

**PRESS RELEASE**

Elections free of inducement has been one of the objectives of Election Commission of India. An all-out effort to curb inducement has been taken up towards Election Expenditure Monitoring.

FST, SST, VST, Nodal officers at Assembly constitution levels have been set up. District level control rooms to co-ordinate the effort have been established.

In Tamil Nadu, 105 Expenditure Sensitive Constituencies were identified and extra efforts as mandated by Election Commission of India were strengthened.

Expenditure Sensitive Pockets were identified and the teams have been directed to be extra vigilant during the last 72 hours. 4 State Nodal Officers – 2 for Expenditure, 1 Police, 1 General Observer have been appointed by the Election Commission of India to oversee all the aspects of Election Expenditure Monitoring.

118 Expenditure Observer have been drafted to monitor Expenditure by candidates and political parties.

Till date in Tamil Nadu total cash and kind seizure stands at 428.46 crores. The total cash seizure so far is 225.5 crores. Seizure of precious metal (Gold, Silver, Diamond and other ornaments) 176.11 crores, that of

liquor (2,75,293.31 ltrs) 4.61 crores and other items 20.01 crores have been done.

Last 72 hours are extremely sensitive from Expenditure stand point. Towards this, round the clock surveillance along with CAPF teams has been taken up. Patrolling has been strengthened during night and early morning along with Expenditure teams. This has resulted in significant seizures in the last 24 hours namely **cash seizures** of 91.56 lakhs in Ranipet District, 1.23 crores in Thousand lights constituency, Chennai, 1.15 crore at Veerapandi, Salem, 1.06 crore in Vellore districts, 98 lakhs in Coimbatore City, 1.13 crore in Saidapet, 65 lakhs cash at Virudhunagar Assembly Constituency. All put together the cash seizure during the last 24 hours stands at 8.42 crores. Further 4190 liquor bottles and 7600 ltr fermented wash was seized, in different places.

For any complaints, people can call **1950** which will be received in District Election Officers office and State Toll free number (**1800 4252 1950**) at CEO's office. Further **cVIGIL APP** can be used to report any wrong doing related to elections. Complete confidentiality of the complainants will be maintained. The public are encouraged to use these toll free numbers as well as cVIGIL App to bring to the notice of the Commission any wrong doings / inducements resorted to by any elements. All complaints would be acted upon immediately by FST/SST teams.

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