

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001

NO.ECI/PN/ 31/2006

Dated:29th December, 2006

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Schedule for the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal

The terms of the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Uttaranchal, and Punjab are normally due to expire on 11.3.2007, 17.3.2007 and 20.3.2007 respectively. As per the established practice, the Election Commission holds the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States, whose terms expire around the same time, together. By virtue of its powers, duties and functions under Article 324 read with Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India, Section 15 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Commission is under the mandate to hold general elections to constitute the new Legislative Assemblies in the States of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal before the expiry of their present terms.

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

2. There are 60 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in Manipur, 117 ACs in Punjab and 70 ACs in Uttaranchal. In Manipur, out of 60 ACs, 19 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and one seat is reserved for Scheduled Castes. In Punjab, out of 117 ACs, 29 are reserved for the Scheduled Castes. In Uttaranchal, out of 70 ACs, 12 are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 03 for Scheduled Tribes.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

3. General Elections will be conducted in these States on the basis of the electoral rolls revised with reference to 01.01.07 as the qualifying date. The revision process in these States is at the final stage of completion. The final publication of the electoral rolls in the States of Manipur and Punjab will be made on 03.01.07, whereas the final rolls of Uttaranchal will be published on 01.01.07. As per draft rolls, there are 1687543 electors in Manipur, 16772697 electors in Punjab and 5926669 voters in Uttaranchal. The electoral data as per final rolls will be made available after the final publication. In all the three States, the electoral rolls have been computerized and are available on the website of respective Chief Electoral Officers. Electoral Rolls of Manipur and Punjab are additionally available on ECI's website with a search facility. As and when final rolls are published, all the three states will be putting up their final rolls on respective CEO's website and on ECI's website as well.

ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS (EPIC)

4. Identification of voters at the polling booth at the time of poll shall be mandatory. In Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal, the EPIC coverage stands at 46%, 77 % and 75% respectively. Efforts are being made to further increase the EPIC coverage in these States.

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

5 The forthcoming General Elections in these States will be conducted at all polling stations using EVMs. The Commission has already made arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs for the smooth conduct of elections.

INDELIBLE INK

6. The Commission in recent times has been adopting a new procedure for the application of indelible ink. The new procedure of applying the ink as a line running from top of the nail to the bottom of first joint of the left forefinger will be followed during the forthcoming general elections also.

LAW AND ORDER AND DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES

7. Based on the assessment of ground situation, Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) and State Armed Police (SAPs) drawn from other States will be deployed during the ensuing general elections. The CPMF and SAP will be used generally for safeguarding the polling stations and for providing security to the electors and polling personnel at the polling stations. Besides, these forces will be used for securing the strong rooms where the EVMs are stored and at the counting centers. Wherever needed, the CPMF will be deployed in advance for area domination. The identification of polling stations requiring coverage by CPMF in various assembly constituencies will be made in consultation with the ECI Observers.

8. The Commission has been issuing instructions from time to time with regard to 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 monitoring the ground situation closely and will take appropriate measures to ensure peaceful, free and fair polls in these States.

OBSERVERS

10. The Commission will be deploying General and Expenditure Observers to ensure smooth conduct of forthcoming General Elections. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on the electoral process to ensure free and fair elections.

CONDUCT OF OFFICIALS

11. The Commission expects all officials engaged in the conduct of elections to discharge their duties in an impartial manner without any fear. Several instructions have been issued from time to time to ensure impartiality of officials who are engaged in

conduct of elections. The conduct of all government officials who have been entrusted with election related responsibilities and duties would remain under constant scrutiny of the Commission and strict action shall be taken against those officials who are found wanting on any account.

12. The Commission has already given instructions that no election related official or Police officer of the rank of Sub Inspector and above shall be allowed to continue in his home district. Besides, instructions have also been issued that all the election related officials including the police officials who have completed three years in a district during last four years should be transferred out of that district. For this purpose, the posts of Sergeant Major or equivalent who are responsible for deployment of forces have also been covered for transfer under these instructions. The Governments of the three States have also been asked to transfer all those officers against whom the Commission has recommended disciplinary action or who have been charged for any lapse during previous elections or for any election related work from the posts entailing election work.

13. The Governments of three States have been instructed to ensure that those who stand transferred shall move out physically of their last place of posting and not remain there on any pretext including leave.

14. The Commission has also instructed the State Governments concerned not to associate any officer with the electoral process against whom charges have been framed in a court of law.

POLLING STATIONS

15. In order to facilitate voting, the Commission has decided to open auxiliary Polling Stations in the same building for the booths, where the number of electors exceeds 1500, and provide additional polling personnel at polling stations where such booths cannot be opened. For the facility of disabled persons, instructions have been issued to ensure that all polling booths are located at ground floor and ramps are provided.

POLLING PARTIES AND RANDOMIZATION

16. Polling parties shall be formed randomly, using computerized programme for randomization. Three-stage randomization will be adopted. First, from a wider district database of eligible officials a shortlist of about 120% of the required numbers will be randomized. This group will be trained for polling duties. In the second stage, from this trained manpower, actual polling parties shall be formed by random selection software in the presence of ECI Observers. In the last stage, the polling stations will be allocated just before the polling party's departure by random number generation. The Central Government Employees will be utilized for the forthcoming elections to the extent possible.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

18. The District Election Officers in all the three States have been asked to prepare a comprehensive communication plan using multi-mode resources such as landline telephones, mobile telephones, wireless sets etc., to facilitate effective monitoring and control on the day of poll. They have also been asked to open Help lines /Control Rooms in each AC for the convenience of electors.

VIDEOGRAPHY

19. The Commission has issued detailed guidelines for video coverage of all critical events during the election process and polling at sensitive / hypersensitive polling booths on the poll day. The digital cameras will also be deployed inside the booths wherever possible.

PROTECTION TO SC/ST ELECTORS

20. As per Section 3 (1) (vii) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, whoever, not being a member of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, forces or intimidates a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe not to vote or to vote to a particular candidate or to vote in a manner other than that provided by law shall be punishable with imprisonment of 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.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

21. **The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately from now onwards.** The Code will apply to the whole of the States of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal and will be applicable to all candidates, political parties, the Governments of the States of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal and Union Government in so far as these three States are concerned.

SCHEDULE

22. The Commission has prepared the schedule for holding General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal after taking into consideration all relevant aspects like the school examination schedules, various festivals, prevailing law and order situation including the problems posed by the extremist elements in the States, availability of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs), time needed for movement and proper deployment of forces, and after assessment of other ground realities.

23. The Commission after considering all relevant aspects has decided to recommend to the Governors of the States of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal to issue notification for the said General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab and Uttaranchal under the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the schedules given in the Annexure I to III.

24. Apart from this, there is a vacancy in the Lok Sabha from 2-Amritsar Parliamentary Constituency in the State of Punjab. The Commission has decided to hold the bye-election for filling up of this vacancy as per the same schedule as for the general election to the State legislative assembly of Punjab given in Annexure-II.

(LALIT MOHAN)
SECRETARY

Annexures to the Press Note of the Election Commission of India

No.ECI/PN/31/2006 dated December 29, 2006

Annexure – I

Schedule for holding General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur.

Sl. No.	Poll Event	1st Phase	2nd Phase	3rd Phase
1.	Issue of Notification	13.01.2007	20.01.2007	27.01.2007
2.	Last date for making nominations	20.01.2007	27.01.2007	03.02.2007
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	22.01.2007	29.01.2007	05.02.2007
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	24.01.2007	31.01.2007	07.02.2007
5.	Date of poll	08.02.2007	15.02.2007	23.02.2007
6.	Counting of votes	27.02.2007	27.02.2007	27.02.2007
7.	Date before which election process shall be completed	02.03.2007	02.03.2007	02.03.2007

Details of ACs going to poll during various phases enclosed.

MANIPUR PHASE – I (19 ACs)

District Name	AC No. AC Name
Thoubal	30-Lilong 31-Thoubal 32-Wangkhem 33-Heirok 34-Wangjing Tentha 35-Khangabok 36-Wabgai 37-Kakching 38-Hiyanglam 39-Sugnoo
Ukhrul	43-Phungyar (ST) 44-Ukhrul (ST) 45-Chingai (ST)
Senapati	46-Saikul (ST) 47-Karong (ST) 48-Mao (ST) 49-Tadubi (ST) 50-Kangpokpi 51-Saitu (ST)

MANIPUR PHASE – II (29 ACs)

District Name	AC No. AC Name
Imphal East	1-Khundrakpam 2-Heingang 3-Khurai 4-Kshetrigao 5-Thongju 6-Keirao 7-Andro 8-Lamlai 14-Yaiskul 15-Wangkhei
Imphal West	9-Thangmeiband 10-Uripok 11-Sagolband 12-Keishamthong 13-Singjamei 16-Sekmai (SC) 17-Lamsang 18-Konthoujam 19-Patsoi 20-Langthabal 21-Naoriya Pakhanglakpa 22-Wangoi 23-Mayang Imphal
Bishenpur	24-Nambol 25-Oinam 26-Bishenpur 27-Moirang 28-Thanga 29-Kumbi

MANIPUR PHASE – III (12 ACs)

District Name	AC No. AC Name
Imphal East	40-Jiribam
Chandel	41-Chandel (ST) 42-Tengnoupal (ST)
Tamenglong	52-Tamei (ST) 53-Tamenglong (ST) 54-Nungba (ST)
Churachandpur	55-Tipaimukh (ST) 56-Thanlon (ST) 57-Henglep (ST) 58-Churachandpur (ST) 59-Saikot (ST) 60-Singhat (ST)

Annexure – II

Schedule for holding General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab.

Sl. No.	Poll Event	One Phase (117 ACs)
1.	Issue of Notification	18.01.2007
2.	Last date for making nominations	25.01.2007
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	27.01.2007
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	29.01.2007
5.	Date of poll	13.02.2007
6.	Counting of votes	27.02.2007
7.	Date before which election process shall be completed	02.03.2007

All ACs will go to poll on a single day.

Annexure – III

Schedule for holding General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal.

Sl. No.	Poll Event	One Phase (70 ACs)
1.	Issue of Notification	25.01.2007
2.	Last date for making nominations	01.02.2007
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	02.02.2007
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	05.02.2007
5.	Date of poll	21.02.2007
6.	Counting of votes	27.02.2007
7.	Date before which election process shall be completed	02.03.2007

All ACs will go to poll on a single day.