

POLITICAL SCIENCE
POL./EL-301 – INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS(A)

Unit –I. Making of the Indian constitution Basic features

Introduction:

- **The Constitution of India was framed by a Constituent Assembly set up under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946.**
- **It took the Constituent Assembly 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the task.**
- **The Constitution was adopted on 26th Nov. 1949 and came into force on 26th Jan. 1950.**
- **Basic features:**
- **Longest written Constitution.**
- **Features adopted from various sources.**
- **Mixture of rigidity and flexibility.**
- **Parliamentary form of government.**
- **Blend of federal and unitary features.**
- **A secular state.**
- **Independence of judiciary.**
- **Fundamental rights, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties.**
- **Universal Adult Franchise.**
- **Single Citizenship.**
- **Emergency powers of the President.**

Unit-II Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State policy

- **The constitution of India is preceded by a preamble which (i) indicates the source from which it derives authority; and (ii) states the objective which the constitution seeks to achieve.**
- **Part-III (Article 14- 32) of the Indian Constitution deals with Fundamental Rights which are guaranteed to the citizens of India.**
- **Part-IV (Article 36-51) of the Indian constitution deals with Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles are guidelines to the state for promoting social and economic justice.**
- **Article 51A of the Indian constitution deals with Fundamental Duties, incorporated by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.**

Unit-III Parliament, President, Council of Ministers

- **Parliament:** The Parliament is the Union Legislature of India. It consist of the President and the two Houses- the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Sessions of the parliament.**
- **Features of the Indian Parliment**
- **Powers and functions of the parliament.**
- **Parliamentary Committees.**
- **President:** The executive head of the state.
- **Qualifications.**
- **Election and Oath and term of office.**
- **Impeachment.**
- **Powers and functions of the President:** Executive powers, legislative powers, financial powers, judicial powers, diplomatic powers and emergency powers.
- **Position of the president.**
- **Council of Ministers:** The President appoints the council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- **They are collectively responsible and accountable to the Parliament.**
- **Difference between council of ministers and Cabinet.**
- **Features of the council of minister:** leaderships of the Prime Minister, collective responsibility, responsibility of the political executive, secrecy, presence of nominal executive head, right to dissolve the Lok Sabha and homogeneity.
- **Powers and functions:** it performs and enjoy certain executive, legislative, financial and diplomatic powers and functions.

Unit-VI. State Legislature, Governor, Chief Minister.

- **State Legislature:** Article 158 provides for legislature consisting of Governor, and a legislative Assembly or Council or both in every state.
- **Sessions of the state legislatures.**
- **Features of the state legislatures.**
- **Powers and functions.**
- **Governor:** The head of the State is the Governor who is appointed by the President.
- **Qualifications.**

- Term of office.
- Powers and functions: legislative powers, executive powers, financial powers, judicial powers and discretionary powers.
- Chief Minister: The real executive head of the state is the chief minister. The Governor appoints the Chief Minister and on his advice, the council of ministers.
- Qualifications.
- Term of office.
- Powers and functions: Link between council of ministers and Governor, power in relation to the council of ministers, power in relation to the state legislature.
- Position of the Chief Minister.

Unit-V. Judiciary: Supreme Court, High court and Judicial Review.

- Supreme Court: The apex of the judicial system of India.
- Composition.
- Appointment.
- Qualifications.
- Tenure and removal of Judges.
- Ad hoc judges.
- Powers and Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Original jurisdiction, Appellate jurisdiction, Advisory jurisdiction, court of records and other powers.
- High Courts: The Highest judicial organ of the state.
- Composition and appointment.
- Qualifications.
- Oath and term of office.
- Powers and functions of the High Court: Original jurisdiction, Appellate jurisdiction, power of superintendence, control over subordinate courts, guardian of Fundamental Rights and court of record.
- Judicial review: The right of the court to review laws passed by the legislature and orders issued by the executive when challenged by the affected persons, and declare them null and void if they infringe/violate the provisions of the constitution.
- Supreme Court and Judicial Review.
- Operation of Judicial Review.
- Criticisms of judicial Review