

Political Science

Class 12

History notes

Chapter 18

Recent Developments in Indian Politics

Political Rise of Other Backward Classes

- When the support for the Congress among many sections of the 'backward castes' had declined, this created a space for non-Congress parties to get their support.
- Many of the constituents of the Janata party, like the Bhartiya Kranti Dal and the Samyukta party, had a powerful rural base among some sections of the OBC.

'Mandal' Implemented

- The period of 1980s-90s saw the emergence of many parties that sought better opportunities for OBCs in education and employment and also raised the question of the share of power enjoyed by the OBCs.
- The Mandal commission was set-up to investigate the extent of educational and social backwardness among various sections of Indian society.
- After investigation the commission recommended reserving 27 per cent of seats in educational institutions and government jobs for these groups.
- In August 1990, the national front government implemented the recommendations of the commission.

Political Fallout

1980 onwards the caste based politics dominated Indian politics. In 1989 and 1991, this was the first time in independent India that a political party (BSP) supported by Dalit voters had achieved a landmark political success. In Many Parts of India, Dalit politics and OBC politics have developed independently and often in competition with each other.

Communalism, Secularism, Democracy

- During 1990s the politics based on religious identity emerged in India and debate about secularism and democracy came in currency. After Shah Bano case of 1985 BJP emerged as a 'Hindutva Party'.
- The Babri Masjid was a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya and was built by Mir Baqi -Mughal emperor Babur's General.
- Some Hindus believe that it was built after demolishing a temple for Lord Rama.
- The dispute took the form of a court case and has continued for many decades.
- The Babri Masjid was demolished on 6th December, 1992. After demolition, the news led to clashes between the Hindus and Muslims in many parts of the country.
- In February-March, 2002, large-scale violence against Muslims took place in Gujarat. The violence began from Godhra.
- This incident alert us to the dangers involved in using religious sentiments for political purposes.

Emergence of a New Consensus

- Analysis shows that since 1989 election, the votes polled by the two parties- Congress and BJP do not add upto more than 50 per cent.

- The political competition during the nineties is divided between the coalition led by BJP and the coalition led by the Congress.

Lok Sabha Elections 2004

In 2004 elections, the coalition led by BJP National Democratic Alliance was defeated and new coalition led by the Congress, known as the United Progressive Alliance came to power.