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“Democratic Values And Party Politics In India”

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ABSTRACT: Democratic societies operate under the rule of law. This essentially means that a nation's laws apply equally to all people, and everyone, especially the government, must play by the rules. It means that the rights and freedoms and democratic processes described above are respected and nurtured. And it means that the laws are also enforced in a fair and consistent way, and there's an independent body, like the courts, to settle disputes that do arise. Liberties recently published its on the current rule of law situation across the bloc, finding a number of concerning trends across many member states based on the principles of democracy system of government which power is held by elected representatives who are freely voted for by the people, or held directly by the people themselves.

Democracy is an adjective describing a system of government, society, or organization where power is held by the people and exercised either directly or through elected representatives. It emphasizes principles of political equality, majority rule, and active citizen participation. Government and Politics In a political context, "democratic" refers to a system rooted in free, fair, and competitive elections, where citizens have the right to vote for their leaders.

By its very definition, democracy allows the people a voice in charting the course of their government and their future. In direct democracies, this can mean citizens vote directly on the laws they live under. In representative democracy, it means they get to choose who represents them and have a free voice to express their opinions and desires. In either case, citizen participation is the foundation that makes democracy strong. Participation is not just voting on Election Day, although this is surely its most notable form. But equally important are public debate, town meetings, and peaceful protests, among other things. Each of these are forms of participation that help make people informed when it does come time to mark a ballot. Citizens' groups and civil society help make sure people have the ability to do all of these things and should be supported to ensure greatest participation.

Although majority rule is at the heart of democracy, this does not mean that the is forgotten. In a true democracy, the rights of all citizens are equal and must be respected regardless of who's in power. And even though their views may not have carried election day, they still have the right to continue to share those views to other citizens and the government. And this is healthy, if not necessary. Democracy thrives on openness and richness of thought; by suppressing the rights and freedoms of the minority, the majority holds itself back.

Key words : Politicians believe, protecting election laws, Democracy, international relations, social and economic equality, Parliamentary State, Abraham Lincoln. Political parties.

Introduction : Democracy can only survive if everyone buys in – the citizens through their support on voting day and all other times of year, and politicians by playing by the rules and working to improve the lives of everyone. Abuse of power occurs when a government decides it is above the law, when politicians believe a different set of rules apply to them, when the levers of the state are moved to favor only a certain segment of society at the expense of others, or when public money is funneled into accounts of corrupt leaders and their friends. We see this often in the world’s “democracies” and increasingly so in Europe too

Citizens must have a choice on election day. That means that more than a single political party is able to freely participate in an election campaign and be an option for the people. And when opposition parties do win, there is a transfer of power and renewed public debate on how to steer the country forward. If there’s just a single party then it’s most probably a dictatorship, although some countries have managed to develop democratic systems

There are ways to insulate democracy from such abuse, but there is no way to protect it completely. Diffusing powers across different branches of government helps to hold them all to account, for example. Protecting free and fair elections are also important. This includes protecting so citizens can get good information in the lead up to voting, and means protecting election laws to make sure the process is fair. Change should be considered a natural and healthy feature of democracy. As the government exists to serve the people, and public opinion shifts all the time on all sorts of issues, it is only natural that elections will produce different results at different times. So it is essential that these elections occur freely and fairly. This means that people are before voting, and that they are free to discuss and debate it. It also means that on Election Day, people have equal access to the polls, that everyone’s vote has the same value, and that all votes are counted. Moreover, elections shouldn’t come irregularly or be called whenever it suits the government. In a democracy, a person should be able to decide what they want to do with their life. As long as they follow the rules, it’s not the government’s place to tell them what they must study or what job they must take or what they must grow. Economic freedom is important in order to develop strong communities and strong national economies

Democracy is a universally recognised ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community irrespective of cultural, political, social and economic differences. It is thus a basic right of citizenship to be exercised under conditions of freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, with due respect for the plurality of views, and in the interest of the polity. Judicial institutions and independent, impartial and effective oversight mechanisms are the guarantors for the rule of law on which democracy is founded. In order for these institutions and mechanisms fully to ensure respect for the rules, improve the fairness of the processes and redress injustices, there must be access by all to administrative and judicial remedies on the basis of equality as well as respect for administrative and judicial decisions both by the organs of the State and representatives of public authority and by each member of society. Democratic processes are fostered by a favourable economic environment; therefore, in its overall effort for development, society must be committed to satisfying the basic economic needs of the most disadvantaged, thus ensuring their full integration in the democratic process.

➤ **INTERNATIONAL EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY:** Democracy must also be recognised as an international principle, applicable to international organisations and to States in their international relations. The principle of international democracy does not only mean equal or fair representation of States; it also extends to the economic rights and duties of States.

A democracy should support democratic principles in international relations. In that respect, democracies must refrain from undemocratic conduct, express solidarity with democratic governments and non-State actors like non-governmental organisations which work for democracy and human rights, and extend solidarity to those who are victims of human rights violations at the hands of undemocratic

regimes. In order to strengthen international criminal justice, democracies must reject impunity for international crimes and serious violations of fundamental human rights and support the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.

➤ **Review of Literature on Democracy : Aristotle** - democracy as a deviant form of government ruled by the poor majority for their own benefit. Key themes in scholarly literature include his critique of majority tyranny, his concept of the "wisdom of the multitude," and his proposal of a stable polity. Perverted Rule, Classified in Politics as a regime where the poor majority rule in self-interest rather than for the common good. Misunderstanding Equality, Critiqued for treating equal personal freedom as total equality in governing capacity, which elevates the unqualified. Rule of Law, Noted for prioritizing majority decrees over fixed, impartial laws, risking oppression of the wealthy minority.

❖ **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** : Theory of democracy frames him as a radical critical theorist who argued that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic equality. Key themes in this academic discourse include social democracy, constitutional morality, and minority representation

❖ **J.S. Mill** : theory of democracy centers on balancing popular rule with individual liberty, featuring key debates on participatory citizenship, elitist safeguards, and colonial influences. His core texts, on Liberty 1859 and Considerations on Representative Government 1861, frame these enduring discussions.

❖ **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** : concept of democracy, primarily outlined in his 1762 treatise The Social Contract, centers on popular sovereignty, the general will, and a deep skepticism toward representative governance. Scholars have long debated his ideas as a foundational blueprint for participatory democracy or an authoritarian collectivism.

❖ **Mahatma Gandhiji**: view of democracy focuses on moral self-rule Swaraj, grassroots decentralization Gram Swaraj, and truth-based non-violence Satya and Ahimsa. Scholars note that his framework challenges conventional Western state-centrism by prioritizing individual duty over institutional power Critique of Parliamentary State, Scholars like Uday Mehta and Faisal Devji highlight Gandhi's deep skepticism toward centralized representative systems, viewing standard state machinery as inherently coercive and prone to reinforcing modern violence Village Swaraj and Decentralization. Literature emphasizes Gandhi's belief that true democracy. cannot be run by a few people at the center, but must be built from below through self-sustaining, cooperative village republics. Satyagraha as Democratic Action, Analysts view non-violent resistance not as anti-democratic disruption, but as an ethical tool for citizens to correct injustice and hold power accountable when formal institutions fail

❖ **Abraham Lincoln** : defined democracy as a "government of the people, by the people, for the people". He immortalized this definition in his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863, emphasizing that a legitimate government derives its power directly from its citizens and exists solely to serve their collective welfare and liberty. Lincoln's iconic phrase breaks down the core pillars of democratic governance, Of the people The government is formed by the citizens themselves, who vest their sovereign power in the state, By the people Authority is exercised by the people through their elected representatives, ensuring leaders are held accountable via free and fair elections. For the people The primary purpose of the government is to serve the public interest, protect fundamental rights, and promote the general welfare rather than the interests of rulers.

❖ **Oxford English Dictionary** : A country which has this system of government Western democracies I thought we were supposed to be living in a democracy. fair and equal treatment of everyone in an organization, etc., and their right to take part in making decisions the fight for justice and democracy a system of government in which all the people of a country can vote to elect their representatives democracy.

❖ **Professor SHIVATHANAYA & VEERA DHARMA :** Democracy is a system of government where power is vested in the people. Citizens exercise this authority either directly by voting on laws or indirectly by electing representatives to govern on their behalf. It typically guarantees fundamental civil liberties, equality, and the rule of law. While there are many variations worldwide, all modern democracies generally share these core characteristics.

Kinds of Democracy : broadly functions under two main systems: direct democracy, where citizens vote directly on laws and policies, and representative democracy, where citizens elect officials to make decisions on their behalf. These primary systems are implemented through various structures and frameworks globally.

Direct Democracy : In a direct democracy, the public holds supreme power and participates directly in governance without intermediaries. Citizens vote on specific legislation, ballot initiatives, and public policies. **Historical/Modern Example:** While practiced broadly in ancient Athens, it is partially utilized today in places like Switzerland, which heavily relies on referendums and popular assemblies.

Indirect Democracy : This is the most common form of democracy in the modern world. Citizens elect representatives through free and fair elections to create laws, manage the economy, and govern on their behalf. **Presidential Democracy,** The executive branch is separate from the legislative branch. The president is popularly elected and serves as both head of state and head of government. **Example;** The United States. **Parliamentary Democracy,** The executive branch derives its legitimacy from and is accountable to the legislature parliament. A Prime Minister usually serves as the head of government, while a monarch or president serves as the ceremonial head of state. **Example;** India, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Other Modern Democratic : **Participatory Democracy,** A model that emphasizes broad, active citizen involvement in politics and civil society, often operating at local levels through mechanisms like town hall meetings or grassroots movements. **Deliberative Democracy,** Focuses on decision-making reached through reasoned public debate, logical arguments, and discussion among citizens and representatives rather than purely majority rule. **Constitutional Democracy,** The powers of the government are limited by a strict constitution or foundational legal framework. It heavily emphasizes the rule of law and the protection of minority rights.

➤ **Historical Background of Indian Democracy :** The history of Indian democracy spans ancient indigenous republics, colonial legislative foundations, and its modern status as the world's largest constitutional democracy.

✚ **In Ancient India:** Early forms of democracy existed in ancient India between 600 BCE and 400 BCE, featuring self-governing tribal republics known as Janapadas and Mahajanapadas. Early texts like the Rigveda document consensus-based decision making and elected governing bodies like the Sabha and Samiti.

✚ **Colonial Era:** Modern representative institutions took shape under British rule. Steps toward representative governance began with the Indian Councils Act of 1909 and expanded through the Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935. These legislative acts introduced limited provincial elections and seeded political habits that would later influence the independent nation.

✚ **Post-Independence Evolution:** The true test of universal suffrage began with the historic 1951–1952 general election. India's early decades were dominated by the Indian National Congress, led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. While democratic institutions rooted themselves firmly, the system faced severe stress most notably during the Emergency 1975–1977 under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, when civil liberties were suspended. The late 1980s marked a democratization of the political landscape, moving beyond upper-caste hegemony and empowering lower castes and regional parties.

✚ **Birth of the Republic 1947-1950 :** Upon gaining independence from British rule on August 15, 1947, India faced the monumental task of nation-building amid the trauma of Partition. A Constituent

Assembly drafted the Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. The Constitution established a secular, federal parliamentary republic based on the Westminster model, boldly guaranteeing universal adult suffrage giving every adult citizen an equal vote regardless of caste, gender, or literacy.

✚ **Constitutional Modern Era :** Today, India conducts the world's largest elections using advanced technological infrastructure, including Electronic Voting Machines EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails. Despite challenges like religious violence, corruption, and separatist movements, India's democratic system has been sustained for over seven decades, remaining a unique example of successful post-colonial democratic consolidation.

➤ **Evolution of Political Parties and Party System in India:** The evolution of the Indian party system has transitioned from a one-party dominant system (the "Congress System") into a vibrant, highly competitive multiparty democracy defined by regional forces and coalition governments at the national level.

- **The Movement Umbrella:** Inheriting the moral authority of the freedom struggle, the Indian National Congress functioned as a broad "umbrella". It accommodated varying ideologies and interest groups within a single fold, sweeping the first three general elections 1952, 1957, and 1962.

- **Marginal Opposition:** While opposition parties like the Communist Party of India and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh existed, they acted merely as pressure groups on the fringes. Political scientist Rajni Karni referred to this as a 'one-party dominance system'

- **Rise of Regionalism:** The 1967 elections were a turning point. The Congress retained power at the Centre but lost heavily in several state assemblies, reflecting deep socio-economic changes. Regional parties like the DMK in Tamil Nadu and the Akali Dal in Punjab began challenging national hegemony.

- **Centralization and Upheaval:** Under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Congress system eroded further. Internal splits, centralization, and the Emergency 1975–1977 birthed the first non-Congress coalition government at the Centre in 1977 under the Janata Party. Though short-lived, it proved Congress was defeatable.

- **Multiparty Fragmentation:** The 1989 elections shattered single-party dominance. This era was marked by the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party Mandal -commission-based politics empowering backward caste parties like the SP and BSP, and powerful regional kingmakers.

- **National Coalitions:** No single party secured a clear parliamentary majority for 25 years. Two primary, ideologically distinct coalition fronts, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance dominated, requiring regional partners to form stable governments at the Centre

- **Return to Majority:** The 2014 and 2019 general elections saw the BJP break the quarter-century coalition logjam, securing consecutive absolute majorities and shifting the system back to a form of national dominance.

- **National-Regional Dynamics:** While the BJP currently plays the central role, the modern Indian party system remains highly competitive and federal, with regional parties continuing to hold immense power in state elections and governance. To explore the exact historical election data and performance statistics of these transitions, visit the official Election Commission of India portal.

❖ List of Political Parties in India

India's multi-party system features thousands of groups, but they are formally classified by the Election Commission of India into National Parties, State Parties, and Registered Unrecognized Parties.

Notable registered unrecognised political parties

Party	Founded	Leader(s)	States
<u>Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha</u>	1915	<u>Chakrapani</u>	All-India
<u>All India Hindustan Congress Party</u>	2015	Buddh Prakash Sharma	<u>Gujarat</u> <u>Rajasthan</u>
<u>All India Mahila Empowerment Party</u>	2017	<u>Nowhera Shaik</u>	<u>Telangana</u> <u>Karnataka</u>
<u>Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	2018	<u>T. T. V. Dhinakaran</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Amra Bangali</u>	1983	<u>Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar</u>	<u>West Bengal</u> <u>Tripura</u>
<u>Azad Adhikar Sena</u>	2022	<u>Amitabh Thakur</u> , <u>Nutan Thakur</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram)</u>	2020	<u>Chanda Shekhar Azad</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Bahujan Mukti Party</u>	2012	<u>Pravendra Pratap Singh</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u> <u>Maharashtra</u>
<u>Bharat Adivasi Party</u>	2023	Mohan Lal Roat	<u>Rajasthan</u>
<u>Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh</u>	1983	Sundar Shaekhar	<u>Maharashtra</u>
<u>Citizen Action Party – Sikkim</u>	2023	Ganesh Kumar Rai	<u>Sikkim</u>
<u>Gorkha Janmukti Morcha</u>	2007	Bimal Gurung	<u>West Bengal</u>
<u>Goa Suraksha Manch</u>	2016	<u>Subhash Velingkar</u>	<u>Goa</u>

Notable registered unrecognised political parties

Party	Founded	Leader(s)	States
<u>Gondwana Ganatantra Party</u>	1991	<u>Tuleshwar Hira Singh Markam</u>	<u>Chhattisgarh</u> <u>Jharkhand</u> <u>Maharashtra</u>
<u>Hindu Sena</u>	2011	Vishnu Gupta	<u>New Delhi</u>
<u>Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular)</u> ^[72]	2015	<u>Jitan Ram Manjhi</u>	<u>Bihar</u>
<u>Indiya Jananayaka Katchi</u>	2010	<u>T. R. Paarivendhar</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Indian Gandhayan Party</u>	2012	Aashin U S	<u>Kerala</u>
<u>Indian Secular Front</u>	2021	<u>Naushad Siddiqui</u>	<u>West Bengal</u>
<u>Ittehad-e-Millat Council</u>	2001	<u>Tawqir Raza Khan</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party</u>	2020	<u>Altaf Bukhari</u>	<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>
<u>Jammu and Kashmir Workers Party</u>	2020	Mir Junaid	<u>Jammu and Kashmir</u>
<u>Jan Shakti Party of India</u> ^[73]	2015	Gurjeet Singh Azad	<u>Punjab</u>
<u>Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik)</u>	2018	<u>Raghuraj Pratap Singh</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Jan Suraj Party</u>	2024	<u>Prashant Kishor</u>	<u>Bihar</u>
<u>Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha</u>	2024	Jairam Kumar Mahato	<u>Jharkhand</u>
<u>Karnataka Rashtra Samithi</u>	2019	Ravi Krishna Reddy	<u>Karnataka</u>

Notable registered unrecognised political parties

Party	Founded	Leader(s)	States
<u>Kerala Congress (B)</u>	1989	<u>K. B. Ganesh Kumar</u>	<u>Kerala</u>
<u>Kerala Congress (Jacob)</u>	1991	<u>Anoop Jacob</u>	<u>Kerala</u>
<u>Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi</u>	2013	<u>E. R. Eswaran</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Kongunadu Makkal Katchi</u>	2000	A. M. Raja	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Lok Satta Party</u>	2006	<u>Jaya Prakash Narayana</u>	<u>Andhra Pradesh</u> <u>Telangana</u>
<u>Lok Insaaf Party</u>	2019	<u>Simarjit Singh Bains</u>	<u>Punjab</u>
<u>Makkal Needhi Maiam</u>	2018	<u>Kamal Haasan</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u> <u>Puducherry</u>
<u>Manipur Peoples Party</u>	1968	Sovakiran N.	<u>Manipur</u>
<u>Manithaneyam Makkal Katchi</u>	2009	<u>M. H. Jawahirullah</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>	1992	<u>Vaiko</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>NISHAD Party</u>	2016	Sanjay Nishad	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Odisha Jan Morcha</u>	2013	<u>Pyarimohan Mohapatra</u>	<u>Odisha</u>
<u>Param Digvijay Dal</u>	2014	Krishna Mohan Shankar Yogi	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Pattali Makkal Katchi</u>	1989	<u>S. Ramadoss</u>	<u>Puducherry</u> <u>Tamil Nadu</u>

Notable registered unrecognised political parties

Party	Founded	Leader(s)	States
<u>Peace Party</u>	2008	<u>Mohamed Ayub</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>People's Democratic Alliance</u>	2012	Bd. Behring Anal	<u>Manipur</u>
<u>People's Democratic Front</u>	2001	<u>Ajoy Biswas</u>	<u>Tripura</u>
<u>Plurals Party</u>	2020	Pushpam Priya Choudhary	<u>Bihar</u>
<u>Puthiya Tamilagam</u>	1996	<u>K. Krishnasamy</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Raijor Dal</u>	2020	<u>Akhil Gogoi</u>	<u>Assam</u>
<u>Rashtriya Lok Dal</u>	1996	<u>Jayant Chaudhary</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u> <u>Rajasthan</u>
<u>Rashtriya Lok Morcha</u>	2023	<u>Upendra Kushwaha</u>	<u>Bihar</u>
<u>Rashtriya Samaj Paksha</u>	2003	<u>Mahadev Jankar</u>	<u>Maharashtra</u> <u>Kerala</u>
<u>Rashtriya Ulama Council</u>	2008	<u>Aamir Rashadi Madni</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Republican Party of India (Athawale)</u>	1999	<u>Ramdas Athawale</u>	<u>Manipur</u>
<u>Samata Party</u>	1994	Uday Mandal ^[74]	<u>Bihar</u> <u>Manipur</u> ^[75]
<u>Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar)</u>	1994	<u>Simranjit Singh Mann</u>	<u>Punjab</u>
<u>Social Democratic Party of India</u>	2009	M. K. Faizy	<u>Karnataka</u> <u>Kerala</u> <u>Tamil Nadu</u>

Notable registered unrecognised political parties

Party	Founded	Leader(s)	States
<u>Socialist Party</u>	2011	<u>Thampan Thomas</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Socialist Unity Centre of India</u>	1948	<u>Provash Ghosh</u>	All-India
<u>Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party</u>	2002	<u>Om Prakash Rajbhar</u>	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>
<u>Swaraj India</u>	2016	<u>Yogendra Yadav</u>	<u>Haryana</u> <u>Karnataka</u> <u>Maharashtra</u>
<u>Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)</u>	1996	<u>G. K. Vasan</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Tamil Nadu Kongu Ilaingar Peravai</u>	2001	<u>U. Thaniyarasu</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam</u>	2024	<u>C. Joseph Vijay</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Twenty 20 Party</u>	2015	<u>Sabu M. Jacob</u>	<u>Kerala</u>
<u>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</u>	1979	<u>Kashi Singh Airy</u>	<u>Uttarakhand</u>
<u>Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi</u>	2018	<u>Prakash Yashwant</u> <u>Ambedkar</u>	<u>Maharashtra</u>
<u>Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi</u>	1990	<u>Thol. Thirumavalavan</u>	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Vikassheel Insaan Party</u>	2018	<u>Mukesh Sahani</u>	<u>Bihar</u>
<u>Welfare Party of India</u>	2011	<u>S. Q. R. Ilyas</u>	<u>Kerala</u>

➤ Importance of Political Parties In Democratic India :

Political parties form the backbone of Indian democracy, acting as essential intermediaries between citizens and the state. They structure political competition, formulate public policy, and provide the electorate with clear ideological choices. The

- ✓ **Supporting Federalism**-In the era of coalition governments, national parties are compelled to ally with state-level parties, which decentralizes power and strengthens the federal structure of the country.
- ✓ **Contesting Elections and Forming Government**-Parties nominate candidates, run campaigns, and present manifestos to voters. The party or coalition winning a majority in the legislature forms the government and translates its policies into law.
- ✓ **Representing Diverse Interests**- Given India's vast diversity, parties aggregate and represent various regional, linguistic, caste, and socio-economic interests, giving minority and regional groups a voice.
- ✓ **Building Political Consciousness**- Through public meetings, debates, and campaigns, parties educate the public on key national and local issues, driving civic engagement and political participation.
- ✓ **Structuring Political Choice**-Instead of an unmanageable chaos of independent candidates, parties offer organized choices linked to recognizable symbols and ideologies, making large-scale representative democracy possible.
- ✓ **Performing the Role of Opposition**- Parties that do not secure a majority act as the opposition. They hold the ruling party accountable, scrutinize legislation, and prevent the abuse of power, offering voters an alternative in subsequent elections.

conclusion : The conclusion of an article on democratic values and party politics in India highlights democratic resilience, social inclusion, and systemic reform. It shows that India's political system thrives on mass participation yet faces steep hurdles from internal party flaws. Institutional Resilience, Constitutional checks and regular elections consistently manage fierce political competition and peaceful power shifts. Deepening Participation, Millions of lower-caste voters, women, and marginalized groups use the ballot box to claim their political voice. Pluralistic Representation, Regional and national parties successfully reflect India's vast religious, linguistic, and cultural diversity. Political parties have played a central role in the success of Indian democracy. They have enabled political participation, represented diverse interests, and helped maintain democratic stability in a highly complex society. However, their functioning has also revealed serious challenges. The personality-oriented nature of parties, declining importance of ideology, increasing dependence on coalition arrangements, and growing distance between political organizations and citizens indicate structural weaknesses in the Indian party system. The central challenge before Indian democracy is to transform political parties from leader-centred organizations into democratic institutions. Parties must move beyond personality cults and focus on principles, policies, and public welfare. The future of Indian democracy depends not only on free and fair elections but also on the quality of political organizations that compete for power. Strong internal democracy, transparency in political finance, ideological clarity, and citizen participation are essential for creating a more accountable political system.

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