

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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PRESS NOTE

ECI begins a nation-wide awareness programme on EVMs and VVPATs ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha Elections

More than 3500 demonstration centres and nearly 4250 Mobile Vans deployed for awareness programme

Ahead of the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024, a nation wide awareness programme on Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is underway to provide citizens with a firsthand experience of the voting process and familiarity with the machines. The awareness programme which is organised ahead of every General Election to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly focuses on imparting knowledge about the basic features of EVMs and VVPATs, elucidating the step-by-step procedure of casting votes, and educating voters on how to verify their choices through the VVPAT slip. Awareness through physical demonstration fosters deeper understanding of EVM & VVPAT functionality and is instrumental in dispelling misconceptions, boosting voter confidence, and ensuring a more informed and participative electorate.

The programme includes outreach and awareness activities in 3464 Assembly Constituencies spread across 613 Districts in 31 States/UTs (other than 5 states that went for polls recently). Over 3500 demonstration centres and around 4250 mobile vans have been set up to physically demonstrate EVM/VVPAT functionality to the public. CEOs and DEOs are also sharing the updates on social media platforms to enhance the outreach of this awareness programme.





As per ECI's standing instructions, state Chief Electoral Officers need to start a focussed awareness campaign approximately 3 months prior to the announcement of election (for this purpose the date of announcement of the last election may be considered). A schedule for the awareness campaign is prepared by the DEO assembly constituency/ segment-wise which is also shared with National and State Recognized Political Parties and local media.

The Commission has a detailed Standard Operating Procedure for use of EVMs for Training and Awareness (T&A) purposes including public demonstration programmes. SOP includes protocol for handling and storage of T&A EVMs, use of only FLC-OK EVMs with dummy symbols, destruction of VVPAT slips generated during training and awareness, etc. The list of EVMs used for T&A is also provided with acknowledgement to the political parties.



For more details, one can refer to Chapter 5 titled 'Training and Awareness' of the Manual on EVMs which is available on ECI Website. (Link below)

https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/uploads/monthly_2023_08/EVManual_August2023_pdf.1f8976b609ce6fefe9b0fe69d3f848ff

Anuj Chandak

Anuj Chandak

Joint Director