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POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

B.P.S.C.- 104

B.A. Pol. Science (Hons.)- 2nd Semester

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By: Baljit Kaur



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of the
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

B.P.S.C.-104

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note : This paper has **two** Sections. Answer any **five** questions and atleast **two** from each section. Each question carry **equal** marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the significance of political parties in Indian democracy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 6, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. Analyse the role of gender and tribal identities in electoral politics.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 32, 'Gender, Tribes', Page No. 36, 'Gender' and Page No. 37, 'Tribes'.

Q. 3. Discuss the meaning and features of autonomy movements.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 60, Q. No. 1 and Q. No. 2, 'Constitutional Provision and Autonomy', 'Features of Autonomy Movements'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The BSP

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 11, 'Bahujan Samaj Party'.

(b) The role of media in elections.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 50, Q. No. 1 and Chapter-10, Page No. 108, 'Communication and Media'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Explain the characteristics of insurgency with the help of some example.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 75, Q. No. 1, Page No. 76, Q. No. 3, Q. No. 4 and Page No. 77, Q. No. 5.

Q. 6. Discuss the nature of the statehood movements in the Hindi belt.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 85, Q. No. 5, Page No. 84, 'Statehood Movements in the Hindi Belt' and 'Uttarakhand/Uttaranchal'.

Q. 7. Analyse the role of caste organisations in Indian politics.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 118, 'Issues Raised by Caste Organisations' and Page No. 118, 'Role of Caste in Electoral Politics'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'AAP'.

(b) Affirmative Action

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 143, 'Affirmative Action, Welfarism and Development'.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

B.P.S.C.-104

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note : This paper has **two** Sections. Answer any **five** questions and atleast **two** from each section. Each question carry **equal** marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the evolution of party system in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Evolution of Parties and Party System in India'.

Q. 2. Analyse the role of caste and class as determinants of electoral behaviour.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 31, 'Caste' and Page No. 32, 'Class'.

Q. 3. Define autonomy movements. Discuss their features with examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 58, 'Introduction', 'Constitutional Provision and Autonomy', 'Features of Autonomy Movements' and Page No. 59 'Examples of Automomy Movements'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Genesis of insurgency in North-East India

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 71, 'Insurgency in North-East'.

(b) Movement for Telangana State

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 84, 'Movement for Telangana State' and Page No. 87, Q. No. 2.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. What is the debate surrounding secularism in India?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 97, Q. No. 2 and Q. No. 3.

Q. 6. What are the recommendations of the Kaka Kalelkar Report and the Mandal Commission?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 136, 'Reservation for OBCs in the Central Government Institutions'.

Q. 7. Discuss the interrelationship between the affirmative action and development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 133, 'Affirmative Action, Welfarism and Development'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Statehood movements in the Hindi belt

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 84, 'Statehood Movements in the Hindi Belt' and 'Uttarakhand/ Uttaranchal'.

(b) Decline of the Congress System

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 23, 'Breakdown of Congress System' and 'Emergence of the Non-Congress Parties (1967-1989)'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

BLOCK-1 : POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEM

Political Parties, Party Systems and Democracy



INTRODUCTION

Political parties are the institutions through which people participate in legislative processes by electing parties nominees into legislative bodies. So, political parties are essential features of a democratic political system. There are several political parties in India. In this chapter, we will discuss the evolution of political parties and party system and relationships of political parties and party systems with democracy in India.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

MEANING OF POLITICAL PARTY AND PARTY SYSTEM

Political Party: A political party is an institution which comprises of leaders, policies and programs and followers. Parties can be differentiated on the bases of leaders, policies and program, ideologies and internal functioning. The main feature of the political party is its purpose that is to capture power. Political parties are the important link between people, state and society as they provide the connection between social process and policy-makers, and influence debates and policies on issues affecting the interests of various social groups in a political system.

Party System: Party system is associated with the number of political parties in a country. Party system can be categories into three categories based on the number of parties present in political system. They are: single party system, two-party system and multiparty system. In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. These are called one-party systems. Example, China. In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties. Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures. But only

the two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority of seats to form government. Such a party system is called two-party system. The United States of America and United Kingdom have two-party system. If several parties compete for power and more than two parties have fair chance of winning the election wither on their own strength or in alliance with others, it is called multiparty system. In India, we have multiparty system. Presence of several parties has been an important feature of party system in India. The period of 1950s-60s was called as an era of single party dominance by Rajni Kothari because of the dominance of congress party in India. Other parties such as Communist Party of India, Swatantra Party, Republican Party of India, Jana Sangha, etc. were present but Congress was the only party which had presence in all states and led govern-ment at the same time at the centre and in most states of India. But in the late 1960s, dominance of the congress ended and it was defeated by the non-congress parties in eight states in the assembly election held in 1967. It signified the presence of multi-party system in India. Scholars such as Sanjay Palshikar and Yogendra Yadav prefer to categorize party system in terms of poles. Election commission has categorized three kinds of political parties in India: National, State/regional and Registered Parties. India has almost 2400 political parties out of which 7 National Parties, 36 states recognized parties, 329 regional parties and almost 2044 registered/unrecognized parties.

EVOLUTION OF PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Political parties in India originated during the Indian national movement. They were involved in the Indian national movement at that time and contested election to legislative assemblies under restricted adult franchise. During the independence congress was a

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movement and it became a party after Independence. During the 1950s-1960s, the system was marked by the dominance of a single party i.e., the Congress despite the existence of other parties. Therefore, we can say since independence, India has seen the presence of three types of party systems – One party dominance system, two party and bi-polar party system and multiparty and multi-polar party system.

One Party Dominance System

Although several non-congress parties existed, the party system in India was dominated by congress party for around two decades as it formed government in the centre as well as in most of the states. Other non-congress parties acted as opposition except in Kerala where CPI was a ruling party in the late 1950s for some years. Rajni Kothari referred that period as era of one-party dominance and congress party as “Congress System”. Congress enjoyed this position till 1967. The Janata party replaced the Congress party at the centre in 1977 general election and in some other states in following years. By this time, party system in India dominated by the single party system ended.

Bi-polar and Two-party System

In Bi-polar system, three or more parties come forward to form pre-election or post election alliance, form a coalition government and adopt a common minimum program. Such alliance mainly has two major parties which work as competing polls or alliance and called bi-polar party system. The principal party remains same and their allies can change. Origin of bi-polar system in India is linked with the coalition politics in India. Formation of non-congress SVD governments in eight states in India following Congress’s defeat in 1967 elections is the major example of it. As there were two poles – one is Congress party and other pole was group of non-congress party such as Bhartiya Kranti Dal, the Samyukta Socialist party, Praja Socialist party and Jana Sangh. In 1977 Lok Sabha election the congress became an opposition party and the Janata Party became the ruling party. These two parties represented two-party system as Janata Party was not a coalition of parties. It was party formed out of merger of five parties – Congress (O), BKD, CFD, Jana Sangha and Swatantra Party. This system existed from 1977-1980 till Janata Party remains in the central government. After this period, India has bi-polar system. Since 1990, National parties like the congress and the BJP failed to win majority seats in election which gave chance to small parties to come forward. In 1996 election United

front is formed which was a coalition of 13 political parties. In 1999 a coalition party government of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was formed with BJP as a largest party. Other coalition governments formed in – 1989, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 of several parties. In 2004 and in 2009 coalition government of UPA formed with congress as a leading party. In 2014 coalition government of NDA formed with BJP as a supreme member.

Multi-Party and Multi-Polar Party System

After the defeat in election of 1967 congress get weakened and split which gave rise to regional parties. It marked the rise of multiple parties in India. Rise of leaders such as Charan Singh in UP, Rao Virendra Singh in Haryana, Biju Patnaik in Odisha, and Bal Thakre in Maharashtra in the 1960s and 1970s formed regional parties. Other parties like BSP, SP, and TMC indicate the multi-party system in India. These parties reflect the social, economic, cultural and political diversity of India. These parties enter alliances in which one party seems to become a nodal party which show the existence of multi-polar parties. So, multi-party system exists in the form of multi-polar systems.

POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SYSTEM AND DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

People participate in decision-making process of the government through political parties. And political parties do so by fielding candidates in elections. So, political parties are the channel through which people participate in decision-making process. So political parties are the device through which people participate in decision making. People can even elect their representative which does not belong to any party and known as independent candidates. Political parties play democratic role in mobilizing people into movement. The policies made by the government are the result of debate among the representatives of political parties. Elected representative from different parties and independent participate in the legislative bodies and contribute to strengthening democracy. They make people aware of their policies and programs about the welfare of the people. Since 1990, many parties fielded candidate from marginalized communities like Dalits, OBCs, women, etc. that has strengthened the democracy. Jaffrelot and Sanjay Kumar referred the increasing participation of people in election as the rise of ‘Plebeians’. According to Ashutosh Varshney India is becoming more democratic.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1. Define Political Party and Party System.

Ans. A political party is the most important organ through which people participate in political process in a democratic country. Political parties act as a medium between people and decision-making process in the legislative bodies. Political parties must have three components-leaders, active members and followers. A political party has members who agree on some policies and programs for the society with a view to promoting the common good. It seeks to implement the policies by winning popular support through elections. There should be presence of a leader, the party workers and supporters. Party system refers to the number of parties in a political system of a country. Party system can be categorized on the basis of their number as single party, two-party or multi-party system. India has multi-party system.

Q. 2. Briefly explain the evolution of party systems in India.

Ans. There are three phases of evolution of political party and party system in India:

(i) **Phase of Congress:** It was referred by Rajni Kothari as phase of congress party dominance which existed during 1950-60s. In this phase congress party ruled, the opposition parties existed but their contribution was limited.

(ii) **Emergence of Many Political Parties:** It was the phase in 1970s when many political parties at regional level emerged. This was the outcome of politics of recognition and social and political movement of backward classes, minorities and ethnic groups. It was a phase of two-party or bi-polar party system.

(iii) **Coalition Politics:** Third phase was the phase of coalition politics. It was the dominant feature of party system since the late 1980s. During this phase, multi-party and multi-polar party system became an important feature of party system in India.

Q. 3. Explain the relationship of political parties and political systems with democracy.

Ans. In democracy, institutions are essential and political processes are important to run institutions in representative governments. Political parties are the main organs in a party system and promoting democracy. Its positive impact is that it has democratized the party system and encouraged competitive electoral

politics that has provided a platform to marginalized group to come to forefront. Rising the number of political parties state that large section of people find political parties as devise for political recognition. Political parties strengthen the democracy by mobilization of people on their demands and making them politically conscious by taking their issues in their manifestoes and discussing them in legislatures.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. The period of _____ is described as an era of Congress dominance.

- (a) 1960-70s
- (b) 1950-60s
- (c) 1970-80s
- (d) 1980-1990s

Ans. (b) 1950-60s.

Q. 2. In late 1950s _____ was a ruling party in Kerala.

- (a) Congress
- (b) CPI
- (c) BJP
- (d) BSP

Ans. (b) CPI.

Q. 3. _____ was formed out of merger of five parties -Congress (O), BKD, CFD, Jana Sangha and Swatantra Party.

- (a) Janata Party
- (b) Congress (I)
- (c) BSP
- (d) CPI

Ans. (a) Janata Party.

Q. 4. _____ was formed with BJP as the largest member of coalition.

- (a) UPA
- (b) NDA
- (c) CPI
- (d) BSP

Ans. (b) NDA.

Q. 5. Multi-party system makes the country more _____.

- (a) Democratic
- (b) Centralize
- (c) Weak
- (d) Developing

Ans. (a) Democratic.

Q. 6. India has _____ system.

- (a) Two-party
- (b) Multi-party
- (c) One-party
- (d) None of the above.

Ans. (b) Multi-party.

Q. 7. Biju Patnaik was the regional leader of _____.

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Ans. (c) Odisha.

Q. 8. Virendra Singh was the regional leader of _____.

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) UP
- (d) Haryana

Ans. (d) Haryana.

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Q. 9. Charan Singh was the regional leader of _____,

- (a) Haryana (b) UP
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Maharashtra

Ans. (b) UP.

Q. 10. BJP led alliance is known as _____.

- (a) NDA (b) CPI
(c) UPA (d) BSP

Ans. (a) NDA.

Q. 11. Congress led alliance is known as ____.

- (a) NDA (b) CPI
(c) UPA (d) BSP

Ans. (c) UPA.

Q. 12. The oldest party of India is _____.

- (a) Bhartiya Janata Party (b) BSP
(c) Congress Party (d) Shiv Sena

Ans. (c) Congress Party.

Q. 13. A group of people who come together to contest election and hold power in the government is called _____.

- (a) Political Party (b) Organization
(c) Corporation (d) Company

Ans. (a) Political Party.

Q. 14. Bharatiya Janata Party was founded by _____.

- (a) Bharatiya Jana Sangh
(b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(c) Mamta Banerjee
(d) Deendayal Upadhyaya

Ans. (a) Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Q. 15. Name of the alliance that formed the government in 1998.

- (a) National Democratic Alliance
(b) United Progressive Alliance
(c) National Progressive Alliance
(d) United Democratic Alliance

Ans. (a) National Democratic Alliance.

Q. 16. One of the demerits, of multi-party is that it often appears very messy and lead to political ____.

- (a) Corruption (b) Instability
(c) Defection (d) Aristocracy

Ans. (b) Instability.

Q. 17. Political parties are most visible institutions in a democracy. Which of these is false?

- (a) Even less educated citizens know about political parties.
(b) Ordinary citizens' democracy is equal to political parties.
(c) Parties have become identified with social and political divisions.

(d) Most people in a democracy are not critical of political parties.

Ans. (d) Most people in a democracy are not critical of political parties.

Q. 18. Which one of the following is considered the best form of government?

- (a) Democracy (b) Monarchy
(c) Dictatorship (d) Military Rule

Ans. (a) Democracy.

Q. 19. Meaning of Alliance is _____.

- (a) Two parties together form the government.
(b) Leftist and Rightist together form the government.
(c) When state and national parties together form the government.
(d) When several parties in a multiparty system join for the purpose of contesting election and winning power.

Ans. (d) When several parties in a multi-party system join for the purpose of contesting election and winning power.

Q. 20. How many parties are required in any democratic system to compete in elections in order to come to power?

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

Ans. (a) At least two parties.

Q. 21. Which is a recognized political party?

- (a) A party that is present in only one of the federal units.
(b) A party that is based on regional and communal diversities.
(c) A party that is recognized by the Election Commission with all the privileges and facilities.
(d) A party that is present in several and all units of the federation.

Ans. (c) A party that is recognized by the Election Commission with all the privileges and facilities.

Q. 22. Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve _____.

- (a) Partnership (b) Partisanship
(c) Participation (d) Political partnership

Ans. (a) Partisanship.

Q. 23. _____ is the best party system.

- (a) One party system (b) Multi-party system
(c) Two party system (d) Dictatorship

Ans. (b) Multi-party system.