

Adequate Resourcing for Credible Elections

Securing Elections: Sustainability Implications

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Securing the Largest

- 780 million voters (1200 million population)
- About 9,00,000 Polling Stations
- 1200 political parties
- Over 8000 Candidates in last national election
- 11 million personnel in last national election
- Elephants, camels to air force Jets to ferry EVMs and polling teams
- Regional, Religious, Ethnic, Cultural and Linguistic Diversities

Not just size, It is about:

Credibility of elections.

Peaceful elections.

Transparency

Inclusiveness and participation -Separate polling station for a lone voter – for the weakest person.

Dealing with most common threats to secure elections: muscle power, incumbency power, money power

Securing elections mainly imply:

- Protecting electoral stakeholders viz; voters, candidates, poll personnel, party workers, Media, Observers.
- Ensuring safety of poll material, EVMs, polling stations, counting centers.
- Ensuring that overall law and order is conducive enough to ensure a level playing field in election

Measures for securing elections

- Identification of **critical polling stations**
- **Vulnerability mapping** (three months before polls)
- COMET (Communication Plan for Election Tracking)
- Deployment of **federal and provincial (randomised) police forces**
(Area domination and Confidence building, Guarding the polling stations, EVM and poll materials, poll personnel and the poll process)
- Deployment of General Observers, Police Observers, and Micro-observers, expenditure observers

Preventive Security

- Special drives against history-sheeters, declared absconders, criminals
- Executing of Non-bailable Warrants,
- Curbing flow of illicit liquor,
- Seizure of illegal arms and ammunitions etc.,
- Checking and deposition of licensed Arms on case to case basis
- Ban on issuing of new Arms licenses
- Check on movement of unaccounted cash, illegal liquor, illegal Arms, drugs and anti-social elements.
- Border sealing

Layer of Technology

- EVMs not only friendly faster and error, but prevents stuffing and booth capturing – cost effective
- GIS for constituency maps, route for movement of staff and security.
- Google Earth used for locating polling stations.
- Live web-casting directly from polling station
- Use of videography, photography
- Sustainability comes from cost-effective and indigenous character of technology.

Sources of Electoral Security

- Constitution
- Parliament/Election Laws/Rules
- Judiciary
- Political Parties (political sustainability – MCC)
- State resources (Bureaucracy, police, **cost sharing principles** - operational and financial sustainability)
- Media
- People (trust – participation-social sustainability)

Constitutional Security

- Government shall provide staff as required by ECI under its direct discipline .
- Power and control over security personnel to guard the purity of election process including minute deployment. (major factor of sustainable security- state capacity transferred to EMB)
- Constitution prohibits interference by courts during election process. EC has powers to countermand election, before results declared – Courts can not interfere
- Punishment for interference with electoral rights of weaker sections

Judicial pronouncements

“Where the existing laws are absent and yet a situation has to be tackled, the Chief Election Commissioner has not to fold his hands and pray to God for divine inspiration to enable him to exercise his functions and perform his duties or to look for any external authority for the grant of powers to deal with the situation. He must lawfully exercise his power independently, in all matters relating to the conduct of elections, and see that the election process is completed properly in a free and fair manner.”- Supreme Court

Security from Legal Framework

- Prohibition against Disharmony: Prohibition of appeal on grounds of religion, caste, creed, community, language etc., use of religious institutions for electioneering. Prohibition of promotion of feelings of hatred, ill-will or enmity, the
- Provisions against corrupt practices: Bribery of voters, Illegal payment, Undue Influence, Impersonation, False statement, misuse of official machinery
- Provisions for Peaceful Polls: secrecy of voting, Rules for canvassing and public meetings, conduct in or near Polling Station

Security through Operations

(direction ,SOPs, enforcement, superintendence)

- Correct electoral rolls
- Freedom for filing nominations
- Enforcement of Code of Conduct
- Check on correctness and fraud
- Control of campaign finance
- Uniform and immediate application of law and action- robust dispute resolution mechanism
- Constant and credible feedback

The Social Security Cover

- Inclusion. Inclusion. Inclusion
- Special provision for minorities, women, disabled, people displaced by ethnic and communal strife.
- Preserve and nurture voters' continued interest: (social sustainability to elections)
- Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)



Balance Sheet

- Peaceful, orderly and democratic transfer of power through 15 General Elections to Parliament and 350 General Elections to provincial Assemblies.
- Elections never missed the deadline. Credibility never challenged.
- Intellectual security and sustainability through rigorous training, consultations and exchange of best electoral practices-IIIDEM
- Optimal Constitutional- legal- operational-social framework backed up by direct control and direct use of state resources and technology by ECI has yielded sustainable security to Indian elections.

A Simple Vision @ 60

Elections that are completely free of crime and abuse of money, based on a perfect electoral roll and with full participation of voters.