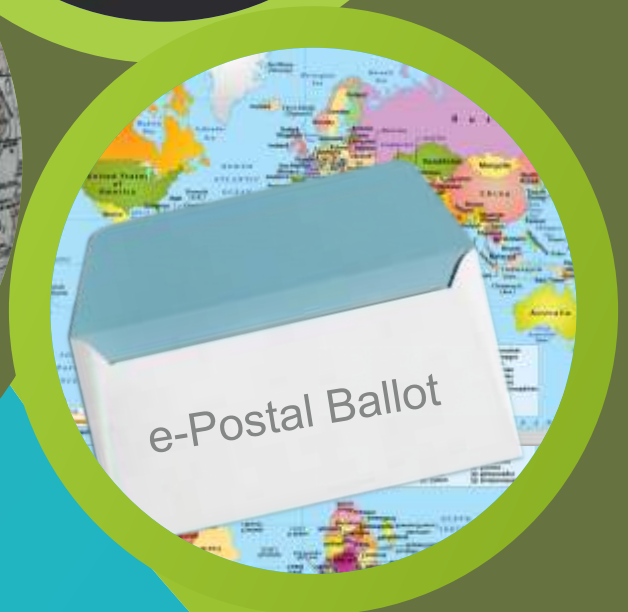


# VOICE International

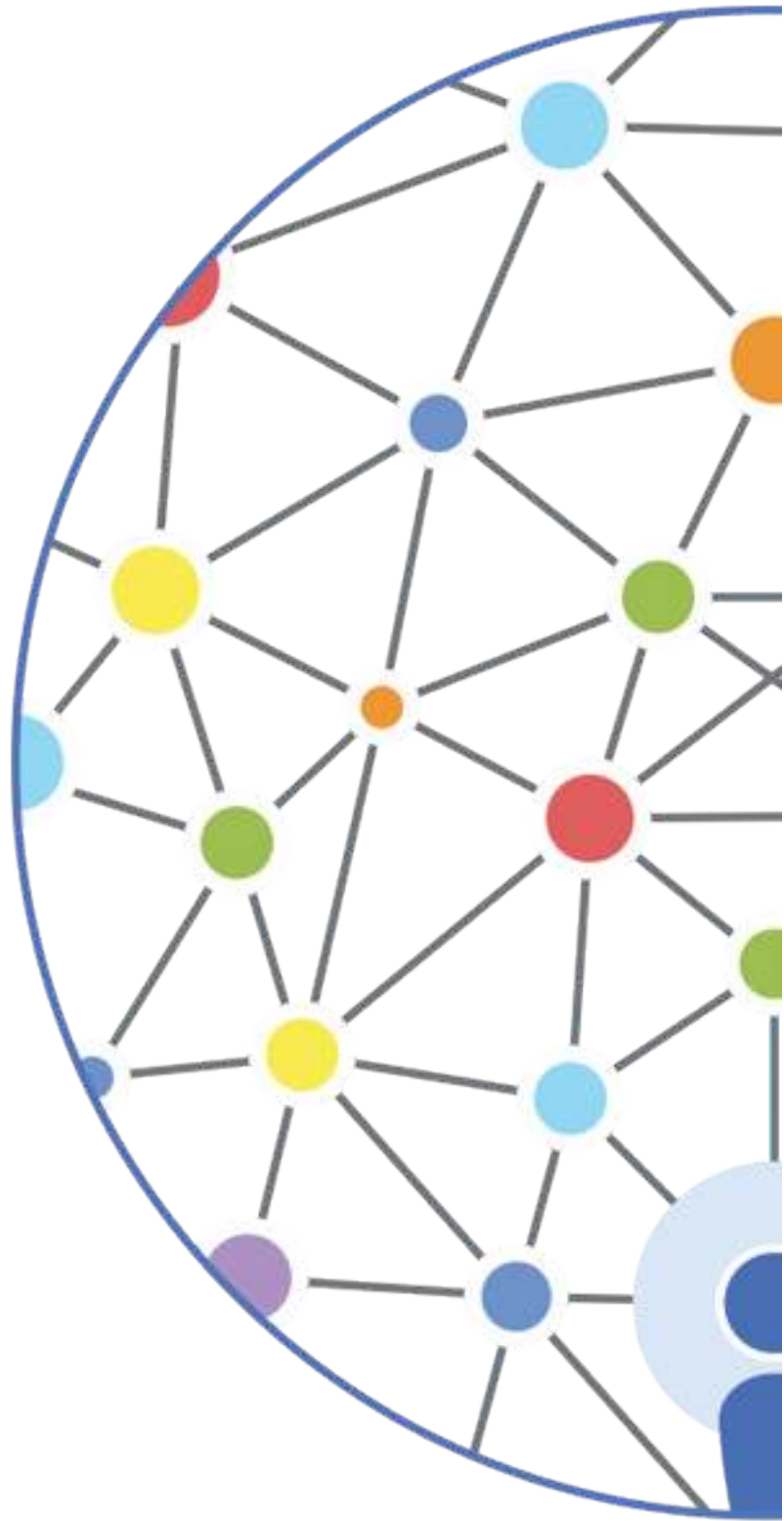
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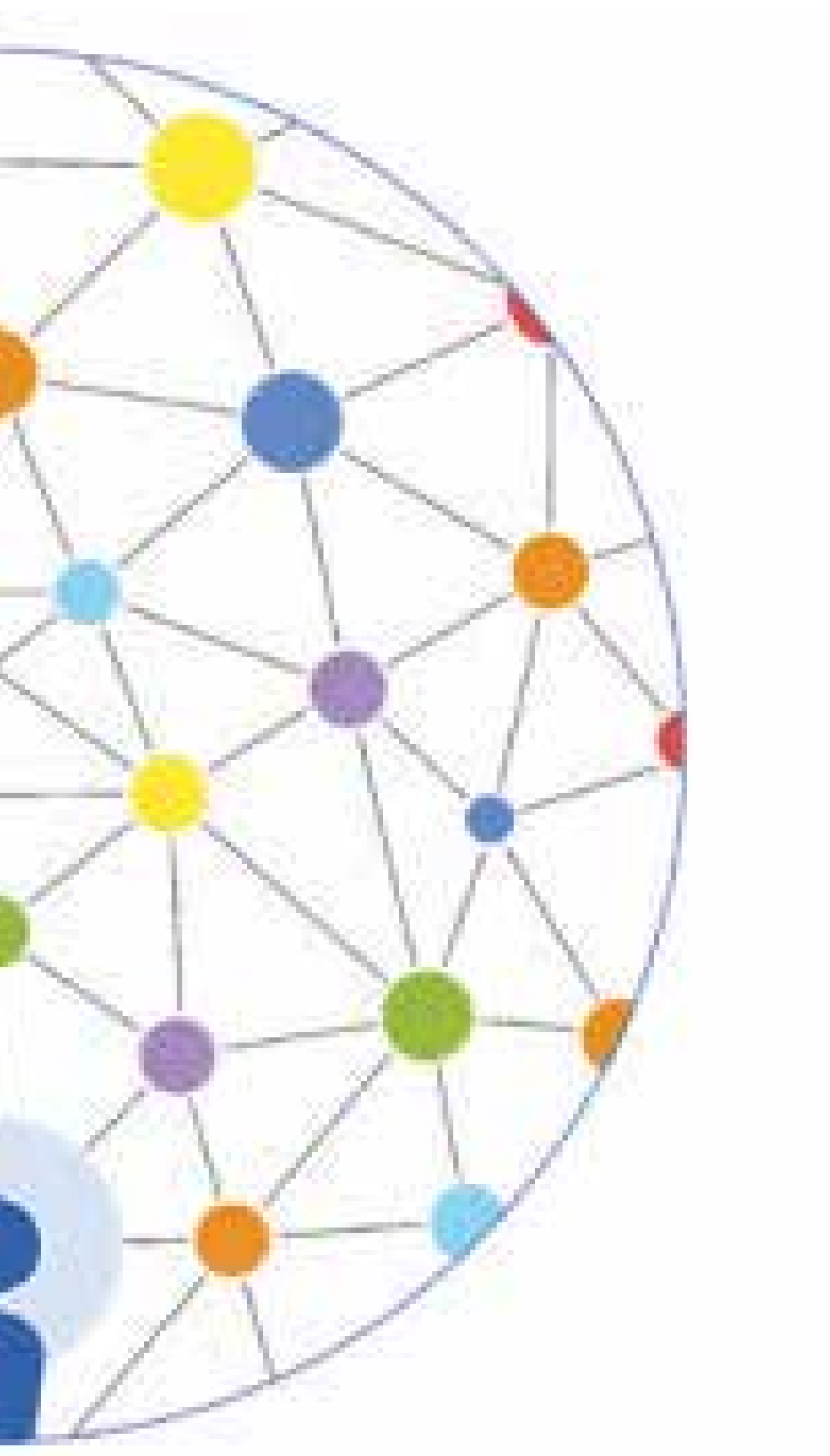
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**Enabling Overseas  
Electors and Service Voters  
Including Uniformed Service Voters**



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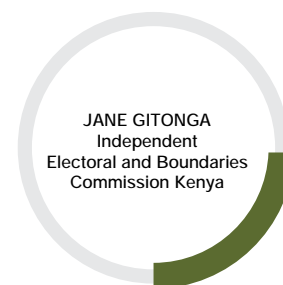
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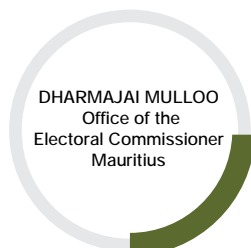
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# EDITORIAL

I take pleasure and pride in presenting our fourth issue of VoICE International that marks the completion of Volume I. VoICE.NET has further grown with joining in of the EMBs of Ecuador, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and Taiwan as the new members of the VoICE International. That takes our membership to 27 which includes 24 EMBs and 3 Expert International Institutions. I take this opportunity to welcome the new members and hope they will find this knowledge sharing experience enriching.

We bring to you the knowledge and experience on 'Overseas Electors and Service Voters including Uniformed Services Voters' which includes rich contributions from the EMBs of Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fiji, India, Iraq, Nepal and Sri Lanka besides articles from International IDEA and IFES. In this issue, we also have special articles on different topics from the Chairman of the National Electoral Council of Ecuador on 'Participation of the Public Force and Integral Security in Electoral Processes: A perspective from Ecuador' and a new initiative regarding Electoral Education from Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho. Our Senior Fellow, Mr. S D Sharma has also contributed a featured article on this subject which is a fairly comprehensive compilation of information on this subject from few other countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Articles contributed by all makes this Issue truly global, representing all the continents and will surely help in holistic comprehension of the subject. The additional informative segments of this magazine have been further enriched to provide larger set of information and attraction to the readership.

# EDITORIAL

Overseas Electors and Service Voters including Uniformed Services Voters are distinct category of voters whose registration as electors and participation in the elections - both remain a challenge for most of the countries. To bridge the deficit both in registration and participation, there is a need to have greater support of legal instruments, enabling technology as also efficient and effective methods of Voter education. The support and cooperation from the countries of residence is also equally important. The issues and challenges of voting from out of the country are complex and their dimensions are also different for different countries. Learning from each other can definitely help in resolving the issues to a great extent.

I dedicate this issue of VoICE International to 'Overseas Electors and Service Voters' and hope that information provided in this issue from across the globe will be useful for the all the EMBs and other important stakeholders.

I am also very happy to announce that the topic for the next issue will be '**Using Digital Technology and Social Media for Voter Education**'. I hope this topic will arouse a lot of interest in sharing the best practices by the participating EMBs and International Organizations. I am also sure that the members will eagerly wait for the next issue to be published in the first quarter of the New Year 2018.

I take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Sunil Arora, Election Commissioner as a new member in the Election Commission of India. We look forward to his guidance and support for VoICE.NET and VoICE International.

On the eve of the New Year, 2018, I wish a very happy new year to all the members of the board and readers of this magazine.



**Umesh Sinha**

Executive Secretary, VoICE.NET and  
Editor-in-Chief, VoICE International

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# MESSAGE



DIRECCION NACIONAL DE  
RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES, COOPERACION Y  
OBSERVACION ELECTORAL

Oficio Nro. CNE-DNRICOE-2017-0050-Of  
Quito, 30 de octubre de 2017



Asunto : Acceptance of Membership to VoICE.NET

Shri A.K. Joti,  
**Chief Election Commissioner**  
**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
En su Despacho

Dear Sh. Joti

Please receive a warm greeting from the National Electoral Council of Ecuador (CNE), and its Chairman, Dr. Juan Pablo Pozo Bahamode.

Hereby, I refer to the Letter No.491/ECI/DO/SVEEP-IIVoice.net/2016/Vol-II, by which the Election Commission of India issue formal invitation to the National Electoral Council to be part of the global initiative VoICE.NET and to contribute to the publication VoICE International.

On behalf of Dr. Juan Pablo Pozo, it is my pleasure to announce the acceptance of the National Electoral Council to become a member of such an important knowledge network. Likewise, the would like to nominate Ms. Dayana Leon Franco, Advisor, as the Member Secretary of our institution.

I look forward to working together for the continuous improvement of our electoral practices.

Sincerely,

Atentamente,

Marin Gabriela Cordero Correa  
**DIRECTORA NACIONAL DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES,  
COOPERACION Y OBSERVACION ELECTORAL**



**The Central Election Commission of ROC (Taiwan)**

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Honorable A. K. Joti,  
Chief Election Commissioner,  
Election Commission of India,  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi -110001,  
India.

27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Your Excellency,

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of Taiwan, ROC is honoured to receive your letter of invitation to be a part of the VoICE.NET. The CEC cherishes its friendship with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and would like to express our appreciation for India's efforts in promoting VoICE.NET by showing our support. The CEC is pleased to accept your kind invitation and become a member of this global initiative. Mr. James Tzung-yu Lai of our Department of Electoral Affairs will serve as Member Secretary for the VoICE.NET. I believe VoICE.NET will facilitate the exchange of electoral information and professional knowledges between member EMBS. It is most certain that this repository of electoral knowledges will offer plenty of brilliant ideas to inspire experts and practitioners in carrying out voter education in their country.

The exchange of experience is the most effective way for improving and innovating electoral processes. The ECI and the CEC are both members of the Association of World Electoral Management Bodies (A-WEB) and the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA). Through the participation in international organizations, we have received opportunities to share electoral experiences and learn from each other. Henceforth, it is our sincere hope that the cordial relations and cooperation between our commissions will continue to strengthen and prosper through the collaboration in VoICE.NET.

Lastly, please accept my best wishes for your personal well-being and success in the high office which you have been entrusted.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. I-Chou Liu  
Chairman  
Central Election Commission, Taiwan, R.O.C.



The importance of participation in elections, the use of the right to vote and to be elected are the basic democratic rights. To be able to enjoy these rights in full, the voter must be informed of his/her rights and obligations. That is why the education of voters takes central stage in the electoral process. The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina devotes great attention to the education and information of voters and all interested parties. By establishing the Education Center which officially began to work on October 9, 2017, this part of the electoral process should be significantly improved in the coming years, and the curriculum of the Center will encompass all actors of electoral process. The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the launch of the VOICE.NET platform, which will not only represent global knowledge network but will surely enable the exchange of experiences, good practice and enhance understanding of the various challenges the electoral management bodies encounter in carrying out the elections. By learning from each other we can achieve much more and we are confident that the activities that we will be carried out in co-operation with the Election Commission of India, envisaged by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2017, will raise our co-operation to a higher level.

*Dr. Irena Hadžiabdić  
President, Central Election Commission, BiH*



## Ecuador

I hereby write to you after my designation as Member Secretary to VOICE.NET by Dr. Juan Pablo Pozo Bahamonde, Chairman of the National Electoral Council. It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to contribute to such an important network for the exchange of knowledge and learning as VOICE.NET.

From the National Electoral Council and the Institute for Democracy, which is an institution attached to the CNE, we will be continuously contributing to the network, and, at the same time, we consider it would be important to make the e-publications of VOICE International available in our digital library, which you can visit in the following link: <http://bit.ly/2bEFRP1>

I reiterate my gratitude and commitment to keep coordinating actions, which have so far been very effective through to the permanent collaboration of our co-worker Mr. Byron Tobar.

Warm regards,

Dayana León  
CNE





## Sao Tome & Principe

Thank you for your invitation and I confirm our willingness to be part of VoICE.NET and international VoICE initiative.

Best Regards  
Hernane Viegas Santiago  
Chairman of the Executive Board  
TElect-STP (Transparência Eleitoral São Tomé e Príncipe)  
hernane.1973@gmail.com  
telect.transparencia@gmail.com



## Brazil

We are very pleased to see how VoICE International is being strengthened each issue. Congratulations on the great work and please let us know if you need anything further.

Looking forward for the next issues.

Best regards,  
Fábio L. Quintas



## From The Editor

One of the most dedicated members of the VoICE International Community, the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil has been with VoICE.NET ever since its conception. A consistent contributor to the knowledge sharing portal, the Superior Electoral Court has shared valuable insights on topics such as 'A quest for Political Accessibility', 'Participation of Women in Brazilian politics', 'Information Technology for developing election apps', 'Computerization of the vote', 'Political and electoral reforms', 'Facilitating Persons with Disabilities' and finally in the current issue, 'Practices on reaching out to overseas electors'.

Brazil's Superior Electoral Court was one of the 25 Election Management Bodies and International Organizations from across the world that participated in 'International Conference on Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation' held in October 2016 at New Delhi, India. The Conference was significant as it witnessed the signing of the New Delhi Declaration.

VoICE.NET Henceforth (Voter Information, Communication, Education Network), a global knowledge network for sharing knowledge, resources and expertise on **Voter Education**, was launched as a part of New Delhi Declaration.

The Superior Electoral Court has recently translated the New Delhi Declaration into Portuguese. To access the Portuguese version of the declaration one can follow the link <http://www.tse.jus.br/o-tse/escola-judiciaria-eleitoral/voice.net> and click at "Declaração de Nova Déli".

They have also published an article about VoICE.NET in their review available at [http://www.tse.jus.br/hotsites/catalogo-publicacoes/pdf/estudos\\_eleitorais/estudos\\_eleitorais\\_v12-n2.pdf](http://www.tse.jus.br/hotsites/catalogo-publicacoes/pdf/estudos_eleitorais/estudos_eleitorais_v12-n2.pdf).



# Educational and Motivational Campaign - Voters outside Bosnia and Herzegovina

In accordance with the provisions of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, each citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter B & H) who has attained eighteen (18) years of age has the right to vote and to be elected. In order to achieve his or her right to vote, a B&H citizen must be registered in the Central Voter Register. Since 2006, so-called Passive registration for the voters who live in the country is in effect. This registration implies the creation of the Central Voter Register based on data from the official records in the civil registry of citizens. However, for the voters temporary residing abroad B&H (due to temporary work, scholarships, studies, research or scientific work), or persons from B&H with a refugee status, to be on an excerpt from the Central Voter Register for voting outside B&H, there is an obligation to submit registration to the Central Election Commission of B&H for each election within the prescribed deadline.

In order to provide timely informing about all relevant segments of the electoral process and the greater turnout of the elections, the B&H Central Election Commission carries out an educational and motivational campaign for this voter category, and these activities are particularly intensified during the election year. The period of realization of the educational campaign lasts from the announcement of the election in may until the end of september, since the elections in B&H were held on the first sunday in october.

## The Campaign

The campaign goal of 'Registration of Voters in the Central Voter Register' is that voters temporary residing abroad get familiarize with the manner and the deadlines for voting outside B&H. For the purposes of the voter registration campaign in the Central

Voter register, TV spots and radio jingles are prepared, and press releases are published in the widely circulated newspapers.

In the last two election cycles, a promotional video material was created for this voter category, with detailed explanations of how voters can register for voting by mail, and how the application forms can be filled (PRP 1 and PRP 2). These application forms are posted on the web page of the institution.

Also, via the diplomatic – consular representation office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter DCRO B&H) network and the partner associations of B&H citizens abroad, informative materials - application forms, voting guides outside B&H, video material and all other relevant materials are submitted to voters outside B&H.

Furthermore, since 2010, the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, continuously work on the education and information of voters living outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the visits to DCRO BiH and meetings with associations of citizens of B&H who live abroad, in order to animate them for voting in elections.

Furthermore, the Central Election Commission of B&H establishes regularly an info-line (help-line), after the election announcement. This info-line provides assistance and information to voters outside B&H but it also serves as help-line for the voters in B&H for checking polling data.

The website of the institution is regularly maintained and updated all the time, in order to inform the voters and all the participants in electoral process timely. All information significant for the electoral process, verification of polling station location, decisions, press

releases, statistics, by-laws and norms are in this way available for the public. All video materials used in informative and motivational campaign are available on the web site and YouTube channel too.

### Case Study-Local Elections in 2016

The Central Election Commission of B&H and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of B&H, in order to animate and educate voters living outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, intensified their activities for education and informing voters living outside B&H in 2016.

The CEC B&H has undertaken, in the framework of its legal obligation, all necessary steps to inform the voters who are residing abroad about all current issues from that area. Special attention is devoted to the motivation of voters living outside of B&H to register and achieve their voting rights through the following activities:

- The decision on the realization of education and information of voters outside B&H was made;
- For the purposes of the implementation of this activity, teams were formed. The members of the CEC of B&H were in the teams and their activities were related to: - information and education of voters about the registration process for voting outside the country;

Educational-direct campaign with voters living outside of B&H has been conducted in the following countries: Croatia (Zagreb), Slovenia (Ljubljana), Austria (Vienna, Graz, Salzburg); Norway (Oslo), Sweden (Stockholm, Malmo), Denmark (Copenhagen), Switzerland (Bern), The United States (Atlanta, Jacksonville, Washington), Germany (Munich, Frankfurt,

Berlin, Stuttgart, Cologne), France (Strasbourg).

After the Central Election Commission of B&H passed a decision about the closure and confirmation of the Central Voter Register for the 2016 Local Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was found that a total of 287 voters enrolled in the Central Voter Register outside Bosnia and Herzegovina in the diplomatic and consular missions of B&H and 65,111 voters who signed up to vote by mail.

The usage of the direct educational campaign method, or direct contact with voters living outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, proved to be the best way for motivational campaign for voters outside B&H. The number of voters who registered to vote outside B&H from 2010 to 2016 increased by 77.54%, ie by 28.438 voters. (Table 1)

After educational campaign was conducted successfully for voters outside Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the decision on the diplomatic and consular representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in which administration of voting for the 2016 local Elections. A total of 5 polling stations were set up in the DCRO B&H where registered voters could vote for the Local Elections in 2016. (The Republic of Austria-Vienna and Graz, the Federal Republic of Germany-Stuttgart and Munich and the Republic of Serbia-Belgrade).

After the appointment of the polling boards in the DCRO B&H, the Central Election Commission of B&H, in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of B&H, organized a training program for the presidents and members of the polling boards, as well as their deputies in the DCRO B&H.

Table1: Showing the registration of voters living outside B&H

No	Elections	Voters registered for voting by mail and DKP	Voted by mail	Registered for voting in DKP	Voted in DKP
1.	General elections 2010.	36.673	23.338	0	0
2.	Local elections 2012.	37.359	24.562	0	0
3.	General elections 2014.	42.128	28.001	245	138
4.	Local elections 2016.	65.111	41.196	287	146



*Dr. Suad Arnautovic, a member of CEC B&H—with the representatives of the Associations of Consulate Genral of B&H in Stuttgart*



*Delegation of CEC B&H with the representatives of Community of Serbs and religous community in Atlanta and representatives of Embassy of B&H in Washington*



*Zehra Tepic  
Senior Voter Information Specialist  
Bosnia and Herzegovina*





# Political Participation and Extraterritoriality

From the political point of view, people is 'the voting group which has politicized itself (namely, has assumed decisory capacity), in other words, the electoral body'<sup>1</sup>. Thus the core of the concept of people is the bias of political participation.

As the Brazilian constitution stipulates that 'all power emanates from the people, that exercises it through representatives or directly' (Article 1, sole paragraph), it enshrines popular sovereignty and the democratic principle. According to Gomes Canotilho such principle "hosts the most important postulates of representative democratic theory - representative bodies, periodic elections, party pluralism, separation of powers"<sup>2</sup>.

Naturally, not all people are entitled to take part in the political process. Going into the legal concept of people, Carlos Blanco de Moraes correlates the notion of people to the one of nationality<sup>3</sup>. Here we reach the first restriction of political participation: only nationals can take part in the political process. There are still other restrictions directly related to the enlistment and the right to vote such as minimum age to vote (16 years old) & to be voted (18 years old or more depending on the intended office).

However, there are no participation restrictions related to territoriality. On the one hand, the sole circumstance of residing in Brazil or being in Brazilian territory does not entitle foreigners to participate in the political process. Although, Brazilians occasionally staying abroad or even the ones who reside

there are not excluded of the political process. Thus, there is no relationship between political participation and territoriality. Territoriality is relevant for the concept of population, which has a demographic bias, not for the concept of people, community of persons entitled to participate in the political decisions of the country. As Afonso Arinos puts it, 'people in legal sense is not the same as population in demographic sense. People is that part of the population which is capable to participate in the democratic process through elections, within a variable system of limits that depends on each country in each time'<sup>4</sup>.

## How is Brazil ensuring and promoting political participation of Brazilians overseas?

Considering the rule of compulsory voting<sup>5</sup>, Brazilians residing in Brazil but occasionally abroad, thus out of their electoral circumscription, should justify their absence. It may not sound like one, but it is also a political participation rule.

As for Brazilians residing abroad one should distinguish between those who reside abroad and those who have their electoral domicile in the foreign country and those who reside abroad but maintain their electoral domicile in Brazil. This last situation is possible because of the traditional difference between residence and domicile. Although Brazilian Electoral Code in its Article 42, sole paragraph, stipulates that 'domicile is the place of residence or housing', the Superior Electoral Court understands that electoral domicile is determined by

<sup>1</sup> Paulo Bonavides, *Ciência Política*, p. 80.

<sup>2</sup> J. J. Gomes Canotilho, *Direito Constitucional e Teoria da Constituição*, p. 288.

<sup>3</sup> Carlos Blanco de Moraes, *O sistema político no contexto da erosão da democracia representativa*, p. 21.

<sup>4</sup> *Jornal do Brasil*, edition of August 22th 1963.

<sup>5</sup> As exception voting is facultative for analphabets, persons between 16 and 18 years old and persons over seventy years old.

the existence of political, social, affective, patrimonial or business bonds, and so domicile can differ from residence. Therefore, regarding Brazilians residing abroad but with electoral domicile in Brazil, such citizens can only vote within their electoral zone. If they are abroad then they should justify their absence just like Brazilians occasionally abroad.

Finally, as for Brazilians residing abroad, they are entitled to enlist or to transfer to the so called Overseas Electoral Zones, linked to Regional Electoral Court of Federal District (in Portuguese Tribunal Regional Eleitoral - TRE-DF). TRE-DF organizes elections overseas along with consulates and diplomatic missions. It is worth highlighting that such citizens are only entitled to vote for president and vice-president, and have no participation in the election of councillors, mayors, governors, state and federal deputies and senators.

The number of overseas electors enlistment and appearance at elections is increasing significantly. According to the Electoral Justice data, on the first round of the 2010 General Elections, around two hundred thousand overseas electors were able to vote; in 2014 such number reached more than three hundred and fifty thousand. **In 2017 there were five hundred and seventy nine overseas electoral sections, a number that has almost doubled**

**in 2014 when nine hundred and fifty four sections were totalised.**

Although the amount of absent electors is yet considerable the numbers also reveal that participation is increasing. In 2010 more than 55% of the overseas electors did not vote; this percentage was decreased to 40% in 2014.

The increasing political participation of Brazilian citizens with electoral domicile overseas points out that, despite of leaving national territory to reside around the world, Brazilians maintain an interest in the political course of their home country. This represents the maintenance of cultural bonds, of the *'idem sentire'* that composes the core of the idea of nation, that extrapolates borders and the vicissitudes of life that nowadays make more than 3 million Brazilians live abroad.



*Prof. Dr. Fábio L. Quintas  
Director of Superior Electoral Court  
Brazil*



*Prof. Adisson Leal  
Chief-Advisor of Superior Electoral Court  
Brazil*



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# Participation of the Public Force and Integral Security in Electoral Processes

In Ecuador, democratic aspects and values bind together electoral institutions with the public force. This contributes to a society that has the effective guarantees for its right to vote. In this regard, this article aims to analyze the actions of the National Electoral Council (CNE) from the following considerations: first, regarding the institutional actions undertaken together with the Armed Forces and the National Police; and second, about the elements oriented to the integral security in every phase of the electoral processes.

It is important to mention that, according to Article 11 of the Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations – Code of Democracy (2009), voting shall be mandatory for Ecuadorians over eighteen years of age, including people deprived of their liberty without a final judgement of conviction. Likewise, it establishes that voting shall be optional for people between sixteen and seventeen years of age, elderly persons over the age of sixty-five years, Ecuadorians living abroad, members of the Armed Forces and National Police in active service, persons with disabilities and illiterate people. Additionally, it determines that voting shall be optional for foreigners over sixteen years of age who have legally resided in the country for at least five years, and are registered in the Electoral register.

In order to accomplish the exercise of the right to vote, the CNE promoted a process of delivery of credentials to the members of the Armed Forces and the National Police. The purpose of this initiative was that all the personnel of these institutions could exercise their right to voluntary vote from wherever they are on the Election Day, given that, due to their functions, they may be fulfilling activities in different

parts of the territory and not precisely in the polling station corresponding to their registry and electoral domicile.

Regarding the integrality of electoral processes, the electoral institution had at its disposal the National Security Plan, whose objective was to provide integral physical security to the electoral process 2017, and thus guarantee the sovereign will of the citizenry in the exercise of their political-electoral rights.

Its purposes were the following: to coordinate the implementation of integral security before, during and after the General Elections 2017 with those entities of the public sector involved in the electoral process; to implement security devices in the facilities of the CNE nationwide, as well as in the transportation and custody of the electoral package; and to provide custody and security to the Centers for Processing of Results and the Electoral precincts.

In the specific case of the installation of the security desk, not only it fulfils the principles of our public





responsibilities, but also responds to the citizens' demands for security during an electoral process. In its composition, this Security Desk is a temporary body that seeks to coordinate every entity of the public sector participating directly or indirectly in the electoral processes, for the purpose of monitoring and supporting, in a de-concentrated manner, the activities that may be required in each province of the country. Its operations entails the strategic distribution of officials and equipment of each ministry at a national level, in order to, if necessary, activate contingency plans and solve any emergency that may arise throughout the national territory before, during and after the electoral process, and in the most appropriate times.

Specifically, the security desk is composed of the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Interior, Coordinator Ministry of Security, Integrated System ECU 911, National Secretary of Risk Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Transport and Public Works, National Transit Agency, and the corresponding institutions in the provinces, according to their competencies. The coordination of actions is one of the principles of public administration; it constitutes a service to the common welfare, just like efficacy, efficiency, quality, hierarchical structure, de-concentration, decentralization, participation, planning, transparency and evaluation, as established in Article 227 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador.

In this important context, I would like to refer to the President of the National Electoral Institute of Mexico, Lorenzo Córdova Vianello, during the opening ceremony of the 2015 Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, with the subject 'Democracy and violence: from old to new challenges in Latin America'. Precisely, he alluded to how throughout the time, and depending on the contexts, legislators, authorities and electoral experts have modified their main preoccupations and priorities in the democratic domains. He traversed an interesting path, because, at the beginning, the weaknesses of the still emerging democracies, and the incipient electoral competition, were related to authoritarian regressions, and even to the processes of



legality around the procedures in elections. This affected equally to the guarantees related to the importance of vote equality and the citizenry's political participation. In every case, he tended to think freedoms and securities in an integral manner.

In this regard, it is important to use these spaces not only to refer to the normative competencies we have in our institutions, but also to the responsibility we take as citizens to unconditionally respect the will of the people.

As electoral authorities, we are interested in debating and working effectively in the security of electoral processes, and this implies that even if the regional and Ecuadorian democracies have managed to consolidate fundamental rights for the exercise of suffrage, there are still challenges we have to face for the purpose of establishing fair and secure conditions.

From the institution, we understand the integrality of electoral planning by means of such an important space like the Security Desk, in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of the citizens and of every actor of the political-electoral system. On this matter, we highlight the importance of an effective coordination between entities and branches of the government that, from their own competencies and attributions, contributed to the integral security in every phase of the process: pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral. This included the security in the transportation and custody of the electoral package and technical kit, as well as the custody and security they provided to the Centers for Processing of Results and the Electoral Precincts.



We considered that it was fundamental to have a contingency plan in every stage, considering levels in risk management that allow us to make decisions at a decentralized level in the electoral stage, which allowed us, together with society and other entities, to optimally respond, given the case, to natural disasters, considering the expertise of the National Secretary of Risk Management. In this context, we underline the work done in the Ecuadorian provinces affected by the earthquake of April 16, 2016, since they did not have one single delay in the planning of the General Elections 2017.

The actions we have promoted contribute to the decision of the Ecuadorian people, since the basis of the elections was an absolutely technical and transparent process, essential requirement to keep up with the quality of democracy Ecuador demands.



*Juan Pablo Pozo Bahamonde  
Chairman of the National Electoral  
Council, Ecuador*



# Enabling Overseas Voters' Registration and Awareness

The Fijian Elections Office [FEO] has an electronic voter registration platform where any Fiji citizen above the age of 18 may can be registered to vote, provided they are not serving a sentence of imprisonment of 12 months or longer imposed by a court in Fiji or by a court of another country, and/ or under a law in force in Fiji, declared to have a mental disorder, as per the constitutional requirement.

The constitution specifically permits the registration of Fijians living overseas, provided they still hold a valid Fijian passport.

## Overseas Voter Registration for 2014 General Election:

In 2013, the FEO conducted registration of voters overseas and by the 2014 General Election, they had conducted registration in over 10 countries over a period of 9 months. Teams were sent directly to these countries to facilitate the registration.

In terms of statistics for the 2014 General

Election, 2,219 postal ballot satchels had been received by DHL, who were engaged to facilitate the courier of postal ballots through a competitive tender process.

## Voter Registration in Pacific Island Countries:

Following the conclusion of the 2014 General Election, there were concerns raised about the lack of voter registration done in neighbouring islands in the Pacific, and in 2017, from the period of March to May, a successful registration drive was carried out in 9 islands in which 594 voters were registered. Countries visited included Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Cook Islands.

## Overseas Voter Registration for 2018 General Election:

To streamline the registration process, and to avoid any confusion and additional expenses, the Overseas Voter Registration



*Overseas Voter Registration in 2014 in Santa Rosa, California, USA*



Election, there were 591,101 voters out of which 5,508 Fijians from overseas were registered. Anyone registered overseas could only apply and vote by post. Of those that applied for postal voting for the 2014 General

Drive for the 2018 General Election, will be conducted around the Fijian Independence Day celebrations all over the world where there are Fiji Embassies and Consulates. This includes 9 countries, namely Australia, New Zealand,



United States of America, Hawaii, Canada, United Kingdom, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Marshall Islands.

A comprehensive schedule for the Overseas Voter registration drive has been compiled and awareness has been spread by the respective Fiji Embassies and Consulates.

The FEO has clarified that a Fijian Passport or a Certificate of Citizenship are the mandatory documents required for the registration of first time voters. Some of the services that FEO provides during the Overseas Voter Registration Drive include new registrations, updating of voter details and replacement of the voter cards with the VoterCard 2.0 as well as awareness on postal voting for the 2018 General Election.

**Partnership with other key stakeholders:**

Fiji has a national airline, Fiji Airways, and majority of the incoming and outgoing visitors from Fiji and Fiji citizens use Fiji Airways. To access Fijians on this plane and keeping in mind that most of these people are those that may be eligible to register, Fijian Elections Office entered into an agreement with the airline magazine and placed an ad informing voters about the voter registration process.



*Fiji Airways magazine open with the back cover showing*

This magazine is accessible to every passenger in the plane and is available for the passengers to take away. These strategies have been very useful to facilitate the information to be accessed by the Fijians, as well as the Fijian Elections Office facebook channels.



*Screenshot of FEO Facebook Post on Overseas Voter Registration*

**Conclusion:**

The Fijian Elections Office works in conjunction with the Fijian Embassies and High Commissions all over the world to facilitate registrations and this creates a smooth machinery for accessing Fijians where there is massive population. At the time of election, Fijians who have registered overseas apply for a postal vote and receive a ballot at their postal address.



*World Map Showing Countries where voters have been registered for 2018 General Election*



*Natasha Verma  
International Relations Officer  
Fiji*



*Arin Kumar  
Public Relations Officer  
Fiji*



# Every Indian Vote Counts: The Online Survey for the Overseas Indians

India's overseas citizens have emerged as an valuable strategic asset for the country in the last few decades. Acknowledging the major role played by them in nation-building, the Indian Parliament passed the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill in 2010 to also extend voting rights to the NRIs. They are eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in their place of residence in India as mentioned in their passport. Overseas electors are required to vote in person at the polling station on production of their original passport. Earlier, NRIs were not able to participate in election process due to the then prevailing law which required that only a citizen ordinarily resident within the territorial limits of a constituency in the country is eligible to be registered as voter in that constituency.

The Election Commission of India has made pioneering efforts at deepening Indian democracy in the recent past. Through its novel Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP hereafter) initiative, the Commission has reached out to a vast section of citizens and registered voters, educating them about India's electoral process to enhance their awareness and participation in elections. One of the major focus areas of the programme is the vast participatory deficit among India's overseas electors in Indian elections.

A Non-Resident Indian (NRI) is a citizen of India who holds an Indian passport and has temporarily emigrated to another country for six months or more for employment, residence, education or any other purpose. There are approximately around 13 million NRIs who may broadly be classified as follows:

- (a) highly skilled professionals, workers and students with tertiary and higher educational qualifications migrating to developed countries, particularly to the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – which boomed with the emigration of IT professionals in the 1990s.
- (b) unskilled and semi-skilled workers going mostly to the Gulf countries and Malaysia, following the oil boom in the Gulf countries.

So far, registration and voting by Non Resident Indians (NRIs) has remained extremely limited.

## The Survey

It is in this context that the ECI decided to conduct an online survey among overseas Indian citizens, in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai primarily to identify the gaps in their awareness about India's electoral process, understand their political participation and to empirically capture their voting preferences. The objectives of the survey were as follows:





# Reaching out to NRIs for Online Survey & Competition



- 1) Assess the awareness levels among India's overseas electors about registration and voting in India.
- 2) Examine the gaps in awareness, motivation and participation of India's overseas electors in elections in India.
- 3) Gauge the opinions and preferences of India's overseas electors on the various options of casting their vote from abroad.

To attract respondents, a competition along with prizes was introduced. The competition was also expected to crowd source creative ideas from overseas Indians on the theme of electoral participation, so that the information could further be used for awareness campaigns. Entries to the competition were accepted under six broad categories. Since the online competition aimed to engage the vast and diverse population of overseas Indians, a targeted approach was adopted, keeping in mind the demographic variations across countries and regions.

### The Website

ECI launched [www.everyindianvotecounts.in](http://www.everyindianvotecounts.in) to facilitate the online survey and competition. A comprehensive design was sought to connect with the overseas Indians which was developed in one and a half month. An ethnographic approach was core to the website design development process that included in house workshops, meetings and user preference surveys to develop a language for the website.

### The Competition

The online competition was conducted to invite creative ideas from overseas Indians on the theme of 'Every Indian Vote Counts'. It aimed to engage the vast and diverse population of overseas Indians by accepting original compositions under six broad categories.

- Slogans
- Songs
- Posters
- Photographs
- Short films
- Original Essays

To expand reach of the online survey and enhance participation, various activities were undertaken. Each activity gave the opportunity of earning 'Democracy Points' to

the participant. At the end of every fortnight, the winner was awarded with a "Certificate of Honour" by the ECI.

### Upload a Selfie

Under the India United section of the website, participants were encouraged to upload their selfies with a caption based on the theme 'Every Indian Vote Counts'.



### Community Action

The Community Action aimed at spreading the campaign by encouraging participants to upload group photograph

### Refer a friend

Invite a friend to take the survey earned the respondents democracy points and recognition on the portal as well as ECI's facebook page along with a certificate.

### Share on Social Media

Share hashtag (#) on facebook and Twitter to spread the message and get more overseas Indians to take the survey

### The Period of Campaign

The website was launched on the October 20, 2016 and the survey was conducted between November 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. A total of **2,649** respondents completed the





survey between that time period. Since the website was active even in the first few weeks of January, the total number of responses was 2,973 (out of which 2,165 or 73% were eligible). Many participants made use of the 'Contact Us' platform to clarify their queries on electoral procedure. Some extended their hand to volunteer in this initiative while others expressed their gratitude and shared their suggestions and good wishes.

### The Findings

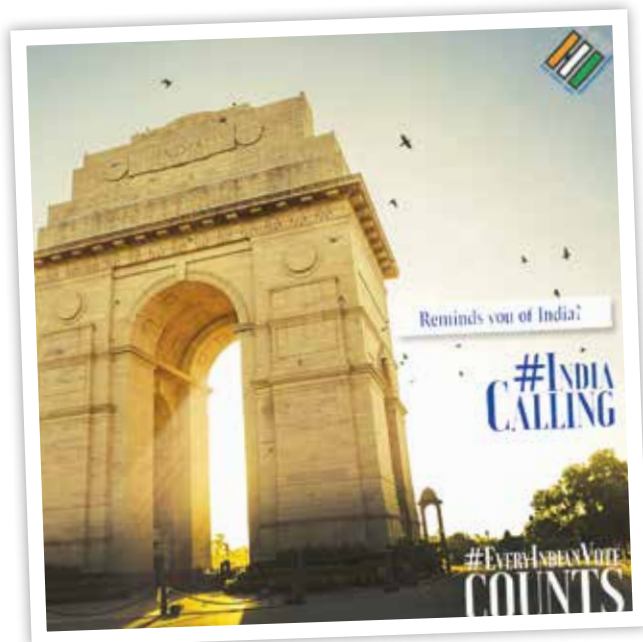
Many participants enthusiastically sent their entry in more than one category. More than 150 selfies were uploaded. Some of the participants uploaded old photographs of their time in India and others had uploaded pictures from their current country of residence. Indians spread across the globe expressed their love for the country through patriotic captions. The participants explicitly or implicitly welcomed the initiative and significance of voting with entries such as 'Waiting since long to be a part of electoral process' and 'Gul sa gulistan, hamara pyara hindustan'.

**Three major findings of the survey** were as follows:

There is only a very small fraction of overseas electors (3 percent) that is well-informed about all aspects of the registration process. While most are aware about the minimum age of registration to be a voter, a relatively large section of India's passport holding diaspora



remains largely unaware about the correct enrollment form meant for overseas electors and the eligibility criteria for becoming an Overseas Indian elector.



Secondly, the rates of registration as overseas electors are low (17 percent). An overwhelming proportion of overseas electors (89 percent) who wanted to vote at some point admitted to not being able to do so primarily because they were not present in India at the time of voting. The requirement of being physically present in their respective constituencies at the time of election has emerged as the greatest barrier to their electoral participation.

Thirdly, there's a gap between knowledge/ attitude and practice. While the respondents report participating in online activities and consuming their news online (via social media) they were hesitant to complete the online registration form meant for overseas electors when prompted to do so. Intriguingly, it was respondents who were more knowledgeable about electoral procedures who were least likely to act on information when prime to do so. While greater research is needed to understand this paradoxical behaviour, this does seem to suggest that an online campaign must be complemented with offline activities in order for it to be truly effective.

The findings are being utilised to chalk out the action plan for designing the outreach programme for the overseas Indians to engage them with the Indian electoral process.



*Padma Angmo  
Director  
Election Commission of India*



## Out of Country Voting (OCV)

The evolution of the role of the government in the international society has turned to what looks like a universal village with the revolution in communications and information technology. ICT enables an efficient communication between humans irrespective of their location.

This means fast communication wherever they are in a short time, this keeps the immigrants aware of the daily events in their countries step by step and thus contributes in settling the challenges of citizenship of immigrants despite the long distances and the different environment they live in. In the light of these facts, participation of immigrants in the electoral process guarantees a big chance in the lives of Iraqis living abroad to continue in practicing their rights as citizens in an active and continuous way without any disturbance in care of their country affairs and establishing their participation in the democratic life. This helps in giving a good impression about the culture and civilization of the motherland and secure the connection between the motherland and the host country and this contributes in the development of the political, cultural, social, and economical relations between the two countries. It enables them to vote as an electoral entity and in contact with a different participants. This helps in strengthening the Republic of Iraq both, in the elections and in the democratic process in general.

The democratic states make sure that their citizens abroad, away from their motherland, have due chance for participation in polling and in different ways to guarantee their rights of participation in the general life. The application of this process came after a long time with transformations in the understanding of the participation in elections and how to make it applicable. Many of the countries in the world such as The United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Turkey, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, France, Italy, Japan, Netherland, Norway,

Switzerland, and other Arabian countries such as Algeria, Tunisia, and Lebanon have provided for OCV in different ways. These countries have experiences in OCV in different ways.

Perhaps what counts in the favour of the Iraqi



democratic experience is that it applied the program for the Iraqi immigrants' participation in the first democratic, free electoral process in Iraq after the fall of the dictator regime that is the election to national assembly in 2005. With the assistance of International organization on migration, the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq (IHEC) applied the program of OCV by depending on its experiences in Parliament and Council Elections 2005 then it held its second elections in 2010.

Depending on the principle that the people are the source of authority, they practice it through the constitutional institutions which make the process of ensuring the participation by large segments of citizens (voters) in the polling process. This is an essential necessity in any free and fair electoral system as for its importance in leading the process of democratic transformation towards more legitimacy and credibility based on the election results for Iraq. The right to participate in public life is guaranteed under Article No.5 of Iraqi constitution which states as follows: 'The law is sovereign. The people are the source of authority and legitimacy, which they shall exercise in a direct, general, secret ballot and through their constitutional institutions.'

Amended Elections Law No.16 of 2005 of Iraqi parliament has confirmed the right of Iraqi citizens outside of Iraq to vote for their representation in the Parliament.

As well as, the provisions of the United Nations charters, specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article No.21 and other related UN Treaties support the Iraqi Constitution in giving this right to citizens without depriving them of any of their personal rights where Article 44 stipulates as below:

1. Each Iraqi has freedom of movement, travel, and residence inside and outside Iraq.
2. No Iraqi may be exiled, displaced, or deprived from returning to the homeland.

The most important of these rights is their participation in the general voting to freely express their will to participate in running the affairs of the country through the selection of their representatives.

According to Article No. 46 of the Iraqi constitution, which states that: 'Restricting or limiting the practice of any of the rights or liberties stipulated in this Constitution is prohibited, except by a law or on the basis of a law, and insofar as that limitation or restriction does not violate the essence of the right or freedom'.

Thus, the geographic dimension cannot play any negative role for taking away the right from those who are away from their hometown. Hence, the voting right has become a right for all residents and expatriates of citizens. According to the above and the Election law, IHEC organized the out of country vote (OCV) that took place on March, 5-6-7, 2010 in sixteen countries, namely Syria, Jordan, Egypt, UAE, Iran, Sweden, Austria, Turkey, Holland, Denmark, USA, Canada, Britain, Australia, Germany and Lebanon. IHEC also created systems and procedures and provided staff trained in all aspects of electoral process, as well as prepared basic materials for facilitating the voting process in order to allow the opportunity to Iraqi voters residing abroad to participate in elections and to vote freely and transparently depending on legal norms and international standards, despite the difficulties and the short time for preparation to hold OCV.



### First: The legal basis

Election's law is the legal basis for the implementation of elections, as well as the regulations and procedures set up by IHEC (Board of Commissioners) which earn their legal power to manage and implement elections, according to IHEC's law No.11 of 2007 which states in Article No.2:

1. 'Promulgate rules and adopted principles for federal, regional and local elections and referenda throughout Iraq to ensure their implementation in a just and transparent manner'; and
2. Article No.4: 8 'Set regulations and instructions preserving fair electoral process'.

In addition to that the OCV of the Iraqi Parliament Council Elections, 2014 as an additional new experience that distinguished by a lot of standards, applications, and connotation that are managed by IHEC through the unit of administrating of OCV related to the CEO (Chief Electoral Office). Despite the delay in issuing the electoral law No. (45) amended in the year 2013, and the new complication added to the electoral law is the condition that a voter should vote to an instant governorate in addition to the open list on the contrary of the previous electoral processes held outside Iraq, but after the issuance of the mentioned law, the Board of Commissioners issues a decision No. (149) on 17/11/2013 in which the constituency of IHEC was assigned to administrate the elections of the Council of Representatives, 2014 outside Iraq.



*Safaa E. Jasim  
Commissioner  
Independent High Election Commission  
Iraq*



# Enabling Overseas Electors and Service Voters including Uniformed Services Voters

**E**lections are essential step of any democratic system to give people the rights and access to a process where the country is ruled by the people. It gives them power to choose their representatives who decide for them. Recent developments has seen in participatory democracies, where citizens want to exercise their voting rights regardless of their physical location or reason to be absent from their domicile on their election day. Respecting the voting rights of the citizens, overseas voting has been conducted in 115 countries of the world that includes 28 in Africa, 16 in America, 41 in Europe, 10 in Oceania and 20 in Asia. Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives have practiced overseas voting into the SAARC region.

Though overseas voting enables all the votes irrespective of their physical presence to their country to exercise their voting rights, it is equally difficult and expensive to conduct overseas voting. The most common practices of overseas voting are i) voting in person and ii) postal voting.

- i) In person voting:** Voting in person requires a personal appearance by the voter at a designated polling station established by the country of which the voter is a citizen in the foreign country, where he/she is living. The polling place is often in an Embassy or Consulate or sometimes in rented halls. In person voting helps to identify the voter and there is an assurance that the ballot was actually cast by the voter him/herself.
- ii) Postal Voting:** Postal Voting refers to the casting of votes by mail, either directly to the appropriate electoral authority of the voter's electoral district of his/her country of origin or to his/her country's Embassy

or Consulate that has jurisdiction over the voter. Disadvantages of the postal voting are delay in arriving ballots for counting of the votes and lack of assurance that the registered overseas voter is in fact , the person who cast his vote by mail.

Besides the above two fax voting, proxy voting and email voting methods are also practiced by some countries. New Zealand and USA practiced fax voting and proxy voting has been practiced by UK.

Conditions and restrictions to the citizens for overseas voting have been defined by the countries according to their national policies and laws. The conditions and restrictions might be in terms of the deadline for the receipt of the ballot and the eligibility of the voters residing abroad.

Among the 14 million voters in Nepal, about 3 million are residing abroad for work, study or other purposes that includes the large number of workers in Middle East countries. Some of the Nepali voters among them have registered in voter roll and some of them might have not. Moreover they are spread approximately in more than 100 countries across the world. Nepalis who are migrated in search of job are either documented or undocumented and it is difficult to include the undocumented workers in voter registration and overseas voting.

In overseas, the Nepali Embassies are the places where election can be conducted. However the number of Nepali Embassies/ Consulates is limited to 36 and the Nepalis are spread in many other countries. It is challenging to manage access of elections to such a population.

With the recent political developments for participatory and inclusive democracy in Nepal, Election Commission of Nepal has also adopted



the policy of including all the eligible voters in electoral process. This is one of the challenging tasks for the Commission to provide the opportunity to more than 3 million Nepalis staying overseas to exercise their voting rights.

A committee was formed by the Election Commission in April 2012 led by the Secretary of Election Commission including other concerned ministries. This Committee recommended for implementation of overseas voting in a way that is financially feasible and providing the citizens to exercise their voting rights.

Similarly, a study team visited Thailand led by the Election Commissioner in August 2012, with the purpose of learning best practices of Thailand. As report mentions, Thailand arranged to register in voter roll and cast votes from 91 places as compared to 66 in 2011. The study team concluded that Election Commission of Nepal can begin piloting one country where maximum Nepalis are staying, after arranging the proper technology.

Another study team led by the Election Commissioner completed study visit of some five Middle Eastern countries in order to explore the ways of voter registration and voting from abroad where large no. of Nepalis are residing. During the visit, the team held meetings with the concerned authorities of those countries and Nepal Embassy officials, held interactions with Nepali communities and met the foreign ambassadors who are conducting overseas voting for their citizens in those countries. From the experience of the ambassadors based in those countries in conducting overseas voting helped to know about the difficulties to be faced during voting process. Nepalis residing abroad found to be very much enthusiastic to be registered and exercise their voting right from abroad. Also the host Governments had no objection in

conducting elections within the premises of the Embassies. The study team recommended commencing the voter registration process from 3 countries of the Middle East as a pilot program and form a permanent committee responsible for overseas voting with the purpose of expanding all over the world phase wise. As recommended by the team, legal provision, institutional arrangement, human resource management, use of technology and allocation of adequate fund are primary things to be arranged to achieve the goal.

In the absence of legal provision for absentee/ overseas voting, this task is not possible for the moment. Another major challenge is to find appropriate technology. However, Election Commission is working towards positive direction in conducting overseas voting in future elections.

### **Service Voters including uniformed Services Voters**

For successful elections management in Nepal, government employees including civil service employees, teachers and the security agencies play a key role from the very beginning of the election process. The government employees specially the public school teachers are assigned for voter registration to voter education and for the conduction of election as well. Civil service employees are assigned for conduction of election and the security personnel are also deployed during the election period.

During the constituent Assembly Elections held in 2008 and 2012, the Election Commission of Nepal provisioned for service voters including Uniformed Service Voters to cast votes for the proportional representation seats from the polling stations where they were deputed.

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*Election Commission, Nepal*

Enabling Overseas Electors  
and Service Voters including  
Uniformed Services Voters



# Some Perspectives on **Out Of Country Voting** for Sri Lankans

The advent of universal suffrage in Sri Lanka, some 90 years ago, has steered the country's socio-political paradigm in a new and positive direction. However, close examination of Sri Lanka's representative democracy highlights a distinct area for improvement: the lack of facilitation of migrant workers to exercise their voting right.

Approximately 1.5 million Sri Lankan citizens abroad are deprived the opportunity to cast their vote. This is a significant number of voters who can considerably influence the final result of just about any election.

## Voting Rights of the Sri Lankan migrant workers

In total, there are over 1.5 million migrant workers from Sri Lanka, whose votes are not counted in every election due to their

Subsequently, a significant number of migrant diasporas who are eager to play their role in the decision-making process in their respective motherlands, are emerging in developed countries. For example, many Sinhalese people can be seen working in countries like Australia and many Sri Lankan Tamils are employed and reside in Canada. The majorities of these migrant workers are either under a temporary visa or have obtained dual citizenship.

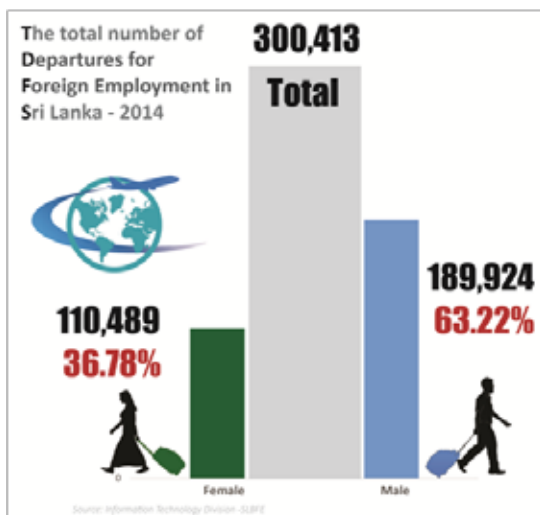
The National Migration Policy that was adopted in 2008 in alignment with relevant international treaties proposed to ensure the voting rights of the Sri Lankan migrant workers. However, it must be stated that facilitating OCV from the countries to which many people have migrated, is a fairly expensive endeavor.

## Out of country voting methods

There are a number of methods used to facilitate the out of country voting (OCV) in countries around the world. However, countries looking to implement OCV should consider the realities of their context while finalising a method. Following are the main implications of each OCV method.

**Return voting:** This can be facilitated by the establishment of polling stations at major airports in the country or major land entry points. This aids the expatriates to return to the country where they are employed right after casting their votes at a polling station established at an entry point of their home country. It is apparent that such voting methods can be deployed in a way that's affordable and beneficial only for the migrant workers in countries where there's considerably lucrative employments are available.

**In-person polling stations:** This will inevitably require the establishment of polling



being away from the country. This could not be regarded as a trivial omission in terms of facilitation of their rights in determining their choice in the political decision making process.

Emerging global trends show that a large number of people all over the world are migrating, both legally and illegally, in search of employment in developed countries.

stations outside of the Embassy and Consulate premises, in locations where diaspora populations are concentrated. However, the implementation of this system still remains challenging since such a mobilization requires inter-governmental negotiations with the host country to allow the establishment of such polling stations within their territory.

**Embassy voting:** This is similar to in-person polling stations in many ways, but less complex in terms of operationalising. However, investing time and money on travelling to an embassy could deter the diaspora from proactively partaking in voting. Particularly in the middle eastern countries where Sri Lankan women are employed as house maids and domestic workers, embassy voting requires a cumbersome process of seeking the approval of their masters and travelling a long distance to both register and vote.

**Postal voting:** With this methodology, ballots are mailed out to registered out-of-country voters and need to be completed and returned by mail for counting. They can be returned to collection points in host countries or directly back to the country. However, there are sensitivities around the security and reliability of involving postal services in the process.

**Internet voting:** Internet voting is novella new voting method that addresses many of the complexities involved in in-person voting. However, the technology available for internet voting is still in its early stages and hence this system is not recommended to be adopted at a national level without proper methods of security and voter identification in place.

**Proxy voting:** This system employs a proxy who resides in one's home country that's chosen by the registered out of country voter to cast the vote on his or her behalf. Many countries seem to have not placed much faith in this system and hence such a system might not be suitable for Sri Lanka.

Prior to considering any of the aforementioned methods proposed to conduct out of country voting, it is important that the reforms be brought forth for the existing legal provisions related to the electoral process.

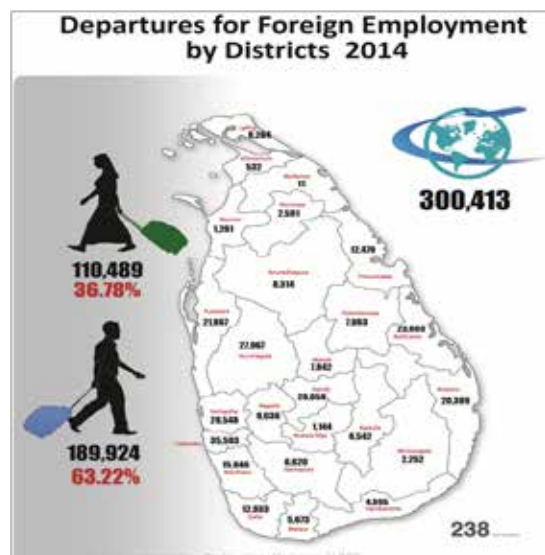
### The way forward

OCV can be extremely expensive and it is possible that Sri Lanka cannot yet afford to facilitate its implementation. However, if corruption can be reduced, any responsible government would be obliged to facilitate OCV.

The Sri Lankan Parliament has appointed a select committee to consider the lobbying of civil society organisations regarding OCV. Their topmost responsibility should be to devise the most appropriate method to be adopted in the Sri Lankan context. Furthermore, if it is not possible to facilitate OCV to all Sri Lankan migrant workers at once, gradual implementation should be considered. One of the greatest challenges is to devise a program through which the relevant out of country voters could be made aware of this entire process.

The unavailability of such a comprehensive program will result in lack of awareness among out of the country voters about the free and fair electoral process and would lead to a chaotic diffusion of votes based on the extremist grounds such as religion, nationalism etc.

In this day and age, social media is widely utilised for political lobbying and manipulation of the general public in order to create a level playing field in the election. It is important to build consensus among political parties on their media strategies as well as it is the responsibility of EMBs to alert and formulate policies towards outreach media strategies of its stakeholders.



*Manjula Gajanayake  
National Co-ordinator  
Centre for Monitoring Election Violence*



# Out of Country Voting in a Globalized World: What are the Implications?

An Introduction to our Forthcoming Roundtable

The issue of out of country voting (OCV) has risen to prominence lately, particularly in parts of Asia and Latin America. In response, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) has therefore from early 2017 taken preliminary steps to facilitate discussions among electoral management bodies, between those experienced in organizing OCV and those that are not. These discussions, initially through a roundtable discussion, will facilitate exchanges of practices and experiences on OCV, which would be of value to those countries planning on adopting it. It will also provide the opportunity for electoral management bodies (EMBs) to express and seek solutions to challenges that they face while implementing OCV. Any EMBs interested in participating are welcome to inform us.

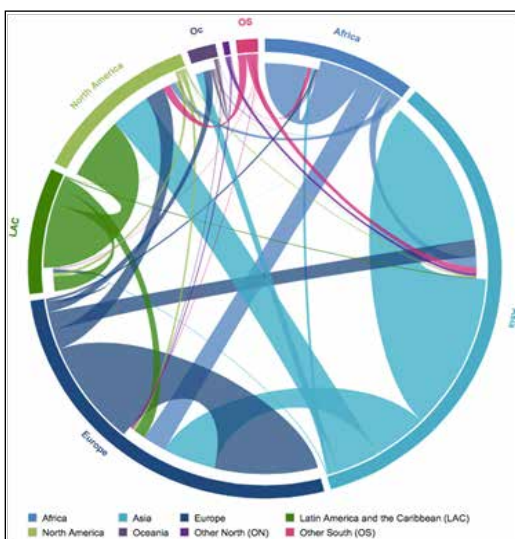
The right to cast a vote in democratic elections stand at the core of people’s political rights. However, for citizens residing abroad the issue is less straight forward. Should people that have made a choice to live in another country still have voting rights in their home country? And if so, should the state be responsible for facilitating their vote from abroad – or should citizens simply have the option of coming home to exercise their right? These questions prompted International IDEA to publish its Handbook entitled, 'Voting from Abroad', in 2007 and are still relevant today.

## What is 'voting from abroad'?

International IDEA’s Handbook on Voting from Abroad (2007: 8) **defines OCV as:** Procedures which enable some or all electors of a country who are temporarily or permanently outside the country to exercise their voting rights from outside the national territory.

Implementing OCV requires careful considerations towards eligibility and voter registration requirements, the types of elections applicable and the voting methods available.

**Eligibility requirements:** Out of country voting eligibility requirements differ across countries. Some countries have opted for a restrictive approach whereby only citizens that reside outside their home country in an official capacity, i.e. diplomatic staff, public officials and military personnel (and their families), are allowed to vote from abroad. In other countries, there are no restrictions on eligibility, which means that also other categories of citizens abroad, such as labour migrants, refugees, students and others, are in principle allowed



International migration stock, 2015

Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

to vote. In between these restrictive and more generous or open approach, there are a number of different arrangements.

Notably, holding citizenship is a minimum requirement for obtaining voting rights. If voter apply for and receive citizenship in their new country of residence and if this country prohibits double citizenship, the voter will, through losing home country citizenship, also lose the right to vote in their home country.

**Voter registration requirements:** More often than not, citizens abroad who are eligible to take part in an election in their home country are required to register to vote. Registration process requirements – linked to registration modality (in particular in-person versus distance registration), location and period of registration as well as identification documentation requirements – are likely to impact on the level of abroad voter access.

**Types of elections:** OCV may be applicable to different types of elections. The most common practice is to allow abroad voters to take part in national elections, i.e. in presidential and/or parliamentary elections. Some countries also allow citizens to take part in sub-national (regional/provincial/local) and supra-national (regional parliamentary bodies, e.g. EU and Andean parliaments) elections.

**Voting methods:** The four main methods for OCV available are personal voting, postal voting, proxy voting and e-voting. These methods differ substantially when it comes to preparations, logistics and administration. When choosing a method, there is tension between the degree of control or supervision that the institution responsible can exercise and the degree of voter access. For example, personal voting, e.g. in diplomatic missions or similar facilities established for the specific purpose of the vote, is likely to enhance control, whereas distance voting through proxy, the post or the internet is likely to increase access.

### Why allow vote from abroad – or why not?

Supporters of OCV argue that it is a basic human right of political participation. Through participating in elections, citizens abroad have an opportunity to, through political means, contribute to development at home which might impact their choices regarding where to live. Citizens living abroad often maintain close relationships with their home country and

continue perceiving themselves as 'belonging there'.

Supporters also point to the economic impact of migration. In 2015, remittances flows were estimated to approach USD 600 billion globally and more than 70 percent was received in developing countries. In other words, citizens residing abroad are contributing to economic development at home and in some countries remittances make up a considerable share of the national GDP. In Tajikistan and Nepal, for example, remittances account for 42 and 29 percent of the GDP.

Lastly, OCV can also be seen as 'high politics'. The main example is when Turkey introduced OCV, it was not only 'a purely domestic political matter, but a part of Turkey's increasingly contentious foreign relations.'

However, it has also been argued that OCV gives citizens abroad undue influence over home country politics and development. Generally, citizens abroad, particularly those residing abroad for a longer period of time, are not directly affected by political decisions concerning a number of policy areas, such as road constructions, rural development and education to name a few.

Moreover, citizens abroad may not pay taxes and thus, do not contribute directly to the state coffers. This argument was made by the Irish Government in the 1990s when debating overseas voting rights, with the slogan 'no representation without taxation'.

The size of diaspora populations has also featured the debate. In countries with large proportions of citizens abroad, it has been argued that OCV would allow for a situation by which citizens abroad to 'swing the vote' and thus determine political and developmental trajectories in their home country. In countries where elections on the 'main land' are very close, even a small number of abroad votes can tilt the results. In 2016, several reports discussed how the estimated 8 million Americans abroad could potentially tilt the US presidential elections and an anti-Trump activist group produced a software tool to simplify abroad registration processes assuming Americans abroad were largely Democrats. Whilst noting that the number of abroad voters can be large, a Council of Europe report dismissed the 'public fear of a hypothetical

mass invasion of electors from abroad' and urged countries to take on a more 'realistic perspective' in making decisions on OCV.

A country's administrative and financial capacity may also impact on a country's decision to allow voters abroad to participate in elections. Experience shows that OCV is a huge administrative task with substantial costs. Notably, turnout among out of country voters remain low, which brings value-for-money considerations into play: some countries simply cannot afford going in this direction.

At the end of the day, the decision to allow OCV often comes down to politics. It is the legislators in the parliament that determine whether or not citizens residing outside their country's borders will have the right to cast their vote. Decisions on whether or not to allow OCV may be influenced by the self-interests of political majorities and their perception of the political choice of those living abroad. It is often assumed that those moving abroad do so because they are dissatisfied with political life or lack of economic opportunities at home. In other words, they are perceived to be inclined to vote against the government of the day, who is responsible for the current political and socio-economic conditions.

**Global outlook**

International IDEA's Voting from Abroad Database explores legal provisions for OCV in 216 countries and territories around the world. Altogether 114 countries and 77 territories allow people abroad to take part in legislative and/or presidential elections, respectively. Only

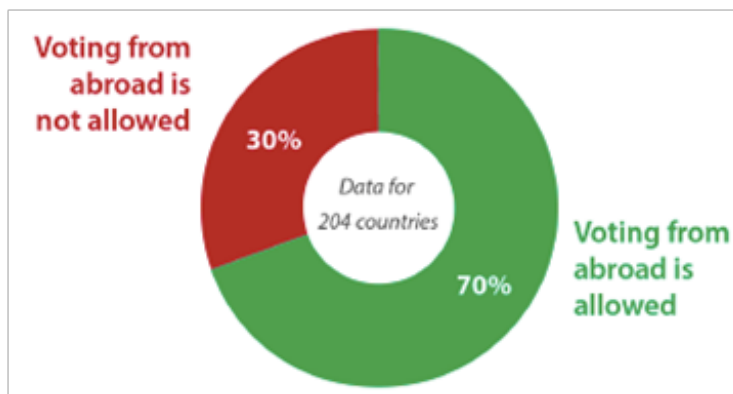
26 countries open sub-national elections up for participation outside the borders. In addition, 54 countries and territories allow citizens overseas to take part in referenda.

The voting methods offered differ considerably across countries. Personal voting is applied in 103 countries and territories (e.g. Brazil, Egypt, Finland, Mongolia, Myanmar, South Africa); postal in 51 (e.g. Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea); proxy voting in 18 (e.g. Belize, Mauritius, Vanuatu); and e-voting in 8 (e.g. Armenia).

Many countries allow voters abroad to choose from multiple voting methods. In Australia, Denmark, Japan, Latvia and Thailand, citizens abroad can choose between personal and postal voting. A combination of postal and proxy voting is applied in France, India, Netherlands and the UK. In Estonia and Switzerland, abroad voters can vote in person, by post or cast their ballot via the Internet. In Panama, citizens outside must vote either by post or via the Internet. In Poland and New Zealand, voters can even cast their vote by fax.

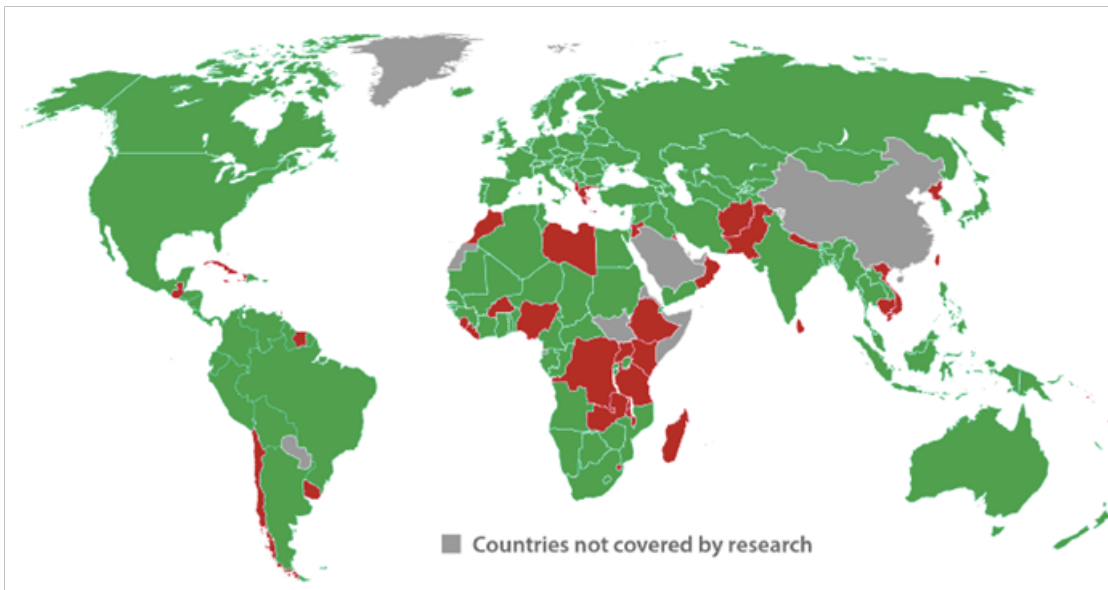
In Asia, 29 countries and territories – or 67 percent of those that organize elections – allow citizens abroad to vote in legislative elections (see Annex A). Of these, in 19 of the 22 presidential systems (86%) in which presidents are popularly elected, citizens abroad can participate. Looking at voting methods in use, 25 countries apply personal voting, 8 countries postal voting, 3 countries e-voting and 1 country allows voters to vote by proxy.

**Voting from abroad around the globe**



The five countries that do not organize elections are: Brunei, China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Countries/territories where abroad voters are not allowed to take part in any elections includes Afghanistan, Cambodia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Northern Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Occupied Territories, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Vietnam.



Source: International IDEA

In-person voting is the method most frequently applied method in Asia: in 22 countries and territories, there is only one voting method in place and in 19 of these voters must cast their vote in person. Examples include Israel, Mongolia, Myanmar, Singapore, South Korea and Turkey. In seven cases, out of country voters can choose between two different voting methods. Looking at the countries that organize elections, 13 do not allow for OCV in any type of election.

**Why discuss OCV now?**

Several decades of globalization have transformed society into a ‘global one’. People not only migrate, but they migrate more often – moving from country to country until they decide to settle in a country or move back to their original country. Moreover, communication barriers have fallen with the rise of the internet and mobile communications. All of these factors have prompted debates regarding the

enfranchisement of citizens abroad and OCV rights.

The jury is still out on whether or not enfranchisement of citizens abroad is the best way to solve their under-representation citing the aforementioned problems. Countries that allow OCV still face administrative, financial and turnout challenges, which may be too much to bear for countries that aspire to go down the same route. Through exchanges and discussions that we shall promote together, challenges may be mapped out and solutions thereof may be explored. We look forward to seeing you at the Roundtable Discussion.



*Mette Bakken  
International IDEA*



*Adhy Aman  
International IDEA*





# Out-of-Country Voting – A brief Overview for EMBs

Many countries around the world have a large diaspora that wants to be included in the electoral process of their home country. Out-of-country voting (OCV) is an option every democracy should consider when trying to maximize citizen participation in the electoral process. However, there are many risks and complexities, such as political influence, cost, and administrative and logistical challenges that should be considered before countries move forward with an OCV system.

While inclusive participation is an international standard for elections, Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) need to pay special consideration to boundary delimitation issues and establishing valid and democratic extra-territorial voting areas. The decision to enfranchise diaspora communities is layered with potential political agendas and should be made with the input of all electoral stakeholders including members of diasporas, in-country voters, and the EMB implementing the election.

While implementing OCV systems, EMBs face a number of complex operational challenges, which often include a massive financial burden. Experts explain that OCV systems typically cost between 5 to 10 times more than in-country voting operations. By these estimates, some countries may not be able to even consider an OCV system based on cost alone. However, costs can be reduced based on the number of voters and the extent and scope required for election operations.

Another operational challenge for EMBs is the location of diaspora communities. Most diasporas span more than one country requiring an EMB to coordinate complex logistics, often without directly supervising operations. This raises the risk of EMBs spreading themselves too thin and potentially



*An out-of-country voter in Washington, DC votes in Tajikistan's 2010 parliamentary election.*

*Source: IFES*

failing to conduct quality in-country elections. In these situations, EMBs should coordinate operations across country lines through building cooperative partnerships with foreign national institutions, election officials, civil servants, and national communities. Cross-border coordination can minimize operational challenges that are common to OCV systems like issues of security, materials transport, and a lack of administrative and electoral facilities, or poor communications and informational awareness messages.

Maintaining equal access for all voters underpins all election operations, especially with OCV systems, as it is quite challenging to identify diaspora voters' locations and polling station locations given the lack of mobility of some voters. Importantly, equal access should also be considered in the context of political bias as political preference varies amongst diaspora communities. Equal access is also connected to the decision of voter eligibility

criteria. EMBs need to be clear in defining the eligibility to participate in OCV. Issues of eligibility link to a more complex matter of proving eligibility and voter registration for external voters. All of these issues are susceptible to perceived political bias. Politicians will likely attempt to disenfranchise certain voters by claiming EMBs made biased eligibility and logistical decisions. Therefore, it is important that EMBs are clear and concise in determining who is eligible to vote and how that eligibility is determined.

The perception of fraud is of major concern in OCV operations. In-person voting methodologies mitigate fraud whereas postal and internet systems leave room for security breaches. Additionally, OCV systems are difficult for EMBs to manage since staff are not able to implement operations locally. Furthermore, often OCV systems are not observed by independent observers, which can lead to a lack of transparency and potentially poor operations. Regardless of whether the fraud exists, the lack of transparency can lead to a perception of fraud and undermine the integrity of an election. These operational challenges can be either reduced or potentially exacerbated depending on the type of OCV system used.

The **Return Voting system** is useful for diaspora voters who are able to move across borders easily. Under this system, polling stations are arranged at major air and land entry points to provide easy access to diaspora voters who can return to their home country to vote. This system reduces voter identity fraud, but can likely impede poorer groups of the diaspora from voting given the financial cost of travel.

The **In-Person Polling Station methodology** involves establishing polling stations in locations where diaspora communities exist, which tend to be near embassy and consulate grounds. While this option also reduces the likelihood of fraud and allows for more diaspora voters to participate, it can be very difficult to operationalise. Some host countries will refuse to allow a foreign nation to organize voting on their territory, and, if it is allowed, logistics are costly and complex due to the necessary intergovernmental negotiations required for coordination.

Embassy Voting provides diaspora voters with the opportunity to vote in embassies and/or consulates. Similar to the Return Voting system, poorer voters may not be able to travel to these locations, and embassies may not have the proper facility and resources to support a large number of voters. However, this in-person system does mitigate concerns of fraud.

With the **Postal Voting** approach, ballots are mailed to registered voters who then post their ballots back to their home country or to an identified collection area in host countries. While this system allows for equal access, it also presents a number of problems linked to fraud and implementation. Proper planning is key to success as ballots need to be mailed early. However, postal delays can negatively affect the counting process and postal ballots cannot guarantee one's identity.



*Iraqi woman holds up a registration card during OCV voting in Detroit, MI for Iraq's 2005 election.*

*Source: IFES*

Recently, **Internet Voting** has become a real possibility. However, the technology has not been fully developed and remains vulnerable to security issues. This approach should only be considered in countries with advanced technological and administrative infrastructure that has a secure way to identify each voter. Without advanced security features, an election would be susceptible to fraud and would lack a high level of integrity.

When deciding which OCV system should be used, EMBs need to not only be transparent in their decision-making process, but they also need to be realistic about the level of service they can provide to diaspora voters. It is equally important that EMBs manage

voter's expectations and work to implement an inclusive system that allows for the participation of most, if not all voters. This will help to garner buy-in from stakeholders and lay the groundwork for electoral integrity.

A good practice can be establishing an out-of-country voting committee inclusive of civil society and diaspora members. This committee needs to be established early to allow members to explore global experiences and to consider all available options. It would also be beneficial for committee members to refer to OCV resources and consult with international experts to gain a more nuanced understanding of each system's pros and cons. Once an outcome has been agreed upon, the committee should circulate their decision in the form of

an official report and consider holding public hearings to allow stakeholders to comment.

An OCV system can provide greater inclusion to diaspora communities, but it can also increase the risk of fraud and political influence, and lower electoral integrity. Additionally, the cost to operationalise such a system may prove to be too much of a financial and administrative burden. Therefore, it is crucial that EMBs carefully research and select an OCV system in a transparent way, that can acquire local buy-in and maximize inclusive participation while minimizing risks.

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*From paper by Peter Erben, Ben Goldsmith and Aysha Shujaat available at: [http://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/ifes\\_ocv\\_erben\\_goldsmith\\_shujat\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/ifes_ocv_erben_goldsmith_shujat_2012.pdf)  
Edited by Melika Atic*



*'With your vote, the country is complete' A graphic from an OCV guide for Mexico's 2006 election  
Source: IFES*

# Empowering Overseas Electors and Service Voters including Uniformed Services Voters for Electoral Participation

## Introduction

As per the normal procedure, electors go to their respective polling stations and exercise their right to franchise through a ballot paper or other means such as an electronic voting machine. However, it may not be possible for some categories of electors to be physically present at the polling station on the date and time fixed for the poll because of reasons such as a physical disability, absence on account of business or official duty, service in Defence forces, diplomatic missions overseas and migration consequent to conflict or other reasons elsewhere in the country or abroad etc.

The categorization mentioned above may vary from country to country and there may be other groups requiring special attention depending upon the special needs recognition and the extant legislative regimes in different countries. The electoral rights of people falling in such groups, as long as they qualify to be electors under the law, remain intact and the EMB's endeavor to provide appropriate facilities for exercise of electoral rights by such electors despite challenges with a view to demonstrating superior degree of democratic inclusion to the effect 'Every Vote matters' and 'No Voter be Left Behind.'

Overseas Electors and Service Voters including uniformed Services Voters as a distinct category of voters, need a larger support of a different nature through legislative, legal

instruments of the concerned countries and an equally efficient operational support framework from the respective EMB's and cooperation from the countries of present residence of such voters to fulfill the general obligation of universal adult suffrage arising out of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its subsidiary and complementary instruments. The issues and challenges in out of the country voting are complex and dimensions different, especially in post conflict operations to address large migrant populations.

Voter information, awareness and education needs for such voter groups are also different and have to be tailored according to their requirements and facilitation provided by the respective EMB's to maximize the voter turnout in this segment.

Significant amount of work has been done including technology driven initiatives by different countries besides the International expert Institutions such as International IDEA, IFES, UNDP etc in this area.

This paper intends to visit the experience of some of the countries in empowering the 'Overseas Electors and Service Voters including uniformed Services Voters' for maximizing their electoral participation with a view to provide one stop knowledge resource on initiatives to them.



## Australia: Comprehensive information and Guidance for Overseas Voters and Defence Services Voters

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is an independent statutory authority responsible for the conduct of federal elections and is committed to delivering trusted, reliable, high quality and high integrity electoral processes and services to the country.

AEC provides precise, accurate and timely guidance to all categories of overseas voters to facilitate registration, vote process in a stepwise manner through its website.

The overseas voters may fall under different categories. Eligible voters who are living, working or holidaying overseas can vote in person at an overseas voting centre or by post. The AEC provides postal voting services to Australian Defence Forces personnel and others serving overseas at the time of the federal election. Information on how to vote while overseas, including a full list of overseas voting centers is available at [www.aec.gov.au/overseas](http://www.aec.gov.au/overseas)

### Going overseas for a short period

An elector can enroll and vote if he is going overseas for a short period of time and plans to return to his place in Australia. He has to fill up an online overseas notification form if already registered. If not already enrolled, and the elector is already abroad, he is advised to fill up 'Enroll to vote for Federal Elections from outside Australia. The AEC online guidance 'How to vote while overseas' provides detailed information and guidance.

### Electors Living or Working Overseas

#### Already Enrolled

If a person is already enrolled, he can register as an overseas elector in case the person is intending to return to Australia within six years. Such an elector can apply up to three months before or within three years after such a person leaves Australia. AEC, while providing the above information on its website also facilitates online registration process. The application also provides an option to such an elector to become a general postal voter to receive a postal ballot on announcement of elections.

#### Not Enrolled

If a person is not enrolled and has been overseas for less than three years, he is entitled to enroll provided he is an Australian citizen above 18 years or is intending to return to Australia within six years. A person cannot enroll for an overseas address; instead he must enroll in the respective electorate he is entitled to before leaving Australia. All the guidance and information has been provided on AEC website as also the facility for online registration besides the vote process in such cases.

#### Attaining 18 years while living overseas

If a person is registered as an overseas elector, his children can enroll and vote in federal elections if:

- never been enrolled, and
- Are Australian citizens.
- Are 18 years or older and had not turned 18 before leaving Australia.
- Intend to return within 6 years of attaining the age of 18.

Online enrollment facilities are provided by AEC through filling up the requisite forms. Voting facilities are provided by AEC. Details may accessed at the link

[http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/overseas/index.html](http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/overseas/index.html)

#### Voter information/Voter Education; AEC's Guidance for Voter Information

The AEC provides stepwise guidelines on entire voting process through its website link: [http://www.aec.gov.au/voting/ways\\_to\\_vote/](http://www.aec.gov.au/voting/ways_to_vote/) for comprehensive information, educating and guiding the concerned categories of voters. Background Resources, FAQ's at AEC link referred to above clarify all guidelines, instructions and doubts of the voters. AEC also provides on its website email address, helpline numbers including global helpline numbers for online enrollment and assisting the vote process. Guidance and Information on some of the relevant FAQ's is as below:

- **Find Election Schedule**

If a voter subscribes to the AEC mailing list, he

will receive an email on the schedule of next federal election or referendum.

- **Checking up enrolment**

A voter can check up his enrolment online to ascertain his current enrolment details and the location for which he is enrolled to vote.

- **Find out the correct electorate**

Provides information regarding the electorate where a voter lives in. Find 'my electorate' helps in this through search by suburb or postcode.

- **Assisting an overseas voter**

If a voter is not able to vote while overseas, he can complete and submit an 'Overseas Notification Form'. This would provide him with an option to be removed from the electoral roll while he is overseas.

- **Removal of name from Electoral Roll**

If a voter chooses to be removed from the electoral roll, he will need to enroll again to be able to vote in any future federal elections.

- **Overseas Notification form**

Registration as an overseas elector. This form provides him with the option to be removed from the electoral roll while he is overseas.

- **Early Vote**

An elector may vote early in person or by post if on the Election Day he is outside the electorate where he is enrolled to vote, travelling or unable to leave his workplace to vote.

- **Early vote in person**

An elector may vote at an early voting center or any AEC divisional office in the weeks leading to election.

- **Early Vote by Post**

An elector may apply for a postal vote online or fill up a postal application form, after an election is announced.

- **Antarctic Voters**

Voters working in Antarctica or in transit on Election Day are eligible to register and vote as Antarctic voters.

- **Fly-in, Fly out workers**

Early voting is made available at selected airport departure terminals in Western Australia and postal voting services are also made available to fly-in and fly-out voters.

- **Overseas**

For federal elections, electors who are overseas can vote in person at an overseas voting centre (mostly Australian Embassies or Missions) or by post.

**AEC Guide: 'How to Vote by Mail'**

AEC's voter education Easy English Guide 'How to Vote by Mail' provides holistic and step-wise guidance to mail voters in simple and lucid manner with well done up illustrations and pictures. A voter has to apply for a postal vote by filling up a form. This application can be filled up online or an application on paper can be sent to the designated office for further processing. The entire sequence of steps leading to successful mail voting besides practice on voting is explained in the guide to help a voter in the form of simple user friendly questions and answers. Details of the guide may accessed at the link: [http://www.aec.gov.au/About\\_AEC/Publications/easy-english/files/vote-mail-easy-eng.pdf](http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Publications/easy-english/files/vote-mail-easy-eng.pdf)

**Enrolment as a Postal Voter**

While a many categories of voters can be registered as postal voters, members of the Defence Forces, or a Defence civilian serving outside Australia; an Australian Federal Police Officer or staff member serving outside Australia; and a voter registered as an overseas elector are all entitled and they can register to become a postal voter. Once registered as a Postal Voter, such electors automatically receive their ballot paper in mail after an election has been announced. Such voters need not apply for future elections.

**Procedure to become a General Postal voter**

A person, otherwise eligible to be a voter, has to firstly select a general postal voter form applicable in his state or territory from the given list. Then check up if a person is eligible to be a general postal voter. One has to complete the form, print, sign and return the form to the AEC. If a voter is not registered at the current address, he will have to register to vote or change his address. Change in address or name calls for updating of these details in the electoral roll. When a person is registered to be a general postal voter, he can also apply to receive ballot papers for state and local government elections.

*See Page 46 for References*

## Election Canada: Overseas Electors and Service Voters including uniformed Services Voters

Elections Canada Online provides well designed facilities for Voting by Special Ballot for voters inter alia falling in the following categories:

- Canadian electors temporarily away from their electoral districts during the election or referendum, whether in Canada or abroad.
- Canadian electors in their electoral districts who cannot or do not wish to go to an ordinary or advance poll to vote.
- Canadian citizens residing outside Canada.
- Canadian Forces electors (including civilians employed as teachers or administrative support staff in Canadian Forces schools outside the country).

### Voter information/Voter Education; EC's Guidelines for Voter Information

Elections Canada Online provides stepwise guidelines on entire voting process through its website link <http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir> for comprehensive information, educating and guiding the concerned voters. Background Resources, FAQ's at EC online link referred to above clarify all guidelines, instructions and doubts of the voters. EC also provides on its website email address, helpline numbers including global helpline numbers, separate TTY number for deaf or persons with hearing impairment for assisting the vote process

### Legislative Provisions: Special Voting Rules

This method of voting is governed by the Special Voting Rules under Part 11, Rules 177 to 281 of the Canada Elections Act.

Any elector who cannot or does not wish to vote at a polling station during an election or referendum may vote using a special ballot. With a special ballot, an elector can vote by mail or in person at the office of any returning officer. If the elector is away from his electoral district, inside or outside Canada, he can also register to vote with Elections Canada in Ottawa. In all these cases, the elector must have a civic address for his or her place of ordinary residence in Canada, for electoral purposes. The elector's vote will be counted

for that electoral district.

A Special Voting Rules Administrator appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer oversees the administration of the Special Voting Rules.

### General principles

To vote under the Special Voting Rules, the electors, other than Canadian Forces electors must:

- register to vote by special ballot no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before polling day;
- in the case of an election, obtain the names of the candidates in his electoral district (in an election, the elector completes the special ballot by writing the name of the chosen candidate); in a referendum, each referendum question is printed on a separate ballot and the elector checks off 'yes' or 'no');
- in the case of an elector voting by special ballot outside the electoral district of his or her ordinary residence, ensure that the completed ballot arrives at Elections Canada in Ottawa no later than 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on polling day;
- in the case of an elector voting in his or her electoral district, ensure that the returning officer for that district receives the completed ballot before the close of the polls in the electoral district on polling day;

Once an elector's application to vote by special ballot is approved, that is the only way one can vote. The elector cannot vote at the ordinary or advance polls. The only exception is that Canadian Forces electors may choose to vote in person at a civilian polling station, if they are living in the same electoral district as the address shown on their *Statement of Ordinary Residence*. They can do so only if they have not already voted under the Special Voting Rules. For further details, consult the background *Voting by Special Ballot for Canadian Forces Electors*.

Elections Canada draws up the lists of electors registered to vote by special ballot in each

electoral district, and sends them to the returning officers before the advance polls and again before polling day. These lists include the surname, given name, civic address and mailing address of electors who have applied to vote by special ballot. The returning officers indicate on the list of electors that these electors have registered to vote by special ballot, to prevent them from voting twice.

An elector who votes under the Special Voting Rules uses a special ballot voting kit that includes:

- in the case of an election, a blank ballot on which the elector writes the name of the candidate of his choice; and in the case of a referendum, a ballot on which the referendum question is printed;
- an unmarked inner envelope;
- an outer envelope identifying the elector and his or her electoral district, and a declaration that the elector must sign and date, stating that his or her name is as shown on the envelope, and that he or she has not already voted and will not attempt to vote again in current electoral event;
- a return envelope;
- an instruction flyer

An elector may vote only once at an election. The elector is only entitled to vote for a candidate running in his electoral district.

While the guiding principals have been discussed above, detailed guidelines are provided for each category of voters for follow up process for registration, manner of voting, procedure for counting and communication of the result. However, the brief on Canadian Forces is given in the following:

### **Canadian Forces Electors**

Canadian Forces electors are Canadians who will be 18 years of age or older on polling day and are members of the regular force of the Canadian Forces, or members of the reserve force of the Canadian Forces on full-time training or service or on active service, members of the special force of the Canadian Forces, or a person who is employed outside Canada by the Canadian Forces as a teacher in, or as a member of the administrative support staff for, a Canadian Forces school. They can vote by special ballot in any election or

referendum in the electoral district in which the address on their *Statement of Ordinary Residence* is located.

People living with members of the Canadian Forces outside Canada are not included in the category of Canadian Forces electors, but may vote as Canadians residing outside Canada.

### **Registration**

The Department of National Defense maintains a permanent register of Canadian Forces electors. When a member enrolls, he completes a *Statement of Ordinary Residence* that determines the electoral district for which his vote will be counted.

### **Manner of voting**

Canadian Forces electors vote by special ballot. During a general election or referendum, instructions for voting are posted at the polling station in each unit and a deputy returning officer is appointed to issue voting materials. Each polling station has a complete list of candidates.

To vote, the elector must first complete and sign the declaration on the outer envelope that forms part of the voting kit. The declaration states that the elector's name is as shown on the envelope and that he has not already voted and will not attempt to vote again in the current electoral event. The elector completes the ballot by writing on it the name of one of the candidates in his or her electoral district. The elector inserts the ballot into the series of envelopes as per instructions provided.

The elector is responsible for ensuring that Elections Canada in Ottawa receives the ballot no later than the prescribed time. Electors may mail the ballots themselves or leave them with the deputy returning officer to forward by special arrangement. The ballot must be sent in the envelopes provided. A ballot received by fax cannot be counted.

Instead of voting by special ballot, a Canadian Forces elector who is residing in the electoral district of his address on his *Statement of Ordinary Residence* may vote at the civilian polling station in that electoral district, provided that he has not already voted in the electoral event and continues to reside in that electoral district until polling day.



## New Zealand: Assistance to Overseas Voters

Electoral Commission of New Zealand provides efficient and effective arrangements both for enrollment and voting by overseas voters including Defence personnel, their families and persons from diplomatic missions etc. EC NZ provides information on its website for awareness and guidance of the voters falling in this category.

### Step-wise information is as follows:

#### Enrollment as an Overseas Voter:

An overseas New Zealand citizen is eligible to enroll and vote from overseas if he fulfills the following conditions:

- ❖ 18 years of age or older.
- ❖ Has lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some point of time and is either:
  - ▶ A New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand at any point in the past three years,
  - ▶ A New Zealand permanent resident who has been in New Zealand at any point in the past 12 months.
  - ▶ Electorate will be the one in which a person last lived for a month or more.
  - ▶ There are exceptions to these time limits for certain people and their families, such as members of the New Zealand Defense Forces or New Zealand diplomats or trade representatives.

**The Electoral Act, 1993** provides that New Zealand citizens or permanent residents who are overseas may enroll if they choose to do so, but this is not required by law. If a citizen is eligible to enroll, he can enroll or update his details by:

- Updating or enrolling online.
- Picking up an enrolment form from any New Zealand diplomatic post.
- Within New Zealand by contacting at phone 0800 36 76 56 or from overseas +64 9 909 4182 asking to be sent an enrolment form.
- Asking a member of his family or a friend to complete an enrolment form for him.

#### Enrollment with the Help of Other Person

A person may get someone else to complete his enrolment form for him, provided:

- Such a person is already a registered elector, and

- He must print 'Elector Overseas - signed by his direction' on the form next to his signature, or
- One can have the form completed by someone else with a Power of Attorney for the applicant. In this case one must print 'Elector Overseas - Power of Attorney' next to his signature.

#### Voting in a General Election from Overseas General Conditions

NZ EC provides facilities for overseas voting subject to the following eligibility conditions (with exceptions for certain categories such as defence personnel, diplomats, trade reps etc):

- A person must be enrolled.
- A New Zealand citizen who has visited New Zealand within last three years, or
- A person is a permanent resident of New Zealand and has visited New Zealand in the last 12 months.

#### Obtaining Ballot Paper

Voting papers are not automatically sent to the overseas voters. Voters who are overseas will be able to obtain their voting papers from two and a half weeks before Election Day in one of the following ways:

- Download their voting papers from this website
- Apply to the Electoral Commission for postal voting papers
- Vote in person at an overseas post

#### Return of the Overseas Ballot Papers

The Overseas Voters may return their voting papers in one of the following ways:

- Upload their voting papers at the Electoral Commission's website.
- Fax their voting papers to the Electoral Commission (+64 4 494 2300).
- Post or courier their voting papers to the Electoral Commission.
- Post, courier or hand deliver their voting papers to their nearest overseas post.

All Overseas ballot papers returned to the EC must reach as per the specified time and date.

#### Legislative Support

The facilities provided by the EC NZ are supported by the Electoral Act of 1993 and the regulations framed there under.

Detailed information at <http://www.elections.org.nz/>

## The United Kingdom: Overseas Voters

The British citizens residing outside United Kingdom were not able to register to vote in the Parliamentary elections in UK prior to the year 1985. Right to franchise was extended to such British citizens under the Representation of the People Act 1985. The enactment enabled them to register as 'overseas voters' in the constituency of their last registration. The facility, initially provided for a period of 5 years, was extended to 20 years under the Representation of the People Act 1989, but limited to 15 years under the Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Electoral Commission of UK ran an overseas voter registration campaign in February to April, 2015. A record high number of about 106,000 overseas voters was registered during this campaign. Later, during the Electoral Commission's public awareness campaign for overseas voters conducted from 17 March to 9 June, 2016, over 135,000 were registered. In December 2016 there were nearly 264,000 registered overseas voters. Introduction of the facility to register to vote online in Great Britain including overseas voters is considered a factor that facilitated the registration of overseas voters.

Thus, presently the British citizens living overseas are entitled to register for voting in UK Parliamentary elections for up to 15 years in the constituency they were registered in before leaving the UK. But they are not entitled to vote in UK local elections or elections to the devolved assemblies.

After the general election of 2015, the Government, as a follow up of its manifesto relating to 'introduce votes for life, scrapping the rule that bars British citizens who have lived abroad for more than 15 years from voting', brought out a policy Statement on the subject. This policy Statement 'A democracy that works for everyone: British citizens overseas' is aimed at providing a lifelong right to vote in Parliamentary elections to the British citizens residing abroad. The Government has asked for feedback on the policy statement from the expatriate community and from technical experts in electoral process. Further action will follow after the feedback. As per the existing

arrangements, the Electoral Commission facilitates the British Overseas citizens in electoral process and the guidance emanates from the voter education to such voters through the website of the Commission.

The UK Electoral Commission provides comprehensive guidance for electors. Some of the salient points of guidance and information are as below:

### Registration

- If one is registered as an overseas voter, one can vote in the U K Parliament elections.
- If one is a UK citizen living abroad, one can apply to be an overseas voter.
- One must have been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years and be eligible to vote in UK Parliamentary general elections.
- If a citizen is too young to register when he left the UK, he can still register as an overseas voter. He can do this if his parent or guardian was registered to vote in the UK, as long as he left the UK no more than 15 years ago.
- To register to vote in England, Scotland or Wales, one can register online in the same way as all other voters in Great Britain. Register online any time at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote).
- To register to vote in Northern Ireland, visit the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland Website to download the correct form.
- Enter the postcode for the UK address at which one is registered. One will be provided with contact details for one's local authority. They will be able to help with any questions about the registration status.

### Method of Voting

- An overseas voter can choose a method of voting depending on personal circumstances.
- An overseas voter can apply for vote by post. He needs to ensure that he has time to receive and return his ballot. If he thinks that he cannot return the ballot on time, he may consider voting by proxy.

- Bottom of Form
- To check when postal votes are being sent out he may contact the local authority of the address he is registered at.
- After completing the form, the voter will have to print it, sign it, and send it back to his local authority.

**Postal Ballot Paper**

A postal ballot can be issued only after:

- The timeline to become a candidate has passed and the ballot papers have been produced and printed.
- An overseas voter can approach his local electoral registration office for information as to when his postal ballot papers will be issued.

**Return of Postal Vote**

- Once an overseas voter has duly received his ballot, he has to mark his vote on the aforesaid ballot paper and make sure that he sends it back so that it arrives by 10pm on Election Day. Arrival later than this will mean that his vote will not be counted.
- A voter can hand his postal ballot in at his local council on the day if he is not able to send it back by post in advance.

**REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR VOTE – SO KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF!**

If anyone tries to help you against your will, or force you to give them your postal vote, you should contact the police.

If you have any other queries, ring your local elections team.

**Do's and Don'ts of Vote by Post**

1. Once a voter gets his postal voting papers, he must take certain precautions such as:
  - Put the postal vote papers somewhere safe
  - None else than the recipient should handle them
  - Make sure they are not left where someone else can pick them up
2. When the voter wants to vote, he should:
  - Complete the ballot paper in secret, on his own
  - Do not let anyone else vote for him
  - Do not let anyone else see his vote
  - Do not give the ballot paper to anyone else
  - Put the ballot paper in the envelope and seal it up himself
  - Complete and sign the postal voting statement

- Put the postal voting statement and the envelope containing his ballot paper into the larger supplied envelope and seal it.
3. When a voter returns his postal vote:
    - Take it to the post box himself, if possible
    - If he cannot do that, either give it to somebody he knows and trust to post it for him, or ring up his local elections team, to ask if they can collect it from him.
    - Do not hand it to a candidate or party worker unless no other way is practical
    - Don't leave it where someone else can pick it up

**Change of Address**

If a voter changes his address, he will need to make a new application to vote by post or by proxy – his voting preference will not be carried forward to his new address.

**Proxy Voting**

If a voter is living overseas, he can appoint someone else to vote for him at a UK election or referendum. A person cannot be a proxy for more than two people at any one election or referendum, unless they are a close relative.

**Armed Forces Voters, Service Voters**

The Armed Forces personnel can register to vote as ordinary electors, as overseas voters, or as service voters. The Electoral Administration Act, 2006 provides for extension of the duration of a service declaration to five years.

Concerns have been expressed about the under-registration of the Armed Forces personnel, especially as overseas voters, and the difficulties faced by them in general in electoral participation. Surveys on the subject during 2005 to 2010 reflect variations in the number of personnel registered as voters. Awareness campaigns among Armed Forces for registration have been run by the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Defence since 2007. The results of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) in 2016 indicate that 80% of the respondents were

registered to vote as against 73% in 2015 and there is steady increase in this regard.

The proportion of Other Ranks registered to vote increased from 63% in 2012 to 70% in 2014 and to 76% in 2016. Officers continue to have a much higher proportion of registered voters at 95% in 2016 as against 89% during 2012-15. Service Voters Registration Road shows held by the Ministry of Defence in 2015 have helped improve registration.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 provides for change in the system for voter registration in the UK. Voter Registration can be completed online. This facility appears to have facilitated electoral registration for Service personnel posted abroad.

It is also a matter of concern that postal ballots would often not reach those serving abroad in time for them to complete and return the papers before polling day. The 2013 Act has addressed the issue through extending the time schedules for Parliamentary elections, thereby creating more time for movement of postal ballot to the voter and its return.

The UK Electoral Commission provides comprehensive guidance for the Armed Forces electors. Some of the salient points of guidance and information are as below:

#### **Registering as a Service Voter**

A citizen can register as a service voter if he is a member of the armed forces or the spouse or civil partner of someone in the armed forces.

In Scotland, a child aged 14 or over whose parent or guardian is a member of HM Forces is also eligible to register as a service voter. They must be living in Scotland or would be living in Scotland if their parent or guardian were not based overseas. They will not be able to vote in Scottish Parliamentary or local government elections until they are 16 or in UK Parliamentary or European Parliamentary elections until they are 18.

#### **Registering as a Service Voter**

If a person in service is based overseas or expects to be posted abroad next year, it makes sense to register as a Service voter. This allows him to be registered at a fixed address in the UK even if he moves around.

A Service voter registration lasts five years, but one can cancel his service voter registration at any time.

In Scotland, a person under 18 years who is registered as a service voter because of living with a parent or guardian who is a member of HM Forces must renew their registration every year.

To register in England, Scotland or Wales, one can register to vote on line as a Service voter. For registration in Northern Ireland, one may visit the website of Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

A service personnel based in UK may be registered as an ordinary voter in case he is unlikely to change his address or unlikely to be posted overseas next year. More information and advice can be obtained from the designated Unit Registration Officer.

#### **Voting**

If a Service voter is abroad at the time of the referendum or because of some other reason he is not able to vote in person on the day, he can apply for vote by post or by proxy. Proxy voting is also permissible in case of Armed Forces. If an Armed Forces voter is serving overseas, he can appoint someone else to vote at a UK election or referendum.

#### **Voting by Post**

Postal votes may only be sent out about a week before Election Day. If a Service voter is living abroad, he may appoint a proxy to vote on his behalf as there may not be enough time for his postal vote to reach him and be sent back before voting closes.

#### **References (Website):**

Australia; Australian Electoral Commission voter resources at [http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/overseas/index.html](http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/overseas/index.html)  
[http://www.aec.gov.au/voting/ways\\_to\\_vote/](http://www.aec.gov.au/voting/ways_to_vote/)  
[http://www.aec.gov.au/About\\_AEC/Publications/easy-english/files/vote-mail-easy-eng.pdf](http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Publications/easy-english/files/vote-mail-easy-eng.pdf)



## The United States of America: Voting Assistance for Military and Overseas Voters and others

### Introduction

USA has well designed legislative framework and technology driven programmes to protect and support the voting rights of its overseas citizens including the Armed Forces personnel and their family members. The essential legislative framework is provided by the relevant provisions of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Federal Voting Assistance Programme (FVAP) provides comprehensive support and guidance on the subject. The Voter Guide and the Guidelines of Election Assistance Commission (EAC) provide information, guidance and of educative value to these voters. The support programmes are technology driven.

### UOCAVA and its Support System

The voting rights of the millions of U.S. citizens living overseas, as well as Service members and their eligible family members, are protected by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). About 75 percent of the 1.3 million Service members are eligible to vote absentee through the UOCAVA provisions since they are stationed away from their voting residence and polling place.

The Overseas citizens and Service members who intend to exercise absentee vote have to, as a first step, fill up and send a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) in a registration and ballot request form accepted by all states. This form is available at FVAP.gov. The voters are expected to fill up and send this form well in time so that they meet the deadlines fixed by different states as per their election calendar.

Voters can visit FVAP.gov for their state's specific voter registration and ballot request deadlines, as well as information on

completing their FPCA. Voters can fill out the form by hand or use the online assistance before they print, sign and send the FPCA to



their election office.

### Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

FVAP is a Department of Defense organization that works to ensure that the Service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote. FVAP also ensures that such voters have the facility and resources to successfully register and vote from anywhere in the world. To provide assistance to voters FVAP develops partnerships with the US Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice, and election officials from the states. State and local governments administer U.S. elections, including those for federal offices. FVAP supports state and local election officials by providing absentee voting information, materials, training and guidance. FVAP organizes Voter Weeks also at appropriate time to provide timely voter engagement for UOCAVA voters.

FVAP has been entrusted with administration of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) on behalf of

**FVAP's call center provides assistance in case of any difficulties, issues or questions to the voters at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584 or at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov)**

**Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov)**

**Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com / DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter**

the Secretary of Defence. UOCAVA, as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, requires States to transmit the absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters no later than 45 days before a Federal Election. Citizens

facilitated by UOCAVA include the Members of the Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service Commissioned

Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps), Members of Merchant Marines, Eligible family members of the above and the U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.

FVAP assists voters through partnerships with the Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice and election officials from 50 States, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

#### **Help America Vote Act, 2002**

Help America Vote Act, 2002 addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to generate new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration including voter education, assistance to UOCAVA voters and related subjects and provide funding to help states meet these new standards. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearing house on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve election administration.

Sec 242 of the HAVA provides for Study, Report and Recommendations on Best Practice for facilitating Military and Overseas Voting for developing the facilitating the guidance through voluntary guidelines etc. Sections 701 to 707 provide detailed legislative framework for Absentee Voters.

#### **EAC's Voter Guides to Federal Elections**

EAC's Voter Guides are highly informative, simple to read and cover all aspects of electoral process and available on EAC website. The guides are intended to help voters successfully navigate the Federal election process in a holistic manner from registering to vote through casting a ballot on Election Day. In addition to providing the basics of casting a ballot, the guides include information on voter eligibility, early voting, alternative registration and voting processes for uniformed and overseas citizens, and polling place accommodation that make voting more accessible to different categories of voters. Published in 11 languages to maximize outreach, the Guides also provide relevant

links for helpful resources to voters inter alia including registration, military and overseas voting, accessibility, and volunteering as a poll worker. Different states also publish Voter Guides for the elections in their respective domain. Extract from EAC Voter Guide for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens is at Annex I for ready reading.

#### **EAC's '6 Tips for Helping UOCAVA Voters and their Families'**

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) collaborated with the U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to develop these tips for working with Service members, their families and citizens residing overseas. Service members, their families and overseas citizens face unique challenges in registering to vote and in requesting, receiving and returning their ballots. These six tips can help these voters more efficiently navigate the process of electoral participation. All these guidelines are available on the EAC website for voters and others for information and guidance. All the guidelines and documents have links embedded for quick follow up on action points.

#### **Accessible Voting Technology Initiative**

The EAC's Accessible Voting Technology Initiative (AVTI) supports accessibility research on transformative technologies and approaches. The initiatives include the EAC's Military Heroes grant to provide assistance needed for recently injured military personnel to participate in elections.

#### **EAC Research**

EAC collects data from states for each federal election on the number of overseas and military voter ballots that are transmitted, returned, and cast. This data is included in EAC's biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey. In addition, EAC has issued several surveys to better understand the process and experience of military and overseas voting. These reports are utilized for developing guidelines and educative purposes. (Refer to EAC Resource Library)

#### **EAC Events**

EAC holds many meetings and roundtable discussions on issues that affect military and overseas voters. These events bring together

top experts in the field to work to solve the problems that affect the voting rights of military and overseas citizens. (Refer to EAC Resource Library)

### EAC Resources

Further to the EAC resources referred to

#### Annex I: Extract for Uniformed and Overseas Citizen from EAC Voter Guide

'6 Tips For Helping UOCAVA Voters and their Families'

#### WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS?

To register to vote, members of the military and overseas citizens may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), available from the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP's) Web portal at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The FVAP Web portal offers a step-by-step tool to guide military service members and overseas citizens through the voter registration process. All States and territories accept the FPCA as a simultaneous application for registration and a request for an absentee ballot. Depending on your State of residence, you can return the completed FPCA by e-mail, fax, or mail. If you mail the FPCA, send it in an envelope with proper postage or in an FVAP prepaid return envelope. Go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to see how to return your form. If you are already registered to vote, you may still submit an FPCA to request a ballot, ideally early in the Federal election year. Printed copies of the FPCA are available at U.S. embassies, military bases and consular offices. Voting Assistance Officers at those sites can provide any information or assistance you may need to complete the form. If you need help with the absentee voting process, visit the FVAP Web site at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), contact the FVAP at (703) 588-1584 (toll free at [800] 438-VOTE; also available toll free from 70 countries at [www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html](http://www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html)), or e-mail the program at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov).

Military service members and overseas citizens may also request the electronic transmission of blank voting materials. Jurisdictions that mail voting materials are required to send them to the requesting voter 45 days before an election to ensure sufficient time to receive and return voted ballots.

above, EAC Guidelines on UOCAVA citizen's residency and Frequently Asked Questions are of informative and help citizens in educating themselves on the subject. EAC's interactive websites for Military personnel and overseas voters are extremely helpful to the voters in this category.

## Kenya: Initiative on Diaspora Voters

The Constitution of Kenya stipulates legislation of a framework for the progressive registration of citizens residing outside Kenya, and the progressive realization of their right to vote (Article 82, section (1) subsection (e)). In working to achieve this mandate, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is developing detailed regulations and procedures on Diaspora registration and voting and will submit the same to Parliament at least 6 months before the general elections as required by law.

The initiative involves a consultative process that needs the input from Kenyans in the Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations and

consensus amongst political parties and consideration of international best practices.

Key considerations for the process includes: costs, the impact of Diaspora voting on domestic politics, logistics and other operational issues. Diaspora voting comes with administrative challenges such as security and transportation of electoral materials, voter education and training.

Some jurisdictions define the eligibility of the Diaspora voter by the number of years spent abroad besides the need to identify agents and observers.

### References:

Voter Education Resources of respective EMB's  
Electoral Commission of UK; Report on the administration of the 7 May 2015 Elections including the UK Parliamentary General Election, 2015.  
'A democracy that works for everyone: British citizens overseas.' A Policy Statement of the Government of the U K, 2016  
House of Commons Library; Briefing Paper on 'Armed Forces Voting', 2017.  
House of Commons Library; Briefing Paper on 'Overseas voters', 2017  
The US EAC, 6 Tips for Helping UOCAVA Voters and their Families.  
FVAP, USA



**S D Sharma**  
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Kenya

Kenya



# Promoting Electoral Education among High Schools

Electoral Judiciary School of Superior Electoral Court (Brazil) recently released the #partiumudar project, focused on political education for young people from 14 to 18 years old. Conceived and developed in cooperation with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund - UNICEF, it consists in a set of initiatives concerning political literacy and participation enhancement among high school students.

The core of the project is a website where students and teachers can find didactic material, news, surveys, videos, photos and a good practices archiv. For example, teachers can access the so called Teacher's Guide, with technical and pedagogic informations on the main themes of current democracy in Brazil, such as women participation in politics and the role of political parties and media in strengthening democracy.

At the release ceremony, minister Gilmar Mendes highlighted that "mainly among young people there is an outcry for breakthroughs, but it only can be reached with a change of political culture which starts with young people themselves. Usually, youth is not aware of its own transformation potential".

Professor Fábio L. Quintas, Director of Electoral Judiciary School of Superior Electoral Court, stressed that it is possible to learn politics from the daily life: "We understand that politics are part of the life and should be developed inclusively at school", he said.

As implementation strategy, Electoral



Judiciary Schools of all over Brazil are conducting regional events and signing agreements with public education secretaries.

To learn more about the project, visit [www.tse.jus.br/partiumudar](http://www.tse.jus.br/partiumudar).







# Reaching out to service voters via Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)

Many ground breaking initiatives have been taken up in recent months to bring the ballot to the service voter. While the facilitation part continues, it is to be ensured that simultaneously, the education and outreach aspects are taken care of, so that the service personnel are aware of the latest initiatives, including the online registration facility as well as the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot (ETPB) facility.

A film on service voters registration and ETPBS was launched on September 13, 2017 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi by the Commission in the presence of Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra, Secretary East (MEA); Preeti Saran, Additional Secretary (Home Affairs); Jaideep Govind, Lt. General R.Gopal, DG (MP&PS), Indian Army; Air Marshal P.P. Bapat; Vice-Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla and other senior officers from the services and CPFs. Moreover, the exhibition on service voter registration and ETPBS was appreciated by the dignitaries. A.K. Joti, Chief Election

Commissioner laid emphasis on motivating the service personnel to ensure enrolment and participation of maximum number of service personnel.

Posters and brochures for the service voters have also been produced by ECI and are being shared with the forces for wide dissemination.

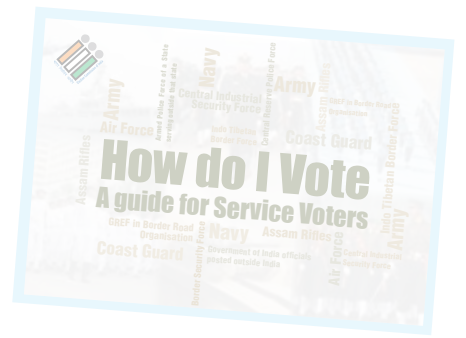
Moreover, even as the film is scheduled to be screened at all the defence stations in the country for the benefit of the soldiers, Election Commission of India also attempted to reach

out to the members of the target group directly via social media.

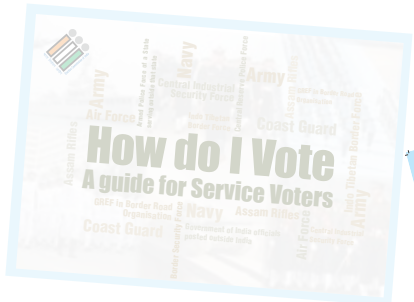
Hence the film was uploaded on ECI's official YouTube channel and promoted across platforms. Prior to the online launch of the movie, a one minute teaser video of the film's theme song was released on facebook along with motivational posters and information brochures. The aim was to reach as many servicemen online as possible.

Partnering with the social media wings of the Indian





Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, the film was shared on the official Facebook pages of all the three forces. The film reached to **1,00,000 facebook viewers** and created an overall engagement with **31,341 users**. The Defence Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman herself shared the film on her official Facebook page.





**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग**  
**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

# तेरी आवाज़ भी जरूरी तेरा वोट भी जरूरी

**सेवा मतदाता कौन है ?**

भारत की परामर्श सेनाओं में सेवा करने वाले

सेना दलियोग 1950 के अधिनियम (नवम प्रावधान, सीमापारक बंदरगाह, वाईडीपी, वीजा प्रकल्प आदि) के अधिनियम के अंतर्गत कार्यरत नागरिक, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआरपीएफ)

राज्य के सरकार के अधिकारियों के पदावधि के अंतर्गत कार्यरत

को भारत सरकार के कर्मी नियुक्त किए गए हैं किन्तु उनकी कर्मचारी सेवा के अंतर्गत नहीं

**\* यदि सेवा मतदाता की पत्नी, सामान्य रूप से घरके सभ निवास करती है तो वह भी सेवा मतदाता की सूची में रजिस्ट्रार हो सकती है।**  
\* यदि के अतिरिक्त सेवा मतदाता के को को पिकान्त व प्रत्येक प्रकार की है।

**अपना बहुमूल्य मत डालें : पोस्टल बैलट को कैसे भरें**

**सेवा मतदाता**

सेवा मतदाता को अपने मत डालने के लिए एक विशेष पोस्टल बैलट (Postal Ballot) प्रदान किया जाता है। यह बैलट को भरने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

**या सामान्य मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकरण कराएं**

सामान्य मतदाता को अपने मत डालने के लिए एक विशेष पोस्टल बैलट (Postal Ballot) प्रदान किया जाता है। यह बैलट को भरने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

**अपना बहुमूल्य मत डालें : पोस्टल बैलट को कैसे भरें**

पोस्टल बैलट को भरने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

पोस्टल बैलट को भरने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

**Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot (ETPB) द्वारा मतदान**

ETPB के माध्यम से मतदान करने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

ETPB के माध्यम से मतदान करने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

**वर्गीकृत सेवा मतदाता**

वर्गीकृत सेवा मतदाता को अपने मत डालने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

वर्गीकृत सेवा मतदाता को अपने मत डालने के लिए निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

**अतः आज ही [www.servicevoter.nic.in](http://www.servicevoter.nic.in) पर अपना पंजीकरण कराएं... ताकि आप आगामी चुनावों में मतदान कर सकें!**

**कोई मतदाता न छूटे**

संपर्क करें: [www.servicevoter.nic.in](http://www.servicevoter.nic.in)

सुपरीवेज मतदाता शिक्षा और निर्वाचक महासमितियां (सीवीएन) [www.ecisveep.nic.in](http://www.ecisveep.nic.in)

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001  
हेल्पलाइन: 1800-11-1950  
[www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)





**सेवा मतदाता के लिए पंजीकरण एवं मतदान**

जानकारी सहायता पुस्तिका

नौसेना

वायु सेना

सेना

केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल


भारत रिजर्व सीमा बल

सोमनाथ सुरक्षा बल

सीमा सुरक्षा बल

असम रिजर्व पुलिस बल

भारत में कार्यरत भारत सरकार कार्गो और कर्मचारी



**How do I Vote**  
**A guide for Service Voters**

Assam Rifles, Air Force, Navy, Army, Coast Guard, Indo Tibetan Border Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Assam Rifles, GREF in Border Road Organisation, Navy, Assam Rifles, Air Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Government of India officials posted outside India, Air Force, Indo Tibetan Border Force, Army, Central Industrial Security Force.



### STRATEGY FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL IN INDIAN MISSIONS/ EMBASSIES

- Training and Skill development programmes of the MEA to include a module on Postal Ballot
- Special training sessions for Embassy Officials
- Embassies to display posters and pamphlets on **How do I Vote**
- Missions to make available relevant forms to all their employees on their postings
- ECI brochure on Overseas Electors and on Service Voters to be widely disseminated
- Social Media pages of Embassies/ Missions to carry messages on electoral participation and link to [www.servicevoter.nic.in/](http://www.servicevoter.nic.in/) India Votes/ Election Commission of India

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## STRATEGY FOR SERVICE VOTER

### NUMBERS

**DEFENCE PERSONNEL**  
1.5 million

**CENTRAL ARMED POLICE PERSONNEL**  
1.29 million

**INDIAN OFFICIALS SERVING ABROAD**  
Thousands

### MESSAGING

- Eligibility of Service Personnel and wife, if ordinarily resident at the place of posting
- **Registration process**
  - Forms for Registration and supporting documents
  - [www.servicevoter.nic.in](http://www.servicevoter.nic.in)
- **Voting**
  - Postal Ballot and ETPB
  - Proxy Voting/ Classified

#### STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

- Identification of Nodal Officers for awareness and outreach from among the services
- Regular interaction with the Nodal Officers for monitoring the outreach programme
- Collaboration
- Periodic Impact Assessment & Evaluation of strategies

#### OUTREACH ACTIVITY

- Special camps for Registration and awareness drive
- Collaboration with Wives Associations like AWWA, AFWA, NWWA
- Continuous awareness at induction and training academies and centres
- Dedicated Portal for Service Voters
- Outreach through in-house magazines & newsletters
- Annual Days to be used to facilitate Registration of officers, jawans, airmen, sailors and their wives
- Integration of ECI websites/ portals and social media page/ channel with accounts/ handles of Ministry/ Associated Organizations

### COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

- Educational Film in Hindi & English
- A/V promos in Hindi
- Radio spots in Hindi
- Brochure in Hindi, English and Roman Hindi
- Motivational banners and hoardings
- Interactive trivia gaming app **QuizUp** topic-Indian Elections

### TARGET

- Service Personnel
- Spouse of Service Personnel
- Wards of Service Personnel
- Friends
- Opinion Leaders

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  - Proxy Voting/ Classified Service Voter
  - As a General Voter



# Special Registration Drive

A Special Registration Drive was launched by Election Commission of India from July 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017 to enrol all eligible voters especially the youngsters who

have completed 18 years of age on January 1, 2017. Different mediums/ creatives were used to spread awareness by all the states/ UTs on the special registration drive.

Meghalaya:

Song : TarakTakTak <http://voicenet.in/video.htm>



ANY CITIZEN OF INDIA WHO TURNING 18 YEARS AND ABOVE ON OR BEFORE THE 1ST OF JANUARY, 2018 AND RESIDING IN A POLLING AREA IS ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL AS A GENERAL VOTER. ON ENROLLMENT, THE ELIGIBLE VOTER WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN EPIC.

**DEMOCRACY IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT YOUR FULL PARTICIPATION**

**ENROLL NOW!**

FOR ANY QUERY DURING ELECTION, PLEASE DIAL TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-9-5-0

MAKE YOUR 18<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY VERY MORE SPECIAL BY OUPPING YOURSELF A VOTER ID CARD.

JOIN THE REVOLUTION AND ENROLL TO VOTE

ALL FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE:

- ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER
- BOOTH LEVEL OFFICER
- ONLINE AT WWW.NVSP.IN

THOSE ENROLLING FOR THE FIRST TIME OR THOSE CHANGING CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD SUBMIT CLEAR PASSPORT PHOTO THE FORM, PROOF OF ADDRESS AND PROOF OF AGE ALONG WITH:

- BANK PASSBOOK
- DRIVER'S LICENSE
- PASSPORT
- ELECTRICITY BILL
- LANDLINE PHONE BILL
- CERTIFICATE FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VERIFIED BY POLICE

FROM ALL AVAILABLE FORMS FOR NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION, IT IS PROBABLY THE MOST CONVENIENT AND WIDELY USED.

**NECESSARY FORMS:**

- FORM 6:** FOR NEW ENROLLMENT OF ANYONE WHO WILL BE 18 YEARS AND ABOVE ON OR BEFORE THE 1ST OF JANUARY, 2018 AND FOR PEOPLE WHO SHIFT RESIDENCE FROM ONE CONSTITUENCY TO ANOTHER.
- FORM 8:** FOR CORRECTING MISTAKES AND UPDATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE VOTER.
- FORM 9 (A):** TO INFORM ABOUT CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN THE SAME CONSTITUENCY.
- FORM 6(A):** FOR INDIAN NATIONALITIES HOLDING INDIAN PASSPORT, BUT RESIDING ABROAD.
- FORM 7:** FOR OBJECTIONS AND DELETIONS

**PEOPLE UNQUALIFIED TO ENROLL:**

- PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS OF INDIA.
- INDIAN CITIZENS OF UNSOUND MIND.
- PEOPLE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF CORRUPT PRACTICES OR ANY OFFENCE RELATION TO ELECTIONS.





# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Bihar:

काहू मतदाता न छूट [No voters to be left behind]  
**18-21 वर्ष के योग्य युवा नागरिकों के निर्वाचक सूची में पंजीकरण हेतु विशेष अभियान कार्यक्रम, 2017**  
 दिनांक : 01.07.2017 से 31.07.2017 तक  
 विशेष अभियान दिनांक 22 जुलाई (रविवार) और 22 अगस्त 2017 (रविवार)

विशेष अभियान कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य/ गतिविधियाँ

- युवा विभाग - अर्द्ध दिवस 01.07.2017 के सत्र में पहली बार मतदाता करने वाले निर्वाचकों का विवरण (18-21 वर्ष के आयु)
- निर्वाचक सूची में सम्मिलित (अनपेक्षित के अनुपम)
- निर्वाचक सूची में परिवर्तन का विवरण
- युवा निर्वाचकों के नाम निर्वाचक सूची में विकीकरण करना एवं
- संशोधन मतदाता एवं प्रवासी मतदाताओं का विवरण

मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम पंजीकृत करने के लिए प्रपत्र-6 में अपने हस्ताक्षर करने हेतु निम्नलिखित विवरण तय करके उपस्थित होना आवश्यक है:-

- ERO/AERO कार्यालय में प्रपत्र-6 प्रस्तुत करना
- www.nvsp.in पर प्रपत्र-6 को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करना
- विशेष अभियान दिनांक 8 जुलाई एवं 22 अगस्त को चयन केंद्र पर प्रपत्र भर कर भी एच.ओ को उपलब्ध करना।

Mahatrasra:

**A FORM WHICH TRANSFORMS NATION**  
 Get registered to vote and be the engine of change.  
 Special voter registration camp will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017.

Register your name in electoral roll and build the nation!

Form Number

West Bengal:

**Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal**  
**Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2018**

Under the direction of Election Commission of India, Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2018 as qualifying date will commence on 22.08.2017 in West Bengal.

Applications for inclusions/deletions/ corrections in Electoral Rolls may be filed on all working days till 13th September, 2017 at respective polling stations. The qualifying age for inclusion of name is 18 years as on 01.01.2018.

**Special Campaign Days:**  
 27th August 2017 (Sunday) & 10th September (Sunday), 2017

Forms will be available at polling stations free of cost and at our website [www.ceowestbengal.nic.in](http://www.ceowestbengal.nic.in)

To know about your polling station, part and serial in the Electoral Roll by SMS Type **WB<SPACE>EC<SPACE>Your EPIC No** and send SMS to 51969 URL for filing complaints through SAMADHAN : [wbceo.in/wb-samadhan](http://wbceo.in/wb-samadhan) or [eci-citizenservices.nic.in](http://eci-citizenservices.nic.in)

To know about electoral rolls and lodge complaints, call **TOLL FREE 1950**

For online submission of forms please visit [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in) Issued in public interest by Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal

Punjab:

**ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਵੋਟਰ ਰਹਿ ਨਾ ਜਾਏ**

ਨਾ ਨਵੇਂ ਨਾਲ, ਨਾ ਕੋਟ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਸਮਤ ਬਦਲੋਗੀ, ਵੋਟ ਨਾਲ

**ਦਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਰੋਲਾਂ, 2017**  
 4 ਫਰਵਰੀ, 2017 ਨੂੰ ਵੋਟ ਜਰੂਰ ਖਾਊ

- ਵਿਹਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਨਾਲ, ਭਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ, ਪੁਰੀ ਅਜਾਈ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸਮਤ ਤੋਂ ਕੇ ਵੋਟ ਖਾਊ।
- ਵੋਟ ਦੇ ਬਦਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੈਸਾ, ਭਰਾਬ ਜਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਰ ਕਸਤੂ ਨਾ ਪੁਖਤ ਕਰੋ, ਅਜਿਹਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਅਪਰਾਧ ਹੈ।
- ਸੋਝਾਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਭਰੂ ਵੀ ਕਿਸਾਨਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਕੋਟ ਅਫਸਰ ਚੀਫ਼ੋਫਿਸ਼ਰਾਈਟ [www.ceopunjab.nic.in](http://www.ceopunjab.nic.in) / SAMADHAN ਤੇ ਕਰਿਕ ਕਰੋ।

ਸੇਵਾ ਕੇ ਸਮਝਾਏਗੇ, 1950 (24 X 7)

ਮੁੱਖ ਕੋਟ ਅਫਸਰ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਿੱਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਈ

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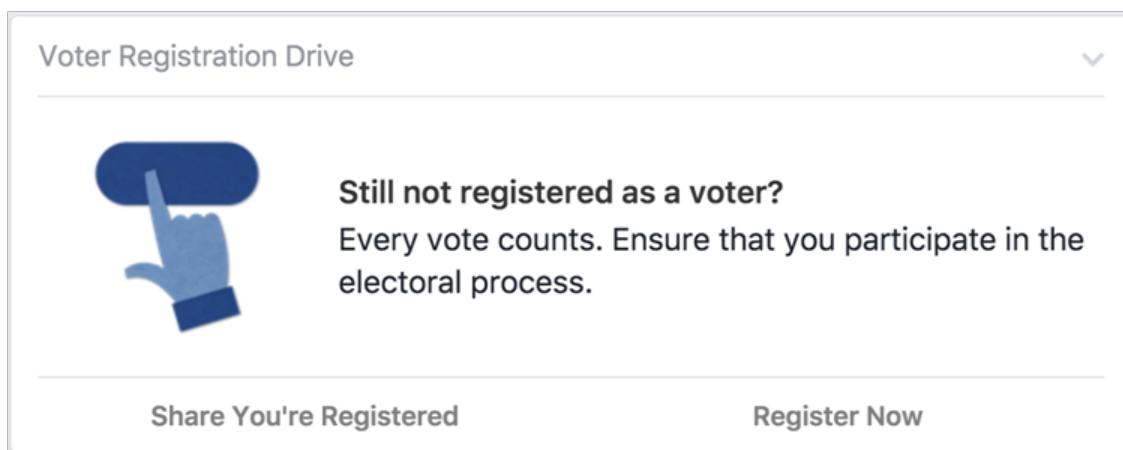


# Initiatives on Facebook during Special Registration Drive

While the July special drive was being executed on ground with planned precision, the Election Commission of India, leaving no stones unturned, decided to reach out to Indian citizens by making full use of the biggest social media platform – Facebook. Partnering with Facebook, the Commission launched its first nationwide voter registration reminder from July 1 to July 4, 2017.

particular focus on first time electors. This is a step towards fulfilment of the motto of ECI- ‘NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND’. I am sure this initiative will strengthen Election Commission of India’s enrolment campaign and encourage future voters to participate in the electoral process and become responsible Citizens of India.”

Along with the voter registration reminder,



With over 180 million facebook users in India, the ‘Register Now’ button was designed to encourage Indian citizens to register themselves with the Election Commission of India. The voter registration reminder was sent to every facebook user in India who was above the age of 18 in thirteen Indian languages including English, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Bengali, Urdu, Assamese, Marathi and Oriya.

Unveiling facebook's 'Voter Registration Reminder' design, Nasim Zaidi, the then Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India (ECI), said “I am pleased to announce that the Election Commission of India is going to launch a ‘Special Drive to enrol left out electors, with a

the Election Commission of India also put up motivating messages that served as daily reminders on its official facebook page, India Votes. The online campaign received a lot of positive reactions, especially from the country’s youth who felt just a little more connected with the Indian democracy.







# Interactive School Engagement (ISE) Phase-II



Students of Vivek High School, Mohali participating in Quiz during Interactive School Engagement Programme

The second phase of Interactive School Engagement (ISE) was carried out in July-August, 2017 in **16,576** Secondary/ Senior Secondary Schools covering **31,72,243** students across the country.

process. First phase covered twenty five lakh students from eleven thousand seven hundred sixty schools all over India.

It may be recalled that ISE was launched in January 2017 for the first time under which each ERO/DEO/CEO was directed to cover at least one school under their area of jurisdiction and interact with the students of classes 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> on topics related to elections and electoral

ISE is to be conducted in two phases, January-June and July - December, with students of class 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> being sensitised on importance and processes of elections. A standard kit with a presentation, badge design, video game, short film has been shared with the EROs/CEO/DEO for the same.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR ENROLLMENT IN VOTER LIST**

**INTERACTIVE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2017**

**DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, DARJEELING**



**VOTING RIGHTS & ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

**Voting Rights in India:**  
With elections under way in many states of India, all Indian citizens who are eligible to vote are given a chance to exercise their franchise and participate in the electoral process. The Indian Constitution has granted the right to vote to all Indian citizens of sound mind above the age of 18, irrespective of an individual's caste, religion, social or economic status. This right is universally granted to all Indians, with a few exceptions.

As a voter, one is entitled to certain rights and privileges as laid down by the Constitution, which safeguards the rights of the voter. It also lays down the conditions under which this privilege is granted to citizens. Voting is not a fundamental right, but is a legal right granted to citizens.

**Who Can Vote?**  
As per the Indian Constitution, all Indian citizens above the age of 18 years who have registered themselves as voters are eligible to vote. These individuals can vote in national, state, district as well as local government body elections.

No individual can be detained or prevented from voting, unless he/she fulfil the criteria for disqualification.

Every voter is allowed one vote only. A voter can vote at the constituency where he has registered himself only.

Eligible voters have to register themselves in the constituency where they live, filling up and submitting Form-6 to the Electoral Registration Officer of their constituency, upon which they will be issued "Electoral Photo Identity Card" (also known as EPIC cards). Voters are not allowed to enrol at more than one place.

**Who can file Form-6 (For new Enrolment)?**

1. First time applicant on attaining age of 18 years or more on the first day of January of the year with reference to which the electoral roll is being revised.
2. Person shifting his / her place of ordinary residence outside the constituency in which he / she is already registered.

**When Form-6 can be filed?**

1. The application can be filed after draft publication of electoral roll of the constituency. The application is to be filed within the specific days provided for the purpose. Due publicity is given about the above period when the revision programme is announced.
2. Only one copy of the application is to be filed.

Application for inclusion of name can be filed through out the year even when the revision programme is not going on. During non-revision period, application must be filed in duplicate.

**Where to file Form-6?**

During revision period, the application can be filed at the designated locations where the draft electoral roll is displayed (mostly polling station location) as well as at the Electoral Registration Officer and Assistant Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency.

During other period of the year when revision programme is not going on, the application can be filed only with the Electoral Registration Officer.

**How to fill the Form-6?**

1. The application should be addressed to the Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency in which you seek registration. The name of the constituency should be mentioned in the blank space.
2. Name (With Documentary Proof)  
The name as it should appear in the electoral roll and Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) should be furnished. The full name except the surname should be written in the first box and surname should be written in the second box, in case you do not have a surname, just write the given name. Casts should not be mentioned except where the caste name is used as part of the elector's name or a surname.
3. Age (With Documentary Proof)  
The age of the applicant should be eighteen or more on 1st January of the year with reference to which the electoral roll is being revised. The age should be indicated in years and month.
4. Place of Birth  
In case born in India, please mention name of place like Village / Town, District, State.
5. Relation's Name:  
In case of unmarried female applicant, name of Father / Mother is to be mentioned. In case of married female applicant, name of husband is to be mentioned. Strike out the inapplicable options in the column.
6. Place of Ordinary Residence  
Fill up the full and complete postal address including PIN code where you are ordinarily residing and want to get registered, in the space provided.  
Proofs of ordinary residence to be attached are as under:  
(i) Bank / Kisan / Post Office current Pass Book, or  
(ii) Applicant's Ration Card / Passport / Driving License / Income Tax Returned filed or Assessment Order, or  
(iii) Rates: Water / Telephone / Electricity / Gas Connection Bill for that address, either in the name of the applicant or that of his / her immediate relation like parents etc. or  
(iv) Postal department's posts received / delivered in the applicant's name at the given address.
7. Details of Family Members Already Included in the Electoral Roll  
Please fill up name and other particulars of immediate family members i.e. Father / Mother / Brother / Sister / Spouse included in the current electoral roll of the constituency. Name of any other relation like uncle, aunt, cousin brother / sisters etc. not to be mentioned.
8. Declaration  
Please indicate date from which you are residing in the given address. In case the exact date is not known, fill-up month and year.  
If your name is already included in the electoral roll of any other constituency, please write legibly the full previous address with the constituency name.  
If you already have been issued with a Photo Identity Card by the Election Commission, please mention the card number (printed on the front side) and date of issue (printed on the back side) of the card in the space provided. Please attach a self-attested photocopy of both sides of the card.



# Towards better Election Management: RONET

Taking another step towards ensuring a better Election Management in India, the Election Commission of India has come up with Returning Officer NET (RONET), the online decision support system for the conduct of elections. Chief Election Commissioner, A.K. Joti, along with Election Commissioners, O.P. Rawat and Sunil Arora launched RONET on October 17, 2017 at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi. Of all the 29 States in India, Himachal Pradesh will be the first state going for the polls to use RONET on November 9, 2017.

RONET has been tested on pilot basis and first used in a few constituencies of the recently concluded Punjab Assembly Elections, it is for the first time that Election Commission is going to use it in the whole state of Himachal Pradesh. RONET would also be used for the first time for processing payments to the entire workforce involved in the election process.

To ensure seamless e-payments, RONET has been connected with Himachal Pradesh's State Treasury application, e-Kosh. Through RONET, the contesting candidates can directly apply for permissions and in-turn, the Returning Officer (RO) will be able to view the permission requests instantly. RONET thus will play a key role in facilitating fast and effective functioning of various RO operations. RONET's citizen centric mobile application too has been developed through which the citizens can lodge voter related issues or Code of Conduct complaints. Further, they can also see the polling booth, electoral roll name search and the election results directly from this app.

RONET is a specialised decision support software which provides the Chief Electoral

Officer(CEO), District Election Officer(DEO) and Returning Officer(RO) with the necessary information for making efficient, time-bound and intelligent decisions during the critical election process. RONET can respond quickly to the changing needs during various stages of the electoral process, thus enabling real time data availability for the electoral staff.

The software provides updated information to CEO/DEO/RO about polling staff deployment, Electronic Voting Machine/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail deployment and a host of other infrastructure as well as inventory details like Persons with Disability database, dispatch and collection centre, counting centre, polling station, critical polling booths, web-casting of elections etc.

During the polling days, the Returning Officer can directly communicate to polling party about training, material dispatch, posting orders, postal ballots and pre-poll arrangements by sending SMS and mobile notifications. On the other hand, polling party can directly inform about poll day arrangements and voter turnouts straight from their mobile app.

During the polling, the Presiding Officer can report any law and order issue or malfunction of EVM/VVPAT from their mobile application, immediately the message is flashed to Sector Officer, Returning Officer, and District Election Officer for taking corrective action. Upon failure of a timely response, the RONET automatically escalates the matter to the next higher authority.



*The Commission launches RONET application*





# Mat evam Matdaan witnesses increased participation

'Mat evam Matdan, kare Loktantra nirman', is a joint community radio initiative of ECI and NIOS-CR where different aspects of elections and the election processes are explored.

The recently aired fourth episode focused on presidential elections with Umesh Sinha, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of India and S.K. Mendiratta, Legal Advisor, ECI as the expert. The third episode, broadcasted on August 17, 2017, introduced the listeners to Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), VVPAT and NOTA. The dignitaries who answered the queries included Umesh Sinha, Sr. DEC, Mr. Sudeep Jain, DEC and Nikhil Kumar, Director, ECI. It has been witnessed that the participation in the contest, where a question is posed at the end of each episode, has increased manifold in the recent episodes.

It may be recalled that the first episode focused on voter enrolment and



registration followed by second episode on Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

This one-hour programme, aired every third thursday of the month at 'NIOS-CR' FM 91.2 MHz, incorporates interview/ panel



discussion with expert(s) along with small snippets of different creatives developed by ECI to spread awareness on importance of elections such as songs, jingles, audio/ video plays, statements by icons, advertisements etc. This makes the radio programme even more informative and interesting. Moreover, a question is posed at the end of each programme and first 25 correct entries are given a prize by Election Commission of India.



# Educating young voters in Lesotho

**E**lections in African context had been viewed with a moment of madness and a season of contentions curses. Most of them named with violence and arbitrating a case no different from the Kingdom Of Lesotho. This piece seeks to highlight some of the measures taken by Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho and its local partners in addressing the most causes of their problem.

Voter's knowledge levels on engaging people and their right to participate in civic life has arguably been the major cause of violence in the period coming to and ending elections.

Voter education which is now known as electoral education is a process of involving electorate in the electoral processes through persuasive and effective communication. This process provides key factual information regarding electoral law, procedures and other important responsibilities of electors. It serves to help people understand all important steps in the voting process. Equally important, it dismisses misconceptions about different electoral processes. It also mobilizes people to participate in peaceful electoral activities and to also make sure. Not only is the Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho responsible for voter/electoral education, but other stakeholders in elections have the responsibilities to educate people about electoral law, encourage them to participate and ensure elections that are free of choice, free from any form of coercion and intimidation. These stakeholders include Political Parties, Civil Organization Societies, Media, Church Leaders, Chiefs and other Community Leaders.

Following were the activities organised ;

## Tertiary Institutions

With this activity, the voter education was

delivered to young women and men in the tertiary institutions. This was done in forms of one on one where an electoral educator would hold a session with one tertiary student and pass the message of voter education, or in a group discussion where one or more educators address a group of tertiary institution in one session still delivering the same message of encouragement to vote.

## 'My Vote My Score' Tournament

Voter education being past in a tournament were the participants were given the message before games could start in the team talk by the voter educators taking part in the event. These tournament saw young people competing against each other in volleyball and soccer sporting codes and the theme was explained to them. Scoring in any sporting event is very significant, very valuable, it signifies the person as a winner, in the same respect exercising one's right to vote means taking a significant step towards becoming a responsible citizen, one who participates in decision making, and this is equivalent to scoring.



*Schools competing in a volleyball match*





*Celebrations after a soccer match*



*The Bacha Re Bacha Soccer Team at 'My Vote My Score' Tournament*



*Tsikoane High School team*

## Open Air Street Rap

This is an open air street theatre on voter education. It targeted young people on streets, there were rappers who competed against each other in a form of a mock session where each was given time to rap. This was done after

these young people were educated on issues of voting, the processes and the importance of exercising their right to vote as valued Basotho Citizens. When given the stage, a contestant was to freestyle and rap with anything they had learned from that day's agenda of voter education and the winner was awarded a prize.



*Rappers who took part in the open theatre session*

## Small Group Discussions

With this activity, voter Educators held a discussion on Electorate Education having a group of people ranging from 10 to 20. In this group the voters were also shown the importance of taking part in elections in the

country, registered voters were encouraged to exercise their voting right, non registered people were encouraged to register with the Independent Electoral Commission and hence take part in the voting process.

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*Independent Electoral Commission, Lesotho*



*Small group discussions that were held during voter education in different constituencies*



## A-WEB's Romanian Rendezvous

August-September, 2017 saw the Carpathian country of Romania play host to 56 member-countries of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) for three key, apex-level forums - extraordinary meeting of the Executive Board, the General Assembly and, the International Conference on 'Counting the Ballots and Accounting for the Votes - The use of technology for enhancing the transparency of the electoral process'.

Marking the week-long event, Romania took over as the Chair of A-WEB (2017-19), while India was elected as the Vice-Chair. A product of an amendment to the A-WEB charter, the Executive Board was expanded to include 21 members from the existing 13. Apart from the reshuffling of the Executive Board, (that involved - the inclusion of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi and Tunisia as representatives from Africa; Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador and Paraguay from the Americas; Bangladesh, Palestine, Taiwan and Uzbekistan from Asia; Albania, Belarus and Croatia from Europe and, Fiji from Oceania)



*The General Assembly took place in the Parliament Palace of Romania*

four new Election Management Bodies from Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Peru and Somalia made their entry as full members of A-WEB along with the regional Arab EMBs Association and Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) joining as associate members.

One of the key resolutions adopted during the course of the meet involved the decision to convert A-WEB from an international NGO to a full-fledged Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). The conference on the 'The use of Technology for enhancing the transparency of the electoral process' saw representatives from Mexico, Samoa, Argentina, the UN Electoral Assistance Division, Mongolia and Iraq keep forward presentations on the concerned theme, with India detailing about the technology presently being used to power its electoral process.

Source: [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)



*Inside Nicolae Balcescu Conference Room, where the meeting was held*



*Chairperson Barbu congratulating A.K. Joti on his election as the new Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB*

Photo Source: A-WEB

# Fiji Launches a National Polling Venue Directory

On the morning of September 6, 2017, Chairperson of the Fijian Electoral Commission, Suresh Chandra, launched a National Polling Venue Directory at Suva. Under section 75 of the Constitution, the Electoral Commission is responsible for conducting free and fair elections in accordance with the legal and electoral framework. The next General Election in Fiji is scheduled in 2018.

Since their appointment, the Electoral Commission decided to approach the upcoming elections strategically. Working towards the same, and to ensure good election management, the Fijian Election Office identified polling venues across the country and published them in an annual publication.

In his address at the launch event, the Chairperson, Suresh Chandra said, "We understood that the Fijian Elections Office had already been working on several aspects of the Election. We knew that the innovative and committed group of individuals at the FEO needed our support and guidance. Hence we chose the theme 'Raising the Standards in the Delivery of Elections in Fiji'. For the first time in Fiji's history, the probable locations of polling venues around the country have been identified and published in an annual publication.



At the moment, we anticipate to have 2,149 polling stations across the country."

While the printed volumes of the directory are for school libraries, anyone can access the online version at the FEO website that gives citizens directions to their allocated Polling Venue. The Fijian Elections Office has already extended a copy of the Fiji National Polling Venues Directory to each secondary school library during National Library Week.

This will provide young Fijians the exposure to elections right from school. "Through this students will be able to identify the three preferred polling venues through this resource", said Chandra.

Source: [www.feo.org.fj](http://www.feo.org.fj)



Photo source: [www.feo.org.fj](http://www.feo.org.fj)



# Events By the Chair Country

## In August Company

This August, Election Commission of India hosted a number of knowledge-sharing, briefing sessions with parliamentary delegates, representatives to the United Nations, senior journalists and diplomats from across the world. A mutually rewarding exercise, the sessions were organized in association with the Ministry of External Affairs and Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training.

### ECI plays host to Permanent Representatives from the United Nations

August 21, 2017 saw Election Commission of India host permanent delegates to the United Nations from 13 countries including- Liberia, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Antigua and Barbuda, Lesotho, Belize, Paraguay, Chad, Central African Republic, Timor-Leste, Benin and Mali. Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the delegates' visit included a short briefing session on election management (followed by a Q&A session) by Election Commissioner O.P Rawat and Senior Deputy Election Commissioner



Umesh Sinha along with other senior officials of the Commission.



Photo Source: ECI

## Parliamentary Officials across the World attend Session on Election Management

Organized on August 23, 2017, the Election Commission of India hosted 51 delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe as a part of a session on election management in India. Attending the International Training programme at the



Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, Lok Sabha Secretariat, the delegates were addressed by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha followed by an interaction session with senior officials from the ECI. In addition to the Q&A segment, the delegates were also offered a glimpse of the electoral technology being implemented in India through a live demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems.

## Election Management brings ASEAN Diplomats to ECI

As a part of the 11<sup>th</sup> special course organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 18 diplomats from 6 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam) visited the Election Commission for a briefing session on August 24, 2017. Chaired by



the Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha, the meet included an interactive segment followed by a short Q&A session with senior officials from the ECI.



## October Osmosis

In continuation of the August briefing series with delegates, diplomats, journalists, parliamentary officials and representatives to the United Nations from across the world, the Election Commission of India in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India hosted two more knowledge-sharing sessions in the month of October.

### Latin American - Caribbean Scribes get a glimpse of Electoral functioning in India

Organized by the External Publicity Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 26 journalists from Latin American- Caribbean countries including- Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, visited the Election Commission of

India for a briefing on election management in India. Held on October 4, 2017, the attendees were addressed by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha before participating in an interaction session that included a live demonstration of Indian Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the new Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems.



### ECI holds briefing Session for Diplomats

Participating in the 64<sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 40 delegates from countries across the world visited the Election Commission of India on October 25, 2017. Before getting a glance of the

new electoral technology being used in India, the delegates interacted with Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha and other senior officials from the ECI. The meet was brought to a closure with a short Q&A session.

Source: [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in), Photo Source: ECI

## Election Commission of India reaches out to the youth at IIT Kanpur

**A**t present, a major target group for ECI's Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme is the youth of the nation. A young country, India, has 30 million young adults who are eligible to vote, making it an extremely important target group for SVEEP. It is imperative that the voice of the youth is heard as they constitute a sizeable part of India's democratic polity and its future.

ECI recognizes that as the future architects of our nation, it is essential that the young citizens, who largely suffers from electoral apathy, exercise their franchise. In a step towards engaging with the youth and spreading voter awareness and education, the Election Commission of India used the platform of national level college fests to realize its aims. For this purpose, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur's annual cultural festival Antaragni served as a beginning point.

Antaragni is a four-day-long festival, attracting participation from over 300 colleges of India and is one of the largest fests in the country with a footfall exceeding 40,000. Besides hosting an array of creative and intellectual events and competitions, the festival also serves as a platform for the expression of youth opinion on social problems.

Identifying the opportunity that such a festival presents for an effective engagement with the young electors, ECI sponsored the prize money for seven competitive events revolving around themes of voter awareness and education. The events included:

- **Vox Walks:** Participants interviewed the crowd of Antaragni and created a short video compiling the same. The theme given to the students was 'My First Vote - Youth Speaks'. Memorable experiences of the young were recorded and documented.
- **Journalism:** Wielding the mighty pens



*Photo Source: IIT Kanpur*

in their hands and donning the caps of professional reporters with an eye for news, participants of this competition wrote articles and created videos discussing their impassioned views on 'Voter Education - An Undermined Necessity.'

- **Short Film Making:** With the aim to persuade the masses with stories written on celluloid, young students zealously participated in the short film making competition, attempting to convey a serious message this time working on the theme 'Motivating the Urban Youth to Vote.'
- **Documentary Making:** Appealing to the journalistic side of young filmmakers, the documentary making competition offered two themes to the participants. Theme 1 on electoral culture in India required the participants to project the electoral process from enrollment to election and showcase the attitude of people towards participating in elections, while critically commenting on the culture of voting amongst the citizens. Theme 2 explored the topic of inclusion in elections where the entrants discussed the participation of various marginalized groups in the country.





- **Ad Making:** An on the spot competition, Ad Making got the creative juices of the participants working as they tried to create simple yet effective messages around Electronic Voting Machine awareness. The participants also had the choice of creating an ad that tackled voter apathy and motivated Indians to vote.
- **Aamne Samne:** An invigorating discussion based competition, Aamne Saamne was conducted in the Hindi language. It imitated the style of Television debates and discussions where a group of 5 students donned various roles, from anchor, party workers to election officials, and discussed topics like 'Online Voting: the way forward or opening a potential Pandora's box' and 'Voter Education - An Undermined Necessity.'
- **Parliamentary Debate:** Going on a 2 versus 2 basis, the parliamentary debate provided three motions to its participants. The motion discussed by the participants was 'This house believes that compulsory voting in elections does more harm than good,' where they debated over the pros and cons of making voting mandatory by the state.

Source: Election Commission of India



Photo Source: IIT Kanpur

## BRIDGE Workshop: Preparing Media to cover Electoral Processes in Libya

In preparation for the electoral processes in Libya in 2018, a series of workshops targeting 24 Libyan media representatives were held in Tunis from October 29 to November 1, 2017. The workshops, which were part of the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) module, were customised to meet the needs of the media in Libya. They aimed to enhance the professionalism and capacity of media representatives in Libya in order to encourage fair coverage of the processes.

The workshops were jointly organised by the High National Election Commission of Libya (HNEC), International IDEA, and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Libya. Each day focused on a specific theme. Inaugural day provided an overview of the election process. Second day outlined the HNEC structure, roles and responsibilities and its relationship with the media. Third day explored the role of the media throughout the electoral cycle and the last day was scheduled to involve creation of a code of conduct for journalists.

Three representatives from the HNEC attended the event and presented their mandate and organogram, the HNEC media strategy, and the procedures for media accreditation.

The event was well-received by participants, who enjoyed the activities and looked forward

to use their new knowledge. While one participant from the Media & Election module said that he was grateful to the organizers for such an opportunity and recognized the lack of awareness within the media regarding the election related concepts, terms and processes, another participant complimented the organisers on the information relayed and activities conducted.

The workshops were delivered by BRIDGE facilitators Shubub Najeeb, accrediting facilitator from Iraq; Emna Zghonda, International IDEA workshop facilitator from Tunisia; and Sabri F. Ali Senki, workshop facilitator from Libya. A trainer and a media resource person from IFES Libya also supported the event preparation and implementation.

International IDEA and IFES continually seek to promote a better understanding of the electoral cycle within the media. They also plan to continue building the relationship between the HNEC and media outlets in Libya, to support credible reporting on electoral processes. To this end, and in preparation for the anticipated 2018 electoral processes, a series of similar workshops will be conducted over the coming months, targeting different media houses including radio, print and television.

Source: [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)







## November is Veterans' Month

November 2017 witnessed the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) pay tribute to the nation's veterans and active duty service members by declaring it as National Veterans and Military Families Month. The key voting accessibility resources were highlighted.

In particular, veterans with visible and invisible disabilities face considerable challenges when they go to cast a ballot. EAC is focused on improving this voting process for the nation's heroes by highlighting best practices and success stories from across America.

Lee Page, Senior Associate Director of Advocacy for Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) played an indispensable role in the development of the disability provisions within the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA was a significant disability rights milestone because it was the first time a federal law provided voters with

disabilities the right to vote privately and independently.

"The best part about HAVA is that it brought into focus the need to ensure that all ballots count and that they are accessible to all registered voters who have a disability. This includes voters who are blind and those with limited hand dexterity. Many veterans have disabilities that require the use of accessible accommodations secured by the passage of HAVA", said Lee Page.

He further added, "State and local jurisdictions are constantly searching to expand their base of volunteers who administer/ man the polls on Election Day and beyond. Reaching out to local veterans' groups could be a way to increase workforce capacity."

Source: [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)



Source : <https://www.eac.gov/>



# Media Campaign about Political Reform in Peru

Since the beginning of October 2017, International IDEA in Peru has been participating in the media campaign entitled ‘The Power In Your Hands: Electoral Reform 2017’ in partnership with Radio Programas del Perú (RPP) – the main radio broadcasting station of the country with nationwide coverage, which also has a television and web cross-platform.

At present, Peru is discussing the political reform that has been demanded for more than a decade. Various topics that are expected to be reformed might have a very deep impact in the regional and municipal electoral process of 2018 in which more than 12,000 authorities will be elected nationwide. Hence, it is relevant to position this topic as part of the public agenda in order to ensure citizens’ participation in this process.

The campaign aims to inform citizens about the electoral reform being implemented in Peru and encourage citizens to participate in the country’s political processes. The campaign will last for 14 weeks during which 2-minute micro programmes will be broadcasted with information, comments and interviews with the team of International IDEA as well as with national and international experts, with a focus on four fundamental pillars:

- Financing of politics; public and private financing; prohibition of anonymous

contributions, and sanctions in case of infringements.

- Gifts, i.e. discuss the convenience of maintaining or modifying the law that prohibits candidates from distributing gifts during the campaign.
- Impediments for candidates, i.e. a decision on whether people sentenced for offenses should/could be candidates for public office.
- Gender quota.

A similar campaign was carried out in 2016, within the framework of the general elections for President and Members of Congress. The aim was to raise awareness among citizens about the importance of casting an informed vote and, at the same time, to inform citizens about the representatives’ responsibilities, the candidates’ profiles, the submitted government proposals and to alert about the dangers of the penetration of illicit money in electoral processes.

This experience reached an audience of more than **12.5 million listeners** and viewers across the country as well as **19 million internet and social media users**. Calculations for the current campaign forecast a similar outreach.

Source: [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)



# Global Launch of the **Global State of Democracy** planned

**B**elieving that democracy all across the globe is at a crossroads, International IDEA has published 'The Global State of Democracy' which assesses the state of democracy worldwide, with the aim of providing evidence-based analysis and actionable recommendations for current threats and challenges to democracy.

All set to be launched in 9 Countries from November 15, 2017 – December 12, 2017, the publication's first edition focuses on 'Exploring Democracy's Resilience' and analyses a set of key challenges to democracy and the enabling conditions for its resilience. In addition, accompanying the launch of the publication is the new Global State of Democracy (GSoD) indices, the evidence base for the publication. The GSoD indices are built on an elaborate conceptual framework, based on a broad range of attributes and sub-attributes of democracy and rooted in International IDEA's well-established State of Democracy (SoD) framework, and cover 155 independent countries for the period 1975–2015.

The Global State of Democracy publication will be launched at IDEA thons around the world. IDEA thons are engaging, collaborative launch events that combine formal presentations with innovation labs where participants harness their collective knowledge to brainstorm innovative solutions to existing challenges based on the recommendations of the publication.

The launch events at various countries are as follows –

- 15 November 2017 – Stockholm, Sweden
- 16 November 2017 – Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
- 16 November 2017 – The Hague, Netherlands
- 20 November 2017 – Lima, Peru
- 28 November 2017 – Oslo, Norway
- 29 November 2017 – Geneva, Switzerland
- 29 November 2017 – New York, USA
- 30 November 2017 – Brussels, Belgium
- 06 December 2017 – Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 06 December 2017 – Bali, Indonesia
- 12 December 2017 – New Delhi, India

Source: [www.idea.org](http://www.idea.org)

# FEO appointed to **A-WEB's Executive Board**

**I**n september 2017, Mohammed Saneem, Election Supervisor was elected to the Executive Board of Association of World Election Bodies representing the Oceania region on behalf of the Fijian Elections Office. This is the first time an Oceania seat has been included in the A-WEB's Executive Board.

A-WEB consists of 106 Election Management Bodies around the world. It also has 18 international partner agencies.

'I am grateful to my colleagues in the pacific region for their trust and confidence that we will be able to carry out this new responsibility and I look forward to the challenge', remarked Saneem.

Since its establishment in 2014, the Fijian Elections Office is now represented at the

board level in Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand Electoral Network, Commonwealth Electoral Network and now in the Association of World Election Bodies.

Source: [www.feo.org.fj](http://www.feo.org.fj)



Photo source: [www.feo.org.fj](http://www.feo.org.fj)

# ECI rolls out schedule for Himachal Pradesh Elections

With the term of the current government on the verge of expiration, ECI on October 12, 2017 declared the detailed schedule and an overall roadmap on elections to the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh. While November 9, 2017 has been sealed as the date of polling; counting and declaration of results would take place on December 18, 2017. The year-end elections in the Hill State, known for its scenic landscape, would see the use of new Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems connected with the Electronic Voting Machines across all the **68 Assembly Constituencies** (12 Districts) along with Photo Electoral Rolls, Photo Voter Slips and Voter Guides.



Photo: Election Commission of India

Apart from the use of new electoral technology, the Assembly Election would also mark the State's first experience with polling stations manned by women and differently-abled people. Besides the provisions of voter slips in Braille and required facilities made available for the differently-abled category, the State elections would witness the use of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots, a mechanism geared for use by registered Service Voters. Additionally, in order to make the electoral process a seamless and convenient exercise for voters, EVM ballot papers being used for elections would feature photographs of the concerned candidate.

Source: [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in); *The Indian Express*

# Commission draws up plan for Gujarat Elections

With the term of Gujarat's Legislative Assembly nearing expiration, ECI on October 25, 2017, announced the schedule and a broad roadmap for the State Elections. Split into two, Phase I polling would take place on the December 9, 2017 while the second phase is scheduled to take place on December 14, 2017. While



Photo: Election Commission of India

witnessing the use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines across the State and the ETPB system for Service Voters along with 182 all-women managed polling stations, the Gujarat Elections would see the use of a range of new applications including- Security Net (to aid in the maintenance of law and order and help in conducting peaceful elections), ROnet (to integrate all the processes of election management under one IT system), E-Atlas (a GIS-based application on planning, implementation and monitoring of election related activities), SAMADHAN (an online public grievance and redress system), SUVIDHA (a single window permission/clearances system), SUGAM (an IT-based vehicle management system) et al.

ECI also announced December 18, 2017 as the date of counting and declaration of results. It declared implementation of Model Code of Conduct with immediate effect.

Source: [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)





## Sunil Arora appointed as the **New Election Commissioner**

**T**aking over on September 1, 2017, Sunil Arora's appointment as the new Election Commissioner helped complete the three member panel that constitutes the apex polling authority of India. The former Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi's retirement in July had created a vacancy in the panel following the confirmation of Achal Kumar Joti as the Chief Election Commissioner, while O.P Rawat continued in his capacity as the Election Commissioner.

Hailing from the Rajasthan cadre of 1980 Indian Administrative Service batch, Arora, who retired from service last year, had previously served as secretary to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Chairman and Managing Director to the erstwhile Indian Airlines. Having served in key positions with Air India and the Airports Authority of India Ltd, at various points in his career spanning nearly four decades, Arora was closely associated with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs holding the position of Director-General before being appointed to his present office as the Election Commissioner.

Source : Election Commission of India



Photo: Election Commission of India



## Former AC Milan Defender elected as the **New Mayor of Georgian capital**

**R**etired AC Milan football star and present Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia, Kakha Kaladze has been declared the new mayor of Tbilisi on October 22, 2017 by the CEC. Securing 51% of the votes in the Municipal Elections, the former Champions League winner who began his political career with Bidzina Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream as the country's 4th Minister of Energy, outperformed Independent candidate Aleko Elisashvili and UNM's Zaliko Udumashvili with each of them garnering 17.49% and 16.53% votes respectively.

Sources: BBC Sport; The Hindu



Photo: 112.international



# 2017 Bundestag Election results declared

**O**n October 12, 2017, the Federal Electoral Committee announced the final result of the election to the 19<sup>th</sup> German Bundestag in the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders Bundestag building in Berlin.

With voter turnout at 76.2 % as compared to 71.5 % in 2013, the parties have obtained the following shares in the total number of valid second votes cast (order by number of votes obtained):

	Name of the Party	Voting Percent (2017)	Voting Percent (2013)
CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands	26.8 %	34.1 %
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands	20.5 %	25.7 %
AfD	Alternative für Deutschland	12.6 %	4.7 %
FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei	10.7 %	4.8 %
DIE LINKE	DIE LINKE	9.2 %	8.6 %
GRÜNE	BÜNDNIS 90/GRÜNE	8.9 %	8.4 %
CSU	Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern e.V	6.2 %	7.4 %
Others		5.0 %	6.2 %

The share of invalid second votes is 1.0 % (2013: 1.3 %), the share of invalid first votes 1.2 % (2013: 1.5 %).

With 111 additional seats, the newly elected Bundestag will have 709 members (2013: 631) pursuant to Section 1 (1) in conjunction with Section 6 of the Federal Elections Act.

The results of the 2017 Bundestag Election for Germany as a whole, the Länder and the individual constituencies are available on the website of the Federal Returning Officer. The final distribution of seats by Land, including the number of seats won by the parties based on their Land lists, are also provided on the website.

Source: *Der Bundeswahlleiter, Germany*





# IHEC announces date for 2018 Parliamentary Elections

The Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) proposed May 12, 2018 as the date for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections. Before being sealed, the proposed date would require a series of endorsements from the current Parliament and the Presidential Council. The statement, issued by Gatie al-Zouba'i, the deputy head of the Commissioner's Council, however, did not convey the possibility of conducting the provincial and Parliamentary elections simultaneously, a move passed with majority this August.



Photo : ABC News

Source: *news.xinhuanet.com*



# Sooronbay Jeenbekov wins Kyrgyz Presidential Polls 2017

Securing 54% of the votes, former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov defeated oil tycoon Omurbek Babanov, a representative of Respublika Party to become the fifth President of the Central Asian country. Jeenbekov is representing his predecessor Almazbek Atambayev's Social Democratic Party and set to take office on December 4, 2017. His win marks the first successful democratic transfer of power in the country.

Source: *Al Jazeera; Bloomberg Politics*



Photo : *www.voanews.com*



## Presidential Run-off in Liberia pitches **Ballon d'or Winner** against present Vice-President

**W**ith neither of the top contenders securing the required 50% of votes for victory, the run for the President's seat between soccer star George Weah (representing Congress for Democratic Change) and veteran Unity Party candidate and current Liberian Vice-President Joseph Boakai, is all set for a second round, scheduled to be held on November 7, 2017. The first round of elections, which would decide the successor of the first female elected head of state in Africa, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, witnessed Weah lead with 39% of the votes followed by Boakai at 29.1%.

Source: *The Guardian*



Photo : GNN Liberia



## Host of EMBs, International Organizations set to serve as **Observers in Nepal Polls**

**W**ith the Nepalese Legislative Elections in sight, the Election Commission forwarded invites to Chief Election Commissioners of South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Pakistan to observe the federal and provincial polls. Additionally, Election Management Bodies of Korea, Japan, Australia and Thailand have also been invited to serve as observers during the polling period. Apart from Election Management Bodies, the Carter Center (a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization founded by the former American President

Source: *The Kathmandu Post*



Photo : [www.news24headlines.com](http://www.news24headlines.com)

Jimmy Carter) and the European Union have also shown interest in studying the polls scheduled for November-December, 2017.



## Nepal EC issues **Poll Directives** to the Government

**T**he Election Commission of Nepal issued a 27-point directive to the Government on matters pertaining to infrastructure, staff, security arrangement, code of conduct, financial resources and other related factors required for the upcoming elections to the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assembly. As directed by the Commission, the issued directives and connected communications are to be implemented with immediate effect by the government.



Photo : [www.myrepublica.com](http://www.myrepublica.com)

Source: *The Kathmandu Post*; [www.myrepublica.com](http://www.myrepublica.com)



## By-Election in Peshawar takes to **Electronic Voting**

**B**y-elections to the NA-4 constituency of Peshawar (scheduled for October 26, 2017) would witness the use of electronic voting machines for the first time. Before being employed for electoral use, the Election Commissioner of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with other key polling officials would preside over a demonstration session conducted by the technical staff of the ECP. Pilot runs and testing sessions would be carried out before the actual implementation of the new system that is expected to reduce the duration of voting to 18 seconds.



Photo : *The Nation*

Source: [www.geo.tv](http://www.geo.tv)



## Peshawar By-Election goes Mobile

**A**fter a successful run in Karachi by-elections to PS-114 in July this year, by-elections to Peshawar NA-4 constituency would see the use of special mobile phones to transmit poll results to the concerned returning officer. A new software has been developed to receive the results from each polling station, thereby making the process faster and efficient. Before going for polls, a training session would be conducted to acquaint the Presiding Officers with the new mechanism to ensure glitch-free implementation.

Source: [www.geo.tv](http://www.geo.tv)



Photo : [www.geo.tv](http://www.geo.tv)



## Simon Mamabolo appointed as the New IEC Chief

**T**he former deputy Chief Electoral Officer- Simon Mamabolo succeeded Mosotho Moepya as the head of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission on October 11, 2017. Serving as the acting head of the election management body since March, Mamabolo had previously served as

the provincial electoral officer for Gauteng. His appointment was marked by the launch of the MyIEC online portal and campaign to add and update addresses of registered South African voters-a preliminary task before the upcoming National and Provincial elections of 2019.

Sources: *Business Day*; [www.htxt.co.za](http://www.htxt.co.za)



Photo : *Mail and Guardian*





# Slovenia Heads for Presidential Run-off

With none of the candidates securing the required 50% mark, Slovenia's Presidential Election is all set for a second round runoff between the incumbent Borut Pahor and the present mayor of Kamnik - Marjan Sarec. Enjoying an almost celebrity status, Pahor led the first round with 47% votes while Sarec, a former comedian and political satirist known for his stage persona Ivan Serpentinsek finished second with 25% of votes. Contesting as an independent for his second term, Slovenia's only politician to hold all the top three Presidential positions (Speaker of the National Assembly, Prime Minister and President) is projected to face the former media personality on November 12, 2017.



Photo : Reuters

Source: Reuters; The Washington Post



# Uganda rolls out 2017 Council Elections schedule

An October 10 statement from the Electoral Commission announced the registration dates for the 2017 elections to Ugandan Local Council I (Village-level), II (Parish-level) and Women Council. The polls are scheduled to take place on November 21, 2017 eligible citizens have been given a window between October 26 and October 30 to get registered for the upcoming polls to the concerned administrative units.



Photo :VOA News

Sources: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug); AllAfrica.com



# Third Issue of VoICE International released

**T**hird issue of VoICE International was released by A. K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner of India in a small yet impressive ceremony at Nirvachan Sadan, the Election Commission of India head quarter at New Delhi.

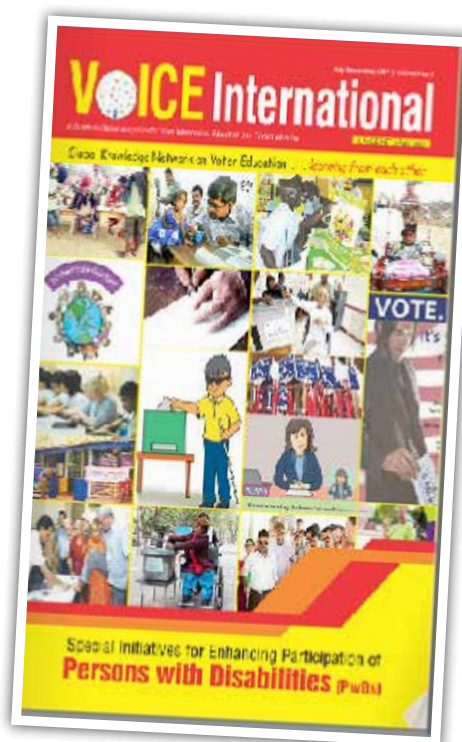
Voter Information, Communication, Education Network (VoICE.NET) is a global knowledge network for sharing knowledge, resources and expertise on voter education. It comprises of 23 members from Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and reputed international organizations. VoICE.NET was launched during the International Conference on Voter Education held in New Delhi in October 2016. The content for VoICE International, the quarterly global magazine on VoICE.NET, is contributed by countries as diverse as United Kingdom, Moldova, USA, Indonesia, and Canada besides the members of VoICE.NET.

Umesh Sinha, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of India who is also the Editor-in-Chief, VoICE International and Executive Secretary, VoICE.NET, described VoICE.NET as “a single window through which we can view other countries’ efforts in voter education”. He informed that the first quarterly issue of VoICE International focused on young and future voters. The second issue detailed on Voter Education for Enhancing Gender Participation. The third issue, being e-launched as well as released, was based on the theme ‘Special Initiatives for Enhancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)’.



*The Commission and other dignitaries from ECI e-launch and release third issue of VoICE International*

In his key note address, A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner of India, appreciated the efforts of the editorial team and expressed his intent to expand VoICE.NET in terms of its members. “We will invite all the 106 members of A-WEB to join VoICE.NET”, he said. He reiterated adopting and adapting good practices. “The aim is to share the information, initiatives and efforts which have been successful and turn them into practice”, the CEC said.



O.P. Rawat, Election Commissioner of India, emphasised on the need to take learnings to the field. He also suggested including the citizens perspectives (in future issues) for richer and more relevant content. The theme for the next VoICE international (October- December) was proposed as 'Enabling Overseas Electors and Service Voters'.

<http://voicenet.in/voiceinternational.htm>



# Voting from Abroad: A Handbook by International IDEA

The ability of overseas voters to cast a vote has been a concern since a long time due to complicated electoral design and management. As the number of countries holding democratic elections has increased, it has become much more salient. More over, presently more people are travelling and working around the globe. As elections take place in countries in transition after authoritarian rule, and even more so after violent conflicts, it's important for refugees and the population living abroad to participate in the electoral process. At the same time, questions of principle have emerged: exactly who has the right to be represented, and how?

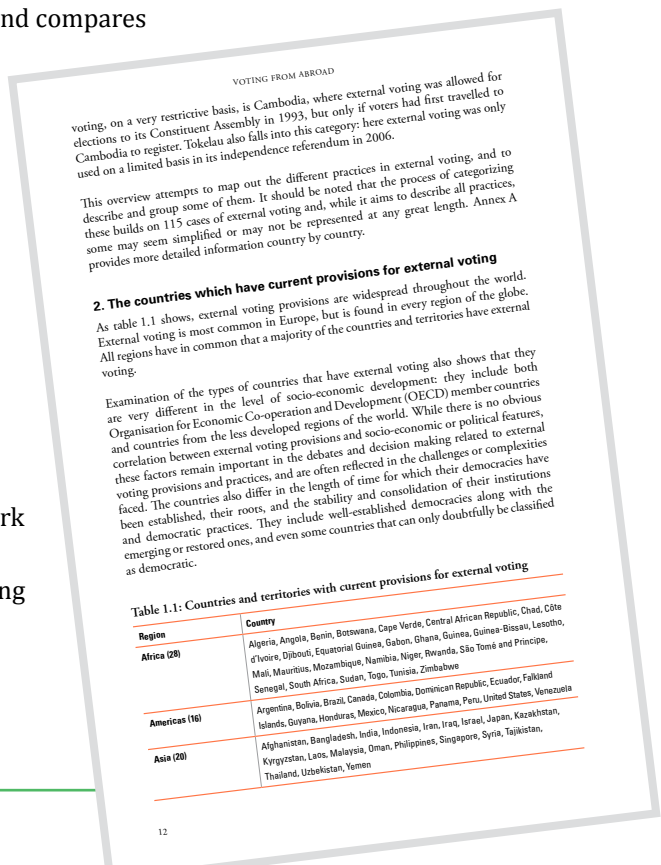
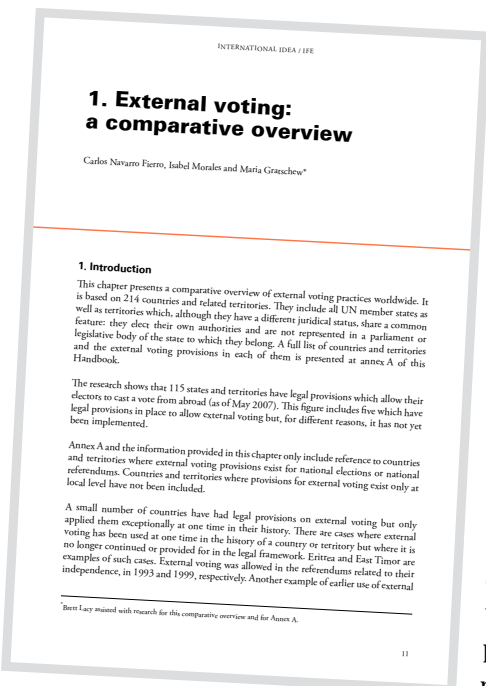
External voting is not always easy to design and implement. It raises issues of cost and of practical administration alongside the political considerations as well as considerations of representation. Many approaches have been adopted. Wherever they have resulted in success, this has often made a contribution to the credibility and the legitimacy of electoral events.

International IDEA and the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE) have come together to produce 'Voting from Abroad' Handbook in 2007. The Handbook combines IDEA's experience in producing global knowledge on electoral matters in a practical form for democracy builders on the ground, and the ground-breaking work of the IFE in the course of the

introduction of external voting in Mexican presidential elections.

The Handbook maps, explains and compares external voting provisions worldwide. It is a unique comparative product for anyone involved in improving present electoral structures, planning for external voting processes, or participating in debate.

The Handbook discusses voting by overseas electors in detail. It includes the history and a global comparative overview on external voting, the legal framework surrounding it, implementation, voter rights, observations of existing practices and way forward with possibilities in online voting.







## Electoral Management Design: The International IDEA Handbook

**B**uilding trust and professionalism in organizing the electoral process remains a major challenge for election organizers (LPP). Many LPPs face fundamental design questions as they seek to work better: how should election organisers be formed to ensure that they can act independently? How do election organizers deal with stakeholders such as media, political parties, and donors? How can election organizers assess their performance and use experience to build sustainable elections?

'Electoral Design: The IDEA International Handbook' is written for election organizers and others involved in the development of professional, sustainable and cost effective elections that can lead to free, fair and credible elections. This book is a comparative study that presents good practices and technical skills from around the world on the finances, structures and evaluations of election organizers.



## Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers, A Revised Edition

**T**his new and updated edition of the Women in Parliament: Away from Figures examines the three main stages of women's access to legislative bodies. The guide examines the obstacles that women face for entering Parliament, whether they are institutional, political, socio-economic or ideological and offers options to overcome these constraints, such as the reform of electoral systems and the provision of special procedures such as quota quotas. The guide also outlines strategies for women in how they influence politics when they are elected to parliament, an institution often dominated by males.

The guide includes case studies from Argentina, Indonesia, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Rwanda, Sweden and France, as well as profiles of regions of the Arab world, Latin America and South Asia, and a case study from the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



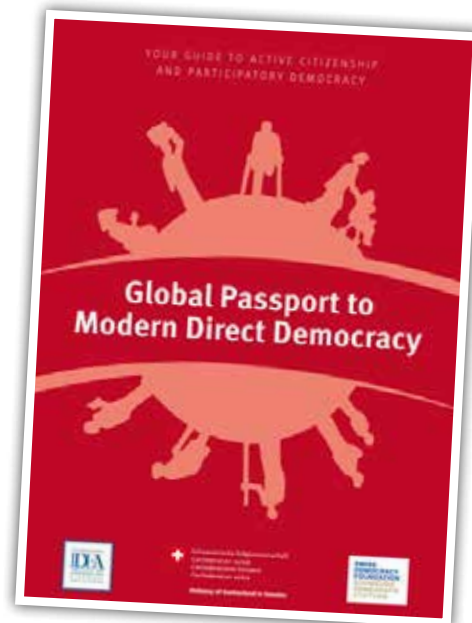


## Global Passport to Modern Direct Democracy

In a democracy, formal popular votes are important to the exercise of people power. Traditionally, in most representative democracies, the power of citizens to make decisions at the ballot box was restricted to the elections of other people and parties to offices and parliament. However, in recent years more and more countries have adopted new possibilities and channels for citizens to make their voices heard—even between election days.

The Global Passport to Modern Direct Democracy offers basic information about the tools of direct democracy. It introduces key definitions, describes various tools, and includes recommendations on how to use initiatives, referendums and plebiscites.

International IDEA supports the development and use of democratic procedures and practices around the world. Its Direct Democracy Database is an unique resource for democratic practitioners, administrators and observers. This Passport complements the 2008 publication, Direct Democracy: The International IDEA Handbook.



## How the World Votes: A Compendium of Voting Methods in Democracies



Voting Method is a fundamental aspect of election administration and management. The fashion in which a voter exercises his/her right to vote, keeping in mind the quotients of secrecy, verifiability and transparency, is a crucial component of elections. With the advancement of technology in our contemporary times, voting methods have also escalated new heights with newer innovations entering the world of electoral processes. Selection of an appropriate voting method which is trustworthy for all stakeholders in a participatory electoral democracy, however, constitutes a permanent debate among experts and policy makers of election administration across the globe.

Different democracies have adopted different voting methods over time depending on their specific historical conditions and legal-constitutional provisions. The Centre for Innovation, Research and Documentation (CIRD) of the India International Institute of Democracy and Election

Management (IIDEM) has taken the initiative to document and bring together the different voting methods adopted and currently practiced in democracies across the world.





# 'Mainstreaming of Electoral Literacy through Educational Institutions, Organizations and Communities in India (Conceptual Framework and Action Plan)

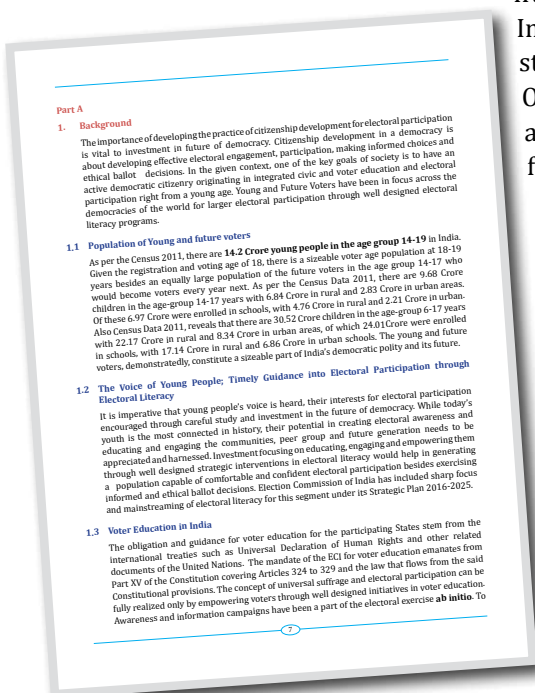
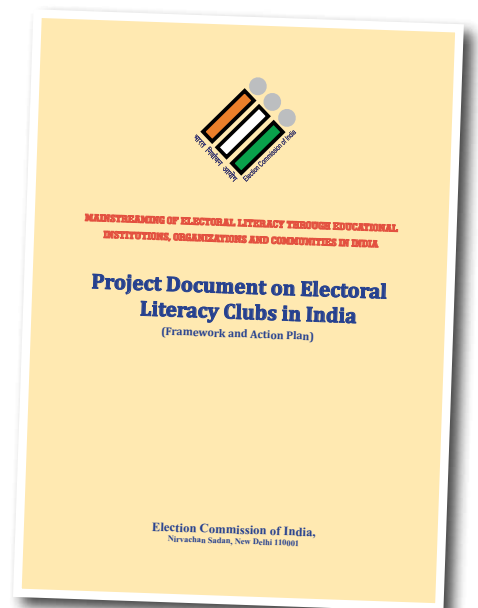
**Y**oung and Future voters constitute a sizeable part of India's democratic polity. As per the Census 2011, there were 14.2 crore young people in the age group 14-19 in India. The young and future voters, constitute a sizeable part of India's democratic polity and its future. Evidence based on international practices suggests that electoral literacy supported by civic education, if introduced at a young age, helps in confident, informed and ethical electoral participation.

Election Commission of India, in due recognition of this fact set mainstreaming of electoral literacy as a focus area under its Strategic Action Plan 2016-25. Taking forward the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan, the Commission developed a comprehensive interaction with stakeholders including the Central Government, the State Governments, National and State level Premier Educational Institutions and Experts besides setting up 'Working Group' on the subject. The Commission also organized an International Conference on 'Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation' (October, 2016) and International Seminar on 'Strategies for Empowering Young and Future Voters' (January, 2017) besides setting up VoICE.NET platform for sharing global voter education resources for appreciating the best international practices and developing a robust

framework for electoral literacy for the future and new voters in India. The outcome of all efforts in this direction is the report 'Mainstreaming of Electoral Literacy through Educational Institutions, Organizations and Communities in India (Conceptual Framework and Action Plan)'. The report essentially includes the following way forward for achieving the objectives:

- (i) Introduction of Electoral Literacy in Curricula at the School level and above (including colleges, universities etc).
- (ii) Setting-up Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in all educational institutions starting from Secondary School Level and above for engaging especially the future and new voters through hands on experience.
- (iii) Establish ELCs for future and new voters not covered under the formal educational institutions.

A copy of the report has been shared with the Minister of Human Resource Development for including electoral literacy in the school and college curriculum.



# An Ode to the **Ballot Papers**

Originating from the Italian 'Ballotta' meaning 'a little ball', which were used in Renaissance Venice as means of ensuring secrecy during voting, the meaning and usage of the word Ballot has been expanded across the world becoming synonymous with elections. Derived from a system prevalent in ancient Greece where pebbles were used as voting instruments and an urn served as the Ballot Box, this issue of VoICE International takes you on the journey of Ballot Papers. An electoral trailblazer despite the adoption of electronic voting systems in numerous countries, Ballot Stories feature a selection of Ballot Papers once used or, presently being used by the member-countries of VoICE.NET.

**Australia**

Form C (To be initiated on back by Presiding Officer before issue)

Commonwealth of Australia

**BALLOT-PAPERS**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**Referendums on Proposed Constitution Alterations**

**DIRECTIONS TO VOTER**  
Write "YES" or "NO" in the space provided opposite each of the questions set out below.

1. An Act to change the terms of senators so that they are no longer of fixed duration and to provide that Senate elections and House of Representatives elections are always held on the same day.  
DO YOU APPROVE this proposed alteration?

2. An Act to enable the Commonwealth and the States voluntarily to refer powers to each other.  
DO YOU APPROVE this proposed alteration?

25/09/84 C. J. THOMSON, Commonwealth Government Printer 834, 434

**BALLOT PAPER**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VICTORIA  
ELECTORAL DIVISION OF WILLS

Number the boxes from 1 to 22 in the order of your choice

- SAVAGE, Katherine (INDEPENDENT)
- KARDAMITIS, Bill (AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY)
- KUBINE, Otto Ernest (INDEPENDENT)
- PHILLIPS, Richard (INDEPENDENT)
- KAPPHAN, Wil (INDEPENDENT)
- RAWSON, Geraldine (INDEPENDENT)
- DELACRETAZ, John (LIBERAL)
- POULOS, Patricia (INDEPENDENT)
- DROULERS, Julian Paul (INDEPENDENT)
- FRENCH, Bill (INDEPENDENT)
- POTTER, F. C. (INDEPENDENT)
- MURRAY, John (INDEPENDENT)
- VASSIS, Chris (INDEPENDENT)
- CLEARY, Philip (INDEPENDENT)
- FERRARO, Salvatore (INDEPENDENT)
- GERMAINE, Stan (THE FEDERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA)
- WALKER, Angela (AUSTRALIAN AGRI-CULTURAL UNION)
- MACKAY, David (INDEPENDENT)
- LEWIS, Bob (INDEPENDENT)
- SYKES, Ian Grant (INDEPENDENT)
- KYROU, Kon (INDEPENDENT)
- MURGATROYD (INDEPENDENT)

Remember... number every box to make your vote count.

Australian Electoral Commission AEC

FIGURE (A3) TASMANTIAN ALTERNATIVE VOTE BALLOT

Form F (To be initiated on back by Presiding Officer before issue)

**BALLOT PAPER**

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
STATE OF TASMANIA  
Electoral Division of DENISON

Election of One Member of the House of Representatives

DIRECTIONS—Mark your vote on this ballot-paper by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the squares respectively opposite the names of the candidates so as to indicate the order of your preference for them.

**CANDIDATES**

- COATES, John
- HAY, John Charles
- HODGMAN, Michael
- STANTON, Cathryn Marie

**BALLOT PAPER**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
ELECTORAL DIVISION OF FREMANTLE

Number the boxes from 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.

- LAWRENCE, Carmen (TROPICAN LABOR PARTY)
- GUENTNER, Joe (AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRAT)
- TILLER, Mick (LIBERAL)
- de GARRIS, Alison (THE GREENS PARTY)

Remember... number every box to make your vote count.

Australian Electoral Commission AEC





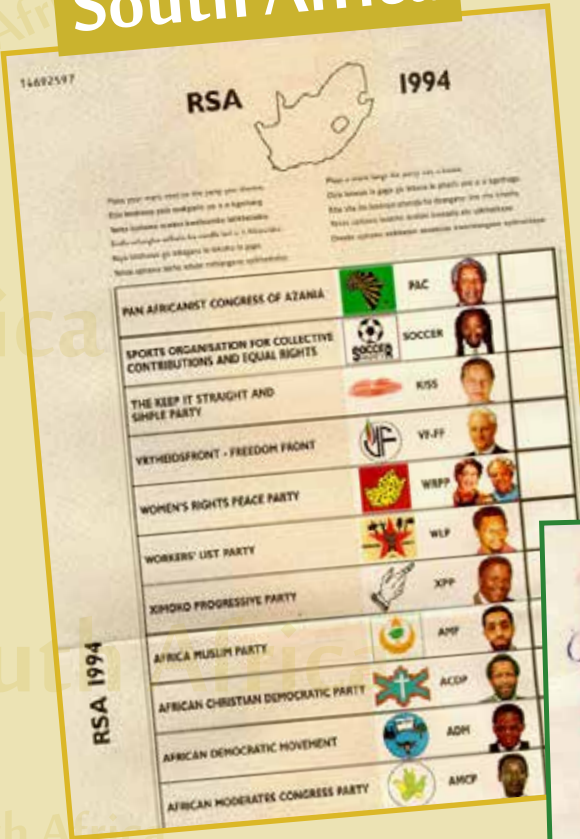




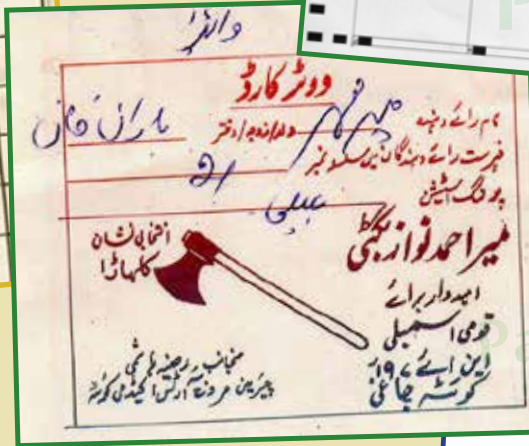




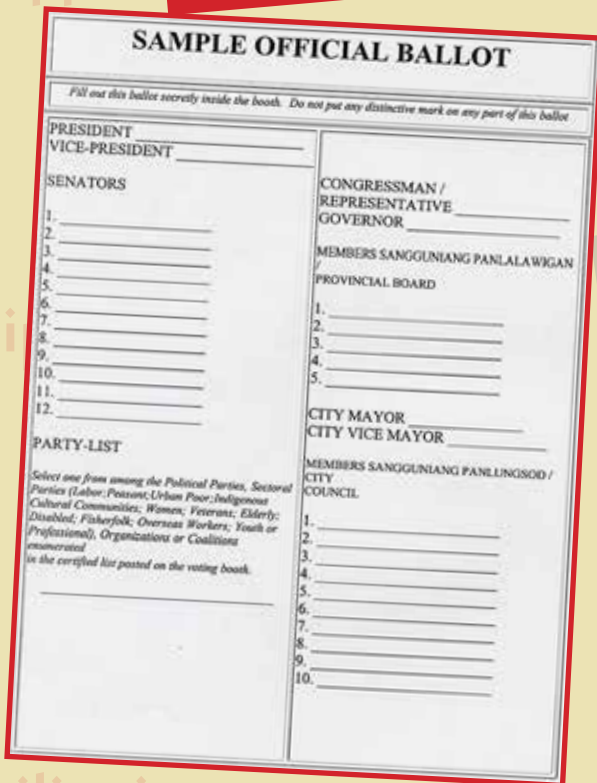
# South Africa



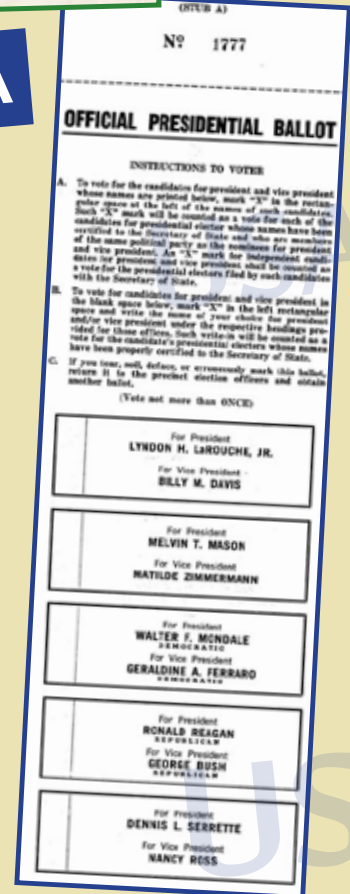
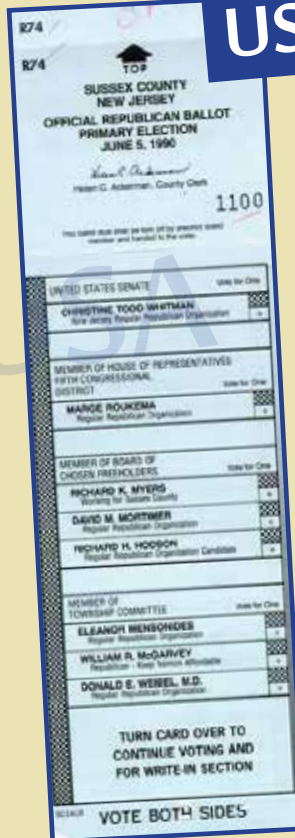
# Pakistan



# Philippines



# USA



Source: AceProject



# Vignettes from the International Conference

Is voting just a right, a duty or a voluntary action? Or is it an empowering collective journey taken up by a large number of people deciding not only the fate of the candidate but their own too?

Undoubtedly, participation in the democratic and electoral processes is integral to the successful running of any democracy and the very basis of wholesome democratic elections. This realization on the importance of the power of the fundamental right to vote as well as the difference it can make to their lives and the nation makes the voter the central actor in democratic election process.

Who the voter decides to vote for is their individual choice and decision, but the voter should surely and definitely participate in the election process. Can we empower, inform, engage, and facilitate the voter to do so? Can we understand their reasons and perceptions, beliefs and motivations, barriers and challenges, experiences as also their habits, contexts and contours that shape their decision to cast or not to cast their vote?

Thus inclusive, informed and ethical voter education needs to be imparted by the Election Management Bodies across the world. Hence, Election Commission of India



organized an International Conference on Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation on October 19–21, 2016 at New Delhi, India. Voter education is the most appropriate way to improve participation in a democracy and thus the need of the hour.

The film on International Conference on Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation covers the three day conference. It talks about the efforts and initiatives taken by the participant countries to create an informed electoral base in their country so that the voter can make the right choice.

Following were the objective of the conference which were encapsulated in the film:





- To study the best practices by EMBs towards promoting inclusive, informed and ethical electoral participation; identify the roles that different stakeholders can play ; assess challenges related to voter education and ways to tackle them.
- To explore ways and means to impart electoral literacy through curricula and extra-curricular in educational institutions.
- To explore successful methods of imparting electoral literacy to population outside formal sector of educational institutions.
- To explore role of technology in voter education.

- To look at policies and practices that can support inclusive, informed and ethical electoral participation.
- To assess the impact of voter education in supporting informed and ethical participation in electoral democracy.

The film showcases how the conference was a grand success with the participant countries sharing knowledge on voter education with one another. Moreover, with an aim to learn from each other, VoICE.NET - a global knowledge network on voter education was launched as a part of New Delhi Declaration.



Greetings from the Electoral Commission of Uganda.

I have watched the movie of the International Conference of Oct 2016. It is a good movie, good picture quality, covering all the major events. Thank you and your team for the great work.

It has indeed brought back the memories of the Conference and what an experience we had.

Regards to all.

Sekabembe K. Peninah  
Principal Election Officer



Movie available at <http://voicenet.in/icvideo.htm>





# A **Ballot** is stronger than the Bullet

**E**lection Commission of India is on its expedition to attain 100 % voter turnout in the upcoming elections. Under the campaign, 'No Voter should be left behind', ECI is striving to spread awareness among all stakeholders of the world's largest democracy.

One of the challenging dimensions is to ensure electoral participation of the service voters. A force that is busy protecting the nation around-the-clock, always ready to sacrifice their lives for the national security, protecting country's present must have a say in the future of the nation. ECI has introduced a campaign with the slogan *'Teri awaaz bhi jaruri, Tera vote bhi jaruri'* to connect to the service voters of the nation.



the service voters in the country, which include people serving in Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Indo – Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Assam rifles, State Armed Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, National Security Guard, and Border Road Organization.

The movie elucidates the process of voting through postal ballot or proxy vote. The movie introduces Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) and the website for service voters (<http://servicevoter.nic.in/>) that have been launched recently by Election Commission of India.

Motivating the community, Flying Officer Swasthika, Indian Air Force said, "I voted through postal ballot, it depends on the spirit of your involvement in the democracy." The film underlines the fact that voting must not be an option. After all, as Abraham Lincoln stated **'A ballot is stronger than the bullet'**.



The film 'Service Voters and ETBPS' explains the process of voting for a service personnel. It aims to spread awareness on elections among



Movie available at [http://servicevoter.nic.in/Images/MediaContent/Service\\_Voter\\_Film\\_5\\_minutes\\_ENGLISH.mp4](http://servicevoter.nic.in/Images/MediaContent/Service_Voter_Film_5_minutes_ENGLISH.mp4)



# Glossary

1. Runoff: Applied primarily in the context of a two-round electoral system, runoff signifies the final contest, election that decides an earlier one which hadn't produced a clear result in favour of any one candidate/contestant.

This system is used for presidential elections in countries like, Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zimbabwe etc.

Source: Merriam Webster

2. Direct Recording Electronic: A variant of e-voting equipment (along with optical scanning machines), Direct Recording Electronic machines consist of a touch screen connected to a computer that records the cast ballots and stores the data in its memory. At the close of polls, data across voting locations are compiled in a central computer which calculates the final tally. Data transmission is done via removable portable devices or, through a computer network. At present, DRE voting machines are used for certain elections in the United States, Belgium, Brazil, Venezuela etc.

Source: AceProject; Britannica.com

3. Plebiscite: A vote by which the members of a certain electorate (a country or, a district)

express an opinion for or, against a proposal/ public questions especially on the choice of government. Having garnered a negative connotation because of its close association with undemocratic political systems, plebiscites, as opposed to referendums which can be initiated by citizens as well, are usually put into motion by the governmental authority.

Source: Merriam Webster; www.ukandeu.ac.uk; www.differencebetween.net

4. Chad: With the US Presidential Elections of 2000 credited for its notoriety, Chads refer to small pieces of paper that are created when a hole is punched in a ballot. Known for having affected the results in Florida, punch card ballot systems were withdrawn from electoral use post-2000 as it became difficult for polling officials to take into consideration incorrectly punched ballots (hanging/fat/pregnant chads) during counting.

Source: www.bbc.com

5. Coattail Effect: The term implies the ability and influence of a popular candidate to gather and attract votes and support for other candidates running on the same party ticket for lower offices.

Source: www.politicaldictionary.com

# Quiz

1. Known for having spent time equivalent to 168 days in space, David Alexander Wolf is widely regarded as a veteran astronaut, physician and electrical engineer. Having donned both American and Russian spacesuits, what exactly did David Wolf do in 1997 that catapulted him to worldwide fame and a place in VoICE International?
2. Beginning with a pilot project in the Municipal Elections of 2005, which northern European country became the first nation in the world to extend the provision of voting over the internet when a part of its 2007 Parliamentary Elections was carried out through the online medium?
3. Which Hollywood star played the role of Bud Johnson, a laidback, free-wheeler from New

Mexico, in the 2008 comedy movie Swing Vote, whose vote holds the key to decide the next President of the United States?

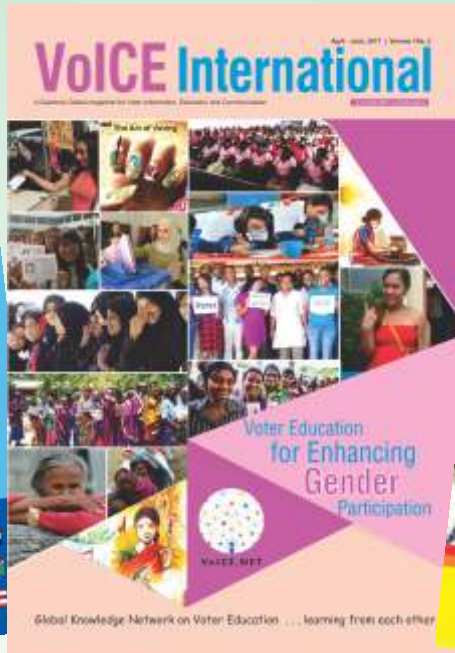
4. Closely associated with the children's programme strand- The Den, Dustin the Turkey is also known for representing his country- Ireland, in the Eurovision Song Contest of 2008 apart from serving as a UNICEF ambassador. Although not an official candidate, Dustin contested two of Ireland's Presidential Elections winning thousands of votes in 1997. What exactly was Dustin the Turkey?
5. Why is April 27 celebrated as Freedom Day in South Africa?

1. He became the first American to vote from space when he cast his ballot for the 1997 Local Elections of Texas. 2. Estonia 3. Kevin Costner 4. A puppet 5. The first post-apartheid, non-racial elections were conducted on this day in 1994.

# Previous Issues of VoICE International (Volume I)



Jan-Mar 2017



Apr-Jun 2017



Jul-Sep 2017

VoICE.NET





# Voter Information, Communication & Education Network

Voter Information, Communication, Education Network (VoICE.NET) is a Global Knowledge Network for sharing knowledge, resources and expertise on **Voter Education**.

**VoICE.NET** was launched on 20th October 2016 at the International Conference on Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation held at New Delhi. The Global Knowledge Network is a part of the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the Conference by the 25 Election Management Bodies and representatives from UNDP, International IDEA, IFES and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre. **VoICE.NET** contents are provided by the member EMBs/Organisations and the portal is maintained by Election Commission of India.