

- In a democracy, it is neither possible nor necessary for people to be governed directly. The most common form of democracy in our times is for the people to be governed through their elected representatives. Elections are necessary and useful in a democracy. Electoral competition among parties serves the people.

Choices of Voters

- They can choose who will make laws for them.
- They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
- They can choose the party, whose policies will guide the government and making laws.

Minimum Conditions of a Democratic Election

- Everyone should be able to choose, have one vote and every vote should have equal value.
- Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.
- Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner, where people can choose as they really wish.

Indian System of Elections

- In India, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Assembly) elections are held regularly after every five years, after which all the elected representatives might change. The Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha stand 'dissolved'. Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time. This is called a General Election.
- Sometimes, election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called a by-election.

Electoral Constituencies

- The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies.
- For Lok Sabha elections, the country is divided into 543 constituencies. The representative elected from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament or an M.P.
- Similarly, each state is divided into a specific number of Assembly Constituencies. The elected representative is called the Member of Legislative Assembly or an MLA.
- The same principal applies for Panchayat and Municipal elections.

Reserved Constituencies

- Some constituencies are reserved for the people who belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- In the Lok Sabha, 79 seats are reserved for the SC and 41 for the ST.
- One - third of the seats are reserved for women candidates in rural and urban local bodies.

Voters' List

- In a democratic election, the list of all those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the voters' list.
- All the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election. Every citizen has the Right to Vote, regardless of his or her caste, religion or gender.

Nomination of Candidates

- Political parties nominate their candidates, who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called 'Party ticket'.
- Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and give some money as 'security deposit'.
- Every candidate has to make a legal declaration, giving full details of
 - Serious criminal cases pending against him/her.
 - Details of the assets and liabilities of self and family.
 - Education qualifications of the candidate.

Election Campaign

- The main purpose of the election is to give people a chance to choose the representatives, the government and the policies they prefer.
- It is necessary to have a free and open discussion about who is a better representative, which party will make a better government or what is a good policy. All this happens during election campaigns.
- In India, such campaigns take place for a two week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.
- During this period, the candidates contact their voters, political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters.
- It is necessary to regulate campaigns to ensure that every political party and candidate gets a fair and equal chance to compete. According to our election law, no party or candidate can
 - Bribe or threaten voters
 - Use government resources for election campaign.
 - Spend more than ₹ 25 lakh in a constituency for a Lok Sabha election or ₹10 lakh in a constituency in an assembly election.
- All the political parties in our country have agreed to a model code of conduct for election campaigns. According to this, no party or candidate can
 - Use any place of worship for election propaganda
 - Use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for election
 - Once elections are announced, ministers shall not lay

foundation stones of any project, take any big policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.

Polling and Counting of Votes

- The final stage of an election is the day when the voters cast or 'Poll' their vote. This day is called the election day.
- Every person whose name is on the voters list can go to the nearby 'polling booth' and cast their votes.
- Earlier, the voters used to indicate who they wanted to vote for, by putting a stamp on the ballot paper. Now a days, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record votes.
- The candidate who secures the highest number of votes from a constituency is declared elected and it becomes clear as to who will form the government.

Independent Election Commission

- In India, elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC). It enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary does. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India.
- EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
- It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections or to transfer some government officials.
- When on election duty, the government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Limitations

- There are many limitations and challenges of Indian elections. These include
 - Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents candidates.
 - In some parts of India, candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of the electoral race and secure a ticket from major parties.
 - Some families tend to dominate political parties, tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.
 - Very often elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens as both the major parties are quite similar to each other, both in policies and practice.
 - Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

Political Parties

- A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.
- Parties reflect fundamental political division in a society. Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve partisanship. A political party has three components - the leader, the active members and the followers.

- Parties contest elections. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by the political parties.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- Parties form and run governments.
- The parties that lose the elections, play the role of opposition to the parties in power.
- Parties shape public opinion when they raise and highlight issues.
- Parties provide access to the people to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments.

National Political Parties

- The election commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party.
- A party that secures at least 6 percent of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of a state and wins at least two seats, is recognised as a state party.
- A party that secures at least six percent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and wins at least four seats, in the Lok Sabha, is recognised as a national party. Some important parties.
 - Indian National Congress (INC) - 1885
 - Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - 1980
 - Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) - 1984
 - Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPI - M) - 1964
 - Communist Party of India (CPI) - 1925
 - Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) - 1999

Challenges to Political Parties

- Lack of internal democracy within parties.
- Dynastic succession.
- Growing role of money and muscle power in parties and during elections.
- Very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

Reforms in Political Parties

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third to the women candidates.
- There should be a state funding of the elections.
- People can put pressure on political parties through petitions, publicity and agitations.
- Political parties can improve if these who want this, join political parties.
- The constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in defection, in order to become minister or for cash rewards.
- The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections, to file an affidavit, giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
- The election commission passed an order, making it necessary for the political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

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- (1) Bhagalpur, Bihar (2) Sambalpur, Orissa
 - (3) Gulbarga, Karnataka (4) Chandigarh, Haryana
 9. In India, which of the following has/have not been reserved constituencies basis ?
 - I. Dalits
 - II. OBCs
 - III. STs
 - IV. Brahmins
 - (1) Only I (2) I and II
 - (3) I and III (4) II and IV
 10. The eligibility of the voters in an election is determined by the
 - (1) Adult Franchise (2) Election party
 - (3) Voters list (4) None of these
 12. Election Commission has ensured which of the following identity of voters ?
 - (1) Electoral Card (2) Election Form
 - (3) EPIC (4) PAN Card
 - (4) All of these
 19. Which of the following is not associated with the code of conduct in elections ?
 - (1) It is published by the Election Commission
 - (2) It is a set of norms to be followed by the political parties
 - (3) It is to be followed by all parties in elections
 - (4) It is against the wishes of the people
 20. Which of the following is not related to the Fraud and Malpractices in elections ?
 - (1) Rigging (2) Booth capturing
 - (3) Code of conduct (4) None of these
 21. Which of the following is the most visible and representative institution in a democracy ?
 - (1) Political parties (2) Pressure groups
 - (3) Sectional groups (4) None of these
 22. Which is/are most important components of political parties?
 - (1) The leaders (2) The active members
 - (3) The followers (4) All the above

23. What is/are the main function(s) of a political party ?
 (1) Contesting elections
 (2) Putting forward policies and programmes
 (3) Playing decisive role in making laws for a country
 (4) All the above
24. In which form of government do the political parties play most significant role ?
 (1) Autocracy (2) Oligarchy
 (3) Theocracy (4) Democracy
25. Which of the following institution plays most helpful role for people in their access to the government machinery and welfare schemes ?
 (1) Pressure groups (2) Executive
 (3) Political party (4) None of these
26. Who is the responsible authority in India to provide and regulate affairs related to political parties ?
 (1) Supreme Court (2) Election Commission
 (3) Parliament (4) None of these
27. In India, which type of political system does exist ?
 (1) One Party System (2) Two Party System
 (3) Multi-party System (4) None of these
28. Which country is an example of two party system ?
 (1) U.S.A. (2) U.K.
 (3) Both (4) None of these
29. What is the criteria for a national party in India ?
 (1) A party that secures at least 6 percent vote of total votes in the Lok Sabha elections.
 (2) A party that wins at least four seats in Lok Sabha
 (3) Both
 (4) None of these
30. What is the criteria for a state party in India ?
 (1) 6% votes in legislative assembly and 2 seats
 (2) 10% votes and four seats
 (3) 2% votes of legislative assembly
 (4) 4% votes of legislative assembly
31. How many national recognized parties are there in India ?
 (1) 10 (2) 8
 (3) 6 (4) 4
32. When was the Congress founded ?
 (1) 1885 (2) 1887
 (3) 1888 (4) 1889
33. Who was the first President of Indian National Congress ?
 (1) A.O. Hume (2) W.C. Bonnerjee
 (3) Mahatma Gandhi (4) None of these
34. In which year was the Bharatiya Janata Party founded ?
 (1) 1970 (2) 1980
 (3) 1990 (4) None of these
35. Bharatiya Janata Party is mainly associated to which of these issues?
 (1) Cultural Nationalism
 (2) Uniform Civil Code
 (3) Full political and territorial integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India
 (4) All of the above
36. Which is the main party in National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ?
 (1) BJP (2) BSP
 (3) CPI (4) None of these
37. Who is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party ?
 (1) Kanshi Ram (2) Mayavati
 (3) Ramvilas Paswan (4) B.R. Ambedkar
38. Which party has been in power continuously since 30 years in a state ?
 (1) BSP (2) Indian National Congress
 (3) BJP (4) CPI (M)

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 to 5) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

1.

Column I		Column II
A. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	(p)	United Progressive Alliance
B. Bharatiya Janata Party	(q)	National Democratic Alliance
C. Congress Party	(r)	State Party
D. Trinamool Congress	(s)	Left front
(1) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)		
(2) A → (s); B → (q); C → (p); D → (r)		
(3) A → (q); B → (s); C → (r); D → (p)		
(4) A → (r); B → (p); C → (s); D → (q)		
2.

Column I		Column II
A. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	(p)	1885
B. Communist Party of India (CPI)	(q)	1980
C. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	(r)	1925

- D. Indian National Congress (INC) (s) 1999
 (1) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)
 (2) A → (q); B → (p); C → (s); D → (r)
 (3) A → (r); B → (q); C → (s); D → (p)
 (4) A → (s); B → (r); C → (q); D → (p)
3.

Column I		Column II
A. Uttar Pradesh	(p)	NCP
B. West Bengal	(q)	BSP
C. Kerala	(r)	CPI - (M)
D. Maharashtra	(s)	CPI
(1) A → (q); B → (r); C → (s); D → (p)		
(2) A → (r); B → (q); C → (p); D → (s)		
(3) A → (s); B → (q); C → (r); D → (p)		
(4) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)		
4.

Column I		Column II
A. Biju Janata Dal	(p)	Orissa
B. Rashtriya Janata Dal	(q)	Uttar Pradesh
C. Samajwadi Party	(r)	Punjab
D. Shiromani Akali Dal	(s)	Bihar
(1) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)		
(2) A → (q); B → (p); C → (s); D → (r)		
(3) A → (r); B → (q); C → (p); D → (s)		
(4) A → (p); B → (s); C → (q); D → (r)		

5.

Column I	Column II
A. Reserved Constituency	(p) 18 to 25 years
B. Nomination of Candidates	(q) EVM
C. Election Campaign	(r) SC and ST
D. Polling of votes	(s) 2 weeks period
- (1) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (s); D \rightarrow (r)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (s); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (s)$

Statement Based MCQ

6. Consider the following statements :
- Political parties are not necessary to run governments.
 - Parties are often rocked by scandals involving top party leaders.
 - Parties should aim only for their regional benefits.
 - Parties shape public opinion.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a) and (b)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
7. Consider the following statements :
- There were six national recognised parties in the country in 2006.
 - Biju Janata Dal is a state party of Orissa.
 - Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 1998 as the leader of National Democratic Alliance.
 - Communist Party of India (CPI) was founded in 1964.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a) and (b)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
8. Consider the following statements :
- People select the representative of their choice in an election.
 - Elections enable people to judge the performance of the government.
 - People can indicate which policies do they prefer.
 - Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of judiciary.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a) and (b)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
9. Consider the following statements :
- Election campaigns takes place for three weeks period.
 - An agent of each candidate is allowed to sit inside the polling booth.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)
10. Consider the following statements :
- The Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi, gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao', in the elections of 1971.
 - The Left Front used the slogan of 'Land to the Tiller' in Kerala assembly elections in 1977.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 11 to 15) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE - I

Democracies that follow a Federal System all over the world tend to have two kinds of political parties : Parties that are present in only one of the Federal units and parties that are present in several or all units of the Federation. This is the case in India as well. There are some country-wide parties, which are called 'national parties'. Other than these, there are some parties which exist only in one or more than one state, referred to as the regional parties or state parties. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.

- How many seats are needed Bharat by a national party to win a seat in Lok Sabha ?
 (1) 3 (2) 5
 (3) 7 (4) 4
- How many seats are needed by a state party to join a seat in Legislative Assemblies ?
 (1) 2 (2) 3
 (3) 6 (4) 7
- Every party in the country has to register with the _____ commission.
 (1) Planning (2) Trade
 (3) Legal (4) Election
- Which of these is a state party ?
 (1) INC (2) TMC
 (3) BJP (4) BSP
- Which of these is a national party ?
 (1) Muslim League
 (2) Communist Party of India
 (3) Biju Janata Dal
 (4) Samajwadi Party

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 16 to 25) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the 'Assertion' and the other as 'Reason'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A:
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is true but R is false
 - A is false but R is true.
16. **Assertion :** In the Lok Sabha, 79 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 41 for the Scheduled Tribes.
Reason : This number is in proportion to their share in the total population of the country.
17. **Assertion :** In order to be a candidate, the minimum age is 25 years, while it is only 18 years for being a voter.
Reason : Every person whose name is on the voter's list can go to the nearby 'polling booth' to cast their votes.

18. **Assertion :** No party or candidate can use government resources for election campaign.
Reason : If they do so, their election can be rejected by the court, even after they have been elected.
19. **Assertion :** 'Save Democracy' was the slogan given by Janata Party in Lok Sabha elections of 1977.
Reason : The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
20. **Assertion :** Elections enable the people to judge the performance of the government.
Reason : In India, the losing parties accept the electoral verdict.
21. **Assertion :** The role of money and muscle power has increased in politics.
Reason : Parties nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.
22. **Assertion :** Forward Block is a state party of West Bengal.
Reason : Muslim League is a party prevailing in Uttar Pradesh.
23. **Assertion :** Bahujan Samaj Party was formed in 1984 by Kanshi Ram.
Reason : In order to represent and secure power for dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.
24. **Assertion :** Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve partisanship.
Reason : A political party has leaders, active members and followers.
25. **Assertion :** Everyone should have one vote, one value.
Reason : Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner.

Correct Definition Based MCQ

26. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'Constituency' ?
- (1) Voters in a political area who elect a representative to the legislative bodies.
 - (2) Voters in a social area who elect a representative to the legislative bodies.
 - (3) Voters in a geographical area who elect a representative to the legislative bodies.
 - (4) Voters in a geographical area who elect a representative to the judicial bodies.
27. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'Rigging' ?
- (1) Fraud and malpractices indulged by a minister to increase its votes.
 - (2) Fraud and malpractices indulged by a party or candidate to increase its votes.
 - (3) Fraud and malpractices indulged by a citizen to increase its votes.
 - (4) Fraud and malpractices indulged by a pressure group to increase its votes.
28. Which of the following is the correct definition of "Partisan" ?
- (1) A person who is strongly committed to a party group or faction.
 - (2) A candidate who is strongly committed to a movement.
 - (3) A student who is strongly committed to an interest group.
 - (4) A leader who is strongly committed to a movement.

29. Which of these is the correct definition of "Defection"?
- (1) Changing party allegiance to get maximum vote.
 - (2) Changing party allegiance to get hold of a new contract.
 - (3) Changing party allegiance to acquire money through false means.
 - (4) Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party.
30. Which of these is the correct definition of "Incumbent" ?
- (1) The current holder of a civil office.
 - (2) The current holder of a legal office.
 - (3) The current holder of a political office.
 - (4) The current holder of a social office.

Feature Based MCQ

31. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- (I) Ruling party at the centre from 1947 to 1977.
 - (II) Currently leads the ruling limited progressive alliance coalition.
 - (III) Jawaharlal Nehru was its significant member.
 - (IV) Founded in 1885.
- (1) Communist Party of India
 - (2) Trinamool Congress
 - (3) Indian National Congress
 - (4) Nationalist Congress Party
32. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- (I) Believes in Marxism Leninism.
 - (II) Has been in power in West Bengal for 30 years in continuation.
 - (III) Founded in 1964.
 - (IV) Objective of Socio-economic justice.
- (1) Trinamool Congress
 - (2) Communist Party of India
 - (3) Bahujan Samaj Party
 - (4) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
33. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- (I) Contests elections
 - (II) Shapes public opinion
 - (III) Roles of opposition
 - (IV) Forms and runs governments
- (1) Minister
 - (2) Movements
 - (3) Parties
 - (4) Press and Media
34. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- (I) Constituencies
 - (II) Voters' list
 - (III) Nomination of candidates
 - (IV) Polling and counting of votes
- (1) Democracy
 - (2) Ballot Paper
 - (3) Media
 - (4) Elections
35. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- (I) Takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections.
 - (II) Implements the code of conduct.
 - (III) Orders the government to follow some guidelines.
 - (IV) On election duty, government officers are under its control.
- (1) Planning Commission
 - (2) Election Commission
 - (3) Economic Commission
 - (4) Trade Commission

Exercise 1

1. (2) Devi Lal started 'Nyaya Yudh' against Congress. He led the government in Haryana. His party, Lok Dal, won absolute majority and formed the government in Haryana.
2. (3) Devi Lal government's economic policy did not lead to economic development in Haryana from 1987-1991.
3. (4) In all three bodies, elections are held regularly to choose the representative but in district collectorate, officials are appointed by the government.
4. (3) The voters are the main factor in deciding the fate of the government.
5. (4) Generally, tenure of Lok Sabha or State Assembly is five years but sometimes results in the collapse of the government; so, mid-term elections are held many times in India.
6. (3) It is normally held in case of death but sometimes, if post falls vacant due to other reasons, they can be held to fill the vacant seat.
8. (3) The boundaries of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies are shown in maps to give an idea about the electoral constituencies in a state.
9. (3) In elections, some seats are kept reserved for STs or SCs but Brahmins are not given reservation status due to their higher social status in society-caste system.
10. (3) This is also known as the electoral role. It is prepared in advance by the election commission.
11. (3) Election Photo Identity Card or EPIC is the new method introduced to conduct fair and free elections in India.
12. (3) It is not a deciding factor to contest elections, a person without any qualification can contest elections; in Lok Sabha.
13. (4) It is the maximum amount, a candidate can spend on the election campaign in any Lok Sabha election.
14. (1) The new system of Electronic Voting Machines has made the election very easy affair in the country.
15. (3) The Returning Officers are appointed by the Election Commission to conduct smooth elections in the districts.
16. (1) The election commission is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner, appointed by the President of India.
17. (3) It is the only option which is false, the elections still are very popular in Indian context.
18. (4) All the given statements support unfair electoral practices.
19. (4) It has no concern with wishes and aspirations of the people in elections.
20. (3) The code of conduct is related to the fair election. It is not associated with malpractices in elections.
21. (1) Political parties are most visible institutions of democracy.
22. (4) A political party has all three components like leaders, active members and the followers.
23. (4)
24. (4) Democracy provides proper scope for political parties.
25. (3) Political parties provide the people to access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government.
26. (2) Election Commission deal with all the affairs related to political parties like their registration, association of election symbols etc.
27. (3) In India, multi-party system exists.

28. (3) In U.S.A., there are only two parties - Republican and Democrats. Similarly, in U.K. there are two parties only- Labour and Conservative.
29. (3) A party that attains at least 6 percent votes in Lok Sabha elections and wins at least four seats in Lok Sabha is recognized as national party.
30. (1) A party that secures at least 6 percent of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly and 2 seats in assembly.
31. (3) According to the Election Commission, there were six national recognized parties in the country in 2006. They are Indian National Congress, BJP, BSP, CPI (M), CPI and NCP
32. (1) Indian National Congress was founded in 1885.
33. (2) W.C. Bonnerjee was the first President of the Indian National Congress.
34. (2) BJP was founded in 1980 by reviving erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
35. (4) Cultural Nationalism, confirm civil code, full political and territorial merger of Kashmir are the main issues of BJP.
36. (1) NDA is an alliance of many parties. But BJP plays a major role in this alliance.
37. (1) BSP was formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshi Ram.
38. (4) CPI (M) was established in 1964. It enjoys strong support in West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura. It has been in power in West Bengal, without a break for 30 years.

Exercise 2

1. (2) 2. (4) 3. (1) 4. (4) 5. (3)
6. (3) Political parties are very necessary to run governments in a democracy. Parties should aim at the overall benefit of the country.
7. (1) Communist Party of India (CPI) was founded in 1925.
8. (4) Parties provide access to the people to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by the government. Parties have to be responsive to people's needs and demands.
9. (2) Election campaign takes place for two week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.
10. (1) The left front used the slogan of 'Land to the Tiller' in West Bengal assembly elections in 1977.
11. (4) 12. (2) 13. (4) 14. (2)
15. (2) Communist Party of India was founded in 1925. It is present in states of Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
16. (1) Thus, the reserve seats for SC and ST do not take away the legitimate share of any other social group.
17. (2) Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called 'party ticket'. Once the voter goes inside the booth, the election officials identify him/her, put a mark on his/her finger and allow him/her to cast his/her vote.
18. (1) In addition to the laws, all the political parties in our country have agreed to a model code of conduct for election campaigns.
19. (3) The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the President of India.
20. (4) Elections enable the political parties to form the government.
21. (1) 22. (3) 23. (1) 24. (2) 25. (2)
26. (3) 27. (2) 28. (1) 29. (4) 30. (3)
31. (3) 32. (4) 33. (3) 34. (4) 35. (2)