

Challenges to Democracy

Long Answer Questions

- 1.** What are the broad guidelines to be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India?
- Ans. (i) Legal ways of reforming politics are very tempting. However, only carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. Democratic reforms should be carried out by political activities, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.
(ii) A legal change must be clear in its results. Best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms. One such Act is the Right to Information Act, which helps in controlling corruption.
(iii) Democratic reforms need to be carried out through strengthening its practice. There should be an increase in quality of political participation by citizens.
(iv) Any proposal for political reform should even devise ways of implementing reform.
- 2.** "At least one-fourth of the globe is still not under democratic government."
Explain the challenge to democracy.
- Ans. (i) The challenge to democracy in these parts is very stark.
(ii) These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.
(iii) This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic government.
(iv) Military should be kept away from the controlling government and a sovereign and functional state should be established.
- 3.** "Most established democracies face a challenge of expansion." Comment.
- Ans. (i) Challenge of expansion involves applying or following the basic principle of democratic government in almost all regions, various institutions and different social groups.
(ii) It should ensure greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of federation including women and minority.
(iii) Most countries including India and other democracies like us face this challenge.
(iv) It also means that less and less decisions should remain outside the arena of democratic control.
- 4.** Explain how democratic reforms can be achieved.
- Ans. (i) Democratic or political reforms should be achieved mainly by the actions of political parties.
(ii) They should show concern about how to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
(iii) The main focus of political reforms should be how to strengthen democratic practices through institutions.
(iv) Any proposal or suggestions may be there on the paper but it is all about how to implement and by whom to meet the need.