

Opposition calls for ballot paper in 2019 elections



A total of 17 opposition parties are planning to approach the Election Commission and demand usage of ballot paper in 2019 Lok Sabha Election instead of the electronic voting machines (EVM) for a transparent and accurate electoral results.

Symbolising fresh unity and integrity among most major opposition parties in India, 17 significant political parties have come together on the decision to demand exercise of ballot papers in 2019 Lok Sabha election. The parties will approach the Election Commission and demand that voters in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections exercise their franchise by stamping the ballot paper and not pressing the button on EVMs. The appeal will also signify contend and distrust among opposition towards the EVMs despite the votes being verified through verifiable paper audit trail (VVPATs).

The initiative of demanding ballot papers for 2019 Elections was taken by Mamata Banerjee's TMC and Banerjee met with visited Parliament to meet all Opposition leaders to invite them for rally planned by her in Kolkata on January 19. Interestingly, the TMC chief has also approached to Shiv Sena and urged them to be part of the rally by sending a delegation; and perhaps, the Sena might join considering the fact that earlier, Uddhav Thackeray too had demanded that the 2019 Lok Sabha election be conducted on ballot papers instead of EVMs.

The unity among diversified political parties underline the aggressive mood of the Opposition clan since past one year and their unified efforts to bring down the NDA-led government in next session. The demand will be to remove EVMs and bring back the older system so that all parties have 'faith in the election system?'. However, this matter will invite a lot of twists and turns throughout until the Lok Sabha Election 2019.