



**Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

**FIRST SEMESTER 2023-2024**  
Course Handout Part II

Date: 11-08-2023

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

*Course No.* : HSS F249  
*Course Title* : Politics in India  
*Instructor-in-Charge* : Dr. Lavanya Suresh

**Scope and Objective of the Course:**

India is a diverse country and has sustained a thriving democracy for decades. In its functioning, the Indian democracy deals with various complex issues juxtaposed against each other. The country is defined by great cultural diversity on the one hand and, on the other, the presence of deep social and economic inequality. Some state institutions that deal with these complexities have flourished and strengthened our democracy, while others have not. There is a constant negotiation of political space, ideologies, and identities by the state, political parties, and civil society. A constant challenge faced by the Indian democracy is its capacity to redistribute wealth and alleviate poverty. This Politics in India course will address these issues and help students understand the complexity that defines Indian politics.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After completing the course, students will be able to

- Understand political institutions that define democracy in India.
- Elaborate on the connection between social cleavages, identity, and politics.
- Discuss and analyse political processes.
- Analyse the challenges faced by the Indian democratic state.

**Textbooks:**

Jayal, N. G. & Mehta, P. B. (eds.) (2011) *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*: Student Edition. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

**Reference books**

- Tiwari, R.K. (eds.) (2019) *Political Parties, Party Manifestos and Elections in India, 1909–2014*. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
- Kapur, D. & Khosla, M. (eds.) (2019) *Regulation in India: Design, Capacity, Performance*. New Delhi: Hart Publishing.



- Chhibber, P.K. & Verma, R. (2018) Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Vaishnav, Milan. (2017) When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics. New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers.
- Kothari, Rajni. (2012). Politics in India. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.

#### Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-4	To understand the structure of the Indian state after Independence in the context of its colonial legacy	<b>Unit I: The Institutional Setting :</b> The State - Transformed structures of political power	Chapter 1
5-7	To contemplate the Indian Constitution and the Constituent Assembly Debates (1946-9)	Constitutionalism – Vision, power and evolution	Chapter 2
8-10	To study India's bicameral parliamentary democracy	Parliament - Origin, structures, practices	Chapter 3
11-13	To analyse the process of fragmentation of the Indian party system at the national level	The Party System - Fragmentation, Alliances	Chapter 8
14-17	To examine the relationship between class and politics in India	<b>Unit II: Social Cleavages, Identity, and Politics :</b> Class and Politics	Chapter 9
18-20	To analyse democratic political processes in terms of castes and communities	Caste and Politics	Chapter 10
21-23	To examine the relationship between religion and politics in India	Religion and Politics	Chapter 14
24-26	To explore the significance of identity and agency	Politics and National Identity	Chapter 13
27-30	To study the significance of political parties as an institution	<b>Unit III: Political Processes :</b> Political Parties - National parties, coalitions, critical issues	Chapter 16
31-33	To discuss social justice and the state	Social Justice - State and social justice	Chapter 24
34-36	To examine the role of major collective campaigns in Independent India	Social Movements	Chapters 25 and 26
37-40	To assess the state's role in addressing inequality	Politics and Redistribution – History, state variation, corruption	Chapter 33

#### Evaluation Scheme:



Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignments	TBA	30	TBA	Open Book
Mid-semester Test	90 mnts	30	09/10 - 11.30 - 1.00PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Examination	180 mnts	40	06/12 AN	Closed Book

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** Will be announced on CMS.

**Notices:** Notices concerning the course will be displayed on **CMS only**.

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up component will be allowed provided there is documentary support to prove the authenticity of the case. In granting make-up, the decision of the instructor-in-charge will be final.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Dr. Lavanya Suresh  
**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**

