

Political Concepts and Constitution of India: The academic input during the Foundation Course is designed to introduce the Officer trainees to the fundamental concepts of political science, the fundamental concepts of Indian Constitution and how they relate to the working of an administrator and evolution of and current status of Indian Politics.

Course Structure

Unit I: Introduction to Politics

- Politics, State and Government: What is politics; Idea of State, its scope and dimensions; Evolution of Modern State: Rule of Law in our times
- Traditions of Political Thought, both National and International.

Unit II: Normative Concepts of Modern Political Theory

- The concept of rights, nature of rights, the classification of rights; various theories
- The definition of liberty, the kinds of liberty and different views on liberty.
- The development of the concept of the equality, the nature of equality, the kinds of equality and different views of equality
- The idea of justice, the development of the concept of justice, theories of justice

Unit III: Grammar of Democracy

- History of Democracy: From Antiquity to the Present
- Principles of Democracy; Procedural Democracy; Deliberative Democracy; Participation and Representation.

Unit IV: Contemporary Indian Politics I

- Evolution of Politics in India and Contemporary Challenges; traditional and emerging Interest and Pressure Groups
- Elections, Political Parties and the Evolution of the Indian Party System: The drivers and determinants; how representative is party politics
- Coalition Politics in India in Comparative Perspective

Unit V: Contemporary Indian Politics II

- Nature of Federal Politics and Political Decentralization
- Peasant and Labour Movements
- Left wing movements in India: Origins and nature
- Religion and Politics
- Caste and Politics; Political and Social Imperatives of Affirmative Action
- Regionalism and Secessionism

Unit VI: Introduction to the Constitution of India

- History and evolution of the Indian Constitution.
- Key themes at the inception of the Constitution of India.

- Constitutionalism and approaches to thinking about role of government and the great debates of 20th century.
- The main sources of the Constitution namely, Government of India Act, 1935, other constitutions and objectives resolution of December, 1946.

Unit VII: Union Executive

- General principles governing the executive and the interaction between executive and other organs of the government.
- Civil services under the Constitution: Conditions of service of the civil servants and safeguards provided by the Constitution.
- Doctrine of Judicial Review: Grounds for the exercise of power of judicial review of administrative action

Unit VIII: Rights and Goals

- The concept of 'State' from the standpoint of fundamental rights.
- The concepts of equality before law and equal protection of the laws.
- Fundamental freedoms i.e. freedom of speech of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom to form associations, freedom of movement, freedom to reside as well as freedom of profession, occupation, trade & business.
- Protection against retrospective criminal laws, protection against double jeopardy and prohibition against self-incrimination.
- Constitutional remedies provided by Article 32 & 226 of the Constitution.
- Directive Principles of State Policy & Fundamental Duties.
- How the Constitution has worked: The impact of Constitution in the political, economic & governance spheres.