

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Certificate Programme

in

Indian Constitution and Polity



Discipline of Political Science

Surya Kumar Bhuyan School of Social Sciences

- **Name of the Programme:** Certificate Programme in Indian Constitution and Polity
- **Total Credits :** 16
- **Duration :** Six Months
- **Eligibility:** 10+2
- **Total Fee:** Rs.3500
- **Significance and Relevance :**

The *Certificate Programme in Indian Constitution and Polity* is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of India's constitutional framework, political institutions, and governance processes. Tailor-made for newly elected legislators, civil service aspirants, and informed citizens, the programme bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical governance. The programme seeks to equip learners with insights into the functioning of the democratic polity in India. In a rapidly changing socio-political environment, a deep grasp of constitutional principles—such as liberty, equality, democracy, secularism and justice—is essential for responsible public leadership and civic engagement. The programme, therefore, offers a comprehensive and integrated understanding of India's constitutional framework, governance structures, administrative mechanisms and democratic practices in both national and comparative perspectives. The programme examines major institutions of governance encompassing the executive, legislature and judiciary at the Union and State levels. The learners shall also gain comprehensive knowledge about the dynamics of public administration in India.

- **Learning Objectives:**

The primary objectives of the certificate programme are as follows:

- a) To foster constitutional literacy, promote awareness of governmental structures and processes
- b) To generate awareness regarding the constitutional foundation and the politico-administrative framework of the Indian polity

- c) To build analytical skills for interpreting key constitutional provisions.
- d) To foster comparative analyses in the field of parliamentary studies

- **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the programme, learners will be able to :

- a) Critically evaluate constitutional issues, understand the interrelationship between institutions, and appreciate the role of citizens and representatives in upholding democratic values.
- b) The programme thus aims to produce informed legislators, confident civil service aspirants, and engaged citizens capable of contributing meaningfully to India's governance and public life.

- **Target Audience:**

The certificate programme aims to cater to the educational and professional needs of prospective and incumbent legislators, civil service aspirants, civil society activists, administrative personnel, educators and those associated with public policy making processes.

- **Syllabus:**

Course 1: Introduction to the Constitution of India

(Credits: 4)

Unit 1: Constitutional History

Unit 2: Making of the Indian Constitution

Unit 3: Philosophy of the Indian Constitution

Unit 4: Features of the Indian Constitution

Unit 5: Union and its Territory

Unit 6: Citizenship

Unit 7: Fundamental Rights: Meaning, Characteristics and Significance

Unit 8: Types of Fundamental Rights

Unit 9: Directive Principles of State Policy: Features, Classification, Utility and Implementation

Unit 10: Fundamental Duties

Unit 11: Relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy

Unit 12: Amendment of the Indian Constitution

Unit 13: Important Amendments of the Indian Constitution

Unit 14: Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution

Course 2: Governance Structures and Institutions**(Credits: 4)**

Unit 1: President of India: Powers and Functions; and Position

Unit 2: Vice-President of India

Unit 3: Prime Minister; Union Council of Ministers

Unit 4: Parliament of India

Unit 5: Supreme Court

Unit 6: Judicial Review and Judicial Activism

Unit 7: Governor

Unit 8: Chief Minister; State Council of Ministers

Unit 9: State Legislature

Unit 10: High Court

Unit 11: Centre-State Relations; Inter-State Councils

Unit 12: Local Self Government in India

Unit 13: Governance under Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedules

Unit 14: Election Commission and Electoral Reforms

Course 3: Indian Administration**(Credits: 4)**

Unit 1: The Indian Administrative System: Evolution and Features

Unit 2: Civil Service in India: Structural Framework

Unit 3: Union and State Public Service Commissions

Unit 4: PMO and Cabinet Secretary

Unit 5: Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Unit 6: Bureaucracy in India

Unit 7: Development Administration in India

Unit 8: Financial Administration

Unit 9: Performance Budgeting and Zero-Base Budgeting

Unit 10: Good Governance: Accountability and Commitment

Unit 11: e-Governance

Unit 12: Corruption: Issues and Challenges

Unit 13: Ombudsman: Lokpal and Lokayukta; Transparency in Administration

Unit 14: Administrative Reforms in India

Course 4: Comparative Democracy

(Credits: 4)

Part A (India)

Unit 1: Evolution of Parliamentary Democracy

Unit 2: Nature, Origin and Development of the State in India

Unit 3: An Overview of Important Acts

Unit 4: Parliamentary system in India in the post-independent period

Unit 5: History of Assam Legislature

Unit 6: Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Indian Parliament and Assam Legislature

Unit 7: Governor's Address and Motions

Unit 8: Legislation: Law making procedure in the Parliament and Assam Legislature

Unit 9: Various Committees of the Parliament:

Unit 10: Delegated Legislation in Parliament and State Legislature

Part B (Comparative Perspective)

Unit 11: A comparative study of the political system of India, Great Britain and United States of America

Unit 12: A comparative study of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Unit 13: A comparative study of the Party system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America

Unit 14: A comparative study of the Committee system of India, Great Britain and the United States of America
