

IMMEDIATE  
By Special Messenger/Camp Bag

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 479/INST/2012-CC&BE

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

To

1. The Returning Officer for the Presidential Election and Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, Room No. 29, Parliament House, New Delhi.
2. The Assistant Returning Officer for Presidential Election (Through Chief Electoral Officers).

Sub: - Presidential Election-2012-Additional Measures.

Sir,

In order to further streamline the polling process and to ensure that no spurious paper or document, other than the official ballot paper issued by the Presiding Officer, is inserted into the ballot box, the Commission has issued the following instruction.

The Presiding Officer will put his full signature on the right side top corner of each ballot paper (back side) issued to an elector, but taking care that it does not cover any of the instructions printed on the backside or get overlapped with the black paper strip used for concealing the serial number of the ballot paper. The Presiding Officer shall also affix his seal below his signature. To ensure this, the Presiding Officer may sign a few ballot papers, say, 25, before the commencement of poll so that the polling process proceeds smoothly and the remaining ballot papers may be signed by him as and when the necessity therefore arises. Thereafter, before issuing the ballot paper to the elector, the polling officer in-charge of ballot papers shall pre-fold the ballot paper longitudinally (length wise) first and then horizontally in such a way that the signature of the Presiding Officer and his seal on the back of the ballot paper are visibly to the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of ballot box when the elector, after marking his vote, inserts the ballot paper into the slit of the ballot box.

Whenever a voter puts his marked ballot paper into the ballot box, the Presiding Officer shall vigilantly watch that his signature (Presiding Officer's signature) is visible and, if not, the elector shall be asked to show the signature before inserting the ballot paper into the box the elector shall have to comply.

This instruction shall be brought to the notice of all concerned immediately.

Yours faithfully,

**(K.N. BHAR)**  
**SECRETARY**