



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034
CLASS_IX

SUBJECT: Political Science
CHAPTER:- ELECTORAL POLITICS

WEEK-17th Nov to 20th November

No.of Blocks-1

SUBTOPICS

- 1.Need for elections
- 2.Election Process

Instructional Aids- NCERT PDF, YouTube Videos, Flow charts, concept map

Web Links of the chapter-

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?iess4=3-5>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JNuV8Dfxgww>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mDdLO6zUIUI>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mXZ8TM8P6To>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9jH3p7pP92g>

Learning Outcomes: Each student will be able to

- List the number of unfair practices used in elections.
- Examine how democratic elections are by interpreting the election result.

What makes an election In India Democratic?

- In India, elections are conducted by the *Election Commission (EC)*. It is an autonomous body, independent of any governmental control.
- The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commission (CEC). The CEC is neither answerable to the government nor to the President.
- EC takes all decisions related to elections. It declares the election dates and also the results.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

All the political parties have to abide by certain rules and regulations which are supposed to be followed after the announcement of polling dates by the Election Commission of India.

A candidate or political party is not supposed to:

1. use any place of worship for election propaganda.
2. use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections
3. once elections are announced, ministers shall not lay the foundation of projects or take big policy decisions or make policies for providing public facilities
4. Bribe or threaten workers
5. Spend more than 20 lakhs, the prescribed amount in assembly election

If any candidate or political party violates the above laws or rules, his candidature can be rejected by the court.

Recommendation 10:

Leaders in social media, election officials, government leaders, and others should promote the equal protection voting norm, enshrined in the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which ban targeting voters based on race or ethnicity in an effort to suppress or dilute their vote. Social media companies have a unique responsibility to prevent the use of their platforms for efforts that would suppress votes through the spread of misinformation about voting.

WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC?

Independent Election Commission

In India the elections are conducted by a very powerful and independent Election Commission.

The independence of EC is ensured by the method of appointment of its officials.

The EC comprises Chief Election Commissioner and two other Election Commissioners.

The CEC is appointed by the President of India. Once appointed is not answerable to the President or the government.

It is virtually impossible to remove CEC and he can only be removed by the process of impeachment.

EC of India has wide ranging powers.

It takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of result.

POPULAR PARTICIPATION

When the elections are conducted in a free and fair manner, people participate in large numbers to cast vote and are enthusiastic for elections. This is called popular participation.

People's participation in elections is usually measured by voter turnout. This refers to the percentage of eligible voters who cast their votes in an election.

How can it be said that elections are becoming popular in India and drawing people's attention?

Over the last fifty years in India, the turnout has either remained stable or actually gone up.

a) In India the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in large number proportion as compared to the rich and privileged sections. This is in contrast to USA where poor people, Afro- Americans and Hispanics vote much less in comparison to the rich and the whites.

b) Common people in India attach a lot of importance to elections. They feel that through elections they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them. They also feel that their vote matters in the way things are done in the country.

c) Interest of people in vote related activities has been increasing over the years e.g. in 2004 elections, more than 1/3rd voters took part in campaign related activities.

Acceptance of Election Outcomes

The outcome of India's elections speaks for itself.

1. The ruling party routinely lose elections in India both at the national and state level.
2. Candidates who are known to have spent a lot of money and those with known criminal connections often lose elections.

Barring very few disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted as people's verdict by the defeated party.



CHALLENGES TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of electoral race and secured a 'ticket' from major parties.

Some families tend to dominate political parties, tickets are distributed among the relatives of the families.

Candidates and parties with lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy advantage over smaller parties and independent candidates.

Very often elections offer little choice to the voters. Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

ASSIGNMENT

Q1. Comment on the following cartoon.



Q2. What is political participation? Which factors influence voter turnout in elections?