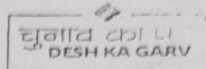


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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
 PLANNING BRANCH
 Old St. Stephen's College Building
 Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110006

No. CEO/PLG/102(46)/2021/P.F./1575

Dated :- 14/3/24

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STATE STEERING COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE ELECTION (SSCAE) FOR PwD ELECTORS HELD ON 06.03.2024 AT 03:00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF CEO, DELHI.

A meeting of State Steering Committee on Accessible Election (SSCAE) was held on 06.03.2024 at 03:00 PM under the Chairmanship of the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi in the Conference Room of O/o CEO, Delhi for the purpose of accessible and inclusive electoral process with regard to all Persons with Disabilities.

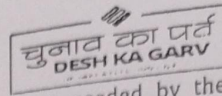
At the outset, CEO, Delhi welcomed all the participants. The meeting was attended by the following Officers / representative of NGOs :-

S.NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	DEPARTMENT NAME
1	Ms. Anjali Sehrawat, IAS Director (SW)	Department of Social Welfare, GNCTD
2	Dr. Pranjal J Hazarika, Addl. CEO - I	O/o CEO, Delhi
3	Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Asstt. Prof. / OSD	Education Department, GNCTD
4	Sh. Shailender, Chief Engineer	Public Works Department, GNCTD
5	Sh. Satish Sharma, DDE	Education Department, GNCTD
6	Dr. Narender Kumar Bishnoi, Program Co-ordinator	University of Delhi, Delhi
7	Sh. T. D. Dharyal, President	National Association for the Blind (NAB), Delhi
8	Ms. B. Anuradha, Project Manager	Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI), Delhi
9	Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Nodal Officer (PwD)	Department of Trade & Taxes, GNCTD
10	Sh. Shakti Singh, Section Officer	Education Department, GNCTD
11	Sh. Ajay Kumar, Dy. Director	O/o CEO, Delhi
12	Ms. Vijay Shree Gulati, Asstt. Director	O/o CEO, Delhi
13	Sh. S. Siva Venkatesh, Sr. System Analyst	IT Branch, O/o CEO, Delhi
14	Sh. Alok Prakash, Statistical Officer	O/o CEO, Delhi
15	Sh. Balbir Jha, Statistical Officer	O/o CEO, Delhi

CEO, Delhi emphasized the need to make election Accessible and Inclusive in the state as per directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI). It was further stated

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that electoral machinery sometimes do not recognize the support needed by the Persons with Disabilities due to attitudinal problems which need to be addressed. In this direction the following actions are required :-

- i. Procurement of Data of Persons with Intellectual Disability.
- ii. Tying up with Institute / NGOs working in the field.
- iii. Organising special camps to create awareness and to remove attitudinal and societal issues.
- iv. Through Hands-on sessions, awareness may be made among Persons with Intellectual Disabilities regarding how to vote.

A presentation was given by the Addl. CEO-I showing agenda wise status and Members of SSCAE made several suggestions based on which the following decision were taken :-

1. **Efforts for enrolment of PwD Voters and continuous Mapping of PwD on Electoral Roll** :- As reported by all Districts, total number of PwD electors marked is 73308 as on dated 08.02.2024. It is continuous and dynamic process. Further, the following directions were given :-

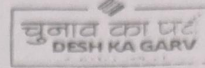
- i. To spread awareness among PwDs, who is getting pension benefits from Social Welfare Department and in case if he/she is not enrolled in the Electoral Roll, they should be convinced to enrol themselves in the Electoral Roll and if they are enrolled but not marked as PwD in Electoral Roll, they should be convinced / advised to mark themselves as PwD in Electoral Roll (with their consent) and furnishing information in Form-8 to mark themselves as PwD electors in the Electoral Roll.
- ii. Special Camps may be organised by Social Welfare Department, GNCTD with the co-ordination of DEOs / NGOs for enrolment of prospective (18+ PwD) voters and Citizens residing residential homes and Old Age Home for enrolment.
- iii. PwDs in each Polling Stations should be identified category wise and mapped.

(Action : Social Welfare Department, GNCTD / All DEOs / SVEEP Branch / Accessible Branch / ER Branch)

2. **Availability of Ramps at Polling Stations for PwDs and Sr. Citizen Electors** :- As per ERO Net 2.0, availability of Ramps at Polling Stations is 99.96 %. Ramps should strictly be made in accordance with the accessibility of Wheel Chairs so that Wheel Chairs can easily be entered through ramps. A permanent ramp of minimum gradient 1:12 should be

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provided at all Polling Stations to facilitate the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) voters and Sr. Citizen Electors, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Further, to ensure that ramps are available in all Polling Stations before conduct of General Election to Lok Sabha - 2024.

(Action : All DEOs / PWD Department, GNCTD / Education Department, GNCTD / All Local Bodies)

3. **Assessment of Wheel Chairs requirement at Polling Station for PwDs and Sr. Citizen Electors :-** On assessment, Planning Branch has informed in the meeting that the required number of Wheel Chairs is approx. 4000 including reserved Wheel chairs. Education Department, GNCTD has informed in the meeting that the total available of Wheel Chairs with the Department is approx. 2900. Further, Education Department has stated that they will provide the Polling Station wise available number of Wheel Chairs. As per final SSR - 2024, Total Polling Station Locations is 2629 and Total Polling Stations is 13637. Further, the following directions were given :-

- i. At least one (01) Wheel Chair should be available at each Polling Station Locations (PSLs), the requisition of exact number of Wheel Chairs will be provided at the earliest for procurement.
- ii. Education Department may be approached to ALIMCO for fulfilling the requirement of Wheel Chairs for PwDs / Sr. Citizen Voters.
- iii. PwDs / Sr. Citizen Electors may register themselves on SAKSHAM ECI App to avail the facility of Wheel Chairs.

(Action : All DEOs / Accessible Branch / IT Branch / Education Department, GNCTD)

4. **Deployment of Volunteers / NSS / NCC at Polling Stations on Poll Day :-** Identified PwDs / Sr. Citizen voters shall be assisted by volunteers (less than 18 years of age) from NCC / NSS / Scout / Guides etc. for their guidance up to the entrance of the polling booth. Inside the polling booth, such voters shall be assisted by the polling staff. List of 6367 nos. of NSS Volunteers has been provided by Regional Director, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport Regional Directorate of NSS, GoI, New Delhi and the same has already been forwarded to all Districts for further necessary action. Further, the following directions were given :-

- i. All districts are directed to submit requirement of volunteers at the earliest.

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- ii. Education Department may be provided volunteers, as additional requirement received from all Districts.

(Action : All DEOs / Accessible Branch / Education Department, GNCTD / Programme Coordinator, NSS/NCC, University of Delhi)

5. To provide the Indian Sign Language Volunteers to be deployed on the day of poll :- It was decided in the meeting that the assessment of number of required Sign Language Volunteers may be done, where more than 5 PwDs Electors under Deaf and Hard of Hearing category in a Polling Station (PS) are registered. A letter may be sent to Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) and Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI) to provide Sign Language Interpreters as volunteers to help the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Electors at various Polling Stations to cast their vote. The ISLRTC, ASLI and AADI are also requested to ensure that all the Sign Language Interpreters as volunteers to be deputed on the day of Poll must cast their vote who will be more than 18 years of age.

(Action : Accessible Branch / ISLRTC / ASLI / AADI)

6. Wide publicity of Saksham ECI App for PwD Electors :- The Election Commission of India is working towards easing the voter identification and registration process for people with disabilities (PwDs) by offering them customised services like Elector search, know your Polling Station, register complaints, Wheel Chair facility etc. Wide publicity is to be made over the electronic media / SVEEP campaign to encourage PwDs / Sr. Citizen Electors to exercise their franchise.

(Action : SVEEP / All DEOs / IT Branch)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of CEO, Delhi.

(VIJAY SHREE GULATI)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING)
O/o CEO, Delhi

No. CEO/PLG/102(46)/2021/P.F./ 15-15

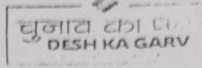
Dated :- 16/3/24

Copy for information to :-

1. CA to CEO.
2. Director (Accessible Election), Election Commission of India (ECI), Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001.

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29/c
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3. Nodal Officer (PwD), O/o CEO, Delhi

Copy for information and necessary action to :-

1. All DEOs.
2. All Members of SSCAE.
3. All SDMs (Election)
4. All Branch In-charge, O/o CEO, Delhi.

(VIJAY SHREE GULATI)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING)
O/o CEO, Delhi