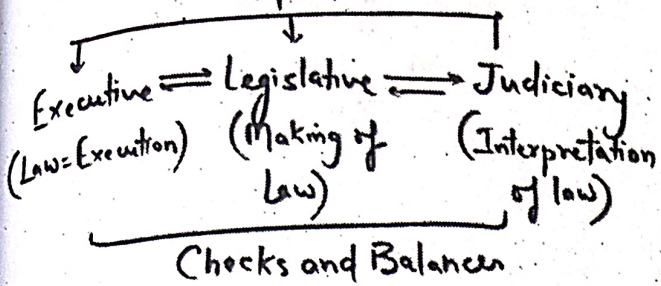


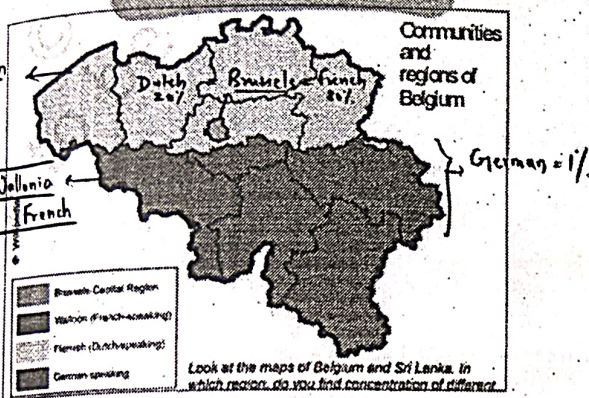
Power Sharing

Government

ORGANS



BEIGIUM = EUROPE



Belgium Accommodation Model (5 MARKS)

Between 1970-1993, Belgium amended their constitution four times to make an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

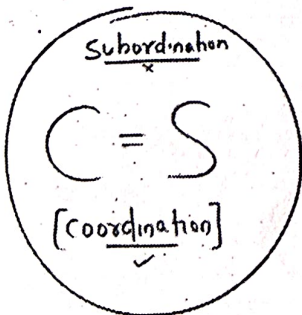
Elements of the Belgium model:

The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. No single community can make decisions unilaterally.

Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

Brussels to have a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

Apart from the Central and State Government, a third kind of government called Community government which is elected by people belonging to some linguistic community no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

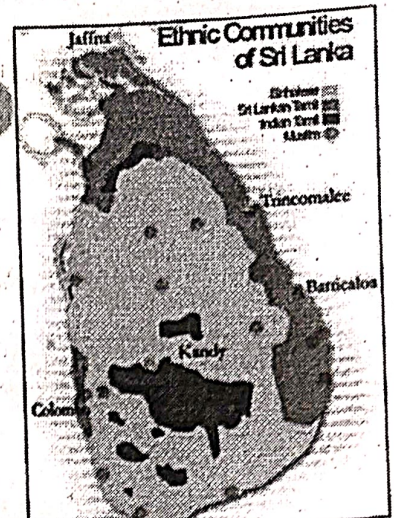
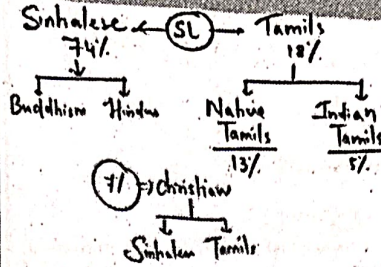


Belgian model very complicated even for people living in Belgium.

But these arrangements have worked well so far.

They helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka



What is Majoritarianism?

- Majoritarianism is a belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.
- Sri Lanka is the best example of Majoritarianism.

Sinhala majority government in Sri Lanka

- Leaders of the Sinhala community established their dominance over government by virtue of their majority.
- The democratically elected government adopted many majoritarian measures to establish the supremacy of Sinhala community.

Majoritarian Measures

- Sinhala recognized as the only official language, disregarding Tamil
- Government favoring Sinhala applicants for university position and government jobs.
- Declared Buddhism as state religion i.e. state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

Tension between Sinhala and Tamil communities

- Sri Lanka's Tamils also felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.

Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamil

- Launched political parties and movements:
 - for the recognition of Tamil as an official language,
 - for regional autonomy and
 - equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- Their demands were repeatedly denied by the Sinhala government.
- By 1980s, several political organizations demanded an independent Tamil state in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- The distrust between the two communities resulted into widespread conflicts and soon turned into a civil war which ended in 2009

Why power sharing is desirable?

- Prudential reason
- Moral reason

Prudential Reason

- Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- Ensure the stability of political order.
- Imposing the will of majority community over others undermines the unity of the nation.
- Prevents authoritarianism: Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority but also affects majority adversely as well.

Moral Reason

- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- A democratic rule involves sharing power with people.
- People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system

Forms of Power Sharing

- The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.
- For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place.
- It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them.
- But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy.
- One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power.
- In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society.
- Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies.

Modern Forms of Power Sharing

1. Horizontal distribution of power- Checks and Balances
2. Vertical distribution of power (Federal Government)- Federal Division of Power- Division of power between central and state governments
3. Power sharing among different social groups- socially weaker sections and women are representation in Parliament.
4. Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or-influence those in power

Q. "Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united." Do you agree with this statement and why? (2016)

- Ans.: True, sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united. This is because:
- (i) no single community or group dominates the decision-making process, promoting inclusivity and fairness.
 - (ii) It allows for the representation of diverse interests and perspectives
 - (iii) prevent the marginalization of certain communities or regions, reducing conflicts and promoting social cohesion.
 - (iv) By distributing power, it strengthens the democratic principles of participation, accountability, and checks and balances.

Federalism

Key changes made in the Constitution of Belgium:

- Regional governments power ↓
- Central Government power ↑

The change that took place in 1993 was that the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government.

- Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.
- Sri Lanka continues to be a unitary system where the national government has all the powers.

What is federalism?

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between central and state governments.

Generally, a federation has two levels of government: Centre and State level.

Central Government is the government for the whole country and is responsible for the subjects of national interest.

State Government is the government of a particular state and looks after the day-to-day administration of their states.

Both governments enjoy their powers independent of each other.

Difference

Unitary

- In this system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units subordinate to the central government.
- The central government can pass orders to the provincial or local government.

Federal

- In this, the central government cannot order the state government to do something.
- State government has powers of its own and is not answerable to the central government.
- Both the governments are separately answerable to the people.

Key features of Federalism

- There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The jurisdiction of different levels of government are specified in the constitution itself.
- Fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such change require the consent of both the levels of government.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution. Supreme court : decides if any dispute arise between two governments.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

The federal system thus has dual objectives:

- To safeguard and promote unity of the country
- Accommodate regional diversity

An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together

Two Types of Federation

Holding Together Federation

- These federations involve independent state coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they can increase their security.

In such type of federations, all the states usually have equal power and are equally strong as the central government.

Coming Together Federation

In this type of federations, a large country decides to divide its power between the states and the central government.

Central government is more powerful than the state governments.

Sometimes, some states are granted special powers.

What makes India a Federal country?

- All the features of federalism apply to the provisions of the Indian constitution.
 - Indian constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government-central and state governments. Later on, in 1992, a third tier of federalism was also added in the form of Panchayats and municipalities.
 - Constitution provides three fold distribution of legislative powers between union & state governments.
 - Union List- national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communication, currency
 - State List- police, trade, commerce, agriculture, irrigation
 - Concurrent List- common interest to both, the union and the state governments such as Education, Forest, Marriage, Adoption
- In case of any dispute, law made by the central government shall prevail.

Residuary Powers

- Residuary subjects- which do not fall in any of the three lists, or which came up after the constitution was made, such as computer software.
- Union government has the power to legislate on the residuary subjects.

Special status to some states

- All states in India do not have same powers. Some enjoy a special status.
- For example- Jammu and Kashmir. But after 31st October 2019 position has been changed.
- The state of Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution.
- Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka (Article 371)
- Enjoy special powers related to the protection of land rights of indigenous peoples, their culture and also preferential employment in government services. Indians who are not permanent residents of this State cannot buy land or house here

Union Territories

- Union Territories are the areas which are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with any of the existing states.
- UT's enjoy very little power and do not have the powers of a state.
- Union government has special powers in running these UT's.

Basic Structure of the Constitution

- This sharing of power between the Union Government and the State Governments is basic to the structure of the Constitution.
- For Amendment: it has to be first passed by both the Houses of Parliament with at least 2/3rd majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total States.
- Independence of Judiciary
- Levying of taxes by central & state for running govt.

Central: income tax, central excise, custom duty etc

State: entertainment tax, water tax, electricity bill etc.

How is Federalism Practiced?

- Success of federalism does not depend on the constitutional provisions only.
- Real success of federalism depends upon the nature of democratic politics in our country.
- It ensures the spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together.

Linguistic states

- First major test of Indian federation - formation of linguistic states- Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat etc.
- Some states were created on the basis of their culture, ethnicity or geography- Nagaland, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand.
- When the demand for the formation of states on the basis of language was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country.
- Central government also realised linguistic states for some time.
- But the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic states has actually made the country more united and administration more easier.

Language Policy

- Second test of Indian Federation- Language policy.
- Constitution has not given the status of National Language to any language.
- Hindi identified as official language but it is the mother tongue of only 44% of Indians.
- Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages- 21 other languages were recognised as scheduled languages (8th schedule) = Total 22 languages.
- A candidate in an examination conducted for the central government posts may opt to take the examinations in any of the scheduled languages.
- States too, have their own official languages. Most of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned state.

Continuation of English language

- According to the constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965.
- But many non-Hindi speaking states demanded its continuation further.
- In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. Ultimately, the central government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
- The Indian political leaders handled the situation tactfully and avoid the kind of situations that developed in Sri Lanka.

Centre-State Relations

(Early years)

- Third test for Indian federalism- Restructuring the centre-state relations
- Power sharing actually works on how the ruling parties and leaders follow this system.
- For a long time, the ruling party at the centre tried to undermine the power of the state governments.
- The central government often misuse the constitutional provisions to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by other parties- (President's rule).

Situation changed after 1990

- Evolution of regional political parties led to the era of coalition governments at the centre after 1990.
- New culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of state governments developed.
- This trend was supported by a major judgment of the supreme court that made it difficult for the central government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner.
- Thus, federal power-sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the constitution came into force.

Linguistic diversity of India

- According to census of 2011, more than 1300 distinct languages were mentioned as their mother tongue by the people.
- Even after grouping these languages under some major language, census found 22 major languages.
- 8th schedule of the constitution recognized 22 languages which are called scheduled languages.
- Others are called non-scheduled languages.

What is decentralization?

- When power is taken away from the central and the state governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation.

Idea behind decentralisation - Why third tier needed?

- States in India are as large as independent countries in Europe.
- Many states are internally very diverse.
- Large number of problems and issues are best settled at the local level.
- Local people have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- Direct participation in decision making.

Status before the amendment of 1992

- Nominal decentralization in real terms.
- There was a provision of Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas, but these were directly under the central or state governments.
- Elections were not held regularly.
- Do not have financial resources of their own.

After the amendment of 1992

- Made the third tier more powerful and effective.
- Constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections.
- SC/ST/OBC Reservation of seats in elected bodies and the executive heads.
- 1/3 seats reserved for women for all positions.
- An Independent state election commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayats and municipal elections.
- State governments are required to share some powers and revenue resources with local government bodies.

Rural government

1-Gram Panchayat at village level

- Council consisting of several ward members (Panch) and a president (Sarpanch or Pradhan).
- Directly elected by the people.
- Decision-making body for the whole village.
- Gram Panchayat works under the overall supervision of Gram Sabha. All the voters of the area are its members.
- Meeting at least twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat to review the performance of the Gram Panchayat.

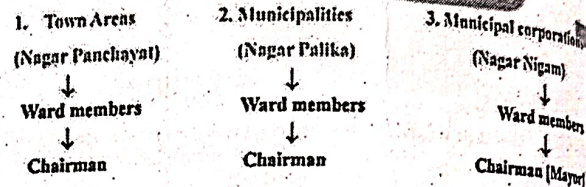
2-Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal Panchayat

- A number of Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Block Panchayat.
- Its members are elected by all the voters of gram sabha in that area.

3-Zila Panchayat-Parishad

- All the Block Panchayats in a district together constitute the (district) Zila Panchayat and Block Panchayat.
- Its members are elected by the same voters who elected the representatives of Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat.
- MPs, MLAs and some officials of other districts level bodies are also its members.
- Chairman of Zila Parishad is its Political head.

Urban Local Government



Drawbacks of local governments

- Meetings of Gram Sabha are not held regularly.
- Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to the local government.
- Adequate financial resources not given by the state governments.

Linguistic diversity of India

How many languages do we have in India? The answer depends on how one counts it. The latest information that we have is from the Census of India held in 2011. This census recorded more than 1300 distinct language, which people mentioned as their mother tongues. These languages were grouped together under some major languages. For example, languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani and many others were grouped together under 'Hindi'. Even after this grouping, the census found 121 major languages. Of these, 22 languages are now included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are therefore called 'Scheduled Languages'. Others are called 'non-Scheduled Languages'. In terms of languages, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world.

Gender, Religion and Caste

Status of women

- Women constitute half of the humanity, but their role in public life and politics is minimal.
- Earlier, participation in public affairs, right to vote and contest elections etc. only men were allowed.
- Gradually, gender issue raised in politics, world wide agitations and movements demanded equal rights, voting rights, equal political and legal status, education and career opportunities.

Role of feminist movements

- Feminist is a man or woman who believes in equal rights and opportunities for men and women.
- Feminist movements concentrated at equality in personal and family life as well.

Women's role in public life improved

- In countries like Sweden, Norway, Finland, participation of women in public life is very high.

Position in India

- Still lag much behind.
- Still a male dominated society.
- Still a patriarchal society - ruled by Father.

Different ways in which women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression

- Literacy rates:** Women 54%, men 76%.
- Higher studies:** smaller number due to dropout. Parents prefer to spend money on their boys education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- Proportion of women in highly paid and valued jobs is very small.
- Women works one hour more than an average men everyday, but her work is not paid and not valued.
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976:** Equal wages for equal work - but not implemented effectively in real terms. Women are paid less than men in almost all areas such as cinema, sports, factories, fields etc.

- Sex selective abortions:** resulted in decline in child sex ratio [number of girl children per thousand boys].
- In India, this ratio is 919. In some states it has fallen below 850 or even 800.

Political Representation

- Unless control on political power, women's position will not improve speedily.
- Representation of women in Lok Sabha = 14.36% in 2019.
- Representation in state assemblies is less than 5%.
- India is among the bottom group of nations in the world.
- When a woman becomes Prime Minister or Chief Minister, even her cabinet is male dominated.

What is the way out ?

- Laws to be made for the proper representation of women in elected bodies - such as MP/MLA.
- Ambedkar Raj has done it in India: 1/3 seats reserved for women.
- When social divisions become a political issue, disadvantaged groups are benefitted.

Religion and Politics- Different Views

- Human Rights Groups:** Most of the victims of communal riots are from religious minorities. They demanded that government should take special steps to protect religious minorities.
- Women's Movement:** Family laws of all religions discriminate against women. They demanded that government should change these laws to make them more equitable.

- Family laws deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance apply to different religions.

RELATION BETWEEN RELIGION AND POLITICS
 Mahatma Gandhi used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. According to him, politics must be guided by ethics, drawn from all religions.



Relationship Between Religion and Politics

- Above instances show a relationship between religion and politics, but they are not very strong or dangerous.
- Ideas, ideals and values of different religions can play an important role in politics.
- As a member of religious community, people may express their needs, interests and demands in politics.
- At the same time, those in power should be able to regulate the practice of religion to prevent discrimination and oppression.
- Such acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

What is Communalism ?

- Communalism is based on the idea that religions is the principal basis of social community.
- Followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
- Their fundamental interests are same, if there is any difference, it is irrelevant or has little value for community life.

Followers of different religions are bound to be different

- Followers of different religions cannot belong to same social community. Even they have some common things, they are superficial and immaterial.
- Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.
- In extreme cases, communalism leads to belief that people of other religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.
- Either one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.

What the reality is ?

- People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in every context.
- Everyone has several other roles, positions and identities.
- There are many voices inside every community.

Different forms of communalism in politics

- Everyday beliefs:
 - Religious prejudices, stereotypes and superiority complex of one's religion over other religions.
- Desire for political dominance of one's own religious community.
- Political mobilization on religious lines:
 - Use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeals and project fear to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
 - Special appeals to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion.
- Communal riots, violence and massacres:
 - Mostly, form taken in extreme cases.
 - For example: worst communal riots seen at the time of partition of India and Pakistan.
 - Post independence period has also seen large scale communal violence.

What is Secularism?

- No official religion or no special status to any religion.
- Freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any religion.
- No discrimination on the grounds of religion.

How is India a secular state : constitutional provisions

- No Official Religion - Unlike Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Islam in Pakistan, Christianity in England.
- Fundamental Rights to freedom of religion - freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- At the same time, Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matter of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.
- For example - banned untouchability, vote of lords/princes.

Communalism needs to be combated

- Provisions of secularism in the constitution although necessary, but not sufficient.
- Communal prejudices and propaganda should be countered in everyday life.
- Religion based mobilisation should also be controlled in politics.

Caste & Politics

Caste Inequalities : Historical Background

- > All societies have some sort of social inequalities and some kind of Division of Labour, for ex- caste system.
- > Hereditary occupational division sanctioned by rituals.
- > Marriage within the caste group.
- > Did not eat with members from other caste groups.

Untouchability- Changing Situations

- > Inhuman practice of untouchability, discrimination against "out-caste" groups.
- > Political leaders and social reformers like advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.

Caste hierarchy is breaking down. Why ?

- > Efforts of political leaders and social reformers.
- > Economic development.
- > Large scale urbanisation.
- > Growth of literacy and education.
- > Occupational mobility.
- > Weakening of position of Landlords in the villages.

Consequences

- > In urban areas, who is walking along next to us, does not matter.
- > Who is eating at the next table, in the restaurants, does not matter.
- > Constitution prohibited caste-based discrimination.

Caste based discrimination still persist

- > Most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- > Untouchability still visible in rural areas.
- > Disproportionate large presence of upper caste, among the urban middle class due to education factor.

Caste - different forms in Politics

- > In elections, parties choose candidates considering the voters caste composition.
- > When governments are formed, parties consider about the representation of different caste and tribes.
- > Appeals for vote on the caste factor.
- > Concept of one person, one vote, one value, developed consciousness among the people of caste which were earlier treated as inferior and low.
- > This situation gives an impression that caste is the only factor in elections.

Other side of the picture

- > No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste. Therefore, a candidate or party needs the support of other caste and community. (Vote Bank)
- > No party or candidate gets the votes of all the voters of a caste and community. (Vote Bank) Simply means a large proportion.
- > Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste, while many voters have no candidate from their caste.
- > Lower election by the ruling party or sitting MP/MLA indicates that caste is not the only factor.
- > Other factors are also important.
- > Voters attachment to political parties.
- > Rich and poor, men and women from the same caste often vote differently.

Politics in Caste

- > No any relation, not one-way between caste and politics. Politics too, influence the caste system and caste identities.
- > Each caste group tries to become more diverse by adding neighbouring caste or sub-caste.
- > Various caste groups enter into a coalition with other castes or communities. (Social Engineering).
- > New caste groups like 'backward' and 'forward' emerged.

Positive and Negative aspect

- > Demand of power sharing by castes groups - SC and OBC got better access to decision making.
- > Exclusive attention to caste produce negative results.
- > Divert attention from other big issues like poverty, development and corruption.
- > It also leads to tension, conflict and violence.

Political parties

What is a Political Party?

- Political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- They agree on some policies and programmes for the society to promote the collective good. (Manifesto/Election manifesto)
- Parties are only a part of the society and thus, involve 'partitanship'.
- A political party has three components → the leaders, the active members and the followers.

What Political Parties do? - Functions

- Contest Elections
- Put forward policies and Programmes
- Play a decisive role in making laws
- Form and run government
- Role of opposition
- Shape public opinion
- Provide access to government machinery and welfare schemes

Necessity of political parties

- Without political parties, democracies cannot exist. If we do not have political parties, every candidate will be independent.
- No one will be able to make any promises to people about major policy changes.
- The government may be formed but its utility will remain uncertain.
- Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in their locality but no one will be responsible for how the country will run.
- As societies become large and complex, they also need some agencies to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.

How many parties should we have?

- One-Party System- China
- Two Party System- USA, UK
- Multi-Party System- India

When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an **alliance or a front**.

Which system is better?

Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances

National Parties in India

- Countrywide parties are called national parties.
- By and large, they follow the policies, programmes and strategy decided at the national level.
- A unique symbol is allotted to the national parties by the Election Commission of India. Only the official candidates of that party can use this unique symbol.
- 'Registered' and 'recognized' by the Election Commission of India.
- As per 2023 ECI notification, there were 6 recognised national parties in India.
- Detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats has been laid down by the ECI for the recognition of a national party. Secured 6% of the total votes in the last Lok Sabha election or in four state assembly elections and also wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha.

State Parties

- Commonly referred to as regional parties. Secured 6% of the total votes in the state assembly elections of the state and also win at least 2 seats in state assembly.
- Parties like Samajwadi Party (UP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar have national level political organisations with units in several states.
- Parties like Biju Janata Dal (BJD - Odisha), Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), Mizo National front (MNF) and Telangana Rastriya Samithi (TRS) are highly conscious about their state identity.
- Importance of state parties increased in recent times as coalition governments are formed in states.
- National parties are forced to form alliances with state parties.

Challenges To Political Parties

- People blame the political parties for whatever is wrong with the working of democracy.
 - In India too, popular dissatisfaction and criticism has focused on certain problem areas in the working of the political parties.
- Lack of Internal Democracy
 - Dynastic Succession
 - Growing role of money and muscle power
 - Do not offer a meaningful choice

How can parties be reformed - Actions taken in India

Anti defection law:-

- Amending constitution, it was passed to prevent elected MPs and MLAs from changing parties because frequent defection was done in order to become minister or for cash rewards.
- Now, if an MP or MLA changes his party, he will have to lose his seat.
- Thus, this law helped in bringing down the defection. But at the same time, it has made any dissent even more difficult. Now MLAs/MPs have to accept whatever the top party leaders decide.

Orders of Supreme Court and ECI

- The supreme court made it mandatory for every candidate contesting elections to file an affidavit giving details of his and his property and criminal cases pending against them.
- It intended to reduce the influence of money and criminals because such affidavits comes in public domain and therefore, also in the knowledge of public in general.
- It is still to be seen if this order has declined the influence of rich and criminals in the elections.
- Election Commission has also passed an order making it mandatory for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

Other suggestions to reform political parties

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties - maintenance of members register, follow its own constitution, hold open elections to the top posts, independent authority to act as a judge in case of disputes.
- Parties may be forced by making law to give minimum number of tickets to women and also a quota for women in the decision making committees of the party.
- State funding of elections is another suggestion. Government should give parties money to meet their election expenses in the form of kind- Petrol, paper, telephone etc., or it can also be given in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last elections.
- People also can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and demonstrations. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups, movements and media can play an important role in mounting pressure on political parties.
- Good people must also come forward to join the political parties themselves rather than by criticising them from the outside.

Outcomes of Democracy

Dilemmas about democracy

- It is a **dilemma** that democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice.
- Do we prefer democracy only for moral reasons or there are some concrete reasons to support it?

Another dilemma

- We assume that democracy can address all socio-economic and political problems.
- If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy.

Democracy- Not a magical stick - only a system of government.

- In order to get out of this dilemma, first we should convince ourselves that **democracy is just a form of government**. It can only create conditions for achieving something.
- It is the citizens who can take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.

Why democracy is better than other forms of governments?

What does democracy do?

- Provides **equality among citizens**.
- Enhances the **dignity of the individual**.
- Improves the **quality of decision-making**.
- Provides a method to **resolve the conflict**.
- Allows room to **correct mistakes**.

How do we assess democracy's outcomes?

Different parameters

- Every democratic country have a formal constitution, hold elections, have political parties, guarantee rights to their citizens. But are these factors sufficient to prove it a good democracy. **Definitely No!**
- Instead, their social conditions, their economic achievements, their cultures, quality of the government, freedom and dignity of citizens are also the other important factors to be seen to examine the democracy.

Accountable and responsive government

- The governments should be **accountable** to the citizens and also **responsive** to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Delayed decisions Vs. Quick decision

- In a democracy, the government follows **norms and procedures** before arriving at a decision.
- By following the norms and procedures **decisions can be delayed**, but such decisions are **more acceptable** to the people and **more effective**.
- On the other hand, **quick decisions may create problems**. So the cost of time that democracy **is worth it**.

Transparency

- In a democracy, 'Transparency' factor is also very important. Citizens has the **right and the means** to **examine** the process of **decisions making**. He can check whether while making decisions, government has followed the proper norms and procedures.
- The government is also expected to develop mechanism for the citizens to **hold the government liable** and to **take part in the decision-making**.
- For example- **RTI in India**.

Efficient Vs. Inefficient decisions

- Democracy is based on the idea of **deliberation and negotiation**. Therefore, the decisions of **democratic government may be delayed** but they are **definitely more efficient**.
- On the other hand, a **non-democratic government may take a quick decision** but as they are not based on deliberations and negotiations, their decision **may not be so efficient**.

Other parameters to check the accountability, responsiveness of the government

- Government is conducting **regular, free and fair elections**.
- Open public debates** are held on major policies and legislations.
- Whether developed the **mechanism** to check the transparency at every level.

Ground reality of democracies

- Most democracies **fall short** of **free and fair elections**.
- Do not put forward **important decision** to public debate.
- Do not have a very good record in **sharing information with citizens**.
- Democracies often **frustrate the needs** of the people and **ignore the demands of a majority of the citizen**.
- Routine tales of **corruption** have become a **day-to-day matter**.

Legitimate government

- Democratic government is **people's own government** as it is **elected by them** through elections.
- People wish to be **ruled by the representatives** elected by them.
- People also believe that **democracy is the most suitable form of government for their country**.

Economic growth and development

- Economic development** depends on several factors like country's population, global situation, co-operation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the government.

Rate of Economic growth

- Between **1950 and 2000** dictatorships have a slightly higher **rate of economic growth (4.42%)** than the **democracies (3.95%)** but the difference is **quite negligible**.
- Although, democracy can not be regarded as a **guarantee of economic development**, but this alone **cannot be the reason to reject democracy**.

Rates of economic growth for 40 countries 1950-2000

Type of regimes and countries	Rate of economic growth (%)
All democratic regimes	3.95
All dictatorial regimes	4.42
Best countries under dictatorship	5.50
Best countries under democracy	4.50
Worst countries under dictatorship	2.50
Worst countries under democracy	2.50

- On an average, dictatorial regimes have had a slightly **better rate** of economic growth. we **compare** their records only in **poor countries** there is **virtually no difference**.

Inequality of income in selected countries

Name of the Countries	% share of national income	% share of national income
	Top 20%	Bottom 20%
South Africa	64.8	2.9
Brazil	63.0	2.6
Russia	53.7	4.3
USA	50.0	4.0
United Kingdom	45.0	6.0
Denmark	34.5	9.6
Hungary	31.4	10.0

- Countries like **South Africa and Brazil**, the top 20% people take away **more than 60% national income**, leaving less than 3% for the bottom 20% population.
- Countries like **Denmark and Hungary** are much better in this respect.

Ground reality

- Evidence shows that in practice many democracies **did not fulfil this expectation**.
- When the **rates of economic growth** between countries under dictatorship and a democratic country is **negligible or insignificant**, it is definitely better to prefer democracy as it has several other **positive outcomes** (plus points).

Reduction of inequality and poverty

- Democracies are expected to reduce **economic disparities**, **more than economic development**.
- Economic disparities** refer to a situation when a country achieves **economic growth** but the **not distributed** in such a way that all citizens will have a **share** and may lead a better life.
- What we see in actual life is that economic growth in democracies has **increased the disparities** between rich and the poor. In other words, democracies led to an unjust distribution of goods and opportunities.
- A small number of **ultra-rich people** enjoy a highly disproportionate share of **wealth and income**. Therefore, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- On the other hand, those at the bottom of the society finding it **difficult to meet their basic needs** such as **food, clothing, shelter, education and health**. Their incomes have been declining.

Does this expectation come true?

- In reality, **democracies do not appear very successful in reducing economic disparities**.
- In **India** too, large number of **poor people** are voters and no party would like to **lose them**. Even then, no democratically elected governments appear to be **so keen** to address the **issue of poverty**, as is expected by them.
- In **Bangladesh**, the situation is more worse as more than half of its population live in **poverty**.
- In some poor countries, people are now dependent on the **rich countries** even for their **basic supplies**.

Accommodation of social diversity

- It is also expected from democracy that it will provide a peaceful **harmonious and stable** among its citizens.
- Democracy usually develop a **procedure** to conduct the **competition** of various social divisions which reduces the **possibility of any tension** becoming explosive or violent.
- Democracy has the ability to **handle the social differences, social divisions and social conflicts** in a better way.
- Mandatory conditions to establish social harmony**
- Majority always needs to work with the minority so that the governments function to represent the general view.
- Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
- Ex- Sri Lanka

- > not mean rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups etc.
- > It means that in case of every election or in case of every election, difference between majority and minority may and can be bridged.
- > Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.
- > If he is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democracy ceases to be accommodative for that person or group.

Dignity and Freedom of Women

- > The passions for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Therefore, democracy is expected to guarantee freedom of the person.
- > Every individual wants respect from fellow beings. Generally, conflicts arise among individuals when they feel that they are not treated with due respect.
- > Most societies across the world were historically male dominated societies.
- > Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to women and their rights are essential for the functioning of a democratic society.

Caste inequalities

- > The same is expected regarding caste inequalities. In India, democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- > Although, instances of caste-based inequalities still exist, but these lack the moral and legal foundations.

Examination of democracy never gets over

- > The criteria for examining a democratic country never gets over. As and when it passes, it is re-examined.
- > In other words, when people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more to make democracy even better.

People criticism is a positive indicator

- > People's complaints and more and more expectations are indicators of success of democracy in itself.
- > It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to look critically at their leaders.
- > People's dissatisfaction with democracy also transform them from the status of a subject to a citizen.