



ਰਾਜ ਚੋਣ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬ

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, PUNJAB

✉: secpb@punjab.gov.in

<https://sec.punjab.gov.in>

ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਓ : 48- ,49ਸੈਕਟਰ 17-ਈ ,ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ 160017 ,

☎: 0172- 2771226, 2710162.

To

All the Deputy Commissioners-cum-District Electoral Officers, in the State.

Memo No.: SEC/SA/ZP/PS/2025/9995

Dated: 12.12.2025

URGENT
ZILA PARISHAD/PANCHAYAT SAMITIS
ELECTIONS, 2025

Sub.: ENSURING PREVENTION OF MIS-USE OF BALLOT PAPERS AND SAFE CUSTODY THEREOF - regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith a news cutting in 'The Tribune' dated 12.12.2025, in which a political party has expressed certain apprehensions regarding printing of fake ballot papers from Ambala.

You are hereby directed to maintain a proper record as well as ensure the security of ballot papers which are being printed from the authorized printing press.

Please ensure to issue the instructions to all the Returning Officers, and through them to all the Presiding Officers, to keep all official ballot papers under tight security, and impress upon them that it shall be their personal responsibility not to allow any external or duplicate ballot papers to be used.

As you are aware, certain checks and balances have been already incorporated in the rules/procedures, as follows:

- i. Official ballot papers to be directly collected by the concerned Returning Officers from the authorized printing press and kept in safe custody;
- ii. Each ballot paper has a serial number printed on counter foil as well as on the ballot paper;
- iii. The Presiding officer is to sign on the back of each ballot paper before issuing same to the voter (You may get these instructions reiterated to all the Presiding Officers).
- iv. The number of ballot papers received for use at each polling station is to be tallied with the number of ballot paper actually used and the

- number of ballot papers left unused by the Presiding Officer in his report.
- v. At the start of the Poll, the Presiding Officer shall display the open and empty ballot box to the Polling Agents who are present in the Polling Station at the start of Poll, to demonstrate clearly that the ballot box is empty. Thereafter, the ballot box shall be sealed and placed in the Voting Compartment for use in the Poll.
 - vi. Upon completion of the Poll, the ballot box shall be sealed as per the procedure laid down and the individual ballot box shall be placed in the large canvas bag provided and, the bag shall be sealed. The Polling Agents shall be allowed to affix their signatures on the outer seal also. Thereafter both the ballot boxes pertaining to Zila Parishad/Panchayat Samitis shall be transported by the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer to the identified Receipt Centre under security cover.
 - vii. At the time of counting, the Counting Supervisor shall carefully tally the detail of ballots shown as polled in the Presiding Officers' diary, with the number of ballot papers retrieved from ballot boxes. In case of any significant variation, he should bring it to notice of RO/ARO.

Post-counting, it may be assured that the counted ballot papers are securely stored at the designated places.



Secretary

State Election Commission

Endst. No. SEC/SA/ZP/PS/2025/9996 Dated, Chandigarh the 12.12.2025

A copy of above is forwarded to all the Additional Deputy Commissioners (Rural Development) in the State for kind information and necessary action.



Secretary

State Election Commission

AAP getting fake ballot papers printed: Channi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, DECEMBER 11

Congress leaders on Thursday expressed apprehensions of poll rigging, with former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi alleging that ruling AAP was "getting fake ballot papers printed" for rural body elections scheduled for December 14.

Reacting to it, the ruling party rejected the charge, terming it "baseless".

Channi alleged that AAP leaders got "fake ballot papers printed from Ambala", which might be handed over to booth-level officers.

"The BLOs may get these stamped in advance and put in ballot boxes at the time of polling," he alleged.

Channi, who campaigned with Adampur MLA Sukhwinder Kotli here, alleged, "The ruling party has been involved in foul play from the beginning. They tore or even snatched nomination papers of candidates. They got papers of Opposition candidates rejected."

Kotli too said, "We too suspect that the ruling party may unfair means on the voting day,"

Reacting to it, ruling AAP general secretary Deepak Bali said, "The Congress leaders are perhaps nurturing such apprehensions as they could have been doing so themselves during their rule. Channi's allegations are completely baseless."

12-12-2025
