

**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE-PILANI HYDERABAD CAMPUS**  
**FIRST SEMESTER 2019-20**  
**Course Handout (Part II)**

**01-08-2019**

In addition to part - I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : **GS F332**  
Course Title : **Contemporary India**  
Instructor-in-charge : **Zakaria Siddiqui**

**Scope and Objective of the Course:** In the recent past, India has witnessed many socio-economic changes. It would be useful for students to have greater insights into the key factors related to contemporary issues pertaining to trends in political, social, economic and cultural fields in Indian society. The object of the course is thus to acquaint students with the major trends, patterns and paces in the major social, economic, cultural and demographic spheres in the post-independence India.

**Text Book:**

- 1) Drèze, Jean and Sen, Amartya (2013), *An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions*, London: Allen Lane, (DS)
- 2) Chandoke, Neera and Praveen Priyadarshi, eds., (2009), *Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics*, New Delhi: Pearson Education (CP).

**Reference Books (RB):**

Dreze, Jean and Sen, Amartya (2002), *India: Development and Participation*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press (DSR)

Bhagat, R 2011 'Emerging Pattern of Urbanisation in India', *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol - XLVI No. 34, August 20,.

Bhagat, R.B. (2016) 'Changing Pattern of Internal Migration in India' In: Christophe Z. Guilmoto and Gavin W. Jones, eds., *Contemporary Demographic Transformations in China, India and Indonesia*, Springer.

Additional references might be suggested during lectures.

**Course Plan:**

No of Lectures	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Reference
1-4	Assess India's growth and development in a comparative perspective	Growth Rates of GDP, Human Development Index and its various components in the post-independence period in comparison with other countries in South Asia and beyond	DS:Ch.2 and Ch.3
5-8	Analyse the magnitude of poverty and issues related to social support	Pre-liberalization and post-liberalization periods, determination of 'poverty line', public/social policies for poverty eradication – critical evaluation	DS:Ch.7
9-14	Analyse India's educational sector, its performance and challenges	Progress in Literacy Rates, Challenges of Higher Education, Educational Standards, Privileged Excellence, Private Schools and Quality Question	DS:Ch.5
15-20	Explain the importance and evaluate the performance of India's Health Care Sector	Public Health, Child Health, Immunization, and Nutrition; Various indications of a Health Care Crisis, Lessons from Tamil Nadu's experience	DS:Ch.6

21-30	Assess the reach and grip of inequality in India	Income Inequalities, Caste-Based Inequalities, Gender-Based Inequalities – Trends, Implications and Remedies	DS:Ch.8; DSR:Ch.7
31-34	Illuminate India's urbanization patterns, processes and implications	Urbanization in post-Independence India, trends, spatial patterns, major drivers, urban governance, implications for future	Bhagat (2011); Bhagat (2016)
35-38	Evaluate India's Democracy, Inequality and Public Reasoning	Democratic Practices and Functioning of Democratic Institutions, Public Reasoning and Democratic Engagement, Strengths and Limits of Indian Media	DS:Ch.9
39-42	Critique Indian Secularism and its prospects	Nature, Importance and Challenges of Secularism in Indian context	CP: Ch.18

### Evaluation Scheme:

Evaluation Component	Weighting (%)	Duration	Nature of Component	Date & Time
Mid-sem	30	90 Mnts	Close Book	3/10, 1.30 -- 3.00 PM
Group Presentation	15		Open Book	
Assignment	15		Open Book	
Comprehensive Exam	40	3 Hours	Open Book	10/12 FN

**Consultation Room and Hour:** Room K-128 (**Time would be announced in class**)

**Course Notices:** Notices, if any, concerning the course will be displayed on the CMS Website.

**Make-up:** The make-up for an evaluation component will be given only in genuine cases.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Zakaria Siddiqui  
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