

CHAPTER

7

CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY

Syllabus

- *Is the idea of democracy shrinking?*
- *What are the major challenges to democracy in India?*
- *How can democracy be reformed and deepened?*
- *What role can an ordinary citizen play in deepening democracy?*



TOPIC-1

Define Challenge and its Types

Quick Review

- **What is a Challenge?**
- A challenge means a situation that requires some action. It is a difficulty which has to be overcome.
- A challenge is not just any problem. We usually call only those difficulties a 'challenge' which are significant and which can be overcome.
- A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress. Once we overcome a challenge, we go up to a higher level than before.
- **Different countries face different kinds of challenges.**
- **Foundational challenge :** This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.
- **Challenge of expansion :** This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Ensuring greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of the federation, inclusion of women and minority groups, etc., falls under this challenge.
- **Deepening of democracy :** This is faced by every democracy in one form or another. In general terms, it usually means strengthening those institutions that help people's participation and control.

TOPIC - 1

Define Challenges and its Types

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TOPIC - 2

Reforms and Redefining Democracy

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Know the Terms

- **Challenge :** A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress.
- **Deepening of Democracy :** This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy by more people's participation and control.
- **Sovereignty :** It is the full right and power of a governing body over itself, without any interference from outside sources or bodies.

Know the Links

- www.preservearticles.com/...../what-are-th...
- www.m.learnnext.com/.../wiki/...../challenges-To



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

Q. 1. Define the term 'Democratic Reforms'.

Ans. In general, democratic reforms are changes that are made to a country's system that allow it to become more democratic. Therefore, a reform that allows people to vote when they were previously not allowed to vote is a democratic reform. **1**

Q. 2. What does the challenge of expansion faced by established democracies involve?

[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

Ans. (i) It involves applying basic principles of democratic governments across all regions, different social groups and various institutions.

(ii) Greater power to local governments. **(Any one) 1**

Q. 3. A country holds election to elect peoples' representatives to form the government but the elections are not fair. Identify the kind of challenge faced by the people in such a country.

[Board Term II, SQP-2016]

Ans. People face the challenge of expansion of democracy. **1**

Q. 4. Which challenge to established democracies ensures more participation of women and minority groups in a democratic country?

[Board Term-II, Set-WVIVSA5, 2015]

Ans. The challenge of expansion. **1**



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. Explain three foundational challenges faced by democracies. [Board Term-II, Set-2022, 2012]

OR

Q. How do some countries face foundational challenge of democracy? Explain with example.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-II, 2013]

Ans. The foundational challenges faced by democracies include :

- (i)** Bringing down the existing non-democratic regimes.
- (ii)** Keeping military away from controlling government.
- (iii)** Establishing a sovereign and functional state.

1 × 3 = 3

Q. 2. Elaborate the challenge of expansion of democracy. Give an example.

[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD, 2016]

OR

Q. "Most of the established democracies are facing the challenge of expansion." Support the statement with examples.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-I, 2016]

OR

Q. Explain the 'Challenge of Expansion' to democracy.

[Board Term-II, Set-68001, 2081, 2012]

Ans. Most of the established democracies face the Challenge of Expansion :

- (i)** Citizens have great expectations from the government.
- (ii)** Government tries its best for the upliftment of the society.
- (iii)** Ensuring greater power to the local government.
- (iv)** Extension of federal principles to all the units of the federation including women and minority groups.

(Any three) 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

Q. 3. "The challenge of deepening of democracy is being faced by every democracy in one form or another." Support the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, 2016]

Ans. Deepening of democracy :

- (i)** Deepening of democracy involves strengthening the institutions and the practices of democracy.
- (ii)** The ordinary people have different expectations from democracy in different societies.
- (iii)** It wants more of people's participation and control.
- (iv)** They want to bring down the control of rich and powerful people in the making of the governmental decision. **(Any three) 1 × 3 = 3**

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

Q. 4. What are the features of a good democracy?

[Board Term-II, Set-2027, 2012]

Ans. Features of a good democracy are :

- (i)** Rulers are elected by the people to take all decisions.
- (ii)** Elections give an opportunity and choice to the people.
- (iii)** Democracy ensures that rights are given to the citizens. **1 × 3 = 3**

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 5. Highlight any three challenges that democracy faces in Contemporary India.

[Board Term-II, Set-8006, 2012]

Ans. Among the important challenges to contemporary democracy are as follows :

- (i)** Women who are 50% of the total population hardly gets 10% representation in state assemblies and parliament.
- (ii)** Faulty and slow justice system.
- (iii)** The parties are lacking internal democracy, which keeps many prospective leaders deprived of their rights. **1 × 3 = 3**

Q. 6. How would you like to expand the definition of democracy? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-68035, 2012, 2016]

Ans. Definition of democracy shall be expanded by adding following features :

- (i) The government elected by the people must take all the decisions.
- (ii) Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
- (iii) The choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis.
- (iv) The exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by the basic rules of the constitution and citizen's rights.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 7. Explain the challenges faced by countries which do not have a democratic form of government.

[Board Term-II, Set-68014, 2012]

Ans. (i) These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government.

(ii) They also face the challenge of bringing down the existing non-democratic regime and keeping the military away from controlling the government.

(iii) Such countries have to make great efforts to establish a sovereign and functional state.

$1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 8. How is Myanmar facing the foundational challenge of making a transition to democracy? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-04/C1, 2011]

Ans. There is absence of democracy in Myanmar as the legitimately elected leader Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for more than 15 years. She has been released recently :

- (i) The army is in power in Myanmar and a democratically elected government is not allowed to function.
- (ii) The country faces the challenge of making a transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.
- (iii) The people of Myanmar need to bring down the military regime and keep it away while they Set-up a sovereign and democratic government.

$1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2011]

Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

Q. 1. Explain any five major challenges being faced by the Indian democracy.

[Board Term-II, 2014]

Ans. Major challenges are :

- (i) Foundational challenge
- (ii) Challenge of expansion
- (iii) Challenge of deepening of democracy.

The main challenge to democracy in India is the challenge of expansion.

Decentralisation of powers and applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, have been developed; but still more is to be done. Inclusion of women and minority groups is still a challenge. All the decisions should be in the arena of democratic control. To get this thing to be done and possess is a big challenge.

Some other challenges to democracy include :

- (i) Constitutional design
- (ii) Federalism and its functions
- (iii) Elections
- (iv) Democratic rights.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014]

Q. 2. Explain various types of challenges being faced by the modern democracies of the world?

[Board Term-II, 2011]

OR

Q. Why do most of the established democracies face the challenge expansion? Give any three reasons.

[Board Term-II, 2011]

OR

Q. Different countries face different kinds of challenges." Support the statement with suitable examples.

[Board Term-II, 2009]

Ans. It is true that different countries face different kinds of challenges :

- (i) Non-democratic countries face foundational challenges. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

Example : In Myanmar, military rule should be challenged. Suu Kyi should be freed and should be elected as the representative of the popular government.

- (ii) Every democracy faces the challenge of deepening of democracy. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

Example : In Saudi Arabia, women are not allowed to take part in public activities, and no freedom of religion is there for the minorities.

- (iii) Every democracy faces the challenge of expansion. This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy. It requires an attempt to bring down that control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decision.

Example : In USA, Black or African-American people have won equal rights, but are still poor, less educated and marginalised. 5

- U Q. 3. How can the countries facing the foundational challenge of making a transition to democracy Set-up a democratic government? Suggest any three measures. [Board Term–II, 2011]

OR

- U What is a 'challenge'? Explain the three major challenges before the countries of the world regarding democracy. [Board Term–II, 2010]

OR

- R The challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another. Support the statement with three suitable arguments. How can democracy be reformed and depend? Suggest any three guidelines.

Ans. A 'challenge' is a difficulty which carries within it an opportunity for progress.

Three major challenge are :

- (i) Foundational challenge is about making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling the government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

Example : Myanmar, Chile, Nepal

- (ii) Challenge of Expansion is faced by most of the established democracies. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

Most countries including India and other democracies like the U.S. face this challenge.

- (iii) **Deepening of democracy :** This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy, especially those that help people's participation and control. This attempts to bring down the control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decision. [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2011] 5

- R Q. 4. Make a list of challenges that democracy faces in Contemporary India.

Ans. Challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India are as follows :

- (i) Challenge of corruption by government ministers and bureaucracy.
- (ii) Challenge of caste politics and division of votes on the basis of caste instead of policies.
- (iii) Challenge of communal politics leading to voting on the basis of religion.
- (iv) Challenge of regionalism leading to disunity of society and country.
- (v) Challenge of women empowerment in the society and country.
- (vi) Challenge of economic inequality, leading to rich becoming richer and poor becoming poorer.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$



TOPIC-2

Reforms and Redefining Democracy

Quick Review

- Some broad guidelines that can be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India:
- **It is legal ways of reforming politics :** Law has an important role to play in political reform. Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. (But legal-constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. Democratic reforms are to be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.)
- Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Laws that give political actors incentives to do good things have more chances of working. The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms. (The Right to Information Act is a good example of a law that empowers the people to find out what is happening in government and act as watch-dogs of democracy).
- Democratic reforms are to be brought about principally through political practice. Therefore, the main focus of political reforms should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
- Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how. Measures that rely on democratic movements, citizens' organizations and the media are likely to succeed.
- **Reform proposals :**
 - The financial accounts of every political party should be made public. These accounts should be examined by government auditors.

- There should be state funding of elections. Parties should be given some money by the government to meet their election expenditure.
- Citizens should be encouraged to give more donations to parties and to political workers. Such donations should be exempted from income tax.

Know the Terms

- **Democratic reforms** : It refers to institutional changes that aim to improve the quality of democracy that is practiced in the country and empower the citizens.
- **Incentives** : A supplemental reward that serves as a motivational device for a desired action or behaviour.
- **Government auditors** : considered a subset of internal auditors, and are employed by federal, state, and local agencies.

Know the Links

- www.testlabz.com/ModelPapers/1_8_77_797.pdf
- www.scribd.com/.../98019870/Challenges-to-Democracy



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- Q. 1. How are the challenges to democracy linked to the possibility of political reforms? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Delhi, Set-III, 2015]

Ans. Each challenge in democracy is linked to the possibility of reforms. All the countries do not have same challenges.

- Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices.
- Democratic reforms are to be carried out by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.
- Political participation by ordinary citizen should be there.
- Democratic movements, citizen's organization and media should play an important role.
- Empowerment of people through laws, e.g., RTI.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

- Q. 2. "A challenge is an opportunity for progress." Support the statement with your arguments.

[Board Term-II, O.D. Set-I, II, III, 2015]

Ans. A challenge is an opportunity for progress because :

- A challenge is not just a problem.
- A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress.
- Once we overcome a challenge we go up to a higher level than before.
- Legal challenges alone cannot overcome challenges to democracy like inequality, poverty, unemployment illiteracy, regionalism, casteism, communalism etc.
- Legal constitutional changes and the cooperation of the citizen is the need of the hour.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

- Q. 3. Suggest some broad guidelines that can be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India.

[Board Term II, SQP, 2016]

Ans. Guidelines for political reform :

- Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes the results may be counter-productive.
- The main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice.
- Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how?

$1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

- Q. 4. What type of financial reforms should be brought to strengthen democracy and why?

[Board Term-II, Set-RKZQI05] 2015]

Ans. The financial accounts of every political party should be made public. These accounts should be made public. These accounts should be examined by government auditors.

There should be state funding of elections.

Citizen should be encouraged to give more donations to parties and to political workers such donations should be exempt from income tax

3 [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

- Q. 5. Suggest any three political reforms to strengthen democracy.

[Board Term-II, 2012,]

Ans. Some of the reforms to strengthen the working of political parties are as follows :

- Anti-defection law, under which a member would be disqualified if he/she goes against the directions of the party.

- (ii) Reduction in the influence of money. Cash votes have been banned by the election commission and anybody involved in the process is likely to be punished.
- (iii) It is important for a candidate to file an affidavit giving details of his property and eliminate cases pending against him/her.
- (iv) The election commission has made it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.
- (v) A law is strictly advisable to make or regulate the internal affairs of political parties. It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates. (Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Q. 6. What is a democratic reform? Mention a few broad guidelines for devising political reforms in India. [Board Term–II, Set-2030, 2012]

Ans. All suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called democratic reform or political reform.

Broad guidelines for devising political reforms in India are :

- (i) Legal ways of reforming politics.
- (ii) The Right to Information Act.
- (iii) Reforms through political practice
- (iv) Implementation of reforms.

(Any three) $1 + 2 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

Q.1. When was the 'Right to Information Act' implemented? How does it act as the watch-dog of democracy? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD, 2016]

Ans. 'The Right to Information Act' was implemented in 2005.

- (i) It empowers the people to find out what is happening in government.
- (ii) It acts as the watchdogs of democracy.
- (iii) It helps to control corruption and supplements the existing laws that banned corruption and imposed strict penalties.
- (iv) It gives political actors incentives to do good things. $1 + 4 = 5$

Q. 2. What are the guidelines to be kept in mind while adopting political reforms?

[Board Term–II, Set-68024, 2012]

Ans. The guidelines to be kept in mind while adopting political reforms also include :

- (i) Involving political parties, political activists and people in bringing about reforms rather than impose reforms through laws.
- (ii) Legal measures should be positive, more like incentives.
- (iii) Improving the quality of political practices by increasing people's participation.
- (iv) Laws being considered may meet with resistance in the legislatures and by political parties. So the best way to bring about the change is through democratic movements and media. $1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$



Value Based Questions

Q. 1. 'Legal reforms may sometimes be counterproductive'. Support the statement with suitable arguments.

[Board Term–II, 2012, Set-68009]

Ans. (i) Any legal change must carefully look at the results it will have on politics. Sometimes, the results can be counter-productive. For example, many states have banned people who have more than two children from contesting panchayat elections.

(ii) This has resulted in the denial of democratic opportunity to many poor men and women, which was not intended. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful in politics.

(iii) The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms. For example, Right to Information Act. 3

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