

Bangladesh National Election 2026

Postal Voting (IT Supported)

Out of Country Voting (OCV)
In-Country Postal Voting (ICPV)

Status, Challenges & Difficulties



Brigadier General Saleem Ahmad Khan (Retired), PhD (Canada)

Founder & MD, Aidan Social Technology Innovation Ltd (ASTIL)

Team Leader, Out of Country Voting System Development & Implementation Project, BD Election Commission

International Roles:

Member of Academic Community of the United Nations System (ACUNS)

Expert EU CyberNet

Guest Faculty member British University College & Pacific Link College UAE

Strong suit:

Information Technology Management, Cybersecurity, Strategies, Communications, UN peace operations, Social technology, History, Civil-Military Coordination, Security, Development.

Experiences:

BD Election Commission: Team Leader, Out of Country Voting System Development & Implementation Project;
Project Director, Smart ID Project

Bangladesh Army: Director IT Directorate, Director Overseas Operations

Trust Bank Ltd: Director, Member Audit & IT audit committee

Trust Innovation Limited, Army Welfare Trust: Founder MD

Grameen Communications: MD, Consultant

UN peace operations: Sierra Leone and Sudan; Countries visited: 28

Education: PhD (Canada), Mphil, 3 Masters, BTech India.

Certifications/Qualifications: OT Cybersecurity Expert, CISA, ATD, CITM

Intellectual Property: ASTIL Cybersecurity Awareness Scoring System (ACASS)

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**UNITED NATIONS PEACE
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CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION AND
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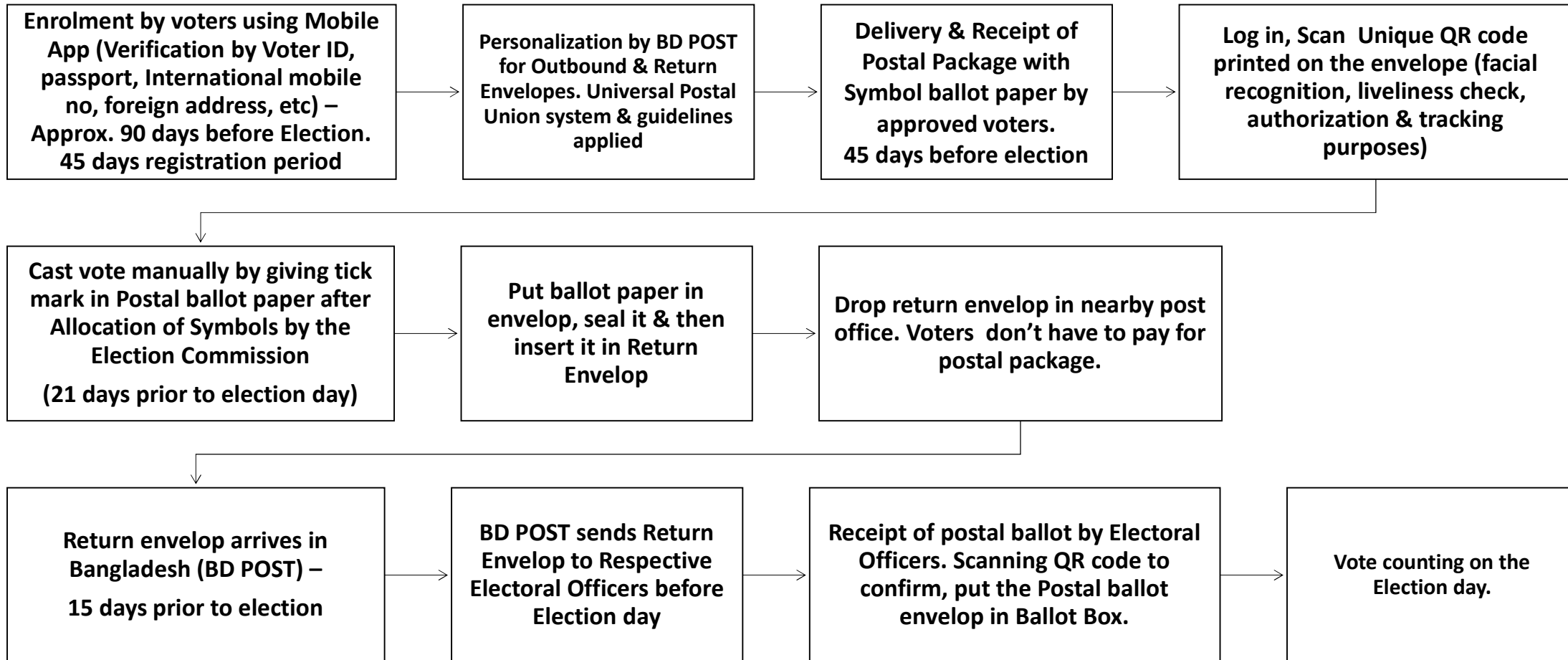


SALEEM AHMAD KHAN

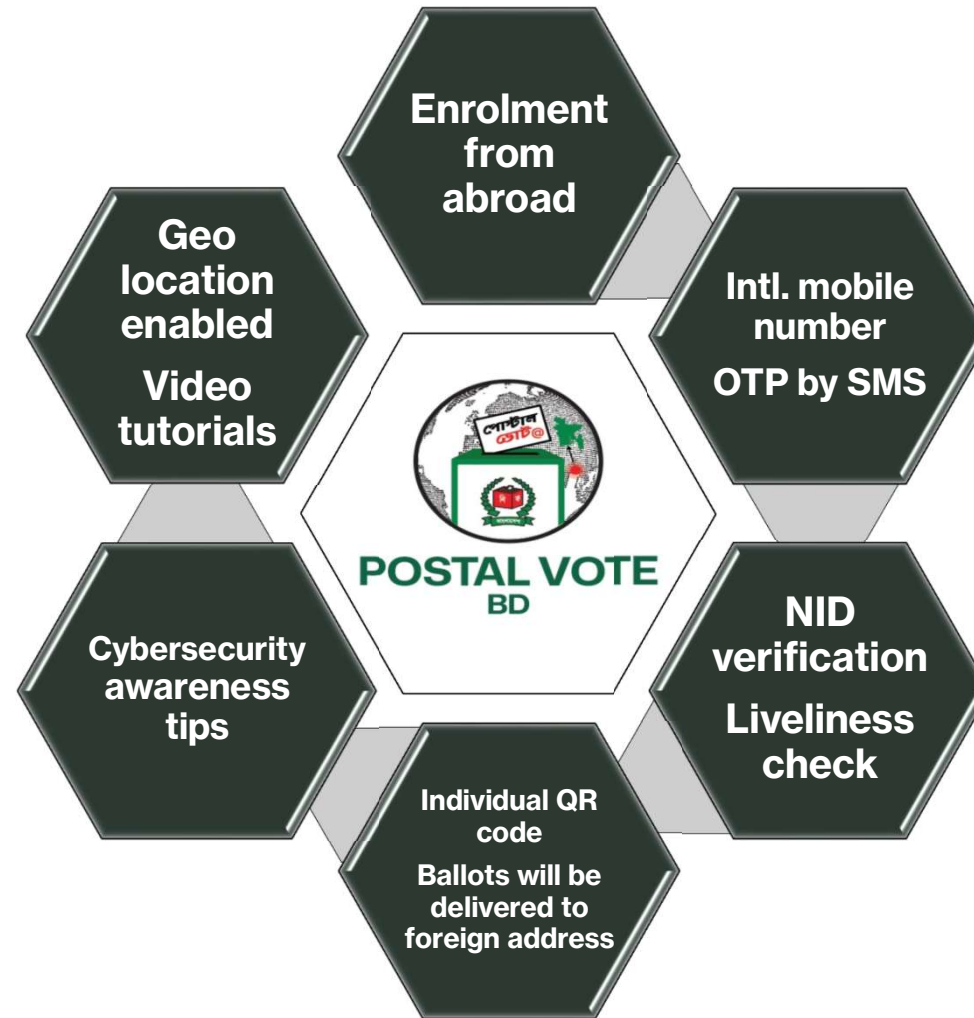
Postal Voting (IT supported): Key Considerations

- Authentication of voters
- Integrity of the vote
- Tracking in each step
- Return receipt of ballots
- System design & architecture
- Resilience of cyberattacks, reliability & availability
- Secure infrastructure
- Transparency & auditability
- Trust & public confidence

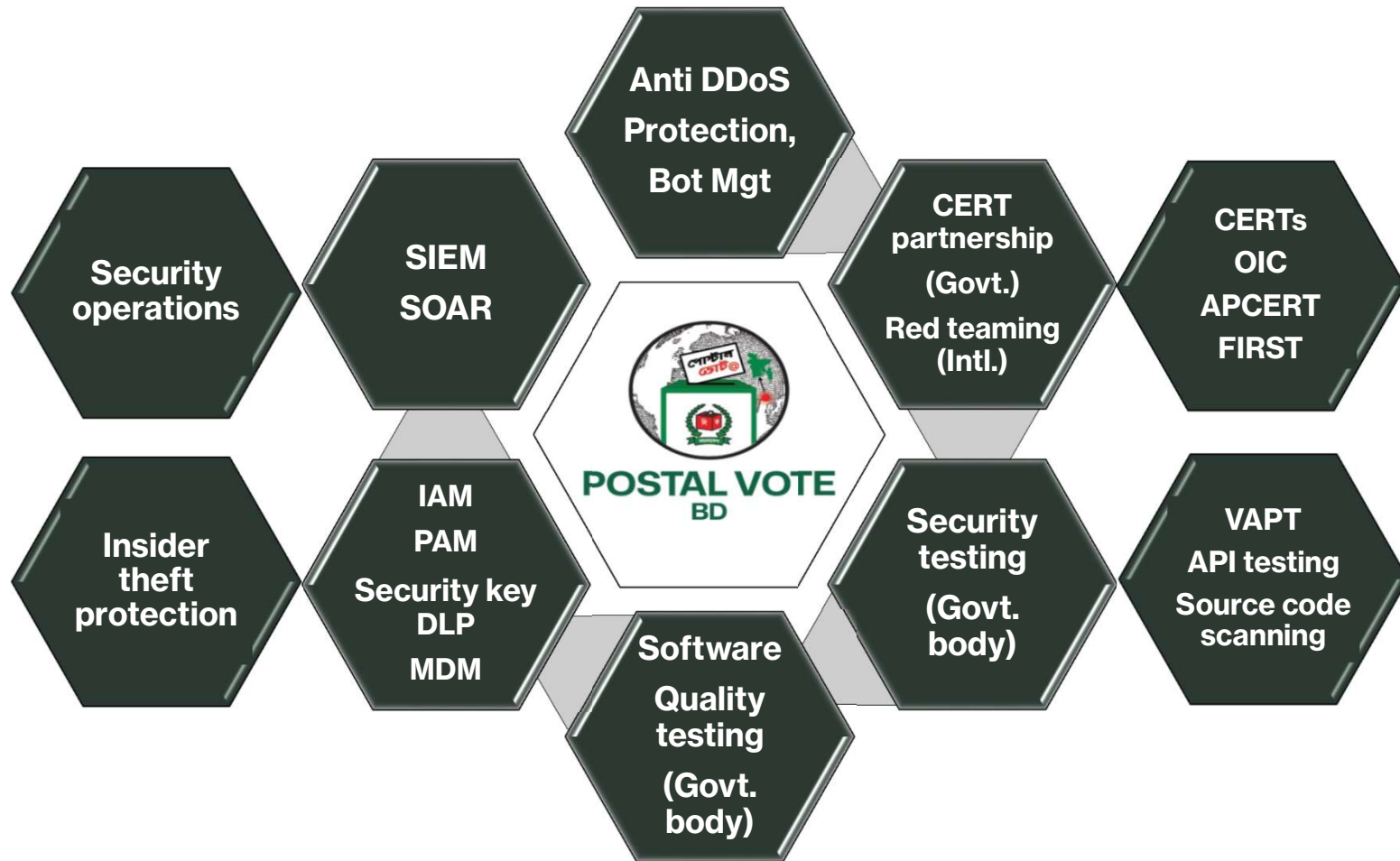
Postal Voting (IT Supported) High-Level Process Flow



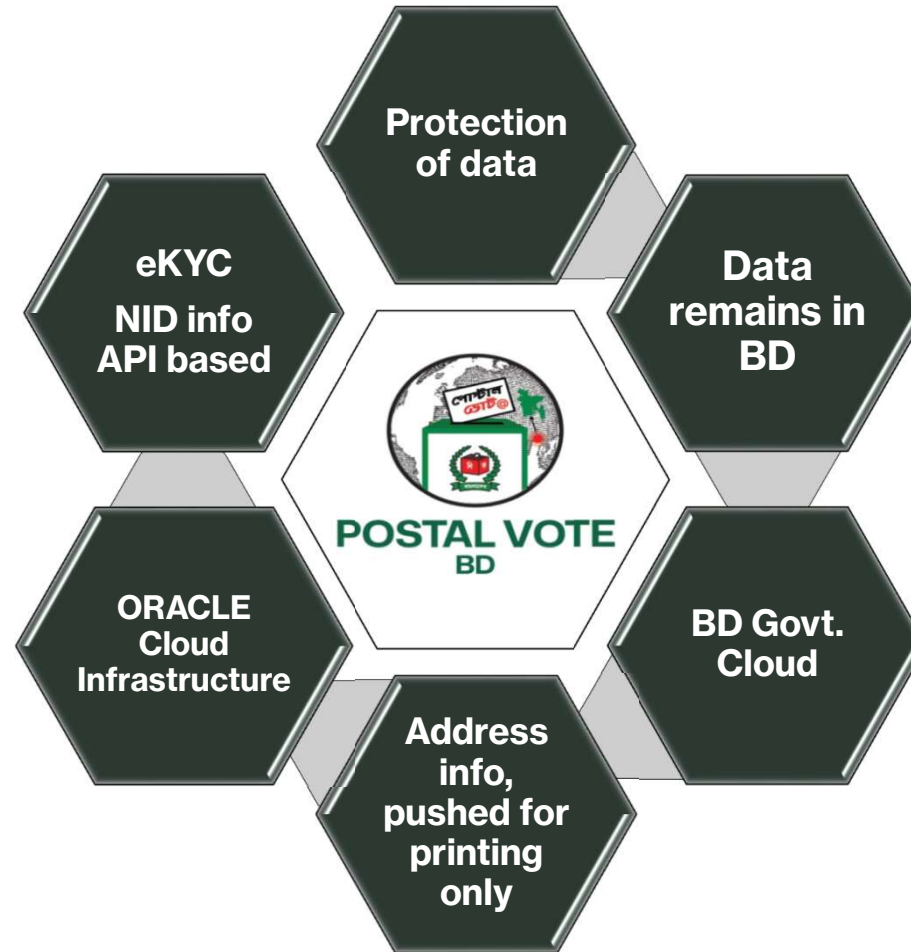
Mobile App: Key Considerations



Mobile App & it's 360-degree security



Mobile App: Data Security Considerations





Reporting Panel Live



Scan to Download App

English



Postal Vote BD Enrollment: by Country ▾

OCV and ICPV Combined Enrollment Information

<https://portal.ocv.gov.bd>

Total Enrollment
1,533,683

Male
1,281,435

Female
252,246

Not Approved
5,553

Approved
1,528,130

Bangladesh

Total **761,141**

Male **556,305**

Female **204,836**

Not Approved **240**

Approved **760,901**

Saudi Arabia

Total **239,186**

Male **237,312**

Female **1,873**

Not Approved **1,617**

Approved **237,569**

Malaysia

Total **84,292**

Male **83,346**

Female **946**

Not Approved **97**

Approved **84,195**

Qatar

Total **76,139**

Male **75,122**

Female **1,017**

Not Approved **253**

Approved **75,886**

Oman

Total **56,207**

Male **54,826**

Female **1,381**

Not Approved **141**

Approved **56,066**

United Arab Emirates

Total **38,574**

Male **37,895**

Female **679**

Not Approved **256**

Approved **38,318**

Kuwait

Total **35,386**

Male **34,862**

Female **524**

Not Approved **124**

Approved **35,262**

United Kingdom

Total **32,414**

Male **23,383**

Female **9,031**

Not Approved **109**

Approved **32,305**

United States of America

Total **31,064**

Male **21,398**

Female **9,665**

Not Approved **265**

Approved **30,799**

Italy

Total **24,444**

Male **21,112**

Female **3,332**

Not Approved **68**

Approved **24,376**

Bahrain

Total **19,719**

Male **19,531**

Female **188**

Not Approved **41**

Approved **19,678**

Singapore

Total **18,129**

Male **18,021**

Female **108**

Not Approved **364**

Approved **17,765**

Canada

Total **14,681**

Male **10,154**

Female **4,527**

Not Approved **58**

Approved **14,623**

Korea (South Korea)

Total **11,702**

Male **10,737**

Female **965**

Not Approved **786**

Approved **10,916**

Australia

Total **11,158**

Male **7,803**

Female **3,355**

Not Approved **44**

Approved **11,114**

Maldives

Total **9,173**

Male **9,132**

Female **41**

Not Approved **153**

Approved **9,020**

Japan

Total **8,892**

Male **7,608**

Female **1,284**

Not Approved **367**

Approved **8,525**

France

Total **8,399**

Male **7,055**

Female **1,344**

Not Approved **21**

Approved **8,378**

Portugal

Total **8,232**

Male **7,287**

Female **945**

Not Approved **11**

Approved **8,221**

Germany

Total **6,063**

Male **4,650**

Female **1,413**

Not Approved **1**

Approved **6,062**

South Africa

Total **5,445**

Male **5,254**

Female **191**

Not Approved **95**

Approved **5,350**

Spain

Total **3,660**

Male **3,233**

Female **427**

Not Approved **13**

Approved **3,647**

Finland

Total **2,350**

Male **1,734**

Female **616**

Not Approved **2**

Approved **2,348**

Poland

Total **2,118**

Male **2,012**

Female **106**

Not Approved **7**

Approved **2,111**

China

Total **2,011**

Male **1,827**

Female **184**

Not Approved **154**

Approved **1,857**

Sweden

Total **1,834**

Male **1,235**

Female **599**

Not Approved **3**

Approved **1,831**

Ireland

Total **1,554**

Male **1,099**

Female **455**

Not Approved **6**

Approved **1,548**

An analysis of Postal Voting

	Approved	Vote Cast		RO (Received)		RO (Accepted)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
			$(C)/(B)*100$		$(E)/(B)*100$		$(G)/(B)*100$
OCV	767,233	544,372	70.95%	498,204	64.94%	471,973	61.52%
ICPV	760,898	679,816	89.34%	667,388	87.71%	601,524	79.05%
Total	1,528,131	1,224,188	80.11%	1,165,592	76.28%	1,073,497	70.25%

Undelivered & returned to BD: **1,32,827**

Rejected by ROs during Counting: **57,898**

Cause of concern & needs to be addressed

Ballots are either lying with foreign post offices or lying with voters:

OCV : 80,714, ICPV: 75,928, Total: 1,56,642

An analysis of Postal Voting (IT supported)

- Deliberate coordination: BD Election Commission-BD POST-MOFA-BD Embassies abroad-Foreign Postal Departments-Foreign concerned ministries/departments-UPU
- Total enrolled overseas voters: 123 countries
- KSA: 31% enrolled
- Enrolment: 11 countries (85%), 20 countries (96%), ME countries (60%)
- Malaysia, Singapore & South Korea: 15% enrolled
- Ballots received by Electoral officers: 85 countries
- Ballots arrived from Kuwait: 23% (an exception in the ME)
- Ballots didn't arrive from 26 countries (Africa, South America)
- Enrolled voters (<100): 56 countries (a case of future online voting)
- Countries apply local postal policies overlooking UPU guidelines and conventions
- Ballots were sent and returned without any coordination: Some European countries

Challenges & Difficulties

- SMS abuse in large scale
- Address of voters (Number of voters using single address)
- Digital literacy, Voters' education, awareness campaign
- Mobile app-based tracking system worked but live tracking was not possible when ballots were enroute
- Tracking through UPU and BD POST system was not possible by the voters
- Postal Departments of countries apply local policy, especially to deliver ballots in specific addresses and involvement of manual sorting system
- Ballots return journey needs to be tracked by postal system
- BD POST needs to sign bilateral agreement with foreign postal departments
- BD POST to enhance its capacity of international postal services

Issues for future considerations

- Candidates need to reach out to overseas voters upon enrolment
- Postal voting may be continued in the Asia, North America, Ocenia, and Europe
- Ballots delivery directly to voters in 8 countries (ME, MAL, SNG) need a separate study
- Declaration form may be discontinued as mobile app verifies voters effectively
- Symbol-based ballot for OCV needs review
- Online voting may be introduced for voters as under:
 - Africa, South America & any other countries where less than 100 voters have enrolled
 - Military personnel deployed in overseas duties
- Additional services from App can be proposed to concerned authority. Examples are NID and other govt services, capacity building of diaspora populations, etc