

The Hindu (English)

Dated: 26-01-2025

'100 nominees of MVA filed petitions over voter list issue'

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Congress, on the occasion of National Voters' Day on Saturday, again raised the issue of discrepancies in voter lists for the recent Maharashtra Assembly election, accusing the Election Commission of favouring the BJP-led alliance.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and Praveen Chakravarty, who heads the All India Professionals' Congress, said there was an unusual increase of 4.8 million voters in just six months after the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Chavan said 100 defeated MVA candidates had filed petitions in various courts regarding voter list issues. Discrepancies in the lists must be addressed to maintain voter trust in the electoral process.

"Between the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Maharashtra's voter base grew by 3.2 million. How did it increase by 4.8 million in just six months? The Commission must provide proof," Mr. Chakravarty said.

The Hindu (English)

Dated: 26.01.2025

Murmu lauds rise in number of women coming out to vote

It is an important sign of the overall development of Indian society, says President; she commends the Election Commission for its efforts to make the process of voting inclusive and accessible to all

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said the increasing participation of women in elections was an important sign of the overall development of Indian society.

India's democracy is a unique example for the modern world, she said, noting that many countries were taking lessons from its election system and management. "It is a matter of pride for all of us that our democracy is not only the oldest in the world but is also the largest, diverse, young, inclusive and sensitive democracy in the world," Ms. Murmu said in her address at an event to mark the 15th National Voters' Day here.

She said that the Election Commission was making special efforts to facilitate the voting process for senior voters above 85 years of age, voters with disabilities and tribal voters living in remote areas, thus setting a good exam-



Roll of honour: President Droupadi Murmu felicitates IPS officer P.D. Nitya with the 'Best Electoral Practices Award' on Saturday. PTI

ple of inclusive and sensitive election management.

In a separate message on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said National Voters' Day was about celebrating India's vibrant democracy and empowering every citizen to exercise their right to vote.

Instilling trust

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that in its 75-year journey, the Election Commission had strengthened democracy by instilling trust in the people. He appreciated the

initiatives of the poll body such as home voting, empowering third gender voters to vote, introducing Braille voter ID and ramps at polling stations.

He added that the historic milestone of 100 crore registered electors would be an unprecedented achievement of Indian democracy.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, in his address, said that "disruptive campaigning" and "fake narratives" might cause disillusionment among youngsters regard-

ing the electoral process and requested political parties to avoid such activities.

Mr. Kumar assured political parties that the poll body would respond in writing to concerns flagged by them on the electoral process. His remarks came on a day that the Congress attacked the commission saying its functioning had made a "mockery" of the Constitution and insulted voters.

Ms. Murmu conferred the Best Electoral Practices Awards on 22 recipients, celebrating their outstanding contributions to election management, security management, voter education, and inclusivity. The awards recognise exceptional contributions across multiple categories in election management for the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections held in 2024.

The Best Performing State Award was given to the Chief Election Officers of Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.

The Hindu (English)
Dated: 26.01.2025

Simultaneous polls will prevent policy paralysis: Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The proposal to synchronise election schedules in the country is a reform measure that promises to "redefine" the terms of good governance, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday, in her address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Republic Day.

The 'One Nation One Election' plan can promote consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce the financial burden," Ms. Murmu said. She stressed the Union government's efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered" and, in that context, mentioned the replacement of the British-era criminal law with three new modern laws.

The President said that the decision to replace the



The President addressing the nation on Saturday, 26th

Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which are based on Indian traditions of jurisprudence, is the most noteworthy effort.

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PADMA, GALLANTRY AWARDS

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'Simultaneous polls will prevent policy paralysis'

"...the new criminal laws place the delivery of justice instead of punishment at the centre of the criminal justice system. Moreover, the new laws grant top priority to countering crimes against women and children. Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she noted.

Ms. Murmu underscored the importance of inclusive growth and the government's commitment to welfare by ensuring basic necessities like housing and access to clean drinking water.

She also pointed to the persistently high economic growth rate in recent years that has generated job opportunities, increased income for farmers and labourers, and lifted many out of poverty. "The bold and far-sighted economic reforms will sustain this trend in the years to come. Inclusion is the cornerstone of our growth saga, distributing the fruits of developments as widely as possible," Ms. Murmu said.

Efforts to support marginalised communities, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), were also highlighted in her speech. She mentioned various initiatives, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, national fellowships, and flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Jeevi Abhyudaya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.

The President's speech dwelt upon a wide range of issues: from the steps taken to achieve financial inclusion, use of technology in financial transactions, sporting achievements and giant leaps in space research by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to the transformation in the education sector in terms of quality of learning, physical infrastructure and digital inclusion.

She also mentioned the ongoing Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj as an example of "fresh engagement with our civilisational heritage".

Commenting on the 75 years since the Constitution was adopted, the President noted that it has been a period of all-round progress for a young republic. She said that at the time of Independence and even later, large parts of the country had faced extreme poverty and hunger. But farmers had toiled hard to make the country self-sufficient in food production; labourers worked relentlessly to transform our infrastructure and manufacturing sector.

"Thanks to their sterling efforts, India's economy today influences the global economic trends. Today, India is taking leadership positions in international fora. This transformation would not have been possible without the blueprint laid down by our Constitution," she said.

Ms. Murmu said the Republic Day is a matter of collective joy and pride for all citizens. While some may argue that 75 years is only a blink of an eye in the life of a nation, she said, "This has been the time when the long-dormant soul of India has awakened again, taking strides to regain its rightful place in the comity of nations".

"When women's equality was only a distant ideal in many parts of the world, in India, women were actively contributing to shaping the nation's destiny," she noted. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, she reiterated the importance of morality in governance and civic life, stating, "If Swaraj was not meant to civilise us, it would be nothing worth."

The Hindu (English)

Dated: 26-01-2025

Erosion in institutional integrity of EC is a matter of grave concern: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of National Voters' Day commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Election Commission, the Congress on Saturday said "ceaseless erosion of the institutional integrity" of the commission was a matter of "grave national concern".

The principal Opposition party said that though there would be much "self-congratulation" to mark the occasion, it did not obscure the fact that the poll panel's functioning had made a "mockery" of the Constitution and was an insult to the voters.

The party alleged that over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the EC had been "severely compromised" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Even as we celebrate National Voters' Day, the ceaseless erosion of the institutional integrity of the Election Commission of India, in the last 10 years, is a matter of grave national concern," Congress presi-



Mallikarjun Kharge

dent Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Mr. Kharge said the EC and parliamentary democracy had over the decades, despite widespread doubts, turned out to be impartial, independent, and ideal for global emulation.

Universal adult suffrage, extending to the grassroots levels of panchayat and urban bodies, embodied the vision of the founders of the Constitution, he said.

"However, complacency in upholding democratic processes can inadvertently pave the way for authoritarianism. Therefore, safeguarding the independence of our institutions is essential to preserve our democracy and uphold the constitutional principles that un-

derpin it," Mr. Kharge said.

Legacy of EC

Recounting the legacy of the commission, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh lamented the present state of affairs.

"The Election Commission is a Constitutional body. Its first Chairman was the legendary Sukumar Sen whose role in establishing the foundations of our electoral democracy was crucial. He was the sole Chief Election Commissioner for eight years. His 'Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52' is a classic," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Sadly, over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been severely compromised by the PM-HM [Home Minister] duo. Some of its decisions are now under challenge in the Supreme Court," he added. He said the stand of the EC on the concerns raised by the Opposition in the Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra had been "shockingly partisan".

President roots for 'one-nation one election' bill

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday congratulated the nation on the Republic Day and said these 75 years of the Constitution are marked by an all-round progress of a young republic.

Addressing the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, the President advocated for the 'one nation, one election' initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.

She emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate the remnants

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President roots for 'one-nation one election' bill

■ Continued From Page 1

of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said.

Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill aimed at synchronising election schedules across the country, Ms Murmu noted, "The 'one nation, one election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain."

In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new laws reflective of Indian traditions. She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, which prioritise the delivery of justice over mere punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children.

Reflecting on the significance of the Constitution, the President highlighted the progress achieved over the past 75 years.

She said the Constitution has become a living document because civic virtues have been part of our moral compass for millennia. "The Constitution provides the ultimate foundation of our collective identity as Indians; it binds us together as a family. For 75 years now, it has guided the path of our progress," Ms Murmu said in her third Republic Day address to the nation.

"At the time of Independence, many parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger. However, we maintained a belief in ourselves and created conditions for growth," she said.

The President mentioned economic growth rate, high number of startups, India's feat in space and sports among several things that make the citizens proud. "In recent years, the economic growth rate has remained persistently high, creating job opportunities for our youth, putting more money in the hands of farmers and labourers, and also lifting more people out of poverty."

LETTERS

VOTERS' DAY

Despite having a total voting population of 96.8 crore, only 64.2 crore voted during the hot summer months of April and May. This is highly disheartening and raises the question of why such a large number of eligible voters choose not to exercise their democratic right. It is a well-known fact that the months of April and May in India are characterized by scorching heat and high temperatures. It is crucial to understand that voting is not just a right, but a responsibility of every citizen. Let us encourage and motivate others to exercise their right to vote, regardless of the weather or any other hindrances. A big salute to the dedication and determination of our election officials, who trek through dense forests and rivers to ensure no voter is left behind. A big salute to their commitment and passion as they go the extra mile for upholding democracy and ensuring every vote counts.

Prez: ONOE can redefine terms of good governance

Ambika.Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" plan,



saying the proposed reform "promises to redefine the terms of good governance". She said

it has the potential to promote "consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce financial burden" on the exchequer.

In her address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, Murmu highlighted the reform measures being taken by the govt to weed out remnants of the "colonial mindset" that persisted even after Independence.

► Colonial mindset, Other bk, P 5

Many relics of a colonial mindset have persisted among us, says Murmu

► From P 1

She said "We won freedom in 1947, but many relics of a colonial mindset persisted among us for long. Of late, we have been witnessing con-



certed efforts to change that mindset," as she cited the decision to replace the British-era criminal laws with Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

Droupadi Murmu went on to highlight that based also on "Indian traditions of jurisprudence", the new criminal laws place the delivery of justice instead of punishment at the centre of the criminal justice system. "Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," Murmu asserted.

"Another measure that promises to redefine the terms of good governance is the bill introduced in Parliament to synchronise election schedules in the country," she added.

"The 'One Nation One Election' plan can promote consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce the financial burden, apart from offering many other benefits," Murmu said.

Murmu spoke of a fresh engagement with "our civilisational heritage" as she drew attention to the ongoing Mahakumbh and said that it can be seen as an "expression of the richness of that heritage".

She also referred to efforts made to support marginalised communities, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Dated: 26-01-2025

AAP poster calls Rahul Gandhi dishonest, Congress calls post defamatory, moves EC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Taking offence to a poster released by AAP on social media platform X calling leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi "dishonest", Congress's Delhi unit moved the Election Commission on Saturday, calling the post "defamatory".

The poster, headlined '*Ek akela padega sab par bhaari* (One will outweigh everyone else)', bore a picture of AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal with the caption '*Kejriwal ki imaandar*' and those of BJP and Congress functionaries beneath his, captioned '*...saare beimanon par padegi bhaari* (...will outweigh all dishonest people)'. Apart from Rahul, the poster has the photographs

Congress slams poll body on National Voters Day over 'erosion of integrity'

New Delhi: On National Voters Day, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed concern over what he described as the "ceaseless erosion of the institutional integrity" of the Election Commission of India over the past decade, calling it a "matter of grave national concern". He also alleged that over the past decade, "the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been severely compromised by the PM-HM (Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah) duo."

In a statement on X, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh said, "There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves." He also highlighted that some of the EC's decisions are now under challenge in the Supreme Court. TNN

of Ajay Maken and Sandeep Dikshit of Congress, and PM Modi, Amit Shah, Yogi Adityanath, Virendra Sachdeva and Vijender Gupta of BJP.

This is not the first time that AAP and Congress, both partners in the opposition INDIA bloc, have engaged in a verbal duel in the run-up to

polls. But the chasm between the two parties is likely to deepen over this poster.

Reacting to the poster, All India Mahila Congress chief and party candidate from Kalkaji Alka Lamba challenged Kejriwal to quit the INDIA bloc. "You (Kejriwal) were begging in front of us for an alliance during the Lok Sabha elections. Congress made the biggest mistake by forging an alliance with your party for the seven seats in Delhi. Congress faced a huge loss because of this," Lamba told news agency ANI.

No immediate reaction was available from AAP.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said Kejriwal should hold a mirror to himself before calling Rahul, Maken and Dikshit "dishonest".

D.T. Next, Date: 26-01-2025

Prez votes for simultaneous polls, cites better governance, less financial burden

During Republic Day address to nation, Murmu hails the nation's progress over 75 yrs

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.



In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said.

Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill aimed at synchronising election schedules

across the country, Murmu noted, "The 'One Nation One Election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain."

In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new laws reflective of Indian traditions.

She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which prioritise the delivery of justice over mere

punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children.

Reflecting on the significance of the Constitution, the President highlighted the progress achieved over the past 75 years.

"At the time of Independence, many parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger.

In R-Day address to nation, Murmu stresses efforts of government to remove British-era criminal laws with legislations suiting present day

However, we maintained a belief in ourselves and created conditions for growth," she said.

Noting the contributions of farmers and labourers, she said India's economy now plays a pivotal role in global economic trends, asserting that this transformation is rooted in the framework established by the Constitution.

The President also pointed to

the persistently high economic growth rate in recent years, which has generated job opportunities, increased income for farmers and labourers, and lifted many out of poverty.

She underscored the importance of inclusive growth and the government's commitment to welfare, making basic necessities such as housing and access to clean drinking water entitlements for citizens.

Shifting focus to present-day advancements, she highlighted the government's emphasis on physical infrastructure development, which has laid the groundwork for sustained growth.

Looking towards the future, the President underscored the importance of education in shaping the next generation.

As India marches confidently towards the future, the President affirmed that the dreams of today's youth, particularly young women, will shape the nation by the time it celebrates a century of independence.

D.T.Next

Dated: 26.01.2025

Termites eat up ballot paper, HC tells candidate to accept reality

■ THAMARAI SELVAN

CHENNAI: An aspiring candidate who contested in a cooperative society election returned dejected after the Madras High Court dismissed her petition to reconduct the poll as some of the ballot papers were destroyed by termites noting that some things are not in our control.

Justice CV Karthikeyan wished the candidate all the best, if she plans to participate in the election again, while dismissing her plan to reconduct the poll.

K Kauvery joined the race in Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society, Periyakattupalayam, Cuddalore, conducted on September 3, 2019. She contested in one of the three posts reserved for women in the general category, and elected candidates would go on to serve a five-year term. On the polling day, 1,311 votes were recorded, and the counting was scheduled for the next day. However, due to various reasons, the counting was delayed until January 6, 2020.

Unfortunately, 124 ballot papers were

damaged by the termites that claimed the boxes, as they had been left untouched for three months. Moreover, some ballot boxes were damaged by rainwater seeping through them.

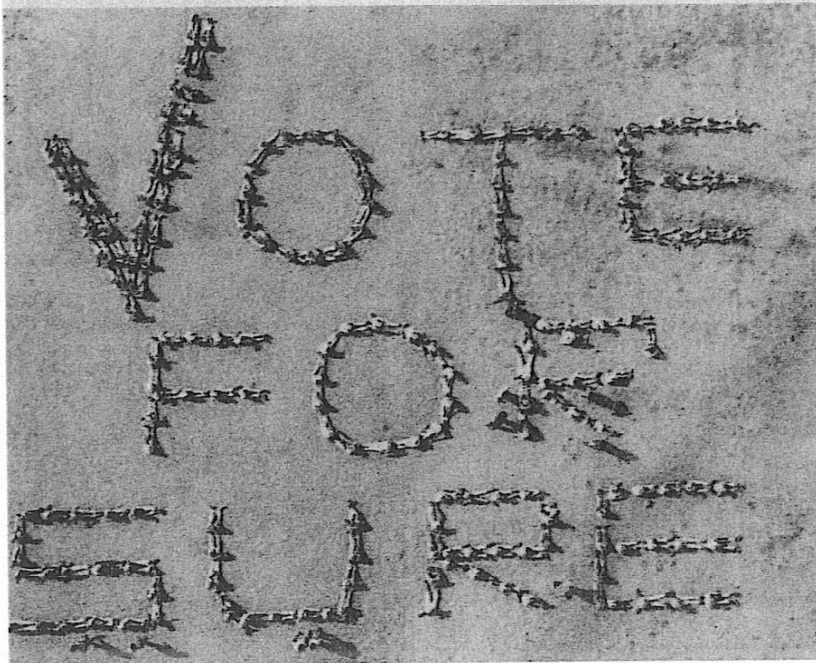
Kauvery lost the polls, and aggrieved by the conditions, she made a representation to the Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Societies Election Commission to declare the election as null and void due to the damages incurred to the ballot papers. She also sought to reschedule the election from the stage of scrutinising nomination papers. As the respondent refused her representation, she moved the HC.

The court refused to accept the petitioner's contention that she would win the election if the damaged ballot papers were counted; the judge held that the statement was made on presumption.

The respondents had no role in the situation as the damage was done by termites, which they could not prevent, the judge held. "The fact is that the votes were destroyed by termites and not on account of any deliberate act. It had happened beyond the respondents' controls, and the petitioner should accept the fact," wrote the judge.

D.T.Next, Dated: 26.01.2025

WAKE UP CALL



■ Targeting 100 per cent voter turnout, awareness programmes were organised in **Madurai and other districts on the occasion of 15th National Voters Day**

■ Students from various educational institutions participated in **events organised by the district administration on voter awareness**

■ In Tirunelveli, students of KR Government Higher Secondary School, Reddiarpatti took pledge to make people aware about the importance of voting. **The students lined up to form the message 'vote for sure'**

■ Activists working on electoral democracy have urged the Election Commission to utilise technological innovations better. They have appealed to **EC to come up with online polling facilities for senior citizens,**

The Hindu (Tamil)

Dated: 26-01-2025



● சென்னையில் நேற்று நடந்த தேசிய வாக்காளர் தின விழாவில் மாவட்ட தேர்தல் அலுவலர்களுக்கு சிறந்த தேர்தல் நடைமுறை விருதுகளையும், போட்டியில் வெற்றி பெற்றவர்களுக்கு பரிசுகளையும், ஆளுநர் ஆர்.என். ரவி வழங்கினார். உடன் தலைமைச் செயலர் நா.முருகானந்தம் மாநில தலைமை தேர்தல் அதிகாரி அர்ச்சுனா படநாயக்.

The Hindu (Tamil)

Dated: 26-01-2025

15-வது தேசிய வாக்காளர் தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு

காஞ்சி, செங்கையில் விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி

■ காஞ்சி/செங்கை

காஞ்சிபுரம், செங்கை மாவட்டங்களில் 15-வது தேசிய வாக்காளர் தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி நேற்று நடைபெற்றது.

காஞ்சிபுரம் மாவட்டத்தில் ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் ஜன. 25-ம் தேதி தேசிய வாக்காளர் தினம் கொண்டாடப்பட்டுவருகிறது. அந்தவகையில் நேற்று கல்லூரி மாணவ, மாணவிகள் பங்கேற்ற விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி நடைபெற்றது. இந்தப் பேரணியை வட்டாட்சியர் அலுவலகத்தில் மாவட்ட வருவாய் அலுவலர் செ.வெங்கடேஷ் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். இந்தப் பேரணி வட்டாட்சியர் அலுவலகத்திலிருந்து ஆட்சியர் அலுவலக வளாக மக்கள் நல்லுறவு மைய கூட்டரங்கு வரை நடைபெற்றது.

மேலும் ஆட்சியர் அலுவலக வளாக மக்கள் நல்லுறவு மைய கூட்டரங்கில் சார் ஆட்சியர் ஆஷிக் அலி, தலைமையில் அரசு அலுவலர்கள் மற்றும் கல்லூரி மாணவ, மாணவிகள் தேசிய வாக்காளர்கள் தின உறுதிமொழி எடுத்துக் கொண்டனர்.

பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவர்கள் பங்கு பெற்ற தேர்தல் தொடர்பான விழிப்புணர்வு பேச்சு, குழுநடனம், நாடகம், பொம்மலாட்ட நிகழ்ச்சிகள் நடைபெற்றன. இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் திட்ட இயக்குநர் (மகளிர் திட்டம்) மு.பிச்சாண்டி, ஆட்சியரின் நேர்முக உதவி யாளர் (பொது) சத்யா, தனி வட்டாட்சியர் (தேர்தல்) சு.ஜெயசித்ரா உட்பட பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

செங்கையில் நடைபெற்ற

பேரணியை ஆட்சியர் ச.அருண்ராஜ் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். இப்பேரணியில் ஏராளமான கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணவிகள் தங்களது கைகளில் “வாக்களிப்பது நமது ஜனநாயக கடமை”, “என் வாக்கு என் உரிமை” போன்ற வாக்களிப்பதன் அவசியம் குறித்த பல்வேறு வாசகங்கள் அடங்கிய பதாகைகளை கைகளில் ஏந்திக்கொண்டும், கோஷங்களை எழுப்பியவாறும், நகரின் முக்கிய வீதிகளில் சென்று பொதுமக்களிடையே விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தினர். இந்த நிகழ்வில் சார் ஆட்சியர் வெ.ச.நாராயண சர்மா, பயிற்சி ஆட்சியர் மாலதி ஹெலன், வட்டாட்சியர் (தேர்தல்) திரு.சிவசங்கரன் மற்றும் மாணவ, மாணவிகள், அரசு அலுவலர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

ஜனநாயகத்தை காக்க அனைவரும் ஓட்டளிக்க வேண்டும்



“ஜனநாயகத்தை காக்க அனைவரும் ஓட்டளிக்க வேண்டும்.” என, சுவாமிநாதர் ரவி வேண்டுகோள் விடுத்தார். சென்னையில் நேற்று, 15வது தேசிய வாக்காளர் தின விழா நடந்தது. வாக்காளர் பட்டியலில் பெயர் சேர்த்தல் உள்ளிட்ட, தேர்தல் பணி களில் சிறப்பாக செயல்பட்ட மாவட்ட தேர்தல் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு, சுவாமிநாதர் ரவி பரிசுகள் வழங்கினார்.

திருவண்ணாமலை கலெக்டர் பாஸ்கர பாண்டியன், காஞ்சிபுரம் கலெக்டர் கலைச் செல்வி மோகன், கோவை கலெக்டர் கிராந்திசுமார் பாடி, திருச்சி கலெக்டர் பிரதீப் குமார் உள்ளிட்டோர் பரிசுகள் பெற்றனர். தேர்தல் பணிகளில் சிறப்பாக செயல்பட்ட சப் கலெக்டர்கள், வட்டார வளர்ச்சி அலுவலர்கள், ஓட்டுச்சாவடி அலுவலர்களாக பணியாற்றிய அரசு ஊழியர்களுக்கும் பரிசுகள் வழங்கினார்.

வாக்காளர் விற்ப்பணாடி தொடர்பான கவரோட்டி வடிவமைப்பு, கட்டுரை, வினாடி வினா போட்டிகளில் வெற்றி பெற்ற பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவ - மாணவிகளுக்கு பரிசுகள், சான்றிதழ்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டன.

பின், சுவாமிநாதர் ரவி பேசிய தாவது: இந்தியாவில் ஜனநாயகம் மிகவும் முதிர்ச்சி அடைந்தது

தேசிய வாக்காளர் தின விழா, சென்னை சேப்பாக்கம் கல்லாணன் அரங்கில் நேற்று நடந்தது. இதில், தேர்தல் விற்ப்பணாடி கையேட்டை சுவாமிநாதர் ரவி வெளியிட்டார். உடன் இடமிருந்து: ஆணையர் ஜே.நி. நிரமலா சாமி, தமிழக அரசின் தலைமை அரங்கு பட்டியல் மற்றும் மாநகராட்சி கமிஷனர் குமரகுருபரன்.

எது. ஜனநாயகத்தை நிலை நாட்ட பலர் ரத்தம் சித்தியிடுக தின்றனர். இன்று நகரங்களை விட, கிராமங்களில் அதிக மக்கள் ஓட்டளிக்கின்றனர். தேர்தல்களில் ஓட்டளிப்பது தான் ஜனநாயகத்தையும், குடியரசையும் பாதுகாக்கும்.

எனவே, வாக்காளர் பட்டியலைப் பெயரை சேர்ப்பது மற்றும் ஓட்டளிப்பதன் முக்கியத்துவத்தை, மாணவர்களுக்கு புரிய வைக்க வேண்டும். இதற்காக கல்வி நிலையங்களில் விற்ப்பணாடி ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

எந்த தேர்தலாக இருந்தாலும், அனைவரும் கவனம்

கவனமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். இந்த, ‘டிஜிட்டல்’ யுகத்தில் மக்களை ஓட்டளிக்க ஊக்குவிக்காமல், திசை திருப்புகின்றனர். அதை நம்பி இருக்கும் ஓட்டளிக்காமல் யாரும் இருந்து விடக்கூடாது. அனைவரும் தவறாமல் ஓட்டளிக்க வேண்டும்.

பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு ஓட்டளிக்கவும் உரிமை இல்லாவிட்டாலும், பெற்றோர், உறவினர்களை ஓட்டளிக்க வலியுறுத்த வேண்டும். மாணவர்கள் ஓட்டளிக்கவும் வயதை அடைந்தவுடன், அட்டையை

பெற வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு அவர் பேசினார். தேர்தல் தமிழக தலைமை பட்டியல், அதிகாரி அர்ச்சுனா பட்டியல், தலைமை செயலர் முருகானந்தம், மாநில தேர்தல் ஆணையர் ஜோதிநிர்மலா சாமி, சென்னை மாநகராட்சி கமிஷனர் குமரகுருபரன் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

முதலில் தேசிய கீதம் சுவாமிநாதர் ரவி பேசிய கீதம், சிறில், முதலில் தேசிய கீதம், அதைத் தொடர்ந்து தமிழ்த் தாய் வாழ்த்தும் பாடப்பட்டது. நிகழ்ச்சியின் நிறைவிலும் தேசிய கீதம் பாடப்பட்டது.

ஒரே நாடு - ஒரே தேர்தல் முறை சிறந்த நிர்வாகத்தை உறுதி செய்யும்

ஜனாதிபதி திரவுபதி முர்மு பேச்சு

புதுடில்லி, ஜன. 26-

“ஒரே நாடு - ஒரே தேர்தல் முறை என்பது, சிறந்த அரசு நிர்வாகத்தை மேலும் சீரமைக்கும். அரசின் செயல்பாடுகள் அதிகரிப்பதுடன், கூடுதல் நிதி பளுவை குறைத்து, ஆதாரங்கள் வீணாவதை தடுக்கும்,” என, ஜனாதிபதி திரவுபதி முர்மு குறிப்பிட்டார்.

குடியரசு தினத்தை யொட்டி நாட்டு மக்களுக்கு ஜனாதிபதி திரவுபதி முர்மு, ரேடியோவில் நேற்று உரையாற்றினார். அவர் பேசியதாவது:

பல ஆண்டுகளாக காலனி ஆதிக்க மனநிலையில் இருந்து வரும் நாட்டை மீட்டெடுக்கும் முயற்சிகள் கடந்த சில ஆண்டுகளில் அதிகளவில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன.

அதில் ஒன்றாகத் தான், நூறாண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக இருந்த மூன்று கிரிமினல் சட்டங்களுக்கு மாற்றாக புதிய சட்டங்கள் அறிமுகம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இதுபோன்ற சீர்திருத்தங்களை மேற்கொள்ள, தீவிரமான மற்றும் உறுதியான தொலைநோக்கு பார்வை தேவை. இந்த



திரவுபதி முர்மு

வகையில், நாட்டின் தேர்தல் முறைகளில் மிகப்பெரும் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யும், ஒரே நாடு - ஒரே தேர்தல் முறை முக்கியமானது.

இந்த முறையானது, சிறந்த நிர்வாகத்தை மாற்றி அமைக்கும். நீடித்த சிறந்த நிர்வாகம், கொள்கை நடவடிக்கைகள் முடங்குவதை தடுப்பது, ஆதாரங்கள் வீணாவதை தடுப்பது, மாநிலங்களுக்கு நிதிச் சுமை ஏற்படுவதை தடுப்பது போன்றவற்றை உறுதி செய்யும்.

அரசியலமைப்புச் சட்டம் ஏற்கப்பட்டதன், 75வது ஆண்டை கொண்டாடுகிறோம். இது மிகவும் முக்கியமான நிகழ்வு. நாடு சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தபோது, நாட்டில் கடுமையான வறுமை மற்றும் பட்டினி இருந்

தது.

ஆனால், நாம் நம் மீதுவைத்திருந்த நம்பிக்கையால், வளர்ச்சியை உறுதி செய்தோம். இதில், விவசாயிகள், தொழிலாளர்கள் என, ஒவ்வொருவரும் தங்களுடைய பங்களிப்பை அளித்தனர். தற்போது உலகின் மிகப் பெரும் பொருளாதார சக்திகளில் ஒன்றாக வளர்ந்துள்ளோம்.

இந்த வளர்ச்சியை எட்டுவதற்கு, நமக்கு அரசியலமைப்பு உதவியுள்ளது. அனைத்துத் தரப்பினருக்கும் உரிய உரிமைகள், பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கிடைப்பதை அரசியலமைப்புச் சட்டம் உறுதி செய்கிறது.

அனைவரையும் உள்ளடக்கிய, அனைவருக்கும் வாய்ப்பு அளிக்கும், அனைவரின் வளர்ச்சியையும் கொள்கையாக கொண்டு இந்த அரசு செயல்படுகிறது.

ஒரு நாட்டின் வரலாற்றில், 75 ஆண்டுகள் என்பது கண்ணைச் சைக்கும் காலத்தைப் போன்றது என்று கூறுவர். ஆனால், இந்த, 75 ஆண்டுகளோ, உலக அரங்கில் நம்முடைய இடத்தை உறுதி செய்துள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.