

SOCIAL SCIENCE • CLASS 9

CHAPTER 6

Democracy

CHAPTER NOTES

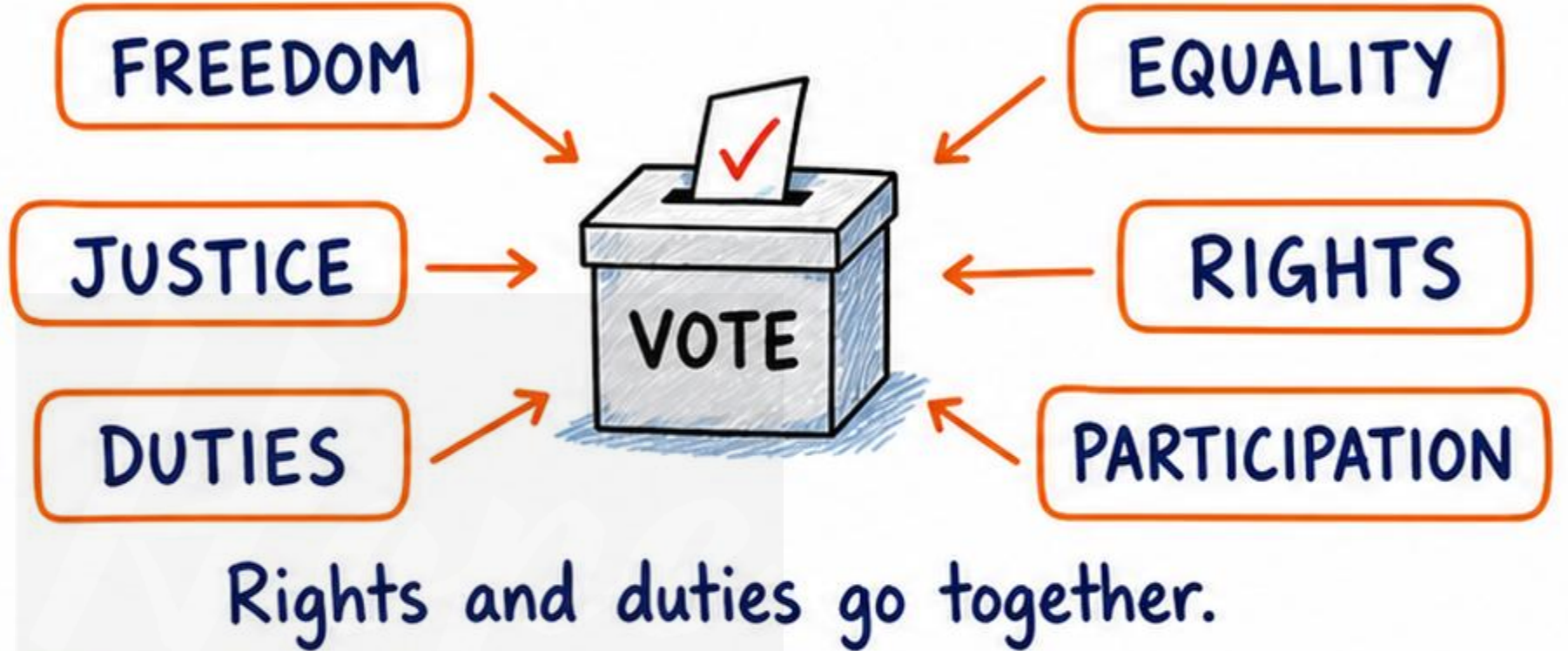


DEMOCRACY — MEANING AND CORE IDEALS

What is democracy?

- Democracy is a form of government in which citizens are the source of power and authority.
- Citizens elect their representatives through free and fair elections.
- People have the right to vote, express opinions and take part in decision-making.

Core democratic ideals



The Constitution protects democracy

- The Constitution safeguards people's rights and prevents discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- It guides participation at national, state and local levels.

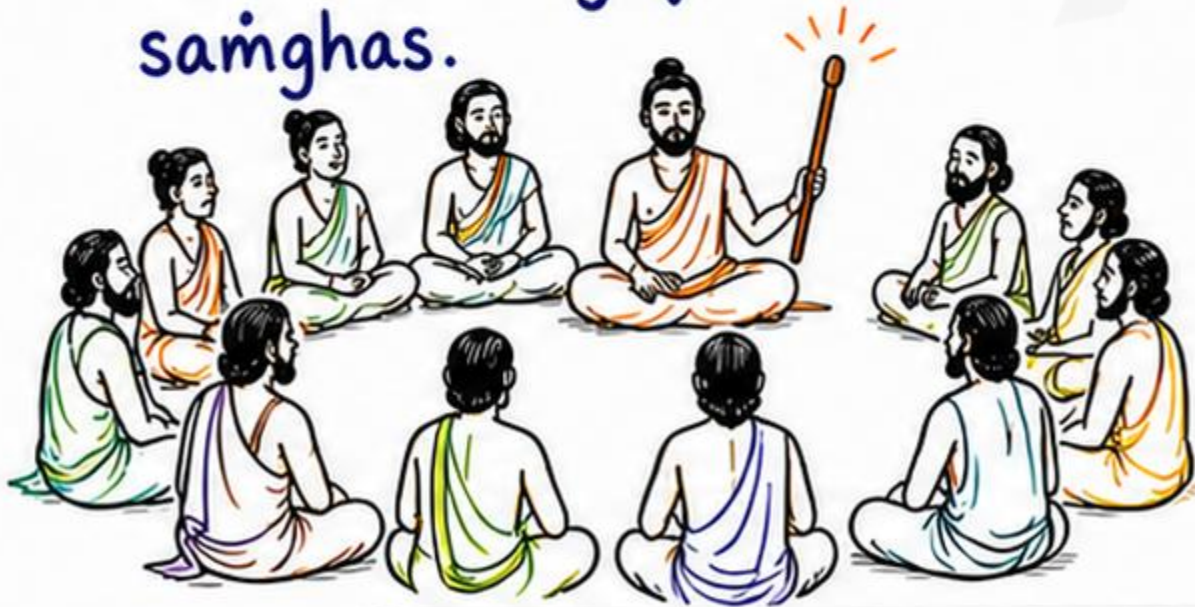


Democracy is not only voting; it is informed and responsible participation.

EARLY DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS IN INDIA

Assemblies and republics

- Sabhā, Samiti and Vidhata were assemblies in the Vedic period.
- They encouraged consultation and collective decision-making.
- Early republican states were called gaṇas or saṁghas.



Shared purpose

Aikyamatya Sūktam —
Rigveda 10.191.3

- The verse values common counsel, a shared mind and unity of purpose.



Buddha Saṁgha

- The monastic community established by Gautama Buddha encouraged debate and discussion.
- Members could choose a leader and make decisions through voting.



Democratic values in India grew through a long historical process; they did not appear suddenly.

FROM COLONIAL RULE TO THE CONSTITUTION

① COLONIAL RULE

- By the 19th century, British rule covered most of the Indian subcontinent.
- Foreign rule altered political structures and limited people's participation.



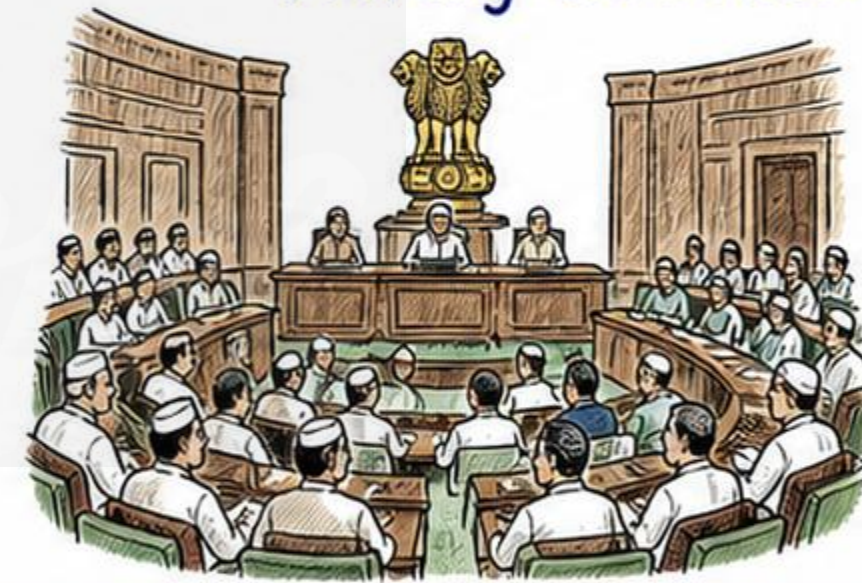
② FREEDOM STRUGGLE

- The long struggle for independence revived and strengthened democratic ideas.
- India became independent in 1947.



③ CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- Formed in 1946 to draft the Constitution.
- Drafting took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- Dr B. R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee.



Dr B. R. Ambedkar

A LIVING CONSTITUTION

ADOPTED: 26 NOVEMBER 1949 → CAME INTO FORCE: 26 JANUARY 1950

- Constituent Assembly Debates drew on Indian traditions and global democratic values.
- The Constitution is robust, flexible, transformative and responsive.
- Article 368 allows lawful amendments without abandoning fundamental values.

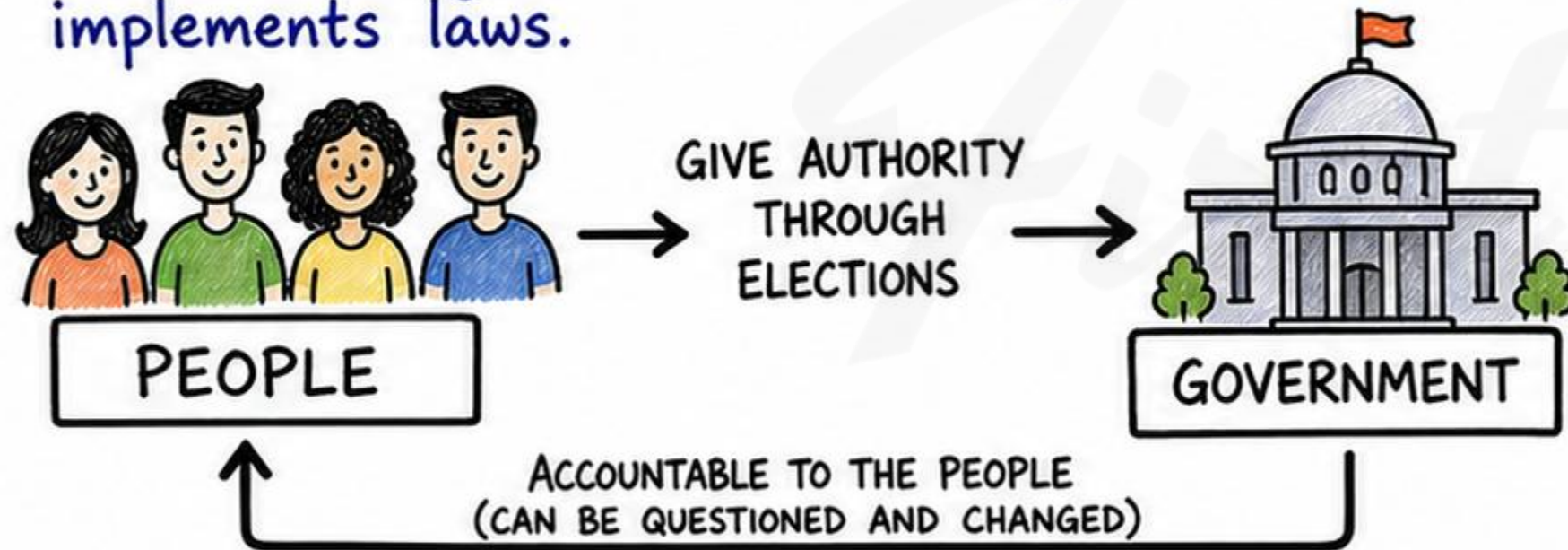
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POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

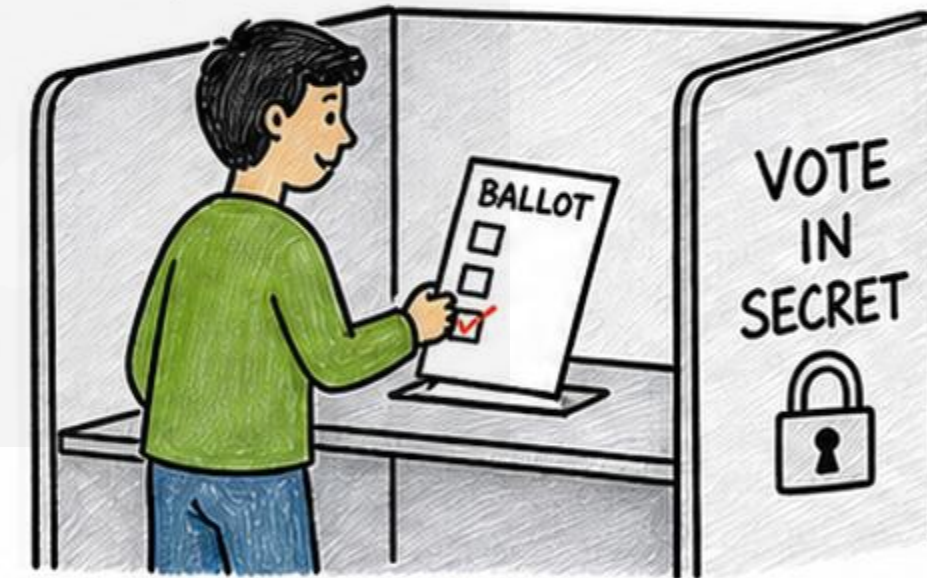
The ultimate source of State power lies with the people.

- The State derives its authority from citizens.
- An elected government makes policies and implements laws.



UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE

- Every citizen aged 18 years or above has the right to vote.
- Voting is through a secret ballot.
- Free and fair elections let citizens choose representatives.



Popular sovereignty becomes real when people participate freely, equally and regularly.



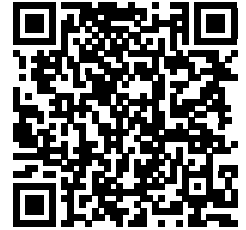


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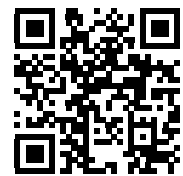


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