

15th National Voters' Day 2025

Source: PIB

The 15th National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25th January 2025, marks 75 years of the <u>Election</u> Commission of India (ECI) and follows the successful 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, the world's largest democratic exercise.

- **Significance of NVD:** Celebrated annually on 25th January since 2011 to commemorate the establishment of the **ECI on 25th January 1950**, a day before India became a <u>Republic.</u>
 - Aims to promote voter awareness, inspire participation, and honor new voters.
- Theme for 2025: "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure" to emphasize the importance of voting and pride in electoral participation.
- Electorate Milestone: India's voter base nears the 100 crore mark, with 99.1 crore registered voters, including 21.7 crore young electors (18-29 age group) and an improved Electoral Gender Ratio (from 948 in 2024 to 954 in 2025).
- Highlights of the 15th NVD: The <u>President of India</u> will present the Best Electoral Practices Awards.
 - The Best Electoral Practice Award acknowledges excellence in election management, with awards for District Election Officers, Superintendents of Police, and states demonstrating exceptional performance.
 - The ECI Coffee Table Book "India Votes 2024: A Saga of Democracy" and the publication "Belief in the Ballot: Human Stories Shaping India's 2024 Elections" will be presented to the President.

Election Commission of India (ECI) 🧆

About

- Autonomous Constitutional Authority -Administers Union/state election ·LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the
 - President and VP
- Estd 25th Jan1950 (National Voters' Day)



Constitutional Provisions

Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure

- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners appointed by President
- Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs eligible for further appointment by the govt.
- Removal of CEC- Resolution on the ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity, with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house



Major Roles and Responsibilities



- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on matters concerning the disqualification of MPs

Challenges

- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff



Read more: <u>Strengthening India's Electoral Democracy</u>

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