ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN INDIA-PAST & PRESENT **SYNDICATE GROUP-TWO (02)**

SCOPE

General Elections in India, Nehru-Era
Electoral Processes post 1970's situation
Emerging electoral trends 1990's onwards

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA

Universal adult suffrage

First-past-the-post system (plurality).

Electronic Voting Machine

Election in phases

Rajya Sabha- proportional representation-single transferrable vote

Coalition system from 1989

Election Commission of India

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA (CONTINUED)

Representation of People Act, 1950

Representation of People Act, 1951

The Supreme Court has held that where the enacted laws are silent or make insufficient provision to deal with a given situation in the conduct of elections, the Election Commission has the residuary powers under the Constitution to act in an appropriate manner.

Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1993

ELECTORAL PROCESS

Declaration of dates by the election commission.

Publishing of electoral rolls.

Filing of nomination papers.

No party is allowed to use the government resources for campaigning.

No party is allowed to bribe the candidates before elections.

The government cannot start a project during the election period.

The campaigning ends at 6 PM of the second last day before the polling day.

ELECTORAL PROCESS (CONTINUED)

Indelible ink - left index finger- since 1962 general elections - to prevent a bad vote- conatins Silver Nitrate - composition not changed since 1952

Repolling - if violence, adverse weather etc.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

2014 Election

Per voter - Rs. 17

Total - Rs. 3600 crores.

1952 Election

Per voter - Rs. 0.85

Total - Rs. 10.45 crores.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

Delimitation Commission

Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament by law enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. After coming into force commencement of the Act, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission. This Delimitation Commission demarcates the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituencies as per provisions of the Delimitation Act. The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census figures under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002. Notwithstanding the above, the Constitution of India was specifically amended in 2002 not to have delimitation of constituencies till the first census after 2026. Thus, the present Constituencies carved out on the basis of 2001 census shall continue to be in operation till the first census after 2026...

BASIS FOR ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO VARIOUS STATES IN THE LOK SABHA

Population is the basis of allocation of seats of the Lok Sabha. As far as possible, every State gets representation in the Lok Sabha in proportion to its population as per census figures.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR ANY SPECIAL CATEGORY IN LOK SABHA

- In Lok Sabha there is raeservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Here also census figures are taCen into account.
- Allocation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the Lok Sabha are made on the basis of proportion of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the State concerned to that of the total population, vide provision contained in Article 330 of the Constitution of India read with Section 3 of the R. P. Act, 1950.
- For Scheduled Castes, 84 seats are reserved in Lok Sabha. The 1st schedule to Representation of People Act, 1950 as amended vide Representation of People (Amendment) Act, 2008 gives the Statewise breakup.
- For Scheduled Tribes, 47 seats are reserved in Lok Sabha. The 1st schedule to R. P. Act, 1950 as amended vide Representation of People (Amendment) Act, 2008 gives the Statewise break up.

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

Partly from 1999; In totality from 2004.

VVPAT- Voter-verified paper audit trial- 14th August, 2013 - Noksen (Assembly Constituency) of Nagaland.

Introduced in 8 out of 543 parliamentary constituencies as a pilot project in Indian General Election, 2014 - Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Bangalore South, Chennai Central, Jadavpur, Patna Sahib & Mizoram- Generated slip tells voter to which party or candidate vote has been given and also include name of voter, constituency and polling both.

NOTA - "NONE OF THE ABOVE"

Right to Negative Vote

With effect from five states polls starting from November 2013.

However it does not mean that if 'NOTA' gets highest votes then election will be conducted again, rather even in that case, the candidate with the highest votes will be treated as elected candidate.

ABSENTEE VOTING

- An absentee ballot is a vote cast by someone who is unable or unwilling to attend the
 official polling station or to which the voter is normally allocated.
- Currently, India does not have an absentee ballot system for all citizens except in few exceptions.
- Section 19 of The Representation of the People Act (RPA)-1950^[37] allows a person to register to vote if he or she is above 18 years of age and is an 'ordinary resident' of the residing constituency i.e. living at the current address for 6 months or longer. Section 20 of the above Act disqualifies a non-resident Indian (NRI) from getting his/her name registered in the electoral rolls.

ABSENTEE VOTING (CONTINUED)

- Consequently, it also prevents a NRI from casting his/her vote in elections to the Parliament and to the State Legislatures.
- In August 2010, Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill-2010 which allows voting rights to NRI's was passed in both Lok Sabha with subsequent gazette notifications on 24 November 2010. [38] With this NRI's will now be able to vote in Indian elections but have to be *physically present* at the time of voting.

CASH FOR VOTES

• The cash-for-votes scandal was a political scandal allegedly masterminded by then Opposition Party Bharatiya Janata Party politician Sudheendra Kulkarni[1] in which the United Progressive Alliance, the majority-holding parliamentaryparty alliance of India led by Sonia Gandhi, allegedly bribed Bhartiya Janta Party MPs in order to survive a confidence vote on 22 July 2008. The vote in the Lok Sabha arose after the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Front withdrew support from the government, who wanted to pursue an Indo-US nuclear deal.

ARTICLE 370

 Under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, Jammu & Kashmir is granted autonomy. It gives special status to the state: Because of this article, residents of Kashmir follow separate set of laws in terms of citizenship, property ownership, and other rights. Except finance, defense, communications, and foreign affairs, central government needs the state government's consensus for applying all other laws.

REGISTRATION OF A POLITICAL PARTY

• The first step towards being recognized as a political party is to get registered with the Election Commission of India. Registration is mandatory for a party, following which it can avail the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO GOVT.

 Outside support means supporting any political party which has a chance to get majority to form a government, but one provides outside support without taking any position/or actually joining that government.

TRANSITION FROM REGIONAL PARTY TO NATIONAL/STATE PARTY

- A regional political party can become eligible to be recognised as a national party if it is able to fulfill any of the following terms:
 The regional party has been able to win 2% of the seats in the latest held Lok Sabha (11 seats) from a minimum of three different states.
 - In an election to the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, if the regional party is able to win 4 lok sabha seats and has polled 6 % of the total valid votes in at least four states.
- The regional party is recognized as a state party in a minimum of four states in the country.

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CATEGORIES OF ELECTORS

- Electors are citizens who are eligible to vote in India. They are of three main types or categories—
- 1. General Electors—residents of India who can vote in a polling booth
- 2. Service Electors—residents of India who work for the Indian Government away from their home or are in the Armed Forces
- Overseas Electors

 non-residential Indians who have not taken citizenship of any
 other country

GENERAL ELECTOR

To be eligible to be registered as a general elector, the person has to be:

- 1. A citizen of India
- 2. 18 or more years of age as on the 1st day of the year when the electoral roll is revised,
- 3. Residing in India,
- 4. Enrolled in the electoral roll of India or the polling area of the Indian constituency where he/she resides

FORM 6

 Form 6 is an application form issued by the Election Commission of India for Indian citizens who wish to register their names in the electoral roll. This form is generally filled and filed for the constituency within which the elector resides.

CAN A PERSON CONFINED IN JAIL VOTE?

No, a person confined in jail cannot vote in an election in India. As per the
provisions given in the Representation of People Act, 1951, Section 62 (5), a
person in prison, "under sentence of imprisonment or transportation or
otherwise, or in the lawful custody of the police" is not eligible to cast his vote in
an election.

SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR AN ELECTION

- A general candidate has to pay a security deposit of Rupees Twenty Five Thousand (Rs. 25,000) for Lok Sabha Election.
- Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) are eligible for concession of Rupees Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Only (Rs. 12,500).
- As for Assembly Elections, general candidates have to pay Rupees Ten Thousand Only (Rs. 10,000), and those belonging to SC/ST have to pay Rupees Five Thousand Only (Rs. 5,000).

WHEN CANDIDATES LOSE THE DEPOSIT

Candidates who have been unable to obtain at least "one-sixth of the valid votes
polled in the constituency" are not eligible to get their security deposits returned.

EXPENDITURE LIMIT

- No, a candidate cannot spend any amount of money on his election campaign.
- The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, Rule 90, mentions the maximum limit of election expenditure by a candidate.
- Exceeding the limit is considered a corrupt practice under section 123 (6) of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

MORE THAN ONCE VOTE?

• No, voting more than once is against the law, even if a voter's name is registered mistakenly or wrongly in more than one place.

EMERGING ELECTORAL TRENDS 1990 ONWARDS

1. Regionalisation of political system



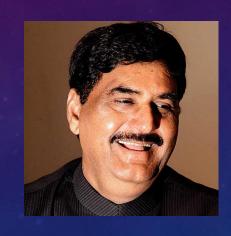
2. COALITION SYSYTEM OF GOVERNANCE



3. EMERGENCE OF OBC LEADERSHIP













4. GOOD GOVERNANCE AS A FACTOR DEFYING ANTI INCUMBENCY





5. CASTE BASED SOCIAL ALLIANCES/ RAINBOW ALLIANCES

- Mayawati in UP
- BJP in Maharashtra
- RJD- JD U- Congress in Bihar

6. ASPIRATIONAL/ VOTE FOR DEVELOPMENT





7. DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS

- Kejriwal and Modi
- Nitish Kumar and Modi
- Sheila Dikshit and Vajpayee

8. FLOATING VOTERS / FENCE SITTERS



9. POLARISATION/ REVERSE POLARISATION

- Voting pattern of minorities
- BJP's aggressive push
- Muzaffarnagar riots / Bihar elections /
- Tactical voting



