

Ch.5 - Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System

1. Why is universal adult franchise important for a healthy democracy?

Ans - Universal adult franchise means that every adult (18 years and above) has the equal right to vote and choose their leaders, without any discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, or money.

Universal adult franchise is important for a healthy democracy because:



2. What is the meaning of 'secret ballot'? Why is this important in a democracy?

Ans - A secret ballot is a voting method in which a voter casts their vote in such a way that no one else knows whom they voted for, and the choice of the voter is kept completely private.

It is important because: -

- It lets people vote freely without fear.
- No one can force or pressure them to vote for someone.
- Their choice remains private and safe.
- It helps in fair elections, where people choose honestly.

3. Give examples of direct and indirect elections.

Ans - **Direct Elections:** In a direct election, citizens vote directly for the candidate they want.

For example - Elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Gram Panchayats and Municipal Corporations.

Indirect Elections: In indirect elections, people do not vote directly. Instead, elected representatives choose the leaders.

For example - The President, Vice President, and members of the Rajya Sabha of India is elected by elected members of Parliament (MPs) and members of State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

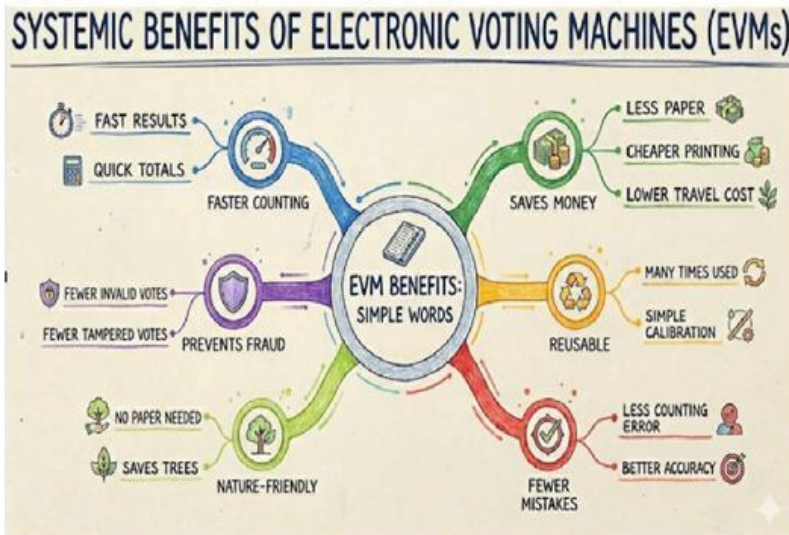
4. How is the election of members to the Lok Sabha different from that to the Rajya Sabha?

Ans -

Lok Sabha vs Rajya Sabha		
	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Method of Election	Members are elected through direct elections.	Members are elected through indirect elections.
Who Votes	Citizens of India (18 years and above) vote directly.	Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies vote.
Representation	Represents the people of India directly.	Represents the states of India.
Tenure	Members are elected for a fixed term of 5 years.	Members are elected for 6 years; one-third retire every two years.
Number of Members (Present)	543 elected members.	245 members (233 elected + 12 nominated).
Presiding Officer	Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha.	Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman.

5. 5. What, in your view, are the advantages of the EVM over paper ballots?

Ans -



7. Why do you think a proportion of seats in the Lok Sabha is reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? Write a short note.

Ans - i) A proportion of seats in the Lok Sabha is reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure their adequate representation in Parliament.

ii) These communities have faced historical discrimination and social disadvantage, which limited their participation in politics.

iii) Reservation provides them a fair opportunity to contest elections and get elected.

iv) It helps them to participate in decision-making and law-making processes.

v) It ensures that their needs, problems, and interests are properly represented in the government.

vi) This system promotes equality, justice, and inclusion in society.