

Indian Politics**Course Objectives:**

The course adopts a historical-analytical framework to foster a critical understanding of the Constitutional design and governmental institutional framework in India, along with the insight on the changing nature of state, situating them within historical political processes. It seeks to acquaint students with the multifaceted manifestations of politics in India, examining the diverse mechanisms through which power is wielded and distributed across societal dimensions of caste, class, ethnicity, gender, region, language, and religion. It aims at elucidating how social power shapes and mediates the political processes. Learners would explore the interplay between caste, religion, and politics, as well as constitutional provisions for self-governance, autonomy, and development, particularly for tribal communities under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules. The course also elucidates the legal and constitutional mechanisms aimed at empowering the marginalized groups. Further, the course delves into the complex interplay between political parties, electoral systems, and governance structures in India's democratic landscape to render useful insights on the dynamics of Indian Politics.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

The course would develop among students a critical and comprehensive understanding of India's nation-building process, identity politics, political parties, and electoral process. This would enable them to analyse state policies, socio-political contexts, and democratic participation across diverse segments of Indian society. The unit-wise course outcome is given below.

Unit-I: The learners would be familiarised with the process of nation building and the changing dynamics of state in terms of policy intervention for vulnerable groups. Further, the complex understanding of the social cleavages would enable them to critically assess state's response within the broader socio-political context of India.

Unit-II: The learners would develop awareness on different social groups like caste, tribe, gender, their sense of self, persistence, and demand for recognition in the broader socio-political and historical contexts in India. Further, the complex understanding of identity politics, constitutional safeguards, issues of privileges, discrimination, mobilisation, and

politicization in the context of these sections of the society would enable them to develop insights for policy formulation and identify gaps in effective policy making.

Unit-III: The learners would gain comprehensive understanding of the debates surrounding secularism, communalism, minority rights, regionalism, language diversity and demand for separate statehood. This will enable them to critically analyse the dynamics of Indian politics and the interplay of these identities in shaping the political process in India. This will harness their domain skills for future engagement in the public sector.

Unit-IV: The learners would demonstrate knowledge of political parties and party system in India. The awareness of the manner in which representation and electoral competition play out in Indian politics will enable them to evolve critical insights on voting behaviour and democratic participation of different segments of the population.

Course Content:

Unit-I: Major Contestations in Indian Politics

- a) Nation Building: Processes & Challenges
- b) Changing Nature of Indian State: Social Base of Power- Class, Caste, Ethnicity, & Gender; Welfare State & Neo-liberal State
- c) Social Justice and Affirmative Action Policies

Unit-II: Identity Politics – I

- a) Caste in Politics and Politicization of Caste, Dalits, and Backward Castes
- b) Tribe: Constitutional Provisions- Fifth & Sixth Schedules, Development and Displacement, Forest Rights Act & Challenges
- c) Gender: Participation and Representation of women in democratic institutions

Unit-III: Identity Politics - II

- a) Religion: Debates on Secularism and Communalism, Minority Rights
- b) Region and Regionalism: Autonomy and Statehood movements
- c) Language: Linguistic Diversity and Constitutional Provisions, Linguistic Reorganization of states

Unit-III: Party System and Electoral Process

- a) Indian party system: National and State parties, Trends in party system, Politics of Defection, Coalition Politics
- b) Electoral Process in India: Electoral reforms, Trends in voting behaviour

- c) Electoral Politics: Participation, Representation, and Mobilisation of different sections.

Essential Readings:

- ✓ *Chandhoke, Neera and Priyadarshi, Praveen (2009). Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics. Pearson.*
- ✓ *Chandra, Bipan, Mukherjee, Mridula, & Mukherjee, Aditya. (2000). India After Independence, 1947-2000. Penguin. (Chapter 6: The Initial Years, pp. 68-82, Chapter 7: Consolidation of India as a Nation, pp. 83-97).*
- ✓ *Jayal, Niraja Gopal and Mehta, Pratap Bhanu (2011). The Oxford Companion to Politics in India. Oxford University Press.*
- ✓ *Pai, Sudha (ed.) (2013). Handbook of Politics in Indian States: Region, Parties, and Economic Reforms. Oxford University Press, India.*
- ✓ *Pai, Sudha (2000). State Politics: New Dimensions (Party System, Liberalisation and Politics of Identity). Shipra.*
- ✓ *Singh, M. P. (2008). Reorganization of States in India. Economic and Political Weekly. 43(11), 70-75.*
- ✓ *Yadav, Yogendra & Palshikar, Suhas (2006). Party System and Electoral Politics in the Indian States, 1952-2002: From Hegemony to Convergence in P. R. DeSouza & E. Sridharan (Eds.), India's Political Parties. Sage.*

Additional Readings:

- ✓ *Chaube, S. K. (1973). Constituent Assembly of India. People's Publishing House. (Chapter 1: The Indian Problem, pp. 5-16, Chapter 2: Constituent Assembly as the Answer, pp. 17-29, Chapter 3: Birth of the Constituent Assembly, pp. 30-45, Chapter 17: Conclusions, pp. 270-281, Epilogue, 283-285)*
- ✓ *Jayal, Niraja Gopal. (2019). Re-forming India: The Nation Today. Penguin Random House India Private Limited.*
- ✓ *Kothari, Ashish & Pathak Broome, Neema & Bose, Arshiya. (2011). 'Forests, Rights and Conservation: FRA Act 2006, India', in Henry Scheyvens (Ed.) Critical Review of Selected Forest-Related Regulatory Initiatives. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.*

- ✓ Kothari, Rajni. (1970). *Caste in Indian Politics*. Orient Longman.
- ✓ Kumar, Avinash and Pai, Sudha. (2017). *The Indian Parliament: A Critical Appraisal*. Orient Blackswan Pvt Limited.
- ✓ Majeed, Akhtar. (2005). *Working of the Indian Federal System*. Federal Studies Orientation Series, Centre for Federal Studies, Hamdard University, New Delhi.
- ✓ Menon, Nivedita. (1999). *Gender and Politics in India*. Oxford University Press.
- ✓ Sarangi, Asha. (2010). *Language and Politics in India*. Oxford University Press.
- ✓ Sarkar, Sumit. (2017). *Modern India*. Pearson India.

Internet Resources

The internet resources include online articles and e-contents published on websites, blogs, e-Newspaper, online magazines, or scholarly journals, digital repositories, Audio- Visual contents.

1. Aijaz Ashraf Wani. Indian Government and Politics. SWAYAM.
https://onlinecourses.SWAYAM2.ac.in/cec20_hs38/preview
2. eGyankosh. Political Process in India (BPSC- 104). IGNOU.
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/66623/1/Block-1.pdf>
3. Institute For Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (2018). Gender & Development: Perspective to Practice. PR & DW Department, Govt. of Odisha.
<https://sirdodisha.nic.in/download/Genderdevelopment.pdf>
4. Jhumpa Mukherjee. Political Process in India. SWAYAM.
https://onlinecourses.SWAYAM2.ac.in/cec24_hs33/preview
5. Virtual Tutorial Project. Political Process in India (Core-IV).
<https://vtputkal.odisha.gov.in/subjectwise/political-process-in-india-core-iv/>

Activities to do:

1. Go through the manifesto of different political parties and form several groups and organise debates on contemporary issues among these group representing these parties.
2. Make posters on conduct of free and fair elections and aware the local people regarding judicious use of their voting rights.
3. Go through the twitter and media campaigns of different political parties and make a comparative analysis together with your friends.

4. Make a field visit to any Court nearby your locality and write a report on the proceeding of a court.
5. Stage a short play on communal harmony depicting the essence of unity in diversity in India.