

CLASS IX –
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Understanding Society:
India and Beyond – Part I

Chapter 7

ELECTIONS



Elections in a Democracy

- Elections are an important feature of democracy
- They allow people to choose representatives
- Representatives take decisions on behalf of citizens
- Elections help citizens participate in governing the country



Why Are Elections Needed?

- Not possible for all people to take every decision directly
- People elect representatives to make decisions
- Elections give citizens the power to choose who will govern
- Citizens can replace representatives if dissatisfied





Meaning of Elections

- Elections are a process to choose representatives
- Held at regular intervals
- Citizens vote for candidates or political parties
- Candidates receiving voter support become representatives

Choice in Elections

- Elections must provide a real choice to voters
- More than one candidate or party should be able to contest
- Voters should be free to choose without pressure
- Elections are meaningful only when people can change rulers



Universal Adult Franchise

- Every adult citizen has the right to vote
- This is called universal adult franchise
- In India, every citizen aged 18 years and above can vote
- Every vote has equal value
- Voting rights cannot be denied due to religion, caste, gender, wealth, or education





Electoral Process

- Elections follow an organised process
- Country divided into electoral constituencies
- Candidates file nominations
- Political parties and candidates campaign
- Citizens cast votes
- Votes are counted and results are declared

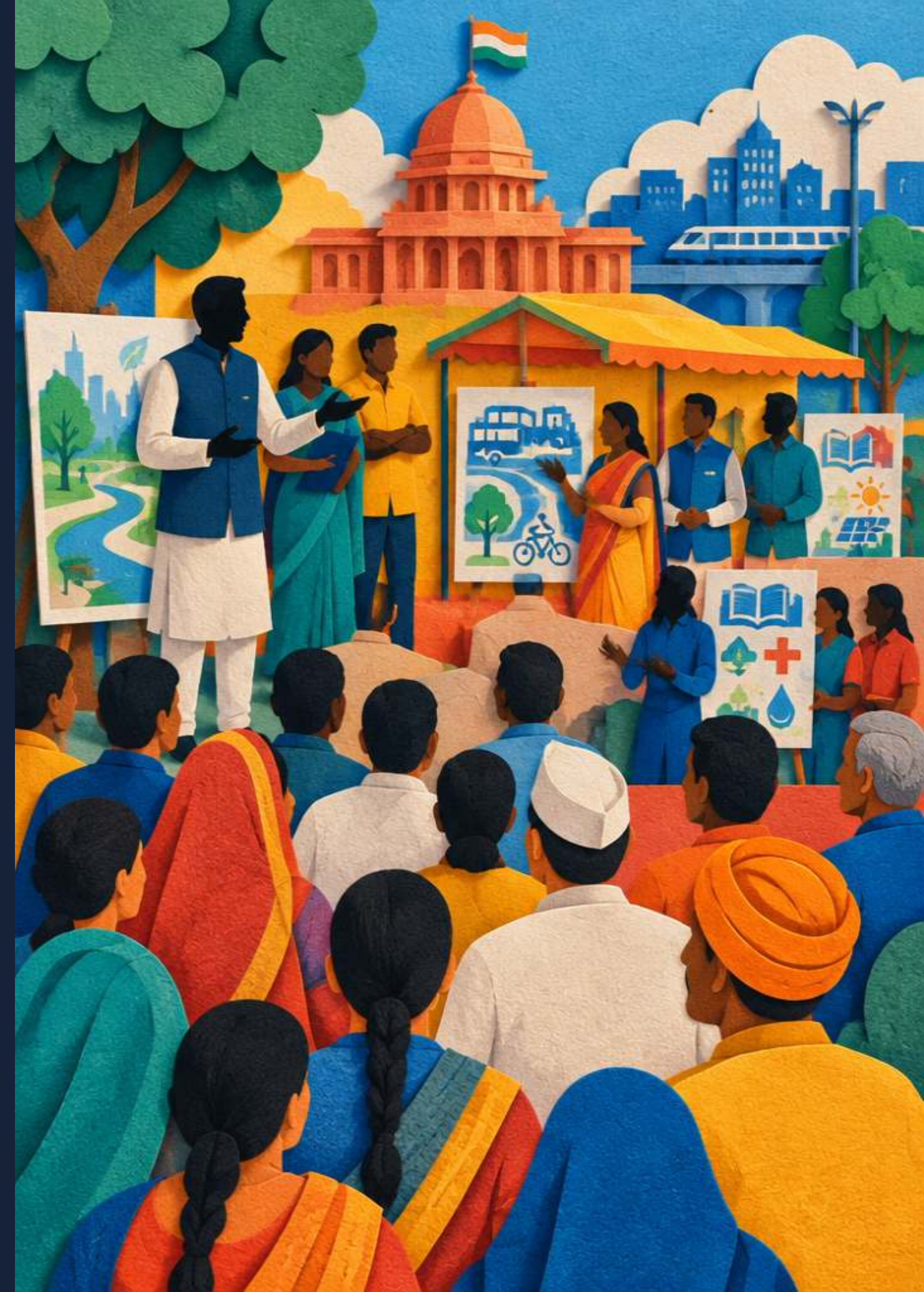
Electoral Constituencies

- Constituency is an area from which voters elect a representative
- Each constituency elects one representative
- Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections use constituencies
- Constituencies ensure representation from different parts of the country



Candidates and Political Parties

- Candidates contest elections to become representatives
- May contest independently or through political parties
- Political parties present ideas, policies, and programmes
- Voters choose among candidates and parties



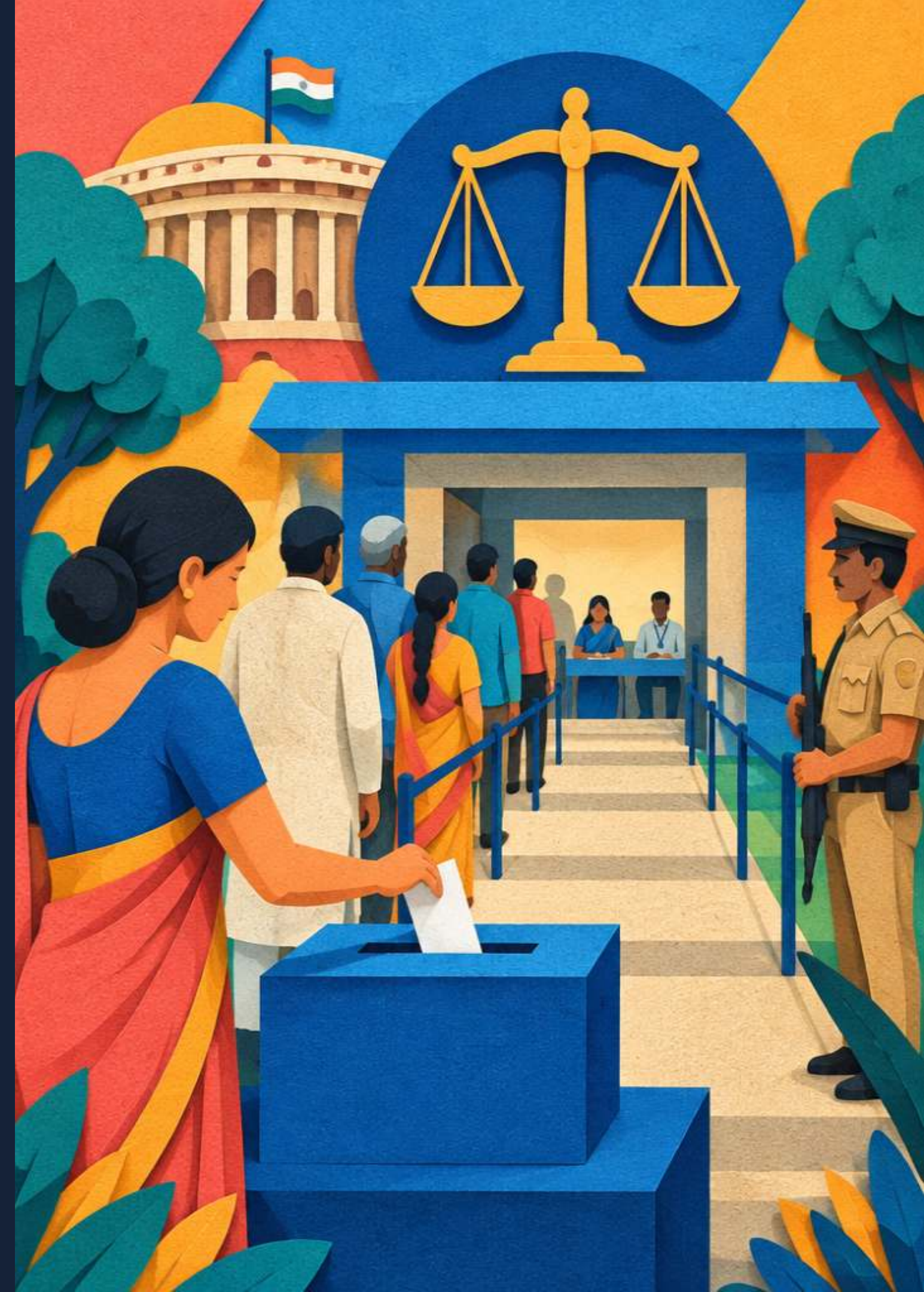


Election Campaigns

- Campaigns help candidates and parties reach voters
- Explain policies and promises
- Use public meetings, speeches, posters, and media
- Campaigning helps voters know the choices available

Free and Fair Elections

- Elections should be conducted freely and fairly
- Voters should vote without fear or pressure
- Candidates should get a fair opportunity to contest
- Unfair methods should not influence results
- Results should reflect the people's choice



Role of the Election Commission

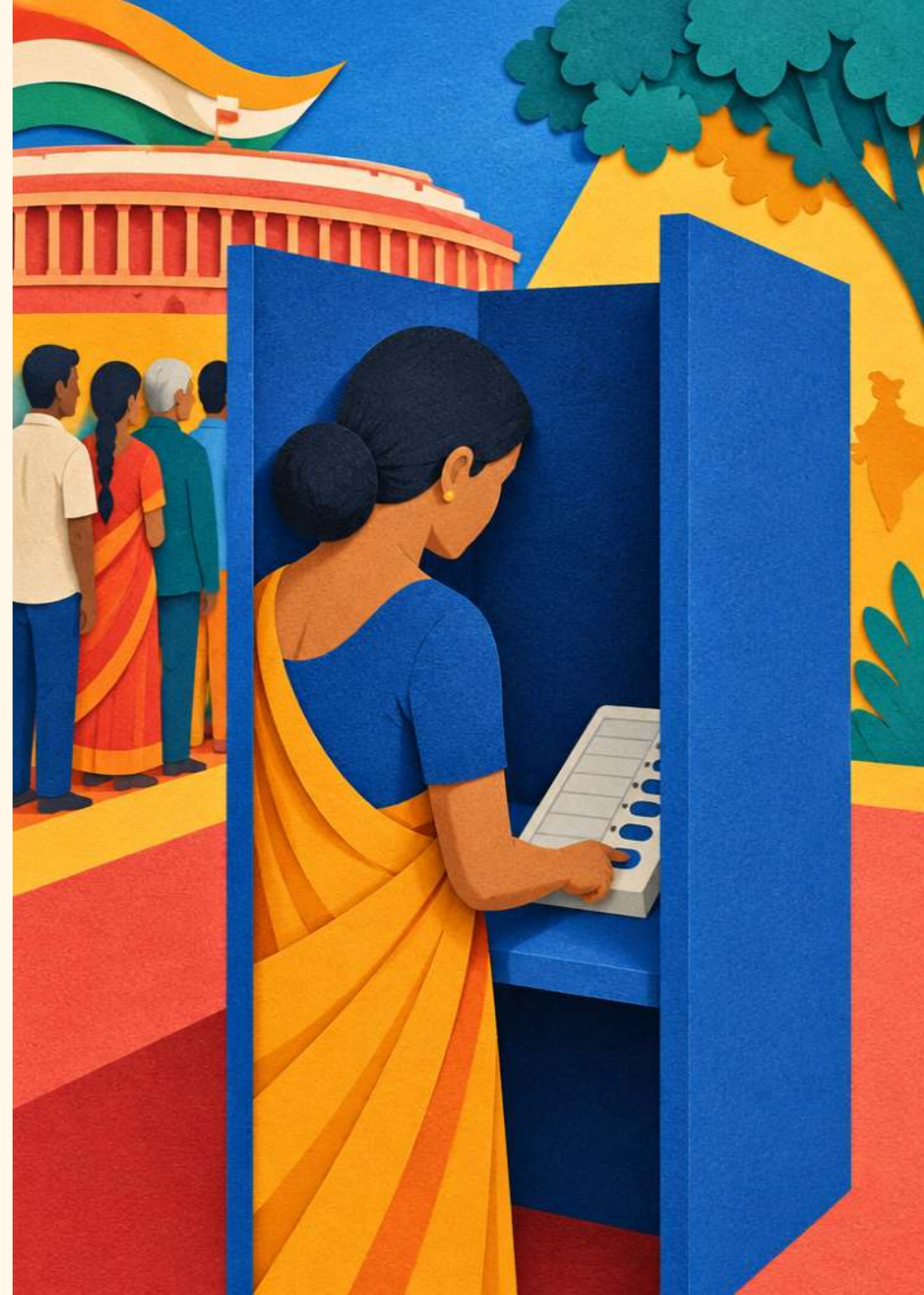
- Election Commission of India conducts elections
- Ensures elections are free and fair
- Prepares and updates electoral rolls
- Supervises nominations, polling, and counting
- Enforces rules during campaigns



- Electoral roll is the official list of eligible voters
- Citizens whose names are on the roll can vote
- Voter list must be revised regularly
- Inclusion of all eligible citizens is essential for democracy

Voting

- Voting is choosing a candidate or party
- Takes place through a secret ballot
- Secret voting protects voter freedom
- Electronic Voting Machines are used in elections
- Voting gives citizens a direct role in democracy



Importance of Participation

- Citizens should participate actively in elections
- Voting makes representatives accountable
- Participation strengthens democracy
- Elections remind rulers that their power comes from the people





Key Points

- Elections allow people to choose representatives
- Universal adult franchise ensures equal voting rights
- Electoral constituencies organise representation
- Political parties and candidates offer choices
- Election Commission ensures free and fair elections
- Active citizen participation strengthens democracy



THANK YOU
