



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

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

No. ECI/PN/47/2021

Dated 12th April, 2021

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Biennial Election to the Council of States from Kerala to fill the seats of members retiring on 21.04.2021-reg.

The term of office of 03 members of the Rajya Sabha elected from Kerala is due to expire on their retirement in April, 2021 as detailed below: -

S. No	Name of Member	Date of Retirement
1.	Abdul Wahab	21.04.2021
2.	K. K. Ragesh	
3.	Vayalar Ravi	

2. The Election Commission of India had announced the Schedule of the Biennial Election to the Council of States from Kerala, *vide* Press Note No. ECI/PN/29/2021 dated 17.03.2021, to fill the seats of the aforesaid three members of the Council of States retiring in April 2021 and sent the recommendation to the Hon'ble President of India for publishing the Notification in the Gazette of India scheduled to be issued on 24.03.2021.

3. However, on the eve of the date on which the Notification was scheduled to be issued, the Commission received a reference from the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, wherein a question of constitutional propriety was raised. Therefore, in order to examine the said reference, *vide* Press Note dated 24.03.2021, the Commission declared its decision to keep the aforesaid Schedule and the publication of the Notification in abeyance pending the examination.

4. The Commission has decided to hold the Biennial Elections to the Council of States from Kerala to fill up the above said vacancies in accordance with the following Schedule: -

Sl. No.	Events	Dates & Days
1.	Issue of Notification	13 th April, 2021 (Tuesday)
2.	Last date of making nominations	20 th April, 2021 (Tuesday)
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	21 st April, 2021 (Wednesday)
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	23 rd April, 2021 (Friday)
5.	Date of Poll	30 th April, 2021 (Friday)
6.	Hours of Poll	09:00 am-04:00 pm
7.	Counting of Votes	30 th April, 2021 (Friday) at 05:00 pm
8.	Date before which election shall be completed	03 rd May, 2021 (Monday)

5. The observance of Covid-19 guidelines dated 09.10.2020 and 09.04.2021 issued by the Commission will be strictly followed to the extent applicable.

6. The Commission vide letter dated 18th March, 2021 has already directed the Chief Secretary, Kerala to depute a senior officer from the State to ensure that the extant instructions regarding COVID-19 containment measures are complied with while making arrangements for conducting the said biennial election.

7. Further, the Commission has also appointed the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala as Observer for the election.

(PRAFULL AWASTHI)
UNDER SECRETARY