

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
Old St. Stephen's College Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi – 110 006.

No. F. CEO/PLG/102(46)/2021/ 15582 - 642

Dated:- 17/07/23

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STATE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE
ELECTION (SSCAE) FOR PwD ELECTORS HELD ON 07.07.2023 AT 04.00 P.M.**

A meeting of State Steering Committee on Accessible Election was held on 07.07.2023 at 04.00 P.M. under the chairmanship of CEO, Delhi at the O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.

At the outset, CEO, Delhi welcomed all the participants.

The following officers/representatives of NGOs attended the meeting:-

S.No.	Name & Designation (Shri./Smt./Ms.)	Department
1.	Sh.Sanjeev Kr. Mishra, DC(Election)	MCD
2.	Ms. Geeta Kumari, Dy. Director(Education), HQ	MCD
3.	Ms. Neeta Bhatnagar, A.O.(Election)	MCD
4.	Sh. Anil Bhola, Dy. Secretary	Public Works Department, GNCTD
5.	Dr. Ajay Kr. Singh, State Coordinator/OSD	Inclusive Education Branch, Dte. Of Education, GNCTD
6.	Sh. Mahesh Sharma, Admn Officer	PTDDUNIPPD, GOI
7.	Capt. Parminder Sehgal, NSS/NCC Coordinator	Delhi University
8.	Sh. Ajay Kumar, JE(CIVIL)	Delhi Cantonment Board
9.	Col.Jagdish Prasad, Consultant	Delhi Cantonment Board
10.	Sh. Lalit Mittal, ACEO (ER)	Office of the CEO
11.	Sh. Sanjeev Chadha, Sr. System Analyst	Office of CEO
12.	Sh. Subodh Rawat, ACEO (SVEEP)	Office of CEO
13.	Sh. Rakesh Kumar Gangwal, Asstt. Professor	ISLRTC, GOI
14.	Sh. Santosh Kumar, S.O.	State Commissioner for PwD, GNCTD
15.	Ms. Kiran Vats, Welfare Officer	Deptt. of Social Welfare, GNCTD
16.	Ms. Neera, Superintendent	Deptt. of Social Welfare, GNCTD
17.	Sh. G.V.Reddy , Founder Member	National Association for Deaf
18.	Ms. Anuradha, Project Manager	AADI
19.	Sh. Anuj Jain	State Icon PwD
20.	Ms. Preeti Sapra, Gen. Secy.	ASLI
21.	Ms. Poonam, Dy. CEO (Convener)	O/o CEO, Delhi.
22.	Sh. K.R Chhibber, Dy. Director (Accessible Election)	Office of the CEO

Contd..P-2.

The CEO, Delhi emphasized the need to make elections Accessible and Inclusive in the state as per the directions of the Election Commission of India. It was further stated that electoral machinery sometimes do not recognize the support needed by the Persons with Disabilities due to the attitudinal problems which need to be addressed.

It was stated that Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their care givers do not realize that they have right to vote. This issue needs to be addressed by the joint efforts of The National Trust, Office of the CEO, Delhi and concerned NGOs. In this direction the following actions are required:

1. Procurement of Data of Persons with Intellectual Disability.
2. Tying up with Institutes/NGOs working in the field.
3. Organising special camps to create awareness and to remove attitudinal and societal issues.
4. Through Hands-on sessions, awareness may be made among Persons with Intellectual Disabilities regarding how to vote.
5. In-situ polling stations (Auxillary) may be set up in the residential homes where PwDs are residing.

The issue regarding availability of accessibility infrastructure required both at the time of registration and casting of vote by PwD Electors was discussed in detail. It was emphasized to representatives of Local Bodies being responsible for setting up of Polling Stations, that the gaps in the availability of the infrastructure need to be assessed and a concrete plan is required to be formulated so that the steps to be taken to provide complete accessibility to the PwD electors/prospective electors are taken well in time.

The CEO further emphasized on the need to assess the requirement of Wheel Chairs for preparation of the Oncoming General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024 besides ensuring that other infrastructural facilities required during elections are also available at all the Polling Station Locations/Polling Booths.

The CEO directed that the SVEEP content should be made fully accessible by incorporating the latest accessibility features. In order to encourage PwDs sincere efforts need to be made by reaching out to them through displaying accessible Video clips etc. at prominent/crowded places.

It was also directed that training and sensitization of electoral machinery (VERC staff and BLOs) to assist PwDs, Sr. citizens and pregnant/lactating mothers should be made a regular feature by all DEOs.



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Members of SSCAE made several suggestions based on which the following decisions were taken:

1. To ensure that accessibility infrastructure is available in all Polling Locations /Polling Stations before conduct of General Election to Lok Sabha-2024. Besides, availability of Accessible Toilets in all the Polling Station Locations with more than Ten polling booths to be ensured.

(Action: All Local Bodies/PWD/DEOs)

2. NGOs registered with The National Trust under M/o Social Welfare and Justice may be mobilized to spread awareness among Persons with Intellectual and developmental disabilities for participation in electoral process.

(Action: DEOs/ SVEEP Branch/Accessible Election Branch)

3. Accessible videos to be made for creating awareness among PwDs to motivate them for their registration as electors and to educate them about facilities available to PwDs at Polling Stations on the day of Poll. Accessible SVEEP content through embedded Q.R. Code for audio / Sign Language facility to be prepared as a standard practice for the benefit of PwD voters.

(Action: SVEEP/ISLRTC)

4. Accessible video clips be displayed permanently at crowded public places such as Local Markets, Intersections, Malls, Metro Stations, Hospitals, Railway Station & be posted on Social Media also.

(Action: SVEEP)

5. Training of Basic Indian Sign Language may be imparted to all BLOs by the Deaf Experts/Indian Sign Language Interpreters of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI).

(Action: Accessible Election Branch/DEOs/ PDUNIPPD)

6. Deaf Voters to be enlightened about their right to avail leave on the day of poll through Sign Language content on Social Media handles of the Chief Electoral Officer.

(Action: SVEEP/COE Branch)

7. Nodal Officers (Manpower) of respective departments may be asked to enquire and submit the disability status and election duty consent of all PwD officers/officials.

(Action: Administration Branch)

8. To spread awareness among PwDs during UDID camps and Special Awareness camps for furnishing information in Form-8 to mark themselves as PwD electors in the electoral roll.

(Action: DEOs/NGOs)

9. To explore possibility to make Voter Help Line 1950 accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons through availability of video calling facility in Sign Language or other technical solutions .

(Action: PGRO Cell, Call Centre)

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10. A committee may be constituted with representatives from Institutions of GoI, Education Department and NGOs to recommend a holistic training system for imparting training/ sensitization to all election officials with respect to the special needs, rights and dignity of PwD/Sr. citizens/ Women voters.

(Action: Accessible Election Branch)

11. To obtain Accessibility Training module developed by IIIDEM from ECI and forward it to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD) to be used for imparting training to the volunteers (school children) to assist Persons with Physical Disabilities during oncoming elections.

(Action: Accessible Election)

12. Polling Station Location wise data of 80+ and PwD Electors be used for ascertaining the requirement of Wheel Chairs, Student Volunteers, ISL Interpreters, Female Toilets and Accessible Toilets for the day of Poll and timely action be taken for procurement / arrangement / construction thereof.

(Action: IT Branch, Education Department)

13. In-situ polling stations (Auxillary) may be set up in the residential homes established by various Institutions/ NGOs to facilitate PwD inmates residing therein.

(Action: DEOs/ ER Branch)

14. Education Department GNCTD Delhi to explore the possibility for issuance of directions to students aged 17+ years to fill the Voter Registration Forms also at the time of filling up of their Enrolment Forms/obtaining Admission Cards for CBSE Examination.

(Action: Education Department/ER Branch)

15. Awareness Camps to be organised in colleges with the help of NSS/NCC Volunteers enrolled with colleges under Delhi University and I.P. University.

(Action: Programme Coordinator NSS/NCC University of Delhi/ DEOs/SVEEP Branch)

16. CEO Delhi website be made fully accessible.

(Action: Accessible Election Branch/ IT Branch)

17. Election Commission of India may be requested to explore the possibility of putting Election Manifestos in the Public domain in fully accessible formats as soon as released by the political parties.

(Action: Conduct of Election Branch)

18. Norms to be fixed for ascertaining number of School students below 18 years of age required to be deployed as Volunteers at Polling locations.

(Action: IT Branch/ Accessible Election Branch)

19. National Association of Blind/ Blind Relief Association may be made the member of the State Steering Committee for Accessible Election for persons with disabilities.

(Action: Accessible Election Branch)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.


(K.R. CHHIBBER)

Dy. Director (Accessible Election)

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No. F.CEO/PLG/102(46)/2021/ 15582-692

Dated:- 17/07/23

Copy of information and necessary action:-

1. All DEOs.
2. Director, (Accessible Election), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001.
3. All Members of SSCAE.
4. All SDMs (Election).
5. CA to CEO.
6. PPS to Dy. CEO.
7. All Branch Incharges, CEO (HQ).


17/07/23

(K.R. CHHIBBER)

Dy. Director (Accessible Election)