



Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Describe any four major developments in the Indian politics since 1989.

Answer: In the midst of severe competition and many conflicts, a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties. This consensus consists of four elements:

(i) Agreement on new economic policies: While many groups are opposed to the new economic policies, most political parties are in support of the new economic policies. Most parties believe that these policies would lead the country to prosperity and a status of economic power in the world.

(ii) Acceptance of political and social claims of the backward castes:

Political parties have recognised the social and political claims of the backward castes need to be accepted. As a result, all political parties now support reservation of seats for the 'backward classes' in education and employment. Political parties are also willing to ensure that the OBCs get adequate share of power.

(iii) Acceptance of the role of state level parties in governance of the country: The distinction between state level and national level parties is fast becoming less important. State level parties are showing power at the national level and have played a central role in the country's politics of last twenty years or so.

(iv) Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideological positions and political alliances without ideological agreement: Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences to 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.

2. When and why did a long phase of coalition politics begin in India?

Answer: The era of coalitions could be seen after 1989 elections onwards. The Congress was the largest party but did not achieve a single majority, hence it decided to act as opposition party. This led to National Front (Alliance of Janata Dal and other regional parties). It received major support from BJP and left front. BJP and left front did not join the government but gave support from outside. The coalition era had many PMs and some of them held office for short duration.

3. "Coalition government helps in consensus building". Do you agree with the statement? Give arguments in support of your answer.

Answer: In the midst of severe competition and conflicts, a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties consisting of following four elements:

1. Most political parties were in support of new economic policies to lead the country to prosperity and a status of economic power in the world.

2. All political parties supported, reservation of seats for backward classes in education and employment and even to ensure the OBCs to get adequate share of power.

3. Role of state level parties was accepted in the governance of

country.

4. Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences to power sharing arrangements. Hence most of the NDA did not agree the Hindutva ideology of BJP, still they came together to form a government and remained in power for full term.

4. Write a note on Hindu-Muslim Riots in Gujarat.

Answer:

1. The Anti-Muslim Riots took place at a station called Godhara in 2002.

2. A fire took place on a bogey full of leorisevakos returning from Ayodhya.

3. The hand of Muslims was suspected behind this fire.

4. Widespread violence took place against muslims in which nearly 1100, mostly muslims were killed.

5. Human Right commission criticised Gujarat government's role in failing to control violence and provided relief to victims.

6. Gujarat riots show that the government machinery also becomes susceptible to passion and alert us the danger involved in using religious sentiments for political purposes.

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