



# Chief Election Commissioner Criticises Exit Polls | Haryana | 16 Oct 2024

## Why in News?

The [Chief Election Commissioner \(CEC\)](#) of India raised concerns about the reliability of [exit polls](#) and premature display of vote counting trends, citing the recent [Haryana elections](#) as a case where exit polls created unrealistic expectations and raised political concerns.

## Key Points

- **Distortion by Exit Polls:**
  - Exit polls often set unrealistic expectations, leading to a significant gap between predicted and actual election results.
  - In the recent Haryana elections, most **exit polls predicted a landslide victory** for the Congress, projecting over 50 seats, but the actual results did not match these expectations.
  - This created frustration among the public and political parties, with Congress raising concerns about the exit polls' accuracy.
- **Premature Display of Early Counting Trends:**
  - Some news channels aired early trends before official [vote counting](#) began, contributing to misinformation and speculation.
  - CEC criticized this practice as "nonsense," pointing out that initial trends shown before counting lacks a scientific basis and can mislead the public.
  - He explained that the actual counting process begins **only after 8:30 a.m.**, with verified results being posted on the [Election Commission's website after 9:30 a.m.](#)
- **Call for Self-Regulation:**
  - While the Election Commission **does not directly control exit polls**, CEC urged that [regulatory bodies overseeing media and polling](#) must take a stronger stance on improving exit poll practices.
  - Transparency in exit poll methodology, including factors such as sample size, polling locations, and data collection methods, is necessary to maintain credibility.
  - CEC also emphasized that bodies governing media and polling agencies should enforce better practices to avoid [misinformation](#) during elections.
- **Exit Poll Methodology Issues:**
  - Exit polls are based on interviews conducted with voters as they exit polling stations, but their **accuracy depends on the quality of data collected** and how representative the sample is.
  - The methodology behind exit polls, including the **sample's size and representativeness** (reflecting various voter profiles **like caste, religion, and geography**), plays a crucial role in determining the accuracy of the polls.
- **Swing Models and Prediction Challenges:**
  - Exit polls use **swing models to predict seat allocations** based on vote share estimates from the previous election.
  - However, in a complex political environment like Haryana, where multiple parties and alliances are involved, these swing models often fail to capture shifts in voter behavior or alliance changes.

## Election Commission of India

#### ▪ **About:**

- The [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
  - It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950 (celebrated as [National Voters' Day](#)). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the [Lok Sabha](#), [Rajya Sabha](#), and [State Legislative Assemblies](#) in India, and the offices of the [President and Vice President](#) in the country.
  - It is not concerned with the elections to [panchayats](#) and [municipalities](#) in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate [State Election Commission](#).

#### ▪ **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Part XV (Article 324-329):** It deals with elections and establishes a commission for these matters.
- **Article 324:** Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
- **Article 325:** No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be based on adult suffrage.
- **Article 327:** Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- **Article 328:** Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
- **Article 329:** Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

#### ▪ **Structure of ECI:**

- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the [Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989](#), it was made a multi-member body.
- The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
- Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).
  - At the state level, the election commission is helped by the Chief Electoral Officer.

#### ▪ **Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:**

- The President appoints CEC and Election Commissioners as per [the CEC and Other ECs \(Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office\) Act, 2023](#).
- They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the [Supreme Court Judge](#).

#### ▪ **Removal:**

- They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.
- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

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## State Level Energy Conservation Awards, 2024 | Haryana | 16 Oct 2024

### Why in News?

The Haryana government continues to emphasize [energy conservation](#), aligning with national efforts

under the [Energy Conservation Act, 2001](#).

- The awards aim to recognize contributions across sectors in promoting [energy efficiency](#), particularly in light of increasing [environmental concerns](#).

## Key Points

- **Purpose of the Awards:**
  - **Objective:** To promote energy conservation by recognizing industries, commercial buildings, government institutions, educational institutions, hospitals, and individuals excelling in energy efficiency practices.
  - **Regulatory Framework:** Based on the [Energy Conservation Act, 2001](#), which came into effect in March 2002, setting guidelines for the efficient use of energy resources.
- **Administering Body:**
  - The [Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency \(HAREDA\)](#) acts as the **State Designated Agency (SDA)** responsible for coordinating, regulating, and enforcing the Act's provisions within Haryana. It is under the jurisdiction of the **Department of Renewable Energy, Haryana**.
- **Award Categories:**
  - **Eligible Sectors:** Industries, commercial buildings, government institutions, educational institutions, hospitals, municipal bodies, and individuals.
  - **Criteria:** Recognition is based on innovative measures to conserve energy, use of new technologies, and efficiency improvements in energy use. Specific fields include:
    - **Innovations in energy conservation.**
    - **Adoption of energy-efficient practices.**
    - **R&D projects in energy.**
- **Award Details:**
  - Prizes include **monetary rewards up to Rs. 2 lakhs**, depending on the specific category of the award. The awards aim to both encourage and financially support further energy-saving efforts by winners.
  - The awards are part of the state's broader efforts to **reduce power consumption** and support sustainable development.
- **Recent Developments:**
  - The **2024 edition** continues these initiatives, encouraging institutions and individuals to submit applications demonstrating their commitment to energy conservation. Deadlines for submissions and guidelines are made available on the HAREDA official website

## The Energy Conservation Act, 2001

- **Regulatory framework**
    - The EC Act establishes standards and policies for **energy efficiency, and empowers the central and state governments** to regulate energy use.
  - **Energy audits**
    - Authorities can direct energy audits of buildings where **energy-intensive** industries operate.
  - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**
    - The BEE was created to oversee the **EC Act's programs and promote energy efficiency**. The BEE's work includes certification, public awareness campaigns, and pilot projects.
  - **Carbon credit trading**
    - The [Energy Conservation \(Amendment\) Act, 2022](#) allows the government to introduce a **carbon credit trading scheme** to encourage reducing carbon emissions.
  - **Energy savings certificates**
    - The government can issue **energy savings certificates** to industries that consume less than their allotted energy. These certificates can be sold to customers who consume more than their allotted energy.
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