

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
NirvachanSadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

PRESS NOTE

No. ECI/PN/45/2018

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**Election Commission of India to hold a
'National Consultation on Accessible Elections'**

- 1. Election Commission of India to hold a 'National Consultation on Accessible Elections'**
- 2. ECI holds wide consultation with its primary Stakeholders on making elections accessible to Persons with Disabilities**
- 3. After District & State round of Consultations, ECI deliberates at national level with its Chief Electoral Officers and key Stakeholders to make the electoral process completely accessible for PwDs**

Election Commission of India alongwith all Chief Electoral Officers and scores of representatives from Civil Society Organisations, working in the field of Disability would deliberate upon ways and means to make elections completely accessible to Electors with Disabilities. The National Consultation on Accessible Elections is scheduled to be held on 3-4th July, 2018 in New Delhi.

The National Consultation is the culmination of a nearly 3-month long series of District-level and State-level consultations, undertaken to identify barriers/gaps in the inclusion of PwDs in the electoral process, assess the existing accessibility initiatives in place and finding solutions for addressing challenges to enhance the participation of the PwDs in the next elections.

Background

Accessible election has been one of the priority areas for the Commission. Commission's guidance to support inclusion of the PwDs has been conveyed from time to time especially through directions contained in the circulars dated 12th March, 2016 and 7th September, 2016 besides earlier directions of 2004, 2005 and 2007 on the subject. The directions, comprehensive in nature, cover a series of action points for removal of barriers, registration, mapping, facilitation, voter education and all the key areas of electoral cycle relevant to inclusion for equal access to the PwDs.

