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PUBLIC (ELECTIONS.VII) DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 25TH JANUARY 2015

As a measure to enhance participation of citizens in the democratic electoral process, the Election commission has declared 25th January, its foundation day, as National Voters Day every year from 2011. This year, we will be celebrating the 5th National Voters' Day throughout the State. The theme of National Voters' Day, 2015 is 'Easy Registration; Easy Correction'.

National Voters' Day is going to be celebrated at State level, District Level and in all the 28850 polling station locations in the state covering the 64094 polling stations. The State level function is going to be held at Raj Bhavan under the chairmanship of His Excellency The Governor of Tamil Nadu as chief guest. He will administer the National Voters' Day Pledge, present awards for the Best Electoral Practices and give away EPI cards to newly registered voters and deliver his special address. The State Election commissioner, Dr. S.Ayyar, IAS., (Retd.) and the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.K.Ganadesikan,IAS., will offer felicitations.

On this occasion, school children, artistes sponsored by Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will stage cultural programmes highlighting this year's National Voters' Day theme 'Easy Registration; Easy Correction' and the importance of greater participation for a stronger democracy.

Similarly, at the District level functions and the Polling Station level functions, National Voters' Day Pledge will be administered and EPI cards given to newly registered voters. The Voter's Pledge will also be administered at Government offices, schools and colleges on 23.01.2015 at 11.00 A.M. Similarly, Oath would be taken in all Grama Sabha meetings scheduled to be held on 26.01.2015. A float depicting the theme of the fifth National Voters' Day would also form part of Republic Day Parade at Chennai. The Districts have already been conducting various activities like rallies, mini marathons, debates, human chains, street plays, hot air balloons, online quiz programmes etc., as a build-up to National Voters' Day, 2015.

The programmes conducted during National Voters' Day would maximise voter participation in the electoral process by enrolment and voting with the conscience without getting tempted by any illegal inducements offered. We have taken on board, Government Departments with field level functionaries to spread these twin messages. The above exercise will inculcate in new voters a commitment to democratic electoral process leading to stronger democracy. Civil society organisations, NGOs, Media, women and youth organisations are requested to extend all support to the NVD celebrations and take up the message of the importance of enrolment and Ethical Voting to all Electors.

The Live webcasting of state level function of National Voters' Day at Raj Bhavan, Chennai can be viewed in the website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu i.e <u>www.elections.tn.gov.in</u> on 25.01.2015, 10.55 A.M onwards.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER TAMIL NADU

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