

THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF

INDIA

PRESENTED BY: SIOCO, JACOLO, BUISAN

ANCIENT INDIA

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- One of the earliest civilizations, located near the Indus River, known for advanced urban planning
- Major cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro had drainage systems, roads, and organized housing
- The people were skilled in trade, crafts, and agriculture
- The civilization declined possibly due to climate change, and major flooding

2500-1700 BCE

VEDIC PERIOD

- Also known as the Indo-Aryan age, marked by the arrival of Indo-Aryans in India
- Society was organized into tribes and later developed into kingdoms
- Important contributions include the Vedas, early Hinduism, and the caste (varna) system
- This period declined as political structures evolved into larger empires and centralized rule

1500-600 BCE

MAURYA EMPIRE

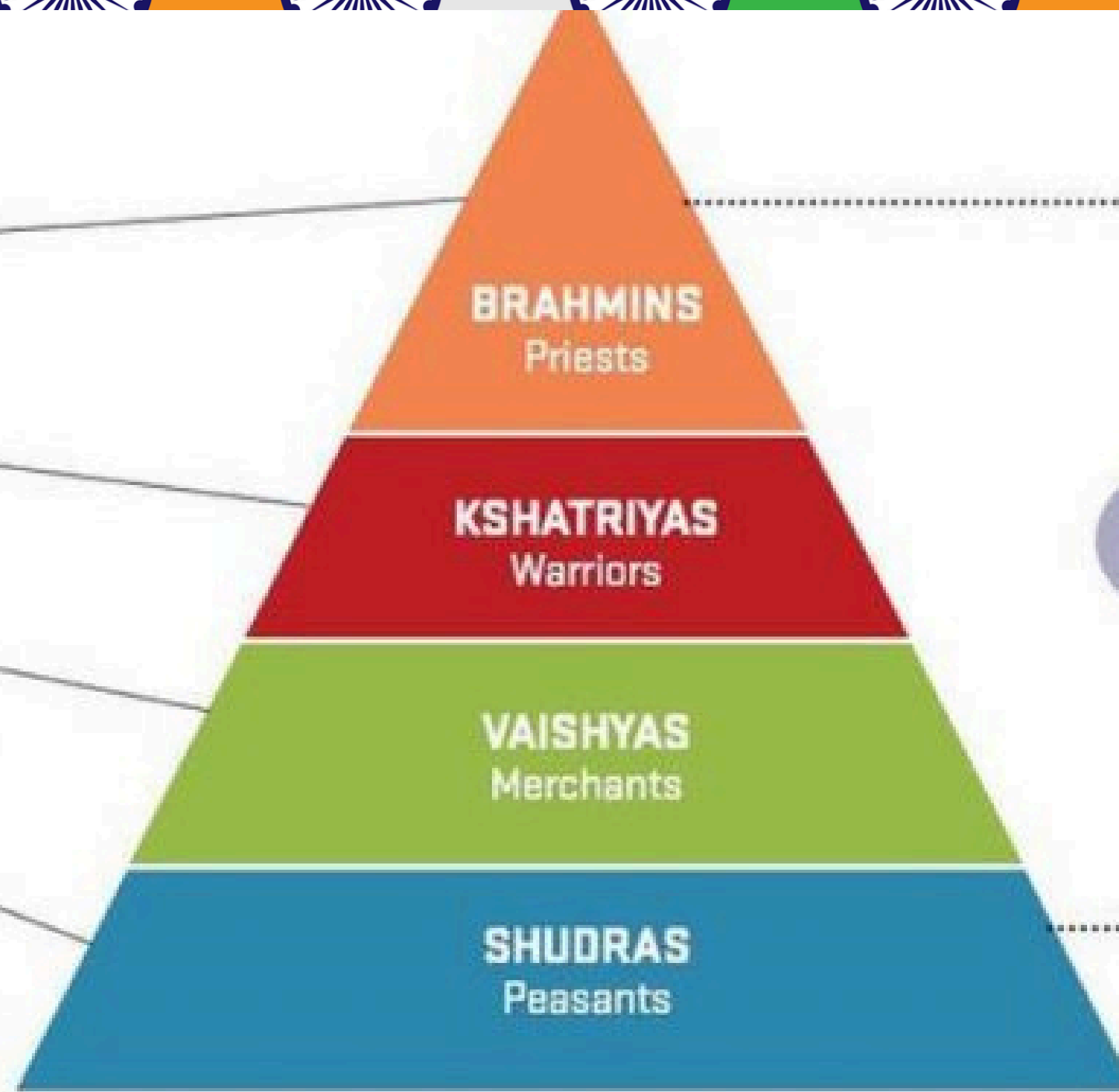
- First empire to unify most of India under strong central authority
- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya and expanded under Emperor Ashoka
- Ashoka promoted Buddhism, nonviolence, and moral governance
- The empire declined after Ashoka's death due to weak leadership and internal division

322-185 BCE

GUPTA EMPIRE

- Known as the Golden Age of India due to advancements in science, mathematics, and arts
- Development of important concepts like zero and contributions to literature and astronomy
- Strengthened Hindu culture and social systems
- Declined due to weak rulers and invasions, making the empire vulnerable to external attacks

320-550 CE



ADIVASIS

Indigenous people of South Asia. For self-determination and political/cultural autonomy, they fight against the stripping of their ancestral land and its natural resources.

DALITS

Caste communities that were forced by Caste apartheid into slave and bonded agricultural labor, and undignified sanitation work like manual scavenging. Branded untouchable for jobs considered spiritually polluting, they struggle against extreme violence and discrimination.

MIDIEVAL INDIA

EARLY MEDIEVAL KINGDOMS

- After the fall of the Gupta Empire, India was divided into several regional kingdoms
- Political power became decentralized, with rulers controlling smaller territories
- There was growth in regional cultures, languages, and temple-based economies
- This period declined due to continuous conflicts and invasions, weakening unity

600–1200 CE

DELHI SULTANATE

- Marked the beginning of Islamic rule in northern India through centralized governance
- Introduced new administrative systems, military organization, and cultural influences
- Helped expand trade and strengthened political control over large areas
- Declined due to internal rebellions, weak rulers, and external invasions

1206–1526 CE

MUGHAL EMPIRE

- One of the most powerful empires, known for political stability and economic prosperity
- Promoted cultural blending, seen in architecture like the Taj Mahal and administrative reforms
- Strengthened centralized rule and improved governance systems
- Declined due to weak successors, internal conflicts, and the rise of regional powers

1526–1857 CE

EUROPEAN CONTACT

- Europeans, especially the Portuguese, Dutch, and British, arrived for trade
- Established trading posts and gradually influenced local politics and economy
- Increased competition among European powers in India
- This led to the decline of local control as Europeans began gaining political power

1498–1757 CE

COLONIAL | MODERN

BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY

- The British gained control through trade, alliances, and military conquest
- Expanded influence across India and controlled resources and economy
- Introduced new systems but also caused economic exploitation
- Declined after the 1857 Revolt, ending Company rule

1757–1858

1857 REVOLT

- First major uprising against British rule by Indian soldiers and civilians
- Caused by political, economic, and cultural grievances
- Though it failed, it showed strong resistance against colonial rule
- Led to direct British Crown control over India

1857–1858

FREEDOM STRUGGLE

- Rise of nationalism and organized resistance against British rule
- Formation of the Indian National Congress and other movements
- Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi promoted nonviolent resistance
- Continued pressure weakened British authority over time

1885–1947

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

- Mass movements demanded self-rule and independence
- Included civil disobedience, protests, and political negotiations
- United people across regions against colonial rule
- Led to independence in 1947, but also resulted in Partition and conflict

1915–1947

GEOGRAPHY & GEOPOLITICS



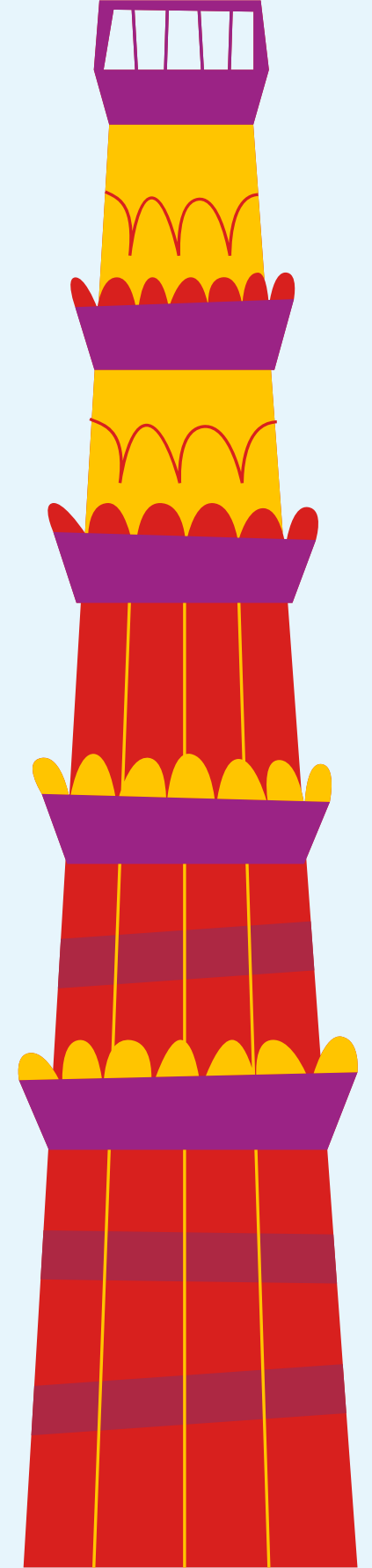
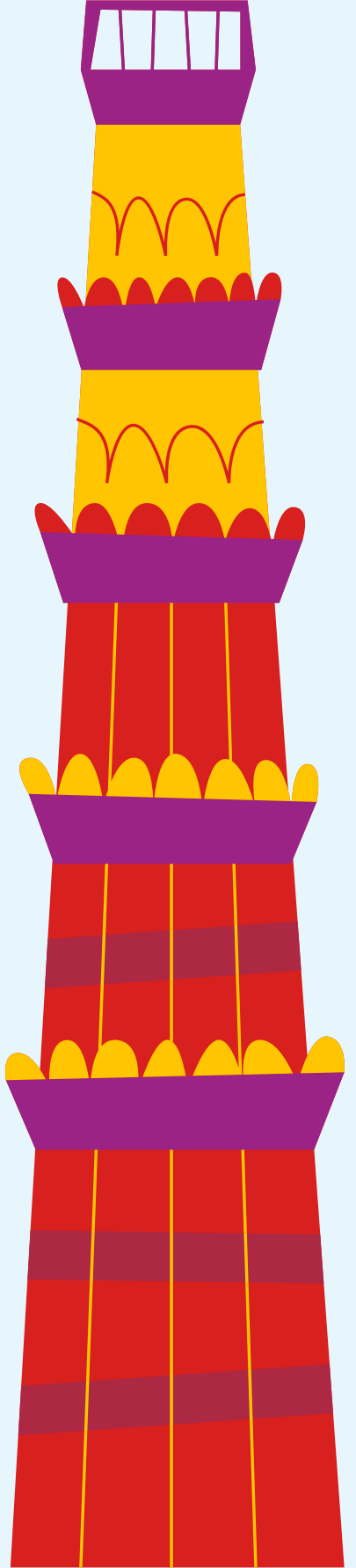
GEOGRAPHY

- India is the seventh-largest country, covering about 3.28 million sq. km, with highly diverse physical features
- It is located in South Asia, entirely in the Northern and Eastern Hemispheres
- Bordered by Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, with coastlines along the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and Bay of Bengal





POLITICAL SYSTEM, STRUCTURE, AND POLITICAL CULTURE



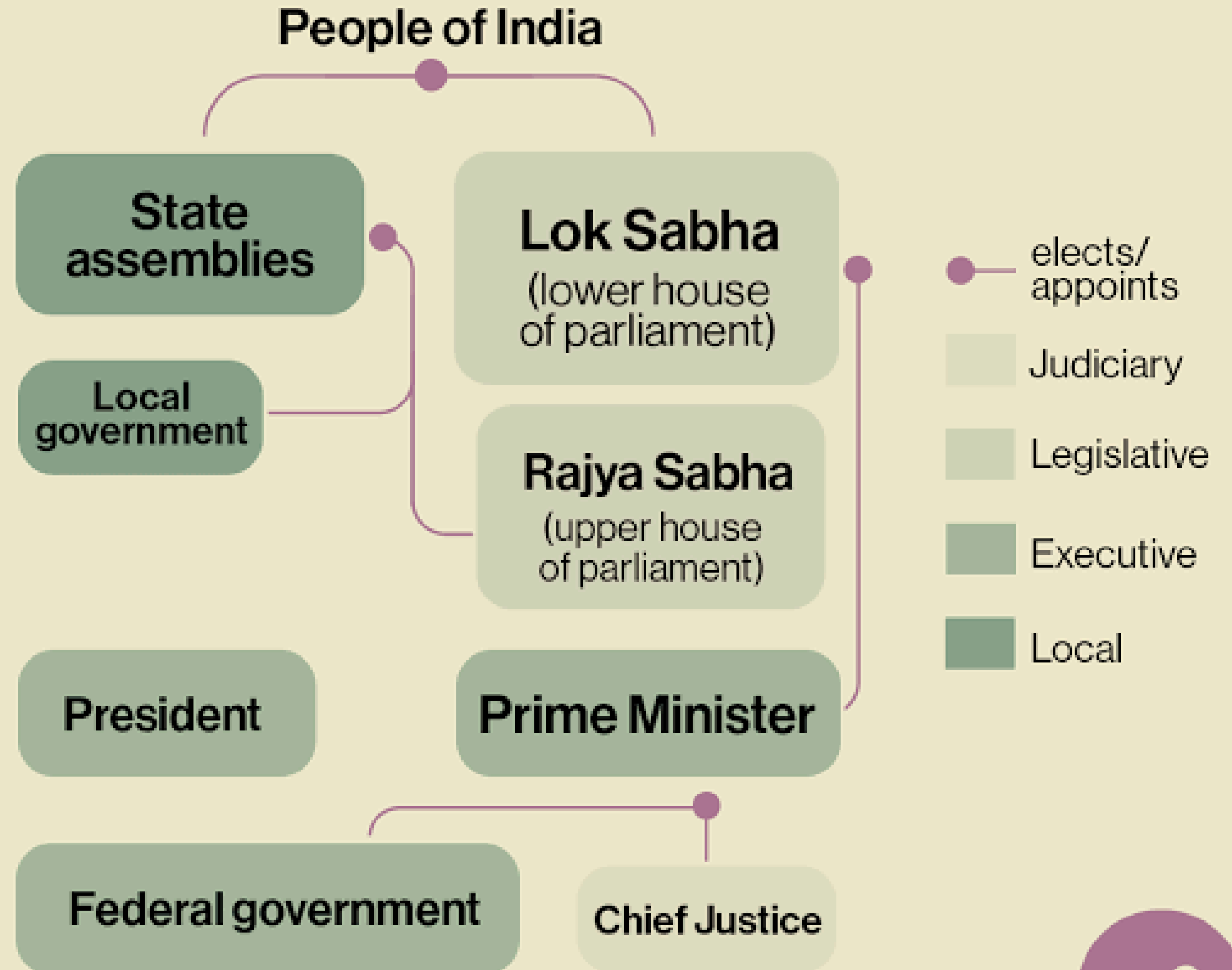
POLITICAL SYSTEM

- **Federal parliamentary democratic system**
- **Republic**
- India both has a **President** (Head of the state) and a **Prime Minister** which is the (head of the government) holds the real executive power.
- **Prime minister is the one who leads the government** which is supported by the Council of ministers.
- **The parliament is the one who creates the law** which represents the people

HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORKS?



India's political system a federal parliamentary republic



Sources: Government of India, Post factum



POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The political structure of India is organized into 3 different branches. These branches are the **legislative, executive, and judiciary.**

- **Bicameral** with Rajya Sabha (Upper house 250 maximum) Lok Sabha (Lower house 550 maximum member)



सत्यमेव जयते

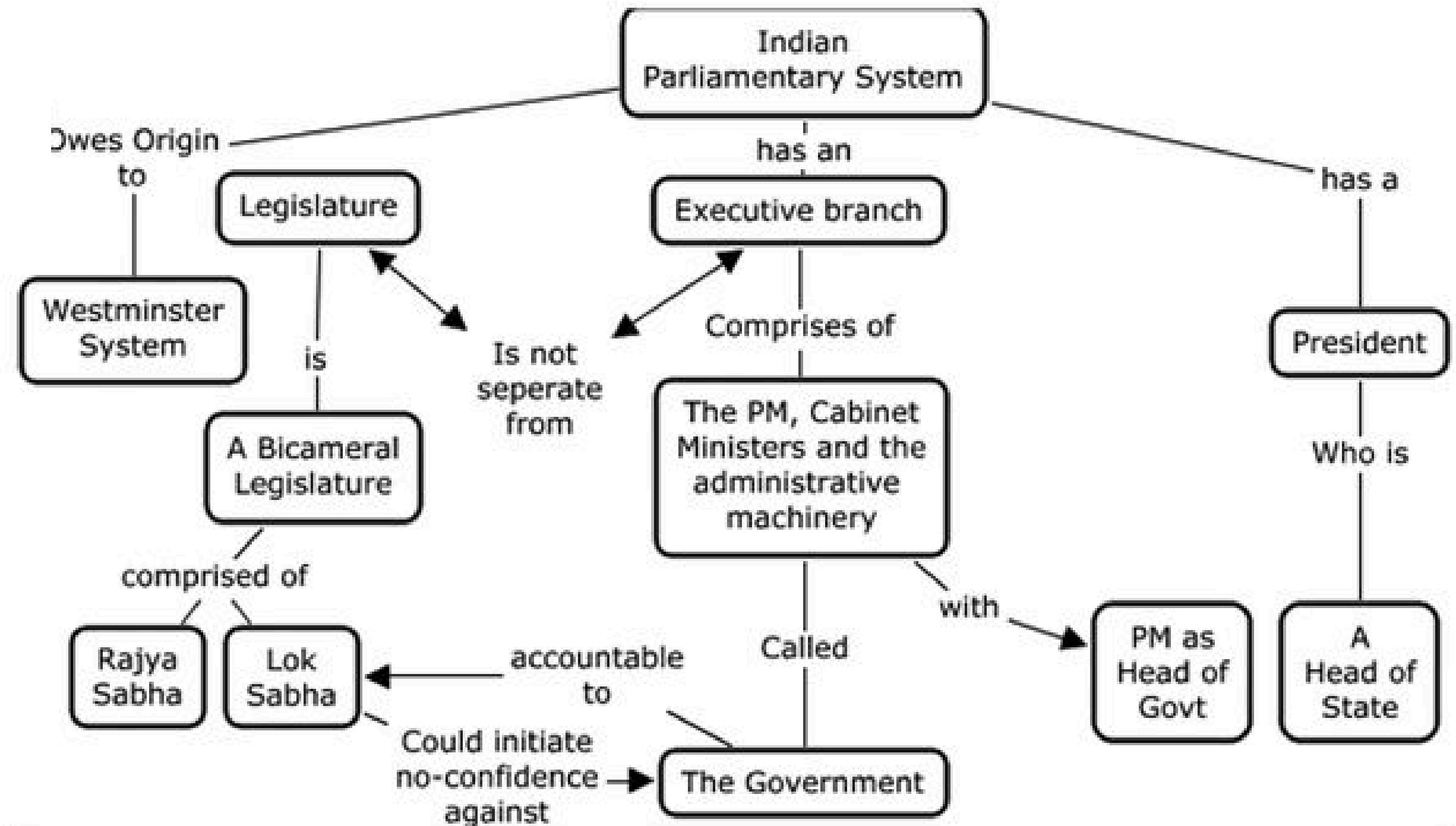
THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

THE PRESIDENT

RAJYA SABHA

LOK SABHA

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM



POLITICAL CULTURE

- The political culture of India is **shaped by a complex interplay of historical, cultural, and economic factors**. Another factor that also shaped India's politics is their **religion, caste and social hierarchy**.
- India is a **multi-party system** with both national and regional parties competing in election.
- The political participation of individuals in India are strong, many of their citizens vote and engage in political dialogue.



ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



HOW CAN ITS ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BE DESCRIBED?

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS:

- **DEMOCRATIC, FEDERAL, AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

VOLUNTARY SYSTEM - REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

- **FIRST-PAST-THE-POST (FPTP) SYSTEM**

CONSIDERED AS A MAJORITARIAN AND DIVIDED INTO CONSTITUENCIES, VOTERS CAN EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FROM THEIR CONSTITUENCY, IN SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES OF EACH OF INDIA'S 25 STATES, DECIDING ON THE 543-MEMBERS OF THE LOK SABHA (LOWER HOUSE)



HOW CAN ITS ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BE DESCRIBED?

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:

India's voting system is voluntary.

Additionally the during the recent 2024 election it was noted that one of the factors for the high turn out results was due to the dissolvment of gender gap for both men and women

which is a compliment to the active protest culture India has, especially for women's social movements, apart from what was mentioned, further examples of these SW will be further discussed on the next slide



WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF ITS POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SYSTEMS, AND INTEREST GROUPS?

- **Political parties** Dominant-party multiparty system

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)- Recognized as the largest political party in the world, founded in 1951 by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee as the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and officially established in 1980, after the collapse of the Janata Party coalition. Described as a major right-wing party driven by Hindu-Centered values, the Nationalist Political Party in India.



The **Indian National Congress** (INC), considered one of the oldest and largest political parties, was founded on December 28, 1885, to fight British Imperialism, led by A.O Hume as the primary founder, who then collaborated with other prominent Indian Leaders as with the likes of Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, and so on. INC is seen on the spectrum as a center-left political party, advocating for Secularism and promoting Gandhian Principles.

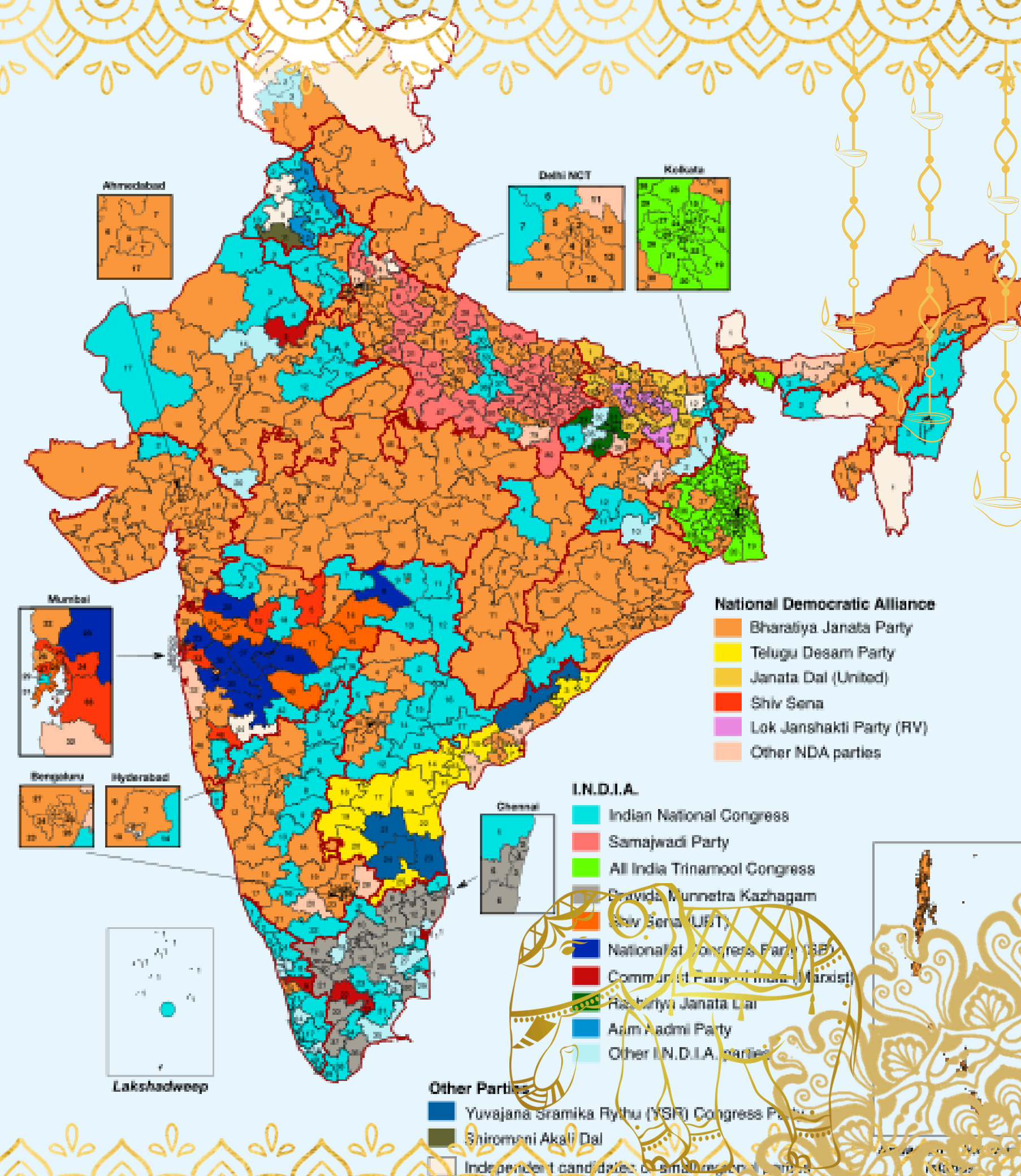


THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.

• Party systems

In a Congress system or a one-party dominance system, India has around 7 national and 48 state parties competing for power, as displayed in the previous slide. Parties often required a coalition due to the fragmented electoral mandates and 272 rule.

Results of are party alliances like for the BJD its the NDA as for the INC it is the I.N.D.I.A



Interest groups

Pressure Groups in India

Business Groups

Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

Trade Unions

All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)

Professional Groups

Indian Medical Association (IMA), Bar Council of India (BCI)

Agrarian Groups

All India Kisan Sabha, Bharatiya Kisan Union

Student's Organisations

Akhila Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), All India Students Federation (AISF)

Religious Groups

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Jamaat-e-Islami

Caste Groups

Harijan Sevak Sangh, Nadar Caste Association

Linguistic Groups

Tamil Sangh, Andhra Maha Sabha

Tribal Groups

National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Tribal National Volunteers (TNU)



HOW CAN ITS CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS BE DESCRIBED?

Civil society shares the social landscape with a notoriously uncivil, violence-prone society. To some extent, the cause of civil society in India has made some noteworthy advances in recent years. There are an estimated one million nongovernmental organizations in India. Women's rights groups are proliferating, and human rights organizations have also become more active. Trade unions are organized and energetic. And civil society has played an especially important role in curbing Hindu-Muslim violence.



INDIA'S SOCIAL MOVEMENT EVOLUTION

Social Movements in India can be traced in the 19th century

- 1828: **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** established the Brahmo Samaj to fight social evils and promote rationalism.
- 1873: **Jyotiba Phule** founded the Satyashodhak Samaj to fight caste oppression



REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Indian Freedom Struggle: Revolutionary groups like Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and Indian National Army (INA) sought independence through armed resistance



Post-Independence

- Anti-Caste Movements: **Dr. Ambedkar's** and **Kanshi Ram's** activism laid the foundation for Dalit political assertion



Women's Liberation: Post-1970s feminist activism reshaped gender discourse.

1972, Ela Bhatt founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). SEWA's objective was to improve the conditions of women working in the unorganized sector by providing them with training and technical assistance. Ela Bhatt, Gandhiji. She was associated with the women's wing of the Textile Labor Association, founded by the late Dr. Sunderlal Bahuguna.



Tribal Rights Movements: The Forest Rights Act, 2006, emerged from sustained tribal struggles

Enacted in 2006, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) acknowledges and affirms the rights of tribal communities residing in forests, along with other traditional forest dwellers, to access essential forest resources crucial for fulfilling various needs such as subsistence, habitation, and sociocultural requirements. The FRA recognizes the legitimate occupation of forest land by Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) and Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST), who have been residing there for numerous generations. By safeguarding the way of life and food security of FDST and OTFD, the FRA contributes to an improved conservation framework for the forests. The initiation of the process to determine the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR), Community Forest Rights (CFR), or a combination thereof, which may be granted to FDST and OTFD, is mandated to commence at the Gram Sabha level. The FRA emphasizes the conservation and management of India's natural resources, with a particular focus on poverty reduction and pro-poor growth



WHAT KIND OF POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL COMMUNICATION ARE IN PLACE?

Political Culture that delves into the caste-based politics, Hindutva as well as representation of its multiple regional identities, that shapes its political communication, currently in this generation, Web 2 is expected in most civil settings both in National with The Hindu and Indian Express through independent media run websites like the Wire, though with India's various diverse classes, and unequal distribution of wealth has led to rural areas to experience a one way communication with its politics.



STANCE ON THE RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR



STANCE

- New Delhi has adopted a public neutrality towards Russia (an Indian scholar described this decision as “a indirect pro-moscow position”)
- India is concerned with how isolating Russia might undermine its security.
- The country’s response focused unevenly on the human right violations while avoiding to identify Russia as the attacker of the tragedy.
- In U.S., India's neutrality has been disappointing since their positions contrast on a fundamental issues of global order.

REASON

- The Soviet Union wielded vetoes in the UN Security Council on India's behalf on six occasions including the ‘the Kashmir conflict and the Bangladesh liberation war’.
- India considers the veto wielding authority of Russia influencing its checks to criticize the country.
- Russia ties with India go back to 1995, when Soviet Premier “Nikita Khrushchev” declared their support for Indian claims over Jammu and Kashmir.

STANCE ON ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINE



STANCE

- India position is actually refined it supports the creation of a Palestinian state but it also has defense ties with Israel.

ISRAEL

- India chose to abstain in calling for a “humanitarian truce” in Gaza.
- PM Modi was one of the first to accuse the terrorist attacks and declared that India stands on Gaza as a counterterrorism.
- It views the Israel assault in Gaza as a counterterrorism operation.

Palestine

- India still voted several times for Palestinian right in the UN.
- It strongly supports a two state resolution an option that Israel routinely rejects.

REASON

On Israel

- India recognized Israel's statehood in 1950.
- During India's war with Pakistan and China, it took defense support from Israel.
- It saw its evolving ties with Israel as a means of growing closer to the US.

Palestine

- In 1977 India was among the first non-Arab nation to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
- India supported Palestine's bid for full UN membership and condemned Israel settlement in Palestinian Territory.

EXECUTIVE RELATIONS



PRESIDENT

**President: Droupadi Murmu
(elected in 2022)**

- The Indian president is the head of state, and their position is largely ceremonial.
- Their term is limited to 5 years and is subject to impeachment.
- The Indian Constitution specifically states that there shall be a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President.

PRIME MINISTER

**Prime Minister: Narendra Modi
(maintained the position for 3
consecutive terms)**

- The Indian PM leads the country as the head of government.
- He heads the Council of Ministers and is the official representative of the country.
- The President appoints the PM, who is the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha or who has gained its support.

LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS



LOK SABHA

Lower house of parliament, but more dominant

- 545 members in all = 543 (peoples elected representatives) and 2 (nominated members from the Anglo-Indian community by the President).
- Limited to a term of 5 years, contingent on dissolution by the President.
- Holds the power of the purse.

RAJYA SABHA

Upper house of parliament

- It comprises 245 members in all = 233 (representatives of the states and union territories) and 12 (nominees of the President).
- This house is a permanent body of members which can not be dissolved.
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of the members may retire voluntarily after completing 6 consecutive years.



NEXUS

Principle of Collective Responsibility:

The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

- A minister who loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha is obliged to resign.
- The loss of confidence is expressed by rejecting a Money Bill or Finance bill or by passing a motion of no-confidence.

In a parliamentary form of government, the executive is not separated from the legislature since the members of the CoM are members of the legislature.

The executive loses power when it loses the confidence of the legislature. The executive/council of ministers is dismissed if it loses the legislature's confidence before its tenure is over.

THANK YOU!

See you in India!



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