

**FAQs - ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMS) and Voter Verifiable Paper  
Audit Trail (VVPAT)**

**Q1. What is an Electronic Voting machine? In what way its functioning is different from the conventional system of voting?**

**Ans.** Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is an electronic device for recording votes. An Electronic Voting Machine consists of two Units – a Control Unit and a Balloting Unit – joined by a five-meter cable. The Control Unit is placed with the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer and the Balloting Unit is placed inside the voting compartment. Instead of issuing a ballot paper, the Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit will release a ballot by pressing the Ballot Button on the Control Unit. This will enable the voter to cast his vote by pressing the blue button on the Balloting Unit against the candidate and symbol of his choice.

**Q2. When was the EVM first introduced in elections?**

**Ans.** EVMs were first used in 70-Parur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982.

**Q3. How can EVMs be used in areas where there is no electricity?**

**Ans.** EVMs do not require electricity. EVMs run on an ordinary battery assembled by Bharat Electronics Limited/Electronics Corporation of India Limited.

**Q4. What is the maximum number of votes which can be cast in EVMs?**

**Ans.** An EVM being used by ECI can record a maximum of 2,000 votes.

**Q5. What is the maximum number of candidates which EVMs can cater to?**

**Ans.** In case of M2 EVMs (2006-10), EVMs can cater to a maximum of 64 candidates including NOTA. There is provision for 16 candidates in a Balloting Unit. If the total number of candidates exceeds 16, more balloting units can be attached (one per 16 candidates) up to a maximum of 64 candidates by connecting 4 Balloting Units. However, in case of M3 EVMs (Post 2013), EVMs can cater to a maximum of 384 candidates including NOTA by connecting 24 Balloting Units.

**Q6. What will happen if the EVM in a particular polling station goes out of order?**

**Ans.** If an EVM of a particular polling station goes out of order, the same is replaced with a new one. The votes recorded until the stage when the EVM went out of order remains safe in the memory of the Control Unit and it is perfectly fine to proceed with the polling after replacing the EVM with new EVM and there is no need to start the poll



from the beginning. On counting day, votes recorded in both Control Units are counted to give the aggregate result of that polling station.

**Q7. Who has designed the EVMs?**

**Ans.** The EVMs have been devised and designed by the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) of the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. The EVMs are manufactured by the above two undertakings.

**Q8. What is Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)?**

**Ans:** Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) 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, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds. Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.

**Q9. Whether VVPAT runs on electricity?**

**Ans:** No. VVPAT runs on a power pack Battery.

**Q10. Where were VVPATs used for first time in India?**

**Ans.** VVPATs with EVMs were used for first time in a bye-election from 51-Noksen (ST) Assembly Constituency of Nagaland.

**Q11. Who conducts the First Level Checking of EVMs & VVPATs?**

**Ans:** Only authorized engineers of the manufacturers, namely Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), conduct the First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs and VVPATs under control of District Election Officer and direct supervision of Dy. DEO in the presence of representative of Political Parties under videography.

**Q12. What is the cost of the machines? Is it not too expensive to use EVMs?**

**Ans.** The Cost of M2 EVMs (manufactured between 2006-10) was Rs.8670/- per EVM (Balloting Unit and Control Unit). The cost of M3 EVMs has been tentatively fixed at about Rs. 17,000 per unit. Even though the initial investment seems somewhat heavy, this is more than set off by the savings in the matter of printing of ballot papers in lakhs for every election, their transportation, storage etc., and the substantial reduction in the counting staff and the remuneration paid to them.