

14.07.2009

Press Release

A meeting was held today (14.07.2009) by the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu with the DEOs of Krishnagiri and Thoothukudi to review the preparations for the bye-elections to Bargur and Srivaikundam (pre-limited) Assembly Constituencies. Earlier review meetings were held at Coimbatore (03.07.2009) and Madurai (06.07.2009) for the bye-elections to Thondamuthur, Ilayankudi and Cumbum Assembly Constituencies.

2. The DEOs have been instructed to prepare the database of polling personnel so as to have a proper mix of staff belonging to different departments and to put to the extent possible Central Government staff as Presiding Officers. According to the instructions of the Election Commission, those

- (i) whose native place is in the Assembly Constituency, or
- (ii) who reside in the Assembly Constituency, or
- (iii) who are working in the Assembly Constituency

will not be appointed for poll duty. The deployment of polling personnel will be done by randomization in the presence of the Observers of the Election Commission of India. Micro Observers, who will be reporting directly to the main Observers of the Election Commission, will be deployed in all the polling stations.

3. The Election Commission has indicated that the Communication Plan implemented during the General Elections to the State Assembly of Madhya Pradesh, had been validated into a national concept by the Election Commission, with an intention to speedily track information on

the poll day and to make the management of election information-centric. The DEOs of the districts of Coimbatore, Sivaganga, Theni, Krishnagiri and Thoothukudi have been instructed to draw up a Communication Plan incorporating therein the phone nos. of all the concerned officials including those in and around the polling stations so as to obtain information speedily on the poll process and the possible obstructions to it.

4. In the bye-election to Thirumangalam Assembly Constituency and in the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2009 it was pointed out that there was a significant variation between the poll percentage figures given to the media by the officials every two hours with the final figures after the close of poll. In order to furnish information accurately of the votes cast every two hours, and for monitoring the poll process in the polling stations, the Election Commission has recommended adoption of SMS based system followed in Tripura in Lok Sabha elections in 2009.

5. Apart from the usual videography of critical events which is done in every election, it is proposed to monitor the poll process online and beam the polling in the polling stations live to a control room situated in the office of the DEO/ CEO's offices. From the Server the Video could be webcast live and made available globally.

6. Apart from the above measures, the Election Commission may deploy CPFs in all the 5 Constituencies.

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Tamil Nadu

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