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Talking points for Press Brief on 12.05.2018 (Saturday)

Karnataka LA, 2018

General Points

- I would like to compliment, especially, youth and gender for their enthusiastic participation and coming out with a record turnout in this election. I specially compliment persons with disabilities and senior citizens who despite their difficulties took the pain on using their franchise. I also compliment the role of volunteers in helping voters at polling stations.
- On this occasion, I would also like to thank the DEOs, polling Personnel deployed at Booths, sector and Zonal levels and other officials related with various processes of conduct of the poll.
- I also wish to thank Bharat Electronics Limited and all the 600 engineers for their valuable assistance and guidance in handling EVM and for the first time VVPAT.
- I thank all departments of Government of Karnataka especially Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Centre(KRSRAC), Department of Social Welfare, Department of Women and Child Welfare, Department of Disabilities Welfare, Department of Information and Public Relations and Departments of Government of India for their timely support.
- I express deep gratitude to all the Election ICONs for sparing their valuable time in spreading Voter Awareness.
- I would like to thank all General Observers, Police Observers, Expenditure Observers and Micro observers and official machinery.
- On this occasion, I would also like to thank the State Nodal Police Officers of the State Police and Central Forces for their systematic and efficient deployment of police Personnel to conduct a peaceful poll of all Two Phases.
- Election Commission-Karnataka has considered Media as proactive ally in the process of election and I compliment Print, Electronic, Radio and Internet Media for an outstanding coverage of elections.

About polls

- Today's poll consisted of 33 districts, comprising of 222_ACs (Except 173- Jayanagar and 154 Rajarajeshwarinagar). In 173- Jayanagar Assembly Constituency, the poll was postponed due to the death of a contesting candidate, whereas in 154- Rajarajeshwarinagar, it was postponed by an order of the Commission.

Except these two Assembly Constituencies, poll was held in all the remaining 222 Assembly Constituencies.

These 33 districts that went to poll today were ---

Sl. No.	Name of the District
1	1-BELGAUM
2	2-BAGALKOT
3	3-BIJAPUR
4	4-GULBARGA
5	5- BIDAR
6	6 -RAICHUR
7	7 -KOPPAL
8	8-GADAG
9	9-DHARWAD
10	10-UTTARA KANNADA
11	11-HAVERI
12	12-BELLARY
13	13-CHITRADURGA
14	14-DAVANAGERE
15	15-SHIMOGA
16	16-UDUPI
17	17-CHIKKAMAGALUR
18	18-TUMKUR
19	19-CHIKKABALLAPUR
20	20-KOLAR
21	22-BANGALORE(RURAL)
22	23-RAMANAGARA
23	24-MANDYA
24	25-HASSAN
25	26-DAKSHINA KANNADA
26	27-KODAGU
27	28-MYSORE
28	29-CHAMARAJANAGAR
29	35 YADGIR
30	31-BANGALORE(CENTRAL)
31	32-BANGALORE(NORTH)
32	33-BANGALORE(SOUTH)
33	34-BANGALORE(URBAN)

The Main highlights of Today's election are like this:-

1. 5,07,18,452 voters including 27,908 service electors.
2. Total No. of electors in the ASD is 773020
3. Total 2,622 candidates contested and in which there are 217 female candidates.
4. Poll was conducted in total 57,416 (excluding 592 polling stations relating to 173- Jayanagar and 154- Rajarajeshwarinagar) polling stations and 40,979 polling station locations.
5. In this phase 99.69% electors were issued EPIC and 93.22% electors were issued photo voter slips.
6. Percentage of photos in the electoral rolls was 99.52%.
7. EVM/VVPAT- Total 57,786 CUs and 64,297 BUs were used. 57,786 VVPATs were used in the 222 Assembly Constituencies of Karnataka excluding reserve.
- 8. Total BU and CU replaced during Mock Poll and Poll were 212 and 340 respectively which is 0.33% 0.59% of total EVMs (57,786 CUs and 64,297 BUs) used.**
- 9. Total VVPATs replaced during Mock Poll and Poll was 698 is which is 1.2% of total VVPATs(57,786) used.**

Machinery deployed

10. ECI appointed during this phase **154** General Observers, **136** Expenditure Observers, **35** Police Observers for supervision of various activities of poll process.
11. Total **9781** Micro Observers were deployed.
12. Total about **3,20,606** polling personal were deployed and more than **82157** total Police force and **585** Coys on the day of Poll and **754** Striking Parties including CPF were deployed
13. **265731** Postal Ballots were issued to Polling Personnel out of which **106891** persons cast their vote.
14. Apart from the deployment of CPF at every polling station many other alternative arrangements of webcasting and micro observes or a combination of the three were also done at critical polling stations.
15. Web casting was done at 3500 locations.

Preventive Action Taken

16. In order to ensure a peaceful and trouble-free security atmosphere more than **97,031** arms were deposited.
17. In this phase more than **40,209** cases of NBWs were executed.
18. More than **1,461** vulnerable hamlets were identified pockets were identified as vulnerable and confidence building measures were taken in all vulnerable hamlets.
19. During this phase more than **24,965** trouble makers were identified and bonds were taken under Section-107 CRPC.

Expenditure Management

20. Poll boycott related information: No poll boycott incidents reported.
21. As a part of Election Expenditure Monitoring, following action was taken:-

Second Phase	Total
Indian Currency	Rs. 91,58,85,958/-
Seizure of liquor	540762.895 Liter worth RS. 24,83,67,638.47/-
Any other information	Precious Metals (Gold +Silver) worth Rs. 44,28,00,717/- Total Drugs/Narcotics worth Rs. 40,18,725/- Other items seizure (Vehicles, Sarees, Cookers, etc) worth Rs. 21,29,23,696/- Total articles worth Rs. 65,97,43,138/- Total Seizure (cash+Articles+Liquor+Drugs) = 182,39,96,734.47/-

22. **26** case of Paid News reported across the districts out of which district MCMC committee have decided **15** cases as paid news.
23. **1388** cases of MCC violation.

During the present General Election to Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the following amount of seizures is made compared to previous Election to Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Election is as follows:

Year	Cash	Liquor	Other items
2013	Rs. 14.42 Crore	67953 Litres	-
2014	Rs. 28.08 Crore	44924 Litres worth Rs. 2.8 Crore	6.78 Crore
2018	Rs. 93,30,15,754/-	540762.895 litres worth Rs. 24,83,67,638.47/-	Rs. 66,48,39,687.53/-

Following are the special initiative which leads to increase in seizure and better enforcement of Model Code of Conduct:

1. One month prior announcement of election a ready Reckoner for Political Parties, Departmental Officers, Enforcement Teams and Media were prepared containing relevant Circulars of Election Commission of India and made available to all stake holders.
2. State level training/workshop was held 15 days in advance to all district level nodal officers of Model Code of Conduct, Election Expenditure Monitoring, Excise, Transport, Commercial Taxes and Income Taxes.
3. Workshop/training was held for political parties and media at State level once before to announcement of elections and once after announcement of election.
4. The enforcement teams like Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, Video Viewing Teams, Video Surveillance Teams were constituted Assembly Constituency wise 15 days prior to announcement of elections and they were given extensive through Video Conference from the State level and they were activated from the time of announcement of election.
5. Further, a Whatsapp group was created with all the members of Enforcement Teams, District Nodal Officer, State Nodal Officers and District Election Officers. Any doubt raised was given clarification on real time basis. Actionable information has been shared instantly.

6. A unique Complaint Monitoring Centre with Media Monitoring Cell, Social Media Monitoring Cell, 1950 toll free number cell, hand complaint receiving cell and compliance cell was established with all the cells integrated and sitting in a building. Such type of centres were established at the State level as well as district level.
7. Regular video conferences held by Chief Electoral Officer of all State level nodal officers like Expenditure / MCC nodal officer, Police, Excise, Commercial Taxes, Transport and Income Taxes with district officers and enforcement teams' help in inter departmental co-ordination, optimum utilisation of resources and better enforcement.
8. Finally, the most important facts which helped in better enforcement is the dynamic leadership role played by District Election Officers and District Nodal Officers and constant consistent recognition, encouragement and motivation given to all the team members across the State for the good work done.

24. Special Initiatives

SVEEP Initiatives :

Total number of awareness activities conducted are 10995.

21.37 lakh people have participated and there has been an audience of 3.4 crore people.

This has reached every house hold thorough print, digital and electronic media.

During this elections, **600 Pink Polling Stations, 26 fully PwDs manned Polling Stations and 28 Ethnic Polling Stations** were set- as Model Polling Stations. The details of these Polling Stations are given below.

Sakhi/Pink Polling Stations

1. In all there were 600 pink polling stations throughout the state
2. All the polling personnel are women.
3. The Polling stations were painted in pink colour. Entrance and all the table covers were pink. By and large the personnel were in pink saris/dresses.
4. A Voter Facilitation table was there to help/guide the voters
5. Sturdy ramps were provided at all the polling stations
6. Drinking water facility was provided.
7. Health care facility was available.
8. Small space was made available for children to wait and play
9. The entrance to the booths was with pink cut outs for the doors with pink balloons.
10. Facilities for persons with disabilities such as wheel chair, magnifying glass and volunteers were present to assist those in needs.
11. Suitable toilets
12. Signage boards
13. Shade for the people was provided.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

1. Fully PwDs manned Polling stations
 - i. Bidar 1
 - ii. Gadag 1
 - iii. Haveri 2
 - iv. Kodagu 2
 - v. Mandya 8
 - vi. Raichur 7
 - vii. Mysore 3
 - viii. Vijayapura 2

Total 26 Polling stations

2. Totally 388 polling personnel with disabilities took part in various polling stations and election work across the whole state.
3. For orthopaedically challenged persons wheel chairs have been arranged in **14485** polling locations. Those who have booked for wheel chair online are being provided with wheel chair at the polling stations.
4. Magnifying glasses are made available to all who need at every polling stations,

The theme and focus of SVEEP has been “INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND ETHICAL ELECTIONS”. All out efforts have been made to enhance the registration and voting of PwDs, Young, Transgender, Primitive tribes, Nomads, Devadasis and others.

Celebrities like Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao, Rahul Dravid, Gyanpeetha awardee Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar and others were proud state ICONS. Campaign materials of video films, posters and banners along with icons were effectively used in cinema halls, malls, print, electronic and social medias to create awareness of the theme and about the Poll date and timings.

ANTHEM: First time an Election anthem has been produced to bring about the theme of INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND ETHICAL ELECTIONS.

Welfare Measures Provided To Election Staff

1. Nodal Officer has been appointed to monitor Welfare measures of election staff
2. Election staff have been provided prior information about the training programmes
3. Necessary arrangements have been made at the training and dispatch centres
4. Establishment of postal ballot paper distribution and receiving centre has been done
5. Relief provision in case of injury to the election staff while on duty has been provided
6. Health arrangements for polling personnel and cashless treatment
7. Proper medical facilities were maintained at the Election Staff dispatch centres.
8. Honorarium has been provided to the election staff in most of the cases by depositing to their bank accounts in advance.
9. Help measures for Security personnel, Central Armed Reserved Forces has been provided
10. Adequate arrangement of drinking water and ORS was made.
11. Air ambulance provision was made in case of any health emergencies.

Ethnic Polling Stations

1. Primitive tribes, nomads and others staying in deep forests have been motivated for registration. A number of activities have been taken up with them with the help of Directorate of Tribals.
2. **28** polling stations in 8 districts viz, Chamarajanagar, Udupi, Kodagu, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Mysore, Shimoga and Chikkamagalur have been modified into Ethnic style of infrastructure with the help of local people.
3. Local available materials have been used to give the ethnic look to the polling stations. They have been covered with vegetation and natural colours.
4. Few voters came to the polling booths in traditional dress and cast their votes.

IT Initiatives

1. We have this time has mapped all the 56,696 polling stations and its jurisdictions after taking up one of its kind mammoth exercise and brought the whole state under the GIS domain.
2. The voter slips are issued with individual part maps and the polling station marked in it with all basic information required for a voter to find the polling station with ease and is distributed to all the 5.06 crore electors.
3. An all-purpose App was released christened as “**Chunavana**” for the citizen in both the android and iOS platforms where in the citizen can locate and infer about the assembly constituency and the part number by location searches. Citizen can also book wheel chairs and 264 wheel chair bookings were received and catered on the poll day. The citizen and election personnel can also search the polling stations by name and EPIC and is benefitted largely by its location and navigation services. **The poll day download and usage of this “Chunavana” APP has crossed more than one Lakh.**
4. The queue status facility in the urban polling stations was used widely by Bengaluru Citizens and the candidate details and officers details were useful for the citizen to help in the monitoring of MCC to conduct free and fair elections.
5. An associated promotion with Facebook India reaching to all the 15 million Facebook Users in Karnataka through reminding them to vote is done on the poll day. The location and search application developed for this purpose is used by **1,86,000** users as of 4 PM.

6. An exclusive GIS Dashboard for Elections (Karnataka Election Information System) for the first time in the country is hosted with all historical statistical election data and environment is created for hosting the present and the future data. A poll day footfall of **60,625** is recorded in this dashboard which is widely appreciated by the media and the candidates which helps them for all their election related analyses.

7. Suvidha:

In the ECI desktop application for single window permissions, a total of 20,321 applications were received out of which 11,621 were disposed of within 24 hours and 7560 were disposed of within 48 hours.

M3 EVM Initiatives

Sl. No.	From District	To District	No. Of Polling Stations	No. Of BUs allotted	No. Of CUs allotted	No. of VVPATs allotted
1	BEL	BBMP (Central)	1800 7ACs	3610	2260	2350

6ACs of BBMP (Central) where M3 EVM and M3 VVPAT were to be deployed - Shivajinagar, Shantinagar, Gandhinagar, Rajajinagar, Chamarajpet, Chickpet

Reduction in Polling Personnel

In M2 VVPAT, one extra polling official in each polling station is to be given to handle the VVPAT unit. The duty of this polling official will be to watch the VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU), kept on the presiding officer's table, continuously during the entire poll process.

In the M3 VVPAT, VSDU is embedded in the Control Unit and polling official handling control unit can watch the error message of VVPAT in CU. The additional polling official (i.e. 5th Polling Official) is not required to be deputed in the polling parties, where M3 EVMs and M3 VVPATs are to be used. Hence, in the 7ACs of BBMP (Central) where M3 EVM and M3 VVPAT are to be deployed, 2000 polling personnel is not required to be deputed in the polling parties.

Status of EVM-VVPAT Training and Awareness details of Karnataka State

- In order to create awareness among the electors about the use of VVPAT, special teams are arranged equipped with VVPATs and EVMs. These teams have visited various parts of the Assembly Constituency with these machines and explained to the people about the use of VVPATs and also its functioning. The voters are allowed to use the machines and see how it works.
- Also an appeal letter from the RO (Returning Officer) to the voters of the Assembly Constituency is distributed, which will appeal to the voters to come and exercise their vote. A special segment explaining about VVPAT is included in that appeal letter.
- Adequate publicity about VVPAT is generated through the print and electronic media, so that the electors would be aware about VVPAT
- Posters and banners (In English and Kannada) will be displayed in prominent locations and outside polling stations, about the use of VVPAT.
- Use of Social Media- Disseminate awareness messages through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram at CEO Level, DEO Level, RO Level
- Live demo on EVMs and VVPAT for Political parties and Media.
- Short films on EVMs-VVPATs are being run in Movie Halls, Cable TV.
- Distribution of Pamphlets through News papers
- Use Festivals, public gatherings in villages and set up display stalls disseminating information about EVM-VVPAT
- Film screenings on EVM-VVPAT is conducted at village panchayats.
- EVM/VVPAT Hoarding, Banners, Posters is displayed in Public centres like Polling stations, Panchayats Bhavans, PHCs, Ration shops, Banks, Post Offices etc.

As a result of these efforts **1,50,00,000 Voters** have got Hands on experience in using EVM with VVPAT throughout the State of Karnataka and are completely satisfied with the machines. This process will be continued and efforts will be made to demonstrate the EVM-VVPAT to all the voters across the state.

SI No	Details of Trainees	No. Trained
1	Voters	1,50,00,000
2	Political Parties	2,350
3	Media	645
4	Judicial Officers	1,500
5	Sector officers	900
6	ALMTs	1,345

25. Finally the turnout figure for all the polled districts today and comparative figures in the last Assembly and parliamentary Elections have been like this :-

Total turnout figures :-

Sl.No.	District	TURNOVER FIGURES			
		Lok Sabha Elections 2014	Assembly Elections 2013	Lok Sabha Elections 2009	Assembly Elections 2008
1	1-BELGAUM	71.00	74.67	60.7	71.1
2	2-BAGALKOT	68.87	72.94	63.38	67.58
3	3-BIJAPUR	59.71	66.07	47.28	60.06
4	4-GULBARGA	57.67	63.75	49.4	56.2
5	5 BIDAR	61.32	66.43	47.28	57.18
6	6 RAICHUR	59.56	64.83	45.11	54.07
7	7 KOPPAL	67.56	73.48	58.62	62.46
8	8-GADAG	68.09	72.9	59.29	65.66
9	9-DHARWAD	65.44	67.16	56.28	64.37
10	10-UTTARA KANNADA	69.60	73.66	60.01	68.76
11	11-HAVERI	73.22	79.91	65.26	71.31
12	12-BELLARY	69.79	73.16	61.08	66.76
13	13-CHITRADURGA	66.06	76.65	51.68	67.89
14	14-DAVANAGERE	73.20	75.98	66.71	70.78
15	15-SHIMOGA	72.36	74.76	65.97	70.12
16	16-UDUPI	75.98	76.15	71.47	75.8
17	17-CHIKKAMAGALUR	70.46	75.47	63.18	71.46
18	18-TUMKUR	71.62	79.32	65.61	74.69
19	19-CHIKKABALLAPUR	77.98	83.5	70.48	78.8
20	20-KOLAR	74.61	81.47	68.16	70.93
22	22 BANGALORE(RURAL)	79.73	82.49	67.13	78.46

Sl.No.	District	TURNOVER FIGURES			
		Lok Sabha Elections 2014	Assembly Elections 2013	Lok Sabha Elections 2009	Assembly Elections 2008
23	23-RAMANAGARA	81.02	82.94	69.35	76.32
24	24-MANDYA	71.22	77.98	68.7	73.8
25	25-HASSAN	74.50	78.77	70.82	75.65
26	26-DAKSHINA KANNADA	77.18	74.48	74.44	73.32
27	27-KODAGU	69.10	73.27	63.95	65.26
28	28-MYSORE	68.32	65.83	61.78	67.03
29	29-CHAMARAJANAGAR	74.01	78.65	70.48	78.8
30	30-BANGALORE	56.81	57.38	45.81	49.87
35	35 YADGIR	67.28	64.92	48.26	57.16
	STATE TOTAL	55.38	71	58.88	64.78

EVM Replacement:

The EVM replacements till 3PM during poll today –

BU – 380 (0.55%).

CU – 348 (0.56%).

VVPAT – 1200 (1.87%)

Complaints: A comprehensive mechanism was put in place for addressing Public Grievances during the election process. The aggregate information regarding the status of disposal of complaints received from different sources and carried on different Platforms is as follows as on 12-05-2018.

SL No.	Category	Total Complaints Received	Disposal	Pending
1	Letters, emails etc from ECI and other sources	1664	1625	39
2	PGR Postals (Karnataka and ECI)	8872	8749	123
3.	SAMADHAN	2985	2759	226
4.	Total	13405	13045	360

Pending cases are being pursued with the concerned authorities for speedy disposal.

Incident Report:

1. Ari Anne Acharya a voter who came to vote at Polling station number 58 in Belthangadi Taluk collapsed while standing in the queue, rushed to the hospital immediately but was declared dead.
2. **Repoll recommended at Polling station no 2 of Hebbal Assembly Constituency**: Mismatch between the VVPAT slip and the EVM ballot was observed in the polling station. The Observer, BEL engineers have visited the polling station and found that the machine was faulty and we have recommended a repoll.
3. **There were no poll disturbances except in Polling station no 2 of Hebbal Assembly Constituency as detailed below--**

Hebbal Constituency, Lottegollahalli, PS-2 EVM Malfunctioning

At 9.20am, in the Polling Station No.2, Lottegollahalli of Hebbal Constituency it was reported that EVM was malfunctioning. The Commissioner BBMP, ADEO BBBMP North and the Returning officer along with the Observer. The technical report obtained by the BEL Engineers states that:

1. On the issue of Ballot in CU,
 - a) In BU1, Button No.9 was accepting vote by itself.
 - b) VVPAT is also printing ballot slip for SI No.9
 - c) CU is recording the vote.
 - d) We have never observed any cross voting (i.e. you vote for some one and it is getting votes' for someone else).

It is a pure technical issue and the problem was with BU. CU and VVPAT had no problems

4. **By and large the poll was peaceful except certain minor incidents reported as below ---**
 - **Distribution of Money**: An Ex corporator Mallesh has been arrested and FIR 1358/2018 has been booked at 2.30 AM.
 - DEO Raichur has reported that 20 auto rickshas has been seized on a complaint that auto rickshas were used to ferry voters in Maski and Raichur villages,

- An old women attempted suicide at a polling station in Devagiri Village of Haveri District as she was upset for not having basic facilities in her village.
 - **DEO has reported the women – Paravva Akkasali**, aged 58 years had come to polling to and attempted to commit suicide by pouring kerosene due to domestic problems. Police and Revenue authorities have convinced her and she has voted

5. Minor incidents:

- a. Voting halted at polling booth 280 in Chikkodi after some people alleged that polling officers threw ink on the party symbol button on EVM. – DEO has reported that the problem is solved and the poll has continued smoothly.
- b. Congress workers attacked BJPCorporator Anand Hosur near Polling Station located near Virupaksheshar Swamy Education Society, Vijayanagar, Hampinagar,, Bangalore-- DEO reported that soon the situation was brought under control.
- c. Group clashes between BJP and Congress workers was reported at booth no 226, Radderahalli of Chikkodi, Belagaum --- DEO has reported that soon the situation was brought under control.
- d. About 100 voters staged demonstration and boycotted poll in booth no 42 of Chamaraja Assembly Constituency, Mysore. --- DEO has reported that the District Administration was successful in convincing them to vote.
- e. BJP workers alleged distribution of money by supporters of a candidate Iqbal Ansari in Lambani Thanda of Gangavathi,--- DEO has reported that two persons—Nityananda and Peer Ahmad have been arrested at Gangavathai town police station.
