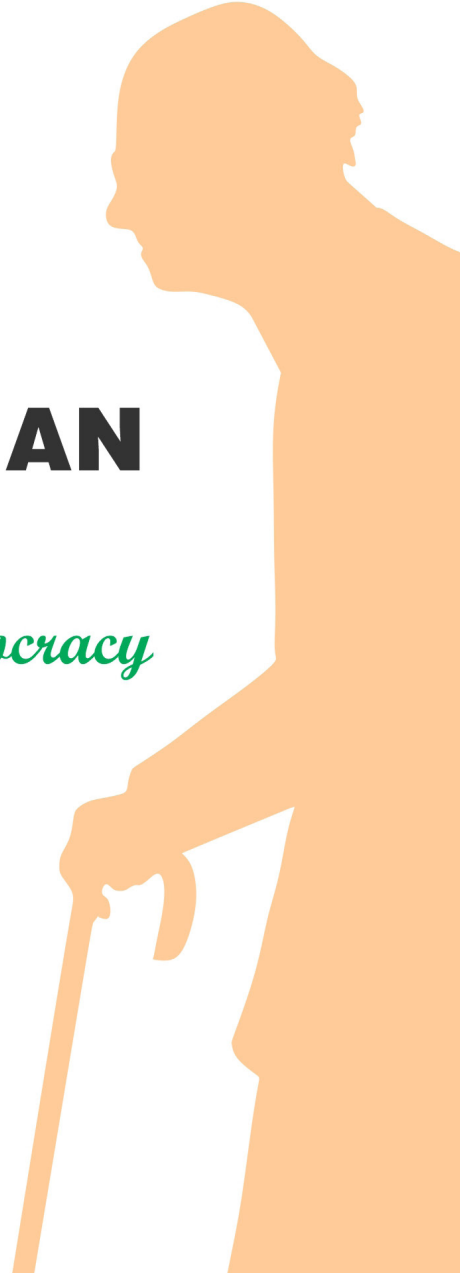




THE CENTENARIAN VOTERS

Sentinels of our Democracy



MESSAGE

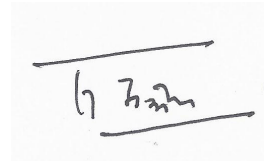


It is a matter of great pride for me to inform you that a large number of centenarians cast their vote during Lok Sabha Election 2019 across the country. Their zeal and enthusiasm is unmatched. Our centenarian citizens are setting an example for the society by participating in election. They strengthen the democracy as also motivate the youth to vote. There are innumerable stories of our centenarians who braved difficult terrains, poor health and other challenges to come out and vote. They are a motivation for one and all in true sense! They have seen years pass by and the country growing.... their participation in the country's 17th Lok Sabha is an amazing journey in itself. They are nostalgic as they share

experiences of their participation in the country's very first election post independence!

Election Commission undertook several special initiatives during Lok Sabha 2019 Elections with an aim to ensure maximum participation of centenarians and senior citizens. Facilities like wheelchairs, ramps, volunteers, free 'to and fro' transport facilities and queue less voting for senior citizens made these elections more friendly and accessible.

'The Centenarian Voters: Sentinels of our Democracy' includes the stories on experiences of some centenarian voters during the recent elections. This book is a salute to our centenarian voters for their contribution to democracy.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Sunil Arora' written in a cursive style. The signature is centered within the box and is flanked by two horizontal lines, one above and one below.

Sunil Arora
Chief Election Commissioner of India

FOREWORD



India is a country of about 910 million eligible voters and conducting elections with the sheer scale, size, diversity and complexities of Indian democracy albeit challenging; is an extremely rewarding process.

The Commission is committed to make elections more inclusive and accessible and has time and again put its effort through targeted interventions for tangible outcomes. The 17th Lok Sabha Election witnessed some major achievements in terms of overall voter's turnout and special attention to participation of centenarians.


This book, 'Centenarian Voters – Sentinels of our Democracy' enumerates the stories of 51 centenarians across India. This is an extension to our gratitude to centenarian voters who shared their experience of participating

FORWARD

in this festival of democracy with us. These stories from diverse centenarians... a professor, business person, freedom fighter, environmentalist, farmer, vegetable seller, daily wage labourer or home maker, every story speaks of the incessant devotion to duty on the part of these veteran voters.

It is needless to say that these centenarians are witness to India's growth as the world's largest democracy. From voting in the very first election to seeing the country achieve milestones such as the highest voter turnout - these sentinels have been a part of independent India since its very inception.

I wish you, the reader, an enjoyable read and I hope these stories motivate you to continue to be a part of the electoral processes of this great nation built on the shoulders of these veteran voters.



Umesh Sinha
Secretary General, ECI

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01 DECORATED ENVIRONMENTALIST, COMMITTED VOTER

Thimmakka is a living example of what one can contribute to the world with limited resources. Thimmakka, now 108 years old, is a social worker and environmentalist from Ramanagara district, Karnataka.

Thimmakka has received several awards and recognition by some of the pioneering institutions in the country and around the world for her noble work. A Padma Shri in 2019, She was awarded the Nadoja Award by Hampi University in 2010, National Citizens Award in 1995, Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Awards in 1997, Veerachakra Prashasthi Award in 1997 and an Honour Certificate from the Women and



Child Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka. Thimmakka was listed by British Broadcasting Corporation as one of the most influential and inspirational women in the world in 2016.

Thimmakka is affectionately called

'Saalumarada' which means a row of trees. She was married to Chikkaiah and both worked as casual labourers in a quarry. The couple did not have any children. Thimmakka started planting trees along a four-kilometre stretch of highway between Hulikal and Kudur and tended to

01

them as her children. She planted 385 banyan trees along the highway with the help of her husband. The couple used to carry four pails for a distance of four kilometres to water the saplings.


Apart from these banyan trees, Saalumarada Thimmakka has planted around 8000 other trees. Today, Thimmakka is invited to many afforestation programs in India. She has also been involved in other social activities like constructing a tank to store rainwater for the annual fair held in her village. She also has a dream of constructing a hospital in her village in remembrance of her husband. A trust has been set up for this purpose. It

“I do not need any motivation to vote for my country, I am a citizen and this is my duty towards my nation.”

is quite interesting to know about her participation in election as a citizen of the country and her experience so far as a voter.

She says, “I felt honoured when I came to know that I have been made an Icon of Tumkur district for Lok Sabha Election 2019. I remember the election held in earlier times. Though people used to be very enthusiastic and came from far off places, the meetings used to be very

noisy with loudspeakers. Many votes used to turn invalid due to ink spread and minor mistakes while folding the ballot papers.

“I am truly happy with the experience of voting through the EVM-VVPAT for its very simplicity and for generating a slip on successful completion of voting. Earlier the voter turnout percentage used to be low but now with efforts of Commission under their ‘Accessible Election’ campaign, voters participation has increased. I do not need any motivation to vote for my country, I am a citizen and this is my duty towards my nation. I request everyone to vote for strengthening democracy.” 

ELECTORAL LITERACY CLUBS TAUGHT ABOUT USEFULNESS OF EVM-VVPAT

Madappa recites the Sanskrit aphorism, 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah' and explains its meaning, 'Dharma protects those who uphold or protect Dharma'. Dharma, in this context, stands for democracy, where rights and duties are reciprocal. Madappa further explains that for a stronger democracy and bright future, we must cast our vote for a genuine candidate without expecting any gifts.

Madappa resides in village Bannikuppe under Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency. He is 101 years old. An agriculturist by profession, he is extremely conscious

politically. He says, "I along with other villagers, learnt about EVMs and VVPAT procedure for voting at Electoral Literacy Club (Chunav Pathshala), and also learnt about the benefits of these machines. All such activities inspired and motivated us to vote in the election. Voting is our right and we must exercise our right towards a stronger democracy".

"I along with other villagers, learnt about EVMs and VVPAT procedure for voting at Electoral Literacy Club (Chunav Pathshala), and also learnt about the benefits of these machines."



CASTING VOTE IS A DUTY

High on enthusiasm, 111 year old Bachan Singh, cast his vote in the national capital during Lok Sabha Elections 2019. He says, "I voted for the first time when I was 42 in 1952, the first election post independence".

Bachan Singh was born on January 1, 1909. He lives with his sons and fifth generation great-grand children in Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar in West Delhi Parliamentary Constituency.

“ Each vote is valuable towards deciding the government for the country. Franchise is not only a right of every citizen of India, but is also their duty towards the nation. ”



Bachan Singh informs that he always casts his vote early in the morning. This makes him feel like a proud and responsible citizen of the country. He encourages his grand children to vote positively and shares his experiences with them. He says that even a single vote is valuable towards deciding the government for the country. Franchise is not only a right of every adult citizen of India, but is also their duty towards the nation. 🌈

04

CASTING VOTE IS HASSLE FREE NOW

Raji, 102 years old does not remember when he first cast his vote but makes a rough estimate and says that it was some 45 years back. He further elaborated on his voting experience during Lok Sabha Election 2019. He says it was very satisfying.

He appreciated the Commission for providing facilities available at the polling station. The volunteers were there to assist the voters, particularly to help PwDs, pregnant women, senior citizens etc.

He further says that he attended awareness programmes conducted by the district administration which helped him to understand the voting process through EVM-VVPAT.

Raji is a resident of Melnachipattu, District Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu and he appeals to all voters to come forward to cast their votes in every election.



“
I appreciate the Commission for providing facilities on the poll day at the polling station.
”

WILL VOTE, TILL I LIVE

Her frail and bent body has not shackled her spirit. 101 year old Khairanbibi Pirmahmad Shaikh uses no supporting stick, or wears an eyeglass. She walks on her own to the designated polling station, located at a distance of half a kilometer from her house in Sarbhon Village of Bardoli Taluka in Surat district, Gujarat.

When asked what motivates her to vote at this age, she replies modestly, "As long as God keeps us alive, we should never refrain from any of our duties. As a responsible citizen, voting is our duty and we must cast our vote till we live". Khairan Bibi is possibly the

senior most citizen of her village, and has voted in almost every election held during her adulthood.

She is visibly happy with the facilities provided to senior citizens, PwD voters and other special category voters. She feels that extending such facilities will encourage those to come forward, who could not otherwise vote due to their physical constraints.



“ *As long as God keeps us alive, we should never refrain from any of our duties. As a responsible citizen, voting is our duty and we must cast our votes till we live.* ”

06


AN EXEMPLAR FOR THE YOUTH

K. Annamalai, aged 102 years, hails from Maducarai, a village of Pudducherry. He feels excited about sharing his voting experience. He has been consistently voting in elections since 1964. He exercised his voting right during Lok Sabha Election 2019 also. He is

happy with the facilities provided by the Election Commission of India that has made voting for senior citizens, PwDs and infirmed voters easier. Annamalai could thus comfortably vote in the Lok Sabha Election, 2019.

He feels that voters should



exercise their franchise notwithstanding ailments. Such centenarians act as exemplars for the younger generation. Pudducherry recorded a voting percentage of 80 %, far above the national average of approx 67 %. 

AN INSPIRATION FOR HER VILLAGE

Nathong Sawen hails from Jongphohate, a remote village perched on a hilltop in the Yatdam circle of Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. Despite being 107 years old, she enthusiastically participated in Lok Sabha Election, 2019. Her Assembly Constituency Changlang North (ST), falls under Arunachal East Parliamentary Constituency.

Nathong lives with her two sons who are in their early 60s. She looks pale, and weak even to move or talk, but gets nostalgic about her participation in the first election after the state of Arunachal Pradesh was formed.


She said, “ I have been voting in every election since the beginning. We walked many miles to cast our votes, as in those days there was no road to the village. Though connectivity is better now and facilities are available, still for the past ten years I am completely dependent on my sons for reaching the Polling Station because of my

old age”. One of her sons carried her on his back, all the way from home to the polling station. The polling station is about 300 meters downhill from her home.

Arunachal Pradesh, earlier called North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), had no legislature and there used to be only one nominated member in Lok Sabha. The election process in Arunachal Pradesh, then a Union Territory, began in 1977.

Nathong is an inspiration for generating awareness among the women in the village. The village recorded 100 % female voting in the simultaneous elections on April 11,



2019. (The villagers hold her in high esteem, and pray for her long and healthy life). 

Nathong is an inspiration among the women in the village. The village recorded 100 percent female voting in the simultaneous elections held on April 11, 2019.

VOTE FOR STRONGER DEMOCRACY

Med Ram, 102 years old is from village Balola, tehsil Komdaghat, district Solan in Himachal Pradesh.

He joyfully lives in a joint family. Med Ram participated in the Lok Sabha Election 2019 and talks about his experience, "I was overwhelmed when everyone welcomed me at the Polling Station

when I reached there to cast my vote. I believe that even a single vote can decide the fate of the winning candidate or can be a reason of failure for another and I am motivated by the very principle that in a democracy every vote counts equal". His message to people is, "Everyone must vote and contribute to a stronger democracy".



“

Everyone must vote and contribute to a stronger democracy.

”

IN DEMOCRACY, EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT

Draupadi, 100 year old is a great-grandmother, living in block Udhawa, Sahebganj district, Jharkhand. She resides close to a road, which is often occupied by wedding processions and political rallies. Their voices often enter her living room. In March, 2019 ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, she heard the slogans of election awareness campaign. When she got to know about the volunteers.

On the voting day, the Accessible Election delegates reached her home early in the morning and she was taken in a reserved vehicle to polling station. There, she was assisted by Accessible Election workers and

volunteers along with her great-grand daughter Panchami. Looking at the long queue at the polling booth, Draupadi got worried as she might have to wait for another 3 to 4 hours for her turn to vote. Her age related ailments might not permit her to stay that long. But she was in for a pleasant surprise, when she was invited to vote without the need for waiting in any queue.

Draupadi describes the difference it made from earlier occasions. She says, "I first cast my vote in first general election of independent India in 1952. I was 30 years old and had young children. My condition was too poor to afford even one time meal for myself and my family.



I used to sell vegetables from door to door in the village, in a basket over my head. I used to listen to people talking about election and voting. There used to be wooden boxes with party symbols, along with ballot papers on which the voter needed to mark and put the ballot paper in the box

10

NEVER MISSED A SINGLE ELECTION

of respective party they wanted to vote for. Since then, I have been voting in all elections. Now voting on the EVM-VVPAT is simple and there is no scope of an invalid vote. Everyone should vote. In a democracy everyone is important and each vote is equal. 🇮🇳

Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah, Padma Shri Awardee (2017), is an eminent Kannada lexicographer. He was born on August 23, 1913 at Ganjam village of Shrirangapattana taluka in Mandya district, Karnataka. He has the distinction of compiling 10 dictionaries of Kannada besides writing literary criticisms, literary history,

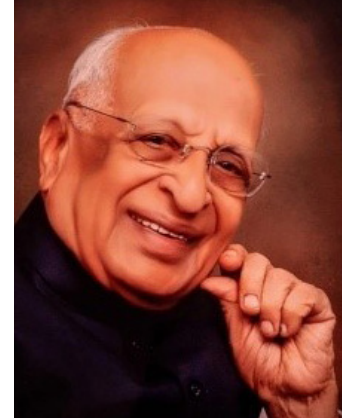
children book and translations.

Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah has received a number of awards and accolades in recognition for his services to the Kannada language and literature. They include Rajyotsava Award (1991), Karnataka Ekikarna Purskar (2007), Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award

“

Everyone should vote. In a democracy everyone is important and each vote is equal.

”



10

(1997), Padma Shri (2013), Pampa Award and others.

He dutifully cast his vote in the Lok Sabha Election 2019. He was 38 when he voted in the first general election in independent India in 1952. He says, "I haven't missed a single election since then, be it Lok Sabha, Assembly or Muncipal/Corporation elections. I have also voted for teachers' constituency during the MLC elections".

Reminiscing about the election fever during his youth, the professor narrated that in those days, campaigning was done at places where people used to gather. "Although I do not remember which year and which candidate, there were days when

two candidates used to contest and campaign from the same rooftop at Gandhi Bazaar. There was no mud-slinging like it is now. They would talk and debate on issues."

He expressed happiness at the fact that several electoral reforms and changes have been brought by the Election Commission of India. Now the election process has become voter friendly due to various facilities being extended to the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), senior citizens, and others. "EVM has replaced ballot papers and ballot box, which are robust, tamper proof and reliable machines. The VVPAT is another machine along with the EVM, used for confirming and satisfying

that the vote cast has been recorded correctly."

He inspired the voters to cast their votes to build a stronger democracy. He says, "Vote without fail towards stronger democracy. No voter is to be left behind, the theme for NVD 2019 is to reach all young and future voters to achieve the state of equality and equity for all."



“Now the election process has become voter friendly due to various facilities being extended to the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), senior citizens and others.”

ALL EAGER TO VOTE

The district administration of Bankura, West Bengal found that a majority of centenarian voters have physical constraints in reaching their respective polling stations. In some cases, their family members find it difficult to take them to polling station, yet they expressed their willingness to cast their votes. District administration, following the ECI's direction, made all such voters aware about facilities being provided during Lok Sabha Election 2019.

One such voter, Motibala Patra, aged 102, says, "I am a voter of 251-Taldangra AC, living here for 90 years. I have cast my vote in all the elections held till date". With her difficulty to walk, the concerned Booth Level Officer took her to booth and she was able to vote.

She says, "I am thankful to election officials for providing transport facility and assistance. I feel proud to vote".

"I am thankful to election officials for providing transport facility and assistance. I feel proud to vote."



12

VOTING IS A TOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTRY'S DECISION MAKING

Nathabhai Memanbhai Odedara, 103 years old is from Porbandar, Gujarat. He is the head of a big joint family and has a strong belief in democracy. He says, "I am the head of my family but I give importance to each one's opinion while I take any decision in my family. Likewise, voting is the biggest and most important tool to participate in country's decision making. I am 103 years old but my age can't hold me back to cast my vote."



He said that he does not remember when he voted for first time but he remembers that he has voted in every election

since independence. He used to reach the polling station early in the morning. Even now, he did not need any

companion and he cast his vote with zeal in the Lok Sabha Election 2019.



I BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY

Vidya Devi is a 107 year old resident of Kamla Nagar, Chandni Chowk Parliamentary Constituency. She lives happily in a joint family comprising her four children, grand children and great grand children. She remembers she had first voted in the maiden general election to Lok Sabha in 1952. But this time it was different.

“Officers from the election office came to my house; they provided all facilities like wheelchair and arranged a vehicle to and from the polling booth. The behavior of the election officers at the booth was highly courteous. I was feted



with a bouquet at the polling station. This made my participation in the Lok Sabha election memorable. I feel proud to vote. I am motivated to

vote for the leadership of my choice.

I request our fellowmen to vote for our country, I believe in democracy. 🌈

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YOUNG VOTERS MUST VOTE FOR FUTURE OF OUR NATION

Niyaz Ali is a 102 year old resident of village Kwakta Khuman, Moiran tehsil, District Bishnupur, Manipur. He is the father of five sons and two daughters, and currently lives with his sons and their families. He recalled that he first cast his vote in 1967 elections.

Sharing his experience of voting in Lok Sabha election of 2019, he says, "I was given priority to cast my vote over others, I did not have to wait in any queue. I received free 'to and fro' transport facility; volunteers were there to assist me in voting with all privacy." 🌈

“

I encourage young voters to vote for future of nation and to strengthen democracy.

”

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I feel extremely happy to be able to vote and appreciate Election Commission's efforts and commitment towards inclusive elections."

The spirit of Ranganayagi is a great motivation for other voters. 

I AM NOT SPECIAL, STILL MY VOTE MATTERS

Ranganayagi, 102 years old says, "I am not special, not rich not even a big person, still my voice matters as I am blessed to be an Indian. Democracy assures equality for all. SVEEP team visited my home in Erikuppam, District Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu and made me realise my importance as

a part of this democracy, in decision making of our country. Despite of my illness and old age related health limitations, I decided to meet women and younger generation of voters of my locality to come forward and participate in election, to cast their vote.

“

I feel extremely happy to be able to vote and appreciate Election Commission's efforts and commitment towards inclusive elections.

”

VOTING HAS BECOME PAPERLESS AND CONVENIENT

Basri a 108 year old voter participated in the Lok Sabha Election 2019 and says “I feel proud of myself to vote for my country. I have always cast my vote irrespective of weather conditions, sensitive situations in the town or the distant location of the polling station on the high altitudes.” She further states that with technological advancements, voting has become paperless and convenient. Now we just need to press the button unlike earlier system of marking the ballot paper, folding it and then dropping in the ballot box. Though, I was very scared to vote through machine but election officials

visited my house before election and helped me to understand the process. They also made me realise the importance of a single vote in democracy. The commitment of the Commission for bringing every voter to cast their vote with ease is truly appreciable. Polling staff and other volunteers also made me very comfortable.

Basri, mentioning about the participation of her family members in the electoral process appraised that she motivated her great grandson also to cast his vote.

Basri is a resident of Part No. 12 Pyt, Upper Ochhad,



Ward Salotari lower, Jammu & Kashmir and 🌈 an inspiration to all.

“With technological advancements, voting has become paperless and convenient.”

17

VOTER OF THE LARGEST DEMOCRACY- THE JOY OF VOTING

Pathu is 103 year old resident of Changanakkattil, District Malappuram, Kerala. She shared her experience with the joy of voting in Lok Sabha Election 2019. She says, "I am a responsible citizen and feel proud to participate as a voter in the largest

democratic country of the world. My motivation to vote is to elect a suitable government for the progress of our nation." When asked to give a message to voters she said, "Exercise your right to vote and be proud of it."



“Exercise your right to vote and be proud of it.”

18

WE ARE “THE CITIZENS OF INDIA”

Every adult citizen of the country whether he/she is poor, illiterate, differently abled, Third Gender or aged has an equal ‘Right to Vote’.

Kanak Rani Dutta, District Senior Citizen Icon of District Sarguja of Chattisgarh mentions that every vote counts. She was born in 1913, and presently is 105 years old. Like many centenarians, she has seen the country growing after independence. Kanak Rani Dutta holds deep faith in democracy. She has cast her vote in all the elections. She, despite her old age and frail physical condition, participated in the SVEEP activities like ‘Mashaal Rally’ held in the

district. She worked hard for voters’ awareness and mobilization in the district and inspired young voters. She says, “This country is the result of the sacrifices of our forefathers and to keep it intact is our responsibility.” We should all vote for a stronger democracy. She feels proud that she cast her vote with the assistance of the election officials in Lok Sabha Election 2019.



“

We should all vote for a stronger democracy.

”

100

THE PROUD FIRST VOTER OF INDIA

Shyam Saran Negi is a resident of Kalpa district Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh. He was felicitated as the 'first voter of Independent India' in the year 2010 by the Election Commission of India on the occasion of Commission's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. He got emotional while sharing his feelings and said, "I did not know that I will be honoured as the first voter of my country after such a long time. It was truly a proud moment for me."

Shyam Saran Negi further stated that he got his first job in the Forest Department and later served as a teacher. He was assigned election

duties twice - during the General Election to the Lok Sabha in 1951 and during the General Election to Lok Sabha in 1957. I had cast my first vote in 1952 and since then I have cast my vote in every election.

I had a unique experience of voting during Lok Sabha Election 2019. I was treated as a special voter and given a red carpet honour by the local administration. It was a proud moment to cast my vote at the age of 102 years. It was a nice feeling to see the voters' Belief in Ballot." 🌈



“

I was treated as a special voter and given a red carpet honour by the local administration.


”

FAITH IN DEMOCRACY

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I have implicit faith in our democracy. That is my motivation to cast my vote.

”

safe and smoothly conducted. Local media covered my interview and featured me in the news paper. I have implicit faith in our democracy. That is my motivation to cast my vote.” 

Sumitra Rai, 107 years old expressed equal enthusiasm and zeal as any other young voters to participate in General Election for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha for Sikkim Legislative Assembly on April 11, 2019 and on October 21, 2019 respectively. She is the eldest voter of the state, a resident of Lower Kamrang village which falls under Assembly Constituency of South

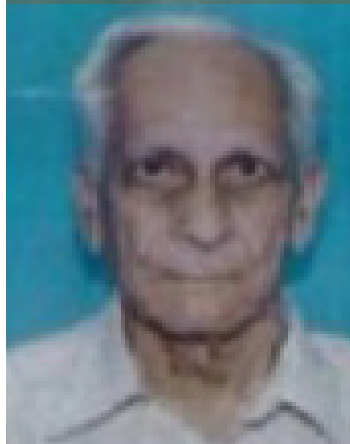
District of Sikkim. As a mark of respect she was felicitated with a ‘Khada’- a traditional silk scarf by the Polling team. While sharing her experience of participating in the election, Sumitra says, “ERO personally came to invite me to vote, volunteers brought me to the polling station in a wheelchair and escorted me till the voting compartment. The election was peaceful,



A SELF-RELIANT CENTENARIAN

Nand Lal Gupta, 103 years old refused to avail any kind of facilities provided to him during the 17th Lok Sabha election. This centenarian proudly mentions that he never availed any facility for voting yet has voted unfailingly in every election.

He says, “I have never used a wheel chair, I will come in my own car with my son Sunil Gupta and will vote for my country.



Officers came to my house, Dwarka, New Delhi; took my photographs and

made me aware about the facilities to be provided at booth and also about transport facilities. Such facilities were never given before; I appreciate such efforts of the Commission for Accessible Election”.



“

Nand Lal Gupta proudly claims that he has never availed any facility for voting yet he has voted unfailingly in every election.


”

VOTING THROUGH EVM-VVPAT WAS EXCITING

Oinam Shamu Singh, a farmer from Nambol Leimapokpam Awang tehsil, Bishnupur district Manipur, is 102 years old. Oinam cast his vote through the EVM-VVPAT for the first time in Lok Sabha Election, 2019.

Enthusiastically he says, “I had voted for the first time in 1967 election, and have been casting my vote in every election since then. It was very interesting and exciting for me to vote through the EVM and VVPAT for this first time during the last election. “The transport facility from home was provided to me. I was given priority at the polling station. Therefore, I did not have to wait in any queue. The Election

officials and volunteers were there to assist me. “My motivation to vote is to participate in the decision making process of the country. I believe

that the future of the country is in our hands and we should wisely use our rights,” says Oinam. 




THANKS TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

Jay Shova Rai, is a 104 years old lady from lower Echhey Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong, West Bengal. She had cast her vote many times in her life and she is very proud to vote.

When contacted by election officials of the district just before the Lok Sabha Elections 2019, She said, "I will vote in the upcoming elections and will continue to vote as long as I live. This is my right and also my responsibility."

She exercised her right to vote during recently concluded elections and expressed her feeling, "I want to thank the Commission for making

arrangements for senior citizens and other voters as well. Commission has brought several reforms for free and fair elections in the country. Introducing EVM-VVPAT

for voting purpose is a major technological advancement in the journey of voting process till date. It was a satisfying experience to vote in Lok Sabha Election 2019." 



HAPPY TO VOTE USING NEW TECHNOLOGY


Vedhavalli from Sorepat village is about 101 years old. She recalls participating in the first election in Pudducherry in 1964. She is positive about the recent changes and expresses happiness at the way the country is evolving. Despite her age, she manages to walk on her own, and cast her vote without any support. "I always feel proud to vote for my country," says Vedhavalli. 🌈



25

VOTING IS A DEMOCRATIC RESPONSIBILITY

Palaniyappa Chettiyar, 105 years old is the founder of Subramanian Polytechnic College, Rayavaram. He is a resident of Puthumanai, Rayavaram, District Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu. He shared his experience of participating in Lok Sabha election 2019 and

said, "I have cast my first vote in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Election of 1952. I am proud to vote in every election. For me it is the democratic responsibility of every person. Each one must vote and strengthen democracy." 



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I am proud to vote in every election. Each one must vote and hence strengthen democracy.

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VOTING IS A MORAL DUTY

Sampati Devi, 103 years old, is a resident of Janakpuri, Delhi. She looked happy and cheerful while participating in Lok Sabha Election 2019. When asked about her first voting experience, she was unable to recall the exact date or year but she remembered the crowds at the polling booths.

and we all jointly hold the responsibility to uphold its essence. I cast my vote in every election without fail and expect same from our younger generations.”



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I am voting for the future of my country, voting is not just our right but it is also our moral duty.

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She further adds, “I am a mother of five children and have been busy in raising them, getting them married and just taking care of my responsibilities towards my family. But my country is my larger family and I do hold the responsibility as a citizen to vote. In a democracy, the authority is vested in the people




I APPRECIATE THE OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE BOOTH

Philem Chaobihal Devi, 102 year old is a homemaker from Moirang Mairembam Leikai, Bishnupur district, Manipur. She is a mother of three daughters and three sons. She lives with her sons and their families.

Her experience of voting in Lok Sabha Election, 2019 was exceptional. She says, "I was provided with a wheel chair to have access to the polling booth. I appreciate the officials and volunteers for lending much needed support which made voting very convenient for people like me and the PwDs. The transport facility was provided; and I did not have to wait in any queue."

When Chaobihal Devi was asked about her motivation to vote. She replied, "It is a sense of duty towards my nation,

which motivates me. I urge the younger generation to vote," she adds. 




THREE GENERATIONS AT A POLLING BOOTH

During elections, it is quite common to see people of different generations mingling at polling stations. However, it becomes more interesting to see 20 people of a family, across three generations, casting their vote.

100 year old Satyabodh Narayan Singit and his grandson Nilesh Singit, who is suffering from disability and is also PwD icon for Maharashtra, shares his voting experience of Lok Sabha Election 2019. Satyabodh Narayan Singit was a freedom fighter during India's struggle for independence. Like many other freedom fighters, he was also arrested

and was jailed during Quit India movement. A Gandhian for life, he says, "Accessibility van along with wheel chair and volunteers came to receive me and my grandson Nilesh at our home and took us to our polling station very comfortably. Our polling booth was on the first floor and we were given assistance. I am very happy to receive the facilities by accessibility team. The team had dedicatedly made elections very smooth for PwDs and senior citizens by making taxis available by the District Election Offices on polling day in Mumbai. These vehicles/ taxis were equipped



with mechanised ramps for the wheelchair and other necessary things to support voters." 

VOTERS CLAPPED WHEN I CAST MY VOTE

“

Accessibility van along with a wheel chair and volunteers came to receive me and my grandson Nilesch at our home and took us to our polling station very comfortably.

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Uttarakhand is a land of tourist places and holy pilgrimage. Swami Ramanand lives in Gangotri, Uttarkashi. He is 102 years old and shares his experience of voting in Lok Sabha election 2019. Ramanand says, “I was very excited on poll day. When I reached my polling station, people around treated me like a celebrity; voters clapped for me when I cast my vote. I felt so proud to fulfil my responsibility as a citizen of this country. Local media took my interview, asked me who motivated me to vote and my message for people. I told them it is my family who have always encouraged to vote. I want to request all citizens to

come forward and vote as dutiful citizens.”



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I want to request all citizens to come forward and vote as dutiful citizens.

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NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE UNLESS WE HAVE VOTED

Draped in a vibrant bandhani saree, wearing spectacles on her small wrinkled nose, along with a daily dose of asthma medicines, Maina Devi is all set for the day. The day started with excitement and energy for Maina Devi who is 102 years old. The occasion is Lok Sabha election, 2019 in Durgapur, Jaipur on May 6, 2019. She along with her daughter in law and grandson are headed to cast their vote at their designated polling station.

Maina Devi talks about her first voting experience in country's very first general election of 1952. She was already 34 when she first got awareness about how election helps to form the



government of people's choice in democracy. She says, "People used to come from different places either walking or on ox/camel carts, tractors, very few in jeeps and cars. It was nothing less than some big fair."

She further says, "Unless I vote, I have no right to criticise the system." She believes that an uncast vote

is like wastage of a precious opportunity. A single vote may seem insignificant; but, if exercised carefully, may contribute to nation-building in one's humble way.

She was assisted by two volunteers apart from her grandson. She cast her vote through the EVM-VVPAT and found it to be a very smooth process. Her grandson says that

CASTING OF VOTE IS A MATTER OF PRIDE AND RESPECT

she is head of the family and has been very active throughout her life; she has cast her vote in every election since independence and has high degree of political awareness.


Maina Devi says, "Right to Vote is an expression of one's voice in the democracy", everyone should vote for strengthening the democracy. 

"Right to Vote" - is an expression of one's voice in the democracy.

The enthusiasm of the senior citizens and centenarian voters is source of inspiration for younger generation says Deputy District Election Officer of Kupwara who went to centenarian voter Kabir Joo Zarger's house in Tikker District Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir along with the SVEEP team for voter's awareness.

The centenarian voter Kabir Joo has never missed a change to cast his vote since 1950s. With a promise to participate in Lok Sabha Election 2019, Kabir also pledged to motivate and encourage other voters to come forward to participate in the democratic festival.

Casting of vote is a matter of pride and respect.

"I have requested all in my neighbourhood to cast their vote as voting is not just our right but it is also our duty towards our country. Casting of vote is a matter of pride and respect," says Kabir Joo. He felt elated that he was felicitated with a Kashmiri Shawl on the polling day. 

PRIDE OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY

Kunhikadeeja, 103 years old hails from the beautiful city of Malappuram in Kerala, covered with mountains of lush greenery, nurtured with several freshwater streams.

Kunhikadeeja has lived most of her life as a home maker, and presently lives with her son and his family. When contacted

before the elections, she promised that she will come to vote during Lok Sabha Election 2019 to the polling station with her son.

She came to vote and shared her experiences of participating in the election. When asked when she cast her first vote, she informed that it was about fifty years back.

She affirmed her belief in democracy and said that she feels lucky that she is living in a democratic country.

Her message to the other voters is, "Everyone should live in harmony and must vote for the country." 🇮🇳

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Everyone should live in harmony and must vote for the country.

”

VOTING STAFF SHOWED A LOT OF RESPECT

Dariyaben Chauhan is from village Khichadiya, District Vadodara, Gujarat. She says, "I have always cast my vote in every election since our country got freedom. Now I am 101 years old and despite of restrictions due to old age, I could cast my vote with ease and without any hassle." She is particularly happy about how things have changed over the years. She further says, "Now the voting is done through machines, we can see the receipt of our vote. It was a satisfying experience of voting in Lok Sabha Election 2019 as I did not have to wait in queues. Polling staff showed a lot of respect and priority to

aged people. Volunteers were there to help. With such facilities why would anyone miss the chance to exercise his/her right to vote." 🇮🇳

"I did not have to wait in the queue. With such facilities why should anyone miss the chance to exercise her/his right to vote."



MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN A MOTIVATION TO ME

Gullan Devi, 101 years old was born in 1918 in an agricultural family. She now lives with her son and grand children in village Toph Manhasan, tehsil Jammu. She talks about her voting journey since Independence.

She says, "It is nothing less than a festival for me to participate in an election. Casting my vote is my duty and till now I have cast my vote in 20 elections, 8 in Assembly Elections, and 9 in Parliamentary Elections and 3 times in Panchayat Elections. I was married at the age of 16 to Kartar Chand who had been very active in generating awareness among people about their role in electing the first

government of India by casting their votes, post independence in 1952's General Election."

"My husband has been a motivation to me. He explained to me the importance of voting rights in democracy. I have seen atrocities on our people by foreign powers. I have seen my country grow from a newly independent state to present time when world looks at us with surprise as the largest democracy is not just surviving, but thriving. I always encourage the younger generation to vote for strengthening democracy."

She expressed her happiness on Lok Sabha

"The largest democracy is not just surviving but thriving."

election 2019. She said that 2019 Lok Sabha election was different from previous ones in terms of creating Polling Stations in close vicinity to her village and making available basic facilities like ramps, wheelchairs, toilets and above all the conduct of election officials who gave priority to senior citizens, PwDs, women and other voters.



AVAIL RIGHTS AND PERFORM YOUR DUTIES TO THE NATION

People were astonished to see an old lady with smiling face coming on a wheel chair escorted by two young volunteers at Booth No. 71 – Agalpur, Bijepur Assembly Constituency, Odisha during Legislative Assembly bye-Elections held on October 21, 2019 to cast her vote.

The elderly lady is Lochana Naik, widow of Late Loku Naik of Village Agalpur. Her age was ascertained by her son to be more than 100 years.

The Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Bargarh district and other officials welcomed her at polling station. She has cast her vote in every



general election, bye - elections as well as in every Panchayat election. Before this bye-election, she had an injury in her leg and was unable to walk. Despite this injury and old age she came to the polling station to cast her vote.

When she was young, she used to encourage people to vote by visiting their houses. Her husband died young and she was left with the responsibility of young children, four daughters and two sons whom she raised as a

single mother. Presently she lives with her two sons and all her daughters are married.

Despite having received no formal education, she understands the value of her vote very well. Today, she is a great inspiration to the voters.

Lochana Naik says, “One should avail her/his rights and should exercise her/his duty towards the nation.”


“ *One should avail her/his rights and should exercise her/his duty towards the nation.* ”

THE RELENTLESS VOTER

Rehmat Jan, 110 years old has never missed a chance to exercise her franchise ever since 1950s. A resident of Mohallah Jogain, Panchyat Samote, tehsil Surankote, District Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, Rehmat talks about her experience of participating in Lok Sabha Election 2019. She says, "EVM-VVPAT is an easy way of casting vote and I am satisfied with this polling process. I am very happy that the election department of the state reached me and helped me to understand the new polling process. I am also very thankful to officers who asked about my views over this process and requested

me to vote in coming election."

She adds, "As a citizen of this country, voting is not just my right but it is also my responsibility towards democracy. I felt honoured when Sub Divisional Magistrate Surankote along with

the SVEEP team visited my house to explain the voting process and requested me to vote and inspire the younger generation. Casting vote is crucial and every vote counts in a democracy. Vote for a stronger democracy." 

Casting vote is crucial and every vote counts in a democracy.

I DID NOT HAVE TO WAIT IN QUEUE

Guljan Bibi, 104 years old proudly recalls that she voted for the first time in first Lok Sabha election of independent India. Guljan Bibi is a resident of village, East Yazekhowra, Kailashahar, Unakoti district, Tripura. She says, "I cast my vote with EVM-VVPAT in Lok Sabha election 2019, after availing the facilities provided to me without

facing any difficulty and waiting in any queue."

When asked, what motivates her to vote, she replies, "I want to participate in electoral process for upholding democracy. I request to all the voters to participate in voting process to choose the right candidate who will be able to make our livelihood better." 🌈

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I cast my vote without facing any difficulty and without waiting in any queue.

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ELECTIONS HAVE BECOME SMOOTH WITH INNOVATIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

To learn about the experience of voting from a centenarian who has also been a freedom fighter is very important for understanding the aspiration of the nation he aspired for.

S.R Ramaiah shares his experience and point of view about current election processes. He is 101 years old, an agriculturist who had tried his hand into politics as an MLA and served as a president of Panchayat Samiti. He was also a freedom fighter. He cast his vote at Sulibele village, Hoskote AC 178, Chikkaballapur LS Constituency in Lok Sabha Election, 2019.

Emphasizing on the importance of every single vote, he says, "Every vote in a democratic system is valuable to build a stronger nation. There are many good reforms implemented by the ECI to PwDs, senior citizen, women and others. These facilities have made people vote without hassles."

"I do not remember when I cast my first vote but I always vote in every election. The EVM and VVPAT are voter friendly machines and help in voting by just pressing a button which is very simple. These machines have overcome the major errors of invalid,

defective and rejected votes. Confirmation of voting through VVPAT is a milestone in the history of the ECI." 





DEMOCRACY IS REVERENCE TOWARDS YOUR FELLOWMEN

Every vote in a democratic system is valuable to build a stronger nation. There are many good reforms implemented by ECI to PwDs, senior citizen, women and others. These facilities have made people vote without hassles.

I am Goma, 104 years old from Palasiya, Kherwara, Udaipur - Rajasthan. I live happily in big joint family of my three sons and daughter in laws, my six grandsons and their brides and nine granddaughters. I am a proud citizen of India and feel equally good about casting my vote for my country, being part of this democracy it is not just my right but also my duty. I had cast my vote in 1952 post independence in the country's first General Election. That was my first vote.

I had great experience of voting in Lok Sabha election 2019 too. I liked EVM-VVPAT, it is very simple and efficient.

Democracy is not merely a form of government. It is essentially a reverence towards your fellowmen.

The services available to senior citizens, PwDs and women are a matter of great satisfaction and appreciation.

All I would like to say to the younger generation is, please come forward to vote without fail as democracy is not merely a form of government - it is essentially a reverence towards your fellowmen.”

HAPPY TO VOTE

Ram Reddy Sukrant, a retired irrigation officer, now 109 years old, shared his voting experience during the Lok Sabha Election, 2019.

He said excitedly that he was very happy to participate in the largest festival of democracy.

He also recalls that he voted for first time in independent India at the age of 32. 🇮🇳



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I am happy that I got to participate in the largest festival of democracy.


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EVM-VVPAT HAS MADE VOTING CONVENIENT

Ambika Devi is 101 years old. A resident of village Dhura, tehsil Bhanoli, district Almora, she used to be a farmer and is now a home maker. Ambika Devi proudly shares that she had cast her first vote in the country's first election post independence.

She shares her excitement about participating in Lok Sabha election 2019. She says, "The Election Commission has made the election so smooth by introducing EVM-VVPAT machine. Work done by Mahila Mangal Dal, Yuvak Mangal Dal and other NGOs are matter of appreciation. I request all the voters from my village and country to

vote without any fear, for strengthening the democracy." 

“ *The Election Commission has made the election process smooth by introducing EVM-VVPAT machine. Work done by Mahila Mangal Dal, Yuvak Mangal Dal and other NGOs is commendable. I request all the voters from my village and country to vote without any fear or inducement.* ”



A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE AT POLLING BOOTH

Ram Pyari Shankhwar, 110 years old, expresses her happiness and gratitude towards the office of the Returning Officer of East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency for making her voting experience smooth and comfortable during the Lok Sabha Election 2019.

Ram Pyari reveals that on polling day, the representative of the Election office came to her house in Harijan Basti, Kondali, Delhi in the morning to pick her up by a car. She was welcomed by Polling Booth Officer with a bouquet and also served refreshments. She cast her vote without waiting in any queue and

was dropped back home comfortably.

She says, "I have always cast my vote since independence. Being a responsible citizen; we must vote and contribute to strengthening democracy." She promises to cast her vote in Delhi Legislative Assembly Election, 2020. 🇮🇳

"I have always cast my vote since independence. Being a responsible citizen; we must vote and contribute to strengthening democracy."



FACILITIES FOR OLD PEOPLE MADE A LOT OF DIFFERENCE

Vechatiben Bhil, 109 years old is a tribal woman from Baroli village, Naswadi taluka, Chhota Udaipur district, Gujarat, lives with her fifth generation great-grand children.

Her family members informed Accessible Team of Returning Officer about her frail health condition and of her hearing impairment. The election team helped her in reaching the polling station. Vechatiben, when asked about her first voting experience, replied that she had been casting vote ever since independence.

When asked about her voting experience during

current elections, she said that she was given all necessary assistance at polling station, facility of wheelchair and a volunteer to accompany her who was a great help.

She stated, "Elections have been going on for many years, the recent facilities have made it easier for older citizens to cast their vote." 🌈



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Elections have been going on for many years, the recent facilities have made it easier for older citizens to cast their vote.

”

EVM - VVPAT, MAJOR INNOVATIONS

Channamma was born in the year 1919 in an agricultural family in Chowdenahalli, Kolar district, Karnataka.


She has witnessed numerous elections and has a keen political consciousness. Channamma shares her experience of voting in Lok Sabha Election 2019; she said that she was able to cast her vote without any difficulty, since the Election Commission provided the basic facilities such as transport, wheelchair for the PwDs and senior citizens at every polling station, besides drinking water, magnifying glasses, ramp facility, tent for shadow and volunteers to help. These good initiatives

by the Commission should continue in future. She recalls that in the past, one used to cast votes manually by taking ballot paper and pressing ink seal on the symbol of selected candidate. There was a possibility of mistakes by illiterate/less illiterate voters resulting into a number of invalid votes. "Now

"Voting with EVM and VVPAT is all together a new and different experience. One just needs to press the blue button on the Ballot Unit, the VVPAT confirms the vote given to the chosen candidate."



voting through EVM and VVPAT is altogether a new experience. One just needs to press the blue button on the Ballot Unit and the VVPAT slip confirms the vote given to the chosen candidate," says Channamma.

She adds that all the citizens should think, judge and decide before casting their valuable vote. 

VOTING HAS BECOME SMOOTH

Bacchi Devi, 101 years old lives in Kamjug, block Ghaat Chamoli, with her three sons and their families. She had first cast her vote in independent India's first general election held in 1952. Bacchi Devi happily shares her experience of voting through EVM-VVPAT and for first time receiving an acknowledgement about successful submission of her vote.

Bacchi Devi says, "During 1952 election, there used to be wooden ballot boxes and ballot paper and we had to mark with ink to cast our vote. Most of the time votes used to become invalid. Now with machines things have changed so much which is good for

us." When asked how she was motivated to vote in this age, she replies that the District Election Officer motivated her to vote in

Lok Sabha election 2019 during his visit. She says, "People should vote for strengthening democracy."



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During 1952 election, there used to be wooden ballot boxes and ballot paper, we used to mark with ink to cast our vote. Most of the time votes used to become invalid. Now with machines no votes are invalid anymore.

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ELECTIONS ARE MORE VOTER FRIENDLY NOW

Basappa had cast his first vote when he was 34 years old during the first general election in 1951. Thereafter, he has participated in all the elections. At present he is 102 years old. He runs a small business and lives in J.C Pura village in Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumakuru district, with his six sons and their families. He says, "Many good electoral reforms have been introduced in the country."

All voters should vote. No voter should miss the opportunity to vote as it is our Constitutional right." Basappa hastens to add, "The present system of election is voter friendly and we celebrated the Festival of Democracy with great fanfare." 🇮🇳

Lok Sabha 2019 was voter friendly and we celebrated the Festival of Democracy with great fanfare.

Many good electoral reforms have been introduced in the country.



VOTE WITHOUT FEAR OR INDUCEMENT

Gulabi Ram, 103 year old resident of village Aala Jokhana, district Chamoli, is a farmer who lives with his two sons and their families. He first cast his vote in the first election of Independent India in 1952. He says, "It is the first time that I have voted and seen the slip of my chosen candidate on VVPAT screen. I find this voting practice very transparent and accountable. I also appreciate all efforts made by Commission to make the election so convenient for PwDs and senior citizens like me. I want to request every citizen to vote without any fear or greed." 🌈



It is the first time that I have voted and seen the slip of my chosen candidate on VVPAT screen.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS ARE LESS NOISY NOW

Kempaiah, 101 years old has been voting for the last 70 years. Reflecting on the past election trends in the country he says, "There was a time when the contesting candidates used to conduct huge campaigns with heavy expenditure; and disturbing noises around were common. But now the campaigns are conducted peacefully with lesser noise, for which I am very thankful to the Election Commission."


Kempaiah belongs to an agricultural family residing in Bannikuppe village, Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency. He says, "Earlier the minimum age for voting was 21 years. Later, in 1988 it was reduced to 18 years.

In earlier days, candidates used to visit house to house but now mobile, messages, social media, e-mail are mostly used as platform for campaigning.

Voters used to cast their votes by inking an arrow symbol seal on the ballot paper. The counting process used to take a lot of time sometimes extending even to two to three days. Now with introduction of EVMs and VVPATs, due to their robustness, tamper proof, transparent means have brought in a sense of confidence in the minds of the voters. The counting process has become faster and gets over within few hours. It is commendable that the ECI has made provisions for free and fair



“ Voting is our responsibility. We should vote without any fear. ”


elections including various facilities like transport, wheel chairs, drinking water at all polling stations. Voting is our responsibility. We should vote without any fear.” 

CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

Bajrang Lal, 102 years old, is a resident of Gujar Mohalla, tehsil Keshoraipatan, district Bundi, Rajasthan. He shares his excitement and happiness over casting his vote in Lok Sabha Election 2019. "It was different and a new experience for me to cast vote through EVM-VVPAT, it has made voting so simple and paperless.

Availability of *Sarathi* and volunteers for PwDs, senior citizens and other voters is a great initiative. Different types of seminars, campaigns and other activities were conducted by ECI. Door to door visit of BLO motivated me to vote despite my old age. I request younger generations to vote and also rejoice on being a part



of the largest democracy of the world," says the centenarian. 

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I request younger generation to vote and also rejoice on being a part of the largest democracy of the world.

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VOTE TO HAVE A LEADER OF YOUR CHOICE

Chinnapaiyan, 106 years old, used to be an agriculture labourer. Now he lives with his daughter's family in Perumulai village, district Cuddalore in the State of Tamil Nadu. He participated in the Lok Sabha Election 2019 and is satisfied with the facilities available for casting his

vote and at the polling station. He says that his motivation to vote was because he wanted to elect a leader of his choice. His message to voters is that they should all vote for the country to make it better and stronger.



“ My motivation to vote is to elect the leader of my choice. ”

“ I was immensely satisfied with the facilities available for casting the vote at the polling station. ”

51 YOU MUST VOTE FOR YOUR COUNTRY

Rupaben Danger is a 104 year old lady from Ravki, Rajkot, Gujarat. She used to be a daily wage labourer. She does not remember when she cast her vote for the first time. However, she says, "It is not less than 65 years when I had cast my first vote. Thereafter, I have voted in every election." Her experience of voting in Lok Sabha election 2019 was good convenient. She says, "In earlier days we used to stand in long queues. Now priority is given to senior citizens

and women. Facilities like wheelchairs, ramps and volunteers to assist voters were really good. Polling staff were very friendly; they talked with respect and were always ready to help." When asked what motivates her to vote, she gently said that she loves her country and feels proud to vote. Her message to people, "Everyone should vote. Don't sit in your house on voting day, come out and cast your vote." 🌈



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Everyone should vote, don't sit in your house on voting day, come out and cast your vote.

”

Message from India's first voter S.S Negi — D was hard-earned, vote thoughtfully

The first time Shyam Saran Negi of Himachal Pradesh voted was also the first time Independent's days of the Indian Republic.

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM

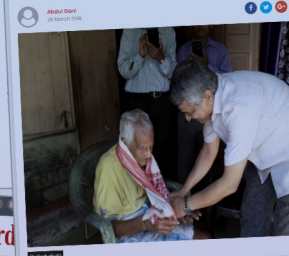


Shyam Saran Negi, India's first voter, is seen in a photograph. He is an elderly man with a white beard, wearing a traditional turban and a light-colored shirt. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

LS Polls: Age is Just A Number For 27 Centenarians of Assam's Nalbari

The district administration has made special arrangements for call the 27 voters' 90 or more can really cast their valuable votes for a healthy democracy in the country.

By [Anil Kumar](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM



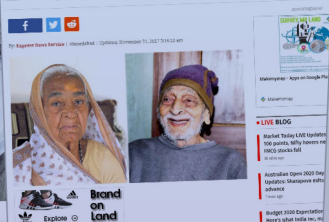
For some, age is just a number, like Charanram Barman, who says his is 'Just 104'. When Assam goes to the polls in three phases—April 18 and 22—among the million of 27 special quots in Nalbari district. All of them are over 100, spanning the entire district.

Some talk about bringing a change. Some let their actions do the talking.

By [The Indian Express Staff](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM

Gujarat election: 100-plus and raring to out and vote in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad city and district has an additional 7,181 voters in the age group 100 to 100.

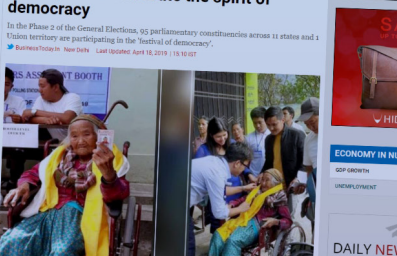


As has hundreds and army-toe million of voters in Ahmedabad, according to the Gujarat Election Commission. The 100-plus voters in the age group 100 to 100.

Lok Sabha Elections 2019: Elderly voters participate to celebrate the spirit of democracy

In the Phase 2 of the General Elections, 95 parliamentary constituencies across 11 states and Union Territory are participating in the 'Festival of Democracy'.

By [Bhaskar Das](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM



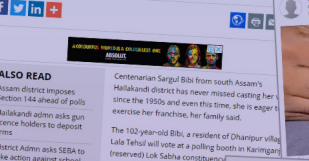
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Centenarian voter inspiring people to celebrate 'festival of democracy'

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM



Centenarian Sargul Bibi from South Assam's Hailakandi district has never missed casting her since the 1950s and even this time, she is eager to exercise her franchise, her family said.

The 102-year-old Bibi, a resident of Dhanpur village, Lalte Taluk will vote at a polling booth in Karimganj (reserved) Lok Sabha constituency.

Bibi is the wife of one of Manipal's former Ministers. She has been since the 1950s and has never missed franchise even once since then, her family said.

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Electoral Officer (DEO) Jai Prakash Singh said that he has been our tradition to seek her parents' permission to let her vote.

2019: Himachal's farthest polling station voter, a 108-year-old

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM



Centenarian Jeevan Das claims he has never failed to vote in any election. He is excited to exercise his franchise in the first general election since 1951.

INDIA TODAY. News, Live TV, App, Magazine. Centenarians to act as role model for young voters in Himachal Pradesh.

Centenarians to act as role model for young voters in Himachal Pradesh

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Lekhu Ram (129) who hails from Sotani village of Chingrum constituency, said every member of his family will be voting.



Centenarian Sargul Bibi from South Assam's Hailakandi district has never missed casting her since the 1950s and even this time, she is eager to exercise her franchise, her family said.

The 102-year-old Bibi, a resident of Dhanpur village, Lalte Taluk will vote at a polling booth in Karimganj (reserved) Lok Sabha constituency.

Bibi is the wife of one of Manipal's former Ministers. She has been since the 1950s and has never missed franchise even once since then, her family said.

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Electoral Officer (DEO) Jai Prakash Singh said that he has been our tradition to seek her parents' permission to let her vote.

104-Year-Old Laxhi Paul From Charaideo Ready To Vote

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM



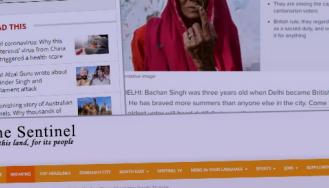
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Pune's 102-year-old great-grandpa votes with 270-member family

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM

Pune is probably a record, a 102-year-old retired British Indian Army officer voted in the Vajrapur Street constituency here on Monday along with 270 members of his clan, spanning five generations in the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

The venerable head of the family is Haj Ibrahim Alim Joad, born in 1918, posting 102 now and still going strong.

He was accompanied by 10 of his 12 sons, two daughters, 45 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and even a young great-great-grandchild, said one of his third-generation grandsons, 43-year Laxmav Joad, who is engaged in the family business of brick works contracts.



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At 103, Ujjain centenarian still eager to cast her vote

By [Sudha Arora](#) | Updated: 16 Sept 2019 12:59 PM

UJJAIN Centenarian Bano Bee is no icon in her locality in India Nagar on Agar Road, at 103, she is eager to cast her vote in the November 28 assembly elections and urges all other eligible voters to do so.



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Top 10 Term Insurance Plans in India. Ujjain Centenarian Bano Bee is no icon in her locality in India Nagar on Agar Road, at 103, she is eager to cast her vote in the November 28 assembly elections and urges all other eligible voters to do so.

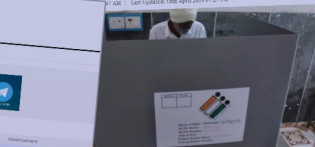
Meet the two centenarians who have voted in every general election. Abhiram Ghadyapalli. I min read. Updated: 12 Apr 2019, 12:15 AM IST.



India's oldest couple, Abhinav Singh and Jayanti, have voted in every election since independence. Abhinav (left) and Jayanti (right) have voted in every election since independence.

Senior citizens in this Madhya Pradesh re say they have given it all

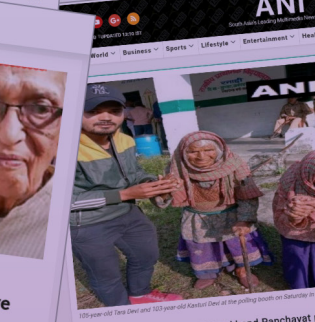
Updated: 11 Dec 2018, 05:19 AM IST
Nadu elections: Centenarian voters' attention in attur



100-year-old voters in Uttarakhand Panchayat polls



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Two centenarian vote in Uttarakhand Panchayat polls

2019 Lok Sabha polls: Age won't stop these centenarians of Karnataka from getting their fingers inked

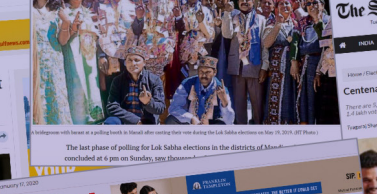
Prof G Venkatsubbiah, Saalumurada Thimmakka and HS Doreswamy reminisce about the election fever during their youth.



Left: Centenarians Prof G Venkatsubbiah, Padma Sri awardee Saalumurada Thimmakka and free pressman will be voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections

Lok Sabha Elections 2019: In Himachal, a centenarian, differently abled and a bara at polling booths

India's oldest voter, a differently abled voter and a bara at polling booths



The last phase of polling for Lok Sabha elections in the districts of...

In Assam's Charaideo, 104-Year-Old Lakhi Paul Set To Vote

104 to mark the upcoming parliamentary elections inclusive and provide all possible aid to help CP of Charaideo from trading of centenarian voters.



104-year-old voters in Uttarakhand Panchayat polls

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Delhi's centenarian voters to be treated like 'VIPs'; to get bouquets, selfies on polling day

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Centenarian voters recall peaceful polls of the 1950s and '60s

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At least 97 Delhi voters aged 100+ to have their say in Lok Sabha elections

The first time since 1947, a 100-year-old resident of Shahdara, voted was in India's first general election following Independence.



At least 97 Delhi voters aged 100+ to have their say in Lok Sabha elections

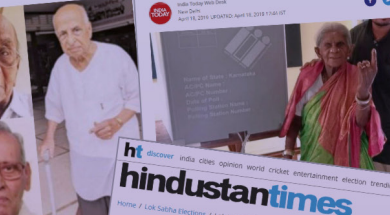
All about India's First Ever Voter Shyam Saran Negi



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Centenarian Padma awardee casts her vote in Karnataka

107-year-old environmentalist Saalumurada Thimmakka was conferred with Padma Sri this year.



Centenarian Padma awardee casts her vote in Karnataka

Lok Sabha elections 2019: EC to greet HP centenarian voters with roses on poll day

Special facilities will be provided to voters who are more than 100-year-old at polling booths, said chief elect officer.



Lok Sabha elections 2019: EC to greet HP centenarian voters with roses on poll day

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India's 1st voter Shyam Saran Negi does his duty once again

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