



CLASS X
POLITICAL SCIENCE
CHAPTER 1
WORKING OF DEMOCRACY

NOTES

- **Democracy** is regarded as the best form of government in modern times.
- The 20th Century was known as **a century of democracy**.
- Nature of Indian democracy is different from other democracy.
- The supporters of the British Imperialism argued that India could not be considered as a Nation because of being a vast sub-continent with multiplicity.
- Jawaharlal Nehru said: **“Unity in diversity”**.

Challenges posed by communalism

- Different communities lived in harmony in Pre-Independent India despite occasional confrontations between Hindus and Muslims.
- The animosity between the Hindus and the Muslims was largely the creation of the British rulers :
 - i) The British rulers adopted Divide and Rule Policy in India.
 - ii) They also sowed the seeds of Social Division and Political Competition among Indians.
 - iii) They provided special electorates for the Muslims in India.
- **Communalism** is a person’s attachment with the good of his community.
- It is associated with a narrow, selfish, divisive and aggressive attitude.
- India has the worst types of communalism such as Sikhism, Dravidianism, Caste Conflicts and Tribalism etc.
- **Communalism may result when :**
 - i) The beliefs of one religion are presented as superior.
 - ii) The demands of a religious group are formed in opposition to another.
 - iii) State power is used to dominate others.
- **The method of using religion in politics** is communal politics.



Features of Indian Secularism (Constitutional devices to combat Communalism)

- No official religion for the Indian state.
- Freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religions or not to follow any religions.
- The Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on the ground of religion.
- The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality among religious communities.

Caste and Politics

- The term 'caste' is derived from the Portuguese word '*casta*' meaning breed, race and kind.
- '*Varna*' and '*Jati*' i.e. complexion and lineage.
- Four Castes : *Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas* and *Sudras*
- Caste Influence begins in electoral politics.
- Electoral maxim in Haryana : "*Jat ki beti jat ko, jat ki vote jat ko*"
- Caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the outcast groups.
- The Constitution of India prohibits caste based discrimination to reverse caste injustice.

- Caste System has not disappeared :
 - i) Even now most people marry within their own caste.
 - ii) Untouchability still continues.
 - iii) Large presence of upper caste among the urban middle classes.

Caste in Politics

- Caste influence is visible not only in the electoral politics but also in the formation of ministry.
- Political Parties and Candidates in election make appeals to caste sentiment to get support.
- The impression that elections are all about caste is not true because
 - i) No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste.
 - ii) Every candidate needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
 - iii) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.

- **"It is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is caste that gets politicised"**
 - i) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating its neighbouring castes or sub-caste which was excluded earlier from it.
 - ii) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities for dialogue and negotiation.
 - iii) New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.



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Role of Meira Paibis in the working of Democracy in Manipur

- **Meira Paibis**, a unique pressure group of women only was established in Manipur in 1980.
- It means women torch bearers.
- **Meira Paibis's** role in Manipur
 - i) To restore law and order, peace in the conflict zone of Manipur. They are against the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 and state atrocities in Manipur.
 - ii) To help the authority in the implementation of dry state policy in order to prohibit sale of liquor.
 - iii) They fight against social evil activities like adultery, forcible divorce, abduction and kidnapping etc.
 - iv) They can participate and influence in the political decision making as an agency of democracy at the grass root level.
 - v) They played an active role against kidnapping of children in mid 2008 and in ILP (Inner Line Permit) movement in 2015

Manipur State Commission for Women

- Needs of a commission for women in Manipur :
 - i) Women have been looked down upon by the male dominated society.
 - ii) Cases of domestic violence, physical assault, harassment, forcible kidnapping and divorce.
- MSCW was established on 12th December, 2006 is like Human Rights Commission for women.
- The Commission has requested the Ministry of Department of North Eastern Region for financial assistance.
- Its slogan “**Awake Women**” or “**Nupisha Mikap Thoklo**”.



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