

# Political Science

## (Politics in India Since Independence)

### (Chapter - 2) (Era of One Party Dominance)

(Class - XII)

#### Question 1:

Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks.

- (a) The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*The President of India/State Assemblies/Rajya Sabha/The Prime Minister*)
- (b) The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*Praja Socialist Party/Bharatiya Jana Sangh/Communist Party of India/Bharatiya Janata Party*)
- (c) One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*Working class interest/protection of Princely States/Economy free from State control/Autonomy of States within the Union*)

#### Answer 1:

- (a) The First General Elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and **State Assemblies**.
- (b) The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the **Communist Party of India**.
- (c) One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was **Economy free from state control**.

#### Question 2:

Match the following leaders listed in List A with the parties in List B:

##### List A

- (a) S. A. Dange  
(b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee  
(c) Minoo Masani  
(d) Asoka Mehta

##### List B

- i. Bharatiya Jana Sangh  
ii. Swatantra Party  
iii. Praja Socialist Party  
iv. Communist Party of India

#### Answer 2:

##### List A

- (a) S. A. Dange  
(b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee  
(c) Minoo Masani  
(d) Asoka Mehta

##### List B

- iv. Communist Party of India  
i. Bharatiya Jana Sangh  
ii. Swatantra Party  
iii. Praja Socialist Party

#### Question 3:

Four statements regarding one-party dominance are given below. Mark each of them as true or false:

- (a) One-party dominance is rooted in the absence of strong alternative political parties
- (b) One-party dominance occurs because of weak public opinion.
- (c) One-party dominance is linked to the nation's colonial past.
- (d) One-party dominance reflects the absence of democratic ideals in a country.

#### Answer 3:

- (a) One-party dominance is rooted in the absence of strong alternative political parties. **True**
- (b) One-party dominance occurs because of weak public opinion. **False**
- (c) One-party dominance is linked to the nation's colonial past. **True**
- (d) One-party dominance reflects the absence of democratic ideals in a country. **True**



**Question 4:**

Take a political map of India (with State outlines) and mark:

**(a)** Two states where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-67.

**(b)** Two states where the Congress remained in power through this period.

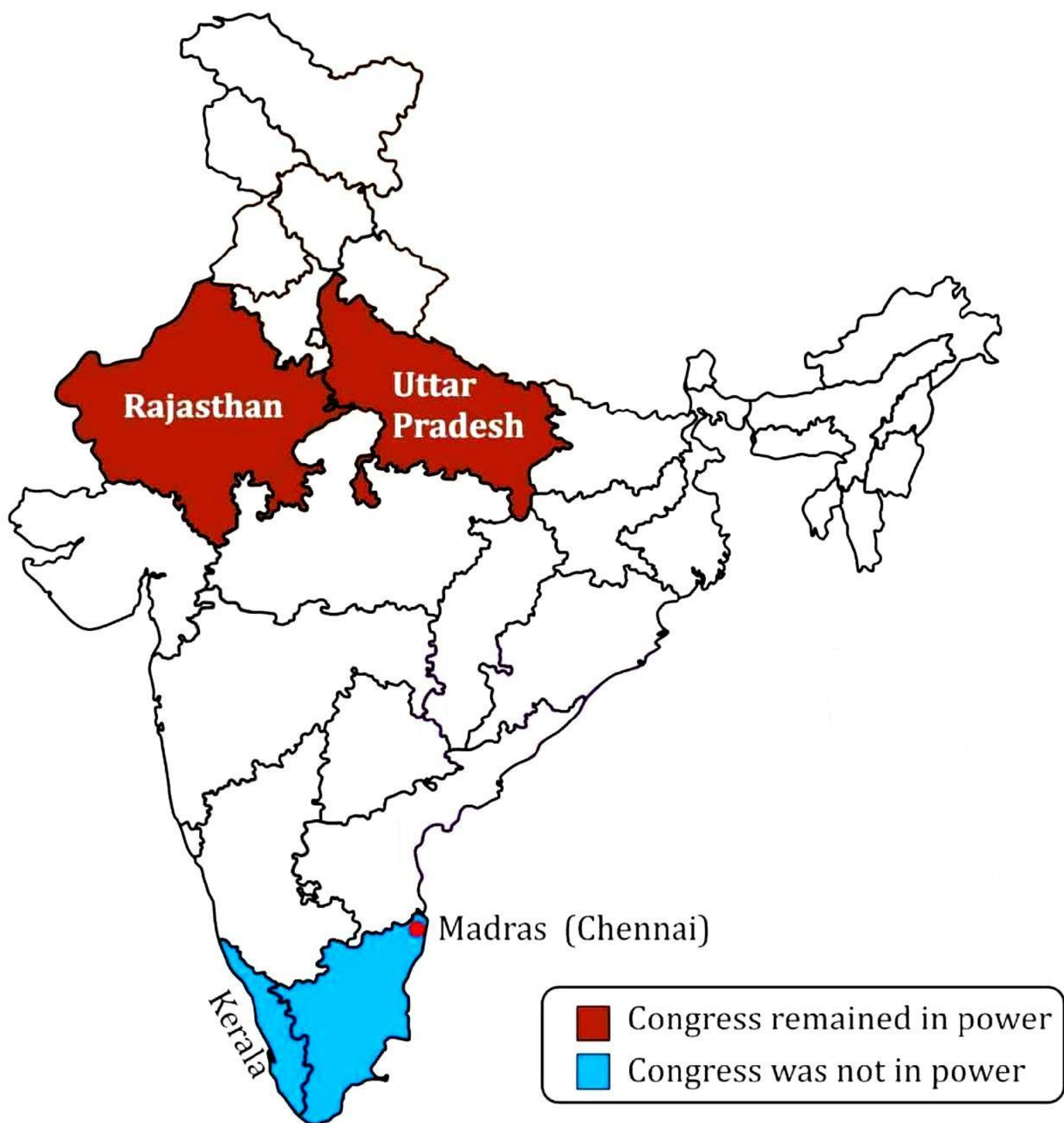
**Answer 4:**

**(a)** States where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-67.

- Kerala (Travancore-Cochin)
- Madras (Travancore-Cochin)

**(b)** States where Congress remained in power through this period.

- Punjab or U.P.
- Rajasthan or West Bengal.





**Question 5:**

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

*"Patel, the organizational man of the Congress, wanted to purge the Congress of other political groups and sought to make of it a cohesive and disciplined political party. He ... sought to take the Congress away from its all-embracing character and turn it into a close-knit party of disciplined cadres. Being a 'realist' he looked more for discipline than for comprehension, While Gandhi took too romantic a view of "carrying on the movement," Patel's idea of transforming the Congress into strictly political party with a single ideology and tight discipline showed an equal lack of understanding of the eclectic role that the Congress, as a government, was to be called upon to perform in the decades to follow," —Rajni Kothari*

**(a)** Why does the author think that Congress should not have been a cohesive and disciplined party?

**(b)** Give some examples of the eclectic role of the Congress party in the early years.

**(c)** Why does the author say that Gandhi's view about Congress future was romantic?

**Answer 5:**

**(a)** The author thinks that Congress should not have been a cohesive and disciplined party because the author wanted to take Congress away from its comprehensive character and turn it into a close-knit party of disciplined cadres.

**(b)** The examples of the eclectic role of the Congress Party in the early years are in the form of a social and ideological coalition of Congress:

- It provided a platform for several groups, interests and even political parties to participate in the national movement.
- Congress party represented a rainbow-like social coalition representing the diversity of India including various castes, religions and languages.

**(c)** The author said that Gandhi's view about Congress future was romantic because Gandhiji believed in hand-in-hand characteristic of a national movement led by Congress which attracted various sections groups and society to form a social and ideological coalition in Congress.