

## ECI PROVIDES BRAILLE FACILITY TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED ELECTORS

### **PRESS- NOTE**

February 7, 2009

Visually impaired persons will now be able to cast their vote independently without any assistance. Thanks to the Election Commission of India's initiative to introduce Braille signage features on the Electronic Voting Machines to be used during the General Election to Lok Sabha 2009 and simultaneous Assembly elections in some States.

The Commission has directed that additional arrangements be made to facilitate visually impaired electors to exercise their franchise. A Dummy Ballot sheet will be given to the visually impaired voter inside the polling station on request he/she prefers to cast the vote with the help of the same. After the voter studies the sheet, he/she will be allowed to proceed to the voting compartment to cast the vote. Such electors after reading the Dummy Ballot sheet will be able to cast their vote by reading the serial number of the candidate of their choice on the numeric sticker on the EVM. If the elector so desires, the companion will be allowed to accompany the voter to the voting compartment as provided in Rule 49N of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961