

Session 1: Issues, Emerging and Future challenges, Innovative Initiatives /Best practices , Past learnings and Way forward. (in pre-poll scenario)

Theme: A. Pre poll activities related to conduct of election

B. Reforms in Electoral & Voter Registration - To prevent passive or active exclusion (more participation of youth, women, marginalized section)

Pre-poll activities related to local body elections are crucial for ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process and encouraging maximum participation from the electorate.

1. Voter Registration:

Door-to-Door Campaigns: Conducting door-to-door campaigns to register eligible voters and update voter rolls with accurate information.

Special Registration Camps: Organizing special registration camps in local communities, schools, and public places to facilitate voter registration.

2. Voter Education and Awareness:

Information Campaigns: Launching information campaigns to educate voters about the importance of local body elections, the role of elected representatives, and the voting process.

Training Programs: Providing training sessions for election officials, polling staff, and volunteers to ensure they are well-equipped to assist voters and handle election-related tasks effectively.

3. Candidate Nomination Process:

Notification of Elections: Issuing notifications announcing the schedule of elections, including the dates for filing nominations, scrutiny, and withdrawal of candidature.

Filing of Nomination Papers: Facilitating the filing of nomination papers by aspiring candidates and ensuring compliance with eligibility criteria and legal requirements.

4. Polling Station Setup:

Identification of Polling Stations: Identifying suitable polling station locations based on population density, accessibility, and other factors to ensure convenient access for voters.

Infrastructure Preparation: Arranging for the setup of polling booths, installation of voting machines, and provision of necessary amenities for voters and polling personnel.

5. Security Arrangements:

Deployment of Security Personnel: Coordinating with law enforcement agencies to deploy adequate security personnel at polling stations to maintain law and order during the electoral process.

Security Briefings: Conducting security briefings for polling staff and security personnel to ensure a safe and secure environment for voters and election officials.

6. Voter Outreach Programs:

Public Meetings and Rallies: Organizing public meetings, rallies, and awareness programs featuring candidates and political parties to engage voters and address their concerns.

Media Campaigns: Utilizing various media channels such as newspapers, radio, television, and social media platforms to disseminate election-related information and encourage voter participation.

7. Monitoring and Oversight:

Election Monitoring Committees: Establishing election monitoring committees at the local level to oversee the conduct of pre-poll activities, address grievances, and ensure compliance with electoral rules and regulations.

Observers and Watchdogs: Engaging independent observers, civil society organizations, and watchdog groups to monitor the electoral process and report any irregularities or violations.

8. Special Initiatives for Marginalized Groups:

Special Voter Registration Drives: Conducting targeted voter registration drives and outreach programs to ensure the participation of marginalized groups such as women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to avoid active or passive exclusion.

Accessibility Measures: Implementing measures to enhance accessibility for elderly and disabled voters, including the provision of ramps, tactile ballots, and assistance from polling officials.