

Existence of democracy lies in the hands of people: Governor

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In a democratic political system, the people are supreme. They decide by their own will and elect their representative stated the Governor, Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai who was speaking after the inauguration of 15th National Voters Day celebration held at NIO Dona Paula today.

The function was organized by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer in collaboration with North Goa Collector. The theme of the celebration was "Nothing Like Voting I Vote For Sure".

The Governor further speaking said that soon after India's independence with the framing of the constitution and with the adoption of a democratic parliamentary system, India emerged as a sovereign, democratic nation. Thereafter with the successful conduct of elections we have also emerged as world's largest democracy in the world, he added.

He said the Election Commission of India is trying to achieve maximum participation of citizen in the electoral process. Activities in this connection are conducted to reach-out to every citizens ensuring their participation with 100% voting. This endeavor of the stakeholders has resulted in strengthening our democracy, the Governor said.

The Governor further highlighted the future of democracy saying that the existence of democracy solely lies in the hands of people. It is their responsibility to work to create a democratic society and practice the values of democracy thus creating a conducive atmosphere for democracy in the country.

The Chief Secretary, Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS, while speaking said India enjoy the privilege of being the largest democracy in the world which is possible due to the dedicated services of Election Commission of India which endeavours to conduct a free, fair and peaceful election exercise in the country.

Earlier, the Addl. Chief Electoral Officer CEO Goa, Shri Sunil Masurkar IAS in his welcome address said that National Voters Day is celebrated to mark the foundation of the ECI in 1950. The day has been observed since 2011 and aims to encourage citizens to vote. It also raises electoral awareness among citizens and inspire their active participation in the democratic process he said.

On this occasion awards in various discipline were presented which included Best DEO which went to Shri Ashwin Chandru IAS, Spl. Rec.SP Smt Sunita Sawant, Best ERO Shri Ramesh Gaonkar, Dy.Collector Bicholim, Best AERO Shri Pravin Gawas, Mamlatdar Bicholim, Best BLO (M) Shri Mahendra Gawade, Best BLO (F) Ku. Sandhy Gawas and the prize for best Electoral Literacy Club was bagged by Fr. Agnel H.S.School Pillar.

To mark the celebration various activities were conducted with the intention to reach out to every citizen with the regards to the election process and its importance in democracy. The activities included poster painting , umbrella painting , sky-lamp painting, bottle painting, etc.

The new voters who enrolled their names in the voting list were also felicitated. There are Mast Joshua Fernandes from St.Cruz Constituency, Mast Krutam Naik from St. Andre ,and Mast Manthan B. Murgaokar from Cumbharjua constituency.

Collector North, Dr. Sneha S. Gitte, IAS, Asst. Collector Trainee Ms. Pallavi Mishra, IAS, State Election Commissioner Goa, Shri. Daulat Hawaldar, IAS (Retd.) Dy, Collector Election Shri Mayank Chari, Project Director DRDA South Smt. Dipali Naik and others were present on the occasion.

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