

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/48/2024

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PRESS NOTE

ECI walks the extra mile to reach at the doorstep of elderly and PwD voters

Citizens above 85 years & PwDs starts voting from home: 18th Lok Sabha Election makes history

Over 1.7 crore 85+ Voters and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) voters can avail facility

In a pathbreaking initiative, the Election Commission of India (ECI), for the first time in a Lok Sabha Election, has provided the facility of home voting for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Voters above 85 years of age and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with 40% benchmark disability can avail the optional home voting facility. Voters in this category have already begun casting their votes for phase I and II of polling. This initiative marks a significant stride towards ensuring inclusivity and accessibility of the electoral process and in bolstering democratic participation. There are over 81 lakh 85+ aged voters and 90 lakh + PwD voters registered across the country.



(85+ elderly voters exercising vote using home voting facility in Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan)

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu had announced that by giving home voting facility to elders and PwDs, it is Commission's expression of care and respect towards

them and hoped that it would set an example for society to adopt it in day-to-day life. Voters who availed the home voting facility in phase 1 polls have expressed gratitude and satisfaction for the ECI initiative. Voting from home takes place with involvement of a full contingent of polling staff and security personnel with secrecy of voting diligently maintained. With this, ECI has taken another decisive step towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy, where every citizen's voice matters, regardless of physical limitations or age.

In Churu, Rajasthan eight PwD voters, all from the same family, exercised home voting facility underlining the strength of India's electoral democracy. In Chhattisgarh, 87-year-old Indumati Pandey and 86-year-old Sonmati Baghel, from Bastar and Sukma tribal districts, exercised their franchise using the postal ballot at home and expressed their gratitude to Election Commission for the facility. In Maharashtra, ECI polling teams travelled 107 kms to provide home voting facility to two elderly voters in Sironcha town in Gadchiroli district, LWE affected area.



PwD voters in Churu Rajasthan

Mr. BR Mishra from Jaysingh Nagar, Madhya Pradesh, after availing home voting conveyed joy and appreciation and said “आप लोगों ने अपना जो कर्तव्य किया है वो प्रशंसनीय है, बहुत अच्छा काम किया है कह सकता हूँ आपने जो अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन किया है वो असाधारण है , ऐसे ही सब करें तो हमारा देश गौरवयुक्त हो जायेगा” (The duty you have done is commendable, you have done a very good job, I can say that the way you have discharged your duties is extraordinary, if all of us work like this then we will make our country proud”)

Similar stories are being reported from other parts of the country where home voting is being conducted. These testimonials underscore the transformative impact of home voting, not just as a logistical convenience but as a symbol of inclusivity, empathy and

empowerment within the democratic fabric of our society. Identifying the 85-year-olds and the Persons with Disabilities in the country's vast electoral roll has in itself been a herculean task.



Smt. Rukmani Singh (91 yrs old) from 6-Moradabad PC and Shri Sumit Jain from Nagina PC in UP

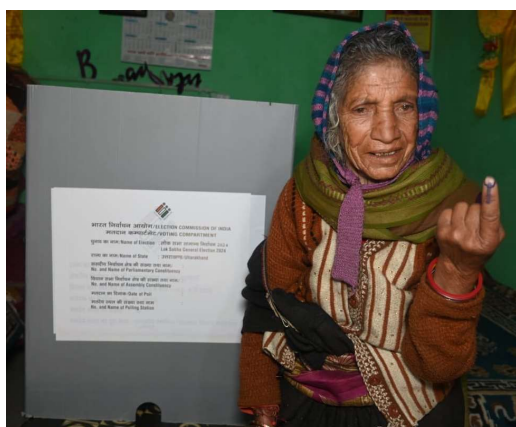


Rajendra Lal Agarwal, 95 yrs, Alwar, Rajasthan



Senior citizens and PwDs casting their votes through postal ballot facility in Dimapur on 9th April 2024. (DPRO Dimapur)

Dimapur, Nagaland



Elderly voters using home voting facility in Chamoli, Uttarakhand



107 yr old Shri Dharam Dev in Haridwar and Polling teams on the way for home voting in Chamoli, UK



(Senior Citizens voting from home: Courtesy CEO Rajasthan)

Another voter, Mr. Mittal said “बहुत ही खुशी हुई, बहुत प्रसन्नता हुई, की हम लोगों के लिए जो 85 साल से उम्र के ऊपर के लोग हैं उनको घर में ही वोट डालने की सुविधा दी है और ये चुनाव का सर्वोत्तम जो है.....उसके लिए मैं बहुत ही आभारी हूँ” (“I am very happy, very happy, that for those of us who are above 85 years of age, we have been given the facility to vote at home and this is the best thing about the elections.... I am very grateful for this.”)

About Home Voting Facility:

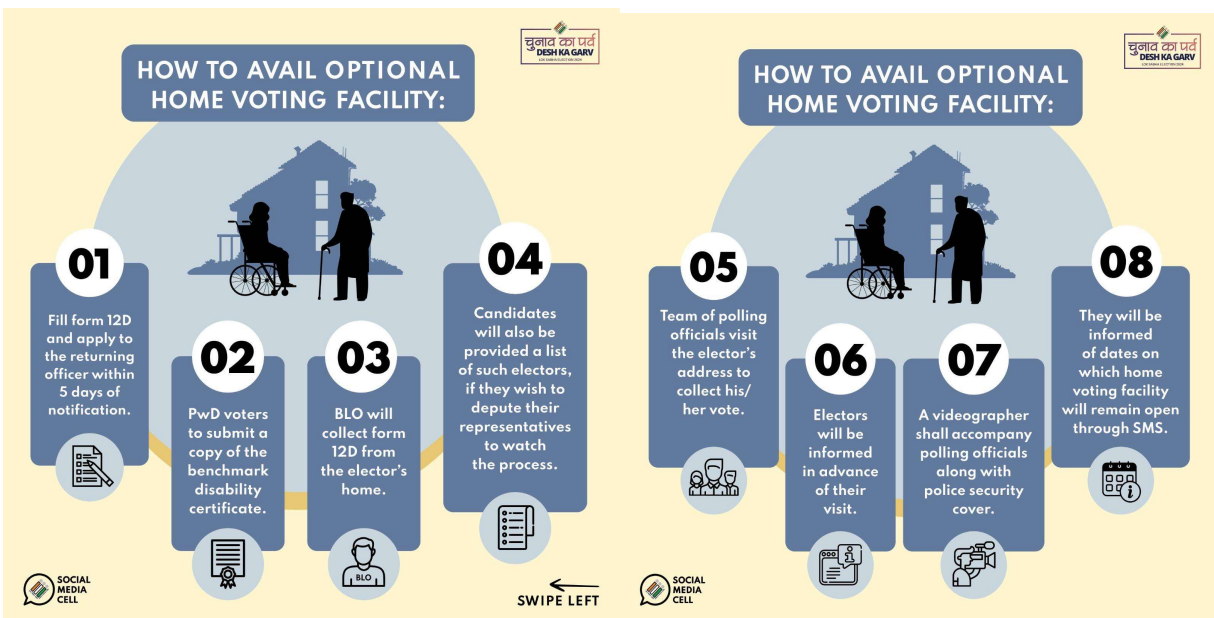
The provision of home voting is a progressive measure aimed at empowering voters who encounter barriers to participating in the electoral process at the polling stations. Specifically, this facility is extended to two key demographic groups: persons with disabilities (PwDs) meeting the 40% benchmark disability criteria and senior citizens

aged above 85 years. By extending this optional facility to these segments of the voters, the Election Commission recognizes the need to ensure that citizens' right to vote is not encumbered by physical barriers and disabilities. This upholds the Commission's motto of ensuring - No voter is left behind.

The procedure to avail this facility is simple yet thorough. Within five days of the election notification, eligible voters must complete Form 12D and submit it to the returning officer. PwD voters submit a baseline disability certificate with their applications.

Booth Level Officer (BLO) is responsible for retrieving Form 12D from the elector's place of residence when the required documentation has been completed. Candidates receive a list of these electors in order to maintain accountability and transparency; if they wish, they can choose a representative to supervise the process.

Following this, a dedicated team of polling officials along with security officials visits the voter's residence to collect their votes. Crucially, voters are notified ahead of time of the planned visit, allowing them to be prepared to exercise their right to vote in a safe and comfortable manner. To further expedite the procedure and improve accessibility, voters can also receive notifications via SMS about the days when their home voting facility will be active. The complete process is videographed for transparency.



This initiative underscores the ECI's dedication to leveraging technology to enhance the electoral process. From digital notifications to the deployment of videographers, the incorporation of innovative solutions facilitates a seamless and transparent voting experience for eligible individuals. As India gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the introduction of home voting stands as a testament to the ECIs unwavering commitment to upholding participative, inclusive and accessible elections.

Photos will be made available at <https://elections24.eci.gov.in/>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anuj Chandak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anuj Chandak
Joint Director

Annexure A

Statistics of 85+ Voters and PwD Voters in States/UTs

All India 85+ Electors summary as on 08.04.20224					
S. No.	State Name	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	581	456	0	1,037
2	Andhra Pradesh	84,155	1,26,927	6	2,11,088
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2,110	2,101	0	4,211
4	Assam	51,072	66,106	1	1,17,179
5	Bihar	2,90,121	3,75,846	9	6,65,976
6	Chandigarh	2,432	2,248	0	4,680
7	Chhattisgarh	30,968	50,870	0	81,838
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	200	498	0	698
9	Goa	4,529	6,973	0	11,502
10	Gujarat	1,56,033	2,63,498	4	4,19,535
11	Haryana	1,04,125	1,59,579	0	2,63,704
12	Himachal Pradesh	24,897	35,895	0	60,792
13	Jammu and Kashmir	37,633	39,306	0	76,939
14	Jharkhand	62,753	75,772	0	1,38,525
15	Karnataka	2,47,342	3,22,726	5	5,70,073
16	Kerala	88,176	1,58,779	2	2,46,957
17	Ladakh	819	751	0	1,570
18	Lakshadweep	50	59	0	109
19	Madhya Pradesh	1,06,165	1,81,046	5	2,87,216
20	Maharashtra	5,72,839	7,34,977	4	13,07,820
21	Manipur	10,361	11,939	0	22,300
22	Meghalaya	4,343	5,837	0	10,180
23	Mizoram	2,167	2,574	0	4,741
24	Nagaland	11,671	10,469	0	22,140
25	NCT OF Delhi	48,946	48,696	4	97,646
26	Odisha	1,40,117	1,62,128	3	3,02,248
27	Puducherry	3,280	4,848	0	8,128
28	Punjab	88,124	1,01,621	2	1,89,747
29	Rajasthan	1,88,478	3,83,363	2	5,71,843
30	Sikkim	1,418	1,018	0	2,436
31	Tamil Nadu	2,95,482	3,18,503	17	6,14,002
32	Telangana	79,150	1,14,416	6	1,93,572
33	Tripura	7,437	11,101	0	18,538
34	Uttar Pradesh	4,14,218	6,24,651	13	10,38,882
35	Uttarakhand	26,462	38,696	2	65,160
36	West Bengal	1,95,583	2,83,144	1	4,78,728
Total		33,84,237	47,27,417	86	81,11,740

All India PwD Electors summary as on 08.04.20224

S. No.	State Name	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,422	1,000	0	2,422
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,02,374	2,15,795	24	5,18,193
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2,849	2,747	0	5,596
4	Assam	98,481	95,473	13	1,93,967
5	Bihar	4,51,643	2,94,255	39	7,45,937
6	Chandigarh	2,341	1,405	0	3,746
7	Chhattisgarh	1,11,024	82,262	9	1,93,295
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1,218	785	0	2,003
9	Goa	5,617	3,794	1	9,412
10	Gujarat	2,17,162	1,58,153	10	3,75,325
11	Haryana	93,495	55,578	6	1,49,079
12	Himachal Pradesh	36,894	20,224	0	57,118
13	Jammu and Kashmir	49,192	31,643	4	80,839
14	Jharkhand	1,98,692	1,63,051	3	3,61,746
15	Karnataka	3,58,383	2,60,633	53	6,19,069
16	Kerala	1,47,241	1,16,987	4	2,64,232
17	Ladakh	587	537	0	1,124
18	Lakshadweep	432	308	0	740
19	Madhya Pradesh	3,35,372	2,44,118	10	5,79,500
20	Maharashtra	3,65,908	2,38,343	37	6,04,288
21	Manipur	8,137	6,189	3	14,329
22	Meghalaya	6,398	5,322	0	11,720
23	Mizoram	1,876	1,521	0	3,397
24	Nagaland	3,760	2,947	0	6,707
25	NCT OF Delhi	47,013	29,504	6	76,523
26	Odisha	2,97,514	2,25,242	49	5,22,805
27	Puducherry	7,078	6,062	1	13,141
28	Punjab	95,961	61,966	6	1,57,933
29	Rajasthan	3,79,205	1,94,866	8	5,74,079
30	Sikkim	2,399	1,801	0	4,200
31	Tamil Nadu	2,66,945	1,94,776	50	4,61,771
32	Telangana	2,99,114	2,27,576	19	5,26,709
33	Tripura	11,771	7,454	0	19,225
34	Uttar Pradesh	8,08,480	4,51,613	68	12,60,161
35	Uttarakhand	50,018	30,314	3	80,335
36	West Bengal	2,98,680	2,08,393	16	5,07,089
Total		53,64,676	36,42,637	442	90,07,755