

## Quadrant II - Notes

**Paper Code: POS 101**

**Module Name: Introduction to Democracy**

**Module No: 01**

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### **MEANING OF DEMOCRACY**

The term 'democracy' was first used in the fifth century BC by Greek historian Herodotus in the sense of 'rule by the people'.

This term is derived from the combination of two Greek words : demos, meaning 'the people', and Krato meaning 'to rule'. Democracy implies that the ultimate authority of governance in this system is vested in the ordinary people so that public policy is made to conform to the will of the people and to serve the interests of the people.

### **DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY**

**Aristotle** – “ Rule of many”

**Abraham Lincoln**- “Rule of the people, by the people and for the people”

**Dacey**- “Democracy is the form of government where the ruling community is a comparatively bigger part of the entire nation”

### **DEMOCRACY IN INDIA**

As per Dr B.R. Ambedkar “The roots of Democracy lie not in the form of Government, parliamentary or otherwise. A democracy is more than a form of Government. It is mode of associated living. The roots of democracy are to be searched in the social relationship, in terms of associated life between the people who form a society.

### **SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY**

**Popular Sovereignty** : Indian democracy is based on sovereignty. And people can exercise their power in democracy. Thus they elect their representatives.

**Political Equality:** That means all citizens are equal before law and enjoy equal political rights irrespective of religion , caste. It gives right to vote to every citizen of the country based on universal adult franchise.

**Majority Rules:** Party plays a major role in Indian democracy. Thus the party which gets majority of vote is accepted by all.

**Federal:** The Article 1of Indian Constitution describes India as Union of States. We have Centre and State government and subjects are distributed among both the government. States have freedom in certain matters and are dependent on Centre in some other matters.

**Independent Judiciary:** India has independent judiciary which is separate from legislature and executive. No government organ can influence judiciary. Its decision is binding on all centre as well as state.

**Supremacy of Constitution:** Constitution is supreme in India. Every citizen has to respect Constitution and work within the limits of the Constitution.

**Fundamental Rights:** Part III of Indian Constitution guarantees Fundamental rights to all the Citizens. The idea is to promote Political democracy. They operate as the limitations on the tyranny of the executive.

**Rule of Law:** It means equality before the law. All citizens are subjected to the law of the land administered by the ordinary law courts.