

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5

Political Science (028)

Class XII (2024-25)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper consists of five sections (A, B, C, D and E) with 30 questions in total.
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Question numbers 1-12 are multiple choice questions of one mark each.
4. Question numbers 13-18 are of 2 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 50-60 words each.
5. Question numbers 19-23 are of 4 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 100-120 words each. There is an internal choice in two of the 4 marks questions
6. Question numbers 24-26 are passage, cartoon and map-based questions. Answer accordingly.
7. Question numbers 27-30 are of 6 marks each. Answers to these questions should not exceed 170-180 words.
8. There is an internal choice in 6 marks questions.

SECTION – A (12 MARKS)

1. Arrange in chronological order: [1]
 - i. Establishment of Human Rights Council
 - ii. Yalta Association
 - iii. Atlantic Charter
 - iv. India took part in United Nations

a) (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)	b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
c) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)	d) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)
2. Which project was allotted a huge amount in the first five-year plan? [1]

a) Both Narmada and Bhakra Nangal project	b) Bhakra Nangal project
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c)Narmada project

d)Ganga river dam project

3. The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first General elections was the [1]

a)Bhartiya janta party

b)Bhartiya Jana Sangh

c)Communist Party of India

d)Praja Socialist Party

4. When the second Five year plan was launched? [1]

a)1955

b)1956

c)1952

d)1951

5. Match List I with List II regarding resistance to globalization in India by different quarters. [1]

List-1	List-2
(a) Left wing	(i) cultural influences
(b) Trade unions	(ii) Patents on Indian herbs
(c) Right Wing	(iii) economic liberalization
(d) Industry	(iv) entry of multinationals

a) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(ii), (d)-(iv)

b) (a)-(i), (b)-(iii), (c)-(iv), (d)-(ii)

c) (a)-(ii), (b)-(i), (c)-(iii), (d)-(iv)

d) (a)-(iii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii)

6. **Assertion (A):** Movement of the people of Hyderabad State against the Nizam's rule had gathered force and momentum. [1]

Reason (R): Peasantry and women joined hands against the oppressive rule of the Nizam.

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.

7. When was Bangladesh created as a independent country? [1]

a)1972

b)1971



c) 1975

d) 1970

8. The slogan of **garibi hatao** was used before the: [1]
- a) 1967 elections b) 1971 elections
- c) 1952 elections d) 1977 elections
9. Meaning of Foreign Policy is: [1]
- i. With which one country maintains relations with other countries.
- ii. To participate in international political and economic activities.
- iii. Maintain relations with other countries in your own country's benefit.
- a) (i) and (iii) only b) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- c) (ii) and (iii) only d) (i) and (ii) only
10. **Assertion (A):** Due to shock therapy the value of Russian Ruble declined. [1]
Reason (R): Ruble is not the currency of the USSR.
- 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.
11. The alliance of Akali Dal (Badal) and the BJP scored a major victory in: [1]
- a) 1987 b) 1967
- c) 1997 d) 1977
12. Which among the following party was not involved in the triangular conflict in Nepal? [1]
- a) The democrats b) The Gorkhas
- c) The Monarchist forces d) The Maoists
- SECTION- B (12 MARKS)**
13. What is the significance of Kyoto Protocol? Is India a signatory to this protocol? [2]
14. Mention any two recommendations of the Mandal Commission. [2]



15. Suggest any four steps that the Government of India should immediately take to save the environment. [2]
16. What main objective did Indira Gandhi want to achieve the launching a series of initiatives under the Ten Point Programme in 1967? [2]
17. State the directive principles of state policy relating to foreign affairs policy. [2]
18. How was the dominance of Congress Party in India different from the dominance of one party in other countries? Explain with any two examples. [2]

SECTION-C (20 MARKS)

19. Describe the various concepts of human security. [4]
20. What are the Millennium Development Goals? [4]
21. What is the significance of Kyoto Protocol? Is India a signatory to this protocol? [4]

OR

"States have common but differentiated responsibilities towards environment" Analyse the statement giving suitable examples.

22. How does globalisation affect traditional conceptions of State sovereignty? Explain. [4]

OR

‘A militant group issued a statement threatening college girls who wear western clothes’. Analyse.

23. “The entire region of North-East has undergone considerable political reorganisation”. Mention the changes that have taken place since independence. What were their effects? [4]

SECTION-D (12 MARKS)

24. 1. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** [4]
Study the given cartoon:

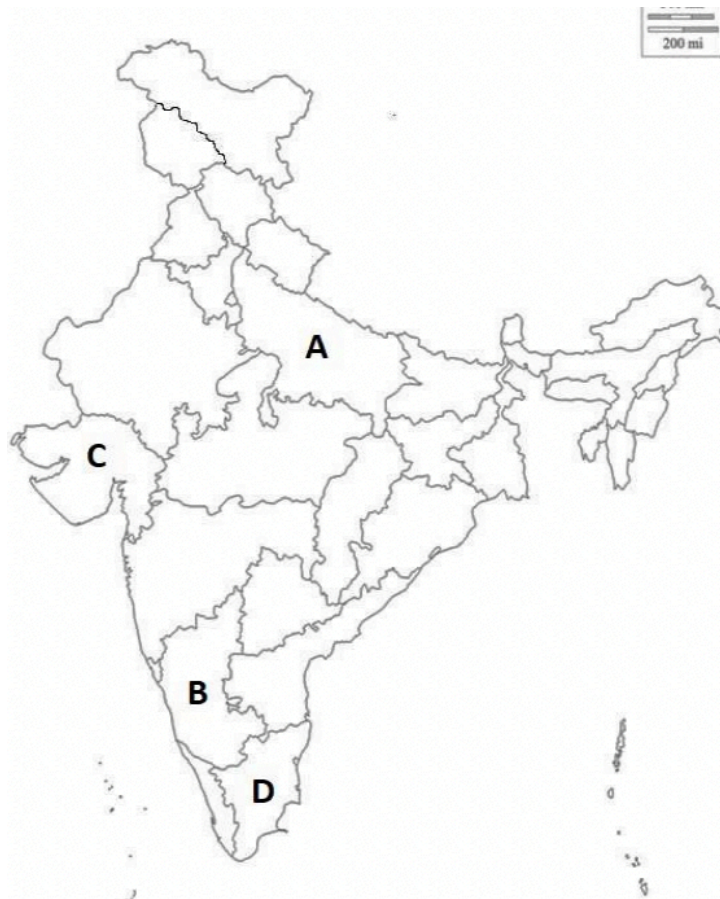




- i. The given cartoon is related to which country?
 - a) Nepal
 - b) India
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) Pakistan
- ii. The tiger in the given cartoon represents LTTE. Who belonged to this group?
 - a) Tamil militants
 - b) Khalistani militants
 - c) Sinhala hardliner
 - d) Kashmiri militants
- iii. What was the main demand of LTTE?
 - a) Telugu State
 - b) Reservations
 - c) Sinhalese Eelam
 - d) Tamil Eelam
- iv. The international actors, particularly the _____ countries tried to bring the warring groups of this country back to negotiations.
 - a) European
 - b) Scandinavian
 - c) Western
 - d) South-Asian

25. In the given outline political map of India, four states have been marked as (A), (B), (C), (D). Identify these states on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer book along with their respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabets as per format that follows: [4]
- i. The state to which the Minister for Communications in the first ministry of free India belonged.

- ii. The state to which the former Prime Minister Morarji Desai was related
- iii. The state to which S. Nijalingappa belonged.
- iv. The state-related to former Congress President K. Kamraj.



26. **Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
(1+1+2)

Just before Independence, it was announced by the British that with the end of their rule over India, the paramountcy of the British crown over the Princely States would also lapse. This meant that all these states, as many as 565 in all, would become legally independent. The British government took the view that all these states were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent if they so wished. This decision was left not to the people but to the princely rulers of these states. This was a very serious problem and could threaten the very existence of a united India. The problems started very soon. First of all, the ruler of Travancore announced that the state had decided on Independence. The Nizam of Hyderabad made a similar announcement the next day. Rulers like the Nawab of Bhopal were averse to joining the Constituent Assembly.

- i. How many princely states were there in India at the time of independence?
 - a. 336
 - b. 436



- c. 565
- d. 665
- ii. What was the ruler of Hyderabad was popularly referred to as?
 - a. Nizam
 - b. Maharaja
 - c. Tipu
 - d. Iron Man
- iii. What challenges did the lapse of British paramountcy pose to the unity of India just before Independence, and how did some princely states respond?

SECTION-E (24 MARKS)

27. What were the factors that forced Gorbachev to initiate reforms in the USSR? [6]

OR

How did the Soviet Union suddenly disintegrated? Explain any six reasons.

28. Explain any four steps taken by China to develop its economy. [6]

OR

Name the pillars and the objectives of the ASEAN Community.

29. Highlight any three factors that you think are responsible for the victory of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2019 election continuously for the second time. [6]

OR

“The end of Eighties of the 20th century witnessed developments which made a long lasting impact on Indian parities”. Assess any five such developments,

30. Explain any six factors responsible for the defeat of the Congress Party in 1977 elections. [6]

OR

The 1977 elections for the first time saw the Opposition coming into power at the Centre. What would you consider as the reasons for this development?

Solution
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SECTION – A (12 MARKS)

1.
(d) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)
Explanation:
(iii), (ii), (iv), (i)
2.
(b) Bhakra Nangal project
Explanation:
Bhakra Nangal project
3.
(c) Communist Party of India
Explanation:
When the final results were declared, the extent of the victory of the Congress did surprise many. The party won 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha and finished way ahead of any other challenger. **The Communist Party of India that came next in terms of seats won only 16 seats.**
4.
(b) 1956
Explanation:
1956
5.
(d) (a)-(iii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii)
Explanation:
(a)-(iii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii)
6. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Explanation:
Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
7.
(b) 1971
Explanation:
1971
8.
(b) 1971 elections

Explanation:

Before the **1971 elections**, Indira Gandhi put forward a positive programme through the famous slogan of ***garibi hatao*** and tried to generate a support base among the disadvantaged, especially among the landless labourers.

9.

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

Explanation:

(i), (ii) and (iii)

10.

(c) A is true but R is false.

Explanation:

A is true but R is false.

11.

(c) 1997

Explanation:

1997

12.

(b) The Gorkhas

Explanation:

There was a huge influence of Maoists in many parts of Nepal who believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. Hence, a triangular conflict among the Monarchist forces, the democrats and the Maoists took place for some time. The parliament was abolished and the government was dismissed by the king in 2002.

SECTION- B (12 MARKS)

13. i. India joined 160 countries that have signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol which provide a roadmap for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases to check global warming.

ii. India is a signatory to this protocol.

14. Two recommendations of the Mandal Commission are:

- Reserving 27% seat in educational institutions and government jobs for OBCs.
- Land reforms to improve the conditions of the OBCs.
- The Commission also recommended backward classes should be that understood to mean backward 'castes'.

(any TWO)

15. The Government of India should take the following steps to save the environment:

- i. Ensure sustainable and equitable use of resources without degrading the environment or risking health or safety and improve the condition and productivity of degraded areas.



- ii. Conserve and enhance natural and man-made heritage including biological diversity of unique ecosystems.
 - iii. Raising awareness and understanding of the link between environment and development.
 - iv. Promoting individual and community participation and proposing strategies, mechanisms, economic and social instruments for improving environmental quality.
16. She wanted to give the government policy a left orientation.
17. Directive Principles of State Policy for the promotion of international peace and security.
The state shall endeavour to:
- (i) Promote international peace and security.
 - (ii) Maintain just and honorable relations between nation.
 - (iii) Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another.
 - (iv) Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.
18.
 - In countries like China, Cuba, and Syria, the constitution allows only a single party to rule, ensuring one-party dominance by compromising democracy.
 - In nations such as Myanmar, Belarus, Egypt, and Eritrea, one-party dominance is maintained through legal and military measures.
 - Until recently, Mexico, South Korea, and Taiwan were effectively one-party states due to similar non-democratic practices.
 - In contrast, the dominance of the Congress party in India occurred under democratic conditions with free and fair elections. Multiple parties contested elections, yet the Congress consistently won.

SECTION-C (20 MARKS)

19. Human Security is about the protection of people more than the protection of states.
- i. All proponents of human security agree that its primary goal is the protection of individuals. The narrow concept of human security focuses on violent threats to individuals. The broad concept of human security argues that the threat agenda should include hunger, disease and natural disasters.
 - ii. Human security policy, they argue, should protect people from these threats as well as from violence. In its broadest formulation, the human security agenda also encompasses economic security and 'threats to human dignity'. Put differently, the broadest formulation stresses what has been called 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear' respectively.
20. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the goals with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people.
The Millennium Development Goal can be categorised as follows:



1. Anti-terrorism initiatives.
 2. Promotion of globalisation.
 3. Environmental Protection.
 4. Enhancement and protection of Human Rights.
21. The Kyoto Protocol (1997) is an international agreement providing a road map for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases to check global warming. Yes, India is a signatory to Kyoto Protocol.

The significance of Kyoto Protocol is stated in the points below:

- i. Kyoto Protocol frames an action plan so as to reduce emission of greenhouse gases proportionately for global North and global South countries of the world.
- ii. Kyoto Protocol had cleared the confusion regarding responsibilities of all countries belonging to global North and global South.
- iii. Kyoto Protocol decided that global North will provide global South with financial and technological resources so as to meet existing commitments.
- iv. United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has set out the principles and allocated different targets for preserving global common.
- v. India, China and other developing countries are exempted from the responsibility regarding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

OR

- India believes in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and therefore is of the view that the major responsibility of curbing emission rest with the developed countries, which have accumulated emissions over a long period of time.
- India announced in the G-8 meeting that the developing countries emissions are merely a small fraction of that of the developed nations on the basis of principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, India is of the opinion that the developed countries should take the responsibility to curb this problem as they have accumulated emission over a broad period of time.
- At the G-8 meeting in June 2005, India pointed out that the per capita emission rates of the developing countries are a tiny fraction of those in the developed world.
- A review of the implementation of the agreements at the Earth Summit in Rio was undertaken by India in 1997. There had been no meaningful progress with respect to transfer of new and additional environmentally-sound technology on friendly terms to developing countries, to enable them to meet their commitments under UNFCCC. India's international negotiation position relies heavily on principles of historical responsibility, as enshrined in UNFCCC.
- India wants that SAARC countries should adopt a common position of major global environmental issues, so that region voice carries greater weight.

Thus, it can be concluded that states have common but differentiated responsibilities towards the environment.

22. 1. **Erosion of State Capacity:** Globalization leads to a reduction in the government's ability to perform its traditional functions effectively.
2. **Shift from Welfare State to Minimalist State:** The traditional welfare state is being replaced by a minimalist state focused on core functions like law and order and citizen security, while withdrawing from roles in economic and social well-being.
3. **Market as the Primary Force:** The market, rather than the state, becomes the main determinant of economic and social priorities under globalization.
4. **Reduced Government Decision-Making Power:** The increasing role of multinational companies worldwide reduces the capacity of governments to make independent decisions.

OR

The cultural effects of globalisation lead to the fear that this process poses a threat to cultures in the world. 'A militant group issued a statement threatening college girls who wear western clothes' this statement refers to the cultural implications of globalisation in the form of fear of a defence group about the imposition of western culture to lead a shrinkage of rich cultural heritage. Such kind of globalisation leads to the rise of a uniform culture or cultural homogenisation. Thus, the culture of the politically and economically, dominant society leaves its imprint on a less powerful society. This is dangerous not only for the poor countries but for the whole of humanity, for it leads to the shrinking of the rich cultural heritage of the entire globe.

23. a. The following changes have taken place in North-East since independence :
- Nagaland State was created in 1960.
 - Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura became States in 1972.
 - Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became separate States in 1987.
 - Earlier the partition had reduced the North-East to a landlocked region and affected its economy.
- b. i. The region suffered neglect in developmental terms because it was cut off from the rest of India.
- Its politics remained insulated.
 - The region underwent demographic changes due to the influx of migrants from neighbouring states and countries.

SECTION-D (12 MARKS)

24. i. (c) Sri Lanka
- (a) Tamil militants
 - (d) Tamil Eelam



iv. (b) Scandinavian

25.	Sr. Number of the information used	Alphabet concerned	Name of State
	(i)	A	Uttar Pradesh
	(ii)	C	Gujarat
	(iii)	B	Karnataka
	(iv)	D	Tamil Nadu

26. i. (c) 565

ii. (a) Tipu

iii. The lapse of British paramountcy allowed princely states to choose independence, join India, or Pakistan, creating a threat to India's unity. Rulers like those of Travancore and Hyderabad declared independence, while others, like the Nawab of Bhopal, were hesitant to join the Constituent Assembly, complicating efforts to unify India.

SECTION-E (24 MARKS)

27. The factors that forced Gorbachev to initiate reforms in the Soviet Union were :

- The most important factor was to keep the USSR well aware of the revolutions taking place in the field of information and technology in the West. Gorbachev was well aware of the standard of technology in USSR.
- Gorbachev wanted to make USSR an advanced country which could catch up with or outpace the Western countries particularly the US. It was a step for democratization.
- Gorbachev was a liberal in his outlook. He favored normalization of ties of the USSR with the rest of the world. Among his top priorities was to forge better relations with the Western countries.
- Gorbachev faced administrative stagnation in the Soviet system because of lack of democracy coupled with mounting corruption.
- Gorbachev derived his motivation for reforms in the need to address the legacy of the economic, social and political stagnation which took shape in the regime of Brezhnev. They marked the economic decline of the decade 1976-1985 challenged the military and political supremacy of the USSR.
- Foreign policy complications aided by the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 compelled Gorbachev to reinvigorate the Soviet command economy to usher in the era of economic prosperity.
- The rate of growth of the Soviet economy has slowed down to roughly two percent in the past three years. This drop in the rate of growth— largely due to four consecutive years of extremely unfavorable weather conditions which led to poor harvests – is what has been seized upon by some as evidence of Soviet socialism's final downturn. It has been one of the reason that forced Gorbachev to initiate reforms in USSR.



OR

There had been many reasons behind the disintegration of the USSR, some of the reasons for the disintegration of the USSR are:

- i. **Leadership crisis:** It was the most important cause for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. There was no clear cut line between the party and government as there was one political party which was wielding power. The leader of the Communist Party of Soviet Union (CPSU) was placed at the helm of affairs of the government/state. The CPSU managed to impress people for a substantial period. However, later on, the leadership of the CPSU lost its sheen owing to corruption and simultaneously lost people's confidence. At the times, there was no strong leader to lead the people and keep the confidence of the people.
- ii. **Gorbachev's policies:** Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of Perestroika and Glasnost proved to be disastrous for the economic health of the USSR. He did not create conducive conditions for the implementation of the twin policies. Gorbachev ignored the presence of anti-communist forces and did not try to uproot them from the Soviet Union. It resulted in confusion in the mind of public and government entities went into the hand of selfish industrialists.
- iii. **Anti-communist elements had reached its peak:** Gorbachev's ignorance and his liberal outlook, in turn, strengthened the anti-communist forces in Eastern Europe. I set up the stage for the progress and creating a way for anti-communist forces into the republics of USSR. Consequently, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and East Germany witnessed the downfall of the communist regimes. These sudden developments paved way for the disintegration of the USSR.
- iv. **Economic stagnation:** The Soviet economy remained stagnant for many years which led to severe consumer shortages. Production of consumer goods had been kept on secondary preference and primary preference was given to the production of weapons and war-related goods. Much of the resources were used in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and the development of its satellite states.
- v. **Stagnant administration:** The administration and political system of the Soviet Union became stagnant. The Communist Party that ruled the Soviet Union for over 70 years was not accountable to the people. Rampant corruption, unwillingness to allow more openness in government led to the collapse of the system. It led the republics of the United States of Soviet Russia to go for alternatives.
- vi. **The rise of nationalism and desires:** The final and the most immediate cause for the disintegration of the USSR was the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics. There were

differences regarding the steps for development among the republics of USSR, resulted in the disintegration of USSR.

28. China followed its own path in introducing a market economy. The Chinese did not go for 'shock therapy' but opened their economy step by step.

- **Established relations with the US:** The Chinese leadership took major policy decisions in the 1970s. China ended its political and economic isolation with the establishment of relations with the United States in 1972.
- **Proposed four areas of modernization:** Premier Zhou Enlai proposed the 'four modernisations' (agriculture, industry, science and technology and military) in 1973.
- **Announced open door policy:** By 1978, the then leader Deng Xiaoping announced the 'open door' policy and economic reforms in China. The policy was to generate higher productivity by investments of capital and technology from abroad.
- **Followed policy of privatization:** China adopted the policy of privatisation by privatizing agriculture in 1982 followed by the privatization of industry in 1998.
- **Removed trade barriers from SEZ:** Trade barriers were eliminated only in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) where foreign investors could set up enterprises. In China, the state played and continues to play a central role in setting up a market economy.

(Any four points)

OR

- a. The pillars of the ASEAN Community are the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. ASEAN was established in 1967 by five countries of this region Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- b. The objectives of the ASEAN Community were primarily to:
 - i. Accelerate economic growth and through that social progress and cultural development.
 - ii. Promote regional peace and stability based on the rule of law and the principles of the United Nation's Charter.
 - iii. ASEAN countries have celebrated what has become known as the 'ASEAN Way', a form of interaction that is informal, non-confrontationist and cooperative. The respect for national sovereignty is critical to the functioning of ASEAN.
 - iv. Later on, its objectives were broadened and thus in 2003, three pillars i.e. the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community were established. The objective of ASEAN Security Community is to uphold peace so that outstanding territorial disputes are not escalated into armed confrontations.



29. The following are the reasons for the NDA's continued victory in the 2019 election for a second term:

- i. **Women Support:** The NDA gained women's support by implementing initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, the distribution of LPG cylinders through the Ujwala Yojana, and the abolition of the evil practice of triple talaq.
- ii. **Working at the Grassroot level:** Free ration distribution, increased NREGA allocations, cash assistance to women Jan Dhan account holders, credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs, and loan repayment moratorium during the first wave of COVID.
- iii. **Weak Opposition:** To compete with the NDA, the opposition parties lacked a strong leader and better agendas. Many political parties are mired in dynastic succession, resulting in a weak opposition.

OR

The end of the eighties of the 20th century witnessed five major developments which had a lasting impact on Indian politics which are as follows:

- a. **End of Congress system:** The end of Congress system means the dominance of Congress for two decades. But the most important event was the defeat of Congress party in the 1989's elections when the party had won only 197 seats, which was very low in comparison to 1984 elections where the party won 415 seats. Congress boosted up its performance and finally, it came back into power in 1991, after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. But the elections of 1989 marked the end of what political scientists have called the 'Congress system'. Congress remained a major party but it lost its dominance as it enjoyed earlier in the party system.
- b. **Mandal issue:** The Mandal issue started with the National Front Government's decision to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in 1990. The recommendation was that 27 percent of job in the Central Government should be reserved for other backward classes' candidates only. Hence, it brought widespread agitation and anger and frustration. This conflict between supporters and opponents of OBC and Dalits, etc., the reservation was popularly called the 'Mandal issue'. It played a crucial role in shaping Indian politics since 1989.
- c. **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 Narasimha Rao's Governance in the year of 1991. These reforms faced much criticism, but the upcoming governments have continued to follow these reforms.
- d. **Ayodhya Issue:** The Ayodhya Issue was started with the demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992. This incident led to violence and many questions were raised about the nature of Indian Nationalism and secularism. This issue exemplified, cleared and



provoked various changes in the politics of the country and guided the rise of the BJP and the Hindutva Policy.

- e. **The Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi:** There was a change in leadership due to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. He was assassinated during his election campaign at Tamil Nadu by a Sri Lankan Tamil linked to the LTTE. Although the death of Rajiv Gandhi led to the appointment of Narasimha Rao as the Prime Minister of India, the elections of 1991 witnessed the Congress Party emerging as the largest single party ever in India.

30. In January 1977, after 18 months of emergency, the government decided to hold the elections. Accordingly, all the leaders and activists were released from jails. The decision was quick, parties did not have enough time for preparation. The Janata Party which had formed during the pre-emergence period by a coalition of various anti-Congress and anti-emergency parties decided to fight against Congress. The result of 1977 came out with a big surprise to the country. For the first time since, independence, the Congress party was defeated in the Lok Sabha. The Congress could win only 154 seats in the Lok Sabha. Its share of popular votes fell to less than 35%. The Janata Party and its allies won 330 out of the 542 seats in the Lok Sabha; Janata party itself won 295 seats and thus enjoyed a clear majority. The main reason behind the Congress defeat in 1977 was:

- i. Its anti-democratic decisions.
- ii. Imposition of emergency had a negative impact on the image of Congress.
- iii. During the emergency, Congress had used harsh measures like demolition, the forced sterilisation, forced relocation and displacements etc. That is why people decided not to elect Congress representative to the next Lok Sabha election and the Janata Party, who gave public a bright look of democracy and was sympathetic towards public, was elected.
- iv. The middle castes from North India were beginning to move away from the Congress and the Janata Party became a platform for many different groups of people to come together.
- v. It can be said that voters punished anti-democratic government.

OR

The 1977 elections were evolved as a shock to everyone as Congress party was defeated for the very first time and opposition party came into power. The following were the reasons for this development:

- i. The opposition fought the election on the slogan 'Save democracy' against the imposition of emergency earlier.
- ii. The Janata Party made this election into a referendum on the Emergency. Its campaign was focused on the non- democratic character of the rule and on the various excesses



that took place during an emergency.

- iii. In the backdrop of arrests of thousands of persons and the censorship of the Press, the public opinion was against the Congress. Jayaprakash Narayan became the popular symbol of restoration of democracy.
 - iv. The formation of the Janata Party also ensured that non-Congress votes would not be divided.
 - v. The middle castes from north India were beginning to move away from Congress and the Janata Party became a platform for many of these sections to come together.
- Hence, elections of 1977 were not merely about emergency only.

