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CLASS – 9

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics - I

CH– 3 : Electoral Politics

Part – 3

What is Our System of Elections?

Rashi Sharma

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OVERVIEW

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1. Why Elections?
2. What is Our System of Elections?
3. What Makes Elections in India Democratic?

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NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

- To be a candidate, you need to be at least 25 years old.
- There are some restrictions on criminals, but these apply only in very serious cases.



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PARTY 'TICKET'

- Political parties choose their candidates and give them their symbol & support.
- This is called a Party 'Ticket'.



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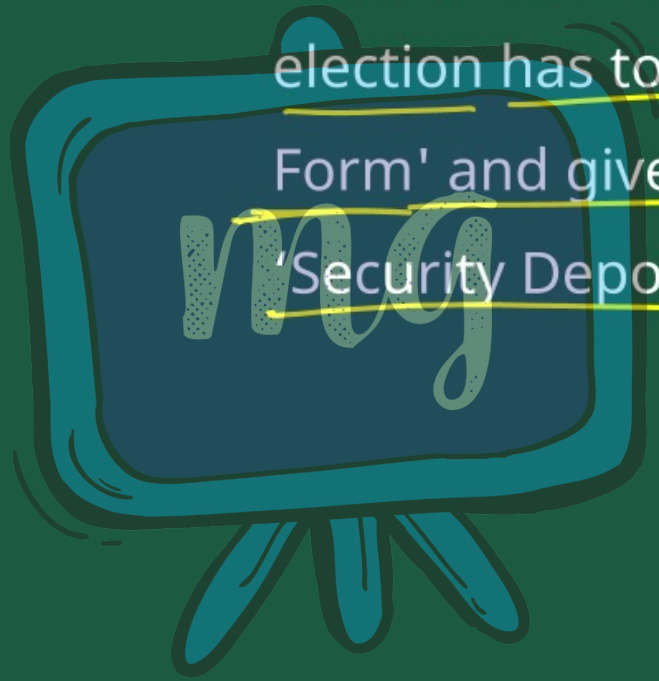
- Every person who wants to contest an election has to fill out a ‘Nomination Form' and give some money as a ‘Security Deposit.'



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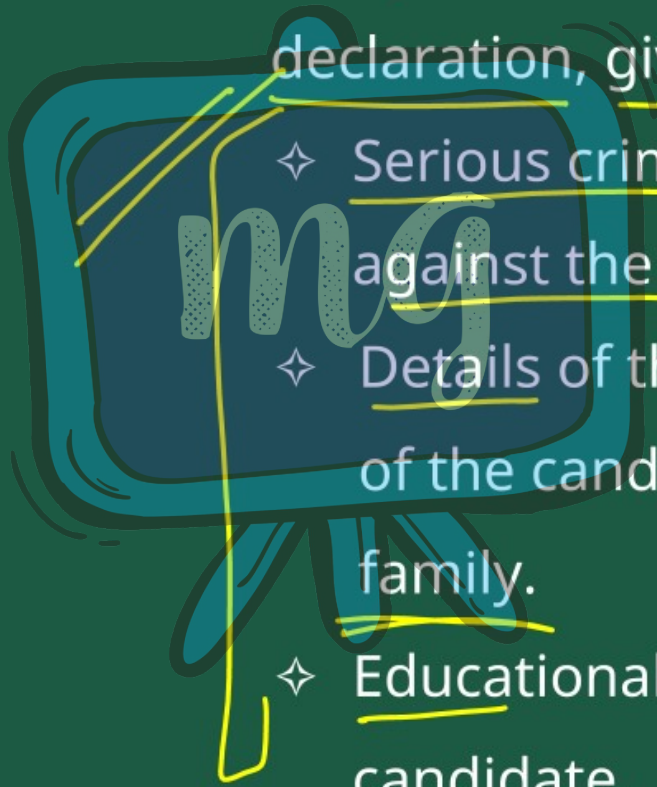

- Every candidate has to make a legal declaration, giving full details of :–
  - Serious criminal cases pending against the candidate.
  - Details of the assets and liabilities of the candidate & his or her family.
  - Educational qualifications of the candidate.

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ELECTION CAMPAIGN

- Election campaigns happen for two weeks between the final list of candidates being announced and the polling date.

Final List of Candidates → Polling Date

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- During this time: -
  - Candidates contact voters.
  - leaders hold election meetings
  - parties gather their supporters during this time.
- Newspapers and TV news cover election-related stories and debates.

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- However, election campaigns don't work just last 2 weeks.
- Parties start preparing for elections months before they happen.



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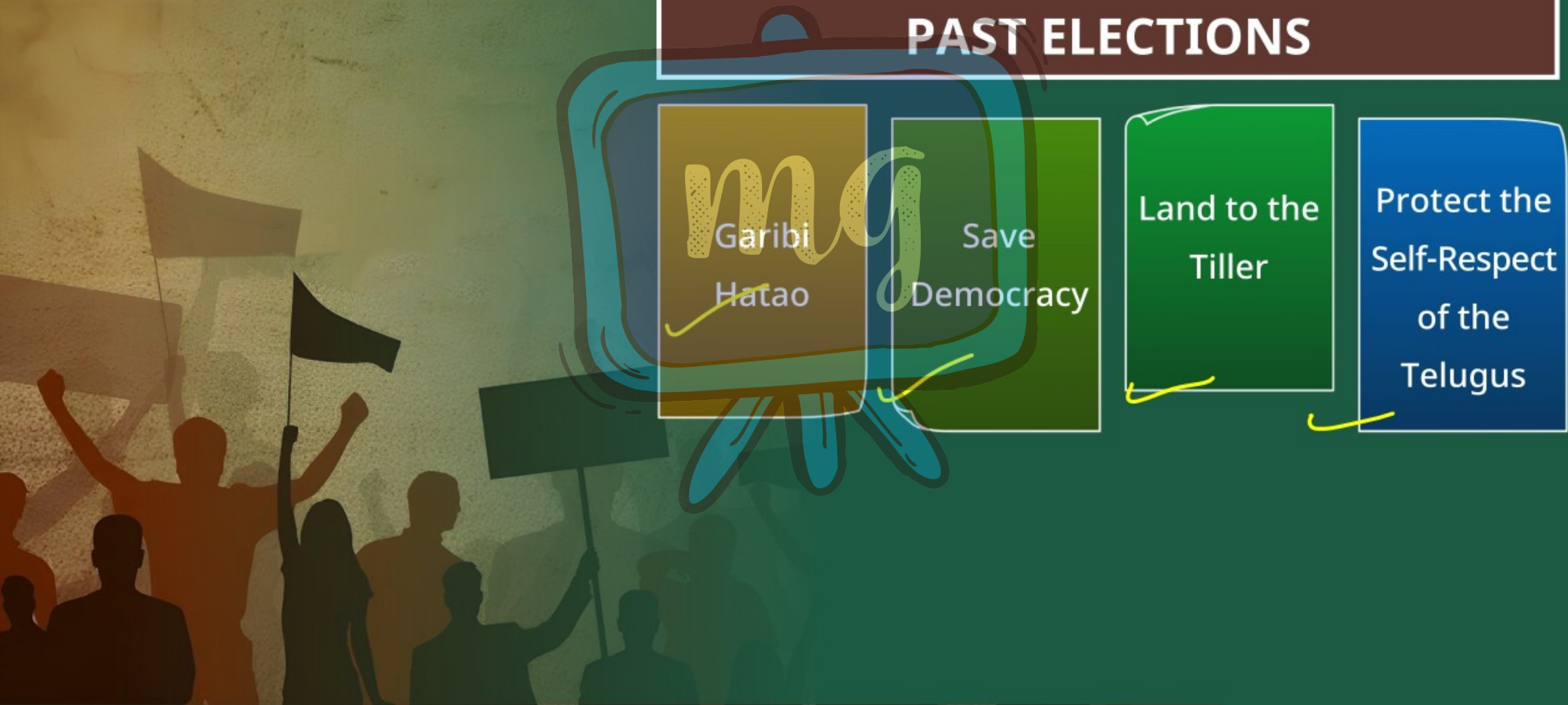
SOME SUCCESSFUL SLOGANS FROM PAST ELECTIONS



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1. GARIBI HATAO

- In 1971, the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi used the slogan Garibi Hatao. (Remove Poverty)
- She promised to reorient Government policies to fight poverty.



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2. SAVE DEMOCRACY

- In 1977, the Janata Party under Jayaprakash Narayan used the slogan "Save Democracy".
- Promised to restore civil liberties after the Emergency.



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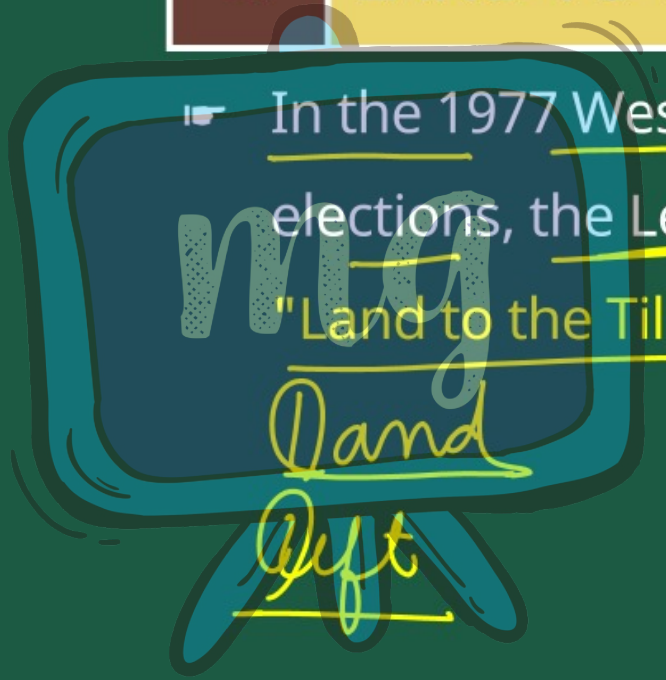
3. LAND TO THE TILLER

- In the 1977 West Bengal Assembly elections, the Left Front used the slogan "Land to the Tiller."





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4. PROTECT THE SELF-RESPECT OF THE TELUGUS

☛ In the 1983 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, the Telugu Desam Party led by N.T. Rama Rao used the slogan "Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus."



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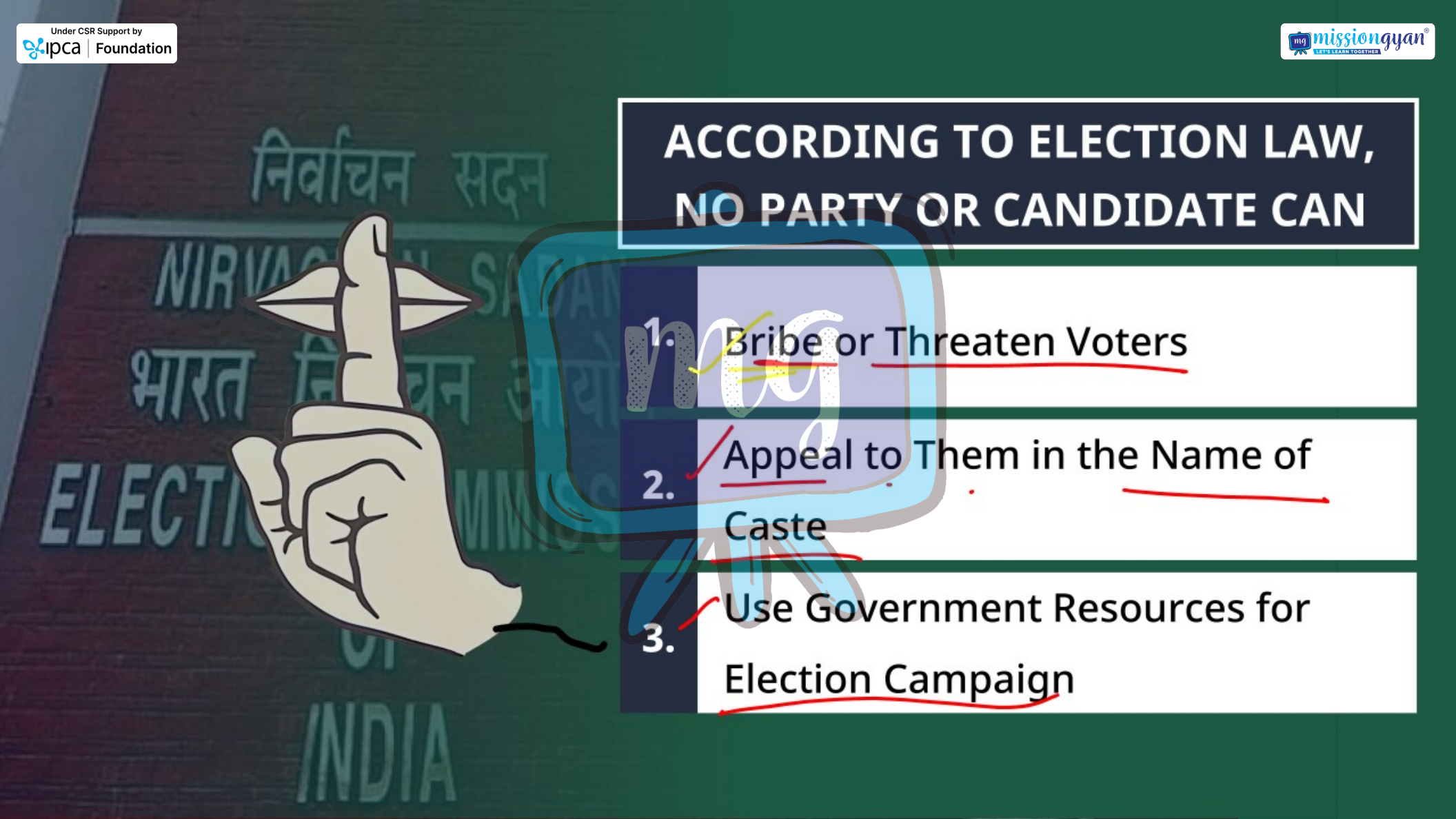

ACCORDING TO ELECTION LAW, NO PARTY OR CANDIDATE CAN

1. Bribe or Threaten Voters
2. Appeal to Them in the Name of Caste
3. Use Government Resources for Election Campaign

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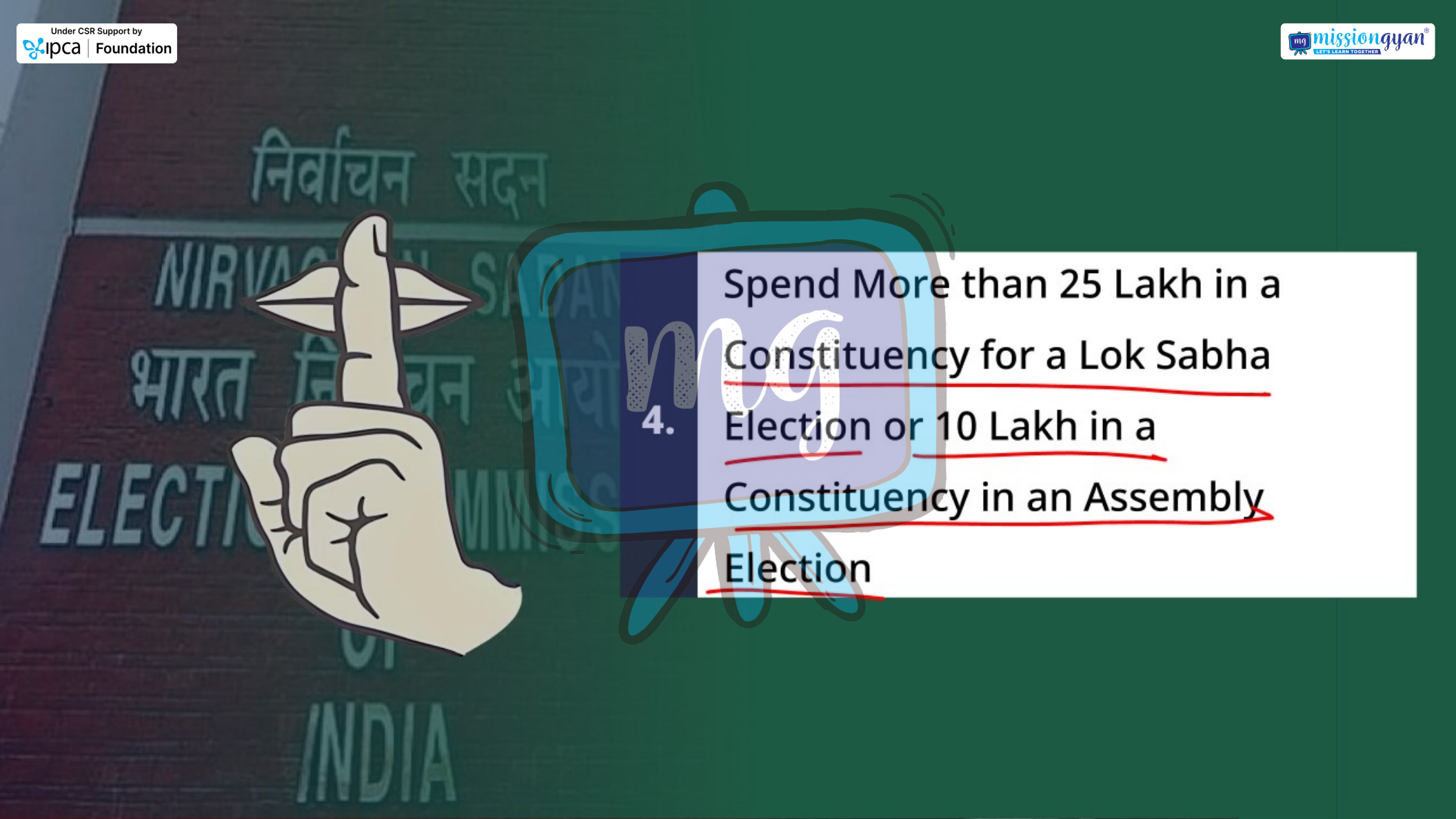

4. Spend More than 25 Lakh in a Constituency for a Lok Sabha Election or 10 Lakh in a Constituency in an Assembly Election

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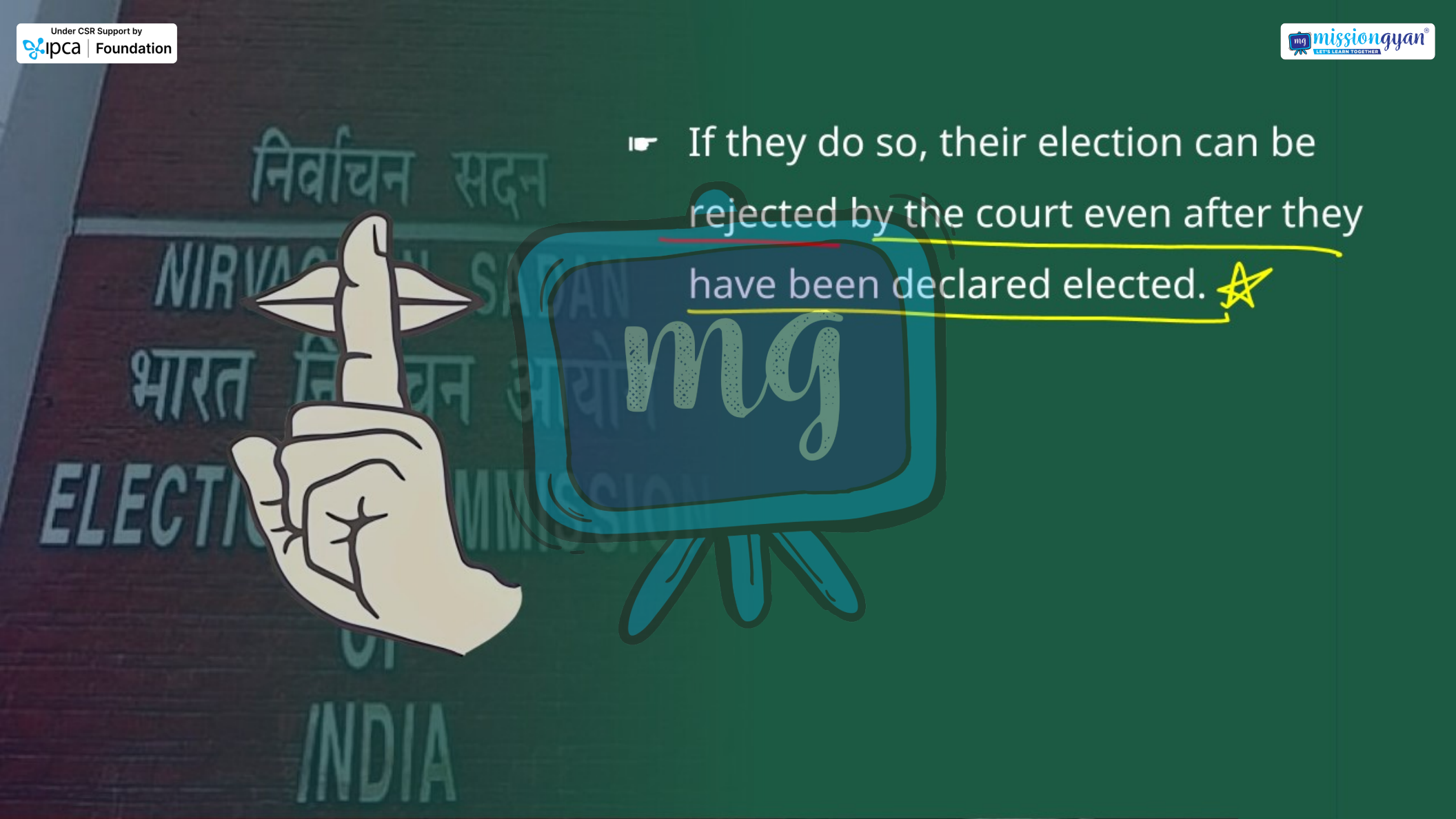

- If they do so, their election can be rejected by the court even after they have been declared elected.

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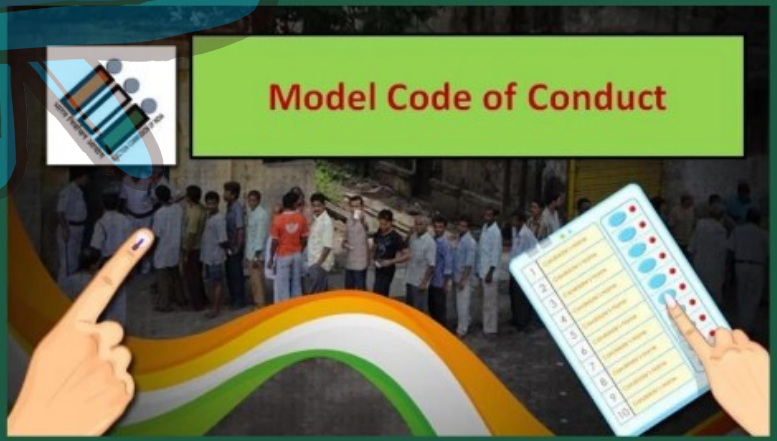
MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

- All the political parties in our country have agreed to a Model Code of Conduct for election campaigns.
- No party can violate it.



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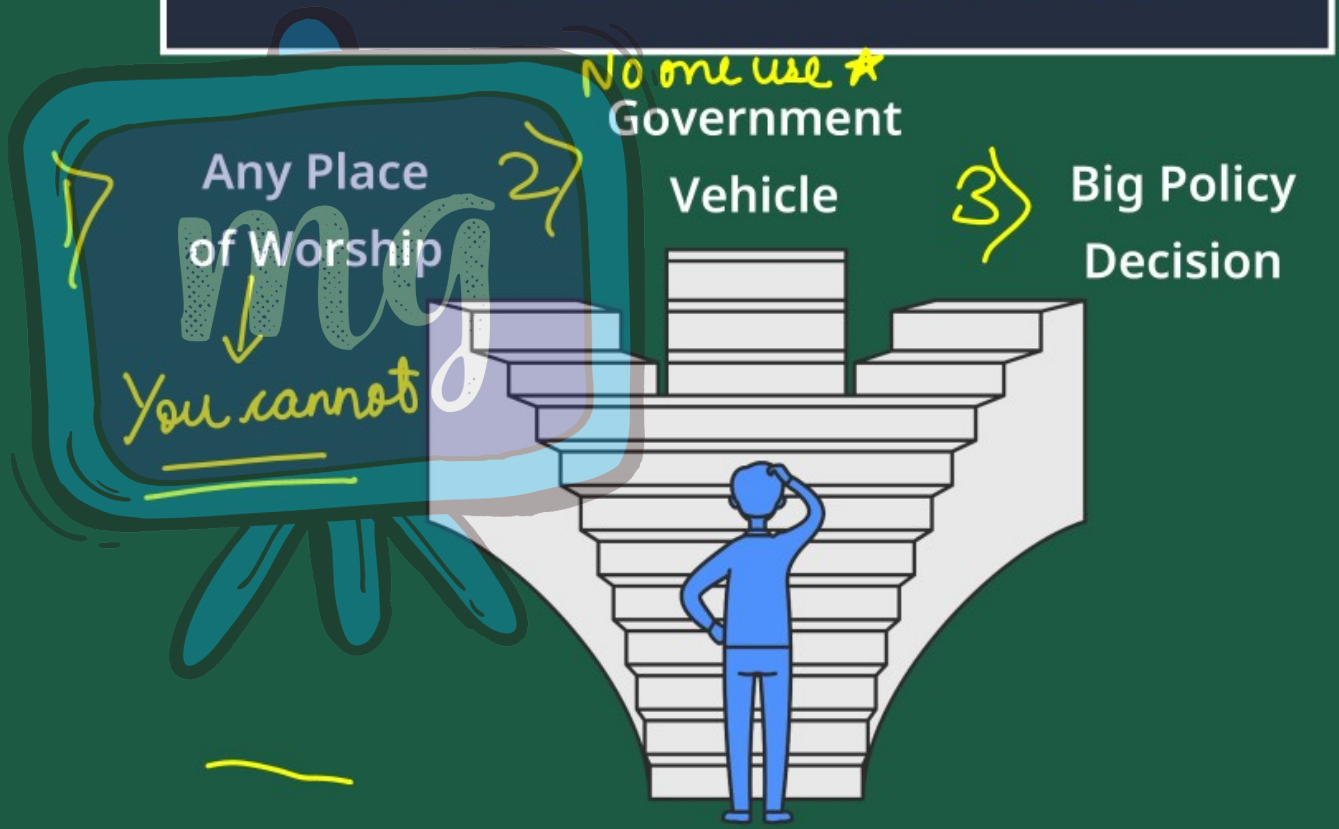
MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT



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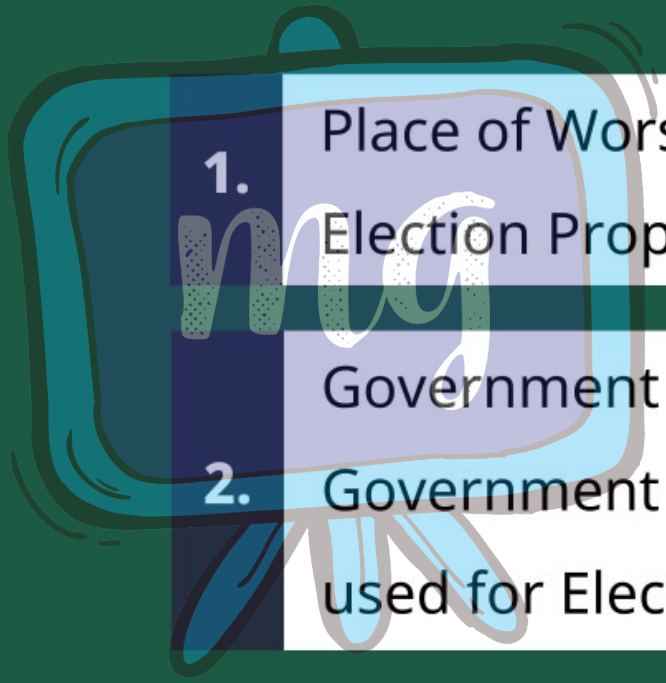

1. Place of Worship can not used for Election Propaganda

2. Government Vehicles, Aircrafts and Government Officials can not be used for Elections

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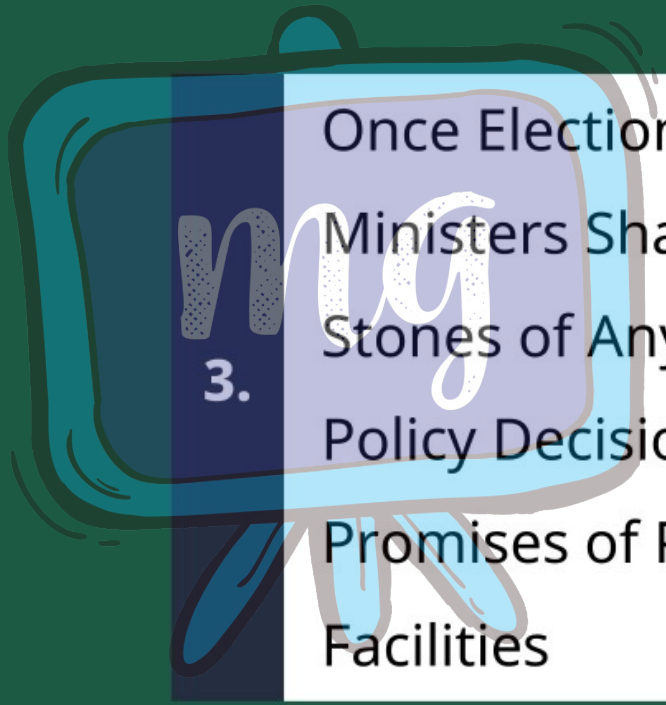

3. Once Elections are Announced, Ministers Shall not Lay Foundation Stones of Any Projects, Take Any Big Policy Decisions or Make Any Promises of Providing Public Facilities

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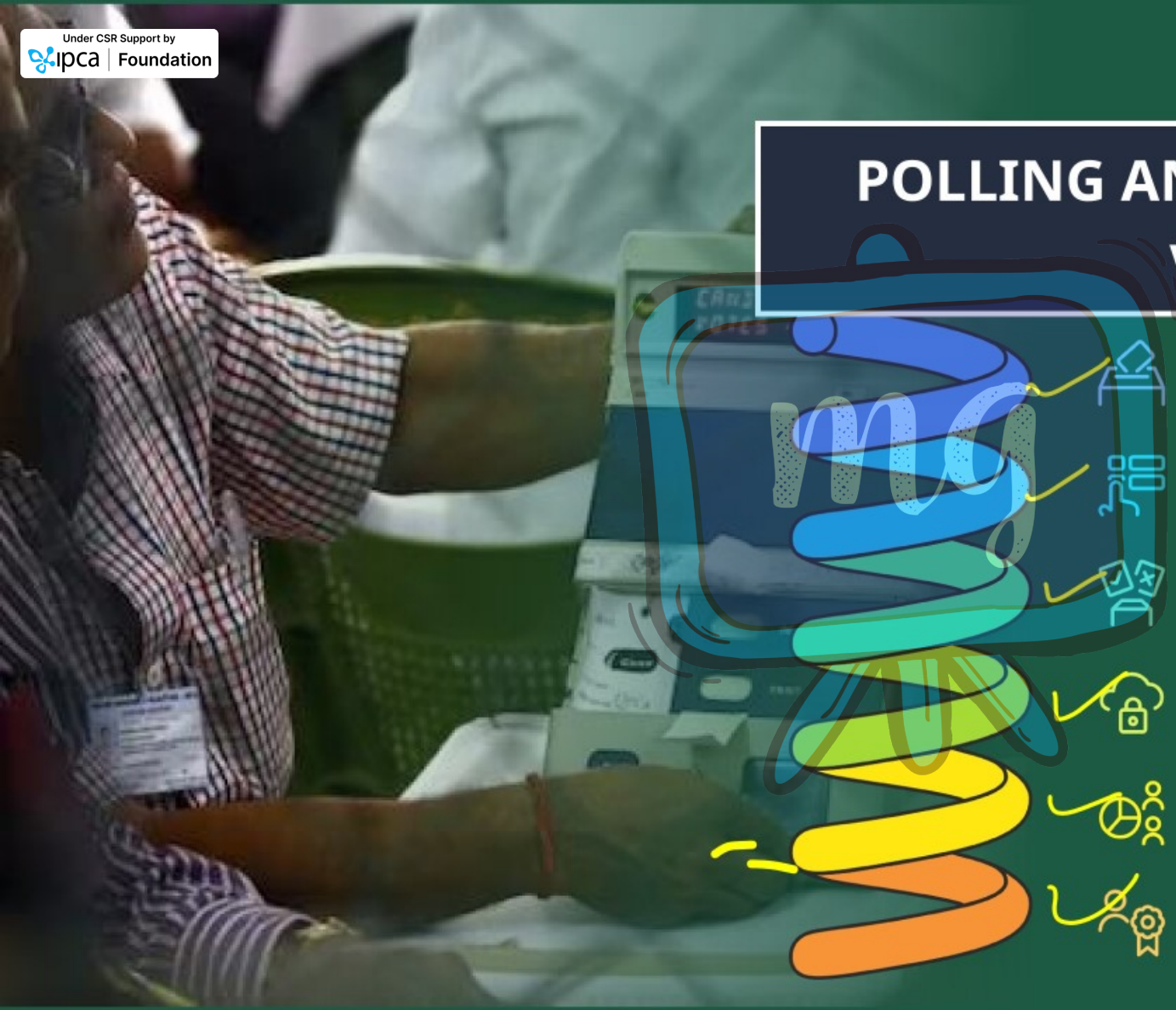
POLLING AND COUNTING OF VOTES



- Polling Booth
- Mark the Finger
- Cast Vote
- EVMs are Taken to Secure Place
- Totalling of Votes
- Declaration of Winners

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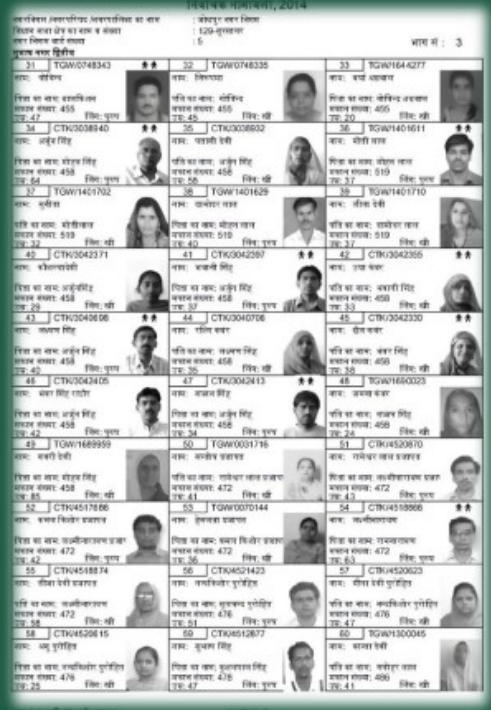
- Voters on voters' list visit local polling booths.
- Booths are mostly located in schools or government offices.
- Election officials identify voters, mark their finger and allow them voting.



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- An agent of each candidate sits inside the polling booth to ensure fair voting.
- In the past, voters used to indicate their choice by putting a stamp on a ballot paper.
- Ballot paper includes candidate names, party names and symbols.



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- Nowadays, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used.
- Display candidate names and party symbols.
- Voters press button against chosen candidate.



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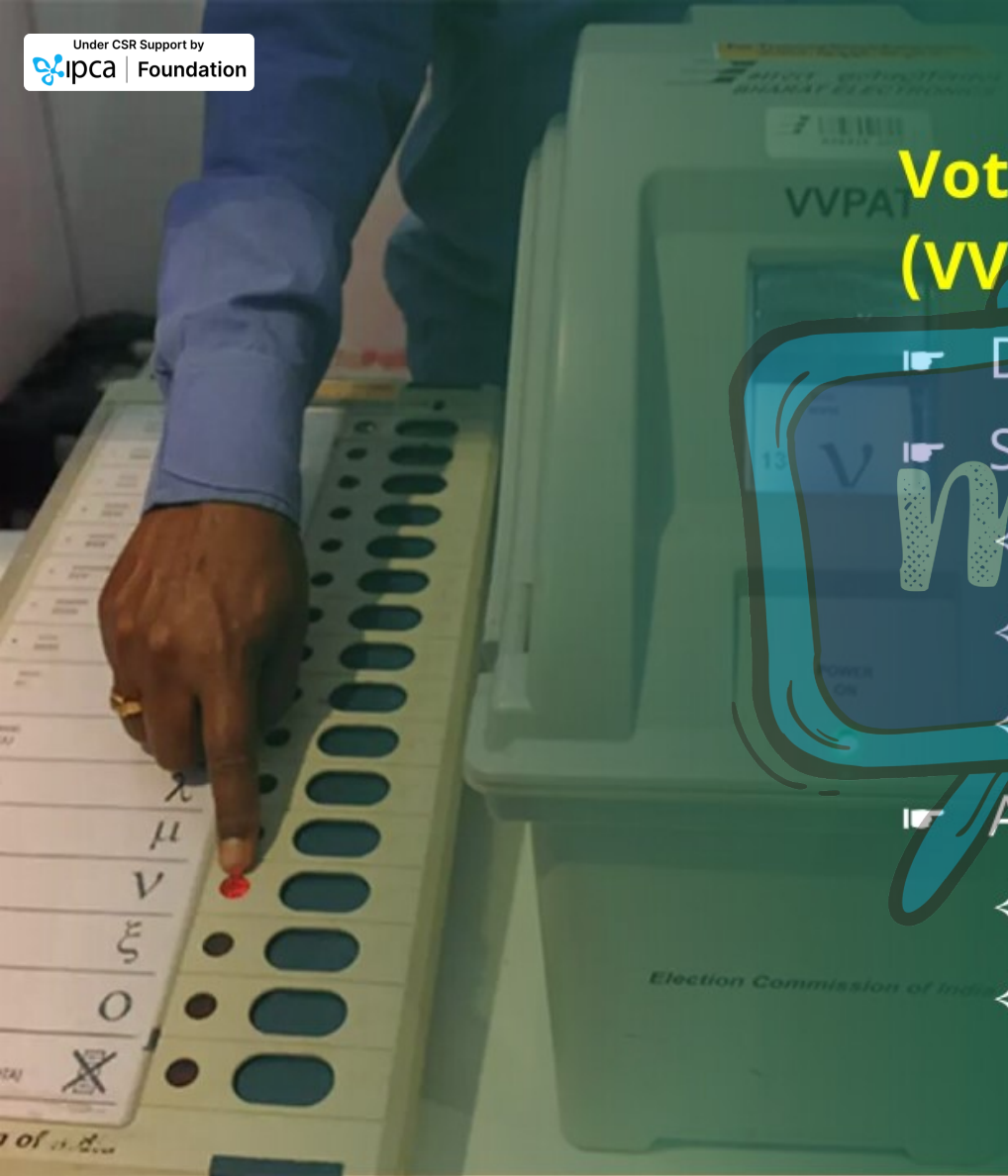

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Machine

- Displays a printed slip for 7 seconds.
- Shows:
  - Serial Number
  - Name of the chosen candidate
  - Symbol of the chosen candidate
- Allows voters to:
  - Verify their vote
  - Confirm the vote has been cast for the intended candidate

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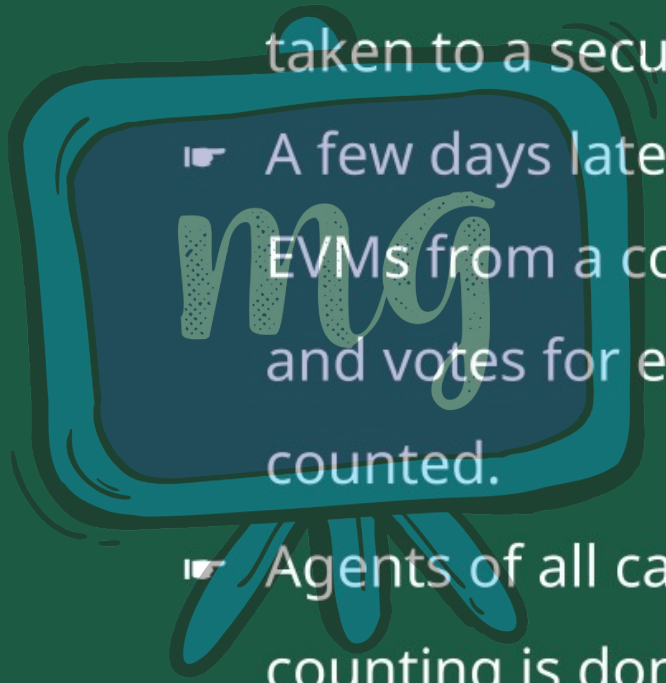

- After voting, all EVMs are sealed and taken to a secure place.
- A few days later, on a fixed date, all EVMs from a constituency are opened, and votes for each candidate are counted.
- Agents of all candidates ensure the counting is done properly.

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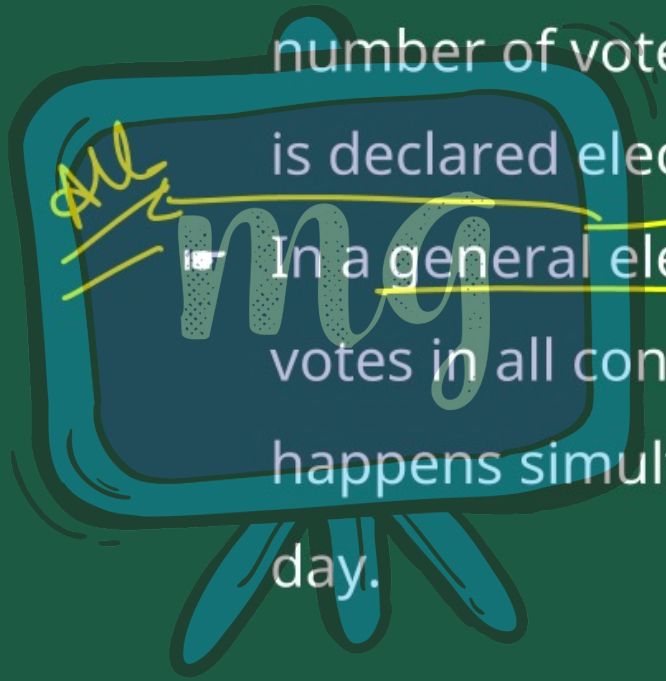
- The candidate with the highest number of votes from a constituency is declared elected.
- In a general election, counting of votes in all constituencies usually happens simultaneously, on the same day.



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- Television channels, radio and newspapers report the results.
- Within a few hours of counting, all results are declared and it becomes clear who will form the next Government.



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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Explain the Criteria and Process for the Nomination of Candidates in Indian Elections
2. Describe the Rules and Conduct of Election Campaigns, Including Legal Restrictions and the Model Code of Conduct

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ASSESSMENT

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1 What is used to cast votes in modern Indian elections?

A Paper Ballots

B Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

C Internet Voting

D Phone Voting

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ASSESSMENT

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2 Where are polling booths usually located?

A Shopping malls

B Local schools or Government offices

C Private homes

D Police stations

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ASSESSMENT

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3 Which of the following slogans was used by the Congress party in 1971?

A "Save Democracy"

B "Land to the Tiller"

C "Garibi Hatao" (Remove Poverty)

D "Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus"