

## **DSE 5: Economic History of India 1857-1947**

### **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.

### **Course**

#### **Outline**

#### **1. Introduction: Colonial India: Background and Introduction**

Overview of colonial economy.

#### **2. Macro Trends**

National Income; population; occupational structure.

#### **3. Agriculture**

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

#### **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; labor relations.

#### **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:**

1. Lakshmi Subramanian, *“History of India 1707-1857”*, Orient Blackswan, 2010, Chapter 4.
2. Sumit Guha, 1991, ‘Mortality decline in early 20<sup>th</sup> century India’, *Indian Economic and Social History Review (IESHR)*, pp 371-74 and 385-87.
3. K.S. Gill, *British India*