POLITY & CONSTITUTION 05 October 2026

Mass Voter Exclusion Negates Constitutional Order: Supreme Court Judge

Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan delivered an address at NALSAR highlighting that mass voter disenfranchisement violates universal adult suffrage and Article 14.

A judicial perspective highlighting Universal Adult Suffrage and voter inclusion as essential elements of India's democratic and constitutional structure.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Supreme Court judge **Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** delivered an address at **NALSAR University of Law** in Hyderabad.
- He stated that disenfranchising voters en masse is intrinsically arbitrary and violative of the **Right to Equality** under **Article 14**.
- Justice Bhuyan emphasized that arbitrary exclusion of citizens from **electoral rolls** negates the core **constitutional order**.
- He observed that depriving citizens of **voting rights** reduces them to **second-class status** in a constitutional democracy.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 326 of the Indian Constitution guarantees **Universal Adult Suffrage** for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

The voting age in India was reduced from **21 to 18 years** through the **61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988**, which came into effect in 1989.

Preparation and updating of electoral rolls in India is governed primarily under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.

Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls in the **Election Commission of India**.

In the **PUCL vs Union of India case (2013)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to vote includes the right to express disapproval through **NOTA**.

Part XV of the Indian Constitution (**Articles 324 to 329**) contains constitutional provisions relating to elections and electoral machinery.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 326 guarantees Universal Adult Suffrage; voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 by the 61st Amendment Act, 1988.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Group 1, 2, and 4 questions on Article 326, 61st Amendment Act, and Election Commission powers.

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