

Booth Level Officer E-Patrika

The Pledge

'We the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement'.



National Voters' Day Special Edition



Message from

*Rajiv Kumar,
Chief Election Commissioner of India*

The Commission is proud to launch the third edition of BLO e-Patrika on the eve of National Voters Day 2023. Since 2011, the country has observed National Voters' Day (NVD) on January 25 to commemorate the founding day of the Election Commission of India, which was formed on this date in 1950.

The primary goal of the NVD celebration is to create electoral awareness and promote, ease, and optimize voter registration, particularly for newly eligible persons. The Booth-level officers, who are the representatives of the Commission on the ground, play a crucial role in voter registration.

A comprehensive overview of NVD and the duties of Booth Level Officers is highlighted in the current volume of "BLO e-Patrika." Our 10.37 lakh BLOs on the ground will undoubtedly use it as a resource to further excel at their responsibilities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rajiv Kumar'.

(Rajiv Kumar)



Message from

**Anup Chandra Pandey,
Election Commissioner of India**

I am very happy that the third edition of 'BLO e-Patrika' is presented to our Booth Level Officers spread across the length and breadth of this country. The moment is special because National Voters Day (NVD) is around the corner. Over time, NVD has been standardized.

It links the ECI with over 95 million voters across the country, dispersed over more than 10 lakh polling stations NVD is the world's greatest simultaneous celebration of democracy, demonstrating the power and durability of the Indian Electoral System, the Election Commission of India, and our country's democratic institutions.

Our booth-level officers are the ambassadors of the Commission on the ground. Hence, it is of paramount importance to orient them with the correct voter awareness and facilitation practices, to celebrate the spirit of National voters' day at their booths with the maximum participation of the electors.

The third edition of BLO e-Patrika will fill our BLOs with renewed energy and enthusiasm to perform their duties to the best of their capabilities and celebrate NVD 2023 with great fervour and dedication to strengthen the democratic spirit on the ground.

(Anup Chandra Pandey)



Message from

**Arun Goel,
Election Commissioner of India**

It is my pleasure to present the third edition of 'BLO e-Patrika' to our hardworking foot soldiers – the booth-level officers. This is indeed a special occasion as National Voters' Day (NVD) will be celebrated on 25th January.

If the voter is the most important stakeholder in our electoral process, our BLOs are the nearest facilitators in the process. Their consistent contribution towards the enhancement of voters remains key to the electoral process.

The annual NVD celebration is yet another opportunity for our BLOs to spread voter awareness alongside other mandatory duties as prescribed by the Commission. This Patrika will act as a resourceful guide for the BLOs.

It will encourage BLOs to abide by their duties and responsibilities in a creative and enthusiastic manner to serve the citizens and their area with an even greater commitment and enthusiasm.

(Arun Goel)

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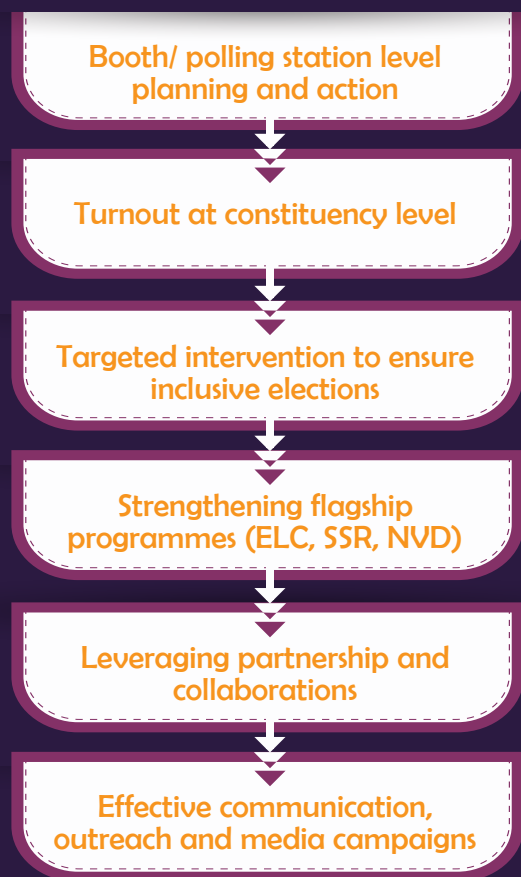
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Booth Level Strategy

SVEEP IV strategic framework (2022-25) requires that such key strategies are devised which seek to communicate all aspects of electoral participation to the voter in a compelling way.



Let us look at Booth/Polling Station Level Planning and Action to enlighten BLOs about their responsibilities.

There are three key stakeholders at the booth level:

- Voters
- Booth Level Officer (BLO)
- Booth Level Awareness Groups (BAGs) & other partners

The booth-level strategy has the power to deliver individualized, customized outreach and interpersonal communication, and social mobilization efforts to motivate the voters sitting on the fence and even the resisters. In order to carry out the multifarious responsibilities detailed below, the BLO needs to function as a team (himself being the team leader) along with the grassroots functionaries.

There are two key aspects of the booth strategy:

• Registration

• Polling



What should BLOs do?

Voter Registration

- BLO must prepare in advance for the intensive SVEEP activity during SSR to ensure that the prospective, newly eligible, and left-out voters in his/her booth are all contacted, informed, and facilitated/assisted on the spot in applying for registration (form 6).
- A monthly session – ‘Masik Matdata Baithak’ - needs to be scheduled on the first Sunday of every month from 10 am to 2 pm to provide access to citizens to get any registrations, corrections, information, and other election-related services and address their grievances.





Voter list being read out by a BLO in a village of Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.

Electoral Roll Updation

- BLO should conduct a situation analysis and analyse the available data in the current electoral roll and check existing gaps in registration and turnout through field visits.
- Special efforts should be made to identify the newly eligible, newly arrived, and prospective voters and their enrollment should be facilitated.
- Persons with Disabilities and socially prominent electors should also be identified and marked in the electoral roll.
- The door-to-door surveys by BLOs should be utilized for identifying errors in the electoral rolls in terms of family tagging, error in age, relation type and relation name, identifying deceased/permanently shifted voters and collecting the relevant forms for correction/deletion.
- Clean up the electoral roll of every booth by removing all deceased, shifted, and untraceable electors by following due procedure. Verify DSE/PSE and delete duplicate entries.
- Verify all 80 year-plus and women (> 25 years) to identify and delete any deceased or permanently shifted electors.
- Focus on high EP and low turnout booths for verification of all entries of the Roll and removal of deceased and permanently shifted electors.
- An attempt should be made to add the mobile numbers of all electors to the electoral roll through Form-8.
- BLO should try to enroll all left-out eligible citizens in his jurisdiction and motivate them to vote in every election.



Pre Poll Day

- BLO should register eligible electors to avail of the pick-and-drop facility.
- BLO must distribute voter slips, and voter assistance guides and administer voter pledges to all electors in his/her area well before the poll day.

On Poll Day

- BLO must operate the helpdesk at the booth to assist the electors in locating their names.
- BLO must ensure due assistance to senior citizens, PwDs, pregnant women, and lactating mothers at the polling station with the help of volunteers.

National Voters Day

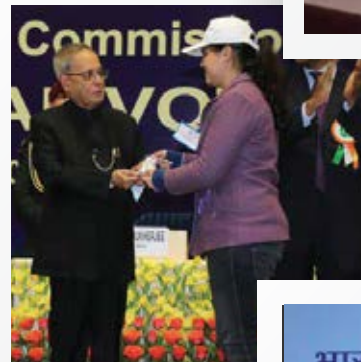
Over the Years . . .

To celebrate the spirit of democracy and enhance the participation of citizens, especially the youth in the democratic electoral process, ECI celebrates 25th January, its foundation day, as the National Voters' Day every year since 2011.

NVD celebration at national, state, district, constituency down to polling station areas seeks to connect all citizens across the country to the electoral system. A rigorous exercise is taken up during SSR to identify all eligible voters attaining 18 years of age in each polling station area of the country, enroll them and hand over their Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) during the 25th January celebration.

The newly enrolled electors are also given a badge with the slogan 'Proud to be a Voter-Ready to Vote' during the felicitation ceremony along with their EPIC. They are administered a pledge too.

Former Presidents of India gracing NVD





The theme for NVD 2023:

Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure

This theme carries tremendous significance especially as we approach the General Election to the 18th 'Lok Sabha' in 2024. We occasionally overlook the fact that voting is an experience that can improve how we feel about our communities and political system in addition to being a right and a responsibility. Voting during elections offers an opportunity for community interaction. One of the many ways we cultivate tolerance and resilience in our democracy is through civic rituals such as engaging with fellow citizens during the election period.

The theme of upcoming NVD celebrations is in line with the ECI's premise of 'No Voter to be Left Behind' and 'Every Vote Matters.' ECI expects every BLO to remind the citizens of India that voting is a responsibility toward nation-building. BLOs must remind voters about this duty through their actions, initiatives, and awareness programs executed throughout the year.

Besides, this theme reinforces the citizens' belief in the ballot and a promise to vote for sure. It envisages active and participative voters during elections. It hopes for an empowered, inclusive, and fulfilled democracy. BLOs have a serious responsibility to communicate this vision of ECI to each voter.

SMART BLO

BLO's one stop destination - Garuda App

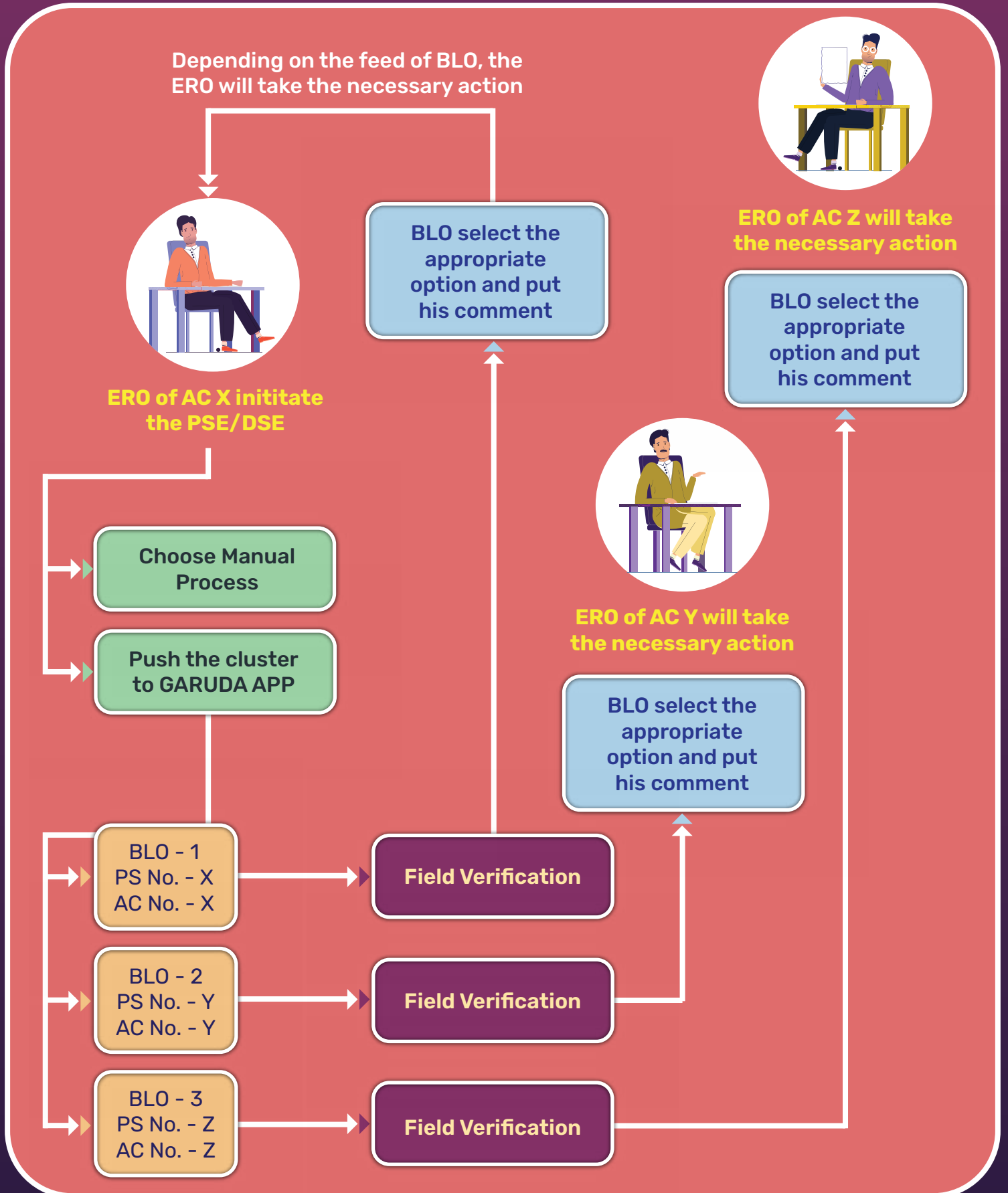
GARUDA application is one of the most significant initiatives the Election Commission of India has taken. This app is designed to empower over 10 Lakhs Booth Level Officers (BLO) for field verification and multiple activities with respect to the polling station and electoral roll.

This application is easy to use and saves a lot of paperwork and time in processing forms for inclusion, transfer, deletion, and correction. This application is developed in both Android as well as iOS versions. This application has various features like:



New Feature - PSE / DSE Verification

This is a new initiative taken by the ECI to enhance the quality of the electoral roll. Here in this process system identifies the photograph similar entries (PSE) & demographic similar entries (DSE) across the ACs in a state. The ERO needs to generate the list of PSE/DSE where he can choose from the option of manual verification or through the GARUDA app. This activity helps ECI to remove those entries which are multiple in the electoral roll.





Baaton Baaton Mein

In Conversation with BLO



**BLO Basanti Lal Part 235,
(Vallabh Nagar, Udaipur,
Rajasthan)**

For the bye-elections in Vallabh Nagar, Udaipur, that were to be held on 30th Oct 2022, my booth part No 235 had been selected as PwD exclusive Polling booth. The Nagar Palika Kanod was roped in to provide all kinds of basic facilities as well as AMF for both the PwD electors as well as the polling party personnel.

The booth was decorated and made to look attractive. We transformed the plain, bland look of a school into an alluring look that appealed to the voters. An exclusive Selfie point at the booth was an eye-catcher that became a resounding hit with electors.

An efficient team goes a long way in achieving the desired results. The SDM, BDO, PEO, Nagar Palika officials all played a significant role in SVEEP strategy and widespread publicity of all initiatives of the Election Commission of India for PwD facilitation.

Finally, our efforts bore fruits and when the results were declared, my booth had pitched 100% voter turnout for PwD electors. This was indeed a feat to celebrate, to rejoice!





PwD 2.0 App is **Saksham - ECI**

The Saksham app is available in a new design, layout, interface & features to ensure easy access for Persons with Disability (PwD).

The app is designed to inform, serve and assist PwD voters.



New version includes additional features like:

Know your candidates

Booth Locator

Grievance redressal/ information

Facilities at Polling Station

Request for assistance at the booth

Request for pick and drop

FAQs

Audio/ Video on accessible elections

ASSISTANCE AT ONE CLICK

Register as Voter

Search your Name

File your Complaint

Facilities at Booth

