

AHMEDABAD

AWARD CATEGORY :



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An Electoral Challenge

Ahmedabad is the largest district of Gujarat state and also a challenge for any Election Management machinery owing to its huge scale. Ahmedabad district's population (78.93 lakhs) is more than population of 132 countries of the world. Ahmedabad has 21 ACs and 5451 polling stations. The number of electors (52.75 lakhs) is more than that of entire State of Himachal Pradesh. The number of electors of Ahmedabad district is roughly equal to the combined total of electors of 10 other districts



of Gujarat. Ahmedabad is also the economic capital of the state and the hub of all the political activity. During Election, it witnessed a heavy traffic of star campaigners, high media attention and also the task of managing large number of VVIP voters.

Apart from this, some other unique challenges include:

- 84% urban population
- High mobility within the city from one area to another creating a nightmare for Electoral Roll managers
- Large number of migrant laborers
- Ever changing geography with rapidly developing out growth areas in all directions with many residential units coming up every month

Despite the above challenges, DEO Ahmedabad Team worked tirelessly and ensured 100% free, fair, peaceful and inclusive Election with a high turnout of 66.74%.

Some of the key achievements and highlights of Ahmedabad District election Management efforts are provided herewith.

Electoral Roll Management

Exemplary work was carried out by the entire Ahmedabad team during the two Summary Revision drives followed by the Continuous Updation Period. The fast developing out growth areas within the periphery of Ahmedabad city were paid special attention for enrolment of the left out citizens. Intensive SVEEP activities were carried out to reach out to left out electors. Large number of enrolment camps was organized at different Industries, Industrial Associations, Kadiya Nakas, Organizations working with PwDs, Old Age Homes, Resident Welfare Associations, Educational Institutions, UCD Centers, Anganwadi Centers etc. Variety of activities like Young Voters' Festival, Rallies, Folk Media

programs, Signature Campaigns, Skits etc. were carried out for awareness. The BLOs put in exemplary efforts by reaching out door-to-door to every household, even in distant and remote areas. Total 39 lakh bulk SMS were sent to the citizens in Continuous Updation period appealing them to check their names and get enrolled if left out.

Key Achievements

- At the end of Continuous Updation Period, Ahmedabad achieved a net addition of 141,894 new voters including 90,865 young voters.
- Ahmedabad achieved a Roll EP Ratio (66.83) almost equal to the Census EP Ratio (66.80) reflecting the well planned targeted efforts by the Ahmedabad DEO team.



- The Roll Gender Ratio improved from 902 at the start of the year to 910 by end of Continuous Updation, as compared to Census Gender Ratio of 903 indicating inclusion of a large number of women electors.

Photo Voter Slips (PVS)

The 52,75,062 pages of the PVS were generated through software, which was gigantic task in a record time. The printing of PVS was also completed in record time. The distribution of PVS started on 1.12.17 and was completed on 7.12.17 by visiting approximate 19 Lakh families, which tells the story of proper planning, hard work and dedication.

Polling Station Management

One of the major accomplishments by Ahmedabad district was how impressively the Polling Station Rationalization was implemented.

82 polling stations had to be shifted due to damages by heavy rains. Due to the increase in number of electors, 21 auxiliary polling stations were created after Special Summary Revisions and 17 auxiliary polling stations were created after Continuous Updation. The final count of the total polling station in the district thus was 5451 at 1878 polling station locations. Total 83,389 electors in 692 sections that were found to be situated at some distance from the polling station were shifted to the nearest polling stations on the basis of the field survey made by the BLOs and Sector Officers after obtaining approval from the Commission. Each and every elector was informed in writing by the BLOs regarding all these changes in the polling station locations.

All the 5451 polling stations were provided all prescribed amenities under the AMF including electricity, furniture, drinking water, ramp etc. Proper bedding for the polling party and police personnel were provided for making night halt on the pre-poll night.

Total 5451 Voter Assistance Booths were set up at each and every polling station, which were found to be very useful for assistance of the voters.

46,500 A3 size posters showing the relevant polling station and its location were pasted by the BLOs at all the Societies/Apartments entrance gate/notice board for information of the residents.



Ahmedabad district established 21 'Sakhi' polling stations. All the functionaries in charge of conducting elections like Presiding Officer, three Polling Officers, Micro Observers and Security personnel were women.

EVM/VVPAT Management

7696 BUs and 7046 CUs were acquired from Punjab and 7800 VVPAT units were acquired from BEL, Bangalore, which is almost equal to the 7525 VVPAT units used in the entire State Assembly Elections of Himachal Pradesh. The entire exercise of shifting was carried out with extreme security in GPS enabled closed-body trucks and was completed without any hassle despite the monsoon time and heavy rains.

With such a large number of EVM and VVPAT units, the process of First Level Checking of the EVMs was a huge exercise which continued for a long period of two and half months starting from 19th August 2017 till November 1, 2017. All the protocols of Randomization, Allotment, Transportation of EVM-VVPATs were followed scrupulously.

One of the challenges was that 4 ACs required 2 BUs, which was managed successfully without any errors.

EVM/VVPAT Awareness

Since this was the first time VVPAT were being used at all polling stations, EVM/VVPAT awareness and demonstration programs were carried out on a very large scale across the district to cover maximum number of electors through a systematic schedule. House-to-House distribution of 19 lakhs pamphlets on EVM/VVPAT through BLOs was made. 5 EVM Rathes were used. Demonstration camps were organized at industries, with PwDs, at Old age homes, with women,

with youth, with migrant laborers at industries & kadiya nakas etc.

SVEEP

Ahmedabad implemented an all-encompassing and all-pervading SVEEP covering all different sections of society and a variety of activities. One of the unique interventions was appointment of special Nodal Officers of SVEEP in different Departments/Agencies for ensuring inclusion of different groups of electors.

Some of the major highlights of SVEEP intervention were as follows:

- Proactive involvement of PwD District Icons and State Icons
- Large number of awareness camps with women, youth, PwDs, senior citizens, third gender people and other voters
- Variety of activities carried out for youth enrolment by 39 Campus Ambassadors, 127 Designated Officers and NSS volunteers
- Partnership with Radio City with number of innovations and unique initiatives like Vototsav Anthem, Flash mobs, Vote a Party, Vototsav Concert
- Development of large number of locally contextual creatives including festival based creatives, creatives aimed at PwDs & senior citizens and creatives targeted at enrolment
- Wide reach through social media platforms
- Reaching out to large number of electors, particularly youth with SVEEP activities at Garba grounds during Navratri including special Voting Garbas, announcements on enrolment & VVPAT awareness, help desks at Garba grounds, Nine Vows of Democracy etc
- Innovative activities like Human chains, Happy Streets, Women bike rally, PwD tricycle rally and hot air balloon
- 4 lakhs Sankalpa Patra
- 50 lakhs bulk SMS sent as Poll Day reminder

Major Highlights of other Aspects of Election Management

- 45,180 civil personnel for various election duties and 24,590 security forces mobilized, trained and managed successfully. Customized comprehensive training modules developed in vernacular language
- 39,083 postal ballots issued and postal ballot facilitation centers set up
- Methodically planned dispatch and receiving Centers with principles of Kaizen and 5 S

- More than 1500 vehicles requisited/hired for the conduct of election
- Within 48 hours of MCC enforcement, 1,27,793 defacements on Public Property and 1166 defacements on Private property were removed
- Minimal number of 54 complaints regarding MCC violation, all of which were resolved promptly
- Expenditure monitoring activities in all 21 ACs conducted very efficiently with 126 FSTs, 134 SSTs, 40 VSTs, 21 VVTs, and 27 Accounting Teams & 33 AEOs. Only 29 complaints related to expenditure were received, addressed and solved. No complaint regarding any harassment by the Expenditure Monitoring Teams was reported
- Smooth coordination and maintenance of peace even with a large number of Star Campaigners. No complaints of untoward incidents related to law and order reported
- Live Webcasting done at 442 polling stations on Poll day
- Food packets organized for all polling staff and security forces on Poll Day
- VVIP Voters casting their votes in the district managed without any untoward incident or complaints



- A State-of-the-Art Model Counting Center established at Polytechnic College, Ahmedabad. All DEOs were asked by ECI & CEO Office to visit and implement it in their respective districts
- Total 3 counting centers were established to accommodate 21 ACs
- 8236 PwDs registered, which was the highest in the state. 2072 provided assistance. 178 wheel chairs organized at different polling stations
- High turnout of PwDs and Senior Citizens

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