

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

No. ECI/PN/ 60/2017

Date: 17.07.2017

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Presidential Election, 2017-poll--reg.

The Election to the office of President of Indian Republic is one of the most important elections, which the Election Commission conducts under mandate of Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

The term of office of the present President of India is upto 24th July, 2017. Thus an election was due to be held for electing a new President before the 24th July, 2017. Under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the notification under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the said Act calling the election was issued by the Election Commission on 14th June, 2017. There are only two contesting candidates namely Smt. Meira Kumar and Sh. Ramnath Kovind for the election and the poll was over by 5 PM today. The counting of votes will be taken up on 20th July, 2017 at 1100 Hrs.

The President of India is elected by the Members of an Electoral College consisting of (a) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and (b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States [including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry vide the Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Act, 1992] (Article 54). The members nominated to either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of States, including NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Puducherry, are not eligible to be included in the Electoral College.

The election for President of India is held in accordance with the system of **Proportional Representation** by means of the **single transferable vote** and the voting at such election is by secret ballot.

The Constitution (Eighty-fourth) Amendment Act, 2001 provides that until the relevant population figures for the first census to be taken after the year 2026 have been published, the population of the States for the purposes of calculation of value of votes for the Presidential Election shall mean the population as ascertained at the 1971-census.

The value of votes for the Members of each Legislative Assembly varies. Uttar Pradesh has highest value of vote (208) for each Member of the Legislative Assembly while Sikkim has lowest value of vote (7). However, the value of vote of each Member of Parliament is 708.

- (A) TOTAL VALUE OF VOTES OF
776 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT = $708 \times 776 = 5,49,408$
- (B) TOTAL ELECTORS FOR THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION = MLAs (4120) + M.Ps (776) = 4896
- (C) TOTAL VALUE OF VOTES OF 4896 ELECTORS FOR
THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2017 = $5,49,495 + 5,49,408 = 10,98,903$

Under rule 40 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, the Election Commission is required to maintain a list of members of the Electoral College referred to in Article 54 with their addresses corrected up to date.

The list contains the names of elected members of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies and NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry, in that order. Two members namely Sh. Narottam Mishra and Sh. Chhedi Paswan are disqualified under Section 10 A and Section 8 of R.P. Act, 1951, respectively. Therefore, there are a total of 4880 electors in the list of Electoral College for the Presidential Election to participate in the election.


Room No.62 in the Parliament House in New Delhi and another 31 polling stations in all State Legislative Assembly Secretariats were fixed as places of poll. The Members of Parliament voted in New Delhi and the members of the State Legislative Assemblies, including the members of the Legislative Assemblies of NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Puducherry, voted at the place fixed in each State Capital. However, facilities were provided by the Commission for any Member of Parliament to vote in the capital of a State and similarly if any Member of any State Legislative Assembly unavoidably stays in Delhi on the date of poll, he is given the facility to vote at the polling booth set up in the Parliament House. Accordingly 54 MPs voted at State Headquarters, 5 MLAs at Parliament House and 4 MLAs in other State Headquarters.

Foolproof security arrangements were made to ensure safe custody & hassle free and safe transportation of empty ballot boxes from ECI to States on 12th & 13th July, 2017 and polled ballot boxes from all the State Headquarters to Parliament House i.e. place of Counting on 17th & 18th July, 2017.

This time Commission introduced following new features to ensure secrecy of voting and free and fair election:

- This time unique Serial Numbered Pens of violet ink were supplied Centrally by Election Commission so as to ensure that no other instrument is used by the voter for marking of preference of vote.
- First time special posters were provided by ECI for displaying at prominent places outside the polling stations. There are two types of poster one is about use of special pen and the other one is about do's and don'ts for electors for casting of vote
- Various WhatsApp groups were created for RO/AROs/CEOs/ECI Officers, ECI Observers, Security persons, etc. and extensively used to closely monitor and coordinate the activities with State Headquarter, Parliament and Election Commission of India.

Out of total of 771 Members of Parliament entitled to vote (04 vacant and 01 disqualified), 768 casted their votes i.e. 99.61%. Likewise out of total 4109 Members of the Legislative Assemblies entitled to vote (10 vacant and 01 disqualified), 4083 casted their votes i.e. 99.37%.


(SUMAN KUMAR DAS)
UNDER SECRETARY