

FOR SEMESTER V
MPLS - MN -5 TH +TU

Politics 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. Systemic, ideological and programmatic aspects of political parties
2. Rationale of major interest groups
3. Electoral logistics
4. 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.

Module II:

4. Election Commission: composition, functions, role. Electoral reforms.
5. Federal institutions: Inter-governmental forums--- Interstate Council, Zonal Councils: composition, function, role; Finance Commission.
6. Civil Service: evolution; role; Generalist versus Specialist debate; Neutrality issue.

Select Readings:

- N.G. Jayal and P.B. Mehta (eds.), The Oxford Companion to Politics in India.
Sudipta Kaviraj (ed.), Politics in India.
Partha Chatterjee, State and Politics in India.
Z. Hasan (ed.) Parties and Party Politics in India.
Z. Hasan, Parties and Party Politics in India.
S. R. Maheswari, Public Administration in India: The Higher Civil Service.
P. DeSouza and E. Sridharan (eds.) India's Political Parties.
R. Bhargava (ed.) Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution.
E. Sridharan, Coalition Politics and Democratic Consolidation in Asia.
S. K. Das, The Civil Services in India: Oxford India Short Introductions.

Subrata Mitra, Politics in India: Structure, Processes and Policy.

L. Lobo, M. Sahu and J. Shah (eds.), Federalism in India: Towards a Fresh Balance of Power.

R. Hardgrave and S. Kochanek: India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation (Latest edition).

Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Rethinking Public Institutions in India.

Sudha Pai, Constitutional and Democratic Institutions in India: A Critical Analysis.

FOR SEMESTER VI

MPLS - MN -6 TH +TU

Indian Political Thought – I

Course Objectives:

This paper is designed for a mix of basic and intensive understanding of some important concepts and themes shaping Indian political thought. It takes off from the ancient times and navigating through the medieval period it reaches the modern era.

Learning outcomes:

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Acquaint themselves with the nature and form of statecraft of the ancient India.
2. Explain the core ideas in Medieval political thought.
3. Understand the landmark initiatives in Modern Indian political thought.
4. Critically engage with the evolution of political thought in India over centuries.

Module I:

- 1 Ancient Indian political ideas: overview.
2. Kautilya: Saptanga theory, Dandaniti, Diplomacy.
3. Medieval political thought in India: overview (With reference to Barani and Abul Fazal). Legitimacy of kingship.
4. Principle of Syncretism.

Module II:

5. Modern Indian thought: Rammohun Roy as pioneer of Indian liberalism – his views on Rule of law, Freedom of thought and social Justice.
6. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore: Views on Nationalism.
7. M.K. Gandhi: views on State, Swaraj, Satyagraha.

Select Readings:

S. A. A. Rizvi, A History of Sufism in India (Vol.2)

Amit Dey, Sufism in India

V.R. Mehta, Foundation of Indian Political Thought.

T. Pantham and K. Deutsch (eds.), Political Thought in Modern India.