

राजस्थान सरकार
(निर्वाचन विभाग)

क्रमांक एफ 3(1)(2)प्रथम/निर्वा/2021/2262

जयपुर, दिनांक 26.05.2025

प्रेषक : मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी,
राजस्थान, जयपुर।
प्रेषिति : समस्त जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी,
(कलक्टर), राजस्थान।

विषय : Polling Day arrangement to deposit mobile phones at Polling Station-
regarding.

प्रसंग : भारत निर्वाचन आयोग का पत्र क्रमांक 464/INST/EPS/2025/L&O दिनांक
23.05.2025

सन्दर्भ : 464/INST/2023/EPS (Poll Day Management Outside) 14th June, 2023

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयान्तर्गत भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ने प्रासंगिक पत्र दिनांक 23.05.2025 द्वारा लोकप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 25 में दर्शाये गये "निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के लिए मतदान केन्द्रों के प्रावधानों, धारा 130 में दर्शाये गये "मतदान केन्द्रों में या उनके निकट प्रचार करने पर प्रतिबन्धों तथा निर्वाचनों का संचालन नियम, 1961 के नियम 49M (maintenance of secrecy of voting) से अवगत करवाया है।

प्रासंगिक पत्र द्वारा आयोग ने देश में मोबाइल फोन की बढ़ती पहुंच के साथ, चाहे ग्रामीण हो या शहरी क्षेत्र, सार्वजनिक जीवन में मोबाइल फोन का उपयोग दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ता जा रहा है। मतदान के दिन, मतदाताओं को logistical needs के कारण अपने मोबाइल फोन घर पर छोड़ना मुश्किल लगता है या उन्हें मतदान केंद्र में प्रवेश करने से पहले अपने मोबाइल फोन किसी और को सौंपने पड़ते हैं। वरिष्ठ नागरिकों, दिव्यांगों और महिला मतदाताओं के मामले में यह समस्या विशेष रूप से गंभीर हो जाती है।

मतदाताओं को होने वाली ऐसी कठिनाइयों को कम करने के लिए, आयोग ने मामले पर विचार किया है और आयोग ने सन्दर्भित निर्देश संख्या 464/INST/2023/EPS (Poll Day Management Outside) 14th June, 2023 में संशोधन कर निर्देश दिये हैं कि उक्त निर्देश के पैरा I(x) अब निम्नानुसार पढ़ा जाएगा :-

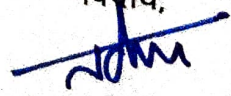
"(x) No person other than Observers appointed by the Commission and authorized officials shall be allowed to either carry or use mobile phones, wireless sets etc. within the polling station. However, facility may be provided at the polling stations to the voters to deposit their mobile phones as per the following guidelines

- Only mobile phones shall be allowed within 100 meters of a polling station that too in switched off mode only.
- Facility to deposit mobile phones may be provided at the entrance of the polling station for 10 voters as generally a maximum of 4-5 voters are present inside the polling station at any point of time.

- c) For this, a small pigeon hole box with 10 compartments or a jute bag having small pockets may be kept at the entrance door of the polling station. (Some sample designs are enclosed at Annexure-I);
- d) In any case, mobile phone shall not be allowed to be carried inside the polling station by any voter;
- e) Deposit facility shall be provided only for the voters entering into the polling station and shall not be available for any other persons (including polling agents, polling officers etc.).
- f) As per instruction No.464/INST-AMF/2022/EPS dated 10th June 2023, volunteers are deployed at polling stations to assist the voters. One or two of these volunteers will be assigned the work of managing the deposit facility by the Booth Level Officer.
- g) A set of 10(ten) pre-numbered paper/cardboard tokens of size 2'x2', pre-signed by the BLO, will be provided to the volunteer(s) responsible for managing the collection of mobile phones outside the polling station.
- h) Before entering the polling station, the voter shall deposit mobile phone at depositing facility and taken a token.
- i) After casting of vote and coming out of the polling station, mobile phone will be taken back by the voters by return of token.
- j) In case any voter forgets to take back his/her mobile phone, the volunteer(s) responsible for managing mobile phone collection shall hand over these mobile phones to the BLO of the respective polling station after the end of poll. The BLO shall return the mobile phone to such voter on production of the token after satisfying himself/herself.
- k) In any case, if the Returning Officer is of the opinion that it is not possible to make arrangement to deposit mobile phones at any polling station(s) considering the prevailing law and order situation, criticality, vulnerability or non-availability of volunteer(s) or any other factor, she/he can exempt that polling station(s) from providing this facility."

उपरोक्त निर्देशों से आपके जिले के समस्त रिटर्निंग अधिकारियों, सेक्टर अधिकारियों, बूथ लेवल अधिकारियों एवं चुनाव संबंधी प्राधिकारियों को अवगत कराकर समस्त आगामी आम चुनावों/उपचुनावों में अक्षरशः पालना सुनिश्चित करवायी जावे।

संलग्न: उपरोक्तानुसार

भवदीय,

 (नवीन महाजन)
 मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी,
 राजस्थान, जयपुर।

क्रमांक एफ 3(1)(2)प्रथम/निर्वा/2021/2262

जयपुर, दिनांक 26.05.2025

प्रतिलिपि निम्न को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित है :-

1. निजी सचिव, मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
2. संयुक्त मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी (आई.टी), निर्वाचन विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
3. प्रभारी अधिकारी, रोल्लस शाखा, निर्वाचन विभाग, राजस्थान; जयपुर।
4. प्रभारी अधिकारी, भण्डार शाखा, निर्वाचन विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर को प्रासंगिक पत्र के पैरा 5 के बिन्दु संख्या (x)c के क्रम में।
5. प्रभारी अधिकारी, प्रशिक्षण शाखा, निर्वाचन विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
6. रिटर्निंग अधिकारी, 193-अंता विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र को आगामी विधानसभा उप-निर्वाचन, 2025 में पालनार्थ।


विशेषाधिकारी, निर्वाचन विभाग,
राजस्थान, जयपुर।



By Email/Speed Post

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Tel. No. 011-23052014
Fax 011-23052001
Website: www.eci.gov.in
No.464/INST/EPs/2025/L&O

निर्वाचन सदन,
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001.
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 23rd May, 2025

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of All States/UTs.

Subject: Polling Day arrangement to deposit mobile phones at Polling Station- regarding.

Reference: Inst No. 464/INST/2023/EPs (Poll Day Management Outside) dated 14th June, 2023.

Madam/Sir,

Whereas, section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 makes provision for polling station as under:

“ Provision of polling stations for constituencies.—

The district election officer shall, with the previous approval of the Election Commission, provide a sufficient number of polling stations for every constituency the whole or greater part of which lies within his jurisdiction, and shall publish, in such manner as the Election Commission may direct, a list showing the polling stations so provided and the polling areas or groups of voters for which they have respectively been provided.”

2. Whereas, section 130 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 prohibits canvassing in or near polling station as under :

“ Prohibition of canvassing in or near polling stations -

(1) No person shall, on the date or dates on which a poll is taken at any polling station, commit any of the following acts within the polling station or in any public or private place within a distance of one hundred metres of the polling station, namely:—

(a) canvassing for votes; or

(b) soliciting the vote of any elector; or

(c) persuading any elector not to vote for any particular candidate; or

(d) persuading any elector not to vote at the election; or

(e) exhibiting any notice or sign (other than an official notice) relating to the election.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.

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(3) An offence punishable under this section shall be cognizable.”

3. Whereas, Rule 49M of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 provides for maintenance of secrecy of voting by electors within the polling station.

4. With increasing penetration of mobile phones in the Country, whether in rural or urban areas, the usage of mobile Phone in public life is increasing day by day. During polling day, electors find it difficult to leave their mobile phones at home because of logistical needs or they have to hand over their mobile phones to someone else before entering the polling station. The issue becomes particularly acute in case of senior citizens, PwDs and women electors.

5. In order to mitigate such difficulties being faced by voters, the Commission has considered the matter and directed that para I(x) of the Commission's instruction no. 464/INST/2023/EPS (Poll Day Management Outside) dated 14th June, 2023 shall now read as under:

“(x) No person other than Observers appointed by the Commission and authorized officials shall be allowed to either carry or use mobile phones, wireless sets etc. within the polling station. However, facility may be provided at the polling stations to the voters to deposit their mobile phones as per the following guidelines

- a) Only mobile phones shall be allowed within 100 meters of a polling station that too in switched off mode only.*
- b) Facility to deposit mobile phones may be provided at the entrance of the polling station for 10 voters as generally a maximum of 4-5 voters are present inside the polling station at any point of time.*
- c) For this, a small pigeon hole box with 10 compartments or a jute bag having small pockets may be kept at the entrance door of the polling station. (Some sample designs are enclosed at Annexure-I);*
- d) In any case, mobile phone shall not be allowed to be carried inside the polling station by any voter;*
- e) Deposit facility shall be provided only for the voters entering into the polling station and shall not be available for any other persons (including polling agents, polling officers etc.).*
- f) As per instruction No.464/INST-AMF/2022/EPS dated 10th June 2023, volunteers are deployed at polling stations to assist the voters. One or two of these volunteers will be assigned the work of managing the deposit*

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facility by the Booth Level Officer.

- g) A set of 10(ten) pre-numbered paper/cardboard tokens of size 2'x2', pre-signed by the BLO, will be provided to the volunteer(s) responsible for managing the collection of mobile phones outside the polling station.*
 - h) Before entering the polling station, the voter shall deposit mobile phone at depositing facility and taken a token.*
 - i) After casting of vote and coming out of the polling station, mobile phone will be taken back by the voters by return of token.*
 - j) In case any voter forgets to take back his/ her mobile phone, the volunteer(s) responsible for managing mobile phone collection shall hand over these mobile phones to the BLO of the respective polling station after the end of poll. The BLO shall return the mobile phone to such voter on production of the token after satisfying himself/ herself.*
 - k) In any case, if the Returning Officer is of the opinion that it is not possible to make arrangement to deposit mobile phones at any polling station(s) considering the prevailing law and order situation, criticality, vulnerability or non-availability of volunteer(s) or any other factor, she/he can exempt that polling station(s) from providing this facility."*
6. This may be brought to the notice of all District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Sector Officers, Booth Level Officers and all other concerned officers/officials.

Yours faithfully,



**(VIBHOR AGRAWAL)
UNDER SECRETARY**

Copy to all DEOs, EROs and BLOs for information. *through CEOs.*

Option-1



Option-2

Fiber Mobile Locker



Option-3



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

TEL 011-23052144
Fax 011-23713412/23739944
Website: www.eci.gov.in

निर्वाचन सदन,
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली 110001-
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No. 464/INST/2023/EPS(Poll Day Management Outside)

Dated: 14th June, 2023

To

The Chief Electoral Offices of
All States & Union Territories.

Subject: General Election and Bye election to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies – Poll Day Management of activities outside Polling Station reg.

Reference:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| (i) 576/3/98-JS-II | dated 03.02.1998 |
| (ii) 464/INST/2006/PLN-I | dated 20.04.2006 |
| (iii) 464/INST/2007/PLN-I | dated 12.01.2007 |
| (iv) 464/UP-LA/2007 | dated 25.10.2007 |
| (v) 437/6/2007(INST)-PLN-III | dated 12.11.2007 |
| (vi) 464/INST/2008/EPS | dated 16.01.2009 |
| (vii) 464/INST/2008/EPS | dated 21.01.2009 |
| (viii) 464/INST./2014/EPS | dated 15.04.2014 |

Madam/Sir,

The Commission has been issuing instructions from time to time on management of activities outside Polling Stations on the day of poll, *vide* letters referred to above. Now, the Commission has reviewed these instructions and issued the following consolidated instructions in supersession of all the existing instructions on the subject:

I. Election Booths:

During the period of General / Bye-Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, the candidates of various parties including independent candidates set up and operate Election Booths (temporary offices) on poll day. In these regards, the following directions are issued for strict compliance:

- (i) No Election Booth shall be set up within a radius of 200 meters from the Polling Station. Even where more than one Polling Station has been set up in the same

Polling Station Location or premises, there shall be only one Election Booth of a candidate for such group of Polling Stations beyond a distance of 200 meters from such premises.

- (ii) Only one table and two chairs shall be provided at each of such Booths with an umbrella or a small tent measuring not more than 10 X10 ft to protect from weather conditions outside the 200 meters periphery of the polling station premises
- (iii) Each candidate wishing to set up such Booths shall intimate, in writing and in advance, to the Returning Officer, the names and serial numbers of the Polling Stations where such Booths are proposed to be set up by him. He shall also obtain the written permission of the concerned Government authorities or local authorities like Corporations, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, Town Area Committees, Panchayat Samitis etc., as applicable, under the relevant local laws before setting up of such Booths. Such a written permission must be available with the persons manning the Booth so as to produce the same before the election/ police authorities concerned on demand.
- (iv) Following broad guideline with respect of setting up of such Booths shall be followed:
 - a. No such Booths will be opened by way of any encroachment either on public or private property.
 - b. No such Booths will be opened in any religious places or campus of such religious places.
 - c. No such Booths will be opened contiguous to any educational institutions or hospitals.
 - d. Such Booths can display only one party flag and banner with party symbols/photographs.
 - e. The size of the banner used in such Booths should not exceed 4 X 8 feet subject to the further condition that if the local laws prescribe a lower size for banner / hoarding etc., then the size restriction prescribed by local law shall prevail.
 - f. The expenditure on setting up of such Booths and activities conducted, as prescribed, should be booked to the candidate's election expenditure account
- (v) Such Booths shall be used only for the sole purpose of issuing unofficial identity slips to electors. These unofficial identity slips shall be printed strictly, in accordance with the instructions of the Commission, without the name or symbol of the candidate or the name of the political party.



- (vi) No crowds shall be allowed to collect at such Booths in any circumstances nor shall any person who has already cast his vote at the Polling Station be allowed to come to the Booth. This would be evident from the indelible ink mark on his left forefinger or any other finger as specifically prescribed for that election for the constituency in which the Polling Station is located.
- (vii) The persons manning the booths shall not cause any obstructions whatsoever in the way of electors proceeding to the Polling Stations or prevent them from going to the Booths of other candidates or create any other sort of hurdles whatsoever in the right of voters to exercise their franchise according to their own free will. More specifically, no elector shall be influenced in any way whatsoever to either come and collect the unofficial identity slip from the particular Booth or if he comes to such Booth of his own accord, to vote in favour of or against any party / candidate contesting the election.
- (viii) Any violation of the above directions will be viewed by the Commission with the utmost gravity and most stringent action possible under the law, including but not restricted to the removal of such Booths forthwith will be taken against the candidates and / or their agents / workers responsible for any such violations.
- (ix) No electioneering shall be allowed within the 200-meter area around the Polling Stations on the date of poll.
- (x) No person other than Observers appointed by the Commission and authorized election/police officials shall be allowed to either carry or use mobile phones, wireless sets, etc., in the 100-meter perimeter of the Polling Stations described as the "Polling Station Neighborhood" (*Section 130 Representation of the People Act 1951*) and within the Polling Station.
- (xi) The person who is nominated by the political parties/candidates to man such Booth shall be a voter in the same Polling Station. He shall also have an EPIC and whenever any Sector Magistrate/Observer ask the person to disclose his identity, he shall show the EPIC.
- (xii) The political parties/candidates shall ensure that they do not put any person with criminal antecedents on the job to man such booths.

II. Possession of Arms near the Polling Station:

- (i) The provisions of Section 134 B of the Representation of People Act, 1951 provides that, except those expressly permitted by that section, no one else carries any arms or indulges in show of arms in Polling Stations or Polling Station Neighborhood, so

that the conduct of elections can take place in a free and fair manner without any intimidation of voters, or threat perception to them.

- (ii) It is seen from time to time that during the poll process, candidates and/or supporters of candidates, who have been provided with security cover by the authorities, enter Polling Stations or Polling Station Neighborhood accompanied by their security personnel. This is in clear contravention of the provisions laid down in Section 134B of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
- (iii) No person, even if a recipient of any form of security from any quarter, should enter into any Polling Station or Polling Station Neighborhood, accompanied by such security personnel.
- (iv) The security agencies in charge of extending security must therefore, recast security plans accordingly. It would be the duty of those in charge of the election to ensure that the provisions of the above quoted Section 134B of the Representation of the People Act 1951 are strictly enforced and no security personnel attached to any person (i.e., any candidate, any of his agents, workers, supporters, or even any elector) enter into any Polling Station or Polling Station Neighborhood. Only one security personnel of SPG protectee or Z+ protectee can enter a Polling Station in plain clothes and arms kept in concealed manner.

III. Security Arrangements:

- (i) Commissioner of Police/ Superintendent of Police shall deploy police forces, including CAPF, as per approved District Deployment Plan on static and mobile duties. All police forces, including CAPF, deployed for polling station security shall take positions in and control of the respective Polling Stations on the day prior to the poll day.
- (ii) In case CAPF has not reached the assigned Polling Station, due to any reason, the poll shall not commence in that Polling Station.
- (iii) Manual on Force Deployment in Elections (*Latest Edition*) shall be referred to for detailed guidelines on force deployment.
- (iv) At the polling station where CAPF personnel are deployed according to District Deployment Plan, one personnel of the CAPF deployed for the Polling Station shall be placed at the door of the Polling Station, either in static or oscillating mode, in order to observe the proceedings inside the Polling Station (*Janak Singh V/s Ram Das Rai & Other in CA 9228 of 2003: SC*). Moreover, the Company Commanders of CAPF shall also move for area domination and confidence building measure in the



sectors assigned to them.

- (v) The State Police shall remain solely responsible for maintenance of the general law and order inside and outside of the Polling Station premises (as different from polling stations).
- (vi) State Police Force shall not replace the CAPFs at the Polling Stations, in contravention of District Deployment Plan, under any circumstances. No officer of the local state police, with or without contingent, shall position himself at the Polling Station and exercise any supervision and control over the CAPF at the Polling Station.
- (vii) According to the vulnerability mapping, hamlets/habitations within relevant Polling Station areas those are vulnerable to threat, all necessary confidence building measures shall be taken. The Local State Police shall attach utmost importance to this task and shall also ensure that there is no hinderance to voters of such pockets in exercising their franchise on the day of poll.

The above instructions shall be brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,



14/06/2023

(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)
SECRETARY