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**"Ek Shaam Matdaan ke naam" Celebrates Democratic Participation with First-Time and Young Voters**

**Chief Electoral Officer Delhi Sh. P. Krishnamurthy Urges Youth Participation in Voter Awareness at SVEEP Mega Event**

**Delhi CEO Sh. P. Krishnamurthy Highlights Importance of Youth Vote at Voter Awareness Program**

**Highlights of the event were Sufi Singing by The Nizami Brothers, dance performances by teams of India's Got Talent**

**New Delhi, May 19, 2024**

The importance of young voters in India is crucial because of their large numbers and their ability to greatly influence democracy. As a key demographic, young people greatly influence election results, shape policy and politics, and represent the future of the country. Their involvement is critical to the electoral process, especially for first-time voters, which provides an opportunity to actively shape the future through meaningful natural communication. Shri P. Krishnamurthy, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi, highlighted the importance of youth voter participation at the SVEEP mega event "Ek Shaam Matdaan ke Naam" for voter awareness among first-time voters and young voters in the upcoming General Lok Sabha Election 2024. The event was organized at West Delhi Parliamentary Constituency on 18.05.24 at Sports Complex Shivaji College, Raja Garden, New Delhi for voter awareness among First time voters and young voters in the upcoming General Lok Sabha Election 2024.

At the outset, Returning Officer Dr. Kinny Singh, IAS welcomed Sh. P. Krishnamurthy, CEO of Delhi said that under his guidance and leadership district administration is committed to ensuring that the election process in West Delhi Parliamentary Constituency shall be completed without any hindrance.

In his address, Sh. P. Krishnamurthy, CEO, Delhi, and chief guest of the occasion, applauded the efforts being made by the district administration to create voter awareness amongst all sections of society. He highlighted the event as a celebration of democratic ethos through voter participation, particularly urging first-time voters to engage actively in the electoral process.

Shri P. Krishnamurthy addressed the concerning trend of lower voter turnout in urban areas compared to rural regions. He urged urban voters to exercise their voting rights, noting the significant discrepancy in turnout rates between rural and metropolitan areas, with Delhi's voting percentage decreasing from 65% in 2014 to 60% in 2019.

He also highlighted the remarkable achievement of registering 2.5 lakh first-time voters, reflecting a dedicated outreach effort by the Election Office to engage youth through colleges, universities, and institutions. Addressing the young voters directly, Sh. P. Krishnamurthy emphasised the crucial role of youth in shaping the country's future. He posed critical questions regarding the kind of governance and direction the youth envision for India, urging them to seek answers through active participation in the electoral process. He reiterated that voting is not only a right but a responsibility, essential for being recognised as a responsible citizen of India.

Sh. Krishnamurthy also addressed the enthusiasm of senior citizens in the electoral process, highlighting the facilities provided for their convenience. “We have provided home voting for those aged 85 and above, and for those who wish to come to the polling station, we arrange pick-and-drop services,” he said. He shared anecdotes of senior citizens, including those aged 95–100, who are eager to vote despite physical challenges.

In conclusion, Sh. P. Krishnamurthy called upon all eligible voters to participate in large numbers in the upcoming elections, emphasising that their engagement is fundamental to the democratic process and the nation's well-being.

This event organised under the aegis of SVEEP for voter awareness among First time voters and young voters. Highlights of the event was Sufi Singing by Nizami Brothers, dance performances by teams of India's Got Talent. The event was attended by campus ambassadors, social media influencers, students, and first-time voters from all regions of the West Delhi Parliamentary Constituency.

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