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1. Election Commission launched Matadata Junction (Oct. 3, 2022)

The Election Commission launched **Matadata Junction**, a year-long voter awareness program on All India Radio on October 3.

Important facts

- Matadata Junction was launched in a program organised at **Akashvani Rang Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India **Rajiv Kumar** inaugurated the program in the presence of Election Commissioner of India **Anoop Chandra Pandey**, CEO Prasar Bharati **Mayank Kumar Agarwal**.
- DG AIR News Vasudha Gupta and actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is an ECI state icon, were present on the occasion.

About Matadata Junction

- Under this, **52 episodes of 15 minutes** duration will be telecast every Friday on **Vividh Bharati stations, FM Rainbow, FM Gold and primary channels of All India Radio**.
- Each program will be based on a specific **theme** on the electoral process.
- All 52 themes aim to encourage all eligible citizens, especially young and first-time voters.
- Quiz, interviews with experts, and songs produced by EC's **SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation)** team will be played in every episode.
- The program includes a Citizens' Corner where any citizen can ask questions or make suggestions on any aspect of voting.

Matadata Junction will be conducted in 23 languages

- **23 languages are** - Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili & Dogri.

Election Commission of India

- It is a **permanent and independent body** established by the Constitution of India to ensure free and fair elections in India.
- It was established as per the Constitution on **25 January 1950**.
- It administers the elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the President and Vice President of the country.

- It has nothing to do with elections to **panchayats and municipalities** in the states.
- For this the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
 - Basically there is only one **Chief Election Commissioner** in the Election Commission.
 - Currently it consists of **two Election Commissioners**.
 - The **President** appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
 - They have a tenure of **six years, or up to the age of 65 years**.