

## 15th National Voters' Day | Jammu & Kashmir | 28 Jan 2025

#### Why in News?

On the eve of the <u>15<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day</u>, the Chief Secretary administered an oath to officers and officials, including the Administrative Secretaries of **the Union Territory**, during a ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat **in Srinagar**.

#### **Key Points**

- Pledge by Participants:
  - Participants **pledged their commitment to democracy**, vowing to ensure independent, impartial, and peaceful elections.
  - They also **took an oath to cast their votes fearlessly,** without bias based on religion, community, or language.
- Theme for the Year:
  - The theme for 2025 is "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure".
  - It aims to encourage greater voter participation, particularly among the youth.
- Historical Context:
  - National Voters' Day was first observed in 2011 to promote youth involvement in the electoral process.
  - The year 2025 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Election Commission of India.
  - The primary focus is on **increasing voter enrolment**, especially targeting youngsters who have recently turned 18 and are now eligible to vote.

# 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 - 25<sup>th</sup> Jan1950 (National Voters' Day)

### Constitutional Provisions Part XV - Article 324 to 329

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## 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

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# **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



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