

PSH 552: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Course Objectives:

1. To develop among Students informed and critical perspectives on Indian political system
2. To enable students to grasp the constitutional provisions and values
3. To enable students to critically reflect on the possible gap between theory and practice of politics
4. To make students understand the political and governance process and challenges

Course Outcomes:

The course will equip students to –

1. Have a nuanced understanding of the Indian Constitutional provisions and values
2. Have a clear and critical understanding of the political institutions, processes and challenges
3. Equip students to shoulder political and administrative responsibilities in future
4. Grasp the diversities and complexities in the operation of Indian political system

UNIT 1: The Setting

- 1.1 Indian Constitution: Historical influences and legacies
- 1.2 Constituent Assembly – Significance, composition and highlights
- 1.3 Indian Constitution: Salient features; An assessment
- 1.4 Preamble – Underlying principles; Citizenship

UNIT 2: Spirit of the Constitution

- 2.1 Dynamics of Fundamental Rights, individual freedom and social order – Significance, issues and implications; Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties - Correlation
- 2.2 Directive Principles of State Policy and Welfare State – Significance and implications
- 2.3 Centre- State relations, Debate on Integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; Inter-state disputes – water, territorial, linguistic
- 2.4 Structuring constitutional order - Constitutional bodies with special reference to Election Commission, UPSC, CAG, Attorney General of India – Significance and operation

UNIT 3: Political institutions and processes

- 3.1 Legislature -Executive relations and Parliamentary democracy – Process and issues; Anti-defection law; Changing socio-economic profile of legislatures
- 3.2 Amendments procedure; Basic structure of the Constitution and Judicial review; Judicial activism and Public Interest Litigation (PIL)
- 3.3 Governor and the state government relations – Nature and issues
- 3.4 Grass root democracy; Urban and Rural – Issues and Challenges

UNIT 4: Politics and Society

- 4.1 Political parties – Ideologies and strategies with special reference to INC, BJP, CPM, BSP JDS, Aam Admi; Coalition Politics – An assessment; Electoral reforms; Pressure and interest groups – Role and importance in policy making
- 4.2 Issues in Governance – RTI; Corruption: Development - Inclusion and exclusion; Dissent and protest – Social movements and political participation; Media and public opinion, Defections, Criminalisation of politics; Privatisation; Migration; Environment
- 4.3 Issues in Social and Human Development – Health, Education, Social security; Food security; Social justice and affirmative action
- 4.4 Challenges and issues in Nation-building – Caste, religion and ethnicity; Secularism and communalism; Poverty and inequality, Political violence and terrorism

Basic Readings:

1. Basu, D.D., *An Introduction to the Constitution of India*, New Delhi: Prentice Hall, 2014.
2. Bakshi, P.M., *Constitution of India*, New Delhi: Universal Law Publishing House, 1999
3. Chatterjee, Partha, *State and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009
4. Fadia, B.L., *Indian Government and Politics*, Agra: SahityaBhawan, 2012
5. Jennings, I., *Some Characteristics of the Indian Constitution*, London: Oxford University Press, 1953.
6. Kohli, Atul, ed., *The Success of India's Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
7. Kothari Rajani, *Politics in India*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1970,
8. Kothari Rajani, *Democratic Polity and Social Change in India*, New Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1976.
9. Laxmikanth. M., *Indian Polity*, New Delhi: Tata Mcgrawhill, , 2015.
10. Mukherji, S., *Retaining Parliamentary Democracy in India*, Denouement, 9, January-February, 1999.
11. Sharma. B.K., *Introduction to the Constitution of India*, Delhi: PHI, 2015.

Suggested readings:

1. Adeney, Katherin, and Saez, Lawrence., eds., *Coalition Politics and Hindu Nationalism*, London; Routledge, 2005.
2. Austin, Granville., *Working of a Democratic Constitution of India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004.
3. Austin, Granville., *Indian Constitution: Corner Stone of a Nation*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999.
4. Chandhoke, N. & Priyadarshi, P., eds., *Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics*, New Delhi; Pearson, 2009.
5. Chandra, B., Mukherjee, A. & Mukherjee, M., *India after Independence*, New Delhi: Penguin, 2010
6. Chakrabarty, Bidyut, *Indian Politics and Society since independence Events, Processes and Ideology*, Oxon, Routledge, 2008
7. DeSouza, Peter Ronald and Sridharan, E., ed., *India's Political Parties*, New Delhi: Sage, 2006
8. Gupta, D. C., *Indian Government and Politics*, New Delhi: Vikas publishing House, 1975.
9. Hassan, Joya., (Ed), *State and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
10. Hasan, Zoya and Sridharan, E., eds., *India's Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies*, New Delhi; Permanent Black, 2002.
11. Jaffrelot, Christophe., *The Hindu Nationalist movement and Indian Politics 1925 to 1990s*, New Delhi: Penguin, 1999
12. Kohli, Atul., *Democracy and Discontent: India's Growing Crisis of Governability*, Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 1991.
13. Kohli, Atul., *Democracy and Development in India: From Socialism to Pro- Business*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009
14. Kohli, Atul and Singh, Prema., ed., *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, London: Routledge, 2013
15. Kothari, Rajni., *Caste in Indian Politics*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1973
16. Manor, James, *Politics and State-society Relations in India*, London: Hurst, 2017
17. Mukarji K, Nirmal, and Arora Balveer, *Federalism in India, Origin and Developments*, New Delhi: Vikas publishing house, 1992
18. Palshikar, Suhas, et al., ed., *Electoral Politics in India The Resurgence of the Bharatiya Janata Party*, Oxon: Taylor & Francis, 2017.
19. Sheth, D.L., *At home with Democracy; A Theory of Indian Politics*, New Delhi: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018
20. Singh, M.P. & Saxena, R., *Indian Politics: Contemporary Issues and Concerns*, New Delhi: PHI Learning, 2008.
21. Singh, M.P., and Roy, Himanshu, *Indian Political System: Structure, Policies, Development*, New Delhi: GanandaPrakashan, 1998
22. Sathyamurthy, T.V., *Social Change and Political Discourse in India: Structures of Power, Movements of Resistance, Region, Religion, Caste, Gender and Culture in Contemporary India*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
23. Upadhyaya, A.S., ed., *Electoral Reforms in India*, New Delhi: Concept Publishers, 2005.
24. Vanaik Achin and Bhargava, Rajeev., *Understanding Contemporary India: Critical Perspectives*, New Delhi: Orient Blackswan 2010.