

**SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR FOR NATIONAL VOTERS'**  
**DAY ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2022**

A very good morning to all of you, My dear students and friends,

25th January is the foundation day of Election Commission of India. It is on this day in the year 1950 Election Commission of India was founded. Constitution of India, under Article 324, empowers the Election Commission to conduct Elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures and to the offices of President and Vice-President.

The first National Voters' Day was observed in India in the year 2011 to generate awareness among young voters to take part in the electoral process. Celebration of National Voters' Day has great significance. As we know, the right to vote constitutes the basic democratic right of every Indian citizen who has his or her name enrolled in the voter list. It is the duty of every eligible Indian Citizen to register his or her name in the electoral roll.

The election officials need to ensure that every eligible citizen is registered in the electoral roll following statutory procedures. Registration as a voter bestows an Indian Citizen the right to vote and in turn, to elect a government of his choice. A better informed and educated voter can always choose a better candidate through the electoral process.

This year, Election Commission of India has announced the theme of National Voters' Day as "Making elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative." This theme is integrated to the existing cardinal principles of the Election Commission of India which puts emphasis on registration of every eligible citizen as a voter, conduct of elections in a free, fair and safe manner and provide assured minimum facilities to voters at the polling booths. It is important that voters get the minimum facilities of toilets, drinking water, waiting sheds, ramps, wheelchairs in every polling booth on the polling day.

I am happy that the Commission has made notable efforts to make elections inclusive, accessible and participative. In order to make the registration and other processes faster, smoother and error free, submission of applications through online mode through various digital platforms have been encouraged. I am told this time during special summary revision in Assam, more than 76 per cent of applications have been received online. This is a welcome trend.

Under the supervision and control of Election Commission of India, right from the Chief Electoral Officer to District election Officers and his team, officials from many state and central Govt. departments, Police and para-military personnel work together

during conduct of elections. Smooth and successful conduct of elections is the outcome of the coordinated actions of all these officials.

On this auspicious day, I appeal to all the officials of the electoral system to work tirelessly and sincerely to make elections inclusive, accessible and participative in truest sense. At the same time I take the opportunity to congratulate the office of the Chief Electoral Officer guided by the Election Commission of India for having conducted the recent General Elections to Assam Legislative Assembly, 2021, in a free, fair and safe manner. Conducting the elections in COVID pandemic was hugely a challenging task. The election machinery conducted the elections in a safe manner. My special appreciation to everybody associated with the conduct of elections on this occasion.

I am happy to share with you that our state Assam showing exemplary discipline and dedication under CEO Nitin Khare has bagged the Best Performing State for Election Management. My heart felt congratulations to everybody on this achievement.

Lastly, the young voters, you are the future custodian of the nation. I appeal to all of you to cast your vote ethically so that India continues to grow from strength to strength.

My best wishes to all young and future voters and also the election machinery, especially, the Election Commission of India for all its achievements and wish them the very best in all their future endeavours.

**Thank you,**

**JAI HIND !**