UG HT S4 – 01(DSC)

TWO YEAR MASTER DEGREE COURSE

(CBCS in Accordance with NEP 2020)

SEMESTER-IV

History of Peasant and Working Class in India

HISTORY

Surya Kumar Bhuyan School of Social Sciences

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Experts Committee

Prof. Paromita Das, Department of History, Gauhati University

Prof. Rajiv Handique, Department of History, Gauhati University
Dr. Ritu Thaosen, Department of History, Cotton University

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Priti Salila Rajkhowa, Asst. Prof. (KKHSOU) **Contributors**

UNIT	Authors
1, 2, 3,4	Dr. Priti Salila Rajkhowa, KKHSOU
4,7,10	Antika Deori, KKHSOU
5, 6	Epahi Baruah, KKHSOU
8, 9	Dr. Roja Ahmed, KKHSOU
11, 13	Dhurba Gogoi, D.K College, Dr. Priti Salila Rajkhowa, KKHSOU
12	Brihattabar Pegu, KKHSOU

Editors

Context Editing : Dr. Priti Salila Rajkhowa, KKHSOU

Format Editing : **Dr. Priti Salila Rajkhowa**, KKHSOU

Print : March, 2026

This Self Learning Material (SLM) is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 License (International) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Printed and published by the Registrar on behalf of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University

Head Office: Patgaon, Rani Gate, Guwahati-781017
City Compus: Resham Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati- 781022

Table of Contents

Units **Page**

Unit 1: Early Pastoral and Agricultural Communities in India
Village Settlement, agriculture and animal husbandry in pre-historic India; Agriculture and pastoralism in Harappan society; Vedic Pastoral Community.

Unit 2: Advancement of Agriculture and Trade Early India
Growth of agriculture and trade in the Ganga Valley; Neo religious trends and its consequences

Unit 3: Peasants, Artisans and Workers under the Maurya and Gupta Rule
Agriculture, Crafts, Trade and Commerce, Land revenue system, Land Grants

Unit 4: Agricultural Economy in Early Medieval India
Wet rice cultivation, Debate on Wet Rice Cultivation, New agricultural technology, crops, Changes in land revenue system, trade

Unit 5: Peasants, Traders and Workers under the Delhi Sultanate
Agriculture, trade, land revenue system, peasants, militia,artisans and slaves

Unit 6: Peasants, Traders and Workers under the Mughals
Agriculture, trade, land revenue system, peasants, militia, artisans and slaves, Peasant Uprisings in Mughal India

Unit 7: Debate On Indian Feudalism
Indian Feudalism-critique

Unit 8: Land Revenue System, Agriculture and Trade in the Medieval Assam
Land revenue system under the Ahoms and Koch, Paik system, agriculture, crafts & trade, Zamindari system, artisans & slaves

Unit 9: Colonial Interventions: The Changes
European Settlements in India and agrarian policy; Land Revenue System; Taxation & Trade

Unit 10: Peasants, Traders and Workers in Colonial India
British Land Revenue Settlements; Taxation; Commercialization of Agriculture; Crops; Trade; Zamindars, Peasants, workers and tribal folk; British commercial policies- effects.

Unit 11:Peasant Uprisings in Colonial India

Tribal and peasant uprisings in Colonial India- nature, forms, causes and consequences.

Unit 12: Workers Resistance in Colonial India

British industrial policies- it's effects; labour policies; Resistance- nature, forms, causes, consequences.

Unit 13: Peasant and Working Class Uprisings in Colonial Assam

Early tribal uprisings, Raij Mel, Phulaguri uprising, Patharughat uprising, peasant uprisings in Rangiya, Lachima & Rani, Oil Company Workers' Strike , Tea Garden Labour strikes

Reference

COURSE INTRODUCTION

The history of India cannot be understood without studying the lives of peasants, artisans, workers, traders, and other productive groups who formed the foundation of society and the economy. This course traces the evolution of agrarian and labour systems from prehistoric times to the colonial period, examining agriculture, trade, land revenue policies, labour relations, and resistance movements. It also highlights the experiences of peasants and workers in Assam, providing both national and regional perspectives on social and economic change.

First unit, '*Early Pastoral and Agricultural Communities in India'* introduces the origins of agriculture, animal husbandry, village settlements, and pastoral life in prehistoric, Harappan, and Vedic societies.

Second unit, '*Advancement of Agriculture and Trade in Early India'*, examines the growth of agriculture and trade in the Ganga Valley and the impact of Buddhism and Jainism on society and economy.

Third unit *'Peasants, Artisans and Workers under the Maurya and Gupta Rule'* studies agriculture, crafts, trade, land revenue, and land grants during the Maurya and Gupta periods.

Unit Fourth*, 'Agricultural Economy in Early Medieval India'*, focuses on agricultural expansion, wet rice cultivation, technological developments, and changes in trade and revenue systems.

Fifth unit, *'Peasants, Traders and Workers under the Delhi Sultanate'* explores agriculture, trade, revenue administration, and the roles of peasants, artisans, soldiers, and slaves.

Sixth unit, *'Peasants, Traders and Workers under the Mughals',* discusses agrarian economy, trade, labour systems, and peasant uprisings during the Mughal period.

Unit seven, '*Debate on Indian Feudalism'* introduces major historiographical debates on the nature and characteristics of Indian feudalism.

Unit eight, *'Land Revenue System, Agriculture and Trade in Medieval Assam'* examines the Ahom and Koch revenue systems, the Paik system, agriculture, crafts, trade, and labour.

Unit nine, *'Colonial Interventions: The Changes'*, analyses the impact of European settlements and British policies on agriculture, taxation, and trade.

Tenth unit, *'Peasants, Traders and Workers in Colonial India'* studies land settlements, commercialization of agriculture, colonial trade policies, and their effects on peasants and workers.

Unit Eleven, *'Peasant Uprisings in Colonial India',* examines the causes, nature, and consequences of tribal and peasant resistance against colonial rule.

Unit Twelve *'Workers' Resistance in Colonial India',* focuses on labour policies, industrialization, and various forms of workers' movements and protests.

Unit Thirteen, *'Peasant and Working-Class Uprisings in Colonial Assam'* highlights important peasant, tribal, and labour movements in Assam, including Phulaguri, Patharughat, and tea garden labour struggles.

While going through this course, you will notice that some boxes are put in the left hand or right hand side of the text. These boxes are meant to serve the purpose of in-text glossary for you. Again, you may find some boxes marked with: "LET US KNOW". These boxes will provide you with some additional interesting and relevant information. The boxes marked with "ACTIVITY" will help you in making your learning more active and efficient. And, at the end of each section, you will get "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study. It will be better if you solve the problems put in these boxes immediately after you go through the sections of the units and then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit.