Booth Level Officer
e-Patrika



*Representation of Interaction between the Baiga Community (PVTGs) & a BLO

Volume 7

Inclusive Indian Elections

The Baiga tribe constitute one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). They mainly live in regions spanning Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Traditionally, the Baiga people led a semi-nomadic lifestyle and practised slash-and-burn agriculture as their primary means of sustenance.

Interestingly, tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.



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ECI's focus areas during Special Summary Revision (SSR)

- TRANSPARENTLY PREPARED ELECTORAL ROLL
- PURE ELECTORAL ROLL
- HEALTHY ELECTORAL ROLL
- INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL ROLL

Purpose of the Special Summary Revision

- To enrol all eligible citizens into the Electoral Roll in a campaign mode.
- Collction of Form 6 (advance application forms) from prospective electors.
- Comparing the electoral roll's Elector Population ratio to the projected population's 18+ age bracket in accordance with the Census.
- Comparing the gender ratio on rolls to the projected gender ratio determined by the census.
- To increase the number of Indians living overseas who are eligible to vote.
- Marking PwDs in ER on the basis of data of PwDs aged 18 and older in the Social Welfare Department in each state after obtaining options from electors in Form-6 and Form-8.
- Increase in the enrolment of members of underrepresented communities e.g. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), sex workers, third genders, homeless & nomads, etc.
- Purification of Electoral Rolls by removing multiple entries and names of dead electors.

1

Enrolment of youth (including newly eligible youth in the 18-19 age group)

Include the Youth Voter Festival in the Calendar before the summary revision

2

Enrolment of Women

Focused attention on enlisting newly wedded women at the residential place of their husbands, housewives and women working as labourers in factories, small industrial facilities, etc. in urban areas

3

Enrolment of Persons with Disabilities

Keep track of information about their impairment in the BLO register to assist with and facilitate their registration on the electoral roll.

4

Outreach Methods for increasing Enrolment

BLOs should dessiminate critical information/ events related to SSR on their social media platforms.

Selfie campaigns on social media & Selfie with the BLO are two unique social media efforts

Booth Level Officer's
Implementation Plan

- Analysis at the booth level
- A house-to-house survey
- Identification of communities & groups with lower representation at the booth level
- Identification of dead/shifted/ duplicate electors for removal
- Physical verification of polling station locations
- Analysis to identify gaps with a special focus on enrolment of youth & women

Importance of House to House Field Survey

- **Data Gathering to update the ER entries**
- **Eligible citizens who have not yet registered (eligible as on 01.10.2024)**
- **Collect advance forms of prospective electors w.r.t the three subsequent qualifying dates of the year**
- **Removal of multiple entries, deceased voters, and permanently shifted voters**







Glimpses of BLO conducting House to House survey

Focus Point for every BLO:



- Popularisation of different apps such as the Voter Helpline App, Saksham App, Voter Service Portal, and Help-line number 1950 and use of BLO App for filling information directly on the app to instil a sense of faith in the public
- Become a guide for the voters and make them feel that election is a delightful experience
- Coordination with Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties
- Behave in a friendly manner to make the voters comfortable as BLOs are the first point of contact with the electors

Activities during SSR

The final revision exercise of the electoral roll has two stages: Pre-revision activities and Revision activities.

Pre-Revision Activities

- Suggestion on Rationalisation/ Re-arrangement of Polling Stations.
- House to House (H2H) verification



Glimpses of BLO conducting activities

Important: Pre-revision operations are to be given equal weightage with revision activities in order to produce high-quality electoral rolls.

Don't Forget

While doing the rationalisation of the Polling Station

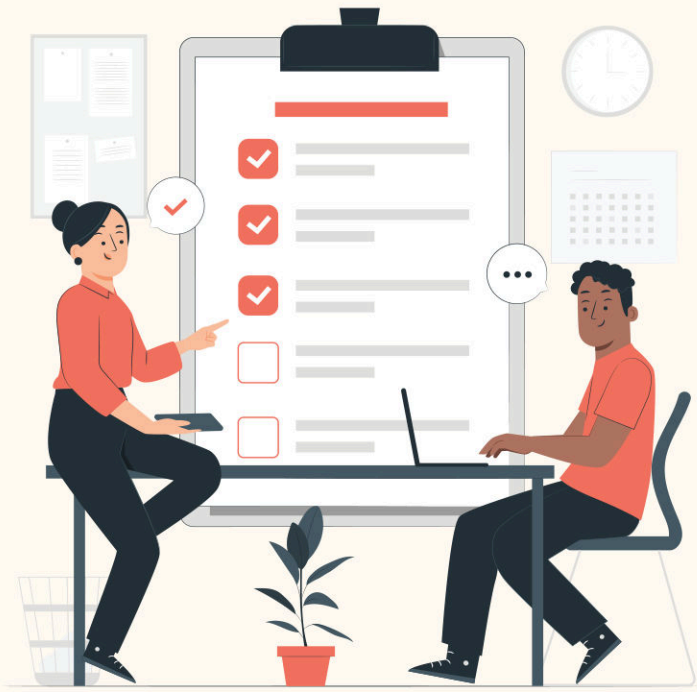
100 % physical verification of the polling station locations and the pertinent electoral rolls

To use their registered cellphone number to upload images and location information of the polling centre in the BLO App, along with the booth's latitude & longitude

Grouping all family members & neighbours in a section and maintaining uniformity of addresses in ER and EPICs are two additional goals of polling stations rationalisation

Each BLO is to pledge to maintain the following checklist of pre-revision activities:

- No family is broken and all the registered family members are kept in the same section and in the same part in the ER.
- The appropriate construction and revision of sections and portions to represent the correct house numbers.
- Collection of forms for entry of left out/prospective electors.
- Good quality of correct images of booths as per ECI standards by using BLO app.
- 100% removal of multiple entires\dead electors\permanently shifted electors



Revision Activities

Safeguard/ checklist against wrongful deletions from electoral roll :

- In case of registered death, deletion shall be made only after the production of Form -7 along with death certificate.
- To avoid wrongful deletions, intimation from family members\relatives or BLO's report is needed. Deletions on the ground of death will be made only when Form- 7 is received.
- While making field verification, make specific remarks in the report on the status of shifting\death as the case may be.
- BLO report will be necessary for deletion and so he\she must be cautious to report correctly.
- No deletion without Form-7 & following the due process of verification.

S.No	Revision Activities	Period
1.	Special campaign dates	Two Saturdays and Sundays within the claims and objection period (to be fixed by the CEO)

Important: BLO can put banners at designated places and form social media groups for promotion of SSR.

Forms to remember for Claims & Objections:

Form 6

Application Form for New Voter

Form 6A

Application for inclusion in Electoral Roll by an overseas Indian elector

Form 6B

Letter of Information of Aadhar Number for the purpose of electoral roll authentication (Optional)

Form 7

Application Form for objection for Proposed Inclusion/ Deletion of Name in existing Electoral Roll

Form 8

Application Form for Shifting of Residence within constituency as well as outside the constituency

Correction of Entries in Existing Electoral Roll

Issue of replacement EPIC

Request for marking as PwD

Story from the ground

Mrs. Shanti Yadav is an Anganwadi Worker and has been serving as the BLO for booth 45 in the 56- Sihawa Legislative Assembly, Chhattisgarh

She utilises the BLO App to carry out her responsibilities related to election tasks. She conducted a comprehensive survey of every household, collecting new Form 6 applications from individuals aged 18-19.

She received a total of 13 Form 6 submissions and identified 17 persons with disabilities and marked them in the voter list. The booth comprises a total of 1234 voters. Some parts of her area of responsibility have a tribal focus and encounter network connectivity challenges.

Nonetheless, she gradually grasped the user-friendly and precise nature of the BLO App, which streamlined the process of registering new voters. She takes pride in being honoured as the **"Best BLO"** by the Commission at the State-level Voter Festival 2023 held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on August 25, 2023.



Mrs. Shanti Yadav receiving award for "Best BLO" by Commission



Mrs. Shanti Yadav at duty



Mrs. Shanti Yadav in front of the booth





Mrs. Samita Goswami carrying out BLO duties



Mrs. Samita Goswami receiving award for "Best BLO" by Commission

Mrs. Samita Goswami is serving as a BLO at polling station No. 255, Devrahat, in the Lormi constituency, district Mungeli, Chhattisgarh

She has been working as an Anganwadi worker in the Women and Child Development Department, and also as a BLO for the past 15 years. She conducted door-to-door visits in her polling centre area and organised additional camps in the villages to encourage voters to actively participate in the election process.

She made announcements using loudspeakers and visited households to request the public to get themselves registered. She successfully digitised all forms and completed all tasks ahead of schedule. For her achievements, she was honoured by the Election Commission of India at the State-level Voter Festival 2023 held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on August 25, 2023.



Baaton Baaton Mein

In Conversation with BLO



Brij Gopal Chaturvedi is a primary teacher and also serves as the BLO for 13 Anganwadi Centre, situated in New Basti, Takta, Tikamgarh Tehsil, Madhya Pradesh

I approach my role as a BLO with a distinct purpose, aiming to bring uniqueness to my responsibilities. I am dedicated to inspiring the voters in my constituency by creatively connecting with them. Given my inclination toward music and singing, I use musical methods to convey key information. I compose and sing songs that not only engage but also educate the voters. This approach has significantly contributed to the success of my duties and has elevated my popularity among the voters.

During my household visits, I am received with respect and cooperation. My unique approach aids me in fulfilling my BLO responsibilities, which include the addition of new voters, the removal of deceased individuals' names, and updates on absentee voters. This supportive environment enables me to maintain an accurate and error-free Electoral Roll for my booth.



Facilitated by Commission in Bhopal on 05.09.23







Election Commission of India

recognised

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar,

Bharat Ratna Awardee

as its

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