

DemocracyMeaning -

Democracy is a form of government and its core element is self-rule. The origin of the term 'democracy' can be traced back to ancient Greek land. Derived from the Greek word 'demokratia', it means rule by the people. It rejects the separation of the two, i.e., between the ruler and the ruled. Varied meanings have been attached to the word democracy.

- A form of government in which people rule directly.
- A society based on equal opportunity

27

TUESDAY
027-338
Week 5

- 08 and individual merit, rather than
- 09 hierarchy and privilege.
- 10 • A system of decision-making
- 11 based on the principle of majority
- 12 rule.
- 13 • A system of rule that secures the
- 14 rights and interests of minorities by
- 15 checks upon the power of the
- 16 majority.
- 17 • A means of filling public office
- 18 through a comparative struggle for
- 19 vote
- 20 • A system of government that
- serve the people regard less of
- their participation in political life
- A system of government based on

JANUARY
2009

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08 the consent of the government.

09 Direct Democracy

10 Direct democracy is a form of
11 government in which all collective
12 decisions are taken through participation
13 of all adult citizens of the state
14 in the spirit of equality and open
15 deliberations. Deliberations and
16 discussions are important because
17 decisions arrived at through discussions
18 are better informed, more logical
19 and rational. 'Gram Sabha' as
20 envisaged in the 73rd Constitutional
21 amendment of Indian Constitution is
22 an example of direct democracy.

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THURSDAY
029-336
Week 5

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08 Principles governing Direct democracy

- 09 • People are sovereign.
- 10 • Sovereignty is inalienable and
- 11 cannot be represented.
- 12 • People must express their general
- 13 will and make decisions directly
- 14 through referendum.
- 15 • Decisions are to be made on
- 16 majority rule.
- 17

18 Merits of Direct democracy

- 19 • It heightens the control that citizens
- 20 can exercise over their own destinies.

as it is only pure form of democracy.

- It creates a better informed and

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08 more politically sophisticated
09 citizenry and thus it has educational
10 benefits.

11 • It enables the public to express
12 their own views and interests without
13 having to rely on self-serving
14 politicians.

15 • It ensures that the rule is
16 legitimate in the sense that people
17 are more likely to accept
18 decisions that they have made
19 themselves.

20 Limitations of Direct democracy-

21 • It can only be linked with
small population.

FEBRUARY 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T							
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