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# Organizing National Elections in India to Elect the 543 Members of the Lok Sabha 

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#### Abstract

There are 833 thousand polling stations in all of the 543 parliamentary constituencies spread over 35 states of India. On the day elections are being held in any one of these polling stations, a minimum of 4 Central Police Force(CPF) personnel must be deployed there, to maintain law and order and guarantee that voters can vote freely without being intimidated by anyone. As the number of CPF personnel available for this activity is limited, it is not possible to hold the Indian General elections on a single day over the whole country. So the set of 35 States of India is partitioned into a number of subsets, with elections in each subset of states being held on a single day. This partition is required to satisfy the constraints that the states in each subset are contiguous, and the subsets themselves must be contiguous. We present a method for organizing the Indian General Elections subject to these constraints, and minimizing the total number of election days required, and the total cost for the movement of CPF personnel involved. The method is based on the shortest Hamiltonian path problem, a tour segmentation problem defined in the paper, and the bipartite minimum cost flow problem.


Key words: OR in government; Scheduling; Graph partitioning; Hamiltonian path problem; tour segmentation problem; minimum cost flow

## 1. Brief History of National Polls in India.

Three years after gaining independence from Britain, Bharat (India) became the Bharat Ganrajya (The Republic of India, or Indian Republic) by adopting the Constitution of India in 1950. Now the Indian Republic comprises 28 States and 7 Union Territories, which we will refer to as the 35 States of India in the sequel. The Indian parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with legislative powers distributed between the Parliament of India and State Legislatures. The Parliament of India comprises two legislative bodies - the Rajya Sabha (Upper house, corresponds to the "Senate" in the US, or the "House of Lords" in the UK), and the Lok Sabha (Lower House, corresponds to the "Congress" in the US, or the "House of Commons" in the UK). The 250 members of the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by legislators of States and Union Territories comprising the Union of India. The 543 members

[^0]of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by universal adult franchise by the electorate of all the 35 States through the "National Elections", called General Elections in India. The term of office each Lok Sabha is five years from the date of its first meeting, unless dissolved earlier due to the ruling party losing a vote on a no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha. These General Elections have been held for the first time in the history of India in 1951-52 after the adoption of the constitution of India; and regularly after that as depicted in Table 1. In this paper we will consider only the organization of general elections for electing the members of the Lok Sabha in India.

The total membership of the Lok Sabha is distributed amongst the 35 States in such a manner that the ratio of the population to the number of seats allotted to any State is nearly the same. The geographical area of the State is then demarcated into a number of territorial constituencies (with geographical boundaries), equal to the number of seats allotted, such that the population of all constituencies in that State is nearly the same.

Table 1

| Lok Sabha | General Elections | Date of first meeting | Date of dissolution |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 25 October 1951 to 21 February 1952 | 13 May 1952 | 4 April 1957 |
| 1 | 24 February to 14 March 1957 | 10 May 1957 | 31 March 1962 |
| 2 | 19 to 25 February 1962 | 16 April 1962 | 3 March 1967 |
| 3 | 17 to 21 February 1967 | 16 March 1967 | 27 December 1970 |
| 4 | 1 to 10 March 1971 | 19 March 1971 | 18 January 1977 |
| 5 | 16 to 20 March 1977 | 25 March 1977 | 22 August 1979 |
| 6 | 3 to 6 January 1980 | 21 January 1980 | 31 December 1984 |
| 7 | 24 to 28 December 1984 | 15 January 1985 | 27 November 1989 |
| 8 | 22 to 26 November 1989 | 18 December 1989 | 13 March 1991 |
| 9 | 20 May to 15 June 1991 | 9 July 1991 | 10 May 1996 |
| 10 | 27 April to 30 May 1996 | 22 May 1996 | 4 December 1997 |
| 11 | 16 to 23 February 1998 | 23 March 1998 | 26 April 1999 |
| 12 | 5 September to 6 October 1999 | 20 October 1999 | 6 February 2004 |
| 13 | 20 April to 10 May 2004 | 2 June 2004 | 18 May 2009 |
| 14 | 16 April to 13 May 2009 | 1 June 2009 | - |
| 15 |  |  |  |

General Elections held in India

Since there are large variations in population densities across States, constituencies vary largely in terms of geographical area- thus Ladakh (the constituency with largest area) covers 173266 sq.km in contrast to DelhiChandni Chowk (the constituency with smallest area) which covers only $11 \mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{km}$. Each constituency has a large number of polling stations distributed across the constituency such that voters can reach the polling stations to cast their vote with minimum travel. The distribution of membership of the Lok Sabha and the total number of polling stations for each state is given in Table 2.
The General Elections of India are the world's biggest election exercise. During the 2009 General Elections, a 717 million strong electorate exercised their franchise through 1.3 million Electronic Voting Machines deployed in 834 thousand polling stations spread across the length and breadth of India to elect 543 Members of the Lok Sabha from amongst 8 thousand candidates contesting the elections. The only other comparable elections are the European Parliament elections with an electorate of 500 million and the US Congress elections with electorate of 312 million.
The responsibility for conducting the elections to the Lok Sabha is vested in the Election Commission of India according to the provisions of Article 324 of the Constitution of India. The Election Commission operates through its secretariat based at New Delhi manned by about 300 officials. It is assisted at the State level by the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, who is appointed by the Election Commission in consultation with the State
government. The Chief Electoral Officer is assisted by District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, and Returning Officers at the constituency level. In addition, the Election Commission co-opts a large number of officials from the Central (or federal) and State governments for about two months during each General Election, for conducting the elections. About 5 million officials were deployed during the 2009 General Election.
Elections in the past have been marked by instances of voter intimidation through violence or harassment in various forms, as well as clashes between political opponents (Scharff [7]). These incidences have been largely arrested through deployment of additional police forces during the polling process in order to bring peace, restore confidence in candidates and voters, and thereby ensure fair and free elections.
The Constitution of India mandates that maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the States. Thus while all States maintain police forces totaling about 1.5 million, the average police-population ratio for all the States is only 133 police per 100,000 (National Crime records Bureau, 2010 [6]) in comparison with average international ratio of 342 (Stefan Harrendorf, 2010 [8]). The Central Government therefore maintains Central Police Forces numbering about 800 thousand under 7 different divisions, to complement the State police, whenever and wherever required. (Bureau of Police Research \& development [1]).
Since the State police are the arm of the State governments, allegations of partisan conduct of police in

Table 2

| Sl.No | State | Number of Members of the Lok Sabha | Total Number of polling stations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 42 | 66760 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | 2057 |
| 3 | Assam | 14 | 18828 |
| 4 | Bihar | 40 | 57020 |
| 5 | Goa | 2 | 1339 |
| 6 | Gujarat | 26 | 42568 |
| 7 | Haryana | 10 | 12894 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 4 | 7253 |
| 9 | Jammu \& Kashmir | 6 | 9129 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 28 | 46576 |
| 11 | Kerala | 20 | 20510 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 29 | 47812 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 48 | 82598 |
| 14 | Manipur | 2 | 2193 |
| 15 | Meghalaya | 2 | 2117 |
| 16 | Mizoram | 1 | 1028 |
| 17 | Nagaland | 1 | 1692 |
| 18 | Orissa | 21 | 31617 |
| 19 | Punjab | 13 | 18846 |
| 20 | Rajasthan | 25 | 42699 |
| 21 | Sikkim | 1 | 493 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 39 | 52158 |
| 23 | Tripura | 2 | 3008 |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh | 80 | 129446 |
| 25 | West Bengal | 42 | 66109 |
| 26 | Chattisgarh | 11 | 20984 |
| 27 | Jharkhand | 14 | 23696 |
| 28 | Uttarakhand | 5 | 9003 |
| 29 | Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | 1 | 347 |
| 30 | Chandigarh | 1 | 422 |
| 31 | Dadra \& Nagar Haveli | 1 | 161 |
| 32 | Daman \& Diu | 1 | 94 |
| 33 | NCT of Delhi | 7 | 11348 |
| 34 | Lakshadweep | 1 | 40 |
| 35 | Puducherry | 1 | 856 |

Number of constituencies and polling stations in each State
enforcing law and order during the campaign closing phases and during the day of elections are likely. It has therefore become universal practice to deploy Central Police Forces (CPF), in addition to State police at all polling stations during the General Elections. However, only about a quarter of the CPF can be spared for deployment during the elections, which amounts to only about 200,000 personnel. Thus General Elections are spread over different days with each day covering a few states only, such that the required number of CPF personnel can be deployed across all polling stations of
all constituencies of those states. The days of elections are spread a few days apart to allow re-deployment of paramilitary personnel and allow them to be familiar with their constituencies. For example, the 2009 General Election was conducted in five phases on 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May and 13 May.

The movement of CPF personnel from their bases to the polling stations in the different phases and their subsequent return to the bases is a gigantic exercise, requiring coordination between different agencies such as CPF operations, Election Commission and State Chief

Electoral Officers, District Election Officers, Railways, airlines and the Indian Air Force. In the 2009 General Election, 119 special trains, 65 sorties by Indian Air Force transport aircraft, 600 sorties by Indian Air Force helicopters and Air India chartered flights were used for the cross-country movement of CPF personnel (Election Commission of India, 2009 [2]).

However the process of scheduling the elections and movement of police personnel is done manually by the Election Commission. This paper proposes an optimization methodology to find an optimum plan for organizing the General Elections for all the 543 parliamentary constituencies in the minimum possible time, with the available CPF personnel, while minimizing the total cost for the police movement involved. The paper is organized as follows: the problem statement and description of all the data is in Section 2; representation, methodology and algorithms for the problem are described in Section 3; followed by discussion of the solutions obtained in Section 4 and conclusions in Section 5.

## 2. The problem statement and description of all the data

The total number of polling stations of all the 543 parliamentary constituencies, spread over 35 states is 833,701 . If 4 CPF (Central Police Forces) personnel are deployed at each polling station, the total requirement of police personnel is 3.3 million if elections are to be held on the same day all over the country. However, since only about a quarter of CPF amounting to 200,000 personnel can be spared for deployment during the elections, so additional reserve CPF and army personnel are also used to bring the number to 1.5 million for deployment during the elections. In the sequel, we will refer to this group of police with the responsibility of maintaining law and order at the polling booths, while elections are going on there, as "CPF personne". Even then it can be seen that it is not possible to conduct elections for all the 543 parliamentary constituencies on a single day. Thus elections will have to be conducted in phases, with CPF personnel movement between constituencies in the phase intervals. The proposed method assumes that the CPF personnel movement will be entirely by air, except the 'last mile' movement between the airports and the constituencies.

### 2.1. The Constraints in the Problem and the Objective Function to be Optimized

While conducting the elections in phases, the Election Commission requires that the following constraints should be satisfied as far as possible:

### 2.1.1. Constraints to be Satisfied

(a) In every State, the elections in all constituencies in it should be held on a single day
(b) As far as possible, States in which elections are held on a day must be contiguous
(c) Set of States in which elections are held on consecutive polling days should be contiguous
(d) General elections over the whole country should be completed using the smallest number of polling days
(e) At every polling station, 4 CPF personnel should be deployed on the election day
(f) The total number of CPF personnel available for deployment at polling stations on any polling day is at most $1,500,000$ or 1.5 million. The proposed method
incorporates all these constraints, in the model used to solve the problem.

### 2.1.2. Selection of the objective function to optimize

In the original statement of the problem, the unit for measuring the objective function is stated in terms of people-miles. But the CFP personnel deployed move from a state to next by air (as far as possible), and from the airport to the polling stations in the constituency by road vehicles; and the costs per person-mile by air and road are very different. It is not logical or reasonable to add people-miles by different modes of travel directly to get the objective function to be minimized; particularly since in the end all travel has to be paid for in units of money, Indian Rs (Indian Rupees or ), in the total travel cost of all the CFP personnel involved.
So, we use the objective function as the total cost of travel of all the CFP personnel involved in the General Elections. Air travel cost should be the cost of air travel of all the moves made by air for all these personnel. Road travel can be in terms of cost incurred for it, the total cost of mileage of all the road vehicles used for all these personnel.

### 2.2. The data for the problem

All the data for the problem can be obtained by sending an e-mail to the first author.

### 2.2.1.

The first data set required for the problem is number of polling stations in each constituency in each state, the name of the nearest airport to that constituency (CPF personnel deployed to polling stations in this constituency will use this airport to arrive in this constituency and depart from it to their next assignment), and the road distance of this constituency to that airport. In the following Table 3 we show a portion of this information for one selected constituency in each State.

### 2.2.2.

The second data set required for the problem is the air travel cost in (Rupees) between various pairs of airports. Actual air travel cost of CPF polling personnel is hard to get exactly since some of it is on Indian Air Force Transport Aircraft, helicopters, and some on Air India chartered flights. So this data is based on estimated average cost in $10 /$ mile (based on 2012 prices) on these different types of flights used, and the air distance data between pairs of airports. In the following Table 4 we show a portion of this information for a few pairs of airports.

### 2.2.3.

The third data set required for the problem is the estimated cost in (Rupees) of the road or train travel of CPF polling personnel from airport used to the polling stations in the constituency and back for each constituency. This data is based on estimated average cost in $.3 / \mathrm{mile}$ by these modes of travel(road or rail). In the following Table 5 we show a portion of this information for a few selected constituencies.

### 2.2.4.

The fourth data set required for the problem is the list of adjacent states for each state. This data is shown in full in the following Table 6. Two states are defined to be adjacent if they share a common boundary line.

### 2.2.5.

The fifth data set required for the problem is the cost in of travel/person from the various bases from where CPF polling personnel come from, to each constituency. In the following Table 7 we show a portion of this information for a few selected constituencies and bases.

### 2.2.6.

The sixth data set required for the problem is the number of personnel that come from each base. We assume

15 bases at Agartala, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Jammu, Jorhat, Lucknow, Patna, Shillong and Raipur.

### 2.2.7.

The seventh data set required for the problem is the cost of travel/person from each constituency to each constituency across the country. In the following Table 8 we show a portion of this information for a few pair of selected constituencies.

## 3. A graph representation of the problem

A graph (also known as an undirected network) is a pair of sets $G=(N, A)$ where $N$ is a set of nodes (also called vertices, these are numbered serially and referenced by their numbers), and $A$ is a set of lines or edges (also called arcs in some books), each edge joining a pair of nodes. If an edge joins the pair of nodes $i, j$ it is represented by the pair ( $i, j$ ) [ in some books the symbol $(i ; j)$ is used instead]; this edge is said to be incident at nodes $i$ and $j$. Nodes $i, j$ are said to be adjacent if there is an edge joining them. See Murty[1992] for a discussion of networks and network algorithms. The network $G$ is said to be connected if for every pair of nodes $p, q$ in it, there is a path of edges in $G$ connecting them; otherwise it is not connected. See Figures 6, 7. Nodes are circles with its number entered inside the circle; each edge is a straight line joining the pair of nodes on it.


Figure 6: A 6 node, 6 edge network which is not a connected network (for example there is no path consisting of edges between nodes 1,4 in this network).

Table 3

| Sl.No | State | Constituency | No.of Polling <br> Stations | Nearest <br> Airport | Distance to <br> Airport (miles) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | Adilabad | 1464 | Ramagundam | 85 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | Arunachal East | 851 | Pasighat | 52 |
| 3 | Assam | Karimganj | 1229 | Silchar | 27 |
| 4 | Bihar | Purvi Champaran | 1193 | Muzaffarpur | 46 |
| 5 | Goa | South Goa | 660 | Dabolimgoa | 0 |
| 6 | Gujarat | Anand | 1510 | Vadodara | 22 |
| 7 | Haryana | Kurukshetra | 1263 | Chandigarh | 52 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | Mandi | 1921 | Kulu | 20 |
| 9 | Jammu \& Kashmir | Anantnag | 1502 | Srinagar | 31 |
| 10 | Karnataka | Dharwad | 1455 | Hubli | 12 |
| 11 | Kerala | Wayanad | 988 | Kozhikode | 40 |
| 12 | Madhya | Pradesh | Bhind | 1659 | Gwalior |
| 13 | Maharashtra | Dhule | 1624 | Aurangabad | 79 |
| 14 | Manipur | Inner Manipur | 970 | Imphal | 0 |
| 15 | Meghalaya | Shillong | 1326 | Shillong | 0 |
| 16 | Mizoram | Mizoram | 1028 | Aizawl | 0 |
| 17 | Nagaland | Nagaland | 1692 | Dimapur | 29 |
| 18 | Orissa | Cuttack | 1319 | Bhubaneswar | 13 |
| 19 | Punjab | Jalandhar | 1764 | Ludhiana | 34 |
| 20 | Rajasthan | Sikar | 1574 | Jaipur | 63 |
| 21 | Sikkim | Sikkim | 493 | Darjeeling | 30 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | Viluppuram | 1376 | Pondicherry | 19 |
| 23 | Tripura | Tripura West | 1558 | Agartala | 0 |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh | Rae Bareli | 1576 | Lucknow | 46 |
| 25 | West Bengal | Jalpaiguri | 1560 | Bagdogra | 27 |
| 26 | Chattisgarh | Raigarh | 2166 | Bilaspur | 81 |
| 27 | Jharkhand | Kodarma | Gaya | 43 |  |
| 28 | Uttarakhand | Garhwal | 1876 | Dehradun | 46 |
| 29 | Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | 347 | Portblair | 0 |
| 30 | Chandigarh | Chandigarh | Chandigarh | 0 |  |
| 31 | Dadra \& Nagar Haveli | Dadar \& Nagar Haveli | 161 | Daman | 15 |
| 32 | Daman \& Diu | Daman \& Diu | 94 | Daman | 0 |
| 33 | NCT OF Delhi | New Delhi | Delhi | 9 |  |
| 34 | Lakshadweep | Lakshadweep | Agatti | 0 |  |
| 35 | Puducherry | Puducherry | Pondicherry | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Number of polling stations and nearest airport of select constituencies

Table 4

|  | AGARTALA | AGATTI | AGRA | AHMEDABAD | AIZAWL | AKOLA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| AGARTALA | - | 15438 | 8597 | 11878 | 914 | 9389 |
| AGATTI | 15438 | - | 11907 | 8429 | 16183 | 7520 |
| AGRA | 8597 | 11907 | - | 4450 | 9485 | 4527 |
| AHMEDABAD | 11878 | 8429 | 4450 | - | 12791 | 3272 |
| AIZAWL | 914 | 16183 | 9485 | 12791 | - | 10276 |
| AKOLA | 9389 | 7520 | 4527 | 3272 | 10276 | - |

Table 5

| State/Union-Territory | Parliament <br> Constituency <br> Name | Number of <br> Polling Stations | Nearest Airport | Cost of Road Travel <br> from Parliament <br> Constituency to nearest <br> Airport (in Rupee/person) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Andhra Pradesh | Medak | 1571 | HYDERABAD | 289 |
| Assam | Barpeta | 1396 | GUWAHATI | 281 |
| Bihar | Madhubani | 1354 | MUZAFFARPUR | 274 |
| Gujarat | Surendranagar | 1768 | AHMEDABAD | 353 |
| Kerala | Kannur | 983 | KOZHIKODE | 389 |

Cost of road/train travel in Rupee/person between constituency and nearest airport, for selected constituencies.


Figure 7: A 6 node, 7 edge network that is a connected network
A partial network of $N$ is a network $G_{1}=\left(N_{1}, A_{1}\right)$ where the set of nodes $N_{1}$ is a subset of $N$, and the set of edges $N_{1}$ is the set of all edges of $G$ that have both their incident nodes in $N_{1} . G_{1}$ is said to be the partial network of $G$ induced by the subset of nodes $N_{1}$, it is connected if it forms a connected network. For example for the network $G$ in Figure 5, $G_{1}=(\{1,2,3\},\{(1$, $2),(2,3),(3,1)\})$ is a connected partial network; and $\mathrm{G}_{2}=(\{1,2,3,4\},\{(1,2),(2,3),(3,1)\})$ is a partial network which is not connected because there is no path connecting nodes 1 and 4 in it.
Let $\left\{N_{1}, N_{2}, \ldots, N_{k}\right\}$ be a partition node set $N$ in $G$ (i.e., their union is $G$, and every pair of subsets in this partition are mutually disjoint). For $t=1$ to $k$, let $G_{t}=$ ( $N_{t}, A_{t}$ ) be the partial network of $G$ induced by $N_{t}$. Then $\left\{G_{1}, \ldots, G_{k}\right\}$ is said to be a partition of $G$. The graph partitioning problem is the general problem of finding a partition of a given graph $G$ subject to specified constraints that minimizes a specified objective function. Our polling problem can be viewed as an instance of the graph partitioning problem. To see this let $N I=\{1$, $\ldots, 35\}$ where node $i$ represents the state of India with serial number $i$ in Table 2. Let $A I=\{(i, j)$ : nodes $i, j$ correspond to adjacent states as given in Table 4\}. Then $(N I, A I)=G I$ is known as the adjacency network for
states in India.
With 1.5 million CPF personnel available for deployment for the elections, and the required 4 CPF personnel at every polling station, on a single day elections can be held at $1500000 / 4=375000$ polling stations at most. Since there are 833701 polling stations over the whole country, and 833701/375000 is strictly between 2 and 3,

## we need at least 3 polling days to complete holding the elections over the whole country.

So, on any single day, elections are held in a subset of states in the country. Suppose elections are held on $k$ different days. We know that $k>=3$. Let $N I_{t}$ be the set of states in which elections are held on the $t$ th day for $t=1$ to $k$, and let $G I_{t}=\left(N I_{t}, A I_{t}\right)$ be the partial network of $G I$ induced by the subset of nodes $N I_{t}$. So, our problem boils down to finding the partition $\left(G I_{1}, \ldots\right.$, $G I_{k}$ ) of $G I$ satisfying constraints (a) to (f) listed above in Section 2.1.1, and sequence these partial networks generated corresponding to the election days $1,2, \ldots$, $k$; while minimizing the total cost of moving the CPF personnel across the country to monitor the polling stations as required. So our problem actually involves a graph partitioning problem, and a sequencing problem.
In constraint (b) of Section 2.1.1, the meaning of the word "contiguous" is left somewhat vague. We will interpret it to mean that the partial network $G I_{t}$ of $G I$ induced by the set of states in which elections are held on the $t$ th day should be a connected network for each $t=$ 1 to $k$. Also, we will interpret constraint (c) of Section 2.1.1 that the set of states in which elections are held on consecutive days should be "contiguous" to mean that there should be at least one edge in GI joining a node in $N I_{t}$ to a node in $N I_{t+1}$ for each $t=1$ to $k-1$.

Table 6

| State | Adjacent States |
| :---: | :---: |
| Andhra Pradesh | Orissa,Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Assam |
| Assam | West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram |
| Bihar | Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal |
| Goa | Karnataka, Maharashtra |
| Gujarat | Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Dadra \& Nagar Haveli, Daman \& Diu, Rajasthan |
| Haryana | Punjab, NCT-Delhi, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan |
| Himachal Pradesh | Punjab, Jammu \& Kashmir, Uttar Khand, Haryana, Chandigarh |
| Jammu \& Kashmir | Punjab, Himachal Pradesh |
| Karnataka | Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep |
| Kerala | Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep |
| Madhya Pradesh | Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh |
| Maharashtra | Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Daman \& Diu, Dadra \& Nagar Haveli |
| Manipur | Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam |
| Meghalaya | Assam |
| Mizoram | Assam, Tripura, Manipur |
| Nagaland | Manipur, Assam |
| Orissa | Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal |
| Punjab | Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu \& Kashmir, Chandigarh |
| Rajasthan | Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab |
| Sikkim | West Bengal |
| Tamil Nadu | Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry |
| Tripura | Assam, Mizoram |
| Uttar Pradesh | Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, NCT-Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar |
| West Bengal | Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, Assam |
| Chattisgarh | Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand |
| Jharkhand | Orissa, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal |
| Uttarakhand | Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh |
| Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh |
| Chandigarh | Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh |
| Dadra \& Nagar Haveli | Gujarat, Maharashtra |
| Daman \& Diu | Gujarat, Maharashtra |
| NCT of Delhi | Haryana, Uttar Pradesh |
| Lakshadweep | Kerala, Goa, Karnataka |
| Puducherry | Tamil Nadu |

Adjacent states of each state

Table 7

| State/Union-Territory | ParliamentConstituency | Central Police Force Bases |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Agartala | Mumbai | Chandigarh | Kolkata |
| Andhra Pradesh | Peddapalle | 8474 | 4353 | 6425 | 8505 |
| Jammu \& Kashmir | Baramulla | 12377 | 10652 | 11615 | 2756 |
| Karnataka | Bijapur | 11164 | 2579 | 9120 | 9409 |
| Madhya Pradesh | Tikamgarh | 7605 | 6471 | 5983 | 4917 |
| Punjab | Amritsar | 11385 | 8812 | 10390 | 1290 |

Table 8

|  | Hassan <br> (Karnataka) | Vidisha <br> (Madhya Pradesh) | Mayurbhanj <br> (Orissa) | Sangrur <br> (Punjab) | Tura <br> (Meghalaya) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Medak <br> (Andhra Pradesh) | 4390 | 4595 | 6751 | 10048 | 10598 |
| Nagpur <br> (Maharashtra) | 6703 | 2000 | 4920 | 7305 | 7953 |
| Uluberia <br> (West Bengal) | 10966 | 7286 | 1704 | 10000 | 3046 |
| Fatehpur <br> (Uttar Pradesh) | 10672 | 3307 | 4885 | 4676 | 6421 |
| Nowgong <br> (Assam) | 14938 | 10235 | 5270 | 11064 | 2231 |

Cost of travel in Rs./person between selected pairs of constituencies

### 3.1. A Hamiltonian Path Heuristic For the Problem

A Hamiltonian path in an undirected network $G$ is a path consisting of edges in the network that contains all the nodes in the network. Given the lengths of all the edges in $G$, the Hamiltonian path problem in $G$ is that of finding a shortest Hamiltonian path in $G$. A Hamiltonian path in $G$ is a path in $G$ that contains all the nodes in G ; and a shortest Hamiltonian path is one whose length (the length of a Hamiltonian path is the sum of the lengths of the edges in it) is the shortest among all Hamiltonian paths. In some applications, we may require Hamiltonian paths beginning with a specified node as the initial node. This can easily be transformed into the well known traveling salesman problem.
Since our CPF polling personnel team has to cover each of the states in India satisfying the constraints listed above, the shortest Hamiltonian path in the network GI using the cost of traveling/person between states $i, j$ as the length of edge $(i, j)$, may provide useful information to develop a good solution to our problem. But there are important differences. No member of the CPF polling team visits all the states, everyone visits only a subset of the states, so our problem is really one of partitioning $G I$ into connected partial networks $G I_{1}, \ldots, G I_{k}$ of $G I$, corresponding to election days 1 to $k$ such that there is an edge joining a node in $G I_{t}$ to a node in $G I_{t+1}$ for all $t=1$ to $k-1$; and each member of the CPF polling team visits one node in each of $G I_{t}$ for $t=1$ to $k$.
Define a segment of a Hamiltonian path as the portion of this path between a pair of nodes on it. One way of generating partial networks of GI satisfying the contiguity requirements in our problem is to obtain a
minimum cost Hamiltonian path in $G I$, and then divide it into segments of required size, and take the partial networks of $G I$ to be the partial networks induced by the sets of nodes of the various segments. This is the basis for this method, which we will describe next. The method has two stages. Stage 1 determines the election day for each state with day 1 as the starting day of the elections.
Selecting the sequence of partial networks of $G I$ to cover the various polling days as the sequence of segments along the shortest Hamiltonian path helps keep the cost of movements of the NPF polling team between consecutive polling days small, thus achieving our objective of minimizing the total cost of travel of this team in conducting the elections, while satisfying the contiguity requirements (b), (c) among the specified constraints of Section 2.1.1.

### 3.1.1. Stage 1: Determining the Election Day for Each State

There may be up to 13 different airports that the CPF polling team will use to enter and leave a state. In reality then, each individual of this team has a separate problem to be solved to estimate correctly the cost incurred for his participation; but all the data for that individual is not known until the solution of this stage is determined, making it impractical to get into such precise detail.
So, as an approximation, we will assume that all members of the CPF team visiting a state will travel to and from this state use one airport, the one that majority of this team will use (this is a reasonable and good approximation).
So,
make the cost coefficient of edge $(i, j)$ in $G I$ to be $c_{i j}=$ cost of air travel/person between the airports (determined as above) corresponding to states $\boldsymbol{i}, \boldsymbol{j}$.
For each node $i$ in $G I$ define its weight $\boldsymbol{w}_{i}=$ number of polling stations in state $\boldsymbol{i}$.
As the polling team moves from one state to the other, our original problem is actually many Hamiltonian path problems, one for each individual in the CPF polling team, depending on the airports they will use for each move. By using a single airport for each state, one that majority will use, we will adopt a single countrywide shortest Hamiltonian path as an approximation to the collection of all of them. This Stage 1 involves two Steps, we will describe them now.

### 3.1.1.1 Step 1: Finding the Shortest Hamiltonian

 Path in GIWe assume that the national elections in India always begin in the Nation's Capital, "NCT of Delhi" (State number 33). So, find a shortest Hamiltonian path in GI beginning with State 33 as the starting state, and covering all the airports selected above corresponding to the various states. Let this Hamiltonian path be $H$. The order of states on $H$, is the order in which elections will be held in the solution determined by this method.


Figure 8: Shortest Hamiltonian Path covering the airports used by the CPF team for traveling to and from the states.

Re-numbering of the states: Re-number the states in the order of appearance on $H$ beginning with number 1 for the state "NCT of Delhi", the starting state. In the sequel, we will refer to the states by these numbers.

### 3.1.1.2 Step 2: Determining the Election Day for each state:

Define

Weight of a segment of $H=$ sum of the weights $w_{i}$ of nodes on it

$$
\begin{equation*}
w_{o}=\text { maximum number of polling stations } \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$ that the CPF polling team can handle in a day $=1500000 / 4=375000$

In this step we will break up $H$ into the smallest number of segments subject to the constraint that the weight of each segment is $<=w_{0}$; each segment corresponds to an election day in the solution developed by this method. We discuss two algorithms for breaking up $H$ into segments. This problem is known as the tour segmentation problem.

## Algorithm 1: A Simple Heuristic Algorithm for Breaking Up $H$ Into Segments

In this algorithm segments are formed one by one. Starting at node 1 , move along $H$ until the sum of the weights of states included so far is $<=w_{0}$, and exceeds $w_{0}$ if the next state is included. At this time complete the current segment, remove it from $H$, and continue the same way with the remaining part of $H$.
Let $k$ be the number of segments obtained by this heuristic. Number these segments 1 to $k$ in the order of appearance on $H$. The solution obtained by this heuristic is to hold elections in all the states in segment $p$ on day $p$, for each $p=1$ to $k$.
We applied this algorithm and found the solution to the problem, $k$ in it is $=3$. From (1), we conclude that this solution is optimal to the problem of breaking up H into the smallest number of segments subject to the constraint that the weight of each segment should be $<=w_{0}$. According to this solution, the elections will be held according to the following schedule:

- Day 1: NCT-Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu \& Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh,

Table 9

| Arc <br> no. $i$ <br> on $H$ | Start node on arc i |  | End node on arc $\boldsymbol{i}$ |  | Length of arc $i$ on $H$ (miles) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | State/Union Territory no. | Airport | State/Union Territory no. | Airport |  |
| $i=1$ | 1 =NCT Delhi | Delhi | 2 = Haryana | Delhi | 0 |
| 2 | $2=$ Haryana | Delhi | 3 = Punjab | Ludhiana | 178 |
| 3 | 3 = Punjab | Ludhiana | 4 = Jammu \& Kashmir | Srinagar | 228 |
| 4 | 4 = Jammu \& Kashmir | Srinagar | 5 = Himachal Pradesh | Kulu | 199 |
| 5 | 5 = Himachal Pradesh | Kulu | 6 = Chandigarh | Chandigarh | 86 |
| 6 | 6 = Chandigarh | Chandigarh | 7 = Uttarkhand | Dehradun | 70 |
| 7 | 7 = Uttarkhand | Dehradun | $8=$ Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | 298 |
| 8 | $8=$ Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | 9 = Bihar | Muzaffarpur | 279 |
| 9 | $9=$ Bihar | Muzaffarpur | $10=$ Sikkim | Darjeeling | 189 |
| 10 | $10=$ Sikkim | Darjeeling | 11 = Jharkhand | Ranchi | 316 |
| 11 | 11 = Jharkhand | Ranchi | $12=$ West Bengal | Kolkata | 201 |
| 12 | $12=$ West Bengal | Kolkata | 13 = Meghalaya | Shillong | 305 |
| 13 | $13=$ Meghalaya | Shillong | 14 = Assam | Guwahati | 46 |
| 14 | 14 = Assam | Guwahati | $15=$ Arunachal Pradesh | Zero | 160 |
| 15 | $15=$ Arunachal Pradesh | Zero | $16=$ Nagaland | Dimapur | 116 |
| 16 | $16=$ Nagaland | Dimapur | 17 = Manipur | Imphal | 77 |
| 17 | 17 = Manipur | Imphal | $18=$ Mizoram | Aizawl | 108 |
| 18 | $18=$ Mizoram | Aizawl | 19 = Tripura | Agartala | 91 |
| 19 | 19 = Tripura | Agartala | $20=$ Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | Port Blair | 847 |
| 20 | $20=$ Andaman \& Nicobar Islands | Port Blair | $21=$ Orissa | Bhubaneswar | 751 |
| 21 | $21=$ Orissa | Bhubaneswar | $22=$ Chattisgarh | Raipur | 281 |
| 22 | $22=$ Chattisgarh | Raipur | $23=$ Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad | 337 |
| 23 | $23=$ Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad | $24=$ Tamil Nadu | Chennai | 322 |
| 24 | $24=$ Tamil Nadu | Chennai | $25=$ Puducherry | Pondicherry | 84 |
| 25 | $25=$ Puducherry | Pondicherry | $26=$ Karnataka | Bangalore | 165 |
| 26 | $26=$ Karnataka | Bangalore | 27 = Kerala | Kochi | 229 |
| 27 | 27 = Kerala | Kochi | $28=$ Lakshwadeep | Agatti | 285 |
| 28 | $28=$ Lakshwadeep | Agatti | 29 = Goa | Dabolim Goa | 332 |
| 29 | $29=$ Goa | Dabolim Goa | $30=$ Maharashtra | Mumbai | 264 |
| 30 | $30=$ Maharashtra | Mumbai | $31=$ Dadra \& Nagar Haveli | Daman | 93 |
| 31 | $31=$ Dadra \& Nagar Haveli | Daman | $32=$ Daman \& Diu | Daman | 0 |
| 32 | 32 = Daman \& Diu | Daman | 33 = Gujarat | Ahmedabad | 182 |
| 33 | $33=$ Gujarat | Ahmedabad | 34 = Madhya Pradesh | Indore | 211 |
| 34 | $34=$ Madhya Pradesh | Indore | $35=$ Rajasthan | Jaipur | 291 |

Arcs in the Shortest Hamiltonian Path H in Figure 7 in order of appearance on $H$

Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram- total 18 States, 245 constituencies, 373,574 polling stations

- Day 2: Tripura, Andaman \& Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshwadeep, Goa, Maharashtra, Dadra \& Nagar Haveli, Daman \& Diu, Gujarat- total 15 States, 244 constituencies,369,616 polling stations
- Day 3: Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan- total 2 States, 54 constituencies, 90,511 polling stations

Algorithm 2: A 0-1 model for breaking up $H$ into segments: For constructing this model we need an up-
per bound on the minimum number of segments into which $H$ can be partitioned subject to the upper bound $w_{0}$ on the weight of each segment. From the results obtained from the solution given by Algorithm 1, we know that $k=3$ is an upper bound that we need. We will describe this model denoting this upper bound by $k$ (in our problem $k=3$ ). Define variables
$y_{i, j}=1$ if State $i$ belongs to segment $j$, for $i=1$ to $35, j=1$ to k ;

0 , otherwise.

For each $j$, we need to form constraints to guarantee that the set of all states $i$ corresponding to $y_{i, j}=1$ form a segment. For this, for each $j$ and each $i=1$ to 33 we must guarantee that:

$$
y_{i, j}=y_{i+2, j}=1 \text { implies that } y_{i+1, j}=1 \text { also. }
$$

This requires that if $y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j}=2$ then $y_{i+1, j}=1$;
and if $y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j}=1$ then $y_{i+1, j}=0$ or 1 .

So, for the pair $\left(y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j} ; y_{i+1, j}\right)$ all the values in the set $\{(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1),(2,1)\}$ are possible, but $(2,0)$ is not.

Plotting these points on the 2-dimensional Cartesian plane with $y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j}$ on the horizontal axis and $y_{i+1, j}$ on the vertical axis; we will now see see that $y_{i, j}+$ $y_{i+2, j}$, and $y_{i+1, j}$ must satisfy the constraint $y_{i, j}+$ $y_{i+2, j}-y_{i+1, j}=1$. To see this clearly, denote:


Figure 9: Plot of feasible values for the integer variables $x_{1}\left(=y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j}\right)$ and $x_{2}\left(=y_{i+1, j}\right)$. All feasible values $\left\{\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right):\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)=(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1)\right.$, $(2,1)\}$ are plotted with a " $\bullet$ ", and all of them satisfy $x_{1}$ - $x_{2}<=1$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j} \text { by } x_{1}, \text { and } \\
& y_{i+1, j} \text { by } x_{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

and by plotting feasible values of these variables on the $x_{1}, x_{2}$-Cartesian plane we get the following Figure 9.

From this we see that the system of constraints that the variables $y_{i, j}$ have to satisfy are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{l}
\sum_{j=1}^{k} y_{i, j} \leq 1 \text { for each } i=1 \text { to } 35, \\
\begin{array}{r}
\sum_{i=1}^{35} \\
y_{i}
\end{array} y_{i, j} \leq w_{0} \text { for each } j=1 \text { to } k, \\
y_{i, j}+y_{i+2, j}-y_{i+1, j} \leq 1 \text { for all } i=1 \text { to } 33, \text { and } \\
\qquad j=1 \text { to } k,
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{r}
y_{1,1}=1, \\
\sum_{j=1}^{k} j y_{i-1, j} \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k} j y_{i, j} \leq 1+\sum_{j=1}^{k} j y_{i+1, j} \\
\quad \text { for all } i=2 \text { to } 35 .
\end{array} \\
& \text { all } y_{i, j}=0 \text { or } 1 \text { for all } i=1 \text { to } 35, \text { and } j=1 \text { to } k .
\end{aligned}
$$

Here is an explanation for these constraints. From the definition of the binary variables $y_{i j}$ given above, the first constraint here guarantees that each of the states $\mathrm{i}=1$ to 35 is contained in exactly one segment. The second constraint guarantees that the weight of each segment obtained is $=$ the maximum possible weight $w_{0}$ determined above in (2). It is discussed above that the third constraint guarantees that for each $j$ the set of all the states $i$ corresponding to $y_{i j}=1$ form a segment. The fourth constraint says that Segment 1 begins with State 1 where the elections begin in the country on the first day of polling. The fifth constraint says that for each $i$ $=2$ to 35 , either State $i$ belongs to the same segment as State $i-1$, or the next segment following it.The last constraint says that all the variables are binary variables. Clearly these are all the constraints in the problem of breaking up H into segments.
From the numbering of the states (defined above in Table 9), this guarantees that each segment is a portion of the Hamiltonian path H between two nodes, and that segments are numbered serially in the order in which they appear along H .
Now the actual number of segments into which H is partitioned in the solution obtained, is the serial number of the segment containing the last State 35 on H; so this is $\sum_{j=1}^{k} j y_{35, j}$, which we have to minimize. So the binary integer programming model for this tour segmentation problem is to minimize $\sum_{j=1}^{k} j y_{35, j}$ subject to the above constraints.
We solved this 0-1 integer programming problem and obtained an optimum solution, consisting of 3 seg ments. According to it, the elections will be held by the following schedule:

- Day 1: NCT-Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu \&

Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya, - total 13 States, 225 constituencies, 347,776 polling stations

- Day 2: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andaman \& Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu - total 11 States, 136 constituencies, 200,672 polling stations
- Day 3: Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshwadeep, Goa, Maharashtra, Dadra \& Nagar Haveli, Daman \& Diu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan- total 11 States, 182 constituencies, 285,253 polling stations.

Like the Heuristic Algorithm 1, the solution obtained by Algorithm 2 also partitions the shortest Hamiltonian path H into 3 segments, which is the minimum possible. Now we will take the best among the solutions obtained from both the methods as the one to implement. Even though both correspond to the same value 3 for the number of segments into which H is partitioned; the one obtained by Algorithm2 is better than that obtained by Algorithm1, in other respects. For example, in the solution obtained by Algorithm 2, the number of constituencies and polling stations are more evenly distributed across the segments. Hence we will implement the solution obtained by Algorithm2.
In the sequel $k$ denotes the number of segments selected, which is 3 .

### 3.1.2. Stage 2: Moving polling personnel from one state to the next during the elections

After completing the elections in the states in segment $j$ on day $j$, the batches of polling personnel have to be moved to the states in segment $j+1$ for $j=1$ to $k-1$.
Construct a bipartite network $F$ with states in segment $j$ as the source nodes, and states in segment $j+1$ as sink nodes. Join each source node $p$ to each sink node $q$ by a directed $\operatorname{arc}(p, q)$ with cost coefficient $c^{2}{ }_{p, q}=$ plane-fare between states $p, q$ using the appropriate airports in each state to minimize the cost for this move (at this stage with information available we could use different airports than those used in Stage 1 to make the total cost for this stage small. Also at this stage, notice that the airports used by different batches of polling personnel may be different in each state. Make availability (quantity to be shipped to the set of sink nodes) at each source node $=$ the number of batches of polling personnel in the corresponding state on day $j$, and the requirement at each sink node $=$ the number of
batches of polling personnel required to hold elections at the corresponding state on day $j+1$. An optimum solution of this bipartite minimum cost flow problem (a transportation problem) gives the moves to be made for this transitions of the polling personnel from day $j$ to day $j+1$ for each $j=1$ to $k-1$.

Moving CPF polling personnel from their bases to states in segment 1 on Day 1, and from states in the last segment back to their bases at the end of elections: This problem can also be modeled as a bipartite minimum cost flow problem exactly as above, and solved.

## 4. Results

Solving the model, we obtain a solution with a cost of about 25 billion (Rupees). The model takes about 21 seconds for processing and solution using IBM ILOG CPLEX 12.1.0 on a 1.6 GHz computer.
The optimal movement of Central Police Force personnel from Agartala base is given in Table 10 as an illustration. Here "number moved" is the number of police moving from a base/constituency to another constituency in the next segment.
"Number required" is the number of police personnel required at that constituency (given by 4 times the number of polling stations in that constituency).
Hence there are 2 situations occurring:

- number moved exactly equals the number required which means that this set of movements is sufficient to meet its needs. For example, in base to segment 1, movement from Agartala Base to West Bengal-Dum Dum (5992/5992 which means that 5992 personnel are moved and positioned at that constituency while 5992 personnel are required at that constituency as per norms).
- number moved is less than number required, which means that there are policemen coming in from other places to meet the requirement in this constituency. For example, in segment 2 to segment 3 movements, Karnataka- Chikkballapur requires 7292 police which is met by 1788 from Tamil Nadu-Arani and 5504 from Tamil Nadu-Viluppuram.


## 5. Discussion

The method demonstrated in Section 4, enables (a) scheduling of elections within the minimum number of segments (b) sequencing the segments, such that the

Table 10

| To West Bengal State | 1.Barrackpore (3164/5308) |
| :--- | :--- |
| Constituencies: Number | 2.Dum Dum(5992/5992) |
| moved/ Total Number | 3.Barasat(6128/6128) |
| required | 4.Joynagar(5700/5700) |
|  | 5.Jadavpur(6516/6516) |
|  | 6.Kolkata Dakshin(7452/7452) |
|  | 7.Kolkata Uttar(6584/6584) |
|  | 8.Howrah(6600/6600) |
|  | 9.Jhargram(7016/7016) |
|  | 10.Purulia(6336/6336) |
|  | 11.Bankura(6752/6752) |
|  | 12.Bishnupur(6488/6488) |
|  | 13.Burdwan Durgapur(6752/6752) |
|  | 14.Asansol(6252/6252) |
|  |  |
| To Jharkhand State |  |
| Constituencies: Number |  |
| moved/ Total Number |  |
| required | 1.Dumka(396/6572) |

Movement of Agartala based Central Police Force personnel from base to Segment 1
movement of Central Police Forces (measured in menmiles) is minimized and (c) sourcing the appropriate number personnel from the most convenient bases.
The method assumes that there is only one set of movements from the bases, which is from the bases to constituencies where the first segments of elections are being held. Similarly there is only one set of movements from the segment where the final phases of elections are being held to the bases. There are no movements between the bases and any segment, where intermediate phases of elections are in progress.
The method can be modified to incorporate ground realities. For example, the requirement of polling personnel may vary across constituencies, depending on the perceptions of threat to maintenance of law and order. In that case, suitable data will have to be incorporated in both the models.

## 6. Conclusion

In this paper, a methodology is proposed and demonstrated for obtaining the optimal scheduling and logistics planning of the Indian General Elections. The method can be utilized for scheduling and planning any nation-wide event requiring scarce resources.

Here "n.d." means "no date".

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Table 11

| Movement from West Bengal State Constituencies to Tamil Nadu State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Barrackpore to Chennai North(1288/4968) <br> 2.Barrackpore to Chennai South(1876/5576) <br> 3.Dum Dum to Mayiladuthurai(5292/5292) <br> 4.Barasat to Chennai North(1536/4968) <br> 5.Barasat to Chennai Central(4592/4592) <br> 6.Jadavpur to Chidambaram(2944/5612) <br> 7.Kolkata Dakshin to Arani(5548/5548) <br> 8.Kolkata Uttar to Arakkonam(5388/5388) <br> 9.Howrah to Viluppuram (5504/5504) <br> 10.Howrah to Chidambaram(1096/5612) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Movement from West Bengal State Constituencies to Orissa State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Dum Dum to Bhadrak(700/6168) <br> 2.Joynagar to Kandhamal(56/5152) <br> 3.Joynagar to Kendrapara(336/6656) <br> 4.Joynagar to Jagatsinghpur(5308/6844) <br> 5.Jadavpur to Dhenkanal(3572/5500) <br> 6.Kolkata Dakshin to Aska(1904/5560) <br> 7.Kolkata Uttar to Jajpur (1196/5596) <br> 8.Jhargram to Balasore (5856/5856) <br> 9.Purulia to Sambalpur (5604/5604) <br> 10.Bankura to Nabarangpur(5828/5828) <br> 11.Bishnupur to Mayurbhanj(6488/6488) <br> 12.Burdwan Durgapur to Keonjhar(332/6584) <br> 13.Burdwan Durgapur to Koraput(1612/6064) <br> 14.Asansol to Keonjhar(6252/6584) |
| Movement from West Bengal State Constituencies to Andhra Pradesh State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Jhargram to Srikakulam(1160/7160) <br> 2.Purulia to Aruku (732/6424) <br> 3.Bankura to Aruku (924/6424) <br> 4.Burdwan Durgapur to Kakinada(4808/5780) |
| Movement from Jharkhand State Constituencies to Andhra Pradesh State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Dumka to $\operatorname{Aruku}(396 / 6424)$ <br> 2.Jamshedpur to Srikakulam(692/7160) <br> 3.Jamshedpur to Kakinada(420/5780) <br> 4.Jamshedpur to Narsapuram(5392/5392) <br> 5.Singhbhum to Anakapalli(5368/6220) |

Movement of Agartala based Central Police Force personnel from Segment 1 to Segment 2

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Table 12

| Movement from Andhra Pradesh State Constituencies to Maharashtra State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Aruku to Akola(2052/6740) <br> 2.Srikakulam to Buldhana(1852/6680) <br> 3.Kakinada to Palghar(420/7696) <br> 4.Narsapuram to Bhiwandi(5392/7304) <br> 5.Kakinada to Palghar(3868/7696) <br> 6.Kakinada to Bhiwandi(940/7304) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Movement from Andhra Pradesh State Constituencies to Gujarat State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Anakapalli to Bhavnagar(4272/6176) <br> 2.Anakapalli to Rajkot(1096/6324) |
| Movement from Orissa State Constituencies to Maharashtra State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Nabarangpur to Yavatmal Washim(5828/7524) <br> 2.Koraput to Amravati(1612/7180) <br> 3.Bhadrak to $\operatorname{Ramtek}(700 / 8180)$ |
| Movement from Orissa State Constituencies to Madhya Pradesh State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Balasore to Rewa(5856/5808) <br> 2.Sambalpur to Rewa (5604/5808) <br> 3.Mayurbhanj to Shahdol(6488/6664) <br> 4.Keonjhar to Rewa (6584/5808) <br> 5.Kandhamal to Rewa (56/5808) <br> 6.Kendrapara to Rewa (336/5808) <br> 7.Jagatsinghpur to Rewa (5308/5808) <br> 8.Dhenkanal to Rewa (3572/5808) <br> 9.Aska to Rewa (1904/5808) <br> 10.Jajpur to Balaghat(1196/7016) |
| Movement from Tamil Nadu State Constituencies to Karnataka State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Chennai North to Bangalore Central(1744/7068) <br> 2.Chennai North to Bangalore South (956/6996) <br> 3.Chennai North to $\operatorname{Kolar}(124 / 7560)$ <br> 4.Chennai South to Bangalore North(1876/7804) <br> 5.Mayiladuthurai to Hassan(4368/6000) <br> 6.Mayiladuthurai to Bangalore North(736/7804) <br> 7.Mayiladuthurai to Shimoga(188/6820) <br> 8.Chennai Central to Davangere(3204/6620) <br> 9.Chennai Central to Tumkur(1232/6844) <br> 10.Chennai Central to Bangalore Rural( $156 / 8644$ ) <br> 11.Chidambaram to Tumkur (4040/6844) <br> 12.Arani to Bangalore Rural(336/8644) <br> 13.Arani to Chikkballapur(1788/7292) <br> 14.Arakkonam to Bagalkot(32/6012) <br> 15.Viluppuram to Chikkballapur (5504/7292) |
| Movement from Tamil Nadu State Constituencies to Puducherry State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Arani to Puducherry(3424/3424) |
| Movement from Tamil Nadu State Constituencies to Goa State Constituencies (Number moved/ Total Number required) | 1.Arakkonam to North Goa(2716/2716) 2.Arakkonam to South Goa(2640/2640) |


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