

\* What makes elections in India democratic?

→ In India, the presence of a powerful and independent Election Commission (EC) makes it democratic.

→ The election commissioner is appointed by the president of India.

→ Once appointed, the chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is not answerable to the president or the government. Even if ruling party / government does not like what the commission does not change, it is virtually impossible to remove the CEC.

→ The powers of Election Commission of India:

- EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the

announcement of elections to the declaration of results.

- It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- During the election period, the EC can order the government ~~power~~ to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of government power to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials.
- When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.