

[Time: 2½ Hours]

[Marks:75]

Please check whether you have got the right question paper.

- N.B:**
- 1. All questions are compulsory.**
 - 2. Each questions carries 15 marks.**

1. Explain the influence of Business Class in the political process of Maharashtra.

OR

Discuss the relationship between Cooperative sector and politics in Maharashtra.

2. Discuss the changing nature of coalition politics in Maharashtra.

OR

Account for the decline of Congress Party dominance in Maharashtra.

3. Examine the role of Shetkari Sangathana in the farmers' movement in Maharashtra.

OR

Discuss the major issues in the farmer agitations in Maharashtra in the recent times.

4. Discuss the concept of civil society and its role in politics.

OR

Examine the Right to Information Movement in Maharashtra.

5. Write short note on **any three** of the following:

- a) Rural Land Issues in Maharashtra
- b) Bhartiya Janta Party
- c) Shiv Sena
- d) Problem of Naxalism in Maharashtra
- e) Initiatives for protection of environment

मराठी रूपांतर
[वेळ: २.३० तास]

[गुण: ७५]

- सूचना: १. सर्व प्रश्न सोडवा.
२. प्रत्येक प्रश्नाला १५ गुण आहेत.

१. महाराष्ट्रातील राजकीय प्रक्रियेतील उद्योग क्षेत्राचा प्रभाव स्पष्ट करा.
किवा
महाराष्ट्रातील सहकार क्षेत्र आणि राजकारण यांच्या संबंधाची चर्चा करा.
२. महाराष्ट्रातील आघाड्यांचा राजकारणाच्या बदलत्या स्वरूपाची चर्चा करा.
किवा
महाराष्ट्रातील राजकारणात काँग्रेस पक्षाच्या प्रभुत्वाचा न्हास लिहा.
३. महाराष्ट्रातील शेतकरी चळवळीत शेतकरी संघटनेच्या भूमिकेचे परीक्षण करा.
किवा
अलीकडील काळातील महाराष्ट्रातील शेतकरी आंदोलनातील महत्वाच्या मुद्द्यांची चर्चा करा.
४. नागरी समाजाची संकल्पना आणि तिच्या राजकारणातील भूमिकेची चर्चा करा.
किवा
महाराष्ट्रातील माहिती अधिकाराच्या चळवळीचे परीक्षण करा.
५. खालीलपैकी कोणत्याही तीन वर टिपा लिहा.
अ) महाराष्ट्रातील ग्रामीण भूमीचे मुद्दे
ब) भारतीय जनता पक्ष
क) शिवसेना
ड) महाराष्ट्रातील नक्षलवादाची समस्या
इ) पर्यावरण संरक्षणाचे उपक्रम

Answer key

1. Explain the influence of Business Class in the political process in Maharashtra.

Among a variety of interest groups of the business, trade and commerce are regarded as institutional interest groups, which perform the function of interest articulation. They have organisational base, enormous resources and capability to influence the decision making process. Its dominant role in politics can be discussed under two headings- Business as an interest group and business class as political financier. Maharashtra being the highly industrialised State and Mumbai being the commercial capital of India, the business community is well organised. In the era of globalisation, economic liberalisation and privatisation the corporate sector and business class are successfully influencing the political decision making process in their favour.

Or

1. Discuss the relationship between Cooperative Sector and politics in Maharashtra.

Co-operative movement is widespread and has a long history in Maharashtra. Politics in Maharashtra is influenced by the co-operative elites who control the different areas of rural Maharashtra with the help of co-operative institution. The co-operative movement becomes important for politics for the following reasons:

a) It is a means for political leaders to have access to the rural areas; b) through the co-operative institutions political leaders can develop a vast network of supporters and clients which would help them in elections. This network is developed through the distribution of valued good; c) co-operatives have a lot of material resources in cash and kind which can be used at the time of elections.

Sugar co-operatives have definitely improved the financial strength of the Congress party and the NCP and allowed the political elites to penetrate deep into the interior. But at the same time they have used their power and resources to manipulate State politics. Maharashtra Sugar Co-operatives which have played the key role in state's economy and politics for fifty years are on a down trend because of corruption, mismanagement and undemocratic functioning.

2. Discuss the nature of coalition politics in Maharashtra.

Coalition politics is an outcome, as well as a necessity of multi-party system. As early as in 1957 the non Congress parties had formed the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti. Defeat of the constituents of the SMS in the 1962 elections marked an end of this first-ever major alliance in the State. The One party dominance system (OPDS) continued uninterrupted till 1977. The period from 1977 to 1986 was the precursor to the emergence of politics of coalitions in the State. In 1978 Congress (I) and Congress (S) formed the coalition government which was the first ever coalition government in the state. It lasted for only six months. The Sharad Pawar faction entered into an understanding with Janata Party and formed the progressive Democratic Front government. The return of the Congress party to power led to the dismissal of the PDF government.

The Shiv Sena- BJP alliance emerged as a viable alternative to the Congress in Maharashtra from 1989. The SS-BJP alliance came to power in 1995. However, in 2004 and 2009 the Congress-NCP with support of other parties formed the government. A period of coalition governments began in 1995 with the victory of Shiv Sena and the BJP. Shiv Sena was the larger party in the coalition. From 1999 until 2014, the NCP and INC formed one coalition while Shiv Sena and the BJP formed another for three successive elections, which the INC-NCP alliance won.

The 2014 election the two alliances between the NCP and Congress and between the BJP and Shiv Sena respectively broke down over seat allocations. In the election, the largest number of seats went to the Bharatiya Janata Party, with 122 seats. The BJP initially formed a minority government but Shiv Sena has, as of December 2014, entered the Government and therefore the Government now enjoys a comfortable majority in the Assembly.

Or

2. Account for the decline of Congress party dominance in Maharashtra.

The oldest among the political parties in Maharashtra is the Indian National Congress. Except for the brief rules of the non congress parties from 1978-1980 and 1995-1999 the state was ruled by the Congress party for over six decades. However the 2014 Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections in Maharashtra witnessed the total collapse of Congress Party. The fall of the Congress dominance in Maharashtra was inconceivable till recently. The factors that led to the fall of the Congress dominance include -- attitude of Congress High Command to discourage strong state level leadership, intense intra-party rivalry, erosion of support base, lack of charismatic leadership, corruption and loss of credibility and emergence of a viable alternative in the form of Shiv Sena- BJP alliance since 1989 and the strong leadership in BJP.

3. Examine the role of Shetkari Sangathana in the farmers' movement in Maharashtra.

The late 1970s had witnessed an unprecedented wave of the peasant movements spreading across the country. The Shetkari Sanghatana was established in Maharashtra in 1978 under the leadership of Sharad Joshi. The Shetkari Sanghatana in Maharashtra organized farmers to demand 'remunerative prices' for agricultural products. It launched agitations demanding fair prices for cash crops like onions, sugar-cane, tobacco, cotton etc. in succession, mobilising the peasantry of Maharashtra in large numbers. The use of techniques such as rail-roko, raasta roko and withholding of the agricultural produce from the markets was new in the peasant agitations, and their success widened the Sanghatana's support-base. The Sangathana evolved its own ideology which emphasises the role of the remunerative prices to farm produce as the key to the rural development.

Or

3. Discuss the major issues in the farmer agitations in Maharashtra in the recent times.

Historically, the farmers' movement in the state as championed by Sharad Joshi and Shetkari Sangathana or even Sharad Pawar has ignored the issues of small and marginal farmers or

peasants. From 2012-13 to 2017-18, the state's agriculture sector has had four years of negative growth – ranging from -0.4 per cent to -10.7 per cent – that has slashed farmers' incomes, in turn increasing indebtedness. The recent agitation was led by All India Kisan Sabha but supported by an umbrella organisation of the All India Kisan Sangharsh coordination committee—a body of 192 organizations. The recent farmers' agitations have got support from all the major political parties of Congress, NCP, Shiv sena, MNS, AAP etc. The marginal tribal cultivators from Nashik, Thane, Palghar and Jalgaon districts participated in it.

Some of the major demands include – a. Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, which promises handing over forest-based communities the land they have been tilling for generations

b. An unconditional waiver of loans as well as electricity bills.

c. Implementation of the Swaminathan Commission recommendations, including an announcement of minimum support price for agriculture produce.

d. A pension scheme for farmers.

e. Monetary compensation of Rs 40,000 per acre for crop damage because of last month's hailstorms and unseasonal rains.

4. Discuss the concept of civil society and its role in politics.

One can define civil society as that voluntary space in which individuals come together from outside the state and the market in order to promote common interests. According to Kaldor, "It is the process through which, individuals negotiate, argue, struggle against or agree with each other and with the centres of political and economic authority". It is viewed as the representative of diverse and sectoral interest groups and their role is seen to widen access and public participation in public institutions and processes.

Its role in politics includes - advocacy and political mobilisation; search for social justice-work for the marginalised section of society; offer alternative model of development; research and Information; participation in developmental activities independently or through Government and Corporate Sector- CSR activities etc.

Or

4. Examine the Right to Information Movement in Maharashtra.

Information is the currency that every citizen requires to participate in the life and governance of society. The greater the access of the citizen to information, the greater would be the responsiveness of government to community needs. In the early 2000s Hazare led a movement in Maharashtra state which forced the state government to enact a revised Maharashtra Right to Information Act. This Act was later considered as the base document for the Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) enacted by the Union Government. If in Rajasthan an awareness of the people's right to information sprang out of a movement for minimum wages by a marginalised rural work force, in Maharashtra it is an offshoot of a movement against corruption. The Right to Information movement in Rajasthan had invited the key campaigners against corruption from Maharashtra like former Bombay municipal commissioner Khairnar and Marathi writer Pushpa Bhave for support. They returned with a

hands-on feel of what the struggle in Rajasthan was all about and how important right to information was for the people in their fight against corruption, among other things.

5. Write short notes

a) **Land issues in Maharashtra** - Conversion of Agriculture Land -The Government of Maharashtra has relaxed restrictions on conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural (N.A.) uses, bringing agricultural lands in the speculative market.

Land Acquisition - The Maharashtra Government has an awry programme of land acquisition for industry, airports, expressways, ports, tourist resorts and offering extensive packages of concessions to multinational and Indian companies.

Invasion of Coastal Lands - The MNCS and large industries are particularly interested in coastal locations in the Konkan districts of the state. In the ecologically sensitive coastal districts, chemical, copper smelting, steel, cement factories, thermal power stations, petroleum refinery and several other polluting industries are being invited.

Changes in Land-use - Apart from the diversion of lands from cultivation to industry, housing, tourism and other non-agricultural uses and the extensive damage to cultivation due to industrial waste, pollution, water extraction by the industries, townships etc., there is a diversion of lands to chemical intensive cultivation due to the growth of agro-processing companies and export oriented cultivation by rich land owners.

b) **Bhartiya Janta Party** - The Bhartiya Jana sangha of pre 1977 was reincarnated as the Bhartiya Janata Party in 1980. The BJP is a right-wing party with close ideological and organisational links to the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Shri Narendra Modi led it to a landslide victory in the 2014 general election. Since that election, Modi has led the NDA government as Prime Minister and at present (April 2018) the alliance governs 21 states. The alliance with Shiv Sena and the strategy of Hindutva have made BJP a major political party in Maharashtra.

The 2014 Assembly elections results were highly significant in that the BJP received the highest number of seats despite being historically smaller than Shiv Sena in the state. Although the BJP still required Shiv Sena's support to form a majority, it progressed from a minor party in state politics to a dominant party, currently the single largest party in the assembly having chief minister from its party.

c) **Shiv Sena** - Shiv Sena is a regional political party formed in 1966 by political cartoonist Bal Thackeray. It is currently headed by Thackeray's son, Uddhav Thackeray. Its ideology is based on promoting Marathi culture, Marathi language and Marathi *Asmita*. The party originally emerged from a movement in Mumbai demanding preferential treatment for Maharashtrians over migrants to the city. It gradually moved from advocating a pro-Marathi ideology to one supporting a broader Hindu nationalist agenda, as it aligned itself with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party has been in coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for Lok Sabha as well as Maharashtra Assembly since 1989. The two formed a government in Maharashtra between 1995 and 1999. The Sena was the opposition party in the state along with the BJP from 1999 to 2014. However, 25 years old alliance of Sena and

BJP was broken in 2014 Maharashtra Assembly elections over seat sharing issue and both contested elections independently.

d) **Problem of Naxalism in Maharashtra** - The Left Wing Extremist Movement popularly known as Naxalite Movement represents the revolutionary stream of Indian Communism which believes in armed revolution to establish a new egalitarian social order. The Gond tribal region of Maharashtra comprises of Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Bhandara and Yeotmal districts of Vidarbha. Of these districts, Gadchiroli is strategically located at the trijunction of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. It is a backward region and has witnessed the influence of Naxalite groups like Peoples War group since 1980s. The principal activity of the tribals is collection of tendu leaves and cultivation of bamboo. For decades they have been exploited by the contractors. Poverty, unemployment, exploitation by the contractors and apathy of the administration has resulted in the rise of naxalism in this region.

e) **Initiatives for protection of environment**- A large number of voluntary groups and movements emerged in 1970s that strived for the protection of environment. In Maharashtra the environmental protection activities in the areas of water and soil conservation were undertaken by Anna Hazare, Vilasrao Salunke, Vijay Anna Baarade, Vasant Rao Ganame and their organisations. Bombay Natural History Society, Kalpavriksh, Vanashakti, Centre for Environmental Research & Education (CERE) are some of the organisations contributing significantly in the area of environment protection.