

Chapter 7: Elections

SECTION A — Multiple Choice Questions.

- The word 'psephology' is derived from which language?
a) Latin b) Sanskrit c) Greek d) French
- Elections should be conducted in a:
a) Free manner b) Fair manner c) Transparent manner d) All of these
- Who nominates some members to the Vidhan Parishad?
a) Governor b) President c) Prime Minister d) Chief Minister
- Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of a Delimitation Commission?
a) Article 32 b) Article 82 c) Article 21 d) Article 14
- Which Articles of the Indian Constitution deal with the Election Commission of India (ECI)?
a) Articles 14–18 b) Articles 21–25 c) Articles 324–329 d) Articles 350–355
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established on:
a) 26 January 1950 b) 25 January 1950 c) 15 August 1947 d) 26 November 1949
- How many Election Management Bodies have signed MoUs with the ECI?
a) 18 b) 28 c) 38 d) 48
- When was the Anti-Defection Law passed?
a) 1957 b) 1965 c) 1975 d) 1985
- Which party formed the first coalition government at the national level?
a) Janata Party b) BJP c) Congress d) NDA
- National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on:
a) 25 January b) 15 August c) 26 January d) 14 November

SECTION B — Fill in the Blanks by using the correct words from the Help Box.

[accountable | bicameral | cVIGIL | democratic | elections | electoral rolls | four | multi-party | political parties | quasi]

- Regular and periodic _____ lie at the core of democracy.
- Elections are one of the most important processes for exercising _____ rights.
- The ECI prepares and updates the _____.
- India has a _____ system.
- _____ help provide governance, accountability, representation, and public engagement.
- A voter can use the _____ app to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct with auto-location tracking.
- Elected representatives are _____ to the people.
- A State Legislature having two Houses is called a _____ legislature.
- India has had _____ Delimitation Commissions.
- The ECI acts as a _____-judicial body in certain election disputes.

SECTION C — State whether the following statements are True or False.

1. A government can continue indefinitely without seeking the people's mandate. [____]
2. In India, Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and local body members are directly elected every five years. [____]
3. The Upper House of a state legislature is called the Vidhan Sabha. [____]
4. Constituency boundaries may change due to shifts in population density. [____]
5. Independent candidates cannot contest elections. [____]
6. The Anti-Defection Law encourages political defection. [____]
7. The ECI registers and recognises political parties based on specific criteria. [____]
8. Delimitation aims to ensure equal representation. [____]
9. India uses only the proportional representation system for all elections. [____]
10. The era of political alliances began in India in 1967. [____]

SECTION D — Match the terms in Column A with their correct descriptions in Column B.

Column A	Column B	Ans.
1. Psephology	a. Eases voter registration and polling-station search for PwDs	
2. ECI	b. 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act	
3. Anti-Defection Law	c. Permissions for nomination, rallies and campaign material	
4. Suvidha App	d. Scientific study of elections	
5. Saksham App	e. Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952	
6. cVIGIL App	f. An autonomous permanent constitutional body	
7. 1952	g. Reporting Model Code of Conduct violations	

SECTION E — Short Answer Questions.

1. What are direct elections? Give two examples from India.

Ans. _____

2. What are indirect elections? Give two examples from India.

Ans. _____

3. What is delimitation?

Ans. _____

4. What is ETPBS?

Ans. _____

5. What is the Model Code of Conduct?

Ans. _____

6. What is the purpose of VVPAT?

Ans. _____

7. Who is eligible to vote in India?

Ans. _____

8. What is a political party?

Ans. _____

9. What is Special Intensive Revision (SIR)? Why is it necessary?

Ans. _____

10. List any three electoral offences or corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Ans. _____

SECTION F —Answer the following in detail.

1. 'Elections are the soul of a democracy.' Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons.

Ans. _____

2. Explain the differences between the FPTP system and the PR system, with the help of an example.

Ans. _____

3. Discuss the role and importance of political parties in a democracy.

Ans. _____

4. Explain the role of the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951, in conducting elections in India.

Ans. _____

5. Explain the major functions of the Election Commission of India.

Ans. _____

6. Explain the role of digital applications in making the electoral process more efficient and accessible.

Ans. _____

7. Explain the major challenges to conducting free and fair elections in India.

Ans. _____

8. Explain the importance of free and fair elections in a democracy. Give suitable reasons.

Ans. _____

SECTION G — One-Word Answers.

1. A process through which citizens choose their representatives. — _____
2. The method used to convert votes cast by people into seats in the legislature. — _____
3. The list containing the names of eligible voters. — _____
4. The machine used for recording votes electronically. — _____
5. The document containing a political party's election promises. — _____
6. The act of switching from the political party under whose banner a candidate was elected. — _____
7. The instruction issued by a political party to its members regarding voting. — _____
8. The international programme of the ECI for cooperation with election bodies. — _____

SECTION H — Answer in One or Two Words

1. Name any four stakeholders in the electoral process.
Ans. _____
2. Name the six states with a bicameral legislature.
Ans. _____
3. Name any four elections conducted by the ECI.
Ans. _____
4. Name the three international organisations mentioned in the passage.
Ans. _____

SECTION I — Case Study Based Question.

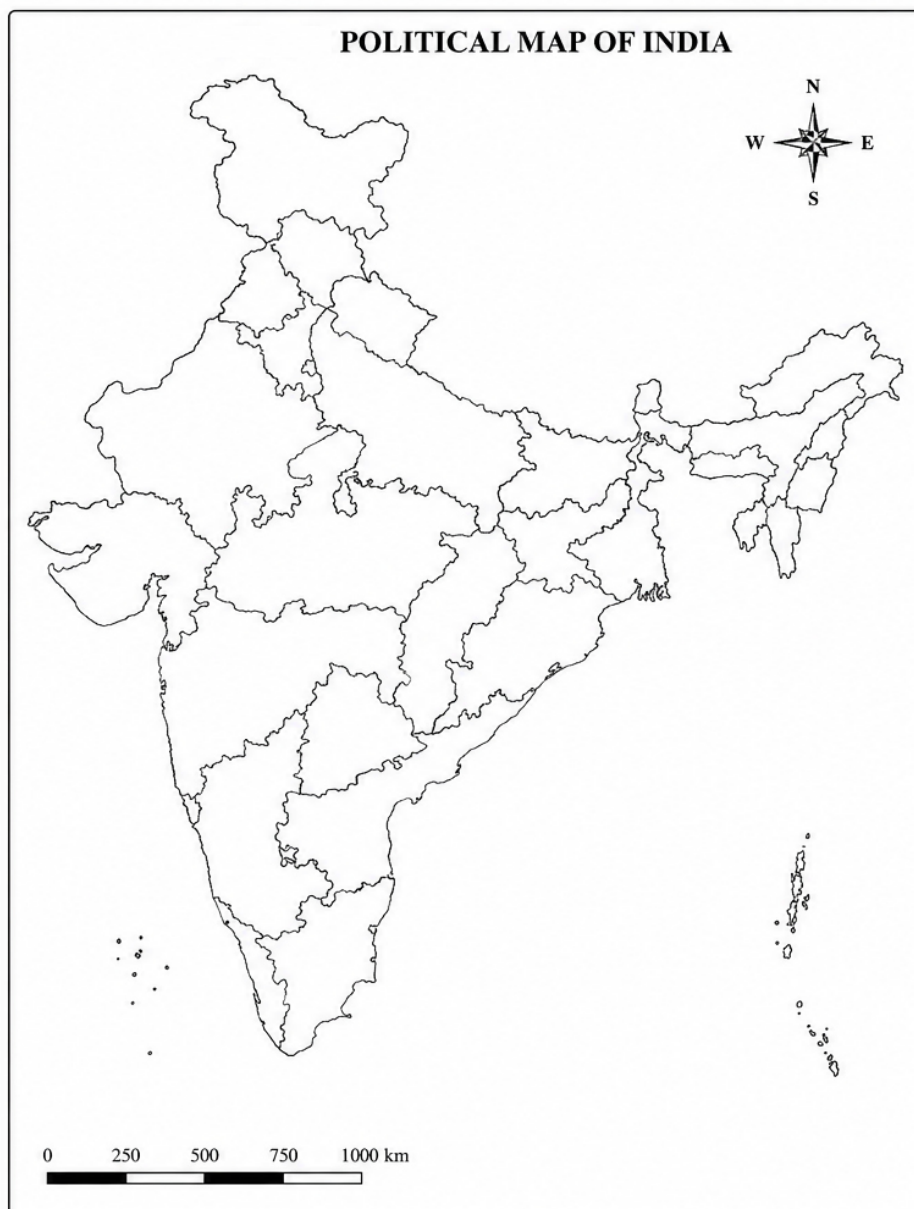
Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

- Ishani and her mother were in the local market a day before the state assembly elections. She noticed wall writing and campaign posters pasted everywhere, and large groups of campaigners distributing pamphlets and raising slogans. Ishani had just turned 18 and registered to vote through the ECI's online portal. On election day, she went with her mother and her disabled elder brother to the polling station, which was guarded by police personnel. A wheelchair was made available, and volunteers guided them to the booth. Ishani had forgotten her Voter ID and Aadhaar card, but no one asked for them. After voting, she also saw the VVPAT slip. Her 89-year-old grandmother cast her vote from home.
1. What initiatives were taken by the ECI to enable all the voters in this case to cast their vote?
 2. Which document, other than the Voter ID or Aadhaar card, might Ishani have carried to prove her identity?
 3. Identify one example from the passage that could be seen as part of election campaigning under the Model Code of Conduct.

Section J — Map-Based Activity.**On the given outline political map of India:**

- Locate and label the following six states: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala.
- From the six states above, choose any THREE states (you may include your own state) and, next to each, draw / paste the election symbol of one major State (regional) political party belonging to that state.
- For each of the three states chosen, write in the space below the major agenda/issue of that party as mentioned in its manifesto in the latest Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, or Local Body election.
- Mark the national capital, New Delhi, with a star (★), since it is the seat of the Election Commission of India.
- Shade the six states in six different colours and prepare a colour-coded legend/key at the bottom of the map.

State	Party & Symbol	Major Agenda (as per latest manifesto)
1.		
2.		
3.		



ANSWER KEY

SECTION A — Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. c) Greek | 2. d) All of these | 3. a) Governor | 4. b) Article 82 |
| 5. c) Articles 324–329 | 6. b) 25 January 1950 | 7. b) 28 | 8. d) 1985 |
| 9. a) Janata Party | 10. a) 25 January | | |

SECTION B — Fill in the Blanks

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. elections | 2. democratic | 3. electoral rolls | 4. multi-party |
| 5. political parties | 6. cVIGIL | 7. accountable | 8. bicameral |
| 9. four | 10. quasi | | |

C. True or False

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

SECTION D — Match the Following

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

SECTION E — Short Answer Questions

- Direct elections are elections in which citizens directly elect their representatives. Examples: Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections.
- Indirect elections are elections in which elected representatives choose the representatives or office-holders. Examples: Rajya Sabha and President of India.
- Delimitation is the process of fixing the number of seats and territorial boundaries of constituencies for elections.
- ETPBS stands for Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System. It enables service voters to receive and cast postal ballots electronically.
- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that political parties and candidates must follow during elections.
- VVPAT allows voters to verify that their vote has been recorded correctly.
- Every Indian citizen aged 18 years or above whose name is on the electoral roll is eligible to vote.
- A political party is an organised group that contests elections to form the government.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the process of updating, verifying and correcting electoral rolls. It is necessary to ensure that eligible voters are included and ineligible or duplicate names are removed.
- Three electoral offences or corrupt practices are:
 - Bribery or offering gifts
 - Appeal for votes on religious, caste or community grounds
 - Taking prohibited assistance from government personnel

SECTION F — Long Answer Questions

- Yes, I agree. Elections are the soul of democracy because:
 - They give citizens the right to choose their representatives.
 - They allow people to change non-performing representatives.
 - They make elected representatives accountable to the people.
 - They give citizens an equal voice in forming the government.
 - Regular elections ensure that the government has the people's mandate.

Thus, free and fair elections are essential for a successful democracy.

2.

FPTP System	Proportional Representation System
1. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes wins.	1. Seats are allocated according to the proportion of votes received .
2. Used for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections.	2. Used for Rajya Sabha, President and Vice-President elections.
3. Example: If A gets 40%, B 35% and C 25% votes, A wins .	3. Example: A party getting a larger share of votes gets a proportionately larger share of seats .

3. Political parties play an important role in democracy because:

- They provide information about candidates and their policies.
- They present their election agenda and promises.
- They discuss local, state, national and international issues.
- They provide governance and representation.
- They help ensure accountability.
- They encourage public participation.
- They provide voters with different choices.

Thus, political parties connect citizens with the government and help democracy function effectively.

4. The Representation of the People Acts provide the legal framework for elections in India.

Representation of the People Act, 1950:

- Deals with the allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies.
 - Provides for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
 - Provides the framework for voter eligibility.
- Representation of the People Act, 1951:
- Deals with the conduct of elections.
 - Provides rules for nomination and election campaigns.
 - Provides rules regarding voting and election disputes.

Together, these Acts help ensure an organised and transparent electoral process.

5. The major functions of the Election Commission of India are:

- Preparing and revising electoral rolls.
- Fixing election schedules and dates.
- Registering political parties and allocating symbols.
- Conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.
- Ensuring free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections.
- Supervising the counting of votes and declaration of results.
- Using technology and e-governance to improve election management.

6. The ECI uses various digital applications to improve election management and voter services:

- ETPBS enables service voters to receive and cast postal ballots electronically.
- Voter Helpline App provides voter registration, verification and election information.
- cVIGIL allows voters to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct.
- ERONET helps in processing forms and maintaining electronic electoral rolls.
- Sugam manages vehicles used for election-related work.
- Suvidha helps candidates and political parties with nomination forms and permissions.
- Saksham provides services for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Thus, digital applications make elections more efficient, transparent, accessible and voter-friendly.

7. Conducting elections in India is challenging because of the:

- Large number of voters.
- Large number of polling stations.
- Many political parties and candidates.
- Diverse social and geographical conditions.
- Problems of misinformation and fake news.
- Possibility of intimidation and unfair influence.

The ECI addresses these challenges through the Representation of the People Acts, Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT, voter-awareness campaigns and other measures.

8. Free and fair elections are important because:

- They allow citizens to choose their representatives freely.
- They ensure that every eligible voter has an equal opportunity to vote.
- They make the government accountable to the people.
- They allow people to change non-performing representatives.

- They strengthen people's trust in democracy.
- They ensure that the government is formed according to the people's mandate.

Thus, free and fair elections are essential for a strong and successful democracy.

SECTION G — One-Word Answers.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Election | 2. Electoral System | 3. Electoral Roll | 4 .EVM |
| 5. Manifesto | 6. Defection | 7 .Whip | 8. IEVP |

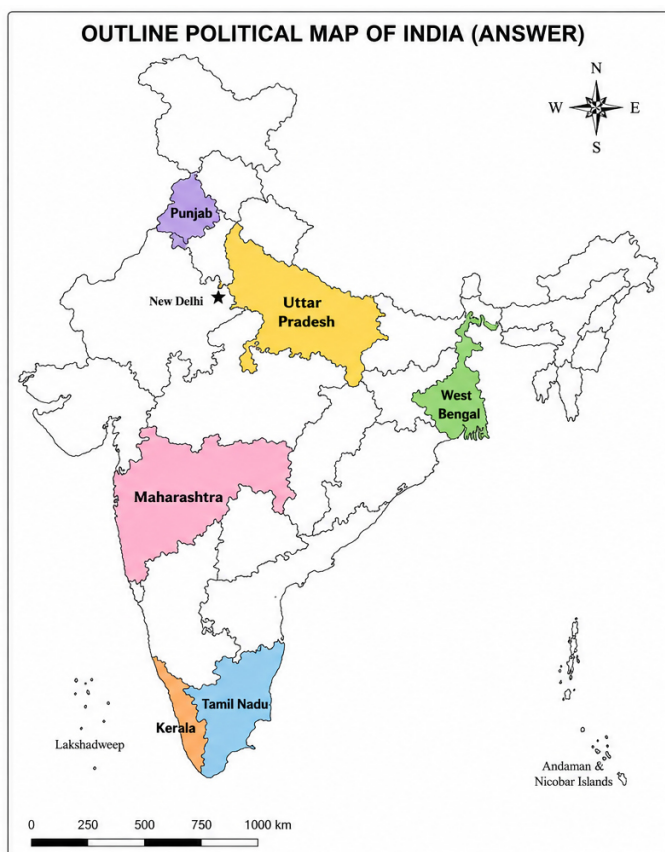
SECTION H — Answer in One or Two Words

1. ECI, political parties, media, voters
2. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh
3. Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan Parishad
4. IFES, International IDEA, United Nations

Section I — Case Study Based Answers

1. The ECI provided online voter registration, wheelchair facilities, volunteers for assistance, police security, VVPAT, and home voting facilities for elderly voters.
2. Ishani could have carried PAN Card as an alternative identity document.
3. Campaign posters and pamphlets distributed by campaigners are examples of election campaigning.

Section J — Map-Based Activity



S. No.	State	Party & Symbol (Draw / Paste)	Major Agenda (as per latest manifesto)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Samajwadi Party (SP)  (Bicycle)	Social justice and welfare
2.	Maharashtra	Shiv Sena  (Bow and Arrow)	Development and welfare of Maharashtra
3.	Tamil Nadu	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)  (Rising Sun)	Social justice and development

LEGEND / KEY (Six Different Colours)

 Uttar Pradesh	 West Bengal
 Maharashtra	 Punjab
 Tamil Nadu	 Kerala