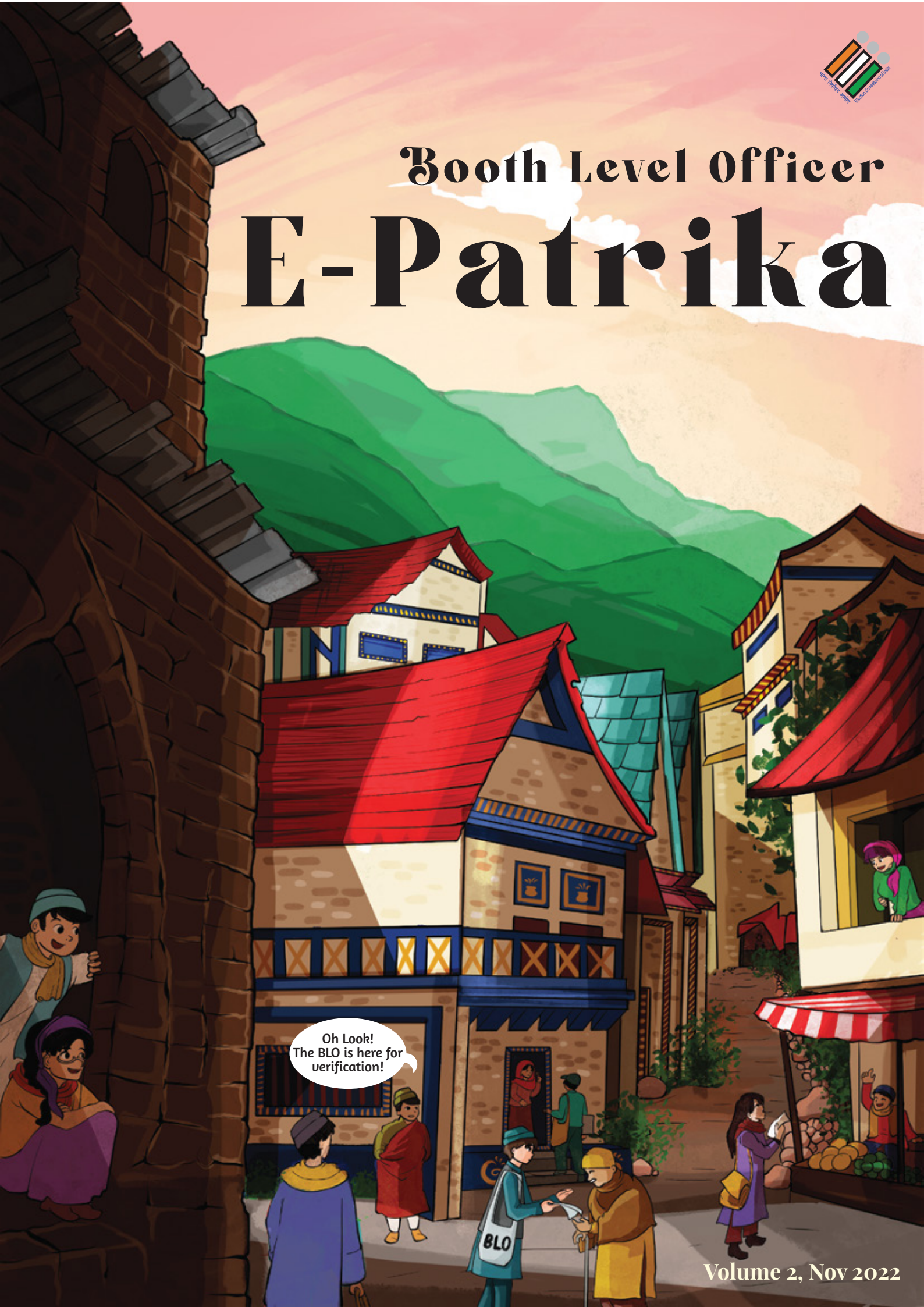
Booth Level Officer

E-Patrika



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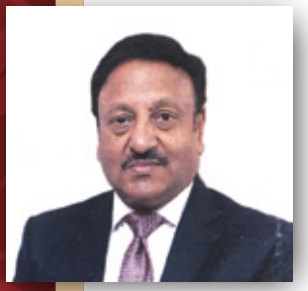

Message from

Rajiv Kumar,
Chief Election Commissioner of India

> कमीशन के रूप में आप साकार हैं,
> कमीशन का आप व्यवहार है।
> आप कमीशन के दृष्टि और स्वर भी हैं,
> इसलिए आप सबको अत्यंत आभार है।

A BLO's behaviour can be critical for the voter to understand the behaviour of a government official. BLOs are the true representation of the Election Commission of India on ground. It is, thus, important for them to build a trustworthy relationship with the citizens.

(Rajiv Kumar)

Message from

Anup Chandra Pandey,
Election Commissioner of India

The BLO e-Patrika aims to motivate every booth-level officer to become efficient and innovative in approach.
A three-point paradigm, also known as the BLO triangle, can be kept in mind to ensure the efficiency of our grass-root workers – First, where does the BLO reside? Second, where does the BLO work? Third, what is the area assigned to the BLO for election work?
Connect these three to get maximum efficiency on ground.

(Anup Chandra Pandey)

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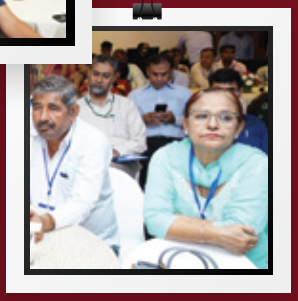
Click on the text to see the video.

Glimpses from the launch of BLO E-Patrika*

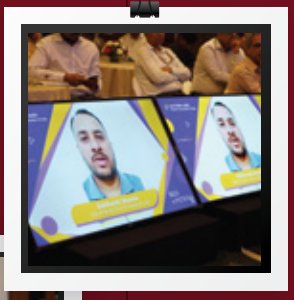


1. Over 350 BLOs joined via video-conferencing from the office of Chief Electoral Officers in States/UTs and 150 BLOs from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi joined the launch event on 14th September 2022, physically at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

2. The event was live-streamed on the ECI YouTube channel* and was shared with over 10 lakh BLOs for facilitating their participation.

3. During the event, ECI YouTube channel gained over 25,000 subscribers and over 2.4 lakh views were received.

4. It was a first-of-its-kind direct interaction by the Commission with the BLOs across the country.



*Click on the text to see the video.

NVD Activities at the Booth

National Voters' Day is celebrated all over the country on January 25 every year since 2011 to mark the Foundation Day of the Election Commission of India, which was established on this day in the year 1950. The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrollment, especially for new voters.

Quick NVD checklist for BLOs

1. Plan the function at the polling station
2. Organize quizzes, and competitions for essay writing, debate, drawing, etc.
3. Distribute EPIC Cards & assist e-EPIC downloads
4. Administer the NVD pledge
5. Identify and enroll new eligible voters

BLO Facts

- In Gujarat, the number of Persons with Disability marked in electoral roll increased from 1.68 lakh (Lok Sabha elections 2019) to 4.04 lakh today.
- A KAP (Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice) Survey from Bihar found that visit of the BLO to the respondents' residence (57.18%) was the major motivation medium for enrolment.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, all BLOs were trained in Sign Language to make the election process accessible for everyone.

QUICK REMINDERS FOR BLOs

1. Distribute Form 8 for correction of entries in the existing roll, replacement of EPIC & marking of PwDs.
2. Provide Form 8 to the voters shifted in the constituency for inclusion in the Electoral Roll
3. Identification of expired/shifted/duplicate voters for removal from the Electoral Roll.
4. Conducting field verification and submitting report to the ERO/AERO.
5. Distribution of Voter Slip and assistance on polling day.
6. Increased usage of Garuda App.

The relationship between voters and BLOs will strengthen only when their interaction is frequent and fruitful.

PwD App 2.0 launched: A handy tool to empower PwD voters

Launched by Honorable Election Commission on 4th Nov 2022 with new design, layout, interface & features. The primary focus of PWD App 2.0 is to ensure easy access for Persons with Disability (PwD).

- **This mobile App is specifically designed to keep visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other disabilities in mind.**
- **PwD users can search their names & their voter ID details using this app.**
- **The application also provides the facility for marking oneself as PwD requesting for required assistance.**
- **The application is available on Android and iOS platforms.**

New version includes additional features like:

- Know your candidates
- Booth Locator
- Grievance redressal/ information
- Facilities at Polling Station
- Request for assistance at the booth
- Request for pick and drop
- FAQs
- Audio/ Video on accessible elections

BLOs must encourage the use of this app amongst PwD Voters.

Special Summary Revision -2023

An opportunity to prove yourself, Mr. BLO!

Special Summary Revision (SSR) for the ongoing year started on 9th November and will continue till 8th December 2022.

It is an important activity for addition of new voters and deletion of deceased/shifted voter so that the electoral rolls are pure & healthy. Online applications through *Voter Helpline App or nvsp.in* should be the prefered mode for filing claims & objections.

BLOs should provide all electoral services to citizens using Garuda App.

SSR-23 is going on in all the states of the country except 3 states - Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The ERO will publish the final voter list on 5th January 2023.

Listen to the latest episode of Matdata Junction on Special Summary Revision 2023

The SSR 2022-23 objectives:

1. Enrolment of newly eligible voters (18 years on or before 01.01.2023) and receiving advance application from prospective voters (18 years from 02.01.2023 to 01.10.2023)
2. Removal of DSEs/ PSEs.
3. Aadhaar linkage (Optional), Updating of Mobile number/Photo Update.
4. Correction/Deletion of entries.
5. Informing people about four qualifying dates for registration of young voters.
6. Purification of Electoral Roll by deleting all duplicate entries, deceased & permanently shifted voters.
7. Registration of voters all sections of the society, including youth, women, marginalized sections of society, transgender community, homeless voters, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) & PwDs (marking) as a step towards inclusive elections.

If BLOs are attentive and vigilant about this responsibility, they can ensure an updated, inclusive & error-free electoral roll.

Stories from the Ground

Real tales of courage, perseverance and dedication

Meghalaya's special BLO!

Smt. Batimon Nongsteng, who has hearing impairment, became the state's first special Booth Level Officer for Persons with Disability. Nongsteng hails from Massar village, which has the maximum number of hearing-impaired people. She mostly works for hearing-impaired electors/voters in the polling stations of Massar under the Pynursla constituency in East Khasi Hills District.

A BLO in need is a BLO indeed!

Punjab

Hema, a 28-year-old visually impaired citizen of Amritsar wanted to enroll herself as a voter before the General Elections 2019. Commission's wide publicity for Accessible Elections and thereon SVEEP interventions helped Hema initiate a call on the toll-free number 1950. Not only was she facilitated with all the information but a BLO visited her residence to help her fill up Form-6. She got her EPIC in time and the facility of pick-and-drop on polling day.

Stories Of Dedication, Commitment & Pride

Himachal Pradesh

One Goal: Accessible Elections for All

An 80-year-old Smt. Anita Devi, a permanent resident of village Khera, Tehsil Nalagarh, District Solan (H.P.) was very weak owing to her physical disability. The polling station where she was to cast her vote in Khera – Nanowal of 51 – Nalagarh Assembly segment, was about 3 KM from the place of her residence. On the day of the poll i.e. May 19, 2019, BLO from Khera Nanowal was informed that the said lady was expressing her inability to exercise her franchise owing to her physical disability and non-availability of any means of transport. The BLO acted as a catalyst and promptly conveyed the issue to the Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Assistant Returning Officer, Sh. Prasant Desta. Receiving this information, Sh.Desta decided to visit the lady's residence personally,and assisted to cast her vote. He personally escorted her to the polling booth in his vehicle, and dropped her back after she cast her vote!

Baaton Baaton Mein

In Conversation with BLO

Name: Meenakshi Khattar
(PS: 147, AC: 13 Rohini, Delhi)

I work in the education department. The total number of voters under my jurisdiction is 715. Out of these, 590 voters have linked their EPIC with Aadhaar. Considering that Epic-Aadhaar linkage is purely voluntary in nature when I started the campaign to educate voters about the latest election reform, all kinds of reactions were thrown at me. While some voters were easily convinced and understood the relevance of the request, many outrightly rejected the idea.

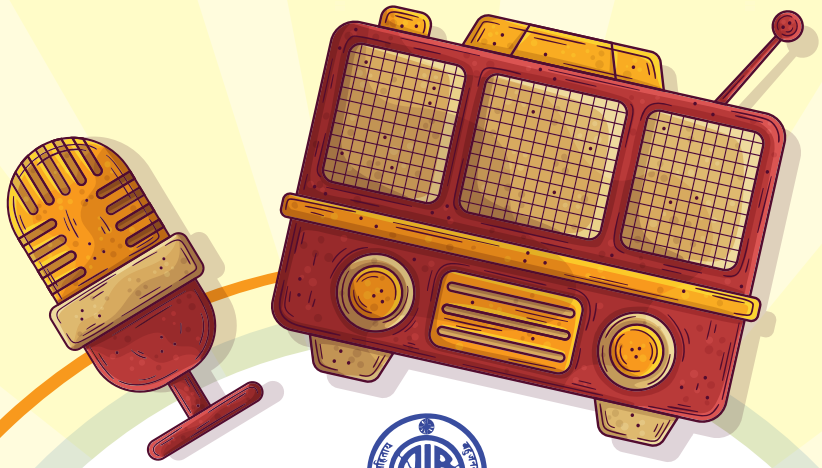
At this point, I took help from local bodies like the Resident Welfare Society (RWS) and requested access to their official WhatsApp group. This allowed me to share all the relevant information sent from CEO Delhi regarding Epic-Aadhaar linkage directly to the voters with a single click. I ensured to clarify to everyone that this linkage will prevent any form of duplication in the electoral roll and make the list clean. I also displayed posters and pamphlets related to the subject in my society. This had a positive impact on the voters. I am happy to convey that I was able to overcome all the hurdles and could satisfactorily answer the queries of the voters. This resulted in a good number of voters linking their voter IDs with aadhaar.

Name: Jagdish Prasad Vishnoi
(PS: 91, AC: 139, Barmer, Rajasthan)

Humanity above all: BLO rescues deer during door-to-door survey

On a hot afternoon after school time, I was on the field for the door-to-door survey to spread information about Epic-Aadhaar linkage. Suddenly, I saw a group of dogs running behind a female deer and its baby in the sand dunes. The deer was profusely injured while the fawn was struggling to escape. Due to excessive bleeding, the deer died on spot but I managed to save the fawn. I took the deer to Amrutadevi Wildlife Conservation centre in a private vehicle and ensured proper treatment. It should be a common goal to protect wildlife animals and rescue those in danger. Humanity is above everything else.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India



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