PG S1-02 (VAC)

Four Year Undergraduate Programme
(As Per CBCS, NEP 2020)

SEMESTER I

Essentials of Indian Constitution (VAC)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SURYA KUMAR BHUYAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The course “Essentials of Indian Constitution” is designed to help the learners to have an understanding of the fundamental law that governs the nation and polity in India, which being the Constittion of India. The functioning of the Indian political system is based on a written Constitution, which is the basic and fundamental law of the land. The Constitution subscribes to the principles of popular sovereignty and democracy. A political system emerges in a partular historical context. Some customs, traditions, practices, patterns of beliefs, rules, etc are inherited by a political system from the past and they make a lasting impact upon the working of the political system for years to come. Accordingly, the course, “Essentials of Indian Constitution” begins by exploring the historical background of the framing of the Indian Constitution and its sources. Thereafter, the course discusses the philosophy and ideals of the Indian Constitution and then goes on to describe its salient features. India being a democracy, it guarantees certain fundamental rights to its citizens. It also expects its citizens to perform certain duties in the interest of the welfare of the nation. Hence, the course discusses the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties of the citizens of India. India being a welfare state, the Constitution has incorporated some instructions to the State in the form of Directive Principles of State Policy for achieving socio-economic welfare. These Directive Principles of State Policy have been discussed in the course.

The Constitution of India prescribes a federal structure of polity for India. Accordingly, the course discusses the governmental structures both at the Central/Union and State levels with reference to the Union government (comprising the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers) and the State government (comprising the Governor, the State Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister). The Union legislature (namely, the Parliament of India consisting of the two houses of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and the State legislature are also discussed. A significant pre-requisite in a democratic polity is the existence of an independent judicial

system to act as the guardian of the Constitution and the rights of the people. The Constitution of India too provides for an independent integrated judicial system, with the Supreme Court standing at the apex of the judicial structure. Accordingly, the course discusses the judiciary in India with reference to the Supreme Court and High Courts.