



THIS TIME TO VOTE. WITH PWD APPLICATION



PwD App

Background

Election Commission of India has been constantly focussing on providing better services to Persons with Disabilities through various mediu. In the world of technology innovation, the mobile application has taken a front seat. Many of the PwD effectively use the mobile application for day to day living.

Introduction

In order to facilitate the Persons with Disability, the Election commission of India developed an android based mobile application, the PwD App. An eligible person with a disability or reduced mobility / physical functions can get enrolled in electoral roll by declaring themselves as a person with a disability. Upon receiving the request from PwD electors/ voters, the election commission will ensure that the booth level officer will reach the doorstep delivery of electoral services.

The PwD app facilitates PwD Voters in verifying their names in the electoral roll, enrolling

them, getting their name, address and photograph corrected. To do this, mobile accessibility features like voice-over prompts, high contrasting interface, and easy navigation features were developed in the app. The user interface was kept very simple. The PwD user enters the mobile number and address and the information travels down to Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) in minutes and ERO in-turn allocate the case to Booth Level Officer to visit the home of the PwD user to get the form filled up. During the whole process, PwD App user can use the reference number to track their application status.

Features



Inform About Your Disability: The App allows the person with disabilities to mark themselves as PwD voter by entering their EPIC number only and it will automatically fetch their details. Voice Access and select to speak features are also available for the visually impaired person.



Request For New Voter ID Registration: This allows the PwDs to register as a new voter with the minimal information. Registration will only require the name and address of the person and the rest of the work would be done by the Election Commission by providing doorstep facility, i.e. BLO would be assigned and visit the home of the PwD user to get the form filled up.



Request For Transfer: When a voter relocates from one geographical location or one constituency to another, their voting districts or state also changes, to handle the transfer process, PwD app provides the option to the user to raise the transfer request.



Request For Updation: Any correction, addition, or deletion in voter ID card can be done using a “Request for Updation” feature.



Request For Wheelchair: The PwD user can raise the request for wheelchair-using this feature of the mobile app by clicking the option after login using the mobile number.



Find Polling Booth: The booth locator feature incorporated and integrated Google Maps, to ease the PwD voters to reach polling stations. It helps the voters to find the polling booth location and directs them to the booth location from the current location.



Interaction Controls: The TalkBack feature allows interaction using speech, vibration, and audible feedback for users who are unable to operate smartphones. The enlarged graphics like text and icons, High contrast

themes, Structured headlines, and better typography enhances the readability of the content.



Easy To Use: This App has been designed keeping easy and interactive user interface in view. The content has been classified based upon the user's disability. PwD users with minimal technical knowledge can easily use the app to claim all the benefits like the request for a wheelchair, mark as PwD, etc.



Candidate List: One of the important features of the app is the availability of the contesting candidate list on the app. The PwD voter can find the list of their candidates. Once the list is finalised, the PwD voter can know the list which is exactly as per the ballot paper. The blind user can hear the candidate list along with the position in the list.

Process Flow

To use the features of the PwD mobile app, voter opens the app in mobile and login in the app using mobile number and OTP functionality. A voter can select the feature by clicking on the Home screen as mentioned below -

- 1) Login
Launch Mobile App
Enter Mobile Number
Enter OTP received
Submit



- | | |
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| <p>2) PwD Home
Request for Marking as PwD
Enter EPIC Number
Search
BLO Contact Details displayed</p> <p>3) Request for New Voter Registration
Enter Voter details
Submit</p> <p>4) Request for Transfer
Select Current AC, Transfer AC
Submit</p> <p>5) Request for Change (Correction, Deletion)
Enter EPIC Number
Search
Enter Voter details to be changed</p> <p>6) Request for wheelchair
Enter EPIC Number
Search
User details fetched
Submit</p> | <p>7) Candidate
Candidate List displayed
Filter details election wise</p> <p>8) Register Complaints
Select relevant details
Enter Complaint
Submit</p> <p>9) Search Polling Official
Enter EPIC Number
Search
BLO, ERO, DEO details fetched based on EPIC number</p> <p>10) Booth Locator
Enter EPIC Number
Search
Navigate to the polling station</p> <p>11) Check Status
Enter Complaint Id
Submit</p> <p>12) Read/ View Articles
Articles are displayed</p> |
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Technology used

Java is used as a platform to develop the android application.

Outcome

In order to facilitate voting by PwDs electors, Commission has started some critical and focused initiatives like providing wheelchair facilities during elections, volunteer assistance in the booth, and transport to the polling station. Further, to facilitate visually impaired people, the Commission has introduced a very important feature in the PwD application, which reads out the full candidate list with name and serial number to the voter. In addition, the voter can select the desired number from the ballot list and cast their vote with ease. 47,727 requests for marking themselves as PwD have been received from the app. Till today 3,105,355 user has viewed their PwD status.

The Application is available on the Google Play Store and can be downloaded using the given link: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=pwd.eci.com.pwdapp&hl=en_IN.
