

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Chief Electoral Officer of Tamilnadu, held a Video Conference today (09.05.2024) with the District Election Officers / Returning Officers, Commissioners of Police, Superintendents of Police, District level Engineers of PWD (Civil and Electrical) to review the EVM strong room security arrangements, Security Arrangements at the Counting centers, monitoring of security by CCTV installations and other related matters with regard to the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024.

As per the instructions of ECI, the contesting candidates or their representatives are allowed to watch the security arrangements of the Strong Room through the CCTV display facility provided at the counting centre. The CCTV cameras were already fixed on the outside of every **Strong Room Door having the polled EVMs** (Apart from this the entire counting center are covered under general surveillance by adequate number of CCTV cameras for overall security purpose).

In order to ensure un-interrupted CCTV footage, all the DEOs/ROs have been instructed on 02.05.2024 to make arrangements for fixing of **one additional CCTV camera in front of the Door of each Strong Room having the polled EVMs** in the counting centers (with separate dedicated line, switch, Router, NVR and TV) for viewing CCTV footage enabling the political party agent to view the footage (even if there is failure in the other CCTV cameras fixed in front of Strong Room Door having the polled EVMs installed already).

Instructions have been issued to the DEOs to coordinate with Electricity Department and PWD officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply for CCTV arrangements in the counting centers. Availability of Diesel Generator with automatic change over provision in case of power failure, UPS back up for strong room CCTV cameras to ensure seamless switching for that gap when power cuts off and diesel Generator is turned on, stabiliser for CCTV installation to avoid voltage fluctuations in power supply have been reviewed. DEOs have also been instructed to ensure that measures like surge protector/lightning arrester are installed so that the CCTV cameras do not get affected because of lightning.

As per the existing directions of the ECI, the candidates or the representatives of the candidates based on their requests, accompany the DEO/RO/ARO to the inner perimeter, in batches, to see, verify and satisfy regarding strong room security. A Three-tier cordoning system comprising Central Armed Police Forces, State Armed police and local police has been set up with controlled access in all counting premises to prevent any entry of unauthorized persons.

**Chief Electoral Officer**

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