

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
PUDUCHERRY**

No.1-30(5)/SEC/CE/Dir./2021/603

Dated.9.9.2021

DIRECTION

Sub: - Civic Elections 2021 - Security Measures for Electronic Voting Machines.

The Commission hereby issues instructions relating to security measures for Electronic Voting Machines to be used for the elections to the Municipalities and Commune Panchayats of the UT. These instructions have been prepared from the point of view of strategy for ensuring the security and safety of Electronic Voting Machines. The District/Regional Administration, who is also the District Election Officer / Regional Election Officer, should make themselves thorough with these security measures so that, the instructions are complied with in letter and spirit. Needless to add that any laxity in implementing these measures will be viewed seriously by the Commission.

1. Security Measures for EVMs

Standard Security measures:

- (i) Guard the storage centres with Armed Police of at least section strength.
- (ii) Systems of double lock from the day the General Observers arrive.
- (iii) One key kept with District Election Officer (DEO)/Regional Election Officer (REO); another with General Observer.
- (iv) Register for movement inside the campus where EVMs are stored.
- (v) Register for movement inside the store rooms.
- (vi) Arrangements for storage at counting centres, with Armed Police guarding the locations.
- (vii) DEOs/REOs/SPs shall be personally responsible for any lapse in arrangement and security
- (viii) Storage Room for EVMs shall be waterproof from all sides in such way that no dampness can cause harm to EVMs either from rain or from accumulated water around such storage room.

2. Pre-Poll

The General Observers deputed by the Commission on their arrival in the District/Region shall inspect along with the DEO/REO the storage centre in the district for the EVMs, and randomly check the stock register with the stock stored. Thereafter, the storage centre will be sealed by the Observer and the DEO with double locks. The keys of

one lock will be kept with the Observer and the keys of the second lock shall be kept with the DEO/REO.

To streamline the security of the EVMs following measures are to be taken:

- (i) Detailed log of machines indicating the numbers of balloting and control units to be prepared.
- (ii) Test check report to be entered in log book.
- (iii) Machines requiring repair (i.e. opening of either control or balloting unit) will be segregated and their details kept,
- (iv) For such repaired machines where either the control unit or the balloting unit have been opened, proper entry will be made in log book specifying the repairs done and part(s) replaced,
- (v) Only the technicians from ECIL will work on the machines and keep a record of repairs carried out.
- (vi) No outsiders will be allowed inside the storage centres,
- (vii) The machines that have undergone repairs will be kept aside and trial tests carried out on them before using them.
- (viii) After complete checking, the machines will be placed under double lock with the seals of the DEO and the General Observer.

3. Preparation for the Poll

- a. The machines will be prepared for poll by the ROs/AROs in this phase after the finalization of list of candidates.
- b. Preparation of machines to be done strictly as per the guidelines/standard practice, and in the presence of Observers.
- c. Observers shall ensure that representatives of political parties & candidates wherever required are present. DEOs/REOs and ROs/AROs will be responsible in case of failure to involve political parties, candidates and the Observer.
- d. Machines after preparation shall be kept in Strong Rooms.
- e. The prepared EVMs shall ordinarily be kept under double-lock at the Strong Rooms.
- f. Detailed plan for distribution and recollection of EVMs will be prepared by the DEO/REO and the Observer will closely monitor the same.
- g. Machines used for training will not be used for poll. All such machines will be segregated and stored in a separate room under double lock.
- h. Sector Officers who are given EVMs from reserve stock will maintain a register where the particulars of balloting units (BU) and control units (CU) issued are mentioned and a receipt shall be obtained from them. At the end of poll these

machines will be received at a separate counter and tallied with the issue register for such machines.

- i. Sector Officers & Assistant Sector Officers should visit every polling station in their jurisdiction as many times as possible on the poll day.
- j. In cases where the Sector Officer has replaced any unit at the polling station due to some defect or malfunction, he shall keep a record of it in the above said Register and inform the receipt desk at the end of poll. The information furnished by the Sector Officer shall be tallied with the Presiding Officer's diary by the RO/ARO and the Observer
- k. The unused BUs and CUs returned by the Sector Officers will be stored separately in a room other than the strong room where polled EVMs are kept and the Observers will keep a key of this room in his custody.

4. Post-poll arrangements:

- a. After poll, the machines are to be kept in strong rooms at the counting centres.
- b. Armed Police will guard all counting centers without any exception. Necessary fire fighting equipments shall also be installed around all Strong room to meet any exigency.

The DEOs/REOs and ROs/AROs shall ensure strict compliance of these directions without fail.

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STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

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To

1. The District Election Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal.
2. The Regional Election Officer, Mahe / Yanam.
3. All Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers of Municipality and Commune Panchayat.