

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What were the main issues that changed India in the 90's decade?

Ans. As the decade of the eighties came to a close, the country witnessed six main issues that were to make a long-lasting impact on our politics.

- i. End of the Congress System
- ii. Mandal issue
- iii. New economic reforms
- iv. Babri Masjid issue
- v. Rise of BJP
- vi. Rise of Coalition government

Q.2. Describe the era of multi-party system in India after 1989.

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. In India after 1989, almost all the governments were coalition governments which represented inclusion of multiparties in the government.

In 1989 – National Front supported by BJP and Left Front. In 1990 – Section of NF led by Samajwadi Janta Party supported by congress. In 1991 – Congress was supported by AIADMK and some regional parties. In 1996 – BJP formed a government with the help of many regional parties. In 1996 – United Front emerged and formed the government with the support of Congress party. In 1998-99 NDA was formed which was a combination of about 25 political parties. This coalition formed the NDA government. In 2004 UPA was another alliance of various National and Regional parties.

(Any three examples are enough)

The above process shows that multiparty system of India changed its character and started to polarize around two major National parties, i.e., Indian National Congress and Bhartiya Janta Party.

Q.3. List any four advantages of the coalition government.

Ans. The four advantages are as follows –

- i. Consensus or majority based decisions are taken considering the views of every party.
- ii. Regional aspirations are fulfilled or considered.
- iii. Favours nationalism and lowers regionalism.
- iv. Lowers tyranny of the government

Q.4. Describe any four major developments in the Indian politics since 1989.

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. Political Developments since 1989.

- i. Defeat of the Congress party in the elections held in 1989 and 2014.
- ii. Rise of Reservation issue in national politics as the National Front Government decided to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.
- iii. The economic policy of India went under drastic changes and economic reforms were introduced.
- iv. Demolition of the disputed structure of Babri masjid.

Q.5. What happened to the state government after the demolition of Babri Masjid?

Ans. The demolition of Babri Masjid instigated the fire of Hindu Muslim riots. The result was that the BJP state government was dismissed. Along with that, other states where BJP was in power were also put under the President's rule. A case against the Chief Minister of U.P was registered in the Supreme Court. The Central government set to investigate this case further. Most political parties condemned the demolition and declared it to be against secularism.

Q.6. What is meant by Hindutva?

Ans. Hindutva means 'Hinduness' and was introduced by V. D. Savarkar. He defined it as the basis of being an Indian and Indian nationhood. It basically meant that to be members of the Indian nation, must accept India as their fatherland but also as their holy land. Believers of 'Hindutva' believe that India can be made a strong nation on the basis of a strong and united national culture. They also believe that only Hindu culture can provide the basis for such unity.

Q.7. When was the Mandal Commission set-up? Describe any two recommendations of this commission.

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Ans. Mandal Commission was set up in 1978 by Janta Party Government.

Its recommendations were:

- i. 27% of seats in educational Institutions and government jobs for 'backward classes'.
- ii. Land reforms
- iii. To improve the conditions of the OBCs. OBC should be given reservation in scientific, technological and professional institutions run by central and state government.

iv. A separate financial institution must be set up to give financial aid to OBCs.

(Any two)

Q.8. Give an account of the Anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat.

Ans. A train bogey carrying kar sewaks from Ayodhya was burned in Godhra and about 57 people died in the fire. People suspected Muslims of setting fire to the bogey and large scale violence against Muslims began in many parts of Gujarat in February-March 2002. This violence continued for almost a whole month. Nearly 1,100 persons of whom were mostly Muslims were killed in this violence. The National Human Rights Commission criticised the Gujarat government's role in failing to control violence, provide relief to the victims and prosecute the perpetrators of this violence. The Election Commission of India ordered the assembly elections to be held in Gujarat to be postponed.

Q.9. Give a brief elaboration on alliance politics in the 90's decade.

Ans. The nineties also saw the emergence of powerful parties and movements that claimed to represent backward classes. These political parties began to heavily represent in regional and State politics. The regional parties began to require forming government in the Centre and were seen in the formation of National Front and United Front's government. The national parties such as BJP, or Congress or CPI (M) became the main supporting parties to the governments being formed. The alliances lacked a common ideological base and were initially based on an anti-congress front to subsequently an anti-BJP front.

Q.10. Give an account of the political rise of other backward classes in India.

Ans. Other backward classes refer to the administrative category and are social communities other than SC and ST, who suffer from educational and social backwardness. These communities began to be disillusioned with the Congress and began to shift their support from Congress to other non-Congress parties. Mandal politics gave rise to multiple political parties formed on the basis of caste aspirations and they began to receive support from these communities. The parties began to perform considerably well in elections and either formed or supported government in State and Centre.

Q.11. Give a brief introduction of Kanshi Ram and Bahujan Samaj Party.

Ans. Kanshi Ram was an employee in the Central government but left it for political and social work. He was the founder of BAMCEF, DS-4 and the BSP in 1984. He regarded political power as means to attain social equality. He is credited with the upliftment of Dalits in political space in north Indian States. The BSP began as a small party supported largely by Dalit voters in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. In the 1989 and the 1991 elections, it was able to have a strong electoral showing in Uttar Pradesh. It

derived support from Dalits, Other Scheduled Castes and tribes and religious minorities. It has formed government on more than one occasion in Uttar Pradesh.

Q.12. What is the Ayodhya or Babri Masjid dispute?

Ans. The Babri Masjid was a 16th CE Mosque and built by Mir Baqi, a General under Mughal emperor Babur. Some Hindus believe that it was built after demolishing a temple for Lord Rama and the temple marked his birthplace. In the 1940s, the Mosque was locked up after it became a Court Case. In 1992, the Masjid was demolished and this led to clashes between Hindus and Muslims across India, including riots in Mumbai. This dispute has further carried on till date and continues to mobilize fundamentalists among Hindus and Muslims for polarization and clashes.