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Good Morning students,

Today we are going to set our focus on the topic "Elections in India" Chapter 6, starting on page number - 37 of your textbook titled "Time Trek-5". If all the students are ready then let us start our today's topic.

1) Elections in India :- India has a parliamentary system of government, and conducting free and fair elections is at the heart of the system. These elections are essential for the formation of the government. It is conducted by the Election Commission of India. Elections in India decide the composition of the government at centre and state levels.

2) Major elections in India :- The following representatives of the people are chosen through direct elections.

1) Members of the Lok Sabha

2) Members of the State Assemblies

3) Members of local bodies such as municipal corporations, gram panchayats, block panchayats and Zila panchayats.

(2)

3) Voting Rights :- Constitution of India provides voting rights to all citizens above the age of 18 years. To be able to vote, Indian citizens are required to register themselves as electors. Every elector can cast one vote. An elector can only vote at the constituency, where he/she is registered. Each registered elector is provided with an Election Photo Identity card by the Election Commission of India. This card is used to identify an elector on the day of polling.

4) Voting Procedure :- Voting in India is done through secret ballot process. This means no person can know, who you voted for. Voting ballots are placed in polling stations, such as schools and community halls across India. On the day of election voters visit the polling booth with their identity card to vote.

5) Ballot Paper Voting :- At

the day of election, each elector is marked on the Electoral Roll or voter's list.

A ballot paper is

provided to the elector and he/she is sent



Ballot paper voting with ballot boxes

to a partitioned compartment. Here, the elector marks the ballot paper with a rubber stamp, near the symbol of the candidate of his/her choice.

The elector then folds the ballot paper and inserts it in a common ballot box. This box is placed full view of the Presiding Officer and polling agents of the contesting candidates.

6) Electronic Voting Machine:-

Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) were introduced in 1998 by the Election Commission of India.

These machines reduced the time in both casting a vote and in declaring the results later.

At the time of counting the votes, the results are simply displayed using the 'Result' button on the EVM.



An Indian elector votes using an EVM

7) Postal Ballot Voting:- Some voters such as members of the armed forces of India, the government officials who are unable to visit a polling booth are allowed to vote by post. A person under preventive detention can also be allowed to vote by post.

8) Polling Stations :-

Polling stations are usually set up in public institutions such as schools and community halls in an area. These stations

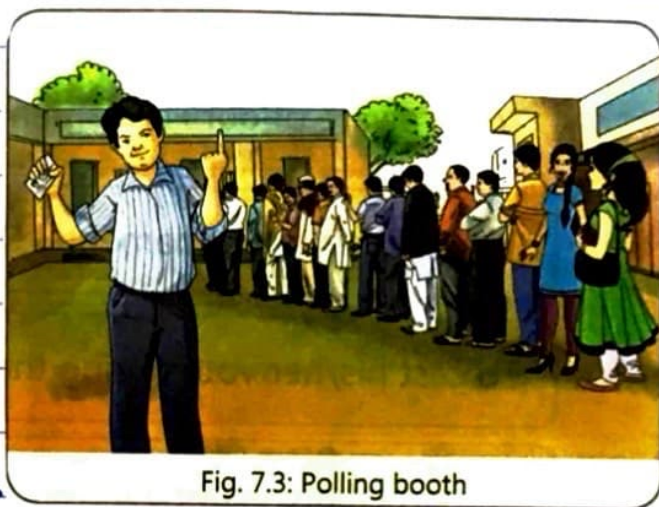


Fig. 7.3: Polling booth

are generally chosen in such a way that there is a polling station within 2km of the residence of every voter. This is to ensure that a large number of voters are able to vote. The election Commission tries to limit the maximum number of voters assigned to a polling station; it should not exceed 1500 voters. Each polling station is open for at least 8 hours on the day of election.

That's all for today students. Please read the assignments carefully.

Thank you.

Last page (4)