BPSC-132: Indian Government and Politics

(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Assignment Code: BPSC-132/ASST/TMA/2026-27

Marks: 100

Assignment – I

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each. (2 × 20 = 40 marks)

1. Compare the Liberal, Marxist and Gandhian approaches to the study of Indian politics.
2. Examine the relationship of caste, class, tribe and gender with Indian politics.

Assignment – II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

3. Discuss the basic features of the Indian Constitution.
4. Explain the composition and functions of the Indian legislature.
5. Examine secularism and communalism as competing tendencies in Indian politics.

Assignment – III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each. (5 × 6 = 30 marks)

6. Fundamental Rights
7. Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties
8. The Indian executive
9. Workers and farmers in Indian politics
10. Parties and party systems in India

1. Compare the Liberal, Marxist and Gandhian approaches to the study of Indian politics.

Answer

Introduction

Indian politics may be studied through different approaches because it combines constitutional institutions, economic inequalities, social hierarchies and ethical struggles. The liberal, Marxist and Gandhian perspectives do not simply offer three competing descriptions of government; they ask different questions about political power, freedom, democracy and social change. A comparison reveals their contributions and limitations, and also explains why no single approach can capture India's diversity. ## The liberal approach

The liberal approach begins with the individual as a bearer of rights and treats legitimate political authority as authority limited by law and public consent. In India it highlights the Constitution, parliamentary representation, independent judiciary, elections, federalism, civil liberties and the rule of law. Political competition among parties, interest groups and citizens is expected to accommodate conflicting demands through discussion, compromise and peaceful change. Universal adult franchise has particular importance: citizens who differed widely in caste, literacy, wealth and gender received equal votes at the establishment of the Republic. Constitutional protections against discrimination, judicial review and accountable government are achievements best understood through this lens. Liberal interpretations also examine whether institutions work as promised. They ask whether electoral competition enables government to respond to public preferences, whether minorities can exercise rights, and whether courts and legislatures check arbitrary power. However, legal equality may coexist with enormous differences in income, landownership, education and access to influence. A poor worker and a wealthy business owner have equal votes but not necessarily equal power to shape policy. A narrow institutional liberalism may therefore underestimate the structural inequalities beneath formal citizenship. ## The Marxist approach

The Marxist approach directs attention to material production, class relations, ownership and the state's role in reproducing or challenging economic power.