

## Indian Polity Notes Part 19 in English

### 19. Election

- Articles 324 to 329 in Part XV of the Constitution make the following provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country

#### Article 324

- The Constitution (Article 324) provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- The power of superintendence, direction and conduct of elections to the Parliament, the state legislatures, the office of the President and the office of the Vice-President is vested in the Commission.
- At present, the commission consists of a chief election commissioner and two election commissioners

#### Article 325

- No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any such roll or claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

#### Article 326

- Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
- The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

#### Article 327

- Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may from time to time by law make

provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State including the preparation of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.

### Article 328

- Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in so far as provision in that behalf is not made by Parliament, the Legislature of a State may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, the elections to the House or either House of the Legislature of the State including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.

### Article 329

- Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution. The validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under article 327 or article 328, shall not be called in question in any court; No election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as may be provided for by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature.

### Article 329A

- Special provision as to elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker.

### Others:

- The Sixty-first Amendment' of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

### List of Election Commissioners:

No.	Name	Took office	Left office
1	Sukumar Sen	21 March 1950	19 December 1958
2	Kalyan Sundaram	20 December 1958	30 September 1967
3	SP Sen Verma	1 October 1967	30 September 1972

4	Nagendra Singh	1 October 1972	6 February 1973
5	T. Swaminathan	7 February 1973	17 June 1977
6	S. L. Shaktidhar	18 June 1977	17 June 1982
7	R. K. Trivedi	18 June 1982	31 December 1985
8	R. V. S. Peri Sastri	1 January 1986	25 November 1990
9	V. S. Ramadevi	26 November 1990	11 December 1990
10	T. N. Seshan	12 December 1990	11 December 1996
11	M. S. Gill	12 December 1996	13 June 2001
12	J. M. Lyngdoh	14 June 2001	7 February 2004
13	T. S. Krishnamurthy	8 February 2004	15 May 2005
14	B. B. Tandon	16 May 2005	29 June 2006
15	N. Gopaldaswami	30 June 2006	20 April 2009
16	Navin Chawla	21 April 2009	29 July 2010
17	S. Y. Quraishi	30 July 2010	10 June 2012
18	V. S. Sampath	11 June 2012	15 January 2015
19	H. S. Brahma	16 January 2015	18 April 2015
20	Nasim Zaidi	19 April 2015	5 July 2017
21	Achal Kumar Jyoti	6 July 2017	22 January 2018
22	Om Prakash Rawat	23 January 2018	1 December 2018
23	Sunil Arora	2 December 2018	Incumbent