

MOST IMMEDIATE
GENERAL ELECTIONS



PUBLIC (ELECTIONS.X) DEPARTMENT
Secretariat, Chennai-9

Letter No. 4062/2024- 14

dated 16.4.2024

From

Thiru Satyabrata Sahoo, I.A.S.,
Chief Electoral Officer &
Principal Secretary to Government.

To

All District Election Officers
All Returning Officers of GELS, 2024

Sir/Madam

Subject – Elections – General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 and
bye election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 2024
from 233-Vilavancode Assembly Constituencies – Setting
up of a centralised sorting facility for Polled Postal Ballots
– regarding

Reference : From the Election Commission of India, Letter No.
52/2023/SDRIVoUV Dated: 31.10.2023
2. From the Election Commission of India, Letter No.
464/TN-HP/2024/SS-I/Inst dated 10.4.2024
3. This office Letter No. 4062/2024-11 dated
11.4.2024

I am to invite attention to the reference 1st cited wherein the Election
Commission of India has instructed the following on the functioning of
facilitation centres for voting through postal ballot.

14.7.1 *The Facilitation Centres at the training venue shall function
during training hours on the second and subsequent training days.
In order to ensure smooth conduct of postal ballot voting, the training
should be conducted in batches. Those voters who have completed
training shall cast their vote immediately thereafter.*

14.7.2 *The facilitation centre at the office of the Returning Officer
shall function from P-3 to P-1 day during normal office hours. Where
deployment of police personnel for election duty is done prior to P-3*

day, the Returning Officer may set up facilitation centre at his office accordingly to facilitate postal balloting by the police personnel deployed on election duty.

14.7.3 *If more than one training session is required to be organized for any category of Voter on Election Duty, the facilitation centre shall remain functional during all sessions so that if an employee has not cast his postal ballot in an earlier session, he or she is able to cast postal ballot after their training is over.*

Hence, it is clear that facilitation centres can function till **18.4.2024 (that is P-1 day)**

2. In the reference 3rd cited, instructions were issued for setting up of a centralised sorting centre at Tiruchirappalli on 17.4.2024 for exchange of polled postal ballots by the districts. In this regard I am to inform you that the polled postal ballots collected till 16.4.2024 shall be exchanged by the concerned districts at Tiruchirappalli from 17.4.2024 as already instructed.

3. Since, as per the ECI instructions 2nd cited, the polled postal ballot should reach as soon as possible (not later than one day before the counting of vote) to the Returning Officer concerned, the District Election Officers/Returning Officers are requested to arrange to send the polled postal ballots collected on **17.4.2024 and 18.4.2024**, if any, through special messenger as per the instructions of the Commission dated 31.10.2023 (1st cited) by following all extant security protocols of the Commission and strictly adhering to all other relevant instructions issued by Commission in this regard.

Yours faithfully

V. J. Jeyaraj
16/4/24

for Chief Electoral Officer &
Principal Secretary to Government.