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CLASS – 9

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics – I

CH– 3 : Electoral Politics

Part – 2

What is Our System of Elections?

Rashi Sharma

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OVERVIEW

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1. Why Elections?
2. What is Our System of Elections?
3. What Makes Elections in India Democratic?

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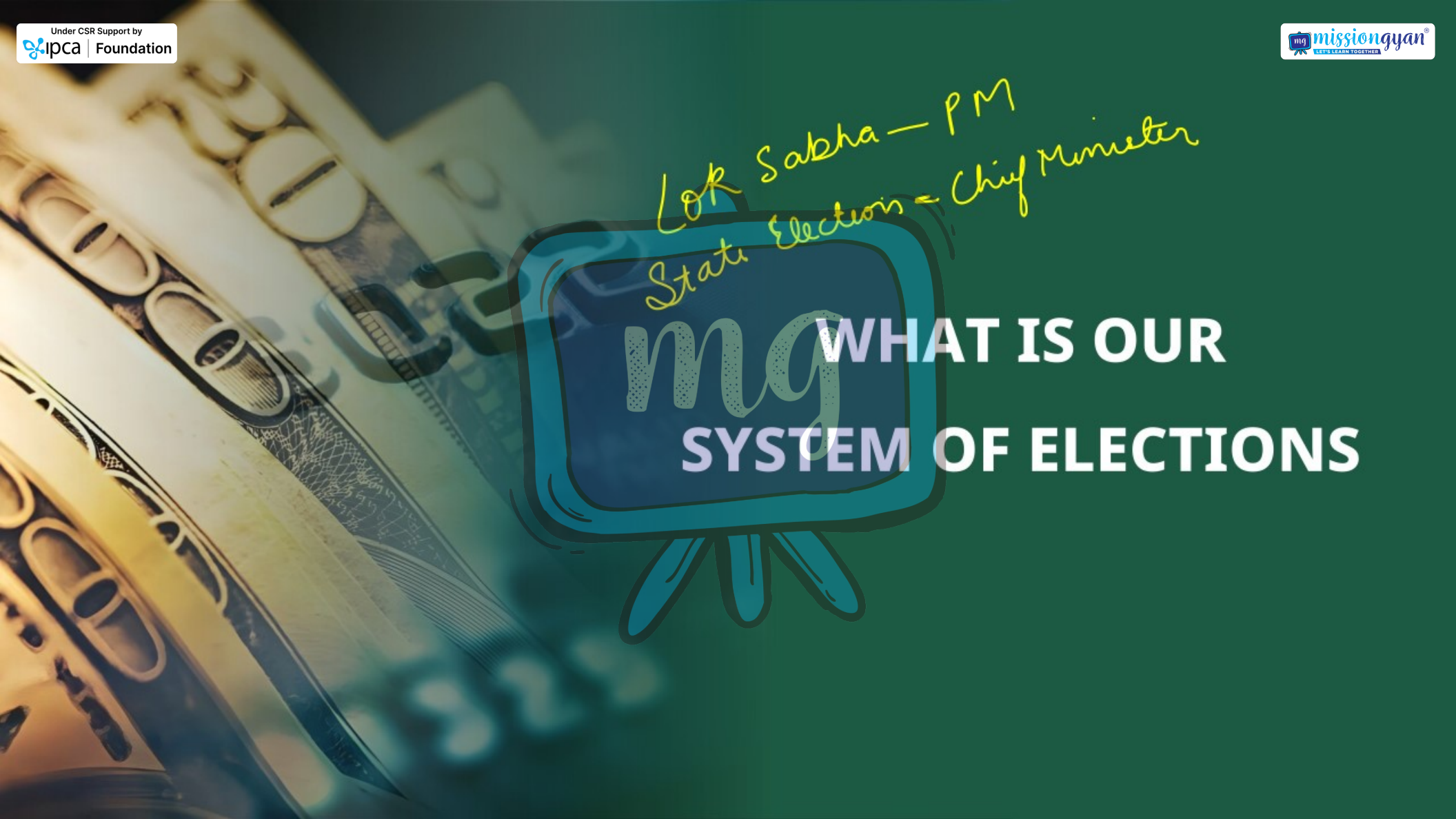

WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS

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LOK SABHA AND VIDHAN SABHA ELECTIONS

- Held regularly after every 5 years.
- After 5 years, the term of elected representatives ends.
- The Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha stands dissolved .



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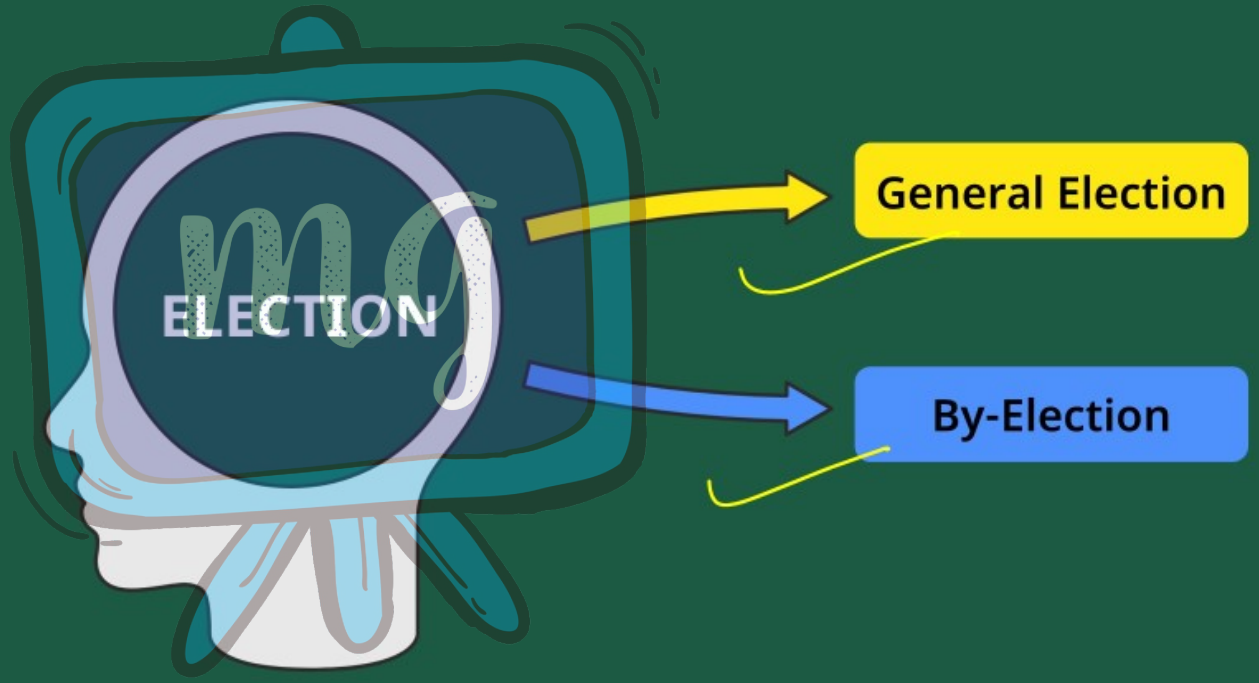

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GENERAL ELECTION

- Held in all constituencies simultaneously, either on the same day or within a few days.
- **Purpose**

  To elect new representatives for the entire Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha.

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BY-ELECTION

- Held for a single constituency.
- **Purpose**

  To fill a vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member.



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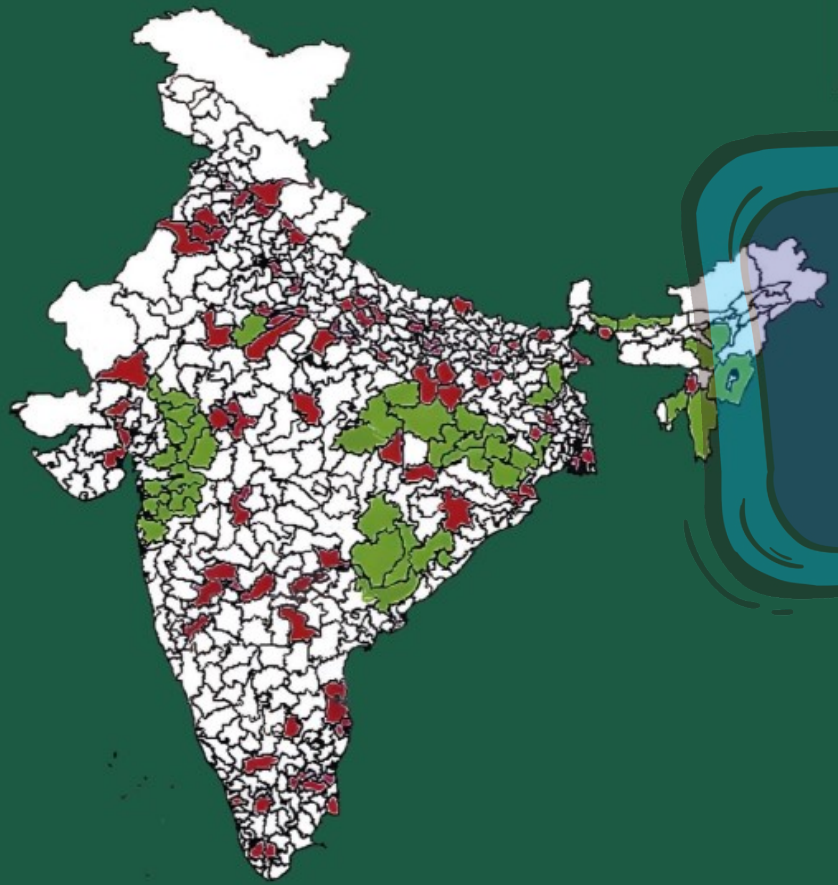

ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES

- In India, we use an area-based system for elections.
- The country is divided into different areas.
- These areas are called Electoral Constituencies.
- The voters who live in an area elect one representative.

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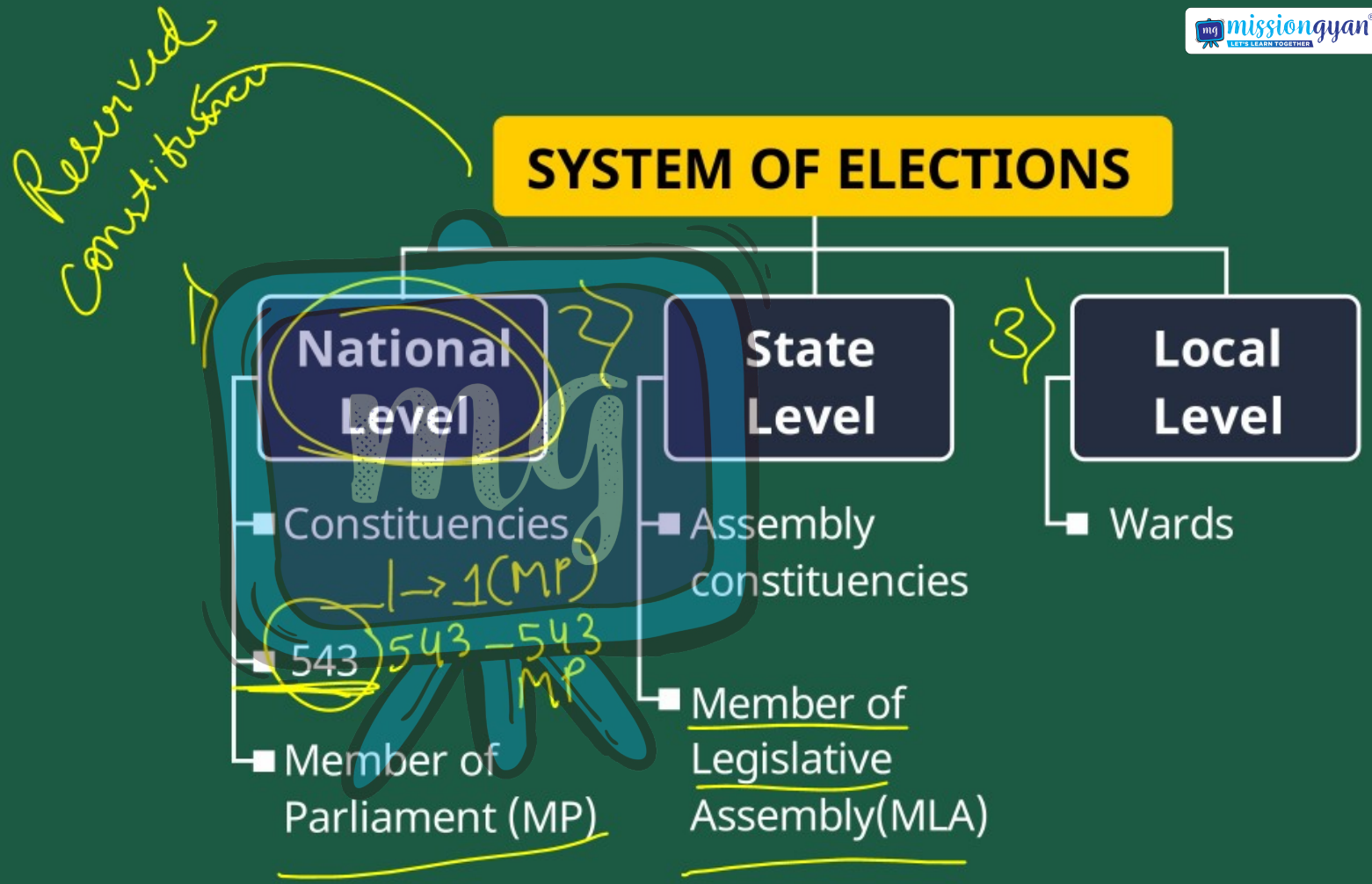

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- In India, some constituencies are reserved for people from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- In a SC reserved constituency, only someone from the Scheduled Castes can stand for election.
- Same goes for ST.
- In the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for SC and 47 for ST.

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- This number is fair and matches their population.
- Later, this reservation system was extended to other weaker sections at the district and local levels.
- In many states, seats in rural and urban local bodies are reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

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- Also, 1/3rd of the Seats in rural and urban local bodies are reserved for women candidates.



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WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT 2023 (NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM, 2023)



- Reserves one-third of seats for women in:
  - Parliament
  - Legislative Assemblies

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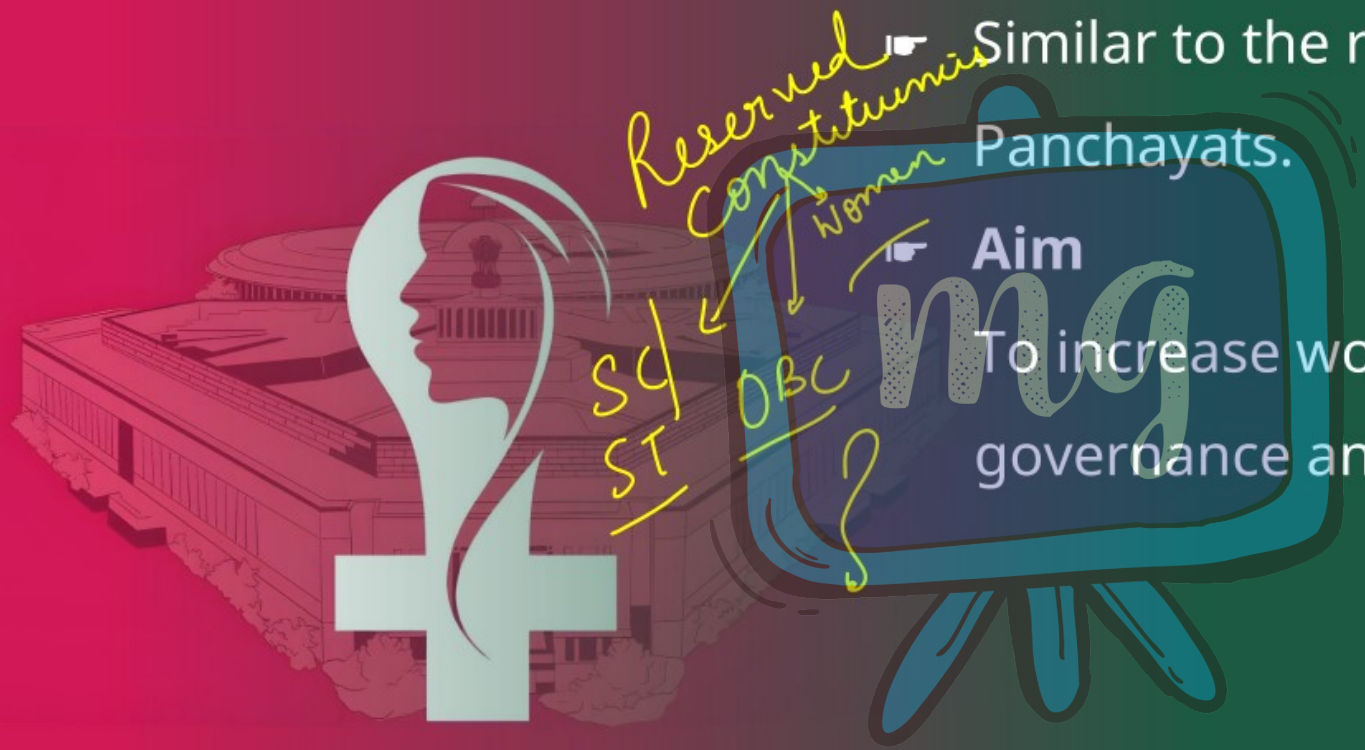

- Similar to the reservation in Panchayats.
- **Aim**

To increase women's participation in governance and decision-making.

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WHO CAN VOTE?



- Every citizen aged 18 years and above can vote in an election.
- Every citizen has the right to vote, regardless of their caste, religion or gender.
- Some criminals and people with unsound minds may be denied the right to vote, but this happens rarely.

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VOTERS' LIST

- A list of those, who are eligible to vote in a democratic election, are prepared.
- This list is called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voter's list.



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- It's the Government's responsibility to make sure all eligible voters' names are on the voters' list.
- New names are added as people reach voting age and names are removed for those who move away or pass away.



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- The voters' list is updated every 5 years to keep it current.



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ELECTION PHOTO IDENTITY CARD (EPIC)

- It's given to everyone on the voters' list.
- Voters are asked to carry this card when they vote to prevent fraud.
- However, this card isn't mandatory yet.
- Voters can also show other identity proofs (like ration card or driving license) for voting.

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LEARNING OUTCOME

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1. Describe the Area-Based System of Elections in India at National, State and Local Levels
2. Explain the Significance and Functioning of Reserved Constituencies in Indian Elections
3. Understand the Process of Maintaining and Updating the Voters' List in India

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ASSESSMENT

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1 | How many constituencies are there for Lok Sabha elections in India?

A 543 → Reserved

B 545

C 550

D 500

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2 In an SC reserved constituency, who can stand for election?

A Anyone from any caste

B Only from the Scheduled Castes

C Only women candidates

D Anyone from the Scheduled Tribes

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ASSESSMENT

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3 At what age can a citizen in India vote in an election?

A 16 years

B 21 years

C 18 years

D 25 years