

# Challenges to and Restoration of the Congress System

## Fastrack Revision

### ► Challenge of Political Succession

#### ► From Nehru to Shastri

- The ease with which the succession after Nehru took place proved all the critics wrong.
- When Nehru passed away, K. Kamraj, the President of the Congress Party consulted party leaders and Congress Members of Parliament and found that there was a consensus in favour of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- Shastri was the country's Prime Minister from 1964 to 1966.
- During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced two major challenges:
  - Palled monsoons
  - Drought and serious food crisis
- Shastri's Prime Ministership came to an abrupt end on 10th January 1966, when he suddenly expired in Tashkent, then in USSR and currently the capital of Uzbekistan.

#### ► From Shastri to Indira Gandhi

- The Congress Party faced the challenge of political succession for the second time in 1966 after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- This challenge started with an intense competition between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. The contest was resolved through a secret ballot among Congress MP's.
- Indira Gandhi defeated Morarji Desai by securing the support of more than two-third of the Party MPs.
- A peaceful transition of Power despite intense competition for leadership was seen as a "sign of maturity of India's democracy".
- The senior Congress leaders may have supported Indira Gandhi in the belief that her administrative and political inexperience would compel her to be dependent on them for support and guidance.

#### ► Fourth General Elections, 1967

- The year 1967 is considered a landmark year in India's political and electoral history. The Congress Party was the dominant political force throughout the country from 1952 onwards. This trend was to undergo significant changes with the 1967 elections.

#### ► Context of the Elections

- The fourth general election held in 1967 was the first election to be held without Nehru. Congress was dominant party before 1967, but scenario was likely to change after 1967's election. Several non-Congress parties joined together to bring Congress down.
- They realised that their disintegration kept Congress in power. So, they joined to form a big alliance called Samyukta Vidhayak Dal.

- Congress still managed to win in Lok Sabha election, but with the poorest performance ever. Congress lost in many states. Influential leaders of Congress lost their position.

- Many Congress leaders left the party in order to join the other party. Local politics gained momentum. In Tamil Nadu, a non-Congress party won on its own for the first time. 1967 elections showcased the new element which never came into light.

- Defection and coalition played an important role and new elements were in the scene of electoral politics.

#### ► Non-Congressism

- This situation could not have remained isolated from party politics in the country.
- Opposition parties were in the forefront of organising public protests and pressurising the government.
- Parties opposed to Congress realised that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power.
- The inexperience of Indira Gandhi and the internal factionalism within the Congress provided them an opportunity to topple the Congress.
- The socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia gave this strategy the name of 'Non-Congressism'.

#### ► Electoral Verdict

- It was the heightened popular discontent and the polarisation of political forces that the fourth general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held in February 1967.
- The Congress was facing the electorate for the first time without Nehru.
- Many contemporary political observers described the election results as a 'political earthquake'.
- The Congress did manage to get a majority in Lok Sabha, but with its lowest tally of seats and share of votes since 1952.
- Half of the ministers in Indira Gandhi's cabinet were defeated.
- The dramatic nature of the political change would be more apparent at the state level. The Congress lost majority in as many as seven states.

#### ► Coalitions

- The elections of 1967 brought into picture the phenomenon of coalitions.
- When no single party gets a majority and two or more than two parties join together to form a government, it is called a Coalition Government.
- Various small parties usually play a crucial role in forming a Coalition Government.
- Position of the Head of Government usually remains weak as he/she has to appease all the stakeholders in the government.



### ► Defection

- Another important feature of the politics after the 1967 election was the role played by defections. The Congress leaders, mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana shifted their political loyalties giving rise to the expression 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram'.
- The defection was shown by Gaya Lal from Haryana.
- Defection means an elected representative leaves the party on whose symbol he/she was elected and joins another party.

### ► Split in the Congress

- After 1967 elections Congress saw split due to various differences.
- Most non-Congress coalition governments in the states did not survive for long.
- They lost majority and either new combinations were formed or President's rule had to be imposed.

### ► Indira vs The Syndicate

- The real challenge to Indira Gandhi was to deal with 'Syndicate' group.
- 'Syndicate' a group of powerful and influential leaders from within the Congress.
- Some of the eminent members of the Congress Syndicate were N. Sanjeeva Reddy, S.K. Patil, K. Kamraj and A. Ghosh who expected Indira Gandhi to follow their advice and work as a puppet.
- Indira Gandhi thus faced two challenges:
  - She needed to build her independence from the Syndicate.
  - She needed to work towards regaining the ground that the Congress had lost in 1967 elections.

### ► Reforms Introduced by Indira Gandhi


- Ten-point Programme (1967)
- Social control of banks
- Nationalisation of General Insurance
- Ceiling on urban property and income
- Public distribution of food grains
- Land reforms
- Provision of house sites to the rural poor.

### ► Presidential Elections, 1969

- The factional rivalry between the Syndicate and Indira Gandhi came in the open in 1969. When the Syndicate proposed the name of N. Sanjeeva Reddy for Presidential elections in 1969 and in contrast, Indira Gandhi proposed the name of V.V. Giri for the same position.
- Indira also announced several big and popular policy measures like the:
  - (a) Nationalisation of fourteen leading private banks.
  - (b) Abolition of the 'privy purse'
  - (c) Abolition of the special privileges given to the former princes.

- The defeat of the official Congress candidate formalised the split in the party. By November 1969, the Congress group led by the 'Syndicate' came to be referred to as the Congress (Organisation) and the group led by Indira Gandhi came to be called the Congress (Requisitionists).
- These two parties were also described as Old Congress and New Congress.


### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Indira Gandhi projected the split as an ideological divide between socialists and conservatives, between the pro-poor and the pro-rich.

### ► The 1971 Election and Restoration of Congress

- The split in the Congress reduced Indira Gandhi government to a minority.
- Indira Gandhi's government recommended the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in December 1970.
- The fifth General Election to Lok Sabha were held in February 1971.
- It was believed that the real organisational strength of the Congress party was under the command of Congress (O).
- All the major non-communist, non-Congress opposition parties formed an electoral alliance known as the 'Grand Alliance' making matters more worse for Indira Gandhi.
- The SSP, PSP, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party and the Bharatiya Kranti Dal came together under this umbrella.
- The Grand Alliance did not have a coherent political programme and had only one common programme: Indira Hatao (Remove Indira).
- In contrast to this programme, Indira gave the slogan "Garibi Hatao" so as to attract the voters belonging to the poor class, peasants, labourers, landless farmers and other weaker sections of the society.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

 'Garibi Hatao' motto of Indira Gandhi tried to generate a support base among the disadvantaged, especially among the landless labourers, Dalits and Adivasis, minorities, women and the unemployed youth.

### ► The Outcome and after Restoration

- The results of the Lok Sabha elections of 1971, were as dramatic as was the decision to hold these elections and the outcome of the election came as a surprise.
- Indira led Congress (R) won 352 seats while Congress (O) could bag a meagre figure of 16 seats only. The number of votes in favour of Congress (R) were 44% while those in favour of Congress (O) were 11%.
- With this the Congress led by Indira Gandhi established its claim to being the 'real' Congress.
- The Grand Alliance of the opposition proved a grand failure.



## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru passed away in May:  
a. 1964      b. 1984      c. 1954      d. 1874
- Q 2. In the decade of 1960s the Congress Party under the leadership of Indira Gandhi was affected by:  
(CBSE 2020)  
a. violence                      b. defection  
c. internal conflicts              d. censorship
- Q 3. The Grand Alliance of opposition of 1971:  
(CBSE 2020)  
a. got a combined tally of seats that was less than 40.  
b. had a clear ideological programme.  
c. had a grand finish in the 1970 elections.  
d. proved to be a great success.
- Q 4. Which of the following were the reason behind the economic crisis of 1960s termed as dangerous decade?  
a. Failure of the Monsoon      b. War with Pakistan  
c. Food shortage                  d. Widespread drought
- Q 5. Name the founder President of Congress Socialist Party.  
(CBSE SQP 2023-24)  
a. K.M. Munshi  
b. Acharya Narendra Dev  
c. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee  
d. Minno Masani
- Q 6. After Independence, the first Lok Sabha elections had to be postponed twice and was finally held from:  
(CBSE SQP 2023-24)  
a. November 1951 to February 1952  
b. December 1951 to February 1952  
c. September 1951 to February 1952  
d. October 1951 to February 1952
- Q 7. .... was unanimously chosen as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party after the death of Nehru.  
a. Indira Gandhi                  b. Lal Bahadur Shastri  
c. Morarji Desai                  d. Natarajan Annadural
- Q 8. The economic situation in 1967 triggered off:  
a. price rise                      b. economic progress  
c. price fall                        d. military rise
- Q 9. The ..... had played a role in the installation of Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister by ensuring her election as the leader of the Parliamentary Party.  
a. Constituent Assembly      b. Syndicate  
c. Opposition                      d. Economic conditions

- Q 10. Which of the following statement about the Grand Alliance 1971 is correct? (NCERT)  
a. Was formed by non-Communists, non-Congress parties.  
b. Had a clear political and ideological programme.  
c. Was formed by all non-Congress parties.  
d. All of the above



### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 11-14): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.  
d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- Q 11. Assertion (A): The elections had to be postponed twice and finally held from October 1951 to February 1952.  
Reason (R): But this election is referred to as the 1951 election since most parts of the country voted in January 1951.
- Q 12. Assertion (A): The Indian National Congress was expected to lose this election.  
Reason (R): The Congress Party, as it was popularly known, had inherited the legacy of the national movement.
- Q 13. Assertion (A): This coalition-like character of the Congress gave it an usual strength.  
Reason (R): Congress acted as an extremist as far as coalition politics is concerned and handled all the issues arbitrarily.
- Q 14. Assertion (A): Our leaders were conscious of the critical role of politics in any democracy.  
Reason (R): They did not see politics as a problem, they saw it as a way of solving the problems.
- Q 15. The Congress did not get majority in the Assembly elections in ..... in 1957.
- Q 16. Shastri ji had resigned from the position of ..... accepting moral responsibility for a major railway accident.



### Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 15. The Congress did not get majority in the Assembly elections in ..... in 1957.
- Q 16. Shastri ji had resigned from the position of ..... accepting moral responsibility for a major railway accident.

- Q 17. Shastri ji Prime Ministership came to an abrupt end on 10 January .....
- Q 18. Shastri ji was the Minister in union cabinet from ..... to .....
- Q 19. Indira Gandhi encouraged the then vice- President ..... to file his nomination as an independent candidate for the Presidential elections in 1969.
- Q 20. Indira Gandhi took some popular steps like the ..... of fourteen banks and abolition of ..... purses or the special privileges given to former princes.
- Q 21. Against Indira Gandhi, all the major non-Communist, non-Congress opposition parties formed an electoral alliance known as : .....
- Q 22. In the results of 1971 elections, the Congress (R) CPI alliance won ..... seats in the Lok Sabha and secured ..... votes.

### True or False Type Questions

- Q 23. Shastriji was the country's Prime Minister from 1965 to 1967.
- Q 24. The Congress faced the challenge of political succession for the second time in two years.

### Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

- Q 25. The year 1976 is considered a landmark year in India's political and electoral history.
- Q 26. The Bi and Multi-parties launched struggles for greater equality.

### Answer

1. (a)    2. (c)    3. (a)    4. (a)    5. (b)  
 6. (d)    7. (b)    8. (a)    9. (b)    10. (a)  
 11. (c)    12. (d)    13. (c)    14. (a)
15. Kerala  
 16. Railway Minister.  
 17. 1966  
 18. 1951, 1956  
 19. V.V. Giri  
 20. Nationalisation, Privy.  
 21. Grand Alliance.  
 22. 375, 48.4%  
 23. False  
 24. True  
 25. The year 1967 is considered a landmark year in India's political and electoral history.  
 26. The Communist and Socialist parties launched struggles for greater equality.

## Passage Based Questions

### Passage 1

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Shastri was a non-controversial leader from Uttar Pradesh who had been a Minister in Nehru's cabinet for many years. Nehru had come to depend a lot on him in his last year. He was known for his simplicity and his commitment to principles. Earlier he had resigned from the position of Railway Minister accepting moral responsibility for a major railway accident.

Shastriji was the country's Prime Minister from 1964 to 1966. During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced two major challenges. While India was still recovering from the economic implications of the war with China. Failed monsoons, drought and serious food crisis presented a grave challenge. As discussed in the previous chapter, the country also faced a war with Pakistan in 1965. Shastri's famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', symbolised the country's resolve to face both these challenges.

Shastri's Prime Ministership came to an abrupt end on 10 January 1966, when he suddenly expired in Tashkent, then in USSR and currently the capital of Uzbekistan. He was there to discuss and sign an agreement with Muhammad Ayub Khan, then President of Pakistan, to end the war.

- Q 1. What was the reason behind Lal Bahadur Shastri's resignation from the position of Railway Minister?
- His party lost elections
  - He was forced to resign
  - Accepting moral responsibility for railway accident
  - None of the above
- Q 2. What was the tenure of Shastriji as a PM of India?
- 1966 to 1970
  - 1964 to 1966
  - 1967 to 1970
  - None of these
- Q 3. The two major crisis faced by India during Shastri's tenure were:
- Economic and serious food crisis
  - War and political crisis
  - Political and social crisis
  - War and communalism
- Q 4. The famous slogan given by Lal Bahadur Shastri was:
- "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram"
  - "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat"
  - "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan"
  - None of the above

### Answers

1. (c)    2. (b)    3. (a)    4. (c)

## Passage 2

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The dramatic nature of the political change would be more apparent to you at the State level. The Congress lost majority in as many as seven States. In two other States defections prevented it from forming a government. These nine States where the Congress lost power were spread across the country—Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Madras and Kerala. In Madras State (Now called Chennai), a regional party—The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)—came to power by securing a clear majority. The DMK won power after having led a massive anti-Hindi agitation by students against the centre on the issue of imposition of Hindi as the official language. This was the first time any non-Congress party had secured a majority of its own in any State. In the other eight States, coalition governments consisting of different non-Congress parties were formed. A popular saying was that one could take a train from Delhi to Howrah and not pass through a single Congress ruled State. It was a strange feeling for those who were used to seeing the Congress in power. So, was the domination of the Congress over?

**Q 1. Congress lost majority in how many States?**

- a. Seven States
- b. Eight States
- c. Nine States
- d. Ten States

**Q 2. What is the current name of Madras?**

- a. Telangana
- b. Chennai
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. None of these

**Q 3. On what agenda DMK came into power in Tamil Nadu?**

- a. Agenda against one party dominance
- b. Against the imposition of Hindi as a national language
- c. Education of poverty
- d. Promise to increase educational institution

**Q 4. In how many states a coalition government of non-Congress parties were formed?**

- a. Eight
- b. Seven
- c. Six
- d. Ten

### Answers

1. (a)    2. (b)    3. (b)    4. (a)

## Passage 3

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The defeat of the official Congress candidate formalised the split in the party. The Congress President expelled the Prime Minister from the party; she claimed that her group was the real Congress. By November 1969, The Congress group led by the 'syndicate' came to be referred to as the Congress (Organisation) and the group led by Indira Gandhi came to be called the Congress (Requisitionists). These two parties were also described as Old Congress and New Congress. Indira Gandhi projected the split as an ideological divide between socialists and conservatives, between the pro-poor and the pro-rich. (CBSE 2020)

**Q 1. The passage is related to which election in India?**

**Ans.** The Presidential Election of 1969.

**Q 2. Who was the official Congress candidate in that election?**

**Ans.** N Sanjeeva Reddy.

**Q 3. Why did then Congress President expelled the Prime Minister from the party?**

**Ans.** The Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, had proposed the name of V.V Giri against the official candidate of her own party, who eventually defeated the official candidate of Congress.

**Q 4. According to Indira Gandhi, how was the split in the Congress an ideological divide?**

**Ans.** The split in the congress was ideological divide as the syndicate was of capitalist ideology while that led by Indira Gandhi adopted a socialistic approach.

## Passage 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Yet the new Congress had something that its big opponents lacked—it had an issue, an agenda and a positive slogan. The Grand Alliance did not have a coherent political programme. Indira Gandhi said that the opposition alliance had only one common programme: Indira Hatao (Remove Indira). In contrast to this, she put forward a positive programme captured in the famous slogan: Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty). She focused on the growth of the public sector, imposition of ceiling on rural land holdings and urban property, removal of disparities in income and opportunity and abolition of princely privileges.

- Q 1. Which Congress is being referred to as 'The New Congress'?**  
**Ans.** The fraction of Congress led by Indira Gandhi is referred to as the New Congress.
- Q 2. Highlight any two steps taken by Indira Gandhi to remove poverty.**  
**Ans.** The two steps taken by Indira Gandhi were growth of public sector and removal of gap between income and opportunity.
- Q 3. How far is it justified to call the 'opposition alliance' as the Grand Alliance? (CBSE 2015)**  
**Ans.** The opposition alliance was truly a Grand Alliance as there had never been an Alliance of so many political parties.

- Q 6. Which two political parties were the major partners in the ruling alliance after the 1971 General Elections to the Lok Sabha.**  
**Ans.** Congress (R) and Communist Party of India (CPI) were major ruling alliance partners after the 1971 general election.
- Q 7. What is meant by 'Syndicate' with regard to the split in Congress?**  
**Ans.** 'Syndicate' refers to a group of powerful and influential leaders from within the Congress.
- Q 8. What is meant by 'Privy Purse'?**  
**Ans.** Privy Purse was a grant or allowance given to the families of princely rulers on the basis of the extent of their property.
- Q 9. After the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri on 10th January, 1966, how did Indira Gandhi become the next Prime Minister?**

**Ans.** After intense competition between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi she was backed by senior party leaders.

- Q 10. After which General Election in India did Congress Party lose its dominance for the first time at the centre?**

**Ans.** After fourth General Election in 1967, Congress Party lost its dominance for the first time at the centre.

- Q 11. The results of which elections were called 'Political earthquake'?**

**Ans.** The results of 1967 elections jolted the Congress at both the national and state level. Congress managed to get majority in the Lok Sabha but with its lowest tally of seats and share of votes since 1952. Hence, it is called 'Political earthquakes'.

- Q 12. What is meant by defection?**

OR

**Explain the Impact of "Defection" on Indian political system.** (CBSE 2022, Term-2)

**Ans.** Defection means an elected representative leaves the party on whose symbol he/she was elected and joins another party.

- Q 13. Correct and rewrite the statements given below: Gaya Lal, an MP from the Haryana legislature in 1967, changed his party twice in a fortnight.**

**Ans.** Gaya Lal, an MLA from Haryana Legislature in 1967, changed his party thrice in a fortnight.

- Q 14. What is the meaning of 'dangerous decade' in the context of Indian politics?**

**Ans.** The 1960s were called 'dangerous decade' in Indian politics as many challenges and unresolved problems like poverty in equality, communal and regional division etc. were thought could lead to failure of democratic project or disintegration of country.

## Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 1. During the first three general elections, Congress won more seats than any other party. Which party stood at number two during these elections?**

**Ans.** The Communist Party of India.

- Q 2. In which year was the first general elections to Lok Sabha held?**

OR

**In the first general election, how many seats did the Congress win? How many seats did the next largest party win?**

**Ans.** First general election held in 1952. Congress won 364 seats and Communist Party of India (CPI) won 16 seats and emerged as the second largest party.

- Q 3. When and where was the first non-Congress state government formed after India's Independence?**

OR

**In which state did the Indian National Congress face defeat in March 1957 Assembly elections?**

**Ans.** Congress party faced defeat in Kerala in March 1957 Assembly elections. The Communist Party won the largest number of seats in the Kerala legislatures winning 60 out of 126 seats.

- Q 4. Differentiate between 'one party dominance', and 'one party system'.**

**Ans.** 'One party dominance' simply means dominance of one party in a democratic set up e.g., Congress Party in the early years of independence. On the other hand one party system, means existence of only one party in the country e.g., Communist Party in China.

- Q 5. Which major factor was responsible for the dramatic victory of Indira Gandhi in 1971 elections?**

(CBSE 2015)

**Ans.** The major factor responsible for dramatic victory of Indira Gandhi in 1971 elections was 'Garibi Hatao' slogan which generated strong responses in landless labourers, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, women and the unemployed youth.





**Q 6. Which Constitutional procedure was adopted in India to abolish the Privy Purse in 1971?**

**Ans.** The Privy Purse was abolished under 26th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1971.

**Q 7. List any two challenges faced by India during Lal Bahadur Shastri's Government.**

**Ans.** Two Challenges faced by India were:

- (i) Failed monsoons, drought and serious food crisis.
- (ii) A war with Pakistan in 1965.

**Q 8. The first General Election was postponed twice. Give two reasons for the same. (CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)**

**Ans.** The first General Election was a mammoth exercise:

- (i) 17 crore eligible voters were to elect about 3,200 MLAs and 489 members of Lok Sabha.
- (ii) Only 15% of the voters were literate.

**Q 9. Explain the role played by Syndicate in the Congress Party. (CBSE 2020-21)**

**Ans.** Syndicate was the group of powerful leaders in the Congress Party. Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Indira Gandhi were made Prime Minister with the support received from the Syndicate. This group had a decisive say in Indira Gandhi's first cabinet and in policy formulation and implementation of the government. After the split in the Congress, the leaders of the Syndicate stayed with the Congress (O) but were defeated in the subsequent General Elections.

**Q 10. Explain with the help of an example the meaning of anti-Congressism. (CBSE 2020-21)**

**Ans.** Non-Congressism is a term that is used to describe the anti-Congress movement started by non-Congress Parties. Rightist and leftist leanings parties felt Congress rule to be the root cause of various problems faced by our country such as food problems, economic crisis, corruption and dependence on foreign countries. This not only resulted in the defeat of many congress stalwarts but also led to many internal revolts in the party. The coinage of this term can be rightfully tracked back to the elections of 1967. A proposal was given to Ram Manohar Lohia in the early 60s that there was a viable alternative to the Congress Party and all it needed was for the opposition to unite.

**Q 11. Assess the role played by 'defections' on Indian politics. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** (i) This led to political instability and fall of government.  
(ii) Larger Ministers to appease leaders for support.  
(iii) Lack of support to party ideology for personal benefits.  
(iv) 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' be given as an example.



## TIP

'Defection' is not clear to the students.

Defection is a situation where an elected representative leaving the party on whose ticket she/he has been elected. Defection makes and breaks the government.

**Q 12. With which objectives DMK made its entry into the Indian politics? (NCERT)**

**Ans.** The main objectives of DMK are:

- (i) Firstly, it demanding the restoration of the original name of Kallakudi railway station which had been renamed as Dalmlapuram, after an industrial house from the North.
- (ii) The second objective was against the craft education scheme of the state government, which it alleged was linked to the Brahmanical social outlook.

**Q 13. Explicate two features of a Coalition Government. (CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)**

**Ans.** The main features of Coalition Government are:

- (i) When no single party gets a majority and two or more than two parties join together to form a government, it is called a Coalition Government.
- (ii) Various small parties usually play a crucial role in forming a Coalition Government.
- (iii) Position of the Head of Government usually remains weak as he/she has to appease all the stakeholders in the government.

**Q 14. What speculation arose after the death of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in the Indian politics?**

**Ans.** The death of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 had generated a lot of speculation about the usual question of succession i.e.,

- (i) After Nehru who and what?
- (ii) Whether India's democratic experiment will survive after Nehru.
- (iii) It was feared that like so many other newly independent countries, India too would not be able to manage a democratic succession.
- (iv) Besides, there were doubts if the new leadership would be able to handle the multiple crisis that awaited a solution.

But the ease with which the succession after Nehru took place proved all the critics wrong.

**Q 15. When and why did Congress face challenge of political succession second time?**

**Ans.** The Congress Party faced the challenge of political succession for the second time in 1966 after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

- (i) This challenge started with an intense competition between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. The contest was resolved through a secret ballot among Congress MPs.



- (ii) Indira Gandhi defeated Morarji Desai by securing the support of more than two-third of the Party MPs.
- (iii) A peaceful transition of Power despite intense competition for leadership was seen as a 'sign of maturity of India's democracy'.

**Q 16. What is non-Congressism? Discuss in the light of Indian political scene of 1967.**

**Ans.** The Congress Party's decision of devaluation of Indian rupee gave rise to the concept of non-Congressism. Parties opposed to the Congress, realised that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power.

Thus, the non-Congress parties with their different programmes and got together to form anti-Congress fronts.

They wanted to topple the Indira Gandhi's Congress government. This strategy was named as non-Congressism by the socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia.

He gave a theoretical argument that the coming together of non-Congress parties was necessary for reclaiming democracy for the people.

**Q 17. "1960s were labelled as the dangerous decade." Explain with the help of any four arguments.**

**Ans.** In 1960s were labelled as the dangerous decade because of some unresolved problems like poverty, inequality, communal regional division. There was speculation that all these could lead to a failure of the democratic project or even disintegration of the country.

(i) **Economic Crisis:** Due to the Indo-China and Indo-Pak wars, there was an economic crisis in India. To overcome, the Indira Gandhi government decided to devalue the Indian rupee to check economic crisis. Consequently the economic situation triggered to price rise.

(ii) **Political Earthquake:** The election of 1967 was termed as Political earthquake as it jolted the Congress both at the national and state levels. Half the minister in Indira Gandhi's cabinet were defeated. Most of the Congress leaders started the practise of defection.

(iii) **Food Crisis:** Beside due to failure of monsoons, drought occurred and this created a serious food crisis in India which presented a grave challenge.

(iv) **People's Protest and Struggle:** People all over India started protesting against the increase in price of essential commodities and unemployment etc. Even the communist and socialist parties launched struggle for greater equality. These all issues led to the challenges to the Government of Congress and labelled the 1960's decade as dangerous decade.

**Q 18. Who founded the Swatantra Party in 1959? Describe any three policies and programmes of this party.**

**Ans.** Swatantra Party was founded by C. Rajagopalachari in 1959. Three policies and programmes of party were:

- (i) The Swatantra Party wanted the government to be less and less involved in controlling the economy. It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.
- (ii) It 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.
- (iii) The Swatantra Party was against land ceilings in agricultures and opposed cooperative farming and state trading.

**Q 19. What does the term 'Syndicate' mean in the context of the Congress Party of the sixties? What role did the Syndicate play in the Congress Party?**

**Ans.** Syndicate was the informal name given to a group of Congress leaders who were in control of the party organisation. It was led by K. Kamaraj.

- The role of Syndicate play in the congress party were:
- (i) Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Indira Gandhi owed their position to the support received from the Syndicate.
  - (ii) The Syndicate had initially a decisive role in the formation of first council of Minister under Indira Gandhi.
  - (iii) Syndicate was also actively involved in the policy formulation and its implementation.
  - (iv) After split in Congress, the leaders of Syndicate stayed with Congress (O), who later lost their power and prestige in 1971 due to powerful emergence of Indira Gandhi.
  - (v) The Syndicate nominated N. Sanjeeva Reddy, a party candidate for the elections of President of India against the wishes of Indira Gandhi, the then P.M.

**Q 20. What is the meaning of defection in terms of Indian politics? (CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)**

**Ans.** The change of political loyalty by an elected public representative is known as defection. In other words, when an elected public representative leaves his political party and join other party due to personal and political differences or makes a new political party or vote against parent party without formally leaving the party, then it is known as defection.

**Demerits of Defection:**

- (i) Opportunistic and unethical politics of anti-defection has helped removing anti-social elements into active politics. Buying of party defected elected representatives has increased political corruption.

- (ii) Political opportunists have created division in political parties. Central and State governments became victims of political uncertainty. Political parties have become irresponsible and thereby people have started losing faith on political parties and their leaders.

**Q 21. Why were the fifth General Elections held one year earlier in 1971 instead of 1972? Give two reasons.**

(CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** The fifth General Elections was held in 1971 which was one year earlier than 1972 due to the following reasons:

- (i) The most prominent reason was the situation in the East Pakistan or the present day Bangladesh. The Bangladesh liberation war had begun which had led to the influx of the refugees in Indian states like Assam and West Bengal. The government wanted to get the mandate of the people to deal with the crisis efficiently.
- (ii) There were internal disputes too among the Congress and opposition was trying to take an advantage of this. Indira Gandhi however focused on the welfare programmes and gave the slogan Garibi Hatao which became very popular among the masses. It led to the success of the Congress in the elections.

**Q 22. Why was the year 1967 considered as landmark year in India's political and electoral history? Explain.**

**Ans.** (i) The fourth General Election held in 1967 was the first election to be held without Nehru. Congress was dominant party before 1967, but scenario was likely to change after 1967's election. Several non-Congress parties joined together to bring Congress down.

They realised that their disintegration kept Congress in power. So, they joined to form a big alliance called Samyukta Vidhayak Dal.

(ii) Congress still managed to win in Lok Sabha election, but with the poorest performance ever. Congress lost in many states. Influential leaders of Congress lost their position.

(iii) Many Congress leaders left the party in order to join the other party. Local politics gained momentum. In Tamil Nadu, a non-Congress party won on its own for the first time. 1967 elections showcased the new element which never came into light.

Defection and coalition played an important role and new elements were in the scene of electoral politics.

**Q 23. What is meant by 'Privy Purse'? Why did Indira Gandhi insist on abolishing them in 1970?**

**Ans.** At the time of dissolution of Princely states the rulers of Princely states had been assured that their families would get the right to retain certain private

property and based on heredity or government allowances would also be given by the extent of revenue and potential of the merging states. This was called as privy purse.

Indira Gandhi insisted on abolition of privy purses because:

- (i) According to Indira Gandhi such privilege to them goes against the essence of constitution. It was against right to equality even Nehru had shown his dissatisfaction against such privilege. After she won in 1967 election she put her demand to abolish privy purse.
- (ii) This hereditary privileges was against the ideas of equality and social and economic justice, which is embedded in Indian Constitution.
- (iii) In 1970 demand to amend privy purse was rejected by Rajya Sabha and ordinance was put down by Supreme Court. It was in 1971 after she won with great majority she was able to amend the Constitution to abolish privy purse.

**Q 24. 'The early seventies of the 20th century were very favourable for Mrs. Indira Gandhi?' Do you agree? Support your answer with any four arguments.**

**Ans.** Yes, I agree with the arguments:

(i) Immediately after 1971 election, crisis broke out in East Pakistan and Indo-Pak war leading to the formation of Bangladesh. Political and economic upheaval made Indira more popular.

(ii) She was appreciated by opposition for her skills in directing the affair of state. Not only a protector of underprivileged, but also she came up as a strong and capable nationalist leader.

(iii) In State Assembly elections held in 1972 her party swept the fields. her position became strong and fearless. Congress position was back to normal and even healthier than before with victories in states and centre as well.

With two back to back victories Indira Gandhi successfully dominated at centre as well as in states. Other social groups also came in her favour.

(iv) Congress managed itself to gain majority in almost all the states. Indira Gandhi proved her leadership and secured a dominant position in Congress within four years.

**Q 25. Why is the Presidential election in 1969 in India considered 'Historical'? Highlight any two reasons.**

(CBSE 2022, Term-2)

**Ans.** The historical presidential election was held in the year 1969, when the internal difference with the Syndicate members of Congress party created a tussle of war between then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Syndicate after the sudden demise of then president Zakir Hussain. Indira Gandhi had favoured V.V. Giri as presidential candidate whereas

the party members had preferred Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. That presidential election was controversial due to various complications.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. "For a long time Congress Party had been a social and ideological coalition." Justify the statements.**

**Ans.** After its origin in 1885 Congress Party evolved as an ideological and social coalition which gave it an unusual strength.

There were many factors for its coalition like character:

- (i) The Congress began as a party dominated by the English speaking, upper caste, upper middle-class and urban elite.
- (ii) With every Civil Disobedience Movement it launched, its social base widened.
- (iii) It brought together diverse groups, whose interest were often contradictory.
- (iv) Peasants and industrialist, urban dwellers and villagers, workers and owners, middle, lower and upper classes and caste, all found space in the Congress.
- (v) 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, religious and languages and various interests.

**Q 2. Analyse the reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three General Election.**

OR

**Examine any three reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three General Elections in India.**

OR

**The period from 1952 to 1966 in Indian politics has been termed as an 'era of one party dominance'. Do you agree? Explain any three factors that helped it in its dominance.**

**Ans.** The Congress Party succeeded in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following reasons:

- (i) The roots of this extraordinary success of the Congress party go back to the legacy of the freedom struggle. Congress was seen an inheritor of the national movement. Many leaders who were in forefront of the struggle were now contesting elections as Congress candidates.
- (ii) The Congress Party was supported by elites educated business class and middle class people. It also got support from peasants because of its socialist nature.

(iii) It had many popular faces like Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel etc. Moreover Jawaharlal Nehru was charismatic and a very popular leader.

(iv) Congress worked at upper level as well as at grass root level Congress was popularised due to the participation in Civil Disobedience Movement.

(v) During period of Nehru Congress attained mass popularity, but the powerful narrow elite of Congress continued to benefit from the low level of political consciousness of the electorate.

(vi) The traditional loyalties made Congress, a one party dominance.

**Q 3. How was 'one party dominance' in India different from the 'one party system in Mexico? In your opinion, which of the two political systems is better and why?**

**Ans.** There was a difference between one party dominance in India and one party system in Mexico. In Mexico, there was only one party which used to contest elections and had no opposition.

(i) In India, the Congress Party dominated on behalf of popular consensus but Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of Mexico ruled on behalf of perfect dictatorships.

(ii) In India free and fair elections took place, where the losing of election was also fair but in Mexico, elections were based on malpractices, dominated by PRI.

In our opinion one party dominance-like India is better because this sort of dominance:

(i) Accommodates social diversities.

(ii) Encourage large number of Participation.

(iii) Ensure democratic spirit as well as maintains the same.

(iv) Bear respect even for opposition.

**Q 4. Analyse the issue 'Indira vs the Syndicate? What type of challenges did the issue pose before Indira Gandhi? (CBSE 2017)**

**Ans.** Syndicates refers to a group of influential powerful and leading leaders of Congress. They had real organisational power with them. They played crucial role in the establishment of Shastri and Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. Indira Gandhi sought their support to come into power. It was expected that after installation, Indira Gandhi would follow their advice.

Their advise proved to be crucial in Indira's Cabinet members selection and in the formation and implementation of policies. But situation changed and Indira's negligent behaviour towards Syndicates annoyed them. Polarisation between them increased



finally, leading to split. Congress split into two parts- Syndicate led Congress was named Congress (O) and Indira Gandhi led Congress was name Congress (R). But after Syndicate led Congress claimed that real organisational power vested in them. They were the think tank and real decision makers.

In 1971, elections, it became clear that still Indira Gandhi possessed the real power and Congress prestige.

**Q 5. What were the factors which led to the popularity of Indira Gandhi's Government in the early 1970s.**

**Ans.** Congress faced the challenge of political succession again on 10th January 1966. Shastri's Prime Ministership came to an abrupt end when he suddenly expired in Tashkent.

The senior leaders of the party decided to support Indira Gandhi. However, the decision was not unanimous.

There was intense contest between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. The contest was resolved through a secret allot among the MPs of the Congress. Indira Gandhi got the support of more than two-third of the Congress Party's MPs.

The six factors that led to the popularity of Indira Gandhi's Government in early 1970s were:

- (i) Her socialist approach worked in her favour and her ideas like land reform and land ceiling legislation as well.
- (ii) Her slogan 'Garibi Hatao' was the need of that time. People took it positively and supported her.
- (iii) Her support for the growth of public sector, removal of inequality in income and opportunity and abolition of privy purse gained popularity.
- (iv) Through the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' she became popular among Dalit, disadvantaged, women, minority etc.
- (v) 1971 war added to her popularity. She managed the political and economic affair of that time effectively. She was admired by opposition also.
- (vi) She was seen as a protector of poor and a strong and capable national leader.

**Q 6. Examine the three main reasons responsible for the split in the Congress Party during 1969.**

OR

**Analyse any three reasons for the split in the Congress Party in 1969.** (CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** The three factors responsible for the split of the Congress Party in 1969 were as follows:

- (i) In 1967 elections, the Congress lost power in many states. the result proved that the Congress could be defeated at the elections.
- (ii) The political tension inside Congress over the unsettled question of relation between its ministerial and organisation wings became more pronounce.

(iii) Indira Gandhi sidelined from the 'Syndicate', a group of powerful and influential leader within the Congress. She chose her trusted group of advisors from outside the party.

(iv) Indira Gandhi adopted a radical ten-point programme which include social control of banks, nationalisation of 14 private banks, abolition of the privy purse and land reforms.

(v) Presidential selection of 1969 bring out factional rivalry between the Syndicate and Indira Gandhi. In the election, V.V. Giri was elected as president of India defeating the official candidate N. Sanjeeva Reddy.

(vi) This election formalised the split in the Congress Prime Minister was expelled. There was a vertical split in Congress which created Congress (O) and Congress (R). (Any three)

**Q 7. Evaluate any three factors which were responsible for Indira Gandhi's achieving a thumping majority in 1971 Lok Sabha election.** (CBSE 2011)

**Ans.** The 1971 elections were a political fight between Congress (R) and non-Congress and non-Communist Parties. Congress (O) was just a part of it. It was believed that Congress (O) had real organisational strength of Congress party. Congress opposition parties formed an electoral alliances called as Grand Alliance. Grand Alliance were SSP, PSP, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party and the Bharatiya Kranti Dal. Major objective behind the formation of Grand Alliance was to present Indira Gandhi to form a government. Now in 1971 elections, Indira Gandhi had to face a strong opposition from outside parties and a split part of Congress.

The three factors which were responsible for thumping majority of Indira Gandhi's Government in 1971 Lok Sabha Elections were :

- (i) Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' and it was her main agenda. The opponents have no such agenda for people. They gave slogan of 'Indira Hatao'. People became influenced with the agenda of Indira Gandhi and gave her majority votes.
- (ii) Indira Gandhi noticed the need for the increase in growth of public sector and removal of difference of income. In election publicity, she ensured people for bringing all this. People become inspired by her vision and supported her.
- (iii) The opponents formed the Grand Alliance against Indira Gandhi to defeat her. This was also a prominent factor which persuaded voters to vote her.



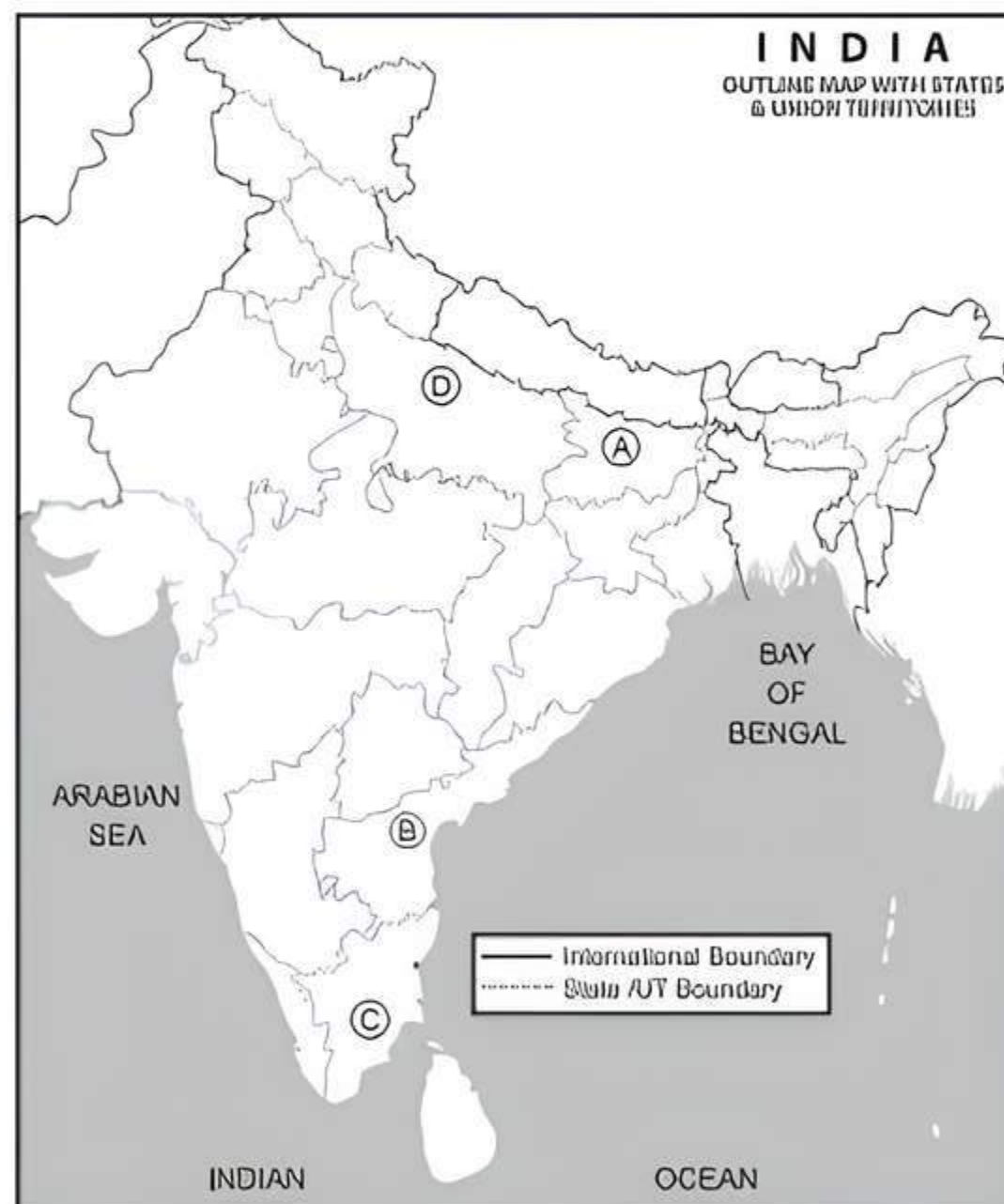
## Map Based Question

Q 1. In the given outline political map of India, four states have been marked as (A), (B), (C) and (D). Identify these states on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer book along with the respective serial numbers of the information used and the concerned alphabets as per the format that follows:

- (i) The state related to the leader who signed the Tashkent Agreement.
- (ii) The state related to C Natarajan Annadurai.
- (iii) The state related to Karpuri Thakur, who implemented reservation for backward classes.
- (iv) V.V. Giri belonged to this state.

	S.No. for the information used	Alphabet Concerned	Name of the States
(i)			
(ii)			
(iii)			
(iv)			

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)



Ans.

S.No. for the information used	Alphabet Concerned	Name of the States
(i)	D	Uttar Pradesh
(ii)	C	Tamil Nadu
(iii)	A	Bihar
(iv)	B	Andhra Pradesh





# Chapter Test

## Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. In which year first general election was held in India?  
a. 1947      b. 1952      c. 1955      d. 1960
- Q 2. In 1957, which party formed the government in Kerala?  
a. Jana Sangh      b. C.P.I.  
c. Congress      d. Socialist Party

## Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 3. The first General Election in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and .....
- Q 4. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was .....

## Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 5-6): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.  
d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- Q 5. Assertion (A): Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.  
Reason (R): Opposition parties also mobilise opposition to the government.
- Q 6. Assertion (A): Indira has multiparty system.  
Reason (R): The multiparty system often appears very messy and leads to political instability.

## Passage Study Based Question

- Q 7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:  
Yet the new Congress had something that its big opponents lacked-it had an issue, an agenda and a positive slogan. The Grand Alliance did not have a coherent political programme. Indira Gandhi said that the opposition alliance had only one common programme: Indira Hatao (Remove Indira). In contrast to this, she put forward a positive programme captured in the famous slogan: Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty). She focused on the

growth of the public sector, imposition of ceiling on rural land holdings and urban property, removal of disparities in income and opportunity and abolition of princely privileges.

- (i) Which Congress is being referred to as 'The New Congress'?
- (ii) Highlight any two steps taken by Indira Gandhi to remove poverty.
- (iii) How far is it justified to call the 'opposition alliance' as the Grand Alliance?

## Cartoon Based Question

- Q 8. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



- (i) The cartoon depicts the results of which elections?
- (ii) What was the outcome of these elections labelled as?
- (iii) Who are depicted as the players in the cartoon?

## Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. Who was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh?
- Q 10. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly?

## Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11. Mention any two problems which were faced by the government of Indira Gandhi during 1969-1971.
- Q 12. The phrase "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" signifies which concept? Explain its impact on the Indian political system?

## Long Answer Type Question

- Q 13. "For a long time Congress Party had been a social and ideological coalition." Justify the statements.