ELECTION EDUCATION CENTRE-CUM-MUSEUM

First Year

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Old St. Stephen's College Building, Kashmir Gate, New Delhi, Delhi 110006
National Awards for 2016
Election Commission of India presents
Special Award for Innovative Measure
by
Chandra Bhushan Kumar
CEO, CEO
for the setting up of the Digital Literacy and Awareness centres (DLICs) in the country which is reaching high footfall by student and voters and providing information to enhance awareness and voter education

New Delhi
25th January 2017
National Voters' Day

ELECTION EDUCATION CENTRE-CUM-MUSEUM

First Year

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi
Foreword

In its 67 years of existence, the Election Commission of India has acquired formidable reputation world over. In this journey the Commission has evolved as a truly professional body. In the diverse landscape of our country, it has successfully embedded the values and the ethos of electoral democracy, which has helped in making ‘elections’ as decisive and acceptable factor in the transfer of political power at various levels of governance.

On October 18, 2016, the Commission inaugurated country’s first Election Museum, housed in the premises of CEO Delhi. Showcasing the evolution of one of the most visible and trusted symbol of modern India, this museum has witnessed regular visits by young generation to know and to interpret our rich cultural heritage. I am happy to note that the CEO Delhi is bringing out a photo-book as part of one year of this Museum. I am sure that the museum will continue to encourage the youth to feel proud about our electoral process.

A.K. Joti
We attach no weight to the objections based on the prevailing illiteracy of the masses and their lack of political experience. The proportion of literacy being very small the same objections will apply to the great majority of voters howsoever much the franchise may be restricted. There is no reason or justice in undertaking the political education of a person earning a little less. Political experience can only be acquired by an active participation in political institutions and does not entirely depend upon literacy. There should be equal opportunities available to all to acquire this experience. The most advanced countries in the world did not wait to achieve a hundred percent literacy before introducing adult suffrage. Why should India?

( Nehru report, 1928 )
We have provided for adult suffrage by which the legislature assemblies in the provinces and the House of the People in the Centre will be elected. It is a very big step that we have taken. It is big not only because our present electorate is a very much smaller electorate and based very largely on property qualification, but it is also big because it involves tremendous numbers. Our population now is something like 320 millions if not more and we have found from experience gained during the enrolment of voters that has been going on in the provinces that 50 per cent roughly representing the adult population. And on that basis we shall have not less than 160 million voters on our rolls. The work of organising election by such vast numbers is of tremendous magnitude and there is no other country where election on such a large scale has ever yet been held.

(Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, Constituent Assembly, 26 November 1949)
Indian elections seem to have acquired cult status. However its shaping, evolution and history are almost sketchy and hazy for our young generation. Instilling a sense of belongingness, a part of shared heritage, and taking pride in the achievements of Indian elections are integral to the process of embedding of electoral democracy in modern India. This led to the conceptualization of creating an electrionscape showcasing the fascinating journey of the 'Greatest Experiment on Earth'.

In the past, there had been successful exhibitions on various aspects of elections during occasions or election-time. A departure was made to carve out a permanent space in the premises of Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi and to curate it through images, artifacts, narratives, videos etc. Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Ltd. (DYTDC) renovated the physical space. Gandhi Museum team pitched in with the connection between Gandhi and elections as the premises is also part of core Gandhi heritage buildings.

In last one year, this humble beginning has witnessed the presence of close to ten thousand young minds. We feel happy that the schools, and the students have liked the concept of a museum dedicated to elections. During this period, the Election Commission has not only guided it but also encouraged us to broaden the ambit and to make it more participative. This year, Hon'ble President recognized this effort by awarding this museum in special innovation category on the National Voters' Day. This museum is a work in progress and our office is fully conscious of responsibilities of integrating it with the young generation. I, on behalf of this office, assure the visitors to make it more interactive and interesting to leave an indelible mark in their minds!

Chairperson
Chandra Bhushan Kumar
Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Reference:
Conceptualizing

Chorological evolution of Indian election is familiar to the readers of modern India. Based on this premise, this museum was conceptualized. Election Commission of India is a great place for excellent record management. Since beginning, it has mandated to document each and every election in the country. Its narrative reports are goldmines for the researchers and the policy practitioners. In the digital era, all such reports documents, case records are available on the website of the Commission in public domain. Access and retrieval of these info have been quite helpful in putting up this museum.

Another great place to unearth our electoral legacy is ‘photo division’, Ministry of I & B, Govt. of India. Its digitization scheme has helped in accessing the images concerning election since beginning. These images occupies bulk of the space as these create connect with the viewers immediately. Film division is another location to find the documentaries, visuals on Indian elections. All India Radio is another place which has kept the radio speeches of election commission.

In Delhi Archive, one can locate good number of literature, instructions, Maps on Indian elections.

Our own district offices are great source of records of past elections in recent times, the Commission has organised number of exhibitions, mahotsva those helped in putting up this museum for Gandhi Gallery, National Gandhi Museum provided the material concerning Gandhi and his views on Democracy.
It was great experience to visit first of its kind Election Education Centre-cum-museum. This museum is very educative, informative. I am involved with elections studies for the last many many years; my M Phil, Ph.D project with Centre for Policy Research Book on elections with Mr. L.P. Singh and finally my book. Still working......

A must visit for school/college children, teachers and also for all citizens of our country to know our electoral system.

At a time when political parties do not think twice before raising fingers at the ECI, the museum serves as a timely reminder of services rendered by this great institution. Thankful to Delhi CEO for this tour.

Abhishek Garg
22.08.2017

Doctor (Mrs.) Arjana Kaur Bhagat
30.06.2017

My best wishes to all involved with the work related to this museum. I think this is the beginning and future officers should add to it making it a masterpiece. Again my Best wishes....

Dr. (Mrs.) Arjana Kaur Bhagat
30.06.2017

Excellent job done! Very impressed with the overall efforts. Keep it up!

Anil Raut
31.08.2017

Preservation and conservation of rich heritage (wisdom as well as building) reflect in the efforts made by CEO Dr. Chandra Bhushan – which gives immense pleasure and pride to visit this place. With many more laurels and awards.

Mukesh Kumar Mehtam
19.07.2017

It was a sheer delight to visit this one of its kind of a museum on the election process of this vast and vibrant democracy. The layout is very meticulous, information very well researched and display very attractive. This is a great initiative worthy of emulation in other parts of the country. For this spectacular fact I would like to congratulate Sh. CB Kumar and his team. Very impressing innovative.

Arshita Mishra
11.09.2017

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER, INDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SH. SUKUMAR SEN</td>
<td>21st March,</td>
<td>19th December,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SH. KVK SUNDARAM</td>
<td>20th December,</td>
<td>30th September,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SH. SP SEN VERMA</td>
<td>01st October,</td>
<td>30th September,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DR. NAGENDRA SINGH</td>
<td>01st October,</td>
<td>06th February,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SH. T.SWAMINATHAN</td>
<td>07th February, 1973</td>
<td>17th June, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SH. S.L. SHANDHR</td>
<td>16th June, 1977</td>
<td>17th June, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SH. RK TRIVEDI</td>
<td>16th June, 1982</td>
<td>31st December, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>RVS PERI SASTRI</td>
<td>01st January, 1986</td>
<td>25th November, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SMT. VS RAMADEVI</td>
<td>26th November, 1990</td>
<td>11th December, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SH. TN SESNAN</td>
<td>12th December, 1990</td>
<td>19th December, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>DR. MS GILL</td>
<td>12th December, 1996</td>
<td>13th June, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SH. J.M. LYNDOOH</td>
<td>14th June, 2001</td>
<td>07th February, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SH. T.S. KRISHNA MURTHY</td>
<td>06th February, 2004</td>
<td>15th May, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SH. B.B. TANDON</td>
<td>10th May, 2006</td>
<td>25th June, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SH. N. GOPALAKRISHNAN</td>
<td>30th June, 2006</td>
<td>20th April, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SH. NAVIN B. CHAVDA</td>
<td>21st April, 2009</td>
<td>29th July, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>DR. S.Y. QURAISHI</td>
<td>30th July, 2010</td>
<td>19th June, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SH. V.S. SAMPATH</td>
<td>11th June, 2012</td>
<td>15th January, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SH. H.S. BRAHMA</td>
<td>16th January, 2015</td>
<td>18th April, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Dr. NASIAM ZAI</td>
<td>19th April, 2015</td>
<td>05th July, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SH. ACHAL KUMAR JOTI</td>
<td>06th July, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Built in 1890, the Old St. Stephen’s College Building in Delhi would have witnessed the events leading to 1947 from its close quarters as Mahatma Gandhi frequented this place since 1915. In post – Independence, this Building provided space to number of Institutes and Departments. Election department found its space in 1980s and by 1990s, when Delhi got its first independent Chief Electoral Officer, as per statute, it became an exclusive space of Elections.

During Election time, it became focal point of electoral planning, management and monitoring for the capital city of the country. And in non-election period, it saw the unfolding of background efforts which help in the smooth conduct of election. In 2015-16, the idea of election museum was conceived here to showcase the election journey which the country has proudly travelled to the young generation.

And on 18 October 2016 (Wednesday), the first floor of the main portion of the premise was opened up by the Chief Election Commissioner flanked by both the Election Commissioners as Country’s first exclusive museum on elections.
Total recall at election museum

New Delhi: In the first general elections held in 1951, Indians of women were unable to vote since they refused to register as voters under their own names. Most of these cases were reported from Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan where women insisted on registering as somebody’s wife or daughter.

This, and several such nuggets of information are available at the newly inaugurated election museum at the office of the chief electoral officer at Kashmiri Gate. “When this came to the attention of the first chief election commissioner of India, Subramanien, he gave a month’s extension to register for the electoral roll, insisting that a vote belonged to an individual and each citizen had to register with their proper identity”, said Chaitali Bhushan Ray, chief electoral officer of Delhi.

Openings with about 200 exhibits, about 100 of which are photographs dating to as far back as the 1960s and 1970s, the museum or “A Journey through Elections” was inaugurated by chief election commissioner Nasim Zaidi. On display were old ballot boxes, bottles of indelible ink, election returns from various decades, maps, and a segment on pre-independence election material, like an electoral roll of 1935 written in Urdu, put up by Delhi archives. There is also a section on Gandhi’s idea of democracy, curated by the National Gandhi Museum.

“This museum has been set up with help and guidance of the election commission, Delhi archives, ministry of information and broadcasting, and the National Gandhi Museum. The ministry helped us with more than 400 rare photographs chronicling elections over the decades. We will also show a film, The Great Experiment, on the 1952 election. Simultaneously, there are some very interesting stories, starting with how some people wanted to vote for the chief election commissioner Subramanien Sen to how once a tiger entered the voting centre,” said Ray.

A website dedicated to the museum will also be made functional soon through which people will be able to book tickets. The museum will be open from 10 am to 7 pm on weekdays.

Source: Times of India
(19.10.2016)
THE CHANGING MAP OF DEMOCRACY

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN 1900-1950

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN 1975

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN 2000

Source: Historical data for these maps is taken from Polity IV Project dataset of University of Maryland. This dataset defines democracy as existence of choices about policies and leaders, checks on executive power and guarantee of civil liberties. Here we have used positive ‘Polity’ scores as indicating the existence of democracy. In some cases the scores of dataset have been modified. For details see http://www.cidcm.umd.edu
A CURIOUS CASE OF EMANCIPATION: WOMEN ON THE VOTER LIST

It came to the notice of the Election Commission during preparation of the electoral rolls that a large number of women voters had been enrolled in some States not by their own names but by the description of the relationship they bore to their male relatives (e.g., A's mother, B's wife etc.). The reason for this was that according to local custom, women in these areas were averse to disclosing their proper names to strangers. As soon as the matter came to the notice of the Election Commission, instructions were issued that the name of an elector being an essential part of his or her identity, must be included in the electoral rolls and that no elector should be enrolled unless sufficient particulars, including the name, were given. The Electoral Registration Officers were, therefore, instructed to substitute the women voters' proper names for their description in such cases. Directions were also issued to the effect that any woman who refused to give her proper name should not be registered as a voter and if she had already been registered without the name, the entry should be deleted. The Electoral Registration Officers were also instructed to avail of the provisions of the law, wherever possible, for taking the initiative themselves and making application for the substitution of the proper names of women voters if they had been enrolled by description only. The voters were also requested by public appeals to give the necessary particulars to the Electoral Registration Officers. A special extension of one month was given in Bihar for filing such applications so that the number of women voters whose names were liable to be struck off the rolls for this reason might be reduced. This extension was made good use of and the rolls were considerably improved in that State. Although such an extension was given in Rajasthan as well, the response there was poor and a large number of entries relating to women voters had to be deleted for this defect.

The unfortunate result of all this was that many women voters had their names struck off and could not vote at the general elections as their names were not on the electoral rolls. Out of a total of nearly 80 million women voters in the country, nearly 2-3 million eventually failed to disclose their proper names, and the entries relating to them had to be deleted from the rolls. Practically all such cases were from the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Vindhy Pradesh. The general elections have demonstrated the value of the vote and it is expected that the women voters and the women's organisations will co-operate more effectively with the Registration Officers and that no difficulty in the enumeration of women voters will be experienced in future. Recent reports indicate that no difficulty is being experienced in any State in enrolling women voters by their proper names.

(Ref: Report on the first General Election, 1951-52)
Literally means the act or processes of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.

In accordance with Article 82 of the Indian Constitution, four Delimitation Commissions -1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002 have been constituted till date.
BALLOT BOXES in 1951-52 Elections

Although 12 different designs of steel boxes had been approved by the Commission, in actual practice only 5 of them were selected by State Governments for use, apart from the wooden boxes that had to be brought into use in Madras to make good the shortage there. Ballot boxes of the following designs were used at the general elections in the quantities mentioned against each:

   - Quantity: 12, 84,369

2. Design of M/s. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad
   - Quantity: 3, 80,507

3. Design of M/s. Bungo Steel Furniture Ltd., Calcutta
   - Quantity: 2, 52,124

4. Design of M/s. Oriental Metal Pressing Works, Bombay
   - Quantity: 65,000

5. Design of Uttar Pradesh Government (also adopted by Madhya Pradesh)
   - Quantity: 4,91,850

6. Wooden boxes (in Madras only)
   - Quantity: 1, 11,095

**GRAND TOTAL**
- **25,84,945**

- A total of 180 tons of paper was used for six hundred million ballot papers, the cost amounting to Rs. 10, 77,401-13-0.
- A total of 3, 89,816 phials of indelible ink were supplied to the States at a cost of Rs. 2, 27,460
देश के पहले पुणाय संग्रहालय का दीदार 24 से

इस दिन हुई चुनाव संग्रहालय का दीदार 24 से।

संग्रहालय के प्रथम चुनाव में राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपने नाम का किया।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के नेता ने अपनी कार्य की जीत की।

संग्रहालय का नवाय अमीन ने अपनी सारी चुनाव की जीत की।
(Sahar-e-Emerence Cenotaph)

"दरअस्ल हमें नहीं जाना है कि हमले को लेकर किस दिन हमें खुद को लेकर जाना होगा।"

"सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लिए आज तक के लिए सभी के लि
SAINT MARKS GIRLS SR. SEC. SCHOOL, PASCHIM VIHAR (27.01.2017)

GREEN FIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL, SAFDARJUNG (02.12.2016)

NCC Students in Gandhi Gallery Section
How can you vote?

3 easy steps:
1. Check
   Check if you are eligible to vote. You must be 18 or older, a citizen of India, and a resident of a constituency.

2. Register
   Register yourself online at www.nvsp.in or visit your nearest election commission office and fill out an application in person.

3. Vote
   Show up at the assigned polling booth in your area. Make sure to carry an identification proof with you. Finally, cast your vote!

Election Education Centre-Cum-Museum

The Museum is located inside the office of the Chief Electoral Office Delhi, Old St. Stephen's College Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

It's approx 500 meters from the Kashmere Gate metro station, and approx 2 km from Red fort.

It presents a remarkable journey of Indian elections which have influenced the countries world over to preserve and cherish the values of electoral management.

With an aura of the past, and a rather brief insight into the history of our country's electoral legacy, this election education centre-cum-museum is a paradise for the ones who need to reminisce with what India went through, our arduous political struggle.

How important it is for an Indian citizen to VOTE?

Elections are important for the citizens of India because it is 1. A chance given to him/her to decide the governing authorities be it at any level.
   2. A golden opportunity to exercise their constitutional right and participate in a democratic exercise.

Who can vote in an election?
A person is eligible to vote if s/he is
1. A citizen of India and
2. Has completed 18 years of age as on 1st January, 2014 and
3. Has registered as a voter in the current electoral roll of the constituency where s/he ordinarily resides.

Why should I vote?
1. Your chance to decide your future & that of your fellow citizens
2. Gives you the ultimate power to shape the destiny of your country.

Our future voters speak-

"The government I'd like to vote for should open new career options for the young generation"

"The government I'd like to vote for should have a benevolent leader to lead the country upfront. I would look for a government which believes in doing..."

"The government I'd like to vote for should have a benevolent leader to lead the country upfront. I would look for a government which believes in doing..."

Encourage schools to discuss issues and vote on it in the class.
Perform and outreach in as many ways as possible: phone, mails, newspapers etc.
Use social media to reach young people. Reach the young via their interests, promoting online registration and organise mock elections at their universities.

Go face-to-face, convey your own enthusiasm for the candidates, the issues and how much you’d like to see that person vote.
Rajasthan was selected for the first polling rehearsal which was held at Udaipur on the 5th August, 1951. All the District Electoral Officers of Rajasthan, and the Election Officers of the Ajmer State, attended this rehearsal. The Chief Election Commissioner personally supervised the arrangements and all the legal formalities were gone through during the demonstration of the polling procedure. The rehearsal succeeded in its main objectives, namely, creating public interest in the elections and, at the same time, giving practical experience to the election officers in their future task. The rehearsal attracted country-wide attention and was followed by a series of similar rehearsals in Rajasthan and in every other State.

(Rehearsals or “mock” elections in 1951)
ELECTIONS IN THE NCT OF DELHI: SNIPPPETS

Lok Sabha - 1962
Date of Poll : 24/02/1962
Size of Electorate
No. of Electors: 1345360
Number of Constituencies
Gen SC ST Total
04 01 01 05
Voter Turnout
No. of Valid Votes: 954885
Polling Percentage: 68.70%

Lok Sabha - 1967
Date of Poll : 15/02/1967
Size of Electorate
No. of Electors: 1684714
Number of Constituencies
Gen SC ST Total
06 01 01 07
Voter Turnout
No. of Valid Votes: 1170743
Polling Percentage: 69.49%

1960s Elections

General Election - 1962 - Poll Day

Election Museum to celebrate Indian democracy

A. M. Rehman

The Election Museum aims to inform the younger generations about India’s democratic journey. The museum has over 200 exhibits, including photographs, documents, and artefacts that reflect the history of elections in India. It provides insights into the evolution of the electoral process and highlights the significance of voter turnout. The museum is designed to engage visitors through interactive exhibits and multimedia presentations, ensuring that the story of India’s democratic past is not only preserved but also celebrated. Visitors can explore the rich history of elections and gain a deeper understanding of the role that democracy plays in shaping the nation.

Chief election commissioner Vineet Kumar? displayed the Election Museum at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi.

Chief election commissioner Vineet Kumar? displayed the Election Museum at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi.

Chief election commissioner Vineet Kumar? displayed the Election Museum at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi.

Chief election commissioner Vineet Kumar? displayed the Election Museum at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi.

Chief election commissioner Vineet Kumar? displayed the Election Museum at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi.
Unfolding Indian Elections

The Election of President and Vice-President

The elections to two highest constitutional offices of the Indian Union viz. The President and the Vice-President are conducted on the basis of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. Both elections are held by secret ballot. Untouched by the technological innovation of the EVMs, they are still conducted by the Election Commission in the old fashion of casting paper ballot. The Constitution of Indian describes the manner of Election of President in Article 55, and of the Election of Vice President in Article 66 (1).

The President is elected by members of Electoral College consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi and union territory of Puducherry.

Every elected member of the legislative assembly of the state has as many votes (vote value) as there are multiple of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of the elected members of that Assembly. The population of state is defined as contained in Census, 1971. This system is mandated to continue till 2026. Each elected member of either House of Parliament has such number of votes as is obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Sate by the total number of elected members of both Houses of Parliament. Fractions exceeding half are counted as one and lesser fractions disregarded for the vote value.

The Vice-President is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members (both elected and nominated) of both Houses of Parliament.
Designs of ballot papers used in the General Elections, 1967

DESIGN OF BALLOT PAPERS USED AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1951-52

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NEW DESIGN OF BALLOT PAPERS (INTRODUCED IN 1955)

The letters ‘AS’ were used for Assam and the letters ‘BR’ for Bihar ballot papers. Similar suitable distinguishing letters were used for ballot papers of other States.
### ELECTIONS IN THE NCT OF DELHI: SNIPPETS

#### Lok Sabha - 1971
- **Date of Poll:** 03/05/1971
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1089736
  - Women: 926660
  - Total: 2016396
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 06
  - SC: 01
  - ST: 00
- **Voter Turnout:**
  - Total: 1334860
  - Poling Percentage: 65.31%

#### Lok Sabha - 1977
- **Date of Poll:** 16/03/1977
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1441842
  - Women: 1105223
  - Total: 2547064
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 06
  - SC: 03
  - ST: 00
- **Voter Turnout:**
  - Total: 1616372
  - Poling Percentage: 71.31%

### Metropolitan Council - 1972
- **Date of Poll:** 11/03/1972
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1171506
  - Women: 896841
  - Total: 2068347
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 49
  - SC: 07
  - ST: 00
- **Voter Turnout:**
  - Total: 808991
  - Poling Percentage: 68.62%

### Metropolitan Council - 1977
- **Date of Poll:** 06/10/1977
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1568472
  - Women: 1171971
  - Total: 2740443
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 49
  - SC: 07
  - ST: 00
- **Voter Turnout:**
  - Total: 876235
  - Poling Percentage: 65.88%
Hope you enjoyed walking through the fascinating journey of our elections. Request is to recap through these ten points which you would have noticed in the centre.

1. When did Gandhiji raise his views on voter list first time in South Africa?
2. When was the Election Commission of India constituted?
3. Which organization developed the indelible ink?
4. What was the age for entry in the voter list in 1980?
5. What does VVPAT stand for?
6. Who was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India?
7. What does NOTA stand for?
8. What is the method of voting for President of India?
9. How many Lok Sabha constituencies India has at present?
### ELECTIONS IN THE NCT OF DELHI: SNIPPETS

#### Lok Sabha - 1980
- **Date of Poll:** 03/01/1980
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1679203
  - Women: 1390433
  - Total: 3069636
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 06
  - SC: 01
  - ST: 01
  - Total: 08
- **Voter Turnout:** No. of Valid Votes: 2454856
- **Polling Percentage:** 64.89%

#### Lok Sabha - 1984
- **Date of Poll:** 24/12/1984
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 1934599
  - Women: 1562182
  - Total: 3496781
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 06
  - SC: 01
  - ST: 01
  - Total: 08
- **Voter Turnout:** No. of Valid Votes: 2254869
- **Polling Percentage:** 64.48%

#### Lok Sabha - 1989
- **Date of Poll:** 22/11/1989
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 3155142
  - Women: 2549370
  - Total: 5704512
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 06
  - SC: 01
  - ST: 01
  - Total: 08
- **Voter Turnout:** No. of Valid Votes: 3096656
- **Polling Percentage:** 54.30%

### Metropolitan Council - 1983
- **Date of Poll:** 02/05/1983
- **Size of Electorate:**
  - Men: 2089238
  - Women: 1623267
  - Total: 3712505
- **Number of Constituencies:**
  - Gen: 09
  - SC: 01
  - ST: 01
  - Total: 11
- **Voter Turnout:**
  - Men: 1156278
  - Women: 896208
  - Total: 2052486
  - 55.34%
  - 55.21%
  - 55.29%
Leaders Woo the Common man

Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy

(Prepared in 2012)
Indelible Ink

Have you noticed a mark of voting on the left forefinger during the election day? This is indelible ink, cannot be removed easily. Its objective is to stop bogus voting by the same voter.

This indelible ink is indigenously developed by CSIR in 1951. Since 1962 Mysore paints & Varnish Ltd is manufacturing this ink for the Election Commission.

Do you know that more then 25 Countries in the world in using this indelible ink for elections?

INDELIBLE INK

The special provision made in rule 22 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1951, for preventing personation of electors, requires that the voter shall, before receiving his ballot paper, allow inspection of his left forefinger to the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer. If his finger bears no mark of indelible ink, then only a ballot paper will be issued to the voter, but the finger would first be marked with indelible ink. The indelible ink for marking voters' fingers was manufactured at the request of the Commission by the Indian Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. It has to be applied on the finger with a small glass rod. The mark made with this ink lasts for one week or more. A few complaints were received that the mark could be rubbed away or that it disappears when treated with some chemical or other. All such complaints were carefully investigated and were found to be unjustified. The Commission was satisfied that in all such cases the voters' fingers had not been properly marked. When the ink is properly applied to the finger according to the directions, the mark is indelible for a week or more and serves the purpose for which it is intended.
Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy

An incredible collection of memorable moments of Indian history and proud developments in elections put together in an extremely professional manner! The pictures displayed demonstrate meticulous planning! So well done... proud to be Indian!

Professor Sangreeta Khorana
10.02.2017

Really wonderfully executed concept. It has amplified the grandeur of the heritage building. Amazed to see the creativity that has been brought in. Kudos to Mr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS and his team.

Notembra Tnipuzejma
13.02.2017

Great historical memories of this momentous developments in this great nation Indian.

Feedback

After joining as SEC, Delhi, I have visited office of Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi to meet Mr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar. It was pleasure to visit this historical 1890 old building. This place was visited by Mahatama Gandhi and he stayed here for many days. It is very imaginative of CEO to renovate this building, set up magnificent 'Electron Museum' and retain a gallery to remember Mahatama Gandhi. I am told school children regularly visit the museum and know about our rich election machinery, ECI, and why to vote to elect the people’s representative. Kudos to CEO, Mr. Kumar and his staff. Best regards.

S.K. Srivastava
19.01.2017

Having been a part of the election machinery it was a proud moment to see all the heritage memorabilia so carefully selected and preserved. Wish team CEO, Delhi all the best.

Juhi Mukherjee
21.11.2016

This is an amazing display. Learnt a lot about our democracy.

Professor Dr. PSN Rao
22.11.2016

Mipni Saurkar chak chak sawk siam turin migube i tel theuh ang u
I will just mention to you some facts in this connection. The legislative assemblies in the provinces, it is roughly calculated, will have more than 3,800 members who will have to be elected in as many constituencies or perhaps a few less. Then there will be something like 500 members for the House of the People and about 220 Members for the Council of States. We shall thus have to provide for the election of more than 4,500 members and the country will have to be divided into something like 4,000 constituencies or so. I was the other day, as a matter of amusement, calculating what our electoral roll will look like. If you print 40 names on a page of foolscap size, we shall require something like 20 lakhs of sheets of foolscap size to print all the names of the voters, and if you combine the whole thing in one volume, the thickness of the volume will be something like 200 yards. That alone gives us some idea of the vastness of the task and the work involved in finalising the rolls, delimiting Constituencies, fixing polling stations and making other arrangements which will have to be done between now and the winter of 1950-51 when it is hoped the elections may be held.

( Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, Constituent Assembly, 26 November 1949 )
CEO, Delhi having conversation with IAS Probationers in the Museum

MOUNT ABU PUBLIC SCHOOL (24.01.2017)

KILKARI RAINBOW HOME FOR GIRLS (05.09.2017)
In order to ensure the setting up of polling stations on proper lines, the following rough lay-out plan was suggested to all Returning Officers:

The plan was substantially adopted at all polling stations. In out of the way places, polling stations had sometimes to be improvised to meet merely the barest minimum requirements. For instance, in some of the desert areas of Rajasthan, open-air polling stations were set up and small huts or tents were erected only to serve as secret voting compartments. The ballot boxes were placed in such huts or tents and the voters went into
Election Material

- Ballot papers used in General Elections, 1951 - 1962 and new design introduced in 1963
- Different ballot boxes used in First General Election - 1951 - 1962
- Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)
- EVM Testing: Mock testing of EVMs, counting, paper trail, tallying materials and ballot papers

Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy

(Prepared in 2012)
SYMBOLS

Political Parties are integral to the electoral process. Since first general elections, India has witnessed multi-party electoral contests. In a vast and diverse country like India, Symbols play a significant role to communicate or to reach out to voters.

In the first election itself, the Election Commission devised a system of symbol allocation which included fixed symbols for the national level parties and a bouquet of flexible symbols.

The Election Commission allocated symbols to 14 national parties (which was decided in consultation with the political parties) for the first elections which may be seen at p.89.

Now, the recognition of status of a political party depends on the percentage of vote polled and/or number of seats
I can not possibly bear the idea that a man who has got wealth should have the vote, but that a man who has got character, but no wealth and or literacy, should have no vote: or that a man who works honestly by the sweet sweat of his brow day in and day out should not have the vote for the crime of being a poor man. I would far rather forgo the right of voting myself than that this untouchable brother should not have the vote. I am not enamoured of the doctrine of literacy that a voter must at least have a knowledge of the three R’s I want for my people a knowledge of the three R’s but I know also that, If I have to wait until they have got a knowledge of the three R’s before they can be qualified for voting, I shall have to wait until the Greek Kalends, and I am not prepared to wait all that time. I know millions of these men are quite capable of voting.

(Mahatma Gandhi, Speech at Federal Structure Committee, London, 17 September 1931.)
### Lok Sabha - 1991
- **Date of Poll:** 24/05/1991
- **Size of electorate:** Men: 39,000; Women: 34,000; Total: 73,000
- **No. of valid votes:** 56,432; **Polling percentage:** 50.03%

### Lok Sabha - 1996
- **Date of Poll:** 15/05/1996
- **Size of electorate:** Men: 45,000; Women: 38,000; Total: 83,000
- **No. of valid votes:** 64,879; **Polling percentage:** 77.82%

### Assembly - 1993
- **Date of Poll:** 15/05/1993
- **Size of electorate:** Men: 32,495; Women: 26,992; Total: 59,487
- **No. of valid votes:** 47,933; **Polling percentage:** 80.28%

### Assembly - 1998
- **Date of Poll:** 22/11/1998
- **Size of electorate:** Men: 49,119; Women: 41,692; Total: 90,811
- **No. of valid votes:** 82,694; **Polling percentage:** 89.93%

---

### A Visit to Election Museum

Elections are the foundation stone of a democratic country like India. The electoral process is a key component of a healthy democracy. The Election Commission of India oversees the entire electoral process. It is an independent body responsible for conducting elections and ensuring free and fair elections. The museum aims to educate visitors about the history and significance of elections in India.

The museum is located in New Delhi and is open to the public. It contains various exhibits and displays that showcase the history of elections in India, from the British era to the present day. The exhibits include photographs, artifacts, and interactive displays that provide insights into the electoral process.

Visitors can learn about the different stages of election campaigns, such as nomination, polling, and counting. They can also see models of polling booths and election symbols. The museum aims to inspire a sense of patriotism and civic duty among visitors.

After your visit, you may want to explore the other attractions of New Delhi, such as the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the India Gate, and the National Museum. New Delhi is a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage, and there is always something new to discover.

---

Vijay K. Singh

*Visiting Curator*

National Museum

*National Museum*

[Image: A Visit to Election Museum]

---

The text mentions that elections are the foundation stone of a democratic country like India and describes the role of the Election Commission of India. It also highlights the importance of the museum in educating visitors about the electoral process. The text concludes by suggesting other attractions in New Delhi to visit after the museum visit.
Feedback

A wonderful journey into the life and times of the election process in India. Impressive collection of photographs and documentation. An excellent initiative by the CEO of Delhi and a great illustration of the vision and dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. Jai Hind!

Mr. Irfan Abdullah Rahmat 06.03.2017

An awesome journey through the wonderful world of elections – one learns so much at every step. A place all Indians should visit at least once, if not more. A great initiative, hope all election functionaries can add to it over the coming years. No amount of praise is enough for CEO, Delhi and his team to put it together!

A Anbarasu 09.03.2017

A unique journey, bringing the essence of democracy & conduct of elections under one roof. It will be a remembering experience for each one who make it to this exhibition. Kudos to CEO Chandra Bhushan Ji for this hard initiative, for generation will remember the rich legacy of election in our country.

Manisha Saxena 09.03.1017

This museum is designed very nicely and an inspiring space for the kids. I will look forward to bring more students from school to work around.

Bipasha Banerjee 29.03.2017

Thanks for excellent brief history excursion about democratic tradition elections in India.

Nikolay Levitchev 13.02.2017

Congratulations to Team CEO, Delhi for conceptualising and then showcasing such a beautiful museum, first of its kind in India. Best of Luck.

Devsh Chandra Srivastava 29.03.2017

Simply Amazing. Had not the idea even the slightest that the batch mate is so talented and creative. What a wonderful collection of rare photographs and lucid flow of history throughout, since pre-independence days.

Would be a great education trip for the youngsters to know about the country’s electoral system and evolution of processes.

S.No. Name From To
2. SH. O.P. KELKAR, IAS 14th March, 1997 04th June, 1999
3. SH. PAKASH CHANDER, IAS 05th June, 1999 16th August, 2001
5. SH. ARUN GOYAL, IAS 22nd April, 2003 24th June, 2004
6. SH. AYAKH RAY, IAS 25th June, 2004 13th July, 2005
8. SMT. SATIB SILAS BEDI, IAS 25th May, 2006 09th July, 2010
11. SH. CHANDRA SHUSHAN KUMAR, IAS 26th Dec, 2014
12.
13.
14.
15.
ONLINE BOOKING FOR VISIT TO CENTRE-CUM-MUSEUM OF ELECTION

Note: Fields prefixed with * must be compulsorily filled, others are optional.

Group Type*
- Individual/Small Group(Max. 10)
- School/College/Large Group(Max. 60)

Booking Date (DD/MM/YYYY)*
(Bookings can be done maximum 3 months in advance)

Visiting Time*

No. Of Adults*

No. Of Children*

Next

ONLINE BOOKING FOR VISIT TO CENTRE-CUM-MUSEUM OF ELECTION

NAME OF GROUP LEADER/COORDINATE*

ID TYPE*
- Voter ID/Card

ID NUMBER*

DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)

MOBILE NO*

NATIONALITY*
- Indian, Others

ADDRESS*

STATE*
- Delhi

DISTRICT*
- SELECT———

EMAIL ID*

ACCOMPANIED PERSON DETAIL

S.No.
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

ACCOMPANIED PERSON'S NAME

MOBILE NO.

ENTER THE CODE*

BOOK NOW  Cancel
Delegates from Bangladesh, Russia, Egypt etc. in the Museum

Afghanistan Delegation in the Museum
Delegates from Bangladesh, Russia, Egypt etc. in Gandhi Gallery Section of Museum

CEO, Delhi with Chief Election Commissioner Mauritius and his team in the Museum
Experiences at Electoral Museum

Experience is something which has deep and lasting impression on our mind and help in future endeavours. Our experience of Educational Visit- Journey of the electoral democratic process of India at Electoral Museum is one such experience. The entire museum presented a miniature Indian system of electoral process of different periods of time. It displayed the whole gamut of India's Electoral democratic process. The visit enriched our knowledge and learning. It was indeed a thrilling experience. Albert Einstein once said:

The only source of knowledge is experience.

Every experience is an opportunity to learn and grow. It is one thing you can't get for nothing. Electoral museum is one plaza for those who always flood their brain about history, democracy and electoral procedure. It is a place where we can see a collection of rare things and things of historical interest and a storehouse of all wonderful and valuable things. The journey of electoral procedure from its inception has been well portrayed whether it is journey from ballot boxes to EVM or VVPAT, before and after independence or Gandhi's contribution to democracy through rare photographs, documents, artefacts and archival film footage. Voter Pledge section was one of our favourite section and we pledged for free and fair election practice in India.

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.

It gives us an immense pleasure to think and respect Election Commission of India for their efforts for decades in evolving and strengthening Indian democracy as the world’s largest democracy. We would like to Chief Electoral Office, Delhi and their staff specially Mr. Raman for illustrating the whole museum and importance of democracy in India.

People say that they feel dull if they read too much. If, however one wants to get information without feeling bored, one ought to visit the museum. In the end, it must be said that the museum is well worth a visit. A day spent is not a day wasted, but a day utilized in the best possible way.

It's not just the fun, it's outdoor learning.

learning in informal educational settings, something different than college daily routine.

---

Marish Kumar
Mechanical & Automotive Engineering
Delhi Technological University
ELECTIONS IN THE NCT OF DELHI: SNIPPETS

Lok Sabha - 2004
Date of Poll: 10/05/2004
Size of Electorate
Men Women Total
4953925 3809550 8763475
Number of Constituencies
Gen SC ST Total
06 01 0 07
Voter Turnout
No. of Valid Votes: 4156443 Polling Percentage: 47.09%

Lok Sabha - 2009
Date of Poll: 07/05/2009
Size of Electorate
Men Women Total
6188875 4907979 11096854
Number of Constituencies
Gen SC ST Total
06 01 0 07
Voter Turnout
No. of Valid Votes: 5754385 Polling Percentage: 81.86%

Lok Sabha - 2014
Date of Poll: 10/04/2014
Size of Electorate
Men Women Others Total
7051073 5692952 839 12711164
Number of Constituencies
Gen SC ST Total
06 01 0 07
Voter Turnout
No. of Valid Votes: 5275146 Polling Percentage: 65.30%
The over-all expenditure of the elections incurred from 1948 till the completion of the elections in 1952 was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10.4 crores. Of this, approximately Rs. 5 crores represent the share of the Government of India. The total amount spent in each of the States was as follows: —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>30.55,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>1,12,14,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombay</td>
<td>1,27,79,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>39,62,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>1,98,84,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>45,85,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>39,46,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>1,70,05,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>90,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>40,82,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Bharat</td>
<td>15,89,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>24,11,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. E. P. S. U.</td>
<td>14,98,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>41,45,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saurashtra</td>
<td>12,71,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travancore-Cochin</td>
<td>22,05,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajmer</td>
<td>1,48,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhopal</td>
<td>1,46,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>35,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coorg</td>
<td>47,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>5,31,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>1,52,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutch</td>
<td>1,25,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>1,07,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>2,09,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vindhyachal Pradesh</td>
<td>4,08,636</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 10,45,47,099
The Harvest of Choices

ANANYA GHOSH, CLASS XI, AGE 16 YEARS
BIRLA VIDYA NIKETAN, PUSHP VIHAR, SECTOR IV, NEW DELHI-17
PH: 901-2095780100
DATE OF VISIT: 21-12-2016

VISIT TO DELHI ELECTION MUSEUM

In one of our political science classes, our teacher told us that we would soon be visiting the Election Museum, the first of its kind museum in India (inaugurated in 2016 by the Chief Election Commissioner), another achievement for Delhi to boast about. I was very pleasantly surprised to know that there ever existed such a museum and at the same time my thoughts ran wild with imagination at what lay ahead in that visit.

When we arrived at the museum, we learnt that it was situated inside the old St Stephens’ College building in Kashmiri Gate. On entering the museum premises, our class students were divided into two groups and a guide was assigned to each group. Inside the museum we saw India's magnificent revolutionary electoral journey (from 1951 till date) through artefacts, rare photographs, documents and archived film footage. The highly knowledgeable guide told us about the way polling was to take place in the initial era. He guided us through the museum and explained to us the transformation from ballot boxes to Electronic Voting Machines and the revolutionary digital Voter— Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). We saw ballot boxes of varying sizes and learned the reason behind the size variations.

Treading forward, some well preserved letters caught our attention. These were written at the time of the historic first Indian election. The walls of the museum had some very interesting and rarely found information on the various election commissioners of our country, along with their pictures which made the tour even more educational. The most amazing fact which the guide shared with us was that, the symbols assigned to the political parties already exist in the symbols 'Voter' guide and that each newly formed political party has to choose a symbol from the same. Once a symbol is allotted to a party, it is no longer available to others. He even showed us all the symbols that are left and would be allotted to future political parties. There was also an area ring fenced and dedicated to our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and his ideologies and principles of democracy. Throughout the tour, the highly enlightened guide explained to us both the visible and the unwritten facts around the election process and its DNA which has enabled create today’s democratic India. The guide also helped clarify all our doubts with a friendly smile.

This tour gave all of us an opportunity of a lifetime to know the rich history of our political election process and also understand the way this system has evolved over decades and how it operates. The very idea of creating an election museum is very noble. It is an excellent way of making people aware of the processes that take place before, during and after elections, every five years. The entire set up inside the museum is highly commendable. It is a great example of experiential learning. The presence of pictures and original letters along with artefacts made the entire set up come alive and created a time machine which catapulted us all into a historic journey. Rare documents drawn from Delhi Archives, records of Election Commission of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Photo Division and Films Division archives that have been displayed show the amount of efforts that have been put in by the officials of various departments of the Indian government during creation of this museum.

In summary, this tour was way above my expectations and truly an amazing hands-on learning experience, memory of which will linger in my mind for decades to come. I wish to extend my humble gratitude and thanks to all the members of this great body and would take those learning forward in my journey of education.
Some people have doubted the wisdom of adult franchise. Personally, although I look upon it as an experiment the result of which no one will be able to forecast today, I am not dismayed by it. I am a man of the village and although I have had to live in cities for a pretty long time, on account of my work, my roots are still there. I, therefore, know the village people who will constitute the bulk of this vast electorate. In my opinion, our people possess intelligence and commonsense. They also have a culture which the sophisticated people of today may not appreciate, but which is solid. They are not literate and do not possess the mechanical skill of reading and writing. But, I have no doubt in my mind that they are able to take measure of their own interest and also of the interests of the country at large if things are explained to them. In fact, in some respects, I consider them to be even more intelligent than many a worker in a factory, who loses his individuality and becomes more or less a part of the machine which he has to work. I have, therefore, no doubt in my mind that if things are explained to them, they will not only be able to pick up the technique of election, but will be able to cast their votes in an intelligent manner and I have, therefore, no misgivings about the future, on their account. I cannot say the same thing about the other people who may try to influence them by slogans and by placing before them beautiful pictures of impracticable programmes. Nevertheless, I think their sturdy common sense will enable them to see things in the right perspective. We can, therefore, reasonably hope that we shall have legislatures composed of members who shall have their feet on the ground and who will take a realistic view of things.

( Dr. Rajendra Prasad, 26 November, 1949 )
Supreme Court and Election Commission

Time and again the Apex Court has provided a solid support to the Commission through its pronouncements in achieving the ideals of electoral democracy. Some of the significant judgments are as follows:-

1. Election can be challenged through Election Petition only.
   N. P. Ponnumswami vs. the Returning officer, Namakkal Constituency (AIR1952 SC 64, 1952 SCR 218)

2. The Commission is entitled to exercise certain powers under Article 324 itself on its own rights in an area not covered by the RP Acts and the Rules. Mohinder Singh Gill & Another vs. the Chief Election Commissioner (AIR 1978 SC 851)

3. The right to be included in the electoral roll or to challenge the inclusion of any name in the roll is a statutory right conferred on an individual and not upon any political party. Laksmi Chandra Sen & Others vs. A.K.M. Hassan Uzzaman & others and Election Commission & Others vs. A.K.M. Hassan Uzzaman & others (AIR 1985 SC 12 33)

4. All candidates to file affidavits declaring education, income, assets, criminal background.
   Union of India vs. Association for Democratic Reforms and Anr (AIR 2002 55SCC 294)

5. None of the Above (NOTA) option should be provided on the EVM and ballot papers to maintain secrecy of voter deciding not to vote for any of the contesting candidates.
   People’s Union for Civil Liberties & Anr vs. Union of India & Anr. (AIR 2013 10 SCC 1)