

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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## Press Release

### Election Commission of India Turns 60 President to Launch Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Heads of Electoral Bodies from across the world to Participate

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will celebrate 60 years of its constitution on 25th January 2010 as the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. The office of the Election Commission was set up on 25th January, 1950, while the rest of the Constitution came into force a day after i.e. on 26th January, 1950. It is also significant that Article 324 that created the Commission was one of those exceptional provisions, which were given effect as early as on 26 November, 1949,

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, would inaugurate the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Vice-President, the Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Union Ministers of Law & Justice and Communications & Information Technology, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Chairperson of the UPA and Convener of NDA will share the dais.

The leaders of all national and state parties have been invited. The audience will also include about 40 heads of electoral bodies from across the world, majority being from the Commonwealth countries including the South Asian neighbors

Former President, Vice-President and Prime Ministers, the Council of Ministers, constitutional and other dignitaries, former Chief Election Commissioners, members of diplomatic corps are also among those invited.

On the occasion, the President would release a postage stamp, brought out by the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, to mark this historic anniversary. A book titled **"Reinforcing Indian Democracy – Lok Sabha Election 2009"** would be released by the Vice-President and the first copy of this 250-page publication would be given in the hands of the President. The Volume is a descriptive presentation with pictures and figures, of the massive electoral exercise that was done for constituting the 15th Lok Sabha. The President will also view a photo exhibition that provides a perspective on 60 years of the Election Commission.

Followed by the inaugural function, the ECI is holding an International Symposium on 27th January, 2010 on **"Sharing Best Electoral Practices"**. The components of the Symposium are (i) Involving the Youth in Electoral Process; (ii) Voters' Education: New Ways & Alliances; (iii) Challenges in Management of Electoral Rolls; (iv) Innovative Practices in Election Management. Apart from delegates from Electoral bodies and related agencies from across the world, senior officials of the Election Commission of India, former CECs/ECs, and members of the diplomatic corps will attend the daylong event. The Symposium is expected to provide a platform for an exchange of experience and expertise in election management and provide a roadmap for further strengthening democratic processes at a global level.

The overwhelming response from world's democratic nations to the occasion is seen as recognition of India's democratic traditions and practices (List of Heads of

Delegations as available on date is annexed along with countries and international agencies that they represent). Several delegations have requested for bilateral discussions with the Election Commission during their visit for sharing the Indian experience and processes of poll management. These meetings will be taken up on 28th January 2010.

The theme chosen for the Diamond Jubilee year 2010 is, **“Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy”**. There would be yearlong events/ programmes covering areas like improvement in electors’ registration, expanding the coverage of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), voter-friendly measures, generating awareness among voters, mobilization of the youth and civil society partnership.

(R.K. Srivastava)  
Secretary

**LIST OF CECs/ EQUIVALENTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE  
CONFIRMED PARTICIPATION IN DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF  
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

Sl. No.	Name, Designation and Country
1	H.E. Mr. Mare Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada
2	H.E. Mr. Turgankulov Kuandyk Turgankulovich, Chairman, Central Election Commission, Republic of Kazakhstan.
3	H.E. Dr. Azizullah Lodin, President, Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan.
4	H.E. Mr. Carlos Augusto Ayres de Feritas Britto, President of the Superior Electoral Tribunal, Brazil.
5	H.E. Ms. Tibisay Lucena Ramirez, President of National Electoral Council, Venezuela
6	H.E. Mr. Gocool Boodoo, Chief Election Officer , Guyana Election Commission, Guyana.
7	H.E. Mr. M.I. Abdool Rahman, Electoral Commissioner, Mauritius.
8	H.E. Dr. Leonardo Valdes Zurita, President, Federal Electoral Institute, Mexico.
9	H.E. Mr. Councilor Intessar Nessim Henna, President, Egyptian Supreme Commission for Election, Egypt.

10	<b>H.E. Prof. Keizo Sakata,</b> Chairman, Central Election Management Council, Japan
11	<b>H.E. Mr. Steven Yakali, CMG, MBE,</b> Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Papua New Guinea.
12	<b>Mrs. Zhamilia Alymbekova,</b> Member, Central Election Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan
13	<b>H.E. Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda,</b> Chief Election Commissioner, Bangladesh.
14	<b>Ms. Thoko Nandisile Mpumlwana,</b> Deputy Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission, South Africa.
15	<b>H.E. Mr. Victor Lwisi Tonchi,</b> Chairman, Electoral Commission of Namibia
16	<b>H.E. Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu,</b> Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Uganda .
17	<b>H.E. Mr. CHUROV Vladimir Yevgenievich,</b> Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Russia
18	<b>H.E. Mr. Matthew Petersen,</b> Chairman, Federal Election Commission, U.S.A.
19	<b>H.E. Dasho Kunzang Wangdi,</b> Chief Election Commissioner, Bhutan.

20	<b>H.E. Mr. Neel Kantha Uprety,</b> Acting CEC Nepal
21	<b>H.E. Mr. Kyung Keun Kang,</b> Standing Commissioner, National Election Commission, Republic of Korea
22	<b>H.E. Mr. Hisham Kuhail ,</b> Chief Electoral Officer , Central Election Commission, Palestine.
23	<b>H.E. Mr. N. Luvsanjav,</b> Chairman of General Election Committee, Mongolia.
24	<b>H.E. Mr. Ahmed Issack Hassan,</b> Chairman, Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), Kenya
25	<b>Mr. Ibrahim Waheed,</b> Commissioner, Election Commission of Republic of Maldives
26	<b>H.E. Justice Hamid Ali Mirza,</b> Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan
27	<b>H.E. Mr. Apichart Sukhaggonond,</b> President, Election Commission of Thailand
28	<b>H.E. Justice Lewis M.Makame,</b> Chairman, National Electoral Commission of Tanzania.
29	<b>H.E. Prof. Maurice Iwu,</b> Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria.
30	<b>H.E. Prof. Dr. H. A. Hafiz Anshary</b> Chief Election Commissioner of Indonesia

**LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/ NON-STATE  
DIGNITARIES WHO HAVE CONFIRMED PARTICIPATION IN DIAMOND JUBILEE  
CELEBRATIONS OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name, Designation and Organisation</b>
1	<b>Dr. Anil Seal,</b> Director, Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, U.K.
2	<b>Ms. Mmasegoa Masire-Mwamba</b> Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth, Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom.
3	<b>Mr. Karamjit Singh, CBE,</b> Social Funds Commissioner United Kingdom
4	<b>Mr. Fredrik Galtung,</b> Chief Executive, Tiri (Not for Profit NGO) U.K.
5	<b>Mr. Vidar Helgesen,</b> Secretary General, International IDEA (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) Stockholm, Sweden.