BPSE-143: State Politics in India

(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Assignment Code: BPSE-143/ASST/TMA/2026-27

Marks: 100

Assignment – I

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

1. Trace the development of state politics in India and discuss the major approaches to its study.

2. Analyse Union-State and State-local relations in the Indian federal system.

Assignment – II

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

3. Discuss the demands for state autonomy and sub-regional autonomy in India.

4. Explain the major state development models in India.

5. Examine the relationship between migration and state politics.

Assignment – III

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

6. State party system

7. Electoral politics in the states

8. Political leadership in the states

9. Political assertion of Dalits, OBCs and women

10. Regions and tribes in state politics

1. Trace the development of state politics in India and discuss the major approaches to its study.

Answer

State politics in India has developed through changing relations between the Union and the states, the rise of regional leadership, shifts in party competition and the political mobilisation of different social groups. It cannot be understood simply as a smaller version of national politics. A state has its own history, caste and class relationships, languages, economic priorities and political organisations. These factors influence how national institutions actually function.

During the freedom struggle, provincial politics created an early foundation for state-level political activity. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, provincial autonomy was introduced within colonial limits, and elections in 1937 provided experience of party organisation and ministries. After Independence, the Constitution established a federal system with a strong Union. During the 1950s and early 1960s, the Congress governed the Centre and most states. National leadership, planned development and the goals of integration strongly influenced state agendas. Yet state Congress organisations contained important regional factions, landed interests and emerging caste leaders. Thus, apparent one-party uniformity did not mean the absence of local political competition.

The reorganisation of states on linguistic lines, especially after the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, recognised regional linguistic aspirations within the Union. The emergence of the DMK in Tamil Nadu showed that linguistic and cultural mobilisation could reshape electoral politics. Agrarian change, the Green Revolution in selected regions and the rise of intermediate farming castes also generated new leadership. The 1967 elections marked a decisive turning point: Congress lost power in several states, and coalition governments and non-Congress parties gained ground. The difference between state and national political patterns became increasingly evident.

In the 1970s, centralisation, political instability and the Emergency affected Centre-state relations. At the same time, regional movements became more organised. The Janata Party victory in 1977 and the restoration of Congress rule in 1980 brought further changes in state ministries. During the 1980s, parties such as the Telugu Desam Party highlighted regional pride and state autonomy. Movements in Assam and Punjab demonstrated how questions of identity, representation and security could dominate particular state agendas. The 1983 Sarkaria Commission examined Centre-state relations in this changing context.