

A graphic of a bullet with a large, bright orange and yellow flame trailing behind it, moving from right to left.

# ONE SHOT

## REVISION SERIES

**CLASS 9**

**CIVICS**

# ELECTORAL POLITICS





# ***ONE SHOT***

## ***REVISION SERIES***

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**Electoral politics**

# One Shot Live Revision Series

| Date      | Class 10 <sup>th</sup> Live @ 6:00 PM Daily | Class 9 <sup>th</sup> Live @ 8:45 PM Daily     |
|-----------|---|--|
| 17 Sep 23 | The rise of nationalism in Europe           | The French Revolution                          |
| 18 Sep 23 | Resources and Development                   | India - Size and Location                      |
| 19 Sep 23 | Power Sharing                               | What is democracy? Why democracy?              |
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| 26 Sep 23 | Water Resources                             | Drainage                                       |

**Introduction****Why Elections**

Assembly election in Haryana [case study]



- Why do we need elections?
- what makes an election democratic?
- Is it good to have political competition?

**Why is our system of elections?****Electoral Constituencies****Reserved Constituencies****Voters' list****Polling and Counting votes****Election campaign****Nomination of candidates****What makes elections in India Democratic?**

- Independent election commission
- Popular participation
- Acceptance of election outcome

**Challenges to free and fair elections**

## Why Elections

The time is after midnight. An expectant crowd sitting for the past five hours in a chowk of the town is waiting for its leader to come. The organisers assure and reassure the crowd that he would be here any moment. The crowd stands up whenever a passing vehicle comes that way. It arouses hopes that he has come.

The leader is Mr. Devi Lal, chief of the Haryana Sangharsh Samiti, who was to address a meeting in Karnal on Thursday night. The 76-year-old leader, is a very busy man these days. His day starts at 8 a.m. and ends after 11 p.m. ... he had already addressed nine election meetings since morning... been constantly addressing public meetings for the past 23 months and preparing for this election.



The state assembly election in Haryana in 1987



**Chaudhary Devi Lal** and his **"Nyaya Yudh"**

## Why do we need elections?

Situation in the absence of election 🤔



Is there a democratic way of selecting representatives without election?

### Situation in democracy

People require a mechanism by which they can choose their representatives



∴ Elections

- They can choose who will make laws for them.
- They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
- They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law making.

### What makes an election democratic?

- Everyone should have the **right to choose representative**. It means everyone has **one vote and every vote has equal value**.
- Political parties and candidates should be **free to contest elections** and offer some real choices to the voters.
- The choices should be **offered at regular intervals** by conducting elections after a certain period.
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a **free and fair manner** where people can choose representatives according to their wish.

**Is it good to have Political Competition?**

The electoral competition has many demerits. 🤔



- It creates a sense of disunity and party politics.
- Parties level allegations against each other of using dirty tricks to win elections.
- Long-term policies cannot be formulated.



**Then Why do we have elections?**

- Elections provide incentives to political parties and leaders.
- Force leaders and parties to serve people.



### What is our system of elections?

- In India, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha election are held regularly after every five years
- **General Election V/S By Election.**

Electoral Constituencies



The country is divided into different areas for purpose of elections. These are called Electoral Constituencies. Every voter, who lives in an area, votes for one representative.

- **For Lok Sabha** → Country is divided into 543 constituencies [MP]
- **For Vidhan Sabha** election, each state is divided into specific number of assembly constituencies [MLA]
- The same principle applies for **Panchayat and Municipal elections**. Each village or town is divided into different wards that are like constituencies.

**Reserved Constituencies**

- Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**
- A few seats in **Lok Sabha (84 for SC and 47 for ST)** are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- In many states, seats in **rural (panchayat)** and **urban (municipalities and corporations)** local bodies are reserved for **Other Backward Classes (OBC)**.
- One-third of the seats are reserved in rural and urban local bodies for **women candidates**.



Why?



### Voter's list

The list of those who are eligible to vote is officially called the **Electoral Roll** and is commonly known as the **Voters' List**.



A complete revision and updation of voters list is require. 🤔



As new persons attain voting age, names are added to the voters' list and names of those who move out of a place or those who were died are deleted.

EPIC [Election Photo Identity Card] 🤔

### Nomination of Candidates

**Who can contest elections?**



**No restrictions**, Anyone who is a voter can also become a candidate in elections. The minimum age required to contest an election is **25 years**.



**Political Parties**



Nominate their candidate



**Party Ticket**



The candidate has to fill a nomination form and give some money as a security deposit.

### Legal Declaration for by Candidate

- Educational qualification of the candidate
- Details of the assets and liabilities of the candidates and his/her family.
- Serious criminal case pending against the candidate,



- The information provided has to be made public in order to provide
- opportunity to the votes to make the decision on the basis of the information provided by the candidates.

**Election Campaign**

Election campaign means the promotion (or propaganda) of the policies, offers and promises that the candidates make to voters to fulfill, if they are elected.

**How**

Try to focus on public attention ➡ Popular slogans in Election campaigns.



**Sometimes it is necessary to regulate election campaign** 🤔

**∴ No party or candidate can:**

- Bribe or threaten voters.
- Appeal to them in the name of caste or religion
- Use government resources for election campaign.
- Spend more than ₹25 lakh in a constituency for a Lok Sabha election or ₹10 lakh in a constituency in an Assembly Election

**Code of conduct**

**Set of rules which political Parties have to follow during the elections.**

- No party or candidate can use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- No candidate can use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections.
- Once elections are announced, ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any project, take any big policy decision or make any promise of providing public facilities.

**Polling and Counting of votes****Election**

**The final stage of an election is the day, when the voters cast or 'poll' their vote**



- Goes to polling booth
- The election official identify him/her, put a mark on the voter's finger and allow him/ her to cast his/ her vote

**Ballot Paper****EVM (Electronic voting machines)**

- Once the polling is over, all the EVMs are sealed and taken to a secure place. A few days later, on a fixed 18 date, all the EVMs are opened, and the votes secured by each candidate are counted.
- The candidate who secures the highest number of votes from a constituency is declared elected.

**What makes elections in India democratic?**

Instances of unfair  
practices in elections

Fortunately, they are not on  
such a scale so as to defect the  
very purpose of the elections.

**There are many factors which ensure that elections held in India are democratic.**

**Independent Election  
Commission**

**Popular Participation**

**Acceptance of Election  
Outcome**

**Independent Election Commission**

**In our country, elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC).**

**Powers enjoyed by the Election Commission are**

- It takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
- It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates.
- During the election period, the Election Commission can order the government to follow some guidelines.
- Government officers on election duty, work under the control of the Election Commission and not the government.
- If election officials come to the opinion that polling was not fair in some booths or even an entire constituency, they order a repoll.



### Popular Participation

- Increase in the **voters turnout**. Turnout indicates the per cent of eligible voters who actually cast their vote.
- In India, the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared rich and privileged sections. 🤔
- Common people in India **attach a lot of importance** to elections [**Vote matters**].
- The interest of voters in election related activities has been increasing [**one out of every seven voter is a member of a political party**]

**Acceptance of election outcome**

**Free and Fairness of election** ➡ Ruling party lose elections and losing party accepts the outcome 🤔

- The **ruling parties routinely lose elections in India** both at the National and State Level.
- In the US, an incumbent' or sitting elected representative rarely loses an election. But **in India, about half of the sitting MPs or MLAs lose elections.**
- Candidates who are known to have spent a lot of money on buying votes and those with known criminal connection **often lose elections.**
- Except some disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted by the defeated party as '**people's verdict**'.

### Challenges to free and fair elections

- Candidates and parties with a **lot of money** may not be sure of their victory, but they do **enjoy a big and unfair advantage** over smaller parties and independent candidates.
- Some candidates with **criminal records are able to secure party tickets** from major parties.
- Some **families tend to dominate political parties**; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.
- Elections offer only **little choice to ordinary citizens** as both the major parties are quite similar to each other in policies and practice
- **Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage** compared to bigger parties in terms of money power and organisational support.



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
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**For Upcoming sessions**

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