

Chapter 8

Challenges to Democracy

❖ Challenges Before Democracy

- **Foundational challenge**

- The challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government.
- Bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

- **Challenge of expansion**

- The basic principle of democratic government must be applied across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.
- Decision should be democratically taken.
- Greater powers should be given to the federating units along with women and various other marginalized classes.

- **Challenge of deepening of democracy**

- Involves strengthening the institutions that help in the participation of people and the functioning of democracies.

❖ Political Reforms

- Democratic reforms must be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens and not by formulating laws at every instance.
- Any legal change must take into account the political and social effects.
- Laws must empower people to carry out democratic reforms.
- Political reforms should include the strengthening of democratic practices.
- Political reforms should be properly implemented in areas that need them.

❖ Redefining democracy

- The elected representatives must take all the decisions.
- Elections must be free and fair for all the citizens.
- People should form a government that works within the framework of the constitution and for the welfare of its citizens.

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