

NON MAJOR ELECTIVE PAPER I

INDIAN POLITICS FOR CIVIL SERVICES EXAM

Paper Name: Indian Politics For Civil Services Exam

Paper code : 18BPO5EL

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UNIT 5

PARTY SYSTEM

A party system is a concept in comparative political science concerning the system of government by political parties in a democratic country. The idea is that political parties have basic similarities: they control the government, have a stable base of mass popular support, and create internal mechanisms for controlling funding, information and nominations.

The concept was originated by European scholars studying the United States, especially James Bryce and Moisey Ostrogorsky, and has been expanded to cover other democracies. Giovanni Sartori devised the most widely used classification method for party systems. He suggested that party systems should be classified by the number of relevant parties and the degree of fragmentation. Party systems can be distinguished by the effective number of parties.

Types of party systems

- One-party system: a system in which a single political party has the right to form the government, usually based on the existing constitution, or where only one party has the exclusive control over political power.
- Dominant-party system: a system where there is "a category of parties/political organizations that have successively won election victories and whose future defeat cannot be envisaged or is unlikely for the foreseeable future".
- Two party system: a system where only two parties or alliances, typically placed either side of the center, have a realistic chance of forming a majority. Other parties are very minor or solely regional. Example: The United States
- Multi-party system: a system in which multiple political parties have the capacity to gain control of government offices, separately or in coalition.
- Non-partisan system: a system of government or organization such that universal and periodic elections take place without reference to political parties.

Politics is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations between individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status. The academic study of politics is referred to as political science.

It may be used positively in the context of a "political solution" which is compromising and non-violent, or descriptively as "the art or science of government", but also often carries a negative connotation. For example, abolitionist Wendell Phillips declared that "we do not play politics; anti-slavery is no half-jest with us." The concept has been defined in various ways, and different approaches have fundamentally differing views on whether it should be used extensively or limitedly, empirically or normatively, and on whether conflict or co-operation is more essential to it.

A variety of methods are deployed in politics, which include promoting one's own political views among people, negotiation with other political subjects, making laws, and exercising force, including warfare against adversaries. Politics is exercised on a wide range of social levels, from clans and tribes of traditional societies, through modern local governments, companies and institutions up to sovereign states, to the international level. In modern nation states, people often form political parties to represent their ideas. Members of a party often agree to take the same position on many issues and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. An election is usually a competition between different parties.

A political system is a framework which defines acceptable political methods within a society. The history of political thought can be traced back to early antiquity, with seminal works such as Plato's Republic, Aristotle's Politics, Chanakya's pressure group

A pressure group is an organization that seeks to influence elected officials to take action or make a change on a specific issue. These groups include trade unions, ethnic associations, churches. Pressure groups date back all the way to Medieval Europe when merchants and craftsmen came together and created trade guilds based on their line of work to advocate and support members. At the time of the Industrial Revolution, the first trade unions appeared to advocate for the betterment of working conditions. Today, there are pressure groups from many different backgrounds with the aim to influence the outcomes of policies in their group's favor.

Pressure groups get associated with terms such as lobbying groups and interest groups as many members prefer to not call them pressure groups given the negative connotation of the word. Since the number of political parties is limited in the United States, pressure groups have increased in number and power. Some pressure groups are very large organizations and represent thousands of people across the country, while others focus on more niche causes. Thus, these organizations fall across the political spectrum.

India is a parliamentary secular democratic republic in which the President of India is the head of state

and the Prime Minister of India is the head of government. ... There are 543 members in the Lok Sabha,

who are elected from the 543 Indian constituencies.

Different types of democracies

- Direct democracy.
- Representative democracy.
- Constitutional democracy.
- Monitory democracy.

Democracy is that form of government in which the ruling power is vested not in any individual, or in a particular class or classes but in the members of the community as a whole.” Albert Venn Dicey characterised it as – “A form of government in which the governing body is comparatively a large fraction of the entire ...

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