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STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

B.P.S.E.-143

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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
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QUESTION PAPER

June - 2024

(Solved)

STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

B.P.S.E.-143

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

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

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Explain the various approaches to the study of state politics in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, Q. No. 1, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 14, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 12, 'Federation-Building Framework' and 'Social Capital Framework'.

Q. 2. Examine the scheme of power sharing between the centre and state in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, Q. No. 1 and Page No. 23, Q. No. 2.

Q. 3. Discuss the factors responsible for sub-regional autonomy movements in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 51, 'Sub-Regional Autonomy: Issues and Challenges'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) GST Council.

Ans. See Chapter-3, Page No. 21, 'Recent Developments', 'The Goods and Service Tax (GST)' and 'Composition of GST Council'.

(b) Balvant Rai Mehta Committee.

Ans. See Chapter-4, Page No. 34, Q. No. 1.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Examine the politics of India's linguistic groups.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 117, 'Linguistic Groups and Politics in India'.

Q. 6. Explain the characteristics of ethnic politics in Northeast India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 120, Q. No. 4 and Page No. 119, 'Ethnic Groups and Politics'.

Q. 7. Discuss the regional distribution of the tribes in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 130, 'Regional Distribution of Tribes in India'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The LGBTQs.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 145, 'The LGBTQs'.

(b) The Mandal Commission.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 107, 'The Mandal Commission Report'.



QUESTION PAPER

December - 2023

(Solved)

STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

B.P.S.E.-143

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

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

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Discuss recent developments in centre-state financial relations in the context of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 20, 'Centre-State Financial Relations'.

Q. 2. Analyse the areas of conflict in the functioning of the Federation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 18, 'The Making of Indian Federation' and Chapter-5, Page No. 40, 'Autonomy in Indian Federalism' and 'Demand for Autonomy in the Indian States'.

Q. 3. Analyse the decline of the "Congress System".

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 81, Q. No. 1 and Page No. 79, 'Party Systems in the States during the 1970s-1980s: Broad Features'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Neo-Marxian Framework.

Ans. According to the Marxian concept of dialectical materialism, history is looked as it is determined by the struggle between economic forces and this is caused by material needs. Use of dialectical materialism is called the historical materialism and the Marxian framework applies this concept to understand facts about the society and the politics.

Also add: Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Neo-Marxian Framework'.

(b) Residuary power of legislation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 19, 'Residuary Powers of Legislation'.

Also Add: The residuary powers of legislation are a key feature of federalism in India, granting the central government authority to legislate on matters not specifically allocated to state governments. This mechanism prevents legislative gaps and supports the country's unity and effective governance. Although the Constitution does not explicitly define the scope of residuary powers, the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court of India, has clarified their application

over time. The Court has determined that these powers encompass matters of national importance and those not included in the Union, State, or Concurrent Lists outlined in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Residuary powers are essential for addressing issues that require a uniform approach across the nation, ensuring that critical areas are governed consistently. Examples include matters related to national security, foreign affairs, inter-state commerce, and laws concerning the functioning of the central government. These issues are vital to maintaining the integrity and stability of the country, and the central government's ability to legislate on them ensures cohesive and efficient governance. By vesting the central government with these powers, the Indian Constitution provides a framework that balances federalism with the need for national unity and a strong, centralized authority in matters of overarching importance.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Analyse the evolution of state-level leadership during the late 1960s and early 1980s.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 97, 'Emergence of The State Level Leadership (Late 1960s-1980s)'.

Q. 6. Explain the characteristics of ethnic politics in North-east India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 120, Q. No. 4, Page No. 119, 'Ethnic Groups and Politics'.

Q. 7. Discuss the regional distribution of Indian tribes.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 130, and 'Regional Distribution of Tribes In India'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Kerala Model of Development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 63, 'The Kerala Model'.

(b) Two-Party system.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 81, 'Two-Party System in the States'.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

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STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

BLOCK-1 : INTRODUCTION

Development of State Politics in India



INTRODUCTION

The national politics in India takes care of the institutions and processes connected with the national level politics and the state politics is concerned with the politics and political processes in different states and Union Territories. India has 28 States and 8 Union Territories. There are many similarities and differences in the politics of different States and UTs. As a field of politics, the state politics in India had developed the country had achieved its independence. Since then, there have been many significant changes in the status of states that have had an impact the state and national politics. A pattern of state politics had developed in India during this period, in which there have been many problems of the states, many political parties had been formed and also many political processes have been changed. It was during the 1960s, that the state politics was considered to be a separate subject. There were two seminars in USA in 1961 and 1964 on the subject of Indian state politics. These were held in the University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology respectively. Report of the first seminar was published in June 1961 and of the presentations of the second seminar were published in the book (1968), edited by Weiner. Many studies were undertaken on the different aspects of the states of India after publication a book by Iqbal Narain. Studies in respect of the politics of different caste groups, like Dalits, Other Backward Classes, etc., were also conducted.

During the post-independence period, there were many significant changes in the field of state politics in India. Since the 1990s, there were many coalition Governments in India at the centre and in many states due to which, state politics was started to be given an important position. Even the national level politics was started to be influenced by state level politics.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

STATE POLITICS: THE 1950s-1960s

Indian politics during the first two decades after independence was there in the supremacy of the Congress Party and the development model of the then Prime Minister Nehru. The state politics of the period was similar to the national level politics where the states were having a secondary position to the Central Government. Various State Governments had started a number of programs as their contribution towards the goal of nation building, under the directions of Central Government. These programs included various community development programmes, land reforms, etc. The ruling Congress Government was also having Governments in many States and at both places, the politics was having a similar pattern. More or less, there was no disagreement about the Governor to the States, who were appointed by the Central Government.

Just a few years after the independence of India, there were different movements in North East India by the Naga and the Mizo insurgents. Besides this, there were Plebiscite Front movement in Jammu and Kashmir and the movements in the Southern States concerning reorganisation of Indian States. There were dissents within the state politics against the dominant politics of the Congress Party. In state politics, different political parties having a different ideology from the Congress were being accorded importance. On account of the differences with the Congress Party, many political parties such as the Jan Sangh, the Akali Dal, Left parties, the socialists, etc. were playing an important part in states politics, due to which there emerged a different pattern of state politics in India. A number of instances were there which indicate that the patterns of the state politics were given ethnic dimensions. These include the Dalit movement of Republican Party in

Maharashtra and UP; the Dalit Panther in Maharashtra; the Cow Protection movement of Jana Sangh, RSS, etc.; the Socialist movements for spreading Hindi and opposition to imposition of Hindi in Tamil Nadu, etc. There were many people in the Congress Party who tried to challenge its dominance in state politics. They took steps to create their social base while being in the Party and they also had strengthened their position in their respective states. The Swatantra Party in Rajasthan, MP and Gujarat had also challenged the leadership of the Congress Party. Due to such things, Selig Harrison, the famous scholar and journalist, had called the 1950s to be the most dangerous decade. The dominant pattern of state politics was challenged even from within the Congress.

There emerged a fight between Chaudhary Charan Singh and many other Congress leaders in UP. He consolidated his position among the backward/intermediary classes of the state. It resulted in the splitting of the Congress Party in the state and the arrival of a strong regional political force in North India. Thereafter, Congress was defeated in many states during the General Elections of 1967 and a coalition Government was formed at the centre in 1969 which marked the beginning of a new trend.

RISE OF REGIONAL FORCES AND STATE POLITICS: THE 1970s

After the death of Pandit Nehru in 1964, his daughter Indira Gandhi rose to power and there were further significant changes in the state politics in India. During the period between the late 1960s and 1970s, there was a sharp increase in the number of rural rich people called the Kulaks. This had mainly happened in those areas where the Green Revolution had succeeded. Significant among these people were the Jats (in UP, Haryana & Punjab), the Yadavs and Kurmies (in Bihar and Eastern UP), the Reddies and Kammas (in Andhra Pradesh), etc. During the period between 1967 and 1987, Chaudhary Charan Singh had emerged as a strong leader in the state politics of North India. His focus was primarily on the agriculture sector and he formed the Bharatiya Kranti Dal. Particularly in states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary Charan Singh and many other state level leaders had played a prominent role in the state politics.

On the lines of the happenings of Uttar Pradesh, there were more state level political leaders and political parties in the following years which had also changed the state politics of the country. The emerging leaders also had strong social bases among farmers and they used to take up the regional issues of the people. There

was a growing demand for giving a new look to the centre-states relations. They also tried to highlight the role played by the Governors of States who were generally favoring the Congress Party. As a result of the above developments, many state leaders came to be regarded as national level leaders and more importance was started to be accorded to the regional leaders by political parties. Since the strength of these newly emerged national level leaders was in their social bases and the politics at the state level, they had begun to lead their regional political parties. In 1975, a state of emergency in the country was imposed by the Congress Party and many national/state level leaders had come together against the Congress Party. The Janata Party was formed in 1977 as a result of these developments. Thereafter, there were significant changes in the national as well as the state level politics, due to the actions taken by the Janata Party Government. Significant among these developments were the appointment of the Mandal Commission and the reservation to the backward classes in Bihar and UP.

During the period between late 1960s and early 1980s, a challenge was posed to the Congress Party and the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi by the increasing political influence of regional political parties. It was demanded that states should be provided a stronger role in centre-states relations. There were many developments during this period which suggested about the increasing influence of regional political parties. These events include conclaves of opposition leaders, appointment of the Sarkaria Commission for revamping centre-state relations and resolution of the Left Front in West Bengal.

Agitations in Gujarat and the significant movements led by Shri J. P. Narain also challenged the Congress Party and the leadership of Smt. Gandhi. The Allahabad High Court gave a verdict in 1975 disqualifying Smt. Indira Gandhi and adjudging her guilty of electoral malpractices. After this, the Central Government imposed a state of emergency in the country on 26th June, 1975, which was withdrawn on 21st March, 1977. Thereafter, many regional leaders including Chaudhary Charan Singh, and state leaders such as Shri Karpoori Thakur (Bihar), Chaudhary Devi Lal (Haryana), Shri Ram Naresh Yadav (UP) and a number of leaders from the South Indian States, entered national politics of the country.

STATE POLITICS: THE 1980s ONWARDS

Assertion of Identities: A number of new social movements were organized by different special groups. Further, due to developments such as globalization,

coalition governments at the Centre and in States, etc. had also helped significantly changing the state politics and the role of the states in the politics at the central level. More such developments were, the assertion of multiple identities based on ethnicity (caste, tribe, language), farmers' movements, insurgency in the North-East and in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab States, etc.

Another significant development in the state politics in India was the assertion of the Dalits and the backward classes in north India. Already, such assertion had been there in the South India. The new forces had demanded reservation, creation of new states and they also sought more funds by the centre to the states. In North India, formation of Bahujan Samaj Party and the different forms of the Janata Dal had given new dimensions to the state politics in North India. Also during the period were formation of the Bharatiya Kisan Unions (BKU) comprising rich farmers of UP and Punjab, the Shetkari Sangathan in Maharashtra, the Karnataka Rajya Ryatha Sangha. During the 1970s, such groups also existed and these were known as the Kulaks in North and Southern India. The difference between the Kulaks of the 1970s and these groups of the 1980s was that while the Kulaks were primarily due to the Green Revolution in India and the land reforms and they wanted to have some share in the politics and also wanted better terms for the agriculture produce, the groups of the 1980s were mainly concerned about the matters relating to the market economy.

Impact of Globalization: Globalization during the 1990s had also impacted the state politics of the country and in some states, there was more FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) but it was not so in all the states. Further, liberalization had also enabled the states to compete with each other to get a larger share of the FDI, due to which, it is thought, that there emerged a disparity among the states. While some states had developed but many other states could not do so and had remained backward. Some states, after globalization had also started playing an independent role in national and state politics weakening centre's position.

There have been significant changes in the party system as a result of globalization and now most of the states have two or more principal parties. In his book *Federalism Without a Centre*, Lawrence Saez, has described that due to globalization, the Indian states have been able to work as independent entities for implementing their ideas, they bargain with the foreign investors and donors and also to have independent

contracts with various agencies upon getting the approval of the Central Government. Such things were not there earlier. According to Saez, there has been a gradual decline in the intergovernmental institutions which have now been replaced by inter-jurisdictional competition.

Some state level political parties were engaged in working for some specific areas, castes/religions and they also became a part of coalition Governments primarily on account of their influence in elections. Some such parties had also formed their alliances. The Bahujan Samaj Party (in UP, Punjab and MP), the Samajwadi Party, the Rashtriya Lok Dal, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Akali Dal (in Punjab and other northern states), the Shiv Sena (in Maharashtra and other states), the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, the Telugu Desam Party, the AIADMK/the DMK in Southern India were some such important political parties.

So, in this way, there was an increase in the number of political parties and social groups that ensured that no single political party could dominate the politics of states. These political parties generally concentrate on mobilizing votes in elections in the state but there are some new social forces, such as those of the Dalits/OBCs, which have their focus on both electoral as well as non-electoral mobilisation. The coalitions/political fronts of the ruling or oppositions are generally formed for pursuing political ambitions but there also exist some ideological basis for such formations.

Insurgencies and State Politics: Insurgency problem relates to development related matters, relations between different races/religions, self determinations etc. and these issues influence the state politics as well as have a role in the national politics. Insurgency is a revolution against the nation state and in many cases these may lead to riots and conflicts among different ethnic groups. India has been dealing with this problem since long. Insurgency related matters had become very significant in many states, such as, the states of the North East, Punjab (in the 1980s) and Jammu and Kashmir (now, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh). Since independence, India has been facing insurgency related issues in the North-East India, in Jammu and Kashmir, etc. The state level leadership and political parties had challenged the dominance of one party and the insurgency movements gave importance to federation building approach instead of the nation-building approach being followed by Central Government. There are some instances when there were insurgency movements due to issues such

as autonomy or about movement against outsiders and even there are some new groups which ask for the right of self-determination, like in the North-East. In Assam, the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) movement, the movement of Bodos, etc., were earlier linked with the AASU (All Assam Students Union) agitation but when they former groups were not given importance, they started their separate agitations asking for autonomy.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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

Ans. After independence, the Indian politics during the first two decades was indicated in the supremacy of the Congress Party and the development model started by the then Prime Minister Nehru, putting emphasis on nation-state building of the country. During this period, the state politics used to be exactly similar to the national level politics in which the states were accorded a secondary position under the dominance of the Central Government. Even within the Congress Party, there were people who had tried to challenge its dominance in the state politics. These leaders had also initiated steps to create their social base and while being in the Congress Party, they had strengthened their position in their respective states.

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

Ans. After independence, the country was being ruled by the Congress Government which was also having Governments in a number of States as well. With the Congress Government at the Centre as well as in different States, the politics at both the levels reflected a similar pattern. There were dissents within the state politics against the dominant pattern of politics led by the Congress Party. In this period, a number of political parties having a different ideology from that of the Congress Party had started to gain importance in the state politics. The national level leadership of the Congress Party was representing various factions of the politics of different States. The then Prime Minister Nehru had died in the year 1964. After his death, his daughter Indira Gandhi rose power. In this background, there were significant changes in the state politics in India. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, there emerged a fight between Charan Singh and many other Congress leaders.

Q. 3. Identify the characteristics of state politics during the 1970s.

Ans: In Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary Charan Singh had already consolidated his position among the backward/intermediary classes of the state while being a member of the Congress Party. All this had resulted in the arrival of a strong regional political force in the Northern India and splitting of the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh. In the following days, the trend continued which led to the defeat of the Congress Party in many states during the General Elections of 1967. As a result of the defeat, a coalition Government was formed at the centre in the year 1969, leading to the beginning of another trend in the Indian politics. During the following years, there was a significant rise in the number of state level political leaders and political parties, in the manner similar to Uttar Pradesh and as a consequence, there were many important changes in the state politics of the country in this period. These leaders also had their strong social bases among the agriculturists and primarily, they were taking up the regional problems faced by the people. The state level politics of this period used to demand for giving a new look to the relations between the Centre and the States. After the imposition of a state of emergency in the country by the dominant Congress Party in 1975, a large number of national level and state level leaders had joined hands against the Congress Party and this had led to the formation of the Janata Party in 1977 jointly by many national and state level political parties.

Q. 4. Explain the impact of identities on the state politics in India.

Ans. Regional aspirations had come up due to the impact of identities that could be seen in the emergence of state level leadership and state level issues. There were many developments in the country which were due to the state level politics but were different from the earlier periods. There were new social movements organized by different special groups. Another significant development in the state politics in India was related to the assertion of the Dalits and the backward classes in North India. Such an assertion in the South India had already been there before this period. Such new forces had a number of demands in various states, including reservation, creation of new states and also sought more funds to the states by the centre. The formation of the Bahujan Samaj Party and the different forms of the Janata Dals had also provided new dimensions to the state politics in North India.

Q. 5. What is the relationship between globalization and state politics in India?

Ans. As a result of globalization during the 1990s, the state politics of the country were greatly affected.