

Election Commission of India

Nirvachan sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 491/AL-INST/Presidential Election/Communication

Date: 14th July, 2017

To,

1. The Returning Officer for Presidential Election, 2017 & Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Parliament House, New Delhi.
2. All Assistant Returning Officers (through CEO)
3. Chief Electoral Officers of States/UTs (as per list)

Subject :- Presidential Election, 2017- Media coverage during polling – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that the following steps may be taken for facilitating coverage by the Media persons of the polling process of Presidential Election on 17th July, 2017:-

- 1 The polling will be held on 17th July, 2017 from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 PM.
- 2 Polling Hall and its immediate vicinity shall be a sanitized zone where only the media personnel holding Authority Letters issued by the Election Commission of India shall be allowed in a controlled and guided manner. Returning officer/Assistant Returning Officers shall make proper and adequate necessary arrangements.
3. The Media persons, **who hold valid authority letters of the Election Commission of India**, can and should be allowed all reasonable facilities to cover of the arrangements made for polling process.
4. For allowing such reasonable facilities to the media persons and groups, the RO/AROs should identify and deploy one or two senior officers who can effectively liaise with media persons. The officials designated by the RO/AROs for this purpose should conduct and escort media groups inside the polling hall, as if on a conducted tour at regular intervals.
5. Polling hall shall strictly be a silent zone. Any disorderly behavior inside the hall shall not be allowed. Mobile Phones shall not be allowed inside the polling hall.

6. The media persons, holding the authority letters of the Commission to cover the polling process, should be allowed to re-enter on the basis of the very same authority letters. **All entries at all times, however, are subject to the over-all requirements of maintenance of discipline, proper decorum and the conduct of peaceful polling.**
7. It may be noted that no static (fixed) camera is allowed inside polling hall. No camera stand should, therefore, be allowed to be taken inside polling hall. Further, **It is also to be ensured that photography is strictly prohibited inside the voting compartment so that there is no violation of secrecy of voting.** The exact location upto which the media persons with or without still and video camera can move, should be indicated by the RO/AROs in advance, marked by a tying a string for guidance of all concerned.
8. **No media person with video camera shall be allowed inside the polling premises. Media persons shall be allowed to take only still photographs. In any case, no photo of any elector marking his vote should be allowed to be taken.**

Yours Faithfully,



(Suman Kr. Das)
Under Secretary