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

### Why in News?

On the eve of the [15<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day](#), 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.

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# 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> Jan 1950** (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

