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Q8(b)

The decade 1989-1999 has created an epochal shift in the Indian party system at the national level. Identify the major national trends in the party system during this era

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 1 · 15 marks · Party System

Party System: National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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1989 election

Hung Lok Sabha; V. P. Singh's National Front government with outside support.

Mandal, 1990

OBC reservation decision that split the Janata coalition and realigned Hindi-belt parties.

1991

Congress minority government under P. V. Narasimha Rao; economic liberalisation began in this party format.

1996-99

United Front governments and then BJP-led NDA, confirming coalition as the Union path.

Kothari's Congress system

The pre-1967/1977 model of a dominant party that 1989 finally displaced at the national level.

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