

# Electoral Risks - Anticipation and Management

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# Murphy's Law

If anything can go wrong, it will.  
.....at the most inopportune time!

New 'Murphy's' Law of Elections  
All is fair in love and war - and elections!

Therefore always have a Plan B, C and D

# Preparing in Advance

Review by top district officials of vulnerabilities based on previous experiences and current political and security scenario.

Everyone is asked to identify 3 major concerns

District Election Plan prepared

- Booth vulnerability mapping based on several criteria:

Photo Electoral Roll

Elector's Photo Identity Card

Missing Voters

Extraordinarily High Turnout

Extraordinarily Low turnout

Extraordinary Winning Margin of victory

Caste/community Profile/ dynamics

Profile / criminal antecedents of candidates

Previous polls history

Native village / place of candidates You

# Management Issues

- Election materials (EVM, ballots papers + boxes, ink, stationary) readiness
- Staff playing truant or mischief
- Polling stations suitability- light, water, access, secrecy- (window sealed) ramp for disabled
- EVM malfunction / doctored
- Advance preparation
- Adequate margins
- Penal action
- Screening/ randomization
- Advance preparation
- 3 tier tests
- Political parties involved in checking process

# Misuse Of Staff

- Advance posting of pliable officers

- Transfer policy
- No home distt posting
- Transfer those completing 3 years
- Transfer of relatives of politicians
- Transfer on complaint
- Corrupt/ partisan reputation

# Misuse Of Staff (contd...)

- ▣ Abuse of Staff by ruling party
- ▣ Corrupt/incompetent/partisan

- ▣ Screening of staff
- ▣ Training
- ▣ Reserve
- ▣ Randomization
- ▣ Observers
- ▣ Live Webcast
- ▣ CCTV

# Pre-election Risks

- ❑ Manipulation of electoral rolls
- ❑ Mischievous deletion
- ❑ Inclusion of bogus voters
- ❑ Retaining dead & shifted voters deliberately for impersonation
- ❑ Federal EC
- ❑ Door to door verification
- ❑ Booth level officers (BLO)
- ❑ Booth level agents (BLA's)
- ❑ Online checking
- ❑ Voter photo ID
- ❑ Photo electoral roll
- ❑ Voter education



# Risks During Campaign

- Hate speech (communal caste, parochial)
- Personal attacks
- Disturbing public meetings of opponents
- Capturing prime public spaces (schools, parks, guest houses) bill boards/wall printings
- Buying up media spaces/time
- Intimidation by criminals

- Indian Penal Code
- Use Representation of People Act
- Model Code of Conduct
- Equitable allotment
- First come first
- Register vs. loose papers
- Equitable allotment
- Preventive action
- Execute NBWs
- Seize illegal fire arms
- Deposit licensed arms

# Poll Day Risks

- Late arrival of polling parties
- Late start of poll
- Unruly queues
- Booth capturing
- Malfunction of EVM
- Ambush of polling parties

- Overnight stay
- Multi tier security
- CCTV, observers, live webcast
- Mock poll
- Quick replacement
- Central armed police
- GPS, safe clusters
- Helicopter support

# Post Poll, Pre Counting

- Safe return of EVMs + records
- Evidence of manipulation & fraud
- Safe custody of EVMs
- Repoll
- Sealed rooms
- CCTV
- 3 tier security
- Pol. Party 24x7 watch

# Counting

- Late start
- Proper space, seating
- Possibility of grabbing ballots/ EVM
- Manipulate tabulation
- Fudge figures on computers
- Staff to report early
- Reserve handy
- Careful planning
- Wire mesh partition
- Announcement of result after every round
- Observers

# Post Counting

- Attempt to destroy EVM/ Ballots
- Start violence/ riots
- Attack winners
- Punish Electorate
- Results announced on the spot after every round
- Advance assessment of threat
- Security forces retained for some time
- Mixing of ballots. Totaliser for electronic mixing

# Lessons Learnt

- Plan minutely
- Screen & randomize staff
- Delegate generously
- Monitor effectively for timely action
- Treat candidates equally/ fairly
- Learn from mistakes
- Leave notes for posterity

Thank You