

Term-End Examination December, 2024

BPSE-143: STATE POLITICS IN INDIA

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (ENGLISH)

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PART-3

Main Issues in India's Electoral Politics

In India, the main issues in electoral politics change over time, but certain issues consistently influence the political landscape. These issues are often related to society, economy, religion, and national security. Let's discuss some of the key issues in India's electoral politics:

1. **Religious and Cultural Issues:** Religion plays a significant role in India's elections, and religious polarization often surfaces. Issues like the Ram Mandir, cow protection, and secularism are highly charged in Indian politics. Political parties often use these issues to appeal to religious sentiments, creating a voting bloc around them.
2. **Economic Issues:** Economic factors like unemployment, inflation, and poverty are key issues in elections. Decisions such as GST (Goods and Services Tax), demonetization, and the farm laws have a direct impact on the electorate, making them central to political campaigns.
3. **Casteism and Social Justice:** Caste-based issues, including reservations (affirmative action) and the rights of Dalits and tribals, are vital in Indian politics. The caste system still influences politics, and parties often cater to specific caste groups to gain support in elections.
4. **National Security and Terrorism:** Issues related to national security, like cross-border terrorism and military action, also become important during elections. Incidents like the Uri attack or Balakot airstrike often become major points in political campaigns, with parties trying to show their strength in handling national security.
5. **Constitution and Political Reforms:** Constitutional changes and political reforms, such as the abrogation of Article 370 or the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), often become electoral issues. These reforms have a deep impact on society and often lead to heated political debates.
6. **Health and Education:** Social issues like health and education also come up during elections. Governments present their plans to improve healthcare, sanitation, and education, as these are basic needs for the public. Plans like the Ayushman Bharat scheme (health insurance) or Swachh Bharat Mission (clean India campaign) are highlighted during campaigns.

7. **Development and Infrastructure:** Development works, such as road construction, electricity, water, and internet availability, are crucial in electoral politics. Political parties often highlight their achievements in these areas and promise more development projects to win support.

Conclusion: The main issues in India's electoral politics include religious, social, economic, and national security concerns. Political parties use these issues to gain support from the public, and their impact on election results can vary depending on the context and timing.

Opinion on the One-Party Dominance System

The One-Party Dominance System refers to a political structure in which one party holds significant and continuous control over political power, while other parties remain weak or marginalized. India experienced such a system primarily under the leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC) from independence until the 1970s.

Features of One-Party Dominance:

1. **Long-Term Centralization of Power:** In a one-party dominance system, one party, through its organizational strength and leadership, remains in power for long periods. Other political parties have limited opportunities to gain power.
 - Example: From the 1950s to the 1970s, the Indian National Congress (INC), led by leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Indira Gandhi, had dominant control over the government.
2. **Weak Opposition Parties:** In this system, opposition parties are either too small or lack strong leadership and resources, allowing the dominant party to remain in power with minimal challenges.
 - Example: During Congress's dominance, parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other regional parties struggled to establish themselves as significant national contenders.
3. **Stability and Development:** One-party dominance can lead to political stability, which facilitates long-term planning and development.
 - Example: Under Nehru's leadership, India saw the implementation of key economic programs like industrialization and the Green Revolution.

Advantages of One-Party Dominance:

1. **Political Stability:** One-party rule often brings stability, making decision-making faster and more efficient.
2. **Long-Term Development Plans:** Stable governance helps in implementing long-term national projects in sectors like health, education, and infrastructure.
3. **Centralized Governance:** A single party in power ensures consistency in policies and better coordination across various government departments.

Disadvantages of One-Party Dominance:

1. **Lack of Democratic Diversity:** With no strong opposition, the diversity of opinions and critiques is reduced, which may lead to authoritarian tendencies.
2. **Limited Choices for Voters:** Voters face fewer options, leading to a lack of competition and a decrease in the quality of elections.

3. **Centralization of Power:** Power is concentrated in one party, which can lead to misuse of authority and decisions that may not represent public interests.

Conclusion: In India, the one-party dominance system under Congress led to stability and development but also restricted democratic competition. While this system helped in nation-building, it also created challenges such as weak opposition and power centralization. In a healthy democracy, political competition and diversity of opinions are essential.

Migration and Globalization: Their Relationship

Migration and globalization are two interconnected processes that influence each other significantly. Migration refers to the movement of people from one place to another, either temporarily or permanently, while globalization is the increasing interconnectedness of countries, economies, and cultures. These processes are deeply related in several ways:

1. **Globalization Promotes Migration:** Globalization has made economic, social, and cultural connections between countries stronger. It has facilitated easier movement of people by improving trade, communication, and transportation. People are now more likely to migrate for better job opportunities and a better quality of life.
 - Example: Many people from India migrate to countries like the United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for better employment opportunities because of globalization.
2. **Economic Opportunities and Employment:** Globalization has led to the growth of industries and services, especially in developing countries, creating more job opportunities. This has made people move to other countries in search of better jobs and better living conditions.
 - Example: Many Indians migrate to Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE for work in the oil and construction industries.
3. **Cultural and Social Exchange:** As people migrate, they also carry their cultural practices, traditions, and values with them, creating more multicultural societies. Globalization encourages the exchange of cultural ideas and practices, making societies more diverse.
 - Example: Indian food, music, and festivals are celebrated worldwide as part of cultural exchange due to migration.
4. **Improved Communication and Transport:** Advances in communication (like the internet) and transport (like airplanes) have made it easier for people to migrate. This has enhanced their ability to stay connected with their home countries even while living abroad.
 - Example: Social media and online job platforms help people learn about job opportunities in other countries and make migration decisions accordingly.
5. **Social Inequality from Globalization:** While globalization creates more opportunities, it can also lead to social inequality. Wealthier countries attract more migrants, leaving poorer countries with fewer resources and opportunities for their citizens.
 - Example: People from poorer countries like Mexico or India often migrate to wealthier countries like the USA for better opportunities, leading to a "brain drain."

Conclusion: Migration and globalization are closely linked. Globalization creates more opportunities for people to migrate for work, education, and better living standards. While it

helps spread economic and cultural ideas, it can also lead to inequality and social tensions. Together, they shape the global movement of people and influence both developed and developing nations.

Distribution of Tribes in India

Tribes are an important part of India's social fabric, with more than 700 distinct tribes spread across the country. These tribes are distributed in various regions, each with its own unique culture, language, and way of life. Let's discuss the regional distribution of tribes in India:

1. **North-Eastern India:** The North-Eastern region of India, including states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, and Assam, has a large tribal population. These tribes are mostly agricultural and forest-dependent.
 - Examples: The Bodo, Mising, and Rabha tribes in Assam; the Naga tribes in Nagaland and Manipur; the Mizo tribe in Mizoram.
2. **Central India:** Central India, including states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, has a significant tribal population. Tribes in this region are mainly involved in agriculture, hunting, and small-scale business.
 - Examples: The Gond, Baiga, and Santhal tribes in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.
3. **Western India:** In the western states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, tribes like the Bhil, Mina, and Koli are found. These tribes are primarily engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry.
 - Examples: The Bhil tribe in Rajasthan, the Koli tribe in Gujarat.
4. **Southern India:** The southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh have many tribes living in hilly and forested areas. These tribes mainly practice agriculture and gather forest products.
 - Examples: The Gondi tribe in Telangana, the Irula tribe in Tamil Nadu, and the Kurumba tribe in Karnataka.
5. **Himalayan Region:** Tribes in the Himalayan region, including states like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, live in remote hilly areas and depend on livestock, agriculture, and forest resources.
 - Examples: The Gujjars and Bhotias in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Conclusion: The tribal communities of India are spread across various regions, each with its unique culture and lifestyle. These tribes contribute significantly to India's cultural diversity and heritage. While they face challenges in terms of development and access to resources, they continue to play an essential role in shaping the country's socio-cultural landscape.