

Recent Developments in Indian Politics

Fastrack Revision

► Context of the 1990s

Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister after the assassination of Indira Gandhi and led the Congress to a massive victory in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1984.

- The decade of 80s witnessed five developments that were to make a long-lasting impact on our politics. They were:
 - The defeat of the Congress party in the elections held in 1989.
 - The rise of the 'Mandal issue' in national politics.
 - The economic policy followed by the various governments took a radically different turn which is also known as the initiation of the structural adjustment programme on the new economic reforms.
 - A number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure (known as Babri Masjid) at Ayodhya in December 1992.
 - The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 led to a change in leadership of the Congress party.

Era of Coalition

- In 1989 elections, Congress was defeated and many small regional parties and Congress factions emerged without any single party being in majority.
- The alliance government emerged where the government was formed by coalition of some small regional parties with an outside support from a big political party. The big political party only extended support but did not participate in the process of forming government.

Decline of Congress

- In late 60s, the Congress dominance was challenged but Congress under the leadership of Indira Gandhi managed to re-establish its predominant position.
- After the election of 1989 political development in India initiated an era of coalition government at the centre in which regional parties played a crucial role in forming ruling alliances.

Alliance Politics

- The nineties also saw the emergence of powerful parties and movement that represented the Dalit and the backward castes (Other Backward Classes or OBCs).
- The Regional parties played an important role in the United Front government that came to power in 1989.
- In the elections of 1991 and 1996, BJP continued to consolidate its position and was invited to form the government after emerging as the largest party.
- With the elections of 1989, a long phase of coalitions politics began in the country.

Political Rise of Other Backward Classes


- One long-term development of this period was the rise of Other Backward Classes.

- OBC is referred as the administrative category 'Other Backward Classes'.
- When the support for the Congress among many sections of the 'backward castes' had declined, this created a space for Non-Congress parties to get their support.
- Many of the constituents of the Janata Party, like the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and the Samyukta Socialist Party, had a powerful rural base among some sections of the OBC.

'Mandal' Implemented

- The emergence of many parties was witnessed during the period of 1980s-90s and sought better opportunities for OBCs in education and employment.
- The objective of Mandal Commission was to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of Indian society.
- The recommendations of the commission were implemented by the National Front Government in August 1990.

Knowledge BOOSTER

 The Mandal Commission recommended reserving 27 per cent of seats in educational institutions and government jobs for groups.

Political Fallouts

- The caste based politics started to dominate the Indian politics from 1980s.
- In 1989 and 1991 this was the first time in independent India that a political party (BSP) supported by Dalit voters had achieved a landmark political success.
- The Dalit politics and OBC politics have developed independently and often in competition with each other in many parts of the country.
- In 1978 the Backwards and Minority Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF) was formed. This organisation was not an ordinary trade union of government employees. It took a strong position in favour of political power to the 'bahujan', OBCs and minorities.

Communalism, Secularism and Democracy

- During the 1990s the politics based on the religious identity emerged in India and debates on secularism and democracy came into vogue. BJP emerged as a 'Hindutva Party' after the Shah Bano Case (1985).

Ayodhya Dispute

- The Faizabad district court ordered the Babri Masjid premises be unlocked so that Hindus could offer prayers at the site which they considered as temple.
 - A 16th century mosque at Ayodhya- the Babri Masjid was built by Mir Baqi- Mughal emperor Babur's General.

- ▶ It was a belief of some Hindus that it was built after the demolition of a temple of Lord Rama.
- ▶ The dispute took the form of a court case and has continued for many decades.

Demolition and After

- ▶ On 6th December 1992, the Babri Masjid was demolished and just after that the news led to the clash between the Hindus and Muslims in many parts of the country.
- ▶ The violence in Mumbai erupted again in January 1993 and continued for over two weeks.
- ▶ A case against the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was registered in the Supreme Court for contempt of court since he had given an undertaking that the disputed structure will be protected.
- ▶ The BJP officially expressed regret over the happenings at Ayodhya.
- ▶ In February-March 2002, similar violence broke out against the Muslims in Gujarat.

Emergence of a New Consensus

- ▶ During the nineties, the political competition was divided between the coalition led by BJP and the coalition led by the Congress.

Knowledge BOOSTER

As per the analysis, since 1989 elections the votes polled by the two parties—BJP and Congress could not add up to more than 50 per cent.

Lok Sabha Elections, 2004

- ▶ In 2004 elections, new coalition led by Congress defeated the coalition led by BJP (National Democratic Alliance) and the United Progressive Alliance came to power.

Growing Consensus

- ▶ After 1990 a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties consisting of the following:
 - ▶ New economic policies were agreed.
 - ▶ The social and political claims of the backward castes were accepted.
 - ▶ Acceptance of the role of state level parties in governance of the country.
 - ▶ Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideological positions and political alliances without ideological agreement.
 - ▶ Sometimes the regional parties influence the central government to divert more annual budget funds to their states at the expense of other states.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1.** The Congress party had won as many as 415 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in:
- a. 1984 b. 1987 c. 1989 d. 1992
- Q 2.** Bharatiya Janata Party was formed in:
- a. 1960 b. 1970 c. 1980 d. 1990
- Q 3.** Identify the Prime Minister of India from amongst the following who headed the first coalition government in India: (CBSE 2019)
- a. Atal Bihari Vajpayee b. V.P. Singh
c. Morarji Desai d. H. D. Devegowda
- Q 4.** With its pre-intended goal the NDA-III Government started several socio-economic welfare schemes to make development accessible to the masses. (CBSE 2020)
- a. Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan
b. Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan
c. Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas
d. Garibi Hatao
- Q 5.** BJP led coalition of 2014 was also called as: (CBSE 2020-21)
- a. majority coalition
b. surplus majority coalition
c. clear majority coalition
d. democratic coalition
- Q 6.** Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in:
- a. May 1991 b. June 1991
c. July 1991 d. August 1991
- Q 7.** In which elections Congress was defeated in many small regions?
- a. 1969 elections b. 1989 elections
c. 1999 elections d. 1990 elections

- Q 8.** Who had recommended reservation for OBCs in jobs of central government?

a. Mahatma Gandhi b. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
c. Jawaharlal Nehru d. Mandal Commission

- Q 9.** On which concept, the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) started mobilising Hindus?

a. Hindutva b. One nation one religion
c. Sanatan Dharma d. Regionalism

- Q 10.** Which first coalition government was able to complete its five-year-tenure?

a. UPA govt. led by Dr. Manmohan Singh
b. NDA govt. led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee
c. NDA govt. led by Narendra Modi
d. None of the above



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 11-15): 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): One of the developments was the rise of the 'Mandal issue' in national politics.

Reason (R): Bringing into force the decision by the new National Front government in 1990, to implement the recommendation of the Mandal Commission that jobs in central government should be reserved for the other backward classes.

- Q 12. Assertion (A): A number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure (known as Babri Masjid) at Ayodhya in December 1992.
Reason (R): The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 led to a change in leadership of the Congress Party.
- Q 13. Assertion (A): Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a Sri Lankan Tamil linked to the LTTE when he was on an election campaign tour in Tamil Nadu.
Reason (R): In the election of 1991, Congress shrunk to the smallest party in the assembly.
- Q 14. Assertion (A): The BJP continued to consolidate its position in the elections of 1991 and 1996.
Reason (R): It emerged as the largest party in the 1996 election and was invited to form the government.
- Q 15. Assertion (A): The decision of the National Front government to implement the recommendation of the Mandal Commission further helped in shaping the politics of 'Other Backward Classes'.
Reason (R): This period saw the emergence of many parties that sought disastrous decisions and approach for OBCs.

- Q 26. The BJP began as a small party supported largely by Dalit voters in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Answers

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (b)
6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (b)
11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (c) 14. (a) 15. (c)
16. Congress system.
17. Kanshi Ram
18. Jana Sangh, Bharatiya Janata Party.
19. Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal
20. Narsimha Rao
21. True 22. False 23. True
24. In the 1980s, the Janata Dal brought together a similar combination of political groups with strong support among the OBCs.
25. Elections in 1989 led to the defeat of the congress party but did not result in a majority for any other party.
26. The BSP began as a small party supported largely by Dalit voters in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 16. According to Political scientist, 1989 marked the end of
- Q 17. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) emerged under the leadership of
- Q 18. After the fall of the Janata Party and its break-up the supporters of erstwhile formed the in 1980.
- Q 19. was the chairperson of Mandal Commission.
- Q 20. After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, the Congress party chose as the Prime Minister.

True or False Questions

- Q 21. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister during May 1998 to June 1999 and again re-elected in October 1999. His government, formed in 1999, completed its full term.
- Q 22. Following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, the Congress party chose Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister.
- Q 23. In 1989, both the left and the BJP supported the National Front government because they wanted to keep the Congress out of power.

Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

- Q 24. In the 1970s, the Congress brought together a similar of Political groups with strong support among the OBCs.
- Q 25. Elections in 2014 led to the defeat of the Congress party but did not result in a majority for any other party.

Passage Based Questions

Passage 1

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

The nineties also saw the emergence of powerful parties and movements that represented the Dalit and Backward Castes (Other Backward Classes or OBCs). Many of these parties represented powerful regional assertion as well. These parties played an important role in the United Front government that came to power in 1996. The United Front was similar to the National Front of 1989 for it included Janata Dal and several regional parties. This time the BJP did not support the government. The United Front government was supported by the Congress. This shows how unstable the political equations were. In 1989, both the left and the BJP supported the National Front Government because they wanted to keep the Congress out of power. In 1996, the left continued to support the Non-Congress government but this time the Congress, supported it, as both the Congress and the left wanted to keep the BJP out of power.

- Q 1. What is the full form of OBC?
- Other Backward Castes
 - Other Backward Classes
 - Other Below Classes
 - None of the above

Q 2. United Front government was formed in

- a. 1997 b. 1998 c. 1990 d. 1996

Q 3. Who supported the United Front government?

- a. BJP
b. Communist Party of India
c. Congress
d. NDA

Q 4. Why Left and Congress continued to support United Front government?

- a. because they wanted to keep BJP out of power.
b. because this was the most stable government of that time
c. because it had the great support from people
d. All of the above

Answers

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (a)

Passage 2

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

A long phase of coalition politics began in India with the elections of 1989. Since then, there have been eleven governments at the centre, all of which have either been coalition governments or minority governments supported by other parties, which did not join the governments. In this new phase, any government could be formed only with the participation or support of many regional parties. This applied to the National front in 1989, the United Front in 1996 and 1997, the NDA in 1997, the BJP led coalition in 1998, the NDA in 1999 and the UPA in 2004 and 2009. However, this trend changed in 2014. Let us connect this development with what we have learnt so far. The era of coalition government may be seen as a long-term trend resulting from relatively silent changes that were taking place over the last few decades.

In the 1980s, the Janata Dal brought together a similar combination of political groups with strong support among the OBCs. The decision of the National Front government to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission further helped in shaping the politics of 'Other Backward Classes'. The intense national debate for and against reservation in jobs made people from the OBCs communities more aware of this identity.

Q 1. The phase of coalition politics began in India from

- a. 1989 b. 1988 c. 1990 d. 1987

Q 2. In which years, NDA had coalition governments?

- a. 1999, 2003, 2008 b. 1997, 1998, 1999
c. 1998, 2004, 2009 d. None of these

Q 3. In which years UPA government were formed?

- a. 2004, 2009 b. 2000, 2005
c. 2004, 2007 d. 2009, 2014

Q 4. Which government took the decision to implement the recommendation of Mandal Commission?

- a. UPA 2009
b. NDA 2014
c. National Front Government
d. None of the above

Answers

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (c)

Passage 3

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

With the elections of 1989, a long phase of coalition politics began in India. Since then, there have been eleven governments at the Centre, all of which have either been coalition governments or minority governments supported by other parties, which did not join the government. In this new phase, any government could be formed only with the participation or support of many regional parties. This applied to the National Front in 1989, the United Front in 1996 and 1997, the NDA in 1997, the BJP led coalition in 1998, the NDA in 1999, the UPA in 2004 and 2009. However, this trend changed in 2014.

Q 1. What is meant by Alliance politics?

Ans. The term Alliance politics signifies coming together of different political parties under one alliance before the election in order to contest election. The phase of Alliances started in 1999 with UPA and NDA.

Q 2. How did a long phase of coalition politics began?

Ans. The long phase of coalition started in 1989 when no single party got majority of seats to form government. Since 1989 there have been nine governments at the centre all of which have either been coalition government supported by other parties, which did not join the government.

Q 3. Give the full form of UPA and NDA.

Ans. The full form of UPA is United Progressive Alliance and NDA is National Democratic Alliance.

Passage 4

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

In fact, the BSP, under Kanshi Ram's leadership was envisaged as an organisation based on pragmatic politics. It derived confidence from the fact that the Bahujans (SC, ST, OBC and religious minorities) constituted the majority of the population, and are a formidable political force on the strength of their numbers. Since then the BSP

has emerged as a major political player in the state and has been in government on more than one occasions. Its strongest support still comes from Dalit voters, but it has expanded its support now to various other social groups. In many parts of India, Dalit politics and OBC politics have developed independently and often in competition with each other.

Q 1. Which organisation was formed by Kanshi Ram?

Ans. BSP was formed by Kanshi Ram.

Q 2. Name any two religious minorities.

Ans. Muslim and Sikh.

Q 3. Give the full form of BSP.

Ans. Bahujan Samaj Party.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What was the nature of NDA-III coalition government?

Ans. The nature of NDA III coalition was shifted from "one party led coalition" to "one party dominated coalition".

Q 2. Who is considered to be the proponent of Bahujan empowerment and the founder of Bahujan Samaj Party?

Ans. Kanshi Ram is considered to be the proponent of Bahujan empowerment and the founder of Bahujan Samaj Party.

Q 3. Identify any one similarity between the United Front Government 1996 and the National Front Government of 1989.

Ans. The basic similarity was that both of these alliances represented powerful regional aspiration.

Q 4. From which year did the era of coalition government at the centre begin in India?

Ans. The era of coalition government at the centre began in India since 1989.

Q 5. What was the Mandal Commission? When was it appointed?

Ans. The Mandal Commission was set up on 1st January 1979 to determine the criteria of identifying the socially and educationally backward class.

Q 6. Why did the Janata Party government appoint a commission of inquiry headed by Justice J.C. Shah in May 1977? (CBSE 2020)

Ans. The commission of inquiry headed by Justice J.C. Shah in May 1977 was appointed to investigate the cases of abuse of authority, malpractices, policies and amendments promulgated during the state of National Emergency by the Congress government led by Indira Gandhi.

Cartoon Based Questions

Q 1. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) Who was head of the government formed by the National Front in 1989?

Ans. V.P. Singh was the head of the government formed by the National Front in 1989.

(ii) Why was the government formed by V.P. Singh called a puppet government?

Ans. The government formed by V.P. Singh called a puppet government because the strings of this governments were in the hand of other leaders. They were moving and controlling the government like a puppet by pulling the strings.

(iii) Identify the puppeteers pulling the strings and the political parties they belong to.

Ans. (a) The puppeteers pulling the strings were Jyoti Basu and L.K. Advani.
(b) Jyoti Basu belongs to CPM and L.K. Advani belongs to BJP.

Q 2. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) Why is the girl shown in the cartoon not worried about whether it is a single party or a coalition government?

Ans. She is not worried about whether it is a single party or a coalition government rather she is worried about the work the parties do for the progress of the country.

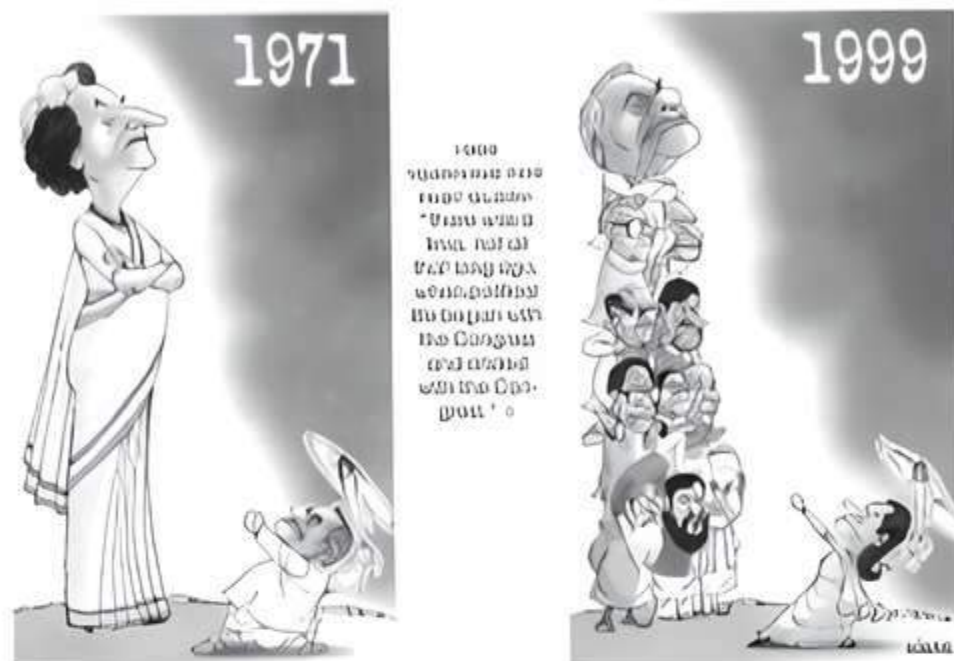
(ii) Does the coalition government involve more compromises and why?

Ans. Yes, coalition governments involves more compromises because different ideologies come together in a coalition.

(iii) Do you think we can have bold and imaginative policies in a coalition government and why?

Ans. Yes, to make coalition stronger we can have bold and imaginative policies in a coalition government.

Q. 3. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) What does the cartoon indicate?

Ans. The cartoon depicts changes from one party dominance to a multi-party alliance system.

(ii) Which party is being referred to as one party dominance?

Ans. Congress party is being referred to as one party dominance.

(iii) Identify female characters in the cartoon:

Ans. Three female characters are seen in the cartoon:

- Indira Gandhi
- Mamata Banerjee, and
- Sonia Gandhi

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Who was the Chairperson of Mandal Commission? State any two recommendations made by the commission.

OR

How are the three recommendations of the Mandal Commission an effort to solve the problems of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs)? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Mandal Commission was established in India in 1979 by the Janata Party Government under the Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The two recommendations of the Mandal Commission are as follows:

- 27 per cent of the posts in public services should be reserved for the Other Backward Classes.
- Welfare programmes especially meant for OBCs should be financed by the government of India.

Q 2. Highlight any two effects of the election of 1989 on the politics of India.

Ans. Two effects of election of 1989 on Indian politics are:

- The end of 'Congress system' i.e., loss of the kind of centrality it enjoyed in the party system earlier.
- The beginning of coalition politics in Indian political system.

Q 3. What was the change in the electoral performance of the Congress party and BJP from 1984-2004?

Ans. The change in the electoral performance of the Congress and BJP from 1984-2004 is as under:

- The BJP had gained the electoral performance from two seats to 138 seats.
- The political competition during the 1990s is divided between the coalition led by BJP and Congress. Congress lost its seats from 415 to 145.

Q 4. Political equations in coalition government are unstable. How was this concept reflected in the formation of National Front Government in 1989 and United Front Government in 1996?

Ans. In 1989, the coalition government began in India and many political parties shaped the government at the centre. This political phenomena clearly reflects political instability and uncertainty.

United Front was formed to keep out Congress from government. It was formed in 1996 with the support of BJP and left Front. H.D. Deve Gowda was Prime Minister of United Front and after him I.K. Gujral became the Prime Minister.

Q 5. Give two arguments in favour of reservations for the SCs, STs and OBCs in higher education institutions in India.

Ans. The two arguments in favour of reservations for the SCs, STs and OBCs in higher education institutions in India are:

- The backward classes had very low representation in educational institutions.
- The employment in public offices also had very low representation of the backward classes.

Q 6. When were the new economic reforms announced?

Ans. The new economic reforms were announced in 1991 as the structural adjustment programme. It was started by Rajiv Gandhi.

These changes first became visible in 1991 and radically changed the direction that the Indian economy had pursued since independence.

Q 7. List the parties having a powerful rural base among the OBCs.

Ans. The constituents of the Janata Party, like the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and the 'Samyukta Socialist Party' had a powerful rural base among some sections of the OBCs.

Q 8. Highlight any three factors that are responsible for the rise of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a strong political party after 1991.

Ans. The three main factors that are responsible for the rise of Bharatiya Janata party as a strong political party after 1991 are:

- BJP wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.
- A uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion and ban on religious conversions.

(iii) The most important factor in rise of the BJP in India is the 'Hindutva' issue.

Q 9. Why is National Democratic Alliance (NDA) III called a 'Surplus majority Coalition'? Explain.

Ans. NDA III the BJP-led coalition of 2014 was largely different than its predecessor coalition government. Where the previous coalitions were led by one of the national parties the NDA III coalition was not only steered by a national party i.e., BJP it was also dominated by BJP with an absolute majority of its own in Lok Sabha called a 'Surplus majority Coalition.'

Q 10. Identify and name of any two Prime Ministers of India who remained in power for less than a year.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. Two Prime Ministers who remained for less than a year are:

- (i) H.D. Deve Gowda of United Front from June 1996 to April 1997.
- (ii) I.K. Gujral from April 1997 to March 1998.

Q 11. How far is it correct to say that coalition government in India has helped in arriving at some consensus?

Ans. When two or more parties join hands together to form a government is known as coalition government. e.g., UPA, NDA etc.

Two advantages of coalition government are as follows:

- (i) Dominance of one party is minimised.
- (ii) More than one ideologies come together and give strength to democracy.

Q 12. Describe any four major developments in the Indian politics since 1989.

OR

Highlight any three factors that led to a multi-party alliances system in Indian politics since 1989.

OR

Describe any three major developments in Indian politics since 1989. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. Towards the end of 1980s, country saw five major development which are as follows:

- (i) **End of Congress System:** Congress system mean dominance of Congress for two decades. But the most important event was the defeat of Congress party in the 1989s elections. The party had won only 197 seats, which was very low in comparison to 1984 elections where party won 415 seats.
The Congress boosted up its performance and finally it come back to power in 1991, after Rajiv Gandhi's assassinations. But the elections of 1989 marked the end of what political scientists have called the 'Congress system'. Congress remained as major party but it lost its dominance as it enjoyed earlier in the party system.

(ii) **Mandal Issue:** The Mandal issue started with the National Front government decision to implement the recommendations of Mandal Commission in 1990.

The recommendation was that 27 per cent of jobs in the Central government should be reserved for other backward classes candidates only. Thus, it brought widespread dismay and anger. This conflict between supporters and opponents of OBC reservation was popularly called 'Mandal Issue'. It played a crucial role in shaping politics since 1989.

(iii) **New Economic Reforms:** The new economic reforms were announced as the structural adjustment programme. These reforms were initiated by Rajiv Gandhi, but these were more visible in Narsimha Rao's government in the year 1991. These reforms faced many criticism, but the upcoming governments have continued to follow these.

(iv) **Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi:** There was a change in leadership due to assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. He was assassinated during his election campaign in Tamil Nadu by a Sri Lankan Tamil linked to the LTTE. The elections of 1991 witnessed Congress party emerging as the single largest party. Though death of Rajiv Gandhi led to the appointment of Narsimha Rao as the Prime Minister.

Q 13. "In the new era of coalition politics political parties are not aligning on the basis of ideology." Explain

OR

Why is it necessary for the coalition governments to accommodate and aggregate variety of interests? Explain. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Three features of coalition government has been given in which we have to understand the not aligning and re-aligning on the basis of ideologies. These are:

- (i) **Unstable Government:** The coalition government has its own interest and they fight for their own self interest. This leads to the break-up of not only of various fronts, but of government as well.
- (ii) **Political Opportunism:** Government formed on the basis of coalition becomes selfish, as opportunist, power hungry and unscrupulous politicians focus on the self interest only.
- (iii) **Lack of Polarisation:** The coalition governments are formed not on the basis of polarisation of political forces, but for the sake of capturing power and vested interest. There have been no sincere urge even among the parties of same ideology for political polarisation.



Q 14. When and why did a long phase of coalition politics begin in India? (CBSE 2020, 21)

Ans. Elections in 1989 led to the defeat of the Congress party but did not result in a majority for any other party. Thus began an era of Multi party system. What happened after 1989 was the emergence of several parties in such a way that one or two parties did not get most of the votes or seats. This also meant that no single party secured majority of seats in any Lok Sabha elections held since 1989.

- (i) This development led to an era of coalition governments at the centre in which regional parties played a crucial role in forming a ruling alliance.
- (ii) The nineties also saw the emergence of powerful parties and movements that represented the Dalit and Backwards Castes. Many of these parties represented powerful regional assertions as well.
- (iii) Thus, with the election of 1989, a long phase of coalition parties began in India. Since then there have been nine governments at the centre, all of which have either been coalition government or minority governments supported by other parties, which did not join the government.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. In the midst of severe competition and many conflicts in 1989 a consensus appeared to have emerged among most parties. Explain the points of consensus. (CBSE 2017)

OR

Assess the impact of coalition government on the politics of India.

OR

"In the midst of severe competition and many conflicts, a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties." Describe any three in detail.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. Regarding many crucial issues a broad agreement has emerged among most parties. In the midst of severe competition and many conflicts, a consensus appears to have emerged among most parties. This consensus consists of four elements:

- (i) **Agreement on New Economic Policies:** While many groups are opposed to the new economic policies, most political parties are in support of the new economic policies. Most parties believe that these policies would lead the country to prosperity and a status of economic power in the world.
- (ii) **Acceptance of the Political and Social Claims of the Backward Castes:** Political parties have recognised that the social and political claims of the backward castes need to be accepted. As a result all political parties now support reservation of seats for the backward classes in

education and employment. Political parties are also willing to ensure that the OBCs get adequate share of power.

(iii) **Acceptance of Role of State Level Parties in Governance of the Country:** The distinction between state level and national level parties is fast becoming less important.

(iv) **Emphasis on Pragmatic Consideration rather than Ideological Positions and Political Alliances Without Ideological Agreement:** Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences to power sharing arrangements, thus, most parties of the NDA did not agree with the Hindutva ideology of the BJP, yet, they came together to form a government and remained in power for a full term.

To sum up, all these are momentous changes and are going to shape politics in the near future.

Q 2. "In the recent coalition politics the alliance of political parties is not based on ideology." Justify the statement with examples. (CBSE 2022, Term-2)

OR

"Coalition government is a bane or boon for democracy in India." Explain any three arguments in support of your answer.

Ans. Coalition government is a boon because:

- (i) **Participation of Regional Parties at National Level:** State level parties played a crucial role in the country politics for last twenty years. Therefore the differences between state level parties and central parties is decreasing day by day.
- (ii) **Spirit of Adaption:** Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological distinction to power sharing accommodation. We can see in the government of NDA that most of the parties did not agree with the ideology of Hindutva of BJP. However they allied with BJP to form a government for a full term completion.
- (iii) **Inclined Towards One Consensus:** Various radical parties opposed the new economic policies, but some parties came to support new economic policies because they believed that these policies would lead the country towards prosperity and raise its status all over the world.

Coalition government is a bane for democracy in India because of three reasons:

- (i) **Unstable Government:** The coalition government has its own interest and they fight for their own self interest. This leads to the break-up not only of various fronts but of governments as well.
- (ii) **Political Opportunism:** Government which is formed on the basis of coalition becomes selfish as opportunist power hungry and unscrupulous politicians emphasises on their self interest only.

(iii) **Lack of Polarisation:** The coalition governments are formed not on the basis of polarisation of political forces, but for the sake of capturing power and vested interest. There has been no sincere urge even among the parties of same ideology for political polarisation.

Q 3. Discuss about the formation of the coalition government at the centre in 2004 elections? What were the different factions participating in the elections?

OR

Highlight any three points of consensus that emerged among the political parties after the Lok Sabha elections of 2004? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Lok Sabha Elections, 2004

In 2004 elections, the Congress party came to power with the new alliance known as United Progressive Alliance. This was a coalition in a big way. NDA was defeated and installation of another coalition led by Dr. Manmohan Singh occurred. The UPA received support from DMK, AIADMK, RJD, NCP, TRS and Left parties from Andhra Pradesh etc.

The 2004 elections also saw the partial revival of Congress party as it increased its seats compared to 1996 elections. However, there was a little bit difference between the votes polled by the Congress and its allies and the BJP and its allies in 2004 elections. Thus, the party system has taken another form.

After the 1990s, the political process has been changed and it led to emergence of broadly four group of parties:

- (i) The Congress supporting parties that made coalitions with Congress.
- (ii) The BJP allying parties
- (iii) Left Front Parties
- (iv) Some other parties which were not part of the above three.

Q 4. "The regional parties have started playing an important role in the Indian Politics." Comment.

(CBSE 2018)

Ans. India as a democracy has the multi-party system which means there are several political parties competing for power. Apart from the primary parties, each state has their own local political parties that rule and complete in their region.

Regional parties play following roles in Indian politics:

- (i) In absence of clear majority, the largest party has to join hands with a regional party in order to form government. This is where the importance of the regional parties comes into play.
- (ii) Most of the regional parties have agenda furthering certain culture dominant within that state.
- (iii) The regional parties for their benefits divide the people of different states on the line of language, culture, traditions etc.

(iv) Sometimes serious issues like India's foreign policy are influenced and compromised by regional parties. This affects India's credibility in international politics.

(v) They also work as pressure groups in Indian politics.

(vi) Sometimes regional parties influence the central government to divert more annual budget funds to their state at the expense of other states.

Q 5. Highlight any three major developments that took place in Indian politics during NDA III and NDA IV.

(CBSE 2020, 21, 23)

OR

State any two programmes launched by the NDA government after 2014 for women's help and progress. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. The major developments that have taken place in Indian politics during the NDA-III and IV are:

(i) NDA III, the BJP led coalition of 2014 was largely different of its predecessor coalition governments. Where the previous coalitions were led by one of the national parties the NDA-III coalition was not only steered by a national party, i.e., BJP it was also dominated by BJP with an absolute majority of its own in Lok Sabha called 'Surplus Majority Coalition'.

(ii) The 2019 Lok Sabha election, the 17th since independence, once again brought back BJP led NDA (NDA IV) to the centre of power by winning more than 350 seats out of 543.

(iii) A major change in Indian politics in the shift from caste and religion based politics to development and governance-oriented politics.

(iv) With its pre-intended goal Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, the NDA-III government started several socio-economic welfare schemes to make development and governance accessible to the masses such as Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan-Dhan Yojana, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Kisan Fasal Bima Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ayushman Bharat Yojana etc.

(v) All these schemes intended to take administration to the doorstep of the common man by making the rural households, particularly the common real beneficiaries of the Central Government schemes.

(vi) The success of these schemes could be seen from the result of 2019 Lok Sabha elections where the voters across states castes, classes, communities, gender and religions brought back the issue of development and governance to the centre stage, under the BJP led NDA Government characterising the current change with "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas".





Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Who headed the coalition government of 1989?

- a. Chandra Shekhar
- b. V.P. Singh
- c. I.K. Gujral
- d. Rajiv Gandhi

Q 2. Which year was Janata Dal formed?

- a. 1975
- b. 1982
- c. 1985
- d. 1988

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

Q 3. The era of coalition government at the centre begin in India since

Q 4. BSP was formed by

Assertion and Reason Type Question

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

Assertion (A): The BJP continued to consolidate its position in the elections of 1991 and 1996.

Reason (R): It emerged as the largest party in the 1996 and was invited to form the government.

- 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.

Passage Based Question

Q 6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

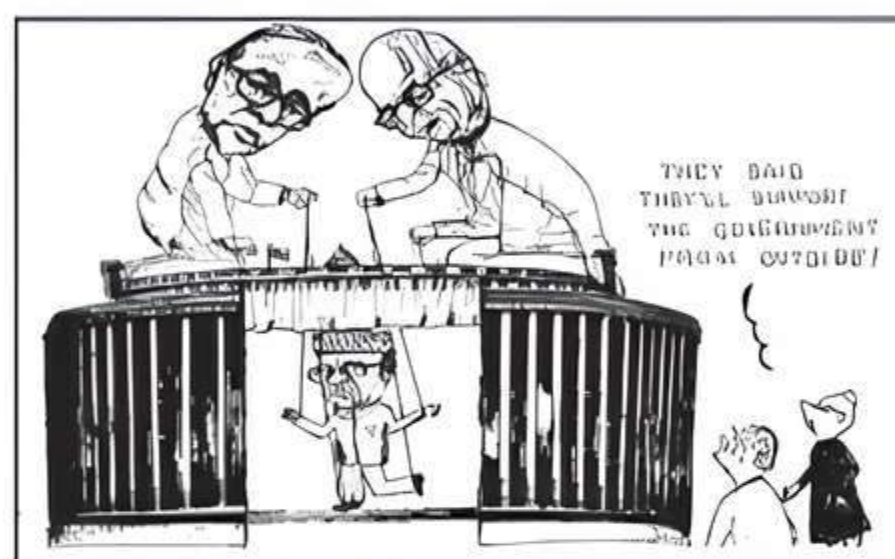
With the elections of 1989, a long phase of coalition politics began in India. Since then, there have been nine governments at the Centre in 1989, all of which have either been coalition governments or minority government supported by other parties, which did not join the government. In this new phase, any government could be formed only with the participation or support of many regional parties.

This applied to the National Front in 1989, the United Front in 1996 and 1997, the NDA in 1997, BJP led coalition in 1998, NDA in 1999 and UPA in 2004.

- (i) When did the trend of coalition politics start?
- (ii) Write the full form of NDA.
- (iii) What does minority government mean?

Cartoon Based Question

Q 7. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



- (i) Who was head of the government formed by the National Front in 1989?
- (ii) Why was the government formed by V.P. Singh called a puppet government?
- (iii) Identify the puppeteers pulling the strings and the political parties they belong to.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 8. From which year did the era of coalition governments at the centre begin in India?
- Q 9. What are the main issues in Indian politics?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 10. When was the Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation formed?
- Q 11. Name the big changes that defined the NDA government's work till 2019.

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 12. Two-party system is considered as the best form for a democratic system. India, on the other hand, has a multi-party system. Assess the advantages of multi-party system in India.