Nowhere is too far for Election Machinery

"I never imagined that the administration would go to such lengths to ensure that we can be a part of this democratic process. After all we are located at such a far away place in middle of nowhere." exclaimed a pleasantly surprised resident of Ajad Island.

Ajad Island is a remote island in Gulf of Kachchh towards the western end of Gujarat, belonging to the 81—Khambalia Assembly Constituency of Devbhoomi Dwarka district. The island is inhabited by just 89 residents of Muslim Wagher community, living far away from the mainland. There is no regular transport, which connects the people here to the mainland, except their own boats.

The Election management machinery took up the task of reaching out to the 40 odd electors on this island and ensuring that they are included in every aspect of the election despite the odd location. The roll officials visited the island and ensured that all eligible citizens are enrolled. Just before the elections, even the

Collector and DEO carried out number of meetings and personally supervised all the preparations for ensuring complete inclusion of the Ajad Island residents. The CEO team supported the effort by providing all required support. Since transportation of the Polling Party and the equipment was only possible through boat, the CEO Office coordinated and sought support of Gujarat Maritime Board, which organized the ferry for travel of the Polling Party.

The Polling Party was properly briefed about the location and the arrangements to be made by the DEO. The Polling Party reached the Island through a boat on the previous day of Poll.

A temporary Polling Station was established with adherence to all ECI guidelines. The electors were educated about the use of EVM and VVPAT beforehand. The required arrangements were made for all necessary procedures for Poll day.

The Poll was conducted smoothly with 90% participation. The electors were very enthusiastic to see that the administration was working so hard to ensure that they are not left out in the electoral process.

Ensuring every aspect of the electoral process right from enrolment to PVS to conduct a Poll, this was an example of how the Election machinery works towards inclusion of all, irrespective of how much challenging is the task.

Lalit Padalia
Addl. CEO, Gujarat