

# Challenges to Democracy

## **VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (1 MARKS)**

### **Previous Years Questions**

**Q.1. What is the challenge of expansion ? [AI 2008]**

**Ans.** The 'Challenge of Expansion' is applied to the established democracy. This challenge involves applying the basic principle of democracy or democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

**Q.2. Define the term 'Democratic Reform'. [AI 2008]**

**Ans.** Any suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges of democracy are called 'Democratic Reforms' or 'Political Reforms'. Most of the democratic reforms have legal sanction behind them.

**Q.3. How can democratic reforms be carried out ? [AI 2008]**

**Ans.** Democratic reforms can be carried out in following ways :

- (i) Legal ways.
- (ii) Application of positive approach on the formulation of reforms.
- (iii) Good quality of popular political participation.
- (iv) Involvement of democratic movements, citizens organisation and the media. (Any one)

### **Additional Questions**

**Q.4. What type of challenge is faced by a non-democratic country for democratic set-up ?**

**Ans.** The countries which are not under democratic government face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.

**Q.5. What type of challenge do established democracies face ?**

**Ans.** Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion. This involves applying the basic principles of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

**Q.6. Which is the very common challenge faced by a democracy ?**

**Ans.** The "challenge of deepening democracy" is faced by every democracy in one form or another. This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy. In general terms it means peoples' participation.

**Q.7. What do you mean by political reform ?**

**Ans.** The suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called "Political Reforms." They are also known as democratic reforms.

**Q.8. What are the legal ways of reforming politics ?**

**Ans.** "Legal ways of reforming politics" denotes carefully devised changes in law which can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. Sometimes it is related to the legal constitutional changes.

**Q.9. Which type of law is best for political reform ? Give an example.**

**Ans.** The best laws for political reform are those which empower people to carryout democratic reforms. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful in politics, but laws that give political activists, incentives to do good things have more chances of working,

**Q.10. How do we define a good democracy ?**

**Ans.** Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. A good democracy is one in which :

- All the people get equal status and opportunities.
- Government is limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens rights.

**Q.11. Which is the most common form democracy in today's world and why ?**

**Ans.** The most common form of democracy is representative democracy. This is because modern democracies involve a large number of people and it is physically impossible for them to sit together and take a collective decision.

**Q.12. What distinguishes democracy from oil forms of government ?**

**Ans.** Democracy unlike other forms of government requires all its citizen to take part in the political process.

**Q.13. What do you mean by the term challenge.**

**Ans.** The term 'challenge' signifies those difficulties which are very significant and which can be overcome.

**Q.14. List two valid challenges faced by Indian democracy.**

**Ans.** Two challenges are: (i) Communalism and casteism (ii) Corruption in political and public affairs.

**Q.15. Which challenge is faced by the established democracies ?**

**Ans.** The "Challenge of Expansion" is faced by the established democracies. It involves extension of federal principles to all the units of a federation.

**Q.16. What does the challenge of deepening democracy involve ?**

**Ans.** The challenge of Deepening democracy involves strengthening of the "institutions and practices of democracy."

**Q.17. Are legal reforms sufficient to meet the challenges of democracy ?**

**Ans.** No, legal reforms are not sufficient or effective to meet the challenges unless they are backed by :  
(i) political parties, (ii) movements and (iii) politically conscious citizens.

**Q.18. What is the first priority in a democracy ?**

**Ans.** The first priority in a democracy is free and fair election, based on universal adult franchise.

**Q.19. List out the types of challenges faced by a democracy.**

**Ans.** There are three types of challenges faced by democracy :  
(i) Foundational challenge,  
(ii) Challenge of expansion and  
(iii) Deepening of democracy.

**Q.20. Which legal act is the best to empower people to carry out democratic reforms ?**

**Ans.** "The Right to Information Act" which empowers people to carry out democratic reforms.