

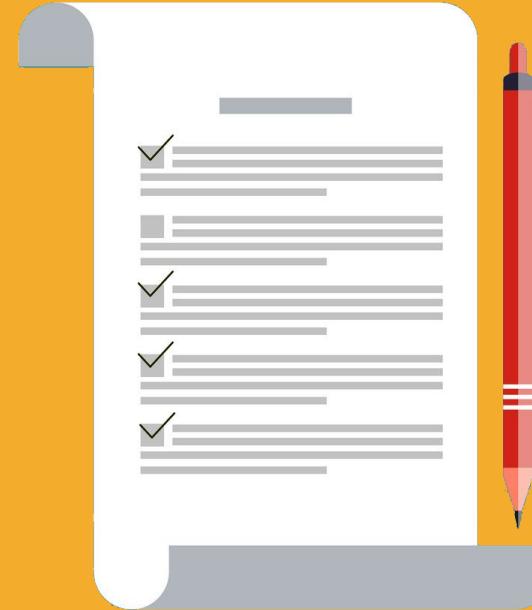
Class - X

Notes

Complete

Civics

Crafted with love ❤
By Digraj Singh Rajput



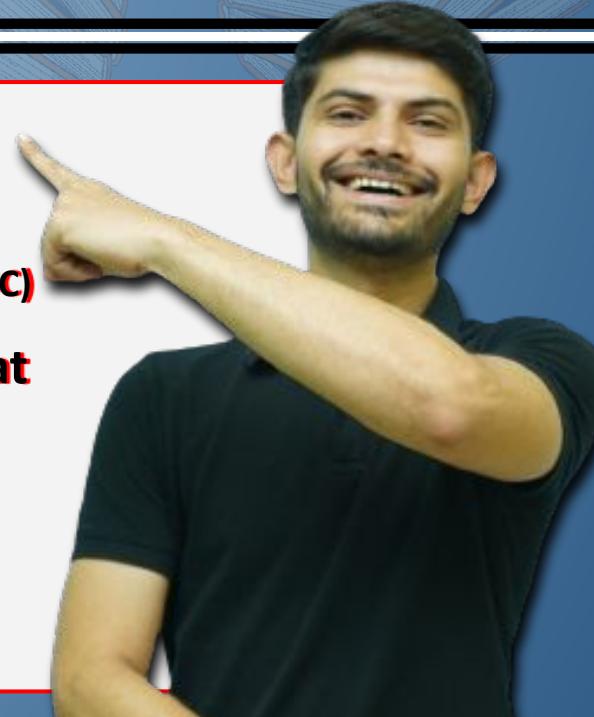
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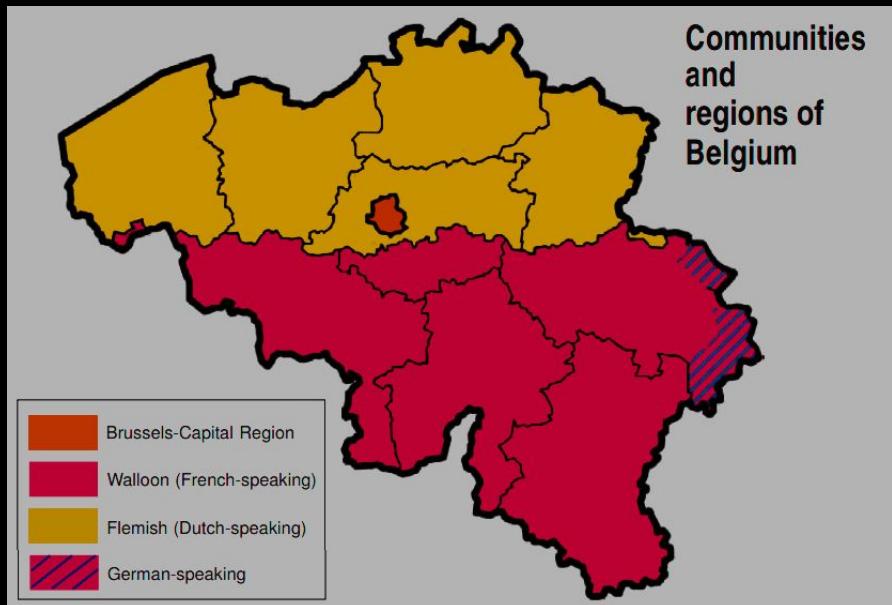


Belgium and Sri Lanka

Ethnic composition of Belgium



- 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language.
- Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.
- Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German. 😠
- In ***the capital city Brussels***, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutchspeaking.





Reasons for Tension



- The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.
- This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later.
- The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. A yellow emoji face with a furrowed brow and a small tuft of hair on top.
- Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



Ethnic composition of Sri Lanka

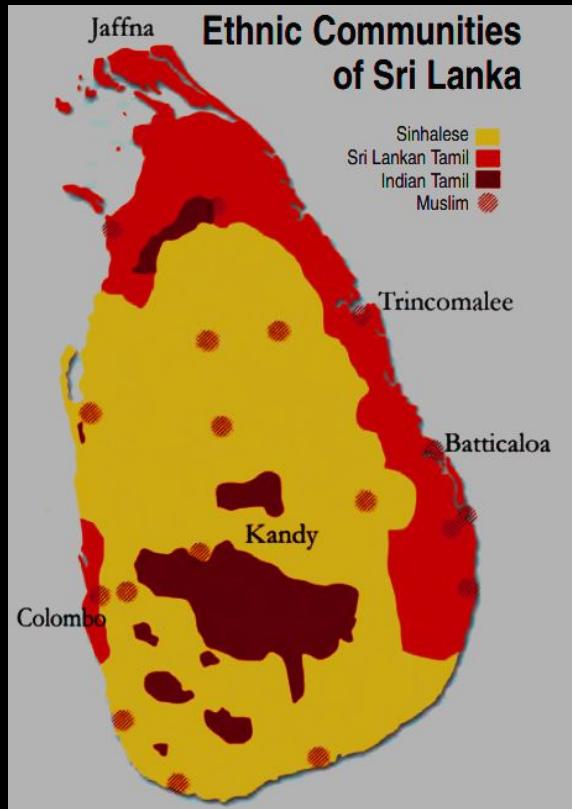


- Sri Lanka has a diverse population.
- The major social groups are *the Sinhala-speakers* (74 per cent) and *the Tamil-speakers* (18 per cent).



Among Tamils there are two subgroups. 😠

- Tamil natives of the country are called '*Sri Lankan Tamils*' (13 per cent).
- The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called '*Indian Tamils*'.





Religious Composition



- Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims.
- There are about 7 per cent Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.

Analyse the situation

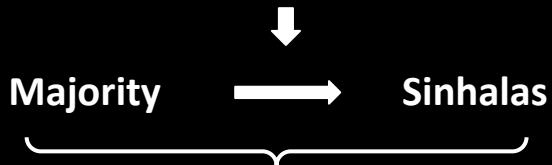


Possibility of majority dominance and conflicts.

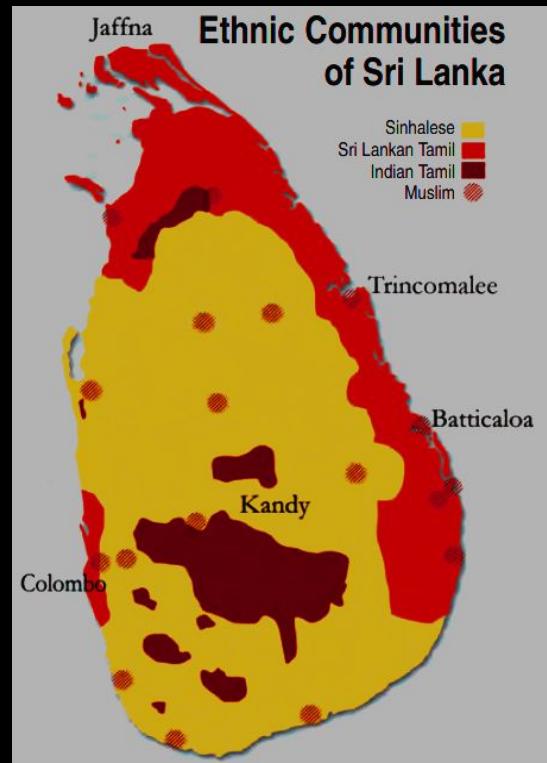


Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka got independence in 1948.



A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.





Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy are -



- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise *Sinhala as the only official language*, thus disregarding Tamil.
- The governments followed preferential policies that *favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs*.
- A new constitution stipulated that the *state shall protect and foster Buddhism*.





Impact of Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy 😠



All these government measures increased the ***feeling of alienation*** among the Sri Lankan Tamils.



- They felt that the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were not sensitive to their language and culture.
- They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights.
- Discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.



As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.



Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamils



- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- By 1980s several **political organisations** were formed demanding an **independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka**.
- The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict.



Civil War

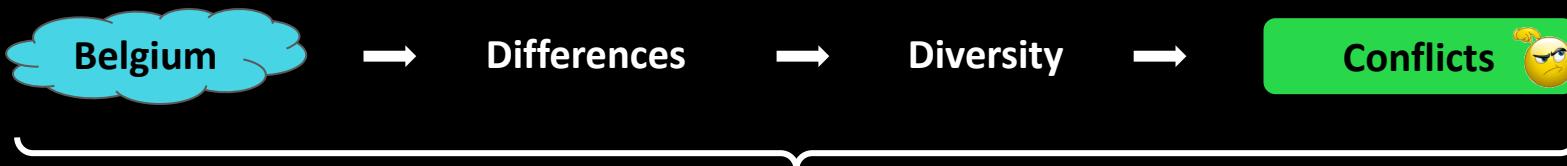


The civil war has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



Accommodation in Belgium



- The Belgian leaders took a different path.
- They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.



Explain



Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



Some of the elements of the Belgian model of Accommodation are:



- Between 1970 and 1993, *they amended their constitution four times* so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.
- 1. Constitution prescribes that *the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.*



Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.

- 2. Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. *The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.*



Some of the elements of the Belgian model of Accommodation are:

- **Brussels** has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.



The French Speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.

- Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. 😊



'Community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community - Dutch, French and German-speaking - no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.



Belgian model is very complicated. 😠



- But these arrangements have worked well so far.
- They helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.
- When many countries of Europe came together to form the European Union, ***Brussels was chosen as its headquarters.***



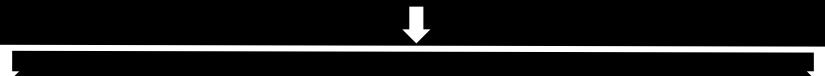
Conclusion 😠

European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



Why Power Sharing is Desirable?



Prudential

Moral

Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.

Explain 😊



Prudential reasons for power sharing



- Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.
- Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well.



It is prudential to share power because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.



Moral reasons for power sharing



- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.
- People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable.



Forms of Power Sharing

Power sharing and idea associated with it. 😡

All power of a government must reside in one person or group.

Why? 😡

Emergence of democracy

- People are the source of all political power.
- Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies.

∴ Political Power Should be distributed

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms.

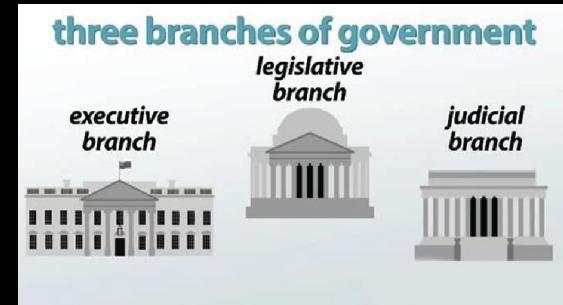
1. ***Power is shared among different organs of government.***



Horizontal distribution of power.



- Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.
- Each organ checks the others.
- This results in a balance of power among various institutions.

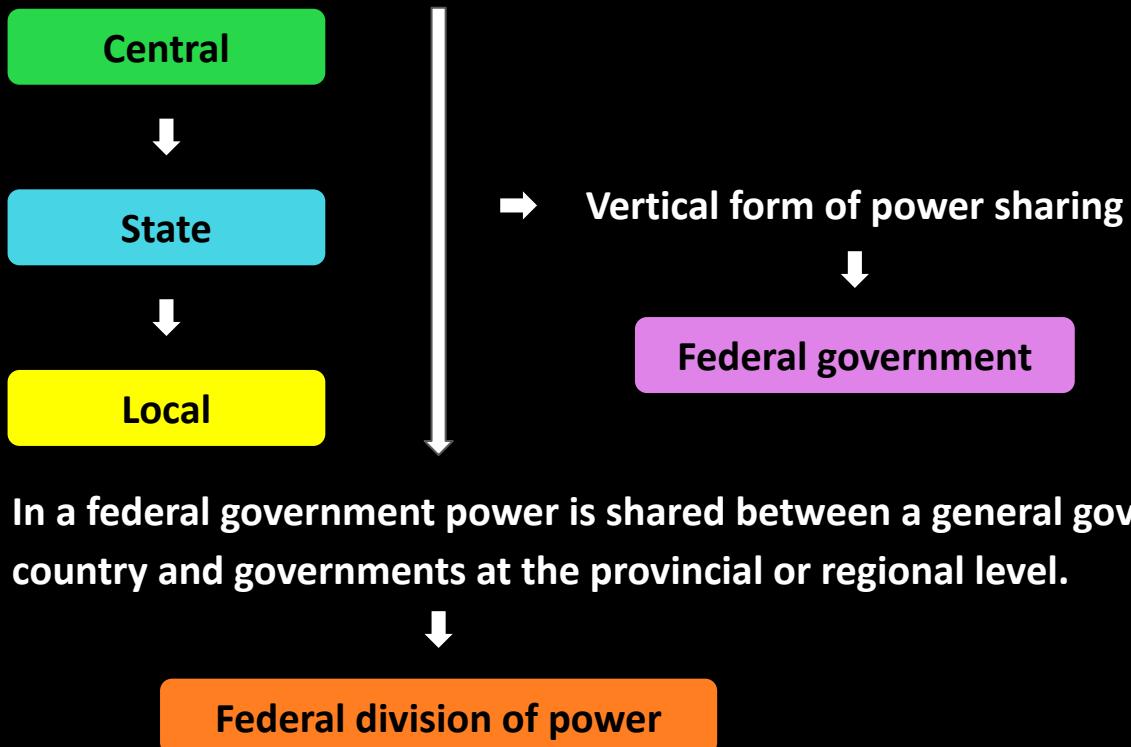


System of checks and balances 😠

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



2. *Power can be shared among government at different levels.*



- In a federal government power is shared between a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.



3. *Power may also be shared among different social groups.*

Social Group



Groups based on the basis of religion and language.



- '**Community government**' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
- In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.



Reserved Constituencies



Advantages of sharing power among different social groups 😊



- This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.
- This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.

Class 10th - Civics - Power Sharing - Full Chapter Explanation



4. *Power can be shared by political parties, pressure groups and movements.*



- Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- Power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

Example -

- Coalition government.
- In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers.



Chapter Completed



Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



Connect with the previous chapter



Vertical division of power among different levels of government is one of the major forms of power sharing in modern democracies.



Federalism



We will try to connect the topic - '*Federalism*' in Indian context.

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation

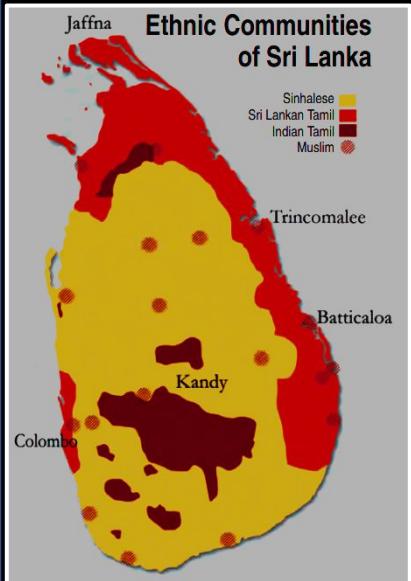


What is Federalism? 😠

Belgium

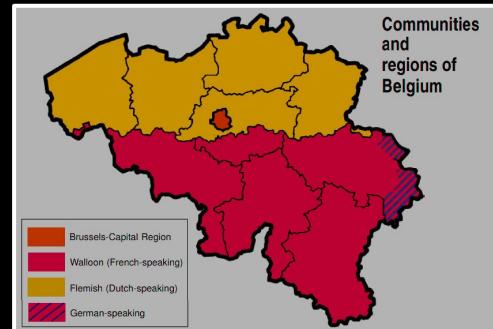
and

Sri Lanka



Recall and Analyse

- Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.
- Sri Lanka continues to be, for all practical purposes, a unitary system where the national government has all the powers.



Federalism 😠

Unitary System 😠

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



Federalism



Unitary System



- **Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.**
- Usually, a federation has two levels of government.
- One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.
- The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.
- Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

- Federations are contrasted with unitary governments.
- Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.



Key feature of Federalism



1. There are ***two or more levels (or tiers)*** of government.
2. Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, ***but each tier has its own Jurisdiction*** in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
3. The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is ***constitutionally guaranteed***.
4. The ***fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed*** by one level of government.
5. ***Courts have the power to interpret the constitution*** and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
6. ***Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified*** to ensure its financial autonomy.



7. **The federal system thus has dual objectives** -
 - i. To safeguard and promote unity of the country.
 - ii. Accommodate regional diversity.
- ***Two aspects are crucial for the institutions and practice of federalism.***
 - Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power-sharing.
 - They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement.

Ideal Federal System

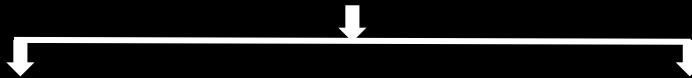


Mutual trust and agreement to live together.



The exact balance of power between the central and the state government varies from one federation to another.

There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed.



Coming together federations

- Involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.
- USA, Switzerland and Australia.
- All the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.

Holding together federations

- A large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.
- India, Spain and Belgium are examples.
- the central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States.
- Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



What makes India a Federal Country?

Try to understand the topic 😊



The Constitution declared India as a Union of States. Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism.



Features of federalism

→ Do these features apply to the provisions of Indian constitution?



What makes India a Federal Country?



1. The Constitution originally provided for a ***two-tier system of government***, the Union Government or what we call the Central Government, representing the Union of India and the State governments.



Later, a third tier of federalism was added in the form of ***Panchayats and Municipalities***.

2. ***Each tier of government has its own jurisdiction, specified in constitution.***



The Constitution clearly provided a threefold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments.

Union list

State list

Concurrent list



Union list

- Includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.
- They are included in this list because we need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country.
- The Union Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List.

State list

- Contains subjects of State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- The State Governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the state list.



Concurrent list

- Includes subjects of common interest to both the Union government as well as the State government, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.
- Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list.
- If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.



3. Residuary Subjects



All those subjects which do not fall in any of the list and came up after the constitution was made.

Example : Computer Software

: Only central government can make laws on them.



3. Holding together federation

→ Do not give equal power to its constituent units.



- All States in the Indian Union do not have identical powers.
- Some States enjoy a special status.



- Earlier Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution.
- Article 371 gives many special powers to some of the states.
E.g - States In North East





Concept of Union territory 😠



- Units of the Indian Union which enjoy very little power.
- *These are areas which are too small to become an independent State but which could not be merged with any of the existing States.*
- These territories do not have the powers of a State.
- The Central Government has special powers in running these areas.

Example: Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Delhi.



4. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.

Power Sharing

- Basic to the structure of the Constitution.
- It is not easy to make changes to this power sharing arrangement.



- The Parliament cannot on its own change this arrangement.
- Any change to it has to be first passed by both the Houses of Parliament with at least two-thirds majority.
- Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total States.



5. ***The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.***



In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.

6. The Union and State governments have the ***power to raise resources by levying taxes*** in order to carry on the government and the responsibilities assigned to each of them.



How is Federalism Practised?

Federalism

v/S

Success of federalism



- Constitutional provisions are necessary for the success of federalism but these are not sufficient.
- The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in our country.



Explain



Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



1. Linguistic States



People who spoke the same language lived in the same State.



The creation of linguistic states was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.



Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation

Creation of linguistic states



- Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.
- These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.



Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



- Some national leaders feared



Creation of linguistic state would lead to the disintegration of the country.

∴ The Central Government resisted linguistic States for some time.



Outcome 😡



- But the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic states has actually made the country, more united.
- It has also made administration easier.





2. Language Policy



- Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.



Connect with federalism 🤔

Is Hindi our national language? 🤔

- Hindi was identified as the official language.
- Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution.
- A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages.
- States too have their own official languages.



Hindi

V/S

English



- The leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965.
- Many non Hindi speaking States demanded that the use of English continue.
- In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form.
- The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.



Accommodative promotion of Hindi



- Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the Government of India.



Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on States where people speak a different language.

The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country avoid the kind of situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



3. Centre State Policy



Influences the practice of federalism in the country.



Constitutional arrangements for sharing power work in reality depends to a large extent on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements.

Centre - State relations and federalism

Before 1990s

After 1990s





Centre - State relations and federalism

Before 1990s

- The same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of the States.
- This meant that the State governments did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units.
- The Central Government would often misuse the Constitution to dismiss the State governments that were controlled by rival parties.
- This undermined the spirit of federalism.

After 1990s

- This period saw the rise of regional political parties in many States of the country.
- This was also the beginning of the era of Coalition Government at the Centre.
- Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many parties including several regional parties to form a government at the Centre.
- This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments.



Decentralisation in India

Federal System



Two or more than two tiers of governments.



Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government,
below that of the State governments.



Decentralisation



When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government.



The rationale behind decentralisation



- There are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
- They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- At the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.
- This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.



Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



- There were several attempts to decentralise power. 😠



Not very much successful



- Panchayat and municipalities were set up in all the states but these were directly under the control of state governments.
- Elections to these local governments were not held regularly.
- Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own.
- Thus, there was very little decentralisation in effective terms.



→ A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992.



Constitutional Amendment (73rd and 74th)



Why?



- Now it is ***constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections*** to local government bodies.
- ***Seats are reserved in the elected bodies*** and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- At least ***one-third of all positions are reserved for women***.
- An independent institution called the ***State Election Commission has been created*** in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- The ***State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies***. The nature of sharing varies from State to State.

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



Local self government

Rural local government
OR
Panchayati Raj

Urban local government
OR
Municipalities





Rural local government

Gram Panchayat



- Each village, or a group of villages in some States, has a gram panchayat.
- This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch, and a president or *sarpanch*.
- They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.
- It is the decision-making body for the entire village.
- The panchayat works under the overall supervision of the *gram sabha*. 😠



Gram sabha is a body consisting of all adult voters in a gram panchayat.

It has to meet at least twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget of the gram panchayat and to review the performance of the gram panchayat.

Class 10th - Civics - Federalism - Full Chapter Explanation



Zilla Parishad – District level



Panchayat Samiti – Block level



Gram Panchayat – Village level





Structure of rural local government



- A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form what is usually called a *panchayat samiti or block or mandal*.
 - The members of this representative body are elected by all the panchayat members in that area.
-
- All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the *zilla (district) parishad*.
 - Most members of the zilla parishad are elected.
 - Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members.
 - *Zilla parishad chairperson* is the political head of the zilla parishad.



Urban local government



Local government bodies for urban areas.



- **Municipalities** are set up in towns.
- Big cities are constituted into **Municipal Corporations**.
- Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.
- **Municipal chairperson** is the political head of the municipality.
- In a municipal corporation such an officer is called the **Mayor**.





Local self government



Achievement



- There are now about 36 lakh elected representatives in the panchayats and municipalities etc., all over the country.
- Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
- It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.



Challenges





Challenges



- While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, gram sabhas are not held regularly.
- Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.
- Nor have they given adequate resources.
- We are thus still a long way from realising the ideal of self-government.



Chapter Completed





Class 10th - Civics

Gender, Religion and Caste

Full Chapter Explanation



Class 10th - Civics - Gender, Religion and Caste - Full Chapter Explanation



Democracy

→ Diversity

→ Differences 🐝



Social differences that can take the form of social divisions and inequalities.

Gender

Religion

Caste



Photo
nahi mili



Gender and Politics

Gender division

- • The gender division tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable.
- However, it is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes. 

Sex

V/S

Gender



Public/Private division



Sexual Division of Labour



- Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children.
- A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers.



Societal belief and reality 🐝





Sexual division of labour



- Women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc., and men do all the work outside the home.
- When these jobs are paid for, men are ready to take up these works.
- Women do some sort of paid work but along with that it is presumed that it is their responsibility to do domestic labour but their work is not valued and does not get recognition.



Impact





Sexual division of labour

→ Reduction of women's role in public life, especially politics.



- Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices.
- Gradually the gender issue was raised in politics.



Demanding equality



Feminist movements

- There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.
- These agitations ***demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and opportunities.***
- More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well.





Advantage of Political expression of gender division and political mobilisation.



- Helped to improve women's role in public life.
- We now find women working as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for women.
- In Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high.



Situation in our country? A small yellow icon of a bee with black stripes, positioned next to the question text.



Patriarchal Society

→ Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways:



1. The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent compared with 76 per cent among men. *And the dropout rate among girls is high because parents prefer to spend their resources for their 'boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.*
2. The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average an *Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.* Yet much of her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.



3. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. **women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.**
4. In many parts of India parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born.



Such sex-selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio (number of girl children per thousand boys) in the country to merely 919. As the map shows, this ratio has fallen below 850 or even 800 in some places.



5. There are reports of various kinds of ***harassment, exploitation and violence against women.***



- Urban areas have become particularly unsafe for women.
- They are not safe even within their own home from beating, harassment and other forms of domestic violence.



Women's political representation

Problems

Solution

More women as elected representatives →

Explain

Challenges

- The proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
- The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has touched 12 percent of its total strength for the first time in 2014.
- Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent.
- Women's participation is among the bottom group of nations in the world when compared for participation of the women in national parliament.
- Cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.



Solution to the problem of women's political representation



1. One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies

- One-third of seats in local government bodies - in panchayats and municipalities - are now reserved for women.
- Now there are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.



Question



- Women's organisations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.
- A bill with this proposal has been pending before the Parliament for more than a decade.
- There is no consensus over this among all the political parties. The bill has not been passed.



Gender division

→ Shows that some form of social division needs to be expressed in politics.



Why



This shows that disadvantaged groups do benefit when social divisions become a political issue.



Do you think that women could have made the gains we noted above if their unequal treatment was not raised in the political domain?



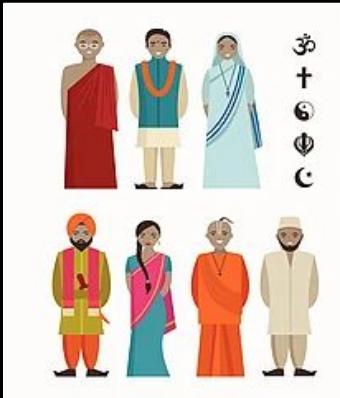
Religion, Communalism and Politics

Social division based on religion

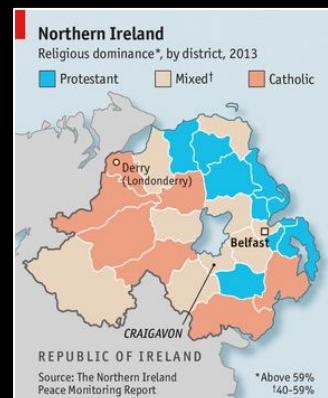


This division is not as universal as gender, but religious diversity is fairly widespread in the world today.

India



Northern Ireland



Unlike gender differences, the religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics.



Connection between religion and politics



1. Gandhiji used to say that *religion can never be separated from politics*.
 - By religion he does not mean any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that inform all religions.
 - He believed that politics must be guided by **ethics** drawn from religion.
2. Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities.



Explain

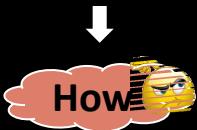


They have demanded that the government take special steps to protect religious minorities.

Class 10th - Civics - Gender, Religion and Caste - Full Chapter Explanation



3. Women's movement has argued that **FAMILY LAWS** of all religions discriminate against women.



∴ They have demanded that government should change these laws to make them more equitable.





Religion in Politics or Politics over Religion: Good or bad



- Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics.
- Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression.
- These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

Class 10th - Civics - Gender, Religion and Caste - Full Chapter Explanation



Communalism

→ Idea of communalism

Religion

→ As a basis of nation



People belonging to a same religion should form a nation and in the process the power of state is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.



Question



Broad understanding of communalism



Communalism



- Religion is expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms, when one religion and its followers are pitted against another.
- Beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions.
- The demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another.



State power is used to achieve this

Communal politics



Communalism



Communal politics



- The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
- Their fundamental interests are the same.
- It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community.

Different religion A small icon of a yellow and black striped honeybee, positioned next to the text 'Different religion' to illustrate the concept of different religious groups.



Situation and understanding for different religion.



- If the followers of different religion have some **commonalities** these are **superficial and immaterial**.
- Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.
- In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.
- Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.



Communalism

→ This belief is fundamentally flawed. 



- People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in every context.
- There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard.



Any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.



Communalism can take various forms in politics?

1. The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs.



These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions.

2. A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.

Major Community



Communalism takes the form of **majoritarian dominance**.

Minority Community



Communalism can takes the form of **desire to form a separate political unit**.



Communalism can take various forms in politics?

3. ***Political mobilisation*** on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.



- This involves the ***use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear*** in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
- In electoral politics this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.

4. Sometimes communalism takes its most ***ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.***

- India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of the Partition.
- The post-Independence period has also seen Large scale communal violence.



Secular state



Secularism is reflected in several constitutional provisions of our constitution



Secularism refers to the separation of religion from the state. It means that the state should not discriminate among its citizens on the basis of religion. It should neither encourage nor discourage the followers of any religion.



Constitutional provisions in the Indian secularism which makes India a secular state:

1. There is **no official religion** for the Indian state



- Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

2. The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities **freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.**



3. The Constitution ***prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.***
4. At the same time, the Constitution allows the ***state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality*** within religious communities.
For example, it bans untouchability



↓
Explain A yellow thinking emoji with a brain-like pattern inside its head, positioned next to the word 'Explain'.



Secularism

V/S

Communalism



- Is not just an ideology of some parties or persons.
- This idea constitutes one of the foundations of our country.
- Communalism should not be seen as a threat to some people in India.
- It threatens the very idea of India.

∴ Communalism needs to be combated



How communalism can be combated?



- A secular Constitution like ours is necessary but not sufficient to combat communalism.
- Communal prejudices and propaganda ***need to be countered in everyday life and religion based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics.***

Class 10th - Civics - Gender, Religion and Caste - Full Chapter Explanation



Caste and Politics

Expression of social division in politics



Gender ➔ Positive

Religion ➔ Negative

Caste ➔ Both Positive and Negative



Caste Inequalities



Unlike gender and religion, caste division is special to India. ➡

Explain



Societies ➡ Have social inequality and some form of division of labour



In most societies, Occupations are passed on from one generation to another.



Caste system is an extreme form of this. ➡ **Hereditary occupational division**



Caste system as the extreme form of social division



- In Indian society, hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.
- Members of the same caste group were supposed to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation.
- Married within the caste group.
- Did not eat with members from other caste groups.



Class 10th - Civics - Gender, Religion and Caste - Full Chapter Explanation

Caste system

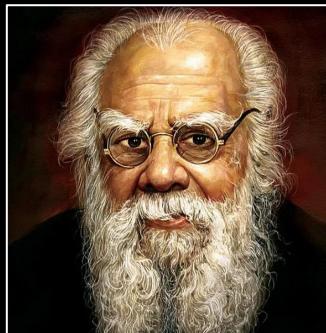
→ Based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups 



They were subjected to the inhuman practice of untouchability → 



That is why political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.





Factors responsible for the breaking down of caste system



- Social reformers
- Socio- economic changes
- Constitutional changes



Explain 



How the castes and caste system in modern India have undergone great changes due to socio-economic development?



- Economic development
- Large scale **URBANISATION**
- Growth of literacy and education
- **OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY**
- The weakening of the position of landlords in the villages
- The old notions of **CASTE HIERARCHY** are breaking down.

Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.



Caste system in contemporary India?



Not yet disappeared 



- Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted.
- Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition,

Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status 



Caste in Politics

Casteism

→ Rooted in the belief that caste is the sole basis of social community.



- People belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interests which they do not share with anyone from another caste.
- Such a belief is not borne out by our experience.
- Caste is one aspect of our experience but it is not the only relevant or the most important aspect.



Caste can take various forms in politics



1. When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the **caste composition of the electorate** and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
 - When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and, tribes find a place in it.
2. Political parties and candidates in elections make **appeals to caste sentiment to muster support.**

↓

 - Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.



3. ***Universal Adult Franchise*** and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.



- It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.



Explain 



Observation

→ The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else.



1. *No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste*

- So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.

2. *No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.*

- When people say that a caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.



3. *Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste.*



- Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste.

4. *The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections in our country.*



- That could not have happened if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.



Caste in politics



Conclusion



- While caste matters in electoral politics, so do many other factors.
- The voters have strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
- People within the same caste or community have different interests depending on their economic condition.
- Rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.
- People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of the leaders matter and are often decisive in elections.



Politics in Caste



What caste does to politics

V/S

How politics influences the
caste system and caste
identities by bringing them
into the political arena



Explain



It is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised.



Caste gets politicised in several ways



- Each caste group tries to become bigger by *incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes* which were earlier excluded from it.
- Various *caste groups are required to enter into a coalition* with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
- *New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena* like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

Good or Bad





Caste plays different kinds of roles in politics.

Positive



- Expression of caste differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities the space to demand their share of power.
- In this sense-caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.
- Several political and non-political organisations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.

Negative



- As in the case of religion, politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy.
- It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption.
- In some cases caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.



Chapter Completed





Introduction -

Why do we need political parties?

Political Parties



Most visible institution in a democracy.

At the same time this visibility does not mean popularity. Most people tend to be very critical of political parties.



Question

- Do we need political parties at all?
- Why did political parties become so omnipresent in democracies all over the world?



Introduction -

What we are going to study in this chapter?

- Meaning and functions of political parties
- Necessity of political parties
- How many parties should we have?
- National parties
 - All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPI-M), Indian National Congress (INC) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
- State Parties
- Challenges to political parties
- How can parties be reformed?



Meaning and Functions -

“A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.”



Parties

→ Persuade people → By winning popular support through elections.

∴ parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society A yellow emoji with black horizontal stripes, resembling a zebra or a yellow and black striped pattern.



Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve **PARTISANSHIP**.



Meaning and Functions -

A political party has three components:

- The leaders
- The active members
- The followers





Meaning and Functions -

Political parties

→ Fill political offices

→ Exercise political power



How?



→ ***Parties do so by performing a series of functions:***

1. ***Parties contest elections.***

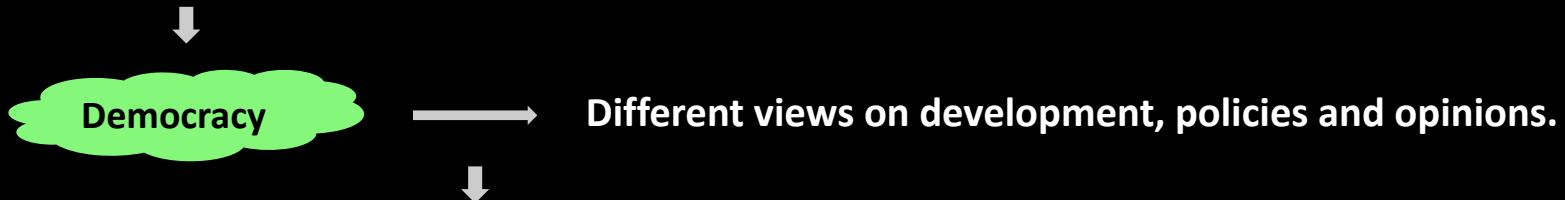


- Candidate contest elections on behalf of party.
- Parties select their candidates in different ways.



Meaning and Functions -

2. *Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.*



- A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions which it supports.
- A government is expected to base its policies on the line taken by the RULING PARTY.



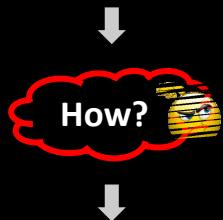
Meaning and Functions -

3. *Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.*



∴ They go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.

4. *Parties form and run governments.*



Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.



Meaning and Functions -

5. *Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power.*



How?

- By voicing different views and criticising government for its failures or wrong policies.
- Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.





Meaning and Functions -

6. *Parties shape public opinion.*



- They raise and highlight issues.
- Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country.
- Many of the pressure groups are the extensions of political parties among different sections of society.
- Parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.
- Often opinions in the society crystallise on the lines parties take.



Meaning and Functions -

7. *Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.*



For an ordinary citizen it is easy to approach a local party leader than a government officer.



- Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands.
- Otherwise people can reject those parties in the next elections.



Necessity -



Because parties perform all those functions discussed before.



Question



Why modern democracies cannot exist without political parties?



Imagine a situation without political parties



- Every candidate in the elections will be independent.
- So 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 ever uncertain.
- Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency.
- But no one will be responsible for how the country will be run.



Necessity -

→ The non-party based elections to the panchayat.



- Although, the parties do not contest formally, it is generally noticed that the village gets split into more than one faction.
- Each of which puts up a 'panel' of its candidates.



This is exactly what the party does.





Necessity -

The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies.



Explain



As society became large and complex



There is need of an agency which can perform certain function.



Political parties fulfill these needs that every representative government has.

- Gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.
- Bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.
- A mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose them.

∴ We can say that parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.

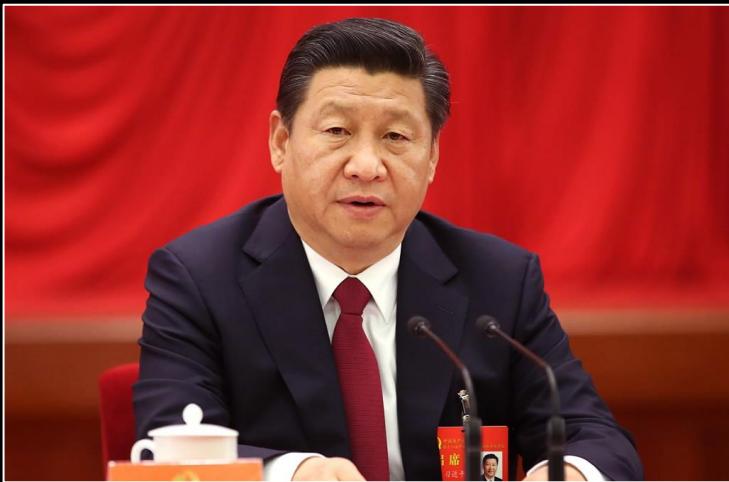


How many Parties should we have?

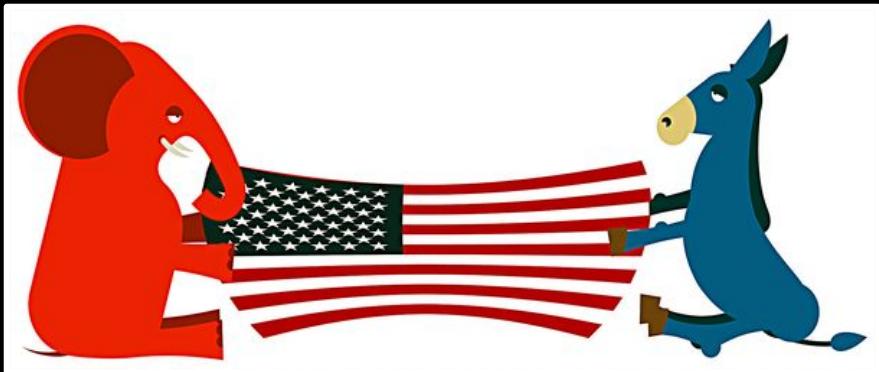
Situation in the country



Types of party system -



Why?

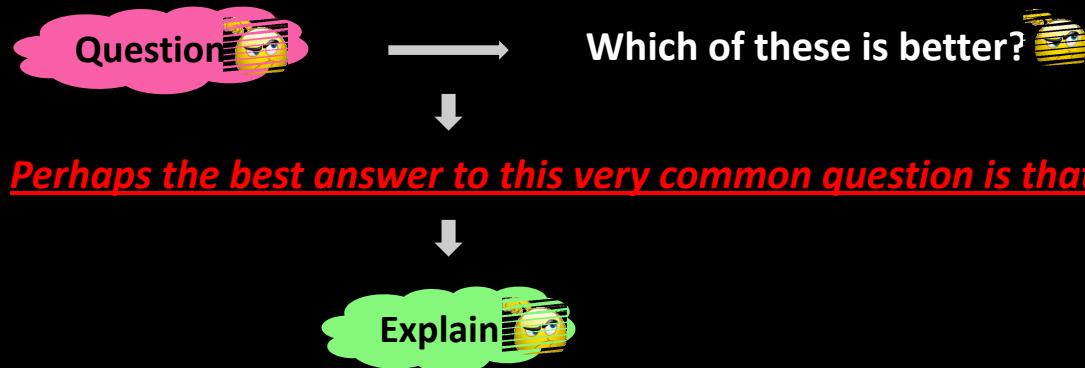


legislatures.

- The United States of America and the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system.



How many Parties should we have?



Perhaps the best answer to this very common question is that this is not a very good question.

- Party system evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.
- Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances.
- For example, if India has evolved a multiparty system, it is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.

∴ No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.



National Parties -

National Parties



Countrywide parties, have their units in various states. But by and large, all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.

- Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.



While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties.



Explain



- These parties are given a unique symbol.
- Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are 'recognised' by the Election Commission for this purpose.



Recognised political party



National Parties -

→ *The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party.*



- A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States.
- Wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a national party.





National Parties -

→ According to this classification, there were seven recognised national parties in the country in 2019.

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)



Communist Party of India (CPI)



Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPIM)



Indian National Congress (INC)



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

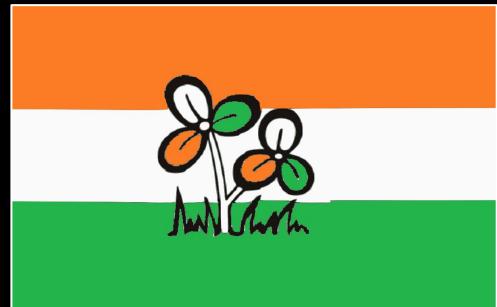




National Parties -

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)

- Launched on 1 January 1998 under the leadership of **Mamata Banerjee**.
- Recognised as a national party in 2016.
- The party's symbol is flowers and grass.
- Committed to secularism and federalism. Has been in power in West Bengal since 2011.
- Also has a presence in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura.
- In the General Elections held in 2019, it got 4.07 per cent votes and won 22 seats, making it the fourth largest party in the Lok Sabha.





National Parties -

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

- Formed in 1984 under the leadership of *Kanshi Ram*.
- Seeks to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.
- Draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar.





National Parties -

- **Stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the dalits and oppressed people. It has its main base in the state of Uttar Pradesh and substantial presence in neighbouring states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Punjab.**
- **Formed government in Uttar Pradesh several times by taking the support of different parties at different times.**
- **In the Lok Sabha elections held in 2019, it polled about 3.63 per cent votes and secured 10 seats in the Lok Sabha.**

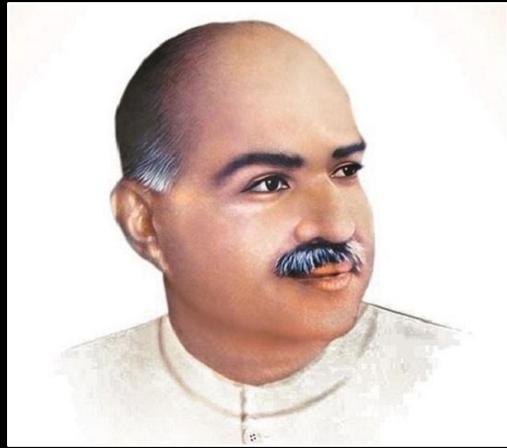




National Parties -

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

- Founded in 1980 by reviving the erstwhile *Bharatiya Jana Sangh*, formed by *Syama Prasad Mukherjee* in 1951.
- Wants to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values; and *Deendayal Upadhyay's ideas of integral humanism and Antyodaya*.
- *Cultural nationalism* (or 'Hindutva') is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.





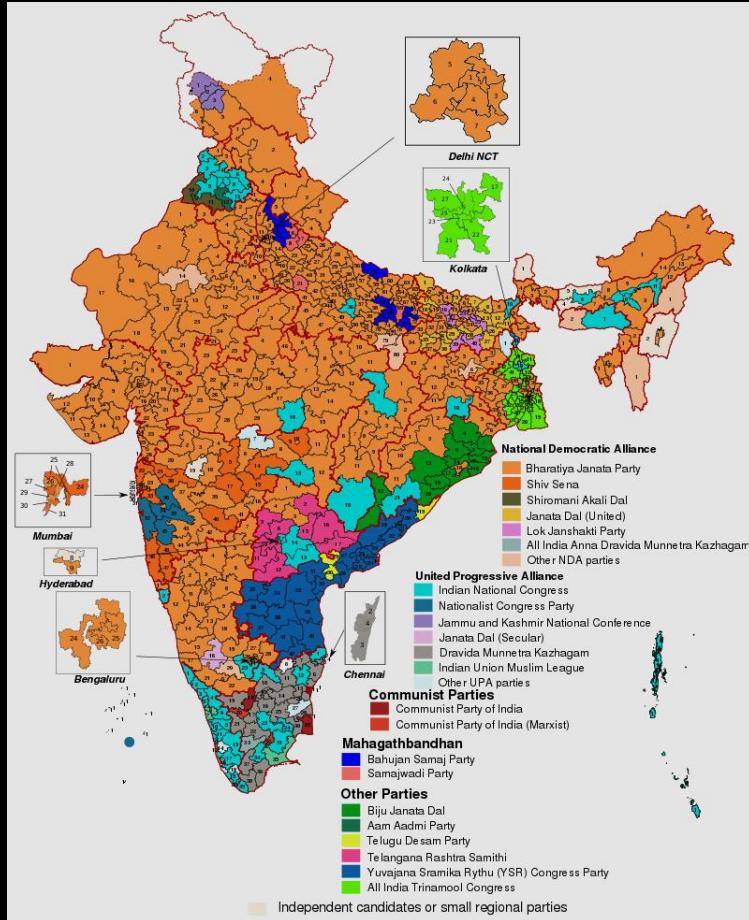
National Parties -

Objectives

- Wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, a uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion, and ban on religious conversions.
- Its support base increased substantially in the 1990s.
- Earlier limited to north and west and to urban areas, the party expanded its support in the south, east, the north-east and to rural areas.
- Came to power in 1998 as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) including several regional parties.
- Emerged as the largest party with 303 members in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- Currently leads the ruling NDA government at the Centre.

Class 10th - Civics - Political Parties

National Parties -





National Parties -

Communist Party of India (CPI)

- Formed in 1925.
- Believes in Marxism-Leninism, secularism and democracy.
- Opposed to the forces of secessionism and communalism.
- Accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interests of the working class, farmers and the poor.





National Parties -

- Became weak after the split in the party in 1964 that led to the formation of the CPI(M). 
- Significant presence in the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Its support base had gradually declined over the years.
- It secured less than 1 per cent votes and 2 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- Advocates the coming together of all left parties to build a strong left front.



National Parties -

Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPI-M)

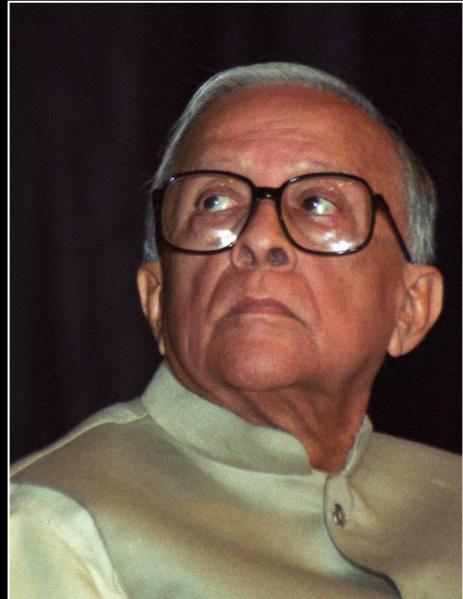
- Founded in 1964.
- Believes in Marxism-Leninism.
- Supports socialism, secularism and democracy and opposes imperialism and communalism.
- Accepts democratic elections as a useful and helpful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.





National Parties -

- Enjoys strong support in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, especially among the poor, factory workers, farmers , agricultural labourers and the intelligentsia.
- Critical of the new economic policies that allow free flow of foreign capital and goods into the country.
- Was in power in West Bengal without a break for 34 years.
- In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it won about 1.75 per cent of votes and 3 seats.



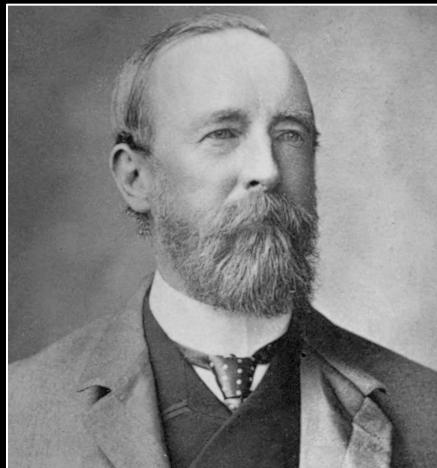
Jyoti Basu



National Parties -

Indian National Congress (INC)

- Popularly known as the Congress Party.
- One of the oldest parties of the world. Founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits.
- Played a dominant role in Indian politics at the national and state level for several decades after India's Independence.
- Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the party sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India.





National Parties -

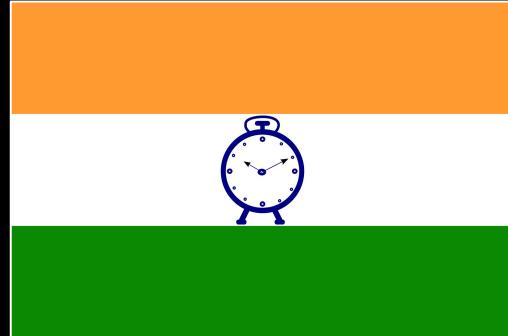
- Ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989.
- After 1989, its support declined, but it continues to be present throughout the country, cutting across social divisions.
- A ***centrist party*** (neither rightist nor leftist) in its ideological orientation, the party espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
- The INC supports new economic reforms but with a human face . Leader of the ***United Progressive Alliance*** (UPA) government from 2004 to 2019.
- In the 2019 Lok Sabha election it won 19.5% votes and 52 seats.



National Parties -

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

- Formed in 1999 following a split in the Congress party.
- Espouses democracy, Gandhian secularism, equity, social justice and federalism.
- Wants that high offices in government be confined to natural born citizens of the country.
- A major party in Maharashtra and has a significant presence in Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam.
- A coalition partner in the state of Maharashtra in alliance with the Congress.
- Since 2004, a member of the United Progressive Alliance.
- In 2019 Lok Sabha election it won 1.4% votes and 5 seats.





State Parties -

State parties



Parties other than the national parties are classified as state parties. Also known as '*Regional parties*'.



- These parties need not be regional in their ideology or outlook, and play very important role in national politics. 
- The national parties are compelled to form alliances with State parties.
- Made the Parliament of India politically more and more diverse.
- Contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in our country.



State Parties -

→ *The proportion of votes and seats, a party must get to be reorganised as state party.*



- A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State.
- Wins at least two seats is recognised as a State party.





Challenges to Political Parties -

Political Parties



Most visible face of democracy



∴ It is natural that people blame parties for whatever is wrong with the working of democracy.

→ **Popular dissatisfaction and criticism has focussed on four problem areas in the working of political parties.**

1. Lack of internal democracy
2. Challenge of dynastic succession
3. Growing role of money and muscle power
4. Parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters



Challenges to Political Parties -

1. Lack of internal democracy



Tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.



Impact

- Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party.
- The leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- Those who disagree with the leadership find it difficult to continue in the party.

More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important.



Challenges to Political Parties -

2. Challenge of dynastic succession



Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning.



- Less chances for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.
- The top positions are always controlled by members of one family.



- This is unfair to other members of that party.
- This is also bad for democracy.

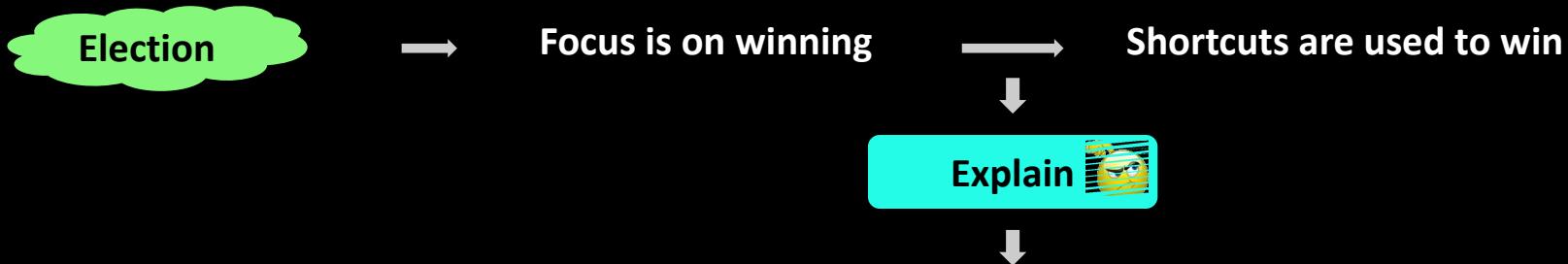


People who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.



Challenges to Political Parties -

3. Growing role of money and muscle power



- 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.
- Parties support criminals who can win elections.



Challenges to Political Parties -

4. Parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters



- In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different.



Explain



- There has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world.

Example -

- The difference between the Labour Party and the Conservative Party in Britain is very little.
- In our country too, the differences among all the major parties on the economic policies have reduced.
- Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either, because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another.





How can Parties be Reformed?

Challenges



Reform is required to overcome such challenges.



Reform vs Willingness to reform

Some of the recent efforts and suggestions in our country to reform political parties and its leaders.

1. The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties.



To prevent defection



Anti defection law

Now the law says that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature.

Anti defection law



+ This new law has helped bring defection down.

- This has made any dissent even more difficult.



How can Parties be Reformed?

- 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.



Explain



- 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.





How can Parties be Reformed?

3. The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.



Advantage



- The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality.
- It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in political parties.



How can Parties be Reformed?

→ ***Besides these, many suggestions are often made to reform political parties:***



1. A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.



- It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members.
- To follow its own constitution.
- To have an independent authority.
- To act as a judge in case of party disputes, to hold open elections to the highest posts.

2. It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates.



Similarly, there should be a quota for women in the decision making bodies of the party.

3. There should be state funding of elections. 



How can Parties be Reformed?

Suggestions

→ Not yet been accepted by political parties → Should be accepted



But we must be very careful about legal solutions to political problems.

Explain



- Over-regulation of political parties can be counterproductive.
- This would force all parties to find ways to cheat the law.
- Besides, political parties will not agree to pass a law that they do not like.



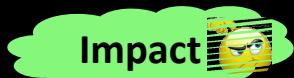
How can Parties be Reformed?

→ ***There are two other ways in which political parties can be reformed.***

Public pressure



People can put pressure on political parties, through petitions, publicity and agitations.



If political parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they would become more serious about reforms.

Public participation



- Political parties can improve if those who want this join political parties.
- It is difficult to reform politics if ordinary citizens do not take part in it and simply criticise it from the outside.
- The problem of bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.



Chapter Completed





How do we Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Democracy



Better form of government when compared with other alternatives.



Why?



- Promotes equality amongst citizens.
- Enhance the dignity of the individual.
- Improves the quality of decision making.
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- Allows room to correct mistakes.

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How do we Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Expectations



V/S

Reality



Are these expectations realised under democracies?

Most of them support democracy against other alternatives, such as rule by a monarch or military or religious leaders.

But not so many of them would be satisfied with the democracy in practice.

Democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt to be not so good in its practice.



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How do we Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Democracies



Is it accepted only because of moral reasons or are there any prudential reasons also.



Democracies



Many democracies



How?



Democracies are very much different from each other in term of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures.



Question



But is there something that we can expect from every democracy, just because it is democracy?



How do we Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

We = Democracy = Our expectations



- Democracy can address all socio-economic and political problem.
- If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy.
- We start doubting if we are living in a democracy.



Wrong



Democracy



Just a form of government



It can only create conditions for achieving something.



The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.



Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government -

Democracy and our expectations



- People will have the right to choose their ruler.
- Citizens should be able to participate in decision making.



The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is **accountable** to the citizens and **response** to the needs and expectations of the citizens and this makes up a **legitimate** government.



Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government -

Is the democratic government efficient and effective.



Decision making



Democratic V/S Non-democratic



- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- The democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.
- But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more effective.
- *Transparency* A small, yellow, cartoonish bee icon with black stripes and wings.



∴ It is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people.



Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government -

If you wanted to measure democracies on the basis of this expected outcome, you would look for the following practices and institutions:



- Regular free and fair elections.
- Open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- Citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Expectations

V/S

Reality



- Most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and in subjecting every decision to public debate.
- Democratic government do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information to citizens.

All one can say in favour of democratic regimes is that they are much better than any non-democratic regime in this report.

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Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government -

Democracy



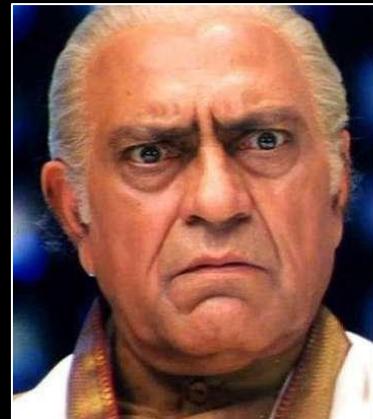
Produces responsive form of government.



It maybe a reasonable to expect from democracy a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.



Democratic V/S Non-democratic





Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government -

→ ***Democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives in one aspect:***



- It maybe slow, less effective, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.
- People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.



Economic Growth and Development -

Democracy = Good government, then it would produce development also.



Evidence shows that in practice many democracies did not fulfil this expectation.

Explain



Democracies

v/s

Dictatorship



- Between 1950 and 2000, dictatorship have slightly higher rate of economic growth.
- But this alone cannot be reason to reject democracy.
- Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the countries, etc.



Economic Growth and Development -

Democracy

: Development is not guaranteed, but it can compete with dictatorship over economic growth. 



When we find such significant difference in the rates of economic growth between countries under dictatorship and democracy, it is better to prefer democracy as it has several other positive outcomes.



Reduction of Inequality and Poverty -

Democracy



Outcome we expect from it 



Perhaps more than development, it is reasonable to expect democracies to *reduce economic disparities*.



Question



- Will wealth be distributed in such a way that all citizens of the country will have a share and lead a better life?
- Is economic growth in democracies accompanied by increased inequalities among the people?
- Do democracies lead to a just distribution of goods and opportunities?



Reduction of Inequality and Poverty -

→ Democracies are based on *political equality*. 



But at the same time we find growing economic inequalities.



Explain 



- Economic disparity between rich and poor.
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes.
- Share of rich in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon.
- Sometimes poor find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.



Reduction of Inequality and Poverty -

→ Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.



Democracy



Constitute a large proportion of our voters.



- No party will like to lose their votes.
- Yet democratically elected governments do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty.
- The situation is much worse in some other countries. 



Accommodation of Social Diversity -

Democracy



Our expectation from it towards *a harmonious social life*.



- Connect with previous topic. 
- It should accommodate social diversity.
- This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.

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Accommodation of Social Diversity -

Society



Have different groups



Conflicts



- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups.
- But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.



Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome.



Non-democratic regime



∴ Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.



Accommodation of Social Diversity -

Question



Why the situation was not same in Sri Lanka?



→ **Democracy must fulfil two conditions in order to achieve this outcome:**

1. ***Democracy*** → Not simply rule by majority opinion.



The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.

2. Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc.



Different persons and groups may and can form a majority, democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.

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Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens -

Democracy



Our expectation from it in regards to the dignity of an individual.



Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.



Outcome



→ But it is difficult to achieve this in a society which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination.



Example - Dignity of women in a male dominated societies.

- Caste based division.



Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens -

How dignity of women in a male dominated society can be ensured? 

Not-Guaranteed



But once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally.

→ Example of caste inequalities in India. 



Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

It is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights.



Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens -

→ Most distinctive thing about democracy is that its examination never gets over.



Explain



- As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.
- People will always come up with more expectations and many complaints in a democracy.
- The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.



It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and to look critically at power holders and the high and the mighty.

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