

## 8 CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY

### CONCEPT

#### THINKING ABOUT CHALLENGES AND POLITICAL REFORMS

- **How do we define a challenge?**
- A challenge means a situation that requires some action. It is a difficulty which has to be overcome.
- Broad challenges to democracy are —
  - (i) **Foundational challenges** : Some countries had to face the challenge of transition to the democratic style of government. They had to have laws and policies that would be followed in a democratic set-up.
  - (ii) **Challenge of expansion** : Countries which are already democratic face the challenge of expanding it to all social groups and regions. All institutions should follow democracy in their functioning.
  - (iii) **Deepening of democracy** : It means strengthening those institutions that have people's participation and control. It means bringing down the control of the rich and the powerful people in making government decisions.
- Different countries have different challenges.
- Challenges to democracy have to be dealt at the local or state level. All reforms cannot be made at the national level.
- **Devising ways and means for political reforms in India.**
  - A. (i) One way is legal reform, making new laws to ban undesirable things.
    - (ii) But legal-constitutional changes cannot overcome challenges to democracy.
    - (iii) The reforms have to be carried out mainly **by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.**
  - B. **Legal changes** sometimes have a counter-productive result. But laws which empower people to carry out democratic reforms are best, e.g. the Right to Information Act.
  - C. Democratic reforms are spread or brought about through political practice. Main focus of political reforms is **strengthening democracy.**
  - D. While proposing a political reform, one should be very clear about **who will implement it and how.** Political parties and MPs will never vote for a legislation that is against their interests.

## CASE STUDY

### Political funding

#### Challenge :

On an average, every candidate who contested the last Lok Sabha elections owned a property of more than one crore. There is a fear that only wealthy people or those with their support can afford to fight elections. Most of the political parties are dependent on money given by big business houses. The worry is that the role of money in politics will reduce whatever little voice the poor have in our democracy.

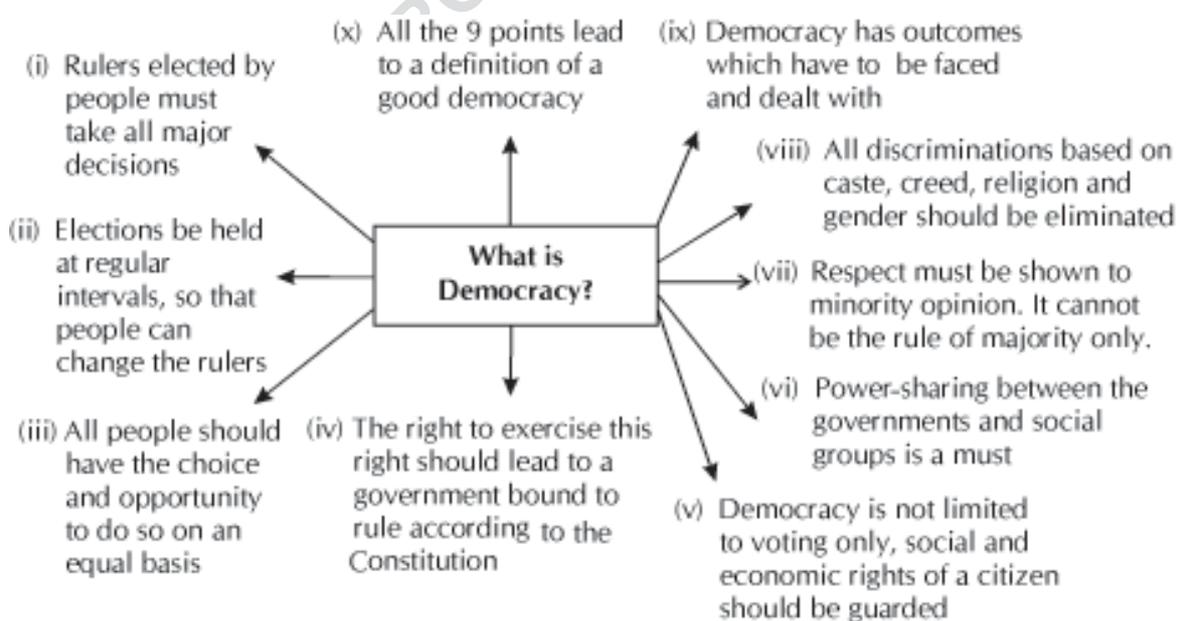
#### Reform proposals :

- The financial accounts of every political party should be made public. These accounts should be examined by government auditors.
- There should be state funding of elections. Parties should be given some money by the government to meet their election expenditure.
- Citizens should be encouraged to give more donations to parties and to political workers. Such donations should be exempt from income tax.

#### Reform Politics :

One cannot blame politicians for all the ills of our country. The politicians are no more corrupt than government officials, contractors or any middle-class professionals, politicians, but get more publicity. Laws cannot stop politicians, if they want to be corrupt. Only people and politicians together can stop corruption in politics and overcome wrong practices (e.g. appeals to caste and community).

### Redefining Democracy



# I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

## A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

Q.1. Each of these cartoons represents a challenge to democracy. Describe what that challenge is.

1.



3.



2.



4.



Ans. These cartoons illustrate the following challenges to democracy :

1. The first cartoon shows that Mubarak has not been elected by democratic laws and rules. The ballot boxes have not been opened! This is a **foundational challenge** where institutions of democracy have not been established.
2. In the second cartoon again, there is the rule of the gun! No democracy. The challenge is to establish democracy and it is a **foundational challenge**.

3. The third cartoon shows the **challenge of expansion**. The leader talks about gender equality, about more women to be included in power position, but in reality, women are not included in position of power.
4. In the fourth cartoon, it is a **deepening of democracy**, money power is used by the rich to achieve position of power to reach the White House.

**Q.2. Describe the challenges to democracy in the cases and context given here.**

Questions	Answers
Case and context	Your description of the challenges to democracy in that situation
<p><b>Chile</b> : General Pinochet's government defeated, but military still in control of many institutions.</p> <p><b>Poland</b> : After the first success of Solidarity, the government imposed martial law and banned Solidarity.</p> <p><b>Ghana</b> : Attained independence, Nkruma elected president.</p> <p><b>Myanmar</b> : Suu Kyi under house arrest for more than 15 years, army rulers getting global acceptance</p> <p><b>International organisations</b> : US as the only super power disregards the UN and takes unilateral action</p> <p><b>Mexico</b> : Second free election after the defeat of PRI in 2000; defeated candidate alleges rigging.</p> <p><b>China</b> : Communist Party adopts economic reforms but maintains monopoly over political power.</p> <p><b>Pakistan</b> : General Musharraf holds referendum, allegations of fraud in voters' list.</p>	<p>Example : Establishing civilian control over all governmental institutions, holding the first multi-party elections, recalling all political leaders from exile.</p> <p>The challenge is to re-establish democracy and take away the martial law. Ban should be lifted and free and fair elections be allowed.</p> <p>To preserve democracy. Not allow Nkruma to become a dictator and hold elections regularly.</p> <p>Military rule to be challenged. Suu Kyi should be freed and act as a leader elected by common consent. Governments military rules should not be accepted by the world.</p> <p>The US should not be allowed to bully other nations. All nations have equal powers in the UN. UN should assert its authority. (as in Iraq and now in Iran)</p> <p>The challenge is to have free and fair elections. No candidate should win due to rigging. Democracy has not taken roots.</p> <p>One-party rule, no democracy, people have no voice in the decision making, foundational challenge to democracy.</p> <p>It means that institutions of democracy are not strong. It is a military rule. Democracy has not expanded or deepened.</p>

**Iraq :** Widespread sectarian violence as the new government fails to establish its authority.

**South Africa :** Mandela retires from active politics, pressure on his successor Mbeki to withdraw some concessions given to White minority.

**US, Guantanamo Bay :** UN Secretary-General calls this a violation of international law, US refused to respond

**Saudi Arabia :** Women not allowed to take part in public activities, no freedom of religion for minorities

**Yugoslavia :** Ethnic tension between Serbs and Albanians on the rise in the province of Kosovo. Yugoslavia disintegrated

**Belgium :** One round of constitutional change taken place, but the Dutch speakers not satisfied; they want more autonomy.

**Sri Lanka :** The peace talks between the LTTE break down renewed violence.

**US, Civil Rights :** Blacks have won equal rights, but are still poor, less educated and marginalised.

A weak centre, incapable of controlling the country. Thus a challenge of expansion.

Democracy has not deepened. The majority group cannot suppress the rights of the minority. It has also not expanded to take in all social groups, can lead to conflict.

US misusing its power. A rich country disregarding the world opinion. The UN has to face the challenge of making US listen to world opinion.

No democracy. It faces all challenges—foundational, of expansion, and deepening of democracy. All social groups not given equal rights. Religious freedom disallowed.

Democracy has failed to keep the country together. The differences of region, religion and social groups has led to the break-up of the country.

In this case, the majority is trying to dominate at the expense of the minority. The challenge is to keep social groups together.

Once again foundational challenge. The majority is imposing its will on the minority, hence, civil war. government and the

Democracy won, but it has not deepened in America. The Blacks are still denied equal education and are a challenge to democracy.

<p><b>Northern Ireland :</b> The civil war has ended but Catholics and Protestants yet to develop trust</p> <p><b>Nepal :</b> Constituent Assembly about to be elected, unrest in Terai areas, Maoists have not surrendered arms</p> <p><b>Bolivia :</b> Morales, a supporter of water struggle, becomes Prime Minister, MNCs threaten to leave the country.</p>	<p>Peace but not fully accepted. Religious divisions have created mistrust, challenge is of deepening democracy.</p> <p>This is the transition period, Nepal is giving up monarchy and struggling to become a democracy. Foundational challenge.</p> <p>Again social groups have not come together. Democracy has not expanded.</p>
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**Q.3. Group the countries given in Q.2 by the nature of these challenges as per the classification suggested in the first section. For each of these categories, find at least one example from India as well.**

<b>Foundational challenges</b>	
<b>Challenge of expansion</b>	
<b>Challenge of deepening</b>	

**Ans.**

**Foundational challenges** Saudi Arabia, Nepal, China, Myanmar, India : Checking terrorism

**Challenge of expansion** Iraq, Bolivia, Belgium, US : Civil Rights, India : Women still have a low status; there is lack of literacy

**Challenge of deepening** South Africa, USA : Challenges before India are of corruption, casteism and criminalisation in politics, poverty.

**Q.4. Think of all the challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India. List those five that should be addressed first of all. The listing should be in order of priority, i.e., the challenge you find most important or pressing should be mentioned at number 1, and so on. Give one example of that challenge and your reasons for assigning it the priority.**

Ans.

Priority	Challenges to democracy	Example	Reasons for preference
1.	Over-population	Whatever economic growth, or whatever progress we make is negated by ever growing population.	Smaller countries like UAE, Singapore, Malaysia have made tremendous progress because of small population.
2.	Poverty and Unemployment	A result of our bursting population. Percentage of people living below the poverty line is still 26.10%	Poverty leads to clashes and violence, India can never be counted as a super power till we remove poverty and unemployment.
3.	Illiteracy and Ignorance	Ten Five-Year Plans have failed to have total literacy in India, Kerala is the only state to have achieved it.	Leads to ignorance and superstitions. Ignorance leads people astray. People cannot select a good government.
4.	Casteism	Has corrupted politics. Candidates chosen from their castes	People have lost faith in political parties, able people are not elected. Voters do not come to vote, bad for democracy.
5.	Communalism	Led to the partition of India. Riots take place every year in some parts of India.	Threatens the unity of the country, leads to conflicts, riots and divisive tendencies.

### OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (AS PER CCE PATTERN)

#### B. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

**Q.1. Which of the following statements are true?**

- 1 – The promise of democracy is far from being realised anywhere in the world.  
2 – Democracy is better than any other form of government.  
3 – Democracy faces many challenges.

- (a) Only 1                      (b) 1 and 2  
(c) 1, 2 and 3                (d) 2 and 3

Ans. (c)

**Q.2. What is *not true* regarding a challenge?**

- (a) Any sort of problem or difficulty is

called a challenge.

- (b) A challenge is a difficulty which is significant and which can be overcome.  
(c) A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress.  
(d) Once we overcome a challenge, we go up to a higher level than before.

Ans. (a)

**Q.3. Which of the following countries are facing the foundational challenge of democracy?**



**PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS**

**Q.1. Which one of the following is a challenge of expansion ? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Keeping away from controlling government
- (b) Greater power to local government
- (c) To reduce the control of the rich
- (d) Strengthening of democratic institutions

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.2. Which one of the following is *not true* regarding how politics can be reformed? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Only legal constitutional changes can reform politics.
- (b) There is a need to strengthen democratic practices.
- (c) Citizen's organisations and media should play an active role.
- (d) The citizens should be empowered through rights like the Right to Information.

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.3. Which one of the following is *not true* regarding 'Democratic Reforms'?**

[2011 (T-2)]

- (a) Legal measures can sometimes prove to be counter-productive.
- (b) The media should play an active role.
- (c) Legal measures always help in reforming politics.
- (d) Political empowerment and participation of citizens can help.

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.4. Which one of the following is a desirable condition that a good democracy should have? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Eliminates discrimination based on gender, caste and religion.
- (b) Rulers take all the major decisions.
- (c) Rulers are elected by the people.
- (d) Providing right to vote.

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.5. Which one of the following countries disintegrated due to ethnic tension between the Serbs and the Albanians ?**

[2011 (T-2)]

- (a) Yugoslavia
- (b) Belgium
- (c) England
- (d) France

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.6. Which of the following statements about democracy is false? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) People feel free and equal in a democracy
- (b) Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others
- (c) Democratic government is more accountable to the people.
- (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.7. Every established democracy faces :**

[2011 (T-2)]

- (a) challenge of expansion
- (b) challenge of deepening of democracy
- (c) challenge of foundation
- (d) challenge of dictatorship

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.8. Mention reforms that Indian democracy needs: [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) New laws to ban undesirable things.
- (b) It is important to improve quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
- (c) Reforms in the administration that will reduce corruption in the political circles.
- (d) All of the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.9. Which one of the following features is not true regarding the definition of a democratic government? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Rulers are elected by people
- (b) Elected rulers take all the major decisions

- (c) Elections offer a choice to change the current rulers
- (d) Government is not limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizen's rights.

Ans. (d)

**Q.10. Which one of the following laws empowers the people to find out the government's functioning and act as watchdog of democracy? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- (b) The Right to Information Act
- (c) Consumer Protection Act
- (d) None of these

Ans. (b)

**Q.11. The foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy involves [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Bringing down the existing non-democratic regime.
- (b) Keeping military away from controlling government.
- (c) Establishing a sovereign and functional state.
- (d) All of these.

Ans. (d)

**Q.12. Which type of challenge is faced by a non-democratic country while changing once to a democratic set-up?[2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Foundational Challenge
- (b) Expansion Challenge
- (c) Deepening Challenge
- (d) Political Challenge

Ans. (a)

**Q.13. Which legal act is the best to empower people to carry out democratic reforms? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Right to Information Act
- (b) Right to freedom
- (c) Right to education
- (d) Right to move freely

Ans. (c)

**Q.14. Foundational challenge does not involve which one of the following ? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Bringing down the existing non-democratic regimes
- (b) Strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy.
- (c) Keeping military away from controlling government.
- (d) Working against a sovereign and functional state.

Ans. (d)

**Q.15. Which one of the following statements does not reflect the right impact on the 'Right to Information Act'? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) It supplements the existing laws that banned corruption
- (b) It empowers the people to find out what is happening in the government
- (c) It enables the people to become law abiding good citizens
- (d) It acts as a watchdog of democracy

Ans. (a)

**Q.16. Which one of the following is different from the other three with reference to the challenge of democracy?[2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Foundational challenge
- (b) Challenge of expansion
- (c) Religious beliefs in democracy
- (d) Challenge of deepening of democracy

Ans. (c)

**Q.17. In which of the following countries, women are allowed to take part in public activities? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) India
- (b) Mexico
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) Chile

Ans. (a)

**Q.18. Which one of the following is a better way of carrying out political reforms in a democratic country? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) The legal changes
- (b) The constitutional changes

- (c) The empowerment of women
- (d) The empowerment of youth

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.19. Which one of the following is the main focus of political reforms? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Strengthen political parties
- (b) Strengthen democratic practices
- (c) Strengthen political practice
- (d) Strengthen democratic parties

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.20. Which is the most common challenge faced by most of the democracies? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Foundational challenge
- (b) Challenge of expansion
- (c) Deepening challenge
- (d) Functional challenge

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.21. Which is the most popular form of government in the contemporary world? [2011 (T-2)]**

- (a) Monarchy
- (b) Military rule
- (c) Dictatorship
- (d) Democracy

**Ans.** (d)

### C. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

**Q.1. What do you understand by the term ‘foundational challenges’?**

**Ans.** Many countries even now are not democratic. They have to make a transition from other forms of governments to democracy and then instituting democratic governments. Such countries face the foundational challenge.

**Q.2. Briefly explain how the challenge of deepening of democracy can be met?**

**Ans.** It means strengthening the existing institutions of democracy and practices of democracy. As different people, different countries have different people, different countries have different expectations from democracy means that a democracy has to encourage people’s participation and control on democratic institutions. It has to curb and cut down the role of money power, the influence of the rich on making governmental decisions.

**Q.3. What are the forms of challenges faced by different countries in respect to democracy?**

**Ans.** (i) Countries which are not yet democratic face a foundational challenge—making a transition to democracy and establishing democratic governments.  
(ii) Many countries face the challenge of expansion. This means applying principles of democracy to all the state, local and regional levels. It means including all social and economic groups including women empowerment.  
(iii) All the democracies face the challenge of deepening of democracy. They have to improve and strengthen all institutions of democracy and curb all anti-democratic activities.

**Q.4. Why do most people want to reform politicians? Do you agree with their views?**

**Ans.** General public tends to blame politicians for all the ills of our country. People think they are responsible for the corruption, defection, casteism, communal violence, criminality etc. But it is wrong to do so, because all politicians are not bad, there are both good, honest politicians as well as bad, corrupt ones. It is for the citizens to be more alert and make the right choice at the time of elections. People and politicians together can meet the various challenges like casteism and community, not any strict laws.

**Q.5. Can we draw a list of political reforms applicable to all democracies? Why/Why not?**

**Ans.** Since all the countries do not have the same challenges, it is understood that everyone cannot

follow the same recipe of political reforms. So, we cannot draw a list of political reforms applicable to all the democracies.

**Q.6. What is the lacuna in legal means of political reform?**

**Ans.** Any legal change must carefully look at what result it will have on politics. Sometimes, the results may be counter-productive. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful in politics. The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms.

**Q.7. Examine the three challenges of democracy. [CBSE Sample Paper]**

- Ans.** (i) **Foundational challenge** : It refers to making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government.
- (ii) **Challenge of Expansion** : This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.
- (iii) **Deepening of Democracy** : This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy.

**PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS**

**Q.1. Analyse three challenges before the countries which do not have a democratic form of government. [2008]**

- Ans.** (i) Bringing down the existing non-democratic regime.  
(ii) Keeping military away from controlling government.  
(iii) Establishing a sovereign and functional state.

At least one-fourth of the globe is still not under democratic governance. The challenge for democracy in these parts of the world is very stark. These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.

D. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (4 MARKS)

**Q.1. Explain the challenges faced by Indian democracy while holding free and fair elections.**

- Ans.** (i) Casteism and communalism. Voters in India vote on the basis of caste and religion. They do not consider the ability of the candidate. In the same way, parties are affected by caste and community. They give tickets based on the above consideration and not the ability.
- (ii) Money power : A lot of money is spent by parties and candidates to win the favour of the voters. They try to buy votes by wooing the poor, the illiterate and lower classes. The ordinary citizens cannot contest elections.
- (iii) Unfair advantage lies with bigger parties. They have more resources as compared to smaller parties and independent candidates.
- (iv) Voters have no choice : There is sometimes no difference in the agenda of different parties. It is only a clash of personalities and voter has no choice.
- (v) Politics have been criminalised in recent times. More and more people with criminal background are winning elections. They indulge in booth capturing, and rigging during elections. They use muscle power to intimidate the voters.
- (vi) Politicians misuse government machinery during elections.

**Q.2. What sustains democracy in India?**

**OR**

**How can the principles of democracy be applied to all spheres of life. [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** India has been a democracy since it won independence in 1947. Sixty three years have not shaken the roots of democracy in our country.

- First of all, India has given equal rights and freedom to every citizen. Fundamental rights are given by the Constitution to all the people.
- There is universal adult franchise which gives every citizen a right to vote in elections. This has made the political parties to reach out to millions of people located in urban, rural or slum areas.
- The citizens are also now aware of the power they have to change governments and disapprove their policies.
- Government has taken measures to protect the weaker section of society. They are given reservation of seats in the Parliament, State Assemblies and local bodies. Seats are reserved for women in the Panchyati Raj institutions.
- There is full freedom of thought, speech and writing and people can form and express their opinions without fear.
- There is Freedom of Press. The press can shape public opinion by giving unbiased news about issues facing the country.
- India has a federal system where power is shared both horizontally and vertically. People have a say in decision-making right from the village panchayat to the top. All these factors have kept India a united democracy.

**Q.3. What is the role of an ordinary citizen in a democracy?**

- Ans.**
- A citizen has to be an active and participatory citizen. He has to be interested not only in his affairs, but of the affairs of the nation as well. He should be well informed about the politics of his country.
  - He should have consideration and regard for other people — their needs, views and well being.
  - People must co-operate with the government to make democracy successful.
  - Besides their rights, they should be aware of their duties as citizens of the country.
  - He should get rid of intolerance, fanaticism and inhuman treatment of weaker sections of the society. He should be law abiding himself and teach others to be law abiding citizens too.
  - Acts of Parliament cannot create a healthy, successful, democracy. India needs well informed, concerned citizens, who take keen interest in public affairs, perform all their civic duties and co-operate with the government.

**PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS**

**Q.1. "Different countries face different kinds of challenges." Support the statement with suitable examples. [2009]**

**OR**

**Why do most of the established democracies face the challenge expansion? Give any three reasons. [2011 (T-2)]**

**OR**

**Explain various type of challenges being faced by the modern democracies of the world? [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** It is true that different countries face different kinds of challenges —

(i) Non-democratic countries face foundational challenges.

This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

**Example :** In Myanmar, military rule should be challenged. Suu Kyi should be freed and should be elected as the representative of the popular government.

(ii) Every democracy faces the challenge of deepening of democracy.

This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

**Example :** In Saudi Arabia, women are not allowed to take part in public activities, and no freedom of religion is there for the minorities.

(iii) Every democracy face the challenge of expansion.

This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy. It requires an attempt to bring down that control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decision.

**Example :** In USA, Black or African-American people have won equal rights, but are still poor, less educated and marginalised.

**Q.2. What is a ‘challenge’? Explain the three major challenges before the countries of the world regarding democracy. [2010]**

**OR**

**How can the countries facing the foundational challenge of making a transition to democracy set up a democratic government? Suggest any three measures. [2011 (T-2)]**

**OR**

**The challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another. Support the statement with three suitable arguments. How can democracy be reformed and deepened? Suggest any three guidelines.**

**Ans.** A ‘challenge’ is a difficulty which carries within it an opportunity for progress. Three major challenge are :

(i) **Foundational challenge** is about making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling the government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

**Example :** Myanmar, Chile, Nepal

(ii) **Challenge of Expansion** is faced by most of the established democracies. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Most countries including India and other democracies like the U.S. face this challenge.

(iii) **Deepening of democracy :** This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy, specially those that help people’s participation and control. This attempts to bring down the control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decision.

**Q.3. Explain four ways to reform democracy in India. [2009]**

**OR**

**Explain which four guidelines should be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India. [2010]**

OR

**Suggest any three ways in which political reforms can be made in India? [2011 (T-2)]**

**What is the meaning of democracy reform? Give two examples of democratic reforms in India. [2011 (T-2)]**

- Ans.** (i) Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. At the same time, legal-constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. They are to be carried out mainly by political activities, parties movements and politically conscious citizens.
- (ii) Legal changes can sometimes be counter-productive. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful. Rather laws that give political actors incentives to do good things have more chances of working. For, example, the 'Right to Information Act' empowers people to act as watchdogs of democracy.
- (iii) The main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
- (iv) Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how measures that rely on democratic movements, citizens' organisations and the media are likely to succeed.

## II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. PROJECT

- Topic covered** : Challenges facing democracy.
- Objective** : To analyse various serious challenges that democracy faces all over the world.
- Skills developed** : Analytical understanding of challenges facing democracy in different parts of the globe.
- Time required** : 3-4 days
- Method** : (a) Study the textbook, and other books on democratic politics by famous authors, surf various websites, talk to your teacher and senior students.
- (b) Explain the challenges facing various democratic countries, write about at least two major countries from each continent.
- (c) Focus on the challenges facing democracy in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh.
- (d) In conclusion, give your personal opinion about challenges facing democracy.

### B. ACTIVITIES

- (1) Each of the cartoons represents a challenge to democracy. Describe what that challenge is. Place it in one of the three categories : (a) Foundational challenge (b) Challenge of expansion (c) Challenge of deepening of democracy.



(2) Different cases and contents are given below. Describe the challenges for democracy in that particular situation.

COUNTRY	CONTENT	DESCRIPTION OF CHALLENGE
1. Chile	General Pinochet’s government defeated, but military still in control of many institutions	
2. Poland	After the initial success of Solidarity, the government imposed martial law and banned Solidarity	
3. Myanmar	Suu Kyi under house arrest for more than 18 years, army rulers getting global acceptance	
4. China	Communist Party adopts economic reforms but maintains monopoly over political power	
5. Pakistan	Widespread sectarian violence as the government headed by President Zardari fails to establish its authority	
6. Nepal	Prime Minister Prachanda resigns, new coalition government takes over, Maoists protest and differ on various issues	

### C. ASSIGNMENTS

- (1) Various categories of challenges facing democracy are given below. Write one item each for India and Pakistan for each of these spheres. In case you find that some challenges do not fit into any of the categories given below, create new categories and put some items under them.

CATEGORY OF CHALLENGE	INDIA	PAKISTAN
1. Constitutional design		
2. Democratic rights		
3. Working of institutions		
4. Elections		
5. Federalism, decentralisation		
6. Accommodation of diversity		
7. Political organisations		
8. Sectarian violence		

- (2) For each of these categories, find at least one example each from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

CHALLENGE	INDIA	PAKISTAN	BANGLADESH
1. Foundational challenge			
2. Challenge of expansion			
3. Challenge of deepening			

- (3) Think of all the challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India. List top five challenges in order of priority.

### D. GROUP DISCUSSION

There are different ways of reforming politics, as discussed in the textbook. Which of the ways you think is the most effective? Organise a group discussion on the topic, "Legal ways of reforming politics is the most effective way."

### E. DEBATE

Organise a debate on the topic 'State funding of elections is the surest way to stop corruption in politics.' Select ten students to speak on the topic. Invite a senior politician and a senior bureaucrat to highlight the topic and act as judges.