

Elections in India: Know about the Procedure

Introduction

Elections are a complicated, multi-dimensional political and social event. In India, the largest democracy in the world, the elections are a costly affair.

History of Elections in India

The first election that was held in India after it attained independence in 1947 was in 1952. It was the election to the Lok Sabha. It was conducted under the provisions of the Indian constitution. Elections to most of the constituencies took place simultaneously. Close to 1900 candidates competed for 489 seats. More than 170 million (approx.) people were eligible to vote in these elections.

Electoral System:

India is a federal country, with a three-tier system. It is also a parliamentary form of government, with the prime minister as the head of the state. The first Tier is the central government, the second tier is the state government, and then there are the local bodies such as the panchayats and the municipalities. The supreme legislative bodies in the country are the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha (the lower house and the upper house, respectively).

All the members in the Lok Sabha are directly elected through a concept called 'general elections' which are held every five years. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the MLA of the state and UTs. The Lok Sabha, as the name suggests, is the house for the people. The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is 552. The members elected to the Lok Sabha are called '*Members of Legislative Assembly*.'

Process of Election

The Election Commission of India conducts the election in India. The commission consists of a chief election commissioner and two other members. It is an independent body.

The democratic system in India is based on the principle of universal adult suffrage. Any citizen above the **age of 18** is allowed to vote. 67.40% was the voter turnout recorded in the 2014 General Elections.

The electoral roll has the list of people in that particular constituency who are registered to vote in that elections. Only people whose name are in the rolls are allowed to vote as electors.

Indelible Ink:

This refers to India's violet-coloured ink that is applied to the forefinger of a voter after voting. In 1962, in cooperation with the Law Ministry, India's National Physical Laboratory and the National Research Development

Corporation, the Election Commission made an agreement with Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd. to produce ink that could not be easily wiped off.

VVPAT:

A voter-verified paper audit trail is the system that is being used. This enables electronic voting machines to record each vote by generating the EVM slip. A total of approximately 18 lakhs VVPAT machines was used in the 2019 general election.

NOTA:

On 27 September 2013, the Supreme Court of India provided right to a negative vote by exercising a "*None of the above*" (NOTA) option to the voters of India. This came into existence as a result of petitioning from the Electoral Commission and the People's Union for Civil Liberties from 2009.

Articles related to Elections	
324	Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
325	No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
326	Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
327	Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
328	Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
329	Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.