

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
- skill* 3. To enable students to critically reflect on the possible gap between theory and practice of politics
- skill* 4. To make students understand the political and governance process and challenges

Course Outcomes:

The course will equip students to –

- skill* 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
- employability* 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