BPSM-162 INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS)

Assignment Code: BPSM-162/ASST/TMA/2026-2027
Marks: 100

Answer all questions in the three Assignments and submit them together.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Critically examine the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. How do these provisions together advance the constitutional goals of justice, liberty and equality?

2. Analyse the transformation of the party system in India from the era of Congress dominance to a competitive multi-party system. What factors account for this change?

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. Each question carries 10 marks.

3. Examine the relationship between the legislature and executive in India's parliamentary system. How is executive accountability to Parliament maintained?

4. Discuss how caste, class and tribe shape political mobilisation and representation in India.

5. Explain the concepts of secularism and communalism. How do tensions between them affect democratic politics in India?

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each. Each question carries 6 marks.

6. What are the main features of the Gandhian approach to the study of Indian politics?

7. What is meant by the basic structure doctrine?

8. Explain the role of judicial review in the Indian political system.

9. Briefly discuss gender as a social and political category in India.

10. What role do workers and farmers play in Indian politics?

1. Critically examine the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. How do these provisions together advance the constitutional goals of justice, liberty and equality?

Answer

The Constitution of India seeks to build a political democracy as well as a society based on justice. Fundamental Rights (Part III, Articles 12–35) and Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV, Articles 36–51) are two important means of achieving this aim. Fundamental Rights protect individuals against unjust state action and are generally enforceable in courts. Directive Principles guide the government in making laws and policies for social and economic welfare. They are not enforceable by themselves, but Article 37 declares them fundamental in the governance of the country. Their relationship has moved from an early conflict over legal priority towards an understanding that they must work together.

Different roles within one constitutional project

Fundamental Rights give practical meaning to liberty and equal citizenship. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law; Articles 15 and 16 prohibit specified discrimination and support equal opportunity; Article 19 protects basic freedoms such as speech and association; Article 21 safeguards life and personal liberty; and Articles 25–28 protect religious freedom. Constitutional remedies under Article 32 strengthen these guarantees. Without these protections, even a welfare-oriented government could violate human dignity or suppress disagreement in the name of development.

Directive Principles ask a different but equally important question: what social conditions are needed for people to exercise those freedoms? Article 38 encourages a social order informed by justice and reduced inequalities. Article 39 deals with adequate livelihoods, distribution of material resources, prevention of harmful concentration of wealth and protection of workers and children. Article 39A provides for equal justice and free legal aid. Articles 41, 42 and 43 concern work, education or public assistance within the state's capacity, humane working conditions and living wages. Article 46 promotes the educational and economic interests of weaker sections. These principles recognise that formal equality has limited value when people lack food, schooling, health care or security.