

# **Assam University, Silchar**

## **Four Year Undergraduate Programme**

### **Value Added Course**

VAC 101

### **Understanding India**

Course Code	VAC101
Name of Course	Understanding India
Learning Level	100-199
Credits	3
Contact hours	45
Total Marks	100
ESM	70
Internal	30

The Understanding India is to be studied by the Students of all the four broad disciplines viz. Natural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Commerce.

### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to expose the students to historical, political, social, economic and cultural heritage of India

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, the student will be able to have a knowledge regarding

1. Heritage of India and making of modern India
2. Constitutional obligations: fundamental rights and duties.
3. Indian social systems
4. India's struggle for freedom
5. Evolution of Indian economy

### **Course Outlines**

Geographical features of India, The people of India, Indian Constitution Background of India's culture, Indian Epics and philosophical currents, Outline of Indian history, Social structure of different regions and communities of India, Indian Political ideas, An overview of the evolution of the Indian economy

## **Course Content**

### **Unit I: Geographical and Physical features of India**

Physical features of India including mountain, plateau, plain, coast, island, vegetation, rivers, soils, and climate and their diversities; Sacredness of land and waterscapes

The People of India: Racial diversities, Pre-Aryan, Aryan, Dravidian, Austric, Austroloid, Mongoloid, Negritos: their spatial distribution; period of migration and settlement, rise of diverse cultures, Buddhism, Jainism, Sanatan (Hinduism), Sikhism, Bhakti streams, Zoroastrianism, Islam, Sufism, Christianity, Sarana dharma and other tribal religions. Epics and Philosophical literature: Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vedas, Upanishada, Tripitaka, Unity in Diversity

### **Unit II: The Idea of India**

Bharatvarsha, Hindusthan, India: concepts and evolution, Early History: Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization, Vedic age, Rise of monarchies and empires: Mourya, Gupta, Khilji, Mughal, British rule, Independence and Partition of India

### **Unit III: Changing Social Structure**

Varna, Jati, Caste, Tribe, Jajmani system, Ashramas & Samskara, untouchability, Islamic social system, Christian social system. Egalitarianism of the tribals, sanskritisation, Hinduisation, Islamisation, Christianisation, social Reforms movement: Ram mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotiba Phule, Narayana Guru, Vireshalingam, Begum Rokeya, B R Ambedkar

### **Unit IV: Indian Political System**

1. Indian Constitution; Preamble, Salient features, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties
2. Indian Political ideas: Swaraj, Sarvodaya, Sarva-Dharma-Samabhava, Satyagraha, Non-violence, and Social Justice
3. Freedom movement in India: Tribal uprisings, First War of independence, organized national movement, revolutionary terrorist movements, integration of Princely States, emergence of India as a nation

### **Unit V: Evolution of the Indian Economy**

1. State of the Indian Economy in the colonial period (1757-1947): Agriculture, Trade and Commerce, Industry, National Income
2. State of the Indian Economy in the post-colonial period (1947-): Experience of planned economic development (1951-1991) and liberalized economy since 1991 in agriculture, trade and commerce, industry, financial market, growth and distribution of national income

### **Reading List**

1. B L Fadia, Indian Government and Politics, Sahitya Bhawan Publications
2. Gaurav Datt, Ashwani Mahajan, Indian Economy, S Chand Publishing (current edition)
3. Granville Austin, The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation, OUP
4. Romesh Dutta, Economic History of India (2<sup>nd</sup> ed), Low Price Publications, 1994
5. S S M Desai, Economic History of India, Himalayan Publishing House, 1980
6. Tirthankar Roy, The Economic History of India, 1857-2010, OUP

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