

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 15: Political Process in India

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Political Process in India DSC 15	4	3	1	-	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course aims at familiarising the students with the processes through which politics makes itself manifest in India. It involves looking at the different modes through which power is exercised and dispersed in society along the axes of caste, class, religion, ethnicity and gender. It seeks insights from political sociology to understand how political process is mediated through and structured by various forms of social power. It enables students to comprehend the relationship between caste, religion and politics, the constitutional recognition and institutional arrangements for self-government, autonomy and development in the context of tribal communities as reflected in the Fifth and Sixth Schedules, and the various constitutional and legal provisions that enable the state to empower the marginalised and vulnerable in society. It also provides students with the analytical tools for understanding the different dimensions of the Indian state as it governs through regulation, welfare and coercion. The course enables the students to understand the party system in India, its changing form in response to democratic churnings and electoral competition, and the role played by them in the articulation of political power. It draws attention to the constitutional, statutory and institutional arrangements for regulating electoral competition through the study of electoral reforms and the Election Commission of India.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the students will demonstrate:

- Understanding of political process in India and its interaction with social cleavages of caste, class, gender, ethnicity and religion
- Familiarity with the ways in which the state in India responds to social groups and vulnerable sections
- Knowledge of political parties and the party system in India
- Awareness of the manner in which representation and electoral competition play out in Indian politics

SYLLABUS OF DSC-15

UNIT – I

Political Parties and the Party System

Political Parties: National and State Parties;

Trends in the Party System: From the Congress System to ascendancy of Bhartiya Janata Party

UNIT – II

Elections and Electoral Processes

Electoral Process, Representation and social determinants of voting behaviour; Election Commission and Electoral Reforms

UNIT – III

Religion and Politics

Debates on Secularism and Communalism

UNIT – IV (

Caste and Politics

Caste in Politics and the Politicization of Caste; Intersectionality of Caste, Class and Gender, reservation and affirmative action policies

UNIT – V

Tribes and Politics

Policies and Challenges: Fifth and Sixth Schedules; Forest Rights Act; Development and Issues of Displacement

UNIT – VI

Dimensions of the State in India

Welfare, Regulatory and Coercive

Essential/recommended readings

1. Political Parties and the Party System

R. Kothari (2002) 'The Congress System', in Z. Hasan (ed.) *Parties and Party Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp 39-55.

Pradeep Chibber and Rahul Verma (2019) 'The Rise of the Second Dominant Party System in India: BJP's New Social Coalition in 2019' in *Studies in Politics*, Vol. 7, No.2, Pp.131-148.

Y. Yadav and S. Palshikar (2006) 'Party System and Electoral Politics in the Indian States, 1952-2002: From Hegemony to Convergence', in P.R. DeSouza and E. Sridharan (eds.) *India's Political Parties*, New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 73-115.

C. Jaffrelot and G. Verniers (2020), 'A New Party System of a New Political System?', *Contemporary South Asia*, Vol.28, No.2, pp. 141-154.

M. Vaishnav and J. Hinton (2019), 'The Dawn of India's Fourth Party System', *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Paper*, 5 September.

K.C. Suri (2019), 'Social Change and the Changing Indian Voter: Consolidation of the BJP in India's 2019 Lok Sabha Election', *Studies in Indian Politics*, Vol.7, Issue 2, pp.234-246.

2. Election and Electoral Process

N. G. Jayal (2006) *Representing India: Ethnic Diversity and the Governance of Public Institutions*, Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Yogendra Yadav (2010), 'Representation', in Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (eds), *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 347-360.

E. Sridharan and M. Vaishnav (2017), 'Election Commission of India', in D. Kapur, P.B. Mehta and M. Vaishnav (eds.) *Rethinking Public Institutions in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 417-463.

U.K. Singh and A. Roy (2018), 'Regulating the Electoral Domain: The Election Commission of India', *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 17 August 2018.