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POLITICAL SCIENCE

Standard 12



PLEDGE

India is my country.

All Indians are my brothers and sisters.

I love my country and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.

I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall respect my parents, teachers and all my elders and treat everyone with courtesy.

I pledge my devotion to my country and its people.

My happiness lies in their well-being and prosperity.

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PREFACE

Gujarat State Board of School Textbooks has prepared new textbooks as per the new curricula developed by the Gujarat State Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board and which has been sanctioned by the Education Department of the Government of Gujarat. A panel of experts from Universities/Colleges, Teachers Training Colleges and Schools have put lots of efforts in preparing the manuscript of the subject. It is then reviewed by another panel of experts to suggest changes and filter out the mistakes, if any. The suggestions of the reviewers are considered thoroughly and necessary changes are made in the manuscript. Thus, the Textbook Board takes sufficient care in preparing an error free manuscript. The Board is vigilant even while printing the textbooks.

The board expresses the pleasure to publish the Textbook of **Political Science** for **Std. 12** which is a translated version of Gujarati. The Textbook Board is thankful to all those who have helped us in preparing this textbook. However, we welcome suggestions to enhance the quality of the textbook.

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FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India*:

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- (k) to provide opportunities for education to his child, or a ward between the age of 6 to 14 years as the case may be.

INDEX

1.	Nature of Party System in India	1
2.	Elections in India	13
3.	Indian Democracy : Challenges and Response	24
4.	Development and Democracy	36
5.	Peace and Development	43
6.	India and the World	50
7.	United Nations	62
8.	Environment and World Politics	68



Political Parties are important part in any democratic state, because political parties are necessary in democracy. Political party is the base of democracy. Generally there are two types of democracy; (1) Direct Democracy and (2) Indirect Democracy. People cannot rule directly due to large territory and population in India. Therefore people elect representatives and they rule on behalf of and responsible to them, it is called indirect or representative democracy. Political party is the tool to rule in indirect or representative democracy. We will discuss in this chapter meaning-definition-nature of political party, party system in India, co-alition government, role of opposition party in democracy, public opinion and Interest groups and Pressure groups. Here we must note that political parties are very important in democracy but generally they are not clearly indicated in the constitutions of democratic states.

Definition and Nature

There is freedom of thought, speech, expression and association in democracy. Therefore, there are political parties which have various opinions and ideologies in democracy. Generally people have ideological relations with one or other political party knowingly or unknowingly. Generally political party is a group of less or more people who have similar thoughts on public affairs. They function with political unity in order to acquire control over government machinery to execute pre planned policy.

Various scholars have given various definitions of political party, they are as following :

- (i) Prof. Mac Iver - “ Political Party is such an organization which is trying to capture power on basis of particular principles and ideologies.”
- (ii) Gilchrist - “Political party is an organised group of people who have common political ideas and are trying to get power or control over government as a political unit.”

We can bring following points to clarify the nature of political party from above definitions.

- (a) Political party is a systematic organisation of people which have alike ideology.
- (b) There is an equality of political thoughts in political party.
- (c) Main aim of political party in democracy is to achieve political power by constitutional means.
- (d) Objective of political party is to fulfill people’s interest by their ideology.

Importance of Political Party

Political parties have to fulfill very important responsibility in democratic setup. The operation of modern politics by democratic means is mostly impossible without political parties. Political parties are a link between people and government. They represent various social groups and factors in politics. They play an important role to politicise the people and give constitutional structure to participate in politics.

There are demerits and defects of political parties but it is impossible to operate democracy without them as there is no other alternative.

The existence and functions of political parties are important due to some unavoidable requirement of democracy as follows:

Functions of Political Party

Modern democracy is based on party system. Parties are playing an important role of linkages between people and government. The functions of political parties are as following :

(1) To organize people : The first function of the political party is to organise those who possess similar thoughts from various ideologies in the state. Political parties shape people's wishes and expresses them.

(2) To shape public opinion : The main aim of all political parties is to achieve power. For this, it is necessary to get majority support of voters. So all parties try to shape public opinion in favour of them.

(3) Political awareness to voters : Political parties explain their policies to voters. They canvass for their candidate and programmes in different ways. Political parties awake voters by various activities. In short, parties give political understanding to the voters at the time of election and encourage them to take decision. In this way, political parties give political education to voters.

(4) Formation of Government : The most important function/aim of a political party is to achieve political power and form a government. In parliamentary form of democracy, a party which gets majority of seats in lower house, forms a government and tries to imply its programmes, policies, aims etc, which are announced before election.

(5) Provides opportunities for an alternative government : In parliamentary form of Government, no party remains in power permanently. Due to some reasons, ruling party losses majority, opposition party forms alternative government.

(6) Functions as an opposition party : The function of an opposition party is to exercise control over government. Party which gets majority in general elections forms a government and other parties function as opposition party. Main function of opposition party is to expose mistakes, deficiencies, maladministration of the government and to criticise such policies. If the opposition party is alert enough, the government has to remain aware and careful. In this way, opposition party prevents government to misuse power.

(7) Connects people and government : Political parties function as a link between people and government. The presence and functioning of political parties keep people connected with government. Ruling party acquaints people of its policies and programmes, where as, opposition party make people aware by criticising government's maladministration, mistakes, deficiencies and weaknesses. Thus, parties are linkages between people and government.

Political parties can only perform these functions effectively if they are well organised and vigilant about their role.

Merits and Demerits of Political Party

After discussing the role of political parties, now we will study their merits and demerits.

Merits of Political Parties:

(1) Organise people who possess alike ideology : Political parties unite and organise those people who possess similar ideas about various problems and their solutions. They unite people residing at different places having similar ideas regarding various problems and their solution.

(2) Make the change of Government possible through Non-violent way : Acceptance of political parties means acceptance of election system. General elections are held periodically or even earlier if received. Various political parties participate part in the elections and the party which achieves majority

gets power. Political parties become instrumental in changing government through peaceful non-violent way. In those countries where there is no sound party system is developed, change in government takes place through violence and revolution.

(3) Keep government machinery dynamic : When political parties work as an opposition party, its main function is to criticize governments' policies, administration, etc. Government also remains alert due to this criticism. Which make the government machinery functions well organized in this way, parties contribute to make government machinery dynamic.

(4) Restraint over government : In democracy, government functions on public opinion, so government will be very careful about misuse of power and conscious about public opinion going against it. Opposition party criticises government and tries to gain public opinion in its favour hence, government cannot become uncontrolled.

(5) Provide effective support for election : In recent times, elections have become very expensive and extensive. And it is impossible to take part in election without political party's help. As a member of party, candidate gets help of party machinery and finance for election campaign. Thus, party provides effective financial support for election campaign.

We have discussed the functions of political party that it awakes people vigilant about country and society problems, mobilises and organises people, etc. These all are benefits of political party. There are demerits as well which are as follows:

Demerits of Political Party

(1) Creates groupism in Society : Due to the existence of various political parties, society gets divided into its supporters. Being supporters of various parties, people get splited into various groups in the society. When political parties are not functioning according to rules of political game, this type of groupism becomes very strong, as a result, the political life of the country gets disorganised.

(2) Societies deprive from the benefits of intellectual and powerful persons : In parliamentary form of democracy, government is formed by the party which gains majority, so that party chooses the members from party in the ministry. Due to party system society is not getting benefits of intellectuals and efficient persons, who are not in politics on in opposition party. Political parties make politics very much complicated so intellectual persons hesitate to take part in politics.

(3) Creates artificial equality : Political parties, for their political benefits create illusion of uniformity of ideology. So artificial equality takes place, which is not welcoming element.

(4) Ruins liberty and individuality of a person : Due to party system, a person cannot maintain his individuality and liberty. As a party member he has to follow party's decisions. Similarly, in legislative assembly, party's member has to vote as per party's order. It is difficult to break party's discipline and if anyone do so he is punished. In this situation, person losses his individuality and liberty. As a result, a person becomes a part of party machinery.

(5) Political life becomes unstable : When there are not two powerful parties in parliamentary democracy and neither party achieves a majority to form a government at that time political life becomes unstable. Majority turns in minority if there are defections from government which is formed by many parties or if one or more then one party withdraws support and government has to resign. If this happens repeatedly it is difficult to form stable government. We must not forget that the stable government is necessary for development of country.

(6) Encourages narrow vision : To fulfill political benefits political parties adopt narrow and shallow vision in place of broad and far sighted vision. They give more importance to party or party's interest than nation or national interests. "Party first and then Nation" - Such ideology is harmful to nation.

(7) Provocation of peoples' feelings : Sometimes for the party interest leaders and party workers of political parties provoke dissipates feelings of people. It obstructs in the process of taking decision peacefully and deliberately. Sometimes democracy turns in mobocracy, which results in serious undesirable results.

These are the merits and demerits of political party. After studying merits and demerits of political party, we can say that inspite of demerits of party system, political party is necessary due to its merits. There is no alternative of political party in democracy.

Types of Party System

Political parties have important place in modern representative democracy. The types of party system is based on numbers of effective and influencive parties. Generally there are three types of party system : (i) One party system (ii) Two party system and (iii) Multiparty system.

(i) One party system : Where there is only one political party in the state and it possess powers, this type of system is called "one party system". Only this party is legally recognised and other parties are banned. Moreover, sometimes they are suppressed or crushed if necessary. Their leaders and chief members are jailed or murdered. Such system is seen mostly in non-democratic governance system. If election is held in this type of system it is only for namestake, vote is given to only one party's candidates. In dictatorship government plans elections to only show that people are supporting them. Communist, Fascist, etc. are the examples of one party system.

(ii) Two party System : Two party system strengthens modern democracy. Two party system is very useful in parliamentary form of a democracy. It means acceptance of two main and powerful political parties. However, this does not mean that there does not exist any other political parties other than this two main parties. In fact, other political parties do exist besides these two political parties. But it is called two party system because political fight persist in these two main parties. This type of party system is operating in Britain, America and some other western countries.

(iii) Multi Party System : Where there are not two powerful political parties but many political parties exist, this type of party system is called "Multi party system". In this type of party system if no party achieves majority to form a government, many parties form a co-alition and they form co-alition government. However this type of government are mostly instable. However, this type of co-alition governments are not always instable and non-effective. For example, in India, United Progressive Alliance (U.P.A.) government was in power for two teams from 2004 to 2014.

Nature of party system in India : One party dominance system

Scholars of political science after studying the political party system of various states, devided it into 3 types: One party system, Two party system and Multi party system. India possesses multi party system in view of numbers of political parties. But in last seven decades excluding few years, one party has (congress) dominated. We cannot set India's party system in any of these three types of systems. In result Prof. Moris Jones and Prof. Rajani Kothari named it "One Party dominance system" in 1964.

We can narrate briefly the factors and causes of one party dominance system's origins and continuity in India, as follows :

- (1) The long heritage of national freedom movement is mostly responsible for congress party's dominance and continuity. After the independence, congress party has transformed as one powerful political party. It's commitment for national ideals continued even after independence.
- (2) Other parties did not succeed to get people's extensive support and nationwide popularity. These parties had been weak in comparison to Congress, in the field of organisation, resources and leadership. However, the change is noticed during the last three decades.
- (3) The power of Congress party was better than other parties to mobilise the various groups of country in its favour.
- (4) The popular leaders like Mahatama Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Babu Jagjivanram have provided leadership during the freedom movement. The charismatic leaders like Pandit Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi provided leadership to Congress after the independence. The contribution of these charismatic leaders in emergence and continuous growth of one party dominance system is not small.

Multi Party System exists since last three decades in India. However Bhartiya Janta Party has achieved clearcut majority in Loksabha elections held in 2014. Before this, any party could not achieve clear majority at the centre in last three decades. So co-alition governments came in power in centre. Though some states, two party system prevails is being prevailed.

Co-alition government : Meaning, Definition and essentiality

Co-alition government

Possibilities of formation of Co-alition government arise when single party cannot achieve majority to form a government in democratic setup. Various small-big political parties discuss, consults and creates a co-alition to form a Government. When this type of co-alition achieves majority, leader of co-alition party is invited to form a government. This type of government is called Co-alition government mix government or joint government. This co-alition government is the result of the "process of joint politics". The co-alition word used in English is originated from a Latin word which means "joining after coming nearby."

Thus, when no party gets majority to form a government in Legislative assembly, it is difficult to form a Government, and at last various political parties join together and form a co-alition government. Sometimes political parties join in co-alition government or they support to the government on policy basis from outside.

There are two types of co-alition governments. Some parties reconcile among each other, their candidates stand for election on different seats. In second type of co-alition, they ally on the bases of election results and which party can support to get power. However, the co-alition after election is more of opportunistic. If the party is not satisfied, it will withdraw support. While in case of co-alition before election, it is more durable and reliable as they are based on ideology, policy and common programme.

Co-alition government in India

In India after fourth general election of 1967 various political parties united and formed government in eight states. But people were shocked due to political instability emerged in those states. This type of situation has created at the centre in 1989. Since then the idea became popular that the age of co-alition has started in our country.

Co-alition governments are not only of one type. Sometimes, all the parties under co-alition join in the government, when sometimes other parties provide support from outside. Atal Bihari Bajpay's National Democratic Alliance government during 1999 to 2004 was of this type. Dr. Man Mohan Singh's United Progressive Alliance was also of this type during 2009 to 2014.

Sometimes, when co-alition government is in minority, it is supported from outside. In 1989 V. P. Singh's government was supported from outside by communist parties and B.J.P. In 1996 H.D. Devgauada and I. K. Gujaral's Janata Dal Morcha government was supported from outside by congress and communist parties. In 2004 Dr. Manmohan Singh's U.P.A. government was supported from outside by communist parties. These were minority co-alition government.

Political thinker Bueno de Mesquita says in context to co-alition government "Ideology plays subsidiary role for co-alition. Parties put aside there political differences to get full help for their political needs." In politics of co-alition, two or more parties come together as per their political needs and get majority.

As the age of co-alition Government started since 1989 at central level in India, political scholars have believed that the age of co-alition has started and it will continue for years to come. There is no such situation that only one party achives majority and form a government. But Loksabha Election of 2014 has proved them wrong and BJP achieved clear cut majority.

Role and importance of opposition party

Parliamentary democracy is a chariot operating on two wheels, ruling party and opposition party. In democracy, opposition party is as important ruling party. In two party system, one party forms a government and the other party or parties function as opposition party.

What is called an opposition Party?

The party which gets majority of seats in lower house in general election forms a government and party which gets less seats performs as opposition party. In India, for valid opposition party, 10% of members of the house belong to such opposition party. Party which gets 10% that is 54 seats (10% of 545 members) in Loksabha, speaker recognizes it as an opposition party.

Importance and Functions of Opposition Party

Importance and functions of opposition party are as follows :

(i) Formation of alternative government

The ruling party losses majority in assembly or if motion of vote of confidence passes against the government or because of any reason it has to resign from the power; in the said conditions, head of the state (In India the President, in U.K King or Queen) invites the leader of the opposition party to form a government. Thus, opposition party plays a role to form an alternative government. Such situation may occur any time, and to overcome such situation, there is a formation of "Shadow Cabinet" at opposition party in countries like U.K. Main members of the opposition party focus on various subjects in this "Shadow Cabinet" and form government when needed.

(ii) To attract Pubic Opinion

The opposition party keeps on trying to attract public opinion to itself to achieve power. It criticizes government policies, maladministration, administrative corruption, etc. and it shows the people how their policies are better and practical. Moreover, they attract public opinion by giving

constructive suggestions. As public opinion is very much decisive in democracy, both, the ruling and opposing parties keep on trying to attract public opinion towards themselves.

(iii) Restriction on the Government

One important function of opposition party is to put control on government. During question hour, members of the opposition party puts control over government by asking questions and sub questions about various departments. Moreover, opposition party keeps the government alert by asking - (1) During financial demands (2) Motion of assembly postpond (3) Motion of reproach or (4) Motion of vote of confidence.

Today's ruling party may become opposition party tomorrow and vice a versa. So both the parties should perform their role with responsibilities. Opposition party should not oppose merely for the sake of opposing and the ruling party should not neglect the useful suggestions and constructive criticism from opposition. After examining the importance of opposition party Lord Bryce says "No opposition, No Democracy".

Importance of the Leader of the Opposition Party

The Leader of the opposition party is also very important in parliamentary democracy. Just the ruling party selects its leaders and he becomes Prime Minister; similarly the opposition party or parties selects their leader who performs as the leader of the opposition party. The Prime Minister and all ministers peacefully and gracefully listen to the leader of the opposition party during discussions in the parliament. Because, today's opposition party may be tomorrow's ruling party and similarly today's leader of the opposition party is tomorrow's prime minister. Thus, the status of the leader of opposition party is respectable in democracy. He is provided the status similar to a Cabinet Minister.

Public Opinion

The concept of public opinion is keenly strongly connected with the idea of political party system. Not only that, actually public opinion is like 'oxygen' to political parties in democracy. In democracy, the ultimate and decisive power is with the people. People's will means a lot to provide power or to take away power from someone. So "People's will" or public opinion is playing very crucial role in democracy. In this context, political parties are always trying to attract public opinion to themselves. Hence, it is very important to study public opinion.

Definition and meaning of Public Opinion

The general meaning of public opinion: the opinion or view expressed by people. When people express their opinion or views on some incident, event, law, policy based issues etc. we call it 'Public Opinion'.

Lord Bryce defines public opinion as follows- "Generally, the matters affecting people or the matters people are interested in; and when people develop similar opinion towards them – is called 'Public Opinion'."

In short, public opinion is an opinion which is taken after collecting and logically analyzing proper information and problems about people. Though it is an opinion of majority, minority also has their reflections.

For example, when the fees of some school-college get increased, those concerned will oppose. This is a 'public opinion' against the increase in fees.

The opinion expressed in public opinion should be an opinion genuinely. It should be based on precise and appropriate information. It must not be biased or taken hastily. It should not be sentiment but it should be rational. It should be based on mature discussions and appropriate conclusion.

Many a times, people accept their leader's opinions as of their own opinions without giving it a second thought. This type of public opinion is called "Prepared Public Opinion." It is not genuine public opinion in real sense.

Public opinion should be shaped after enough information and discussions. This type of effective public opinion plays a very important role in democracy.

Role and Importance of Public Opinion

Public opinion is directly connected with democracy. Democracy is a system of government which is operated by public opinion. The way, democracy system gradually started getting established and accepted, the importance and role of public opinion also increased. "Government department on peoples' consent is Democracy." This definition of democracy clearly shows the role and importance of public opinion. It depends on public opinion to get in power, to maintain it and to increase and improve it in democracy. One of the reasons to lose power is unfavorable public opinion.

Thus role of public opinion is important and decisive in democracy. If public opinion does not play its role properly, it loses its effect and democracy gets into danger. Public opinion is an important criterion of functioning of democratic governments.

Autocracy and Public Opinion

It is natural that public opinion has important status in democracy. But in autocratic and dictatorial governments also, dictators try to show that public opinion is in their favour. Many a time, as the autocratic rulers or dictators come in power, they try to demolish unfavorable public opinion and all such concerned machinery going against them. They control such elements strictly. They try to turn public opinion towards themselves. Communications means and media try to use them as an instrument or tool to get public opinion. Hence, even these non democratic governments also need to show that 'the public opinion' is in their favour. This fact also indicates the importance of public opinion.

Requirements for durable and effective Public Opinion

Following are the requirements for 'public opinion' to be genuine enough and to be effective on larger scale.

- (A) Citizens should be educated and aware
- (B) Uniformity in public interests as far as possible
- (C) Means of public opinion should be used honestly
- (D) There should be a political awareness
- (E) Political leaders should be honest and unselfish
- (F) People should have liberty to express and discuss their opinion
- (G) Majority should respect the opinion/thoughts of minorities

'Public opinion' can be strong and effectively only if above mentioned necessities get satisfied and real objective of public opinion can be achieved in democracy. So it is very essential that above mentioned conditions get followed.

Means shaping Public Opinion

The shaping and expressions of public opinion is done by various means and instruments. Following means are considered to be effective and fundamental.

(1) Legislative Assemblies : Legislative assemblies are the most important means to express and shape public opinion. Discussions in Legislative assemblies and opinions expressed there play an important role in shaping and expression of public opinion. The opposition parties make use of Legislative assemblies to turn public opinion in their favour. Discussions and opinions expressed in Legislative assemblies are widely publicised, hence, it has an important role in shaping and expressing public opinion.

(2) Political Parties and Pressure groups : Political parties play an important role in shaping public opinion. Opposition parties are trying to turn public opinion in their favour by election manifesto, problems of people, meetings, processions, fast, strikes, hunger strikes, etc. On the other hand, leaders of ruling party try to gain public opinion by providing information about government's programmes to the people. However as Prof. Larky says instead of appealing peoples' intellect, parties try to gain public opinion by instigating or spreading fear, hatred, envy etc.

Similarly, various groups of people in society make various associations or organisations to protect their interest and try to shape public opinion in their favour whether their demands will be fulfilled or not depends on the backing of public opinion. Pressure groups and Interest groups also use the public opinion. We will discuss it afterwards.

(3) Print Media : Print media is an important means to gain public opinion from those who can read-write. It includes newspapers, Magazines and Books. News published in Newspapers or criticism and analysis play an important role in gaining public opinion. Similarly, print media functions to promote and spread the existing public opinion. Government can get information about people's ideas from these media. Contribution of magazines and books are also important in this context.

(4) Audio-Visual means (Cinema, Radio and Television) : These audio-visual means of communication are more effective in a country where more numbers of illiterate. The use of these media is increasing in India, and likewise their importance and role too; especially during elections while turning public opinions in favour. News channels run round the clock in India now, and it won't be an exaggeration to say that they are very influencing now a days.

(5) Meetings, Rallies and Processions : These means are used on large scale in countries like ours to shape public opinion and to express it effectively. Political parties arrange rallies and processions on large scale to show that people do support them. These means are used on large scale during the time of elections.

(6) Teaching Institutions : Schools, colleges and institutions of higher education contribute a lot in shaping of public opinion. Intellectual and logical arguments are very important in shaping and expressing public opinion. The teaching and training institutions of higher education fulfill these requirements. However, its effect is not prompt and direct; they perform an effective role to prepare public opinion in favour or against some issue or policy. Their role is even more important in developed countries. Its importance is increasing in India as well.

(7) Religion and Religious sect : Religion, religious sect and religious leaders play an important role in shaping of public opinion. Public opinion are affected by religious and religion sects especially in countries like ours.

(8) Direct Public relations : Since few years, during elections, by individual contact also they are trying to divert public opinion in their favour.

(9) Telephone-Mobile : Specially, during elections, leaders and workers use means of telephone to contact voters and they try to divert public opinion in their favor. In last few years, use of mobile has increased and so it is also used to form public opinion and also to divert it in their own favour. SMS is highly issued during general election to form Public Opinion. Telephone and mobile were used in big scale in the general elections, in India, of 2009 and 2014.

(10) E-Mails : With the arrival of internet Email facility has been availed. Each political party, telling to cast vote in favour of the candidate of their party by sending E-mails continuously to the voters. This mean was used on very high scale in elections after 2004 in India.

(11) Social Media : Means of Communications are changed in modern time. Political parties are using social media on a big scale to reach to the voters easily. Continuous efforts take place by the parties to divert public opinion in their favour by using Face Book, Twitter, Blog and Whatsapp. In India this mean was used on frequent basis in elections after 2014.

In this manner, different means are used by the Political Parties to construct, express and also to divert Public Opinion in their favour.

Interest Groups and Pressure Groups

in modern states different political groups exist besides political parties. They try to influence political decision process. Generally, they are known as Interest Groups and Pressure Groups.

Interest Groups

We have seen that society is a group of different interests. When any such group of people possess common interest and to protect their interest or to prevent it from damages, they come together and try to impress Government, is called Interest Group. For example, Farmers, Businessmen, Industrialist, various professionals, (Doctors, Advocates, Engineers, Teachers) workers, etc. come together to protect their interest or to prevent the loss this is the time when interest groups come into existence. To protect own interest, these Interest Groups pressurize Political Parties, Government, Legislature, Executive etc. In a broad sense, they can be known as Pressure Groups.

While explaining interest groups, we can say, interest group is a formal organisation of such people who possess common interest which attempt to influence the policy makers and its implementing authority to protect and conserve their consolidated interest.

Pressure Groups

Generally, the groups which influence the decision of government are called Pressure Groups. Their object is not to gain power but to influence governments' policies and programmes by pressurizing Government. Generally, they do want to gain power or to contest elections. But this does not mean that they will remain firm with this object in future. The present Labour Party of Britain started functioning as a pressure group to protect the interests of labourers. But with changing time, its nature was transformed and it started contesting elections and at last it became a political party. After gaining majority in parliament and also formed the government in 1945.

While explaining the pressure groups it can be said, "generally pressure group is such an association which is not formed by non-political persons. It came into existence to achieve some principles or to protect and increase own interests." Some influencing pressure group of India includes : (1) The Associated Chambers of Commerce. (2) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) (3) Central Trade Union Congress (4) All India Teachers Association, etc. Moreover there are

also pressure groups at the state level. For example, in Gujarat; Kisan Samiti, Gujarat Farmers Union, Gujarat Teachers Union, etc.

Lobby

When the sessions of assembly are in process, to pass or to prevent any presented bill or resolution, pressure groups and interest groups try to explain that matter. This attempt is called “Lobby” and whole process of pressurizing government is called ‘lobbying’. Most of pressure groups possess this type of lobby and they become more active at working of the assembly.

Main difference between political parties and pressure groups is: the object of the political party is to achieve power whereas, the main object of pressure group is the protection of their interests. Second difference between them is: political party attempts to cover various interests to gain more support from the society. While pressure groups are concerned with particular class or section.

However sometimes political parties play the role of pressure groups. For example, in India, during the initial years (1952 to 1967) of one party dominance system role of opposition parties was to pressure internal groups of Congress.

Pressure groups adopt various techniques to fulfill their objects. Which includes, help and support to political parties, election campaign for them and help by party workers, contact with policy makers (Members of Ministry) and administrators etc. Sometimes pressure groups give strong programmes like strike, circumference of hunger strike etc. to fulfill their demands. Sometime they go for fasting also. Generally these types of programmes should be introduced rarely because violence starts due to this which create serious problems of law and order.

Pressure groups are as important as political parties in democracy. It’s effectiveness depends on several factors like honesty of leaders and transparent conduct, numbers of members, clarity of objects, capability of using various means at the proper time, abilities to negotiate, to explain etc.

Pressure groups in India are not as developed, organised and dominated as western countries due to less education and short time span of formation and functioning of pressure groups. Most of its functions are done by political parties. The development of separate and autonomous pressure groups from political parties is slow.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail

1. Discuss the functions of political party.
2. Discuss the merits-demerits of party system.
3. Explain the importance of opposition party and discuss its functions.
4. Discuss the means which form public opinion.

2. Write short notes

1. Importance of political party
2. One Party Dominance System
3. Mix government or Co-alition government
4. Autocracy and Public Opinion
5. Necessities for stable and effective public opinion

3. Answer the following question in short.

1. What is called the opposition party?
2. What are Pressure Groups?
3. What is Two Party System?

4. Answer the following questions in one-two sentences

1. Show the types of Democracy ?
2. Generally how many types of party system ?
3. How many members are there in Lok-sabha of India?

5. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box

1. The age of co-alition government started at the centre level in India.
(A) 1947 (B) 1952 (C) 1989 (D) 1991
2. Required numbers of members in Lok-Sabha for recognized opposition party, in India.
(A) 10 % (B) 16 % (C) 20 % (D) 50 %
3. The nation which possesses "Shadow Cabinet."
(A) India (B) Pakistan (C) Britain (D) Srilanka
4. Party System of Britain.
(A) One party system (B) Two party system
(C) Multi party system (D) One Party Dominance System
5. The nation which possesses two party system.
(A) India (B) Pakistan (C) America (D) China

Activity

- Study regarding workings of Political Parties.
- Meeting with the leader of Opposition Party.
- Prepare a list of interest groups seen around you.



India is the largest democratic country with reference to population. The highest number of voters are in India, as compared to the rest of the democratic countries. For such a vast country with a large population, we have adopted representative democracy. Voters elect their representatives freely and fairly, and these elected representatives remain in power for a fixed period of time. Thus, in democracy, election is an important instrument to elect representatives. The word 'election' in English has originated from Latin word '*Eligere*', meaning 'to select'.

Importance of Election

Scholars have mentioned the importance of election in democracy as follows:

- (A) Free, fair and equitable election forms the basis of democracy. People elect their representatives and hand over power to them and in case, people do not like their rule, they can remove them from power in next election. Thus, election is an instrument to choose representatives and it is a peaceful and non-violent instrument to remove them from power.
- (B) Elections affirm that people are sovereign in democratic system. Not a particular class, cast, race or creed is sovereign but people of the country are sovereign. Government is formed and replaced by the consent of people.
- (C) Elections are important instrument for political education. At the time of election, political Parties, candidates and the organs of public opinion address the issues and challenges of the country and offer the ways to tackle them. Thus, all of them make people aware of the issues of country.
- (D) Elections are the important instrument for participation of people in politics, and an expression of people's will and expectations.
- (E) People are the source of power in democracy. Through elections, people bestow power or rule upon the rulers. Only the representatives elected by the people can remain in power. Hence, elections legitimize democracy. The other forms of government (Autocracy, Dictatorship, Military rule, etc.) cannot claim such legitimacy. Therefore, free and equitable elections are very crucial.

Types of Elections

The system of election is inevitable in recent time. Generally, there are two types of election:

(i) Direct Election and (ii) Indirect Election.

(i) Direct Election : When the voters take part in the election of the candidates directly, it is called direct election. The members of the Lower House are elected directly in democratic system. For instance, the voters directly elect the members of Lok Sabha in India.

(ii) Indirect Election : When the voters do not elect their representatives directly but the directly elected members further elect the representatives is called indirect election. Generally, the members of the Upper House of the Parliament are elected thus. For instance, the members of Rajyasabha are elected by the elected members of state assemblies in India. Even the election of our President is carried out indirectly.

Adult Franchise and Participation in Election

The most important right in democratic system is the right to vote. In a number of countries, people had to struggle a lot to get the right to vote as it was very restricted in many of these countries. Women were granted franchise quite later.

Our constitution grants franchise to all, regardless of their education, cast, creed, religion, gender, class or place of birth. All the citizens, completed 18 years (previously it was 21 years) have the right

to vote. Hence, it is called common adult franchise. It is indeed distinctive that adult franchise exists in a country with a large number of illiterate and poor people.

The citizens of independent India did not have to struggle for franchise. A single Article of the Constitution grant them franchise, regardless of any discrimination. Common adult franchise makes democracy people-oriented in real sense. The ultimate source of power rests with the citizens, affirming the fact that the decision of the citizens plays a vital role in the formation and replacement of the government.

In a number of elections of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies and Local Government Institutions, citizens of India have voted, demonstrating the faith placed by the framer of the Constitution. Every citizen should keep this in mind that it is a citizen's duty, as well as a right, to vote.

Participation in Election

When people voluntarily involve and participate in various political activities, it is called political participation. When we say, 'man is a political animal', it means he participates in various political activities. The higher level of political participation is an expression of the public acceptance of any political system. The level of political participation is higher in the democratic system as it is based on people's participation. As public acceptance is measured by political participation, even the autocratic governments attempt to prove that they have the support of people.

One peculiar feature of liberal democracy is that there are various modes of participation. Voting in election is a mode in which large number of voters participates in it. To take part in election propaganda, to become a member of political party, to attend public gathering, to participate in political agitations – these are other modes of political participation. Here, we will discuss in brief people's participation in election with reference to India.

Every class and section of our society have voted more or less in elections so far and exhibited greater range of political participation. Urban-rural, male-female poor-affluent – all of them have voted in large number, strengthening democracy in India. Average turnout of voters in election remains 60 to 65 percentages, which is an expression of political awareness of Indian voters.

Factors influencing voting pattern

We can divide the factors influencing voting pattern in two types: Short term factors and long term factors.

(1) Temporary or short term factors : Temporary or short term factors continue to influence voting in election for once or twice.

(A) Economic Factors :

Increased rate of commodities, unemployment, incidents of suicide, issues like road, electricity, water, etc. If these issues are vociferously raised in election campaign, it can influence the results of the election.

(B) Charismatic personality of leaders :

Attractive and charming personality, poetic style of speech, etc. influence elections. Nehru's personality during 1952 to 1962 elections, Indira Gandhi's leadership emerged during 1971 Bangladesh war, Rajiv Gandhi's youthful and charming personality in 1984-85, Atal Bihari Bajpayee's personality in 1998-99, and Narendra Modi's style of speech and attractive leadership are its instances. However, the impression of such personalities does not last for long, and this is reflected in the subsequent elections.

(C) Certain incidents before elections

Certain incidents occurred before elections can influence them. For instance, in 1971-1972 elections, the war between India-Pakistan for Bangladesh and India's victory, the defeat of Congress

party in 1977 due to excesses of emergency, Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984 and the sympathy emerged in favour of Congress party, the victory in Kargil War, benefitting to BJP in the 13th Loksabha election, Godhara incident and the post-Godhara incidents influenced the 2002 Gujarat Assembly election, etc.

(D) Influence of the means of mass communication

The means of mass communications like radio, T.V., newspapers, mobile phone, and social media play a vital role in shaping of public opinion. Canvassing through these means influence the elections. Opinion polls carried out before election also influence voting pattern. Sometimes, these means of mass communications become the instruments of political parties. Sometimes the flood of election advertisements influences the voters. For instance, during the 2014 Loksabha election, social media played important role for creating an image of Narendra Modi as the emerging leader of the country. In spite of all these, it is difficult to predict the mindset of Indian voters. The analysis and surveys offered by the mass communication have proved wrong on many occasions.

(2) Long term influencing factors:

Long term factors influencing voting choice during elections are as follows :

(A) Social Factor

Age, gender (male-female), education, residence (rural-urban), cast, creed, religion, etc. are the social factors influencing the voting choice more or less. Young voters enthusiastically cast their votes. Voter turnout is greater in rural areas, compared to urban areas. There is no difference in percentage of male-female voting. But in certain constituencies, sometimes the percentage of female voters surpassed the male voters.

Caste

Indian society is divided in castes and races. The influence of caste still prevails in our society. Caste (casteism) dominates voting pattern on large scale. The dominance of caste is seen right from the selection of the candidates to the formation of government. At times, candidates appeal to cast the votes on casteist basis.

In politics, the dominance of the upper castes prevailed in the post-independence decades, but now the political awareness in Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes has increased and the representation of them in Loksabha, State Assemblies and Panchayat Raj Institutions has also increased. The idea of vote bank has emerged due to certain castes preferring to vote only to certain political party.

Religion and religious sect

Like other social factors, religion and religious sect sometimes play an important role. India is a secular country. So, if people are appealed to vote on the basis of religion or religious sect, it is the breach of code of conduct. But in practice, the political parties, candidates, and the leaders indirectly highlight religion or religious sect in their election campaigns.

The minorities, keeping in view their identity and safety, select the political parties and candidates. The way casteism is an evil, so is communalism.

(B) Economic Factor

Indian society, on the basis of income, is broadly divided into three classes: the upper class, the middle class and the lower class. Generally, it is observed that the upper and affluent class of the society is less interested in voting. The middle class is vocal and is politically active but often the members of this class do not vote in elections enthusiastically. But if the issues concerning them are evoked at the time of election, they vote with enthusiasm. The lower middle class who possesses less

income and the poor class vote enthusiastically. They believe that voting in election is an effective instrument to pressurize for solution of their difficulties and fulfillment of their needs. All the political parties attempt to attract them because they represent the highest percentage of population in the society.

(C) Ideology

Generally, people are attached to one or the other political ideology, even if they are not aware of it. Capitalism, Socialism, traditionalism or conservatism, secularism, etc. are the ideologies influencing the voters. The affluent class believes that there should be less interference of state, and such a belief reflects capitalism, while the poor-labour-working class believes in socialist or leftist ideology. These beliefs influence their voting preference.

(D) Family Background

Family is one of the important agencies for political socialization. The higher degree of political awareness is observed in the children groomed up in politically conscious and aware families. Discussions in the family regarding politics, political party, and the leaders influence the younger members. If the members of family support certain political party or the ideology and they vote accordingly, then it is assumed that when the younger members of the family turn adults, they too vote in the similar way. However, that's not always the case.

(E) Political party and its Leadership

This is an important factor influencing the voting pattern. Voters vote those parties and its leadership if they can attract voters in their favour. Voting preference is influenced by the programs of political parties, their election manifesto, propaganda style, the impact on common man, political stand on certain issues, etc.

Charismatic personality of a leader also appeals the voters. Influenced by the impressive personality and flaring oratory of a leader, the voters cast their votes to the party or the candidate that the leader endorses.

(F) Patriarchy

Our society is largely patriarchal. Family, cast, race, trade, politics and other fields of public life are largely male-dominated. This attitude reflects in politics and voting pattern too. Due to such domination, women often vote as per the suggestion of male members. However, that's not always the case.

Political parties, although they talk about women empowerment and their greater representation, but while distributing tickets, women are given fewer tickets. It is shameful that the percentage of women representatives in assemblies has not increased beyond 10% or 12%. However, due to 33% women reservations in local self governmental institutions, the number of women representatives has increased remarkably.

(G) Money, Muscle power and Communication means

These are the important factors influencing voting pattern. The political party with massive funds, musclepower and communication means can influence voting pattern. This point has been extensively discussed in election.

These are the factors which dominates voting pattern. It is difficult to tell which factor will influence the voting choice as the Indian voter is unpredictable. It is difficult to presume the point by which he will cast his vote.

Election Commission and the Procedure of Election

We have discussed earlier that election is important instrument to accomplish democracy in practice. Therefore, it is crucial to preserve its sanctity, impartiality and neutrality. The election

commission conducts, controls and superintend selections. It's necessary that such an election commission remains neutral and is autonomous from the government, so as it can conduct fair, free and neutral election.

Constitutional Provisions

For the planning of free, fair and neutral elections, there is a provision of Election Commission in the Constitution's Article 324. The responsibility of direction, control and superintendence of all elections except local government institutions (Loksabha, Legislative assemblies, Legislative councils, Rajyasabha, President, Vice President) rests with the election commission. The formation of election commission, its functions and duties, etc. has been given in Article 324 to 329 of the Constitution. In this way, Election commission is a constitutional body.

The President nominates the Chief Election Commissioner and if needed, two more Election commissioners. Earlier, the Election Commission has a single member (Chief Election Commissioner). Since 1993, there is a provision of three Election Commissioners. All these three Election Commissioners have equal power. The senior most member becomes the Chief Election Commissioner and all the decisions are taken by majority.

There are some provisions so that the members of Election Commission can function freely and fairly. The tenure of Election Commissioner is of six years or up to the age of 65 years. The salary and other allowances are equal to the salary and allowances of a Judge of the Supreme Court. Normally, they are not removed from their position. He can be removed from his office following the same procedure for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Functions/ Procedure of the Election Commission

We have discussed earlier that except local self government institutions, every elections in the country are conducted by the commission and so the functions concerning elections are carried out by the election commission.

Main functions of the Election Commission are :

- (1) To prepare electoral rolls, its updating and authentication, to prepare voter card.
- (2) To demarcate the boundaries of constituencies.
- (3) To give recognition to political parties.
- (4) To announce schedule of election.
- (5) To distribute election symbol to political parties.
- (6) To announce election results.
- (7) To maintain code of conduct.
- (8) To give solution, settle grievances/ disputes regarding election.
- (9) To assess the election expenses of candidates.
- (10) To prevent malpractice regarding elections.
- (11) To conduct re-election/by-election and to cease the counting of votes if necessary.

The Parliament has passed some important acts for the proper and systematic operation of election process. The prime act is Peoples Representative Act and the amendments in it from time to time. Few more like, the act for the election of President and Vice President, the act for the nominations of voters, the act regarding election in Union Territory, etc.

The numbers of voters in our country in 2014 has crossed 81 crore. In our country, it is a huge and herculean task to organize elections, to keep a vigil, supervise and announce results in due time. The Election Commission carries out this task with efficiency and skill. Other countries also seek the service of our Election Commission. There is a memorandum of understanding between representatives of United Nation (U.N.) and representatives of Election Commission in this context.

Electoral Reforms

We have adopted representative democracy. The voters elect their representatives freely and fairly and hand over the power to the representatives for a fixed tenure. For this, elections are conducted in the country from time to time. We have discussed about the importance of elections in India, the Election Commission and its functions, the procedure of election, etc. Now, we will discuss about the weaknesses in the electoral system and also discuss the remedies for them.

We will now discuss about the electoral reforms and the suggestions of the appointed committees like Dinesh Gosawmi Committee and Tarkunde Committee, set up by Jay Prakash Narayan.

(1) Remove discordance between the achieved votes and the seats and make election more representative: The main defect of our electoral system is that sometimes there is not balance between the achieved votes and the seats. There is large difference between the votes achieved by various parties and the seats gained by them. In all the Loksabha elections so far, the parties which came in power with majority seats have actually achieved less than 50 % of total votes. The candidate who gets more votes than the rest is declared elected, but due to this system, most of the candidates are elected by marginal votes. In the same way, the party which gets marginal votes can get the majority of seats. Thus, the discordance between the votes and the seats emerges. The representation does not reflect in the elections of candidates and political parties gaining majority of votes, and hence, it is not reflected in the elected government also. This limitation creates a big lacuna in the representative system.

To remove this lacuna, the system of proportional representation is recommended. In this system, the party gets seats in the proportion of the votes it gained. We can remove many flaws of electoral process if we adopt this system. However, there are some demerits of this system, too. For example, it encourages multiparty system, defections in political parties, the increased dominance of party leaders, the demand of larger constituencies and the lack of direct contact between the representatives and the constituencies, etc. This system is so complex and intricate, and the rate of illiteracy in our country is so high that some experts have expressed doubt about its effective implementation.

It's suggested that in order to mitigate the flaws and evils, the fifty percent of total seats should be reserved for proportional representative system and the remaining fifty percent seats may be filled by the existing 'the most first place votes' system meaning the one who gets more votes among all candidates will be declared elected. This system is functional in Germany. Thus, there should be inter relation between the achieved votes and seats, otherwise it can harm the representative nature of political system.

(2) Control over the large number of parties and the candidates taking part in election: Multi party system has been developed in our country. There are approximately seven hundred parties in our country and this number is increasing. Most of these parties are too tiny and regional. The plenty of parties and large number of candidates confuse the mind of voters and also create administrative problems regarding electoral management. Certain parties have originated only to contest election. They mushroom before elections and vanish thereafter. There is no clear-cut ideology or programs of all parties or independent candidates. Due to many parties and candidates, the possibility of victory by fewer votes emerges, as the remaining votes are divided among the rest of the candidates contesting in election.

It is also suggested that there should be fix rules and stringent standards for the recognition of political parties. Besides, there should be certain qualifications laid down for candidates. Proper control and regulations can keep the numbers of parties limited.

(3) Reduce the dominance of increasing money power in elections: Elections are becoming very expensive. The candidates have to spend huge amount of money for propaganda due to wide range of constituency and large numbers of voters. Some expense is borne by political party but the remaining expense has to be borne by the contesting candidates. So, the political parties also select those candidates who can spend money in the election. In elections, 'Black Money' or 'malfeasance money' is involved on large scale. The candidates also seek help of those people who can give enormous amount of funds. People who earn money by illegal means, black marketer, speculators, hoarders, corrupt contractors, con men, industrialist and big traders, etc. donate funds to political parties and candidates. Once these parties and candidates win the elections, they give, in return, benefits to those who have given funds. Thus, a vicious circle emerges. It is said that 'Black and corrupt money give birth to corrupt politics.' Due to all these reasons, clean, genius and upright individuals do not dare to contest election and so the country is deprived of good representatives. Our democracy is also falling prey to the monopoly of the wealthiest people.

Many suggestions have been given to decrease the dominance of money power and to clean up black money, and some of those suggestions are put into application also.

(A) There should be a capping for the amount of expenses of the political parties for their candidates in the election.

(B) The source of donation made to the political parties and the total expenses should be maintained and audited.

(C) Monetary transaction of political parties should be transparent. The Election Commission must be empowered in this regard. However, the Election Commission has the power to investigate the election expenses of candidates.

(D) An important suggestion includes that the political parties should be aided by the state, which is called "State Funding". It is not necessary that the aid should be merely in form of finance. At the time of election, the aid in the form of certain amount of petrol and diesel, or the printing of campaign literature can be given. There is a provision of state funding in democratic countries like Germany, France, Canada, Israel, Japan and United States of America (U.S.A.), etc.

Thus, here is the need of effective steps to stop black money in elections.

(4) Stop Violence and Increasing use of muscle power : Besides money power, the use of muscle power is practiced for the victory of particular candidates or to defeat rival candidates. Incidents that occur are the capture of polling booths, ballot box or Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and the attempts to create violence and atmosphere of fear. Sometimes, there are also incidences of large-scale bogus voting in certain polling booths. However, it is not the case in all polling booths. The candidates or workers of the political parties take resort to all sorts of illegal and unfair means. This is indeed a matter of worry. Thus, it is very necessary to prevent these frauds and malpractices. The awareness of citizens can play an important role in the removal such evils.

(5) Supervision of the functioning of Political Party : Along with the election reforms, the political party reforms are also needed. If the functioning of political parties is supervised effectively, many of the flaws in election process can be removed. How can they govern the country in democratic way, when these political parties themselves are functioning undemocratically? There are some suggestions given for the functioning of political parties in democratic way. There should be free and fair elections regularly from bottom level to top level in parties. There should not be a nomination system at any stage. Their accounts of income and expenses should be kept and regularly audited. There should be a provision for the party leaders' responsibility to the party workers. There should be freedom of speech within the party. In short, there should be internal democracy in the party.

In this context, it is also suggested that the Election Commission should be entrusted with the power to superintend whether the political parties are functioning democratically. If any party does not conform to this, the Election Commission can cancel the recognition of the party.

(6) Removal of Caste base-Race base Politics : Casteism and racism are great evils of the Indian politics. Caste and race play decisive role right from the selection of candidates, election propaganda, position in power, etc. Sometimes other qualifications of candidates are of secondary importance and the caste or the race he belongs is of utmost importance. On the other hand, the voters also give importance to the caste and race, so political parties and candidates take into account the caste and race factors. However, as per the People's Representative Act (1951), one cannot appeal for vote in the name of religion. It is considered unlawful.

The political parties formed on the basis of the caste and religions promote separation and thus stand in the way of healthy and sound democracy. Thus, these weaknesses create hurdles in the accomplishment of democracy and it is the need of an hour to make amendments and reforms.

(7) To prevent criminalization of politics : This evil has gripped the Indian politics. Earlier, the criminals and anti-social elements were in elections. Now, these elements themselves contest elections and are elected. One cannot say that all the candidates having criminal history are criminals. It is a matter of worry that the candidates having suspicious character contest elections and are elected as well.

According to the People's Representative Act (1951), Section 8A, those persons who are declared criminals by the court and imprisoned cannot contest election. But, if the persons' allegations are made and the case is still pending, and if no penalty/punishment is ordered by the court, the person can contest election. Thus, few persons with criminal background sit in the Parliament and Assemblies, and frame the laws for the country. Some of them hold portfolios in the ministry too. Suggestions are made to amend the laws. The Election Commission has recently made it mandatory for a candidate to present an affidavit giving information about his educational qualifications, the movable-immovable assets and criminal history, if there's any. Due to this, the voters can know whether the candidate is having a criminal background or not. The Election Commission has also taken some steps against unlawful activities, like the use of force, threats, bogus voting, etc. at the time of elections. The Election Commission can order to cease voting or the counting of voting where malpractices have taken place, and can announce re-election in that constituency. The Code of Conduct has been framed for election campaign and it is mandatory for the political parties and candidates to follow the Code of Conduct. As the criminalization of politics begins from election, preventive steps can be applied right from the beginning.

(8) Prevent the misuse of means of mass communication: We know that at the time of election, means work multi-dimensionally – they are used for election propaganda and for the public awareness. But in recent times, the role of these means has become controversial. Besides newspapers, T.V. news channels functioning twenty four hours take surveys such as Pre-poll or Exit-poll, and forecast the election results – the performance of political parties and the approximate seats they are going to win. Such information regarding the election results may mislead the voters. Moreover, credibility and reliability of such surveys are questionable. Therefore, as the election protocol is implemented, such election surveys are prohibited for that time.

Besides mass media, in recent times, social media has become very popular and accepted by the people. Social media such as SMS, E-mail, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp have started playing influential and unimaginable role in elections. Some studies show the decisive role social media has played in 2014 Lok Sabha elections. On social media, legitimacy of information is questionable, as information spreads very quickly without its verity and proper examination. In this case, there is a scope of false and distorted information spreading everywhere. At present, there is no control mechanism for this, so it may create dangerous and serious effects. However, as per the Code of Conduct, the election propaganda

must be stopped before the forty eight hours of election. But on social media, election propaganda and its related information continue to spread till the last moment. Thus, there social media should be brought under proper control.

In this way, the biased role of the means in election has been discussed. The objection made against the means is that they indulge in all sort of bargain for the sake of vested interest and selfish motives. In short, there should be proper control to prevent the misuse of means, so as the means can play neutral and impartial role.

Other Suggestions:

Certain suggestions have been made for the impartial and legal elections are as follows:

- (i) Prevent the candidates contesting from more than one seat.
- (ii) In local self government, a candidate having more than two children cannot contest elections. This should be made applicable for assembly elections too.

Thus, election is the important instrument to operate democracy successfully. The sanctity of this system will ensure healthy and successful growth of democracy.

Development based politics

Generally, politics of any country is shaped keeping in focus the development of its people. The issue of development has become important since the last few years in Indian politics. Along with that, the concept of development given by political leaders has become controversial. It is important to understand the meaning of development. Sometimes, development is evaluated as growth or economic growth, but it is not proper. As per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the rate of development is measured in the context of education, health, life style of citizens, per capita income, etc. It is expected that this development should be sustainable and comprehensive. This concept of development can be understood in the context of the development of citizens. In short, development means development of all the citizens and only this type of development is comprehensive and acceptable. So, we should adopt politics of comprehensive development, but unfortunately this is not put into practice.

Our political leaders and political parties understand development on the basis of politics of vote in place of its real meaning, and they shape politics according to it. As per one of the discussions, whether the roads or infrastructural facilities are to be dubbed as development? At the time of election, sometimes political parties raise these issues, and mislead the citizens. Through such issues, they try to target and influence specific group of people. We are well aware about the attractive offers announced by our political parties at the time of election. We are also aware that such promises given at the time of election are forgotten with the passage of time.

In our country, sometimes political strategy is adopted on the issue of development – development of a particular class or region. Development of a particular caste, or a particular region is not development in the real sense. So, development should not be based on cast, race, religion and region. The aim of development should not be of the development of a particular state, but it should be comprehensive. The development cannot take place at the cost of others. When we talk about development, citizen should be in the centre and so should our policy be framed.

In reality, we have given less attention to participatory development, multiphase development or development of all. This is something we have neglected. The democracy is successful only when development reaches to all the citizens. In short, development means comprehensive, balanced and

sustainable development. Sometimes emphasis is given on the development of a particular class or section of society, such as children, adolescents, and women. It is necessary that government should take initiative in this direction. It is applicable to those countries which have declared themselves a 'Welfare State'. In fact, in a democratic country like India, the government has to perform in accordance with the Constitution.

Performance based politics

There are many changes in the Indian political system since last one or two decade. The system of coalition or mix government is giving a new shape to politics. Besides this, the issues like performance are also being raised and have become a subject of scrutiny.

At the time of election, the performance of respective government, efforts for a specific task are being debated. Many a times, the method of campaigning plays a crucial role in the victory or defeat of any political party and party. Those who can present their work in a nice and convincing manner have more chances of victory. However, the ruling party can present the performance. The opposition party/parties has no such advantage. Thus, the opposition party lags behind the ruling party. However, at the time of election the opposition party can announce plenty of promises.

In recent times, on the completion of hundred days of rule or on being one or two years in power, the elected government has to face questions regarding the performance during group discussion. The objective is to make governments accountable. Thus, the citizen's approach to review the performance of government and analyze its efficiency is a welcoming move in democracy. Excellent performance and efficient tasks of the government or political parties can provide them an opportunity to remain in power in future.

When the citizens rate the performance of government, they remember and remind the promises given to them at the time of election. The promises fulfilled or still to be fulfilled, are being evaluated. This shows that now only promises or offers won't work. Some leaders have charismatic personality. And political parties are benefited from charismatic leadership as well. But it is also true that the charm of charismatic leadership is not long lasting. Sometime, it is short-lived. The performance or functions of the parties is what counts in the end. Elections are won not merely by campaign or propaganda, but solid performance is a key to victory. At the time of election, citizens (voters) take into account the performance: the number of promises given, the number of promises fulfilled, and the reasons if certain promises are not fulfilled. The awareness of citizens particularly at the time of election is essential. And, this awareness is essential to keep democracy alive.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail

1. Mention the short term factors influencing participation in election and voting.
2. Mention long term factors influencing participation in election and voting.
3. Discuss any two election reforms.
4. Explain development based politics.

2. Write short notes

1. Important of election
2. Political partnership
3. Functions of Election Commission
4. Performance based politics
5. Suggestions to remove defects in India's election system

3. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What is direct election ?
2. What is indirect election ?
3. What is criminalization of politics?
4. What is charismatic leadership?
5. Mention the role of social media during election.

4. Answer the following questions in one-two sentences.

1. Give the name of any one committee appointed for election reforms.
2. What is 'state funding'?
3. Who appoints the Election Commissioner in India ?
4. What is the tenure of Election Commissioner in India ?
5. Give two examples of social media

5. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box.

1. The word 'election' originated from which language?
(A) Latin (B) Greek (C) Arabic (D) Sanskrit
2. Under which article of Indian constitution, the provision for the Election Commission has been made?
(A) 324 (B) 326 (C) 328 (D) 356
3. From which year the provision for three Election Commissioners has been made ?
(A) 1947 (B) 1950 (C) 1952 (D) 1993
4. In which country provision of state funding has been made?
(A) Japan (B) Germany (C) Canada (D) All
5. The formation of Tarkunde committee is connected with what ?
(A) Panchayat Raj (B) Election Reforms (C) Civil service (D) Economic Reforms

Activity

- Make a study on the procedure of state assembly/Loksabha elections.
- Arrange a visit to state assembly/Parliament.
- Arrange an interview with M.L.A. and M.P.



India is a proud country with one of the highest populations and a successful democracy, India became independent on 15th August 1947 and right from the independence, we adopted the democratic pattern of government. This has been incorporated in the Preamble of our Constitution and was our country was declared a Democratic Republic. As a result of the long relationship with western countries, we adopted freedom of person, representative government and rule of law. Because of association with Britain and experience of British Administrative system, we have adopted the Parliamentary Democratic pattern of government. Indian democracy has faced several challenges. Some of the challenges faced by us since independence have been historically inherited.

One of the major challenges to Indian democracy is social- economic inequality. How can a democracy grow in a place where there are extensive inequalities ? Similarly, illiteracy is also a challenge to democracy. Regional imbalance- the inequality between different regions is dangerous for democracy and national unity. Problems like regionalism and linguistic chauvinism arise from this. Besides, communalism, casteism, separatism, political violence, Naxalite movement and terrorism are also challenges to Indian democracy.

We have initiated efforts to face these challenges in a democratic way. We have succeeded sometimes and failed at other times in these efforts. The framers of the Indian Constitution adopted democracy not just as a desired system based on the principal of people’s participation but also as a system to achieve the principle of social and economic justice. Thus, democracy ensures equality of right for all irrespective of caste, race, gender and place of birth.

Challenges to Indian Democracy

Social-economic inequality is clearly visible in India. We all know that Indian society is based on caste system and the roots of inequality lie in the caste system. Along with social inequality, economic inequality is also seen at large scale in the society. Monopoly over the means of production by a particular group, poverty and problems like unemployment are also creating other problems. Another dimension of inequality is the inequality between rural and urban sector.

Social Inequality

Indian society is traditionally based on caste system. In the caste system, the upper caste is at the top of the social system while at the bottom lower caste is placed. The Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes are considered as backward. Caste-based prejudice, economic inequality and educational backwardness are the main reasons for their backwardness. The caste system in India is basically defined by their occupation. But with passage of time, changes in this belief can be seen today. The relationship between caste and occupation can not be denied.

(a) Scheduled Castes

In India a person is known by his caste. The members of scheduled caste are at the lowest rank in the term of social status. There are also ascending and descending castes within them. These communities are not given any status in our traditional classification of caste system, which is why they are also known as “Awarna” or “Pancham” varna. Because of inhuman behaviour with this backward and most backward community, their condition was pitiable. The scheduled caste people were allowed to live only outside the town limits. Even today also many from these communities live outside of town. They are not allowed to use public well, pond or other such public places. They are deprived of entry to the religious places and denied participation in social life. They are living a life of various types of deprivation. They have received civil equality only after independence

due to the constitutional provisions. In Indian constitution, they are included as Scheduled Caste and such provisions have been made to provide them justice. The “Scheduled Caste” is a constitutional category.

(b) Scheduled Tribes

Scheduled Tribes are generally referred to as “Adivasi”. Generally, they live in areas away from the plain- in the forest, interior regions and mountainous areas. They have been isolated from the rest of the society. It was during British rule, that they were delineated for the first time and were given a special identification. These communities live in various part of India. Their population is concentrated mainly in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, North-East states, Rajasthan, Gujarat, hilly areas of Andaman and Nicobar.

Their traditional way of life is disturbed by mines, dams, industrialization, etc. The main sources of their livelihood like forest, forest products, agricultural land, etc. are being wrested from them. A challenge has arisen against their distinctive identity, social system, values and traditional culture. To bring them into main stream of India, various provisions have been made in our Constitution.

Constitutional Remedies for removal of Social Inequalities

All the citizens of India are given fundamental rights and all the citizens are equal before law and entitled to equal legal protection. It has been classified in the constitution, that state will not discriminate between citizens on the basis of caste, religion, sex, race, place of birth or any such basis. No discrimination will be practiced for the use of wells, roads, lake, etc. The practice of untouchability has been declared unconstitutional and made punishable offence under the law. Though Constitution has abolished untouchability, a lot remains to be done in this direction. Untouchability is still being practiced in several parts of country. Even today, the members of Scheduled Caste have to slog for their livelihood. A big proportion of the scheduled caste consists of landless agricultural labourers. They have little control over means of production like land, water and forest. We have made law for ownership of land, but the desired result has not been received.

Even today, ill treatment of these communities happens. The incident of atrocities and violence against the members of Scheduled Caste are being reported in daily newspaper and other media. One reasons for this is the increasing awareness of the member of this community about their rights. The Scheduled Castes have opportunities to decide their own fate and lives without support from others, but due to the traditional prejudices and mentality, their development is thwarted. Thus continuously facing struggles in their lives.

As stated in Constitution, if the state makes special provisions for the weaker section like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the socially and educationally backward classes, this cannot be considered a violation of the rights of equality. Reservation has been provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Parliament and Legislative Assembly and in the Institute of Local Self Government. In the Local Self Government, a reservation has been made for women also. In Gujarat, this reservation has been increased up to fifty percent (50%) from the year 2015. Besides, reservation has been provided to them in educational institutions and government jobs. Because of this the rate of literacy has gone high in this community and we find a number of people from these sections in various government jobs.

The Directive Principles of State Policy also call upon the state to take special steps to advance the social and economic interest of the weaker sections of the society. Various policies, schemes and programmes have been formulated and implemented for the welfare and advancement of these communities.

Consequently, some change has certainly occurred in the condition of the Scheduled Caste. Some of them have got an opportunity to rise in the social, cultural and political sphere. However, the benefits of these constitutional provisions have not reached to those who are on the margins of the society. Very few scheduled

caste and scheduled tribes have been benefited by the reservation policy and achieve their due position in society due to change in social and economic change.

In term of literacy too, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are much behind the other castes. The rate of enrolment in school for students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is much below than that of other categories. Even the drop-out rate is also higher among them. Especially girls of the Scheduled Caste sections leave their schools for various reasons.

The social and economic inequality among this community is a major challenge for the Indian Democracy. Though efforts have been made to remove such backwardness and inequality but enough progress has not been achieved. A lot is required to be done in this direction.

Economic Inequality

India was among the poorest country of the world at the time of independence. Poverty and economic inequality have been the biggest economic problem for India after independence. Since last six to seven decades the government has made sustained attempts to remove poverty and economic inequality. In spite of poverty elevation programmes, a large number of the population still live in poor condition.

Poverty

In general sense, poverty means lack of opportunities to live a healthy and constructive life. In other words, poverty means lack of amenities that are absolutely necessary for a person or his family like nutritious food, clothing, primary education, health, housing, etc.

Generally, poverty is measured by the poverty line. There are various views and arguments regarding what should be the poverty line ? With regards to the parameters to decide the poverty line, it has always remained a controversial subject. Thus a universally accepted definition of poverty cannot be given. In spite of that, Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) defines poverty from time to time, the acceptance of which though is questionable through some perspectives.

Poverty Eradication Programmes in India

Almost one third population of India lives below the poverty line. This prevalence of poverty is not uniform across the country. Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, part of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have higher incident of poverty than the national average.

The leaders of national movement were quite conscious of the economic condition of India and the problem of extensive poverty. Apart from poverty even other problems like unemployment starvation, illiteracy, inequality of wealth and income, etc. existed at the time of our independence. Serious attention was not given to poverty and poverty eradication programmes in the initial years after achieving independence. It was believed that poverty would automatically reduce as the process of development takes off. But visible change was not observed. Real attention to the problem of poverty and programmes for poverty eradication was focussed as late as the sixth five-year plan. Thereafter, programmes for poverty eradication were launched. The objective of these programmes was to uplift the people below poverty line and bring them above poverty line.

Accordingly, several schemes covering rural poor and the landless labourers have been formulated. Government is trying to provide them food grain at fair price, fuel and other items of basic necessity to them. Various types of housing schemes for poor are also implemented. Besides, various programmes have been designed to provide employment at the time of natural calamities like drought, flood, etc. From the year 2006, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented, which is known as MNREGA. This is an Employment Guarantee Act under which a person is guaranteed provision of a minimum 100 days of employment during the year and there is a provision under which if the employment is not available, then the labourers are paid unemployment allowance. This scheme is gaining lots of popularity and also getting attention at international levels.

Despite such programmes for eradication of poverty, the condition of poor has not improved to satisfactory levels. It is believed that indifference and inefficiency of the bureaucracy, corruption and maladministration are responsible for that. Apart from these, the lack of political will for the implementation of the law, influence of vested interests and lack of awareness among the poor and the deprived communities are also responsible for it. In short, a large proportion of people still live in poverty. Considerable development has taken place in agriculture, industry, transportation, business and employment, technology, communication etc. but the fruits of this development have not reached to the economically backward and deprived section of the society. A majority of the benefits of these programmes have remained confined to the higher caste and influential section of the society. The incidents of poverty have reduced. But we are not succeeding in reducing the inequalities. Thus the challenges of poverty and inequality continue as challenges to the Indian democracy.

Consequently, several tensions surface in our society, all of which pose serious challenges to democracy. On other hand, even as the poor and the deprived section of the Indian society might be incapable of doing anything else, they can certainly play an influential role in the process of political change. Through voting in election, they have proved that they are in a majority, and if they organize themselves well, they can influence the outcomes of election. If socio-economic inequalities continue to rise or if there is no significant reduction in them, the demon of social tension and political violence would take a dangerous form and create a major threat for democracy.

Illiteracy

Education plays an important role in development of any society or country. It has a decisive influence on the social and economic development. It is helpful in creating an enlightened civil society. It is an imperative precondition for the success of democracy and national development. The countries which have achieved high level of education and literacy have also scaled new height of economic development. Thus one cannot over emphasize the importance of education for success of democracy and for the development of society and country.

Even after years of independence, in India the rate of illiteracy is very high. At the time of independence, the number of people who could read and write was 6 crore which was about 18 % the total population. That means 30 crores were illiterate out of the total population of 36 crores. This literacy was confined to the so-called higher caste and urban middle class. The extent of illiteracy was highest among the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, other backward classes and most of the rural people and female. It was the demand of the time to provide basic primary education to crores of people and so, many programmes were launched. As a result, we have good progress in literacy. According to the census of 2011, the rate of literacy has reached 74.04 percent. The male literacy has reached to 84.12 percent while female literacy rate has reached to 65.46 percent. This can be considered a significant accomplishment but compared to our expectations and requirements; it is not a satisfactory situation. It is a matter of concern that even today the number of illiterates is very high in India.

Progress toward Literacy

The framers of our Constitution have accepted the role of education and accordingly have made provisions regarding this. Article- 45 of the Directive Principles of the State Policy enjoins the state to make provisions for free and compulsory education for all children between 6 to 14 years of age within ten years of implementation of the constitution.

To study the status of education, government appointed Kothari Commission (1964 – 66). The Kothari Commission made a detailed study of the education system of India. According to this report, the reasons accounting for the failure to achieve universalization of education are – lack of adequate resources, growth in population, social prejudice against education of girl child, wide spread poverty, indifference of parents, their illiteracy, etc.

To, face the challenges of modern time and equip the education system accordingly a committee of educationists was appointed. The committee prepared a draft of new education policy. The Parliament approved

this draft as the “New Education Policy 1986”. Under this policy all the children below 14 years should be provided free primary education, there should be an improvement in the quality of education; there should be efforts to provide education to the weaker sections of the society and also to augment the financial resources for education. For this purpose, different programmes have been formulated. Special efforts are made to encourage the children of the weaker section to enrol in schools and ensure that they do not discontinue schooling in between. Mid-day Meal Scheme has been introduced to provide nutritious food to children in the school in itself. Time-to-time medical examinations are also conducted for school children. For primary and secondary education, the central government provides special grants to states. Under this programme, education of the girl child has been specially emphasized. To increase the capacity of primary schools, a campaign called “Operation Black Board” was launched in the year 1987–88. The National Literacy campaign was initiated from 1988 as a part of the New National Education Policy. This campaign aims at achieving total literacy and making all persons between 15 to 35 years of age fully literate. To spread the literacy and primary education substantially, informal education has been arranged in schools, at door steps of the people’s home and at the public places. The co-operation from the voluntary organizations has been taken and they have been provided financial assistance. In particular, efforts have been made to arrange for night school for the children of weaker section and establish such non formal education facilities near their place of residence. Along with such non formal education, programmes of Continuous Education have also been put in place. To remove illiteracy, presently “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan” has been initiated.

In some states of India, the rate of literacy according to 2011 census is very high, like in Kerala (94 %), Lakshadweep (91.85 %), Mizoram (91.33 %) and Goa (88.70 %), while in some states it is very low, like in Jharkhand (66.41 %), Arunachal Pradesh (65.38 %) and Bihar (61.80 %). The rate of literacy is 78.30 % in Gujarat. The average literacy rate of the nation is 74.04 %. But here also the rate of literacy among females is low. Thus despite all efforts we have not been able to achieve the goal of total literacy.

From the year 2010, “Right to Education Act” (RTE) has been initiated, under which the aim is that not a single child of India should remain illiterate. Considering the importance of education, it has been included in the Fundamental Rights. Apart from that under fundamental Duty, it has been stated that it is responsibility of the parents to see that a child between the ages of 6 –14 years, gets education. By incorporating education in the Fundamental Rights, we have recognised the importance of education and thus special attention has been given to education.

In short, it can be said that to achieve the target of total literacy and bringing awareness for education, co-operation of all and co-operative efforts are required.

Regional Imbalance

India is a country of diversities. We have initiated a gigantic effort to achieve and maintain unity in diversity after independence. We can achieve this only if we are able to promote balanced development of the country by reducing the regional imbalance.

Meaning : Regional imbalance means wide disparity between different regions of the country in terms of per capita income, rate of literacy, facilities of health and other amenities, means of transportation and communication, employment opportunities and industrialisation, etc.

Reasons behind Regional Imbalance

Several reasons and factors are responsible for regional imbalance in India. These include colonial legacy, degree of urbanization and industrialization, imbalance growth in the means of transportations, imbalance in infrastructure facilities, etc. We know the root of regional imbalance was rooted in colonial legacy. British Government was not interested in overall and balanced development of country. Their main aim was economic exploitation of the country. To achieve this, it concentrated on the development of particular areas of some region and neglected the other areas. They were interested in development for the purpose of business and industries rather than the keeping view on the need of the people. Moreover, the British rulers were interested in the collection of revenue which is why they introduced Zamindari Policy. As a result, productivity and fertility of land was neglected and it increased regional imbalance.

The process of urbanization started in the last two centuries, also contributed to the regional imbalance. Due to the commercial policies of the British government, some ports and areas surrounding the ports were developed. Later, these ports become big cities. Thus the coastal areas developed rapidly while the interior areas were left behind in the process of development. Concentrated development of the railway, roads and bridge and transportation has also contributed to the increasing regional disparities.

Efforts for Balance Development

We adopted the strategy of centralized planning to achieve the socio-economic development of the country. One of the objectives of planning was to reduce regional disparities and accomplish balance regional growth. There were two principle agencies for this task : (1) Planning Commission (2) Finance Commission, which is appointed every five years.

The main function of the Planning Commission was to draft Five Year Plan for the balance socio-economic development of the country so that more resources can be allotted for the rapid development of backward states and regions.

From the year 2015, the Planning Commission has been replaced by “NITI Aayog”. Now it is known as NITI Aayog instead of Planning Commission. The Finance Commission determines the basis of the distribution of revenue between the central and state governments. One of the objectives of this distribution is also to reduce regional imbalance.

Despite historically determined regional imbalance and planned development process initiated after independence, we have not been able to realize this goal fully. The difference between different states and different areas of the same state in the term of agriculture, industry, transportation, favourable condition for investment, infrastructural facilities, etc. are very visible. Because of this development in some states has been rapid while development of other states has been sluggish.

Linguistic Chauvinism

Language is a powerful medium of social interaction and exchange of the ideas and sentiments. Language spoken in an area creates a sense of unity and harmony among its speakers. Language is an important link that binds people, at the same time it can also become a factor for creating division among them. Just as language is a powerful factor binding its speaker into a sentimental bond, it can also become a factor that divides them from the speakers of the other language. In multi -lingual societies, language become a divisive factor sometime.

People residing in a particular region and speaking one language have a feeling of greatness about their region and language and for other region and language they feel displeasure. The feeling emerging from such behaviour can be called regional and linguistic chauvinism. Such feeling of regional and linguistic chauvinism is injurious for a nation and is also dangerous for democracy.

The question of official language arose after independence. It was decided in the constituent assembly that Hindi written in Devanagari script would be the official language of the country. English was permitted to be used as another official language for next fifteen years. However as soon as the efforts to make Hindi the official language of India commenced, this move was strongly opposed in southern India specially in Tamil Nadu where violent anti Hindi agitation started. As a reaction to this, “Remove English” movement started in northern India, especially in Uttar Pradesh. Thus such intense dispute between the North and South India was created over the question of official language and many apprehended that the country may be divided on this ground. Finally, the controversy was resolved by allowing English as another official language along with Hindi.

Acute regionalism and linguistic chauvinism emerged in India over the question of linguistic recognition of states. During the 50s the demand for the recognition of states on linguistic basis gradually became stronger. On the issues of language many acute disputes and violent agitations also occurred. During this period, linguistic chauvinism took ugly shape as a result of which an atmosphere of bitterness and intolerance developed among the people speaking different languages. But now the intolerance on the ground of language is not very prominent.

In the present time issues of language are not a serious problem as a challenge for national unity. This is because of popularity and impact of Hindi films and channels of television. Also people are migrating to other places for employment and in such a situation knowledge of Hindi in capacity of reading and writing has become popular. The scope of Hindi is increasing day by day. Person belonging to middle and higher class insist for their children's education in English medium. And so, along with Hindi, the importance and popularity of English is also increasing.

Regionalism

A kind of sentimental relationship develops between a man and the region or the area where he is born and brought up and where he lived for a fairly long period of time, generation after generation. He feels a sense of harmony and united with other people speaking his language. We generally call such sentiments regionalism. Such feeling gives us a sense of identity and pride. However, when the sentiments for one's own region become narrow and when other regions ignore such sentiments, they acquire a more intense form. When the feeling of intolerance and hatred for other people are also added to one's sentiments, and the feeling of superiority toward others persist, then it become a threat to democracy. If a feeling of hatred and intolerance is added to that than the feeling of regionalism create negativity which is dangerous for democracy and threat for national unity.

Several reasons and factors are responsible for the growth of regionalist sentiments in our country. Not only the historical and geographical factors, but regional imbalance is also responsible for such sentiments. Unequal distribution of opportunities for development, the feeling of indifference and step motherly treatment to one's region, the use of one's region for development of other regions and fear of being reduced to a minority in one's state due to influence of outsiders, the fear of loss of distinctive identity, the imbalance distribution of the opportunities of economic development, the political economic and other inequalities prevailing between the regions, etc. deepen the feeling of regionalism. These play an important role in creating a feeling of secessionism.

Due to regionalism many regional political parties have emerged. These regional parties are more concerned about benefit of their region and pride of region rather than benefit of nation. In Punjab- Aakali dal, in Tamil Nadu-DMK and AIADMK, in Andhra Pradesh - Telgu Desham, in Maharashtra - Shivsena, Maharastra Navnirman Sena (MNS), in Jammu and Kashmir - National Conference and PDP, etc. have emerged and developed. Some of these parties have demanded autonomy for their state.

Thus, regionalism has given various challenges for unity of nation. In spite of that we have continued our efforts to create a balance among regions.

Secessionism

Secessionism means a desire of one province to separate from the country. There is some difference between regionalism and secessionism. If for some reason people living in India demand a separate state for them and carry out peaceful agitation, we can call that phenomenon regionalism. However, if such groups become violent and convert themselves into rebellious people and initiate movement for secession from the country and establishment of a separate sovereign state, then it becomes secessionism. Thus there is a difference between demand for autonomy and a separate sovereign state from country. An autonomous state is created while remaining within the country and a separate state by separating from the country and establishing a different state. Thus, in the process of secessionism the country divides. Such secessionism is dangerous for integration and unity of the country.

In our country several agitations have been carried out for granting of separate statehood within the frame work of the Indian State. The creation of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Utrakhand, Jharkhand and recently Telangana are example of this. The Mizo and Naga tribes of North- East state of Assam carried out separatist and at time violent activities for long. Not merely that but they also carried out

violent movement. However, at last their demands have been satisfied by granting them separate state within the framework of the Indian Constitution. Several groups are still carrying out insurgencies for the formation of separate and independent state.

In the initial decades after independence, a demand for the creation of separate and independent state of Dravidistan outside the Indian union was raised in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. This demand was dropped later. Similarly, a movement is being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir for the establishment of an independent Kashmir state since long. Despite the fact that the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been granted special status under Article 370 of the Constitution of India, various secessionist groups exist in Kashmir. These groups have resorted to violent and terrorist activities with active support from Pakistan. The problem of Jammu and Kashmir is really a challenge to national unity. No state can accept such narrow demand for separation from the country. If the people making such demands resort violence, terrorism, coercion and threats, then the state should also suppress such movement with a strong hand. Thus, the movements of regionalism and secessionism and violence arising out of them and forces used to suppress them harm the democratic political system.

Political Violence

When we talk about political violence we generally refer to organized violence committed by the state itself or the violence committed by an organized group. To address the need for law and order, to prevent internal conflict in the state and the violent conflict of different groups, the state takes help of police forces, para military forces and may use the army as the last resort. On the other hand, people resort to violence to express their discontent, hopelessness and desperation. Generally, in the violence against state the target public properties, street lights, etc. and resort to murder, guerrilla warfare, civil war, etc. types of violence against the state.

Both these types of violence committed by people against the state and the violence committed by state against the people have considerably increased in India in the past few years. Violence ultimately is countered by violence. When violence or force is used to achieve one's political end, it takes the form of terrorism. Since last few years terrorism has raised its head worldwide. This has become an issue of concern for whole world. Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern states in past, Punjab are considered terrorism-prone areas. We should not forget that two of our Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were killed by terrorists. Now Naxalites are acting like terrorists to create violence. As violence and terrorism increase, the state will have to adopt more stringent and effective steps. On the other hand, if a state terrorises its people and harasses its citizens, it cannot nourish democracy. Such a state can hardly be called democratic.

Casteism

Casteism is a peculiar character of Indian society. Caste is such a social system where a person gets a status by birth. Here, the status which one gets is also the status of the caste in the society. That is why caste is in ascending and descending order in the society. This status cannot be changed. After the British rule, some change has occurred in the caste system. Along with education, the values of liberty and brotherhood increased in India. Along with industrialization, urbanization also started. People coming from villages to urban areas to work in the factories were working without a feeling of caste difference. They started eating together and traveling together in the buses and train. Due to dense population of city life they started staying together. Thus, in urban area there was heavy reduction in the differentiation resulting from caste. Apart from that due to the Fundamental Rights given by Constitution, also there is change in pattern of caste. Before independence, lower caste people were trying to consider them as upper castes but after getting special provisions in the Constitution of India, like reservation policy, people have started considering themselves as backward.

Sometimes to satisfy the interest of a caste or if the pressure of caste is used to favour a particular caste, then such behaviour is called casteism. In a democratic state, casteism cannot be considered as a

welcome step. The narrow concept of casteism devalues the concept of democracy. In a democratic system, the idea of independence, equality and brotherhood should be the foremost. The binding of caste narrows down the openness of person. Not merely that, the feeling of upper caste and lower caste does not stay ignored and that hurts the idea of equality.

We know that caste has divided the Indian society in small groups and if the feeling of casteism is supported then it will harm the feeling of nationality. People prefer to hire their own caste person in jobs or business. Because of this sometime eligible and deserving candidate lose the chance for their development. The entire process of development gets affected.

Caste and Casteism in Politics

The role of caste is very important in day - to - day social life. At the same time, we have to take note that the universal right of voting and in the politics of majority, caste plays an important role. In a democratic state, small caste groups join hands with upper caste for political purpose, while opponent political party to get support of that caste tries to break that association and divide them politically. Thus caste and politics influence each other. One political party tries to get support of one caste while other political party tries to get support of other caste. In the initial stage, the caste may influence the politics due to large number but at last caste itself is influenced by politics and the power of caste reduces.

At the time of elections, the candidate is selected looking to the caste factor and their majority in the area of candidature. People prefer to vote the candidate of their own caste so that the interest of the caste is protected. In a complex political system people mostly favour their own caste. All these process give rise to casteism and support them. Casteism influences the Indian political system at large. All these hamper the growth of healthy political system.

Education is the only important and effective tool to remove the problem of casteism. Along with education, the process of modernization like urbanization, industrialization, etc. can change the narrow mentality of casteism. By establishing the value of democracy and accepting it as a tradition of life, the inanimate and immature mentality of caste can be removed.

Communalism

The biggest threat against our democracy and national unity is that of communalism or sectarianism. They vitiate the central values of our culture like tolerance, liberty, brotherhood and harmonious relationship. Communalism is defined as when people belonging and believing to a particular sect have a feeling of belongingness to that community.

In other words it can be said that people believing in a particular traditional and cultural values are known as a caste group or community. They have a feeling of belongingness to that community and it is natural also. One can also understand if some person makes efforts for the welfare and upliftment of their community. But when the person of one community considers the person of other community with hatred, prejudice, enmity or revenge, then they become communalist. We may also say that when religion turns into fierceness, then it becomes perverse and is known as communalism.

Communalism is a force behind breaking unity among the people of different sects living in same state. Sometimes communalism turns violent. The communal riots between Hindus and Muslims are example of that. Due to communal riots, the differences among two groups increases and it keeps on increasing continuously. As a result, the feeling of distrust and suspicion increases and it results into communal riots.

If such sentiments are aroused for securing, maintaining or expanding political power, communalism acquires a political colour. In other words, when religion is used for political purpose then communalism

acquires political colour and it becomes dangerous. Such communalism is a threat both to democracy and national unity because it creates a feeling of intolerance and divides the society into different communities.

History has witnessed the role played by communalism in partition of India. During the freedom movement, by establishment of Muslim League the difference between Hindu and Muslim increased and as a result India got divided and Pakistan was born.

The framers of our Constitution have given us freedom of religion through Fundamental Rights and by doing so they have shown their strategic future vision. In the Preamble of the Constitution, it has been included that India shall be a secular country. Thus, secularism is the basic structure of the Constitution.

Naxalism

The term Naxalite emerged from a small village Naxalbari in West Bengal, where in 1967, Indian communist leaders Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal started an armed movement against the government. They believed that government policies are responsible for poor condition of Indian labourers and farmers. They believed that due to unjustifiable policy the upper caste is ruling. This exploiting and suppressing rule can only be ended through revolution.

In 1967, Naxalites constituted a co-ordination committee with left wing extremists and started an armed revolution against government. This violent group of left wing is called Naxalite. In eastern States of India - West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa this group is known as Maoist. The Government of India has declared them as terrorists because of their illegal activities. The Naxalites of eastern states are influenced by the ideology of Mao-Tse Tung and they also appreciate him. They are known as Maoists. The Naxalites started violence on behalf of poor landless labourers for return of their land and to protect poor and unemployed section of society against atrocity of land lords. These Naxalites believe that the government policies and power are the root cause of the issues, so they target I.A.S. officers, other higher rank officers, police officers and their employees and soldiers of the Indian Army and kill them.

Initially, the centre for Naxalites was West Bengal. But later on this group spread in other states like Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh and some rural areas and less developed regions of Eastern part. Today many states of our country are under the influence of Naxalites.

The violent activities of Naxalites are resulting in killing of government officers and employees through exploitation of the poor security system of country. Two classes of people have emerged, one supporting Naxalites and another opposing Naxalites. All these issues are challenging our national unity. The Government of India is taking strict action against Naxalites and also trying to fulfil their reasonable demands.

Terrorism

The word Terrorism has emerged from Latin word Terror. The meaning of the word terror is an activity which results in shivering or a state of frightening. The general meaning of terrorism is considering as an act which creates terror by terrorising to achieve their motives. Here, terror is the motive of the act.

When any person or a group of people or organization creates fear to fulfil their demand or motive than that person is known as terrorist and group of such people are known as terrorist group or terrorist organizations. When terrorists are not successful in getting their demands fulfilled directly, they use violent attack and damage life and property, transportation, important public places, security personnel, armed depot, etc. to create terror. Though they may have very less chances of success in attempting such an act, they do manage to destroy and create devastation. Terrorists get success in creating terror due to their strategy of attack. They do not hesitate in killing innocent people, because their main aim is to create terror.

Terrorism can be seen at two levels: (1) at local level which means within the state (2) international level which means such terrorism network is spread at international level and whose branches are spread in various countries. Many countries provide shelter to such terrorist and help them in all matters, provide them training and also support them.

In India, since many years terrorism has created havoc. After independence, terrorism has been seen constantly in some or other part of India sometimes in the form of Naxalites or sometimes in the form of secessionism. In Jammu and Kashmir many terrorist groups like Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen, Harkat-Ul Ansar, Laskar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohamad, etc. are very active and operating through their terrorist activities. It has to be mentioned that they are supported by our neighbouring countries. Some groups are active at international level. In eastern part of India Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur groups like Naga National Council and People's Liberation Army are known for their terrorist activities. In Punjab, during 80s, Bhindranwale demanded a separate state Khalistan with the help of terrorist association All India Sikh Student Federation and Babbar Khalsa, through terrorist acts damaged life and property on a large scale. In the Northern part of India along with Haryana and Delhi, they created great deal of terror. Regrettably, our Late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi was killed by them. Over a period of time, these associations have been slowly decimated. In same way in Assam, ULFA and BODO separatist groups have created havoc and they are known to all. In Sri Lanka, the violent struggle of Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for creation of a separate Tamil state is another example of terrorist activities. Here it is to be noted that our Ex. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a woman suicide bomber. Presently this organization is not in existence. Before sometime this group has also been decimated. Thus our two Prime Ministers became victim of terrorism.

In India series of bomb blast, terrorist attack on Parliament on 13th December, 2001, attack on Akshardham temple at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, attack on Taj Hotel in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008 are some of terrorist attacks that took place. On 11th September, 2001, a terrorist attack on World Trade Centre in America caused miserable loses of life and property and created havoc worldwide. In a reaction to this, America declared a war against the terrorist group Al- Qaeda which was responsible for this terror act. As a result of the sustained attack, the leader of this association, Osama Bin Laden was killed.

Presently, the terrorism can be seen at International level and their activities are spreading worldwide. This matter has become a concern for most of the countries. The terrorist associations established at international level are in contact with each other. They exchange information, equipment, money weapons, etc. The latest developments in Information Technology, communication and mobile services have provided them opportunity for operation. As a result, a situation has emerged where boundaries are not important. Presently terror is being spread worldwide by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The head of ISIS is adamant to spread Islam worldwide through terrorism.

In fight against terrorism at international level, the role of United Nation (U.N.) has remained very constructive and it is providing leadership in this direction. A constant dialogue is on to end terrorism. It is very obvious that the reasons which give birth to terrorism, if removed, will lead to the end of terrorism. If certain steps are taken like reduction in inequalities socially and politically, and economic inequalities, law related to land reform, and good administration then we can reduce terrorism up to certain level. Terrorism of across border has become a matter of concern for India. Thus, we are facing terrorism internal as well as external both.

By strengthening the democratic institutions and encouraging people's participation in governance, we can meet these challenges. A strong feeling that we are all citizens of one country will inspire us to address the above mentioned challenges.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. What type of social inequalities are seen in India ? Discuss the constitutional remedies to remove these inequalities.
2. Discuss the efforts to increase the literacy rate in India.
3. Regionalism and linguistic chauvinism are major challenges for national unity in India-Discuss.
4. Discuss in detail : Terrorism.

2. Write Short notes.

1. Illiteracy
2. Poverty
3. Casteism
4. Communalism

3. Answer the following questions in short.

1. Explain the meaning of political violence.
2. What is regional imbalance ? Explain.
3. Explain difference between regionalism and seperatism.
4. How politics and caste influence each other ?

4. Answer the following questions in one- two sentences.

1. State the challenges before Indian democracy?
2. How naxalism was born ?
3. When the Right to Education (RTE) was introduced ?
4. Mention any two terrorist attacks in India.
5. What is the other name Naxalites are known?

5. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box.

1. What type of category is Scheduled Caste ?
(a) General (b) Constitutional (c) Simple (d) none
2. Which state's regional party is D.M.K. ?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Punjab
3. Which Article of the Constitution gives special status to Jammu - Kashmir?
(a) 270 (b) 370 (c) 470 (d) 570
4. What is associated with "Operation Black Board" movement ?
(a) Primary Education (b) Secondary Education (c) Higher Education (d) Adult Education
5. Which state the Naxalism was born in?
(a) Bihar (b) Rajasthan (c) West Bengal (d) Kerala

Activity

Arrange group discussion :

- Means to make democracy successful.
- Means to remove Terrorism



Independent India dreamed of political democracy along with social and economic development. For this purpose, the Directive Principles of State Policy have been included in the Constitution of India. The Directive Principles of State Policy provide guidance to the State for socio-economic development. We have to strengthen democracy through socio-economic development. Democracy has been rightly explained by Abraham Lincoln, the President of United States “Democracy means the government of the people, for the people, by the people.” Here, people are at the centre of democracy. Democracy is not merely a government but also a way of life. Hence, in democracy, development means development of people. Development is more meaningful only if people participate and involve actively and the same reaches to the last person, which is called “Antyodaya” by Gandhiji.

Meaning of Socio- Economic Development

Development is not merely growth, but it is a continuous and most complicated process. It is a two-way process : natural development and planned development. It takes place with passing of time and in the society even unconsciously with social change, while planned development takes place consciously by state.

Here, we will discuss the socio-economic aspect of planned development. Social development is concerned with the development of social organizations and their way of working while the economic development indicates national income, per capita income, an increase in employment opportunity, industrialization, modernisation and urbanization. These socio-economic indicators of development also indicate human development.

Aim of Socio-Economic Development in India

According to scholars, the aims of socio-economic development in India are as follows :

1. To raise national income and increase the growth rate.
2. To reduce the economic inequality among different classes and groups of people.
3. To curb the centralization of wealth and means of production and use them in the larger interest of the society.
4. To take measures to remove poverty.
5. To create opportunities and means of employment.
6. To provide facilities for education, health and housing with basic amenities to enable human beings to live a dignified life.
7. To preserve and nurture environment.
8. To initiate comprehensive programmes for the development of deprived and weaker sections of the society.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission was set up in the year 1950 to achieve the socio-economic developmental goals. It was set up by passing a resolution in the cabinet by the Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a non-constitutional body. Apart from that, the Finance Commission is a constitutional body. Under the guidance and support of these two organizations we have completed 13 Five Year Plans and we have received great achievements in the areas of socio-economic development.

The Planning Commission was a very useful institution for development in the line of socialistic pattern. With the new wave of liberalization, privatization and globalization which started in 1991, we wanted an institution which is liberal and flexible in nature. Based on this premise, a new institution called the “NITI Aayog” was born.

NITI Aayog

On 1st January, 2015, the NITI Aayog, a new institution was created under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Its full form is National Institute for Transforming India. It is a “Think Tank” for policy formulation in India and NITI is also a non-constitutional institution.

Objectives for the Establishment of Niti Aayog

The objectives behind the establishment of NITI Aayog are as follows:

1. To formulate policies related to socio-economic problems after discussion in a democratic way under the guidance of experts.
2. To provide a proper position to India in a fast changing world.
3. To encourage the state governments to participate in formulation of economic policy, thus initiating a down to upward approach.
4. To improve the relationship between the states and the center. It will help in developing a federal where there will be competition with co-operation.
5. To represent state governments and union territories for development.
6. India is a country of diversity, states are in different stages of socio-economic development. So, NITI Aayog believes that there cannot be a common pattern of development which was used by Planning Commission.

To achieve these objectives, the formation of NITI Aayog is like a “Think Tank” institution or a forum.

Following are the salient points regarding the formation of NITI Aayog :

- a. The Prime Minister shall be the Chairperson.
- b. The Management Council shall consist of Chief Ministers of all States and Lt. Governors of all Union Territories.
- c. The Regional Council shall consist of Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories of that area. They will meet alone or with other Chief Ministers for a definite issue or other such issue. The meeting of such council will be conducted by chairman or his representative.
- d. Experts of various areas and practitioner’s shall be appointed by the Prime Minister based on special invitation.

The positions of members in NITI Aayog shall be as follows

- (i) The Prime Minister shall be the Chairperson.
- (ii) Three full time members include be an Economist, Ex. Head of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and an expert of agriculture.
- (iii) Two part time members who shall be from research organizations from prominent Universities and other such related organizations. They will be changed through a policy of rotation.
- (iv) Four members from the Council of Prime Ministers office as Ex-officio.
- (v) The Chief Executive Officer shall be of rank of Secretary to the government of India who will be appointed by Prime Minister for a fixed period.
- (vi) Additional appointment of secretaries will be done as per requirement.

Special Features

The special features of NITI Aayog are as follows :

- ❖ It is a non-constitutional body. It has come in to existence by a resolution passed by the Cabinet on 1st January, 2015.
- ❖ Its structure will like a “Think Tank” or a Forum
- ❖ It will be more active than Planning Commission and will discuss developmental issues based on problems of various states through councils.

- ❖ It will formulate policies for socio-economic development through its Council, which will consist of Chief Ministers of States and Deputy Governors of Union Territories, instead of representatives from the Centre.
- ❖ It is an institution suitable for liberalization, privatization and globalization which are relevant to India and will be able to create a suitable position for India in global competition.
- ❖ It is an institution for policy formulation in co-operation with the Centre and States and will remove differences between the States.
- ❖ It will work for development of country with a vision for next 15 years.
We have, however, have to wait and watch how effectively it will yield results in due course of time.
Apart from the NITI Ayog, there are various agencies which work for such planned development.

Role of District Development Agencies

Mahatma Gandhi had emphasized the decentralization and empowerment of people at the grassroots. To fulfill his dreams, the Government of India appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Late Shri Balavantrai Mehta in 1957. This committee suggested a three tier structure for Panchyat Raj to increase people's participation in the work of development. As per recommendation of the committee, states established Panchayatiraj convenient to them. In 1978, a committee under the chairmanship of Late Ashok Mehta which was appointed to evaluate the Panchayatiraj, suggested that the district should be the first point of decentralization. Many others study groups also suggested that district is the most important unit of development. This is so due to following reasons :

1. A district is the unit that is closest to the local people.
2. It is big enough to be considered a unit for planning.
3. Due to historical reasons, the district has remained an effective unit of administration.
4. Information concerning revenue and records, irrigation, housing, roads, electrification, social services like education, health, etc. is available at the district level.
5. The zonal offices of most of the departments and sections of the state government are located at the district head quarters.
6. As the people are accustomed to district administration, it is appropriate from all angles that the district becomes a unit of planning and development.

For smoother working of development agencies at district level district panchayats, taluka panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations, members of legislative assembly, parliament of that district, representative of trade unions, entrepreneurs and representative from banks are included in these agencies.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and District Development Agencies

The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments were passed in 1992 during the period of Prime Minister Narsinhrao Rao government and are significant. The 73rd and 74th amendments provide constitutional status to Panchayatiraj, Nagarpalikas and Municipal corporations. In the constitution there are provisions for their structure, regular elections, financial provisions and functions. Through such provisioning, the function of district development becomes more extensive and effective. There are also provisions for reservation for scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and women representative for important decision-making position like Sarpanch, President and Mayor. By providing such provisions, it is expected that the fruit of development will reach to all sections of the society due to which the participation of all groups will also increase.

From 1st January, 2015 the Planning Commission has been replaced by NITI Aayog. It has entrusted developmental work to states. As per recommendation of Finance Commission, states are allotted 42 % finance instead of 30 %. The method of planning through Five Years Plans will end in 2017, however, as per annual budget for up coming years the planning has to be done for developmental work as suggested through the NITI Ayog . At that time the role of district will be important as a unit state.

Development of the Weaker and Deprived Sections

When we talk of social economic development, it also means human development. All human beings are not equal in any country. So, it is the responsibility of the democratic country to take special care of the weaker sections. According to Prof. John Rawls' Theory of Justice, if we give proportionately greater help to people who are backward then it will not be considered as injustice to others. In India, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women, minority sections, children and disabled are included in this group.

Here, we will discuss the development of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward communities and women.

Scheduled Caste

The Constitution of India has identified those who were untouchables in our caste system since centuries as Scheduled Caste. As per the census 2011, their population is 16.6 % of the total population. Religious and social reformers and freedom fighters tried for the upliftment of this caste. Provisions were also made in the Constitution and governments of independent India initiated social programmes for their upliftment.

Scheduled Tribes

Generally, those who have been traditionally living in distance forests, mountainous and interior areas since centuries are known as Tribals. As per the census of 2011, their population is 8.6 % of the total population. From the view point of social and economical development they are very backward. As per our Constitution they have been recognized as Scheduled Tribes.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

Special provisions have been made in the Constitution of India for the protection and development of the above two sections of society :

1. Article 17 of the Constitution abolished untouchability and its practices.
2. A law deeming the practices of untouchability a crime was passed in 1955. In 1976, the scope of this law was expanded.
3. In 1989, an Act to prevent atrocities against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was passed.
4. The Constitution ensured that the Fundamental Rights of equality was applicable to all the citizens.
5. The Directive Principles of State Policy direct the state to take steps for the protection and welfare of these groups.
6. Seats have been reserved in the Parliament and Legislative Assembly on the basis of the population of these two sections.
7. Reservation for these sections has also been provided in the government jobs and educational institutions.
8. After 65th constitutional amendment in 1990, a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been established. In 2003, through a Constitutional amendment, a separate National Commission has been established for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. These two commissions provide suggestions to central and state government for protection and implementation of rights and development of these sections.
9. The Dilip Singh Bhuria Commission appointed by Central Government has highlighted the rights of Scheduled Tribes on natural resources. The commission has also suggested that in areas where the population of Scheduled Tribes is more than 50 %, the position of sarpanch, president and deputy president should be reserved for them, and this suggestion has been implemented.

Development Programmes

Central and state government have formulated policies for social and economic development and to raise the capability of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes implemented various programmes. Such as the population policy of central government, women empowerment policy, policies to give importance to the local language of the state, preference to the local people in government services, etc. Education, skill

development, employment opportunities and development of the area where these sections are concentrated are looked into via these programmes. Training programmes are also arranged so that these sections are well trained and equipped as required. They are provided guidance for self-employment and also given loans at concessional rate.

The benefits of Indira Aavash yojna and Jawahar Rojgar Yojna are given to these two groups on priority basis. Care has been taken to provide them basic facilities like drinking water, toilet and electricity.

Other Backward Classes

Apart from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there are also some other weaker sections in the Indian societies which are socially, economically and educationally backward. They are known as Other Backward Classes. For development of such sections, the central and state government can appoint commissions. In the year 1953, the central government appointed a commission for the Other Backward Castes under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. But his report was not accepted by government. In the year 1992, the central government appointed a commission under the chairmanship of Bindheshwari Prasad Mandal for other backward castes. The recommendation of the commission was accepted by V.P. Singh of the Janta Dal government.

In the year 1992, the central government has set up the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. This corporation provides scholarship to children of other backward castes, hostel facilities, coaching for public service examinations and help for volunteer agencies working in this area.

In Gujarat, the government appointed Baxi Commission for other backward castes in the year 1973. The recommendations of this commission have been accepted and also implemented. In the year 2016, the government accepted to provide 10 % reservation to Economically Backward Class (EBC). However, recently it was rejected by the High Court of Gujarat.

Women Development

Women constitute almost the half of the total population. Similar to other parts of the world, in India also they have been in weaker position. After independence, the Constitution has given equal fundamental rights to women. The Directive Principles of State Policy provide that women should not be discriminated, they should get equal wage for equal work, effort should be made to protect their health and to prevent exploitation of women and they should get benefits of maternity leave along with full salary and other allowances. In 1976, Fundamental Duties were included in the Constitution where it is stated that such behaviour is prohibited which harm the dignity and pride of women and they should not be harmed or insulted.

Women Welfare and Development Policy

Efforts for women's welfare and development have been undertaken in two ways : promulgating and implementing laws, and designing and executing programmes for welfare of women.

(A) Promulgation and implementation of Laws

To provide equality to women and for their welfare in 65 years of independence, the Parliament has passed the following laws :

1. The Special Marriage Act -1954
2. Hindu Marriage Act-1955
3. Dowry Prohibition Act-1961
4. Maternity Benefit Act to working women with full salary-1961
5. Abortion Act-1971
6. Equal Remuneration Act-1976
7. Child Marriages Prohibition Act-1978
8. Amendment in the Dowry Prohibition Act-1984
9. Muslim Women's Act-1986
10. Amendment in the Anti- Sati Act-1987
11. Act against Sexual Harassment-2002
12. Act against sex determination of the foetus test-1994

13. Amendment in the Hindu Succession Act for giving daughter's equal right to the ancestral property.
14. Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act-2005
15. Protection of women against Sexual Harassment at work places-2013
16. Criminal Amendment Act-2013 (Protection of women and providing penalties for the protection of women against asid atteck taking photographs without their consent)

Besides, rape has been considered as a serious crime and stringent punishment are prescribed for it in the Indian Penal Code. Taking this into consideration, the age for a criminal to be deemed an adult for rape has been reduced from 18 years to 16 years. The Judiciary has also given judgements and served to protect the interests and rights of women. The Supreme Court has passed a judgement and instructed to stop sexual harassment to women.

(B) Welfare Programmes

Various programmes for women and child development have been implemented in all the thirteen Five Years Plans. In the year 1953, the Government of India appointed a committee titled Central Social Welfare Committee to supervise such programmes. The Department of Women and Child Welfare has also been set up by the Central government in 1995. Under the National Education Policy drafted in 1986, special care has been taken to promote girls' education and self-employment for women. The Indira Mahila Yojna was implemented in 1995 with an objective to organize women at grassroots level and enable them to participate in the decision making process. The Rural Women Development and Empowerment scheme came into force from 1998 with an objective to provide self-employment to women at the level of village itself.

At state level also, various programmes for women development and child welfare have been implemented. Presently in 2016, Gujarat State Women Industrial Training Centers, Krushi Talim Yojna and programmes like Sakhi Mandal Yojna, Chiranjivi Yojna, Kunvarbainu Mameru Yojna, Saraswati Sadhna Yojna, Swayam Sidhi Yojna, Kishori Shakti Yojna, Beti Bachao, Matru Vandan Yojna, Shakti Mandal Yojna, Balika Samridhi Yojna, Mahila Old Age Homes and Nari Aadalat, etc. are working for the development and safety of women. In 2015, Abhayam 181 helpline was launched for the safety of women. Apart from that, the girls education is free from primary to postgraduate level. 33 % reservation has been made for women in the recruitment of Vidyasahayak in primary schools and in local self-government institutions in Gujarat. It is also planned to extend this benefit of 33 % reservation for women in government jobs.

Movement for Women Empowerment

As we have seen earlier, the constitutional provisions, Directive Principles of state Policy, laws passed by Parliament, Judicial judgements and government policies and development programmes have helped the women to come forward. In spite of all these efforts, atrocities against women are committed even today. Not only this, they are also deprived of opportunities for development.

This situation has given birth to a new thought and that is women empowerment. Women Empowerment seeks to make women aware of their rights and to help them understand that they are self-dependent for the protection of their rights and not dependent on anyone else. Women Empowerment is a process. For this process the efforts put in should be continuous so that women get power to fight for their problems and become strong enough to protect themselves against any type of injustice. Only then, they will be able to enjoy the rights given to them by the government for their development and security. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in 1992 have provided reservation of 33 % seats for women in the local self-government institutions as well as for reservation in the executive positions in the institutions. Thus, women have started participating actively in the politics. In Gujarat and some other states, reservation has been increased from 33% to 50% since 2015.

The Indian government announced a national policy on women's empowerment in 2001. The purpose of this policy is to prepare women for their multi-faced development. The government celebrated the year as the year of women's empowerment. Women organizations have also supported this move of central government and state government toward women empowerment. As per the census of 2011, there are 919 women for 1000 men. The rate of literacy for male is 82.14 % while for women it is 65.46 %. This shows that in spite of so many efforts in the direction of women development and welfare we have to go far in this direction. For this matter, we have to make the process of women empowerment more comprehensive.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. What is development ? Explain the role of NITI Aayog in development.
2. Discuss various agencies for development in India.
3. Explain in detail the relationship between development and democracy.
4. Evaluate the efforts for women development and women welfare.
5. Explain the process of women empowerment.

2. Write Short Notes.

1. Development.
2. NITI Aayog.
3. Programmes for Women Welfare.
4. Women Empowerment.
5. Provisions for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
6. Role of District Development Agencies.

3. Answer the following questions in one - two sentences.

1. What is development ?
2. Why was planning commission removed ?
3. Why was NITI Aayog established ?
4. What is women development ?
5. What is women empowerment ?

4. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box.

1. When Planning Commission was established ?
(a) 1947 (b) 1955 (c) 1962 (d) 1950
2. When NITI Aayog was established ?
(a) 2008 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
3. What is Woman empowerment ?
(a) To make women physically strong.
(b) Provide economic opportunities to women.
(c) To create a situation where women can fight for themself.
(d) All above
4. Which commission was appointed for Other Backward Class ?
(a) Bhuriya Commission (b) Baxi Commission
(c) Kalelkar Commission (d) Mandal Commission
5. Which commission was appointed for Other Backward Class at national level?
(a) Sarkariya Commission (b) Baxi Commission
(c) Kothari Commission (d) Bindheshwari Prasad Mandal Commission
6. Which Commission was appointed for Scheduled Tribe ?
(a) Dilip Singh Bhuriya Commission (b) Sarkariya Commission
(c) Mandal Commission (d) Rane Commission

Activity

- Arrange a visit to Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat.
- Arrange a meeting with Taluka Development officer, District Development officer.
- Arrange a visit to District Development Agency.



Peace is very important for the survival and development of a human being. Peace expresses the development of culture and civilization. For the students of political science, the study of peace is very important, as multiphase development of citizens internal and external peace is necessary. So, the state along with task of development is also working toward maintenance of law and order. Peace is essential for the state, and at the international level.

Peace : Meaning, Definition and Scope

From ancient times we consider peace as important for person, society, state and the world. As a result of this thinking, various philosophers, social reformers, legal practitioners and political scientist have tried to define the meaning of peace.

In the Indian context, in Sanskrit, the word peace has been described as peace for human mind, peace on earth, peace in sea, peace in the space and the universe. Any social function starts with this mantra for peace. Defining peace, Prof. Quincy Wright says “Peace is the condition of community in which order and justice prevail internally among its members and externally in its relation with other countries.”

To understand the scope of peace, the thinking of various thinkers can be understood as stated below.

Gandhian Thought on Peace

Gandhiji was a pioneer in contributing and trying to spread his ideas for peace and non-violence for India and the world. According to him, freedom from all type of exploitations is a state of peace for human being. At the same time, he opposed the use of violence for creation of an exploitation-free. He used to say “Truth and non-violence are my life. I cannot live without them.” In Chauri Chaura incidence, certain villagers burned alive a police man. At that time he stopped his Satyagraha Gandhiji and said “I have committed a mistake as big as the Himalaya.” His dream was of a Sarvodya Society where there will be no exploitation and a peaceful co-existence.

Karl Marx on Peace

Karl Marx believed that peace can prevail only when exploitation of a person by other person and one nation by other nation comes to an end. Marx supported the path of violence, opposite to Gandhiji’s path of non-violence to stop such exploitation. But to stop such exploitation, he supported a path opposite to Gandhi’s path of non-violence. He believed that capitalist and landlords will not let go of their right of property without violence. Equality can be brought and peace can be established only if there is a classless society. This is possible only when we break the old exploited society through violence.

Woodrow Wilson on Peace

At the time of First World War loss of life and property was very huge. The U.S. President given a serious thought on it and he said such dangerous war should not take place. For world peace he gave a 14 point programme. One important point was that of the establishment of League of Nations. He believed that problems among various countries should be solved through peaceful discussion only then can peace can be maintained in the world. But some how the League of Nations failed and World War II took place. The United Nations was established in the year 1945 after the end of World War II. Taking steps toward maintenance of international peace, the U.N. celebrates 21st September as the International Peace Day.

John Galtung on peace

Today for maintenance of peace the thought of John Galtung is getting importance. According to him, the absence of violence is peaceful arrangement. Prof. Galtung has classified violence in two categories. (1) Direct Violence and (2) Indirect Violence or Social Violence.

(i) Direct Violence : According to Prof. John Galtung, direct violence is a situation where individual or society is thrusted, harassed, killed or mutilated. War between nations, communal riots, etc. are example of direct violence. Along with such war, preparation for war, business of weapons, formation of army and destruction of human resources are also part of direct violence.

(ii) Indirect Violence or Social Violence : According to Prof. Galtung indirect violence or social violence is such a situation where due to injustice in the society violence occurs. According to Prof. Galtung there are four characteristics of social violence : (a) Exploitation (b) Forcefull entry (c) Division (d) Isolation

Because of such social violence, injustice is created within the nation, community and individuals. Because of this, the development of society cannot take place properly. Slavery system is example of this. According to Prof. Galtung both type of violences are dangerous for peace at national and international levels.

Thus, before defining the meaning and definition of peace, views of various philosophers have been taken into consideration. What follows is a discussion on how the thought of peace can be given a shape.

Pre-Condition for establishment of peace in the State

1. Democratic arrangement : A system where people are free to present their problems to the government. To satisfy their demands, they can freely participate into politics. If required, they can oppose the government also.
2. Protection of Human Rights : The System should be such where Human Rights of all the citizens are protected.
3. Rule of Law : In a legal society, all citizens are equal. If anybody violates the law, he/she can be arrested and produced before judiciary.
4. Independent and Neutral Judiciary system : The state provides Fundamental Rights to all citizens. These Fundamental Rights are protected by an independent and neutral judiciary system in democracy.
5. Social Justice : The pride of all citizens should be protected, there should be no unequal treatment toward any citizen.
6. Participatory Development : The benefits of development must reach to all equally.
7. Security : The State and society should provide a climate of security to all citizens. If such situation is provided, all citizens and individual can develop fully.
8. Solution of International issues through discussion instead of war : For this the U.N. has provided an international platform to solve issues in a peace full manner.
9. Independent and Neutral Communication Media : For the prevalence of peace at state and international level the media should broadcast and publish social incident without fear and neutrally.

What are the conditions to justify War ?

The condition of war is curse for human being and their culture. In spite of that from ancient times, war has been taking place between various states. Prevention of war is a question that has pondered the human kind for a long time now. The question that stems from this is under what conditions can it be justify ? Two ancient Indian epics – the Ramayana and the Mahabharata may provide some answers. If we study these two great epics, it appears that initially there were efforts to prevent war. The war took place finally for the removal of ills and for establishment of Dharma. Chanakya in his book Kautilya Arthashastara writes that in case there is a war on one hand and a treaty on the other and if the benefits from both are equal, we should accept treaty.

According to scholars of International Politics and Peace, there are certain important conditions to justify war which are as follows :

1. If there is external threat to the unity and integrity of country and which cannot be solved by peaceful efforts, then state can go for war in self-protection.

2. If there is a threat against the human rights of citizens of state or of world in case of insurgence such as by the Islamic State in Iraq or atrocities of the Taliban in Afghanistan and fought against by the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) states.
3. If any state is developing dangerous weapons which will be harmful for security and peace of state or states and is also dangerous for world peace then in such situation war can be justified against them. Like the war against Germany, Japan and Italy from Allied Forces (UK, France, U.S.S.R., America) in 1939 which was ultimately turned into the Second World War. According to Allied Forces, the war against Germany, Japan and Italy was justified.
4. When citizens of any state are living a peaceful life and their way of life is under attack by terrorists then the state can declare a war against them. When there was a terrorist attack on two centres of World Trade Centre and Pentagon on 11th September, 2001; USA President George Bush declared war against terrorism which was also approved by UN.
5. If any area of state or state itself has been snatched or property is looted then in such a condition war can be declared. For instance, in the year 1962 and 1965, China and Pakistan seized some parts of India respectively and India declared war against them. Justifying war many times also calls for self-introspection e.g. for war of 1962, China claims that war was started by India. Thus, justifying a war is difficult and subjective.

War is a great destroyer of human being and property. According to many scholars the first and second world wars were very painful but due to the wars many new inventions were created.

Disarmament and World peace in reference to Peace

The State needs traditional weapons to maintain internal law and order and for external security. Such weapons are almost necessary, but it is necessary to destroy atomic, nuclear, chemical and virus weapons. The reduction of such weapons first and then followed by their destructions is termed as Disarmament. The meaning of destruction of weapons however does not mean that state should be without weapons.

The first and second world wars created much havoc which encouraged the idea of disarmament and emphasized the necessity of world peace. After victory in Kalinga and on noticing the heavy loss of life during the war the distressed King Asoka gave up all weapons – this is an incident of disarmament at the state level. At the international level in 1899 in Hague, a council of 28 states passed a resolution to prohibit poisonous gas and destroyer weapons for the first time.

Atomic Weapons and Disarmament

For peaceful life of human beings and establishment of a peaceful relationship among states of world disarmament of atomic weapons has been emphasized. For this scholars give the following arguments:

1. These weapons are very destructive : Today the United States of America, Russia and China possess powerful atomic weapons which can destroy at a magnitude that is much greater than the weapons unleashed at the end the World War II when America attacked the two towns of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan with atomic bomb. India and Pakistan also possess such weapons. It is a possibility that the atomic weapons of small states like Pakistan and North Korea may be captured by terrorist groups. If this happens then there can be serious damage and great loss of human life.

2. Increase in Defence Expenses : Many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America got independence after 1945. Due to servility for a long period these newly framed states remain economically and socially backward. Such nation-states should reduce their defence expenditure and money should be spent towards development. But super powers of the world have partnered them during the Cold War and have encourage them to acquire weapons. As a result, their expenditure on defence has kept on increasing and these nations have become indebted. Disarmament provides a way out of this indebtedness.

3. Creating a Market for Atomic Weapons by the Atomic Powers : After 1945, countries like U.S.A., Soviet Union, Britain, France and China started manufacturing of atomic weapons and in search of a market to sell atomic weapons and technology, they encouraged wars between newly formed developing countries. There were many wars between developing countries like India-Pakistan, Arab- Israel and Iran- Iraq. Because of this there was loss of lives along with a hit to the economies of these countries.

4. Economic Burden on Super Power : Immediately after Second World War, a Cold War started between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union. A Cold war is a strenuous situation. Here both the parties do not directly declare a war on each other but always prepare themselves for a potential war and keep at creating new weapons. When a new state was formed after the start of the Cold War, both the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union tried to influence the state to join their side of the war and accordingly made that state strong. From such a point, a political game of economic support and providing defence security started. This led to a competition of weapons between the U.S.A and the Soviet Union and resulted in an increase in the stock of atomic weapons started increasing. After many years, these two Super Powers realised the economic burden of this weapons race, however, Soviet Union was impacted more because of this race than the U.S.A. As a result, these two Super Powers started negotiations for disarmament and meetings were held between heads of these two states and pacification done.

Efforts for Disarmament

The efforts for disarmament may be considered to be made as follows : (1) Efforts by International Organizations
(2) Efforts by nation states

1. Effort by International organizations toward Disarmament : At the international level the differences and issues between states and state should be solved by discussion rather than war. The first efforts in this direction of disarmament for world peace were done in 1899 and 1907 in Assembly meeting at Hague.

In first Assembly, 26 states participated while in second assembly 44 states participated. In spite of that due to various reasons in 1914 the First World War took place. The League of Nations was established under the 14 Points Programme of U.S.A. by President Woodrow Wilson. The main objective of this was to prevent war and establishment of peace and safety. The League of Nations made certain definite efforts for world peace. But due to various reasons, the League of Nations failed and the Second World War took place. To prevent the recurrence of such destructive war in future, in 1945 United Nations was established, which is also known as the U.N.

In the first general meeting of U.N. (1946), there was serious discussion for disarmament and it was decided to constitute a Atomic Power commission. By a proposal forwarded by Soviet Union in 1959, it was possible for all member state to become member of this commission. Initially membership was given to 10 states, which increased to 18 in later stage. A treaty was signed by this commission for part control on weapons and on collection of missiles. The United Nations declared 1970 as the start of decade of Disarmament. In the year 1975 during the general body meeting of U.N., Soviet Union and later China proposed the reduction in competition for missiles. The year 1986 was declared as International Year of Peace by U.N. In the year 1998 India proposed an agenda for reduction in atomic weapons.

2. Initiative for Disarmament by States : Many states volunteered for disarmament to save themselves from the destruction. In 1945, U.S.A., Britain and Canada proposed for United Nation Commission to look into the destructive nature of atomic weapons. U.S. A. President Eisenhower declared “Atom for Peace” In 1953. In 1972, a treaty was signed by Soviet Russia and U.S.A. to reduce missiles. In the year 1974, a treaty was signed by the two super powers to stop states from being atomic power and also to stop underground testing of atomic weapons. Soviet Russia agreed to destroy 270 old missiles by 1981 and U.S.A. agreed to destroy 52 bomb, namely “32B” by 1985. U.S.A. and Soviet Russia signed START-1 (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty-1) and START-2 in the year 1982 and 1991, respectively to reduce atomic weapons.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, in 1991, at the time of separation of Soviet Russia and later on President Putin willingly agreed for decreasing atomic weapons and brought an end to cold war to come out from economic recession in Soviet Russia.

After atomic test in 1974 and 1998, India became an atomic power. But India has promised to use atomic power for development and constructive work.

Thus, from beginning United States and member states have put efforts for disarmament and it will continue. But in International politics there still is distrust among states. It is difficult for this distrust to disappear completely. But it can be said that the disregard for the consequences of war which was at the time of First and Second World Wars has decreased. However, we still witness that countries like North Korea are busy in building their defences. China has been increasingly got used to the habit of occupying other's lands. Violent terrorist groups like Islamic State are also spreading fear. Economic progress through liberalization, privatization and globalization and development of information technology and air services has made the world a small village. Borders of state have thinned and states are becoming dependent on each other. The ideal concept of international citizenship is closer to reality. So efforts to remove all obstacles in the path of development of all societies of world on a peaceful path should be undertaken by the United Nations and all members.

What is Development ? Definition and Meaning

Because of industrial revolution the process of industrialization, modernization and urbanization started. Asian and African markets were identified for wholesale goods and from this exploitation by the colonist and imperialism started.

After the First and Second World Wars many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America got independence. These newly formed states were referred to as developing countries. Now we will discuss the development of these countries.

Meaning of Development : Two points are important in the discussion of the concept of development :

- (i) The meaning of development is not only economic growth. It is very difficult concept. Aspects like environment, technology, economic, political, social and cultural aspects are also considered for it.
- (ii) Human beings are at the core to the process of development, where human needs, culture, pride and environmental changes taking place in social and physical context are seen with reference to human relations.

Looking to the meaning of development we will examine the development of developing countries. In 1974, in a report by the World Bank it was mentioned that per capital income of developing countries has increased by 50 %. But this income was unequal among states and social groups. The casual workers of urban areas, semi unemployed, small farmers in rural areas, agricultural labourers and other labourers were not able to fulfil even their basic needs. In such a condition the capital from developed state and multinational companies who invest in foreign countries is utilized for latest technology, knowledge management, market services knowledge, skill development for employees and skilled workers and economic development of developing countries. This objective has been achieved up to certain level. But majority of population of these countries are undeveloped or are live below poverty line.

It is necessary that the benefits of development reach the entire population. For this people participation is necessary in economic decentralization. If people participate in the decision making process and help in resolving problems related to public only then can economic and political equality be brought about.

Development should accompany environmental preservation and protection. Developed countries of West have used natural resources quite haphazardly, which has created nature's imbalance. Now China and India are also following the same path.

Model for a Multiphase Development

A report on international condition of development “The Limit to growth” was published by an international Non-Government Organization (N.G.O) Club of Rome in the year 1972. According to this report, if we destroy the available natural resources for development at the present rate, then by next hundred years, the earth will reach to its highest level of destruction. This report initiated discussion on development and environment worldwide. Development should not at the cost of environment. Accordingly, the concept of multiphase development was developed where the basic needs of all along with social, economic and political needs of society and state are fulfilled along with development of culture.

In 1983, the United Nations appointed a commission under the Chairmanship of Norway Ex. Prime Minister Mrs. Brundtland. In 1987, the commission published its report” Our Common Future” in which it was recommended that the vision for development should be very broad and developed and developing countries were requested to maintain ecological balance. It also recommended a new concept of sustainable development where balance between the drive for economic growth while preserving the planet’s fragile ecosystem should be adopted. This model of development is useful for future also. A development where development does not destroy nature, where people are the at the centre of development and the basic needs of all are fulfilled, and that takes care of present and future generation can be called sustainable development.

Challenge for Development between Present and Future Generation

During 1970, in a blind race for development western countries started believing that without damaging the natural resources, economic development is not possible. Identifying this, Mrs. Brundtland commission said that if the world is going on this way of development, then nothing will remain for our future generation. So the present generation should use these natural resources in such a way that the interest of future generation is not damaged. In other words, such a model of development will be sustainable development. The World Bank has also supported such sustainable Human Development in its report of 1992 and 2003.

Thus, comprehensive and sustainable development is an important issue for human being, ecology and for world peace. Such development will take care of interests of the future generation and preserve natural resources. The supporters of newly developed Green Ideology in the West have also supported this idea of development. According to them such development will support reasonable economic development, social responsibility, people’s participation and preserve the values of non-violence.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. What is peace ? Explain the concept of peace in detail.
2. Explain the necessary condition to justify war.
3. What is disarmament ? Discuss disarmament with reference to peace.
4. Explain the meaning and concept of development.
5. Compare the thoughts of Gandhiji and Karl Marks with reference to peace.

2. Write Short notes

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Concept of peace | 2. Disarmament |
| 3. World peace | 4. Modern model of development |
| 5. Woodrow Wilson’s thought about peace | 6. Prof. John Galtung’s thought about peace |

3. Answer the following question in one to two sentences.

1. What is peace ?
2. Discuss any two conditions to justify war.
3. What is disarmament ?
4. What is sustainable development ?
5. What is world peace ?
6. What is the modern model for multiphased development ?
7. When the balance of development between present generation and future generation can occur ?

4. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box

1. Who is the renowned scholar of peace ?
(a) John Galtung (b) Abraham Lincoln (c) Hugo Groshiyas (d) Socrates
2. According to Prof. John Galtung, absence of how many types of violence is peace?
(a) Three types (b) Two types (c) Four types (d) Six types
3. What is disarmament ?
(a) to stop the business of weapons (b) decrease in atomic weapons
(c) control on weapons (d) All above
4. Who gave the concept of Multiphased development ?
(a) Brutland commission (b) Sakariya commission
(c) Kothari commission (d) Rane commission
5. Who proposed for formation of League of Nations?
(a) Abraham Lincoln (b) Woodrow Willson (c) John Kennedy (d) Ronald Reagan

Activity

- Arrange a discussion on disarmament
- Arrange a Group Discussion on the concept of development

International society is formed collectively by all the nations of the world. In modern times, no nation can stay apart from international society. Cyber revolution and rapid development of means of communication and transportation taken place during the last two decades has dissolved national boundaries and introduced the concept of Global Village. Because of continuous increase in global trading, interdependence between nations has increased.

Every nation has its national interest. Every nation craves for its unity, integrity, sovereignty, safety and development. Every nation desires for security and welfare of its own citizens, and attempts to enhance honour, self-pride, esteem and reputation of own nation in international society. For the conservation and promotion of its national interests, every nation develops relation with other nations of the world for achieving its objectives. For the purpose of achieving its national interests and objectives, every nation of the world determines and maintains its diplomatic relations with other nations for the implementation of specific policies and programs, which is called foreign policy.

Every Nation, according to its capacity, strives to meet its expectations and desires to achieve new avenues of foreign policy. For satisfying its national interests, it tries to influence the power structure of world nations and their process of decision making through its active participation in International society, politics and organizations. But the extent of activism and influence of each nation varies according to their capacity and situation circumstances. At present, in international relations and politics, populations, territory, natural resources, science and development of the latest technology, economic development, market, etc. like influencer factors are playing decisive role.

Basic principles of Indian foreign policy

Every nation follows certain basic principles for framing and enforcement of its foreign policy. Cultural values like Ahimsa (non-violence), co-operation peace and welfare, one world one family have influenced Indian foreign policy. Principles of modern welfare state are expressed in Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 51 of the Indian Constitution which provides directions in the matter of international relations and politics. Accordingly, Indian State is committed to remain active for the promotion of international peace and security, for maintenance of just and respectable relations between nations, for honouring international law and treaties and resolving the international disputes through arbitration.

(1) Non-Alignment

After the Second World War, the entire world was divided into two camps. In one group, the U.S.A. and its fellow nations of West Europe and in other group Soviet Union and Nations of East Europe. Thus, bipolar world order came into existence. Both the superpowers were having nuclear weapons. A direct war between both the superpowers was likely to invite collective disaster. As a result, both the superpowers avoided direct military conflict with each other. Yet, intense conflict of ideology and power struggle continued between the U. S. A. and the Soviet Union from 1947 to 1990, which is known as Cold War. America wanted to promote and propogate capitalism and market based economy in the world. Soviet Russia wanted to promote and propogate communism and model of communist economic development in the world. Both, U. S. A. and Soviet Union wanted Third World nations to join their respective group. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru adopted the policy of Non Alignment instead of joining any group. The policy of Non- Alignment was not a policy of neutrality. As a result, many other countries supported the Non-Alignment movement. Many thinkers believe that despite the end of the Cold War, Non-Alignment is relevent even today.

(2) Opposition to imperialism and colonialism

India is opposed to imperialism and colonialism. India has faced bitter results by becoming victim of British imperialism. Therefore, India has adopted a policy against violence, coercion and exploitation. During national freedom movement also India has raised its voice against colonialism and imperialism. We believe in independence of the nation by relieving the Nations from the fetters of the slavery. India has always expressed sympathy towards the Nations victimized of imperialism and also provided political and moral support and assisted the Nations craving for independence. The role played by India in the independence movement of Indonesia and Bangladesh is the example of this.

(3) Opposition to apartheid and racialism

India is having faith in the values of democracy like equality, independence, justice, therefore, opposing the policy of apartheid. An injustice cannot be done to the human being on the basis of parochial matters like cast, race, colour, etc. During his stay in South Africa, Gandhiji had driven the fight against policy of apartheid and had remained successful in removal of colour-discrimination. India had opposed the violation of human rights committed by the Government of South Africa. India has always raised its voice at international level for adoption of humanitarian approach.

(4) Friendly relations with countries of the world

India has attempted to maintain friendly relations with all the Nations of the world without being influenced by power-groups of the world. During the Cold War, attempts have been made to create friendly relations with all the Nations while keeping away from power-groups, and also attempts had been made for obtaining assistance in the development by building unconditional relations with America and Soviet Union. We have attempted to establish co-operation in peace and prosperity by creating close relations with all the Nations of the world and succeeded to certain extent. From the beginning, India has special affection towards Asian countries. Despite problems with neighboring countries regarding boundaries and certain other matters, our relations have so far remained positive. India has initiated co-operative development by establishing mutual co-operation with South Asian Nations. Due to the friendly relations with the Nations of the world, economic development of India has accelerated. Simultaneously, interests of defence and security are also achieved.

(5) Support to United Nations and international law

India has witnessed dangerous repercussions of the First and Second World War and therefore, India has made immense attempts for maintaining peace and security in the world and has remained founder member and staunch supporter since the establishment of UNO. India has extended intensive support to the measures taken by UNO for maintaining peace in the world and has taken active interest in resolving of international disputes. India has always respected international law and provided support to its implementation. India has strongly claimed for permanent membership in the Security Council of UN. India has given appropriate support and co-operation in efforts made by UN regarding economic, social, health, human rights, human development, environment, etc.

(6) Peaceful settlement of disputes and world peace

India believes in resolving the disputes among Nations in democratic and peaceful way. India has gained freedom by fighting struggle of independence in non-violence way. The influence of principles of truth and non-violence of Gandhiji is also visible in the foreign policy of India. India clearly believes that the disputes between states can be resolved by mutual negotiation without resorting to war. It is essential for development and prosperity that peace prevails in the world and therefore, it is necessary to refrain from wars for maintenance of permanent world peace. India has attempted to resolve the issue of Kashmir through UNO and bilateral negotiation without resorting to war. India has also observed restraint in relation to the frequent mischief or infiltration on the border by Pakistan.

(7) Principles of Panchsheel

The influence of ideals of Panchsheel is visible in the foreign policy of India. India has not emphasized

on war but on peace. The ideals of international relations presented by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are known as principles of Panchsheel. These five principles are as follows : (i) To respect each other territorial integrity and sovereignty (ii) Non Aggression (iii) Non-interference in the internal matter of other State (iv) Equality Mutual benefits (v) Peaceful co-existence. The principles of Panchsheel were accepted for the first time in 1954 by Prime Minister of India, Nehru, and President of China, Chau-N-lai. In 1955, the conference of Asian & African nations was held at Bandung, Indonesia, There were 29 nations participated in the conference and accepted the principles of Panchsheel. In the year 1955, at Bandung of Indonasia, a conference was held between Asian and African countries. Which is known as Bandung Conference. These Principles of Panchsheel were adopted in this Bandung Conference.

(8) Firmness of Means Consciousness

Gandhiji was very much firm about means consciousness. Therefore, influence of Gandhian thought is also visible on foreign policy of India. India does not want to fulfill objectives of its foreign policy through any kind of inappropriate means but desires to accomplish its objectives by democratic method. India does not desire to achieve its own development, security or international politics through undemocratic means. India believes that an appropriate goal can be achieved only through appropriate means.

The determinants of India's foreign policy

Foreign policy of any nation is not formed in vacuum. In framing foreign policy, various kinds of internal and external factors play an important role. Some of these are constant factors whereas others are variable.

The change in national and international conditions-circumstances also changes policy related matter of foreign policy. Depending upon change in world arrangement and balance of power, India has changed its foreign policy. After the end of cold war, world has become unipolar. America has become influential in the entire world because of its own national power. Thus, for fulfilling its ambition, India has made bilateral relations with America very strong. With this, efforts have also been made to strengthen relations with important world powers like Russia, China, Japan. Any change in internal governance-structure and leadership, change also takes place in policy related matter.

(1) Geographical factors

(a) Geographical location of India

Geographical location of India is important in South Asia. Holding huge sub-continental magnitude, India's frontiers are marked and protected by natural boundaries, with mountain range of Himalaya in north, Bay of Bengal in the east, Arabian Sea in West and Indian Ocean in South. Special geographical position of India is sometimes a blessing and sometimes as a curse. Because of mountainous and marine frontiers and also because of better geographical fertility, in comparison with other countries of Asia, it has suffered many attacks and imperialism of Britain. By not keeping vigilance at the frontiers of north Himalaya and at south costal has also suffered repercussions of it.

(b) Territory

In view of topography, India posses many diversities like, high mountain region, plateay, plains, dense forests, deserts. In terms of area India ranks seventh in the word. Area of India is 32,87,263 square k.m.. Its north-south length is 3,214 k.m. and east-west length is 2,933 k.m.. Between the mountain rage of Himalaya and Peninsula plateau, alluvium fertile plains add affluence of India. India has almost 7,516 k.m. of costal boundary and 15,200 k.m. of land boundary Costal neighbor countries are very important for economy and security, therefore, intensive efforts have been made to improve relations with them.

(c) Population

According to the population, after China, India is at second place in the world. According to census -2011, total population of India is 1,21,01,93,422. In which 62,37,24,248 males and 58,64,69,174 females are included. One sixth part of the world population is Indian. At present, India has become the youngest

country of the world. 65 % population of India is of youngsters who are below the age of 35 years. As India is huge in terms of population, it provides big market. Because of this reason, developed countries of the world are eager to keep and maintain the relation with India.

Huge population of India is considered as a problem of over population. Though, the proportion of population is very high as compared to available natural resources but being a population, it can contribute in, not only of India but also of the development of the world.

(d) Natural resources and climate

Natural resources is the basis of national strength. Availability of natural resources in huge quantity is helpful in industrial and economic development. When natural resources are not available in enough quantity, nation has to depend on other nations for industrial development and necessary raw material. Abundance of natural resources is available in India. India is a prosperous nation in the matter of mineral wealth. Our nation holds topmost position in the world in production and export of Iron, charcoal, mica, etc. Resources like fertile plains of alluvium, dense forests, minerals, rivers and oceanic water are available in plenty in India. By developing marine economy, efforts are been made to increase prosperity by exposing the capacity of huge oceans situated in south of India. India is having comfortable climate as compared to the surrounding Asian countries. India is having tropical climate. Fertile soil and favorable climate of India has made an approach of India defensive rather than aggressive.

(2) Science and technology

Practical use of fundamental knowledge is called technology. To fulfill own necessity, human being is continuously searching for new knowledge and continuously attempting for the practical use of newly searched knowledge. From ancient era to ultra-modern era, continuous process of procurement of knowledge and its use is going on. As compared to geographical factors, modern knowledge and latest technology has acquired an important position to establish dominance over the world and to influence international politics. Science and technology are playing decisive role in military and economic strength of the nation. America has succeeded to establish dominance in the world politics due to latest technology. In the same manner, though Japan is geographically small, but has emerged as an important power through extraordinary achievement in the field of technology.

Research and development made by India in the field of nuclear energy, communication and space has increased the national strength. After independence, development of science and technology was given preference in India by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. With the assistance of scientist like Homi Bhabha, Nehru had framed long term planning for progress in the field of nuclear energy, space science and technology. Through nuclear test in 1974 at Pokhran, Indira Gandhi has demonstrated to the world the strength of India. Through Pokhran-2 nuclear test in 1998 by Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Bajpai, the nuclear power of India was repeated. India has acquired an important place in South Asia as regional power for the remarkable contribution in the field of nuclear energy, space science, biotechnology, information and communication technology, etc.

(3) Economic development

Since last three decades, economic matters have become the centre point in world politics. Trade as an influential factor is playing key role in international relations. Economic power is included in the factors affecting foreign policy. A stage of economic development in the nation is an important matter. Interdependence between the nations is increasing for the development of modern economics. After gaining independence, India has achieved economic development in a remarkable way. India is an agricultural country. India has acquired self reliance in the production of food crops as a result of green revolution. Along with agriculture, animal husbandry has also progressed in good proportion. Success of white revolution has placed India to an important position as milk producing country in the world. India has also acquired top position in the production of vegetables and fruits. Despite Indian economy is agricultural, it has also achieved good progress in industrial field.

(4) Historical and Cultural Perspective

In the background of historical traditions and cultural values, the corpus of present foreign policy is constituted. Indian culture is one of the age old ancient cultures of the world and therefore, its cultural and values of decency are also reflected in foreign policy. The way in which phenomenal support is received from the countries of the world to the firmness of India to celebrate 21st June as International Yoga Day, it has acknowledged the culture of “Sarve Santu Niramayaa” (Let all be healthy) of India.

Role of India in the policy of Non-Alignment

Before discussion of policy of Non-Alignment, the meaning of policy of non alliance be understood. After Second World War, decline of any State to join any military group in the Cold War commenced between military groups of communist and capitalist democracy of the West is known as non alliance. However, policy of Non-Alignment is something more than this.

In the policy of Non-Alignment, opposition is not made of every type of military group or alliance but, opposition is made of alliance with reference to Cold War. Thus, this policy was framed at specific time in specific circumstances.

Non Alignment is separate than isolationism. The policy of Non-Alignment accepts all kind of relations, political, economic other than military relations rising in the context of Cold War. Speaking differently, policy of non alliance is not a policy of inactivity. Along with that, it can also be said that policy of non alliance is also not a policy of neutrality. If the speeches of Nehruji after independence are taken note of, then, he has determined three objectives of foreign policy of India :

- (i) Protection of regional unity and autonomy of policy framing.
- (ii) Maintenance and development of international peace.
- (iii) Economic development of India.

Policy of Non-Alignment can be considered as strategy or instrument for achieving these objectives. These were three characteristics of policy of Non-Alignment : (a) refusal to join the group of western countries or communist. (b) to take decisions with discrimination or wisdom in the field of foreign policy. (c) friendship with all countries.

The question is, how can policy of non alliance assist in achieving three goals of foreign policy of India ? In the opinion of Nehru, the policy of non alliance was certainly to help India in maintaining unity. Instead of policy of non alliance, attempt to lean towards any one of the supreme power was to create problem for the unity of a country by creating conflicts. Because in our country elements favoring both, U. S. A. and Soviet Union, were present. Strategy of non alliance had also helped us against the danger from our neighbors Pakistan and China. Nehru believed that, the strategy of non alliance will not only benefit India but also the world and world peace may be in danger, if there is any alliance.

From the point of view of economic development also, non alliance policy was useful, because the policy of non alliance was the policy of peace and peace is necessary for economic development. Besides this, there was a possibility to receive economic assistance to India from both superpowers due to non alliance. Therefore, India adopted the policy of non alliance.

India and its neighboring Nations

Here we will discuss India and its relations with neighboring Nations.

India-Pakistan relations

India has attempted, since independence, to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with Pakistan. Then also, many ups & downs came in the relation between both the Nations. Several seed of enmity were sown at the time of India – Pakistan partition in the year 1947. After independence despite attempt having been made to establish diplomatic relations between India – Pakistan, three wars in the year 1965, in the year 1971 and Kargil war of 1999 have been fought between both the Nations. After so many attempts, problem

of Kashmir has remained unsolved between India and Pakistan till today, and has become the main centre of tension between both the nations. Bitterness in the relations is also created between two countries due to the issues like line of control, infiltration, terrorism, etc. Attempts have been made to solve the issues of both the countries by bilateral negotiations. In spite of that, only partial success is gained. By starting train and bus service between India-Pakistan, steps are taken to establish trust between both the nations. Recently, Prime Ministers of both the nations, visiting each other's countries, in the positive and peaceful environment free from terrorism and violence through bilateral negotiations both the countries have agreed to remove the obstacles present in the relations which is a matter of appreciation. By strengthening the relations between both the nations attempts are also being made to increase mutual trade.

India – Nepal relations

Relations of India and Nepal are age old. To make the relationship between India and Nepal friendly, Peace and Friendship Agreement was made between the two nations in the year 1950. According to that treaty, both the Nations have accepted to make attempts to maintain sovereignty, unity and integrity of each other by respecting them by mutual co-operation.

India and Nepal share strong similarities in terms of religion, culture, history and rituals. Nepal had been the one and only Hindu nation in the world so far. Thus, it was very natural that both the nations shared positive relation. India, too has helped Nepal in the sector of education, employment, health, power supply, infrastructure. The relation between India and Nepal strained earlier is again on the right track.

If certain matters responsible for strained relations between India and Nepal it was due to several situations creating obstacles and bitterness in the relations between two Nations. Dominance of Maoist is increasing in Nepal. In economic and political matters of Nepal, intervention and domination of China are increasing. Sourness instead of sweetness in the relations of both the Nations has also been brought by Maoist movement going on in Nepal. Nepal has doubt that Maoist of valley area of Nepal are having support from India. Though Nepal is a small nation, but, by way of security and strategy of India its importance is very high. Recently, by forgetting differences, both the Nations have taken initiatives to make relationship of both the Nations strong and friendly.

India-China relations

Besides India and China being two big Nations of the world from the point of view of population, in the matters of economy and development also they are biggest developing Nations. In the matters of achieving peace, stability and development in the world, the approach and attempts of both the Nations are also equal.

The relations of India – China have witnessed many ups and downs. In the decade of 1950, relations of India and China were comparatively fair. In the year 1954, both the Nations accepted Principles of Panchsheel in internal transactions and relations. In common search of peace and development, both the Nations were eager to maintain fraternal relations. But the incident of war of India-China, in the year of 1962, raised bitterness in the relations of both the Nations. Then after, relations of both the Nations have been continuously improving. Recently, a new era has begun in India- China relations. The small and big issues like border dispute and territory violation between the two Nations are persisting. However, putting such issues aside, both the Nations have agreed to take the relations to a new height by mutual co-operation. Recently, by successful visit of India by the President of China, Xi Jinping, a positive environment has been created for strengthening the relations between both the Nations.

India-Bangladesh relations

Bangladesh, situated in south Asia, is an important neighbouring nation of India. Emergence of Bangladesh has taken place in the year of 1971. Before that, it was a part of an east Pakistan. From the historical and cultural point of view, both the Nations are related to each other and having equal cultural heritage. Despite certain problems between India and Bangladesh like territory and infiltration of people from

the territory in India, the relations between both the Nations have remained friendly. India has maintained relations with Bangladesh as a good neighbour. India has made attempt to strengthen mutual relations between both the Nations by giving appropriate co-operation to the Bangladesh for water, electricity and development of infrastructure. Recently, in the year of 2015, by visiting Bangladesh, Prime Minister of India has made an attempt to strengthen the relations with it by entering in to several agreements. From sometime past, a remarkable increase in the mutual trade between both the Nations has taken place and both the Nations have agreed to face together dangerous world problem like terrorism. Recently, qualitative improvement has taken place in the relations between India and Bangladesh. Some people of India were residing in certain enclave in Bangladesh. Similarly, some people of Bangladesh were residing in certain enclave in India. Regarding this, negotiations were going on since long time and finally settlement was peacefully made. On 31st July, 2015, the problem of enclave (province of foreign power within own country) prevailing on the border between India and Bangladesh has been solved. 111 Indian enclaves situated in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves situated in India have been exchanged.

India- Shri Lanka relations

In historical and cultural view, India and Sri Lanka holds similarity. Sri Lanka has only one neighbor country India. In Indian Ocean, strategic and security interests of both the Nations lie. Since independence, India - Sri Lanka relations have been peaceful and co-operative. During the reign of Janta Party, special attempts were made to improve the relations with Sri Lanka. During the reign of Indira Gandhi, attempts were made to maintain the relations of both the Nations. In the year 1982, the then President Nilam Sanjive Reddy visited Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, the racial conflict between Tamil and Sinhalese people continued for long time and as a result heavy disturbance was created in Sri Lanka due to Civil War. In order to establish peace by putting an end to the on going civil war in Sri Lanka, an agreement was made between the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President of Sri Lanka Jayewardene and as a part of it India sent peace keeping force to Sri Lanka. India has made every possible attempt to bring positive solution to the on going civil war in Sri Lanka. India has always made attempts to maintain peace in neighbouring countries. Besides increasing stability and prosperity of Asia, it is a matter of importance that perpetuity is maintained in relations between both the Nations. To strengthen the trade relations between India and Sri Lanka, an agreement relating to free trade has also been made in the year 1998. By visiting India in the year 2015, newly elected Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Wickremesinghe expressed the determination to take healthy relations between both the Nations to a new height.

India and other nations : In addition to the neighbouring Nations of India, let us see the relations with important nations like America, Russia, etc.

Relations of India and America

It can be said that ever since India became independent till the end of Cold War, relations between India and America has remained fair. After the Second World War, the conflict of America with Soviet Union with regard to the power and dominance, America was eager that India joined its power group but India adopted the policy of Non-Alignment, America developed aversion towards India. With the prime objective of curb the expansion of Soviet Union in the area of central-east, CENTO (Central Treaty Organization) was formed in the year 1955. That was a military organization. Initially, it was known as Bagdad Agreement. The five Nations, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey and U.K. were its members. One more crack in the relations of America and India when on Pakistan became member of CENTO and received economic and military assistance from America. Due to America leaning more towards Pakistan, India extended its hand of friendship towards Soviet Union. In the year 1979, CENTO was dissolved.

During India – China war in the year 1962, America, openly supporting India, provided economic and military assistance. However, after the year 1963, once again the India – America relations ebbed. In the India – Pakistan war of the year 1971, America, while supporting Pakistan, provided all kinds of assistance. Therefore, relations between India – America further spoiled. Till the end of cold war, many ups and downs

have come in the relations between both the Nations. With the collapse of Soviet Union after the end of cold war, world arrangement became a unipolar. In the international politics, there is no permanent friend or foe. Only the national interests are permanent. Hence, India initiated attempts to improve relations with America by altering its foreign policy.

During the period of N.D.A. Government, nuclear test was conducted at Pokhran by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Bajpai. Therefore, America strongly criticized India, and imposed economic sanctions and stopped providing all kinds of financial assistance. However, America cannot afford to keep permanent bitterness with nation like India. Therefore, America removed sanctions on India. By visiting India in the year 2000, the President of America attempted to improve relations through bi-lateral negotiations. When George W. Bush come to power in America, he started new positive chapter in India- America relations by attempting to develop healthy relations with India.

Since last decade, relations between India and America have more strengthened. It is optimized that strategic partnership between two democratic Nations will bring peace, prosperity and stability in the world. Recently, visit of America by Prime Minister of India in the year 2014 and the year 2015 and presence of President of America Barack Obama as a chief guest in the celebration of 66th Republic Day of India indicate strengthening of bi-leteral relations between both the Nations.

Relations of India and Russia

Since independence of India, relations between India and Russia have remained harmonic and friendly. Despite adopting policy of Non-Alignment, its relations with Russia have remained intact and positive. During the cold war, a treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation was signed by India and Soviet Union in the year 1971. In the international politics, Russia has always helped and co-operated India as a true friend in all fields. After the end of cold war, despite India having made attempts to strengthen the relations with America, Japan and Nations of South Asia by making minor alteration in its foreign policy, no deficiency has occurred in the relations of India and Russia. India and Russia have maintained harmonious relations in various fields such as political, economic, strategic, military, etc.

India has received an appropriate co-operation from Russia in the important fields like defence, nuclear energy, science and technology, space research, oil and natural gas, pharmacy. Especially, in strengthening the military power of India, the contribution of Russia has remained significant. A persistent increase is also taking place in bilateral trade between India and Russia. Even in international organizations like UN, BRICS, G-20, India is receiving support from Russia. Russia has strongly supported in public the claim of permanent membership of India in the Security Council of UN. By mutual visits of the heads of both the Nations, visit of India by the President Vladimir Putin of Russia and visit of Russia by the Prime Minister of India, strength has been provided to the relations between both the nation and bi-party strategic partnership between India and Russia can be proved to be nourishing to the national interest of both the Nations.

India and SAARC countries

Seven countries of south Asia namely India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka , Bhutan and Maldives established South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) in the year 1985. Its headquarter is at Kathmandu of Nepal. With Afghanistan joining later on, presently there are total eight member Nations.

The objectives of SAARC are as follows :

- (a) To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improve their quality of life
- (b) To Accelerate social, economic and cultural development of the regions of south Asia.
- (c) To provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and realise their full potential.
- (d) To bring collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia.

(e) To generate mutual confidence between Nations.

(f) To co-operate international organizations having equal purposes and objectives, etc..

Thus, with the intention of fulfilling the above referred objectives, SAARC has been established.

In order to make SAARC successful, India has played a creative role permanently since its establishment. However, it is also a reality that due to bi-lateral difference of opinion of member nations of SAARC, the objectives of SAARC could not be achieved as expected. India has made all possible efforts to eliminate bi-lateral difference of opinion. As compared to the other member nations of SAARC, India is having huge size and potential. India holds the superior place in various fields like, population, area, economic development, military power. Thus, member Nations of the SAARC expect from India liberalized policy in relations and in practice like elder brother. India has attempted to preserve relations with the member Nations of the SAARC by adopting some what liberalised policy too. India has kept the conception of 'let go' in the matters of gain from agreements entered into with member Nations. For example, India has shown generosity in the treaty between India-Bangladesh on the issue of river water distribution.

In the year 2014, by inviting SAARC Nations in the oath ceremony of the Prime Minister of NDA Government, India has attempted to give positive turn in relations with SAARC countries. It is optimized that relation between SAARC Nations will be further strengthened on account of good response received from the member Nations of the SAARC. By adopting affirmative approach, India has always initiated in making the relations stronger with neighboring Nations.

After understanding SAARC, let us obtain the information of certain important organizations.

(1) BRICS

BRICS is an international organisation constituted of five Nations being, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. Initially, it was known as BRIC. However, with South Africa joining this group in the year 2010, it is known as BRICS. On the basis of first alphabet of names of the all five member nations, it is named as BRICS. BRICS has been constituted for the purpose of influencing international economy and international order by establishing co-operation between member Nations of the group in various fields like trade-commerce, political and cultural and to defend collectively political, security and economic challenges arising at the world level. Member Nations of the BRICS are holding significant contribution and influence at regional and world level from the point of view of total population of the world, world domestic production, total domestic production, trade, etc.. For the purpose of making available monetary lending and assistance to the member Nations of the BRICS for different kinds of projects, new development bank has also been constituted by BRICS whose Headquarter is at Shanghai of China.

For the first time in 2006, foreign ministers of member Nations of the group met at New York. Thereafter, on 16th June, 2009, first full-scale summit of BRIC was held at Russia. Every year, its summit meets at a pre decided time and place of any of the host member nation.

(2) G-4

An organisation constituted with the objective of providing mutual co-operation and support by four nations, India, Brazil, Japan, Germany is known G-4 (Group - 4). This organisation has been constituted with the prime objective of providing support to each other for acquiring permanent membership in the Security Council of United Nations. All the four members Nations of the group have worked for a long time as a non-permanent member elected for two years in the Security Council. Due to remarkable increase of influence in political and economical matters globally, all the four member Nations of the group, a claim has been raised by them that they must get permanent membership in the Security Council of United Nations. It is suggested by them that all the four member Nations of the group should be included by expanding the Security Council of United Nations.

(3) G-20

An international organisation of 20 Nations is called G-20. In the year 1999, it has been established for the purpose of achieving international compilation relating to economic policy. U. S. A., Russia, Britain, China, Australia, France, India, Brazil, Japan, Germany including European Union, etc. are important members of G-20. Every year its annual conference is held. First summit was held in the year 2008 at Washington DC of U. S.. Turkey has accepted the hosting of summit of the year 2015. In summit conferences study, review and high level discussions are held on important issues relating to economic and financial policy. Efforts are been made for amelioration of international financial stability by establishing international compiling relating to economic policy.

(4) European Union

European Union is an economic and politic organisation consisting of Nations of Europe. Present European Union has come into existence in the year 1958 pursuant to the implementation of Rome treaty. In the year 1958, six Nations being France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy and Netherland constituted European Economic Community for achieving mutual co-operation, in economic field and European Atomic Energy Community for achieving co-operation in the Atomic energy field. Thereafter, changes have been taking place in its name and policies by various treaties and there is also a gradual increase in the number of its member. European Union has been established for the purpose of achieving the noble objectives of establishment of co-operation and peace in place of competitions and conflicts between Nations of Europe, establishment of stable democracy and human rights and governance based on justice and rule of law, etc; in the countries of Europe. Between the member Nations of European Union, efforts and provisions have been made for mutual movement of people, goods, services and capital freely, prevalence of only one free market and only one currency. Euro has been accepted as a general currency in 19 Nations European union known as Euroarea or Eurozone. Presently the number of its member nation is 28. In the year 2012 Nobel Prize has been awarded to European Union for maintenance of harmony and peace and conservation of democracy and human rights in Europe.

India's approach towards crucial global issues – human rights, disarmaments and globalization.

Here we will discuss India's approach towards important and principal questions of the world like human rights, disarmaments and globalization.

India's approach towards human rights

With the birth as a human being, a person is entitled to have certain rights, therefore these rights are known as human rights. Rights play an important role for the overall development of a person. Through rights a positive environment is provided for development of a person according to his capacity and expectation. Therefore it can be said that the rights are such kind of positive environment wherein person can have his wholesome development. This type of environment is provided by the State to the person. On 10, December, 1948, United Nations accepted Universal Declaration on Human Rights wherein, all human rights are included. The principal objective behind this is to create such situation where Nations of the world give it to its citizens on accepting the rights. Acceptance of human rights at the international level indicates the significance of the rights. Therefore, we are celebrating 10th December as a 'Human Rights Day'.

India believes in rights of individual and therefore active for the preservation of human rights of own citizens. Besides these, India has advocated for the protection and conservation of human rights of the citizens of the world. Not only that, sincere attempts have been made for the compliance of the human rights of the citizens of the world. India believes in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of the United Nations and has always made efforts for its implementation and protection. Always opposed the racial discrimination prevailing in the world and India has contributed for the extinction of racial discrimination existing in the countries of the world.

India's Approach toward disarmament

Disarmament is the most important matter for establishment and maintenance of peace and security in the world. An arms race among the nations for increasing various types of weapons creates the atmosphere of unrest and insecurity in the world. It is indeed a matter of concern. Nuclear weapons can destroy the entire world in a moment. It is absolutely necessary that deadly and destructive weapons are eliminated from the world. World can achieve the progress only by disarmament.

Generally, disarmament means a complete elimination of weapons causing mass destruction. Disarmament is such a process wherein, a task is undertaken to reduce, regulate and eliminate weapons. Besides, reduction and elimination of weapons in disarmament, emphasis is also put on the reduction in the size of military force of the Nations.

The League of Nations had tried for the disarmaments after the First World War. Intensive efforts are being made by United Nations also, in the direction of disarmaments. From The Hague Peace Conference till today, many summits have been arranged in relation to disarmament. India has played an important role in summits, discussing and deliberating on disarmament. India has attempted to gain world opinion about disarmament during discussion in the General Assembly of United Nations. India has been wedded to the objective of world peace, advocating disarmament. India believes in the use of nuclear energy for peace and welfare of the people.

Role of State with reference to Globalization

In 1991, India has adopted new economic policy. As a part of new economic policy, Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization have commenced almost simultaneously in India. Let us discuss, what is the role of the State under all the three process. Liberalization and privatization are internal factors of our economy. Whereas globalization is to its external factor. As such, both these factors and all three processes are closely related to one another. Let us understand in brief the concept of globalization, liberalization and privatization. Generally, globalization is valued from the point of economic view. Therefore it can be said that globalization is such a process wherein national economics is merging with international economics.

Liberalization means relaxation of government restrictions. By policy of liberalization government rules-regulation, restriction, etc. related to trade, commerce, industries, etc. are being relaxed for the acceleration of the economic growth of the nation. Licence - permit raj-is removed and rigid governmental process for getting permission for industries, trade, etc. is relaxed. Custom duty on import export is either being withdrawn or reduced.

Privatization means conversion of public undertakings into private undertakings. In the process of privatization, industries, services, trades, etc. of the ownership of the State or run on the instance of the State are being converted into private sector. Interference of the State in the production, distribution, price control, etc. of goods, services is reduced. Firstly, we have to accept that just as State alone cannot bring solution to our all problems, the same is applicable to market. Both are having certain limitations. When State fails to reach, there market has to play its role and where market cannot reach or fails there State has to play its role; and where the State fails, situation it leads to like emergency sever emergency. In the wider interest of the society and for the upliftment and welfare of the weaker deprived reserved groups, the role of the State in certain field is important. These roles and functions cannot be assigned to the market.

In the present phase of globalization, liberalization and privatization, the role of the State is not reduced but has changed. In certain fields, it may have retreated but it has to play more active role in certain absolutely important fields. Flow of globalization is not going to be stopped. It is the result of many causes and factors. Those forces and factors which gave birth to it and accelerated it, will continue for substantially long time. It has advantages and disadvantages. There is a more possibility of disadvantage being caused to the developing Nations like us. It has created a big challenge but has also provided an opportunity. If we are not in a position to stop globalization then we must increase our potential and readiness for accepting the challenge and the State should play an effective role for the protection of national interests.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Explain basic principles of Indian foreign policy.
2. State the determinants of Indian foreign policy.
3. Discuss the relations of India with neighbouring nations.
4. What is Non-Alignment ? Clarify the role of India in the policy for Non-Alignment ?

2. Write a short note on the following.

1. Non-Alignment
2. India-Pakistan relation
3. SAARC
4. G-20

3. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What is foreign policy ?
2. What is BRICS ?
3. Which are the Principles of Panchsheel ?
4. Why has India adopted the policy of Non-Alignment ?

4. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box

1. When for the first time the principles of Panchsheel were adopted ?
(a) 1952 (b) 1954 (c) 1956 (d) 1958
2. Which ocean is situated at the south of India ?
(a) Pacific Ocean (b) Indian Ocean (c) Arabian Sea (d) Bay of Bengal
3. Which position is held by India in the world in terms of population ?
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Seventh
4. Which day is celebrated as International Yoga Day?
(a) 20th June (b) 21st June (c) 26th June (d) 1st June
5. Where is the headquarter of SAARC?
(a) Delhi (b) Kathmandu (c) Lahore (d) Dhaka
6. Which among the following is not a member of SAARC?
(a) India (b) China (c) Nepal (d) Pakistan
7. In the year 2009, where was the first summit of BRICS held?
(a) India (b) Russia (c) China (d) Brazil
8. What is the strength of member nations of European Union?
(a) 24 (b) 26 (c) 28 (d) 30

Activity

- Arrange a Group Discussion : The Relevance of India's Policy of Non-Alignment

Humans establish different institutions to satisfy their needs. United Nations (now known as the only U.N. instead of United Nations Organization - U. N. O.) is also one international institution. Different Nations have established this institution collectively. To achieve its goals, member nations meet very often. Every nation has freedom to decide for its membership. No nation can be forced to become a member of U.N. Not only that, a nation can also abandon its U.N. membership.

Factors responsible for the establishment of the United Nations

First World War was fought among various nations during 1914 to 1918. This incident was unprecedented in world politics. To avoid recurrence of world war in future, to maintain international peace and security, to expand international co-operation, to enforce international law for establishment of open and just relations among nations and for the maintenance of justice, an organization named The League of Nations was established in 1919. But this organization has mostly failed in achieving its objectives.

During 1939 to 1945 Second World War took place in which a large number of homicides took place and this type of homicide was such as never before. As a result of which a necessity arose for an institution which can save the people from the pain of war in future. Taking into consideration this inevitability, consultation started during Second World War for establishing an institution in the name of United Nations. At the end of these consultations, 51 member nations signed and accepted the charter of United Nations on 26 June, 1945 in the San Francisco Conference and on 24th October, 1945 this institution came into existence in the name of United Nations Organisation by official declaration. Therefore, 24th October is known as the United Nations Day (U.N. Day).

In the Charter of this organization, 19 chapters and 111 Articles have been included. The headquarter of United Nations is at New York in the USA.



United Nations holds its own Post Office and publishes its own postal stamps.

The important objectives of United Nations, in short, are as follows :

1. To protect people from sufferings of war in future.
2. To develop firm faith in human rights.
3. To accelerate the economic and social development of entire mankind.
4. To establish friendly relations between nations on the basis of principles of equal rights and self determination of people.

Basic Principles of the United Nations

Important principles of this organization are as follows :

1. In accordance with the principle of universal equality, the equality of member Nations has been accepted. By following that, 'one vote one member nation' has been accepted and implemented. In spite

of that making arrangements for five permanent member nations in the Security Council and authorizing them with Veto Power, the reality is also accepted.

2. It is accepted that all the member will faithfully discharge the responsibilities accepted through the Charter.
3. All member nations have to resolve their international disputes by peaceful means.
4. All Member nations have to develop their international relations in such a manner so that use of force or threat can be refrained against the territorial integrity or political independence of any member nation.
5. All member nations shall assist any action undertaken in accordance with the Charter and to refrain from assisting that nation against which the United Nations has taken steps.
6. United Nations shall not interfere with the internal matters of any nation.
7. Attempt to create the environment where any nation which are not the member of the United Nations act in accordance with these principles.



Organs, mechanism and functions of the United Nations

Different organs are established so that United Nations can achieve its objectives which are as follows:

1. General Assembly

All the member nations of the United Nations acquire the membership of this assembly. Recommendation of Security Council is mandatory for acquisition of membership. Only after that, General Assembly gives membership to that nation. At present there are 193 members of General Assembly. South Sudan became the member of United Nations on 14 July, 2011. In this assembly, each member nation can send not more than five representatives. General Assembly meets every year. Wherein, each member nation can cast one vote for the issue presented. In the beginning of each sitting of General Assembly, one General Secretary and seventeen Vice Presidents are elected.

General Assembly discusses the issues and questions covered under the purview of Charter of the United Nations and also the functions and authorities of other organs of United Nations. It attempts to maintain world peace, to protect and safeguard the human rights and to develop international law. It elects members of other organs of the United Nations i.e. 10 non-permanent members of Security Council, 15 judges of the International Court of Justice and also the General Secretary after the recommendations of the Security Council. When there is a necessity of alteration in the Charter of United Nations it can be altered by 2/3 majority of the members. It also performs functions to sanction budget of the United Nations.

2. Security Council

This organ of the United Nations is formed by 15 members. Wherein, 5 members are permanent; U.S., Russia, U.K., France and China. These permanent members are permanent in the sense that their membership will continue till the existence of United Nations. These permanent members hold special powers as compared to the non-permanent members. For example, the Veto Power. Veto is an extraordinary power of permanent members of the Security Council to cast negative vote. In this institution there are 10 non-permanent members. General Assembly elects non-permanent members by 2/3 majority for 2 years duration. Retiring member nation cannot acquire immediate membership of this organ. Security Council is a permanent organ. Consent of 9 members out of 15 members is necessary when the decision is relating to

procedural matters wherein, the consent from 5 permanent members is mandatory. If any of these five super-powers remain absent during voting, it does not mean that it has used Veto Power. Term of the presidential post of Security Council is of one month. The member states of this council holds presidential post in alphabetical order.

Main function of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security in the world. It can investigate in relation to any dispute or situations which lead to war. It also takes decision regarding giving membership to any new nation and also takes decision to expel member nation, if required. Security Council with the co-operation of General Assembly appoints judges of the International Court of Justice.

3. Economic and Social Council

Total of members of this council are 54, Which are elected by the general assembly with 2/3 majority. Elections are held by 2/3 members of General Assembly for its member states. Among these members, 1/3 that is 18 members retire every year. The members who retire are qualified for re-membership. Its meetings are held twice in a year and decision is taken by the majority of members present and voting. Economic and Social Council is engaged with some international institutions like – International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNESCO – United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation and World Health Organisation (W. H. O.), etc.

Economic and Social Council conducts study of matters relating to economic, social, cultural, educational and health etc. at international level. It prepares reports and makes recommendations to other institutions and member nations which has functional relations with United Nations.

4. Trusteeship Council

Those member nations who have undertaken the responsibilities of the administration of the colonies who have not acquired self governance, are required to keep in mind while discharging responsibilities, that public interests of such territories are very significant. Member nations taking care of administration have to discharge the duty as 'Trustee' of the colonies and shall make attempts in the direction of making the colony under their supervision to acquire self governance expeditiously. Accordingly, this council is working in the direction that makes colonies sovereign nations after acquiring independence. The Trusteeship Council is formed by (1) 2 member nations looking after the administration of colonies (2) those, among the permanent member nations of the Security Council, who are not administering the colonies and (3) those member nations who have been elected by General Assembly for 3 years in this council.

The meeting of this council is held every year. Those member nations who are administering the colonies, are required to submit a report to the Trusteeship Council, and the council deliberates on it. After the consent of the members who have undertaken the responsibility of trusteeship, the members of Trusteeship Council visit the colonies and review their performance.

5. International Court of Justice

By following the principles of justice and International Law, international differences and disputes are to be solved. To fulfill this objective by following the recommendations made by law expert's committee, International Court of Justice is established by international treaty. Election of judges of this court is held without considering the nationality. Those who are qualified to hold higher office in the court of his own nation or those who are the scholars of international law are considered appropriate for holding the office of this institution. Total number of the judges of this court is 15. No election of more than one judge is held from a member State. General assembly and Security Council are electing them in a separate sitting. The tenure of judges is for 9 years and they are eligible for reappointment upon the completion of this tenure.

This court is electing one President and one Vice President for 3 years. For the proceedings of this court, French and English languages have been given recognition. If any party demands other than these languages, they grant it. In a bench of judges, decision is taken by simple majority. In case of tie, President gives his Casting Vote.

Principal functions of this court are as follows :

1. Interpretation and implementation of international law.

2. To give decision when complaint is received.
3. To give advice to any organ or institution of United Nations regarding any legal matter.

6. Secretariat

The secretariat is holding administrative responsibility of United Nations. The Secretary General is considered its principal administrative officer. The appointment of Secretary General is made for five years by General Assembly after the recommendation of Security Council. The Secretary General is assisted by 11 Under Secretary General and 5 Assistant Secretary General in his functions. After selection of these officials, they perform the functions independent of national loyalty. Therefore, they are known as international chartered bureaucrats. These bureaucrats cannot receive instructions from any institution or nation outside the United Nations.

The Secretary General of the United Nations has been assigned the most important function by U.N.; right to take initiative in the directions of maintenance of world peace. Secretary General attends as the chief administrative officer in all meetings of the four political organs except International Court of Justice. The Secretary General has to perform those functions which are assigned to him by these organs. Every year the Secretary General presents the report of the working of the secretariat before General Assembly.

Challenges and success before United Nations :

With reference to objectives and principles, the challenges which are faced by U. N. are as follows.

- ❖ Increasing danger of terrorism and racial clashes and issues of refugees.
- ❖ Recurring incidents of human rights violation.
- ❖ Absence of universal acceptance of democratic political arrangement in which there is active and meaningful participation of people.
- ❖ Emergence of grave danger against global environment.
- ❖ Increasing problems of extensive poverty and starvation.
- ❖ Production and proliferation of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons.

That the Third World War has not taken place till date, can be considered as the biggest success of the United Nations. After the establishment of the United Nations, some incidents did take place which can lead to third world war, for example :

1. Berlin Crisis : When Germany got defeated in the Second World War, the armies of USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic), France, U.S.A. and U.K. had seized Germany. The army of these four Nations penetrated into Germany and none of the Nations was prepared to give up its authority. During Second World War, agreements in relation to Germany were made at Yalta and Potsdam among U.K., U.S.A. and Soviet Union. According to Yalta agreement, it was decided to divide Germany into three parts and accordingly domination of U.S.S.R over East Germany was accepted. Whereas, it was decided to divide West Germany into the domination of U.K., U.S.A. and France. However, Berlin City situated in East Germany under control of U.S.S.R. was also divided into four parts. Control of U.S.S.R. over East Berlin and by dividing West Berlin into three parts, the control of U.S.A., Britain and France was established over it.

From 1947, difference of opinion started between both power groups (U.S.S.R. and group of communist countries; and U.S.A. and group capitalist countries) relating to Germany. And the Control Conference consisting of four powers to take decisions relating to entire Germany collapsed in 1948. U.K., U.S.A. and France started taking steps in the direction of economic and political integration in West Germany and introduced monetary reform of currency in West Germany. But this reform could not be introduced in entire Berlin because U.S.S.R. had introduced there its own reform. The way to enter into West Berlin was passing through East Germany over which U.S.S.R. its had control. As a result, U.S.S.R. started implementing embargo around West Berlin for the protection of currency reform enforced in its part.

This was an open challenge to western powers. Since it was the question of its reputation, there was no choice except giving firm reply in this regard. Thus, the emergency due to both the power groups coming in opposition against each other for Berlin, it is called Berlin Emergency. In this regard, the question was also raised in the Security Council of the United Nations. United Nations had played an important role in keeping this emergency at bay.

2. Problem of Suez Canal : In 1956, the Suez Canal was nationalised by colonel Nasser of Egypt. It endangered the economic interest of U.K. and France. Israel had years old enmity towards Egypt. Hence, these three nations attacked Egypt. On the other hand, USSR encouraged and supported Egypt. Thus, the world peace was endangered. The Non-allianment nations passed a resolution to withdraw the soldiers of these three nations from Egypt and to establish the police force for Suez Canal. First team of emergency force of the United Nations sent in Egypt and General Assembly directed the three States to withdraw soldiers from Egypt. Hence, Britain and France withdrew their soldiers but Israel did not do so, as a result on resolution being passed to stop providing economic and military assistance to Israel, Israel also withdrew its soldiers. Thus, United Nations got success in resolving this problem.

3. Crisis of Cuba : Cuba is a big island situated in Central America. In 1959, Fidel Castro came into power. Due to Fidel Castro favouring U.S.S.R., in 1960, U.S.S.R. announced to give nuclear weapons to Cuba. As a result, due to security of the U.S.A. being put in danger, President Kennedy in 1962, as a counter step, announced embargo around Cuba. So that, materials equipping military bases with nuclear weapons cannot be brought there. Thus, two super powers coming in opposition against each other, cold war was accelerated and circumstances were created giving rise to the possibility of Third World War. By providing role for arriving at agreement between Khrushchev (U.S.S.R.), Kennedy (U.S.A.) and Castro (Cuba), the Secretary General U Thant of United Nations played an important role in maintaining world peace.

4. Attempts for disarmament : In 1969, United Nations announced that the use of chemical and biological weapons is contrary to international law. United Nations declared decade of 1970 as the decade of disarmament. On 5th March, 1970, Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty came into force and signed by almost 100 nations. That was an important step in the direction of disarmament.

5. Attempts in the direction of woman empowerment : United Nations had declared decade of 1975 to 1985 as decade of woman. As a result, majority of the governments of the world established institutions for the development of women.

Besides this, United Nations has made a valuable contribution in maintaining world peace by accepting abstinence from military activities and nuclear tests in Antarctic area and by declaring Latin America nuclear free zone. By providing security against starvation and epidemics by supplying food, grain and medicine in Asia-Africa, it has done the work of humanity. The institutions like The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees (UNHCR) have also provided services at different fields. For the work done in the interest of refugees this institution has been awarded two Noble Prizes, in 1954 and 1981. The headquarter of this institution is at Geneva-Switzerland.

Role of India in the United Nations

Since the establishment of the United Nations, India is closely connected with it. India has framed its foreign policy in consonance with the objective and basic principles of this world institution and also implemented it whole heartedly. It has made remarkable contributions in various activities of United Nations by maintaining National interest and all have appreciated it too.

Article 51 of our Constitution provides that Government shall endeavour to make attempts in the direction of promoting international peace and security and peaceful settlement of international disputes. Thus, the echo of objectives of United Nations has been reciprocated in the directive principles of our Constitution.

India has played a leading role protesting against terrorism, colonialism, imperialism, apartheid and racism. India has supported attempts for making available independence to French colonies like Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. United Nations is not having its own Army. And therefore, whenever need has arisen for international army for establishing peace, India has played an important role as an establisher of peace by sending its own army. At the time of emergence of crises in the countries like Gaza, Cyprus and Congo, India has assisted in establishing peace by sending its own army. India has sent the team of doctors for the treatment of wounded soldiers in the war of Korea. India has played an important role as a chairperson of the commission of neutral countries appointed for keeping supervision over it, after the ceasefire of Korea. In the same way, India has also played a remarkable role as Chairperson of the international commission appointed for

implementation of ceasefire between Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and France. Thus, India has performed many important functions as a neutral and impartial nation as a founder of peace and the executor of ceasefire at the time of serious crises arisen in different countries during the decades of 1950 and 1960.

India has always supported disarmament. India has strongly advocated complete disarmament of nuclear weapons. India is persistently believing that if bridges of peace, co-operation and understanding are created between nations, tremendous expenditure after military can be reduced and money and resources spent after armaments can be used for the economic development of the people.

India is elected many times as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of United Nations. India has performed functions as a member of Trusteeship Council for twelve years. In 1952, Shrimati Vijyalaxmi Pandit was elected a President of the Conference of General Assembly. The services have been rendered by Dr. Radhakrusnan as a chairman of UNESCO, Dr. Nagendra Sinh and R. S. Pathak as the judges of the International Court of Justice.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. State the factors responsible for the establishment of the United Nations.
2. State the objectives of the United Nations.
3. State the basic principles of the United Nations.
4. Which are the challenges before the United Nations ?

2. Write short note.

1. General Assembly
2. Security Council
3. Trusteeship Council
4. Crisis of Cuba
5. Problem of Suez Canal
6. Berlin Crisis

3. Answer the following questions in short.

1. What is Veto Power?
2. State the functions of Economic and Social Council.
3. State the role of Secretary General of the United Nations.

4. Answer the following questions in one-two sentences.

1. When was the United Nations got established?
2. How many chapters and articles are there in the Charter of the United Nations ?
3. State the names of permanent members of Security Council.
4. How many judges sit in the International Court of Justice ? State the tenure of their office.

5. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box.

1. Which day is known as U.N. Day ?
(a) 12 October, 1945 (b) 24 October, 1945
(c) 02 October, 1945 (d) 21 October, 1945
2. Where is the Headquarter of the United Nations situated ?
(a) New York, U.S.A. (b) New Delhi, India
(c) Hague, Netherland (d) Geneva, Switzerland
3. How many Nations have signed and accepted the United Nations for the first time ?
(a) 15 (b) 25 (c) 52 (d) 51

Activity

- Show the photographs of activities of the United Nations through the medium of internet.
- Make the students observe the Political map of the world.
- Give information to the students about international emergency-problems.



Environment means effect of chemical, biological and physical determines on the existence and development of the creatures. Like air, water, sunlight, food supply. In addition to that, social, cultural and geographical matters are also included in it.

Development of a state is also dependent on international environment available to it, its geography, rivers, lakes, minerals, coastal area, etc. States attempt for desired changes in the environment by using its own technology and knowledge. Internal environment and external environment of the State both affect its growth and the existence.

Those objects or energy which are available from nature and are not man made used by humans to protect their existence and development are called natural resources. For example, water, sunlight, plants, animal-birds, insects, bacteria, fungus, minerals, etc.

These natural resources are of two type :

(1) Renewable resources : Renewable resources means those resources which can be reused frequently. For example, sunlight, wind, etc.

(2) Non-renewable resources : Non-renewable resources means those once used then its nature changes so in the same nature they cannot be reused. For example, charcoal, crude oil.

Other two types of Natural resources can also be made :

(a) Biotic natural resources :

For example, plants, animals, vegetative, parasitic objects.

(b) Abiotic natural resources :

For example, air, water, sunlight, soil, etc

Utility of natural resources

We get oxygen for breathing from the atmosphere. Carbon Dioxide is available for the growth of plants. We get water for drinking, household use, irrigation from aquifer. Besides these, we get food resources like fish, sea grass. Soil cover is the support of agriculture which provides us food. Earthen micro nutrients are necessary for the growth of plants. We get rocks, soil and concrete from the soil cover which is used in construction. Whereas, mineral oil, charcoal, gas, etc. are useful to run machines, industries and for providing energy for household use. Besides, large numbers of minerals are available on which our industries are dependant. From biosphere, substances received by us from plants and pet animals fulfill our requirements of food, cloths, fuel, timber for construction.

Today, due to the increase in world population, the burden on these natural resources is increasing. It is pertinent to curb the population, discretional use natural resources, and its conservation so that people can make use of them in future. Secondly, to satisfy the increasing need of energy, for conservation of natural resources windmills, use of hydropower, use of solar energy, use of energy acquired from tides of ocean, thermal energy, biogas, etc. can be used. Recently, on 9th March, 2015, an aeroplane named Solar Impulse – 2 left for world tour from Abu Dhabi. After visiting many cities and countries of the world, this aeroplane, on 26th July, 2016 returned to Abu Dhabi. This aeroplane operated by solar energy can be considered as the best example of clean technology.

Our Role Towards Conservation of Natural Resources

Turn off the electric devices after use. Bulb and tubes should be cleaned. Electric devices like television, etc. should not be kept on standby.

Pressure cooker or solar cooker should be used for cooking. While cooking, vessels should be covered so that less time should be consumed in cooking and energy can be saved.

Cycle should be used, use of plastic should be minimized, should not burn garbage, should not fire crackers. Should not pollute ponds-lakes and rivers, discretionary use of water should be done, pesticides and chemical fertilizers should be used only as and when necessary and in the prescribed proportions only.



Importance of natural resources for the State

Natural resources are important for the State. Conflicts between the States have been continued since years for acquisition of natural resources and for conservation of natural resources available with it like coastal area, river water, fertile land, coal reserves, mineral oil reserves, etc. and such issues have been politicized. This is called Geo-politics. There are 100 such countries in the world sharing waters of 13 big rivers and lakes. Geographically, countries located upstream can create obstructions in supplying the water to the countries of downstream because of which political instability can be created in the world, for example, between Ethiopia and Egypt for Nile River, whereas, between India and Bangladesh for the use of water of Ganga agreement has been made from the very beginning. These types of conflicts are also seen within the same nation. For example, dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for Cauvery River and Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for Krishna River.

Crisis before World politics

If we look at the history of mankind, the conflicts and crises along with peace and cultural development are also seen in them. One or the other type of crisis has remained the realities of World politics. For example,

(1) Economic Crisis

States have been fighting among themselves for controlling and for maintaining control over natural resources. Conflicts have been made for acquiring market for trade and for acquiring areas for acquiring raw materials. After Second World War, conflict between two economic schools of thoughts – socialist and capitalist had partially divided the world into two parts. Today, economic inequality is seen between developed countries and developing countries. Attempts are being made to remove this inequality. Command of multi national companies has increased and internal as well as external sovereignty of the States is becoming weak. In the era of globalization the market has become international. Competition has increased between multinational companies and national companies and between multinational companies. Magnificence of the powerful companies is increasing which is influencing the world politics. In that too, companies producing weapons are more influencing the world politics. Because of the markets connected with each other and because of increase in transfer of capital and technology, the effect of rise and fall affects the entire world. For regulating which, absence of one such system is seen.

(2) Cultural Crises

World is also divided culturally. On one hand, religious fanaticism is increasing. And on the other hand, the scope of modernization is also increasing due to the increase in broadcasting of television and social media. Clash is seen between democratic values, human rights, science on one hand and inequality, religious fanaticism on the other hand. This new cultural crises has come in to existence before the world for which attempts are being made to ease by education and by propaganda and circulating the secular values.

Because of the circulation of globalization and medium of broadcasting, person and states are connected and also connecting with the world, as a result some communities are experiencing identity crises too. This is natural reaction of globalization.

(3) Political Crises

World politics has faced many political crises like, colonialism, imperialism, First World War, Second World War, cold war and conflicts of ideologies and terrorism. For the origin of these crises many factors are responsible. For example, conflicts between States for acquiring natural resources, religious fanaticism, racism, conflicts of ideologies, terrorist organizations, cut throat competition between multinational companies, competition between companies making weapons, etc.

North Korea has made nuclear weapons and is also experimenting missiles which can cover large distance. This is a matter of worry. Certain States are nourishing terrorism and religious fanaticism which is also a subject matter of worry for other States. Increasing influence of China in world politics has also become a challenge for neighboring States of China – India, Taiwan, Japan, etc.

Environmental movement (Global and National)

Now we will discuss movements and attempts made for the protection of environment at the global and national level.

A close relation is seen between environment and politics. There is a relationship of inner action between global politics and environment. World politics influences the environment and the environmental problems also influence relations among nations, means, international politics.

By looking towards world history then it is clear that co-operation or conflict seen between the States - water - land and natural resources are in the centre. Among responsible factors for the origin of colonialism and imperialism one of the important factor was receipt of natural resources. Natural resources fulfill the necessity of citizens and industries of own and make the nation strong. Therefore, to acquire natural resources, powerful states attempt to create domination over other States and change comes in the system of global politics. By accepting imperialism European States like, Britain, France, Holland, etc. had attempted to establish domination over the states out of Europe. After the industrial revolution scarcity of raw material was triggered in European States. For the raw material and to sell the manufactured, finished goods, essential market was necessary, therefore, they made the States of Asia and Africa, slaves and exploited the natural resources. Because of the competition of acquiring colonies wars took place between European States.

In the current world politics, mineral oil and natural gas are in centre. In many States of West Asia, abundant reserves are present of natural resources and specifically of mineral oil. Therefore, attempts are made by world superpowers, specifically by U.S.A. to increase the political influence over these States. It is called Politics of Oil. World superpowers are spreading its influence on some of the States of Africa having abundant reserves of natural resources. By the attempts of China to increase the influence on South China Ocean, situation of conflicts and stress has arisen in world politics.

Environmental movement at world level

At present, the world is facing the biggest and serious challenges of environmental crises. Developed States or developing States, wealthy or poor all have become its victims. The author of a book on Gandhian

Thoughts and Environment that, “environmental calamities has controlled the whole nature by avoiding geographical, cultural, conceptual or political boundaries.” There is a close relations between human and environment. Human has satisfied his fundamental needs from natural resources. Natural resources were enough to satisfy proper and just necessity of human being and relation between human and nature was balanced. But the greed and hoarder instinct of human has exploited and destroyed the nature. By forgetting the relations between human being and nature and without giving a thought for the generation to come, adverse results of mere craziness of achieving physical and economic development has given birth to the present serious environment crises. By keeping this in mind, only prosperity and wellness of the present generation without considering for environment the way in which natural resources have been exploited, now it’s a turn to suffer the repercussion. Humans have interfered extensively in natural process, therefore, environment is imbalanced. As a result, a danger is created against the existence and perpetuity of human life.

Because of increase in population, industrialization, urbanization, use of natural resources recklessly and indiscriminately for accelerating physical and economic development, prosperous life style, run towards consumerism culture without taking care of environment, etc. in the world, the amount of poisonous gases, known as Greenhouse Gases, like Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O₂), Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆), Hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) has increased in the atmosphere. As a result serious problem like increase in global temperature and climate change is created. Because of that, at present, the entire world is frequently facing natural calamities like, flood, drought, cyclone, land sliding, avalanche, unseasonal rain, etc.

Who is responsible for environment crises ?

Who is responsible for putting the life of entire ecosystem on the earth in danger by creating environment crises, is the question of discussion. In this regards, perspective of developed nations and developing nations are different. Developing nations believe that developed nations are responsible for environmental problems. Developed nations of Northern Hemisphere are the biggest pollutants. So they have to pay the price of environmental alleviation. After the industrial revolution, the way quickly and without taking care of environment, developed nations of Northern Hemisphere have developed physical, economic, science and technology, as a result of that, pollution emerged there. Nations of Southern Hemisphere have just started the development.

Secondly, the developed nations of Northern Hemisphere have reigned over the nations of Southern Hemisphere. During reign also exploited natural resources. Therefore, developed nations have to assist developing nations in conservation of environment. Developed nations of Northern Hemisphere believe that increasing population, poverty, dirt in developing nations of Southern Hemisphere responsible for the pollution.

After looking the different perceptions regarding environment problem it can be said that, development and environment are the two sides of a coin. Without protecting environment, sustainable development could not be done. States of the world have become aware, since last few years, for the conservation and promotion of environment. They unanimously agreed for environment friendly mode of development by preserving the environment. On national and international level, intensive efforts have been taken to get rid of the serious problems and its dangerous effects like global warming and climate change. Let’s discuss the details of the concept.

After 1960, worry, contemplations and movement started about environmental issues in the nations of the world. On 22nd April in the year 1970, ‘Earth Day’ was celebrated in U.S.A. and attempt was made for environment awareness. Today, in support of save environment 22nd April is celebrated as ‘Earth Day’ in almost all the States of the world. After scrutinizing the political elements of environmental crises, it can be said that to solve the environmental crises emerged before the world three types of attempts have been started.

(1) Environmental contemplations by thinkers

Contemplations have been presented by some thinkers in various books. It has played an important role in bringing ideological revolution in the matter of environment. Economic, social, political principles given by the thinkers after Renaissance were human-centered. They specially focused on humans. By evaluating relations between humans, it tried to explain in classical manner. But unknowingly neglected the relations between human and environment. Principles like socialism, imperialism, liberalism, capitalism proved to be less to solve the environmental crises. They failed to bring solution of the environmental crises presented before the world. Therefore, immediate need for the development of environment oriented political principle has arisen. Contribution of Environmental contemplations presenters; like American environmentalist, and biologist Rachel Carson, Murray Bookchin, German-American philosopher and socialist Herbert Marcuse, world famous philosopher and socialist Habermas of Germany, etc. can be considered important. Their contemplative writings have provided inspiration to the global environmental movement. Simultaneously, some reports have also provided encouragement to the environmental discussions and policies. For example, a report published in the year 1987 named 'our common future' by the environment and development related world commission of United Nations. In the present report, by integrating the issues of environment and development, emphasis was put on sustainable development.

(2) Organized Efforts

Efforts started by United Nations for the conservation of environment, forest and wildlife. From the Stockholm conference held in 1972 to Climate Change Conference held at Paris in 2015, attempts were made to solve the environmental problems. Let's discuss in detail important conventions organized by United Nations.

Stockholm conference

For the preservation and prosperity of human environment, in the year 1972, a conference was held at Stockholm. In conference, manifesto was declared and its 26 important principles like, protection of natural resources and wildlife, pollution control, integrated and logical planning for removal of conflict between environment and development, use of science and technology for the improvement of environment, to provide economic aid to the developing Nations for environment protection and management, etc. Nations of the world agreed to maintain the important matters of human environment. It can be said that Stockholm conference, being the pioneer of modern environment, has provided an important outline for framing the policies and program related to environment.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established in the year 1972 with the main object to provide co-operation in framing of environment friendly policies and its implementation. Its head office is at Nairobi.

For the conservation of environment United Nations Environment Programme provides leadership, inspiration and encouragement to Nations and people. Important functions like evaluation of environmental situations and trends of world, regional and national, development of national and international environmental equipments, strengthen the organization for better management of environment, etc. are undertaken by it. With a view to bring global awareness relating to environmental questions, 5th June is celebrated as the World Environment Day.

Earth Summit, 1992

Because of different kinds of pollutions, environment is damaged. Proportion of pollution is increasing on earth, which can be proved dangerous for every living being. Therefore, for discussing on this, in 1992, a summit of large number of nations was organized for heading towards the directions of bringing concrete

solution. This summit was held at Rio De Janeiro of Brazil. Therefore, it is also known as Rio Summit. Discussion was held on important environmental issues like bringing a change in the pattern of production emitting poisonous gases, use alternative source of energy in place of the harmful sources of energy like fossil fuel, use of public transportation in place of individual or private vehicles, arrange summit for climate change, etc. Important agreements relating to climate change and biological diversity are made in the summit. And an important document, Agenda 21 relating to functional planning for conservation of environment was submitted.

Kyoto Protocol

Kyoto protocol is an international treaty relating to rise in the global warming and reduction of emission of green house gases responsible for climate change. To give concrete form to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) came into force in the year 1994, treaty was made at Kyoto of Japan which is known as Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11th December, 1997 and it came into force on 16th February, 2005. Fulfillment of the provisions of Kyoto Protocol is lawfully binding to the parties.

In Kyoto Protocol, considering the year of 1990 as base year, the target has been fixed to reduce collectively emission of green house gases by 5.2 per cent in specified time. For reduction in emission of green house gases for industrial Nations, the time limit of the year 2008 to 2012 is determined. On completion of the first phase, the time limit was extended at Doha of Qatar in the year 2012 for implementation of rules and target of Kyoto Protocol. Second time phase for reducing emission of green house gases was fixed of year 2013 to 2020.

United Nations climate change conference, 2015

To curb the increasing problem of climate change in the world, the United Nations climate change conference was held at Paris of France in 2015. All the Nations of the world agreed to solve the problem of climate change.

In Paris conference, all the Nations expressed their commitment for reduction in the average temperature of the earth. The emphasis was made on the reduction in emission of poisonous gases especially carbon responsible for climate change. The determination was expressed to bring down the average temperature of the world at 1.5 degree Celsius.

(3) People movements

After 1960, people movement also became intensified for the protection of environment. Chipko movement took place in India to save forests and environment whose effect was also caused on other Nations besides entire India. In U.S.A. and Europe after taking aggressive form of green movement for protection of environment, existing economy and social arrangement was challenged. These agitators came to be known as Greens. In their opinion, by bringing change in the existing system, environment related development is not possible. Therefore, it is necessary to bring change in the entire structure and fundamental approach.

Therefore, we can say that the degree of awareness has increased at global level, regional level and national level for solving serious problem of environment. Every nation is also trying in this direction. Besides the governments of the Nations of the world, Non Governmental Organization have also continuously remained active for awareness of environment. International Non Governmental Organization like, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) functioning for the protection of environment can be considered appreciable. Non Governmental Organization of the world known as Greenpeace is also working in the remarkable direction for the maintenance of environment at world level. Green party has also emerged in some Nations like Britain, Germany.

Attempts made in India for protection of environment

Since vedic times, India has remained environment-friendly. In vedic time, elements of nature were given the status of deity. Even today the vedic tradition is still practiced and popular in Indian society. In India, environment is maintained by connecting it with religious beliefs. River has been given the status of mother in

Indian culture. Trees and plants like Banyan tree, Peepal tree, Ashoka tree, Basil, etc. are believed pure and sacred by offering the status of deity. In this religious beliefs, compassion towards nature and awareness regarding the health of the society is expressed.

We know that, environment and human life are closely inter related. In order to make human life healthy, peaceful and prosperous, it is very important matter that ecological balance is maintained. Since last few decades, the problem of pollution of water, air, noise, land, etc. is acquiring serious form in India. It is the biggest challenge against the Indian political system as to how can a development can be made by maintaining healthy equilibrium between environment and development. Therefore, in this direction efforts are being made.

After achieving independence, efforts have been made to maintain environment and its balance in India. Article 48 (A) of directive principles of State policy under our Constitution, provision is made for maintenance of environment and improvement in it. Provision has been made for the protection of forests and wildlife of country. And according to Article 51 – A(g) of the Constitution it is considered the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

Serious efforts are being made even by the Government to solve the serious problems of environment and to restore equilibrium. Government has taken initiative for effective implementation by framing policies-laws and programme in that regard. A separate ministry for environment and forest has been started in India. Certain laws have also been framed by the Government of India relating to the protection of forest and environment, for example, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, etc. for the protection and the conservation of forests, Government of India has also framed national forests policy in the year 1988. Gujarat Government has also started climate change department to maintain environment and forest and to face the challenge of climate change.

Despite many laws framed for the protection of environment in India, problem of environment could not be solved. If laws, policies, programme of environment are not effectively implemented or when effort is made to affect policy matters and decision relating to environment of Government by vested interests, then, public opinion is unified for the maintenance of environment and Government is compelled to take effective steps for the maintenance of environment and giving of justice to the victims. If the Government does not give the appropriate response, mass movement commences. People's religious beliefs, health, employment, habitation, etc. are connected with the nature. Therefore, when, instead of protection, devouring of environment starts by Government or vested interests, then, it is opposed by local residents, environmental activists, non governmental organizations, etc., which takes the form of movement ahead. In India, all the movements which have taken place for the protections of environment, water, land and forests have remained in the centre. When, instead of protecting forests and wildlife, deforestation starts, then, local people are not tolerating such matter and movements start for the protection of forests. For saving trees from felling and protection of wildlife, no body hesitates in sacrificing own life. For the protection of forests, many such movements have taken place in India in which people have offered their lives. One such movement is chipko movement. Here we will discuss in detail about Chipko Movement.

(1) Chipko Movement

Chipko movement is famous movement for the protection of forests and wildlife. This movement took place in the district of Tehri Garhwal of Uttaranchal State in the year 1970. A decision was taken by the government of India for cutting of trees obstructing for the construction of the new roads in this area. The contractor started cutting trees for the construction of new roads.

Cutting of lush green trees made the local people furious. When the labourers of the contractor went to cut the trees of the interior village Reni of Garhwal, women came out in protest. However, ignoring the protest of women when labourers remained firm to cut the trees, women stuck to the trees by hugging them. Women challenged that before cutting trees, slash them first. Finally, the activity of chopping trees was dropped. By showing

courage at the risk of life, women protected the trees. Thereafter, this movement also spread over the entire region and other States. Environmentalist like Sundarlal Bahuguna, Chandi Prasad, Gaura Devi, etc. provided leadership to this movement. Chipko movement has provided an inspiration to the people of India and world to protect environment in the line of non-violence and 'satyagrah'. Chipko movement became source of inspiration of future environmental movement.

After chipko movement, the awareness for the protection of environment amongst the people throughout the Nation increased and movement took place for the saving of environment in other States also, on different issues. In this, save forest movement started in Jharkhand, Bihar in the year 1980, Silent Valley project movement in Kerala in 1973, Navdhanya Movement in the year 1982, Narmada Bachao movement from the year 1985 are considered chief movements.

Now we will discuss in detail Silent Valley Movement and Narmada Bachao movement for the protection of environment.

(2) Save Silent Valley Movement

Silent valley is a forest region situated in the Palakkad district of Kerala. Decision was taken by the Government to construct a dam on Kunthipuzha river. The planning was to generate good amount of electricity by Hydro Electric Project to be commenced on the dam. However, due to it, there was a possibility of posing big danger to the forest and environment. The rare mangrooves and the ecology situated in the area of silent valley were in danger. Therefore, construction of the dam was protested and public awareness was spread for the protection of environment by Kerala Shaashtra Sahithya Parishad. This movement started in the year 1973 gained momentum thereafter. Therefore, the ban was imposed on the project by the then Prime Minister. Finally, upon abandonment of the project, the silent valley was declared as national park in the year 1984 for the protection of wildlife and environment.

(3) Narmada Bachao Movement

A project to construct huge dam on Narmada river was started. This project was protested by the environmentalists which was started with the object of generating electricity and making drinking water available to the lacs of people due to Sardar Sarovar Dam. In Narmada Bachao Movement started since 1985, local people and non governmental organization also joined. A big question for rehabilitation of displaced people due to Sardar Sarovar Dam arose. Narmada Bachao Movement started keeping issues of rehabilitation of displaced people, damage to the local environment and submerged land, etc. in the centre. However, the question of displaced is solved by the Gujarat Government. And lacs of people have got the drinking water due to Narmada. On getting water of Narmada for irrigation in certain area, dry area became irrigated. Simultaneously the financial position of the farmers has also improved.

Thus, for the maintaining equilibrium of environment and prevention of pollution, individual efforts of environment friendly citizens, activists, group medium, etc. are playing important and decisive role. For the maintenance of environment and control of pollution in India, the role of judiciary is deserved to be appreciated. Because of judicial activism in India, environment and environmental rights could be protected.

At the end, it can be said that problems of environment commence from local level to the global level. Therefore, its solution should also be thought at world level, it should be implemented. Looking from this view, environmental problems are more and more in reference to the world. Any one region or any one nation or a group of Nations cannot bring its solution. For that, Nations should discuss at global level and should attempt to search for its solutions. Thus, it can be understood that environment being a global problem, it can influence the world politics.

In the era of globalization, all the nations after understanding their respective moral responsibility, harmful changes occurring progressively in the environment, which is also called climate change, must oppose it and must attempt to built consensus after discussing and deliberating its short and long term solutions.

climate change is affecting or will affect more or less all the Nations. Therefore, all the Nations are needed to make collective effort to control it. In this reference conferences have been held and will be held at international level. Every Nation should adopt that type of policy in which least alterations are to be made in the climate change. Those factors which are sustaining biology on earth are decreasing fast, any one nation cannot able to bring solution and from that view its effort should be made at the world level.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. State usefulness of natural resources.
2. What should be our role as a protector of natural resources ?
3. What is the importance of natural resources for the Nation ?

2. Write short note.

1. Financial emergency against world politics.
2. Cultural emergency against world politics.
3. Political emergency against world politics.
4. Chipkoo Movement.

3. Answer the following questions in three - four sentences.

1. What is called natural resources ?
2. What are renewable resources ?
3. What are non-renewable resources ?
4. Give examples of Biotic and Abiotic natural Resources.

4. Answer the following questions in one-two sentences.

1. Natural resources available from water cover.
2. Natural resources available from atmosphere.
3. Natural resources available from soil cover.

5. Choose the correct option and indicate in the given box.

1. Water of which river is distributed between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu ?
(a) Ganga (b) Narmada (c) Cauvery (d) Krishna
2. Water distribution of which river is between Ethiopia and Egypt ?
(a) Ganga (b) Nile (c) Amazon (d) Zambezi
3. Sundarlal Bahuguna is attached with which movement ?
(a) Save Narmada (b) Save Ganga
(c) Chipko Movement (d) Kaveri water dispute

Activity

- Students visit can be arranged for bio-gas plant, windmill, solar energy plant, water electricity centre.
- Show the use of solar cooker.
- Encourage students to use bicycle instead of petrol vehicles.
- Organize tree plantation programme.
- Show the map of India to the students and explain geographical boundaries and disputes of boundaries.

