

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001.

No 464/INST/2014-EPS

Dated: 6th May, 2014

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of

1. Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
2. Bihar, Patna
3. Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
4. Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu
5. Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
6. Uttarakhand, Dehradun
7. West Bengal, Kolkata

Sub: Focused tracking of poll day events through dedicated teams - reg.

Sir / Madam,

The Commission has issued instructions regarding preparation of effective communication plan, validating plan and putting the plan to use effectively, to track the poll day events. In spite of these instructions, it is noticed that the effective communication plan needs to be further fine-tuned. Against this background, the Commission has issued the following instructions to be implemented in the poll going States on 07.05.2014 & 12.05.2014:-

1. The CEO will form one dedicated team for each poll going district. For this purpose he/she can draw effective manpower from the other offices immediately. Landlines/ mobile phones shall be used by the team for communicating. Even the personal mobile phones of the team members can be used for the purpose and that will be compensated by the CEO. The name and contact numbers of the district-wise tracking team will be sent to respective districts and the district wise names and telephones of similar dedicated teams may be immediately obtained so that one to one contact is established.

2. At the district level, the DEOs will have a control room with dedicated teams for the administrative unit-wise tracking at Tehsil/Block level, whichever is convenient. Similarly, Tehsil/Block level dedicated officer will be tracking each and every polling station. In this process from CEO offices up to the polling station there should be effective communication.
3. At each and every stage the dedicated groups will track the events and keep the District control room and CEO control room informed.
4. It is observed that any untoward events at polling stations generally get covered in the local television channels. Hence the CEOs/DEOs will setup a separate control room to monitor the coverage on the local media. Once any untoward event is reported about the polling station, immediate response will be activated without waiting for any other formal report or complaint. In order to ensure the quick response, there should be adequate number of reserve officers with reserve vehicles and reserve video/cameras. On seeing reporting about any untoward incident, a reserve group should be immediately dispatched while simultaneously informing the Sector Officer about the incident. The Sector officer should also keep the district control room informed about the incident giving details of what exactly happened.
5. As per the Commission's instructions the Presiding Officers are permitted to carry their mobile phones in switch off mode. The Commission has now directed that the Micro Observers wherever posted in a polling station can also carry their mobile phone keeping them in silent mode. The contact number of the control room should be duly registered in their mobile phones so that in case of any need the Micro Observers can contact the control room after coming out of the polling station so that their conversation does not affect the proceedings of the polling station.

Besides, the district control room will have the phone number of each Micro Observer so that they can directly contact them.

6. If a video camera/ digital camera is deployed in the polling station, before the commencement of the poll apart from recording the events like mock poll and commencement of poll, the presence of CAPF/ Police personnel

