

GENERAL ELECTIONS, 2018
MOST URGENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
TELANGANA

South "H" Block, Secretariat, Hyderabad.

Memo.No.3155 /Elevs. D/2018,

Dated: 31-10-2018.

Sub:- ELECTIONS – General Elections to the Telangana Legislative Assembly, 2018 - Poll to be held on 07.12.2018 – Selection and appointment of polling personnel - Regarding.

- Ref:-
- 1) ECI Lr.No.470//2007/PLN-1, Dt.29.08..2007.
 - 2) From the ECI Lr.No.464/INST/2008-EPS,Dt.26.12.2008
 - 3) ECI Lr.No.464/INST/2008/EPS, Dt.19.09.2008.
 - 4) From the ECI Lr.No.464/INST/2009/EPS, Dt.18.02.2011.
 - 5) ECI, Lr.No.470/ INST/2013/EPS, Dt.02.05.2013..
 - 6) From the ECI, New Delhi, Lr.No.52/2013/SDR, Dt.18.06.2013.
 - 7) ECI Lr.No.464/INST/2014-EPS, Dt.12.03.2014.
 - 8) ECI Press Note No.ECI/PN/66/2018, dt.06.10.2018.
 - 9) This office Memo.No.2735/Elevs.A/A11/2018-1, dated 15-10-2018.

In continuation of this Memo. 9th cited, copies of the references 1st to 7th cited are enclosed herewith. All the Collectors & District Election Officers (except Collector, Hyderabad) and the Commissioner, GHMC & District Election Officer, Hyderabad are requested to make proper assessment of the requirements and preparatory work with regard to the appointment of Polling Personnel / Micro Observers for smooth conduct of General Elections, 2018. The data base of the man power (State/Central Government, Public Undertakings of State & Central Government, Banks and allied organizations, videographers, drivers etc.) whose services are to be utilized for conduct of General Elections, 2018, shall be prepared in accordance with the instructions of Election Commission of India, vide its letter 6th cited. The database should contain 125% of total anticipated requirement of election staff.

2. Under Section 26 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 the District Election Officer is responsible for the appointment of the Presiding Officer and staff for each polling station in respect of all Assembly constituencies comprised within that district. When any constituency extends over more than one district, you should settle in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer as to who should appoint the polling staff.

3. The orders for requisitioning staff for election work are issued by the Chief Electoral Officer under section 159(1) of Representation Peoples Act, 1951, requesting the authorities mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 159 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 to make available to Returning Officer such staff as may be necessary for performance of duties in connection with elections. Appointments of staff so seconded to Returning Officer should, however, be made by the District Election Officer under Section 26 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (ECI Instruction No.464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 18-2-2011 of Election Commission.

4. All the District Election Officers shall take further necessary action for drafting of the personnel from various organizations viz., State & Central Public Undertakings/Universities/ Banks and allied organizations, for appointment as Polling Personnel as well as Micro Observers for posting in **each polling station including the Auxiliary polling station**. They shall keep in mind the departments exempted from election duty, as instructed by the Commission, vide its letter 4th. cited.

5. Appointment of Polling Personnel / Micro Observers shall be done for smooth conduct of General Elections, 2018 as per Chapter III - Polling Personnel of Hand Book for Returning Officers, 2014. The instructions on randomization, appointment of Micro Observers, Sector Officers & Polling personnel is reiterated below:

Randomization of Polling Personnel:

6. According to ECI guidelines, no person shall be assigned polling duties in an assembly constituency where he is employed or resides. He should also not be posted in his home constituency. Hence, randomization of polling personnel shall be done with proper mixing of State & Central Government employees duly ensuring that the employee is not native of constituency and not working & residing in the constituency. In some constituencies, polling stations of an AC fall in different districts, but the appointment of polling personnel shall be done by the DEO concerned. But, in multi-district ACs, appointment of polling personnel from other district is quite problematic. Hence, the District Election Officers of erstwhile 10 districts i.e., Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medak, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam have been requested to obtain the database of polling personnel from the other new districts fallen in erstwhile district and shall take up rationalization and issue appointment orders accordingly. At the time of randomization of polling personnel, the DEOs or representative of other districts shall be directed to be present. A copy of the instructions is enclosed herewith.

7. From the database, randomized list of required number of polling persons should be generated (including reserve) using specially designed computer software, using "Random Number Generation Technique". Presence of Observers is not required at this stage. Standard software in this regard will be provided by the O/o.CEO. Observer's presence is not necessary. The second stage randomization exercise should be done in the presence of the Observers deployed in the constituency. At this stage the actual polling parties shall be formed randomly by application of computer software using the 'Random Number Generation Technique'. Particulars of AC where an official is going to be deployed will be available but specific polling station for poll duty shall under, no circumstance, be known. Second randomization of polling personnel can be done up to 12 days before the date of poll, with the condition that during second training of polling personnel, (training of Presiding and Polling Officers) will be imparted in presence of their Returning Officer of Assembly Constituency and that the Presiding and Polling Officers of that particular allotted Assembly Constituency shall be given training together under the supervision of their Returning Officers. This Provision will ensure better co-ordination between ROs and Polling teams since the Returning Officers will be able to meet the Presiding/Polling Officers who have been allotted to his Assembly Constituency and simultaneously the polling team would also known in advance the Returning Officer under whom they have to work till the poll day. (Instruction No.464/INST/2011/EPS, dated 15-3-2011).

8. The third randomization of polling personnel shall be done as per the modified instructions of the Commission vide letter dt 12-3-2014 as below:

- i) The Randomization can be done on P-2 day in presence of the Observer.
- ii) The result of randomization, along with appointment orders shall be printed in presence of the Observer.
- iii) The same shall be sealed in separate covers (AC wise, and sector wise) with the signature of the Observer.
- iv) The sealed covers shall be sent to the AROs of the respective Assembly Segments.
- v) The ARO shall open the covers only on the P-1 day at the dispatch center in the presence of Observer, if the later is present there.

Composition of Polling Party:

9. A polling party would, in normal course, consist of a Presiding Officer and three polling officers. The First Polling Officer is in charge of the marked copy of electoral roll and responsible for identification of voters. The Second Polling Officer makes the entries in the Register of Voters (Form 17 A) including EPIC/other identification document details, takes the signature of the voters or the thumb impression (in the case of illiterate voters), applies indelible ink on the left forefinger of the voters and issues voters slip to the voters indicating the serial number in which they would be going into the voting compartment to cast vote. The Third Polling Officer is the custodian of the "CU" and activates the "BU" by pressing 'BALLOT' button of the "CU" and allows the voter to go inside the voting compartment for casting vote, in the order of the serial number on the voters slip issued by the Second Polling Officer. (Instruction No.576/3/2011/SDR, dated 22.3.11)

Presiding Officer:

- (a) The Presiding Officer is required to perform very important functions. He should, as far as possible, be a Gazetted Officer or, if not, at least one working in a supervisory capacity. As far as possible, he should not be posted to work at a polling station in the same locality where he lives.
- (b) **Unavoidable absence of Presiding Officer:** While appointing a polling party for a polling station, District Election Officer should authorize one of the polling officers to perform the duties of Presiding Officer in case, Presiding Officer has to absent himself from the polling station owing to unavoidable circumstances.
- (c) **Reserve Polling Personnel:** Returning Officer should keep a reserve list of officials to be deployed as Presiding and Polling Officers or such other duty as he may have to assign on poll day to deal with any emergency at any polling stations in his constituency as well as for conducting re-polls, if required.

Training to Polling Personnel:

10. Proper training shall be imparted to polling personnel appointed. The date and venue for training of polling personnel shall be decided well in advance. The polling personnel selected for undergoing training through randomization process should be informed about the training program in time through sponsoring authorities. Before organizing the training programme, DEO shall review the training material and should have proper power point presentation, printed leaflets etc. so that the training is effectively conducted.

11. The training should be conducted in smaller group so that there is adequate opportunity for interaction and clearing doubts. More emphasis should be given for 'hands on' training rather than classroom lecture mode. The polling staff shall be encouraged to ask questions and get their doubts cleared. It is relevant to note that in the recent past, in many places re-poll had to be ordered not on account of any electoral malpractices and vitiation of poll but due to mistakes committed by the Presiding Officers while handling the EVMs. The reason was very basic and the lack of training resulted in such mistakes. This is avoidable. Hence, the Commission directs that a clear emphasis should be given to impart proper training to the staff.

12. Apart from imparting training on the technical and procedural aspect of EVM with VVPAT election, the importance of mock poll and mock poll certificate, use of dummy EVM for explaining the method of voting to the illiterate voters also shall be highlighted. A complete set of election material which would be handed over to the Presiding Officer at the time of dispatch shall be kept in the training hall as a model kit so that each and every document, forms and election related material kept in the Presiding Officer kit is explained to them properly. Besides, a copy of the electoral roll, a copy of supplementary roll and other additional information such as list of absentee voters etc. shall also be shown to the Presiding Officers so that they would become aware of those documents and perform duty as per the instruction of the Election Commission of India on the poll day. At the training location, proper drinking water facility, provision for medical facilities and toilets shall be ensured for the polling staff. Proper drinking water facility, provision for first-aid, medical facilities and toilets shall be ensured. The choice of the training hall should personally supervised by the DEO from the ventilation point of view.

13. In Despatch Centre, a master trainer who has thorough knowledge about all the aspects of EVM with VVPAT election will explain and clear the doubts of the Presiding Officer about handling EVM and VVPAT. He should encourage Presiding Officers and polling staff to ask questions and clear the doubts. If this is not done, there is a possibility of the Presiding Officer and polling staff experimenting with the EVM after reaching the polling station which may result in draining of power pack as well as give scope for rumour among the voters about the staff handling EVM on the previous day. In order to avoid this situation, emphasis shall be given for last moment 'hands on' training and leaflet containing recent instructions in the form of bullet points; important dos and don'ts etc. can be prepared and circulated at the training counter at the Despatch Centre. Apart from this, other procedural aspects of election and maintenance of Form-17A register, Form 17C, mock poll certificate, visitor sheet, entry pass system etc. shall also be explained.

Micro Observers:

14. Observers have a very crucial role to play in the conduct of an independent, free and fair election. To strengthen the system of observation, the Commission has consciously decided to deploy micro-observers where necessary. These micro-observers would directly work under control and supervision of the general observer. For deployment as micro-observer, the DEO shall obtain the list of Gazetted Officers/officials of Government of India from different offices in the district. Such Gazetted Officers/officials will be eligible to be deployed as micro observer. In case Gazetted Officers are not sufficient in number, Group "c" employees and above can also be utilized for this purpose.

15. The DEO shall prepare a list of polling stations under the supervision of General observer where these micro-observers would be deployed. Such polling stations would be short listed on the basis of various factors which contribute to the vulnerability of the voters. Such factors, for example, domination of one social group over other, inaccessibility of the area, EPIC non availability, previous history of violence, etc. would have been taken into consideration while doing the vulnerability mapping in the district as per the extant instructions of the Commission on this issue. The list of such polling stations where micro-observers are to be deployed will be finally approved by the General observer and kept confidential in a sealed envelope till the last moment of deployment.

16. In multi-polling station buildings each location will have one micro observer instead of one micro-observer per polling station. The micro-observer can oscillate between and visit the polling stations within the same campus at frequent intervals. There shall be a Nodal Officer identified by the DEO for micro-observers to handle logistics and deployment related tasks of micro-observers in each district. General Observers will be in close touch with them for their requirements of micro-observers relating to their constituencies.

17. The Micro Observers are expected to observe the polling process on the day of poll. They are assigned duty in the polling station. They shall be part of the polling team and be seated in the polling station. They are to be present in the polling station before the mock poll starts. They shall report about the poll day in the given format, Report of Micro observers. Micro Observers are to be trained by the Observers two days before the poll with the help of RO and posted in the polling stations. Which are critical. Therefore, an arrangement is required wherein Micro Observers are stationed at a central location on the day of polls and they are moved to specific polling stations as per requirement (like absence of polling agents, critical polling stations etc.) Micro-observers need not cover all the critical polling stations. They should be used effectively and not on an extensive basis unless required. The Micro Observers may be sent with the polling parties in case they are required to perform duty at remote locations.

18. The ECI has issued guidelines and instructions time to time vide Lr.No.464/INST/2008-EPS, Dated: 24th October, 2008, Lr. 464/INST/2008-EPS, Dt.21.01.2009, Lr.No.464/INST/2009-EPS, Dt.18.04.2009, ECI Lr.No. 464/INST/2014-EPS, Dt.21.03.2014 and instructions laid down in Hand Book for Observers shall be followed scrupulously.

19. All the District Election Officers are, therefore, requested to take further necessary action. The above instructions are not exhaustive. For detailed instructions, the Hand Book for Returning Officers, other Hand Books and latest instructions of the Election Commission of India issued from time to time, should be referred and followed.

Dr. RAJAT KUMAR,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O. & PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVT.

To,
All the Collectors & District Election Officers (except Collector, Hyderabad.). (w.e)
The Commissioner, GHMC & DEO., Hyderabad. (w.e)
Copy to all Sections in G.A.(Elec.) Dept. (w.e)
SF/SC

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

K.N.BHAR

UNDER SECRETARY

No: 470/2007/PLN-I

Date: 29th August 2007

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories

Subject: Counting of votes for General/Bye-elections to the House of People/State
Legislative Assembly-ensuring transparency -regarding

Sir/Madam,

The Commission has issued detailed instructions regarding the arrangements for counting centers and management of counting process including the security arrangements vide its order number 470/2007/PLN-I dated 11th January 2007.

In order to ensure a higher level of transparency in the counting process, the following arrangements would also be put in place by all District Election Officers and Returning Officers. A copy of these instructions should be given to all the Observers immediately on their arrival so that they have time to familiarize themselves with this and to take action accordingly.

Randomization of counting officials

1. The posting of Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants must be done randomly in such a way that the counting official come to know of the Assembly Constituency and the table assigned to them only at the time of their arrival at the Counting Center on the day of the counting.
2. The District Election Officers shall issue photo-identity cards to all counting staff. After the Randomization, explained in the following paragraphs is over, the reserve staff would be seated separately in an enclosure within the counting centre campus.
3. The District Election Officer must keep a pool of well trained officials (including the reserved pool) available for counting purposes. The counting officials be directed to reach the counting center at 6 am on the date of counting. As already mentioned in Para 1 above, these officials would not be allotted the Assembly Constituency or the Table number in advance.
4. The Observers and the District Election Officer would assemble at one place for carrying out the randomization at 5 am on the day of the counting. This place may be the NIC center, Counting Center or any other office where the process can be conveniently carried out. The list of trained officials would be provided by the District Election officer to the Observers. There would be

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two lists, one of Counting Supervisors and another of Counting Assistants, and each counting official would be assigned a unique serial or code number which would be so labeled as to indicate clearly the category to which he belongs i.e. whether he is a Counting Supervisor or a Counting Assistant.

5. The randomization would be carried out either manually or by using a computer. For manual randomization, the senior most Observer present would randomly assign the Constituency and the table number to the counting officials by the draw of lots. This has to be done with the two mentioned above separately and independently so that for each of the tables the name of one Counting Supervisor and one Counting Assistant is generated. The District Election Officer would make all prior arrangements to ensure quick and smooth conduct of this randomization process. This would include preparing chits of the unique serial numbers assigned to counting officials and the constituency/table numbers.
6. Alternatively, the District Election Officer may make arrangements for carrying out the abovementioned randomization with the aid of a computer in consultation with the Observers. However, before using a computer method the Observers must fully satisfy themselves that the process is free from all errors and that it truly generates the results in a random manner.
7. The District Election Officers would ensure that Videography of the process of randomization is carried out for record.
8. To illustrate it by a practical example, let us assume a district has 10 constituencies with 14 counting tables each. For this district 154 (including 10% reserve) Counting Supervisors and 154 Counting Assistants would be required. Many officials would have been already trained and given codes before issuing the duty orders. On the date of counting at 5 am, these 154 slips, one for each of Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants, written on individual slips, would be kept in two separate boxes. The senior most Observer, in the presence of District Election Officer and all other Observers would start the randomization process for a particular assembly constituency by randomly picking up one slip each from the two boxes. The Counting Supervisor on the slip would be assigned table no 1 in that Constituency. The Counting Assistant so picked up on the first set of draws would be assigned table no 2 in that Constituency. This would continue in a similar way till each of the 14 tables are assigned one Counting Supervisor and one Counting Assistant. The same process would then be repeated for all the Assembly Constituencies in a similar manner. The officials who are left at the end of this exercise would be treated as part of the reserved pool.
9. Once the randomization process is over, the Constituency wise posting list duly signed by the District Election Officer and the Observers would be brought to the Counting Center by the Observers and District Election Officer, in time, to be handed over to the respective Returning Officer. The control room staff by 6 a.m.

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10. The counting officials on reaching the control room at the counting center would be provided the posting details and directed to reach the counting hall of the assigned Constituency at the respective table.
 11. It must be ensured that the whole process of randomization is over by 6:00 am so that the counting officials are able to reach their assigned position conveniently before the scheduled start of the counting process.

Reserved Pool

12. The officials who have not been assigned any Constituency/table would form a reserved pool.
13. There would be no deployment of officials in shifts as the counting process would normally not take more than 6 to 8 hours. However, the District Election Officers would have the liberty of replacing officials in case such an exigency arises, but this replacement would also be done randomly from the pool of officials in reserve after consulting the Observer of the constituency concerned

Cross checking by the Observers at random

14. As per the instructions issued earlier, after each round of counting, the Returning Officer would do the tabulation of the round based on the table wise result provided by the Counting Supervisors. The table wise result of the round is to be countersigned by the Observer before the Returning Officer announces the result of the round.
15. A system is now being introduced through the present instructions by which there would be a random checking by the Observers, in the manner indicated below, of the table wise results provided by the counting officials.
16. During the course of counting (for a round) the observer shall keep oscillating between counting tables and closely observe the counting process.
17. At the closure of each round, the Observer would randomly select any two EVM control units from amongst the Control units of the concerned round which has been counted. He would then direct the counting staff specifically deployed for this purpose by the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer through **random selection** to independently note down from the Control units selected, the details of the votes polled as indicated by the machine. These details he would then compare with the details provided by the officials in the table wise result to check for any discrepancy between the two. Care must be taken that the staff assigned for random checking is not aware of the details provided in the table wise result.
18. The District Election Officer/Returning Officers would ensure that there is a separate and sufficient space earmarked in the same counting hall for this

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random cross-checking so that the normal counting of vote subsequent round continues without any hindrance.

19. The staff to assist the Observer for this cross checking would be randomly selected from the reserved pool. If required, after a few rounds, fresh staff from the reserved pool should replace this staff.
20. Only after being satisfied that the result displayed by the Control Unit matches that shown in the round wise result sheet and Form 17C match would the Observer countersign the result sheet of the round. The Observers will ensure that this exercise is carried out in each round and the selection of two control units is absolutely random.
21. If any discrepancy is found between the result obtained from the table and that ascertained through the random checking by the observer as mentioned above, then:
 - (i) The result of that round for each table shall be reverified from the EV.
 - (ii) Such staff as is found to be wrongly noted the counting result would be taken off and replaced by another set of staff. Severe disciplinary action should then follow on the erring staff for their omissions and commission.
 - (iii) The result provided by such staff (and table) in the preceding round would be checked again in presence of observer and corrected wherever necessary.
22. The counting officials as well as candidates and their counting agents would be informed about this provision of random cross checking to be carried out by the Observers. It would also be informed that any discrepancy found during this randomized cross checking would be viewed seriously by the Commission and could result in serious disciplinary action and prosecution of the responsible officials.
23. The Observers would continuously maintain their presence in the counting hall and periodically inspect the counting tables to ensure that counting is going on according to the instructions of the Commission in a transparent and systematic way.
24. The Observers, in their final report after the counting would specifically mention that the randomization of personnel and the random checking of Control Unit details was carried out as per the instructions of the Commission.
25. All District Election Officers and Returning Officers would ensure that the instructions are strictly followed and would make all necessary arrangements for the same.
26. Apart from one Counting Supervisor and one Counting Assistant for each counting Table, one additional staff would be seated in each of the counting tables. The additional staff will invariably be a Central Govt. PSU employee. This additional staff will note down the details

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of votes exhibited by the EVMs being counted in each round in that Table. These additional counting staff would be provided with a pre-printed statement on which there will be space for noting down the CU No., Round No., Table No., Polling Station Number and thereafter the names of all the contesting candidates as they appear in the ballot paper. They will put their signature at the end of the statement and shall hand over the statement to the Observer after each round.

27. The Observer/Returning Officer will cross check the figures noted in Part-II of Form 17C as submitted by the Counting staff with the additional statement submitted by the additional staff.
28. Wherever adequate number of Central Govt. staff are not available, the shortfall will be made good by the Divisional Commissioner by mobilizing the required number of staff from the neighbouring districts within the Division. The additional staff will be given a brief orientation training before being deployed at the counting center as above. The additional staff also will be provided a ID Card by the District Election Officer. The constituency-wise and subsequently Table-wise deployment of such additional staff shall also be done randomly by the Observer.
29. All District Election Officers would ensure that these instructions are given wide publicity amongst the general public, the political parties, candidates, counting officials and other election related officials. It is repeated that a copy of these instructions would be provided to each election Observers immediately upon their arrival in the district.

All concerned will also strictly follow the other existing instructions of the ECI regarding the counting process. A confirmation report shall be submitted by all District Election Officers through Chief Electoral Officers by 5 p.m. of the date, one day prior to the date of counting that all necessary steps have been taken for strict implementation of the above instructions.

Yours faithfully,

(K.N.BHAR)



1. The first section of the report is devoted to a general description of the project and its objectives. It also includes a brief history of the project and a statement of the author's responsibilities.

2. The second section of the report is devoted to a description of the methods used in the study. It includes a description of the experimental design, the subjects, the materials, and the procedures.

3. The third section of the report is devoted to a description of the results of the study. It includes a description of the data collected, the statistical analysis, and the conclusions drawn from the results.

4. The fourth section of the report is devoted to a discussion of the results and their implications. It includes a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the study, the limitations of the study, and the implications of the results for future research.

5. The fifth section of the report is devoted to a conclusion and a statement of the author's recommendations. It includes a summary of the findings of the study and a statement of the author's recommendations for future research.

6. The sixth section of the report is devoted to a bibliography. It includes a list of the references cited in the report.

7. The seventh section of the report is devoted to an appendix. It includes a list of the figures and tables included in the report.

8. The eighth section of the report is devoted to a glossary. It includes a list of the terms used in the report and their definitions.

9. The ninth section of the report is devoted to a list of abbreviations. It includes a list of the abbreviations used in the report and their full names.

10. The tenth section of the report is devoted to a list of symbols. It includes a list of the symbols used in the report and their meanings.

11. The eleventh section of the report is devoted to a list of footnotes. It includes a list of the footnotes included in the report.

12. The twelfth section of the report is devoted to a list of references. It includes a list of the references cited in the report.

13. The thirteenth section of the report is devoted to a list of figures. It includes a list of the figures included in the report.

14. The fourteenth section of the report is devoted to a list of tables. It includes a list of the tables included in the report.

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19. The nineteenth section of the report is devoted to a list of references. It includes a list of the references cited in the report.

20. The twentieth section of the report is devoted to a list of figures. It includes a list of the figures included in the report.

21. The twenty-first section of the report is devoted to a list of tables. It includes a list of the tables included in the report.

22. The twenty-second section of the report is devoted to a list of symbols. It includes a list of the symbols used in the report and their meanings.

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25. The twenty-fifth section of the report is devoted to a list of references. It includes a list of the references cited in the report.

26. The twenty-sixth section of the report is devoted to a list of figures. It includes a list of the figures included in the report.

27. The twenty-seventh section of the report is devoted to a list of tables. It includes a list of the tables included in the report.

28. The twenty-eighth section of the report is devoted to a list of symbols. It includes a list of the symbols used in the report and their meanings.

29. The twenty-ninth section of the report is devoted to a list of abbreviations. It includes a list of the abbreviations used in the report and their full names.

30. The thirtieth section of the report is devoted to a list of footnotes. It includes a list of the footnotes included in the report.

31. The thirty-first section of the report is devoted to a list of references. It includes a list of the references cited in the report.

32. The thirty-second section of the report is devoted to a list of figures. It includes a list of the figures included in the report.

33. The thirty-third section of the report is devoted to a list of tables. It includes a list of the tables included in the report.

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35. The thirty-fifth section of the report is devoted to a list of abbreviations. It includes a list of the abbreviations used in the report and their full names.

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INSTRUCTION SI. No. 17

Election Commission's letter No. 464/INST/2008-EPS Dated: 26th December, 2008 addressed to The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.

Subject: - General Election to Lok Sabha, 2009 – Deployment of officers and staff – regarding.

I am directed to state that the Commission has decided that: -

- (a) The officers and staff of following departments will not be requisitioned for deployment of election duty: -
- (i) Senior officers of the Indian Forest Service.
 - (ii) Doctors and Compounders working in veterinary hospitals.
 - (iii) Officers working in Grade – B (Cattle Extension Officer) in veterinary hospitals.
 - (iv) Medical Practitioners.
 - (v) Territorial Staff of Forest Department.
 - (vi) All India Radio.
 - (vii) Doordarshan.
- (b) The operational/technical staff of BSNL, MTNL, UPSC and educational institutions will be requisitioned for election duty only in unavoidable circumstances.
- (c) Officer/staff of Commercial Bank located in rural area and if happens to be a single officer branch, need not be deployed.
- (d) It is clarified that while drawing persons for election duties, you should explore the possibility of asking for persons from all such Corporations/PSUs in the area instead of asking from one Corporation/PSU only so that it is not too much of a strain on a particular organization.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

NO. 464/INST/2008/EPS

DATED: 19th September, 2008

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries of All States/UTs.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of All States/UTs.

Subject: Drafting of Polling Personnel for election duty – Randomization of Polling Personnel.

Sir,

It has always been endeavor of the Commission to ensure free and fair elections and towards that end it has issued instructions from time to time on various aspects of election process including formation of polling parties. The duties discharged by polling personnel in the conduct of elections are of vital importance. They are the face of the Commission in the minds of electorate, polling agents, media and the candidates etc. Therefore, sufficient care is needed to draft and deploy such personnel and formation of unbiased polling parties in the interest of free and fair election. Accordingly, the Commission lays down the following instructions for formation of polling parties:-

- (i) A District Election Officer-wise database, of all eligible poll personnel shall be maintained in electronic format, which can facilitate computerized randomization. All relevant particulars like Name, Sex, Place (constituency) of residence, work place, Home Constituency, Designation, Office and Department/Institutions should be entered.
- (ii) The database shall contain, distinctly and separately, the State Govt. employees including Public Sector Undertakings, teachers etc. who can be employed as polling personnel.
- (iii) Similarly the data base shall distinctly and separately contain all Central Govt. employees including PSU, Bank, etc.
- (iv) Separate database shall be prepared of Retired Government of India and State Government officials as well as of Members of NCC & NSS [and reputed NGOs, if & as approved by the Commission]. They shall

the dispatch center in the presence of Observer, if the latter is present there

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be used in specified manner only with express prior approval of the Commission.

- (v) Unless otherwise advised, the polling parties shall be formed out of State Govt. employees. The Central Govt. employees including Banks, etc. shall be utilized for selecting suitable persons as Observers.
- (vi) Presiding Officers and Polling Officers shall be classified on the basis of scale of pay and their post and rank. As far as practicable, Government Officers will be deployed as Presiding Officers and failing that Government Officers who are working in supervisory capacity only should be deployed as Presiding Officers. The Presiding Officer should be of a higher scale/grade in comparison to other Polling Officers of that format.
- (vii) In view of the recent instructions regarding issue of postal ballot papers, Assembly Constituency No., Part No., Sl. No. of each official shall be indicated. In case, he is not a voter, the process of continuous updation he should be enrolled in the electoral roll of Assembly Constituency concerned and Elector Photo Identity Card issued. Similarly, the personnel meant for being appointed as Micro observers should invariably be enrolled as voter and Elector Photo Identity Card issued. Therefore, persons put on polling duties should invariably be voters. Further, no person will be assigned polling duties in an assembly constituency in which he is posted or in which he resides or the constituency, which is his home constituency.
- (viii) In order to avoid any allegation of collusion among the polling personnel in favour of any candidate or political party and to instill confidence in the minds of Political Parties and candidates about free and fair elections, proper mix of polling personnel drawn from different offices and departments at the time of formation of a polling party should be ensured. Two officials of the same serial group/category should not be put together. Further, two members of the polling party should not be from the same department (in case of school teachers, they should not be from the same school).
- (ix) Polling personnel database should include personnel both from the State Government departments as well as the Central government offices. Central Government employees should be utilized for micro observer duties to be decided by Observers. Polling personnel to be posted within the district unless specifically directed otherwise.

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Following procedure should be adopted for formation of polling parties:-

- (x) Database & software should be prepared and developed by the CEO and distributed among DEOs. District Election Officers should obtain a complete database of officers eligible for polling party duties from respective authorities. All relevant information should be entered into an electronic database of the computerized randomization application software approved by the CEO for that state.
- (xi) From this full database of officers, a list of 120% of the required number of polling persons should be generated (including reserve) randomly, using the software. This is the first of the three-stage randomization process. Presence of observers is not required at this stage. It should be noted that this randomized list is DEO-wise and not at any other level like subdivision, tehsil, block, assembly constituency etc. This is only to identify and select the officials that would be given training for poll duties as presiding and polling officers in whichever constituency of that district. In no case, at this stage, the identity of the assembly constituency to which the polling personnel are likely to be deployed will be known. All that the polling personnel will know at this stage is whether he (or she) is a presiding officer or a polling officer and the venue and time of trainings.
- (xii) The second stage of randomization exercise should be done in the presence of the Observers deployed in the constituency. At this stage actual polling parties shall be formed on random basis using the randomization software. **The Observer must be present at this stage.** At this stage though the actual polling station will not be known, however, the Assembly Constituency and the team composition may be known. This randomization should not take place before 6 or 7 days from the day of poll. For the purpose of serving the appointment letters, the DEO can use the services of the sponsoring departments/ authority and/or organize a training programme of poll personnel in team formation on that date when final briefing can be given and appointment letters issued to them. It will also facilitate Postal Balloting.
- (xiii) The third stage of randomization exercise shall take place at the time of dispersal of polling parties when the allocation of polling stations to the polling parties will be done. This third stage randomization for final allocation of Polling Stations to each Polling Party should also be done in the presence of Observers. The actual polling station allotted to individual polling personnel is to be disclosed just before the polling party actually leaves the dispersal centre.

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- (xiv) In order to ensure that above instructions are complied with strictly, the Commission directs that the District Election Officer shall furnish to the Election Commission through the Observers and separately to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State/UT a certificate to the following effect immediately after the polling parties have been formed for an election:-

"Certified that:-

- (I) The polling parties have been formed by a proper mix of officials drawn from different offices and departments, in presence of Observers and
 - (II) The officers have been drawn from the State Government departments as well as from the State Public Undertaking etc. as far as practicable.
 - (III) For the purpose of making polling parties complete data base of all eligible employees in the district has been used."
- (xv) It is clarified that the entire randomization exercise except the first stage must invariably be done in the presence of the Observers sent to the constituency. If, by any chance, the forming of the polling parties through randomization (second stage) has been done in the absence of the Observers, then the 2nd stage randomization exercise should be done afresh in the presence of Observers and compliance report should be submitted in this regard. The Observers should make a special reference to the randomization exercise observed by them in their constituencies while submitting the report.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(SHANGARA RAM)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001.

No.464/INST/2009/EPS

Dated: 18th February,

2011

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Requisition of Staff for election purpose – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which deals with requisitioning of staff for election work. It has been provided that the authorities mentioned in sub-section(2) of the said Section 159 shall make available to the Returning Officers such staff as may be necessary for the performance of any duty in connection with an election, on request made by the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

2. The following authorities have been so specified under the said sub-section(2) of the section 159:

- (i) every local authority;
- (ii) every university established or incorporated by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act;
- (iii) a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956;
- (iv) any other institution, concern or undertaking which is established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or which is controlled, or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government.

3. Section 26 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 empowers the District Election Officers to appoint Presiding Officers and Polling Officers for polling stations falling in his district. Further, under section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the District Election Officer is required to coordinate and supervise all work in the District in connection with conduct of elections. Therefore, by convention and for convenience, the

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District Election Officers have been requisitioning staff for conduct of election under Section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951.

4. During the general election to the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra, in 2009, the orders of requisitioning of staff issued by the DEOs and Collectors, of Thane district and Mumbai sub-urban district were quashed by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Writ Petition Nos. 8052 of 2009, No. 8039 of 2009, No. 8089 of 2009, No. 8111 of 2009, on the ground that the action on the part of the DEOs in issuing of requisition orders by invoking sections 26 of R. P. Act, 1951 and 13AA of the R.P. Act, 1950, without giving due regard to the provisions of Section 159 of the R.P. Act, 1951 were improper. The Hon'ble High Court held that the power under Section 159 is of the Chief Electoral Officer, and the CEO should requisition the staff keeping in mind the guidelines issued by the Commission. The High Court has also made an observation that while requisitioning staff, all the organizations should be considered so that some institutions are not picked up selectively ignoring the fact that deployment of large number of staff from a few institutions would be likely to result in hardships in the business of such institutions.

5. The Hon'ble High Court further observed that the Chief Electoral Officer should issue legal and valid requisition orders under Section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951, for requisitioning of staff from the organizations covered by section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951 in accordance with the law.

A copy of the common order dated 25th September, 2009 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in W. P. Nos. 8052, 8039, 8089 and 8111 of 2009 is enclosed herewith.

6. In view of the above, it may be ensured that the orders for requisitioning

staff for election work are issued by the Chief Electoral Officer under

section 159(1) of R.P. Act, 1951, requesting the authorities mentioned in

sub-section(2) of section 159 of Representation of the People Act, 1951

to make available to Returning Officer such staff as may be necessary

for performance of duties in connection with elections. Appointments of

staff so seconded to Returning Officer should, however, be made by the

District Election Officer under Section 26 of the Representation of the

People Act, 1951.

7. The following guidelines should be kept in mind:

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- (a) Based on the availability of staff in the institutions covered under Section 159(2), and the requirement of staff, the staff may be requisitioned from such institutions.
 - (b) The Commission has exempted certain offices/institutions for the purposes of election duty in view of the essential nature of duties/services discharged by the institutions. This should be kept in mind.
 - (c) Employees of banks, LIC may be drafted on election duty to the minimum extent possible, only in a constituency where sufficient numbers of govt. employees are not available or in emergent circumstances such as strike etc. by the Govt. employees. Care should be taken to ensure that normal functioning of banks, LIC are not interrupted. Care should further be taken to ensure that minimum numbers of employees of such institutions is requisitioned so that the business of these institutions is not hampered.
8. It is reiterated that while requisitioning of the staff for conduct of future elections, their rank, salary etc. should be kept in mind while making appointment and assigning duties to them.
9. The instructions in the earlier letter No. 464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 30th December, 2009, shall be treated as superseded by the instructions in the present letter.
10. These instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

SUMIT MUKHERJEE
(UNDER SECRETARY)

Dated:- 2nd May, 2013

470/INST/2013-EPS

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The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and UTs.

Counting of voters – Randomization of counting staff – Regarding.

Subject:

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter No. 470/2007/PLN-I, dated 29th August, 2007 and letter No 470/TN-LA/2011-SS-I, dated 5.5.2011, on the subject cited, and to state that various District Election Officers have pointed out that there is lot of confusion regarding the procedure of Randomization of counting officials, viz, as to whether DEOs or ROs are supposed to issue the orders regarding appointment of Counting officials, etc.

The Commission has considered the matter and it is clarified that:-

- (i) A list of 120% of the required number of officials (Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers) required for counting in the district, should be generated (including reserve) randomly, using the software by the District Election Officers one week prior to the date of counting. This is the first of the three-stage randomization process. Presence of observers is not required at this stage. This is only to identify and select the officials that would be given duty for counting as Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers in whichever constituency of that district. In no case, at this stage, the identity of the assembly constituency to which the Counting personnel are likely to be deployed will be known.
- (ii) The Assembly Constituency wise randomization shall be done by the District Election Officers in presence of Observer(s) 24 hours prior to commencement of counting. Thereafter, the Returning Officer shall issue the appointment letters to these officials assigning them concerned allotted ACs.
- (iii) Randomization for allotment of Tables in the counting hall to these Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers shall be done by the concerned R.O. in the presence of Observer at 5 AM on the day of Counting.

These instructions will be strictly and scrupulously followed by the all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY

the dispatch center in the presence of Observer, if the latter is present there.

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 52/2013/SDR

New Delhi, 18th June, 2013

To

Chief Electoral Officers of all
States and Union Territories

Sub: - Preparatory activities for Exercise of Franchise by persons on election duty.

Sir,

You are aware that very large numbers of persons are put on duty for the purpose of conduct of elections. In the last Lok Sabha election approximately one crore persons were put on election duty. These include person in polling teams including Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, Police personnel used in elections, sector and zonal officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, District Elections Officers and their staff, micro-observers, Assistant Expenditure Observers, Observers of the Commission, drivers conductors and cleaners of vehicles used in elections and police personnel, etc. It is a known fact that many of these persons are not able to exercise their franchise because of being on election duty. The Commission is keen that all persons on election duty are able to exercise their franchise as per law.

2. Under the law, there are two ways in which franchise can be exercised by a person on election duty. If the person is on duty in the same constituency where he is enrolled as an elector, he is given in the Election Duty Certificate (EDC), which entitles him to cast his vote in the polling station of the constituency where he is on election duty. If on the other hand, the person is on duty in some constituency other than the one in which he is enrolled as an elector, he is entitled to vote by Postal Ballot.
3. Common reasons why a person may not be able to exercise his franchise when on election duty are: -

- 3.1. Problems with enrolment in electoral rolls –
 - 3.1.1. Many Persons on Election Duty are not enrolled at all.
 - 3.1.2. Many Persons on Election Duty are not enrolled at their ordinary place of residence, but continue to be enrolled in their native villages or towns where they are not living any longer.
 - 3.1.3. Many Persons on Election Duty are enrolled at more than one place.
- 3.2. Problems with requesting Postal Ballot or EDC –
 - 3.2.1. Many Persons on Election Duty are not aware that they are entitled to EDC or Postal Ballot.
 - 3.2.2. Many Persons on Election Duty are not aware of the application forms required to be filled for the purpose of applying for EDC or Postal Ballot.
 - 3.2.3. Many Persons on Election Duty do not know their enrolment details and are therefore not able to fill the application forms correctly.
 - 3.2.4. Many Persons on Election Duty do not have access to the application forms.
 - 3.2.5. Many Persons on Election Duty are not able to send the application forms to the concerned Returning Officer in time.
- 3.3. Problems with issuance of EDC and Postal Ballot –
 - 3.3.1. Returning Officers do not receive request forms for EDC and Postal ballot from most persons on poll duty in time.
 - 3.3.2. Many request forms received are either incomplete or have wrong information, thus making it difficult to issue an EDC or Postal Ballot. There is no time to send the form back for correction.
 - 3.3.3. Even if EDC or Postal Ballot is issued, it is difficult to get them delivered to the Person on Election Duty in time.
- 3.4. Problems with return of marked postal ballot for counting –
 - 3.4.1. There are postal delays due to which postal ballots do not come back to the Returning officer in time for counting.
4. Recently, the Commission has tried to improve the system of Postal Balloting by persons on poll duty. This has resulted in significant improvement. One of the important lessons learnt in the process is the fact that it is difficult to collect all information required for Postal Balloting and

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also ensure enrollment of persons on election duty at their place of ordinary residence in the short time available after the announcement of elections. It will be much better if these preparatory activities are undertaken much before the announcement of elections.

5. **Preparatory Activities** – The following preparatory activities should be undertaken immediately by all DEOs: -

5.1. **Preparation of a database of Persons likely to be on election duty** –

There are existing instructions of the Commission to prepare a database of all Government Employees posted in the district for the purpose of randomization and allocation of election duties. So far this database has been prepared after announcement of elections. The Commission has directed that every district should prepare this database immediately and keep it updated if there are transfers, retirements or new recruitments. The database should include not only employees of the State Government, it should include all employees of State Government, Central Government and Central and State PSUs. It should also include all police personnel posted in the district including Home Guards etc. This database should include drivers, conductors and cleaners of Government vehicles, vehicles of State Road Transport Corporation etc. An effort should be made to get the information of drivers, conductors and cleaners of private vehicles in the district like trucks, buses, minibuses etc. with the help of vehicle owners associations. Apart from other things, Information relating to Cell Phone numbers and Email Ids of all persons shall also be collected and stored in the database. The software for preparation of this database shall be developed by the Commission and be made available on the website of the Commission soon. The work of preparation of the database should be completed by the end of August 2013.

5.2. **Checking the enrolment status of persons in the database** –

Information about enrolment status and EPIC numbers shall be collected in the database. Based on this information the DEO should undertake a search in the elector database to find, whether any person is not enrolled at all, or enrolled at more than one place or enrolled at a place other than place of ordinary residence. This search should be completed by end of September 2013.

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- 5.3. Correction in electoral roll entries -Based on the search described above, if any correction in the enrollment in electoral roll becomes necessary, appropriate forms should be got filled from the persons concerned and corrections in electoral roll entries should be made after following statutory procedure. This activity will coincide with the summary revision of electoral rolls for the next year. After all corrections are made, all persons in the database should be enrolled at the place of their ordinary residence. They should be enrolled only once and all of them should have an EPIC. It should be made clear to all Government Employees by a circular sent to all Government Offices that enrolment at more than one place is an offence and that a person is entitled to be enrolled only at the place of his or her ordinary residence and not in the native village or town.
- 5.4. Linking of database of persons likely to be used for elections with electoral roll database- The database of persons likely to be used for elections prepared in the manner described above should then be linked with the electoral roll database on the basis of the EPIC number. This will be useful at the time of elections for filling on-line Form 12 for issue of Postal Ballot or Form 12A for issue of EDC.
- 5.5. Information regarding Home District and posting history in the entire service- Information regarding home district and previous posting shall also be collected in the database of employees. This information will be useful for transfers of employees according to the transfer policy of the Commission.
6. On-line Applications in Form 12 and Form 12A -Software for on-line applications in Form 12 and Form 12A requesting Postal Ballot and EDC is being developed and will be released for use soon. This will simplify the task of collecting Form 12 and Form 12A.
7. Issue of Postal Ballots and EDC and preparation of Marked Copy of the Electoral Roll - Software for issue of EDC and Postal Ballots and automation of preparation of marked copy of electoral rolls is also being prepared and will be soon released. It is therefore recommended that arrangements for printing of Form 12 and Form 12A, printing of EDC and postal ballots and printing of marked copies of electoral roll in adequate number should be kept ready at the time of elections. For this purpose, a small cell with

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adequate number of computers, laser printers and Internet connection should be kept ready. -

8. These instructions should be communicated to all concerned and strict monitoring should be done to ensure that all preparatory activities are carried out according to the deadlines given in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Ashish Chakraborty)
Secretary

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The Chief Electoral Officers
of the all States/UTs.

Subject: General Election to the Lok Sabha, 2014 - Drafting of Polling Personnel for
election duty - Randomization of Polling Personnel - regarding.

Sr/Madam,

The Commission has laid down the procedure for formation of polling parties vide its
Instruction No. 464/INST/2008/EP5 dated 19th September, 2008 so that sufficient care is
taken to draft and deploy such personnel and formation of unbiased polling parties in the
interest of free and fair elections.

In the recently held CEOs Conference, some CEOs proposed for undertaking third
randomization of polling personnel on P-2 day (in place of P-1 day) in presence of the
observers to ensure timely service of the results/orders of the randomization and dispatch the
forms to the polling stations. The matter was considered by the Commission and it has been
decided that -

- (i) The Randomization can be done on P-2 day in presence of the Observer.
- (ii) The result of randomization, along with appointment orders shall be printed in
presence of the Observer.
- (iii) The same shall be sealed in separate covers (AC wise, and sector wise) with
the signature of the Observer.
- (iv) The sealed covers shall be sent to the AROs of the respective Assembly
Segments.
- (v) The ARO shall open the covers only on the P-1 day at the dispatch center in
the presence of Observer, if the latter is present there.

The same may be brought to notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY

/ All the ROs/ARO through the DEO concerned.

Copy to:

All sections in G.A(Elecs.) Department

Sc/fc

ON: W.r.t. the letter dt. 25/3/14 of ECI, the above
draft is put up for approval of the Secretary
[Signature]

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001.

Dated: 12th March, 2014

464/INST/2014-EPS

The Chief Electoral Officers
of the all States/UTs.

Subject: General Election to the Lok Sabha, 2014 – Drafting of Polling Personnel for election duty – Randomization of Polling Personnel – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

The Commission has laid down the procedure for formation of polling parties vide its Instruction No. 464/INST/2008/EPS dated 19th September, 2008 so that sufficient care is taken to draft and deploy such personnel and formation of unbiased polling parties in the interest of free and fair elections.

2. In the recently held CEOs Conference, some CEOs proposed for undertaking third randomization of polling personnel on P-2 day (in place of P-1 day) in presence of the Observers to ensure timely service of the results/orders of the randomization and dispatch the teams to the polling stations. The matter was considered by the Commission and it has been decided that –

- (i) The Randomization can be done on P-2 day in presence of the Observer.
- (ii) The result of randomization, along with appointment orders shall be printed in presence of the Observer.
- (iii) The same shall be sealed in separate covers (AC wise, and sector wise) with the signature of the Observer.
- (iv) The sealed covers shall be sent to the AROs of the respective Assembly Segments.
- (v) The ARO shall open the covers only on the P-1 day at the dispatch center in the presence of Observer, if the latter is present there.

2. The same may be brought to notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,


(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY

the dispatch center in the presence of the latter is present there.

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GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2018
MOST URGENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
South 'H' Block, Secretariat, Hyderabad - 500 022

Memo.No.2735/Elec. A/A1/2018-1,

Dated:15.10.2018.

Sub: General Elections to Telangana State Legislative Assembly, 2018 - Poll to be held on 07.12.2018 - Selection, appointment and training of polling personnel - Deployment of Officers and Staff - ECI instructions - Communicated - Regarding.

Ref: 1)From the ECI Letter No.464/INST/2008-EPS, Dt.26.12.2008.
2)From the ECI Letter No.464/INST/2009/EPS, Dt.18.02.2011.
3)From the ECI Letter No.52/2013/SDR, Dt.18.06.2013
4)From the ECI Press Note No.ECI/PN/66/2018, dt.06.10.2018.
5)This Office Memo No.1970/Elecs.A/A1/2018-1, dt.15.09.2018.
6)CEO's letter No.2735/Elecs.A/A1/2018-2, dated:15.10.2018 addressed to the Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Commissioners of Municipalities, Managers of State Bank of India/ State Bank of Hyderabad/Andhra Bank/Life Insurance Corporation of India etc.

--:oOo:--

In continuation of this office Memo fifth cited, copies of the references 1st to 3rd cited are sent herewith to all the Collectors & District Election Officers (except Hyderabad) and the Commissioner, GHMC & District Election Officer, Hyderabad. They are requested to make proper assessment of the requirement, preparatory work with regard to appointment and training of Polling Personnel (State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings of State & Central Government, Banks and allied Organizations) and Videographers, drivers etc. to be involved in election duty and for their franchise as instructed by the Election Commission of India, vide its letter No.52/2013/SDR, dated 18th June 2013 (reference 3rd cited) immediately and take necessary action for selection of Micro Observers for posting as per the norms prescribed by the Commission for smooth conduct of General Elections, 2018 to TSLA.

2. They are also requested to take further necessary action for drafting the personnel from various Organizations viz., State & Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings / Universities/Banks and allied Organizations, if necessary, for appointment as Polling Personnel as well as Micro Observers. As per the instructions of the Commission, vide its letter No.464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 18th February 2011 (reference 2nd cited), a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer, requesting the Universities/Banks and other allied organizations for sparing the services of their personnel for conduct of General Elections, 2018 is enclosed herewith. (reference 6th cited),

(P.T.O)

Sec. 159. Staff or certain authorities to be made available for election work.

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3. They are further requested to keep in mind the Departments that were exempted from Election Duty by the Commission, vide its letter No.464/INST/2008-EPS, dated 26th December 2008 (reference 1st cited) and to prepare the database of all such employees to be involved in election duty and for their franchise as instructed vide its letter 3rd cited.

4. The action taken in this regard shall be intimated to this office.

Dr. RAJAT KUMAR,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O PRL. SECRETARY TO GOVT.

To
All the Collectors & District Election Officers (except Hyderabad) (w.e)
The Commissioner, GHMC & District Election Officer, Hyderabad(w.e)
Copy to:
All Officers & Sections in O/o. CEO, Telangana.

//FORWARDED BY :: ORDER//

[Signature]
SECTION OFFICER

57-2

INSTRUCTION SI. No. 17

Election Commission's letter No. 464/INST/2008-EPS Dated: 26th December, 2008 addressed to The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.

Subject: - General Election to Lok Sabha, 2009 – Deployment of officers and staff – regarding.

I am directed to state that the Commission has decided that: -

- (a) The officers and staff of following departments will not be requisitioned for deployment of election duty: -
 - (i) Senior officers of the Indian Forest Service.
 - (ii) Doctors and Compounders working in veterinary hospitals.
 - (iii) Officers working in Grade – B (Cattle Extension Officer) in veterinary hospitals.
 - (iv) Medical Practitioners.
 - (v) Territorial Staff of Forest Department.
 - (vi) All India Radio.
 - (vii) Doordarshan.
- (b) The operational/technical staff of BSNL, MTNL, UPSC and educational institutions will be requisitioned for election duty only in unavoidable circumstances.
- (c) Officer/staff of Commercial Bank located in rural area and if happens to be a single officer branch, need not be deployed,
- (d) It is clarified that while drawing persons for election duties, you should explore the possibility of asking for persons from all such Corporations/PSUs in the area instead of asking from one Corporation/PSU only so that it is not too much of a strain on a particular organization.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001.

No.464/INST/2009/EPS

Dated: 18th February,

2011

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Requisition of Staff for election purpose – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which deals with requisitioning of staff for election work. It has been provided that the authorities mentioned in sub-section(2) of the said Section 159 shall make available to the Returning Officers such staff as may be necessary for the performance of any duty in connection with an election, on request made by the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

2. The following authorities have been so specified under the said sub-section(2) of the section 159:

- (i) every local authority;
- (ii) every university established or incorporated by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act;
- (iii) a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956;
- (iv) any other institution, concern or undertaking which is established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or which is controlled, or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government.

3. Section 26 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 empowers the District Election Officers to appoint Presiding Officers and Polling Officers for polling stations falling in his district. Further, under section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the District Election Officer is required to coordinate and supervise all work in the District in connection with conduct of elections. Therefore, by convention and for convenience, the

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District Election Officers have been requisitioning staff for conduct of election under Section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951.

4. During the general election to the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra, in 2009, the orders of requisitioning of staff issued by the DEOs and Collectors, of Thane district and Mumbai sub-urban district were quashed by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Writ Petition Nos. 8052 of 2009, No. 8039 of 2009, No. 8089 of 2009, No. 8111 of 2009, on the ground that the action on the part of the DEOs in issuing of requisition orders by invoking sections 26 of R. P. Act, 1951 and 13AA of the R.P. Act, 1950, without giving due regard to the provisions of Section 159 of the R.P. Act, 1951 were improper. The Hon'ble High Court held that the power under Section 159 is of the Chief Electoral Officer, and the CEO should requisition the staff keeping in mind the guidelines issued by the Commission. The High Court has also made an observation that while requisitioning staff, all the organizations should be considered so that some institutions are not picked up selectively ignoring the fact that deployment of large number of staff from a few institutions would be likely to result in hardships in the business of such institutions.

5. The Hon'ble High Court further observed that the Chief Electoral Officer should issue legal and valid requisition orders under Section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951, for requisitioning of staff from the organizations covered by section 159 of the R. P. Act, 1951 in accordance with the law.

A copy of the common order dated 25th September, 2009 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in W. P. Nos. 8052, 8039, 8089 and 8111 of 2009 is enclosed herewith.

6. In view of the above, it may be ensured that the orders for requisitioning

staff for election work are issued by the Chief Electoral Officer under section 159(1) of R.P. Act, 1951, requesting the authorities mentioned in sub-section(2) of section 159 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 to make available to Returning Officer such staff as may be necessary for performance of duties in connection with elections. Appointments of staff so seconded to Returning Officer should, however, be made by the District Election Officer under Section 26 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

7. The following guidelines should be kept in mind:

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- (a) Based on the availability of staff in the institutions covered under Section 159(2), and the requirement of staff, the staff may be requisitioned from such institutions.
 - (b) The Commission has exempted certain offices/institutions for the purposes of election duty in view of the essential nature of duties/services discharged by the institutions. This should be kept in mind.
 - (c) Employees of banks, LIC may be drafted on election duty to the minimum extent possible, only in a constituency where sufficient numbers of govt. employees are not available or in emergent circumstances such as strike etc. by the Govt. employees. Care should be taken to ensure that normal functioning of banks, LIC are not interrupted. Care should further be taken to ensure that minimum numbers of employees of such institutions is requisitioned so that the business of these institutions is not hampered.
8. It is reiterated that while requisitioning of the staff for conduct of future elections, their rank, salary etc. should be kept in mind while making appointment and assigning duties to them.
9. The instructions in the earlier letter No. 464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 30th December, 2009, shall be treated as superseded by the instructions in the present letter.
10. These instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

SUMIT MUKHERJEE
(UNDER SECRETARY)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NirvachanSadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 52/2013/SDR

New Delhi, 18th June, 2013

To

Chief Electoral Officers of all
States and Union Territories

Sub: - Preparatory activities for Exercise of Franchise by persons on election duty.

Sir,

You are aware that very large numbers of persons are put on duty for the purpose of conduct of elections. In the last Lok Sabha election approximately one crore persons were put on election duty. These include person in polling teams including Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, Police personnel used in elections, sector and zonal officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, District Elections Officers and their staff, micro-observers, Assistant Expenditure Observers, Observers of the Commission, drivers conductors and cleaners of vehicles used in elections and police personnel, etc. It is a known fact that many of these persons are not able to exercise their franchise because of being on election duty. The Commission is keen that all persons on election duty are able to exercise their franchise as per law.

2. Under the law, there are two ways in which franchise can be exercised by a person on election duty. If the person is on duty in the same constituency where he is enrolled as an elector, he is given in the Election Duty Certificate (EDC), which entitles him to cast his vote in the polling station of the constituency where he is on election duty. If on the other hand, the person is on duty in some constituency other than the one in which he is enrolled as an elector, he is entitled to vote by Postal Ballot.
3. Common reasons why a person may not be able to exercise his franchise when on election duty are: -

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3.1. Problems with enrolment in electoral rolls –

- 3.1.1. Many Persons on Election Duty are not enrolled at all.
- 3.1.2. Many Persons on Election Duty are not enrolled at their ordinary place of residence, but continue to be enrolled in their native villages or towns where they are not living any longer.
- 3.1.3. Many Persons on Election Duty are enrolled at more than one place.

3.2. Problems with requesting Postal Ballot or EDC –

- 3.2.1. Many Persons on Election Duty are not aware that they are entitled to EDC or Postal Ballot.
- 3.2.2. Many Persons on Election Duty are not aware of the application forms required to be filled for the purpose of applying for EDC or Postal Ballot.
- 3.2.3. Many Persons on Election Duty do not know their enrolment details and are therefore not able to fill the application forms correctly.
- 3.2.4. Many Persons on Election Duty do not have access to the application forms.
- 3.2.5. Many Persons on Election Duty are not able to send the application forms to the concerned Returning Officer in time.

3.3. Problems with issuance of EDC and Postal Ballot –

- 3.3.1. Returning Officers do not receive request forms for EDC and Postal ballot from most persons on poll duty in time.
- 3.3.2. Many request forms received are either incomplete or have wrong information, thus making it difficult to issue an EDC or Postal Ballot. There is no time to send the form back for correction.
- 3.3.3. Even if EDC or Postal Ballot is issued, it is difficult to get them delivered to the Person on Election Duty in time.

3.4. Problems with return of marked postal ballot for counting –

- 3.4.1. There are postal delays due to which postal ballots do not come back to the Returning officer in time for counting.

4. Recently, the Commission has tried to improve the system of Postal Balloting by persons on poll duty. This has resulted in significant improvement. One of the important lessons learnt in the process is the fact that it is difficult to collect all information required for Postal Balloting and

also ensure enrollment of persons on election duty at their place of ordinary residence in the short time available after the announcement of elections. It will be much better if these preparatory activities are undertaken much before the announcement of elections.

5. **Preparatory Activities** – The following preparatory activities should be undertaken immediately by all DEOs: -

5.1. **Preparation of a database of Persons likely to be on election duty** –

There are existing instructions of the Commission to prepare a database of all Government Employees posted in the district for the purpose of randomization and allocation of election duties. So far this database has been prepared after announcement of elections. The Commission has directed that every district should prepare this database immediately and keep it updated if there are transfers, retirements or new recruitments. The database should include not only employees of the State Government, it should include all employees of State Government, Central Government and Central and State PSUs. It should also include all police personnel posted in the district including Home Guards etc. This database should include drivers, conductors and cleaners of Government vehicles, vehicles of State Road Transport Corporation etc. An effort should be made to get the information of drivers, conductors and cleaners of private vehicles in the district like trucks, buses, minibuses etc. with the help of vehicle owners associations. Apart from other things, Information relating to Cell Phone numbers and Email Ids of all persons shall also be collected and stored in the database. The software for preparation of this database shall be developed by the Commission and be made available on the website of the Commission soon. The work of preparation of the database should be completed by the end of August 2013.

5.2. **Checking the enrolment status of persons in the database** –

Information about enrolment status and EPIC numbers shall be collected in the database. Based on this information the DEO should undertake a search in the elector database to find, whether any person is not enrolled at all, or enrolled at more than one place or enrolled at a place other than place of ordinary residence. This search should be completed by end of September 2013.

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- 5.3. Correction in electoral roll entries -Based on the search described above, if any correction in the enrollment in electoral roll becomes necessary, appropriate forms should be got filled from the persons concerned and corrections in electoral roll entries should be made after following statutory procedure. This activity will coincide with the summary revision of electoral rolls for the next year. After all corrections are made, all persons in the database should be enrolled at the place of their ordinary residence. They should be enrolled only once and all of them should have an EPIC. It should be made clear to all Government Employees by a circular sent to all Government Offices that enrolment at more than one place is an offence and that a person is entitled to be enrolled only at the place of his or her ordinary residence and not in the native village or town.
- 5.4. Linking of database of persons likely to be used for elections with electoral roll database- The database of persons likely to be used for elections prepared in the manner described above should then be linked with the electoral roll database on the basis of the EPIC number. This will be useful at the time of elections for filling on-line Form 12 for issue of Postal Ballot or Form 12A for issue of EDC.
- 5.5. Information regarding Home District and posting history in the entire service- Information regarding home district and previous posting shall also be collected in the database of employees. This information will be useful for transfers of employees according to the transfer policy of the Commission.
6. On-line Applications in Form 12 and Form 12A -Software for on-line applications in Form 12 and Form 12A requesting Postal Ballot and EDC is being developed and will be released for use soon. This will simplify the task of collecting Form 12 and Form 12A.
7. Issue of Postal Ballots and EDC and preparation of Marked Copy of the Electoral Roll - Software for issue of EDC and Postal Ballots and automation of preparation of marked copy of electoral rolls is also being prepared and will be soon released. It is therefore recommended that arrangements for printing of Form 12 and Form 12A, printing of EDC and postal ballots and printing of marked copies of electoral roll in adequate number should be kept ready at the time of elections. For this purpose, a small cell with

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adequate number of computers, laser printers and Internet connection should be kept ready. -

8. These instructions should be communicated to all concerned and strict monitoring should be done to ensure that all preparatory activities are carried out according to the deadlines given in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Ashish Chakraborty)
Secretary

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GENERAL ELECTIONS, 2018
MOST URGENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
South 'H' Block, Secretariat, Hyderabad – 500 022

Letter No.2735/Elec.A/A1/2018-2,

Dated:15.10.2018.

To
The Vice Chancellor, _____
The Commissioner, _____
The Manager,
State Bank of India/ State Bank of Hyderabad/ Andhra Bank/LIC

**(Through : The Returning Officer, Assembly
Constituency of district)**

Sir,

Sub: General Elections to Telangana State Legislative Assembly, 2018 –
Poll to be held on 07.12.2018- Requisition of staff for election purpose
to appointment as Poll personnel / Micro Observers / counting
personnel etc., – Reg.

Ref: 1)From the ECI Letter No.464/INST/2009/EPS, Dt.18.02.2011.
2)From the ECI Press Note No.ECI/PN/66/2018, dt.06.10.2018.

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In exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (1) of Sec. 159 of Representation of People Act, 1951, the authorities addressed above are hereby requested to make available the services of any of the officers/staff/ employees working under their control to the Returning Officer for Assembly Constituency of district as required by him/her for the performance of any duty/duties in connection with the General Elections to Telangana State Legislative Assembly, 2018, scheduled to be held on 07.12.2018 and also to relieve those personnel as per the requisition given by the Returning Officer.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

**CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O PRL. SECRETARY TO GOVT.**

//FORWARDED BY :: ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

EPABX 011-23052205/2206/2207/2208
Fax 011-23052219/2223/2224/2225
Website: www.eci.nic.in

निर्वाचन सदन,
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001.
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No. ECI/PN/66/2018

Dated: 6th October, 2018

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Schedule for the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana, 2018.

The terms of the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Mizoram are normally due to expire as follows:

State	From	To	Assembly Seat
Chhattisgarh	06.01.2014	05.01.2019	90
Madhya Pradesh	08.01.2014	07.01.2019	230
Rajasthan	21.01.2014	20.01.2019	200
Mizoram	16.12.2013	15.12.2018	40

The Governor of Telangana vide his order dated 06.09.2018 has dissolved the Telangana Legislative Assembly with immediate effect.

By virtue of its powers, duties and functions under Article 324 read with Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India and Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Special Reference No. 1 of 2002, the Commission is required to hold general elections to constitute the new Legislative Assemblies in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Mizoram before expiry of their present terms and in the State of Telangana, where the State Legislative Assembly has been prematurely dissolved, within a period of six months from the date of premature dissolution of the Assembly i.e. by 05.03.2019.

(1) Assembly Constituencies

The total number of Assembly Constituencies in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Mizoram and seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as determined by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008, and the total number of Assembly Constituencies in Telangana and seats reserved for the

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as determined by Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, are as under: -

State	Total No. of ACs	Reserved for SCs	Reserved for STs
Chhattisgarh	90	10	29
Madhya Pradesh	230	35	47
Mizoram	40	-	39
Rajasthan	200	34	25
Telangana	119	19	12

(2) Electoral Rolls

The Commission firmly believes that pure and updated electoral rolls are the foundation of free, fair and credible election and intensive and sustained focus is laid on improving their quality, health and fidelity. The

Commission, after visiting the poll bound States, had directed the State election machinery to ensure a smooth, effective, inclusive and time-bound completion of 2nd Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2018 as the qualifying date, so as to ensure that all eligible but un-enrolled citizens in the States are duly registered in the Electoral Rolls. Special efforts were made to identify the critical gaps in the electoral rolls and targeted SVEEP activities were carried out to address them.

The existing electoral rolls of all the Assemblies Constituencies in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Mizoram have been revised with reference to 01.01.2018 as the qualifying date and for Telangana, the existing electoral rolls will be revised with reference to 01.01.2018 as the qualifying date. The date of Final publication of electoral rolls in respect of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana are as follows:

State	Date of Final Publication of Electoral Rolls
Chhattisgarh	27.09.2018
Madhya Pradesh	27.09.2018
Mizoram	27.09.2018
Rajasthan	28.09.2018
Telangana	12.10.2018

The details of the final publication are available on the NVSP website (www.nvsp.in) / CEO, Chhattisgarh website (www.ceochhattisgarh.nic.in), CEO, Madhya Pradesh website (www.ceomadhyapradesh.nic.in), CEO, Rajasthan website (www.ceorajasthan.nic.in), CEO, Mizoram website (www.ceomizoram.nic.in), CEO, Telangana website (www.ceotelangana.nic.in). As per the final electoral roll, the number of electors in the State is as follows:

State	Total No. of electors as per draft electoral rolls	Total No. of electors as per final electoral rolls
Chhattisgarh	1,81,80,422	1,85,45,819
Madhya Pradesh	4,94,42,791	5,03,34,260
Mizoram	7,60,303	7,68,181
Rajasthan	4,75,10,434	4,74,79,402
Telangana	2,61,36,776	To be published

(a) Photo Electoral Rolls

Photo Electoral Rolls will be used during the General Election and photo percentage in Photo Electoral Rolls of the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana are as under:

State	Use of Photo Electoral Rolls (%)
Chhattisgarh	99.75
Madhya Pradesh	100.00
Mizoram	100.00
Rajasthan	99.81
Telangana	100.00

(b) Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)

Identification of the voters at the polling booth at the time of poll shall be mandatory. Electors who have been provided with EPIC shall be identified through EPIC. Presently, the EPIC coverage in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana are as under:

State	Electors Photo Identity Cards(EPIC) Coverage (%)
Chhattisgarh	96.02
Madhya Pradesh	100.00
Mizoram	100.00

Rajasthan	99.99
Telangana	100.00

All the residual electors are advised to obtain their Elector Photo Identity Cards from the Electoral Registration Officers of their Assembly Constituencies, urgently.

In order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the Electoral Rolls, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters, if needed. Aadhaar Card will also be allowed as an additional document for establishing the identity of voters at the Polling Stations.

(c) Photo Voter Slips (PVS)

To facilitate the voters to know where he/she is enrolled as a voter at a particular polling station and what is his/her serial number in the Electoral roll, the Commission has directed that official **voter slip bearing the Photo of the elector (wherever present in the roll) will be distributed at least 5 days before the date of poll** to all enrolled voters by the District Election Officer and a very close and rigorous monitoring of the distribution process shall be done by the DEO and General Observer concerned. The size, design and format of the Photo Voter Slip has also been substantially improved to enhance its utility and effectiveness in voter identification, awareness and guidance by increasing the size of the image, providing additional information along with polling station Nazri Naksha on the reverse of the slip and improvement in the quality of printing. It has also been directed that the said voter slip should be in the languages in which electoral roll is published for that Assembly Constituency. The Commission has laid a special emphasis on the systematic, efficient and timely distribution of the Photo Voter Slips through the Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who are under strict instructions to hand over the voter slip to the elector concerned only and not to any other person. The BLOs shall also maintain a Pre-Printed Register of Voters and take the signatures/thumb impression of person to whom the Photo Voter Slip is delivered.

The residual undistributed Voter Slips shall be returned by the BLO to the concerned ERO, who shall keep the same in a sealed cover after making an alphabetical list of the undistributed PVS in respect of each Part/polling station. Two copies of such alphabetical lists shall be handed over to the RO of the concerned constituency, while sealed cover of undistributed photo voter slips shall remain in safe custody with the ERO. No further distribution of photo voter slips shall be done after the same are returned to the ERO.

The Returning Officer (RO) of the Constituency shall prepare a schedule for distribution of Photo Voter Slips by the BLOs. A copy of this schedule shall be given by the RO to the Political Parties, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of all recognized political parties well in advance, if they have been appointed and contesting

Candidates and their Agents, under acknowledgement.

(d) Braille Photo Voter Slips:

To ensure wholesome and constructive participation and active engagement of Persons with Disabilities(PwDs) in the election process, the Commission has directed to issue Accessible Photo Voter Slips with Braille Features to Persons with Visual Impairment or Blind, over and above normal Photo Voter Slips to be issued.

(e) Voter Guide:

In this election, a **Voter Guide (in Vernacular / English)** shall be handed over to **every** household ahead of the elections, giving information about the date and time of polls, contact details of the BLOs, important websites, helpline numbers, documents required for identification at the polling station besides other important information including the Do's and Don'ts for voters at the polling station. This Voter Guide Brochure will be distributed along with the Photo Voter Slips by the BLOs.

(3) Polling Stations and Special Facilitation

The number of Polling Stations of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana are as follows:

State	No. of Polling Stations in 2013-14	No. of Polling Stations in 2018	% Increase
Chhattisgarh	21,418	23,632	10.34%
Madhya Pradesh	53,896	65,341	21.24%
Mizoram	1,126	1,164	3.37%
Rajasthan	45,334	51,796	14.25%
Telangana	29,138	32,574	11.80%

(a) Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at Polling Stations:

The Commission has upgraded the status of facilities at the Polling Stations from the earlier concept of Basic Minimum Facilities (BMF) to Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF). Accordingly, instructions have been issued to the Chief Electoral Officer to ensure that every Polling Station is equipped with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, shed, toilet, ramp for the physically challenged voters, a standard voting compartment etc. for the convenience and facilitation of voters.

(b) Facilitation for Persons with Disabilities (PwD):

The Commission has issued instructions to ensure that as far as practicable, all polling stations are located at ground floor and sturdy ramps are provided for the

convenience of differently-abled electors with wheel-chairs. Further, in order to provide targeted and need-based facilitation to differently-abled voters, the Commission has directed that all Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in an Assembly Constituency are identified and tagged to their respective Polling Stations and necessary disability-specific arrangements made for their smooth and convenient voting experience on the poll day. Identified PwDs will be assisted by volunteers appointed by RO/DEO. Special facilitation will be made for PwDs electors at Polling Stations. Also, it has been directed that differently-abled electors are given priority for entering polling booths, provision made for designated parking spaces close to the entrance of polling premise and special care to be provided to electors with speech and hearing impairment. Special focus has been laid for the sensitization of the polling personnel regarding the unique needs of the differently-abled.

The Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers that there should be proper transport facility for PwDs in each and every polling station on the day of poll. Each and every PwD voter will be provided free pass on public transport on poll day.

(c) Voter Facilitation Posters:

In order to fulfill the statutory requirements under **Rule 31** of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and to provide accurate and relevant information for voter awareness and information at each polling station, the Commission has also directed that uniform and standardized Voter Facilitation Posters (VFP) shall be displayed on all Polling Stations for greater facilitation and awareness of the voters. A total of FOUR (4) Posters have been designed to capture voter-centric information relevant on the poll day like details of the Polling Booth, polling area specified for that particular polling booth, list of contesting candidates, contact details of the important election functionaries, list of prescribed identification documents, illustrative voting procedure, items prohibited around the polling booth and important Do's and Don'ts to be observed on the poll day. The Commission has directed that these four VFPs shall be prominently displayed at each polling booth in the poll-going State.

(d) Voter Assistance Booths (VAB):

Voter Assistance Booths shall be set up for **every polling station location**, having a team of BLO/officials with the objective of facilitating the voter to locate his/her polling booth number and serial number of that voter in the electoral roll of that concerned polling booth. The VABs will be set up with prominent signage and in such a manner that it will be conspicuous to the voters as they approach the polling premise/building to enable them to seek required facilitation on the poll day.

(e) Increase in Height of Standardized Voting Compartment to ensure Secrecy of Voting:-

In order to maintain the secrecy of vote at the time of poll and uniformity in use of voting compartments, the Commission has issued revised instructions to increase the height of the Voting Compartments to 30 inches. It has been, further, directed that the Voting Compartment should be placed on a table whose height shall be 30 inches and only corrugated plastic sheet (flex-board) of steel-grey colour, which is completely opaque

and reusable, shall be used for making the voting compartments. The Commission hopes that the use of these standardized and uniform Voting Compartments in all the polling booths will translate into greater voter facilitation, enhance the secrecy of vote and eliminate aberrations and non-uniformity in the preparation of Voting Compartment inside the polling booths.

(4) Special Arrangement For Women:

All-Women Managed Polling Stations: As part of its firm commitment towards gender equality and greater constructive participation of women in the electoral process, the Commission has also directed that, to the extent possible, 'All- women Managed Polling Stations' shall be **set up in one polling station for each Assembly Constituency** in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana where the entire polling staff, including the police and security personnel, shall be women.

(5) Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs):

EVMs & VVPATs shall be used in all the polling stations of all the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election. The Commission has already made arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the smooth conduct of election. The **First Level Check of EVMs and VVPATs** has been completed in the presence of representatives of political parties. A **two-stage randomization of EVMs and VVPATs** will also be done. In the first stage, all the EVMs and VVPATs stored in the district EVM warehouse will be randomized by the District Election Officer (DEO) through EVM Tracking Software (ETS) in the presence of the representatives of the recognized political parties for Assembly Constituency-wise allocation. Second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs will be done at RO level before candidate setting of EVMs and VVPATs for polling station-wise allocation. This is done in the presence of General Observer of Election Commission of India and contesting candidates/their agents. This process will be carried out after finalization of the contesting candidates. At this stage also, candidates or their agents/representatives will be allowed to check and satisfy themselves in every manner about the error-free functionality of the EVMs and VVPATs. The Commission has also mandated that VVPAT slip count of One (1) randomly selected Polling Station in each Assembly Constituency by the Returning Officer by Draw of Lot in presence of all candidates shall be done for verification of the result obtained from the Control Unit. Thus, VVPAT paper slips of one polling station in each Assembly Constituency will be counted in these States. This mandatory verification of VVPAT slip count of one (1) polling station in each Assembly Constituency shall be in addition to the provisions of Rule 56(D) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

- (a) Mock Poll:** Mock poll is conducted in EVMs and VVPATs during the First Level Checking in the presence of the representative of Political Parties. Mock poll shall also be conducted in the presence of candidates/their agents during the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs. Further, on the poll day, Mock Poll shall be conducted by the

Presiding Officer at each Polling Station before the commencement of actual polling in the presence of the Polling Agents of the contesting candidates and a **Certificate** of successful conduct of the Mock Poll shall be made by the Presiding Officer. Immediately after the conduct of Mock Poll, the **CLEAR Button shall be pressed** on the EVM to clear the data of the Mock Poll and the fact that no votes are recorded in the Control Unit shall be displayed to the Polling Agents present. The Presiding Officer shall ensure that all mock poll slips shall be taken out and kept in separate marked envelope before the start of Poll. The Commission has issued directions for ensuring **proper training** to all the polling personnel regarding the conduct of Mock Poll, as well as to **create awareness** amongst the political parties, contesting candidates, their polling agents and other stakeholders about the Mock Poll process.

- (b) **None Of The Above (NOTA) In EVMs and VVPATs:** In its judgment dated 27th September, 2013 in Writ Petition (C) No. 161 of 2004 (People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs Union of India and another), the Supreme Court had directed that there should be a "None of the Above" (NOTA) option on the ballot papers and EVMs and VVPATs.

On the Balloting Unit, **below the name of the last candidate**, there will be a button for NOTA option so that electors who do not want to vote for any of the candidates can exercise their option by pressing the button against NOTA. The **Commission has provided a symbol for the NOTA option**, which was designed by National Institute of Design (NID). This new symbol will facilitate the voters in casting of their votes.



NOTA Symbol

The Commission is taking steps to bring this to the knowledge of voters and all other stakeholders and to train all field level officials including the polling personnel about the provision of NOTA and its symbol.

- (c) **VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail)**

VVPATs will be used along with EVMs in all polling stations of all the Assembly Constituencies of poll going states to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election. A comprehensive SVEEP programme has already been launched in these states to increase voters' awareness and education about the VVPATs.

- (d) **Photographs Of Candidates On EVM Ballot Paper**

In order to facilitate the electors in identifying the candidates, the Commission has prescribed an additional measure by way of adding provision for printing the photograph of candidate also on the ballot paper to be displayed on the EVM (Ballot Unit) and on Postal Ballot Papers. This will help avoid any confusion, which may

arise when candidates with same or similar names contest from the same constituency. For this purpose, the candidates are required to submit to the Returning Officer, their recent Stamp Size photograph as per the specifications laid down by the Commission. These poll-bound States will be using the photograph of the candidates on the ballot papers for the first time. Instructions have also been issued to ensure necessary publicity of this instruction.

(6) Deployment of Polling Personnel And Randomization

Polling parties shall be formed randomly, through the special randomization IT application. **Three-stage randomization** will be adopted. First, from a wider district database of eligible officials, a shortlist of a minimum 120% of the required numbers will be randomly picked up. This group will be trained for polling duties. In the second stage, from this trained manpower, actual polling parties as required shall be formed by random selection software in the presence of General Observers. In the third randomization, the polling stations will be allocated randomly to these polling parties just before the polling party's departure. There shall be such randomization for Police personnel and Home Guards also, who are deployed at the polling stations on the poll day.

(7) Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) for Service Voter:

During Special Summary Revision of last part of electoral rolls with reference to 01.01.2018 as the qualifying date, efforts have been taken by the Commission to maximize the enrollment of service voters with correct particulars.

Commission implemented ETPBS on pilot basis in four states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur and in the entire state of Goa in the State Assembly Elections conducted during Feb-March, 2017. The Commission has since implemented ETPBS in General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura & Karnataka which would be extended in ensuing Assembly Elections too.

(8) Affidavits Of candidates:

- (a) All Columns to be filled In:** In pursuance of the judgment dated 13th September, 2013 passed by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 121 of 2008 (Resurgence India Vs Election Commission of India and Another), which among other things makes it obligatory for the Returning Officer "to check whether the information required is fully furnished (by the candidate) at the time of filing of affidavit with the nomination paper", the Commission has issued instructions that in the affidavit to be filed along with the nomination paper, candidates are required to fill up all columns. If any column in the affidavit is left blank, the Returning Officer will issue a notice to the candidate to file the revised affidavit with all columns duly filled in. After such notice, if a candidate still fails to file affidavit complete in all respects, the nomination paper will be liable to be rejected by the Returning Officer at the time of scrutiny. The Chief Electoral Officer has been directed to brief all Returning Officers about the judgment of the Supreme Court and the Commission's instructions.

- (b) Additional Affidavit along with 'No Dues Certificate':**

The Commission has, in pursuance to the Judgment of Hon'ble Delhi High Court in W.P.(C) No. 4912/1998 (KRISHAK BHARAT VS UNION OF INDIA AND ORS), directed that at every elections to either the House of Parliament or to the State Legislature, every candidate, at the time of filing nomination paper, shall also file an additional affidavit in the prescribed format along with the 'No Dues Certificate' from the agencies providing electricity, water and telephone with also rent, in case he had been in occupation of any Government accommodation during the last 10 years. This Affidavit would be in addition to the affidavit required to be filed in Form-26, and shall be got attested by an Oath Commissioner or Notary Public or Magistrate of the First Class. The outer limit for filing this Affidavit would be 3.00 PM on the last date of filing nomination papers. It is also specified that failure to file the affidavit along with the 'No Demand Certificate' would be treated as a defect of substantial nature for the purposes of Section-36 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

(c) Changes in the Format of Nomination Form and Affidavit in Form 26 :

Vide notifications dated 16th September, 2016 and 7th April, 2017, Part IIIA of Nomination Forms 2A & 2B and Part II of Nomination Forms 2C, 2D & 2E have been amended. Part A of Affidavit in Form 26 has also been amended vide Notification dated 7th April, 2017 making provisions of contact telephone number, email id and social media account of the candidate and details of source of income of the candidate and spouse. Copy of amended Nomination Forms and Affidavit in Form 26 haven been circulated to all CEOs vide Commission's letter No.3/4/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/SDR /VOL.I/2016, dated 7th July, 2017.

- (d)** Candidates with criminal antecedents put up by political parties are required to make a declaration before the RO that he/she has informed the political party concerned about his criminal antecedents. Further all candidates with criminal cases are also required to publish information in this regard in newspapers and through Television channels on three occasions during the campaign period. A political party that sets up candidates with criminal antecedents is also required to publish information about criminal background of its candidates, both in its website and also in newspapers and Television channels. Instructions in this regard will be issued shortly.

(9) District Election Management Plan (DEMP)

The District Election Officers have been asked to prepare a comprehensive District Election Management Plan in consultation with SSPs/SPs and Sector Officers, including the route plan and communication plan for conduct of elections. These plans will be **vett**ed by the **Observers** taking into account vulnerability mapping exercise and mapping of critical polling stations, in accordance with Election Commission of India's extant instructions.

(10) Communication plan

The Commission attaches great importance to preparation and implementation of a perfect communication plan at the district/constituency level for the smooth conduct of elections and to enable concurrent intervention and mid-course correction on the poll day. For the said purpose, the Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana to coordinate with the officers of Telecommunication Department in the State headquarters, BSNL/MTNL authorities, the representatives of other leading service providers in the State so that network status in the States is assessed and communication shadow areas be identified. The CEOs have also been instructed to prepare the best communication plan in the States and make suitable alternate arrangements in the communication shadow areas by providing Satellite Phones, Wireless sets, Special Runners etc.

(11) Booth Level Management Plan

An innovative “bottom up” approach of booth level planning and management has been implemented in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana where in Booth Level plans for Polling Stations have been prepared containing all information and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for response for smooth conduct of elections at each Polling Station. These booth level Plans will be used to prepare AC level, District level and State level Election Management Plans.

(12) Model Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct **comes into effect immediately** from now onwards. All the provisions of the Model Code will apply to the whole of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana will be applicable to all candidates, political parties and, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government insofar as announcements/policy decisions pertaining to/for these States are concerned.

The Commission has made elaborate arrangements for ensuring the effective implementation of the MCC Guidelines. Any violations of these Guidelines would be strictly dealt with and the Commission re-emphasizes that the instructions issued in this regard from time to time should be read and understood by all Political Parties, contesting candidates and their agents/representatives, to avoid any misgivings or lack of information or inadequate understanding/interpretation. The government of the poll-bound States has also been directed to ensure that no misuse of official machinery/position is done during the MCC period.

The Commission has also issued instructions for swift, effective and stringent action for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct during the first 72 hours of announcement of the election schedule and also for maintaining extra vigilance and strict enforcement action in the Last 72 hours prior to the close of polls. These instructions have been issued in the form of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for compliance by the field election machinery.

(13) Videography/ Webcasting/CCTV Coverage

All critical events will be video-graphed. District Election Officers will arrange sufficient number of video and digital cameras and camera teams for the purpose. The events for videography will include filing of nomination papers and scrutiny thereof, allotment of symbols, First Level Checking, preparations and storage of Electronic Voting Machines, important public meetings, processions etc. during election campaign, process of dispatching of postal ballot papers, polling process in identified vulnerable polling stations, storage of polled EVMs and VVPATs, counting of votes etc. Additionally, CCTVs will be installed

at important Border Check Posts and Static Check Points for effective monitoring and surveillance. Further, the Commission has directed that Webcasting, CCTV coverage, Videography and Digital cameras will also be deployed inside critical polling booths and polling booths in vulnerable areas to closely monitor the proceedings on the poll day without violating secrecy of voting process.

(14) Measures to Prevent Public Nuisance:

- (a) Usage of eco-friendly substances for preparing election campaign/publicity material-** Considering the long-term deleterious impact of materials like plastics, polythene etc. on the life-giving and life-sustaining environment, the Commission, has directed that all political parties, contesting candidates and their authorized agents etc, **shall desist from utilizing environmentally hazardous materials** like plastics, polythene etc for the preparation and usage election-related publicity materials during the ensuing General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana. The DEOs and ROs are directed to emphasize the importance of environment protection and preservation during the meetings with the political parties and contesting candidates and ensure that the instructions of the Commission with regard to the usage of non-eco-friendly materials like plastics, polythene etc. during electioneering shall be adhered to by all concerned. The CEOs shall impress upon the importance of using eco-friendly and bio-degradable materials for campaign material to various political parties in the States and issue necessary instructions in this regard.

(b) Restrictions on the use of Loudspeakers:

The Commission is genuinely concerned about the serious 'noise pollution' and great disturbance to the peace and tranquility of the general public by the reckless, widespread and flagrant use of loudspeakers during election canvassing and campaign by candidates, political parties and their agents. In particular, the student community, gets seriously disturbed and adversely impacted as their studies are badly hampered because the loudspeakers start blaring from very early hours in the morning and continue to do so throughout the day and till extremely late hours in the night. Similarly, the aged, the infirm and the sick whether in institutions, hospitals, etc. or at home, are also affected. The Commission has directed that the use of public address system or loudspeakers or any sound amplifier, whether fitted on vehicles of any kind whatsoever, or in static position used for public meetings for electioneering purposes, during the entire election period starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of results, shall not be permitted **at night between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.**

Further, No loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or in any other manner whatsoever shall be permitted to be used during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in any polling area.

Moreover, for maintenance for law and order and prevention of loudspeaker use for inciting tension in a politically surcharged atmosphere, District Administrations is advised to consider any application for permission to use loudspeakers after the

aforesaid prohibitory period of 48 hours, on merit of each application and keeping in view the need to maintain proper law and order till the completion of election.

Also, the Commission solicits the cooperation and collaboration of all the esteemed stakeholders, notably the political parties and contesting candidates, to **refrain from using loudspeakers and sound amplification in the vicinity of educational institutions** like schools and colleges, hospitals, senior citizens homes, sanatoriums and other facilities tending to the sick, infirm or the needy.

(15) Law and Order, Security Arrangements and Deployment of Forces

Conduct of elections involves elaborate security management, which includes not just the security of polling personnel, polling stations and polling materials, but also the overall security of the election process. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are deployed to supplement the local police force in ensuring a peaceful and conducive atmosphere for the smooth conduct of elections in a free, fair and credible manner. In view of the same, the very preparation of poll schedule, sequencing of multi-phase elections and choice of constituencies for each phase had to follow the logic of force availability and force management.

The Commission has taken various measures to ensure free and fair elections by creating a conducive atmosphere in which each elector is able to access the polling station and cast his/her vote without being obstructed or being unduly influenced/ intimidated by anybody.

Based on the assessment of the ground situation, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and State Armed Police (SAP) drawn from other States will be deployed during these elections. The **CAPFs shall be deployed well in advance for area domination, route marches in vulnerable pockets, point patrolling and other confidence building measures to re-assure and build faith in the minds of the voters**, especially those belonging to the weaker sections, minorities etc. In the insurgency-affected areas, CAPFs shall be inducted well in time for undertaking area familiarization and hand-holding with local forces and all other standard security protocols for movement, enforcement activities etc in these areas will be strictly adhered to. The CAPFs/SAP shall also be **deployed in the Expenditure Sensitive Constituencies and other vulnerable areas and critical polling stations** as per the assessment of ground realities by the CEOs of the States, in consultation with the various stakeholders. On the Poll-eve, the CAPFs/SAP shall take position in and control of the respective polling stations and will be responsible for safeguarding the polling stations and for providing security to the electors and polling personnel on the poll day. Besides, these forces will be used for securing the strong rooms where the EVMs and VVPATs are stored and for securing the counting centers and for other purposes, as required.

The CEOs will ensure a **day-to-day monitoring** of the activities and deployment of the CAPFs/SAP in the State to optimize the usage and effectiveness of these forces for conducting peaceful and transparent elections and inform the Commission periodically. Further, the entire force deployment in the assembly segments shall be under the **oversight of the Central Observers** deputed by the Commission.

The Commission lays a special emphasis on the advance preventive measures to be taken by the District Magistrates and Police authorities to maintain the Law & Order and to create atmosphere conducive for the conduct of free and fair elections. The Commission will be constantly monitoring the ground situation closely and will take appropriate measures to ensure peaceful, free and fair

polls in the State.

(16) Protection To Electors Of SC/ST And Other Weaker Sections:

As per Section 3 (1) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (as amended in 2015), whoever, not being a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, forces or intimidates a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe not to vote or to vote for a particular candidate or to vote in a manner other than that provided by law, or not to stand as a candidate etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to five years and with fine. The Commission has asked the State Governments to bring these provisions to the notice of all concerned for prompt action. In order to bolster the confidence of the voters hailing from vulnerable sections especially SCs, STs etc and enhance their conviction and faith in the purity and credibility of the poll process, CAPFs/SAP shall be extensively and vigorously utilized in patrolling such areas, conducting route marches and undertaking others necessary confidence building measures under the supervision of the Central Observers.

(17) Election Expenditure Monitoring:

Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been issued, which include formation of Flying Squads (FS), Static Surveillance Teams (SST), Video Surveillance Teams (VST), involvement of Investigation Directorate of Income Tax Deptt. etc. State Excise Department, Narcotics Control Bureau and police authorities have been asked to monitor production, distribution, sale and storage of liquor and other intoxicants (including narcotics) during the election process. The functioning and operations of the Flying Squads/Mobile Teams shall be closely monitored using GPS Tracking.

For greater transparency and for ease of monitoring of Election Expenses, Candidates would be required to open a separate bank account and incur their election expenses from that very account. The Investigation Directorate of Income Tax Dept. has been asked to activate Air Intelligence units in the airports of the State and also to gather intelligence and take necessary action against movement of large sum of money in the State.

Some new initiatives taken by the Commission to strengthen the Expenditure Monitoring mechanism are:

- (a) Standard Operating Procedure for Seizure and release of cash:** For the purpose of maintaining purity of elections, the Election Commission of India has issued a Standard Operating Procedure for Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams, constituted for keeping vigil over excessive campaign expenses, distribution of items of bribe in cash or in kind, movement of illegal arms, ammunition, liquor, or antisocial elements etc. in the constituencies during election process.

In order to avoid inconvenience to the public and genuine persons and also for redressal of their grievances, if any, the Commission has issued instruction no. 76/Instructions/EEPS/2015/Vol-II dated 29.05.2015 stating that a committee shall be formed comprising three officers of the District, namely, (i) CEO, Zila Parishad/CDO/P.D,

DRDA (ii) Nodal Officer of Expenditure Monitoring in the District Election Office (Convenor) and (iii) District Treasury Officer. The Committee shall suo-motu examine each case of seizure made by the Police or SST or FS and where the Committee finds that no FIR/Complaint has been filed against the Seizure or where the seizure is not linked with any candidate or political party or any election campaign etc., as per Standard Operating Procedure, it shall take immediate steps to order release of such cash etc. to such persons from whom the cash was seized after passing a speaking order to that effect. The Committee shall look into all cases and take decision on seizure. In no case, the matter relating to seized cash/seized valuables shall be kept pending in malkhana or treasury for more than 7(seven) days after the date of poll, unless any FIR/Complaint is filed.

- (b) Accounting of the expenditure incurred for campaign vehicles – on the basis of permissions granted:** It has come to the notice of the Commission that the candidates take permission from the Returning Officer for use of vehicles for campaign purpose, but some candidates do not show the vehicle hiring charges or fuel expenses in their election expenditure account. Therefore, it has been decided that unless the candidate intimates the R.O. for withdrawing the permission, the notional expenditure on account of campaign vehicles will be calculated based on the number of vehicles for which permission is granted by the Returning Officer.
- (c) Account Reconciliation Meeting:** In order to reduce litigation relating to expenditure accounts, a reconciliation meeting will be convened by the DEOs before final submission of the accounts, on the 26th day after the declaration of the results.
- (d)** All expenditure incurred by those candidates, their party agents or party leaders on their travel, boarding, lodging etc. who travel to overseas countries for the purpose of canvassing in their favour to seek votes of overseas electors residing there, would be deemed to be the expenditure incurred or authorized by the candidates in connection with their election and will have to be included in their account of election expenses. Moreover, any inducement to overseas electors by way of air tickets or any other allurements to them, in cash or kind, to come to India for the purpose of voting at the election would amount to the electoral offence of 'bribery' within the meaning of section 171B of the IPC as also the corrupt practice of 'Bribery' within the meaning of section 123(1) of the R.P. Act, 1951.
- (e) Expenditure incurred on candidates' Booth/(Kiosk) and on TV/Cable Channel / Newspaper owned by party for promoting the electoral prospects of the candidate in the account of the candidate:**

The Commission, on further examination of the relevant provisions of section 77(1) of the R. P. Act, 1951, had decided that the candidates' booths set up outside the polling stations should hereinafter be deemed to have been set up by the candidates as part of their individual campaign and not by way of general party propaganda and as such all expenditure incurred on such candidates' booths shall be deemed to have been incurred/authorized by the candidate/his election agent so as to be included in his account of election expenses.

Further, the Commission, after taking into consideration various references/complaints from various sources in the above matter, has directed that if the candidate(s) or their sponsoring parties utilize TV/Cable Channels/Newspapers owned by them for promoting the electoral prospects of the candidate, the expenses for the same, as per standard rate cards of the channel/newspaper, have to be included by the candidate concerned in his Election Expenditure Statement, even if they actually do not pay any amount to the channel/newspaper.

In pursuance of the Commission's aforesaid decisions, Schedule 6 and Schedule 4 in Abstract Statement of Election Expenses have been amended and incorporated accordingly in the Compendium of Instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring.

(f) Ceiling Of Election Expenses For Candidates:

The election expenses ceiling for candidates has been revised by the Government of India vide Notification dated 28th February, 2014. **The maximum limit of election expenses for candidates for the Assembly Constituencies in Mizoram is Rs. 20 lakhs and the limit for the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Telangana is Rs. 28 lakhs.** All candidates are required to furnish their accounts of expenditure within 30 days of declaration of results.

(g) Final Accounts By Political Parties:

All Political Parties sponsoring candidates for the Legislative Assembly elections are required to maintain day-to-day accounts of all election campaign expenses and submit the final accounts to the Commission/CEO within 75 days of the completion of such elections. Such accounts will be uploaded on the website of the Commission for public viewing. **For the sake of transparency and reconciliation of accounts of political parties and candidates, the political parties have to file a part statement in addition to the final statement of election expenditure in respect of lump-sum payments made by the party to the candidate within 30 days after declaration of results of election to Legislative Assemblies in prescribed format.**

(18) Effective use of Media:

(a) Media Engagement:

The Commission has always considered the media as an important ally and a potent force multiplier in ensuring an effective and efficient election management. Hence, the Commission has directed the CEOs of all poll-going states to take the following measures for positive and progressive engagement and interaction with the media:

- a) Regular interaction with the media during the elections and maintaining an effective and positive line of communication with media at all times.
- b) A strong and concerted focus on the creation of an effective information dissemination system to the media at the State and district level to ensure timely and due access to election-related data and information by media by appointment of a Nodal Officer and Spokesperson at State Level.

- c) Effective steps to sensitize the media about the Election Code.
- d) Authority letters will be issued to all accredited media for the polling day and day of counting.

Commission expects the media to play a positive, pro-active and constructive role in supplementing and facilitating the efforts towards delivery of free, fair, transparent, participative, peaceful and credible elections.

(b) Pre-Certification of Political Advertisements:

Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) are in place at all the districts and state level. All political advertisements proposed to be issued on election media shall require pre-certification from the concerned MCMC .

The Commission has decided that the bulk SMSs/Voice messages on phone and in election campaigning shall also be in the purview of pre-certification of election advertisements as in case of all electronic media/TV Channels/Cable Network/Radio including private FM channels/Cinema halls/audio-visual displays in public places and political advertisement in social media.

(c) Use of Social Media in election:

Commission has clear guidelines with regards to use of social media by political parties and candidates in elections. Followings are the key points of these guidelines –

- a) candidates are required to furnish details of his/her social media account (if any) at the time of filing of nominations.
- b) since Social Media is also electronic media by definition, all political advertisement on social media will also require pre-certification from Media Certification & Monitoring Committees (MCMC).
- c) candidates and political parties shall include all expenditure on campaigning, including expenditure on advertisement on social media in their election expenditure account. This among other things, shall include payments made to internet companies and websites for carrying advertisements and also campaign related operational expenditure on making creative development of content, salaries and wages paid to the team of workers employed to maintain their social media account.
- d) all the provisions of Model Code of Conduct shall also apply to the content being posted on social media by candidates and political parties.

(d) Monitoring of Electronic and Social Media:

- (i) All the election management related news would be monitored vigorously on all the major national and regional news channels during elections. If any untoward incident or violation of any law/rule is noticed, action would be taken immediately. Reports of monitoring would also be forwarded to the CEOs concerned. Office of CEO will

ascertain status on each and every item and file ATR/Status Report. Various Social Media platforms shall also remain under the close and stringent vigil of the Commission for any content aimed at vitiating the electoral process or designed to disturb peace, tranquility, social harmony and public order.

(ii) Fake News:

In today's time, Fake News has emerged as serious challenge, as far as elections are concerned. ECI will keep an eye on the instances of Fake news in Social Media. If any such incident of Fake News comes into knowledge, which may affect the conduct of election by hampering the level playing field or vitiate atmosphere during elections, suitable action will be taken. It will also be the responsibility of Social Media companies to take stringent measures to check Fake News on their platform.

(19) Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP):

Comprehensive measures for voters' education and awareness were taken up during the Special Roll Revision process. These measures will continue and will be further augmented during the ensuing electoral process.

Voter Facilitation Centres have been activated in all the districts to facilitate voters. Special campaign including hands on experience, has been undertaken on EVM & VVPAT awareness starting September 2018 in view of VVPATs being used for the first time in the Assembly Elections in these states. Short awareness film on VVPAT has been developed and widely disseminated through Cinemas, Cable TV besides Social Media including whatsapp. EVM and VVPAT awareness is also being carried out through Radio, Hoardings, SMS and EVM/ VVPAT equipped Mobile Vans are being used to cover all blocks and local markets.

Steps have been taken up to ensure wide dissemination of election related information, as well as to ensure adequate facilitation measures for wider participation of people in polling. Voter helplines, Voters' Facilitation Centres, web and SMS based search facilities are active for assistance of voters. Reminder services on poll days have been meticulously planned.

Taking forward the resolve of making elections accessible to all persons with disabilities, special initiatives have been rolled out ahead of these elections to facilitate persons with disabilities for enrolment as well as on poll day. Besides making awareness material accessible, extending EPIC in Braille for blind electors, sensitization of polling officials and making polling station accessible, electors with disabilities are being mapped Polling Station wise so that requisite facilitation can be extended on poll day. Commission would be providing pick and drop facility to PwD electors on poll day to help them exercise their franchise.

Lowest turnout Polling Stations have been identified and possible reasons for the lower turnout analyzed and targeted interventions based on the findings towards enhanced IMF (Information, Motivation and Facilitation) are being rolled out to meet the objective of 'No Voter to be Left Behind'.

Booth Awareness Groups have been activated at the Polling Stations for educating the voters and motivating them for informed and ethical voting. Campus Ambassadors have been activated in educational institutions for motivating and facilitating electoral participation amongst youth.

Chunav Pathshalas that were established under the Electoral Literacy Clubs project are also being utilized to disseminate information about the EVM, VVPAT and the entire electoral process.

(20) Certification Programme for Returning Officers:

The Returning Officers are required to be constantly updated on the various rules and instructions related to conduct of polls. With this in mind, the Commission has introduced an in-depth **Certification Programme for all Returning Officers**. Also all the Election Trainers, who would be training various category of officials involved with the conduct of elections, have been trained in training techniques and methodology through **Train the Trainers & Facilitators (TTF)** programmes. Team Leaders at various levels have also been given Leadership Training. It is expected that the election officials in the State would thus be far better equipped to manage elections in a smooth manner.

(21) Deployment of Central Observers:

(a) General Observers

The Commission will deploy General Observers in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana in adequate number to ensure smooth conduct of elections. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process to ensure free and fair elections. Their names, addresses within the district/constituency and their telephone numbers will be publicized in local newspapers so that the general public can quickly approach them for any grievance redressal. The Observers will be given a detailed briefing by the Commission before their deployment. The Observers will fix a suitable time every day for meeting the political parties, candidates and other stakeholders to redress their election related grievances.

(b) Police Observers.

The Commission would deploy senior IPS officers as Police Observers at district/AC level in these states depending upon the need, sensitivity and assessment of ground realities and prevailing law and order and security scenario. They will monitor all activities relating to force deployment, law and order situation and co-ordinate between civil and police administration to ensure free and fair election.

(c) Expenditure Observers.

The Commission has also decided to appoint adequate number of **Expenditure Observers** and **Assistant Expenditure Observers** who will exclusively monitor the election expenditure of the contesting candidates. **Control room and Complaint Monitoring Centre with 24 hours toll free numbers** shall be operative during the entire election process. Banks and Financial Intelligence Units of Government of India have been asked to forward suspicious cash withdrawal reports to the election officials. Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election

expenditure of the candidates have been separately issued by the Commission and are available at ECI website <www.eci.nic.in>.

(d) Micro Observers

As per the extant instructions, the General Observers will also deploy Micro-Observers, from amongst Central Government/PSUs Officials, to observe the poll proceedings on the poll day in critical/vulnerable polling stations. Micro-Observers will observe the proceedings at the polling stations on the poll day, right from the conduct of mock poll, to the completion of poll and the process of sealing of EVMs and VVPATs and other documents so as to ensure that all instructions of the Commission are complied with by the Polling Parties and the Polling Agents. They will report to the General Observers directly regarding any vitiation of the poll proceedings in their allotted polling stations.

(22) New IT Applications To Be Used For Forthcoming General Elections:

(a) c-VIGIL App

The delay in reporting of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations by citizens thus so far often resulted in the culprits escaping detection from the action squads. Also, the lack of any documented evidence in the form of pictures or videos was seen as a hurdle in verifying a complaint. The Commission's experience has also shown a significant percentage of reporting was false or inaccurate, which led to wastage of precious time of Field Verification Units. Further, the absence of a robust response system to quickly and accurately identify the scene of occurrence with the help of geographical location details hampered election officers' ability to apprehend the violators.

In the above backdrop, ECI undertook development of C-VIGIL Android Mobile Application. 'c-VIGIL' denotes 'Vigilant Citizen' and the proactive and responsible role he can play in the conduct of free and fair elections. Using the application, vigilant citizens can send live reports on incidents of MCC violation within minutes of having witnessed them. The violations could be reported from the date of announcement of elections to a day after the polls without going to the office of the returning officer in their assembly constituency. The c-VIGIL app is expected to fill in the gaps in existing violation reporting and create a fast-track complaint reception and redressal system. At the same time, the application enables election officials to take evidence based time bound decision by using integrated IT solution.

In case of a registered complaint, a unique ID number is generated to allow the citizen to track his/ her complaint status. Anonymous complaints do not get any identification numbers. Citizens can download the application from Google Play Store and use it for reporting MCC violation cases. For other complaints, they can use the facility available in the mobile app/ website of ECI Citizen Services.

Once a complaint has been received in the c-VIGIL system, the same is beeped into the District Control Room which in turn assigns it to a Flying Squad. The flying squad using a separate app can navigate to the site by using the GIS cues provided by the location

information recorded with the complaint. Flying Squads by using intuitive mobile application can rapidly and accurately file investigation report. This report gets visible to Returning Officer and he can take further action. If the incident is found correct, the information is sent to the National Grievance Portal of the Election Commission of India for further action and the vigilant citizen is informed about the action taken in a time bound manner.

The app has inbuilt features to prevent its misuse. It will receive complaints only about MCC violations. The user will get 5 minutes to report an incident after having clicked a picture or a video. To prevent being put on the false scent, the app will not allow uploading of the pre-recorded images/ videos, neither would it allow users to save photos/videos clicked from this app into the phone gallery. Further, the application will be active only in States where elections have been announced. The moment a citizen exits such a State, the app will become inactive.

The beta version of c-VIGIL Android App would be rolled out as Pilot in these states. The Election Commission is counting on this app and citizens' zeal to immediately report on MCC violations in their vicinity to curb such incidents, thereby, helping the Commission reach its objective of conducting free and fair elections.

(b) NGS- National Grievances Service

A comprehensive Public Grievance Redress System has been developed by the Election Commission. This system has been developed to monitor complaints filed by the citizens for quick and definite resolution. Complainant can also track the status online. SMS based information system is integrated for communicating with complainant and the officers responsible for the resolution.

(c) ICC (Integrated Contact Centre)

Integrated Contact Centre (ICC) is a seamless and Integrated Help Desk-cum-Call Centre-cum- Single Window system. The facility is meant for all stakeholders like Citizens, Electors, Political parties, Candidates, Media and Election officials at National, State and District level. The ICC enables citizens to get quality and time bound services for election related matters.

ICC comprises of

- *National Contact Centre with a toll-free no. 1800111950*
- *State Contact Centre with a toll-free no. 1950*
- *District Contact Centre, Each District have dedicated official at the District level to respond to any queries emanating from NCC and / or SCC*

(d) SUVIDHA: Single Window Permission System:

A single window system for giving election-related permission/clearance within 24 hours has been created. In this system, candidates and political parties can apply for permissions for meetings, rallies, vehicles, temporary election office, loudspeakers etc at a single location, where back-end convergence of various authorities/departments has been done. This system is put in place at every RO level in each sub-division which will provide for applying, processing, granting and monitoring permissions in a synergistic manner. However in case of permission for helicopter usage/ landing and

use of helipads, the application shall have to be submitted at least 36 hours in advance.

(e) SUGAM: Vehicle Management System:

It is an IT based Vehicle Management System with the facility of issuance of requisition letters for vehicles, capturing of vehicle details with address, mobile number and bank details of owner and drive, transfer of vehicles from one district to another district etc.

(f) Webcasting /CCTV at polling stations:

Webcasting at identified critical stations for LIVE monitoring of election process, to keep a check on illegal activities such as booth capturing, money distribution and bogus voting and to bring about complete transparency in the voting process shall be undertaken. Further, during the election process, CCTV monitoring and webcasting shall also be done at various border check-posts, check-nakas and other sensitive and critical locations across the constituencies to keep a strict vigil on any nefarious activities designed to vitiate the electoral process.

(g) Election Monitoring Dashboard

This is the IT Tool which provides a dashboard of consolidated information, tools and timely reports to officers engaged in election monitoring process at all hierarchical level from top to bottom. This is essential since many processes and cycles continue to function during elections. The major activities can be broadly categorized as

1. Pre-poll reports
2. Poll day reports
3. Post-Poll reports
4. Trends and Result declaration

(h) Voter Centric information dissemination initiatives on CEO's websites

It is the constant endeavor of the Commission to facilitate the voters in accessing the multifarious election-related services and information. As part of this vision, an SMS-based search facility and voter friendly interactive website has already been launched by CEOs and successfully working.

(i) One-way Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot for Service Voters:

All registered Service Voters will be delivered e-postal ballot of their respective constituency through electronically transmitted postal ballot (ETPBS), which will be printed and after casting the vote will be sent back to Returning Officer by post.

(23) Conduct of Officials

The Commission expects all officials engaged in the conduct of elections to discharge their duties in an impartial manner without any fear or favour. They are deemed to be on deputation to the Commission and shall be subject to its control, supervision and discipline. The conduct of all Government officials who have been entrusted with election related responsibilities and duties would remain under constant scrutiny of the Commission and strict action shall be taken against

those officials who are found wanting on any account.

(24) Poll Day Monitoring System

A constant and stringent 24-hour monitoring of the critical events and activities of the poll day will be done using the Poll Day Monitoring System. All the crucial events like reaching of Polling Parties, Votes Cast, Voters' Images etc will be captured and monitored using this state-of-the-art IT application, which has the added advantage of being used offline also, so as to circumvent non-connectivity of network. All data captured offline is synchronized with the centralized server as soon as the person using the App comes in the coverage area. Through this App, we can find out Voter Turnout (VTR) gender-wise, age-wise and section-wise.

(25) New Initiatives:

1. Use of VVPATs at all Polling Stations:

VVPATs will be used along with EVMs in all Assembly Constituencies of poll going states to enhance the transparency and credibility of the elections. On a pilot basis, VVPAT from One (1) Polling Station in each Assembly Constituency will be randomly selected to count VVPAT paper slips for verification of the result obtained from the control unit.

2. All Women Managed Polling Stations:

All- women Managed Polling Stations' shall be **set up in one polling station for each Assembly Constituency** where the entire polling staff, including the police and security personnel, shall be Women.

3. Booth Level Planning:

An innovative "bottom up" approach of booth level planning and management has been implemented in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana where in Booth Level plans for Polling Stations have been prepared containing all information and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for response for smooth conduct of elections at each Polling Station. These booth level Plans will be used to prepare AC level, District level and State level Election Management Plans.

4. E-Atlas :

As a new innovation, GIS based planning, implementation and monitoring of various elections related activities are being implemented in these States for election planning.

5. E-Payment Gateway for Goods and Services:

All Payments will be made through e-payment gateway for (i) Timely Payment for all the Civilian Officials/Police Officials deployed for "Election Duties" (ii) Timely Payment to all the Owners of the Vehicles which are Requisitioned for Election Purpose , (iii) Timely Payment for all the Vendors who provide Goods and Services for Election related Duties in all the Assembly Constituencies.

6. Registration of Service Voters and ETPBS:

Earlier, the Commission implemented ETPBS (Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System) on pilot basis in 4 states of Punjab, UP, Uttarakhand and Manipur and in the entire state of Goa. ETPBS was used in all the State Assembly Elections conducted during 2017-2018 and will be used in these elections also.

7. Friendly Polling Stations for differently abled electors:

Special facilitation voting at all Polling Stations would be ensured for all differently-abled electors.

8. **c-VIGIL App:**

The delay in reporting of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations by citizens thus so far often resulted in the culprits escaping detection from the action squads. Also, the lack of any documented evidence in the form of pictures or videos was seen as a hurdle in verifying a complaint. The Commission's experience has also shown a significant percentage of reporting was false or inaccurate, which led to wastage of precious time of Field Verification Units. Further, the absence of a robust response system to quickly and accurately identify the scene of occurrence with the help of geographical location details hampered election officers' ability to apprehend the violators.

In the above backdrop, ECI undertook development of c-VIGIL Android Mobile Application. 'c-VIGIL' denotes 'Vigilant Citizen' and the proactive and responsible role he can play in the conduct of free and fair elections. Using the application, vigilant citizens can send live reports on incidents of MCC violation within minutes of having witnessed them. The violations could be reported from the date of announcement of elections to a day after the polls without going to the office of the returning officer in their assembly constituency. The c-VIGIL app is expected to fill in the gaps in existing violation reporting and create a fast-track complaint reception and redressal system. At the same time, the application enables election officials to take evidence based time bound decision by using integrated IT solution.

In case of a registered complaint, a unique ID number is generated to allow the citizen to track his/ her complaint status. Anonymous complaints do not get any identification numbers. Citizens can download the application from Google Play Store and use it for reporting MCC violation cases. For other complaints, they can use the facility available in the mobile app/ website of ECI Citizen Services.

Once a complaint has been received in the c-VIGIL system, the same is beeped into the District Control Room which in turn assigns it to a Flying Squad. The flying squad using a separate app can navigate to the site by using the GIS cues provided by the location information recorded with the complaint. Flying Squads by using intuitive mobile application can rapidly and accurately file investigation report. This report gets visible to Returning Officer and he can take further action. If the incident is found correct, the information is sent to the National Grievance Portal of the Election Commission of India for further action and the vigilant citizen is informed about the action taken in a time bound manner.

The app has inbuilt features to prevent its misuse. It will receive complaints only about MCC violations. The user will get 5 minutes to report an incident after having clicked a picture or a video. To prevent being put on the false scent, the app will not allow uploading of the pre-recorded images/ videos, neither would it allow users to save photos/videos clicked from this app into the phone gallery. Further, the application will be active only in States where elections have been announced. The moment a citizen exits such a State, the app will become inactive.

The beta version of c-VIGIL Android App would be rolled out as Pilot in these states. The Election Commission is counting on this app and citizens' zeal to immediately report on MCC violations in their vicinity to curb such incidents, thereby, helping the Commission reach its objective of conducting free and fair elections.

(26) Schedules of Election

The Commission has prepared the Schedules for holding General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana after taking into consideration all relevant aspects like climatic conditions, academic calendar, major festivals, prevailing law and order situation in the State, availability of Central Police Forces, time needed for movement, transportation and timely deployment of forces and in-depth assessment of other relevant ground realities.

The Commission after considering all relevant aspects has decided to recommend to the Governor of the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana to issue notifications for the General Elections under the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the **Schedule annexed**.

The Commission seeks the active cooperation, close collaboration and constructive partnership of all the esteemed stakeholders in the electoral process and strives to employ the collective synergies towards delivering a smooth, free, fair, peaceful, participative and festive General Assembly Elections, 2018 in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana.

Sd/-

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Schedule

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh, 2018

Phase – I

(For elections to 18 Assembly Constituencies listed in **Annexure I**)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	16.10.2018 (TUESDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	23.10.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	24.10.2018 (WEDNESDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	26.10.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date of Poll	12.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

Phase – II

(For elections to 72 Assembly Constituencies listed in **Annexure II**)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	26.10.2018 (FRIDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	02.11.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	03.11.2018 (SATURDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	05.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Date of Poll	20.11.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

Schedule

Schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh, 2018 (All 230 ACs)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	02.11.2018 (FRIDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	09.11.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	12.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	14.11.2018 (WEDNESDAY)
Date of Poll	28.11.2018 (WEDNESDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

Schedule

Schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, 2018 (All 200 ACs)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	12.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	19.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	20.11.2018 (TUESDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	22.11.2018 (THURSDAY)
Date of Poll	07.12.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

Schedule

Schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram, 2018 (All 40 ACs)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	02.11.2018 (FRIDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	09.11.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	12.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	14.11.2018 (WEDNESDAY)
Date of Poll	28.11.2018 (WEDNESDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

Schedule

Schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana, 2018 (All 119 ACs)

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	12.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Last Date of Nominations	19.11.2018 (MONDAY)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	20.11.2018 (TUESDAY)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	22.11.2018 (THURSDAY)
Date of Poll	07.12.2018 (FRIDAY)
Date of Counting	11.12.2018 (TUESDAY)
Date before which election shall be completed	13.12.2018 (THURSDAY)

List of 18 Assembly Constituencies going to poll in Phase I in Chhattisgarh.

Phase- I (18 AC)		
No. of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Districts
73	Khairagarh	Rajnandgaon
74	Dongargarh (SC)	Rajnandgaon
75	Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon
76	Dongargaon	Rajnandgaon
77	Khujji	Rajnandgaon
78	Mohla-Manpur (ST)	Rajnandgaon
79	Antagarh (ST)	Uttar Bastar(Kanker)
80	Bhanupratappur (ST)	Uttar Bastar(Kanker)
81	Kanker (ST)	Uttar Bastar(Kanker)
82	Keshkal (ST)	Kondagaon
83	Kondagaon (ST)	Kondagaon
84	Narayanpur (ST)	Narayanpur
		Bastar (Jagdalpur)
		Kondagaon
85	Bastar (ST)	Bastar(Jagdalpur)
86	Jagdalpur	Bastar(Jagdalpur)
		Sukuma
87	Chitrakot (ST)	Bastar(Jagdalpur)
		Sukuma
88	Dantewada (ST)	Dakshin Bastar(Dantewada)
89	Bijapur (ST)	Bijapur
90	Konta (ST)	Sukuma

List of 72 Assembly Constituencies going to poll in Phase II in Chhattisgarh.

Phase- II (72 AC)		
No. of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Districts
1	Bharatpur-Sonhat (ST)	Koria
2	Manendragarh	Koria
3	Baikunthpur	Koria
4	Premnagar	Surajpur
5	Bhatgaon	Surajpur
6	Pratappur (ST)	Surajpur
		Balrampur
7	Ramanujganj (ST)	Balrampur
8	Samri (ST)	Balrampur
9	Lundra (ST)	Surguja
10	Ambikapur	Surguja
11	Sitapur (ST)	Surguja
12	Jashpur (ST)	Jashpur
13	Kunkuri (ST)	Jashpur
14	Pathalgaon (ST)	Jashpur
15	Lailunga (ST)	Raigarh
16	Raigarh	Raigarh
17	Sarangarh (SC)	Raigarh
18	Kharsia	Raigarh
19	Dharamjaigarh (ST)	Raigarh
20	Rampur (ST)	Korba
21	Korba	Korba

22	Katghora	Korba
23	Pali-Tanakhar (ST)	Korba
24	Marwahi (ST)	Bilaspur
25	Kota	Bilaspur
26	Lormi	Mungeli
27	Mungeli (SC)	Mungeli
28	Takhatpur	Bilaspur
29	Bilha	Bilaspur
		Mungeli
30	Bilaspur	Bilaspur
31	Beltara	Bilaspur
32	Masturi (SC)	Bilaspur
33	Akaltara	Janjgir-Champa
34	Janjgir-Champa	Janjgir-Champa
35	Sakti	Janjgir-Champa
36	Chandrapur	Janjgir-Champa
37	Jaijaipur	Janjgir-Champa
38	Pamgarh (SC)	Janjgir-Champa
39	Saraipali (SC)	Mahasamund
40	Basna	Mahasamund
41	Khallari	Mahasamund
42	Mahasamund	Mahasamund
43	Bilaigarh (SC)	Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara
44	Kasdol	Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara
45	Baloda Bazar	Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara
		Raipur

No. of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Assembly Constituency	Name of the Districts
46	Bhatapara	Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara
47	Dharsiwa	Raipur
48	Raipur Rural	Raipur
49	Raipur City West	Raipur
50	Raipur City North	Raipur
51	Raipur City South	Raipur
52	Arang (SC)	Raipur
53	Abhanpur	Raipur
54	Rajim	Gariaband
55	Bindranawagarh (ST)	Gariaband
56	Sihawa (ST)	Dhamtari
57	Kurud	Dhamtari
58	Dhamtari	Dhamtari
59	Sanjari Balod	Balod
60	Dondi Lohara (ST)	Balod
61	Gunderdehi	Balod
62	Patan	Durg
63	Durg-Rural	Durg
64	Durg City	Durg
65	Bhilai Nagar	Durg
66	Vaishali Nagar	Durg
67	Ahiwara (SC)	Durg
68	Saja	Durg
		Bemetara

69	Bemetara	Bemetara
		Durg
70	Nawagarh (SC)	Bemetara
71	Pandariya	Kabirdham
72	Kawardha	Kabirdham