

**CLASS-XII (2022-23)**  
**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 4**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**TIME: 3 hrs.**

**MM: 80**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- I) All questions are compulsory.
- II) Question numbers 1-12 are multiple choice questions of one mark each.
- III) Question numbers 13-18 are of 2 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 50 words each.
- IV) Question numbers 19-23 are of 4 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 100 words each.
- V) Question numbers 24-26 are passage, cartoon and map-based questions. Answer accordingly.
- VI) Question numbers 27-30 are of 6 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 170 words.
- VII) There is an internal choice in 6 marks questions.

**Section A**

1. Maoist means: [1]
  - a) Freedom fighters
  - b) A secret society
  - c) Communists who believe in the ideology of Mao
  - d) Terrorist groups
2. Which of the following chose to closed down instead of submitting to Censorship? [1]
  - a) The Mainstream
  - b) The Statesman
  - c) The Guardian
  - d) Indian Express
3. In which state Navnirman Movement was started? [1]
  - a) Haryana
  - b) Punjab
  - c) Bihar
  - d) Gujarat
4. Which of the following is a component of traditional security? [1]
  - a) Balance of power
  - b) All of these
  - c) Alliance building
  - d) Preventing war
5. **Assertion (A):** The foreign policy of a nation reflects the interplay of domestic and external factors. [1]
   
**Reason (R):** The noble ideals that inspired India's struggle for freedom influenced the making of its foreign policy.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
 c) A is true but R is false.  
 d) A is false but R is true.
6. **Assertion (A):** Humanitarian policies are implemented by the main organs and specialized agencies spread across the globe. **[1]**  
**Reason (R):** The members of the General Assembly are automatically the members of all other principal organs and specialized agencies of the UN.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
 c) A is true but R is false.  
 d) A is false but R is true.
7. When was LTTE vanquished? **[1]**
- a) 2009  
 b) 2010  
 c) 2008  
 d) 2006
8. Who was the leader of the Dravidian Movement in Tamil Nadu? **[1]**
- a) Karunanidhi  
 b) C.N. Annadurai  
 c) E.V. Ramasami  
 d) M. G. Ramachandran
9. Arrange the following in the chronological order of their establishment: **[1]**
- i. The WTO  
 ii. Amnesty International  
 iii. League of Nations  
 iv. World Bank
- a) iv, iii, ii, i  
 b) iv, iii, ii, i  
 c) i, ii, iii, iv  
 d) iii, iv, i, ii
10. Who was the leader of the Naga National Council? **[1]**
- a) Angame Zapu Phizo  
 b) V.P. Singh  
 c) Karunanidhi  
 d) Lai Denga
11. When did the government remove the barriers for investment in India? **[1]**
- a) 1992  
 b) 1991  
 c) 1993  
 d) 1990
12. Which of the following states has faced a movement against outsiders? **[1]**
- a) Assam  
 b) Tripura

c) Sikkim

d) Mizoram

### Section B

13. Which party supported Congress during the Emergency and why? What did the party feel after the Emergency was over? [2]
14. Describe the administrative and political failure of the Soviet Union. [2]
15. Mention the Directive Principles of State Policy for the promotion of international peace and security. [2]
16. Suggest any two major changes to improve the functioning of the Security Council. [2]
17. When and why was Shah Commission appointed? [2]
18. What was Goa problem? How was Goa liberated and how did it become part of Indian Union? [2]

### Section C

19. Differentiate between the traditional and non-traditional notions of security. [4]
20. What was Tibet issue? How did it cause tension between India and China? Explain. [4]
21. What is meant by **Common but differentiated responsibilities**? How could we implement the idea? [4]
22. Compare the aims and achievements of the First and the Second Five Year Plans to conclude which of the two was a turning point in India's development. [4]
23. What is globalisation? Highlight its causes. [4]

### Section D

24. In the given outline political map of India, four states have been marked as (A) (B) (C) and (D). Identify these states on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer book, along with their respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabets as per the following
- Name the state where a violent incident took place in 2002 at Godhra.
  - The states where Chipko agitation had started.
  - The state which was the princely state before 1947.
  - The states where the MKSS demanded records for famine relief and accounts of labors.



**25. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[4]

The acceptance of the principle of linguistic states did not mean, however, that all states immediately became linguistic states. There was an experiment of 'bilingual' Bombay state, consisting of Gujarati- and Marathi-speaking people. After a popular agitation, the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat were created in 1960. In Punjab also, there were two linguistic groups: Hindi-speaking and Punjabi-speaking. The Punjabi-speaking people demanded a separate state. But it was not granted with other states in 1956. Statehood for Punjab came ten years later, in 1966, when the territories of today's Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were separated from the larger Punjab state. Another major reorganisation of states took place in the north-east in 1972. Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972. Manipur and Tripura too emerged as separate states in the same year. The states of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh came into being in 1987. Nagaland had become a state much earlier in 1963.

- (i) Name the original state from which Gujarat was carved out?
  - a) Saurastra
  - b) Bombay
  - c) Rajputana
  - d) Junagarh
  
- (ii) Which year the states of Meghalaya have been carved out from Assam?
  - a) 1990
  - b) 1982
  - c) 1987
  - d) 1972
  
- (iii) When the Haryana and Punjab have been separated from Punjab?
  - a) 1966
  - b) 1978

c) 1956

d) 1960

(iv) Which year the state of Nagaland had come into being?

a) 1987

b) 1963

c) 1956

d) 1953

**26. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[4]

Observe the cartoon given below:



(i) Identify the context of the meet depicted in the cartoon.

a) Indo-Pak negotiations

b) SAARC Summit

c) Indo-Soviet Treaty

d) Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

(ii) The participant leader/s in the given cartoon are \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif

b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee and General Ayub Khan

c) Manmohan Singh and General Pervez Musharraf

d) Mahinda Rajapaksa and Manmohan Singh

(iii) What could have been the topic of concern and discussion in the given context?

a) Problem of unemployment

b) Kashmir Conflict

c) Problem of terrorism

d) Both Kashmir problem and terrorism

(iv) In July 2001 there was a summit held between the two concerned countries which turned out to be futile. It was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Lahore

b) Peshawar

c) New Delhi

d) Agra

**Section E****27. Describe the factors that make most of the former Soviet Republics prone to conflicts and threats.**

[6]

OR

Highlight any three positive and three negative features each of the Soviet system in the Soviet Union.

28. Explain the role of the European Union as a supranational organisation. [6]

OR

How did China rise to be an economic superpower? Assess.

29. Examine the grave economic crisis prior to fourth general election of 1967. Assess [6] the electoral verdict also.

OR

Examine the main factors responsible for the rise and fall of the Congress Party's dominance in India.

30. Explain the salient features of coalition governments. [6]

OR

Explain any five elements of consensus which have emerged among most political parties after the Lok Sabha elections by 2004.

# SOLUTION

## Section A

1. (c) Communists who believe in the ideology of Mao

**Explanation:** Maoist were the **communists who believe in the ideology of the Chinese communist revolutionary Mao Zedong**. During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite.

2. (a) The Mainstream

**Explanation:** Newspapers like the Indian Express and the Statesman protested against censorship by leaving blank spaces where news items had been censored. Magazines like the Seminar and the Mainstream chose to close down rather than submit to censorship.

3. (d) Gujarat

**Explanation:** In January 1974 students in Gujarat started an agitation against rising prices of food grains, cooking oil, and other essential commodities, and against corruption in high places. It was called the **Navnirman Andolan**. This students' protest became a socio-political movement and was joined by major opposition parties and became widespread leading to the imposition of the President's rule in the state. It is the only successful agitation in the history of post-independence India that resulted in the dissolution of an elected government of the state.

4. (a) Balance of power

**Explanation:** Traditional security policy has a third component called the **balance of power**. When countries look around them, they see that some countries are bigger and stronger. This is a clue to who might be a threat in the future. Governments are, therefore, very sensitive to the balance of power between their country and other countries. They do work hard to maintain a favourable balance of power with other countries.

5. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

**Explanation:** Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

6. (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

**Explanation:** Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

7. (a) 2009

**Explanation:** Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is a militant organisation that fought an armed struggle with the army of Sri Lanka and demanding 'Tamil Eelam'. The armed conflict came to an end, as the LTTE was vanquished in **2009**.

8. (c) E.V. Ramasami

**Explanation:** The Dravidian movement led to the formation of Dravidar Kazhagam [DK] under the leadership of Tamil social reformer E.V. Ramasami 'Periyar'. The organisation strongly opposed the Brahmins' dominance and affirmed regional pride against the political, economic and cultural domination of the North.

9. (d) iii, iv, i, ii

**Explanation:** iii, iv, i, ii

10. (a) Angame Zapu Phizo

**Explanation:** Led by **Angami Zapu Phizo**, a section of the Nagas declared

independence from India way back in 1951. Phizo turned down many offers of any negotiated settlement. The **Naga National Council** launched an armed struggle for the sovereignty of Nagas. After a period of violent insurgency a section of the Nagas signed an agreement with the Government of India but this was not acceptable to other rebels. The problem in Nagaland still awaits a final resolution.

11. (b) 1991

**Explanation:** 1991

12. (a) Assam

**Explanation:** The Assam movement from 1979 to 1985 is the best example of movements against ‘outsiders’. In 1979, the All Assam Students’ Union (AASU), a students’ group not affiliated to any party, led an anti-foreigner movement. The movement demanded outsiders who had entered the state after 1951 should be sent back.

### Section B

13. The Communist Party of India continued to support the Congress during Emergency because some other parties like, the CPI that continued to back the Congress during the Emergency, believed that there was an international conspiracy against the unity of India. It believed that in such circumstances some restrictions on agitations were justified. The CPI felt that the agitations led by JP were mainly the middle classes who were opposed to the radical policies of the Congress party. After the Emergency, the CPI felt that its assessment was mistaken and that it was an error to have supported the Emergency.

14. The administrative and political failure of the Soviet Union were as:

- i. The Communist Party was not accountable to the people.
- ii. Ordinary people were exploited by rampant corruption.
- iii. They were given no representation in the state machinery.
- iv. The party bureaucrats gained more privileges than ordinary citizens.

15. Principles enshrined in Article 51 under international principles are some provisions to the State relating to ensure international peace and security. The State shall attempt

- 
- 1. To promote international peace and security;
- 2. To maintain just and honorable relations between nations;
- 3. To foster respect for international law and treaty obligation in the dealings of organised people with one another;
- 4. To encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

16. For the improvement in the Security Council's functioning the following major changes are suggested:

- i. **Increment in membership:** Number of permanent and non-permanent members to the security council of UN is to be increased.
- ii. **Veto withdrawal:** Veto power of five permanent countries to be withdrawn instantly.

17. The Shah Commission was appointed in 1977 by the Janata Party Government. In May 1977, the Janata Party Government appointed a Commission of inquiry headed by Justice J.C. Shah, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, to inquire into several aspects of allegations of abuse of authority, excesses and malpractices committed and action taken in the wake of the Emergency proclaimed on the 25th

June, 1975. The Commission examined various kinds of evidence and called scores of witnesses to give testimonies. These included Indira Gandhi who appeared before the Commission.

18. Although the British empire in India came to an end in 1947, Portugal refused to withdraw from the territories of Goa, Daman, and Diu which was under its colonial rule since the 16th century. During their long rule, the Portuguese suppressed the people of Goa from religious conversions and civil rights known as 'Goa Problem'. Finally in 1961, within two days Goa, Daman, and Diu were liberated from Portugal rule under 'Operation Vijay' by the Government of India. Goa became part of India and in 1987, it attained the status of 'State Position'.

### Section C

19. The differences between traditional and non-traditional security are :

<b>Traditional Security</b>	<b>Non-Traditional Security</b>
Traditional security deals with use or threat of use of the military.	Non-traditional security goes beyond military threats and includes threats that endanger human existence.
Traditional threats to security endanger the core values of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the state.	Non-traditional security is concerned with threats that endanger the human than the state.
Under the traditional concept, the major focus is on the use of military force.	Under non-traditional security, the military is used as a last resort.
Under traditional security, force is both principal threats to security and means to achieve security.	Under non-traditional concept, the threat is a general environment.
These include Aggression or War by other nations, Insurgency, civil wars, etc.	These involve all non-conventional issues, most of which emerged after the end of the Cold War. These include Environment-related problems- Global Warming, Pollution, Resource depletion, Poverty, Terrorism etc.

20. Tibet is situated at the border between India and China. Hence any action here, influence both China and India.
- From the very beginning of independence from time to time, China has claimed its administrative control over Tibet.
  - In 1950, China took over control of Tibet. Large sections of the Tibetan population opposed this takeover.
  - In 1958, there was an armed uprising in Tibet against China's occupation. India supported the cause of Tibetan which was bitterly objected by China. Even India has granted asylum to Dalai Lama and a large number of Tibetans. These circumstances had created a deep crack in the relationship between India and China.

21. Common but differentiated responsibilities mean that the state shall cooperate in the spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the earth's ecosystem. We could implement the idea with the help of conventions and declarations:
- The Rio-Summit held in June 1992 produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry and recommended a list of developed practices called Agenda 21.
  - The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Certain gases like Carbon dioxide, Methane, Hydro-fluoro carbons etc. are considered at least partly responsible for global warming - the rise in global temperature which may have catastrophic consequences for life on Earth. The protocol was agreed to in 1997 in Kyoto in Japan, based on principles set out in UNFCCC.
22. The aims and achievements of the First Five Year Plan were:
- The Plan focused mainly on the agrarian sector including investment in dams and irrigation. The Huge allocation was made for large scale projects like the Bhakhra Nangal Dam.
  - It also identified the pattern of land distribution in the country and focused on land reforms as the key to the country's development.
- The aims and achievements of the Second Five Year Plan were:
- The 'socialist pattern of society' which was declared as the goal by Congress party at its Avadi session got reflected in the Second Five Year Plan.
  - The government imposed a tariff on imports to protect domestic industries. Such measures helped both public and private sector industries to grow.
  - The Second Five year Plan stressed on heavy industries.
- Of these, the First Five Year Plan was a turning point in India's development because India had to spend precious foreign exchange to buy technology from the international market because it was technologically backward. Indian planners found it difficult to balance industry and agriculture because industry attracted more investment than agriculture and the possibility of food shortage appeared.
23. Globalisation is the integration of an economy with other economies along with the free flow of trade and capital. It is a multi-dimensional concept which has political, economic and cultural manifestations. The causes of globalisation are as:
- It has a strong historical basis.
  - Role of International Organisations like IMF and WTO.
  - Liberalisation and Privatisation.
  - Technology remains a critical element.

#### Section D

24.	i	Gujarat	D
	ii	Uttarakhand	A
	iii	Jammu And Kashmir	B
	iv	Rajasthan	C

**25. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

The acceptance of the principle of linguistic states did not mean, however, that all states immediately became linguistic states. There was an experiment of 'bilingual'

Bombay state, consisting of Gujarati- and Marathi-speaking people. After a popular agitation, the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat were created in 1960. In Punjab also, there were two linguistic groups: Hindi-speaking and Punjabi-speaking. The Punjabi-speaking people demanded a separate state. But it was not granted with other states in 1956. Statehood for Punjab came ten years later, in 1966, when the territories of today's Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were separated from the larger Punjab state. Another major reorganisation of states took place in the north-east in 1972.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972. Manipur and Tripura too emerged as separate states in the same year. The states of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh came into being in 1987. Nagaland had become a state much earlier in 1963.

- (i) (b) Bombay

**Explanation:** Bombay

- (ii) (d) 1972

**Explanation:** 1972

- (iii)(a) 1966

**Explanation:** 1966

- (iv)(b) 1963

**Explanation:** 1963

## 26. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Observe the cartoon given below:



- (i) (a) Indo-Pak negotiations

**Explanation:** Indo-Pak negotiations

- (ii) (c) Manmohan Singh and General Pervez Musharraf

**Explanation:** Manmohan Singh and General Pervez Musharraf

- (iii)(d) Both Kashmir problem and terrorism

**Explanation:** Both Kashmir problem and terrorism

- (iv)(d) Agra

**Explanation:** Agra

## Section E

## 27. The present-day conflicts which the post-Soviet republics are confronted with can be traced to the old days when the USSR had existed. With the downfall of the USSR, Russia has experienced high levels of ethnic conflicts pertaining to exit claims by former satellite states that rose against the idea of federation. Exit claims antagonised the state leading to a clash between the interest of the centre and the constituent states

resulting in massive human right violations in Chechnya and in other regions. The three factors that make most of the former Soviet republics prone to conflicts and threats are as follow :

- i. **Chechnya conflict:** Chechnya is one of the twenty-one republics among the eighty-nine regions that make up the Russian Empire. Chechnya conflict which began in 1994 has led to the demand for independence. It has been the bone of contention between separatists and the Government of Russia for decades. Russia has been criticised for its actions which led to mass killing of the people in Chechnya. Chechnya witnessed a chain of conflicts with thousands of casualties.
- ii. **Tajikistan conflict:** Tajikistan also experienced a decade long Civil War fuelled primarily by a clash between ethnic groups. The civil war started in 1992. The main zone the conflict was the south zone but the impact of the conflict was throughout the country. It ended in 2001. The cause of the Civil War lies in the period after the end of the Cold War where legitimacy crisis erupted after presidential elections in Tajikistan. It took the form of a Civil War.
- iii. **Georgia conflict:** Like the other post-Soviet states, Georgia also fell prey to the internal conflicts and instability which had accumulated since the days of the Soviet Union. Declaring independence, Georgia witnessed two gruesome conflicts in the country. The conflict centred on South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Abkhazia declares its independence from Georgia. These conflicts proved to be painful for the country as it created divided societies following divergent interests.

These three examples of conflicts proved to be disastrous for humankind as it accounted for a large number of lives.

OR

The three positive features of the Soviet system were :

- i. The Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world except the US. It had a complex communication network, vast energy resources, machinery production and a transport system that connected its remotest areas. The most important thing about this system was that it was making the economy a self-depend economy.
- ii. A minimum standard of living for all the citizens was ensured by the Soviet state and the government subsidised basic necessities including health, education, child care and other welfare schemes. It was helpful for those who were facing food shortage or lack of money for medical treatment.
- iii. State ownership was given more importance. Land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the Soviet state. It allowed the government to make long-term plans.

The three negative features of the Soviet system were :

- i. The Soviet system was very bureaucratized and authoritarian in nature. It turned the life of the people into disorder. Authoritarianism meant the absence of democracy and freedom of speech which angered the people. Therefore government was not accountable to the people.
- ii. Soviet economy witnessed economic stagnation for a long time which led to market failure when demand failed to meet supply in the market for consumer goods. Development through this system was constant but very slow to notice at times.

- iii. State Treasury had spent a huge fortune on building and maintaining nuclear arsenals and in developing its satellite states in East Europe and within the Soviet system. It turned into a large economic burden for the Soviet system. Failure of programs like "Collectivization", raised the questions over this system.
28. The role of the European Union as a supranational organisation is as given below:
- The European Union is able to intervene in economic, political and social areas. The EU is the world's biggest economy with a GDP of more than \$12 trillion in 2005.
  - It functions as an important bloc in international economic organisations such as the World Trade Organisation.
  - Its two members - France and Britain - are permanent members of the UN Security Council. Some of its members are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. This has enabled the European Union to influence US policies such as the current US position on Iran's nuclear programme.
- However, there are differences too among its members. For example, in the case of Iraq's invasion, some members supported the US-led 'coalition of the willing' but Germany and France opposed American policy. Denmark and Sweden resisted the Maastricht Treaty and the adoption of the Euro. This limits the ability of the Union to act in matters of foreign relations and defence.
- OR
- China had adopted Soviet model of economy. Despite development, China faced economic crisis as its industrial production was not growing fast, international trade was minimal and per capita income was very low. Under these situations some major policy decisions were taken:
- China ended its political and economic isolation, which established relations with the US in 1972.
  - China proposed the 'four modernisation' areas as agriculture, industry, science and technology and military in 1973.
  - 'Open door' policy and economic reforms were introduced to generate higher productivity by investments of capital and technology from abroad.
  - China followed its own path in introducing a market economy. The privatisation of agriculture and industry in 1982 and 1998.
  - China set Special Economic Zones(SEZs) to remove trade barriers where foreign investors could set up enterprises.
  - The integration of China's economy and the inter-dependencies has enabled China to have considerable influence with its trade partners.
  - The Open door policy has contributed to the stability of the ASEAN economies.
  - China's outward looking for investment and aid policies in Latin America and Africa are projecting China as a global player on the side of developing economies.
29. Indira Gandhi government devalued Indian rupee to check economic crisis of 1967. Earlier, one US dollar could be purchased for less than ₹ 5; after devaluation, it cost more than ₹ 7. The economic situation triggered off price rise. People started a protest against the increase in prices of essential commodities, food scarcity, growing unemployment and overall economic condition in the country. The Communist and Socialist parties launched struggle to avail greater equality.

The popular discontent and the polarisation of political forces that the fourth general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held in February 1967.

Congress was facing the electorate for the first time without Nehru:

1. The election verdict was not in favour of Congress and results jolted the Congress at both the national and state levels.
2. Half the ministers in Indira Gandhi's cabinet were defeated including K. Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu, S.K. Patil in Maharashtra, Atulya Ghosh in West Bengal, K.B. Sahay in Bihar.
3. Congress lost the majority in seven states but in two other states defections prevented it from forming a government. The nine States where the Congress lost power were spread across the country - Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madras and Kerala.
4. For the first time any non-Congress party had secured a majority of its own in any state and in other eight States, coalition government consisting of different non-Congress parties were formed.
5. These election results were called as a 'Political Earthquake'

OR

The main factors responsible for the rise of the Congress Party's dominance in India were:

- i. It was seen as the inheritor of the national movement. Many leaders who were at the forefront of that struggle were contesting elections as Congress candidates.
- ii. The Congress was the only party to have an organisation spread all over the country.
- iii. The Congress was already a well-organised party while other parties could not even think of a strategy.
- iv. The party had organisational network down to the local level.
- v. Congress nature was all inclusive- a social and ideological coalition and had transformed into a rainbow-like social coalition, which accommodated the revolutionary as well as the pacifist.
- vi. The party had Jawaharlal Nehru the most popular and charismatic leader in Indian politics. He led the Congress campaign and toured through the country.

The main factors responsible for the fall of Congress Party's dominance in India were:

- i. Since 1969, the Congress party had started shedding its character as an umbrella party which accommodated leaders and workers of different ideological dispensations and viewpoints. The Congress party now identified itself with a particular ideology, claiming to be the only socialist and pro-poor party. Thus with the early nineteen-seventies, the Congress's political success depended on attracting people on the basis of sharp social and ideological divisions and the appeal of one leader, Indira Gandhi.
- ii. With the change in the nature of the Congress party, other opposition parties relied more and more on what is known in Indian politics as 'non-Congressism'. Parties opposed to the Congress realised that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power. This factor played a major role in the elections in 1977.
- iii. In an indirect manner, the issue of welfare of the backward castes also began to dominate politics since 1977. The results of 1977 elections were at least partly due

- to a shift among the backward castes of North India.
- iv. The Lok Sabha elections, many states also held Assembly elections in 1977. Again, the Northern States elected non-Congress governments in which the leaders of the backward castes played an important role.
- v. The Emergency and the period around it can be described as a period of constitutional crisis because it had its origins in the constitutional battle over the jurisdiction of the Parliament. On the other hand, it was also a period of political crisis. It was one of the prominent cause for the fall of the Congress Party's dominance.
30. The salient features of the coalition governments formed after the fourth general elections are as follows:
- Unstable coalition:** Coalition governments were unstable governments since they had no inherent compatibility amongst constituent parties. They had their own internal contradictions which led to the breakup not only of various fronts but of governments as well. Because it is a less stable form of government, a coalition is more likely to fall apart and break up than a one-party system of government.
  - Anti-Congressism:** The main object of the coalition was to dislodge the Congress Party and to break its monopoly. The high priest of this strategy was the late Ram Manohar Lohia. D.C. Pavate rightly observes: "The prime reason for such a coalition of opposition groups was not to provide an alternative government with a purposive program different from that of the Congress but to oust the Congress from power somehow or other".
  - Lack of polarisation:** The coalitions were marriages of convenience. They were not formed on principles or on the basis of polarisation of political forces. There were widely heterogeneous elements like the CPI and Jana Sangh. It was just for the sake of capturing the power that issues of ideological significance were either side-stepped or compromised and non-Congress coalition of a most heterogeneous variety came into being.
  - Political opportunism:** The most important factor in the formation of the coalition was political opportunism. Coalition governments became a game of selfish, opportunist, power hungry and unscrupulous politicians who had to look after nothing but their personal interests.

OR

The following elements of consensus have emerged among most political parties of India after the Lok Sabha Elections of 2004.

- Consensus upon the New Economic Policy:** While many groups are opposed to the new economic policies, most political parties are in support of the new economic policies. Baring a few parties, the majority among them unanimously agrees to the new economic policy of globalization. Most parties believe and imagine that these will bring prosperity to the nation and thus, India will soon become an economic power of the world.
- Consensus upon the socio-political claims of the backward castes:** Political parties have recognized that the social and political claims of the backward castes need to be accepted. Almost all political parties have felt the need to accept the social and political demands of the backward castes in India. It can be observed

from every party's focus on a reservation of seats/posts of backward castes in legislative and government institutions.

- iii. **Consensus upon the role of regional parties in making the government:** The difference between regional and national parties is gradually shrinking. Regional parties are setting alliance and share power with national parties at the national level, since the last twenty years and thus, these have played an important role in the politics in India.
- iv. **Political alliance without consent of ideology:** We observe that since the last two decades, parties with the difference in ideologies join in the alliance because they focus on power sharing. Such alliances are NDA and UPA, Popular United Front consisting of Akali Dal, CPI, CPI (M), SSP, Republican Party and Bhartiya Jansangh in Punjab (Assembly election 1967), Grand Alliance of 1971's general election, Alliance of Congress (R) with CPI, etc.
- v. **Emphasis on Pragmatic Considerations:** Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences and power-sharing arrangements. Thus most parties of the NDA did not agree with the 'Hindutva' ideology of the BJP. Yet, they came together to form a government and remained in power for a full term.