

Digital Time Vouchers

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About Digital Time Vouchers:

- The Election Commission of India has amended the existing scheme for the use of Government-owned electronic media by political parties.
- This has been done by introducing a provision to issue **digital time vouchers** through an **Information Technology (IT) platform**.
- Each party shall be given **time Vouchers of different denominations** of, 5 minutes and 10 minutes, equal to the total time allotted to it for telecasts on Doordarshan and broadcasts on AIR.
- That party shall have the discretion to choose any representatives and allow them to use those time vouchers provided that **no such individual representative** shall be allowed **to use more than 20 minutes** of the total time allotted to that party, either on Doordarshan or on AIR.
- **Background**
 - The scheme was initially notified on 16th January 1998, holds a statutory basis under Section 39A of **the Representation of People Act, 1951**.
 - It aimed at ensuring equitable access to government-owned electronic media during elections for campaigning.

- Under this Scheme, an equitable base time is allotted to **each National Party and Recognized State Party of the state** concerned uniformly on DD & AIR.
 - The additional time to be allotted to the parties is decided on the basis of the poll performance of the parties in the last assembly elections from the respective States/UT or in the last general Elections to Lok Sabha, as the case may be.
 - The actual date and time during which the above telecasts/broadcasts will be made by the authorised representatives of any party is predetermined, by a lot, by the **Prasar Bharati Corporation in consultation with ECI** and in the presence of political party representatives.
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Q1) What is the Representation of the People Act, 1951?

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 is a significant piece of legislation in India that governs the conduct of elections in the country. It was enacted to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the preparation and revision of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies, and the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Source: [ECI to issue digital time vouchers to National & State political parties for campaigning on Doordarshan & All India Radio during elections](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/digital-time-vouchers/>

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