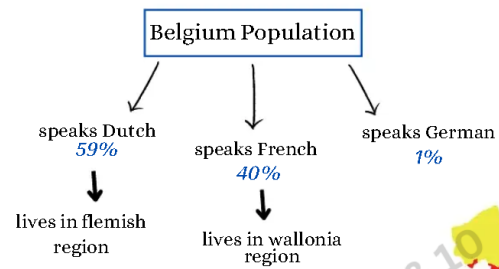
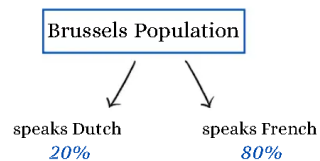


CHAPTER 1

Ethnic Composition of Belgium



Dutch speaking people constituted majority in the country while minority in the capital, Brussels.



Ethnic Composition of SRILANKA

- Sinhala Speakers - 74%
- Tamil Speakers -18%
- Among this, 18% are Sri Lankan Tamils and 5% are Indian Tamils.
- Most Sinhala speakers are Buddhists.
- Tamil speaking are both Muslims and Hindus and 7% of the population is Christian who speaks both the languages (Sinhala and Tamil).

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Majoritarianism : It is the idea that have the numerical majority of a population should help the final say in determining the outcome of a decision.

- Sri Lanka gained its independence in 1948, and after that, the majority Sinhala Community posed their dominance through majoritarianism.

Sinhala supremacy in Sri Lanka

- In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as only official language, thus disregarding Tamils.
- Sinhala were given favors in university and government jobs.
- Their religion Buddhism was favored and given special protection constitutionally.
- All these steps made Tamils feel alienated. They were denied political rights and discriminated.
- All this created a tense situation between the two communities and Tamils launched their struggle against the majority demanding a separate state, Eelam.
- This led to a Civil War, in which thousands of people were killed.

Belgian Model of Accommodation)

- Leaders in Belgium amended their constitution four times to accommodate diversity between 1970 to 1993.
- The number of French and Dutch speaking ministers should be equal in the central government. Thus no single community can make decisions.
- The state governments were given power and they were not subordinate to the central govt.
- The capital city Brussels had separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- Third kind of government called *community government* was formed.
- This government has special powers regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Power Sharing is Desirable

PRUDENTIAL REASONS

- Power sharing reduces the chances of conflicts between various social groups.
- It is also a good way to ensure political stability in the country.
- Power Sharing will bring out better outcomes.

MORAL REASONS

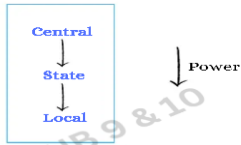
- It is the right of the citizens to be consulted on how they have to be governed.
- Power sharing is the very spirit of the democracy and moral reasons of power sharing emphasize the very act of power sharing as valuable.

Forms of Power Sharing

1. Horizontal : Power sharing among different organs of government
 - Three levels - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary
 - This is the horizontal distribution of power
 - There is a system of check and balances.
2. Vertical / Federalism : Power Sharing among different levels of government
 - Three levels - Central, State and Local government
 - This is the vertical distribution of power.
 - This is the federal division of power and also known as federalism.
3. Power Sharing among different social groups
 - "Community government" is a good example of this.
 - It is sharing power between various religious and linguistic groups.
 - There are reserved constituencies in State assemblies and parliament of our country.
4. Power sharing among different political parties, pressure groups and movements.
 - Coalition government is a good example of it.
 - Different political parties represent different ideologies and social groups.
 - The interest groups influence the decision making process.

CHAPTER 2 FEDERALISM

It is a type of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various other constituents of the country.



Dual objectives of Federalism

to safeguard and promote unity of the country.
at the same time accommodate regional diversity

Features of Federalism

- There are two or more levels of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each government has power independent of the other. (*in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.*)
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be changed by one level of government.
- The judiciary prevents conflict between centre and regional government in the exercise of their powers.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

Types/Kinds of Federalism

1. Coming Together Federation

- Independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- States have equal power and are equally strong.
- Emphasizes preservation of distinct identities and cultures.
- USA, Switzerland and Australia

2. Holding Together Federation

- Large country decides to divide its power between central government and the constituent states.
- Emphasizes unity of the whole nation
- Constituent units have unequal power. Some units are granted special powers.
- India, Spain and Belgium.

INDIA as a federal Country

India is based on the principles of federalism and is declared as a union of states by constitution.

- Three tiers of government : Central, State and Local.
- Each tier of government has its own jurisdiction specified in the constitution of our country.

Powers Division in India by Constitution

Union List

-It includes subjects that are solely under the control and legislative authority of the central government.

-These subjects are of national importance and relevance.

-Such as defense, foreign affairs, banking, currency, interstate trade and commerce, taxation, railways, and atomic energy, among others.

State List

-Comprises subjects on which only the state legislatures have the power to make laws

-State governments have the power to legislate, enact laws, and implement policies on matters included in the State List.

-Such as police, public health, agriculture, local government, public order, land, trade within the state, etc.

Concurrent List

-It comprises subjects on which both levels of government have the authority to enact laws

-Both the central and regional governments can pass laws on matters listed in the concurrent list. - However, in the case of a conflict between a central law and a regional law on a concurrent subject, the central law usually prevails.

-They often include areas like education, forests, trade unions, marriage, adoption, succession, bankruptcy, and so on.

Residuary List

-It consists of powers that are not explicitly assigned to either level of government in the constitution.

-These powers are retained by the central (federal) government by default.

-Matters in the residuary list can include issues related to national importance, inter-state commerce, international relations, etc.

More About India as a Federal country

-Indian states have unequal power among themselves. Some states are given special powers and thus India is a holding together federation.

-India has union territories that don't have powers equal to the states. Central government plays a major role in running union territories.

-Judiciary takes decision in case of any dispute between any forms of government.

-The basic structure of power sharing is mentioned in the constitution. If any change has to be made regarding this, it has to be passed by 2/3 majority in both houses of parliament and more than half of the state legislative assemblies in the country.

Practice of Federalism in India

The success of the federalism depends on the nature of the democratic politics.

When India got independence, there was a feared among the leaders that the creation of linguistic states might lead to disintegration of the country. But in reality, it has forged the unity of the country and made our administration easier.

-We don't have any national language but Hindi is identified as our official language.

-It is taken care especially that there will be no conflict on the grounds of language, as we saw in Sri Lanka.

-The powers of both the Center and State has been stated clearly to avoid any tensions between the two levels of government.

Decentralization in India

The rationale behind decentralisation

- There were several attempts to decentralise ----- Not very much successful

- Panchayat and municipalities were set up in all the states but these were directly under the control of state governments.

- Elections to these local governments were not held regularly.

- Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own.

Thus, there was very little decentralisation in effective terms.

Constitutional Amendment (73rd and 74th)

- ## Rural and Urban Local Government

Big Cities --- Municipal Corporations ----Head is called Mayor

Towns ----Municipalities -----Head is called Municipal chairperson

Village---- Gram Panchayat -----Head is called Sarpanch

In villages, people elect a body called gram sabha which approves annual budget for gram panchayat and review the performance of gram panchayat.

Groups of gram panchayats form — Panchayat Samiti (Block / Mandal)

Groups of panchayat samiti form ----Zila parishad---Head is called Zila Parishad chairperson

Political Party - It is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government

- The leaders
- Active Members
- Followers

Partisanship the strong loyalty to one's own political party and a tendency to unquestioningly support its views, often leading to an inability to see issues from a balanced, neutral perspective

Contesting elections: Parties nominate candidates, putting forward different policies and programs for voters to choose from.

Forming and running governments: The party that wins a majority in the elections forms the government and is responsible for its day-to-day functioning.

Playing the role of the opposition: Parties that do not win form the opposition, criticizing the government, voicing different views, and keeping a check on the ruling party's power.

Making laws: Political parties play a decisive role in making laws, as laws are debated and passed by the legislature, which is largely composed of party members.

Shaping public opinion: They raise and highlight issues, launch movements, and use the media to influence public opinion on various matters.

Providing access to government machinery: They help people access government machinery and welfare schemes, as it is often easier for citizens to approach a local party leader than a government official.

Because parties perform all those functions discussed before.

-----Situation without political parties

- Every candidate in the elections will be independent.
- So no one will be able to make any promises to the people about any major policy change.
- The government may be formed, but its utility will remain ever uncertain.
- Elected representatives will be accountable to their constituency.
- But no one will be responsible for how the country will be run.

1. One - party system

- Not a democratic option
- It refers to a political setup where only one political party is legally allowed to hold power, control government positions, and contest elections.

Example – China

2. Two - party system

A two-party system characterizes a political landscape where two major political parties dominate the electoral competition and governance.

- Several other parties may exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures.

Example: US & UK

3. Multi - party system

A multi-party system characterizes a political landscape where several political parties compete for power and representation.

- Coalition government is observed.

Example - India.

Party system of a country evolves with time and it depends on the nature of society, its social and religious divisions.

-Currently, more than 750 parties are registered with EC of India.

Which is better?

-Party system evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

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

For example, if India has evolved a system, it is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.

:- No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.

NATIONAL PARTIES

There are some countrywide parties, which are called 'national parties'.

These parties have their units in various states. But by and large, all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level

- *There were seven national parties in the country, in 2017.*

Criteria for a recognized national party

- 6% of votes in Lok Sabha elections OR 6% of votes in Assembly elections in four states.

- Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha elections.

Special facilities offered by EC to registered parties

- They are given a unique party symbol.

- They get a status of a political party.

- These parties are known as Recognised political party

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

- Formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram

- Seeks to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.

- Draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

- Stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the dalits and oppressed people. It has its main base in the state of Uttar Pradesh and substantial presence in neighbouring states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Punjab.

- In the Lok Sabha elections held in 2019, it polled about 3.63 per cent votes and secured 10 seats in the Lok Sabha.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

- Founded in 1980 by reviving the erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh, formed by Syama Prasad Mukherje in 1951.

- Wants to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and Deendayal Upadhyay's ideas of integral humanism and Antyodaya

- Cultural Nationalism(or 'Hindutva') is an important element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.

- Wants full territorial and political integration of Jammu & Kashmir with India, a uniform civil code for all people living in the country irrespective of religion, and ban on religious conversions.

- Its support base increased substantially in the 1990s.

- Earlier limited to north and west and to urban areas, the party expanded its support in the south, east, the north-east and to rural areas.

- Came to power in 1998 as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) including several regional parties.

Emerged as the largest party with 303 members in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

- Currently leads the ruling NDA government at the Centre.

Communist Party of India - Marxist (OPI-M)

- Founded in 1964. ---- Jyoti Basu (One of the founder)

- Believes in Marxism-Leninism.

- Supports socialism, secularism and democracy and opposes imperialism and communalism.

- Accepts democratic elections as a useful and helpful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.

- Enjoys strong support in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, especially among the poor, factory workers, farmers, agricultural labourers and the intelligentsia.

- Critical of the new economic policies that allow free flow of foreign capital and goods into the country.

- Was in power in West Bengal without a break for 34 years.

- In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it won about 1.75 per cent of votes and 3 seats.

Indian National Congress (INC)

- Popularly known as the Congress Party.
 - One of the oldest parties of the world. Founded in 1885 and has experienced many splits.
 - Played a dominant role in Indian politics at the national and state level for several decades after India's Independence.
 - Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the party sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India.
 - Ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989.
 - After 1989, its support declined, but it continues to be present throughout the country, cutting across social divisions.
 - A Centrist Party (neither rightist nor leftist) in its ideological orientation, the party espouses the secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities.
 - The INC supports new economic reforms but with a human face . Leader of the United Progressive Alliance.
 - (UPA) government from 2004 to 2014.
- In the 2019 Lok Sabha election it won 19.5% votes and 52 seats.

Aam Aadmi Party (A A P):

- Formed On 26 November 2012, following the 2011 anti-corruption movement.
- The party was founded on the idea of accountability, clean administration, transparency and good governance.
- In the year after its formation, AAP emerged as the second largest party in the Delhi Legislative Assembly election.
 - It formed a government with the support of Indian National Congress (INC).
 - It also emerged as the third front in the politics of Gujarat after 2022 Gujarat Legislative Assembly election.
 - Presently, AAP formed governments in Punjab and Delhi In the Lok Sabha election held in 2019, it secured one seat in the Lok Sabha.

National People's Party (NPP)

- Formed in July 2013 under the leadership Of P. A Sangma. - NPP is the first political party from North East India to have attained the status of a national party.
- It in of the Country recognizes that different regions have different developmental challenges.
 - The core philosophy of the party is education and employment to all as well empowerment of all of the Society,
 - It formed government in Meghalaya and has presence in many of North Eastern States. the Lok Sabha election held in 2019, NPP secured one 1 seat in Sabha.

STATE PARTIES Parties like the Samajwadi Party, Samata Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal have national level political organisations with units in several states. Some of these parties like Biju Janata Dal, Sikkim Democratic Front and Mizo National Front are conscious about their State identity.

All parties other than national parties are called "State Parties" or regional parties.

Importance of State Parties

- They make the federal system and democracy more strong.
- They take care of the local issues and sometimes national parties also take help of state parties to make government.
- Recognition of State Party - 6% of votes in State Legislative Assembly OR win at least 2 seats.

Challenges to Political Parties

- Lack of internal democracy: Decisions are often made by a few top leaders, and ordinary members have little say in party matters.
- Dynastic succession: Leadership positions are frequently passed down through families, creating an unfair advantage and limiting opportunities for other members.
- Money and muscle power: Parties often rely on wealthy candidates or those with criminal connections who can use their resources and influence to win elections.
- Lack of meaningful choice: Parties often present similar policies, leaving voters with little real difference to choose between.
- Corruption: Allegations of corruption and misuse of power are common, which can damage a party's credibility.
- Defections and instability: Members may switch parties for personal gain, leading to political instability.

How can Parties be reformed?

Recent efforts and suggestions in India

- The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties.
- New law states that if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature.
- The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals.
- The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

Some suggestions to reform political parties

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- To give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates
- There should be state funding of elections.
- There are two other ways in which political parties can be reformed.

CHAPTER 5

What is Democracy?

Democracy is a system of government where the people have the power to make decisions about how the country is run. In a democracy people usually vote in elections to choose their leaders and representatives. It means everyone's voice is heard* and decisions are made based on what most people want.

- Democracy is a better form of government because:

- It promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances the dignity of the individual.
- It improves the quality of decision-making.
- It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- It allows room to correct mistakes.

Is the democratic government efficient?

- Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.
- A democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.
→ Because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.

The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and response to the needs and expectations the citizens and this makes up a legitimate government

Accountable

- A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. This is known as transparency.

Legitimate Government

- In democracy, governments are elected through a regular, free and fair elections.
- Laws are made following proper procedures, after much discussion with the representatives of the people.
- If people feel that government has done something which goes against the Constitution, people can challenge it in the Judiciary.

Economic growth and development

- Between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth.

- Economic growth depends on various factors:

- Size of the population of a country
- Global situation
- Co-operation from other countries
- Economic policies adopted by the country

• However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.

ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

Economic outcomes of democracy Countries having dictatorship as a primary form of government have more economic growth, compared to democracy. About 20 per cent of the population takes up more than 60 per cent of the world population in democratic countries like Brazil and South Africa.

REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY

Democratic governments shouldn't focus on growing economically but reducing economic disparities that exists between rich and poor. Poverty is a topic not well addressed by democratic governments as can be notes in countries like Bangladesh where more than half of its population lives in poverty.

ACCOMMODATION OF SOCIAL DIVERSITY

- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups but these differences should be respected in a culturally diverse society.
- These two conditions must be met by a democracy:
 - Majority and minority, both should work together. Opinions of both must be respected for smooth functioning of the government.
 - Rule by ruling party shouldn't become rule by majority community.
- Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons and groups may and can form a majority.
- If someone is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group