

Democracy

Introduction

Democracy is a form of government in which the people choose their representatives through free and fair elections. It is based on the principles of equality, justice, freedom, and participation. Democracy gives citizens the right to express their opinions and take part in the decision-making process.

What is Democracy?

Meaning

Democracy means "**rule by the people.**" In a democratic country, the government is elected by the citizens.

Features of Democracy:

- People elect their representatives.
 - Regular, free, and fair elections are held.
 - Every adult citizen has the right to vote.
 - The government is accountable to the people.
 - All citizens are equal before the law.
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Features of Democracy

Characteristics

A democratic government has the following features:

- Free and fair elections.
- Universal Adult Franchise (Right to Vote).
- Rule of law.
- Equality and justice.
- Protection of Fundamental Rights.
- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Independent judiciary.

These features help ensure a fair and transparent government.

Importance of Democracy

Why is Democracy Important?

Democracy is important because it:

- Gives people the right to choose their government.
 - Protects the rights and freedoms of citizens.
 - Promotes equality and justice.
 - Encourages public participation in governance.
 - Helps maintain peace and stability.
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Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Role of Citizens

Citizens play an important role in a democracy.

Rights:

- Right to vote.
- Right to equality.
- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Right to education.
- Right to constitutional remedies.

Responsibilities:

- Follow the Constitution and laws.
 - Vote responsibly.
 - Respect the rights of others.
 - Protect public property.
 - Promote unity and harmony.
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Democracy in India

Indian Democracy

India is the **largest democracy in the world**.

Some important features are:

- The Constitution came into force on **26 January 1950**.
 - India follows a **parliamentary system** of government.
 - Elections are conducted by the **Election Commission of India**.
 - Every citizen aged **18 years and above** has the right to vote.
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Advantages of Democracy

Benefits

- Ensures equal opportunities for all.
 - Protects the rights of citizens.
 - Encourages transparency and accountability.
 - Allows peaceful change of government.
 - Promotes participation in decision-making.
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Challenges of Democracy

Problems Faced

Some common challenges are:

- Corruption.
- Illiteracy.
- Poverty.
- Social inequality.
- Misuse of power.

Active participation by citizens helps overcome these challenges.

Key Points

- Democracy means government by the people.
 - Citizens elect their representatives through elections.
 - Equality, justice, and freedom are the foundations of democracy.
 - India is the world's largest democracy.
 - Citizens have both rights and responsibilities.
 - Democracy promotes peace, development, and participation.
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Chapter Summary

Democracy is a system of government where people elect their representatives and participate in governing the country. It is based on equality, justice, freedom, and respect for human rights. In India, democracy allows every adult citizen to vote and contribute to nation-building. A successful democracy depends on responsible citizens, fair elections, and the rule of law.