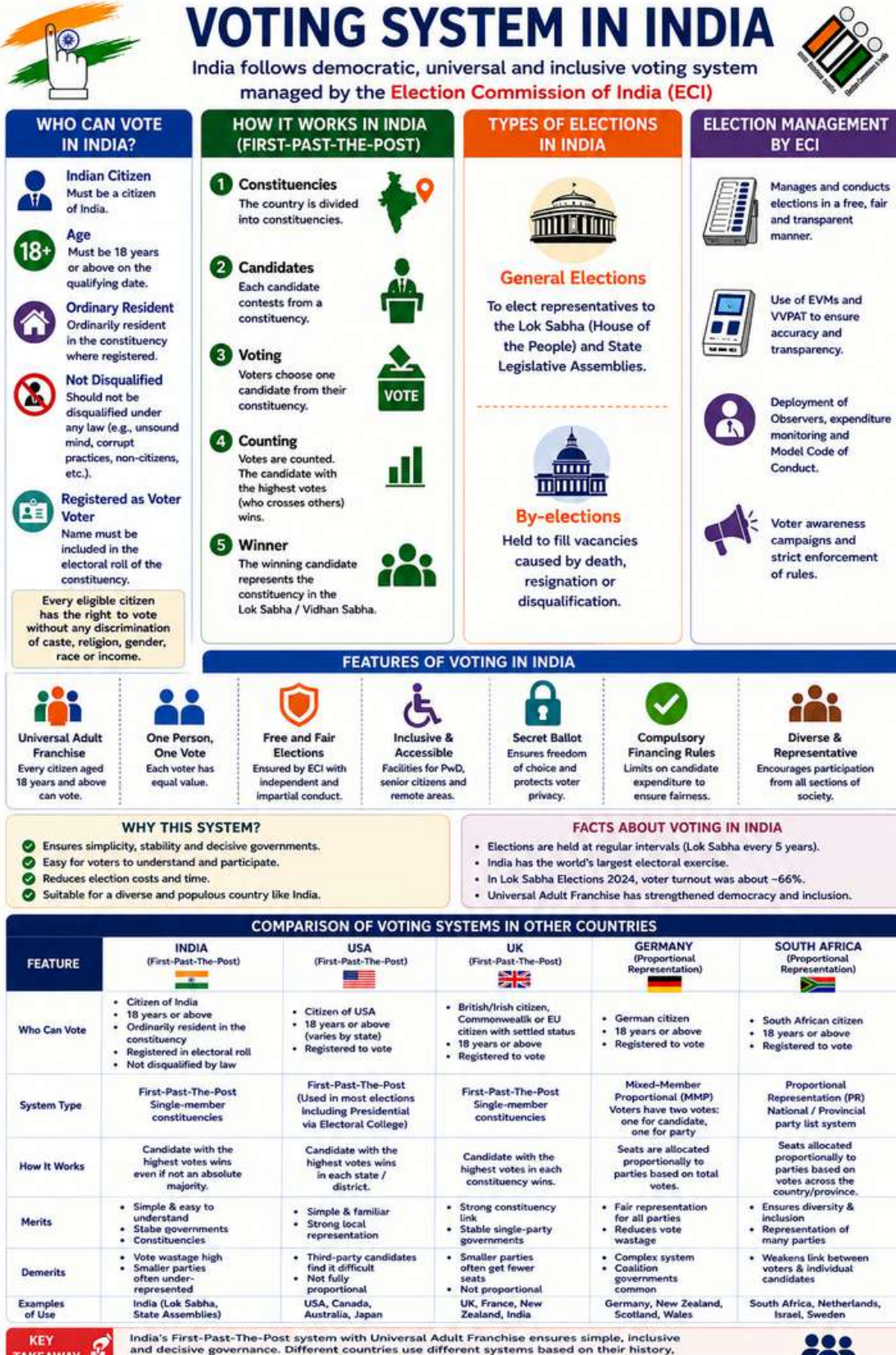


1 Voting System in India (Source: The Hindu)



VOTING SYSTEM IN INDIA

India follows democratic, universal and inclusive voting system managed by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**

WHO CAN VOTE IN INDIA?

- Indian Citizen**
Must be a citizen of India.
- Age**
Must be 18 years or above on the qualifying date.
- Ordinary Resident**
Ordinarily resident in the constituency where registered.
- Not Disqualified**
Should not be disqualified under any law (e.g., unsound mind, corrupt practices, non-citizens, etc.).
- Registered as Voter**
Name must be included in the electoral roll of the constituency.

Every eligible citizen has the right to vote without any discrimination of caste, religion, gender, race or income.

HOW IT WORKS IN INDIA (FIRST-PAST-THE-POST)

- Constituencies**
The country is divided into constituencies.
- Candidates**
Each candidate contests from a constituency.
- Voting**
Voters choose one candidate from their constituency.
- Counting**
Votes are counted. The candidate with the highest votes (who crosses others) wins.
- Winner**
The winning candidate represents the constituency in the Lok Sabha / Vidhan Sabha.

TYPES OF ELECTIONS IN INDIA



General Elections

To elect representatives to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and State Legislative Assemblies.



By-elections

Held to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation or disqualification.

ELECTION MANAGEMENT BY ECI

- Manages and conducts elections in a free, fair and transparent manner.
- Use of EVMs and VVPAT to ensure accuracy and transparency.
- Deployment of Observers, expenditure monitoring and Model Code of Conduct.
- Voter awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of rules.

FEATURES OF VOTING IN INDIA



Universal Adult Franchise
Every citizen aged 18 years and above can vote.



One Person, One Vote
Each voter has equal value.



Free and Fair Elections
Ensured by ECI with independent and impartial conduct.



Inclusive & Accessible
Facilities for PwD, senior citizens and remote areas.



Secret Ballot
Ensures freedom of choice and protects voter privacy.



Compulsory Financing Rules
Limits on candidate expenditure to ensure fairness.



Diverse & Representative
Encourages participation from all sections of society.

WHY THIS SYSTEM?

- Ensures simplicity, stability and decisive governments.
- Easy for voters to understand and participate.
- Reduces election costs and time.
- Suitable for a diverse and populous country like India.

FACTS ABOUT VOTING IN INDIA

- Elections are held at regular intervals (Lok Sabha every 5 years).
- India has the world's largest electoral exercise.
- In Lok Sabha Elections 2024, voter turnout was about ~66%.
- Universal Adult Franchise has strengthened democracy and inclusion.

COMPARISON OF VOTING SYSTEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

FEATURE	INDIA (First-Past-The-Post)	USA (First-Past-The-Post)	UK (First-Past-The-Post)	GERMANY (Proportional Representation)	SOUTH AFRICA (Proportional Representation)
Who Can Vote	- Citizen of India 18 years or above - Ordinarily resident in the constituency - Registered in electoral roll - Not disqualified by law	- Citizen of USA 18 years or above (varies by state) - Registered to vote	- British/Irish citizen, Commonwealth or EU citizen with settled status 18 years or above - Registered to vote	- German citizen 18 years or above - Registered to vote	- South African citizen 18 years or above - Registered to vote
System Type	First-Past-The-Post Single-member constituencies	First-Past-The-Post (Used in most elections including Presidential via Electoral College)	First-Past-The-Post Single-member constituencies	Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) Voters have two votes: one for candidate, one for party	Proportional Representation (PR) National / Provincial party list system
How It Works	Candidate with the highest votes wins even if not an absolute majority.	Candidate with the highest votes wins in each state / district.	Candidate with the highest votes in each constituency wins.	Seats are allocated proportionally to parties based on total votes.	Seats allocated proportionally to parties based on votes across the country/province.
Merits	- Simple & easy to understand - Stable governments - Constituencies	- Simple & familiar - Strong local representation	- Strong constituency link - Stable single-party governments	- Fair representation for all parties - Reduces vote wastage	- Ensures diversity & inclusion - Representation of many parties
Demerits	- Vote wastage high - Smaller parties often under-represented	- Third-party candidates find it difficult - Not fully proportional	- Smaller parties often get fewer seats - Not proportional	- Complex system - Coalition governments common	Weakens link between voters & individual candidates
Examples of Use	India (Lok Sabha, State Assemblies)	USA, Canada, Australia, Japan	UK, France, New Zealand, India	Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales	South Africa, Netherlands, Israel, Sweden

KEY TAKEAWAY

India's First-Past-The-Post system with Universal Adult Franchise ensures simple, inclusive and decisive governance. Different countries use different systems based on their history, political culture and need for representation.

2 Urban Flooding (Source: The Indian Express)

URBAN FLOODING A GROWING CITY CHALLENGE

Urban flooding occurs when excessive rainwater overwhelms drainage systems in cities, causing water to accumulate in streets, homes and infrastructure.

KEY FACTS

- One of the most common and damaging urban disasters worldwide.
- A few hours of heavy rain can disrupt daily life, damage property and cripple cities.
- Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall.
- Rapid urbanization and unplanned development make cities more vulnerable.



CAUSES

- Intense Rainfall**
Short-duration heavy rainfall exceeds the drainage capacity.
- Poor Drainage Systems**
Inadequate, undersized or poorly maintained drains.
- Urbanization**
Concrete surfaces and loss of natural areas reduce water absorption.
- Encroachment**
Lakes, wetlands and drainage channels are occupied or filled.
- Solid Waste Blockage**
Plastic and garbage clog drains and sewers.

IMPACTS

- Loss of Life & Property**
Floods can cause loss of lives, damage homes, vehicles and critical infrastructure.
- Disruption of Services**
Transport, electricity, water supply, healthcare and communication networks get affected.
- Economic Losses**
Business interruption, loss of productivity and high clean-up and repair costs.
- Health Hazards**
Stagnant water leads to waterborne diseases, mosquito breeding and poor sanitation.
- Environmental Damage**
Pollution of water bodies, soil erosion and loss of urban biodiversity.

WHO IS MOST AFFECTED?

- Low-income communities**
Often live in low-lying, poorly drained areas.
- Daily commuters**
Face travel delays, accidents and safety risks.
- Small businesses**
Suffer economic losses due to closure and property damage.
- Children, elderly & differently-abled**
More vulnerable during flood events.

SOLUTIONS: BUILDING FLOOD-RESILIENT CITIES

- IMPROVE DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE**
Upgrade stormwater drains, increase capacity and ensure regular maintenance.
- PROTECT NATURAL SYSTEMS**
Restore lakes, wetlands and green spaces to absorb and store rainwater.
- PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING**
Use permeable pavements, rain gardens, green roofs and zoning regulations.
- KEEP DRAINS CLEAN**
Stop littering, ensure solid waste management and regular desilting of drains.
- RAINWATER HARVESTING**
Encourage rooftop rainwater harvesting and on-site storage systems.
- EARLY WARNING & PREPAREDNESS**
Use technology for real-time alerts and community awareness programs.

WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO?

- ✓ Do not litter or dump waste in drains.
- ✓ Report waterlogging and blocked drains.
- ✓ Support tree planting and conservation.
- ✓ Harvest rainwater and reduce water wastage.
- ✓ Stay informed and follow safety advisories.



THE WAY FORWARD

- ✓ Climate-resilient infrastructure
- ✓ Integrated urban water management
- ✓ Stronger policies and enforcement
- ✓ Public-private-community partnership
- ✓ Sustainable and inclusive cities



URBAN FLOODING CAN'T BE ELIMINATED, BUT ITS IMPACT CAN BE REDUCED.
LET'S BUILD CITIES THAT ARE **PREPARED, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE.**

