CHAPTER

11

Era of One Party Dominance

Introduction:

In 1885, Dr. A.O. Hume transformed into a political party in the form of a social and ideological alliance by expressing feelings of dissatisfaction with different social groups and people of different faiths and ideologies. Even in the pre-independence days, many organizations and parties existed within the Congress with their structure and institutional structure. Groups formed within parties are factions. The coalition nature of the Congress party encouraged various factions based on ideological views or personal aspirations or enmity. Before the first general election of 1952, some powerful and opposition parties came into existence, which gained only as a symbol of representation to maintain the democratic feature. These parties kept the ruling party in check with mutual respect between the leaders of the Congress as well as the leaders of the opposition, preventing resentment and preparing the leaders.

After independence, our leaders became aware of the important role of politics in democracy because they wanted to pursue politics as a way to solve problems as well as make decisions and advance the public interest.

1. The Challenge is to Build Democracy

The Election Commission of India was established in January 1950. Sukumar Sen is the first Chief Election Commissioner. India's absolute size and low literacy rate were some of the challenges in holding the 1952 general elections. Despite these challenges, the 1952 election was a success.

Change in Voting Pattern

In the first general election, it was decided to place a box inside each polling station with the symbol of each candidate. By 2004, the entire country had switched to electronic voting machines (EVMs).

2. The 1st three general elections

The Congress dominated the first three general elections. It has many famous faces like Jawaharlal Nehru, C Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel. In addition, Jawaharlal Nehru was an attractive and very popular leader. It has worked at the grassroots level as well as at the top level in Congress. Congress gained popularity by participating in the civil disobedience movement.

The Communist Party of Kerala came to power for the first time in the world in 1957 through democratic elections. It was the first state to form a non-Congress government after independence.

3. The dominant nature of Congress

The dominance of the Congress party is in a state of democracy. The roots of the extraordinary success of the Congress party go back to the legacy of the freedom struggle. Congress has brought together different groups, whose interests are often contradictory. By the time of independence, the Congress had transformed into a rainbow-like social alliance that broadly represented India's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages and different interests. This coalition attitude gave extraordinary strength to the Congress.

4. Group Tolerance and Management

Groups are groups within a party that have different ideologies. Some of these categories are based on ideological perspectives, but very often these categories are rooted in personal ambitions and competition. The coalition nature of the Congress party tolerated and encouraged various sections.
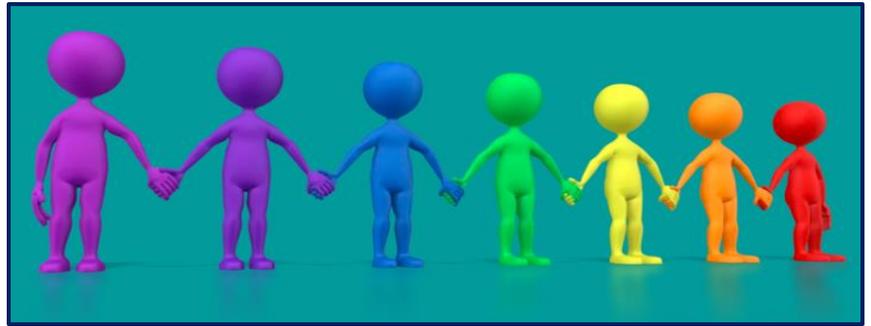
DO YOU KNOW?

Electronic Voting Machine (EVM): A voting machine for recording the performance of voters on an electronic device used by the electoral process.

First Past the Post System: This is a simple majority system in which the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared elected.

Ideological Oriented Party: It is a party that formulates policies and decisions based on ideological considerations.

Interest-based party: This party protects and promotes specific interests such as caste, community, region, tribe, etc.

Charismatic Leader Oriented Party: This is a party where the leader is in a very strong position and the party is at the center.

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5. The rise of Opposition Parties-
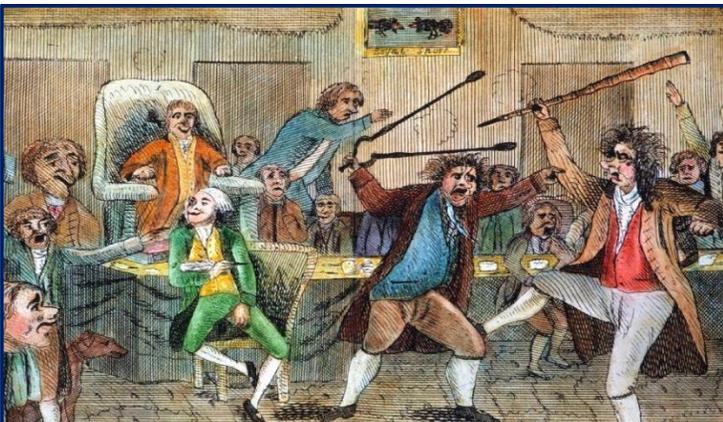
Almost all non-Congress parties have their roots in any opposition party of the 1950s. These opposition parties have provided constant and frequent ideological criticisms of the policies and practices of the Congress party. This kept the ruling party in check and often changed the balance of power in Congress.

6. Socialist Party

The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was founded in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress. In 1948, Congress amended its constitution to bar its members from dual party membership. The Socialists had to form a separate Socialist Party in 1948. He criticized the Congress for favoring investors and landlords and neglecting workers and farmers.

7. Communist Party of India (CPI)

In the early 1920s, inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, communist groups sprang up in various parts of India. In 1951, the Communist Party decided to abandon the path of violent revolution and run in the next general election. A K Gopalan, S A Dange, E M S Namboodiripad; Prominent leaders of the CPI were P C Joshi, Ajay Ghosh and P Sundaria.

8. Bhartiya Jana Sangh [BJS]

The Bhartiya Jana Sangh was founded in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founding president. It emphasized the idea of one nation, one culture and one nation and believed that the country would become modern, progressive and powerful based on Indian culture and traditions. The Bhartiya Jana Sangh was founded in 1951 by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee with the ideology of one nation, one culture and one nation and called for the reunification of India and Pakistan in a united India. The Independent Party was formed in August 1959 following the Congress Nagpur resolution calling for land restrictions. Its main leaders were C. Rajagopalachari, K.M. Munshi, N.G. Ranga, and Meenu Masani. Its ideology emphasizes a free economy and less government involvement in controlling the economy and suggests closer ties with the United States.
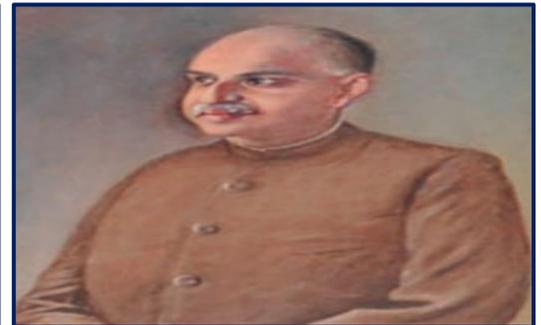
9. Independent party

The Independent Party was formed in August 1959. The party was led by old Congressmen like C. Rajagopalachari, K M Munshi, N G Ranga and Meenu Masani. The party criticized the state's strategy for economic development, centralized planning, nationalization and public sector intervention. Instead, it opted for free private sector expansion.

SUMMARY

After independence, our leaders became aware of the important role of politics in democracy because they wanted to pursue politics as a way to solve problems as well as make decisions and advance the public interest. As a result, the Election Commission of India came into existence in January 1950, with Sukumar Sen becoming the first Chief Election Commissioner to conduct elections in the country. The Commission is required to formulate electoral rolls with eligible voters and constituency boundaries to conduct free and fair elections. India's first general election has become a milestone due to its competitiveness and encouragement. His critics are wrong for not holding elections in proven partnership, fair results and poverty. The Congress party won a landslide victory in the 1952 elections but was not in power in states like Travancore-Cochin i.e. Kerala, Madras and Orissa. Recognition in the freedom struggle, popularity of populist leaders, comprehensive manifesto for every section of society and party consensus-building role led to Congress domination in India.

Questions For Practice

1. Which of the following statements given below is not correct?
   (a) One-party dominance lies in the absence of strong alternative political parties.
   (b) The dominance of one party is due to weak public opinion.
   (c) One-party dominance is linked to the colonial past of the country.
   (d) One-party dominance refers to the absence of democratic ideals in a country.

2. Name the founding president of Congress Socialist Party?
   (a) Acharya Narendra Dev
   (b) K.M. Accountant
   (c) Shyama Prasad Mookerjee
   (d) Sukumar Sen

3. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India?
   (a) Shyama Prasad Mookerjee
   (b) Sukumar Sen
   (c) Rajagopalachari
   (d) Balraj Madhok.

4. The first general elections in India were held in the year?
   (a) 1951   (b) 1952
   (c) 1953   (d) 1954

5. Who was the founder of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?
   (a) Mahatma Gandhi
   (b) Indira Gandhi
   (c) Shyama Prasad Mookerjee
   (d) Sukumar Sen

6. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record?
   (a) Preferences of politicians.
   (b) Preferences of voters.
   (c) Preferences of senior citizens.
   (d) Preferences of pressure groups.

7. Which of the following is a state where the Congress was not in power even after a massive victory in the first general election?
   (a) Bihar
   (b) Orissa
   (c) Madhya Pradesh
   (d) Maharashtra

8. The Institutional Revolutionary Party exercised power by?
   (a) Mexico   (b) Finland
   (c) Cairo   (d) None of these

9. The Indian leader who was the first recipient of the Bharat Ratan Award?
   (a) Balraj Madhok.
   (b) Rajagopalachari.
   (c) B.R. Ambedkar.
   (d) K.M. Accountant.

10. The first general election in 1952 included simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and _____?
    (a) President of India
    (b) State Assemblies
    (c) Rajya Sabha
    (d) Prime Minister

11. Which party formed the government in Kerala in 1957?
    (a) Jan Sangh
    (b) CPI
    (c) Congress
    (d) Samajwadi Party

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    (b) Rajagopalachari
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    (a) Mahatma Gandhi
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    (c) Shyama Prasad Mookerjee
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    (a) Mexico   (b) Finland
    (c) Cairo   (d) Brazil

18. An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is used to record?
    (a) Preferences of politicians
    (b) Voter Preferences
    (c) Senior Citizen Preferences

(d) Pressure Group Preferences

19. Which party formed the government in Kerala in 1957?
(a) Jan Sangh
(b) CPI
(c) Congress
(d) Samajwadi Party

20. When was the Samajwadi Party formed in India?
(a) 1948   (b) 1952
(c) 1955   (d) 1960

21. Who was the first Indian leader to receive the Bharat Ratan award?
(a) Balraj Madhok.
(b) Rajagopalachari.
(c) B.R. Ambedkar.
(d) K.M. Accountant.

22. Who was the founder of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?
(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Indira Gandhi
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Sukumar Sen.

23. An electronic voting machine (EVM) is used to record?
(a) Priorities of politicians.
(b) Voter preferences.
(c) Preferences of Senior Citizens.
(d) Priorities of stress groups.

24. Which of the following states is not in power by the Congress even after its landslide victory in the first general election?
(a) Bihar
(b) Orissa
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Maharashtra

25. The Institutional Revolutionary Party exercised its power by?
(a) Mexico   (b) Finland
(c) Cairo   (d) Brazil

26. An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is used for recording?
(a) Priorities of politicians
(b) Voter preferences
(c) Senior Citizen Preferences
(d) Pressure group priorities

27. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India?
(a) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(b) Sukumar Sen.
(c) Rajagopalachari
(d) Balraj Madhok.

28. The first general elections in India were held during the year?
(a) 1951   (b) 1952
(c) 1953   (d) 1954

29. Who is the founder of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?
(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Indira Gandhi
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Sukumar Sen.

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(a) Acharya Narendra Dev
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(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Indira Gandhi
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Sukumar Sen.

32. Below are four statements regarding the dominance of one party. Identify whether each of them is false.?
(a) One party dominates when there are no strong alternative political parties.
(b) Weak public opinion leads to one-party domination.
(c) One party domination is linked to the immigration past of the country.
(d) Dominance of one party indicates a lack of democratic ideals in the country.

33. In which year was the first general election held in India?
(a) 1947   (b) 1952
(c) 1955   (d) 1960

34. Who is the Prime Minister of India after the first general election?
(a) Pt. JL. Nehru
(b) Sardar Patel
(c) Mrs. Indira Gandhi
(d) Mahatma Gandhi.

35. Which party formed the government of Kerala in 1957?
(a) Jan Sangh
(b) CPI
(c) Congress
(d) Samajwadi Party

36. When was the Socialist Party founded in India?
(a) 1948   (b) 1952
(c) 1955   (d) 1960

37. In a democracy, people exercise their power?
(a) Political parties.
(b) Cooperative societies.
(c) Elections
(d) NGOs.

38. In the first three Lok Sabha elections of 1952, 1957 and 1962, under whose leadership the Congress party dominated?
(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Indira Gandhi
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Jawaharlal Nehru

39. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India?
(a) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(b) Sukumar Sen.
(c) Rajagopalachari
(d) Balraj Madhok.

40. Which of the following states is not in power by the Congress even after its landslide victory in the first general election?
(a) Bihar
(b) Orissa
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Maharashtra

Solutions

1. (c)	5. (C)	9. (b)	13. (b)	17 (a)	21. (b)	25. (a)	29. (c)	33. (b)	37 (c)
2. (a)	6. (b)	10. (b)	14. (c)	18. (b)	22. (c)	26. (b)	30. (a)	34. (a)	38. (d)
3. (b)	7. (d)	11. (b)	15. (b)	19. (b)	23. (b)	27 (b)	31. (c)	35. (b)	39. (b)
4. (b)	8 (a)	12. (b)	16. (b)	20. (a)	24. (b)	28. (b)	32. (c)	36. (a)	40. (b)

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