

## SEMESTER -IV

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### MDC-MN-2 Constitutional Government in India

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**Course Objectives:**

1. To enable students to know the constitutional design of government and political institutions in India.
2. To relate such institutions to the ideals of liberty, equality and justice, and to the process of decentralization and federalism, development and democracy, on which the constitutional democracy in India is visualized.
3. To encourage students to see how institutional practices and constitutional design are impacted by the political contexts within which they unfold.
4. To develop the ability to comprehend the relationships between constitutionalism, democracy and governance.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of the course, students will develop:

1. Understanding the specificities of Indian Constitutionalism.
2. Familiarity with the issues concerning constitutional architecture, institutional design and practice of constitutional democracy.
3. Awareness of the ways in which the government/s functions through its various organs at various levels.
4. Understanding of the division of power between various organs of the government.

**Module I**

1. Evolution of the Indian Constitution. Role of Constituent Assembly--- debates (overview). Preamble.
2. Citizenship. Fundamental Rights and Duties. Directive Principles.
3. Nature of Indian Federalism: Union-State Relations.
4. Union Executive: President, Vice-President: Election, Position, Functions (focus on Emergency Powers), Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Relationship of Prime Minister and President.

**Module II**

5. Union Legislature: Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha: Organisation, Functions – Lawmaking procedure, Parliamentary procedure, Privileges, Committee System. Speaker.
6. Government in states: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers: position and functions – State Legislature: Composition and Functions.
7. Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Courts: composition and functions – Judicial activism.
8. Constitutional Amendment.

**Select Readings:**

- Constitution of India: Government of India.  
 G. Austin: The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation.  
 G. Austin: Working a Democratic Constitution  
 S.K. Chaube: The Constituent Assembly--- Springboard of a Revolution (latest edition).  
 M.V. Pylee: India's Constitution.  
 S.C. Kashyap ed.: Perspectives on the Constitution.  
 R. Bhargava (ed.): Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution.  
 D. D. Basu: Introduction to the Constitution of India.  
 S. K. Chaube: The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution.  
 B. Shankar and V. Rodrigues: The Indian Parliament: A Democracy at Work P. B. Mehta and N. Jayal (eds.): The Oxford Companion to Politics in India. D. Kapur and P. B. Mehta (eds.): Public Institutions in India.  
 B. Kirpal et.al (eds.): Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India.  
 B. Arora and D. Verney (eds.): Multiple Identities in a Single State: Indian Federalism in a Comparative Perspective.

ভারতীয়সংবিধান (বাংলাসংস্করণ)

দূর্গাদাসবসু: ভারতেরসংবিধানপরিচয়

সুভাষসিকশ্যপ: আমাদেরসংবিধান (অনুবাদঃ পার্থসরকার)

অমলকুমারমুখোপাধ্যায়: ভারতীয়সংবিধানেরসহজপাঠ

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## SEMESTER -V

### MDC-MN-3Politics in India I: Structures

**Course Objectives:**

This course, being complementary to the next core course (CC-5), seeks to stress on the structural dimensions of Indian politics, within which the political process operates. With the nature and trends in Indian politics background, it familiarizes the students with the 'backbone' of the political process.

**Learning Outcomes:** After completing the course the students will be able to understand:

1. The systemic, ideological and programmatic aspects of political parties
2. The rationale of major interest groups
3. The electoral logistics
4. The rationale and structural dynamics of civil service

**Module I:**

1. Politics in India: nature and trends.
2. Party system: features and trends – major national political parties in India: ideologies and programmes. Rise of state-centric political parties: Overview. Major political parties in West Bengal: ideologies and programmes.
3. Interest groups: role of business groups; working class, peasants.