

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, ODISHA
PRESS BRIEFING (02nd Nov. 2022)

Preparedness for the Poll;

All necessary preparedness for the Poll has been completed. Polling Parties, EVMs, Election materials, Security arrangements – all are in place.

Dispersal of Polling Party :

Yesterday day & today the Polling Party dispersal has taken place at Bhadrak from Collectorate campus, Bhadrak.

Polling parties pertaining to the Rural and distant places have been disbursed yesterday.

Polling teams mostly pertaining urban polling stations are being dispersed today.

A total of **1008** Polling Officers are deployed @ 04 per booth. About **100** Polling Officers (i.e. 25 Teams) are under reserve.

The Polling Officers have been duly trained with two rounds of hands on Training.

The Polling Officers as well as the EVMs & VVPATs have undergone Third round and Second round Randomizations respectively before they are sent to respective booths.

Restriction on Election Campaigns before 48 Hrs. :

Silent period has come into force from 6.00 p.m. of yesterday. Collector, S.P. and Returning Officer have been instructed to ensure that all Political party workers, Star campaigners and Candidates who are not voters of 46- Dhamnagar (S.C) A.C, do leave the Constituency area during this period.

All Community halls, Guest houses, Hotels are being checked thoroughly.

Restriction on EXIT POLL & Opinion Poll :

Exit Poll banned during the poll day, from, 7 AM to 6.30 PM as notified by Election Commission.

Further, display of election matter including the result of any opinion poll or any other poll survey in media is prohibited during the silent period.

Restriction on sale of Liquor :

Dry day has also been declared w.e.f. 48 hrs. before the time fixed for Poll i.e. with effect from yesterday evening. Sale or distribution of liquors or the substances of similar nature in hotel, restaurants, shop or any other place are banned during this period.

Other Restrictions :

Canvassing within 100 mtrs. of the Booth is an offence. Violators can be arrested without warrant u/s-130 of R.P.Act-1951.

EVMs :

All the EVMs to be used in the Poll have been commissioned in presence of Contesting Candidates.

In case there is any defective EVM or malfunctioning EVM comes to our notice on the Poll day, guidance of Sector Officers or Trained Engineers shall be taken.

In case of need the EVM Unit(s) shall be replaced from the stock of Reserve EVMs available with Sector Officers.

To attend to calls on exigency, there are 7 Trained Engineers from ECIL, Hyderabad who are deployed for the Poll day.

Booth Details:

Poll is going to be held in **252** booths. In **134** booths there is change of nomenclature.

Sufficient publicity is being ensured in this regard. There are single booths in **120** locations, Double booths in **54** locations, triple booths in **05** locations, 4 booths each at **01** location and 5 booths each at **01** location in the A.C.

Voter Details:

About **2,38,417** Voters are participating in the Poll which consists of **1,23,038** males, **1,15,346** females and 33 Trans genders.

12 Alternative Photo Identity Documents :

ECI has recommended for 12 alternative photo identity documents for Voters, who in the absence of their EPIC, can produce any of these to establish their identity –

- i) Adhaar Card
- ii) MGNREGA Job Card
- iii) Pass books with photographs issued by Banks/ Post Office
- iv) Health Insurance Smart Card issued by Ministry of Labour
- v) Driving Licence
- vi) PAN Card
- vii) Smart Card issued by RGI
- viii) Indian Passport
- ix) Pension Document with Photograph
- x) Service Identity Cards with Photo issued by Central/State Govt. Offices / PSUs
- xi) Official I-Cards issued to M.Ps / M.L.As
- xii) Unique Disability ID (UCID) issued by Min. of Social Justice & Empowerment

Facilities for Voters :

- Adequate publicity is being ensured for the voters. Basic minimum facilities like drinking water, light, ramp, approach roads, furniture etc. have been ensured in these booths.
- Help Desks have been opened by engaging BLOs on the Poll day to assist voters in identifying their names
- BLO have distributed voter information slips to all the voters prior to poll which contains their sl no. in the electoral roll and polling station details
- Posters on how to cast vote through EVMs and list of alternative identification documents will be pasted at each booth
- Braille Dummy Ballot papers have been made available with each Presiding Officer for helping visually challenged voters

- Poll day being declared as paid holiday for all the Govt. employees as well as private employees who are voters in the constituency.
- Voters are advised to come early to vote. In case some voters are found still in the queue at Poll closure time i.e. 6.00 p.m, slips will be distributed to them by Presiding Officers
- Provision for Hand sanitization for voters has been ensured. All voters as a precaution are requested to wear face mask during poll.

Special arrangement for P.w.D Voters :

For transportation of PwD Voters from their houses to booth and back, 934 Vahan passes have been issued.

98 Auto rickshaws have been arranged. Also ramps, separate queue, Volunteers with wheelchairs have been arranged at each booth.

Sensitive Booths :

Basing upon the field inputs, **110** sensitive booths have been identified. Special arrangement is being done for such booths.

In **126** booths Web casting has been planned.

25 Micro Observers will be deployed and extra CAPF deployment will be done in appropriate locations.

Law & Order :

Superintendent of Police, Bhardak has been entrusted upon to look into the Law & Order and proper security during the Bye Election process.

A total of **997** Police Personnel (including Officers, Armed Police, Havildar, Constables and Home guards) and 04 companies of CAPF are being deployed for the Poll.

Enforcement measures :

644 licensed arms have been deposited in concerned police stations so far. **2134** persons have been booked under preventive sections of 107 & 116 Cr. P.C. **270** Nonailable warrants have been executed.

About **17,573** ltr. of liquor has been seized.

Model Booths & Pink Booths:

15 Model Booths with facilities like Ramp, Temp. shed, separate queues, Drinking water, Volunteers for P w D and Sr. Citizens etc. will be operating on the Poll day.

Similarly **05** Pink booths especially in urban areas totally manned by Trained lady Polling Officers will be opened.

Two Hourly Report on Poll Day :

On the Poll day i.e. on 03rd Nov, 2022, Mock Poll will start at 5.30 a.m. followed by Poll at 7.00 a.m..

Two-hourly voting turn out will be released for information of public.

Special request to media persons :

We have received full co-operation from media persons in the past elections. Because of the positive coverage by media of the elaborate arrangement made by the administration, voters were encouraged to come and cast their votes. We expect similar co-operation this time also.

We are making special arrangement for dissemination of poll related information to media persons in CEO office as has been the practice.
