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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

M.P.S.E.-8

Time: 2 Hours] **[Maximum Marks: 50**

Note: Attempt **five** questions in all, selecting at least **two** questions from each section. All questions **carry equal** marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Examine the response of the nationalists to caste and untouchability.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 20, Q. No. 1.

Q. 2. Discuss the reasons for the demands for statehood science indepenedence.

Ans. The process of creating Indian states began after India's independence in 1947. During the British rule of India, there were two types of British India states, princely states and provinces. With India's independence, provinces like Bombay and Bengal became Indian states and the small princely states adjoining the big provinces were added to the provinces. In some cases, some small adjoining princely states were joined together to make a new state like Rajasthan. Big princely states like Hyderabad, Mysore and others were also made states. But many local leaders demanded states for their culture and identity. The main demand was to create states based on language boundaries. This process of creating states based on languages began in 1953 and even today there are demands for new states for different language speakers.

Also Ref. Chapter-5, Page No. 41, 'Reasons for Statehood Demand'.

Q. 3. Write short notes on the following:

(a) **Legislative control of the Union over States**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 30, Q. No. 2.

(b) **Post-modernist framework to study state politics.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 10, 'The Post-modernist Frameworks'.

Q. 4. The party system in the states have undergone significant transformation since the late 1980s. Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 63, 'Towards Fragmentation of State Party Systems: 1989 Onwards'.

Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:

(a) **Protest movements and social movements.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 70, 'Protest Movements and Social Movements'.

(b) **Regional disparties in human development.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 82, 'Levels of Regional Disparties in Human Development'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. Globalization has altered the discourse on the centre and state relations. Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 109, 'Globalization and its Impact on State Politics'.

Q. 7. Comment on the nature of inter-state disputes in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 119, Q. No. 1.

Q. 8. Examine the features of politics of linguistic minorities in Indian states.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 144, 'Linguistic Minorities and Politics'.

Q. 9. Write short notes on the following:

(a) **Organization of Backward castes**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 137, 'Organizations of Backward Castes'.

(b) **Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 72, 'The Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha (CMM)'.

Q. 10. Discuss the various efforts made for electoral reforms since independence.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 54, 'Electoral Reforms'.

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QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

M.P.S.E.-8

Time: 2 Hours] **[Maximum Marks: 50**

Note: *Attempt **five** questions in all, selecting at least **two** questions from each section. All questions* **carry equal** *marks.*

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Examine the main features of state politics in India since the 1980's.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'State Politics: The 1980s Onwards'.

Q. 2. Discuss the nature of self-determination movements in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 73, 'The Self-Determination Movements'.

Q. 3. Examine the Marxist framework to analyse state politics.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 9, 'Marxian Framework'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) **Pattern of state politics in the 1970s**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Rise of Regional Forces and State Politics: The 1970s'.

(b) **Linguistic minorities and politics**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 144, 'Linguistic Minorities and Politics'.

Q. 5. "Political forces have worked towards reducing the centre's grip over the states." Disucss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 25, 'Introduction' and Page No. 29, 'Politics and State Rights'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. What are electoral reforms? What initiatives have been taken to reform the electoral system and processes?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 54, 'Electoral Reforms' and Page No. 57, Q. No. 3.

Q. 7. Examine the nature and pattern of protest movements in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 71, 'Characteristics and Patterns of Protest Movements' and 'Examples of Protest Movements'.

Q. 8. Discuss the political importance of multiparty party system in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 65, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 62, 'Towards Fragmentation of State Party Systems: 1989 Onwards'.

Q. 9. Discuss the agrarian transformation and land reform movements in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 90, 'Introduction', 'Land Reforms' and Page No. 94, Q. No. 1.

Q. 10. Write short notes on the following:

(a) **Patterns of communal politics in India**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 128, Q. No. 3.

(b) **Development as freedom**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 80, 'Development as Freedom'.

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Sample Preview

of

The Chapter

STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

Development of State Politics in India

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INTRODUCTION

State politics in India developed in the post-independence era. In the beginning, the states were bifurcated in four categories– A, B, C and D. But in the 60s era the political pundits felt the need of studying state politics as a different subject. State politics have witnessed number of changes in the post-independence era. It has taken the centre stage. By 1990s, states have become partners in the coalition governments. The states are now equally participating by becoming the regular members in the coalition governments. They represent the different region and social agendas.

In this chapter, we will learn about state politics in India. We will learn that methods of state government have been changes since independence. We also cover the different issues related with the changing scenario of the state politics. The prime focus of this chapter is to show the patterns of changes occurred in the state politics here in India.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

STATE POLITICS: THE 1950s-1960s

State politics for the first two decades is mainly in the hands of centre. During this era, Nehruvian model of development and the single party system signified the politics in India. India held its first national elections under the Constitution in 1952, where a turnout of over 60% was recorded. The National Congress Party won an overwhelming majority, and Jawaharlal Nehru began a second term as Prime Minister. Congress won 1957 and 1962 elections under the leadership of Prime Minister Nehru. The Parliament passed panoptic reforms to give more legal rights to women, and also framed laws against caste discrimination and untouchability. Many schools, colleges and institutions for providing primary and advanced learning, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology were founded across the nation. No taxes were imposed on Indian farmers, minimum wage and benefits for working-class, and the nationalization of steel, aviation, shipping, electricity and mining industries takes place in that era. States Reorganization Act was passed in 1956 by the States Reorganization Commission, who directed the creation of new states on the basis of spoken language and ethnic demographics. The Congress has dominated the power in number of states in that era. After the few years of independence, Naga and Mizo insurgencies started in the North-East India. Also, the demand for reorganization of states was raised in South India. The other socialists parties and left front mobilized the people on various issues against the Congress. The dominant pattern of state politics was challenged even from within the Congress. Some leaders in the Congress party were not behind in creating their social bases. And consolidated their own bases in their respective states. The prime example of this is Charan Singh. Charan Singh left the Congress party in 1967, and formed his own political party. With the help and support of Raj Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia, he became Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1967, and later in 1970.

RISE OF REGIONAL FORCES AND STATE POLITICS: THE 1970s

Changes in the state politics during the 1960s and 1970s took place after the demise of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. There has been rise of rich or the Kulaks in the areas which has witnessed the Green Revolution.

The most appropriate example is those of Jats in Haryana and Punjab. Charan Singh formed Bhartiya Kranti Dal with the focus mainly of the agrarian agenda.

After the demise of Congress, various regional parties come together and form Janata Party at the national and state level. The appointment Mandal Commission and new reservation system for backward classes take place in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The first manifestation of regionalism was the demand for reorganization of states on linguistic basis, but the most effective play of regionalism was the victory of the DMK against Congress in Tamil Nadu in 1960s. Soon in Punjab, the Akali movement gained momentum, while in Jammu and Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah revived the National Conference. During these initial years, all the Indian political parties continued to adjust with these regional forces on the plea that they would ultimately succeed in making inroads into the bases of the regional parties and absorb them in their organizations.

Though, the regional parties operate within very limited area and pursue only limited objective, they have played significant role both in the State as well as national politics. The regional political parties formed governments in several states and tried to give concrete shape to their policies and programmes. Some of the important regional parties which formed governments in various states include DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu; National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir, Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, Asom Gana Parishad in Assam; Maharasthrawadi Gomantak Party in Goa; Mizo National Front in Mizoram; Sikkim Sangram Parishad in Sikkim; All Party Hill Leaders Conference in Meghalaya and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in Haryana.

STATE POLITICS: THE 1980s ONWARDS
Assertion of Identities

The developments after the 1980s, contributed to the changing phase of the state politics in India. These developments included the advent of coalition politics, globalization assertion of number of identities based on ethnicity, i.e. caste, tribe, language, etc.

Caste is basically a system of social stratification which permeates Indian social structure and polity and hence, to a large extent determines the pattern of social interaction within and among social groups. India is a plural society having multiplicity of religious, linguistic and caste groups. All these varieties are a natural manifestation and continuation of India's traditional social fibres which have undergone slight changes during the long period of Indian history. Due to its diversity, India is facing many dangerous problems like, communalism, regionalism, linguism, casteism and so on. The formation of BSP and Janata Dal in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar take place in this era.

In this part of the section, we shall focus on two of the prominent movements of the rural rich, one led by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) in Western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and the Shetkari Sangathan (SS) which represents primarily the interests of the sugarcane, cotton, tobacco, grape and onion growers in south-west Maharashtra though it also has its base in Gujarat.

Impact of Globalization

Patterns of globalization and liberalization need to be examined in light of their political consequences, especially in the context of situations of state collapse and violent conflict. Champions of globalization can be divided into two camps – the advocates of economic liberalization and the promoters of global governance. They share a common skepticism of the state, which ignores both the developmental lessons of history and perverse impact liberalization has had peace and security. While liberalization has transformed the terrain of politics, privileging a form of semi-democracy, problems of violent conflict highlight the urgent need for the reconstitution of modern states in the developing world.

During the phase of globalization, the party system has witnessed number of changes. In most of the Indian states two or more than two parties emerged as a principal political parties. These state level parties are oriented towards their local area and issues. The most prime examples in this regard are BSP with its base in UP, Akali Dal and BJP has its influence in the northern region, AIADMK and DMK in south India.

Insurgencies and State Politics

The insurgencies and other related issues taken the centre stage in the politics of the several states in the north India. These developments not only affect the political structure of their respective states. They also have all important effect on the national scenario. Insurgencies do not emerge in a vacuum. Their underlying root causes are invariably to be found in political, socio-economic, or religious domains; their nature and scope depending upon the nature of the grievances, motivations and demands of the people. India has had its share of insurgencies. In all, an estimated 30 armed insurgency movements are sweeping across the country, reflecting an acute sense of alienation on the part of the people involved. Broadly, these can

be divided into movements for political rights (e.g. Assam, Kashmir and Punjab), movements for social and economic justice (e.g. Maoist [Naxalite] and north-eastern states), and religious grounds (e.g. Laddakh). These causes overlap at times. Various groups are involved in the insurgency in Northeast India, India's north-east states, which are connected to the rest of India by a narrow strip of land known as the Siliguri Corridor. Much of the region is notably ethnically and linguistically different from the rest of India. Some groups call for a separate state, others for regional autonomy while some extreme groups demand complete independence.

EXERCISES

Q. 1. What were the dominant features of state politics in India in the first two decades following independence?

Ans. State politics for the first two decades is mainly in the hands of the centre. The single party system signified the state politics in India. The party system during the first two decades after independence was termed as the Single Dominant Party system. It was a multi-party system where the ruling party played an overwhelmingly dominant role. Although, a number of other political parties existed and operated politically, yet the central space of politics was occupied by the Indian National Congress only. The dominance of the Congress was determined by its immense organizational strength as well as its capability to capture large number of seats both in the Union Parliament and the State Legislatures.

Dominance of the Congress as the ruling party did not mean absence of competition. The numerous parties in opposition provided competition. Yet, such competition did not result in effectively challenging the dominant position of the ruling party. In electoral terms, it implied that although a number of opposition parties entered the electoral arena but none of them singly or in combination could secure substantial number of seats to replace the Congress as the ruling party. These parties were fragmented and poorly represented in the union and the state legislatures. Congress continued to return its candidates in large numbers, in fact, in proportionately large numbers.

One of the important features of the Congress party that helped it to sustain its position of dominance was its capacity to represent divergent social groups and interests. As it drew its support from different sections of society, it played the role of a great umbrella party.

During the nationalist movement, it had accommodated diverse groups into its fold and had stressed on the need for their unity within the same organizational structure, It had therefore assumed the character of a broad coalition. In the post-independence period, it continued to absorb the dominant social elements and balance different interests that helped it to maintain' its unchallenged position of power.

Q. 2. Why did the Congress system or the dominant party system decline?

Ans. Change in the nature of party system in the decades after 1960s' according to Rajni Kothari, was the consequence of the 'changed socio-economic and demographic profile of the polity'. Such a change in the profile of the polity was a consequence of the political mobilization of the masses as well as the emergence of new-political classes. The political mobilization of the masses was a logical consequence of the electoral politics based upon the principle of universal adult franchisee. Frequently held elections helped in increasing the political consciousness of mass of Indians, especially those belonging to the backward and lower castes.

The emergence of the new political classes was directly related to the rise of the proprietary peasant class in rural India in the backdrop of the land reforms. By the beginning of the 70s, the land-owning socially dominant sections belonging mainly to the backward castes had attained sufficient economic strength to demand a share in political power. The entry of these castes into the competitive power politics had far-reaching consequences for the Indian politics. Firstly, there was an increase in the number of those aspiring for a share in power. The party system in India has undergone major transfonnation in the last five decades.

As a legacy of the National Movement, the Party System in 1947 was characterized by an overwhelming dominance of the Congress party. As the central political institution of India, the Congress completely controlled the power politics for the first two decades after independence. The strength of the Congress lay in its organizational structure and in its ability to accommodate diverse political interests. This peculiarity of the Congress was linked with the homogeneous nature of the political elite whether belonging to the Congress or the opposition.

Q. 3. Explain the impact of identities on the state politics in India.

Ans. The assertion of dalits in North India impacted the political scenario of the country.

At the level of the states, there has been, for quite some time, a keen competition for political power. Yet, there are variations in the way this competition operates. In many states, there is an alternation of power between at least two parties. The party politics, in these states may be described as the two-party politics. In many other, states, politics is not neatly divided between the two parties. There is a multiplicity of parties with tile parties bunching themselves in two group's poles. The party politics of these states may be defined in terms of bi-polarity. There are other states also having a multi-party system but which cannot be neatly classified either as two-party system or systems of bipolarity.

There is, therefore, a lot of fluidity in party politics at the state level. This fluidity operates not only in the nature of party competition but also in the way the political parties are placed in the states. Regional parties are important political actors at the level of the states but that does not mean that national parties do not operate at the level of states. There are different patterns of competition between the regional and the national parties. In some of the states, regional parties are very crucial political actors, but in outlier states, regional parties do not play that important role. There are some states where national parties do not have significant presence. In some states, party competition takes place mainly among the national parties while there are states where the power alternates between a national and a regional party. In some of the states, the national parties have acquired a regional character and compete with the national or the regional parties. Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, are the states with a strong tradition for regional parties, while UP, Himachal Pradesh, MP, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan have been the states where the competition has been taking place between the national parties.

Q. 4. What is the relationship between globalization and state politics in India?

Ans. Globalization has weakened the position of the centre and enabled the states to be autonomous players in the national scenario. Much had changed in India after the balance of payments crisis of 1991. Indian policies became more positive about promoting exports and allowing foreign capital to participate in the process of India's growth. A question that needed to be asked was whether these were induced by the crisis, or ideational changes within the policy elite, or both? Did institutional histories matter in explaining the relative success or failure in converting policy change to institutional changes favouring competition and efficiency in diverse sectors of the Indian economy? An important research agenda to consider was the role of the multilateral institutions, and, technocratic shifts within the Indian policy elite, in explaining the distinct trade oriented shift in the policy trajectory since 1991. What were these changes? Tariffs were reduced; foreign exchange controls were relaxed; competition was introduced in the traditional public sector dominated infrastructure like skill power, telecommunications, and airlines; industrial licensing was virtually abolished; public sector units were sold to private corporations; foreign investment was welcomed in a variety of sectors; the intellectual property regime changed to favour the cause of protecting intellectual property rather than public health, and, foreign institutional investors began investing heavily in the Indian stock market. There were other areas such as the policy on labour, agriculture, and the continued growth of the fiscal deficit, where Indian policies had not changed substantially, despite India's moves towards global economic integration.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q. 1. What do you know about different regional parties in India?

Ans. Regional parties are parties whose main holds are in one certain state and mostly they participate in the elections only within that state. Most of these regional parties have agenda fitting certain culture dominant within that state. Some of these regional parties also participate in neighbouring states, which have constituencies with similar culture to the first state. Different state parties were established at different periods because of different reasons. Some even have origins prior to India's independence.

In Tamil Nadu, two main state parties are All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (AIADMK) and Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK). Of these two parties the DMK is the veteran party. The origins of these parties are prior to India's independence. The main ideology of this party is Tamil national pride. Before India's independence there were two Dravidian parties. One was Independent Party, which demand an independent Dravidstan in south India. Other was Justice Party, which had a Dravidian pride ideology. After India's independence, the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) was established from the merger of these two parties in the former state of Madras, in south India. This party first demanded an independent Dravidstan for all of south India. Later on the demand was changed