

CLASS:-12TH

POLITICAL SCIENCE NOTES

CHAPTER :-18

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN POLITICS

Context of the 1990s

- After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister and he led the Congress to a massive victory in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1984.
- The decade of the eighties witnessed five developments that left a long-lasting impact on our politics. These were:
 - The defeat of the Congress party in the elections held in 1989.
 - Rise of the 'Mandal Issue' in national politics.
 - The economic policy (also known as new economic policy) followed by various governments.
 - A number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya (known as BabriMasjid) in December, 1992.
 - The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 led to a change in leadership of the Congress party.

Decline of Congress

- During late sixties, the dominance of the Congress party was challenged, but the Congress under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, managed to re-establish its predominant position.
- After elections of 1989 political development in India initiated an era of coalition governments at the centre in which regional parties played a crucial role in forming ruling alliances.

Alliance Politics

- Elections in 1989 led to the new development in Indian politics and era of coalition government started.
- Regional parties played an important role in the United Front government that came to power in 1996.
- The BJP continued to consolidate its position in the elections of 1991 and 1996 and it emerged as the largest party in the 1996 election and was invited to form government.

With the elections of 1989, a long phase of coalition politics began in India. Since then, there have been nine governments at the centre, all of which have either been coalition governments or minority governments supported by other part