



Booth Level Officer e-Patrika



Special Edition on NVD

"Exemplary BLOs: Learning Through Best Practices"

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Volume 15

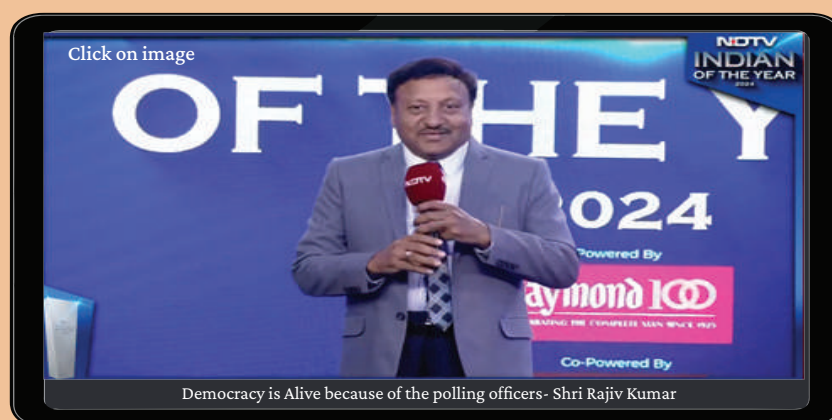
The concept of NVD

National Voters' Day, celebrated on 25th January, marks the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Election Commission of India. Each year, a series of well-organised events, take place to honour this occasion at 10.5 lakhs polling booths. These gatherings serve as a lively and powerful demonstration of the widespread and diverse engagement of voters, from the national level down to individual polling stations, involving all stakeholders. On this day, voters also take a Voters' Pledge, reinforcing their commitment to the democratic process.

VOTERS' 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'.

NDTV recently hosted an event where Shri Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC), shared his valuable insights – a must-listen for everyone.



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15th National Voters Day

National Voters Day is being celebrated from 2011 and this day is dedicated to the voters of the country. The theme for this year's National Voters' Day, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure,' is a heartfelt dedication to voters, conveying the sentiments and aspirations of individuals towards participating in the electoral process through the impactful expression of their vote.

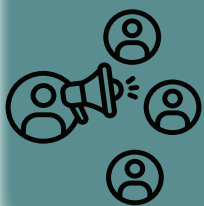
Highlights the importance of every vote in shaping the nation's future.

Significance of the theme:

The National Voters' Day theme underscores shared responsibilities between institutions and individuals. The Election Commission of India (ECI) promotes greater voter participation through innovative initiatives such as Assured Minimum Facilities, Model Polling Stations, Selfie Booths, and Home Voting. These measures are designed to enhance inclusivity, accessibility, and the overall voting experience for every citizen. For individuals, voting is both a right and a duty, essential to strengthening democracy. The logo embodies the celebration's essence with the Ashok Chakra symbolising democracy, the inked finger representing voter empowerment, and the tick mark signifying informed decision-making. Together, they inspire confidence, inclusivity, and active electoral participation.

Enhancing the reach and impact of National Voters' Day

The role of BLOs is to popularise National Voters' Day and address challenges such as lack of awareness, perceived irrelevance, limited outreach, and language barriers, Booth Level Officers play a pivotal role. They shall:



Raise Awareness: Through impactful posters, informative pamphlets, and engaging digital platforms. Highlight its vital role in empowering citizens and reinforcing the foundations of democracy.



Engage Communities:

Encourage citizens to participate in interactive activities like quizzes, debates, and cultural performances organised by CEO office, making celebrations engaging and relatable.



Combat Urban Apathy:

Encourage urban participation through virtual pledges and polling station events.



Organise Key Activities:

Distribute EPIC cards to new voters, lead NVD pledge administration, and share creative audio-visual materials across social media and WhatsApp groups for broader participation.



Localise Communication:

Tailored messaging that are linguistically and culturally relevant, showcasing how voting impacts local communities.



Strengthen Grassroots Efforts:

Collaborate with local volunteers such as Panchayats, RWAs representatives and development department officials and ASHA workers to ensure inclusive celebrations in rural and marginalised areas.

These initiatives enable BLOs to elevate National Voters' Day into a widely celebrated occasion, fostering democratic values and inspiring increased voter participation.

BLOs are now receiving well-deserved recognition and appreciation across various platforms and occasions in society. In the event, NDTV honoured outstanding performers in diverse fields, where several BLOs were also celebrated for their exceptional contributions.



From left to 4th position (Ms. Anita Minj, Blo, Jharkhand)

Stories from ground



The Inspiring Journey a Booth Level Officer:-

- Name : Yoonus Saleem
- Part No.: 82 Mannarkkad (054), Palakkad, Kerala

Mr. Yoonus Saleem S.R. have been serving as a Booth Level Officer since November 30, 2010. Taking on this role with enthusiasm, I sought to equip myself with the necessary knowledge and skills by actively participating in BLO training sessions and studying the resources available on the Election Commission's website.

Being a National Referee for the All India Football Federation also gave me a unique advantage in engaging with football enthusiasts in my area. To ensure a purified voter list and proper distribution of voter slips, I undertook detailed house-to-house visits and created a booth map assigning unique numbers to each house. Using Excel, I meticulously organised voter data, identifying duplicates and voters from outside the booth area. After each election, I analysed the list of voters who did not cast their votes and worked to update and refine the voter list accordingly.

I also facilitated the transfer of voters from one booth to another by collecting necessary documents and sharing this process with other BLOs to ensure its effective implementation. In the last, my dedication earned me recognition as the "Best BLO" in the Mannarkkad Assembly Constituency.



Resolving Electoral Challenges with Dedication

Name - Joyita Sarkar
AC No. - 187, Champdani Assembly Constituency, West Bengal
Part No.-124, Chawk Prathamik Vidyalay

Smt. Joyita Sarkar, as a Booth Level Officer during the Pre-Revision Period of SSR 2025. The deletion of deceased electors proved difficult due to procedural hurdles.

Notable examples of her efforts include helping Chabi Majhi, an uneducated woman, register her name by coordinating with the administrative desk to procure necessary documents and filing Form 6. Similarly, for Jadu Gopal Bhattacharya, a deceased elector whose family struggled to obtain a death certificate, she facilitated its issuance, completed Form 7, and processed the deletion of his name from the roll. These instances highlight her commitment to ensuring an inclusive and accurate electoral roll.



My salute to that widow voter

Name : Kuldeep Singh Solanki

Part No.: : 90, Gram Panchayat Bhavan, Banjali, 219 Ratlam Rural (M.P.)



In the recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh, the voting percentage has been low in most of the places. Both the elections were held during six months. This story of a widow voter, Mrs. Savitabai Ninama, highlights the importance of voting and the role of women in democracy. On the day of voting, Savitabai arrived at the polling booth with her son, despite perhaps being prohibited from moving out of home due to the tragic death of her husband a few days ago.

Savitabai, in a hurry, did not bring any necessary documents for voting, such as a Voter ID or Aadhar Card. The Presiding Officer stopped her from voting, but with a sad but determined heart, she decided to cast her vote. They approached one computer centre to another in Ratlam city, buying the original print of the online Aadhar card for Rs. 150. After voting, the mother and son left for their village to complete the thirteen-day post-death rituals of her husband.

Seeing this incident of that day, I saluted Savitabai in my heart and mind and being an illiterate and aware voter, my heart knew no bounds to see her deep faith, determination and commitment towards democracy. If only all the voters of our country start exercising their right to vote responsibly like Savitabai to strengthen democracy, then certainly the roots of democracy will become stronger and deeper.

Together We Will Succeed, Together We Will Move Forward

Name: Prem Singh

Part No.: 168, Kashi Nagar, Nagaur, Subdivision Makrana, Rajasthan



The area of Part No. 168 spans an 8-kilometer radius, with most residents living in farmhouses and scattered settlements. Whenever voter registration camps are organized at the booth, I ensure that all voters in the area are informed a day prior.

When the task of linking voter ID cards with Aadhaar numbers began, I reached out to every voter and worked tirelessly. As a result of this effort, I successfully linked 95% of voters in the area with Aadhaar. Alongside this, I educated all voters about the importance of voting and encouraged them to cast their votes. The enthusiasm shown by voters was remarkable, leading to a large turnout at the polling station.

There is now no voter in this area that does not recognize me. This is the result of my hard work and consistent outreach, which has helped achieve a voting percentage of 96.66% here. For this accomplishment, I was honored with a state-level award by the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan.

A BLO committed to electoral excellence

Name- Chandra Bahadur Chettri

Part No. 3/8 Gitang, 03 – Manybung Dentam, Gyalshing, Sikkim



Mr. Chandra Bahadur Chettri, a resident of Jagridunga in the Maneybong Dentam Constituency, serves as a Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) under the Rural Development Department at Dentam BAC. In his role as the Booth Level Officer (BLO) for 3/8 Gitang Block, he has demonstrated exceptional dedication and diligence. Mr. Chettri efficiently conducted a comprehensive house-to-house survey using the BLO App and successfully carried out the Special Summary Revision with the qualifying date, showcasing his commitment to excellence in electoral processes.

Addressing Urban Apathy : a BLO's approach

Name - Krishna Veni

Part No.: – 163, 117 in Bhadradi Kothagudem, Telangana



Ms. Krishna Veni, the Booth Level Officer for the last 18 years of the Kothagudem Kothagudem Polling Station is an urban conglomeration with 1890 population including 1261 electors. Consisting of heterogeneous populations like daily wage workers from nearby villages/tribal areas, migrants, students etc., she built perfect rapport with everyone to successfully carry out the BLO duties.

In this direction, she focused on House-to-House verification, which is key to adding, deleting or making modifications to the Electoral Roll, duly following the procedures laid down; conducting Special Campaign Days as a part of Special Summary Revision, Elector engagement activities like 2k/5k run, Rangoli competitions, Booth Awareness Groups meetings etc.

Special efforts are being taken to enroll marginalised groups like Third Gender, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Sex Workers etc. by dovetailing Voter Awareness to other key programs with Govt. departments' flagship programs like WCD, Health etc.

"It is a matter of utmost satisfaction and a bit pride that I can use the BLO apps for generating the forms [like 6, 8] for enrolment and modifications; thereby the young voters getting their EPIC cards directly to homes", says Veni.

During the previous General Elections, Voter Information Slips, and Voter Guides were provided to all the Electors in the Polling Station along with ensuring appropriate support for the PwD, Sr. Citizens and needy persons. Due to these efforts, the Polling increased from 67% to 70.2% in the General Elections, in 2024.



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Blueprint for other BLOs across the nation

Name - Sunita Verma

Part No.: -60128 DHAR, District - Chaupal, Shimla-Urban, Himachal Pradesh



With a background in community engagement, she combined innovative techniques and digital tools to ensure her booth achieved record voter turnout during the 2024 State Assembly Elections. She organised workshops at community centers to educate first-time voters and underprivileged groups about their electoral rights. To make the process more accessible, she utilized tools like the Voter Helpline App and c-VIGIL, helping citizens with real-time grievance redressal and registration updates.

Sunita collaborated with local schools and colleges, conducting creative activities like essay competitions and mock polling sessions to instill civic responsibility among the youth. Her approach to connecting with the younger demographic led to a 25% increase in first-time voter registrations in her booth.

Her relentless efforts to educate and empower the community culminated in a 95% voter turnout, one of the highest in the district. The visible use of technology, like leveraging KYC Apps for quick corrections and awareness campaigns through social media, highlighted her adaptability and commitment.

Enhancing Voter Participation and Accessibility in General Election 2024

Name: Ishfaq Ahmad Shah

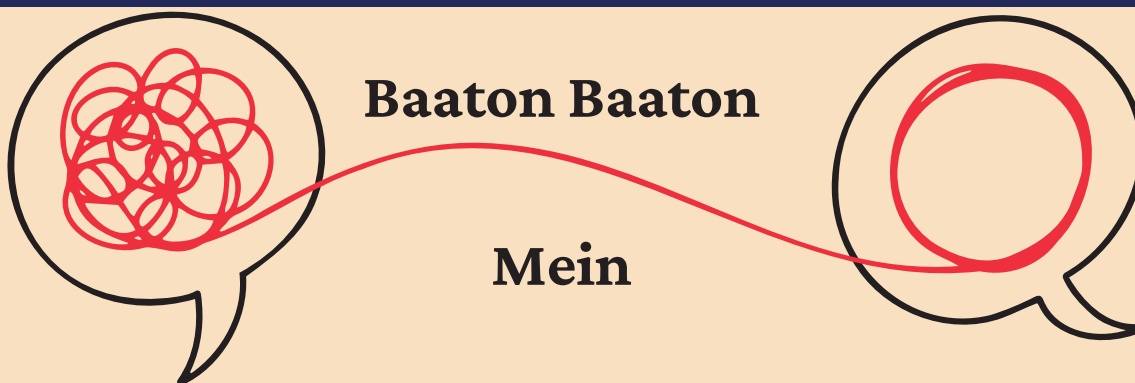
Part No.: 124 Drinen, 43-Anantnag West, Rajouri, UT of J&K

In preparation for the General Elections 2024, our first task was to identify voters with special abilities and those aged 85 and above for the Home Voting process. Along with the Booth Level Awareness Group (BAG) members, I visited these voters, briefing them about home voting and its benefits. After the final proposal, we identified three voters and submitted Form 12D to the Office of the concerned AERO.

To ensure the availability of all necessary facilities at the polling stations, I, along with the BAG members, regularly visited and verified the arrangements, ensuring they met the requirements set by the District Election Officer.

To increase voter turnout, we conducted door-to-door visits to distribute Voter Information Slips (VIS) and recorded the details in the BLO Register, noting the timing of when voters cast their votes. As a result, the voter turnout surged from 3% to nearly 50% in the General Election 2024.

On voting day, a Help Desk was set up at the polling booth, equipped with First Aid facilities. Voters were provided with serial numbers and guided on how to cast their votes. Along with the Security Forces, I oversaw queue management, establishing separate queues for senior citizens and women voters.



Voting Awareness Techniques: Engaging with Voters through local songs

Name :- PADRAI VIRAL RAMNIKLAL

Part Number :- 141

Parliamentary Constituency :- 1 – Kachchh, 4 – Anjar, Mitha Pasvariya, Gujarat

I successfully completed 100% of the House-to-House Survey, ensured Aadhaar card linkage, and achieved an error-free, transparent Electoral Roll with 100% online verification. Every voter in my polling station now holds a high-quality, coloured PVC voter card, and outdated election cards (e.g., GJ/01/005/...) have been eliminated. Through initiatives like "ChunavPathshala," I led extensive voter awareness campaigns, ensuring maximum outreach and participation. These efforts led to impressive voter turnouts, including 91.60% in the 2019 Parliamentary Elections, 95.47% in the 2022 Legislative Assembly Elections, and a record-breaking 96.84% in the 2024 Parliamentary Elections, with my booth achieving the highest voting percentage. In recognition of these contributions, I was honoured with the prestigious "Best BLO Award" of Kachchh District on National Voters' Day.

The use of the Kutchi song "Aau Bharat Aiya" for voting awareness has proven to be a significant tool in encouraging voter participation. Thanks to the tireless efforts of an active teacher and the Best BLO of this village, remarkable progress has been made in Mitha Pasvariya village.



Empowering Electoral Participation



Name: Ranjita Pakera
Polling station – 33, Sidma, Samri,
Balrampur-Ramanujganj district, Chhattisgarh
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IltUprMYm99g2u52GC_51xNwHDBhxfAs/view?usp=sharing
[Click on URL](#)

Enhancing Electoral Participation and Digital Outreach

Name: Mr Mohd Sadiq, (Best Blo, Kargil District-2024)
Polling station No.: 343 now 347 – Baroo, Kargil, UT of J&K
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wJ8BPeT_wlwOX-_G4xhigl84spGi4r5/view?usp=sharing
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A BLO reflects on her experience during an NDTV show



Name: Ms. Anita Minj
Polling station No. 425, Palamo, Jharkhand
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jrBsLIvg3opVaXyOL8wzz2Zh2de_Jk5D/view?usp=sharing
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Highlights of Lok Sabha General Elections 2024: A Testament to Democracy in Action

