

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 51/8/VVPAT-INST/2018-EMS

Dated: 13th February, 2018

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips- Pilot Testing – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission has already mandated that VVPATs will be used with EVMs at all polling stations in all future General/Bye-Elections to the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. The Commission conducted **mandatory** verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected 01 (one) polling station per Assembly Constituency on a 'pilot' basis in the recently concluded General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, **in addition** to the provisions of Rule 56D of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, and the same has been extended to the ongoing General Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, on 'pilot' basis.

The Commission has further directed that henceforth, **mandatory** verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected 01 (one) polling station shall be conducted in all future General and Bye Elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies, **in addition** to the provisions of Rule 56D of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, after the completion of the last round of counting of votes recorded in the EVMs, as under:

- (a) In case of General and Bye elections to State Legislative Assemblies, verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected 01 (one) polling station per Assembly Constituency.
- (b) In case of General and Bye elections to the House of the People, verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected 01 (one) polling station of each Assembly Segment of the Parliamentary Constituency concerned.

For this mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected 01 (one) polling station for each Assembly Constituency/Segment shall be taken up after the completion of the last round of counting of votes recorded in the EVMs.
2. The random selection of 01 (one) polling station per Assembly Constituency/Segment shall be done by Draw of lots, by the Returning Officer concerned, in the presence of

- candidates/their agents and the General Observer appointed by the Commission for that Constituency.
3. The draw of lots must be conducted immediately after the completion of the last round of counting of votes recorded in the EVMs (Control Units) in the designated Counting Hall for the particular Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment.
 4. A written intimation regarding the conduct of draw of lots for the random selection of 01 (one) polling station for verification of VVPAT Slips shall be given by the Returning Officer to the Candidates/their election agents well in advance.
 5. The following procedure shall be followed for the conduct of draw of lots:
 - a. White colour paper cards of postcard size shall be used for conducting the draw of lots.
 - b. Total number of such paper cards should be equal to total number of polling stations in the Assembly Constituency.
 - c. The paper cards shall have pre-printed Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment number, AC/AS name and date of polling on the top, and the polling station number in the centre. Each digit of the polling station number shall be atleast 1" x 1"(1 inch by 1 inch) size and printed in black ink.
 - d. The paper cards to be used for draw of lots should be four-folded in such a way that polling station number is not visible.
 - e. Each paper card shall be shown to the candidates/their agents before folding and dropping in the container.
 - f. The paper cards shall be kept in the big container and must be shaken before picking up 01 (one) slip by the Returning Officer.
 6. The verification of VVPAT paper slips shall be done in a 'VVPAT Counting Booth' (VCB), specially prepared for this purpose inside the Counting Hall. The booth shall be enclosed in a wire mesh just like a bank cashier's cabin so that no VVPAT paper slip can be accessed by any unauthorized person. One of the Counting tables in the Counting Hall can be converted into the VCB and can be used for normal counting of round-wise EVM votes before the count of VVPAT slips as per random selection after the completion of round-wise EVM counting.
 7. The Verification count of the VVPAT paper slips of the randomly selected 01 (one) polling station shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the instructions of the Commission on counting of printed paper slips.

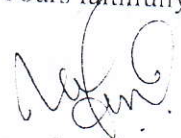
8. The Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be, shall personally supervise the counting of VVPAT paper slips at this booth. The General Observer concerned shall ensure close and careful observation of the entire exercise and ensure strict compliance of the Commission's instructions.

9. The above process shall be fully videographed.

10. After completion of the above process, the Returning Officer shall give a certificate in the annexed format.

The above direction of the Commission shall be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,



(Madhusudan Gupta)
Under Secretary

CC: Standard Distribution

Annexure
Pilot Testing of verification of paper slips of VVPAT of 01 randomly selected polling station

Name of State:.....
 No. and Name of Assembly/Parliamentary Constituency:.....
 No. and Name of Assembly Segment (in case of PC):.....
 Sl.No. and name of Polling Station:.....
 Unique ID of Control Unit:.....
 Unique ID of VVPAT:.....

It is certify that pilot testing of counting of paper slips of VVPAT of 01 randomly selected polling station has been conducted as per the instructions of the Commission.

Name of Candidate	No. of Votes Cast		Discrepancy if any
	As per EVM	As per Paper Slips	
1.			
2.			
3.			
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NOTA			
TOTAL VOTES			

Signature of Counting Agents

1.....
 2.....
 3.....

Signature of Counting Supervisor

Signature of Returning Officer

Signature of General Observer