

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. When did Independent India first use referendum procedure?

Ans. In 1967, in the case of Goa's liberation:

- (i) In January 1967, the central government held a special 'Opinion Poll' in Goa asking people to decide if they wanted to be part of Maharashtra or remain separate.
- (ii) The majority was in favour of remaining outside Maharashtra, thus Goa became a Union territory.
- (iii) Goa was granted statehood in 1987.

Q.2. Explain the politics in Kashmir after 1948.

Ans. After 1948, there were a lot of political changes in Kashmir. Sheikh Abdulla became the new Prime Minister and he made efforts regarding land office and public welfare. But because of the differences between him and the central government, his government was dismissed and he was taken under house arrest. No powerful leader emerged after him till 1974 and political power went under the Congress. This was followed by a settlement between him and Indira Gandhi that he would be reinstated as the Prime Minister of Kashmir which he was in 1974. After his death, his son Farooq Abdullah came to power and became the Prime Minister. (The head of the government in the state was then called Prime Minister.)

Q.3. Explain the term separatism with reference to Kashmir.

Ans. Separatism means demanding separate/independent status from the parent body. In Kashmir, separatist politics began in 1989. The Kashmir problem can be seen from the following three angles:

- (i) Those who want a separate Kashmiri nation.
- (ii) Those who want to merge with Pakistan.
- (iii) Those who want greater autonomy for the people of the state within the Indian Union.

Q.4. Why did the Anandpur Sahib Resolution become controversial?

[NCERT]

Ans. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution asserted regional autonomy and wanted to redefine centre-state relationship in the country. The resolution also spoke of the aspirations of the Sikh qaum (community or nation) and declared its goal as attaining the bolbala (dominance or hegemony) of the Sikhs. The Resolution was a plea for strengthening federalism, but it could also be interpreted as a plea for a separate Sikh nation. The resolution had a limited appeal among the Sikh masses.

- (i) The Akali government lost its importance and was dismissed in 1980s.
- (ii) It launched a movement on the distribution of water between Punjab and its neighbouring states.
- (iii) The movement slowly went from the moderate Akalis to the control of the Extremists and got converted into an armed insurgency for which the Anandpur Sahib Resolution was held responsible.

Q.5. Write a short note on 'Punjab Accord'.

Ans. In 1985, Punjab Accord was signed between the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Harchand Singh Longowal, the then Akali Dal President to bring normalcy in Punjab after Operation Blue Star and came to be known as Rajiv Gandhi Longowal Accord. A separate commission was appointed to resolve border disputes between Punjab and Haryana. Chandigarh to be transferred to Punjab. To share water of River Ravi-Beas, a tribunal had to be set up between, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. Armed forces to be withdrawn through Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Punjab. To provide a compensation agreement for providing a better treatment for the affected areas by military in Punjab.

Q.6. Which communities wanted separate states in the North East region?

Ans. Despite reorganisation of North-East in 1972, autonomy demand arose. Assam communities like Bodos, Karbis, and Dimasas demanded separate states. They mobilised public opinion and popular movement and same area was claimed by more than one community. Federal set up satisfied their autonomy i.e. Karbis and Dimasas were granted autonomy under District Councils while Bodos were recently granted autonomous council.

Q.7. Write a short note on Mizo National Front.

Ans. The Mizo Hills were made the autonomous district of Assam after the independence. Some of the Mizo's believed that they were never a part of British India and did not belong to Indian Union. After the famine in 1959, the movement gained popularity. It led to the formation of Mizo National Front (MNF) under the leadership of Laldenga. In 1966, the MNF started an armed campaign for independence. At the end of two decades of insurgency, Mizoram started negotiations with the Indian government under the leadership of Laldenga and a peace agreement was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga in 1986 granting Mizoram statehood with special provisions and MNF.

Q.8. Why did the movement for secession in the Mizo Hills area gain popular support? How was the problem resolved?

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(i) **Ans.** The movement for secession in the Mizo Hills area gained popular support because some Mizos believed that they were never a part of British India and, therefore, did not belong to the Indian Union. The movement for secession gained popular support after the Assam government failed to respond adequately to the great famine of 1959 in Mizo hills.

(ii) To resolve the problem, an agreement was signed by founder and leader of Mizo national front, Laldenga and the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, in 1986.

Q.9. How did Sikkim become a part of India?

Ans. At the time of Independence of Sikkim was ruled by Raja Chaugyal and even after being independent it was not functioning as an independent state, as its security and foreign affairs were handled by India. Some of the Nepali residents of that state assumed that the King was forcing them to take responsibility of the Nepcha-Bhutia region and due to this reason the non-supporters of the King turned to India for help. Due to this reason in 1974, Sikkim Congress won the first democratic elections with majority and in 1975, there was a discussion on including Sikkim in India as state and with the approval of the people of Sikkim, it became the 22nd state of India.

Q.10. Describe the problem of Goa.

Ans. India got independence in 1947 from the British rule whereas Goa and Daman & Diu were under the Portuguese since the 16th century. At the time when India was expecting freedom in 1947, Portuguese refused to withdraw rule whereas the people of Goa wanted to merge with India. The people of Goa were suppressed by religious conversions and civil rights known as 'Goa Problem'. It took Goa and Daman & Diu almost 14 years to get liberated from the Portugal rule through 'Operation Vijay' of Government of India. In 1987, Goa became a part of India and obtained the status of 'State Position'.

Q.11. Elaborate the Dravid Movement.

Ans. Dravid Movement is considered as the first regional movement in Indian Politics with the ambition to create a Dravid nation. They used democratic means such as public debates and electoral platform to achieve its aims. Because of this, the movement soon attained political power in the state and resulted in being influential at national level. Later this movement led to the formation of 'Dravid Kazhagam'(DK) under the leadership of Tamil social reformer 'E.V. Ramaswami Periyar'.

Q.12. What were the main demands of the Sikhs against the Central government?

Ans. After the defeat of Akali Dal in the 1980 elections, the supporters of Akali Dal began a protest against the Central government. Their demands were as follow:

- i. The regions that spoke Punjabi should be included in Punjab.
- ii. Chandigarh to be made the capital of Punjab.
- iii. The Bhakra Nangal Project should be taken over by Punjab.
- iv. Industrialisation should begin in Punjab.
- v. All the gurudwaras of the country should get under AJPT organisation.