

Public (Ele-IX) Department

ETPBS & Service Voter; a successful turnout for Lok Sabha Election 2019

Among the many milestones recorded during the recently concluded Lok Sabha Election 2019, Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) is one of its kind, in the world's largest democratic election process. Compared to 13,27,627 number of registered Service Electors of last General Election in 2014, a record highest number of 18,02,646 were enrolled as Service Electors through online registration with the dedicated portal <https://www.servicevoter.eci.nic.in> who were sent postal ballots electronically. For the first time a full-fledged online registration portal for service electors has been used to save processing time, resources and human errors.

Persons working in Central Forces under Arms Act and Government officials deployed in Embassies outside the country are, classified as Service Voters and are provisioned for online enrolment. Out of the total number of Service Electors, 10,16,245 were from Ministry of Defence, 7,82,595 from Ministry of Home Affairs (Central Armed Police Forces), 3539 of Ministry of External Affairs and State Police 267. In the seven phases spanning election, total 18,02,646 postal ballots were dispatched electronically using the flagship IT programme of Election Commission of India, known as ETPBS. In 2019, 10,84,266 e postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout, which is significant improvement compared to 2014 when turnout was only 4%.

ETPBS is developed by Election Commission of India, for the use of the Service Voters. It is a fully secured system, having two layers of security. Secrecy of voting is maintained through the use of OTP and PIN and no duplication of casted ETPB is possible due to the unique QR Code in the portal <https://www.etpbs.in>. Through this system the service voters cast their vote on an electronically received postal ballot, from anywhere outside their constituency, thus the chances of losing the voting opportunity has reduced. The purpose of the online system was to create convenient and easy-to-use online system for Defense Personnel to become Service Voters.

With the motto of "no voter to be left behind", Election Commission of India's ETPBS has empowered and ensured all eligible service electors with their constitutional power to vote while performing their duty for the nation.

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