

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
COMMISSIONERATE OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION
MANAGALAGIRI::A.P

CIRCULAR

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Dated:19-01-2026

Sub:Collegiate Education-16th National Voters Day(NVD)-Celebrations on 25-01-2026-Conduct of various activities in GDCs- Instructions Issued-Reg

Ref: Lr.No.1905/Elecs.D/A2/2025-10 from the Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh,Dated 13-01-2026

As per the reference cited above, it is informed that Election Commission of India has decided to celebrate the 16th National Voter's Day across the country 25th January 2026 at State, District and Booth levels. The theme for the 16th National Voter's Day 2026 is "My India, My Vote" with the tagline "Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy". The objective of celebrating National Voters Day is to increase awareness among voters, particularly youth and to encourage active participation in the electoral process.

In this regard all the Principals of Government Degree Colleges are requested to organize various activities on the occasion of **National Voter's Day on 25-01-2026** with the theme "My India, My Vote" in the following manner:

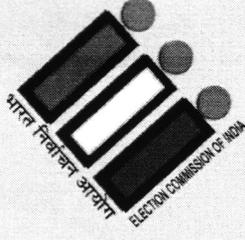
1. Organize administration of Voter's Day Pledge.(A copy of the NVD Pledge with Telugu version is enclosed)
2. Conduct debated and discussions among students.
3. Conduct competitions like Quiz, Essay Writing, Drawing, Painting, Skit, Songs etc
4. Conduct awareness programs on electoral participation and democratic values

Hence Principals are requested to ensure active participation of students and staff in all above mentioned activities to make the program grand success. The District Election Officers/Electoral Registration Officers will coordinate the events at the District/Assembly Constituency levels respectively. Photographs, Videos of the NVD celebrations including Voter's Pledge and other activities shall uploaded on social media platforms using the hashtag#NVD2026, as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

Tulasi
19/1/26

For the Commissioner of Collegiate Education
Dr Ch.Tulasi
Academic Guidance Officer

To
The Principals of GDCs in AP
Copy to JD&RJDCes of Collegiate Education in A.P



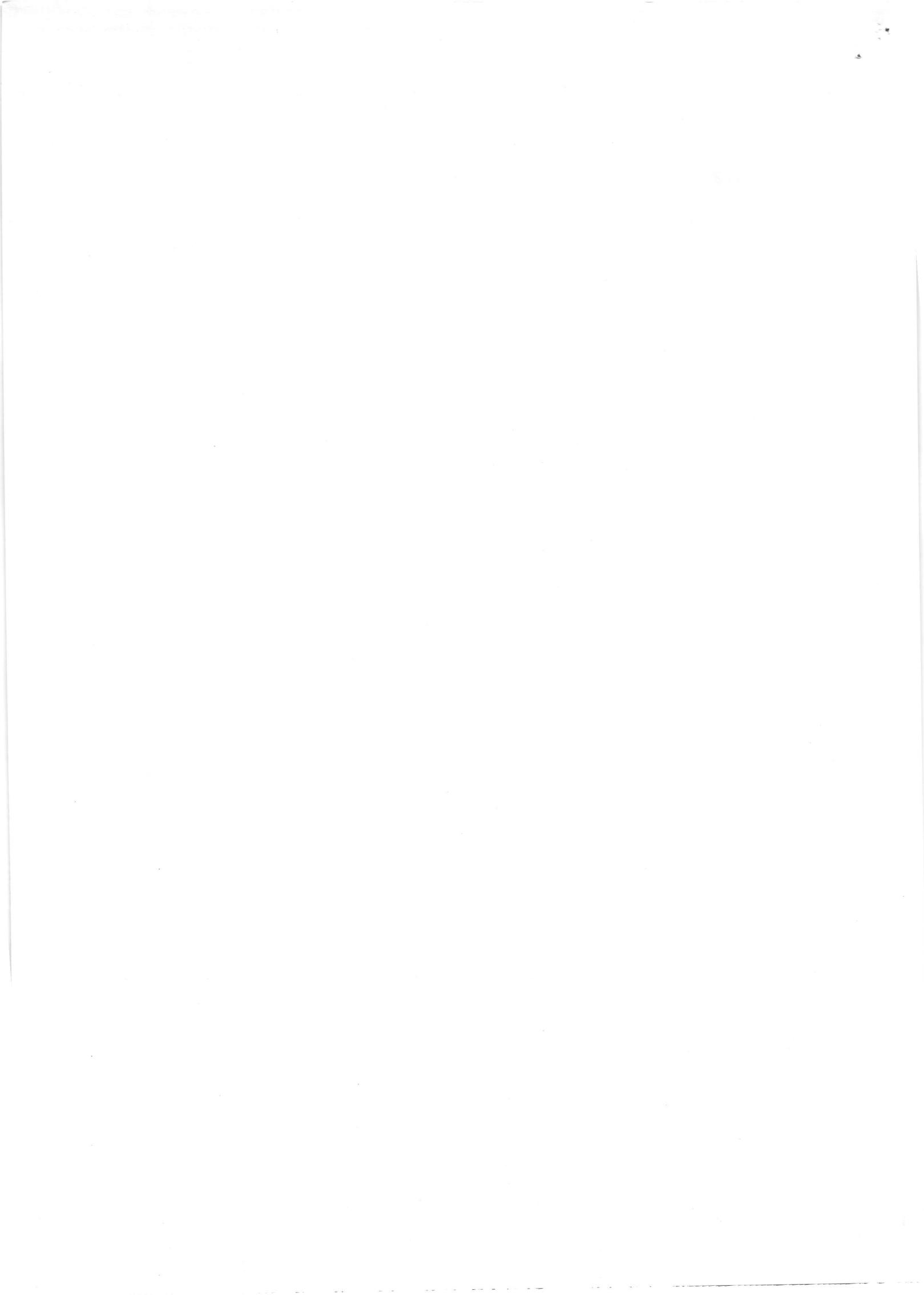
ఓటరప్రతిజ్ఞ

భారతదేశ పౌరులమయిన మేము, ప్రజాస్వామ్యం పై విశ్వాసంతో, మన దేశ ప్రజాస్వామ్య సాంప్రదాయాలను, స్వేచ్ఛాయుత, నిష్పక్షపాత, ప్రశాంత ఎన్నికల ప్రాభవాన్ని నిలబెడతామనీ, మతం, జాతి, కులం, వర్గం, భాష లేదా ఎటువంటి ఒత్తిడులకు ప్రభావితం కాకుండా ప్రతి ఎన్నికలో నిర్భయంగా ఓటు వేస్తామని ఇందు మూలంగా ప్రతిజ్ఞ చేస్తున్నాము.

VOTERS PLEDGE

We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement.

Chief Electoral Officer
Andhra Pradesh





Indian Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy

My India
My Vote
मैं भारत हूँ

- (iv) In his acceptance speech, the CEC Sh. Gyanesh Kumar pledged that India's Chairmanship will be decisive, ambitious and action oriented. He will steer the Council's work around India's overall theme for the Chairship - "Democracy for inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world" and focus on two key pillars namely - Reimagining Democracy for the Future and Independent & Professional Election Management Bodies for Sustainable Democracy. India will endeavour to ensure that every vote counts, every voice matters and that democracies worldwide become more inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable.

Background Note and Program Overview

16th National Voters' Day - 25th January, 2026



SVEEP Division

Election Commission of India

Background Note and Program Overview
16th National Voters' Day - 25th January 2026

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1. About the ECI

- 1.1. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, established on January 25th, 1950, under **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution, is a pivotal Constitutional authority responsible for control, supervision and conduct of elections of the world's largest democracy. ECI conducts elections to **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies of State and UTs of Puducherry and NCT of Delhi, State Legislative Councils (where it exists)**, in addition to the august offices of **President and Vice President** of India. Its impartial role is instrumental in upholding the fairness and integrity of the electoral process. The Commission's meticulous planning and execution of elections ensure that the elections are free and fair, reinforcing public trust and confidence.
- 1.2. India's democracy thrives on its diversity - cultural, social, geographical, linguistic, etc. This diversity is seamlessly integrated into the political and social fabric of the nation, fostering a unique blend of unity in diversity. The Indian Constitution grants all adult citizens the right to vote, regardless of their caste, religion, gender, or socio-economic status.
- 1.3. Over the years, the ECI has conducted 18 General Elections to Lok Sabha and over 418 Assembly elections. ECI presently manages a diverse electorate of more than **95.75 crore voters**, including approximately **49.13 crore male voters, 46.61 crore female voters and 45,157 voters belonging to the third gender**. The ECI has the responsibility of ensuring that the voting experience for voters is unique and memorable. Apart from ensuring Assured Minimum Facilities at all polling stations for facilitating voters to vote; the home voting facility ensures, votes are cast by those who can't reach the polling station, making elections an inclusive and accessible one.
- 1.4. The Election Commission is a multi-member Commission composed of the Chief Election Commissioner and two other Election Commissioners. Currently ECI consists of **Shri Gyanesh Kumar**, the Chief Election Commissioner, along with **Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi** as the other Election Commissioners.

2. Background and Significance of National Voters' Day

- 2.1. National Voters' Day is celebrated annually on 25th January, marking the Foundation Day of the Election Commission of India. Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil launched the first NVD on 25th Jan 2011 on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of the ECI, to encourage youth participation in the electoral process through voter education as a major strategy. The main event of NVD is held in **New Delhi**. The **Hon'ble President of India** conventionally addresses the event in Delhi and gives away **Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)** to newly enrolled young electors, in addition to awarding outstanding civil servants, electoral officials and civil service organizations for their distinguished

contribution in electoral management. Hon'ble President Smt. Draupadi Murmu addressed the 13th, 14th and 15th NVD, and has agreed to address the 16th NVD.

2.2. It has been institutionalised as a national voter education and democratic engagement initiative with the following broad objectives:

- (i) Promoting informed, ethical, and inclusive electoral participation
- (ii) Encouraging enrolment and participation of new and young voters
- (iii) Reinforcing public trust in the electoral process
- (iv) Highlighting the constitutional values of democracy, equality, and participation

2.3. The observance is conducted at national, state, district, and polling-station levels, ensuring uniform outreach across the country. The main event of NVD is held in New Delhi. The Hon'ble President of India conventionally addresses the event as the Chief Guest.

3. Theme

3.1. Each National Voters' Day is organised around a theme. The theme provides a unifying message for voter outreach and communication. It reflects contemporary priorities in voter participation, inclusion, and awareness.

3.2. This year's theme is "**My India, My Vote**" with a tagline of **Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy**. It symbolizes the efforts of ECI to design citizen centric electoral processes keeping the convenience of citizens in mind and encouraging their participation in the electoral processes towards a sustainable democracy.

3.3. The theme will be popularized by Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs through schools and educational institutions by conducting activities such as debates, discussions, essay writing etc. on NVD theme as part of NVD celebration.

3.4. The theme will also be communicated to the Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretaries, CEOs requesting formal instructions to Ministries to administer Voter's pledge and to use logo/ tagline of NVD in stationery and portals.

4. National-Level Function

A national level function is organised at Delhi as the focal event of NVD. The Hon'ble President of India is invited as the Chief Guest and other guests include Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice, Former CECs/ ECs, representatives from Political Parties, Media and other stakeholders. Key components of the national function include:

- (i) Formal address by the Chief Guest
- (ii) Address by the Hon'ble Commission

- (iii) Administration of the Voters' Pledge
- (iv) Distribution of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to selected newly registered voters from NCT of Delhi.
- (v) Presentation of National Voters' Day Awards
- (vi) Launch of voter awareness or institutional initiatives/ publications
- (vii) Exhibition highlighting democratic values and inclusivity

5. National Electoral Awards to be given on NVD 2026

- 5.1. A structured awards programme is an integral component of NVD, aimed at recognising excellence in electoral management and voter outreach. These awards are given at National and State levels during NVD ceremony.
- 5.2. The awards process follows a multi-stage nomination, scrutiny, and approval mechanism ensuring transparency, objectivity, and institutional rigor. This year, the awards will be given for Best Election Districts.
- 5.3. The Best Election District Awards in 2026 will be given under following themes:
 - (i) **Innovative Voter Awareness Initiatives:** Awards for initiatives such as voter education programs, awareness campaigns, and voter outreach activities.
 - (ii) **Effective Use of Technology in Elections:** Awards for use of technology to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accuracy of election processes.
 - (iii) **Training and Capacity Building:** Awards for well-planned training and assessment of election officials
 - (iv) **Election Management and Logistics:** Best practices in managing election logistics, including polling stations, voting materials, and personnel deployment.
 - (v) **Model Code of Conduct Implementation and Enforcement:** Awards for effective strategies for implementing and enforcing the Model Code of Conduct, ensuring a fair and transparent election process.
 - (vi) **Media Awards:** Awards for the best campaigns in voter education across different media platforms such as Print, TV, Radio, and online/ social media.

6. Launches on NVD 2026

- 6.1. The presence of the Hon'ble President of India at the NVD event serves as a platform for the launch or release of:

- (i) Voter awareness campaigns, or outreach initiatives.
- (ii) Institutional publications, reports, or knowledge products.
- (iii) Audio-visual material highlighting democratic processes, voter participation, and electoral innovation.

These launches are designed to strengthen public engagement, awareness, and institutional visibility throughout the year.

6.2. Following launches have been planned for NVD 2026:

- (i) Launch of publication highlighting ECI's achievements
- (ii) Launch of publication about successful conduct of General Elections in Bihar
- (iii) Launch of Video reflecting the ECI's global leadership in electoral management and democratic development.

7. **Exhibition and Experiential Outreach**

7.1. A dedicated NVD exhibition is typically organised for the participants as part of the national function. Through the panels of the exhibition, a viewer can acquire a bird's eye view of the pride of Indian Democracy, i.e., Electronic Voting Machine related facts, recent initiatives and innovations of the Commission. The exhibition framework will include:

- (i) Depiction of the evolution and scale of elections in India.
- (ii) Showcasing of electoral processes, reforms, and innovations.
- (iii) Focus on inclusive and accessible elections.
- (iv) Use of multimedia, digital displays, and interactive installations.
- (v) Educational walkthroughs of polling and voting procedures.
- (vi) Selfie Point, digital displays, Audio Video touch panels, AR, VR and other modern facilities.

The exhibition acts as a public-facing knowledge and engagement space for visitors and stakeholders.

8. **Publicity and Media Outreach**

8.1. A comprehensive publicity strategy accompanies NVD celebrations to ensure nationwide voter awareness and publicity of NVD. The publicity of NVD is done at the level of the ECI, the CEOs and the DEOs.

8.2. **At ECI level:** The following is done by the Commission to spread awareness related to NVD throughout the country: -

- (i) Print media advertisements at national and regional levels.

- (ii) FM Radio campaign.
 - (iii) Use of NVD theme, logo, and tagline across government communication platforms.
 - (iv) Social media campaigns through official handles.
 - (v) Press releases, media coverage of the national function.
- 8.3. **At CEOs and DEOs level:** The State/ District Icons may be engaged to spread awareness about the Commission's initiatives. The CEOs/ DEOs shall ensure partnerships and collaborations with various Government departments such as banks, Post offices, Railways, Panchayati Raj institutions, Civil Bodies etc. The Corporate bodies, Civil Society Organizations and others may be engaged with, for organizing various events like competitions (essay, debate etc.), webinars etc. in the run upto the NVD. CEO/ DEO offices may engage with various social media agencies, to create and develop the creative content for the NVD and get it uploaded on their respective social media handles. The hashtag #NVD2026 could be used while uploading the content on the social media accounts.

9. **Voter Awareness Activities related to NVD throughout the country**

9.1. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities form the core of NVD celebrations and the national level celebration of NVD is replicated nationwide at state, district, and booth levels. NVD is being celebrated across the country at more than 10.5 lakh polling booths, at district level by DEOs and at State level by CEOs.

9.2. **Activities at Booth Level**

- (i) The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to organize an event at each polling station area and shall felicitate newly registered voters appropriately, also hand over the EPIC to new electors.
- (ii) Video and other creatives to be shared extensively with all the households/ participants through WhatsApp groups and other media. Further other awareness films/ material as prepared by State or District on Postal Ballot, Assured Minimum facilities at Polling Stations, EVM/VVPAT, Voter Helpline App, Ethical Voting etc. can also be shown at the ceremony, in local languages. Please note that creatives are to be made available in accessible formats, in line with the current theme of NVD to make the information available to all stakeholders.
- (iii) Further NVD pledge to be administered to all the people present during the event, Further the copy of the pledge also to be circulated over Whatsapp groups.

- (iv) DEO may provide the logistics required for the brief ceremony in each polling station area.

9.3. Activities at District HQs

- (i) The DEO shall organize the NVD function, at the District headquarters in association with various institutions/organizations such as Panchayat Raj institutions, Academic institutions, Civil Society groups, organizations of youth volunteers like NSS, NCC, Scouts & Guides, NYKS, media etc.
- (ii) Newly registered voters shall be facilitated by handing over the EPIC during NVD function.
- (iii) Further NVD pledge to be administered to all the people present during the event. Also the pledge to be circulated over whatsapp groups.
- (iv) Awareness films on Postal Ballot facility, Assured Minimum Facilities, EVM VVPAT, Assured Minimum facilities at Polling Stations, EVM/VVPAT, Voter Helpline App, Ethical Voting etc. in local language shall be shown. Creatives to be made available in accessible formats, in line with the current theme of NVD to make the information available to all stakeholders.
- (v) This material to be shared through WhatsApp group of various stakeholders.
- (vi) The logo for 'National Voters' Day', which reinforces the importance of voting, shall also be suitably used on official stationery, merchandise websites, Election related presentations etc.

9.4. Activities at State HQs

- (i) CEO organizes NVD function at the State capital, in association with Media, Civil Society, Volunteer Groups, State Administration, State Election Commission & Corporates etc.
- (ii) Awareness films on Postal Ballot facility, Assured Minimum Facilities, EVM VVPAT, Assured Minimum facilities at Polling Stations, EVM/VVPAT, Voter Helpline App, Ethical Voting etc. in local language shall be shown and distributed over WhatsApp groups.
- (iii) Newly registered voters shall be facilitated by handing over the EPIC during NVD function.
- (iv) Further NVD pledge to be administered to all the people present during the event.

- (v) Sign Language Interpreters to be deployed during the function in accordance with the present theme. The venue of the NVD functions to be made accessible as far as possible.
- (vi) Necessary advertisement in print / electronic media may be issued, along with hoardings and banners across different locations across the state.
- (vii) Deployment of dedicated staff at Block, Sub-division and District levels may be done to effectively undertake NVD related activities as directed. BLOs shall be trained about their role for NVD activities by the EROs/AEROs, as directed.
- (viii) The logo for 'National Voters' Day', which reinforces the importance of voting, shall also be suitably used on official stationery, merchandise websites, Election related presentations etc.

10. **Voters' Pledge**

The Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs also give directions to the Government departments, PSUs and educational institutions to take the voters' pledge on the occasion of NVD, which is reproduced below:

"We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement".

11. **Recent Key Initiatives of the Election Commission of India during last year**

The Election Commission of India has undertaken a series of wide-ranging reforms to further strengthen India's electoral democracy. Anchored in the constitutional values of inclusiveness, transparency, integrity and ease of participation, these initiatives span stakeholder engagement, technological innovation, electoral roll purification, voter facilitation and institutional capacity building

(i) **Strengthening Democratic Engagement and Trust**

The Commission has significantly enhanced its engagement with political stakeholders through nationwide all-party meetings at the level of CEOs, DEOs and EROs, ensuring continuous dialogue and consensus-building. Regular interactions with senior leadership of national and state political parties have reinforced trust and transparency in election management.

(ii) **Strengthening Electoral Systems**

To uphold the integrity of the electoral ecosystem, the Commission has taken decisive steps such as delisting inactive Registered Unrecognized Political Parties, mapping statutory roles of all election stakeholders, and introducing standardized photo identity cards for Booth Level Officers to enhance field-level transparency. Post-poll integrity has been further strengthened through issuance of SOPs for checking and verification of EVM burnt memory/microcontrollers.

(iii) **Enhancing use of Technology**

A major milestone has been the launch of ECINET, a one-stop digital platform integrating over forty election-related applications for voters, officials and political parties. The Commission has also ensured 100% webcasting at polling stations, introduced real-time voter turnout updates, and digitised constituency-level election data to improve accessibility, transparency and public confidence in the electoral process.

(iy) **Purity and Accuracy of Electoral Rolls**

Ensuring that no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible name remains, the Commission decided to undertake Special Intensive Revision in various states of electoral rolls. The long-standing issue of duplicate EPIC numbers has been resolved nationwide, and a new SOP now enables delivery of EPIC cards within 15 days, with SMS-based tracking for electors

(v) **Enhancing Ease of Voting**

Several voter-centric measures have been introduced to improve the polling-day experience, including mobile phone deposit facilities outside polling stations, a cap of 1,200 voters per polling station to reduce queues, clearer Voter Information Slips, and regulated placement of candidate booths to assist electors without compromising the sanctity of polling premises.

(vi) **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening**

Recognizing the critical role of election personnel, the Commission has expanded training programmes at IIIDEM, enhanced remuneration for election officials and security forces, and initiated structured training for Booth Level Agents, media officers and police personnel.

These initiatives reaffirm the Election Commission of India's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the purity of the vote, empowering every elector, and strengthening the foundations of the world's largest democracy.

12. Highlights of Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections 2025

The Bihar Assembly Elections of 2025 stand as a testament to the Election Commission of India's commitment to participation, transparency and trust, setting new benchmarks in voter turnout, electoral roll purity and technological innovation. Some notable achievements include:

- (i) Highest-ever voter turnout in Bihar since 1951, with an overall polling percentage of 67.13%, reflecting enhanced voter participation and trust in the electoral process.
- (ii) Record female voter participation, with women registering a polling percentage of 71.78%, the highest in the state's electoral history, marking a major milestone in inclusive democratic participation.
- (iii) Zero appeals against wrongful inclusion or exclusion of electors after the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls across all 38 districts, indicating exceptional accuracy and credibility of the voter rolls.
- (iv) Zero re-poll requests from any of the 2,616 candidates or any of the 12 recognized political parties, demonstrating smooth, peaceful and well-managed polling.
- (v) Robust and transparent counting process, conducted by 243 Returning Officers in the presence of 243 Counting Observers and over 31,000 counting agents, ensuring stakeholder confidence in election outcomes.
- (vi) First-time publication of comprehensive Election Index Cards within 72 hours of result declaration, enabled by the ECINET platform—significantly reducing timelines that earlier ran into weeks or months.
- (vii) Mandatory VVPAT verification in 1,215 polling stations (five per Assembly Constituency), with no discrepancies found anywhere, reinforcing the integrity and credibility of EVM-based voting.

13. 17th Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025

- (i) Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, vests the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election to the office of the Vice-President of India in the Election Commission of India.

- (ii) The MHA vide its Gazette Notification S.O.3354 (E) dated July 22, 2025 notified the resignation of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.
- (iii) As per the provisions of Article 68(2) of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President occurring by reason of his/her death, resignation or removal or otherwise, shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy. The Vice-President is elected by the members of the Electoral College consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Since, all the electors are members of both Houses of Parliament, the value of vote of each Member of Parliament would be same i.e. 1(one).
- (iv) Accordingly, the Commission announced the schedule for the seventeenth Vice-Presidential Election vide its Press Note dated 1st August, 2025, fixing inter-alia September 9, 2025 as the date of poll and date of counting.
- (v) Out of a total 781 electors who were eligible to vote, 767 electors exercised their franchise on the poll-day, out of which 15 ballot papers were declared invalid. The Returning Officer of the said election, the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, after the counting of votes, declared Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan elected as the next Vice President of India on September 9, 2025.

14. India's Chairship of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the year 2026

- (i) International IDEA, established in 1995, is an inter-governmental organisation with a current membership of 35 countries and the United States and Japan as Observers. International IDEA also holds an observer status in the UN General Assembly since 2003. India is a founding member of International IDEA and has participated actively in governance processes and collaborated on electoral research, capacity building and training programmes.
- (ii) The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar assumed the Chairship of the Council of Member States of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the year 2026 on 3rd December, 2025.
- (iii) The Chairship marks a significant milestone, reflecting global recognition of the Election Commission of India as one of the world's most credible and innovative Election Management Bodies (EMBs).