

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS) DEPARTMENT**

9th Floor, B.R.K.R Bhavan, Near Tank bund, Adarsh Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500063
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Memo No. No. 6715/Elecs.D/2024-6

Dated: 07.08.2024.

Sub:-Elections - Bye Election to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), 2024 from
Telangana – Schedule of Election -Communicated -Reg.

Ref:- ECI, Press Note No. ECI/PN/126/2024, dated.07.08.2024

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A copy of the reference cited, wherein the Election Commission of India has communicated the following Schedule for conduct of Bye Election to the Council of States is sent herewith for information and taking further necessary action in the matter.

EVENTS		DATES & DAYS
1	Issue of Notifications	14.082024, (Wednesday)
2	Last date of making Nominations	21.08.2024, (Wednesday)
3	Scrutiny of Nominations	22.08.2024, (Thursday)
4	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	27.08.2024, (Tuesday)
5	Date of Poll	03.09.2024, (Tuesday)
6	Hours of Poll	09.00 am - 04.00 pm
7	Counting of Votes	03.09.2024 (Tuesday) at 05.00 pm
8	Date before which election shall be completed	06.09.2024, (Friday)

**C SUDHARSAN REDDY,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To,

The Director General of Police, Hyderabad. (w.es.)

The Addl. D.G.P (Law & Order), Telangana, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

All Officers in G.A. (Elecs) Dept. (w.es.)

All Sections in G.A.(Elecs.) Dept (w.es.)

PM(IT) for information.

SLA (for uploading in CEO's website)

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

निर्वाचन सदन
NIRVACHAN SADAN
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. ECI/PN/126/2024

Dated: 07th August, 2024

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Bye-Elections to the Council of States from various States- reg.

There are 12 casual vacancies in the Council of States from 09 States, as per the following details:

S.No.	Name of Member (Shri/Smt./Ms.)	State	Cause of Vacancy	Term up to	
1	Kamakhya Prasad Tasa	Assam	Vacancies occurred due to election of the sitting members to the 18 th Lok Sabha w.e.f. 04.06.2024.	14.06.2025	
2	Sarbananda Sonowal			09.04.2026	
3	Misha Bharti	Bihar		07.07.2028	
4	Vivek Thakur			09.04.2026	
5	Deepender Singh Hooda	Haryana		09.04.2026	
6	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Madhya Pradesh		21.06.2026	
7	Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle	Maharashtra		02.04.2026	
8	Piyush Vedprakash Goyal			04.07.2028	
9	K. C. Venugopal	Rajasthan		21.06.2026	
10	Biplab Kumar Deb	Tripura		02.04.2028	
11	Dr. K. Keshava Rao	Telangana		Resignation on 05.07.2024.	09.04.2026
12	Mamata Mohanta	Odisha		Resignation on 31.07.2024.	02.04.2026

2. The Commission has decided to hold 12 separate bye-elections to the Council of States to fill up the above-mentioned vacancies in accordance with the following schedule:

Sl. No	Events	Dates	
1.	Issue of Notifications	14 th August, 2024 (Wednesday)	
2.	Last date of making nominations	21 st August, 2024 (Wednesday)	
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	22 nd August, 2024 (Thursday)	
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	For Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tripura	For Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana and Odisha
		26 th August, 2024 (Monday)	27 th August, 2024 (Tuesday)
5.	Date of Poll	03rd September, 2024 (Tuesday)	
6.	Hours of Poll	09:00 am- 04:00 pm	
7.	Counting of Votes	03 rd September, 2024 (Tuesday) at 05:00 pm	
8.	Date before which election shall be completed	06 th September, 2024 (Friday)	

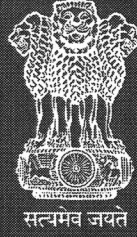
3. The Commission has directed that for the purpose of marking preference(s) on the ballot paper, only integrated violet colour sketch pen(s) of pre-fixed specification, provided by the Returning Officer, shall be used. No other pen shall, under any circumstances, be used in the aforesaid elections.

4. Adequate measures for close monitoring of the election process by appointing observers shall be taken to ensure free and fair elections.

5. Broad Guidelines of Covid-19 issued by ECI, available at link <https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/api/download?url=LMAhAK6sOPBp%2FNFF0iRfXbEB1EVSLT41NNLRjYNJJP1KivrUxbfqkDatmHy12e%2FzVx8fLfn2ReU7TfrqYobglg5mD1wF5S%2FZXPhQgD4VIKIMSPL0N5FWF1VoH8oPTnXgDsP9B2iaJCrQLo%2FnA%2Fc2NHjnhNMwmCRY5P%2FYdSwGcQIfcDqNyNaupRk6WhpbTHK1> to be followed, wherever applicable, during entire election process by all persons.



(PRAFULL AWASTHI)
UNDER SECRETARY



COVID Guidelines
For
General Election/Bye Elections
to
Legislative Assemblies

OCTOBER - 2022



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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COVID GUIDELINES, 2022

Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India states that the term of the legislative assembly shall be for five years from the date of its first meeting. The term of State Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat are due to expire on 8th January, 2023 and 18th February, 2023 respectively. Election Commission of India (hereinafter ECI) is committed to conduct free, fair, participative, accessible, inclusive and safe election to the Legislative Assemblies of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh before the cessation of its term, in exercise of the authority and powers conferred upon under Article 324 read with Article 172 (1) of the Constitution of India and Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

2. The Commission is also duty bound to fulfil its constitutional mandate as per legal and institutional framework to steer elections for putting elected government in place within due time and also ensure safety of vote and voters.

3. During COVID period, Commission issued “Broad guidelines for conduct of General Elections/Bye-elections during COVID-19” on 21st August, 2020 to Conduct General Elections to legislative assemblies of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry. Thereafter, during general elections to legislative assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the Commission had reviewed the prevailing situation and issued “Revised Broad Guidelines, 2022” on 8th January, 2022, wherein the Commission imposed restriction on Campaign, rallies etc. which was further relaxed vide Press Notes dated 15th January, 2022, 22nd January, 2022, 31st January, 2022, 6th February, 2022, 12th February, 2022, 22nd February, 2022 and 10th March, 2022, in a phased manner.

4. The Commission held meetings with Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India on 7th September, 2022 and with Chief Secretary, Pr. Secretary (Home), Health Secretary and Chief Electoral Officer of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh on 13th September, 2022 to review COVID situation, Vaccination Status, exiting guidelines/directions of SDMA, arrangement for COVID during upcoming festive season etc. The Commission was briefed about the improved situation of COVID countrywide, preparedness to deal any possible spike in number of cases and also decision of NDMA *not to invoke the provisions of DM Act for COVID containment measures.*

5. The Commission directed the Chief Secretaries and other Officers of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh to maintain and continue strict compliance of the advisories issued by MoHFW especially the adherence of 5-fold strategy of Test, Track, Treat, Vaccination and COVID appropriate behavior. The Commission also instructed to vaccinate all the eligible polling personnel and officials. Furthermore, the Commission directed both the States to maintain strict vigil as per the parameters indicated by MoHFW and/or respective SDMAs and take **appropriate graded action** in case of any unwarranted deviation in such prescribed parameters related to COVID situation during upcoming festive seasons & elections.

6. During electoral process Chief Secretary at State level and District Magistrate at District level, shall be primarily responsible for monitoring, supervision and enforcement of these COVID guidelines issued by the Commission.

7. All stakeholders namely political parties, candidates, campaigners, voters and authorities engaged in the election process shall always be conscious of their prime duty towards public health / safety and shall observe COVID appropriate behavior.

8. Details of the guidelines are as follows:

I. General Guidelines to be followed during entire election processes for all persons

- i) All person involved are advised to follow COVID appropriate behavior during election related activities.
- ii) All eligible Polling Personnel/Security Personnel/Counting Staff shall be fully and preferably with booster dose vaccinated before deploying/engaging in election related activities.
- iii) Create awareness among the public for COVID appropriate behavior including self-monitoring.

II. Campaign by the political parties/contesting candidates/ Others

- i) During Outdoor meeting/indoor meetings/ Rallies/Road Shows/Pad-Yatras/Processions, the organisers and concerned political parties shall abide by the guidelines, if any issued by competent authorities, and ensure prescribed COVID appropriate behaviour by persons participating. Organisers will be responsible for any breach of the COVID related protocols and guidelines.
- ii) Political Parties/candidates may hold their meetings and rallies, Road show, Pad-yatra and procession, Door to Door campaign etc subject prior permission of the all concerned authorities and instant instruction of the Commission in the matter.
- iii) Allocation of public spaces must be done using Suvidha app in the manner already prescribed by Commission.

III.) Polling Station Arrangements-

- (i) Commission has issued detailed instructions for assured minimum facilities at each polling station. Now, in view of COVID, following additional facilities/steps may be taken, as required:
 - (a) Help Desk for distribution of token to the voters on first come first basis so that they do not wait in the queue.
 - (b) Marker to demonstrate social distancing for queue.
 - (c) Distance for voters standing in the queue would be maintained as per COVID norms, if any, prescribed by the competent authority and depending on the availability of space. There shall be three queues each, for male, female, and PwD/ Senior citizen voters.
 - (d) The services of BLOs, volunteers etc may be engaged to monitor and regulate social distancing norms, as prescribed by competent authority.
 - (e) One shaded waiting areas with chairs, dari etc. will be provided, for male and female separately, within the polling station premises so that voters can participate in voting without safety concerns.
 - (f) Wherever possible, Booth App may be used at the polling station.
 - (g) Awareness posters on COVID should be displayed at visible locations as per norms prescribed by the competent authority.

- (ii) COVID patients and all other who may be under quarantine will be allowed to cast their vote at the last hour of the poll day at their respective Polling Stations, under the supervision of health authorities, strictly following COVID-19 related preventive measures. Sector Magistrates shall coordinate this activity in their allocated polling stations.

IV) Postal Ballot

Option of Postal Ballot facility has also been extended to the Electors who are COVID positive/suspect and in quarantine (home/institutional).

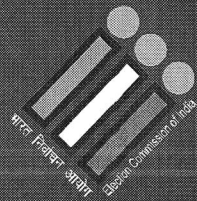
V.) Counting of votes

- (i) There shall be maximum 15 Counting Tables (including RO's Table) for counting of votes of a constituency as per Commission's existing instructions dated 30th April, 2014.
- (ii) No public gathering outside the counting venue during process of counting shall be permitted.
- (iii) Candidate may appoint/replace counting agents in case COVID report is positive.

9. As and when required and as per the evolving/ contextual needs, the Chief Secretary of the State, shall at once bring to the notice of the Commission any new trend, development/ situation that is not covered by these COVID Guidelines and warrants Commission's intervention during the electoral process in the State. The Commission may then issue further appropriate instructions with respect to electoral process and thereby complementing the mandate/ efforts of the State in containing/ managing the spread of COVID.



 NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND



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