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Democracy in India

Introduction

- Although evidence of democracy is found in the Vedic period of ancient India by the presence of organizations like Sabha, Samiti, and Vidath and some republics.
- But The role of four revolutions, England's Bloodless Revolution of 1688, the American Revolution of 1776, the French Revolution of 1789, and the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century prevailed in stabilizing the present form of democracy. The glorious revolution of England ensured that Parliament should be approved against the backdrop of administrative policy and state laws. After years of colonial rule, India has also accepted parliamentary democracy.
- The word 'Democracy' is actually derived from Greek origins and essentially means "rule by the people". Democracy in the modern world is a form of government where people have the ultimate authority over how the Nation operates. Before elaborating upon the key features of democracy, let's take a look at its two basic forms: Direct and Representative.
 - **Direct Democracy** is a type of Democracy where people carry out direct discourse among each other on various topics to arrive at a decision based on the majority opinion. Every person put forth their opinion in the form of a vote to carry out or stop any law or related action. This type of democracy only works in small-sized organizations, being practically impossible with the immense population of a Country.
 - **Representative Democracy** focuses on the principle of people electing their representatives. One of the salient features of this type of democracy is that the elected representatives serve the nation on the public's behalf by taking up various positions of responsibility. This form of Democracy is much more viable to be translated into a form of government nationwide.

The philosophical basis of democracy

- Individual is the unit of the system
- Belief in the dignity of the person
- Providing Liberty and Rights
- Abolition of privileges in society
- Prohibition from humanized discrimination
- Limited and Constitutional Governance
- Participatory Governance
- Responsible governance

- Regular election

Idea of Democracy during British India and Post-independence

Mahatma Gandhi on Democracy

- “Democracy must mean the art of science of mobilizing the entire physical, economic and spiritual resources of all the various sections of people in the service of the common good for all.”
- “To safeguard democracy the people must have a keen sense of independence, self-respect and their oneness, and should insist upon choosing as their representatives only such persons as are good and true.”
- Gandhian concept of Self Rule means Swaraj is real democracy, where people’s power rests in the individuals and each one realizes that he or she is the real master of one’s self.

Nehru on Democracy

- “Democracy, if it means anything, means equality; not merely the equality of possessing a vote but economic and social equality.”

Karachi resolution

- In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session reflected the vision of democracy that meant not just formal holding of elections but a substantive reworking of the Indian social structure in order to have a genuine democratic society.

The framers of the Indian Constitution were inspired by principles of social equality and political justice to introduce adult suffrage immediately—a big step forward to protect our Indian Democracy.

After independence, India decided to have democratic political system. This system is characterised by three elements: one, there is a high degree of autonomy; two, economic agents and religious organisations are free from political interference; and three, competition between various orders does not endanger integration but helps it. The first generation of Indian leaders wanted their country to be a liberal democracy, in which a person’s faith—or language, or caste, or gender—didn’t earn her better or worse treatment by the state.

The Courts of India has several times kept parliamentary laws and executive orders invalid to protect the rights of the people and protect the individual liberty in the country, keeping the democratic element alive.



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