11th Meeting of Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

11th August 2021 (Wednesday)
Thimphu: Bhutan

Hosted by
Election Commission of Bhutan

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COUNTRY PRESENTATION

AFGHANISTAN

Use of Technology for Voter Awareness and Registration

INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION OF AFGHANISTAN - IEC

Use of Technology for Voter Awareness & Registration

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN VR PROCESS

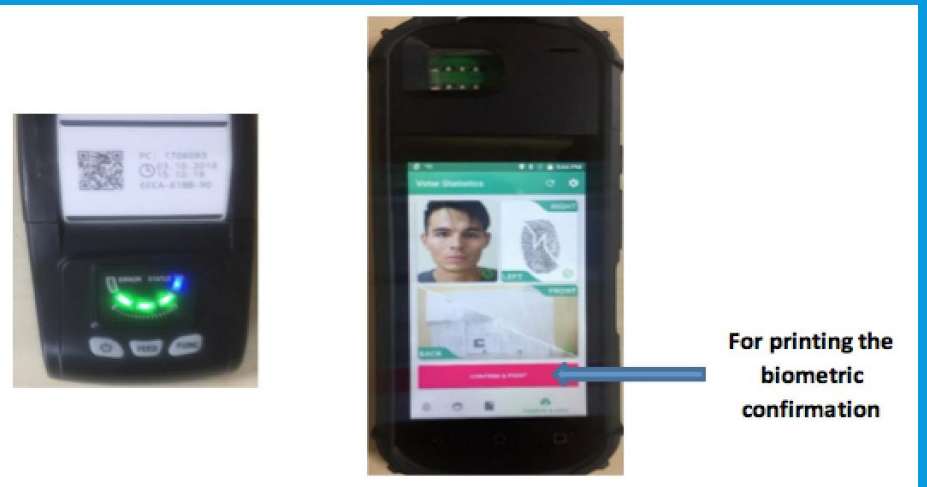
- Information technologies played vital role for the VR process which assisted immensely in management, decision-making and planning of Voter Registration and voter awareness.
- Voter Registration By the Year (2004, 2005, 2008 and 2017).
- Total Voters (**9665703**)
- Voter Registration in Afghanistan has been conducted manually.

Technologies at use:

- **Tablets**
  - were used for Polling Center Verification to capture GPS data or its location data.
- **The IEC Website**
  - Voters were able to check their registration information by their voter ID on the IEC website to confirm their polling center location.

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN VR PROCESS

- **Voter Registration System**
  - Voter Registration Application was used for scanning Voter Registration Books.
  - The VR application was also used to digitalize the scanned VR Books and capture data entry
  - The VR application was used to generate Final Voters List as well as soft copy of the Voters List was transferred to biometric devices for verification of voters on Election Day
- **Biometric Devices**
  - These devices used for voters verification and;
  - The biometric devices were used to stem off the duplicate voting on Election Day.



ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN VR PROCESS

- **Tracking System**
  - The VR Books Tracking System was used to record information about voter registration books such as province, district and polling centers, and confirm the return of the designated books from the fields.

VOTER AWARENESS

- **Call Center (Free Call 190)**
- **SMS**
- **IEC Website (https://www.iec.org.af)**
- **Social Media**

Elections Process awareness data published on Facebook, twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE FOR VR TECHNOLOGY

- **Web Portal for VR**
  - An efficient administrative measure to register voters online is to combine the preparation of a voters roll with the civil registration and/or the issuance of a national ID card (E-Tazkera). Linking to E-Tazkera system to validate voters age limit.
  - Easy access from anywhere to register, modify and transfer their polling center information from one place to another.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE FOR VOTER AWARENESS

- Android/iOS based Application
- Warden SMS & Bulk SMS
- Robo Calls
- Ringtone

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

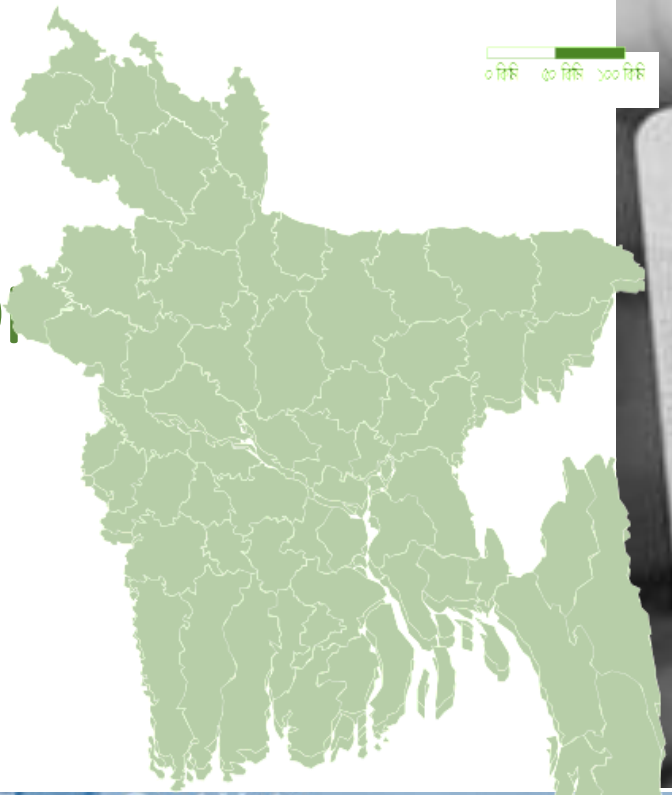
BANGLADESH

Use of Technology in Election Management of Bangladesh

BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSIO

Presents

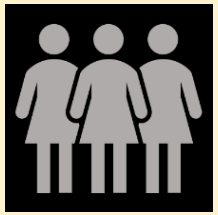
Use of Technology in Election



Technology Adoption | Principles

Maintaining transparency

Considering impact of introducing technologies



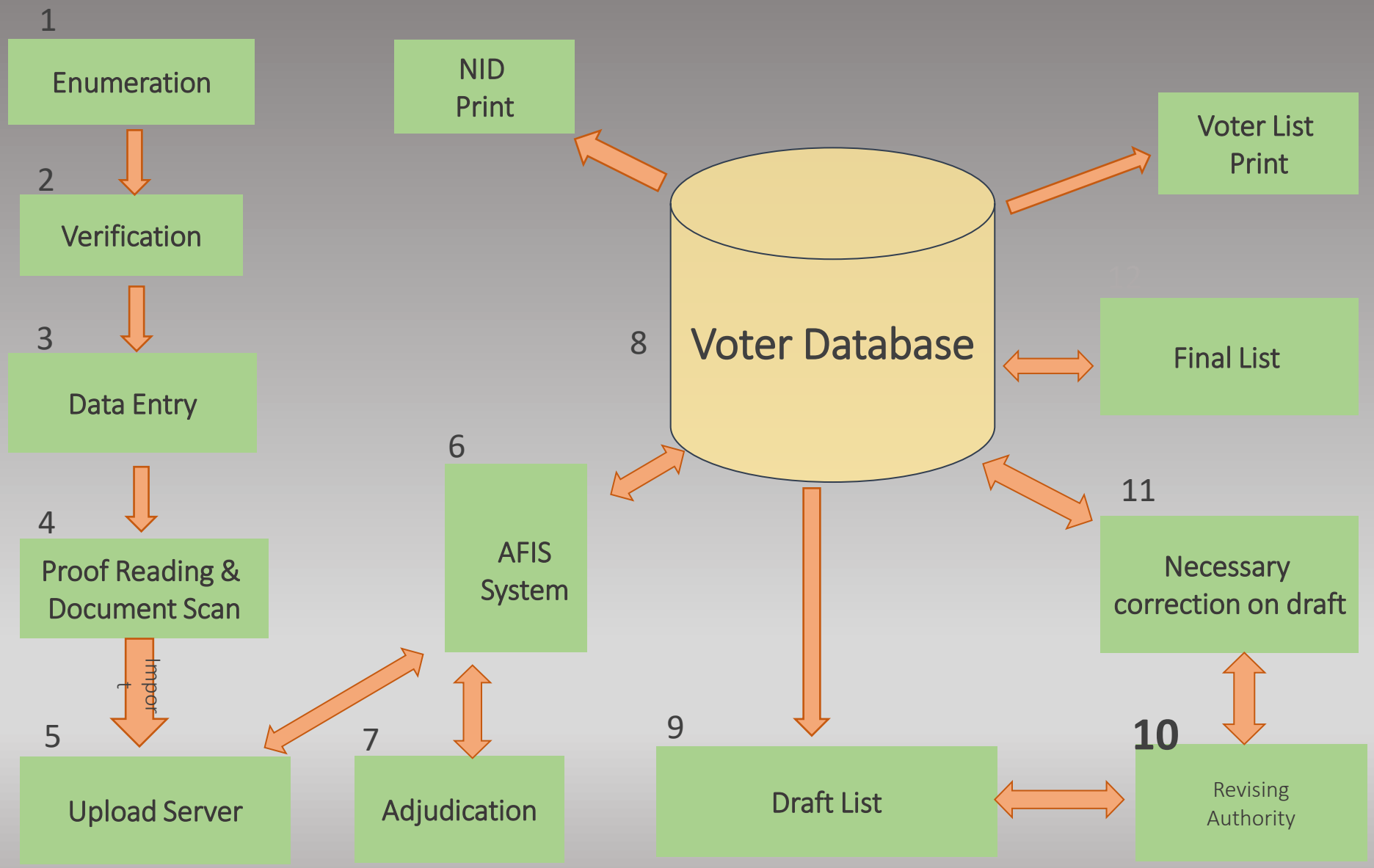
Maintaining trust and confidence of stakeholders

Ensuring ethical behaviour and security issues

Ensuring accurate results, efficiency and sustainability

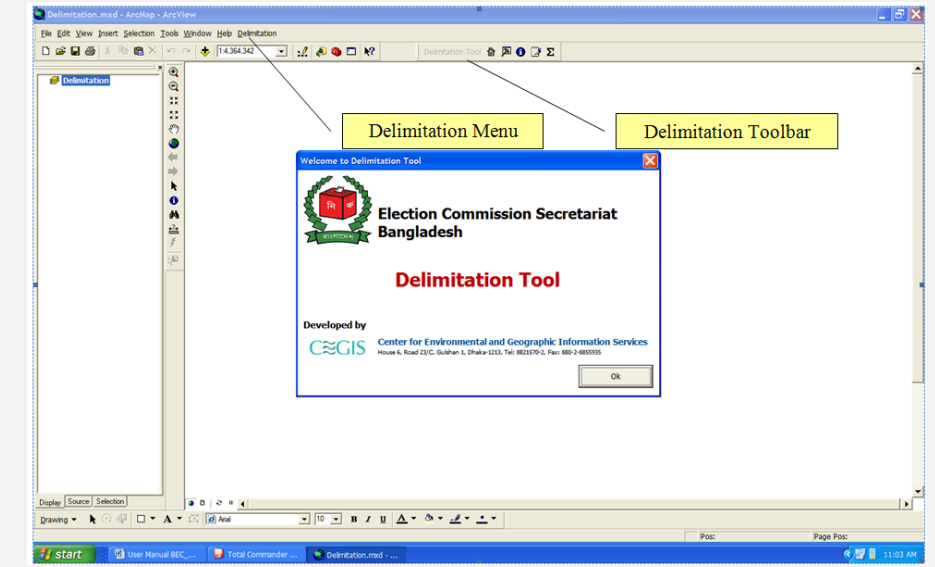
Ensuring reformed election regulations to adapt to technology

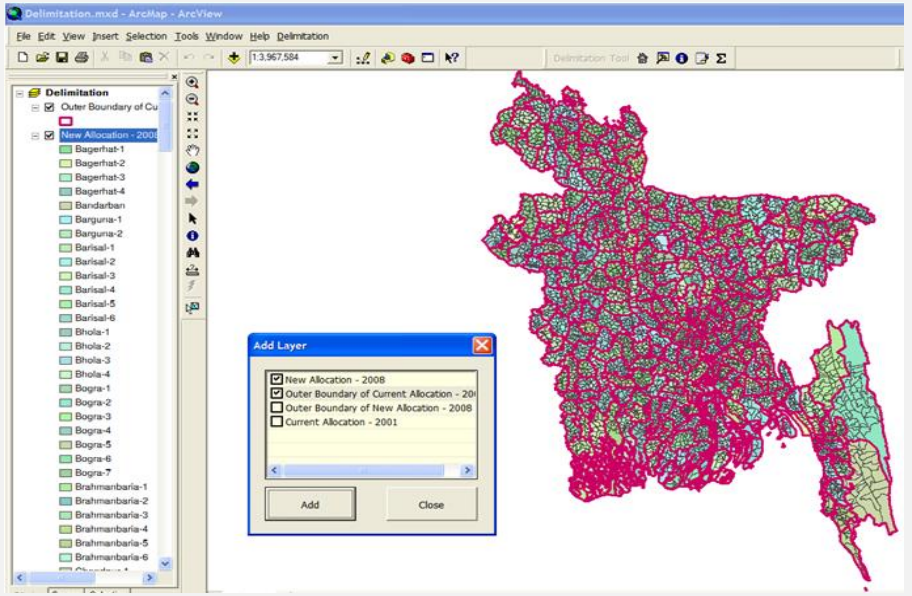
Voter Registration Process



Customized ArcGIS Interface for Delimitation of Constituencies

- Administrative boundaries down to Union/ Paurashava based on geodatabase
- Delimitation of Constituencies' boundary
- Geospatial data by City Corporation Wards.
- Linked with latest census population data and voters' info to appropriate administrative units





Technology Use
Election Day

- ✓Voter verification and authentication
- ✓Electronic voting
- ✓Situation monitoring and reporting
- ✓Vote counting and tally
- ✓Dissemination of election result
- ✓Election observation
- ✓Handling electoral violence

Incident Monitoring:

- Incase of any incident, presiding officer at polling booth can send details of incident with photograph or video to central system using App in TAB

- BEC can monitor all polling stations from dashboard through monitoring software system and take necessary steps

- The polling stations are connected with secured VPN to operate the App to avoid unauthorized user access

Smart NID in Election Management

- Prepared using voter database with biometrics
- Biometrics and photograph stored inside chip digitally
- Smart NID OS can run standalone applications
- Voter identification through EVM in polling booths
- Identity authentication through Smart NID

Technology Use

Post-Election & All-year round

Post Election	Election Dispute Management	
	Publication of Election Result	
All-year round	General Administration of BEC	
	Online Voters Registration	
	Interactive SMS service	
	Maintaining BEC web portal	

Thank You

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

INDIA

Use of Technology in Elections

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

IT APPLICATIONS

MANAGING ELECTIONS FOR THE LARGEST DEMOCRACY

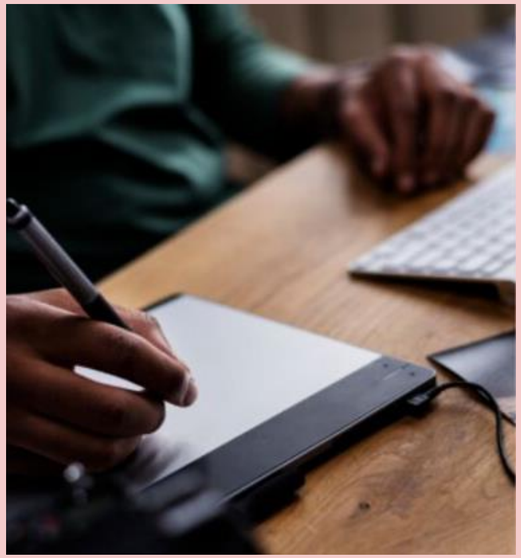
MAIN Points

- Preparation and maintenance of Electoral Roll
- Candidates Nomination
- Campaign Permissions & Regulation
- MCC- watchdog
- Counting and Results Dissemination

IT Applications for Stakeholders

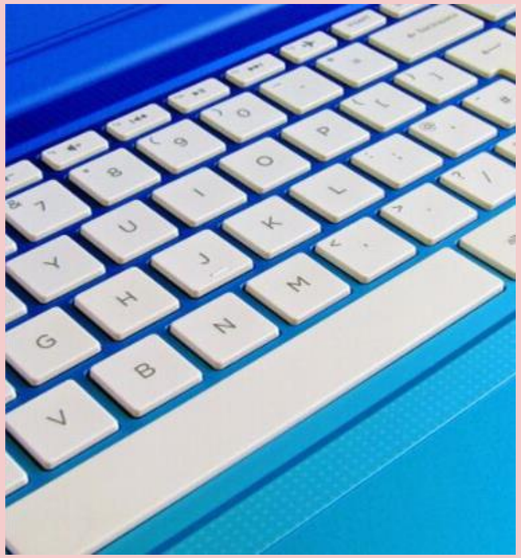
CITIZENS

cVIGIL, Voter Helpline, PwD App,Affidavit Portal, ECI Results website



CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTY

Candidate Nomination and Candidate Permissions

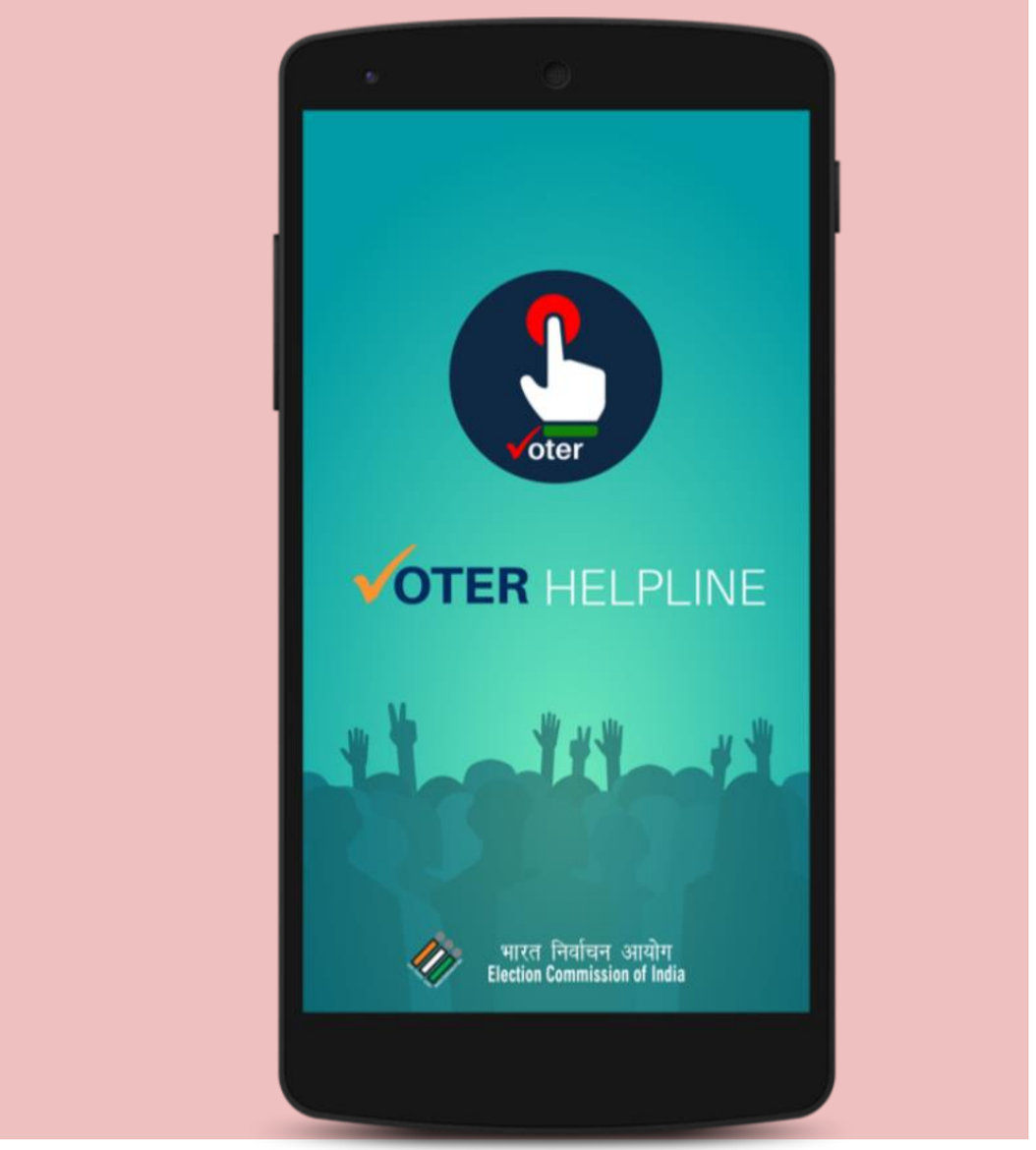


OFFICERS

ENCORE, cVIGIL, EMS, Observers, Expenditure monitoring

NVSP/Voter Portal

- For Registration /deletion /modification of electors
- Status tracking of applications
- For searching one's name in the electoral roll.
- Information regarding PS, ACs etc.

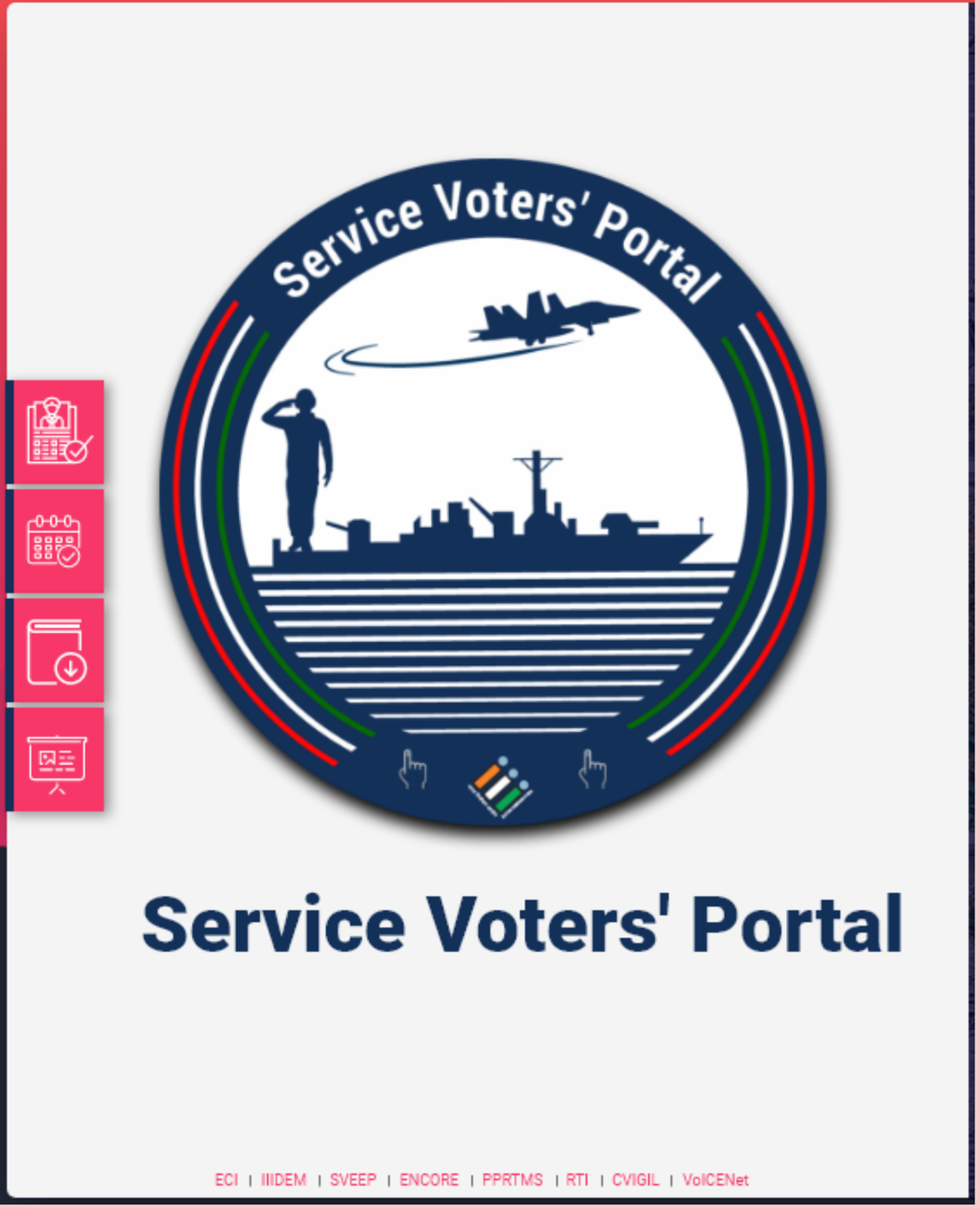


Voter Helpline Application

- Search your name in the latest electoral roll
- Fill all types of **forms for elector registration** from mobile and track the status
- Lodge grievance and track status
- Download all important news and circulars
- View Election Results on Mobile

ERO-Net

- **It is the workflow process management software for electoral registration.**
- Online Form Processing
- Offline Form Processing
- Maintenance of Health of electoral roll
- EPIC Portability



Service Voter Portal

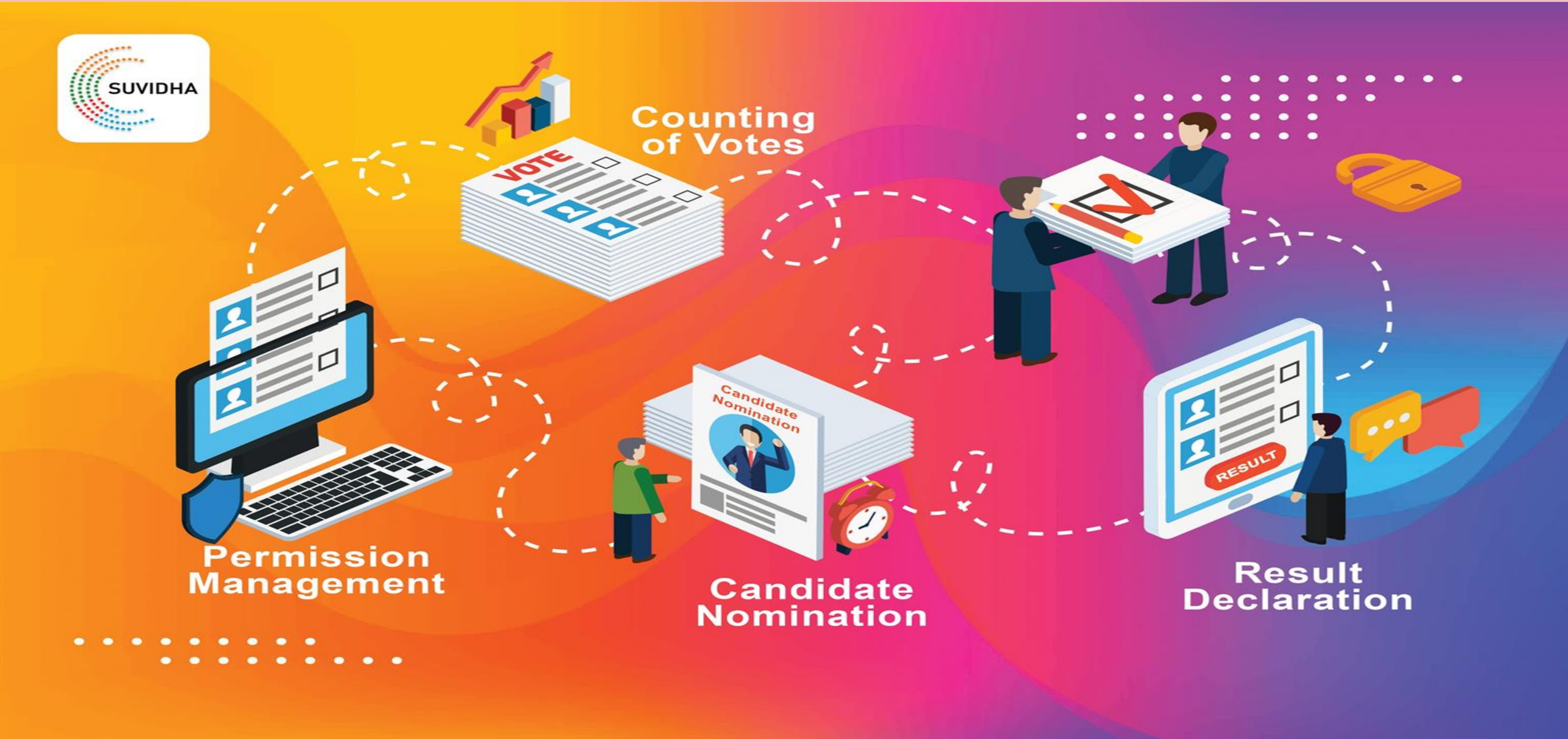
- An online portal for registration of service voters
- Simultaneous addition and deletion process
- Single portal connecting ECI officers with Officers from Services
- Online generation of draft and final roll of last part
- Provision to download electronically transmitted Ballot Papers by Record/Unit Officer

Political Party Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS)

- PPRTMS is an online portal to facilitate tracking of the progress status of the applications submitted offline.

- Applicants get status update through SMS and emails.

ENCORE


SUVIDHA
Counting of Votes
VOTE
Permission Management
Candidate Nomination
Candidate Nomination
Result Declaration
RESULT

Online Candidate Nomination

- Filing of Nomination Form & Affidavit
- Online payment of Security Deposit

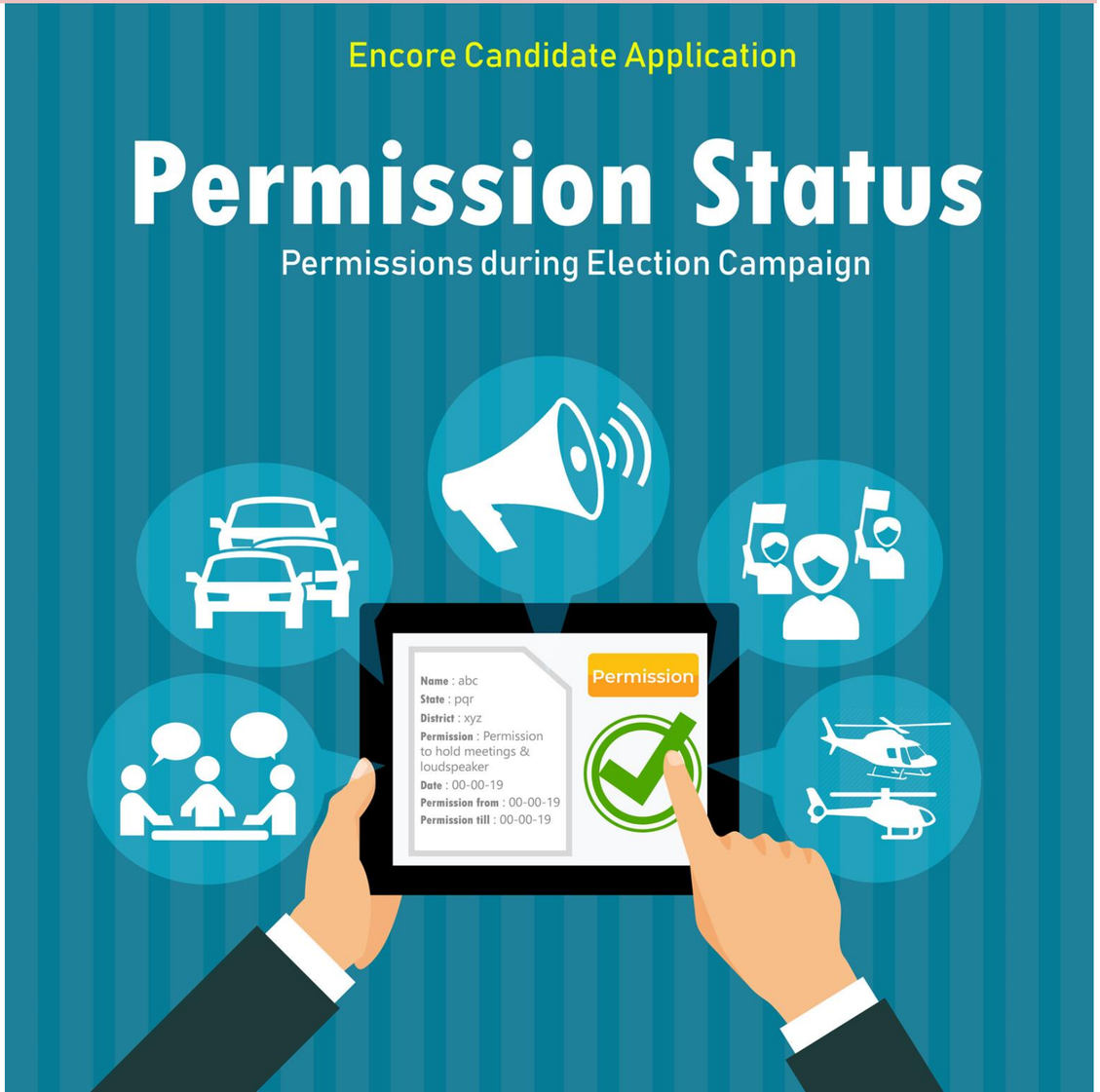
• *Candidate App (Suvidha)*

- Candidate App is used to track the nomination/ permission application status.
- Application boosts the transparency

Permission (ENCORE)

The Permission application allows the candidates or political parties apply for the permission for meetings, rallies, etc.

Also track status.



Fair Elections- Playing the watchdog

- Report live MCC violation
- Pictorial, audio and video evidence Doesn’t allow pre-recorded images and videos
- GIS based auto tracking
- Get response about the action taken

ONE APP TO REPORT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC) VIOLATION

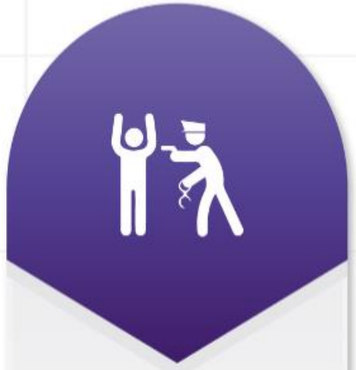
Status in just 100 Mins

5 Mins-

District Collector assign complaint to Field Unit for verification

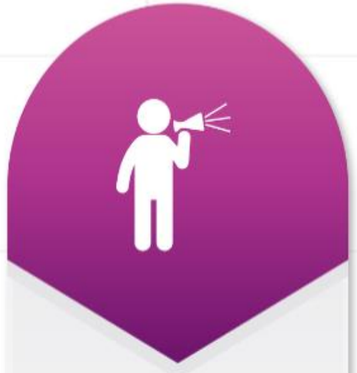
15 Mins-

Field team arrives on venue



30 Mins-

Field team to execute the action and submit report

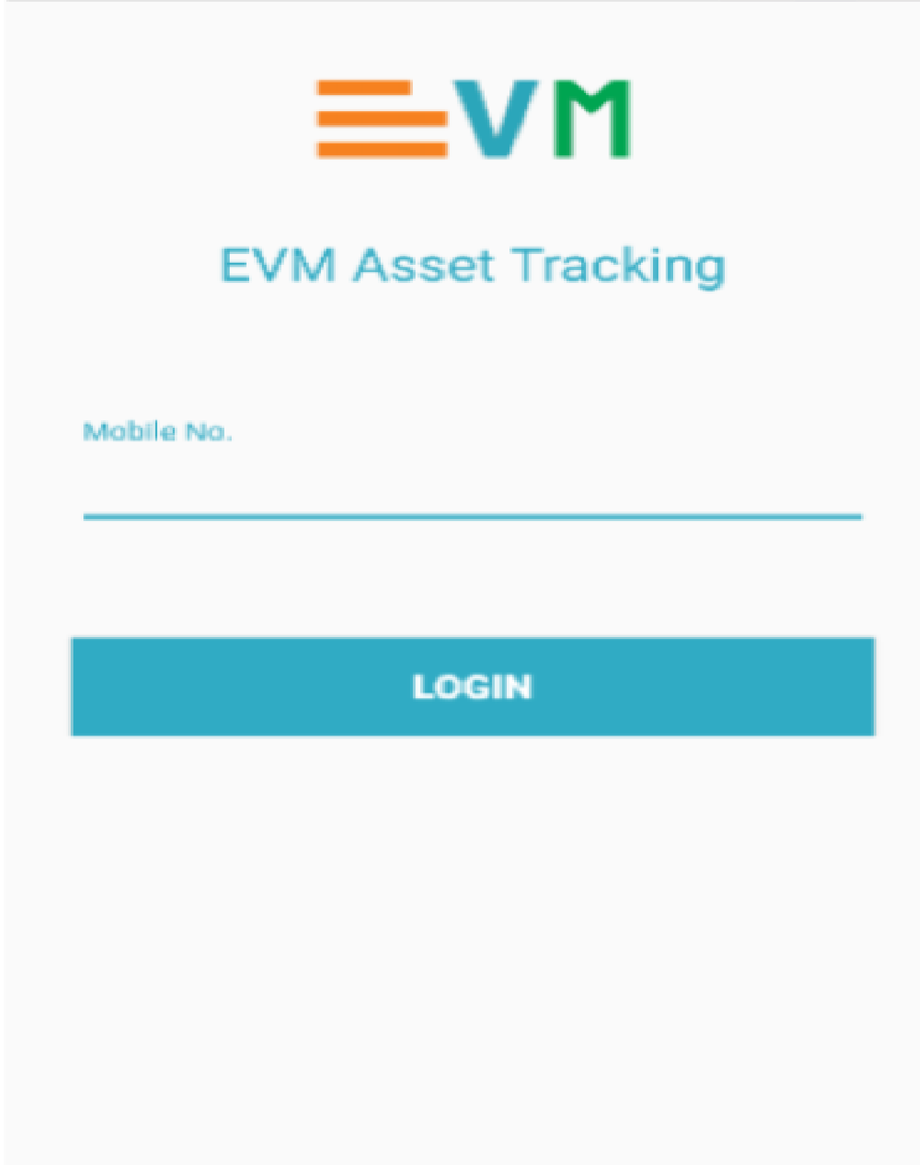


50 Mins-

Time taken by Returning Officer to information the states

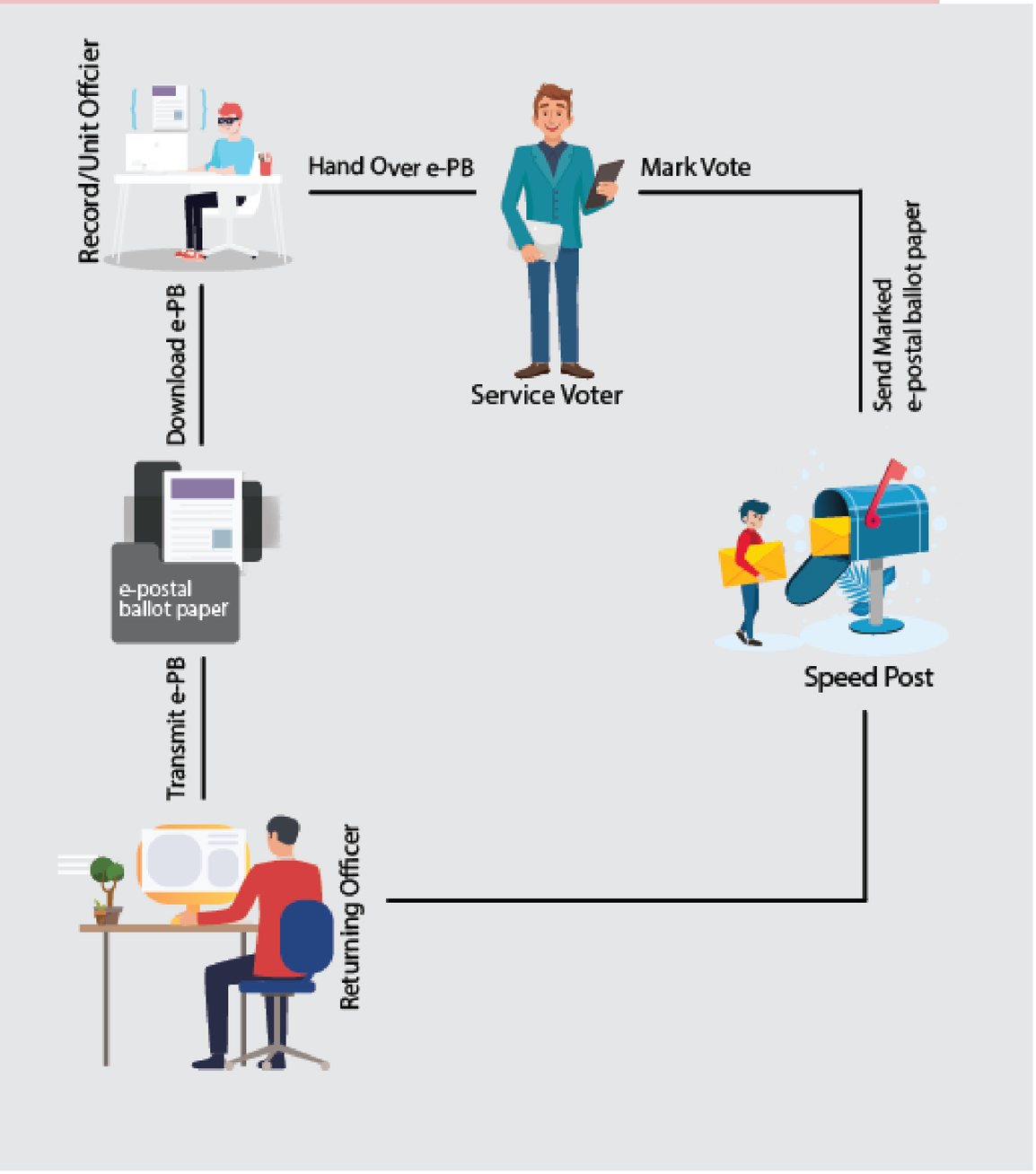
EVM ASSET MANAGEMENT & RANDOMISATION

- **Single Integrated application for complete lifecycle management of EVM / VVPATs**
- Integrity and transparency during allocation of units randomly
- Capture **Replacement** record of units during poll process



Observer App

- Management of Observers Deployment
- Observers file their statutory reports
- Observers get complete deployment schedule in their mobile.
- All notices, meeting invites, constituency details are available on the observer app.



ETPBS

- **Online system for one way e-transmission of Postal Ballot to the service voters**

  (Polled PB received back by Post)

- **Monitoring of PB e-transmission till PB Counting for all stakeholders**

- **Encrypted QR Code for secure and faster scanning**

Voter Turnout Application

- Real time updated information on Android App
- Based on Estimated turnout figures entered by ARO
- Drill down option for National, State, PC and AC wise turnout

COUNTING

- All Returning Officers enters **EVM and Postal Votes**

- Upon finalisation by ROs, **immediately results are collated and displayed online**

LIVE

Trends & Results On Voter Helpline

Download

Thanks

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

MALDIVES

Use of Technology for Improving Efficiency and Credibility of Elections

Technologies in ICT

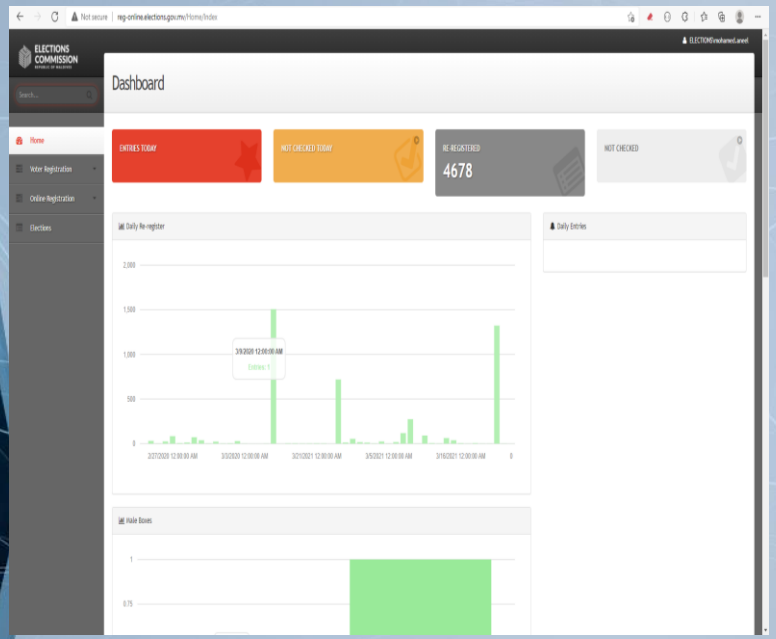
The Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Elections Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)

Elections Commission
Republic of Maldives

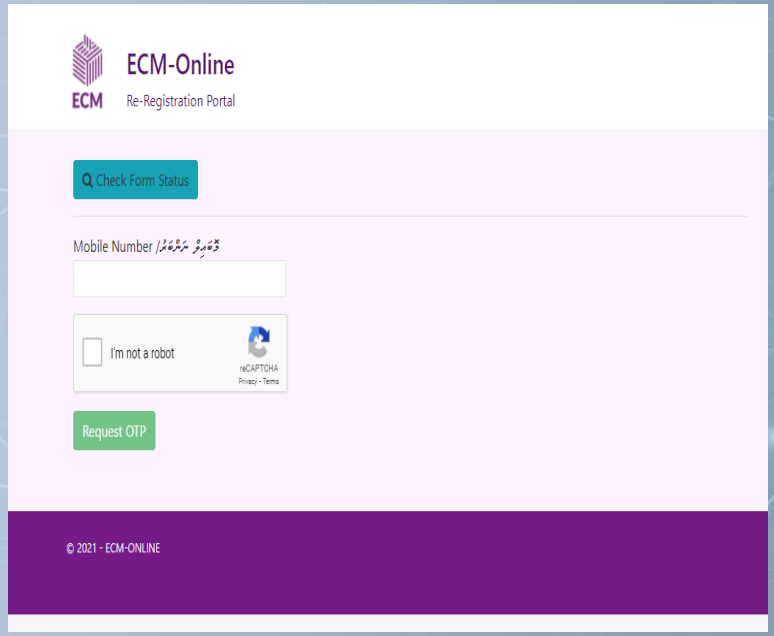
Electoral Process with ICT

- Voters re-registration application
- Voters list generator
- Ballot box official management
- Candidate management
- Observers, Monitors, Candidate Representatives management
- Result process
- Voters Progress Reporting System (VPRS)
- SMS information of ballot box location
- Voter list checker

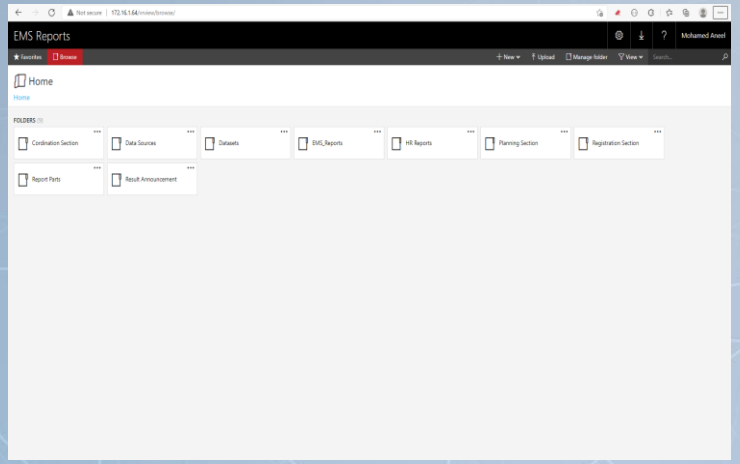
Voters Re-registration Application (Internal)



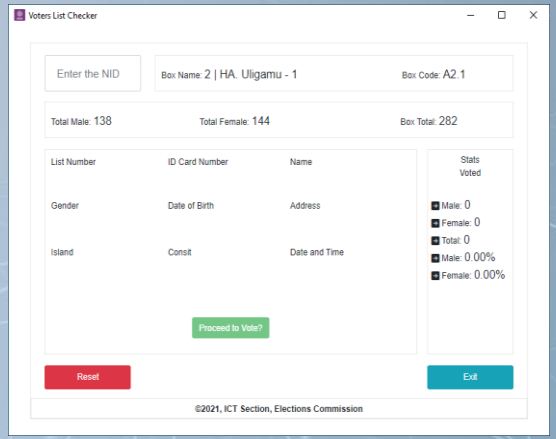
Voters Re-registration Application (Public)



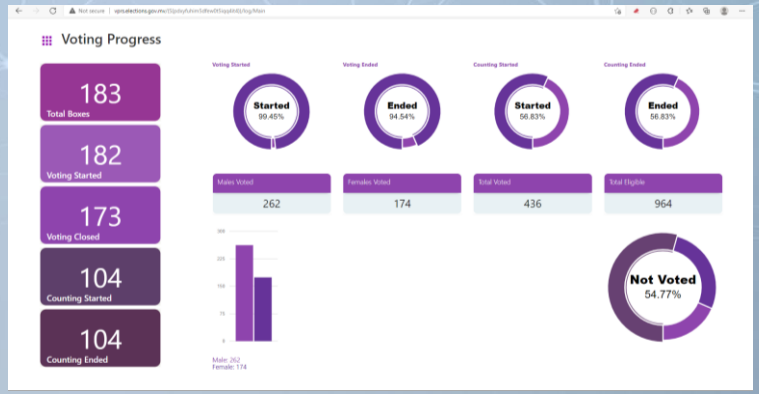
Voters List Generator



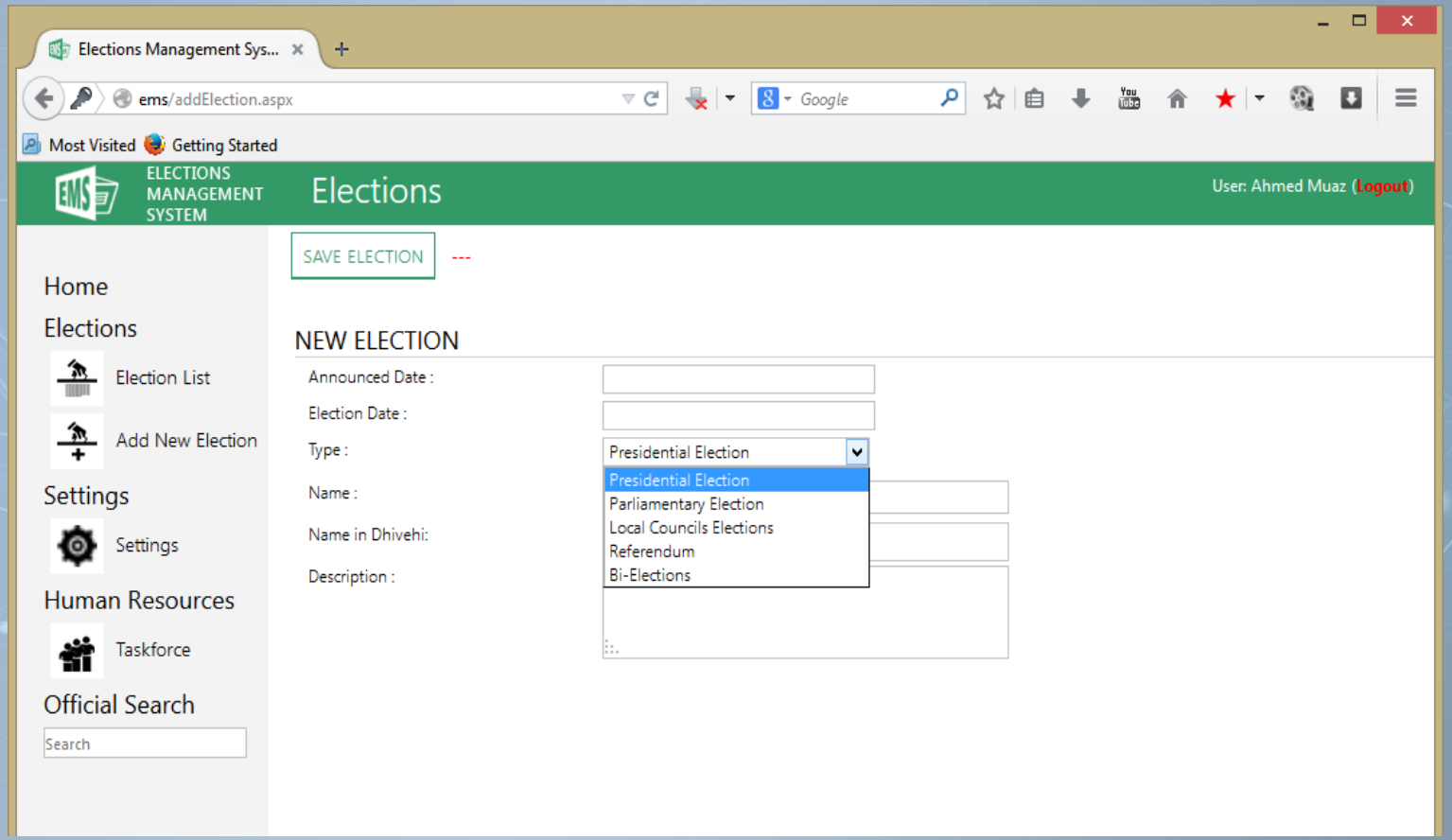
Voters List Checker (VLC)



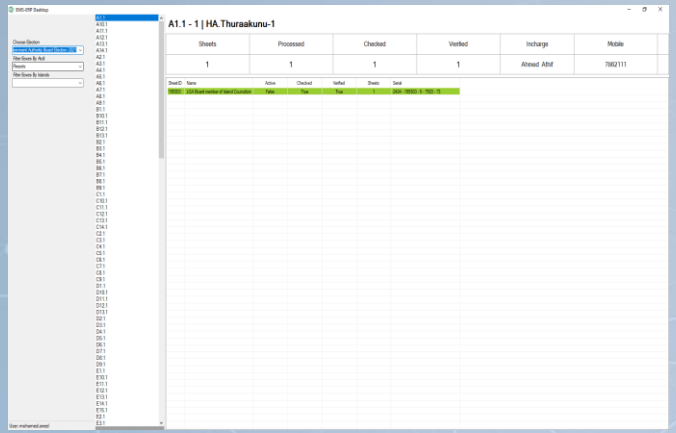
Voting Progress Reporting System

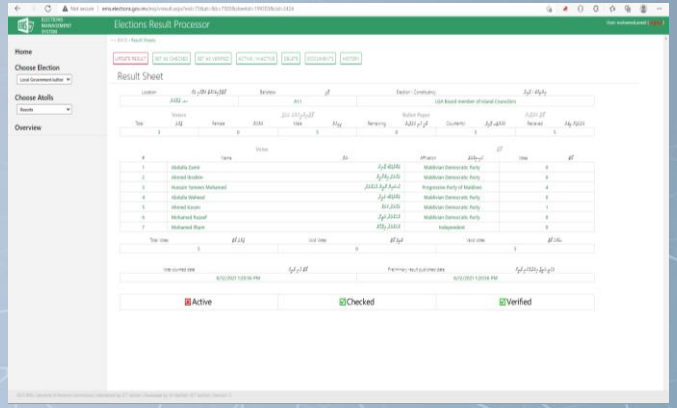


Election Management System (EMS)

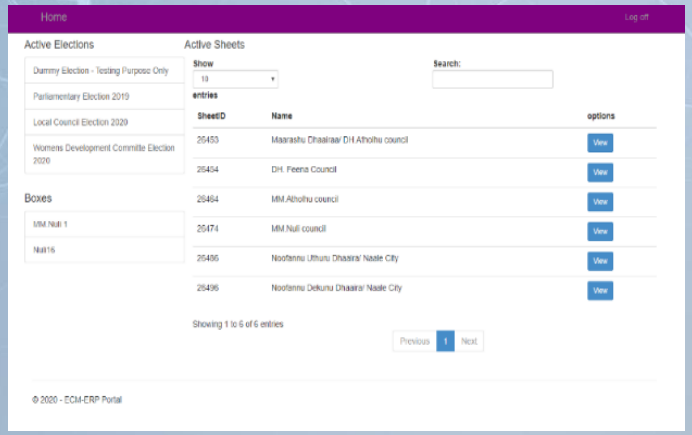


Result Processing Applications (Internal)

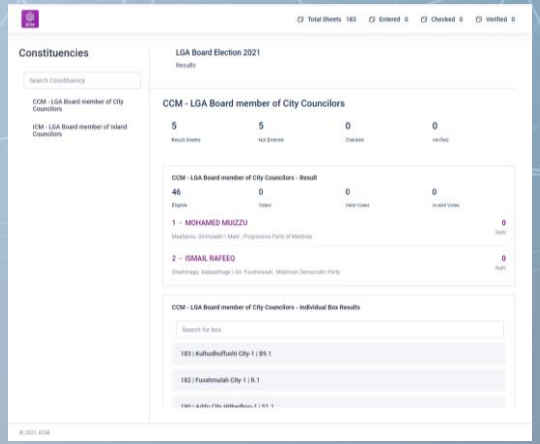




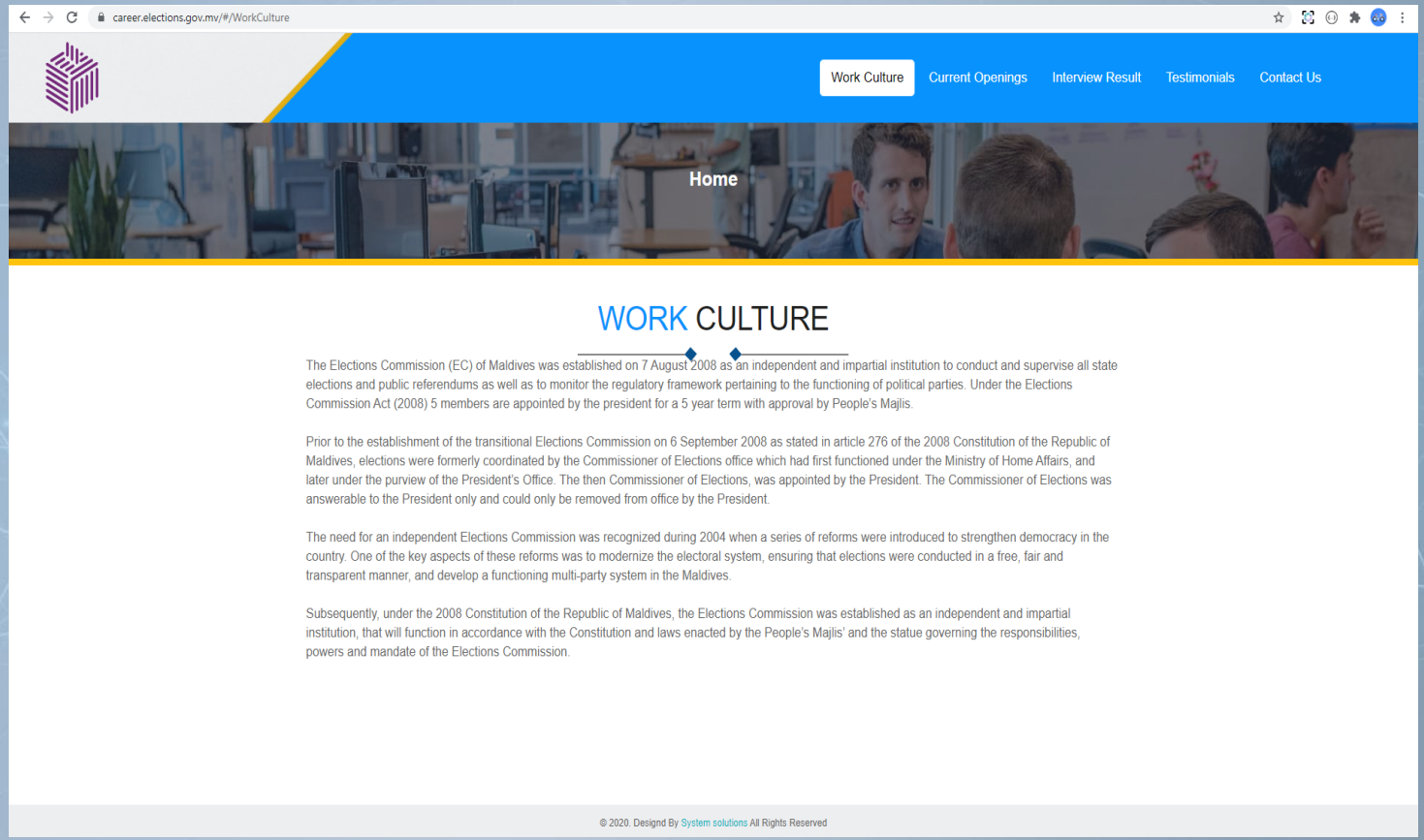
Result Processing Application (External)



Result Viewer (Public)



Online Staff / Observers / Monitors Recruitment Portal



Thank You!

निर्वाचन आयोग, नेपाल
ELECTION COMMISSION, NEPAL

Use of technology to improve the capacity of stakeholders in the election process

11th FEMBoSA Meeting
11th August, 2021
Election Commission, Nepal

Introduction:

- **Name of EMB:** Election Commission, Nepal

- **Scope:** Conduct, supervise, direct and control Federal level (including the President and Vice-president), Provincial level and Local level (Local Bodies) elections; Referenda; Preparation of the electoral roll.

- **Number of Commissioners:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and 4 four other Commissioners.

- **Commissioner's Tenure:** 6 years from date of appointment, until the age of 65 years.

- **CEC and Commissioners appointed by:** The President of Nepal in recommendation of Constitutional Council.

- **Selection basis:** Education, political neutrality, age (minimum 45 years) and high moral character.

Current status: Use of technology in the election… 1

- The trend of using technology by ECN is in incremental basis whereas other stakeholders are in the stage of initiation.
- The COVID 19 pandemic has thrusted us to adopt implementation of virtual programmes using ICT.
- The ECN's Third Strategic Plan (2019-24) has conceptualized the development of technology-based electoral process as one of the five major strategic pillars to be adopted by the ECN.

Current status: use of technology in the election …2

- Currently, the ECN is using the following technologies in the election process:
  - Use of biometric-based voter registration system (BBVRS).
  - Use of virtual medium (e.g. zoom) to conduct training, consultations and similar events during COVID 19 pandemic.
  - Live broadcasting of polling, counting and announcement of result during the 2019 and 2020 by-elections to maintain the COVID 19 guideline.

Current status: use of technology in the election …3

- Use of online platforms by media outlets are being escalated in recent elections. At the same time, misinformation, disinformation and hate speeches are also in the rise. The ECN has formulated Social Media Policy, 2021 in order to regulate misinformation, disinformation and hate speeches during election period.
- Election Result Information System (ERIS)
- SMS-based Event Tracking System; Mobile Application named "Election"
- Use of GIS technology by Constituency De-limitation Commission in 2016.

Way ahead: the use of technology in the election…1

- ECN is developing **Political Party Self-assessment System (PASS)** software to self regulate political parties for the strengthening of intra-party democracy and compliance of Political Party Act/Regulation as well as electoral code of conduct.
- Implementation of online voter registration for new voters and the voters living and working abroad.
- Study on use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

Way ahead: the use of technology in the election…2

- Initiate discussion on developing software on Political Party and Campaign Expenses.
- ECN is under process of formulating a **Media Policy and Media Monitoring Procedure** for election management, adopting ICT tools.
- Use of Electoral violence mitigation software during election period.
- Implementation of Electoral dispute resolution information management software.

Way ahead: the use of technology in the election…3

- GIS-based system for the management of polling stations.
- Formulation of Civic Engagement Policy using ICT tools.
- The Commission will continuously focus on expanding the use of technology for the capacity development of its stakeholders - where applicable.
- ECN looks forward to collaborate with Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of FEMBoSA.

Thank You

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

SRI LANKA

Use of Technology for Media Monitoring, Including Social Media during Elections in Sri Lanka

Use of technology in monitoring media including social media in elections in Sri Lanka

Introduction

- Evolution of media has been intrinsically linked to that of technology.

- The mass communication modes such as radio, television, printed publications and social media provide the means by which most citizens receive information that is central to making political choices.

Use of Electronic media/Social Media in Elections

- There is a wide range of Electronic media that broadcast a variety of different election campaign in different electronic media types such as television, radio, handheld devices.

- Currently, social media seems to be increasingly important as sources of news, especially among those who are below 40 years of age.

- Moreover, there are about 6 million active Facebook users in Sri Lanka.

Use of Electronic media/Social Media in Elections

- Election Commission of Sri Lanka has an official facebook page which is named as **Election Commission of Sri Lanka which** communicates important messages to general public on voter registration well as election related information.

- The link **Tell Commission** answers the queries of general public related to election domain through facebook messenger which could deliver an effective and efficient public service.

- The **YouTube** channel also is used to disseminate election related information in a clear, easy and comprehensive way reaching out to more citizens in Sri Lanka improving their awareness.

Parliamentary Election 2020 amidst Covid 19 pandemic

- Understanding what is happening around the country is a fundamental step to safeguard universal franchise of the citizen in Sri Lanka.

- Receiving adequate information and also to ensure a level playing field, media should also be allowed as much as possible for the public to learn about candidates' policy and plans, in a safe and secure manner amidst Covid 19 pandemic.

Parliamentary Election 2020 amidst Covid 19 pandemic

- It was not conducive for political public campaign amidst responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in a way to contain the spread of the covid virus, while protecting and respecting democratic practices.

- Usage of multiple modes of public engagement such as meeting and greeting, door to door visits, speaking events, had to reconsider to minimize the spread of the Covid virus.

Electronic Media/Social Media Monitoring in Sri Lanka

Given the numbers (volume) and diversity of operators both electronic media and social media, observing their content and activates during the election period is always tedious and challenging.

Television and Radio

The current television monitoring process is mainly focusing on News bulletins of popular free to air television channels. However, majority are left out including satellite and other direct to home channels.

Department of Government Information and Ministry of Media handled the responsibility of television monitoring on the instruction of Election Commission of Sri Lanka.

Electronic Media/Social Media Monitoring in Sri Lanka

Social Media

- Due to the volume and diversity of the involvements, social media monitoring becomes impossible task for any organization.

However following different strategies were used

- Making official content freely and abundantly available in the social media to avoid publishing of unconfirmed and baseless contents.
- Monitoring and direct or quick responding towards contents of social media.
- Direct engagement with social media service providers to remove any harmful content from the platform itself.
- Encouraging the role of Fact Checkers.

Challenges of Electronic Media/Social Media Monitoring in Sri Lanka

- Deciding the realistic scope or framework of media monitoring without confining only to the News Bulletins.
- Financial resources to establish comprehensive and realistic monitoring system (Hardware, Software and Human Resources)
- Continuously evolving dynamics of media landscape
- Proper legal framework to provide legality for the whole process
- Creating Stakeholder collaboration and awareness
- Capacity of human resources including election officials and other stakeholders
- Lack of Technical Capacities (Server Capacities, Retrieving limitations)

With the outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic, there was room for novel concepts and innovations. Though Social Media was in existence prior to this, ***defeat for the deadly virus and victory for Democracy*** was the catch phrase of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, during the Elections.

Thank you!

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

BHUTAN

Use of Technology for Enhancing Transparent, Accessible and Inclusive Voting

Best practices on the use of Technology for Enhancing Transparent, Accessible and Inclusive Voting in the Elections

Election Commission of Bhutan

ICT in Bhutanese Electoral Process

- ICTization of electoral process – A Vision
- Technology plays vital role in electoral process
- The global pandemic – An opportunity
  - Rethink elections
  - Innovations
  - Technology

Voter Management

Civil Registry

New Registration

Information Management

Census Transfer

Exclusion/ Inclusion

Voters with Disabilities

Database

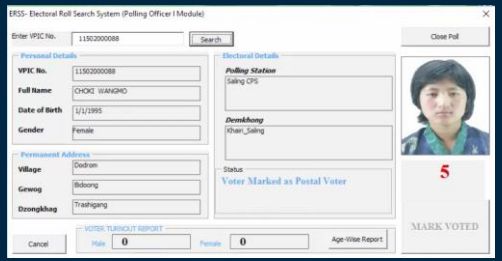
Website

Enrollment Check

Eroll

Reports

VPIC



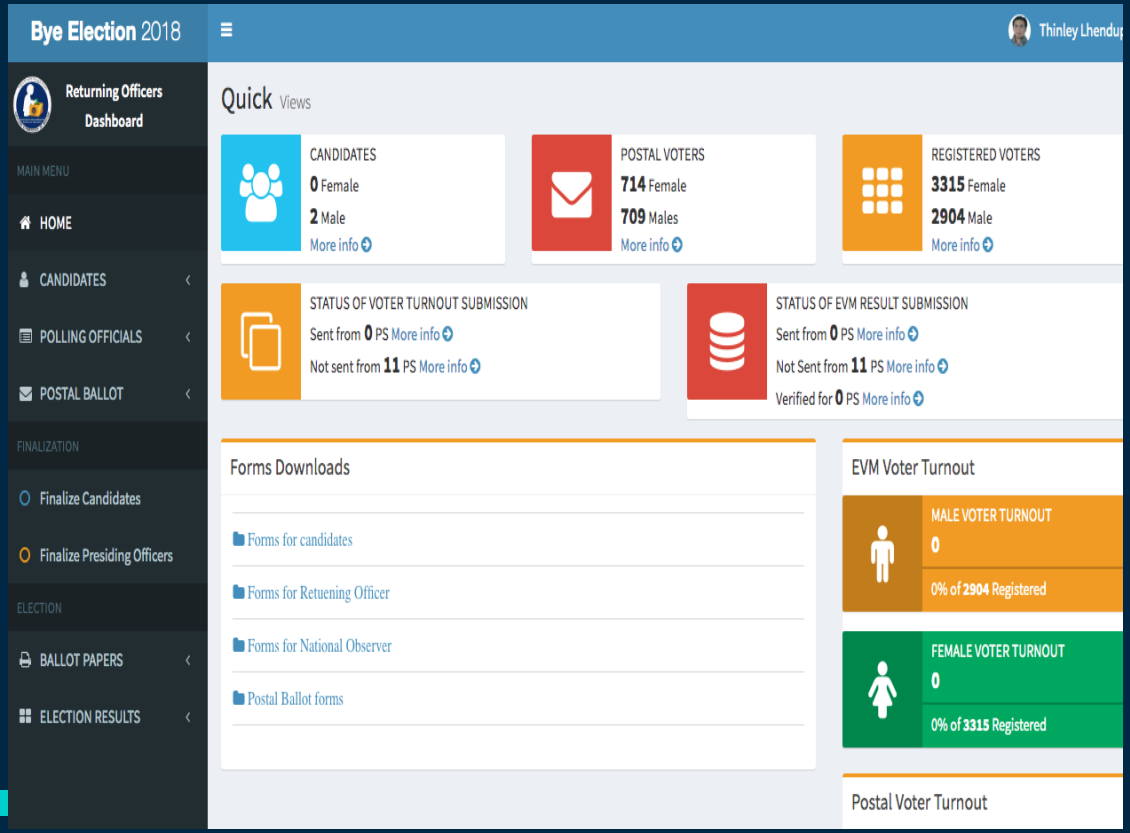
Electoral Roll Search System (ERSS)

Bhutan Electoral Roll Management System (BERMS)

Political Parties Member Management

- System for Registered Political Parties
- Checks multiple member registration
- Checks multi-party member registration
- Check if the member if civil servant
- Book of account
- Campaign finance
- Campaign expenditure

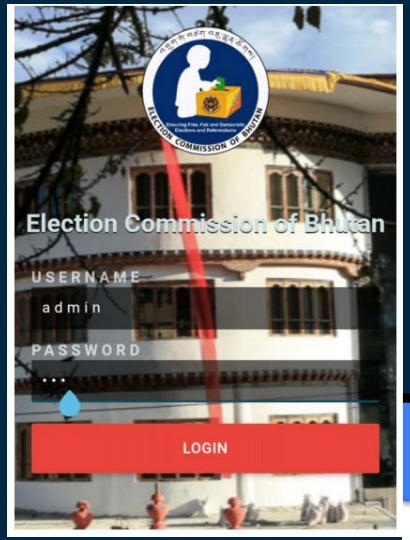
RO Dashboard

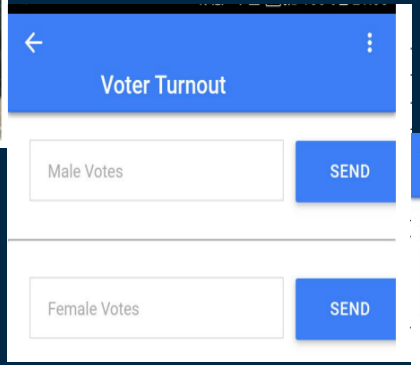


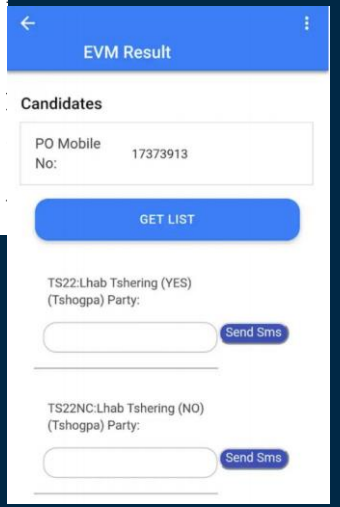
- Candidate Information Management
- Candidate Documents Management
- Polling Official Management
- Postal Ballot Send/Receive Information
- Sending PB Voter Turnout and Result
- Verify Result

SMS System

- Mobile Application
- Generates structured SMS
- Used by presiding officers on poll day
- Voter turnout report
- EVM results



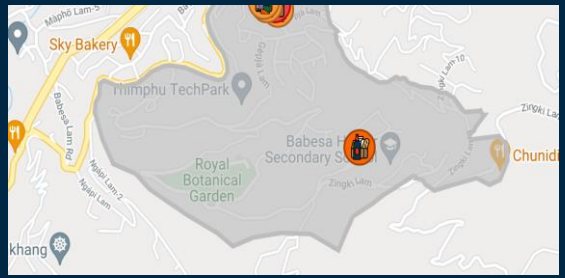




Online Services and Application Integration

- FLT Registration
- Postal Ballot Registration
- Check enrollment
- Website and social media

- Strategies
- SOPs



Ensuring Free, Fair and Democratic Elections and Referendums
ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

Thank you