

# Indian Politics : Trends and Developments

## PART 1

### Objective Questions

#### • Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following developments took place after 1980s in the country that had long lasting impact on politics?

(a) End of Congress System  
(b) Mandal Commission, New Economic reforms  
(c) Ayodhya dispute, assassination of Rajiv Gandhi  
(d) All of the above

**Ans.** (d) Development in Indian politics after 1980s were

- End of Congress System
- Mandal Commission
- New Economic Reforms
- Ayodhya dispute
- Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

2. Which year marked the end of what political scientist have called the 'Congress System'?

(a) 1984 (b) 1989  
(c) 1991 (d) 1996

**Ans.** (b) The elections of 1989 marked the end of what political scientist have called the Congress system.

3. The Mandal Commission of 1990 declared that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) would get ..... reservation in jobs, in Central Government services and public sector units.

(a) 18% (b) 27% (c) 35% (d) 49%

**Ans.** (b) The Mandal Commission of 1990 declared that OBCs would get 27% reservation in jobs, in Central Government services and public sector units.

4. Which of the following party during its rule implemented one of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in 1990?

(a) UPA (b) NDA  
(c) National Front (d) Left Front

**Ans.** (c) The National Front Government in 1990 implemented one of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about new economic reforms?

(a) Rajiv Gandhi initiated Structural Adjustment Programme as the new economic reforms.  
(b) The changes first became visible in 1991.  
(c) The new economic reforms radically changed the direction of Indian economy after independence.  
(d) All of the above

**Ans.** (d) Rajiv Gandhi initiated Structural Adjustment Programme or the new economic reforms. These changes first became visible in 1991 and radically changed the direction of Indian economy.

6. .... was a dispute between the Hindus and the Muslims over a mosque known as Babri Masjid.

(a) Ram Temple (b) Ayodhya Dispute  
(c) Babri Mosque (d) Karseva Dispute

**Ans.** (b) Ayodhya dispute was a dispute between the Hindus and the Muslims over a mosque known as Babri Masjid.

7. What does Hindutva mean?

(a) It means Hinduness  
(b) It was based on Indian nationhood  
(c) It means everyone must accept India not only as their fatherland but also as their holyland  
(d) All of the above

**Ans.** (d) Hindutva is the name by which the ideology of the Hindu right was founded in 1925. It is a predominant form of Hindu nationalism in India, popularised by VD Savarkar. It accepts India as their fatherland and holyland.

8. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during his election campaign tour in ..... by a Sri Lankan Tamil associated to the LTTE.

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu  
(c) Karnataka (d) Kerala

**Ans.** (b) Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during his election campaign tour in Tamil Nadu by a Sri Lankan Tamil associated to the LTTE in May 1991.

9. In the elections of 1991 Congress emerged as the single largest party. Following Rajiv Gandhi's death the party choose ..... as the Prime Minister.

(a) PV Narsimha Rao (b) Manmohan Singh  
(c) VP Singh (d) HD Deve Gowda

**Ans.** (a) PV Narsimha Rao was chosen as the Prime Minister after the death of Rajiv Gandhi.

**10.** Which of the following was elected as the Prime Minister during the coalition government formation in 1998 and 1999?

- (a) PV Narasimha Rao (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
(c) H D Deve Gowda (d) J K Gujaral

**Ans.** (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee was elected as the Prime Minister during the coalition government formation in 1998 and 1999.

**11.** In 1989, the National Front Government was supported by which two mutually opposed parties?

- (a) Left Front and Congress  
(b) Left Front and BJP  
(c) BJP and Congress  
(d) BSP and BJP

**Ans.** (b) In 1989, the National Front Government was supported by two mutually opposed parties i.e. Left Front and BJP.

**12.** Arrange the following in correct chronology.

- (i) Formation of NDA Government  
(ii) Appointment of Mandal Commission by Central Government  
(iii) Janta Dal Formed  
(iv) New Economic Reforms

**Codes**

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

**Ans.** (d) The correct chronology is

- Appointment of Mandal Commission by Central Government – 1979
- Janta Dal Formation – 1988
- Formation of NDA Government – 1998
- New Economic Reforms – 1991

**13.** Arrange the following in chronological order according to their period of prime ministership.

- (i) IK Gujaral  
(ii) H D Deve Gowda  
(iii) Narasimha Rao  
(iv) Chandrashekhar

**Codes**

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

**Ans.** (b) The correct chronology is

- Chandrashekhar belonged to Samajwadi Party. He was the PM of India from 1927-2007.
- P V Narasimha Rao was the first PM from Soith India from 1921-2004.

- H D Deve Gowda belonged to Janata Dal Party. He was the PM of India from 1996-1997.
- I K Gujaral tenure as a PM was from 1997 to 1998.

**14.** Observe the picture given below and answer the following questions.



The picture depicts the Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, with Prime Minister ..... in the initial phase of the 'New Economic Policy'.

- (a) Indira Gandhi  
(b) PV Narasimha Rao  
(c) Rajiv Gandhi  
(d) HD Deve Gowda

**Ans.** (b) Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister, with Prime Minister Narsimha Rao, in the initial phase of the 'New Economic Policy'.

**15.** Observe the picture given below and answer the following questions.



..... involves more compromises because different ideologies come together in it.

- (a) One party (b) A coalition  
(c) Two-Party (d) Socialist Party

**Ans.** (b) A coalition involves more compromises because different ideologies come together in it.

## ● Assertion-Reasoning MCQs

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 16-20) In the given questions, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct code.

**Codes**

- (a) Both A and R are true, but 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.

- 16. Assertion** (A) Elections in 1989 led to the defeat of the Congress party but did not result in a majority for any other party.

**Reason** (R) Though the Congress was the largest party in the Lok Sabha, it did not have a clear majority and therefore, it decided to sit in the opposition.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The defeat of Congress marked the end of Congress dominance over the Indian Party System. In 1989 elections, National Front formed a coalition government as it did not result in majority and Congress decided to sit in opposition.

- 17. 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.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The BJP emerged as the largest party in 1996 election but most other parties were opposed to its policies and therefore BJP government could not secure a majority in the Lok Sabha.

- 18. Assertion** (A) A number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya (known as Babri Masjid) in December 1992.

**Reason** (R) The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 led to a change in leadership of the Congress party.

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. The demolition of disputed structure at Ayodhya symbolised and triggered various changes in the politics and intensified debates about Indian nationalism and secularism.

The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi led to change in leadership of Congress party. He was assassinated by a Sri Lankan Tamil linked to LTTE. Following Rajiv Gandhi's death, the party chose Narasimha Rao as the Prime Minister.

- 19. Assertion** (A) The Mandal Commission was set up to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of Indian society and recommend ways of identifying these 'backward classes'.

**Reason** (R) The Commission gave its recommendations in 2000.

**Ans.** (c) A is true as the Mandal Commission was set up to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of Indian society. This commission is known after the name of its Chairperson, Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal.

R is false because the commission gave its recommendation in 1980. By then the Janta government had fallen.

- 20. 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 elections of 1991, Congress shrunk to the smallest party in the assembly.

**Ans.** (c) A is true as Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by LTTE in May 1991 when he was on an election campaign tour in Tamil Nadu.

R is false as in 1991 Congress emerged as the single largest party.

## ● Case Based MCQs

- 1.** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Way back in the late sixties, the dominance of the Congress party was challenged, but the Congress under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, managed to re-establish its predominant position in politics. The nineties as yet another challenge to the predominant position of the Congress. It did not, however, mean the emergence of any other single party to fill in its place.

Thus, began an era of multi-party system. To be sure, a large number of political parties always contested elections in our country. Our Parliament always had representatives from several political parties. 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 a clear majority of seats in any Lok Sabha election held since 1989. This development initiated an era of coalition governments at the Centre, in which regional parties played a crucial role in forming alliances.

- (i) Multi-Party System refers to .....  
(a) a system where only one party compete for power  
(b) a system where two parties compete for power  
(c) a system where many parties compete for power  
(d) None of the above

**Ans.** (c) Multi-party system refers to a system where many parties compete for power.

(ii) Which kind of political scenario was witnessed after 1989?

- (a) Era of coalitions
- (b) Era of developments
- (c) Era of regional parties
- (d) Era of dominance

**Ans.** (a) The Era of Coalitions was witnessed after 1989. The term coalition has been derived from the Latin word meaning to go or grow together.

(iii) What is the reason behind the emergence of several parties?

- (a) As no single party secured a clear majority of seats in the Lok Sabha elections.
- (b) As the political scenario has changed completely.
- (c) As the era of coalition began at the Centre level of government.
- (d) None of the above

**Ans.** (a) The reason behind the emergence of several parties is that as no single party can secure a clear majority of seats in the Lok Sabha election so, many small parties come together with their terms and conditions to form a government and serve the interest of the people.

(iv) In the era of coalitions which type of parties played a crucial role in forming ruling alliances?

- (a) National Parties
- (b) Unrecognised Parties
- (c) Regional Parties
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (c) In the era of Coalitions, recognised parties play a crucial role in forming a ruling alliance.

## PART 2

# Subjective Questions

### • Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe any two developments witnessed by India after 1990. [All India 2011]

**Ans.** The two developments witnessed by India after 1990 are as follows

(i) **End of Congress System** This period witnessed the defeat of the Congress Party in the elections of 1989. The Party that had won 415 seats in the Lok Sabha in 1984 was reduced to only 197 seats in this election. The elections of 1989 marked the end of 'Congress System'. The Congress improved its performance and came back to power after the mid-term elections of 1991. The politics of this decade has clearly seen the impact of social change on political and electoral processes.

(ii) **New Economic Reforms** It was initiated by Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 which changed the direction of the Indian economy that was pursued since independence. The new economic reforms were widely criticised by various movements and

organisations. But various governments that came to power continued these policies. Reforms were evident in the form of additional sectors that were reserved for public investment was opened for private investment.

2. State any two important challenges faced by Indian politics during the 1990's.

**Ans.** Some of the important challenges faced by the Indian politics during the 1990's are discussed below

- **Mandal Issue** The rise of Mandal issue is one of the major challenges that Indian politics has faced during the 1990's. The new National Front Government in 1990 implemented the recommendation of the Mandal Commission. It held that jobs in Central Government should be reserved for the OBC's. This caused violent anti-Mandal protests in different parts of the country. The dispute was evident among the supporters and the opponents of OBC's reservations which came to be known as Mandal Issue. This issue helped in shaping the Indian politics since 1989.
- **Ayodhya Dispute** This dispute arose due to the demolition of Babri Masjid and rise of Hindutva Politics. A number of events resulted in the demolition of disputed structure known as Babri Masjid in December 1992. This event brought various changes in the politics of the country and intensified debates on the nature of Indian nationalism and secularism. These developments led to rise of BJP and politics of Hindutva.

3. In spite of the decline of Congress dominance, the Congress party continues to influence politics in the country. Do you agree? Give reasons. [NCERT]

**Ans.** The defeat of Congress party in 1989 election marked the end of Congress dominance in Indian party system. But the Congress continued to influence Indian politics because

- No other single party was able to fill the space left by Congress party.
- No single party was able to secure a clear majority in any Lok Sabha election since 1989.
- The emergence of powerful parties and movement that represented the Dalits and Backward Caste played important role in the formation of United Front under the support of Congress.
- Left Front started supporting Congress to curb the rise of Hindutva and communal politics of BJP.

Thus, despite the end of dominance, Congress party continued to influence the politics of the country.

4. "In the new era of coalition politics, political parties are not aligning or re-aligning on the basis of ideology." What arguments would you put forward to support or oppose this statement? [NCERT]

**Ans.** It is true that in the new era of coalition politics political parties are not aligning or re-aligning on the basis of ideology.



The statement is justified because political parties compete for political power ultimately. In the era of coalition politics, for them practical consideration rather than ideological consideration become driving factor for achieving political power. Some arguments to support this statement are as follows

- Coalition politics has shifted the focus from ideological differences to power sharing arrangements.
- Most parties of NDA did not agree with the *Hindutva* ideology of BJP, still they came together to form government and remained in power for full term.
- Dr Manmohan Singh's Government where the leftists supported the UPA (United Progressive Alliance), but in state both are opponents. The main interest was to keep out BJP from government. Same condition occurred in Bihar, when BJP and Janata Dal formed government to keep out RJD (Rashtriya Janata Dal).

**5.** "The regional parties have started playing an important role in the Indian politics." Comment.

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

Regional parties play the following roles in Indian politics

- 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.
- Most of the regional parties have agenda furthering certain culture dominant within that state.
- The regional parties for their benefits divide the people of different states on the line of language, culture, traditions etc.
- Sometimes serious issues like India's foreign policy' are influenced and compromised by regional parties. This affects India's credibility in international politics.
- They also work as pressure groups in Indian politics.
- Sometimes regional parties influence the Central Government to divert more annual budget funds to their states at the expense of other states.

**6.** Analyse the changes that took place during a long phase of coalition politics in India since 1989.

[CBSE 2020]

**Ans.** Towards the end of 1980's, India witnessed a major change in the political field. These were

- In 1989 elections, the Congress won only 197 seats. Though Congress remains as a major party but it decided to sit in the opposition.
- The National Front, an alliance of Janta Dal and some other regional parties received external support from the BJP and the Left front. The National Front formed a coalition government. Thus, began the era of multi-party system in India.

- After 1989 till 2014, no single party secured a clear majority in any Lok Sabha elections.
- The Mandal issue started with the National Front government's decision to implement the recommendation of Mandal Commission in 1990. This issue started to play a crucial role in shaping Indian Politics.

**7.** Analyse the impact of political rise of Other Backward Classes in India. [CBSE 2020]

**Ans.** The impact of political rise of Other Backward Classes (OBC's) in India is

- 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 the support of OBC's.
- Many of the constituents of the Janata Party like the Bhartiya Kranti Dal and Samyukta Socialist Party had a powerful rural base among some sections of the OBC.
- In the 1980's, the decisions of the National Front Government to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission further helped in shaping the politics of the OBC.
- 1980's saw the emergence of many parties like Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) that sought better opportunities for OBC's in education, employment, adequate representation in administration.

**8.** What was the Mandal issue?

or Who was the Chairperson of Mandal Commission?

or Highlight any two recommendations of the Mandal Commission. [Delhi 2013]

**Ans.** Mandal issue in national politics followed 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 OBCs. This led to violence in many parts of the country especially in North India. This dispute between the supporters and opponents of OBC reservations was known as the Mandal issue and played an important role in shaping politics since 1989.

Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal was the Chairperson of Mandal Commission set-up in 1978 to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of society and recommended ways to identify these classes.

The two recommendations of the Mandal Commission are as follows

- (i) It recommended reserving 27 percent of seat's in the educational institutions and government jobs for backward classes. It also made many other recommendations like land reforms, to improve the conditions of OBC's.
- (ii) Welfare programmes specially meant for OBC's should be financed by the Government of India.

**9.** Why Mandal Commission was set up and what were its findings? Discuss its consequences after implementation.

**Ans.** It was setup to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of Indian society and recommended ways of identifying these backward classes. It was also expected to give its recommendations on the ways on which this backwardness could be ended.

One of its major findings was that the Commission found that these castes have very low presence in both educational institutions and in employment in public services.

**Consequences of Implementing Mandal Commission**

- This decision caused agitations and violent protests in many cities of North India.
- The decision was also challenged in the Supreme Court and came to be known as Indira Sawhney Case, after the name of the petitioners.
- In November 1992, the Supreme Court gave a ruling upholding the decision of the government.

**10.** Assess the impact of Coalition governments on the politics of India. [CBSE 2020]

**Ans.** The impacts of coalition governments on the politics of India are

- (i) The parties in the coalition government believe in the same economic policy and think this would lead the country to prosperity and a status of economic power in the world.
- (ii) All political parties now support reservation of seats for the backward classes in education and employment. Political parties in coalition government are willing to ensure that the OBC's get adequate share of power.
- (iii) The distinction between State level and National level parties is becoming less important. State level parties are sharing power at the National level and have played a central role in the country's politics of last twenty years.
- (iv) Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological differences to power sharing arrangements. Most parties in NDA do not agree with the Hindutva ideology of the BJP but they came together to form a government and remain in power for a full term.

**11.** Trace the emergence of BJP as a significant force in post-Emergency politics.

**Ans.** After Emergency, Bhartiya Jana Sangh had merged into the Janata Party. After the fall of the Janata Party and its break-up, the supporters of erstwhile Jana Sangh formed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980. BJP adopted a broader political platform than that of the Jana Sangh. It

embraced 'Gandhian Socialism' as its ideology. But it did not get much success in the election of 1980 and 1984. After 1986, the party began to emphasise the Hindu nationalist element in its ideology.

Thus, BJP began to pursue the politics of 'Hindutva' and adopted the strategy of mobilising the Hindus. In 1996, BJP Minority Government was formed for a short period. In June 1996, BJP failed to get majority support in the vote of confidence and thus collapsed.

From March 1998 to October 1999, BJP and others formed alliances NDA (National Democratic Alliance) under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his government formed in 1999 completed its full term. Again in 2014 elections, BJP under the leadership of Modi came to power with landslide victory and also formed the governments almost in more than half of the states across India.

**12.** How can we say that NDA-III government schemes were successful?

**Ans.** We can say that schemes of NDA-III government were successful due to the following reasons

- NDA-III government started several socio-economic welfare schemes to make development and governance accessible to the masses such as Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, etc.
- All these schemes intended to make administration available at the doorstep of the common people by making the rural households, particularly women were, real beneficiaries of the Central Government schemes.
- The success of these schemes could be seen from the results of 2019 Lok Sabha elections, where the voters across states-castes, classes, communities, gender and regions brought back the issues of development and governance to the center stage under the BJP led NDA government.

**13.** Write a short note on United Progressive Alliance (UPA-I and II).

**Ans.** In the general elections of 2009, UPA won 262 seats, of which the Congress accounted for 206 seats. Manmohan Singh formed another UPA Coalition cabinet and was sworn in for the second term, becoming the first Prime Minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to do so after having served a full-five year term. The government made employment generation and social equity as the important features of its agenda.

Under UPA-II, women began occupying senior positions in State and Union Territories governments, notably in highly populated Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It also works upon the issues of revitalising the agrarian economy, stepping up investment in agriculture, providing access to credit and improving the quality of rural infrastructure.

## • Long Answer Type Questions

1. From 1989 to 2004, there have been nine coalition governments in India. Analyse the rise and fall of any two such coalition governments.

**Ans.** With the elections of 1989, a long phase of coalition politics began in India. Since then, there have been nine governments at the centre. All of them 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 of support of many regional parties. For example

- (i) Nation Front Government in 1989.
- (ii) The United Front Government in 1996 and 1997.
- (iii) National Democratic Alliance (NDA), BJP led coalition in 1997, 1998, 1999.
- (iv) United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2004.

**United Front Government** Some parties had Congress support and formed alliance in 1996 called United Front. In 1989, BJP and Left supported National Front. In 1989, BJP and Left wanted to keep the Congress out of power; hence, both supported National Front and later in 1996, Congress and Left both wanted to keep out BJP from the power. Therefore, both supported United Front in 1996.

**United Progressive Alliance** In 1996, BJP was invited to form the government, but most of the political parties, opposed its policies, consequently it could not secure a majority in the Lok Sabha.

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, PMK, AIADMK, RJD, NCP, TRS and Left from Andhra Pradesh, etc.

The 2004 election also saw the partial revival of Congress party as it increased its seats in comparison to 1996 elections.

2. “Coalition government is a bane or boon for democracy in India.” Explain any three arguments in support of your answer. [Delhi 2011]

or Assess any three benefits of the coalition governments in India since 1989. [Delhi 2010]

**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 Adaptation** Coalition politics has shifted the focus of political parties from ideological distinctions 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.

- (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 breakup 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 and unscrupulous politicians emphasise on their self interest only.
- (iii) **Polarisation** The coalition governments are formed on the basis of polarisation of political forces. These are widely heterogeneous elements like CPI and BJP.

3. The Contemporary Party System is equated with the term ‘BJP System’ by the Social Scientists. With reference to the given statement discuss the factors responsible for it.

**Ans.** It is true that the Contemporary Party System has been equated with the term ‘BJP System’ by the Social Scientists. The factors responsible for this statement are discussed below

- The Bhartiya Janata Party led by PM Narendra Modi got an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections held in May 2014 and after nearly 30 years in the Indian politics; a strong government with an absolute majority was established at the Centre.
- The BJP-led Coalition NDA-III of 2014 was largely different from its predecessor coalition governments. The previous coalitions were led by one of the national parties, the NDA-III coalition was not only steered by the National Party, i.e. BJP rather it was also dominated by BJP with an absolute majority of its own in Lok Sabha. It was also called a surplus majority coalition.
- In that sense a major transformation could be seen in the nature of coalition politics which could be seen from one party led coalition to one party dominated coalition.
- The 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 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. The BJP on its own won 303 seats in the Lok Sabha, the biggest number any single party has won in the lower house since 1984 when Congress swept the elections in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi’s assassination.

## • Case Based Questions

1. Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Party politics in India has confronted numerous challenges. Not only has the Congress system destroyed itself, but the fragmentation of the Congress coalition has triggered a new emphasis on self-representation which raises questions about the party system and its capacity to accommodate diverse interests, ..... . An important test facing the polity is to evolve a party system or political parties that can effectively articulate and aggregate a variety of interests. —Zoya Hasan

- Write a short note on what the author calls challenges of the party system in the light of what you have read in this chapter?
- Given an example from this chapter of the lack of accommodation and aggregation mentioned in this passage.
- Why is it necessary for parties to accommodate and aggregate variety of interests?

- Ans.** (i) Author calls the fragmentation of political parties on the basis of caste, creed, region, etc a challenge to party system in India. This has caused the trend of self-representation of one's own interest through formation of new party. This poses challenge to develop a party system or political parties that can effectively accommodate and articulate different interests of society.
- (ii) Lack of accommodation and aggregation of the interests and concerns of Dalits led to the formation of BAMCEF (Backward and Minority Classes Employees Federation) under the leadership of Kanshi Ram to protect interests of Dalits.
- (iii) It is necessary for parties to accommodate and aggregate the variety of interests to maintain the culture of India so that there should no space for separatist movements in India.

2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follows.

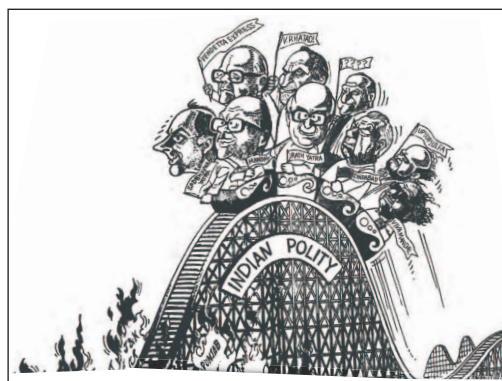
The nineties also saw the emergence of powerful parties and movements that represented the Dalit and Backward Castes (Other Backward Classes or OBCs). Many of these parties represented powerful regional assertion as well. These parties played an important role in the United Front Government that came 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.

- What is the full form of OBC?
- When was the United Front Government formed?
- Name the two Prime Ministers from United Front Government.

- Ans.** (i) Other Backward Class (OBC) is a collective term used by the government to classify castes which are educationally or socially disadvantaged.
- (ii) United Front Government was formed in India after 1996 elections. It was a coalition of 13 political parties.
- (iii) HD Deve Gowda and I K Gujral were two Prime Ministers from United Front Government.

3. Observe the picture given below and answer the following questions. [Delhi 2016]



- Identify any four national leaders from the above picture and mention the serial number of each.
- Which was the most controversial issue of the period related to VP Singh as Prime Minister of India?
- What was the position of the party led by leader No. 1 in the Lok Sabha elections of 1989?

- Ans.** (i) VP Singh, LK Advani, Chandrashekhar and Devi Lal are the four national leaders from the above picture.
- (ii) Mandal issue was the most controversial issue of the period related to VP Singh as Prime Minister of India.
- (iii) The party led by leader No. 1 got only 197 seats in the Lok Sabha election of 1989.



4. Observe the picture given below and answer the following questions. [All India 2016]



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

- (ii) Why was the government formed by him called a puppet government?
- (iii) Identify the puppeteers pulling the strings and the political parties they belong to.

**Ans.** (i) VP Singh was the head of the government formed by the National Front in 1989.

- (ii) The government formed by him called a puppet government because

- The strings of this government were in the hands of other leaders.
- They were moving and controlling the government like a puppet by pulling the strings.

- (iii) The puppeteers pulling the strings were Jyoti Basu and LK Advani.

(b) Jyoti Basu belong to Communist Party of India (Marxists) (CPM) and LK Advani belong to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

# Chapter Test

## Objective Type Questions

1. Which of the following were the recommendations of the Mandal Commission?  
(a) 27 percent seats to be reserved in educational institutions and government jobs for OBCs  
(b) Land reform to improve the conditions of OBCs  
(c) Commission made recommendation in economic and occupational structures  
(d) All of the above
2. Which of the following aspects is/are incorrect about UPA?  
(a) In General Elections of 2009, UPA won 262 seats, of which Congress accounted for 206 seats.  
(b) UPA government made employment generation and social equity as the important features of its agenda.  
(c) Under UPA-II, women began occupying senior positions in State and Union Territories.  
(d) Its main goal is based on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.
3. How many seats were gained by BJP in the Lower House on its own in the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections?  
(a) 262  
(b) 292  
(c) 302  
(d) 303
4. Godhra incident is associated with which place?  
(a) Mumbai  
(b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Gujarat  
(d) Bihar
5. BJP led coalition of 2014 was also called as .....  
(a) Majority Coalition  
(b) Surplus Majority Coalition  
(c) Clear Majority Coalition  
(d) Democratic Coalition

## Short Answer Type Questions

1. When and why was the first coalition government formed?
2. Explain the role of regional parties in coalition politics.
3. What is Mandal Commission?
4. Which coalition came to power in 2004? Name its supporting parties.
5. Give any two arguments in favour of reservation for the SCs, STs and OBCs in higher education institutions in India.

## Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain the features of coalition politics.
2. Is there any relevance of Mandal Commission? Discuss.
3. Explain any three elements of consensus which have emerged among most political parties.
4. Analyse the changes that took place during a long phase of coalition politics in India since 1989.

## Answers

1. (d)      2. (d)      3. (d)      4. (c)      5. (c)