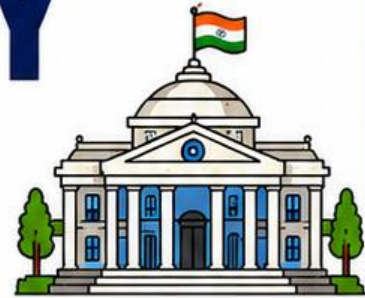


DEMOCRACY



Democracy is a form of government in which power rests with the people.



1. MEANING



Democracy means "rule by the people".

People participate in decision-making either directly or through their elected representatives.

2. KEY FEATURES



People are the supreme power.



Elections are free, fair and regular.



Equality before law.



Freedom of speech and expression.



Protection of rights of minorities.



Accountability of the government to the people.

3. TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy



People participate directly in decision-making.

Example:
Ancient Athens

Representative Democracy



People elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.

Example:
India, USA, UK

4. IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY



Protects fundamental rights and freedoms.



Ensures equality and justice.



Promotes dignity and self-respect of citizens.



Provides a way to resolve conflicts peacefully.



Promotes overall development of society.



KEY POINT:

Democracy is not just about elections, it is about people's participation and the protection of their rights.



5. ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

1. Sovereignty of People



People are the ultimate source of power.

2. Free and Fair Elections



Regular elections ensure people can choose their leaders.

3. Rule of Law



Everyone is equal before the law. No one is above the law.

4. Rights of Citizens



Protects civil, political, economic and social rights.

5. Majority Rule with Minority Rights



Decisions are taken by majority, but minority rights are protected.

6. Accountability of Government



Government must answer to the people for its actions.

6. MERITS OF DEMOCRACY

- ★ People can choose their leaders.
- ★ Ensures peace and stability.
- ★ Respects individual rights and freedoms.
- ★ Encourages participation in governance.
- ★ Provides scope for correction of mistakes through elections.



7. LIMITATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

- ★ Decision-making process is slow.
- ★ Majority may ignore minority opinion.
- ★ Expensive due to elections and administration.
- ★ People may make wrong choices at times.
- ★ Requires an educated and aware citizen.

8. DEMOCRACY IN INDIA



- India is the world's largest democracy.
- Universal Adult Franchise – every adult has the right to vote.
- Based on the Constitution of India.
- It is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.

9. REMEMBER

- ✓ Democracy = Rule by the people.
- ✓ Power rests with the people.
- ✓ Elections are the heart of democracy.
- ✓ Participation and rights are the soul of democracy.



QUICK REVISION

