

# Election Commission of India

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001

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## Press Note

**Sub: Conference of Chief Electoral Officers of all States/ UTs in the Election Commission of India on 20.12.2011 and Review of preparedness of 5 election going States.**

The Election Commission of India held a one-day Conference of the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all States and Union Territories on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2011, for a comprehensive review of issues relating to the ongoing Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls 2012, maximization of enrollment of voters in the age group of 18-19 years, Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) and Photo Electoral Roll (PER) coverage, Citizens' Services Website, issues related to maintenance of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), preparations for the National Voters' Day (NVD) – 2012, Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, Training, Expenditure Monitoring etc. The Commission held a separate review of preparedness of five election going States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur.

The Chief Election Commissioner Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, Election Commissioner Sh. V. S. Sampath and Election Commissioner Sh. H. S. Brahma addressed the CEOs and emphasized the importance of a perfect Electoral Roll, especially in respect of the poll bound States. Commission expressed satisfaction over the additional overall enrolment, particularly those of the newly eligible 18-19 age group electors during the Summary Revision. It directed CEOs to launch a special campaign in the first half of January, 2012 to enroll the

remaining new voters culminating in NVD 2012. It also directed CEOs to complete 100 percent Photo Electoral Roll (PER) and 100 percent distribution of EPIC, at the earliest. CEOs were asked by the Commission to address the deficiencies in gender, age cohorts, and Elector-Population ratios. Commission also asked the CEOs to look into cases of large additions or deletions in the E-Rolls and enhance the scrutiny of electoral rolls.

Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, CEC emphasized that all out efforts should be made by the CEOs so as to ensure that all newly eligible voters are enrolled and EPIC cards are distributed on time. Election Commissioners Shri V. S. Sampath and Shri H.S. Brahma underlined the importance of scrutiny and neutrality in management of electoral roll and election.

The Conference also discussed issues relating to organization of the second NVD, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. Commission directed that the EPICs should be distributed to all newly eligible and registered voters, a badge given to these first time electors and the NVD pledge administered at all the Polling Station locations across each State and UT, covering all the 8.5 lakh Polling Stations.

Issues relating to storage and maintenance of the EVMs were discussed and the Commission directed that a 100% physical verification of all the EVMs is to be done every quarter, by the CEOs. The Expenditure Monitoring instructions of the Commission were reiterated and the CEOs were asked to put the affidavits on Assets and Liabilities of all contesting candidates on their websites, immediately after the close of nominations, in every election.

The Commission asked the State CEOs for offers to open regional branches of its India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM). The CEOs of Odisha, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh indicated their interest to establish Regional Institutes of IIDEM in the East, South and Central Zones, which was appreciated by the Commission.

The Commission directed CEOs to set up Resource Centres in each State to preserve and promote election related knowledge and documents.

The practical problems and issues faced by the five election going States were discussed in detail and Commission gave the CEOs specific directions for ensuring free, fair and efficient polls.

(Yashvir Singh)  
Director