

### Chapter-3

## Competition and Contestation in Democracy

Why division of power is necessary in democracy, has been explained in previous chapters. We have also explained how in this system different organs of government and different social groups participate in the governance / power. In this chapter we will discuss that people sitting at the top is not so free that to do at their will. In any condition ruler can't separate themselves from influence and pressure. The system of democracy is an ideal system in which conflicts between people for their mutual benefits are always there. Therefore, it is the demand of democracy the ruling system has to ensure balance and understanding between different sections and demands. In this chapter we will analyse how roots of democracy are becoming strong amidst demands and pressure of philosophers from different walks of the society. It will be not exaggeration if we say that democracy is growing up among the demands and pressure. In this chapter we will study the functioning of people and organisations and will try to know the effects of their constructive role in the democratic system.

In this chapter we will try to know the importance of political parties in democratic ruling system. After knowing the simple and short definition of political party, we will also try to know the main functions of political parties in democratic system. Along with this, will also know how competitions of

political parties strengthen democracy and its contribution towards national development. And at last will know about the major national, state or local parties.

### **Meaning of Completion and Mass Struggle:**

In the whole world the development of democracy has been due to competition and mass struggle. There will be no exaggeration if we say that the development of democracy is due to mass movement. When there is a clash between rulers and willing to be rulers then decisive moment of democracy occurs. This happens in any democracy when a country moves ahead on the path of democracy, ensuring extension of democracy. Situation of democratic fight is possible with the help of unity of people. Sometimes these fights and struggles are solved by the present organisation like Member of Parliament or judiciary. In democratic countries base of mass struggle and competitions are politically organised. Involvement of citizens in mass struggle may be *suo moto*, common participation is possible through political organisation. Political parties, pressure groups and revolutionary groups are the constructive mediums of organised politics.

It is evident from the struggles of Nepal and Bolivia that in democratic system, many organisations are there behind any struggle, which plays two types of role in democracy. Generally, in democracy there is a well-known way to affect any decision. The real participation in democracy is done through political parties, participation in election and formation of government takes place. But if all people of the society are not participating directly in democracy. There may be many reasons, for example no wish to participate in political issues, lack of required / necessary skills or any other

reason. So, there are many indirect ways with the help of which citizens can demand from the government. There may be many reasons, for example no wish to participate in political issues, lack of required / necessary skills or any other reason. So, there are many indirect ways with the help of which citizens can make demand to the government. For this, people of the society and country can make organisation and monitor the activities of their benefits or promotion of their views. Sometimes, it also happens that people decide to combine together for demands without making organisation. These groups are known as mass struggle or revolution.

### **Role of Mass Struggle in Democracy:**

To strengthen the democracy and to make it stable, mass movements have a crucial role. When India liberated from the British slavery on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 and formulated its own republic on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950, since then it is strengthening the base of democracy day-by-day. During seventh decade in 19<sup>th</sup> century, many social and popular mass struggles began in India which lead the path of democracy. In the history of Indian democracy, the decade of 1970s is very important on various aspects because Mrs. Indira Gandhi who was on the top, showed her dominance and calibre in the general election of 1971 and re-established the congress and government was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi. After that Mrs. Gandhi tried to change the basic structure of the constitution. The way she declared emergency in 1975 and explained democracy — all these boosted mass struggles against her government. These movements affected the democracy at large scale. These types of struggles seek to throw anti-democratic government out of power and try to establish a democratic government. As we saw in 1977 when Janta Party led government came to power. In this way we can understand that mass-struggle has an important role in the democracy.

Democracy develops through mass struggle. In democracy decisions are taken consensually. If government ignores the views of common people in taking decisions then mass struggle takes place against such decisions and government is forced to consensual decisions. This paves the path of development. This removes hurdles that come in the way of development.

Mass struggle checks the government to become dictator and taking wilful decisions, because conflicts in democracy is a common phenomenon. Sometimes these types of struggles which threaten the government, are solved by the institution like parliament or judiciary. Thus, government avoid being dictator and taking wilful decisions.

Political organisation develops from such mass struggle. The political organisation helps in solving the problems by the participation of commons. These political organisations are identified as political party, pressure group and revolutionary groups.

In this way we understand that mass struggle has critical role in democracy. Many such mass struggles have taken place in the country, in our own state and in other neighbouring countries which affected democracy in the broader form. Come let's understand these mass struggle briefly.

### **Student Movement of Bihar:**

In the general election of 1971, ruling congress gave the slogan 'Garibi hatao' and formed the government in centre by getting majority. But even after year 1971-72 there were no change in the socio-economic conditions. Economic conditions worsened due to the inflow of refugees from Bangladesh. Internationally also the U. S. banned all types of help after emergence of Bangladesh. Unexpected increase in the cost of oil in

international market imbalanced the economic condition of India. Due to failure of monsoon in 1972-73, agricultural output dropped sharply. As a result, unsatisfactory environment was created in the entire country. In March 1974, due to unemployment, corruption, lack of food grain and unexpected increase in prices, students of Bihar revolted against the government. To lead the revolutionary movement of Bihar, Bihari students invited Jay Prakash Narayan. Jay Prakash Narayan accepted the invitation of students on the condition that revolution will be non-violent and it will not be limited to Bihar only. From this point of view, student's movement became political. At request of Jay Prakash Narayan, people of all walks, joined this movement. Jay Prakash Narayan demanded the dismissal of the congress govt. of Bihar. He called for complete revolution in social, economic and political areas. The objective of Jay Prakash Narayan was to establish true democracy in India. Series of struggles, strikes and Gheraos was asking the resignation of the Bihar government. In spite of all this, government didn't resign. It was the wish of Jay Prakash Narayan that this movement of Bihar must reach other parts of India. It must be noted that when this movement was going on under Jay Prakash Narayan in Bihar at the same time railway workers also called nation-wide strike against the central government. This strike had a broader impact. In 1975 Jay Prakash Narayan led the parliament march in Delhi. Till date no such big rallies were organised in Delhi. In this way movement of Bihar and Gujarat were considered as anti-congress movement.

On June 12, 1975 in a historical judgement, the Allahabad high court declared Indira Gandhi's election as illegal. It was clear from this judgement that Indira Gandhi was no more a member of parliament. In this way the ground was ready for a big political struggle. Under the leadership of

Jay Prakash Narayan' opposition parties started pressurizing for the resignation of Indira Gandhi. In the Ramlila Maidan of Delhi, Jay Prakash Narayan organised a huge rally and demanded for Ms. Gandhi's resignation. He also called for a nation wide Satyagrah. In his call he requested military, police and government employees not to obey the government order. Indira Gandhi considered this movement a conspiracy against her and declared emergency on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1975 which put Jayprakash Narayan along with leaders of all political parties behind the bar.

Government started misusing *nivark nazarbandi* at high level. Under it, political workers cannot challenge their arrests in the court.

During emergency of 1975, many biased acts were done by the government, which is not seen in democratic countries. Emergency brought out the weaknesses of Indian democracy. In the real sense, India was not democratic during emergency.

As emergency ended, Lok Sabha elections were declared. Lok Sabha Election of 1977 was a referendum about experiences of people during emergency. After 18 months of emergency, in January, 1977, with the announcement of General Election, all political leaders and workers were released from the jail. At the time of 1977's election, opposition parties organised a one political party as Janta Party, which got success in Lok Sabha. It is amazing that in the election of 1977, Janta Party and its alliance got 330 seats out of 542. Indira Gandhi from Raybrali and her son Sanjay Gandhi from Amethi lost their elections.

From the above discussion on this topic, don't you feel that such movements and struggles have special place in democracy, which can't be ignored by the democratic governments? In 1977, the formation of Janta

Party government and the failure of India Gandhi strengthened the Indian democratic process in comparison to the other countries. For the implementation of objectives of Indian constitution and fulfilment of regional demands such struggles have been consciously, affecting politics in one form or another.

In 1977, the formation of Janta Party government and its allies also influenced Indian democracy. Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister can be said to be a good example of unexpected political regional expression in Indian democracy.

Different parties and groups of country in democratic politics put pressure on government by the name of regional identity demand or any special regional problems. Example, in Tamil Nadu there was a strong movement against imposing Hindi as Rajbhasha. Similarly, Punjabi people demanded for separate state, which was accepted and Punjab and Haryana became two states. Latter Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttrakhand were also formed on regional demands of the people. Now we will discuss the different movements of states and regions which opt the way of more struggle and drew attention of government towards their problems. In short, these movements are given below:

### **Chipko Movement:**

This movement started in 2-3 villages of Uttrakhand. Villages requested the forest department to permit them to cut the angu trees for making agricultural equipments. Forest department didn't permit villagers and allotted that piece of land to sports equipment's manufacturer.

Villagers were very disappointed with this action of the forest department and strongly condemned this decision. This opposition soon spread into other parts of Uttarakhand. As a result, questions were raised about ecological balance, economic exploitation. Then villagers demanded the government that any contract of cutting of forests should not be given to outsiders.

They clearly demanded that the contract be given to local people only on the natural resources, like water forest land etc. This movement raised the issue of local landless forest employed people and demanded to ensure minimum wages for them.

It's worth mentioning here that women played an active role in Chipko movement. The role of women was also important because a number of contractors assured to supply wine to the local men. In maximum households, men turned alcoholic which adversely affected their economic condition. As a result, women raised their voice against alcoholism, which increased the area of Chipko movement. Other social issues also got added to this movement. Lastly, this movement got success and government banned on cutting of tree in Himalayan region for 15 years. This movement became a symbol of other movement that took place in different parts of the country after 1970s.

During the decades of 1970 and 1980 different social groups in the society were dissatisfied with the working styles of political parties. Its immediate cause was the failure of non-congress govt. in 1977. Janta Party and its allies couldn't show any deep impact. As unsatisfaction increased between different social groups due to this Indian democratic system, they lost faith in the democratic system. Different groups detached themselves from politics and worked to strengthen their movements. They started influencing common people. In this way independent movement started.



### **Dalit Panthers:**

Dalit panthers is related to social and economic changes of Maharashtrian dalit Dr. Ambedkar. He tried his best to give a respectable position in the society to dalit away from Hindu caste system. This community has tolerated humiliating and careless injustice for quite a long time in Indian society. In the decades of 1970s, first generation of literate dalit society raised their voice on different forum, about their rights, mentioned in the Indian constitution. Generation of these literate dalit society spent their life in slums. In this way, for the welfare of dalit, an organisation was set up in 1972 called 'Dalit Panthers'. Although Indian constitution has abolished untouchability but is still in practice in Indian society. During 1960 and 1970 govt. introduced many bills, but society's response towards dalits continued to be weak, biased and violent. Misbehaviour toward Dalit women was common right. Laws related to social and economic exploitation of dalits were proving ineffective. On the other hand, Dalits were supporting political parties, like Republican Party of India, but these parties were not succeeding politically. All such cases were responsible for the upcoming of Dalit Panthers.

Main responsibility for dalit panthers was to fight against the exploitation of the dalit in different parts of Maharashtra. It a movement against the issue of exploitation of dalits. As a result, in 1989, government made a strict law, with the provision & severe punishment. Many programmes like abolition of caste system were accepted. The success of Panther groups owed to problems of landless poor, urban industrial labourers. The educated dalit youths got a platform through this movement of panthers dalit, where they can use creativity to show their anguish.

### Indian Farmer Union:

In the later part of 1980, efforts were made for the liberalisation of Indian economy, which created a problem for the cash crops in the market. It was worth mentioning then in final years of 1960s due to green revolution. Farmers of Haryana, Punjab and Western U. P. were benefitted a lot.

After that sugarcane and wheat became the main cash crops in this area. Indian farmer union demanded to increase the governments' cost price of sugarcane and wheat. To remove the restrictions on transportation of Agro based products in different states, to encourage guaranteed power supply at reasonable rate to waive off the standing loans of the farmers and to start

**The Chief of Bhartiya Kisan Union Pramukh:** Pramukh of Indian Farmer Union was Mahendra Singh Tikait and they convenor of committee was M. Yudi Vir Singh, threatened that if India will not take step to keep farming away from the world trade organisation then country has to face its social and economical consequences.

pension programme for the farmers. These were such demands which are arose by the other farmer unions of the country. Movement started by the Shetkari Sangathan of Maharashtra. Considered the movement opualied by farmers as aserolt of rural agricultural areas.

To press their demands, Indian Farmer Union took the help of rallies demonstrations and fill the jail (Jail

bharo) abhiyan activities. Thousands of farmers of western U. P. and adjoining areas participated and acted as a pressure group on Indian politics. In January, 1980, at Meerut, U.P., twenty thousand farmers strongly opposed the hike in electricity rate and tried to *Gherao* government on economic issues.

### **Tadi Virodhi Andolan / Movement:**

Tadi virodhi andolan was a movement of the women in Andhra Pradesh. Through this movement, women were demanding to stop the selling of liquor in their neighbourhood. In the months of September-October 1992, these rural women wanted to improve their economic condition by initiating the movement against the liquor. It may be noted here that in a far off village Dubarganta of Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in 1990 an adult education programme for women was started. In this programme, women in large number registered themselves in the class and complaint against the men about the alcoholism. It is because alcoholism turned men physically and mentally weak and they could not help in the house hold works. Women were facing maximum problems because of day by day dilapidating conditions. As a result, other village women of that district came forward and put pressure on the government to close the liquor shops. The news of this awareness spread rapidly and women of about 5000 villages participated in this Tadi virodhi andolan and sent a proposal to the district magistrate to ban the tadi. In this way this movement of Nellore spread widely.

Later on this Tadi andolan became the part of a women andolan whose slogan was '*Tadi ki bikri band karo*' (Stop the selling of liquor). This common slogan not only changed the life of women rather it brought forward this social economic and political issues before the country and put a question mark on the functioning of democratic government. Later on this movement or the Tadi Virodhi Andolan protested openly against other social issues. This was reason that in 1990s women movement demanded for political representation and fix a representation in the local bodies. By 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment they got representation in local bodies.

### **Save Narmada Movement:**

Chipko movement emphasised on environmental issues. At the same time it showed deep anger people towards government's irresponsiveness towards agricultural sector. It is describable that immediately after 1980 under the development project on Narmada Valley crossing Gujarat, Maharashtra, M. P. proposed to construct 30 large, 135 medium & 300 small dams across river Narmada and its tributaries. As a result of this 245 villages were suspected to be drowned if the proposed project was to be implemented. As a result, local workers launched a movement against the government on the issue of rehabilitation of 2.5 lakhs people of affected villages. During 1988-99, different organisations organised themselves under the name of Narmada Bachao Movement and gave an example of a mass struggle. In the beginning of the movement, it was demanded that there should be proper rehabilitation of people affected directly or indirectly by this project. The greatest achievement of this movement was that it took the democratic dimension to the villages, because 'save Narmada movement' emphasised the involvement of locals in decisions making. These types of projects could establish their control on water, forest land etc. like natural resources.

This movement also raised the question that for the benefits of a few people others should not be harmed. Later on this movement openly opposed construction of large dams. It will not be an exaggeration if we say that National Rehabilitation Policy of 2003 is the achievement of social movements like 'Save Narmada'.

### **Right to Information movement:**

RTI movement can be called an important example of people's movement. This movement got success in fulfilling one big demand from the government. A spark coming from a small village of Rajasthan started taking shape. In 1994 and again in 1996 people's hearing was organised. Under the pressure of the movement, the government amended in the Panchayati Raj Adhiniyam and allowed to provide the photocopies of documents. In 1996 a National Committee was set up in Delhi on R.T.I. In 2002 freedom of information bill was passed but due to many short comings it would not be executed. In 2004, RTI bill was presented in the parliament which got approval of the president in 2005.

#### **Beginning of Right to Information:**

First of all started in extremely, backward area 'Bhim Tehsil' of Rajasthan. In which villagers demanded a copy of their salary payment bills from administration. Villagers felt heavy irregularities in the payment of their wages.

### **People's struggles & movements in Neighbouring countries :**

India is the largest democratic country of the world. Internal conflicts, struggle and movements of Indian democracy have already been discussed. Indian democracy will be stronger when democratic process will run in its neighbouring countries. For instance first of all we could consider Nepal.

**Democratic movement in Nepal:** Aim of democratic movements of Nepal was to compel the King to take back his orders, by which the king

abolished democracy in Nepal. It may be noted that in Nepal democracy came in 1990. The King remained the former head of the state but real power came in the hands of representatives elected by the people.

This constitutional autocracy was accepted earlier by the King Birendra. After his assassination King Gyanendra was not in condition to accept the democracy. In 2005, King Gyanendra not only dethroned the then prime minister but also dismissed/dissolved the government elected by the people. As a result, a movement started in 2006, with the only aim to transfer the power of government from the hand of king to the hands of common men.

To establish democracy in Nepal, all big political parties of Nepalese parliament made an alliance, which is known as Saptadaliya Gathbandhan (seven party alliance). This alliance appealed for 4 days strike in the capital Kathmandu, which greatly involved the people of Nepal. Approx. 1 lakh people daily collected to demand the establishment of democracy. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2006 the number of movement workers reached about 5 lakh. On 24th April, 2006 King Gyanendra accepted the all party government and formation of a new constituent assembly. The Alliance elected Girija Prasad Koirala as the Prime Minister of the interim government. The Parliament was re-established and in the first meeting, parliament passed many laws and restricted most of the powers of the King. It is describable that struggle of people of Nepal for the restoration of democracy became the source of inspiration for the whole world.

### **People's struggle in Bolivia:**

People of Bolivia started a successful struggle for the privatisation of water. Bolivia is a poor country in Latin America. When World Bank

pressurised the government to give up its control on municipal water supply, then government handed over the right to a multinational company (MNC). The company immediately increased the price of water by four times. Many people received monthly water of Rs. 1000 in the country. This led to a spontaneous popular protest. Many times government and labours, human right workers and social leaders confronted one another. The imposed marshal law was against the people. But, lastly government had to surrender in front of the demands of the people and multinational company was compelled to leave. The Government had to accept all demands of the agitators/revolutionaries.

#### **Struggle for democracy in Bangladesh:**

In 1971 after its formation, Bangladesh it made its constitution and declared itself a secular, democratic and socialist country. In 1975, Sheikh Mujiburrahman amended the constitution and got the approval for the presidential form and abolished all political parties except Awami League. This led to revolution against him. In 1975, military revolted against him and he was shot dead. From then till December, 2008 people were continuously struggling for the restoration of democracy. On 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 General Elections were held in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Haseena. The alliance under her and party Awami League got a historical success in the general election, and now people have started to feel a happy morning of democracy.

#### **Struggle for democracy in Srilanka:**

Srilanka situated in the south of India is an important country of South Asia. In 1948 from its independence till now democracy is established there.

Srilanka is engaged in serious caste struggle and racial conflict. Demand of separate state by the Tamil population has turned into a serious race conflict. The government's biased behaviour toward Srilankan Tamils and disrespect to them has paved the path of this caste struggle.

### **Meaning of Political Party:**

Now we will study the behavioural side of democracy. Political parties have an important place in the behavioural side of democracy. Political parties play important role in the running of government. Now we will understand the political party in detail.

Generally political party implies those groups of people who work for a common objective/aim. If aims of the party is related with the political activities, we call it a political party. In any political party, people get together for a general aim; for example, to caste vote, to contest election, to fix policies and programme etc. It is noted here that people may have different opinions on any common objective, but as far as the question of political party is concerned their members have common views on a general aim. Along with it, the members of a political party try to make others understand that their general aim is better than other people's aim. In this context we have to understand one more thing, that when groups of people organise to form a political party then their only aim is to achieve power or to influence power. For this, a political party prepare, its own policies and programmes.

In India, party system is considered to start in 1885 with the establishment of Indian National Congress. After independence, many national and regional parties came into existence. Here, it is necessary to know that the political party first originated in the world in Britain. Here in 1688 after the bloodless revolution two political parties were formed namely Whig and Tory which later on known by the Liberal and the Conservatives respectively. In United States of America, political parties were formed after the formation of constitution.



### **Function of Political Parties:**

Political party became a part of life in democratic countries. Therefore they are called life 'blood of democracy'. Main functions of political parties in democratic system are:

#### **1. To fix policies and programmes:**

Political parties prepare policies and programmes to get the support of the people. They fight election on the basis of these policies and programmes. Political party present their policies and programmes to the people through speech on radio, newspaper, etc. Political party whose policies and programmes are for the welfare of people and to strengthen the national interest attract the voters.

#### **2. To handle administration:**

The Political party handles the government by getting majority in the election. The political party which is known as opposition party keeps a check on government and stops the government from doing any irregularities.

#### **3. To handle election:**

As political parties are necessary for democratic system in the same way election is necessary in party system. We already know that all political parties frame their programmes and policies according to their views and principles. The same programmes and policies are kept before people at the time of election which is same as election manifesto. Political parties nominate their candidates and try to win the election. Therefore one main function of political party is also to handle the election.

#### **4. Formation of public opinion:**

In democracy power is gained by the support of the people. For this you need to have public opinion on the policies of government and this kind

of public opinion can be formed only by political parties with help of public meets, rallies, newspapers, radio, television etc.

**5. To work as a mediator between government & people :** One main function of the political party is to be a link between government and people. Political party put the problems and necessities of the people before the government and take the government's welfare projects and programmes to the people. In this way political party works as a bridge between government and the people.

**6. Political Training:** Political parties also work to give political training to the voters, especially during the election to their supporters for the political works like how to cast vote in election or criticise the policies of government etc. Beyond this, all political parties accelerate their political and educational activities to connect the voters with themselves, which could make political consumers among them.

**7. Party function:** Every political party also does some party related work, like to make maximum voters as their party member, to advertise their policies and programmes, and to collect contributions for the party.

**8. Non-Political functions :** Political parties not only do the political work / function, they also do the non-political work, like relief in natural disasters, flood, drought, earthquake, etc.

### **Need of Political Parties in democracy:**

Till now we have understood that political parties play an important role in democratic system. Political parties play important role in solving the different problems of the people. Now the question that arises before us is : why are political parties needed in modern democracy? Whether democratic

system can run successfully in absence of the political parties? In fact political parties are called soul of democracy. Therefore, in democratic system the importance of political parties can't be ignored. In any functioning system thousands of people give their views on any issue, but these view and opinions cannot have any meaning until opinions are not related with any party's view. Political parties connect the thoughts and emotions of the people of country. From this view political parties are necessary for us. In addition to this, political party is also necessary in democracy because if party is not there, then all candidates will be independent. Candidates will frame their policies, especially for the region from where they are fighting in election and not for the nation's benefit. In this situation, nation's unity and integrity will be in danger and the development of the country will be affected. To avoid this problem, the existence of political parties is necessary. Policies and programmes of political parties in totality are not for any special region. Members of political party are of different castes, religions, regions and genders. Due to this political party put the problems of all the people before the government of the country and seeks solution. Thus, we can say that political parties are necessary in democracy.

### **Competition between political parties and its effect on empowerment of public opinion:**

Three forms of party system is prevalent in the world.

- (i) One party system
- (ii) Two party system and
- (iii) Multi-party system.

In these three party systems two party and multi-party system have competition between them. Generally, people believe that competition

among political parties is good. Main reason for the competition among parties is attaining power. Ultimate goal of all these parties is attaining power, for this all political parties want to get supports of the maximum people. Due to the competition among political parties voters have the option of supporting or opposing the political parties. Therefore, healthy competition among political parties is considered good for democracy.

We know that political party is the 'soul of democracy'. Political parties are also considered as the foundation of democracy. Therefore, we can also accept that democracy becomes strong with the competitions among political parties. Such competitions make policies and programmes more oriented to the people. All parties raise the problem of people in an effective manner and try to solve it as soon as possible. There is a belief among the political parties that if they do not work according to the wish, desire and necessity of the people, then they will not get the support of the people and they will fail in achieving their final goal, i.e. the power. The ruling party tries to benefit the people with its programme because people have the option to make the government of other parties also. So, we can say that democracy becomes stronger with the competition among political parties.

### **Contribution of political parties in the national development.**

The development of any country depends on the conditions of its political parties. The country whose political parties have broad thoughts, principles and values, their development will be more. Therefore, it is said that in the development of any nation, political parties have important role. In fact for national development it is necessary that people are aware of this unity in society and state and there is political stability. All political parties

play a significant role in country development. Generally it is seen in democracy that people remain satisfied with whatever they get. They have less desire to get more. Its main reason is the lack of awareness. In this condition political parties make the people aware towards their rights (or motivate the people towards their rights).

Unity in state and society is necessary for the development of the nation. For this, political parties work as an important institution. Political parties have members of different castes, religions, level and genders. They all represent their own caste, religion, level and gender. These representatives immediately solve if any dispute occurs (discrimination occurs) which keeps unity in the state. Political stability is one of the main conditions of national development. Political party can bring political stability in any country. For this, it is necessary that in spite of opposing they should do constructive criticism of the government. It is also necessary for the national development that all must support and participate in the decision of ruling party. This type of work is also done by political party. Political parties also do constructive work in crisis like relief work during natural disasters etc. For national development the government prepares different types of policies and programmes in democratic countries. This type of policies and programmes must be approved by legislation. With the help of ruling and opposition parties the legislation is passed for these policies and programmes. On the basis of these points, we can understand that political parties play an important role in the national development.

### **Main challenges for political parties:**

We know that in democratic system of government, governance is done by any political party. We also know that the government which doesn't fulfil the wish, need and desires of the people, or any loopholes in the

governing system, then its complete, responsibility is on political party and often it is blamed that political party is not working properly. In true sense there are some challenges before the political parties which do not allow achieving their objectives. Following are the challenges:

**1. Lack of internal democracy:**

All rights of political parties of democratic countries are concentrated to one person or in group of some persons. Every member is not involved in the internal decision making process of the party. Major party post are occupied by the relatives of the party leader. Internal election in the party is also not done on time. Decisions taken inside the parties are also not known to all the members. In country like India, there is a lack of internal democracy inside the political parties which is a serious challenge for the party.

**2. Lack of leadership:**

Almost in all political parties of India, there is a lack of leadership. In real sense today in maximum political parties there is no any leader who is universally accepted and could give right direction to the party. Beyond this, lack of youth and female leadership is also seen. The youth of the country are running after job, business and trade. Youths do not feel their future secure in politics. As a result, there is a lack of leadership in the political parties.

**3. Kinship:**

Generally it is seen that the top leaders of all political parties take undue advantage by providing main post to their relatives and friends. There is very less possibilities to get any high post for any common worker. In India Congress and other political parties are often blamed for kinship. So, abolition of hereditary is a main challenge before the political parties.

#### **4. Impact of black money and criminals:**

Today black money and increase in the impacts of criminals are major challenges. We know that today contesting election is a costly affair. As a result, political parties do not hesitate in opting legal or illegal ways. In elections capitalists are given party ticket, who use their black money in the election. Apart from this, at the time of election, political parties get heavy amount as a donation from these capitalists or industrialist, which is a type of black money. These businessmen take undue advantage from these political parties after election. Now a days impact of criminals have increased in political parties. All political parties take the helps of criminals during election and after election help them in increasing their crimes.

#### **5. Condition of lack of principle:**

Now a days political parties have no firm principle of their own. No party sticks to its principle; to achieve power they leave their principle. Whereas political parties of countries like United States of America stick to their basic principles from the day of inception till date.

#### **6. Alliance of Political Parties :**

Tradition of alliance politics is common in a multi-party political system like India, because no single party is getting required majority to form government. Therefore political parties make alliance before and after the elections, whose thoughts and principles are far different from them own. Sometimes it also happens that many parties fight election against each other and after election they form an alliance to form government. This type of alliance is opportunists. For example after 2004 after General Lok Sabha election Congress & Left parties along with other political parties combined together to form the government, where Congress and Left party fought election against each other. This type of alliance brings indiscipline in the political parties and it is also not good for democracy.

### **Measures to make political parties effective :**

So far we have understood that there are many challenges before the political parties. Now we will try to understand how to enable the political parties to fight against these challenges? If political parties do not face these challenges the democratic system will collapse in achieving its objectives. So, following guidelines have been given to make the political parties effective.

#### **1. Implementation of anti-defection law:**

Law should be implemented to stop the incumbency of MLA and MP. Law has been made by amending the constitution. These laws should be implemented fully without any disparity.

**2. Order of judiciary should be executed :** Supreme court has passed an order to stop the misuse of the black money and to stop the power of criminals inside the political parties. According to the order all candidates fighting in the election have to declare their property and their criminal background's report. Details must be given to the election commission. Supreme Court has banned those candidates from fighting election who have criminal backgrounds.

So, after implementation of these orders of court there will be decrease in the number of criminals in the political parties and political party will be effective.

**3. Internal democracy should be restored in democratic parties:** To make the political parties effective it is necessary that all political parties must follow their own constitution. Time-to-time they must conduct organisational election and give equal opportunity to every member of the political parties.

**4. Political parties can increase :** their effects by providing proper representation to youth and women. Parties will get new energy and direction by inducting youth in the political parties.



5. To make political parties effective one suggestion could be given that expenditure of election must be borne by the government. Petrol, paper and clothes, telephone etc. which are used in the election must be made available by the governments.

If political parties and government pay attention to these suggestions, then political party could be made effective. Except this, one must take initiative to make the political parties effective. By taking the role of opposition and by giving constructive supports to the government one could make him/her self effective.

### **Introduction of main political parties of India:**

In Indian political system two aspects of political parties are seen — One type has nation-wide existence. Its policies and programmes are of national level. Such parties have units at state level also. They are known as national political parties. Second, those parties whose programmes, policies and ideology are limited to any state or particular region. These types of parties are known as state level or regional parties. Which political party is national or which is state level, is decided by election commission. Symbols of political parties are also allotted by the election commission.

To get the status of national political party, a party should get 6% of the valid votes in 4 or more states along with the minimum 4 Lok Sabha seats from any state in the election of Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha . Alternatively it is necessary to get minimum 2% seats of Lok Sabha which means 11 seats should be at least from 3 states.

In the same way to get the affiliation of state level political party that party should get 6% valid votes along with 3% seats or 3 seats of State Vidhan Sabha.

Come, let's know about some major political parties of India.

### **Indian National Congress (INC):**

Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. It has experienced many splits since then. At present it is also known as Congress (I). Main objective of Congress Party is to ensure progress of the people of India and to establish India as a socialist state by peaceful and constitutional means. It must be based on parliamentary democracy. It must have opportunity and equal social, political and economic rights and must aim to attain global brotherhood. Congress is a secular party. It is one of the oldest political parties of the world. It ruled over the country from independence to 1971 and from 1980 to 1989. In 2004, this party is ruling over the country under the banner of United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

### **Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP):**

Founded in 1980 by reviving the erstwhile Bhartiya Jana Sangh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was made the first President of Bhartiya Janta Party. Main aim of Bharity Janta Party was to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Bhartiya Janta Party promotes cultural nationalism and is in favour of implementing Common Citizen Code of Conduct. It is against giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir. Bhartiya Janta Party came to power in 1998 by forming the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) and ruled till 2004.

### **Communist Party of India (CPI):**

In India, Communist Party of India was formed in 1925 with the help of S. A. Dange. CPI believes in secularism and democracy and is against communalism. It accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interest of the working class farmers and the poor. It has an extensive base in Kerala, West Bengal, and Bihar. In 2004 it built a part of UPA and supported government from outside.

**Communist Party of India Marxist: (CPI-M):**

In 1964 splits in communist party gave birth to a new party Communist party of India (Marxist). Its main leader are Jyoti Basu, Somnath Chatterjee, A. K. Gopalan and V. Ramamurthi.

This party supports socialisation, secularism, and democracy by keeping faith in the thoughts of Marx and Lenin. Leaders of this party want to establish the rule of farmers and labourers. This party believes that aim of social and economic justice can be achieved by election. In 2004, this party also supported the UPA government from outside and thus became a part of government.

**Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP):**

BSP is formed from All India Backward and Minority workers committee. BSP is formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram. Main ideology of this party is to unite dalits and backwards and minorities to come to power. Its birth place is U.P. therefore, its main force is also in U. P. Now it has expanded itself in Haryana, Delhi, M.P. and Bihar

**National Congress Party (NCP):**

On the issue of Citizen of Indian origin in 1999, NCP was established after separation from Indian National Congress. Its main leaders are Sharad Pawar and Tarique Anwar. Its main thoughts are democratic social justice and strengthen federalism. This party emphasises on giving the persons of Indian origin any government and non-government posts.

**Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD):**

In 1997, Janta Dal split and then the then Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav formed Rashtriya Janta Dal. Rashtriya Janta Dal focuses on the establishment of social justice. This party focuses on achieving the power by uniting backwards, dalits and minorities. RJD opposes communalism and imperialism and trusts in secularism.

### **Janta Dal United (JDU):**

In 1999 by splitting from Janta Dal, under the leadership of Sharad Yadav, Janta Dal United was formed. Later on Samta Party under leadership of George Fernandez dissolved itself Janta Dal United. The main objective of this party is to establish socialism and increase social equity. It wants to establish social justice with development of dalits, backwards and minorities. It also demands for special rights of the states.

### **Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP):**

LJP was formed in 2000 under the leadership of Ram Vilas Paswan. The main aims of this party is the development of dalits, backwards and minorities. This party also focuses on social justice. LJP talks about the autonomy of the states and focuses on encouragement of the small scale industries, so that youth could get more job opportunities.

### **Samajwadi Party:**

Under the leadership of Mulayam Singh in 1992, Samajwadi party was formed. This party focuses on the establishment of national and indigenous companies and opposes multi-national companies. This party gives special emphasis on the development of agriculture. Its main base is in Uttar Pradesh. But now its base has reached Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, etc.

### **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM):**

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha was formed in 1973 in Bihar. After the formation of Jharkhand, its main base is in Jharkhand. Its existence is also seen in Odisha and West Bengal.

After the above discussion it is necessary to be clear that there are other national and state level parties other than state level parties existing in Bihar, which is playing important role in the national politics. Such parties are Akali Dal, Dravid Munetra Kadgam, Muslim League, Telgudesham, Asam Gan Parishad, Viju Janta Dal, etc.

## Questions

### Objective Question:

#### I. Select the correct option

1. Year 1975 in Indian politics is known for what?
  - (a) General election held this year
  - (b) Smt. Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister
  - (c) Emergency declared in the country
  - (d) Government formed by Janta Party
2. In which decade Indian democracy people's revolt begin against the government?
  - (a) In 1960s decades
  - (b) In 1970s decade
  - (c) In 1980s decade
  - (d) In 1990s decade
3. Who among the following led the Sampurna Kranti (Complete Revolution) in Bihar?
  - (a) Morarji Desai
  - (b) Nitish Kumar
  - (c) Indira Gandhi
  - (d) Jay Prakash Narayan
4. Which party got majority in the general election held in 1977 in India?
  - (a) Congress Party
  - (b) Janta Party
  - (c) Communist Party
  - (d) No any party
5. 'Chipko movement' is associated with which of the following?
  - (a) Permission of cutting angu trees
  - (b) From relieving economic exploitation
  - (c) Voice against wines
  - (d) From opposition of congress party
6. Who among the following is not associated with 'dalit panthers'?
  - (a) Abolition/eradication of caste system
  - (b) Formation of dalit army
  - (c) Progress of landless poor farmer
  - (d) Releasing industrial labours from exploitation
7. Who among the following was the head of Bhatiya Kisan Union?
  - (a) Morarji Desai
  - (b) Jay Prakash Narayan
  - (c) Mahendra Singh Tikait
  - (d) Choudhary Charan Singh

8. In which state 'Tadi Virodhi Andolan' was started?

- (a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

9. Which states are associated with 'Narmada Gihati Project'?

- (a) Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka
- (c) West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab
- (d) Gujrat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

10. Where was 'Right to Information' movement started?

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Delhi
- (c) Tamilnadu (d) Bihar

11. When was the law related to 'Right to Information' passed?

- (a) In 2004 (b) In 2005
- (c) In 2006 (d) In 2007

12. What was the main objective of Saptadaliya Alliance in Nepal?

- (a) To compel the king to leave the country
- (b) To establish democracy
- (c) To make good relation between India and Nepal
- (d) To establish all party government

13. What was the main reason of mass struggle in Bolvia?

- (a) Increase in the cost of water
- (b) Increase in the cost of eatables
- (c) Increase in the cost of petrol
- (d) Increase in the cost of life saving medicine

14. When Srilanka got freedom?

- (a) In 1947 (b) In 1948
- (c) In 1949 (d) In 1950

15. Meaning of Political party is —

- (a) Group of Officers (b) Group of Military
- (c) Group of People (d) Group of Farmers

16. Which of the following is generally the main objective of all political parties?
- (a) To get power
  - (b) To get government posts
  - (c) To fight election
  - (d) None of these
17. Which country laid the foundation of political parties?
- (a) Britain
  - (b) India
  - (c) France
  - (d) U.S.A.
18. Which of the following is considered as the soul of democracy?
- (a) Government
  - (b) Judiciary
  - (c) Constitution
  - (d) Political party
19. Which of the following work is not done by political party?
- (a) Fight election
  - (b) Criticize the government
  - (c) Relief in natural disaster
  - (d) Work related to the appointment of officers
20. Which of the following views are not related to the political parties?
- (a) Political party put the views and emotions of the people before the government.
  - (b) Political party is a medium of establish unity and integrity in the country.
  - (c) Political party creates hindrance in development of government policies.
  - (d) Political party brings out the problems of different classes, castes, and religions to the government.
21. Which country does not have multy-party system?
- (a) Pakistan
  - (b) India
  - (c) Bangladesh
  - (d) Britain
22. Which party system has the possibility of making alliance government?
- (a) One party system
  - (b) Two party system
  - (c) Multi-party system
  - (d) None of the above

23. Which of the following is not needed for the political stability in any country?
- (a) All parties need to give constructive support to the government.
  - (b) To dismiss the government by any means.
  - (c) Govt. need to consider public opinion in the decision making process.
  - (d) To ignore opposition party by the government. Government should keep the opposition parties under house arrest.
24. Which of the following is not the challenge before the political parties?
- (a) No organisational election on time in political parties.
  - (b) No proper representation of youth and women in the political parties
  - (c) To put the problems of people in front of the government by the political parties.
  - (d) To make alliance with the political parties having opposite principles.
25. Defection law is implemented on which of the following?
- (a) On MPs and MLAs
  - (b) On President
  - (c) On Vice President
  - (d) On all of the above
26. Affiliation of political parties and their symbols are given by whom?
- (a) President's Secretary
  - (b) Prime Minister's Secretary
  - (c) Election Commission
  - (d) Member of Parliament
27. Which of the following is not the national party?
- (a) Rashtriya Janta Dal
  - (b) Bahujan Samaj Party
  - (c) Lok Jan Shakti Party
  - (d) Bhartiya Janta Party
28. When was Janta Dal (United) party formed?
- (a) 1992
  - (b) 1999
  - (c) 2000
  - (d) 2004



**I. Match the following:**

**Match (i)**

**Column-I**

1. Samajdwadi Party
2. Rashtriya Janta Dal
3. Lok Jan Shakti Party
4. J. D. U.

**Column-II**

- Lantern  
Arrow  
Bangla  
Cycle

**Match (ii)**

**Column-I**

1. Congress Party
2. Bhartiya Janta Party
3. Communist Party
4. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

**Column-II**

- N.D.A.  
Regional Party  
U.P.A.  
Third front

**Short Answer Questions:**

1. What were the main reasons for the 'Student Movement' in Bihar?
2. What were the main objectives of 'Chipko Movement'?
3. What is independent political organisation?
4. What were the main demands of 'Indian Farmer Union' (Bhartiya Kisan Union)?
5. What do you mean by National Political Party?

### Long Answer Questions:

1. “Democracy is strengthened with Mass Struggle (Jan-Sangharsh)”. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons in your favour.
2. On which basis you can say that student movements started from Bihar has turned national?
3. **Read the following statements and give reasons in favour of your argument.**
  - (a) Regional feeling strengthens democracy.
  - (b) Pressure group is the group of selfish elements.
  - (c) Man is struggle is against democracy.
  - (d) The role of women is negligible in democratic movements in India.
  - (e) Why is political party said to be soul of democracy?
  - (f) In what way do political parties contribute in the national development?
  - (g) List the main functions of political parties.
  - (h) Who gives affiliation to national and state level political parties and what are its dimensions criteria?

