



The Kerala State Higher Education Council
Restructured Curriculum for Undergraduate Courses

Syllabi for Common Courses
INDIAN CONSTITUTION, SECULAR STATE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Course : 5

No. of Credits - 4

No. of contact hours - 90

Aim of the course

To inculcate secular, democratic and environmental values in the students

Objectives of the course

- To give the students a general understanding of India's Constitution and secular tradition
- To enable the students to understand the plural traditions of India
- To strengthen the value of citizenship and spirit of comradeship
- To inculcate environmental awareness among the students
- To critically evaluate the working of Indian Constitution with reference to the above

Course Outline

Module I

Introduction to Constitution: Historical background- Constituent Assembly of India- Philosophical and political foundations of the Indian Constitution- Preamble- Fundamental Rights- Directive Principles of State Policy- Fundamental Duties- Citizenship

Readings

- *The Constituent Assembly Debates* (Proceedings) 9th December 1946 to 24th January 1950, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi(Extracts of speeches made by Munshi K.M. & Dr. B.R. Ambedkar)
- Jha, Shefali, *Rights versus Representation: Defending Minority Interests in the Constituent Assembly*, Economic and Political Weekly, vol.38, No.16, Apr 19-25, 2003, pp.1579-1583.
- Chiriyankandeth, James, *Creating a secular state in a religious country: The debate in the Indian Constituent Assembly*, Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, vol.38, Issue 2, July 2000, pp.1-24.

Module II

Federal character of Indian Polity: Union and State Governments-Centre State Relations- Executive-Legislature-Judiciary-S.R. Bommai Case Vs Union of India.

Readings

- Narang, A S, *Indian Government and Politics*, Geethanjali Publishing House, New Delhi, 2000, pp.99-238
- S R Bommai Vs Union of India, AIR 1994, SC 1918

Module III

Secularism: Concept and Practice: Meaning and definition-Secular State and Society- Challenges to secularism: Casteism and Communalism.

Readings

- Nandy, Ashis, "The Politics of Secularism and the Recovery of Religious Tolerance", in Veena Das (ed) *Mirrors of Violence: Communities, Riots and Survivors in South Asia*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1990
- Thapar, Romila, "Secularism, History and Contemporary Politics in India", in Anuradha Needham and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (eds), *The Crisis of Secularism in India*, Duke University Press, 2007

Module IV

Sustainable environment: Right to Life (Art.21) and environmental protection - Articles 48A and 51A(g) National Environmental Policy

Readings

- Roy, Arundhati, *The Greater Common Good*, India Book Distributor, Bombay, 1999
- Tiwari, A. K. *Environmental Laws in India*, Deep and Deep publications, New Delhi, 2006

Module V

Working of the Indian Constitution: Selected case studies

1) Reservation for Minorities and Social Justice

Reading

- Sinha, Shailendra Kumar *Indian Constitution: What it speaks of Minorities*,
- Janaki Prakashan, Patna, 2007
- Benjamin, Joseph (ed), *Minorities in Indian Social System*, 2 vols, Gyan, New Delhi, 2006.

2) Uniform Civil Code and Special Status for Jammu and Kashmir and other regions

Reading

- Baird, Robert D. (ed), *Religion and Law in Independent India*, Manohar Publishers, New Delhi.
- Raju, M.P., *Uniform Civil Code: A Mirage?*, Media House, Delhi, 2003.

3) Anti terrorism laws and Human Rights

Reading

- Singh, Ujwal Kumar *The State, Democracy and Anti-terror laws in India*, Sage Publishers, Delhi, 2007

4) Environmental Issues:

- a) Bhopal Gas Tragedy- Negligence of the State- corporate responsibility - violation of air, water and industrial Acts
- b) Narmada issue-politics of development and displacement- provisions regarding conservation of water in the constitution- Article 262 and Seventh schedule

Reading

- Chokkar, Kiran B, et.al (eds.) *Understanding Environment*, Sage Publications, NewDelhi, 2004
- Wood, John R, *The Politics of Water Resource Development in India*, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2007, pp.36-105

Note on course work

It should provide a general rather than a specialized understanding of the subject. It should enable the students to appreciate the role of the constitution in the making of the secular state and sustainable environment in India.

General Reading

- Basu, Durga Das, *Introduction to the Constitution of India*, Prentice Hall of India, New Delhi.
- Sharma, K.L., *Social Stratification in India: Issues and Themes*, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1997.
- Bhargava, Rajeev, *Secularism and its Critiques*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi 2001.
- Khan, Rasheeduddin, *Federal India: A Design for change*, Vikas, New Delhi, 1992
- Smith, Donald Eugene, *India as a Secular State*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1963.
- Fisher, William F(ed.), *Towards Sustainable Development? Struggling Over India's Narmada River*, M.E.Sharp, NewYork, 1995
- Sufrin, Sydney C, *Bhopal: Its Setting, Responsibility and Challenge*, Ajanta Publishers, NewDelhi, 1985

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