

IV SEMESTER

HCT 4.1: CONTEMPORARY DEBATES AND ISSUES IN INDIAN POLITICS

Course Objective:

Contemporary Debates and Issues in Indian Politics focus on analyzing the gap between constitutional ideals and ground-level political realities. The course equips students to critically evaluate how identity politics, democratic institutions, and economic policies interact within the world's largest democracy. Core learning objectives typically include: Critically Analyzing Identity Politics: Understanding how caste, class, gender, and religion shape electoral participation and societal marginalization. Evaluating the Party System: Tracing the transition from single-party dominance to coalition eras and modern political realignments. Assessing Democratic Institutions: Scrutinizing the practical functioning of federalism, electoral reforms, and judicial activism.

Course Content

Unit I: Major Perspectives

- Liberal Perspective: Individual rights, freedom and Democracy.
- Gandhian Perspective: Swaraj and Gram Swaraj, Ethical Politics and rural development.
- Subaltern and Feminist Perspective: politics of Marginalized communities
And Gender politics.

Unit II: Identity Politics

- Caste, Religion and Region.
- Class and Gender
- Plurality and Multiculturalism

Unit III: Regionalism and Secessionism

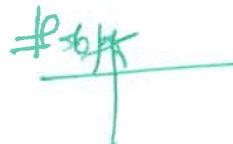
- Language and Ethnicity: Impact on state formation and regional party dominance.
- Autonomy vs Secession: Tensions between integration and regional autonomy demands.
- National and State-Level Politics: Influence of regionalism on national political stability.

Unit IV: Secularism and Communalism

- Constitutional Secularism
- Communal harmony and Conflict
- Minority Rights and Nationalism

Unit V: Contemporary Issues

- Electoral Bonds and Political Finance
- Parliamentary performance and Legislative reforms
- Youth participation and political mobilization



Course Outcomes

1. Critically evaluate various ideological perspectives on Indian politics and their relevance in contemporary debates.
2. Assess the influence of caste, class and gender on political processes, representation and social justice movements.
3. Analyze the role of regionalism and secessionism in shaping state and national politics.
4. will help students become informed participants in debates on the future of Indian democracy, contributing to scholarly and policy discourses.
5. Analyze contemporary issues in Indian Politics such as Electoral Bonds and Political Finance

References:

- Bhargava, R.(2010).*Secularism and its critics*. Oxford University Press.
- Brass,P. R. (1994). *The Politics of India since Independence*. Cambridge University Press.
- Chandra,K.(2004).*Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Head counts in India*. Cambridge University Press.
- Dreze,J.,&Sen,A.(2013).*AnUncertainGlory:IndiaanditsContradictions*. Princeton University Press.
- Guha,R.(2007).*India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*. Harper Collins.
- Jaffrelot,C.(2003).*India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Lower Castes in North India*. Columbia University Press.
- Kaviraj,S. (1997). *Politics in India*. Oxford University Press.
- Kohli,A. (2001) .*The Success of India's Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.

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HCT 4.2: INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Course Objective:

Indian Foreign Policy course trains students to analyze the core principles, historical evolution, and strategic objectives of India's international relations. Primary goals include safeguarding national security, fostering a peaceful neighborhood, advancing inclusive domestic economic growth, engaging the global Diaspora, and asserting India's leadership on global governance and multilateralism.

Course Content

Unit I: Foundations and Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

- Determinants of Foreign Policy: Historical, political, ideological and economic factors shaping decisions.
- Non-Alignment Movement: India's leadership and contribution to the global non-alignment movement.
- India's Geopolitical Context: Key geopolitical influences on foreign policy.

Unit II: India's Foreign Policy in the Cold War and Post-Cold War Era

- Cold War: India's stand during the bipolar Cold War.
- Post-Cold War: India's foreign policy in a Multi Polar world.
- India's Nuclear Policy: Challenges of disarmament and debates on nuclearization.

Unit III: India and Neighbourhood

- India and Neighbours: Relations with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, China and Bhutan.
- India's role in SAARC, BIMSTEC and efforts to promote regional cooperation.
- India and the Indian Ocean: Strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and India's maritime diplomacy.

Unit IV: India in Global Governance

- India-United States relations, India-Russia Relations
- India and Global Economic Institutions: Engagement with WTO, IMF and World Bank in the global economic arena.
- India's role in the United Nations.

Unit V: Contemporary Issues in India's Foreign Policy

- Diaspora and Space Diplomacy
- Pragmatic realism and Multi Alignment
- Internal security and Foreign Policy

Course Outcomes

1. Explain the evolution, principles, determinants, and objectives of India's foreign policy from Independence to the present.
2. Critically analyze the theoretical foundations and decision-making processes that shape India's foreign policy.
3. Evaluate India's bilateral and multilateral relations with major powers, neighbouring countries, and regional and global organizations.
4. Assess India's role in addressing contemporary global issues such as Indo-Pacific geopolitics, climate change, international security, terrorism, energy security, trade, and diaspora diplomacy.
5. Examine the impact of globalization, changing global power dynamics, and emerging technologies on India's foreign policy and strategic interests.

References:

- Bajpai,K., Basit,S., & Krishnappa,V.(2014).*India's grand strategy: History, theory, cases*. Routledge.
- Basrur,R.(2008). *South Asia's Cold War: Nuclear weapons and conflict in comparative perspective*. Routledge.
- Cohen, S.P. (2002). *India: Emerging power* .Brookings Institution Press.
- Dixit, J.N. (2003).*India's foreign policy and its neighbours*. Gyan Publishing House.
- Ganguly,S. (2010). *India's foreign policy: Retrospect and prospect*. Oxford University Press.
- Malone,D .(2011) *.Does the elephant dance?: Contemporary Indian foreign policy*. Oxford University Press.
- Menon,S. (2016).*Choices: Inside them asking of India's foreign policy*. Penguin.
- Mohan,C.R.(2006).*Impossible allies: Nuclear India, United States and the global order*. India Research Press.
- Pant,H.V. (2009). *Contemporary debates in Indian foreign and security policy: India negotiates its rise in the international system*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Perkovich,G .(1999). *India's nuclear bomb: The impacting global proliferation*. University of California Press.
- Rajamohan,C. (2003). *Crossing the Rubicon: The shaping of India's new foreign policy*. Viking.



HCT 4.3: POLITICAL ECONOMY IN INDIA

Course Objective:

Political Economy in India course examines how political power, institutions, and economic systems interact. Primary objectives include analyzing state-market relations, understanding how economic policies like the 1991 reforms impact social equity, and evaluating how factors such as caste, class, and regionalism influence public policy and development.

Course Content

Unit I: Foundations of Political Economy

- Meaning, Nature and scope Political Economy.
- Classical, Marxist Political Economy
- Political Economy and development: Interplay between political stability and economic shifts.

Unit II: The Indian Economic Transformation

- The Planning Process in India: From central planning to economic liberalization.
- Industrialization and Rural Transformation: Capital's role in reshaping India's economy.
- Political Economy of Development: Mixed economy models, planning and development limits.

Unit III: Liberalization and Globalization in India

- Liberalization: Political context, privatization and critiques of India's development model.
- Globalization and Global Governance: Impact of global governance and civil society movements.
- Politicization of Foreign Aid: Role of foreign aid and credit in India's economic strategy.

Unit IV: Political Economy and Human Development

- India's Class Structure: Agrarian class, middle class and working-class informal sector workers.
- Human Development Index (HDI)
- Employment, Skill development and Inclusive growth.

Unit V: Contemporary Issues of Political Economy

- Agrarian crisis and farmer's issues
- Digital Economy
- Rural-Urban Disparities

Course Outcomes

1. Explain the concepts, approaches, and evolution of the political economy of India in the context of historical and contemporary developments.
2. Critically analyze the relationship between the state, market, society, and development in shaping India's political economy.
3. Evaluate the impact of economic reforms, liberalization, privatization, globalization, and public policy on India's economic and political development.



4. Assess key issues in India's political economy, including poverty, inequality, employment, agriculture, industrialization, regional disparities, human development, and social justice.
5. Examine the role of institutions, governance, fiscal and monetary policies, and welfare programmes in promoting inclusive and sustainable development

References:

- Bardhan,P.(1998). *The political economy of development in India*. Oxford University Press.
- Chibber, V. (2003) .*Locked in place: State-building and late industrialization in India*. Princeton University Press.
- Das,G. (2002). *India unbound: The social and economic revolution from independence to the global information age*. Penguin Books.
- Dreze,J.,&Sen,A.(2013).*An uncertain lory: India and its contradictions*. Princeton University Press.
- Evans,P.(1995).*Embedded autonomy: States and industrial transformation*. Princeton University Press.
- Kohli,A.(2004).*State-directed development: Political power and industrialization in the global periphery*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mishra,R .(1999).*Globalization and the welfare state*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- North,D.C.(1990). *Institutions, institutional change and economic performance*. Cambridge University Press.
- Polanyi,K. (2001). *The great transformation : The political and economic origins of our time*. Beacon Press.
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- Sen,A .(1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.
- Stiglitz ,J.E. (2002). *Globalization and its discontents*. W.W. Norton & Company.

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SCT 4.1 (A): CASTE POLITICS IN INDIA

Course Objective:

Caste Politics in India course analyzes the intersection of historical social stratification and modern democratic processes. Its primary objectives are to investigate how caste influences voting behavior, policy-making, political mobilization, and power dynamics, while critically examining the evolution of affirmative action and social justice. Core learning objectives typically include: Understanding Caste Dynamics: Tracing the evolution of caste from ancient societal structures to a modernized political category. Analyzing Colonial Impact: Exploring how British administrative policies (e.g., the Census, separate electorates) reshaped and codified caste identities. Electoral Mobilization: Examining how political parties use caste demographics, vote banks, and caste symbols to campaign and secure power. Social Movements: Studying anti-caste movements and Dalit discourse in challenging traditional hierarchical power structures. Evaluating the socio-political impact of reservation policies, such as the Mandal Commission Havanor Commission recommendations, on democratic representation and social equity.

Course Content

Unit I: Theoretical Perspectives of Caste

- Concept, evolution and Characteristics of Caste
- Caste and Varna: Historical development
- Theories of caste: G S Ghurve, M N Srinivas and Andre Beteille

Unit II: Caste and Indian Politics

- Politicization of Caste and Castezation of Politics
- Caste as a determinant of Voting behavior
- Caste and Political Parties

Unit III: Constitutional frame work and Social Justice

- Constitutional provisions relating to equality and social Justice
- Mandal Commission and It's Impact
- Caste and Identity Politics

Unit IV: Caste Politics and Social Justice in Karnataka

- Devaraj Urs model
- Empowerment of backward classes: L G Havanur Commission
- AHINDA: Socio- Political Coalition

Unit V: Contemporary Trends and Issues in Caste Politics

- Caste Census and Public policy debates
- Caste discrimination in higher education and work places
- Urbanization, Migration and changing Caste Identities

Course Outcomes:

1. Explain the historical evolution, concepts, theories, and socio-political dimensions of caste in India.
2. Analyze the relationship between caste, democracy, electoral politics, political representation, and public policy in contemporary India.
3. Evaluate the role of caste-based social movements, including Dalit, OBC, Adivasi, and regional movements, in promoting social justice and political empowerment.
4. Critically assess the impact of reservation policies, affirmative action, Mandal politics, and judicial interventions on Indian society and governance.
5. Evaluate contemporary trends and Issues like caste census, migration and Urbanization

References:

- Rajni Kothari, Caste in Indian Politics, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1970.
- M. N. Srinivas, Social Change in Modern India, University of California Press, 1966.
- Mysore Narasimhachar Srinivas, Andre Béteille, Caste, Class and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification in a Tanjore Village, Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Christophe Jaffrelot, India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Lower Castes in North India Columbia University Press, 2003.
- Gail Omvedt, Dalits and the Democratic Revolution, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1994.
- K. L. Sharma, Caste and Class in India, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 1994.



. SCT 4.1 (B): ELECTORAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Course Objective:

This Course analyses the structure and functioning of the Indian electoral system. It also examine role of electoral institutions and political parties. It evaluates the impact of technology, media and judicial interventions on elections.

Course Content

Unit I: Evolution and Constitutional Framework of Elections

- Evolution of Electoral politics in India
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Representation of People Acts 1950 and 1951

Unit II: Voting Behavior and Electoral Participation

- Determinants of Voting Behavior: Caste, Class, religion, Gender and Regional Factors
- Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Marginalized communities
- Opinion pools and Exit pools

Unit III: Electoral Reforms and Challenges

- Electoral reforms and Major committee recommendations
- Electronic Voting Machines
- Anti-Defection Law

Unit IV: Electoral Institutions in India

- Election Commission of India (ECI), Composition Powers and Functions
- Delimitations Commission: Composition Powers and Functions
- Law Commission of India and Electoral reforms

Unit V: Electoral Governance and Contemporary Challenges

- Electoral Integrity and Democratic Consolidation
- Free and Fair Elections: Norms and Standards
- Electoral Literacy and Voter Education (SVEEP)

Course Outcomes:

1. Explain the constitutional, legal, and institutional framework governing the electoral process in India.
2. Critically analyze the role and functioning of the Election Commission of India and other institutions involved in conducting free and fair elections.
3. Evaluate the electoral system, voting behaviour, political parties, electoral reforms, campaign strategies, and the influence of money and media in Indian elections.
4. Assess the role of technology, electoral laws, voter participation, and electoral ethics in strengthening democratic governance.
5. Examine contemporary issues and challenges in the Indian electoral process, including criminalization of politics, electoral finance, misinformation, electoral integrity, and electoral reforms

References:

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- Subhash C. Kashyap, Our Constitution and Our Parliament, National Book Trust, New Delhi.
- D. D. Basu, Introduction to the Constitution of India, LexisNexis Butterworths, New Delhi.

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- Paul R. Brass, The Politics of India Since Independence, Cambridge University Press.

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