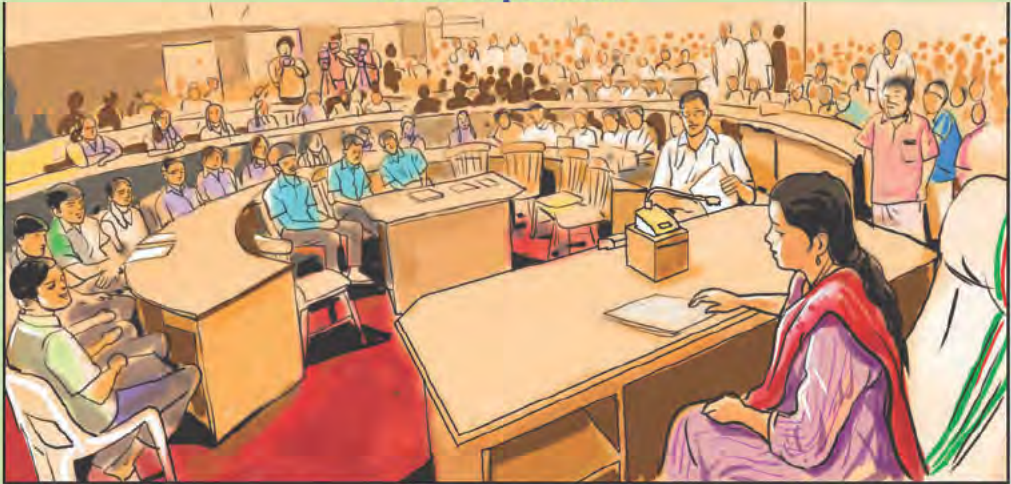


6

People, by the People

Heated Discussion on Development: Student Friendly Parliament Provides a Novel Experience.



Manchadimala: The student parliament consisting of selected children of the panchayat as members attracted public attention. Many demands like the construction of footpaths, slabs cover to drains, controlling stray dog menace, installing street lights, devising garbage disposal schemes and making parks were raised in the Parliament. The Panchayat President inaugurated the meeting. The president assured that the demands put forward by the Student Friendly Parliament would be discussed in the next governing body meeting.

Did you notice the above newspaper report?

What demands regarding the developmental activities of the Panchayat did the children raise in the Parliament?

-
-
-



Discuss the developmental activities that need to be taken up in your school.

Won't you bring your demands to the attention of the teachers and try to implement them.



A lot of developmental works must be going on in your area too. If so, who are the authorities that discuss and decide on such developmental activities?

The Panchayat intervened;
Solution to shortage of drinking water

Service of doctors will be ensured every day at Primary Health Centres:
Panchayat President

The councillor assured that the proposals raised in the ward assembly would be considered on priority basis

Complete Electrification;
Announcement soon

The problem of garbage on the roadside; people demand immediate installation of CCTV cameras

The important discussions that arose and decisions taken in the Grama Sabha / Ward Sabha of an area are given above. Here, people get directly involved in administrative matters through Local Self-Government institutions. Thus, the system in which the people themselves or their elected representatives make decisions on administrative matters is called Democracy.

Local Self-Government Institutions

The Local Self-Government Institutions include the Three-tier Panchayat systems such as Grama Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat in rural areas and also Municipalities and Corporations in urban areas.



Prepare an ID Card with the names of different Local Self-Government Institutions to which you belong.

(Grama Panchayat, Block Panchayat, District Panchayat, Municipality/ Corporation)

“Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people”

- Abraham Lincoln

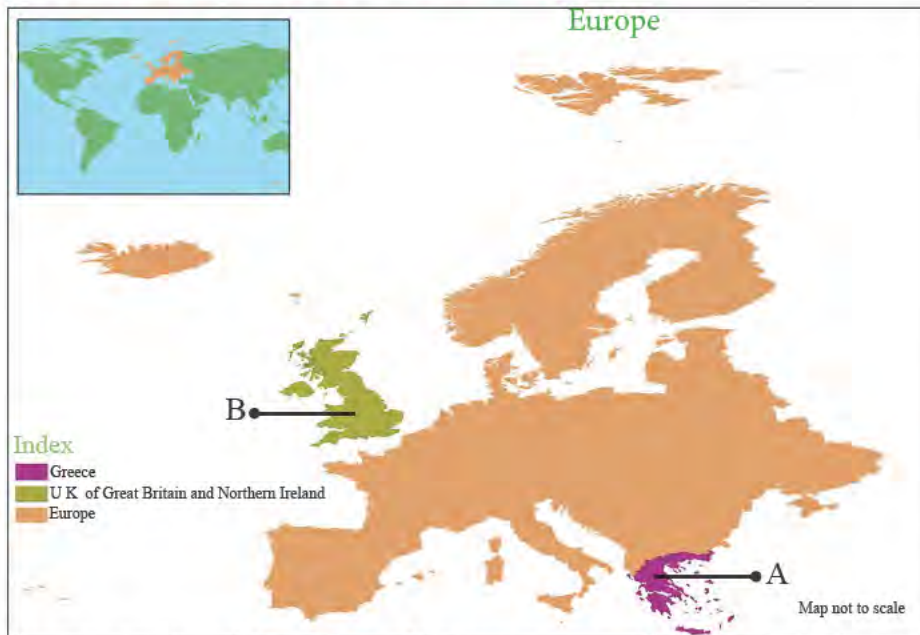


“My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest”

-Mahatma Gandhi



In Search of Roots of Democracy



Have you noticed the map of Europe given above. Write down the two countries which are marked as A and B in the outline map.

A

B

These countries have special features with regard to the origin of democracy. Shall we examine them?

The earlier form of Democracy emerged at Athens in Greece. Although all classes of the population were not included in the decision-making processes of public affairs, Athens played a crucial role in shaping the concept of Democracy.

Today's concept of democracy started in England which is part of the United Kingdom. The systems of election, representative government and parliament were all formed in England.

Find more details about Greece and England with the help of your teacher.



The term Democracy was first used by the ancient Greek historian Herodotus. The word Democracy is derived from the Greek words *demos* (people) and *kratos* (power or rule) which means Power of People or Rule of People.



Two Types of Democracy



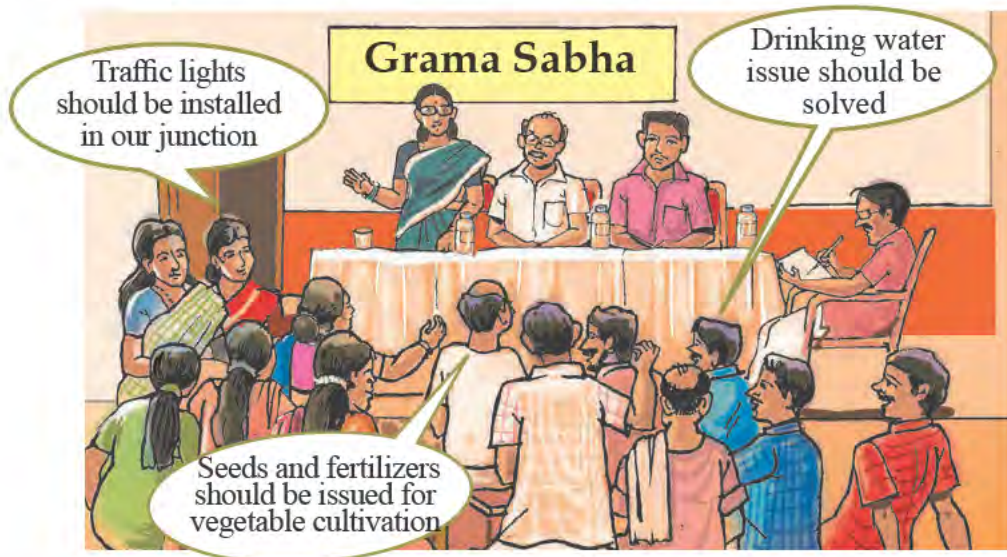
Have you seen Grama Sabha/Ward Sabha meeting? What all issues are discussed there? Who are the participants in a Grama Sabha?

What are Grama Sabhas?



Grama Sabhas are platforms where all the people get a chance to participate and take decisions in the administrative and developmental processes of a locality. All the people whose names are included in the electoral roll of each ward of a Grama Panchayat are its members. In urban areas these are known as Ward Sabhas.

Observe the picture of Grama Sabha meeting.



In the Grama Sabha, people get chance to express their opinion directly on administrative matters and participate in the decision-making process.

Direct Democracy/ Participatory Democracy


Direct Democracy or Participatory Democracy is a form of government in which the people participate directly in the administrative affairs. It is usually possible in areas with a relatively less population and limited land area.




Find out more information about Grama Sabha.

Observe the picture of the legislative assembly



 Can we directly participate in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly? Who speaks for us there?

 Which is your Legislative Assembly Constituency?
.....
Who is the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of your constituency?.....

 **Kerala Legislative Assembly**

Kerala Legislative Assembly is the legislative or law-making body of the State of Kerala. Its headquarters is in Thiruvananthapuram. Travancore Legislative Council, established in 1888, Sree Moolam Praja Sabha, established in 1904 and Thiru-Kochi Legislative Assembly of 1949 were the pioneers of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. The first session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly was held on 27 April, 1957. 27th April of every year is observed as Legislative Assembly Day.



While the people are directly involved in the Grama Sabhas, our representatives speak for us in the Legislative Assembly.

Indirect Democracy / Representative Democracy

Indirect Democracy or Representative Democracy is a form of Democracy in which representatives who are elected by the people rule on behalf of the people. In countries with a large population and geographical area like India, the practical way of governance is representative democracy.

Complete the table by comparing direct democracy and indirect democracy.



Direct Democracy	Indirect Democracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible in less populated countries • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exists in countries with a huge population • • •

Let's find out more countries.



India is the largest democratic country in the world

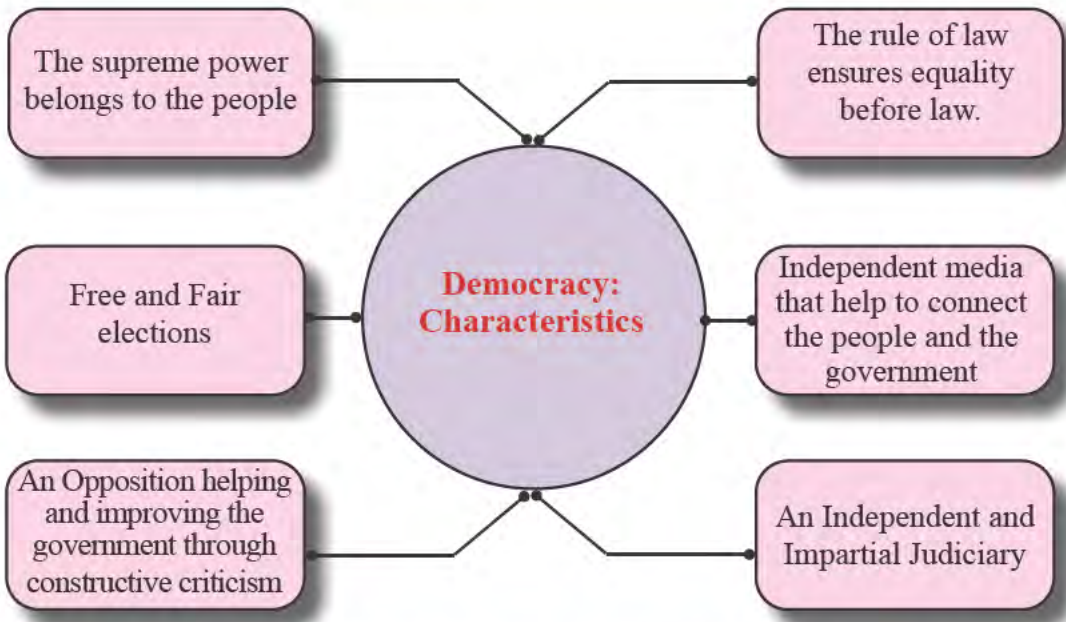
In Saudi Arabia new king sworn in


Democratic rule comes to an end in Afghanistan

Participatory Democracy still prevails in Switzerland

Look at the headlines given above. From these, find out the countries that have a democratic system of government. Add the names of more democratic countries to the list.

-
-
-
-



 Organise a discussion in your class on the characteristics of a Democratic system of government.

Through Elections



Look at the images given which are related to election.

Have you got a chance to cast your vote in an election? How are votes cast in School Parliament elections? Your parents cast their votes in general elections. Don't they?



Why didn't you get a chance to vote in the general election?

Universal Adult Franchise

Universal Adult Franchise is the right to vote in elections for everyone who has reached a certain age without any discrimination. Until 1989, the minimum age of the voter in India was 21 years. Now, it is 18 years.



Can anyone who completes 18 years of age cast vote?

Election: Various Stages




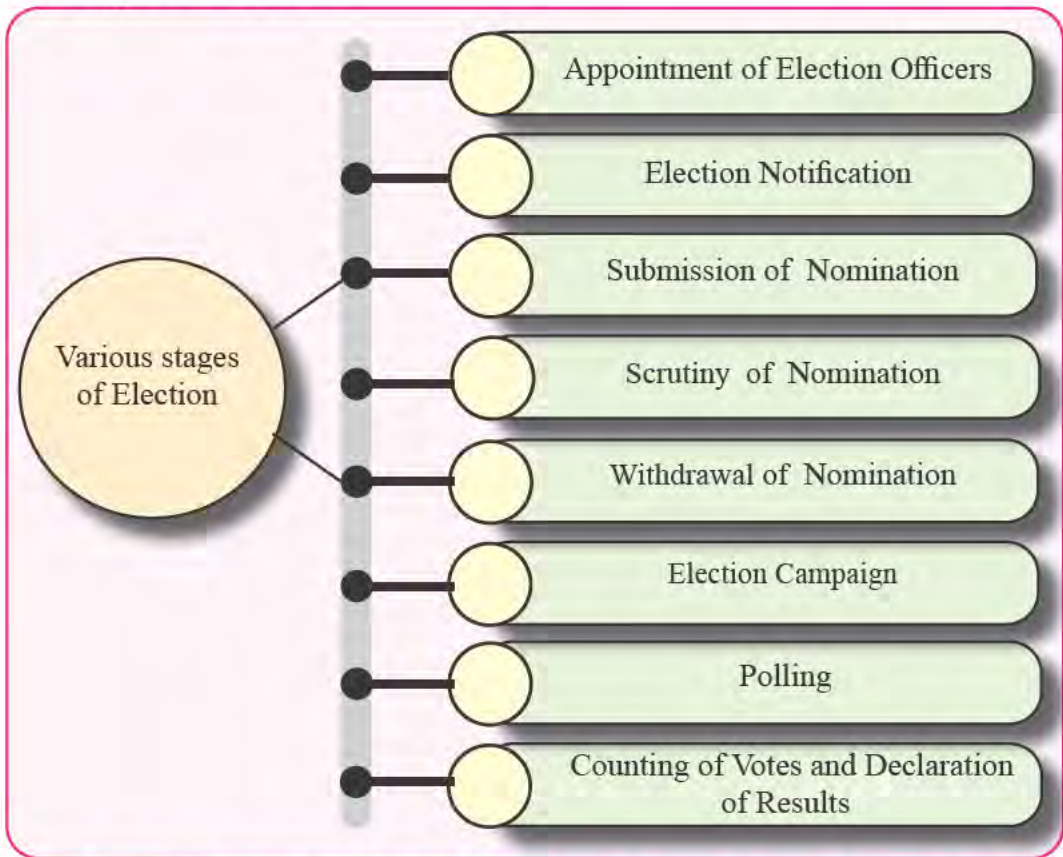
School Parliament Model Election Notification

Last date for submission of nomination	July 31	upto 04 pm
Date of verification and scrutiny of nomination	August 3	12 pm
Date of withdrawal of nomination	August 4	upto 04 pm
Date of Publication of final list of candidates	August 7	10 am
Date of Polling	August 9	From 11 am to 1 pm
Counting of votes and declaration of results	August 9	2 pm
The first meeting of the School Parliament	August 10	2pm

What bits of information are given on the notice board related to school parliament elections. List them.

- Election notification
-
-
-

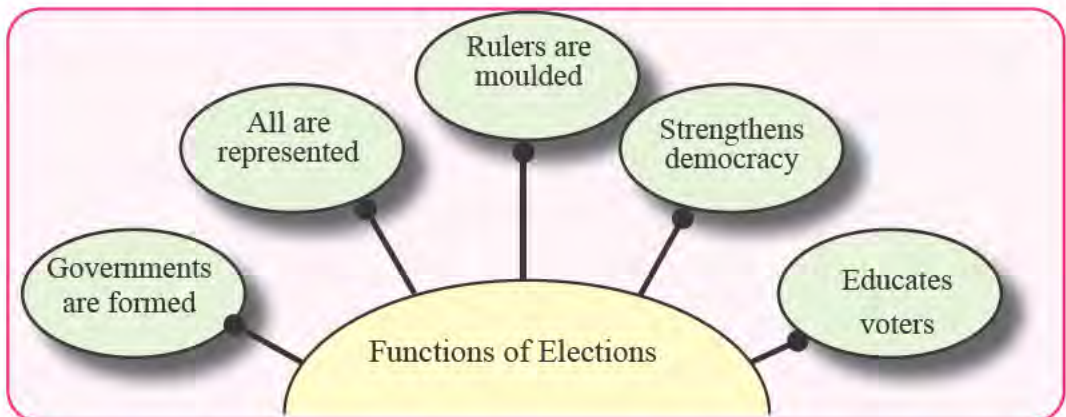
Elections in our country also go through various stages like this. Which are they? Take a look.



Organise a model election in the class including various stages of election.

Why do We Conduct Elections?

Election is the process through which rulers are elected in a democratic system. Apart from this, elections perform some other functions.





Prepare strips containing information on different functions of election and keep them in a box. Divide the class into groups and choose a representative from each group. Each representative should select a strip from the box and lead a group discussion on the prescribed function of election. Then, develop a discussion paper and present it in the class.

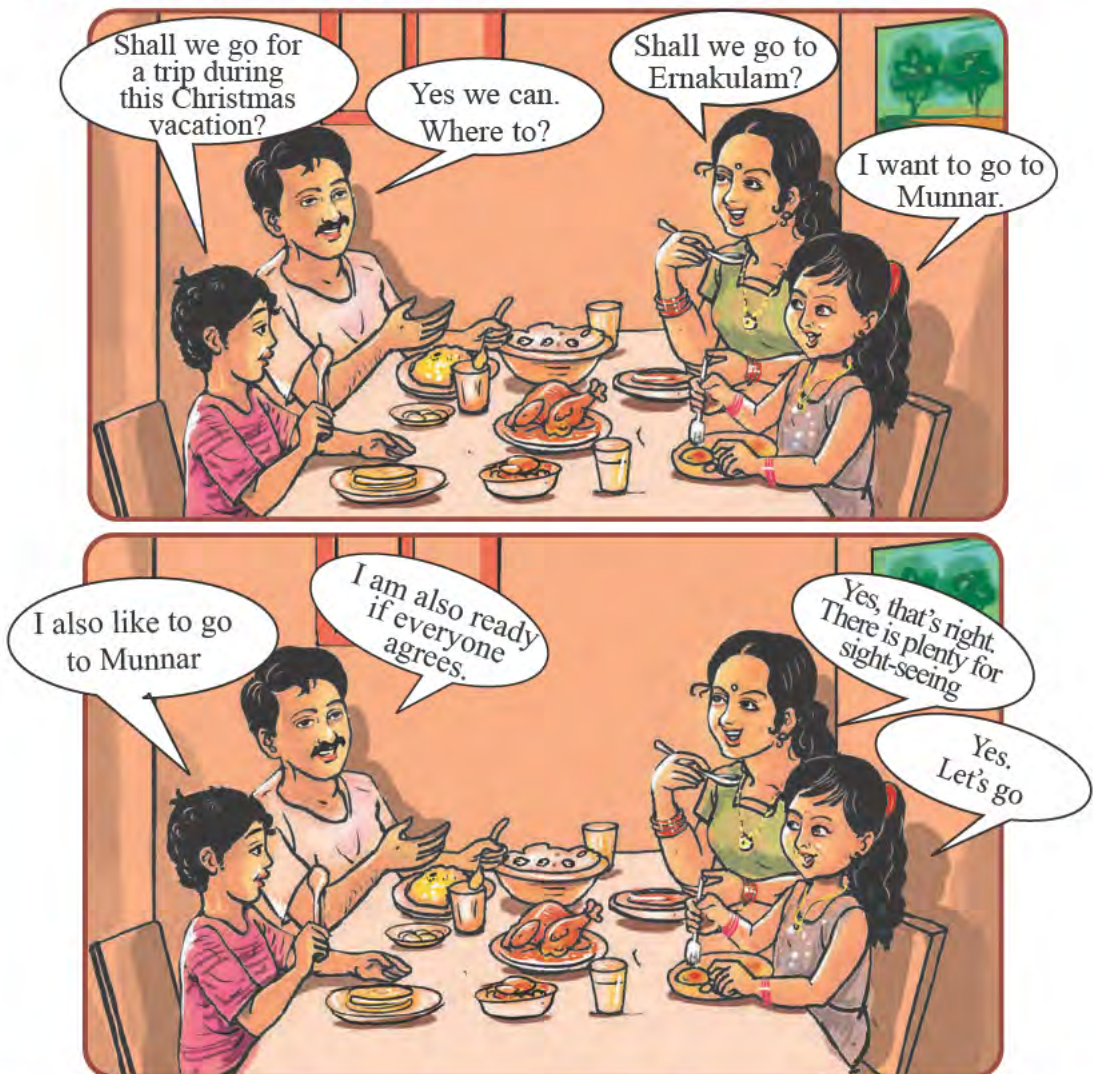
Election Commission of India



The duty of the Election Commission of India is to conduct free and fair elections to the office of the President, Vice President and the Members of the Parliament and State Legislatures. It is the President of India who appoints the three members of Election Commission of India including the Chief Election Commissioner.



Democracy as a Way of Life



Have you observed the pictures? Who is the decision maker here?

Democracy is possible in the family when decisions are taken by considering everyone's opinions.

Democracy in School



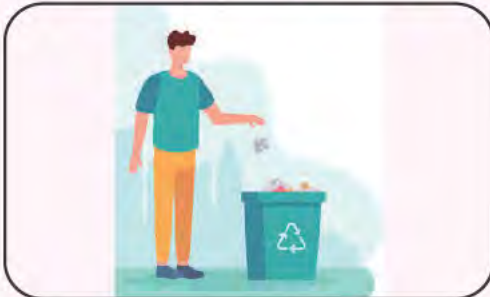


Look at the pictures given above. To what extent do these situations play a role in ensuring democracy? Discuss.

Democracy in schools is ensured when children's opinions and interests are taken into consideration and equal opportunities and equality are ensured to them.

Democracy in Public Places

Different situations in life are shown in the pictures below. In which situation do we see democracy being put into practice?



Keeping public places clean, respecting the interests of others, and obeying public rules are all necessary for leading a democratic lifestyle.

The extend of Democracy.



Complete the check list given below. Find out how far do we follow a democratic way of life.

My opinion is considered while making important decisions at home.	Yes/No
Public places and public vehicles are kept clean.	Yes/No
I give my opinion when the destination for a study tour from school is chosen.	Yes/No
While travelling, I don't behave in a manner that causes difficulty to fellow passengers.	Yes/No
I follow traffic rules.	Yes/No
I have the freedom to study subject that I like.	Yes/No
I do not throw garbage in public places	Yes/No

Other than the election of the rulers, democracy needs to be practiced in all walks of life. The chief characteristics of a democratic society is that it provides the freedom to choose one's food, clothing, profession and also the liberty to express one's opinions. In addition to that, democracy becomes meaningful when equal status, equal opportunity and equal right to resources are also provided to all.



Extended Activities

1. Prepare a digital album by collecting pictures related to election.
2. With the help of the teacher, prepare a questionnaire for interviewing the Ward Member/Councillor and MLA to understand more about Grama Sabha/Ward Sabha and Assembly. Organise visits to Grama Sabha/Ward Sabha and Legislative Assembly.
3. Organise a seminar based on the characteristics of democracy.
4. Is the age limit to cast vote 18, in all countries? Find out the minimum age to vote in different countries..
5. Make a prototype Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in groups and demonstrate it in Social Science Lab.