

## **Public (Elections-I) Department**

### **Best Practices/Initiatives for the Marginalized Communities during General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 in the State of Tamil Nadu**

#### **1. User-Friendly Election Materials & Community Engagement**

To empower tribal voters, election materials were translated into local dialects, making the information accessible and easy to understand. Additionally, traditional community leaders played a crucial role in spreading electoral awareness, ensuring that tribal communities were well-informed and motivated to participate in the democratic process.

#### **2. Addressing Man-Animal Conflict in Polling Areas**

In Nilgiris District, many tribal settlements are located in forested areas, making Man-Animal conflicts a common concern. Recognizing this challenge, authorities identified 25 polling stations in such conflict-prone zones, with 11 of them situated inside reserve forests. To ensure the safety of voters and election staff, forest officials were deployed in coordination with the Forest Department on polling day. Equipped with wireless communication devices, they maintained constant contact with polling teams, particularly in remote "shadow areas," to swiftly address any potential threats.

#### **3. Special Vehicle Arrangements for Remote Tribal Voters**

In areas with difficult terrain and frequent wildlife encounters, special transport facilities were arranged to assist tribal voters in reaching polling stations safely. In Nilgiris District, vehicles were deployed to transport electors from their homes to polling centers, ensuring accessibility. Similarly, in Tenkasi District, dedicated vehicle services were provided for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from the Kumanthapuram village (Kadayanallur Assembly Constituency) on polling day, facilitating seamless participation in the election process.



#### **4. Inspiring Tribal Voters through a Short Film**

In Theni District, a compelling short film was created to highlight the importance of voting among tribal communities. The film follows the journey of a first-time voter from a tribal hamlet, emphasizing the power of electoral participation and encouraging every member of the village to cast their vote. This initiative played a vital role in spreading awareness and fostering a sense of civic duty among tribal voters.

🎬 Watch the short film here: [Click to Watch](#)

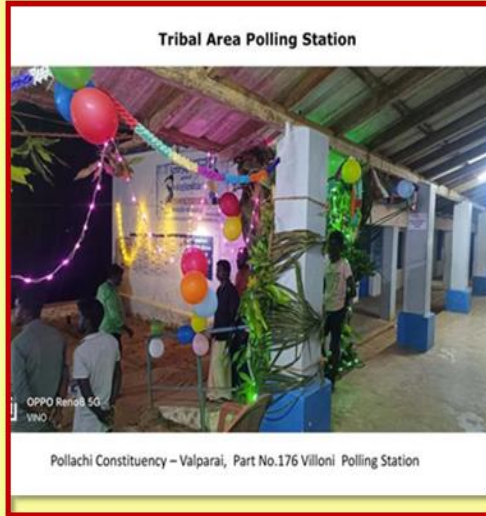
#### **5. Dedicated Polling Stations for Tribal Communities**

##### **a) Model Polling Station in a Tribal Area – Coimbatore District**

A model polling station was set up in a tribal-dominated area to create a welcoming and accessible voting environment, ensuring maximum participation from the community.

**124 Valparai (SC) comprised in 21 Pollachi PC**

**A Model Polling Station was set up in a tribal area to familiarize voters with the voting process.**



**b) Exclusive Polling Station for Tribals in Shenbagathoppu Reserve Forest – Virudhunagar District**

To facilitate voter participation among tribal residents, a dedicated polling station was established inside the **Shenbagathoppu Reserve Forest** for **62 voters** (Male: 34, Female: 28) of **Srivilliputhur Assembly Constituency (Part No. 133)**. By placing the polling station within their residential area, authorities ensured ease of access and encouraged greater involvement in the democratic process.

**c) Green Polling Stations for Tribal Communities – Tirupathur District**

In Tirupathur, **eco-friendly ‘Green Polling Stations’** were set up specifically for tribal voters, reinforcing a commitment to sustainability while ensuring a smooth electoral process.





#### **d) Polling Station for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) – Thoothukudi District**

An exclusive polling station was established for the **PVTG community of Kattu Naicken** at **Hamethia Primary School, Soolaivaikal** (PS No. 95 in **Srivaikuntam Assembly Constituency**) during the **General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024**.

- The polling booth catered to a total of **1,159 electors**, with an impressive **74.12% voter turnout (859 voters)**.
- PVTG members exercised their voting rights fearlessly, participating alongside other community members, reflecting an inclusive and democratic electoral process.



## 6. Ensuring Inclusion through Special Electoral Roll Drives

To guarantee that every eligible citizen, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), could exercise their voting rights, **special enrolment drives** were conducted across Tamil Nadu by District Election Officers.

One notable example comes from **Mayiladuthurai District**, where the **tribal community of Arupathi Village** was successfully added to the electoral roll. This initiative allowed them to participate in the **General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024**—a historic moment for the community. Remarkably, many senior citizens **above 60 years of age** cast their votes for the very first time, marking a significant step towards greater electoral inclusion.

This proactive effort ensured that no voter was left behind, reinforcing the spirit of democracy and empowerment among tribal communities.



## 7. SVEEP Activities: Spreading Electoral Awareness Among Tribal Communities

Under the **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** program, various initiatives were undertaken to enhance electoral literacy and encourage voter participation among tribal communities.

### a) EVM Demonstrations

To familiarize tribal voters with the **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)**, hands-on demonstrations were conducted, ensuring they felt confident and informed about the voting process.



**EVM Demonstration by Mobile Van in tribal areas**

### b) Tribal Participation in Awareness Videos

Members of the tribal community actively participated in the production of a **short video** created as part of the SVEEP activities to promote voting awareness.

🎬 Watch the video here: [Click to Watch](#)

### c) Creative & Cultural Awareness Campaigns

To make voter awareness engaging and community-driven, various activities were organized, including:

- **Pamphlet distribution** to spread crucial voting information.
- **Rangoli competitions** among tribal women to creatively promote electoral participation.

- **Rallies, street plays, dramas, and folk dances**, performed by tribal members, to educate and inspire their communities about the power of voting.

**Tribals performed the Valli Kummi Dance and a Cultural dance performance to promote voting awareness**



**Tribal community members actively participating in a voting awareness session**





**Distributing pamphlets and educating tribal residents on voting rights**



**Conducting a door-to-door voting awareness campaign in TRIBAL marginalized areas**



These efforts not only increased awareness but also fostered a deeper sense of involvement and responsibility among tribal voters, ensuring higher participation in the democratic process.

## **8. A Story of Increased Voter Turnout in a Tribal Area**

In the **Dharmapuri Parliamentary Constituency**, under **Pennagaram Assembly Segment (058)**, two remote polling stations—**Erimalai (Part No.1)** and **Kotturmalai (Part No.2)**—stand as testaments to the resilience and determination of tribal voters.

## Overcoming Geographic & Logistical Challenges

- These polling stations, though located in **Pennagaram Taluk**, are only accessible **by foot**, requiring a challenging **4 km trek** from Belrampatti village in Palacode Taluk.
- The **Irular Scheduled Tribes** residing in **Erimalai and Alakkattu hill villages** cast their votes here, with **637 registered voters** (323 in Part No.1 and 314 in Part No.2).
- Due to the lack of road infrastructure, **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were transported by donkeys** until the **2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections**.

## A Turning Point: Addressing Voter Concerns

- In 2021, Erimalai saw a **90.52% voter turnout**, while Kotturmalai had a shockingly low **0.59% turnout** due to accessibility issues.
- Ahead of the **2024 General Elections**, frustrated villagers threatened to **boycott the elections** over the lack of proper road infrastructure.
- Responding swiftly, the **District Election Officer of Dharmapuri** and senior officials personally visited the foothills to address grievances and encourage participation.

## Innovative Solutions for Voter Accessibility

- On **March 20, 2024**, a team led by **Assistant Returning Officer of Pennagaram Assembly Segment and Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Tmt. S. Narmatha** visited Erimalai to assess voter accessibility.
- On **March 21, 2024**, another team, including **SVEEP Coordination Officer of Dharmapuri District and District Revenue Officer Thiru. Paul Princely Rajkumar**, evaluated transport arrangements in Kotturmalai.

- Officials **used a specially modified tractor** to navigate the treacherous terrain, as it was the only vehicle capable of accommodating 15 people up the steep path.
- To address **concerns about wild animals**, tractor transportation was arranged from **Alakkattu village to the polling stations**, ensuring voter safety.

### **Historic Voter Turnout: A 'Festival of Democracy'**

For the **first time in history**, **ballot boxes were transported by tractors instead of donkeys**, revolutionizing the election process in these remote villages. This initiative led to an **unprecedented increase in voter participation**:

- **Erimalai (Part No.1)** recorded a **94.43% voter turnout**, surpassing its **90.52%** turnout in 2021.
- **Kotturmalai (Part No.2)** saw a **staggering jump to 78.34%**, compared to just **0.59% in 2021**.

Villagers embraced the occasion with enthusiasm, organizing **tractors to reach the polling stations**, celebrating the event as a true "**festival of democracy**."

*(Photos enclosed with this report.)*

### **Empowering Transgender Voters for an Inclusive Electoral Process**

#### **1. Sensitization of Election Officials – Erode District**

To ensure a **gender-inclusive** and **non-discriminatory** voting environment, **special training programs** were conducted for election officials in **Erode District**. These sessions emphasized respect, inclusivity, and the unique challenges faced by **transgender voters**, ensuring that polling stations were welcoming and accessible to all.



## 2. Handwritten Postcards Initiative – Theni District

As part of the effort to achieve **100% voter participation** in the **General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024**, the **District Election Officer of Theni** launched a heartfelt initiative—sending over **1,000 handwritten postcards** to **transgender individuals** and residents in areas with historically low voter turnout. This personalized approach aimed to inspire and encourage transgender voters to actively participate in the electoral process, reinforcing the message that **every vote counts**.

These initiatives reflect a strong commitment to **electoral inclusivity**, ensuring that every individual, regardless of gender identity, has the opportunity to **exercise their democratic right with dignity and confidence**.



## Ensuring Electoral Inclusion for Transgender Voters

### 3. Inclusive Electoral Roll – Statewide Special Enrolment Drives

To guarantee that **transgender individuals** could fully participate in the democratic process, **special enrolment drives** were conducted across **Tamil Nadu** by District Election Officers. These efforts ensured that every eligible transgender voter was included in the electoral roll, reinforcing the principle of **equal voting rights for all**.

#### 4. SVEEP Activities – Awareness & Engagement Initiatives

As part of the **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** program, several engaging initiatives were organized to encourage voter awareness and participation among transgender communities. These included:

- **Oath-Taking Ceremonies** to reinforce commitment to voting.
- **Awareness T-shirts** and **pamphlets**, designed and distributed by transgender individuals themselves.
- **Rangoli Competitions**, adding a creative touch to voter awareness.
- **Pledge & Signature Campaigns** to inspire civic responsibility and mobilize participation.

These efforts fostered **inclusivity, awareness, and empowerment**, ensuring that transgender voters felt **recognized, respected, and motivated** to cast their votes in the **General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024**.



**Third Gender - Selfie Campaign**



**Awareness notice issued by Third Gender**



**Awareness Shirts issued by Third Gender**





**Transgenders taking an oath for 100% voting**

**Transgender individuals wearing T-shirts and caps to promote voting awareness**



**Conducting door-to-door campaign, engaging transgenders in voting process**



**Signature Campaign to the Transgender people:**



**Mass gathering in the name of Vote 100 % by Transgender people:**





**Rangoli drawn by Transgender people:**



## **Inclusive Electoral Initiatives for Marginalized Communities**

### **Transgender Empowerment in Elections**

#### **1. Ramya's Story – A Transgender Voter's Journey**

Ramya (33), a transgender individual from **Anna Nagar, Gowthampet, Tirupathur Town**, shared her inspiring experience:

"I had struggled for years to obtain my Voter ID, as my name was removed from the Electoral Roll due to an old address issue. However, after attending a special enrolment camp conducted by the District Administration on **October 19, 2023**, I finally received my Voter ID. This was a moment of great joy for me, as it granted me not just voting rights but also a new identity in society. Our community has long been neglected and faced humiliation, but this initiative gave us recognition and dignity.

Casting my vote in the **2024 General Elections** was a proud moment for me as an ordinary citizen of India. I now feel more confident and empowered, as my Voter ID also gives me access to **government welfare schemes**. Moving forward,



I will encourage my fellow community members, especially first-time voters, to register and actively participate in elections.”

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## **Electoral Inclusion for Sex Workers**

### **1. Special Enrolment & Awareness Camps – Erode District**

- Dedicated **special camps** were held at **Primary Health Centres** to facilitate voter registration.
- Awareness campaigns were conducted to inform sex workers about their **voting rights** and encourage participation.

### **2. Addressing Documentation Barriers**

- Many sex workers faced challenges in obtaining Voter IDs due to **lack of permanent residence** or valid documents.
- **Mobile registration units** and **alternative documentation methods** were introduced to ensure their inclusion.
- **Safe and accessible polling stations** were set up to provide a stigma-free voting environment.

### **3. Sensitization of Election Officials**

- Election officials received **gender sensitization training** to ensure that **transgender individuals and sex workers** were treated with dignity and respect at polling stations.

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## **Inclusion of Nomads & Homeless People**

### **Special Electoral Drives – Erode District**

- A dedicated enrolment camp was organized for the **Boom Boom Mattukarar community** in **Modakkurchi Assembly Constituency**, resulting in **63 new voter registrations**.
  - Homeless individuals were identified by **Assistant Returning Officers**, and with the help of volunteers, their names were successfully included in the **SSR 2024 electoral roll**.
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## **Empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Elections**

### **1. Accessible Form 7A – A First in India**

For the **first time in India**, the **List of Contesting Candidates (Form 7A)** was made **accessible online** for **visually impaired voters** through **Screen Reader Access**. This allowed them to independently access candidate names, party symbols, and serial numbers.

★ *Featured in The Hindu: ["Accessible Voting Made Possible for Visually Impaired with Simple Tech Tweak"](#)*

### **2. Training Election Officials for PwD-Friendly Voting**

- A **guideline pamphlet** on **Do's and Don'ts** for handling PwD electors was prepared and distributed.
- Election officials received **sign language training** to assist **hearing-impaired voters**.
- **Training videos** on **postal ballot voting** were provided to ensure smooth electoral participation.

### **3. Training Volunteers for PwD Assistance**

- Volunteers from **NCC, NSS, Scouts & Guides** were trained to assist PwD voters.
- A structured **Do's and Don'ts manual** was distributed to all volunteers.

#### **4. DAP Icons – A Pioneering Initiative in Chennai**

- **For the first time in India, Chennai District** appointed **DAP Icons** from various disabilities to promote **accessible elections** in **Lok Sabha 2024**.
- These **talented representatives** from the disabled community played a key role in **awareness campaigns**.

#### **5. Free Pick-Up & Drop Facility for PwDs & Senior Citizens**

As per the **Election Commission of India's** directive, all **District Election Officers (DEOs)** were instructed to arrange **free transportation** for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Senior Citizens** on **poll day (April 19, 2024)**.

##### **Key Arrangements:**

- **Door-to-door pick-up and drop services** were provided for PwD voters and senior citizens to ensure easy access to polling stations.
- **Government vehicles** were deployed at **strategic locations (AC-wise)** across districts to facilitate transportation.
- Requests for this service were received through:
  - **Saksham App**
  - **1950 Voter Helpline**
  - **District Control Rooms**

##### **Coordination & Awareness Efforts:**

- **PwD Nodal Officers (District Differently Abled Welfare Officers)** coordinated with **Special Tahsildars (Elections) and PA (Elections)** to ensure an adequate number of vehicles were arranged.
- **Widespread publicity** was conducted via **press releases, media coverage, and local TV channels** to inform voters about the facility.

### Impact on Poll Day:

A total of **693 free rides** were provided across the state, ensuring smooth and accessible voting for PwDs and senior citizens.

### Breakdown of Requests Received & Services Provided:

Total Vehicles Allotted	Requests from Saksham App	Requests from 1950 Helpline	Requests from Control Room	Total Rides Provided
380	174	473	46	<b>693</b>

This initiative played a **crucial role** in making the electoral process more **inclusive, accessible, and empowering** for PwDs and senior citizens across Tamil Nadu.

*(Press release and photos enclosed with this report.)*

## 6. Innovative Initiatives to Boost PwD & Senior Citizen Turnout

### a) Thanjavur District – PwD Cricket Match

- A **special cricket match** for PwDs was organized on **April 5, 2024**, in the presence of the **General Observer**, to encourage electoral participation.

### b) Perambalur District – Direct Outreach

- PwD electors were personally contacted to explain the **facilities available at polling stations**.

### c) Chennai District – Polling Station Data Collection & Helpline

- Detailed **PwD voter data** (EPIC number, type of disability, required assistance) was collected.



- A **dedicated helpline** was launched alongside the **1950 voter helpline** for easy assistance.

**d) Marina Beach Rally – “Accessible Elections for All”**

- A **massive awareness rally** was conducted on **March 24, 2024**, at **Marina Beach**, Chennai, with **over 400 PwD participants**.
- **21 disability category icons** played a key role in promoting the importance of voting.

**e) Sign Language Interpreters – Chennai District**

- **Polling stations** were equipped with **sign language interpreters** to assist **hearing-impaired voters**.

**f) Coimbatore District – Disability Rights Activist as District Icon**

- **Tmt. Swarnalatha**, a renowned **Disability Rights Activist** and recipient of the **Sarvshresth Divyangjan Award**, was appointed as the **District Icon**.
- A **special awareness video** featuring her encouraged PwD and senior citizen voters to participate in elections.

★ Watch the video: [Click here](#)

These inclusive initiatives reflect a **strong commitment** to **democratic empowerment** for all sections of society. By breaking down barriers and fostering **equal participation**, Tamil Nadu set an example in ensuring a truly **inclusive and accessible electoral process**.

**Election material was transported to the hilly areas of Erimalai and Kotturmalai before the road facilities were available.**





**Election material was transported to the hilly areas of Erimalai and Kotturmalai after the road facility was available.**









## Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF)

Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at Polling Stations:-



Ramp &  
Wheel chair



Toilets



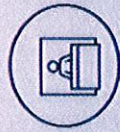
Drinking Water



Shade in  
Polling Station



Adequate  
Furniture



Voter Assistance  
Booths (VAB)



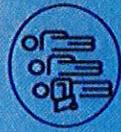
Proper Lighting &  
Electricity  
arrangements



Medical Kit



Signage



Queue  
Management  
(Separate queue for  
PwDs &  
Senior citizens)



Election Commission of India



Facilities for PwDs at Polling Station

## Do's & Don'ts for Polling Personnel

Scan Qr code

to Download Saksham App



Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure

**Thiru. Satyabrata Sahoo, I.A.S.,**  
**Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu**



## Do's & Don'ts For the polling personnel while handling PwD Voters

### Visually Impaired

#### Do's

- ✔ Greet the voter and introduce yourself, offer to shake hand.
- ✔ Allow the voter to hold your arm and follow as you walk.
- ✔ Do allow the volunteer of visually impaired to escort upto EVM.
- ✔ When giving direction use specific directions like behind you, on your left etc.



#### Don'ts

- ✘ Never grab his arm or his cane.
- ✘ Nods, shrugs and gestures may not be noticed by him.
- ✘ Don't point and say anything ex. It's there.
- ✘ Don't stand with him/her inside the voting compartment while casting the vote.



### Locomotive

#### Do's

- ✔ Provide volunteer assistance to voter, if required.
- ✔ Ensure the space for movement of wheelchair inside the polling station.
- ✔ Be polite & Patient while marking indelible ink, obtaining the signature etc.

#### Don'ts

- ✘ Don't urge them to move fast.



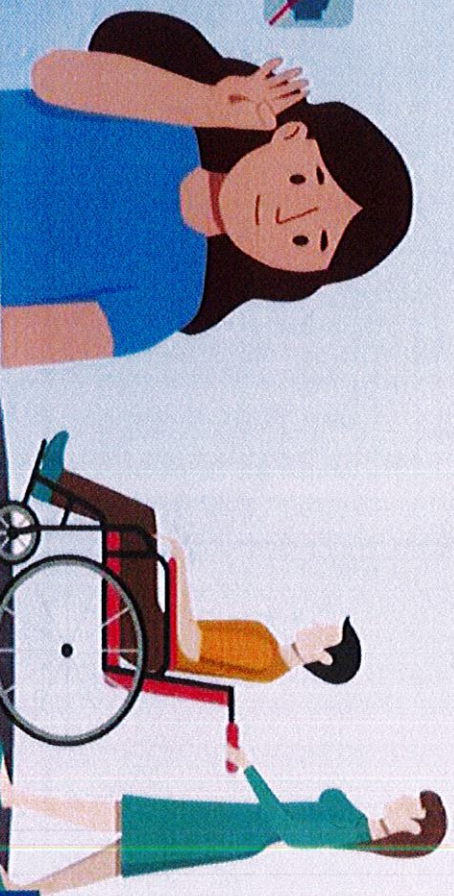
### Hearing Impaired

#### Do's

- ✔ Maintain eye contact, speak directly to deaf person & not the interpreter.
- ✔ Get the person's attention before speaking.
- ✔ Speak slowly, sign language, gestures and facial expressions to communicate.
- ✔ Explain in writing, if required.

#### Don'ts

- ✘ Do not assume that the person can read and write.
- ✘ Do not shout or speak too fast.
- ✘ Do not keep something in mouth or cover your mouth while speaking.
- ✘ Do not have anything in your hand if gesturing.
- ✘ Do not give up if the deaf person does not understand immediately.





## உறுதிசெய்யப்பட்ட குறைந்தபட்ச வசதிகள் (AMF)

வாக்குச்சாவடிகளில் உறுதிசெய்யப்பட்ட குறைந்தபட்ச வசதிகள்:-



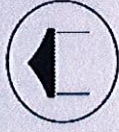
சாய்வுதளம் (ம)  
சக்கர நாற்காலி



கழிப்பறைகள்



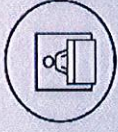
குழநீர்



வாக்குச்சாவடியில்  
நீழற்குடை  
அமைத்தல்



போதுமான  
நாற்காலிகள்



வாக்காளர்  
உதவிச்சாவடி



சரியான வெளிச்சம்  
(ம) மின்சார ஏற்பாடு



முதலுதவி பெட்டி



அடையாள வழிகாட்டி



வரிசை மேலாண்மை  
(மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கும்  
முத்த கடிமக்களுக்கும்  
தனிவரிசை)



இந்தியத் தேர்தல் ஆணையம்



வாக்குச்சாவடிகளில் மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கான  
வசதிகள்

## வாக்குப்பதிவு அலுவலர் செய்ய வேண்டியவை மற்றும் செய்யக்கூடாதவை

‘சக்ஷம்’ செயலியை பதிவிறக்கம்  
செய்ய விரைவுத் தகவல் குறியீட்டினை  
(QR Code) ஸ்கேன் செய்யவும்.



Android



iOS

தீர்மானம் | வாக்களிப்பதே சிறந்தது, நச்சுமல் வாக்களிப்பேன்

திரு. சத்யபிரத சாகு, இ.ஆ.ப.,  
தலைமை தேர்தல் அதிகாரி, தமிழ்நாடு.



மாற்றுத்திறனாளி வாக்காளர்களை கையாடும்பொழுது, வாக்குப்பதிவு அலுவலர் செய்யவேண்டியவை மற்றும் செய்யக்கூடாதவை

## பார்வையற்ற மாற்றுத்திறனாளி

### செய்யவேண்டியவை:

- ✓ வாக்காளரை வாழ்த்தி, கைகளுக்கி உங்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளவும்.
- ✓ வாக்காளர் கையைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு, நீங்கள் நடக்கும்போது உங்களை பின்புறமாக அனுமதிக்கவும்.
- ✓ பார்வையற்ற மாற்றுத்திறனாளி வாக்காளரை வாக்களிக்கும் இயந்திரம் வரை அழைத்துச் செல்ல தள்ளாவலரை அனுமதிக்க வேண்டும்.
- ✓ வழிகாட்டும்போது, தங்களின் பின்னால், இடமும் எனக் ஒற்றிட்டு வழிகாட்டவும்.

### செய்யக்கூடாதவை:

- ✗ ஒருபோதும் அவர்களின் கையையோ அல்லது கைத்தரையையோ பிடித்து இழுக்காதீர்கள்.
- ✗ தலையசைத்தல், தோவிலை குலுக்குதல் மற்றும் சைகைகளை அவர்களால் கவனிக்க இயலாது.
- ✗ அது அங்கே இருக்கிறது என சுட்டிக்காட்டி எதுவும் சொல்ல வேண்டாம்.
- ✗ அவர்கள் வாக்களிக்கும்போது, அவருடன் வாக்களிக்கும் இடத்தில் (மறைவு அட்டை) நிற்க வேண்டாம்.



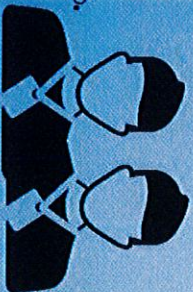
## உடலியக்க இயலாமை

### செய்யவேண்டியவை:

- ✓ வாக்காளர்கள் கேட்கும்படிசத்தில், தள்ளாவலர்களை நியமிக்கவும்.
- ✓ வாக்குச்சாவழிக்குள் சக்கர நாற்காலியை நகர்த்துவதற்கான போதுமான இடம் உள்வகா என உறுதி செய்யவும்.
- ✓ அழியாத மையை விரலில் இடும்போதும், கையொப்பத்தைப் பெறும்போதும் கணினியமாகவும் பொறுமையாகவும் இருங்கள்.

### செய்யக்கூடாதவை:

- ✗ வேகமாக செல்லுமாறு அவர்களை வற்புறுக்க வேண்டாம்.



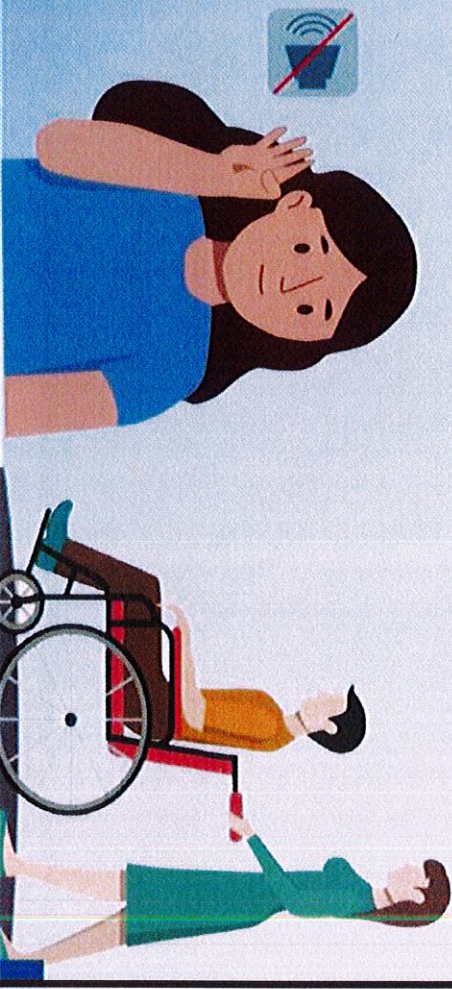
## செவித்திறன் குறையாடுபவர்கள்

### செய்யவேண்டியவை:

- ✓ மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளர்டம் அல்ல, காதுகேளாதவரிடம் நேரடியாக கண்களைப் பார்த்து பேசவும்.
- ✓ பேசுவதற்கு முன் அந்தபரிசின் கவனத்தை ஈர்க்கவும்.
- ✓ மெதுவாக பேசவும், சைகைகள் மற்றும் முகபாவங்களை அவர்களுடன் தொடர்புபொருள்படும்படிபடுத்த வேண்டும்.
- ✓ தேவைப்படின், எழுதிக்காட்டி விவரிக்கவும்.

### செய்யக்கூடாதவை:

- ✗ அந்தபருக்கு பழக்க மற்றும் எழுத தெரியும் என்று கருத வேண்டாம்.
- ✗ உரக்க அல்லது மிக வேகமாக பேசக் கூடாது.
- ✗ பேசும்போது அடியில் எதையாவது வைத்துக்கொள்ளாதீர்கள் அல்லது வாயை மூடிக்கொள்ளாதீர்கள்.
- ✗ சைகை செய்யும்போது கையில் எதுவும் வைத்துக்கொள்ளாதீர்கள்.
- ✗ காது கேளாதவருக்கு உடனடியாக புரியவில்லை என்றால் மனம் தளர வேண்டாம்.





## **Public (Ele-I) Department**

**Do's and Don't's for the Volunteers assisting the PwD voters** on the poll day at the polling station locations:

### **Do's:**

1. **Be Courteous and Respectful:** Treat all voters, especially PwD voters, with respect and courtesy.
2. **Provide Assistance:** Offer assistance to PwD voters as needed, including helping them locate their designated polling station and guiding them through the voting process.
3. **Ensure Privacy:** Respect the privacy of PwD voters while assisting them in the voting process.
4. **Be Knowledgeable:** Be well-informed about the voting process, including the procedures for PwD voters, and be prepared to answer any questions they may have.
5. **Ensure Accessibility:** Ensure that polling booths are accessible to PwD voters, including those with mobility impairments, by providing ramps or other necessary facilities.
6. **Provide Information:** Inform PwD voters about the facilities available to them at the polling station, such as accessible toilets and seating arrangements.
7. **Be Patient:** Exercise patience and understanding while assisting PwD voters, as they may require additional time and support.
8. **Maintain Neutrality:** Maintain impartiality and refrain from influencing the voting choices of PwD voters.
9. **Report Issues:** Report any instances of discrimination or obstacles faced by PwD voters to the presiding officer or other election officials.
10. **Encourage Participation:** Encourage PwD voters to exercise their right to vote and ensure they feel empowered throughout the process.

### **Don'ts:**

1. **Don't Pressure Voters:** Avoid pressuring PwD voters to vote in a particular way or to disclose their voting preferences.
2. **Don't Provide False Information:** Avoid providing incorrect information or misleading guidance to PwD voters.
3. **Don't Violate Privacy:** Respect the confidentiality of PwD voters and refrain from discussing their voting choices with others.
4. **Don't Interfere with the Voting Process:** Avoid interfering with the voting process or disrupting the orderly conduct of elections at the polling station.



5. **Don't Ignore Complaints:** Take any complaints or concerns raised by PwD voters seriously and address them promptly.
6. **Don't Engage in Partisan Activities:** Refrain from engaging in any partisan or political activities while assisting PwD voters.
7. **Don't Use Offensive Language or Behavior:** Ensure that language and behavior are respectful and avoid using offensive or derogatory terms.
8. **Don't Discriminate Based on Disability:** Treat all PwD voters equally and provide assistance based on their individual needs, regardless of the type or severity of their disability.
9. **Don't Neglect Training:** Ensure that volunteers are adequately trained in assisting PwD voters and are familiar with relevant guidelines and procedures.



## Introducing DAP ICONs

For the first time in India, we have chosen a DAP ICONs from each impairment to ensure an accessible General Election for the Lok Sabha Election 2024. All of them are extremely talented members of the disability community, and they will serve as role models for their

### ICONs Profile



S. Smitha, Member, TN State Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities Member, TN State Steering Committee on Accessible Elections Ambassador for Multiple Sclerosis, International Purple Fest 2024, Goa Multiple Sclerosis Society of India, Member, Disability Rights Alliance Tamilnadu Senior Advisor, Inclusive Health Policy, Disability Rights India Foundation Member, National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, NCPEDP, New Delhi Council Member, World Health Summit, Germany Advisory Group Member, Civil Society Alliance for Human Rights on Pandemic Treaty Accessibility Consultant, Election Commission of India, New Delhi (2017 - 2022)





K.Jyothi, a young and ambitious musician/singer aged 22, is a girl living with a combination of visually impaired & intellectually challenged since birth.



S.Porselvi, a member of the Banyan organization, She has been working productively for decades with people suffering from mental retardation and mental illness.



M.G. Ragul, who is the State Secretary of Dwarfism Association and he is the award winner, Social Activist





P. Saravanan, who is the president of Disability Social justice Association and social activist



Dr. Shanthi Priya  
Consultant ophthalmologist  
Founder Saar foundation (for people with Parkinson's)



Dr. K. Raghuraman, Assistant professor, Department of English, Government Arts College for Men, (Autonomous), Nandanam, Chennai 600035  
Member, Tamil Nadu State Advisory board for Differently-Abled, a disability activist working with the motto "Empowering persons with visual impairment through Technology" in Education and Employment





B. Uma Maheshwari, from Tamil Nadu Mentally Retarded parents association, where they are helping to the children and their parents, who are affected by intellectual disability



Ms. Ummul Khair, who is the coordinator Disability Legislation Unit Vidyasagar Organisation and member of local level Committee under National trust act Ministry of Social Justice,



S. Abdul Latif, Who is the President and Founder of Care the Hearing Impaired Differently Abled Foundation (CTHIDAF) and He has been involved in social activities for fourteen years. He is also a member of the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Differently Abled Persons' Executive Committee. For his services, he was awarded numerous times.





Mr. Gnana Bharathi, studied MSc Applied Geology from the University of Roorkee and MTech from Indian School of Mines. Who is scientist at the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), he runs an association for uniting people paralysed by spinal cord injury. and He participated and won medals in the state-level (2014) and national-level (2015 and 2016) para swimming competitions.



S. Ganesh, President of Haemophilia society, madras chapter and member of the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Differently Abled Persons' Executive Committee.



**PRESS RELEASE**

The Election Commission of India has instructed to provide free pass for using public transport on poll day for Senior citizens, Persons with visual and locomotive disabilities and voters with impaired movement shall be provided free pass for using public transport on poll day. If public transport is not available, then arrangements for free pick up and drop from their residence to polling booth may be made. The eligible voters may also be provided with a registration facility on Saksham ECI App or a helpline in order to avail these facilities.

As per the ECI's instructions, arrangements have been made to provide free bus pass to Senior Citizens, Persons with visual & locomotive disabilities and voters with impaired movement in ordinary town services on poll day i.e. 19.04.2024. In addition to the above, free pick-up and drop facilities for Persons with Disability Electors and Senior Citizens from their residence to Polling booth are also arranged at all the districts on the poll day.

PwD Electors and Senior Citizens who require the above facilities are requested to kindly raise the request on "Saksham Mobile App"/ 1950 Helpline/ District Control Room and make use of this facility to exercise their franchise.

**CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
TAMIL NADU**

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9

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**Free Pickup and Drop Photos.**





























## Rally for DAP Accessible Elections on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024



The Rally for Accessible Elections was held on March 24, 2024, at Merina Beach, under the guidance of the District Election Officer and the Additional Election Officer



Pledge was given by District Election Officer along with other district election authorities, where all the DAP icons participated and gave their effective participation in achieving the 100 percent vote for General Election to Lok Sabha 2024.





**Miss. Smitha, a DAP icon, has expressed her active participation in the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 and thanked the District Election Officer for taking the effort to encourage DAP participation in the Election.**



**Respected District Election Officer and Additional Election Officer, together with other officials, started the bike rally.**



A



DAP Association was taken photo with District Election Officer during the Bike Rally,

