

CHAPTER

9

ERA OF ONE-PARTY DOMINANCE



Syllabus

(a) Challenge of building democracy.

(b) Congress dominance in the first three general elections.

- Nature of Congress dominance

- Congress as social and ideological coalition.

- Tolerance and management of Factions

(c) Emergence of opposition parties.

In this chapter you will study

- Sustenance of democratic politics in the Country.
- Evaluate the electoral Politics Post-independence
- Assess the dominance of the Indian National Congress
- Evaluate the role of opposition parties.

Scan to know more about this topic

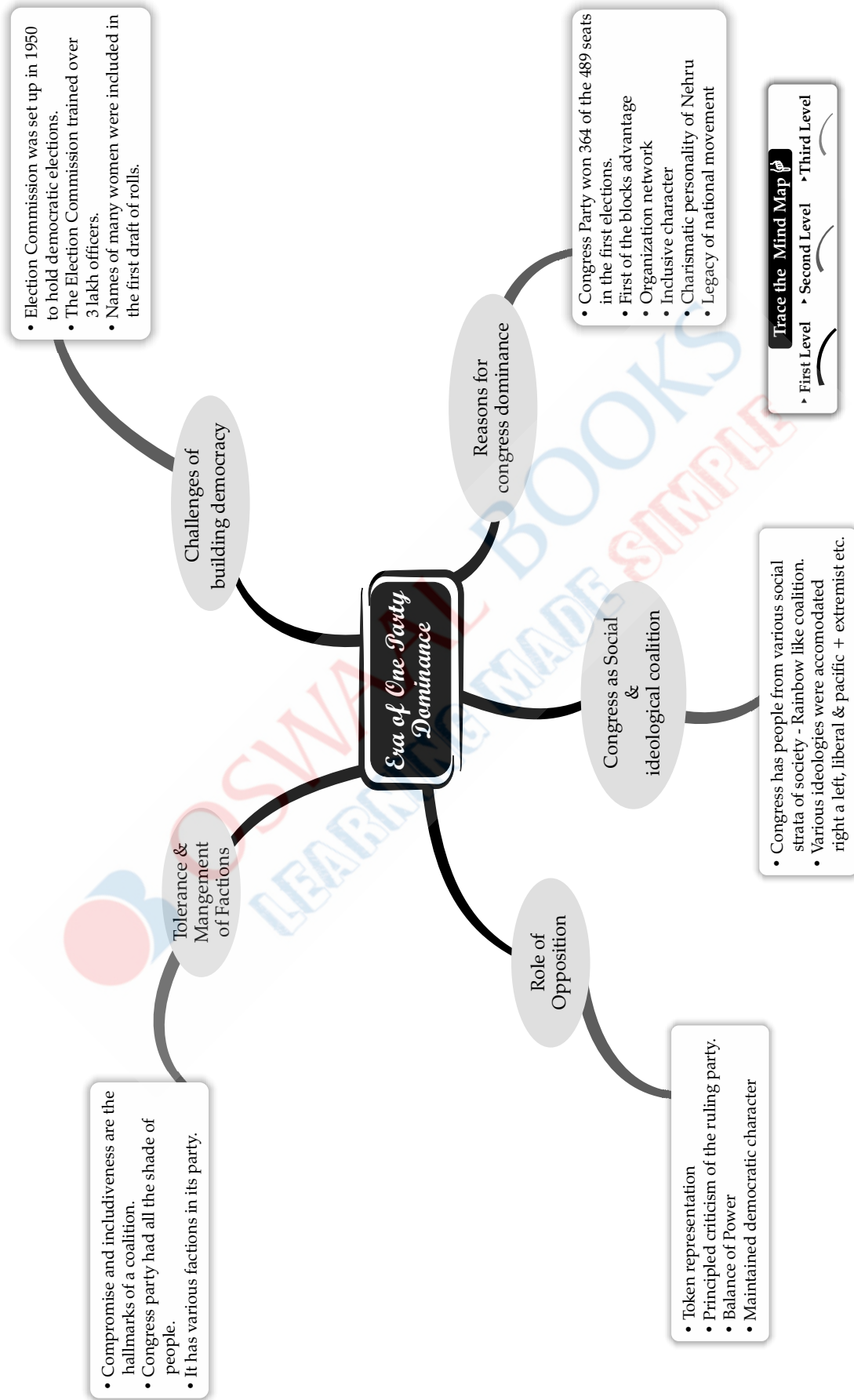


Era of One Party Dominance



Revision Notes

- **Challenges of building democracy:** When it comes to the challenges of building democracy in India, several factors come into play like:
 - Diversity and Pluralism
 - Socio-economic Inequalities
 - Corruption and Transparency
 - Electoral Process
 - Political Fragmentation and Coalition Politics
 - Gender Inequality and Women's Empowerment
 - Social Justice and Minority Rights
 - Balancing Centralization and Decentralization
- Building and strengthening democracy in India requires addressing these challenges and working towards creating an inclusive, accountable, and participatory democratic system that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and transparency.
- After independence, Indian leaders were conscious of the critical role of politics in any democracy. They did not see politics as a problem but they saw it as a way of solving the problems.
 - The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and signed on 24 January 1950 and it came into effect on 26 January 1950. At that time the country was being ruled by an interim government.
 - The Election commission of India came into existence in January 1950. Sukumar Sen became the first chief Election commissioner of India. The country's first general elections were expected sometime in 1950 itself.
 - The Election Commission discovered that it was not going to be easy to hold a free and fair election in a country of India's size. This commission required the drawing of the boundaries of electoral constituencies, electoral roll consisting eligible voters to hold free and fair elections.
 - The first general election was also the first big test of democracy in a poor and illiterate country. Till then democracy had existed only in the prosperous countries, mainly in Europe and North America, where nearly everyone was literate.
 - The elections had to be postponed twice and finally held from October 1951 to February 1952. But this election is referred to as the 1952 election since most parts of the country voted in January 1952. It took six months for the campaigning, polling and counting to be completed.
 - India's general election of 1952 became a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world.



► Congress dominance in the first three general elections

- The results of the first general election did not surprise anyone as the Congress party, as it was popularly known, had inherited the legacy of the national movement. It was the only party then to have an organisation spread all over the country.
- The party won 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha followed by The Communist Party of India with only 16 seats.
- The state elections were held with the Lok Sabha elections in which the Congress scored big victory in those elections as well. It won a majority of seats in all the states except Travancore- Cochin (part of today's Kerala), Madras and Orissa.
- In the second and the third general elections, held in 1957 and 1962 respectively, the Congress maintained the same position in the Lok Sabha by winning three-fourth of the seats.

► Communist victory in Kerala

- In the assembly elections held in March 1957, the Communist Party won the largest number of seats in the Kerala legislature. The party won 60 of the 126 seats and had the support of five independents.
- On losing power in the State, the Congress party began a 'liberation struggle' against the elected government.
- In 1959 the Congress government at the Centre dismissed the Communist government in Kerala under Article 356 of the constitution. This decision was first instance of the misuse of constitutional emergency powers.

► Nature of Congress Dominance

- India is not the only country to have experienced the dominance of one party. Many other parties around the world are examples of one party dominance, but there is a crucial difference between these and the Indian experience.
- In the rest of the cases, the dominance of one party was ensured by compromising democracy. But in India, one party dominated under democratic conditions.
- Many parties contested elections in conditions of free and fair elections and yet the Congress managed to win election after election.
- The roots of this extraordinary success of the Congress Party go back to the legacy of the freedom struggle as Congress was seen as inheritor of the national movement.
- By the time of Independence, the Congress was transformed into a rainbow-like social coalition broadly representing India's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages and various interests.

► Tolerance and Management of Factions

- The coalition-like character of the Congress gave it an unusual strength. Firstly, a coalition accommodates all those who join it. Therefore, it has to avoid any extreme position and strike a balance on almost all issues.

- Secondly, in a party that has the nature of a coalition, there is a greater tolerance of internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders are accommodated.
- Even if a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an opposition'. These groups inside the party are called factions.
- The factions took different ideological positions making the Congress appear as a grand centrist party.
- The other parties primarily attempted to influence these factions and thereby indirectly influenced policy and decision-making from the 'margins'. Therefore, political competitions took place within the Congress.

► Emergence of Opposition Parties

- The roots of almost all the non-congress parties can be traced to one or the other of the opposition parties of the 1950s.
- These parties offered a sustained and often principled criticism of the policies a practice of the Congress Party. This kept the ruling party under check and often changed the balance of power within the Congress.
- In the early years, there was lots of mutual respect between the leaders of the Congress and those of the opposition. Thus, this first phase of democratic politics in India was quite unique.
- As the ability of the Congress to accommodate all interests and all aspirants for political power steadily declined, other political parties started gaining greater importance. Thus, Congress dominance constitutes only one phase in the politics of the country.

► Socialist Party

- The Congress socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress.
- In 1948, the Congress amended its constitution to prevent its members from having a dual party membership. This forced the socialists to form a separate socialist party in 1948.
- They criticised the Congress for favouring capitalists and landlords and for ignoring the workers and peasants.
- The Socialist Party went through many splits and reunions leading to the formation of many socialist parties which included the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the Praja socialist Party and Samyukta Socialist Party.

► The Communist Party of India (CPI)

- In the early 1920s, communist groups emerged in different parts of India taking inspiration from the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- In 1951 the communist party abandoned the path of violent revolution and decided to participate in the approaching general elections.
- AK Gopalan, SA Dange, EMS Namboodripad; PC Joshi, Ajay Ghosh and P Sundarraya were among the notable leaders of the CPI.

- The Party went through a major split in 1964 following the ideological rift between Soviet Union and China. The pro-soviet faction remained as the CPI, while the opponents formed the CPI(M).
- **Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**
- The Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder President.
- It emphasised the idea of one country, one culture and one nation and believed that the country could become modern, progressive and strong on the basis of Indian culture and traditions.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party traces its roots to the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- **Swatantra Party**
- Swatantra party was formed in August in 1959. The party was led by old Congressmen like C. Rajgopalachari, KM Munshi, NG Ranga and Minoo Masani.
- The party was critical of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalisation and the public sector. It instead favoured expansion of a free private sector.



OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

(1 mark each)

A Multiple Choice Questions

Q. 1. The Election commission of India came into existence in _____.

- (A) November 1950
(B) January 1950
(C) November 1949
(D) January 1949

Ans. Option (B) is correct

Q. 2. Who among the following was the founder president of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?

- (A) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(B) K M Munshi
(C) A K Gopalan
(D) N G Ranga

Ans. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: The Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder President.

Q. 3. Congress party won _____ of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha election.

- (A) 360 (B) 460
(C) 364 (D) 464

Ans. Option (C) is correct

Q. 4. What is the full form of CSP?

- (A) Congregation socialist Party
(B) Congregation secular Party
(C) Congress secular Party
(D) Congress socialist Party

Ans. Option (D) is correct

Explanation: The Congress socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress.

Q. 5. In which year was the first general election held in India?

- (A) 1949 (B) 1950
(C) 1951 (D) 1952

Ans. Option (D) is correct

B Assertion and Reasons

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below for the following questions:

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is correct but (R) is not correct.
(D) (A) is not correct but (R) is correct.

Q. 1. Assertion (A): The partition of the country proved everyone's worst tears. There were serious questions about the future of India.

Reason (R): British government decided to give independence to India.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 2. Assertion (A): Writers, poets, and film makers in India and Pakistan have often used the phrase division of hearts to describe partition.

Reason(R): Muslim league put forward the Two nation theory that British did not consist of one but two people.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 3. Assertion (A): The Congress party dominated the first three general elections in India due to its strong leadership and mass appeal.

Reason (R): The Congress party, led by Jawaharlal Nehru, enjoyed widespread popularity and support among the Indian population, especially in the early years of independence, due to its role in the freedom struggle and its promises of social and economic development.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The Congress party indeed dominated the first three general elections in India. Jawaharlal Nehru, as the leader of the Congress party, commanded immense respect and popularity among the Indian people. The party's association with the freedom struggle and its commitment to social and economic development resonated with

the aspirations of the newly independent nation. This strong leadership and mass appeal propelled the Congress party to secure a majority of seats in the first three general elections.

Q. 4. Assertion (A): The roots of almost all the non-congress parties can be traced to one or the other of the opposition parties of the 1950s.

Reason(R): The Congress socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

C Complete the following sentences

(a) The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and _____ (The President of India/ State Assemblies/ Rajya Sabha/ The Prime Minister). [K]

Ans. The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

(b) The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the _____ (Praja Socialist Party/ Bharatiya Jana Sangh/ Communist Party of India/ Bharatiya Janata Party). [U]

Ans. The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the Communist Party of India.

(c) One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was _____ (Working class interests/ protection of Princely States/ economy free from State control / Autonomy of States within the Union) [U]

Ans. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was Economy free from state control.

D Answer the following in one word or one sentence

Q. 1. What is the full form of CPI? [K]

Ans. The Communist Party of India (CPI)

Q. 2. Who won the first general election in India in 1952? [K]

Ans. Indian National Congress (INC)

Q. 3. Who was the Prime Minister of India during the first three general elections? [K]

Ans. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Q. 4. Which party dominated the first three general elections in India? [K]

Ans. Indian National Congress (INC)

Q. 5. What was the symbol of the Indian National Congress during the first three general elections? [K]

Ans. Hand (open palm)

Q. 6. Which political party emerged as a major opposition party in India after the first three general elections? [K]

Ans. Communist Party of India (CPI)

Q. 7. When did the Swatantra Party emerge as a significant opposition party in India? [K]

Ans. The Swatantra Party emerged in the 1960s.

Q. 8. Which political party emerged as a strong opposition party in West Bengal, challenging the dominance of the Indian National Congress? [K]

Ans. Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))

Q. 9. When did the Janata Party emerge as a major opposition party in India? [K]

Ans. The Janata Party emerged in the 1970s.

Q. 10. Which party emerged as a dominant regional party in Tamil Nadu, challenging the national parties? [K]

Ans. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)

E Match the following

Q. 1. Match the following leaders listed in List A with the parties in List B. [U]

List A		List B	
(a)	S. A. Dange	i.	Bhartiya Jana Sangh
(b)	Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	ii.	Swatantra Party
(c)	Minoo Masani	iii.	Praja Socialist Party
(d)	Asoka Mehta	iv.	Communist Party of India

Ans.

List A		List B	
(a)	S. A. Dange	iv.	Communist Party of India
(b)	Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	i.	Bhartiya Jana Sangh
(c)	Minoo Masani	ii.	Swatantra Party
(d)	Asoka Mehta	iii.	Praja Socialist Party

F True and False

Q. 1. Four statements regarding one-party dominance are given below. Mark each of them as true (✓) or false (*). [Ap]

(a) One-party dominance is rooted in the absence of strong alternative political parties.

(b) One-party dominance occurs because of weak public opinion.

(c) One-party dominance is linked to the nation's colonial past.

(d) One-party dominance reflects the absence of democratic ideals in a country.

Ans. (a) True

Explanation: There were many well organized other parties, but Congress got the 'first off the blocks' advantage. It had an organisational network from top to local, from left to right. It had an inclusive nature; all these factors contribute for its domination.

(b) False

Explanation: One party dominance has many reasons to occur except the weak public opinion because, a party can only be dominating when it incorporates the plight, opinion and needs of the people. People choose the party as their representatives, which later establish its dominance.

(c) True

Explanation: The colonial past is important to remind the dominance of the party that played an important role in revolt and liberations for the nation. For example: Indian Congress was seen as inheritor of the national movement in India.

(d) False

Explanation: Prevalence of one-Party dominance does not reflect the ideals in a country as in the case of Indian Congress democratic ideals remained intact and it evolved. Here many parties contested elections yet the Congress managed to win the elections.



SUBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS



Short Answer Type Questions -II (4 marks each)

Q. 1. Analyse the role of the Indian National Congress (INC) during the first three general elections. [A]

- Ans. (i) The Indian National Congress (INO) played a dominant role in the first three general elections, emerging as the single largest party in each election.
- (ii) The INC, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, enjoyed widespread popularity and support, given its association with the freedom struggle and its role in shaping the nation's destiny.
- (iii) The party's organisational strength, nationwide network, and charismatic leadership contributed to its electoral success.
- (iv) The INC's commitment to secularism, social justice, and economic development resonated with a significant portion of the electorate, leading to its consistent electoral victories.
- (v) The INC's dominance in these elections allowed it to form stable governments at the center and pursue its policies and agendas effectively. **(Any four points)**

Q. 2. How did the Communist Party achieve victory in Kerala in 1957? [U]

- Ans. (i) The Communist Party of India (CPD) achieved victory in Kerala in 1957 through a successful electoral campaign.
- (ii) The party effectively mobilized the support of the working class, peasants, and marginalized communities by highlighting their grievances and advocating for their rights.
- (iii) The party's strong organisational structure and disciplined cadre played a crucial role in reaching out to voters and ensuring a high level of grassroots mobilization.
- (iv) The Communist Party's focus on land reforms and social justice appealed to the agrarian population in Kerala, where land ownership was concentrated in

the hands of a few.

Q. 3. Write short note on the following: [U]

- (a) **Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**
 (b) **Swatantra Party**
 (c) **Congress Socialist Party (CSP)**

Ans. (a) **Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS):**

- (i) Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS) was a right-wing political party in India founded in 1951.
- (ii) The party emerged as a political platform for Hindu nationalist ideology and represented the interests of conservative Hindus.
- (iii) BJS advocated for the protection of Hindu culture, national unity, and the promotion of Swadeshi (indigenous) economic policies.
- (iv) The party focused on issues such as national security, territorial integrity, and the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- (v) BJS was a precursor to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which later became a major political force in India. **(Any four points)**

(b) **Swatantra Party**

- (i) The Swatantra Party was a political party in India founded in 1959.
- (ii) The party represented conservative and liberal economic ideologies, advocating for free-market principles and limited state intervention.
- (iii) Swatantra Party opposed socialist policies, including state control of industries and extensive planning.
- (iv) The party attracted support from industrialists, businessmen, and wealthy landowners who favoured economic liberalism.
- (v) Swatantra Party aimed to provide an alternative to the dominant Indian National Congress and socialist-leaning parties. **(Any four points)**

(c) **Congress Socialist Party (CSP):**

- (i) The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was a faction within the Indian National Congress during the pre-

independence era.

- (ii) CSP represented the left-wing socialist ideology within the Congress party.
- (iii) The party advocated for land reforms, workers' rights, social justice, and the nationalization of key industries.
- (iv) CSP was critical of the Congress party's moderate stance on socialism and pushed for more radical and progressive policies.
- (v) CSP played a significant role in shaping the socialist discourse within the Indian independence movement.

(Any four points)

Q. 4. How did the Congress party function as a social coalition during the first three general elections in India? U

- Ans.** (i) The Congress party accommodated various social groups within its fold, allowing different sections of society to have a voice in the political process.
- (ii) It served as a platform for different communities, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and others, to participate and contribute to the political discourse.
- (iii) This ideological diversity allowed the Congress party to appeal to a broad spectrum of voters and maintain a large support base.



Long Answer Type

Questions

(5 marks each)

Q. 1. Discuss the significance of the first three general elections in India. Ap

- Ans.** (i) The first three general elections held in India (1952, 1957, and 1962) marked a critical phase in the country's democratic journey.
- (ii) These elections were essential in establishing India as the world's largest democracy and demonstrated the commitment to democratic principles and free and fair elections.
- (iii) The elections allowed the citizens to exercise their right to vote, giving them a voice in shaping the future of the nation.
- (iv) These elections also provided an opportunity to test the democratic institutions, electoral processes, and political parties' ability to function in a democratic setup.
- (v) The high voter turnout during these elections indicated the enthusiasm and active participation of the people in the democratic process.
- (vi) The peaceful transfer of power after each election demonstrated the stability and strength of India's democratic framework.

Q. 2. Discuss the challenges faced by the electoral process during the first three general elections.

- Ans.** (i) The first three general elections in India were not without challenges. One significant challenge was the task of conducting elections in a vast and diverse country like India, with a large population

and varied regional dynamics.

- (ii) The electoral machinery had to ensure logistical arrangements, including voter registration, the distribution of ballot papers, and the counting of votes, across different regions and constituencies.
- (iii) Illiteracy and lack of awareness about the electoral process posed challenges in terms of voter education and ensuring the participation of all eligible voters.
- (iv) The challenge of maintaining law and order during the elections, especially in regions with political tensions or communal conflicts, required the deployment of security forces.
- (v) Additionally, the presence of multiple political parties and the fragmentation of the political landscape posed challenges in forming stable governments and ensuring effective governance.

Q. 3. Assess the impact of the first three general elections on India's democracy. A

- Ans.** (i) The first three general elections played a crucial role in strengthening India's democratic foundations.
- (ii) These elections helped establish a tradition of peaceful and regular transfer of power, which is a hallmark of a healthy democracy.
- (iii) The elections provided an opportunity for political parties and leaders to engage with the electorate, listen to their concerns, and address their aspirations, contributing to a responsive and accountable political system.
- (iv) The elections fostered a sense of political consciousness among the citizens, encouraging them to actively participate in the democratic process and exercise their voting rights.
- (v) The success of these elections helped solidify the faith of the people in the democratic system, laying the groundwork for subsequent elections and democratic practices in the country.

Q. 4. Assess the impact of the Communist Party's victory in Kerala in 1957. A

- Ans.** (i) The Communist Party's victory in Kerala in 1957 had far-reaching implications for the state's political landscape.
- (ii) The government led by the Communist Party implemented bold land reforms, redistributing land to landless peasants and agricultural laborers, addressing long-standing agrarian issues.
- (iii) The victory signalled a shift in power dynamics and the rise of left-wing politics in the state, leading to a more vibrant and pluralistic political environment.
- (iv) The government's focus on education, healthcare, and social welfare programs helped improve human development indicators and reduce social disparities.
- (v) The Communist Party's victory in Kerala in 1957 served as an inspiration for other left-wing movements and contributed to the growth of the party at the national level.

Q. 5. Bring out three differences each between Socialist parties and the Communist party and between Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party. [E]

Ans. Difference between Socialist Parties and Communist Party:

- The socialist believed in the ideology of democratic socialism whereas the communist party worked mainly within the frame of the congress party.
- The socialist believed in peaceful constitutional methods, while communist party believed in both peaceful & violent methods.
- The Socialist use to criticize congress for favouring capitalist and landlord and ignoring the working class and farmers whereas the communist party believed in the welfare of the workers & peasants.

Difference between Bhartiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party:

- Bhartiya Jana Sangh believed in the ideology of the 'one party, one nation, one culture and one national ideal': but the Swatantra party believed in the equality of opportunity for all people.
- Bhartiya Jana Sangh stands for the nationalism of basic and defence industries but it does not favour the policies of taking more and more industries under state ownership and control because it believes that this tendency is harmful both for democracy and economic development. Swatantra Party stands for the principle of maximum freedom for the individual and minimum interference by the state.
- Jana Sangh favours to follow the policy of Non-Alignment with the two power blocs as also of Non-involvement in the international affairs not directly affecting India. Swatantra Party was critical of the policy of Non-Alignment and advocated close ties with the USA.



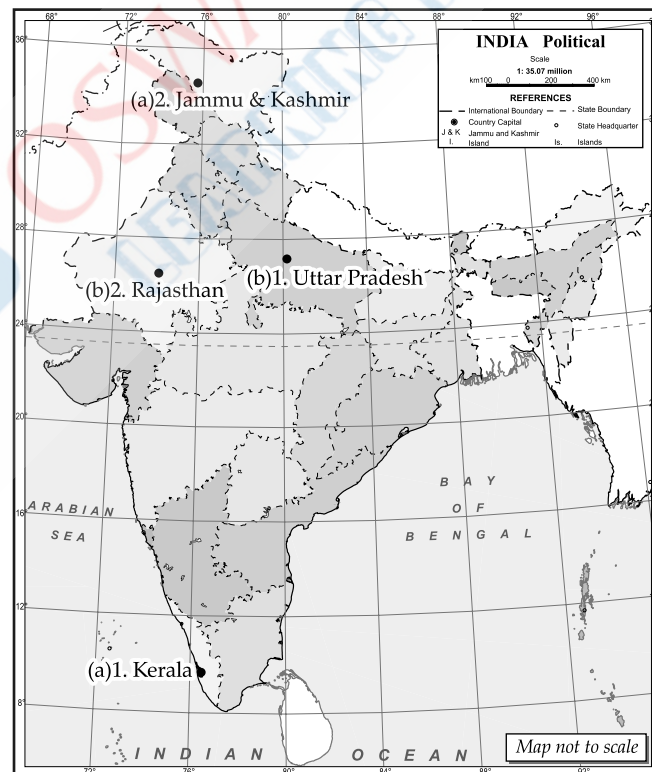
COMPETENCY BASED QUESTIONS (Case Based MCQS)

Q. 1. On the political map of India (with State outlines) and mark: [U]

- Two states where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-67.
- Two states where the Congress remained in power through this period.

Ans. Map is attached and marked:

1. Kerala
2. Jammu & Kashmir
1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Rajasthan



Q. 2. Read the following passage and answer the questions below: [Ap]

"Patel, the organisational man of the Congress, wanted to purge the Congress of other political groups and sought to make it a cohesive and disciplined political party. He sought to take the Congress away from its all-embracing character and turn it into a close-knit party of disciplined cadres. Being a 'realist' he looked more for discipline than for comprehension. While Gandhi took too romantic a view of "carrying on the movement," Patel's idea of transforming the Congress into strictly political party with a single ideology and tight discipline showed an equal lack of understanding of the eclectic role that the Congress, as a government, was to be called upon to perform in the decades to follow." — Rajni Kothari

(a) Why does the author think that Congress should not have been a cohesive and disciplined party?

Ans. The organisational man of the congress party wanted to remove the congress of other political group and sought to make it a cohesive and disciplined political party. He wanted that those members who did not believe in the ideology of the congress should be out from the party. Patel was determined to make congress a party of disciplined cadres.

(b) Give some examples of the eclectic role of the Congress party in the early years.

Ans. These examples are in the form of social and ideological coalition of Congress:

- (i) It provided a platform for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to participate in the national movement.
- (ii) Congress party represented a rainbow like social coalition representing diversity of India including various castes, religions and languages

(c) Why does the author say that Gandhi's view about Congress' future was romantic?

Ans. Patel was a realist. He preferred discipline within the party rather than comprehension while Mahatma Gandhi took to a tender view of carrying on the movement. Gandhi believed in, hand in hand characteristic of national movement led by Congress which attracted various sections, groups and societies to form a social and ideological collision in congress.

Q. 3. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions: [Ap]

This coalition-like character of the Congress gave it an unusual strength. Firstly, a coalition accommodates all those who join it. Therefore, it has to avoid any extreme position and strike a balance on almost all issues. Compromise and inclusiveness are the hallmarks of a coalition. This strategy put the opposition in a difficulty. Anything that the opposition wanted to say, would also find a place in the programme and ideology of the Congress. Secondly, in a party that has the nature of a coalition, there is a greater tolerance of internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders are accommodated. The Congress did both these things during the freedom struggle and continued doing this even after Independence.

That is why, even if a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an 'opposition'.

(a) What are the hallmarks of a coalition?

Ans. Compromise and inclusiveness are the hallmarks of a coalition. Compromise and inclusiveness are the hallmarks of a coalition.

(b) How did coalition-like character affect the nature of Congress Party?

Ans. Coalition-like character of Congress accommodated all social diversities and maintained a balance on almost all issues. Even a proper space for the programmes and ideology of opposite parties was also given. In such a way Congress showed greater tolerance towards internal differences.

(c) How did Congress avoided to increase number of 'oppositions'?

Ans. If a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an 'opposition'. Along with its coalition-like character, Congress did not let the groups to leave the party to become an opposition.

Q. 4. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions: [E]

The socialists believed in the ideology of democratic socialism which distinguished them both from the Congress as well as from the Communists. They criticised the Congress for favouring capitalists and landlords and for ignoring the workers and the peasants. But the socialists faced a dilemma when in 1955, the Congress declared its goal to be the socialist pattern of society. Thus it became difficult for the socialists to present themselves as an effective alternative to the Congress. Some of them, led by Rammanohar Lohia, increased their distance from and criticism of the Congress party. Some others like Asoka Mehta advocated a limited cooperation with the Congress.

(a) Mention the ideology of Socialists.

Ans. Socialist parties generally advocate for achieving socialism through democratic means and reforms within the existing capitalist framework.

(b) Name some leaders of the Socialist Party.

Ans. Ram Manohar Lohia, Ashok Mehta and Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan etc.

(c) Why did it become difficult for socialists to present themselves as an effective alternative to the Congress? [A]

Ans. It became difficult for socialists to present themselves as an effective alternative to the Congress for several reasons:

- i. Dominance of Congress
- ii. Popularity of Nehru and Gandhi
- iii. Fragmented Socialist Movement
- iv. Lack of Strong Organization
- v. Populist Measures by Congress
- vi. Limited Electoral Success

Q. 5.



(a) What does the cartoon represent?

Ans. Cartoon represents dominance of Congress which is being tug by opposition parties to throw Congress out of power.

(b) What does the term 'Tug of war' refer to?

Ans. 'Tug of war' refers to pulling out the Congress by criticism and mentioning its weaknesses in an honest and justified manner.

(c) Who has been shown on the branches of tree?

Ans. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru along with his colleagues in the cabinet.



Key Personalities

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888-1958): original name — Abul Kalam Mohiyuddin Ahmed; - He is first Education Minister of free India.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (1889-1964): A Gandhian and Freedom fighter; belonged to the royal family of Kapurthala; Minister for Health in independent India's first ministry.

Acharya Narendra Dev (1889-1956): a scholar of Buddhism; after independence led the Socialist Party and later the Praja Socialist Party.

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956): Minister in Nehru's first cabinet after independence; resigned in 1951 due to differences over the Hindu Code Bill.

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai (1894-1954): Minister for Communications in the first ministry of free India.

A.K. Gopalan (1904-1977): Communist leader from Kerala, joined the CPI (M) and worked for strengthening the party.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968): Founder member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh; General Secretary and later President of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (1901-1953): Leader of Hindu Mahasabha; founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh; Minister in Nehru's first cabinet after independence; resigned in 1950 due to differences over relations with Pakistan.



Key Dates

1.	26 th Nov. 1949	Indian Constitution was adopted
2.	26 th January, 1950	India's Constitution came into effect
3.	1950	The Election Commission was set up
4.	2004	The whole country switched to EVM's
5.	January, 1952	First General Elections
6.	1934	Congress Socialist Party was formed
7.	1964	Split in the Communist Party
8.	1951	Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed
9.	1957	Communist government formed in Kerala



REFLECTIONS

- Are you now clear with the following concepts?
 - Challenge of establishing democracy in India.
 - Process of ensuring free and fair elections
 - Nature and dominance of congress party during the post independence period.
 - Emergence and role of opposition parties.



SELF ASSESSMENT PAPER - 9

Maximum Time: 1 hour

MM: 25

Q. 1. Answer the following questions.

[1 × 5 = 5]

- (a) The first general elections had to be postponed _____ times and finally held in January 1952
- (i) Twice (ii) Four
(iii) Five (iv) Six
- (b) One party dominance is rooted in the absence of a weak public opinion. (True/False)
- (c) Name the founder and symbol of the Socialist Party.
- (d) _____ was appointed as the first Chief Election Commissioner of India
- (e) The leader of the Hindu Mahasabha and the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh was _____.

Q. 2. Answer the following questions in 50-60 words.

[3 × 2 = 6]

- (a) Mention any three contributions of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai.
- (b) How can you say that the Congress was an ideological and social coalition?
- (c) Which political parties in contemporary India trace their origins to the Socialist Party?

Q. 3. Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

[4 × 2 = 8]

- (a) Give four reasons for the win of the Congress party in the first three general elections.
- (b) 'Politics is not the problem but solution to the problem'. Explain the statement.

Q. 4. Answer the following questions in 170-180 words:

[6]

- (a) How did the voting method change from 1952 to 2004?

Finished Solving the Paper ?
Time to evaluate yourself !

OSWAAL COGNITIVE
LEARNING TOOLS

OR

SCAN THE CODE

For elaborate
Solutions

