



# GENERAL ELECTION TO THE 17TH LOK SABHA 2019



## HANDBOOK FOR MEDIA

(ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA)





# General Election to the 17th Lok Sabha 2019

## Handbook for Media



Election Commission of India



## FOREWORD

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**I**t is difficult to imagine the conduct of an Indian election without a very substantial involvement of the country's vibrant media. Over the last sixty eight years, India's media has been a force multiplier in the delivery of free and fair polls each time. Election Commission of India ever looks forward to media support for dissemination of important information, for effective enforcement and for creating an aware electorate. At the same time, elections are conducted on the basis of laws, instructions and stipulated procedures and some of these touch upon media and media practices, particularly during election campaigns by political parties and candidates.

A dedicated chapter on EVM and VVPAT has been included in this book which will help in providing clarity on some of the key aspects regarding its functioning and usefulness in election management.

The wave of information explosion mostly through digital platforms, poses a new kind of challenge in elections. Keeping in mind the need for a level playing field, Election Commission of India, in coordination with various regulatory/self regulatory authorities of Media Organisations -Press Council of India (Print Media), News Broadcasters Association (participating Electronic Media channels) and Internet and Mobile Association of India, (IAMAI and participating Social Media platforms) the general guidelines framed by them has strived to monitor and report cases of violations.

I believe this handbook would help friends in the media to have an appreciation of some of the important aspects of election management particularly in areas that could concern them.

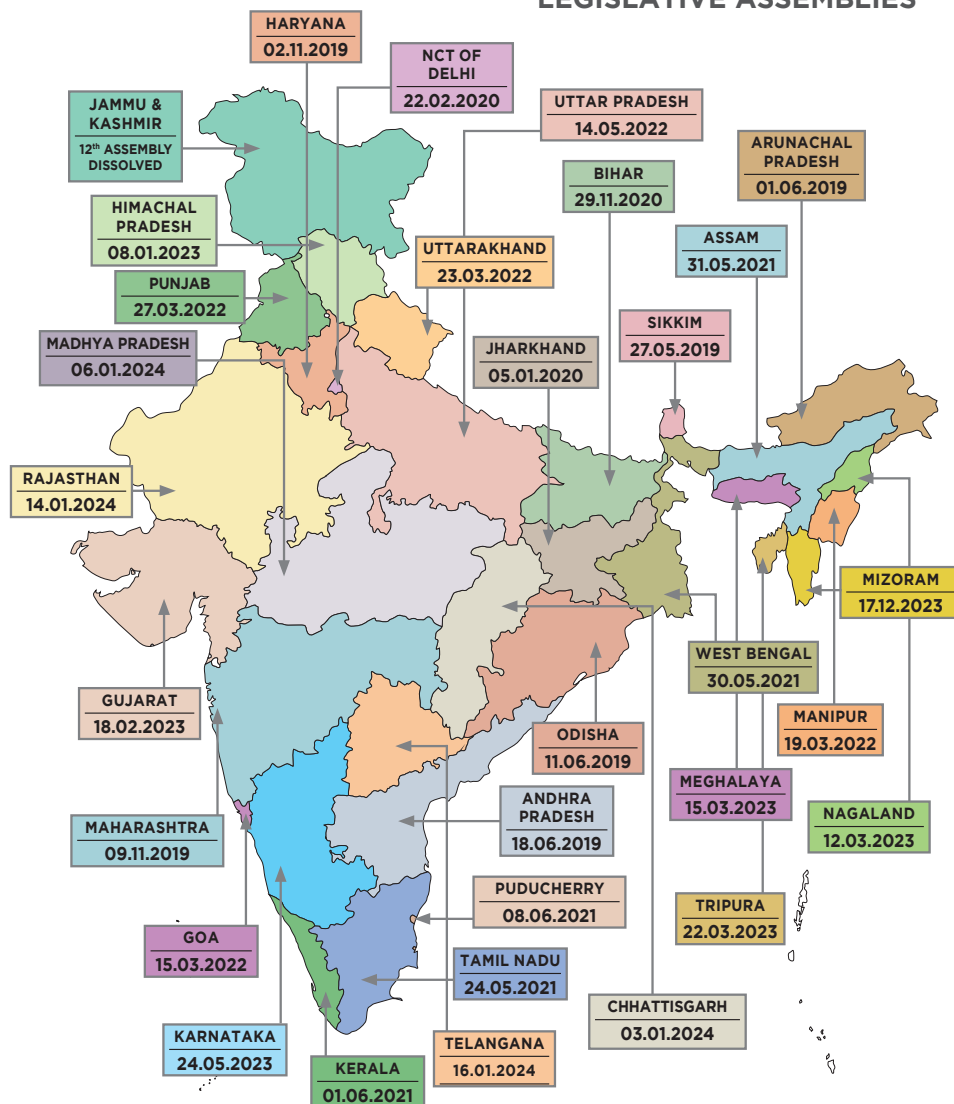
The Commission once again solicits active cooperation from the Media in the exercise of conduct of the General Elections to the 17th Lok Sabha and make it an exemplary success.

**Dhirendra Ojha**

Director General

## EXPIRY OF THE TERM OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

## EXPIRY OF THE TERM OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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AC	Assembly Constituency
ACEO	Additional Chief Electoral Officer
AERO	Assistant Electoral Registration Officer
AIR	All India Radio
ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
BLO	Booth Level Officer
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
DAVP	Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity
DD	Doordarshan
DEO	District Election Officer
DG	Director General
DIPR	Directorate/ Department of Information and Public Relations
ECI	Election Commission of India
EP	Elector Population
EPIC	Electors' Photo Identity Card
ERO	Electoral Registration Officer
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
IIIDEM	India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management
IAMAI	Internet and Mobile Association of India
KABBP	Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour, Belief and Practices
MIB	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
MC	Media Centre(s)
MCMC	Media Certification and Monitoring Committee
NBA	News Broadcasters Association
NBSA	News Broadcasting Standards Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOTA	None of the Above

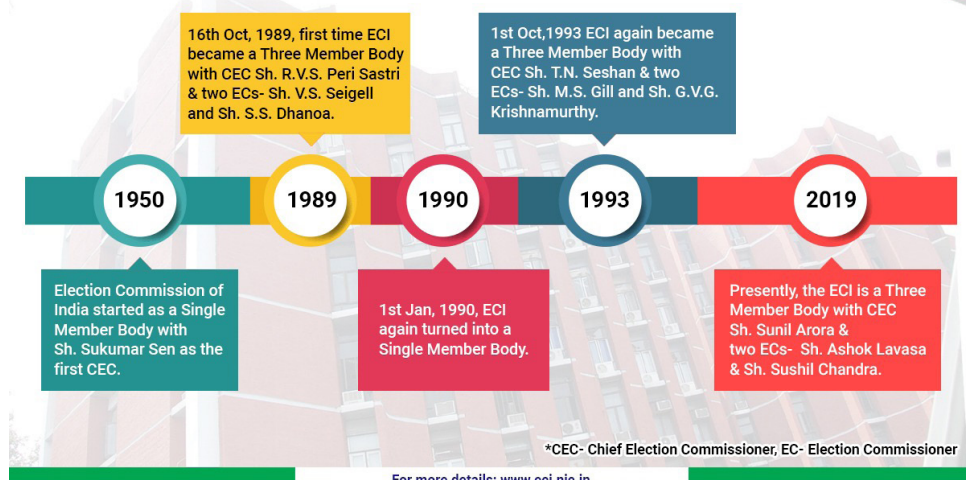
NVD	National Voters' Day (25th January)
PCI	Press Council of India
PIB	Press Information Bureau
PS	Polling Station
PSB	Public Service Broadcasting/ Broadcaster(s)
RO	Returning Officer
RPA	Representation of the People Act
SVEEP	Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation
UT	Union Territory
VVPAT	Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

Intermediary - Intermediary expert (intermediary as defined in section 2(w) of IT Act, 2000)/social media expert.

# Introduction

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent independent constitutional body created under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution. The Commission was set up on January 25, 1950, on the eve of India becoming a sovereign democratic republic on January 26, 1950 with its headquarters at New Delhi. The Constitution of India provides for the constitution of the Election Commission consisting of Chief Election Commissioner and one or more Election Commissioners. The first Chief Election Commissioner was appointed on March 21, 1950 and the Commission continued to function as a single member body up to 15th October, 1989 and again from 1st January, 1990 to September 30, 1993. From then onwards, the Election Commission is functioning as a three-member body. The present Commission is a three-member body with Sh. Sunil Arora, as the Chief Election Commissioner, Sh. Ashok Lavasa and Sh. Sushil Chandra as the Election Commissioners.

**The Constitution provided for the Election Commission to be either a single member or a multi-member body.**





### ECI's Mandate

*To conduct Free, Fair and Periodic Elections to the offices of the President, the Vice-President and to both Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures in India.*

#### 1.1 Functions

ECI is vested with the powers and responsibilities of superintendence, direction and control of the entire process of preparation and revision of electoral rolls for, and conduct of, elections to the houses of Parliament and Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President.

It prepares, maintains and periodically updates (new registration, modification and deletion as per guidelines) the electoral rolls, registers political parties/candidates, supervises the whole process of conducting election, monitors the election campaigns, including funding and expenditure of candidates, maintaining Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to make the entire electoral process free fair democratic and accessible for all its stakeholders. It also facilitates coverage of the election process by the media, carries out the voter education and awareness measures, organizes the polling stations/ booths where voting takes place, and oversees under stringent surveillance mechanism the counting of votes and the declaration of results. ECI has introduced polling through EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and recently, introduced VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) with an intention to enhance transparency and credibility of all the stakeholders in the electoral process. The Election Commission has also provided for compulsory identification at the time of voting by means of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) and distribution of Photo Voter Slips to all electors close to polls.

Elections are conducted according to the constitutional provisions, supplemented by laws made by Parliament and rules and orders made thereunder. The major laws are

the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952; the Representation of the People Act, 1950; and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

All political parties are required to get themselves registered with the Election Commission. Based on performance criteria laid down in the Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order 1968, the Commission grants recognition to political parties as national or state parties. It also decides disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

### ECI's Vision

*Elections that are completely free of crime and abuse of money, based on a perfect electoral roll and with full participation of voters.*

## 1.2 Election Machinery

The Commission has a small Secretariat with about 450 officers and staff. There are functional and territorial divisions in the Commission headed by Deputy Election Commissioners and Directors General. The territorial work is distributed among separate units responsible for five Zones into which the 29 constituent States and 7 Union Territories of the country are grouped for convenience of management. At the State level, the election work is supervised, subject to overall control of the Commission, by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State, who is appointed by the Commission from amongst senior civil servants of the State Government. The CEO has a core staff of 8-10 members available on full time basis. Field administration at the district and sub divisional levels in India is run by the District Magistrates (Deputy Commissioners/Collectors), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tehsildar etc. The Election Commission utilizes these State Government officers, for election work, by designating them as District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, etc. During election time, however, they are treated on deputation to ECI. The task force for conducting a countrywide general election at about 10,35,927 polling stations consists of nearly 11 million civilian and security personnel. During the election period a vast number of additional officers and staff are temporarily drafted who all work subject to supervision, direction, control and discipline of the Commission. They function mainly as polling and counting officials.

## 1.3 Past Elections

During the last 68 years, Commission has conducted 16 General Elections to the Lok Sabha and about 388 general elections to State Legislative Assemblies, apart from thousands of bye-elections, thus facilitating peaceful orderly and democratic transfer of power. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the Commission catered to an electorate of 834 million, larger than the total population of many continents. Total electorate as per current electoral roll stands at 900 million approx.

The smooth and peaceful change of Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, from the hands of one political party to another or from one alliance to another during the last 68 years bears ample testimony to the exemplary manner in which the Election Commission has discharged its onerous constitutional responsibility. This has won the



Commission not only the fullest confidence and faith of all stakeholders - political parties, candidates and millions of electors at large within the country, but also acclaim from the international community.

The 2014 Lok Sabha election received positive feedback from the national and international media, with their editorials praising the successful and peaceful conduct of elections in the country amidst the most challenging circumstances yet recording the highest ever voter turnout till date. Media was seen as an important ally in management of the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

#### **1.4 17th Lok Sabha Election, 2019**

With the announcement of General Elections 2019 the nation is heading towards the largest democratic and election management exercise in the world to elect its representatives to the 17th Lok Sabha covering the entire length and breadth of the country. Indian Elections receive attention not only from election managers, practitioners, public and media from within the country but internationally as well. It is reckoned as one of the major events in the democratic and electoral chronology of the Nation. Eleven million poll personnels, deployed to register the vote safely from the huge electorate sprawling through the diverse landmass of the country makes Indian Elections one of the largest events of the world. Certainly, its success in terms of election management, implementation of policies and guidelines in the finest manner, enforcement of MCC and expenditure control measures, voter awareness, education and electoral participation including all eligible electors depends on involvement of all and a wide variety of stakeholders, including the Media. Walking hand in hand with technological advancements with time and keeping the process explicable for all the vivid stakeholders make ECI's work more challenging where Media (Print, Electronic and New/Social) plays the role of an important ally to maintain the integrity and trust in this Democratic Electoral System.

The detailed Press Note issued on the occasion of the announcement of the General Election is annexed (page no.77) which includes the schedule and also all important aspects of management of this election.

## Role of Media in Elections

Elections are the hallmark of representative democracy, allowing the people's regular input in choices about leaders and policies. Election management in the country has undergone a significant shift in recent times with new methods and mechanisms having come in place to deal with new and complex challenges. Simultaneously, the evolving socio-economic background and information habits of the Indian society indicate significant media penetration and consumption. The level of awareness among voters has increased. The appearance and entrenchment of internet and new media, particularly the social media have added completely new dimensions. Thus at election time, it becomes imperative that the media provides people with all information necessary to make informed choices.

Indian media is Commission's strength and ally in election management. It is a source of Commission's power and a catalyst of its Constitutional mandate for over 68 years. Its role is important in dissemination of critical information during electoral process and in the field, it is the Commission's eyes and ears-in MCC violations and other matters. Media facilitates transparency, informed choice through debates and analysis. The Commission seeks to facilitate the legitimate role of media in elections. The election machinery has been instructed to provide access to media wherever due and to make sure that the flow of information to the press is done efficiently and on a sustained basis. The media on its part extensively covered each and every aspect of the election through a wide variety of formats for the benefit of the people.

ECI notes with admiration the impressive social agenda and public causes that media has often espoused and in this context looks up to media for making greater participation of citizens in elections a complete reality. Commission feels the need for more active and voluntary efforts from the media in this regard.

### 2.1 Information Dissemination

Information dissemination in relation to elections, particularly during the process of elections is extremely important for all stakeholders. Starting from the announcement of elections to nomination, scrutiny, campaign, security arrangements, polling, counting, declaration of results etc., all of these require widest circulation. The voter comes to know about the basics like: what, when, where and how of elections generally through the media. Even last minute changes of polling arrangements, violation of MCC, and violation of expenditure instructions, any untoward incidents or disturbances promptly come to the notice not only of the people but also of the Commission through the 24x7 media. Newspapers and news channels have very enthusiastically made use of the information relating to educational, financial and criminal antecedents of the candidates, contained in the affidavit filed by them along with their nomination paper, which is immediately uploaded on the Election Commission's website. This has contributed to further honesty and transparency in the election system.

## 2.2 Enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and other Laws

In today's democratic and political landscape, the watch-dog role of the media is quite vital. Media can highlight (bring into public notice) incidents of misuse of muscle and money power by political parties or candidates and educate the electors on ethical and inducement free voting practices. It can also expose violations of the Model Code such as divisive or hate speeches fake news, disinformation or unverified allegations in campaigns aimed at influencing electors. Violations reported by media are followed up by the Commission as in dealing with formal complaints. In the last Assembly Elections through Cvigil Applications a number of MCC violation cases were registered. The media can sensitize the political functionaries and the electorate about the MCC and relevant laws and instructions governing the conduct of elections.

## 2.3 Compliance

Election Commission does not regulate media. It has however, the responsibility/power to enforce the provisions of law or Court directions, which might have linkages with media or certain aspects of media functioning. During elections, media is present and active at all stages which would also mean that they too conform to various laws governing the elections. These laws are :



Section 126. Prohibition of public meeting during period of forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll-

- (1) No person shall-
  - (a).....
  - (b) Display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus;
  - (c).....

In any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(3) In this Section, the expression “election matter” means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election.

**Section 126A of the RP Act, 1951** – It prohibits conduct of Exit poll and dissemination of their results during the period mentioned therein, i.e. the hour fixed for commencement of polls in the first phase and half an hour after the time fixed for close of poll for the last phase in all the States.

**Section 127A(1)** – The printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters, etc. is governed by its provisions, which make it mandatory to bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher.

**Section 127A(2)** – No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster-

- (a) unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate; and
- (b) unless, within a reasonable time after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document-
  - (i) where it is printed in the capital of the State, to the Chief Electoral Officer, and
  - (ii) in any other case, to the district magistrate of the district in which it is printed.

Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of the sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to INR 2000 or with both.

### **Penal / Legal Provisions**

**IPC 153 A:** Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc. and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

**IPC 505(2):** Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

**IPC 171H:** Whoever without the authority in writing of a candidate incurs or authorises expenses on account of the holding of any public meeting, or upon any advertisement, circular or publication, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of such candidate, shall be punished with fine.

**Section 125 of RP Act 1951:** Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.

### **Recommendations for Amendment to Section 126 of the RP Act 1951.**

ECI constituted a Committee to review the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951. The Committee submitted its report on 10th January 2019 on the basis of which the Commission vide its letter dated 17th January, 2019 proposed to Ministry of Law & Justice some amendments to this Section.

“126. Prohibition of public meetings during period of forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll.-


(1) No person shall-

- (b) publish, publicise or disseminate any election matter by means of print or electronic media; or through intermediaries or through any other means; or

(2A) No court shall take cognisance of any offence punishable under sub-Section

- (1) unless there is a complaint made by order of, or under authority from, the Election Commission or the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned.

Explanation.-For the purposes of this Section,-

- 
- (a) “disseminate” includes publication in any “print media” or broadcast or display on any electronic media.
  - (b) “election matter” means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election...’
  - (c) “electronic media” includes internet, radio and television, including Internet Protocol Television, satellite, terrestrial or cable channels, or internet/digital versions of Print Media, mobile and such other media either owned by the Government or private person or by both;
  - (d) “intermediaries” shall be as defined in Section 2(w) of the Information Technology Act, 2000;
  - (e) “print media” includes any newspaper, magazine or periodical, poster, placard, handbill or any other document;”

[The existing sub-section (3) has been proposed to be deleted and in its place the Explanation clause has been proposed as above]

## 2.4 Voter Education and Participation

There is scope for a much larger and committed partnership from media in the crucial area of voter awareness and participation. This is one of the most promising areas of the ECI-Media relationship.

There is a gap between what the voters ‘should know’ and what they ‘actually know’ in important areas like registration, EPIC/ or other identity proofs to carry on the poll day, Polling Station location, assistance & facilities available for them, use of EVMs and VVPATs, timings of the poll, misuse of money/ muscle power by candidates etc. The elector should be well-informed when he/ she goes to exercise his/ her franchise on the day of the polls.


Voter education helps build an environment where values of democracy are understood and acted upon by the population. Media and civil society have an important role to play in fostering such an environment. To improve participation of all sections of the electorate, awareness levels need to be enhanced, especially amongst the freshly eligible youth, uneducated, residents of far-flung, inaccessible and remote areas, and socially and economically weaker sections of the society. Such segments need to be reached through the Media, apart from civil society and field based organizations. ECI has a framework of engagement for working in close alliance with Media Organisations in this important area of voter participation through accessible information and awareness generation. Commission expects that the vibrant Indian Media should volunteer to take up this task of informing, motivating and facilitating citizens to take part in the democratic elections.

In some of the recent General Elections, media houses have joined ECI’s efforts wholeheartedly to campaign for higher participation of people and making the electoral process inclusive and successful.

## 2.5 Responsibility of Government Media (Public Service Broadcasters)

In broadcast of election related news or analysis, Public Service Broadcasters are expected to lead by example in terms of neutrality and objectivity, and adhere to various guidelines including their own.

Election Commission has a fruitful arrangement with Prasar Bharati in providing free broadcast time on All India Radio and Doordarshan to Recognised National and State political parties so as to ensure a level playing field in elections. The political parties in this manner can reach out to every corner of the country, even in the remotest parts. In addition to this, Prasar Bharati's contribution in spreading voter awareness and educating the public about their voting rights and responsibilities would be of great consequence to the inclusion of all in the electoral process. The contribution of Prasar Bharati has come in good measure in this arena. ECI believes that this contribution has potential of even higher value in terms of performing their responsibility as the forth pillar of democracy. The Commission also urges Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, National Film Development Corporation, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama Division and many other Central and State Information Directorates/ Departments like Directorate of Information and Public Relations to come forward and share the same responsibility.




**Dear Voters**

Any of the following documents can be used as your identity proof at the polling station in the forthcoming elections:

**Photo identity documents**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ VOTER ID CARD (EPIC)</li> <li>✓ Aadhaar Card</li> <li>✓ MNREGA Job Card</li> <li>✓ Passbooks issued by Bank/Post Office with photo</li> <li>✓ Driving License</li> <li>✓ Service Identity Cards issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PAN Card</li> <li>✓ PASSPORT</li> <li>✓ Pension Document with photo</li> <li>✓ Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR</li> <li>✓ Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour,</li> <li>✓ Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs</li> </ul>
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**#overseas electors shall have to produce their original passport only for identification at the polling station**

**PHOTO VOTER SLIP SHALL BE USED FOR GUIDANCE BUT NOT AS IDENTITY PROOF IN POLLING STATION. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO CARRY YOUR VOTER ID CARD OR ANY OF THE ELEVEN ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS AS MENTIONED.**



**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

<https://eci.gov.in> [www.facebook.com/ECI/](https://www.facebook.com/ECI/) [www.youtube.com/eci/](https://www.youtube.com/eci/)

**#GoVerify CALL 1950**





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# Important Instructions and Guidelines



## 3.1 Guidelines on Election Coverage in Print Media\*

ECI recognizes the significance, widespread reach and substantial impact of Media in the coverage of elections. Attention of all media is also drawn to the following guidelines issued by Press Council of India (PCI) to follow for observance during the elections:

- i. It will be the duty of the Press to give objective reports about elections and the candidates. The newspapers are not expected to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate/party or incident during the elections. In practice, two or three closely contesting candidates attract all the media attention. While reporting on the actual campaign, a newspaper may not leave out any important point raised by a candidate and make an attack on his or her opponent.
- ii. Election campaign along communal or caste lines is banned under the election rules. Hence, the Press should eschew reports, which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between people on the ground of religion, race, caste, community or language.
- iii. The Press should refrain from publishing false or critical statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of any candidate or his candidature, to prejudice the prospects of that candidate in the elections. The Press shall not publish unverified allegations against any candidate/party.
- iv. The Press shall not accept any kind of inducement, financial or otherwise, to project a candidate/party. It shall not accept hospitality or other facilities offered to them by or on behalf of any candidate/party.
- v. The Press is not expected to indulge in canvassing of a particular candidate/party. If it does, it shall allow the right of reply to the other candidate/party.
- vi. The Press shall not accept/publish any advertisement at the cost of public exchequer regarding achievements of a party/ government in power.
- vii. The Press shall observe all the directions/ orders/instructions of the Election Commission/Returning Officers or Chief Electoral Officer issued from time to time.

\* From Press Council of India guidelines relating to election coverage from PCI website: [presscouncil.nic.in](http://presscouncil.nic.in), ECI's Compendium of Instructions Edition II, 2019 and ECI's press note No. ECJ/PN/36/2019 dated 23rd March 2019.


### 3.2 Guidelines for Election Broadcasts\*



Availability of accurate, objective and complete information to enable citizens to exercise their franchise, based upon a well informed choice, is the basic requirement of free and fair elections. In this regard, NBSA has issued guidelines for observance during the elections. The purpose of the following guidelines is to ensure that broadcast of news and current affairs programmes and all other content on a news channel pertaining to elections and election related matters is fair and balanced, that is being objective, accurate and duly verified:

- i. News broadcasters should endeavour to inform the public in an objective manner, about relevant electoral matters, political parties, candidates, campaign issues and voting processes as per rules and regulations laid down under The Representation of the People Act 1951 and by the Election Commission of India.
- ii. News channels shall disclose any political affiliations, either towards a party or candidate. Unless they publicly endorse or support a particular party or candidate, news broadcasters have a duty to be balanced and impartial, especially in their election reporting.
- iii. News broadcasters must endeavour to avoid all forms of rumor, baseless speculation and disinformation, particularly when these concern specific political parties or candidates. Any candidate/political party, which has been defamed or is a victim of misrepresentation, misinformation or other similar injury by broadcast of information should be afforded prompt correction, and where appropriate granted an opportunity of reply.
- iv. News broadcasters must resist all political and financial pressures which may affect coverage of elections and election related matters.
- v. News broadcasters should maintain a clear distinction between editorial and expert opinion carried on their news channels.
- vi. News broadcasters that use video feed from political parties should disclose it and appropriately tagged.
- vii. Special care must be taken to ensure that every element of news/ programmes dealing with elections and election related matters is accurate on all facts relating to events, dates, places and quotes. If by mistake or inadvertence any inaccurate information is broadcast, the broadcaster must correct it as soon as it comes to the broadcaster's notice with the same prominence as was given to the original broadcast.
- viii. News broadcasters, their journalists and officials must not accept any money, or valuable gifts, or any favour that could influence or appear to influence, create a conflict of interest or damage the credibility of the broadcaster or their personnel.
- ix. News broadcasters must not broadcast any form of 'hate speech' or other obnoxious content that may lead to incitement of violence or promote public unrest or disorder as election campaigning based on communal or caste factors is prohibited under Election Rules. News broadcasters should strictly avoid reports which tend

\* Guidelines issued by NBSA on 3rd March, 2014 & 24th March, 2014.



to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among people, on the ground of religion, race, caste, community, region or language.

- x. News broadcasters are required to scrupulously maintain a distinction between news and paid content. All paid content should be clearly marked as “Paid Advertisement” or “Paid Content”: and paid content must be carried in compliance with the “Norms & Guidelines on Paid News” dated 24.11.2011 issued by NBA.
- xi. Special care must be taken to report opinion polls accurately and fairly, by disclosing to viewers as to who commissioned, conducted and paid for the conduct of the opinion polls and the broadcast. If a news broadcaster carries the results of an opinion poll or other election projection, it must also explain the context, and the scope and limits of such polls with their limitations. Broadcast of opinion polls should be accompanied by information to assist viewers to understand the poll’s significance, such as the methodology used, the sample size, the margin of error, the fieldwork dates, and data used. Broadcasters should also disclose how vote shares are converted to seat shares.
- xii. The broadcasters shall not broadcast any “election matter” i.e. any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election, during the 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of poll in violation of Section 126(1) (b) of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
- xiii. The Election Commission of India (ECI) will monitor the broadcasts made by news broadcasters from the time elections are announced until the conclusion and announcement of election results. Any violation by member broadcasters reported to the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the Election Commission will be dealt with by the NBSA under its regulations.
- xiv. Broadcasters should, to the extent possible, carry voter education programmes to effectively inform voters about the voting process, the importance of voting, including how, when and where to vote, to register to vote and the secrecy of the ballot.
- xv. News broadcasters must not air any final, formal and definite results until such results are formally announced by the Election Commission of India, unless such results are carried with clear disclaimer that they are unofficial or incomplete or partial results or projections which should not be taken as final results.

#### **Advisory Regarding Programmes relating to Opinion Polls or other surveys relating to elections**

Further to Guidelines for Election Broadcasts dated 3.3.2014 and in view of recent disclosures in regard to the conduct of Opinion Polls, and in order to protect and preserve the credibility and integrity of Electronic Media, the NBSA advises the news broadcasters to adhere to the following aspects before broadcasting the program relating to Opinion Polls (in addition to Guideline 11 of the said Guidelines at page 21):

1. News broadcasters must conduct a proper due-diligence check in regard to the organizations/ agencies engaged or commissioned for conducting any opinion poll or other survey relating to elections;

2. News broadcasters must obtain and retain raw data pertaining to any opinion poll or other survey relating to elections from the organizations/ agencies engaged or commissioned for conducting such polls;
3. News broadcasters must conduct random or sample checks on the raw data pertaining to any opinion poll or other survey relating to elections in order to verify the authenticity of poll/ survey so conducted.

### 3.3 Code of Ethics for Social Media



Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMA) and Social Media Platforms (Google, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Sharechat, Tiktok) have submitted a “Voluntary Code of Ethics” to ensure free, fair & ethical usage of platforms, to maintain integrity of electoral process of general elections 2019. The Voluntary Code of Ethics came into immediate effect from the day it was presented to the Commission i.e. 20th March, 2019.

The code of ethics is a culmination of consistent effort of updating its mechanism and recommendations of the 14 member committee of ECI. The committee was constituted to review and suggest modifications to the provisions of the Section 126 and other sections of the RP Act 1951, provisions of Model Code of Conduct and other ECI instruction related to media.

#### **Voluntary Code of Ethics for the General Elections 2019**

##### **Preamble**

The Internet has created opportunities for all to access reliable information, seek out credible sources, and obtain relevant facts. The web’s openness has made these benefits available to all no matter who they are and where they are located.

This equally applies to elections, which are key to nurturing and strengthening a democratic culture. A free and fair election is the foundation of democracy. Access to reliable information and communication platforms via the Internet enables people to make informed choices in exercising their franchise during elections.

Keeping this context in mind and as per recommendations of the Sinha Committee Report, Participants recognise that while their products/services allow users to post content, the Participants are neither the author(s) nor the publisher(s) of such content. However, the Participants have together developed this ‘ Voluntary Code of Ethic for the General Elections 2019 (Code) and are committed to helping support such democratic processes by improving the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

The Participants recognize that their group companies provide and administer different products and services, each operating under different business models and technologies while having varying audiences. Therefore the Participants will endeavor to ensure that such products/ services meet the spirit of the Code while accounting for the diverse nature of the products/ services, which are governed by their respective product policies.

The Code shall apply within the existing legal framework in India. In case of any conflict between the voluntary framework and the existing legal framework, the legal framework will prevail.

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\* From ECI’s Order No. 437/TVs/(2014 (LS) dated 14,. March 2014




## Purpose of the Code

The purpose of this voluntary Code is to identify the measures that Participants can put in place to increase confidence in the electoral process. This is to help safeguard the products and/ or services of the Participants against misuse to vitiate the free and fair character of the 2019 General Elections in India.

## Commitments

The Participants will endeavor to meet, in good faith and to the best of their ability, the following commitments during the 2019 Lok Sabha General Elections in India:

1. Participants will endeavour to, where appropriate and keeping in mind the principle of freedom of expression, deploy appropriate policies and processes to facilitate access to information regarding electoral matters on their products and/ or services.
2. Participants will endeavour to voluntarily undertake information, education and communication campaigns to build awareness including electoral laws and other related instructions. Participants will also endeavour to impart training to the nodal officer at ECI on their products/ services, including mechanism for sending requests as per procedure established by law.
3. Participants and the Election Commission of India (ECI) have developed a notification mechanism by which the ECI can notify the relevant platforms of potential violations of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and other applicable electoral laws in accordance with procedures established by law. These valid legal orders will be acknowledged and/ or processed within 3 hours for violations reported under Section 126 as per the Sinha Committee recommendations. All other valid legal requests will be acted upon expeditiously by the Participants, based on the nature of reported violation.
4. Participants are creating/opening a high priority dedicated reporting mechanism for the ECI and appoint dedicated person(s) / teams during the period of General Elections to interface with and to exchange feedback as may assist with taking expeditious action upon receipt of such a lawful request, following due legal process, from the ECI.
5. Participants will provide a mechanism for relevant political advertisers, in accordance with their obligations under law, to submit pre-certificates issued by ECI and/ or Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) of the ECI in relation to election advertisements that feature names of political parties, candidates for the 2019 General Elections. Further, Participants shall expeditiously process/action paid political advertisements lawfully notified to Participants by the ECI that do not feature such certification.
6. Participants will commit to facilitating transparency in paid political advertisements, including utilising their pre-existing labels/ disclosure technology for such advertisements.
7. Participants will, pursuant to a valid request received from the ECI, via Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) provide an update on the measures taken by them to prevent abuse of their respective platforms.

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8. IMAI will coordinate with the Participants on the steps carried out under this Code and IMAI as well as Participants will be in constant communication with the ECI during the election period.

### **Entry into Force**

This Code will become effective and will enter into force on 20 March 2019 and will be in force for the duration of the 2019 Indian General Elections.

## **3.4 ECI's Guidelines on Social Media**

The advent of Social Media and instant messengers, smart phone applications is facilitating communication in a big way. ECI desires these platforms should not be misused for paid news, fake news, mis information and disinformation during the period of the elections.

Legal provisions relating to election campaigning apply to social media also in the same manner in which they apply to other forms of election campaigning in media.

### **Existing Guidelines:**

1. ECI issued Instructions with respect to use of Social Media in Election campaigning (on 25th Oct, 2013) –

- i. **Information to be given by candidates about their social media accounts**


Candidates are required to file affidavits in Form-26 at the time of filing of nominations. Detailed instructions and the format in which the affidavits have to be filled were issued vide the Commission's letter No. 3/4/2012/ SDR dated 24, August, 2012. Para 3 of this Form requires that email ID of the candidate, if any, should be communicated to the Commission in this Form. The Commission finds it necessary that authentic social media accounts of candidates should also be informed to the Commission. This information should be furnished in the said Para 3 as follows:-

“My contact telephone no.(s) is/are....., my email ID (if any) is ....., and my social media accounts (if any) are.....”

- ii. **Pre-certification of Political advertisements on social media.**

Every registered/ National and State political party and every contesting candidate proposing to issue advertisements on television channels and/ or on cable network or Social Media (Since social media websites are also electronic media by definition) will have to apply to Election Commission of India/ designated officer for pre-certification of all political advertisements on electronic media before the publication. It should be ensured that no political advertisements are released to any internet based media/ websites, including social media websites, by political parties/ candidates without pre-certification from competent authorities in the same format and following the same procedures as referred in the orders .

The commission has further clarified that any political content in the form



of messages/comments / photos / videos posted / uploaded on the blogs / self accounts on websites / social media will not be treated as political advertisements and therefore would not require pre-certification. However, advertisements issued in e-paper shall invariably require pre-certification by the concerned Committee.

- iii. **Expenditure on campaigning through internet including social media websites** : According to Section 77, sub section (1), of the RP Act,1951, every candidate is required to keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent between the date on which he has filed nomination and the date of declaration of the result thereof, both dates inclusive. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had directed in Common Cause Vs. Union of India in 2005 that political parties should also submit a statement of expenditure of elections to the ECI and such statements are required to be submitted within 75 days of Assembly elections and 90 days of Lok Sabha elections. It is obvious that expenditure on election campaign through any advertisement in social media is a part of all expenditure in connection with the elections.

For the sake of removing any ambiguity, it is hereby directed that candidates and political parties shall include all expenditure on campaigning, including expenditure on advertisements on social media, both for maintaining a correct account of expenditure and for submitting the statement of expenditure. This, among other things, shall include payments made to internet companies and websites for carrying advertisements and also campaign related operational expenditure on making of creative development of content, operational expenditure on salaries and wages paid to the team of workers employed by such candidates and political parties to maintain their social media accounts etc.

- iv. **Application of MCC to content on internet including social media**

The Model Code of Conduct remains in place during the elections in respect of political parties and candidates which remains in force from the date the elections are announced by the Commission till the completion of elections. It is clarified that the provisions of MCC and related instructions of the Commission issued from time to time shall also apply to the content being posted on the internet, including social media websites, by candidates and political parties.

The Commission instructed the CEOs (on 06.09.2016) of all States/UTs to be interactive and accessible with the stakeholders through activating their official accounts on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

2. Considering the regulatory need of social media content especially to stop any possible misuse of intermediary /social media platforms in the form of fake news, misinformation, disinformation, hate speech etc . in the interest of transparency and level playing field in the elections, ECI has updated its guidelines and instructions

for conducting free & fair elections. Besides including a social media expert at each District and State level MCMC a dedicated grievance mechanism has been constituted for the ongoing election process. ECI has directed to CEOs of All States/UTs on 23rd March 2019 regarding appointment of Nodal Officers at State level and the mechanism of an emergency channel for grievance redressal for violation of MCC on Social Media platform including three Nodal Officers nominated by ECI to escalate the complaint to the intermediary platform for expedite action.

### 3.5 Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC)

ECI initiated framework for establishment of MCMC after the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP © No. 6679/2004. (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vs. M/s Gemini TV Pvt. Ltd and Others) requiring the constitution of a committee for previewing, scrutinizing and verifying all advertisements and news contents of political nature by individual /contesting candidates/political parties/groups/ manifestations” before releasing it through electronic media. The Commission issued further modifications in guidelines time and again. A letter with detail instructions were issued to CEOs of all States and UTs on 27th August 2012 defining the purpose, mechanism and functions of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) in each district during election period related to take up the task of certification of political advertisements at various platforms of electronic media and keeping a check on the cases of Paid News.



Since social media websites are also electronic media by definition, therefore, these instructions of the Commission contained in its order No.509/75/2004/JS-1/4572 dated 15.04.2004 shall also apply to websites including social media websites and shall fall under the purview of pre-certification. Keeping in view the growing prominence, crucial role and impact of Social Media, ECI on 25th February 2019 directed to constitute MCMC including an intermediary expert (intermediary as defined in Section 2 (w) of IT Act 2000/Social Media Expert)

#### Functions & Composition:


The functions performed by the MCMC are;

- A. Certification of Political Advertisements.
- B. Examining complaints/issues of Paid News.
- C. Other functions of MCMC

The duties performed by the Media certification & Monitoring Committees at District and State Level will remain as it is mentioned in the Commission's guidelines dated 27th August, 2012. The reconstituted MCMC is as under:

#### 1. District Level Media certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC)

1.1 The District level MCMC shall be formed in each district with the following members:

- 
- (a) DEO/RO (of Parliamentary Constituency)
  - (b) ARO (not below SDM)
  - (c) An intermediary expert/Social media expert (to be chosen by the RO subject to the eligibility criteria)
  - (d) Central Govt. I & B Ministry official (if any in the district)
  - (e) Independent Citizen/Journalist as may be recommended by PCI
  - (f) DPRO/District Information Officer/equivalent – Member Secretary

1.2 For the purpose of the certification of advertisements as per the Supreme Court order dated 13.04.2004, Returning Officer of the parliamentary constituency/ District Election Officer, an ARO (not below SDM) and an Intermediary Expert/ Social Media Expert shall be the members of the MCMC.

### **Functions of the Committee**

This Committee shall have two distinct set of functions :

- i. Certification of Advertisements for which two specific members of MCMC i.e. RO & ARO shall have to consider and decide on such advertisements for certification from candidates/individual.
- ii. Examining complaints/issue Paid News etc. by all members through a monitoring as arrangement.


## **2. State level MCMC**

2.1 The State level MCMC shall comprise of the following officers: (Committee with first three officers is for certification and the full committee is for paid news cases)

- (a) The Chief Electoral Officer, Chairman
- (b) Any Observer appointed by the Election Commission of India
- (c) One expert to be co-opted by the Committee.
- (d) Officer of Indian Information Service (IIS), (at the level of US/ DS) posted in the State/UT, representing a media Department of Government of India as separate from the expert at (c) above.
- (e) Independent citizen or journalist as nominated by PCI (if any)
- (f) Addl/Jt CEO in charge of Media (Member Secretary)
- (g) An intermediary expert/Social media expert (to be chosen by the CEO subject to the eligibility criteria)

2.2 The State level MCMC shall perform two sets of functions:

- (i) Deciding appeal from both District and Addl/Jt CEO Committees on Certification of advertisement as per the aforesaid Commission order dated 15th April 2004.

- 
- (ii) Examining all cases of Paid News on appeal against the decision of District MCMC or cases that they may take up suo motu, in which case it shall direct the concerned ROs to issue notices to the candidates.

This Committee entertains the application for certification received from all registered political parties having their headquarters in that State/UT, all group of organisations or associates or persons having their registered office in that State/UT.

### **3. Addl/Joint CEO's Committee on Certification (State Level Certification Committee):**

3.1 The Addl/Joint CEO State level Certification Committee shall comprise of the following officers :

- a) The Additional/Joint Chief Electoral Officer - Chairperson
- b) Returning Officer of any Parliamentary constituency located in the capital of the State.
- c) One expert being an officer not below the rank of Class-I officer to be requisitioned from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- d) One intermediary expert/social media expert as chosen by the chairperson of the committee subject to the eligibility criteria.

The Committee will entertain applications for certification for advertisement on television channel and cable network by the following :

- a) All registered political parties having their headquarters in that State/Union Territory,
- b) All organisations or group of persons or associations having their registered offices in that State/Union Territory.

This committee shall have no jurisdiction over cases of Paid News.

#### **New addition to MCMC**

To enhance and strengthen the overall competence of the MCMC, ECI has directed (vide notification dated 25th February, 2019) to District and State level MCMCs to attach one intermediary/social media expert in each MCMC specifically to streamline the content spread through the umbrella of \*intermediary (as defined in section 2(w) of IT Act, 2000).

The intermediary expert/social media expert to be included in the MCMCs shall perform the following tasks:

- i. Assist the MCMC in the matter of certification of political advertisements proposed to be published on social media platforms
- ii. Assist MCMC in scanning social media platforms for suspected cases of Paid News
- iii. Assist MCMC in submitting a daily report to Accounting team with copy to RO and Expenditure Observer w.r.t. expenditure incurred by the candidate on election advertising on social media platforms

- ### A. Certification of Political Advertisements

The MCMC has the right to refuse to give certification of an advertisement, it does not find fit to be telecast. Appeal can be made against the decision of both district level MCMC and state level certification committee to state level MCMC headed by CEO of the State.

The pre-certification is based on Supreme Court's order of 13/04/2004 and ECI's instructions of 15/04/2004 produced as under:

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1. Any cable operator is prohibited from transmitting or re-transmitting any advertisement which is not in conformity with the prescribed programme code and advertisement code and is likely to promote enmity on grounds of “religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between religion, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities or which is likely to disturb public tranquility”.
2. Any advertisement carried in the cable service shall be designed so as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the subscribers.
3. No advertisement shall be permitted which derides any “race, caste, color, creed and nationality, is against any provision of the Constitution of India and tends to incite people to crime, cause disorder or violence or breach of law or glorifies violence or obscenity in any way”.

### **Timeline for application for certification:**

For registered National and State party and every contesting candidate, it should be not later than three days prior to the date of the proposed commencement of the telecast of the advertisement. In case of any other person or unregistered political parties, it should be not later than seven days prior to the date of the telecast.

Timeline for delivering the decision on the applications of precertification of political advertisements.

The commission vide its letter dated 10th March, 2016 clarified that, the State and District MCMC shall deliver the decision on the applications of pre- certification of political advertisements within two days of receipt of application.


To ensure that political advertisements do not incite any sentiment unfavorable for communal harmony, peace and level playing opportunity for candidates ECI through its central and state machinery has been reiterating time and again the order of Hon’ble Supreme Court (pertaining to Article 142) stating that rules for pre certification of political advertisement on electronic media will remain applicable throughout the country in all the time and not restricted to the period of election or MCC only.

### **B. Examining Complaints/Issues of Paid News**

Paid News is a complex menace for elections. Political parties and media groups had approached ECI requesting for strong steps against Paid News. Parliament also discussed the issue and there was consensus among all political parties in their meeting with the Commission on 4th October 2010 and again on 9th March, 2011 that stringent measures should be taken against Paid News.



Paid News has been defined by the Press Council of India as ***“Any news or analysis appearing in any media (Print & Electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration”***. Paid News seeks to circumvent election expenditure laws/ ceiling and causes undue influence on voters; also affects their Right to Information. Paid News misleads the public and hampers the ability of people to form correct opinions. It causes undue influence on voters and is also seen as an infringement of their Right to Information. Paid News seeks to circumvent election expenditure laws and adversely affects level playing field for all contesting candidates and parties.



An issue like Paid News disrupts the level playing field and circumvents election expenditure limits. This creates a hurdle for the Election Commission to conduct the smooth run-off elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. Thus to further strengthen its vigilance, the Commission have set up Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at District level and State Level to monitor media for Paid news and other violations besides certification of advertisements.

Any appeal against the decision of District level MCMC in matter of Paid News will be made to State level MCMC and any appeal against the decision of State level MCMC will be made to the Election Commission of India. The State level MCMC can also make a reference to the Commission for advice, if it deems it necessary. Wherever complaints on Paid News cases are made to the Commission directly, the Commission shall forward cases to the State level MCMC for initial consideration.

PCI guidelines about election news and advertising say that news should be clearly demarcated from advertisements by printing disclaimers, should be strictly enforced by all publications. As far as news is concerned, it must always carry a credit line and should be set in a typeface that would distinguish it from advertisements.

Revised and comprehensive guidelines on Paid News were issued vide Commission's circular dated 27th August 2012. MCMC has been given the responsibility to track Paid News and deal with it. According to this, in cases finally decided by District MCMC as paid news, it will inform the Expenditure Observer and accounting team for calculating the expenditure on Paid News at DIPR rate, (in absence of DIPR rate, DAVP rate shall be used) and further necessary action will be taken. DEOs strictly monitor campaign through print/ electronic media. They are instructed to take meeting with political parties and media house to brief them against surrogate advertising and media related provisions of the R P Act, Paid News and consequences of violation.

Weekly report on Paid News is to be submitted by CEO to ECI and copies of notices on Paid News are displayed on Notice Board of RO and DEO's website.

Paid News cases related to Print Media are sent by ECI to PCI and those related to Electronic Media are referred to NBSA. The names of concerned candidates are put on the website of Chief Electoral Officers of respective states.

ECI has proposed an amendment in the RP Act, 1951, to provide therein that publishing and a betting the publishing of 'paid news' for furthering the prospect of election of any candidate or for prejudicially affecting the prospect of election of any candidate be made an electoral offence under chapter-III of Part-VII of RP Act, 1951, with punishment of a minimum of two years imprisonment.

(see Status of Paid News Cases in chapter 8. IV page 66 )

### **C. Other functions assigned to MCMC:**

- Scan the political advertisements in electronic media for checking if the telecast/ broadcast has been done only after certification by the Committee.
- Monitoring the political advertisements in other media, in relation to candidates either overt or covert from expenditure monitoring angle. This will also include publicity or advertisement or appeal by or on behalf of candidate, or by Star Campaigner(s) or others to impact candidate's electoral prospects.

- Monitoring if any advertisement in print media is published with the consent or knowledge of candidate: in which case it will be accounted for in the election expenses of the candidate(s). However if the advertisement is not with the authority from the candidate, then action may be taken for prosecution of the publisher for violation of 171H of IPC.
- Checking if the names and address of the publisher and the printer are carried on any election pamphlet, poster, handbill and other documents as required under section 127A of RP Act, 1951.
- Submission of daily report to Accounting team with a copy to RO and Expenditure Observer in respect of each candidate in the prescribed format w.r.t expenditure incurred by the candidate on election advertising or actual expenditure incurred for publishing the news.

For this purpose and also to track Paid News which is discussed in details in following pages, two additional members are co-opted in district level MCMC. When PCI does not nominate a member to the District MCMC, DEO nominates a journalist/ independent citizen to the MCMC with the approval of CEO. If PCI does not provide names to be included in the State level Committee, CEO may himself appoint either an independent senior citizen or journalist, who is willing and who, in the opinion of the CEO, is eligible in terms of background and record of neutrality.

The MCMC intimates the Returning Officer for issue of notices to candidates for inclusion of notional expenditure based on standard rate cards of DAVP/ DIPR in their election expenses account, even if, they actually do not pay any amount to the channel/ newspaper. This will also include publicity by or on behalf of candidate by Star Campaigner(s) or others, to impact his electoral prospects.

Any political party or candidate can make an appeal against the order of District level MCMC to State level MCMC.


It is clarified that as regards the certification, the appeal from both District and Addl. Jt. CEO Committee will lie only with and will be disposed of by the State level Committee headed by CEO as per Commission's Order dated 15th April, 2004 and no reference in this regard needs to be made to the Commission.

Any appeal against the decision of the State level MCMC in matter of Paid News (headed by CEO) will be made to the Election Commission of India. The State level MCMC can also make a reference to the Commission for advice, if it deems it necessary. Wherever complaints on Paid News cases are made to the Commission directly, the Commission shall forward cases to the State level MCMC for initial consideration .

### 3.6 Restriction on Exit Poll and Opinion Poll

#### Provisions under RP Act, 1951

1. Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prohibits displaying any election matter ("election matter" means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election) by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

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2. During this prohibited period no person shall display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar app apparatus. This would automatically cover any publication of opinion poll.
  3. Any person who contravenes the provisions of act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or both.

### **Ban on Exit Poll**

The Commission, in exercise of the power conferred by Section 126A of RP Act, 1951 notifies the period between which conduct of any exit poll and publication and dissemination of result of such exit poll is banned. This prohibited period is as follows:

- (a) ban on exit polls starts from the commencement of the poll and continues till half an hour after closing of the poll in an election held in a single phase; and
- (b) in multi-phased election, and in the case of elections in different States announced simultaneously, the ban on exit polls starts from the date and the time of commencement of the poll on the first day of poll and continues till half an hour after closing of the poll on the last day of poll in all the state.

### **Opinion Poll**


Under Section 126(1) (b) of the R P Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, is prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for closing of poll in any polling area. Besides, Commission has circulated for compliance, NBSA broadcasting guidelines dated 3rd March, 2014 and 24th march, 2014 which have stipulations regarding publishing of opinion polls.

### **3.7 Scheme of Broadcasts on AIR and Doordarshan by recognized Political Parties during Elections to the Lok Sabha/ State Assemblies\***

General Election to Lok Sabha and certain State Legislative Assemblies 2019 - Telecast/ Broadcast facility to political parties during elections

1. At the time of General Election to Lok Sabha, in February, 1998 the Election Commission of India had taken up a new initiative for state funding of recognized political parties, through free use of state owned Television and Radio under directions of the Commission (vide order No. ECI/GE98/437/MCS/98 dated 16th January 1998).
2. The scheme was discussed in detail with representative of all National and State recognized political parties on the eve of the Lok Sabha Election in 1998. All the parties welcomed the proposed of the Election Commission of India. The Commission in comprehensive consultation with the Prasar Bharti Corporation, Doordarshan and All India Radio gave the operational parameters of the scheme.
3. The said scheme was subsequently extended in all the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 and General Elections to the State Assemblies, held after 1998.

\* From ECI's order No 437/TVs/2014(LS)dated 14th March, 2014

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4. With the amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1951, vide Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 and the rules notified there under, equitable time-sharing for campaigning by recognized political parties on electronic media now has statutory basis. In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (a) of the Explanation below section 39A of the Representation of the People Act 1951 the Central Government has notified all such broadcasting media which are owned or controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided to them by Central Government as the electronic media for the purpose of that section. The Commission has, therefore, now decided in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to extend the scheme of equitable time sharing on electronic media through Prasar Bharti Corporation to the ensuing General Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of certain (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim) States 2019.
  5. Accordingly, the Commission has hereby directed as follows: -

**Parties eligible for Telecast/Broadcast facility:**

- i. The above facility of use of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) shall be available in connection with the forthcoming General Elections to the House of People and Legislative Assemblies of certain states, only to those seven (7) National Parties and 52 State Parties, which are at present recognized as such National or State Parties, under the provision of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 and whose names are shown in the list annexed hereto as Annexure-I. This facility will not be available to registered-unrecognised political parties or any independent candidates.

**Total time allotted for Telecast/broadcast:**


- ii. The Prasar Bharti Corporation shall set apart

**On Doordarshan**

- a. A total of not less than 10 hours of telecasting time on the National channel of the Doordarshan for telecasts by the National Parties.
- b. A total of not less than 15 hours of telecasting time on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras, for telecasts by the National Parties.
- c. A total of not less than 30 hours of telecasting time on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras, for telecasts by the State Parties and
- d. A total of 8 hour 40 minutes of telecasting time through the regional Satellite services channel available to viewers across the whole country.

**On All India Radio**

- a. A total of not less than 10 hours of broadcasting time on the National hookup of the All India Radio for broadcasts by the National Parties.
- b. A total of not less than 15 hours of broadcasting time on the regional Air Stations, for broadcasts by the National Parties.

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- c. A total of not less than 30 hours of broadcasting time on the Regional AIR Stations of the All India Radio for broadcasts by the State Parties and
  - d. A total of 8 hour 40 minutes of broadcasting time on the National hookup of All India Radio broadcasts by the State Parties.

#### **Allocation of Time to each party**

- iii. Each National and State party shall be allotted time for telecasts over Doordarshan and broadcasts on All India Radio, according to the following parameters: -

#### **For National Parties:**

- (a) Of the ten hours telecasting/broadcasting time reserved over the National channel/hookup of DD/AIR for the National Parties, 45 (forty five) minutes shall be allotted to each of the 7 National parties, i.e. a total of five hours and fifteen minutes (5-15 hrs), each on the DD & AIR Separately;
- (b) The remaining four hours and forty five minutes (4 hrs., 45 minutes) telecasting/ broadcasting time shall be further divided among the seven National parties, according to the percentage of votes polled by each such party, at the last General Election to the House of People held in 2014.
- (c) In addition, each National party shall be allotted one and a half times of the total time allotted to it under sub-paras (a) and (b) above, for telecasts/broadcasts on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras/Regional AIR Station;
- (d) Of the total time so allotted to each National Party under sub-para (c), each such party shall have the option to utilise the time so allotted on any of the Regional Doordarshan Kendra/State Capital AIR Station: provided that not more than one-tenth (1/10th) of such time shall be utilised by it at any one Regional Doordarshan Kendras/AIR Stations;

#### **For State Parties:**

- (a) Of the total time of thirty (30) hours reserved for telecasting/broadcasting by the State parties on the Regional DD Kendras/Regional AIR Stations, each of 52 State Parties shall be allotted thirty (30) minutes i.e. a total of twenty six (26) hours, each on DD and AIR separately;
- (b) The remaining twelve hours and four hours (4 hours) telecasting/broadcasting time for parties shall be further divided among the said 52 State Parties, according to the percentage of votes polled by each such party in the State(s) in which it is recognized, at the last General Election to the House of the People held in 2014.
- (c) In addition, each State Party shall be allotted 10 minutes telecasting/broadcasting time on Regional Satellite Services channel of DD available to viewers across the whole country and the National hookup of AIR.



### **Time Vouchers for Parties**

- iv. Each party shall be given time vouchers of denomination of 5 minutes and fraction of 4, 3, 2 & 1 minute(s) equal to the total time allotted to it for telecasts on Doordarshan and Broadcasts on AIR. That Party shall have the discretion to choose and representatives and allow them to use those time vouchers, provided that no such individual representative shall be allowed to use more than 20 minutes of the total time allotted to that party, either on Doordarshan or on AIR.

### **Date of Telecasts/Broadcasts**


- (v) The above telecasts/broadcasts shall span between the last date of nominations for the first phase and two days prior to the last of the dates of poll anywhere in India in case of Parliamentary elections, and the relevant State or States where elections for the respective State Assemblies are also being held simultaneously. The Prasar Bharati Corporation, in consultation with the Commission, will decide and announce the days of the week and the time slots during which these telecasts/broadcasts will be made.
- (vi) The actual date and time during which the above telecasts/broadcasts will be made by the authorized representatives of any party shall be predetermined, by lot, by the Prasar Bharti Corporation, in consultation with the Commission.
- (vii) While deciding about such Dates and Time, it shall be ensured that fairness and equity is maintained as far as possible and having due regard to the technical constraints in regard to the occasion and time for the telecasts/broadcasts by such parties.

### **Guidelines for observance in Telecasts/Broadcasts**

- (viii) The telecasts/broadcasts on Doordarshan/AIR will not permit;
  - (a) Criticism of other countries;
  - (b) Attack on religions or communities;
  - (c) Anything obscene or defamatory;
  - (d) Incitement of violence
  - (e) Anything amounting to contempt of court
  - (f) Aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
  - (g) Anything affecting the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the Nation;
  - (h) Any criticism by name of any persons.

### **Submission of Transcripts in advance**

- (ix) The parties or their representatives shall have to submit, in advance, within the time frame as indicated by the Prasar Bharati Corporation on account of technical constrains, the transcripts of their telecasts/broadcasts to the authorities specified in this behalf by the Prasar Bharati Corporation.



Parties can have their transcripts, after approval, recorded at their cost in Private Studios, Meeting required technical standards of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, provided that the symbol of the party with a wide background can be shown in any video recording. In case they require facilities of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, both Doordarshan and All India Radio, they will give sufficient advance notice to the concerned Station Director to make necessary arrangements.

### **Panel Discussions and Debate**

- (x) In addition to the above-mentioned Party telecasts/broadcasts, the Prasar Bharati Corporation may organise a maximum of two national panel discussion/debates on the national channel of Doordarshan and All India Radio. Each nationally recognized Party can nominate one representative to such programmes. The Election Commission of India will approve the names of moderators for such panel discussion and debates in consultation with the Prasar Bharati Corporation.
- (xi) In the State, where Assembly elections are also being held simultaneously, similar debates and panel discussions may be arranged from the Regional Kendras of Doordarshan and All India Radio of elections to the concerned State Assemblies. In these programmes, the concerned State recognized parties will be permitted to participate.

### **Powers of the Election Commission to remove Difficulties**

- 6. Notwithstanding anything contained in Para 6, the Election Commission may issue each further directions and instructions: -
  - (a) for the clarification of any of the provisions of this Order; or
  - (b) for the removal of any doubt which may arise in relation to the implementation of any such provision; or
  - (c) in relation to any matter with respect to the allotment of time to, or utilization of time by, any recognized National or State Party, for which this order makes no provision or makes insufficient provision, necessary for the smooth and orderly implementation of the scheme covered by this Order.
  - (d) the time allocated to the National and State Parties, has been worked out and annexed hereto as Annexure I, II, III & IV.

# **GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2019**

## **Time available to National Parties on National Channel/Hook-Up of Doordarshan/All India Radio**

S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
1	<b>BSP</b>	64	64	12 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	12 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
2	<b>BJP</b>	184	184	36 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	36 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
3	<b>CPI</b>	48	48	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
4	<b>CPI(M)</b>	60	60	12 (5 minutes each)	12 (5 minutes each)
5	<b>INC</b>	131	131	26 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	26 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
6	<b>NCP</b>	52	52	10 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	10 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
7	<b>AITC</b>	61	61	12 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	12 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>

## **GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2019**

### **Time available to National Parties on Regional Kendras of Doordarshan/All India Radio**


S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
1	<b>BSP</b>	96	96	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
2	<b>BJP</b>	276	276	55 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	55 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
3	<b>CPI</b>	72	72	14 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minute)	14 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minute)
4	<b>CPI(M)</b>	90	90	18 (5 minutes each)	18 (5 minutes each)
5	<b>INC</b>	197	197	39 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minute)	39 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minute)
6	<b>NCP</b>	78	78	15 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	15 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
7	<b>AITC</b>	92	92	18 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	18 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>

## **GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2019**


### **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Time Available to State Parties on Regional Kendras/ State Capital Kendras of Doordarshan/All India Radio**


S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
1	AAP	43	43	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
2	AIADMK	48	48	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
3	AIMIM	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
4	AINRC	44	44	8 (5 minutes each) 1 (4 minutes)	8 (5 minutes each) 1 (4 minutes)
5	AIFB	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
6	AIUDF	36	36	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
7	AJSU P	32	32	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
8	AGP	32	32	6 (5 minutes each) +(2 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +(2 minutes)
9	BoPF	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
10	BJD	48	48	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)



				minutes)	minutes)
11	DMK	39	39	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
12	DMDK	32	32	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
13	GFP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
14	HSPDP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
15	INLD	40	40	8 (5 minutes each)	8 (5 minutes each)
16	IUML	32	32	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
17	IPFT	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
18	J&K NC	34	34	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
19	J&K NPP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
20	J&K PDP	38	38	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
21	JD(S)	33	33	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)



22	JD(U)	36	36	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
23	JCC (J)	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
24	JMM	34	34	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
25	JVM(P)	35	35	7 (5 minutes each)	7 (5 minutes each)
26	KC(M)	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
27	LJSP	33	33	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
28	MG	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
29	MNS	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
30	MNF	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
31	MPC	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
32	NPF	46	46	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	9 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
33	NPP	39	39	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
34	NDPP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)



35	PMK	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
36	PDA	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
37	PDF	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
38	PPA	33	33	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
39	RLD	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
40	RLSP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
41	RJD	36	36	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
42	RSP	31	31	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
43	SP	39	39	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
44	SAD	41	41	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
45	SS	38	38	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
46	SDF	51	51	10 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	10 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
47	SKM	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)



48	TRS	36	36	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)	7 (5 minutes each) +1 (1 minute)
49	TD	42	42	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	8 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
50	UDP	34	34	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	6 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
51	YSRCP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
52	ZNP	30	30	6 (5 minutes each)	6 (5 minutes each)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>

## **GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2019**


### **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Time Available to State Parties on Regional Satellite Services**

#### **Channel of Doordarshan available to viewers across the whole**

#### **country and National hook-up of All India Radio**

S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers (5 Minutes)	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
1	AAP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
2	AIADMK	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
3	AIMIM	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
4	AINRC	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
5	AIFB	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
6	AIUDF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
7	AJSU P	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
8	AGP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
9	BoPF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
10	BJD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
11	DMK	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
12	DMDK	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
13	GFP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
14	HSPDP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
15	INLD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)



16	IUML	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
17	IPFT	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
18	J&K NC	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
19	J&K NPP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
20	J&K PDP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
21	JD(S)	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
22	JD(U)	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
23	JCC (J)	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
24	JMM	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
25	JVM(P)	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
26	KC(M)	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
27	LJSP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
28	MG	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
29	MNS	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
30	MNF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
31	MPC	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
32	NPF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
33	NPP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
34	NDPP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
35	PMK	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)

36	PDA	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
37	PDF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
38	PPA	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
39	RLD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
40	RLSP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
41	RJD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
42	RSP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
43	SP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
44	SAD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
45	SS	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
46	SDF	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
47	SKM	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
48	TRS	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
49	TD	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
50	UDP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
51	YSRCP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
52	ZNP	10	10	2 (5 minutes each)	2 (5 minutes each)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>520</b>

Guidelines for media coverage of elections have been framed to facilitate the media for adequate and effective coverage of the election process without impinging adversely on the rules for elections and the rights of the electorate.

#### 4.1 For coverage of process of elections

Subject to the powers of the authorities competent to impose any restriction in pursuit of the maintenance of law and order, the permission of ECI is not needed by any person, including media persons, for visiting and moving around in any constituency where election is being held and every person is free to observe the elections.

After the announcement of General Elections/ Bye-elections/ Biennial Elections, the Commission issues a letter or message to the Sponsoring Authorities for obtaining and forwarding, with specific recommendations, requests received from media persons for issue of Authority Letters for entry into polling stations and counting centres within a specified time limit. The sponsoring authorities will include

1. Principal Information Officer [now Principal Director General (Media & Communication)], for media persons accredited by PIB at national level and
2. The Director Information and Public Relations (or equivalent officer) of the respective states including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Chief Electoral Officers of the State/ Union Territories concerned


#### 4.2 Issue of Authority Letters/ Media Passes

The sponsoring organisation will sponsor only names of those media-persons; about whomsoever's identity as a genuine media-person they are satisfied. The total number of media-persons recommended for issue of authority letters/ media passes will be within reasonable numbers to be decided by

ECI or by an authority on its behalf. The Commission issues authority letters in advance to all the states and UTs as per expected requirements during election, to avoid eleventh hour rush. CEOs have to forward only the names of the media representatives to whom authority letters are to be issued along with their recommendations to the Commission for its approval. The procedures mentioned below are followed in this regard:

- a) The Commission will prescribe in the case of each election a deadline for the receipt in the Commission's Office of the duly sponsored list of media persons from the sponsoring authorities/ CEOs which will be fixed after taking into account the date of poll/ counting with a view to take timely decision on such requests to reach the Pr. DG and CEOs for preparation and dispatch of authority letters to the

\*From ECI's Compendium of Instructions on Elections Edition 14 2019 and ECI's Order No. 491/AL-INST(2014 (Communication) dated 18th March, 2014



media persons. The deadline to receive the dully sponsored requests shall not be later than 15 days prior to the date of poll.

- b) It will be for the sponsoring authorities/ CEOs to inform all media persons about the deadline fixed by the Commission in each case and to ensure that their recommendations reach the Commission within the deadline. Any request received after the deadline will be considered only in the exceptional cases of acts of God, death or illness etc. on the recommendation of the sponsoring authority concerned.
- c) In respect of media persons in Delhi, accredited to the PIB, written requests for authority letters should be sponsored by the Pr. DG (M&C) and a consolidated list sent to the Commission directly by Pr. DG (M&C) within the stipulated time limit.
- d) For other media-persons at Delhi accredited by the State DIPR but not accredited by PIB, similar recommendations will be made by the said Director to the Commission within the stipulated date, in consultation with CEO Delhi.
- e) In case of media persons outside Delhi, their requests should be duly scrutinized and sponsored by the DIPR or equivalent (by whatever name known in a State/ Union Territory) and should be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer who after such consultation with the State Directors, I&PR concerned, forward consolidated list to ECI within the stipulated time.
- f) In addition to accredited correspondents other genuine media persons can also be sponsored for issue of authority letters. It is up to the Pr. DG (M&C) and concerned State DIPR to scrutinize and sponsor names of such media persons and to lay down appropriate policies including providing temporary or casual accreditation, even for the limited period of the covering the election process. Election Commission will, however consider only such cases as are duly recommended by the concerned sponsoring authority.
- g) No piece-meal requests from the sponsoring authorities/ CEOs will be entertained.
- h) There will be no restriction on the number of constituencies which an applicant may like to cover. For electronic media team with more than one person each individual member will need a separate authority letter.
- i) The Commission will normally not entertain any requests directly from any person, agency for mediajnews coverage.
- j) Authority letters issued will be subject to the conditions imposed by the Commission as are mentioned on the authority letters. Any violation of such condition will automatically invalidate the authority letter.
- k) The DEO has been delegated with the power of signing the authority letters given to media persons in the district.

[illegible]

**Terms and Conditions for the use of this Authority Letter are given below:**

1. This authority letter is issued subject to the specific condition that the bearer of this authority letter shall, at all times, obey all directions of the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officer, Presiding Officer, Polling Officer, Magistrates and Police Officers on duty.
2. This authority letter is not transferable and shall be used only by the person named overleaf. The Presiding Officer shall satisfy himself about the identity of the holder of the authority letter. Use of this by any person other than the one named herein is a serious offence and would make the offender liable to appropriate legal action.
3. The person should carry photo identity card and visiting card issued by the organisation which he / she represents for easy identifications.
4. Media persons entering inside the Polling Stations should not access any restricted document or interview anybody or create any disorder.
5. Under Section 131 (1) (b) of R.P. Act, 1951 acting in disorderly manner at the Polling Stations is punishable with imprisonment extending upto 3 months with fine or both.
6. No interview etc. can be taken in 'no Campaign Zone' i.e., within the 100 meter perimeter of Polling Stations or the Poll day.

<b>ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA</b>		<b>List of Constituencies</b>				
	State	No.	Name of Constituency			

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">AUTHORITY LETTER</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">(For entry/-entry into Counting Centres)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">NOT TRANSFERABLE</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">(Not valid without seal and signature of the Issuing Authority)</p> <hr/> <p>No. E/C - _____</p> <hr/> <p>In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule (3) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the Election Commission hereby authorises the entry / re-entry of:</p> <p>Shri / Smt. / Ktm. _____</p> <p>Representing _____</p> <p>in/candidate _____ (in words).</p> <hr/> <p>Canting Centres as specified in the table below at the General Elections / Bye-elections to the House of the People / Legislative Assemblies.</p>  <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <span style="margin-right: 10px;">4/Number of/</span> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 100px;"></div> </div>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> <p>Signature of the Officer _____</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: right;"> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>3 Not valid if personally signed by any officer other than those specified above. No facsimile signature permitted. • Deleter words not applicable</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">By order and under the authority of the Election Commission of India.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">SIGNATURE<sup>1</sup></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">SECRETARY**</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">or PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR GENERAL, Media &amp; Communications*</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Government of India</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">or CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER<sup>†</sup> of State / Union Territory</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> <p>Signature of the Officer _____</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: right;"> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>3 Not valid if personally signed by any officer other than those specified above. No facsimile signature permitted. • Deleter words not applicable</p> </div> </div>
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## Terms and Conditions for the use of this Authority Letter are given below:

1. This authority letter is issued subject to the specific condition that the bearer of this authority letter shall, at all times, obey all directions of the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Officer on duty at Counting Centre, Magistrates and Police Officers on duty.
2. This authority letter is not transferable and shall be used only by the person named overleaf. The RO/ARO in charge of counting shall satisfy himself about the identity of the holder of the authority letter. Use of this by any person other than the one named herein is a serious offence and would make the offender liable to appropriate legal action.
3. The person should carry photo identity card and visiting card issued by the organisation which he / she represents for easy identifications.



### 4.3 Coverage of actual polling inside the Polling Stations

Media persons with authority letters can be allowed to enter inside the polling station by the Presiding Officers after verification of such authority letters. However, they will be allowed inside in very small numbers in batches and the actual numbers will be determined taking into account the size of the room and the space available, the number of electors waiting to cast their votes and other relevant factors. The Presiding Officer will have full discretion regarding the entry of the media persons inside the polling booth. While allowing such media persons inside the polling station the Presiding Officer may also further regulate the actual coverage by indicating a definite position beyond which they should not proceed. No media person should photograph or videograph the scenes of any voter casting vote by covering the activities inside Voting Compartments which is violation of secrecy of vote.

It is expected that all media persons will extend necessary co-operation in this regard and under no circumstances, the process of polling will be allowed to be disturbed because of the large number of media persons present at a given time in a single booth. This will be ensured by each Presiding Officer in a suitable manner.

In short, for coverage of actual polling inside the polling station, the entry of media person inside the polling booth in manageable groups will be permitted by the Presiding Officer on the basis of authority letters issued by the Election Commission, subject to restriction that media persons will not be allowed to go near voting compartments to take photographs/ films so that the secrecy of the vote is not violated.

Representatives of the Government owned media like AIR and Doordarshan and the officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Press Information Bureau, Public Relations Departments, Directorates of Information and Field Publicity Units etc., either of the Central or any State Governments are not entitled to any special facilities or preferential treatment what so ever in the matter of entry into a place of polling or a place for counting. They are totally on par with other media persons and can be allowed entry only if they are in possession of a valid authority letter issued by the Commission. The same restrictions will apply to all foreign media/ journalists also.

### 4.4 Media Centres (MC)\*

Subject to availability and on payment of full charges these facilities can also be provided by the District Election Officer. Each State/Union Territory Government shall be free to decide the charges to be levied for various facilities.

Copies of statistical reports and documents of previous elections will be made available in these media centres for the purpose of reference to the extent feasible.

One such media centre will be set up in the premises of the Election Commission also during every election.

An officer not below the rank of roughly a Deputy Collector/District Information Officer duly assisted by staff will be specifically made responsible for management of the media centre at the District.

The Chief Electoral Officers and the District Election Officers concerned shall issue daily press notes containing comprehensive statistical and all other information as

\*From Compendium of Instructions Edition III March 2019.

pertains to their jurisdiction and whose publication in their view is not prejudicial to the conduct of peaceful free and fair elections or is not otherwise specifically prohibited for publication, commencing with the announcement of election up to the completion of the process of election.

District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police shall jointly hold press briefings at least five times during the process of election in the districts in which an election is held. Comprehensive press handouts shall be distributed among the media persons at these briefings. Subject to the requirements of law and order, confidentiality, and peaceful free and fair poll, the subjects to be compulsorily included in the press handouts and in the briefings at these press meets, and their timings shall be as follows:

There would be adequate media facilitation by the Election Commission of India from its office in Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi. Weekly Press Conference have been arranged for regular election updates in every week till the end of the General Elections 2019.

The schedule for General Election to the 17th Lok Sabha 2019 was announced in a Press Conference on March 10, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It was attended by a wide spectrum of Print and Electronic Media representatives of India and viewed live through official Facebook page of Election Commission of India.



# National Media Awards

5

To recognize the efforts of Media Organisations in spreading voter awareness, education, and initiatives of ECI for electors, the Election Commission of India instituted the National Media Awards for best campaign on Voters' Education and Awareness on 23rd January, 2012. Since then this practice of encouraging the spirit of best media activities for the larger benefit of democracy has been running successfully. Hon'ble President of India, confers the Awards on the occasion of National Voters' Day 25th January every year. This year nominations for the Awards were invited in three categories, viz; a) Electronic Media Television and Radio b) Print Media and c) Online (Internet) Social Media. Nominations were received from media houses conducting outstanding campaigns on voters' awareness and education to improve electoral participation and ethical voting. These awards seek to recognize and felicitate best practices and contributions by media houses to promote electoral participation by educating people about the electoral process and raising awareness among the general public about the relevance and importance of registration and voting.

Recipients of National Media Awards 2018 for making outstanding contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach during elections and non-election period are as mentioned below;

**a) Electronic Media (Television) Category: IBC24 News (Sawal Aapka Hai )**

Satellite News Channel for its outstanding work focusing on voter awareness and motivating the native electors of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh regions of India. The channel telecast news stories and conducted direct public engagement program sensitizing and educating electors in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh regions throughout the poll period during State Assembly Elections 2018.



**b) Print Media Category: Nai Dunia, (Raipur Unit, Chhattisgarh) of Dainik Jagran Group**

For comprehensive coverage during State Assembly Elections 2018 on election related news, ECI initiatives especially security arrangements made in sensitive areas to ensure voter security. The pre poll and poll day coverage contributed to the voter turnout of the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.



**c) Online (Internet) Social Media Category Josh Talks**

For their campaign #MakeYourMark on Facebook emphasizing greater electoral participation with special focus on youth. Josh Talks, through its online platform, documents and popularizes the activities from rural and urban areas in various regional languages.



# Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates

## Historical Background


Historically, the credit of giving idea of a model code of conduct for political parties should go to the State of Kerala, which adopted, for the first time, a code of conduct for observance for Political Parties during the general election to the State Legislative Assembly in February 1960.

The present set of Model Code of Conduct which is imperative for conducting of election campaigns in peaceful and orderly atmosphere throughout the country dates back to 1960, when it was conceptualized in Kerala during the State Legislative Assembly Election in February 1960. Gradually evolving, modifying through General Elections in 1967, mid-term general elections in several states in 1968 and 1969, challenges in 1994 during elections in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab & Haryana and the High Court's view in favour of Election Commission of India, till the agreement of 16th April 2001 MCC has reached its present stage.

Model Code of Conduct has come a long way since its inception in 1960's. From a passive document, it has evolved into an effective and powerful tool in the hands of the Election Commission. Now, not only the political parties and contesting candidates but the public servants have also been brought in the ambit of Model Code. The Election Commission has become more and more assertive to ensure observance of Model Code in its true letter and spirit by all the stakeholders. Even the judiciary has recognized the fact that the Election Commission is well entitled to take necessary steps as per the provision of Model Code to ensure conduct of a free and fair election. The Election Commission has been continuously taking steps and measures to maintain high standards of public morality during election in a true democratic spirit.

## I. General Conduct

- (1) No party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
- (2) Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.

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- (3) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.
  - (4) All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are “corrupt practices” and offences under the election law, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.
  - (5) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home-life shall be respected, however much the political parties or candidates may resent his political opinions or activities. Organizing demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions or activities shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
  - (6) No political party or candidate shall permit its or his followers to make use of any individual’s land, building, compound wall etc., without his permission for erecting flag-staffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing slogans etc.
  - (7) Political parties and candidates shall ensure that their supporters do not create obstructions in or break up meetings and processions organized by other parties. Workers or sympathisers of one political party shall not create disturbances at public meetings organized by another political party by putting questions orally or in writing or by distributing leaflets of their own party. Processions shall not be taken out by one party along places at which meetings are held by another party. Posters issued by one party shall not be removed by workers of another party.

## II. Meetings

- (1) The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time any proposed meeting well in time so as to enable the police to make necessary arrangements for controlling traffic and maintaining peace and order .
- (2) A Party or candidate shall ascertain in advance if there is any restrictive or prohibitory order in force in the place proposed for the meeting if such orders exist, they shall be followed strictly. If any exemption is required from such orders, it shall be applied for and obtained well in time.
- (3) If permission or license is to be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other facility in connection with any proposed meeting, the party or candidate shall apply to the authority concerned well in advance and obtain such permission or license.
- (4) Organizers of a meeting shall invariably seek the assistance of the police on duty for dealing with persons disturbing a meeting or otherwise attempting to create disorder . Organizers themselves shall not take action against such persons .

### III. Procession

- (1) A Party or candidate organizing a procession shall decide beforehand the time and place of the starting of the procession, the route to be followed and the time and place at which the procession will terminate. There shall ordinarily be no deviation from the programme .
- (2) The organizers shall give advance intimation to the local police authorities of the programme so as to enable the letter to make necessary arrangement.
- (3) The organizers shall ascertain if any restrictive orders are in force in the localities through which the procession has to pass, and shall comply with the restrictions unless exempted specially by the competent authority. Any traffic regulations or restrictions shall also be carefully adhered to.
- (4) The organizers shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no block or hindrance to traffic. If the procession is very long, it shall be organized in segments of suitable lengths, so that at convenient intervals, especially at points where the procession has to pass road junctions, the passage of held up traffic could be allowed by stages thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion.
- (5) Processions shall be so regulated as to keep as much to the right of the road as possible and the direction and advice of the police on duty shall be strictly complied with.
- (6) If two or more political parties or candidates propose to take processions over the same route or parts thereof at about the same time, the organizers shall establish contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or cause hindrance to traffic. The assistance of the local police shall be availed of for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement. For this purpose the parties shall contact the police at the earliest opportunity.
- (7) The political parties or candidates shall exercise control to the maximum extent possible in the matter of processionists carrying articles which may be put to misuse by undesirable elements especially in moments of excitement.
- (8) The carrying of effigies purporting to represent member of other political parties or their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms demonstration shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

### IV. Polling Day

All Political parties and candidates shall -

- (i) co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.





- (ii) supply to their authorized workers suitable badges or identity cards .
- (iii) agree that the identity slip supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party;
- (iv) refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the forty eight hours preceding it.
- (v) not allow unnecessary crowd to be collected near the camps set up by the political parties and candidates near the polling booths so as to avoid Confrontation and tension among workers and sympathizers of the parties and the candidate.
- (vi) ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple .They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material. No eatable shall be served or crowd allowed at the camps and
- (vii) co-operate with the authorities in complying with the restrictions to be imposed on the plying of vehicles on the polling day and obtain permits for them which should be displayed prominently on those vehicles.

## **V. Polling Booth**

Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission shall enter the polling booths .


## **VI. Observers**

The Election Commission is appointing Observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Observer.

## **VII. Party in Power**

The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State or States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular -

- (i) (a) The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work.
- (b) Government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power;
- (ii) Public places such as maidens etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolized by itself. Other parties and candidates shall be allowed the use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the party in power;

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- (iii) Rest houses, dark bungalows or other Government accommodation shall not be monopolized by the party in power or its candidates and such accommodation shall be allowed to be used by other parties and candidates in a fair manner but no party or candidate shall use or be allowed to use such accommodation (including premises appertaining thereto) as a campaign office or for holding any public meeting for the purposes of election propaganda;
  - (iv) Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided.
  - (v) Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission; and
  - (vi) From the time elections are announced by Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not -
    - (a) announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
    - (b) (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
    - (c) make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or
    - (d) make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.

**Note:** The Commission shall announce the date of any election which shall be a date ordinarily not more than three weeks prior to the date on which the notification is likely to be issued in respect of such elections.

- (vii) Ministers of Central or State Government shall not enter any polling station or place of counting except in their capacity as a candidate or voter or authorized agent.

## VIII. Guidelines on Election Manifestos

1. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 5th July 2013 in SLP(C) No. 21455 of 2008 ( S. Subramaniam Balaji Vs Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Others) has directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of election manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties. The guiding principles which will lead to framing of such guidelines are quoted below from the judgment :-
  - (i) “Alth ough, the law is obvious that the promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as ‘corrupt practice’ under Section 123 of RP Act,





the reality cannot be ruled out that distribution of freebies of any kind, undoubtedly, influences all people. It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree” .

- (ii) “The Election Commission, in order to ensure level playing field between the contesting parties and candidates in elections and also in order to see that the purity of the election process does not get vitiated, as in past been issuing instructions under the Model Code of Conduct. The fountainhead of the powers under which the Commission issues these orders is Article 324 of the Constitution which mandates the Commission to hold free and fair elections.”
  - (iii) “We are mindful of the fact that generally political parties release their election manifesto before the announcement of election date, in that scenario, strictly speaking, the Election Commission will not have the authority to regulate any act which is done before the announcement of the date . Nevertheless, an exception can be made in this regard as the purpose of election manifesto is directly associated with the election process”.
2. Upon receiving the above directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the Election Commission held a meeting with the recognized National and State Political Parties for consultation with them in the matter and took note of their conflicting views in the matter .

During consultations, while some political parties supported the issuance of such guidelines, others were of the view that it is their right and duty towards voters to make such offers and promises in manifestos in a healthy democratic polity. While the Commission agrees in principle with the point of view that framing of manifestos is the right of the political parties, it cannot overlook the undesirable impact of some of the promises and offers on the conduct of free and fair elections and maintaining level playing field for all political parties and candidates.

3. The Constitution under Article 324 mandates the Election Commission, to conduct elections inter alia to the Parliament and the State Legislatures. Having due regard to the above directions of the Supreme Court and after consultation with the Political Parties, the Commission, in the interest of free and fair elections , hereby directs that Political Parties and Candidates while releasing election manifestos for any election to the Parliament or State Legislatures, shall adhere to the following guidelines :-
- (i) The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.
  - (ii) The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.

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- (iii) In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

4. Prohibitory period of Release of Manifesto during elections(s)

- i. In case of single phase election, manifesto shall not be released during the prohibitory period, as prescribed under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ii. In case of multi-phase elections, manifesto shall not be released during the prohibitory periods, as prescribed under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, of all the phases of those elections. “

# 7

## National and State Parties

### National Parties

Sl. No.	Name of the Party
1.	All India Trinamool Congress
2.	Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
3.	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
4.	Communist Party of India (CPI)
5.	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))
6.	Indian National Congress (INC)
7.	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

### State Parties

Sl.No.	Name of Party	State/States
1.	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
2.	Telugu Desam	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
3.	Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
4.	People's Party of Arunachal	Arunachal Pradesh
5.	All India United Democratic Front	Assam
6.	Asom Gana Parishad	Assam
7.	Bodoland Peoples Front	Assam
8.	Janata Dal (United)	Bihar
9.	Lok Jan Shakti Party	Bihar
10.	Rashtriya Janata Dal	Bihar, Jharkhand
11.	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	Bihar
12.	Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J)	Chhattisgarh
13.	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak	Goa
14.	Goa Forward Party	Goa
15.	Indian National Lok Dal	Haryana
16.	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	Jammu and Kashmir
17.	Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party	Jammu and Kashmir

## State Parties

Sl.No.	Name of Party	State/States
18.	Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	Jammu and Kashmir
19.	AJSU Party	Jharkhand
20.	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	Jharkhand
21.	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik)	Jharkhand
22.	Janata Dal (Secular)	Karnataka, Kerala
23.	Kerala Congress (M)	Kerala
24.	Indian Union Muslim League	Kerala
25.	Revolutionary Socialist Party	Kerala, West Bengal
26.	Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	Maharashtra
27.	Shiv Sena	Maharashtra
28.	Naga People's Front	Manipur, Nagaland
29.	People's Democratic Alliance	Manipur
30.	National People's Party	Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland
31.	United Democratic Party	Meghalaya
32.	Hill State People's Democratic Party	Meghalaya
33.	People's Democratic Front	Meghalaya
34.	Mizo National Front	Mizoram
35.	Mizoram People's Conference	Mizoram
36.	Zoram Nationalist Party	Mizoram
37.	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	Nagaland
38.	Aam Aadmi Party	N.C.T. of Delhi, Punjab
39.	Biju Janata Dal	Odisha
40.	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
41.	All India N.R. Congress	Puducherry
42.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
43.	Pattali Makkal Katchi	Puducherry
44.	Shiromani Akali Dal	Punjab
45.	Sikkim Democratic Front	Sikkim
46.	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	Sikkim
47.	Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu
48.	All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen	Telangana
49.	Rashtriya Lok Dal	Uttar Pradesh
50.	Samajwadi Party	Uttar Pradesh
51.	All India Forward Bloc	West Bengal
52.	Indigenous People's Front of Tripura	Tripura

# 8

## Fact Sheets

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## 8.1 Factsheet of past Lok Sabha elections

Year of Election	1951	1957	1962	1967	1971	1977	1980	1984-85	1989	1991-92	1996	1998	1999	2004	2009	2014
Number of Electors	173213635	193713667	216372215	24903334	274094463	32174327	356205329	400375333	498906129	511533598	592572288	605880192	619536487	671487930	716985101	834082814
Number of Voters	105944495	123461815	119904315	152724611	151536802	194263915	202752893	256294963	309050495	285856465	343308090	375441739	371669104	3893422364	417236124	554175255
Voter turn out	61.16	63.73	55.42	61.33	55.29	60.49	56.92	64.01	61.95	55.88	57.94	61.97	59.99	57.98	58.19	66.44
Number of Contestants	1874	1519	1985	2369	2784	2439	4629	5492	6160	8749	13952	4750	4648543	5435	8070	8251
Total Seats	489	494	494	520	518	542	529	541	529	537	543	543	543	543	543	543
Total Constituencies	401	408	494	520	518	542	529	541	529	537	543	543	543	543	543	543
Contested Seats	479	482	491	515	517	540	529	541	528	534	543	543	543	543	543	543
Won Candidates	489	494	494	520	518	542	529	542	529	39	543	543	543	543	543	543
Women elected over total seats		22	31	29	29	19	28	43	29	478	40	43	49	45	59	62
Recognised National Parties	418	421	440	440	451	481	485	462	471	51	403	387	369	364	376	342
Recognised State Parties	34	31	28	43	40	49	34	66	27	4	129	101	158	159	146	182
Recognised Unrecognised Parties	0	0	6	2	13	3	1	0	19		2	49	10	15	12	16

## 8.2 Electoral Roll Data 2019

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA DATA OF NUMBER OF ELECTORS, 2019 (AT THE TIME OF FINAL PUBLICATION)													
Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	General Electors			Overseas Indian Electors			Service Electors			Total No. of Electors		
		MEN	WOMEN	THIRD GENDER	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	THIRD GENDER	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	TOTAL
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	18123437	18474714	3745	36601896	1953	557	1	2511	55578	1330	56908	36661315
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	392566	401596	0	794162	0	0	0	0	4911	53	4964	799126
3	ASSAM	1132782	10627319	503	21760604	0	0	0	0	54078	1141	55219	21815823
4	BIHAR	37307892	33293467	2406	70603765	12	1	0	13	134050	5765	139815	70743593
5	CHHATTISGARH	9477113	9438463	709	18916285	3	0	0	3	15365	592	15957	18932245
6	GOA	551572	575123	0	1126695	25	12	0	37	265	10	275	1127007
7	GUJARAT	23255937	21487769	1053	44744759	61	32	0	93	24544	589	25133	44769985
8	HARYANA	9306532	8048715	59	17355247	10	4	0	14	90096	2950	93046	17448307
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2584180	2512625	339	5096864	3	2	0	5	61350	781	62131	5159000
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4037993	3739951	307	7778283	9	1	0	10	35907	1238	37145	22018634
11	JHARKHAND	11507697	10473475	307	21981479	9	1	0	10	35907	1238	37145	22018634
12	KARNATAKA	25455955	24846487	4711	50307153	21	1	7	29	38735	804	39539	50346721
13	KERALA	12234556	13107460	1111	25342127	62847	3729	8	66584	47624	1760	49384	25458095
14	MADHYA PRADESH	26778268	24623229	1423	51402020	42	10	0	52	64660	1300	65960	51468032
15	MAHARASHTRA	45702373	41625769	2086	87330228	206	50	0	256	102617	1818	104435	87434919
16	MANIPUR	939926	990960	26	1930912	0	0	0	0	18771	605	19376	1950288
17	MEGHALAYA	936579	956135	0	1892714	0	2	0	2	3250	44	3294	1896010
18	MIZORAM	381991	402408	6	784405	0	0	0	0	4464	49	4513	788918
19	NAGALAND	606173	596134	0	1202307	0	0	0	0	7236	70	7306	1209613
20	ODISHA	16337310	15460545	2932	31800787	6	1	0	7	38874	1503	40377	31841171
21	PUNJAB	10754157	9619711	507	20374375	264	129	0	393	98551	1734	100285	20475053
22	RAJASTHAN	24993377	23066382	231	48059990	69	28	0	97	121684	2922	124606	48184693
23	SIKKIM	216133	207032	2	423167	0	0	0	0	1712	14	1726	426646
24	TAMIL NADU	29130069	29779526	5461	58915056	79	20	0	99	61982	1095	63077	58978232
25	TELANGANA	14842582	14674217	2089	29518888	936	187	4	1127	10475	348	10823	29530838
26	TRIPURA	1317150	1281127	13	2598290	0	0	0	0	8797	121	8918	2607208
27	UTTARAKHAND	3984327	3643969	230	7628526	0	0	0	0	87036	1564	88600	7717126
28	UTTAR PRADESH	77941577	66111941	8374	144061892	41	10	0	51	246849	8101	254950	144316893
29	WEST BENGAL	35783463	33975979	1426	69760868	24	12	0	36	99555	2693	102248	69863152
30	A & N ISLANDS	154829	139595	11	294435	0	0	0	0	554	29	583	295018
31	CHANDIGARH	327980	291327	19	619326	9	6	0	15	392	59	451	619792
32	D & N HAVELI	127620	113230	0	240850	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	240858
33	DAMAN & DIU	59969	59682	1	119652	8	17	0	25	10	1	11	119688
34	NCT OF DELHI	7556146	6188335	810	13695291	31	11	0	42	7774	1249	9023	13704356
35	LAKSHADWEEP	27475	26791	0	54266	0	0	0	0	122	0	122	54388
36	PUDUCHERRY	452949	506293	93	959335	204	27	0	231	209	10	219	959785
Grand Total		464720635	431316581	39683	896076899	66866	4849	20	71735	1619893	43100	1662993	897811627



## 8.3 Voters Information 2014

Election Commission of India, General Elections, 2014 (18th LOK SABHA)

10 - VOTERS INFORMATION

State/UT	Constituency Type	Electors						Voters						Rejected Votes (Postal)	Votes not Retrieved from EVM	Valid Polls	Tendered Votes			
		Male	Female	Others	Total	NRIs	Service	Male	Female	Others	Postal	Total	NRIs					Poll %		
Andhra Pradesh	GEN	32	25564356	25102236	4357	50670949	4	34704	18709164	18391957	148	230661	37331930	0	73.68	20752	240478	37023564	50	
	SC	7	5114047	5102339	893	10217279	1	9861	4026261	3964370	121	48990	8039742	0	78.69	11564	4857	59756	7963565	3
	ST	3	1997963	2047743	304	4045910	0	1764	1528962	1542690	30	24367	3096049	0	76.52	6608	9616	40320	3039505	1
	State Total	42	32676266	32252318	5554	64934138	5	46329	24264387	23899017	299	304018	48467721	0	74.64	65308	35225	340554	48026534	54
Arunachal Pradesh	GEN	2	379566	379778	0	759344	0	1851	282511	299237	0	19080	600828	0	79.12	2888	984	6321	590635	0
	State Total	2	379566	379778	0	759344	0	1851	282511	299237	0	19080	600828	0	79.12	2888	984	6321	590635	0
Assam	GEN	11	8013214	7450713	87	15464014	0	27299	6477030	5953376	0	6239	12436645	0	80.42	2551	2280	112861	12318953	56
	SC	1	615198	550799	0	1165997	0	1766	481673	404641	0	1468	887782	0	76.14	252	610	4266	882654	0
	ST	2	1135209	1072479	14	2207702	0	3667	915924	850900	0	1136	1767960	0	80.08	163	648	29930	1737219	20
	State Total	14	9763621	9073991	101	18837713	0	32732	7874627	7208917	0	8643	15092387	0	80.12	2966	3538	147057	14938626	76
Bihar	GEN	33	28267972	24569627	2076	52835675	0	66903	15680169	14264704	18	12929	29957820	0	56.67	2915	1208	445836	29507861	8
	GEN	1	797254	698177	14	1495445	0	549	407516	421741	0	32	829289	0	56.67	15	0	21103	807239	0
SC	6	5056070	4412772	198	9469040	0	8898	2661034	2437950	0	6366	5105350	0	53.92	1504	553	114025	4989268	0	
	State Total	40	34121296	29676576	2288	63800160	0	76350	18748719	17124395	18	19327	35892459	0	56.26	4434	1761	580964	35304368	8
Goa	GEN	2	528308	532469	0	1060777	27	824	394617	420030	0	2793	817440	0	77.06	440	0	10103	806897	9
	State Total	2	528308	532469	0	1060777	27	824	394617	420030	0	2793	817440	0	77.06	440	0	10103	806897	9
Gujarat	GEN	20	16506749	14953672	264	31460685	7	21608	10865201	8821853	73	113594	19600721	0	62.30	16872	0	313718	19270131	54
	SC	2	1607276	1460901	5	3068182	4	1694	1050803	852237	2	10043	1913085	4	62.35	1852	384	33450	1877399	8

## GENERAL ELECTIONS - INDIA, 2014

## VOTERS INFORMATION

State/UT	Constituency Type	Seri	Elector			NRIs	Service	Male			Female			Others			Total			NRIs	Poll %	Rejected Votes (Postal)	Votes not Retrieved from EVM	Nota Votes	Valid Poll	Tendered Votes
			Male	Female	Total			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Others	Postal	Total										
ST		4	3115064	2959157	16	6074237	0	1225	2273919	2039088	1	22841	4335849	0	71.38	3885	2659	107717	4221588	0						
		26	21229889	19373730	285	40603104	11	24527	14189923	11513178	76	146478	25849655	4	63.66	22609	3043	454885	25389118	62						
		8	6920603	5823649	0	12744252	2	93194	4869822	4004938	0	7095	9001855	0	70.63	3744	1060	22371	8974680	111						
SC		2	1795044	1557037	0	3352981	1	9025	1360477	1137980	0	939	2498396	0	74.54	425	871	11849	2486251	42						
		10	8716547	7380686	0	16097233	3	102219	6350299	5142916	0	8034	11501251	0	71.45	4169	1931	34220	11460931	153						
		3	1867293	1789414	1	3656708	2	57821	1161288	1194858	0	6006	2362152	0	64.60	1408	0	21368	2339376	3						
GEN		1	607137	546225	1	1153363	0	8335	403062	333715	0	1270	738047	0	63.99	291	0	7787	729669	2						
		4	2474430	2335639	2	4810071	2	65856	1664350	1528873	0	7276	3100199	0	64.45	1699	0	29155	3069345	5						
		6	3791735	3391301	93	7183129	0	59852	1925713	1638704	1	7119	3571537	0	49.72	3504	1170	31550	3535313	17						
GEN		6	3791735	3391301	93	7183129	0	59852	1925713	1638704	1	7119	3571537	0	49.72	3504	1170	31550	3535313	17						
		21	1788255	17120615	2732	35005602	0	33990	12322096	11369627	135	23550	23715408	0	67.75	7493	4953	188521	23514441	154						
		5	4115829	3938136	695	8054660	0	4119	2783422	2535755	23	4015	5323215	0	66.09	1143	834	44864	5276374	8						
ST		2	1586758	1562330	463	3149551	0	528	1043027	970925	9	999	2014960	0	63.98	299	0	24496	1990165	3						
		28	23584842	22621081	3890	46209813	0	38637	16148545	14576307	167	28564	31053583	0	67.20	8935	5787	257881	30780980	165						
		18	10540623	11308008	0	21857631	12142	62458	7799200	8337950	0	32049	16169199	0	73.98	2545	7047	179687	16979920	256						
SC		2	1194652	1284367	0	2469019	443	12250	869116	945371	0	3438	1817925	0	73.63	480	1157	30876	1785412	15						
		20	11734275	12592375	0	24326650	12585	74708	8668316	9283321	0	35487	17987124	0	73.94	3025	8204	210563	17765332	271						
		19	16806660	14971446	765	31781871	5	22938	11049416	8377050	86	16271	19442833	0	61.18	2780	2812	209320	19227921	89						
GEN		4	3347260	2924228	104	6271592	0	3762	2161073	1493316	11	2411	3656811	0	58.31	391	640	38167	3617613	21						
		4	3347260	2924228	104	6271592	0	3762	2161073	1493316	11	2411	3656811	0	58.31	391	640	38167	3617613	21						
		4	3347260	2924228	104	6271592	0	3762	2161073	1493316	11	2411	3656811	0	58.31	391	640	38167	3617613	21						



Constituency		Electorors					Voters					NRIs		Rejected Votes (Postal)	Votes not Retrieved from EVM	Nota Votes	Valid Votes Pollcd	Tendered Votes	
State/UT	Type	Male	Female	Others	Total	NRIs	Service	Male	Female	Others	Postal	Total	Poll %						
ST	6	5155680	491955	203	10067638	0	3633	3512794	3027630	27	8010	6548461	0	65.04	1373	302	144350	6402436	30
	State Total																		
Maharashtra																			
GEN	39	35227883	31178469	746	66407118	0	127890	21668516	17909727	215	56209	39634667	0	59.68	10883	8349	308203	39307232	1737
	5	4299530	3842382	56	8141968	0	14424	2754038	2232841	0	10285	4997164	0	61.38	1785	0	46608	4948771	82
ST	4	3243578	3006043	116	6249737	0	5415	2198626	1904152	39	4755	4108572	0	65.74	856	1111	78360	4028245	103
State Total																			
Manipur																			
GEN	1	417103	438257	0	855360	0	2269	307043	334205	0	66	641314	0	74.98	24	420	52386	635572	20
ST	1	454314	464695	0	919009	0	7306	379493	393746	0	578	773817	0	84.20	380	277	2206	769560	0
State Total																			
Meghalaya																			
ST	2	777639	789602	0	1567241	0	1421	525328	552658	0	309	1078295	0	68.80	106	131	30145	1047913	3
State Total																			
Mizoram																			
ST	1	346219	355951	0	702170	0	4303	212673	213477	0	8812	434962	0	61.95	1312	449	6495	426706	5
State Total																			
Nagaland																			
GEN	1	600518	582454	0	1182972	0	5376	528703	510521	0	738	1039962	0	87.91	189	863	2696	1036214	2
State Total																			
Odisha																			
GEN	12	8838217	8030121	769	16869107	0	26204	6318233	5863324	74	21225	12202856	0	72.27	4264	1614	157791	12039187	34
GEN	1	731912	639680	25	1371617	0	3209	522746	455864	0	1946	980556	0	72.27	955	0	8889	969715	6
SC	3	2268874	2003910	120	4272904	0	9403	1647245	1542754	3	6617	3196619	0	74.81	1524	1389	23029	3170677	15
ST	5	3355301	3326845	271	6682417	0	4715	2589067	2568334	1	9291	5162693	0	77.26	2448	650	143057	5016538	9
State Total																			
Punjab																			
ST	21	15194304	14000556	1185	29196045	0	43531	11073291	10430276	78	39079	21542724	0	73.79	9191	3653	332766	21196117	64

## GENERAL ELECTIONS - INDIA, 2014

## VOTERS INFORMATION

State/UT	Constituency Type	Seats	Electors				Voters				NRIs	Total	Poll % (2013)	Rejected Votes (2013)	Votes not Retained from ENR	Nota Votes	Valid Votes Posed	Tendered Votes
			Male	Female	Others	Total	Male	Female	Others	Postal								
Rajasthan	GEN	9	7247997	6471175	174	13719346	5150207	4624303	0	3271	9783781	0	71.31	1294	2475	39521	9740491	23
	SC	4	3079191	2609563	61	5688815	2103461	1960335	0	1919	4065715	0	69.04	595	0	19233	4045887	4
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10327188</b>	<b>9280738</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>19608161</b>	<b>7259668</b>	<b>6584538</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5190</b>	<b>13849496</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70.63</b>	<b>1889</b>	<b>2475</b>	<b>58754</b>	<b>13786378</b>	<b>27</b>
	GEN	17	15616084	14087023	17	29703124	81293	10097600	1	70460	18823177	1	63.18	11797	4241	214600	18592339	384
Sikkim	GEN	1	908658	793449	0	1700307	556476	452621	0	7133	1016230	0	63.18	1553	971	11533	1002158	3
	SC	3	2668465	2333008	1	5001474	1751632	1388603	0	11567	3151802	0	61.03	1629	1184	26345	3122644	24
	SC	1	845548	703920	0	1549468	491202	353973	0	1168	846343	0	61.03	304	0	5934	840007	0
	ST	3	2611096	2429180	8	5040284	169464	1590470	0	9290	3296224	0	65.40	1342	0	69499	3225383	76
Tamil Nadu	<b>State Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22648051</b>	<b>20346580</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>42994657</b>	<b>14593374</b>	<b>12440783</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99618</b>	<b>27133776</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63.11</b>	<b>16625</b>	<b>6396</b>	<b>327911</b>	<b>26762731</b>	<b>487</b>
	GEN	1	191017	179753	0	370770	153370	146197	0	10528	310095	0	83.64	1128	0	4332	304635	0
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>191017</b>	<b>179753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>370770</b>	<b>153370</b>	<b>146197</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10528</b>	<b>310095</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83.64</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4332</b>	<b>304635</b>	<b>0</b>
	GEN	32	22675407	22638755	2672	45316834	62769	16525971	392	70237	33207532	0	73.28	13906	18596	440157	32734873	96
Tripura	SC	7	4896585	4900779	669	9798033	3697828	3720291	44	18587	7436750	0	75.90	4171	460	141625	7290494	23
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27571992</b>	<b>27539534</b>	<b>3341</b>	<b>55114867</b>	<b>20237799</b>	<b>20331223</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>88824</b>	<b>40644282</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73.74</b>	<b>16077</b>	<b>19056</b>	<b>581782</b>	<b>49023387</b>	<b>119</b>
	GEN	1	635974	612572	0	1248546	543278	523020	0	9634	1079592	0	86.17	989	2194	12699	1060090	2
	ST	1	591604	558672	0	1140276	486129	459313	0	7333	952775	0	83.56	955	740	11084	939986	5
Uttar Pradesh	<b>State Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1217578</b>	<b>1171244</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2388822</b>	<b>1029407</b>	<b>982333</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16967</b>	<b>2028707</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84.92</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>2934</b>	<b>23783</b>	<b>2000046</b>	<b>7</b>
	GEN	63	59724090	48374421	5604	109104115	35562234	28588303	235	53528	64204300	0	58.85	8368	13952	434127	63747853	25
	SC	17	16237739	13467196	1507	29706442	9407750	7493515	42	13008	16914315	0	56.94	2060	1115	158204	16792938	1
	<b>State Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75961829</b>	<b>62841617</b>	<b>7111</b>	<b>138810557</b>	<b>44969984</b>	<b>36081818</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>66536</b>	<b>81118615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58.44</b>	<b>10428</b>	<b>15067</b>	<b>592331</b>	<b>80500789</b>	<b>26</b>
West Bengal	GEN	30	23190513	21322371	384	44513268	18862424	17258168	63	62348	36183003	0	81.29	13353	10026	387734	35771690	426



GENERAL ELECTIONS - INDIA, 2014

VOTERS INFORMATION

State/UT	Constituency Type	Seats	Electors				NRIs	Service	Male	Female	Others	Total	Votes			NRIs Poll %	Rejected Votes (Postal)	Votes not Retrieved from EVM	Nota Votes	Valid Votes Polling	Tendered Votes
			Male	Female	Others	Total							Male	Female	Others						
SC	ST	10	7989361	7384356	105	15373822	2	23818	6741272	6232800	1	22606	12996679	1	84.54	3156	2498	140740	12850285	122	
		2	1509606	1436407	10	2946023	0	3293	1265301	1213468	0	4113	2482882	0	84.28	540	1163	42820	2438359	20	
State Total			42	32689480	30143134	499	62833113	6	92632	26868997	24704436	64	89067	51662564	1	82.22	17049	13687	571294	51060534	568
Chhattisgarh																					
GEN	SC	6	5104956	4918243	691	10023890	0	3294	3618676	3342373	0	1946	6962995	0	69.46	338	788	76178	6885691	89	
		1	895884	848077	240	1744201	0	470	558932	514393	0	42	1073367	0	61.54	20	0	18438	1054909	0	
ST		4	2945907	2950468	54	5896429	0	2889	2144186	2075779	0	635	4220600	0	71.58	237	0	130273	4090090	25	
State Total			11	8946747	8716788	985	17664620	0	6653	6321794	5952546	0	2623	12256962	0	69.39	595	788	224889	12030690	114
Jharkhand																					
GEN	SC	8	6743239	5950436	16	12693691	1	7112	4268440	3698649	0	958	7969047	0	62.78	364	1390	66823	7900470	1	
		1	889932	756024	1	1645957	0	882	523108	453494	0	1557	978159	0	59.43	301	535	18287	959036	0	
ST		5	3077473	2932666	9	6010148	0	5609	2068153	1969899	0	1577	4039419	0	67.21	545	550	105817	3932507	0	
State Total			14	10710644	9639126	26	20349796	1	13603	6889701	6122832	0	4082	12986625	0	63.82	1210	2475	190927	12792013	1
Uttarakhand																					
GEN	SC	4	3109849	2763827	40	5873516	0	62153	1947911	1773655	1	17060	3738627	0	63.65	3262	0	32798	3702567	101	
		1	639362	614162	17	1253541	0	23139	316094	339409	1	1430	666934	0	52.41	409	0	15245	641280	1	
State Total			5	3749011	3377989	57	7127057	0	85292	2264005	2113064	2	18490	4395561	0	61.67	3671	0	48043	4343847	102
Andaman & Nicobar Islands																					
GEN		1	142783	126577	0	269360	0	420	101129	89084	0	133	190346	0	70.67	18	0	1564	188764	1	
State Total			1	142783	126577	0	269360	0	420	101129	89084	0	133	190346	0	70.67	18	0	1564	188764	1
Chandigarh																					
GEN		1	333621	281593	0	615214	9	1275	244908	208416	0	138	453462	2	73.71	7	0	3106	450349	2	
State Total			1	333621	281593	0	615214	9	1275	244908	208416	0	138	453462	2	73.71	7	0	3106	450349	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli																					
ST		1	106203	90394	0	196597	0	20	87792	77494	0	38	165324	0	84.09	38	0	2982	162324	7	

GENERAL ELECTIONS - INDIA, 2014

VOTERS INFORMATION

VOTERS INFORMATION																				
Constituency			Elections				Voters				Rejected Votes (Postal)	Votes not Retrieved from EVM	Nota Votes	Valid Polling	Tendered Votes					
State/UT	Type	Seats	Male	Female	Others	Total	NRIs	Service	Male	Female						Others	Postal	Total	NRIs	Poll %
Daman & Diu																				
State Total		1	106203	90394	0	196597	0	20	87792	77494	0	38	165324	0	84.09	38	0	2982	162324	7
	GEN	1	57011	54816	0	111827	9	10	42355	44873	0	5	87233	0	78.01	0	0	1316	85917	0
State Total		1	57011	54816	0	111827	9	10	42355	44873	0	5	87233	0	78.01	0	0	1316	85917	0
NCT OF Delhi																				
	GEN	6	5638557	4677619	645	10516821	9	3873	3891219	3013124	112	14287	6918742	0	65.79	2967	45	30864	6894866	27
	SC	1	1212516	981633	194	2194343	0	916	757777	595362	42	3223	1356404	0	61.81	368	0	8826	1347210	6
State Total		7	7051073	5669252	839	12711164	9	4789	4648996	3608486	154	17510	8275146	0	65.10	3335	45	39890	8232076	33
Lakshadweep																				
	ST	1	25433	24489	0	49922	0	101	21584	21655	0	3	43242	0	86.62	3	0	123	43116	0
State Total		1	25433	24489	0	49922	0	101	21584	21655	0	3	43242	0	86.62	3	0	123	43116	0
Puducherry																				
	GEN	1	432048	469289	20	901357	65	483	351544	388189	17	303	740053	0	82.10	36	0	22268	717749	12
State Total		1	432048	469289	20	901357	65	483	351544	388189	17	303	740053	0	82.10	36	0	22268	717749	12
Grand Total:		543	437035372	397018915	28527	83402814	13039	1365625	292826408	260192272	1968	1154607	554175255	8	66.44	225300	143573	6002342	547600004	4482



## 8.4 Key Highlights of Lok Sabha Election, 2014

- Total Parliamentary Constituencies 543
- Total Electors 83.40 Crore
- Out of these male – 43.60 crore, female 39.66 crore, Third Gender 28,526 and Overseas Electors 12234
- 8251 Candidates contested.
- 7577 Male Candidates contested
- 668 Female Candidates contested
- 06 Third Gender Candidates
- Maximum number of Candidates 42 , in Chennai South, Tamil Nadu
- Minimum number of Candidates 2 in Tura , Meghalaya
- Maximum Electors – 31.82 lakh, Malakajiri, Andhra Pradesh.
- Minimum Electors – 49,821 Lakshadweep.
- Voter turnout - All India-66.44%.
- Voter Turnout - Maximum 88.35% in Dhubri, Assam.
- Voter Turnout- Minimum 25.86% in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Maximum Votes Polled by a Candidate – 8,63,358 by Ramcharan Bohara, BJP, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Minimum Votes Polled by a Candidate – 105 by S.Veeramani, Independent, Chennai South, Tamil Nadu.
- number of Polling Stations set up 9,27,533
- Highest Polling Station was at altitude in Auleyphu (Leh AAC) under Ladakh PC at 15300ft.
- Number of Observers Deployed 1686
- General Observer 801
- Expenditure Observer 718
- Police Observer 107
- Awareness Observer 60
- Number of Micro observers deployed-1,51,417.
- Polling Staff deployed (excluding counting staff, police, drivers, and staff kept in reserve etc.) 3731895
- Number of Control Units used 1225303
- Number of ballot units-16,41,605.
- Number of video cameras deployed -1,55,020.



- Number of digital camera deployed-64,725.
- 570 special trains comprising 932 coaches used for transporting CPF personnel.
- 56 helicopters were deployed who performed 1516 sorties.
- In 301 polling stations repoll were ordered.
- 75,237 hamlets were identified under vulnerability mapping.
- 2,18,227 persons were booked under various preventive sections.
- Out of the 1,591 candidates filed by National parties 342 won.
- Out of 1,375 candidates filed by State parties 182 won.
- Out of 2,050 candidates of unrecognized registered parties 16 won.
- Out of 3,235 independent candidates 03 won.

#### **Additional Points:-**

- Number of Candidates forfeited Deposits 7000.
- Number of Candidates Contested from two 02 Constituencies are 2,

#### **Expenditure monitoring**

- Seizure of cash INR 2,99,94,30,804.
- Seizure of liquor Litres 1,61,84,508.
- Paid News cases 829 (notices issued 3,177).
- Total Elected women MPs 62.
- Maximum Women Contesting Candidates in a State 126 in Uttar Pradesh.
- Maximum Women Winning Candidates in a State 13 in Uttar Pradesh.
- Maximum NOTA votes polled in States/ UTs 592331 in Uttar Pradesh.
- Minimum Women Contesting Candidates in a State 01 each in Meghalaya, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

## 8.5 Status of Paid News Cases

S.No.	Name of State	Confirmed PN Cases in LS 2014	Confirmed PN Cases in last Assembly Elections
1.	UP	86	56
2.	MP	25	27* (final awaited)
3.	CHHATTISGARH	07	46
4.	ORISSA	31	held with Lok Sabha
5.	RAJASTHAN	261	89
6.	DELHI	06	54 (in 2013), 59 (in 2015)
7.	HARYANA	25	held with LS
8.	UTTARAKHAND	05	02
9.	PUNJAB	125	80
10.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	20	85
11.	J & K	06	
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	held with LS
13.	Assam	Nil	05
14.	Bihar	Nil	07
15.	Jharkhand	10	07
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	04	Nil
18.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
19.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
20.	Sikkim	Nil	held with LS
21.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil	01
23.	Andhra Pradesh	189	held with LS
24.	Telangana	358	held with LS
25.	Goa	Nil	
26.	Gujarat	66	238
27.	Karnataka	43	15
28.	Kerala	Nil	Nil
29.	TN	07	17
30.	Puducherry	06	Nil
31.	Maharashtra	17	
32.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil	-
33.	Chandigarh	Nil	-
34.	Daman & Diu	Nil	-
35.	Lakshadweep	Nil	-
36.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	-

## 8.6 Voter Turnout in recent General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies

### Voter Turnout in recent General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies

Sl No.	State /Union Territory	Year	Turnout in Last Assembly Elections (poll percentage)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2014	74.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2014	64.99
3.	Assam	2016	84.49
4.	Bihar	2015	56.66
5.	Chhattisgarh	2018	76.45
6.	NCT of Delhi	2015	67.12
7.	Goa	2017	81.21
8.	Gujarat	2017	68.39
9.	Haryana	2014	76.13
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2017	74.17
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2014	65.52
12.	Jharkhand	2014	66.42
13.	Karnataka	2018	72.10
14.	Kerala	2016	77.10
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2018	74.97
16.	Maharashtra	2014	63.08
17.	Manipur	2017	85.87
18.	Meghalaya	2018	85.59
19.	Mizoram	2018	80.03
20.	Nagaland	2018	83.85
21.	Odisha	2014	73.65
22.	Punjab	2017	76.83
23.	Puducherry	2016	84.03
24.	Rajasthan	2018	74.06
25.	Sikkim	2014	80.80
26.	Tamil Nadu	2016	74.24
27.	Telangana	2018	73.37
28.	Tripura	2018	89.38
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2017	61.04
30.	Uttarakhand	2017	64.72
31.	West Bengal	2016	82.66

# 9

## EVM & VVPAT: The Pride of Indian Democracy

India is the largest Participatory Democracy of the world, with about 90.74 crore registered voters. The Constitutional mandate of superintendence, direction and control of Elections to the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies has been conferred on the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission of India is an independent Constitutional entity, which has successfully conducted regular elections to the Parliament and various State Legislative Assemblies for the past 68 years in a free, fair, participative, informed and credible manner. The Commission has been at the forefront of embracing, adopting and implementing the latest technological advancements in improving and fine-tuning the election processes and systems. The Commission has taken the pioneering initiative of introducing Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) for recording, storing and counting of votes across the length and breadth of the Country in a transparent, credible and secure manner, backed by appropriate legal support. The use of EVM demonstrates the Commission's unflinching resolve to continually improve, upgrade and strengthen the Electoral Process in the country.

### Credibility of EVMs & VVPATs

EVMs are designed to be 100% secure. ECI EVMs are standalone machines with "No radio frequency transmission" capability, ruling out wireless connection through wifi, bluetooth etc. The microcontroller chip on which the software is fused is one time programmable ruling out any possibility of re-programming. The transmission of signals from BU to CU is "encrypted dynamically", which means every time even though the same button is pressed in BU, the signal is transmitted with a different encryption formula, ruling out any possibility of reverse engineering of software code. There is also another feature of date and time stamping of every key pressed, which helps in giving a complete audit of keys pressed.



## History of EVM - 40 Years

1977	CeC-S L Shakdar talked about introducing and Electronic machine
1980-81	EVMs developed and demaonstrated by Electronic Corporations of India Limited (ECIL) and Bharat Electroic Limited (BEL)
1982-83	EVMs used in 50 polling stations of Parur LA in Keral Used in 18 Assembly Constituencies 8 states, 1 UT
1984	Usage of EVMs suspended SC ruling EVMs cannot be used till Representation of Peopel (RP) Act is amended
1988	RP Act ammended, enabling use EMs wef 15.03.1989
2018	SC dismissed petion asked for return to Ballot paers!

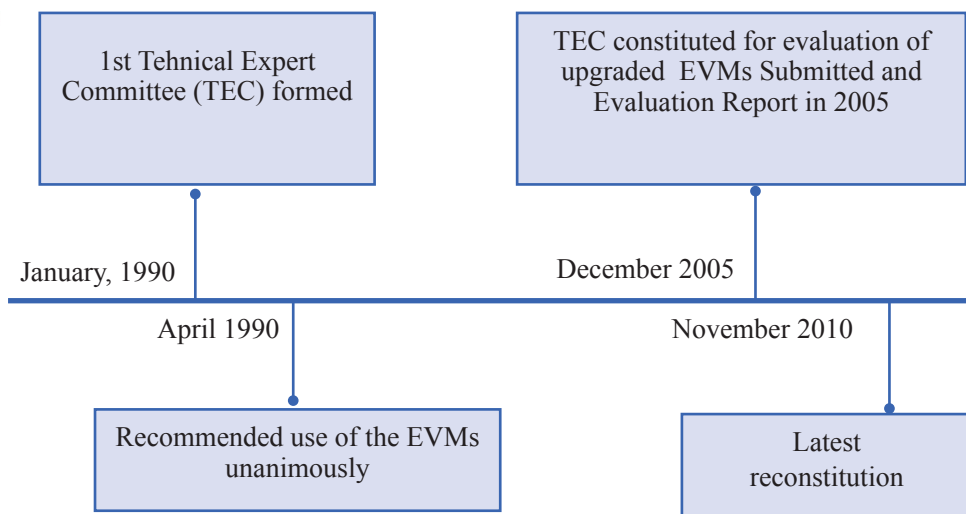
- Since 2000, EVMs have been used in all elections, 3 Lok Saba and 118 State Legislative Assemblies. Till date, more than 250 crore voters have cast their votes with full confidence and satisfaction.

## Chronology of EVM-VVPAT in Indian Elections

1977	ECI mooted the idea of EVM
1979	Aproto-type was developed
6th August, 1980	Demonstration by ECI before the representatives of political parties
January 1981	BEL approached ECI for manufacturing EVMs
29th July 1981	ECI held a meeting with the representatives of BEL, ECIL the Ministry of Law and Chief Electoral Officers of some state
19th May, 1982	EVMs first used in 70-Parur AC in Kerala
1982-83	EVMs used in 10 Bye-elections in different parts of the Country

December 1988	A new Section 61A was included in the Representation of the People Act 1951 (The Supreme Court upheld the validity of section 61A in 2001)
January 1990	Electoral Reforms Committee (ERC) formed by Government of India
April 1990	Technical Experts Committee recommended the use of EVMs
24th March, 1992	Necessary amendments of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961 were notified by the Government
1998	A general consensus was reached on the use of EVMs for conduction Indian Election
1999-2014	EVMs used in different state assembly elections
2004-2014	EVMs used in three consecutive elections to the Lok Sabha
14 th August, 2013	The Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 were further amended and notified to provide for VVPATs

## TEC-History



14 th September, 2013	VVPAT was first used in a bye-election for 51-Noksen AC in Nagaland
8th October, 2013	Hon'able Supreme Court directed the ECI to introduce the VVPAT in a phased manner
213-March 2017	Limited number of VVPATS introduced in phases by ECI except all 40 Assembly Constituencies of Goa
May 2017-present	VVPATs being used in all General /By-elections to Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

### Present TEC Compostion

#### 4 Eminent Professors from IITs: Renowned Experts in their Fields.

1. **Prof DT Shahani,**  
Prof Emeritus, IIT-Deli
2. **Prof Rajat Moona,**  
Director IIT Bhilai,  
Former Director General CDAC
3. **Prof Dinesh K Sharma**  
Prof Emeritus, IIT Bombay
4. **Prof AK Aggarwala**  
IIT Delhi

## Technical Security

### Design, Process, Manufacturing

#### 1. Secured Design Features



Standalone Machine	No Radio Frequency transmission or reception possible - No wireless communication	One time Programmable (OTP) chip* *The Software burnt on the chip cannot be re-written/modified/erased	Dynamic Coding of Key Press	Real Time Clock for time and date stamping key press
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#### 2. Secure Development & Manufacturing

- Manufactured by Premium PSUs-M/s BEL & ECIL: Both deal with manufacturing of sensitive equipment critical to the safety and security of the Nation and have strong security protocols.
- In-house SOFTWARE (SW) Developed. Fully vetted by TEC Never sub-contracted
- Secure Manufacturing : 3-level Physical/Process access Control, Regular frisking at imp junctions, prohibition on outside e-gadgets, CCTV Coverage, Access Data and Process Data logging, alarm and alert generation.
- Third Party Testing by Standardization Testing & Quality Certification (STQC)\* as per Standards & Quality Process set by TEC. Software is also tested & checked by STQC for authentication

(\*STQC is an organization under Ministry of Electronic and information Technology involved in certifying organizations and products by independent testing/auditing.)

#### Administrative Safeguards

##### Secure Handling & Management of EVMs/VVPATs

1. Stakeholder Participation at each & every step involving EVMs & VVPATs
2. Allocation & Secure Movement
3. First Level Checking (FLC)
4. Candidate Setting

5. Randomization
6. Mock Poll
7. Poll Day Checks
8. Poll Closure & Transportation
9. Storage & Security
10. Counting Day Protocol

## 1. Stakeholder Participation

### Active Participation of & Witness by Political-Parties/Candidates in All Processes

Processes:

1. Opening & Sealing of EVM Warehouses & Strong-rooms
2. First Level Check (FLC) & Candidate Setting
3. List of EVMs after 1st & 2nd randomization shared
4. Sign on Paper Seals on EVMs after all processes
5. Conduct mock poll and receive mock poll results



## 2. Allocation & Movement

Planned Allocation	Secured Transportation
EVMs are allocated to pol going State by the Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Movement of EVMs/VVPATs mandatorily managed through EVM Management System (EMS)</li> <li>Only Containerized Trucks or Sealed trucks used for Transportation</li> <li>All Trucks sealed with Lock and Paper Seals</li> <li>GPS tracking mandatory</li> <li>All movement under 24 × 7 Police Escort</li> <li>Political parties informed in advance about the opening, stocking and sealing of warehouse while shifting of EVMs/VVPATS</li> <li>Videography done of shifting process</li> </ul>
Received by District Election Officer (DEO) who is personally responsible for secured storage	
EVM Management Software for inventory management of all EVMs nationwide	

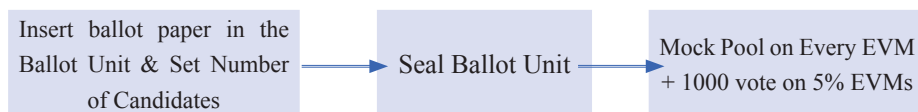
## 3. First Level Checking (FLC)

- FLC in the presence of representative of political parties
- Fully sanitized hall under videography and full security
- Defective (non-functional) EVMs are kept aside and not used in election
- Recorded in EMS



## 4. Candidate Setting

### The Process



### Security Measures

- Done after finalization of the names of contesting candidates
- Fully sanitized hall under videography and fully security
- Done in the presence of candidates or their agents

## 5. Randomization

- EVMs are Randomized twice using EVM Tracking Software (ETS).
- Only FLC approved EVMs as per ETS get picked up for first randomisation

### 1st Randomization

- Done after FLC
- To allocate EVMs available in district, randomly, to a particular AC.
- In presence of representatives of political parties.
- List of AC-wise Randomized CU/BU and the training EVMs shared with political parties.

### 2nd Randomization

(EVMs undergo two stage randomisation using EVM Tracking Software, first while being allotted from district to ACs,)

- EVMs are Randomized twice using EVM Tracking Software (ETS).
- Only FLC approved EVMs recorded in ETS get picked up for first randomisation

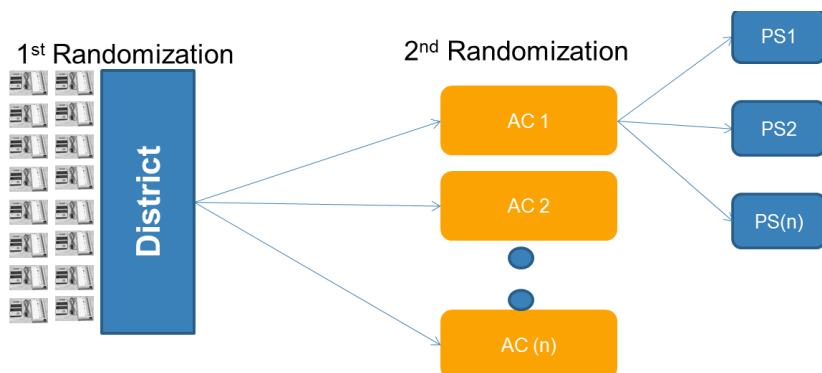
Done just before ‘candidate setting’.

- To allocate EVMs available in an AC to specific polling stations.
- In presence of candidates/election agents and list shared.

(and then from AC to Polling Stations. The list of allotted EVMs are shared with political parties or candidates.)

After manufacturing, the EVMs are securely moved to the States/UTs in trucks, sealed with lock and Paper seals, which are mandatorily tracked through ETS. All such movement is done under 24x7 police escort, with GPS enabled tracking. To maintain transparency of the whole process, the political parties are informed in advance about opening, stocking and sealing of warehouses. It is also made sure that the whole process is video graphed too.

In addition to this, various administrative safeguards ensure secure handling and management of EVMs at all times. Stakeholder participations



### Randomization- The Foundation of EVM Security

- Till first randomization- no one knows which EVM is going to which AC
- Till nomination finalisation- no one knows the sequence of names on the ballot paper
- Hence, till candidate setting no one (not even RO/DEO/CEO/Commission) knows which button on which BU will be assigned to which candidate, making even an attempt to tamper absolutely futile.
- Till 2nd Randomization- no one knows which EVM will go to which PS
- Added to this is the 3 stage Randomization of polling station officials.

As you can appreciate, till first randomisation no-one can predict which EVM will go to which AC. In addition, no-one knows the sequence of names on the ballot paper till the finalisation of list of contesting candidates as the names are placed alphabetically first for National & State Parties, followed by other Recognised Parties, followed by independents. Hence till candidate setting no-one, not even RO or DEO or CEO or the Commission could know which button on which BU will be assigned to which candidate. Again till 2nd randomisation no one knows which EVM will go to which Polling Station.

### 6. Poll Day Mock Poll

- Before start of actual poll, Mock poll with at least 50 votes in the presence of candidates/their agents.
- Mock poll data is erased and shown to the agents.
- The Presiding Officer issues the Mock Poll Certificate with signature of the representatives of candidates.
- On the day of the poll mock poll is conducted with atleast 50 votes in the presence of the Polling Agents



- No Possibility Of EVM Hacking
- No Possibility of remotely altered CU Display through wireless communication
- Memory Manipulation ruled out
- Replacement of Microcontroller/Memory chip or Motherboard Before Poll/ Counting Impossible
- Tampered Source Code “TROJAN” ruled out
- No Possibility of Vote Stuffing After Poll Closure

## **7. POLL DAY CHECKS**

- Polling Agents Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), Micro-Observers, Webcasting CCTV
- Frequent visits (Sector Officers /Senior officers/ Observers)
- 2 hourly reporting of votes polled
- Media

## **8. POLL CLOSURE & TRANSPORTATION**

- Poll Closed on EVM by pressing CLOSE button on CU
- EVMs sealed in carrying cases & polling agents sign them
- EVMs transported back to the reception centres under armed escort. Candidates’ representatives are allowed to follow them

## **9. SECURE STORAGE IN STRONGROOMS TILL COUNTING**

- Polled EVMs kept in strong room, sealed in the presence of the Candidates and Observer
- Facilitation for Candidates to watch the Polled EVM Strong Room 24/7
- Starting from FLC of EVMs to Counting of votes, EVMs are kept in Strong-room with full 24/7 security

## **10. STORAGE & SECURITY**

- EVM warehouse/strongroom with only one entry point.
- Entry secured by a double lock system with District Election Officer (DEO) & Dy DEO, each having custody of keys of one lock each.
- 24X7 Armed security.
- The opening & closing of EVM warehouse ONLY in presence of Political party representatives- advance written intimation mandatory.
- Entire EVM/VVPAT stock managed by ECI through EMS

### **Post Polling:**

- Candidates allowed to put their own seals on locks.
- Two cordoned round-the-clock security for strong rooms having polled EVMs with CCTV feed to Candidates Camping Area.
- The CAPF secures the innermost perimeter immediately outside the strong room and the State Armed Police secures the outer perimeter.

24/7 security arrangement for unused EVMs/VVPATs also.

### **COUNTING DAY PROTOCOL**

- On the day of counting, strong room opened in the presence of Candidates, RO and Observer under videography.
- Round-wise CUs are brought to the counting tables from Strongrooms under CONTINUOUS CCTV Coverage.
- Unique ID number of the CU & the signed seals are verified and shown to the polling agents.
- EVMs & VVPATs are stored back in Strong Room in the presence of candidates/their representatives till the completion of the Election Petition period.

<b>EVMs and VVPATs for upcoming General Election to Lok Sabha and simultaneous elections in some States-2019</b>			
Polling Station	BU	CU	VVPAT
10.35 lakh	23.3 lakh	16.35 lakh	17.4 lakh

10

## GENERAL ELECTIONS – 2019 SCHEDULE OF ELECTIONS

**General Elections to Lok Sabha  
and  
State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh,  
Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim**



**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग**  
***Election Commission of India***

**Nirvachan Sadan  
Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001**



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# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001.

No. ECI/PN/23/2019

Dated: 10th March, 2019


## PRESS NOTE

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ODISHA & SIKKIM, 2019.



The five-year term of the 16th Lok Sabha is due to expire on 03rd June, 2019. Credible elections, conducted at regular prescribed intervals, are the very soul of any democratic system. Article 324 of the Constitution of India bestows the relevant powers, duties and functions upon the Election Commission of India while Section 14 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the conduct of the elections to constitute a new Lok Sabha before the expiry of its current term. Taking into account these Constitutional and legal provisions, the Election Commission of India has made comprehensive preparations for the conduct of elections to the 17th Lok Sabha in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

2. Elections to the world's largest democracy pose immense challenges with respect to logistics and man/woman and material management and Commission's endeavour in this direction has been to consult all the stakeholders, invite inputs from all the relevant departments/ organizations and evolve a coordinated framework for smooth delivery of another round of General Elections.
3. In the course of assessing various dimensions involved in holding elections to the 543 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) and, in particular, the parameters to be




considered for their scheduling and phasing, the Election Commission of India has planned meticulously for each and every aspect of election much in advance to ensure that these elections are conducted in best professional manner.

4. The Commission organized a series of meetings with the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all the 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) to review all the aspects of election preparedness in all the States and UTs and accordingly, appropriate instructions were issued to the CEOs for ensuring efficient conduct of the elections.
5. The Commission also held meeting with the Chief Secretaries, Directors General of Police, Home Secretaries, Chief Electoral Officers and Police Nodal Officers of all States and UTs on 21st, 22nd & 28th January, 2019, to assess the overall law and order situation, ascertain

State/ UT specific areas of concern, to deliberate on the quantum of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) required in each State/ UT and to review the overall preparedness of the election machinery. The cooperation of all authorities was sought for conducting free, fair and peaceful elections across the country, under the overall superintendence, direction and control of the Commission.

6. The Commission has visited different States to review the poll preparedness. During these visits, the Commission interacted with political parties, enforcement agencies, all District officers, SSPs/SPs, Divisional Commissioners, Range IGs and Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries, DGPs and other Senior officers of the States.
7. The conduct of General Elections in the entire country requires considerable deployment of Central and State Police Forces to ensure peaceful, free, fair election with fearless participation of electors, especially in the vulnerable areas/ pockets. Mobilization, deployment and disengagement of these forces with minimum criss cross movement and optimal utilization, involved complex planning and detailed analysis, carried out over several rounds of consultations with the senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs/ CAPFs/ Police Nodal Officers of the States/ UTs. The Commission also held discussions with the Union Home Secretary to highlight the areas of coordination for effective deployment of these forces.
8. The Commission also held meeting with Railway and many others in regard to the specific requirements of special trains, including other logistics, for smooth and timely movement of CAPF Companies and other police forces across States/ UTs, including their intra-State shifting during the election period.
9. Keeping in view the interests of the students and also the fact that Polling Stations are mostly located in school buildings and teachers are engaged as polling personnel, the Commission has consciously factored-in the examination schedules of various State Boards, including the Central Board of Secondary Education, in the process of finalizing the poll dates. In addition to this, other relevant factors like various holidays and festivals falling in the months of March, April and May, harvest season in certain parts of the country and the inputs obtained from the



Indian Meteorological Department on the pre-monsoon rainfall, onset and spread of monsoon and acute hot weather conditions in certain parts of the country have also been taken into consideration. Thus, while deciding on the number of poll days for each State/ UT and the composition of the PCs that go to polls on a particular poll day, the Commission has, to the extent possible, taken all relevant aspects and information, related thereto, into view.

## **10. DELIMITATION OF PARLIAMENTARY AND ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES:**

The General Election to the House of People, 2019 to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha shall be held on the basis of the extent of Parliamentary Constituencies as contained in the “Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008”. Therefore, there is no change in the extent and status of any Parliamentary Constituency after General election to Lok Sabha, 2009. Besides, the total number of Parliamentary Constituencies allotted to various States/UTs including SC/ST seats are also continued to be the same. Similarly, general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim shall be held on the basis of the extent of Assembly Constituencies as contained in the said Delimitation Order, 2008. The total number of ACs allotted to these States including SC/ST seats shall also continue to be the same.

11. As per “Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014(No.6 of 2014) dated 1st March, 2014” & “Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2015 dated 23.4.2015” and subsequently, ‘Commission’s Notification No.282/AP/2018(DEL) dated 22.9.2018, the total number of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States shall be as under:-

### **ANDHRA PRADESH**

**Parliamentary Constituencies:-** Total number of seats as allocated are 25, SC-4 and ST-1.

**Assembly Constituencies:-** Total number of seats as allocated are 175, SC-29 & ST-7.


### **TELANGANA**

**Parliamentary Constituencies:-** Total number of seats as allocated are 17, SC-3 and ST-2.

**Assembly Constituencies:-** Total number of seats are 119, SC-19 & ST-12. The extent of all Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States shall be as per the said Act(s) and the Commission’s Notification dated 22.9.2018, as referred above.

## **12. ELECTORAL ROLLS:**

- a. All citizens who turned 18 years on 1st January, 2019 and registered as electors will get opportunity to cast their vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and in the respective Vidhan Sabha elections of those States where



it will be held. Those who turned 18 years on 1st January 2019 and are eligible, but yet to be registered as electors, they still have opportunities to register as electors. Through the media, they are requested to apply urgently online through nvsp.in or offline through the BLOs of the concerned polling stations or in the electoral registration office.

- b. Electoral Rolls have been revised with reference to 01.01.2019 as the qualifying date and have been finally published in all the States and the Union Territories. The process of continuous updation of electoral rolls will continue till the last date of filing nominations.
- c. The total electorate in the country as per finally published E-rolls in reference to 01.01.2019 is approximately 900 million compared to 814.5 million in 2014. This marks an increase of more than 84 million electors. Over 15 million electors are in 18-19 years age group. Electors in the age group of 18 to 19 years constitute 1.66% of total electors. Commission allowed enrollment of transgender persons with gender written as “Others” in the electoral rolls since 2012. The number of electors enrolled as “Others” gender is 38,325.

Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950, allowing enrollment of Indian citizens living overseas as electors. 71,735 overseas electors have been enrolled in the current electoral rolls. There are 16,77,386 service electors in the electoral rolls.

### **13. PHOTO ELECTORAL ROLLS AND ELECTOR PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS (EPIC):**

The country had gone to polls with Photo Electoral Rolls for the first time in 2009. In that year the State of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland did not have Photo Electoral Rolls (PERs), and Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) were not distributed to electors in Assam and Nagaland. Now, all the States and UTs have Photo Electoral Rolls (PERs). Photographs of 99.72% electors are already printed in the electoral rolls. 99.36% electors have been given EPIC. The percentage of electors with EPIC and photographs in electoral rolls is likely to increase further before the elections. 24 States and UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi, Puducherry, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have photographs of 100% electors in the electoral rolls. 23 States and UTs have 100% EPIC coverage. These are - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi, Puducherry, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Remaining electors are advised to submit their photographs to obtain their EPIC from the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) urgently. CEOs have been directed to maximize photo and EPIC coverage in the electoral rolls before the elections.

#### **14. MEASURES FOR FACILITATING FRANCHISE OF EPIC HOLDERS – SPECIAL CAMPS TO BE ORGANISED:**

Commission has received complaints that some persons having EPIC have in the past been denied the right to vote because their name was not found in the electoral rolls. It is clarified here that only those persons are allowed to vote at a Polling Station who are enrolled in the electoral roll for that Polling Station. EPIC is only an identity document and does not confer the right of vote on any person, whose name is not in the electoral roll. It is also clarified that the law does not allow inclusion of names in the electoral roll after 3:00 PM on the last date of filing nominations, till the electoral process is complete. All persons are, therefore, advised that they must check that their names are in electoral rolls and apply at the earliest. Facility of checking is provided on the website of Chief Electoral Officers. “Voter Verification & Information Programme (VVIP)” has been launched where facility to check the names in electoral rolls through SMS on toll free number “1950” has been provided. In addition, the Commission has organized special camps at all Polling Stations for enrolment of left out eligible voters. In this camp, the electoral roll for that Polling Station shall be pasted on the wall of the Polling Station and shall also be read out in public, so that people can check that their name is in the electoral roll. If the name of any person eligible to be enrolled is left out for some reason or has been wrongly deleted, such a person should immediately fill application for inclusion of name in Form 6 and hand it over to the Booth Level Officer (BLO), who will be present in the camp at the Polling Station. The BLO shall then deliver the form to the ERO, who will include the name if the applicant is found eligible to be enrolled as an elector.

#### **15. INTENSIVE MONITORING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS BY THE COMMISSION:**

Commission has put in place a mechanism of daily monitoring of electoral rolls during the period of continuous updation. Instructions have been given that there shall be no suo moto deletion of names after final publication of electoral rolls. EROs have been directed that they must consult the District Election Officer (DEO) on all deletions after final publication of e-rolls; further, no deletion or modification shall be done, after 10 days of announcement of elections, without prior approval of the Commission.

#### **16. MEASURES TO PREVENT IMPERSONATION OF ABSENTEE VOTERS:**

BLOs shall do a door to door survey and prepare a list of voters found absent from the place of their ordinary residence. Similarly, names of shifted and dead voters shall also be added to this list by BLOs. This list of Absent, Shifted or Dead (ASD) voters shall be given to the Presiding Officers on the poll day. Commission has issued instructions that voting will be allowed only after proper identification of voters. Identification shall be done on the basis of EPIC or other alternative identity documents permitted by the Commission. Presiding Officers are required to double check the identity of voters whose names are on the ASD list.



## 17. PHOTO VOTER SLIPS (PVS):

PHOTO VOTER SLIP shall be used for guidance but not as identity proof in polling station. Electors will be required to carry EPIC or any of the eleven Identity Documents as notified by the Commission.

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.

18. 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.
19. **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.

## 20. 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.



## 21. 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.

## 22. POLLING STATIONS:

Presently there are approximately 10,35,918 Polling Stations in the country, as compared to approximately 9,28,000 Polling Stations set up during Lok Sabha election, 2014. This marks an increase of nearly 10.1% Polling Stations. This increase is largely due to rationalization of Polling Stations, which the Commission undertook in the recent years.

## 23. ASSURED MINIMUM FACILITIES (AMF) AT POLLING STATIONS:

The Commission has recently issued instructions to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States/ UTs to ensure that every Polling Station is equipped with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, shed, toilet, ramp for the physically challenged voters and a standard voting compartment etc.


## 24. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs):

The Commission has decided to use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) alongwith Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at every polling station of all the States and Union Territories to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election process as VVPAT allows the voter to verify his/her vote. The Commission has already made arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the smooth conduct of elections. The requirement and availability of EVMs and VVPATs for the Lok Sabha and for the State Assembly Elections due to be held together in 2019 are as follows:

Requirement of EVMs and VVPATs for upcoming General Election to Lok Sabha and simultaneous elections in some States			
Polling Stations	Deployment of units		
	BU	CU	VVPAT
10.35 lakh	23.3 lakh	16.35 lakh	17.4 lakh

## 25. First level Checking (FLC): 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. For this purpose, a Standard Operating Procedure for randomization of EVMs and VVPATs



has been issued. In the first stage, all the EVMs and VVPATs stored in the district warehouse will be randomized by the District Election Officer (DEO) through EVM Management System (EMS) in the presence of the representatives of the recognized political parties for Assembly Constituency/Segment-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.

26. **Mock Poll:** Before actual use of EVMs and VVPATs at polling stations, mock polls are conducted on the machines three times. First, during the First Level Checking (FLC), each and every VVPAT is also subjected to a mock poll with 96 votes and the paper slip count is cross verified with the electronic count in the EVM. Furthermore, a mock poll in 5% randomly selected EVMs is done as follows i.e. 1% of EVMs with 1200 votes, in 2% of EVMs with 1000 votes and in 2% of EVMs with 500 votes is done using VVPATs. After the mock-poll, the printed ballot slips of each VVPAT printer are counted and the result is tallied with the electronic result of Control Unit. The tally is shown to the representative of political parties present at the FLC to ensure absolute transparency. As part of the preparations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, mock poll has already been conducted in EVMs and VVPATs during the First Level Checking in the presence of the representative of Political Parties. During commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs, mock poll is again done on each EVM and VVPAT. In addition, mock poll of 1000 votes are cast in 5% randomly selected EVMs, as well as VVPATs and the electronic result is tallied with paper count. Candidates/their representatives are allowed to pick machines randomly for this purpose and also to participate in the process. Finally, on poll day before start of the actual poll, a mock poll is conducted by casting at least 50 votes at every polling station by the Presiding Officer, in the presence of representatives of candidates and the electronic result of the Control Unit and the result of VVPAT slips are tallied and shown to them. 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 is pressed on the EVM to clear the data of the Mock Poll and the fact that no votes are recorded in the Control Unit is displayed to the Polling Agents present. The Presiding Officer also ensures that all mock poll slips shall be taken out and kept in separate marked envelope before the start of Poll.
27. **Mandatory Verification of VVPAT Paper Slip:** The Commission has also mandated that VVPAT slip count of One (1) randomly selected Polling Station in each Assembly Constituency in case of Assembly elections and One (1) randomly selected polling station of each Assembly Segment of Parliamentary 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. This mandatory verification of VVPAT slip count of one (1) polling station in each Assembly Constituency/each Assembly Segment of Parliamentary Constituency shall be in addition to the provisions of Rule 56(D) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

28. **Training and Awareness on use of EVMs and VVPATs:** The Commission directed all the Chief Electoral Officers of States and Union Territories to ensure proper training of all the polling personnel regarding the use of EVMs and VVPATs, as well as to create widespread awareness amongst the citizens, political parties, contesting candidates, their polling agents and other stakeholders about the use of EVMs and VVPATs. The Commission has also directed that sufficient number of Mobile Vans for each Assembly Constituency should be deployed for demonstration and awareness on use of VVPATs (practice of vote casting by electors) so that each village/hamlet gets covered with 3-4 hours demo twice before the elections. There should be atleast one visit to each polling station location by mobile van (for demonstration and practice of vote casting) before announcement of elections and repeat coverage after announcement of election, if not done earlier.
29. **GPS tracking of movement of EVMs and VVPATs:** The Commission has instructed the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and UTs that end-to-end movement of all Reserve EVMs and VVPATs shall be carefully monitored at all times, for which all Sector Officers' vehicles with Reserve EVMs and VVPATs shall mandatorily be fitted with GPS tracking system.

**30. NONE OF THE ABOVE (NOTA) OPTION IN EVMs:**

As usual, there will be 'None of the Above' option for the elections. On the BUs, 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. Similarly, on Posted Ballot Papers also there will be a NOTA Panel after the name of the last candidate. The symbol for NOTA as given below will be printed against the NOTA Panel.



**31. 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.




### **32. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Consequent on the announcement of the Schedule for the General Election through this Press Note, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates comes into operation with immediate effect from today itself in the entire country. This will be applicable to all Political Parties and the Union and State Governments and UT Administrations. In pursuance of the judgment of Supreme Court dated 5th July 2013, in SLP (C) no 21455 of 2008 (S.Subramaniam Balaji vs Govt of T.N. & others) the Election Commission has framed Guidelines on Election Manifesto in consultation with recognized Political Parties. These Guidelines have been incorporated as part VIII of “Model Code of Conduct of Guidance of Political Parties & Candidates” and shall be applicable & implemented in Lok Sabha Elections - 2019 as part of MCC. The Commission calls upon all the Political Parties, Candidates and the Union and State Governments and UT Administrations to strictly adhere to the MCC. 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 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 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.

### **33. AFFIDAVITS BY CANDIDATES:**

All the candidates are required to file an affidavit (in Form 26) along with their nomination papers. This affidavit will include information on the criminal antecedents of the candidate, if any, assets (including the movable, immovable properties and investments even in foreign countries, of the candidate, his/ her spouse and dependents), liabilities of the candidate, his/ her spouse and dependents and his/ her educational qualifications. The filing of the affidavit with all columns duly filled in is mandatory and its non-filing may result in rejection of the nomination paper by the Returning Officer, who has a duty to inform about such omissions to the candidate. The format of Form 26 has been amended vide Ministry of Law & Justice Notification dated 26th February, 2019. The Commission has circulated the revised format of Form 26 to all the States/UTs and Political Parties. With the amendment, it has been expressly provided that declaration on assets shall include full information about offshore assets. The candidates are also required to declare the total income shown in the Income Tax return filed for the last five years for



the candidates, spouse, HUF (if candidate is Karta or Coparcener in HUF), and for dependents. Facility for e-filing of the affidavit by the candidates is available. After e-filing, the hardcopy of the affidavit is required to be got notarized by the candidate and submitted to the Returning Officer within the prescribed format. The e-filing system will help candidates in filling up the information in the affidavit in correct manner, without any omission.

In pursuance of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 13th September, 2013, in Writ Petition (C) No. 121 of 2008, 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 submit a fresh affidavit, duly filling up all columns. After such notice, if the candidate fails to file the affidavit, complete in all respects, the nomination paper will be liable to be rejected at the time of scrutiny.

As part of the efforts of the Commission to widely disseminate the information contained in the affidavits filed by contesting candidates to the citizens at the earliest, instructions have been issued to the Returning Officers to display the copies of these affidavits on notice-boards outside their offices and to make available, on demand, the copies of the affidavit freely to other candidates, general public, media, etc. on the very day of filing of affidavit by a candidate. Further, Commission has issued instructions for displaying copies of the abstract part of the affidavit of contesting candidates at various public offices within the Constituency such as Collectorate, Zila Parishad Office, Panchayat Samiti Office etc. The scanned copies of these affidavits will also be uploaded on the website of CEOs for public viewing and any member of the public can download such copies of affidavits.

The Commission appeals to the citizens, the media and all the interested parties to cooperate with the election authorities for the widest dissemination of this information as contemplated in the directions of the Courts and the Commission.

#### **34. CANDIDATES WITH CRIMINAL CASES:**

Candidates with criminal antecedents are 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 channel on three occasions. Instructions in this regard has been issued as 10th October, 2018. This requirement is in pursuance of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition(C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India & Others) and Writ Petition(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.).



### **35. IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS:**

All electors who have been issued EPIC shall produce the EPIC for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC shall produce one of the following alternative photo identity documents for establishing their identity:-

- i. Passport;
- ii. Driving License;
- iii. Service Identity Cards with photographs issued to employees by Central/ State Govt. PSUs/ Public Limited Companies;
- iv. Passbook with photograph issued by Bank/ Post Office;
- v. PAN Card;
- vi. Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour;
- vii. MNREGA Job Card;
- viii. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour;
- ix. Pension document with photograph;
- x. Official Identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs; and
- xi. Aadhar Card.


Electors with photo voter slip (PVS) shall produce any one of these 12 documents for identification as Commission vide its instruction dated 28.02.2019 has instructed that PVS will not be used as a stand-alone identity document now onwards. Overseas electors who turn up for voting shall produce their original Passport for identification at the polling station.

### **36. 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.

### **37. 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 vetted 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.

### **38. BOOTH LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN:**


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

### **39. 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 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.

### **40. 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, had 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 these Elections. 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 restrictions on 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 and candidates in the States/UTs 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 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 beyond 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.

#### **41. 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.

## **42. 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.



#### **43. 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.

#### **44. SYSTEMATIC VOTERS' EDUCATION AND ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION (SVEEP):**

The Commission works on the premise of 'No Voter to be Left Behind' in its endeavor to realize universal adult suffrage. Voter education connects people to the elections. In this pursuit, several initiatives under 'Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation' (SVEEP), the flagship voter education programme of the Commission have been launched effectively well in advance to connect with voters of all categories in the States and UT's down to the polling station level. As per extant directions of the Commission, State SVEEP Plans have been developed, approved and the implementation is being closely monitored.

In view of the fact that VVPAT shall be used with every EVM at each Polling Station, special campaign, including hands on experience, has been undertaken right from September, 2018 for enhancing awareness, elector convenience and confidence in respect of these machines. EVM and VVPAT awareness campaign is further being carried out through different media besides EVM and VVPAT equipped Mobile Vans to cover people at block level, traditional haats, bazaars and 'Gram Sabha' etc in rural areas.

Voter Facilitation Centers have been activated in all the States and Union Territories to facilitate voters.

Voter Helpline -1950 has been activated across the country to cater to the voters queries and in addition, 'Voter Helpline App' has also been launched. SMS facility has been made available on 1950 to enable electors verify their names on the Electoral Roll (Voter List).

Steps have been taken up to ensure wide dissemination of election related information, as well as to ensure adequate facilitation measures for enhancing

participation of people in polling. Reminder services on poll days have been meticulously planned.

Special measures have been rolled out to facilitate persons with disabilities both for the purpose of enrollment; as well as participation on poll day. These measures include accessible awareness material, Braille enabled EPICs for blind electors, sensitization of polling personnel and PwD friendly infrastructure at polling stations. Polling Station wise mapping of the electors with disabilities has been undertaken to extend requisite facilitation to them. PwD electors will be provided transport facility to their respective polling station on poll day to help them exercise their franchise.

Services of Electoral Literacy Clubs, “Chunav Pathshala” are being used for connecting with youth for enhancing awareness, disseminate information, motivation and facilitation among youth for both, enrollment and use of EVM and VVPAT and as such for the entire electoral process.

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

Commission has taken up a National Multi-Media Campaign covering practically all areas of relevance to promote informed and ethical participation besides other important information through Television, Radio, Print, Social and Digital Media, Cinemas and through Outdoor media to supplement the communication campaign taken up by the Chief Electoral Offices and District Election Offices.

#### **45. DEPLOYMENT OF CENTRAL OBSERVERS:**

##### **A. General Observers**


The Commission will deploy General Observers 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.

##### **B. 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 on the ECI website (<https://eci.gov.in/>).



The names and telephone numbers of all Observers 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.

### **C. Police Observers**

The Commission has decided to deploy IPS officers as Police Observers at State and District levels, depending upon the sensitivity of the Constituency, wherever required. They will monitor all activities relating to force deployment, law and order situation and co-ordinate between the Civil and Police administration to ensure free and fair election.

### **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.

## **46. TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICIALS:**

General Elections to Lok Sabha in India is considered to be the biggest, man management exercise in the world. It involves a mammoth task to mobilize an election machinery of more than 11 million officials for this exercise. These officials are government employees of Central/ State governments working on deputation to Election Commission of India for conducting the elections. Training of these officials thus becomes essential for flawless conduct of elections.

Training of such a magnitude can be completed in a cascaded manner whereby master trainers are prepared and they in turn train the participants. India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) was established by Election Commission of India in June 2011 to fulfill this important task of training of election officials from India and abroad. IIIDEM has since been working to achieve its objectives. For General Elections to Lok Sabha and simultaneous Assembly Election in 4 States, IIIDEM has trained 294 National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs), 2040, State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs), who have been train the Assembly Level Trainers (ALTs) and other officials of Election Machinery in cascading manner.

IIIDEM has also organized the following programs to train the important functionaries and trainers.



1. **Certification Program for District Election Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers:** An in-depth training program of 2 days per batch was designed for all District Election Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers from all States/ UTs. 28 batches were organized from 29th January - 28th February 2019, wherein 856 officers were trained in all the aspects of elections.
2. **Training of Trainers and Facilitators:** This programme aims at empowering the trainers of all categories with training techniques and methodologies, thereby ensuring better delivery and interactive training programmes. 70 batches were organized to train various categories of trainers.
3. **Leadership and Motivational Trainings:** These programs are targeted at important election officers involved in various leadership roles in the election process. 103 batches were organized to train the officers.

Chief Electoral Officers are organizing State and District Level trainings of all election officials with the help of master trainers (SLMTs and ALTs).

#### **47. 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.

#### **48. 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, queue management 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.

#### **49. 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, Commercial Tax Department, Narcotics Control Bureau and police authorities have been asked to monitor production, distribution, sale and storage of liquor and other intoxicants (including narcotics) and inducements in the form of free goods during the election process. The functioning and operations of the



Flying Squads/Mobile Teams shall be closely monitored using GPS Tracking & the use of cVigil App.

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, account Reconciliation Meeting will be convened by the

DEOs before final submission of the accounts, on the 26th day after the date of 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 (February, 2019).

- (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. As per the revised ceilings, the maximum limit of election expenses for a Lok Sabha Constituency is Rs.70.00 lakh per candidate for all States except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim. For these three States it is Rs.54.00 lakh per candidate. For the Union Territories, the maximum limit is Rs.70 lakh per candidate for NCT of Delhi and Rs.54.00 lakh per candidate for other UTs.

Accordingly, in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha the limit of expenses for Assembly Constituencies is Rs. 28.00 lakh per candidate and in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim it is Rs. 20.00 lakh per candidate.

The Commission has decided that an election expenditure / either by / to candidate(s) or political parties exceeding Rs. 10000/- (Ten Thousand) in all the situations be incurred by crossed account payee cheque or draft or by RTGS/NEFT or any other electronic mode linked with bank account of the candidate opened for election purpose.

**(g) Accounts of Election Expenses submitted by Political Parties:**

All Political Parties sponsoring candidates for the Lok Sabha/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 90 days/75 days of the completion of Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly 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 Lok Sabha/Legislative Assemblies in prescribed format.

The Commission has already issued detailed guidelines on the manner in which accounts are to be maintained and submitted by the candidates and it is incumbent upon them to maintain a daily account of expenditure and to submit it for inspection to the Designated Officer/Expenditure Observer three times during the campaign period. To strengthen the monitoring of expenses, the Commission has taken special steps. A separate Election Expenditure Monitoring Division has been set up in the Commission to deal with information on poll expenses of the candidates and political parties. To assist the candidates, the Commission has prepared e-learning modules for maintaining their election expense accounts, and such modules are freely accessible on the Commission's Website (<https://www.eci.gov.in/>).

**(h) Seizures figures**

**Seizures in Lok Sabha Elections – 2014 :**

Item	Value (in Rs. Cr.)
34	
Cash	304
Liquor	92
Drugs	804
Total	1200

### Seizures in 5 poll gone states in 2018 (in Rs. Crores) :


State	Cash	Liquor & Drugs	Others	Total
Chhattisgarh	5	1.5	6.5	13
Madhya Pradesh	13	20	21	54
Mizoram	1	4	1	6
Rajasthan	13	54	19.5	86.5
Telangana	115	13	8.5	136.5
Total	147	92.5	56.5	296

### 50. USE OF ICT AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS:

Use of the latest technologies by ECI has led to further improvement in overall efficiency of various of election activities, in addition to enhancing the election system. This boost in technology usage has primarily been driven by “Smart Technology” which is a familiar terminology and is widely being used in everyday life by way of smartphones, tablets, etc. For effective conduct of elections, the ECI has integrated use of Smart Technology in various processes of elections. Following Information and Communications Technologies are used in the current elections.


#### For Citizens, Candidate and Political Parties:

1. **cVIGIL:** By using the cVIGIL app, citizens can record on his Android mobile and promptly to election authorities report any violation of Model Code of Conduct, any incident of intimidation or inducement within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to go to the office of the returning officer. cVIGIL is a simple, Android-based- Mobile App which is user-friendly and easy to operate. All that one has to do is to simply click a picture or to take a video and briefly describe the activity before uploading it on the cVIGIL mobile application. If the complainant desires to remain anonymous he has the option to do so. cVIGIL provides time-stamped evidentiary proof of the Model Code of Conduct / Expenditure Violation, having live photo/video with auto location data. The District Control Room allocates cVIGIL cases to the Flying Squads etc. through GIS-based platform. Flying Squads investigate the matter and the Returning Officer takes the decision. The status of cVIGIL is shared with the cVIGIL complainant within 100 minutes.
2. **Voter Helpline Mobile app** provides convenience to all Citizens of finding names in the electoral roll, submitting online forms, checking the status of the application, filing complaints and receiving the reply on their mobile app. All forms, results, candidate affidavit, press notes, Voter awareness and important instructions are available through the mobile app. This popular app is available at Google Play Store.

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3. **PwD App:** Eligible citizens/ citizens in the category of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) can request for new registration, change in address, change in particulars and mark themselves as PwD through the use of the mobile application. By simply entering their contact details, the Booth Level Officer is assigned to provide doorstep facility. PwDs can also request for a wheelchair during polling. The app is available at google play store [here](#).
  4. **Suvidha Candidate App:** Contesting candidates can log on to the website <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in> and request for permissions. Upon successful registration, an Android based Mobile app is available for tracking the status of nomination, status of their permission requests. The candidates will be able to download the application from Google Play store and with their registered mobile number will be able to log on and keep track of their applications.
  5. **Samadhan:** Election Commission of India has designed a single integrated web portal for registering and resolving citizen Information, Suggestion, Feedback and Complaints (IFSC). The website can be accessed at <https://eci-citizenservices.eci.nic.in/>. The universal portal is available for Election as well as non-election period, and any citizen can also use the facility from the convenience of their mobile phone to lodge a grievance using ‘Voter Helpline’ Mobile App. All the EROs, DEO, CEO and ECI Officials are connected into the Samadhan Portal and the complaint lodged in the Samadhan directly connects to concerned official. There is an escalation matrix configured into the system and if within a time frame the matter is not addressed by ERO, it gets escalated to the next levels.
  6. **Voter Helpline Contact Centre:** Now a citizen can call universal toll-free helpline number of Election Commission of India i.e. 1950 to connect directly to District Contact Centre. All Districts & CEO Office across all States / UTs have established Contact Centre to provide Information and register Feedback, Suggestions and Complaints. Any user can call 1950 and obtain information about his Voter details in the electoral roll, check for the status of his enrollment application and also lodge grievance.

#### **For Election Officials:**

1. **Observer App:** Observer mobile app aids Observers in the real-time to get all information about the Parliamentary / Assembly Constituency and send observation reports to ECI instantly and securely. All cVIGIL cases reported in their jurisdiction are available to General Observers, Expenditure and Police Observers and they can supervise and give their inputs too from the place of citing of cVIGIL incidence.
2. **Suvidha:** The application provides a robust single interface for candidates and political parties to apply and get permission for all campaign related activities in time bound manner and for ROs, DEOs, and CEOs for effective management and monitoring of Candidate Nomination, Candidate Affidavit




filing, candidate/ political parties permissions management, Counting, and results display. New Suvidha also has complete decision support system for Returning Officers which includes, Electoral Roll, Observers deployment plan, Polling Station details, Voter Slip distribution statistics and an interface to handle all complaints.

3. **Sugam:** The Election Commission of India has been using this application for Vehicle Management with the facility of Issuance of requisition letters for vehicles, Capturing of vehicle details with address, mobile number and bank details of Owner & Driver, Transfer of vehicles from one district to another district etc. It is to be used by CEOs as per requirements.
4. **EVM Management System (EMS):** One of the important modes to ensure a fair and transparent process in EVM management is the administrative protocol of randomization of the machines before they are deployed in the Polling stations. This whole process is done in the presence of Political Parties'/Candidates representatives. The New EVM Management System will be used for randomization in addition to end to end inventory management.
5. **Election Monitoring Dashboard:** The online system for reporting the poll turnout in the PCs and ACs and incidents at the polling booth level. This will bring a single source of truth across the full managerial network across the Election Commission of India. The data is entered by the Returning Officer.
6. **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.

## 51. 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 to the CEOs of all the States/UTs 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 at the State and district level to ensure timely and due access to election-related data and information by media, by the appointment of a Nodal Officer and Spokesperson at State Level.
- c) Effective steps to sensitize the media about the Election Code.

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- 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) **Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC):**

Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) are in place at all the districts and state level. One Social Media expert will also be now part of this committee at each 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.

MCMC shall also monitor cases of paid news.


(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) Commitments by Intermediaries including Social Media platforms


Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) to workout the details accordingly. With the input of Facebook, Twitter, Google, WhatsApp and Share Chat, IMAI has already responded and confirmed its eagerness to cooperate with the ECI to uphold the integrity and legality of the political campaigns conducted on the platforms of the intermediaries. Some of the specific commitments are as follows:-

- i. Intermediaries have already started awareness campaigns for their users highlighting the activities of the ECI and this will cover awareness campaigns regarding unlawful conduct during the election particularly, the prohibited period of 48 hours, under Section 126.
- ii. All the platforms have agreed to establish priority channels for the ECI for quick response.
- iii. All the platforms have taken specific measures to appoint grievance officers for upcoming election.
- iv. The platforms will deploy appropriate fact checkers which scan the fake news, abuse etc.
- v. Advertisements and pages are being made more transparent.
- vi. Platform are already taking actions against fake accounts, spam etc. by deploying fact checkers.

Each of these platforms has created a mechanism to accept only pre-certified political advertisements during the elections and will share the expenditure incurred on this account with the elections authorities for the purposes of accounting.

## 52. Political Party

Political Parties are, after our electors, are one of the most significant stakeholders in the electoral process. We have multi-party democracy and Commission takes special efforts in ensuring that the group, which intends to form a political party under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are facilitated for the process of registration following due process timely.



In 2014, 1709 (including recognised) political parties were registered with the Commission. Now, as on date 2354 (including recognised) political parties are registered with the Commission. In 2014, 464 (including recognised) political parties contested elections.

### **53. Symbols**

From first elections onwards Commission has devised a unique method of identification of political parties and candidates through specific symbols. Now, this is allocated in accordance with Symbols Order, 1968, issued under Article 324 by the Commission.

As on date we have 7 national recognised political parties, 52 state recognised political parties which are already having ear-marked symbols. As on date 151 common symbols have been allocated to 291 registered but unrecognised political parties for the upcoming elections for Lok Sabha as well as State elections.

### **54. GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES:**

The Commission has taken into account the fact that the tenure of the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim will expire on 18.06.2019, 01.06.2019, 11.06.2019 and 27.05.2019 respectively.

55. After taking into account all relevant factors, the Commission has decided to hold elections for new Legislative Assemblies for these four

States, simultaneously with the General Elections to the 17th Lok Sabha. Elections to the different Assembly Constituencies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim will follow the same Schedule as for the corresponding Parliamentary Constituencies of which these are the relevant Assembly segments.

### **56. BYE ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES:**

There are 34 casual vacancies in Legislative Assemblies of 12


States, as on 09.03.2019. In regard to provisions of Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Commission has decided to hold bye-elections to these 34 Assembly Constituencies following the same schedule as for the relevant Parliamentary Constituency (Annexure-1)

57. Elections, free, fair, peaceful and participative, are the life force of democracy. By virtue of holding its first national election in 1951-52 India achieved the status of the world's largest electoral democracy. Credible democratic elections at stipulated intervals have since enabled our nation, starting with deep-rooted social hierarchies and developmental backlog, to undertake a peaceful Transformative journey for inclusion and empowerment of the common citizen and, thereby, become an inspiration to the whole world.



## **58. About Jammu and Kashmir Election**

59. About holding election in Jammu and Kashmir, the Commission has been continuously assessing the prevailing situation in the state, requirement of central forces and other logistics for elections, requirement of the security for the candidates and preparedness of the state for the election on key factors. The Commission had conducted several rounds of review meetings with MHA, State Administration of Jammu and Kashmir.
60. State government of J & K and Union Home Secretary had sent detailed and specific inputs to the Commission regarding holding elections in the state. To assess the situation and level of preparedness, the Commission had recently visited J & K and had detailed meeting with the Political Parties, all important Central and State Government agencies, with District Authorities and the Chief Secretary, DGP, Home Secy. and other officials in this matter.
61. Based on the specific inputs and recommendation from the State Government and Union Home Secretary, inputs from the Political Parties and other stakeholders, constraints of availability of central forces and other logistics, requirement of security forces for security of candidates in wake of incidents of violence in recent past and keeping other challenges in mind, the Commission has decided to announce only schedule of the parliament elections in J & K .
62. The Commission will be regularly and on real time basis monitoring the situation in J & K and will also be taking inputs from all necessary quarters and decision regarding holding Legislative Assembly elections in J & K will be taken soon.
63. A committee of three very eminent and senior officers has been set up as Special Observers to assess the situation in J&K. Sh. Noor Mohammad, IAS(1977, ret'd) , Sh Vinod Zutshi , IAS (1982, ret'd) and Sh. A.S.Gill, IPS (1972, ret'd) have been appointed as Special Observers. Mr. A S Gill, a celebrated Police officer has wide experience of working in the field of Security Management. His special assignments have been of working as IG and DG, CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Noor Mohammad, retired as Secretary, Government of India and has worked in the field of Election Management for more than a decade. He has also been an international expert and consultant to Afganistan for many years. He is currently working as Senior Consultant in the IIIDEM. Mr. Zutshi is a former Secretary, Government of India and has worked as CEO Rajasthan and Deputy Election Commissioner in ECI for many years. He has long experience in the field of election Management and continues to contribute to the Commission as National and International trainer.
64. **Appointing Special Observers by the Commission:**
65. Apart from appointing General, Police and Expenditure Observers, the Commission will also appoint some special observers in the areas of special law and order problems, expenditure sensitive constituencies and areas with any specific challenges.

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66. Before concluding, I would like to reiterate that the Commission is totally committed to maintain purity of elections and to deliver free, fair, transparent, peaceful, inclusive, accessible, ethical and participative elections in the entire country.
67. The Commission has directed the Central, State and District Level Election Machinery to be completely impartial, fearless, objective, and independent from any influence whatsoever. The Commission solicits proactive support of all political parties, media organizations, civil societies, youth and community organizations and all voters to join hands with the Commission and wholeheartedly participate in poll process. I hope that with the proactive participation and support of all stakeholders in the country, all National and State level elections will attain greater heights in all benchmarks recording highest turnout ever in the country.
68. On the occasion of the 17th Lok Sabha Elections, the Commission:
- Reassures the nation of its solemn resolve and deep commitment to fulfill its constitutional mandate to conduct free, fair, credible elections;
  - Exhorts the eleven million plus election machinery to re-dedicate themselves to the tasks associated with the conduct of elections as a sacred duty;
  - Appeals to all the stakeholders and in particular, the political parties and the candidates, to uphold the peerless democratic traditions of the nation by maintaining high standards of political discourse and fair play in course of their election campaigns; and
  - Calls upon all voters to reinforce the democratic ethos of the nation by turning up at the polling stations and exercise their right to vote in an informed and ethical manner.

**(UMESH SINHA)**

**Senior Deputy Election Commissioner**

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS-2019**

**NUMBER OF PCs VOTING ON DIFFERENT POLLING DATES IN STATES & UNION TERRITORIES**

State/UT	No of PCs	Poll Day No/ Date of Poll / Day of the week						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		11/04/19 Thursday	18/04/19 Thursday	23/04/19 Tuesday	29/04/19 Monday	06/05/19 Monday	12/05/19 Sunday	19/05/19 Sunday
Andhra Pradesh	25	25						
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2						
Assam	14	5	5	4				
Bihar	40	4	5	5	5	5	8	8
Chhattisgarh	11	1	3	7				
Goa	2			2				
Gujarat	26			26				
Haryana	10						10	
Himachal Pradesh	4							4
Jammu & Kashmir	6*	2	2	1	1	2		
Jharkhand	14				3	4	4	3
Karnataka	28		14	14				
Kerala	20			20				
Madhya Pradesh	29				6	7	8	8
Maharashtra	48	7	10	14	17			
Manipur	2	1	1					
Meghalaya	2	2						
Mizoram	1	1						
Nagaland	1	1						
Odisha	21	4	5	6	6			
Punjab	13							13
Rajasthan	25				13	12		
Sikkim	1	1						
Tamil Nadu	39		39					
Telangana	17	17						
Tripura	2	1	1					
Uttar Pradesh	80	8	8	10	13	14	14	13
Uttarakhand	5	5						
West Bengal	42	2	3	5	8	7	8	9
A & N Islands	1	1						
Chandigarh	1							1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1			1				
Daman & Diu	1			1				
Lakshadweep	1	1						
NCT of Delhi	7						7	
Puducherry	1		1					
<b>Total PCs</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>No of States/UTs in each Poll Day</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Date of Counting</b>	<b>23rd May, 2019</b>							

No. of States and UTs polling in	States/UTs
Single poll date	22
Two poll dates	4
Three poll dates	2
Four poll dates	4
Five poll dates	1
Seven poll dates	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

\* Poll of Anantnag PC of Jammu & Kashmir will be held in 3 parts in Phase 3, Phase 4 & Phase 5.

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019**  
**POLL DAYS & CORRESPONDING SCHEDULE (LOK SABHA)**

Sl. No.	Poll Event	Poll Day						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Announcement & Issue of Press Note	Schedule-1 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-2 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-3 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-4 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-5 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-6 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	Schedule-7 10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)
2	Issue of Notification	18 Mar 2019 (Monday)	19 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	02 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	10 Apr 2019 (Wednesday)	16 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	22 Apr 2019 (Monday)
3	Last Date for filing Nominations	25 Mar 2019 (Monday)	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	04 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	09 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	18 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	23 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	29 Apr 2019 (Monday)
4	Scrutiny of Nominations	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	27 Mar 2019 (Wednesday)	05 Apr 2019 (Friday)	10 Apr 2019 (Wednesday)	20 Apr 2019 (Saturday)	24 Apr 2019 (Wednesday)	30 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)
5	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	29 Mar 2019 (Friday)	08 Apr 2019 (Monday)	12 Apr 2019 (Friday)	22 Apr 2019 (Monday)	26 Apr 2019 (Friday)	02 May 2019 (Thursday)
6	Date of Poll	11 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	18 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	23 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	29 Apr 2019 (Monday)	06 May 2019 (Monday)	12 May 2019 (Sunday)	19 May 2019 (Sunday)
7	Counting of Votes on	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)
8	Date before which the election shall be Completed	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)
	Number of PCs	91	97	115	71	51	59	59
	No of States/UTs In each Schedule	20	13	14	9	7	7	8

## Andaman And Nicobar Islands

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019			
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019			
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019			
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019			
Date of Poll	11-04-2019			
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Andhra Pradesh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	Araku	ST
No of PCs going to poll	25	2	Srikakulam	GEN
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019	3	Vizianagaram	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019	4	Visakhapatnam	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019	5	Anakapalle	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019	6	Kakinada	GEN
Date of Poll	11-04-2019	7	Amalapuram	SC
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	Rajahmundry	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	Narsapuram	GEN
	10	10	Eluru	GEN
	11	11	Machilipatnam	GEN
	12	12	Vijayawada	GEN
	13	13	Guntur	GEN
	14	14	Narasaraopet	GEN
	15	15	Bapatla	SC
	16	16	Ongole	GEN
	17	17	Nandyal	GEN
	18	18	Kurnool	GEN
	19	19	Anantapur	GEN
	20	20	Hindupur	GEN
	21	21	Kadapa	GEN
	22	22	Nellore	GEN
	23	23	Tirupati	SC
	24	24	Rajampet	GEN
	25	25	Chittoor	SC

## Arunachal Pradesh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	Arunachal West	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	2	2	Arunachal East	GEN
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019			
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019			
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019			
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019			
Date of Poll	11-04-2019			
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Assam

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	9	Tezpur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 5	2	11	Kaliabor	GEN
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019	3	12	Jorhat	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019	4	13	Dibrugarh	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019	5	14	Lakhimpur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	6	1	Karimganj	SC
No of PCs going to poll 5	7	2	Silchar	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	8	3	Autonomous District	ST
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	9	8	Mangaldoi	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	10	10	Nawgong	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	11	4	Dhubri	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 4	12	5	Kokrajhar	ST
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	13	6	Barpeta	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	14	7	Gauhati	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019				
Date of Poll 23-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Bihar

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	37	Aurangabad	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 4	2	38	Gaya	SC
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019	3	39	Nawada	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019	4	40	Jamui	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	5	10	Kishanganj	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 5	6	11	Katihar	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	7	12	Purnia	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	8	26	Bhagalpur	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	9	27	Banka	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	10	7	Jhanjharpur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 5	11	8	Supaul	GEN
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	12	9	Araria	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	13	13	Madhepura	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	14	25	Khagaria	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019				
Date of Poll 23-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Chandigarh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 7	1	1	Chandigarh	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification: 22-04-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 29-04-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 30-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 02-05-2019				
Date of Poll 19-05-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Chhattisgarh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	10	Bastar	ST
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	2	6	Rajnandgaon	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	3	9	Mahasamund	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	4	11	Kanker	ST
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	5	1	Surguja	ST
No of PCs going to poll	6	2	Raigarh	ST
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	7	3	Janjgir-Champa	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	8	4	Korba	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	9	5	Bilaspur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019	10	7	Durg	GEN
Date of Poll 23-04-2019	11	8	Raipur	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Dadra Nagar Haveli

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 3	1	1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	ST
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019				
Date of Poll 23-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Daman And Diu

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	3	1	Daman & Diu	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification:	28-03-2019			
Last Date for filing Nominations:	04-04-2019			
Scrutiny of Nominations:	05-04-2019			
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	08-04-2019			
Date of Poll	23-04-2019			
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Delhi

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	6	1	Chandni Chowk	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	7	2	North East Delhi	GEN
Issue of Notification:	16-04-2019	3	East Delhi	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	23-04-2019	4	New Delhi	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	24-04-2019	5	North West Delhi	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	26-04-2019	6	West Delhi	GEN
Date of Poll	12-05-2019	7	South Delhi	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Goa

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	3	1	North Goa	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	2	2	South Goa	GEN
Issue of Notification:	28-03-2019			
Last Date for filing Nominations:	04-04-2019			
Scrutiny of Nominations:	05-04-2019			
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	08-04-2019			
Date of Poll	23-04-2019			
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Gujarat

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	3	1	Kachchh	SC
No of PCs going to poll	26	2	Banaskantha	GEN
Issue of Notification:	28-03-2019	3	Patan	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	04-04-2019	4	Mahesana	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	05-04-2019	5	Sabarkantha	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	08-04-2019	6	Gandhinagar	GEN
Date of Poll	23-04-2019	7	Ahmedabad East	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	Ahmedabad West	SC
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	Surendranagar	GEN
		10	Rajkot	GEN
		11	Porbandar	GEN
		12	Jamnagar	GEN
		13	Junagadh	GEN

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
	14	14	Amreli	GEN
	15	15	Bhavnagar	GEN
	16	16	Anand	GEN
	17	17	Khedra	GEN
	18	18	Panchmahal	GEN
	19	19	Dahod	ST
	20	20	Vadodara	GEN
	21	21	Chhota Udaipur	ST
	22	22	Bharuch	GEN
	23	23	Bardoli	ST
	24	24	Surat	GEN
	25	25	Navsari	GEN
	26	26	Valsad	ST

## Haryana

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	6	1	1	Ambala	SC
No of PCs going to poll	10	2	2	Kurukshetra	GEN
Issue of Notification:	16-04-2019	3	3	Sirsa	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations:	23-04-2019	4	4	Hisar	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	24-04-2019	5	5	Karnal	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	26-04-2019	6	6	Sonipat	GEN
Date of Poll	12-05-2019	7	7	Rohtak	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	8	Bhiwani-Mahendragarh	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	9	Gurgaon	GEN
		10	10	Faridabad	GEN

## Himachal Pradesh

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	7	1	1	Kangra	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	4	2	2	Mandi	GEN
Issue of Notification:	22-04-2019	3	3	Hamirpur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	29-04-2019	4	4	Shimla	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations:	30-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	02-05-2019				
Date of Poll	19-05-2019				
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				

## Jammu & Kashmir

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies				
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	District Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	Baramulla	Baramulla	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	2	2	Baramulla	Kupwara	GEN
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019	3	Baramulla	Bandipore	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019	4	Jammu	Punch	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019	5	Jammu	Rajouri	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019	6	Jammu	Jammu	GEN
Date of Poll	11-04-2019	7	Jammu	Samba	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies				
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	District Name	Type
Schedule no: 2	8	2	Srinagar	Badgam	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 2	9	2	Srinagar	Ganderbal	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	10	2	Srinagar	Srinagar	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	11	5	Udhampur	Reasi	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	12	5	Udhampur	Kathua	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019	13	5	Udhampur	Udhampur	GEN
Date of Poll 18-04-2019	14	5	Udhampur	Ramban	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	15	5	Udhampur	Doda	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	16	5	Udhampur	Kishtwar	GEN
Schedule no: 3	17	3	Anantnag	Anantnag	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 1					
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019					
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019					
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019					
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019					
Date of Poll 23-04-2019					
(in all polling stations falling in Anantnag Dist.) 29-04-2019					
(in all polling stations falling in Kulgam Dist.) 06-05-2019					
(in all polling stations falling in Shopian & Pulwama Dist.)					
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019					
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019					
Schedule no: 5	18	4	Ladakh	Kargil	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 2	19	4	Ladakh	Leh	GEN
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019					
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019					
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019					
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019					
Date of Poll 06-05-2019					
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019					
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019					

## Jharkhand

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 4	1	4	Chatra	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 3	2	12	Lohardaga	ST
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	3	13	Palamu	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019				
Date of Poll 29-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 5	4	5	Kodarma	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 4	5	8	Ranchi	GEN
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019	6	11	Khunti	ST
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019	7	14	Hazaribagh	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019				
Date of Poll 06-05-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 6	8	6	Giridih	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 4	9	7	Dhanbad	GEN
Issue of Notification: 16-04-2019	10	9	Jamshedpur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 23-04-2019	11	10	Singbhum	ST
Scrutiny of Nominations: 24-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 26-04-2019				
Date of Poll 12-05-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 7	12	1	Rajmahal	ST
No of PCs going to poll 3	13	2	Dumka	ST
Issue of Notification: 22-04-2019	14	3	Godda	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 29-04-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 30-04-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 02-05-2019				
Date of Poll 19-05-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Karnataka

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 2	1	15	Udupi Chikmagalur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 14	2	16	Hassan	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	3	17	Dakshina Kannada	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	4	18	Chitradurga	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	5	19	Tumkur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019	6	20	Mandya	GEN
Date of Poll 18-04-2019	7	21	Mysore	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	8	22	Chamarajanagar	SC
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	9	23	Bangalore Rural	GEN
	10	24	Bangalore North	GEN
	11	25	Bangalore Central	GEN
	12	26	Bangalore South	GEN
	13	27	Chikkballapur	GEN
	14	28	Kolar	SC
Schedule no: 3	15	1	Chikkodi	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 14	16	2	Belgaum	GEN
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	17	3	Bagalkot	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	18	4	Bijapur	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	19	5	Gulbarga	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019	20	6	Raichur	ST
Date of Poll 23-04-2019	21	7	Bidar	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	22	8	Koppal	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	23	9	Bellary	ST
	24	10	Haveri	GEN
	25	11	Dharwad	GEN
	26	12	Uttara Kannada	GEN
	27	13	Davanagere	GEN
	28	14	Shimoga	GEN

## Kerala

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies				
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type	
Schedule no:	3	1	1	Kasaragod	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	20	2	2	Kannur	GEN
Issue of Notification:	28-03-2019	3	3	Vadakara	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	04-04-2019	4	4	Wayanad	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	05-04-2019	5	5	Kozhikode	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	08-04-2019	6	6	Malappuram	GEN
Date of Poll	23-04-2019	7	7	Ponnani	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	8	Palakkad	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	9	Alathur	SC
		10	10	Thrissur	GEN
		11	11	Chalakudy	GEN
		12	12	Ernakulam	GEN
		13	13	Idukki	GEN
		14	14	Kottayam	GEN
		15	15	Alappuzha	GEN
		16	16	Mavelikkara	SC
		17	17	Pathanamthitta	GEN
		18	18	Kollam	GEN
		19	19	Attingal	GEN
		20	20	Thiruvananthapuram	GEN

## Lakshadweep

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	1	Lakshadweep	ST
No of PCs going to poll				
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll: 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				

## Madhya Pradesh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 4	1	11	Sidhi	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	2	12	Shahdol	ST
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	3	13	Jabalpur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	4	14	Mandla	ST
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	5	15	Balaghat	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	6	16	Chhindwara	GEN
Date of Poll: 29-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 5	7	6	Tikamgarh	SC
No of PCs going to poll	8	7	Damoh	GEN
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019	9	8	Khajuraho	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019	10	9	Satna	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019	11	10	Rewa	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019	12	17	Hoshangabad	GEN
Date of Poll: 06-05-2019	13	29	Betul	ST
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 6	14	1	Morena	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	15	2	Bhind	SC
Issue of Notification: 16-04-2019	16	3	Gwalior	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 23-04-2019	17	4	Guna	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 24-04-2019	18	5	Sagar	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 26-04-2019	19	18	Vidisha	GEN
Date of Poll: 12-05-2019	20	19	Bhopal	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	21	20	Rajgarh	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 7	22	21	Dewas	SC
No of PCs going to poll	23	22	Ujjain	SC
Issue of Notification: 22-04-2019	24	23	Mandsour	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 29-04-2019	25	24	Ratlam	ST
Scrutiny of Nominations: 30-04-2019	26	25	Dhar	ST
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 02-05-2019	27	26	Indore	GEN
Date of Poll: 19-05-2019	28	27	Khargone	ST
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	29	28	Khandwa	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				

## Maharashtra

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	8	Wardha	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 7	2	9	Ramtek	SC
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019	3	10	Nagpur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019	4	11	Bhandara - Gondiya	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019	5	12	Gadchiroli-Chimur	ST
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019	6	13	Chandrapur	GEN
Date of Poll 11-04-2019	7	14	Yavatmal-Washim	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	8	5	Buldhana	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 10	9	6	Akola	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	10	7	Amravati	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	11	15	Hingoli	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	12	16	Nanded	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019	13	17	Parbhani	GEN
Date of Poll 18-04-2019	14	39	Beed	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	15	40	Osmanabad	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	16	41	Latur	SC
	17	42	Solapur	SC
Schedule no: 3	18	3	Jalgaon	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 14	19	4	Raver	GEN
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	20	18	Jalna	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	21	19	Aurangabad	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	22	32	Raigad	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019	23	34	Pune	GEN
Date of Poll 23-04-2019	24	35	Baramati	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	25	37	Ahmednagar	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	26	43	Madha	GEN
	27	44	Sangli	GEN
	28	45	Satara	GEN
	29	46	Ratnagiri - Sindhudurg	GEN
	30	47	Kolhapur	GEN
	31	48	Hatkanangle	GEN
Schedule no: 4	32	1	Nandurbar	ST
No of PCs going to poll 17	33	2	Dhule	GEN
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	34	20	Dindori	ST
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	35	21	Nashik	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	36	22	Palghar	ST
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	37	23	Bhiwandi	GEN
Date of Poll 29-04-2019	38	24	Kalyan	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	39	25	Thane	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	40	26	Mumbai North	GEN
	41	27	Mumbai North-West	GEN
	42	28	Mumbai North-East	GEN
	43	29	Mumbai North-Central	GEN
	44	30	Mumbai South -Central	GEN
	45	31	Mumbai South	GEN
	46	33	Maval	GEN
	47	36	Shirur	GEN
	48	38	Shirdi	SC

## Manipur

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1 No of PCs going to poll 1 Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019 Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019 Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019 Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019 Date of Poll 11-04-2019 Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019 Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	1	2	Outer Manipur	ST
Schedule no: 2 No of PCs going to poll 1 Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019 Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019 Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019 Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019 Date of Poll 18-04-2019 Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019 Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	2	1	Inner Manipur	GEN

## Meghalaya

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1 No of PCs going to poll 2 Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019 Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019 Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019 Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019 Date of Poll 11-04-2019 Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019 Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	1 2	1 2	Shillong Tura	ST ST

## Mizoram

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1 No of PCs going to poll 1 Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019 Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019 Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019 Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019 Date of Poll 11-04-2019 Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019 Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	1	1	Mizoram	ST

## Nagaland

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	1	Nagaland	GEN
No of PCs going to poll				
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll: 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				

## Odisha

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	11	Kalahandi	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	2	12	Nabarangpur	ST
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019	3	20	Berhampur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019	4	21	Koraput	ST
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019				
Date of Poll: 11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	5	1	Bargarh	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	6	2	Sundargarh	ST
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	7	10	Bolangir	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	8	13	Kandhamal	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	9	19	Aska	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll: 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	10	3	Sambalpur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	11	4	Keonjhar	ST
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	12	9	Dhenkanal	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	13	14	Cuttack	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	14	17	Puri	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019	15	18	Bhubaneswar	GEN
Date of Poll: 23-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 4	16	5	Mayurbhanj	ST
No of PCs going to poll	17	6	Balasore	GEN
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	18	7	Bhadrak	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	19	8	Jajpur	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	20	15	Kendrapara	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	21	16	Jagatsinghpur	SC
Date of Poll: 29-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed: 27-05-2019				

## Puducherry (Pondicherry)

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituency			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 2	1	1	Puducherry	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 1				
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				

## Punjab

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 7	1	1	Gurdaspur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 13	2	2	Amritsar	GEN
Issue of Notification: 22-04-2019	3	3	Khadoor Sahib	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 29-04-2019	4	4	Jalandhar	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 30-04-2019	5	5	Hoshiarpur	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 02-05-2019	6	6	Anandpur Sahib	GEN
Date of Poll 19-05-2019	7	7	Ludhiana	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	8	8	Fatehgarh Sahib	SC
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	9	9	Faridkot	SC
	10	10	Firozpur	GEN
	11	11	Bathinda	GEN
	12	12	Sangrur	GEN
	13	13	Patiala	GEN

## Rajasthan

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 4	1	12	Tonk-Sawai Madhopur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 13	2	13	Ajmer	GEN
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	3	15	Pali	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	4	16	Jodhpur	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	5	17	Barmer	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	6	18	Jalore	GEN
Date of Poll 29-04-2019	7	19	Udaipur	ST
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	8	20	Banswara	ST
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	9	21	Chittorgarh	GEN
	10	22	Rajsamand	GEN
	11	23	Bhilwara	GEN
	12	24	Kota	GEN
	13	25	Jhalawar-Baran	GEN
Schedule no: 5	14	1	Ganganagar	SC
No of PCs going to poll 12	15	2	Bikaner	SC
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019	16	3	Churu	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019	17	4	Jhunjhunu	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019	18	5	Sikar	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019	19	6	Jaipur Rural	GEN
Date of Poll 06-05-2019	20	7	Jaipur	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	21	8	Alwar	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	22	9	Bharatpur	SC
	23	10	Karauli-Dholpur	SC
	24	11	Dausa	ST
	25	14	Nagaur	GEN

## Sikkim

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	Sikkim	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	1			
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019			
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019			
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019			
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019			
Date of Poll	11-04-2019			
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019			
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019			

## Tamil Nadu

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	2	1	Tiruvallur	SC
No of PCs going to poll	39	2	Chennai North	GEN
Issue of Notification:	19-03-2019	3	Chennai South	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	26-03-2019	4	Chennai Central	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	27-03-2019	5	Sriperumbudur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	29-03-2019	6	Kancheepuram	SC
Date of Poll	18-04-2019	7	Arakkonam	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	Vellore	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	Krishnagiri	GEN
	10	10	Dharmapuri	GEN
	11	11	Tiruvannamalai	GEN
	12	12	Arani	GEN
	13	13	Viluppuram	SC
	14	14	Kallakurichi	GEN
	15	15	Salem	GEN
	16	16	Namakkal	GEN
	17	17	Erode	GEN
	18	18	Tiruppur	GEN
	19	19	Nilgiris	SC
	20	20	Coimbatore	GEN
	21	21	Pollachi	GEN
	22	22	Dindigul	GEN
	23	23	Karur	GEN
	24	24	Tiruchirappalli	GEN
	25	25	Perambalur	GEN
	26	26	Cuddalore	GEN
	27	27	Chidambaram	SC
	28	28	Mayiladuthurai	GEN
	29	29	Nagapattinam	SC
	30	30	Thanjavur	GEN
	31	31	Sivaganga	GEN
	32	32	Madurai	GEN
	33	33	Theni	GEN
	34	34	Virudhunagar	GEN
	35	35	Ramanathapuram	GEN
	36	36	Thoothukkudi	GEN
	37	37	Tenkasi	SC
	38	38	Tirunelveli	GEN
	39	39	Kanniyakumari	GEN

## Telangana

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	1	Adilabad	ST
No of PCs going to poll	17	2	2	Peddapalle	SC
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019	3	3	Karimnagar	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019	4	4	Nizamabad	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019	5	5	Zahirabad	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019	6	6	Medak	GEN
Date of Poll	11-04-2019	7	7	Malkajgiri	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	8	8	Secunderabad	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	9	9	Hyderabad	GEN
		10	10	Chevella	GEN
		11	11	Mahbubnagar	GEN
		12	12	Nagarkurnool	SC
		13	13	Nalgonda	GEN
		14	14	Bhongir	GEN
		15	15	Warangal	SC
		16	16	Mahabubabad	ST
		17	17	Khammam	GEN

## Tripura

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	1	Tripura West	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	1				
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019				
Date of Poll	11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				
Schedule no:	2	2	2	Tripura East	ST
No of PCs going to poll	1				
Issue of Notification:	19-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations:	26-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations:	27-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	29-03-2019				
Date of Poll	18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				

## Uttar Pradesh

Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 1	1	1	Saharanpur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 8	2	2	Kairana	GEN
Issue of Notification: 18-03-2019	3	3	Muzaffarnagar	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 25-03-2019	4	4	Bijnor	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 26-03-2019	5	10	Meerut	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 28-03-2019	6	11	Baghpat	GEN
Date of Poll 11-04-2019	7	12	Ghaziabad	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	8	13	Gautam Buddha Nagar	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 2	9	5	Nagina	SC
No of PCs going to poll 8	10	9	Amroha	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	11	14	Bulandshahr	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019	12	15	Aligarh	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019	13	16	Hathras	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019	14	17	Mathura	GEN
Date of Poll 18-04-2019	15	18	Agra	SC
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	16	19	Fatehpur Sikri	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	17	6	Moradabad	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 10	18	7	Rampur	GEN
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	19	8	Sambhal	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	20	20	Firozabad	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	21	21	Mainpuri	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019	22	22	Etah	GEN
Date of Poll 23-04-2019	23	23	Badaun	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	24	24	Aonla	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	25	25	Bareilly	GEN
	26	26	Pilibhit	GEN
Schedule no: 4	27	27	Shahjahanpur	SC
No of PCs going to poll 13	28	28	Kheri	GEN
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	29	31	Hardoi	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	30	32	Misrikh	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	31	33	Unnao	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	32	40	Farrukhabad	GEN
Date of Poll 29-04-2019	33	41	Etawah	SC
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	34	42	Kannauj	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	35	43	Kanpur	GEN
	36	44	Akbarpur	GEN
	37	45	Jalaun	SC
	38	46	Jhansi	GEN
	39	47	Hamirpur	GEN
Schedule no: 5	40	29	Dhaurahra	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 14	41	30	Sitapur	GEN
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019	42	34	Mohanlalganj	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019	43	35	Lucknow	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019	44	36	Rae Bareli	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019	45	37	Amethi	GEN
Date of Poll 06-05-2019	46	48	Banda	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	47	49	Fatehpur	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	48	50	Kaushambi	SC
	49	53	Barabanki	SC
	50	54	Faizabad	GEN
	51	56	Bahraich	SC
	52	57	Kaiserganj	GEN
	53	59	Gonda	GEN

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	6	54	38	Sultanpur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	14	55	39	Pratapgarh	GEN
Issue of Notification:	16-04-2019	56	51	Phulpur	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	23-04-2019	57	52	Allahabad	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	24-04-2019	58	55	Ambedkar Nagar	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	26-04-2019	59	58	Shrawasti	GEN
Date of Poll	12-05-2019	60	60	Domariyaganj	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	61	61	Basti	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	62	62	Sant Kabir Nagar	GEN
		63	68	Lalganj	SC
		64	69	Azamgarh	GEN
		65	73	Jaunpur	GEN
		66	74	Machhlishahr	SC
		67	78	Bhadohi	GEN
Schedule no:	7	68	63	Maharajganj	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	13	69	64	Gorakhpur	GEN
Issue of Notification:	22-04-2019	70	65	Kushi Nagar	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations:	29-04-2019	71	66	Deoria	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	30-04-2019	72	67	Bansgaon	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	02-05-2019	73	70	Ghosi	GEN
Date of Poll	19-05-2019	74	71	Salempur	GEN
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019	75	72	Ballia	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019	76	75	Ghazipur	GEN
		77	76	Chandauli	GEN
		78	77	Varanasi	GEN
		79	79	Mirzapur	GEN
		80	80	Robertsganj	SC

## Uttarakhand

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	1	Tehri Garhwal	GEN
No of PCs going to poll	5	2	2	Garhwal	GEN
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019	3	3	Almora	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019	4	4	Nainital-	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019			Udhamsingh Nagar	
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019	5	5	Hardwar	GEN
Date of Poll	11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				

## West Bengal

Schedule Reference		Parliamentary Constituencies			
		Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no:	1	1	1	Coochbehar	SC
No of PCs going to poll	2	2	2	Alipurduars	ST
Issue of Notification:	18-03-2019				
Last Date for filing Nominations:	25-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations:	26-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	28-03-2019				
Date of Poll	11-04-2019				
Counting of Votes:	23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed	27-05-2019				



Schedule Reference	Parliamentary Constituencies			
	Sl.	PC No.	PC Name	Type
Schedule no: 2	3	3	Jalpaiguri	SC
No of PCs going to poll 3	4	4	Darjeeling	GEN
Issue of Notification: 19-03-2019	5	5	Raiganj	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 26-03-2019				
Scrutiny of Nominations: 27-03-2019				
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 29-03-2019				
Date of Poll 18-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 3	6	6	Balurghat	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 5	7	7	Maldaha Uttar	GEN
Issue of Notification: 28-03-2019	8	8	Maldaha Dakshin	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 04-04-2019	9	9	Jangipur	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 05-04-2019	10	11	Murshidabad	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 08-04-2019				
Date of Poll 23-04-2019				
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 4	11	10	Baharampur	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 8	12	12	Krishnanagar	GEN
Issue of Notification: 02-04-2019	13	13	Ranaghat	SC
Last Date for filing Nominations: 09-04-2019	14	38	Bardhaman Purba	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 10-04-2019	15	39	Bardhaman - Durgapur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 12-04-2019	16	40	Asansol	GEN
Date of Poll 29-04-2019	17	41	Bolpur	SC
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	18	42	Birbhum	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 5	19	14	Bangaon	SC
No of PCs going to poll 7	20	15	Barrackpur	GEN
Issue of Notification: 10-04-2019	21	25	Howrah	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 18-04-2019	22	26	Uluberia	GEN
Scrutiny of Nominations: 20-04-2019	23	27	Sreerampur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 22-04-2019	24	28	Hooghly	GEN
Date of Poll 06-05-2019	25	29	Arambag	SC
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019				
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 6	26	30	Tamluk	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 8	27	31	Kanthi	GEN
Issue of Notification: 16-04-2019	28	32	Ghatal	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 23-04-2019	29	33	Jhargram	ST
Scrutiny of Nominations: 24-04-2019	30	34	Medinipur	GEN
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 26-04-2019	31	35	Purulia	GEN
Date of Poll 12-05-2019	32	36	Bankura	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	33	37	Bishnupur	SC
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019				
Schedule no: 7	34	16	Dum Dum	GEN
No of PCs going to poll 8	35	17	Barasat	GEN
Issue of Notification: 22-04-2019	36	18	Basirhat	GEN
Last Date for filing Nominations: 29-04-2019	37	19	Jaynagar	SC
Scrutiny of Nominations: 30-04-2019	38	20	Mathurapur	SC
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature: 02-05-2019	39	21	Diamond Harbour	GEN
Date of Poll 19-05-2019	40	22	Jadavpur	GEN
Counting of Votes: 23-05-2019	41	23	Kolkata Dakshin	GEN
Date before which the election shall be Completed 27-05-2019	42	24	Kolkata Uttar	GEN

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS – 2019**  
**POLL DAYS & CORRESPONDING SCHEDULES FOR FOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

Sl. No.	Poll Event	ANDHRA PRADESH	ODISHA					SIKKIM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
		Poll Day							
		1	2	3	4	1	1		
		Schedule-1	Schedule-2	Schedule-3	Schedule-4	Schedule-1	Schedule-1		
1	Announcement & Issue of Press Note	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	10 Mar 2019 (Sunday)	
2	Issue of Notification	18 Mar 2019 (Monday)	19 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	02 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	18 Mar 2019 (Monday)	18 Mar 2019 (Monday)	18 Mar 2019 (Monday)	
3	Last Date for filing Nominations	25 Mar 2019 (Monday)	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	04 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	09 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	25 Mar 2019 (Monday)	25 Mar 2019 (Monday)	25 Mar 2019 (Monday)	
4	Scrutiny of Nominations	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	27 Mar 2019 (Wednesday)	05 Apr 2019 (Friday)	10 Apr 2019 (Wednesday)	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	26 Mar 2019 (Tuesday)	
5	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	29 Mar 2019 (Friday)	08 Apr 2019 (Monday)	12 Apr 2019 (Friday)	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	28 Mar 2019 (Thursday)	
6	Date of Poll	11 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	18 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	23 Apr 2019 (Tuesday)	29 Apr 2019 (Monday)	11 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	11 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	11 Apr 2019 (Thursday)	
7	Counting of Votes on	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	23 May 2019 (Thursday)	
8	Date before which the election shall be Completed	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	27 May 2019 (Monday)	
	Number of ACs in each Schedule	175	35	42	42	32	42	60	

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Schedule No.1

Issue of Notification : 18-03-2019  
Last Date for filing Nominations : 25-03-2019  
Scrutiny of Nominations : 26-03-2019  
Last date for withdrawal of Candidate : 28-03-2019

Date of Poll: 11-04-2019  
Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019  
Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
1	1	Ichchapuram	GEN	28	28	Araku Valley	ST	56	56	Achanta	GEN
2	2	Palasa	GEN	29	29	Paderu	ST	57	57	Palacole	GEN
3	3	Tekkali	GEN	30	30	Anakapalle	GEN	58	58	Narasapuram	GEN
4	4	Pathapatnam	GEN	31	31	Pendurthi	GEN	59	59	Bhimavaram	GEN
5	5	Srikakulam	GEN	32	32	Yelamanchili	GEN	60	60	Undi	GEN
6	6	Amadalavalasa	GEN	33	33	Payakaraopet	SC	61	61	Tanuku	GEN
7	7	Etcherla	GEN	34	34	Narsipatnam	GEN	62	62	Tadepalligudem	GEN
8	8	Narasannapeta	GEN	35	35	Tuni	GEN	63	63	Unguturu	GEN
9	9	Rajam	SC	36	36	Prathipadu	GEN	64	64	Denduluru	GEN
10	10	Palakonda	ST	37	37	Pithapuram	GEN	65	65	Eluru	GEN
11	11	Kurupam	ST	38	38	Kakinada Rural	GEN	66	66	Gopalapuram	SC
12	12	Parvathipuram	SC	39	39	Peddapuram	GEN	67	67	Polavaram	SC
13	13	Salur	ST	40	40	Anaparthi	GEN	68	68	Chintalapudi	SC
14	14	Bobbili	GEN	41	41	Kakinada City	GEN	69	69	Tiruvuru	SC
15	15	Cheepurupalli	GEN	42	42	Ramachandrapuram	GEN	70	70	Nuzvid	GEN
16	16	Gajapatinagar	GEN	43	43	Mummidivaram	GEN	71	71	Gannavaram	GEN
17	17	Nellimarla	GEN	44	44	Amalapuram	SC	72	72	Gudivada	GEN
18	18	Vizianagaram	GEN	45	45	Razole	SC	73	73	Kaikalur	GEN
19	19	Srungavarapukota	GEN	46	46	Gannavaram	SC	74	74	Pedana	GEN
20	20	Bhimili	GEN	47	47	Kothapeta	GEN	75	75	Machilipatnam	GEN
21	21	Visakhapatnam East	GEN	48	48	Mandapeta	GEN	76	76	Avanigadda	GEN
22	22	Visakhapatnam South	GEN	49	49	Rajanagar	GEN	77	77	Pamaru	SC
23	23	Visakhapatnam North	GEN	50	50	Rajahmundry City	GEN	78	78	Penamaluru	GEN
24	24	Visakhapatnam West	GEN	51	51	Rajahmundry Rural	GEN	79	79	Vijayawada West	GEN
25	25	Gajuwaka	GEN	52	52	Jaggampeta	GEN	80	80	Vijayawada Central	GEN
26	26	Chodavaram	GEN	53	53	Rampachodavaram	ST	81	81	Vijayawada East	GEN
27	27	Madugula	GEN	54	54	Kovvur	SC	82	82	Mylavaram	GEN
				55	55	Nidadavole	GEN	83	83	Nandigama	SC



SL				SL				SL			
SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
84	84	Jaggyyapeta	GEN	114	114	Kavali	GEN	144	144	Yemmiganur	GEN
85	85	Pedakurapadu	GEN	115	115	Atmakur	GEN	145	145	Mantralayam	GEN
86	86	Tadikonda	SC	116	116	Kovur	GEN	146	146	Adoni	GEN
87	87	Mangalagiri	GEN	117	117	Nellore City	GEN	147	147	Alur	GEN
88	88	Ponnuru	GEN	118	118	Nellore Rural	GEN	148	148	Rayadurg	GEN
89	89	Vemuru	SC	119	119	Sarvepalli	GEN	149	149	Uravakonda	GEN
90	90	Repalle	GEN	120	120	Gudur	SC	150	150	Guntakal	GEN
91	91	Tenali	GEN	121	121	Sullurpeta	SC	151	151	Tadipatri	GEN
92	92	Bapatla	GEN	122	122	Venkatagiri	GEN	152	152	Singanamala	SC
93	93	Prathipadu	SC	123	123	Udayagiri	GEN	153	153	Anantapur Urban	GEN
94	94	Guntur West	GEN	124	124	Badvel	SC	154	154	Kalyandurg	GEN
95	95	Guntur East	GEN	125	125	Rajampet	GEN	155	155	Raptadu	GEN
96	96	Chilakaluripet	GEN	126	126	Kadapa	GEN	156	156	Madakasira	SC
97	97	Narasaraopet	GEN	127	127	Kodur	SC	157	157	Hindupur	GEN
98	98	Sattenapalle	GEN	128	128	Rayachoti	GEN	158	158	Penukonda	GEN
99	99	Vinukonda	GEN	129	129	Pulivendla	GEN	159	159	Puttaparthi	GEN
100	100	Gurajala	GEN	130	130	Kamalapuram	GEN	160	160	Dharmavaram	GEN
101	101	Macherla	GEN	131	131	Jammalamadugu	GEN	161	161	Kadiri	GEN
102	102	Yerragondapalem	SC	132	132	Proddatur	GEN	162	162	Thamballapalle	GEN
103	103	Darsi	GEN	133	133	Mydukur	GEN	163	163	Pileru	GEN
104	104	Parthur	GEN	134	134	Allagadda	GEN	164	164	Madanapalle	GEN
105	105	Addanki	GEN	135	135	Srisaillam	GEN	165	165	Punganur	GEN
106	106	Chirala	GEN	136	136	Nandikotkur	SC	166	166	Chandragiri	GEN
107	107	Santhanuthalapadu	SC	137	137	Kurnool	GEN	167	167	Tirupati	GEN
108	108	Ongole	GEN	138	138	Panyam	GEN	168	168	Srikalahasti	GEN
109	109	Kandukur	GEN	139	139	Nandyal	GEN	169	169	Satyavedu	SC
110	110	Kondapi	SC	140	140	Banaganapalle	GEN	170	170	Nagari	GEN
111	111	Markapuram	GEN	141	141	Dhone	GEN	171	171	Gangadhara Nellore	SC
112	112	Giddalur	GEN	142	142	Pattikonda	GEN	172	172	Chittoor	GEN
113	113	Kanigiri	GEN	143	143	Kodumur	SC	173	173	Puthalapattu	SC
								174	174	Palamaner	GEN
								175	175	Kuppam	GEN

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Schedule No.1

Issue of Notification : 18-03-2019  
Last Date for filing Nominations : 25-03-2019  
Scrutiny of Nominations : 26-03-2019  
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 28-03-2019

Date of Poll : 11-04-2019  
Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019  
Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE	SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
1	1	Lumla	ST	29	29	Basar	ST	57	57	Borduria-Bogapani	ST
2	2	Tawang	ST	30	30	Along West	ST	58	58	Kanubari	ST
3	3	Mukto	ST	31	31	Along East	ST	59	59	Longding-Pumao	ST
4	4	Dirang	ST	32	32	Rumgong	ST	60	60	Pongchou-Wakka	ST
5	5	Kalaktang	ST	33	33	Mechuka	ST				
6	6	Thrizino-Buragaon	ST	34	34	Tuting-Yingkiong	ST				
7	7	Bomdila	ST	35	35	Pangin	ST				
8	8	Bameng	ST	36	36	Nari-Koyu	ST				
9	9	Chayangtajo	ST	37	37	Pasighat West	ST				
10	10	Seppa East	ST	38	38	Pasighat East	ST				
11	11	Seppa West	ST	39	39	Mebo	ST				
12	12	Pakke-Kasang	ST	40	40	Mariyang-Geku	ST				
13	13	Itanagar	ST	41	41	Anini	ST				
14	14	Doimukh	ST	42	42	Dambuk	ST				
15	15	Sagalee	ST	43	43	Roing	ST				
16	16	Yachuli	ST	44	44	Tezu	ST				
17	17	Ziro-Hapoli	ST	45	45	Hayuliang	ST				
18	18	Palin	ST	46	46	Chowkham	ST				
19	19	Nyapin	ST	47	47	Namsai	ST				
20	20	Tali	ST	48	48	Lekang	ST				
21	21	Koloriang	ST	49	49	Bordumsa-Diyum	ST				
22	22	Nacho	ST	50	50	Miao	ST				
23	23	Tailha	ST	51	51	Nampong	ST				
24	24	Daporijo	ST	52	52	Changlang South	ST				
25	25	Raga	ST	53	53	Changlang North	ST				
26	26	Damporijo	ST	54	54	Namsang	ST				
27	27	Liromoba	ST	55	55	Khonsa East	ST				
28	28	Likabali	ST	56	56	Khonsa West	ST				



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ODISHA

Schedule No.1

Issue of Notification : 18-03-2019

Date of Poll : 11-04-2019

Last Date for filing Nominations : 25-03-2019

Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019

Scrutiny of Nominations : 26-03-2019

Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 28-03-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
1	71	Nuapada	GEN
2	72	Khariar	GEN
3	73	Umerkote	ST
4	74	Jharigam	ST
5	75	Nabarangpur	ST
6	76	Dabugam	ST
7	77	Lanjigarh	ST
8	78	Junagarh	GEN
9	79	Dharmgarh	GEN
10	80	Bhawanipatna	SC
11	81	Narla	GEN
12	127	Chhatrapur	SC
13	132	Gopalpur	GEN
14	133	Berhampur	GEN
15	134	Digapahandi	GEN
16	135	Chikiti	GEN
17	136	Mohana	ST
18	137	Paralakhemundi	GEN
19	138	Gunupur	ST
20	139	Bissam Cuttack	ST
21	140	Rayagada	ST
22	141	Laxmipur	ST
23	142	Kotpad	ST
24	143	Jepore	GEN
25	144	Koraput	SC
26	145	Pottangi	ST
27	146	Malkangiri	ST
28	147	Chitrakonda	ST

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ODISHA

Schedule No.2

Issue of Notification : 19-03-2019

Last Date for filing Nominations : 26-03-2019

Scrutiny of Nominations : 27-03-2019

Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 29-03-2019

Date of Poll : 18-04-2019

Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019

Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
29	1	Padampur	GEN
30	2	Bijepur	GEN
31	3	Bargarh	GEN
32	4	Attabira	SC
33	5	Bhatli	GEN
34	6	Brajarajnagar	GEN
35	7	Jharsuguda	GEN
36	8	Talsara	ST
37	9	Sundargarh	ST
38	10	Biramitrapur	ST
39	11	Raghunathpali	SC
40	12	Rourkela	GEN
41	13	Rajgangpur	ST
42	14	Bonai	ST
43	64	Birmaharajpur	SC
44	65	Sonepur	GEN
45	66	Loisingha	SC
46	67	Patnagarh	GEN
47	68	Bolangir	GEN
48	69	Titlagarh	GEN
49	70	Kantabanji	GEN
50	82	Baliguda	ST
51	83	G. Udayagiri	ST
52	84	Phulbani	ST
53	85	Kantamal	GEN
54	86	Boudh	GEN
55	121	Daspalla	SC
56	123	Bhanjanagar	GEN
57	124	Polasara	GEN
58	125	Kabisuryanagar	GEN
59	126	Khalikote	SC
60	128	Aska	GEN
61	129	Surada	GEN
62	130	Sanakhemundi	GEN
63	131	Hinjili	GEN

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ODISHA

Schedule No.3

Issue of Notification : 28-03-2019

Last Date for filing Nominations : 04-04-2019

Scrutiny of Nominations : 05-04-2019

Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 08-04-2019

Date of Poll : 23-04-2019

Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019

Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
64	15	Kuchinda	ST
65	16	Rengali	SC
66	17	Sambalpur	GEN
67	18	Rairakhol	GEN
68	19	Deogarh	GEN
69	20	Telkoi	ST
70	21	Ghasipura	GEN
71	22	Anandapur	SC
72	23	Patna	ST
73	24	Keonjhar	ST
74	25	Champua	GEN
75	30	Karanjia	ST
76	55	Dhenkanal	GEN
77	56	Hindol	SC
78	57	Kamakhyanager	GEN
79	58	Parjanga	GEN
80	59	Pallahara	GEN
81	60	Talcher	GEN
82	61	Angul	GEN
83	62	Chhendipada	SC
84	63	Athamallik	GEN
85	87	Baramba	GEN
86	88	Banki	GEN
87	89	Athagarh	GEN
88	90	Barabati-Cuttack	GEN
89	91	Choudwar-Cuttack	GEN
90	93	Cuttack Sadar	SC
91	107	Puri	GEN
92	108	Brahmagiri	GEN
93	109	Satyabadi	GEN
94	110	Pipili	GEN
95	111	Jayadev	SC
96	112	Bhubaneswar Central (Madhya)	GEN
97	113	Bhubaneswar North (Uttar)	GEN
98	114	Ekamra Bhubaneshwar	GEN
99	115	Jatani	GEN
100	116	Begunia	GEN
101	117	Khurda	GEN
102	118	Chilika	GEN
103	119	Ranpur	GEN
104	120	Khandapada	GEN
105	122	Nayagarh	GEN

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN ODISHA

Schedule No.4

Issue of Notification : 02-04-2019

Last Date for filing Nominations : 09-04-2019

Scrutiny of Nominations : 10-04-2019

Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 12-04-2019

Date of Poll : 29-04-2019

Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019

Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
106	26	Jashipur	ST
107	27	Saraskana	ST
108	28	Rairangpur	ST
109	29	Bangriposi	ST
110	31	Udala	ST
111	32	Badasahi	SC
112	33	Baripada	ST
113	34	Morada	GEN
114	35	Jaleswar	GEN
115	36	Bhograi	GEN
116	37	Basta	GEN
117	38	Balasore	GEN
118	39	Remuna	SC
119	40	Nilgiri	GEN
120	41	Soro	SC
121	42	Simulia	GEN
122	43	Bhandaripokhari	GEN
123	44	Bhadrak	GEN
124	45	Basudevpur	GEN
125	46	Dhamnagar	SC
126	47	Chandabali	GEN
127	48	Binjharpur	SC
128	49	Bari	GEN
129	50	Barachana	GEN
130	51	Dharmasala	GEN
131	52	Jajpur	GEN
132	53	Korei	GEN
133	54	Sukinda	GEN
134	92	Niali	SC
135	94	Salipur	GEN
136	95	Mahanga	GEN
137	96	Patkura	GEN
138	97	Kendrapara	SC
139	98	Aul	GEN
140	99	Rajanagar	GEN
141	100	Mahakalapada	GEN
142	101	Paradeep	GEN
143	102	Tirtol	SC
144	103	Balikuda-Erasama	GEN
145	104	Jagatsinghpur	GEN
146	105	Kakatpur	SC
147	106	Nimapara	GEN

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019  
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN SIKKIM

Schedule No.1

Issue of Notification : 18-03-2019

Last Date for filing Nominations : 25-03-2019

Scrutiny of Nominations : 26-03-2019

Last date for withdrawal of Candidature : 28-03-2019

Date of Poll : 11-04-2019

Counting of Votes : 23-05-2019

Date before which the election shall be completed : 27-05-2019

SL	AC No.	AC Name	TYPE
1	1	Yoksam-Tashiding	BL
2	2	Yangthang	GEN
3	3	Maneybung-Dentam	GEN
4	4	Gyalshing-Barnyak	GEN
5	5	Rinchenpong	BL
6	6	Daramdin	BL
7	7	Soreng-Chakung	GEN
8	8	Salghari-Zoom	SC
9	9	Barfung	BL
10	10	Poklok-Kamrang	GEN
11	11	Namchi-Singhithang	GEN
12	12	Melli	GEN
13	13	Namthang-Rateypani	GEN
14	14	Temi-Namphing	GEN
15	15	Rangang-Yangang	GEN
16	16	Tumen-Lingi	BL
17	17	Khamdong-Singtam	GEN
18	18	West Pendam	SC
19	19	Rhenock	GEN
20	20	Chujachen	GEN
21	21	Gnathang-Machong	BL
22	22	Namcheybung	GEN
23	23	Shyari	BL
24	24	Martam-Rumtek	BL
25	25	Upper Tadong	GEN
26	26	Arithang	GEN
27	27	Gangtok	BL
28	28	Upper Burtuk	GEN
29	29	Kabi Lungchuk	BL
30	30	Djongu	BL
31	31	Lachen Mangan	BL
32	32	Sangha	GEN

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS - 2019**  
**BYE ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

SL. NO.	STATE	AC NO	NAME OF AC	PHASE	DATE OF POLL
1	Bihar	212	Dehri	7	19 May 2019
2	Bihar	237	Nawada	1	11 Apr 2019
3	Goa	1	Mandrem	3	23 Apr 2019
4	Goa	5	Mapusa	3	23 Apr 2019
5	Goa	22	Siroda	3	23 Apr 2019
6	Gujarat	21	Unjha	3	23 Apr 2019
7	Gujarat	91	Talala	3	23 Apr 2019
8	Madhya Pradesh	126	Chhindwara	4	29 Apr 2019
9	Maharashtra	48	Katol	1	11 Apr 2019
10	Meghalaya	48	Selsella (ST)	1	11 Apr 2019
11	Mizoram	15	Aizawl West – I (ST)	1	11 Apr 2019
12	Nagaland	26	Aonglenden (ST)	1	11 Apr 2019
13	Puducherry	9	Thattanchavady	2	18 Apr 2019
14	Tamil Nadu	5	Poonamallee (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
15	Tamil Nadu	12	Perambur	2	18 Apr 2019
16	Tamil Nadu	33	Thiruporur	2	18 Apr 2019
17	Tamil Nadu	39	Sholingur	2	18 Apr 2019
18	Tamil Nadu	46	Gudiyattham (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
19	Tamil Nadu	48	Ambur	2	18 Apr 2019
20	Tamil Nadu	55	Hosur	2	18 Apr 2019
21	Tamil Nadu	60	Pappireddippatti	2	18 Apr 2019
22	Tamil Nadu	61	Harur (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
23	Tamil Nadu	130	Nilakkottai (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
24	Tamil Nadu	168	Thiruvavur	2	18 Apr 2019
25	Tamil Nadu	174	Thanjavur	2	18 Apr 2019
26	Tamil Nadu	187	Manamadurai (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
27	Tamil Nadu	198	Andipatti	2	18 Apr 2019
28	Tamil Nadu	199	Periyakulam (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
29	Tamil Nadu	204	Sattur	2	18 Apr 2019
30	Tamil Nadu	209	Paramakudi (SC)	2	18 Apr 2019
31	Tamil Nadu	213	Vilathikulam	2	18 Apr 2019
32	Uttar Pradesh	138	Nighasan	4	29 Apr 2019
33	West Bengal	88	Krishnaganj (SC)	4	29 Apr 2019
34	West Bengal	176	Uluberia Purba	5	06 May 2019

# Media Coverage during the period referred to in Section 126 of RP Act, 1951

## Election Commission of India

NirvachanSadhan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/ 36/2019

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019

### PRESS NOTE

**Sub: General election to 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, 2019 and State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim 2019 - Media Coverage during the period referred to in Section 126 of RP Act, 1951.**

The Schedule for holding general election to the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha 2019 and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim 2019 has been announced on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Poll is scheduled to be held in multiple phases. Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prohibits displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency. The relevant portions of the said Section 126 are re-produced below:

(126. Prohibition of public meeting during period of forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll-

(1) No person shall-

(a).....

(b) Display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus;

(c).....

In any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(3) In this Section, the expression "election matter" means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election)

2. During elections, there are sometimes allegations of violation of the provisions of the above Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by TV channels in the telecast of their panel discussions/debates and other news and current affairs programmes. The Commission has clarified in the past that the said




Section 126 prohibits displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency. "Election matter" has been defined in that Section as any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election. Violation of the aforesaid provisions of Section 126 is punishable with imprisonment upto a period of two years, or with fine or both.

3. The Commission once again reiterates that the TV/Radio channels and cable networks/internet website/social media platforms should ensure that the contents of the programmes telecast/broadcast/ displayed by them during the period of 48 hours referred to in Section 126 do not contain any material, including views/appeals by panelists/participants that may be construed as promoting/prejudicing the prospect of any particular party or candidate(s) or influencing/affecting the result of the election. This shall, among other things include display of any opinion poll and of standard debates, analysis, visuals and sound-bytes.


4. In this connection, attention is also invited to Section 126A of the R.P. Act 1951, which prohibits conduct of Exit poll and dissemination of its results during the period mentioned therein, i.e. the hour fixed for commencement of poll in the first phase and half an hour after the time fixed for close of poll for the last phase in all the States.


5. During the period not covered by Section 126, concerned TV/Radio/Cable/FM channels/internet websites/Social Media platforms are free to approach the state/district/ local authorities for necessary permission for conducting any broadcast/Telecast related events (other than exit polls) which must also conform to the provisions of the model code of conduct, the programme code laid down by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the Cable Network (Regulation) Act with regard to decency, maintenance of communal harmony, etc. All Internet websites and Social Media platforms must also comply with the provisions of The Information Technology Act, 2000 and ECI guidelines No-491/SM/2013/Communication, dt 25<sup>th</sup> October,2013, for all political content on their platform. As regards political advertisement, the same needs pre-certification by the Committees set up at State/District level as per the Commission's order No. 509/75/2004/JS-I, dt 15th April,2004.

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6. Attention of all print media is also drawn to the following **guidelines issued by Press Council of India** to follow for observance during the election:
    - i. It will be the duty of the Press to give objective reports about elections and the candidates. The newspapers are not expected to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate/party or incident during the elections. In practice, two or three closely contesting candidates attract all the media attention. While reporting on the actual campaign, a newspaper may not leave out any important point raised by a candidate and make an attack on his or her opponent.
    - ii. Election campaign along communal or caste lines is banned under the election rules. Hence, the Press should eschew reports, which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between people on the ground of religion, race, caste, community or language.
    - iii. The Press should refrain from publishing false or critical statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of any candidate or his candidature, to prejudice the prospects of that candidate in the elections. The Press shall not publish unverified allegations against any candidate/party.
    - iv. The Press shall not accept any kind of inducement, financial or otherwise, to project a candidate/party. It shall not accept hospitality or other facilities offered to them by or on behalf of any candidate/party.
    - v. The Press is not expected to indulge in canvassing of a particular candidate/party. If it does, it shall allow the right of reply to the other candidate/party.
    - vi. The Press shall not accept/publish any advertisement at the cost of public exchequer regarding achievements of a party/ government in power.
    - vii. The Press shall observe all the directions/ orders/instructions of the Election Commission/Returning Officers or Chief Electoral Officer issued from time to time.
  7. Attention of the electronic media is invited to the "**Guidelines for Election Broadcasts**" issued by NBSA dt 3rd March, 2014.
    - i. News broadcasters should endeavour to inform the public in an objective manner, about relevant electoral matters, political parties, candidates, campaign issues and voting processes as per rules and regulations laid

down under The Representation of the People Act 1951 and by the Election Commission of India.


- ii. News channels shall disclose any political affiliations, either towards a party or candidate. Unless they publicly endorse or support a particular party or candidate, news broadcasters have a duty to be balanced and impartial, especially in their election reporting.
- iii. News broadcasters must endeavour to avoid all forms of rumor, baseless speculation and disinformation, particularly when these concern specific political parties or candidates. Any candidate/political party, which has been defamed or is a victim of misrepresentation, misinformation or other similar injury by broadcast of information should be afforded prompt correction, and where appropriate granted an opportunity of reply.
- iv. News broadcasters must resist all political and financial pressures which may affect coverage of elections and election related matters.
- v. News broadcasters should maintain a clear distinction between editorial and expert opinion carried on their news channels.
- vi. News broadcasters that use video feed from political parties should disclose it and appropriately tagged.
- vii. Special care must be taken to ensure that every element of news/ programmes dealing with elections and election related matters is accurate on all facts relating to events, dates, places and quotes. If by mistake or inadvertence any inaccurate information is broadcast, the broadcaster must correct it as soon as it comes to the broadcaster's notice with the same prominence as was given to the original broadcast.
- viii. News broadcasters, their journalists and officials must not accept any money, or valuable gifts, or any favour that could influence or appear to influence, create a conflict of interest or damage the credibility of the broadcaster or their personnel.
- ix. News broadcasters must not broadcast any form of 'hate speech' or other obnoxious content that may lead to incitement of violence or promote public unrest or disorder as election campaigning based on communal or caste factors is prohibited under Election Rules. News broadcasters should strictly avoid reports which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among people, on the ground of religion, race, caste, community, region or language.

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- x. News broadcasters are required to scrupulously maintain a distinction between news and paid content. All paid content should be clearly marked as "Paid Advertisement" or "Paid Content": and paid content must be carried in compliance with the "Norms & Guidelines on Paid News" dated 24.11.2011 issued by NBA.
  - xi. Special care must be taken to report opinion polls accurately and fairly, by disclosing to viewers as to who commissioned, conducted and paid for the conduct of the opinion polls and the broadcast. If a news broadcaster carries the results of an opinion poll or other election projection, it must also explain the context, and the scope and limits of such polls with their limitations. Broadcast of opinion polls should be accompanied by information to assist viewers to understand the poll's significance, such as the methodology used, the sample size, the margin of error, the fieldwork dates, and data used. Broadcasters should also disclose how vote shares are converted to seat shares.
  - xii. The broadcasters shall not broadcast any "election matter" i.e. any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election, during the 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of poll in violation of Section 126(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
  - xiii. The Election Commission of India (ECI) will monitor the broadcasts made by news broadcasters from the time elections are announced until the conclusion and announcement of election results. Any violation by member broadcasters reported to the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the Election Commission will be dealt with by the NBSA under its regulations.
  - xiv. Broadcasters should, to the extent possible, carry voter education programmes to effectively inform voters about the voting process, the importance of voting, including how, when and where to vote, to register to vote and the secrecy of the ballot.
  - xv. News broadcasters must not air any final, formal and definite results until such results are formally announced by the Election Commission of India, unless such results are carried with clear disclaimer that they are unofficial or incomplete or partial results or projections which should not be taken as final results.



8. **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has also developed a **“Voluntary Code of Ethics”** for all the participating social media platforms to ensure free, fair & ethical usage of their platforms to maintain integrity of electoral process during the general elections to the Lok Sabha 2019 and Legislative Assemblies of four states and the bye-elections being held simultaneously. Attention of all concerned Social Media platforms is invited to the following text of “Voluntary Code of Ethics” dt 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2019:

- i. Participants will endeavour to, where appropriate and keeping in mind the principle of freedom of expression, deploy appropriate policies and processes to facilitate access to information regarding electoral matters on their products and/ or services.
- ii. Participants will endeavour to voluntarily undertake information, education and communication campaigns to build awareness including electoral laws and other related instructions. Participants will also endeavour to impart training to the nodal officer at ECI on their products/ services, including mechanism for sending requests as per procedure established by law.
- iii. Participants and the Election Commission of India (ECI) have developed a notification mechanism by which the ECI can notify the relevant platforms of potential violations of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and other applicable electoral laws in accordance with procedures established by law. These valid legal orders will be acknowledged and/ or processed within 3 hours for violations reported under Section 126 as per the Sinha Committee recommendations. All other valid legal requests will be acted upon expeditiously by the Participants, based on the nature of reported violation.
- iv. Participants are creating/opening a high priority dedicated reporting mechanism for the ECI and appoint dedicated person(s) / teams during the period of General Elections to interface with and to exchange feedback as may assist with taking expeditious action upon receipt of such a lawful request, following due legal process, from the ECI.
- v. Participants will provide a mechanism for relevant political advertisers, in accordance with their obligations under law, to submit pre-certificates



issued by ECI and/ or Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) of the ECI in relation to election advertisements that feature names of political parties, candidates for the 2019 General Elections. Further, Participants shall expeditiously process/action paid political advertisements lawfully notified to Participants by the ECI that do not feature such certification.

- vi. Participants will commit to facilitating transparency in paid political advertisements, including utilising their pre-existing labels/ disclosure technology for such advertisements.
- vii. Participants will, pursuant to a valid request received from the ECI, via Internet and Mobile Association of India (**IAMAI**) provide an update on the measures taken by them to prevent abuse of their respective platforms.
- viii. IMAI will coordinate with the Participants on the steps carried out under this Code and IMAI as well as Participants will be in constant communication with the ECI during the election period.

The above guidelines should be duly observed for compliance by all the concerned media.

**(Pawan Diwan)**  
**Under Secretary**

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