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Ch: CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY (Notes)

Thinking about Political Reforms

All the suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called '**democracy reform**' or '**political reform**'. The below-mentioned guidelines will help in devising ways and means for political reforms in India:

1. Law has an important role to play in political reform. Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. But legal-constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. Democratic reforms are to be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.
2. The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms. The Right to Information Act is a good example of a law that empowers the people to find out what is happening in government and act as watchdogs of democracy.
3. The main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice.
4. Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how.

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