

THE ROLE OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA: ACHIVED UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF ELECTORAL LIETRACY FOR A STRONG DEMOCRACY 2020

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Introduction : The institution of election commission was a constitutional body which was established in 1950 as per the article 326 of constitution of India . Mandate for universal equal suffrage emanates from article 326 of the constitution . The mandate was further enhanced with the constitution [sixty-first Amendment] Act , 1988 that reduced the voting age to 18 years . As per its mandate , the election commission made sustained efforts to enroll all eligible electors . On 25 January , 2020 , national voters' day [NVD] celebration is completing a decade . Every year this day is observed at over 10 lakh locations all over the country that include polling station areas , sub-division , division , district , and at state headquarter . On this day , the entire nation reverberates with the festivities of democracy as cores of Indian celebrate their right to vote

Objective of the program:

National voter's day was celebrated since 2011 to mark the foundation day of the election commission of India [ECI], which was established on this day in the year 1950. Every vote counts in the election. NVD was initiated in 2011 by the commission to highlight the value of vote and importance of every vote in democracy . NVD marks the foundation day

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of election commission of India , which was established on this year 1950 . The main purpose of the celebration is to enourage facilitate, and maximize the enrolment , especially for the new voters dedicated to the voters of the country , the day is also utilized spread awareness for effective participation in the electoral process .

Each year, simultaneous celebration are organized at the nation level, district level down to the polling station level making it the largest celebration of democracy in the world

National level function is organized at New Delhi by ECI where humble President if India graces the occasion as chief Guest . Awards are given away to the National special and Zonal recipients besides the 'Best State Award' and 'Media Awards' excellence , proficiency , and innovation in electoral process and outstanding performance . Best Practices in Election Management in the fields of voter Education , security Management , Infrastructure Management , Expenditure Monitoring and tackling Money Power , use of technology , management of electoral Rolls , Innovation etc . Are considered . The selection process is fairly comprehensive and aims at eliciting the best of the talent and performance among election officials and stakeholder. New voters [18+ years old] are given their Elector Photo Identity Card . Stakeholders in other categories are also felicitated guidance from the Humble President and chief Election Commissioner Inspire citizen towards commitment to maximize electoral participation .

At the state level , the Chief Electoral Officers [CEO'S] orgnise similar celebration is association with state administration , state election commission media , civil Society organization [CSO'S] education institutions , youth organizations , representatives of political parties etc . Humble Governor of the respective State presides over state-level functions . State awards for excellence proficiency and innovation in electoral process, and outstanding achievement are given this function

²At the district level , district Election officers [DEO'S] organize similar events including voter education activates . Panchayats , academic institutions ,CSOs ,media ,youth and as such all section of the society and citizens also get involved . The booth level officers [BLOs] in polling station areas felicitate new voters at a brief ceremony and hand over Elector Photo Identity Card to them . Moreover , the freshly eligible and registered voters are given a badge with slogan 'proud to be a voter – ready to vote' ; and all the participants are administered voters' pledge .

Voters' Pledge is administered to every participant in national voters' day during the celebration at each level . The pledge conveys commission' commitment to ensures 'informed and ethical voting' .

NVD celebration focus on a specific theme every year . The theme sets the tone for the activates conducted throughout the year . Year-wise themes are as follows :

- 2011 : great participation for a stronger Democracy
- 2012 : Women's Registration
- 2013 : Inclusion
- 2014 : Ethical Voting
- 2015 : easy registration , easy correction
- 2016 : Inclusive and qualitative Participation ; no voter to be left behind
- 2017 : Empowering Young and future voters
- 2018 : Accessible Election
- 2019 : No voter to be left Behind
- 2020 : Electoral Literacy for a stronger Democracy

ECI launched the Electoral literacy program under SVEEP on the eve of 8th NVD and by now about 5.8 lakh Electoral Literacy clubs [ELC] , chunav Paths alas and voter Awareness Forums have been set up across

² The Indian constitution ,
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the country . These forums work on the principle of engaging the target populations through hand-on experience on the electoral process . The ELCs operate at the level of schools ,colleges and other institutions of learning ; Chunav Paths alas operate at community levels ; and the voters Awareness Forums operate at the level of –organizations including Government offices . The program is envisaged to expand and cover all the institutions

Mandate for universal equal suffrage emanates from article 326 of the constitution . The mandate was further enhanced with the constitution [sixty-first Amendment] Act , 1988 that reduced the voting age to 18 . As per it's mandate , the Election Commission made sustained efforts to enroll all eligible electors Yet , voters apathy and lack of enrolment and participation of certain section of society , especially the new voters [18+] was a challenge . During the Diamond Jubilee celebration in 2010 , the commission has a focused analysis of both , the enrolment and electoral participation especially among the voters.

The commission decided to take up a rigorous exercise to identify all eligible voters attaining the age of 18 as on 1st January every year in each polling station area of the country , enroll them and handover their Elector Photo Indentify Cards on 25 January . The initiative aimed at providing the youth a sense of citizenship empowerment and pride electoral participation as also to inspire them in exercising the newly acquired franchise . Thus , as a measure acquired of enhancing participation of citizen especially the youth in democratic electoral , ECL decided to celebrate 25 January , its foundation day as the national voters' day every year

Outcomes in terms of enrolment of voters emanating from the NVD initiative have been encouraging

The Lok Sabah 2019 saw a historic votes turnout 67.47% voter turnout had increased to a record 66.44% in 2014 from 58.19% in 2009 . The number of electors that was 83.4 core on the eve of 2014 General

Election rose to 91 core ahead of Lok Sabah Election 2019 . This is an addition of over 7.46 core electors which included 4.07 core women and 3.3 core men

Moreover , women participation also increased to a historic 66.79% in 2019 reducing the gender gap to 0.01% as compared to 1.46% in 2014 elections . Also , with an aim to ensure accessible election 62 lakhs Person with disability [PWD] electors were indentified

At present about 91 core Indian citizens are registered as voters . The commission had demonstrated fulfillment of its mandate through conduct of successive election in the country right from 1950 onwards . The strength of its electoral processes is seen both with awe and respect among democracies of the world . Today , the electoral operation of India are the largest in the world as demonstrated in the Lok Sabah Election 2019 where about 1.2 core polling officials worked over 10 lakh polling stations in the country

A voter is the central unit of a democracy and its electoral processes . NVD connects with the electoral process and renews both , their relevance and contribution to the democracy

Conclusion :

National voters day [NVD] celebration day was inspires the voters , the key stakeholders in democratic polity besides other stakeholders including election machinery . Today , NVD initiative has been institutionalized as an annual feature for celebration of democracy and electoral participation in the country this program was widely celebrated in schools, colleges and other academic institutions to create awareness about the importance of vote and voting rights in this way people are actively participated to caste upon their votes during the election therefore each and every responsible citizens have to caste their votes and strengthen the democracy recently every year all

district level svvp community headed by the district magistrate to issued a circular to all district level academic institutions to conduct national voters day awareness program under the objective of the program enrolled the new voters which is also a gives a strength to select a good government

