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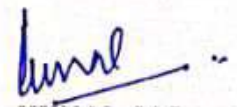
**PRESS RELEASE ON
OUTCOME OF FIRST MOCK-POLL IN AC 34, PS 31 IN SOUTH GOA P.C.**

A misleading and factually incorrect information related to outcome of mockpoll in AC 34 Cuncolim, PS 31 in South Goa Parliamentary Constituency on 23/04/2019 was circulated in social media and media. The District Election Officer cum Returning Officer, South Goa PC was instructed to conduct a detailed enquiry based on all available records.

The Political Parties, candidates and general public is hereby informed that during the Mock Poll in PS 31 of AC 34 Cuncolim, South Goa PC, the EVM was found to be malfunctioning, due to which it was replaced with a completely new set from the reserve pool. The polling at this polling station was conducted with this replaced set of EVM and VVPAT, in which the Mock poll was carried out accurately in the presence of the polling agents, with perfect match between the CU result and the VVPAT slips. Further, the polling was conducted peacefully during the day without any complaint in AC34 Cuncolim, Polling Station No 31 in South Goa Parliamentary Constituency.

However, it is abundantly clarified that the allegation of 17 votes being cast for BJP candidate during the first mock poll with the defective machine is completely false, misleading and factually not correct. In fact, during the said mock poll, 17 votes were recorded in favour of the Indian National Congress (INC) candidate Sh Cosme Francisco Caitano Sardinha.

The general public and all the stakeholders in the electoral process are requested not to heed to any false, malicious and motivated rumors in this regard. The Commission is committed to ensuring the accuracy, transparency and credibility of the EVM-VVPAT based voting process.


KUNAL, IAS
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