

UNIVERSAL FRANCHISES AND INDIA'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM

CIVICS

CHAPTER – 1

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does the word 'universal' signify in universal adult franchise?

Answer: Universal signifies voting rights for all adult citizens without discrimination.

2. Who updates the Electoral Roll in India?

Answer: The Election Commission of India updates the Electoral Roll.

3. What is the main advantage of using EVMs in elections?

Answer: EVMs ensure faster counting and reduce invalid votes.

4. Name one group of voters who were allowed to vote from home in 2024.

Answer: Senior citizens aged above 85 years were allowed to vote from home.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was India's decision to adopt universal adult franchise in 1950 considered remarkable?

Answer: India's decision to adopt universal adult franchise was remarkable because it granted equal voting rights to all adult citizens regardless of caste, religion, gender, education, or wealth, making India one of the world's largest democracies from the beginning.

2. How does the Election Commission ensure that elections are free and fair?

Answer: The Election Commission ensures free and fair elections through the following measures: preparing electoral rolls, enforcing the Model Code of Conduct, supervising polling activities, deploying observers, and conducting transparent vote counting.

3. What steps has India taken recently to make voting more accessible to persons with disabilities?

Answer: India has taken the following steps to improve accessibility: providing ramps at polling stations, Braille-enabled EVMs, wheelchairs, volunteer assistance, and home-voting facilities for eligible voters.

4. Why is equality in voting essential for democracy?

Answer: Equality in voting is essential for democracy because every citizen's vote carries equal value, ensuring fairness, representation, and equal participation in the democratic process.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain how universal adult franchise promotes equality and strengthens democracy in India.

Answer: Universal adult franchise promotes equality and strengthens democracy in the following ways:

1. It grants voting rights to every citizen aged 18 years and above.

2. It ensures equality irrespective of caste, religion, gender, or wealth.

3. It encourages citizens to participate in governance.
 4. It enables people to elect representatives of their choice.
 5. It makes governments accountable to the electorate and strengthens democratic values.
2. Describe the elections of the President and Vice-President of India.

Answer: The elections of the President and Vice-President of India take place as follows:

1. The President is elected indirectly through an Electoral College.
 2. Elected MPs and MLAs participate in the Presidential election.
 3. The Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament.
 4. Voting is conducted by secret ballot using proportional representation.
 5. These constitutional procedures ensure impartiality and democratic functioning.
3. How has the Election Commission improved transparency and voter confidence through EVMs and VVPATs?

Answer: The Election Commission has improved transparency and voter confidence through the following measures:

1. EVMs have simplified the voting process.
 2. They reduce errors and invalid votes.
 3. VVPATs provide a paper record of each vote cast.
 4. Voters can verify that their vote was recorded correctly.
 5. These systems enhance transparency and strengthen public trust in elections.
4. Why are fair elections important for a democracy? Mention the challenges faced during elections in India.

Answer: Fair elections are important for democracy because they reflect the will of the people. The challenges faced during elections in India include:

1. Influence of money power.
2. Spread of misinformation.
3. Voter intimidation and malpractice.
4. Low voter awareness in some areas.
5. Misuse of social media and divisive campaigns.

Addressing these challenges ensures free, fair, and credible elections.