

Chapter 5

Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System

Section A: Fill in the Blanks

1. Universal adult franchise means every adult citizen gets _____ vote and all votes have _____ value.
2. The population of eligible voters in India is _____ times the population of the United Kingdom.
3. In 2024, for the first time, the elderly and people with disabilities could cast their votes from _____.
4. The Uttaramerur inscriptions from the _____ century describe a transparent process for selecting representatives.
5. Elections in India are often referred to as the 'Festival of _____'.
6. Members elected to the Lok Sabha are known as _____.
7. Members elected to the State Legislative Assemblies are called _____.
8. India follows the _____-Past-the-Post electoral system.
9. One-third of Rajya Sabha members retire every _____ years.
10. The President of India is elected by an _____ college.

Section B: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. What is the voting age in India?

a) 18 years	<input type="text"/>	b) 19 years	<input type="text"/>
c) 21 years	<input type="text"/>	d) 25 years	<input type="text"/>
2. Article 326 of the Constitution is related to:

a) Fundamental Rights	<input type="text"/>
b) Universal Adult Franchise	<input type="text"/>
c) Right to Education	<input type="text"/>
d) Directive Principles	<input type="text"/>
3. Before Independence, the percentage of Indians allowed to vote was:

a) 10%	<input type="text"/>	b) 15%	<input type="text"/>	c) 20%	<input type="text"/>	d) 13%	<input type="text"/>
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4. Which country granted women the right to vote only in 1971?

a) USA	<input type="text"/>	b) France	<input type="text"/>
c) Switzerland	<input type="text"/>	d) Australia	<input type="text"/>
5. How many million women representatives are there in local government bodies in India?

a) 1.3 million	<input type="text"/>	b) 2.0 million	<input type="text"/>
c) 0.8 million	<input type="text"/>	d) 3.1 million	<input type="text"/>
6. How many times larger is India's area compared to France?

a) Four times	<input type="text"/>	b) Six times	<input type="text"/>
c) Eight times	<input type="text"/>	d) Ten times	<input type="text"/>
7. In the Suryodaya School election, how many votes did Gurmat get?

a) 8	<input type="text"/>	b) 10	<input type="text"/>	c) 12	<input type="text"/>	d) 13	<input type="text"/>
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8. Who introduced reforms like voter IDs to stop proxy voting?

a) Sukumar Sen	<input type="text"/>	b) Sunil Arora	<input type="text"/>
c) T.N. Seshan	<input type="text"/>	d) S.Y. Quraishi	<input type="text"/>

9. In which state was the Model Code of Conduct first adopted?

a) Kerala

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Maharashtra

d) Punjab

10. When was the Election Commission of India established?

a) 1947

b) 1950

c) 1952

d) 1960

11. How many constituencies are there in the Lok Sabha?

a) 245

b) 233

c) 543

d) 500

12. Who nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha?

a) Prime Minister

b) President of India

c) Lok Sabha Speaker

d) Chief Justice of India

Section C: Write T for True and F for False in the boxes provided.

1. Universal adult franchise means that only educated people can vote.

2. Women in India got the right to vote from the very beginning.

3. No one can vote on behalf of another person in India.

4. In 2024, only people living in cities could use postal voting.

5. NOTA changes the election result if it gets the most votes.

6. State Election Commissions manage local body elections.

7. A candidate must secure more than 50% of the votes to win under the First-Past-the-Post system.

8. The Vice President of India is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament.

9. The President of India is directly elected by the people.

10. The Vice President is the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Section D: Match the Following.

Column A

1. Another term for franchise
2. Election Commission of India
3. Printing format for visually impaired
4. Private voting method
5. None Of The Above
6. Voting on behalf of someone else
7. Rajya Sabha & President election method

Column B

- a. Braille
- b. NOTA
- c. Single transferable vote
- d. Conducting elections
- e. Proxy voting
- f. Suffrage
- g. Secret ballot

Section E: Short Answer Questions

1. Give one reason why universal adult franchise is important.

Ans. _____

2. What measures has the Election Commission of India taken to make voting more accessible?

Ans. _____

3. Which elections are managed by State Election Commissions?

Ans. _____

4. What is the Model Code of Conduct?

Ans. _____

5. Name three reforms introduced by T.N. Seshan.

Ans. _____

6. Why are elections in India called the 'Festival of Democracy'?

Ans. _____

7. What is the difference between an MP and an MLA?

Ans. _____

8. Why is the Rajya Sabha called a permanent house?

Ans. _____

9. Why are some members not involved in the election of the President of India?

Ans. _____

10. What challenges does India's electoral system face today?

Ans. _____

Section F: Long Answer Questions

1. Compare the voting rights in India before and after Independence.

Ans. _____

2. Compare the ancient Uttaramerur election process with the modern school election in Suryodaya School.

Ans. _____

3. Explain the process of elections to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Ans. _____

4. Describe the election of the President and Vice President of India.

Ans. _____

5. What are the major challenges in India's electoral system and how can they be overcome?

Ans. _____

SECTION G: Give One word Answer.

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|--|---------|
| 1. The area whose voters elect a representative. | — _____ |
| 2. A group of interconnected elements working together. | — _____ |
| 3. The lower house of Parliament. | — _____ |
| 4. The right to reject all candidates in an election. | — _____ |
| 5. The official who organises and oversees the election process. | — _____ |
| 6. Elections where people vote directly for their representatives. | — _____ |
| 7. The head of the Election Commission of India. | — _____ |
| 8. The system of government India follows. | — _____ |
| 9. A group of two or more parties working together. | — _____ |
| 10. The Upper House of Parliament. | — _____ |

Answer

Section A: Fill in the Blanks

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|---------|--------------|
| 1. one, equal | 2. fifteen (15) | 3. home | 4. 10th | 5. Democracy |
| 6. Members of Parliament (MPs) | 7. Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) | | | |
| 8. First | 9. two (2) | 10. Electoral | | |

Section B: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. b) 18 years | 2. b) Universal Adult Franchise | 3. d) 13% | 4. c) Switzerland |
| 5. a) 1.3 million | 6. b) Six times | 7. c) 12 | 8. c) T.N. Seshan |
| 10. b) 1950 | 11. c) 543 | 12. b) President of India | 9. a) Kerala |

Section D: True/False

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|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. True | 4. False | 5. False |
| 6. True | 7. False | 8. True | 9. False | 10. True |

Section C: Match the Following

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 → f | 2 → d | 3 → a | 4 → g | 5 → b | 6 → e | 7 → c |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Section E: Short Answer Questions

- It ensures equality and representation for all citizens.
- Voting from home for elderly/disabled, postal voting, braille voter cards, app-based wheelchair/ramps.
- Gram panchayat and urban local body elections.
- A set of guidelines for parties and candidates to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections.
- Voter IDs, strict monitoring of spending, enforcing campaign rules.
- Because it is a nationwide celebration where citizens freely choose their representatives.
- MP represents people at the national level in Lok Sabha, MLA represents people at the state level in Assembly.
- It is never dissolved; one-third members retire every two years.
- Because only directly elected representatives should vote for the President.
- Money power, criminalisation of politics, voter apathy in urban areas.

Section F: Long Answer Questions

- Compare voting rights in India before and after Independence.
Before: Only 13% of Indians could vote, restricted by property, education, and income.
After: Universal adult franchise granted, every citizen above 18 can vote, including women.
- Uttaramerur: Names written on palm leaves, drawn randomly, read aloud publicly.
Suryodaya School: Candidates campaigned, secret ballot (including braille), votes counted transparently.
Similarity: Both aimed for fairness and transparency.
Difference: One was random selection, the other secret voting.
- Lok Sabha: 543 constituencies, First-Past-the-Post system, candidate with most votes wins.
Rajya Sabha: 245 members — 233 elected by MLAs (single transferable vote), 12 nominated by President
Permanent body.
- President: Indirect election by electoral college of MPs and MLAs of states & UTs (Delhi, Puducherry). Single transferable vote used.
Vice President: Elected by all members of Parliament (both houses, elected and nominated). Vice President is Rajya Sabha Chairperson.

5. Challenges: Money power, criminalisation, voter apathy.

Solutions: Stricter expenditure monitoring, disqualification of criminal candidates, awareness campaigns, youth participation, responsible media.

Section G: One Word Answer

1. Constituency
2. System
3. Lok Sabha
4. NOTA
5. Election Officer
6. Direct elections
7. Chief Election Commissioner
8. Parliamentary
9. Coalition
10. Rajya Sabha



One Point Learning