ELECTION COMMISSION
The Election Commission of India is an autonomous, quasi-judiciary constitutional body of India. Its mission is to conduct free and fair elections in India. It was established on 25 January 1950 under Article 324 of the Constitution of India. The commission presently consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners, appointed by the president. Until October 1989, there was just one Chief Election Commissioner. In 1989, two Election Commissioners were appointed, but were removed again in January 1990. In 1991, however, the Parliament of India passed a law providing for the appointment of two Election Commissioners. This law was amended and renamed in 1993 as the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Act 1993. As of 7 April 2011, the CEC is Shahabuddin Yaqoob Quraishi.
Composition of Election Commission- Article 324(2) of the constitution provides that the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners if any, as the President may fix from time to time.

PROVISION OF MULTI-MEMBER ELECTION COMMISSION: Though an Act of the Parliament passed on Dec, 20, 1993, provisions has been made of a multi-member Election Commission.

APPPOINTMENT- Acc to Article-324(2) the appointment of the chief Election Commissioner, the other Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioner shall be made by the President of India in accordance with the rules laid down by the Parliament.
Qualifications- Indian constitution is salient in this regard.

**TENURE**- Fixed by the President according to the rules laid down by the Parliament.

**REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**- The method of removal from office of the chief Election commissioner is same as that of the Judges of Supreme Court.

**SALARY AND CONDITION OF SERVICE**- Fixed by the President according to the rules laid down by the Parliament.

**STAFF FOR ELECTION COMMISSION**- Appointed by the President and the Governors respectively.
FUNCTIONS OF ELECTION COMMISSION

- The Superintendence, Direction and Control of Election
- Preparation of Electoral Rolls
- To declare the date of Election
- To recognise and derecognise Political Parties
- To prepare code of conduct for Political Parties
- Control over the staff connected with Election
• To conduct Election
• To establish Polling Stations
• Safety of Ballot Boxes and Counting
• To declare ineligible for contesting Election
• To order Re-poll
• To issue Direction
INDEPENDENCE OF ELECTION COMMISSION

1. Constitutional Recognition
2. Fixed Tenure
3. Difficult method of Removal
4. Effective Powers
5. High Salaries
6. Condition of service can not be changed to the disadvantage of the Election Commissioners.
SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE ELECTION COMMISSION INDEPENDENT

- Constitutional provisions of multi-member Election Commission
- Election Commission should get same protection which is given to Chief Election
- Qualification should be fixed
- Clear provisions about the powers of the Election Commission
• Provision of expenditure of the Election Commission from the Consolidated Fund of India
• The Function of the Delimitation of constituencies should be handed over to the Election Commission
• Change in the method of appointment of the members of Election Commission
• No appointment on political offices after retirement.
VOTING BEHAVIOUR

Voting is the main form of political participation in liberal democratic societies and the study of voting behaviour is a highly specialized sub-field within political science. The analysis of voting patterns invariably focuses on the determinants of why people vote as they do and how they arrive at the decisions they make. Sociologists tend to look to the socio-economic determinants of support for political parties, observing the correlations between class, occupation, ethnicity, sex, age and vote; political scientists have concentrated on the influence of political factors such as issues, political programmes, electoral campaigns, and the popularity of party leaders on voting behaviour.
Meaning and Definition of Voting Behaviour

In modern democratic countries the citizens are greatly influenced and inspired by several factors while exercising their right to vote. The study of the factors or situations which inspire and influence the voters to exercise his right to vote in favour or against a particular candidate is called Voting Behaviour.

Acc. to J.C. Plano and Riggs, “Voting Behaviour is a field of study concerned with the ways in which people tend to vote in public election and the reasons why they vote as they do.”
• Education
• Political Consciousness
• Casteism
• Economic Condition
• Religion
• Lingual Controversies
• Regionalism
• Ideological Commitment
• Election Manifestoes of Political Parties
• Charismatic Personalities
• Populist Slogans
• Class Interests
• Gender
• Influence of Money
• Performance of the Government
• Personal Contacts
• Immediate Issues
• Party Loyalty
REFERENCES