial period to the contemporary time. The course is expected to help students to better appreciate the challenges and opportunities of the economy of Assam in the present context.

Course Outline

1. Changes and Evolution of the Economy in the Economic under Colonial Rule (1837 - 1947):

Imposition of Land Revenue and Its Impact, Prohibition of Opium Production and State Takeover of Opium Trade, Inflow of Colonial Investment in Plantation, Mining and Other Industries. Development of Water Transport and Railways, In-migration of Population and its Impact on the Economy: Shock of Partition and its Impact

2. Growth Trends and Sectoral Composition in the Post-Independence Period:

Population growth trends before and after 1971, Trends in Demographic Parameters, Population Density, Sex Ratio, Life Expectancy and Infant Mortality Rate– Work Force and Labour Force Participation, Occupational Distribution.

Trends in Per Capita NSDP in comparison with trends in all-India Per Capita Income – Trends in Other Indicators of Development in Comparison with all-India standard; Literacy Rate, Enrolment Ratio and Forest Cover – Inter-community differences in Development Attainments.

3. Sectoral Status and Prospects:

Infrastructure: State of Road, Rail and Air Connectivity within and out of the State; Potentials and Limitation of Waterways Development; Status of Power and Telecommunication, Financial System and Inclusion;

Agriculture: Land Holding Patterns, Land Tenure and Land Reforms, Cropping Pattern, Production and Productivity of Principal Crop –Diversification of the Rural Economy to Horticulture, Fishery, Livestock and Non-farm activities – Prospects and Challenges of the Sector.

Industry: State of the Tea Industry and Role of Small Tea Growers, State of Hydrocarbon Industry. Other Emerging Industries– Traditional Handloom Handicraft and their Prospect; Service Sector: Size and Composition.

4. State Finances:

Public Finance in Assam and the emerging challenges. Trends and composition of revenue receipt and its implications. State taxes in Assam and the impact of GST. Strategies to enhance Revenue Receipt.

Composition of Public Expenditure and its implications. The Assam FRBM Act: Its implementation and outcome. Fiscal Devolution to local bodies.

5. Assam Economy in its Neighborhood – Mutual inter-dependence with neighboring States – Stakes of Assam in the Act East Policy

Readings:

Atul Goswami "Assam's Industrial Development: Urgency of New Direction", Economic and Political Weekly 1981

Department of Economics, Gauhati University, "Identity Aspirations, Developmental Backlogs and Governance Issues in Northeast India" Maliyata Offset Press, Mirza, 2016

Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam, "Economic Survey Assam" [recent issues] <https://des.assam.gov.in/information-services/economic-survey-assam>

Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam, "Statistical Handbook of Assam" 2018 or later addition

Guha, Amalendu, Planter's Raj to Swaraj, Second Edition (paperback)

India Brand Equity Foundation "About Assam: Tourism, Industries In Assam, Agriculture, Economy & Geography", June 2020, <https://www.ibef.org/states/assam.aspx>

J B Ganguli, "Economic Conditions and Change in North-East India" in A.P. Singha (ed) Changing North East India, Ludhiana: Gagan Publishers, 1986

J N Sarma, "Problems of Economic Development in Assam" Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 1, No. 7, Pp. 281+283-286.

Planning and Development Department, Government of Assam "Assam Human Development Report 2014"

