



SYLLABUS

Class – B.A. (HONS.) MASS COMMUNICATION

V Semester

Subject – Current Affairs

Unit-I	World organization: UNO and its main Agencies. Military Pacts: their form action and objectives.
Unit-II	Contemporary crisis affecting nations such as war etc. National affairs: unique features of India as one nation Nature of political and Economic structure.
Unit-III	Salient features of the planning process. Brief introduction to the political parties. Formation objectives and problem.
Unit-IV	Elections: Kinds, conduct problems, issues, Wave: Enduring social problems, Important contemporary problems nature and genesis.
Unit-V	Science: Introduction to some important areas of sciences (with special reference to a few frontier areas).



UNIT – I UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

The United Nations Organization was formed on Oct. 24, 1945 with an objective to facilitate cooperation in International law, security, social progress, economic development, social justice and world peace. It replaced the League of Nations which was formed in 1918 after the First World War.

H.Q. – New York City

Official languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish.

General Secretary - António Guterres

Flag – A world map surrounded by two olive branches in white colour on a light blue background. This flag was adopted on December 7, 1946.

MAIN ORGANS OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

United Nations Organization is made up of five main organs including-

- (A) General Assembly – Structurally it is similar to a greater parliament. It is an assembly of all United Nations Member states having regular annual meeting sessions.
- (B) Secretariat – It is the office of secretary general, assisted by a staff of international civil servants. It also carries out tasks directed by various United Nations Bodies. The secretary General is the senior most authority & spokesperson of UNO. Trygve Lie (Norway) was the first secretary general of United Nations Organization. Present Secretary General is Ban Ki Moon (South Korea) since 2007.
- (C) Security Council – The United Nations Security Council is a very powerful body having rights to make binding decisions on member countries as per the terms of Charter Article 25. It is made up of 15 members including five permanent members – USA, UK, Russia, China & France and 10 temporary members having terms of every two year.
- (D) Economic & Social Council – It promotes economic & social development and co-operation at international level. Currently it has 54 members.
- (E) International Court of Justice – also known as the World Court is the main judicial organ of the UN. Its 15 judges are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council voting independently and concurrently. The court decides disputes between countries based on the voluntary participation of the states concerned. The court also gives advisory opinions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It is a primary judicial organ of United Nations Organization. Its Head Quarter is located at Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Official languages of the Court are English & French.

Specialized Agencies of United Nations Organization

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) – H.Q. is in Rome and was formed in 1945

Aim – To improve agriculture, forestry & fisheries services to ensure good nutrition and to ensure food security for every resident of member countries. Works to improve agriculture productivity and to better the living standards of rural population.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) - H.Q. is in Vienna (Austria). It has its regional offices at Toronto & Tokyo

It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization, established on 29th July, 1957.



B.A. (HONS.) Mass Communication V Semester

Sub. - Current Affairs

Aim - To work as an intergovernmental forum for scientific & technical co-operation in peaceful use of nuclear energy & **atomic** technology.

ILO (International Labour Organization) was established in 1919. Its H.Q. is in Geneva.

Works as an intergovernmental organization for the development of labours. Representatives of Government, employers and labourers in the meetings of this organization.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) was established on 4th November, 1946, H.Q. is in Paris.

Promotes education for all, cultural development, protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage. It is aimed to world peace & security by promoting International Collaboration in order to universal respect for justice, human rights and fundamental freedom. It also works for peace building, eradication of poverty & illiteracy and to establish inter-cultural dialogue through the education, science, culture, communication & information.

UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) was established in the year 1967, H.Q. is in Vienna

It promotes & accelerates industrial development in developing countries. It also promotes industrial co-operation worldwide.

IMF (International Monetary Fund)- established in 1946, H.Q. - Washington DC

It fosters global growth & economic stability worldwide. It also provides financial help to the member countries in need.

World Bank - 1945, H.Q. - Washington DC

In chiefly provides loans to the developing countries. It is comprised of IBRD & International development Association.

WHO (World Health Organization)- formed in 1948, H.Q. - Geneva

It is basically concerned with public health.

WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) - was created in 1967, H.Q. - Geneva

It promotes creative intellectual activities. It also facilitates transfer of technology related to industrial property to the developing countries in order to foster economic, social & cultural development.

WTO (World Tourism Organization) - came into operation on November 1, 1974. H.Q. - Geneva

Serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and is a practical source of tourism.

WMO (World Meteorological Organization) - established in 1950. H.Q. - Geneva

Promotes scientific research on the earth's atmosphere and on climate change and facilitates the global exchange of meteorological data.



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Establishment 8th Dec. 1985

H.Q. - Kathmandu

Members - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka.

Observers – Australia, China, European Union, Japan, Iran, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea, United States.

Present Secretary General – Arjun Bahadur Thapa

Aims & objectives –

- To promote progress & development of member countries & improve their quality of life.
- To ensure economic growth, social development & cultural progress.
- To establish atmosphere of self reliance & mutual co-operation among member countries.
- To develop mutual understanding on one-another's problems.
- To promote active collaboration & mutual assistance in social, economic, cultural, technical & scientific sectors.
- To support other regional & international organizations having similar aims & objectives
- To respect sovereignty, territorial integrity, political equality & independence of all member states.
- To ensure non-interference in the internal matters.
- To avoid prejudices for bilateral controversial issues & to have concern for multi lateral issues of all member nations.

MILITARY PACTS: THEIR FORM ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

In 1949, the prospect of further Communist expansion prompted the United States and 11 other Western nations to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Soviet Union and its affiliated Communist nations in Eastern Europe founded a rival alliance, the Warsaw Pact, in 1955. The alignment of nearly every European nation into one of the two opposing camps formalized the political division of the European continent that had taken place since World War II (1939-45). This alignment provided the framework for the military standoff that continued throughout the Cold War (1945-91).

Conflict between the Western nations (including the United States, Great Britain, France and other countries) and the Communist Eastern bloc (led by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR) began almost as soon as the guns fell silent at the end of World War II (1939-45). The USSR oversaw the installation of pro-Soviet governments in many of the areas it had taken from the Nazis during the war. In response, the U.S. and its Western allies sought ways to prevent further expansion of Communist influence on the European continent. In 1947, U.S. leaders introduced the Marshall Plan, a diplomatic initiative that provided aid to friendly nations to help them rebuild their war-damaged infrastructures and economies.

Did You Know?

NATO continued its existence beyond the Cold War era and gained new member nations in Eastern Europe during the late 1990s. That development was not well received by leaders of the Russian Federation and became a source of post-Cold War tension between the East and the West.

Events of the following year prompted American leaders to adopt a more militaristic stance toward the Soviets. In February 1948, a coup sponsored by the Soviet Union overthrew the democratic government



of Czechoslovakia and brought that nation firmly into the Communist camp. Within a few days, U.S. leaders agreed to join discussions aimed at forming a joint security agreement with their European allies. The process gained new urgency in June of that year, when the USSR cut off ground access to Berlin, forcing the U.S., Britain and France to airlift supplies to their sectors of the German city, which had been partitioned between the Western Allies and the Soviets following World War II.

NATO: THE WESTERN NATIONS JOIN FORCES

The discussions between the Western nations concluded on April 4, 1949, when the foreign ministers of 12 countries in North America and Western Europe gathered in Washington, D.C., to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. It was primarily a security pact, with Article 5 stating that a military attack against any of the signatories would be considered an attack against them all. When U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson (1893-1971) put his signature on the document, it reflected an important change in American foreign policy. For the first time since the 1700s, the U.S. had formally tied its security to that of nations in Europe—the continent that had served as the flash point for both world wars.

The original membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) consisted of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States. NATO formed the backbone of the West's military bulwark against the USSR and its allies for the next 40 years, with its membership growing larger over the course of the Cold War era. Greece and Turkey were admitted in 1952, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in 1955 and Spain in 1982. Unhappy with its role in the organization, France opted to withdraw from military participation in NATO in 1966 and did not return until 1995.

WARSAW PACT: THE COMMUNIST ALLIANCE

The Warsaw Pact, formally the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, was a collective defense treaty signed in Warsaw among the Soviet Union and seven Soviet satellite states of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

Founded: 14 May 1955, Warsaw, Poland

Headquarters: Moscow, Russia

Dissolved: 1 July 1991

The formation of the Warsaw Pact was in some ways a response to the creation of NATO, although it did not occur until six years after the Western alliance came into being. It was more directly inspired by the rearming of West Germany and its admission into NATO in 1955. In the aftermath of World War I and World War II, Soviet leaders felt very apprehensive about Germany once again becoming a military power—a concern that was shared by many European nations on both sides of the Cold War divide.

In the mid-1950s, however, the U.S. and a number of other NATO members began to advocate making West Germany part of the alliance and allowing it to form an army under tight restrictions. The Soviets warned that such a provocative action would force them to make new security arrangements in their own sphere of influence, and they were true to their word. West Germany formally joined NATO on May 5, 1955, and the Warsaw Pact was signed less than two weeks later, on May 14. Joining the USSR in the alliance were Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Hungary, Poland and Romania. This lineup remained constant until the Cold War ended with the dismantling of all the Communist governments in Eastern Europe in 1989 and 1990.

Like NATO, the Warsaw Pact focused on the objective of creating a coordinated defense among its member nations in order to deter an enemy attack. There was also an internal security component to the agreement that proved useful to the USSR. The alliance provided a mechanism for the Soviets to exercise even tighter control over the other Communist states in Eastern Europe and deter pact members from seeking greater autonomy. When Soviet leaders found it necessary to use military force to put down



renaissance

college of commerce & management

B.A. (HONS.) Mass Communication V Semester

Sub. - Current Affairs

revolts in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968, for example, they presented the action as being carried out by the Warsaw Pact rather than by the USSR alone.

renaissance
renaissance
renaissance



UNIT-II

NATIONAL AFFAIRS: UNIQUE FEATURES OF INDIA AS ONE NATION

India's geographical unity:

The Indian peninsula and vast plains are bounded by the ocean on three sides and the land stretches to the highest peaks of the Himalaya in north. The vast swap to the land ends in the East with the Burma. In the West, just past the Indus, the mountainous come downwards towards the ocean against forming a natural boundary.

Early civilization all developed on the banks of great river system- Egypt on the Nile, Mesopotamia on the great river systems of the Indus and the Gangatic plain- one of the richest- soil- climate systems of the world; on the Narmada and Cauvery. And because of the ease of access in the land throughout the ages, there was an enormous interchange of thought and ideas, people and customs, and there developed a culture that is distinctly Indian, and the same time incredibly diverse.

The culture's distinctive nature evolved precisely because the unique geography facilitated it. The large mountains and bodies of water separated it from surrounding culture to give it its distinctiveness. The low barriers to movement within this land mass ensured an ease of access to build a coherent whole. This ensured that the exchanges that took place within this large separated Petri dish were much deeper and longer lasting than those that took place with those from without. Hence was created a unique and diverse civilization.

POLITICAL UNITY: Among the earliest political consolidations, even by the dates of present colonial scholarship, was under the Mauryas from the 6th century BC to the 3rd century BC, when most of India was under their rule.

After the Mauryas, there was repeated political consolidation of large parts of India, even when all of it was not under a single rule. The Kanishkas consolidated the north from the Hindu Kush Mountainous to Bihar and south to Gujarat and Central India. The Satavahana Empire, considered to be founded by high official of the Mauryas, consolidated the south and central parts.

The Gupta Empire again politically consolidated the area from Afghanistan to Assam and south to the Narmada, possibly exerting political control even down south. Samudragupta led an expedition all the way down to Kanchipuram in present Tamil Nadu. While the southern areas were not formally part of the empire, they were quite likely de-facto vassal states, paying tribute to the emperor. The only other major comparable empires in the world of this size at the time the Chinese and the Roman.

Note that it would be a thousand years after the Mauryas Empire was established and even much after the Gupta Empire that the Anglo-Saxon in the 5th century AD would first move into the region that would later be called England. It would be nearly five hundred more years before the territory of England would be consolidated as an independent political entity. Only much later would there be attempts at unity of Great Britain. The United Kingdom that includes Scotland, Wales and Ireland is only a recent political artifact.

After the Gupta Empire, the Chalukya-Chola dynasty consolidated most of India in the south, leading expedition even up to the north of the Ganges River.

Later on, much of India would be consolidated again under the Mughals, and after the Mughal Empire disintegrated, by the British.

So while the British were the last power, before the current state of India, to administratively consolidated its territory (as well as to divide it up as they left), they were by no means the first ones to do so.

Even when multiple kingdoms existed, these kingdoms were not like the countries of today with a passport and visa regime needed to cross and all kind of regulations on movement of goods and people, a continued exchange of ideas, people, goods and scholarship took place throughout the sub- continent, largely unmindful of the boundaries of kingdoms.

Furthermore, the territorial boundaries of India were largely maintained. There were few, if any, times before the British came when large parts of India were consolidated into kingdoms that were centered outside it. There were no significant long-lasting kingdoms, for instance, that ruled from Persia to the Ganges plain or from Burma to Bengal, or from China or Tibet to Delhi. There was a separated and



integrity to this land, unlike European countries or even Europe as a whole. For centuries, the Romans consolidated North Africa and southern Europe into contiguous centrally ruled empire, as did the Ottomans after them. Central Asia became part of one external empires or another.

Even in the case of the British, when all of India became part of a larger empire centered outside it for the first time, it was clear that it was distinct from Burma, for instance, even though they were contiguous land areas ruled by the British. And thus the freedom movements in Burma and India were separated. Burma and India did not become one after their respective independence, nor was there any call by Indian or Burmese nationalists to do so.

Thus there was an idea of India that made it be regarded as separate and whole, even through political change and shifting boundaries of internal kingdoms.

THE IDEA OF INDIA:

This then becomes our second question – is the *idea of India as unit a new idea brought by the British or did it exist long before the British came? Did the people of this vast land recognize that they were linked together? Did they share a common story of their civilization? Or their Indian-ness, their Bharatiyata?* Remarkably, the ideas of India, as Bharatvarsha or Aryavrata, appears to have been alive for thousands of years in our stories, thousands of years before there was an America or a Great Britain or a Mexico or France.

From Manusmriti, we learn of the land of Aryavrata stretching from the Himalayas and Vindhya all the way to the eastern and western ocean. Without the ideas of Bharata, there could have been no epic called the Mahabharata that engaged kings throughout this land of Bharata the story of Mahabharata shows a remarkable degree of pan-India context and inter-relationship, from 'Gandhari', the wife of Arjun meeting and marrying the Naga princess Uloopi on a visit to Manipur in the east. Interestingly, Arjun is said to have gone on a pilgrimage to the holy places of the east when this happens, showing the current North-East was very much linked in this. Finally, Krishna himself is from Mathura and Vrindavan though his kingdom itself is in Dwarka.

Similarly, the story of Ramayana draws the north-south linkage from Ayodhya all the way down to Rameshwaram, at the tip of which is finally the land of Lanka. Note that it is not, for this particular thesis, important that the stories are historical accurate. What we are interested in rather is whether the idea of India or Bharatvarsha or Aryavrata as a culturally linked entity existed in the minds of the story-tellers and ultimately in the minds of the people to whom these stories were sacred. And these stories were then taken and told and retold in all the languages of the people of this great civilization, till the stories themselves established a linkage among us and to sacred geography they celebrated. This sacred geography is what makes northerners flock to Tirupati and southerners to the Kumbha mela.

And the diffusion of these common ideas was certainly not only from the north to south. The great Bhakti movement started in the 6th and 7th centuries AD had its roots in the south in the Tamil and Kannada languages. Even while the boundaries of kingdoms changed, enormous cultural and religious unity continued to take place across India.

The Bhakti movement retold our ancient stories in the language of the common people, in Marathi and Bengali, in Awadhi and Bhojpuri, in Gujarati and Punjabi and in Rajasthani. The Bhakti poets initiated the great movement for devotion to Shiva in the south; the erudite philosophy of Kashmir Shaivism was being developed coevally in the north. Or that Kamban in the south was the first poet to take the story of Rama to the major regional languages, and Tulsidas, much closer to the Ayodhya, came centuries later. Or that the great 'Krishna Bhakta' Chaitanya his devotion to the king of Dwarka in Bengal while Tukaram sang praises of Lord Vitthal in the west. An immense body of pan-India worship revolved around the triad of Vishnu, Shiva and Shakti in their various forms- whether as Rama, Krishna Sri Venkateshwar, Sri Dakshinamurti, Jagdamba, Durga Mata or Kali. These common stories were told and retold without the mandate of any central church and spread through the pores of the land of Bharata, forging a shared bond, unlike any other seen on the planet. It was this of civilization unity and sacred geography of the India that inspired Shankaracharya to not only enunciate the mysteries of the Vedanta but to go around setting up mathas circumscribing the land of India in a large diamond shape. While sage Agastya crossed the



Vindhya and come down south; Shankaracharya was born in the village of Kalady in Kerala and traveled in the opposite direction for the establishment of dharma. If this land was not linked in philosophical and cultural exchanges, and there was no notion of a unified nation, why then did Shankaracharya embark on his countrywide Digvijay yatra? What prompted him to establish centers spreading light for the four quadrants of this land- Dwarka in the west, Puri in the east Shringeri in the south and Badrinath in the north? He is then said to have gone to Srinagar in Kashmir, which still celebrates this in the name of Shankaracharya Hill. What better demonstration that the idea of the cultural unity of the land was alive more than a thousand years ago?

There are plenty of secular states. What is unique feature about us is that we are Indians with a history of civilization rooted in our religious and cultural ideas. That is why we are a nation today, not because of secularism. If false notions of secularism prevent us from understanding the roots of our nationhood, we will all the lesser for it. But go back to the question, nations are born but are also made. If we fail to understand our common civilization, we will ultimately fall prey to those that seek to destroy us- by convincing us that we have none that India is a British construction and so on. The effect of this will not only be a separation from the Indian state, but from the Indian tradition. To see the devastating effects of this, consider that we are still paying the price of our first partition based on accepting colonial ideas and still struggling with its wounds. If India gets split up into different countries, we will all lose- there will be more wars, more armies, and all the lines we draw will be artificial and straight across our hearts.

Every child in America in a public school recites an oath of alleges every morning in front of the American flag. They obviously take their nationhood seriously, even as they are a young nation. While we are old as a civilization, we are young as a country. Our education is based on colonial scholarship. Nationhood is ultimately a feeling of being one people. To strengthen this feeling and being resilient to divisive propaganda, we need to see that every child in India is educated about why we are a nation, lest we forget why we are together.

NATURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA-

"India" with a population of around a billion and an electorate of over 700 million - is the world's largest democracy and, for all its faults and flaws, this democratic system stands in marked contrast to the democratic failures of Pakistan and Bangladesh which were part of India until 1947. Unlike the American political system and the British political system which essentially have existed in their current form for centuries, the Indian political system is a much more recent construct dating from India's independence from Britain in 1947.

The current constitution came into force on 26 January 1950 and advocates the trinity of justice, liberty and equality for all citizens. The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world, containing 444 articles, 12 schedules and 98 amendments, with almost 120,000 words in its English language version.

In stark contrast with the current constitution of Japan which has remained unchanged, the constitution of India has been one of the most amended national documents in the world with almost 100 changes. Many of these amendments have resulted from a long-running dispute involving the Parliament and the Supreme Court over the rights of parliamentary sovereignty as they clash with those of judicial review of laws and constitutional amendments.

India's lower house, the Lok Sabha, is modeled on the British House of Commons, but its federal system of government borrows from the experience of the United States, Canada and Australia.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The head of state in India is the President. This is normally a ceremonial role, originally modeled on the British monarch to "advise, encourage and warn" the elected government on constitutional matters. The President can return a Parliamentary Bill once for reconsideration and, in times of crisis such as a hung Parliament, the role is pivotal. The President can declare a state of emergency which enables the Lok Sabha to extend its life beyond the normal five-year term. As members of an electoral college, around 4,500 members of the national parliament and state legislators are eligible to vote in the election of the



President. There is also the post of Vice-President who is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of both houses of parliament. The Vice-President chairs the upper house called the Rajya Sabha. The head of the government is the Prime Minister who is appointed by the President on the nomination of the majority party in the lower house or Lok Sabha. Currently the Prime Minister is Manmohan Singh of the ruling United Progressive Alliance. Ministers are then appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and these ministers collectively comprise the Council of Ministers.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The lower house in the Indian political system is the Lok Sabha or House of the People. As set out in the Constitution, the maximum size of the Lok Sabha is 552 members, made up of up to 530 members representing people from the states of India, up to 20 members representing people from the Union Territories, and two members to represent the Anglo-Indian community if it does not have adequate representation in the house according to the President. Currently the size of the house is 545 – made up of 530 elected from the states, 13 elected from the territories, and two nominated from the Anglo-Indian community. By far the largest state representation is that of Uttar Pradesh with 80 members. At the other end of the scale, three states have only one representative each. There are certain constituencies where only candidates from scheduled casts and scheduled tribes are allowed to stand. Each member – except the two nominated ones – represents a geographical single-member constituency as in the British model for the House of Commons. Each Lok Sabha is formed for a five year term, after which it is automatically dissolved, unless extended by a Proclamation of Emergency which may extend the term in one year increments. This has happened on three occasions: 1962-1968, 1971 and 1975-1977. Elections are huge and complex affair which nationwide are held in five separate rounds taking a total of 28 days.

The upper house in the Indian political system is the Rajya Sabha or Council of States. As set out in the Constitution, the Rajya Sabhas has up to 250 members. 12 of these members are chosen by the President for their expertise in specific fields of art, literature, science, and social services. These members are known as nominated members. The remainder of the house – currently comprising 238 members - is elected indirectly by the state and territorial legislatures in proportion to the unit's population. Again, of course, the largest state representation is that of Uttar Pradesh with 31 members. The method of election in the local legislatures is the single transferable vote. Terms of office are for six years, with one third of the members facing re-election every two years. The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous session and, unlike the Lok Sabha, it is not subject to dissolution.

The two houses share legislative powers, except in the area of supply (money) where the Lok Sabha has overriding powers. In the case of conflicting legislation, a joint sitting of the two houses is held. If there is a conflict which cannot be resolved even by the joint committee of the two houses, it is solved in the joint session of the Parliament, where the will of the Lok Sabha almost always prevails, since the Lok Sabha is more than twice as large as the Rajya Sabha.

POLITICAL PARTIES

In India, political parties are either a National Party or a State Party. To be considered a National Party, a political party has to be recognized in four or more states and to be either the ruling party or in the opposition in those states. Ever since its formation in 1885, the Indian National Congress (INC) – and its successor - has been the dominant political party in India. For its first six decades, its focus was on campaigning for Indian independence from Britain. Since independence in 1947, it has sought to be the governing party of the nation with repeated success.

As a result, for most of its democratic history, the Lok Sabha has been dominated by the Indian Congress Party which has been in power for a great deal of the time. However, since the Congress Party lost power in 1989, no single party has been able to secure an overall majority in the Lok Sabha, making coalitions inevitable. Also, unlike Japan where the Liberal Democrat Party has been in power almost continuously, Congress has had (usually short) periods out of power, between 1977-1980, 1989-1991 and 1996-2004. The original Congress Party espoused moderate socialism and a planned, mixed economy. However, its



spin-off and successor, Congress (I) - 'I' in honor of Indira Gandhi - now supports deregulation, privatization and foreign investment.

While the Congress Party has historically dominated Indian politics, the leadership of the Congress Party in turn has been dominated by one family: Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, served for 17 years; his daughter Indira Gandhi later became Prime Minister; his grandson Rajiv Gandhi was also Prime Minister; currently the widow of Rajiv Gandhi, the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi holds the position as Congress President although she has refused to accept the post of Prime Minister; and her son Rahul Gandhi is a Member of Parliament, while her daughter Priyanka Gandhi is an active political campaigner.

The Indian Congress Party is the leading party in the Centre-Left political coalition called the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) which embraces a total of 16 parties.

The other major, but more recently-established, political party in India is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Created in 1980, it represents itself as a champion of the socio-religious cultural values of the country's Hindu majority and advocates conservative social policies and strong national defence. The BJP, in alliance with several other parties, led the government during 1998-2004.

The Bharatiya Janata Party is the leading party in the Right-wing political coalition called the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). When it was originally founded in 1998, there were 13 parties in the coalition but currently there are eight.

A Third Front is a grouping centered on the Communists.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in civil, criminal and constitutional cases. The court consists of up to 26 judges, including the Chief Justice of India, all of whom are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. They serve until the age of 65.

THE STATES

India is a huge country both demographically and geographically and consequently it operates a federal system of government. Below the national level, there are 28 States and seven Union Territories.

The largest of India's states is Uttar Pradesh (UP) in the north of the country. With over 175 million inhabitants, UP is the most populous state in India and is also the most populous country subdivision in the world. On its own, if it was an independent nation, this state would be the world's sixth biggest country. Only China, India itself, the United States, Indonesia and Brazil have a higher population.

In Indian general elections, it fills more than one-seventh of the seats in India's Parliament and, such is the state's caste-based and sometimes violent politics that, currently a quarter of UP's MP's face criminal charges.

Over the years, India has evolved from a highly centralized state dominated by one political party to an increasingly fragmented nation, more and more influenced by regional parties and more and more governed locally by unstable multi-party alliances. In the General Election of 2009, Congress and the BJP faced each other in only seven of the 28 States; elsewhere, one of the two national parties faced a regional party.

Economic structure: The economy of India is the tenth-largest in the world by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). The country is one of the G-20 major economies and a member of BRICS. On a per-capita-income basis, India ranked 141st by nominal GDP and 130th by GDP (PPP) in 2012, according to the IMF. India is the 19th-largest exporter and the 10th-largest importer in the world. The economy slowed to around 5.0% for the 2012-13 fiscal year compared with 6.2% in the previous fiscal. On 28 August 2013 the Indian rupee hit an all time low of 68.80 against the US dollar. In order to control the fall in rupee, the government introduced capital controls on outward investment by both corporate and individuals. India's GDP grew by 9.3% in 2010-11; thus, the growth rate has nearly halved in just three years. GDP growth rose marginally to 4.8% during the quarter through March 2013, from about 4.7% in the previous quarter. The government has forecast a growth rate of 6.1%-6.7% for the year



renaissance

college of commerce & management

B.A. (HONS.) Mass Communication V Semester

Sub. - Current Affairs

2013–14, whilst the RBI expects the same to be at 5.7%. Besides this, India suffered a very high fiscal deficit of US\$ 88 billion (4.8% of GDP) in the year 2012–13. The Indian Government aims to cut the fiscal deficit to US\$ 70 billion or 3.7% of GDP by 2013–14. The independence-era Indian economy (from 1947 to 1991) was based on a mixed economy combining features of capitalism and socialism, resulting in an inward-looking, interventionist policies and import-substituting economy that failed to take advantage of the post-war expansion of trade. This model contributed to widespread inefficiencies and corruption, and the failings of this system were due largely to its poor implementation.

In 1991, India adopted liberal and free-market principles and liberalized its economy to international trade under the guidance of Former Finance minister Manmohan Singh under the Prime Ministry of P.V. Narasimha Rao, prime minister from 1991 to 1996, who had eliminated License Raj, a pre- and post-British era mechanism of strict government controls on setting up new industry. Following these major economic reforms, and a strong focus on developing national infrastructure such as the Golden Quadrilateral project by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the country's economic growth progressed at a rapid pace, with relatively large increases in per-capita incomes.



UNIT III

SALIENT FEATURES OF PLANNING PROCESS: Rudimentary economic planning, deriving the sovereign authority of the state, first initiated in India in 1938 by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose when he was the Congress president and drafted by Meghnad Saha. The British Raj also formally established a planning board that functioned from 1944 to 1946. Industrialists and economists independently formulated at least three development plans in 1944. Some scholars have argued that the introduction of planning as an instrument was to transcend the ideological divisions between Gandhi and Nehru. Some other scholars have argued that Planning Commission as a central agency in the context of plural democracy in India needs to carry out more functions than rudimentary economic planning.

After India gained independence, a formal model of planning was adopted, and accordingly the Planning Commission, reporting directly to the Prime Minister of India was established on 15 March 1950, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as the chairman. The Planning Commission does not derive its creation from either the Constitution or statute, but is an arm of the Central/Union Government.

The first Five-year Plan was launched in 1951 which mainly focused in development of agricultural sector and two subsequent five-year plans were formulated till 1965, when there was a break because of the Indo-Pakistan Conflict. Two successive years of drought, devaluation of the currency, a general rise in prices and erosion of resources disrupted the planning process and after three Annual Plans between 1966 and 1969, the fourth Five-year plan was started in 1969.

The Eighth Plan could not take off in 1990 due to the fast changing political situation at the Centre and the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 were treated as Annual Plans. The Eighth Plan was finally launched in 1992 after the initiation of structural adjustment policies.

For the first eight Plans the emphasis was on a growing public sector with massive investments in basic and heavy industries, but since the launch of the Ninth Plan in 1997, the emphasis on the public sector has become less pronounced and the current thinking on planning in the country, in general, is that it should increasingly be of an indicative nature.

Organization: The composition of the Commission has undergone a lot of change since its inception. With the prime minister as the ex officio Chairman, the committee has a nominated Deputy Chairman, who is given the rank of a full Cabinet Minister. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is presently the Deputy Chairman of the Commission. Cabinet Ministers with certain important portfolios act as ex officio members of the Commission, while the full-time members are experts of various fields like Economics, Industry, Science and General Administration. Present ex officio members of the Commission, are Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister, Home Minister, Health Minister, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister, Information Technology Minister, Law Minister, HRD Minister and Minister of State for Planning. The Commission works through its various divisions, of which there are three kind:

- General Planning Divisions
- Programme Administration Divisions.
- The majority of experts in the Commission are economists, making the Commission the biggest employer of the Indian Economic Services.

FUNCTION:

The Planning Commission's functions as outlined by the Government's 1950 resolution are following:

1. To make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, including technical personnel, and investigate the possibilities of augmenting those are related resources which are found to be deficient in relation to the nation's requirement.
2. To formulate a plan for the most effective and balanced utilization of country's resources.
3. To define the stages, on the basis of priority, in which the plan should be carried out and propose the allocation of resources for the due completion of each stage.
4. To indicate the factors that tends to retard economic development.



5. To determine the conditions which need to be established for the successful execution of the plan within the incumbent socio-political situation of the country.
6. To determine the nature of the machinery required for securing the successful implementation of each stage of the plan in all its aspects.
7. To appraise from time to time the progress achieved in the execution of each stage of the plan and also recommend the adjustments of policy and measures which are deemed important vis-a-vis a successful implementation of the plan.
8. To make necessary recommendations from time to time regarding those things which are deemed necessary for facilitating the execution of these functions? Such recommendations can be related to the prevailing economic conditions, current policies, measures or development programmes. They can even be given out in response to some specific problems referred to the commission by the central or the state governments.

STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES: FORMATION AND OBJECTIVE

The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] Indian People's Party, created in 1980, is one of the two major national political parties in India. It projects itself as a champion of the socio-religious cultural values of the country's Hindu majority, conservative social policies, and strong national defense. Its constituency is strengthened by the broad umbrella of Hindu nationalist organizations, informally known as the Sangh Parivar (League of Indian nationalist organizations), in which the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh plays a leading role. The BJP, in alliance with several other parties, led the Government of India between 1998 and 2004, under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani, its most senior leaders. It is the leading party within the National Democratic Alliance and leads the opposition.

Ideology: The BJP is a religious conservative political organization. It sees itself as rising to the defense of indigenous culture, and Indian religious systems which include Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism and Buddhism. To many Hindu nationalists, Bharat is a Hindu Rashtra, literally a Hindu nation. According to BJP, this definition does not exclude Muslims, Christians. Hindu Rashtra is portrayed as cultural nationalism and Hinduism as the entire complex system of culture, history, faith and worship that have evolved in India over the past 5,000 years. In the political language of Hindu nationalists, all the peoples of India, their cultures and heritage are "Hindu," which literally means "inhabitant of the land of the river Sindhu," the modern-day Indus.

Organization: The BJP is one of the few parties in India to have a popular-based governing structure, where workers and leaders at the local level have a great say in much of the decision-making. This has also been blamed for public spats between different factions of the party.

The topmost leader in the party is supposed to be the party President. Officially, the BJP constitution provides for a three-year term for the President. Recently, both Venkiah Naidu and LK Advani resigned ahead of schedule due to circumstances. Rajnath Singh has held this post since January 2006. Elections will be held on November 26, 2006, in which it is widely perceived Mr. Singh will have no opposition to officiate his term. Beyond this, there are several Vice-Presidents, General-Secretaries, Treasurers and Secretaries. The National Executive consists of an undetermined number of senior party leaders from across the nation who is the highest decision-making body in the party. At the state level, a similar structure is in place, with every state unit being led by the respective President, who also officially serves a three-year term.

The rank-and-file leadership of BJP largely derives from the cadre of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which has millions of affiliates. It also maintains close links to other Sangh Parivar organizations, such as Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Swadeshi Jagran Manch (an organisation promoting consumption of domestic goods over foreign imports).

Mass organisations associated with the BJP include:

- Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (All-India Students' Council)
- Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (Indian People's Youth Front)
- Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (India Peasants' Union)



- Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (Indian Workers' Union)
- BJP Mahila Morcha (Indian Popular Women's Front)
- BJP Minority Morcha (Indian Popular Minority Front)
- Outside of India, BJP followers have formed the 'Overseas Friends of BJP'.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES:

1. The Repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants a special status to Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir and prevents non-Kashmir from owning property in the state, in an effort to protect its Muslim-majority.
2. The Promulgation of a Uniform Common Civil Code, which create only one personal and civil law code for Hindus, Muslims and Christians, who enjoy the privilege of having law codes tailored to their religious culture over personal and family matters. In the minds of BJP supporters, this system creates a sense of division in the country between religious communities.
3. A Ban on Cow Slaughter, to honor the Hindu tradition of deeming cows and most cattle as sacred, and prohibiting the consumption of beef and pork.
4. The Ban on Religious Conversions. The BJP argues that it has become virtually impossible to distinguish 'forcible' incidents of conversion from personal choice.
5. The Construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya.
6. To achieve the full territorial and political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Presently over 40% of the territory is under the control of Pakistan and China.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS: The Indian National Congress (abbreviated INC, and commonly known as the Congress) is one of the two major political parties in India. It is the largest and one of the oldest democratically-operating political parties in the world. The party's modern liberal platform is largely considered to be on the centre-left of the Indian political spectrum in contrast to the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Organization was founded in 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume, Dadabhai Naoroji, Dinshaw Wacha, Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee, Surendranath Banerjee, Monomohun Ghose, Mahadev Govind Ranade and William Wedderburn. Hume was also a prominent member of the Theosophical Society. In the following decades, the Indian National Congress became a pivotal participant in the Indian Independence Movement, with over 15 million members and over 70 million participants in its struggle against British colonial rule in India. After independence in 1947, it became the nation's dominant political party; in the 15 general elections since independence, the Congress has won an outright majority on six occasions, and has led the ruling coalition a further four times, heading the central government for a total of 49 years. It has been led by the Nehru-Gandhi family for the most part, with major challenges for party leadership emerging only since 2010.

In the most recent general elections in 2009, the Congress emerged as the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, with 206 of its candidates getting elected to the 543-member house. Consequently it, as the leader of a coalition of political parties called the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), was able to gain a majority and form the government.

Ideology and policies:

Historically, the party has supported and advocated in favor of farmers, laborers, worker's unions (Labor), and religious and ethnic minorities; it has also advocated in favor of the regulation of business and finance, and has looked favorably upon the levying of income taxes. However, in recent years the party has turned towards centrist economic and social democratic policies. Today, the INC advocates neo-liberal policies as well as populism, social liberalism, and secularism.

Social policy of the INC is officially based upon the Gandhian principle of Sarvodaya (upliftment of all sections of the society.) In particular INC emphasizes upon policies to improve the lives of the



economically underprivileged and socially non-privileged sections of society. This includes publicizing employment generation efforts for the rural population (through schemes such as National Rural Employment Generation Scheme) etc. The party supports the somewhat controversial concept of family planning with birth control.

Economic

Initially and for a long time, the economic policy of the INC was centered on the public sector and aimed at establishing a "socialistic pattern of society." However, after the recent adoption of economically liberal policies started by Manmohan Singh the-then Finance Minister in the early 1990s, the economic policy of INC has been changed somewhat and has now adopted free market policies, though at the same time it is in favor of taking a cautious approach when it comes to liberalizing the economy claiming it is to help ensure that the weaker sectors are not affected too hard by the changes that come with liberalization.

Organizational structure: The organizational structure created by Mohandas Gandhi's re-arrangement of the Congress in the years of 1918 to 1920 has largely been retained till today.

In every Indian state and union territory or pradesh, there is a Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), which is the state-level unit of the party, responsible for directing political campaigns at local and state levels and assisting the campaigns for Parliamentary constituencies. Each PCC has a Working Committee of 10-15 key members, and the state president is the leader of the state unit. The Congressmen elected as members of the state's legislative assemblies form the Congress Legislature Parties in the various state assemblies, and their chairperson is usually the party's nominee for Chief Minister Ship.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) is formed of delegates sent from the PCCs around the country. The delegates elect various Congress committees, including the Congress Working Committee, which consists of senior party leaders and office bearers, and takes all important executive and political decisions.

The President of the Indian National Congress is in effect the party's national leader, head of the organization, head of the Working Committee and all chief Congress committees, chief spokesman and the Congress choice to become the Prime Minister of India.

Constitutionally, the president is to be elected by the vote of the PCCs and members of the AICC. However, this procedure has often been by-passed by the Working Committee, choosing to elect its own candidate as a result of conditional circumstances.

The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) is the group of elected MPs in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It was headed previously by senior Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee until June 2012. But since Pranab was nominated as the candidate for Presidential election and was subsequently elected as the President of India, he demitted this post. Since the current Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is not an elected member of the Lok Sabha, another senior Congress leader and Union Home minister Sushilkumar Shinde was elected as the CPP president. Dr. Singh is Leader of the Rajya Sabha. There is also a CLP leader in each state. The CLP (Congress Legislative Party) consists of all Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in each state. It also comes under the CPP so Pranab is head of the MLAs also. In cases of states where the Congress is single-handedly ruling the government, the CLP leader is the Chief Minister.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA: The Communist Party of India (CPI) or Bharatiya Kamyunist Parṭi is a communist party in India. In the Indian communist movement, there are different views on exactly when the Indian communist party was founded. The date maintained as the foundation day by CPI is 26 December 1925. But the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which separated from the CPI, claims that the party was founded in 1920.



Origins: The party was founded in 1982, through the mergers of CPI (ML) Unity Organization of N. Prasad (Bihar) and Bhowani Roy Chowdhury (West Bengal) and the COC, CPI (ML) faction led by M. Appalasuri. CPI (ML) Unity Organization had been founded in 1978 by a group of Naxalites from the Jehanabad-Palamu area, that had been released from prison in 1977. The Central Organizing Committee, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) had been formed by some elements of the erstwhile CPI(ML). The COC, CPI (ML) upheld the legacy of Charu Majumdar but was ready to retain a critical attitude to some aspects of Majumdar's role.

SAMAJWADI PARTY: Samajwadi Party (SP; literally, *Socialist Party*; founded October 4, 1992) is a recognised state political party in India based in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (UP). It describes itself as a democratic socialist party and is mainly representing the interests of a caste grouping called Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The Samajwadi Party was one of several parties that emerged when the Janata Dal (People's League), fragmented into several regional parties. The Samajwadi Party is led by Mulayam Singh Yadav, who was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and defence minister of India.

Position in state and national politics: The Samajwadi Party has been providing outside support to the United Progressive Alliance government. However, it contested the 2009 general election in alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Lok Janshakti Party of Bihar.

The Samajwadi Party (S.P) still supports the central UPA Government from outside at the national level. It is currently the third-largest party in parliament. In general elections in 2009, it won 23 seats, behind the Indian National Congress with 206 seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party with 116 seats.

In West Bengal, West Bengal Socialist Party of Kiranmoy Nanda had merged with SP. SP has three MLAs in Maharashtra, two MLAs in Bihar and one MLA each in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

BAHUKAN SAMAJ PARTY: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is a national political party in India. It was formed mainly to represent Bahujans (literally meaning "People in majority"), referring to people from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes (OBC) as well as minorities. The party claims to be inspired by the philosophy of B. R. Ambedkar. The BSP was founded by a Dalit charismatic leader Kanshi Ram in 1984, who was succeeded by Mayawati in 2003. The party's political symbol is an Elephant. In the 15th Lok Sabha the party has 21 members, making it the 4th-largest party. The BSP has its main base in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.



UNIT IV

ELECTION:

An election is a formal decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office. Elections have been the usual mechanism by which modern representative democracy has operated since the 17th century. Elections may fill offices in the legislature, sometimes in the executive and judiciary, and for regional and local government. This process is also used in many other private and business organizations, from clubs to voluntary associations and corporations. India has an asymmetric federal government, with elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. At the national level, the head of government, Prime Minister, is elected by the members of Lok Sabha, lower house of the parliament of India. All members of Lok Sabha except two, who can be nominated by president of India, are directly elected through general elections which take place every five years, in normal circumstances, by universal adult suffrage. Members of Rajya Sabha, upper house of Indian parliament, are elected by elected members of the legislative assemblies of states and electoral college for Union Territories of India.

In 2009, the elections involved an electorate of 714 million (larger than both EU and US elections combined). Declared expenditure has trebled since 1989 to almost \$300 million, using more than one million electronic voting machines.

The size of the huge electorate mandates that elections be conducted in a number of phases (there were four phases in 2004 General Elections and five phases in 2009 General Elections). It involves a number of step-by-step processes from announcement of election dates by the Election Commission of India, which brings into force the 'model code of conduct' for the political parties, to the announcement of results and submission of the list of successful candidates to the executive head of the state or the centre. The submission of results marks the end of the election process, thereby paving way for the formation of the new government.

INDIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM: The Parliament of India comprises the head of state and the two Houses which are the legislature. The President of India is elected for a five-year term by an electoral college consisting of members of federal and state legislatures. The House of the People (*Lok Sabha*) intend to represent the Anglo-Indian community (as envisaged by the Constitution of India, currently the members of Lok Sabha are 545, out of which 543 are elected for 5-year term and 2 members represent the Anglo-Indian community). The 550 members are elected under the plurality ('first past the post') electoral system.

Council of States (*Rajya Sabha*) has 245 members, 233 members elected for a six-year term, with one-third retiring every two years. The members are indirectly elected, this being achieved by the votes of legislators in the state and union (federal) territories. The elected members are chosen under the system of proportional representation by means of the Single Transferable Vote. The twelve nominated members are usually an eclectic mix of eminent artists (including actors), scientists, jurists, sportspersons, businessmen and journalists and common people.

ELECTORAL PROCESS: Electoral Process in India takes at least a month for state assembly elections with the duration increasing further for the General Elections. Publishing of electoral rolls is a key process that happens before the elections and is vital for the conduct of elections in India. The Indian Constitution sets the eligibility of an individual for voting. Any person who is a citizen of India and above 18 years of age is eligible to enroll as a voter in the electoral rolls. It is the responsibility of the eligible voters to enroll their names. Normally, voter registrations are allowed latest one week prior to the last date for nomination of candidates.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail system (VVPAT): The Government of India, via notification, dated 14 August 2013, has amended the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, enabling the Election Commission of India to use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail system (VVPAT) with the Electronic Voting Machines. The



Election Commission of India has decided to use the VVPAT system at the By-election for 51 Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland.

Pre elections: At first before the elections the dates of nomination, polling and counting takes place. The model code of conduct comes in force from the day the dates are announced. No party is allowed to use the government resources for campaigning. The code of conduct stipulates that campaigning be stopped 48 hours prior to end of polling.

Voting day: Government schools and colleges are chosen as polling stations. The Collector of each district is in charge of polling. Government employees are employed to many of the polling stations. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are being increasingly used instead of ballot boxes to prevent election fraud via booth capturing, which is heavily prevalent in certain parts of India. An indelible ink is applied usually on the left index finger of the voter as an indicator that the voter has cast his vote. This practice has been followed since the 1962 general elections to prevent a bad vote.

"None of the above" voting option (Negative Vote)

"None of the above" is a proposed voting option in India that would allow voters who support none of the candidates available to them to register an official vote of "none of the above", which is not currently allowed under India election regulation. The Election Commission of India told the Supreme Court in 2009 that it wished to offer the voter a none of the above button on voting machines; the government, however, has generally opposed this option.

On September 27, 2013, Supreme Court of India pronounced a judgment that citizen's of India have Right to Negative Vote by exercising None of the above (NOTA) option in EVMs and ballot papers. The judgment was passed on a PIL filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties, an NGO in 2009. Election Commission has implemented this option of "None of the above" voting option in EVM machines w.e.f. five states polls starting from Nov.2013. However it does not mean that if 'NOTA' gets highest votes then election will be conducted again, rather even in that case the candidate who got more votes among all will be treated as elected candidate.

Post elections: After the Election Day, the EVMs are stored in a strong room under heavy security. After the different phases of the elections are complete, a day is set to count the votes. The votes are tallied typically, the verdict is known within hours. The candidate who has mustered the most votes is declared the winner of the constituency.

The party or coalition that has won the most seats is invited by the President to form the new government. The coalition or party must prove its majority in the floor of the house (Lok Sabha) in a vote of confidence by obtaining a simple majority (minimum 50%) of the votes in the house.

VOTER REGISTRATION: For few cities in India, the voter registration forms can be generated online and submitted to the nearest electoral office. But in most of the states they have to do nomination in the nomination office made by the state election commissioner.

Absentee voting

Currently, India does not have an absentee ballot system. Section 19 of The Representation of the People Act (RPA)-1950 allows a person to register to vote if he or she is above 18 years of age and is an 'ordinary resident' of the residing constituency i.e. living at the current address for 6 months or longer. Section 20 of the above Act disqualifies a non-resident Indian (NRI) from getting his/her name registered in the electoral rolls. Consequently, it also prevents a NRI from casting his/her vote in elections to the Parliament and to the State Legislatures.

In August 2010, Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill-2010 which allows voting rights to NRI's was passed in both Lok Sabha with subsequent gazette notifications on November 24, 2010. With this NRI's will now be able to vote in Indian elections but have to be *physically present* at the time of voting. Several civic society organizations have urged the government to amend the RPA act to allow NRI's and



people on the move to cast their vote through absentee ballot system. People for Lok Satta have been actively pushing combination of internet and postal ballot as a viable means for NRI voting. Electronic ballots are used in Brazilian elections.

The universal use of elections as a tool for selecting representatives in modern democracies is in contrast with the practice in the democratic archetype, ancient Athens. As the Elections were considered an oligarchic institution and most political offices were filled using a process known as allotment, by which office holders were chosen by lot.

Electoral reform describes the process of introducing fair electoral systems where they are not in place, or improving the fairness or effectiveness of existing systems. Psephology is the study of results and other statistics relating to elections (especially with a view to predicting future results).

To *elect* means "to choose or make a decision" and so sometimes other forms of ballot such as referendums are referred to as elections, especially in the United States.



UNIT-V

MARS ORBITER MISSION

The **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)**, also called **Mangalyaan** is a spacecraft orbiting Mars since 24 September 2014. It was launched on 5 November 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

The Mars Orbiter Mission probe lifted-off from the First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota) Andhra Pradesh using a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket C25 on 5 November 2013. After a 298-day transit to Mars, it was successfully inserted into Mars orbit on 24 September 2014.

It is India's first interplanetary mission and ISRO has become the fourth space agency to reach Mars, after the Soviet space program, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It is also the first nation to reach Mars orbit on its first attempt, and the first Asian nation to do so.

The total cost of the mission was approximately ₹450 crore making it the least-expensive Mars mission to date. The low cost of the mission was ascribed by K. Radhakrishnan the chairman of ISRO, to various factors, including a "modular approach", a small number of ground tests and long (18-20 hour) working days for scientists. An opinion piece in 'The Hindu' pointed out that the cost was equivalent to less than a single bus ride for each of India's population of 1.2 billion.

Spacecraft specifications

- **Mass:** The lift-off mass was 1,350 kg (2,980 lb), including 852 kg (1,878 lb) of propellant.
- **Bus:** The spacecraft's bus is a modified I-1K structure and propulsion hardware configuration, similar to Chandrayaan-1, India's lunar orbiter that operated from 2008 to 2009, with specific improvements and upgrades needed for a Mars mission. The satellite structure is constructed of aluminum and composite fiber reinforced plastic sandwich construction.
- **Power:** Electric power is generated by three solar array panels of 1.8 m × 1.4 m (5 ft 11 in × 4 ft 7 in) each (7.56 m² (81.4 sq ft) total), for a maximum of 840 watts of power generation in Mars orbit. Electricity is stored in a 36 Ah Li-ion battery.



- **Propulsion:** A liquid fuel engine with a thrust of 440 newtons is used for orbit raising and insertion into Mars orbit. The orbiter also has eight 22-newton thrusters for attitude control. Its propellant mass is 852 kg.

Nobel Prize Winners of 2014

- Kailash Satyarthi – Nobel Peace Prize
- Malala Yousafzai – Nobel Peace Prize
- Patrick Madiano – Literature Nobel Prize
- Shuji Nakamura – Physics Nobel Prize
- Hiroshi Amano – Physics Nobel Prize
- Isamu Akasaki – Physics Nobel Prize
- Edvard Moser – Physiology Nobel Prize
- May Britt Moser – Physiology Nobel Prize
- John O'Keefe – Physiology Nobel Prize
- William E. Moerner – Chemistry Nobel Prize
- Eric Betzig – Chemistry Nobel Prize
- Stefan Hell – Chemistry Nobel Prize