

17HS013 General Studies I :: Polity and Governance of India

Course Description & objectives:

This course introduces basic understanding of Indian polity and constitution. The course objective is to make students to understand the functioning of government at the centre and state level besides local self government as outlined in the constitution and gives basic knowledge about the fundamental rights & duties of a citizen besides gives the knowledge about Elections and Democracy at work.

Course Outcomes:

- CO1- Applies the constitution and its principles to the day to day happenings.
- CO2- Inculcates the respect for the constitution and rights of others besides safeguarding one's own rights.
- CO3- Analyzes functioning of executive, legislative and Judiciary.
- CO4- Compares the Indian constitution with other countries

Unit -I : Overview of Indian constitution

Making of Indian constitution

Salient features

Preamble

Significant Provisions; Amendments; Basic structure

Unit – II: working of the Indian Constitution

Features of Indian Federal system

Centre-State relations- Legislative, executive, financial

Issues and concerns – coalition governments ; Administrative

Reforms

Unit - III: Structure of the Government

Union Government

State Government

Local Government

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Unit – IV: Powers and Functions of Constitutional, Statutory and Non statutory bodies

Constitutional - Election Commission, UPSC, Finance Commission,

CAG etc.,

Statutory - NHRC, CVC, etc.,

Non statutory – Planning Commission, National Development

Council etc.,

Unit – V: Political Dynamics

Representation of Peoples' Act

Political Parties

Pressure Groups

Elections, Electoral Reforms

Transparency, Accountability and Right to Information

TEXT BOOKS:

1. D.D. Basu—Indian Constitution
2. Subhash C. Kashyap : Our Parliament, Publication Division

References:

1. P.M. Bakshi—Indian Constitution
2. Laxmikanth, Indian Polity