

Parties and the Party Systems in India

PART 1

Objective Questions

• Multiple Choice Questions

1. The Constitution of India was ready and signed on

(a) 26th October, 1949 (b) 26th November, 1949
(c) 26th November, 1950 (d) 26th October, 1950

Ans. (b) The Constitution of India was ready and signed on 26th November, 1949. It came into effect on 26th January, 1950.

2. Who was appointed as first Chief Election Commissioner?

(a) Anup Chandra Pandey (b) Sushil Chandra
(c) Sukumar Sen (d) Rajiv Kumar

Ans. (c) Sukumar Sen was appointed as first Chief Election Commissioner. The Election Commission of India was set up in January 1950.

3. Which of the following facts about the political parties is incorrect?

(a) They shape public opinion.
(b) They provide people with access to government machinery.
(c) They put forward policies and programmes to attract voters.
(d) They play an active role to resolve public policy problems.

Ans. (d) Political parties don't play an active role to resolve the public policy problems.

4. Which of the following political parties in contemporary India trace their origin to the Socialist Party?

(a) Samyukta Socialist Party
(b) Samajwadi Party
(c) Janta Dal (Secular)
(d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d) Samajwadi Party and Janta Dal (s) political parties trace their origin to the Socialist Party.

5. Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed in

(a) 1950 (b) 1949
(c) 1951 (d) 1952

Ans. (c) Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 that called for reunion of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.

6. Who among the following was the founder of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?

(a) SA Dange
(b) SP Mukherjee
(c) Minoo Masani
(d) Ashok Mehta

Ans. (b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh with the ideology of one country, one culture and one nation.

7. Consider the following statement (s) that is/are correct about Communist Party.

(i) It believes in radical and revolutionary socialism.
(ii) It criticises Capitalism and Feudalism.
(iii) It was against the policy of non-alignment and maintaining friendly relations with Soviet Union.
(iv) They believe in the ideology of democratic socialism.

Codes

(a) Only (i) (b) Both (i) and (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) Only (iv)

Ans. (a) Communist Party believes in radical and revolutionary socialism. It was formed on 26th December, 1925 with a view to fight for national independence and future of socialism.

8. One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was

(a) Working class interest
(b) Economy free from state control
(c) Protection of princely states
(d) Autonomy of states within the union

Ans. (b) One of the guiding principles of the ideology of the Swatantra Party was economy free from state control.

9. Which among the following statements is wrong regarding First General Election?

(a) First general election was postponed three times in a row.
(b) It was held from October 1951 to February 1952.
(c) It was also known as 1952 Elections.
(d) All of the above

Ans. First general election was postponed twice and finally, it was held from October 1951 to February 1952. The elections were also referred as the 1952 election because most parts of the country voted in January 1952.

10. "The Congress Party was a social and ideological coalition." In the light of the statement consider the following statements.

- (i) The Congress was a platform for numerous interest groups.
- (ii) A coalition accommodates all those who are part of it and strike a balance on almost all issues.
- (iii) The coalition nature of Congress failed to develop a greater tolerance of internal differences.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans. (a) The coalition nature of Congress developed a greater tolerance of internal differences and accommodated the needs and aspirations of various groups and leaders.

11. Select the correct statements/s regarding One Party Dominance.

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

Codes

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

Ans. (c) One Party Dominance is rooted in the absence of strong alternative political parties and is linked to nation's colonial past. Hence, both (i) and (iii) are correct.

12. The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the

- (a) Praja Socialist Party
- (b) Bharatiya Jana Sangh
- (c) Communist Party of India
- (d) Bharatiya Janta Party

Ans. (c) The party that won the second largest number of Lok Sabha seats in the first elections was the Communist Party of India.

13. Choose the wrong statement from the given options.

- (a) The power structure of India after independence was dominated by the Congress Party.
- (b) Congress was very well organised and had organisational presence across India.
- (c) Indira Gandhi dominated the Syndicate group.
- (d) Split in the Congress Party was evident during the 1969 Presidential elections.

Ans. (c) Indira Gandhi did not dominate the Syndicate group rather she dominated the Requisitionists group.

14. Which of these statements about the 1967 election is/are correct?

- (i) Congress won the Lok Sabha elections, but lost the Assembly elections in many states.
- (ii) Congress lost both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
- (iii) Congress lost majority in the Lok Sabha, but formed a coalition government with the support of some other parties.
- (iv) Congress retained power at the centre with an increased majority.

Codes

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

Ans. (b) Congress won the Lok Sabha election but lost the assembly elections in many states. The Lok Sabha election of 1967 was to take place after India had four Prime Ministers.

15. Arrange the following events in correct sequence.

- (i) Second General Elections
- (ii) VV Giri elected as the President of India
- (iii) Fourth General Elections
- (iv) Congress (R)-CPI alliance won more seats in general elections

Codes

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

Ans. (a) Second general election was held in 1957.

- Fourth general election was held in 1967.
- VV Giri elected as the President of India in 1969.
- Congress (R)-CPI alliance won more seats in general election in 1971.

16. Which of the following statements about the Grand Alliance of 1971 is correct? The Grand Alliance

- (i) was formed by non-Communist, non-Congress parties.
- (ii) had a clear political and ideological programme.
- (iii) was formed by all non-Congress parties.

Codes

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Both (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (iii)
- (d) All of these

Ans. (a) The Grand Alliance of 1971 was formed by non-Communist, non-Congress Parties. They did form a party but did not have a coherent political programme and lost the elections.

17. Study the picture and answer the following questions.



Which of the following statement about the cartoon is true?

- (a) The emergence of opposition parties and their policies.
- (b) The establishment of a system of free and fair elections.
- (c) The dual role of the Congress during the era of one-party dominance.
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c) The cartoon depicts the dual role of the Congress during the era of one party dominance. This was one of the famous cartoon sketched by Shankar.

• Assertion-Reasoning MCQs

Directions (Q. Nos. 18-20) In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R).

Codes

- (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.

18. **Assertion** (A) Our leaders were conscious of the critical role of politics in any democracy.

Reason (R) They did not see politics as a problem; they saw it as a way of solving the problems.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The leaders of the newly independent India decided to take the more difficult path and were committed to the idea of democracy. Democratic politics was an answer to how society needs to govern and regulate itself. While competition and power are the two most visible things about politics, the purpose of political activity is and should be deciding and pursuing public interest. Our leaders decided to take this route of politics for India.

19. **Assertion** (A) The elections had to be postponed twice and finally held from October 1951 to February 1952.

Reason (R) But this election is referred to as the 1951 election since most parts of the country voted in January 1951.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The elections had to be postponed since the majority of the population was able to vote in January 1952. It took six months for the campaigning, polling and counting to be completed. Elections were competitive — there were on an average more than four candidates for each seat. Half of the eligible voters turned out to vote on the day of elections. When the results were declared these were accepted as fair even by the losers.

20. **Assertion** (A) The Indian National Congress was expected to lose this election.

Reason (R) The Congress party, as it was popularly known, had inherited the legacy of the national movement.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The results of the first general election did not surprise anyone. The Indian National Congress was expected to win this election. The Congress party, as it was popularly known, had inherited the legacy of the national movement. It was the only party then to have an organisation spread all over the country.

• Case Based MCQs

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

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. [Delhi 2019]

(i) Which political party dominated the political scene of India after independence?

- (a) Bhartiya Jana Sangh
- (b) Indian National Congress
- (c) Swatantra Party
- (d) Communist Party of India

Ans. (b) Indian National Congress dominated the political scene of India after independence.

(iii) For how many years one-party dominance was there in the Independent India?

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 15 years
- (d) 17 years

Ans. (c) For 15 years one-party dominance was there in the Independent India.

(iv) Which of the following are the drawbacks of a single party rule?

- (a) It tries to establish anarchy and tyranny.
- (b) It brings crises of the constitutional order.
- (c) It encourages more opposition parties.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d) The drawbacks of a single party rule is as it establishes anarchy and tyranny and brings crises of the constitutional order.

(v) In India, One-party dominance of single party was the result of

- (a) General elections that gave majority to the party
- (b) Consensus of people
- (c) Democratic set-up of India
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d) In India, one-party dominance of single party was the result of general elections that gave majority to the party, consensus of people and democratic set up of India.

PART 2

Subjective Questions

• Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe any four features of the Congress Party. [CBSE 2020]

Or Explain any four reasons for the dominance of the Congress Party in the first three general elections.

Ans. The main features of the Congress Party are

- The Congress Party inherited the legacy of the national movement. It was the only party to have an organisation spread all over the country.
- The Congress Party was supported by elites, educated business classes and middle classes people. It also got support from peasants for its socialist nature.
- The leadership of the Congress expanded beyond the upper caste and upper class professionals to agriculture based leaders with a rural orientation.
- The Congress was a 'platform' for numerous groups, interests and even political parties to take part in the national movement. Many organisations and parties with their own constitution and organisational structure were allowed to exist within the Congress.

2. Describe any four features of the ideology of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The Bharatiya Jana Sangha was formed in 1951. Its main features are

- The lineage of Bhartiya Jana Sangh can be traced back to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Hindu Mahasabha before independence.
- It was different from other parties in terms of ideology and programmes. It emphasised the idea of one country, one culture and one nation. It believed that the country could become modern, progressive and strong on the basis of Indian culture and traditions.
- The party called for a reunion of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.

- The party was in forefront of the agitation to replace English with Hindi as the official language of India. It was opposed to the granting of concessions to religious and cultural minorities.

3. If Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) or the Communist Party of India (CPI) had formed the government after the first election, in which respect would the policies of the government have been different? Specify three differences each for both the parties.

Ans. If BJS or the CPI had formed the government after first elections, the differences would have been as follows

Bharatiya Jana Sangh

- The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was in the fore-front of the agitation to replace English with Hindi as national language.
- It opposed granting of concessions to cultural and religious minorities.
- Party would have attempted to establish Hindu Rastra and have replaced secular polity of country.

Communist Party of India

- Party favoured abolition of zamindari system and stood for giving proper wages to forced labourers.
- It worked for making 'Right to Work' as a Fundamental Right.
- It advocated giving more power to states.

4. Describe any four features of the Communist Party of India. [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The four features of the Communist Party of India (CPI) are

- (i) The Communist Party of India is inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and advocated socialism as the solution to problems affecting the country.
- (ii) Soon after Independence, the party thought that the transfer of power in 1947 was not true independence and encouraged violent uprising in Telangana.
- (iii) The basic question that troubled the party was the nature of Indian Independence.
- (iv) In 1951 the communist party abandoned the path of violent revolution and decided to participate in the approaching general elections.

5. Name any two founder leaders of the Swatantra Party. Describe any three economic policies of this party. [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The two founder leaders of the Swatantra Party were C Rajagopalachari and KK Munshi. Three economic policies of the party were

- The Swatantra Party wanted the government to be less involved in controlling the economy. It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom.

- It criticised the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalisation and the public sector. It instead favoured expansion of a free private sector.
- The Swatantra Party was against land ceilings in agriculture and opposed cooperative farming and state trading.

6. Assess the economic situation of India before the general elections of 1967.

Ans. The economic situation of India before the general election of 1967 was worse. Failure of monsoon and drought led to serious food crises. The crises deepened due to the condition of the country which was still recovering from China war. The food crises triggered off price rise as demand for food was much more than its supply. This led to hoarding and black marketing of the essential food items.

There was massive inequalities in income and wealth. Due to this, large number of people were poor and not able to afford the basic necessities of life. This period was also marked by depletion of foreign exchange reserves, drop in industrial production and exports.

7. How did the dominance of Congress Party in the First three general elections help in establishing a democratic set-up in India?

Ans. Dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections helped in establishing a democratic set-up in India in the following ways

- The coalition nature of the Congress Party tolerated and in fact encouraged various factions.
- It accommodated the revolutionary and pacifist, conservative and radical, extremist and moderate as well as right, left and all shades of the centre.

8. Differentiate between One-party and Bi-party system with examples.

Ans. The difference between One-party and Bi-party system is explained below

One-party system	Bi-party system
It refers to a political framework where one or single political party forms and runs the government.	It refers to a political framework where two major parties dominate voting at all levels of government.
In China all powers are vested with the Communist Party of China.	The United States is an example of a two-party system in which the majority of elected officials are either Democrats or Republicans.

9. What does defection stands for in Indian politics? Highlight any two demerits of this practice.

Or Assess the role played by 'defections' in the Indian politics.

Ans. Defection was a factor in 1967 elections. It played an important role in formation and collapsing of government. Defection displays the behaviour of an elected representative who leaves the party on whose symbol he/she won and joins another party.

Two demerits of this practice were

- It causes instability within party.
- It promotes political opportunism among party legislators.

10. What main objective did Indira Gandhi want to achieve by launching a series of initiatives under the Ten Point Programme in 1967? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Following are the objectives Indira Gandhi wants to achieve by launching a series of initiatives under the Ten Point Programme in 1967

- She wanted to achieve control of banks, nationalisation of General Insurance as well as ceiling on urban property and income.
- Ten point programme also emphasised on public distribution of food grains, land reforms and provision of house sites to the rural poor.

11. Describe any two advantages and two disadvantages of 'coalition' government in India. [Delhi 2009]

Ans. The advantages of coalition government in India are

- Coalition government provides an alternative to form government, whenever there is a case of hung Parliament.
- It gives small and regional parties to have opportunities to representation in government.

The disadvantage of coalition government in India are

- It leads to instability in government, as different partners pull the government differently and government finds itself unable to take right decision at right time.
- It reduces the credibility of office of PM/CM as their tenure depends at the pleasure of coalition partners. It produces weak government.

12. The phrase 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' signifies which concept? Explain its impact on the Indian political system. [Delhi 2009]

Ans. The expression 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' became popular in the political vocabulary in India to describe the practice of frequent floor-crossing by legislators. The phrase became the subject of numerous jokes and cartoons. Ultimately, the constitution was amended to prevent defections.

Its impacts on Indian political system were:

- It leads to instability within a political party.
- It promotes political opportunism in political system.
- It erodes the faith, and trust of common in political system.
- It causes instable government.

13. Examine the factors which helped VV Giri to become the President of India. [Delhi 2008]

Ans. During 1969 presidential election, a series of events took place which helped Shri VV Giri to become the President of India. These were

- The factional rivalry between the syndicate and Indira Gandhi, the then PM became public in 1969.
- Despite Indira Gandhi's reservations, the Syndicate nominated her long time opponent and the then speaker of the Lok Sabha, N Sanjeeva Reddy, as the official Congress candidate for presidential elections. Smt. Indira Gandhi reacted by encouraging the then Vice-President, VV Giri to stand for presidential election as an independent candidate.

• Long Answer Type Questions

1. Analyse the reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections. [Delhi 2014]

or Examine any three reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections in India. [All India 2014]

or Highlight any three major reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections after independence. [Delhi 2019]

Ans. The Congress Party succeeded in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following reasons

- (i) The roots of this extraordinary success of the Congress Party go back to the legacy of the freedom struggle. Congress was seen as inheritor of the national movement. Many leaders who were in forefront of the struggle were now contesting elections as Congress candidates.
- (ii) The Congress Party was supported by elites, educated business classes and middle classes people. It also got support from peasants because of its socialist nature.
- (iii) It had many popular faces like Jawaharlal Nehru, C Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel, etc. Moreover, Jawaharlal Nehru was charismatic and very popular leader.
- (iv) Congress worked at upper level as well as at grassroot level. Congress was popularised due to the participation in civil disobedience movement.
- (v) During period of Nehruji, Congress attained mass popularity, but the powerful narrow elite of Congress confined to benefit from the low level of political consciousness of the electorate.
- (vi) The traditional loyalties made Congress a one-party dominance.

2. Why were the general elections of 1967 called as the political earthquake for Congress? Examine any four reasons.

Ans. The general elections of 1967 called as the political earthquake for Congress party. The results of 1967 elections jolted the Congress at both the national and state level. Congress managed to get majority in the Lok Sabha but with its lowest tally of seats and share of votes since 1952. The reasons behind this were

- (i) The Fourth General Election held in 1967 was the first election to be held without Jawaharlal Nehru.
- (ii) Congress was dominant party before 1967, but scenario was likely to change after 1967's election. Several non-Congress parties joined together to bring Congress down. They realised that their disintegration kept Congress in power. So, they joined to form a big alliance called Samyukt Vidhayak Dal.
- (iii) Congress still managed to win in Lok Sabha election, but with the poorest performance ever. Congress lost in many states and influential leaders of Congress lost their positions.
- (iv) Many Congress leaders left the party in order to join the other party. Local politics gained momentum. Defection and coalition played an important role and new elements were in the scene of electoral politics.

3. Briefly explain the role of opposition parties in India.

[All India 2011]

or During the early years of independence, despite the fact that the opposition parties had a token representation, they played a crucial role in maintaining the democratic character of the system. How?

[All India 2008]

or List any four activities of the opposition during the parliaments of 1952 and 1957.

or Describe the role of opposition parties in the first phase of democratic politics in our country which was quite unique.

[All India 2019]

Ans. At the time of independence, there were many opposition parties and after independence it increased, but it gained only token representation in the Lok Sabha and also in State Assemblies. Yet their presence played a crucial role in maintaining the democratic character of the system. The four activities of the opposition during the Parliament of 1952 and 1957 are as follows

- (i) These opposition parties offered sustained and principled criticism of the policies and practices of the Congress Party. This phenomena indicated the check and balance of power of the Congress.
- (ii) In 1957, in Kerala, Congress was defeated by CPI and made government, but after that Congress dismissed the Kerala Government under Article 356. It was criticised by the opposition leaders and said that it was the first instance of the misuse of constitutional emergence powers.

- (iii) In 1950, BJS was able to secure 3 seats and in 1957, it secured 4 seats. The party played the role of opposition and started agitation to replace English with Hindi as the official language and also advocated for the development of nuclear weapons.
- (iv) The opposition parties prevented the resentment with the system from turning anti-democratic. These parties also groomed the leaders (young citizens) who wanted to shape the India as developed and powerful state.

4. Examine the major changes that the country witnessed at the time of fourth general election in 1967. [All India 2016]

- or Why was the year 1967 considered as landmark year in India's political and electoral history? Explain. [All India 2010]
- or Examine the grave economic crisis prior to the fourth general elections of 1967. Assess the verdict of the electorate based on the election. [Delhi 2010]
- or How did the fourth general elections (1967) in India change the dynamics of Indian politics? [All India 2009]

Ans. The fourth general election held in 1967 was the first election to be held without Nehru. Congress was dominant party before 1967, but scenario was likely to change after 1967's election. Several non-Congress parties joined together to bring Congress down.

They realised that their disintegration kept Congress in power. So, they joined to form a big alliance called Samyukt Vidhayak Dal. Congress still managed to win in Lok Sabha election, but with the poorest performance ever, Congress lost in many states. Influential leaders of Congress lost their position.

Many Congress leaders left the party in order to join the other party. Local politics gained momentum. In Tamil Nadu, a non-Congress party won on its own for the first time. 1967 elections showcased the new element which never came into light. Defection and coalition played an important role and new elements were in the scene of electoral politics. This situation could not have remained isolated from party politics in the country. The opposition parties got together and formed anti-Congress fronts in some states.

This strategy was given the name of non-Congressism by Ram Manohar Lohia. He argued that Congress rule was undemocratic and opposed the interests of ordinary people. Therefore, the non-Congress parties were necessary for reclaiming democracy for the people.

5. Discuss the major issues which led to the formal split of the Congress Party in 1969. [NCERT]

- or Describe any three major events that led to the formal split in the Congress Party in 1969.

Ans. Three major events that led to the formal split in the Congress Party in 1969 were as follows

- (i) The political tension inside the Congress over the unsettled question of relation between its ministerial and organisation wings became more pronounced. Indira Gandhi had acquired a certain control over the government but after the blow suffered by the Syndicate in 1967 elections, she had hardly any organisational base in the party. The veteran leader wanted that Indira should not interfere in party affairs.

- (ii) After retirement of Kamaraj as party President at the end of 1967, the other members of party foiled Indira Gandhi's attempt to have her own men elected to succeed him. But Nijalingappa was elected and none of the Indira Gandhi's men were elected to the new working committee. She did not want to harm the unity of the party and the existence of her government by creating a conflict with the organisational wing, as the party enjoyed only a small majority in Lok Sabha.

- (iii) Indira Gandhi adopted a radical ten-point programme which included social control of banks, nationalisation of 14 private banks and abolition of the privy purse or the special privileges given to former princes. The Congress divided into two factions, one was right and second was left. Left attacked on Morarji Desai as the representative of big business houses. The defeat of the Congress formalised the split in the party. The Congress President expelled the Prime Minister from the party. Indira Gandhi claimed that her group was the real Congress.

6. Assess any three challenges that the Congress Party had to face during the period from 1964 to 1971. [All India 2014]

- or Describe any three important events that led to the split in the Congress Party in 1969.

Ans. The three challenges that the Congress Party had to face during the period from 1964 to 1971 were

- (i) **Political Succession** After Nehru, some outsiders had doubts that Indian democracy will not survive, meanwhile party President K Kamaraj, suggested Lal Bahadur Shastri's name as the Prime Minister, thus he became the second Prime Minister of India. An abrupt end of Shastri led to challenge of political succession. This time, there was intense competition between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. Finally, Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister. She set out to gain control over the party and to demonstrate her leadership skills.

- (ii) **Emergence of Non-Congressism** Opposition parties realised that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power. So that they joined together to form anti-Congress fronts. This strategy was named as non-Congressism by Ram Manohar Lohia. The result of 1967 elections jolted the Congress at both centre and state levels. Many elite leaders of Congress parties came together to form joint

legislative parties (Samyukt Vidhayak Dal). In most of the states, Congress lost and coalition government was formed.

- (iii) **Split in the Congress** Indira Gandhi had to face internal challenge that was Syndicate, a group of influential Congress leaders who were in control of the party's organisation. Gradually, she attempted to assert her position within the government and the party. She choose her trusted group of advisers from outside the party. Slowly and carefully she sidelined the Syndicate. Meanwhile, President of India Dr Zakir Hussain was dead, the post of President fell vacant. Despite of Mrs Gandhi reservations, the Syndicate nominated N Sanjeeva Reddy's name as President. But Indira Gandhi Supported VV Giri as an independent candidate. The election ultimately, resulted in the victory of VV Giri and the defeat of Sanjeeva Reddy, the official Congress candidate. The defeat of the official Congress candidate formalised the split in the party Congress (O) which was Syndicate supported party and Congress (R) which was Indira Gandhi party.

7. What does the term Syndicate mean in the context of the Congress party of the sixties? What role did the Syndicate play in the Congress party?

[NCERT, Delhi 2008]

or Analyse the issue India vs the Syndicate. What type of challenges did the issue pose before Indira Gandhi?

[All India 2017]

Ans. Syndicate refers to a group of influential, powerful and leading leaders of Congress. They had real organisational power with them. They played crucial role in the establishment of Shastri and Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. Indira Gandhi sought their support to become in power. It was expected that after installation, Indira Gandhi would follow their advice.

Their advice proved to be crucial in Indira's cabinet members selection and in the formation and implementation of policies. But situation changed and Indira's negligent behaviour towards Syndicate annoyed them. Polarisation between them increased, finally, leading to split.

Congress split into two parts, Syndicate led Congress was named Congress (O) and Indira Gandhi led Congress was named Congress (R). But after split, Syndicate led Congress claimed that real organisational power vested in them. They were the think tank and real decision makers. In 1971 elections, it became clear that still Indira Gandhi possessed the real power and Congress prestige.

● Case Based Questions

1. Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Indira Gandhi changed the Congress into highly centralised and undemocratic party organisation, from the earlier federal, democratic and ideological formation that Nehru had led But this

could not have happened had not Indira Gandhi changed the entire nature of politics.

This new, populist politics turned political ideology..... into a mere electoral discourse, use of various slogans not meant to be translated into government policies During its great electoral victories in early 1970s, amidst the celebration, the Congress party as a political organisation died.

—Sudipta Kaviraj

- (i) What according to the author is the difference between the strategies of Nehru and Indira Gandhi?
- (ii) Why does the author say that the Congress party 'died' in the seventies?
- (iii) In what way, did the change in the Congress party affect other political parties also?

Ans. (i) According to author, main difference between the strategies of Nehru and Indira Gandhi is that Jawaharlal Nehru made the Congress into federal, democratic and ideological party, whereas Indira Gandhi changed it into highly centralised and undemocratic party.

(ii) According to author, Congress party died in the seventies because Indira Gandhi changed the nature of the Congress system. This new populist politics turned political ideology into a electoral politics only for the sake of victories. The use of slogans were meant to catch the attention of public, not to be translated into government policies.

(iii) The change in the Congress party also affected the other political parties. They formed alliance and coalition to defeat the Congress. They also adopted populist and welfare measures and slogans to counter the Congress and catch the public attention.

2. Read the passage and answer the questions below.

"Patel, the organisational man of the Congress, wanted to purge the Congress of other political groups and sought to make of it a cohesive and disciplined political party.

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

—Rajni Kothari

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

- (ii) Give some examples of the eclectic role of the Congress Party in the early years.
- (iii) Why does the author say that Gandhi's view about Congress' future was romantic?

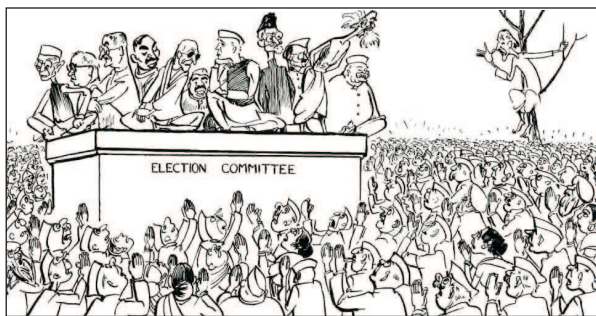
Ans. (i) Author thinks that Congress should not have been a cohesive and disciplined party because it will take away the inclusive nature of Congress which accommodated the different view points, interest groups of society within itself. It will make the party a close-knit party of disciplined group.

- (ii) In the early years, the Congress was called a social and ideological coalition representing the different and diverse sometime contradictory interest groups, caste group, religious and language groups.

It also acted as a platform for numerous groups, interests like peasants and industrialists and even political parties to participate in national movement. Thus, Congress was rainbow coalition having different social and ideological groups.

- (iii) According to author, Gandhi's view about Congress future was romantic because Gandhi view Congress as movement representing the diverse caste, creed, and culture. While to be a political party and compete with other political parties Congress should have tight discipline and single ideology that Patel wanted Congress to have.

- 3.** Observe the cartoon given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.



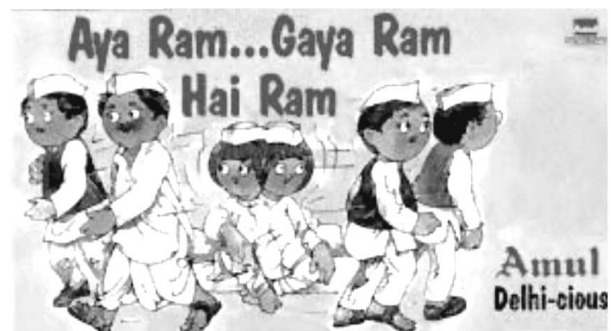
- (i) What does the cartoon represent?
- (ii) Who were the members of this committee?
- (iii) Who have been shown sitting on the top?

Ans. (i) The cartoon represent the scenario of candidates seeking ticket for election from Election Committee of Congress which decide the candidates of the Congress for election.

(ii) The member of the Election Committee were Nehruji, Morarji Desai, Dr. BC Ray and Maulana Azad.

(iii) Morarji Desai, Nehru, Maulana Azad, DP Mishra, PD Tandon, Govind Ballabh Pant, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Dr. BC Roy, Kamraj Nadar and Jagjivan Ram were shown sitting on the top.

- 4.** Observe the cartoon given below and answer the following questions. [All India 2008]



- (i) To which year does the cartoon refer?
- (ii) Name the person for whom this comment 'Aya Ram Gaya Ram' was made.
- (iii) What is defection?

Ans. (i) Given cartoon refers to the year of 1967 when defection become an important feature of Indian politics.

(ii) The comment 'Aya Ram Gaya Ram' was made to refer Gaya Lal, an MLA from Haryana, who changed his party thrice in a fortnight.

(iii) Defection means an elected representatives leaves the party on whose symbol he/she was elected and joins another party.

Chapter Test

Objective Type Questions

1. Which of the statement is/are correct about the expression 'Aya Ram Gaya Ram'?
(a) The constant realignment and shifting of political loyalties.
(b) Frequent shifting of alliance groups.
(c) Frequent change in government.
(d) None of the above
2. The concept of Alliance politics emerged after
(a) 1952 (b) 1957
(c) 1967 (d) 1971
3. is an example of Multi-party system.
(a) USA (b) China
(c) India (d) Mexico
4. Which party dominated the first three general elections?
(a) Communist Party of India (b) Indian National Congress
(c) Bhartiya Jana Sangh (d) Socialist Party
5. The first general elections in 1952 involved simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and
(a) the President of India (b) State Assemblies
(c) Rajya Sabha (d) the Prime Minister
6. Which of the following was/were the causes for the defeat of Congress in 1967 general elections?
(a) Increased mobilisation of regional, ethnic and communal groups.
(b) Increasing unity among non-Congress parties.
(c) Internal differences within the Congress Party.
(d) All of the above

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What were the problems faced during 1967 Elections?
2. Explain the role of Syndicate in Indira Gnadhi's Government.
3. Differentiate between One-party, Bi-party and Multi-party system.
4. Mentions important features of Bhartiya Jana Sangha's ideology.
5. What is mant by non-Congressiam?

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Write a note on Congress dominance in the first general elections.
2. What were the events that led to split in Congress?
3. Explain the Multi-party Coalition System in India.
4. What is meant by 'Privy Purse'? Why did Indira Gandhi insist on abolishing them in 1970?

Answers

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (d)