Touch Screen Voting Machines [TSVM]

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Touch screen voting machines will be useful for conducting free and fair polls on single day and in single phase for general elections. Now polling for general elections is being conducted by using Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] in multiple phases staggered over more than two months period. Rigging and impersonate voting is possible with electronic voting machines. If touch screen voting machines are used then there will be absolutely no scope for rigging, impersonate voting and all other malpractices in voting process.

How Touch Screen Voting Machines [TSVM] are different from Electronic Voting Machines [EVM]?

1] EVMs do not recognise voters’ identity when they cast their votes
   Touch screen voting machines will recognise the voter’s identity and do not register his/her vote for second time. It does not register a person’s vote even for first time if he/she does not belong to that constituency.
2] By using EVMs, polling for general elections is being conducted in multiple phases with staggered poll schedule. By using Touch Screen Voting Machines [TSVMs] polling can be conducted for general elections on single day and in single phase.
3] EVMs do register votes digitally
   Touch screen voting machines will register votes both digitally and by printing the symbol on the scroll.
4] A person can vote through EVMs only in the particular polling booth where his/her vote is registered. TSVMs can enable the voter to cast his/her vote in any polling booth of the voter’s constituency.
5] Every voter will have to take indelible on mark on his/her forefinger before casting his/her vote through EVM.
   There is no need to take ink marks on forefinger if polling is conducted by using Touch Screen Voting Machines [TSVM]
6] Polling official will have to take sign/thumb impression from voters before they cast their votes on EVMs.
   There will be no necessity for voters to sign before casting their votes on TSVMs.
7] The contesting candidates are distributing voter slips to voters in the present voting system and voters need to take voter slips to the polling booths.
   There is no need to distribute voter slips and voters can straight away go to any polling booth of a constituency to cast votes without bothering about voter slips.
8] Huge government machinery is being required for conducting elections with high expenditure cost.
   Minimum government machinery is required for conducting elections with low expenditure cost.
9] Average time required for a person to cast his/her vote on EVM is very high when compared to voting on TSVM.
A voter can cast his/her vote on TSVM in no time and there will be no queues before polling booths.
10] Counting of votes and declaring of results do take more than 5 hours time with EVMs
With TSVMs counting of votes will be over within one hour on the same day after polling is over. By using TSCMs polling, counting declaring of results for all constituencies can be completed on the same day of the polling.
11] While polling is on with EVMs the voting figures according to constituency wise, state wise, nationwide and gender wise will trickle down very slowly and final exact figures will be known very late at the end of the polling.
If the TSVMs are used exact voting figures according to constituency wise, state wise, nationwide and gender wise can be known at every minute or even at every second.

**What are Touch Screen Voting Machines and how they are used?**

The Touch Screen Voting Machines [TSVMs] are placed permanently at all public and private bank branches. They will be connected to central server at the Central Election Commission office. There should be a bank branch for every 2500 people
Voters’ left hand palm images will be scanned through these TSVMs and stored in the central server of the Election Commission
These Touch Screen Voting Machines will be maintained by banks and for this the service charges will be paid to banks by the central government
When the nomination and scrutiny process are over the election symbols of contesting candidates in a particular constituency will be displayed on all TSVMs in that particular constituency.
There will be screening machines at every polling booth i.e.; bank branch. These screening machines will also be connected to the central server of the Central Election Commission.
When a voter goes to the polling booth [a bank branch] he/she has to put his/her left hand palm on the screen of the screening machine. Then the screening machines will scan the palm image and will produce a voter slip, just like an ATM, if he/she belongs to that constituency. Then the voter will be allowed to cast his/her vote on the TSVM after handing over the slip to the bank official. Then he/has to put his/her left palm on his/her chosen symbol displayed on the TSVM. The TSVM will instantly register his/her vote if he/she belongs to that constituency and he/she had not already cast his/her vote.
If a voter tries to vote second time he/she will be stopped at the screening machine itself because the screening machine will not produce the voter slip second time for
the same person who has already voted in that constituency or any other constituency in the country.
It has already been stated that all screening machines will be connected with the Central server at the Central Election Commission.
The proposed new banking system developed by Varma will help the Election Commission conduct polling for General elections on single day and in single phase. [Link](https://www.academia.edu/11860995/Bank_reforms) or [www.vijayavarma.com](http://www.vijayavarma.com)

* All elections from panchayats to Loksabha can be conducted with the help of expanded banking system with minimum cost and without rigging and impersonate voting.
* This new banking system will put an end to the staggering election schedules comprising multiple phases and with many polling dates spread over 3 months of time.
* In this new banking system the nomination date for contesting candidates for all Loksabha seats will be begin at the same day. The date of scrutiny, the last date of withdrawals and the polling date for all the seats will be same. That means all contesting candidates will have the same time period for canvassing.
* The whole process of conducting general elections from the notification to counting will be completed within 45 days.
* The key, to conduct 100% free and fair polling for general elections on single day in more than 5,00,000 booths spread all over the country, is the new banking system.
* If banking is expanded to the ultimate level then there will be a bank branch in every village or colony having a population of 2,500.

[Link](https://www.academia.edu/11860995/Bank_reforms) or [www.vijayavarma.com](http://www.vijayavarma.com)

* Every citizen above the age of 15 years will have one compulsory Main Savings Account in the banks. Each individual will have only one Main Savings Account. There will be no possibility of generating duplicate Main Savings Accounts for the same person. Individual can have any number of Sub Savings Accounts if he wishes. There is no limit for having Sub Savings Accounts for each individual but there will be only one Main Savings Account for each individual above the age of 15 years.


* Each bank branch will handle approximately 2000 Main Savings Accounts.
* All citizens above the age of 18 years as recorded in their Main Savings Account will have voting rights automatically.
* All banks are connected to central servers maintained by Central bank. All citizens’ finger prints’ data will be stored in Central Bank servers. All citizens’ [above the age of 18n years] finger prints data will be stored in the Central server of Central Election commission.
* Citizens need not enrol their names in voter lists as in the present system. All citizens will get into voter lists once they get the age of 18.
* No government machinery is needed to enrol citizens in voter lists.
* There will be no possibility of complaints from voters for non inclusion of their names in voter lists
* The banks will submit the list of all individuals above the age of 18 years according to the Main Savings Accounts handled by each bank branch to the Election Commission as and when the Election Commission asks for it. The left palm images’ data of all citizens above the age of 18 years will be stored in the Central server of the Central Election Commission.
* As it is stated earlier there will be a bank branch in every colony or village having population of 2500.
* Each bank branch will virtually become the polling booth on polling day.
* There will be no need to employ and deploy additional officials for conducting and managing polls. The bank staff of 3 at each branch will suffice to conduct free and fair polls without rigging and impersonate voting. Not a single rigged vote can be possible.
* Each bank branch premises should have two huge rooms/partitions/floors/ blocks
* The one room/partition/floor/block will be used for daily banking operations and the second room/partition/block/floor in the same bank premises will be used as polling booth for all elections from panchayats to Parliament, from general elections to bye-elections
* In this second room/partition/block/floor of every bank branch two voting machines are placed permanently and in working condition.
* These voting machines are connected to the servers in the Central Election Commission
* The finger prints and images of all voters [account holders whose age is above 18 years] will be stored in the Central Election Commission servers
* The voting machines will have two parts. The upper part will have screen out side as in the ATMs. The lower part will be empty
* On the screen of the upper part of the voting machine there will be elections symbols of the contesting candidates. These symbols will be in single row.
* The election symbols are same in all voting machines of all branches that are situated in same constituency.
* The symbols in the voting machines may vary according to the contesting candidates in different constituencies.
* These are designed to register votes both digital recording and symbol printing on roll of paper.
* Every machine will have separate spools for all symbols. The roll of the paper spool should be 50 metres long and width of the roll should be 2 cm. The paper slip thickness that is being used in the present ATMs is enough to this voting paper also. 
* The entire roll of paper which is 50 metres long should be divided into 2500 square parts. Each part on the roll of paper is 2 cm width and 2 cm height.
* Inside the voting machines these 8 spools are fixed in alignment of the symbols on the front screen of the voting machine.
* One square part of each spool paper can be seen empty from outside.
* One square part of each spool paper can be visible side by side in a single row through glass below each symbol of contesting candidates.
* On the back side of each part of this spool paper there will be serial numbers from 1 to 2500. These numbers will not be visible to the voter.

If there are more than 8 candidates contesting in constituency then there would be two voting machines. To reduce the number of contestants and eliminate the non serious contestants electoral reforms are required. See the web site - www.electoralreforms.net

* When a voter wants to cast his vote he has to put his left hand on the symbol he wants to vote.
* The voting machine will scan the fingers image, tally with the data at central servers and register his choice of vote digitally inside the voting machine. The counting number of each symbol will not be visible to the voter. But the cumulative number of all votes on all symbols will be displayed on the voting machine [It can be seen on the voting machine by the voter] Every time a vote is registered by the voting machine the total number increase by one number.

*At the same the voting machine will print a small symbol of the voter’s selected symbol on square part on the symbol’s spool paper and the spool rolls 2 cm downwards. 
* The voter will be able to see the total digital vote recording of all symbols increase by one number and at the same time his vote symbol printed on the empty part and the spool rolls 2 cm down in to lower part of the voting machine. Now the next empty square part on the roll paper is seen.
* When the next voter arrives he will see only empty square part on all spool papers. He will cast his vote and comes out. All this happens in a few seconds for each voter.
* The voting machine will not register the vote if the voter tries to put his hand on the machine second time. It instantly sends out a warning siren. The security guards will take him outside.
* There will be a screening machine at the entrance of this polling room. This is not voting machine. This is vote slip producing machine. Every voter before entering the
room will have to put his left hand on the screen of this machine. The machine will scan the finger images, tally and check with the stored data and produce small vote slip if the voter has an account in that branch and if he did not vote already. The machine would not produce a voter slip for second time for the same person. The voter slip contains his name and account number.

* Then the voter will be allowed into the voting room and should hand over the slip to the polling official.

* The polling room should be divided into three parts. In the first part the voting machines will be placed. In the second part the polling officials will sit and in the third part the polling agents of the contesting candidates will sit

* There will be screen board in the polling room connected to the voting machines.

* The screen board will show the total voter number at each vote cast. The total number will increase by one number after each vote is registered

* When the voter cast his vote, his name and voter number will be displayed on the board.

* The booth agents will mark the voters’ names in their lists

* All the voting machines will be connected to the central servers in the Central Election Commission.

* In this way the total number of votes polled can be known according to booth wise, constituency wise, state wise and country wide at every second.

* At the end of the day the total number votes cast will be noted by the polling officials and polling agents. The rooms will be sealed and cc video cameras will be active monitoring the voting machines and whole inside of the voting room.

* The polling booth official should hand over the collected voter slips to his higher authorities.

* The counting can be done the next morning. There will be no need to move voting machines to counting centres.

* The polling officials will open the voting machine in the presence of polling agents and with full coverage of cc video cameras. This entire process of counting should be made public and put on the internet.

* Inside the machine the digital recording of all symbols will be seen. The booth officials record the numbers of all symbols. He would verify the digital number for each symbol recorded and also the last printed number on back side of the roll of spool paper in the presence of polling agents. The digital recording of the symbol and printing number of the symbol should be same and would be the same. The total number of vote’s registered and total individual votes of all symbols should be same.

* The digital recording of all votes will be connected to the constituency server and Central election commission servers.

* This process can be completed within half an hour.

* The final results can be declared by the Central Election Commission within one hour on the counting date.
* There is absolutely no possibility for bogus voting, impersonate voting and rigging.
* There will be no need for booth officials to put a mark on voter’s finger and verify the voter lists.
* Voting will take less time. There will be no long queues outside polling booths. Each voter enters the polling booth, puts his left hand on the symbol of his choice on the screen, see his symbol printed on the roll paper and rolls down and returns back. Voting is as simple as that.
* Elections can be conducted on single day in single phase.
* The voting should be conducted on bank holidays and staff of bank branches should be interchanged for polling duty.
* The polling officials should be paid double amount for working on this day.
* To oversee the polling other government employees can be deputed as poll observers at each polling booth [bank branch] one poll observer at each polling booth is necessary for smooth conduct of elections.
* Thus the conducting general elections and polling process will become so easy, simple, time saving and cost effective exercise. The up to date voter lists are ever ready with the banks.
* In the present system huge government machinery is required for the preparation of electoral rolls, enrolment of new voters and deletion of demised voter names in the voter lists.
* There will be no need to check voter slips and voting lists for polling booth officials. The voter slips will be produced by the screening machines just before he enters the polling booth when puts his hand on the screening machine.
* There will be no need to put a mark on the voter’s forefinger.
* There will be absolutely no rigging, impersonate voting and booth capturing. Every vote will be registered upon the scanning of voter’s left hand by the voting machine. No second time voting is possible for the same person.
* 200 votes can be cast per hour on each machine. There will be a bank branch for village or colony having population for 2500 people. That means there will be approximately 2000 voters to register their votes at each polling machine at the bank branch.

The total time taken for 2000 votes cast is approximately 10 hours for one machine. If there are two voting machines are placed in each bank branch, polling will be over within 5 hours. Two voting machines are necessary at each bank branch because if one voting machine goes out of order then the other voting machine will come in handy.
* The voting percentage may go beyond 90% because voters will be attracted by the hassle free and easy voting with minimum time spending at polling booths.
* In the present system there is heavy burden on the government to deploy security forces, transportation of polling material and officials to the polling booths. In the expanded banking system there will be no need to transport material for conducting
voting. Voting machines are permanently placed at each bank branch to conduct polling for all elections from panchayats to Loksabha elections.

* Huge government expenditure for conducting elections can be saved when elections are conducted with the help of expanded banking infrastructure.

Even for political parties there is no burden of distribution of voter slips to voters.

* The voting machines at bank branches can be used by all political parties for membership drive exercise on each year by paying user charges to the banks. Bogus membership can be avoided by political parties by using these machines.

* The parties can also utilise these voting machine for conducting their party elections by paying user charges to the banks.

* The survey agencies can use these machines to conduct opinion polls by paying user charges to banks.

**Electoral and political reforms can be carried through expanded banking system**

My suggested guidelines and regulations for registering new parties

* Registrations of new political parties can also be done by the Elections Commission by asking the new parties to register their members through these machines. The voting machines will scan the left hand of each member and register his/her membership for the party. The party should pay user charges at Rs. 10 per head for enrolment of members through the voting machines.

*The party which gets at least 2% of members of total eligible voters in the State by the voting machines should be given state party status. At least 2% of registered members of total eligible voters in the state for the new party should be made mandatory to get recognition to contest elections as State Party with common symbol. If the party fails to get minimum 2% of votes at State level it should be immediately derecognised by the election commission. If the derecognised party wants to contest in next state elections with common symbol then it has to enrol members once again at least 2% of total electorate in the state.

* The party which gets at least 2% of members of total eligible voters in the country and at least in 2% members in three states should be given national party status. The party can contest elections at national level in all States with common symbol. At least 2% of registered members of total eligible voters in the country for the new party should be made mandatory to get recognition to contest elections at all India with common symbol.

* If the party fails to get minimum 2% of votes at national level in general elections it should be immediately derecognised by the elections commission. If the derecognised national party wants to contest in next general elections at the national level with common symbol then it has to enrol members once again at least 2% of total electorate in the country.

* The registration of new political parties should be completed before issue of the notification by the election commission for elections. Those parties which were
recognised by the election commission prior to the notification should be allowed to contest elections with common symbol
* All non recognised parties, which do not have 2% registered members through voting machines, will have to put their candidates as independents to contest elections.
* So it should be made mandatory of all political parties to have 2% registered members of total electorate through voting machines at State or National level.
* The elections commission should conduct a preliminary polling for independent candidates before 15 days prior to the main polling date. Only the winner of this preliminary voting should be allowed to contest along with registered parties on the final polling day.
* Thus there will be a maximum number of 8 candidates in the final electoral battle.
* Conducting free and fair elections will become simple, easy and time saving exercise and there will be no staggered polls in multiple phase spread over two months time.

**The notification for the elections schedule would be like this**

If Elections notification is announced on 5-1-2014
The last date for receiving applications from independents will be 15-1-2014
Verification on 16-1-2014
Last date of withdrawal is 18-1-2014
Date of preliminary voting for independents is 30-1-2014
Results on 31-1-2014. The winner among the independents will be allowed to contest main elections
The last date of receiving applications for main poll from candidates of recognised parties is 3-2-2014
The verification will be on 4-2-2014
The last date of withdrawal will be on 6-2-2014
The final polling date will be on 20-2-2014. Single polling day in single phase elections
Re-poll on 21-2-2014 if any malfunctions of voting machines occurred in some booths.
Counting on 22-2-2014 begins at 8 A.M. and will be completed by 10 A.m.
Results will be declared officially at 11 A.M.
Just 55 days from election notification to final result day will be required to conduct general elections nationwide in single phase and on single day polling

Disclaimer – These are my suggestions only and may not be necessarily practicable.
To achieve 100% free and fair elections the government should implement electoral and political reforms
See the website - www.electoralreforms.net
www.politicalreforms.net

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Note - This article is an extract from the document “Liberalised banking sector” that is available on these websites.

www.vijayavarma.com
www.singletax.org

http://taxreforms.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Main-Savings-Account-VARMA.xlsx

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