

15th National Voters' Day 2025

Source: PIB

The 15th National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25th January 2025, marks 75 years of the Election 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 **Republic.**
 - 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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