

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/ 17/2021

Dated: 26th February, 2021

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Schedule for bye-elections to fill casual vacancy in the Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala and Tamil Nadu - Regarding.

The Commission has decided to hold bye-election to fill vacancies in **6-Malappuram PC of Kerala and 39-Kanniyakumari PC of Tamil Nadu.**

After taking into consideration various factors like local festivals, electoral rolls, weather conditions, movement of forces, pandemic etc., the Commission has decided to hold bye-elections to fill these vacancies as per the programme mentioned as under:

Poll Events	Date and Day
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	12.03.2021 (Friday)
Last Date of Nominations	19.03.2021 (Friday)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	20.03.2021 (Saturday)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	22.03.2021 (Monday)
Date of Poll	06.04.2021 (Tuesday)
Date of Counting	02.05.2021 (Sunday)
Date before which election shall be completed	04.05.2021 (Tuesday)

1. ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Rolls for the aforesaid Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies w.r.t 01.01.2021 as the qualifying date has been finally published.

2. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs) and VVPATs

The Commission has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in the bye-election in all the polling stations. Adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS

In consonance with the past practice, the Commission has decided that the voter's identification shall be mandatory in the aforementioned election at the time of poll. Electoral Photo Identity cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, in order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the electoral rolls, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters at the time of poll in the said election.

4. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Model code of conduct shall come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) in which the whole or any part of the Assembly constituency going for election is included, subject to partial modification as issued vide Commission's instruction No. 437/6/1NST/2016-CCS, dated 29th June, 2017 (available on the commission's website). The Model code of conduct shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties and the state Government concerned. The Model code of conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government for the district of the State concerned.

All the instructions issued for General Elections to Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2020 shall also be applicable to the aforementioned Bye-elections.

5. BROAD GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED DURING THE CONDUCT OF BYE-ELECTIONS DURING COVID-19

In view of spread of COVID-19, the Commission on 21st August, 2020 has issued broad guidelines, which is to be followed strictly during the conduct

of election, which is available on Commission's website. The Commission's all instructions relating to conduct of General Election in Kerala and Tamil Nadu during the COVID-19 period shall also be *mutatis mutandis* applicable for all bye-elections.

-Sd/-

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
Sr. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY