



মণিপুরৰ শাসন বিভাগ (অঃ)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CHAPTER 1

DEMOCRACY

NOTES

THE END OF THE WORLD WAR II BROUGHT COLONIES OF ASIA & AFRICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC PATH

- ❖ Several countries of Latin America revived democracy after 1980.
- ❖ The Soviet Union of 15 republics disintegrated in 1991 and some of them became democracies.
- ❖ India has a number of neighbours that could not be called real democracies.
- ❖ Nepal and Bhutan have kings as their rulers but pretend to have democratic governments.

MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

- ❖ The term Democracy is derived from the Greek words '*Demos*' which means the people and '*Kratia*' implies power.
- ❖ American President **Abraham Lincoln** defines democracy as "**A Government of the people, by the people and for the people**".
- ❖ Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- ❖ Two Kinds of democracy : Direct and Indirect
- ❖ Democracy has institutions like Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.
- ❖ In the USA, the President is very powerful while the Congress is weak (Presidential form of Government).
- ❖ In India and Great Britain, Prime Ministers are very powerful (Parliamentary form of Government).

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Equality and Liberty.
- ❖ Free and fair elections to choose the rulers.
- ❖ Final decision making power with elected persons.
- ❖ Tolerance is another principal.
- ❖ People have the power to change the government through constitutional means.
- ❖ Election must be free and fair to have maximum participation of people.
- ❖ Two types of candidates in election : Party Candidates and Independent Candidates.
- ❖ Majority party in election will be the rulers while the minority party will be in the opposition.
- ❖ Rulers cannot rule according to their wishes in democracy.



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ALTERNATIVES TO DEMOCRACY

- ❖ Alternatives to democracy are dictatorial forms of government.
- ❖ They are ruled by a monarch, a dictator or a single party.
- ❖ Minimum participation of citizens.
- ❖ News and views are censored.
- ❖ Lenin, Stalin in USSR and Mao Zedong (Mao Tse Tung) in China had Autocratic Rule with Iron Hand.
- ❖ But, Mao claimed to establish 'New Democracy' in China.
- ❖ In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for opposing **Apartheid** or racial segregation policy.
- ❖ In 1994, a popular government was established in South Africa.

MERITS OF DEMOCRACY

- ❖ Democracy is responsive to the needs of the people as well as more accountable than others.
- ❖ It is based on consultation and discussion. The voice of the people is the voice of god.
- ❖ Differences and conflicts are easily dealt with through peaceful and persuasive methods.
- ❖ Democracy enhances the dignity of citizen. There is political equality between rich and poor. E.g. One person One vote.
- ❖ It allows the people to correct their own mistakes. The wrong decisions can be changed and even the rulers can be changed.

DEMERITS OF DEMOCRACY

- ❖ Mistakes while making decisions. The elected may not be expert.
- ❖ It emphasizes more quantity than quality. It is more expensive.
- ❖ It leads to delay. Not suitable during emergency.
- ❖ It leads to corruption and electoral competition.
- ❖ Leadership remains changing and instable government.



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