

Generic Elective (GE)
Semester-VII

Political Science-Election Commission and Process in India

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Election commission and Process in India GE-11	4	3	1	-	NA	NA

Course Objectives:

This course aims to provide an understanding of the structure, role, and functioning of the Election Commission and the election management process in India. This course has a comprehensive understanding of the constitutional framework, institutional structure, and operational processes of the Election Commission of India, while critically examining the administration of elections, challenges to electoral integrity, and the scope for democratic reforms in the Indian electoral system.

Learning Outcome

Elections uphold democracy by enabling citizen participation in governance. India's electoral system, guided by constitutional provisions, ensures fair representation and a transparent process. The Election Commission oversees elections, from constituency delimitation to result declaration. Political parties, media, and civil society shape the democratic landscape, while reforms aim to enhance integrity and accountability.

Syllabus of Course GE-10

Unit 1: Introduction to Election and Democracy

- a) Importance of elections in a democracy
- b) Electoral systems: Types and features
- c) Universal adult franchise and representation and Acts
- d) Evolution of the electoral process in India

Unit 2: Constitutional Framework and Election Commission of India

- a) Articles 324-329 of the Constitution
- b) Structure and composition of the Election Commission of India (ECI)
- c) Powers and functions of ECI
- d) Autonomy and accountability of ECI

Unit 3: Election Process and Administration

- a) Delimitation of constituencies
- b) Preparation and revision of electoral rolls
- c) Nomination of candidates, scrutiny, and withdrawal Polling, counting, and declaration of results
- d) Code of Conduct and its enforcement

Unit 4: Political Parties and Electoral Reforms

- a) Registration and recognition of political parties
- b) Election symbols and party system
- c) Electoral malpractices and legal provisions
- d) Role of media and civil society
- e) Electoral reforms: Past, present, and recommendations

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1

1. Katz, R. S. (1997). Democracy and elections. Oxford University Press.
2. Crisp, B. F., & Simoneau, W. M. (2018). ELECTORAL SYSTEMS. The Oxford handbook of electoral systems, 345.
3. Kundu, T. (2022). Equality Versus Excellence: Does Universal Adult Franchise Complement Democratic Values?. International Journal of Applied Ethics, 8.
4. SRIDHARAN, E. (2004). THE ORIGINS OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM. India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies, 344.
5. McMillan, A. (2012). The election commission of India and the regulation and administration of electoral politics. Election Law Journal, 11(2), 187-201.

Unit 2

1. Manual on election law and procedure (ECI,2023)-Constitutional provisions.
2. Gopal Krishna (2021)-chapter on ECI structure and legal framework.
3. Second administrative reforms commission reports- Relevant
4. Constitution of India: Article 324-329(can be accessed Via India code website or PRS India)

Unit 3

1. Manual on election law and procedure (ECI,2023)-procedural chapter.
2. ECI website and sweep portal- official guidelines and training videos
3. Palshikar et al.(2017)- chapters on electoral process challenges
4. .McMillan,A.(2012).The election commission of India and the regulation and administration of electoral politics. Election Law Journal,11(2),187-201

Unit IV

1. Suri,K.C.(2004). Democracy, economic reforms and election results in India.Economic and political Weekly,5404-5411.
2. Brass, P.R. (2019). Political parties and Electoral politics.In India Briefing,1989(pp.61-82). Routhledge.
3. Ziegfeld,A.(2012). Coalition government and party system change: Explaining.the rise of regional political parties in India.Comparative Politics,45(1),69-87.
4. Suri,K.C.(2013). Party system and party politics in India.Political science,2,209-252

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.