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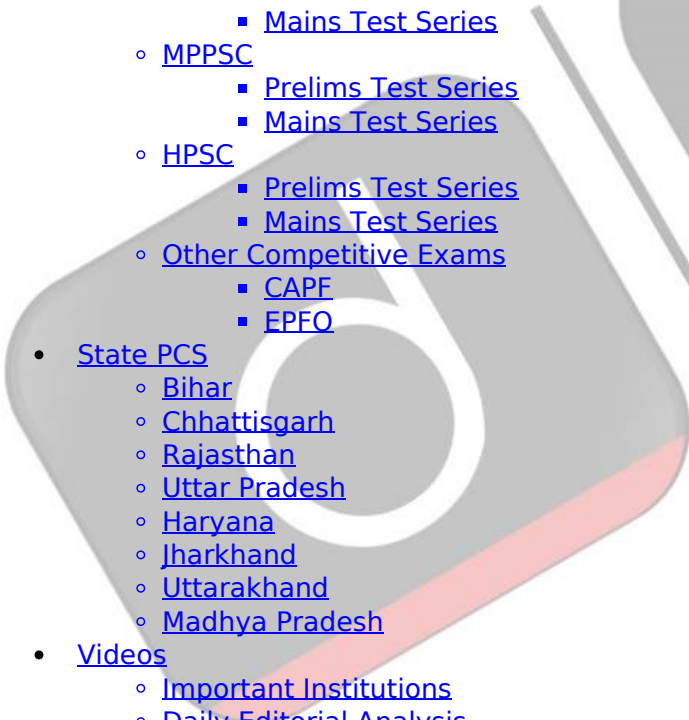
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The entire electoral exercise in India rests on three pillars – Article 326 of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act 1950 and the Representation of the People Act 1951. Explain. (250 words)

Approach

Approach

- Give introduction by mentioning about electoral exercise in the country.
- Mention the constitutional provisions under Art 326 and give its significance.
- Mention the provisions of RPA Act 1950 and RPA Act 1951.
- Give a way forward highlighting their impact.

Introduction

- **Election Commission** is the watchdog of **free and fair elections** in the country and **Article 324** of the Constitution provides for its establishment.
- The credibility of the electoral process has an important bearing on the healthy functioning

of a political system.

- Holding of free and fair elections is the **sine-qua-non** of democracy. To ensure conduction of elections in free, fair and in an impartial manner, the constitution makers incorporated part XV (Art.324-329) in the constitution and empowered Parliament to make laws to regulate the electoral process.

Article 326 of the Constitution

- It provides that the election to the House of People and Legislative Assembly of States should be conducted on the basis of **adult suffrage** i.e citizens who are 18 years of age are entitled to vote.
 - This article of Constitution **ensures equality** among voters without any discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste or sex. It also reminds of the faith reposed by constitutional makers in the capacity of the masses.
 - Election Commission (EC), while warning political parties to fulfill their electoral promises remarks that **"If adult suffrage fails, violence is sure to come and no one will be able to stop it."** This statement of EC highlights the importance of **Art. 326** in electoral process.

The Representation of the People Act 1950

Provisions

- It provides for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
- It lays down procedures for delimitation of constituencies.
- It lays down the qualification of voters.
- It lays procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls and the manner of filling seats.

Significance

- The act provides for **direct election** for every Parliamentary constituency which ensures the intimate contact between the elector and representative, thus making the process more **participatory**.
- It provides for delimitation of constituencies which ensures the incorporation of **changing dynamics of the increasing population** making the process more liveable.
- The act strengthened the **federal polity** of the country by giving due representation to each state in the house of people.

The Representation of the People Act 1951

Provisions

- It regulates the conduct of elections.
- It specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the houses,
- It provides provisions to curb corrupt practices and other offences.
- It lays down the procedure for settling doubts and disputes arising out of elections.

Significance

- The act is significant for the smooth functioning of the Indian democracy as it bars the entry of persons with criminal background into representative bodies, thus **decriminalizing Indian politics**.
- The act requires every candidate to declare his assets and liabilities, and maintain an account of election expenses. This provision ensures the **accountability** and **transparency** of the candidate in the use of public funds or misuse of power for personal benefits.
- It **prohibits corrupt practices** like booth capturing, bribery or promoting enmity etc., which ensures the **legitimacy** and **free & fair** conduct of elections which is essential for

the success of any democratic setup.

- The act provides that only those political parties which are registered under section 29A of the RPA Act,1951 are eligible to receive **electoral bonds**, thus providing a mechanism to track the source of political funding and ensuring **transparency** in electoral funding.

The Article 326, Representation of the People Act 1950 and Representation of the People Act 1951 cover almost all the essential provision required to make any electoral process **efficient** and **accountable**. Thus, making the whole process more **accommodative** and **inclusive** along with paving the way for **participative democracy**.

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window.open(document.URL.split("?")[0] + '?filter=' + date, "_self"); } }); function showmessage(){ $(".ui-
state-default").on("mouseenter", function() { var dayprefix=""; if(parseInt($(this).text())
= 1) { clearInterval(fadeInInterval); } else { opacity += 0.1; form.style.opacity = opacity; } }, 20); //
Adjust the interval as needed for the desired speed // Add click event listener to document to close form
when clicking outside document.addEventListener("click", closeFormOnClickOutside); } function
closeForm() { var form = document.getElementById("myForm"); var opacity = 1; // Gradually decrease
opacity to 0 var fadeOutInterval = setInterval(function () { if (opacity

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```

screen_width_resize_before){ //Zoom out if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left =
(screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } else { //Zoom in
if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else {
box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } var screen_width_resize_before = screen_width_resize_after; });
document.addEventListener('scroll',(event) => { var box_top=parseInt(box.style.top, 10); var
window_height=parseInt(window.innerHeight, 10); if((box_top >= window_height) || (box_top
screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } box.style.top
= (window_height*0.5)+'px'; } }, { passive: true } ); $('float-plus').draggable(); $(".float-
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show_social_float_icons(); }); var box = document.getElementById('float-plus'); $(".float-
plus").mousedown(function(){ const body = document.body; box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s";
body.style.overflow = "hidden"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto"; }); $(".float-plus").mouseup(function(){
const body = document.body; body.style.overflow = "auto"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto";
box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width = window.innerWidth; var screen_width =
parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var current_location =
parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx = (screen_width*0.04); var x
= (screen_width*0.009); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; }
else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); // For MOBILE TOUCH - DRAGGABLE
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window.scrollX) + 'px'; box.style.top = (touchLocation.pageY-window.scrollY) + 'px'; });
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} setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).hide("slow"); },500); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-plus"
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window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){ setTimeout(function(){ $( ".float-tg" ).show("slow");
},10); } setTimeout(function(){ $( ".float-cross" ).show("slow"); },10); $(".float-fb").animate({ top:
"+=8%", }, 500 ); $(".float-tw").animate({ top: "+=16%", }, 600 ); $(".float-rs").animate({ top: "+=24%",
}, 700 ); $(".float-ig").animate({ top: "+=32%", }, 800 ); $(".float-pn").animate({ top: "+=40%", }, 900 );
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "+=48%", }, 1000 ); if(width >= 700){ $(".float-tg").animate({ top:
"+=56%", }, 1000 ); } sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "0"); }
$(document).ready(function(){ var value = sessionStorage.getItem("remove_social_icons"); if(value ==
'1'){ remove_social_float_icons(); } }); // function to close the popup function closePopup() { var modal =
document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display = "none"; } // function to open the popup
function openPopup() { var modal = document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display =
"block"; } // Added the code - If user click on anywhere outside the popup $('body').click(function(e) {
$('#myModal').hide(); }); $('#popclose').on('click',function(e){ $('#myModal').css('display','none'); }); //
automatically open the popup on page load window.onload = openPopup; $(document).ready(function(){
if(screen.width { button.addEventListener('click', btnEvent => { // console.log(button.id); $.ajax({
method: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/search/", data: { 'id': button.id, 'search': search },
headers: { 'X-CSRF-TOKEN': $('[name = "_csrfToken"]').val() }, success: function(result) {
$('body').html(result); }, error: function(error){ console.log(error) } } }) } $(document).ready(function(){
//alert(getCookie('isLogin')); if(getCookie('isLogin')==1) { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','inline-block');
$('#loginLink').css('display','none'); $('#registerLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','inline-block'); } else { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','none');
$('#loginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#registerLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','none'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','none'); } }); function getCookie(name) { var match =
document.cookie.match(RegExp("(?:^|\\s*)" + name + "=(.*)")); return match ? match[1] : null; } var
regex = /^[a-zA-Z0-9_+-.]+\@((([a-zA-Z0-9-])+\.)+([a-zA-Z0-9]{2,4})+)$/; var phonex = /^[0-9 ]+$/;
$('#newsletterfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true; var txtname=$('#txtname').val(); var
txtname=$('#txtname').val(); $('#nmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove(); if(txtname.trim()=="")
$('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); }
if(txtname.trim()==""){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!regex.test(txtname)){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#newsletterfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({
type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/pages/newsletterfrm", data: form, success: function(data){
if(data=='already'){ $('#nmsg').html('Email address already in use'); }else if(data=='add'){
$('#nmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.'); $('#txtname').val("");
$('#txtname').val(""); }else{ $('#nmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#smsalertfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
var txtmobile=$('#txtmobile').val(); $('#nmmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtmobile.trim()=="") { $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtmobile').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#smsalertfrm').serialize();
//$('#nmloader').show(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/pages/smsalertfrm", data:
form, success: function(data){ if(data=='already'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Phone number already in use');
}else if(data=='add'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our SMS Alerts.');
$('#txtmobile').val(""); }else{ $('#nmmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nmloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
//$('#nmloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#subscriptionfrm').submit(function(e){ var
msg=true; var txtname=$('#name').val(); var txtname=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtmobile=$('#phone').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtname.trim()=="") { $('#name').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#name').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtname.trim()==""){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtname)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
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}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtmobile.trim()==){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phone').removeClass('input-error'); }
if($('#dailyupdates').prop("checked") == false && $('#examnewsletter').prop("checked") == false &&
$('#fullnewsletter').prop("checked") == false && $('#sms').prop("checked") == false) {
$('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('No
option selected, please select at least one option. '); msg=false; } if(msg){ $('.loader').css('display','block');
var form=$('#subscriptionfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishitias.com/subscription", data: form, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our
subscription. You will hear from us soon. '); $('#name').val(""); $('#emailaddress').val(""); $('#phone').val("");
}else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error');
$('#contactmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#testseriesfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
var txtname=$('#firstname').val(); var txtnemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtmobile=$('#phonenumber').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('.input-error').remove();
if(txtname.trim()==){ $('#firstname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#firstname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnemail.trim()==){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtnemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtmobile.trim()==){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phonenumber').removeClass('input-
error'); } if(msg){ $('.loader').css('display','block'); var form=$('#testseriesfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type:
"POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/test-series-registration", data: form, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); //alert(data); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for choosing our test series. You
will get an email and message soon. '); $('#firstname').val(""); $('#lastname').val("");
$('#emailaddress').val(""); $('#phonenumber').val(""); }else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html(data); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#allnotes').click(function(){
$('.fixbtn.notes').removeClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').toggleClass('open'); });
$('.mynotes,.notelist').on('click','.readmore',function(){ var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid');
$('#note_id').val(noteid); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/articles/setnote", data:
'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){ if(data){ tinymce.get("mynote").setContent(data);
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went
wrong, Please try again'); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('.notelink').click(function(){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/articles/removenote",
success: function(data){ if(data=='removed'){ $('#note_id').val(""); tinymce.get("mynote").setContent("");
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').removeClass('open');
}else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('.mynotes,.notelist').on('click','.removenote',function(e){ if(confirm('Are you sure want to remove
note?')) { $('.loader').css('display','block'); var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid'); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishitias.com/articles/deletenote", data: 'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='removed'){ $('#note-list #' +noteid+',.notelist
#' +noteid).css('display','none'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype); } }); }
e.preventDefault(); }); $('#commentfile').change(function(){ $("#file-name").text(this.files[0].name); });
$(document).ready(function(){ $('.list-toggle').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active');
$(this).toggleClass('active'); $('.value').text(function(i, text){ return text == "Hide Menu" ? "Show Menu"
: "Hide Menu"; }); }); $('#aside button.close').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active'); $('.list-
toggle').toggleClass('active'); }); $('.fixbtn .btn').click(function(){ $('.fixbtn
.btn').not(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); $(this).parents('.fixbtn').toggleClass('open'); });
$('.fixbtn a.close').click(function(){ $(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); }); $('.note-
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btn').click(function(){ $('#.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }); $('#.viewmore a').click(function(){  
$('#.hide').slideToggle('active'); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "View More" ? "View Less" :  
"View More"; }); }); $('#.learning-program .subheading').click(function(){ $(this).next().slideToggle();  
$(this).toggleClass('open'); }); $(document).ready(function(){ $('#a.register-btn').colorbox(); });  
$('#.interview-slider').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true });  
$('#bookSession').on('click',function(e){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", data: { 'course':  
$('#bookSession').data('course') }, url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/book-online-session", success:  
function(json){ var obj = JSON.parse(json); if (obj.status==200) { alert(obj.message); } else {  
alert(obj.message); window.location.reload(); } }, error: function(error,errorType,errorStatus){  
alert(errorType); } }); e.preventDefault(); }); $(".popup").colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 790,  
innerHeight: 530}); if(screen.width = 500) { $("#scroll-top").addClass("show"); } else { $("#scroll-  
top").removeClass("show"); } }); function showarchive(year,month,day=null){ // alert('be-mains-ready-  
daily-answer-writing-practice-question'); return; var  
url='https://www.drishtiias.com/archives/'+year+'-'+month+'-'+day; location=url;  
//alert(url+'/archives/'+year+'/'+month+'/'+dat); }
```

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