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ASSIGNMENT 02

Democracy and Elections in India

How the world's largest democracy votes

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SUBJECT

Political Science

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Introduction

Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people. India holds regular, free and fair elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies.

Features of Indian Democracy

The Constitution guarantees adult franchise, fundamental rights and an independent judiciary.

- Universal adult franchise
- Regular elections every five years
- Multi-party system
- Independent Election Commission

Body	Term	Elected by
Lok Sabha	5 years	Citizens directly
Rajya Sabha	6 years (one-third retire every 2 years)	State legislators
State Assembly	5 years	Citizens directly
Panchayat	5 years	Village voters

The Election Process

Elections follow a fixed sequence managed by the Election Commission.

- Delimitation of constituencies
- Preparation of voter lists
- Nomination of candidates
- Campaigning under the Model Code of Conduct
- Polling using EVMs and VVPAT
- Counting and declaration of results

Remember

Universal adult franchise means every citizen aged 18 or above can vote, regardless of caste, religion, gender or wealth.

Challenges

Money power, criminalisation of politics and low turnout in some areas remain challenges. Voter awareness and electoral reforms help address them.

- Use of money and muscle power
- Fake news during campaigns
- Low participation of youth in some areas

Conclusion

Elections give citizens the power to choose and change their government peacefully. An informed and active voter is the strength of democracy.

Bibliography

- NCERT textbook, relevant chapter (latest edition).
- Reference book on the subject, standard edition.
- Class notes provided by the teacher.