

The Past, Present, and Future of Lottery

Information Packet for The Press

Introduction to Lottery

According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, lottery is the procedure for distributing something (usually money or prizes) among a group of people by lot or by chance. Therefore, by definition, it is a game of chance.

Lottery was largely operated by emperors, rulers and governments as a way to increase funding for infrastructure development, public works and maintenance, and one-time undertakings, without increasing the tax burden on their people. Historically, lottery has been a great tool in the hands of the government where people, who are willing and able to, are given the option to help the nation and themselves.

Private players in lottery have often spelt trouble for society at large. Widespread corruption, rigged games and predetermined winners, meant that the public was losing out and the operators themselves were the only beneficiaries. With illegal lotteries, where most of the tickets were sold with no paper trail or public announcements, taxation that the government benefitted from vanished too. Outlawing lottery became a common theme wherever private players held large market share. Their unscrupulous practices often marred the game of chance and became an operational front for more heinous enterprises.

A Glimpse of History; Lottery Around the World

Ancient China

205 - 187 BC

After the failure of the Qin Dynasty to raise funds for its construction, the Han Dynasty introduces a game named Keno to and continues to build a large portion of the monument today known as the "Great Wall of China." It is the first recorded instance of lottery in history.

63 BC - AD 14

Ancient Rome

In Ancient Rome, Emperor Augustus Caesar introduces the lottery for funding municipal repairs with prizes in kind of various value are distributed. Following the success of which raffle style draws are arranged at the Saturnalia feasts offering prizes including properties that the general public can buy tickets for.

Bruges, Burgundy

1441

In modern history, Bruges, in present day Belgium, is the first recorded lottery most similar to the version played today. It was also the first time the term "lottery" was used, and the draw was conducted live to show the transparency of the system so that people could see the winning tickets being drawn at random.

1539

France

King Francis I discovered the lottery during his campaign to Italy and decided to create one to fund a commune. However, the tickets were priced poorly, and majority of the population could not afford it and those who could, did not favour the idea of a commune. Lotteries were a success in France following the French revolution.

England

1566

Queen Elizabeth I chartered the first official lottery in England in 1566 and conducted the maiden draw in 1569. 400,000 tickets were available to purchase and the grand prize of £5,000 along with gifts of kind and immunity from arrests for petty crimes. The profits from the lottery funded a myriad of projects including rebuilding ports.

1763

Spain

Though lottery was introduced in 1763, it was not until the 1812 introduction of the Spanish Christmas Lottery as it has been known since 1892, that it became a tradition in Spain. It is the second longest running lottery in the world and continued during the Spanish Civil War years too.

USA

1794

Following the American Revolution, as endowments were scarce, Harvard University petitioned the General Courts of Massachusetts to allow them to issue a lottery to partially fund the construction of their buildings on campus. The same tactic was employed by other universities like Yale, Brown, Princeton, and Dartmouth.

1874

Siam

The first Thai lottery was held in the kingdom of Siam as it was still called. King Chulalongkorn organised an international fair as a part of his birthday celebration which included the lottery. From 1917 to 1933 Thailand organised lotteries for various purposes, including helping the British war effort in the first world war.

Australia

1957

Australia first introduced the lottery in the 19th century to dispose the assets accumulated by Bank of Australia after its closure, though their most successful lottery was in 1957 when they used the lottery to fund the construction of one of the most famous monuments in the world, including to pay the Danish architect behind the Sydney Opera House.

Lottery in India

The lottery sector in India has had a comparable history to its global counterparts. It began as a way for governments to operate a system that could benefit its people while procuring additional funding for public works and development projects without overburdening the taxation system already in place. The contemporaneous Government of Kerala in 1967 was the first to introduce state lottery in India after private lotteries were banned nationwide. Today, the revenue generated by the State lottery is used to fund *Karunya*, a scheme to pay medical bills for those who require assistance.

Soon however, private players, both licensed and unlicensed, began to pop-up around the country. As with its global counterparts, the private operators in India too prioritised lining their pockets over the acts of paying taxes and disbursing prizes to the respective winners. India soon fell victim to a scam unique to lottery, where unsold tickets surface claiming prizes after the results are announced and utilising the game to launder money made.

Most often the biggest losers in this were the general public who bought the tickets in earnest hoping for an opportunity to change their lives. Using fine prints and exploiting the uninformed, many times the winning tickets were taken away for little to no money from them. Many of whom were not even aware that the lottery they participated was illegal and are left without redressal avenues. With no one to turn to for help, many soon began to look beyond the Indian lottery offerings, particularly favouring the Middle Eastern lotteries. This has led to a large outflow of forex from India to other nations and the benefits largely reaped by them too.

EasyLottery.in

EasyLottery.in brings a unique and steadfast approach to lottery in India. The government of Meghalaya spearheads this revolutionary product that takes it back to its roots- to benefit society- while bringing it into the 21st century as India's first digital lottery. The focus of EasyLottery.in is to bring the transparency and efficiency in a sector that has been plagued by greed and vested interests.

EasyLottery.in has chosen the first prize of 50 Crore Rupees as we believe the purpose of this lottery is to help every Indian citizen with a dream, the opportunity to realise them and in turn create prospects for others. It also provides a unique chance to mint Indian millionaires.

EasyLottery.in is also the first responsible lottery platform in the world. Besides the general regulations that prohibits sale of tickets to minors, which we monitor through our stringent KYC and compliance focused software, we have taken it a step further. The central focus of our enterprise is to create a safe and transparent environment that allows people to have fun, without developing dependency or displaying tendencies of addiction to gambling. Our

systems are designed to temporarily suspend the accounts of users who are on a losing streak. We do not do the same for a user on a winning streak as it is in their favour.

Our ticket purchasing system allows 3 methods of determining the ticket number so people are able to customise it to their preference. They can opt to pick the number at random, select every digit individually or select their preferred sum of the digits (between 0 and 9) to reflect their lucky number, favourite number, etc.

EasyLottery.in has a vision that focuses heavily on the collective benefit. The Government of Meghalaya, through the Directorate of Meghalaya State Lotteries (DMSL), ensures that prizes are disbursed as indicated. Our lottery guarantees a first prize for every draw and the winner is determined in a one-letter and four-digit draw method with just 2,60,000 tickets in the draw. This means that with a ₹5,000 ticket, one could be a multimillionaire and join the ranks of the 0.1% of the world's population.

Conclusion

It is with great forethought that we have crafted a product that is ultimately for the benefit of our people, our society and our country. Check out our **BIG50** on [EasyLottery.in](https://www.easylottery.in) to win 50 Crore rupees and participate in our maiden draw as we transform the sector and redefine the industry standard.

Take a chance, not risk.