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Press Release

The election to the office of the President of India is by the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. The voters will have as many preferences as there are contesting candidates.

In as much as there are only two candidates for Presidential Election to be conducted on 19th July, 2007, the voters should put their preference(s) opposite the name(s) of the candidates by marking figure "1" , "2" against the name of the candidate(s) (the preference should not be indicated in words). The second preference is optional i.e., the voters may or may not indicate the second preference. This should be marked on the ballot paper only with the ball point pen in blue ink officially supplied for the purpose. The elector should not write his name or any word or put signature or initial on the ballot paper, or otherwise, the ballot paper will become invalid.

The Election Commission has specified the Legislature Committee Room as the place of polling. The vote should be marked on the ballot paper inside the voting compartment and its secrecy maintained. Any violation of secrecy may render the ballot paper invalid. The voting compartment should be of Card Board of size of 21" x 21" 21" to be positioned at a considerable distance from the persons sitting in the polling stations and the positioning of the compartment should be such that the actual act of marking of the ballot paper by the elector is not seen by any representative or any other person.

The Election Commission of India has provided facility to MLAs to vote in New Delhi or any other State provided they make a special

request to the Election Commission 96 hours before the commencement of the poll.

In its letter dt. 11th July, 2007, the Commission has directed the videography should be done of all critical events including the poll process. However, the video coverage should not result in compromising the secrecy of the ballot. No Cellular phone, or cordless phone or wireless set would be allowed to be carried inside the polling station.

The coverage by the Media will be regulated by the general instructions of the Election Commission on 7th of January, 2005 according to which while the Media will be allowed inside the premises of the polling station building on the basis of authority letters issued by the Commission. No photography or videography will be allowed inside the polling station where the process of voting takes place.

The Observer of the Election Commission, Mr. S.K.Srivatsava, will be arriving in Chennai on the 18th of July, 2007.

Chief Electoral Officer

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