

REPORT
ON
BYE-ELECTIONS
TO
PANCHAYATI
RAJ
INSTITUTIONS
AND
URBAN LOCAL BODIES

(5th November, 2023)

PREFACE

The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments provided for periodic elections in rural and urban local bodies to strengthen representative's democracy at the grass root level. The amendments also provided for the setting up of the State Election Commission to conduct the elections in a transparent and impartial manner. While the general elections to these local bodies are conducted once in five years, bye-elections to some of the constituencies in these local bodies are required due to casual vacancies arising from a variety of reasons. The State Election Commission, H.P. has been cognizant of its responsibilities to ensure that people are afforded an opportunity to have their elected representatives in the concerned local bodies at the earliest, whenever such vacancies arises.

Accordingly, the Commission notified the bye-election programme for 143 rural constituencies and 2 urban constituencies on 7th October, 2023 and 10th October, 2023 respectively. While the majority of the seats were decided unanimously with only one valid nomination being filed, the election for the remaining seats was conducted on 5th November, 2023 and the election result was declared on the same day.

This report is an effort to record various steps and aspects of these bye-elections. The Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders for the peaceful and successful conduct of these elections.



(Anil Khachi)
State Election Commissioner
Himachal Pradesh

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1) Preparation for the Elections:

1.1) Electoral Rolls are the basic document to conduct any election. In view of the decision of the Commission to conduct bye-elections to fill up to date vacancies in the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State, it was decided to undertake special revision of electoral rolls of these areas with 1st September, 2023 as qualifying date, so that maximum eligible young voters may exercise their right to franchise. The date for the final publication of electoral rolls was fixed on or before 7th October, 2023. (**Annexure-I**). As a result of the special revision, the net addition/deletion and the final total number of electors where bye-elections were conducted on 5th November, 2023 was as under:-

Table I: District wise Electors (Panchayats)

Sr. No.	District	Net Change from previous revision.	Male	Female	Total No. of Electors
1.	Bilaspur	0	320	296	616
2.	Chamba	115	728	722	1450
3.	Hamirpur	12	1970	2058	4028
4.	Kangra	1	1367	1392	2759
5.	Mandi	70	5383	5513	10896
6.	Shimla	1	1235	1141	2376
7.	Sirmaur	0	291	303	594
8.	Solan	8	1406	1287	2693
9.	Una	52	779	836	1615
	Total	259	13479	13548	27027

2) Preparatory Activities carried out by the Commission: Directions regarding Conduct of Elections

2.1) The Commission directed all District Election Officers (Panchayats) to strictly follow the procedure with regard to preliminary arrangements, arrangement of ballot boxes, nominations, disclosure of specified information, deposit of amount received

from the candidates and others during elections, ballot papers, counting arrangements, maintenance of Law and Order, enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct etc as specified by the Commission vide letter dated 22.12.2020 (**Annexure-II**).

3) Details of Casual Vacancies

3.1) There were a total 143 casual vacancies in the State across different Panchayati Raj Institutions as on the date of notification of election programme on 7/10/2023. Post wise break up of these vacancies is as under:

Table II: Details of Casual Vacancies

Sr. No.	Office	No. of Vacancies
1.	Panchayat Samiti	1
2.	Pradhan	10
3.	Up-Pradhan	12
4.	Ward Member	120
	Total	143

4) Election Programme

4.1) After the final publication of the electoral rolls, the Commission issued the detailed election programme on 7th October, 2023 (**Annexure-III**). As per election programme, nominations were scheduled for 18th, 19th and 20th October, 2023. The scrutiny of nominations was directed to be carried out on 21st October, 2023, while withdrawal of nominations was permitted till 25th October, 2023. The list of contesting candidates was prepared and affixed on 25th October, 2023 immediately after the time for withdrawal was over. The list of polling stations was notified by 18th October, 2023. The poll was scheduled to be held on 5th November, 2022. The Counting of votes for the posts of Ward Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayats was to be undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. The results of elections of Ward Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat were to be declared on 5th November, 2023.

5) Model Code of Conduct

5.1) In order to conduct free, fair and independent elections, the Commission enforced the Model Code of Conduct as notified by this Commission on 3rd November, 2020 for the guidance and observance by all concerned vide Notification dated 7th October, 2023 (**Annexure-IV**) in all constituencies where bye-election were declared. Directions were issued to all Election related officers and officials to ensure strict compliance with the Model code of conduct.

6) Report on the Elections:

6.1) Nominations:

6.1.1) A Single nomination was filed to fill-up the one vacancy in Panchayat Samiti Nalagarh in District Solan. After scrutiny, the single nomination paper was found valid and after time of withdrawal was over, that single candidate was declared elected unopposed.

6.1.2) For the 10 posts of Gram Panchayat Pradhan contested across the State, 34 nominations were filed till the close of nominations. After scrutiny one nomination for the post of pradhan was rejected in Gram Panchayat Bariayan, Development Block Nalagarh, District Solan. After last date of withdrawal, 26 candidates were left in the fray.

6.1.3) 12 posts of Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan were to be contested across the State. 65 nominations were filed till the close of nominations. Thereafter, after withdrawal only 32 candidates were left in the fray.

6.1.4) In addition to above, there were 120 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Ward Member. A total of 156 nomination papers were filed till the close of nominations for these vacancies. Only one candidate filed nomination paper in respect of 94 wards, whereas no nomination papers were filed in respect of 8 wards. There was contest only in 18 wards. During scrutiny, one out of 94 Single Nominations was rejected and 93 candidates were declared elected uncontested. 42 candidates remained in fray for 18 wards and 9 wards still remained vacant. Detail of vacant wards is as under:

Table III: Details of Vacant offices.

Sr. No.	Ward No.	Gram Panchayat	Development Block	District	Reason for vacancy.
1.	Ward No. 1- Tihri Khas	Dudian	Jhandutta	Bilaspur	No Nominations
2.	Ward No. 4- Palbhu	Bajrol	Bamson	Hamirpur	No Nominations
3.	Ward No.3- Chamner	Chamner	Bamson,	Hamirpur	No Nominations
4.	Ward No. 4- Nanvad	Chadhiar	Panchrukhi	Kangra	No Nominations
5.	Ward No. 5 Lamlehar	Lamlehar	Bhawarna	Kangra	No Nominations
6.	Ward No. 5 Shoung	Shoung	Kalpa	Kinnaur	No Nominations
7.	Ward No. 5- Thoja	Kasol	Bhuntar	Kullu	No Nominations
8.	Ward No. 6- Grahan-I	Kasol	Bhuntar	Kullu	No Nominations
9.	Ward No.-2 Badehar Jhikla	Tanoh	Bangana	Una	Nomination Rejected as the candidate did not provide the required caste certificate for that reserved seat.

6.2) Unopposed Election

6.2.1) In the single ward of Panchayat Samiti Nalagarh, the member was elected unopposed. Out of 10 Vacancies of Panchayat Pradhan, 1 was elected unopposed. Similarly, out of 12 Vacancies of Panchayat Up-Pradhan, 3 Up-Pradhans were elected Unopposed. In addition to this, out of 120 Panchayat Ward Members for which nominations were filed, 93 members were elected unopposed. Thus 77.5% of the total vacancies of Panchayat Ward Members were filled up with consensus and no voting was necessary.

Table IV: Comprehensive detail of bye-election.

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Vacancies	No. of Vacancies where no Nominations were filed.	No. Of Vacancies where Single Nomination was rejected	No. of Unopposed elections	No. of Contested vacancies
1.	Panchayat Samiti Wards	1	0	0	1	0
2.	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	10	0	0	1	9
3.	Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan	12	0	0	3	9
4.	Panchayat Wards	120	8	1	93	18
	Total	143	8	1	98	36

6.3) Polling Stations

6.3.1) A total of 107 polling booths were set up for bye-elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions of Himachal Pradesh. The detail of district wise polling stations is mentioned in the table below:-

Table V: District wise detail of Polling stations

Sr. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Polling Stations
1.	Bilaspur	2
2.	Chamba	5
3.	Hamirpur	21
4.	Kangra	11
5.	Mandi	42
6.	Shimla	8
7.	Sirmaur	2
8.	Solan	12
9.	Una	4
	Total	107

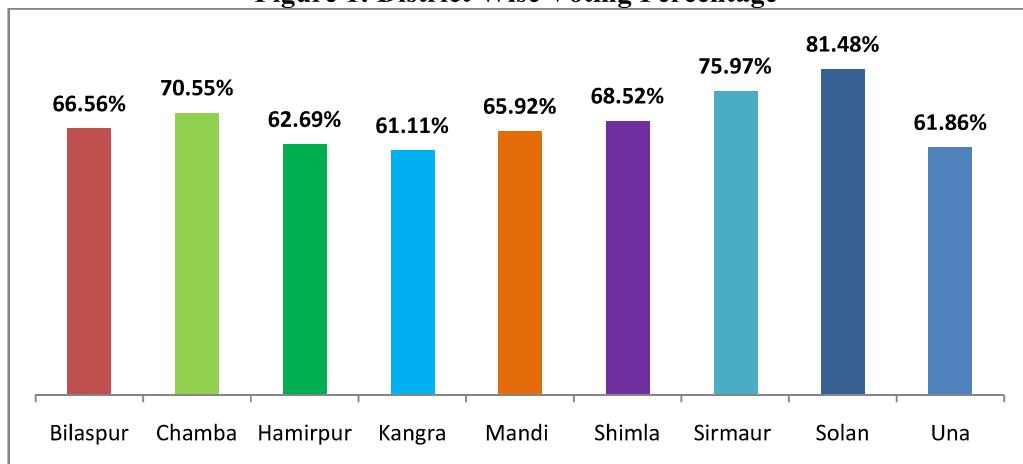
6.4) Voter Turnout

6.4.1) Out of the 27,027 voters registered for these bye-elections, 17,984 came out to cast their vote, which means a 66.54% voter turnout. Out of the total votes polled, 9403 were accounted for by female voters, contributing to 52.28% of the total votes polled. Highest polling took place in District Solan with 81.48% voting, while the lowest voter turnout was 61.11% in district Kangra. The district wise details of total voters as well as the number of votes cast by male and female voters is given in the next table:

Table VI: District wise Voting Percentage

Sr. No.	District	Total No. of Voters	At the end of Poll			Vote%	
			Votes Polled		Total		
			Male	Female			
1.	Bilaspur	616	197	213	410	66.56%	
2.	Chamba	1450	501	522	1023	70.55%	
3.	Hamirpur	4028	1106	1419	2525	62.69%	
4.	Kangra	2759	733	953	1686	61.11%	
5.	Mandi	10896	3473	3710	7183	65.92%	
6.	Shimla	2376	846	782	1628	68.52%	
7.	Sirmaur	594	240	244	484	81.48%	
8.	Solan	2693	1055	991	2046	75.97%	
9.	Una	1615	430	569	999	61.86%	
	Total	27027	8581	9403	17984	66.54%	

Figure 1: District Wise Voting Percentage



6.5) Educational Background of Elected Candidates:

6.5.1) The single elected Panchayat Samiti Member has completed his graduation.

6.5.2) Out of 10 elected Gram Panchayat Pradhans, two pradhans have completed matriculation. 4 pradhans have completed their senior secondary schooling and the remaining 4 pradhans are Graduates.

6.5.3) Out of the 12 Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhans who were elected, one of them has not completed his matriculation. However five of them have completed matriculation while another 2 Up-pradhans have completed their senior secondary schooling. Further, three Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan are graduates. One elected Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan in Gram Panchayat Bassa of Development Block Gohar, District Mandi is a Diploma in Civil Engineering holder.

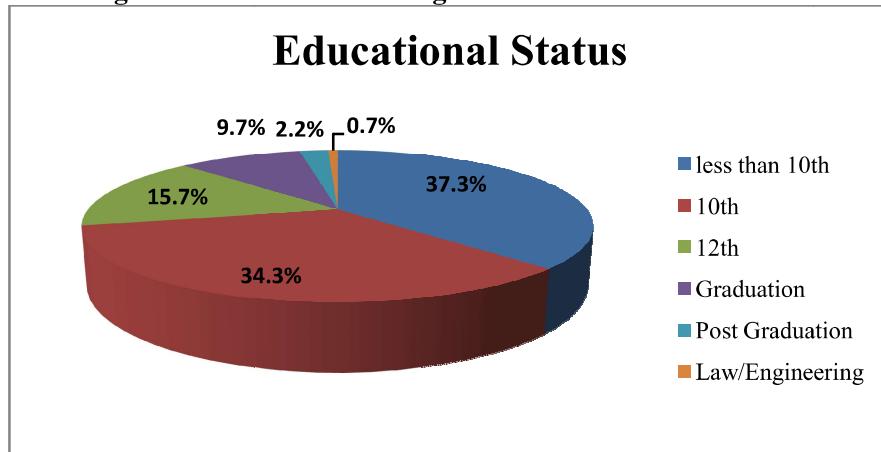
6.5.4) Out of 120 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Ward member, 111 were filled as 8 wards did not receive any nominations and in one seat, the single nomination which was filed was rejected. Out of the 111 ward members, 49 members have not completed their matriculation, 39 Gram Panchayat ward members are matriculates while another 15 have completed their senior secondary schooling. 5 of the elected Ward members are graduates while another 3 are post-graduate.

6.5.5) Out of the total 134 casual vacancies filled, 34.3% seats are filled by matriculates while 15.7% seats are filled by members who have completed their senior secondary schooling. However, 37.3% of the elected members have not completed their matriculation. Only 9.7% are graduates and 2.2% are Post Graduates. 0.7% of the total elected members are Law/Engineering graduates.

Table VII: Educational Background of Elected Candidates

Sr. No .	Office	Less than Matriculation	Completed Matriculation	12 th Class Completed	Graduation	Post Graduation	Law/ Engineering
1.	Panchayat Samiti Wards	0	0	0	1	0	0
2.	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	0	2	4	4	0	0
3.	Gram Panchayat Up- Pradhan	1	5	2	3	0	1
4.	Panchayat Wards	49	39	15	5	3	0
	Total	50	46	21	13	3	1
	Percentage	37.3%	34.3%	15.7%	9.7%	2.2%	0.7%

Figure 2: Educational Background of Elected Candidates.



6.6) Age Profile of Elected Candidates:

6.6.1) The age of the sole elected Panchayat Samiti Ward member is 25 years

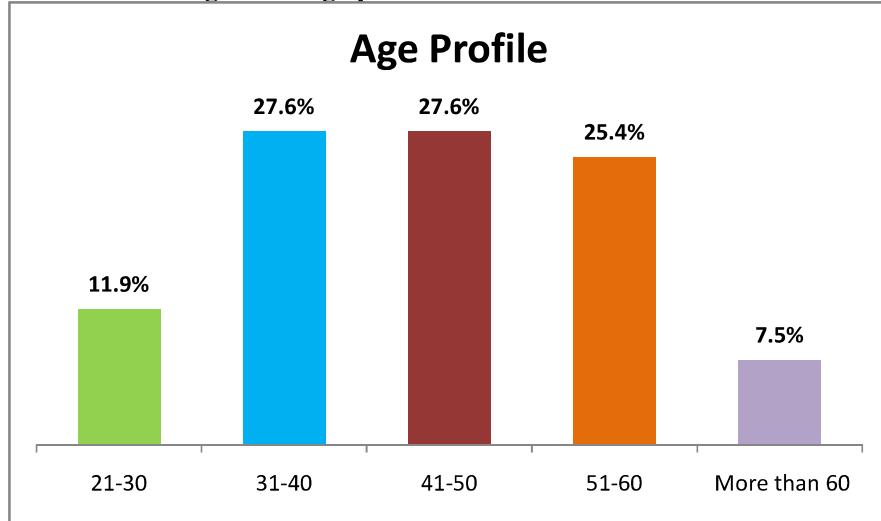
6.6.2) Out of 10 elected Gram Panchayat Pradhans, four pradhans are aged between 31-40 years and 41-50 years each. One Pradhan fall between 51-60 years of age group, while one GP pradhan is aged more than 60.

6.6.3) Out of the 12 Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhans, two are aged between 21-30 years, one Up-pradhan is aged between 31-40 years. Age of 5 Up-Pradhans lie between 41-50. Two Up-Pradhans belong to the age group of 51-60 and above 60 years each.

6.6.4) Out of the 111 elected Gram Panchayat ward members, 13 members are between 21-30 years of age, 32 have their age between 31-40 years, 31 of them are aged between 51-60 years, 28 fall in the age bracket of 41-50 years, while 7 ward members are more than 60 years old.

6.6.5) Overall, out of the 134 elected members, 11.9 % are of age between 21-30 years, maximum of 27.6 % of the representatives belong to the age group between 31-40 and 41-50 years each, 25.4 % are aged between 51-60 years. Elected members belonging to more than 60 years age group have the least representation, which is 7.5 percent.

Figure 3: Age profile of Elected Candidates



6.7) Results and Victory Margin

6.7.1) Counting of votes with respect to Pradhans, Up-Pradhan and Ward Members was undertaken on 5th November, 2023 on the day of poll itself.

6.7.2) Among the 10 Gram Panchayat Pradhan vacancies where elections were held, one Pradhan was elected unopposed, one candidate won by less than 10 votes, 5 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 3 Gram Panchayat Pradhans won their election by a margin greater than 100 votes. For the 12 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan 3 were elected unopposed, whereas polling was held for 9 seats. Two candidates won by less than 10 votes, 4 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 3 candidates won by margin of votes more than 100. For 120 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Ward Member, 93 were elected unopposed, for 8 seats no nominations were filed and for one seat the lone nomination was rejected during scrutiny. Thus voting was conducted for 18 wards only. 3 candidates won by less than 10 votes and 15 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100. Margin of victory for different posts are given in the table below:-

Table VIII: Margin of Victory of Elected Candidates

Sr.No.	Office	Margin of Victory (Votes)		
		<10	10-100	>100
1.	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	1	5	3
2.	Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan	2	4	3
3.	Panchayat Wards	3	15	0
	Total	6	24	6

7) Bye-Elections to Urban Local Bodies:

7.1) In addition to above, Ward No. 2 Miyanpur of Nagar Panchayat Arki District Solan and Ward No. 6 Chhawanivir Hospital Nagar Panchayat Chopal district Shimla were vacant. The Commission issued Election Programme to conduct bye-elections to the said wards on 10th October, 2023 (**Annexure-V**). As per election programme, nominations were scheduled to be filed on 18th, 19th and 20th October, 2023. The scrutiny of nominations was directed to be carried out on 21st October, 2023 while withdrawal of nominations was permitted till 25th October, 2023. The list of contesting candidates was prepared and affixed on 25th October, 2023 immediately after the time for withdrawal was over. The list of polling stations was notified by 18th October, 2023. The poll was scheduled to be held on 5th November, 2023 between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

7.2) A total of 7 nominations were filed. After scrutiny and withdrawal 2 candidates were left in fray for ward No. 2, Nagar Panchayat Arki and 3 candidates were left in fray for ward No. 6, Nagar Panchayat Chopal. The Counting of votes was undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Municipal Headquarters. The results of elections were declared on 5th November, 2023. The margin of victory in Nagar Panchayat Arki was 25 votes and that of Nagar Panchayat Chopal was 12 votes. The winning candidate in Nagar Panchayat Chopal is a male of 46 years of age and is a graduate and in Nagar Panchayat Arki, the winning candidate is also a male of 43 years of age and is matriculate pass.

ANNEXURES

**REPORT ON
BYE-ELECTIONS TO
PANCHAYATI
RAJ
INSTITUTIONS**



राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश
STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मस्टेल शिमला-171002Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax 2620152
Email secysec-hp@nic.in

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022- 4718

Dated the

16th September, 2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K & 243ZA of the Constitution of India, Section 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, Section 281 of the HP Municipal Act, 1994 read with Rule 22 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994 and Rule 26 of the HP Municipal Election Rules, 2015 respectively, the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh hereby directs a special revision of electoral rolls of those Panchayats of the State wherein any casual vacancies have occurred till **15th September, 2023** and Nagar Panchayat Chopal of district Shimla and Arki of District Solan. The programme shall not be applicable to those casual vacancies which are sub-judice in any court of law.

The date of determining the eligibility of a person for inclusion of the name in the electoral rolls shall be **01.09.2023** as required under Rule 14 (e) HP Panchayat Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994 and 17(a) of the HP Municipal Election Rules, 2015. The programme is as under:-

1	Draft publication of electoral rolls	19.09.2023
2	Filing of claims and objections before the Revising Authority	20.09.2023 to 25.09.2023
3	Disposal of claims and objections by the Revising Authority	By 28.09.2023
4	Filing of Appeals before the Appellate Authority	By 03.10.2023
5	Disposal of Appeals by the Appellate Authority	By 05.10.2023
6	Final publication of electoral rolls	07.10.2023

The last updated final electoral rolls alongwith Supplementary List-2022 and 2023, if any, shall be notified as draft electoral rolls under Rule 15 of Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994 and Rule 19 of the HP Municipal Election Rules, 2015.

The District Election Officer (Panchayat) and Electoral Registration Officer of concerned Municipality will appoint Revising Authorities as required under relevant provisions of the Rules and ensure that wide publicity of the said appointment and of the special revision programme is made.

After the disposal of claims, objections and appeals, if any, District Election Officer (P) and Electoral Registration Officer shall prepare a supplementary list 2023 through ERMS Software and shall issue a notice of final publication of electoral rolls as per schedule fixed by the Commission. The finally published electoral rolls shall be uploaded on the official website of the State Election Commission.

As soon as the notice of final publication is issued by the District Election Officers (P) and concerned Electoral Registration Officers, the intimation of the same be sent to the Commission immediately through E-mail followed by confirmation by post. Thereafter, adequate copies of the Supplementary List, 2023 shall be printed locally after completing all the codal formalities. These Supplementary Lists shall be added to the main electoral rolls. The last finally published electoral rolls alongwith Supplementary List, 2022 and 2023, if any, and Supplementary list-2023-II shall be used in the ensuing by-elections to fill the casual vacancies.

The relevant provisions enshrined under Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994 and HP Municipal Election Rules, 2015 shall be adhered to strictly for the preparation of electoral rolls through special revision. Needless to say that the aforesaid programme should be implemented in letter and spirit. If any violation of this programme is noticed, it will be in contravention of the mandate of the Constitution of India and relevant statutory provisions which may lead to serious consequences.

By Order
(Anil Khachi)
State Election Commissioner
Himachal Pradesh

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022-4719-4734 Dated the 16 September, 2023

Copy to the following with the request to ensure that the aforesaid programme is implemented in letter and spirit :-

1. All the District Election Officers (P) of HP.
2. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Kaza, HP.
3. The Resident Commissioner Pangi HP.
4. Electoral Registration Officers-cum- Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) Chopal district Shimla , Arki district Solan.

Malcom
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)

Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh.

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022- 4735-4851 Dated the 16th September, 2023

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary to H/E the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of HP.
4. The Chief Electoral Officer-cum-Pr. Secretary (Election) to the Govt. of H.P.
5. Pr. Secretary (UD) to the Government of HP
6. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. The Director Panchayati Raj Department Shimla-9.
8. The Director Urban Development Department HP.
9. All the District Election Officers (M)-cum-Deputy Commissioners (Except Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti) with the request to ensure special revision of electoral rolls in those Municipalities wherein casual vacancies, if any, is declared by 15.09.2023.
10. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla for wide publicity.
11. The Deputy Director General NIC Shimla.2 for information and necessary action please.
12. The Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4 for wide publicity.
13. All the Assistant District Election Officers-cum-District Panchayat Officers of HP.
14. All the Block Development Officers of HP.
15. The Secretary Nagar Panchayat Chopal and Arki.
16. E-Gazette/Website.
17. File No. SEC(F)2-10/2022 and SEC (F)1-40/2023.
18. Guard File.

Malcom
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh.

Annexure-II

Election Matter
Urgent/Time Bound



राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मसडेल, शिमला-171002, Arnsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154 Fax. 2620152

No. SEC (F)-1/2019 - ८२१५-८४०९

Dated the २२th December, 2020

To

All the Distt. Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum-
Deputy Commissioners,
(except Lahaul&Spiti)
Himachal Pradesh.

**SUBJECT: CONDUCT OF ELECTION TO PANCHAYATI RAJ
INSTITUTIONS -- DIRECTIONS THEREOF.**

Sir,

I am directed to convey for your guidance and compliance the following directions for ensuring proper, timely and smooth conduct of general elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions of all Districts except Development Block Keylong of District Lahaul&Spiti to be held as per programme issued by the Commission.

1. **PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS:** The Commission has issued the Election Programme for the conduct of general elections-2020 vide Notification dated 21.12.2020. You have to make all preparatory arrangements within a short time. It is presumed that the list of staff to be deployed for this purpose has been prepared by now. If not, the same would need to be initiated immediately. You are advised to chalk-out a programme for imparting training to the Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers who shall be responsible for receipt of nominations, scrutiny of nomination papers, preparing list of contesting candidates, allotment of symbols and finally counting and declaration of results. The polling personnel may be given at least three rehearsals including the day fixed for collection of material for polling.

2. **ARRANGEMENT FOR BALLOT BOXES:-** It is presumed that by now you may have made the arrangements for collection of ballot boxes from State of Uttarakhand and

Rajasthan as intimated to you by the Commission vide its letter no. SEC(F)10-3/2020-5478 and 5493, dated 7th December, 2020.

There are two sizes of ballot boxes therefore, while distributing ballot boxes care should be taken that bigger boxes are provided to the Panchayats where numbers of electors are comparatively higher, smaller boxes can be used for Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections as two ballot papers pertaining to these offices will be inserted in one box and three ballot papers pertaining to Gram Panchayats will be inserted in one box therefore, bigger box should be used for the elections of Gram Panchayats.

see hereas

3. **NOMINATION :** Nominations for the office of Ward Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be received at the Panchayat headquarters, for Members of Panchayat Samiti at the Tehsil/Block Headquarter and for Members of Zila Parishad at the Sub-Divisional/District Headquarters as the case may be. The choice of officers to be appointed as Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers for the conduct of elections is left to the best judgment of District Election Officers (Panchayat). However, Assistant Returning Officers may be of a reasonable rank such as Principal/Headmaster/Lecturer of Government Senior Secondary School/Govt. High School/Govt. Middle School and Assistant Engineer/Junior Engineer/Extension Officer, etc. Since, this task involves great responsibility and need to be handled with circumspection and knowledge, **an Official appointed on election duty should normally be deployed in a Panchayat other than the one which he belongs to or where he is currently stationed but should be within the same block.** The Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers would be responsible for counting of votes also; therefore, they should be required to fully acquaint themselves with the relevant provisions of the Acts and Rules of the subject. The appointment of Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers / Presiding Officers/Polling Officers may be confirmed to the Commission as soon as the same are made.

Presiding Officers and Polling Officers may be classified on the basis of scale of pay/grade pay, their post and rank. As far as possible, Gazetted Officers be deployed as Presiding Officers failing which officials who is working in supervisory capacity only may be deployed as Presiding Officers. The Presiding Officers should be of higher scale/grade in comparison to other Polling Officers of a polling party.

4. DISCLOSURE OF SPECIFIED INFORMATION: As you are aware that the Commission has framed Regulations namely “The Himachal Pradesh Panchayats and Municipalities Elections (Disclosure of Specified information by the Candidate) Regulations, 2004”, according to which every candidate seeking election to the office of Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat shall submit the specified information in the **Annexure-I** as per rule 5 of the said regulation in the form of **an affidavit or a declaration**. Every person seeking election to Panchayat Samiti and ZilaParishad shall submit the same information, as per rule 4 read with sub-rule 2 of the regulation, in the form of **an affidavit** duly attested by Magistrate or Notary Public or Oath Commissioner. Forms in respect of Annexure-I, already stand supplied to you and is required to be issued alongwith the Nomination Form to the contesting candidates. Therefore, please ensure that the said **Annexure-I** is attached to each nomination paper so that every contesting candidate should get complete set of nomination papers.

5. DEPOSIT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS RECEIPTS DURING THE ELECTIONS: While imparting the training to Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers, you are requested to bring it to their notice that while discharging their duty as Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer they will receive various amounts such as on account of sale of voter lists, amount of forfeited security and amount on account of challenging of identity of a voter etc. The amount so received shall be deposited in the following Receipt Head of Accounts:

Major Head:- 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 101-Sale proceeds for election Forms and documents-02-Sale proceeds for election Forms and documents by State Election Commission.

As far as security money is concerned, the Assistant Returning Officer shall deposit the forfeited security money with the Returning Officer concerned immediately and it will be responsibility of Returning Officer only to deposit the forfeited security money in the Govt. Treasury immediately after receipt of such amount from Assistant Returning Officer in the following receipt Head:

Major Head: 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 104-Fee fines foreitures-02-Fee fine forfeiture by State Election Commission.

Any miscellaneous amount received during the election shall be deposited in the following receipt head:-

Major Head: 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 800-other receipt-03

Misc. receipt by State Election Commission.

The Returning Officer will send all the Challans in original alongwith used and unused receipt books issued to him and a summary of amount received (receipt book wise) to the Districts Election Officer (Panchayat) and retain a copy of the same with him for his record. The proforma for sending summary is as under:

S. No.	Sr. No. of receipt book	Total receipts issued from a book	Amount	Total blank receipts in a book	Full blank receipt books in total (Unused books)	Detail, if any

Note: Even if no receipt is issued from a receipt book it has to be mentioned in the summary of receipt book.

6. **BALLOT PAPERS:** The State Election Commission has prescribed the design of the ballot papers under rule 52. Under Rule 42, there shall be no choice of symbol i.e. symbols shall be allotted according to the symbols approved and notified by the Commission to the contesting candidates against their names as they appear in the list of the contesting candidates in alphabetical order. The name of the contesting candidates shall be written in hand on the ballot papers with a ball point pen legibly so that there is no confusion among the electors. The order of the names on ballot papers shall be the same as they appear in the list of contesting candidates. This is a massive exercise and required to be done with utmost care. The Returning Officers / Asstt. Returning Officers will select suitable officials to do the job at the block headquarter.

As you are aware that option of "NOTA" "उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं" will also be made available on the ballot paper. For this purpose the Commission has already supplied you

sufficient number of NOTA stamps and black ink stamp pads. Therefore, you would require one block extra on the ballot paper than the number of contesting candidates to apply “NOTA” stamp in black ink. While applying the stamp on ballot paper, care must be taken that it is applied within the border of last block of the ballot paper. For example, if there are five candidates for a particular office you will keep six blocks on ballot papers. The sixth block will be used for application of NOTA stamp and the remaining portion of ballot papers after the NOTA option shall be detached with the help of metal rule leaving behind the shaded portion at the bottom.

Please keep in mind that there are maximum ten symbols printed on the ballot papers. If there are ten contesting candidates for any office, you would require ballot paper with eleven blocks i.e. ten blocks for candidates and one for NOTA. Therefore, after the time of withdrawal of candidature is over, if there are ten or more than ten candidates for any office the Returning Officer will immediately inform the District Election Officer (Panchayat) name of the post alongwith number of electors so that adequate number of ballot papers could be supplied to you by the Commission. This information must reach the District Election Officer (Panchayat) at once through quickest mode who will inform the Commission at once.

The number of symbols printed on ballot paper for members of Gram Panchayats are six symbols and ten symbols. Therefore while issuing ballot for members of Gram Panchayat care should be taken that where there are five contesting candidates ballot papers with six symbols may be provided as sixth block will be used for “NOTA” “उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं” and where number of contesting candidates is six or more ballot paper printed with 10 symbols may be issued.

The gap between the date of withdrawal and the date of poll is ten days. Therefore, it has to be ensured that the writing of the names of the contesting candidates on the ballot papers is completed within a maximum of six days under the personal supervision of the **concerned Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer**. The Commission has now changed the colour scheme of ballot papers to be used in ensuing election. The following colour scheme of ballot paper has been prescribed for the entire State except District Kinnaur, Development Block Kaza of District LahaulSpiti and Pangi and Bharmour of District Chamba:

1.	Member G.P.	White
2.	Up-Pradhan G.P.	Yellow

3.	Pradhan	Light Green
4.	Member P.S.	Pink
5.	Member Z.P.	Light Blue

The colour scheme for District Kinnaur, Development Block Kaza of District LahaulSpiti and Pangi and Bharmour of District Chamba will remain the same as was fixed during the general elections held in the year 2015 as these Districts / Development Block have been issued ballot papers of old stock printed in the year 2015. The colour scheme for these areas will be as under:

1.	Member G.P.	Light Blue
2.	Up-Pradhan	White
3.	Pradhan G.P.	Yellow
4.	Member P.S.	Light Green
5.	Member Z.P.	Pink

Needless to add, any lapse in the preparation of ballot papers will nullify the entire election process. Therefore, you are advised to carry out the work of preparation of ballot papers with utmost care and sense of responsibility and ensure that the persons engaged for the purpose are discharging their duty with a sense of responsibility.

7. COUNTING ARRANGEMENTS: Although, the Panchayat elections are expected to be peaceful, still in order to maintain law and order and peace, adequate security arrangements shall have to be made. The pattern of deployment of Police force and Home Guards at each Polling Station and at the counting centers is left to the discretion of the District Election Officer (Panchayat) who will do the needful in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the concerned districts. In case of sensitive polling stations, additional force may be deployed. Similarly, security arrangements in the Block Headquarters, where counting of votes for the members of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad shall have to be ensured in order to maintain law and order.

8. MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER: The Secretary (Home) and Director General of Police have been requested to make available adequate force according to realistic projection of requirements by the District Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum-Deputy Commissioners in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the Districts. Assessment

of requirement of police force and Home Guards may be done by you in consultation with Superintendent of Police of your Districts. After identifying, Polling Stations are required to be classified as “sensitive” or “hyper-sensitive”. The number of security personnel to be deployed for maintaining law and order at the sensitive stations will be suitably increased. Utmost care should be taken before classifying a polling station as sensitive. This exercise may be undertaken in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of your District.

The list of polling stations be categorized “sensitive” or “hyper-sensitive” and the quantum of force to be deployed may be intimated to the Commission immediately.

9. POLLING STATIONS: Separate Polling station has to be established for each ward of a Gram Panchayat. Care should be taken to see that polling stations established for different wards should, as far as possible, be at equal distance for the electors of the area. Polling Stations for a group of wards should be established at the Panchayat headquarters, which will also facilitate counting of votes. The buildings in which polling stations are being located should be inspected by a gazetted officer (to be recommended by you) before taking a final decision. While fixing the polling stations instructions issued by the Commission vide its letter No. SEC-16-2/2011-4820-4831 dated 12th November, 2020 may be kept in view. The polling station may not be located in a police station, hospital or a place having sectarian or religious significance. As far as possible, the polling station shall be located in a Govt. /Semi-Govt. buildings and where no such building is available, the polling station may be located in a temporary structure of adequate strength. The number of polling Stations set up in each block may be intimated to the Commission immediately.

10. MOVEMENT PROGRAMME: Movement programme for the polling parties should be prepared separately well in advance so that there is no cause for any confusion in the minds of the officials deputed for the purpose. Arrangement of vehicles such as buses and jeeps, wherever needed, has also to be done in advance. The Govt. of H.P. vide its notification no. PCH-HA (4)15/2000 dated 8th September, 2000 has delegated the powers of requisitioning of vehicles conferred on the State Government under Section 160-A, 160-B, and 160-C of the H.P Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2000 (Act. No. 18 of 2000), to the Deputy Commissioner within their respective Districts. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) may hire private vehicles only in extreme urgency in case Govt. vehicle are not

available at that point of time. Needless to say that in the use of vehicles utmost economy may be ensured.

11. RETURN OF NON-CONSUMABLE ITEMS:- Out of the material to be supplied to the polling parties some items mentioned below are non-consumable. Therefore, these items should be received after completion of poll. The Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer will not relieve the polling parties until the following items are received back:

1. Ballot boxes
2. Self Inking pad
3. Presiding Officer Seal
4. Rubber Seal for marking Ballot paper
5. Distinguishing mark seal
6. Material for voting Compartment
7. Metal rule for detaching ballot paper and pusher
8. Needle (Sua)
9. Cup for setting indelible ink.
10. Gunny bags.
11. NOTA Seal

Besides these RO/ARO Hand Books and Returning Officer seals may also be received from the concerned Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer.

12. COUNTING CENTRE : The counting of votes for the office of Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat will be done at the Panchayat Headquarters on the day of the poll after the close of poll. Once the poll is closed, the ballot boxes from other polling stations shall be brought to the counting centre alongwith the used/sealed ballot boxes of the Panchayat Samiti and ZilaParishad. All efforts should be made to commence counting as soon as possible on the same day. The Police personnel and the Home Guards on duty at that polling station shall accompany the polled ballot boxes to the counting centre in order to ensure absolute security of the used ballot boxes. The polled ballot boxes pertaining to Panchayat Samiti and ZilaParishad shall be transported to Block Headquarter. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall ensure that the polled ballot boxes may be safely transported to the Block Headquarter immediately after close of poll. Foolproof security

arrangements for transporting these boxes to the Block Headquarter may be ensured. If there is any security threat to ballot boxes during transportation, the District Election Officers may take decision to avoid night journey. In such eventuality adequate security arrangement for the safety of ballot boxes at Panchayat Headquarter may be made and these may be transported to the Block Headquarter next morning.

Since the elections are to be held during the winter season when the days are short, **adequate lighting arrangements at the counting centers shall have to be made.** In case electricity is not available or electric supply is known to be erratic in any counting centre, petromax lamps/generators / emergency light have to be arranged. **Counting of votes in candle light is not permissible.** As alternative only petromax lamps/generator / emergency light may be made available in the Block Offices and same may be hired. Police personnel/Home Guards on duty at the different polling stations in the Panchayat are required to remain on duty at the Panchayat Headquarter during the period of counting as well as up to the time of declaration of the results for maintaining law and order. In case used ballot boxes for Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad have to be kept at the Panchayat Headquarters, the police and Home Guard personals shall also remain there for night duty.

Counting at the Block Headquarter in respect of Panchayat Samiti Members and Zila Parishad Members shall be undertaken as per programme issued in this behalf. If counting is likely to continue till late night, adequate lighting arrangements and sufficient police force for maintaining law and order shall have to be deployed.

13. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ITS OBSERVANCE: With a view to maintain a healthy and peaceful atmosphere during the election period, which would be conducive for ensuring a free and fair election, the Commission has formulated a Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties, candidates and others. It should be impressed upon to all concerned that Model Code of Conduct should not be violated at any stage and you are also requested to ensure that in no circumstances Model Code of Conduct is violated. Since the elections are not being held in Keylong, Development Block of District Lahaul & Spiti, therefore, Model Code of Conduct shall not be applicable in the said Block.

14. PROHIBITION OF PUBLIC MEETING: Section 158-B of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act provides that **during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the**

hour fixed for the conclusion of poll no person shall convene, hold, attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election or display to the public any election matter by means of cinematography, television or other similar apparatus. It further provides that no person propagate any election matter to the public by holding or arranging any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the numbers of the public thereto in any polling area.

15. CONTROL ROOM: In order to monitor the movement of the polling parties, to ensure peaceful conduct of the poll and counting of votes, control rooms shall be set up at the District Headquarters/Sub Division/ Block Headquarters three days before the poll and till the completion of counting. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall post a responsible person as an office-in-charge in the Control Room. The control room should have a telephone with E-Mail facility so that urgent messages are communicated to and from the District Headquarters and the Commission Headquarter on the day of poll. The control room shall function round the clock until the counting is completed at all level. In the Commission's Office, control room shall be in Room No.103 in the Armsdale building of the HP Secretariat. The telephone numbers viz. 2880740, 2620152, 2620159, 2620154 and fax No. 2620152 shall also remain open in the Commission's Office. You will **intimate the names of the Officers manning the control rooms with telephone numbers to the Commission also.**

It would be desirable to have security arrangement at the Control room to meet any exigency that may arise owing to a law and order problem in the concerned district. The requirement of force at the control room shall be decided by the District Election Officer (Panchayat) in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the District.

16. DEPUTATION OF STAFF AND PUNISHMENT ON BREACH OF OFFICIAL DUTY: Section 160-E of the Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 provides that the officer or staff employed in connection with the preparation, revision and correction of the electoral roll for, and the conduct of all elections shall be deemed to be on deputation with the State Election Commission for the period during which they are so employed and such officers and staff shall, during the period, be subject to control, and Superintendence and discipline of the State Election Commission.

17. SECTOR OFFICERS: The District Election Officer (Panchayat) may also examine the need for having sector officers, depending upon the geographical and general law and order conditions prevailing in the District. The Sector Officers can be provided with mobile wireless sets for transmitting urgent messages. Requirement of mobile wireless sets may be intimated to the D.I.G. (Wireless) who will be requested to provide the sets.

18. OBSERVERS: During the election process, Observers appointed by the State Election Commission will keep a constant watch on all issues and processes of election. The Observers will use their official vehicles in the concerned areas. The payments on account of fuels consumed will be borne by the State Election Commission. The Observers will submit the bills of fuel to the concerned District Panchayat Officers who will make the payments after following due procedure. The arrangements for stay will be made by the concerned DCs/SDMs/BDOs in the Govt. Circuit/Rest Houses. All support in terms of telephone, fax, computer, internet and Assistant for typing report will be provided by the concerned DCs/SDMs/BDOs as and when required.

19. TRANSMITTING OF URGENT MESSAGES: Urgent messages may be sent through wireless in case e-mail, telephone and fax facilities are not available. The D.I.G. (Wireless) will be requested to transmit all message concerning elections on priority basis. He will also be requested to accept messages on credit.

20. BAN ON THE SALE OF LIQUOR: Liquor Vends shall remain closed and there shall be no sale of liquor, one day before the day of poll, on the day of poll and on the day of counting in the Panchayat areas. The dates for closing of liquor vends shall be notified by the District Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum- Deputy Commissioner in their respectively district, according to the notification of election programme.

21. HAND BOOKS: The detailed guidelines for RO/ARO and Presiding Officers have been given in the Hand Books. These books have already been provided to you alongwith election material.

22. LOGISTICS: The Commission has already fixed norms with regard to expenses on account of contingency, rehearsals or working in the odd hours in the offices etc. vide its letter No. SEC-2-23/2005-4377 dated 31st October, 2015. However, you may also authorize

RO / ARO to increase the contingency amount for coolieage etc. in case the polling party has to cover a considerable distance on foot alongwith election material. As for as diet money to polling parties is concerned, it will be paid to the polling parties and security personnel deputed with the polling party. During counting light refreshment will be provided to the staff deputed for counting, if the counting lasts till four hours or less. In case counting continues for more than four hours the staff deployed for counting will be provided lunch / dinner @ Rs. 100/- per head.

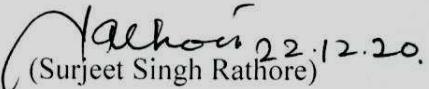
23. LUMPSUM PAYMENT:- The staff deployed on election duty may be informed that the Commission has decided to provide lumpsum payment in lieu of TA/DA on following rates:

Assistant Returning Officers	Presiding Officers	Polling Officers	Assistant Returning Officers (Reserve)	Presiding Officers (Reserve for all three phases)	Polling Officers (Reserve for all three phases)
3500/-	700/- per phase	650/- per phase	2500/-	1200/-	1000/-

You are, requested that the aforesaid directions / guidelines may be adhered to strictly in order to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State.

The Commission wishes smooth success for your diligent and consistent hard work.

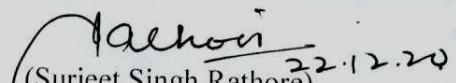
Yours faithfully,


 (Surjeet Singh Rathore)
 Secretary,
 State Election Commission,
 Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. SEC(F)-1/2019 - 8215-8409 Shimla-2 Dated, the 22th December, 2020

Copy forwarded for favour of information and necessary action to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home) to the Govt. of H.P.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary (Excise and Taxation) to the Govt. of H.P.
3. The Director General of Police, H.P. Shimla-2
4. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to the Govt. of HP.
5. The Secretary (GAD/SAD) to the Govt. of H.P.
6. The Special Secretary-cum-Director, Panchayati Raj Deptt. Shimla-9.
7. All the Superintendent of Police Himachal Pradesh.
8. All the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Kaza.
10. The Resident Commissioner Pangi District Chamba.
11. All the Assistant District Election Officer (P)-cum-District Panchayat Officer, Himachal Pradesh (Except Lahaul&Spiti District).
12. All the Block Development Officers, Himachal Pradesh.
13. Guard File.


(Surjeet Singh Rathore) 22.12.20
Secretary,
State Election Commission,
Himachal Pradesh.

Annexure-III

Election Matter
Personal Attention



राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मसडेल, शिमला-171002 Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152

Email: secysec-hp@nic.in

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022-4990

Dated, the

7th October, 2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K of Constitution of India, Section 131 and 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Rule 32 of Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Election) Rules, 1994, the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh hereby notifies the election programme for the conduct of by-elections to fill up the up to date casual vacancies of Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. The Election Programme is as under:-

1	Date of Notification	07.10.2023
2	The nomination papers shall be presented	On 18th, 19th and 20th October, 2023 (between 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 P.M.). Nomination papers shall be filed at the place and before the officers appointed by the Returning Officer
3	The nomination papers shall be scrutinised	On 21.10.2023 (from 10:00 a.m. onwards).
4	A candidate may withdraw his candidature	On 25.10.2023 (between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) .
5	The list of contesting candidates shall be affixed	On 25.10.2023 immediately after the time of withdrawal is over. The list of contesting candidates will show the name of symbols allotted to them .
6	The list of polling stations shall be pasted	The list of polling stations shall be published and pasted on or before 18.10.2023
7	The Poll, if necessary shall be held	On 05.11.2023 (between 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
8	The counting, in the event of poll shall be done	Counting of votes for the posts of Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. Counting of votes for Members Panchayat Samiti shall be taken up on 06.11.2023 at respective Development Block Headquarters. Counting shall start at 9:00 a.m. and would continue (for a constituency) until it is completed.

9	The result of election shall be declared	The result of elections of Members, UP-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be declared immediately after the counting is over. The result of elections to Panchayat Samiti Members shall be declared at the Block Headquarters immediately after the counting process is over.
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The electoral rolls updated with 01.09.2023 as qualifying date through special revision shall be used for the conduct of these elections in respect of those Panchayats wherein special revision has taken place. But if any casual vacancies have been declared on or after 16.09.2023 in such cases the last finally published electoral rolls shall be used for the conduct of ensuing by-elections. Any eligible person can apply for inclusion of name under Rule 24(3) of the ibid Rules to the District Election Officers (Panchayats) after paying fee of rupees two in cash against receipt, or for correction under Rule 23 of the Rules ibid in the electoral roll not later than nine days before last date fixed for filing of nomination papers.

The process of elections shall be completed by 06.11.2023.

By Order

(Anil Kumar Khachi)
State Election Commissioner
Himachal Pradesh

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 4991 – 5001

Dated, the

7th October, 2023

Copy forwarded to All the District Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum-Deputy Commissioners/ (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh for information and necessary action. They shall issue Notice of Elections Programme in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 33 of the Rules ibid. A copy of notice in Form-17 as required under Rules ibid may be sent to this office without fail for information. Further, the instructions/ guidelines/ handbooks issued by the Commission during the General Elections 2021 shall be adhered to strictly wherever applicable.

Surjeet Singh Rathore
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh.

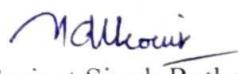
No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 5002 – 5136

Dated, the

7th October, 2023

1. The Secretary to H/E the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh , Shimla-4.
5. All the Special/ Sr. Private Secretaries to the Cabinet Ministers to the Govt. of H.P.
6. Chief Electoral Officer-cum-Secretary- (Election) Shimla-2

7. All the Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of H.P. with the request that the day of poll in Panchayat Concerned be declared a paid holiday. It should also be declared a Public Holiday under the Negotiable Instrument Act in order to enable the electors to exercise their right to franchise.
9. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to the Government of HP.
10. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
11. The Director-cum- Special Secretary, (Panchayati Raj) , Government of Himachal Pradesh.
12. All the Superintendent of Police, (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
13. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured of the election programme as issued above.
14. Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4 with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured of the election programme.
15. All the Assistant District Election Officers-cum-District Panchayat Officers, (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh for information and necessary action. They are further directed that in those Panchayats wherein special revision of electoral has not been undertaken, wide publicity of provisions of Rules 23 and 24(3) of the Rules ibid shall be made in the concerned Panchayats so that maximum eligible persons get an opportunity to get their name registered in the electoral rolls.
16. All the Block Development Officers (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh for information and necessary action. They are further directed that in those Panchayats wherein special revision of electoral has not been undertaken, wide publicity of provisions of Rules 23 and 24(3) of the Rules ibid shall be made in the concerned Panchayats so that maximum eligible persons get an opportunity to get their name registered in the electoral rolls.
17. E Gazette.
18. Guard File.
19. Website.


(Surjeet Singh Rathore)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh

Annexure-IV

TIME BOUND
ELECTION MATTER
URGENT



राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आमराटल, शिमला-171002 Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152

secysec-hp@nic.in

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022- 5137

Dated, the

7th October, 2023

NOTIFICATION

Whereas the State Election Commission has issued election programme for the conduct of by-election to fill up casual vacancies in Panchayati Raj institutions in the State, vide Notification No. SEC (F)1-35/2022 dated 7th October, 2023;

Therefore, the State Election Commission in exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K of the Constitution of India and Section 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, hereby directs that the Model Code of Conduct as notified by this Commission vide Notification No. SEC-16-29/2000-I-3768 dated 03rd November, 2020 shall come into force with immediate effect wherein, by elections are scheduled to be held on 5th November, 2023, till the election process is completed, as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Office	Territorial Jurisdiction where the Model Code of Conduct is enforced
1	Ward Member Gram Panchayat	Concerned Ward of the Gram Panchayat shall come under the Model Code of Conduct
2	Pradhan & Up-Pradhan of Gram Panchayat	Entire Gram Panchayat shall come under the Model Code of Conduct
3	Member Panchayat Samiti	Concerned Ward of Panchayat Samiti shall come under the Model Code of Conduct

By Order
(Anil Kumar Khachi)
State Election Commissioner
Himachal Pradesh

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022- 5138-5350

Dated, the

7th October, 2023

Copy is forwarded to:-

1. The Secretary to H.E. the Governor of H.P.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, H.P.
3. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-4.
4. All the Special / Sr. Private Secretaries to the Ministers of the Govt. of H.P.
5. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. The Chief Electoral Officer-cum-Secretary (Election) HP.
8. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director Panchayati Raj Department HP.
10. All the Deputy Commissioners (Except Lahaul Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
11. All the Superintendent of Police (Except Lahaul Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
12. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla-2, for vide publicity.
13. The Director AIR / Doordarshan, Shimla-4, for wide publicity.
14. The Resident Commissioner Pangi District Chamba
15. All the Sub-Divisional Officers (C) Himachal Pradesh.
16. All the District Panchayat Officers (Except Lahaul Spiti) HP.
17. All the Block Development Officers (Except Lahaul Spiti) HP.
18. E- Gazette.
19. Guard File.



(Surjeet Singh Rathore)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh

Annexure-V

Top Priority
Election Matter



राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आमर्जडेल शिमला-171002 , Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152

e-mail: secysec-hp@nic.in

No.SEC(F)2-10/2022-5362

Dated

10th October, 2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243-ZA of the Constitution of India, Section 281 of Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994 read with Rule 35 of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Election) Rules, 2015, to fill up the casual vacancies in Ward No. 2 Miyanpur of Nagar Panchayat Arki District Solan and Ward No. 6 Chhawanivir Hospital Nagar Panchayat Chopal district Shimla, the State Election Commission, hereby issues the following programme:-

1	Date of Notification	10th OCTOBER, 2023
2	Nomination papers shall be presented:	On 18th, 19th & 20th October, 2023 (between 11.00 am to 3.00 pm). Nomination papers shall be filed at designated places and before the Officers appointed by the Returning Officer for the purpose.
3	The nomination papers shall be scrutinized:	On 21st October, 2023 (From 10.00 AM onwards)
4	A candidate may withdraw his candidature:	On 25th October, 2023 (Between 10.00 am to 3.00 p.m.)
5	List of contesting candidates showing the names of symbols allotted to them shall be prepared and affixed:	On 25th October, 2023 immediately after the time of withdrawal is over.
6	List of Polling stations shall be published:	On or before 18th October, 2023.
7	The Poll, if necessary, shall be held from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM:	On 5th November, 2023

8	Counting of votes and declaration of result in the event of Poll, shall be done:	On 5th November, 2023 immediately after close of poll at the Municipal Headquarters
9	The process of election shall be completed	By 6th November, 2023.

The electoral rolls updated with 01.09.2023 as qualifying date through special revision and fixed for final publication on 07.10.2023 shall be used for the conduct of these elections. However, any eligible elector with 01.09.2023 as qualifying date under Rule 17(a) of the Rules ibid can apply to Electoral Registration Officer for inclusion of his/her name in the electoral rolls under Rule 28 of the Rules ibid after paying Rs. 50/-. The application shall be received not later than eight days before last date fixed for filing of nomination papers. A supplementary list shall be prepared and added to the main electoral rolls. Even if, there is no inclusion or correction in the electoral rolls, 'Nil' inclusion or correction as the case may be shall be shown and attached to the main electoral rolls.

(By Order)
 (Anil Kumar Khachi)
 State Election Commissioner
 Himachal Pradesh.

No.SEC(F)2-10/2022-5363-61 Dated

10th October, 2023

Copy to:-

1. The District Election Officers(Municipalities)-cum- Deputy Commissioners Solan, and Shimla with the request to ensure that the Election Programme issued by the Commission is adhered to strictly.
2. The Returning Officers Nagar Panchayat Arki, and Chopal for information and necessary action. They will issue Notice of Election Programme in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 36 of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Election) Rules, 2015 on the same date on which the State Election Commission has issued, supra notification. Further, the instructions/ guidelines/ handbooks issued by the Commission during the General Elections 2021 shall be adhered to strictly wherever applicable. A copy of notice in Form-19 required under ibid Rules may be sent to this office for information.


 (Surjeet Singh Rathore)
 Secretary
 State Election Commission
 Himachal Pradesh.

No. SEC(F)2-10/2022-5317-5407 Dated

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

10th October, 2023

1. The Secretary to H.E. the Governor of H.P.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, H.P.
3. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.
4. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-4.
5. All the Special / Sr. Private Secretaries to the Cabinet Ministers to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. The Principal Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of HP with the request that the day of poll in Nagar Panchayat Arki district Solan and Nagar Panchayat Chopal district Shimla may be declared a paid holiday under Negotiable Instrument Act in order to enable the electors to exercise their right of franchise.
8. The Principal Secretary (UD) to the Government of HP
9. The Director, Urban Development Deptt. Shimla-2.
10. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
11. The Superintendents of Police, District Solan and Shimla H.P.
12. The Director, Information and Public Relation Deptt. Shimla and the Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4 with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured to the election programme as issued above.
13. The SIO-cum-Deputy Director General NIC HP.
14. The Secretaries Nagar Panchayat Arki District Solan and Nagar Panchayat Chopal District Shimla
15. E- Gazette.
16. Guard File.
17. Website


(Surjeet Singh Rathore)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Himachal Pradesh.

