

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/70/2017

Dated: 28th August, 2017

Press Note

Sub: Launch of Third Issue of VoICE International Magazine

The Election Commission of India launched the third issue of the VoICE International magazine, a VoICE.NET e-publication on August 28, 2017 at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi. Voter Information, Communication, Education Network (VoICE.NET) is a Global Knowledge Network for sharing knowledge, resources and expertise on Voter Education. An ECI initiative, it comprises 23 members from Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and reputed international organizations.

VoICE.NET was launched during the International Conference on Voter Education held in New Delhi in October 2016. The content for VoICE International, the quarterly global magazine on VoICE.NET, is contributed by countries as diverse as United Kingdom, Moldova, USA, Indonesia, Canada besides the members of VoICE.NET.



Mr. A.K.Joti, Chief Election Commissioner of India, Mr. O.P. Rawat, Election Commissioner of India and other dignitaries from Election Commission of India e-launch and release third issue of VoICE International

Mr. Umesh Sinha, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner introduced VoICE.NET and VoICE International magazine. He highlighted the knowledge portal's importance in global experience sharing and learning by describing VoICE.NET as "a single window through which we can view other countries' efforts in voter education". He informed that the first quarterly issue of VoICE International focused on Young and Future Voters. The second issue detailed on Voter Education for Enhancing Gender Participation. He then requested the Commission to launch the third issue based on the theme 'Special Initiatives for Enhancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).'

The Hon'ble Commission e-launched as well as released the third issue of VoICE International. This was followed by the takeaways from VoICE.NET highlighted by Mr. S.D. Sharma, Senior Fellow, who discussed key initiatives undertaken by 12 members

nations and organisations that contributed to the third issue including Brazil, Bulgaria, Fiji, Nepal, USA, New Zealand and IFES amongst others.

In his key note address, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. A.K. Joti appreciated the efforts of the editorial team and expressed his intent to expand VoICE.NET in terms of its members. "An A-WEB meeting is soon to be scheduled in Romania. We will certainly invite all the 106 members of A-WEB to join VoICE.NET", he said. He reiterated adopting and adapting good practices. "The aim is to share the information, initiatives and efforts which have been successful and turn them into practice", the CEC said.



VoICE.NET available at <http://voicenet.in/>

Hon'ble Election Commissioner, Mr.O.P.Rawat emphasised on the need to take learnings to the field. He also suggested including the citizens perspectives (in future issues) for richer and more relevant content. The theme for the next VoICE international (October- December) was proposed as 'Enabling Service Voters and Overseas Electors.' VoICE India – a magazine aimed at voter education and information with a more domestic perspective and vision, was also proposed to be brought out soon.

The event ended by a vote of thanks by Ms. Padma Angmo, Director, ECI.

**(Suman Kumar Das)
Under Secretary, Communication**