

Congress System

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In News

The Congress dominated in the first three general elections. It had many popular faces like Jawaharlal Nehru, C Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel etc. Moreover Jawaharlal Nehru was charismatic and a very popular leader. **Congress worked at the upper level as well as at the grass root level. Congress was popularised due to the participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement.**

More About Congress System

- The dominance of Congress party was in democratic condition. The roots of extraordinary success of the Congress party go back to the **legacy of the freedom struggle.**
- The Congress **brought together diverse groups, whose interests were often contradictory.**
- By the time of independence, the Congress was transformed into a **rainbow-like social coalition broadly representing India's diversity in terms of classes and castes, religions and languages and various interests.**
- This coalition-like character of Congress gave it an unusual strength.
- Groups within a party with diverse ideologies are called factions. **Some of these factions were based on ideological considerations but very often these factions were rooted in personal ambitions and rivalries.**
- The coalition nature of the Congress party tolerated and in fact encouraged various factions.
- Congress dominated in India due to identification with freedom struggle, popular appeal of charismatic leaders, a broad manifesto including every section of society and **consensus building role of party.**

- **Congress was founded by Dr. A.O. Hume in 1885**, as a platform to express the feelings of discontentment, **in the form of social and ideological coalition**, by accommodating different social groups and individuals holding different beliefs and ideologies.
- Even in pre-independence days, many organisations and parties with their own constitutions and organisational structures were allowed to exist within the Congress.