

GENERAL ELECTION TO HPCs 2024

URGENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
KERALA

No. EL6/4/2024-ELEC (2)

18-03-2024, Thiruvananthapuram

From

Chief Electoral Officer

To

All District Election Officers / Returning Officers

Sir,

Sub: General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 – Carrying of mobile phone by Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers inside the Counting hall – Reg.

Ref: Lr. No. 464/INST/ETPBMS/2024/EPS Dated 16.03.2024 from the Election Commission of India.

I am to forward herewith a copy of the letter cited, wherein necessary instructions as regards to the usage of mobile phones by the officials in the Counting Hall has been issued by the Commission, for information and strict compliance.

Yours Faithfully,

KRISHNADASAN P

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY & ADDITIONAL CHIEF
ELECTORAL OFFICER

For Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala

Approved for Issue,

Signed by

Shivlal R V

Date: 18-03-2024 18:14:16
Section Officer.

By Speed Post/Email

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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निर्वाचन सदन

अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001

Nirvachan Sadan

Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 16th March, 2024

No.464/INST/ETPBMS/2024/EPS

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and UTs

Subject: General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye-elections to ACs of various States - Carrying of mobile phone by Returning Officers/ Assistant Returning Officers inside the Counting hall - regarding.

Reference: Instruction No.464/Counting Arrangements/2023/EPS dated 18.07.2023

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to inform that the Commission has announced General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye-elections to ACs of various States vide its Press Notes No.ECI/PN/23/2024 and No.ECI/PN/24/2024 respectively dated 16.03.2024 available on the Commission's website under URL <https://elections24.eci.gov.in/docs/press-note-no-23.pdf>. The said elections will be conducted in 7(seven) phases and the date of Counting for all phases has been fixed on **04.06.2024(Tuesday)**.

2. In this regard, your attention is invited to the Commission's instructions referred above and to state that in view of inception of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Management System (ETPBMS) wherein One-Time Password (OTP) is received on the Returning Officer's mobile phones, the Commission has directed that on the day of counting: -

- Only that mobile phone of the RO/ ARO/ Counting Supervisor (s), linked to ETPBMS, be used to receive 'OTP' to log into ETPBMS to start counting thereof shall be brought inside the counting hall;
- The mobile handset will be switched on only to receive 'OTP' and be switched off once the system is logged on to ETPBMS;

- c) Inside the counting hall, such mobile handset is to be kept in the custody of ARO/ RO/ Observer, whosoever is the senior most officer in the Counting Hall for ETPBMS counting, in switch off mode till the counting is over.
- d) In case the login is closed for some reasons, Counting Supervisor can get the mobile from the officer to whom the mobile set was submitted to receive OTP once again for enabling him to re-login. After re-login, he shall return the mobile to the same officer in switched off mode.
- e) A declaration be signed by all users separately about Do's and Don'ts for mobile usage.
- f) Specific approval must be obtained from the respective Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for the number of users in each instance, along with the necessary mobile phone numbers being used. Mobile phones are to be allowed inside the Counting hall for all such users.

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

Yours faithfully,



(BREJESH KUMAR)
UNDER SECRETARY