

बरकतउल्ला विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल


क्रमांक: 1658/प्रशासन/बविबि/2018

भोपाल, दिनांक: 3/11/2018

- सूचना -

विशेष कर्तव्यरथ अधिकारी (वाय) उच्च शिक्षा, मध्यप्रदेश, कार्यालय, आयुक्त उच्च शिक्षा, व.प्र. शासन, सतपुड़ा भवन, भोपाल के पत्र क्रमांक 1573/1004/आरशि/शा-1/2018 दिनांक 30.10.2018 के माध्यम से सूचित किया गया है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के द्वारा जारी प्रेस विज्ञापन क्रमांक ECI/PX/66/2018 दिनांक 06.10.2018 के द्वारा जारी सूचना अनुसार विधानसभा आम चुनाव 2018 हेतु आदर्श आचार संहिता तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू हो गई है। (संस्थापति संलग्न है)

अतः विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त कक्ष उप-कुलसचिव, सहायक कुलसचिव, अनुभाग अधिकारी, विभागाध्यक्ष, एवं संचालकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के उक्त निर्देशों का पालन करते हुए आदर्श आचार संहिता में दर्शित प्रावधानों का कड़ाई से पालन सुनिश्चित करें।


कुलसचिव

संलग्न उपरोक्तानुसार

पृष्ठसंख्या क्रमांक: 1658/प्रशासन/बविबि/2018
प्रतिलिपि :-

भोपाल, दिनांक: 3/11/2018

1. उप-कुलसचिव, सहायक कुलसचिव, अनुभाग अधिकारी, विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त कक्ष/अनुभाग।
2. विभागाध्यक्ष/संचालक, विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त शैक्षणिक विभाग एवं संस्थान।
3. आयुक्त/रायिव, उच्च शिक्षा, कार्यालय आयुक्त, उच्च शिक्षा, मध्यप्रदेश, सतपुड़ा भवन, भोपाल की ओर सादर सूचनाार्थ।
4. निज सचिव के माध्यम से मान. कुलपतिजी के सादर सूचनाार्थ।
5. निज सहायक के माध्यम से कुलसचिवजी के सूचनाार्थ।
6. प्रभारी, वेब प्रकोष्ठ, की ओर विश्वविद्यालय वेब पर अपलोड करने के आदेश के साथ।
7. सूचना पटल।
8. नरती प्रति।


प्र.सहा.-कुलसचिव(प्रशासन)
बरकतउल्ला विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल

'संस्कृत शास्त्रप्रतिष्ठान भारतवर्ष का'

कार्यालय, आयुक्त उच्च शिक्षा, म.प्र. शासन,

सालपुरा महान भवन

भोपाल, दिनांक 09/10/2018

क्रमांक: 1579 / 1004 / आ.श.शि / शा-1 / 2018,

प्रति

1- कुल सचिव,

समस्त शासकीय / अशासकीय विज्वटिथालय,

मध्यप्रदेश।

2- जमना अतिरिक्त सहायक,

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उच्च शिक्षा,

मध्य प्रदेश।

3 प्राचार्य,

समस्त महाविद्यालय,

मध्यप्रदेश।

विषय- विधानसभा आम चुनाव 2018 - भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा जारी आदर्श अकरण लहिन के प्रण के संबंध में।

संदर्भ-आप मुख्य क्षेत्र मध्य प्रदेश शासन, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, संज्ञालय क्र. प.प्र. क्रमांक एफ.ए-40/2018/1/4.दिनांक 08 अक्टूबर, 2018.

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उपरोक्त विधानसभा संसदीय प्राव पत्र एवं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी प्रस नोट क्रमांक ECI/MPN/66/2018 जारी दिनांक 08.10.2018 द्वारा विभिन्न जाणकारी / निर्देश देने हुए यह भी उच्यत कथना गया है, कि आदर्श आचार सहित तलगत प्रभाव से लगू हो गई है की छायाप्रतिपां आधकी ओर आशयक कर्वावकी हेतु संलग्न प्रेषित है।

अतः उक्त पत्र एवं संलग्न में दिने निर्देशानुसार कार्यवाही करना सुनिश्चित करें।

संलग्न-उपरोक्तानुसार

(अध्यक्ष उच्च शिक्षा द्वारा निर्देशित)

विशेष कर्तव्यस्थ अधिकारी (विद्यय)

उच्च शिक्षा, मध्यप्रदेश

भोपाल, दिनांक 09.10.2018

पु.क्रमांक 1579

पु.क्रमांक 1004 / आ.श.शि / शा-1 / 2018

प्रतिनिधि:

1. मुख्य निर्वाचन परामर्शिका, मध्य प्रदेश के पत्र क्र. 70/08 / रवीप / 2018 / 14290, दिनांक 17.10.18 के संलग्न में संलग्न।

2. ज्योति आधिकार आप मुख्य सचिव मध्य प्रदेश शासन सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, संज्ञालय, का उच्च कमाना एफ.ए. 40/2018/1/4.दिनांक 08 अक्टूबर, 2018 के संलग्न में संलग्न।

उपरोक्त निर्देशानुसार कार्यवाही करना संलग्न संज्ञालय में संलग्न।

मध्यप्रदेश शासन
सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग
मंत्रालय

2350
70/10-18

क्रमांक एफ 19-40/2018/1/4, भोपाल, दिनांक ०९ अक्टूबर, 2018
प्रति,

शासन के समस्त विभाग,

अध्यक्ष, राजस्व मण्डल ब्यालियर, पं० 1004/अन-1118

समस्त विभागाध्यक्ष, 17-10-18

समस्त संगणक आयुक्त,

समस्त कलेक्टर,

समस्त मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत,

मध्यप्रदेश.

विषय:-विधानसभा आम चुनाव 2018 - भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा जारी आदर्श आचरण संहिता के पालन के संबंध में।

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उपरोक्त विषयांतर्गत भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी प्रेस नोट क्रमांक ECI/PN/66/2018 दिनांक 06.10.2018 द्वारा विभिन्न जानकाटी/निर्देश देते हुए यह भी अवगत कराया गया है कि आदर्श आचार संहिता तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू हो गई है।

पृष्ठां. क्रमांक एफ 19-40/2018/1/4, भोपाल, दिनांक 08 अक्टूबर, 2018
प्रतिलिपि:-

1. सचिव, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, निर्वाचन सदन, अशोका रोड, नई दिल्ली।
2. महानिदेशक, आरसीकीपी नरोन्हा प्रशासन अकादमी, भोपाल।
3. अध्यक्ष मध्यप्रदेश व्यावसायिक परीक्षा मण्डल, भोपाल।
4. अध्यक्ष, माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, भोपाल।
5. राज्यपाल के प्रमुख सचिव, राजभवन, भोपाल।
6. प्रमुख सचिव, मुख्यमंत्री, भोपाल।
7. प्रमुख सचिव, मध्यप्रदेश विधानसभा सचिवालय, भोपाल।
8. प्रमुख सचिव (समन्वय), मुख्य सचिव कार्यालय, भोपाल।
9. सचिव, लोकायुक्त कार्यालय, भोपाल।
10. सचिव, मानव अधिकार आयोग, भोपाल।
11. सचिव, मध्यप्रदेश राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग, भोपाल।
12. सचिव, लोक सेवा आयोग, इंदौर।
13. सचिव, राज्य सूचना आयोग, भोपाल।
14. मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, भोपाल।
15. आयुक्त, जनसंपर्क, मंत्रालय प्रकोष्ठ, भोपाल।
16. रजिस्ट्रार जनरल, उच्च न्यायालय, मध्यप्रदेश, जबलपुर।
17. महालेखाकार, मध्यप्रदेश ग्वालियर/भोपाल।
18. महाधिवक्ता/उप महाधिवक्ता/अधिवक्ता मध्यप्रदेश जबलपुर/इंदौर/ग्वालियर।
19. मान. मंत्रीगण/राज्य मंत्रीगण के निज सचिव/निज सहायक, मध्यप्रदेश।
20. सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के समस्त कक्ष एवं समस्त प्रकोष्ठ, मंत्रालय।

की ओर भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा जारी प्रेस नोट क्रमांक ECI/PN/66/2018 दिनांक 06.10.2018 की प्रति सहित सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित है।

(भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के निर्देश)

उप सचिव

मध्यप्रदेश शासन

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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

निर्वाचन सदन
एन.ए. रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ansari Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/66/2018

Dated: 6th October, 2018

PRESS NOTE

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Assembly Constituencies

The total number of Assembly Constituencies in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Mizoram and seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as determined by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2003, and the total number of Assembly Constituencies in Telangana and seats reserved for the

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

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

(2) **Electoral Rolls**

The Commission firmly believes that free and updated electoral rolls are the foundation of free, fair and credible election and intensive and sustained focus is laid on improving their quality, health and fidelity. The Commission, after visiting the poll bound States, had directed the State election machinery to ensure a smooth, effective, inclusive and time-bound completion of 2nd Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2018 as the qualifying date, so as to ensure that all eligible but un-enrolled citizens in the States are duly registered in the Electoral Rolls. Special efforts were made to identify the critical gaps in the electoral rolls and targeted SVEEP activities were carried out to address them.

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

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

The details of the final publication are available on the NVSP website (www.nvsp.in) / CEO, Chhattisgarh website (www.ceo.chhattisgarh.nic.in), CEO, Madhya Pradesh website (www.ceo.madhyapradesh.nic.in), CEO, Rajasthan website (www.ceo.rajasthan.nic.in), CEO, Mizoram website (www.ceo.mizoram.nic.in), CEO, Telangana website (www.ceo.telangana.nic.in). As per the final electoral roll, the number of electors in the State is as follows:

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

State	Total No. of ACs	Reserved for SCs	Reserved for STs
Chhattisgarh	90	10	29
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The details of the final publication are available on the NVSP website (www.nvsp.in), CEO, Madhya Pradesh website (www.ceo.mp.gov.in), CEO, Chhattisgarh website (www.ceo.cg.gov.in), CEO, Rajasthan website (www.ceo.rajabn.gov.in), CEO, Mizoram website (www.ceo.mizoram.gov.in), CEO, Telangana website (www.ceoteleangana.nic.in). As per the final electoral roll, the number of electors in the State is as follows:

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Rajasthan	99.99
Telangana	100.00

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

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

(c) **Photo Voter Slips (PVS)**

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

The number of 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 RC of the concerned constituency, while sealed cover of undistributed photo voter slips shall remain in safe custody with the ERO. No further distribution of photo voter slips shall be done after the same are returned to the ERO.

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

Candidates and their Agents, under acknowledgement.

(d) **Braille Photo Voter Slips:**

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

(e) **Voter Guide:**

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

(3) **Polling Stations and Special Facilitation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) **Voter Facilitation Posters:**

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

(d) **Voter Assistance Booths (VAB):**

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

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

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

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

(4) **Special Arrangement For Women:**

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

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

EVMs & VVPATs shall be used in all the polling stations of all the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram & Telangana to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election. The Commission has already made arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the smooth conduct of election. The First Level Check of EVMs and VVPATs has been completed in the presence of representatives of political parties. A two-stage randomization of EVMs and VVPATs will also be done. In the first stage, all the EVMs and VVPATs stored in the district EVM warehouse will be randomized by the District Election Officer (DEO) through EVM Tracking Software (ETS) in the presence of the representatives of the recognized political parties for Assembly Constituency-wise allocation. Second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs will be done at RO level before candidate setting of EVMs and VVPATs for polling station-wise allocation. This is done in the presence of General Observer of Election Commission of India and contesting candidates/their agents. This process will be carried out after finalization of the contesting candidates. At this stage also, candidates or their agents/representatives will be allowed to check and satisfy themselves in every manner about the error free functionality of the EVMs and VVPATs. The Commission has also mandated that VVPAT slip count of one (1) randomly selected Polling Station in each Assembly Constituency by the Returning Officer by Draw of Ball in presence of all candidates shall be done for verification of the result obtained from the Control Unit. Thus, VVPAT paper slips of one polling station in each Assembly Constituency will be counted in these States. This mandatory verification of VVPAT slip count of one (1) polling station in each Assembly Constituency shall be in addition to the provisions of Rule 36(D) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

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

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

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

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



NOTA Symbol

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Deployment of Polling Personnel And Randomization

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

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

During Special Summary Revision of last part of electoral rolls with reference to 01.01.2016 as the qualifying date, efforts have been taken by the Commission to maximize the enrollment of service voters with correct particulars.

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

(8) Affidavits Of candidates:

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

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

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

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

Vide notifications dated 16th September, 2016 and 7th April, 2017, Part IIIA of Nomination Forms 2A & 2B and Part II of Nomination Forms 2C, 2D & 2E have been amended. Part A of Affidavit in Form 26 has also been amended vide Notification dated 7th April, 2017 making provisions of contact telephone number, email id and social media account of the candidate and details of source of income of the candidate and spouse. Copy of amended Nomination Forms and Affidavit in Form 26 have been circulated to all CEOs vide Commission's letter No.3/4/ECL/LET/FUNC/JUD/SOR/VOL.1/2016, dated 7th July, 2017.

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

(9) District Election Management Plan (DEMP)

The District Election Officers have been asked to prepare a comprehensive District Election Management Plan in consultation with SSPs/SPs and Sector Officers, including the route plan and communication plan for conduct of elections. These plans will be 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.

(10) Communication plan

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

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

(11) Booth Level Management Plan

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

(12) Model Code of Conduct

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

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

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

(13) Videography/Webcasting/CCTV Coverage

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

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

(14) Measures to Prevent Public Nuisance:

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

(b) **Restrictions on the use of Loudspeakers:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

polls in the State

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

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

(17) Election Expenditure Monitoring:

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

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

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

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

In order to avoid inconvenience to the public and genuine persons and also for redressal of their grievances, if any, the Commission has issued instructions no. 25/Instructions/EEPS/2015/Vol-I dated 29.05.2015 stating that a committee shall be formed comprising three officers of the District namely (i) CEO, Zila Parishad; (ii) District

DEO: (ii) Nodal Officer of Expenditure Monitoring in the District Election Office (Cashier) 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 mafkhanah or treasury for more than 7 (seven) days after the date of seizure unless any FIR/Complaint is filed.

(ii) **Accounting of the expenditure incurred for campaign vehicles - on the basis of permissions granted:** It has come to the notice of the Commission that the candidates take permission from the Returning Officer for use of vehicles for campaign purpose, but some candidates do not show the vehicle hiring charges or fuel expenses in their election expenditure account. Therefore, it has been decided that unless the candidate intimates the R.O. for withdrawing the permission, the notional expenditure on account of campaign vehicles will be calculated based on the number of vehicles for which permission is granted by the Returning Officer.

(c) **Account Reconciliation Meeting:** In order to reduce litigation relating to expenditure accounts, a reconciliation meeting will be convened by the DEOs before final submission of the accounts, on the 26th day after the declaration of the results.

(d) All expenditure incurred by those candidates, their party agents or party leaders on their travel, boarding, lodging etc. who travel to overseas countries for the purpose of canvassing in their favour to seek votes of overseas electors residing there, would be deemed to be the expenditure incurred or authorized by the candidates in connection with their election and will have to be included in their account of election expenses. Moreover, any inducement to overseas electors by way of air tickets or any other arrangements 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 77B of the P.P. Act, 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 P.P. Act, 1951, had decided that the candidates' booths set up outside the polling stations should hereinafter be deemed to have been set up by the candidates as part of their individual campaign and not by way of general party propaganda and as such all expenditure incurred on such candidates' booths shall be deemed to have been incurred/authorized by the candidate/his election agent so as to be included in his account of election expenses.

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

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

(f) **Ceiling Of Election Expenses For Candidates:**

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

(g) **Final Accounts By Political Parties:**

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

(18) **Effective use of Media:**

(a) **Media Engagement:**

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

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