



SVEEP: ECI

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Why in News

Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) organized a two-day **SVEEP** (**S**ystematic **V**oters' **E**ducation and **E**lectoral **P**articipation) Consultation Workshop.

Key Points

- **SVEEP:**
 - Started in 2009, as the **flagship program of the ECI for voter education**.
 - **Primary goal** is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision & ethical choice.
- **Other Related Initiatives Taken:**
 - **NOTA (None of the Above) Option:**
By choosing NOTA, voters have the right to not to choose any nominated candidate.
 - **Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail:**
It is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines. It allows voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate.
 - **National Voters' Day:**
It has been celebrated on **25th January** every year since 2011 to mark the formation of ECI.
 - **Decriminalization of Elections:**
ECI and the Court have ensured together that the candidates declare their criminal record and any cases, pending or not.
 - **cVIGIL App:**
This app provides time-stamped, evidence-based proof of the Model Code of Conduct/Expenditure Violation, having live photo/video with auto location data.

- An **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- Administers **elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies** and the offices of the **President** and **Vice President**.
- **Part XV of the Indian constitution** deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- **Article 324 to 329 of the constitution** deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
- Originally, it had only one election commissioner but **after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**, it has been made **a multi-member body**.
- Presently, it consists of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs) - **appointed by the President**.
- They hold office for **a term of 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.

Source: PIB