



ECO MIRROR

Department of Economics, Handique Girls' College
Vol- II, No.-I

Viksit Bharat
@2047

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, A government at your doorstep

more than 15 crore citizens
it stands as the most exten-
sive such initiative

Union minister G.
Kishan Reddy

communities
schemes that
the region

Advantage
Assam



ECO MIRROR



ECONOMICS LITERARY SOCIETY

Handique Girls' College

Session : 2025-2026



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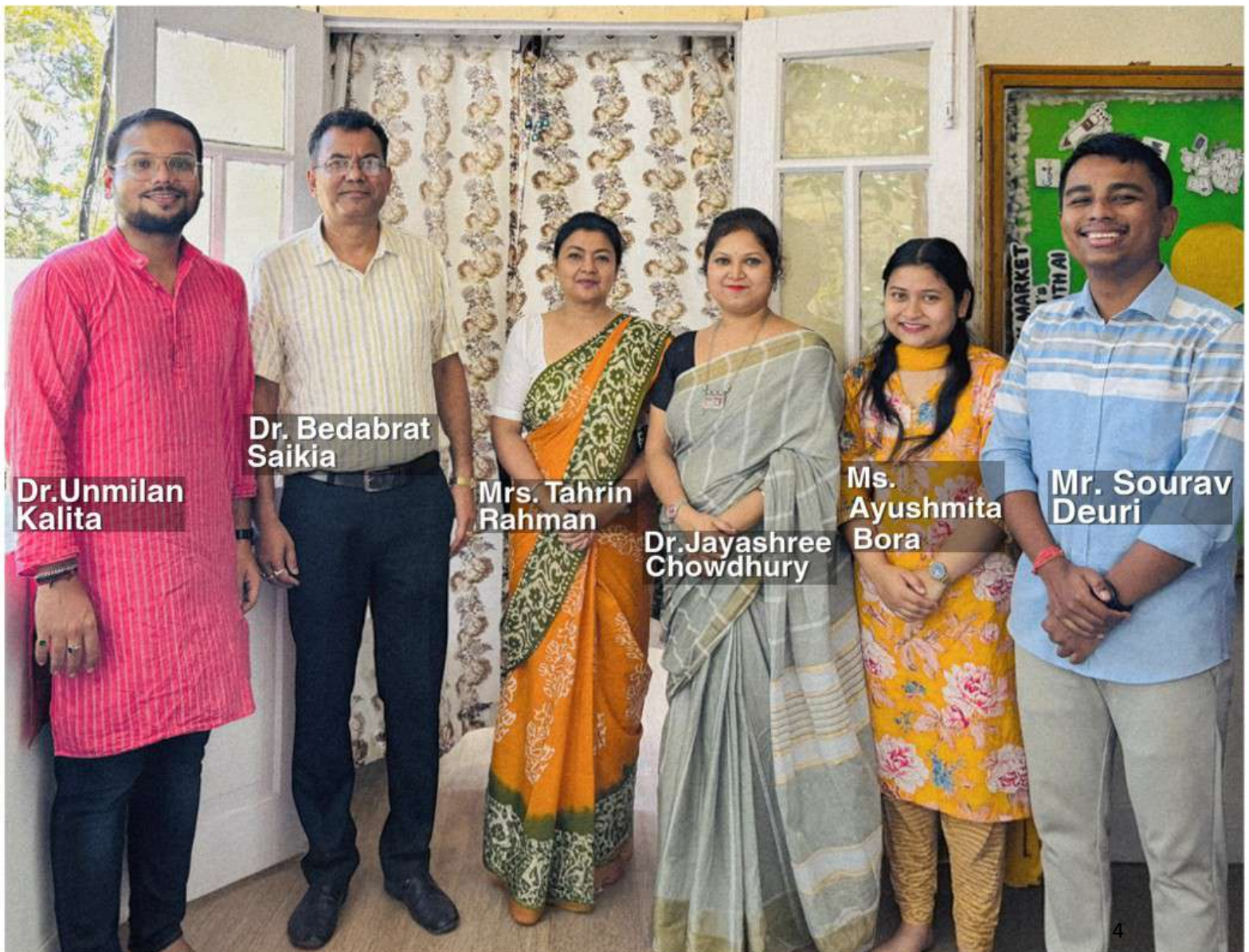
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Economics Department!



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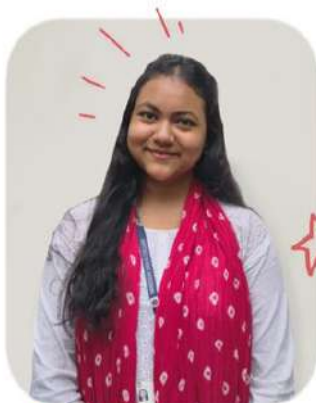
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MESSAGE

The Department of Economics at Handique Girls' College is proud to announce the launch of its departmental journal, "Eco Mirror." This publication is a remarkable testament to the creativity, diligence, and talent of our students, who have played a vital role in its writing, design, and artwork. I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the editorial board, including our dedicated adviser, for their exceptional contributions to this endeavor. Their commitment and hard work have been critical in bringing this publication to fruition. I am confident that "Eco Mirror" will serve as a powerful platform for enhancing our academic engagement and elevating the profile of the department.

With best wishes

Ranjan

Principal
Handique Girls' College



EDITORIAL NOTE



With great pride, I present to you, the Volume II of “ECO MIRROR”, the annual journal of the Department of Economics. As our department’s literary secretary and chief student editor, I have had the privilege of witnessing this issue’s creation – from the earliest sessions to the moment these research and thoughts were printed.

Since its inception last year, “Eco Mirror” has been more than just a collection of articles; it is a platform for ideas, research, and reflections from our students and faculty. This journey had been both rewarding and challenging. With a small dedicated editorial team and the guidance of our faculty advisors, we were able to gather diverse contributions that capture the spirit of economics in our times.

It reminded me of the importance of preserving student voices in academic spaces. I sincerely thank those who contributed their work and supported this vision, and for those who could not participate this time, I hope this issue inspires you to be a part of our next volume.

“Eco Mirror” is still young, but with continued passion and collaboration, I believe it will grow into a legacy publication for our department. These pages will not only inform, but also spark curiosity and discussion among all who read them.

Jilari Boro
Literary Secretary
Handique Girls’ College



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PROFILE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics of Handique Girls' College was a part of the Department of Civics together with Political Science at the time of inception of the college in 1939. Late Ajit Kr. Sarma was the Head of Department during that time. Later on, in 1959, the Department started functioning on its own with founder Head Late Pramod.Ch. Barman at the helm. He was followed by Late Hem Goswami, Late A. Lahkar, Late Binita Barua, Late Anil K. Bordoloi, Late (Dr) Gopal Bordoloi. The present faculty of the Department consists of Dr. Bedabrat Saikia, Mrs. Tahrin Rahman, Dr. Jayashree Chowdhury, Dr. Unmilan Kalita in sanctioned posts. Guest lectures are also appointed from time to time in the department. At present Mr. Sourav Deuri and Ms. Ayushmita Bora are serving as a guest lecturer.

The Department offers Higher Secondary courses, Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) and Post-Graduate courses (CBCS) to the students in the college. The Results of the Department have been consistently good with many students getting letter marks in the Higher Secondary level and majority getting First Class in the undergraduate level.

Integral to the Department of Economics is the Economic Society which was set up in 1976 as a registered society. This Society organizes every year a number of events such as intra-department competitions, talks, Freshers, Social visits, Farewell to the final semester students and even street plays from time to time. It is a vibrant society which has its own Executive Body which is elected in its Annual General meeting. The Society has its own Bank Account for proper record keeping of funds and systematic disbursement.

The unique areas of thrust for the Department are to mould the students into employable graduates, spread financial literacy and also care for the environment. To achieve these objectives, the Department regularly organizes talks on financial literacy in collaboration with SEBI or RBI, awareness activities like competitions on Best from Waste, poster/quiz competitions on environment and career-related talks.

Surveys on relevant topics, Industry visits are regularly organized. To polish their talents and light an entrepreneurial zeal in them, no efforts are spared by the Department to organize relevant events, prominent among them being the annual Exhibition-cum-sale with products made by the students.

One of the exceptional initiatives taken by the Department has been to advocate the Peer learning method.

The problems of the students are tackled through counselling; guidance is given through mentoring both on and off academic issues. Excursions are regularly organized by the department both within and outside the state.

POST GRADUATE ECONOMICS COURSE

Report on the Commencement of the Post-Graduate (PG) Economics Course at Handique Girls' College

The Post-Graduate programme in Economics at Handique Girls' College (HGC) under the affiliation of Gauhati University commenced in August 2025, marking a significant academic milestone for the institution.

Following the commencement, an Induction Programme-cum-Workshop was organised on 28 August 2025 to orient the newly admitted students and familiarise them with the CBCS course structure under Gauhati University. In the said programme, Dr. Bidyut Bikash Baishya, Assistant Professor, Post-Graduate Department of Economics, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, was invited as the Resource Person to guide and motivate the students as they began their postgraduate journey.

Following the induction, the department hosted two distinguished lecture series. Prof. Atanu Kumar Choudhury, former Vice-Principal and Head, Department of Economics, Pragjyotish College, delivered lectures on 15, 16, and 17 October 2025, while Dr. Bidyut Bikash Baishya conducted special lectures on 15, 16, 17, 23, and 24 October 2025, benefitting students with rigorous conceptual exposure.

Further, a presentation session the P.G. students was also organised on 31 October 2025, where students presented on curriculum-related themes, fostering academic engagement and discourse. Additionally, marking a proud accomplishment, the first-ever PG Wall Magazine of the department was released on 22 September 2025 by the respected Principal, HGC, signalling a promising beginning to the PG Economics programme.

Images from the P.G. Programme Inauguration





Images from the P.G. Presentation session



Viksit Bharat 2047

Kirtijeeta Baishya

5th Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

Viksit Bharat meaning *Developed India*, is a vision that aims to transform India into a fully developed nation by the year 2047, when the country completes one hundred years of its independence. This dream is not only limited to economic growth but also includes all-round development of society, infrastructure, governance, and environment.

The idea of Viksit Bharat focuses on building a nation where every citizen has equal access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, modern infrastructure, and a high standard of living. It also emphasizes inclusiveness, ensuring that growth reaches every section of society, including women, youth, farmers, and marginalized communities. At the same time, it stresses the importance of sustainable development, where progress is achieved without harming the environment, and securing resources for future generations.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. Addressing the Indian diaspora in the United States and meeting top IT leaders in San Francisco, she emphasized India's leadership in Sunrise Sectors and Digital Public Infrastructure, inviting collaboration and investment in areas like AI, cloud, and digital tech. She also discussed policy reforms and assured continued efforts to enhance the investment experience, attributing India's rapid economic growth to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the government's stability.

It is the government's vision to transform the country into a self-reliant and prosperous economy by 2047. Steps towards achieving it were charted in the Union Budget 2025-26, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a few priorities to create opportunities and drive progress in accordance with the overall strategy outlined in the interim budget. Major announcements are-

Income Tax Reforms:

- To generate domestic demand and accelerate economic growth, the government has raised the personal income tax exemption limit to ₹12 lakh from ₹8 lakh. This would increase household consumption, savings, and investments.
- Moving towards a uniform and transparent tax regime with fewer exemptions and deductions.
- Reducing tax burden on MSMEs and small entrepreneurs to boost employment.

Agricultural Development:

- A high-yield crop scheme to benefit 17 million farmers, has been launched to enhance agricultural productivity. The budget proposes increasing subsidised credit to farmers and increasing sustainable farming practices.
- Adoption of advanced technologies like drones, AI, IoT, and precision farming.

- Better roads, storage, and cold chain facilities to reduce post-harvest losses.

Support for MSMEs and Startups:

- The budget focuses on boosting credit for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups through enhanced credit guarantee schemes.
- Credit schemes like *MUDRA Yojana* and *Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme*.
- Training programs under *Skill India* and *Entrepreneurship Development Schemes*.

Infrastructure Investment:

- The government plans to modestly increase capital spending to develop infrastructure, stimulate economic activity, and create job opportunities.
- Expansion of highways, expressways, and rural roads under *Bharatmala* and *PMGSY*.
- Smart Cities Mission, affordable housing, water supply, and sanitation.

Objectives of Viksit Bharat 2047

Its primary goal is to transform India into a developed nation by 2047 through inclusive economic participation for all citizens. It aims to take India's economy to \$30 trillion within just two decades.

Zero Poverty:

- Zero Poverty in Viksit Bharat 2047 is achievable through a multi-dimensional approach towards empowering the underprivileged and promoting inclusive development.
- At the same time, food security schemes continue to benefit over 80 crore Indians. The *Jan Dhan Yojana*, the world's largest, has empowered crores by providing access to banking, ensuring financial empowerment.
- Tribal development is prioritized by providing the rural poor with affordable homes with basic amenities that enhances their quality of life.

Farmer Welfare:

- Several schemes such as *PM KISAN*, *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, and *Soil Health Cards* ensure financial security and protection against crop loss risk.
- Schemes such as *Kisan Credit Cards*, *Agriculture Infrastructure Fund*, and *SVAMITVA* scheme are designed to empower farmers with better resources, enhanced credit availability, and enhanced titles.
- The *PM-PRANAM* scheme promotes organic farming and sustainable fertilizer use, improving the vision of a prosperous, self-reliant agriculture sector.

Women Empowerment:

- Reservation of 33% of the seats in the Lok Sabha and in the state assemblies and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam guaranteeing quotas to SC and ST women are promoting women's leadership.
- Efforts towards financial inclusion have seen over 28 crore women opening *Jan Dhan* accounts, and most of the beneficiaries of *PM Mudra Yojana* and *Stand Up India* are women.

Education:

- About Rs. 630 crores has been disbursed as the first installment for the *PM SHRI schools*.
- The *Skill India Mission* and *PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana* have upskilled millions, and *SAMARTH Udyog Centres* are industry-reading the workforce for Industry 4.0.
- Internationalization of higher education is in progress with the setup of IIT campuses in Zanzibar and Abu Dhabi, supported by schemes like the Fund of Funds and Start Up India Fund Scheme.

Healthcare:

- *PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission* and *Digital Mission* are strengthening public healthcare and digital connectivity, with thousands of health centres and millions of registered health accounts.
- Initiatives are taken in organ donation and rehabilitation of drug dependents through *Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan* and *Child Health and Nutrition Mission Indradhanush*.

National Security:

- The country's robust defence capabilities are attested by the induction of indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters and the pioneering *Agnipath* scheme, which modernises the armed forces with young, high-tech soldiers.
- The sharp reduction in insurgent incidents as well as successfully executed surgical strikes indicate India's success with its counter terrorism measures.
- Additional measures include annulling of Article 370 and fast tracked developmental projects, including Jammu & Kashmir, as well as Ladakh; the latter added stability and prosperity to the regions.

Economic Development:

- GST implementation has united the market, while digital initiatives like *Aadhaar-DBT* and *UPI* have revolutionised payments.
- *PM MUDRA*, and *PM Jan Dhan Yojana* reforms have expanded financial inclusion and employment, and the Government e-Marketplace has enhanced efficiency.

Infrastructure:

- The development of infrastructure in India has increased through initiatives like *PM Gati Shakti*, which enhances the transport of goods and services, employment generation, and improves citizens' lives.
- India has expanded the road, railway, air, and waterway network, and achievements like *Yashobhoomi Convention Centre* and *Vande Bharat Express* have highlighted India's engineering capabilities.

Technology:

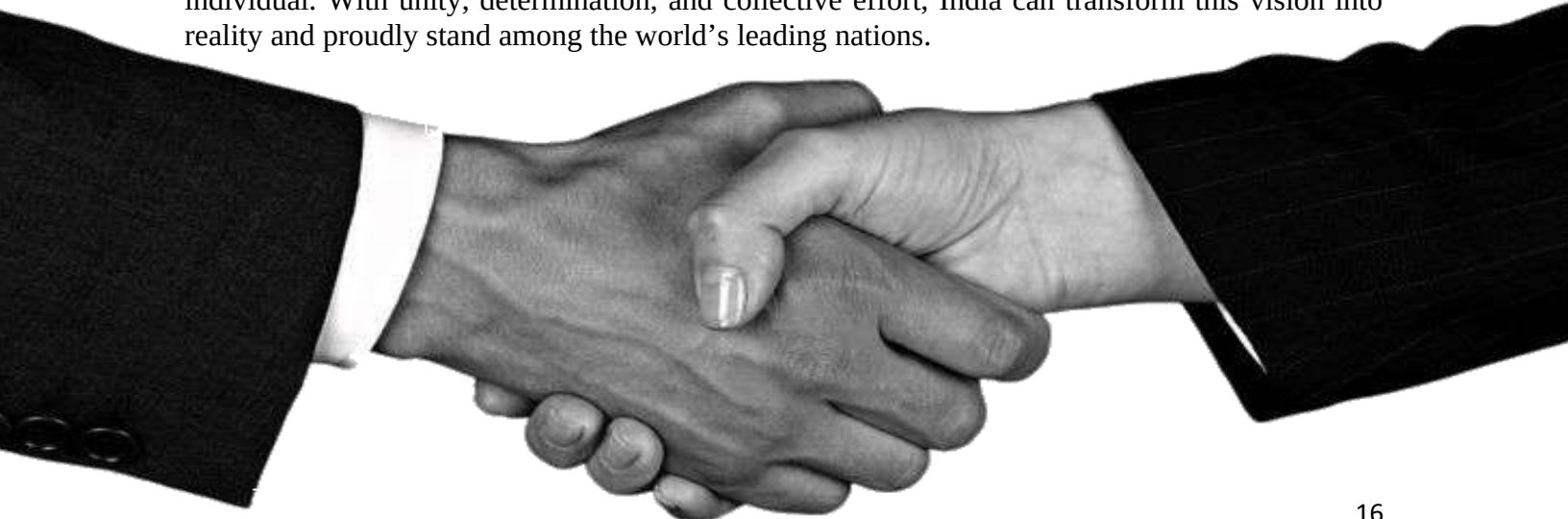
- With efforts like *Chandrayaan-3* being achieved, India became the first country to reach the South Pole of the Moon, showcasing cost-effective capability of space by India.
- *Aditya-L1* mission will study the Sun, and *Gaganyaan* mission will soon undertake sending Indian astronauts to space.
- India is transforming governance and service delivery through platforms like *UMANG* and *Kisan Rath*, while over 4.6 crore people have been digitally empowered under *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan*.

Sustainability:

- India is now the 4th largest in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity, with solar capacity growing exponentially and a record low solar tariff of Rs. 1.99 per unit achieved.
- The *GOBARdhan* scheme encourages waste-to-energy solutions, converting agricultural waste to biogas and compost.
- Through the *PM-KUSUM* scheme, India is empowering farmers with solar energy solutions.

Conclusion:

The vision of Viksit Bharat is not about development in just one field but is about progress in every aspect of life. It is about an India that is prosperous, equal, innovative, sustainable, and respected across the world. Achieving this dream will require cooperation between the government and citizens, as well as a strong sense of responsibility from each individual. With unity, determination, and collective effort, India can transform this vision into reality and proudly stand among the world's leading nations.



Indian Economy

Hridisha Kashyap

5th Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

India is one of the most dynamic and diverse countries in the world. It has the fifth-largest economy globally by nominal GDP and the third-largest country by purchasing power parity (PPP) just behind China and the U.S. It is rapidly rising on the *global economic ladder*.

The Three Pillars of India's Economy:

- **Agriculture (The Backbone):** Agriculture supports nearly 40% of India's workforce and it contributes around 15-18% to the GDP. This sector is known for feeding the nation and fuels rural livelihoods, but it also faces challenges such as climate change and water shortages. The government is taking initiatives to modernize them.
- **Industry (The Foundation):** India's industrial sector includes everything from steel and automobiles to chemicals and textiles. The "Make in India" campaign aims to turn India into a global manufacturing hub. The new infrastructures, like highways and industrial corridors, are making this vision a reality.
- **Services (The Engine):** Services make up over 50% of the GDP, led by the IT and software industry. Indian tech firms power businesses around the world. Infosys, Wipro, or TCS are global giants, with roots in India's tech talent.

Digital Revolution:

India's economy has shown remarkable resilience, after COVID-19 and global slowdowns. With growth rates around 6-7%, it is among the fastest-growing major economies.

India is also experiencing a digital boom. With platforms like UPI (for digital payments) Phone pay, Google pay and widespread access to affordable data, even remote villages are going cashless and able to access online banking facilities. The government's "Digital India" mission also aims to transform the nation to digitalization.



Trade and Global Reach:

India trades with the world, such as exporting from software and spices to steel and pharmaceuticals. It also imports key goods like crude oil and electronics.

Foreign investors are taking notice too. Global Brands and startups alike are tapping into India's young, tech-savvy market.

GDP Growth Rate Trends:

- In 2020: There was a sharp contraction due to the pandemic, GDP decline of around - 5.8%.
- In 2021: There was a strong rebound with moderate growth peaking at 9.05%.
- In 2025 Forecast: There is a continued steady expansion, with an expected growth rate of 6.33%.

Challenges and Choices:

There are also some challenges India have been facing:

- High unemployment among youth
- Income inequality
- Pollution and environmental issues
- Infrastructure gaps in some areas

But these challenges also bring opportunities for innovation, reform, and inclusive growth.

India stands at a powerful crossroads with ambition, energy, and talent. Whether it is space exploration, digital banking, green energy, or rural development, the Indian economy is not just growing, it is evolving. And in a world looking for stability and growth, India is not just participating, it is leading.

The Indian economy is a rising force, dynamic, and full of potential.



Assam Economy

Manasri Kalita

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

Assam, a vibrant state in the northeastern part of India, and is often called the gateway to the Northeast. It is known for its scenic beauty, rich biodiversity, and world-famous tea gardens. Assam stands as a land where tradition blends with emerging opportunities. Despite being predominantly agrarian, the state has gradually diversified into industries, services, and tourism. While with its fertile plains, flowing rivers, and strategic location connecting India to Southeast Asia, Assam holds immense potential for sustainable growth and regional development.

Overview: Assam is a state in Northeast India known for its tea, oil, natural gas and biodiversity. Its economy is agrarian – based but also has industries services and tourism.

- GDP (2023-24, at current prices): Around ₹5.88 lakh crore.
- Growth Rate: 7-8% in recent years
- Per Capita Income: Below national average (approx. ₹1.2 – 1.3 lakh/year)
- Population: 3.6 crore (2021)

Key Sectors:

- **Agriculture:** Mainstay of Assam's economy; employs over 50% of workforce. Major crops are rice, tea, jute, mustard, pulses. Assam produces over 50% of India's tea.
- **Industry:** Petroleum and Natural Gas, example Digboi Refinery is Asia's oldest (1901). Other industries are tea processing, cement, fertilizers, paper and handloom. Industrial growth is slow due to infrastructure gaps and transport issues.
- **Services:** Accounts for more than 40% of GSDP. Includes banking, trade, IT, education, health and tourism. It is growing in places like Kaziranga National Park, Majuli and Kamakhya Temple to attract domestic and foreign visitors.

Natural Resources:

- Minerals: oil, coal, limestone, natural gas.
- Water: Brahmaputra and Barak rivers – hydropower potential.
- Forests: Rich biodiversity, important for eco-tourism and forest-based industries.

Strengths:

- Strategic location for trade with Southeast Asia.
- Abundant natural resources.
- Unique cultural heritage and tourism potential.
- Strong agricultural base (especially tea and horticulture)

Challenges:

- Flood and Erosion: Annual Brahmaputra floods damage crops, homes and infrastructure.
- Infrastructure Gaps: Road, rail and digital connectivity still developing.
- Low Industrialization: Limited large-scale manufacturing.

Government Initiatives:

- Assam Industrial and Investment policy for attracting industries.
- PM Gatishaki for better connectivity.

Future Prospects:

- Agro-processing industries, organic farming, bamboo-based products.
- Expansion of IT parts and digital services.
- Eco-tourism and green energy projects.

Assam stands at a crossroads where its natural wealth, cultural diversity, and strategic position can be transformed into long-term prosperity. A consistent policy support, improved infrastructure, and sustainable development practices, Assam will emerge as an economic leader of the Northeast. For now, the focus should be on inclusive growth like one that uplifts rural livelihoods, empowers local industries, and harnesses the state's abundant resources responsibly. Assam's journey from a primarily agrarian economy to a balanced, modern one is gradual but full of promise.



Advantage Assam 1.0

Sanjana Hakmaosa

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

“*Advantage Assam 1.0*” is the first global investors summit of Assam, held on February 3rd and 4th, of 2018, in Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati, Assam. It is the largest investment ever promoted and facilitated by the Government of Assam, showcasing Assam's geostrategic advantages to potential investors, designed to attract investments and establish Assam as a premier investment location within India.

The summit highlights the export-oriented manufacturing and service opportunities available within the state, specifically targeting the ASEAN and BBN regions. The primary objective of this summit is to position Assam as India's strategic gateway to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), thereby fostering economic growth and generating employment opportunities. Government representatives also engage with industry leaders for comprehensive discussions. The Summit is poised to serve as a significant platform for Government-to-Business (G2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), acting as the Summit Partner, had been assigned the responsibility of organizing the Summit, with the backing of the state government. Ernst & Young (EY) has been engaged as the Knowledge Partner for the Summit.



The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who lauded Assam's progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The summit was honored by the attendance of several prospective investors and prominent figures in the industry, such as Mukesh Ambani from Reliance Industries, N. Chandrasekaran from Tata Sons, and esteemed ministers representing Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos, as well as the Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu. The gathering also included over 2,000 domestic and international industry leaders and representatives who participated in the deliberations.

The summit generated substantial interest, culminating in the execution of multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) representing investments totaling billions of rupees across diverse sectors. This influx of investment has indeed validated Assam's economic potential and created a project pipeline, which is expected to encourage further development and, in turn, attract future investment. Media reports emphasized that organizers presented 200 MoUs,

potentially valued at up to ₹1,00,000 crore. *“This particular initiative will raise hope and expectation of young people and energise them”* – closing statement by Assam's former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

The government has already announced a plan of ₹47,000 crore to improve connection with the North-East, with the network of 15 railway lines. Furthermore, an additional agreement was executed with Ola to facilitate the training of 12,000 young individuals, as stated by the spokesperson.

The state government had designated 12 key sectors for the summit, encompassing agriculture and food processing; handloom, textiles, handicrafts; logistics; tourism, hospitality and wellness; river transport; civil aviation; IT-ITeS; pharmaceuticals; medical equipment; petrochemicals, and power.

Regarding certain investments, such as those made by Reliance Jio, positive outcomes were observed, while job creation did not fully meet the initial projections. Furthermore, the Tata Group's semiconductor project, which was anticipated to generate 27,000 jobs, has encountered delays and is still in the construction phase.

Additionally, MoU were signed between IIT-Guwahati and the Kalam Institute of Health Technology to facilitate technology transfer in the field of medical technologies, while the Indo-UK Institute of Health is poised to invest approximately Rs 2,700 crore. Century Plywood has announced investment plans totaling Rs 2,100 crore.

Furthermore, the Essel Infra group will be investing in road infrastructure, power, and water resources. Lastly, Dalmia Bharat Cement has declared an investment of nearly Rs 1,100 crore.

During the inaugural day of the mega investor exposition, Assam government formalized 176 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 160 companies, representing proposed investments valued at approximately ₹65,000 crore. These include ONGC, Oil India Limited, IOCL, and Numaligarh Refinery Limited, which have signed MoUs committing financial resources.



The table of the amount of money invested on Day 1:

| Name of the Company | Amount will be invested (Crore ₹) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ONGC | 13,000 |
| Oil India Limited | 10,000 |
| IOCL | 3,432 |
| Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) | 3,410 |
| Indo-UK Institute of Health | 2,700 |
| Reliance Group of Industries | 2,500 |
| Spicejet | 1,250 |
| Infinity Group | 1,000 |
| Century Plyboards | 2,800 |

On Day 1, a diverse range of companies committed investments totaling Rs 65,186 crore in the state. By the second and final day of the summit, a total of 25 MoU were signed, representing an investment of Rs 35,000 crore. Several crore (estimated) agreements are anticipated across various sectors, including transportation, energy, and infrastructure.

Note: The figure for Day 2 is derived by subtracting Day 1's figures from the overall total, since specific details for Day 2 were not reported separately. The summit resulted in investment commitments and agreements exceeding ₹1 lakh crore. Nevertheless, the practical execution of these projects has varied, with some encountering delays or incomplete realization, as reported by *India Today*.

The ultimate results did not fully align with the initial projections. Although MoUs valued at ₹64,386 crore were executed, a significant portion did not materialize, primarily due to factors such as bureaucratic inefficiencies and land acquisition obstacles. Despite the successful implementation of certain projects, including investments by Oil India and Reliance Jio, the anticipated employment generation and industrial expansion were not fully achieved.



Advantage Assam 2.0

Bushra Rafia

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

“Advantage Assam 2.0”, the state’s global investment summit, is steadily moving beyond policy promises and MoU signings toward real, measurable outcomes. Unlike its predecessor, which primarily focused on showcasing Assam’s investment potential, the 2.0 edition has begun translating commitments into action across critical sectors such as skill development, healthcare, electronics manufacturing, and infrastructure. The recent development highlights both government’s proactive role in enabling opportunities and growing confidence of private and international partners in Assam’s economic future. Some of its recent key developments and impacts are:

- **Japanese Language Training for Youth (FLIGHT Scheme)**

The Assam government launched the FLIGHT (Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent) scheme, where around 3,000 youths will receive Japanese language training, targeting sectors like driving, IT, and nursing. Each course costs roughly ₹3–4 lakh, with the state subsidizing ₹1.5 lakh per student. Successful trainees have the option to work in Japan or in Japanese companies within India.

- **New Healthcare Facility by Peerless Group**

Under agreements forged during Advantage Assam 2.0, Peerless Hospital in Guwahati has been inaugurated by the Assam CM. This reflects the scheme’s aim to bolster healthcare infrastructure via private investments.

- **Boost to Electronics Manufacturing**

In May 2025, the Assam government unveiled a ₹25,000 crore initiative to enhance the state’s electronics manufacturing sector, where a significant portion of these funds will support component manufacturers, furthering Assam’s industrial and technological growth.

Broader Context & Summit Highlights:

- **Massive Investment Commitments:**

This summit saw massive traction, with MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding) totaling ₹1.22 lakh crore approved by the state cabinet before the event. Additional agreements worth ₹15,911 crore were set to be signed at district levels, bringing the total potential closer to ₹1.44 lakh crore.

- **Focused Sectors:**

The summit spotlighted sectors such as transport, green energy, technology, tourism, healthcare, semiconductors, and MSMEs, reinforcing Assam's economic transformation narrative.

- **Skill Development Missions:**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) signed a MoU with Assam to launch a BFSI skilling program. Simultaneously, Medhavi Skills University committed to establishing a Skill Hub for Overseas Employment and a Centre of Excellence for Semiconductor Technology in the state.

Some of the failures of Advantage Assam 2.0:

Although it was launched with the vision of transforming Assam into an investment hub and improving people's livelihoods, the scheme has faced several challenges and has not been able to deliver its promises fully.

- **Limited Investment Realization:** Despite signing many MoUs with companies during the investment summits, only a small portion of them were converted into real projects.
- **Poor Infrastructure:** Inadequate transport, electricity, and logistics support in remote areas made it difficult to attract large-scale industries.
- **Unequal Development:** Benefits were concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas, while rural regions and small farmers did not get much advantage.
- **Dependence on Traditional Sectors:** The scheme could not modernize sectors like agriculture, handloom, and handicrafts on a large scale; small producers continued to face marketing and financial challenges.
- **Insufficient Women & Marginal Group Participation:** Despite efforts, women and marginalized communities could not benefit equally due to lack of awareness and proper support mechanisms.

Its impact on the People of Assam:

It has played an important role in improving the socio-economic conditions of Assam by focusing on sectors such as agriculture, tourism, IT, handloom & handicrafts, education, healthcare, and manufacturing. The program has helped the people of Assam in several ways:

- **Employment Generation:** It has created job opportunities for local youth in both rural and urban areas, by bringing new industries and businesses.

- **Entrepreneurship Support:** It has encouraged local entrepreneurs and startups through skill development, financial support, and access to markets.
- **Boost to Traditional Sectors:** Sectors like tea, handloom, handicrafts, and agriculture received better market linkages, helping rural artisans and farmers earn more.
- **Skill Development:** Training and skill development programs under the initiative equipped young people with modern skills, making them more employable.
- **Infrastructure Growth:** Improved roads, connectivity, industrial parks, and digital facilities benefited the common people by making services and opportunities more accessible.
- **Women Empowerment:** Women engaged in weaving, handicrafts, and self-help groups gained better exposure and financial independence through market support.
- **Overall Economic Growth:** By attracting national and international investment, the initiative increased Assam's economic activity, raising incomes and improving living standards.

Conclusion:

Advantage Assam 2.0 has not only attracted investment but also empowered local people by providing jobs, skill training, and entrepreneurship opportunities. It strengthened Assam's traditional industries while opening doors to modern sectors, ensuring inclusive growth for the people of the state.



Advantage Assam 1.0 vs 2.0: A Critical Review

Jilari Boro

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

The *Advantage Assam* initiative began to transform Assam from a resource-rich but under-industrialized state into an investment-friendly gateway to Southeast Asia. The first summit in 2018, the “*Advantage Assam 1.0*” was celebrated as a milestone for Northeast India’s economic reimagination. However, seven years later, before the goals of 1.0 were fully achieved or even transparently audited, the government launched “*Advantage Assam 2.0*” in 2025 with even larger targets and commitments. This creates a striking policy paradox: *how can a sequel be declared before the first chapter is complete?*

- **Objectives: Paper vs. Performance**

1.0 (2018): The stated objective was to showcase Assam as India’s next investment hub. The event brought together over 4,500 delegates, including global investors, and resulted in over 200 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth nearly ₹1,00,000 crore, according to official reports. The focus areas were agriculture processing, petrochemicals, tourism, IT, textiles, and logistics. It was also positioned as a “gateway to ASEAN” through the Act East Policy.

2.0 (2025): The second edition, rebranded as *Advantage Assam 2.0*. The government claimed ₹4.91 lakh crore in total investment commitments, with ₹22,900 crore worth of agreements signed on the spot. The focus shifted to green energy, infrastructure, MSMEs, and logistics connectivity, reflecting national priorities aligned with *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

However, the continuation of ambitious announcements despite incomplete groundwork from 1.0 has drawn criticism from economists, industry observers, and local civil society groups.

- **The 1.0 Implementation Gap**

The most fundamental criticism of *Advantage Assam 1.0* was the gap between commitments and realization. According to data tabled in the Assam Assembly and reports from *The Assam Tribune* and *PRS Legislative Research*, while MoUs worth nearly ₹1 lakh crore were signed, less than 52% (₹51,958 crore) were actually realized in the following years, and even those included public sector or central projects that were already in planning stages.

Key issues:

- **Delayed land acquisition:** Many projects stalled due to disputes and bureaucratic delays.
- **Clearance complexity:** Environmental and industrial approvals took far longer than expected.
- **Lack of investor facilitation:** The “single window system” remained largely digital, leaving investors stuck in departmental loops.

- **Poor follow-up:** After the initial summit, monitoring mechanisms weakened and few MoUs were revisited in public forums.
- **Geographic concentration:** Most investments were Guwahati-centric, while districts like Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, or Lakhimpur saw minimal benefits.



The 2.0 Launch without 1.0 Completion

From a policy perspective, moving to 2.0 without publicly reviewing 1.0, shows a continuity problem, as more political than developmental. Ideally, large-scale initiatives should undergo impact assessments before expansion. Yet, there is no published performance audit or comprehensive evaluation of Advantage Assam 1.0 in the public domain. It is like 2.0 risks repeating the mistakes of 1.0, only on a larger scale. Few critical questions arise:

1. How many of the 2018 MoUs are fully operational as of 2025?
2. What is the employment impact – temporary, contractual, or permanent?
3. Which districts benefitted, and how equitably?
4. Were lessons from 1.0 institutionalized into new policy reforms?

Inflation of Numbers and the “Announcement Syndrome”

In Advantage Assam 2.0, commitments reached ₹4.91 lakh crore, nearly five times higher than the 2018 figure. Yet, early-stage realizations stood at just ₹22,900 crore which is less than 5% of the announced total. This announcement-realization gap signals an ongoing overreliance on optics rather than outcomes. Such inflation of expectations is problematic for two reasons:

- It creates unrealistic optimism among citizens and entrepreneurs, raising hopes of jobs and growth that may take years (if at all) to materialize.
- It undermines credibility: if large promises repeatedly underdeliver, future investors become skeptical.

Instead of scaling up targets, the state could have first consolidated and showcased successful 1.0 projects, turning them into model cases for replication in 2.0.

Shifts in Sectoral Focus:

- In **1.0**, the emphasis was on traditional manufacturing and industrial corridors. Many such industries demanded large land parcels and heavy infrastructure, things Assam still struggles to provide efficiently.

- **2.0** has pivoted toward green energy, logistics, and services, which is conceptually smarter. Yet, the institutional ecosystem (land banks, skilled labor, district connectivity) remains underdeveloped.

The lesson from 1.0 was clear that investor intent means little without delivery readiness. Launching 2.0 without addressing these constraints risks widening the credibility gap.

Governance and Data Transparency Deficit:

Another major criticism is the absence of real-time progress tracking. Despite the government’s digital push, there is no public dashboard where one can track:

- MoUs signed vs. MoUs implemented
- Project-wise employment generated
- District-wise investment distribution
- Status of environmental clearances

Ecological and Social Oversight:

Critics also argue that both 1.0 and 2.0, downplay ecological costs. Industrial expansion near sensitive ecosystems like wetlands, tea estates, and flood-prone river belts, could worsen erosion and biodiversity loss. Advantage Assam 2.0, in particular, includes several energy and logistics proposals that may intersect with vulnerable ecological zones, yet no detailed Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) have been released for public review.

Moreover, social inclusivity remains thin. Indigenous and tribal communities often face land pressure from industrial corridors but receive limited consultation or rehabilitation support. This undermines the vision of “inclusive advantage.”

Political Optics vs. Developmental Substance:

From a political viewpoint, moving rapidly to 2.0 projects, is a narrative of continuity and ambition, aligning Assam with the national goal of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. But from an administrative lens, policy layering without evaluation leads to duplication, weak accountability, and inconsistent outcomes.

Conclusion:

The launch of Advantage Assam 2.0 without completing 1.0 represents both ambition to scale up, and amnesia toward the lessons of unfinished goals. If the state genuinely wants to become a regional growth leader and fulfill its promise under *Viksit Bharat 2047*, it must move beyond ceremonial summits to evidence-based governance.

Eco Quiz



Q1: Who is known as the Father of Economics?

- a) Adam Smith
- b) Karl Marx
- c) Alfred Marshall

Q2: Which Indian state has the highest per capita income?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Goa
- c) Delhi

Q3: In economics, scarcity means:

- a) Unlimited resources
- b) Limited resources
- c) No resources

Q4: Which currency symbol is “€”?

- a) Yen
- b) Euro
- c) Pound

Q5: What is inflation?

- a) Fall in prices
- b) Rise in prices
- c) Increase in production

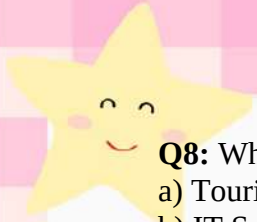
Q6: Which country introduced paper money first?

- a) Egypt
- b) USA
- c) China

Q7: What does PPP stand for?

- a) Purchasing Power Parity
- b) People's Payment Plan
- c) Public Private Partnership





Q8: Which sector is called the *backbone* of the Indian economy?

- a) Tourism
- b) IT Sector
- c) Agriculture

Q9: Who introduced the concept of “invisible hand”?

- a) Adam Smith
- b) John Keynes
- c) Milton Friedman

Q10: Which Indian economist won the Nobel Prize in 1998?

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Amartya Sen
- c) C. Rangarajan

Q11: What is demand?

- a) Desire for a product with ability to pay
- b) Only wanting something
- c) Government requirement

Q12: Which tax increases as income increases?

- a) Indirect tax
- b) Progressive tax
- c) Regressive tax

Q13: Which is the largest stock exchange in India?

- a) NSE
- b) BSE
- c) SEBI

Q14: What is a recession?

- a) Period of economic decline
- b) Period of economic boom
- c) Stable growth

Answers :

1-a, 2-b, 3-b, 4-b, 5-b, 6-c, 7-a, 8-c, 9-a, 10-b, 11-a, 12-b, 13-b, 14-a



Peepli Live (2010)

Swagata Das

5th Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

Peepli Live is a powerful satirical film, directed by Anusha Rizvi, that exposes the harsh realities of rural India. It is centered around a poor farmer named “Natha”, who is pushed towards suicide for government compensation. This film highlights the economic desperation faced by Indian farmers, and cleverly critiques the media insensitivity, government’s apathy, and political exploitation of the poor.

The film begins in a fictional village of Peepli, where the villagers are surrounded by poverty and debt for generations. Natha’s decision to consider suicide is not because of personal weakness, but out of a cruel reality, meaning his death might bring his family more financial security than his life ever could.

Once the word of suicide spreads, the media descends on Peepli, turning Natha’s misery into a breaking news sensation. Here, politicians, perceiving an opportunity, intervene to gain political advantage, by offering empty promises while avoiding real solutions.

Through dark humor and irony, this shows how society fails to care for those struggling the most, and how the life of a common man becomes entertainment for the elite. This film has been a great mix of truth and tragedy. Through this simple village tale, it raises big questions:

- Who really benefits from India’s growth?
- Why are farmers dying in a land known for agriculture?
- What role does the media play in shaping empathy – or “killing”?



Guru (2007)

Zahin Ali

1st Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

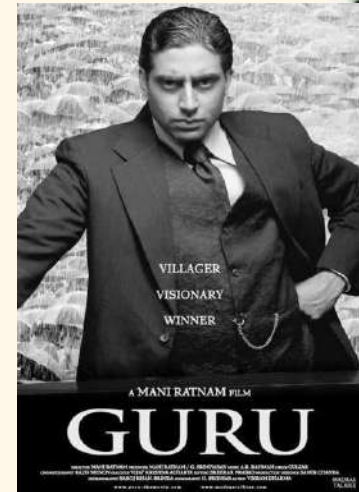
What happens when ambition meets a broken system? *Guru*, directed by Mani Ratnam, is a cinematic reflection of India's economic journey through the character of Gurukant Desai, loosely inspired by business tycoons like Dhirubhai Ambani. This film explores the clash between a socialist economy and private entrepreneurship.

Guru, set in pre-liberalization India, a time when licenses were hard to get, businesses were tied down by red tapes, and success often required bending the rules. Desai's journey from a village trader to an industrial giant is not smooth, but instead of giving up, he pushes boundaries, and creates his own path.

While from an economist's perspective, *Guru* is an allegory for India's economic transformation. It raises powerful questions: Is it wrong to break unfair rules? Does success justify the means? And more importantly – Is the system to blame for creating 'rule breakers'? It has also been viewed that economic success in India has often come at the cost of moral compromise not out of malice, but as a response to an unfair system.

By analyzing *Guru* through an economic lens, we understand how ambition, innovation and desire breaks free from restrictive systems that has shaped India's economic landscape. The film reinforces a powerful truth that while structural challenges persist, it is the entrepreneurial spirit that continues to fuel India's journey towards economic growth and self-reliance.

In short, *guruconomics* is not just a film analysis but is a study of how ambition, rebellion, and innovation have shaped the India we know today.



Animal Farm (1945)

Mayuri Deka

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is more than a political allegory – it is also a sharp commentary on economic systems, resource control, and exploitation of labor. The novella is about a farm and its animals that explore how revolutions, even those born from ideals of “equality”, can devolve into systems of inequality and economic oppression.

The story begins on Manor Farm, where the animals live under the neglect and exploitation of their human owner, Mr. Jones. Inspired by the dream of a fair and prosperous society, the animals overthrow him and create their own rules, vowing that “all animals are equal.”

However, as the pigs consolidate leadership, the economic structure begins to shift. Though production continues, the distribution of goods becomes uneven. The pigs reserve better food, privileges, and eventually, exclusive control over resources. While laborers like the horses work tirelessly, producing the wealth of the farm, but never receive any real benefits. This mirrors economic realities where the working class sustains production yet remains excluded from the rewards.

In economic terms, this novella demonstrates how ownership of the means of production determines the flow of wealth, and how centralized power leads to distorted resource allocation. The shift from equality to inequality reflects both historical revolutions and broader patterns in political economy.

Thus, Orwell delivers a timeless lesson, how without transparency, accountability, and equitable distribution, even the most promising systems can become tools for exploitation. *Animal Farm* remains essential reading, not only as political satire but as an enduring economic case study on labor, class, and resource control.



The Big Short (2015)

Jahnvi Rajbongshi

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

The Big Short, directed by Adam McKay, is a film based on real events, showing the 2008 financial crisis, and how a few investors, who realized that the U.S. housing market was heading for a collapse and chose to bet against it.

The film serves not only as a gripping drama but also as a vivid illustration of market failure – at which a supposedly efficient free market ends up producing harmful outcomes.

From an economics perspective, it exposes how reckless and fragile the financial system had become. Banks issued home loans to individuals who clearly could not afford them, driven by the belief that rising housing prices would cover any risks, but it was a misleadingly labeled as low-risk investments.



The film also explains the ideas of behavioral economics. Human tendencies such as greed, overconfidence, and herd mentality played a major role. Many industry players ignored mounting evidence of trouble simply because they were busy making money and assumed the good times would continue indefinitely.

When the inevitable collapse came, the consequences were devastating, millions had to lose their jobs, homes, and life savings. Yet many of the largest banks were rescued with government bailouts, deemed “too big to fail,” leaving a bitter sense of injustice.

In the end, *The Big Short* became more than a financial drama. It is both entertaining and unsettling. This film leaves viewers with an important reminder that financial markets are only as safe as the systems that govern them.

Eco Fun Facts

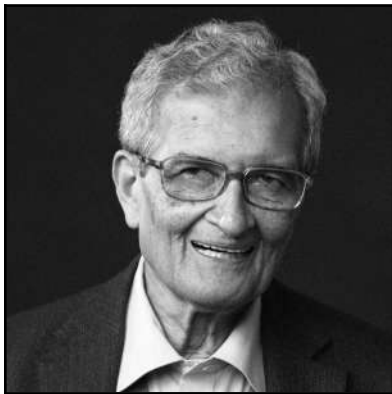
– Did You Know?

1. The word **economics** comes from the Greek word **oikonomos**, meaning “household manager.”
2. **Salt** was once so valuable in ancient Rome that it was sometimes used as a form of payment. This is where the word “salary” comes from.
3. In 2008, Zimbabwe printed a **100 trillion dollar note** because of hyperinflation, but it could barely buy bread.
4. The **first paper money** appeared in China over 1,000 years ago during the Tang Dynasty.
5. The **world’s first stock exchange** was established in Amsterdam in 1602.
6. The **first ATM** in the world was installed in London in 1967. It used vouchers instead of cards.
7. **India’s highest denomination currency note** ever printed was **₹10,000**, which was later demonetized in 1978.
8. The **Monopoly board game** has been banned in some countries during tough economic times, because it was “too capitalist.”
9. Some countries have had **negative interest rates**, meaning banks charge you to keep money in your account.
10. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, unemployment in the US reached **25%**.
11. The Indian Rupee symbol **₹** was officially adopted in **2010**.
12. The **British East India Company** once had its own currency, army, and even governance system in India.
13. Japan has **vending machines for gold bars**.
14. The **first online purchase** ever made was a pizza in 1994.

Top 4 Indian Economists

1. Amartya Sen (1933 – Present)

- **Born:** 3 November 1933, Shantiniketan, West Bengal
- **Known for:** Welfare economics, development economics, social choice theory.



- **Fame:**
 - Awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics (1998) for his work on welfare economics and poverty.
 - Introduced the Capability Approach, focusing on human freedoms and development rather than just income.
 - His research influenced the UN Human Development Index (HDI).
 - Served as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge taught at Harvard University.

2. Jagdish Bhagwati (1934 – 2023)

- **Born:** 26 July 1934, Mumbai
- **Died:** 14 December 2023, USA
- **Known for:** International trade and globalization.

- **Fame:**
 - A leading authority on free trade and globalization.
 - Authored several influential books like in Defense of Globalization.
 - Advised the UN and WTO on trade policy.
 - Advocated for trade liberalization to reduce poverty in developing nations.



3. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (1891 – 1956)

- **Born:** 14 April 1891, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh
- **Died:** 6 December 1956, New Delhi
- **Known for:** Political economy, constitutional economics, social reform.



- **Fame:**
 - o Architect of the Indian Constitution.
 - o Studied economics at Columbia University and London School of Economics.
 - o Wrote extensively on economic development, caste, and labor rights.
 - o Advocated for land reforms, industrialization, and better working conditions.
 - o One of the earliest Indian scholars to connect social inequality with economic development.

4. C. Rangarajan (1932 – Present)

- **Born:** 5 September 1932, Tamil Nadu
- **Known for:** Monetary economics, banking, economic policy.

- **Fame:**
 - o Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 1992-1997.
 - o Played a key role in India's 1991 economic reforms, stabilizing inflation and liberalizing the financial sector.
 - o Chaired the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.
 - o Strong influence on India's monetary and fiscal policy frameworks.



Women in the Indian Workforce

Sharda Kumari

5th Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

India is a nation of over 1.4 billion people where the constitution gives equal rights to both the genders. Over time evolution in the government policies, education, urbanization, and increasing awareness of gender issues have helped to understand their problems.

The participation of women in the Indian workforce has evolved significantly over the years. Their active participation in the socio-economic, cultural, and political sectors brought greater changes. Indian women have gradually made their presence felt across various industries, professions, and leadership positions. This shift is not only a marker of progress toward gender equality but also a vital factor in the country's economic growth.

Women's participation in the Indian economy has seen complex shifts over the years from traditional roles like in agriculture to increasing their presence in services and entrepreneurship. Bringing so much revolution in the society in terms of progress but still some significant barriers remain.

Historically, Indian women have played vital roles in the economy, especially in informal and agricultural sectors. However, due to some social norms women are discouraged for working outside the house. Even due to lack of suitable employment opportunities for educated women their percentage is low. Poor infrastructure and safety concerns also brought barriers in the women's opportunity. Due to which India dropped from about 30% in 1990 to around 20% by the late 2010.

At present 2025, there has been a renewed growth in women's economic participation, especially in urban areas and knowledge sectors. More women are entering professional work or office based professions such as IT, banking, and healthcare. Women come forward into startups and businesses and they are gaining visibility, provided support by government schemes like Stand-Up India and MUDRA loans.

Women continue to dominate informal labor, especially in the sectors like agriculture, textiles, and domestic work.

Women Workers yet face challenges, despite policy efforts viz.

Few deeply rooted patriarchy societies still govern gender roles in many communities. Gender pay gaps, glass ceilings, and lack of maternity support persist brings workplace discrimination. Family pressure often limits education and career choices which bring social and cultural barriers.

Women face harassment and lack of safe transportation which are the major deterrents of safety concerns, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. Many women are working in the informal sectors, with no social security or legal protections.

The Government and Policy Initiatives of India has introduced several measures to encourage women's participation in –

1. Maternity Benefit (Amendment) under the Act, 2017 into which the women gets extended paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks.
2. Government schemes like Skill India Mission which offers vocational training tailored for women.
3. There are Self-Help Groups (SHGs) which empower rural women through collective entrepreneurship and microcredit.

Yet, implementation gaps and lack of awareness dilute the impact of these policies.

Providing women the opportunity of education & skill development can bridge the gender gaps in STEM education and vocational training. Bringing reforms in the policies such as Incentivize employers to hire and retain women, with tax breaks and diversity mandates. Providing better infrastructure and safety to the women, bringing changes in the culture will promote gender equity through awareness campaigns, media representation, and inclusive education.

Women in the Indian workforce represent both the challenges and an opportunity. Despite social and structural obstacles, the growing awareness, policy initiatives, and economic necessity creates new spaces for women to lead and contribute. Real progress will depend on sustained efforts from the government, private sector, and society to ensure that Indian women are not just part of the workforce, but equal stakeholders in the nation's growth.



India's Service Sector Boom: Growth without Jobs?

Jyotirupa Roy

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

The Indian economy has undergone a unique structural shift. While all other developing nations' slowly shifted from agriculture to industry and then to services, India skipped the stage of industry and directly shifted to a service driven growth model. In India, the services now contribute to almost 55 percent of the nation's GDP but employ less than 30 percent of the labour force.

The sudden growth of the service sector can be traced back to the economic reforms of the 1990s. The IT boom and outsourcing era made India a software capital and global call center hub. Banking, telecommunication, and insurance, also grew tremendously during these times. This growth has earned foreign exchange, consolidated urban economies, and altered consumption patterns.

While services dominance has produced a paradox of "jobless growth," high-value services like IT and finance produce significant output but are skill-and-urban-biased, with the semi-skilled labour force and rural areas left behind. The agriculture sector continues to engage close to 45 percent of Indians but produces less than 18 percent of GDP, and manufacturing has not increased sufficiently to take up excess labour.

A multi-pronged strategy is needed to address these few challenges, like to make strong manufacturing via initiatives like 'Make in India' is critical for generating mass employment opportunities. Programs for skill development need to be more aligned with industry demands in order to narrow the gap between education and employment. At the same time, the service sector also needs to diversify into sectors like tourism, healthcare, and education, etc, which have higher potential for inclusive employment. Rolling out from digital platforms to the rural areas can also serve to bring marginal regions into the service economy.

India's growth through the services sector is often celebrated as a success story, but its limitations are becoming increasingly evident. Without the manufacturing and agriculture sectors being linked to this growth, and without wider jobs being created, the benefits of the services sector will remain concentrated within a narrow section of society. The real challenge now is to ensure that future growth is both efficient and fair, so that the economic advancement of India is dynamic as well as inclusive.



The Soul of Indian Society

Preeti Moral

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

Indian Society is a complex design of cultures, languages, castes, and communities. Though it is rooted to ancient or primitive culture it is still trying and evolving itself to fit in the modern society. Its core lies an unique ability to absorb differences and transform them into collective strength.

The joint family system, although transforming into nuclear families in urban areas, still influences interpersonal relationships. Respect for elders, a deep sense of duty, and collective decision making are still valued in many parts of the country.

Religious pluralism is another defining feature. India is home to major world religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Religious festivals like Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and Vaisakhi are all celebrated with enthusiasm across the country.

However, Indian Society is also filled with its challenges. Caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, and communal tensions, still pose significant hurdles. Economic disparity and rural – urban divides further contribute to social stratification.

Yet, among all these issues, Indian Society also displays remarkable resilience. Social reform movements, increasing literacy, digital connectivity, and youth activism, are promoting positive changes. Moreover, women's empowerment, LGBTQ+ rights, and inter-caste marriages are also gradually becoming a part of mainstream discourse.

In conclusion, Indian Society is a dynamic blend of the old and the new. Its strength lies in its diversity and adaptability, and acceptability. As it confronts 21st century challenges, the key to progress will be upholding constitutional values of equality, justice, and secularism while preserving the cultural richness that defines India.



Indian Economy: Hopes & Challenges

Darshana Kumari

3rd Semester Economics, FYUGP 2025

The Indian Economy is a mix of great potential and tough challenges. As a student, I often hear people saying that India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, which is actually true. But at the same time, we can also see poverty, unemployment and rising prices. So, it is a bit of both – growth and struggle.

On the one hand, India has made huge progress, in the fields like technology, digital services, start-ups and infrastructure. UPI payments have made transactions so easy even in remote areas. The number of new businesses and young entrepreneurs has also increased, which gives a feeling that the future is bright.

But, on the other hand, there are still many problems. Unemployment is a big one, especially among the youth, where many educated people are still looking for jobs that match their skills. The gap between the rich and the poor is also growing, and is a very serious concern.

Inflation is another issue. Prices of food, petrol and basic items keep going up. This affects common people that most. Families have to manage more with less income and students like us often see our parents struggling to cover everything.

Despite these problems, there is still hope. India has a large young population and if given the right opportunities, we can contribute a lot to the country's growth. All we need right now, is skill development, better education and fair job chances.

In the end, the Indian economy is like a moving train – fast and full of energy, but needing better direction. And if we manage it well, it can take us very far.



CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP, COMPETITIVE LEARNING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (CLCE)



The Post-Graduate Department of Economics, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati, have long felt the need for conceptualising an academic platform to strengthen student capacity-building by integrating competitive learning, leadership development, and entrepreneurial skills. Following that motivation, the department formally inaugurated the Centre for Leadership, Competitive Learning & Entrepreneurship (CLCE) on Monday, 22 September 2025 in the presence of distinguished guests, faculty members and students of the department. The programme witnessed the gracious presence of:

- The Principal, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati
- Shri Naba Jyoti Deka, District Librarian, District Library, Guwahati
- Dr. Pranab Baishya, Faculty Member, Institute of Cooperative Management, Guwahati.

The programme also marked the inauguration of three U.G. and four P.G. Wall Magazines of the department, highlighting student creativity and reflective engagement with socio-economic issues.

1. Objectives of CLCE

With the aim to serve as a dynamic learning hub, enabling students to convert knowledge into meaningful career pathways, CLCE is envisioned to:

- Provide academic and career guidance
- Build competitive examination preparedness
- Cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets
- Facilitate professional skill development

- Promote student leadership and entrepreneurial spirit

2. Activities Conducted Under CLCE

2.1 Distinguished Lecture Series

The Centre organised special academic interactions for PG students with distinguished resource persons:

1. **Prof. Atanu Kumar Choudhury**, former Vice Principal and Head, Department of Economics, Pragjyotish College, delivered a series of lectures on 15, 16, and 17 October 2025.
2. **Dr. Bidyut Bikash Baishya**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Pragjyotish College, conducted special lectures on 15, 16, 17, 23, and 24 October 2025.

2.2 Food and Craft Fiesta (Exhibition-cum-Sale)

A dynamic entrepreneurial event titled “Food and Craft Fiesta”, an Annual Exhibition-cum-Sale was organised by the PG Department of Economics under the banner of Economic Society in collaboration with CLCE. The exhibition was held on 17 October 2025 at Handique Girls’ College which showcased creative food and handmade craft stalls, exclusively featuring the participation of students from the department. It served as an experiential learning platform, fostering innovation, business exposure, marketing skills, and team-based collaboration. Through this initiative, students explored various entrepreneurial dimensions such as product design, pricing, sales, branding, and customer engagement.

3. Future Plans

To strengthen student development initiatives, CLCE proposes to undertake the following activities:

- i. The Centre plans to organise **CUET (UG) coaching workshop** for Higher Secondary students, offering academic guidance, syllabus orientation, and structured practice sessions.
- ii. A **UPSC/APSC preparation workshop** is proposed to familiarise students with civil service examination patterns, preparation strategies, and motivational support.
- iii. The Centre also aims to introduce domain-specific mentoring sessions, internship and industry-linked engagement opportunities, and various skill-oriented training modules to enhance student preparedness and professional growth.

WALL MAGAZINES

1st SEMESTER

Earthonomics is not just an idea or an imagination. It is a call to recognize the Earth as our most valuable economy. In this system, nature is not an external resource to be consumed but the very foundation of life and prosperity. The phrase “Where Every Leaf Counts” reminds us that no act of care is too small; a single tree planted, a drop of water saved or a patch of soil preserved becomes part of a larger balance that sustains humanity. In today’s era, people demand that we measure growth not only in profit but in harmony with the planet. Just as in economics every unit contributes to the whole, in ecology every leaf and action matters. By conserving biodiversity, reducing waste and living responsibly, we can invest in the only wealth that endures, which is a healthy and thriving Earth. True progress begins when we see sustainability not as a sacrifice but as a shared responsibility where each of us becomes leaders of tomorrow.

“Every leaf is an investment in tomorrow for green is the true currency of life, where small acts together weave the canopy of a sustainable future.”



WALL MAGAZINES

3rd SEMESTER

The wall magazine on "Tariff versus War" explores how tariffs implemented by President Donald Trump affected the global economy. Instead of fighting wars with weapons, tariffs were used as economic tools to protect American industries and jobs. However, these tariffs also caused tensions between countries and disrupted trade, leading to increased prices and uncertainties worldwide.

In India, the tariffs led to higher costs for Indian exporters, making it harder for them to compete in the US market, especially in products like steel and agriculture. India also responded by increasing tariffs on American goods, which affected trade relations between the two countries. This situation showed that tariffs, while used as a peaceful alternative to war, can still create economic stress and affect the global trading system deeply.



WALL MAGAZINES

5th SEMESTER

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced on 1st July 2017, is a unified indirect tax replacing multiple taxes like VAT, excise, and service tax. It is a destination-based tax that ensures “One Nation, One Tax, One Market.” GST aims to simplify taxation, remove the cascading effect of taxes, and promote ease of doing business.

India follows a dual GST system—CGST (Central), SGST (State), and IGST (for inter-state trade). The GST Council, chaired by the Finance Minister, decides tax rates and policies.

GST has improved transparency and compliance while widening the tax base. However, issues like multiple tax slabs and initial technical difficulties remain. Despite challenges, GST has strengthened India’s tax system and contributed significantly to revenue and economic integration.



WALL MAGAZINES

POST GRADUATE

Climate Economy: Profit vs Planet. This topic explores the conflict between economic profit and environmental sustainability. It highlights how short-term financial gains often come at the cost of long-term planetary health, examining issues like resource exploitation, pollution, and climate change. The aim is to emphasize the urgent need for a balanced approach that prioritizes both economic growth and environmental responsibility.

Why We Chose This Topic:

We chose this topic because climate change is one of the most critical challenges of our time. Understanding the trade-offs between profit and the planet helps raise awareness about sustainable choices and the need for responsible economic policies.



EXHIBITION

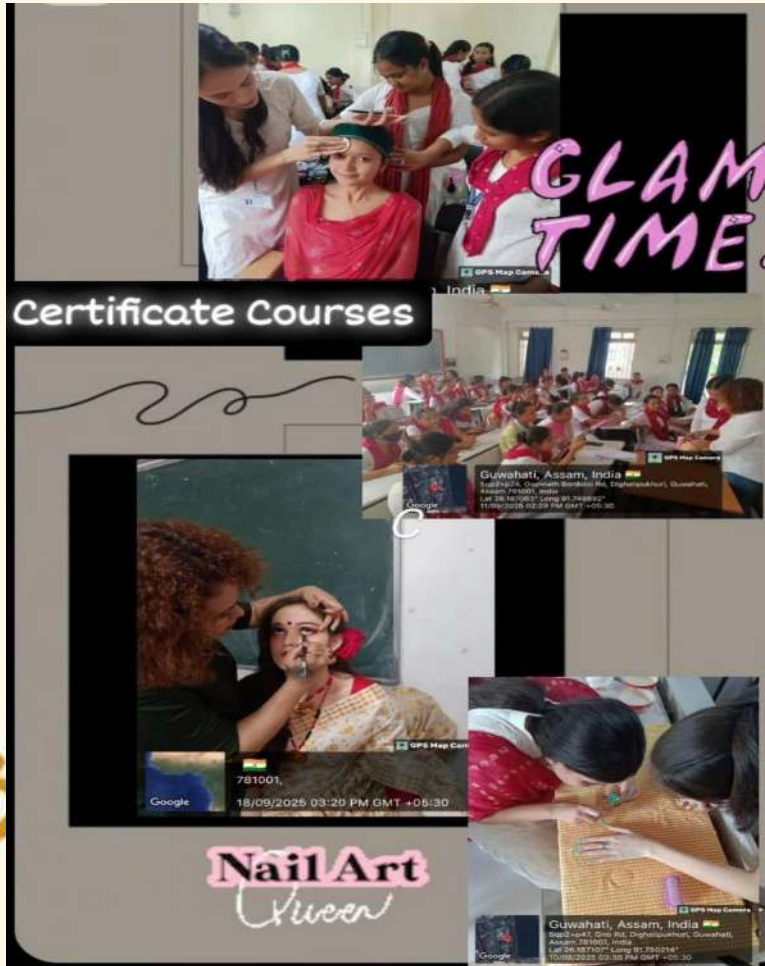




CLUB CREATIVE HEIGHTS



CERTIFICATE COURSE



The Department of Economics, in collaboration with Imagik Beauty Training Institute, successfully organized a Certificate Course on Beauty Care from 25th August to 19th September 2025. The sessions were conducted by the resource person Ms. Mala Mahanta, Beautician, Imagik Beauty Clinic and Training Institute who is also an alumni of this college.

The course provided hands-on training in pedicure, manicure, hot oil massage, facial care, basic and bridal makeup, health and hygiene, diet management, henna application to name a few. A total of 45 students actively participated, along with 2 office bearers, making the programme lively and engaging.

The valedictory function, held today, marked the conclusion of this enriching course and students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn practical skills that combine personal grooming with career prospects.

INTERSHIP ACTIVITY UNDER THE P.G DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics, Handique Girls' College, successfully completed its Internship Programme for the academic year 2024–25. The programme, prescribed by the FYUGP model under Gauhati University, aimed at bridging theoretical learning with practical exposure to enhance students' employability and research competencies. Accordingly, students were offered a diverse range of organisational placements across both public and private sector institutions.

Major internship host organisations included:

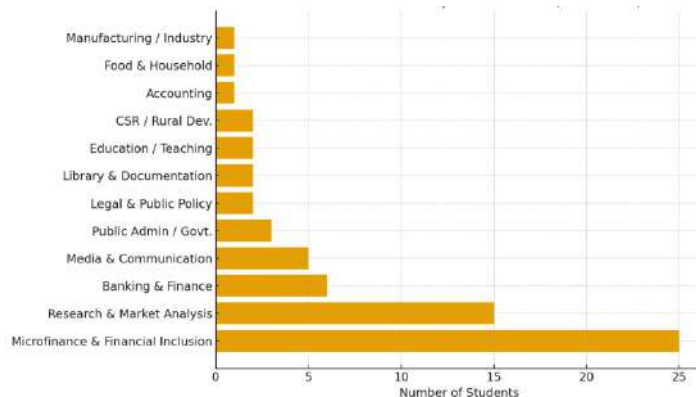
- Nightingale Finvest Private Limited
- Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN)
- North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi)
- HDFC Bank
- District Library, Guwahati
- NB News (Asom Live24)

Students worked under designated supervisors at the host organisations, gaining insight into functional areas such as microfinance, market research, public finance, fiscal policy, CSR activities, media reporting, accounting, and education services.

Internships were carried out largely between 15 June 2025 and 31 July 2025, under two categories:

1. Skill & Employability (Category-I)
2. Research-based (Category-II)

Each student was allocated a departmental faculty mentor who monitored student progress and evaluated internship reports. The internship programme proved highly effective in exposing students to real-world problem-solving and economic applications. It provided valuable opportunities to understand workplace dynamics, develop professional skills, and deepen analytical understanding of contemporary issues.



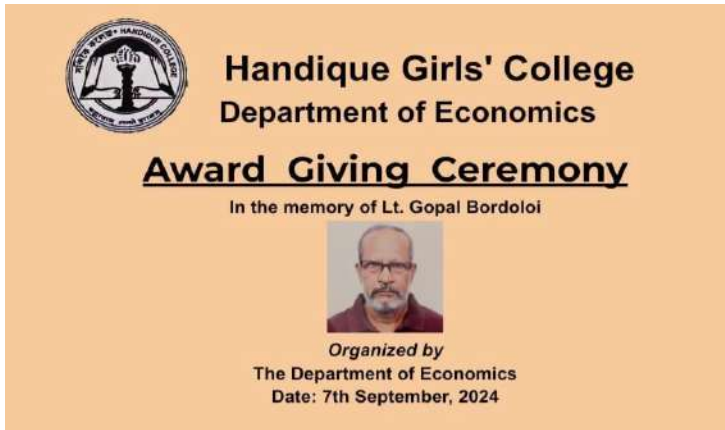
**Figure: Sector-wise distribution of
internship sectors**

INTERSHIP ACTIVITY UNDER THE P.G DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Photographs from the Internship Programme



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



The Dr Gopal Bordoloi Memorial Award was presented to the best Economic graduate of Handique Girls' College, Bhagyasmita Talukdar.

The award has been instituted by the family members of the late Dr Gopal Bordoloi, economist and founder of North East Economic Association. It will be given to the best Economic graduate of the college every year. Nilakshi Bordoloi, wife of the late Dr Bordoloi, presented the award which carries an amount of Rs 15,000 to Bhagyasmita Talukdar.

POST-GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS HANDIQUE GIRLS' COLLEGE, 2025 RESULTS AT A GLANCE (BA/B.SC)

| YEAR | NO. OF STUDENTS APPEARED (ARTS) | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS PASSED | PASS PERCENTAGE (%) | TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (1 ST CLASS) |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 2021 | 78 | 74 | 94.84 | 73 |
| 2022 | 74 | 73 | 98.64 | 72 |
| 2023 | 51 | 51 | 100 | 51 |
| 2024 | 62 | 62 | 100 | 59 |
| 2025 | 81 | 81 | 100 | 66 |

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Name: Ahana Roy

Course: B.A. (CBCS) Economics (Honours)

Batch: 1st class – 2nd position under Gauhati University

CGPA: 9.22

Currently pursuing Masters in Economics from Gauhati University.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENTS WHO SCORED LETTER MARK IN ECONOMICS, HS 2025



Mridusmita Deka



Alea Lahkar



Nasiba Islam



Tarpana Devi



Lisha Baro



Trisha Bhattacharjee



Prantika Sarma



Simi Kumari Gupta



Hashina Begum



Anvesha Mishra



Sumana Majumder

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC SOCIETY 2025-2026

POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, HANDIQUÉ GIRLS' COLLEGE

| PRESIDENT | GENERAL SECRETARY | LITERARY SECRETARY | CULTURAL SECRETARY | TREASURER |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Rithika Chhetri (5 th Semester) | Jahnavi Rajbongshi (5 th Semester) | Jilari Boro (3 rd Semester) | Daisy Deka (5 th Semester) | Poushali Karmakar (5 th Semester) |

OFFICE BEARER AND MEMBERS OF 5TH SEMESTER

| VICE PRESIDENT | ASST. GENERAL SECRETARY | ASST. TREASURER |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mriganki Kalita | Mumata Koiri | Imrana Yasmin |

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Rimjhim Talukdar | Syeda Farha | Ananya Sarmah | Kankana Das | Mrishangki Parashar | Debajani Devi |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|

OFFICE BEARER AND MEMBERS OF 3RD SEMESTER

| VICE PRESIDENT | ASST. GENERAL SECRETARY | ASST. TREASURER |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Papori Kakati | Jyotirupa Roy | Anushmita Chakraborty |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC SOCIETY 2025-2026

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (MAJOR)

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jugasmita Pathak | Porishmita Neog | Popiya Das | Martina Mahanta |
| Bushra Rafia | Kristi Paul | Ananya Bhowmick | Negar Hazarika |

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (MINOR)

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Reema Kalita | Kanya Kumari Nath | Maria Pul | Prapti Roy |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|

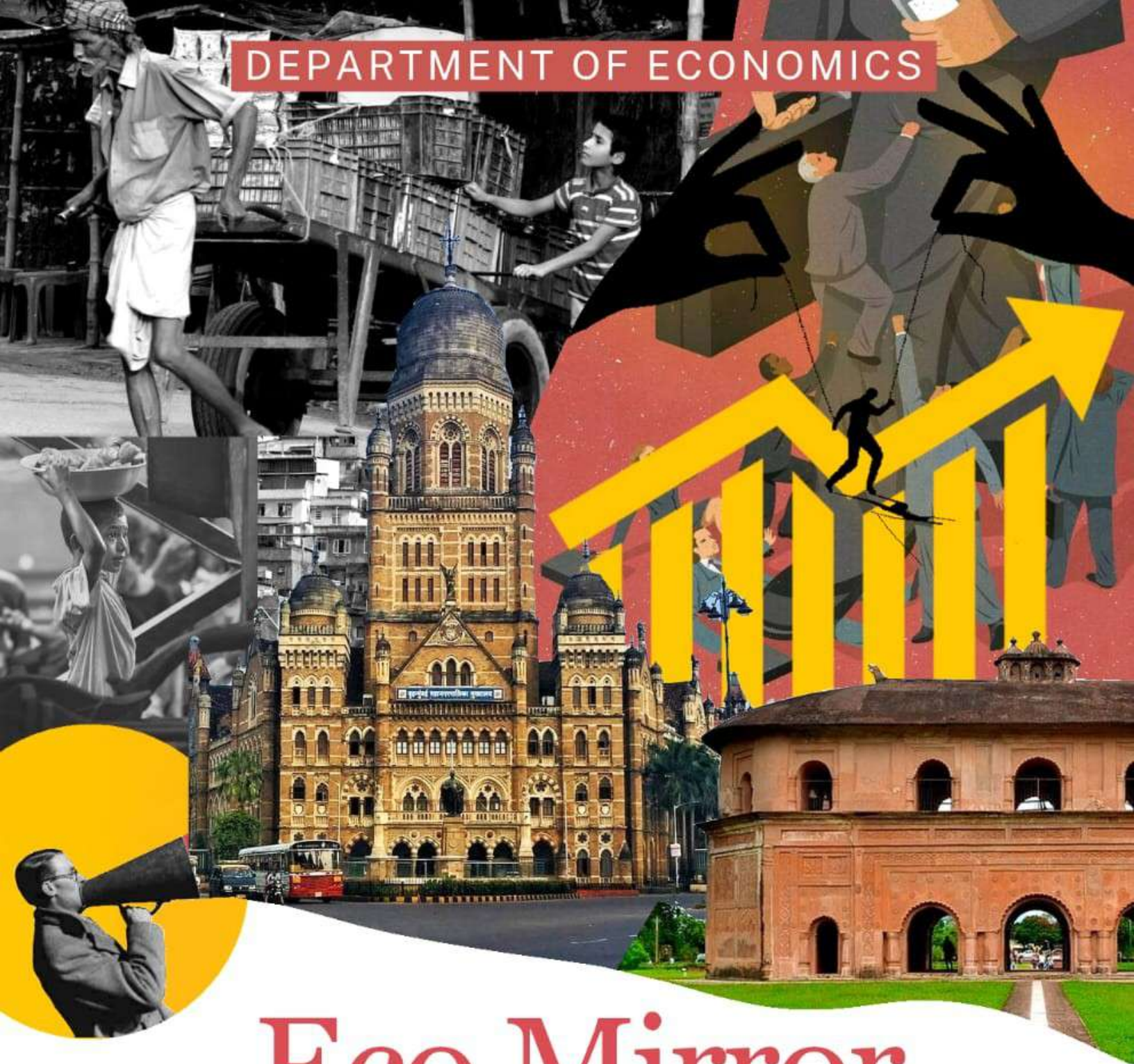
OFFICE BEARER AND MEMBERS OF 1ST SEMESTER

| VICE PRESIDENT | ASST. GENERAL SECRETARY | ASST. TREASURER |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Angel Perme | Jonaki Nath | Kasturi phukan |

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Anvesha Mishra | Zahin Ali | Swapnalee Patowary | Snigdho Jonak Kashyap |
| Sivangi Goswami | Asthajita Devi | Riyamoni Patgiri | Pragya Priya Basumatary |

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



Eco Mirror

Eco Mirror holds a mirror to the realities of development in Assam and across India, questioning whether these initiatives are fulfilling their transformative potential or simply remaining lofty slogans.

Thank you for reading!