

PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN ELECTORAL EXERCISE STRENGTHENS DEMOCRACY: GOVERNOR.

Panaji: January 25, 2020

Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Shri Satya Pal Malik was the Chief Guest at the 10th National Voters Day celebrations held at Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji today. The function was organized by Office of the Chief Electoral Office, Goa in association with the District Electoral Officer, North Goa. The function was attended by large number of students, officials and persons from media. In the beginning National Anthem was played and Voters Pledge was administered.

Thereafter, Message from Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Sunil Arora on the occasion of 10th National Voters Day was screened. The theme for NVD 2020 is 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'. The theme sets the tone for year-long activities which focus on voter education and renewal of citizens' faith in the electoral process.

Present on the occasion were State Election Commissioner, Shri R. K. Srivastava, Chief Secretary, Shri Parimal Rai, Chief Electoral Officer, Shri Kunal, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Shri Narayan Sawant.

Hon'ble Governor while addressing the gathering said that India is the largest democracy in the world. The voters are biggest stakeholders in the democracy and they should ensure that they cast their vote on merit and must see the program and policies of the candidates and political parties without getting influenced by caste, creed or religion. The exercise of elections aims participation of all the citizens, which he said will help to strengthen the democracy. The Governor also said right of voting is a weapon to decide between right and wrong and on the day of voting, everyone is equal and such an important right has to be exercised with proper care. He appealed to the people to participate in large number to exercise their voting right. He stressed upon the need for voter education and appreciated the efforts of Election Commission of India in this regard.

The State Election Commissioner Shri R. K. Srivastava appreciated the efforts of election machinery in Goa. He explained the difference between roles and responsibilities of Election Commission of India and State Election Commission. He stated that after 73rd and 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India, State Election Commission has been established to conduct elections to

the Local Bodies Viz Zila Parishad, Municipalities, Panchayats. He requested all to participate in large number in upcoming Zila Parishad elections.

The Chief Secretary, Shri Parimal Rai congratulated the election machinery led by CEO Goa in successful conduct of Parliament Election, 2019 and being the first to complete Elector Verification Program. In his address he said that we have to congratulate ourselves for having the right to govern ourselves which is the strength of democracy. We derive this right from our Constitution. Our Constitution provides us the platform to live with liberty without any barrier of caste, creed, language and religion that's why this day is very important for us. Along with this right, another strong right which we derive from Constitution is adult franchise, a right to vote irrespective of caste, religion, language, sex, race or community. This right we must exercise in every election. Shri Parimal Rai also said that a right without responsibilities would make it an authoritarian society and responsibilities without rights leads to bonded labour. Therefore while enjoying rights we cannot overlook our responsibilities. So it our bounden duty to participate in the process of election and make proper choice based on merits.

Sh Kunal, Chief Electoral Officer in his welcome address welcomed all the dignitaries and explained in brief the activities of election machinery in last one year. He stated that great emphasis was laid on accessible and eco-friendly conduct of Parliament Election, 2019. He thanked all NGOs working in the field of accessibility, Social Welfare Department and Public Works Department in ensuring maximum tagging of Persons with Disabilities in electoral roll and also in creating Assured Minimum Facilities in all polling stations. He further stated that with intervention of Chief Secretary, sufficient number of wheelchairs have been procured to ensure availability of wheelchairs at every location. These wheelchairs have now been distributed to all public institutions to ensure accessibility in Goa.

The State NVD Awards for the Best Electoral Practices were conferred on District and State level Officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres such as IT initiatives, Security Management, Election Management and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach. First time voters were felicitated and prizes were given to the winners of essay competition. Similarly state icons and state level award winners were felicitated during the voter's day celebrations.

Hon'ble Governor of Goa Shri. Satyapal Malik released the colourful State Document for 2019 Parliament Election in Goa. It comprises of the entire State profile and all aspects of the General Election to Lok Sabha 2019 conducted by State of Goa.

Best DEO, ERO, AERO, BLO were given awards based on their meritorious performance in the Lok Sabha Elections while judging on the parameters of Electoral Roll management, SVEEP, voter enrolment, turnout etc.

Hon'ble Governor of Goa presented Special Awards to the National level award nominees.

Disability Rights Association of Goa, Goa Deaf Association, Public Works Department, Social Welfare Department were given special recognition awards for their contribution in Accessible elections.

Awards were given to the Best Electoral Literacy Clubs and student members of the ELCs along with the Nodal Officers and Campus ambassadors as the theme of this year's NVD is Electoral Literacy for stronger democracy.

List of Award Winners

Sr. No.	Category of Award	Award winner
1.	Best DEO Award	Shri. Ajit Roy South Goa District
2.	Best District in Innovative measures	Mrs. R. Menaka North Goa District
3.	Best Electoral Registration Officer (North District)	Shri. Vivek H.P. 11-Panjim Assembly Constituency
4.	Best Electoral Registration Officer (South District)	Mrs. Snehal Prabhu 28-Nuem and 29-Curtorim Assembly Constituency
5.	Best Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (North District)	Mrs. Apurva Karpe 17-Sanquelim Assembly Constituency
6.	Best Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (South District)	Mrs. Deona Pereira 28-Nuem Assembly Constituency
7.	Best Booth Level Officer (North District)	Shri. Vijay Kauthankar 03-Bicholim Assembly Constituency
8.	Best Booth Level Officer (south District)	Shri. Siddharth Shanke 30 -Fatorda Assembly Constituency
9.	Special Award	Shri. Amit Satija Commissioner of Excise

10.	Special Award	Shri. Gurudas S.T. Dessai 13-St. Cruz and 14-St. Andre Assembly Constituency
11.	Special Award (National Nomination)	Shri. Paramaditya IPS (Security, Law and Order Arrangements)
12.	Special Award (National Nomination)	Shri. Taha Haaziq (Special efforts as PwD Nodal Officer)
13.	Special Award (National Nomination)	Smt. Isha Sawant (For creation of inclusive game “Mat-Disha” for Electoral literacy clubs. Story on “Mat-Disha” being released by Hon’ble President of India on Mat-Disha in book “Belief in Ballot” on 25 th January at National Function of NVD)
14.	Best Media Partner	Doordarshan
15.	Best Media Person	Shri. Prakash Kamat (For contribution in accessible campaign)
16.	Best CSO	Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) (For promoting electoral participation through accessible election initiative)
17.	Best Nodal Officer (ELC)	Shri Vithoba Bagli Shree Kamleshwar Higher Secondary School-Korgao, Pernem
18.	Best Campus Ambassador	Ms. Priyanka Sutar V.M.Parulekar Higher Secondary School, Verem, Bardez
19.	Best ELC	Ardee School, Sangolda Bardez
20.	Best ELC (School for Specially abled children)	Sanjay school Centre for Special Education, Porvorim, Bardez
21.	Special Award (Accessible Election)	Public Works Department
22.	Innovative ELC Activity Recognised by ECI in ELC Brochure	1. Ms. Keira Vikram Singh 2. Ms. Siya Sukhtankar 3. Mast. Vardhan Sawant
23.	Special Award (Accessible Election)	National Association for Blind (NAB)
24.	Special Recognition	Shri. Narayan Navti
25.	Special Recognition	Shri. John Aguiar
26.	Special Recognition	Shri. Pushkar Prabhudesai
27.	Special Recognition	Shri. Eshant Sawant

28	Special Recognition	Dr. Nandakumar Kamat
29	Special Recognition	Shri. Rajesh Kumar IPS
30	Special Recognition	GOA DIARY
31	Special Recognition	KTCL
32	Special Recognition	All India Radio
33	Special Recognition	GTDC
34	Special Recognition	Goa Electronics Limited
35	Special Recognition	Social Welfare
36	Special Recognition	Lokvishwas pratishthan
37	Special Recognition	GAD
38	Special Recognition	Shri. Devidas Gaonkar
39	Special Recognition	Smt. Sangeeta Naik
40	Special Recognition	Smt. Deepali Naik
41	Special Recognition	Dr. Gervasio Mendes
42	Special Recognition	Art and Culture
43	Special Recognition-State Icon	Shri. Tapan Acharya
44	Special Recognition-State Icon	Smt. Sonia Sirsat
45.	First time voters	Miss. Hema Rajesh Mahambrey
46.	First time voters	Miss. Vibhooti Dinesh Fadte
47	First time voters	Miss. Valentine Perpetua Fernandes
48	First time voters	Miss. Manuella Mizelta Lourdes Fernandes
49	First time voters	Miss. Sejal Santosh Naik
50	First Prize Essay Writing – Secondary school Level	Miss. Vaishnavi Naik Deepvihar High School, Vasco
51	Second Prize Essay Writing – Higher Secondary Level	Miss. Sanjana P. Malik Govt. High School, Malkarnem, Quepem
52	Third Prize Essay Writing – Higher Secondary Level	Miss. Joyee Fernandes St. Xavier High School, Velim - Salcete
53	First Prize Essay Writing – Technical Education(Degree Institutions)	Mr. Yash Belani, Mechanical Engineering Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna
54	Second Prize Essay Writing – Technical Education(Degree Institutions)	Mr. Rajat Limaye, Mechanical Engineering Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna
55	Third Prize Essay Writing – Technical Education(Degree Institutions)	Miss. Srushti Choughule, B. Pharm, PES College of Pharmacy Education and Research, Farmagudi.
56	First Prize Essay Writing – Technical Education(Diploma Institutions)	Chirag Shinde, Agnel Polytechnic, Verna
57	Second Prize Essay Writing –	Ikia Maria De Coelho, Institute of

	Technical Education (Diploma Institutions)	Shipbuilding Technology, Vasco - Goa
58	Third Prize Essay Writing – Technical Education (Diploma Institutions)	Omkar Devidas, Govt. Polytechnic Curchorem
59	Special Recognition	Goa Deaf Association