

# Security Arrangements for Pre-poll, Poll day and Post poll period & Postal Ballot/EDC for Police Officers/Officials



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# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- ✓ Security Arrangements for pre-poll,
- ✓ poll day and
- ✓ post poll period
- ✓ Postal Ballot,
- ✓ EDC/
- ✓ VM & Critical Polling Stations



## General introduction

- Conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections are a fundamental characteristic and requirement of a functional democracy.
- It requires the services of officers/ officials from various departments, including security forces.
- The Commission deposes Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), in terms of Article 324 of the Constitution of India and **in terms of Honorable Supreme Court orders in Election Commission of India Vs Union of India and Ors Writ Petition number 606/1993**, wherever elections are conducted, on the basis of various inputs such as assessment of law and order situation on the ground received from multiple sources or any other relevant inputs

## General Introduction

- Under Section 28 A of RP Act 1951, all the officers and personnel from State Police and Central Armed Police Forces, so deployed for election related duties, shall stand deputed to the Election Commission of India for the period commencing from the date of the notification calling for such election and up to the date of completion of election process.
- Such officers and personnel, during that period, shall be under superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission of India.

# SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

## CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE

- + The CAPF broadly consist of following forces under the control of MHA.
- + a) Assam Rifles (AR)
- + b) Border Security Force (BSF)
- + c) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- + d) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- + e) Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- + f) National Security Guard (NSG)
- + g) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- + Indian reserve Battalion
- + Railway protection force
- + h) Any other forces detailed by MHA. On the directions of ECI



# Pre-poll-day deployment

## CAPF

- CAPF arrives in advance to carry out flag marches for area domination, point patrolling and other confidence building measures till 2 days before the polling day (P-2)
- These forces may also be used as a part of SSTs/FSTs/ QRTs etc. for surveillance purposes.
- Such flag marches by CAPF should be more on foot; and there should be some interaction with the local population. This will help to instill public confidence in general law and order.
- Coordinate with local police under the guidance of DEO/SP, provided with area-wise list of anti-social elements, list of vulnerable hamlets and critical polling stations

# Pre-poll-day deployment

- Necessary teams are constituted to take out flag marches, point patrolling, sanitation particularly of LWE/militancy infested/insurgency areas.
- Confidence building activities including interaction with local population of vulnerable hamlets (mostly on foot).
- Additional deployment to put on check posts for preventing illegal movement of cash, liquor, drugs, and unaccounted election material by political parties/candidates.

# Pre-poll-day deployment

## (I) STATE POLICE :

- Area domination (in case of inadequate CAPF)
- Guarding of EVM Strong Rooms and EVM warehouses
- Vulnerability Mapping and take preventive measures.
- Implementation of Model Code of Conduct
- Establish check-posts and prevent illegal movement of cash, liquor, drugs, anti-social elements, etc.



# Pre-poll-day deployment

- Responsible for maintenance of general law and order in the catchment area of the polling stations and generally in the constituency/ district/ state
- Implement EEM & MCC
- Handle VIP movement
- Implement Deployment Plan
- Provide logistical support to CAPF

# ROLE OF POLICE DURING PRE – POLL

- To Ensure the security force has reached at polling stations as per force deployment plan.
- Carry out effective and focused flag marches for area domination, point patrolling and other confidence building measures.
- Formation of SSTs/FSTs/ QRTs etc. for surveillance purposes and carry out effective enforcement activities and take preventive action.
- Ban on carrying of licensed arms shall continue to operate till declaration of results and no licence for arms shall be issued till elections are over

# ROLE OF POLICE DURING PRE – POLL

- Strict vigil shall be maintained by police, thorough checking of lorries, light vehicles and all other vehicles, preferably by setting up equipped check posts, from the day of announcement of elections.
- To ensure that no undesirable elements or arms and ammunition are being transported into the constituency from outside
- Apprehend /arrest them and take appropriate action under law if they are doing so.

# ROLE OF CAPF DURING PRE – POLL

- CAPF shall carry out effective and focused flag marches for area domination, point patrolling and other confidence building measures till 2 days before the polling day (P-2).
- These forces may also be used as a part of SSTs/FSTs/ QRTs etc. for surveillance purposes. Such flag marches by CAPF should be more on foot; and there should be some interaction with the local population. This will help to instill public confidence in general law and order. The CAPF shall be provided with a list of anti-social elements and vulnerable pockets to keep a watch on unlawful activities. Focus should also be on sanitization of routes specially in IED prone LWI and insurgency areas. Apart from it, a list of precautions, DO's and DON'Ts should be available with all forces

## **POLL DAY – ROLE OF CAPFs:**

- Static guarding of critical polling stations solely and exclusively by CAPF.
- Static guarding of polling stations as part of a mixed (composite) team with local state forces;
- Patrolling duty on assigned routes (election sectors) covering a fixed cluster of Polling Stations;
- Patrolling duty as a part of FST in a defined area;
- Escorting duty of polled EVM with polling personnel back to the Receipt Centers/Strong Rooms after polls are over;

## **POLL DAY – ROLE OF CAPFs:**

- Any other duty which is necessitated to ensure the purity and fidelity of the election process. It will be the responsibility of the DM/SSP concerned to ensure that the polling parties and static armed force reach Polling Stations in scheduled time.
- CAPF shall be deployed for static duty at assigned Polling Station at least one day prior to poll day.
- The Sector Officers/Magistrates shall have the details of static force parties that have been allocated to Polling Stations under his charge as per the District Deployment Plan.

# POLL DAY DEPLOYEMENT - CAPFs

- Guarding the polling stations, EVM-VVPAT strong room, escorting duty of polled EVMs, poll materials including EVM-VVPAT, poll personnel and the poll process.
- Static guarding of trouble spots
- Patrolling duty on assigned routes covering a fixed cluster of polling stations;
- Patrolling duty as 'flying squads' in a defined area with surprise element;
- Strong room security after poll

# POLL DAY & POST POLL – CAPFs

- Maintenance of the general law and order in the catchment area of the polling stations and inside and outside of the polling premises (as different from polling stations).
- Ensure safety of Voters, polling personnel and polling material
- Continue implementation of MCC/EEM guidelines
- Polled EVM strong room (intermediate and outer cordon) and counting centre safety (Outer cordon-District Police Force).
- EVM Strong Rooms and EVM warehouses.



# ROLE OF POLICE & CAPF DURING POLL

## LAW AND ORDER MEASURES :

- DEO/SP shall brief the CAPF/ State Police about provisions of Section 131 of the R.P. Act, 1951.
- There shall be proper coordination between the Presiding Officer and CAPF/State Police posted in a polling station.
- No Election Booth of Candidates shall be set up within a radius of 200 metres from the Polling Station. Even where more than one Polling Station has been set up in the same Polling Station Location or premises, there shall be only one Election Booth of a candidate for such a group of Polling Stations beyond a distance of 200 metres from such premises.

# ROLE OF POLICE & CAPF DURING POLL

- No electioneering to be allowed within the 200-metre area around the Polling Stations on the date of poll.
- No person other than Observers and authorised election/ police officials shall be allowed to either carry or use mobile phones, wireless sets, etc., in the 100-metre perimeter of the Polling Stations described as the “Polling Station Neighbourhood” (Section 130 Representation of the People Act 1951) and within the Polling Station.

# ROLE OF POLICE & CAPF DURING POLL

- **Pposession of Arms near the Polling Station:**
- The provisions of Section 134 B of the RP Act, 1951 provides that, except those expressly permitted under the section no one else carries any arms or indulges in show of arms in Polling Stations or Polling Station Neighborhood.
- No person, even if a recipient of any form of security from any quarter, shall enter into any Polling Station or Polling Station Neighborhood, accompanied by such security personnel.
- **Exception :**

# ROLE OF POLICE & CAPF DURING POLL

- **Security Arrangements:**
- **Commissioner/SSP/SP** shall deploy police forces, including CAPF, as per approved **District Deployment Plan** on static and mobile duties.
- All police forces, including CAPF, deployed for polling station security shall take positions in and control of the respective Polling Stations on the day prior to the poll day.
- *In case CAPF has not reached the assigned Polling Station, due to any reason, the poll shall not commence in that Polling Station.*

# ROLE OF POLICE & CAPF DURING POLL

- *At the polling station where CAPF personnel are deployed according to District Deployment Plan, one personnel of the CAPF deployed for the Polling Station shall be placed at the door of the Polling Station, either in static or oscillating mode, in order to observe the proceedings inside the Polling Station.*
- *The Company Commanders of CAPF shall also move for area domination and confidence building measure in the sectors assigned to them.*
- *The State Police shall remain solely responsible for maintenance of the general law and order inside and outside of the Polling Station premises (as different from polling stations)*

- State Police Force shall not replace the CAPFs at the Polling Stations, in contravention of the District Deployment Plan, under any circumstances.
- No officer of the local state police, with or without a contingent, shall position himself at the Polling Station and exercise any supervision and control over the CAPF at the Polling Station.

# POST POLL

**Counting of votes is one of the most important stages of the election process. Therefore great vigilance shall be exercised not only on the actual counting of votes but also in maintenance of Law and Order.**

- Generally, orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973(CrPC) are issued regarding ban on unlawful assemblies and prohibition on holding of public meetings during the day of counting, applicable for the areas/constituencies bound for polls
- Order to be issued by DM/any other competent authority effective from P-2day to P+1 day within the Constituency.
- The restrictions under 144 CrPC Order do not permit more than 5 persons to assemble/move together in the area

## POST POLL

- In view of the statutory provision contained in Section 135C of the R.P. Act, 1951, 'Dry Day' shall be declared and notified under relevant state laws as is appropriate during the day of counting as indicated in the Commission's notification.



# POST POLL

## Guarding of Strong rooms:

- A two tier guarding system for strong rooms:
- First tier, which is the innermost perimeter, shall be guarded by CAPF. This shall be a 24x7 CAPF armed guard. Minimum one section of CAPF armed guard shall be on duty 24X7 in Strong Rooms in Non LWE areas.
- For this purpose, minimum one platoon of CAPF shall be provided to guard the Strong Room round the clock. In LWE/Militancy/Insurgency area, the strong room shall be manned by 1 platoon each in 3 shifts.

## POST POLL

- Second tier shall be from the State SAP.
- Protocol to be followed to enter the inner perimeter:  
No one shall be allowed to enter the inner perimeter without following the protocol.

# POST POLL

## Security Arrangements in and Around Counting Centers:

- Three-tier cordoning system shall be set up in all counting premises to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons inside the counting premises.

# POST POLL

- **Victory Procession** post the declaration of results can be restricted/ regulated.
- Strong arrangements have to be made to ensure that people of varying factions don't clash.
- Considering the multiple actions required to be taken on different functional dimensions, it is imperative that the Law & Order functionaries at the State, district and constituency level are fully aware of the important activities and steps required to be undertaken during the critical Pre-poll, Poll and Post poll period and are thoroughly prepared to execute them as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India

# POST POLL

- Polled EVMs and VVPAT and the polling personnel shall be escorted by CAPF to the Receiving Centers/Strong Rooms.
- Details in this regard shall be worked out by the DEO and CP/SP in consultation with Observers in advance.
- CAPF shall be assigned the duty of guarding the Strong Rooms 24x7, where the polled EVMs and VVPAT shall be stored and kept, till the day of counting.
- Adequate and fool-proof security arrangements are made inside and around the Counting Centers to prevent incidents that are likely to vitiate the counting process. Sufficient CAPF personnel shall be present at all the Counting Centers for this purpose.

# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- One vehicle each for candidate, election agent and for candidate's workers/ party workers be allowed and not more than 5 persons including driver are allowed in a vehicle.
- Carrying of voters by these vehicles is a Corrupt practice. It is also an electoral offence u/s 133 of the RP, Act, 1951.
- Permits issued by DEO shall be displayed on the windscreen of vehicles.
- Providing free conveyance to voters to and from the polling stations by a candidate/his agent is a corrupt practice and strictly forbidden. The offence may be booked under relevant provisions.

# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- The aforementioned restrictions shall apply to all vehicles propelled by mechanical power or otherwise, including but not restricted to taxies, private cars, trucks, tractors with or without trailers, auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, scooters, motor bikes, mini buses, station wagons etc., also, and shall be made applicable for a period of 24 hours before the time fixed for closure of poll and till the completion of poll.
- Penal action, both under the provisions of the R.P.Act, 1951 and the IPC shall be taken against anyone offending the above directions, in addition to action under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- All vehicles being used in violation of these directions shall be confiscated

# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- Private vehicles may be used by the owners for their private use, not connected with elections;
- Private vehicles being used by owners either for themselves or for members of their own family for going to the polling booth to exercise their franchise, but not going anywhere within a radius of 200 metres of a polling station;
- Vehicles used for essential services namely hospital vans, ambulance, milk vans, water tankers, electricity emergency duty vans, police on duty, officers on election duty shall be allowed to ply



# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- Public transport carriages like buses shall ply between fixed terminals and on fixed routes.
- Taxis, three-wheeler scooters, rickshaws etc. For going to airports, railway stations, interstate bus stands, hospitals for journeys which cannot be avoided;
- Private vehicles may be used by sick or disabled persons for their own use;
- Vehicles being used by the Govt. officers on duty to reach their duty point shall be allowed to ply.

# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- Cellular phones, cord less phone etc., not to be allowed except officers on duty in the 100 meters of a PS.
- Voter slips to be plain white slips without name of candidate/ party markings/ symbol.
- No campaign related posters or banners within 100 meters of the Polling Booth.
- During polling, PRO and other staff shall keep their mobile silent in the PS. If required they can talk from outside the polling booth.
- Booth Level Officer to be stationed outside the polling booth at the Voter Assistance Booth (VAB). He shall keep with mobile phone switched on, along with the Alphabetical roll locator for the PS, near the polling stations

# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON POLL DAY

- Prohibition of loudspeakers, mega phones etc. and disorderly conduct – within 100 meters of a PS.
- Amplifying or reproducing the human voice by any apparatus not allowed within 100mts of PS.
- Shouting or otherwise, acting in a disorderly manner is not allowed.
- None except authorised security personnel can enter within 100 metres of any polling station. Security personnel attached to any person not to be allowed inside the polling booth. Exception to the above only in case of person covered under Z+ security which is one security person in simple clothes and with one concealed arms.

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

- Postal Balloting by Police Personnel on election duty :
- A deployment plan shall be charted out for the police officials, well in advance, for issue of EDC if deployed within the constituency where they are registered as elector
- or issue of postal ballot if posted outside the constituency.

# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## Preparation of Database of voters on election duty:

The SSP/SP or other competent officer to prepare a database of all police personnel (including home guards, if deployed on election duty) in the district, well in advance.

The database should necessarily have the following information and be prepared in coordination with the RO of the constituency concerned:

- (i) No. and name of Assembly Constituency,
- (ii) Part No. and the Serial Number of the person in electoral roll,
- (iii) Name and rank of the police official,
- (iv) EPIC number,
- (v) Location and address of Facilitation centres for postal balloting,
- (vi) Information about all the training for which the person is to be called for

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

- **A Nodal Officer** shall be appointed to coordinate all activities related to distribution of necessary forms such as Form 12 (for Postal Ballot) or Form 12A (for EDC) to enable the police personnel to make application for EDC or PB, as the case may be.
- It shall be ensured that the duly filled in applications are signed by the police personnel and sent to the concerned Returning Officer through Nodal Officer/ SSP/SP

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

### **Time limit to apply Form 12/12A:**

The request for issue of EDC shall reach the Returning Officer at least 4 days before the date of poll and that for PB at least 7 days before the date of poll so that EDC or PB, as the case may be, can be issued after making necessary entries in the marked copy of the electoral roll.

The Nodal officer shall ensure that these applications in Form 12A/Form 12 and with the electoral roll details are duly entered and signed by the persons concerned so drafted on election duty and the same are sent to the concerned RO within the specified period.

# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## Issue and collection of Form-12/Form 12A:

- The Nodal Officer should distribute Form 12/ 12A, to all police personnel drafted for election duty.
- Duly filled in and signed Form 12/12A, along with a copy of the deployment order as a proof of having been drafted for election duty and photocopy of EPIC in order to ensure that no ineligible person is issued a Postal Ballot should be collected by the Nodal officer and handed over to the RO.
- Efforts should be made to collect signed Forms well before the last date of withdrawal of candidature.
- However, if for some reason FORM-12/12A of some persons on election duty could not be collected before this date, they should be collected even after this date and as soon as possible.



# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## Setting up of Facilitation Centres for Police Personnel on Election Duty:

- As per newly inserted **Rule 18A, a Voter on Election Duty**, shall receive his postal ballot, record his vote thereon and return the same at the facilitation centre as specified, in writing by the RO.
  - It is, therefore, clarified that all the voters on election duty shall cast their votes at the facilitation centres and not in any other manner.
- a) *The RO will set up a facilitation centre at his office for all the police personnel, videographers, cleaners and other staff engaged in election duty.*
  - b) *The details of FCs shall be fed in the database of the Voters on Election Duty, well in advance so that information about the FC can be given in the appointment letters issued to Voters on Election Duty.*
  - c) *An officer of the level of Group-B, assisted by three officials shall be responsible for conducting postal balloting at the FC at the office of the RO.*

# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## Time and duration of the functioning of the Facilitation Centre:

- The FC at the office of the RO shall function from P-3 to P-1 day during normal office hours.
- Where deployment of police personnel for election duty is done prior to P-3 day, the Returning Officer may set up facilitation centre at his office accordingly to facilitate postal balloting by the police personnel deployed on election duty.

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

### **Availability of Group A/Group B officers for attestation of declaration:**

- In case of Voters on Election Duty, the declaration and signature of the elector in Form 13A is to be attested by a Group A or Group B officer.
- For this purpose, the In-charge of each of the facilitation centre shall attest the declaration in Form 13A after the voter has marked his choice and put the postal ballot in the inner envelope.
- The officer shall attest the declaration based on the identification of the voter by his identity documents.
- He must check before attestation that the Sl. No. of the ballot paper is filled up in the space provided in the declaration, it is signed by the elector in his presence and his address is duly mentioned.
- The attesting officer should append full signature with date and write in hand or put a stamp showing his designation & office address.

# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## **Issue of Postal Ballots and manner of voting at the Facilitation center:**

- The In-charge of the facilitation centre will be assisted by three officials on the lines of polling officials posted in a polling station, the first official will be incharge of the list of Voters on Election Duty as provided by the RO and responsible for identification of the voter.
- He will verify the identity of voters on election duty based on EPIC or any other photo identity document, and obtain signature of each voter in a register.
  - a) *The second official will be incharge of indelible ink. After identification and signature of the voter in the register, the second official shall apply indelible ink in the left hand's forefinger of such voter.*
  - b) *The third official will be in-charge of postal ballots, and will issue postal ballot to the Voter on Election Duty.*

# POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

## Casting of postal ballot at facilitation centre:

- After receiving the postal ballot, the voter shall go into the voting compartment and mark his choice against the name of the candidate in the postal ballot in secrecy.
- A voter can put a 'cross' (X) or 'tick' (✓) against the name of the candidate of his choice.
- After marking the choice, he will fold the postal ballot paper, put in the inner cover in **Form 13B and** paste it. Then the voter shall sign the declaration in Form 13A in the presence of and have the signature attested by the Incharge of the Facilitation Centre in Form 13A.

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

- (a) It should be noted that the voter shall write the serial number of the postal ballot paper, if not already filled up, in the space provided for the same in the declaration in Form 13A and on the inner envelope (Form 13B-Cover A) in which the polled postal ballot is kept before the postal ballot is kept inside inner envelope [ Form 13B – Cover A].
- b) Thereafter, the envelope in Form 13B containing the postal ballot and duly attested Form 13A shall be put separately in the outer envelope in Form 13C and sealed by the voter himself.
- c) After sealing of the outer envelope [Form 13C], the same will be dropped in the drop box kept at the facilitation centre.

## POSTAL BALLOTS/ELECTION DUTY CERTIFICATE (EDC)

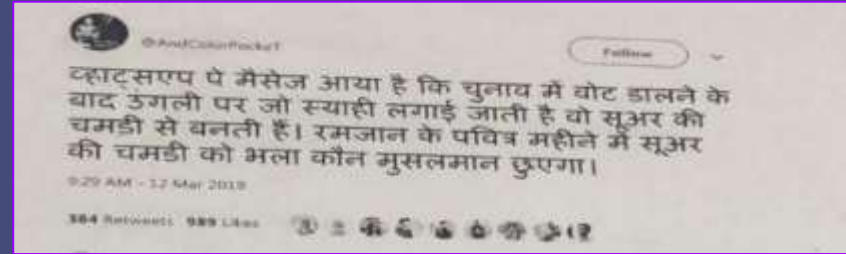
- Orientation of Voters on Election Duty on how to cast vote through postal ballot:
- Commission directs that the entire procedure for casting of votes through postal ballots shall be explained by the Returning Officers/ Assistant Returning Officers thoroughly to the Voters on Election Duty of all categories, so that there is no error in casting votes by them.

**The SP, in coordination with the RO/ARO shall organise orientation programme for all police personnel being deployed on election duty**

- It should be clarified that all Voters on Election Duty that once a postal ballot has been issued to a voter by the Returning Officer, the voter has no option to vote in any manner other than voting at the facilitation centre
- There is no provision for sending the postal ballot by post or through special messenger, if a voter fails to collect his postal ballot and cast his vote at the facilitation centre

### Fake News related to Indelible Ink

- One of the twitter user tweeted that Indelible ink being used by the Election Commission of India is produced from an animal fat and dissuade people from voting during a festival season.
- To counter such wrongful information actual Information that Indelible ink is made from Silver Nitrate communicated to Media and FIR Registered against Twitter user & Twitter asked to take down the tweet as it was violation of IPC sections.







**THANK YOU**