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“We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.”

- Carl Sagan



“The Election System contributes to form a healthy democratic governance. India, the largest democracy in the world, vests the fundamental rights to her voters to choose their leaders and mandate them responsibilities. Thus, Election Commission is entrusted with the onus of conducting free and fair Election to directly elect public leaders by the citizens. In present era, with the rapid development of emerging technologies, the election process is more ICT based with an objective to yield time-saving, communicative and transparent results.

In 2019, the simultaneous General Elections in Odisha for both the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly have witnessed the efficiency of Information Technology to a significant level. The role of State and District level NIC teams in this regard has been highly commendable. Their contribution and sincere involvement has tremendously helped the election process to complete it successfully.

I wish all success to NIC, Odisha in their future endeavour.”

- Shri Surendra Kumar, IAS,
Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha.

Simultaneous General Election 2019 : NIC played its support part

India is well known for its citizens faith on democracy and for its free and fair election process to choose public representatives. With the development of technologies, ICT is used to achieve accurate, in time and transparent results. In 2019, simultaneous General Election was conducted in which technology has played a very vital role. Particularly, in Odisha the fragrance of technology was better smelt as



EVM and VVPAT Trainings to Polling Personnel in presence of DEO cum DM , ADM, ADIO (NIC).

both the elections for Parliament and Legislative Assembly were conducted simultaneously. NIC played a lead role in providing in time services to the Electoral authorities. The competent workforce of NIC at district and State level have toiled much to make the Election, 2019 successful.

Some services were directly provided by NIC with its own software and at the same time, technical support was rendered for other services developed and rolled out by ECI and CEO, Odisha.

NIC software used by District NIC Centres are;

1. Software for Polling Personnel and Counting Personnel Deployment :

One of the key activities of conducting a fair election is deployment of personnel

for Polling Stations and Counting Centres. Polling parties are formed and deployed to the Polling Stations following a three stage randomisation process. The instructions and guidelines formulated by ECI and executed by CEO, Odisha have been strictly followed in developing and rolling out the software. Thus, the multi tenancy software developed in open source platform has been used across

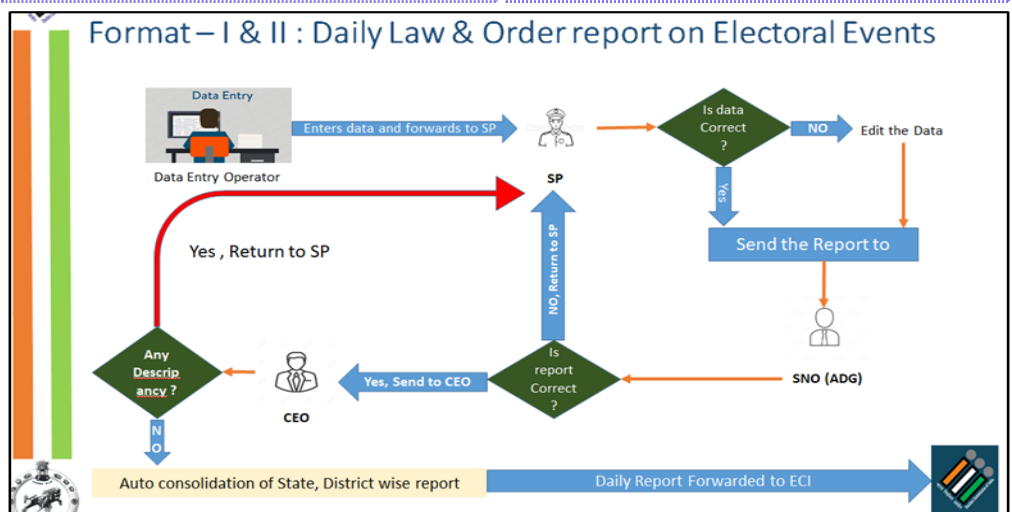
the state with whole hearted support from NIC officers to complete the job in time. Similarly the deployment of personnel in counting centres also has been done as per the ECI guidelines.

2. Special Summary Revision, 2019

Updation of Electoral Roll is a hectic job. Therefore, during special summary revision, the public can apply online for registration of new voters, deletion of names, correction of entries and finally transposition in electoral roll etc. The software has the provision of downloading Assembly Constituency wise consolidated lists from ERO-Net by District Election Authorities and uploading to the site after necessary corrections. The public view of the information at every stage is available particularly through respective District websites.

3. Software for Daily Reporting on violation of Law & Order/ Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and Liquor Monitoring

Election Commission of India (ECI) vigils scrupulously the incidences of violations in law and order, Modal Code of Conduct (MCC) during the complete election period. It also emphasises on



seizure of liquor on day to day basis to ensure conduct of free and fair election. Thus, the role based, process flow oriented web enabled software developed by NIC was implemented to monitor these activities in the State during Election 2019.

Applications developed by ECI or third party agencies are;

1. cVIGIL (Complaint on violation of MCC, investigation, and its redressal)

cVIGIL is an user friendly, easy to operate Mobile application developed on Android platform for reporting incidences by responsive and proactive citizens during any violation of election rules. The beauty of the application is that, it only allows live photo/ video with auto location capturing to ensure digital evidence to the flying squads. It sensitises the squads to act in a time bound manner. The investigation and reporting by the flying squads are also facilitated by this application. The redressal mechanism by the Returning Officers is also available with ideal time limits.

2. EMS (EVM Management System)

EMS is designed to manage inventory of EVM units from production to destruction. It tracks the EVM units from manufacturer to state, inter state movement, inter district movement and so on. It also monitors the status of each unit on real time basis such as location, availability, in use etc. The two stage randomization process for allotment of EVMs to Polling Stations is also taken care of by this software.

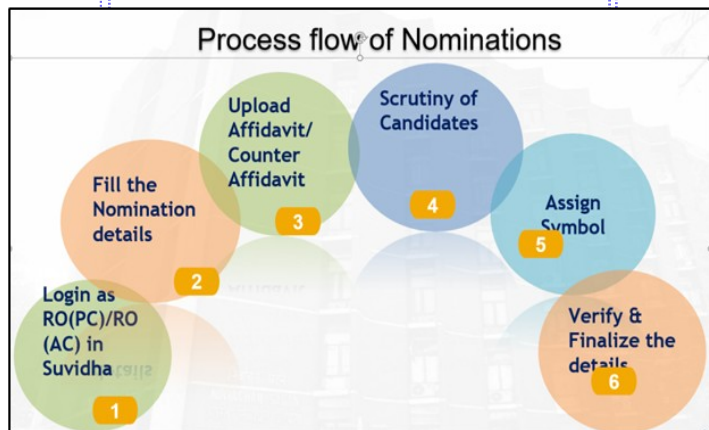
3. SUVIDHA (Filing of nominations and Counting of votes)

Suvidha application is a single window system where starting from filing of nominations to declaration of election results and all the activities of RO are performed in sequence. Along with the application, ECI has launched SUVIDHA mobile App where the candidates can check status and update their applications. Some available modules in SUVIDHA software are namely (a) Nomination (b) Scrutiny (c) Withdrawal (d) Acceptance (e) Assign

Symbol (f) Sorting Names in ballot (vernacular) (g) Votes polled on poll day (h) Round wise counting of votes on counting day (i) Declaration of results (j) Permissions.

4. Voter Helpline App

Taking forward the continuous efforts of building an active democratic citizenry in the country, ECI has undertaken the



initiative by designing a Mobile App for the citizens of the country to develop a culture of avid electoral engagement among informed civilians. The app aims to provide a single point of service and information delivery to voters of the country. The app provides various facilities to voters of the country such as (a) Electoral Search, (b) Submission of online forms for new voter registration, deletion or objections in electoral roll, corrections of entries in electoral roll, transposition within assembly, (c) Register complaints related to electoral services and track its disposal (d) Information on contesting candidates and their profile, affidavits, assets, criminal cases (e) Constituency wise votes polled (f) Constituency wise votes counted etc.

5. ETPBS (Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System)

ETPBS is an on-line system, convenient to be used by in-service voters and overseas electors to cast their votes through electronically received postal ballot, from anywhere outside their constituency. The voters who make such a choice will be entitled for Postal Ballot delivered through Electronic Media for a particular election.

6. Mobile based GPS tracking System

This system was developed at the Office

of CEO, Odisha to track vehicles carrying reserve EVMs and VVPAs on poll day. The sector officers carry EVMs and VVPAs with them on polling day for replacement of defective EVMs and VVPAs (if any) at the polling stations. In order to safeguard the EVMs and VVPAs on transit the mobile based real-time GPS tracking system was implemented. Their movement was reflected on the Google map through the web enabled application. RO, DEO, CEO and Police were using this application to track the vehicles on the day of election.

7. System for Webcasting of Live Election Process on Poll Day

To create awareness among voters in conducting free and fair election, ECI planned to broadcast and monitor the live election process from remote polling stations. The objective was to check on illegal activities such as booth capturing, bogus voting inside the polling stations and other such activities.

The webcast was viewed and monitored remotely by RO, DEO, CEO and Observers to ensure free and fair election process. Nearly 4000 Polling Stations of Odisha were covered in this system during Election, 2019.

8. NGSP (National Grievances Service Portal)

NGSP is a National Grievances Redressal System of ECI. The citizens can lodge both Election and Non-Election related complaints. On registering the complaint, citizen can get acknowledgement and track the progress of complaint.

...for your immediate attention...those things you have learned last month are obsolete...now we will continue with new syllabus...

