

Era of One-Party Dominance

Fastrack« Revision

► Challenge of Building Nation

- Indian politicians realised the importance of politics in a democracy after their country gained its freedom. They did not perceive politics as a problem, but rather as a means of resolving issues.
- The Constitution was ratified on November 26, 1949, and it was then signed on January 24, 1950, before taking force on January 26, 1950. An interim government was in place at the time and was in charge of the nation.
- In January 1950, the Indian Election Commission was founded. India's Chief Election Commissioner was originally appointed as Sukumar Sen. It was anticipated that the nation would have its first general elections sometime in 1950.
- The Election Commission soon realised that holding a free and fair election in a nation the size of India would not be simple. To hold free and fair elections, this commission mandated the drafting of electoral district lines and the creation of an electoral roll with all eligible voters.
- The first general election served as the first significant democratic test in a developing, illiterate nation. Democracy had only been practised up until that point in wealthy, largely literate nations in Europe and North America.
- The elections finally took place from October 1951 to February 1952 after being delayed twice. However, because most of the country cast its ballots in January 1952, this election is known as the 1952 election. The campaigning, voting, and tallying were finished in six months.
- The 1952 General Election in India marked a turning point in democratic development worldwide.
- Towards the end of 1990 the Election Commission started using the EVM. By 2004 the entire had shifted to the EVM.

► Congress's Dominance in the First Three General Elections

- The Congress party, as it was often known, carried on the legacy of the national movement, therefore the outcomes of the first general election did not come as a surprise to anyone. At the time, it was the only party with a nationwide organisation.

Knowledge BOOSTER

The Communist Party of India received only 16 seats, although the party gained 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha.



- The state elections took place concurrently with the Lok Sabha elections, and the Congress also won handily in both of those contests. Except for Travancore-Cochin (now part of Kerala), Madras, and Orissa, it won a majority of the seats in every state.
- When the Congress won three-fourths of the seats in the second and third general elections, which were conducted in 1957 and 1962, respectively, they kept their position in the Lok Sabha.

► Communist Victory in Kerala

- The Communist Party gained the most seats in Kerala's legislature at the assembly elections that were held in March 1957. Five independents supported the party, which took 60 of the 126 seats.
- After losing the State's election, the Congress party launched a "liberation struggle" against the elected administration.
- According to Article 356 of the Constitution, the Congress administration at the centre ousted the Communist government of Kerala in 1959. The first time that constitutional emergency powers were abused was in this ruling.

► Nature of Congress Dominance

- One-party rule has not just occurred in India but in other nations as well. One-party rule is exemplified by numerous other parties throughout the globe. But between these and the experience in India, there is a significant distinction.
- In the remaining instances, one party's dominance was secured by undermining democracy. But in democratic circumstances, one party ruled India.
- Even though many parties ran in free and fair elections, the Congress was able to win election after election.
- As Congress was viewed as the heir apparent to the national movement, the roots of this exceptional success of the Congress Party can be traced back to the legacy of the freedom struggle.

- By the time of Independence, the Congress had evolved into a social coalition that broadly represented the diversity of castes and classes, faiths and languages, and a range of interests within India.

► **Tolerance and Management of Factions**

- The Congress's coalition-like structure gave it an uncommon power. A coalition, first and foremost, accepts all members. To achieve balance on practically all problems, it must avoid taking any extreme positions.
- The objectives of numerous factions and leaders are accommodated, and there is greater tolerance for internal disagreements in a party that possesses the characteristics of a coalition.
- Even if a group disagreed with the party's stance or its share of power, it would choose to battle against the other groups within the party rather than defecting and joining the "opposition." The term "faction" refers to these subgroups within the party.
- The groups adopted various ideological viewpoints, giving Congress the appearance of being a large centrist party.
- The main strategy employed by the opposing parties was to sway these groups, which had the effect of indirectly influencing policy and decision-making from the 'margins'. In the Congress, there were therefore political contests.

► **The Emergence of Opposition Parties**

- Almost all non-Congress parties may be linked back to one of the opposition parties from the 1950s.
- These groups provided persistent, frequently moral criticism of the Congress Party's positions and methods. This frequently altered the balance of power inside Congress and kept the ruling party in check.
- The opposition and Congress leaders had a great deal of respect for one another in the early years. As a result, India's initial stage of democratic politics was highly distinctive.
- The influence of other political parties began to rise as Congress' capacity to satisfy all interests and all aspirants to political power rapidly decreased. Thus, Congress's supremacy is just one aspect of national politics.

► **Socialist Party**

- In 1934, a group of young leaders who desired a more radical and equitable Congress founded the Congress Socialist Party (CSP).

- To prohibit its members from becoming members of two parties, Congress changed its Constitution in 1948. This compelled the socialists to establish their party in 1948.

- They criticised Congress for disregarding the working class and peasants while favouring landlords and businessmen.
- The Socialist Party saw numerous divisions and reunifications, which resulted in the creation of numerous socialist parties, including the Samyukta Socialist Party, the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, and the Praja Socialist Party.

► **The Communist Party of India (CPI)**

- Following the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia as their model, communist groups began to emerge in various regions of India in the early 1920s.
- In 1951, the communist party opted to take part in the impending general elections rather than continue down the route of a bloody revolution.
- Among the prominent CPI leaders were EMS Namboodripad, PC Joshi, SA Dange, Ajay Ghosh, and P Sundarayya.
- Following the ideological split between the Soviet Union and China in 1964, the Party underwent a significant split. The opposition group established the CPI(M), while the pro-Soviet group kept its name as the CPI.

► **Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**

- With Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founding President, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh was established in 1951.
- It emphasised the notion of one nation, one culture, and one country and held that the country might develop into a modern, forward-thinking, and powerful one by drawing on Indian traditions and culture.
- The Bharatiya Jana Sangh is where the Bharatiya Janata Party first emerged.

► **Swatantra Party**

- In August 1959, the Swatantra Party was established. Older members of the Congress, including C. Rajagopalachari, KM Munshi, NG Ranga, and Minoo Masani, led the party.
- The party opposed nationalisation, centralised planning, governmental intervention in the economy, and public sector development strategies. It advocated for the growth of the free market instead.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. The first winner of the Bharat Ratna Award is an Indian leader named

- a. Balraj Madhok
- b. Rajagopalachari
- c. B.R. Ambedkar
- d. K.M. Munshi

Q 2. In which of the following countries did the Institutional Revolutionary Party rule?

- a. Mexico
- b. Finland
- c. Calro
- d. Brazil

Q 3. Which year did India's first General Election take place?

- a. 1947
- b. 1952
- c. 1955
- d. 1960

Q 4. Who was the Bharatiya Jana Sangh's founder?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
- b. Indira Gandhi
- c. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
- d. Sukumar Sen

Q 5. On the, the Indian Constitution went into effect.

- a. 26 January 1948
- b. 12 March 1948
- c. 26 November 1949
- d. 26 January 1950

Q 6. Which party established Kerala's government in 1957?

- a. Jan Sangh
- b. CPI
- c. Congress
- d. Socialist Party

Q 7. What are some examples of non-democratic types of government?

- a. Direct army rule
- b. One-party rule
- c. Nominal democracy but effective control by one leader
- d. All of the above

Q 8. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. S.A. Dange	(i) Bharatiya Jana Sangh
B. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	(ii) Swatantra Party
C. Minoo Masani	(iii) Praja Socialist Party
D. Asoka Mehta	(iv) Communist Party of India

Codes:

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------|------|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| a. (i) | (ii) | (iii) | (iv) | b. (iv) | (iii) | (ii) | (i) |
| c. (iv) | (i) | (ii) | (iii) | d. (ii) | (iii) | (i) | (iv) |

Q 9. The Swatantra Party's doctrine included as one of its tenets.

- a. Economy free from state control
- b. Autonomy of state
- c. Protection of princely
- d. Interest of the working class

Q 10. Who served as India's second Chief Election Commissioner?

- a. Raja Gopal
- b. Sushmen
- c. Balraj Madhok
- d. Sunil Raj

Q 11. Who was responsible for creating the Second Five-Year Plan?

- a. P.C. Mahalanobis
- b. J.L. Nehru
- c. K.N. Raj
- d. None of these

Q 12. Why did the leaders of India choose the more challenging path of democracy?

- a. They were afraid of the results of non-democratic rule
- b. India's freedom struggle was deeply committed to the idea of democracy
- c. They believed that democracy was the cheapest option
- d. They were pressured by other countries to adopt a democratic rule

Q 13. People exercise their influence in democracies through

- a. Elections
- b. Co-operative
- c. Non-Governmental Organisation
- d. Political Parties

Q 14. Who was India's first chief electoral officer?

- a. Sukumar Sen
- b. Sardar Patel
- c. B.R. Ambedkar
- d. Jawaharlal Nehru

Q 15. Who was in power in India at the time the Constitution was enacted?

- a. A democratically elected government
- b. A monarchy
- c. An interim government
- d. A military dictatorship

Q 16. When was India's first democratically elected administration sworn in?

- a. 26 November 1949
- b. 24 January 1950
- c. January 1950
- d. February 1952

Q 17. Which party won the most seats following the Congress in the initial Lok Sabha election?

- a. The Communist Party of India
- b. The Bharatiya Janata Party
- c. The Samajwadi Party
- d. The Nationalist Congress Party

- Q 18. How were the state's borders decided?
 a. Based on linguistic principles
 b. Based on area
 c. Based on locality
 d. None of the above
- Q 19. How did Congress integrate different groups and interests into its structure?
 a. By imposing its ideology on them
 b. By suppressing their identity and beliefs
 c. By allowing them to exist within Congress with their Constitution and organisational structure
 d. By forming separate parties for them



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 20-24): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
 d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- Q 20. Assertion (A): There is a multi-party system in India, and the parties there reflect various interests.
 Reason (R): Although there have been many political parties, the Congress party has dominated both at the national and state levels for a longer time.
- Q 21. Assertion (A): The universal adult franchise experiment in India seemed quite audacious and dangerous.
 Reason (R): These elections were unusual due to the size of the country and the electorates.
- Q 22. Assertion (A): In various locations throughout India, the Communist Party was founded in 1920.
 Reason (R): It was inspired by the French Revolution in that country.
- Q 23. Assertion (A): The 1952 Indian general elections set a significant milestone in global democratic history.
 Reason (R): These elections featured fierce competition between the major parties, stimulating public engagement, and extremely fair results declaration.
- Q 24. Assertion (A): Acharya Narendra Dev was the Congress Socialist Party's first president.
 Reason (R): It adopted the name Socialist Party after 1955.



Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 25. The Lok Sabha and elections were held concurrently during the First General Elections in 1952.
- Q 26. One of the pillars of the Swatantra Party's ideology was

- Q 27. In the initial elections, the party garnered the second-highest number of seats in the Lok Sabha.
- Q 28. The electoral commission began utilising electronic voting machines around the end of
- Q 29. was one of the pillars of the Swatantra Party's doctrine.



True or False Type Questions

- Q 30. The dominance of one party is a result of the weakness of the opposition parties.
- Q 31. Weak public opinion contributes to one-party rule.
- Q 32. The country's colonial background is related to one-party rule.
- Q 33. One-party rule reveals a nation's lack of democratic ideals.
- Q 34. Asia's oldest political party is the Communist Party.



Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

- Q 35. The extent of the victory of the congress was artificially boosted by our country.
- Q 36. Congress party had the bitter taste of defeat in Delhi.
- Q 37. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1959 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder President.

Answers

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (d)
 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (c)
 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (a) 15. (c)
 16. (d) 17. (a) 18. (a) 19. (c) 20. (b)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (a) 24. (b)
 25. State Assemblies
 26. individual freedom
 27. Communist Party of India
 28. 1990
 29. Economy free from state control
 30. True
 31. False
 32. True
 33. False
 34. False
 35. The extent of the victory of the congress was artificially boosted by our electoral system.
 36. Congress party had the bitter taste of defeat in Kerala.
 37. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder President.

Passage Based Questions

Passage 1

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

The Congress evolved from its origins in 1885 as a pressure group for the newly educated professional and commercial classes to a mass movement in the twentieth century. This laid the basis for its eventual transformation into a mass political party and its subsequent domination of the political system. Thus the Congress began as a party dominated by the English-speaking, upper caste, upper-middle-class, and urban elite. But with every Civil Disobedience Movement, it launched, its social base widened.

- Q 1. In which year did the Congress originate?**
a. 1885 b. 1888
c. 1883 d. 1898
- Q 2. The Congress originated as a**
a. opposition party b. political party
c. pressure group d. interest group
- Q 3. The Congress began as a party dominated by:**
a. Upper caste b. Upper-middle class
c. Urban elite d. All of these
- Q 4. The social-based of Congress widened with every:**
a. Non-Cooperation Movement
b. Civil Disobedience Movement
c. Satyagraha
d. None of the above

Answers

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

Passage 2

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

India is not the only country to have experienced the dominance of one party. If we look around the world, we find many other examples of one-party dominance. But there is a crucial difference between these and the Indian experience. In the rest of the cases, the dominance of one party was ensured by compromising democracy. In some countries like China, Cuba, and Syria the Constitution permits only a single party to rule the country.

- Q 1. India follows a system of system.**
a. single party b. multi-party
c. two-party d. None of these

- Q 2. Which of the following countries did not experience single-party rule?**

- a. China b. Syria
c. Cuba d. USA

- Q 3. How was India's one-party rule different from China's?**

- a. One-party dominance in India is based on dictatorship, but one-party dominance in China is based on democracy.
b. In China, one-party rule is based on a Communist (dictatorship) system, as opposed to India, where it is based on a democratic system.
c. In India, one-party dominance is permitted by Constitution, but China's Constitution doesn't permit it.
d. None of the above

Answers

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (b)

Passage 3

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

The socialists believed in the ideology of democratic socialism which distinguished them both from the Congress as well as from the Communists. They criticised Congress for favouring capitalists and landlords and for ignoring the workers and the peasants. But the socialists faced a dilemma when in 1955 the Congress declared its goal to be the socialist pattern of society. Thus it became difficult for the socialists to present themselves as an effective alternative to the Congress. Some of them, led by Ram Manohar Lohia, increased their distance from and criticism of the Congress party. Some others like Asoka Mehta advocated limited cooperation with the Congress.

- Q 1. Mention socialist philosophy.**

Ans. Socialists held to the theory of democratic socialism to set themselves apart from Communists and Congress.

- Q 2. List a few Socialist Party leaders.**

Ans. Jayaprakash Narayan, Asoka Mehta, Acharya Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia, etc.

- Q 3. Why did socialists find it challenging to position themselves as a viable alternative to Congress?**

Ans. Because Congress stated that the socialist model of society was its aim in 1955.

Passage 4

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

This coalition-like character of the Congress gave it an unusual strength. Firstly, a coalition accommodates all those who join it. Therefore,

it has to avoid any extreme position and strike a balance on almost all issues. Compromise and inclusiveness are the hallmarks of a coalition. This strategy put the opposition in difficulty. Anything that the opposition wanted to say, would also find a place in the programme and ideology of the Congress. Secondly, in a party that has the nature of a coalition, there is a greater tolerance of internal differences and the ambitions of various groups and leaders are accommodated. The Congress did both these things during the freedom struggle and continued doing this even after Independence. That is why, even if a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an 'opposition'.

Q 1. What do you mean by a faction, exactly?

Ans. Within a party, factions are organisations that have developed out of ideological differences or rivalries and personal ambitions.

Q 2. In what ways did the Congress party's coalition-like structure change its makeup?

Ans. The coalition-like structure of Congress allowed for the accommodation of all social diversities and preserved an equilibrium on practically all subjects. Even a suitable room was provided for the ideologies and programmes of opposing parties. Thus, Congress demonstrated greater tolerance for internal divergences.

Q 3. How did Congress prevent the number of "opposition" from rising?

Ans. Congress did not permit the organisations to leave the party to join the opposition. In addition to its coalition-like nature.

Passage 5

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

The BSP under Kanshi Ram's leadership was envisaged as an organisation based on pragmatic politics. It derived confidence from the fact that the Bahujans (SCs, STs, OBCs and religious minorities) constituted the majority of the population and were a formidable political force on the strength of their numbers.

Q 1. Which organisation did Kanshi Ram find?

Ans. Kanshi Ram founded the BSP.

Q 2. State the BSP in its entirety.

Ans. The full form of BSP is Bahujan Samaj Party.

Q 3. What makes the Bahujans a potent political force?

Ans. Because they make up the majority of the population, these communities—SCs, STs, and OBCs—were a powerful political force.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What function did the opposition parties serve in the 1950s, despite their tiny participation in the Indian legislatures?

Ans. The following roles are played by the opposition parties:

(i) These parties provided a consistent, frequently moral critique of the Congress party's positions and methods.

(ii) The ruling party was kept in control as a result.

Q 2. How did India's transition to democracy benefit from the Congress Party's dominance in the first three general elections?

Ans. Following are some ways that the Congress Party's victory in the first three General Elections aided in the establishment of a democratic system in India:

(i) Since the Congress Party was a coalition, different factions were tolerated and even encouraged.

(ii) It accepted all shades of the centre, including radical and pacifist, conservative and radical, extremist and moderate, and right and left.

Q 3. Tell us how the ideologies of Congress and the Jana Sangh vary most.

Ans. (i) The primary ideological difference between Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Congress was the emphasis that Bharatiya Jana Sangh placed on one party, one country, one culture, and one nation, namely the Hindu nation or Hindutva.

(ii) In contrast, Congress organised social and ideological coalitions that took into account societal diversity.

Q 4. State any one characteristic of Bharatiya Jana Sangh's philosophy.

Ans. Bharatiya Jana Sangh's philosophy emphasised the notion of one nation, one culture, and one country.

Q 5. What does "one-party dominance" entail in the context of India?

Ans. The one-party rule refers to the Congress party winning the first three general elections in 1952, 1957, and 1962, which were held for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, respectively. In the Lok Sabha elections held in 1952, 1957, and 1962, the Congress won 364 seats out of 489, 371 out of 494, and 361 out of 494 respectively.

Q 6. When was India's Election Commission established?

Ans. In January 1950, the Indian Election Commission was established.

Q 7. Who served as its initial Chief Election Commissioner?

Ans. As the first Chief Election Commissioner, Sukumar Sen was appointed.

Q 8. How was the Congress Party able to continue to rule until 1967?

Ans. The supremacy of the Congress Party until 1967 was due to the causes listed below:

- (i) The Congress was already a well-organised party, and by the time other parties had time to plan their approach, they had already begun their campaign.
- (ii) Down to the local levels, Congress had an organisational network.

Q 9. What exactly does a coalition government entail?

Ans. A coalition government is created when several political parties band together under the premise of a common minimum programme.

Q 10. When did the central government's coalition first come into being?

Ans. The first coalition government was established at the centre in 1977, led by Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

Q 11. What are the two main contrasts between the socialist and Communist parties?

Ans. Between the socialist and Communist parties, there were two differences:

- (i) The Communist party supported the idea of revolutionary socialism, whereas the socialist party supported democratic socialism.
- (ii) Socialists had no such ideological predisposition as did the Communist party, whose ideology was oriented toward the Soviet Union and China.

Q 12. From the General Election of 1952 to the General Election of 2004, how has the voting process changed?

Ans. Following are some ways that voting methods have changed between the General Elections of 1952 and 2004:

- (i) After the first two elections, each candidate's name and a symbol were printed on the ballot paper, and voters had to stamp the names of those they wished to support.
- (ii) By 2004, every voter in the nation was using an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

(i) What does the cartoon represent?

Ans. Cartoon represents dominance of Congress which is being tug by opposition parties to throw Congress out of power.

(ii) What does the term 'Tug of war' refer to?

Ans. 'Tug of war' refers to pulling out the Congress by criticism and mentioning its weaknesses in an honest and justified manner.

(iii) Who has been shown on the branches of tree?

Ans. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru along with his colleagues in the cabinet.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Give any four reasons for the Congress party's dominance in the first three General Elections.

Ans. Due to the following factors, the Congress party was able to hold onto its power until 1967:

- (i) Elites, well-educated members of the business class, and members of the middle class all backed the Congress party. Due to its socialist nature, it also had support among the peasants.
- (ii) It featured numerous well-known figures, like Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel, etc. Jawaharlal Nehru was a charismatic and well-liked leader. In addition,
- (iii) Both at the top and on the ground, Congress was active. Because of their involvement in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Congress became more well-known.
- (iv) Congress achieved widespread support throughout Nehru's administration, but the powerful exclusive Congress elite continued to profit from the electorate's lack of political awareness.
- (v) Congress became a one-party system as a result of the traditional localities.

Q 2. What set the Congress party's supremacy in India apart from one party's domination in other nations? Explain.

Ans. (i) India's one-party system differs from that of other nations. India has a multi-party political system. Between 1952 and 1962, the Congress party won every election. Regular, fair elections held in India at regular intervals.

(ii) Although many other political parties participated, the Congress party continues to rule India thanks to the charismatic, successful and inspiring leadership of its leaders and the glorious legacy of the Congress party. The Constitutions of nations like China, Cuba, Syria, and Mexico only allow for one party to run each state.



Cartoon Based Question

Q 1. Study the cartoon given below and answer the question that follows:



- (iii) About six decades of the PRI's dominance in Mexico ended in dictatorship. Elections in these nations were frequently influenced and corrupt, but in India, everything has been done in the spirit of democracy.

Q 3. Describe any four issues the Election Commission of India is facing to hold the First General Election.

Ans. After being established in January 1950, the Election Commission of India quickly realised that holding free and fair elections in a nation the size of India would not be simple. The following issues were brought up to the Election Commission of India in preparation for the First General Election:

- (i) Delimitation, or the drafting of the borders of the electoral constituencies, was necessary before holding an election.
- (ii) Additionally, the electoral rolls—a list of all citizens who are eligible to vote—had to be prepared.
- (iii) Only 15% of eligible voters were readers.
- (iv) It was difficult because of the size of the country.

Q 4. Who was the Swatantra Party's founder in 1959? Describe three of this party's policies or programmes.

Ans. C. Rajagopalachari created the Swatantra Party in 1959. The following three party policies and programmes were:

- (i) The Swatantra Party favoured decreasing government involvement in managing the economy. It held that only individual freedom could lead to wealth.
- (ii) It was critical of the government's economic interference, centralised planning, nationalisation, and public sector policies. Instead, it supported the growth of the free market.
- (iii) The Swatantra Party opposed state trading and cooperative farming as well as agricultural land limitations.

Q 5. The modifications made to India's voting procedures after 1952 should be highlighted.

Ans. After 1952, India's voting procedures underwent the following modifications:

- (i) Each polling booth had a box with the candidates' election symbols during the first General Election. Each voter was provided with a blank ballot, which they then had to place in the box next to the candidate they desired to support. 20 lakh steel boxes were initially employed for this purpose.
- (ii) From the third to the thirteenth General Election, every candidate's name and symbol were printed on the ballot paper, and the results of the vote affected each candidate's name and symbol. For 40 years, this method was effective.
- (iii) The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was first introduced by the Election Commission at the tail end of the 1990s, and it saw widespread use across the nation in 2004.

Q 6. Describe the opposition parties' function in India in a few sentences.

Ans. There were several opposition parties at the time of independence, and afterwards, they grew, but they only received minimal representation in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures. The democratic nature of the system was nevertheless greatly aided by their existence.

In the Parliaments of 1952 and 1957, the opposition engaged in the following four activities:

- (i) The Congress Party's policies and procedures came under scathing and principled criticism from these opposition groups. This phenomenon showed how Congress's checks and balances work.
- (ii) When the CPI overthrew Congress in Kerala in 1957 and took power, Congress promptly removed the CPI under Article 356. The opposition leaders criticised it, claiming that it was the first time that Constitutional emergency powers had been abused.
- (iii) BJS was able to secure three seats in 1950 and four seats in 1957. The party took on the role of the opposition, launching a campaign to have Hindi replace English as the official language and supporting the creation of nuclear weapons.
- (iv) The opposition parties stopped the dissatisfaction with the system from escalating into anti-democracy. The leaders (young people) of these parties were also trained to mould India into a powerful developed nation.

Q 7. Describe how the Communist party of India operated between 1920 and 1950.

Ans. The Communist Party of India (CPI), founded in 1920 and motivated by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, promoted socialism as the panacea for all national issues. Since 1935, CPI has operated with a variety of ideologies under the auspices of Congress. CPI's relationship with Congress was damaged in 1941 when it sided with the British in the war against Germany. In the Constituent Assembly, the party shouted, "Is India real or just a facade?" In Telangana, it too inspired a bloody uprising. Following that, CPI decided to vote in the General Election.

Q 8. What negative effects did the 'one-party domination system', which was common, have on India's democracy?

Ans. The one-party domination system threatened to impose tyranny and chaos and caused a Constitutional order crisis. It gave the party such strength that it dared to contest the court's decision. It also discovered a way to prove that the executive branch and the bureaucracy had colluded improperly, causing atrocities to be committed. People gradually lost access to their fundamental rights, and the country's Constitution was incorrectly amended.

Examples of how the one-party rule has harmed Indian politics and democracy include:

- (i) Nehru and Indira Gandhi proclaimed states of emergency in Kerala and Punjab, respectively, in 1951 and 1975.
- (ii) Red tape was present from 1975 to 1977.
- (iii) Indira Gandhi disobeyed the Supreme Court of India and the Allahabad High Court's ruling.

Q 9. What made India's first General Election so unusual?

Ans. The vast size of the country and its electorate, the first General Election in India was regarded as exceptional. Additionally, it was a poor and illiterate nation's first significant democratic test. In an era when many European nations still did not grant voting rights to all women, India's experimentation with the Universal Adult Franchise seemed very audacious and risky.

Q 10. Describe the Swatantra Party's philosophical stances.

Ans. The Congress' Nagpur resolution, which advocated for land limitations, state control of the food grain trade, and the adoption of cooperative farming, led to the formation of the Swatantra Party in August 1959. Older members of the Congress, including C. Rajagopalachari, K.M. Munshi, N.G. Ranga, and Minoor Masani, dominated the party. In terms of its stance on economic concerns, the party stood apart from the competition.

The following are the philosophies of the Swatantra Party:

- (i) The Swatantra Party favoured a progressive reduction in the role of the government in managing the economy. It held the opinion that only personal freedom could lead to wealth.
- (ii) It was critical of the government's economic interference, centralised planning, nationalisation, and public sector policies. Instead, it supported the growth of the free market.
- (iii) This group opposed cooperative farming and agricultural land ceilings.
- (iv) The Swatantra Party opposed state trading and cooperative farming, as well as agricultural land limitations. Additionally, it demanded the elimination of the licensing system and was against the progressive tax system.

achievement. The national movement was considered as Congress's to inherit. Numerous leaders who were at the forefront of the conflict are now running for Congress.

- (ii) Elite, well-educated members of the business class and members of the middle class supported the Congress party. Due to its socialist nature, it also had support among the peasants.
- (iii) It featured numerous well-known figures, like Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel, etc. In addition, Jawaharlal Nehru was a charismatic and well-liked leader.
- (iv) Both high-level and grassroots efforts were made by Congress. Through involvement in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Congress gained popularity.
- (v) While Nehru was in office, Congress attained widespread popularity, but the powerful, exclusive Congress elite continued to profit from the electorate's lack of political awareness.

Knowledge BOOSTER



The one-party rule in Congress was a result of longstanding allegiances.

Q 2. "Congress party had long been a social and ideological coalition." Explain the statement.

Ans. Following its founding in 1885, the Congress party developed into an ideological and social coalition, which gave it an unusually high degree of strength. Its coalition-like nature was due to a variety of circumstances, including:

- (i) The English-speaking, upper-middle-class, upper-caste, and urban elite first controlled Congress as a party.
- (ii) Its social base grew with each movement it started for civil disobedience.
- (iii) It united many organisations whose interests were frequently at odds.
- (iv) All castes and social classes, including peasants, industrialists, city dwellers, country dwellers, workers, and owners, were represented in the Congress.
- (v) By the time of India's independence, the Congress had evolved into a social coalition resembling a rainbow that broadly represented the country's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages, and different interests.

Q 3. What distinguishes the "one-party system" in Mexico from "one-party dominance" in India? Which of the two political systems is better, in your opinion, and why?

Ans. The dominance of one party in Mexico and India differed from one another. This was a one-party system in Mexico, but it was not dominant because:

- (i) In Mexico, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), in contrast to the Congress party of India, which presided on behalf of the popular consensus, was an absolute dictatorship.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Examine the causes of the Congress party's dominance in the first three General Elections.

Ans. The Congress party was able to hold onto its power until 1967 for the reasons listed below:

- (i) The history of the freedom fight serves as the foundation for the Congress party's unparalleled

- (ii) While free and fair elections were held in India, where the losing candidate was also treated fairly, elections in Mexico were based on irregularities and heavily favoured the PRI.

For the following reasons, we believe that one-party dominance similar to that of India is preferable:

- (i) Takes into account social diversity
- (ii) Encourage widespread involvement
- (iii) Maintain the state and make sure the democratic spirit is present.
- (iv) Despite opposition, show respect.

Q 4. Describe the significance of the Indian General Elections of 1952 for the development of democracy worldwide.

Ans. The central tenet of democratic theory is election and popular representation. The crucial test of democracy in a developing and illiterate nation was India's first General Election.

It is possible to comprehend the significance of India's first General Election by considering the following:

- (i) It took place between October 25 and February 21, 1952. In the past, democracy had only been practised in developed nations, primarily in North America and Europe, where the majority of the population had access to education.
- (ii) In this sense, India's attempt at a universal adult franchise seems quite audacious and dangerous. According to some academics, it was the largest game ever played.
- (iii) Jawaharlal Nehru would live to admit the failure of India's national adult franchise, according to the magazine's editor.
- (iv) 26 Indian states were represented in the first General Elections, which included 489 voting districts. The number of seats in each Constituency varied during the period, with 314 having one, 86 having two, and one having three. It turned out to be a significant moment in the global history of democracy.
- (v) It was no longer valid to claim that a democracy could not function in an environment of extreme poverty or illiteracy.
- (vi) It demonstrated the viability of democracy around the world.

The next actions were performed to hold the first General Election:

- (i) In January 1950, the Indian Election Commission was established.
- (ii) A list of eligible voters for the election was created.
- (iii) Delimitation, or the design of the electoral constituency boundaries, was finished.
- (iv) The training for the elections included more than 3 lakh officers and poll workers.

Q 5. Why did opposition parties start to appear in India? What were they used for?

Ans. Some of the various opposition groups were non-Congress parties. When they initially formed before the 1952 General Elections, they were only able to win a small number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Uses of opposition parties

- (i) Constructive criticism of the administration.
- (ii) Restricting the ruling party's arbitrary actions.
- (iii) Preserving individual freedom and rights.
- (iv) Government formation preparation.

These parties upheld the democratic nature of the system:

- (i) These provided criticism based on values to hold the ruling party accountable.
- (ii) The leaders were also trained by these parties to play a significant position in the nation's development.
- (iii) In the early years, there was a great deal of respect between Congress leaders and those from the opposition, as seen by the inclusion of opposition figures like Dr. Ambedkar, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee into the cabinet by the Interim administration.

Q 6. Describe the Communist Party of India's political philosophy.

Ans. The Political Programme of the Communist Party of India is as follows:

- (i) The CPI places the utmost importance on preserving India's integrity, security, and sovereignty.
- (ii) The CPI supports the protection and bolstering of the nation's secular democratic system in the fight against all splintering forces.
- (iii) In addition to the Mandal Commission report's execution, the manifesto demands a 10% job reservation for advancing castes' economically disadvantaged groups. The party is in favour of giving women a 30% job reservation.
- (iv) The party favours the swift adoption of all-encompassing policies for social justice.
- (v) The party has called for a reorganisation of Center-State relations in the true federalist spirit. As suggested by the Sarkaria Commission, the state should be given more authority.
- (vi) The party advocated for expanding peoples' political and civil rights as well as repealing Article 356 of the Constitution.
- (vii) On the floor of the house, the state's future will be decided.
- (viii) The Party has demanded that actual decentralisation take place by giving elected officials at the district, block, and Panchayat levels additional authority and financial resources.
- (ix) The party supports taking decisive action to combat corruption. It is important to pass the

Lokpal Bill, which covers the Prime Minister, lawmakers, and other government officials. A committee of top officials should make decisions regarding transfers and postings, which are ripe for corruption.

- (x) All lawmakers, MPs, MLAs, ministers, and top officials must reveal their assets and present them to Parliament and the assembly.

Q 7. Describe the challenges the Elections Commission of India encountered when staging the country's first General Elections following its declaration of independence.

Ans. On January 26, 1950, the Indian Constitution went into effect. Democracy was founded in India thanks to the Indian Constitution. In January 1950, India's election commission was established. The first Chief Election Commissioner of India was Sukumar Sen. In 1952, the nation's initial General Elections were held. In the global history of democracy, the first General Election in 1952 is seen as a turning point.

- (i) A record-breaking 17 crore voters participated in the first General Election, making it a watershed moment in the history of democracy.
- (ii) A total of 3,200 MLAs from all of India's legislative assemblies made up the Lok Sabha, which had 489 members. Based on single-member constituencies, the voters were to directly elect these representatives.
- (iii) For the first General Elections, more than 3 lakh officers and poll workers received training.
- (iv) The first General Election served as the first significant democratic test in a developing, illiterate nation. Elections have previously been held in developed and civilised nations in North America and Europe.
- (v) While women did not have the right to vote in many European countries, the first General Elections were held under the Universal Adult Franchise.
- (vi) All adult citizens in India have the right to vote. As a result, the 1952 General Elections were a significant turning point in the global history of democracy. Truly, India had accomplished much with this.

Q 8. Describe the opposition parties' particularly important role in our nation's early democratic political process.

Ans. (i) In our nation's early democratic political history, opposition parties played a very special role. India already had more diversified and active opposition parties than many other multi-party democracies at the time.

(ii) Indian politics were dominated by the Congress party after independence. More than two-thirds of the Lok Sabha seats were won by the Congress party in the first three elections.

(iii) Even then, there were a lot of opposition parties in the Lok Sabha. Although there was no formal, acknowledged opposition in the Lok Sabha,

there were numerous small opposition parties that were crucial in preserving the democratic nature of the system.

- (iv) Almost all non-Congress parties now may be linked back to one of the opposition groups from the 1950s. Despite having a meagre presence in the Lok Sabha, opposition leaders were very effective because of their standing and personalities.
- (v) The opposition parties held the ruling party in check by criticising the Congress party's policies. The rival political groups support constructive criticism.
- (vi) As a result, opposition parties were crucial in keeping the system's democratic nature.

Q 9. What effects did the Congress party's dominance have on the political system's democratic nature in India? Explain.

Ans. (i) Multi-party politics are practised in India. Elections are attended by numerous political parties. However, up until 1967, the Indian National Congress held both the national and state governments in sway.

(ii) The 'one-party dominating system' has a strong presence, which hurts the democracy of Indian politics. The dominance of one party is detrimental to democracy since it prevents the growth of other political parties.

(iii) The Congress party was unable to keep its promises to the populace because of a lack of organised opposition.

(iv) As a result of Congress' protracted reign, no other party had the opportunity to take the reins.

(v) Because of how ineffective its management has become, corruption is pervasive. The fact that "The Congress has evolved into a monolithic institution making it almost impossible for the establishment of a sound party system in the country" was acknowledged by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru himself.

(vi) "The party system that has grown up in our country is not only irreconcilable with the particular democratic institutions we have adopted, but it poses a threat to the survival of democracy in India," claims R.A. Gopalswami.

Q 10. Describe how voting practices have changed in India since 1952.

Ans. (i) The world's largest democratic nation is India. The Indian Election commission is hence conducting frequent elections.

(ii) The electoral voting process has changed over time.

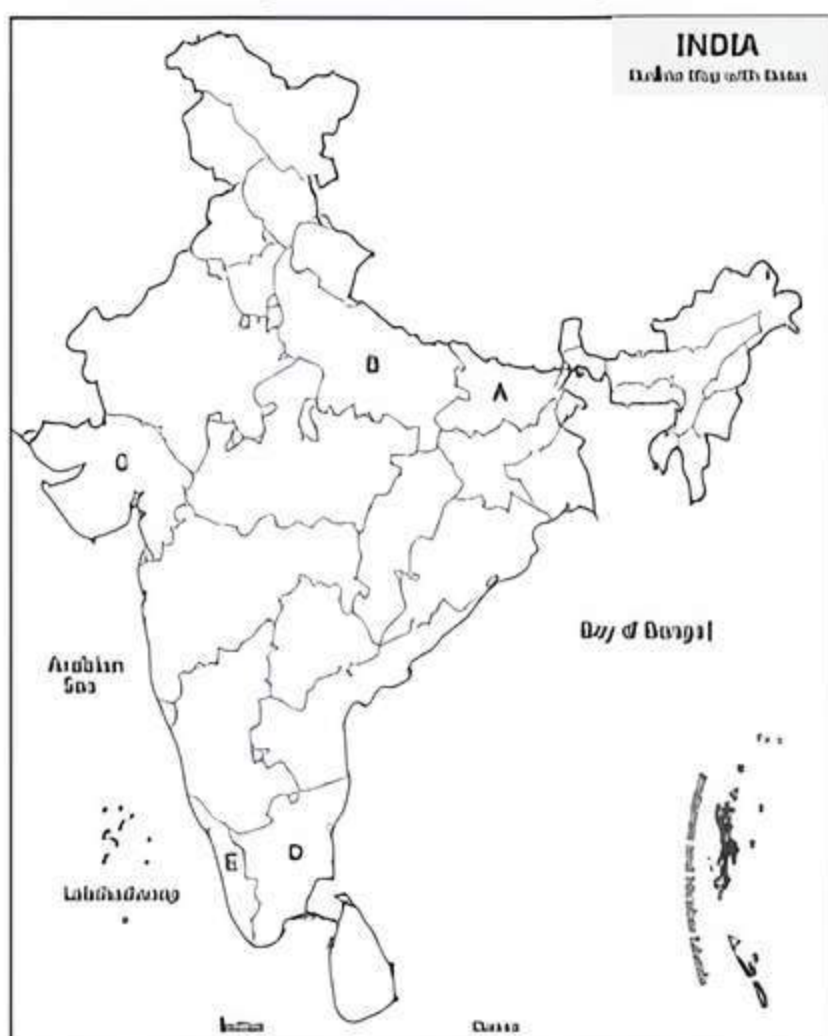
(iii) In the General Elections of 2019, Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) were used to record voter preferences, whereas, in the first General Election, boxes with each candidate's election emblem were placed in each polling location.

- (iv) Each voter received a blank piece of paper to fill out and place in the box of the candidate they wish to support.
- (v) However, the method was very time and money consuming.
- (vi) The Election Commission of India and the Indian government decided to use EVMs as a pilot project in the General Election held in 2004 because booth capturing was another flaw in the ballot paper system. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the entire election was conducted using EVMs and V.V.PAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail).



Map Based Questions

Q 1. On the outline political map of India given below, five States have been marked as A, B, C, D and E. With the help of the information given below, identify them and write their correct names along with the serial number of the information used and the related alphabet in the map.

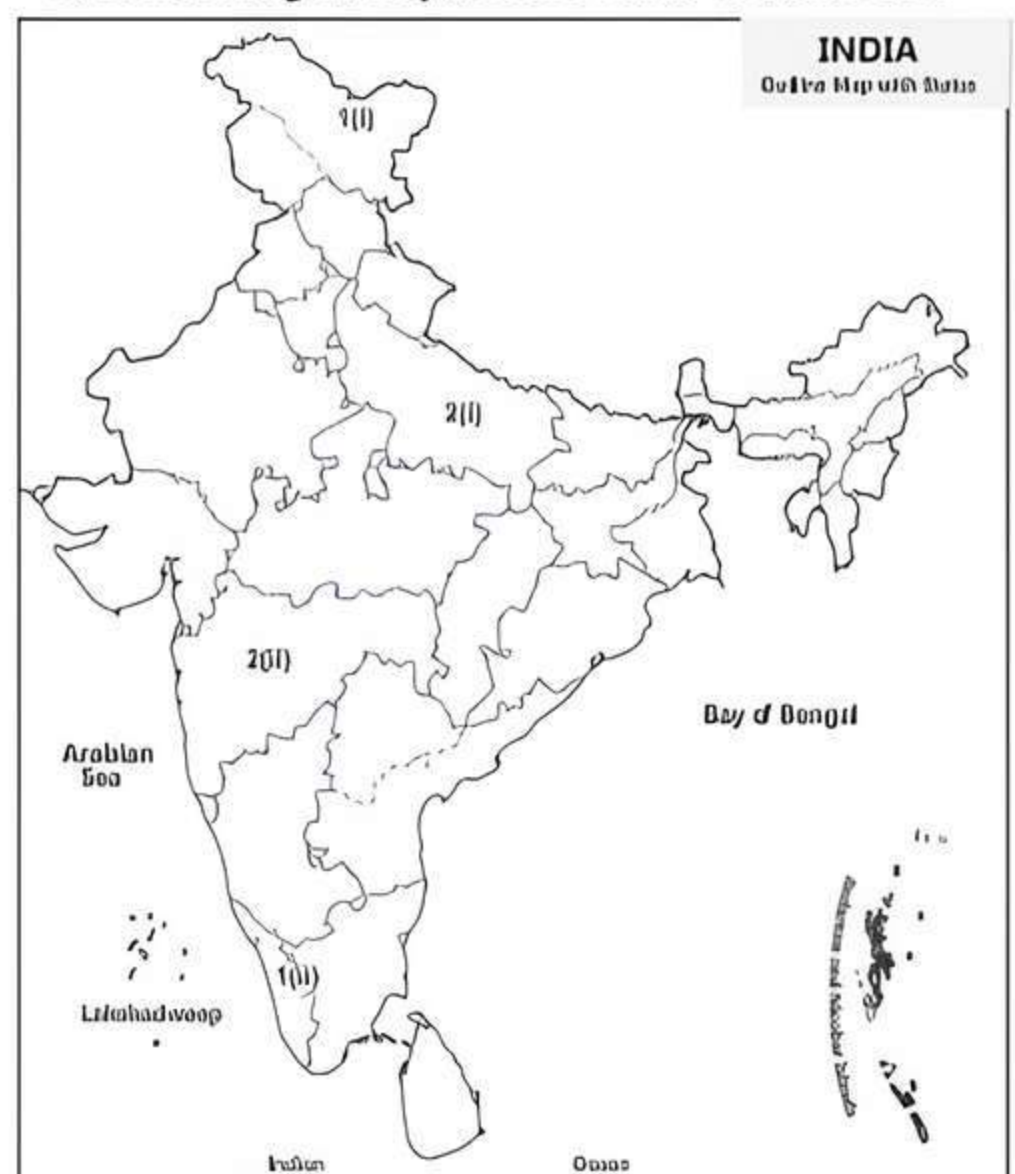


- (i) The State to which C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of India, belonged.

- (ii) The State where the first Non-Congress Government was formed by EMS Namboodiripad.
- (iii) The State to which Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture (1952-54) belonged.
- (iv) The State which faced the most acute food crisis in 1965-1967.
- (v) The State which led the country to White Revolution through Dairy Cooperative Movement.

Ans. A-(iv) Bihar, B-(iii) Uttar Pradesh,
C-(v) Gujarat, D-(i) Tamil Nadu,
E-(ii) Kerala

Q 2. On a political outline map of India locate and label the following and symbolise them as indicated:



- (1) Two states where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-67.
- (2) Two states where the Congress remained in power through this period.

Ans. (1) (i) Jammu & Kashmir, (ii) Kerala
(2) (i) Uttar Pradesh, (ii) Maharashtra



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1.** Which year did India's first General Election take place?
a. 1947 b. 1952
c. 1955 d. 1960
- Q 2.** Who was the Bharatiya Jana Sangh's founder?
a. Mahatma Gandhi
b. Indira Gandhi

- c. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
- d. Sukumar Sen

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 3.** The Lok Sabha and elections were held concurrently during the First General Elections in 1952.
- Q 4.** One of the pillars of the Swatantra Party's ideology was

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 5-6): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Q 5. Assertion (A): There is a multi-party system in India, and the parties there reflect various interests.

Reason (R): Although there have been many political parties, the Congress party has dominated both at the national and state levels for a longer time.

Q 6. Assertion (A): The universal adult franchise experiment in India seemed quite audacious and dangerous.

Reason (R): These elections were unusual due to the size of the country and the electorates.

Passage Based Question

Q 7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

India is not the only country to have experienced the dominance of one party. If we look around the world, we find many other examples of one-party dominance. But there is a crucial difference between these and the Indian experience. In the rest of the cases, the dominance of one party was ensured by compromising democracy. In some countries like China, Cuba, and Syria the Constitution permits only a single party to rule the country.

(i) India follows a system of system.

- a. single party
- b. multi-party
- c. two-party
- d. None of these

(ii) Which of the following countries did not experience single-party rule?

- a. China
- b. Syria
- c. Cuba
- d. USA

(iii) How was India's one-party rule different from China's?

- a. One-party dominance in India is based on dictatorship, but one-party dominance in China is based on democracy.
- b. In China, one-party rule is based on a Communist (dictatorship) system, as opposed to India, where it is based on a democratic system.
- c. In India, one-party dominance is permitted by Constitution, but China's Constitution doesn't permit it.
- d. None of the above

Cartoon Based Question

Q 8. Study the cartoon given below and answer the question that follow:



- (i) What does the cartoon represent?
- (ii) What does the term 'Tug of war' refer to?
- (iii) Who has been shown on the branches of tree?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9.** Tell us how the ideologies of Congress and the Jana Sangh vary most.
- Q 10.** State any one characteristic of Bharatiya Jana Sangh's philosophy.

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11.** The modifications made to India's voting procedures after 1952 should be highlighted.
- Q 12.** What negative effects did the "one-party domination system", which was common, have on India's democracy?

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 13.** Describe the Communist Party of India's political philosophy.