

**Welcome address of Shri SriramTaranikanti, Chief Electoral Officer,
Tripura on the occasion of National Voters' Day, 2021
(25-1-2021)**

His Excellency, the Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Mr. M.L.Dey, State Election Commissioner, Shri Samir Barman, National level Paralympic Champion and State Icon for Elections, officers on the dais, distinguished invitees, award winners, press/media and all those who are present in this hall, on this 11th National Voters' day 2021, we welcome you all.

It is my proud privilege to welcome Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura. His Excellency has long years of public service and had been a 7 time MP from Raipur in Chattisgarh. He also served as a Union Minister in several ministries. Sir, despite your busy schedule, you have very readily agreed to be amongst us and grace on this august occasion for which we are very deeply privileged. We are also very proud that His Excellency & the First Lady of the State are also Voters in Tripura.

It is a matter of great pride to welcome Shri Samir Barman, who in the last Paralympics national competition, has won 3 out of 4 Gold medals in the Swimming category. He is also our election ambassador.

Shri M. L. Dey is no stranger to election having worked as Additional Chief Electoral Officer in the past and as the State Election Commissioner has onerous responsibilities ahead. I take this opportunity to welcome Shri Dey to the National Voters' Day state level function.

I also once again warmly welcome 'one and all' to this State level function organized by the office of CEO, DM (West Tripura) and SDM (Sadar).

National Voters' Day

The National Voters' Day was first celebrated on January 25, 2011 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India which was established on January 25, 1950. The National Voters' Day is dedicated to the voters of India and reminds us of the Constitutional Rights of adult suffrage granted to every Indian citizen.

We are celebrating this National Voters' Day with the theme "We are... Empowered, Safe, Informed and Vigilant". We take a 'Pledge' on this day, reiterating our abiding faith in democracy.

SVVEP (Systematic Voter Education for Electoral Participation)

Systematic Voter Education and Electors Participation (SVEEP) is an awareness programme which is conducted round the year in District/Sub-Division/Polling Station level. The main objective of SVEEP is to motivate the youth for enrollment in the Electoral Rolls and participate in the election process.

Online Election Quiz Competition

As a part of SVEEP measures, a Quiz portal was opened on 19th January, 2021. The quiz is open for participation by General Public, School & College Students, Booth Level Officers (BLO), BLO Supervisors and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Gradually, it will be expanded to other categories through a separate portal. This online quiz is an effort to make the voters and the student community aware of the democratic process and enhance their knowledge. Despite the short time, 1198 persons registered in the portal and 468 persons participated. The winners of the competition at the State level will be felicitated today while at the district & sub-division level too, such facilitate will take place. This Quiz Portal is proposed to be open throughout the year to continue this learning activity.

Electoral Roll Revision

The Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls w.r.t 01/01/2021, as the qualifying date has been successfully completed and Final Electoral Rolls published on 15/01/2021. The total voters in our State, now stand at **26,86,323** of which **13,58,502** are male, **13,27,789** are female and **Third Gender** are **32** in number.

While we take pride in an accurate electoral roll, those who have missed out from the final roll for any reason, may further utilize this opportunity in the Continuous Updation of Electoral Rolls.

e-EPIC Launching

The Election Commission has launched e-EPIC system throughout the Country. The e-EPIC is an alternate and faster mode of obtaining Electoral Photo Identity Card in a digital format equally valid as a proof of document for voter identification. This e-EPIC can be printed at the convenience of the voter. This is a secure portable document format (PDF) version of the EPIC which can be downloaded on mobile or in a self-printable form on the computer. From 25th January to 31st January 2021, this is open to all new electors and from 1st February onwards, this is open to all electors. However, they need to have a unique mobile number or else have to do an e-KYC. On behalf of the Commission, I would request every voter in Tripura avail of the facility.

I would like to conclude my speech and once again welcome each one of you and thank you from the core of our hearts for your august presence here. I would now request the Hon'ble Governor to kindly release the Election Awareness Calendar.

Jai Hind