

The Story of

ELECTORAL POLITICS



CLASS- IX



TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
EAST OF KAILASH

Affiliated to C.B.S.E

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This novel is an outcome of the sustained efforts of the entire team. We extend our special gratitude to the Principal, Ms. Mallika Preman who provided us help and guidance in completing the Graphic Novel.

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PREFACE

The Graphic Novel aims to explain the foundation of democracy in our times-elections. In a democracy, people rule through elected representatives. It will enable students to learn how these representatives are elected in a democratic country like India. Students will analyse the importance of elections in a democracy. The novel will help students identify the various stages in the entire process of elections in our country right from the delimitation of constituencies to the declaration of results.

This novel comprises detailed descriptions of conditions for free and fair elections and merits and demerits of electoral competition. Students will also examine the vital role of the Election Commission of India in conducting elections in the country.

The novel will not only facilitate a clear understanding of the entire process of elections in the country but will also help students acquire critical and creative thinking skills.

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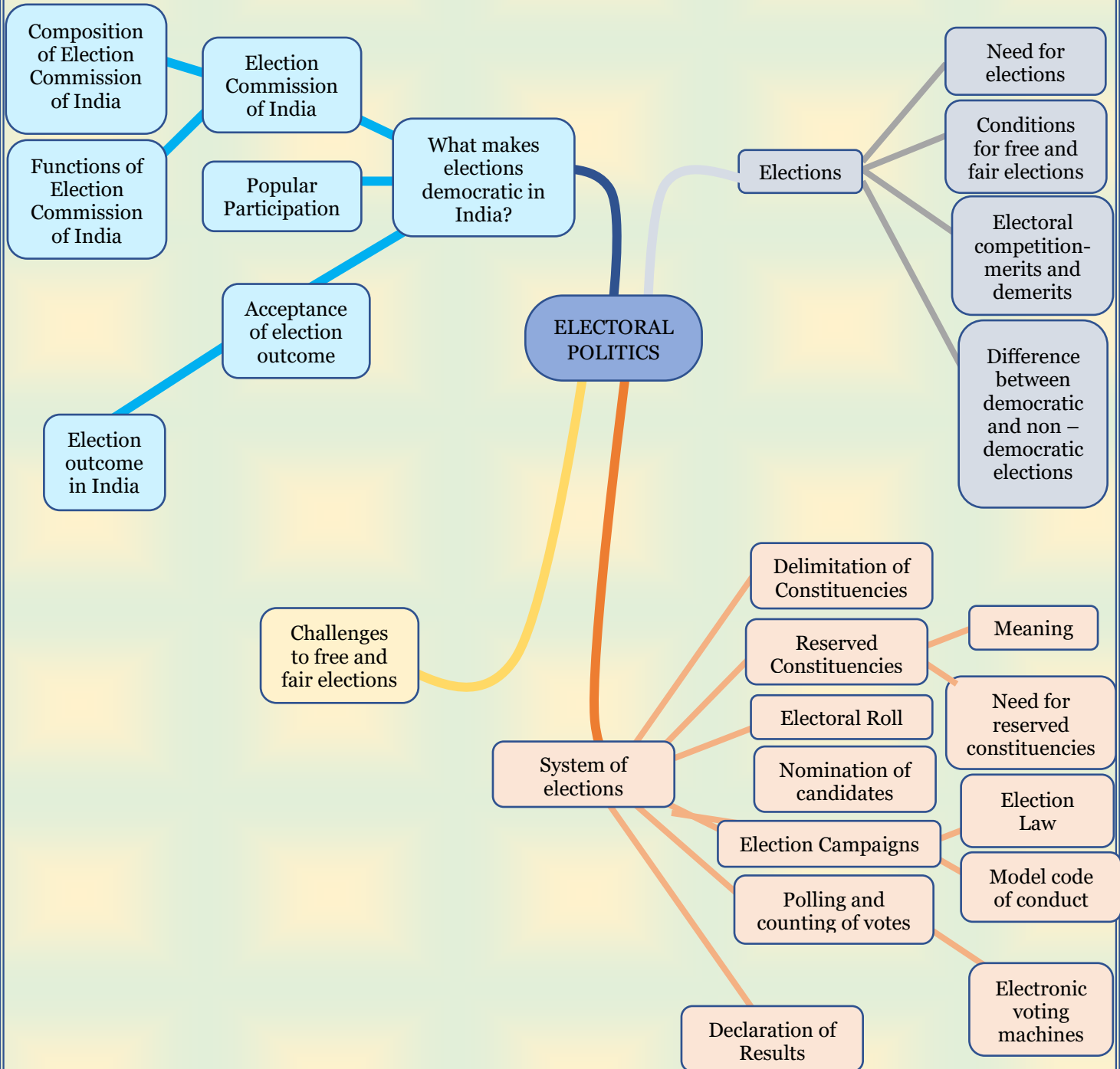
To access the comic book and additional interactive digital content, download DIKSHA app from Google Play Store on your android smart phone or tablet.



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STORY BOARD

ELECTORAL POLITICS



LEARNING OUTCOMES

The readers will be able to:

- identify the concept of representative democracy via competitive party politics.
- familiarize themselves with the Indian electoral system.
- give reason for the adoption of the present Indian Electoral System.
- develop an appreciation of citizen's increased participation in electoral politics.
- recognize the significance of the Election Commission.
- differentiate between democratic and non-democratic elections.
- identify the role of Election Commission of India in conducting elections in the country.
- critically analyse the merits and demerits of electoral competition.

CHARACTERS

1. Pooja Singh (teacher), Age: 30 years.



2. Dakshi- (a student), Age: 15 years, lives in a metropolitan city. Dakshi is excited to know how representatives get elected to the legislative bodies.

3. Vineeta- (a student), Age: 15 years, lives in a metropolitan city. Vineeta wants to know about the system of elections in our country.



4. Rahul- (a student), Age: 15 years, lives in a metropolitan city. Rahul is curious to know how elections are conducted in a free and fair manner in such a huge country like India.

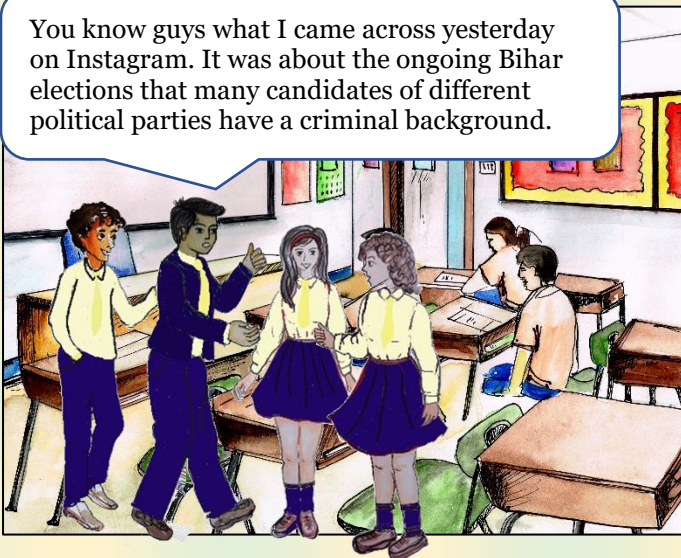
Rahul is checking posts on Instagram. He sees a post about Bihar elections (2020) where he reads that many candidates contesting elections have criminal background. He is surprised to know this and is curious to know how elections are conducted in a free and fair manner in our country.

Who will ensure that elections are conducted in a democratic manner? I should ask this question from the teacher tomorrow in the class.

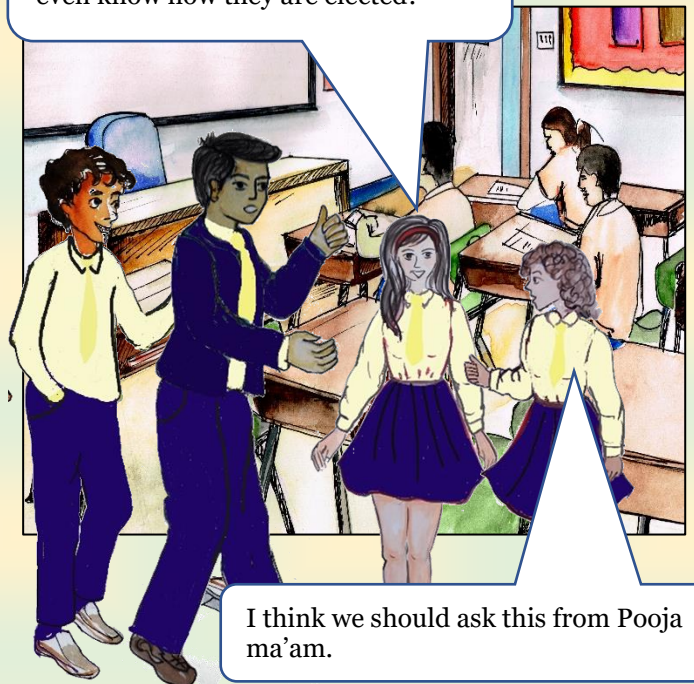


Rahul shares his findings on Instagram with his friends about the Bihar elections.

You know guys what I came across yesterday on Instagram. It was about the ongoing Bihar elections that many candidates of different political parties have a criminal background.

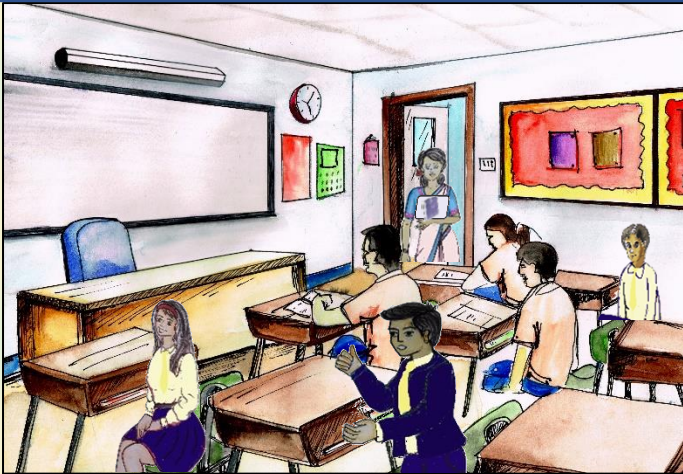


Oh! You are talking about candidates having a criminal background. I don't even know how they are elected?

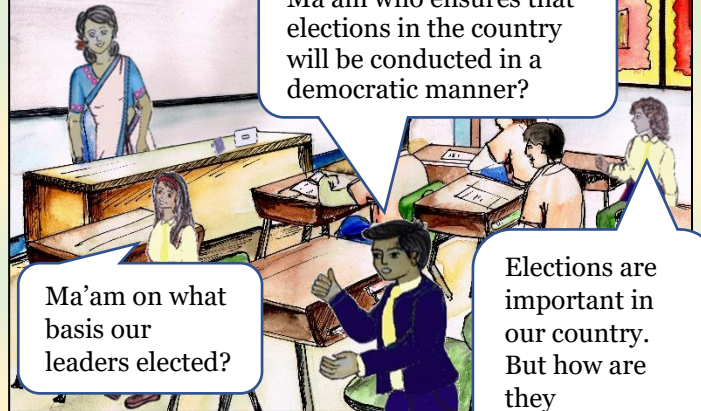


I think we should ask this from Pooja ma'am.

Students greet the teacher.
Everyone is settled in the classroom.



The teacher asks how the students have been? Anything new they read or found?
Rahul shares his findings with the teacher.



Ma'am who ensures that elections in the country will be conducted in a democratic manner?

Ma'am on what basis our leaders elected?

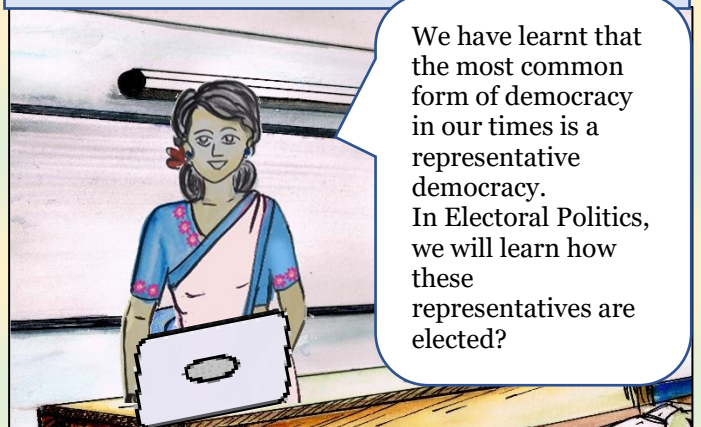
Elections are important in our country. But how are they conducted?

Teacher appreciates the students for their questions and enthusiasm they show in learning something new.



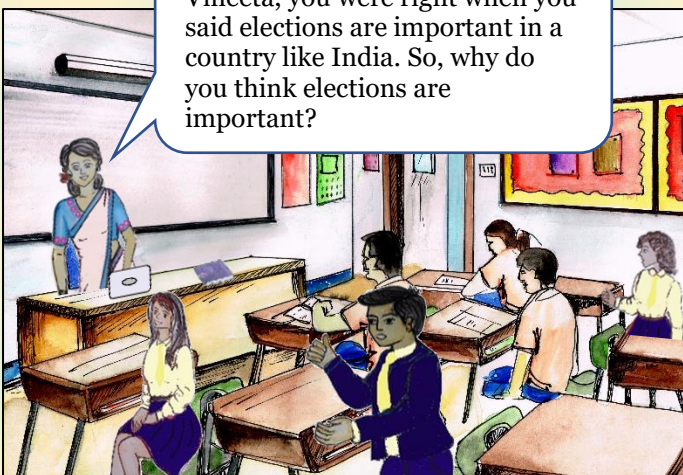
Wow, students I am impressed with your questions! This is what we will find out in our next topic: Electoral Politics.

Teacher introduces students to the topic.

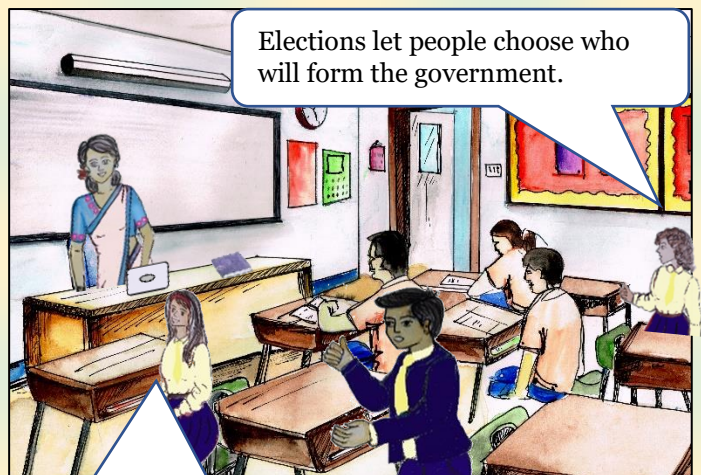


We have learnt that the most common form of democracy in our times is a representative democracy. In Electoral Politics, we will learn how these representatives are elected?

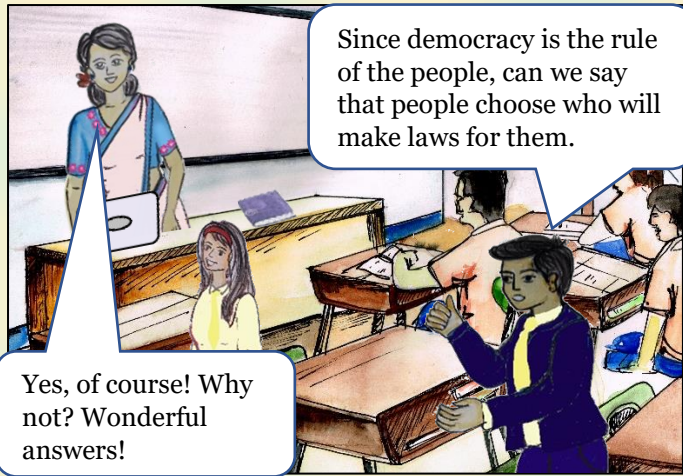
Vineeta, you were right when you said elections are important in a country like India. So, why do you think elections are important?



Elections let people choose who will form the government.



People can choose the party whose policies will guide the government.

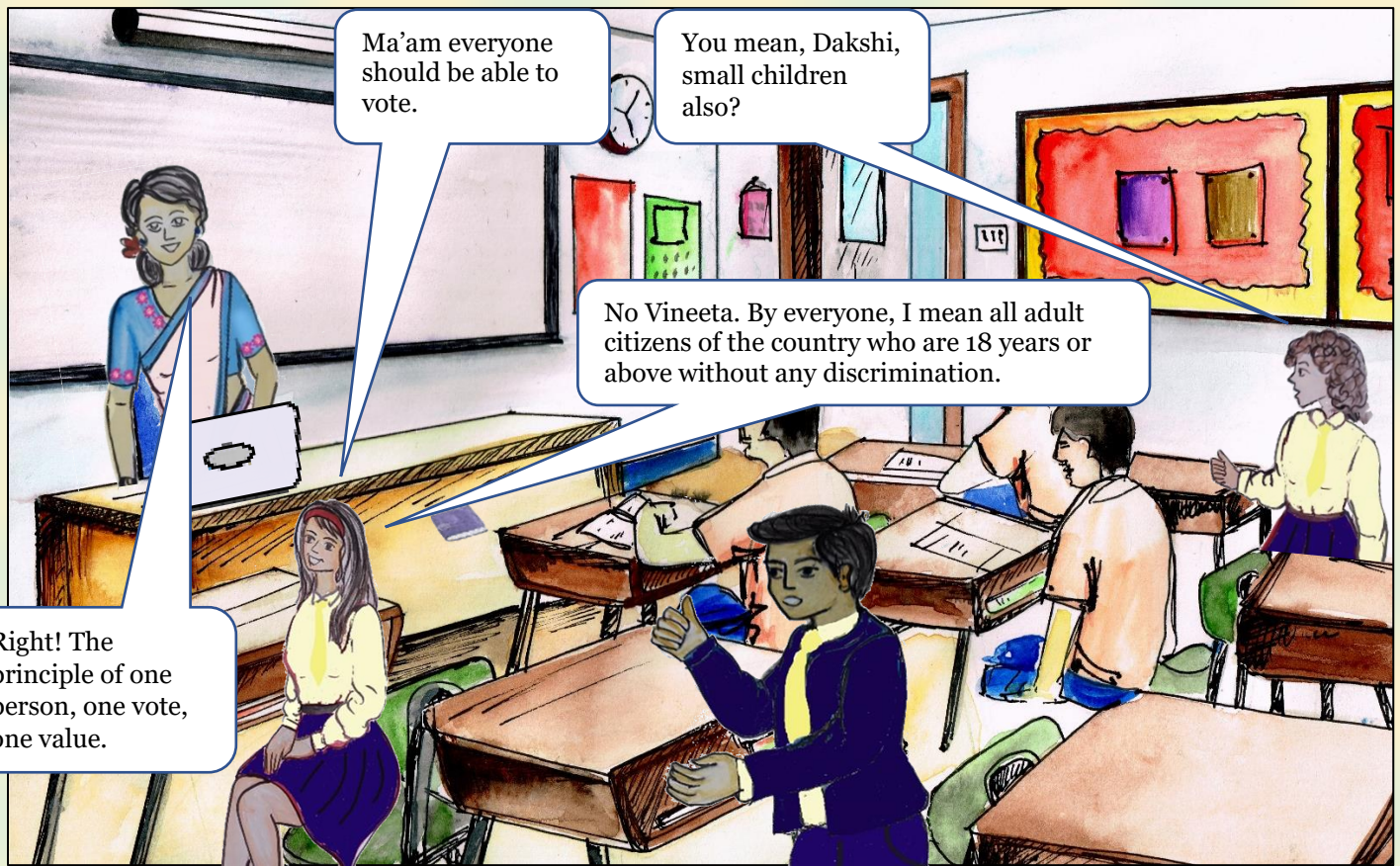


Since democracy is the rule of the people, can we say that people choose who will make laws for them.

Yes, of course! Why not? Wonderful answers!



Now, tell me how can we have a free and fair elections?

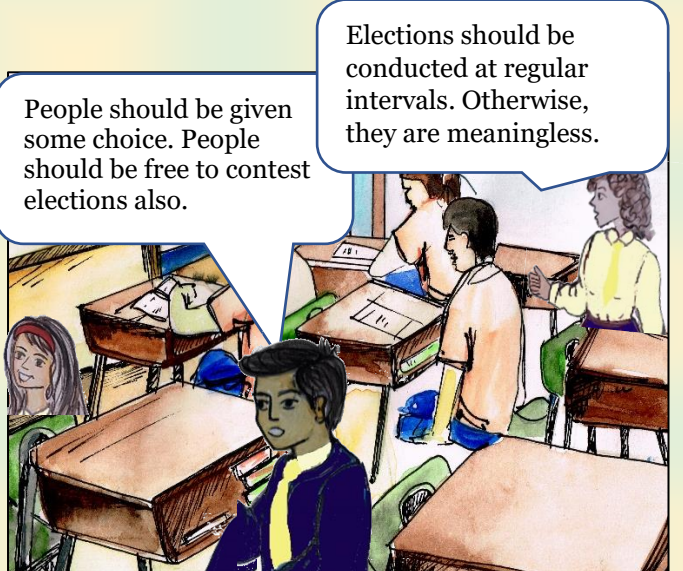


Ma'am everyone should be able to vote.

You mean, Dakshi, small children also?

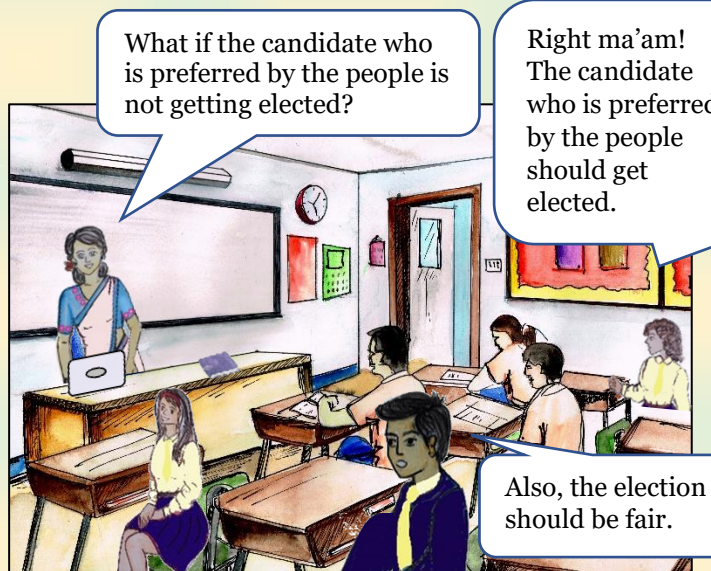
No Vineeta. By everyone, I mean all adult citizens of the country who are 18 years or above without any discrimination.

Right! The principle of one person, one vote, one value.



People should be given some choice. People should be free to contest elections also.

Elections should be conducted at regular intervals. Otherwise, they are meaningless.

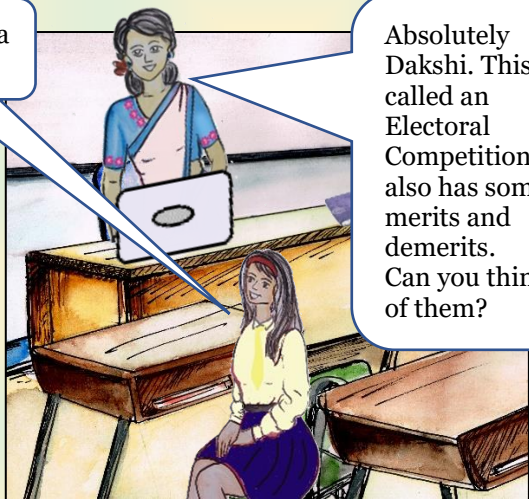


What if the candidate who is preferred by the people is not getting elected?

Right ma'am! The candidate who is preferred by the people should get elected.

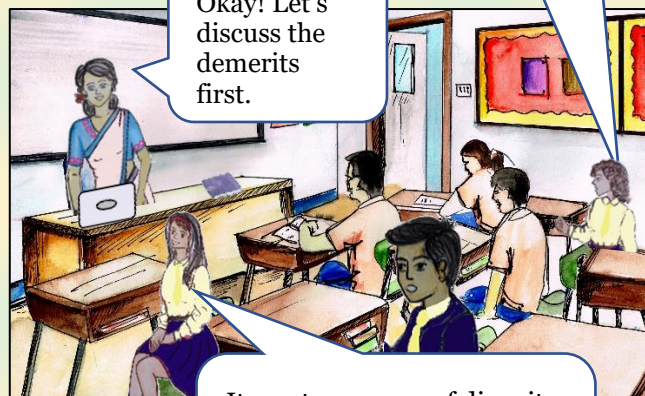
Also, the election should be fair.

It seems like a competition!



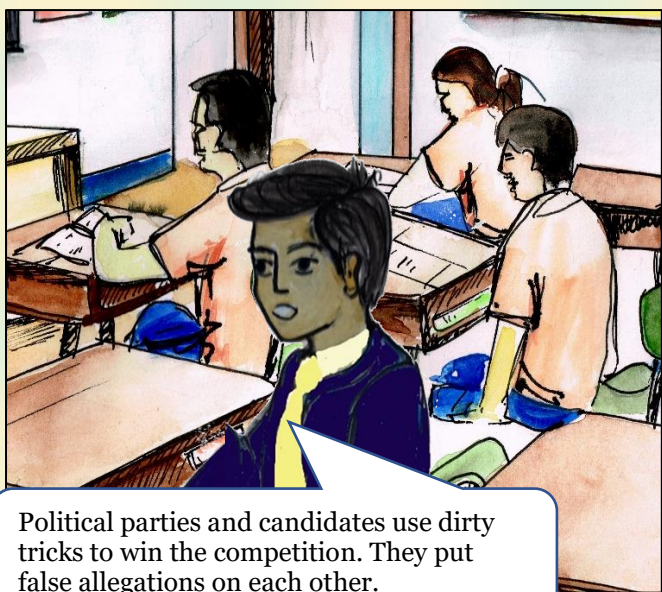
Absolutely Dakshi. This is called an Electoral Competition. It also has some merits and demerits. Can you think of them?

Ma'am we are ready with the points.



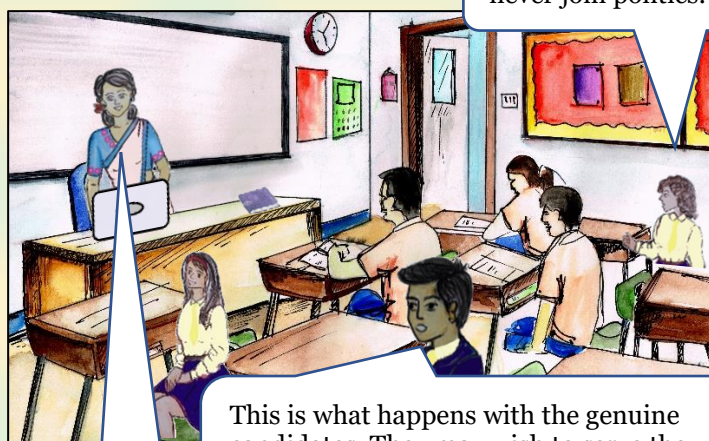
Okay! Let's discuss the demerits first.

It creates a sense of disunity and factionalism among the people. People often complain of party-politics.



Political parties and candidates use dirty tricks to win the competition. They put false allegations on each other.

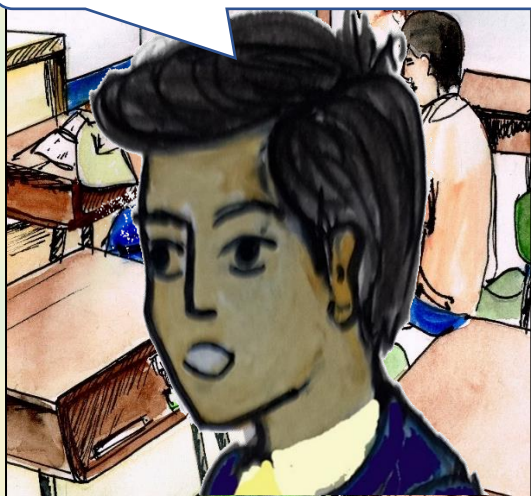
Leaders are motivated to serve the people as they know they will remain in the power as long as they serve the people.



Oh My God! I will never join politics.

But it has some merits too.

This is what happens with the genuine candidates. They may wish to serve the country but they don't join politics thinking it is a dirty game.



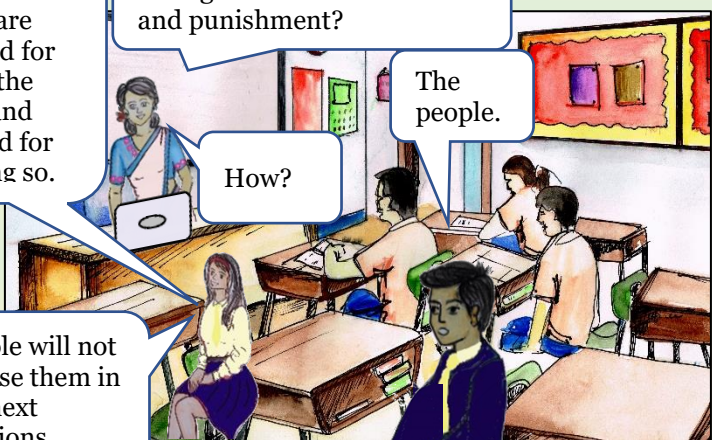
Political leaders are rewarded for serving the people and punished for not doing so.

Who gives them this reward and punishment?

The people.

How?

People will not choose them in the next elections.



And, how is that ensured?

For that, regular elections should be conducted.

Great!

But ma'am as Rahul shared about Bihar elections. Why are elections happening in Bihar only? Why not in the entire country?

Legislative Assembly elections are being conducted in Bihar. People choose their leaders for two types of legislative bodies- Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Oh!

Teacher asks the students to do some research and collect information.

What is the system of elections in our country?

Well, that we will discuss in detail tomorrow. Find out from your elders in the family how they go to cast their vote? What documents do they carry?

Next day, the topic resumed in the class.

I am so excited to know how representatives get elected.

So, what did you find out about the system of elections in our country?

Ma'am our country is divided into smaller wards.

But in case of the Bihar elections why is the entire state to be divided into smaller wards?

Country and the state are divided into various constituencies for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections respectively. For example, Gulbarga district in Karnataka.



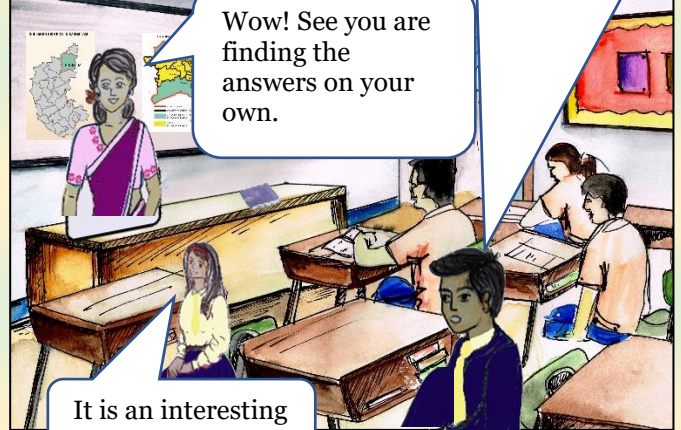
Who will decide the number of constituencies?

Number of constituencies is equivalent to the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly or Lok Sabha.

It means one representative is elected from each constituency.

In the end, whichever party wins in the maximum number of constituencies will form the government.

Wow! See you are finding the answers on your own.

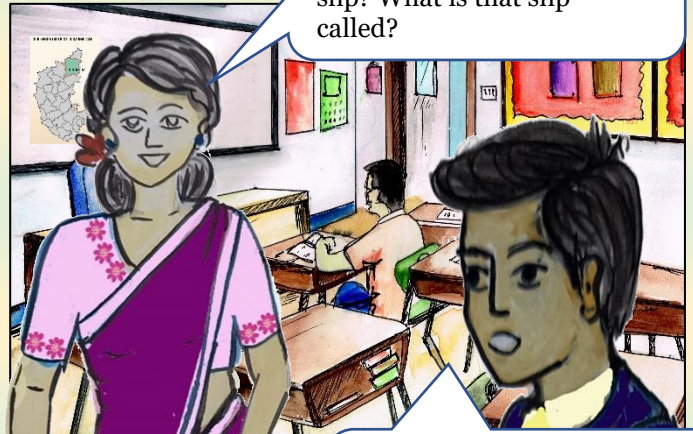
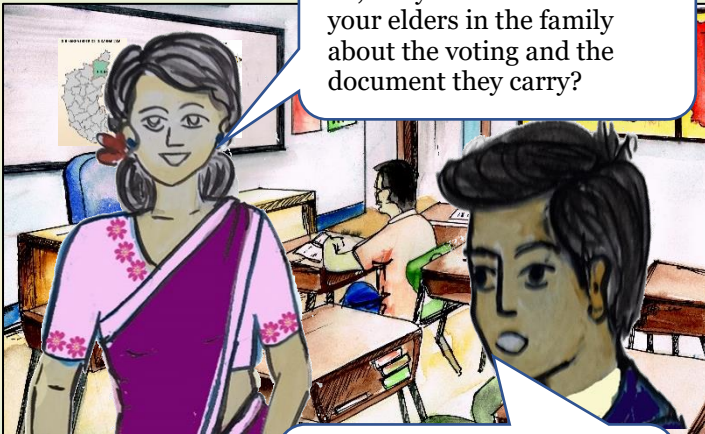


Yes, whoever wins with the majority of votes in that constituency.

It is an interesting topic.

So, did you find out from your elders in the family about the voting and the document they carry?

Did you ask him what information is given on the slip? What is that slip called?



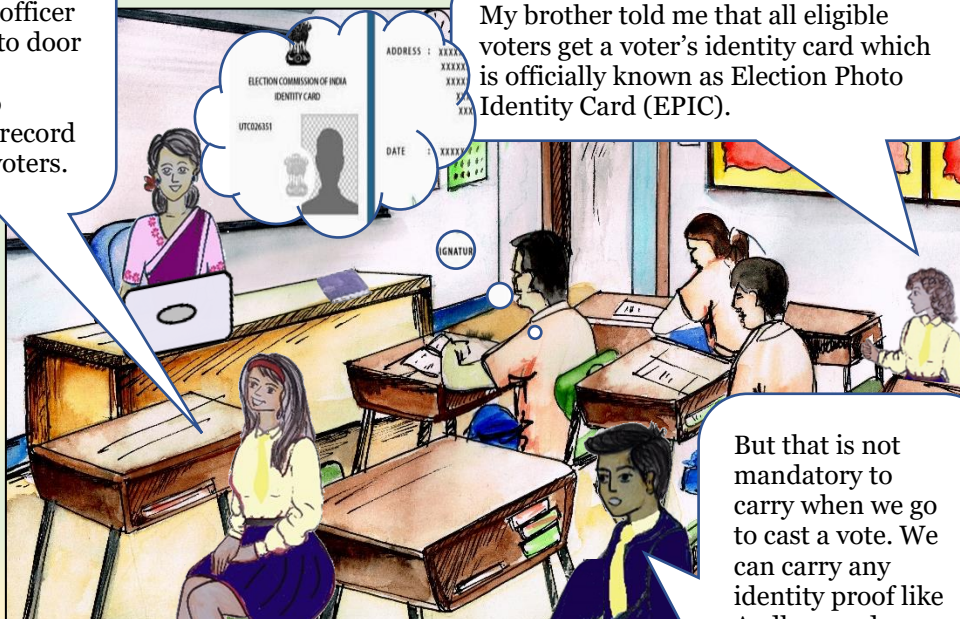
Ma'am my father told me that he carries a slip with him when he goes to cast his vote.

It is the voter's slip containing information such as name, gender, EPIC number, polling station etc.

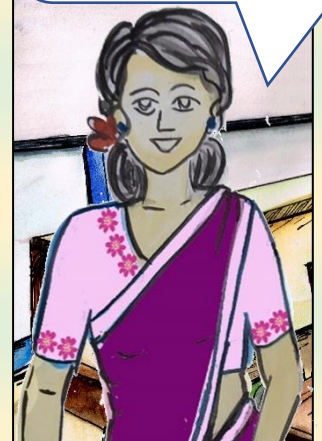
My mother told me that an officer visits door to door before the elections to update the record of eligible voters.

My brother told me that all eligible voters get a voter's identity card which is officially known as Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

Right, but the voter's slip Rahul mentioned is mandatory to carry because it is given to the eligible voters only after updating the record.



But that is not mandatory to carry when we go to cast a vote. We can carry any identity proof like Aadhar card, Ration card etc.



Dakshi, the list you mentioned is known as the Electoral Roll. It is also known as the Voters' List. This is updated before every election to add the newly eligible voters and to delete the names of voters who have died or have moved out of the

After the voters list is prepared, candidates file the Nomination papers along with security deposit and a legal declaration of educational qualifications, criminal cases pending against them, total assets etc.

Can everybody contest elections?

Yes. But you need to be 25 years or above in order to contest the election. There are some other restrictions on criminals etc. but these apply in very extreme cases.

What is a party ticket?

Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called a party 'ticket'.

How will voters get to know who are the candidates and political parties they have to choose from?

Through Election Campaigns!

You mean rallies and speeches!

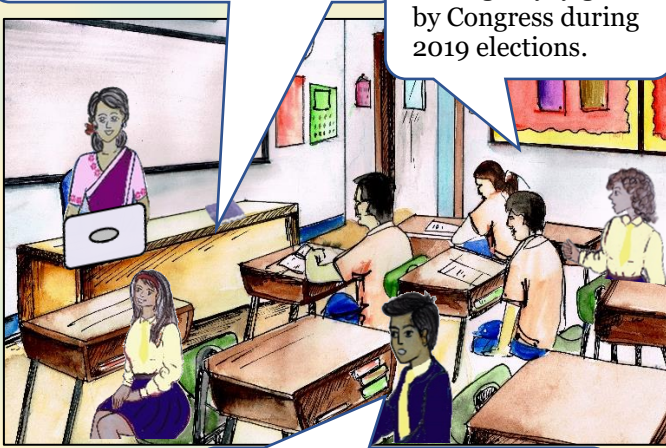
When does the Election Campaign start?

In our country, such campaigns take place for a period of two-weeks between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.

The candidates contact their voters, political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters.

They want to attract the public to that issue and get them to vote for their party on that basis. Can you give me examples of some slogans political parties have used for elections?

'2019 mein phir ek baar, Modi sarkar' given by BJP in 2019 elections.



Ab hoga Nyay given by Congress during 2019 elections.

Where do people go to cast their vote?



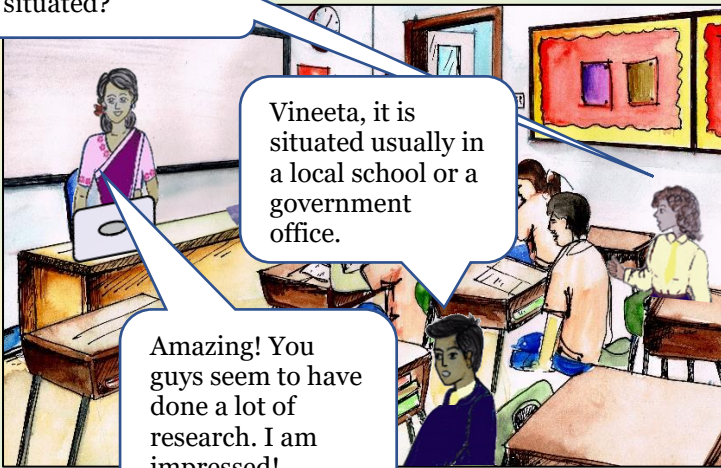
Polling booth.

Ma'am the last step is Polling and Counting of votes and then the result is declared.

Who is responsible for conducting elections smoothly in the country?

But where are they situated?

Election Commission of India.



Vineeta, it is situated usually in a local school or a government office.



Amazing! You guys seem to have done a lot of research. I am impressed!

But who heads the Election Commission of India?

Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner?



Chief Election Commissioner.



The President.

Chief Election Commissioner is assisted by other two Election Commissioners.

I. The given sentences are incorrect. Correct and rewrite:

- a) Constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the special classes.
- b) In order to be a candidate, the minimum age is 30 years.
- c) In our country election campaigns take place for a four-week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.
- d) In our country, all the citizens aged 21 years and above can vote in an election.
- e) For Lok Sabha elections, the country is divided into 554 constituencies.

II. Give one word for the following sentences:

- a) The representatives elected from each constituency in the Lok Sabha elections.
- b) The card given by the government to the voters.
- c) A set of norms and guidelines to be followed by political parties and contesting candidates during election time.
- d) Machines that are used to record votes. It shows the names of the candidates and the party symbols.
- e) The elected representative from the Assembly constituency.

What are the functions of the Election Commission of India?



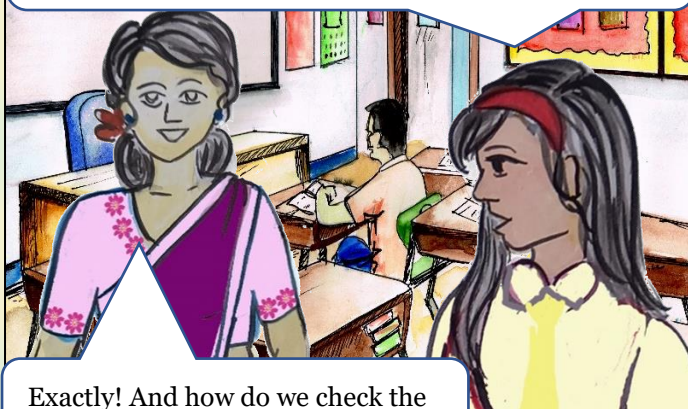
During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent the use or misuse of governmental power to win elections, or to transfer government officials.



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; election laws and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.

When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Does it mean if election officials come to the opinion that polling was not fair in some booths or even an entire constituency, they order a repoll.



I believe it is through people's participation in the elections.



What makes you think that?

Exactly! And how do we check the quality of the election process?

If the people do not have faith in the fairness of the election process, they won't participate in the elections.

But how is the people's participation measured?

People's participation in the election is usually measured by the voter turnout. Turnout indicates the percent of eligible voters who actually cast their vote.



What do you think about the voters turnout in India?



In India, the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared to the rich and privileged sections.

Why?

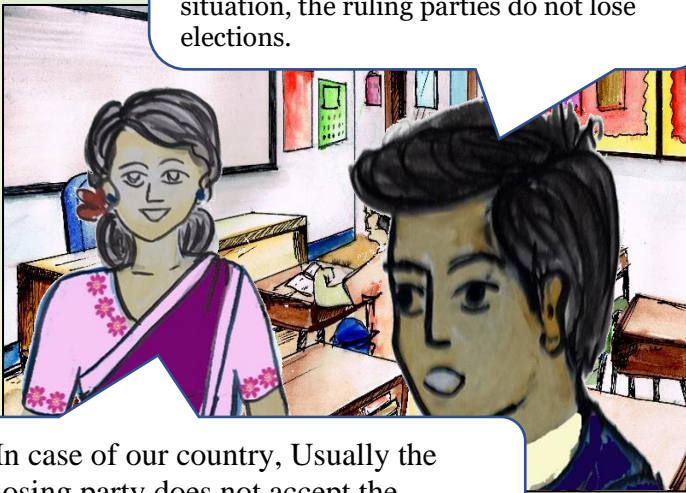


They feel that through elections they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them.

Good! What if the outcome is not accepted by the candidates or political parties?



I believe the final test of the free and fairness of election is the outcome itself. If elections are not free or fair, the outcome always favours the powerful. In such a situation, the ruling parties do not lose elections.



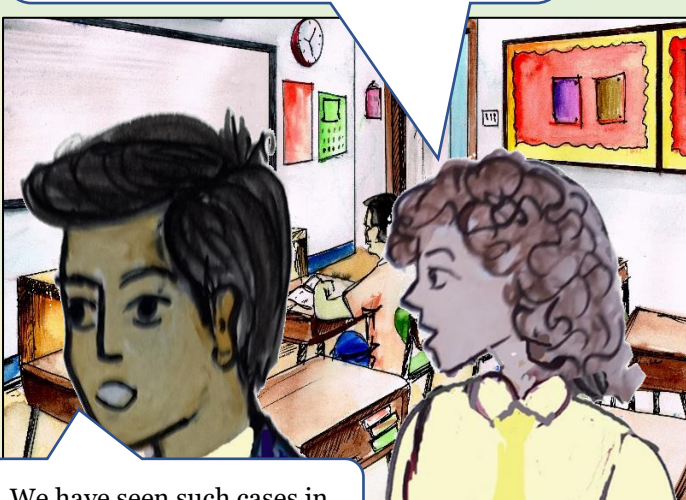
In case of our country, Usually the losing party does not accept the outcome of a rigged election.

Wow! How simple are elections in India! They are free and fair. The party that wins an election and forms government does so because people have chosen it over its rivals.



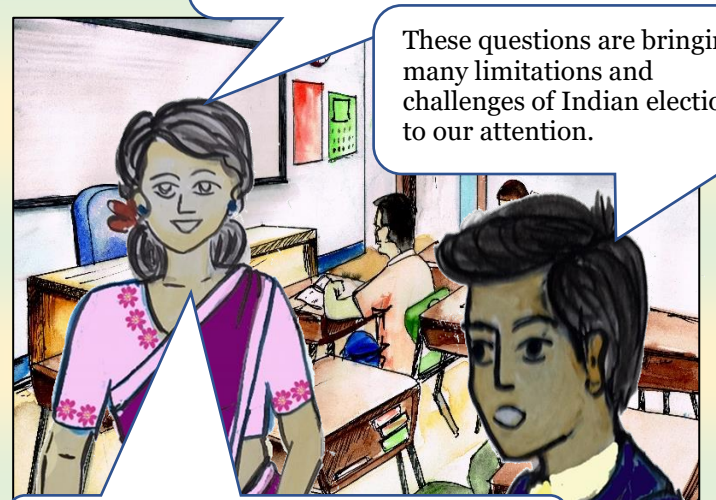
This may not be true for every constituency. A few candidates may win purely on the basis of money power and unfair means.

What do you think? Are people's preferences based on real knowledge? Are the voters getting a real choice? Can an ordinary citizen hope to win elections?



We have seen such cases in many movies and series.

These questions are bringing many limitations and challenges of Indian elections to our attention.



According to you, what kind of challenges do elections have in India?

Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents.

In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of the electoral race and to secure a 'ticket' from major parties.

Some families tend to dominate political parties; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.

Very often elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens, for both the major parties are quite similar to each other both in policies and practice.

Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

Do you really think these challenges only exist in our country?

No, I don't think so. These challenges exist not just in India but also in many established democracies of the world.

So, what do we do to overcome these challenges?

Some electoral reforms.



One way is to try and improve the knowledge and character of political leaders.

In that case, popular participation becomes important.

That's great! You are able to realise the duties of a responsible citizen. We can have a good government only when we exercise our right to vote responsibly and sincerely.

III. Think and answer:

- a) Analyse the choices generally a voter can make in an election.
- b) Discuss the conditions of a democratic election.
- c) Distinguish between democratic and non-democratic elections.
- d) Discuss the merits and demerits of electoral competition
- e) Election campaigns are needed to regulate. Do you agree? Give reasons.
- f) Mention some of the activities undertaken by political parties to carry out elections.
- g) Explain the role of the Election Commission in conducting the free and fair elections.
- h) Critically analyse the changing trends of people's participation in elections in India.

IV. Match the Orange dots with the Blue dots:

The image shows a matching exercise on a yellow background. There are eight text boxes with orange dots and two image boxes with blue dots. The orange dots are located at the top of the text boxes, and the blue dots are at the top of the image boxes. The text boxes contain the following descriptions:

- RIGGING
- CONSTITUENCY
- THE LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE
- THE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO CAST THEIR VOTES IN AN ELECTION
- A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE GO TO CAST THEIR VOTE
- TURNOUT
- VOTERS IN A GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WHO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES
- FRAUD AND MALPRACTICES INDULGED BY A PARTY OR CANDIDATE TO INCREASE ITS VOTE

The image boxes contain the following images:

- A photograph of a person sitting at a table in a room, likely a polling station.
- A photograph of hands holding and examining several ballot papers.

GLOSSARY

- **Constituency:** Voters in a geographical area who elect a representative to the legislative bodies.
- **Reserved constituency:** constituencies that are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST].
- **Party ticket:** Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is called a party 'ticket'.
- **code of conduct:** A set of norms and guidelines to be followed by political parties and contesting candidates during election time.
- **Electoral roll:** the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone.
- **Election campaign:** campaign to influence the decisions of voters in an area
- **Turnout:** figures which indicate the percent of eligible voters who cast their vote

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- www.learncbse.in
- www.learningapps.org

DISCLAIMER

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear readers,

‘Change is the only constant’, so said a wise man from the past. And so true indeed!

With the coming of the National Education Policy 2020, the focus of education is shifting to more student centric education, and thus the need to produce the content in a way which can be easily understood by the students.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has also brought in alterations in the way education was being imparted in the classrooms of the nation. Art Integration with the curriculum, competency-based education, stress on Physical Fitness are all endeavours to prepare the students for the necessities of the future. One such endeavour is also changing the curriculum to graphic novels.

Conceived and directed by Mr. Sandeep Sethi, his passion rubbed on to the teachers as well. He lent support through constant guidance.

I am also grateful to Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, whose valuable inputs and constant motivation has encouraged teachers to curate the concepts in the form of interesting graphics. I am very sure that this will change the way topics are taught in the classrooms. Using comic strip as a tool, concepts will be explained in a simple way, more relatable to the students.

Our sincere thanks to the worthy team of Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Mr. Manoj Ahuja, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education and Mr. Sandeep Sethi, the pilot of the project.

My sincere thanks are also due to the team of gifted teachers and students who in a time-bound frame produced creatively endowed content which will be a visual extravaganza for the students.

Enjoy reading!

Mallika Preman
Principal

SUMMARY

Democratic elections

Everyone should be able to choose- one person, one vote, one value. There should be parties and candidates to choose from. Elections must be held at regular intervals. Candidate preferred by the people should be elected.

Merits and demerits of electoral competition:

Merits

All political leaders know what is good for the people and are motivated only by a desire to serve them. Electoral competition offers a wide choice to the voters.

Demerits

It creates a sense of disunity and sense of factionalism. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections. The pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated. Also, it prevents serious and good candidates from entering the arena of politics.

System of Elections

In our country we follow an area-based system of representation. The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. The voters who live in an area elect one representative.

Once the constituencies are decided, the next step is to decide who can and who cannot vote. For that purpose, Voters' list is prepared. Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and give some money as 'security deposit'. It is necessary to have a free and open discussion about who is a better representative, which party will make a better government or what is a good policy. This is what happens during election campaigns.

The final stage of an election is the day when the voters cast or 'poll' their vote. The candidate who secures the highest number of votes from a constituency is declared elected.

WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC?

Election Commission of India: In our country elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission. Very few election commissions in the world have such wide-ranging powers as the Election Commission of India

Popular participation: Another way to check the quality of the election process is to see whether people participate in it with enthusiasm. If the election process is not free or fair, people will not continue to participate in the exercise.

Acceptance of Outcome: One final test of the free and fairness of election has in the outcome itself. If elections are not free or fair, the outcome always favours the powerful. In such a situation, the ruling parties do not lose elections.

Challenges to free and fair elections

Candidates and parties with a lot of money enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents. Candidates with criminal connections push others out of the electoral race and to secure a 'ticket' from major parties. Some families tend to dominate political parties. Party tickets are distributed to relatives. Major political parties are quite similar to each other both in policies and practice.



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