

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor of Assam for National Voters Day
on 25th January 2019

A very good morning to all of you,

My dear students and Friends,

The National Voters' Day, celebrated on the 25th of January every year to mark a distinguished moment in our democracy, wherein we officially take the initiative to accept the tradition of universal adult suffrage as an essential ingredient of modern democracy.

The National Voters' Day, thus is an occasion for us to celebrate the stride we have made as the world's largest democracy; it is also an opportunity to take stock of our shortfalls and shortcomings and how we seek to resolve them in the future.

India is the largest Participatory Democracy of the world, with about 850 million registered voters. Election Commission of India which is a constitutional body has been given the right of superintendence, direction and control of Elections to the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies.

Election Commission of India was established on 25th January, 1950 and therefore, 25th January is celebrated as "National Voters Day" every year starting from 2011. We celebrate this Day to make the voters aware of their duties towards voting. The Election Commission of India has also been constantly endeavoring for conducting free and credible elections in India.

India is the largest democracy of the world and conducting election in a free and fair manner is a big challenge. On the other hand, for a vibrant democracy, participation of all electors in the election process is very much necessary.

The aspiration of the people is properly reflected only when all voters participated in the Electoral process. Therefore, Election Commission of India has started “Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation” throughout the country so that all electors can become aware about electoral democracy of the country.

I have been told that the theme for the National Voters' Day, 2019 is “**No Voter to be Left Behind**”. so on this occasion may I have the pleasure to appeal to everybody to come out and cast your vote to choose a more representative government. The aim of the National Voters' Day is to maximize enrollment and building awareness in run up to the Election. It is also proposed to run an intensive campaign appealing to the citizen to search and verify their names in the electoral rolls - to be sure that, their names find place in electoral rolls as one would be able to exercise his right to vote only if he is enrolled in the current electoral roll.

This year, another initiative has been taken by the Election Commission to facilitate “Person with Disability” to participate in the Electoral Process. Therefore, Election Department is taking extra care for enrollment of PwD Electors.

The Commission has been at the forefront of embracing, adopting and implementing the latest technological advancements in improving and fine tuning the election processes and systems. The Commission has taken the pioneering initiative of introducing Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) for recording, storing and counting of votes across the length and breadth of the Country in a transparent, credible and secure manner.

The latest addition to the Indian EVM is the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), which was introduced in 2013, as an additional measure of transparency in the EVM-based voting system. The General Election to the Lok Sabha, 2019, VVPAT is proposed to be used in all polling stations of the country and this will definitely boost the confidence of electors on the electoral process.

For last several years, Election Commission has stressed upon “Ethical Voting” and taken various measures to curb money power and other unfair means during elections.

The goal for “Ethical Voting” can be achieved only when the voters become more aware and educated on the election process. Observing National Voters’ Day throughout the country will definitely carry the message of Election Commission for a free and fair poll to strengthen our vibrant democracy.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my best wishes to all young and future voters and also election machinery. It is my sincere hope that

each and every one of us shall do our best to safeguard and preserve the spirit of our democracy.

Thank you.

JAI HIND