

VOTER VERIFIABLE  
PAPER AUDIT TRAIL  
(VVPAT)

# VVPAT



VVPAT- allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.

# VVPAT



- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is an independent system, attached with the Electronic Voting Machines, that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
- When a vote is cast, the elector shall be able to view through the transparent window of the VVPAT, the printed paper slip showing the **serial no**, **name** and the **symbol** of the candidate of his choice.
- The slip is visible through the VVPAT window after which it automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.
- Since June 2017, VVPATs are being used in all Elections.

## HISTORY OF VVPAT

- **4<sup>th</sup> October 2010:** An all-party meeting agreed to incorporate VVPAT with EVM.
- **14<sup>th</sup> August 2013:** The Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 amended to use VVPAT.
- **September 2013:** First used in Bye-election for 51-Noksen AC in Nagaland.
- **October 2013:** Hon'ble Supreme Court allowed ECI to introduce the VVPAT system in a phased manner.
- **4<sup>th</sup> March 2017:** Goa became the first State where **100% coverage** of VVPATs with EVMs during Goa Legislative Assembly Election, 2017.
- **12<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** In all party meeting, the Commission committed to ensure 100% coverage of VVPATs in all future elections.
- **April-May 2019:** **100% Deployment** of VVPATs in Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

## VVPAT Complaint – Rule 49MA



In case a voter complains of wrong printing by VVPAT:

- He will report to Presiding Officer.
- Presiding Officer will take a declaration explaining that if found false he can be penalized.
- PO will then record in 17A and permit him to cast a 'test vote' in presence of PO and Polling Agents.
- If found false PO will record in 17A and 17C so that the test vote is not counted.
- If found true then PO will stop poll and report to RO.
- Since the introduction of VVPATs, more than 83 crore voters have cast their votes with full satisfaction & ONLY 17 (seventeen) complaints received u/r 49MA, which were all FOUND TO BE FALSE.

## VVPAT RECOUNTING PROCESS

- Counting of votes according to Rule 56C of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.
- After announcement of result any candidate/ his agent may apply in writing to the RO for counting of paper slips of VVPAT under **Rule 56D**.
- The RO shall pass a speaking order on whether the slip counting to be allowed.
- Till date, in **16 (Sixteen)** instances RO has allowed slip counting since 2017. **All counts matched.**

## VVPAT RECOUNTING PROCESS

- Between Dec 2017– Dec 2018 VVPAT slip count done in 1500 randomly selected PS and all these counts matched.
- In 2019 Lok Sabha Elections 20,687 VVPATs counted and around 1.25 crore slips matched with EVM count. A total count variance of only 0.0004% found in 8 VVPATs, that too due to human errors and not machine errors, which are being looked into.

## Why Going Back to Ballot not a Solution

1. Average around 2000 invalid votes in each Constituency when ballots used.
2. Vote stuffing was very easy with Ballot papers. EVMs designed to allow only 4 votes per minute ruling out vote stuffing.
3. Counting of Ballot Papers was always prone to manual errors. EVM counting both quick and accurate.
4. Retrograde step in the era of Technology when even financial transactions done electronically.
5. Ballot papers are made of wood pulp and hence made at a cost to environment.