

COURSE: V
INDIAN CONSTITUTION: SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA

Course Rationale: This course acquaints students with the constitutional design of state structures and institutions, and their actual working overtime. The Indian Constitution accommodates conflicting impulses (of liberty and justice, territorial decentralization and a strong union, for instance) within itself. The course traces the embodiment of some of these conflicts in constitutional provisions, and shows how these have played out in political practice. It further encourages a study of state institutions in their mutual interaction, and in interaction with the larger extra-constitutional environment.

Module I

- i. Constituent Assembly.
- ii. Salient Features of the Indian Constitution.
- iii. The Preamble.
- iv. Fundamental Rights.
- v. Fundamental Duties.
- vi. Directive Principles of State Policy.

(25 Hours)

Module II

- I. Indian Federalism – Structure and Features.
- II. Decentralisation – Panchayat Raj Institutions.

(20 Hours)

Module III

- I. Union Government: Indian Parliament – Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
- II. Executive – President and Prime Minister.
- III. Judiciary – The Supreme Court-Judicial review.
- IV. Public Interest Litigation and Judicial Activism-Lok Pal.

(25 Hours)

Module IV

- I. Challenges to the Indian Political System: Caste, Communalism, Terrorism, Regionalism and Naxalism.

(20 Hours)

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