

Chapter 5 -- POPULAR STRUGGLES AND MOVEMENTS

1. Which are the 'third wave' countries?

Third Wave Countries are those countries that had changed in to democratic government from either monarchy, dictatorship or from colonial rule. e.g. Nepal.

2. What was the aim of the Movement in April 2006 in Nepal?

The movement of April 2006 was aimed at regaining popular control over the government from the king and restoring democracy.

3. What is meant by constitutional monarchy?

It is a type of Government in which the King or Queen remains the head of the state acknowledged by the Constitution and an elected parliament.

4. What was the main difference between the popular struggles in Nepal and Bolivia?

- i. The movement in Nepal was to establish democracy, while the struggle in Bolivia involved claims on an elected, democratic government.
- ii. The popular struggle in Bolivia was about one specific policy, while the struggle in Nepal was about the foundations of the country's politics. Both these struggles were successful but their impact was at different levels.
- iii. The popular struggle in Nepal was against Constitutional monarchy and to establish a democratic Government. The popular struggle in Bolivia was against a Government policy, privatization of water supply.

5. What was the Second Movement of Democracy in Nepal? Or Describe the features of the popular mass struggle for restoring democracy in Nepal.

- i. It was a movement started by all the major political parties in the parliament by forming a Seven Party Alliance. It was aimed at regaining popular control over the government from the king and restoring democracy.
- ii. It started with a four-day strike in Kathmandu, the country's capital. This protest soon turned into an indefinite strike in which Maoist insurgents and various other organizations joined hands.
- iii. On 21 April, they served an ultimatum to the king. They stuck to their demand for restoration of parliament, power to an all-party government and a new constituent assembly.
- iv. On 24 April 2006, the last day of the ultimatum, the king was forced to concede all the three demands.
- v. The SPA chose Girija Prasad Koirala as the new Prime Minister of the interim government. The restored parliament met and passed laws taking away most of the powers of the king.
- vi. The SPA and the Maoists came to an understanding about how the new Constituent Assembly was going to be elected. This struggle came to be known as Nepal's second movement for democracy.

2. How did King Gyanendra gain power in Nepal?

- i. King Birendra, of Nepal was killed in a mysterious massacre of the royal family in 2001.
- ii. King Gyanendra, the new king of Nepal, was not prepared to accept democratic rule. He took advantage of the weakness and unpopularity of the democratically elected government.
- iii. In February 2005, the king dismissed the then Prime Minister and dissolved the popularly elected Parliament.

7. What was Bolivia's water war? Or Describe the features of the popular struggle against privatization of water in Bolivia.

- i. Bolivia is a poor country in Latin America. The World Bank pressurized the government to give up its control of municipal water supply.
- ii. The government sold these rights for the city of Cochabamba to a multi-national company (MNC). The company immediately increased the price of water by four times.
- iii. Many people received monthly water bill of Rs 1000 in a country where average income is around Rs 5000 a month. This led to a spontaneous popular protest.
- iv. In January 2000, a new alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders organized a successful four-day general strike in the city. The government agreed to negotiate and the strike was called off. Yet nothing happened.
- v. The police resorted to brutal repression when the agitation was started again in February. Another strike followed in April and the government imposed martial law. But the power of the people forced the officials of the MNC to flee the city and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters.
- vi. The contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates. This came to be known as Bolivia's water war.

8. What was the Kittiko-Hachchiko Movement?

Kittiko-Hachchiko (meaning, pluck and plant) was a movement started in Karnataka in 1984, a non-violent protest, where people plucked the eucalyptus plants planted by Karnataka Pulpwood Limited which destroyed their grazing land. and planted saplings of trees that were useful to the people.

9. In what ways do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics?

- i. They try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and their activity by carrying out information campaigns, organising meetings, file petitions, etc. Most of these groups try to influence the media into giving more attention to these issues.
- ii. They often organise protest activity like strikes or disrupting government programmes. Workers' organisations, employees' associations and most of the movement groups often resort to these tactics in order to force the government to take note of their demand.
- iii. Business groups often employ professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisements. Some persons from pressure groups or movement groups may participate in official bodies and committees that offer advice to the government.

10. Describe the forms of relationship between pressure groups and political parties.

- i. In some instances, the pressure groups are either formed or led by the leaders of political parties or act as extended arms of political parties. For example, most trade unions and students' organizations in India are either established by or affiliated to one or the other major political party. Most of the leaders of such pressure groups are usually party activists and leaders of party.
- ii. Sometimes political parties grow out of movements. For example, when the Assam movement led by students against the 'foreigners' ended, it led to the formation of the Asom Gana Parishad, a political party.
- iii. In most cases, the relationship between parties and interest or movement groups is not so direct. They often take positions that are opposed to each other. Yet they are in dialogue and negotiation. Movement groups have raised new issues that have been taken up by political parties. Most of the new leadership of political parties comes from interest or movement groups.

11. Explain how the activities of pressure groups are useful in the functioning of a democratic government.

- i. Pressure groups and movements deepened democracy. Putting pressure on the rulers is not an unhealthy activity in a democracy as long as everyone gets this opportunity. Governments can often come under undue pressure from a small group of rich and powerful people.
- ii. Public interest groups and movements perform a useful role of countering this undue influence and reminding the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.
- iii. Even the sectional interest groups play a valuable role. Where different groups function actively, no one single group can achieve dominance over society. If one group brings pressure on government to make policies in its favour, another will bring counter pressure not to make policies in the way the first group desires. The government gets to hear about what different sections of the population want. This leads to a rough balance of power and accommodation of conflicting interests.

12. What is a pressure group? Give a few examples.

Pressure groups are organizations that attempt to influence government policies. However, unlike political parties, pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power. These organizations are formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective. Narmada Bachao Andolan, Movement for Right to Information, Anti-liquor Movement, Women's Movement, Environmental Movement etc are examples.

13. What is the difference between a pressure group and a political party?

- i. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government whereas a pressure group is an organization formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.
- ii. Pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power as political parties do.

- iii. Political parties seek to implement their policies by winning popular support through elections and to form a new Government, whereas pressure groups want to influence the existing government to fulfill their objective.
- iv. Political parties have to face the people in elections, but pressure groups are not accountable to the people.
- v. Pressure groups and movements may not get their funds and support from the people as political parties get.
- vi. A pressure group is a temporary set up where as political parties are permanent set up.

14. Differentiate between sectional interest groups and public interest groups. (Describe any two features each of sectional and promotional pressure groups in India)

- i. Usually interest groups seek to promote the interests of a particular section or group of society. Trade unions, business associations, and professional (lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc.) bodies are some examples of this type. Public interest group represent some common or general interest that needs to be defended. The members of the organization may not benefit from the cause that the organization represents.
- ii. Sectional Interest groups are sectional because they represent a section of society: workers, employees, businessmen, industrialists, followers of a religion, caste group, etc. Their principal concern is the betterment and well-being of their members, not society in general.
- iii. Public interest group promote collective rather than selective good. They aim to help groups other than their own members. For example, a group fighting against bonded labour fights not for itself but for those who are suffering under such bondage.
- iv. Public interest group represent some common or general interests that needs to be defended. The members of the organization may not benefit from the cause that the organization represents.

15. State an example of single-issue movement each from India and abroad.

- i. The Nepalese movement for democracy arose with the specific objective of reversing the king's orders that led to suspension of democracy is a single-issue movement abroad.
- ii. In India, Narmada Bachao Andolan is a good example of this kind of movement. The movement started with the specific issue of the people displaced by the creation of Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada River. Its objective was to stop the dam from being constructed. Gradually it became a wider movement that questioned all such big dams and the model of development that required such dams.

What was the objective of Narmada Bachao Andolan? (Answer Point ii above)

16. State an example of a long-term movement.

The environmental movement and the women's movement are examples long-term movements. There is no single organization that controls or guides such movements. Environmental movement is a label for a large number of organizations and issue-specific movements.

What is a single issue movement? How does it differ from a long term movement?

(Answer 15 and 16 above)

17. What conclusions can we draw from the Bolivian war, and movement of democracy in Nepal? (Justify in three points that democracy evolves through popular struggles.)

- i. Democracy evolves through popular struggles. eg. Nepal and Bolivia. It is possible that some significant decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict at all. But that would be an exception.
- ii. Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilization. Sometimes it is possible that the conflict is resolved by using the existing institutions like the parliament or the judiciary.
- iii. These conflicts and mobilizations are based on new political organizations. True, there is an element of spontaneity in all such historic moments. But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organized politics. There can be many agencies of organized politics. These include political parties, pressure groups and movement groups.

18. Is the influence of pressure groups and movements on politics and democracy healthy?

- i. It is not healthy always to influence politics and democracy by a pressure group that protects sectional interests. They may wield power with out responsibilities.
- ii. Pressure groups with small public support, but lots of money can hijack public opinion in favour of their narrow agenda.
- iii. But it is said that pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy. Putting pressure on rulers is not an unhealthy activity always in democracy as long as every one gets this opportunity.

Chapter 6 POLITICAL PARTIES

1. **What is a political party?**

A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. They seek to implement their policies by winning popular support through elections.

2. **What are the characteristics of a political party?**

- i. All political parties have a symbol allotted by the Election Commission.
- ii. They have some programmes and policies regarding the formation of a government.
- iii. All political parties are registered and have large number of supporters with a leader.
- iv. Normally they contest in the elections

3. **What are the three components of a political party?**

Three components of a political party are the leaders, the active members and the followers.

4. **What are the functions of political parties? or ('Political parties play a major role in democracy'. Give four points to justify this statement.)**

(Modern democracies do not exist with out political parties. Justify the statement.)

- i. Parties **contest elections**. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties. In some countries, such as the USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidates. In other countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Parties play a decisive role in **making laws** for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature. Since most of the members belong to a party, they go by the direction of the party leadership, irrespective of their personal opinions.
- iv. Parties **form and run governments**. Parties recruit leaders, trains them and then make them ministers to run the government in the way they want.
- v. Those parties that lose in the elections play the **role of opposition** to the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticizing government for its failures or wrong policies.
- vi. 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 crystallize on the lines parties take.
- vii. 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. That is why they feel close to parties even when they do not fully trust them. Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands. Otherwise people can reject those parties in the next elections.

5. Who is a partisan?

Partisan is a person who is strongly committed to a party, group or faction. Partisanship is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue.

6. What are the two ways of choosing candidates?

Parties select their candidates in different ways. In some countries, such as the USA, members and supporters of a party choose its candidates. Now more and more countries are following this method. In other countries like India, top party leaders choose candidates for contesting elections.

6. What is the necessity of political parties in a democratic set up?

- i. As societies became large and complex, they needed some agency to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.
- ii. People needed some way to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.
- iii. They needed a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose them. Political parties fulfill these needs that every representative government has. We can say that parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.

7. Explain different party system with examples.

- i. In some countries only one party is allowed to control and run the government. These are called **one-party systems**. In China, only the Communist Party is allowed to rule.
- ii. 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 the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system.
- iii. If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a **multi-party system**. Thus in India, we have a multi-party system. In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming together in a coalition if no single party gets majority seats.

8. What is meant by an alliance or front in forming government?

When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or a front. For example, in India there were three such major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections– the National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front.

9. What are the disadvantages of a multi party system?

The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability. It makes elector's choice and election process very difficult. It is very difficult for a party to get clear majority and coalition Government can lead to instability of the government.

10. What are the advantages of a two party system?

It makes electors choice and election process very easy.. It is very easy for a party to get clear majority and helps to form a stable Government.

11. Differentiate between a national and a regional party.

- i. A party that secures at least 6 per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least two seats is recognized as a State party (or regional party).
- ii. A party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.
- iii. Regional party will have influence in less than three states where as national parties will have influence in more than three states.
- iv. Indian National Congress (I) and Communist Party of India (Marxist) are examples of national parties and Telugu Desom of Andhra Pradesh and Akali Dal of Punjab are examples of regional parties.

12. What are the various challenges faced by political parties in India?

- i. The first challenge is **lack of internal democracy** within parties. All over the world, there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organizational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly. Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party. They do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions. As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- ii. **Dynastic succession:** Since most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning, there no ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members. In many parties, 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, since people who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.
- iii. The third challenge is about the growing role of **money and muscle power** in parties, especially during elections. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use short-cuts to win elections. They tend to nominate those candidates who have or who 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. In some cases, parties support criminals who can win elections.
- iv. The fourth challenge is that very often parties do not seem to offer a **meaningful choice** to the voters. In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different. In recent years, there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world. For example, the difference between the Labour Party and the Conservative Party in Britain is very little.

13. Explain the increasing role of money and muscle power in politics.

(Answer point iii above)

14. What is meant by dynastic succession in politics? (Answer point ii above)

15. What do you mean by lack of internal democracy in politics? (Point i above)

16. What is meant by defection in politics?

It is the changing of party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party. It is now banned by the Anti Defection law.

17. Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well.

- i. 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, and to hold open elections to the highest posts.
- ii. 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.
- iii. There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses. This support could be given in kind: petrol, paper, telephone etc. Or it could be given in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election.

18. What are the measures taken by the Government to reform political parties and its leaders?

- i. The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. Now the law says that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature according to the Anti-Defection Law.
- ii. The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and that no criminal cases pending against him.
- iii. The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.

19. Why did India follow a multi party system?

India has evolved a multi-party system, because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.

20 Name any six National parties in India.

Indian National Congress(I) , Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP), Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI M) , Communist Party of India (CPI), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

21. How have regional parties contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in India?

- i) Over the last decades, the number and strength of the regional parties have tremendously expanded in India. These parties have made the parliament of India more and more diverse politically.
- ii) The national parties have been compelled to form alliances with these parties. Since 1996, almost all the important state parties had opportunities to be a part of one or the other national level coalition governments.
- iii) Some of the regional parties like Samajwadi party or Rashtriya Janatadal have national level political organizations with units in several states.
- iv) These parties some times play the role of check and balance against the monopolies of the national level parties.

Chapter 7 OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Why is democracy a better form of Government?

- i. Democracy promotes equality among citizens;
- ii. It enhances the dignity of the individual;
- iii. It improves the quality of decision making;
- iv. It Provides a method to resolve conflicts; and
- v. It allows room to correct mistakes. Hence, it is a better form of Government.

2. What are the common features of all type of democracies?

They have formal constitutions, they hold elections, they have parties, and they guarantee Rights of citizens.

3. When do people start blaming democracy?

- i. Our interest in and fascination for democracy often pushes us into taking a position that democracy can address all socio-economic and political problems.
- ii. If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy. Or, we start doubting if we are living in a democracy.

4. What is the first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy?

The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognize that democracy is 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.

5. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?

- i. In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. If they do not work properly, people can overthrow them. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making, that affects them all. Thus, democracy produces an accountable, government.
- ii. Democracy is a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption. Democracies should not frustrate the needs of the people and ignore the demands of a majority of its population. Thus it a responsive Government.
- iii. Democratic government is a legitimate government. It is people's own government. People elect the rulers. The party that gets majority seat in the legislature forms the government. If they lose the majority, they have to resign.

6. Why do some people think that democratic Governments are less effective?

It is true that democratic rulers have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion. So, they can not be very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation. So people think that democratic Governments are less effective.

7. The cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it. Justify.

Imagine a government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problems. In contrast, the democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. However, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.

8. What is transparency in democracy?

Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures. Therefore, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. He has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. This is known as transparency.

9. What do you expect from democracy when we try to find the outcomes of democracy?

When we are trying to find out the outcomes of democracy, it is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people. We can also expect that the democratic governments develop mechanisms for citizens to hold the governments accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision making whenever they think fit.

10. What are the practices and institutions to measure democracies on the basis of the expected outcome?

Regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations, and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning are the practices and institutions to measure democracies on the basis of the expected outcome.

11. What is the most basic outcome of democracy?

It gives us a government which is accountable, legitimate and responsive to the needs of the people.

12. What are the factors on which economic development of a country depend?

Country's population, size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc. are the factors on which economic development of a country depend.

13. What is the significant difference in the rate of economic development between countries under dictatorship and democracy?

If you consider all democracies and all dictatorships for the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth. The inability of democracy to achieve higher economic development worries us.

14. How does democracy help reduce inequality and poverty?

- i. Economic inequality and poverty are the twin problems of India. Different political parties are committed to remove these since it is included in their election manifesto. They are responsive to the needs of the people. The elected Government from time to time started a number of poverty alleviation programmes to reduce poverty in India.
- ii. More over many employment schemes like Rural Works Programme, National Rural Employment Programme etc. are started by democratic Government in India.

15. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?

- i. It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply a rule by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
- ii. It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc. Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, 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. If someone is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group.

16. How are social diversities accommodated in democracies? Or How does democracy lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens?

- i. No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. However, 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.
- ii. Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences. Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic Government.
- iii. Social diversities can be accommodated by deliberation, negotiation, and mutual understanding.
- iv. It can be accommodated by power sharing as in the case of Belgium.

17. How do expectation from democracy function as the criterion for judging a democratic country? (The fact that people are complaining itself is a testimony of the success of democracy. Justify the statement with three appropriate points.

- i. As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better. That is why when we ask people about the way democracy functions, they will always come up with more expectations, and many complaints.
- ii. The fact that people are complaining itself is 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.
- iii. A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project: it transforms people from the status of a subject under a King into that of a citizen.
- iv. Most individuals today believe that their vote makes a difference to the way the government is run and to their own self-interest.

18. What are the expected outcomes of democracy?

- i. It helps to form an accountable, responsive and legitimate Government.
- ii. It brings economic growth and development.
- iii. It helps to reduce inequality and poverty in society. .
- iv. It allows to accommodate social diversity.
- v. It upholds dignity and freedom of citizens. (Explain points)

19. Examine with the help of three examples, how dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy.

- i. In a democratic country people have the freedom to choose their representatives on the basis of universal adult franchise.
- ii. Most societies across the world were historically male dominated. Equal treatment of women became the necessary requirement of a democratic society. Thus, their status in democratic countries improved.
- iii. In a non-democratic setup, there is no legal basis for freedom and dignity of individuals. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- iv. Democracy transforms people from the status of subjects under a king or a dictator to the status of citizens with rights and duties. Many Fundamental rights are granted to citizens in a democratic country. One such right is the right to freedom, which is a cluster of many

rights like freedom to travel anywhere, freedom to assemble anywhere, freedom to choose any profession, to choose any religion etc.

20. Do democracies lead to a just distribution of goods and opportunities? Justify your answer by three suitable arguments

- a) Yes. Democracies can lead to a just distribution of goods and opportunities in due course. However the first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognise that democracy is 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.
- b) Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives. Parallel to the process of bringing individuals into the political arena on an equal footing, we find growing economic inequalities. A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Not only that, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing. However a democratic government launch various schemes to uplift the poor.
- c) Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining. Sometimes they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health. However democratic government provide them opportunities by giving concessions, grants, and reservations.
- d) In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. The poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party will like to lose their votes. There fore they are forced to address grievances of the poor.

21. Democracy is a good form of government in principle not in reality. Explain.

Write answer 1 or 18 and explain the drawbacks also like....

Economic disparity – Social injustice – Other discriminations – corruption -Democracy can only create conditions for achieving our goals. ‘In actual life democracy do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Chapter - 8 CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY

1. What do you mean by the term challenge?

A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it, an opportunity for progress. A challenge is not just any problem. We usually call only those difficulties a 'challenge' which are significant and which can be overcome. Once we overcome a challenge, we go up to a higher level than before.

2. What challenges do non-democratic countries face, in their way to democracy?

Non-democratic countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic rule, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state. (What does foundational challenge involve)

3. What challenge do established democracies face?

Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Ensuring greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of the federation, inclusion of women and minority groups, etc., falls under this challenge. (What do you mean by challenge of expansion in democracy?)

4. What challenge does every democracy face?

- i. The challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another. This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy.
- ii. This should happen in such a way that people can realize their expectations of democracy. In general terms, it usually means strengthening those institutions that help people's participation and control. This requires an attempt to bring down the control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decisions.

Different countries face different kinds of challenges. Support the statement with suitable examples. (Answer 2, 3, and 4 above)

5. What do you mean by political reform?

Generally all the suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called 'democracy reform' or 'political reform'.

6. Suggest any four guidelines that should be kept in mind while devising ways for political reforms in India.

- i. People think of legal ways of reforming politics, think of new laws to ban undesirable things. But this temptation needs to be resisted. Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. But legal-constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. Democratic reforms are to be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.
- ii. Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes the results may be counter-productive. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful in politics. Laws that give political actors incentives to do good things have more chances of working. The best laws are those, which empower people to carry out democratic reforms.

- iii. Democratic reforms are to be brought about principally through political practice. Therefore, the main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
- iv. Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how. It is not very wise to think that the legislatures will pass legislations that go against the interest of all the political parties and MPs. But measures that rely on democratic movements, citizens' organizations and the media are likely to succeed.

7. Write the expanded definition of democracy.

- i. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- ii. The rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions;
- iii. Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers;
- iv. This choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis; and
- v. The exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

8. Discuss the expanded scope of democracy in the modern world.

- i. Democratic rights are not limited to the right to vote, stand in elections and form political organizations. Democracy should offer to its citizens some social and economic rights.
- ii. Power sharing is the spirit of democracy. Power sharing between governments and social groups is necessary in a democracy.
- iii. The scope of democracy has gone beyond the government and its activities to eliminating discrimination based on caste, religion and gender.

UNIT IV

ECONOMICS

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