POLITICAL SCIENCE, NOTES

NCERT BASED

CLASS:--12<sup>TH</sup>, CHAPTER:-11

ERA OF ONE PARTY DOMINANCE

Nature of Congress Dominance

- The dominance of Congress party was in democratic condition. The roots of extraordinary success of the Congress party go back to the legacy of the freedom struggle.
- The Congress brought together diverse groups, whose interests were often contradictory.
- By the time of independence, the Congress was transformed into a rainbow-like social coalition broadly representing India's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages and various interests.

• This coalition-like character of Congress gave it an unusual strength.

#### **Tolerance and Management of Factions**

- Groups within party with diverse ideologies are called factions. Some of these factions were based on ideological considerations but very often these factions were rooted in personal ambitions and rivalries.
- The coalition nature of the Congress party tolerated and in fact encouraged various factions.

#### **Emergence of Opposition Parties**

- The roots of almost all the Non-Congress parties of today can be traced to one or the other of the opposition parties of the 1950s.
- These opposition parties offered a sustained and often principled criticism of the policies and practices of the Congress party.

• This kept the ruling party under check and often changed the balance of power within the Congress.

# Socialist Party

- The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress.
- In 1948, the Congress amended its Constitution to prevent its members from having a dual party membership. This forced the socialists to form a separate socialist party in 1948.

• They criticised the Congress for favouring capitalists and landlords and for ignoring the workers and peasants.

The Communist Party of India (CPI]

- In the early 1920s communist groups emerged in different parts of India taking inspiration from the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- In 1951 the communist party abandoned the path of violent revolution and decided to participate in the approaching general elections.

• AK Gopalan, SA Dange, EMS Namboodripad; PC Joshi, Ajay Ghosh and P Sundarraya were among the notable leaders of the CPI.

# Bhartiya Jana Sangh [BJS]

- The Bhartiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder President.
- It emphasised the idea of one
- country, one culture and one nation and believed that the country could become modem, progressive and strong on the basis of Indian culture and traditions.

# <u>Swatantra Party</u>

- Swatantra party was formed in August in 1959. The party was led by old Congressmen like C. Rajgopalachari, KM Munshi, NG Ranga and Minoo Masani.
- The party was critical of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, centralised planning, nationalisation and the public sector. It instead favoured expansion of a free private sector.