

HYDERABAD

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012

# ECIL develops tamper-proof EVMs for local body polls

Y. Mallikarjun

**HYDERABAD:** A modified multi-post, multi-vote Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) with enhanced security and tamper-resistance features for local body elections has been developed by the public sector Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).

Around 25,000 new EVMs with improved features have been successfully used on a pilot basis in the recently held municipal elections in Maharashtra. Maharashtra's State Election Commissioner (SEC) was pleased with the functioning of the EVMs and wrote a letter complimenting ECIL's efforts, according to sources in the public sector company.

## CEO visits ECIL

The operation of the modified EVMs was demonstrated before Election Commissioner H.S. Brahma and State's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Bhanwarlal, who visited ECIL last week. Sources said that Odisha and Madhya Pradesh governments too evinced interest in using them for local body polls in their States. The



*The EVM specifically developed for local body elections. — FILE PHOTO BY D. GOPALAKRISHNAN*

ECIL has written to all SECs informing them about the new multi-post EVMs for local body elections.

Although almost indistinguishable from the older EVMs, the improved version leverages technological ad-

vances to strengthen security and verifiability. The extra security features incorporated in the EVM include embedded identity tags on critical sub-systems, laser marked serial numbers, tamper-resistant and tamper detection

facets. If any person tries to meddle with the machine, it would give an indication that it was tampered.

The EVMs have been designed with adequate capacity to meet the requirements of local body elections with a maximum of eight posts and multiple contestants for each post.

## Prototype of VVPAT

Meanwhile, ECIL also developed a prototype of a 'Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail Unit' (VVPAT) for EVMs. The VVPAT would be connected to the EVM at the time of voting. After the casting of vote, it would display for a few seconds the candidate's serial number and the corresponding party symbol on the LCD panel of the printer unit. "It is basically meant for verification of the vote of an individual," the sources added.

It was also proposed to incorporate additional security features in the EVMs used for election of a single candidate in Parliamentary and Assembly elections based on the suggestions of an expert committee constituted by the Election Commission.