

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/73/2017

Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

## PRESS NOTE

**Subject :** Schedule for bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the Lok Sabha from Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab and State Legislative Assembly of Kerala – Regarding.

There are following clear vacancies in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies which need to be filled up:

Sl. No.	State	Number & Name of Parliamentary / Assembly Constituency
1	Punjab	1 – Gurdaspur PC
2	Kerala	41 – Vengara AC

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

Poll Events	Schedule
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	15.09.2017 (FRI)
Last Date of Nominations	22.09.2017 (FRI)
Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	25.09.2017 (MON)
Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures	27.09.2017 (WED)
Date of Poll	<b>11.10.2017 (WED)</b>
Date of Counting	15.10.2017 (SUN)
Date before which election shall be completed	17.10.2017 (TUE)

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Rolls for Punjab and Kerala with reference to 01.01.2017 have been finally published. The bye-election in the States will be held with the existing rolls.

### **ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs) and VVPATs**

The Commission has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in the bye-elections 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.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS**

In consonance with the past practice, the Commission has decided that the voter's identification shall be mandatory in the aforementioned bye- elections 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 bye-elections.

### **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 Parliamentary Constituency/Assembly Constituencies going for bye-elections is included, subject to partial modification as issued vide Commission's instruction No. 437/6/INST2016-CCS, dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 (available on the Commission's website). The Model Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties and the State Governments concerned. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government for the States concerned.

  
**(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**