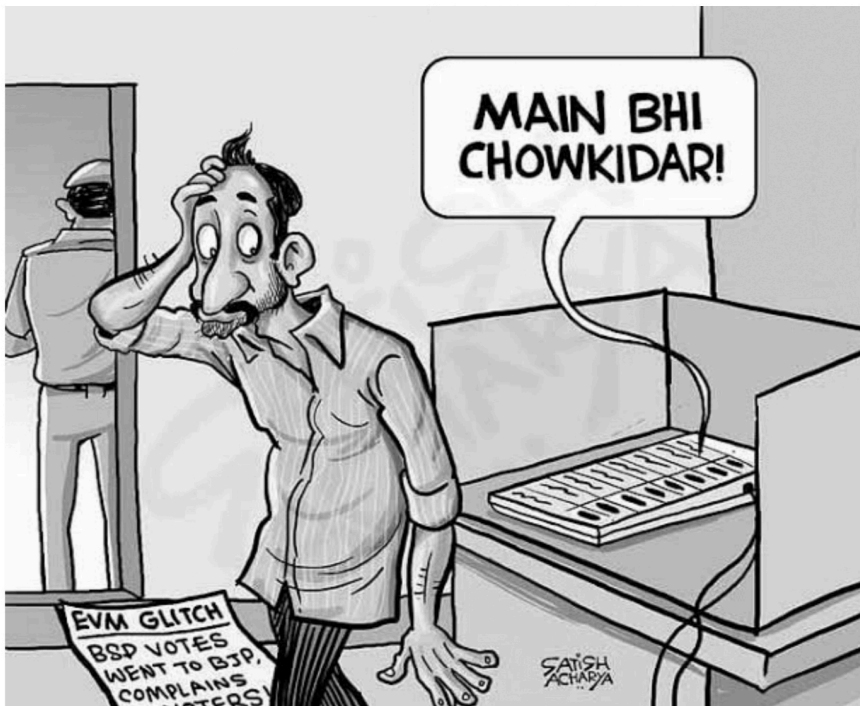


Why EVMs cannot be trusted!

The Right to Transparent and Unbiased
Elections is our Democratic Right!

Come Forward to Protect your
Fundamental Democratic Right!

Join the 'Remove EVM Campaign'!





Regardless of the outcome of the upcoming elections, they will not validate the credibility of EVMs. Whether a coalition of fascists or other bourgeois electoralist parties assumes power, the transparency of elections cannot be trusted until the ballot paper system is reinstated by removing EVMs. The people will have to struggle to eliminate EVMs and strengthen and broaden this movement. Failing to do so would be a significant political blunder.

**A Special Campaign Under
Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra**

Why EVMs cannot be trusted!

**The Right to Transparent and Unbiased Elections
is our Democratic Right!**

**Come Forward to Protect your Fundamental
Democratic Right!**

Join the 'Remove EVM Campaign'!



Contribution Amount: ₹10

Urgh! How have you connected these?! I press the switch for the tubelight and the fan turns on! Did you use to make EVMs before or what?



This booklet for Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra has been published by Yogesh on behalf of the Revolutionary Workers' Party of India (RWPI) and has been printed via _____

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If any government deprives the people of their fundamental rights, then it becomes not only the right but also an essential duty of the people to replace or abolish such a government.

— Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh

”

In any democratic system, representatives are elected through elections, a fundamental political right exercised by the people. For this, the voting process in elections must be transparent. Doubtless, in this bourgeois democracy, the classes and parties which control the means of production and distribution have various methods of influencing the voting process. Nevertheless, to the extent that our rights are granted by this system, we must try to fight for the right to utilize them as effectively and transparently as possible.

However, the current use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in elections is directly undermining this fundamental democratic right. The BJP and the Central Election Commission's (CEC) squirming in response to questions being raised across the country, akin to a stubborn child caught in the act refusing to let go of what he has stolen and resorting to various antics and tantrums, has only increased suspicions

about the EVM. The disregard displayed by the BJP and the Election Commission for demands such as providing voters with receipts from Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines at the time of voting, as well as ensuring 100% VVPAT verification are further intensifying all such suspicions. **The Modi government's stance has made it evident: there is something deeply rotten which it is trying to sweep under the carpet.**

Today, there are clear facts and arguments that show why elections conducted using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) can never be trusted. We will discuss these these facts and arguments in detail in this booklet.

It is our immediate and paramount responsibility to initiate an organized public campaign against EVMs. This is the responsibility of every conscientious citizen concerned with safeguarding our increasingly limited democratic rights. Hence, it is crucial to thoroughly



understand the relevant facts to avoid falling prey to the false narratives propagated by the BJP and the CEC on this issue.

Currently, elections for all state assemblies and the Lok Sabha are conducted using EVMs. **The use of EVMs began during the rule of the Congress party and since the very beginning, It had attracted consistent scrutiny and criticism, with the BJP being its most vocal critic!** However, upon assuming power, the BJP conveniently abandoned these concerns and, over the past decade, has exploited EVMs to secure election victories in a way only a fascist organization can. Through the systematic capture of all bourgeois-democratic institutions, the BJP and RSS have manipulated them to suit their agenda, acted autocratically defying all rules and regulations and have effectively fascistized the entire government machinery, from the lowest echelons to the highest offices. Utilizing this government apparatus and the cadre-based structure of the Sangh-BJP, the BJP is always in 'election-mode'. Thus, it is able to shrewdly and skillfully use EVMs to its advantage.

After polarizing the electorate through communal and jingoist propaganda and using the very funds looted from the public for schemes such as '5 kg free ration' scheme, the BJP will not be able to repeatedly secure electoral victories with large margins. Despite widespread discontent among the populace regarding the policies and actions of the Modi government, the party manages to prevail, solely through the manipulation of votes using EVMs.

Why do the BJP and the Central Election Commission Refuse to Entertain any Inquiries Regarding EVMs?

Why is the Election Commission, tasked solely with conducting elections, so insistent on avoiding questions on EVMs despite them being raised from all corners? Numerous petitions have been filed against EVMs in the High Courts and Supreme Courts of various states from 2001 (i.e. even before the system's implementation) to 2017. Yet, the courts, swayed by the Election Commission's hollow, baseless arguments, summarily dismissed them, asserting that the credibility of the Election Commission is beyond reproach. **But why? How did the Election Commission become immune to scrutiny? Recently, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition, stating it cannot entertain further such petitions (meaning it had heard so many such petitions that it was tired of them!), suggesting that every voting system has its merits and flaws. But what kind of argument is this? If a flaw in any voting system is its inability to ensure free and fair elections and its enabling of vote theft, shouldn't such a system be rejected? Should it not, at the very least, be investigated thoroughly?**

The 'Citizens Commission on Elections', led by former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur, released a comprehensive report in April 2021, raising numerous serious questions about the flaws and unreliability of EVM and VVPAT machines. This commission comprised former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former Madras High Court judge D. Hariparanthaman, Professor of

Computer Science at IIT Delhi Subhashish Banerjee, and several other well-known experts well-versed in the electoral process. The report was signed by 1400 judges, prominent lawyers, journalists, professors, and social workers from across the country. **However, Election Commission did not respond to this.** Prior to the report's preparation, statements were solicited from the Election Commission and its technical committee members, but none were received. A questionnaire was also dispatched to its technical committee members and some former Chief Election Commissioners, to which only one former Election Commissioner responded.

The renowned news website 'The Wire' published an extensive article on EVM glitches, raising numerous technical questions in detail. Distinguished lawyers such as Mahmood Pracha and Bhanu Pratap Singh, associated with the 'Save Constitution Mission', Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, and numerous eminent legal experts have repeatedly presented factual arguments questioning the reliability of EVMs. However, neither the government nor the Election Commission paid heed to these concerns. A petition filed by Mahmood Pracha et al. is still pending before the Supreme Court, although Chief Justice Chandrachud has recused himself from the bench hearing it, which by itself raises further doubts.

Not just this, 28 political parties have repeatedly written to the CEC requesting an appointment so that they could put forward their doubts regarding the EVMs before the commission. But the CEC is not even



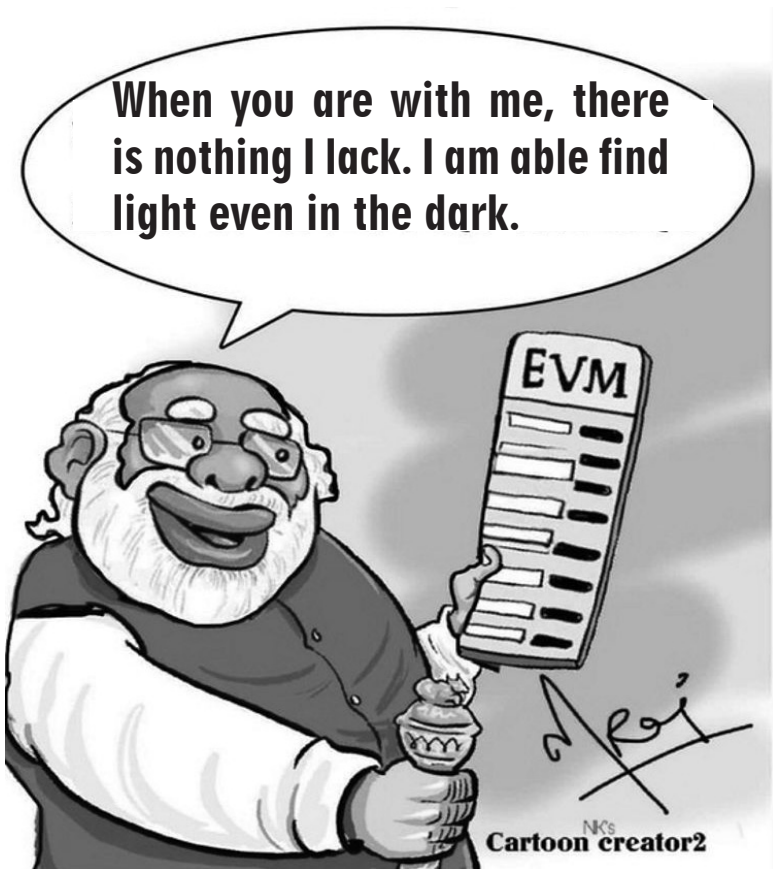
ready for this!

Why such secrecy? If the election commission trusts EVMs so much, they why is it running away instead of dispelling people's doubts?

This January, thousands of people, led by some well-known lawyers, protested at Jantar Mantar against EVMs. Their only demand was that the election commission make available 50 EVMs to them and that they would prove that they could be tampered with. Instead of listening to them, the police used force and detained them. Thousands of people had also reached Jantar Mantar on 3rd March under **Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra**. Scrapping of EVMs and reversion to elections through ballot paper was one of their prominent demands. They were also treated the same way.

Is it not the responsibility of the Election

Commission to dispel the doubts which have arisen in the minds of crores of voters and prove that the election process is impartial and transparent? Instead of doing this, the CEC is ignoring all questions raised, stalling, and being stubbornly opaque instead of being transparent. All of this proves that there is a massive scam going on with the EVMs. Let us have a look at the kind of questions raised by experts on EVMs.



How True are the Central Election Commission's Claims Regarding the possibility of EVM Tampering?

Firstly, it's essential to recognize that no electronic technology or machine in the world is immune to tampering or manipulation. Every technology or machine is solely man-made, and humans possess the ability to identify faults in them and make changes. Even the security systems of the largest banks in the world which were once touted as impenetrable, have fallen prey to breaches by hackers. Notably, the website of the powerful US Defense Department, the Pentagon, was hacked by college students. Despite the Indian government's assurances of Aadhaar data being safeguarded behind “12-foot-thick walls” and numerous security measures, it is widely known how Aadhaar data has been stolen repeatedly in so many different ways. While these exploits were executed by a few individuals, it is not hard to imagine how a party in power like the BJP might, with an organisation like the RSS, work in a planned manner to unravel the threads of the electoral process to achieve its desired outcomes.

In fact, it was the BJP which first raised questions on the EVM. A BJP leader GVL Narsimha Rao wrote a book titled ‘Democracy at Risk: Can We Trust Our Election Machine?’, whose preface was written by the then BJP President Lal Krishna Advani. It also contained a message from Telugu Desam Party Chandrababu Naidu, who has now become part of the BJP-led alliance.

Along with many anti-EVM facts and arguments, this book also contains the statement of voting systems



Hyderabad-based engineer Hari Prasad, along with Michigan University Professor J. Alex Halderman and Dutch technology activist Gonggrijp claimed that they had successfully hacked an EVM and published a paper on their case-study.

expert David Dill of Stanford University, who says that EVM usage can never be considered safe or error-free. The book also mentions the case of Hyderabad-based engineer Hari Prasad who, along with Michigan University Professor J. Alex Halderman and dutch technology activist Gonggrijp claimed that they had successfully hacked an EVM and had published a paper on their case-study. This experiment was not done on a dummy but an actual EVM and it was proved that these machines could be tampered with in two different ways.

What did the government do in response? Engineer Hari Prasad was immediately arrested for

the theft of a real EVMs from an undisclosed source! However, no attention was given to Hari Prasad's allegations. Hari Prasad conducted his experiment on the second-generation EVM 'M-2'. He now asserts that given an opportunity, he could also hack the existing third-generation EVM 'M-3'. Despite Hari Prasad's repeated challenges, the Election Commission does not respond and maintains a mysterious silence.

Experts suggest that even a cursory examination of the EVM design reveals deficiencies in several aspects. The potential for "side-channel attacks" appears to have been completely overlooked. There are numerous global instances of electronic devices being hacked through electromagnetic and other channels, including the software guard extensions of advanced *Intel* processors. Given such vulnerabilities, the assertion that EVMs lack external communication channels is wholly implausible.

The truth behind the Election Commission's challenge to hack EVMs.

In May 2017, the Election Commission challenged 7 national parties and 49 state-level to hack an EVM. However, this challenge was marred by absurd conditions set by the Election Commission, which resulted in only two parties accepting the challenge. However, when the Commission refused to provide the EVM machines for hacking, both parties withdrew their participation. The Commission, along with the BJP, persist in claiming that the parties ran away from the challenge of hacking EVMs.

As discussed in this booklet and reiterated by many experts, EVMs cannot be hacked wirelessly or remotely. However, if the machines fall into the wrong hands, then it won't be difficult to hack it. And it is clear that a large number of EVM machines are going 'missing' or being found in improper locations. In light of these circumstances, is it not sheer dishonesty and shamelessness to make such claims?



What are BJP Leaders Doing on the Board of the Company Manufacturing EVMs?

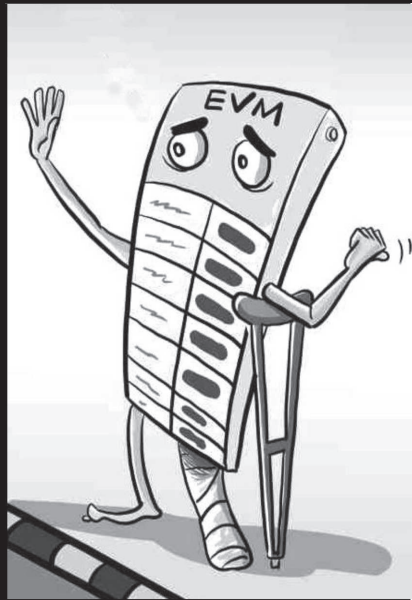
The ECI claims that the source code of an EVM machine is highly classified, as its disclosure would significantly facilitate tampering. However, did you know that on the board of directors of 'Bharat Electronics Limited', one of the two companies manufacturing EVMs in India, sit four independent directors who are office bearers and nominees of the BJP? Former IAS EAS Sarma addressed a letter to the Election Commission, questioning whether, as directors of the company, these BJP leaders, and through them, the BJP, might have access to the source code, which could be easily misused. However, neither the Election Commission nor the Modi government provided any response to such a serious issue. It

would not be a surprise if the state-sponsored media has kept you in the dark about this.

The source code serves as a set of instructions written by a programmer, directing the machine's operations. A petition presented before the Supreme Court argued that altering the source code, essentially the machine's brain, could alter the election's outcome. **Yet, no action was taken on this matter either!**

18 lakh 94 thousand EVM machines vanished between their journey from the factory to the Election Commission's custody. A petition concerning this was filed in the Bombay High Court in 2022, which remains pending.

Out of the 17.5 lakh machines dispatched to the Election Commission from three factories of the two government-owned companies manufacturing VVPATs, approximately 4 lakh, or about one-fourth, were discovered to be defective.



19 lakh EVM machines 'missing', 4 lakh VVPAT machines defective – yet the system is flawless!

There is another alarming issue: more than 18 lakh 94 thousand EVM machines reportedly vanished between their journey from the factory to the Election Commission's custody. How could this occur? Such a colossal disappearance is inconceivable without the complicity of government officials. Suspicions of misuse are further fuelled by numerous instances where vehicles belonging to BJP members or government officials, laden with EVM machines, were intercepted by ordinary citizens and opposition party workers during past elections. **Congress MLA H.K. Patil filed a petition concerning this matter in the Bombay High Court in 2022, which remains pending.**

Out of the 17.5 lakh machines dispatched to the Election Commission from three factories of the two government-owned companies manufacturing VVPATs, approximately 4 lakh, or about one-fourth, were discovered to be defective. The Election Commission itself wrote letters regarding this to the respective companies.

However, a recent petition to investigate EVMs was dismissed by the Supreme Court, which said that it would not entertain such petitions as every method (of voting) has its positives and negatives. What kind of an argument is this? While it is certainly true that every method has its advantages and disadvantages, that some are less expensive whereas others are more, **if one of the negatives of a voting system entails the possibility of electoral fraud being committed to ensure the victory for a certain party, shouldn't petitions asking for an**



inquiry into such a method be heard?

What is the reason that even the developed countries of the world do not use EVMs?

With a few exceptions, the majority of countries worldwide, including developed Western nations, refrain from using EVMs in their elections today. Many nations have reverted to paper ballots instead of relying on EVMs. After meticulous examination, the judiciary of numerous countries has deemed the use of EVMs dubious, unreliable, and even illegal.

In its much-discussed judgement rejecting EVMs

and reinstating ballot voting, Germany's Supreme Court made some important statements. We should view the EVM system in our country in the light of these statements:

(i) The court emphasized that the voting process must be transparent enough for the general public to trust that their votes have been accurately recorded and counted. (ii) The voting and counting processes should be publicly verifiable. (iii) Ordinary citizens should have the ability to verify essential steps in the voting process. (iv) The vote count should be conducted in a manner that allows verification and reliable ascertainment of results without requiring specialized knowledge. (v) The electoral process should not only be free and fair but also appear to be so. (vi) The Election Commission should have complete control over the entire voting process and the people should be capable of verifying it.

Are any of these conditions fulfilled in India today?



A poster from an anti-EVM protest in Bangladesh

Why is it that the BJP ends up losing elections wherever EVMs are not used?

In most elections conducted through ballot paper, including those for autonomous bodies, BJP candidates have faced defeat. BJP's defeat in the Chandigarh Mayor elections shows the same. Furthermore, in recent assembly elections held across several states, the BJP has frequently been on the losing end in postal ballots.



Now, let's delve into the entire election process involving EVMs and examine the possible levels of tampering.

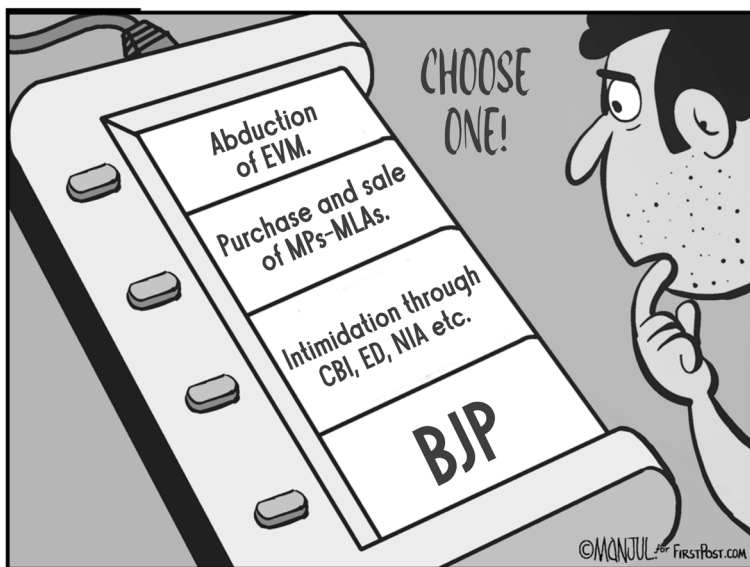
In the traditional ballot paper election process, ballot papers are printed with the names of all independent candidates and ticketed candidates of political parties, along with their allocated symbols, by officials appointed by the Election Commission. Registered voters simply collect a ballot paper and a rubber stamp from the presiding officer, proceed to the polling booth, mark the symbol corresponding to their preferred candidate, and then deposit the ballot paper. Throughout this process, the voter could witness each step first-hand.

So, What Exactly is an EVM Machine?

The EVM consists of a control unit placed on the presiding officer's desk. This control unit is connected to the Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) printer,

which in turn is linked to the ballot unit. Both the VVPAT printer and the ballot unit are stationed inside the voter booth. Additionally, there's a VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU) placed with the presiding officer, showing the status of the VVPAT printer. It's claimed to be a stand-alone system with no external communication channels via wire or radio. According to the Election Commission, it's stand-alone and cannot be controlled by a computer. It's also asserted to be 'One-Time Programmable' (OTP), meaning no other program can be inputted once set.

However, doubts have also been raised regarding this claim of the CEC. Responses to an RTI query to the Election Commission and EVM/VVPAT manufacturers Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) indicate that the assertion of EVMs being foolproof is questionable.



The microcontroller utilized in EVMs cannot be unequivocally deemed 'one-time programmable'. It contains three types of memory – EEPROM, Flash, and SRAM. EEPROM, standing for “Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory”, as implied by its name, EEPROM memory can be erased and rewritten with another program. In EVMs, the software is typically stored in either EEPROM or flash memory, or sometimes in both. Recent revelations indicate that both types of memory can indeed be reprogrammed. Hence, the Election Commission of India's assertion that the EVM software resides in a One-Time Programmable (OTP) chip is entirely false. **This means that data manipulation is possible through this chip.** This information has been disclosed on the website of Netherlands-based NXP Semiconductors NV, a supplier of microcontroller chips. **Apart from this, despite the significance of this public issue, both government companies and the Election Commission have adamantly refused to furnish most of the requested information.**

According to the available information, EVMs cannot be hacked wirelessly, nor can they be tampered with through any unknown remote process. **However, if the EVM machines fall into the hands of mischief mongers, they could potentially utilize toolkits available in the market to hack them by reprogramming the chip.**

Official scrutiny of EVMs has been rare, with the machines being officially opened and examined only once in May 2017, pursuant to an order from the

Bombay High Court. This examination was conducted during a hearing of a petition filed by a candidate concerning discrepancies in the 2014 assembly elections in Maharashtra. The Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Hyderabad, was tasked with investigating whether the source code had been tampered with. As described by the candidate, “It was weird that, when the machine arrived at CFSL, Hyderabad, under Y Plus security, approximately 40 people, including

The magician's life resides in this parrot: The EVM



officials from various intelligence bureau, CID and other intelligence agencies, state police, and other officers, were anxiously awaiting its arrival”. CFSL ultimately cleared the machine of tampering but acknowledged that they had no technical expertise to inspect the machine!

How is Voting Conducted Through EVMs?

To cast a vote, the Presiding Officer initiates the ballot unit by pressing a button on the control unit. The voter selects a candidate by pressing a button on the ballot unit. Upon pressing the button, an LED light adjacent to it flashes, accompanied by a prolonged beep signalling that the vote has been recorded. Simultaneously, the VVPAT prints a small slip containing the chosen candidate's symbol, name, and serial number. This slip is briefly displayed in a window on the machine for seven seconds before being deposited into a secure box.

Previously, the window for viewing the VVPAT slip was 15 seconds, but it has since been reduced to 7 seconds. Additionally, the window glass has been replaced with black, making it challenging for most voters to verify their choices quickly, leading to uncertainties about whether their votes have been accurately recorded.

What Happens Before and After Voting?

Both BEL and ECIL are tasked with packaging and delivering the EVM machines to the states as per the Election Commission's directives. Containers or sealed trucks equipped with proper locking mechanisms are utilized for EVM and VVPAT transportation, with paper seals affixed to containers. The movement of EVMs is monitored using EVM Tracking Software (ETS) external to the machines and based on the Global Positioning System (GPS). Upon receipt, District Election Officers are required

to videotape the process and then store the EVMs in the district's strong room.

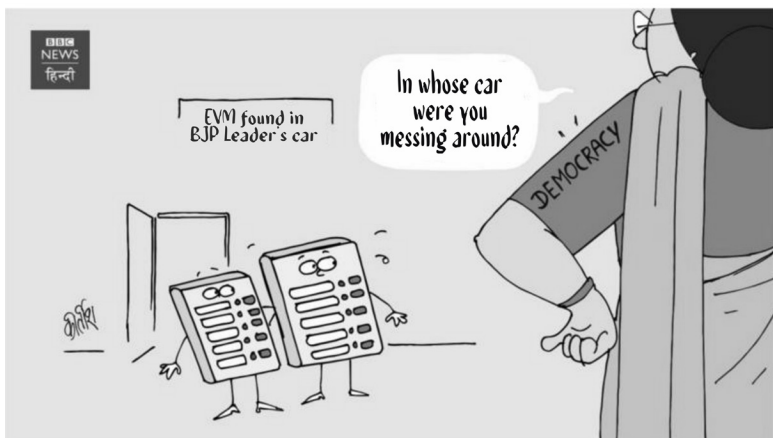
The Election Commission allocates EVMs to the states 200 days before polling, dispatching them 180 days prior, tracked via GPS-based ETS software. First-level testing is conducted three to six months before voting, involving internal part checks and sealing the control unit. Constituencies are assigned EVMs using first-stage randomization software three weeks before polling, followed by polling station assignment two weeks prior. Before the finalization of candidate lists, the ballot paper is affixed to the ballot unit, candidate names are entered alphabetically, and a mock poll is conducted, after which the unit is sealed.

On polling day, a mock poll of at least 50 votes is conducted at each station, with EVMs and VVPATs matched in the presence of polling agents.



Subsequently, all control unit buttons except those for voting are sealed with paper, signed by polling agents. After voting concludes, the Presiding Officer presses the Close button, after which no further votes can be cast. The entire EVM unit is sealed and signed, with polling agents permitted to affix their seals. Representatives of candidates are allowed to accompany the vehicle transporting EVMs to the counting storage room, which is sealed and guarded by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Candidates are also allowed to seal the strong room.

It is argued that there is no scope left for tampering after elaborate security measures. But the ground reality suggests otherwise. There have been so many occasions when EVM machines have been found in the vehicles of BJP leaders or the homes/vehicles of government officers on the day of or the day before the elections! Numerous incidents have been reported where machines vanished for hours between polling stations and counting points. Such



occurrences blatantly refute the government's claims of flawless security. It is evident that breaching such a supposedly secure system is impossible without the complicity of government machinery. And who else could accomplish this better than the BJP, which, through its fascisation and money-power, has infiltrated every echelon of the government machinery?

Following the conclusion of voting, video footage emerged from at least 10 different locations showing *new* EVMs being transported to the strong room. The Election Commission asserted that these were reserve EVMs but failed to furnish any evidence or

In the 2019 elections, a discrepancy was found between the total votes cast on 373 seats and cumulative votes received by all candidates.



In the Mathura constituency, while the EVMs recorded a total of 10,88,206 votes cast, the combined votes received by all candidates during the vote count amounted to 10,98,112, indicating a significant disparity of 9,906 votes. Similar discrepancies of 18,331, 17,871, and 14,512 votes were noted on three other seats.

clarification for their relocation just before the vote count (when they could have been relocated during the voting process) especially because there is often a gap of several weeks between voting and counting in many cases. **Further, there was also no clarification given regarding why these vehicles were often unaccompanied by security personnel, as mandated by Election Commission rules, and why they frequently lacked proper numbering or registration and were often unofficial vehicles. Why should one not doubt that they are in fact part of the 20 lakh EVM machines that went missing?**

Furthermore, it's crucial to highlight that conducting a mock test of casting 50 votes proves inadequate, as the EVM algorithm can be designed, for example, to give every second or third vote to the lotus after the first 200 or 300 votes. Hence, the primary measure to ensure voting transparency and fairness becomes futile in the case of EVMs, particularly given BJP's involvement in the manufacturing process.

During the last elections, voters at numerous locations lodged complaints stating that despite pressing the button for one party, their votes were registered for another — consistently, the BJP. This pattern vividly indicates not a technical error but deliberate tampering.

How secure is the counting of votes through EVMs?

On the day of counting, election officials and polling agents first verify the EVM serial number, seal, and the start and end time of polling. Control units that

fail to display results due to improper closure or display a number which does not match the total number of votes reported by the Presiding Officer are kept aside for further scrutiny. Following the declaration of results, candidates or counting agents can request VVPAT counting from the Returning Officer, who has to take a decision on the matter.

While this process may appear secure in theory, the ground realities paint a different picture.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, an investigation by a journalist from 'The Quint' web portal uncovered some alarming discrepancies in the data provided on the Election Commission's website. A substantial difference was observed between the total votes cast on 373 seats and the cumulative votes received by all candidates. For instance, in the Mathura constituency, while the EVMs recorded a total of 10,88,206 votes cast, the combined votes received by all candidates during the vote count amounted to 10,98,112, indicating a significant disparity of 9,906 votes. Similar discrepancies of 18,331, 17,871, and 14,512 votes were noted on three other seats. These discrepancies far exceed what could be reasonably attributed to inadvertent errors in mock polling data. When 'The Quint' brought this suspicious matter to the attention of the Election Commission, what did it do? **One might expect an immediate investigation to be launched. However, instead of investigating, the Election Commission simply removed the final datasheet from its website! Keep investigating now! Is this not a typical Modi**

government move? This is all that could be expected of Modi's *(A)mrut Kaal!* Remember when people started raising questions on rising unemployment rates, it simply stopped collecting and publishing data on unemployment? Kill the messenger to solve the problem!

VVPAT System under a Cloud of Suspicion

We now have enough facts and arguments in support of our claim that that even the inclusion of VVPAT does not render EVMs foolproof. BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and various opposition leaders have repeatedly demanded that voters also be provided VVPAT slips to for verification, which would be deposited by the voters into a different box. They demand that voters be offered the option to cancel their vote in case of discrepancies and that the VVPAT slips should be counted and cross-checked with the EVM results at the end of polling. All of these demands have been consistently ignored by the Election Commission. Why exactly is this the case?

Renowned lawyer Prashant Bhushan has advocated for either the removal of EVMs or a redesign of the VVPAT, highlighting the uncertainty surrounding what occurs within the VVPAT machine after the vote is cast and the lights go off. Nobody actually knows what happens subsequently in the VVPAT machine, what signal is sent to the control unit because nobody knows anything about the software which operates in it.



If the ordinary people have lost faith in EVMs, then why is the government stubbornly insistent on it?".
Text in image:
"Remove EVMs!
Bring Back Ballot Paper! Save Democracy!"

Prior to voting, 'mock polling' is conducted in the presence of candidates' representatives and the public, where the reliability of each machine is tested by casting 50 votes. However, the algorithm of EVM machines can potentially be manipulated such that after say 500 or 1000 votes, every second or third vote is assigned to the lotus or a predetermined election symbol, no matter the button pressed. Think: If BJP members are involved in the very process of EVM manufacturing, why will such manipulation not be possible? **It is clear that such fraud won't be committed in every seat or on a very large scale, for that would be foolish and would let the cat out of the bag. This strategy would only be used in closely contested elections where the difference between victory and defeat is marginal. Therefore, the argument posed by BJP supporters, that if EVMs were indeed being manipulated, the BJP should**

have won every election, is flawed. Even the most skilled gambler is likely to get caught if he chooses to use a sleight of hand in every move.

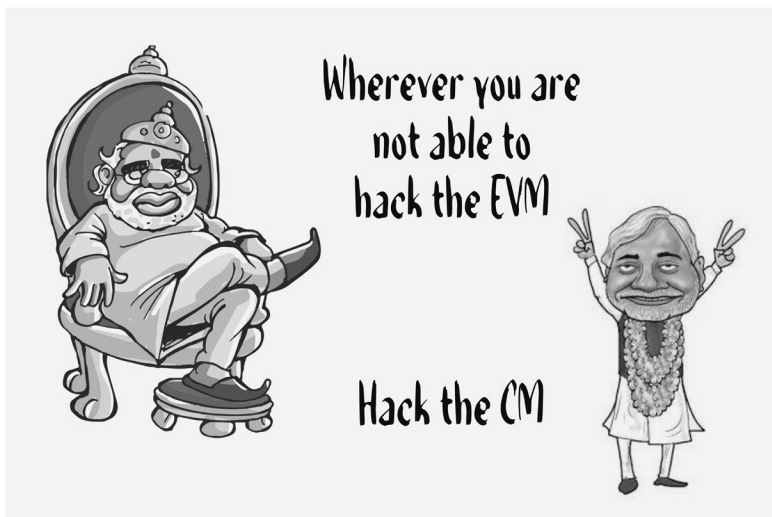
The truth is that while the ruling party or coalition refrains from EVM fraud in some assembly elections to preserve the credibility of EVMs among the public, and while in this process it might even lose some elections. In such places, it resorts to other tactics, such as bribery or organizing ED raids to break legislators, bring down governments and come to power. Secondly, the BJP may also sometimes err in its calculations: it might happen sometimes that the number of votes manipulated by the BJP is much less compared to the number of votes gained by an opponent as a result of mass discontent against BJP. It is evident from these explanations that the questions raised against EVMs remain as they are.

We must not forget that while the EVM is the biggest trick up the BJP's sleeve for perpetrating



electoral fraud, it is not its only trick. Another of its tricks is voter roll manipulation. In areas which are likely to vote against the BJP, the names of individuals from selected communities, which it believes are likely to vote against it, are struck off the electoral roll. It is estimated by some experts that around 40 lakh Muslim and 7 lakh Dalit voters have been excluded from voter lists across the country in recent years.

Additionally, research conducted by a professor from the prestigious Ashoka University revealed data suggesting that the BJP manipulated results in some seats during the 2019 general elections, leading to the party securing consistently more seats than expected in closely contested constituencies. This publication of this paper, authored by Sabyasachi Das, an Assistant Professor of Economics, made the BJP feel as if it was caught red-handed and the entire force of the IT cell mobilised against him.



The paper validated the assertions of many experts that a swing of just a few thousand votes, facilitated by a minimal number of faulty EVM machines, could alter the outcome in a Lok Sabha seat. It is worth noting that if the margin between the winner and the runner-up is narrower, fewer EVMs would require tampering, and it would also be harder to detect and necessitate a more thorough investigation.

In practice, election results can be influenced by tampering with even a small number of EVMs, and it would be erroneous to assume that faulty or hacked EVMs are evenly distributed across the population. They are strategically employed at specific locations through infiltration of the administrative machinery. Anyone who hoped for anything different was naive; As is clear, criminal fascist groups are adept at perpetrating such fraud.

Why is it crucial to establish a widespread mass movement against EVMs?

Friends, the Modi government has completely failed to address fundamental issues such as unemployment, inflation, education, healthcare, and housing. As a result of this failure, it has resorted to fomenting communal divisions to distract the populace. However, despite these efforts, the government remains uncertain about its prospects in elections. During the three-month-long **Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra**, organized across thirteen states of the country against the anti-people policies of the



communal fascist BJP government, we strongly felt that the Modi government's policies are steering the nation toward the brink of disaster. The simmering discontent in about ninety per cent of the working population and a majority of ordinary citizens is preparing itself to explode. The results of the 2019 general elections had led to a nationwide debate on electoral fraud using EVMs, despite the best efforts of the state-sponsored media and the massive BJP propaganda machinery. The results of the recent assembly election results in some states have further deepened this widespread suspicion **Today, there exist clear facts and arguments which show that any election conducted using EVMs is incapable of even an iota of trustworthiness.**

EVMs are facilitating a covert assault on one of the most fundamental democratic rights of ordinary



citizens—the right to choose their representatives through transparent elections. Hence, it is our urgent responsibility to launch a relentless campaign of organized mass struggle against EVMs. Every responsible citizen must step up to safeguard our limited, dwindling democratic rights. **This campaign should continue until EVMs are completely removed.**

The government and the BJP's argument against elections through ballot paper, claiming that they require more time and money, is completely meaningless. Transparency and public trust are of paramount importance in the election of any government. In a country where incalculable amounts are spent for the luxuries and security of political leaders and bureaucrats alone, allocating a bit more money and time to an essential process like elections should make no difference.

Further, even in elections conducted through EVMs, there are often significant delays in result declaration because the BJP frequently withholds results to ensure the victory of its preferred candidate. The government that, simply to satisfy the whims of Modi and his desire to bestow contracts worth thousands of crores to his favoured companies, lavishly splurges on meaningless projects like the Central Vista, can have no right to talk about saving money through EVMs!

Regardless of the outcomes of the upcoming elections, they will not validate the credibility of EVMs. Whether a coalition of fascists or other bourgeois electoralist parties assumes power, the transparency of elections cannot be trusted until the ballot paper system is reinstated by removing EVMs. The people will have to struggle to eliminate EVMs and strengthen and broaden this movement. Failing to do so would be a significant political blunder. Even if, fearing a nationwide violent uprising due to blatantly rigged election results, the BJP refrains from tampering with EVMs **this time** and resorts to other tactics, even if it is forced to concede defeat in some exceptional circumstance, the use of EVMs should still not be considered to be beyond suspicion. No ruling party should be granted the opportunity to exploit them. It should also be remembered that even if the communal fascist BJP loses elections, the Sangh will continue its anti-people communal propaganda at the grassroots level and strive to regain power by inciting communal fervor among ordinary people

frustrated with prevailing insecurity and uncertainty. The battle to decisively defeat fascism is a protracted one. However, at the very least, one crucial tool of fraud and deception must be wrested from their grasp— that is, elections through EVMs.

Friends! In order to achieve this, we hope for your active involvement in the anti-EVM campaign and appeal to you to play a significant role in its transformation into a countrywide militant movement.



Appeal for Financial Contribution

Friends! Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra relies solely on the support and financial contributions from the people. We principally oppose receiving funds from domestic/international funding agencies, government organizations, electoralist parties, their leaders, NGOs, etc. We earnestly urge all justice-loving, progressive, and public-spirited colleagues and friends across the country to provide maximum financial support for this Yatra.



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“ If any government deprives the people of their fundamental rights, then it becomes not only the right but also an essential duty of the people to replace or abolish such a government.

— Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh ”



Coordinator

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