

# **Election Commission of India**

Nirvachan sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/78/2017

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

## **PRESS NOTE**

**Subject: Himachal Pradesh to use Election Commission of India's new application- Returning Officer NET (RONET) for better Election Management.**

Chief Election Commissioner Sh. A.K. Joti, Election Commissioners Sh. O.P. Rawat and Sh. Sunil Arora today launched RONET, the Online Decision Support System for Conduct of Elections. Himachal Pradesh will be the first state going for the poll to use the RONET.



**The Commission while launching the RONET application**

RONET has been tested on pilot basis and first used in a few constituencies of the recently concluded Punjab Assembly elections, and it is for the first time that Election Commission is going to use it in the whole State of Himachal Pradesh in the upcoming General Assembly Elections.

Also for the first time, RONET would be used for processing payments to the entire workforce involved in the election process. To ensure seamless ePayments RONET has been connected with eKosh (H.P's State Treasury Application).

Through this application, the contesting candidates can directly apply for permissions and in-turn the RO can view the permission requests in the RONET.

RONET also has citizen centric mobile application through which the citizens can lodge voter related issues or Model Code of Conduct complaints. Further, they can also see the polling booth, electoral roll name search and the election results directly from this app.

### **Features of RONET**

RONET is a specialised MIS Decision Support System Software which provides Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), District Election Officer (DEO) and

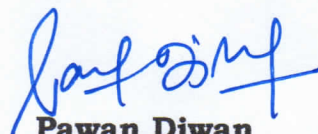
Returning Officer (RO) with the necessary information for making efficient, time-bound & intelligent decisions during the critical election process.

Instead of building the application from scratch, RONET uses existing established packages of interrelated hardware and software. RONET can respond quickly to the changing needs during various stages of the electoral process thus enabling real-time data availability for electoral staff.

RONET provides updated information to CEO / DEO / RO about Polling staff deployment, Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) / Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) deployment and host of other infrastructure and inventory details like Person with Disability database, Dispatch and Collection centre, Counting centre, polling station, critical polling booths, webcasting of elections e.t.c.

During the polling days, the Returning Officer can directly communicate to polling party about training, material dispatch, EVM / VVPAT deployment details, posting orders, postal ballots and pre-poll arrangements by sending SMS and Mobile Notifications. On the other hand, polling party can directly inform about poll day arrangements and voter turnout straight from their mobile app.

During the Polling, the Presiding Officer can report any law and order issue or malfunction of EVM/ VVPAT from their mobile application, immediately the message is flashed to Sector Officer, Returning Officer and District Election Officer for taking corrective action. And upon failure of a timely response, RONET automatically escalates the matter to the next higher authority.



**Pawan Diwan**  
(Under Secretary)