



/padhleakshay



Political Parties

**DONATE
SO THAT IT
REMAINS FREE**



padhleakshay@apl

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- **Political Party :** It is a political association or a voluntary group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- **Election commission:** It is an independent multi-member body which is constituted for the superintendence, direction and conduct of elections.
- **Partisan:** A person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction. Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue.
- **One party/Mono party:** It means a system in which only one party operates in the political system for various reasons. In this system there is no opposition, e.g. China.
- **Two party or Bi-party system:** A political system where there are two major parties. In this system power usually changes between two main parties. e.g. U.K. & U.S.A.
- **Multi Party system:** It is a political system where more than two parties exist and contest elections to come to power.
- **National Parties:** Parties that are present in only one of the federal units and are country wide Parties known as national parties. These parties have their units in various states.
- **State or Regional Parties:** The parties that are present in several or all units of the federation known as state or regional parties.
- **Recognised Political Parties:** The parties which get recognition by the election commission gives election symbols, Privileges and some other special election facilities are known as the recognised political parties.
- **Leftist Parties:** Parties which are radical, ideological conservative in nature known as Leftist Parties.
- **Rightist Parties:** Parties which want a status quo and are conservative in nature known as Rightist parties.
- **Opposition:** The political party or group of parties that form part of a legislature but are not in government. They check the activities of the government.



- **Defection:** It signifies changing party allegiance from the party on which a person gets elected to a different party. i.e. members change a party for money post etc.
- **Affidavit:** It is a signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding his/her personal information.
- **Ruling Party:** Political party that runs government.

padhleakshay.com



 /padhleakshay



Multiple Choice Questions

**SCAN
& DONATE**



padhleakshay@apl



1. Which one of the following facilities is offered by the Election Commission to a recognised political party?

- (a) Party name
- (b) Election funds
- (c) Election symbol
- (d) Manifesto

2. Which one of the following is a 'National Political Party'?

- (a) Samajwadi Party
- (b) Rashtriya Janata Dal
- (c) Rashtriya Lok Dal
- (d) Bahujan Samaj Party

3. Who among the following recognises political parties in India?

- (a) Election Commission
- (b) President of India
- (c) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (d) Supreme Court

4. Which one of the following countries has one party system?

- (a) China
- (b) Indo-China
- (c) Japan
- (d) Germany

5. In which of the following states does Shiv Sena exist as a regional political party?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

6. Name the political party that emerged out of mass movement?

- (a) DMK
- (b) Janata Dal
- (c) Forward Bloc
- (d) Bahujan Sam

7. A recognised political party is

- (a) a party that is present in only one of the federal units.
- (b) a party that is present in several and all units of the federation.



- (c) a party that is based on regional and communal diversities.
- (d) a party recognised by the 'Election Commission' with all the privileges and facilities.

8. An example of a country having the multi party system is

- (a) China
- (b) USA
- (c) India
- (d) United Kingdom

9. How many parties are needed in any democratic system to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties ; to come to power?

- (a) Less than two
- (b) At least two parties
- (c) More than two parties
- (d) At least three parties

10. The number of political parties registered with the Election Commission of India is

- (a) 750 parties
- (b) more than 750 parties
- (c) Less than 750 parties
- (d) 705 parties

11. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?

- (a) 250
- (b) 300
- (c) 500
- (d) More than 750

12. What is a signed document submitted to an officer regarding her personal information?

- (a) Affidavit
- (b) Declaration
- (c) Agreement
- (d) Appeal

13. Which of these statements is incorrect about CPI (M)?

- (a) Supports socialism, secularism and democracy
- (b) Opposes imperialism and communalism
- (c) Wants to secure socio-economic justice in India
- (d) None of the above



14. Who chooses the candidates for contesting elections in India?

- (a) Members and supporters of the party
- (b) Top party leadership
- (c) The existing government
- (d) None of these

15. When and under whose leadership was Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) formed?

- (a) 1982, Mayawati
- (b) 1984, Kanshi Ram
- (c) 1985, Mulayam Singh Yadav
- (d) 1986, Bhajanlal

16. When was the BJP founded?

- (a) 1960
- (b) 1970
- (c) 1980
- (d) 1990

17. How many recognised national parties were there in 2006?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8

18. What are the parties which are given the special privilege of 'election symbol' and other facilities?

- (a) 'Identified' by the Election Commission
- (b) 'Recognised' by the Election Commission
- (c) 'Patronised' by the Election Commission
- (d) 'Attached' by the Election Commission

19. Which of these alliances were there in 2004 parliamentary elections in India?

- (a) National Democratic Alliance
- (b) The United Progressive Alliance
- (c) Left Front
- (d) All the above

20. Which of these is not a good option for a democratic state?

- (a) One-party system



- (b) Two-party system
- (c) Multi-party system
- (d) None of the above

ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 11. d |
| 2. d | 12. a |
| 3. a | 13. d |
| 4. a | 14. b |
| 5. c | 15. b |
| 6. b | 16. c |
| 7. d | 17. b |
| 8. c | 18. b |
| 9. b | 19. d |
| 10. b | 20. a |



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



NO BAKWAS



padhle.akshay

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more



1. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain. Or How has multi-party system strengthened democracy in India?

Answer: Multi-party system. In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming together in a coalition. When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or a front.

For example, in India there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections—the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Left Front. This system on one hand leads to political instability but at the same time, allows for a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

Each country develops a party system that is suitable for its special circumstances. India has evolved as a multi-party system because its social and geographical diversity cannot be absorbed by two or three parties. Thus, such representation strengthens democracy. Multi-party system facilitates representation of regional and geographical diversities. In India, several regional parties are in power at the State level such as the DMK in Tamil Nadu, Akali Dal in Punjab the BSP in Uttar Pradesh.

2. “Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world”. Analyse the statement.

Answer: Most political parties do not practise open and transparent procedures for their functioning like maintaining membership registers, holding organisational meetings or conducting internal elections regularly. Thus, ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on the happenings in the party and have no means to influence the decisions.

Also, there are very few chances for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Since one or, at the most, a few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership, find it difficult to continue in the party.

Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position to take undue advantage and favour people close to them or even their family members. And, in many parties, the top positions are invariably controlled by members of one family which is bad for democracy.

3. “Dynastic succession is one of the most serious challenges before the political parties.” Analyse the statement.

Answer: Most political parties do not practise open and transparent procedures for their functioning. So there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage



as they favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties in India, we see a trend of dynastic succession. The top positions are always controlled by members of a particular family, which is unfair to other members of the party, and bad for democracy. This is so because people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power. More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important. This tendency is seen all over the world, even in older democracies.

4. What is meant by a 'national political party'? State the conditions required to be a national political party.

Answer: National political parties have their units in various states. By and large all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.

Conditions required to be a national political party:

- A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in general elections of Lok Sabha or assembly elections in four states.
- A party that wins at least 4 seats in the Lok Sabha.

5. What is meant by regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a 'regional political party'.

Answer: A regional party is a party that is present in only some states. Regional parties or State parties need not be regional in their ideology. They have state identity as they are present only in some states. Some of these parties are all India parties that happen to have succeeded only in states. Example, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janta Dal.

Conditions required for a party to be recognized as a regional political party:

- A party that secures atleast six percent of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of a state.
- Wins atleast two seats in the legislative assembly.

6."Nearly every one of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition." Support the statement with arguments.

Answer: The state parties also referred to as regional parties are not necessarily regional in ideology. Some of these parties are all India parties that happen to have succeeded only in some states. Over the last three decades, the number and



strength of these parties has expanded. Before the general elections one national party was able to secure on its own a majority in the Lok Sabha.

- As a result, the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state parties.
- Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy. Example of state parties having national level political organisation with units in several states are Samajwadi Party (SP), Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samata Party.

7. Analyse the three components of a political party.

Answer: The three components of a political party are as follows:

- The leaders. A political party consists of leaders, who contest elections and if they win the elections, they perform the administrative jobs.
- The active members. They are the ones who work actively for the party. They are the assistants of the leaders and implement the plans and ideologies of the political party.
- The followers. They are the ardent followers of the parties and their leaders and support them in the elections.

8. Explain any five suggestions to reform political parties in India.

Or, Suggest and explain any five effective measures to reform political parties.

Answer: Five suggestions made to reform the political parties:

- Law to regulate the internal affairs of political parties like maintaining a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have independent authority, to act as judge in case of party dispute, to hold open elections to the highest post.
- It should be mandatory for political parties to give one-third tickets to women candidates. Also there should be quota for women on the decision-making bodies of the party.
- There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to support their election expenses in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) or in cash on the basis of votes secured by the party in the previous election.
- The candidate should be educated, so that he can solve and understand people's problems. His previous record should be cleared. He should be honest and there should be no criminal case against him.



- Citizens can reform politics if they take part directly and join political parties. People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity in media, agitations etc.

9. Explain the growing role of money and muscle power in political parties.

Or, How do money and muscle power play an important role in elections?

Answer: Political parties need to face and overcome the growing challenge of Money and Muscle power during elections in order to remain effective instruments of democracy.

Since parties are focussed only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections, for example, like booth-rigging, distribution of food, money, alcohol, etc. to the poor voters to get their votes. Political parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party. These days, parties are supporting criminals who can win elections. This is a major cause of concern to the democrats all over the world who are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

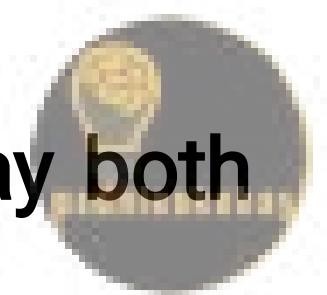
10. Why do we need political parties? Explain.

Or, Describe any five major functions performed by political parties.

Answer: To fill political offices and exercise political power, political parties are needed to perform a series of functions, which are the following:

- Parties contest elections. Elections are fought mainly among candidates put up by political parties.
- In India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- Parties put forward different policies and programmes. Political parties in a democracy group together similar opinions, to provide a direction in which government policies can be formulated, Parties make laws for a country. Laws are debated and passed in the legislature.
- Parties that lose elections play the role of the opposition. Opposition parties voice their views by criticizing government for its failure or wrong policies.
- Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues and resolve people's problems. Many pressure groups are the extensions of political parties.
- Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. For an ordinary citizen it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer.

11. Examine the role of opposition parties in a Democracy.



Answer: Opposition parties play an important role in democracies. They play both positive and negative role.

Positive role:

- They ensure the political party in power does not misuse or abuse its power.
- They expose the weaknesses of the ruling party.
- They also keep a close vigil on the bills and expenditure of the government.

Negative role:

- They target the government and aim at dislodging and discrediting the government for all the ills and the troubles the people face.
- Through stalling the proceedings of the parliament, dharmas and gheravas, it curtails the progress of the country.
- The opposition's work is not to abstract the functioning of the administration but keep a close watch on the working of the party in power so that democracy becomes meaningful.

12. "About hundred years ago there were few countries that had hardly any political party. Now there are few countries that do not have political parties."

Examine this statement.

Answer: We can understand the necessity of political parties by imagining a situation without parties. Every candidate in the election will be independent. Therefore, no major policy changes will be made. Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency but no one will be responsible for the smooth running of the country. As societies become large and complex, they need an agency to gather views on various issues and to present them to the government. There is a need to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government can be formed.

A mechanism is needed to support or restrain the government to make policies, justify or oppose them. Political parties fulfil the needs of a representative government and are thus a necessary condition for a democracy.

13. "All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well." Analyse the statement with arguments.

Or, Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion.

Or, Identify and explain challenges which political parties need to face and overcome in order to remain effective instruments of democracy.



Answer: Since parties are the most visible face in a democracy, people blame them for whatever is wrong with the working of democracy.

There are four major areas where the working of political parties faces challenge:

- Lack of internal democracy. There is concentration of power in one or a few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings and do not conduct internal elections regularly. More than loyalty to party principles and policies, it is personal loyalty which becomes more important. The leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party. Since one or few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with leadership find it difficult to continue in the party.
- Dynastic succession. In many parties, top positions are always held by members of one family. Most political parties do not practice transparent and open procedures for their functioning and it is very difficult for an ordinary worker to rise to the top. This is bad for democracy, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.
- Money and muscle power. Since parties are focussed only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. They nominate candidates who have or can raise money and thus are able to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.
- No meaningful choice. There has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties. They agree more on fundamental aspects, but differ only in details, on how policies are to be framed and implemented. Sometimes people cannot even elect different leaders as the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

14. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy". Analyse the statement with examples.

Answer: "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy" in the following ways:

- Without political parties democracies cannot exist. If we do not have political parties, every candidate in elections will be independent.
- No one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy changes.
- The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain.
- Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency, for what they do in their locality but no one will be responsible for how the country will run.



- As societies become large and complex they also needed some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government, that's why political parties are needed.

15. Describe any five efforts made to reform political parties in India.

Answer: Five efforts made to reform the political parties:

- Law to regulate the internal affairs of political parties like maintaining a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have independent authority, to act as judge in case of party dispute, to hold open elections to the highest post.
- It should be mandatory for political parties to give one-third tickets to women candidates. Also there should be quota for women on the decision-making bodies of the party.
- There should be state funding of elections. The government should give money to parties to support their election expenses in kind (petrol, paper, telephone, etc.) or in cash on the basis of votes secured by the party in the previous election.
- The candidate should be educated, so that he can solve and understand people's problems. His previous record should be cleared. He should be honest and there should be no criminal case against him.
- Citizens can reform politics if they take part directly and join political parties. People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity in media, agitations etc.



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



Case-Based Questions

SCAN
& DONATE



padhleakshay@apl



Question 1

The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties. All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. Parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning, there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family. The third challenge is about the growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. Democrats all over the world are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics. The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters. In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different. In recent years there has been a decline in the membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly. Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party. The second challenge of dynastic succession is related to the first one. Since most political parties have ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

(i) Identify the challenge faced by political parties that they need to overcome to remain effective instruments of democracy.

- (a) Secularism
- (b) Concentration of power in one or a few leaders at the top
- (c) To gain paramount power in the world
- (d) Decision-making by citizens

Answer: (b) Concentration of power in one or a few leaders at the top

(ii) How do leaders at the top level take unfair advantage of their position?

- (a) Support secularism and democracy and oppose imperialism
- (b) Espouse secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities
- (c) Favour people close to them or even their family members.
- (d) Support all members of the party to play an equal role in progress and development of the nation.

Answer: (c) Favour people close to them or even their family members.

(iii) What are the democrats all over the world worried about?



- (a) Increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics
- (b) Major ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world
- (c) Distribution of power among the different members of the party
- (d) Equal distribution of power and money in parties.

Answer: (a) Increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

(iv) Why do parties fail to offer a meaningful choice to the voters?

- (a) Only rich people are favoured to cast their vote to the party
- (b) Parties use money and muscle power, and voters have no role as citizens.
- (c) Huge ideological differences among parties, which confuse the citizens
- (d) Decline in ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world

Answer: (d) Decline in ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

QUESTION 2

In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. These are called one-party systems. In China, only the Communist Party is allowed to rule. Although, legally speaking, people are free to form political parties, it does not permit free competition for power. In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislature. If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multi-party system.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

(i) What is a government formed by several parties known as?

- (a) Alliance
- (b) Uni-party system
- (c) Group
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Alliance,

(ii) Political party system can be divided into

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above.

(iii) In which of the following countries only bi-party system exist?



- (a) USA
- (b) India
- (c) China
- (d) All of them

Answer: (a) USA

(iv) In which of the following countries multi-party system exist?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) South Korea
- (d) Canada

Answer: (a) India.



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



Picture Based Question

**DONATE
SO THAT IT
REMAINS FREE**



padhleakshay@apl

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more

QUESTION 1



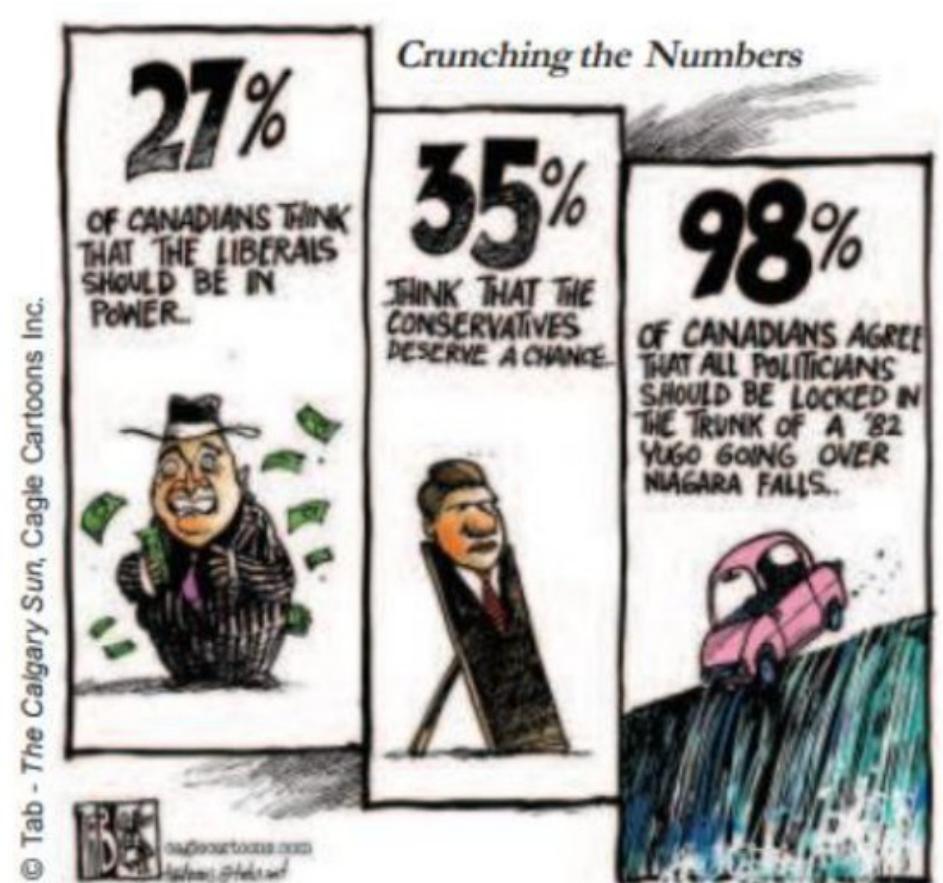
1) What is shown in the given cartoon?

Ans. The famous cartoonist R. K Laxman is seen holding and reading a newspaper which shows that when the nation is in peril and facing lots of difficulties and the politicians are nowhere to be seen. Politicians are only active when there are elections. Another case can be seen here that nobody is willing to take any responsibility for the problems being faced.

2) What issue can be seen being discussed here?

Ans. One of the major issues that can be seen discussed here is the Ayodhya case, as one man is holding a banner which has a temple made on it. Religious matters can be the core issue discussed here.

QUESTION 2



1) What is shown in the given cartoon?

Ans. It shows a hypothetical survey taken in Canada which asks its citizens if liberals or conservatives are better to be in power. And in a sarcastic tone, majority of them think that all politicians are of no use and should be done away with.

QUESTION 3



1) Identify the country and the leader.

Ans. Berlusconi, the Prime Minister of Italy.

2) What is the cartoon trying to depict?

Ans. This cartoon shows the then Prime Minister of Italy- Berlusconi. He was also one of the top businessmen in Italy. He was the leader of the Forza Italia founded in 1993. His company owns TV channels, the most important publishing company, a foot ball club (AC Milan) and a bank. This cartoon was made during the last elections and is portraying how he is using the media as a puppet to serve his vested interests.

QUESTION 4



1) Explain the given cartoon.

Ans. This cartoon shows how a person in India is filing his nomination as a candidate in elections to the Election Commission of India. It is now mandatory to show your assets in an affidavit before elections. The woman is shown to mention 50 crores as her assets, and the officer is surprised to see that. He is seen asking her, if she has so much money, why she is even contesting the elections, as the politicians in India tend to get corrupted and make money except for doing well for people.

2) Which reform of the Election Commission of India is discussed here?



Ans. The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true. An affidavit is a signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding her personal information

QUESTION 5



Do you agree that this form of reforming political parties will be acceptable to them?

1) What kind of political reform has been discussed here?

Ans. The Election Commission of India has issued a code of conduct which needs to be strictly followed before and during the elections.

2) What is the "Election Code" as shown in the cartoon?

Ans. Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for conduct of political parties and candidates during elections mainly with respect to speeches, polling day, polling booths, portfolios, election manifestos, processions and general conduct. Its main purpose is to ensure that ruling parties, at the Centre and in the States, do not misuse their position of advantage to gain an unfair edge. It is designed to avert practices which are deemed corrupt under model code of conduct. For example, politicians should not make hate speeches, putting one community against another or make promises about new projects that may sway a voter.

3) Why are people shown disinterested about it?

Ans. Politicians in India do not take this code of conduct seriously sometimes. And there are adverse consequences of it too. It may lead to ban on their rallies, promotion and even cancellation of ticket.